FARM SPACE 51

Chapter 51: Selfishness and Heartlessness

This was back when mobile phones weren't ubiquitous. However, the younger generations would likely have one.

Chen Xiaohua called a number. After the call was answered, Chen Xiaohua immediately asked, "Big Brother, how is Xiao Ran?"

Before the other person could say anything, a voice could be heard, "You still owe the hospital 50,000 RMB. When are you going to pay? If you don't pay it now, we'll have to cut off the patient's medication!"

Then, a sharp voice with a country accent countered, "This is a daytime robbery! We just paid 5000 the day before yesterday. How can you need money so soon? I know, you must have stolen the money for yourself, you thief!"

The nurse was annoyed being slandered. "Who are you calling a thief, you country bumpkin?! Can't you see how serious your son's injury is? He was stabbed close to the heart. He almost died. Our director pitied him, so he waived some of the fees. Otherwise, do you think 50,000 is enough to cover his medical bills? Of the total, you've only paid 5000, and you have the gall to call me a thief? If you're not satisfied with our service, feel free to transfer to another hospital." Then, the nurse scoffed, "Oh, wait. I don't think there's any hospital that dares to accept your son. Your perfect son has offended the most powerful person in City Z, Young Master Yan!"

For Lan Erying, her son was the best man in the world. Even Young Master Yan couldn't be compared to her son.

Lan Eryang put her hands on her waist and said aggressively, "You are a bunch of bullies. Do you know that my son is the son-in-law of a big company's CEO? Just you wait. After my son recovers, I'll go demand an explanation from that Young Master Yan. I'll make him bow down to me and apologize to my son!"

Lan Erying was from the countryside. She was a peasant woman who didn't know about the power structure in City Z.

The nurse rolled her eyes with derision. She sneered. "Fine, I'll wait. But you need to pay the hospital bills now, or else, we'll have to discharge your son."

"No. My son is seriously injured. He can't leave the hospital!" Chen Dahua, who held the phone, said anxiously. "Nurse, please be kind. We'll raise the money soon."

The nurse huffed and said, "You're at least more sensible than your wife. Fine. Go and raise the money quickly, or you can take the patient and leave this hospital!"

"Of course!" Chen Dahua lowered his head and replied very politely.

Lan Erying was not satisfied. She wanted to say something when Chen Dahua growled at her, "Shut up! Do you want your son to be kicked out of the hospital?"

Chen Dahua then turned his focus back to his phone to continue the conversation with his younger brother. However, the call had ended.

The Chen Family heard the conversation between Lan Erying and the nurse clearly. When Chen Dahua said he would raise money for the hospital bills, his siblings urged Chen Xiaohua to hang up.

Chen Guihua said with a solemn expression, "It seems the rumors are true. Chen Ran has offended a big shot."

Chen Xiaohua piped up. "Brothers and sisters, Big Brother needs the hospital fees for Xiao Ran. Shouldn't we help him?"

Once he said that Chen Erhua's wife immediately objected. She exclaimed, "How are we supposed to help? We don't have any money. Haven't Big Sister-in-law been gloating about the money Chen Ran has been sending them? We'd hear about them every other day. Since they have the money, why do they need money from us?"

The wives were very agitated when the topic of money was brought up. They had no money! If their husbands dared to loan the money to Chen Dahua in secret, they would divorce their husbands instantly!

Chen Dahua's two sisters and their husbands stated plainly that they didn't have any money. They were quite heartless.

The fact was even if they had the money, they wouldn't dare loan Chen Dahua. Chen Ran had offended a big character. If they helped him, they might be implicated.

The same thing was happening in the Lan Family.

A few days later, Xiao Lingyu sighed in relief after she heard the reactions of the Chen Family and the Lan Family.

'It looks like the seed of discord has been sown.'

However, the heavens were really helping Xiao Lingyu. It just so happened that Chen Xiaohua called Chen Dahua when the nurse demanded they pay the hospital bills. According to rumors, Chen Dahua's siblings refused to answer Chen Dahua's call after that. The situation was the same with the Lan Family.

When Lan Erying's eldest brother called to ask about Chen Ran, the Lan Family overhead the doctor urging Chen Dahua to pay the fees. When Lan Erying's brother heard that the payment was 50,000, he hung up immediately, afraid that his sister might ask to borrow money from them.

Chen Ran had offended someone who could make a big company disappear just like that. If that person wanted to take revenge on Chen Ran, the Chen Family and the Lan Family would be wiped out immediately.

Therefore, there was no way they would lend Chen Dahua and Lan Erying the money. In fact, they were doing everything they could to avoid Chen Ran's family.

Chapter 52: A Slip of the Tongue

Xiao Lingyu sighed softly. After her reborn, her luck seemed to become better.

First, the random man she grabbed off the street was the famous Young Master Yan. He helped her exact the perfect revenge on the pair of scumbags. Xiao Lingyu didn't feel sorry for them. If they didn't have a vicious heart and tried to frame her, they wouldn't end up like this. This was karma.

Then, the jade pendant she found when she was young contained a magical space. The space had magical uses, but she didn't know what those uses were until she explored the dimension further.

Xiao Lingyu wanted a way to resolve the potential trouble from the Chen Family. God was smiling at her. She didn't even need to do anything. The Chen and Lan Families imploded once they heard the exorbitant medical fees Chen Ran needed. To the greedy people of the Chen and Lan Family, they wouldn't waste any more effort on Chen Ran, who was not worth anything anymore.

In fact, the two families had cut themselves off from Chen Ran's family for fear of implication. How heartless could these people be?

Xiao Lingyu shook her head with a smile. Perhaps God pitied her after what she had experienced in her previous life, so he was kind to her in this one.

'Now that the Chen Family business has been temporarily settled, it's time to study this space properly!' Xiao Lingyu told herself. 'Since I'm already back home. Then, I'll have to work hard to be a good farmer!' She lowered her head and gently stroked her stomach as she continued to mutter to herself, 'I have to do my best to make up for everything I owe Xiao Tong.'

"Yu 'Er, it's time to eat!" Mother Xiao shouted. She sounded in a good mood.

"Okay, coming!" Xiao Lingyu replied.

Xiao Lingyu smiled when she saw the array of good dishes on the dining table. "Mom, what's the occasion? You've made so many dishes. There's braised pork, braised pork trotters with soybeans, braised tofu, fried beef, stir-fried vegetable heart, and even a chicken soup. Mom, are we suddenly rich?"

