

## Switched M 191

Chapter 191: Are You Dating Cai Jun?

Qin Liang's family in Qin Family Village, Qian Chuncao saw her daughter staring at the door for a long time and shouted at her loudly.

"You girl, should be working but instead, you're daydreaming at home? Don't think just because the bun shop belongs to your fourth aunt you can slack off. If you don't work properly, just go home and farm, I can't afford to lose face like this."

"Mom, no, my fourth aunt gave me two days off."

"Why would she give you two days off all of a sudden? Is the bun shop not busy? That's not right, I heard these days the ready-to-eat food is selling well, why did she still give you time off? Are you feeling unwell?"

"No..."

Qian Chuncao wanted to ask more, but then she saw her eldest son, Qin Jianjun, striding in from outside.

Seeing Qin Lihua really at home, his face was darkened.

"Is what they're saying true, that you and Cai Jun are dating?"

Qian Chuncao initially saw her son come in and start scolding her daughter and wanted to reprimand him, but after hearing his question, she immediately looked at her daughter.

"You're dating someone?"

Both of them looked angrily at her, causing Qin Lihua's heart to tremble, and she slightly lowered her head, afraid to meet their eyes.

Yesterday, her fourth aunt sent her back, granting her two days off, suggesting she should reveal her situation with Cai Jun to her family first, but she just couldn't bring herself to say it.

Although dating freedom is advocated now, in the rural areas it's still mostly about parents' decisions and matchmakers' words.

Without a matchmaker and dating on her own, if it's a boy he would be praised for being capable, but if it's a girl, people in the village would laugh, and even the parents would be mocked for not raising their child well.

Seeing her like this, both Qin Jianjun and Qian Chuncao knew it was true.

Knowing they wouldn't get much out of Qin Lihua, Qian Chuncao directly asked her eldest son what was going on.

"I also don't know what's going on. I got to the factory today and everyone was talking about Lihua and Cai Jun dating."

No one knew specifics, and they were all discussing it secretly, so Qin Jianjun had come back to ask Qin Lihua.

Hearing that this issue had already spread, Qian Chuncao felt extremely humiliated, "Why didn't you tell us about such a big matter?"

That's not the point, "Mom, do you know who Cai Jun is?"

Qian Chuncao shook her head, she didn't know who that was.

"He was introduced to the shop by Manager Sun's elder brother, and he has a good relationship with Manager Sun..."

This was something he heard from his uncle, who said that anyone with clear eyes could see that Sun Bingnan introduced Cai Jun, wanting Cai Jun to be his brother-in-law.

Now, what is this mess his sister is creating?

"Manager Sun is my fourth aunt's best friend, she arranged jobs for us, this morning just as I arrived at the factory, I was informed to be made permanent earlier than scheduled, you tell me why she would do that..."

Qin Jianjun couldn't continue, even if the matter between Cai Jun and Manager Sun wasn't settled, he felt it was unfair to his fourth aunt.

Qian Chuncao immediately understood and asked her daughter, "You didn't know about the relationship between Manager Sun and that military guy?"

Qin Lihua kept her head down, silent.

Qian Chuncao slapped her thigh, "You knew Manager Sun and Cai Jun were on good terms, how could you still..., no wonder your second aunt wanted to introduce you to someone and you were unwilling, do you have someone else in your heart?"

Qian Chuncao only found out when her son went to work, the man Zhang Guilan wanted to introduce to her daughter had now been promoted to factory manager.

Thinking back, Zhang Guilan truly tried to secure a good match for her daughter, but her daughter, dense as wood, despised the man for being older and looked down on him.

Not liking him was one thing, but now going after someone else's man, what kind of behavior is this?

Utterly embarrassing.

"They are in good relations but aren't dating, and...and...we have freedom in love now..." Qin Lihua muttered.

"Foolish, with freedom in love you just rush to find a man? What kind of man can't your mom find for you? Otherwise, the shop belongs to your fourth aunt, if you had feelings for Cai Jun, you could have asked your fourth aunt first, why did you have to throw yourself at him?"

Qian Chuncao was nearly driven mad with anger.

A girl seeking a relationship outside on her own is embarrassing enough, but she just had to pick one of Lin Chuxia's best friends...

She felt she had lost all face to meet her younger brothers and sisters.

Qin Lihua saw that her mom was truly angry, and hadn't expected the matter to become so serious, to the point that it had even spread to the factories, her eyes reddened and tears began to fall.

"Uncle Six told me that marriage and love are free, and that pursuit is acceptable. She even said 'a man chasing a woman crosses mountains, a woman chasing a man crosses mere gauze,' urging me to take the initiative. She also said that Manager Sun and my fourth aunt are just from the same village, and even if they are good friends, they aren't as close to me as she is, as I am her niece, and she would support me."

Now, she felt some regret. She should have realized last time at the shop that Uncle Six was unreliable and wouldn't genuinely give her good advice.

What if she had first discussed it with her fourth aunt? Could things have turned out differently?

But regrets were useless now; what had happened had happened, and the embarrassing incident from yesterday had been witnessed by others.

Moreover, according to her brother, the news had already spread.

When Qian Chuncao heard that it was Ma Suyun who gave her daughter this terrible advice, she couldn't contain her fury.

Back when Zhang Guilan wanted to matchmake her daughter, it was she who excitedly pushed for an old man, pressing her towards the firepit.

And as it turned out, she was really the one pushing her own daughter into the firepit.

Otherwise, her daughter has always been obedient; how could she have done such a thing?

"No, I have to go find your Uncle Six. Who teaches kids this way?"

"Mom, don't go."

Qin Lihua grabbed Qian Chuncao's arm.

"Fourth Aunt told Cai Jun to propose to our family as soon as possible. Let's just wait two days, what will you achieve by confronting Uncle Six now?" What about her reputation?

Qian Chuncao also thought of this.

It's hateful that Ma Suyun led her daughter astray, but if she made a scene now, in the end, it would only ruin her daughter's reputation.

"What exactly did your fourth aunt say?"

Qin Lihua knew she couldn't hide it any longer, and recounted last night's events to Qian Chuncao and Qin Jianjun.

Qian Chuncao scolded by tapping her forehead, "Look at you, placed next to your fourth aunt, instead of learning from her and her capabilities, you listen to your Uncle Six's words and cause such a big mess. Your fourth aunt is still cleaning up after you, do you deserve her?"

"Mom, maybe there really is nothing between Cai Jun and Manager Sun..."

"Even if there is nothing between them, you shouldn't have done this. Manager Sun and your fourth aunt are close, you should have kept your distance. Did you want to destroy their relationship, or our family's relationship with your fourth aunt?"

Speaking to this point, Qian Chuncao suddenly remembered.

Her brother-in-law and Qin Yang had always been at odds. They appeared cordial on the surface, but only close relatives knew that Qin Wen and Qin Yang had been competitive since their school days.

She married Qin Liang early, when Qin Wen had just started school. She remembered when Qin Yang skipped a grade, Qin Wen was so furious he refused to eat and insisted on skipping a grade too, but failed his exams.

In high school, he aimed for university but didn't get in.

During that time, Qin Wen was sullen all the time, forbidding anyone from mentioning university or Qin Yang's name.

It was only slightly better when he got the job at the Hardware Company.

Ma Suyun was Qin Wen's wife, and they shared the same heart.

Were they doing this because her family was close to Qin Yang's, intentionally giving her daughter such disastrous advice?

If it weren't for considering her daughter's reputation, Qian Chuncao really would have wanted to flay Ma Suyun alive.

"Jianjun, go to the field and call your father back."

There's nothing she could do at the moment, but Qian Chuncao wouldn't let Ma Suyun off easily; this issue couldn't be left unresolved.

## Chapter 192: Director Ma

Chen Chunhua's first visit to Xiyang Food Factory left her astonished by the cleanliness and neatness of the workshop and the orderly conduct of the workers.

She had never set foot in a factory before, despite frequently visiting food processing points. She had thought a food factory would only be slightly larger than the usual cooked food courtyards and have a few more people.

But the reality...

"Director Ma, someone's looking for you."

The voice of the young man leading the way cut through Chen Chunhua's thoughts, and she saw Ma Yingzi in the distance, dressed in a pristine white lab coat and wearing a sanitary cap, talking to two workers.

Where was the newcomer from the countryside in her demeanor now?

Certainly not the one who used to kneel at the processing point and clean pig intestines by hand.

