

Rebirth: Regaining Joyful Moments

#Chapter 21 - 021 Grandma Cai - Read Rebirth: Regaining Joyful Moments Chapter 21 - 021 Grandma Cai

Chapter 21: Chapter 021 Grandma Cai

"A bucket of Mung Bean Jelly can make about forty or fifty bowls, that's a rough estimate, then adding brown sugar, a bowl for twenty cents, that's about right,"

Xu Nianhua felt that twenty cents a bowl was still very cheap.

"Even if it's forty bowls, that's eight yuan!" Xu Nian'an quickly calculated the figures and projected, "Eight yuan a day, and two hundred forty yuan for a month of thirty days!"

Two hundred forty yuan!

Elder brother worked at the brick factory for half a year and couldn't earn this much.

"Second brother, you're thinking too much. Mung Bean Jelly is easy to make, who in the village doesn't know how to make it? We just got a head start. Do you think this can be sold every day?" Xu Nianhua pursed her lips, fully aware in her heart that Mung Bean Jelly was indeed a short-term small business. If she could save a little starting capital, she would be satisfied.

"But will people buy it for twenty cents?"

Xu Nian'an murmured all the way until they reached the county, by which time Xu Nian'an was almost drenched. Looking around, he asked, "Little sister, where shall we go to sell?"

They couldn't possibly just carry it around and walk everywhere, could they?

As they entered the town, Xu Nianhua began looking around. The county town was completely different from what she remembered, lacking tall buildings, and even few decent streets; it seemed quite shabby, and quite a letdown from the county town in her eyes.

Caught off guard by Xu Nian'an's question, Xu Nianhua thought briefly before replying, "Let's head to the side of the market where there are more people."

Nowadays, this county town is nothing like the future, thriving everywhere.

If you want to sell Mung Bean Jelly, naturally, pick a place with lots of people.

"Second brother, let's find a family with a house by the street," Xu Nianhua suggested. Selling Mung Bean Jelly naturally had to be cool and delightful. They had rushed all the way here, and even if they had brought bowls and utensils, it was already half-past one!

The sun was fiercely hot, and the Mung Bean Jelly needed to be ice-cold, giving the best flavor when eaten.

Not far from the market, there were some houses. After some selection, Xu Nianhua and Xu Nian'an chose a house belonging to the Cai Family.

With her sweet-talking skills, Xu Nianhua hung the Mung Bean Jelly into the well water. It wouldn't be long before it could be served ice-cold.

"Grandma Cai, here's some for you to try."

Xu Nianhua specifically brought a bowl of Mung Bean Jelly for Grandma Cai.

Grandma Cai was reluctant at first, but Xu Nianhua, with her sweet words about needing her help in the future, managed to convince Grandma Cai to accept the bowl of Mung Bean Jelly.

Xu Nianhua, noticing Grandma Cai's hesitation, asked and found out, Grandma Cai wanted to save it for her grandson who was playing outside.

"Grandma Cai, there's plenty here."

Once the Mung Bean Jelly was cold, Xu Nianhua brought another bowl for Grandma Cai.

The Mung Bean Jelly was cold enough in the well water, and the siblings then began setting up near a large tree opposite the Cai family.

Xu Nianhua arranged the Mung Bean Jelly on a borrowed table, a brand new bucket on top, and a few pairs of clean bowls and utensils beside it.

Xu Nian'an, having never sold anything, stood there not knowing what to do.

"Mung Bean Jelly for sale~"

Even though Xu Nianhua covered most of her forehead with her bangs, shielding her beautiful eyes, her voice was clear, and with a smile on her face, passersby couldn't help but stop and take a look.

Auntie smiled and said, "Little girl, every family knows how to make Mung Bean Jelly, I'm afraid you won't be able to sell any."

Xu Nian'an instinctively looked towards Xu Nianhua.

Xu Nianhua wasn't worried at all. With a sweet smile, she scooped up a bowl of Mung Bean Jelly, crystal clear like ice, opened the prepared brown sugar water, scooped a spoonful, and poured it over. The white Mung Bean Jelly paired with the red sugar water was visually enticing, stirring up an urge to eat it.

Chapter 22: Chapter 022 We Made Money

"Auntie, look, my Mung Bean Jelly is made with well water, and even this brown sugar syrup, I've used a good half pound of brown sugar. Plus, I intentionally hung the jelly in the well for half an hour. So when you eat it now, it's nice and cold, perfect to relieve the heat."

"Making Mung Bean Jelly is especially time-consuming and laborious. Make too much, and it's a waste; make too little, and it's not worthwhile, right?"

"Auntie, my brother and I made these Mung Bean Jelly ourselves, very clean."

Xu Nianhua was eloquent, and combined with the scorching sun outside, it was really tempting for people to have some.