Mother Xiao chuckled. "Darn girl, do you think we're so poor that we can't afford these dishes? I am simply in a good mood."

Xiao Lingyu smiled obsequiously and said, "Of course, mother. But, Mom, why are you in such a good mood?"

Mother Xiao answered, "Why else? Your little brother is coming back from school today. He eats at school five days a week. How much nutrition can he get from cafeteria food? Therefore, I have to feed him well when he is home!"

Xiao Lingye happened to walk in and heard everything.

He immediately said, "Mom, I've been coming back every week, but I won't be welcomed with a feast every week." He walked to the table and gasped with exaggeration. "Look at this overflowing table. Mom, I refuse to believe it's just for me. Mom, just tell us. What happened?"

Then, he clapped and said, "Mom! Are you and dad going to give me a younger brother or sister?"

Mother Xiao's face turned red, and she smacked Xiao Lingye. "You little brat, what nonsense are you talking about? Your dad and I are way past that age already. You should be thankful that you got to eat. Why so many questions?"

Xiao Lingye curled his lips and said, "Mom, can you really blame me? Normally, when I come home, I'll have an extra egg or chicken thigh. But this is on a whole new level. I can't help but be suspicious."

Mother Xiao rolled her eyes and took out a bottle of white wine from the cupboard.

Xiao Lingye opened his eyes wide in surprise and said loudly, "Mom, are you sure there is no younger sibling for me? You're taking out the wine! You never let dad drink unless it's New Year or we have something huge to celebrate!"

Mother Xiao's face reddened again. Even Father Xiao, who sat at the table, turned red as a tomato. He said in a low voice, "Xiao Lingye, you rascal, how can you tease your parents like that? You have no sense of propriety! See how red you've made your mother's face!" However, Father Xiao was smiling.

Mother Xiao was embarrassed that Father Xiao would tease her like that. She turned mock-angry and ordered, "You two will go outside and stand for an hour. Yu 'Er, watch them, so they don't slack off!"

The father and son blamed each other as they headed out for the punishment. Xiao Lingyu felt bad for her father and brother. She said, "But mom, the food will be cold in an hour."

Mother Xiao took a bowl of rice. "So what? They can eat cold food."

Xiao Lingyu said, "But..."

Mother Xiao stopped her, "Xiao Lingyu, you can go join them if you want."

Xiao Lingyu immediately shut up, picked up the bowl, and obediently filled the bowl with rice.

Mother Xiao suddenly asked, "Yu 'Er, was the Chen family kid seriously stabbed?"

The news of the two families refusing to lend money to Chen Ran's family was known around the two villages and the town.

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "I'm not sure. I was too busy defending myself. After Zhao Wenman stabbed Chen Ran, she tried to stab me..." Xiao Lingyu immediately caught herself. She hadn't told her family that.

"What?!" Mother Xiao immediately put down the chopsticks. She examined Xiao Lingyu and shouted, "Yu 'Er's father, come in now!"

Father Xiao ran in worriedly. "What's wrong?"

Mother Xiao was in shock. "Just now, Yu 'Er said that the woman who stabbed the Chen Kid almost stabbed her!"

Xiao Lingyu's father and brother were anxious. They checked Xiao Lingyu. They asked anxiously, "Yu 'Er, are you hurt?"

Xiao Lingyu quickly explained to her concerned family, "I'm fine. Don't worry. I'll explain!"

Since Xiao Lingyu really looked fine, her family finally sighed in relief.

Mother Xiao demanded, "Girl, hurry up and tell us everything. If you try to hide anything, I'll never forgive you. You almost gave me a heart attack just now!"

Xiao Lingyu said guiltily, "I'm sorry, Mom and Dad, for making you worry. This time, I'll tell you everything. There won't be any more secrets."

Xiao Lingyu didn't want her family to live in a state of a constant worry. In that case, she figured it was better to tell her parents everything. Perhaps they could accept it.

Chapter 53: Confess Everything

Xiao Lingyu confessed everything... other than the pendant. After all, she didn't know if the jade pendant was a blessing or a curse. Therefore, the fewer people who knew about it, the better. She didn't want to put her family in unnecessary danger.

Xiao Lingyu's expression became serious as she said, "Dad, Mom, I need you to have an open mind after I tell you everything."

Mother Xiao and Father Xiao looked at each other, and their expressions became serious too. They exchanged thoughts as old couples could, 'Yu 'Er is hiding something from us. And it sounds serious too."

Father Xiao began, "Okay, Yu 'Er. No matter what, we're always on your side."

Xiao Lingyu nodded, "So in the beginning..."

Xiao Lingyu began from the part where she was called to the Marriott Hotel by the Marketing Department Manager. She told them how she was drugged and sent as a gift to an old man. However, somehow, she ended up in the bed of a strange young man. After discovering the truth, she left the hotel, dragged a random man off the street, and returned to the company to exact her revenge. Young Master Yan was the casual man she found on the street. He helped her take absolute revenge by buying out Chen Ran's father-in-law's company. Then, Chen Ran turned against his new wife, Zhao Wenman. Zhao Wenman grabbed a fruit knife and stabbed Chen Ran.

While everyone was shocked, Zhao Wenman turned to charge at Xiao Lingyu. Thankfully, Young Master Yan reacted fast enough to kick the blade away from Zhao Wenman's grasp.

Everyone was distracted by Zhao Wenman's possible miscarriage. At that moment, Zhao Wenman's father picked up the knife and flew at Xiao Lingyu. Young Master Yan saved her again. Xiao Lingyu suffered a superficial injury.

After that, she packed up her things and came home.

Xiao Lingyu's simple story made her family tremble in fear. Their hearts flew up and down.

Mother Xiao cried and scolded, "You silly girl, so many things had happened, but you hid them from us? If you didn't accidentally let it slip, how long do you plan to hide this from us?"

Mother Xiao then grabbed Xiao Lingyu up from the chair. She examined closely the location where Xiao Lingyu was scratched. Mother Xiao looked at her daughter's smooth skin, and she frowned. "Didn't you say you got injured? How come I can't tell at all?"

It was hard for Xiao Lingyu to explain. She dropped a random excuse, "Mom, I already told you it's a minor injury. After I applied the medicine, the wound healed."

Mother Xiao believed her. After ensuring Xiao Lingyu was safe, it was time to dissect the other details in her story. Mother Xiao hadn't forgotten about the fact that Xiao Lingyu was framed to sleep with another man.

