

Chapter 351: The Cheng Family's Neighbors

Soon, two police cars and two ambulances arrived at the Cheng family compound.

This naturally alerted the neighbors.

"What's going on? Why are there police cars and ambulances at the Cheng Family?"

"Who knows what's going on? It's very likely that the Cheng family beat up the wife and two granddaughters again. The wife probably called the police."

"But the wife has no power. Even if she called the police, what's the point? This has happened countless times in the past. The Cheng family still mistreats their daughter-in-law and two granddaughters."

"This Cheng Family is really awful. They might hate the daughter-in-law, but that's their granddaughters. But they treat them like they're outsiders."

"It's because they are granddaughters and not grandsons."

"What era do we live in now?"

Someone laughed, "However, it's strange because the Cheng Family has a daughter too!"

"But their daughter can be considered a man. She's almost 40. She's divorced, has no children, and has no job. All she does is drink, play, and do nothing.

"But the parents lavish endless love on her. Even their son doesn't get that much attention. They clearly love their daughter, so why can't they love their granddaughters?"

"That's true."

Someone immediately laughed and echoed, "This Cheng family is really weird. That daughter, Cheng Liren, is already forty years old, yet she still treats herself like a rich young woman.

"She's always bossing around her sister-in-law, scolding her or beating her two nieces."

"Maybe it's because she doesn't have any children of her own, so she can't bear to see children in the house."

"The Cheng Family says that the daughter-in-law comes from the countryside and it makes them lose face before their relatives and friends. They vent all their anger on the poor girl."

"That is what they say, but they were the ones who welcomed the daughter-in-law into their family, right? During the wedding, they went through all the procedures. This is a legitimate marriage. So why are they complaining about her now?"

"If they really didn't like her, they shouldn't have agreed to the marriage. Since they have agreed, shouldn't they treat her well?" Someone sighed.

Someone chuckled. "Some people are just sick in the head." People agreed.

"I pity the girl. I am the Cheng Family's next-door neighbor. Over the past six years, the most common thing I heard from next door is the many ways the Cheng Family has scolded her.

"When the girl married over six years ago, she was so beautiful. Everyone who saw her felt charmed by her. But it didn't take long for the Cheng Family to wear her down. Now, she looks thin and weak."

"Also remembered the bride on her wedding day. She was captivating. At the time, we were impressed that Cheng Feiping managed to find such a gorgeous wife. He would be laughing even in his dream. But, soon, the girl deflated like a balloon. She lost her luster."

The people were all discussing the Cheng Family. The topics were how the Cheng Family had bullied their daughter-in-law and how beautiful the daughter-in-law was before she joined the Cheng Family.

Then...

"By the way, did something happen to the Cheng Family? Why did they call the police and ambulance? Is it possible that the Cheng Family actually beat the girl to death?"

However, if that were true, with the nature of the Cheng Family, they would find a way to dispose of the body instead of calling the police. So it was very likely that they didn't kill her, but they had seriously injured her.

However, if it was the daughter-in-law who was injured, the Cheng Family wouldn't call an ambulance for her. They would allow her to fester and rot in her wounds.

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So, did something happen to the actual members of the Cheng Family? That was the only reason the police and the ambulance would be called.

"Look! They're coming out!"

Everyone was curious. When they saw a man in a white coat walk out, they immediately exclaimed.

"ah, that... That's Cheng Dawei, right?" Someone immediately recognized the man on the stretcher.

"But he doesn't look to be seriously injured."

"No, Cheng Dawei has to be heavily injured." Someone with sharp eyes immediately noticed that something was wrong with Cheng Dawei, "His face is pale, and his forehead is covered in a cold sweat. Just look at him. He's in a lot of pain. I suspect his waist is injured."

Hearing that, everyone's attention turned to Cheng Dawei's waist.

One of Cheng Dawei's hands was placed firmly around his lumbar vertebrae, so everyone agreed with this person's guess.

"Wait, isn't that Ma Meixin?!" At that moment, Ma Meixin was being carried out. "What happened to her hand? Her wrist is now a stump, and it's still bleeding!"

"This is so scary." Someone immediately exclaimed, "There's so much blood."

Ma Meixin's wound was given first aid. However, her wound had been left untreated for too long. Due to blood loss, her face looked more transparent than a piece of white paper. She looked like she was on her last breath.

This made people feel terrified.

"Oh my God, what happened to the Cheng Family?" Someone shouted in surprise.

"All the injured ones are from the Cheng Family. Is that girl some kind of martial art master? Otherwise, how did she manage to defeat Cheng Dawei and his wife."

"It's more than that. Look. Cheng Liren's hand is cut off just like Ma Meixin. She is unconscious. Her face is swollen like she has been slapped."

"Huh?" Many people were shocked and confused. "This is too strange. Out of the four members of the Cheng family, three of them are seriously injured. Now, only Cheng Feiping is left. I wonder how he is faring?"

"So, what really happened to the Cheng Family?" Someone asked curiously.

"Who knows? The doors were all closed just now. I only came out because I heard the sirens."

"Same here. As soon as I came out, I saw the police car and the ambulance."

"The Cheng Family must have gone too far. The girl finally retaliated."

"That's possible. The Cheng Family is too much. The girl has already agreed to have a divorce with Cheng Feiping. She only wanted to take her girls with her. But the Cheng Family is mad. They didn't like the two girls, but they still refused to let them go with their mother. Of course, the mother wouldn't leave her children behind, so the divorce has dragged on until now."

"Theard the reason is that the Cheng Family wants to send the two girls to the orphanage. Their goal was to sever all ties between the girls and their family." Someone said.

"This Cheng family... is really evil. What is their hearts made of? They are too cruel and heartless. No matter what, the two granddaughters still have the blood of the Cheng family. Do they plan to send them off just like that?"

"Then, no wonder the girl didn't want to get a divorce. Which mother would surrender their children willingly?"

After hearing this, many people were indignant.

They all thought that the Cheng family was really too much.

"But what about Cheng Feiping? We're talking about his biological daughters. Is he willing to let his parents send his own daughters to the orphanage?"

"If he's not willing, will his parents come up with this idea in the first place?"

"This Cheng Feiping... is really a bastard!"

At that moment, Cheng Feiping was escorted out of the house like a criminal. He was cuffed, and two officers followed behind him.

'When everyone saw this scene, they were dumbfounded.

Was Cheng Feiping the culprit? Was he the one who harmed his parents and sister?

Chapter 352: Neighbors

While the crowd was still shocked, the Xiao Family walked out of the Cheng Family house.

Due to the enmity between the Cheng family and the Xiao family, the neighbors were familiar with the Xiao family members too.

"Hey, aren't those the grandparents of the Cheng family's daughter-in-law?"

"Does that mean the others are also from the Xiao Family?"

"I'm afraid so."

"Oh no, when did the Xiao family come to the Cheng Family?"

Every time the Xiao Family came to the Cheng Family, heaven and earth would shake. Everyone in the neighborhood would know.

It wasn't that the Xiao family was unreasonable and wanted to cause a ruckus. It was that once the Xiao family came, the Cheng Family... well, just Ma Meixin, would start to curse loudly. She would turn into a shrew, humiliating everyone from the Xiao Family.

However, this time, the Xiao Family came, and it was so quiet in the Cheng Family. It was a little strange.

