

The Hunter 151

Chapter 151 I Have Someone I Like

When Li Qiang brought his men out of Luo Cheng's place, he was about to go up the mountain to take a look when he saw his wife running out.

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"Husband, don't go around looking for her. Yan'er is back! Yesterday, she went up the mountain to dig herbs and encountered heavy rain. She was trapped on the mountain and found a cave to hide in for the night. Now that the rain has subsided, she ran back!" Li Qiang's wife, Wang Ying, ran out and shouted.

When Li Qiang heard this, he couldn't care less and quickly brought his people home.

At this moment, Li Yan had already changed her clothes and was drying her wet hair by the fire.

Li Qiang was relieved to see his daughter sitting by the fire.

Thinking of what Little Huzi had said previously, Li Qiang suddenly flew into a rage and rushed to Li Yan.

"Someone in the village said they saw you going up the mountain with a man?"

Li Yan was drying her hair. When she heard her father's words, she immediately replied in surprise, "I went up the mountain with someone, but the other party was there to ask for directions. Later, when we reached the foot of the mountain, we went our separate ways! Father, what kind of person do you think your daughter is?"

Li Qiang was relieved to hear that.

"Li Qiang, it's good that she's back. It's good that she didn't do anything shameful! She's insensible. Since she's fine, we'll leave first!" A man who was looking for Li Yan with Li Qiang said when he saw that Li Yan had returned safely.

"That's right! It's good that you're fine!" The others followed suit and left.

Li Qiang thank the group and sent them out of the house.

After confirming that there were no outsiders in the Li family's house, Li Qiang quickly closed the courtyard door and rushed into the house.

"Daughter! When you weren't around yesterday, someone came to ask for your hand in marriage! The other party is the Zeng family of White Foothill City. Their family has opened several shops. If you marry him, your future life will definitely be blissful!" As Li Qiang spoke, he carried a stool to Li Yan's side.

Li Yan's hand that was drying her hair stopped. Then, she looked up and stared at Li Qiang. "Father agreed?"

“How is that possible?! If the other party wants to marry Yan’er, we naturally have to take action! Your mother and I said that we have to discuss it with our families, so we haven’t given an answer yet!” Li Qiang said.

When Li Yan heard this, she immediately heaved a sigh of relief.

“Father, Mother, this marriage isn’t suitable for me. You can reject him the next time he comes!”

When Li Qiang and Wang Ying heard Li Yan’s words, they immediately became anxious.

In their opinion, this marriage was definitely a good one!

“Yan’er, listen to me. The other party’s conditions are really good. He already said that after you marry him, you don’t have to do anything. You just have to have a son with him!” Wang Ying persuaded.

“Mother, why don’t you think about it? If the other party is so good, why didn’t he find a suitable girl around White Foothill City to marry? Why did he come to our house? Also, why don’t you ask how the other party knows about me? I don’t believe that everyone in White Foothill City knows about me!” Li Yan said clearly.

It had to be said that as long as Li Xiaoran and Luo Cheng weren’t involved, Li Yan wouldn’t lose her rationality.

Besides, he was just from a rich family. How could he compare to Pei Xuanxin, who would become an extremely influential official in the future?

She was going to be an official’s wife in the future, so she naturally looked down on the Zeng family.

“He said that he wants a good-looking daughter! He wants a good-looking grandson, so he’s willing to marry a girl without a wealthy family background but who’s good-looking!” Wang Ying used the Zeng family’s excuse.

“Hmph, Mother, I’m just trying to coax you! How could there not be any good-looking girls in White Foothill City? In the end, he abandoned those close to him and came to our small village to look for me. It’s obvious that there’s a problem. I’m afraid this isn’t a blessing, but a trap! Besides, I already have someone I like. I definitely won’t marry into the Zeng family!” Li Yan said bluntly.

“What? Who do you like?” Li Qiang stood up immediately and asked with a dark expression.

For some reason, what Little Huzi had said previously appeared in Li Qiang’s mind again.

“Is it that person called Pei Xuanxin?” Li Qiang thought of the name Little Huzi had mentioned and asked.

Li Yan didn't expect her father to already know about Pei Xuanxin, so she asked in surprise, "How did you know?"

"Don't worry about how I know. If the person you like is Pei Xuanxin, that's impossible!" Li Qiang said domineeringly, "Do you think I don't know about Pei Xuanxin? I still know a thing or two about that scholar who goes to town every day to get a prescription and dig up herbs to save his mother! Yan'er, listen to me. He's a poor scholar. He barely even gets three meals a day. Why do you have to give yourself a hard time?!"

"How do you know that Pei Xuanxin will be poor for the rest of his life?! You don't know that Pei Xuanxin will become successful soon. At that time, he will be a high-ranking official in the capital that can enter the palace. If I don't marry him when he's poor, the position as an official's wife won't be mine in the future!" Li Yan said with a cold expression.

As soon as she said this, Li Qiang and Wang Ying were shocked.

After a while, the couple finally processed Li Yan's words.

"Daughter, what do you mean?" Wang Ying asked hesitantly.

At this point, Li Yan had no choice but to tell the truth.

Just as she was about to speak, Li Yan suddenly remembered that Li Xiaoran had said that she could predict the future. Her eyes lit up.

"Father, Mother, do you know why I was unwilling to marry Luo Cheng?" Li Yan said with red eyes.

"Why?" Li Qiang asked.

"That's because I had a bad dream! I dreamed that after I married Luo Cheng, Luo Cheng didn't treat me well at all. Later on, someone even chased after Luo Cheng. When Luo Cheng was hiding, he pulled me out as a shield and I almost lost my life. Later on, Li Xiaoran married Pei Xuanxin, who you looked down on. In the end, in less than two years, Pei Xuanxin became a high-ranking official in the capital. Li Xiaoran became an official's wife and lived a good life!" Li Yan used the excuse of her dream to explain what had happened in her previous life.

"That's just a dream. It doesn't count!" When Li Qiang heard this reason, his expression immediately changed.

"Father, do you think I want to believe it? At first, I couldn't either, but later on, something happened, so I believed it!" Li Yan said.

Li Yan recalled carefully and said, "No matter what I say, you won't believe me, but I can prove it! In the dream, a few days later, He Hui, who everyone in the village said was a widow, is revealed to actually have a son. It was her man, Guan Dongshan, who brought her son back! Many people said that he was Guan Dongshan's son with someone else!"

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Li Qiang and Wang Ying were skeptical.

"Why don't we observe the situation first?! If our daughter's dream is real, we can verify it in a few days! Anyway, didn't the other party say that they would wait for us to reply? It's normal for us to consider it for a few days!" Wang Ying said.

Li Qiang also loosened up a little.

After all, no matter how rich this family was, they couldn't compare to an official's son-in-law!

If the dream their daughter had was real, wouldn't they be in-laws when their daughter became an official's wife in the future?

At that time, they could also benefit from it!

Not to mention anything else, at least in the future, the two of them would be able to do whatever they wanted in the village!

At the thought of this scene, Li Qiang felt excited.

He liked the feeling of no one daring to cause him trouble in the village.

If that was the case, Li Qiang would see who dared to look down on him in the future!

"Alright, let's wait a few more days!" Li Qiang finally agreed.

Seeing that her father had relented, Li Yan heaved a sigh of relief.

As long as her parents were willing to believe this dream, she could successfully marry Pei Xuanxin.

After Li Xiaoran and Luo Cheng ate their fill, they went out to dig for the last herb after the rain stopped. Then, they returned to the stone house to tidy up.

The harvest on the mountain was quite bountiful, so the two of them left some marinated game to hang in the stone house and brought everything else back.

