

Switched M 301

Chapter 301: Where is the child?

The second daughter is capable and has married into a good family, that is an unchangeable fact.

Fortunately, the eldest daughter doesn't get along well with the second daughter, but the son has a good relationship with her.

In the future, the son's education and development will still depend on the second sister and her husband.

She can't just because of the eldest daughter and son-in-law's relationship cut off her son's path. After all, the son is their hope and the foundation of the Lin Family.

"With the last incident causing such a mess, do you think she will come?"

For the first time, Mother Lin didn't go along with the eldest daughter.

Lin Jiayi didn't notice her mother's attitude and sneered, "Is she too scared to come? Afraid I'll settle the score and have her dear brother-in-law sent to the police station? Is that how she handles things? But Mom, you shouldn't indulge her too much. No matter what, she should have come today since it's her nephew's full-month celebration."

While talking, she even reached out her hand in front of Mother Lin.

Mother Lin didn't understand.

Lin Jiayi frowned slightly, "Even if she herself doesn't come, shouldn't there be some cash gift? Surely there isn't no cash gift at all?"

"No."

"No?" Lin Jiayi sat up straight. "Did you actually tell her? Didn't I ask you to have Jiadong go in person? How come Jiadong also didn't show up today? Don't tell me you never even told them?"

"Jiadong is in school, how could he have time to come here? I asked Jiadong to talk to Chuxia about it. Chuxia is busy because her husband might be transferred here to our city soon, and she might be moving here later, so she is busy with moving."

This is what Lin Jiadong told her; she didn't dare to ask more about the details.

Facing the second daughter, she had the nerve to go and confront, but if the second son-in-law were to return, to be honest, she would be somewhat intimidated.

Knowing this news, she decided to stop causing trouble, although she also felt for the eldest daughter, but she couldn't sacrifice her son for the eldest daughter.

Lin Jiayi sounded like she heard a hilarious joke, "You're saying Qin Yang is going to be transferred to our city? Did Lin Chuxia tell you this?"

How could that be?

In his past life, Qin Yang was always traveling across the country, with the closest he ever got being the neighboring province. How could he possibly be transferred back here?

"I heard it from Jiadong, oh, why bother with them? Just live your life well. Can't you see? Chuxia, that brat, has changed, she's become independent and does not care about us anymore. Whenever Qin Yang returns, who knows what could happen. It's better for them to move to the city, staying far away from us and out of sight."

Lin Jiayi didn't catch this, "What about that child?"

The child that Qin Yang brought back in his last life, by rights, should have already been brought back by now. She remembered that in her past life, just after the first month of the second year of marriage, he had brought the child back.

Even if there was some accident this life that prevented him from bringing the child back so soon, now that he's about to be transferred to the city, where is that child?

Surely the child couldn't have just disappeared without reason?

Lin Jiayi knew that although Qin Yang was a cold-blooded creature who lacked affection for people close to him, he had a very strong sense of responsibility.

A living child, he couldn't possibly abandon him.

Did he bring it back already?

Does Lin Chuxia know?

Mother Lin, confused, looked at the baby Lin Jiayi was holding in her arms, "What child? Aren't you holding one right now?"

Lin Jiayi was eager to confirm her idea, "Qin Yang brought a child back, didn't Qin Yang bring the child back?"

"They don't have children yet, where would Qin Yang bring a child back from? What nonsense are you talking about?"

Mother Lin looked bewildered, feeling that her eldest daughter was becoming more and more abnormal, especially when it came to Lin Chuxia.

"In my opinion, the second child moving to the city doesn't bother you at all. Just focus on your own life with Guang Yuan and stop fixating on her."

"Mom, what are you saying? How does it not bother me? It was I who switched places with her in the arranged marriage."

Since the switch was made, naturally she wanted that wretch to experience the suffering she went through in her past life; it wasn't meant for her to have a better life.

When the subject of switching places came up, Mother Lin was filled with anger, lowering her voice, "Are you still bringing that up? I told you before, the Qin Family is respected far and wide, and Qin Yang is capable too. It was only you who stubbornly thought Li Guangyuan was better, insisted on switching places to the point of desperation. And now? Their lives are getting better and better, and what about you? Does your life compare to hers at all? Qin Yang has now been transferred to the city, they've become city folks, while you're still rummaging for food in the soil here. What should I say to you?"

Lin Jiayi also felt unbearable hatred, yet stubbornly refused to admit it.

"It's just the shiny appearance of a donkey's dung egg. Wait and see, mom, sooner or later that little wretch will get what's coming to her. They've been married so long and haven't had children. Either that wretch is infertile or Qin Yang doesn't want children with her. Maybe one day Qin Yang will bring back an illegitimate child. Just wait, mom. I have a son now, and Guang Yuan is advancing in his career. Our good days are yet to come, I'm sure of it."

Her last two sentences were particularly emphatic, it was unclear whether they were meant for Mother Lin or for herself.

"Big brother, what are you doing standing here?" Outside the room, Li Dongmei called out to the distracted Li Guangyuan.

Li Guangyuan snapped back to reality and quickly pulled her aside.

Li Dongmei grew even more puzzled, "Mom was looking for you just now, we're running out of liquor, she asked you to buy another bottle."

"I know, you go ahead."

Li Guangyuan sent Li Dongmei off and then glanced again in the direction of the room.

So it was Lin Jiayi who originally wanted to switch places in the arranged marriage, but why?

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Lin Chuxia was indeed preparing to move to the city, but before going, she had to settle the matters at home.

First, there was the matter of building the house. The materials had already been purchased, today the tile workers and the carpenters started, with tile workers digging the foundation and carpenters organizing the wood.

Mr. Qin and his elder brother Qin Liang helped supervise, while Mrs. Qin and Qian Chuncao prepared meals for everyone.

Lin Chuxia also came back to help when she had free time. To her surprise, many villagers, knowing that their family was building a house, volunteered to help.

The village chief and the secretary's wife came to cook, while others helped wherever they could.

The house, initially planned to be completed in 5 days, was finished a day ahead of schedule.

On the day of the roof beam placement, Mr. Qin took out the leftover firecrackers from the New Year celebration and set off two strings.

Lin Chuxia bought cigarettes and candy for everyone who helped, making sure each person got something.

After the house was built, Lin Chuxia wanted to invite the tile workers and carpenters to help clean up the place, but Mr. Qin did not allow it.

A new house needed to be aired out for a while, he planned to slowly tidy it up himself after it was properly aired.

Knowing Mr. Qin couldn't stay idle, Lin Chuxia didn't insist further and told him to hire help for tasks he couldn't manage.

Just as things at home were wrapping up, trouble started at the Bun Shop.

Chapter 302: Eating a Meal without Paying

"It's been two days since the trouble started, with Qin Han dealing with it while also managing the house construction.

They thought having run the Bun Shop for so long and encountering all kinds of situations, there should be a way to solve this.

But this time the situation was different.

That noon, a group of people suddenly showed up at the Bun Shop. Initially thought to be customers there for a meal, they ate but then refused to pay.

How is it reasonable to eat buns without paying?

Qin Han immediately started to argue with these people.

Those people boldly told Qin Han that they were workers from the Old Food Factory, and as Xiyang Food Factory had taken their orders, they had been out of work for more than a month. No work meant no wages, and no wages meant nothing to eat.

