

Quick Transmigration: Underdog Turns out to be Untouchable

Chapter 26: Chapter 26: The Crime of Gender 26

Qin Shuangshuang's heart tightened, and at the same time, she felt Mrs. Bai, who was holding her, tremble and suddenly stiffen up. Her arms wrapped even more tightly around her.

As Qin Laoer entered, just as Qin Shuangshuang feared, he made a beeline for her and Mrs. Bai with great commotion. Qin Shuangshuang quickly struggled to pull her head out of Mrs. Bai's embrace!

Just as she managed to free her head, she saw Qin Laoer with bloodshot eyes, silently swinging a fist toward Mrs. Bai's back!

Qin Shuangshuang's eyes darkened. She pulled her right hand out from Mrs. Bai's embrace and just barely caught Qin Laoer's wrist before his fist hit Mrs. Bai's back. Qin Shuangshuang gripped Qin Laoer's wrist with great strength. Although her body was weak, she used all her might to hold onto Qin Laoer's hand.

Qin Laoer was unaware that Qin Shuangshuang's grip on his wrist not only didn't weaken compared to usual but was even stronger!

He felt as if Qin Shuangshuang's grip was about to snap his wrist, reminding him of every painful memory that lasted for days every time Qin Shuangshuang had grabbed him like this!

Regret instantly filled Qin Laoer's heart. He shouldn't have listened to the third brother's instigation to come back and punish Mrs. Bai and the second daughter-in-law to vent his mother Old Chen's anger! Who would have thought that even after such severe injuries, Qin Shuangshuang still had such strength.

Today, Qin Shuangshuang did not plan to let it go easily. She yanked hard on Qin Laoer's wrist, pulling him towards her. Qin Laoer stumbled onto the bed, slamming his stomach just below the ribs into the edge of the bed, letting out a sharp breath and a low cry of pain!

Qin Shuangshuang let go, and Qin Laoer slumped from the bed to the floor, clutching his ribs and moaning, glaring fiercely at Qin Shuangshuang. But as soon as he looked up, he saw Qin Shuangshuang's dark eyes staring back at him.

There was no emotion in Qin Shuangshuang's beautiful dark eyes, just a silent gaze, which inexplicably felt chilling!

A chill ran down Qin Laoer's back, and fear for this Qin Shuangshuang rooted itself in his mind, causing his gaze to drift unsteadily! Not daring to meet Qin Shuangshuang's eyes again.

As Qin Laoer averted his eyes, Qin Shuangshuang buried her head back into Mrs. Bai's embrace. After a while, she keenly heard Qin Laoer let out a small sigh of relief, allowing Qin Shuangshuang to quietly relax as well, her body weak and helpless!

Moments ago, Qin Shuangshuang had used up all her strength. Had Qin Laoer tried again, she wouldn't have the energy to stop him. Fortunately, Qin Laoer was frightened by her and didn't continue his madness.

Mrs. Bai, holding Qin Shuangshuang, wanted to turn around and check when she heard Qin Laoer cry out in pain behind her. Qin Shuangshuang quickly hugged Mrs. Bai tightly, mumbling playfully, "Mama, I'm sleepy!"

Mrs. Bai immediately focused her attention back on Qin Shuangshuang, holding her and patting her back gently to coax her back to sleep.

Qin Laoer, cowardly to the point of being selectively aggressive, was so scared by Qin Shuangshuang that despite being silently chastised, he dared not do anything more. He simply got up and noiselessly moved to sleep on the other side of the bed.

The time to heal passed quickly, with each day being peaceful. However, old Chen's curses could still be heard morning and night but not for long, as in the morning she had to go thresh rice early, and by evening, she was too exhausted to do much cursing.

The most delightful change for Qin Shuangshuang was Mrs. Bai's transformation. Mrs. Bai seemed to completely abandon her patience, really not doing any work and focusing solely on caring for Qin Shuangshuang, making her meat in various ways every day.

For the first time, Qin Shuangshuang discovered that her mother had such good cooking skills! In the past, Mrs. Bai mostly did the hard work like feeding pigs and chickens or cleaning the yard, while the lighter tasks like cooking were usually done by Little Chen.

