

## Mountain Man 171

Chapter 171: 171 disabled

“Once you find other women, then you’ll know if I get jealous or not.” She couldn’t help but laugh.

He stared at her face full of pustules, “Su Qingyue, do you really not care about me?”

“Yes.” She answered without hesitation.

He was angry, “Is your heart made of iron? Can’t you see how good I am to you?”

She asked indifferently, “Then what?”

He choked a bit, “Be a well-behaved wife.”

“Xiao Yuchuan, being with you, I’ll have a shorter life by a few years.”

“How could that be? I love you so much...”

“You are good to me.” She covered her heart, “You’ve made my heart ache with your actions.”

“My darling, your husband will massage it for you and the pain will go away. I just don’t understand what you’re angry about...” He put his hand on her chest.

Caught off guard, his hand landed right on her breast.

He was also stunned, the extremely soft touch making his whole body excited, and a certain part of him suddenly aroused.

She slapped his hand away, “I don’t even know what I’m angry about. I just can’t stand the sight of you.”

He stretched his hand in the air, closing and opening it, “Wife, you have a full chest, I’ve touched it before, why are you being so reserved...?” That night she had a fever, and he had taken full advantage of it, feeling more than just through her clothes...

Staring at her lips, he instinctively leaned in for a kiss.

She slipped away from under his arm and ran off.

He almost kissed the doorframe and moved his lips, “Hey, I say wife, why are you running? Kissing you won’t make you lose any meat...”

His gaze glued to her retreating figure, his mind filled with thoughts of the softness he had just touched and the wonderful feeling from when he was on top of her that night.

He couldn’t think about it anymore, the unrelieved swelling was making him uncomfortable.

Xiao Qinghe sat under the eaves, watching his unhappy wife and his third brother’s unsatisfied expression. He envied their interactions. He heard third brother mention touching the wife’s chest...

A faint sourness bubbled up from his numb heart.

Su Qingyue glanced at Xiao Qinghe, then glared at Xiao Yuchuan, “There are outsiders present, can’t you keep your nonsense talk to yourself!” Both Xiao Yuchuan and Xiao Qinghe were stunned.

The wife called Fourth Brother an outsider, which meant she considered herself part of their family? Xiao Yuchuan was certainly happy to have a place in her heart, but her words might hurt his brother, so he inevitably felt heavy-hearted.

Xiao Qinghe lowered his eyes. He felt that his wife had changed completely since returning from the town – she was more attractive, and his gaze was constantly searching for her presence.

An outsider...

She even considered him, her husband, an outsider.

Perhaps, she was bothered by the fact that he was disabled and couldn't walk?

Yes, a useless burden who could only bring trouble to the family, what right did he have to ask her to take a longer look at him?

Su Qingyue realized she had misspoke, "I'm sorry, Fourth Brother. I didn't mean that. You are Yuchuan's younger brother, so you are family to me. It's just that, our private affairs should not be discussed in front of you..."

Her explanation only made it worse, and Xiao Qinghe finally understood. She didn't see him as an outsider, just as third brother's younger brother. In other words, she refused to be his wife.

Xiao Yuchuan also understood his wife's meaning, but he didn't know what to say either.

"Third Brother, I want to go inside and rest for a while." Xiao Qinghe's voice

was as gentle as water..

Chapter 172: 172 Consummate now

He showed no sign of joy or sorrow on his face. But Su Qingyue knew she had hurt his feelings.

What she said was true, though.

Even if she and Xiao Yuchuan were husband and wife, even if he was Yuchuan's own brother, to a married couple, he was indeed an outsider. She just didn't want Xiao Yuchuan to spread the news that he had touched her chest, was that wrong?

Anyway, it was clear that the word "outsider" was hurtful.

She opened her mouth, wanting to explain further, but chose not to, lest the more she said, the worse things would become.

"Wife, don't worry about it." Seeing his wife stopped talking, Xiao Yuchuan comforted her. After carrying Xiao Qinghe into the secondary bedroom, he also moved a chair with a backrest and armrest inside the room.

When Xiao Yuchuan came out, he saw Su Qingyue picking up clothes that had been sun-dried on the fence. The sunlight shone on her, warm and comforting, making him feel a sense of home.

