

Switched M 241

Chapter 241: The Head of the House, We've Been Discovered

The very thought of Xiyang Food Factory not only rejecting their chickens but also reporting them to the county epidemic prevention department, which resulted in all of the chickens on their farm being buried and disposed of, made Huang Dashun's face turn extremely grim.

He was determined to drag someone down with him.

Huang Dashun's wife was not afraid of anything else but going to court; she did not want to end up in jail.

Hearing Huang Dashun say this, she nodded frantically, "I'll listen to you, we must not go to court, how can we ordinary folks fight against those people, I'll listen to you."

"Just follow me quickly, and keep it down, no more farting."

Another "pfft" sound came out, even louder than their voices.

Huang Dashun's wife felt wronged, "I've caught a cold, and I'm also nervous."

Huang Dashun didn't want to speak more with her, carrying the dead chickens and crouching forward.

It was not easy for the two to reach the vicinity of Luo Family Chicken Farm, trying to figure out where to throw the chickens so it wouldn't seem intentional, yet making sure the person coming to pick up the goods could see it at a glance.

Suddenly, a beam of light shone on the two, followed by an angry shout, "Who's there..."

Huang Dashun and his wife, upon being discovered, dropped the dead chickens and ran.

Several more beams of light appeared opposite them.

Shouts of anger, barking of dogs...

Huang Dashun's wife clutched tightly at Huang Dashun's arm, trembling as she began to speak, "My dear, we've been found..."

On the day the court notified them for mediation, Lin Chuxia, Su Wensong, Qin Wu, and Qin Jianjun arrived at the court early in the morning.

The matter was not complicated; there was a contract, one party's goods had a problem and could not deliver on time, so they should compensate the other party for the loss.

As for how to compensate, it was also clearly defined in the contract.

But going through the court added enforcement.

If Xiyang Food Factory couldn't obtain compensation directly from Huang Dashun, the court could enforce it on their behalf.

To Lin Chuxia's surprise, the judge in charge of their case was Li Jian's wife, Li Weihong, known as the first of the 'Iron-faced female judges'.

Li Weihong naturally recognized Lin Chuxia and showed a trace of warmth on her usually stern face.

Lin Chuxia shook hands with her, "Thank you for your trouble this time."

"It's my duty."

Li Weihong looked around and glanced at her wristwatch.

According to the scheduled time, both parties should have arrived by now.

After waiting a while longer, Huang Dashun was still nowhere to be seen, so she called an assistant over, "What's going on? Why hasn't Huang Dashun arrived?"

According to legal procedures, if one party does not appear for court-arranged mediation, the next step is to enter the litigation process.

Given the present case, Huang Dashun had no reason not to attend; after all, if it really went to litigation, Huang Dashun would be responsible not only for civil liabilities but might also face legal consequences.

The assistant was unclear as well, but before he could inquire, someone pushed the door open from the outside.

"Judge Li, Huang Dashun probably won't be able to make it. We just received news that Huang Dashun has been taken to the police station by Luo Yulin, a villager from Luojia Village, on suspicion of poisoning."

Lin Chuxia and Su Wensong exchanged looks, neither showing much surprise.

Lin Chuxia had suspected Huang Dashun since diseased chickens were found at Luo Family Chicken Farm.

Diseased chickens appearing for no reason were definitely someone's deliberate act.

If Luo Yulin hadn't offended anyone, then someone was trying to bring down Luo Family Chicken Farm.

Furthermore, Lin Chuxia was aware that Huang Dashun had been harboring resentment since his chicken farm was eradicated by the epidemic prevention staff.

But she hadn't expected someone to stoop so low, not vaccinating the chicks as required, causing such consequences, and still trying to drag others down.

Truly beyond redemption.

"You don't have to worry if Huang Dashun can't make it. As long as you've provided complete documentation without any doubts, and since mediation is not possible, we'll move directly to litigation, and the court will order immediate enforcement," said Li Weihong, explaining the next steps to Lin Chuxia to reassure them.

After all, Xiyang Food Factory had the absolute initiative; Huang Dashun's absence from mediation was ultimately his loss.

Lin Chuxia nodded, "Then, thank you, Judge Li."

Speaking of which, she hadn't seen Li Jian for a while; at the beginning of the year, Li Jian invited her to a bureau and introduced her to a few heavyweights.

After returning from the court, Lin Chuxia also inquired about the situation on Luo Family's side.

As they had thought, Huang Dashun was desperate, not wanting to compensate Xiyang Food Factory for the breach of contract, yet worried about losing Xiyang Food, a major client.

By implicating Luo Family, he hoped Xiyang Food would show some leniency.

But Huang Dashun was mistaken; even if Luo Family's chickens were indeed infected this time, they might cooperate with Luo Family in the future, but Huang Dashun was definitively out of the picture.

She could allow others to make mistakes, but someone who is disobedient, makes mistakes, and then tries to shift the blame, has a character issue.

Giving the former a chance to correct their errors is magnanimity and vision; giving the latter a chance is folly.

Now, caught red-handed and delivered to the police station by Luo Family, what awaited him was likely imprisonment.

Lin Chuxia no longer focused on this matter; even if Huang Dashun ended up in prison, with the court's assistance in handling it, the compensation owed to Xiyang Food would not be short.

Back in her office, Lin Chuxia began to sort through this month's accounts.

At the end of each month, accounts from the Bun Shop and Xiyang Food Factory were reported.

These accounts were managed by the Bun Shop's manager and the accountant from Xiyang Food Factory; Lin Chuxia's role was just to perform the final audit.

This was also due to Xiyang Food Factory's recent inception; with the continuous expansion of business and adjustments to the production line, Lin Chuxia needed to have a comprehensive grasp of the operational situation of Xiyang Food Factory.

She first focused on the beef sauce production line's account, which was doing better than she had expected. With the reputation of their ready-to-eat food, the beef sauce quickly spread among Xiyang Food's regular customers.

The order volume was continuously increasing, and since bottled beef sauce had better preservation, in some places, beef sauce orders had already surpassed those of ready-to-eat products.

In less than half a month, they generated an income of over ten thousand yuan.

The income from the ready-to-eat side was also growing steadily, reaching a net profit of 30,000 yuan this month.

In addition, the two Bun Shops had been very stable, each bringing in a few thousand yuan a month.

Together with the chicken farm starting to turn a profit, adding it all up, there was at least a fixed income of 50,000 yuan.

Of course, the Bun Shop in the city and the pig farm in Qin Family Village were still waiting for her investment.

Plus, the investment in the chicken farm and previous production lines meant that the 50,000 yuan was just making a round in her hands.

Lin Chuxia smiled helplessly; all aspects of life were planned and closely interconnected, making it seem harder to hold onto the money.

However, Lin Chuxia enjoyed her current life, constantly expanding her territory, fulfilling and meaningful.

Chapter 242: Fight Sounds

Xiyang Food Factory's accountant delivered the accounts and also brought Lin Chuxia 20,000 yuan.

This money, Lin Chuxia planned to give a part to the village chief to invest in the pig farm.

The village chief had said that once the chickens from the chicken farm were sold, the village would have the funds to manage the pig farm.

Now that some of the chickens from the chicken farm had been sold, since Lin Chuxia had promised the village chief, she naturally wouldn't hold back when it came to money issues.

After approving all the accounts and signing her name, Lin Chuxia directly put the money into her space and left the office carrying an empty bag.

It got a bit late today; the factory's staff had already clocked out and returned to their dormitories, making the yard lively.

Seeing Lin Chuxia, they all straightened up and greeted her solemnly.

Lin Chuxia considered herself not a strict boss, but seeing these young men and women's respectful looks, she couldn't help but reflect on whether she should relocate her office.

While thinking about this, she walked home.

She wasn't used to riding a bicycle at night; the roads were uneven, and the street lights were dim, making cycling more dangerous.

Qin Family Village was essentially an urban village, a mere 20-minute walk that she took as exercise.

Yuan Bao followed behind her, sometimes sniffing under a big tree, other times turning around the base of a wall.

He was now an adult male dog, and his nature to mark his territory made him unwilling to miss any corner.

These days had been gloomy, with occasional rains, and the roads were full of mud.

Usually, at this time, there would be many people out for walks enjoying the cool air, but now no one wanted to come out.

Lin Chuxia had just passed a factory area when urgent footsteps and scolding voices came from an alley nearby, followed by sounds of a fight.

Yuan Bao immediately stopped, his ears perking up.

Lin Chuxia frowned slightly and softly called, "Yuan Bao, let's go."

It's better to mind less business than more, Lin Chuxia was not someone who liked to meddle, especially late at night where fights could hardly involve good people.