Since Xiyang Food Factory didn't leave them a way out, they were coming to eat at Qin's Buns Shop.

Qin Han was infuriated. What kind of robber's logic was this?

When he decided to call the police, the crowd ran off.

There were too many of them, and they really did have a free meal at his expense.

He thought that once they knew the police would be called, they wouldn't dare to come again, but the next day another group appeared.

The same situation—eating buns without paying. This time, knowing they were Old Food Factory workers, Qin Han was wary and told Zhang Guilan to call the police right away.

The police arrived promptly, but even after they arrived, they first tried to understand the situation and then mediated on the spot.

In the end, although those people paid for the buns, the presence of the police for the entire afternoon disrupted the business of the Bun Shop.

Today, they didn't go to the shop to eat for free, but they gathered at the door of the Bun Shop, declaring that if they couldn't eat, they wouldn't let Qin's people have it easy.

Not only was the Bun Shop in the county affected, but the Bun Shop near the train station was also surrounded, and even some people gathered at the entrance of Xiyang Food Factory.

When Lin Chuxia received the news, her first concern was for the two pregnant women in the Bun Shop.

"Find someone to tell Lanlan and Wu's wife to take leave. No matter what happens at the Bun Shop, they should stay at home and not come out, especially Lanlan. Tell her that even if the Bun Shop is smashed, she shouldn't get involved."

She had foreseen this situation.

The Old Food Factory had once stolen their spice packs in an attempt to obtain their recipe, and Lin Chuxia retaliating by adding a beef sauce production line.

During this time, Xiyang Food Factory's beef sauce rapidly conquered the market, taking a large share from the Old Food Factory.

Li Jian had already briefed her on the current situation of the Old Food Factory.

According to Lin Chuxia's knowledge, due to the reduced orders, the Old Food Factory had already shut down several workshops in the past two months.

If things continued like this, going out of business was inevitable.

After instructing the necessary actions, Lin Chuxia went straight to the Bun Shop in the county.

The incident started at this Bun Shop, and currently, it was also the one most surrounded.

When Lin Chuxia arrived, indeed the entrance was packed with people, other than Qin's Steamed Bun employees inside the shop, everyone else was outside, and there was a crowd of onlookers.

As Lin Chuxia approached, she could even hear indignant voices from the crowd.

"Do you only think about getting rich and don't care about others' lives? Selling cooked food here, you say you're not targeting the Old Food Factory?"

"Exactly, they want to ruin our livelihood, we can't just let them have their way, can we?"

"Right, let's just stand here, no one can disturb us, even if the police come, they have no right to drive us away. I just want to see who dares to buy from Qin's Cooked Food Bun Shop."

"Xiao Wang is right, aren't they crying for competition? Now we are also competing, look, by standing here, our own cooked food shop will naturally do better business. As long as it improves the factory's performance, I'm willing to stand here every day."

Qin's Cooked Food side was surrounded by so many people that those who intended to buy cooked food did not want to invite trouble, indeed many turned to the cooked food shop of the Old Food Factory across the street.

There were too many people gathering at the shop's entrance; it was beyond their ability to disperse.

Fortunately, Lin Chuxia knew that Qin Han had already called the police.

In just a short while, the police really arrived.

Once the police came, the onlookers stepped back, leaving mostly Old Food Factory workers at the front of Qin's Bun Shop.

Perhaps from experience, these Old Food Factory workers didn't panic upon seeing the police, and even started airing their grievances to them.

While the police were comforting them and asking them to disperse, Lin Chuxia frowned slightly.

"Big brother, have the police responded like this the previous times, too?"

Qin Han nodded, "Yes, it's always like this. They disperse the crowd, but on the second day, these people come back. I've reported this to them, but they say since these people are only standing on the street and not doing anything illegal, they don't have the authority to arrest anyone."

But this wasn't a solution. With this going back and forth, their Bun Shop's business had been delayed for several days.

Qin Han was anxious and felt powerless.

Lin Chuxia's expression darkened, and she went straight to the leading police officer.

She got straight to the point and explained the situation.

The officer looked Lin Chuxia up and down, "Are you the person in charge of the Bun Shop? I remember the person in charge of Qin's Buns Shop was a male comrade."

"I am in charge of both Qin's Buns Shop and Xiyang Food Factory. These people have surrounded not only my Bun Shop but also Xiyang Food Factory, affecting the business and reputation of both. This way of handling things by you isn't quite appropriate, is it?"

The officer was easy to talk to and gave Lin Chuxia a slight smile, "How would Boss Lin like us to handle it? Take everyone to the police station? You've seen it yourself, they're just standing there—the street is public, you can't prevent people from being there, right? Even if they are affecting the business of your Bun Shop, it hasn't reached the point of detaining them. Don't we all preach that harmony brings wealth? I think Boss Lin should make some concessions too; these workers also have families to support, it's not easy for them."

"If it's not easy for them, it doesn't mean they can take it out on our Bun Shop," said Qin Han from the side.

The man spread his hands, "Then I'm at a loss. Nobody wants to see things get to this point; we can only mediate both ends. Honestly, our work in the middle is the most difficult."

Lin Chuxia squinted her eyes slightly, Qin Han wanted to say more, but she stopped him.

"Please do try to persuade them to leave as soon as possible and not to come back again. Even if we stop selling our cooked food, with the business condition of the Old Food Factory, it's not going to revive from the dead."

"Yes, we definitely will persuade them, but whether or not they listen, that's hard to say. But don't worry, if they come back tomorrow, notify us promptly, we will get them to leave early so that they don't affect your business."

Chapter 303: Boasting Shamelessly

"Thank you, comrade."

After those people left, Qin Han was so angry he almost jumped up and down, pointing at their departing figures, "Do you believe what they said? They said the same thing before, but in the end, they couldn't solve any problems."

Lin Chuxia nodded, then countered, "Big brother, what do you think we should do?"

Qin Han was stumped by the question.

In their minds, when facing difficulties, they should turn to the public security. The trouble they're encountering now should, of course, be handled by the comrades from the public security.

But now that the public security comrades had intervened, what else could be done?

"Why don't we go to court, sue the Old Food Factory?"

"What ground would we have to sue? Don't forget the seasoning packet incident from last time, the Old Food Factory pushed all the blame away, attributing it to individual conduct. They cleared themselves of all responsibility cleanly. If we go to sue now, there's a good chance the food factory would counter-sue us for defamation; we don't have concrete evidence against them, but they have solid evidence against us."

"So, what should we do then? Just let them come and cause trouble every day? Are we really going to give up on the bun shop business?"

Qin Han's face was red with anger, feeling like a scholar facing soldiers, unable to reason with them.

It was clear that they were conducting their business honestly and legitimately, but now faced with these unreasonable disruptions, do they really have no options left?

Lin Chuxia had already planned in her mind, "Big brother, you go back to the Bun Shop first. Now that they've left, business has to continue. I'll go and find Sun Hao."

Their location belonged to the city center; the jurisdiction of the district police station and Sun Hao's station were not the same.

The area around Ancheng Train Station had a high flow of people and many criminal cases, so Ancheng Public Security Bureau had long carved out that part of the city.

But since it's within the same system, they should be able to get some information.

When Sun Hao saw Lin Chuxia coming to look for him, he called her a rare guest.

He was eager to make her tea and offer her water, and even suggested to call his wife over to keep her company.

