

Peasant 631

Chapter 631: Xie Family Banquet

Ye Muyu was shocked by her own thoughts. Mountain bandits were lawless existences. In Great Chu, colluding with mountain bandits was similar to raising private soldiers. This was a major crime of rebellion!

'We can't investigate anymore,' Ye Muyu thought decisively. With her current abilities, she still could not be compared to such power.

"Then it seems that my husband is safe in the prefecture. The Wang family has been imprisoned, so the Zhao family naturally has no need to attack Chu Heng." Ye Muyu was most concerned about this. As for the more complicated matters, she threw them to the back of her mind and did not think about them anymore.

Instead of caring about other people's private affairs, she might as well farm more to earn money.

"Butler Luo, please take care of my husband," Ye Muyu said. Luo Qisheng nodded. "Don't worry, Madam. This is what I should do."

That night...

The Xie family had prepared a banquet and invited Little General Shen and the others.

The other wealthy businessmen in the county also sent letters, wanting to participate.

However, they were all rejected by Mrs. Xie with a straightforward reason. She replied that this was a family banquet, and they would be invited in the future if there was a chance.

That was General Shen's eldest son, Shen Qin. He was only twenty-five years old and had already become a fourth rank official. General Shen was even a first rank official in the court. Although he was a military general, he was not someone that ordinary wealthy merchants could get close to.

Some of the more quick-witted ones went straight to Ye Hao, hoping to meet Young General Shen.

Ye Hao had been found many times and was annoyed. He could only tell Shen Qin about it.

"Young General, the wealthy merchants in the county want to see you. What do you think?" Ye Hao bowed and asked.

Shen Qin sat behind a desk in the back hall of the county government office, holding some files in his hands. They were all about the mountain bandits.

"No," Shen Qin said calmly.

Ye Hao did not say much and turned to leave.

"Wait a minute." Shen Qin called out to him.

Ye Hao turned around and waited at the side.

Shen Qin pointed at the dossier and said, "Bring these families to the county office tomorrow."

Ye Hao wanted to say that it was inappropriate to bring the, to the county government, but thinking of Shen Qin's character, he decisively chose to shut up.

"Yes, Young General." Ye Hao left and replied to the messages.

Some people were happy while others were sad.

At night, the Xie family banquet went as planned.

A screen separated the male and female seats.

There were not many people at the female table. There were only Mrs. Xie, Ye Muyu, Madam Liu, Madam Qian, the two children, the young lady of the Xie family, Eldest Young Master Xie's partner, and Second Young Master Xie's partner. There were only two tables of people.

On the male side, there were some males of the Xie family, Ye Hao, the county magistrate, and Young General Shen. Mrs. Xie had learned about Shen Qin's character from Ye Hao, so she deliberately arranged this.

"Please enjoy," Mrs. Xie said.

With her words, the others began to eat.

Ye Muyu was also interested in the food. It was the first time she had the chance to understand the food of a rich family.

After tasting them one by one, Ye Muyu came to a conclusion. Indeed, the people of Nanchang County preferred to eat light and sweet food.

She had wanted to try making spicy food like hotpot, but it seemed that it was not very suitable.

However, Oden should be suitable for winter. The taste was light, and it could warm the body.

"Scholar Chu's wife..."

"Mrs. Xie, if you don't mind, you can call me Ah Yu," Ye Muyu said gently.

"If that's the case, then I won't stand on ceremony. I'll call you Ah Yu from now on." Mrs. Xie smiled.

"Ah Yu, are you satisfied with the food tonight?"

Chapter 632: Inquire About the News

"I'm very satisfied. Thank you for your hospitality, Mrs. Xie."

"I heard that Ah Yu's cooking skills are very good. I wonder what's the difference between your cooking and the food here?" Mrs. Xie asked curiously.

Ye Muyu thought for a moment. She could not overshadow the host, so she simply replied, "Mrs. Xie, the food I make is just some home-cooked dishes. For example, your chef cooked the fresh shrimp and asparagus really well. He preserved the freshness of the shrimp and the crispness of the asparagus. When combined, the taste is refreshing and delicious."

