

Switched M 281

Chapter 281 She Deserves It

"How have I raised you from childhood to now? As the elder brother, is this how you take care of your sister? I'm not dead yet and you're already looking down on your sister. Since I can't count on you, it'd be better to beat you to death now, so your sister doesn't have to endure grievances from outside and still be bullied when she gets home."

The pain quickly sobered Li Guangyuan up.

He didn't know what got into him today to dare to accuse and scold his sister.

Ever since they were kids, their parents had taught them he couldn't hit back or talk back to his sister; any good food or toys should go to her first, otherwise, he would be beaten severely.

All these years, he had grown used to this life. He must have lost his temper today to lose all reason.

"Mother, I was wrong. I won't dare do it next time."

Just now, he had been held down and beaten by those people outside, his body was still bruised and swollen. Now being struck by Old Mrs. Li with a stick, Li Guangyuan felt like all the flesh in his body didn't belong to him.

He knew what his mother wanted; a wise man does not eat the loss before his eyes.

Old Mrs. Li did indeed stop and sternly lectured Li Guangyuan before letting him go back to the house.

Lin Jiayi followed behind him. Just now, when Old Mrs. Li was beating Li Guangyuan, she wanted to come forward to stop the fight, fearing the thick stick would land on her as well.

A person like Old Mrs. Li was really capable of doing it.

Besides, how could she intervene when Old Mrs. Li, as his mother, was disciplining her own son? It seemed righteous, so she held back.

Seeing Li Guangyuan's body covered in bruises, Lin Jiayi stepped forward with concern and asked, "Are you okay? What on earth happened today?"

Given Li Guangyuan's usual timid nature, for him to confront Li Hongmei today, there must have been something serious.

Li Guangyuan knew those people had also looked for Lin Jiayi and the others, and simply said, "This matter probably won't blow over so easily. Today I had no money on me, so they could only beat me up. I reckon they will come to our house demanding money tomorrow."

If they don't have money by then, it won't just end with a beating.

Furthermore, he couldn't afford to lose face in front of the entire village.

Lin Jiayi also realized the seriousness of the problem, "What can we do then? Your little sister is really causing harm, I've said it before; she's just a home-wrecker."

Li Guangyuan didn't want to talk about this matter anymore, "How much money do you have? If it doesn't work out, we'll just compensate them with the money for medical expenses. From now on, we'll work hard, and the money can be earned back."

"Where would I have the money?" Lin Jiayi cried out, "These past few days we've increased our stock, all the money has been tied up in that. Right, didn't you have the money from Hongmei's meat sales?"

Li Guangyuan was stunned, "Who said her money was given to me?"

Lin Jiayi quickly realized, she had been played by that little wretch again.

"I'm going to settle accounts with her now. She stirred up this mess; even if it comes to paying money, she should be the one to pay."

Not to mention that the money from selling the meat was still in her hands.

Li Guangyuan stopped her, "You won't get anything out of her if you go over there now, let's talk about it tomorrow."

If those people really came knocking, Li Hongmei wouldn't be able to refuse under pressure.

Going there now would just result in endless quarreling and solve nothing.

Lin Jiayi thought about it and agreed, sitting back down with anger still festering in her heart.

"When this is over, I'll have her return to her marital home. We can't let her continue to meddle in our household."

Li Guangyuan thought the same.

"The ready-to-eat food outside still needs some processing; otherwise, it really can't be kept until tomorrow."

Li Guangyuan nodded, "I'll take care of it shortly."

There was still plenty left over, and although it smelled a bit off, it wouldn't be a big problem with some additional processing.

The younger sister's bad food was because she didn't listen to instructions, and didn't reprocess the leftover items.

They were all bought with money, and they can't afford to waste it.

After saying this, he looked at Lin Jiayi with a moved expression, "Jiayi, you are the best in this family, and the only one who wholeheartedly considers this family."

Ever since Lin Jiayi married into the family, she had been thinking of ideas to help him, starting with selling vegetables and now cooked food, always thinking about how to live a good life with him.

Unlike her two younger sisters, who only cared about how much money he made.

They say raising a daughter is a losing business, and Li Guangyuan really realized this point.

His hand gently stroked her belly, "We must have a son."

Lin Jiayi smiled, "Now you know who is the closest person to you, right? Don't worry, as long as you listen to me from now on, we will definitely not be worse off than anyone."

"From now on, I will definitely listen to you."

.....

On a weekend with spare time, Lin Chuxia invited Li Jian out for drinks.

The two of them were old acquaintances, and now with Li Jian working at the market supervision bureau and Lin Chuxia managing both the Bun Shop and the food factory, they hadn't had contact in a long time.

"Mr. Lin is really busy now, it's rare to have a drink with you," Li Jian greeted him with a smile upon seeing him.

Lin Chuxia placed her bag to the side, "Brother Li, aren't you belittling me?"

Li Jian looked into her expressive, confident eyes and couldn't help but sigh.

Everyone praised how quickly he was promoted without relying on his family, climbing from a small staff at a vegetable station to an office in the market supervision bureau in just a few years.

But in Li Jian's eyes, he fell far short of Lin Chuxia.

He really watched her rise step by step.

For a woman to reach this point, he, as a man, felt inferior.

Lin Chuxia handed him the menu, "Take a look at what to eat?"

Li Jian pushed it back to her, "Ladies first, I'm easy, you decide."

"Then I won't stand on ceremony."

Lin Chuxia didn't insist any further, as they were old acquaintances.

Sweet and sour ribs were ordered, there was chestnut chicken today, so that too, along with one cold and one hot dish, making four dishes in total, and finally adding a soup.

Li Jian quietly marveled as she ordered, Lin Chuxia was a woman who seemed to have everything in order at all times, perfectly executed.

It seemed like she took the lead in ordering a few dishes, but the dishes she chose were all according to his taste.

Apart from his closest family members, there were hardly a few people who knew Li Jian, a big man, liked sweet food.

He had only had a few meals with Lin Chuxia and never emphasized his own preference, but she noticed it.

Just for this reason alone, Lin Chuxia's success was well-deserved.

"I've heard that you're planning to set up a factory in the city? What, is Ancheng County too small for you?"

Li Jian poured a glass of water for Lin Chuxia.

Lin Chuxia handed the menu to the waiter and smiled, "Not setting up a factory, I opened a Bun Shop. Two Bun Shops in Ancheng County are enough."

Li Jian nodded, "Indeed, but you are really quick. By the way, my wife mentioned the issue with Huang Family Nutritional Chicken Farm the other day, has it affected the production of the food factory? Brother, I have some connections in this area, do you need help?"

Li Jian worked at the market supervision bureau, where speaking a word in this respect would always earn him some respect.

Chapter 282: Times Have Changed

Lin Chuxia first thanked him and then brought up the Qin Family Village and their own chicken farm.

"This little matter is not yet worth bothering Brother Li with. When the day comes that I really can't handle something, then it won't be too late to ask Brother Li for help."

Upon hearing that Lin Chuxia had her own chicken farm and the backing of Qin Family Village, Li Jian gave her a thumbs up.

"You see, the national emphasis on developing the private economy is exactly what state-owned enterprises lack in awareness and initiative. By the way, I heard that your food factory has added another production line?"

At this point, the waiter served the dishes. Lin Chuxia had brought alcohol intending to treat Li Jian to a drink, and she meant it.

She first poured a glass for Li Jian, then filled her own glass, before continuing with the previous topic.

"Brother Li is really well-informed. We've added a production line for beef sauce. I even brought two bottles of beef sauce, hoping you would take them back to try."

In Lin Chuxia's space, there were all sorts of cooked foods and beef sauce produced by Xiyang Food Factory, ready to be given out as favors.

Just like now, she hadn't planned on it initially, but as the topic came up, it was an opportunity handed to her on a silver platter, which was evident from Li Jian's touched expression.

In her previous life, it took her many years to reach this awareness, by which time she could already afford a car, with some items always in the trunk.

Now, without a car, her spatial ability was proving to be a great help.

Li Jian raised his glass to her in respect.

"I was just saying, it wasn't long ago that the food factory was all high and mighty, not listening to anyone, and now they're already anxious. I heard you've taken a lot of their suppliers..."

