

## **Spatial Ability 61**

### Chapter 61: A Token Of Love

Moreover, her brother was a good swimmer. If he was alone, he would have been able to escape. However, even he was helpless before a disobedient Xue Ling.

“Hmph!” Xue Ling snorted coldly.

“It was Brother Yun’s fault for insisting on looking for that woman. She’s already gone, so he should just let her go. He can marry me! Isn’t that a good thing? But he chose to come to this godforsaken place to look for her. Look, we’re all in trouble now.”

She had always wanted to stop Qian Jiyun from looking for that woman, but no one listened to her.

If I don’t stir up some trouble, I’ll be giving up without a fight! I won’t do that! I just didn’t expect to be caught in a flood and bullied by An Jiuyue, that b\*tch.

Just you wait! I’ll send someone to teach her a lesson when I return home!

Qian Yiyun was speechless. She was unsure of how to respond to Xue Ling’s words.

Is there anything wrong with my brother coming here to search for his wife?

Her mother saved my brother’s life. The knife was smeared with lethal poison. He would have died if she did not shield him.

However, he was sent straight to the battlefield on his wedding night. He couldn’t even catch a glimpse of his bride’s face.

On the other hand, my sister-in-law was chased out of the house after someone spread false news of my brother’s death. No one knows if she is dead or alive. It will be inhumane to not look for her.

“Sister Xue Ling, will you be happy if your in-laws chase you out of the house, leave you to die alone, and your husband doesn’t come looking for you?” she asked.

“I...” Xue Ling’s expression darkened.

What does this brat mean? Is she cursing me that I would be chased out of my in-laws’ house? Or that I would die? How can there be such a vicious person?!

None of that will happen to me! I am going to marry Brother Yun in the future and become a proper marchioness!

“I heard that she couldn’t be found. She was chased out of her parents’ home too. Maybe she got married somewhere else. Maybe she gave birth to a few children too. What’s the point of looking for someone like that?”

Qian Yiyun immediately shook her head. “No, that won’t happen. My sister-in-law is not like that.”

She had interacted with her sister-in-law for some time and knew she was a gentle person. There was no way she would marry someone else so casually.

She was sure that her sister-in-law was waiting for her brother somewhere.

“Yan Yan, don’t let that woman fool—”

Before she could finish her sentence, she noticed Qian Yiyun open her palm. A jade pendant of extraordinary quality sat in the middle of it.

“Sister Xue Ling, isn’t this jade pendant pretty?” Qian Yiyun asked.

Xue Ling raised her eyebrows. Anything Qian Yiyun carried around looked good.

“It is quite pretty. Why? Do you want to gift it to someone?”

She pursed her lips. She felt that she could forgive Qian Jiyun reluctantly for searching for his wife if Qian Yiyun gave her this jade pendant.

Of course, she would be even happier if Qian Jiyun could gift her a jade pendant as a token of his love.

She would let bygones be bygones.

“Yes.” Qian Yiyun nodded.

“You...”

## Chapter 62: Idiotic Words

“I want to gift it to Sister Jiuyue to repay her for saving my life. Sister Xue Ling, what do you think?”

Xue Ling was about to speak, but she found her words caught in her throat when she heard Qian Yiyun’s reply, nearly choking her.

She’s giving it to someone else instead of me? To An Jiuyue, that uncultured woman living on the mountain, no less! How am I supposed to be happy about this? ‘What do you think’? What am I supposed to say to that?

“You can just give her a few taels of silver if you want to repay the favor. She may not know how to appreciate such a good piece of jade and may even blame you for giving her a useless thing.”

She replied to Qian Yiyun with an unhappy expression.

“All she did was save your life. What’s so great about that? Besides, she was rowing a bamboo raft and saving everyone she came across. We weren’t the only ones she saved.

“Why should we take it so seriously? Even if she did not save us, someone else would have.

“Look at the two babies. That woman even jumped into the water to save them. They’re treated much better than us too. They can sleep in the treehouse upstairs, but we can only sit here downstairs.