On the way down the mountain, Li Xiaoran suddenly thought of something.

"Husband, didn't you say you wanted to bring me to the wine cellar?"

Luo Cheng immediately laughed when he heard Li Xiaoran's words.

"Don't worry, I'll keep my word. However, this wine cellar is not deep in the mountains. You can only see it when you go down the mountain!"

Li Xiaoran was stunned for a moment before understanding.

It turned out that she had been wrong all along. The wine cellar was not on the mountain at all.

“Then why didn’t you say so earlier?!” Li Xiaoran pouted and was a little angry.

“It’s not too late for me to say it now! As an apology, I’ll give you a jar of fruit wine, okay?” Luo Cheng said with a smile.

“That depends on how good your fruit wine is. If it’s not good, I won’t be in a good mood!” Li Xiaoran raised her eyebrows and said.

“I guarantee you’ll be satisfied!” Luo Cheng said confidently.

Li Xiaoran complained to herself that it would be difficult to satisfy her. After all, she had drunk so many delicious drinks in the modern world. It would be a little difficult to make her feel satisfied.

As it turned out, Luo Cheng was quite capable.

The wine cellar was actually in a cave not far from the Luo family’s house.

Luo Cheng had asked someone to dig this cave, so very few people knew about it.

When Li Xiaoran saw that the cave was filled with wine jars of all sizes, she was immediately shocked.

“There’s actually so much wine? Oh my god, no wonder you want to open a wine shop!”

Li Xiaoran roughly counted that there were definitely more than ten thousand wine jars stored here.

“This is just a wine cellar. I have several more!” Luo Cheng couldn’t help but show off when he saw Li Xiaoran’s shocked expression.

“Sigh, it’s a pity that I’m not a wine lover. Otherwise, I would be very happy!” Li Xiaoran couldn’t help but sigh when she saw so many wine jars.

“It’s okay. In the future, I’ll make a lot of delicious fruit wine for you to drink. That way, you’ll be very happy!” Luo Cheng walked forward and held Li Xiaoran’s hand as he promised.

“Let me try your fruit wine first!” Li Xiaoran thought for a moment and said.

The corners of Luo Cheng’s mouth curled up slightly. Then, he went to the wine cellar and found two jars of wine.

“Let’s go home now! When we get home, I’ll let you try the good wine I made!”

Li Xiaoran didn’t say anything and left the wine cellar with Luo Cheng.

Seeing that their daughter and son-in-law had returned safely with a deer and many wild animals, Li Shun and Zhao Xiu felt at ease.

“Did you encounter heavy rain on the mountain yesterday?” Li Shun went forward to take everything and asked with concern.

“That’s right! Fortunately, we had a stone house on the mountain and a fireplace that could burn firewood, so we avoided the storm!” Li Xiaoran explained briefly.

“It’s really as Ziyang said! Thank goodness you two are fine!” Zhao Xiu said thankfully.

“Father, Mother, I’m sorry for making you two worry! We also wanted to come back early, but the wind and rain on the mountain were too strong. It was too dangerous for us to go down the mountain, so we stayed on the mountain!” Li Xiaoran also knew that her parents were worried about her, so she said apologetically.

“What are you saying?! In that situation, you two definitely have to prioritize your own safety!” Li Shun said with a disapproving expression.

“That’s right. Your father is right. Your safety is the most important thing! As long as you’re fine, we’re relieved!” Zhao Xiu quickly echoed, “You don’t know, but when you two went to the mountain, Li Yan ran up the mountain as well. You two didn’t come back all night and only came back this morning. When Li Qiang saw that Li Yan was missing, he even brought people to us to ask for her. Fortunately, Ziyang chased him away!”

Luo Cheng’s expression darkened when he heard this.

“Ziyang, what exactly is going on?”

Luo Ziyang told him what had happened that morning without hiding anything.

After Luo Cheng and Li Xiaoran heard this, they sneered.

“This is really a case of a thief shouting to catch the thief! Previously, when my husband and I went up the mountain, we sensed that someone was following us. Later on, we realized that the people following us were Li Yan and a man we had never seen before. Later on, my husband shook off these two people, so we weren’t followed by them. How ironic that we were accused instead!” Li Xiaoran laughed in anger. “If I had known that the Li family was like this, I would have slapped Li Yan a few more times last time!”

“Sister, you slapped Li Yan?” Li Xiaoqing asked excitedly.

“That’s right. Last time, when I was making braised food at home, I came out to see how we should plant crops in our land when I saw Li Yan appear in our orchard. Li Yan was trying to sow discord between our family. Moreover, once Li Yan appeared, it reminded me of when I hit my head previously and was slapped by Li Yan, so I became so angry that I slapped her a few times!” Li Xiaoran nodded and said.

“She deserved it. She sowed discord in front of me last time too! Well done!” Li Xiaoqing said angrily.

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“Li Yan is getting more and more outrageous!” Li Shun said angrily.

Zhao Xiu glanced at her man and wanted to say something, but after thinking about it, she swallowed her words.

How could anyone from the Li family be good?

Even Li Shun had many problems.

However, Li Shun also realized this now, so he slowly changed many of his bad habits.

“Let’s not talk about those unhappy things first! Father-in-law, I brought a jar of good wine back today. Let’s drink together later. How about you try the wine I brewed?!”

Luo Cheng didn’t want to continue talking about this, so he changed the topic.

At the mention of wine, Li Shun was naturally distracted.

It had to be said that wine was especially tempting to people who liked it.

At this moment, the three men in the house gathered and had a drink together.

Li Shun took a sip, then another.

After drinking the small glass of wine, Li Shun said reluctantly, “It’s much better than the wine I’ve drunk before!”

When Zhao Xiu heard her man’s words, she couldn’t help but tease, “How good can the wine you drank previously be?! The wine our son-in-law gave you is countless times better than the wine you drank previously!”

Li Shun laughed when he heard this.

“That’s true! It’s all thanks to my son-in-law that I can drink such good wine!”

When Li Xiaoqing heard this, she was immediately unhappy.

“Father, you’re able to drink it because of my sister’s good fortune! If my sister didn’t marry my brother-in-law, you wouldn’t be able to drink it!”

“Yes, yes, yes. It’s all thanks to your sister!” Li Shun was a good-tempered person.

When Li Xiaoran heard this, she immediately laughed.

“Mother, has my father always been so conciliatory?”

Zhao Xiu glanced at her man and smiled when she thought of what her daughter had said.

“You’re right. Other than farming, your father has also mastered the art of mediating!”

As soon as she said this, both mother and daughter laughed.

When Luo Cheng and Luo Ziyang heard the conversation, they couldn't help but laugh.

"Ever since more people joined the family, this house has become more lively!" Luo Ziyang marveled after laughing.

Luo Cheng also had a deep understanding. He smiled and nodded. "That's right! In the past, I used to think that it was good to be alone. There were no ties or burdens! Now, I know that life is completely different with my family by my side. In the past, I felt that it was a burden, but now, I feel that it's a blissful burden!"

"I also think that this is very good! In life, having a family is everything! Thanks to you, I also have a family!" Luo Ziyang sighed.

Luo Cheng knew Luo Ziyang's background, so he understood why he said that.

In fact, most of the people who followed Luo Cheng were alone.

Even if some people had relatives, they left because their hearts were broken by them.

"We'll all have a family, a very loving family!" Luo Cheng looked at Li Xiaoran and said.

Luo Ziyang nodded, then remembered something.

"Brother, I asked my buddies to investigate Li Yan and actually found some unusual things!"

When Luo Cheng heard this, he shook his head. "Let's not talk about this first. Let's talk about it after dinner!"

Luo Ziyang understood and stopped talking about this matter.