However, before she walked far, the footsteps in the alley grew closer, and soon a figure burst out of the alley.

Illuminated by a distant dim streetlight, Lin Chuxia recognized the person was actually wearing a police uniform, chased by three or four tall men.

"Mr. Chen?"

Lin Chuxia could see that the person in the police uniform was none other than Sun Hao's wife, Chen Ping Mr. Chen.

Chen Ping looked somewhat disheveled at the moment, with messy hair and seeming to be injured.

Hearing her name called, she looked up to see Lin Chuxia, slightly startled, then discreetly shook her head at her.

The men behind had already caught up, surrounding her.

The sleazy man smirked, "Run, why don't you? Aren't you very capable? Didn't you want to put me in a deadly situation? Come on, do you really think I'd be afraid just because you wear that uniform?"

"If you dare spoil brother's good deeds, be ready to pay the price."

"Brother Hu, don't waste words with her, I think this chick is quite spicy. We've played with so many women but never one in that uniform. Let's just make an exception today."

Lin Chuxia stood in a shadow not far away, and hearing the man's words, her pupils sharply constricted.

If it was just a few people physically assaulting a police officer, Lin Chuxia would think they were exceedingly bold.

But the current sentiment made her conclude that these people were definitely not just troublemakers but extremely vicious criminals.

No one would dare provoke the authority of the state public security unless they no longer wish to live or they know they have no way out.

Chen Ping probably realized that today her chances of luck were slim; her gaze swept across several men one by one.

She was looking for a weak spot to breakthrough.

At this moment, her physical strength was draining, and she was injured; a direct confrontation was impossible.

Most importantly, she saw Lin Chuxia not far away.

These men were no good; their attention was on her at this moment, and the consequences would be unimaginable once they discovered Lin Chuxia.

She needed to lure these men away quickly.

Soon, Chen Ping locked onto one of the four men who seemed frail; having fought with these men just now, he was the weakest and likely injured during the process.

Just as she charged towards the man, preparing to strike, a low voice rang out, "Don't move, or I'll shoot."

Chen Ping abruptly stopped in her tracks, stunned as she looked towards the man speaking, only to see him holding a dark air gun.

Such guns are mostly used for hunting, loaded with pellets, not to be underestimated in lethality.

Lin Chuxia was startled to see the man pull out a gun, but what truly tightens her heart were the words spoken by the man.

"Beauty, you've enjoyed the show enough; brothers have their moments of tender, merciful care, but today picking just one is tough, adding one more is just perfect."

Chen Ping realized they had discovered Lin Chuxia and couldn't help but yell, "Mr. Lin, run..."

"Run? Are you testing whether your legs are faster or my gun?"

Seeing there was no escape and never intending to run in the first place, Lin Chuxia obediently raised her hands slowly stepping out from the shadows.

"Gentlemen, don't be impulsive. I'm just passing by; I really don't know anything..."

"Enough talk, come here."

The man with the gun jerked his head at her, while the other three men watched her with grinning faces.

"Hey, this chick is even better; brothers, we're in luck today."

Seeing Lin Chuxia's face, the men's smiles grew even broader.

She looked terrified, slowly walking over while glancing at Yuan Bao by her side.

Little Yuanbao also hung his head low beside her legs, looking even more miserable than a stray dog.

Feeling his owner's gaze, he looked up at her once before hanging his head low again with drooping eyes, appearing so aggrieved and timid it was pitiful.

Lin Chuxia couldn't help but twitch the corner of her mouth, doubting at this moment whether Yuan Bao was reliable at all.

However, the current situation didn't allow Lin Chuxia to ponder more; having been with Yuan Bao for over half a year, she believed in his abilities.

Walking up next to Chen Ping, the two women, different in temperament, yet equally outstanding, made the men even more unrestrained and outspoken.

It was in this moment that Lin Chuxia, taking advantage of the men's unpreparedness, suddenly pushed Chen Ping away from the muzzle and shouted, "Yuan Bao, attack!"

Yuan Bao's aura also changed abruptly, like a lone wolf charging at its prey, rushed towards the man holding the gun, biting fiercely into his wrist.

"Ah..."

With the sudden turn of events, the man was caught off guard and screamed as the gun fell to the ground.

Lin Chuxia quickly pounced forward, grabbed the gun, and with a roll, she reached another man, using the gun's butt as a weapon, harshly striking the man's knee.

With a "thud," the man knelt on the ground.

Chapter 243: Can't Bear to Watch

"Motherfucker..."

Accompanied by the man's curse, Lin Chuxia struck quickly.

On the other side, Chen Ping was briefly stunned, then joined the fight.

Lin Chuxia grappled with the man while keeping an eye on her surroundings, in case someone else pulled out a gun.

Fortunately, they had only that one gun. Someone did pull out a dagger, but the sharp-eyed Yuan Bao bit his arm first.

"Bitch, I really must have been blind today!"

The man called Brother Hu charged at Lin Chuxia, his fists as large as sandbags aiming straight for her head.

"Be careful!"

Chen Ping was not far from her, entangled with another man. Seeing that scene made her heart nearly stop.

She had fought with a few men and knew that Yu Dahu, the leader, was the strongest. She had been injured by him just moments before.

Although Lin Chuxia knew how to fight, she wasn't professionally trained like them daily.

For such a fragile girl, the consequences of taking that punch were unimaginable.

Chen Ping knew that Lin Chuxia was involved in this mess because of her, even delayed until now.

If possible, she would rather take the punch for Lin Chuxia, but there wasn't enough distance between them.

Things happened quickly; just as she was startled, she saw Lin Chuxia suddenly lean back, dodging Yu Dahu's punch and simultaneously raising the butt of the gun, striking hard at Yu Dahu's neck.

As everyone knows, this is the most vulnerable part of the body. Yu Dahu didn't utter a sound and fell limply to the ground.

Seeing the crisis resolved, Chen Ping swiftly subdued the man in front of her, pulled out handcuffs from her lower back, and cuffed him.

Of the other three men, aside from Yu Dahu who had already fainted, one was on the ground twisting and wailing in pain, completely losing his ability to fight.

Another was closely monitored by Yuan Bao, who was ready to pounce and bite at the slightest movement, his clothes already torn by Yuan Bao.

Sensing the fight was over, Yuan Bao turned to Lin Chuxia and barked twice, wagging his tail in a pleasing manner.

Lin Chuxia smiled slightly and generously praised, "Good job, Yuan Bao."

Pleased with the praise, Yuan Bao jumped on the spot, seemingly wanting to perform again in front of his master, and bit the man on the thigh.

The man let out a "ow," screamed painfully, and Yuan Bao turned back to Lin Chuxia, barking twice as if waiting for more praise.

Lin Chuxia looked skyward with a speechless expression, noting that dogs often reflect their owners, though she wasn't one for showing off.

"Good job, Yuan Bao!"

A voice came from beside her, and she saw Chen Ping limping over and giving Yuan Bao a thumbs up.

Then she turned to Lin Chuxia with a complex expression, "Thank you, Mr. Lin, if it weren't for you today, I might have lost my life here."

The moment she saw Lin Chuxia, she didn't intend to involve her, even urging her to run away quickly.

These men were violently ruthless, protecting the safety of people's lives and property is her duty.

But unexpectedly, it turned out to be Lin Chuxia and her dog who saved her.

She remembered her husband mentioning that Lin Chuxia knew some defense techniques, but didn't expect her to be so formidable.

Lin Chuxia smiled slightly, "No worries, how is your injury? What will happen to these people?"

Before Chen Ping could answer, hurried footsteps echoed through the alley.

Sun Hao was the first to rush out, his gaze swept over the people on the ground and headed straight for Chen Ping, his face showing worry mixed with fear.

"Chen Ping, how are you, are you hurt?"

While questioning her, he had already sized her up twice, his gaze landing accurately on her protected abdomen.

It was dark at night and hard to tell if there was blood on her body, he could only guess, "Is it a knife wound?"

Chen Ping shook his head, a touch of tenderness flashed through his eyes, "I'm alright, just got punched a couple of times and it hurts, thanks to Mr. Lin."

Only then did Sun Hao have the time to thank Lin Chuxia gratefully.

The police officers who came with Sun Hao professionally detained the suspects on the ground.

Suddenly, at this moment, the man Yuan Bao was watching darted out in an escape.

The faces of several police officers changed instantly, "Catch him, don't let him get away..."

Just as they were about to rush forward, a figure dashed out even faster.

Yuan Bao leapt and pinned the man to the ground with agile and swift movements, and fiercely bit into the man's arm.

Not until the man let out a scream did he let go, wagging his tail and looking back at the police officers, panting with his tongue out.