When Ma Yingzi noticed her visitor, she gave further instructions to the two employees before approaching.

"Why have you come over?"

Since arriving at the food factory, the two of them had less time to meet.

Chen Chunhua looked at her with envy, "I just haven't seen you for a long time and missed you. My dear Yingzi, you're a big deal now, a head honcho."

Despite being a city dweller, she wasn't doing as well as Ma Yingzi, a country girl.

Ma Yingzi took her under a big tree. They worked in food processing, where miscellaneous individuals are not allowed in the processing workshop.

"What do you do now? Do you not need to do anything since you became a boss? I'm really envious of you."

"Not really, my work is similar to before, except there are more new employees now, and Factory Director Su appointed me as a workshop director because of my experience."

Several people who came over from the small courtyard had become heads, big and small, and both she and her husband had been valued and utilized.

Ma Yingzi and her husband were very content with their current life.

They were introduced by Su Wensong and still worked under him. Only by doing their job well could they live up to the care of Su Wensong and Mr. Lin.

"Workshop director?" How high-ranking was that?

Chen Chunhua had heard of workshop directors. There was one in her alley, and his wife would strut around arrogantly, very proud of herself.

"Yingzi, you're a boss now, why don't you talk to Factory Director Su and get me transferred over too? I still want to work under you."

Ma Yingzi found this a bit troublesome. Chen Chunhua had mentioned this before, and it was hard to believe that she really wanted to work with her just for companionship.

"I can't make that decision myself, I can only ask for you."

Hearing that she wasn't outright rejected, Chen Chunhua immediately became happy, "I knew you were the best to me."

After finishing saying this, she looked around, and seeing no one nearby, continued, "Honestly, I've had enough of working at the bun shop, always under the watchful eyes of those few 'big Buddhas'. I can't even slack off for a moment. Oh, have you heard about Qin Lihua and Cai Jun? There's no denying that they are family. As well as Mr. Lin usually treats Manager Sun, when it comes to the Qin Family, he still sides with his own. What can Mr. Lin do, no matter how capable he is? She's a daughter-in-law of the Qin Family; would she dare to offend her in-laws? And about that Lihua girl, I knew from the start she wasn't reliable. Hurry up and talk to Factory Director Su; get me transferred to the food factory. I really don't want to work with that girl anymore..."

"Chunlan, all I can do is mention it, but whether you can be transferred is up to the factory director, and I can't make promises to you."

Ma Yingzi didn't want to discuss such private matters any longer and apologized, "I still have things to take care of, I won't be able to chat with you now, but when we both have a break, I'll come to find you."

"Ah, you always say you'll find me, but you never have time to rest..."

"Mr. Lin!"

Chen Chunhua hadn't finished speaking when Ma Yingzi suddenly called out.

Startled, Chunhua followed her gaze and saw Lin Chuxia approaching from the distance. She felt a chill down her spine and her face went pale, thinking if Lin Chuxia might have overheard what she just said.

Lin Chuxia hadn't noticed Chen Chunhua and went straight to Ma Yingzi, handing her a bag.

Just from the scent, Ma Yingzi knew what was inside and said with a smile, "Mr. Lin, you didn't need to deliver it personally, next time I can simply pick it up from the office."

This was a seasoning mix for their prepared food, always delivered in this packaging. Even back in the small courtyard, Lin Chuxia used to provide it regularly and in set amounts. Now with the food factory, while these workers could be involved in other processes, the seasoning packets remained solely managed by Lin Chuxia.

This was understandable; the secret recipe for their prepared food was coveted even by the Old Food Factory, which they wouldn't trade even for three permanent worker positions.

"I was coming to see Factory Director Su anyway, so I brought it along."

Only after she finished did Lin Chuxia notice Chen Chunhua and also greeted her with a warm smile.

Once Lin Chuxia left, Chen Chunhua couldn't help but feel even more bitter, watching Ma Yingzi carry the bag.

Such an important thing, the secret recipe, was under Ma Yingzi's control, which showed her importance in the food factory.

She was so impressive, yet she was being repeatedly rejected by Ma Yingzi when all she wanted was to work together.

"Chunlan, I still have things to do, I can't accompany you any longer."

This time Ma Yingzi didn't say much more, greeted her, took the bag, and left.

Chen Chunhua stood still for a while, then quietly left the food factory.

Lin Chuxia went straight to Su Wensong's office, which, nowadays, was even better than her own conditions.

Sitting on the couch and patting the armrest, Chuxia commented, "Ah, this is befitting of a factory director. In the future, our business dealings will also take place here in Xiyang, so you need to look the part."

Su Wensong was still not used to such treatment, especially compared to Lin Chuxia's more modest setup.

"Shall I set up another office for you inside the factory?"

"Don't bother, you run the food factory, and my place is good enough. Let's not talk about this anymore."

Lin Chuxia rejected the idea once more and changed the subject, "I heard that the county's Animal Husbandry Bureau is rushing to send personnel to vaccinate poultry soon, remind our chicken suppliers to be alert, even though they should already know about poultry care. Just in case, you know."

"Okay, I got it," Su Wensong agreed, understanding the importance.

"Also, mention to Sun Bingnan that he might want to send someone to the Animal Husbandry Bureau to learn techniques for vaccine administration. If he doesn't have anyone, you pick someone, so that we can vaccinate the chickens on our own farms later on."

After finishing her instructions, Su Wensong had something he wanted to discuss with her as well.

He had found the car they had discussed earlier, a second-hand Charade 121.

The mention of a car made Lin Chuxia instantly energized, "A 121? Second-hand? How much?"

The Charade 121 was a new, domestically produced model at the beginning of the 1980s. Finding a second-hand one meant it was probably still quite new.

"The price isn't cheap, they asked for 4000, but I brought it down to 3600. What do you think..."

"I'll take it," Lin Chuxia didn't hesitate, "We'll go check out the car together tomorrow."

In those days, car production was low, and even if few people could afford one, it wasn't easy to buy. Stumbling upon a suitable second-hand car was even rarer.

Chapter 193: An Extra Longing Before the Holiday

With this car, Lin Chuxia was in good spirits all day long.

Although this was the lifetime she had lived, after experiencing a more advanced world, no one would be used to this backward era.

Communication was undeveloped, transportation was undeveloped, and even journeys of a few kilometers required primitive walking or cycling.

It was precisely because of this that Lin Chuxia had an extraordinary respect for Qin Yang and those like him.

Speaking of Qin Yang, it had been over a month since he left. Although they corresponded frequently, the longing intensified more than before the festival.

I should write him another letter when I get back. Now that the weather is warm, their construction work must be in full swing.

During this period, their engineering personnel were also working hard. I should send some milk powder and similar stuff over.

Resources were scarce over there, and even if he had time, Qin Yang was not the type to stroll around the city to buy things; he wouldn't spend even if he had the money.

Lin Chuxia was thinking this as she entered her home. Before she could steady her bike, Qian Chuncao came out from the house, "Sister-in-law, are you back from work?"

Mrs. Qin followed her out and explained to Lin Chuxia, "Your sister-in-law has been here for a good half of the day, waiting for you."

Lin Chuxia guessed the reason, "Let's go inside and talk, sister-in-law."

She led Qian Chuncao directly to their room. Gratitude flashed in Qian Chuncao's eyes.

Once inside, before Lin Chuxia could speak, Qian Chuncao began to apologize, "Sister-in-law, I only found out about Lihua's situation today. I'm truly ashamed to face you. You arranged for Lihua and Jianjun to work at your place, and those two kids should be doing more and better than others. But Lihua ended up doing such a thing. When your elder brother heard about this, he disagreed with her marriage to Mr. Cai completely, feeling sorry for you."

Lin Chuxia asked Qian Chuncao to sit down and offered her a glass of water.

"Sister-in-law, there's nothing to apologize to me about; nowadays, the country advocates free love..."

"That's different, I heard everything from Jianjun. Mr. Cai was originally introduced by Manager Sun's brother, and the plan was for him to develop a relationship with Manager Sun, but look at what Lihua did."

"It's true that it was Sun Bingnan who introduced him, and the idea was for him to grow closer with Lanlan. However, after working together for half a year, they didn't make any progress, whereas Lihua confirmed a romantic relationship with him in such a short time; perhaps it was fate."

Even Sun Lanlan had come to terms with it, so Lin Chuxia felt that a loss may be a blessing in disguise.

