

## Rebirth: Regaining Joyful Moments

### #Chapter 31 - 031: Come Back - Read Rebirth: Regaining Joyful Moments Chapter 31 - 031: Come Back

*Chapter 31: Chapter 031: Come Back*

"Okay."

Xu Qinghe also felt that it was better to keep the selling of mung bean jelly a secret. Although it was now acceptable to do business, in reality, no one was actually doing it!

Two bowls of mung bean jelly, packed in a lunch box, were not of much value, but Xu Qinghe's thoughtfulness made Xu Zhong happy.

Thinking that Xu Qinghe was still the same as before the household split, Xu Zhong's recent despondence finally gave way to a slight smile.

Liu Sanmei, on the other hand, showed a face of disdain but still feigned concern, saying, "I know you adore the girl Nianhua, and you make her mung bean jelly whenever she wants. Wouldn't that be at least a whole basin full each time? Whether I eat it or not isn't important, but Jiaojiao came home today too, so I should save it for Jiaojiao to eat."

What Liu Sanmei meant was: You make a whole basin of mung bean jelly and only send over two bowls? Are you treating us like beggars?

Xu Zhong frowned, following Liu Sanmei's train of thought. Just moments ago, he felt that Xu Qinghe was showing filial piety, but now he started to think this display of filial respect seemed fake.

Xu Qinghe's complexion changed, and as he was not good with words, he stuttered for a long while, saying, "Dad, Mom, I..."

"This is my dad's way of showing filial piety to my grandparents, and Dad personally made this mung bean jelly. If Xu Jiaojiao wants to eat mung bean jelly, she could ask Uncle to make it. Uncle loves his daughter so much he will definitely make it for Xu Jiaojiao."

With those words, Xu Nianhua lifted her gaze towards Liu Sanmei with a sweet smile.

She felt fortunate in her heart that she had followed along. Otherwise, her father's good intentions might have been misunderstood!

Father showing filial piety to Grandpa is natural and right. This step-grandmother, though biased, still allowed Dad to grow up safely, so she deserved some respect as well. But what about Xu Jiaojiao?

Why should the things Dad makes be sent over eagerly?

"Dad, make a few more bowls next time, I only ate one bowl, and it wasn't enough," Xu Nianhua coquettishly said, also indicating to Xu Zhong that there wasn't much mung bean jelly made at home.

"Right, we didn't make many bowls at home, just thought of offering some to Dad and Mom to taste."

Xu Qinghe had also calmed down by then, smoothly following his daughter's words.

"You are thoughtful," Xu Zhong said, his previously displeased expression instantly turning into a beaming smile, "Elder son, come back."

Even though Xu Qinghe felt that Xu Zhong wanted him to return, without a clear statement, he just couldn't trust it in his heart.

Now, with Xu Zhong's words, a surge of emotion threatened to overflow from Xu Qinghe's eyes.

Xu Nianhua's eyes flashed with surprise, then she quickly lowered her gaze, containing her emotions, and stood by Xu Qinghe's side. She said nothing, but she wondered what choice her father would make.

Xu Nianhua's hand involuntarily tightened.

The room fell silent as Xu Zhong looked earnestly at Xu Qinghe. The family home had indeed felt emptier without Xu Qinghe and his family.

Liu Sanmei was anxiously watching Xu Qinghe. She had gone to see Xu Qinghe the day before and had made her intentions clear, but Xu Qinghe had still firmly rejected her. After returning, she had even complained to Xu Zhong. She never expected that Xu Zhong, without uttering a word, still wanted Xu Qinghe to come back!

Everything in the Xu Family belonged to her son, Xu Qingjiang!

"Dad, I..." Xu Qinghe could easily refuse Liu Sanmei because he knew that she wasn't genuinely hoping for his return, and he had never felt the so-called maternal love from this stepmother. The only thing he was grateful for was that she allowed him to grow up safely.

*Chapter 32: Chapter 032 She must have been the one who let it out*

Xu Qinghe didn't explicitly refuse Xu Zhong, he merely expressed that he needed to consider it a bit more. Having just separated the family, to return would seem like a three-year-old child playing house.

On the way back, Xu Nianhua was silent the whole time.

"Nianhua, do you also not want to go back to the Xu Family?" Xu Qinghe looked at the much quieter Xu Nianhua and asked, "Why did you come?"

"Dad, I..." If I hadn't come, who knows how your kindness would have been wasted!

Yet, looking into Xu Qinghe's eyes, Xu Nianhua found herself unable to utter another word.