Lin Chuxia couldn't help but facepalm, it was unbearable to watch.

Don't think she didn't notice, when the police officers arrived, Yuan Bao deliberately relaxed his vigilance, even stepping back to give the man a chance to run.

After the man ran, Yuan Bao pounced on the suspect before the police officers.

Now, he even seemed to want her praise, Lin Chuxia nearly cringed.

If possible, she did not want to admit that this was her dog.

A chuckle came from beside her, Chen Ping loudly praised, "Yuan Bao, well done!"

He then turned to Sun Hao and the other police officers, "This dog is called Yuan Bao, and tonight it also made great contributions."

She recounted how Yuan Bao helped them subdue the suspect.

"Without Yuan Bao and Mr. Lin's perfect cooperation in seizing their firearms, the consequences would have been unimaginable."

It seemed Yuan Bao understood her words, grunting twice, he took the gun from Lin Chuxia's hand and handed it to Sun Hao.

Lin Chuxia, "..."

She was tired, if he wanted to perform, let him.

Sure enough, Yuan Bao received quite a few compliments.

These suspects needed to be taken back for interrogation, and Chen Ping's injuries needed to be treated too. After a few words with Lin Chuxia, Sun Hao, not willing to say more, left with his team.

Yuan Bao watched the departing crowd, seemingly a bit sad.

Lin Chuxia slapped its head somewhat annoyed, "Come on, what more do you want? Do you want someone to give you a medal?"

Yuan Bao hummed twice and then followed Lin Chuxia wagging his tail.

When Lin Chuxia got home, Mrs. Qin had not yet gone to bed and came out upon hearing movements.

"Why did you come back so late today? Your eldest brother and them just got back. I was about to ask your brother to check on you."

Qin Han and Gui Lan also came out of the house, they had to wait until the Bun Shop closed to come home.

"Mom, it's nothing, I was just a bit busy tallying up today, and Yuan Bao was with me, so there was no need for big brother to make another trip."

It was also very hard for Qin Han and Gui Lan who returned late every day.

Mrs. Qin glanced at Yuan Bao and smiled slightly, "Yuan Bao is very sensible."

Yuan Bao now went to work with Lin Chuxia every day, and followed her home from work. Sometimes when Lin Chuxia didn't go to the courtyard, he would stay home and play with Zhuangzhuang, getting along well with the Qin family.

Hearing the praise, Yuan Bao wagged his tail and nuzzled Mrs. Qin.

Qin Han then asked about the matters at the court.

Chapter 244: He Still Cares About His Face

Today is the day the court mediates compensation between Xiyang Food Factory and Huang Family Chicken Farm, and even though he can't be there in person, he's still concerned about it.

In the eyes of ordinary people like them, anything involving the court is a major issue.

Lin Chuxia told Qin Han about Huang Dashun poisoning the Luo Family Chicken Farm, and also about the court's decision.

"When the time comes, the court will execute directly; having Xiao Wu and Jianjun keeping an eye on it should suffice."

Qin Han nodded, then suddenly smiled, "Speaking of which, we've actually turned misfortune into a blessing because of this matter. Previously, Huang Dashun's old mother and wife caused trouble at the food factory, spreading rumors, worrying about the factory using sick chickens. Business at the bun shop selling smoked chicken dropped these past few days, but now that everyone heard our case is going through the court, everybody knows that Xiyang Food Factory would rather fight a lawsuit than use sick or dead chickens, and they're willing to buy our cooked foods, improving our business significantly these past couple of days."

Lin Chuxia had also heard about this, inadvertently providing a wave of advertisement for their Xiyang Food Factory.

The next day, after breakfast, Lin Chuxia first went to the village chief's house.

Village Chief Qin, upon seeing Lin Chuxia, was especially enthusiastic, welcoming him into the house and having his wife make tea for Lin Chuxia.

"Don't trouble yourself, Uncle Qin; I came to talk to you about the pig farm."

When the village chief heard it was about this matter, his smile grew even warmer.

"Lin, you don't know, I've been waiting for you these past few days; the bricks for the pig farm have been pulled in; our pig farm can be built as soon as we say."

When we say it can be built, it just means there's a bit of money short.

Qin Shusen had planned to build the pig farm using the money from selling chickens, which would be ready after the current batch from the chicken farm is out.

Initially, it was agreed with Lin Chuxia that he would invest in it.

Recently, as the chickens from the chicken farm started to be sold off,

and Xiyang Food Factory taking care of them, payments almost daily, Qin Shusen was getting anxious to build the pig farm as soon as possible.

However, it would be awkward for him to approach Lin Chuxia directly about this, especially since he was already receiving payments daily; to hasten asking for the investment money...

He still had his pride.

Lin Chuxia understood Qin Shusen's urgency and explained with a smile, "You know, there had been some issues with the suppliers recently; I've been dealing with that nonstop, but now it's finally resolved, so I've brought the money to you."

Speaking of the supplier issue, Qin Shusen's smile also diminished slightly, "How did it get resolved? The Huang family really lacks virtue; it was clearly their fault, yet they tried to falsely accuse the food factory, thinking the people of Qin Family Village are easy to bully, Lin, don't worry, if something like this happens again, just tell Uncle directly, I'll call everyone with the loudspeaker, and we won't let you get bullied."

"I really should thank you, Uncle, the villagers were a great help that day."

Lin Chuxia politely said a few more words, then repeated the court's resolution to Qin Shusen.

"This is the situation. When Xiyang Food Factory and the suppliers signed the contract, it was to protect the interests of both parties. The contract is legally binding, regardless of whether Huang Dashun is willing to compensate, the court will execute according to the contract."

"But speaking of which, Huang Dashun truly brought this upon himself. When vaccines were being administered, the food factory had repeatedly reminded the suppliers, although it wasn't our

obligation, but in favor of achieving a win-win situation, we still kindly reminded them. Huang Dashun, however, disregarded it. Now even if Xiyang Food Factory raises a compensation claim, it is entirely within moral and ethical bounds, considering we are responsible for over a hundred employees, Uncle, don't you think that's fair?"

Qin Shusen nodded repeatedly, "Exactly, we can't suffer losses due to their mistakes. Fortunately, we have our own chicken farm, otherwise the production at Xiyang Food Factory would definitely be affected."

His daughter works at Xiyang Food Factory and is a small leader in the workshop; she knows the ins and outs best.

"Lin, rest assured, from now on, Qin Family Village's chicken farm will be your backing. We will manage strictly according to the factory's requirements, and we will definitely not hold you back."

That was exactly what Lin Chuxia wanted to hear from Qin Shusen.

After the incident with Huang Dashun, she was worried that the village chief might someday get carried away due to their relationship, and it would be bad if things turned sour.

"I know, Uncle Qin, you don't consider me an outsider. Not to keep it from you, Uncle, my dad often mentions you at home, says you are a rare good village chief in our village. When you helped me build the factory, my dad said you treated Xiyang Food Factory as your own child. You are the elder of this village. Now I understand what my dad meant."

Lin Chuxia was visibly moved and admiring, the village chief smiled until his eyes couldn't be seen.

"Hey, although your father and I are distant relatives, our ancestors belonged to the same family. Don't worry about formalities like elder and all, just talk directly to your uncle about anything. I'll take care of the village matters for you."

"I know, I won't be distant with you, uncle."

As Lin Chuxia spoke, she took out a thick stack of money from her bag.

"Uncle, here is the 10,000 yuan investment from the Food Factory to our village pig farm, please count it."

Seeing the money, Qin Shusen felt completely relieved.

"Ah, I haven't... just wait a moment, I'll call the accountant to issue you a receipt."

"No worries, uncle, just count it first, you can send the receipt over with Yufeng when you get a chance. It's just us doing business, can I not trust you? The village has a lot going on lately, better focus on those matters first."

Qin Shusen was even more pleased upon hearing this and counted the money in front of Lin Chuxia.

"Exactly 10,000 yuan, let's settle it then. I'll have Yufeng send you the receipt later."

Lin Chuxia readily agreed and did not stay much longer.

Qin Shusen personally escorted her out to the courtyard gate, watching her until she was far away before returning to the yard.

Aunt Qin knew they were handling important matters, she brewed some tea and then went to the backyard garden to pick vegetables.

Seeing Qin Shusen come back chuckling, his face had more wrinkles from smiling, she curiously asked, "What's made you so happy?"

Qin Shusen wiped the corner of his mouth, "Lin brought money to the village, our village's pig farm can be built soon."

Aunt Qin looked doubtful, wasn't this already decided? What was there to be so happy about a decision that was made long ago?