"Wife, let me hold you for a while." He walked behind her and gently put his arm around her waist.

Her body tensed, resisting the urge to slap him to death, she turned around, her delicate eyebrows furrowed, "Don't touch me!"

"You're my wife, why can't I touch you..." He complained, "I informed you before I wanted to hold you." "I didn't hear it."

"You're deaf, but I heard it."

". " Holding three sun-dried sets of clothes in her arms, including two of Xiao Yuchuan's and one of second brother's that she'd borrowed, she had no free hands to push him away.

His hands started kneading and pinching her body, his breath ragged, "Wife, your body is so soft, so nice to touch..."

“You said you’d only kiss me if I begged you.”

“I did say that.” He didn’t deny it, “But that’s kissing, touching is different. Touching and kissing are two separate things, one involves hands, the other involves the mouth. Wife, if you don’t understand, let your husband teach you...” and as he spoke, he leaned in and said, “First, I’ll teach you how to kiss...” She dodged, turning her head away, “My hair is standing up...”

He actually looked behind her with a serious expression, “Your hair is draped down your back, it’s not standing up...”

“You’re making my hair stand up with anger, get it?” She looked disgustedly at his wandering hands, “Get away from me!” She walked toward the room, and he stuck to her, “Wife, don’t always be so cruel to me.”

Watching her walk away, knowing she couldn’t hear him, he said loudly, ‘Wife, when will we consummate our marriage? In my opinion, let’s do it now. If you don’t object, I’ll take it as consent.’

Su Qingyue had just put the clothes in the cabinet when Xiao Yuchuan suddenly picked her up by the waist.

She twisted him hard, “What are you doing!”

“Ah!” He cried out in pain, “Su Qingyue, are you trying to kill your husband?”

She landed on the ground with a flip, “Who told you to pick me up?”

“I told you, we’ll consummate our marriage now, and you agreed...”

“I didn’t agree.”

“You did, you didn’t deny it...”

She had a headache, "You're doing this on purpose to make me mad, aren't

you? I couldn't hear you, but you made the decision for me anyway? Wait... you just said... consummating?" She was overjoyed, "So, it means we never consummated before!"

Xiao Yuchuan's mouth twitched, "If I said we had now, you wouldn't believe me." He looked at her in surprise, "Wife, don't you remember?"

"When it comes to your matters, I don't want to remember a thing." Her mood was great.. Originally,

Chapter 173: 173 pure and clean

He said she was bought from the Zhu Family, and stayed there for three years. Su Qingyue thought about whether her body had been sullied in that time, and misinterpreted Xiao Yuchuan's words to mean that she had slept with him, which made her really frustrated.

"Wife, why are you so happy that I didn't do anything to you?" Xiao Yuchuan looked at her somewhat excited expression and spoke sourly. "Could it be that you are still thinking about your husband from the Zhu Family, even though he sold you? You were there for three years, and nobody bothered touching you. It's better to accept reality and not think about things that don't belong to you. That bastard from the Zhu Family just knows how to read and write, what is there to miss about him..."

She picked up on the key point, "So does that mean I am still a virgin right now?" Who else could be as miserable as her, not knowing whether she had slept with a man before?

"Not for long." He purposely blew his breath onto his palm and winked at her mysteriously. "Husband will make you happy in an instant..."

"You pervert!" She cursed him, but her face was blossoming with a smile. There was nothing more exhilarating than knowing her body was still pure. Damn it, finally some good news!

“Now let me show you how big a pervert I am!” He pounced on her, intending to tackle her onto the bed behind her, but instead found himself face-first on the bed, while his wife had vanished from sight.

He looked around, but his dear was nowhere to be found in the room. It’s as if she vanished into thin air.

His wife couldn’t have disappeared; she had just moved too quickly!

Xiao Yuchuan suddenly stood up and searched the room, finding her in the kitchen. He saw her holding a two-finger thick wooden pestle, using it to grind the poisonous spiders in a bowl until they were reduced to juice.

“Wife, how did you get to the kitchen so quickly?” His facial expression turned grim. If she wasn’t transformed, then her movements were unbelievably fast.