"By the way, have you gone to take a look at the shop? How's it going?" Luo Cheng asked.

"It's been winding down for the past few days. If it weren't for the rain, it would have been finished today. It depends on tomorrow's weather. If the weather is good, it will only take three days to finish building it!" Luo Ziyang replied.

"That soon?" Luo Cheng asked in surprise. "There's no problem with the construction, right?"

"No problem. The shop is built very well. It's just that the new year is coming soon, so everyone is working hard to finish it so that they can go back and celebrate the new year!" Luo Ziyang said with certainty.

"That's right. It's already December. We're indeed preparing for the new year!" Luo Cheng remembered that it was the new year.

On the other side, Li Xiaoran and Zhao Xiu were also talking about the new year.

"Mother, let's buy a pig! It's time to make cured meat and sausages, then get some dried fish. Also, dried radishes, pickled radishes, and dried vegetables should be

made as well! I keep feeling that this year's winter will be especially cold. It's better for us to make more preparations!" Li Xiaoran voiced her worries.

"Your father and I were talking about this last night! Recently, there has been less and less business at this stall. In the future, we'll set up our stall at noon. We should prepare for the new year!" Zhao Xiu nodded and said.

Li Xiaoran thought for a moment and said, "We can set up a stall for two hours at noon. When the shop is repaired in the future, things will get better!"

Zhao Xiu nodded. That was what she thought.

It couldn't be helped. In December, the wind was too cold. They couldn't stop shivering.

They would definitely freeze if this continued.

"Why don't we stop setting up the stall for the next few days? The shop will be built in three days. When the time comes, we can start business. We're not in a hurry!" Luo Cheng interrupted when he heard the conversation.

"No, let's leave the stall open!" Li Shun said, thinking of something. "It's only for two hours. Let's leave it open! If we leave it open, the people traveling can still eat a mouthful of warm noodles, especially those old people and children. They'll feel much better if they can eat a mouthful of steaming noodles!"

Luo Cheng didn't expect his father-in-law to say such a thing, so he looked at Li Xiaoran.

"Father, your bodies can't take such cold weather!" Li Xiaoran said worriedly.

"Hey, it's fine! We'll just wear thicker clothes! At most, we'll just pick up more firewood and carry it over! We'll burn a fire to keep warm. It's actually not that bad!" Li Shun said with a smile.

Luo Cheng didn't understand, so he looked at Luo Ziyang and asked what was going on.

Luo Ziyang recalled what had happened the day before yesterday and could understand Li Shun's feelings.

"Brother, let Uncle Li and the others go! I'll follow them. Leave the task of moving firewood on me!"

Zhao Xiu also understood her man's thoughts. She sighed and smiled.

"Let's do as your father says! At this time, our noodle stall is no longer just a noodle stall! It might be a life-saving meal in the middle of winter!"

Chapter 154 Related to the Capital

Seeing her sister's confused expression, Li Xiaoqing leaned close to her ear and told her what had happened the day before yesterday.

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It turned out that the day before yesterday, because the weather was a little cold and there was no one on the official road, many people had packed up and left.

Li Shun and Zhao Xiu had originally planned to close the stall and leave, but Li Shun felt that it would be a pity not to use the remaining dough, so he suggested that they wait.

In the end, two hours passed.

Just as everyone was thinking that it was better not to wait anymore, two carriages arrived in the cold wind.

Seeing that there was a sliced noodles stall beside the official road, the people in the two carriages cheered.

Soon, eight people got out of the carriage and asked for eight bowls of sliced noodles.

These eight people weren't prepared for their first trip.

They were freezing while traveling on this official road.

Unfortunately, there was no village or shop here, so the family endured the cold and rushed forward with hunger.

At this moment, when they saw a steaming noodle stall on the official road in the cold weather, they were overjoyed.

Seeing that all of them were freezing, Li Shun quickly brought over steaming bone soup and let everyone drink some hot soup to warm up.

After drinking a bowl of hot soup, the middle-aged man said gratefully, "Thank you so much! Fortunately, you guys are here. Otherwise, I don't know how long my family would have lasted! We adults aren't afraid of anything, but this is too much suffering for the elderly and the child!"

On the other side, the old man and child, who had drunk the hot soup, felt revived. Their faces finally regained some color.

Even the child's face, which was originally blue from the cold, was finally warmed by the hot soup.

After that, the family ate noodles and warmed up. Then, they thanked Li Shun and the others gratefully before getting into the carriage again.

"At that time, the elder and the child were actually already freezing. If they had froze for a while longer, they would have died. Fortunately, there was a noodle stall around, so we gave them a mouthful of warm food to help them recover. They insisted on rushing to the town in front to rest!" Luo Ziyang said.

After Li Xiaoran heard this, she instantly understood why her father insisted!

"Alright, since Father insists, let's go!" Li Xiaoran said.

Li Shun smiled happily and nodded.

"Okay, okay!"

At this moment, Li Xiaoran looked as happy as a child and her heart softened.

Actually, everyone had many flaws, but everyone also had many strengths.

Her father was indeed a little timid when he was in the Li family, but he was kind-hearted.

It was also this kindness that made him see how difficult it was for those traveling. He insisted on setting up a noodle stall even if he had to suffer from freezing.

As his daughter, she should support her father's kindness.

Luo Cheng also learned the reason for his father-in-law's insistence from Luo Ziyang.

At this moment, Luo Cheng was also touched.

Perhaps, the warmth in this world came from others' kindness and persistence!

At noon, after eating and drinking some wine, the family went to rest.

Li Shun, Zhao Xiu, and the others didn't rest well last night because they were worried about Li Xiaoran and Luo Cheng.

At this moment, they were relieved. Li Shun had drunk wine, so he returned to his room to take a nap.

Li Xiaoran had also been tired over the past two days, so she went for an afternoon nap.

Luo Cheng thought for a moment and reminded Li Xiaoqing before bringing Luo Ziyang out to see the construction of the shop outside.

It was no longer raining outside. Luo Cheng walked on the road and carefully listened to Luo Ziyang talk about Li Yan.

"I've asked my brothers to investigate. The reason Li Qiang was in such a hurry to find Li Yan was because the son of the Zeng family of White Foothill City wants to marry Li Yan. Faced with the Zeng family's good conditions, Li Qiang is naturally tempted!" Luo Ziyang said carefully, "It's just that I feel that something is wrong, so I asked my buddies to investigate the Zeng family. In the end, we really found something!"

"What do you mean?" Luo Cheng asked seriously.

"The Zeng family is actually related to the people in the capital!" Luo Ziyang said.

When Luo Cheng heard this, he stopped in his tracks.

Luo Ziyang stopped as well.

"Who is it?" Luo Cheng asked.

"The Zeng family is actually related to the Cao family! The Cao family's illegitimate daughter married into the Zeng family!" Luo Ziyang didn't say it explicitly and only said this.

When Luo Cheng heard Luo Ziyang's words, he immediately sneered.

“Hehe, as expected of my second brother! He’s meticulous and paranoid. I just wanted to find someone to fool them, but he actually targeted Li Yan!”

“However, Li Yan doesn’t seem to be willing to marry a member of the Zeng family. Instead, she wants to marry that poor scholar called Pei Xuanxin. Moreover, we heard an unbelievable piece of news!” Luo Ziyang thought for a moment and said.

“Oh really? What news?” Luo Cheng asked curiously.

Next, Luo Ziyang told him what Li Yan had said to her parents.

Luo Ziyang had been keeping an eye on Li Yan.

Therefore, after Li Yan returned, the person who was surveilling Li Yan heard everything she said at home.