Qin Shusen understood what his wife meant, and continued, "I'm pleased about Lin's attitude towards me. Oh, isn't Qin Yang fortunate to have married such a sensible girl? Not just Qin Yang's house, our entire Qin Family Village is lucky to have such a capable person. In my life, I've always wanted to do something real for the villagers, previously it was just a pipe dream. Now, one by one things are becoming reality, it feels so surreal, all thanks to Lin."

Thanks to Lin Chuxia, who helped Qin Family Village and gave him so much face, trusting them so much. What did Qin Shusen do to deserve this?

"As long as I'm still the village chief of Qin Family Village, I cannot let Lin down. And you should too, treat Lin and their family as your own children, help them with whatever difficulties or grievances they face, we must help whenever we can."

Chapter 245: Look at with New Eyes

Lin Chuxia had no idea what her words had inspired the village chief to decide. Upon returning home and entering the courtyard, Mrs. Qin came out to meet her.

Seeing the grave expression on Mrs. Qin's face, Lin Chuxia asked directly, "What's wrong, Mom? Did something happen?"

Mrs. Qin took Lin Chuxia by the arm, pointing inside the house, "A few public security comrades have come looking for you. Your dad is entertaining them inside right now; we don't know what the matter is."

Lin Chuxia, seeing the worry on Mrs. Qin's face, patted her arm, "Don't worry, I'll go in and see."

It's likely that the public security comrades are here because of what happened last night.

As expected, most of the officers inside were familiar faces: Chen Ping, Sun Hao, and an older one.

Chen Ping and Sun Hao stood up first to greet Lin Chuxia and then turned to introduce her to the older officer, "Director Wang, this is Mr. Lin."

Director Wang got up and extended his right hand, "Mr. Lin, thank you for yesterday. I've heard all about it. Not only did you save Comrade Chen Ping, but you also helped us apprehend a criminal suspect. The case is being further investigated, and you really helped us out a lot this time. On behalf of our department, I thank you."

Lin Chuxia shook hands with Director Wang simply and smiled slightly, "I was just doing what I should."

Although she spoke lightly, everyone present, except for Mr. and Mrs. Qin, knew the gravity of the situation then.

Director Wang was not about to disregard Lin Chuxia's merits just because she was modest.

"The case requires further investigation, but I have already reported Mr. Lin's actions to the organization."

This meant they were looking to give Lin Chuxia some reward, and naturally, she had no reason to decline.

After a while, Director Wang suggested it was time to leave. Sun Hao and Director Wang left first, but Chen Ping stayed behind.

Under the shade of the big tree in the courtyard, Lin Chuxia brought some fresh fruit for Chen Ping.

Chen Ping joked with a smile, "Such big grapes, I'm in for a treat today."

The grapes were grown in Granny Su's yard. Granny Su had a green thumb for flowers, and her grapevines were just as thriving.

Lin Chuxia pushed the fruit plate closer to her so she would eat more, "How are your injuries?"

"Not bad, won't kill me. We're a tough bunch, I'll be fine after some rest."

"Still, you can't be careless. Women and men are different. You need to be careful when you should."

Yesterday she had seen Chen Ping clutching the area of her stomach—that's where women are most vulnerable.

Chen Ping certainly understood Lin Chuxia's kindness and apologized again.

Ever since the public security officers had been in the house, Zhuangzhuang had been hiding far away, watching curiously with his big, grape-like black eyes.

Children are like that, admiring yet also in awe of the public security officers.

After Director Wang and Sun Hao had left, the house was left with a beautiful auntie wearing a public security uniform, and Zhuangzhuang felt a bit braver.

Now, not far away, he huddled around Yuan Bao's neck, chattering away, though it was unclear what he was telling Yuan Bao.

Yuan Bao also cooperated by shaking his head and wagging his tail, occasionally making a humming sound or two.

This scene, watched from afar, was inexplicably harmonious and even a bit humorous.

"Your dog is really smart; it seems to understand what we say. Where did you get this little dog from?"

Remembering the scene from yesterday, Chen Ping saw Yuan Bao in a new light.

Lin Chuxia also knew about Yuan Bao's intelligence, which she attributed to the spiritual spring water.

Ever since she found out that spiritual spring water was effective for its health and intelligence, she would occasionally give Yuan Bao some to drink.

But even knowing it was smarter than the average dog, she never expected that at the crucial moment, Yuan Bao would be such a great help to them.

At this moment, she just smiled lightly, "I didn't beg for it, I found it. Picked it up right in the county, just this tiny, followed me all the way and wouldn't leave no matter what. I guessed it was a homeless stray dog, so I kept it by my side."

Chen Ping sighed, "No wonder it's so smart. To be able to pick you as its owner from the bustling streets at a glance certainly proves how intelligent this dog is."

Putting aside anything else, following Lin Chuxia, the owner of a bun shop and a deli, it at least didn't have to worry about food and drink.

Seeming to know that others were talking about it, Yuan Bao wagged its tail and barked twice at the two people.

Lin Chuxia beckoned, and Yuan Bao immediately ran over.

When it ran over, Little Zhuangzhuang was dumbfounded, then Lin Chuxia beckoned again and called Little Zhuangzhuang over to her side.

It was Zhuangzhuang's first time being so close to a police officer, and his little face was flushed with excitement.

Chen Ping also noticed that Little Zhuangzhuang was in awe of his uniform, and patted the little hand holding it.

Mrs. Qin was worried Zhuangzhuang would disturb Lin Chuxia and Chen Ping's conversation. After Little Zhuangzhuang finished touching, she called to him, wanting to take him outside to play.

Little Zhuangzhuang held his hand up high, a look of pride on his face.

"Granny, I'm going to find Niuniu, let her touch my hand, I also want to wear my military uniform."

"It's too hot, be careful not to get prickly heat..."

Mrs. Qin pulled Zhuangzhuang along, chatting as they left the yard.

Chen Ping and Lin Chuxia both had smiles on their lips. Once people had left, the topic once again shifted back to Yuan Bao.

It turned out that Chen Ping had another purpose for coming. Their case involved many issues, and although a suspect had been identified, some items had yet to be found.

"It was after seeing how smart Yuan Bao was yesterday that we had a breakthrough idea. We've always heard that some police dogs can help solve cases. Our station has limited resources, and not just here, even the city doesn't have any, so the station wanted to discuss with you, to see if we might borrow Yuan Bao's assistance. Maybe it can help us."

After saying this, Chen Ping seemed to remember something.

"Don't worry, Yuan Bao's safety is absolutely not an issue, we will take good care of it."

Lin Chuxia had no worries about letting Yuan Bao help investigate, and she was also curious to see how far Yuan Bao could go.

However, she had to lay out the harsh truth, "Although Yuan Bao is a bit smarter than the average dog, it hasn't been professionally trained. It might not necessarily be able to help you, and I just hope you won't be disappointed."

"No, we won't be. The station is aware of these matters, and we're just trying out the possibility. You don't need to worry."

The reason for keeping her to talk about this matter alone was precisely because of this consideration.

Now that things were clear, Lin Chuxia patted Yuan Bao's head, "Yuan Bao, it's time for you to make mommy proud. You'll follow Mr. Chen these next few days, do whatever he asks, and make sure to be good and obedient, alright?"

Yuan Bao seemed to understand her words, raising its head and barking twice with its little tail wagging.

Then it stood up and walked over to Mr. Chen before sitting down again.

Having witnessed Yuan Bao subduing a criminal, Chen Ping knew of its intelligence, and seeing its behavior now, his eyes lit up even more.

Like Lin Chuxia, he extended his hand to pet its head, "Good job, Yuan Bao."

Yuan Bao proudly rubbed its head against her palm, as if to respond to her.

Chen Ping was even more confident, "Then I'll take it with me. Once we have results, I'll bring it back to you."

Chapter 246 Auntie, Am I Really a Fool?

After seeing off Chen Ping, Lin Chuxia took advantage of the empty house to add some spiritual spring water into the water tank.

Because of Mr. Qin's health, Lin Chuxia would secretly add some spiritual spring water to the tank whenever convenient, to help regulate Mr. Qin's health.

Over the past year, Mr. Qin and Mrs. Qin's health had indeed improved remarkably.

She always drank spiritual spring water herself and was most aware of its benefits.

Yesterday, when she fought those thugs, her strength and skills were even better than when she confronted Jia Liang and his people a year ago.

There was some noise in the yard; it was Mrs. Qin coming back with Little Zhuangzhuang.

Mrs. Qin, seeing Mr. Chen had left, casually asked about it and then went to the backyard to feed the chickens.

Little Zhuangzhuang was left alone in the yard, his two eyes red, pouting his little mouth.

He had been so happy when he left the house just a moment ago.

"What happened?"

Lin Chuxia liked children, and Zhuangzhuang was so endearing that she truly doted on her nephew.