"If it was at my house, when there aren't any fresh shrimps, I would use mushrooms as a substitute and cook a pot of soup with bamboo shoots. It would also be a dish. There's no particular technique for this."

After hearing this, Mrs. Xie replied, "That's true. After all, you're just cooking for your family."

"I wonder if Ah Yu has any thoughts of opening a restaurant?"

Ye Muyu was slightly surprised, not understanding why Madam Xie would suddenly discuss this matter at the dining table.

"I was rude. Ah Yu, don't mind me. After dinner, do you have time to talk to

"You're too serious, Mrs. Xie. I'm happy to be able to talk to you." Ye Muyu did not know why, but seeing that Mrs. Xie's eyes were clear and did not look like she was up to any tricks, Ye Muyu agreed.

Mrs. Xie nodded in satisfaction and even personally picked up some food for Ye Muyu.

Ye Muyu hurriedly thanked her. Feeling the curious gazes from the two young ladies of the Xie family, she was a little embarrassed. Even her own family members were probably curious about Mrs. Xie's behavior.

Fortunately, Mrs. Xie was only enthusiastic for a while before quietly accompanying everyone to eat.

Ye Muyu ate slowly. Madam Liu asked her in a low voice, "What's with Mrs.

"Mother, I don't know either. We can only take it one step at a time. Anyway, there's nothing they can use against us. Besides, I think Mrs. Xie really has something to tell me."

"That's true. The Xie family has a big business. We're not even as well-dressed as their maidservants." Madam Liu was relieved.

Ye Muyu explained in a low voice, "Mother, maidservants can also affect their reputation. If the maidservants are dressed in rags, people will gossip about them. Therefore, the more wealthy the family is, the more expenses they have.

We have to earn more money."

"You're right. I'll go back tomorrow and see if there's any land. I'll buy more. There's also the hillside. I have to make use of it. In the past, it was only used as firewood. I only cut down some trees when I was building houses. Now that I think about it, it's a waste." Madam Liu's horizons were broadened, and she was no longer limited to 180 square feet of land she had had in the past.

Ye Muyu had always wanted to make use of the firewood mountain. Hearing her words, he nodded. "Mother, you're right. I have the same idea. Let's talk about it when we get back."

"Alright, eat more. I heard that this shrimp is very nourishing, and isn't this chicken too tender?" Madam Liu sighed and told Ye Muyu to eat more.

Madam Qian had already eaten quite a lot. Because there were so many dishes, even if she only picked the dishes in front of her, she was already full.

Compared to the silence in the female tables, the male tables were much livelier.

Ye Hao had been helping Shen Qin to drink. He did not say anything. Besides drinking, he was also eating to make sure he did not get drunk.

“Master Xie, how much do you know about the Wang family?” Shen Qin asked directly, saving him the time to ask the Xie family.

“The Wang family has recently opened up shops in the nearby counties. There are two grocery stores selling good materials like silks, porcelain, vases, and so on. It seems that they have a new merchant ship..”

Chapter 633: Why Is Mrs. Xie Here?

Master Xie stroked the beard on his chin and explained the situation.

The Eldest Young Master and Second Young Master of the Xie family looked at each other. They had just returned two days ago, and they often went out to do business. How could they not know that a merchant could not run a business just because they had a ship? Along the way north or south, they needed to take care of everything. Not to mention the possibility of encountering bandits along the way, they needed channels to buy cheap goods in the northern capital. Otherwise, with the prices in Jing City and other places, it was simply a small profit.

Not only that, but the river would freeze in winter, which would also delay some time.

They could only do business for eight months a year.

The influence of these objective conditions was not mentioned. After all, doing business had risks.

Just based on their connections alone, how could an ordinary merchant be able to do business in Jing City without a backer?

If that was the case, then it was too easy to be an imperial merchant.

Therefore, there was really something fishy going on behind the Wang family.

The two of them thought to themselves.

Hearing this, Shen Qin nodded and said no more. After finishing his meal, he took Ye Hao and got up to leave.