"What fate? It was all Ma Suhua's doing," Qian Chuncao said indignantly.

She had blamed Ma Suhua from the start, but for her daughter's sake, she couldn't immediately confront her.

Then her husband got back, heard the story, dismissed the marriage prospect outright, and almost hit their daughter, further aggravating Qian Chuncao's anger towards Ma Suyun.

The day was spent with her husband scolding and her daughter weeping without a bite to eat at lunch.

In the afternoon, a matchmaker paid a visit on behalf of the Cai family; had she not stopped them, the matchmaker wouldn't have even made it through the door.

She didn't know what to do anymore.

Deep down she knew it was her daughter's fault, but now that the news had spread, if they called off the engagement, her daughter's reputation would be destroyed.

Now, hearing Lin Chuxia speak this way, Qian Chuncao's heart eased a lot.

"It's my fault for not raising my child properly, but now that things have come to this, I have no choice but to ask for your help."

Her husband didn't agree, simply because he felt sorry for Lin Chuxia. If Lin Chuxia agreed, it would be easy to deal with her husband.

"So, sister-in-law, you agree to this marriage?" asked Lin Chuxia.

"What else can I do if not agree? That damned girl has been crying for half the day; indeed, as a woman grows up, she follows her own path."

"Big brother can handle it, I'm fine here, and Manager Sun doesn't have that much to deal with either. Just do whatever needs to be done. I'll come over tomorrow," Chuxia reassured.

In the rural area, close relatives from the same clan could help each other out with such matters.

Although Qin Yang was a cousin of Qin Liang's, the situation had gotten complicated... inviting Lin Chuxia over was the best solution.

The moment Qian Chuncao heard that Lin Chuxia was willing to come, her gloom vanished, "That's really... I don't know what to say, sister-in-law. I'll go back and tell your big brother right away. Fourth brother's wife, I can't thank you enough."

Before you knew it, the next day arrived.

The Cai Family came in full attendance. Cai Jun was the second son of the family, with an older brother who was already married. Mr. Cai was a middle school teacher, and their mother stayed at home farming. The Cai Family's conditions were considered above average in the countryside.

With Lin Chuxia making an appearance, Qin Liang was not so against the marriage proposal anymore.

Cai Jun was good-looking, gentle and refined, not quite like the other young men in the village.

Qian Chuncao understood why her daughter was smitten the moment she saw Cai Jun.

It wasn't to the point where a mother-in-law grows more and more satisfied with her son-in-law over time, but her anger had mostly dissipated and she became very hospitable towards the Cai Family visitors.

The Qin Family members who came today included Lin Chuxia, Ma Suyun, and Qin Jiang.

Qin Jiang's wife, Xu Yun, had classes to attend today.

Qin Wen was at work too. Otherwise, as her close uncle, he would have attended this gathering as well.

As for Lin Chuxia, she came just as a support and did not plan to interfere much.

Cai Jun, on the other hand, felt somewhat guilty whenever he saw Lin Chuxia, quickly averting his eyes after the occasional eye contact.

Lin Chuxia didn't care what he was hiding; she always felt that if a man like that was not valued by Sun Lanlan, he was surely not worth entrusting with oneself.

Looking back, she realized that she hadn't been seeing things at the movie theater that day; it was just that the person with Cai Jun was someone else.

The two of them had already been together for a while, which explained why Cai Jun remained undisturbed when Liu Dahui appeared.

When Qin Jiang saw Lin Chuxia, he greeted her and then also sat to the side like a backdrop.

Lin Chuxia didn't have a particular impression of her cousin, although lately, she had heard Qin Han mention him a few times.

The village had built a chicken farm and the village chief asked Qin Jiang for help with management, and now he had the title of deputy director.

When the village chief first approached Qin Jiang, Qin Yang had just started working and Qin Jiang did not feel comfortable going straight to Lin Chuxia, so he mentioned it to Qin Han instead.

The village chief's reason for choosing Qin Jiang to manage the chicken farm was clear to everyone; it was all because he was part of the Qin Family.

The village chief had made it clear that the chicken farm's market relied on Xiyang Food Factory, and Qin Jiang saw through this. That's why he went to ask Qin Han for their opinion.

He didn't have the confidence to impress the village chief on his own. Since it depended on the support of the Qin Family's second branch, it was necessary to get their consent first.

Qin Han did not decide on his own either and turned to Lin Chuxia. Lin Chuxia didn't care much about the village chief's little scheme.

Qin Jiang and his wife were decent people, and if they could take on a job at the village chicken farm, she'd be glad to see it happen.

So that was settled.

Compared to Lin Chuxia and Qin Jiang, Ma Suyun was much more enthusiastic.

She praised Cai Jun as if compliments cost her nothing, one after another, to the point that Qian Chuncao couldn't even bear to listen.

"Younger sister-in-law, if you have something to say, we can talk about it later in private. Right now, let's focus on the matter at hand."

#### Chapter 194 Preparing to Resign

Ma Suyun seemed not to catch the meaning behind Qian Chuncao's words, and laughed, "What other important matters are there? Aren't we talking about important matters right now? This is a huge joyous occasion for Lihua's lifetime. To find such a good son-in-law, who will go to work with her earning salaries together—their life will be truly enviable."

If there weren't outsiders around, Qian Chuncao would have wished to spit in her face.

Already calling him 'son-in-law,' as if she had already given her face.

If it weren't for her interference, she would have already become a factory director's mother-in-law. Now, what a shame it is for her daughter, she still acts like they've picked up a great bargain. If it wasn't for her own daughter's matters, and there weren't outsiders present, she could have skinned Ma Suyun right now.

Fortunately, the subsequent matters weren't complicated. The main thing was for both families to meet and agree. If no objections arose, the rest could be handled by a matchmaker.

When the time was nearly up, the Cai family was ready to leave.

They had come in a tractor, but Cai Jun rode his bicycle here alone.

He needed to go back to the worker's dormitory and wasn't heading the same way as his family.

Lin Chuxia and Su Wensong had arranged to go see a car today, and after sending off the Cai family, they left directly.

Cai Jun watched Lin Chuxia's departing silhouette for a long time, then turned to Qin Lihua beside him and said, "I have something I want to talk to you about, is it convenient now?"

Qin Lihua looked towards her parents, and before Qian Chuncao could say anything, Ma Suyun said, "Oh, it's convenient. What's not convenient? You are about to be engaged, what is there to fear?"

Qian Chuncao, holding back in front of the new son-in-law, really endured a lot, and finally turned back into the house.

She was afraid if she stayed any longer, she couldn't help but start tearing into Ma Suyun.

Qin Liang gave Cai Jun a warning look and also went back inside.

Ma Suyun, having made herself uninteresting, saw that both Qin Jiang and Lin Chuxia had also left, and no longer felt like staying.

"Let's talk in the courtyard."

Qin Lihua was happy inside. No matter what, she genuinely liked this man.

Now that they were engaged, as her Aunt had said, both of their salaries were good, and they would definitely live well in the future.

Growing up, she had seen plenty of her parents working the land. Her biggest wish in life was to escape the village and marry someone with a job.

The two entered the courtyard and stood under a large tree there.

"What did you want to talk about?"

Qin Lihua looked at Cai Jun with bright, twinkling eyes, feeling that Cai Jun was both the same as usual yet different.

Today he was quieter than usual. She thought they wouldn't talk much.

Cai Jun looked at her for a moment and said, "I am planning to resign."

Qin Lihua's smile gradually froze, "Why?"

They both earned fifty or sixty at the Bun Shop every month, which is a hundred together—more than what a factory worker makes.

Seeing that she really didn't understand, Cai Jun simply said, "I plan to resign, and I hope you will too."

This completely unsettled Qin Lihua, "Why? If we both resign, what will we do?"

Ever since she knew the Cai family would come to propose, she had begun planning their beautiful life together.

"Why do you really not understand why we should resign? Lihua, I don't want to revisit how we got together anymore, I was responsible too, but what we did is indeed unfair to the Sun family. I don't have the face to see them anymore."

Even if he didn't work at the Bun Shop and Qin Lihua was there, they couldn't avoid meeting them. He didn't want to see them anymore; might as well both resign.

"You can avoid meeting them if you're ashamed. We can talk to my aunt, if worse comes to worst, we won't work at the Bun Shop anymore. You can join my uncle in the marketplace, my brother is also there. I heard that working in the marketplace earns even more than at the Bun Shop..."