The Cheng Family's neighbors got to know Grandma Xiao and the rest because of this. When Grandma Xiao came out and saw the gazes from the neighbors, she couldn't help but burst into tears. She wiped away her tears and said, "This Cheng family is really ruthless. They locked up the doors and

windows tonight because they wanted to kill my granddaughter and her two girls. Thankfully, we came in time to stop them."

Hearing this, the people around were surprised.

"What? The Cheng family wants to kill their little daughter-in-law?"

They couldn't imagine that the Cheng Family would be so bold to commit murders!

Grandma Xiao nodded and said, "Yes. The Cheng family bought pesticide and put it into the chicken soup. Then, they forced my granddaughter and two great-granddaughters to drink it."

"What?"

"When we arrived, Cheng Dawei and Cheng Feiping were holding my two granddaughters hostages. Cheng Liren tried to feed the soup to my granddaughters. The spoonful was lethal. My poor granddaughter and great-granddaughters were so close to being killed."

Everyone,

“This is ridiculous. How can this Cheng family be so vicious? It’s already common for them to beat and scold their daughter-in-law and granddaughters, but do they actually want to kill? What era do they think they are in now? Do they think they can get away with murder?”

“It’s not a murder. It’s a triple murder.”

“How much hatred do they have that they need to commit to something like this? Their daughter-in-law and granddaughters didn’t even do anything wrong. If anything, it was the Cheng Family who mistreated them.”

“This Cheng Family is full of hatred.”

“It’s ridiculous that they’d go so far to resort to murder.”

“The Cheng Family brought this upon themselves. Grandma Xiao, then what happened to the Cheng Family?”

Grandma Xiao said, “When we rushed over, they were forcing my granddaughter to drink chicken soup. We were anxious, so we were harsh when we tried to save my granddaughter.”

Grandma Xiao was not sure how Ma Meixin and Cheng Liren’s hands were cut. Even if she knew, she wouldn’t share it. The police would handle everything.

The neighbors could guess the reason behind the Cheng Family’s serious injury. The Xiao Family probably bumped into the Cheng Family when they were trying to kill their daughter-in-law. A fierce conflict entailed.

In the past, the Cheng Family bullied Xiao Lingyun and her girls because they had the number advantage. However, this time, the table had turned. Many people came from the Xiao Family, and most of them were men in their prime. They must have overpowered the Cheng Family.

“This Cheng family really deserves it!” Someone said disdainfully, “This is a turn of events. In the past, they bullied you so ruthlessly and miserably. Now, they deserve to be taught a harsh lesson.”

The Cheng Family’s behavior also didn’t sit well with their neighbors. What made them even more unbearable was their cold-bloodedness, ruthlessness, and extreme selfishness.

Since the Cheng Family didn’t like this daughter-in-law and the two granddaughters, they should just ask for a divorce. The girl had agreed to the divorce. She didn’t even want anything but her two daughters. However, the Cheng Family refused her that.

‘The Cheng Family was powerful in Kanglin City. In contrast, the Xiao Family came from another place, and they had no one to rely here upon. Therefore, they could only be bullied by the Cheng Family. The Xiao Family wanted to take the two granddaughters away, but the Cheng Family beat the Xiao

Family up and sent them to the police station. The things that they had done were so inhumane.

The Xiao Family was pressed to the point where retaliation was inevitable.

The neighbors had no pity for the Cheng Family.

They said to Grandma Xiao, "Grandma Xiao, this Cheng family should indeed be taught a lesson. They actually thought about murder. Thankfully, they didn't succeed. In the next few years, they'll spend their lives in prison."

Many people agreed. However, someone said with some doubt, "But we all know that the Cheng family has influence here. Is it possible that they'd get free and come after the Xiao Famil

It wasn't like the Xiao family had never done something like this before.

At this time, Grandma Xiao said with relief, "Thank you for your concern. This time, we have evidence of the Cheng Family's attempted murders.

"Even if they have influence, they can't silence justice. If the police at Kanglin City won't give us justice, we'll bring it to the court!"

The neighbors were surprised that Grandma Xiao had evidence of the Cheng family's crime.

The Xiao family had no power or influence in Kanglin City, and they all knew that. Otherwise, they would have rescued their daughter and granddaughters from the Cheng Family a long time ago. Clearly, something had changed. This made the neighbors look at the Xiao Family in a different light.

"Grandma Xiao, is what you said true?" Someone was obviously suspicious. "But how did you get this evidence?"

Grandma Xiao said, "I don't know. Someone gave it to us."

Grandma Xiao was not stupid. She didn't tell everyone everything.

However, these words had another meaning in other people's ears.

The Xiao Family now had people supporting them. At that moment, Xiao Lingyun and the others came out.

Xiao Jingyang and Yang Liu each held a child in their arms.

The children were so frightened. They were usually close to their grandparents, so they sought them out for comfort. They were also very sensible. They knew that their mom had just suffered a huge trauma, so they didn't trouble her.

Behind them were Father Xiao and Mother Xiao, as well as Xiao Lingyu and Gong Tianhao.

Many people knew Xiao Lingyun. When they heard what had happened to her, they immediately asked with concern, "Miss, are you alright?"

Xiao Lingyun shook her head and said with a smile, "Thank you for your concern, Aunties and Uncles. I'm fine now."

At that moment, her sleeves opened. Many people noticed the red marks on Xiao Lingyun's arms. It was clear that she had suffered from domestic violence.

"Miss, were you beaten up?" Someone asked.

Xiao Lingyun said indifferently, "Yes, they do this often."

When the onlookers heard that, they immediately said indignantly, "Often? Is this Cheng family even human? How can they mistreat their daughter-in-law like this? Miss, how much pain and suffering did you suffer in their family?"

Xiao Lingyun shook her head and said, "For my two daughters, no matter how much pain and suffering, it's worth it." At this point, she let out a heavy smile and said, "Fortunately, this is all in the past. In the future, the three of us will be free from the Cheng Family."

The Cheng family had fallen too hard this time. It was impossible for them to get up again.

The neighbors were happy for her. They said, "Well, that's good. The Cheng family has done too much evil and suffered retribution."

Xiao Lingyun refused to leave the Cheng family because of her two daughters.

Now, the Cheng Family was in so much trouble themselves that they couldn't stop Xiao Lingyun from taking her daughters anymore.

While chatting with Xiao Lingyun, many people noticed Xiao Lingyu and Gong Tianhao.

They couldn't not do that. They were too dazzling.

One was beautiful, and the other was handsome and cold. Moreover, his temperament was extraordinary. At a glance, he didn't look like an ordinary person.

"Miss, who are those two?"

Chapter 353: Going Home

On the same day, Kanglin City's newspapers had shocking headlines. Many news media outlets reported on it too.

It was shocking to many people. The internet age was just starting, so not everyone in the nation knew about this. However, those who did know were shocked beyond belief.

A family of four tried to kill a woman and her two young daughters. It was spine-chilling, Just how much hatred did the family of four have?

After this news was reported, people started to dig further. Eventually, the truth came out. It was shocking and infuriating.

The Cheng Family was not humans. They were simply animals. Oh no, they were even worse than animals.

Just because the little daughter-in-law did not give birth to any sons, they abused her with all their might. They even abused their two granddaughters.

If the victim didn't have a strong constitution, she would have collapsed already.

The Cheng Family didn't like their granddaughters, so why wouldn't they let Xiao Lingyun's family take them away? The Xiao Family was more than willing to look after the two girls. However, the Cheng Family wanted to send the two girls to the orphanage.

This was too ridiculous.

This was not the era where people buried female babies. This was not the countryside where people were poor.