Lin Chuxia waved her hand, "Don't fuss, I'm here to ask you for a favor."

"We're all familiar here, 'asking' is too polite."

Sun Hao no longer treated Lin Chuxia as an outsider.

His mother had once stolen business from others, and Lin Chuxia did not hold it against her but instead took her in.

Now she works in the Bun Shop, earning a salary of forty to fifty yuan a month, nearly catching up to him.

The elderly lady was enjoying life, and even the atmosphere at home had changed.

Not to mention, Lin Chuxia was also the lifesaver of his wife.

Leave alone one matter, even if it involved scaling a mountain of swords or plunging into a sea of flames, as long as it wasn't illegal or disruptive, Sun Hao would do it for her.

Lin Chuxia didn't beat around the bush and directly explained the situation between the Old Food Factory and Qin's Steamed Bun Shop to Sun Hao, emphasizing the approach taken by the comrades from public security.

Sun Hao already knew about the workers from the Old Food Factory causing trouble for Lin Chuxia; he handled it himself the day a few workers came to the Bun Shop at the train station.

After that day, no one dared to cause trouble at the Bun Shop again, and he thought that the matter had settled, not expecting it to escalate in the city.

"They told you this?" He found it hard to believe their way of handling the situation.

Lin Chuxia just nodded.

Sun Hao's brows also furrowed, "They can't reconcile the situation by just muddling through like this, can they?"

As frontline workers, they'd deal with all sorts of trivial matters daily, and sometimes they indeed would muddle through.

As long as both parties agreed and the rationale was clear, the matter would be considered done.

But at present, the dispute between Qin's Steamed Bun Shop and the Old Food Factory obviously couldn't be resolved by just muddling through.

"Did those people say what they want to do by surrounding the Bun Shop?" he asked.

"They did," Qin Han had made it clear since day one, "They want Xiyang Food Factory to stop the beef sauce production line and hand over the orders to the Old Food Factory."

Sun Hao burst out laughing at their audacity, "What pompous claims, who do they think they are? Even if it was the Emperor of Heaven, he wouldn't have such audacity?"

Lin Chuxia smiled along, "Their demands are indeed rather high."

It was an impossible request, and precisely because it couldn't be resolved, they kept showing up at Qin's Steamed Bun Shop day after day.

"Okay, I got it. Give me some time, I'll look into it for you, and I'll have an answer by the day after tomorrow at the latest."

There must be a reason for those people to be muddling through like that. To solve a problem, its root must be found.

Lin Chuxia thanked Sun Hao and went back to await his news.

Yet before Sun Hao's news arrived, another incident occurred at Xiyang Food Factory.

From the first day, people started causing trouble at Xiyang Food Factory's doorstep; it had been five days now.

The first few days saw just a few people loitering around the entrance, with more going to Qin's Steamed Bun Shop.

Early that day, a group of forty or fifty people blocked Xiyang Food Factory's entrance, preventing Xiyang Food Factory's employees from going to work.

Their goal this time was clear: besiege Xiyang Food Factory, stop its employees from working, disrupt its normal production, delay order deadlines, and thus inevitably affect the clients.

Unless Xiyang Food Factory backed down and discontinued the beef sauce production line, they would not leave.

A big crowd swarmed, making the entrance to Xiyang Food Factory impenetrable.

When Lin Chuxia got the news and rushed to Xiyang Food Factory, the villagers of Qin Family Village were also heading there.

Village Chief Qin even used the loudspeaker to announce that people were causing trouble at Xiyang Food Factory; the villagers of Qin Village must unite together.

Lin Chuxia felt overwhelmed.

By the time she got to Xiyang Food Factory, she indeed saw a crowd surrounding the entrance, clearly divided into two opposing groups.

Among them, people from Qin Family Village were even holding tools.

And the people from the Old Food Factory were not showing any weakness either.

"This is a matter between our Old Food Factory and Xiyang Food Factory, it has nothing to do with you. Xiyang Food Factory is targeting the Old Food Factory, stealing our business, which is taking food out of our mouths. Let me ask you, if someone took your land, what would you do?"

"Spit on that! What do you mean 'stealing your meals'? You were the ones who couldn't match the skill. You've not been held accountable for stealing the factory's secret recipe yet. If you ask me, Mr. Lin added the beef sauce production line precisely to deal with shameless people like you."

"That's right, no one has decreed that only your factory can do ready-made food business, nor has anyone decreed that only you can produce beef sauce. How dare you come here to Xiyang to cause trouble, really thinking we, from Qin Village, are easy to bully?"

"Yes, we're not easy to bully. Step aside, or else we'll not be polite."

The people from the Old Food Factory not only refused to step aside but looked ready to face death.

"Come on then, fight us! Without orders, the factory can't pay our wages anyway. If you injure us, we'll have found our meal tickets."

"Don't think we really won't fight you."

"Fight then, hit right here, whoever doesn't is a coward," the man said, lowering his head and inching forward.

The villager with a shovel turned pale and gripped the handle of the shovel tighter.

"Come any closer and I won't be polite."

"Don't be polite, come on and hit."

"I'll be damned..."

Chapter 304: Fight it Out with Her

"Everyone quiet down—"

A clear and cold voice pierced through the crowd, and the noisy entrance instantly fell silent.

The villagers of Qin Family Village and the employees of Xiyang Food Factory recognized Lin Chuxia's voice and their eyes lit up.

"Mr. Lin."

"Mr. Lin is here."

"Mr. Lin, don't be afraid, this is Qin Family Village. If outsiders want to run wild here, they'll have to reckon with Lord Ma first."

"That's right, rest assured Mr. Lin, we will definitely not let them get away with this."

"Bullying Xiyang, bullying Mr. Lin, we are willing to fight to the death to seek justice for Mr. Lin."

One by one, they were as if injected with adrenalin, seemingly waiting for Lin Chuxia's command.

Following behind Lin Chuxia, the village chief scolded, "Reckless. Who told you to risk your lives? Do you really think your lives are that valuable? I'm telling you, if you go and risk your lives now, that's the real harm to Mr. Lin."

The village chief was also a bit scared at this moment.

He called the villagers over to unite against the outsiders, but he did not anticipate the people from the Old Food Factory would be so extreme.

Just a moment ago, he was shouting himself hoarse from the back, fearing that a fight would break out.

The villagers of Qin Family Village really wanted to ask the village chief, wasn't calling them over to support Mr. Lin the very point?

Isn't the most direct way to support someone by giving the bullies a good beating?

But seeing the calm face of the village chief, they swallowed their words and turned their gaze towards Lin Chuxia.

Lin Chuxia first thanked the elders and fellow villagers; no matter what, she could not let these people, who firmly stood by her side, feel disheartened.

"These people are clearly here to cause trouble at Xiyang, and if we really start fighting with them, that's falling right into their trap. Believe me, there will be a better solution to this matter."

Hearing Lin Chuxia's words, the people from the Old Food Factory secretly exchanged glances, their expressions changing.

Someone shouted in the crowd, "Don't listen to her, folks. This woman is the person in charge of Xiyang Food Factory, it's her who's cutting off our livelihood, stealing business from the Old Food Factory. She's making our lives difficult, so let's not make it easy for her either."

"Right, let's fight her."