Ye Muyu heard the voice and quickly got up. She found an opportunity to ask the servant of the Xie family to get Ye Hao.

When Ye Hao was called by the servant boy, he was about to leave with Young General Shen. When he heard that his sister was looking for him, he subconsciously stopped.

Shen Qin noticed his actions and turned to look at him in confusion.

The servant trembled and did not dare to say anything.

Ye Hao quickly cupped his hands and bowed. "Young General, it's my sister. She wants to talk to me. Please go to the living room next door and rest for a while.

I'll be back soon."

"Go, I'll wait for you."

Shen Qin let the servant bring him to the living room.

Ye Hao rubbed his red face from drinking and quickly walked to the small open room outside the dining room.

Ye Muyu was waiting inside. When she saw him coming, she handed him a bowl of hangover soup. "It's for hangovers. Big brother, drink it first. 'm just passing a message to you on behalf of my husband."

Ye Hao felt a little dizzy, so he did not refuse. After drinking two sips, he heard the news about the mountain bandits that Ye Muyu mentioned.

He only drank two mouthfuls of the hangover soup and felt very clear-headed. His voice was a little hoarse. "Sister, is what you said true?"

"Big brother, this information was given to me by my husband. I don't know how he got it either. You can go and check it out. You can only act when you are confident. After all, my husband isn't here. The details might change." "Tang Chuan should know Tang Rou's exact location."

"By the way, big brother, if you have the chance, help me introduce horseshoes to Young General Shen," Ye Muyu said. Of course, it was more convenient to do business with a general than to follow the soldiers. However, these generals should have their own temperaments and requirements. Ye Muyu could not

force them. She would give it a try first.

Ye Hao's mind was filled with the matter of exterminating the bandits. It was a bit abrupt to suddenly hear about business.

However, when he thought about how his family had relied on his little sister to survive all these years, he realized that doing business was also a way out, at least for ordinary people like his family.

"Alright." Ye Hao nodded.

"Then I won't keep you any longer. When you have time, come to my house and I'll personally cook a meal for you."

"Alright," Ye Hao agreed.

After watching Ye Hao leave, Ye Muyu turned around and was about to leave when she suddenly saw Mrs. Xie behind her. She was shocked, not knowing how much she had heard.

"You're here, Mrs. Xie?" Ye Muyu bowed to her..

Chapter 634: Reminder

"I heard what you said just now," Mrs. Xie went forward to help her up.

"I was the only one who heard it. I wanted to talk to you. I've already arranged for the servants to send Mrs. Chu and the two children back to rest. Shall we go to my courtyard?"

"It would be impolite for me to refuse your kind invitation." Ye Muyu did not expect her to say it directly. She felt more comfortable and was willing to be friends with Mrs. Xie, so she followed her to the inner courtyard.

Ye Muyu saw a garden full of lotus flowers when she arrived at the courtyard.

This season was the time when the lotus flowers bloomed.

Not only that but there was also a flower rack beside the courtyard. On it were all kinds of precious peonies, chrysanthemums, and so on.

Ye Muyu only took a glance and felt that it was too beautiful to look at.

“Do you like these flowers?”

“These flowers are all gifts that my eldest and second sons usually buy when they go out to do business. They said that since I like flowers, they would buy them whenever they saw beautiful ones. Actually, I don’t need so many. Ah Yu, take a look at which one you like and bring a pot back later. Flowers that are admired are beautiful. I don’t usually have time to admire them much. It’s a pity.” Mrs. Xie generously asked Ye Muyu to pick without any reluctance.

Without waiting for Ye Muyu’s reply, she continued, “You probably don’t know which kind of flower is easy to grow. These red peonies are easier to grow. You just need to water it in the pot. It’s suitable for your family.”

As soon as Mrs. Xie finished speaking, a servant girl immediately took away the flowers she had chosen, as if she wanted to give them to Ye Muyu directly.

“Oh right, I smell a faint fragrance on your body. What kind of flower sachet are you using?”