“Besides, we didn’t ask her to save us. She wanted to save us.”

Qian Yiyun was terribly shocked by her words, but she did not show it on her face.

How can Xue Ling think this way? In that case, will it only be right if no one came to save us? If my sister-in-law’s mother did not help my brother when he was in trouble four years ago, would he still be alive now?

She never realized that Xue Ling was such a person.

“I see. So this is how one can also understand what it means to save someone’s life.” She nodded, looking as if she was enlightened.

I must stay away from Xue Ling in the future. I may become just as irritating as Xue Ling if we interact too much.

The thought of becoming just like Xue Ling made her hair stand on end.

“Yan Nuo, you brought back some firewood? You gathered quite a lot.”

Xue Ling stood up hurriedly when she noticed that Yan Nuo, her brother’s subordinate, had returned. She walked towards him.

“I found these while gathering firewood. They’re for you, Miss. We can roast them over the fire later. They’re delicious.” Yan Nuo put down the firewood he carried, took out a few chicken eggs from his front pocket, and handed them to Qian Yiyun.

Qian Yiyun’s eyes lit up. “Chicken eggs!”

She used to think that chicken eggs were not good enough for her. However, given their current plight, things have changed—these eggs were good stuff!

“We should put them inside the pot and cook them with the porridge for dinner tonight.”

She was too embarrassed to be the only one eating the eggs. There were so many eyes around her. She should not be given special treatment.

Xue Ling saw the eggs and was about to stand up and keep them in her pouch. Her expression turned sour instantly when she heard Qian Yiyun’s idiotic words.

There are only a couple of eggs. They aren’t even enough for me to eat! Why should I share them with all these countryside villagers?

However, she was smart and knew not to anger those women. Otherwise, she would not be given a single bite to eat here.

She decided to keep quiet, but she glared daggers into Qian Yiyun’s back.

Chapter 63: I Will Go My Way as An Jiuyue

“Miss, have you offended Miss Xue?” Yan Nuo asked, noticing that Xue Ling was glaring.

“No.”

Qian Yiyun turned around and glanced at Xue Ling, who did not seem to have much of an expression. She turned back to look at Yan Nuo.

“Don’t worry about her. She just cannot stand being inferior to somebody else.”

She would not have noticed that Xue Ling was such a selfish person if they had not been caught in the flood. In any case, she had already planned to interact with Xue Ling lesser. She did not want to be used by her to get close to her brother anymore.

“I wonder how Big Brother and Sister Jiuyue are doing,” she muttered.

...

Back in the deep mountains, Qian Jiyun had regrouped with An Jiuyue. Several wild rabbits and pheasants hung from his waistband.

He was surprised to find that her basket was full.

“You harvested that much?”

“Yes.” An Jiuyue nodded. “We can finish them.”?I’m afraid that we won’t have enough.

She did not verbalize her last sentence. After all, Qian Jiyun was unaware that there were many more villagers in the cave—more than double the number of people under her tree.

“Let’s go back.”

Qian Jiyun returned the bow to her and carried her basket on his back. They headed back towards the treehouse.

An Jiuyue, who was walking behind him, sighed.

The biological father of her two sons was currently walking in front of her, but she could not say a word about it.

She was secretly glad that she had changed her name back then.

She was also thankful that her biological family had hurt her so deeply that she wanted to change her name. This prevented Qian Jiyun from recognizing her.

I'll leave it at that. Qian Jiyun will go his way, and I will go my way as An Jiuyue. I won't be Lan Zhitong anymore.

An Jiuyue's real name was Lan Zhitong—the name recorded on her marriage certificate with Qian Jiyun. She only renamed herself after she met her godfather.

She decided to distance herself from Qian Yiyun over the next few days. It would be unfavorable if she remembered anything about her.

Qian Jiyun noticed she had sighed. However, he did not think much of it and assumed she was sighing because of the flood. Many villagers were stranded on the mountain, after all.

...

After some time, they reached the treehouse. It was bustling with noise and excitement.