Someone stepped forward, ready to throw punches. Naturally, the people from Qin Family Village and Xiyang Food Factory would not let these individuals lay a hand on Lin Chuxia.

Qin Jianjun, Qin Wu, Su Wensong, and others stepped in front of Lin Chuxia without hesitation.

Su Wensong shouted loudly, "I am the factory manager of Xiyang Food Factory. If you have any grievances, address them to me."

But at this moment, with the crowds surging, whatever he shouted was as if unheard by those people.

Two sturdy men even reached out to pull and tug at Su Wensong.

The people from Qin Family Village and Xiyang Food Factory believed in Lin Chuxia's words; these people were just here to cause trouble and should not be provoked.

It was just that they didn't want to fight, but the people from the Old Food Factory would not let them go.

Just then, someone shouted, "The police are here, stop fighting, the police are here..."

It would have been better not to shout that. With that call, the crowd turned even more chaotic, as if they were waiting just for this moment.

Amid the shoving, someone swung a punch, and the punched person, unable to control himself, fought back.

Su Wensong was dragged away, and someone lunged towards Lin Chuxia.

Qin Jianjun saw that someone was trying to hit his fourth auntie and instantly got fired up, clenched his fists, and met the attacker...

Originally, the number of people coming from the Old Food Factory wasn't as great as the Qin Family Village's villagers and Xiyang Food Factory's employees, but initially, it was only the employees of the two food factories facing off, with the villagers of Qin Family Village on the outskirts.

Because of what Lin Chuxia said, they were also more cautious, and with the arrival of the police officers, the villagers had not expected a fight to break out right then, and they were momentarily caught off guard.

The shrill sound of a whistle rang out, and a police officer shouted, "Stop fighting, everyone stop."

The people from Xiyang Food Factory thought they were in the right; some of them stopped fighting, while those tangled up with the other side tried to push the opponents away.

But the people from the Old Food Factory seemed red-eyed with anger and ignored the calls to stop.

As a result, the people from Xiyang Food Factory ended up getting a few more gratuitous blows.

The police officers, seeing that their orders were ineffective, stepped forward to apprehend people.

"Why are you arresting me? I am an employee of Xiyang Food Factory, it's them causing trouble at the factory's entrance."

"I'm from Xiyang Food Factory, I didn't fight."

"Enough chatter, whether you fought or not, we'll discuss it inside."

Seeing the police officers really make their move, the crowd scattered.

After all, only a few police officers had come, and before they could apprehend more people, everyone had run off.

Looking at the people they had under control, Lin Chuxia's brows furrowed.

She had already seen that the leading police officer was the same one who had maintained order at the Bun Shop; she had inquired and learned that he was called Shi Wei, a squad captain.

Back at the Bun Shop, because of Shi Wei's obvious bias, Lin Chuxia had sought out Sun Hao, wanting to get some information.

She didn't expect that before Sun Hao replied, another incident occurred at the food factory, and the person who appeared was again Shi Wei.

She stepped forward to block them, her cold gaze clearly displeased, "Captain Shi, don't you think your way of handling the case is a bit unfair? Apprehending people without a clear understanding of the situation is too hasty, isn't it?"

Shi Wei, seeing that it was Lin Chuxia, replied with a smile, "Mr. Lin, wasn't it your side that called the police? And you saw it yourself, if we didn't step in to arrest people, this large-scale brawl would have had unimaginable consequences."

"Sure, you say that, but Captain Shi, why is it that after all the arrests, they all seem to be from Xiyang Food Factory?"

The people Shi Wei brought along had arrested seven or eight individuals, but they were all from Xiyang Food Factory.

If the bias shown by Shi Wei at the Bun Shop was because he couldn't catch the other party red-handed, today's incident was all too obvious.

However, Shi Wei appeared completely oblivious, turning his head to look at those individuals.

"Is that so? Mr. Lin, if you think this constitutes an unfair handling of the case by our officers, that's a great injustice to us. You saw the chaos at the scene; we were just arresting people, not differentiating. But don't worry, these people will only be taken in for investigation, and if there's no problem, they will certainly be released."

The village chief was also frowning, unaware of the original incident, but seeing that the apprehended were from Xiyang Food Factory and included villagers from his village, he too stood on Lin Chuxia's side.

"Officer, I am the village chief of Qin Family Village. This incident occurred in our village; just talk to me for the investigation, let the people go first."

Shi Wei shook his head with a smile, "I'm afraid that won't work. They engaged in fighting, and since there was a police report, we have to investigate thoroughly."

"But you can't just investigate our people, right? It was clearly the people from the Old Food Factory who came here causing trouble. You should arrest them."

"We'd like to arrest them too, but due to our limited manpower, they have all run away. However, village chief, rest assured, after we conduct a thorough investigation, we will surely give you a satisfactory response."

Chapter 305: Trouble Occurred

Village Chief Qin wanted to say more, but Shi Wei was already growing impatient, "Does the village chief not let me take people away because he wants to obstruct the investigation? Or does Mr. Lin think I am deliberately arresting people from Xiyang? If Mr. Lin thinks I arrested the wrong person, he is most welcome to report it at the police station. When I, Shi Wei, handle affairs, I am as firm as nails and rivets, and I am not afraid of your complaints."

With a wave of his hand, he ordered, "Take everyone back, the station will investigate this thoroughly. Whether it's people from Xiyang Food Factory fighting or people from the Old Food Factory causing trouble, we will certainly provide justice to everyone. After questioning, if there is no issue, they will be sent home immediately, everyone please rest assured about our police handling."

The police have always had credibility in the eyes of the public. With Shi Wei's words, the villagers who initially had concerns now found his reasoning sound.

With the chaos just now, they had just arrived and started arresting people, how could they possibly be selective?

It must be that the people from the Old Food Factory who did wrong were guilty and hence ran faster upon seeing the police.

Su Wensong wanted to argue further, but Lin Chuxia stopped him with a shake of her head.

The police arrived quickly and left just as fast, but when they left, they took seven or eight workers from Xiyang.

"Mr. Lin, are you really letting him take those people away?"

Anyone could see there was a problem here.

Lin Chuxia's eyes deepened, "You follow and see."

Su Wensong was the manager of Xiyang Food Factory, and it was reasonable for him to follow when his workers were involved in an incident.

Turning to Qin Wu, "Xiao Wu, organize the workers to continue working calmly. Tell them that the workers who were taken away will absolutely not encounter any trouble."

Qin Wu nodded, "I've got it Mr. Lin, don't worry."

Qin Wu is now the deputy manager of Xiyang Food Factory and also a villager of Qin Family Village. His credibility in the factory is not low.

Finally, she thanked Village Chief Qin, asking him to take the villagers back home, and she would handle the rest.

Village Chief Qin never expected things to end like this; clearly, they were the victims, people who came causing trouble went scot-free, yet their people got arrested.

But at this moment, he realized, there was no point for more villagers to stay here; the more people, the more gossip and potential trouble.

Calling the villagers to go home if they should, others to return to their fields.

Soon after, the area in front of the food factory quieted down.

Lin Chuxia took a deep breath and went directly to find Sun Hao to see if there was any news.

Actually, she had already guessed what might be happening, and now it was just a matter of seeing who was intervening in this matter.

.....

"Big brother, sister-in-law, big brother, sister-in-law... it's bad, something has happened..."

Qin Liang and Qian Chuncao were picking green beans in the field when they faintly heard someone calling them.