The Cheng Family had a good standard of living. They could raise two girls easily.

The reason they gave was too ridiculous. They were afraid that Xiao Lingyun would use the two girls to pester the Cheng Family.

The things these people did were disgusting.

Xiao Lingyun and the Xiao Family had promised that they would cut off all ties with the Cheng Family after the divorce. Perhaps the Cheng Family had millions of assets because they were still afraid that the Xiao Family would use the two girls as leverage to demand money. They refused to give the girls back to their mother. The Cheng Family had a certain influence in Kanglin City.

The Xiao Family moved to Kanglin City, so they were powerless before the Cheng Family. For the sake of the children, they had to drag this out. Perhaps one day, they could get the girls back.

The Xiao Family and Xiao Lingyun kept their eyes on the Cheng Family out of fear that the Cheng Family would sell the girls to human traffickers.

For the sake of her girls, Xiao Lingyun was willing to endure the humiliation and abuse the Cheng Family gave her. She gritted her teeth and insisted on staying in the Cheng family. She did not dare to relax for even a moment. Everywhere she looked, she kept her eyes on the two children.

As the netizens dug deeper, more truths were exposed, and more sins of the Cheng Family were revealed.

The Xiao Family was sent to jail because they wanted to take back their granddaughters. They were punished and beaten up because they were framed as human traffickers.

No one came to the Xiao Family's rescue.

A netizen asked sharply, "Who gave the Cheng family the right to treat Xiao Lingyun, her children, and the Xiao family like this?"

Yes, who gave the Cheng family the right?

This was not the law. This was not allowed. With the pressure from the media, this attracted the attention of the officials in Kanglin city.

Before they could react, their superiors issued a notice. This case had to be treated seriously. The relevant personnel involved in the Cheng family's murder case must be strictly investigated.

At the same time, the government set up an internal affairs committee. The local units were dumbfounded. Why would such a small case attract the attention of the higher-ups?

Regardless, the people became afraid. Only they would know if they had to do with the Cheng Family and had participated in the bullying of the Xiao family.

Many people believed they wouldn't be found out. However, in just three days, certain people in Kanglin City's government were moved. No one expected this case to have such a big aftereffect. It caused the Kanglin City government to have a big shift.

Of course, the public didn't know about this. They only saw the aftermath in the newspaper.

The Cheng Family also didn't expect that they'd fall so fully.

'Ma Meixin and Cheng Liren's wrists were reattached, but because they were not reattached in time, the surgeries were bad. Even if they recovered in the future, they would not be flexible.

Cheng Dawei's lumbar and caudal vertebrae were completely broken. With the current medical skills, there was no way to reattach them.

In other words, he was paralyzed.

However, what made them even more devastated was that the law didn't let them go despite their sad condition.

They were currently on medical parole. What awaited them was the severe punishment of the law.

From their evil deeds, each of them would face at least ten years in prison.

The whole family was arrested, and no one dared to help them. Their connections were useless.

Cheng Feiping was the only one not on medical parole, so he was sent to prison after his confession.

The people in his prison were not extremely evil, but they had a certain sexual preference. Cheng Feiping was fair and handsome. One didn't need to go into details about his ending in prison.

After Xiao Lingyun was rescued, the Xiao family collected their stuff at Kanglin City. For the Xiao Family, Kanglin City was a place of sad memories. They didn't want to stay here anymore.

Since Xiao Lingyun and her daughters had been rescued, then they would go back together.

After all, they were only staying in Kanglin City for the two girls. However, Xiao Lingyun was told to stay to provide some testaments.

But with a call from someone's phone, a professional lawyer appeared. The lawyer handled everything.

Xiao Lingyun and her girls followed her family back to her hometown.

That night, in the night sky of Kanglin City, a large helicopter flew past and headed straight for the sky.

In the tanning field of Taoyuan Village, a helicopter hovered in the sky.

Then, it slowly landed.

After it stopped, the people in the helicopter carefully walked down.

“Yun ‘Er, Lulu, Rourou, we’re home.”

‘As soon as they got off the helicopter and stepped onto the land of Taoyuan Village, they felt at ease.

“Yes, we’re home.” Xiao Lingyun held her two children in her arms as tears uncontrollably flowed down her face.

In the past five years, no matter how much pain and suffering she suffered, she had never shed tears in front of the children.

But at this moment, she really wanted to cry. They were tears of joy!

They had finally escaped from that hell!

“Mom, why are you crying?” Lulu saw the tears at the corner of Xiao Lingyun’s eyes and asked in confusion. She used her little hands to wipe away her mother’s tears.

Rourou wiped the other side of her mother’s face.

“Mom, why are you crying? Are you in pain? Rourou will help Mom!” Rourou said seriously.

Xiao Lingyun hugged them and said, “No, baby, Mommy isn’t in pain. Mommy is happy. I’m crying because I’m happy.”

“But Mommy, shouldn’t you be smiling when you’re happy? Why are you crying?”

Chapter 354: Sending Flowers

‘The return of Xiao Lingyun and her daughters was not surprising to the people of Taoyuan Village.

Xiao Lingye had been admitted to Imperial University. In a few days, there would be a graduation banquet and a teacher appreciation banquet.

However, when everyone saw Xiao Lingyun’s current appearance and the two skinny children, they were really surprised.

Xiao Lingyun was a belle in the village when she was young, She had the good genes of the Xiao Family. She and Xiao Lingyu were pretty.

However, Xiao Lingyu wore a pair of big glasses that covered her face. Because of this, many people did not seem to remember Xiao Lingyu’s appearance.

On the other hand, Xiao Lingyun was doted on by the Xiao family. When she was young, she was lively and cute. She was good at singing and dancing, She also knew how to be polite. Her looks were outstanding. She was liked by everyone in the village.

After she graduated from junior high school, she went to a secondary school. She was rarely seen in the village. She would only come back annually during Lunar New Year.

After that, she did not come back much.

During New Year, it was either Grandpa and Grandma Xiao or Xiao Jingyang and his wife who returned in turns. They never had Xiao Lingyun with them.

The villagers guessed that Xiao Lingyun had married into a good family, and her in-laws didn't allow her to come back to the village anymore.

A few years after that, Taoyuan Village slowly forgot about her.

'When they saw Xiao Lingyun again, she was not only thin but also old and haggard. She looked worse than most farmers' wives, and she was only in her twenties. How did she become like this?

"Lingyun, you..." Someone wanted to ask Xiao Lingyun about her situation but did not know how to say it.

Xiao Lingyun brought her two children to look around the village. After all, they might live here in the future.

Xiao Lingyun knew their doubts and said with a magnanimous smile, "I met a bad person and married a jerk. A lot of things happened." Xiao Lingyun didn't elaborate.

No matter how bad Cheng Feiping was, he was still the biological father of the two children. She didn't want to say bad things about their biological father in front of the two children.

After hearing this, the villagers glanced at the two skinny children standing beside her and didn't ask any more questions.

However, they could imagine that Xiao Lingyun hadn't had a good life over these past few years.

They said, "It's good that you're back now. Those things are all in the past. You should just let it go!"

Xiao Lingyun nodded.

Cheng Lulu said, "Mom, are we really going to live here from now on?"

She looked a little nervous and uneasy.

She was born in Kanglin City. All these years, she stuck to Xiao Lingyun. The Cheng Family only allowed them for a short walk once in a while.

This was the first time they had seen a place like Taoyuan Village in the countryside. Everything was new to them.