The two men who had taken over An Jiuyue's bamboo raft also returned with a few unfamiliar men and women. A couple amongst them were exclaiming that the children An Jiuyue rescued were theirs.

An Jiuyue overheard it and rushed over.

“Are you the parents of the two girls?” she questioned the couple before Aunt Ju and the others could say anything.

Aunt Ju was stunned. “Jiuyue...”

However, she quickly understood An Jiuyue’s intentions and added, “Are those two girls really yours?”

“Yes, they’re ours. My wife gave birth to two girls, and they’re very pretty,” the man answered immediately.

They had overheard the two men on the bamboo raft talking about how someone had rescued two children, so they had planned to claim them.

#### Chapter 64: A Couple of Liars!

Resuming life after the flood would be difficult for everyone. The couple knew that if they brought back the two children with them, they could sell them for a few taels of silver to make life easier.

The man grew excited at that thought. He pinched his wife’s waist secretly.

“My poor daughters! How are they? Are they alright?” the woman immediately asked Aunt Ju, sobbing.

Her words brought a scowl to everyone’s faces. Even Wei Na, who was inside the space, began cursing.

“Hurry, Master! Kill these two shameless people! Who are they? They’re vicious! What do they want with the cute babies?”

“Are they going to sell them? This is unpardonable! I’d blow their heads off if I’m outside!”



This couple must be up to no good! They have no conscience!

It was intolerable. A woman, face reddened with anger, pointed a piece of firewood at the vicious couple. "What are you talking about? I thought they were really your children, but you are just a couple of liars!"

How could parents not know whether their children were boys or girls? The children were boys, but they said they were girls. Clearly, the children were not theirs!

Another woman went along with An Jiyue's lie and questioned the couple sternly, "They are a pair of twin brother and sister! You heartless people! What are you trying to do to the children our Jiyue saved?"

They would not allow the heartless couple to learn that the children An Jiyue had saved were boys. They were already fabricating stories, so they must have had ill intentions!

"I reckon they want to trick us into giving them the children so they can sell them for money!" another woman added.

The couple remained silent, feeling afraid as they faced criticism and angry faces.

They had only wanted to earn some money and were not expecting that the people here would lie to them. If they had known earlier, they would have inquired if the children were boys or girls first.

"No, no, we remembered wrongly. They—"

"Just shut up, you heartless things! You're tripping over your words, but you're still spouting nonsense?" Aunt Ju looked at the couple angrily and scolded them fiercely.

"We rescued you out of kindness! How dare you try to trick us and harm others? Are you even human? Get lost quickly! We won't give you any food! Starve!"

“That’s right! Get lost! Go into the mountains and be eaten by wolves!”

“You are inhumane to think of harming two babies! You should be eaten by wolves!”

The women took turns cursing the couple, leaving them shivering in fear.

The couple did not dare to run away carelessly despite the criticisms. Many wild beasts lived on the mountain. It would be terrible if they met head-on with one.

Hence, it was safer for them to stay here. They would be satisfied with even a mouthful of food as long as they did not have to starve to death.

Aunt Ju looked at the indifferent An Jiuyue and heaved a sigh of relief. “Jiuyue, it’s a good thing you came back in time. Otherwise, we would have been fooled by these horrid people.”

#### Chapter 65: Repaying Kindness with Vengeance

They had never imagined that people these days could be so vicious—saying the most heartless things and committing the most inhumane acts.

“It’s fine. At least we found out the truth. That man hunted a lot of wild animals. Let’s clean the animals later, then give them an extra bowl of meat. I’ll go upstairs to check on Zheng’er and the others.” she gestured towards Qian Jiyun’s direction as she spoke before heading upstairs.

“Sister Jiuyue is so amazing, Big Brother! She exposed them with just one sentence.”

Qian Jiyun put the animals down and walked towards his younger sister, who began praising An Jiuyue.

“See not with your eyes, but with your heart,” Qian Jiyun replied.

Xue Ling snickered when she heard their conversation, “Pft.”