Mother Xiao asked in a sharp expression, "Xiao Lingyu, Chen Ran, and that woman schemed against you. Why didn't you say anything when his family was here?"

Mother Xiao said in disappointment, "How can that bastard be so heartless? You have been in a relationship with him for 10 years. 10 years and he can't withstand the temptation of another woman. But that is fine. Everyone has a right to love. Since he has chosen another person, he should have just broken up with Yu Er. Why did he do such things to Yu 'Er? Why can't he be satisfied until Yu 'Er's reputation is ruined?"

Xiao Lingye was so angry that his face turned red. He said angrily, "That dog is vicious and evil. I'll go find him now. I'll show him the consequence for bullying my sister!" He charged out like a bull. It was clear he'd get into trouble.

Xiao Lingyu immediately pulled Xiao Lingye back. "Brother, calm down. Don't be rash. Listen to me. I've already taken revenge. He's already paying for what he has done. I don't think he'll have an easy future."

Xiao Lingye looked at his sister. "But Sis, that man is evil. I have to kill him with my own two hands!"

"If you do that, you're going to die with him!" Father Xiao said, "It's not worth it to sacrifice yourself for an animal!"

Earlier, Xiao Lingyu only told them that Chen Ran had cheated on her with another woman. Xiao Lingyu didn't tell them that Chen Ran had resorted to despicable means to ruin Yu 'Er so that he could be together with that other woman.

Chen Ran looked like a stand-up young man, but he was really an animal!

He used drugs and blackmail to harm Yu 'Er. The Xiao Family had no idea the man was so wicked.

Mother Xiao added, "Ye 'Er, don't be rash. Listen to your sister. That animal has already gotten his retribution. He was stabbed by his wife, and he is currently lying in the hospital."

Xiao Lingye eventually calmed down. He nodded and admitted, "You're right. It's not worth it to sacrifice our lives for that animal."

After settling Xiao Lingye down, Mother Xiao's sharp eyes turned to Xiao Lingyu. She asked sharply, "You were tricked to a hotel, drugged, and slept with a man. Xiao Lingyu, why did you hide so many things from us? How long do you plan to keep this from us? Until your stomach gets too big that you can't hide it anymore?"

Xiao Lingyu's face immediately paled when she heard Mother Xiao's last sentence.

Mother Xiao captured this reaction. She asked, "Xiao Lingyu, are you pregnant?" Xiao Lingyu was her daughter, so she could tell what she was thinking easily. 'Could Yu 'Er really be pregnant?' Then Mother Xiao hesitated. 'But a woman will only know about her pregnancy at least after a month. Yu 'Er has only been back for a few days. How could she know she's pregnant?'

Xiao Lingyu immediately shook her head. "No. I don't know." She kept her answer purposely vague.

Mother Xiao's face darkened. She said sternly, "Xiao Lingyu, this is a serious problem. You have to face it honestly!"

Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment and looked at her mother. She asked very carefully, "Mom, if, a very big if, I'm pregnant, what should I do?"

Mother Xiao replied without thinking, "Of course, you have to go for an abortion!" The child didn't even have a father. Keeping the child would only ruin Xiao Lingyu's reputation.

The color drained from Xiao Lingyu's face. She gasped. "But mom... He is still a life!"

In her previous life, the child was born because abortion would claim Xiao Lingyu's life. Therefore, her family had to accept the child. But now...

Xiao Lingyu was consumed by fear. Xiao Lingyu said with difficulty, "Mom, if I'm really pregnant, I... I will keep him!"

She owed Xiao Tong too much. She had to make up to him.. However, it would be an arduous journey for Xiao Tong to be born. Regardless, Xiao Lingyu would do it! She would have Xiao Tong!

Chapter 54: Testing Mother Xiao's Reaction

"Mom, I'm serious," Xiao Lingyu said firmly. "If there's a child, I will give birth to him!" She had to have Xiao Tong.

Mother Xiao was surprised by Xiao Lingyu's determination. Father Xiao and Brother Xiao also looked at Xiao Lingyu with confusion.

Mother Xiao was the first to come back to her senses. She said in a rough tone, "Xiao Lingyu, are you crazy? If you really give birth to that child, how do you think the others will see him? They will always see him as a bastard."

The word bastard slammed right into Xiao Lingyu's heart. It caused her mind to go blank.

She remembered that Xiao Tong grew up in contempt of the villagers, both adults and children. The children called Xiao Tong a bastard, a child abandoned by his parents.

"Besides, how do you plan to marry with a child?" Mother Xiao questioned. No one knew about Xiao Lingyu's one-night-stand. It'd soon be forgotten. Xiao Lingyu could still find a good man to marry. However, all that would be ruined if there was a child.

Who would be willing to marry a woman who had a child with an unknown man?

Xiao Lingyu said stubbornly, "Mom, in that case, I'll not marry! I'll raise the child by myself!"

"You..." Mother Xiao was angered by her daughter's stubbornness. Her heart quivered with pain. Thankfully, she didn't have heart problems, or she might have died on the spot.

"Mom, mom." Xiao Lingye immediately went to mediate the situation, "Don't be mad. Sis is only talking about a possibility."

Father Xiao scolded, "Xiao Lingyu, why are you making your mom so angry for something that might not even happen? You might not even be pregnant! Just look at how mad you've made your mother."

Xiao Lingyu was normally an obedient child, but at certain moments, she could be unusually stubborn. For example, when she was 15, she ignored everyone's comments and objections to start dating Chen Ran. Their relationship went on for ten years!

Father Xiao was right. However, Xiao Lingyu knew for a fact that she was pregnant. Everyone would know that soon. Therefore, she had to be prepared. She didn't want to be forced to take an abortion.

In her previous life, Xiao Tong was kept because the Xiao Family had no choice. However, after Xiao Tong was born, the Xiao Family loved him very much.

Nevertheless, Xiao Lingyu's rebirth had changed certain things. There were things that Xiao Lingyu couldn't have predicted. For example, Mother Xiao's current attitude.

Xiao Lingyu was only talking about a hypothesis, and Mother Xiao was already so furious that her body was shaking. Xiao Lingyu tried her best to prepare her family. She had to do everything to make sure her family accept Xiao Tong.

Xiao Lingyu said, "Dad, you're right. There's no sign of that yet." Then, she looked at Mother Xiao and apologized, "I'm sorry, Mom."