Zhuangzhuang didn't regard Lin Chuxia as an outsider and, with his pouted mouth, complained, "I was playing nicely with Niuniu just now, but Tie Dan came and took Niuniu away. He said he's going to primary school in two months and that he can already count to 20 without having started school yet, claiming he's a child prodigy. He said I can't count, that I'm too dumb, and would not let Niuniu play with me, saying that stupidity is contagious and if Niuniu keeps playing with me, she will catch the dumbness too."

After finishing, he looked up at Lin Chuxia with folded arms, "Auntie Shao, am I really a dummy?"

Lin Chuxia replied with a question instead, "Does Zhuangzhuang think he's a dummy?"

"I'm not dumb; mom and dad and grandma all say I'm the smartest, and grandpa also says I'm as smart as Uncle."

"That's right, isn't it? Auntie Shao tells you, being dumb might not be contagious, but intelligence can be inherited. Your uncle is so smart, your dad and he are real brothers, you must have inherited smart genes too."

Hearing this, Zhuangzhuang's little face immediately brightened, "Then can I go to college like Uncle?"

"Of course, you can," Lin Chuxia nodded without hesitation.

Zhuangzhuang was happy for a while, then his face fell again, "But I can't yet count to 20; how can I go to college?"

Lin Chuxia knew the little guy had suffered a setback today and if he didn't understand, this obstacle could linger in his heart for a long time.

She stretched out her hand to embrace his little body in her arms, gently stroking his plump little arms, and explained gently to him.

"Being able to count to 20 is nothing, it's just that no one has taught you before. People can't be born knowing everything, otherwise, what's the point of going to school? If Tie Dan can count to 20 it's definitely because someone taught him. So, Auntie Shao will teach you to count right now, and we won't just count to 20, we'll count to 100, how does that sound? Are you confident?"

Zhuangzhuang immediately widened his eyes and nodded vigorously, "Mhm, I'm confident."

Zhuangzhuang was also five years old this year, usually brought up by Mr. Qin and Mrs. Qin.

Mr. Qin was busy with farm work, and Mrs. Qin was illiterate; in the end, it was because Qin Han and his wife were busy with the Bun Shop and had neglected Zhuangzhuang's education.

Zhuangzhuang was a smart and bright child; Lin Chuxia really didn't want this little one to develop a psychological shadow over this.

Since there was nothing to do today, she simply grabbed some paper and a pen to teach Zhuangzhuang to recognize and understand numbers.

Mrs. Qin, after feeding chickens and picking vegetables, saw two figures—one big, one small—under the big tree, counting something seriously.

Lin Chuxia would say a number, and Zhuangzhuang would follow; and as she got closer, she heard they were counting numbers.

Zhuangzhuang was learning very earnestly, having counted to 29, Lin Chuxia would just remind him, and he could immediately count numbers above 30.

Upon reaching 39, Lin Chuxia reminded him once more, and then continued to count numbers above 40. When she got to 49, this time without Lin Chuxia's reminder, he began counting 50, 51, 52...

He continued all the way to 99, and Lin Chuxia smiled and clapped her hands, "100, Zhuangzhuang, you are really amazing. Auntie only taught you once, and you can count to 100 already. You're truly a little prodigy."

Zhuangzhuang's eyes widened in disbelief, "Is counting really this easy?"

"Counting is not necessarily easy, but it is easy for Zhuangzhuang, right? So Zhuangzhuang is definitely not a dummy."

Zhuangzhuang nodded in agreement, "Tie Dan can only count to 20, and he still calls himself a genius. I'm going to find Tie Dan later and compete in counting with him to see who the real dummy is."

"Hmm, sure, we should not only know how to count but also how to write. How about Auntie teaches you how to write now?"

"Yes, I want to learn."

He wanted to secretly learn to count and write numbers to surprise all his little friends.

Lin Chuxia first wrote the numbers 1 to 10 for him to recognize and then held his small hand to start writing.

Although the writing was a bit crooked, Zhuangzhuang learned very quickly and was able to write after a short while.

This result was within Lin Chuxia's expectations.

Yuan Bao became smarter than the average dog after drinking the spiritual spring water, and Zhuangzhuang usually eats and drinks with Mr. Qin and Mrs. Qin.

It's just that the concentration of the spiritual spring water in the water jar is low, so the effect might not be as noticeable.

Mrs. Qin had been watching for a while when she finally said with a chuckle, "Xiaxia, you like children so much, you should consider having one with Yangyang. When the time comes, Mom will help you take care of the child."

She already knew that Lin Chuxia and Qin Yang had not gotten pregnant because they were practicing contraception. She understood that Lin Chuxia was busy with her business and could not think about having children, but she still hoped that the couple would have a child sooner rather than later.

Lin Chuxia looked at Little Zhuangzhuang concentrating on writing and nodded with a smile, "Mom, we'll think about it."

Now, she indeed had fewer concerns about having children.

Counting the days, it had been over a week since Jia Yuanliang left. If she didn't go to the Northwest soon, she would miss the opening of Jia Yuanliang's Bun Shop.

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In the city, Jia Liang returned from outside and the workers had already started to get busy.

Their bun shops all have a uniform decorating style, and Jia Liang wanted to ensure that the workers could replicate the storefront exactly like the blueprints, so he came to the shop nearly every day to keep an eye on them.

After scanning the room and not finding the person he was looking for, he called Feng Zhong over from where he was busy, "Where's Zhuizi?"

Feng Zhong and Tian Jinzhu had been staying with him at the shop since they arrived in the city.

They hadn't found a place to stay when they first came to the city, and they said that staying at the bun shop would allow them to watch the workers and the progress of the work, and they could also learn more from following Jia Liang.

Tian Jinzhu was usually unreliable, but hearing him say this, Jia Liang suddenly felt that his kid had grown up and become sensible, so he agreed.

Feng Zhong put down his work and wiped off some sweat, "Someone came looking for him just now, seemed like an emergency. He went back to get a bag and then left. I asked him but he didn't say, only mentioned going back to An City."

"Back to An City? Is there something with his family?"

Tian Jinzhu was also from An City, but what kind of family matter could it be that they would need to find him? If not family, who else could it be?

Feng Zhong shook his head, "I don't know."

"Alright, I got it," Jia Liang waved his hand and quickly stopped Feng Zhong again, "By the way, did he mention when the batch of timber would arrive when he left?"

Chapter 247: Heading to the Northwest

Feng Zhong shook his head again, "He didn't say."

"Alright, you go on and get busy."

"Eh, Zhuzi is back," Feng Zhong had just turned around when he saw Tian Jinzhu walking in from outside.

Jia Liang felt a quiet relief inside when he saw him.

He walked over and asked, "What happened? I heard from Lao Feng that you went back to An City, was there an issue?"

Jia Liang's voice was low, filled with concern.

Tian Jinzhu didn't expect to bump into Jia Liang upon his return, and his eyes fleetingly dodged.

"Nothing much, just went back to take a look."

"It's good that it's nothing serious."

Jia Liang knew Tian Jinzhu had a complicated family situation. Although his stepfather and mother hadn't been very kind to him before, now that they were getting older, they seemed to have regretted their treatment of Tian Jinzhu and would occasionally invite him over for a meal.

Especially after his two older sisters got married, Tian Jinzhu, who didn't take care of serious business, had cut off contact with his family.

Tian Jinzhu also felt a bit sorry for his mother.

Jia Liang did not approve of it, but he didn't interfere too much with other people's private affairs.

"By the way, about that batch of goods you mentioned before, when will it arrive? I see the tiling work in the shop is almost finished, and I plan to let the carpenters start the day after tomorrow. You should also prepare the timber you ordered. If possible, have them deliver the goods in the next couple of days."

Previously, Tian Jinzhu said he had a connection and could buy good timber at a lower price, but the supplier needed a deposit first, and Jia Liang had already given him the deposit.

All of a sudden, a look of pain crossed Tian Jinzhu's face, filled with guilt.

"Brother Liang, I'm sorry, there's something I haven't told you. My stepfather had a stroke recently and is paralyzed in bed. My mother has been taking care of him, but she accidentally fell and broke her bone yesterday. I had no choice but to use that money for the medical bills. I'm sorry, Brother Liang, I should have told you beforehand, but I was afraid you'd be disappointed in me, so I thought about whether I could borrow the money in the next couple of days to pay for the goods, but I have no ability, I couldn't borrow a cent..."

Tian Jinzhu squatted on the ground, helplessly clutching his hair.

Feng Zhong hadn't expected Tian Jinzhu to lose the money either, and stood by, stunned, watching Jia Liang's reaction.

Jia Liang sighed and pulled him up.