In the past, when their mother brought them out, they always had to be careful. They would not stay outside for long and would quickly return home. There was no fun at all.

However, it was different here. There was green grass, lush trees, birds, and flowers. There were the sounds of farmers working and the laughter of children in the fields.

They carefully observed everything here with a nervous and curious heart.

Xiao Lingyun asked, "Babies, do you like this place?"

Cheng Lulu and Cheng Rourou nodded and said, "Yes, Mom, we like this place!"

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They were born in the city, but they didn't enjoy their lives there. In contrast, they lived in fear and timidity every day. They were afraid that they had done something wrong or said something wrong because they were often scolded by their grandparents and aunt.

Xiao Lingyun looked at the two babies who were obviously happy. She reached out and touched their heads, saying with a smile, "This is Grandma and Grandpa's home. It's also the place where mom used to live. Since my babies like it here, we'll all live here from now on."

The eyes of the two babies lit up, but then Lulu's eyes darkened.

She asked, "But mom, will Grandpa, Grandma, and Dad come here? I... I don't like them coming here."

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At their age, they didn't know the Cheng Family had been arrested. However, they were old enough to be scarred by the Cheng Family. They were afraid to see their grandparents or even their biological father.

"Well, they won't be coming over. My babies can stay here and have fun," Xiao Lingyun said with a smile.

Cheng Lulu's eyes revealed some suspicion.

In their impression, her grandparents and aunt were very capable people. No matter where they and her mother went, they would be found. Could they really stay here and not be dragged back by the Cheng Family?

Cheng Lulu asked suspiciously, "Mom, will Grandpa, Grandma, and Aunt really not find us here?"

"No!"

At this moment, a man's magnetic voice sounded behind Xiao Lingyun.

Xiao Lingyun's eyes lit up when she saw the man wearing a black suit on a hot day. She said in surprise, "It's you!"

She had seen this man cut off Cheng Liren's wrist with a dagger. It was this man who hid in the Cheng Family and saved her and her daughters. Therefore, Xiao Lingyun was very grateful to him.

Gong Yingxiong was tall and strong. He looked tall and straight in his suit. He had the figure of a model.

He was also very handsome. His facial features were sharp, but there was a coldness to him.

Gong Yingxiong held a bunch of wildflowers in his hand and walked to Xiao Lingyun. He handed it to her and said, "I picked them by the roadside just now. Here you go!"

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Xiao Lingyun was stunned at first. Then her face turned red. She didn't know whether to accept it or reject it.

After being stunned for a while, she planned to reject the flowers. After all, she didn't want to give him the wrong idea. He was their savior, but she couldn't just accept everything he gave.

Just as Xiao Lingyun was about to speak, Gong Yingxiong turned to Lulu and Rourou.

He squatted down, and a soft smile appeared on his cold face.

He asked, "Girls, do you like these flowers?"

"Yes!" Although Lulu and Rourou were a little afraid of this man, they were still very honest.

Most girls liked flowers. The wildflowers were very beautiful.

Gong Yingxiong curled his lips and handed the flowers to them, saying, "If you like them, uncle will give them to you!"

"Thank you, Uncle!" The two children happily accepted the flowers.

Xiao Lingyun, "..."

Chapter 355: Self-reproach

A few days after Xiao Lingyun was brought back, it was Xiao Lingye's graduation banquet and teacher appreciation banquet.

Even Third Uncle Xiao also brought his wife and children back to Taoyuan Village. His family had moved to a big city, and his children went away to study.

However, his eldest nephew getting admitted into Imperial University as the top scorer in Science was big news. This was a great thing for the entire Xiao family. It was a very glorious thing.

No matter what, they would definitely come back to celebrate.

However, when they heard about his second niece's incident, the anger showed on their faces, and their fists clenched tightly.

Third Uncle Xiao gnashed his teeth and said, "Cheng Feiping, that bastard, actually dared to treat you like this. Why didn't you tell us earlier?" When he said that, he also looked at Grandpa Xiao and Grandma Xiao.

Over the years, they had suffered so much in Kanglin City, but they didn't say a word. If they had said something, even if they didn't have much power, they could provide an advantage in numbers. They could put their heads together to come up with a solution.

If not, at least the larger number would stop the Cheng Family from bullying them so ruthlessly.

Xiao Leyang looked at his parents and asked with a dark face, "Dad, Mom, does this mean you've been bullied by the Cheng Family for the past five years.

"We're your sons. Why didn't you tell us? We wouldn't have let them do this to you!"

Grandma Xiao said, "Oh Three, the matter is over. The Cheng family has also received retribution and severe punishment from the law. We shall move forward and not dwell on the past."

However, Xiao Leyang said, "But mom, you have been bullied so badly. It hurts my heart just hearing about it."

"We've failed as your sons. We didn't go to Kanglin City to visit you. We thought you had a good life there."

Grandpa Xiao and the others kept Xiao Lingyun's matter a secret too tightly.

If it weren't for Xiao Lingye's graduation banquet, they wouldn't have known anything. Perhaps when they found out, Xiao Lingyun and her daughters would be dead already.

"Third uncle, it was me who asked Grandpa and Grandma not to tell you guys anything." Xiao Lingyun said guiltily, "At that time, I didn't want you guys to worry about me. However, I forgot how much of a burden it would place on Grandma and Grandpa. I even allowed them to be bullied by the Cheng

Family. This is all my fault. I'm sorry, third uncle!"

Then, Xiao Lingyun apologized to Grandpa and Grandma Xiao, "I'm sorry, Grandpa and Grandma. Second Uncle, Fourth Uncle, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have implicated Grandpa and Grandma. If you want to blame someone, blame me."

Grandma Xiao pulled Xiao Lingyun over and said with a very emotional expression, "Child, this matter is not your fault. In any case, it's over now. After waiting for so long, you've finally been released from the clutches of the Cheng Family."

Back then, the old couple had moved to Kanglin City to look after their granddaughter. But who would have thought their granddaughter's marriage life would be so sad. She was tortured and abused.

Fortunately, everything had passed.

Third Uncle Xiao was about to speak when Father Xiao said, "Third brother, you're right. We were wrong for not going to Kanglin City to visit. Even if we had gone there once, we would have definitely noticed that something was wrong. We would have thought of a way to save Yun 'Er and the girls." Father

Xiao paused, his face full of guilt. Then, he said, "Fortunately, everything is in the past now. Father and mother are back, and the children are back."

Father Xiao still had fear when he thought back to that night when he saw Xiao Lingyun being forced to drink chicken soup by Cheng Dawei and the others. If they had been one second later, Yun 'Er and her daughters... It was terrifying.

At this time, Xiao Jinyang said with a guilty look, "Second brother, third brother, if you want to blame someone, blame Big Brother. It was me who made Mom and Dad suffer."

The brothers of the Xiao Family felt very guilty. They couldn't have felt worse.

Grandpa Xiao shouted sternly, "Alright, you brothers don't need to feel guilty anymore. Your mom and I made this choice. It has nothing to do with you. But this is a valuable lesson. In the future, as long as our family is united and we work together, we can solve everything, And that will be the greatest comfort to your mother and me."

Grandpa Xiao had always been the authoritative figure in the family.

"Since Yun 'Er and the two children have returned, we have to protect them well. We can't let them suffer any more harm. We need to make sure that the girls can grow up properly.

"Also, the day after tomorrow is the graduation banquet for Ye Er. Let's not mention these unhappy things anymore. We're here to celebrate Ye 'Er. This is a glorious event for the Xiao Family. Make sure that all the guests are invited."