If it were her, she would have allowed the couple to do whatever they wanted with the children since they were not hers. She did not care about the people unrelated to her.

“What’s so great about that? It was so obvious that they aren’t good people at all. Everyone can tell that they were pretending. Yan Yan, you think everyone is good because you’re too kind.”

Qian Yiyun was speechless.

She suspected that Xue Ling was implying that An Jiuyue was not a good person.

“Sister Xue Ling, don’t say that. There were so many people around, yet, apart from Sister Jiuyue, nobody realized they were pretending,” she retorted.

Xue Ling was infuriated by her words and sneered at Qian Yiyun.

“You’re too naive. That An Jiuyue is not a good person at all. I heard that she kept half of the huge wild boar and only gave the other half for everyone to eat. How can she be like this?

“Besides, if she is a good person, she would not have let Brother Yun carry everything while she returned empty-handed.

“I think that woman is black-hearted. Even more so than the couple!

“I think that couple simply wanted to raise the two children and had no other intentions. That b\*tch, An Jiuyue, has two sons already. Yet she wants to raise another two?

“Maybe she’s the one who wants to sell the children for money.”

“Sister Xue Ling, you—”

Qian Yiyun felt as if someone had struck her acupoints, and she was dazed.

Xue Ling was the epitome of ingratitude, repaying the kindness shown to her with vengeance. She had really underestimated her in the past.

Qian Jiyun's eyes dimmed as he looked at her coldly.

"Xue Ling, you don't have to stay here anymore if you think Miss An is not a good person. This is Miss An's house. Everything that we eat and use belongs to her. If you don't like her, you can look for food and other necessities yourself," he said bluntly.

That lady has offered everything in her house, including the clothes Xue Ling is wearing. Yet, she still has the cheek to criticize her?

"Don't forget whose clothes you're wearing now!"

Xue Ling flushed red and was rendered speechless. "I..."

"Sister Xue Ling, I think Big Brother is right. Don't forget that the clothes we're wearing are given to us by Sister Jiuyue.

"Also, my brother is a strong man. How can he allow a lady to carry everything when they go into the mountains?"

Chapter 66: Cling on to Qian Jiyun Tightly

"That would be discourteous of him. Also, Sister Jiuyue was the one who hunted the wild boar, so it belongs to her completely—not just half."

Qian Yiyun analyzed every point for Xue Ling.

“You also asked why Sister Jiuyue did not allow everyone to go into her treehouse. Think about it—this is a tree. No matter how big it is, it is still just a tree.

“The treehouse is already so heavy. It will collapse if so many people go upstairs.”

It is not right to destroy her home. We can sit under the treehouse and be sheltered from the flood, but we will be left with nothing if the treehouse collapses. Why did Xue Ling not consider these things?

“Given our status, that woman should have, at least, invited us upstairs, right? Aren’t you tired, Yan Yan? Don’t you want to sleep?” Xue Ling asked, aggrieved.

She wanted to find a place to sleep, but An Jiuyue refused to let them sleep in the treehouse and only allowed them to change their clothes. She even bullied her and threw her down.

She was angry! She wanted to kill An Jiuyue!

Qian Yiyun replied, “Ask around, Sister Xue Ling. Who isn’t tired? Look at everyone. They’re sitting with their backs against each other when they feel tired. Isn’t that pretty good too?”

“How can they be comparable to me? I’m—”

“Everyone is equal in this natural disaster!” Qian Yiyun interrupted her before she could finish.

“Xue Ling, none of this would have happened if you had stayed in the house. Since we’re already in this situation now, you should bear with it. No one will entertain your rotten habits!”

“I... Brother Yun, how can you say that to me? I...”

His words were insufferable. Xue Ling’s eyes reddened instantly.

She was the eldest daughter whom her father doted. No one, not even her mother, dared to scold her. However, she had been bullied by An Jiuyue and the other women here. Even Qian Jiyun and Qian Yiyun were not helping her now.

Who did I even offend?