Xu Qinghe was honest and trustworthy, truly a good-natured person, but he was also genuinely affectionate towards his children. Moreover, ever since he was young, within the Xu Family, he was like the Xu Family's permanent laborer. Before he got married, all the heavy, bitter, and tiring labor was done by Xu Qinghe.

After he got married, Xu Qinghe worked alongside Ji Ying. Whenever Ji Ying occasionally grumbled with dissatisfaction, Xu Qinghe often played the role of peacemaker.

Xu Qinghe valued the father-son relationship deeply and was a man of great sentiment.

If it weren't for the issues from a previous life, Xu Nianhua certainly wouldn't have been so adamant about wanting to separate from the family.

But it's different with Dad.

"Alright, let's not think about returning to the Xu Family for now. We've just separated, and even if we were to go back, it wouldn't be so soon." Xu Qinghe cautiously glanced around to make sure no one was listening before asking, "Do you think Grandfather will... if he finds out we made a lot of Mung Bean Jelly?"

Xu Qinghe had never lied before.

"Dad, no one knows how much Mung Bean Jelly we made. Besides, every time your second son carries the load, it's after noon when few people are around. Even if someone does see us, we just say we are carrying some sour and astringent plums, which aren't worth much money. No one will think too much of it."

"Dad, this is a white lie." Xu Nianhua certainly knew her father's nature, and she advised, "Dad, it's not that we don't want to give away more Mung Bean Jelly, but

Grandma is biased. In the end, Grandfather and Grandmother might not get a single bite. Besides, Grandfather is getting on in years, and though Mung Bean Jelly is good, it's somewhat cold. What if he eats too much and gets diarrhea?"

"How about, once we earn some money, we send two pounds of meat to Grandfather?" Xu Nianhua wouldn't prevent Xu Qinghe from showing filial respect to his father. When times got better, she knew the proper respects wouldn't be lacking.

"Good, you're thoughtful as always. But first, we need to earn money. I'll buy it after we get paid this month," Xu Qinghe replied.

Xu Qinghe looked at his daughter with relief. At the time of the separation, when Xu Nianhua spoke those things, he had thought she held resentment towards the Xu Family. But now he realized...

His daughter was truly kind-hearted.

"Well, you go on home, and I need to go to work." Xu Qinghe was a carpenter, the kind that traveled around for work. Coming over this morning to deliver Mung Bean Jelly had already delayed him a bit.

"Dad, please be careful."

Xu Nianhua and Xu Qinghe went their separate ways. As soon as she arrived home, she saw the courtyard was noisy and chaotic.

What had happened?

As Xu Nianhua entered the courtyard, before she could figure out what had happened, she saw Zhong Juan lunging at her like a madwoman, screaming, "Xu Nianhua, I'm going to tear your mouth apart!"

"I'll make you pay for spreading nonsense and chewing over people's words!"

"It's all your fault!"

Every time Zhong Juan thought about being caught the day before and the beating she suffered at the hands of her father upon returning home, her heart felt exceedingly bitter. It must have been Xu Nianhua who told on her!

*Chapter 33: Chapter 033 Almost Lost My Life*

"Be careful."

Xu Nian'an was a step slow, pushed Zhong Juan to the side, and at the same time stretched out his long arm to pull Xu Nianhua close. Just like protecting a calf, he firmly

shielded Xu Nianhua behind him. Xu Nian'an furrowed his brows and said, "Zhong Juan, if you want to go crazy, go do it at someone else's house. You have no shame, what does that have to do with my little sister?"

With Xu Nian'an's broad shoulders and tall figure standing in front of her, Xu Nianhua felt extremely happy.

Having a brother is really great.

Xu Nianhua stepped forward and said, "Zhong Juan, your issues have nothing to do with me."

"I don't believe it," Zhong Juan stared fixedly at Xu Nianhua.

Xu Nian'an stood by on guard, fearing that Zhong Juan might do something drastic again.

With a calm gaze, Xu Nianhua looked at Zhong Juan and said, "If you don't want others to know, don't do it yourself."

"Bullshit, besides you, no one else knows about our affair, that day on the back hill..." Zhong Juan tried to mention what happened on the back hill that day, but upon second thought, that incident was embarrassing enough, did she really want to bring up the back hill too?

If so, others would definitely gossip endlessly, saying she and Gao Jianshe had been involved countless times.

"Xu Nianhua, this isn't over between us!"

Zhong Juan angrily dropped these words and turned to leave.

"Little sister, are you okay?" Xu Nian'an looked at Xu Nianhua with concern. Even though their family wasn't well off, his little sister had always been cherished and pampered. Xu Nian'an wouldn't allow anyone to bully her.