"Yes, father!"

Xiao Lingye's graduation banquet was held in the village. The teacher appreciation banquet was held in the Gu family's hotel.

The graduation banquet invited a large number of relatives and friends to attend. Almost every family at Taoyuan Village would attend. There were too many guests, so they had to hold it in the village.

The teacher appreciation banquet was, as the name suggested, a party to thank the teachers for their teachings and training. The guests were limited.

Therefore, the two banquets were separated.

In the city, these two banquets were often held together. After all, they didn't need to invite the whole village to one of the banquets.

That day, Taoyuan Village was very lively. Taoyuan Village had produced a second university student. He was Xiao Zhengyang's son.

Xiao Zhengyang and his wife's capability to raise such a wonderful pair of children made everyone in the village envious.

After the villagers learned that Xiao Lingye was admitted to Imperial University, even people from the nearby villagers were jealous.

Xiao Zhengyang and his wife had raised a daughter who was a university student. Now, their son was also admitted to a first-level university.

Their family's life was also getting better and better. Their family was getting richer and richer.

Some time ago, the Xiao Family took out five million in cash to contract the mountains at Taoyuan Village. Every villager was beaming with joy.

Once they got the money, many people began to build new houses.

Due to the rising fame of Taoyuan Village, they had attracted nearby villagers to marry over too.

After all, Taoyuan Village was no longer the poor and backward small mountain village of the past..

Chapter 356: Graduation Banquet 1

Taoyuan Village was bustling with activity!

Cars drove into Taoyuan Village. They might not know each other, but their common goal was to attend the graduation banquet of a university student in Taoyuan Village.

The top scorer of science in City Z was admitted by Imperial University. People were honored to be invited.

There were thirty tables at this banquet, and each table seated ten people.

Taoyuan Village had around two hundred people. They also had relatives and friends. Therefore, thirty tables was definitely not a lot.

The tables and chairs were taken from the village's ancestral hall. In Taoyuan Village, there was a custom that whenever a family had a child, they had to contribute something to the ancestral hall. It could be a new table, a set of cutlery, or so on. Every villager would contribute. That way, whenever there

was a gathering in the village, the ancestral hall would always have enough to serve the villagers.

Therefore, while the banquet was big, there were enough logistical items.

Logically speaking, since today was the Xiao Family's banquet, Mother Xiao only needed to welcome the guests. However, Mother Xiao's cooking skill was acknowledged as the best in Taoyuan Village. Plus, Mother Xiao had promised that she would cook a feast after the villagers helped save the strawberry field. This was the perfect opportunity.

'Therefore, Mother Xiao was the head chef for this banquet. Naturally, she had many helpers.

'When the Taoyuan Village held a banquet, the host would invite many helpers. This was a favor-based or exchange-based thing.

Today, you came to help with my family's banquet. In the future, I will come to help at yours.

Similarly, if you attended my banquet today, I would attend yours in the future.

This is a kind of village reciprocity.

'The best example was a villager who had moved to the city. For the past few years, they never attended any village banquet even though they were invited.

One day, their family suddenly returned to the village to hold a banquet, saying that their son had entered university.

They enthusiastically went to every family in the village to invite them.

The villagers also agreed to attend.

However, on the day of the banquet, other than a few relatives and friends, the rest was empty tables.

This made the family extremely confused and furious.

He stopped a villager and asked angrily, "Why didn't you attend my family's banquet? You promised you'd come!"

The villager sneered and said, "Your family never attended our banquet, so why should we attend your family's banquet?"

"You've stayed in the village for decades. After staying in the city for a few years, have you forgotten the rules of our village? It's clear that you look down on us when you refuse to attend our banquets, so why should we suck up to you? Who do you think you are?"

After saying that, the villager left without waiting for the man's reaction. The villager huffed. "Your family has basically migrated to the city. Why would you suddenly come back to hold a banquet in the village? The goal is clearly to get our gifts. Do you think we're fools?"

The host's face turned red. He was embarrassed and angry.

From then on, whenever there was a banquet held in the village, his family would send people to attend it. Only then did their relationship with the village gradually ease up.

In contrast, the Xiao Family had always followed the rules in Taoyuan Village. No matter how rich they were now, they had never looked down on anyone in the village.

"Qiuying, are you expecting that many guests?" Many people asked when they saw more than 30 tables placed in the house in the courtyard.

Mother Xiao smiled and said, "Actually, I don't even know how many guests there'll be. However, I do know the villagers will take up around 20 tables."

Someone smiled and said, "That's true. Almost every family in our village will attend this banquet!"

Someone immediately echoed, "Qiuying, your family has a large population and many relatives. Having thirty tables isn't a lot."

Xiao Zhengyang and his brothers were married, so they naturally had to invite their in-laws too.

"and Lingyu has many friends." Someone added, "They can take up at least two tables."

Chen Qiuying shook her head and said, "Actually, she doesn't have many friends. One table should be enough."

It was hard to gauge the attendance number of a banquet. The number wasn't consistent. However, the food had to be more than enough.¹

While Chen Qiuying and the others were chatting, things were heating up outside.

Grandma Xiao's family and Xiao Zhengyang's brothers came over. They came early to see if they could help.

They were proud that Xiao Lingye got into such a good university.

Furthermore, the in-laws actually got along very well. Many villagers envied the Xiao Family's relationship with their in-laws. The brothers were united and their wives' families mixed together well.

Other people's families fought endlessly with their in-laws. However, this had never happened with Xiao Baotou's family.

It was a mystery how Xiao Baotou and his wife managed to find such perfect daughters-in-law. They were very good at judging people. The Xiao family was harmonious and happy.

"In-law, we're here. Is there anything we can help you with? We especially came early just to see if there's anything we can help with."

"There's no need. You've come all the way here. You should rest."

"How can we do that and let you work?"

"It's fine. There are already many people helping us, and everyone has already divided their work."

"Okay then. We'll go rest first. Oh, right. Where is the man of the hour?"

"Haha, this child has a few classmates who are here. He's receiving them right now. They're in his room."

"are there girls among them? Will we be having another banquet soon?"

"Haha..."

There was laughter everywhere!

Chapter 357: Graduation Banquet 2

At this moment, Gu Ziyi, Zheng Haiyang, and the other two drove to Taoyuan Village to attend Xiao Lingye's graduation banquet.

They were obviously going as Xiao Lingyu's friends.

Although Xiao Lingyu rarely went to the county town now and they did not communicate frequently, there was a kind of strong friendship between them.

Zheng Haiyang's vague feelings toward Xiao Lingyu disappeared with the appearance of Xiao Lingyu's stomach and the company of an outstanding man by her side.

The other three secretly let out a sigh of relief when they saw this.

They were afraid that Zheng Haiyang's feelings for Xiao Lingyu would continue to fester. It was for the best that Zheng Haiyang had learned to let go.

"Ning Weiyi and the kids are already at Taoyuan Village!" Yuan Xuanhao curled his lips and said, "Ever since they got their driver's license, they have been driving every day. They are going crazy."

"Ning Weiyi, Yang Baolin, and Kang Le all did well in the exam."

Qian Yifan suddenly said, "According to their usual results, it wouldn't be much of a problem for them to get into a first-grade university. However, all three of them have performed beyond expectation!"

"It's not just the three of them. Most of the students in No. 1 High School also performed beyond their normal levels. This year, No 1 High School has produced many new university students."