“When the floodwaters subside, I will send someone to send you back. I will discuss with your father and arrange for your marriage to someone from a family of similar backgrounds,” Qian Jiyun said coldly.

He did not want to see this woman again. They would have been in the military camp if not for her. Now that he was here, he was unsure of what was happening in the camp.

Xue Ling shook her head, her face pale. “No... don’t.”

She did not want to marry anyone, but if she had to, she wanted to marry Qian Jiyun.

“Brother Yun, I’ll be good. I won’t spout nonsense again. Don’t send me home.”

The Xue family were businessmen. Although they were rich, they were of a lower social status.

Her father was a stingy man. He might pamper her, but he only cared for her brother. She would never have a share of his inheritance. In fact, she would have to ask her father for money several times before getting it.

“A family of similar backgrounds”? How will I find good in-laws with a family like mine?

Besides, Qian Jiyun’s family is the best.

She was determined to cling on to Qian Jiyun tightly.

## Chapter 67: Are You Rebellin?!

Qian Jiyun did not say anything else. However, he was determined to get rid of Xue Ling when they returned. No one could stop him!

...

The next day, Aunt Ju and a few other women cleaned the animal Qian Jiyun had caught and cooked a large pot of meat for everyone.

Xue Ling's bamboo bowl, which she had despised but had to use, was filled to the brim with meat.

"Don't finish all the meat, everyone! It belongs to my Brother Yun! He hunted this for me! If you finish eating everything, I'll ask Brother Yun to kill all of you!"

Xue Ling was delighted by how Aunt Ju and everyone else's eyes sparkled as they looked at all the meat in the pot.

What's the point of harping on about how good An Jiuyue is? The meat we're eating now is the one Brother Yun hunted, which is supposed to be mine. I'm being nice and allowing everyone to have a bite.

But I will not allow An Jiuyue, that little b\*tch, to eat this! I shall starve her to death!

Too fixated on venting her anger and stomping An Jiuyue into the ground, Xue Ling had completely forgotten Qian Jiyun's warning the day before.

"And, you're not allowed to give An Jiuyue, that little b\*tch—Ah!"

She was about to remind the women not to share the meat with An Jiuyue when Aunt Ju threw a big spoon into the pot.

The hot soup and oil in the pot splattered onto Xue Ling, who was standing nearest to the pot gloating.

“What... What are you doing? Are you rebelling?!”

She was furious. She could feel her face burning with pain and knew that there would soon be red spots on her face.

“Rebel?” Aunt Ju looked at Xue Ling coldly. “I think you’re the one who wants to rebel, Miss.”

Aunt Ju has never met such a senseless lady.

The other women looked at Xue Ling spitefully, as if they were about to skin her alive.

“That’s right! Our Jiuyue was kind enough to save you from the flood, but she was wrong to do that. See, she rescued an ingrate!”

“Who do you think you are? Other than eating, what have you been doing the entire day? You haven’t even gone to gather firewood or fetch water. How dare you complain?”

“I think you’re the little b\*tch here! Did you think that you’re a princess? Where did you get your princess syndrome? You have no right to walk all over us just because we gave you some food!”

“Hmph, eat if you want to, and don’t if you don’t want to. No one is willing to be your maid. What the heck? Did you think that we’re afraid of you because we said nothing?”

One of the women snatched Xue Ling’s bamboo bowl and placed it on the stove, glaring at her fiercely.

Everyone here was rescued by Jiuyue and treated her as their savior. However, Xue Ling kept going against An Jiuyue. In that case, she should not be staying at Jiuyue’s house!



“You... You all... My Brother Yun hunted this meat. Why can't I eat it?” Xue Ling yelled, about to go crazy from anger.

#### Chapter 68: I Was Wrong

She had stood there boasting in a softer voice as she had feared that Qian Jiyun and the others would overhear her and bring up her marriage discussions again.

She was bold enough to say those things in front of these women because she had nowhere to vent her anger after Qian Jiyun scolded her for condemning An Jiuyue.