"Hey, Brother Li, you can't say that. We didn't snatch anyone's business. It's fair competition. Now that the market is open, if the suppliers society sells stuff from the Old Food Factory, they naturally can sell stuff from Xiyang Food Factory as well. You can only say our products are more popular with the people. Unpopular products will naturally be eliminated. Isn't that the market rule nowadays?"

"Yes, yes, yes," Li Jian nodded hastily, "I misspoke. Let me toast to you again."

Both took a sip of liquor, leisurely eating a few bites of food.

Li Jian pointed at her and said, "You're still the same, never conceding verbally."

"I'm used to it. I eat everything, but I never accept a loss. Not just verbally, I won't let myself be shortchanged in actions either."

Lin Chuxia was candid and directly told Li Jian about the incident when the Old Food Factory bribed Chen Chunhua to steal seasoning packages from Xiyang Food Factory.

As there was no evidence and only a few staff were involved, Chen Chunhua was later fired. Aside from a few management staff at Xiyang Food Factory, outsiders didn't know about it.

This was the first time Li Jian had heard about it and he spontaneously let out a curse.

"I really am seeing something new. They always acted so self-righteous. How could they stoop so low to do such things?"

At the time, when the food factory wanted to buy the cooked food seasoning package from Lin Chuxia, Li Jian was even asked to mediate. He still remembered the pretentious attitude of Liu Guoyi, the factory manager.

Though the matter was ultimately shrugged off completely and Liu Guoyi didn't get implicated,

but if it weren't for his instigation, who would do such a thing?

No wonder Xiyang Food Factory had added a meat sauce production line.

Liu Guoyi probably didn't expect that what he saw as a delicate flower was actually a tyrant flower.

"I heard that after the Spring Festival, they also wanted to produce instant food packaging at the food factory and contacted Xu Changping for machinery, but the products didn't sell well. Consequently, they've shifted all their focus to the meat sauce line. Your move could be considered cutting the ground from under their feet. No wonder there have been recent rumors that the food factory is planning layoffs."

Previously, the food factory's two major production lines were suppressed by Xiyang Food, leaving layoffs as the only option.

And if they really implement layoffs, the food factory will become the first enterprise in their county to do so.

Oh, that's not quite right either, there's still one whose situation is precarious.

"Our county's vegetable station might be acquired," they say it's an acquisition, but it's actually more like being phased out.

Lin Chuxia also heard this news, "With more and more free markets, the vegetable station indeed lacks some convenience."

In fact, if the vegetable station wants to continue developing, it needs to change its approach from fixed-point procurement to becoming a vegetable transfer station to better adapt to the market.

She had previously suggested to Li Jian to expand to surrounding markets, and there was already some indication of this.

However, after Li Jian left, the management at the vegetable station still adhered to the old model and did not innovate.

Li Jian deeply felt that, "After opening up, these state-owned enterprises, especially in the service industry, if they cannot change their mindset and continue innovating, sticking to their old ways, will sooner or later be eliminated by the market. Let's not even talk about the vegetable station, even department stores and hardware stores are also treading on thin ice."

.....

The meal took quite a while for two people, Li Jian was slightly tipsy, and Lin Chuxia also drank quite a bit, but she holds her liquor well, especially since she drank a glass of spiritual spring water in the middle.

The effect of spiritual spring water on sobering up is particularly good, after drinking it, all drunkenness disappears.

Previously, Lin Chuxia had also specifically tested it with an alcohol tester in her villa, after drinking spiritual spring water, an alcohol level of over 80 directly dropped to 0.

It's as if the spiritual spring water neutralized the alcohol concentration.

"Little sister, see you later, if you have anything, just tell your brother."

Li Jian was quite interesting, when he drank and enjoyed himself, he talked more.

Lin Chuxia, using her bag, took out two bottles of beef sauce for him, "Got it, Brother Li, take it slow on your way."

Li Jian happily accepted the beef sauce, and rode his bicycle away, weaving along the path.

Lin Chuxia also took out her water bottle from her bag and took a couple of sips of spiritual spring water, feeling instantly relieved.

Then she also pushed her bicycle towards home.

When passing by the vegetable station, she suddenly stopped.

The vegetable station before her still had the old mottled gateway, with the four large characters for An City Vegetable Station above it, the red paint bursting and peeling off in some places.

One of the circular lamp decorations for lighting above the doorframe was smashed.

She remembered that during the prosperous times of the vegetable station, before the annual spring vegetable procurement, the station would be redecorated.

The doorframe and main gate would be repainted, and the four large characters for An City Vegetable Station would also be repainted in red.

Things are truly different from the past.

Lin Chuxia recalled the first time she pushed her bicycle with a basket to sell tomatoes at the station and slightly curved her lips.

In her previous life, a similar scene occurred, but compared to that, this memory was sweet.

Lin Chuxia had just left the vegetable station entrance when another figure stopped at the entrance.

Qin Wen didn't even dismount his bicycle; he just propped one leg and irritably glanced at the vegetable station before continuing home.

Before reaching the village entrance, from a distance, he saw a few police officers talking to some villagers.

Ever since the Xiyang Food Factory was built next to their village, the village grew livelier with successive builds of chicken farms and pig farms.

Not only were unruly people coming to the village entrance causing trouble, but even the police had to come.

Chapter 283: Does She Still Have a Thing with Mr. Su?

Qin Wen reached the entrance of the village and could still hear those two discussing.

"Rumor has it they went to the Old Qin Family's house, to find Second Qin's wife. I don't know what the public security wanted with Second Qin's wife."

"When public security shows up, what else could it be about? The Qin Family runs both a bun shop and a food factory, with so many workers under them, wouldn't they have to talk to the leader if any worker messed up? Besides, there was that chicken plague recently, and that shrew from Huang Family Village and her daughter-in-law even made trouble at the food factory. I heard they were going to take legal action; it's likely that the public security came to investigate."

"Ah, isn't it said that Second Qin's wife is really capable? With all these issues, how could an ordinary person handle it? Just talking to me for a bit earlier, and I was sweating in my palms."

"Exactly," having said that, the person saw Qin Wen entering the village and greeted with a smile, "Qin Wen, just got off work?"

Qin Wen nodded, "Second Mom, Third Aunt, not working the fields today?"

"No, there's nothing much to do in the fields, everyone in the family has gone to work, we planted low-maintenance crops this year."

The locals nodded and greeted before moving on, and Qin Wen got back on his bicycle.

A bit further away, he overheard the two continuing their discussion, even mentioning his own name.

Qin Wen's face darkened.

They're really the old ladies of the village, idly gossiping whenever they can.

How does how well other families do concern them?

If Second Qin's wife is capable, it's Second Qin's affair, what's there for them to be proud of?

Moreover, Qin Yang just got lucky, stumbled into fortune—others might not know, but he was perfectly clear.

Initially, when talking marriage with the Lin Family, Lin Family's eldest daughter looked down on Qin Yang, even changing her mind after they had settled on the arrangement.

Being so picky about a marriage, what's there to be proud of?

Upon returning home, he saw his wife Ma Suyun just coming back from the fields, carrying a hoe, looking exhausted, and dinner wasn't even made.

"Why are you back so late, didn't I tell you to come back earlier to cook? I've been working all morning, and I still have to wait for you to cook."

Ma Suyun, too tired to move, hearing Qin Wen's complaint, retorted, "You work half a day and think I don't work the other half in the fields?"

"Then you should have come back earlier, you can't let someone go hungry."

"I did want to come back earlier, but the corn needs weeding, if we don't hurry, what about the harvest, what about the public grain tax?"

Failing to deliver the public grain means having to pay out of pocket.

Hearing about weeding, Qin Wen frowned even more.

"It's been so many days, how come you're still not done with this work?"

Ma Suyun's eyes widened, "What do you mean 'this work'? It's three acres of corn, normally a man should do it, you have me, a woman doing it and still complaining I'm slow?"

These last few days the weather was stifling, it was incredibly stuffy in the cornfield, the corn leaves chafed her skin painfully, after a hot and exhausting day, to top it off with complaints, Ma Suyun was so angry she was on the verge of tears.

Qin Wen seemed agitated, and didn't want to debate the topic further. He changed the subject to something else.

"Just now on my way back, I saw two police officers heading into the village. I heard they were going to Uncle's house. What has Qin Yang's wife stirred up this time?"