Ye Muyu did not even have the chance to reject the flowers. Mrs. Xie had already arranged everything neatly. She thought about it and felt that it would be unreasonable to refuse again, so she accepted it generously. She took off the handkerchief from her waist with a smile and handed it to Mrs. Xie. “Actually, it’s not a sachet. It’s made of white orchid essential oil. After soaking the handkerchief in it, it will have a faint fragrance.”

“Oh? Is this the smell of white orchids? It smells good,” Madam Xie sniffed curiously. “But I’ve never noticed this flower before.”

“It’s normal that Madam doesn’t know. After all, white orchids are just a type of ordinary flower from the countryside. It can’t be considered famous.”

“I’ve seen too little. If there’s a chance in the future, I’ll take a look too.” Mrs. Xie sighed sincerely.

“If you don’t mind, I’ll pick some and send them to the residence when I get back. If you like them, you can plant them too.”

“Thank you in advance.” Mrs. Xie gently patted the back of her hand and whispered, “Peonies and such are all hidden rules between rich families. The madams all compete with each other. I don’t really like them. Scholar Chu will definitely have some achievements in the future. You will have to face these madams and ladies more often in the future. If there’s anything you don’t understand, just come and ask me. Otherwise, you will be seen as a joke by others. There will be a lot of gossip behind your back.”

“Thank you for your advice, Mrs. Xie.” Ye Muyu sighed. Mrs. Xie had given her some advice. As the mistress of the Xie family, she definitely knew a lot about these things. However, she also had her own pride and was not willing to tell anyone.

This favor was not small.

Ye Muyu thought about how she could repay Mrs. Xie.

“You don’t have to be so polite with me. Do whatever you feel comfortable with. I’m only telling you the truth.” Mrs. Xie gently patted the back of her hand and ordered the servants behind her to leave..

Chapter 635: Tang Rou Recommended Herself?

Mrs. Xie brought Ye Muyu into the inner room.

A servant girl immediately brought tea in and poured it for the two of them before leaving.

“You must be anxious about what I told you just now.” Mrs. Xie went straight to the point.

Ye Muyu smiled embarrassedly, but at the same time, she said frankly, “I’m a little anxious. In the end, my husband is involved in this. It must be something very important. If it’s done well, it will be a credit to my brother. If not...”

There was no need to say anything else.

"I like your frank personality." Mrs. Xie smiled faintly.

"You probably don't know this, but Tang Rou once looked for me."

Ye Muyu was slightly surprised. Her biggest impression of Tang Rou was that she would do anything for status, that she was beautiful but ruthless, and that she had no bottom line. As long as it was beneficial to her, she would do it.

It was very scary to have such a person by her side. That was why she had decisively asked Madam Liu and Old Woman Ye to force the Tang family to make a stand.

After all, who knew when the other party would find an opportunity to rely on Chu Heng and destroy their perfect family... She did not like to fight with anyone.

The facts proved that she was right. The other party was indeed not a kind person.

Moreover, the death of the Wang family's Third Young Master was closely related to her.

How could this person be soft-hearted?

"Why did she come looking for you?" Ye Muyu asked curiously. Could it be that Tang Rou felt that she could do anything to Chu Heng, so she turned her attention to the Xie family?

Mrs. Xie picked up her teacup and took a sip. Her expression was indifferent. "I don't know where she found out. but I was looking for a wife for my third son in private. I had a few requests, so she recommended herself."

"Self-recommendation...?" Ye Muyu was not surprised at all. She felt that this was something Tang Rou would do.

However, the other party always seemed to know some information in advance.

Ye Muyu could not help but guess where she got so many connections. She had a guess, but she did not have any evidence for the time being, so she could not make a conclusion.

“Yes, she came to recommend herself.”

“Are you not satisfied with her?” Ye Muyu asked.

“That’s right. I don’t like this person. Naturally, I won’t keep her.” Mrs. Xie did not say why.

Ye Muyu replied, “ Since you don’t like her, then I’ll be frank. Actually, my husband once said something. Around the time before the Dragon Boat

Festival, Tang Rou drugged the Third Young Master in Fragrance Restaurant.