"How much is this?" the auntie was somewhat interested.

"It's only two jiao."

As soon as Xu Nianhua spoke.

The auntie immediately complained, "Two jiao can buy half a pound of sugar though."

"Auntie, two jiao might get you half a pound of sugar, but you can't get this ready-made Mung Bean Jelly for that price."

Seeing the crowd that had gathered around, Xu Nianhua said, "Auntie, having Mung Bean Jelly in the summer is great. It not only cools you down and rehydrates, but it also aids digestion and can boost your immune system. It's troublesome to make it yourself, but buying a clean bowl of Mung Bean Jelly to cool off is also a good idea."

"Besides, my Mung Bean Jelly is a generous portion, the syrup is ample, and you don't need to make it yourself, and it's only sold for two jiao—what a good deal."

"How about this, auntie, try some first." Xu Nianhua took the initiative to offer the auntie a taste.

The auntie felt somewhat embarrassed.

"Auntie, please try some, it's on the house." Xu Nianhua smiled as she handed over a bowl of Mung Bean Jelly, "This is our family's secret technique, producing the most authentic Mung Bean Jelly you can find."

"It's free?"

After being assured by Xu Nianhua repeatedly, the auntie tried the Mung Bean Jelly.

It was ice-cold with the sweetness of brown sugar, truly driving away all the heat. Before she knew it, the auntie had finished the whole bowl.

"Delicious!"

After downing a bowl of Mung Bean Jelly, the auntie felt very comfortable. Although two miao for a bowl was not cheap, it was about the same as buying snacks or seeds.

Her grandson always ate these things, and if she brought home a bowl of Mung Bean Jelly, he would surely enjoy it.

"Young lady, give me two bowls of Mung Bean Jelly." The auntie said cheerfully, handing over six miao, "It's not easy for you to make this Mung Bean Jelly."

"Alright."

Xu Nianhua happily began to prepare the jelly, but then she thought, there weren't many bowls left. If she gave them all to the auntie, she would run out.

Mung Bean Jelly for two miao, if she had to give away the bowls too, that would be a big loss for her.

"Young lady, hold on, I just bought a big enamel cup. Just fill that up for me." The auntie's suggestion immediately resolved her problem.

Xu Nianhua cheerfully took the auntie's large cup, washed it in the nearby bucket, filled it with two bowls of Mung Bean Jelly, and topped it up with plenty of brown sugar syrup, but only charged the auntie four miao. She said, "Auntie, we agreed the first bowl was on the house, so I won't charge you for it."

With the auntie's approval, the number of people who followed and bought the Mung Bean Jelly increased. Everyone lived nearby, so it wasn't tiring to go home and bring a bowl or cup.

Xu Nianhua scooped the jelly, while Xu Nian'an took care of the money. In no time, the bucket of Mung Bean Jelly was nearly empty.

On the way back, Xu Nian'an, holding the seven yuan and five miao, said excitedly, "Little sister, we made money! Selling Mung Bean Jelly really makes money!"

"Of course, but we should really thank the auntie today. If it weren't for her, things wouldn't have gone so smoothly."

Xu Nianhua smiled brightly; today had gone quite well, but as for tomorrow...

Don't worry, the Mung Bean Jelly they made, using pure well water, tasted good too. Besides, there were plenty of people in the county, so there ought to be business in the following days.

Chapter 23: Chapter 023 Rabbit Grass

"Isn't that the truth."

Thinking of the lady who had bought the first bowl of Fruit Jelly, and how business picked up afterwards, Xu Nian'an's conversation was filled with gratitude towards her.

Carrying the burden on his shoulders, Xu Nian'an suddenly said, "Little sister, when did you become so eloquent?"

Xu Nian'an glanced at Xu Nianhua, remembering how the old Xu Nianhua had a kind heart but wasn't much of a talker, preferring to smile with her lips pursed, her eyes curving beautifully when she did.

But, he couldn't shake the feeling that Xu Nianhua had become more lively now.

Especially just now, while hawking their goods, not to mention Xu Nianhua, a young girl, even he wouldn't have known what to do if he were standing there!

Yet Xu Nianhua wasn't shy nor afraid, calling out continuously and dealing calmly with Mrs. Wu's doubts about the price, making Nian'an feel like his little sister had changed.

Xu Nianhua's heart tightened, worried that Xu Nian'an might suspect something. She smiled sweetly and said, "Big brother, I just saw how other people were selling things, so I shouted out too. Thinking about it, I'm still a bit nervous!"

Xu Nianhua swallowed, changing the subject as she spoke, "Although we have quite a lot of Fruit Jelly at home, I think we need to pick more."

"I was just saying,"

Xu Nian'an listened to her and didn't think too much of it. His little sister becoming more lively was a good thing.