Anyway, whenever others had leisure time, it was Mrs. Bai who had to cook. When there was work in the fields, Mrs. Bai had to be there. Wherever heavy work was, that's where she had to be!

Now that Mrs. Bai cooked special meals for her every day, Qin Shuangshuang discovered that her mother had such skillful hands, able to craft even wild vegetables into something special! Qin Shuangshuang felt deeply satisfied every day.

Touching her non-existent double chin, Qin Shuangshuang thought that if she continued to eat like this without moving, by the time she healed, Mrs. Bai might have fed her into a little chubby girl!

While Qin Shuangshuang was healing, spring planting season arrived, and the work in the fields immediately became busy. Although the Qin family had a lot of labor hands, they also had a lot of land – a full fifty acres, which still left them short on strong laborers.

Especially now with Mrs. Bai solely tending to Qin Shuangshuang and Old Chen spending every day threshing rice, they suddenly lost two laborers, leaving them even more overwhelmed.

Mr. Qin initially wanted Mrs. Bai to help with the work, but the village chief had expressly forbidden her from working. Mr. Qin dared not defy the chief, so he subtly hinted for Mrs. Bai to request to work herself, but Mrs. Bai was determined to play dumb and refused to take the bait!

Mr. Qin was infuriated by Mrs. Bai's lack of awareness, but with her not taking the hint, he was helpless. So he had to let the Eldest Lady, Si Lang, and Wulang take over the cooking, while Little Chen and Mrs. Fang were sent to the fields, taking on what used to be Mrs. Bai's role.

The Eldest Lady, despite not having done much heavy work, grew up learning household chores and cooking in a family where both grandparents and parents favored boys over girls. Thus she led Si Lang and Wulang to cook for the whole family but was still able to handle it, though with some difficulty!

Contrary to the Eldest Lady, Little Chen and Mrs. Fang were scolded harshly by Mr. Qin as soon as they hit the fields. The reason was simple: as mature women, combined they couldn't even match up to half the efficiency of the thin and small Mrs. Bai!

Mr. Qin had long been accustomed to his daughter-in-law Mrs. Bai, who was as effective as a man. The sudden change to Little Chen and Mrs. Fang, who hadn't worked in the fields for years, was such a stark drop in productivity that he couldn't help but get angry.

Came home that day, he didn't even take time to eat before he started scolding the two daughters-in-law in the yard. And if you listened closely, you would realize that his scolding words were the same as those Old Chen used to use.

Qin Shuangshuang knew that while Mr. Qin was scolding Little Chen and Mrs. Fang, he was actually using them to indirectly express his dissatisfaction with her mother, Mrs. Bai. Unfortunately, with the village chief and many villagers watching over and protecting them, Mr. Qin, being the one in the wrong, dared not openly cause trouble but could only express his dissatisfaction in such a veiled manner!

Afraid that Mrs. Bai would feel upset from listening, Qin Shuangshuang considered taking Mrs. Bai next door to Aunt Hao's house to escape. Maybe they could help out there. It was better than listening to Mr. Qin's tirades.

Finally convincing Mrs. Bai, the mother and daughter had just stood up when a half-grown boy from the village barged in, panting heavily, and told Mr. Qin, "Quick, you must go take a look at the threshing floor! Something's happened to the old lady!"

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Old Chen's in trouble! This really startled everyone in the courtyard. Mr. Qin rushed out like the wind towards the threshing floor.

Although Mr. Qin valued his face more than Old Chen, after all, they had been husband and wife for most of their lives.

Just like Mr. Qin once said, they've weathered storms together for decades, there's definitely love there. Otherwise, he could've easily divorced the troublesome Old Chen with just one word previously. In that situation, no one would have said Mr. Qin was heartless, but he didn't do that!

It shows that Old Chen is still important to him. It's just that many times a man cares more about saving face in front of others than his own feelings.

Now, suddenly hearing about Old Chen's accident, Mr. Qin was naturally anxious. As soon as he left, the rest of the people followed him out in a rush, adults and children all swarming towards Old Chen's rice pounding threshing floor.