"If there's difficulty at home, you should have told me. We've been brothers for so many years, what is it that you can't tell me, and you had to resort to embezzling the shop's project funds?"

Tian Jinzhu looked up, his eyes slightly red, "Back when you and Houzi quit that life and tried to pull me in, I know that by not joining you that time, I disappointed you, Brother Liang. This time I just thought... I couldn't disappoint Brother Liang again, so I..."

He raised his hand and wiped away a tear, overwhelmed with shame.

"Enough, crying and sobbing like that, what a sight for a grown man! You used that sum of money, but have the timbers been ordered?"

Other issues could be discussed, but the progress of the project was absolutely critical.

"Ordered, definitely ordered," Tian Jinzhu nodded hastily, "it's just short of payment."

Jia Liang breathed a sigh of relief, "Alright then, come with me to get the money later. We'll get the timber delivered first, we can't delay the progress of the project. And how about the medical expenses for your mother, is it enough?"

"It's enough, I've taken care of everything back home," Tian Jinzhu glanced at Jia Liang's expression and spoke timidly, "Thank you, Brother Liang, for your concern. I'll definitely work hard from now on and never make the same mistake again."

Jia Liang nodded and did not say anything more.

...

After sorting out the factory matters, Lin Chuxia packed her luggage and boarded the train bound for the Northwest.

After half a year, the Northwest in summer is totally different from its winter desolation. With lush crops and herds of cattle and sheep scattered about.

Before boarding the train, Lin Chuxia had called Qin Yang. When the train arrived at the station, through the glass, she could see the man in the crowd.

He was tall, dressed in a white shirt, with tidy short hair, and his stern features made him stand out in the crowd like a crane among chickens.

While the train was still moving, the man's deep eyes locked onto each passing window.

Lin Chuxia was sitting in a sleeper berth and knew that from this angle, he wouldn't be able to see her at all, so she wasn't in a hurry to respond, cradling her chin and admiring her man.

Oh my, the more I look, the more attractive it becomes.

Lin Chuxia knew she was a face-junkie, quite the admirer of beauty. She had always been clear about her own preferences; in her past life, the young hotties around her came in all shapes and colors.

But those pretty faces were just for looking. As long as they were pleasing to the eye, she kept them around.

As for emotions, there were none.

Back then, whether it was her life experience or age, she saw those young hunks as if they were her sons.

Qin Yang was different, though. It was only in this lifetime that she had realized not all good-looking people could make one's heart skip a beat; Qin Yang genuinely captivated her heart.

Finally, the train arrived at the station. Lin Chuxia carried her luggage and slowly moved to the door with the crowd, where the man had already been waiting.

Seeing Lin Chuxia, his stern features softened, and his eyes held a faint smile.

"Was the journey smooth? Are you tired?"

As he took Lin Chuxia's luggage, Qin Yang asked.

"Mhm, it was okay."

Their eyes met, filled with longing and love for one another.

Qin Yang looked into those bright, starry eyes, feeling his chest swell with emotion, almost wishing he could immediately embrace the person he had been yearning for day and night.

However, the hustle and bustle of the people around him and the noisy environment pulled him back to his senses. In such a public setting, such an action would be improper.

His Adam's apple bobbed up and down before he finally looked away. "The car's outside; let's head out."

How could Lin Chuxia not see his restraint? Using their bodies as a shield, she reached out to tug gently at his hand, playfully scratching the center of his palm twice.

The man tensed in an instant, and just as she teased him and was about to make her escape, his large hand swiftly caught her small one, giving a light squeeze before hurriedly letting go.

Clearing his throat, his ears slowly flushed crimson.

Lin Chuxia walked by his side, watching his reactions without blinking, holding back her laughter.

She really adored this innocent side of Qin Yang. He had not been influenced by the world of the future; men from this era were still so conservative and pure.

Even though the two had shared the most intimate moments, they still behaved with emotion and stopped at what was proper in public.

Being so perceptive, how could Qin Yang not feel Lin Chuxia's gaze?

He turned slightly to glance at her, "Watch where you're going."

Lin Chuxia laughed, "The road isn't as good-looking as you."

Qin Yang with a look: We're in public; tone it down.

Lin Chuxia continued to smile.

Qin Yang, feeling helpless, carried the luggage, wanting to leave the crowded place as soon as possible, yet worried about walking too fast for Lin Chuxia to keep up.

Once in the car, without a moment's delay, he started the engine.

Lin Chuxia stopped teasing him and began inquiring about his recent work.

Qin Yang had mentioned in a letter before that his work here was nearing an end, and it would likely be finished in a few more months.

After completing his tasks here, he might be reassigned to another location.

Lin Chuxia had always been aware of the nature of Qin Yang's work and hoped that his next job would not be as tough as the current one, whose details were still unclear.

Qin Yang also inquired about the situation at Lin Chuxia's food factory.

Lin Chuxia only shared the good news and not the concerns, telling him about the new production line and that his favorite beef sauce would now always be available.

The two chatted all the way, seemingly with endless topics.

Even when they entered the office, Lin Chuxia was still chattering non-stop, narrating amusing stories from home.

Chapter 248: I Like You the Most!

She knew Qin Yang was a man with a strong sense of career, but having interacted with him over the year, she also learned that not only did he value his career, but he cared deeply for family relationships as well. It was just that he couldn't find a balance between the two, which made it seem as if he favored his career more.

Only upon entering Qin Yang's dormitory did Lin Chuxia realize that he had been unusually quiet afterward.

Lifting her head, she suddenly found herself lost in a pair of deep, dark eyes.

Lin Chuxia paused for a moment, then broke into a radiant smile and spun around where she stood, "Does it look good?"

She had changed into a new dress during her transfer, which she and Sun Lanlan bought in the city. It was fashionable in both style and fabric for the era, and Lin Chuxia liked it very much. She brought it especially to show Qin Yang.

A man dies for his confidant, a woman dresses for the one who adores her – Lin Chuxia was a worldly person who enjoyed such worldly pleasures.

The red dress bloomed like a flower before his eyes, making the girl's already fair skin even more silky and delicate like milk.

Qin Yang noticed her beauty the moment Lin Chuxia got off the vehicle, but unlike her, he couldn't bring himself to stare so blatantly at a female comrade amidst the bustling train station.

Now, at last, he could openly admire his own wife.

Qin Yang didn't respond to Lin Chuxia's question; his actions and gaze said it all.

Lin Chuxia was very pleased with this effect. She turned around to rummage through her suitcase, "I also brought you your favorite... Eh..."

Before she could finish her sentence, a strong arm wrapped around her waist and pulled her close.

A murmur beside her ear carried a hint of sensual temptation, "My favorite is you!"

Lin Chuxia felt a burning heat on her back but calmly corrected him, "Your favorite beef sauce, produced on the assembly line of our food factory. Try it at lunch and see how it tastes."

Qin Yang's arm tightened around her, "Wife..."

Lin Chuxia gave him a sidelong glance, "Look, I brought quite a bit. Later on, we can give some to your colleagues..."

Qin Yang pulled her hand directly, confining her in his embrace and forcing her to face him.

Lin Chuxia blinked, "And there's more..."

"I know."

"You don't know... mmm..."

"I said I know."

The rest of her words were cut off, replaced by an urgent and passionate interruption.

A sly twinkle passed through Lin ChuXia's eyes as her slender fingers traced up his spine, "What do you know?"

The man stiffened, then suddenly picked her up and placed her on the bed, "I just know..."

After the passion subsided, Lin Chuxia watched the man by the bed tidying his clothes. Exhausted, she turned over. The room was stuffy and hot, and it was uncomfortable under the covers. She aimlessly kicked a couple of times, stretching her legs out of the blanket.

Qin Yang caught sight of her leg protruding from under the blanket, dazzlingly white, and then looked at her shoulder exposed outside, marked with spots, and touched his nose.

He seemed a bit too eager; she had just gotten off the train.

"What do you feel like eating? I'll see what the cafeteria has."

She had mentioned being hungry earlier, and he was hungry too, but his hunger was of a different kind now, and he had satisfied himself at her expense.

Lin Chuxia glared at him annoyedly, "Are you sure there's still food in the cafeteria at this hour?"

Qin Yang glanced at his watch, his face turning a bit sheepish.

He hadn't expected to be delayed to this time and now they could only wait for dinner.

Lin Chuxia didn't want to blame or trouble him over this matter. She had enjoyed herself just now, and it's just that a man reunited after a long separation is always hard to satisfy.

"I still have some food in my bag. Let's make do with that and the beef sauce for now. Oh, and I also bought some milk powder."

Qin Yang remembered he had Ovaltine as well and hurriedly went to get things from her bag.