“Dream? She dreamed of it? Interesting!” Luo Cheng laughed when he heard this.

Previously, his wife had said that Li Yan was good at divination, but in front of Li Yan’s parents, Li Yan said it was a dream.

Li Yan was full of lies.

However, was Pei Xuanxin married to Li Xiaoran?

Hmph! It turned out that the wealth and glory Li Yan coveted were brought by Pei Xuanxin. No wonder she was unwilling to marry him.

“Go and investigate Pei Xuanxin. I want to see what ability this man has to actually become successful in the future!” Luo Cheng sneered and instructed.

“Yes! Don’t worry. We’ll definitely dig up everything about Pei Xuanxin, even his ancestors!” Luo Ziyang said.

Luo Ziyang also disliked a man who might have married Luo Cheng’s wife.

Li Xiaoran was such a good wife. She was clearly his brother’s. How could she be matched with someone else?

Li Yan must have been out of her mind to have such a ridiculous dream!

And did Li Yan really think that Luo Cheng liked her?

At that time, Luo Cheng only wanted to use someone to fool his enemies. He didn’t really want to marry her.

Fortunately, the heavens let Luo Cheng marry a good wife in the end. His life was getting better and better!

“Li Yan and Li Qiang have to be taught a lesson! Do they really think I, Luo Cheng, am a pushover and can be manipulated by them?!” Luo Cheng thought of something and said coldly.

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Luo Cheng’s personality was that he wouldn’t harm anyone unless they harmed him.

However, since others had already bullied him, he naturally wouldn’t let it slide.

“Ziyang, do this!” Luo Cheng quickly had an idea and told Luo Ziyang his idea.

Luo Ziyang nodded as he listened.

“Brother, don’t worry. I’ll leave this to you!”

After saying this, the two of them went to the shop by the official road.

At this moment, a shop was already standing in the open space.

Upon closer inspection, there were a total of six rooms in this shop. A large kitchen and resting place had been built at the back.

In addition, a water source had been discovered southeast of the shop, so Luo Cheng asked someone to drill a well.

This way, they wouldn’t have to worry about using water in the future! They wouldn’t have to share a water source with the other stall owners on the official road.

The roof of the shop had been set up, so they weren’t afraid of the rain at this time.

The rest of the work would be done in less than two days.

Luo Cheng and Luo Ziyang looked around carefully and confirmed that the shop was well-built. Only then did they feel relieved.

“When the shop is built, get someone to get some firewood to dry the house. Try to get your them to move things into the shop to buy sliced noodles as soon as possible,” Luo Cheng reminded.

“Actually, we can dry one room first. That way, they can come in and sell knife-cut noodles first! The shops at the back can be dried after they are done. This way, they can be baked separately. It’s more suitable!” Luo Ziyang suggested.

When Luo Cheng heard this suggestion, he immediately smiled and reached out to pat Luo Ziyang’s shoulder.

“That’s a good idea! Ziyang, you’re so thoughtful! Let’s do this. Get someone to dry this area now!”

Luo Ziyang nodded and immediately asked someone to dry the house.

Generally speaking, this shop would be dry after being parched for two or three days. At that time, they could move things in to sell knife-cut noodles.

Therefore, the Luo family only needed to suck it up for two more days before they didn't have to suffer from the wind and rain anymore.

When the construction was done, they wouldn't have to run around with things all day. They just had to come early every day to knead the noodles and prepare the ingredients!

When Li Xiaoran learned that the shop here could be moved into in three days, she was overjoyed.

After all, the weather was really getting colder. Selling noodles in the shop earlier would save them a lot of trouble.

In particular, her parents had been working too hard over the long-term. Now, many health problems had arisen.

They kept feeling pain and discomfort.

This was from overworking in the past.

"There's only one shop that can be used first. The others will still have to wait for a while. After all the shops are dried, you can do whatever you want!" Luo Cheng looked at Li Xiaoran's happy expression and said.

"There's no hurry. Anyway, it's almost the new year. I don't want to do it for the time being. We'll talk about opening that restaurant after the new year!" Li Xiaoran thought for a moment and shook her head. "There's less than a month until the new year. We still have to prepare a lot of things! We have to make cured meat and sausages, dried vegetables, and radishes. We even have to get someone to clean up the orchard outside this house. We have to plant many things!"

Luo Cheng was not very knowledgeable about farming, so he could only let Li Xiaoran make the decision herself.

"Let's find someone to dig up the fruit tree in the village! When the time comes, we'll give them wages. It shouldn't take long to finish digging!" Luo Cheng thought of something and said.

"It just so happens that after these fruit trees are dug up, we can still put them aside to dry. When we need to burn firewood during the new year, these will be ready-made firewood!" Li Xiaoran also thought of something and said.

"Leave this to me! I'm almost done with what I'm doing. Let's rest at home for the next few months and celebrate the new year together!" Luo Cheng thought about his current affairs and said.

"Sure! I'll talk to Father today and see what he thinks! After all, I'll have to leave the task of attending to the land to my father in the future!" Li Xiaoran said with a smile.

“Let’s talk about it tonight! Coincidentally, you haven’t tried the fruit wine I brought back yet. Pour some out tonight! If you like it, I’ll make more in the future!” Luo Cheng thought of something and said.

At noon, because everyone still had work to do, they didn’t drink.

Li Shun didn’t drink the jar of wine that had been opened previously. Instead, he drank it at night.

After all, everyone understood that drinking would cause trouble.

If he got drunk, he wouldn’t be able to do anything today.

“Alright, I’ll make some side dishes tonight. Everyone can eat something and relax!” Li Xiaoran said with a smile.

When Li Xiaoqing heard that her sister was going to cook, she volunteered to help.

Li Xiaoran naturally wouldn’t refuse, so she pulled her sister to the kitchen to get busy.

When Luo Cheng came back a few days ago, he brought many chicken feet back.

Because Li Xiaoran had gone up the mountain, she only had time to make these chicken feet now.

After seeing these chicken feet today, Li Xiaoran thought for a moment and smiled.

“Let’s make a different type of chicken claw today! Spicy crust chicken claw!”

With that, Li Xiaoran took out the chicken feet and began to wash them.

It was very simple to make spicy chicken feet. All one needed to do was wash the chicken feet, boil them, wash them in cold water, and finally marinate them with various condiments.

Of course, the main condiment was the spicy shell.

The chicken feet made like this tasted different from the spicy braised chicken feet from before.

In addition, Li Xiaoran saw that there were actually some wild celery around the house, so she went to pinch a large amount and used it to stir-fry chicken.

There were many pheasants hunted on the mountain. After Zhao Xiu cleaned them today, she marinated a few and prepared to make them into roasted chickens.

The extra internal organs were used by Li Xiaoran to make stir-fried chicken.

The fragrance of wild celery not only eliminated the fishy smell of chicken stew, but also gave this dish a special aroma.

In addition to these, Li Xiaoran also stir-fried some home-cooked dishes and even boiled a pot of poached eggs to eat.

Because it was already winter, eating some poached eggs could help them keep warm.

“Xiaoran’s poached eggs are well-made. The shape of these eggs look good, and the yolk inside is just right. It’s neither stale nor mushy!” Zhao Xiu praised after taking a bite of the egg.

Chapter 156 Absolute Fruit Wine

“This spicy chicken claw is also delicious! I think it’s even better than the spicy braised chicken claw from before!” Li Xiaoqing grabbed a chicken claw and nibbled on it.

...

“This stir-fried chicken is also very delicious!” Luo Ziyang said.

When Li Xiaoran heard everyone’s praise, her mood brightened.

Wasn’t the purpose of cooking delicious food to get good reviews from customers?