Seeing that she didn’t respond, he continued watching her focused grinding motions, “What do you need the poison spider juice for?”

His question was met with silence.

He looked at his wife’s calm and orderly movements, suddenly feeling that she was very mysterious, like there were many things about her that he didn’t know. He couldn’t help but call out to her uneasily, “Wife...”

Still no response.

His wife seemed to be able to converse with him normally most of the time, which was strange considering she was supposed to be deaf and relying on lip-reading.

His expression darkened further.

After Su Qingyue had ground all the poisonous spiders into juice in the pottery jar, she finally cast a glance at Xiao Yuchuan, "Didn't you buy a lot of scraps of cloth? Bring one that's unused, I need to filter the spider fluid."

Immediately, he did as she asked, finding a piece of suitable cloth for filtering and passing a bowl to her, "Use this bowl to hold the filtered juice first, there are no spare pots at home."

"Mm." She covered the mouth of the pottery jar with the cloth, held the entire jar upside down above the bowl, and the spider juice slowly seeped through the cloth into the bowl.

She held the pottery jar for a long time, and Xiao Yuchuan felt concern for her. "Wife, your hands must be sore, let me hold it for you..."

She didn't hear him and continued her actions, so he simply reached out to take hold of the jar. She shot him a glance, "Don't move, be careful the cloth falls off. Now's not the time to change hands."

"I'm just worried that you're working too hard..."

She softened her tone, "This is nothing." Before, when she was studying medicine, it was common for her to work for a few days without sleep..

Chapter 174: 174 Qjinghe Never Gives Up

"Wife, you still haven't said what you want to use this poison spider juice for?"

She replied coldly, "You don't need to know." Since she was leaving tomorrow, there was no need to tell him that she wanted to heal the pustules on her face.

She poured the residue from the pottery jar into the stove pit, which would burn away when a fire was made, and rinsed the jar before pouring the poison spider liquid from the bowl back into the pottery jar.



Then she washed the bowl from before.

Xiao Yuchuan just stood by her side, and she glanced at him, "Don't you have anything to do?"

"Yes. I'm going to sell goods." He also wanted to hurry up and make clothes for her, so she wouldn't have to wear his clothes all the time. He didn't mind but always saw her wearing oversized men's clothes, which made it inconvenient for her to walk.

He suddenly thought of something, 'Wife, when you changed into my clothes, you washed all your clothes including the bellyband and panties. So, didn't you wear nothing inside when you put on men's clothes?"

She gave him a blank look, "Nonsense!" Heaven knew that she used to be a rich lady with nine figures, and she wouldn't be so poor as to not have money to buy underwear.

He couldn't help but feel excited, "So... what does it feel like when the flesh rubs against the clothes?"

'Quite cool." She wouldn't say anything provocative to him, "Go and sell your goods."

"Alright." He replied, "Wife, you wait for me at home. When your husband makes money, I'll buy you meat."

Her expression became somewhat sentimental.

Such a simple phrase.

When I make money, I'll buy you meat.

Xiao Yuchuan decided that he needed to make money as soon as possible to buy his wife good quality cloth for panties and bellybands.

Su Qingyue saw Xiao Yuchuan carrying a pole with baskets from the storage room, on top of one of the baskets there was a wooden tray slightly larger than the basket, displaying the goods for sale: scissors, scraps of cloth, needle and thread, round fan, and a small bag of salt.

“Wife, you stay home and be good, no running around.” Xiao Yuchuan reminded her worriedly.

Su Qingyue just said, “You go. If I go out, I’ll just walk around nearby.”

“Wife, how about you come with me to sell goods...” He thought about it and felt it was inappropriate, “Nevermind, I don’t just sell goods in this village, but everywhere, even if today is only half a day, I would still walk a long distance. It wouldn’t be good to tire you out. Don’t you run around, I want to see you the moment I return.”

She found his reminder warm, but pretended to be impatient, “Annoying! Just

He finally left with the carrying pole in his hand.

Su Qingyue watched him walk away with the carrying pole, her gaze somewhat hazy.

Through the half-open window, Xiao Qinghe saw his wife’s hazy eyes, which contained a faint sadness and a complex determination.