Since her daughter had apologized, Mother Xiao's attitude softened.

She sighed lightly and said, "Forget it. They say children are the parent's debtors from their previous lives. Yu 'Er, you're always obedient and sensible, but sometimes you also worry us the most." For example, the matter with Chen Ran.

Xiao Lingyu said again, "I'm sorry, Mom."

"Alright, let's eat." Mother Xiao waved her hand. "The food is getting cold!" She glanced at the food and said, "I heard about Chen Ran's family, so I cooked a few more dishes!" Mother Xiao was not a particularly forgiving person. Chen Ran and his family had pushed the Xiao Family too far. When Mother Xiao heard about their retribution, of course, she was happy. Therefore, she cooked a few more dishes. However, she didn't expect to hear the explosives news from Xiao Lingyu. The celebratory mood was gone.

The Xiao Family sat down at the dining table.

When Father Xiao and Brother Xiao heard the real reason Mother Xiao had added extra dishes, they smiled at each other. Xiao Lingye added, "Mom's right. Karma is coming to get the Chen Family, and we should celebrate." He picked up a piece of braised pork with soy sauce and put it into his mouth. It melted in his mouth.

"Just focus on eating," Mother Xiao glanced at Xiao Lingye. "Plus, remember you should only say these things inside our house. Don't go talking about it outside."

Xiao Lingye nodded. "Of course. I'm not that stupid to run my mouth about the Chen Family outside."

This person often sympathized with the weak. Even though the Chen Family was selfish and greedy, they were suffering. If the Xiao Family gloated too much, people would accuse them of being heartless.

Xiao Lingye reached for another piece of the braised pork, and Mother Xiao slapped away his chopsticks. Mother Xiao chided, "Xiao Lingye, that's enough. You've finished half the bowl already. You're going to get so fat!"

Xiao Lingye grumbled, "Mom, you have no idea what they serve in school. It's always pickled vegetables with steamed buns. I have to eat that all week! Now that I'm home, I have to store up on protein." He grinned and said, "Mom, you also know braised pork is my favorite dish."

Mother Xiao rolled her eyes. "Really? You only had steamed buns and pickled vegetables to eat? Xiao Lingye, how come I remember packing you a box of red chili bacon last week? And the week before that, I packed you ginger fried beef, and before that..."

Xiao Lingye immediately surrendered. "Fine, mom, I'll stop eating the braised pork!" He moved his chopsticks to the vegetables, but his eyes were fixated on the moist braised pork. Mother Xiao ignored him.

Halfway through the meal, Xiao Lingyu suddenly announced, "Mom, Dad, I don't plan to return to City Z."

Her parents were shocked.

Father Xiao asked, "Then what are your plans, Yu 'Er?"

Xiao Lingyu said very seriously, "Dad, Mom, I... I want to stay at home and farm!"

"What?"

The three were very surprised.

Chapter 55: Family Consent

When Xiao Lingyu said that she wanted to stay at home and farm, Mother Xiao was shocked.

She asked in surprise, "You want to farm?"

Then, she immediately disagreed, "No! You're a famous university student, why would you stay at home to farm? Don't you know how tiring farming is? We put in so much effort to send you to university, and you want to come back home to farm?" Mother Xiao denied this ridiculous idea.

Xiao Lingyu was a graduate of a prestigious university. She could find a job in a big city easily. The salary might be small, but it was still better than working in the dirt all day.

Father Xiao looked at the stubborn pair of mother and daughter. He sighed, "Dear, don't jump to conclusions. Let the girl finish first."

Xiao Lingye immediately nodded. "That's right, mother. Let sister finish first!"

Mother Xiao said, "No matter what, I will not agree to have her abandon her job in the city and come back home to farm!" Father Xiao persuaded, "Dear..."

Mother Xiao glanced at her husband, and she sighed. "Fine. Yu 'Er, tell us what is your plan."

Xiao Lingyu took a deep breath and said, "Mom, you might not know this, but I'm not happy in the big city at all!"

Mother Xiao was surprised. "But why?"

Xiao Lingyu said openly, "Working in the big city might be glamorous in the eyes of the villagers. Supposedly they earn high wages, have beautiful dresses, and so on. However, the big city is also where people scheme against each other.

"Every year, there are a large number of university graduates entering the work field. Competition is very strong. Every position is coveted. Competition within the company is very intense. If it is fair competition, then it is fine. However, it is never fair. People will use the most despicable means to bring down others for them to rise."

Xiao Lingyu carefully observed Mother Xiao's expression. Mother Xiao was frowning slightly. Xiao Lingyu continued, "And that is only competition between colleagues. The most terrifying thing is the power difference for people of varying status.

"For example, Zhao Wenman is the daughter of a big company's CEO. It was why she could seduce Chen Ran easily.

"But mom, that is how the rich operate. After Zhao Wenman got Chen Ran, she should be satisfied. However, the horrible thing is Zhao Wenman didn't hesitate to harm me because she was the daughter of the company CEO.

"Mom, if I didn't have the help of someone even more powerful than Zhao Wenman," Xiao Lingyu paused, "I would really be framed and my reputation ruined. So, mom..." Xiao Lingyu held her mother's hand and said seriously, "Mom, I don't want to work in a big city anymore. The stress is too high and the people impossible to deal with. Therefore, I decided to come back to farm to take a break."

After hearing the mental trauma her daughter had suffered, Mother Xiao's heart softened. She also hated Chen Ran even more for hurting her daughter. Mother Xiao was not against her daughter staying to help around the farm for a small period. However, Xiao Lingyu couldn't stay and farm for the rest of her life!

Mother Xiao said, "Yu 'Er, if you want to take a breather, you can go on a vacation. You don't need to stay and farm!"

Father Xiao and Brother Xiao nodded in agreement.

'It looks like I have to take drastic measures.' Xiao Lingyu admitted, "Mom, I've told you about the big shot who helped me take revenge on Chen Ran, right?"

Mama Xiao nodded, and then she looked at her daughter with a slightly puzzled expression.

Xiao Lingyu sighed and said, "Actually, the man helped me because he took a fancy to me." Yan Siming had not said that explicitly but his hints were clear. Xiao Lingyu didn't want to bring this up, but she had no other choice. She whispered an apology to Yan Siming internally. She had to use him again.

Xiao Lingyu's family was instantly shocked.