Ma Suyun pulled up a basin of water to wash her face without looking up, replying tersely, "How would I know?"

She had been working hard every day in the fields, exhausted to death, no time to meddle in others' affairs.

But hearing that the police were looking for Lin Chuxia, her interest was piqued a little.

"I've always said that woman isn't demure. What kind of new bride doesn't stay home when her husband's not around, but instead goes out to show her face? On the surface, she brings benefits to her family, but when it comes to real issues, just look at Xiyang Food Factory. Such a big place still ended up being run by outsiders. I've long heard she and that Mr. Su are ambiguously linked; the police visiting now isn't surprising."

"She's having an affair with Mr. Su too?"

Qin Wen glanced outside the courtyard, then leaned in and whispered, "What's going on?"

"This is what everyone's talking about, I heard it from them."

Ma Suyun, not bothering to wash her face anymore, leaned in with a look of disdain.

"Think about it. When Qin Yang and Lin Chuxia got married, what feelings could they have for each other? Qin Yang was only home for three days, then Lin Chuxia was off running her business. Do you know how she met Su Wensong? Even Qin Han probably can't tell you. Since the Bun Shop opened up at Su Wensong's place, I knew there was something fishy. Now look, she introduced her best friend to Su Wensong, and that Sun Lanlan, the Bun Shop manager—what does this tell you?"

Qin Wen looked at her earnestly, listening attentively.

Ma Suyun continued, "In my opinion, this is compensating Sun Lanlan. Sun Lanlan got the Bun Shop, married Su Wensong, and also covered for Lin Chuxia."

"No way."

Qin Wen verbally disagreed, but his eyes sparkled with the glow of gossip.

His cousin has always been aloof and proud; if he knew his wife had earned him a cuckold's cap..."

"How could it not be possible? If it were you, would you hand over such a big factory to an outsider rather than using your own brothers?"

"Of course, I wouldn't. Family is reliable. Not to mention anything else, even if I disdain the youngest brother, if he asked for my help, even if I had to quit the stable job at the Hardware Company, I'd still support my brother because blood is thicker than water."

"So, Su Wensong is no ordinary person in Lin Chuxia's life."

Qin Wen stroked his chin, seemingly lost in thought. Feeling his wife's gaze, he quickly composed himself and reminded her, "Just keep these speculations between us. After all, we're family. We should not talk about this outside, and besides, later you should go to Uncle's house and find out exactly what happened. If there's really an issue, as his family, we should lend a hand."

Ma Suyun continued to wash her face, not particularly keen on going. Watching the fuss might suit her more; did the capable Lin Chuxia really need her help?

"There's still over an acre of weeds in the sorghum field. We should mind less of others' business and finish our chores. Take a day off tomorrow, and let's get the work done together. The sky is overcast; it might rain any day and then we won't be able to work."

Qin Wen frowned, "How can I take a day off? Besides, taking a day off means a day's pay cut. If you can't, why don't you find someone else to help?"

"Who can I ask for help? Your eldest brother's family looks down on us now, hardly even speaks to me. Your second brother and his wife, even less likely; one is a primary school teacher and the other a poultry farm manager. Would they help me with farm work? Uncle's Qin Han, and Third Uncle's Qin Wu are now too arrogant. When you worked at the Hardware Company, you helped them so much, nothing but ungrateful wolves."

Qin Wen did not quite see it this way. Uncle's and Third Uncle's families were originally living separately from them, and they had never helped during the busy farming seasons.

But the eldest brother's family...

Chapter 284: Became Refined

"It's all your fault when it comes down to it. If you hadn't offended big brother and sister-in-law, would working the fields even be difficult now? They are both incredibly hard workers."

Ma Suyun now regrets it too, as she had initially just intended to cause some minor trouble for Lin Chuxia, but ended up offending the big brother and sister-in-law.

Now all the house chores fall on her alone without any help.

"Isn't it said that your unit isn't that busy anymore? If it really comes down to it, just take half a day off. We'll head to the fields early in the morning, and you can go back to work in the afternoon..."

Ma Suyun watched as Qin Wen's expression grew darker, and her voice became weaker as she continued.

"Who told you our unit isn't busy? Watch your mouth, don't spout nonsense."

The door was slammed shut forcefully, and Ma Suyun instinctively shivered.

.....

Just as Lin Chuxia arrived home, Little Zhuangzhuang came to greet her, his eyes bright and shiny.

"Auntie, the police officers came again."

This time it was Sun Hao and Chen Ping, who had specifically come to bring good news to Lin Chuxia.

The previous case was finally settled, and Lin Chuxia was awarded the title of 'Righteous and Courageous', with an invitation to attend the station next Monday where the station chief and the head of the county public security bureau would present her with a banner and a bonus, as well as having reporters interview and praise her in the newspaper.

Lin Chuxia thought it was just a small effort on her part, but she did not expect to receive such honors.

"How is it just a small effort? If it weren't for you stepping in, I probably would've lost my life there."

Chen Ping was truly grateful to Lin Chuxia from the bottom of her heart.

Not to mention Sun Hao, that day was critical, and he and his wife were acting separately. According to his judgement, the criminals had a higher probability of fleeing in the direction he pursued.

Unfortunately, the cunning criminals made a diversion, leading to his misjudgment and nearly putting his wife in jeopardy.

The two offered polite words of gratitude one after the other, which made it hard for Lin Chuxia to say anything more.

In addition to bringing good news to Lin Chuxia, the two also brought some meat bones for Yuan Bao.

Previously, Chen Ping was unable to come, but she didn't expect that Sun Hao had also unintentionally offended Yuan Bao, so this time she personally came to bond better with Yuan Bao.

Sun Hao expertly started a fire to cook the bones, whereas Chen Ping took out a brand-new stainless steel bowl, and apologetically spoke to Lin Chuxia.

"I really didn't know about what happened last time. Otherwise, I would have never allowed him to bring such a gift for Yuan Bao. This is a feeding bowl I specifically bought for Yuan Bao, I hope he likes it."

"Yuan Bao will definitely like it."

The bowl wasn't just made of stainless steel, the bottom of the bowl was also engraved with the word 'Hero'.

While it served a completely different purpose from the dog leash Sun Hao had given to Yuan Bao, it was created with a similar sentiment.

Lin Chuxia showed the bowl to Yuan Bao, who seemed to already know it was for him, panting happily and wagging his tail as if he couldn't be more excited.

"It seems like Yuan Bao likes your gift."

"It's good as long as Yuan Bao likes it."

Chen Ping raised her hand to rub his head, and Yuan Bao affectionately nuzzled her palm.

He then carried the bowl to where Sun Hao was, gently placing it on the ground, and even pushed it towards him with his paws.

"Hey, you little thing, have really become clever."

Sun Hao patted it.

"Wait a bit, it'll be stewed soon."

Just then, Qin Jianjun ran in from outside, pointed outside and said to Lin Chuxia, "Auntie Four, a group of people from the food factory are here. They said they got food poisoning from our cooked food and are demanding an explanation from the factory. Right now, Factory Director Su and my Uncle are dealing with it, Factory Director Su asked you to come over and take a look."

Lin Chuxia frowned, and Chen Ping also stood up.

"I'll go take a look."

Chen Ping and Sun Hao said in unison, "We'll go with you."

By then, there were already quite a few people gathered at the entrance of Xiyang Food Factory, and the factory's security personnel were on full alert. The agitators were still righteously indignant, arguing with Su Wensong and mostly complaining to the surrounding crowd, trying to win over the situation with their sheer numbers.

When Lin Chuxia arrived, people immediately made way.

"Lin is here."

"Second Qin's wife is here, there must be more to the story, our village's food factory definitely has no issues."

"Make way, make way, there are also police officers here, let's see what they have to say now."

.....

The agitators were momentarily stunned upon seeing the police officers behind Lin Chuxia.

However, some quickly reacted, continuing to wail and bitterly complain.

Lin Chuxia took the opportunity to approach Su Wensong, "What's going on?"

Su Wensong, as the factory director of Xiyang Food Factory, seldom bothered Lin Chuxia. If Qin Jianjun had to call her, it must be a problem he couldn't resolve.

Su Wensong pointed at people in the distance, "These people bought cooked food in Mazhuang Town which caused food poisoning. It's said that the seller of the cooked food is associated with our Xiyang Food Factory. There have been incidents of food poisoning from their sold food before, but this time it's more serious, a few have been hospitalized already, so they came to the factory seeking an explanation."