She made these dishes to make everyone happy and satisfied!

Luo Cheng poured a bowl of fruit wine and placed it in front of Li Xiaoran.

“Here, wife, try the fruit wine I made!”

Li Xiaoran didn’t refuse. She smiled and picked up the bowl of wine. Then, she took a sip and tasted it.

When she took a sip of the fruit wine, the first thing she tasted was the faint fragrance of peaches.

The sweetness was just right, and the peachy taste was just right as well.

In short, after drinking a mouthful of fruit wine, she could taste some alcohol and peaches. There was also a sweetness that lingered in her mouth.

“Take another sip. It’ll taste different!” Luo Cheng’s voice sounded in Li Xiaoran’s ear.

Li Xiaoran picked up the wine bowl and took a second sip.

As expected, when the second mouthful of fruit wine entered her taste buds, the taste of the fruit wine immediately became mellow.

The scent of peaches became rich and intoxicating.

“If you take a third sip, you’ll feel different again!” Luo Cheng’s voice sounded again.

Therefore, Li Xiaoran picked up the wine bowl and took a third sip.

This time, a burning sensation rushed up, but she wasn’t very uncomfortable.

With this mouthful of spiciness, she felt it was as if all the coldness in her body had been taken away. Her entire body warmed up.

After drinking these three mouthfuls, Li Xiaoran was really stunned by the fruit wine.

She thought it was just ordinary fruit wine, but it gave her a very different experience.

“Husband, the wine you made is so good.”

“Each has its own merits. Every wine has its own unique taste! The wine you drank is called Immortal Peach Wine. Don’t underestimate it as fruit wine. If you drink too much, you can get drunk for a long time!” Luo Cheng explained with a smile.

At this moment, Li Xiaoran gave Luo Cheng a thumbs up.

It had to be said that the taste of the peach was really special.

Li Xiaoran, who usually didn't drink alcohol, also felt that it was very delicious to drink such fruit wine.

"Alright, you can only drink this bowl today. The rest is for Mother-in-law and Xiao Qing!" As Luo Cheng spoke, he took the wine jar in front of Li Xiaoran and poured two cups of wine before putting it away.

Li Xiaoran looked at the jar of wine reluctantly and suddenly understood why her father was craving wine.

At first, Zhao Xiu and Li Xiaoqing didn't understand why Luo Cheng did this. After they drank three mouthfuls of Immortal Peach Wine, they immediately fell in love with the taste of this fruit wine.

"Sister, how can Brother-in-law be like this?! He wants to hide such delicious wine!" After Li Xiaoqing drank it, she pulled Li Xiaoran's hand and wheedled.

When Li Xiaoran heard this, she was amused.

"My good sister, don't wheedle with me! It's useless! Look at me. Even I can only drink one bowl!"

When Li Xiaoqing heard Li Xiaoran's words, she was immediately depressed.

"I'm doing this for your own good! At your age, it's already very good that you can drink three mouthfuls of fruit wine without getting drunk! If you drink another mouthful, you'll definitely be so drunk that you'll fall asleep on the table!" Luo Ziyang explained.

As Luo Cheng's secret guards, they could taste the wine he brewed.

Because he had drunk it before, he knew the aftereffects of this fruit wine, so he dissuaded her.

Li Xiaoqing naturally didn't believe him, but she could only drink three mouthfuls of fruit wine. The rest had been poured away by her mother, so she had no choice.

After all, she was still young. She couldn't win against her parents, sister, and brother-in-law, so she could only eat the other dishes with tears in her eyes!

Hahaha, her tears weren't from sadness, but from the spiciness of chicken feet and the strong fruit wine.

After the fruit wine received unanimous praise, everyone enjoyed the pleasurable moment.

Li Shun also learned that his daughter wanted him to be in charge of farming.

"I'm good at farming! I'm good at farming!" Li Shun said happily.

"Father, our farm is a little special this time. It's a little different from what you used to farm!" Li Xiaoran thought for a moment and said, "I'll tell you what to plant in

which piece of land. You have to plant it according to my request. These things are what our shop needs in the future, so Father, you have to be careful!"

"Sure, anything is fine. Just let me farm!" Li Shun nodded and said happily.

"Although your father has been busy at the noodle stall recently, his heart felt empty. He has to have two hands holding a hoe and his feet in the mud to feel comfortable!" Zhao Xiu teased.

Some people were born to do this. Li Shun was such a person.

He could do other things, but he didn't feel at ease doing them.

Farming was different. Farming gave him a carefree feeling.

"This is a good thing! Our family is just short of these vegetables and fruits. With these things, our business will only get better and better!" Li Xiaoran placed great emphasis on planting vegetables and gave a lot of affirmation. "So Father, you have a heavy burden on your shoulders. Whether our shop can earn money depends on you!"

Li Shun felt a sense of responsibility when his daughter said that.

Reaching out, Li Shun patted his chest and promised, "Daughter, don't worry. I'll plant whatever you need. I'll definitely make your business more and more popular!"

"We believe in our Father!" Li Xiaoran and Li Xiaoqing said in unison.

It was a very ordinary sentence, but because of the affirmation of his two daughters, it motivated Li Shun and cheered him up.

It turned out that he was useful and needed by his family, so he had to farm well!

When Zhao Xiu saw her man grinning, she relaxed.

The couple had been together for so many years. What they hoped for the most was that the other party would be happy.

Now that she saw that her man was finally happy, Zhao Xiu was naturally happy too.

"Ziyang? Has your brother told you about your future plans?" After Li Xiaoran finished farming, she looked at Luo Ziyang.

When Luo Ziyang heard her ask about this, he naturally knew that Li Xiaoran treated him like family.

"Sister-in-law, let me think about it for a month. I'll answer you after the new year, okay?"

Li Xiaoran sensed Luo Ziyang's confusion and knew that he really had not thought it through, so she nodded.

...

"Alright, don't be anxious. You can tell us when you've thought it through!" Li Xiaoran also knew that this matter could not be rushed.

Luo Ziyang nodded when he heard Li Xiaoran's words.

The family ate happily that night.

Because of the wine, everyone washed up early and went to sleep.

The next morning, after the previous rainy weather, the sun finally came out.

After Li Xiaoran woke up, she saw the sunrise, so she quickly washed up and went to knead the noodles.

The others in the family started to arrive one after another. Everyone found something they could do and got busy together.

Even Luo Cheng naturally joined in and kneaded the dough with Li Xiaoran.

As there had not been a stall for two days, there were especially many people who came to the official road to sell food.

When Li Xiaoran and the others arrived, there were already many food stalls by the official road.

This time, Mao Dao and Yuan Cheng arrived a little earlier than Li Xiaoran and the others.

"Brother Mao Dao, Brother Yuan Cheng, why are you two so early today?" When Li Xiaoping saw the two of them, she ran over happily to greet them.

"I haven't set up a stall for two days. It rains every day, and it's making me bored at home! It's not easy to encounter good weather today, so I naturally have to set up a stall to earn money!" Mao Dao said with a smile.

"Me too. I have nothing to do at home and I'm always being snubbed, so I came out to hide from people!" Yuan Cheng said with a bitter smile.

When Luo Cheng heard Yuan Cheng's words, he looked at the dark circles under his eyes and thought for a moment before saying, "If you don't mind that the shop is still a little wet, you can move into the shop first! There's a house at the far end. The ground was leveled yesterday and the walls were painted. It's still a little wet after being parched for a day. You'll have to roast it yourself for a few days!"

Yuan Cheng's eyes lit up when he heard Luo Cheng's words.

"No, no. It's better if I move out earlier! To be honest, I'm really annoyed by my uncle and aunt. I don't want to live there anymore!"