However, these women rebuked her. She felt bullied by them and could not care less anymore.

She believed that the animal Qian Jiyun had hunted was hers to eat, so she could determine who could eat it. If she was unwilling to share it with them, she could throw all the meat onto the ground instead of feeding it to these starved animals!

She turned around and looked at Qian Jiyun, wanting him to uphold justice for her. She was the victim of their bullying, right?

“Brother Yun, look at these lowly people! They're not letting me eat the meat!”

Qian Jiyun had no intentions of entertaining her. He replied coldly, “Have some porridge if you don't want to eat. Don't block the way and prevent everyone else from eating.”

“1...” Xue Ling opened her mouth but was unable to say a word.

Is Qian Jiyun not going to seek justice for me even though they're bullying me?

Am I not important to him at all? I don't understand. What's not good about me? Am I not pretty enough?

Qian Yiyun, feeling helpless, came forward and picked up the bowl of meat from the stove, shoving it into Xue Ling's hands.

"Sister Xue Ling, it is not easy for anyone in the face of a great catastrophe. Don't make a scene. Take the meat and go."

Is Xue Ling going to embarrass herself for some meat? So what if my brother hunted this meat? We're still eating An Jiuyue's grain.

She turned to Aunt Ju with an apologetic expression.

"Aunt Ju, Sister Xue Ling has always been like this. Please don't lower yourself to her level. Sister Jiuyue rescued us, so we owe her a huge favor. It is only right for us to help out as much as we can."

She then turned to look at Xue Ling and questioned, "Sister Xue Ling, we've all found ourselves in dire straits. Everyone is equal. You've eaten food from Sister Jiuyue and everyone else too. Are you going to throw up the food and return it?"

Why does she not know how to behave? She does not even have a basic sense of gratitude. Even I despise her a little now.

She had interacted with the daughters of other merchants before. None of them acted like Xue Ling.

"I..." With her anger caught in her throat, Xue Ling felt awful.

However, there was nothing she could do. Qian Jiyun was staring at them, and she dared not retaliate. She still wanted to leave a good impression in front of Qian Jiyun.

"Brother Yun, don't be angry. I was wrong," she turned around and apologized to Qian Jiyun, looked at him timidly.

Qian Jiyun did not even spare her a glance and turned to look at Qian Yiyun.

“Yiyun, stay here and watch over her. Don’t let her cause any more trouble. I’m going to take a look around the area.” With that, he left without looking back.

Qian Yiyun nodded as she watched his back. “Okay.”

She wondered if her brother was rushing to catch up with An Jiuyue because he felt it was unsafe for a young lady like her to enter the forest alone.

Chapter 69: Dare to Disobey Her

“Brother Yun...”

Xue Ling’s eyes reddened from anger as she watched him leave.

She cursed internally, blaming An Jiuyue for everything. She would not have been so furious if these bumpkins had not constantly spoken of An Jiuyue as though she was a living Bodhisattva.

She also would not have been pushed past her limits and forced to vent her anger.

It is An Jiuyue’s fault! She’s even seducing Brother Yun now!

“Sister Xue Ling, go eat over there. My brother might have something to do. He will be back soon,” Qian Yiyun said.

Xue Ling gritted her teeth.

What are you talking about? I know Qian Jiyun is heading in the same direction An Jiuyue went earlier! He chased after her because he was worried about her.

That little b\*tch is skilled at using her looks to seduce men! I want to scratch up that face thoroughly! Let's see how she will continue seducing men!

She wanted to get back at An Jiuyue, but there was nothing she could do now. In fact, she had to be cautious around her.

“Okay.”

She turned around, visibly upset, and found a place to sit down. She was ready to eat the meat in her bamboo bowl. She was craving meat so badly after all that happened—she could probably stomach 10 bowls of it.

However, she knew that those cheap women would not give her a second bowl.

She was angry and could not understand why she was not allowed to have more meat when it clearly belonged to her.

“Yan Nuo, move over and give me your seat,” she instructed as she walked toward him.