"They say they're associated with our food factory just like that? Are they carrying the food's packaging? Or are they claiming compensation just based on verbal claims that they got sick from the cooked food?"

Lin Chuxia had encountered such situations before, initially when Su Wenmao bribed someone to accuse their bun shop, nearly injuring Sun Lanlan.

Who knows what the situation is this time?

Lin Chuxia knew their factory's cooked food absolutely didn't have quality issues.

Su Wensong's expression was somewhat odd, "They said the person selling them the cooked food is surnamed Lin, residing in Qingshan Village."

Mr. Lin's maternal home happens to be Daqing Mountain Village, hence Su Wensong called Lin Chuxia over.

Lin Chuxia quickly thought through, she knew what her parents back home were like; they'd rather cry, create scenes, or even threaten suicide to ask her for money than to start their own business?

But she quickly thought of someone: Lin Jiayi.

Sun Hao's side had also wrapped up their explanation.

"We don't want to make a big fuss coming here either, but really, the other side didn't offer us compensation, and our family members are lying in the hospital, so don't shirk responsibility either; we have inquired already, the woman selling the cooked food is indeed related to Lin Chuxia from Xiyang Food Factory, you have to take responsibility for this matter."

Sun Hao didn't expect the situation to involve Lin Chuxia's family, whether Lin Chuxia implicated this or not wasn't clear for the moment, he could only turn to Lin Chuxia.

Lin Chuxia took a step forward, "I am Lin Chuxia, but what you said is not entirely correct. Although we are sisters, we got married separately last year and have our own families. I know nothing about her selling cooked food, and whatever she sells has no relation to Xiyang Food Factory. This can be verified by the leaders and employees of Xiyang Food Factory; all our produced cooked foods follow official channels. Aside from Qin's Steamed Bun shop which sells bulk cooked food, all other cooked foods are packaged. If you got food poisoning from food purchased at Qin's Steamed Bun Shop or from packaged Qin's Cooked Food, we're responsible, but for other cooked foods, we have no liability."

Chapter 285: Losing Money

After Lin Chuxia finished speaking, it immediately caused dissatisfaction among the crowd.

"How can you act like this? You've said yourselves you are sisters, shouldn't her affairs be your affairs too?"

"This auntie, I assume you must have siblings as well? Even if you don't, your husband's family might, right? Let me ask you, if your siblings or your husband's siblings, without your knowledge, committed heinous acts, and then tried to pin the blame on you, how would you feel? Do you think just because you are siblings, their actions automatically become your responsibility?"

The auntie was taken aback, thinking about that possibility, her face instantly darkened.

But she definitely wouldn't admit it.

Lin Chuxia didn't expect her to admit anything and continued, "Thank you, fellow villagers, for letting me know that someone was misusing Xiyang Food Factory's name to sell cooked food. This action has already damaged the interests of Xiyang Food Factory and constitutes an infringement. We will pursue legal responsibilities against them."

"Saying such high-sounding words, isn't it just because you don't want to compensate?"

"That's right, folks, don't listen to her. She says she will pursue the other party's responsibility, but once we leave, whether she pursues it or not is up to her. That's her own sister; how could she possibly hold her accountable? She's just fooling us."

"Right, pay the compensation."

...

The crowd became noisy again.

Su Wensong quickly shielded Lin Chuxia behind him, and not just that, villagers from Qin Family Village also came over to push the crowd away.

Lin Chuxia was not timid and stepped forward again.

"If you think I'm covering up, the police officer is right here, you can fully report to the police officer. Causing a disturbance in front of Xiyang Food Factory, I will not only pursue the a person misusing my factory's name, but I'll also hold the disruptors here accountable."

Lin Chuxia rarely took such a strong stance, she was truly disgusted by what Lin Jiayi had done.

"You bought the cooked food from someone, if there's a problem, go and find them to clarify. The person who sold you the food doesn't even dare to show their face, yet you run here to cause trouble, really thinking that being in a large group absolves you of responsibility?"

At this moment, Sun Hao also spoke, "Folks, let's talk with evidence. To put it bluntly, whoever sold you the food, you should find them. Coming here to make trouble without any proof, do you really think we police are just here to spectate, siding with whoever has more people?"

"That's right, if it's about having numbers, we from Qin Family Village also have many people. You think you can bully the people of Qin Family Village by causing such a scene?"

The police have spoken, and with the menacing Qin Family Village people, those individuals finally realized something.

"I say what this officer said is correct, even if the food was really from Xiyang Food Factory, they should let someone named Li take the lead. What does coming here count as?"

"Exactly, they already denied, we can do nothing. I think we really need to find someone surnamed Li."

"Let's go, we'll head to Xiaoqingshan Village, we won't rest until we get an explanation."

...

Hastily, a group of people left, but Lin Chuxia's expression was still not pleasant.

This sister of hers, even reincarnated, hasn't learned anything new, only knowing how to pull these petty tricks.

Originally, she didn't want to be entangled with such people, their life paths were already completely different, she also didn't want to waste time on those family members.

It seems she really won't learn without being taught a lesson.

.....

Daqing Mountain Village

Mother Lin looked outside at the darkening sky, reminding, "It's already dark outside, you aren't going back today?"

Lin Jiayi's face was grim, "Why go back? To be surrounded and beaten by those people?"

Mother Lin sighed, "Your sister-in-law really is a scourge. She messed up a perfectly good business. If you ask me, she should be the one to compensate. After paying up, she should just get lost back to her marital home. You are the elder brother and sister-in-law, how can you lack the backbone to stand up?"

"I do want her to compensate, but can I even find her now?"

She and Li Guangyuan had originally agreed that if those people really came, they would compensate them.

It was just some medical expenses, they were not afraid of not being able to make that money back with their business in the future.

But after those people came, they found out that Li Hongmei hadn't given Li Guangyuan the money from selling the meat at all. Moreover, when they tried to find Li Hongmei to ask for the money, she had disappeared.

The situation remained unresolved, and the food poisoning was even worse than the last time.

Last time it was just diarrhea and vomiting, but this time, people actually ended up hospitalized.

It was unclear if it was a serious illness or just a pretense.

Hospitalization is not just a matter of a small sum of money, and she had even less desire to foot the bill for Li Hongmei.

Those people were relentless, so she told them to go look for Lin Chuxia.

After all, everyone knew she was Lin Chuxia's elder sister, and she had used the Xiyang Food banner quite a few times when selling the cooked food.

"Mom, do you know if those people have found that wretched girl? I really want to go and watch the excitement."

Lin Jiayi's eyes gleamed with malicious gossip.

It would be best to turn Lin Chuxia's bun shop and food factory upside down, ruin the business, and then give Lin Chuxia a good beating.

"As long as they go to Qin Family Village, they will definitely find that wretched girl. I heard she has a pretty good life in her marital home."

Mother Lin said this almost through gritted teeth and was even more exasperated with Lin Jiayi.

"How good your marriage prospects were and you refused them, insisting on how great Li Guangyuan was, but look at the life you're leading now?"

"Mom, stop blaming me. It's all Guangyuan's sisters' fault. If it weren't for them dragging him down, Guangyuan would have been successful long ago."

Mother Lin sighed silently as she watched her daughter still being delusional. She wasn't sure if Li Guangyuan had achieved success, but Lin Chuxia was indeed living a good life now.

While the mother and daughter continued their idle talk, Li Dongmei rushed in hastily from outside.

"Sister-in-law, it's bad, those people have gone to our house again demanding compensation, what do we do?"

Lin Jiayi felt irritated seeing her sister-in-law, "It's your elder sister's doing, and now you come to ask me what to do? Why don't you go find your elder sister then?"

Li Dongmei hung her head and said nothing, indeed, this time it was her elder sister's fault.

But it wasn't necessarily true that the elder brother and sister-in-law were blameless; after all, they were the ones who sold the meat later on.

Lin Jiayi knew this wasn't the time for grievances; her due date was near, and she might give birth any day now. If this issue wasn't resolved, how was she supposed to have her baby?

If something bad happened to Li Guangyuan, things would be even more difficult. She and the baby were still counting on Li Guangyuan to earn money and provide for them.