At that time, my husband was also there, so nothing happened. However, Tang

Rou’s actions were indeed too bold.”

No matter what era it was, a woman with such ruthless methods was always disliked, especially if the other party was scheming against him.

Mrs. Xie’s expression changed. “Is there really such a thing?”

“I have spoken too much.” Ye Muyu could not guess if Mrs. Xie knew about this. After all, Mrs. Xie had her own methods and status. If she knew it, the other party might have already known. She wanted to mention it so that at least the Xie family would be wary of Tang Rou.

It would be a little troublesome if they really fell into the other party’s trap one day.

Mrs. Xie's emotions returned to normal very quickly. "If you don't tell me, I won't even know if I've been schemed against by her."

"Actually, I've already investigated Tang Rou's background, so I rejected her suggestion."

"However, I could tell that she didn't give up. I don't know why she didn't want to be the concubine of the young master of the Wang family after she went to the Wang family." Mrs. Xie did not have the time to care about such a small character..

Chapter 636: Business

To Ye Muyu, as long as Tang Rou did not cause trouble for her, she could not be bothered to care about how heartless the other party was. In the end, it was fine as long as Tang Rou did not cause trouble for her family.

"To be honest, I don't know either. If it wasn't for the Wang family's Third Young Master's incident and the arrest warrant for Tang Rou, I wouldn't have known that she staying with the Wang family." Ye Muyu was telling the truth. These days, she had been worried about Chu Heng's luggage, and then she had been worried about the Wang family. She did not have the time to care where Tang Rou was.

However, the other party had instigated the Wang family to murder Tang Bao and then pushed the blame onto her family. She had almost caused the Tang couple to turn against her family. She no longer had a good impression of Tang Rou. She only hoped that the county government would catch her as soon as possible.

However, after reading Chu Heng's letter, she could see that Tang Rou was useful to Young General Shen. They probably would not be able to deal with her for a while.

"Don't worry. Although this woman is a little ruthless and mysterious, it's not impossible to deal with her. She just ignored me before. She's just a small fry."

"Let's get down to business." Mrs. Xie patted Ye Muyu's hand, telling her not to take Tang Rou to heart.

Ye Muyu could not help but wonder why there were so many parasites in some big families.

Could it be that the higher-ups did not know?

Ye Muyu did not think so. It was just like Mrs. Xie's reaction now. She knew about it but did not care. She just thought that since the other party would not be able to cause any trouble, she would not think much about this situation.

Presumably, there were many such situations, but would they always be in the right?

Not necessarily. Ye Muyu did not agree, but everything existed for a reason. She could not change other people's families, so she could only decide for her own family.

"Please speak, Mrs. Xie." Ye Muyu smiled.

Madam Xie said, "I overheard you talking about the iron horseshoes business with the young general. I'm also interested. I wonder if you've ever thought of custom-made iron horseshoes for mules and donkeys?"

"I have thought about this, but... Will the court allow it?"

Ye Muyu thought, "In ancient times, the iron cavalry was powerful not only because of the soldiers' bravery and good combat skills but also because of their good equipment. If there were many iron ores, why didn't they make more equipment?"

It could be seen that it was most likely because there were not enough resources.

"Of course, why wouldn't it be allowed? I never thought of doing this before. Although I haven't seen the iron horseshoes you mentioned, if the young general is satisfied, I believe that it will be easy to make them for mules and donkeys too."

This was a pleasant surprise. Ye Muyu thought that if she wanted to do business in the future, she would have to ask for more information so that she would not miss it.

“However, this is secondary. If we want to do business, we must wait for the young general to return to the barracks and submit a report to the court to help us clear the obstacles in front of us. Only then will it be easier.”

Seeing Ye Muyu’s surprised expression.

“Are you surprised that I’m being so straightforward?” Mrs. Xie chuckled.

“Actually, the young general might be willing for us to do this. In the future, Great Chu’s troops will only become stronger and stronger. It’s a good thing for both the outside and the inside.”