Qin Lihua's voice became quieter and quieter, as Cai Jun's dark eyes made it impossible for her to continue.

But she really didn't want to resign. She didn't want to live like her parents anymore, facing the loess and turning their backs to the sky.

"Cai Jun, think about it again, it's such a good job."

Cai Jun looked at her, "Didn't you say before that you would be willing to do anything for me?"

"I..."

Those words were taught to her by her aunt; she hadn't expected that being with Cai Jun meant having to resign.

"I understand," Cai Jun nodded, turned around, and walked away.

Now Qin Lihua was anxious and hurried after him, "We are doing well here, why resign? It's my aunt's shop, not the Sun family's shop, and farming can't earn this much money, Cai Jun..."

"Choose between the job and me, take some time to think about it."

...

Su Wensong had contacted a second-hand minivan in the city, and the owner was already waiting there with a used 121 by their side.

The details had been discussed earlier/>The main purpose of this trip was to see the car and pick it up.

The owner handed the keys to Su Wensong, letting him go for a drive.

Su Wensong took the keys, started the car, opened the front hood to check the engine.

He had gotten his driver's license. Before, Lin Chuxia had asked them to get their tricycle driving licenses, and Su Wensong had also obtained his car driver's license.

With more or less some experience in car repair and inspection, he felt the car was fine and went for a drive.

When he felt the car was fine and was about to get out, he saw Lin Chuxia's eyes sparkling at the car.

Not sure what he was thinking, he handed her the keys, "Do you want to try driving it?"

Realizing after speaking, how could Lin Chuxia, a young girl, know how to drive a car?

But Lin Chuxia grabbed the car keys without hesitation, clearly eager to try.

She got into the car, started the engine, figured out the gears, and drove off directly.

Su Wensong was still dazed and hadn't reacted when someone patted his shoulder, and he saw an old classmate with a teasing smile, "Your boss has some skill, doesn't look very old. Is she married?"

Su Wensong snapped back to reality, "She's married, don't even think about it."

"Hey, what am I thinking? Didn't you know my kid is already three? I'm just looking out for you, you're not getting any younger, I thought you had a thing for your boss..."

"Stop talking nonsense," Su Wensong stopped him, clearly a bit angry.

His friend quickly plead, "I was just saying, your boss is already married, think is pointless, but speaking of which, I have a cousin who just graduated high school, she's pretty, how about I introduce her to you? Seeing that you're an old classmate of mine, I'd even let you have a shot with a younger lady."

Su Wensong saw Lin Chuxia was turning back and replied indifferently, "No need."

His friend also knew the limit, although he wanted to win over this old classmate, he also understood the boundary.

The truck stopped in front of the two, Lin Chuxia opened the door and jumped out of the car, her face still a bit excited.

Chapter 195: I Like Sun Lanlan

"How is it?" Su Wensong also asked.

"Not bad, it's just that the steering wheel is a bit heavy."

The steering wheels in the future would all have power assistance, so unexpectedly having to wrench the steering wheel without it, Lin Chuxia really felt her arms couldn't take it after one turn.

"That's called heavy?" Su Wensong's old classmate said with a chuckle, "Ms. Lin has never driven a Jiefang truck; now that steering wheel really takes some muscle to turn."

"Speaking of which, can Mr. Zhang manage to get hold of a Jiefang truck?"

Su Wensong's classmate's last name was Zhang.

Zhang Mingwei hurriedly waved his hands, "That's really not possible."

Lin Chuxia just went with the flow and casually asked; after all, Jiefang trucks and ordinary trucks were different in nature, and it wasn't easy for ordinary people to get their hands on one.

The car was chosen, and the price had been agreed upon long ago, so several people went to handle the paperwork.

The paperwork was processed quickly, especially since the car was registered under the name of Xiyang Food Factory, it was all done in less than an hour.

Lin Chuxia had the car keys in hand and was ready to drive it back for a bit more fun after leaving, when over there, Su Wensong and Zhang Mingwei were saying goodbye.

Zhang Mingwei, looking at the woman in the car at a distance, pulled out a cigarette and offered one to Su Wensong.

"This woman is not simple. She just asked me if a 212 truck is easy to get. What kind of powerful woman are you following?"

A car is bought as easily as saying it, and one is not enough.

If buying a 121 is for hauling goods, then wanting a 212 indicates strength.

"You lucky fellow, you might not have luck in love, but fortune seems to follow you. All those who returned from the countryside back then were arranged for jobs, how come it's just you who ends up working for yourself and even landed a plant manager position? Who wouldn't be envious of you?"

Su Wensong didn't explain much. What had happened in the past was in the past, and now he was even grateful to Su Wenmao for taking his job, which led to his intersection with Lin Chuxia.

No matter what he thought in his heart, he said something else on the surface.

Zhang Mingwei took a drag on his cigarette, patted his shoulder, "Just do your job well. These days, who can say for sure, maybe one day this brother will be out of luck and come to you for help."

Seeing it was getting late, the two men didn't talk much longer.

On the way back, Su Wensong brought up Cai Jun's matter, knowing that today Cai Jun had gone to the Qin Family to propose.

"He's been given a job in the workshop, won't clash with Sun Bingnan."

Lin Chuxia was indifferent, "I think it would actually be better if there was a clash. Third Brother Sun can't stand anything underhanded, and he cherishes Lanlan the most. For what Cai Jun has done, if Third Brother Sun has anything against him, it's no more than he deserves."

Without mentioning anything else, Cai Jun's visit to the Sun Family during the Spring Festival was quite telling, wasn't it?

What followed were just his excuses, but by this stage, more talk was useless.

Su Wensong pursed his lips and remained silent for a moment, "Can Sun Bingnan decide Sun Lanlan's marriage?"

"Not really," Lin Chuxia drove the car, glanced at Su Wensong, and continued to look forward, "It's just about giving Lanlan more choices. When her family introduced Liu Dahui, Third Brother Sun disagreed. But, after all, it's about marriage; they can't delay her forever. Women are different from men, as you know the rural mindset."

Speaking of this, Lin Chuxia sighed inwardly; she had thought that Sun Lanlan and Cai Jun would end up together, only for things to turn out this way.

"Do we have any eligible bachelors in our factory? Speaking of which, Qin Yang has two coworkers who are still single. I need to write to Qin Yang tonight for more details. It's just that I don't know if Lanlan is willing to live a life separated by distance."

Lin Chuxia was already pondering in her heart; this time, she would definitely personally vet the suitor for her girlfriends.

Su Wensong's face changed slightly after hearing her words.

"Mr. Lin, I have a favor to ask of you."

Lin Chuxia smiled when she saw his serious expression, "What's the matter that's got you so serious? Let's hear it. As long as I can manage, I'll definitely help you out."

Her relationship with Su Wensong was more than just that of superior and subordinate; from the opening of the first bun shop to now, they were more like friends united by a common purpose.

Su Wensong cleared his throat, shifted his body slightly, and spoke to Lin Chuxia with great solemnity, "I'd like to be in a relationship with Sun Lanlan, and I'm hoping you could help me arrange the match."

With the screech of an abrupt stop, Lin Chuxia's body jolted, and before she could stabilize herself, she turned her head, eyes wide, "What did you just say? Say it again!"

Su Wensong also swayed with the motion of the car. Although he felt that Lin Chuxia's reaction was a bit over the top, he repeated his words, "I like Sun Lanlan. Mr. Lin, could you please help me arrange the match?"

This time Lin Chuxia listened clearly, "Alright, Old Su, since when has this been going on? You've kept it quite tight."

Su Wensong was certainly not someone who acted on a whim. On the contrary, based on Lin Chuxia's understanding of him, every step he took was part of his own plan.

He wouldn't make such a significant decision as dating and marriage hastily.

Su Wensong's ears turned a bit red, "It hasn't been very long. Back when Su Wenmao and his son came to cause trouble at my place, Lanlan helped my grandmother out many times, and I've always been very grateful to her..."

"Stop, stop, stop!"

Lin Chuxia cut him off.

"If it's because you feel Lanlan was wronged due to Cai Jun's issue and now you want to repay your gratitude, I'm sorry, I can't help you with this. Not to mention that Cai Jun and Lanlan aren't over yet, even if Lanlan really was abandoned by a man, she doesn't need this kind of gratitude."

Feelings should be pure and simple. Su Wensong is a good man, but if he approached Sun Lanlan with this mindset, Lin Chuxia felt it would be unfair.