"No 1 High School's results were always at the bottom in our county. However, this year, they have made a comeback. In an instant, they went from the bottom of City Z to the very top.

"No 1 High School received major praise by the city council. Principal Li and a few teachers laughed until their stomachs hurt."

"Haha. It must feel nice."

"However, there are rumors that the reason why No. 1 High School did so well this year was because they had the vegetables sent over by Xiao Lingye's family before the exam."

"There might be a kernel of truth in that. People say that they feel refreshed and full of energy after having the Xiao Family's vegetables. Their minds are clear, and they have a better memory.

"The vegetables can also help with nerves. In the past, many students would get frightened during the entrance exam. Their hands would get cold, and they wouldn't perform normally. However, that stopped after having the Xiao Family's product."

"If that is true, the Xiao Family is going to have a fever sale every time the entrance exam comes around."

"This is a big market." Qian Yifan sighed, "It's a pity that Xiao Lingyu has such a small farm."

"The farm is small now, but it will grow in the future." Gu Ziyue said. "Did you forget that Xiao Lingyu has contracted six mountains?"

Yuan Xuanhao asked in confusion, "Can she grow vegetables in those mountains? Didn't she plan to use them to grow fruit trees?"

Gu Ziyue shook his head and said, "Xiao Lingyu told me that some of the lands at the foot of the mountain can be used to grow vegetables. She estimated that there are at least 30 Mus of the usable plot."

"30 Mus?" The other three were shocked. "That's a lot!"

"It's really not." Gu Ziyue said, "The six mountains cover over 10,000 Mus, but only 30 Mus can be used for vegetable farming."

"But can Xiao Lingyu sell so many vegetables? Does she have the channel to sell them?" Zheng Haiyang asked suspiciously.

"Why not?" Qian Yifan said, "I believe her next plan is to sell her vegetables all over the country."

"Sell them all over the country?" Zheng Haiyang was confused.

Qian Yifan explained, “Haiyang, with the rise of the internet, online shopping has become more prevalent. Xiao Lingyu only needs to set up an online store, and her products will sell.” Qian Yifan was very confident in this. “Once one tastes Xiao Lingyu’s crops, they will not forget them. The internet business will be a booming one.”

Zheng Haiyang was still cautious. “Fan, have you forgotten that the prices of Xiao Lingyu’s crops are not low?

“The prices will scare many people off. Besides, many people want their vegetables fresh. Buying them online means that the vegetables won’t be fresh anymore.”

This was indeed a problem.

Yuan Xuanhao said with a smile, “Instead of guessing among ourselves, we might as well wait and ask Xiao Lingyu about her plans.

“If she really has the intention to sell the vegetables to the whole country, she’ll face more problems than just an online sales platform.”

“That’s true,” Qian Yifan said with a smile. “Although we haven’t known Xiao Lingyu for a long time, judging from her style of doing things, she must have her own plans already.”

“I can’t wait to see what will happen in the future.” Zheng Haiyang said with anticipation.

The four of them had no idea how popular Xiao Lingyu’s crops would be in the future. In fact, everything related to Xiao Lingyu was sold like crazy. Even if the prices were high, they ran out of stock quickly.

But, let’s not get ahead of ourselves.

Gu Ziyue and his friends chatted as they drove to Taoyuan Village. Qian Yifan’s eyes suddenly widened. He rubbed his eyes, then pulled Yuan Xuanhao beside him and said, “Hao, come over and take a look. Is that my dad’s car? My God. A few leaders from the county are also here!”

Yuan Xuanhao was also surprised to see a few people getting out of the black car.

“Fan, you didn’t see wrongly. They are indeed the county leaders.”

“What are they doing here? Are they here to attend Xiao Lingyu’s graduation banquet?” Qian Yifan said in disbelief, “How is this possible?”

“But that appears to be the truth.” Yuan Xuanhao also said in disbelief, “Fan, haven’t you heard your dad mention it before?”

“No!” Qian Yifan shook his head and said, “Ever since my dad was promoted to the council leader, he was so busy. He didn’t even have time to chat with me anymore!”

Everyone, “...”

Poor child...

Chapter 358: Graduation Banquet 3

The normal graduation banquet brought in the county leaders. The Xiao Family was really flattered. They didn't invite the leaders because they didn't think the leaders would have the time. So why did the leaders suddenly all appear at the banquet?

Xiao Lingyu looked at the leaders and frowned slightly. Then, she looked at Gong Tianhao as if asking, "Did you invite these people?"

Gong Tianhao understood the question in her eyes and raised his eyebrows slightly. Then, he lowered his head and explained, "Yu 'Er, I didn't invite them. They probably are clever enough to tell the demolition of Taoyuan Village had to do with your family, so they're here to make some connections."

After all, the demolition incident had caused the whole City Z and Xing Yin County government departments to shake.

The smarter ones would know that there was a powerful, invisible hand operating everything. Or else things wouldn't have been tured so easily.

When Xiao Lingyu heard Gong Tianhao's answer, she curled her lips and said, "Then what should we do now? Should we go out and receive them?"

Gong Tianhao held her hand and said with a smile, "I don't think so. You need to stay and rest. Your uncles and dad will handle everything. The leaders are here to congratulate your brother. They won't stay for long."

As Gong Tianhao expected, the men of the Xiao Family had already moved. After all, they knew these people were very important. They had to treat them with respect.

"Leader Qian, why are you all here?" Xiao Zhengyang greeted Qian Guoxin and the others generously. "Quick, please come in and have a drink of water first! You must be thirsty after traveling for so long."

Xiao Zhengyang led Qian Guoxin and the others into the main house.

When the villagers heard that these people were the county leaders, they became scared and nervous. They looked at them with timid eyes.

The villagers were curious and nervous about the appearance of the county leader. They did not dare to approach him. He was the county leader!

He attended the banquet. It showed how much he valued Xiao Lingye's good results.

After Qian Guoxin sat down, he looked around and then asked with a smile, "May I know where is the man of the hour?"

Xiao Zhengyang was slightly stunned, but then he said with a smile, "Leader Qian, you're too polite.

"Please wait for a moment. I'll ask someone to call my son out to meet you."

As soon as he said this, Xiao Lingye and a few classmates walked out of their room.

They must have heard the commotion outside.

When he heard that the county leader had come to attend his graduation banquet, Xiao Lingye was a little excited.

He walked out and called out to Father Xiao, "Dad."

Father Xiao nodded and said, "Ye 'Er, this is Leader Qian. He especially came to meet you and congratulate us."

Xiao Lingye suppressed his excitement and greeted the people, "Leader Qian, Leader..." He greeted the other leaders too.

Qian Guoxin nodded in satisfaction, "Your son is really a handsome young man. He got good grades, got into imperial university, and became the top scorer of science in City Z. He made the entire Xing Yin County proud."

After Xiao Lingye heard this, he said shyly, "Leader Qian, I only performed a little better than usual. I don't deserve your praise."

"Haha, and he is polite too!" When Leader Qian saw Xiao Lingye's expression, he was very happy and laughed out loud. "You are the only student in our county to be admitted to Imperial University in the past few years.

"No 1 High School has never produced a top scorer in science before. You have broken all kinds of records. You have made us all proud. We came to thank you."

Qian Guoxin explained the ostentatious reason why they were here. However, the secret reason was that Qian Guoxin wanted to build a good relationship with the Xiao family.

There was a rumor in the county's political circle that the Xiao Family was responsible for the recent political earthquake. There had to be someone very powerful supporting this family. Therefore, they had to ingratiate themselves to the Xiao Family.