When Mao Dao heard this, he pondered for a moment and said, "Yuan Cheng, why don't we go back with you to pack our things?! Anyway, the steamed buns are already ready. Let Sister-in-law

and the others help us watch the fire. We'll pack up quickly. It won't take much time! We'll go back and pack up now. Your uncle and aunt definitely won't expect you to move away at this time!"

When Li Xiaoran heard this, she also felt that Mao Dao was right.

"That's right. Yuan Cheng, go back and pack your things with Mao Dao now! We'll help you take care of the stall. Come back quickly!"

Yuan Cheng hesitated for a moment and nodded.

"Then I'll have to trouble everyone!"

With that, Yuan Cheng and Mao Dao rushed home.

On Li Xiaoran's side, everyone did their own thing and quickly set up the noodle stall.

After doing this, everyone found a place to sit down and rest.

After all, the official road was empty. Everyone could only wait patiently.

Even after Yuan Cheng and Mao Dao returned, there were still no customers on the official road.

"You two packed your things so quickly? Why are there so few things?" Zhao Xiu looked at the things in Yuan Cheng and Mao Dao's hands and asked in surprise.

Apart from a quilt and some clothes, the rest was some rice, a jar of lard, and a small amount of seasoning.

"Auntie, this is all I have at home!" Yuan Cheng replied with a smile.

Zhao Xiu's eyes turned red as she said bitterly, "Child, don't you even have a bed in your house?"

"Aunt, you don't know, but he lives in a dilapidated temple in our village now. Yuan Cheng sleeps on straw mat that others don't want! His uncle and aunt are inhumane. They keep saying that they want to treat Yuan Cheng well, but in fact, they've never helped Yuan Cheng!" Mao Dao said indignantly.

When Li Shun heard this, he couldn't help but sigh.

"Ziyang, bring them to the small room at the back of the shop to put down their things first. Then bring the two of them to our house to move a bed out! I remember that I previously bought a bed that's a little small and has never been used. Move it over for Yuan Cheng to use!" Luo Cheng said.

Yuan Cheng thanked Luo Cheng gratefully and quickly followed Luo Ziyang to the shop.

"There are really all kinds of people in this world!" Zhao Xiu couldn't help but sigh as she watched the three of them leave.

"Fortunately, Yuan Cheng was lucky to meet Luo Cheng. Now, he has finally escaped that living hell and has a chance to start over." Li Shun sighed.

Actually, weren't they the same?

Previously, they had encountered the Li family, their parasitical relatives. If Luo Cheng had not asked them to come over, they would be struggling in the Li family's trap.

To be honest, Li Shuncong was very grateful to Luo Cheng!

Without their son-in-law, they would not have their current good days.

At this moment, two people walked over from afar.

Seeing so many stalls by the official road, the two of them were very curious.

When the people setting up the stall saw that someone had finally arrived, they were all looking forward to it.

However, when they got closer, they realized that the two of them were dressed very ordinarily. They probably did not have any silver to buy food.

This time, the group looked disappointed.

Li Xiaoran's family did not think much of it. If there were guests, they would welcome them. If there were no guests, they would wait quietly.

Soon, the two of them arrived at the noodle stall.

Li Shun was about to ask if they wanted noodles when he saw the man in front of him.

"You're Brother Guan?" Li Shun blurted out, his eyes wide.

The other party was stunned for a moment. He sized up Li Shun and asked in disbelief, "Li Shun, Big Brother Li, why is it you?"

As expected, the person who came was none other than Guan Dongshan, He Hui's man.

"It's really you! Where have you been for so long?" Li Shun said. He looked at the child in Guan Dongshan's hand and immediately thought of something. "This is your and He Hui's son, right?"

When Guan Dongshan heard Li Shun's words, he lowered his head and reached out to touch his son's head. "Yes! Come, Guan Kang, greet Third Uncle Li!"

"Third Uncle Li!" Guan Kang called out obediently.

"Hey, this child is so obedient! Come in quickly. I'm happy to see you today. I'll treat you to knife-cut noodles!" Li Shun invited happily, "Xiu'er, come and see who's here!"

Chapter 158 Pei Xuanxin's Struggle

Zhao Xiu was wiping the table with a handkerchief. When she heard her man call her, she wiped the last dirty spot on the table before walking over.

...

At this moment, Li Shun walked in with Guan Dongshan and Guan Kang.

Zhao Xiu found the person standing beside her man a little familiar, but she did not recognize him for a moment.

“Haha, look, my wife didn’t recognize you either!” Li Shun said with a smile when he saw Zhao Xiu’s obvious stunned expression.

Guan Dongshan looked at Zhao Xiu and greeted her with a smile.

“Long time no see!”

As soon as she heard this voice, Zhao Xiu immediately recognized who it was.

“Guan Dongshan, it’s you! You’re back?”

With that, Zhao Xiu looked at the child Guan Dongshan was holding.

It had to be said that Guan Kang and Guan Dongshan looked very alike. They were simply two peas in a pod.

“Is this your child with He Hui?” Zhao Xiu asked again.

Guan Dongshan smiled and nodded, then touched his son’s head again.

“Kang’er, call her Third Aunt!”

“Hello, Third Aunt!” Guan Kang greeted obediently.

“Kang’er, be good! Come, follow me. Sit down and rest first! I saw that you guys rushed back. I’ll cook two bowls of sliced noodles first!” Zhao Xiu said warmly.

“That’s right! We can go back after eating a bowl of noodles! Anyway, it’s close to home. After we’re full, I can bring the child back to see his mother!” Li Shun also persuaded.

On the other side, Li Xiaoran had already heard the small talk between her parents and Guan Dongshan. Naturally, she had already cooked the knife-cut noodles.

As soon as the Guan family sat down, two bowls of sliced noodles and two bowls of bone soup were delivered.

“Uncle Guan, Xiao Kang, eat the noodles!” Li Xiaoran said with a smile.

Guan Dongshan looked at Li Xiaoran and immediately remembered.

“You must be Xiaoran! You’re already so old! Time really flies by. When we first met, Xiaoran was a baby! In the blink of an eye, she’s already a big girl!”

“Not only is she a grown woman, but she’s also married! Something happened, but let’s talk about it later. Hurry up and eat your noodles! Go back and see your wife later. It hasn’t been easy for her to be alone in the village all these years!” Zhao Xiu thought of something and said.

“I came back because I wanted to reunite with my family,” Guan Dongshan said, thinking of something.

“Alright, hurry up and eat. We have plenty of time to catch up in the future!” Li Shun urged.

Guan Dongshan smiled and thanked him before eating noodles with Guan Kang.

It had to be said that the knife-cut noodles tasted very good. Guan Kang, who usually did not eat much, had actually eaten a bowl of knife-cut noodles today.

After eating and drinking his fill, Guan Dongshan wanted to pay, but Li Shun stopped him.

“What money? Do you think I’m your brother? Back then, our family had a difficult life and you even helped us a lot. Now, it’s just two bowls of noodles. How can I accept your money?! Hurry up and put it back. Bring the child back to the family for a reunion!”

Seeing that Li Shun insisted on not accepting the money, Guan Dongshan could only thank him with a smile and bring the child back to see his wife.

Watching the father and son leave, Li Shun and Zhao Xiu smiled happily.

Zhao Xiu thought of something and said, “The wait is finally over! Although that child looks a little weak, he’s still in good health. He should be fine!”

Li Shun thought for a moment and said, “It should be fine. Otherwise, Guan Dongshan wouldn’t have brought the child back!”

At the same time, the news that Guan Dongshan had returned with a child spread throughout the village.

At this moment, everyone in the village was discussing and guessing the background of this child.