"What did those people say? Didn't I tell them to go to Qin Family Village and find Lin Chuxia? Didn't they go? Xiyang Food Factory is right there in Qin Family Village."

Li Dongmei was aware of the situation, "They did go, but the folks there paid them no heed and didn't acknowledge that we're the same as them."

"How can they not be the same? We two are sisters, what's mine is hers and what's hers is mine."

"Though you say that, the Xiyang Food Factory does not sell loose cooked food to the public except for the bun shop. Moreover, I heard they even called the police and the police officer asked them to provide proof. Otherwise, go to whoever they bought it from. They also said..."

Chapter 286: Not Gone Dumb, But Gone Stupid

"What else did they say?"

"They also said they made a scene at the entrance of Xiyang Food Factory, tarnishing the reputation of Xiyang Food Factory. Not only did the factory call the police, but they also want to sue them in court. Now these people are scared to death, crowding at our doorstep demanding an explanation."

Upon hearing the police were called, Lin Jiayi also panicked.

She wasn't in the mood to watch the excitement anymore. If the police started investigating, the meat was indeed sold by them.

"You go back first and have your older brother keep those people calm. I'll figure out a solution."

Lin Jiayi quickly sent Li Dongmei away, fearing she might bring those people to her parental home.

Li Dongmei was out of ideas, now completely taking orders from her sister-in-law.

Just leaving the yard, she ran into Lin Jiadong returning from outside, hurrying without even offering a greeting.

Lin Jiadong curled his lips. Upon entering and seeing Lin Jiayi, he asked with confusion, "I just saw your sister-in-law, why are you still here? Aren't you going back with her?"

Lin Jiayi couldn't stand Lin Jiadong's tone right now, "Why do I have to go back? This is my family's home; I can stay wherever I want."

"You're so fired up; what's with you? I was just asking; why are you so agitated?"

"Lin Jiadong, don't think I don't know what you're thinking now. Isn't it just because Lin Chuxia, that little wretch, is getting ahead? You look down on me now, but I'm your older sister. I'm telling you, other than our parents, only I treat you the best. Everything Lin Chuxia does is to hoodwink you, and only you are naive enough to see none of it."

Lin Jiadong looked at her as if she were crazy, "What are you raving about my younger sister for? What has she done to you, calling her a little wretch? They say pregnancy makes a woman dumber for three years, but have you gotten dumber instead of just dumb?"

"Who are you calling stupid?"

Lin Jiayi stood up, ready to scold Lin Jiadong, but Mother Lin intervened, "Enough, both of you say less, why the fuss while you're pregnant."

Then she turned to Lin Jiadong, "And you too. Your older sister is still pregnant, as her brother, you should be more attentive to her."

"I was just showing concern for her, which is why I asked. When I went out just now, I heard that a group of people from Xiaoqingshan Village went to my brother-in-law's place, seems like there was some trouble."

"Knowing the Li Family is in trouble, yet you still want your older sister to go back? Don't you have a conscience? Your older sister loves you so much, she even gave you meat to eat."

Mother Lin disagreed as she spoke; she has only this one son and naturally favored him being close to his older daughter.

"Don't mention it; the meat from my older sister's home doesn't taste good. I got a stomachache after eating it the other night. The meat from my second sister's place is much tastier," when he goes to the city to study in the future, he could eat his second sister's meat regularly.

Lin Jiayi could no longer contain her anger and threw a pillow from nearby, "Get out, don't ever call me your sister again."

Lin Jiadong caught the pillow. His older sister had always been overbearing and liked to bully him and his younger sister since childhood; he was used to it. He put the pillow aside and straightforwardly returned to his own room.

"Mom, look at him; who knows what nonsense Lin Chuxia has fed him. Now he doesn't even see me as his older sister anymore."

Mother Lin didn't want to discuss this with her eldest daughter. Even if she looked down on her second daughter, the latter had now achieved great success. She was happy to see her son getting along well with the second daughter.

Moreover, her son had even told her that once he gets into high school, the second daughter would support his studies.

Though it didn't mean earning a salary right away, if her son got into college, that would be a matter of great pride and honor for the family.

"You know he's been charmed by his second sister now, better not mention it too much. Don't you know what your brother is like? Single-minded and straightforward, it's better not to involve him much in family matters. He's still a kid, do you really expect him to stand up for you?"

Lin Jiayi also knew that this was not the time to be upset with Lin Jiadong, "Mom, what should I do? Think of something for me, will you? Or let's call Chuxia, that damned girl, back here. You and dad talk to her, owning such a big factory, losing a few hundred yuan is nothing to her."

Mother Lin sighed, "I did want to call her back, but you know, that girl has grown hard wings now. She won't listen to anything your dad and I say and definitely won't give money."

It wasn't like they hadn't asked her for money before. That girl's got a slick tongue but closes her wallet tight.

Not to mention repaying money for her elder sister.

Mother Lin was clear in her heart that the matter of the swapped marriage had offended her second daughter, otherwise, she wouldn't have changed so much after her marriage.

Now, with her in-laws and husband backing her, she cared even less about her natal family.

If she continued being tough on them, they might even break ties completely.

Her son still relied on her; she couldn't afford to alienate anyone right now.

Lin Jiayi, unaware of Mother Lin's thoughts, said, "You're her parents, she wouldn't dare not to give to you. If she doesn't, just go make a scene, accuse her of being unfilial. I can't believe she wouldn't be afraid of tarnishing her reputation. Have Jiadong call her back."

To solve the problem with those people without involving the police, they could only compensate with money, but she didn't have money to give them.

"Jiadong doesn't listen to me now either, asking him is even more hopeless."

"What should I do then, Mom? You have to think of something for me. Those people are blocking our house; I can't go on if we don't pay up."

Lin Jiayi said this while tears fell. She held her belly with one hand and wiped her tears with the other, the picture of misery.

"I'm doing this for whom? Running a business to make money with a big belly, isn't it all to make you and dad proud? Xiaoqingshan Village is so close to Daqing Mountain Village, I just want others to mention me and for you and dad to shine with pride. Plus, once I have money, you and dad can have some good days too. These days, I've been hustling to bring food home for you; how much has the second child done for you in all the years of business? They say blood is thicker than water, my heart aches the most for mom and dad, unlike those thankless wretches who no amount of caring for can buy their affection..."

"Why are you bringing this up again?"

Mother Lin quickly interrupted her and even turned her head to glance in the direction of Lin Jiadong's room, her voice very low.

"How many times have I told you not to mention this issue? Do you think we'd benefit by bringing this up right now? I bet that damned girl is just waiting to cut ties with us."

Lin Jiayi also knew that now was the worst time to stir up this issue, but seeing her mother's attitude, she always worried that her mother had forgotten who her real children were.

Mother Lin understood her daughter's mindset and gently patted her arm, "You just wait at home, I'll go to the village chief's house. We can't go on being forceful; we'll try the gentler approach."

Lin Jiayi's eyes lit up.

Right, why hadn't she thought of that?

After all, they are family. If they can get the village chief to mediate, she didn't believe Lin Chuxia would refuse to give face to the village chief.

"Mom, please hurry, and it would be best if the village chief can make a trip today. Even if the village chief can't go, his sons can, Sun Bingnan and Sun Lanlan both have a good relationship with the second child."

"I got it."

Mother Lin didn't delay, after a simple preparation, she headed to the village chief's house.

Chapter 287: Luring the Enemy in Deep

The Sun family has always been a prominent surname in the village, and the village chief's three sons are all dutiful, speaking with their backs straight.

In the last two years, they've really excelled, having contracted the mountain top in the village, and both the eldest and second sons have started chicken farms.

The eldest son and eldest daughter both started working in the city last year, and this year the eldest daughter married a city dweller.

With a snap of their fingers, a dowry of 600 yuan, getting married with cars.

Each thing on its own is something to be proud of, and their family has it all.

Thinking of these, Mother Lin couldn't help but complain about her second daughter again.

Isn't their family able to contract the mountain and build chicken farms because the eldest son and eldest daughter work at the Qin Family's Bun Shop?

Without two people working in the city at home, where would they get the money for the contracting fee?

And Sun Lanlan being able to marry a city person also credit to their second child's efforts.

Because of this, Mother Lin thought of asking the village chief to help mediate.