"I'm fine." Xu Nianhua shook her head. Such a small matter trying to scare her? They were really underestimating her.

"Has Zhong Juan lost her mind? What does she want with you? You, do you know about her and Gao Jianshe?" Ji Ying glanced at her well-behaved daughter and inquired.

Touching her nose, Xu Nianhua said, "That day on the back hill, I saw the two of them together. I was so shocked that I lost my footing and fell into the lake."

Before, Xu Nianhua couldn't remember, but with Zhong Juan making such a fuss, even guessing would have led to the conclusion.

"What?" Ji Ying looked at Xu Nianhua in shock and said, "Why didn't you mention this when you came back?"

"Er..."

Xu Nian'an remained silent until Ji Ying left. Then Xu Nian'an asked, "So, Zhong Juan and the others knew you fell into the lake but still ran away?"

Xu Nian'an's hand involuntarily clenched tightly. When he had found his little sister at the back hill, she was already submerged in the lake, with only her clothes visible floating on the surface.

Without a second thought, Xu Nian'an had jumped into the lake and pulled his little sister out!

He hadn't dared to say this before, but when he pulled his little sister out, she had already stopped breathing. That moment, Xu Nian'an had been terrified, continuously performing the first aid techniques he knew. After seeing his little sister cough out water, Xu Nian'an finally took a breath of relief.

Despite the hot weather, Xu Nian'an's back was ice cold.

Previously, he thought it was an accident and told himself secretly to take more care of his little sister. But now, he knew that not only he was there, Zhong Juan and Gao Jianshe were there too!

Did they know that if they were a bit later, just a bit later, his little sister would have lost her life!!!

"I don't know..." Xu Nianhua shook her head. She couldn't recall the details after all these years. Thinking that she survived the ordeal due to a stroke of fortune, Xu Nianhua was too lazy to bother about Zhong Juan anymore. But, in a blink of an eye, Xu Nian'an had disappeared.

"Brother."

Xu Nianhua watched Xu Nian'an's departing figure, feeling uneasy. After pondering a bit, she followed him.

"Brother."

Xu Nian'an was walking fast, and Xu Nianhua realized, her brother's legs were really long, he walked so quickly.

*Chapter 34: Chapter 034 Second Brother*

"Gao Jianshe!"

Xu Nian'an had looked all around before finally finding Gao Jianshe in the room. Just yesterday, he had been caught and beaten up by his own father, and was still lying in bed. Hearing Xu Nian'an's voice, he thought he had come to visit him, and said weakly, "I'm here."

"That day, were you also on the hill behind? Did you see my sister fall into the lake? Why didn't you save her?"

Xu Nian'an hurled a series of questions at Gao Jianshe.

Gao Jianshe, lying in bed, was stunned by Xu Nian'an's questions.

"Which day?" Gao Jianshe looked bewilderedly at Xu Nian'an.

"The day you and Zhong Juan were on the hill behind," Xu Nian'an reminded him, "the second day after the college entrance examination!"

"Oh, that day..." Gao Jianshe felt a bit guilty mentioning that day; hearing a noise, he and Zhong Juan didn't dare stay a moment longer and immediately left. But along the way, he thought the sound seemed like something falling into water.

Gao Jianshe had been uneasy for a long time, worried about what would happen if someone drowned.

But, having barely made it down the hill and then going back would have made them easily noticeable, Gao Jianshe had been feeling anxious. Later, when he heard that Xu Nian'an had carried the drowned Nianhua back home, Gao Jianshe finally breathed a sigh of relief.

The guilt in Gao Jianshe's heart was visible to Xu Nian'an, and Xu Nian'an was furious. His blood boiled within him; without thinking, he grabbed Gao Jianshe and harshly punched him in the face.

"Do you know, if I had been a minute later that day, my sister would be dead!"

Thinking back to that day, Xu Nian'an felt a chill deep inside, especially at the thought of Nian'an not breathing, which made his heart fill with unstoppable cold.

Thank goodness, thank goodness heaven blessed us and my little sister came back to life.

"But she was saved, wasn't she?" Gao Jianshe, seeing stars from the hit, yelled at Xu Nian'an.

"But you still shouldn't have just stood by!"

Xu Nian'an didn't care about Gao Jianshe's shouts; he just wanted to vent his anger.

When Nianhua arrived a moment too late, the sound of Gao Jianshe's screams was endless. Already having been beaten up by his father a moment ago, and now being pounded by Xu Nian'an, his face was swollen like a pig's head, especially Gao Jianshe's miserable screaming, which made Nianhua's heart skip a beat.

"Big brother."