Mother Xiao pinched Xiao Lingyu's ear and said angrily, "You just say you weren't hiding anything else from us. So, where did this come from? Why are you always trying to scare your mother like this?"

Xiao Lingyu's expression was twisted from being pinched. "Mom, Mom, it Hurts!"

Xiao Lingye felt sorry for his sister and tried to persuade his mother. "Mom, you need to let go. Look at Sis' painful expression."

Mother Xiao loosened the grip on Xiao Lingyu's ear. Mother Xiao raised her voice to ask, "So what is the deal with this big shot?"

Xiao Lingyu had to explain everything again. She grabbed a random man off the streets. Xiao Lingyu was unclear why the man had agreed to help her.

Xiao Lingyu said honestly, "At first, I didn't know why he helped me. Eventually, he revealed that he was interested in me, so he helped take revenge on Chen Ran and the people who harmed me."

Mother Xiao asked sharply, "Then did you promise him anything in return?" At this point, Mother Xiao warned, "Xiao Lingyu, if you have promised to be that man's mistress or something, I'd break your leg!"

In Mother Xiao's mind, Young Master Yan was a dirty old man who was already married.

Mother Xiao didn't realize that Xiao Lingyu wouldn't have found an old man to pretend to be her onenight-stand. She was too angry to care about that detail.

Xiao Lingyu shook her head. "No. He's the most valuable bachelor in City Z. He's young and powerful."

Mother Xiao felt relieved. She ordered, "Continue!"

Xiao Lingyu said carefully, "That man expressed his interest in me, but I rejected him. But he didn't give up, so I decided to come back home to hide. Hopefully, with some time, he'll back off."

Xiao Lingyu was also banking on the eventual arrival of Xiao Tong. By then, she would have a valid excuse to stay.

Father Xiao thought for a moment and told his wife, "Dear, let the girl do whatever she wants. Perhaps, after a while, she'll get bored and go back to the city."

Mother Xiao pondered and replied, "Fine."

Chapter 56: Mutated Vegetables

Xiao Lingyu's excuse was temporary, and so was Mother Xiao's consent. Xiao Lingyu wanted to delay until the appearance of Xiao Tong. Then, she'd have a better excuse to stay.

Mother Xiao agreed with her husband. When Xiao Lingyu realized how tiring farming really was, she would pack up and return to the city.

After getting Mother Xiao's permission, Xiao Lingyu said, "Mom, I need to use the plot of land in our backyard." Xiao Lingyu didn't know how to use her farming space yet. She had to test it first, but she couldn't do it too openly.

The Xiao Family was a quintessential small farming family in rural China. This kind of farming house had a wall about two meters high to separate the plots in the front and back yards.

Most families used the front yard to sun-dry produce or for leisure. The backyard was reserved for planting small vegetables like leeks and onions. These products could be picked at any time, so it was convenient.

"Okay!" Mother Xiao agreed easily.

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "Thank you, mom!"

Xiao Lingye asked curiously, "Sis, why do you need the backyard plot? If you ask me, the land in front of the Five Gods Temple is better for farming."

Xiao Lingyu smiled mysteriously and said, "You'll know in time."

The dinner ended with many surprises along the way.

Xiao Lingyu helped her mother clean up the dishes and returned to her room. In the privacy of her room, Xiao Lingyu placed her hand on her stomach, and she whispered, "Xiao Tong, Grandma will love you."

Mother Xiao was very against Xiao Lingyu having the child, but after the child was born, she would treat the child well. Such was the case in the previous life.

Xiao Lingyu gave birth to the child even though she didn't want to. She was disgusted by the child who had an unknown father. Xiao Lingyu hated him since the child was direct evidence that she had betrayed Chen Ran. Therefore, Xiao Lingyu never once looked at the child, let alone loved him.

Mother Xiao was different. She cared so deeply about Xiao Tong. If any of the village children dared to call Xiao Tong a bastard, Mother Xiao would go to the child's family to demand an explanation. Ever since Xiao Tong was born, Mother Xiao looked after him until his unfortunate death. Mother Xiao was Xiao Tong's second mother.

But in this life, things were different. Xiao Lingyu knew Mother Xiao only wanted the best for her. Mother Xiao was a kind person.

Once Xiao Lingyu gave birth to Xiao Tong, Mother Xiao would love her grandson.

Xiao Lingyu believed she would convince Mother Xiao to let her have the baby. She only needed time.

However, for now, Xiao Lingyu needed to focus on something else. Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment and went looking for an empty bottle. She held the jade pendant and chanted, "Enter!"

The farming space hadn't changed. Xiao Lingyu filled up the bottle with the spring water. Then she said, "Exit!" Xiao Lingyu returned to her room. Xiao Lingyu held the spring water bottle and ran to the backyard.

When Xiao Lingyu passed Mother Xiao, who was cleaning up the living room, Mother Xiao asked, "Yu 'Er, where are you going?"

Xiao Lingyu answered, "Mom, I'm going to the backyard to water the vegetables!"

Mother Xiao nodded and continued her work.

Xiao Lingyu ran to the backyard.

The backyard had around four plots of black field that were about one meter wide and three meters long. The four plots had four different vegetables. The first plot had coriander and leek; the second garlic; the third celery; and the fourth white cabbage. The edge of each plot was lined with chives.

Mother Xiao came to look after the plots every day, so there was no weed. Everything was growing well.

Xiao Lingyu pondered for a moment. She poured the spring water on two sprigs of each vegetable. Soon, the bottle emptied. Xiao Lingyu took the empty bottle and left.

..

Early the next morning, Xiao Lingyu heard Mother Xiao screaming. "Dear! Dear!"

Father Xiao was made anxious, so he rushed out before he even had the chance to put his clothes on properly. Xiao Lingyu and Xiao Lingye also worried about their mother. They put on their clothes and hurried to the backyard.

When they arrived at the backyard, they were dumbfounded.

What a huge... plant!

No, wait, so many huge plants!

The cilantro grew bigger than celery; the leek and garlic looked more like reeds; the celery was as tall as sugarcane; the white cabbage was as big as a water barrel!

It was little wonder that Mother Xiao had cried out in surprise.

"Mom... What is going on?" Xiao Lingye asked with his mouth agape, "Have the plants mutated?" But if there was a mutation, all of the plants should have mutated, not just a select few of each plant.