Perhaps third brother didn’t know, but he understood that his wife was about to leave.

His heart ached silently.

How he wanted her to stay, but for her, leaving this home was the best thing for her.

Su Qingyue sighed, removed the two bamboo slices fixed to her right wrist, and moved her right palm. The broken bones in her right wrist were almost healed, and as long as she didn’t forcibly pull anything, everything would be fine.

She tidied up the room, yard, kitchen, inside and outside, front and back. Xiao Qinghe watched her bustling about, her figure occasionally passing by the secondary bedroom window, and felt a sense of warmth and deep reluctance in his heart..

Chapter 175: 175 Empty the toilet bucket

Su Qingyue had cleaned everything except for the secondary bedroom.

She stood at the doorway and knocked.

“Come in.” Xiao Qinghe looked at the door that had been knocked. When there was no response from the outside, he remembered that his wife could not hear, so he pushed open the window that was ajar, and with effort, leaned on the window frame, hoping she could see him.

Su Qingyue paused for a moment, remembering her own deafness and that even if he had spoken, she would not have heard it.

When she saw the hand extending from the window, she walked to the side of the window and saw Xiao Qinghe’s handsome face with a trace of tension.

“You can sit on the bed.” She spoke calmly, entering the room after pushing the door.

She looked over the room, saw the adobe wall that was almost peeling, and the bed that was roughly 1.8 meters by 2.2 meters.

There was a table next to the bed, with a water pot and a ceramic cup that was missing a piece.

There was also a chair, the same one with armrests that Xiao Qinghe sat on when basking in the sun.

Aside from that, there was no other furniture in the room, not even a wardrobe.

In the innermost part of the bed, there were clothes – some thick, some thin, but adding up to only a few sets for all four seasons, all neatly folded in the corner of the sleeping bed.

Xiao Qinghe sat on the bed, leaning against the wall, with the window half

open beside him.

On the ground beside the foot of the bed was a wooden bucket with a tightly secured lid.

The pungent smell emanated from the wooden bucket. Without guessing, it was obviously a toilet bucket. The chair was placed beside the toilet bucket, presumably Xiao Qinghe would rely on it when using the toilet.

The smell of medicine in the room was strong enough to overpower the smell from the toilet bucket.

Su Qingyue's gaze fell on Xiao Qinghe.

His lips were slightly pursed, and there was a hint of anxiety in his calm expression.

Despite his best efforts to hide it, she could still feel his nervousness.

She spoke gently, "I... I'll come in and clean the room."

He nodded lightly, "Thank you."

She shook her head with a smile.

The table, chairs, and bed were quite clean; only the hard mud floor had a layer of dust.

She didn't sprinkle water, but just swept the floor with a broom, trying to make her movements as light as possible to avoid spreading dust all over the room.

She wanted to scrap off the peeling adobe wall, but decided against it, as removing it would make the wall even more uneven.

After sweeping the floor and putting the dirt in a bamboo scoop, she took the scoop and the broom outside, then went back into the secondary bedroom to take the toilet bucket.

"Wife, don't..." Xiao Qinghe saw her actions and quickly called out.

But she didn't hear him or look at him and just went outside with the toilet bucket.

His face immediately turned red up to his neck.

Su Qingyue took the toilet bucket to the backyard thatched house to empty it, and instead of taking it back to the room directly, she carried the bucket to the river bank.

Xiao Qinghe watched his wife's receding figure from the window. She was slender and graceful, like a well-bred young lady. However, she was carrying a toilet bucket, seemingly not bothered by its smell in the slightest.

His clear eyes slowly filled with tears.

Su Qingyue walked to the crossroad between the village well and the river bank and noticed a handsome, gentle-looking man waving at her.

She nodded slightly and headed towards the river bank.

After walking a few steps, she looked back and saw the man following her. So she stopped and stepped to the side, "You go first.."

Chapter 176: 176 Li Gui washes hands

He shook his head, "You first."

She thought about it, this man's name was Li Gui. She wasn't planning to let him go ahead of her initially, but when she saw the direction he was heading in, he was clearly taking another route. How did he end up following her?