Since the last incident, Qian Guoxin understood that Taoyuan Village was not to be easily touched.

Qian Guoxin looked around from the corner of his eyes. Then, he turned to a small table in the corner of the main house. An old man was seated there.

The two young men standing next to him looked very extraordinary.

They had the kind of murderous aura that had been honed on the battlefield.

Qian Guoxin suppressed the impulse to ask for more details. He took a sip of tea and then said with a smile, "I heard that your daughter is also very good at her studies. She was once the top scorer in our county, right?"

This was not a secret, and Xiao Zhengyang didn't hide it.

He nodded and said, "My daughter was indeed the top scorer in the county back then. However, that was all in the past. It's nothing worth mentioning."

Qian Guoxin suddenly asked curiously, "How did you raise such an outstanding pair of children?"

“Hehe, there’s no secret. We just gave them freedom. They work hard. That’s all.” Xiao Zhengyang said very normally.

That was indeed what Father Xiao had done. However, the others who heard him were in disbelief.

No secret? Raised them freely? Hard work?

Is he trying to show off?

Chapter 359: Graduation Banquet 4

‘When the principal of No. 1 high school, Li Xunquan, and the other teachers found out that several of the county’s leaders had gone to attend Xiao Lingye’s graduation banquet, they felt both excited and helpless.

‘They were told to wait for the Xiao Family to hold the teacher appreciation banquet, so they didn’t attend the graduation banquet. However, now that the county leaders were at Taoyuan Village, they felt like they should go too.

“Principal, why are we going over today? Aren’t we waiting for the Xiao family’s teacher appreciation banquet happening tomorrow?” Vice Principal Liu asked.

Principal Li said, “Let’s go over now. A few county leaders are already there. We need to go and accompany them.” After all, the county leaders wouldn’t attend the teacher appreciation banquet tomorrow.

Since principal Li had made up his mind, the other staff joined him. Of course, not all the teachers went. Some of them would wait for the banquet tomorrow. After all, the Xiao Family had already invited them to the banquet tomorrow.

‘Therefore, when Gu Ziyue and the others arrived at Taoyuan Village, they saw the county leaders as well as the principal and staff from No 1 High School.

“Buck. Didn’t they say the teacher appreciation banquet is tomorrow? Why are they all here today?” Qian Yifan couldn’t help but complain, “Then, will these people still attend the teacher appreciation banquet tomorrow?”

Yuan Xuanhao glanced at Qian Yifan and said, “These teachers must have heard that your father and the others are here. That’s why they came.”

Even the principal of No. 1 High School didn’t have much chance to interact with the big county leaders. This time, their students had made them proud, so of course, they had to come to give support.

Zheng Haiyang asked with some worry, “These people are probably not part of the Xiao family’s guest list. Will they have enough food?”

“Hehe, my dad and the others are so busy. They won’t stay for dinner. They will probably chat and then leave.”

Zheng Haiyang pursed his lips and said, "That's not necessarily true. Qian Yifan, we have all eaten the food prepared by Xiao Lingye's mother. If Auntie is the chef, your dad and the others might stay for dinner."

After all, Xiao Lingye's mother was too good at cooking. The food she prepared was really delicious.

Not many people could resist it could resist the temptation of her cooking.

Qian Yifan said with some uncertainty, "That can't be."

"I'll bet you two packets of dried beef that they'd stay." Zheng Haiyang said with confidence.

Qian Yifan gritted his teeth and said, "Fine. You have a deal!"

He secretly prayed in his heart that his father would not be tempted by the delicious food.

'When Zheng Haiyang and the others arrived, the village was bustling and nervous because of the arrival of a few big leaders from the county. The atmosphere was... strange.

After all, the majority of the guests were rural people. They had never come into contact with any big shots in their life. The county leaders were the most important people they had met in their lives. Their hearts were filled with curiosity, nervousness, and fear.

They only dared to watch from afar. From time to time, they would lower their heads and whisper to the people next to them. In the future, they could gloat to others that they had been to the same banquet as the county leaders.

Of course, they were more envious of Xiao Zhengyang's family.

'What great honor did they have? Their son was admitted to Imperial University, and even the county leaders came to congratulate them.

Xiao Zhengyang and his family chatted enthusiastically with the leaders. This made the villagers and the Xiao Family's in-law firm up their conviction that they shouldn't offend Xiao Zhengyang.

The man was connected to the county leaders!

The kitchen was working overtime.

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After Qian Guoxin chatted with Xiao Zhengyang and his son, he looked at Elder Gong and asked curiously, "Father Xiao, that elder doesn't look like a local. Where is he from?"

Xiao Lingyu, who was watching from afar, raised her eyebrows.

'Finally, he gets to the real reason he is here. Speaking of which, Qian Guoxin is quite sharp.

'He can tell at a glance that Elder Gong is extraordinary.'

Xiao Zhengyang wasn't very clear about Elder Gong's and Gong Tianhao's identities.

But he could faintly tell that they had some power and influence.

Otherwise, they wouldn't be able to scare off the development company from City Z so easily.

However, Xiao Zhengyang was just a farmer. He didn't know much about politics.

'When Qian Guoxin asked about Elder Gong, Xiao Zhengyang answered, "Oh, you mean Old Master Gong? He's here to recuperate."

"An outsider who came here to recuperate?" Qian Guoxin repeated.

Before this, Taoyuan Village was the poorest mountain village in the country. An outsider couldn't just move here without a certain amount of power to set up a foundation here.

Xiao Zhengyang nodded and replied, "Old Master Gong isn't a local."

As for where he came from, he really didn't know.

He only knew that his family was rich and had a bunch of bodyguards.

Of course, Xiao Zhengyang was smart enough not to mention this to Qian Guoxin.

Qian Guoxin saw that Xiao Zhengyang had no intention of introducing him to the old man, so he didn't press.

If the elder were of a certain status, it would be rude for Xiao Zhengyang to make the introduction without the elder's consent.

Qian Guoxin was not mad. He turned to Xiao Lingye and said, "Mr. Xiao has been admitted to Imperial University. When you become successful in the future, don't forget about our hometown."

Xiao Lingye smiled and said, "Of course not! In the future, I will come back to contribute to our hometown." They loved this place. So if they had the ability to improve it, they would.

"Yes, that's good." Qian Quoxin nodded. Just as he was about to say something else, the principal of No. 1 High School came over with his subordinates.

After Principal Li was led into the room, he first congratulated Xiao Lingye when he saw him. He said, "Student Xiao Lingye, congratulations on being admitted to Imperial University and becoming the top scorer of science in City Z. Congratulations!

"Congratulations to Father Xiao for raising such an outstanding child too."

"Thank you, Principal!" Xiao Lingye replied politely.

"Thank you, Principal!" This wasn't the first time Papa Xiao had met the principal. He replied, "I also need to thank the principal and teachers for looking after my son. If it weren't for your hard work, my son wouldn't have achieved such outstanding results."

Xiao Lingye was indeed outstanding, but no matter how outstanding a person was, he still needed to be nurtured.

Ever since Xiao Lingye entered No 1 High School, his results had always been at the top. Naturally, he was highly valued by the school.

The staff was very happy listening to Father Xiao's words. After all, Father Xiao did not deny their contributions.

Now that there was a precedent like Xiao Lingye's, their prestige would rise even higher in the future.

The other teachers also congratulated the Xiao Family.