She knew that Sun Lanlan didn't need this kind of sympathy and gratitude.

"It's not like that..."

Upon hearing what Lin Chuxia said, Su Wensong grew anxious.

"Mr. Lin, I truly like Sun Lanlan. I'm grateful for what she did back then, and it's precisely because of that incident that I think Sun Lanlan is a good person. I want to date her, to marry her as my wife, not out of pity or compassion, and it has nothing to do with Cai Jun, that's not right either, it's not that it has nothing to do with Cai Jun – if it weren't for him, I would have pursued her long ago. Mr. Lin, you can't be so arbitrary..."

Lin Chuxia had never seen Su Wensong lose his composure like this. Listening to his rambling explanations, she also knew he was really anxious.

"Old Su, Old Su, what am I to say about you? Had it not been for the matter with Cai Jun and Qin Lihua, would you have just given up on the one you like to another man?"

A hint of coldness flashed across Su Wensong's face.

Originally, upon hearing Third Brother Sun's words, he thought Sun Lanlan liked Cai Jun and chose to step aside and let her be, bridging the gap between her preference and his own.

But he hadn't expected that Cai Jun, failing to behave and protect Sun Lanlan, nearly let that scum Liu Dahui take advantage of her. Not only that, but Cai Jun also got involved with another woman, causing Sun Lanlan such disgrace.

Had he known earlier, he would never have let go, never pushed the girl he loved towards such a man.

Lin Chuxia restarted the car, hitting the road with a remarkably good mood.

By the time they returned to Ancheng County, it was already dark. Lin Chuxia asked Su Wensong to take her straight home.

The next morning, she went straight to the bun shop at the train station.

#### Chapter 196: You'll Get Beaten for That Attitude

Playing matchmaker for the first time in two lifetimes, and for her best girlfriend at that, Lin Chuxia was a bit thrilled.

Seeing Sun Lanlan bustling around in the Bun Shop, Lin Chuxia circled her, looking her up and down.

Come to think of it, why had she never thought to pair her with Su Wensong before?

Now that she thought about it, Su Wensong really was quite a good marriage prospect.

His family was simple, and Granny Su had a good temper.

Su Wensong himself was capable and responsible; such a man was indeed the best husband material.

Lin Chuxia figured she had been blind. She thought about the red scarf Sun Lanlan had worn around her neck before.

Granny Su was advanced in years and her legs were not in good shape; that red scarf definitely wasn't bought by Granny Su.

And if Granny Su wanted to thank Sun Lanlan, there were many ways to do so; yet she specifically gave her a red scarf.

Sun Lanlan, unnerved by Lin Chuxia's laughter, couldn't help but step two paces away from her.

"What's gotten into you? Laughing so creepily early in the morning; don't tell me you've dreamt of your Qin Yang again?"

Lin Chuxia stroked her chin, "Speaking of which, it's been a long time since I've dreamt about Qin Yang; I kind of miss him actually."

"Eeek!" Sun Lanlan exaggerated a shiver, "Tone it down a bit, or you'll get smacked."

Lin Chuxia burst into laughter and pulled her aside, "There's no need for you to be envious, I've come today because I have some good news for you."

She patted her chest, "I'm playing matchmaker today, someone asked me to be a go-between, guess who it is?"

Sun Lanlan felt today's Lin Chuxia was offbeat, but she humor her with a guess, "I heard Cai Jun was proposing marriage to the Qin Family?"

Who else could get Lin Chuxia to be a go-between except the people from the Bun Shop?

"Pish, what bad luck, why bring him up?"

Lin Chuxia spat out and then looked at Sun Lanlan with a cheeky grin.

"You see, my beautiful and kind-hearted Lanlan, a guy like Mr. Cai really doesn't deserve you. Lanlan, someone has asked me to be your matchmaker."

Lin Chuxia didn't play coy anymore, she shared with Sun Lanlan what Su Wensong had entrusted her with, then propped up her chin and waited with a smile for her reply.

But it turned out that Sun Lanlan's expression didn't change at all, in fact, her face turned slightly grim.

"Xi Xia, I know Brother Su means well, please tell him I'm really fine, and not to worry. Even if I had a thing with Cai Jun, and he betrayed the relationship, I wouldn't be foolish over a man."

Lin Chuxia cheerfully put her arm on Sun Lanlan's shoulder, nudging her head against hers.

"That's why you're my sister. Honestly, when Su Wensong brought this up to me yesterday, my reaction was just like yours. Don't think you're unwilling. If Su Wensong feels pity and asked me to matchmake out of sympathy, I'd be displeased as a sister. But that's really not the case."

Seeing Sun Lanlan's puzzled look, Lin Chuxia felt she had overestimated her friend's emotional intelligence.

Her sister was too emotionally obtuse. No wonder she cultivated a relationship with Cai Jun for half a year, and Qin Lihua snatched him away in a month.

"Think about how Su Wensong usually treats you."

Lin Chuxia hinted just enough, seeing Sun Lanlan's cheeks slowly turning rosy, she knew there was no need for further words.

When a person cares for someone, you may not have noticed it, but if you think back carefully, there will always be telltale signs.

"I'm not in a rush for an answer today; go back and think about what you really feel towards Su Wensong. Once you've thought it through, let me know, I'll give you three days."

It wasn't that Lin Chuxia was eager to match her friend with Su Wensong; she realized that her friend's emotional antenna was a bit slow, waiting for her to catch on, they risked missing the boat.

After taking care of the major issue, Lin Chuxia hummed a tune as she returned to the office in the courtyard, only to find a resignation letter shoved under the door.

Seeing that the signature was Cai Jun, Lin Chuxia raised an eyebrow.

Looks like this guy still cares about face.

She tossed it casually onto the desk.

Originally, she had some dissatisfaction with Cai Jun, but now that she knew her sisters had a better option, she couldn't thank him enough.

Thank him for not marrying.

Taking out the ledger for the month, she hadn't looked through many pages before Su Wensong knocked on the office door.

Since the establishment of Xiyang Food Factory, factory manager Su Wensong was even busier than her. His coming to her now, Lin Chuxia knew he was anxious for news about Sun Lanlan.

Sure enough, as soon as he entered the room, without any pleasantries, he directly asked if she had been to see Sun Lanlan.

Lin Chuxia saw that his forehead seemed to be slightly sweaty, not knowing if it was from eagerness or nervousness.

"I've said what I should say, but Lanlan seems to still have concerns."

"What concerns? Is there something I haven't done well enough?" Su Wensong asked eagerly.

Lin Chuxia let out a slight sigh, "Old Su, if you showed this determination earlier, I might have already attended your wedding banquet by now. There's nothing you haven't done well, so don't be anxious. I'll give Lanlan three days, and in three days I'll give you an answer whether it's a yes or a no."

Su Wensong couldn't help but smile wryly, "Mr. Lin, what do you mean by yes or no? Can't you just..." give a clear answer?

Heaven knows he had almost stayed up the entire night yesterday, and he couldn't calm down even after getting to work today.

Was he to be tormented for another three days?

Lin Chuxia gave him a meaningful look, "So you better make good use of the time."

Su Wensong's eyes suddenly brightened, "I understand, Mr. Lin," he glanced at his watch, "I need to make a trip to the police station first, there should be a result today regarding Liu Dahui's matter."

"Mm, go ahead and be busy."

...

Rapid footsteps came from outside the office, and shortly after, Zhang Dawei burst in.

"Mr. Qin, something big has happened, you better go check it out?"

Bai Xiaoming and Li Wei looked over at the same time, frowning with displeasure, "What's with the fuss, what happened?"

Zhang Dawei swallowed nervously, pointing outside, "A mother and son came and are kneeling at the entrance of our business, saying they want to find Mr. Qin to take responsibility. By now, there's already a crowd gathered, and all sorts of things are being said."

Hearing it was a mother and son, Bai Xiaoming's frown deepened, "Is it a young woman and a four- or five-year-old child?"

"Yes, yes, those two."

Qin Yang looked perplexedly at Bai Xiaoming.

Since returning from the Spring Festival holiday, they had been immersed in the new phase of engineering design, and he had been working almost non-stop. He hadn't even left the company, so how could he be involved with any mother and child?

Bai Xiaoming indeed knew more about this issue.

He didn't go back to his hometown for Spring Festival as his wife and children were all here, and with the elderly at home in good health, he took on the responsibility of on-duty work, allowing other colleagues to go home for the holiday.