Mother Xiao shook her head and said in surprise, "I don't know either. I woke up and planned to make some noodles. So I came out to pick some coriander and chives. I was shocked when I saw the big

vegetables." Mother Xiao added in confusion, "When I was farming yesterday afternoon, everything was fine. So how did they get so big suddenly? They... should be edible, right?"

Anyone would be confused by this.

Xiao Lingye stammered, "I... su-suppose?"

The coriander still looked like coriander, and the leeks looked like leeks. The only change was that they had become so much bigger.

Xiao Lingyu offered, "They should be fine." She had drunk the spring water. It cleansed her body, so it should be fine on the vegetables. For Xiao Lingyu, it was not that crazy the spring water could increase the affected plant's size.

Still, as she looked at the frighteningly large vegetables, she was internally shocked. The affected plants were the ones that she had watered with the spring water.

While she was shocked, she was also glad. Thankfully, she was experimenting in her own family's backyard. If this happened outside, she wouldn't know what to say.

Xiao Lingyu analyzed the situation and believed the reason for the abnormal size was because the spring water was too effective. She should try diluting it with water next time.

She had to continue her experiment to find the perfect ratio.

After her children had given her the green light, Mother Xiao had less doubt. However, there was another problem.

"However, with so many big vegetables, how are we supposed to finish them? We can't even finish one, much less so many of them.." Mother Xiao asked.

Chapter 57: Making Dried Vegetables

Mother Xiao didn't know what to do with the giant vegetables that had appeared in the backyard overnight. She didn't dare to let others know about it, much less give them away.

However, the Xiao Family couldn't finish the vegetables either.

In the end, the Xiao Family decided that they would eat as much as they could and preserve the rest. Those that couldn't be preserved would be used as feed for the pigs and chickens. Thankfully, their family had raised some pigs, cows, chickens, and ducks.

The Xiao family had a very large breakfast. After breakfast, Xiao Lingye wiped his mouth, and he burped with satisfaction. "That is the best vegetables I've ever had. I have no idea cabbage can be so tasty!" That was rare from the kid who didn't like to eat vegetables since he was young. However, the harvested giant vegetables were too delicious. They tasted better than meat.

The others agreed with Xiao Lingye.

"I have never eaten such delicious vegetables before too," Father Xiao concurred.

Xiao Lingye joked, "Mom, is it possible that some immortal god passed by our backyard and sprinkled some magical water so our crops could grow so big and delicious?"

"Pfft!" Xiao Lingyu spat out the water when she heard that. Then, she started to cough as she had choked on the water.

Xiao Lingye immediately asked with concern, "Sis, are you alright?"

Xiao Lingyu waved her hand and said, "I'm fine, I'm fine!"

'The rascal almost got it right!'

Even though the vegetables were not watered by any God, they were indeed given magical water. So basically, Xiao Lingyu was the God.

Mother Xiao looked at the big vegetables collected at the corner. She sighed. "It'll be such a pity to feed these wonderful vegetables to the livestock."

After all, this was probably a one-time miracle. It was unlikely that they'd have the chance to enjoy such delicacy again.

Father Xiao and Brother Xiao frowned hearing Mother Xiao. It was indeed a waste that such wonderful vegetables would be used as animal feed.

However, they couldn't finish the vegetables. If they left them there, they would just rot.

A moment later, Xiao Lingye suggested, "Mom, how about we dry these vegetables? If they retain their deliciousness after being dried, I'm willing to eat steamed buns and pickled vegetables every day!"

The idea was feasible.

Mother Xiao nodded and said, "Alright!"

Xiao Lingyu wanted to stop her mother, but she held herself back at the last moment. This harvest was indeed one of a kind. In the future, she would experiment with different ratios of spring water and normal water. So future harvests might not be as delicious as the first one.

Unless, of course, she had a space where she could plant these vegetables in private...

At that moment, Xiao Lingyu had a flash of inspiration. She had a special farming space!

She could try planting vegetables there. Xiao Lingyu immediately asked her mother, "Mom, do we still have any vegetable seeds left?"

Mother Xiao asked doubtfully, "Yes, we do. Yu 'Er, do you want to plant some?"

Xiao Lingyu nodded. "That's right, Mom." She wanted to try and see what would happen when she planted the seeds in the magical space.

Mother Xiao nodded. "Sure. What kind of seeds do you need? I'll go look."

"I'll take some of everything."

"Okay!" Mother Xiao obliged.

After Mother Xiao left, Xiao Lingye whispered, "Sis, you're really planning to be a farmer?"

Xiao Lingyu nodded. "Yes."

Xiao Lingye sighed with regret. "Sis, I thought you were joking."

Xiao Lingyu tapped her younger brother's head. "Why would you think that? You'd think I would joke about something like that?"

Xiao Lingye nodded. "Of course!"

Xiao Lingyu, "..."

Xiao Lingyu rolled her eyes at her brother and said nothing more. Soon, Mother Xiao returned with all the seeds she could find. She spread them before Xiao Lingyu. "These are all the seeds we have. See if you need anything else."

Xiao Lingyu studied the seeds. There were spinach, eggplant, tomato, chili, and cabbage. They were in plantable season.

Xiao Lingyu said, "These are good."

After that, Xiao Lingyu helped clean up the table. Mother Xiao grabbed the knife to prepare the vegetables into dried vegetables. Mother Xiao moved fast because if people came and saw the large vegetables, it would be hard to explain.

Father Xiao went to work in the field. Xiao Lingye returned to his room to study. He was in his third year of high school. It was the most crucial year.

After Xiao Lingyu washed the dishes, she grabbed the seeds and went to the backyard. She sowed some seeds. Then she took out the diluted spring water she prepared earlier. She selected a few plants and watered them.

Then she returned to the space to prepare another bottle of water. She used a different dilution ratio and chose another set of plants.

She repeated this until she was satisfied with the experimental setups.

After that, Xiao Lingyu went to the front yard to help Mother Xiao dry the vegetables. Xiao Lingyu chose two of each type of vegetable to water yesterday.

Therefore, there were two large cabbages, two large celeries, two large corianders, two large leeks, two large garlic, and two large chives.

Large corianders and large leeks weren't that large in comparison to other vegetables so the Xiao Family could finish them. The large celeries had a long shelf life. The large garlic could be used to make dumplings.

When Xiao Lingyu arrived, Mother Xiao was breaking off the cabbage leaves one by one. She broke them off and left them on the bamboo pole to dry. After the water dried out, the vegetables would be chopped into smaller pieces.