Wang Ying was shocked when she heard that Guan Dongshan had brought a child back.

After asking about this matter, Wang Ying quickly rushed home with a basin of clothes.

“Husband, something big has happened!” Wang Ying shouted as soon as she returned home.

Li Qiang, who was resting under the roof, heard his woman’s shout and looked over curiously.

“What happened that made you so impatient?”

“You don’t know, but not long ago, Guan Dongshan came back with a child!” Wang Ying panted slightly and said.

As soon as he said this, Li Qiang stood up.

“What did you say?”

“I said that Guan Dongshan brought a child back to the village just now!” Wang Ying repeated.

Li Yan, who was sewing clothes in the room, heard her parents' conversation outside and immediately smiled.

Sure enough, the heavens were helping her.

Guan Dongshan had indeed returned with a child, like in her previous life.

This time, her parents would definitely believe her dream!

Outside, Li Qiang and Wang Ying widened their eyes. After calming down from their surprise, their gazes landed on the house where Li Yan lived.

At this moment, these words appeared in both their minds.

Their daughter's dreams were real!

Thinking of this, Li Qiang smiled.

If everything in the dream was true, wouldn't they have a good life in the future as long as their daughter married that scholar called Pei Xuanxin?

At this moment, Pei Xuanxin, who Li Qiang and Li Yan were thinking about, also arrived at Hele Village.

After returning, Pei Xuanxin kept thinking about what had happened in the cave.

It had to be said that once a man experienced sex, he would always think about sex.

After some hesitation, Pei Xuanxin told his mother that he liked Li Yan.

Pei Xuanxin's mother also knew that she did not have much time left. It would naturally be best if she could see her son get married before she died.

However, Pei Xuanxin's mother was very worried.

With their current situation, was Li Yan really willing to marry over?

Even if the girl was willing, would the Li family be willing?

"Mother, I promised her that I would propose marriage in the next few days, so I have to go no matter what!" Pei Xuanxin said.

When Mrs. Pei heard her son's words, she thought for a moment and took out a silver hairpin from her pillow.

"Since you've already thought it through, take this silver hairpin and propose marriage!"

Pei Xuanxin looked at the silver hairpin and shook his head. "Mother, there's no need. This is what Father gave you. Keep it! I have a way to propose!"

With that, Pei Xuanxin asked the woman next door to take care of his mother before turning around and leaving the house.

To be honest, Pei Xuanxin was not confident.

At the thought that Li Yan was already his, Pei Xuanxin felt that he had to be more responsible.

Chapter 159 What Bad Intentions Could He Have?

As soon as he arrived at Hele Village, Pei Xuanxin stopped again.

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Was he really going to propose marriage empty-handed?

After hesitating for a long time, Pei Xuanxin felt that this was inappropriate.

At this moment, Pei Xuanxin was racking his brains to think of what he could offer. He had to bring something.

However, he was now poor and short of money. All he had left were a few copper coins hidden at his waist.

At this moment, Luo Cheng walked past and glanced at Pei Xuanxin before walking straight out.

But after a few steps, Luo Cheng stopped.

He turned around and sized up Pei Xuanxin carefully. Luo Cheng recalled the information Luo Ziyang had given him previously and suddenly had an idea. A smile appeared on his face.

Luo Cheng walked to Pei Xuanxin.

Pei Xuanxin, who was feeling dejected, sensed that someone was standing in front of him, so he looked up.

“You must be Pei Xuanxin, the scholar who collects herbs for your mother all day!” Luo Cheng asked.

Pei Xuanxin was stunned for a moment before nodding.

“That’s right! But who are you?”

When Luo Cheng heard that it was really Pei Xuanxin, he smiled even more happily.

“It’s really you! I’m very touched by what you did for your mother! But why did you come to our village today?” Luo Cheng asked with concern.

“Oh, it’s like this. My mother is still lacking a medicine ingredient. I came to see if there’s any on this mountain!” Pei Xuanxin naturally couldn’t say that he was here to propose marriage empty-handed, so he could only say that he was here to pick herbs.

“Oh, I wonder what medicine your mother is missing?” Luo Cheng asked with concern.

“We’re still missing a reishi mushroom! Someone told me that there’s one on Chicken Mountain behind Hele Village, so I came to try my luck!” Pei Xuanxin said.

“Reishi mushroom! What a coincidence!” When Luo Cheng heard this, he immediately pretended to be surprised and said, “I found a reishi mushroom when I was hunting

on the mountain a few days ago! If you really need it, I can give it to you. But I have a request!"

Pei Xuanxin did not expect the reishi mushroom he had been searching for so long to be found by someone else. Moreover, the other party wanted to give it to him. He was immediately excited.

"Brother, I know I can't give you anything now, but don't worry, I'll definitely repay you in the future! No matter what request you have, feel free to ask!"

Luo Cheng laughed.

"Actually, this request of mine is not difficult to fulfill. I can give you reishi mushrooms and a hundred taels of silver to resolve your crisis. I don't need you to repay these things. You owe me three favors. In the future, when I need them, you can just return these three favors to me!"

When Pei Xuanxin heard this, he thought for a moment and looked at Luo Cheng.

"Pardon me for asking, but what are you after?"

Luo Cheng laughed when he heard Pei Xuanxin's words.

"Of course I'm after a talent like you! Pei Xuanxin, I think highly of you. If you become successful in the future, my three favors will be priceless!"

"Aren't you afraid that these things will go down the drain?" Pei Xuanxin still had some doubts, so he asked.

"This kind of thing is a win-win situation! But I believe in my judgment! However, there's something I have to tell you in advance. You can't tell anyone about this reishi mushroom and money, not even your future wife. If we see each other in the future, pretend we don't know each other. If I need you to repay a favor in the future, I'll naturally come looking for you!" Luo Cheng said.

When Pei Xuanxin heard Luo Cheng's words, he was conflicted.

A voice was telling Pei Xuanxin to be vigilant.

Another voice was telling Pei Xuanxin to accept such a big gift. After all, his mother needed it, and he needed money to marry Li Yan!

"How is it? Have you considered it?" Luo Cheng asked when he saw the change in Pei Xuanxin's expression.

"Alright, I agree!" Pei Xuanxin immediately agreed without thinking.

He had no choice. His mother lacked reishi mushrooms, and he still lacked money to propose marriage.

Now, he was poverty-stricken. He did not want his life to become even worse.

After he accepted this deal, his mother's illness could be cured and he would have a wife. He could finally prepare for the exam in peace!

As for those three favors, he would return them in the future!

Seeing that Pei Xuanxin had agreed, Luo Cheng smiled and said, "Don't worry, you definitely won't regret your choice today. Please wait here for a moment. I'll go home and get you some reishi mushrooms and money!"

With that, Luo Cheng left and walked towards his place of residence.

Other than encountering reishi mushrooms twice when he followed Li Xiaoran up the mountain, Luo Cheng had also encountered them once before.

However, the reishi mushrooms he encountered that time were a little small and their quality was not as good as the two reishi mushrooms Li Xiaoran encountered.

Therefore, the reishi mushroom that Luo Cheng wanted to give Pei Xuanxin was the one he had picked.

The reason he wanted to help Pei Xuanxin was actually very simple.

Didn't Li Yan always want to marry Pei Xuanxin? Then he would fulfill her wish!

He wanted to see how far Pei Xuanxin could go in the future.

Of course, Luo Cheng did this because he was jealous.

He heard from Li Yan that his wife was originally going to marry Pei Xuanxin. Now that he had already married Li Xiaoran, he definitely could not let Li Xiaoran and Pei Xuanxin have any chance.