She took a closer look at his gentle and polite face, which seemed to be full of kindness. Judging by the fabric of his clothes, it was much better than what the average villager wore.

His skin was quite fair too, indicating that he didn't often do farm work. He probably belonged to a rich household in the village.

She didn't dislike him. This was the third time she had seen him, and not once did his eyes show any disgust. His gaze was as if she was a normal person.

She felt that his gaze was not like some people in the village who would ridicule and despise her when they saw her.

However, she didn't think much of it. This man probably just had a good heart; there was no way he could be attracted to her.

She shrugged her shoulders and walked along the river bank.

Li Gui followed her, keeping a distance of three steps behind her.

His eyes were always on her. Her waist-length hair was tied up with a single cloth rope, and her waist was so slender...

He stretched out his palm to see if he could grasp her waist with one hand.

She had such a slender waist, delicate bones, and perfect proportions. It seemed that none of the women in the village had a figure comparable to hers.

Noticing her slender fingers holding the toilet bucket, her skin was much whiter than the last time he saw her.

Although her overall complexion was still a bit yellowish, her skin seemed to be gradually getting paler.

He felt that her figure and demeanor looked better and better, even surpassing that of the wealthy young ladies he had seen before.

He suddenly thought that the Zhu Family really didn't know a good thing when they saw it. They had actually sold her to the Xiao Family just like that.

The Xiao Family was also quite something, letting her carry the toilet bucket.

Without a doubt, that toilet bucket must belong to the disabled Xiao Qinghe.

It was clear that her life with the Xiao Family wasn't easy either.

Li Gui felt a surge of indignation and, after thinking for a moment, said, "Su...Qingyue, how about...you follow me instead?"

He felt nervous after saying that.

Although there were people in the fields, they were too far away to hear what he had said.

Li Gui followed her uneasily for a short distance, noticing that she had no reaction at all.

Wouldn't an ordinary girl at least give a response after hearing something like that? Was it that she didn't want to, or that she didn't hear him because his voice was too low?

She was no longer deaf or mute, was she?

For a moment, Li Gui couldn't figure out Su Qingyue's thoughts.

Everyone in the village thought Su Qingyue could hear again, but she hadn't told anyone otherwise. Naturally, she didn't know what the man behind her had said. When they arrived at the spot where the village women washed their clothes by the river, she saw several people doing laundry. She didn't feel comfortable going over and washing the toilet bucket directly in front of them.

"Li Gui, why are you with the Xiao Family's wife?" The unmarried village girl Liu Xiaohong saw the two of them walking one after another and questioned them.

"It just so happened." Li Gui casually replied, not admitting that he was actually going to the fields but had started following Su Qingyue when he saw her.

Su Qingyue turned around and saw that Li Gui was still behind her. She didn't pay much attention and walked back about twenty meters, going downstream to the location where the group of women and village girls were washing clothes. She picked up a tree branch, soaked the toilet bucket in the water, and cleaned it with the branch.

With outsiders around, Li Gui didn't feel it was appropriate to follow her closely. Instead, he pretended to wash his hands by the river.

Auntie Hua from the Hua Family who was washing clothes nearby joked, "Li Gui, did you come to the river just to wash your hands? I didn't see your hands being dirty. Could it be...." Her eyes darted around for a moment,

Chapter 177: 177 1 want to be husband and wife with you



“Could it be for one of the girls here?”

The only unmarried girl washing clothes by the riverbank was Liu Xiaohong from the Liu Family. In an instant, everyone’s gaze turned to Liu Xiaohong.

Li Gui’s family was well-off, and he was quite handsome, so Liu Xiaohong naturally wanted to marry him. Xiaohong said coyly, “Auntie Hua, what are you talking about? Li Gui has high standards and is known for being picky when choosing a wife. He wouldn’t like me.”

Li Gui didn’t want to ruin his reputation either, “Sister Hong is a good person, and in the future, there’ll be many candidates with better conditions than me coming to propose marriage. Auntie Hua, I just came to wash my hands, don’t misunderstand.”

The meaning behind his words was clear – he was not interested in Liu Xiaohong.

Liu Xiaohong’s delicate face turned pale, her lips clenched, and her clothes washing strength increased.