Qian Chuncao had sharp eyesight and saw Qin Wen running from afar.

"Why is he here?"

The lands of the three Qin brothers were not located together, and especially after the last fight with Ma Suqing, the two families had fallen out and had not spoken for a long time, even not attending when their niece, Qin Lihua, got married.

Qin Liang also put down what he was doing, his expression growing more solemn.

He has always been aloof since he was young and never liked working in the fields. Now with one foot deep, one foot shallow, there must be something wrong.

Just as the two were puzzled, Qin Wen had already run up to them.

Out of breath, he gasped, "Brother, sister-in-law, it's bad news. Big trouble. Your son, Jianjun, has been taken away by the police."

Qin Liang and Qian Chuncao's faces changed dramatically, "What did you say? Who was taken away by the police?"

"Who else? Your Jianjun. It's all over the village now. Today someone came to Xiyang Food Factory causing trouble. Jianjun got into a fight with them. Later, the police came and took your Jianjun away."

"How did he get into a fight?" Qin Liang asked, frowning.

He was clear about what kind of person his son was. Besides, his son was working at Xiyang Food Factory, always following his Uncle, Xiao Wu. How could Uncle let his son get involved in a fight?

Qin Wen had just gotten off work and heard about it from his wife, who told him that Qin Jianjun was taken away by the police, so he immediately came to inform them.

"How else could he have gotten into a fight?" Qin Wen's face showed deep sorrow, "I heard that Xiyang Food Factory took business from the Old Food Factory. The employees of the Old Food Factory now have no work and are almost laid off. They came to confront Xiyang Food Factory. You both know Fourth Son's Wife's temper, she didn't give an inch and infuriated them, and both sides started fighting. It's regrettable that you always trusted her, leaving the child in her care. When trouble arose, she had Jianjun at the frontline and hid herself. I've already asked around—Uncle and her are fine, but Jianjun was the one who got screwed over."

Qin Liang and Qian Chuncao looked at each other, Qin Liang said, "Let's go home and see."

Qian Chuncao also hurriedly packed the green beans into the basket. No matter what, their son being taken away by the police was a major event.

They were also worried about Xiyang Food Factory.

They had only heard a couple of days ago that someone was causing trouble at the factory, but how did it escalate to fighting today?

They went to the fields early today, and this field is far from the village, so they hadn't heard anything.

Otherwise, would their son have needed to step in? She could've helped them pull the other party apart.

Seeing the two getting anxious, Qin Wen also became worried.

"Tell us what happened exactly. Jianjun was just going to work; how could he end up in the police station? Our Jianjun is such a good kid, never fought anyone since he was little. Now he's ended up in the police station and will have a record. How is Jianjun supposed to get on in life now? Even talking about getting married could be a problem."

Qin Liang and Qian Chuncao did not respond further, they put the basket on their bicycle's rear rack and started pedaling home.

Qin Wen also hurriedly pushed his bike, shouting, "Brother, sister-in-law, slow down a bit. We need to think carefully about what to do next. I know a couple of people at the police station, just tell your brother if you need help..."

Qin Wen followed all the way until he saw his brother and sister-in-law enter the village, then he turned his bike around and went back to his own home.

Ma Suyun was still at home waiting for news, and as soon as she saw Qin Wen return, she hurried up to him.

"How did it go? Did those two go settle the score with the Fourth Son's wife?"

"What do you think?" Qin Wen scoffed.

Jianjun and Jianye are their lifelines, especially Jianjun, who had been working at Xiyang Food Factory. His sister-in-law had often boasted about it in the village.

Now, that boasting had led him straight to the police station. How could he not settle the score with Fourth Son's Wife?

Especially that remark, now it's even hard to mention getting a wife for Jianjun, seeing his sister-in-law's face change.

By now, they're probably tearing into Fourth Son's Wife's heart.

Hearing this, Ma Suyun also felt a sense of satisfaction, "Exactly, they always talk about how good Fourth Son's Wife is, shamelessly sucking up to her despite being of age. Now, her daughter's reputation was almost ruined by Fourth Son's Wife, and now her son has ended up in the police station, let's see if they still praise Fourth Son's Wife."

Chapter 306: Things Are Developing Towards the Worst Possibility

Qin Wen looked at his wife and couldn't help but remind her, "Be modest in front of my elder brother and sister-in-law. After all, they are my own siblings, and we still need to rely on their support for family matters. Later, when they argue with the fourth son's wife, you should go and mediate. As his brother and uncle, we should also care more about them. Let bygones be bygones, we can't just stop talking forever."

"I know, I know," Ma Suyun replied impatiently.

She was beaten before and still needed to admit her fault?

But thinking about the corn stalks in the family fields that needed harvesting soon, she could only swallow her pride.

"Oh, right, don't go out to the fields these days. With the village being so chaotic, just rest at home for a couple of days," Qin Wen hinted.

"I know."

Ma Suyun didn't want to go to the fields either. With the village being so lively, even if she couldn't go and see for herself, just listening was satisfying.

.....

When Lin Chuxia found Sun Hao, he was just about to go out to find her.

"I heard something happened at Xiyang Food Factory, did many people from the Old Food Factory cause trouble? What's the situation now?"

"I came to you about this. Initially, both sides were deadlocked. The Old Food Factory's employees surrounded Xiyang Food Factory, preventing our workers from entering to work. I sent someone to call the police, but before the police arrived, both groups had started pushing each other. Later, the police officers came and took a few people away, and the rest ran off."

Lin Chuxia briefly explained the situation to Sun Hao.

"Did you find out anything? What's the background of Shi Wei? Is he connected to any leaders of the Old Food Factory?"

This is the most direct possibility and the easiest one to resolve.

"Why do you think it's Shi Wei?"

"The police who came to Xiyang Food Factory today were led by Shi Wei," Lin Chuxia replied directly.

The most critical point was that, after the police arrived, the people from the Old Food Factory became even more agitated. Even when the people from Xiyang stopped, they continued to attack, which is illogical unless they had some backing.

Sun Hao shook his head, "It might be more complicated. Shi Wei doesn't have that much power and courage. I didn't find out all the specifics here, but I know that someone's backing the Old Food Factory, and today's incident was premeditated. The Old Food Factory employees came to Xiyang Food Factory with two goals: to prevent the factory workers from entering, and if that failed, to incite conflict. Once the police were called, the outcome was as you see now," only the staff of Xiyang Food Factory were detained.

Their goal was simply to stop the production of Xiyang Food Factory. If Xiyang Food Factory couldn't fulfill the contracts on time, it would definitely affect their partnerships, giving the Old Food Factory another chance.

If the conflict escalated causing casualties, that would really blow things up.

The incident happened right at the entrance of Xiyang Food Factory. Whether it was the leaders of Xiyang Food Factory or the factory as a whole, how could they dissociate themselves from this?

A temporary closure for reorganization would plunge the Xiyang Food Factory into an irretrievable downfall.

Upon hearing this, Lin Chuxia's expression became more and more serious.

She had already thought of the worst consequences, and what made her even more solemn was that the situation was developing towards the worst possibility.

Shi Wei's boldness had already been anticipated by her, possibly involving higher level influence.

As a senior state-owned enterprise in Ancheng County, the Old Food Factory had deep roots. Whether it was Liu Guoyi's previous connections or his winning over of people's hearts, it was not something that the current Xiyang Food Factory could compete with.

