

Folly 46

Chapter 46 is all sold out

"Hey girl, you're really talking up these eggs and wild vegetables?" A woman with a basket heard Mu Shuangshuang's words and came over.

"Of course! Auntie, judging by your outfit, you must be an experienced market shopper. You definitely know what's tasty. Why don't you help testify if these wild vegetables are fresh and if the eggs are smooth and round?"

The woman heard Mu Shuangshuang's flattering words and her eyes crinkled up in a smile.

Being the center of attention and guiding others in transactions is quite a face-saving thing, and not everyone can do it.

"Oh my, this girl has such a sweet mouth. Auntie will take a look. These eggs are really good, fresh eggs, and these wild vegetables are tender. They'll definitely taste good when taken home. I'll take five eggs and two bundles of vegetables. Enough for two meals."

As the woman spoke, people around began scrambling to buy eggs and wild vegetables. It's true, people really follow the crowd sometimes. In no time, the eggs and wild vegetables were all sold out. However, the wood ear mushrooms and lion's mane mushrooms were left since Mu Shuangshuang hadn't introduced them, so the crowd didn't pay much attention.

"Hey girl, are those wood ear mushrooms in your basket?"

Finally, a man who looked like a manager squatted down and asked while looking at the wood ear and lion's mane mushrooms in Mu Shuangshuang's basket.

Mu Shuangshuang subtly assessed the person in front of her, dressed better than most of those at the market, and most importantly, he had a round belly indicating he usually ate well. Such people are typically stewards or buyers for wealthy households, or perhaps chefs for restaurants.

Of course, the chef option could be crossed out, as his hands lacked calluses and bent naturally when lowered, indicating he wasn't a chef used to holding ladles or spatulas.

"Yes, these are fresh wood ear mushrooms, picked from the deep mountains yesterday, as are the lion's mane mushrooms. Since few people at this market buy these items, I'm waiting for someone who truly understands their value."

Mu Shuangshuang's mention of someone who understands their value made the man squint with interest. He had heard Mu Shuangshuang shouting from afar, and had seen the eggs and vegetables. In reality, they were ordinary farm produce, not as magical as she had claimed.

Still, buying things is really about buying moods. Her stuff wasn't bad, her mouth was sweet, and it was normal for people to want to buy from her. But he truly didn't understand why she hadn't sold the wood ear and lion's mane mushrooms, claiming she awaited someone who valued them.

"Oh, what do you think their value is?" The man asked with interest, staring at Mu Shuangshuang curiously.

"Mister, I should be asking you that, who are you cooking for?"

"What's that got to do with these items?"

"Of course it matters, it's actually quite significant. Buying things is just like doing anything else, varying from person to person. If something is very important to you, you would do it with utmost care.

Likewise, if the people eating the dishes later are particularly important to you, you will choose the best ingredients and make the meal with the most care."

Mu Shuangshuang spouted nonsense, initially planning to sell the wood ear and lion's mane mushrooms after the vegetables, as they sold better than vegetables. Now with a chance to exploit someone, she wouldn't miss it.

Though finding Mu Shuangshuang's words odd, the man couldn't pinpoint exactly where. But her final words were true; his decades-long stewardship was indeed about diligence. Thinking this, he decided.

"Alright, give me all these wood ear mushrooms. I'll pay you five wen per jin. How many jin do you have?"

"Mister, do you want these lion's mane mushrooms? Things picked from the mountains are far more nutritious than wood ears. Use minced meat for soup, and it's guaranteed to be fresh and tasty. I won't ask much, how about the same price as the wood ear mushrooms?"

The man thought for a moment and nodded in agreement.

"Wait a moment, I'll let someone weigh them for you." Mu Shuangshuang didn't have a scale herself, so she could only go to a nearby stall and have an old lady selling mountain goods weigh them. She gave her remaining bundle of vegetables to the old lady, as thanks.

"Three jin and five liang in total. Excluding the basket's five liang, the wood ear and lion's mane mushrooms total three jin. Just pay me fifteen wen."

The man paid the money and left with the neatly packed wood ear and lion's mane mushrooms Mu Shuangshuang had arranged for him. Meanwhile, Mu Shuangshuang prepared to pack up and go seek Yu Si Niang.

For lunch, Yu Si Niang had already spoken with Wealth Master Zhang's steward; she could go over for lunch. But after lunch, she had to help Yu Si Niang wash the dishes in the kitchen and prepare the dinner ingredients.

Mu Shuangshuang understood she couldn't take favors without repaying them, so she didn't find anything improper about Wealth Master Zhang's steward's request.

With three bamboo baskets brought from home, Mu Shuangshuang calculated her earnings from this trip.

On this trip, she made a total of one hundred and sixty-two wen. After deducting Old Mrs. Mu's forty-five eggs at one hundred thirty-five wen, she sold vegetables for twelve wen and wood ear and lion's mane mushrooms for fifteen wen, totaling twenty-seven wen for herself.

Yu Si Niang's daily wage was six wen, meaning she earned four to five days of Yu Si Niang's wages with just a little effort.

"Not too bad, turns out business pays better than laboring. No wonder people say, muscle work doesn't make money; money-making work is either with your mouth or brain."

Mu Shuangshuang continued browsing the market, needing to buy a small iron pot. For the next month, she'd rely on that little pot to nourish herself and Little Zhi into a little chubby.

After wandering for a tea's time, she saw plenty of large iron pots but no small ones, so Mu Shuangshuang decided to leave, planning to check again next time when people from nearby villages gather. After all, she still had over forty days.

To her surprise, after only a few steps, she saw a duo stall at the market.

The big one was naturally Lu Yuanfeng, the little one was the chubby Lu Yuanbao.

Both were guarding a stall, looking dusty faced. Looking closer, Lu Yuanfeng had a few wild chickens tied in front of him, two rabbits, and an immature wild pig still struggling against its binding.

Yet, the surrounding people weren't approaching to ask Lu Yuanfeng or Lu Yuanbao how they were selling these items.

Mu Shuangshuang considered and decided to step forward to help these two silly brothers, as gratitude for saving her life.

"Hey, Lu Yuanfeng, are you selling game here?" Mu Shuangshuang jumped forward, speaking toward the haggard-faced Lu Yuanfeng.

"Shuangshuang, why are you here too?" Lu Yuanfeng looked surprised, but the surprise didn't last, his face turned red.

Because today, Mu Shuangshuang had wiped the dirt off her face on her way here, so now her face was clean and fair.

"You are..."