With this happening, Qin Shuangshuang and Mrs. Bai, who planned to visit Aunt Hao, had to follow to see what was wrong with Old Chen. Moreover, Qin Shuangshuang was somewhat curious about what happened to Old Chen, so she dragged Mrs. Bai to follow behind the crowd.

A large group of people gathered on the threshing floor, whispering to each other. When they saw Mr. Qin and his group arriving, they quickly scattered, revealing Old Chen lying on several grain bags laid side by side.

Old Chen's eyes were tightly closed, lying motionless, like she was dead from a distance!

Mr. Qin, seeing Old Chen like this, felt his head buzzing, almost dizzy, and his body swayed as if he was about to sit on the ground. Mr. Qin hurriedly supported him!

Mr. Qin steadied himself, pushed away Mr. Qin's hand, and quickened his pace to Old Chen's side, trembling as he checked her breathing!

Mr. Qin, Qin Laoer, Qin the Third, plus Little Chen, Mrs. Fang, and a group of children also rushed over, squeezing the originally watching villagers far away.

Warm air evenly blew on his fingers. Mr. Qin let out a sigh of relief and collapsed weakly on the ground. Fortunately, she was still breathing.

"Old man, don't worry. Your old lady has no major issues, she just fainted from exhaustion. Just take her back to rest!"

After Mr. Qin confirmed Old Chen was okay, the villagers present began to explain the situation to him belatedly.

Only then did Mr. Qin completely relax. With Mr. Qin's support, he stood up and said to Qin Laoer, "Second son, quickly carry your mother home so she can rest!"

Qin Laoer hesitated. A few days ago, when he hit Mrs. Bai and was grabbed by Qin Shuangshuang, he got bruised. His side was still faintly aching, and he didn't dare use strength, but he didn't dare contradict Mr. Qin's words, so he reluctantly squatted down and carried Old Chen on his back!

Once he stood up with Old Chen on his back, his side throbbed sharply due to the sudden strain, causing Qin Laoer's face to change and he accidentally dropped Old Chen to the ground!

It was coincidental that Old Chen fell sideways from Qin Laoer's back, and someone had left a rake on the ground, causing Old Chen's head to bump right into it!

Old Chen was quite lucky, narrowly avoiding hitting the rake's teeth, preventing a bloody incident, but still getting a visibly large bump on her forehead!

The originally unconscious Old Chen was startled awake by the bump, clutching her forehead and wailing in pain as she staggered around. Once slightly relieved, she ran towards Qin Laoer, raising her palm to smack him head-on.

Old Chen, despite her age, was still strong from work, and she beat Qin Laoer into holding his head.

While hitting, Old Chen cursed Qin Laoer, "Ungrateful bastard! You're venting your anger on me for your wife and kids! You deliberately threw me on the rake, trying to kill me! Today I'll beat you, you unfilial beast!"

Big beast begets little beasts! I should never have given birth to you, only to let you harm me! Marrying a wife and forgetting your mother, it's clear you resent me! All for a worthless brat..."

Old Chen spat more and more viciously, the foul words all pouring out, clearly also cursing Qin Shuangshuang!

Her words were so filthy that even the sharpest women found it unbearable, feeling ashamed and uncomfortable just hearing them. Normal people couldn't utter such things at all.

At the same time, Old Chen's cursing made the villagers, who originally felt some sympathy for her fainting from exhaustion, uncomfortable. They initially thought Old Chen was so honest accepting punishment, fainting from work out of remorse for almost hacking her granddaughter, only to realize it wasn't like that at all!

Especially seeing Qin Shuangshuang and Mrs. Bai's mother-daughter duo arriving later, standing there pale and pitiful, many felt even more heartache and thus more dislike for Old Chen!

"Pfft!"

A young woman couldn't help but laugh at this farce, "This old lady is quite amusing. She was clearly exhausted and fainted, so how come she's so lively upon waking, not at all like someone who fainted from exhaustion?"

If I were exhausted at my young age, I couldn't even move. How come someone older fainted yet woke up so sprightly?

