

Rebirth: Regaining Joyful Moments

#Chapter 13 - 013 No Walls Are Impenetrable - Read Rebirth: Regaining Joyful Moments Chapter 13 - 013 No Walls Are Impenetrable

Chapter 13: Chapter 013 No Walls Are Impenetrable

"By the way, Nianhua, when you went to the lake on the back hill yesterday, you weren't really thinking of giving up, were you? What were you doing there?" Zhong Juan looked at Xu Nianhua curiously, her eyes searching.

Zhong Juan was only a year older than Xu Nianhua, and no matter how hard she tried to conceal her thoughts, they were nonetheless written all over her face.

"I, I just felt uncomfortable inside, so I went to the back hill to be alone for a while." Xu Nianhua looked down, remembering that yesterday she fell into the lake because she saw some things she shouldn't have, which caused her to lose her footing and tumble in.

Time had passed so long that Xu Nianhua couldn't recall what she had seen, but now, with Zhong Juan actively inquiring, she began to vaguely remember.

"You went to the back hill to find peace in the middle of summer, not afraid of snakes?" Zhong Juan said teasingly, her eyes fixed on her, and as if in passing, she asked, "There's nobody in the back hills, aren't you scared?"

"What's there to be afraid of, it's quite clean around there," Xu Nianhua replied.

"So, did you run into anyone on the back hill?"

Zhong Juan was afraid that Xu Nianhua had seen something and had come specially to ask about it. Now, after asking for so long and getting answers that weren't to the point, Zhong Juan was somewhat worried. Had she really seen something?

"Who are you referring to?" Xu Nianhua lifted her gaze and saw the worry at the bottom of Zhong Juan's eyes. She said, "I didn't see anything, didn't notice anything, I just accidentally fell into the lake, and luckily my second brother came to look for me, so he rescued me."

That meant she hadn't seen anything.

The huge stone in Zhong Juan's heart slowly settled to the ground. They had left in a flurry yesterday and had been on tenterhooks ever since.

Just yesterday, she heard that Xu Nianhua fell into the lake on the back hill, and today she heard about the Xu Family splitting up. After a lot of thought, Zhong Juan still decided to visit Xu Nianhua to find out what she might have seen yesterday.

"Your brother is really good to you." Zhong Juan, knowing she hadn't seen a thing, let out a sigh of relief.

"Yes, both my eldest brother and my second brother are indeed very good to me."

Xu Nianhua smiled and said, "Sister Juan, you keep asking about the back hill, I thought you were there, too."

Xu Nianhua's words made Zhong Juan's heart skip a beat, and she said with an uneasy look, "How could that be?"

"Exactly, if you had been on the back hill, you certainly would have saved me if you saw me fall into the lake, right?" Xu Nianhua blinked.

Zhong Juan's walls were not airtight, as the saying goes, if you don't want people to know, don't do it at all. Her face looked even worse. Yesterday, when they heard a noise, their souls almost flew away in fright; who would dare to see what was happening and who had fallen into the lake?

It was only after returning home did she find out that it was Xu Nianhua who had fallen into the lake.

Suddenly, Zhong Juan thought of something, if, if Xu Nian'an hadn't gone to find Xu Nianhua, would she have...

"I would, of course I would." Zhong Juan's voice rose high, but even the heightened pitch couldn't hide her guilt.

"Sister Juan, speaking of which, the news of me falling into the lake has already spread everywhere overnight. In this world, there are indeed no walls that can keep out the wind, and no secrets that last forever," Xu Nianhua said with a double meaning.

Zhong Juan responded offhandedly, "Yes, the village is just so big, any small disturbance and everybody knows."

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"How come she's here?" When Ji Ying returned home, she happened to run into Zhong Juan leaving.

"She probably came to check on me," Xu Nianhua said nonchalantly. If it weren't for her second brother, she would have lost her life.

But, seeing that she had turned misfortune into a blessing, Xu Nianhua had deliberately hinted with a double meaning, whether Zhong Juan would listen or not, that was no longer her concern.

Chapter 14: Chapter 014 Picking Vegetables

After the division of the property, all the dried rice was given to the Xu Family, leaving Xu Qinghe's family with only the freshly harvested rice.

Xu Nianhua and Ji Ying worked together to sun the rice. Under the blazing sun, the mother and daughter frequently turned the rice and also had to clean out some straw and rice dust which, if it fell on one's skin, was particularly itchy.

"Nianhua, stop turning them and go rest in the house, or you won't be able to sleep later tonight." Ji Ying's face was flushed red, reluctant to let her daughter also endure the sun.

"I'm fine, it's faster with two people." Xu Nianhua flashed a smile, wiped the sweat from her forehead, and continued turning the rice.

Xu Nianhua purposely wore long sleeves and trousers and donned a straw hat. Although tired, if she left all the work to Ji Ying, Ji Ying would have been especially strained.

Although there wasn't much rice at home, they used the oldest drying mats, the kind that was nearly worn out, and even the grain rake was just made by Xu Qinghe early this morning.

After turning the rice, Xu Nianhua went to the vegetable garden to pick vegetables.

Ji Ying wanted to go, but Xu Nianhua wouldn't allow it.

Xu Nianhua had a good reason, "Mom, you stay at home and keep an eye on the rice, turn it a few more times. This way, I can also sneak a little break."

Her going to pick vegetables had a reason, knowing Liu Sanmei's character, Ji Ying probably wouldn't be able to pick much.

Xu Nianhua carried a large basket, planning to fill it up completely.