Principal Li looked at Qian Guoxin and said with a smile, "Leader Qian, I didn't know that you guys would come. Otherwise, I would have definitely come with you."

Qian Guoxin said, "It is not often that Xing Yin County has such a prestigious student. I heard that they are hosting a graduation banquet, so we came to congratulate Mr. Xiao."

"Haha, that's true! We came for the same reason." Principal Li laughed out loud.

Xiao Zhengyang led these people to their seats and said, "Principal Li, please take a seat."

There were ten people sitting at a table, Qian Guoxin's group, Principal Li's group, as well as Xiao Zhengyang and Grandpa Xiao, and the table was full.

After Principal Li sat down, Qian Guoxin thought of what he wanted to ask earlier.

He asked, "Father Xiao, I heard that your family wanted to book the Taoyuan Village's mountains a while ago?"

Chapter 360: Graduation Banquet 5

Qian Guoxin was curious why a farmer's family wanted to contract six mountains. As far as he knew, the mountains had over 10000 Mus, and the annual rent was over a million. It was abnormal for a farming family to be that rich.

Even more confusing was that the initial request was blocked by a large company in the county because the company had taken an interest in Taoyuan Village too. However, the company suddenly went bankrupt, and the project fizzled out. Right after that, the family came back with the request to contract the mountains.

At the time, his superior was suddenly arrested, and then, he received the news that he was to be promoted. Qian Guoxin immediately approved the request. He had a faint intuition that the political earthquake that happened a while ago was related to the mountain contract at Taoyuan Village. Of course,

he was wise enough not to send any of his people to investigate.

Hearing Qian Guoxin's question, Xiao Zhengyang nodded very honestly and said, "That's right. Some time ago, my daughter wanted to contract a few mountains in the village. She wants to use them to develop and grow vegetables and fruits."

"Good, that's not bad!" Qian Guoxin nodded and said, "When it's developed, it will become a big industry in our county. I will definitely support this. Please do your best!"

Xiao Zhengyang expressed that he was flattered and said excitedly, "Thank you for your support, leader."

Xiao Lingyu, "... I have no idea Qian Yifan's father is such a clever conversationalist.

Gong Tianhao secretly nodded. 'This man is very clever. If he can make something of the county and not make any principled mistake, I can pull some strings to brighten his future.

Qian Guoxin had no idea about the influence he had made with his actions. His main purpose in coming to Taoyuan Village was to investigate the big shot residing in this small village. Therefore, he spoke very carefully. His people told him that the Xiao Family had a very good relationship with the mysterious elder.

After chatting with Xiao Zhengyang and his son for a while, Qian Guoxin and the others were about to leave.

After all, they had come here without notice. Naturally, the Xiao family did not prepare their meals.

Besides, they were busy with official business. How could they have time to stay for dinner?

Qian Yifan and Zheng Haiyang had made a bet. When Qian Yifan saw his father planning to leave, he was happy. He was about to win that bet.

However, at that moment, someone suddenly shouted, "Wow, what is Mother Xiao cooking? Why does it smell so good?"

"ah, it really smells so good!"

'Waves of fragrance wafted out from the kitchen. The smell made people drool.

Qian Guoxin and the others were pulled by the fragrance. It was very alluring.

The two deputy leaders could not help but exclaim, "It smells so good. I think I'm drooling."

Two of the teachers also chimed in, "That's right. The smell is delectable."

The few subordinates could not bear to leave.

They looked at their leaders with expectant eyes.

They also wanted to stay for dinner.

Xiao Zhengyang felt honored when he saw this scene.

He knew that no one could refuse his wife's cooking.

Then, he invited them sincerely, "Leaders, my wife is cooking today. Why don't you stay and have a taste?"

'As soon as Xiao Zhengyang said that, someone outside said, "Qiuying's cooking skills have improved again. Even the smell is already making me salivate!"

“You’re right. We have eaten so many banquet dishes, but Qiuying’s dishes are the best. People will be licking the plates every time.”

“Haha. It’s her family’s celebration today. She will do her best. I suspect people will be swallowing the plates!”

“That’s really possible.”

While they were talking, someone shouted, “It’s time to eat. Set off the firecrackers and serve the dishes!”

The firecrackers crackled. The guests immediately found their seats.

All of a sudden, the originally empty table was filled with people, and their faces were filled with anticipation.

Qian Guoxin and the others, “..”

It wasn’t that they had never attended a rural banquet before, but it was the first time they had seen so many people looking forward to banquet food.

Rural banquets normally served stews. The deliciousness depended on the cook’s skill. However, this kind of mixed stew normally didn’t taste so good. However, the people of Taoyuan Village appeared to have great faith in the head chef’s culinary skills.

With Xiao Zhengyang’s invitation, Qian Guoxin stayed behind to eat.

The table arrangement was quite curious.

Old Master Gong loved peace and quiet, so he didn’t want to join in on the excitement.

As a shrewd person, Old Master Gong could naturally guess Qian Guoxin’s motive for coming.

However, it was precisely because he knew the man’s motive that he didn’t interact with Qian Guoxin.

Qian Guoxin’s eyes flickered when he saw the old master and the young couple go upstairs. Then, he quietly continued to drink.

This pair of old and young men looked extraordinary. Their statuses were definitely different.

Qian Guoxin remembered that his son seemed to be good friends with Xiao Lingyu. He could ask his son about this.

Gu Ziyé’s group was friends with Xiao Lingyu. Logically speaking, they should be at the same table as Xiao Lingyu.

However, Xiao Lingyu was at the same table as Grandfather Gong, Gong Tianhao, and the Xiao family.

After Xiao Lingyu greeted Gu Ziyé’s group, she led them to the table where Xiao Lingye was. After all, these two groups knew each other.

After Qian Yifan sat down, he was a little depressed.

He said, “Why did my dad and the others stay? He cost me the bet.”

Ning Weiyi asked curiously, "Brother Qian, did you make a bet with someone?"

Qian Yifan glanced at him and said, "I made a bet with Zheng Haiyang."

At this moment, Zheng Haiyang reminded him, "Fan, I won the bet. Don't forget what you owe me." Then, he said with foresight, "I told you that Uncle Qian and the others couldn't resist the temptation of this delicacy. I was right."

Qian Yifan and the others, ..."

After being brought upstairs, Old Master Gong asked Gong Tianhao, "Did this Leader Qian just get promoted a while ago?"

There was no one else there except Xiao Lingyu, so he could ask the questions freely.

Gong Tianhao nodded and replied, "Yes. Back then, when the tourism company wanted to demolish Taoyuan Village, he was the only one who opposed it wholeheartedly for the people. So, after removing his predecessor, he was directly promoted."

Old Master Gong nodded his head and said, "The man is shrewd, but if he really cares about the people, he shall be rewarded."

Gong Tianhao nodded. Qian Guoxin was obviously on good terms with the Xiao family. With Qian Guoxin's help, life would be smoother for the Xiao Family in the future. So the Gong men were doing this for the Xiao Family too.

Xiao Lingyu was quiet. She pretended not to hear anything.

However, Old Master Gong turned to her. He asked with a smile, "Girl, don't you have any questions to ask?" They were openly talking about the county leader's future, but she was unfazed.

Xiao Lingyu spread her hands and said, "Grandfather, what kind of question would I have? I'm just an ordinary farmer after all."

"Haha..." Old Master Gong said with some amusement, "Of course, you're just an ordinary farmer." But after you marry into the Gong Family, that will change.

Xiao Lingyu just smiled..