From her beginnings selling buns at a stall, even from the first time she went to sell vegetables at the market, she had meticulously planned each step of her path.

She made connections with everyone who could help her business as much as possible.

To befriend Sun Hao, she hired Granny Sun, who was seizing her business.

To connect with Li Jian and Xu Changping, she provided them with strategic advice.

Even later, through their introductions to some big shots, she, a woman, proved her mettle over drinks.

But it was still a step too late.

Having lived a whole life, Lin Chuxia knew too well that human relationships, aside from the kinship thicker than water, were exchanges of interests.

Sometimes, even kinship is based on interests.

When you don't have enough interest to offer in exchange, why would someone help you?

Unless one day you stand in a position equal or even superior to theirs.

Of course, not everyone is blinded by immediate benefits, there are always those who fight for justice.

"Thank you for gathering this information for me."

Lin Chuxia thanked Sun Hao, at the moment she needed to quickly return to stabilize the factory workers' morale and production.

The Old Food Factory, the more they tried to stop their production, the more they had to complete the orders on time.

She took a detour back home first, as the food factory incident was such a big deal, Mr. Qin and Mrs. Qin were both worried at home, and visiting them could also calm the two elders.

Seeing Lin Chuxia, Mr. Qin and Mrs. Qin indeed breathed a sigh of relief. Knowing she hadn't eaten, Mrs. Qin hurried to the kitchen to cook her noodles, laying two sunny-side-up eggs.

Mr. Qin then started talking about family matters, "At noon, your elder brother and sister-in-law came over. They finished their fieldwork early today, not knowing about the factory incident. When they arrived and learned that Jianjun had been taken away by the police, they came to ask about it."

Lin Chuxia paused while eating noodles, "I'll go and talk to elder brother and sister-in-law in a bit. Jianjun was indeed taken away by the police. There is more to this situation, and Factory Director Su has already gone to the police station. They won't be in trouble."

Mr. Qin waved his hand, "No need, your elder brother and sister-in-law mentioned that you should focus on the factory matters first, no need to update them. They trust their son and they trust you. They specifically came by just to ensure you wouldn't overthink."

Lin Chuxia nodded and did not say anything further.

There were still loads of matters waiting for her at the factory, she hurriedly left after finishing a bowl of noodles.

Mrs. Qin watched her depart and sighed with worry, "I heard from them that when the police received the report, they only arrested workers from Xiyang Food Factory, everyone from the Old Food Factory had fled. Everyone says it was intentional, what should we do if it really is?"

They are just ordinary folks, genuine peasants, who can only worry in such situations.

"Should we call Yangyang? Such a big issue shouldn't be shouldered by the daughter-in-law alone, right?"

The old couple couldn't be of much help, their eldest son was rather slow, only good at working without much cunning.

At this point, the only hope was their second son, but it was uncertain whether the second son, working out of town, could help upon his return.

Mr. Qin puffed on his pipe, thinking for a while before speaking, "It's up to the daughter-in-law now."

Even if they call their son to come back, they would have to go through the daughter-in-law to call the food factory.

Lin Chuxia, unaware of her parents-in-law's plans, arrived at Xiyang Food Factory where several people were standing at the entrance.

Chapter 307: Make Things Difficult for Them

Chuxia Lin recognized at a glance that the person hesitating at the entrance of the food factory was a villager from the Qin Family Village. They seemed indecisive, taking a peek inside the factory, and then pacing back and forth in a troubled manner.

"Aunties, are you looking for me for something?"

Chuxia Lin approached and took the initiative to speak.

The two people who were peeking into the factory turned around upon hearing her voice. Spotting Chuxia Lin, they began to stammer, at a loss for words.

"There are no outsiders here, just speak your mind, Aunties."

One of the aunties had reddened eyes, prompted by Chuxia's words, she asked, "This morning, my Da Jun was taken away by the police. His wife has been crying at home for half a day, and I'm worried too. I came to ask the factory about it - Da Jun got into a fight because of our food factory. If he really ends up in jail, will the Xiyang Food Factory take responsibility? I'm not trying to make things difficult for you, Auntie, it's just that Da Jun's wife just gave birth, and the family is counting on him."

The other aunty also said, "Our Zhuzi has always been honest and never been in a fight. This time he was also taken away. I saw with my own eyes in the crowd that my Zhuzi didn't lay a hand on anyone but still took two punches from the other side. In the end, the people who started the fight ran away and my Zhuzi was taken."

Chuxia Lin only knew that seven or eight people had been taken away, except for Qin Jianjun, she still didn't know who else was involved, so she could only offer comfort for now.

"Aunties, don't worry, Factory Director Su has already gone to the police station. Even if our people really did get into a fight, the incident started with the provocation of people from the Old Food Factory. Our workers were acting in self-defense and won't be held legally responsible, nor will they go to jail. I can guarantee that to the Aunties."

"Really? But why did they only arrest our people?"

At first, they weren't worried, but then someone said that the police only arrested workers from the Xiyang Food Factory and not those from the Old Food Factory.

Obviously, the Xiyang Food Factory had offended someone, and arresting their workers was a way to get back at them. Those who were arrested were in big trouble, leaving Chuxia Lin to face the consequences.

Hearing these comments, they became anxious.

Chuxia Lin knew she couldn't explain the situation to them clearly at the moment, so she promised, "Aunties, rest assured, if there really is any problem, the Xiyang Food Factory will hire the best lawyers to fight for them in court. We absolutely won't let our employees go to jail for no reason."

Reassured by the two aunties, they finally nodded, "Fourth son's wife, we trust you, we're all from the same village, you'll stand by us, right?"

While they said they trusted her, in reality, as a newcomer, she didn't have much contact with the people from the village.

Chuxia Lin smiled slightly, "Of course, Aunties, you just go home and wait for news, we won't ignore this matter."

Reassured by Chuxia Lin's words, the two left the food factory.

Chuxia Lin went straight to Qin Wu's office, "Any news from Old Su's side?"

"Not back yet," Qin Wu nodded and handed a list of names to Chuxia Lin, "These are the people taken away this morning, seven in total, five from our Qin Family Village and two nearby. Their home addresses are listed at the back."

The first name was Qin Jianjun, followed by others such as Li Dajun and Li Baozhu.

"Alright, how's everything in the workshop?"

"Everything is normal. Everyone knows that the Old Food Factory's people came to disrupt our production because our beef sauce and cooked foods are selling well. Now everyone is spirited and even clamoring to work overtime at night. Some are also worried that the Old Food Factory's people will cause trouble tomorrow and suggested to stay overnight at the factory."

"It's not realistic to have everyone stay at the factory. There isn't enough space, and if they don't rest well, accidents during production would be even worse. However, their concerns are not unfounded. Arrange for a shift change to night shifts, and for those who are willing to stay tonight, make proper accommodation arrangements."

Fortunately, when building the factory, they constructed plenty of rooms, and now it's also the summer season.

By this time, Chuxia Lin finally felt relieved.

No matter how difficult the current situation, her family members and employees were her steadfast supporters.

In her past life, it wasn't all smooth sailing in business. Whenever there was a problem, not to mention the Li Family, even Guang Yuan would play it safe, saying that the issue must be resolved and shouldn't go a certain way, but then he would clean his hands of it, leaving her to face it alone.