Now that he had helped Pei Xuanxin, he cut off chances of Li Xiaoran and Pei Xuanxin's marriage happening.

Thinking of this, Luo Cheng quickened his pace and quickly went home to get his things. Then, he handed them to Pei Xuanxin.

With the reishi mushroom and a hundred taels of silver, Pei Xuanxin immediately felt confident.

However, after some thought, Pei Xuanxin did not go straight to the Li family's house. Instead, he turned around and went back.

Now, after he had cured his mother's illness, he would think about coming to propose marriage.

At this moment, Pei Xuanxin even felt that Li Yan was his lucky star.

If not for Li Yan's guidance, he would not have come to Hele Village, let alone had today's fortuitous encounter.

Luo Ziyang was immediately shocked when he learned what his brother had done.

"Brother, didn't you dislike Pei Xuanxin previously? Why are you helping him now?"

"Of course I have my reasons for helping him! Think about it, if Pei Xuanxin really succeeds in the future and Li Yan becomes the wife of an official, what do you think will happen if I ask Pei Xuanxin to divorce Li Yan?"

Luo Ziyang was stunned when he heard this.

“What if Pei Xuanxin is deeply in love with Li Yan and won’t divorce her?”

“At that time, it won’t be up to him! If he doesn’t divorce his wife, he won’t be able to obtain wealth and glory. He can’t have of both, so he can only choose one!” Luo Cheng sneered and said, “Remember, get someone to keep an eye on Pei Xuanxin!”

Chapter 160 Li Yan’s Engagement

Li Yan waited for three days but Pei Xuanxin did not come to propose marriage. She was a little anxious.

...

Now that her parents had believed her words, if Pei Xuanxin came to propose marriage, the marriage would be successful.

However, after waiting for Pei Xuanxin for a long time, Li Yan was a little afraid.

Could she have misjudged Pei Xuanxin?

Could it be that Pei Xuanxin regretted it after he returned?

No, no, no. It must be because Pei Xuan’s family was poor that he was too embarrassed to propose marriage!

That had to be it!

Li Yan comforted herself as she thought about what to do.

No, she couldn’t wait any longer. She had to quickly settle the marriage.

If Pei Xuanxin did not come tomorrow morning, she would take the initiative to look for him.

Now that she should be Pei Xuanxin’s woman, Pei Xuanxin had to marry her no matter what.

Finally, on the tenth day after they separated, Pei Xuanxin invited a matchmaker over to propose marriage.

Today, Pei Xuanxin had specifically changed into a new set of clothes.

After he obtained the reishi mushroom from Luo Cheng the day before yesterday, he quickly went to town to find a doctor to apply medicine for her mother.

Sure enough, in just two days, his mother had improved. She was much better.

After that, Pei Xuanxin took out some money and bought some things to change his clothes. Then, he found a matchmaker to propose marriage to the Li family.

Looking at the refined Pei Xuanxin and recalling what his daughter had said, Li Qiang was extremely willing to let his daughter marry Pei Xuanxin!

Actually, Li Qiang was already mentally prepared. He thought that Pei Xuanxin would not be able to fork out much money.

Unexpectedly, Pei Xuanxin actually brought a matchmaker and two chickens this time.

After a short conversation, Li Yan and Pei Xuan's marriage was decided.

Li Yan was also very surprised. She did not expect Pei Xuanxin to be able to take out ten taels of silver as a betrothal gift.

One had to know that although ten taels of silver was not a lot, it was still impressive.

In Hele Village, they usually gave five or six taels of silver as a betrothal gift.

Ten taels of silver was already very generous.

Of course, Luo Cheng using the tiger bone in exchange for Li Xiaoran was an exception.

After all, in the eyes of the world, Luo Cheng was undoubtedly stupid and rich.

The news of Li Yan's marriage quickly spread throughout the village.

It attracted everyone's curiosity even more than the news that Guan Dongshan had returned with the child.

Some people were naturally envious of Li Yan for receiving so many betrothal gifts. Others knew about Pei Xuan's family's situation and were very surprised that the Li family agreed to this marriage.

Due to Li Xiaoran's previous marriage, the Li family had already been labeled as cold-hearted by the villagers, so they could not understand the Li family's actions.

Everyone in the village knew, so did Luo Cheng's family.

After all, Little Huzi would come to Luo Cheng's house every day to play. Naturally, he would tell everyone what had happened in the village.

Luo Cheng smiled when he heard this but said nothing.

Li Shun and Zhao Xiu were the most surprised.

"When did your brother become so easygoing? Didn't he say that he had to bring 50 taels of silver in order to marry Li Yan?" Zhao Xiu began to expose Li Qiang.

"Who knows?! Perhaps Li Yan is willing to marry him!" Li Shun could not understand and said.

Li Xiaoran did not feel anything about Li Yan getting married.

As long as Li Yan did not appear in front of her, it did not matter who she married!

Luo Cheng had been staring at Li Xiaoran's expression. Seeing that she did not care, he was secretly delighted.

He did not care who Li Xiaoran should have married. Now that she was his wife, she had to be his.

Li Xiaoran really did not take this to heart. Instead, she went to the orchard with her father to talk about what to plant in the future.

At this moment, the orchard outside the Luo family's house was filled with people.

Luo Cheng moved quickly. Seeing that Li Xiaoran had decided to plant vegetables, he got someone to dig trees.

The salary for digging a tree was not calculated by the day, but the number of trees.

Therefore, some families in the village worked together to dig a tree and earn money.

Therefore, when Li Xiaoran and Li Shun walked out, there were already many fruit trees missing in the orchard.

At this moment, Luo Ziyang was busy checking the trees at the designated place. After confirming that there were no problems, he would pay the other party directly.

“If we dig like this for a few more days, this large piece of land will be cleared!” Li Shun sighed.

“That’s right. Now that the land has been cleared, we have to hire people to plow the soil! Father, see if there’s anyone suitable in the village. Let them come over and plow the ground together!” Li Xiaoran looked around and said.

Li Shun hesitated for a moment and said, “Isn’t this too expensive? We have to pay for digging trees and digging the ground. Why don’t I slowly dig the ground alone?!”

“Father, if we really wait for you to dig out such a large piece of land, the new year will be over. The later it is, the colder the weather will be. If we don’t plant something now, it will be too late when it rains! This is not the time to save money. Our shop is still waiting for the vegetables and fruits you plant!” Li Xiaoran said and was amused.

“Sigh, my heart aches when I see how much money we spent!” Li Shun said what was on his mind.

“Then Father, farm well. If we plant vegetables and fruits, we can earn a lot of money!” Li Xiaoran encouraged.

“Can we really earn money by planting vegetables and fruits?” Li Shun finally asked the question on his mind. “I think they all plant crops. Planting vegetables and fruits doesn’t seem to be profitable!”

Seeing that her father was worried about this, Li Xiaoran was immediately amused.

“Father, just do as I say and plant everything I ask you to plant. Then, plant these things. Leave the rest to me. I’ll definitely make us both earn a lot of money!”

With Li Xiaoran’s assurance, Li Shun was slightly relieved.

“Alright, I’ll listen to you!”

“Father, it’s up to you how you plant it! So, you have to work hard!” Li Xiaoran cheered Li Shun on.

“Don’t worry, I’m good at farming!” Li Shun was very confident in this aspect.

“Father, let me tell you, these vegetables are definitely not inferior to those other crops!” Li Xiaoran said confidently.

At this moment, both father and daughter were filled with confidence.

“Sister! Brother-in-law bought a pig. Hurry back and take a look!” At this moment, Li Xiaoqing’s voice sounded.

Li Xiaoran and Li Shun looked at each other and quickly rushed home.