And as soon as she woke up, she directly rushed at the one who dropped her without mistaking. Does this old lady have special abilities to hear the surroundings even while fainting?"

At her words, Old Chen's movement paused, and her face flushed. The young woman's sarcasm hit the mark. She hadn't really fainted from exhaustion!

To put it plainly, Old Chen, unused to labor due to years of pampering, couldn't cope with the hard work of pounding rice and wanted to feign fainting to dodge, ideally making the village chief lessen her punishment, or at least reduce it for a period!

Old Chen calculated that with the punishment added by Mrs. Wang later, she had to pound rice for nine months altogether. Just thinking about it made her feel like the sky was dark and the future hopeless!

After much deliberation, she thought of this feigned fainting plan, only to be dropped by the useless Qin Laoer. In a moment of anger, she forgot to cover it up, revealing her act to avoid the punishment!

"Old Chen, you're really clever, pretending to faint. Even if you actually did faint, you can't escape this punishment!" An obviously angry voice sounded from behind Old Chen, scaring her to shiver!

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It turned out to be the village chief who came over. With such a big incident happening in the threshing ground, naturally, there were villagers who went to report to the village chief. After all, the village chief is not only the chief but also the Clan Leader of the Qin Clan, so he has to handle matters whether they concern the clan or the villagers, especially since Old Chen's problem arose from his punishment!

The village chief was extremely anxious all the way over, fearing that if Old Chen really got into trouble because of his punishment, the villagers would criticize him for being too harsh, which would certainly harm his reputation!

Who knew that when he hurriedly reached the threshing ground, he saw Old Chen, full of energy, scolding and hitting Qin Laoer. After listening to the villagers' gossip, he realized that Old Chen was pretending to faint!

This infuriated the village chief. Old Chen's actions were a challenge to his authority as the village chief and Clan Leader. A chief and Clan Leader need to rely on authority to keep the villagers in line. If Old Chen genuinely pretended to be severely punished, he would be forced to change her punishment.

Going back on one's word and being forced to change a decision is a huge challenge to his authority. It may even lead to more people disregarding his words in the future, making it impossible for him to govern the entire village! How could the village chief not be angry!

This was no longer just about punishing Old Chen for Qin Shuangshuang's sake. The village chief, in a fit of anger, directly extended Old Chen's punishment to a year. Even if she faints from overwork in the future, unless Old Chen never wakes up, she must come to work as soon as she's awake!

Hearing this news, Old Chen wavered, almost genuinely fainting from the blow. However, she forced herself to stay conscious, fearing that further angering the village chief would result in more punishment, leaving no end in sight.

Qin Shuangshuang rolled her eyes slightly, then timidly walked to the village chief's side, tugging at his sleeve. When the village chief looked down and saw it was Qin Shuangshuang, he softened his stern expression, gently patted her head, and gave a warm smile, "Is it the young miss? You must have been frightened just now, right?"

Qin Shuangshuang shook her head, first glancing at Old Chen, then bit her lip and said, "Village Chief Grandpa, my grandmother is old, and her body won't be able to handle working all day!

My Eldest Aunt is usually very filial to my grandma. Maybe you could let my Eldest Aunt help my grandma so that they can work together, allowing the punishment time to be changed to half a day. This way, my grandma would have half a day's rest and wouldn't get exhausted to the point of pretending to faint.

Moreover, my Eldest Aunt is young and healthy, and she can take care of my grandma while they work, making it easier for her. Wouldn't this be the best of both worlds?"

It's common practice for children to repay their parents' debts, and it isn't too much for the younger generation to bear the punishment for the elders' mistakes. Moreover, Qin Shuangshuang dared to suggest this because, as the victim, she wasn't afraid of implicating her mother Mrs. Bai. It didn't make sense for a victim's mother to be punished with labor.

In the past, Little Chen had often troubled her mother. Milling rice is hard work, and it would be nice to seize this opportunity to put Little Chen in her place and relieve Mrs. Bai's grievances. Plus, Qin Shuangshuang was sure that the Qin Family would all agree to her suggestion, except for Little Chen herself.