The vegetable garden was located in a hollow next to the Xu's home, giving off a terraced field feel, one patch of soil after another, layer upon layer ascending, appearing lush and vibrant.

It was now the peak harvest time for the vegetable garden.

Cucumbers, string beans, eggplants, water spinach, rootless vegetables, amaranth, chili peppers, and broad beans.

In the village, every household grew vegetables. The Xu family had a large family, and Ji Ying was hardworking; they cleared more land for vegetables and grew a variety.

Xu Nianhua picked whatever she saw, not even sparing the sweet potato leaves. The freshly picked vegetables looked very fresh and pleasing.

"Xu Nianhua, are you planning to pick all the vegetables in the garden?" Liu Sanmei visited the garden daily and, seeing Xu Nianhua's basket brimming with vegetables, her eyes widened in awe!

"Grandma, our family of five needs to eat vegetables. Moreover, although we've divided the family property, these vegetables were painstakingly grown by my mom, from hoeing the ground to planting the seeds, to later fertilizing; all were done by my mom. Grandma, you being such a reasonable person, would certainly not mind my picking them, right?"

With an innocent expression and her bright, clear eyes, Xu Nianhua seemed to say: If you forbid me from picking these vegetables, you are being unreasonable.

Liu Sanmei's good mood from the division was completely used up at this point, anger stuck in her throat, neither rising nor falling. She thought about the impending dissatisfaction in the village towards their family because of the division. If it also got out that she even forbade Ji Ying from picking vegetables...

These thoughts flashed through Liu Sanmei's mind. She snorted lightly and said, "When did you become so articulate? It's not that Grandma is stopping you from picking, but you're picking too much. These vegetables can't be eaten so quickly, they will spoil."

"Grandma, we have a lot of mouths to feed." Xu Nianhua offered a bright smile, her hands not pausing for a moment. The basket now full, she pulled up seven or eight stalks of edamame in front of Liu Sanmei. Edamame could be kept for several days without problems since it was muddy and included the stems and leaves.

Chapter 15: Chapter 015 Skills Improved

"Grandma, I picked seven edamame, and there are still dozens left."

Ji Ying smiled and said, "I still have to go home to cook, Grandma. Be careful not to fall."

With one hand on the basket and the other holding seven fresh edamame pods, Ji Ying headed home with a full load.

Liu Sanmei watched her leave, muttering to herself, wondering how this wretched girl had become so quick-witted?

Well, her temperament had changed a bit, unlike before when she could barely fart.

On her way home, fully loaded, Ji Ying didn't care what Liu Sanmei thought; her mind was busy planning delicious dishes for her parents and two brothers.

"Eh, why did you pick so many vegetables?"

When Ji Ying saw Xu Nianhua with a basket on one arm and edamame in the other, she hurried over to take the items from her hands.

"This is our food for several days; I had to pick a good amount." Xu Nianhua said cheerily, knowing that with Liu Sanmei's temperament, the vegetable garden would probably be stripped bare tomorrow, and they would have to wait for it to grow back before they could pick again.

"Mom, let's make a few dishes to go with our rice today." Xu Nianhua set the vegetables in the kitchen. Even things like eggplants, which were washed with cold well water, could be preserved for a few extra days.

She chose two large eggplants, planning to steam them, sauté long beans with chili peppers, and make a spicy-sour sweet potato leaves dish. Even without meat dishes, these were enough to complement the rice.

The old house was old, but behind the kitchen was an ancient press pump next to a large stone tank, which made fetching water very convenient.

From starting a fire to cooking and washing vegetables, Xu Nianhua managed everything in an orderly fashion.

By the time Ji Ying came in with the turned-over rice grains, Xu Nianhua had already steamed the rice.

"You just recovered from illness, don't work too hard." Ji Ying stepped forward, wanting to help, but found that the dishes were already washed, prepared, and arranged neatly.

Xu Nianhua, beaming a sweet smile, said, "Mom, try my cooking."

"You silly girl, I know you can cook." Ji Ying looked at her own daughter, now nineteen, thin and tall, with a pretty face. In her eyes, no other girl in Shuangzhu Village could compare to her daughter.

No, not just in Shuangzhu Village, but in all of Gaoliang County, she thought her daughter was the most beautiful.

Just that Xu Nianhua always liked to keep her long bangs, hiding her beautiful eyes.

It's better to hide; given their situation, being too pretty could bring trouble.

Xu Nianhua, smiling sweetly, said, "Mom, take a rest."

Xu Nianhua quickly prepared three dishes. Although their family was not well-off, she made sure the portions were generous.

"I'll call Dad and the others to come and eat."

Ji Ying braved the scorching sun to call them from the fields, knowing that in a few days, after finishing planting the late rice, they could finally relax.

Xu Nianhua made sure to cool the boiling water in the cold well water. By the time Xu Qinghe and the others got home, they could enjoy some ice-cold water. The table was set, dishes arranged, and the rice was served, just waiting for them to come home to eat.

Seeing their backs drenched in sweat, she handed over towels she had prepared earlier.

"Little sister, are you not feverish anymore?" Xu Nian'an immediately reached out to touch her forehead to confirm she was well, then took the towel to wipe his sweat. They were so hungry their stomachs were growling.

"Why does the food taste so good today?"

"Especially these sweet potato leaves, so sour and spicy, really satisfying."

In no time, the rice in everyone's bowls was nearly gone. Knowing that Xu Nianhua had cooked the meal, Xu Nian'an praised, "Little sister, your cooking skills have improved."