Auntie Hua felt awkward and did not continue speaking. She glanced at Su Qingyue twenty meters away and then at Li Gui, thinking that it may have been a coincidence. Li Gui didn’t have any interest in the Liu Family’s cousins, Liu Xianglian, who was quite pretty, and Liu Xiaohong. The Xiao Family’s daughter-in-law already had a husband, so Li Gui wouldn’t show any interest.

Li Gui knew these women loved to gossip and was afraid of being talked about, so he dared not look at Su Qingyue too much.

He followed her only after she finished washing the toilet bucket and went back. When passing by the Xiao Family’s courtyard, he stood outside, wanting to take another look at her.

Su Qingyue placed the cleaned toilet bucket back at the foot of the bed in the secondary bedroom.

She lifted her head and saw Xiao Qinghe's lips saying two words.

She knew it was "thank you".

She smiled slightly, "We're family; there's no need to be so polite."

Xiao Qinghe felt both happy and lost at the same time. He was happy that she regarded him as family, but he was not her husband. In fact, he wanted her to acknowledge that they were husband and wife.

"Qing... Qingyue, take a rest for a while; don't tire yourself out." He spoke carefully. Addressing her as Qingyue should be alright, right? Even second brother could only call her Yue'er; he had no right to call her his wife.

As he spoke while she looked at him, she could clearly see his lips forming the words, "I'm not tired, just a bit thirsty. Can I have some water?"

Without waiting for his response, she directly picked up the water pot from the table. The weight told her it was empty before she even tried to pour water.

"There's no water left..." His voice was timid.

She looked at his slightly dry lips; he probably hadn't had water for half a day but didn't say anything, perhaps because he was too shy. Though he was her brother-in-law, she felt a bit guilty at that moment, "If you need anything in the future, just tell me directly; don't be polite."

She walked out the door towards the kitchen, carrying the water pot.

Xiao Qinghe was surprised by her words. He gazed at her leaving figure and said softly, "My only wish is for you to stay in this family, and for us to be a real husband and wife. But it's a pity..."

If even the handsome third brother can't keep her, let alone he was disabled.

As Su Qingyue was about to enter the kitchen, she caught sight of the figure outside the courtyard.

It was Li Gui again.

Li Gui's eyes lit up when he saw Su Qingyue come out.

However, Su Qingyue furrowed her brows. She wasn't sure before, but now, from his surprised gaze, she was sure that this man had not only changed his destination to follow her to the riverbank, but also had come all the way to her doorstep.

She simply walked towards him.

Seeing her approach, Li Gui's heart started pounding.

She looked at his slightly nervous expression through the fence, "Do you need anything?"

Chapter 178: 178 Unemotional

"No... no problem." Li Gui took a deep breath to calm his anxious mood.

"You've been following me all the way, and now you've come to my house." She asked indifferently, "Why?"

Li Gui glanced at the half-open window of the Xiao Family's secondary bedroom. He had been standing there for a while and already knew that Xiao Yishan and Xiao Yuchuan were not at home, only she and Xiao Qinghe were.

With the volume of her voice and the place where he and she were standing, Xiao Qinghe could see everything clearly through the window and hear clearly as well.

She spoke so bluntly, wasn't she afraid that Xiao Qinghe would be upset upon hearing it?

Or did she simply not care about the disabled man?

Thinking of her washing the toilet bucket for the disabled man earlier, since the second and third sons of the Xiao Family were not there, she must have done it voluntarily. The Xiao family was so poor, yet she still did these things, which proved she was a good woman.

Li Gui no longer concealed it from her. "I came... to see you."

She hesitated for a moment, repeating, "You came to see me?" since there was a chance of misunderstanding by reading lips.

He nodded.

Xiao Qinghe, who had been watching the outside from the room, felt a sudden contraction of his heart. Li Gui confessed so openly, would his wife like him because of his appearance, family wealth?

Knowing in his heart that the Li Family's life was much better than the Xiao Family's, he selfishly hoped his wife would not be tempted.

Instead of being moved by Li Gui's confession, Su Qingyue became even more angry. "Don't you know I'm someone else's wife? I'm disgusted by your behavior towards a married woman. Who gave you such courage to be so presumptuous when we are strangers?" She glanced at his clothes, "Is it because of the money in your pocket?"