Having taken such a big advantage from their family, surely they would not refuse to help with such a small matter.

Upon arriving at the village chief's house, the village chief's wife was cooking in the yard, Mother Lin asked smilingly, "Big sister-in-law, cooking so early?"

The village chief's wife, spotting who it was, also smiled and stood up, "Sister-in-law, I had idle time, so I started cooking for everyone. Bingwen and Bingshan have been busy with the chicken farm recently,

and I can't help with anything else, but I can still wash clothes and cook. With more people in the house eating, I need to get an early start."

"You've divided the household, haven't you? How come you still eat together?"

Mother Lin grabbed a stool and sat to the side, asking in surprise.

The village chief's wife chuckled, "We did split the household, but the kids are so busy. The chicken farm has thousands of chickens. When it gets busy, they can't even eat properly. As elders, how can we just watch? Fortunately, Bingwen's and Bingshan's wives are sensible. Seeing me doing all the cooking is tough, they feel bad just eating without helping. Besides bringing me food supplies, each family gives me 20 yuan a month. Oh, you tell me, with food supplies taken care of, and all sorts of vegetables in the garden, each family still gives me 20 yuan. How can I spend all that? Even your eldest brother tells me, my monthly wage of 40 yuan could match a formal job's salary in the city..."

The more the village chief's wife talked about it, the happier she got, her eyes squinting into slits.

Mother Lin smirked internally, but dared not show it on her face.

Not wanting to hear the village chief's wife boast any further, she changed the subject, "Big brother is not at home?"

"He is, inside the house. I'll call for him."

People who come to their house mostly look for the village chief, the village chief's wife went inside and called him out.

The village chief had already seen Mother Lin come in, but pretended not to see unless called.

Now being called out, holding a tobacco pipe leisurely smoking and asked directly, "What do you need from me?"

Village Chief Sun has been the village chief for nearly 20 years; before the economic reforms, he was the village's team leader, asserting authority unequivocally.

Now after the economic reforms, the lands have been distributed to individuals, and the role of the village chief is not as significant as before, but the village chief's influence still lingers.

Especially for outsiders like the Lin Family who moved to the village later, they are not only very respectful to the village chief but also somewhat in awe.

Hearing the village chief asking this way, Mother Lin didn't dare beat around the bush and explained her visit's purpose to the village chief once again.

"I don't necessarily want the second child to help the eldest with this money, but both are my children, and the eldest is pregnant, about to give birth, and overwhelmed by the circumstances. The second one is better off financially. Can you please help mediate, letting the younger one help her sister through this ordeal for now? When the elder one has money, she'll definitely repay every cent."

The village chief remained silent, listening until she finished speaking before knocking his pipe on his foot.

"If it's like that, why don't you speak directly to Chuxia? I've watched that girl grow up; she's always been polite and sensible, not one to make unreasonable fuss."

Mother Lin felt bitter inside, but her face showed difficulty.

"I'd like to speak directly to her, but about the marrying off..."

Mother Lin sighed again, "You know about it, too, village chief. Initially, when we wanted her to marry into the Qin Family, her elder sister suffered a lot. We thought about giving her sister some support on the wedding day, but who knew it would delay her departure, and for this alone, Chuxia has resented us. Over the past year since the wedding, she hardly visits her parental home even during festivals; after all, we are still her parents."

Other people might not be aware, but Lin Chuxia and Sun Lanlan are as close as anyone could be, and hiding it was not an option, so Mother Lin had to let the truth be known.

The village chief nodded, "What happened initially was indeed your fault. If I were Chuxia, I would be heartbroken too and would understand not wanting to see you."

Mother Lin: "..."

She didn't need this understanding; she wanted the village chief to take the lead and get things done.

Also, she understood that darn girl, but who understood her?

Fortunately, the village chief agreed, "I'll make a trip for you folks. But let me be clear: what you did was not proper. The elder daughter-in-law has problems, and you want the younger one to clean up the mess. Chuxia has just married into the Qin Family, how can you just expect her to take money out like that? Have you thought about the position this would put Chuxia in within the Qin Family? I'll go and see. If Chuxia agrees to solve this, that's good, but if she doesn't, don't expect me to use my position as an elder or village chief to pressure her. I'm not that kind of person, I understand the children's difficulties."

The village chief already knew what was going on between Lin Chuxia and her parental home from his third son and daughter.

In front of the Lin Family, the Bun Shop and the food factory were all Qin's responsibilities, saving Chuxia the trouble.

"Yes, yes, we understand, it's a difficult situation," Mother Lin promptly agreed.

As long as the village chief was willing to make this visit, even if he didn't pressure Lin Chuxia verbally, wouldn't she want to save face for the village chief?

Mother Lin felt a huge relief and left the Sun family happily.

Compensating for medical expenses wasn't a small amount; by getting the village chief to help, she might even keep a bit for herself as some hard-earned money.

Just as Mother Lin was leaving the village chief's house, Sun Bingwen and Sun Bingshan, the brothers, rushed back home.

Entering the yard, not even wiping the sweat off their foreheads due to urgency, they asked, "Mom, did someone from the Lin Family come?"

The village chief's wife, seeing her sons sweating profusely, replied in puzzlement, "Yes, Mom Jia Dong was here. She just left not long ago. Are you looking for Mom Jia Dong for something?"

The village chief came out from inside after hearing his wife and was speechless.

Who was looking for Mom Jia Dong?

Seeing his sons flushed and panting heavily.

Did they run back from the back mountain upon hearing some news?

"Look at the state you two are in; come inside and talk."

Sun Bingwen and Sun Bingshan, seeing their father's calm demeanor, secretly breathed a sigh of relief.

Chapter 288: Bad Bamboo Produces Good Shoots

They really tasted the sweetness of chicken farming.

Previously, from clearing wild mountains to building chicken coops, the second sister of Lin Family started paying them wages, forty dollars each for the couple, making it eighty dollars each month.

Later, when they started raising chickens and by last month when chickens began to be sold, they earned ten cents per chicken. With 2000 chickens, they made two hundred dollars.

When they received the money, they were so excited that their hands trembled, this was much easier than farming.

Now, there are still 4000 chickens on the mountain, and the two brothers are planning to build new houses.

They plan to build new houses at the foot of the mountain, closer to the chicken farm, also convenient for watching over it.

The brothers being neighbors to each other, they support one another.

If Fang Laosan, a family member, wants, they will give it to him; if he does not, they will build a few more rooms next to their new house to accommodate him.

Both have imagined the good days ahead over and over, what if the Lin family took over the chicken farm, wouldn't their hopes be dashed?

In Sun Bingwen's and Sun Bingshan's hearts, even though Lin Chuxia trusts them, they are still outsiders, Lin Family is her maternal family.

So, upon hearing the message, the brothers put down what they were doing and rushed back without waiting for their wives.

Entering the house, Sun Bingwen wiped his sweat with his clothes and said eagerly.

"Dad, what are the Lin Family here for?"

Mr. Lin did not hide it and told the brothers everything about Lin Jiayi's couple selling spoiled food and Mother Lin asking him to mediate and ask Lin Chuxia for money.

It's not that he, the village chief, loves to gossip, he just wanted his sons to know how the Lin Family treats Lin Chuxia.

"They say both the palm and the back of the hand are made of flesh, yet Lin Family's couple are so biased, wanting to act like parents when asking for money? They really are picking on the soft ones, I've always heard your sister say Chuxia was bullied at home, and today I've seen it myself."

Sun Bingwen and Sun Bingshan were extremely angry.

Although their family had many brothers and sisters, their father taught them to live harmoniously. Even if their sister was a girl, they doted on her immensely; they couldn't understand Lin Family's actions.

"Lin Family really has no shame; how can they expect the eldest daughter to mess up and the second daughter to clean up after her, no wonder Chuxia doesn't want to deal with her family, If I had such relatives, I would sever ties completely."

"Exactly, how can these be called relatives? They more like enemies, right? What did Chuxia owe them in her past life to be bullied like this?"

The brothers then turned to the village chief, "Dad, are you really going?"

It seemed like their father was indeed planning to go.

The village chief slapped his thigh, "Yes, why not? It's a good chance to see what Xiyang Food Factory looks like. Our family has been supplying chickens to Xiyang Food Factory for so long, and I've never been there. After visiting the food factory, I'll go to the Bun Shop to eat some meat buns and see my manager daughter."