Seeing everyone looking at him, he said, "Remember the landslide we encountered last summer? At the time, a few villagers were trapped, and you saved a family of three."

Not only did Qin Yang remember, but Li Wei and the others did as well.

#### Chapter 197: It's a Boy!

At that time, they were surveying the terrain in the area when a sudden heavy rain caused a landslide.

Their team was fine, but the road was blocked.

Seeing several locals trapped by the landslide while passing through, they immediately launched a rescue operation.

Qin Yang rescued a family of three at that time, and Li Wei's team also saved two people.

Seeing that several people remembered, Bai Xiaoming continued, "The man was seriously injured and despite several months of care at home, he didn't recover and passed away before the Spring Festival. The mother and child are his wife and son."

Li Wei was confused, "Everyone knows Mr. Qin saved them, what are they doing looking for Mr. Qin, surely they aren't here to show gratitude?"

If it was to show gratitude, they should have done it long ago, it's been more than half a year.

Bai Xiaoming snorted coldly, "If it were gratitude it would be good, I heard that after the man died, the woman and the child were driven out of their in-law's home, left with nowhere to go, so they turned to Mr. Qin. They had come over once in the first month of the lunar year, but Mr. Qin wasn't back from his hometown then, so I handed them off to the union to deal with."

He thought this matter was settled after handing it to the union and didn't even mention it to Qin Yang.

Little did he know that so much time had passed and the issue had still not been resolved.

While they were talking, the office phone rang.

Bai Xiaoming answered the call, his face darkened further, and his tone was questioning, "Is our union just for show? A single case taking this long to handle and still unresolved, needing Mr. Qin to personally intervene?"

Not knowing what was said on the other end, Bai Xiaoming hung up the phone still with a scowl.

"Mr. Qin, I'm afraid you'll need to take a look in person."

Qin Yang turned to Zhang Dawei, "What's the situation at the gate?"

Zhang Dawei moved his lips, looking towards Bai Xiaoming.

Bai Xiaoming frowned, "What are you looking at me for? Mr. Qin asked you, just tell him."

Zhang Dawei immediately stood up straight, "When I passed by the gate just now, quite a crowd had gathered. Some people were saying the child belongs to Mr. Qin, and the mother and child came to hold Mr. Qin accountable. Others seemed to know Mr. Qin was their savior. I'm not sure what the woman has been saying, but most people seem to pity them, with even some saying, since Mr. Qin saved them, he should take responsibility to the end..."

"Bullshit," Li Wei cursed directly, "Now saving people is wrong? If that's the case, no one should bother being a good Samaritan anymore. What kind of people are these?"

"Let's go and take a look."

Avoiding is not a solution to the problem, yet Qin Yang's expression was particularly icy.

At the company's main gate, there was already quite a crowd, and even two union workers were visible.

Someone shouted, "Mr. Qin is here."

The crowd opened up a path, and Qin Yang also saw the two people surrounded in the middle.

The child looked about four or five years old, frail and skinny, wearing clothes that were too large for him, making his pale, malnourished appearance even more pronounced.

The woman beside him didn't look much better. Clothes patched upon patches, very thin, with dry, tangled hair that looked even worse than a beggar on the street.

Both were kneeling on the ground, tears on the woman's face.

At the sight of Qin Yang, she moved a few steps on her knees towards him, tears streaming down, her expression utterly distressed.

Without saying a word, just her appearance alone aroused much sympathy from the onlookers.

Especially the busybody aunties and sisters-in-law, who whispered among themselves.

"Didn't they say Mr. Qin got married? I remember his wife came over before the new year, she was a pretty woman, how come she looks like this woman..."

"Shh, keep your voice down, who knows for sure, men, how many of them don't cheat, even if his wife is pretty, what can it do? Home flowers are no match for wild ones. Besides, they live separately, inevitably there are lonely times."

"I don't think so, the child is so big already. I heard Mr. Qin got married just last year, maybe she really came to repay a favor?"

"Repay a favor? Have you ever seen someone bring such a big kid to repay a favor? If anything, Mr. Qin should repay her for the favor of bearing his child, having given birth to such a big son for him."

Sister-in-law Feng and Feng Jingjing were hiding in the crowd, although not joining in their conversation, their eyes grew brighter.

Watching Qin Yang approaching from a distance, gleaming with excitement.

Feng Jingjing tugged at her mother's hand, "Mom, let's go back, if dad knows we're here watching the excitement, he will be angry."

Sister-in-law Feng glared at her, "What's there to be angry about? We just passed by on our way home from outside, who said we were spectating? Keep your mouth in check, if you say something you shouldn't, watch out, I'll tear your mouth apart."

Feng Jingjing bit her lip and lowered her head, sneaking peeks at the little boy.

It was a boy.

Neither the woman nor Qin Yang spoke, eventually a junior union official spoke up first.

"Mr. Qin, please look into this. Originally, the union intended to handle this, but this woman insisted on seeing you, we really had no other choice..."

His face was full of hardship.

Then, the woman bowed deeply to Qin Yang, her forehead heavily hitting the sandy ground.

Qin Yang frowned slightly and shifted his position slightly.

The woman raised her head, her forehead smeared with grit and covered with tears, indescribably miserable.

"Benefactor, I know I shouldn't have come to you, but I have no other choice. My husband has died, my in-laws claim that it was my bad luck that killed my husband, and drove me out, even refusing to keep our child. My own family died in that landslide, I have no relatives left now. I don't mind dying, but Genbao is only 5 years old, I beg you, benefactor, to give my child a chance to live."

She bowed deeply again, resting her forehead on the ground, crying uncontrollably.

The little boy also started crying, pulling on the woman's clothes, "Mom, I don't want to leave you, I want to stay with you."

"Good Genbao, mom can't support you anymore, only if you are with the benefactor then you have a chance to live."

Regardless of what the woman said, it cleared up the relationship between her and Qin Yang, yet the sight of the mother and son crying together elicited more pity from the onlookers.

"How pitiful, that in-law family is too unscrupulous, they don't even want their own grandson after their son died?"

"What era is it now, still practicing this feudal superstition? They should be reported to the police, let the officers educate them properly."

"What's the use of education? I heard that the man had two brothers, it's not the in-laws rejecting them, it's the two uncles who kicked them out to get a bigger share of the property."

The union official also looked sympathetically at Qin Yang, "Mr. Qin, what do you think..."

Qin Yang's face was expressionless, looking indifferently at the union official, "So what's the union's solution?"

The union official was taken aback, he thought the situation was obvious enough, yet Mr. Qin still feigned ignorance?

#### Chapter 198: Acknowledging Him as My Godson

Someone in the crowd shouted, "Mr. Qin, why don't you take this child as your foster son? You saved him before, which shows you two are fated. Take him as your foster son, feed him, and I believe when he grows up, he will repay you."

Qin Yang looked at the person and spoke indifferently, "Since you pity him so much, it shows that you two are also fated. Why don't you take him as your foster son?"

Before the man could speak, a woman beside him pinched him hard, "Am I no longer able to bear you a son, or have you eaten too much? Get back home."

After this incident, Qin Yang still looked at the union staff, waiting for his response.

The union staff member was anxiously scratching his head; he was just following orders to come here, not expecting Mr. Qin's and their words to differ.

At this point, the kneeling woman spoke again, pushing the child in her arms forward with sincere words.

"I know this matter has caused you great trouble, and I do not ask you to take Genbao as your son, just to feed him. Let him do anything, I really can't support him anymore. Rest assured, from now on, Genbao will belong to his benefactor, and I won't contact him anymore."

She then heavily knocked her head on the ground.

Some tender-hearted women in the crowd had already begun to wipe away tears, wondering how many mothers could bear to be separated from their children unless absolutely necessary.

Finally, the union staff mustered the courage to speak, "Mr. Qin, please consider doing a good deed. As the saying goes, saving a life is worth more than building a seven-tiered pagoda. I think this child is also easy to raise. Just feeding him would be doing a good deed."

A sneer flashed in Qin Yang's eyes, "Don't tell me this is the union's solution. If that's the case, I think it'd be better if the union did the good deed."

If it were before, he might not have cared so much. For him, supporting one more child was not difficult, and he even thought that if capable, he would sponsor children in remote and impoverished areas who can't afford meals.

But since his wife mentioned his "rotten kindness", many issues seemed not so straightforward when viewed from another angle.