"I..." He didn't know how to explain. He felt a little guilty about her unfriendly words. Perhaps it was because his money and family could not be compared to the Xiao Family, and he was indeed proud.

Knowing that the Xiao Family's disabled man was at home, he dared to wait outside like this, obviously not putting the Xiao Family in his eyes.

Just by looking at his face, she knew she had guessed correctly. "Don't come again, it's not good to be misunderstood. Besides, I don't like to see you."

Not waiting for him to say anything, she went back into the kitchen. She had always been indifferent to others; the Xiao family treated her well, but she didn't want to stay, let alone a stranger like Li Gui. Who was he?

Xiao Qinghe listened to his wife's words, and the corners of his lips unconsciously hooked up.

Li Gui's face became embarrassed and annoyed. His charm had always been irresistible to women in the village, but he set high standards for himself; he hadn't expected to fall for Su Qingyue. With her appearance, she should be grateful that he found her attractive, but instead, she was indifferent and even defiant. He coldly left a few words and turned to leave— "I don't like women who play hard to get!"

His voice was loud enough for Su Qingyue in the kitchen to hear.

In fact, Su Qingyue was deaf and didn't know. She was in the kitchen, scooping water from the water jar with a wooden ladle and drinking more than half of it.

The jar was filled with well water brought back, and there was no pollution in ancient times. In May weather, drinking well water was not cold, and during her more than ten days in this home, the family drank well water directly, without the need to be particular about drinking boiled, cooled water.

She refilled the water pot, carried it back to the secondary bedroom.

She placed the water pot on the table by the bed, added water to the broken cup, and passed the cup of water to Xiao Qinghe.

He took it and silently drained the entire cup of water..

## Chapter 179: 179 Qjinghe gives money

She didn't know whether he was really thirsty or just being polite, but he drank the entire glass of water. She noticed that his drinking action was somewhat slow, but very elegant.

Xiao Yuchuan said that Xiao Qinghe was illiterate. It was rare that an illiterate person could be so refined and elegant.

Xiao Qinghe intentionally slowed down his drinking speed. He was reluctant to drink the water his wife had poured for him. But since she was watching, he felt too embarrassed not to drink it.

After putting the cup back on the table, he saw her turn to leave and reached out to hold her hand.

She was taken aback. His hand was not as thick and warm as his second brother's, but rather cool and slightly thin.

Xiao Qinghe's movement stiffened for a moment. His wife's hand felt so small and warm. He wanted to keep holding it like that, fearing it might be the last time they'd touch. He deeply etched the sensation of holding her hand into his heart, and when she looked at him, he forced himself to let go, "I... have something to give you."

He reached for an old cloth bag hidden beneath the padding and handed it to her.

She weighed it in her hand. It was heavy, filled with money.

"Not much," he said with a calm expression, "Later... take good care of yourself."

A sour feeling rose in her heart, "You knew I was leaving?"

He nodded slightly. Although they had not had much contact, his gaze had always followed her closely.

Surprise flashed in her eyes, “I was bought here, and now I’m trying to escape. Not only do you not stop me, but you secretly give me money?”

His gaze was warm and gentle with a tinge of bitterness, “You’ll have a better life away from this family.”

She fell silent, gazing at his handsome face as if looking at a close friend. After a long while, she spoke softly, “Actually, in this vast world, I, Su Qingyue, am all alone. Although I have the ability to survive, I have nowhere to go. I’m confident that I can find a place to settle down, slowly making a living and spending my days in ease but solitude.”

Despite not believing that a weak girl like her could survive on her own, he inexplicably believed her words, “The Xiao Family will always be your home.” He wanted to say that he would always be her husband. But as even he considered himself a burden, how could he have such qualifications?

She looked at his lips shape, unable to hear his voice but feeling that it must be very pleasant.

He said that this place would always be her home.

She knew what he meant – that if she could not survive outside, she could always return.

She felt fortunate to have been bought by the Xiao Family’s brothers, such good people.

Looking at Xiao Qinghe, she didn’t even want to leave anymore.