The chopped vegetables would be placed on clean ground or bamboo nets. They would be exposed to the sun. They were ready to be stored when they made this rustling sound as one ran their hands through the leaves.

The dried vegetables were countryside delicacies. They were used in stir-fries and making pork cutlets.

When Mother Xiao saw Xiao Lingyu, she instructed, "Go and break up that other cabbage. Wash it and take it out to the sun."

Xiao Lingyu nodded. The cabbage was large, but the leaves were fragile. They broke apart easily.

Xiao Lingyu helped out on the farm before she went to university, so the familiarity came back to her quickly.

Xiao Lingyu washed the vegetables, strung them up with straw, and put them on a bamboo pole to dry.

Chapter 58: Trial Planting

After helping Mother Xiao prepare the vegetables, Xiao Lingyu was eager to go to the space to sow some seeds.

However, when Xiao Lingyu arrived, she frowned. She forgot the land was choked full of weeds.

"Should I have brought a hoe and shovel with me?" Xiao Lingyu mumbled to herself. "But it would have been too obvious when I disappeared with a hoe or a shovel."

She temporarily didn't dare to share the secret of the farming space with her family. She didn't want to endanger them until she could be sure it was safe.

The omission made things difficult for her.

"Ah!" Xiao Lingyu was frustrated. "I at least need a hoe!"

In the real world, Xiao Lingyu sneaked a hoe past Mother Xiao to her room. She bolted the door to prevent her family from walking in.

Xiao Lingyu brought the hoe into the space. Looking at the eighteen pieces of land, she frowned. "There are so many weeds. How I wish for a mechanized tool. How can I clear up all the weeds by myself? If only they can disappear on their own!"

As soon as she said that, a miracle happened. All the weeds were gone. Xiao Lingyu's eyes widened. She couldn't believe her eyes.

"What's going on?" Xiao Lingyu was puzzled. "Hmm... Is it possible that this space is controlled by my mind?"

Xiao Lingyu took out a small bag of eggplant seeds to test out that theory. She opened it and shook out some seeds into the middle of her palm. Then she focused. "Sow these seeds!"

The change happened in an instant.

In the blink of an eye, the eggplant seeds in Xiao Lingyu's hand were gone.

A portion of the land formed into farming plots about four meters long and one meter wide. The plots were surrounded by small ditches. The eggplant seeds Xiao Lingyu held earlier had all been planted.

Xiao Lingyu exclaimed, "This is amazing!" This meant that she didn't need to worry about manpower. She would be able to farm everything by herself. Her mind could control all the farming.

Xiao Lingyu took out other seeds. Soon, everything was sown.

Then, Xiao Lingyu turned to look at the ditches around the plots. She blinked, and with a thought, the ditches filled up with water. Since her job was done, Xiao Lingyu exited the space.

The moment she did, there was a knock on the door.

"Sis!" Xiao Lingye called out from outside the door.

Xiao Lingyu went to open the door and asked, "What's wrong?"

Xiao Lingye held a paper in his hand and said, "I have a few questions that I don't understand. Can you explain them to me?" Xiao Lingye's results were not bad, but he was still a distance away from Xiao Lingyu. Xiao Lingye had to sit for the university entrance exam in less than three months.

These three months were very crucial. Xiao Lingye was fully focused. If he performed like usual during the exam, he had confidence he could join a prestigious university.

Xiao Lingyu took the paper and said, "Come in."

She studied the paper, and her brows furrowed. Then as she found the solution, her expression relaxed. She taught Xiao Lingye.

With Xiao Lingyu's explanation, Xiao Lingye understood the solution immediately. He was a very good student.

Xiao Lingye held a pen and said with a smile, "Sis, no wonder you're the top scorer of Xing Yin County. I need to work hard to catch up."

Xiao Lingyu said with a smile, "Little brother, you're already very good in your studies! It's only a matter of time until you surpass me!"

Xiao Lingye scratched the back of his head shyly. At that moment, he noticed the water stains on the edge of his sister's pants. "Sis, why are your pants wet?"

Xiao Lingyu looked down. Her brother was right. The edge of her pants was wet. She believed she got it wet when she was inside the farming space.

Xiao Lingyu explained, "I went to the backyard to water the vegetables. I probably splattered the water on myself."

Xiao Lingye nodded and said, "Sis, you need to be careful. The weather is chilly, don't catch a cold."

"I know." Xiao Lingyu replied.

At this moment, Mother Xiao shouted from outside the door, "Yu 'Er, can you go to the field and get your father to come back for dinner?"

Xiao Lingyu replied, "Okay!"

Chapter 59: Father Xiao's Plow Machine

Father Xiao invested in a mechanized plow machine last season. It could plow ten to twenty Mu of land a day. It was far more effective than using the cows. After all, a cow could only plow one to two Mu of land a day.

Furthermore, using the plow machine was far less taxing on the farmer.

When the Xiao Family was done plowing their own land, they would rent out the machine and its services. Father Xiao would plow a Mu of land for 80 RMB. For common farmers, 80 RMB was still rather expensive. However, most farming families who didn't have cows or wish for convenience would still rent from Xiao Zhengyang. After all, the alternative for farmers who didn't have plowing cows was to turn over the land with their own hands.

In the end, it was far more cost-efficient to turn to Father Xiao. There were villagers in Taoyuan Village and neighboring villages who depended on Father Xiao's services.

Other villagers had plow machines too, but Father Xiao was the cheapest and the most responsible. The others charge 100 RMB for one Mu of land, and their work was often not as good as Father Xiao's. In short, Father Xiao had quite a good business.

Father Xiao had to go to different farms every day depending on who had rented his services. Normally, he would come back home for meals unless the person who rented his service was close to Father Xiao. In that case, he would lunch with them.

When Xiao Lingyu went to find Father Xiao, the latter was plowing the land for another farming family.

When the family saw Xiao Lingyu, they asked curiously, "Zhengyang, did your Yu 'Er break up with that kid from the Chen Family?"

Father Xiao was annoyed when he heard the Chen Family. "That's right. My Yu 'Er is not good enough for them."

Xiao Bangming smiled. "Zhangyang, you have to be joking. Your Yu 'Er is outstanding, obedient, and sensible. She graduated from a good university. She works in the city. How is she not good enough?" Xiao Bangming put away his face and added with confusion, "Also, I heard from the Chen Family that Yu 'Er's boyfriend..."