These days, his life is getting better day by day, with every son and daughter doing well.

He just wishes for his youngest to marry a wife too, then he really wouldn't have much to worry about.

"Chuxia can't rely on her maternal family, in the future, if anything happens at her in-laws, you brothers are Chuxia's maternal family, no matter if you share the same surname or not."

Sun Bingwen and Sun Bingshan immediately affirmed.

"Dad, don't worry, Chuxia is like Lanlan to us in our hearts, she is our sister too."

"Yes, I heard that Qin Family only has two brothers, we three brothers will never let our sister Chuxia suffer."

The village chief nodded in satisfaction, "The Lin Family is indeed lacking. Chuxia is like a good shoot from a bad bamboo in that family."

...

The village chief went to the county town on a tricycle delivered by his son, which Xiyang Food Factory had bought for the two brothers.

He intended to visit his daughter who was the store manager, but he first met the son-in-law who was the factory manager.

Su Wensong rarely paid attention to his two brothers-in-law delivering goods; frankly speaking, the Sun brothers never acted like they had any influence in the food factory.

Before Sun Lanlan and Su Wensong were engaged, the brothers had been raising chickens for the food factory, with Su Wensong as their manager.

Now that his sister was married to Su Wensong, they had to show respect to their brother-in-law, the factory manager, in private and especially at the factory.

The village chief then learned the specifics of the situation from Su Wensong.

He found out that the Lin Family not only had Lin Chuxia help her elder sister repay debts but also sent those people to the food factory, tarnishing the factory's reputation.

If it weren't for maintaining the dignity of being an in-law, the village chief would have erupted in curse.

Just having the younger daughter help her older sister pay off debts shows favoritism, but hurting the younger daughter's business for the sake of the older one is foolish and harmful.

"You don't have to worry too much about it from Mr. Lin's side, after all, they are her relatives. Some things she can't say directly, just handle it. It's okay to sever ties with such relatives; there's nothing to hold onto."

"I understand, dad. I've already planned how to deal with this, and they won't be able to just lightly sidestep it."

Regarding Lin Chuxia, what he did was actually at the behest of Mr. Lin.

"That's good, but knowing the Lin Family, they'll definitely cause more trouble at the factory. When that happens, protect Chuxia more; this is her husband's village. Don't let these incidents harm her reputation here. Say what she can't say, do what she can't do."

The village chief became increasingly worried and finally gestured with a wave of his hand.

"No, when the time comes, call Lanlan over. I know Lanlan's character, like me, bold and outspoken, she won't let Chuxia be wronged."

Su Wensong smiled helplessly, "Dad, Lanlan is pregnant."

In such a situation, there could be dangers, and besides, is he really not that trustworthy?

The village chief then realized that he was going to be a grandfather.

Chuxia's problems are important, but his precious grandchild is also important.

"Then let Bingnan come, and you brothers protect Chuxia together."

"Dad, I will."

These things didn't need to be said by his father-in-law. Moreover, in Qin Family Village, Mr. Lin would never be wronged, the people of Qin Family Village, including the villagers, would all protect Mr. Lin.

Lin Chuxia met the village chief in the afternoon at the Bun Shop by the train station.

"Uncle Sun, you should have told me in advance you were coming, I could have joined you for a drink at noon."

The village chief pointed to where the cold dishes were placed, "You're so busy, you don't need to keep me company. The Bun Shop has so many tasty things, I had a bit too much to drink today."

Sun Lanlan also spoke up, "It was good timing, Grandpa He and Grandpa Shi came over at noon. If I hadn't stopped them, they could have finished two bottles of strong spirits."

Lin Chuxia knew both Old Master He and Grandpa Shi very well, each of them having a keen appetite for alcohol and dishes.

Chapter 289: The Scene is Too Beautiful, She Can't Imagine It

The village chief frowned at his daughter, "Look, look, just two glasses of wine, and it's already made you all sorry, right? Did you really think I came all the way here just for these two glasses? If I had known, I would have come in the afternoon and had my son-in-law treat me at the State-Owned Restaurant."

"I'm sorry, your son-in-law listens to me," Sun Lanlan said proudly, hands on her hips.

If the village chief had a beard, it would be bristling with anger right now.

After a verbal tussle between the two, the village chief steered the conversation to more serious matters.

He wasn't here to mediate, but there were some things he needed to tell Lin Chuxia in advance.

"It's just this, don't feel burdened, just pretend I never came. In this matter, uncle is on your side, handle it however you want, even if it causes a stir, in Daqing Mountain Village your uncle still has some weight, I absolutely won't let your biased parents ruin your reputation."

"Uncle, thank you, for troubling you."

Lin Chuxia sincerely thanked him.

The village chief waved his hand, "Talking like that makes us strangers, doesn't it? Our family depends on you, Uncle can't thank you enough, I've told your three brothers, if your maternal family isn't strong enough, your three brothers will be your family from now on. Just speak up if you need anything, don't treat me like an outsider."

"That's right," Sun Lanlan linked arms with Lin Chuxia, "I think your maternal family can't be counted on, just forget about them. If Qin Yang ever bullies you, let my three brothers handle it, I assure you they won't let you be wronged."

Lin Chuxia thought about the scene of Qin Yang facing Sun family's three brothers...

It was too beautiful to imagine.

After several days of gloomy and stuffy weather, the wind finally came.

Before people could enjoy it for long, the wind grew stronger, quickly turning into a fierce gale.

People working in the fields, carrying baskets and hoes, hurried home.

Yet, they were still caught by the large raindrops, quickly soaking their clothes.

Mother Lin got caught in the downpour. She ran into the house, barely shielding herself from the rain, as water dripped from her hair.

Lin Jiayi had been anxious, according to her mother, the village chief was supposed to visit Lin Chuxia today.

Her mom was just coming from the village chief's house to check the situation and had taken half a day to return, there must be news.

"Mom, how is it? How much money did that little wretch give?"

Knowing her mother hadn't asked for a lot of money yesterday, Lin Jiayi had already scolded Mother Lin.

Such a good opportunity to ask for more money, how could she let herself down.

Mother Lin's face was even gloomier than the outside weather, she took a towel to wipe off the rain, while grumbling under her breath.

"That damn girl has grown wings, she didn't even give face to the village chief..."

"She didn't give money?" Lin Jiayi shrieked.

Mother Lin glared at her, then glanced in the direction of her son's room, whispered, "Keep your voice down."

After speaking, she hurried back to their room.

Lin Jiayi followed closely, still unable to contain her anger, "Why didn't she give the money? She doesn't listen to the village chief now? Isn't she closest to Sun Lanlan? Isn't she close with the Sun family?"

"That damn girl told the village chief that it was Qin family's business, she had no say in it. She also said because those people caused trouble at the food factory entrance, it has affected the factory's business. Their deli's revenue dropped by more than half, and several organizations that were supposed to sign contracts with them have now refused."

"If she can't make the decision, then let her give some money as if it's borrowed from the family. She can't totally ignore family affairs, right? How does the village chief manage things? Can't handle such a small matter flexibly? How is he even the village chief?"

"She told the village chief that it wasn't her who asked you to do it, nor was it her who asked you to sell spoiled meat to others. Whoever is responsible should be held accountable, she even mentioned the food factory has already called the police."

When Mother Lin mentioned this, she recalled what the village chief had told her, "That big factory, it's not up to her alone, she's just a newlywed, still relying on her in-laws. Don't push people too hard. In my opinion, whoever did it should be responsible. If it really comes to it, you, as her mother, help out by borrowing some to cover the medical expenses."

She didn't want to push anyone too hard either. If pushed too hard, who would pay for her son's tuition?

But to ask her to borrow money...

Who would pay it back?

Absolutely impossible.

The rain outside the window grew heavier, accompanied by strong winds and thunder, the gloomy weather seemed to be a harbinger of something.

Suddenly, a person ran through the rain curtain.

Li Dongmei was completely soaked, her hair stuck to her forehead, her face full of anxiety, it was unclear whether it was rain or tears.

"Sister-in-law, it's terrible news. The police came to our house and took my brother away. Sister-in-law, what should we do?"

People are most afraid of two things: those in power and the police.

No matter how assertive Lin Jiayi was, she staggered when she heard about the police coming to her door, almost falling, if not for Mother Lin's support.