Lin Chuxia also got up, wrapped in a thin quilt, her slender legs touching the ground, her bare snow-white feet looking for clothes.

Qin Yang heard the movement, glanced sideways unintentionally, and saw the woman's slender and fair figure, only a dark grey bed sheet in the middle, revealing her entire snowy back.

Her hair was ink-black, casually draped over her shoulders, half-concealed and half-exposed, presenting a different kind of charm.

He felt some heat in his nostrils and quickly raised his head and covered them. Fortunately, there was no blood.

He hurriedly stood up, grabbing the quilt to wrap her properly.

Lin Chuxia tugged, "No need to wrap, it's hot..."

Seeing his flustered expression, Lin Chuxia put on one of his vests.

After a simple meal, Lin Chuxia and Qin Yang tidied up the luggage she had brought.

Most of it was food, with beef sauce and cooked meals from the food factory making up the majority.

Qin Yang was injured last time, and his colleagues took care of him; Lin Chuxia hadn't formally thanked them yet.

These items were not very expensive but were substantial, and with people's living standards limited, they wouldn't seem too cheap.

They were perfect for exchanging feelings among colleagues.

After distributing the items, Lin Chuxia changed into clean clothes and freshened up, then left the house with Qin Yang.

By this time, everyone was off work. They first went to Bai Xiaoming's house.

Aunt Song was cooking and warmly welcomed Lin Chuxia into the house when she saw her.

Lin Chuxia and Qin Yang didn't plan to stay long at anyone's house; they left the items, exchanged a few pleasantries, and left.

Then they went to Li Wei's house, where he had just brought his wife over at the beginning of the year.

Li Wei's wife, Jiang Hong, looked like a very decisive woman.

Lin Chuxia had heard about Jiang Hong forcing Li Wei to write her three letters a month, which was indeed like her character.

They also delivered items to Zhang Dawei and Wu Zhenfa.

Zhang Dawei was almost ecstatic at the sight of the beef sauce.

"Sister-in-law, you have no idea how much I've been looking forward to your visit."

"You're not just looking forward to your sister-in-law coming, you're looking forward to her bringing beef sauce," Qin Yang unhesitatingly exposed him.

Zhang Dawei chuckled with a "hehe," "It's all the same, all the same."

Lin Chuxia didn't visit a few other leaders; after they had dinner, Qin Yang went to visit them himself.

Lin Chuxia packed a few changes of clothes and went to the communal bathhouse.

Most of the workers here were men; there were not many female colleagues, and among the women, most were family members.

And family members usually bathed at home, seldom coming to the communal bathhouse.

For this reason, the unit's female bathroom was much smaller than the men's, with only four or five showerheads.

When Lin Chuxia arrived, there was no one in the bathhouse. Just as she was about to shut the door, someone hurriedly came.

"Wait, wait..."

The woman squeezed into the bathroom; it was Sister-in-law Feng.

Seeing Lin Chuxia, she greeted her with a surprised and delighted face, "Qin's family, what a coincidence. I heard this afternoon that you came, didn't expect to bump into you here."

Lin Chuxia didn't have a very good impression of Sister-in-law Feng, but she wouldn't slap a smiling face, so she nodded slightly, "Indeed, I arrived today."

"Are you here to see Mr. Qin or are you planning to stay? If you ask me, you shouldn't leave. While it may look desolate around here, we won't lack food and drink, and staying here means no need to attend to the in-laws; it's much more comfortable than being at home."

Chapter 249: Problems?!

Lin Chuxia nodded, indicating she did not want to continue this topic.

She unbuttoned her coat and saw Sister-in-law Feng still chattering endlessly, showing no intention of taking a bath.

"Sister-in-law, aren't you going to wash?"

The public bathhouse was rudimentary, without even separate stalls.

But as a true Northerner, Lin Chuxia didn't mind and boldly took off her coat.

Sister-in-law Feng, seeing her undress swiftly, had a flickering gaze and then looking at Lin Chuxia's fair skin, felt some envy.

Lin Chuxia didn't hear her reply, turned her head and saw she was still looking at her, frowned slightly, "Sister-in-law, weren't you going to take a bath?"

Sister-in-law Feng came back to her senses, under her scrutinizing gaze, awkwardly smiled while trying to undress, "I... I seem to have forgotten my towel, you go ahead, I need to go back home first."

Without waiting for Lin Chuxia to say anything, she hurriedly left the bathroom.

Lin Chuxia: "..."

Is she kidding?!

She clearly saw a towel in her basin.

Having interacted with Sister-in-law Feng a few times, Lin Chuxia had a pretty good idea of what kind of person she was and guessed she wouldn't be coming back, so she locked the door.

Meanwhile, Sister-in-law Feng headed home, still thinking about Lin Chuxia's pale body.

How can someone be so fair and yet claim they are from the countryside? Who are they fooling?

These city people always have ulterior motives, claiming to be from the countryside to get special attention from their work units?

"What are you doing with a basin in the middle of cooking?"

As Sister-in-law Feng entered the house, she saw her husband, who had just come home from work, fussing in the kitchen, visibly impatient.

Sister-in-law Feng quickly put the basin aside and asked, "Do you know who I just saw?"

Seeing Da Jun frowning, knowing he was getting impatient, she didn't wait for him to answer and continued.

"I saw Mr. Qin's wife, the really beautiful woman."

Hearing it was about this again, Da Jun frowned and said, "Shouldn't you be cooking instead of always watching what others are up to?"

"I'm telling you, it wasn't intentional this time, you don't know, this afternoon Mr. Qin and his wife were very busy, came to our residential area several times, carrying a lot of things to give away, I even saw Mr. Qin taking stuff to Minister Wang's house."

"His wife just brought some local specialties from her hometown for her colleagues to try, what's so surprising about that? Isn't it the same with any family member who visits..."

Da Jun stopped mid-sentence, looking at his wife with a strange expression.

When his wife came from her hometown with their child, she came empty-handed except for a few clothes for herself and the child.

Feeling sorry, he bought candies and snacks from the supply and sales cooperative to share with colleagues.

Because of that, his wife nagged for a long time.

Sister-in-law Feng, unaware of her husband's expression, exaggeratedly waved her hand, "It's not like what you think, what local specialties? I saw from a distance, they were all canned goods, they looked expensive, what kind of local specialties are canned?"

Seeing that Da Jun still didn't take it to heart, Sister-in-law Feng took another step forward, lowering her voice, "Are you truly clueless or just pretending? Didn't they say that you all would have the opportunity for a transfer after finishing the work here? What if there are only a few opportunities, and Mr. Qin has already brought gifts to Minister Wang's home..."

Her words were cut off by Feng Dajun, "Don't talk nonsense, Mr. Qin is not that kind of person."

"How do you know he is not that kind of person? There's a saying, 'You can know the face but not the heart.' Initially, Mrs. Qin told me they were from the countryside, but does she look like she's from the countryside at all? Just now, when we went to the bathroom together, her skin was so white; have you ever seen anyone in the village with skin as white as hers?"

"Enough, enough, go cook the meal. From now on, mind your own business and just take care of the children at home."

Da Jun, not wanting to hear her words, left the kitchen irritably.

Sister-in-law Feng pursed her lips, thinking that her husband was as dense as a log, so she must keep a tight watch on things for him.

Others looked down on them because they came from a village, so they had to prove themselves even more.

When the time came for transfers, it would be better if her husband's transfer was better than the others, to firmly shock those who looked down on them.

Turning her head, she saw her daughter at the door and immediately furrowed her brows tightly, reaching out to tap on Feng Jingjing's forehead.

"Why are you just standing there foolishly? Can't you help with the cooking? What did I tell you when I left earlier, how could you still let your dad enter the kitchen? Do you take my words as wind past your ears?"

Jingjing covered her forehead, a look of grievance on her face, "Dad told me to go play elsewhere, that he would cook, saying I'm too young and don't know how."

"You're already 8 years old, what's too young? When I was your age, I did all the household chores, not like you, even making a meal but still acting finicky. Do you think it's easy for your dad to work hard all day? Keeping you at home, still not knowing to help out more, be careful that you might be sent back to our old home one day."

Upon hearing she might be sent back to her old home, Jingjing's eyes instantly reddened, "Then I'll help you cook now, don't be angry at me, please don't send me back."

Sister-in-law Feng scoffed coldly, "Now you know to be afraid? How many times have I told you, you're not like the children in the city, don't always try to imitate them, also not looking at whether you have the fate for it, what your dad says you can just listen to, but honestly thinking you are a boy who could win your dad's affection?"

...

Lin Chuxia arrived in the Northwest just in time for the grand opening of Yuanliang Steamed Bun Shop, the next day being Yuanliang Steamed Bun Shop's opening day.