The siblings, filled with hope for the future, headed home like that.

Upon returning home, they found Ji Ying tending to the vegetable garden, about to ask how well the Mung Bean Jelly sold, only to see them set down their buckets, don a long-sleeved shirt, grab a couple of woven bags, and run towards the back mountain.

"Nian'an, Nianhua, where are you going?" Ji Ying called out from behind.

Xu Nianhua shouted back, "We're just going to the back mountain, we'll be back soon."

Xu Nian'an and Xu Nianhua, the brother and sister, ran to the back mountain, locating several Fruit Jelly trees and filled their woven bags with all the fruits.

The Fruit Jelly trees in Shuangzhu Village weren't exceptionally numerous, but they weren't scarce either.

The two woven bags were brimming full.

Xu Nian'an picked from the trees, while Xu Nianhua followed behind, collecting the fallen ones.

To avoid letting others know they were carrying Fruit Jelly, they also filled the bags with a lot of rabbit grass.

On the way back, whenever Xu Nian'an encountered someone, he'd say they had gone to the back mountain for rabbit grass.

Dragging two pieces of firewood behind her, Xu Nianhua didn't mind that it wasn't much, for the family was indeed in need of firewood, and even two pieces were appreciated.

"The rabbits at home have just been born; we don't need so much rabbit grass, do we?" Ji Ying looked at the two bags of rabbit grass and couldn't help but tease.

The four newborn rabbits they got in the division were just born; the others took the grown ones, leaving them an extra of the young.

For the four little rabbits, the amount of rabbit grass they consumed was very, very small.

"Hehe."

Xu Nian'an grinned and flipped over the rabbit grass on the top, revealing that the woven bags were full of Fruit Jelly.

"Did you two strip the mountain clean of its Fruit Jelly?" Seeing the two bags of Fruit Jelly, Ji Ying asked, "Even if you sold out of Mung Bean Jelly today, there was no need to pick them all, right?"

"Mom, this Fruit Jelly is so great. Even if we don't use it all now, we can dry it and save it for next year."

Xu Nianhua certainly didn't think there could be too much. With more than a month until school started in September, they needed to make even more Mung Bean Jelly!

Chapter 24: Chapter 024 Not in Vain

"Mom, do you know how much money I made today?" Xu Nian'an took out his money pouch. Calling it a pouch was a bit generous—it was actually just a small cloth bag sewn from scraps by Ji Ying for them to carry things in.

"How much?" Ji Ying asked casually, as she was almost done with a piece of land and had already started cooking dinner.

Ji Ying thought, for Xu Nian'an and Xu Nian'an's mung bean jelly sales, making even one yuan would be very impressive.

"Guess," Xu Nian'an teased.

Xu Nianhua looked at her younger brother affectionately. Unlike their straightforward and simple eldest brother, Nian'an was the mischievous type.

"Two yuan?"

Ji Ying guessed a number she believed to be impossible.

After all, Xu Nianji at the brick factory worked hard all day and only made one yuan.

"More than that," Xu Nian'an said, his smile bright.

Ji Ying raised her eyebrows and added fifty cents.

"More than that."

"Nian'an, you had only one bucket of mung bean jelly today. Could it really have sold for five yuan?" Ji Ying felt her heart skip a beat. What did earning five yuan in one day mean?

Thirty days a month, that would be one hundred and fifty yuan a month!

That, that was an unimaginable number.

"Mom, you better count it yourself."

Seeing Ji Ying guess back and forth and still not get it right, Xu Nian'an simply placed the money in Ji Ying's hand—there were fifty-cent, ten-cent, twenty-cent coins, and even a one-yuan bill; a small stack of money, all in Ji Ying's hand.

"Is, is this what you made today?" Ji Ying felt dizzy.

She, she, she wasn't seeing things, right?

This money, it looked like more than five yuan.

Ji Ying counted the money three times before she dared to believe it was truly seven yuan and fifty cents!

"We also gave a few bowls to Grandma Cai and the first lady who bought some, quite a few bowls indeed," Xu Nianhua recounted, tallying up on his fingers. If they hadn't given away those three bowls, they would have made eight yuan today.

Excluding the cost of brown sugar, they made at least seven yuan.

"How much did you sell each bowl for?" Ji Ying's heart in her chest beat even faster.

No wonder the two kids had rushed to the hill to pick fruit jelly as soon as they got home.

"Twenty cents."

Xu Nianhua had barely finished speaking when Ji Ying's eyebrows nearly leaped off her face, "That expensive, and you sold out?"

"Mom, twenty cents isn't expensive. It's hard work making it!"

"Besides, every bowl we give others is more than full!"

Xu Nianhua felt she was quite generous!