Yan Nuo lifted his head and glanced at her briefly. He had no intention to give up his seat to her. Instead, he scanned their surroundings.

“Miss Xue, you can find a place nearby to sit,” he said.

“You—” Xue Ling felt her anger caught in her throat.

What's going on now? Even Yan Nuo, Brother Yun's dog, is disobeying me?

She took a deep breath and decided to suppress her anger for now. She could not afford to quarrel with Yan Nuo and annoy Qian Jiyun. After all, Yan Nuo was one of Qian Jiyun's most capable men. Qian Jiyun was always accompanied by him.

Just you wait! Once I marry Qian Jiyun, I'll give this dog a piece of my mind!

...

Meanwhile, An Jiuyue arrived outside the mountain cave with freshly cooked meat and porridge.

However, she heard a few men's voices before she could even enter. Their voices were filled with resentment towards her.

"Why do we have to be at the mercy of a girl like An Jiuyue? The Chief is really muddle-headed!"

"We can only eat one meal every day. Is she trying to starve us to death? That girl must have a lot of food at home. Old Tu used to hunt every day. He must have had a lot of money."

"Exactly! We should go to An Jiuyue's place. There must be a lot of food there. Why should we starve here while the women gorge themselves?"

"Why don't we go over now while the Chief is not around? We can bring some food back at the very least! I'm about to die from hunger. We only eat diluted porridge every day. It is not filling!"

"An Jiuyue, that b\*tch, is starving us on purpose."

## Chapter 70: Are You Tolerating This?

The men spoke one after another, and their words resonated among many others. In fact, they seemed ready to rob An Jiuyue's house.

However, some disagreed and advised them not to act recklessly. They felt that having some food to eat in this situation was already good enough.

“Master, are you tolerating this?”

Wei Na wanted to give these men a beating but noticed that its master did not seem like she intended to argue with them.

When did she become so kind?

An Jiuyue sighed heavily.

She could recognize the voices of the men who were dissuading the others. Amongst them were the two men who were sent by the Chief to take over her flood patrol duties the other day.

“They’re not beyond hope yet. I can deal with them after the flood.”

Dealing with so many of them now would only raise suspicion. It would be better to handle things slowly. She remembered everyone who insulted her anyway.

It was a relief that some good people understood how it was difficult for a young lady like her to take care of so many people.

But it would be her last straw if they ever became heartless too.

“This is human nature. World peace would have been a reality if everyone was good.”

Humans were like this. Even if you treated them well, they would still find it insufficient and demand more.

“Jiuyue, why are you standing here?”

An Jiuyue heard a hoary voice behind her and turned around. It was the Chief.

He stood a few steps away, looking at her. Behind him were two men, and they seemed like they had returned from the forest.

“I’m here to deliver some meat, Chief. We hunted some animals in the mountains today and made stewed pork. There is enough for everyone.”

She glanced at the mountain cave and added, “It seems like Brother Dog and the others felt that I was not giving them enough food and wanted to look for me. I’m here alone and was afraid, so I waited outside.”

The Chief’s expression darkened when he heard her honest words.

These heartless and ungrateful scums! How dare they act so shamelessly when they are already given food!

“I’m not trying to nag you, but you’re too kind,” the Chief replied.

He felt that it would have been better if she kept the meat. The weather was not too hot, so the meat could be kept for a couple of days without going bad. An Jiuyue could sell them at the town or the county after the flood subsides and purchase some grain with the money earned.

If she fed the meat to those heartless people, they would not even utter a line of gratitude. It would be a waste of such good meat.

He had been listening to their vicious complaints of An Jiuyue inside the cave over the past two days.

He wondered what she had done to offend them so greatly. Would it be better if she had not rescued them from the flood and allowed them to die of starvation in the waters?

One should not be so ungrateful.

These people did not think they were in the wrong. In fact, they believed it was An Jiuyue's fault for not treating them better.

The Chief grew angry as he thought about this. He wanted An Jiuyue to disregard these people and allow them to starve to death—it was what they deserved.