"A simple issue, and the union has not handled it well after so long. Is the union just for show now, or is this some leader's idea to kick this issue to me like a ball?"

The staffer's eyes flashed with guilt, "No... that's not the case, just..."

"It's just a small issue, why must Mr. Qin express such harshness, framing the union so severely?"

Before the staffer could finish, a low voice emerged from behind the crowd.

Vice Chairman Sha Jianqi stepped forward.

First, he glanced at the kneeling mother and son and the surrounding crowd, slightly frowning as he rebuked the staffer.

"How are you handling things? Such a small issue, look at the negative impact, why haven't you dispersed the crowd?"

The staffer hurriedly tried to disperse the crowd, but now, with the excitement, no one wanted to leave.

Sha Jianqi looked at Qin Yang with a chuckling smile, "Mr. Qin, young comrades handle issues clumsily. But speaking of which, this matter really isn't the union's fault. The union has also been putting in effort

for your affairs recently; there is hard work even if no merits. Ultimately, this isn't something the union should handle..."

Li Wei couldn't listen anymore, "How is it not the union's responsibility? Is Vice Chairman Sha trying to shirk responsibility?"

Sha Jianqi smiled again, still appearing amiable.

"It's not about the union wanting to shirk responsibility. Mr. Qin did a good deed, but this child's parents are not employees of the unit. If given to the union, how can we manage? Our union isn't a charity, is it?"

Li Wei was stunned, this seemed correct too.

According to past experience, if an employee of the unit had an accident, widows and orphans would inevitably receive compensation and resettlement through the union.

This mother and son had no relation to the unit, and indeed the union couldn't arrange anything on behalf of the unit.

He looked at Qin Yang, who slightly narrowed his eyes.

He had encountered Vice Chairman Sha before; achieving the position of vice chairman of the union at a young age, he indeed had some capabilities.

But to say this matter had nothing to do with the union...

Upon returning to the unit after a holiday, he accidentally heard Zhang Dawei gossiping.

During the Spring Festival, this young vice chairman of the union got married, his wife being the daughter of the Party branch secretary, Xu Sijin.

Sha Jianqi continued lobbying, "Honestly, this isn't a big issue. The child is pitiful, being chased out by his grandmother, no father, Mr. Qin, why not do a good deed..."

"The child's parents aren't employees of the unit, but am I not?"

Qin Yang laughed coldly, "Since Vice Chairman Sha is so compassionate, why not adopt the child instead? I hear you and Comrade Xu just got married. Having a comrade help out would surely be better than a single man like me taking care of a child."

Sha Jianqi's smile faltered slightly, Qin Yang continued, "I hear Vice Chairman Sha's family members are famously warm-hearted. Getting such a big son right after getting married, Comrade Xu would definitely be happy."

Finally, Sha Jianqi could no longer maintain his smile. Who would want to raise someone else's son just after getting married?

Qin Yang, stirring trouble, was also too blunt.

What's more blunt was what followed.

Qin Yang leisurely reminded, "Vice Chairman Sha, your last name is Sha, not Fool."

After saying this, regardless of the union personnel or the mother and child behind him, he turned and walked away.

Nobody expected Qin Yang to be so irresponsible; he was never like this before.

But really, no one could say what he should be doing.

As Qin Yang truly seemed to ignore them, the woman's mind flashed with resolution.

"Benefactor, since you choose to ignore us to death, why did you even save us in the first place? It would have been better for our family to die together, at least we'd have company on the road to the underworld. You saved him but won't care for him, letting him suffer disdain in this world alone. Are you really satisfied with your conscience?"

Hearing the cries behind him, Qin Yang's steps slightly faltered, but only for a moment, then he continued walking resolutely back.

Qin Yang didn't pay attention to what happened afterward, diving fully into his work. But at dinner, Zhang Dawei mentioned something.

After Qin Yang left, the union had security maintain the order at the door and also took the mother and son away.

Where exactly, he didn't know.

Qin Yang cared even less.

If Liu Xiaohua and her daughter's matter was indeed his misguided kindness, today's event with this mother and son made him somewhat doubt life.

He still remembered the situation back then, a landslide burying pedestrians passing by.

They were nearby at the time, and without hesitation, began rescue operations.

The woman, embracing her child, was only half-buried. Seeing the rescuers, she grabbed Qin Yang's clothes, pleading for help.

Chapter 199: Did He Really Have Good Intentions?

After Qin Yang had rescued her, she pointed to a spot nearby and said her husband was still trapped underneath.

Qin Yang did not hesitate, and quickly dug the man out.

Fortunately, the man was still breathing, but the mud had crushed his ribs, possibly puncturing a lobe of his lung, causing internal injuries, and one of his legs was broken.

Not far from them, the two people they had dug out were already lifeless.

At that moment, it felt like humanity was so insignificant in the face of nature, that simply being alive was good, and there was hope.

He had never doubted whether rescuing people was the right thing to do.

But now...

Qin Yang returned to the dormitory and immediately took out some writing paper.

He needed to write a letter to his wife about what had happened today. Was he really being too kind-hearted?

At the same time, in a nearby family compound.

Sha Jianqi was eating dinner, talking to his wife about today's events.

"I told you from the start, this wasn't a solution. You insisted that since Qin Yang had been married for almost a year and they hadn't had children, he would definitely adopt that child."

Xu Sijin hadn't expected this outcome. From what she knew about Qin Yang, if he was truly desperate, he would adopt the child.

He wouldn't mind an extra pair of chopsticks, an extra mouth to feed; at worst, it'd be a bit inconvenient to keep the child by his side, and he could send him back to his hometown.

Xu Sijin served him some food with her chopsticks, her voice gentle, "Jianqi, am I not thinking of you? This isn't something our union should resolve. They are causing trouble for you, and I'm trying to help you out."

"I know you mean well, but it's not that simple. I think we should notify the welfare institute or even the local government if necessary. There has to be a solution."

"Jianqi, you're too naive. It's clear that mother and son are trying to latch onto Qin Yang, whatever you do will be in vain."

Sha Jianqi frowned slightly, "We can't just let this continue. The minister values Qin Yang greatly, as you know. Today's incident has already caused quite an impact. If this continues, I'm worried it will affect my promotion. Old Liu is retiring in two years, and these next two years are crucial for me."

"I know. Don't worry, leave it to me. I'll go talk to that woman."

Sha Jianqi was somewhat skeptical, "Are you sure? You've said this before..."

"Don't worry, women understand women best. Once this is settled, I'll even have my father put in a good word for you, ensuring there won't be any trouble."

Sha Jianqi, reassured by the mention of his father-in-law stepping in, relaxed, "Then I'll leave it in your hands."

...

After finishing the letter, Qin Yang didn't wait for the mailman. He took some time off to go and post the letter himself.

He missed his wife terribly and was eager to know where he had gone wrong.

Qin Yang hurried to the post office, sent the letter, and felt much calmer.

As he was about to head back, he saw a familiar figure in the distance, rapidly walking forward and then sneakily slipping into an alley.

Xu Sijin, facing the woman, was far from the gentle and virtuous demeanor she had with Sha Jianqi.

In just a few months, the clarity in her eyes had disappeared, replaced by calculation and resentment.

"Why are you so useless? I've already given you the opportunity. If you can't seize it, no one can help you. Think carefully, your in-laws have already kicked you out, and even your own family won't take you in. Qin Yang is your only hope now. He doesn't have children of his own, and if you push your child onto him, he will surely not mistreat your son."

The woman knew this very well since she had approached Qin Yang with this very intention.

Furthermore, the first time she met that man last year, her gaze was firmly captured by him. She regretted having married early; otherwise, she would have repaid him with her body for saving her life.

Since then, she often thought of that man during countless nights, even while her paralyzed husband lay beside her. The tingling sensation she felt when thinking of Qin Yang was uncontrollable.

Finally, after her husband's death, she thought she had her chance, even if initially she could only push her child onto him, let the child build a relationship with him, and gradually scheme using the child's name.

Over time, affection would grow, and she was confident she could win that man over.

But she hadn't expected that man's heart to be so cold and hard, that he wouldn't even take the child.

When he had been so eager to help before.

The woman hid the look in her eyes, her face showing sorrow, "I'm sorry, Mr. Xu, this must be our fate as mother and son. I know we've made things difficult for Mr. Qin. If we could survive any other way, I wouldn't have taken this step with my child, but I didn't expect..."

Her voice broke as she began to cry, repeatedly uttering apologies.