In the future, mung bean jelly that costs three to four yuan a bowl is everywhere.

Now selling for only twenty cents, she hadn't even raised the price to thirty cents yet!

If Xu Nian'an knew what Xu Nianhua was thinking, he would be shocked speechless; he felt guilty about setting the price at twenty cents, constantly insisting Xu Nianhua fill the bowls generously, completely full, otherwise, he felt uneasy!

That night, when Xu Qinghe found out they'd made seven yuan and fifty cents, he was also surprised. He said with a laugh, "The bucket I made yesterday wasn't for nothing."

He hadn't slept most of the night, rushing to finish making those two buckets.

"Dad, Mom, looking at this, we'll be able to save up for our school fees very soon," Xu Nian'an said, no longer feeling like he should give up on school.

During the summer vacation, by taking the opportunity to sell more mung bean jelly, he still wanted to go to school, because only by getting an education and learning more could he earn even more money in the future.

"Good, keep up the good work," Xu Qinghe encouraged them, not saying much else. He saw clearly that mung bean jelly was something every household could make. Today was the first day, perhaps people were just intrigued by something new. After a few days, when more people started making it, it wouldn't be so easy to earn as much.

Chapter 25: Chapter 025 No Worries About Tuition Fees

"Two pounds of pipe bones and one pound of meat, please." When Xu Nianhua bought bones and meat, he didn't even blink.

Now pork is only 0.9 yuan per pound, truly a bargain...

Unfortunately, he didn't have much money on hand, otherwise, Xu Nianhua wished he could eat meat or bone soup every day.

He has been here for some days now, but Xu Nianhua hadn't even had a taste of meat soup, which really made him crave it.

"Little sister, have you been craving meat for too long? But, both bones and meat, isn't that a bit too much?"

It was only after they left the meat stall that Xu Nian'an cautiously spoke to Xu Nianhua. He was very careful, afraid that Xu Nianhua would feel upset, explaining, "I just think, in this hot summer, the meat can spoil easily."

"Second brother."

Xu Nianhua smiled, her round, almond-shaped eyes curving up as she said, "The meat and bones are for making soup for our family, and this one pound of meat, I plan to cook for elder brother who works at the brick factory. It must be very hard for him."

The brick factory required no skills, only strength.

The hard labor, the inherent difficulties, needs no further mention. The meals at their brick factory were good enough if they could fill the stomach, let alone contain meat, and it was considered good if the dishes had a trace of oil floating on them.

A few days ago, when she saw her elder brother, he was both dark and thin, skinny like a bamboo pole. Now that they finally had money to buy meat, Xu Nianhua naturally wanted to make something delicious for him.

"Little sister, elder brother's care for you hasn't gone unnoticed." Initially, Xu Nian'an thought it was too wasteful. After hearing her explanation, he immediately felt guilty, as he hadn't thought of their elder brother.

The siblings walked home happily; Xu Nian'an went to the mountain to pick Fruit Jelly and also carried some firewood back.

Xu Nianhua got busy in the kitchen. They still had broad beans, fresh broad beans, which after blanching in hot water, were stewed with the pipe bones. Even though the meaty aroma hadn't emerged yet, Xu Nianhua was already salivating.

It must have been too long since she last had meat.

Xu Nianhua thought to herself and began planning the evening meal. They still had soybeans, adding slices of pork to stir-fry would definitely be delicious; another dish would be pepper stir-fry, two dishes and a soup, guaranteed to fill the family's stomachs.

As for the meatballs she intended to make for her elder brother, Xu Nianhua planned to do it tomorrow. The weather was too hot; she would hang the meat in the well first to cool down, which would keep it from spoiling. She would prepare it tomorrow and take it to her elder brother, ensuring that the meatballs would not spoil.

Xu Nianhua methodically started steaming the rice, shelling the soybeans, washing the peppers, keeping some meat aside for the night's cooking. The rest of the meat, she packed all in a basket, then hung it in the well. The cold temperature inside the well ensured that the meat would not spoil, acting like a natural refrigerator.

"Oh, it looks like our Nian'an and Nianhua are earning money again," Ji Ying, returning from the vegetable field she was tending in the nearby ravine, hadn't even entered the kitchen when she smelled the aroma of the meat.

"Mom."

Just as Xu Nianhua finished shelling the soybeans and was washing them, hearing Ji Ying's voice, she chirped away about the events of the day, and also mentioned that they had earned nine yuan today, cheerfully saying, "In just three days, we have earned

more than twenty yuan, I think, with the tuition of second brother and me, we don't have to worry anymore."

"Good," Ji Ying said with a smile, "Unlike other children who need their parents to pay for their schooling, our Nian'an and Nianhua can earn and pay their own tuition!"

In Ji Ying's words, there was undeniable pride.