Though the village chief had spoken harshly in his anger earlier, the incident today had frightened him as well. He was somewhat afraid that if Old Chen truly wore herself out, it would reflect poorly on his reputation. But in order to maintain his authority, he couldn't soften his stance and was forced to increase the punishment.

Now, with Qin Shuangshuang's words, the village chief had a graceful way out. He didn't know about Qin Shuangshuang's little scheming. He just thought this child was kind-hearted and had helped him out, so he stroked his beard in satisfaction and smiled, "You really are a kind-hearted child. Alright, for your sake, I'll agree!"

The village chief wasn't the only one pleased, as Mr. Qin was also happy. Although Old Chen had lost face again today, he surprisingly didn't feel angry this time, since Old Chen pretending to faint from exhaustion had somewhat alarmed him.

Mr. Qin had always intended for one of the family's two daughters-in-law, either Little Chen or Mrs. Fang, to replace Old Chen in labor. However, he couldn't easily say this. Now that Qin Shuangshuang had spoken up for him, Mr. Qin couldn't help but feel a bit more favorable toward the granddaughter he never really cared for.

Mrs. Fang, who had been keeping a low profile, quietly sighed in relief. Recently, she had been avoiding Mrs. Bai, choosing to work more rather than siding with Old Chen. It turned out to be wise, as when the young miss stirred up trouble, the first to face the

brunt was Little Chen, who had been bullying Mrs. Bai! Mrs. Fang was conveniently ignored.

As for Little Chen, she was stunned! A bolt from the blue—this was it! Calamity from the heavens—this was it!

Milling rice is backbreaking and tedious work, even more painful than working in the fields! Little Chen, who was unwilling even to work in the fields, naturally had no desire to mill rice!

But as a daughter-in-law, she should respect her elders. If she dared refuse, she would have nowhere to stand in the village. Besides, she depended on Old Chen, both as her aunt and mother-in-law, to live an easy life, so she dared not refuse and offend Old Chen.

Little Chen was on the verge of tears. She forced a faint smile, her gaze pleading as she looked at her husband, Mr. Qin, hoping he would sympathize with her and help her refuse.

Seeing Little Chen's expression, Qin Shuangshuang couldn't help but secretly smirk. Mr. Qin, by nature, might be described as rational and steady, but more critically, he's cold and selfish, even more so than Mr. Qin. He often makes decisions in silence, and he's absolutely ruthless!

A refusal would tarnish his reputation, but agreeing could bring a good one. Little Chen expecting him to help her refuse was wishful thinking.

Sure enough, not only did Mr. Qin not help Little Chen refuse, but he also instructed her, "Mother's health is not good. When you work with her, take extra care not to let her get too tired! I know you are virtuous—my apologies for the extra burden on you!" Not only did he not help, but he also added pressure.

What could Little Chen do? She was nearly in tears. Her husband, Mr. Qin, had already called her virtuous, so how could she dare not be virtuous!

Ultimately, Mr. Qin, as her husband, was her sky, more intimidating than Old Chen and Mr. Qin. Mr. Qin obviously wanted her to help his mother with the work, so she had no choice but to comply. At this moment, Little Chen felt a sense of being isolated and helpless.

Her aunt and mother-in-law, Old Chen, was someone she'd known for years through flattery. She wasn't surprised Old Chen and Mr. Qin were willing, but she hadn't expected her bedfellow of so many years to be so indifferent to her!

Everyone, engrossed in their decisions, finalized things without her input. Even as they escorted Old Chen back home, Little Chen hadn't uttered a word, distressed at the pain in her chest, but no one seemed to care about her feelings.

Everyone surrounded and escorted Old Chen and Mr. Chen back home, only to see a group of people busily moving in and out of their courtyard as soon as they reached the front door!

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People were coming in and out, carrying buckets and basins, and there was thick smoke coming from the kitchen—it was on fire! The villagers coming and going were helping to put out the fire!

At this moment, everyone forgot about comforting Old Chen and rushed home in a panic, not even bothering to thank those who were fighting the fire. They grabbed tools and joined the firefighting efforts.