"I have nothing left, I could just hang myself with a rope, and reunite with Genbao's father soon. But Genbao is so young, he doesn't understand anything, I really can't bear to leave him... Mr. Xu, according to what you said, Mr. Qin is a selfless man, he hates causing trouble for the country and his workplace, if I leave the child at the entrance of his workplace..."

Xu Sijin narrowed her eyes, "That might actually work. Given Qin Yang's personality, if the child is left at his workplace's doorway, there's a high chance he'll take care of him. But how he'll handle it is hard to say."

Once, he would have definitely adopted the child. That had been her plan as well.

To have Qin Yang adopt the child and send him back to his hometown.

She did not believe that woman would willingly help Qin Yang raise someone else's child. If misunderstandings arose over a child of unclear parentage, that could ruin their relationship.

Even if she couldn't marry Qin Yang, she wouldn't let anyone else have an easy time.

But now...

"Just pushing the child onto him isn't enough."

Xu Sijin pulled out a small package from her bag and whispered a few words into the woman's ear.

The woman's eyes flashed with surprise upon hearing Xu Sijin's words. As Xu Sijin straightened up, her expression quickly changed to one of complexity and difficulty as she spoke, "Mr. Xu, isn't this a bit much?"

"Wouldn't you like to secure a chance for your son to have a future with food and clothing? If so, do as I say. This is your last chance. If you miss it, don't say I didn't help you."

The woman seemed to make a great resolution, and finally, with a determined face, she said, "For Genbao, Mr. Xu, I'll do as you say."

"Good, then wait for my message. I'll arrange for Qin Yang to meet you, and you take it from there. Don't disappoint me."

Xu Sijin took one last look at the woman and child before turning and walking away.

She didn't want to push things this far. If Qin Yang had willingly accepted the child, she wouldn't have had to arrange a woman for him.

She had never had that man.

But now, seeing him remain chastely devoted to that wretched woman Lin Chuxia, she'd rather destroy him.

Chapter 200: What are you proud of?

After Xu Sijin left, the woman finally revealed a smug expression.

Watching the small medicine packet in her hand, her lips curved into a triumphant smile.

These educated cultural people, has their reading made them foolish?

But this suits her just fine.

With this foolish woman's help, it's much more convenient than acting on her own.

In the end, she can push all the blame onto this woman.

She's just a poor helpless mother, solely surviving for her son.

"What are you so pleased about?"

A man's deep voice sounded from behind.

The woman's face changed drastically, she turned her head abruptly, only to see Qin Yang not far away; her hand trembled, and the medicine packet fell to the ground.

Qin Yang glanced at the medicine packet on the ground, a hint of mockery flashed through his eyes.

"So, were all those words you said at our workplace entrance fake?"

What about being driven out by the in-laws and having nowhere to go, saying it would have been better not to have saved them and let their whole family die together.

Now it seems it might have been better to let them die together.

Even resorting to such despicable tactics, thinking of his wife made Qin Yang's eyes grow even colder.

"No... it's not like that, benefactor, it's all... it's that woman..."

The woman subconsciously tried to argue.

Meeting the man's cold eyes, she shivered again.

Only now did she realize that this man was not as easy to manipulate as she had imagined; he even had a murderous and cold-blooded air, as if he could crush her throat the next second.

Qin Yang sneered, "I think you needn't worry about your son's whereabouts anymore, come with me to the police station. Just on the charges of plotting against a major national project designer, you could be facing several years in prison. Perhaps by the time you get out, your son will be grown up."

The woman retreated two steps and repeatedly shook her head, finally collapsing to her knees before Qin Yang.

"Benefactor, I really didn't mean to harm you, I was forced, I did it all for my child, please spare me for my child's sake."

"I really had no other way, benefactor, even if that woman gave me this thing, I never thought of harming you, I just wanted to secure a way out for my child, he's still so young, his father is dead, and his grandmother has disowned him, I as a mother do not have the ability to support him..., benefactor, he's really too pitiable..."

The woman cried bitterly, at this moment, she was just a fragile helpless mother.

Qin Yang sneered again, "Pitiable? To speak of being pitiable, having you as a mother is what's truly pitiable. Your husband was still bedridden, and yet you mixed with the bachelors in the village, your husband found out and died from anger, even before that, your unclear relationships with other men were discovered, which is why his family doubted your son's bloodline and disowned him, am I wrong?"

The woman collapsed to the ground with a thud, her face full of disbelief.

How could he know?

Qin Yang said no more, "Never appear in front of me again, or the consequences might be beyond your imagination."

It was only after Qin Yang left that the woman collapsed on the ground, her body drenched in sweat.

The only thought in her mind was that this man was not to be trifled with.

In such a short time, he had learned all her secrets, how could she possibly contend with such a man?

And Xu Sijin, that woman, knowing full well this man was not someone to provoke, still gave her such advice...

The woman looked at the medicine packet on the ground, slowly reaching out to pick it up.

.....

Rapid footsteps came from outside the office, Zhang Dawei pushed the door and entered.

"Something's happened, a big issue has arisen..."

Several people in the office simultaneously looked at Qin Yang.

Qin Yang slightly frowned and spoke displeased, "All this fuss, about this year's work appraisal..."

Zhang Dawei immediately stood up straight and continued, "It's not a big deal. It's just that I heard something happened at the union."

Li Wei and the others sighed in relief.

"I say, Da Wei, can you stop gasping so much when you speak?"

He thought that woman had come to trouble them again.

But ever since that woman showed up that day, Mr. Qin slammed her arguments so hard that even the union vice chairman was left speechless, and the matter was dropped.

They thought there would be a continuation, seeing that the woman was not someone to be trifled with.

Wu Zhenfa asked curiously, "What happened at the union?"

Zhang Dawei glanced outside the door and whispered mysteriously, "I'm not sure about the details, but as I was coming in, everyone outside was talking about it. Vice Chairman Sha Jianqi was caught in bed with another woman by his wife Xu Sijin. Initially, neither of them wanted to make it public, as family scandals are not to be aired, but that woman turned out to be tough; she made the whole thing public, even claiming that Vice Chairman Sha used force, and now she demands an explanation from the unit."

He then glanced at Qin Yang, "You all won't guess who that woman is?"

"Who is it?"

Everyone's curiosity was piqued.

These days, ethical issues are no small matter; it could ruin one's entire future.

This is also why Xu Sijin still chose not to publicize it even after catching them in bed.

Better to suffer in silence.

"It's the woman who came with a child that day looking for Mr. Qin."

Upon Zhang Dawei's words, a murmur of disapproval spread through the office.

"I knew that woman was no good from the start. She brought her child that day just to latch onto Mr. Qin; it really was bad luck for him to have saved their family."

"From my point of view, it's not necessarily the case. Didn't Vice Chairman Sha suggest that Mr. Qin adopt the child that day? Maybe Vice Chairman Sha is kind-hearted, felt pity for the mother and child, not only adopted the child but took in the child's mother as well."

That comment was laden with irony.

Sha Jianqi, being the union vice chairman, had no principles in his actions.

Everyone knew that his wife had a big part in this.

Now they were all happy to watch the drama unfold.

"With the scandal out, I think Vice Chairman Sha can kiss his chairmanship goodbye."

"Not just that, I just heard on my way here that Vice Chairman Sha has been suspended and is under investigation by the organization. I think he's really in trouble now."

And this trouble isn't just about his position; he might even lose his job.

Qin Yang was twirling his pencil rapidly in his hand, listening to everyone's gossip with a relaxed expression; clearly, he was in a good mood.

.....

Early in the morning, Lin Chuxia went to the Bun Shop at the train station to find Sun Lanlan.

Yesterday was the day Su Wensong went to the Sun Family to propose marriage. Initially, Su Wensong had asked Lin Chuxia to mediate, and Lin Chuxia had given Sun Lanlan three days to consider.

She thought that after consecutive emotional setbacks, Sun Lanlan would truly do as she said—set aside the idea of marriage for now and focus on making money.

But somehow, Su Wensong managed to change her mind in less than three days.

Not only that, but the marriage preparations between the two also proceeded without delay. After Sun Lanlan agreed, Su Wensong directly went to the Sun Family to propose.

Although Lin Chuxia initially mediated due to the Lin Family's reasons, she did not participate in the subsequent events and instead asked an experienced matchmaker to go to the Sun Family.

Just yesterday, the relationship between the two was officially settled.