Once the issue was resolved, he was the glorious President Li.

Now that she thought about it, she really lived pitifully in her past life, no wonder destiny gave her another chance to live - it was really embarrassing.

After arranging the factory matters, Chuxia Lin checked the time, and it was almost four in the afternoon.

From the disturbance in the morning until now, nearly seven to eight hours had passed, and there was still no news from the police station.

Not until the evening fell and the factory became quiet did Su Wensong return.

"Why so late, where are the others?"

Seeing him returning alone, Chuxia Lin frowned.

Logically, a fight wasn't a serious matter, especially since there were no casualties.

Moreover, it was the employees of the Old Food Factory who provoked the incident in the first place. As long as they explained the situation clearly, the police had no reason to detain them.

Su Wensong, as the director of the Xiyang Food Factory, personally went to ensure their release.

Su Wensong shook his head, "They're still at the police station, not yet released."

"What's the situation?"

"They said they brought the people in for questioning, but once they arrived at the station, Shi Wei left with his men citing other cases. Our people were temporarily locked in a room, and I asked the other officers there. They said they couldn't interfere with the cases handled by Shi Wei. When we looked for the head officer, he was also not around. We waited until now, and after Shi Wei's team finished other cases, they went off duty, telling our people to wait for questioning tomorrow."

"This is outrageous," Qin Wu couldn't help but curse.

They were clearly being given the runaround.

Su Wensong also felt that something was off with this incident and asked Chuxia Lin, "What did Sun Hao say?"

"It's not easy to deal with."

Chuxia Lin didn't elaborate, just checked the time.

"It's getting late, go back and rest. We'll talk about the rest tomorrow. Also, inform the families of the detained workers tomorrow to properly manage their emotions. Tell them that no matter what happens, the Xiyang Food Factory will not abandon them."

Of the seven detained workers, five were villagers from the Qin Family Village. Chuxia Lin decided to personally visit Qin Liang's family to explain the situation, while Qin Wu would go to the other four families from the Qin Family Village, and the remaining two were Su Wensong's responsibility.

After arranging the next day's activities, Chuxia Lin and Su Wensong went off duty. Qin Wu stayed in the factory to keep watch.

The next morning, Chuxia Lin first visited Qin Liang. When she arrived, she found that someone had arrived even earlier than her.

Chapter 308: No Good Intentions

Qin Wen was sitting in the hall talking to his elder brother and sister-in-law, and both of them looked displeased.

As soon as Qian Chuncao saw Lin Chuxia, she immediately came forward to greet her. Before Lin Chuxia could speak, Qin Wen behind her was the first to ask.

"Is Sister-in-law here to apologize to my elder brother and sister-in-law? In my opinion, this is definitely Sister-in-law's fault. Our Jianjun was such a good child, and now he has become a prisoner. How can he ever hold his head up again in the future?"

"Qin Wen, if you don't talk, nobody will treat you as a mute,"

Qian Chuncao interrupted him and turned to Lin Chuxia, "Sister-in-law, don't listen to him. We all understand the situation and are confident in our innocence."

"Sister-in-law, what time is it now, and you still blindly trust Sister-in-law? If Jianjun had no issues, he would have been released yesterday. Up to now, not a single trace of him has been seen. I've heard that the interrogations inside are quite intense. One night has passed, who knows what kind of suffering Jianjun might have gone through."

Even though Qian Chuncao had been comforting herself to trust Lin Chuxia, she was, after all, the mother. Hearing Qin Wen's words, her face turned pale.

Lin Chuxia's cold eyes turned to Qin Wen, "It sounds like young brother knows a lot about this. Where did you get such information? But I must remind you, fabricating facts and slandering the public security image can lead to administrative punishment."

"You're talking nonsense, I didn't."

Hearing that there might be an administrative punishment, Qin Wen immediately stiffened his neck in retort.

"Then where did you hear all this from? I really don't know. Perhaps since you work at the Hardware Company, you have seen and learned a lot. In that case, someday I should visit your company and talk to your leader to understand whether these are true or false. After all, maintaining the national image is something we citizens should be doing."

Hearing that she planned to speak with his leaders, Qin Wen suddenly panicked, but he was not willing to lower his head to Lin Chu.

"You stop talking nonsense. Jianjun has been taken away and hasn't returned for a night. Even if he is not your biological nephew, isn't it serious enough? Elder brother and sister-in-law have done nothing wrong to you."

Lin Chuxia replied flatly, "I will naturally explain things to elder brother and sister-in-law; there's no need for others to stir up trouble here."

"Your explanation? If you really wanted to explain, would you have waited until now? I think you are just avoiding responsibility."

Finally catching something to hold against Lin Chuxia, Qin Wen was not willing to let her go.

Now, the brothers and sisters in the family are leaning towards Qin Yang and his wife and even isolating them.

Have they forgotten when they couldn't get things and came to him for help?

All he needs is to expose Lin Chuxia's true face and remind them of the past deeds. He believes that blood brothers are still blood brothers, after all, Lin Chuxia is an outsider.

Lin Chuxia could clearly see what Qin Wen was thinking, but she wasn't annoyed and even smiled.

"Whether I'm avoiding responsibilities, let's not talk about that first. It's better than some people who are so eager to show concern and enjoy the spectacle. If I'm not mistaken, young brother, you should be at work now?"

His directness pierced through, Qin Wen didn't understand how this woman could be so blunt and direct without worrying about offending people?

"You're talking nonsense, who's enjoying the spectacle? Jianjun is my biological nephew, and of course, as his uncle, I have to care about him," he definitely wouldn't admit it.

"Where is your concern? Is it just lip service?"

Qin Wen's face turned red, and his eyes seemed to spew fire.

Qin Liang also knew his brother was up to no good when he came over. If he genuinely cared, why didn't he show up for Lihua's big event like her wedding but made a daily appearance now that Jianjun is in trouble, simply stirring up problems? Where is the concern in that?

"Alright, second brother, it's getting late. You should go to work. Jianjun's matter is under control with me and your sister-in-law here. You just focus on your work and don't worry about other things."

"Elder brother, she is not well-intentioned," Qin Wen pointed at Lin Chuxia.

"Whether sister-in-law is well-intentioned or not, I don't know, but I am very clear about some people having ill-intentions. Da Wen, these past days I've given you face and allowed you in the door, but it doesn't mean that past incidents are erased. Sister-in-law won't say more, but with this time, you should stick to your job or farm. Harvest time is coming soon; elder brother and I are wary that sister-in-law might not be well-intentioned, but we can't help you with the farming."

His last sentence was heavily sarcastic; Qin Wen couldn't stay any longer and snorted coldly, "No need for your help, treating kindness as if it were donkey liver and lungs."

After Qin Wen left, Qian Chuncao then said to Lin Chuxia, "Sister-in-law, don't take Da Wen's words to heart; I've long seen that he's not well-intentioned."

If it were not for the elderly also living in this courtyard, as the older sister-in-law, she wouldn't have hesitated to kick him out.

"Don't worry, sister-in-law, I've had some issues with the young brother before, and he has always had an opinion about me. I won't take his words to heart. However, regarding Jianjun's matter, I do owe you and elder brother an apology for making you worried."