Fortunately, the fire wasn't too big; it was just a small pile of firewood in the kitchen that caught fire. Although it looked fierce with thick smoke, it was quickly extinguished. Inside, only the walls were blackened, a wooden cabinet for holding bowls and plates was burned, and some ceramics were broken—there were no other losses or injuries.

After extinguishing the fire, Mr. Qin and a few others repeatedly thanked the villagers who helped. They should have hosted a meal for those who assisted, but the house was now a mess of water and ash. So, everyone left without staying.

Once everyone had been seen off, Mr. Qin and Old Chen collapsed onto the only dry spot they could find. After a long day of seeding, they were already exhausted, and they were overwhelmed after dealing with two emergencies without rest or food.

Mr. Qin wiped the soot from his face, and his expression darkened as he looked at his daughter, the Eldest Lady, and the three children of Qin the Third—Si Lang, Wulang. The children were huddled in a corner, looking dazed and frightened.

Seeing Mr. Qin's gaze, the three children shivered together and lowered their heads without daring to speak. Mr. Qin frowned and asked coldly, "What on earth happened? How did the house catch on fire? Hurry up and explain!"

The Eldest Lady shuddered; she had always feared her father, who was always stern and hardly ever glanced at her. He seemed icy and inhuman, and in his eyes, she felt like a stranger!

His current gaze at her was cold and ruthless, filled with scrutiny and pressure, making the Eldest Lady feel very uncomfortable.

The Eldest Lady lowered her head, not daring to meet Mr. Qin's eyes, and stammered through the sequence of events.

It turned out that everyone had gone to the threshing ground to see Old Chen. After Old Chen woke up and started chasing to hit Qin Laoer, Little Chen remembered that meals hadn't been prepared at home and sent the Eldest Lady to cook with Si Lang and Wulang.

When cooking, farmers used a lot of firewood; the Eldest Lady carried stacks of dry wood to the stove, lit a fire to boil water, intending to steam buns first.

Si Lang and Wulang were already hungry and took some leftover cold buns, skewered them on sticks, and roasted them near the stove's fire.

As the two children roasted buns and helped the Eldest Lady feed dry wood to the stove, someone unwittingly knocked a spark onto the pile of firewood, and by the time they noticed, the dry wood had ignited.

The dry wood ignited quickly, spreading the flames to all the firewood and causing the kids to panic. Frightened, they ran out, hesitated, then realized they needed to put out the fire! Quickly, they grabbed basins and buckets and ran to the well for water!

Unluckily, most villagers were drawn away by Old Chen's commotion at the threshing ground, leaving the surrounding area almost empty.

The children, being small and weak, had little water to help. Fortunately, a few passing villagers noticed the fire and called others nearby for help! They assisted in fetching water and putting out the fire, and with help, it was finally extinguished!

Luckily, the kitchen didn't have much to burn, and the Qin house was made of mud bricks, not wood and thatch, so it wasn't easy to catch fire, preventing major losses. The kitchen just needed some repairs, and the dish cabinet had to be rebuilt. A lot of pottery was broken during the chaotic fire rescue.

Mr. Qin's expression remained gloomy. It was the busy farming season, yet time had to be taken to repair the kitchen and buy new items— not only was there a financial loss but also more work. Everyone in the family felt gloomy.

Qin the Third remarked with a tone of mockery, "It's ultimately the Eldest Lady's fault. Si Lang and Wulang are just kids; how could you let them handle the firewood? Without thinking, look how much was destroyed. Would selling you be worth the cost of the damage?"

Qin the Third had reasons for saying this. In the Eldest Lady's account, it was clearly his sons, Si Lang and Wulang, who caused the fire, and they didn't refute it, showing silent

agreement. Afraid they'd be blamed, he preemptively pushed all the responsibility onto the Eldest Lady.

Little Chen was already upset, and Qin the Third's comment ignited her frustration further. The Eldest Lady, out of fear, instinctively stood close to her mother Little Chen.