His leg was disabled and needed someone to take care of him.

Why was she the wife of the third brother? It would have been better if she was Xiao Qinghe’s wife. Maybe it was because the family feared she wouldn’t stay that they had married her to the most handsome third brother.

"I can't take your money," she handed the moneybag back to him, "Tomorrow, I'll talk to Xiao Yuchuan. If I leave, I'll say goodbye. If I stay, there's no need for further words. "

If she stayed in this family, she would be Xiao Yuchuan's wife. A wife... is supposed to sleep together with her husband! In her previous life, she had been in a relationship with her fiancé for two years, but they never had any intimate relations before her death. The body she inhabited in this life was still innocent.

She had just experienced a heart-wrenching betrayal that cost her her life. Branded as hypocritical, she didn't want to make love with a man she had no emotional foundation with.

Xiao Yuchuan always said he wouldn't touch her, but he would often take the opportunity to take advantage of her. From the way he looked at her, she knew that he couldn't wait to eat her up.

As long as Xiao Yuchuan agreed not to touch her, she would stay in this family..

Chapter 180: 180 Diagnosing in Secret

"Qingyue, take it." He placed the moneybag in her palm again, "If you don't take it, I'll be sad." This was all he could give her.

She didn't refuse any longer, "Thank you."

He smiled, "Between you and me, there's no need for thanks." Regardless, he was still her husband.

The atmosphere felt inexplicably melancholic. To change the subject, she playfully winked at him, "Tell me honestly, where did you get this money? Is it your private stash?"



Seeing her bright pupils blinking at him, looking incredibly adorable, his heart raced, "I... More than three years ago when my leg wasn't disabled, I worked as a temporary worker in town to make money. Second Brother has always been managing the household, and all the money goes to him. This half tael was earned on the side, and it was my... last time making money in this life. Just half a tael, even if I'd handed it over, it wouldn't have been of much use. So, I kept it as a memento."

Listening to him, her heart felt heavy, "Since this money means so much to you, I can't take it even more..."

Seeing her still wanting to refuse, he said, "When I have this money, I think of the time when the accident just happened. Please spend it for me."

She tightly clutched the moneybag, knowing that he was worried about her being cold and hungry after leaving this family. She would keep it for him but not spend it, "I've been standing for a while and feel tired. Can I sit down for a moment?"

He nodded, thinking she would sit on the chair in the room. But she sat right on the edge of the bed, and her small hand even held his hand.

He looked at her in surprise, his handsome face flushing a light shade of pink.

She was even more embarrassed by his reaction, as if she was seducing her young uncle, "Uh... I think your hand is so pretty, I... just want to touch it..." He wanted to pull his hand back but stopped when she pressed down on it, '

Her small hand seemed to be just caressing his hand, but her right fingertips subtly checked his pulse. She probably couldn't cure his leg injury, but to avoid hurting his feelings, she decided to check his pulse in secret.

"Qingyue..." He opened his mouth hesitantly, not understanding what she was doing.

"Xiao Qinghe, do you mind that I'm deaf?" She asked softly.

He shook his head. He was afraid she might mind that he was disabled.

“Do you mind that I’m ugly?” A shadow of sadness crossed her face.

He gazed into her bright, watery eyes, “In my heart, you’re beautiful.”

Having diagnosed his illness, she looked back at his pale, handsome face, his eyes so sincere and genuine. This man truly didn’t despise her. She silently made a decision in her heart, “I understand.”

In this family, the most pitiful person was Xiao Qinghe.

She withdrew her hand and stood up, “It’s getting dark. I’ll go make dinner.”

“Thank you for your hard work.” He nodded. He wanted to help her but was powerless to do so.

Only once she left did he stroke the spot on his right wrist where she had touched him with his left hand. Her small hand was warm, covering his right hand, touching his knuckles and then his wrist...

He liked her touching him like that.

He liked the warmth she brought to him.

Although her actions just now were a bit strange. It didn’t seem like she was seducing him. She was his wife, and she could do whatever she wanted to him.

Suddenly, he had an impulse to tell his second and third brothers to keep an eye on Qingyue, to confine her and never let her leave.

But he couldn’t..