Xiao Zhengyang immediately interrupted him and said, "Yu 'Er has already broken up with him. He's not her boyfriend."

"Okay, okay, not Yu 'Er's boyfriend." Xiao Bangming corrected. "In any case, I heard that the kid from the Chen Family was stabbed. He's currently lying in the hospital.

"I heard that Chen Dahua and his wife can't afford to pay the hospital fee. They're going around asking for a loan, but no one is willing to lend them. Even their siblings turned them away. Are Chen Dahua and his wife that hated?"

Xiao Zhengyang was a morally upright person. He rarely talked behind people's back, even if it was about the Chen Family.

Xiao Zhengyang shook his head. "I don't know. Regardless, no matter what happens to them, it has nothing to do with our family anymore."

Xiao Zhengyang glanced at Xiao Lingyu, who was getting closer. "Bangming, I have to go home to eat."

Xiao Bangming frowned and said with some dissatisfaction, "Hey, Zhengyang, you promised that you'd have lunch at my place today. I already asked my wife to prepare the dishes."

Xiao Zhengyang smiled apologetically. "Oh, I forgot. This is my fault. Please send my apology to sister-in-law. I have to return home today. Ye 'Er and Yu 'Er are both at home. We rarely get the chance to eat together."

However, Xiao Zhengyang was muttering internally. Xiao Bangming's wife was very stingy. Even if she had bought extra ingredients, it was unlikely that she would serve them to Xiao Zhengyang. Whenever Xiao Zhengyang went, Xiao Bangming's wife would look at him like he was a burglar. It made him feel very uncomfortable. He'd rather go home to eat.

Xiao Bangming knew his wife's personality. He was helpless. Thankfully, Xiao Zhengyang had given him an excuse for him to keep his face.

Xiao Bangming nodded. "Okay then. Next time, you should come to my place so we can share a meal together."

"Of course!" Xiao Zhengyang replied politely.

By then, Xiao Lingyu had joined them. When she saw Xiao Bangming, she smiled and greeted, "Seventh uncle!"

Xiao Bangming and Xiao Zhengyang were from the same clan and were from the same generation. Xiao Bangming was ranked the seventh, so the younger generation called him seventh uncle.

Xiao Lingyu turned to Xiao Zhengyang, "Dad, lunch is ready."

Xiao Bangming saw the obedient Xiao Lingyu, and he had an idea. He said half-jokingly, "Yu 'Er, I heard you have broken up with that kid from the Chen family. Why don't you consider my Hua 'Er?"

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "Seventh uncle, you're joking, right?"

Xiao Zhengyang immediately jumped to his daughter's rescue. He told Xiao Bangming, "Your kid is too wild. My Yu 'Er won't be able to control him. You better find someone else."

Chapter 60: Porridge

At dinner time, Xiao Lingyu told her parents, "Mom, I'll walk brother to school tomorrow."

Xiao Lingye was startled and immediately said, "Sis, you don't need to do that. I'm already an adult. If someone sees you walking me to school, I'll be laughed at! Besides, I can go on my own!"

Xiao Lingyu countered, "I'm going with you because I want to go to town, not because of you! There's a market fair tomorrow, and I want to go take a look."

Brother Xiao pouted. "Fine!" He thought his sister cared about him.

Mother Xiao was worried when she heard that. She said, "Yu 'Er, I don't think you should go. If you want to buy anything, just tell your father or me. We'll go shopping for you. I mean, if you run into people from the Lan or Chen Family..." They wouldn't be easy to deal with.

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "Mom, nothing will happen. They wouldn't dare to do anything."

Mother Xiao was still worried. "That might not be true. Lan Hongxing is a gangster. What if you run into him?"

Xiao Lingyu comforted her mother. "Mom, don't worry. I have friends in the town police station. Lan Hongxing wouldn't dare do anything to me."

Xiao Lingye added, "Mom, I'll protect Sis! Don't worry!"

Mother Xiao sighed and relented. "Fine, but you need to be careful!"

That night, Xiao Lingyu disappeared into the farming space. She was stunned by what she saw. The seeds had grown to reach her calves.

"They grow so fast?" Xiao Lingyu gasped, "It has only been one afternoon!" Then again, the vegetables turned giant over one night. "Hmm, it looks like the spring water can remove impurities and promote growth. After the impurities are expelled, the taste is sublimated. That makes sense." Xiao Lingyu speculated. She was excited. "In that case, I should have my family drink some of the pure spring water."

Xiao Lingyu exited the space and rushed to the kitchen. By then, everyone was already asleep. No one spotted Xiao Lingyu sneaking into the kitchen.

Xiao Lingyu opened the water barrel. She channeled her mind, and another miracle happened!

The spring water flowed out between her fingers and right into the barrel. The sound of flowing water was loud in the night, but thankfully, no one was awake. After filling up half of the barrel, Xiao Lingyu returned to her room.

Xiao Lingyu was tired. She thought about the things she needed to buy and eventually fell asleep.

Early the next morning, Mother Xiao woke up to make breakfast for her family. She noticed the water level in the barrel had increased. "This strange. There was less than half a barrel yesterday night. What happened?" Mother Xiao was puzzled. "Did Ye 'Er fill up the barrel yesterday night?"

There was a well in the Xiao Family front yard. The well had to be manually pumped. Whenever the water containers around the house were empty, someone would refill them with the well water.

Mother Xiao assumed it was her son or husband who helped her so she didn't think much of it. She started to boil the water to make porridge. The fragrance of the porridge traveled for miles. It lured everyone out of their rooms.

Xiao Lingye got up from the bed and asked curiously, "What smells so heavenly?" He put on his clothes and left without even brushing his teeth. He followed the trail to the kitchen.

He ran into the kitchen and asked, "Mom, what are you cooking? It smells so good." As Xiao Lingye said that, the other two also arrived.

Father Xiao glanced into the kitchen and asked curiously, "Dear, what are you cooking? It smells amazing."

Mother Xiao was confused. Then she answered with a smile, "You two must be overly hungry! I merely cooked some normal porridge. I'll fry some egg pancakes to go with it."

The father and son exclaimed, "Just normal porridge?" Normal porridge could smell so heavenly?

"Stop standing there. Go and brush your teeth. I'll fry the egg pancakes, and breakfast will be served soon!" Mother Xiao chased them out of the kitchen.