As Xu Nian'an was about to strike down again, Nianhua hurriedly rushed forward, grabbing his arm and saying, "Big brother, stop hitting him, or you might kill him!"

"Little sister, don't interfere. Do you know he stood by and almost got you killed?" Every time Xu Nian'an closed his eyes, he saw the scene from that day; little sister was soaked, her face pale as paper, not breathing at all.

"Big brother, I'm okay now, aren't I? This incident is in the past, and you've already hit him. Let's just let it go," Nianhua didn't want this incident to lead to her big brother facing legal consequences.

"I really didn't know Nianhua had fallen into the lake," Gao Jianshe groaned in pain, pleading, "Xu big brother, Nian'an brother, I swear, I didn't know she had fallen into the lake, otherwise, how could I not have saved her."

Gao Jianshe's face was swollen like a pig's head, and his pitiful, begging figure was almost laughable.

Nianhua pursed her lips, stepped forward, and took Xu Nian'an's hand, saying, "Big brother, I'm fine."

Nianhua looked at him with deep black eyes, holding his hand tightly, trying to tell him that she really was okay.

*Chapter 35: Chapter 035: Zhong Family and Gao Family*

"What's going on?" Mr. and Mrs. Gao hurried back upon hearing that something had gone wrong at home.

Seeing their son beaten into a pulp, Mr. Gao's gaze fixed on Xu Nian'an like a wolf stalking its prey.

A few days ago, Mr. Gao had been very angry, but it was out of frustration that his own son hadn't lived up to expectations. He felt that if he wanted to scold or beat his son, he had the right to do so, but he wouldn't stand for someone else doing it.

"Uncle Gao, this is between me and Gao Jianshe," Xu Nian'an took a deep breath. Having thrown his punches, the rage in his heart had quieted down. He said, "Gao Jianshe, let there not be a next time for something like this."

With that, Xu Nian'an was ready to leave with Xu Nianhua.

Of course, Mr. Gao wouldn't allow it.

Gao Jianshe already felt guilty. Having been beaten by Xu Nian'an, he was in great pain and wanted his father to take his side. However, he knew he had been in the wrong.

He hadn't witnessed the incident that day, but Xu Nianhua couldn't swim, and a person who couldn't swim had fallen into the lake. Had it not been for the chance that Xu Nian'an came looking for someone, he might now be a murderer.

"Dad, it was my fault, and it has nothing to do with Xu Nian'an," Gao Jianshe said.

Mr. Gao was so angry he felt like beating his son all over again.

After Xu Nian'an left, Mrs. Gao asked about the incident. Gao Jianshe told her, and with a complicated look, Mrs. Gao sighed and asked, "What about you and Zhong Juan? If you truly like each other, why didn't you tell me? We could have arranged an engagement. Why sneak around? Did you... have you been with her?"

"Mom, I was afraid you wouldn't like her," said Gao Jianshe, feeling guilty.

He knew very well the situation with Zhong Juan's family. Her parents demanded a particularly high bride price, and it was said that the Zhong Family was selling their daughter, not marrying her off.

Mrs. Gao had made it clear several times that they couldn't afford a wife from the Zhong family, but he liked her all the same.

So, the two of them got together in secret. They were both young, and amidst the romance, one thing led to another. After the first time, naturally, there was a second...

"You knew I wouldn't like it, yet you still got together with her!" Mrs. Gao was at her wit's end with Gao Jianshe.

"You deserve it!"

Even if the Xu family wasn't favored by the Xu Family of Shuangzhu Village, they were still a prominent surname there!

If Xu Nianhua had really drowned, wouldn't the Xu Family have raised the roof?

"What do we do now?" Mr. Gao looked at his son disappointedly. It was one of many frustrating moments they had since the incident. Marrying her seemed like a forced move for Mr. and Mrs. Gao, but if they didn't, who would want to marry Gao Jianshe?

At that moment, news came discreetly from the Zhong Family: Zhong Juan was pregnant.

This settled it. They had to marry. The Gao Family's grandson had to be kept, and there had been a stalemate over the bride price with the Zhong Family. At last, after Zhong Juan attempted suicide, the Gao and Zhong Families hurriedly proceeded with the wedding.

A very simple ceremony ushered Zhong Juan into their household.

The affairs between the Zhong and Gao families thus came to an end.

"The feast was too... simple, right?" Xu Nianhua just came back from the feast and thought about how basic it was—calling it a feast seemed an overstatement. What did Zhong Juan see in Gao Jianshe?

Even if the Gao Family was indeed well off, but under such circumstances, could Gao Jianshe's mother ever like this daughter-in-law?