After breakfast, Lin Chuxia tidied up a bit and prepared to go into the city.

Qin Yang had inquired for her, and just today there was a car going to the city for supplies, and she could hitch a ride.

Worried that Lin Chuxia might not find the place, Qin Yang even personally took her to the meeting spot.

By the time they arrived, they saw quite a few people already waiting there.

The location of their workplace was remote with few buses, but importantly, hitching a ride with the workplace's vehicles saved money on transportation, as there would always be people catching a free ride whenever the vehicle went into the city for supplies.

Lin Chuxia had already spotted a few familiar sister-in-laws in the crowd and turned to say goodbye to Qin Yang, "I'll be fine by myself, you should go to work."

Qin Yang also saw Sister-in-law Song and the others, nodded, "Then, take care on the road."

From afar, Sister-in-law Song saw Lin Chuxia and waved at her.

Once Lin Chuxia approached, she teased with a smile, "Mr. Qin really can't set his mind at ease about you, such a short trip yet he still insists on escorting you over. In my opinion, you might as well come and reunite with Mr. Qin soon. Look, Jiang Hong has come too; in our group, it's just you left."

Jiang Hong was standing next to Sister-in-law Song, having met the day before.

Lin Chuxia greeted several people, "After a while, still have some matters at home that I can't leave."

Hearing this, Sister-in-law Song's smile grew even bigger, "Well, that's a promise, you have to come over after you're done with your home affairs, we're all waiting for you."

Just as the group finished chatting, the car arrived.

Chapter 250: High-Quality Generous Heart

A Jiefang-brand heavy-duty truck.

Sister-in-law Song and Jiang Hong were experienced, using both hands and feet, they quickly climbed into the truck bed.

Though it was Lin Chuxia's first time riding such a big truck, she was not the squeamish type and imitated them, using both hands and feet to climb up.

When she reached the top of the truck, Sister-in-law Song pulled her up, and she stood in the truck bed with ease.

The others also climbed up, and Jiang Hong had already claimed a spot, at the very front of the truck bed near the driver's cabin, where it was less bumpy and less dusty.

Seeing that everyone was aboard, the driver, Xiao Liu, called out, "Ladies, we're ready to take off," and climbed into the driver's seat.

Just as the truck was about to start, two people, one big and one small, came running from afar, "Wait for us, wait..."

Sister-in-law Song saw who was coming and commented indifferently, "Feng Dajun's family really knows how to make an entrance, never failing to be late."

And they always arrived just when the truck was about to leave.

She then turned to Jiang Hong, "You stay here later, don't give up your seat to them again."

After saying that, she instructed Lin Chuxia with concern, "You too."

Lin Chuxia looked puzzledly at the truck bed. The truck was big and there was still room; even if Sister-in-law Feng and her family were late, there was still space for them to sit. She did not quite understand the meaning behind Sister-in-law Song's words but nodded anyway.

Sister-in-law Feng came with her daughter, who looked to be about seven or eight years old, unable to climb onto the truck by herself.

Sister-in-law Feng lifted Feng Jingjing onto the edge of the truck bed, letting her climb while pushing her from below. Halfway through, seemingly unable to push her all the way up, Sister-in-law Feng turned to Lin Chuxia.

"Mrs. Qin, please give me a hand here; this damn girl insists on following me out."

With her speaking up, the others in the truck bed looked over.

Sister-in-law Song discreetly made a gesture to Lin Chuxia, who knew she meant well, but it would have looked bad if she refused to help when asked.

When Sister-in-law Feng called out "Mrs. Qin," she mostly represented Qin Yang here.

Lin Chuxia got up and pulled on Feng Jingjing's arm, hoisting the girl up.

Once she was steady, Lin Chuxia sat back down.

Meanwhile, Sister-in-law Feng below still had her arms raised, seemingly waiting for Lin Chuxia to help her up after Feng Jingjing.

Seeing Lin Chuxia ignore her, Sister-in-law Feng gave an embarrassed smile and climbed onto the truck, holding onto the edge.

With everyone aboard, the driver started the engine again, and the truck moved forward, swaying.

Sister-in-law Feng, holding Feng Jingjing, swayed with the truck for a moment and looked around before finally sitting down in the spot in front of Lin Chuxia.

"Mrs. Qin, really appreciate your help just now. Without you, we would've missed the truck. They also say city folks are high-quality and warm-hearted."

Lin Chuxia smiled but did not pick up on the conversation.

Sister-in-law Feng turned her head and said to Jiang Hong, "I think all you folks from your department are so kind-hearted. Just look at our worthless girl—acting like a delicate princess even with a servant's fate. She gets carsick when the ride gets bumpy and insists on sitting near the front. Last time, we were so grateful you gave up your seat for her. This time, though, none of you should give up your seat for her. I really want to see how she manages to get sick."

Jiang Hong, still young, probably meeting this kind of person for the first time in her life, stiffened and looked toward Sister-in-law Song.

Sister-in-law Song spoke indifferently, "Now listen, Feng Dajun's wife, you shouldn't talk like that. The child doesn't want to get carsick either—who can control their own body? If you ask me, unless it's something important, don't make the child suffer. Wouldn't it be much better to stay quietly at home?"

Jiang Hong hasn't been here long, and Lin Chuxia was just visiting relatives. Perhaps they didn't know, but who in these parts hasn't learned about Feng Dajun's wife? Nearly every time the unit goes to the city for purchases, she has to hitch a ride into town.

It's obviously inconvenient for her to ride with a child, but she always arrives just in time to catch the ride, then fusses about this and that, and in the end, she strolls around the city and buys nothing.

Initially, everyone took care of her since she was inconvenienced by the child, but over time, they all could see that Sister-in-law Feng was doing it on purpose.

Sure enough, hearing what Sister-in-law Song had said, Sister-in-law Feng's smile faltered for an instant. She looked around at the others and then let out a loud interjection...

"It's not that I'm deliberately making her suffer. I really do have some business in the city, and besides, being able to ride the truck with everyone is a blessing we've cultivated. How could there be any discomfort? If you're still uncomfortable in the truck, then it's just your fate to suffer."

Sister-in-law Song thought this woman was beyond redemption and simply stopped talking to her.

Sister-in-law Feng, acting as if nothing happened, started chatting with other women.

After a swaying journey, they finally reached the city. Sister-in-law Song and Jiang Hong were planning to go to the City Department Store to buy some things, while Lin Chuxia intended to head straight to Jia Yuanliang's Bun Shop.

Back in Ancheng County, Jia Yuanliang had left his address with Lin Chuxia. His Bun Shop was situated in his own wing-room.

After saying goodbye to Sister-in-law Song and the others, Lin Chuxia went directly to find the address.

Sister-in-law Feng pulled Feng Jingjing closer and looked at Lin Chuxia's retreating figure, asking the others curiously, "Isn't Mrs. Qin coming with us? She's new here and not sticking with us—where could she be going alone?"

Sister-in-law Song glanced at Feng Jingjing beside her, her small face deathly pale, not showing any sign of liveliness, and reminded, "You have the time to let the child take a good rest, or think properly about what you want to buy. Get it quickly, and stop tormenting the child."

Sister-in-law Feng followed her gaze to Feng Jingjing, let out a nonchalant exclamation.

"What's this fuss about? There are so many people who don't have the luck she does. How many kids her age in our village have never even seen a truck, let alone ridden in one?"

After finishing her words, her eyes rolled, and she returned to the previous conversation, "Mrs. Qin just came here yesterday. Looking at how she was carrying big and small bags yesterday, and coming to the city again today, she's not going to buy more stuff, is she?"

Really treating things like they're nothing, giving away so many good things isn't enough?

Her own man is so naively gullible, not even listening to her warnings.

With so many good things given away, if there are any benefits up top, could others possibly share in them?

Sister-in-law Song couldn't be bothered to acknowledge her, pulling Jiang Hong off to the Department Store.

But Sister-in-law Feng, seemingly oblivious to the cold shoulder, hurriedly pulled Feng Jingjing and followed them.

Meanwhile, Lin Chuxia arrived at Peace Street and from a distance, saw a shop surrounded by people. The "Yuanliang Steamed Bun Shop" sign was especially eye-catching.

Lin Chuxia couldn't help but curl up the corners of her mouth into a smile and strode over.

"Liangzi, you're really capable, aren't you? Actually opening a shop—I didn't believe it when I heard it from your third aunt yesterday."

"Isn't that the truth? Our family is going to start a private business too. But Liangzi, opening a Bun Shop isn't as easy as just saying it. With your mom's cooking skills, do you think you can actually sell those buns?"