Lin Jiayi was also panicked now, holding Mother Lin's hand anxiously and asked, "Mom, what should we do? Guang Yuan can't go to jail."

She was still counting on him to succeed and make her a wealthy lady. If he was taken away, what would she do?

And the child, she couldn't let her son have a father who had been in jail.

"It must be Lin Chuxia, that little wretch. She just can't stand to see me doing well. Even though I gave her the best of everything, why does she still want to ruin me? She's simply jealous because her marriage with Qin Yang is unhappy, and seeing me having a child, she wants my child to be fatherless. Mom, it must be her, it surely is her..."

Lin Jiayi was emotionally agitated, gripping Mother Lin's arm so tightly she might have pinched her.

Mother Lin's arm hurt, and her heart hurt too.

She had not expected an actual police report to be filed; she thought even if the Qin Family wanted to, Lin Chuxia, being from Lin Family, would try to stop it.

And yet...

Such a menace, she should have just strangled her at birth, drowned her with a scoop of water.

"Oh... my stomach..."

Lin Jiayi's voice pulled Mother Lin back from her thoughts, seeing her pained expression, Mother Lin also panicked.

"What's wrong? What happened?"

"Mom, my stomach hurts."

"Stomach pain? Isn't it still early for your due date? Jiadong, Jiadong... go get your dad back, take your sister to the health clinic..."

Mother Lin yelled for help, but Lin Jiayi held her hand and shook her head.

"I don't want to go to the health clinic. Guang Yuan has been taken by the police, I can't be at ease there. Mom, help me get Guang Yuan out, the child and I can't be without him..."

"Why are you still saying so much? You might have disturbed the pregnancy, you need to see a doctor at the health clinic."

Chapter 290: Too Unscrupulous

"I'm not going, if Guang Yuan ends up in prison, it's better not to have this child; being born with a father who has been in prison is worse than not being born at all."

Lin Jiayi's stubborn tears were so heartbreaking for Mother Lin to watch.

"What nonsense are you talking about, it's already been so many months, how can you just say not to give birth? Never mind, I'll go find that foolish girl."

When Lin Jiadong came over, he saw the messy scene, and didn't understand why everyone was fussing around in such heavy rain.

"Should I still go call Dad?"

"Yes, go bring your dad back here, and I'll go to the village chief's house to find their tricycle."

"Why do you need a tricycle? Is my sister going to give birth? Should she go back to the Li Family to have the baby? If not, don't call Dad. I'll go to Brother Sun and borrow their tricycle to take my sister back to the Li Family."

Lin Jiadong's words had hardly ended when he received a slap on the arm, "Do what you're told without all this nonsense."

Lin Jiadong felt he wasn't being nonsensical—he was genuinely concerned. His elder sister was already married. Even if she stayed at her parents' home, she couldn't possibly give birth there.

But seeing the look in his mother's eyes, speaking further might just earn him another beating, so he obediently went to get a raincoat and left.

Mother Lin, heart aching, couldn't overpower her daughter's stubbornness, "Are you sure we shouldn't go to the clinic?"

Lin Jiayi nodded, "Mom, I can endure. Even if I give birth, I want him to be able to see his father right away."

Mother Lin had no choice but to entrust Lin Jiayi to Li Dongmei and covered herself with a plastic tarp before going out to look for a vehicle.

A bicycle definitely wouldn't work in this weather.

It was only after seeing her mother leave the courtyard that Lin Jiayi finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Seeing her sister-in-law looking anxiously at her belly, she stretched out her arm, "What are you looking at? Help me onto the Kang to rest."

Li Dongmei immediately supported Lin Jiayi's arm, following her like a little maid. After a few steps, she spoke anxiously, "Sister-in-law, aren't you supposed to be giving birth?"

"Give birth to what? There's still over half a month to go. Wouldn't giving birth now just add chaos?"

Li Dongmei nodded— the house was already in chaos; their eldest sister had run off somewhere, their brother had been taken away by the police, their mother was still crying indoors. If her sister-in-law really went into labor now, it would indeed be troublesome.

But her sister-in-law was impressive. With just one act, she managed to get her mother-in-law running around for her.

Mother Lin didn't say anything else when she arrived at the Sun Family's, simply borrowing their tricycle to head to the county.

The village chief, knowing that Lin Chuxia was prepared, directly instructed the eldest at home to drive them there.

Outside the Xiyang Food Factory, Lin Chuxia was not surprised by Mother Lin's arrival, though she thought she came quite quickly.

She expected they would only come the day after tomorrow at earliest, but this couple braved the rain to come.

It seemed that her big sister held a higher place in their hearts than she had imagined.

Mother Lin, both damp and cold from the journey, was already harboring anger. Seeing Lin Chuxia, especially her well-dressed and leisurely appearance, stirred even more anger within her.

The eldest daughter is living a life where people despise and dogs hate her, her mother-in-law and sister-in-law one more difficult to deal with than the other, so why should she get to live such a good life?

She lives a good life without any gratitude, and maliciously got her brother-in-law sent to the police station.

Doesn't she think, if it weren't for her eldest sister, where would her good life come from?

She strides forward, pointing at Lin Chuxia's nose and asks, "Your brother-in-law was taken away by the police, did you do this? He is your brother-in-law, how could you let the police arrest him? You should hurry and tell the police, just say that you got it wrong, and ask them to release him immediately."

Before Lin Chuxia could speak, Su Wensong stepped forward and said, "Ma'am, as I just said, you are mistaken, we didn't report to the police, and we didn't ask the police to arrest him."

"You stop with that nonsense," Mother Lin didn't listen to Su Wensong, pointing at Lin Chuxia, "Do you dare to do things without owning up to them? The village chief told me that you wanted to call the police, saying something about damaging the interests of your food factory. In your eyes, is money more important than your own mother and sister? How can you be such an ungrateful person?"

Lin Chuxia brushed Mother Lin's hand aside, her eyes indifferent, "Mom, if you don't believe me, why don't you go to the police station and ask? You keep calling me ungrateful, but why don't you see what the eldest sister and her husband have done? Now that they are in trouble, you come to me without knowing the full story, am I even your biological daughter?"

After the last sentence, a hint of guilt flashed in Mother Lin's eyes, but she quickly covered it up.

"Why wouldn't you be my daughter? Because you are, I asked you to help your big sister, she is your own sister, even if you don't help, you even had your brother-in-law sent to the police station, are you even human? Don't you know your sister is pregnant? Do you want to kill your sister? She's now endangered her pregnancy, how can you bear letting her die along with her unborn child? Do you have any humanity left?"

At this moment the rain had already stopped, although it was late, the villagers who heard the noise still gathered around.

They thought there was another disturbance at the food factory, some even came carrying shovels and sticks.

When they heard it was Lin Chuxia's mother, they didn't feel it was appropriate to make other moves.

Now hearing Mother Lin's accusations, whispers started spreading among the crowd.

"They always say Old Qin Family's daughter-in-law is capable and sensible, but look, her own mother is scolding her, she's not that great after all. Putting her brother-in-law in a police station while her sister is pregnant, no wonder they say rich people are cold-hearted, it's really true."

"I say Ma San, are you deaf or blind? Or is it your brain that's faulty? Have you forgotten what happened a few days ago? Moreover, Factory Director Su has said it was not them who reported it."

The person speaking was indeed Ma San, whose house is next to the food factory. Hearing the commotion, he didn't even finish his dinner and hurried out.

However, his words immediately drew displeasure from the people around.

"That's right, Ma San. I've heard your chickens all died of bird flu recently, do you know why other people's chickens were unaffected, but none of yours survived?"

"Why?"

Ma San suddenly looked serious.

His home's chickens had been wiped out by bird flu recently, and he had suspected something was amiss.

Could it be someone from Xiyang Food Factory was behind this?

The person continued speaking, "Because you're too immoral, always enjoying others' misfortunes, and in the end, you became the joke."

Ma San's face darkened immediately.

"In my opinion, even if the food factory did call the police, they should have. The incident that day was so loud, it needed to be clarified, really making people think there's something wrong with the factory's deli products. I heard even customers came to the factory to inquire, if there was a real problem, all contracts would be stopped."

"Exactly, even my son told me, he works at the food factory, having such relatives really is bad luck."