As Little Chen's anger flared, she raised her hand and slapped the Eldest Lady, then grabbed her and continued to beat her while scolding, "I'll beat you, you useless girl! You can't even cook without setting the house on fire. What else can you do, useless!"

The Eldest Lady was shocked and started to cry from the pain and grievance after being beaten by her mother.

Little Chen's annoyance grew at the sound of her crying. She kicked the Eldest Lady, who stumbled, rolling to her father Mr. Qin's feet!

Mr. Qin watched his daughter, his face expressionless, and as she rolled to his feet, he didn't feel sympathy; instead, he kicked her in the chest and stomach!

Showing no mercy, the thin and small Eldest Lady was kicked hard by Mr. Qin, flying out and landing on the ground without a sound, clutching her chest and stomach, writhing in pain like a prawn.

Even as the Eldest Lady lay there, Little Chen wouldn't relent, stepping forward to continue her beating!

Qin Shuangshuang was stunned by this sudden change. She knew her family wasn't fond of her and the Eldest Lady, and the Eldest Lady had been sold off like merchandise in her previous life. But she never expected the parents would beat their daughter to death! Qin Shuangshuang couldn't just stand by.

Regardless of the Eldest Lady's past kindness or the slight friendliness in this life, Qin Shuangshuang couldn't ignore her plight. She stepped forward, grabbing Little Chen's leg as it lifted to kick the Eldest Lady.

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Qin Shuangshuang had great strength, and Little Chen suddenly couldn't move her feet. Her body swayed twice, and with a cry, she sat down on the ground, furiously saying to Qin Shuangshuang, "Second Lady, you've taken it upon yourself to meddle in your elders' affairs!"

Qin Shuangshuang ignored her and first lowered her head to check on the Eldest Lady's condition. She saw that the Eldest Lady's face was white as paper, sweat the size of beans rolled down her forehead, even her hair was wet, and there was a shocking trail of blood running from the corner of her mouth!

Qin Shuangshuang frowned, lifted her head with some anger, and said to Little Chen, "I've often heard people say that even a tiger doesn't eat its cubs, but you, as parents, are even worse than tigers! Can't you see the eldest sister is already this injured? How can you still lay hands on her to beat her!"

After speaking, she turned to glare at Qin the Third, saying, "Third Uncle, you really have a talent for turning black into white with your words. Wasn't it Si Lang and Wulang who started the fire? Yet here, by just moving your lips, you shifted all the blame onto the eldest sister!"

Who hasn't had kids doing chores like starting a fire? Why are Si Lang and Wulang so precious that they can't do such work? Do I need to go find the village chief to reason this out, to see whose responsibility this really is, and then publicly announce our family's fine tradition of easily beating girls to death!"

At the last sentence, Qin Shuangshuang fiercely glared at Mr. Qin and Little Chen, making these two feel a jolt in their hearts!

Qin the Third was embarrassed and angry at having his thoughts exposed by Qin Shuangshuang, but he had experienced her sharp tongue before, knowing he couldn't outtalk her. And to try and beat her would be impossible too; with Qin Shuangshuang's monstrous strength, even one finger could pin him down.

Qin the Third could only mutter a couple of low sounds unwillingly and keep his mouth shut. Qin Shuangshuang's words not only silenced him but also made Mr. Qin nervous.

Mr. Qin feared that Qin Shuangshuang, this grandchild beyond his control, would really spread the word about this incident. With several sons in the family waiting to marry, if this reputation got out, no women would dare marry into the family!

Mr. Qin rarely glared at his usually most valued eldest son, blaming him for his restless leg, wondering why he kicked the Eldest Lady. Although the Eldest Lady was just a girl, she could fetch a bride price once grown up, but if beaten to death, there would be nothing left.

Mr. Qin spoke coldly, "This matter ends here. No one is to blame the children anymore. Consider the lost items as old things being replaced by new ones.

Eldest son, tomorrow go buy the missing things back. The kitchen can be repaired after the planting season. This is settled, there is still work in the fields tomorrow. Eldest daughter-in-law and third daughter-in-law, go take some rice and vegetables from the warehouse, hurry and make a meal, eat and go rest!"