“You’re right.” Ye Muyu thought to herself, “That’s right. Only when the country is strong and stable can business develop. Only then can I do a lot of profitable businesses.”

“Actually, I called you here today to ask you if you’ve ever thought of cooperating with me to open a restaurant.”

“The Xie family already has a pretty good restaurant. Unless we open it elsewhere...” However, in this day and age, doing business also required connections. Not anyone could open a shop even if they wanted to..

Chapter 637: Talk

Otherwise, with the Xie family’s wealth, they would have opened shops around

the entire South Origin Prefecture.

Mrs. Xie said frankly, "I used my dowry to open the shop. Actually, I was worried that my third son would not be used to the food when he went out for his exams, so I wanted to open a specialty restaurant. When he goes to the prefecture or even the capital, he can also eat his hometown dishes."

"You're so good to Third Young Master, Mrs. Xie. Third Young Master will definitely be very happy if he knows." Ye Muyu smiled sincerely.

However, logically speaking, Xie Yu should have brought a chef with him when he went to take the exam. It would be easy to eat hometown dishes. There was no need to open a restaurant.

However, Ye Muyu felt that opening a specialty restaurant was also a selling point. If the taste was good enough, it could still be operated. As long as it was a business that could earn money, it was not a bad idea to try it.

"As long as he does well in the exams, it would be the greatest reward for me. If a family like ours can't produce scholars, things will only get harder and harder. I'm doing this for his own good." Mrs. Xie sighed slightly.

"Don't worry, Mrs. Xie," Ye Muyu said. "I heard from my husband that the Third Young Master is very knowledgeable. It won't be a problem for him to pass the exam."

"Did Scholar Chu really say that?" Mrs. Xie's face was filled with joy.

Only then did Ye Muyu realize that her husband was really knowledgeable. "My husband did say so. Mrs. Xie, don't worry."

"I just hope that he can pass the exam smoothly this time. Actually, my third son is still young and can wait. However, his second uncle suggested that he should go to the examination hall to try and gain some experience."

"Look at me, I'm going off topic. I'll get someone to prepare the account book for this shop first. Then, we'll discuss how we should cooperate."

“Your cooking skills are good. If you’re willing, just focus on cooking. My Xie family doesn’t lack money.”

“Ah Yu, the Xie family might have a lot of money, but money can’t buy craftsmanship. So, your culinary skills are really good.” Mrs. Xie patted the back of her hand.

Ye Muyu thought that although her cooking skills were not bad, it was not that good. It was just that she was a little more unique than others. It was not as precious as Mrs. Xie said.

However, the other party was obviously giving her face by saying this. She felt ashamed to accept it. She hurriedly waved her hand and said, “You’re flattering me, Mrs. Xie.”

“I’m telling the truth.” Mrs. Xie could not help but laugh.

Fifteen minutes later...

Ye Muyu left the backyard.

Coincidentally, it was when Master Xie returned.

She saw Master Xie pointing at the flowers and asking why a pot was missing.

Ye Muyu paid attention.

“Madam gave it to Mrs. Chu,” the servant beside Mrs. Xie replied.

“I see. Then I’ll go find similar flowers tomorrow to make up for it. These few days, those madams will definitely find an opportunity to visit. I can’t be mocked for missing a pot of flowers.”

“Yes, Master.”

Ye Muyu walked far away, but she could still hear the low laughter of the maids.

Clearly, Mrs. Xie's words were not fake. Those flowers were indeed used to enhance their family's foundation. Perhaps Mrs. Xie had been secretly mocked by those madams in this aspect and suffered a loss. Otherwise, Master Xie would not have such an attitude.

However, the other party had given her such an expensive flower just like that. It made her feel guilty.

Ye Muyu returned to the courtyard.

She heard the sound of two children playing.

The servant girl who sent her back stopped at the door. "Mrs. Chu, this servant will send you here. If you need anything, just look for the others on duty here."

"Sorry for the trouble." Ye Muyu nodded. After thinking for a while, she took out an unused handkerchief from her waist and handed it to her..