When the kitchen caught fire earlier, the rice, flour, and vegetables inside naturally suffered damage. Luckily, farmers typically eat the grains they produce themselves, and

most of the grain is stored separately in a granary, with only a little for two or three days kept in the kitchen, so the loss was minimal.

Everyone agreed, and Qin Shuangshuang felt that Mr. Qin was doing too little, too late. She was quite dissatisfied, but she couldn't be bothered with them now because the Eldest Lady, who had been curled up in her embrace, suddenly spat blood and fainted.

Qin Shuangshuang was alarmed internally, picked up the Eldest Lady, and ran towards her room. Although the Eldest Lady was a ten-year-old girl, she wasn't much bigger than Qin Shuangshuang, making her feel light as she carried her. Her body felt very thin, showing she hadn't been living well.

Qin Shuangshuang placed the Eldest Lady on the bed. She lay there unconscious, her face frighteningly pale. Mrs. Bai followed Qin Shuangshuang in and couldn't help but feel some pity seeing the Eldest Lady's condition; she loved her daughters dearly and couldn't understand Mr. Qin and Little Chen's actions.

She reached out and touched the Eldest Lady's sweaty yet ice-cold forehead, frowning, "Eldest Brother and Eldest Sister-in-law have gone too far! The Eldest Lady is their own daughter! How could they lay hands on her!"

Qin Shuangshuang frowned too, feeling anger surge in her heart, but the urgent matter now wasn't to be angry, "Mom, the Eldest Lady's condition is very bad. It looks like she was kicked internally injured by Uncle. We need to call a doctor for her, or else something terrible might happen!"

Mrs. Bai was also worried but felt helpless, "We should call a doctor for the Eldest Lady, but we don't have a single copper coin on hand. If we ask her parents for it, you saw how ready your aunt was to beat the Eldest Lady to death today - where could we get the money from them for a doctor?"

Qin Shuangshuang was confident she could get the money if she asked, but it would definitely take a lot of arguing, and the Eldest Lady couldn't wait in her current state. A doctor must be called immediately.

Qin Shuangshuang anxiously glanced around the empty room; there wasn't even any furniture worth selling. Her eyes inadvertently fell on the strings of smoked meat hanging in the room, and they couldn't help but light up!

Their family had no money, but she had the meat! This meat was hard currency, even teachers at the school accepted meat as a stipend. Surely, it could be used as a doctor's fee.

Qin Shuangshuang hurried forward, pulling down eight or nine strips of dried meat in one go—weighing more than five pounds. She quickly instructed Mrs. Bai, "Mom, you

take care of the eldest sister first, I'll go get the doctor." With that, she ran out with the dried meat.

At the head of the village, there was a family named He, one of the few outsider families in the village. Old He's family had an ox and often drove carts to give villagers a lift to town, charging one or two copper coins in fare. They could carry about ten people in one trip, making substantial earnings daily. Their life was quite good.

The last time Qin Shuangshuang met with an incident, Qin Yuan had asked for Old He's ox cart to fetch a doctor. This time, Qin Shuangshuang went straight to Old He's house. By coincidence, Old He was just hitching the ox cart, with about ten villagers carrying large baskets and small baskets waiting to board.

Tomorrow was the big market day in the town, held every two weeks. People from ten miles around flocked to the town market. Many villagers brought items to sell in town, and the money they earned was the primary source for buying clothes and daily necessities for the whole year.

But the stalls in town weren't fixed, and there was no curfew in small places like this. Many villagers went a day early to secure a good spot for selling. These villagers waiting for the cart were headed to town early to claim their places.

Qin Shuangshuang, ignoring the villagers around her, ran straight over and thrust a piece of dried meat into the hands of Old He, who was about to drive the cart, anxiously saying, "Uncle He, please do me a favor. My eldest sister was beaten to near death by my uncle. I need to fetch a doctor. Uncle He, could you please take me to fetch the doctor alone?"

Then she bowed to the villagers around, pleading, "Uncles, aunts, grandpas, and grandmas, please wait a little longer. My eldest sister is dying and needs urgent help. I beg you all to lend a hand!"