"Don't be so formal," Qian Chuncao deliberately frowned, "When I handed that boy over to you, it was for you to command him, and anything you made him do was for his training. Besides, outsiders may not understand the situation with the factory, but don't we, as a family, understand it? You being overly concerned made you come all this way. The factory is so busy now, what are you doing here? Even if you have to stay inside for a few days, or even a few years, both your elder brother and I wouldn't mind."

Lin Chuxia chuckled, "Please, elder brother and sister-in-law might not mind, but my nephew would care. He's still got to get married. But rest assured, elder brother and sister-in-law, although resolving this situation may be a bit troublesome, I won't let anything happen to them."

"We trust you, elder brother and I,"

As they were talking, the loudspeaker sounded again, calling people to the Xiyang Food Factory.

Having arranged workers to stay at the food factory overnight, Lin Chuxia wasn't too worried about the production situation at the factory.

Hearing the village chief's broadcast, she didn't delay in heading over.

There must be another incident.

"Sister-in-law, I'll go with you," Qian Chuncao also darkened her face.

If those people dare to make trouble again, she's ready to clash with them, even if it means going to prison to reunite with her son.

Qin Liang didn't go to the fields either, following with his smoking pipe.

At the entrance of Xiyang Food Factory, quite a few people had gathered, still from the Old Food Factory.

Due to yesterday's incident, some villagers of Qin Family Village retreated, as nobody wanted to be arrested. However, some staunchly guarded the food factory.

Village chief Qin Shusen and public security director Sun Guodong were among them.

Seeing Lin Chuxia, the village chief came over worriedly, "Lin, what should we do? They seem to be stalling us, preventing Xiyang Food Factory from operating normally."

Chapter 309: Trap

For two consecutive days, the village chief and the others could see the intent of those coming from the Old Food Factory.

However, they didn't dare provoke another conflict; after all, people detained yesterday had not been released yet. If more were to be taken today?

At this rate of detaining people, in just a few days, even if the people from Old Food Factory didn't cause trouble, the lack of workers would still affect production.

Lin Chuxia scanned the people present. While some workers lived inside the Xiyang Food Factory, there were still quite a few who were blocked at the factory gates.

The village chief was anxious about this, "How about I have Guo Dong lead the villagers to drive them away? Even if they get detained, they're villagers from Qin Family Village. It wouldn't affect the factory's production."

"Don't do it yet."

Lin Chuxia stopped him. Once a fight broke out, they would not be able to control the consequences.

If a bloody incident happened and it caused Xiyang to shut down for restructuring, they would fall right into their trap.

"We have some workers in the factory now; if they work overtime, the orders should not be affected."

"But this can't go on," the village chief slapped his thigh. "You guys stay here and keep watch, I'll go find the town leader."

Their Qin Family Village's industries were registered with the town, and now that there was trouble, they needed leaders to solve it.

Lin Chuxia wasn't as optimistic.

Though City Gate Police Station was part of Chengguan Town, since Chengguan Town was the central town of Ancheng County, the town leader didn't hold much power in this small county area.

The village chief took the accountant with him, each on a bicycle, and headed straight for the town government.

The town government was not far from their village, and as they cycled fast, they arrived in a quarter of an hour.

The town leader's office was in the last row of the courtyard. Village Chief Qin knocked on the door and entered upon hearing a voice inside.

Guo Zhenyi put down his pen as soon as he saw Village Chief Qin, "Mr. Qin, what brings you here today? Have a seat, and I'll pour you some water. What's with all the sweat?"

Village Chief Qin wiped his sweat, barely sat on the edge of the chair, and without catching his breath, "Mayor Guo, I have an urgent matter and need you to take charge."

"Oh? What's the matter?"

Guo Zhenyi poured a glass of water for both him and the accountant.

The village chief hadn't ridden a bike that fast in years. Taking a sip of water, he didn't beat around the bush and relayed the events of the past two days in Qin Family Village to Guo Zhenyi.

He didn't exaggerate, but he did subtly report Shi Wei and his group's actions.

"There's been such an incident?"

Guo Zhenyi had been out in the countryside these past few days. He had just happened to be in town today and this was the first he had heard of it.

"What's the situation at the factory now? And have the other industries of Qin Family Village—like the chicken farm and the pig farm—been affected?"

"The chicken farm and pig farm haven't had issues for the time being. They are only targeting Xiyang Food Factory, claiming Xiyang Food snatched their livelihoods. They say if they can't eat, they won't let Xiyang's workers have peace either. They're surrounding the factory, preventing workers from entering to work. Right now, Lin and Xiao Su are holding the line. We retained some workers in the factory yesterday, but if this continues, the factory's production will surely be affected."

Guo Zhenyi nodded, "Alright, I got it. You go back first, I'll deal with this matter immediately."

Village Chief Qin felt a weight lifted from his heart; he knew the leaders still highly valued the industry of Qin Family Village.

After thanking Mayor Guo, he took the accountant and returned to Qin Family Village.

On the other hand, after sending off Village Chief Qin, Guo Zhenyi picked up the phone on the desk to call the police station.

He had dialed a few digits when he put the phone back down.

There was an implicit message in Village Chief Qin's words; perhaps he should go directly to the police station.

Making up his mind, he called over Xiao Liu, an assistant, to help him pack his things, and headed to the police station with Xiao Liu.

Upon learning that Guo Zhenyi had arrived, the head of the station, Zhou Zong, personally greeted him.

Guo Zhenyi did not let Xiao Liu accompany him into the office. It was better for just the two of them to talk.

Zhou Zong poured him a cup of water and joked, looking at the wall clock, "Lao Guo, you have quite the timing. A moment later and we would be off work. How about we grab a drink later?"

Guo Zhenyi and Zhou Zong had frequent work interactions and were acquainted with each other.

"Let's talk about drinking later; I'm here for a reason. There are a few workers from Xiyang Food Factory in Qin Family Village still detained here, right? What's the problem?"

Zhou Zong had guessed he had come for this reason and nodded, "It's not a big deal. Just a fight. We'll keep them for a few days to cool off and release them. This little issue is worth a visit from you, Lao Guo? Why not just give a call to inquire?"

"Since it was a fight, it involves both parties. How come I heard that only the workers from Xiyang Food Factory were arrested, and not a single person from the Old Food Factory?"

This was the crux of the issue, and Guo Zhenyi did not believe it was that simple.

Zhou Zong replied with a smile, "How would I know? It was that kid Shi Wei who took the team over there. Maybe at the time, there were more people from Xiyang Food Factory and they were caught first. Those from the Old Food Factory saw our people coming and all ran away. We couldn't catch up even if we wanted to."

"Well then, do me a favor and release them," Guo Zhenyi primarily came to get people released, "There was no major incident, and also, I heard that the employees from the Old Food Factory are still surrounding Xiyang Food Factory? This can't go on; even if there is a problem, they should report it to the leadership. These people surround the factory every day, causing public disorder, right? Have them make another trip, to disperse the crowd, whether you arrest anyone or not."

Guo Zhenyi had heard some about the problems with the Old Food Factory and Xiyang Food Factory.

Initially, the Old Food Factory used the quota of three regular employees to buy a secret recipe from Xiyang. They all had heard and discussed this privately. Of course, they also knew that Xiyang Food Factory and the Old Food Factory were bound to clash sooner or later.

But he didn't expect this kind of confrontation.

What was this?

Plain hooliganism.

Zhou Zong handed him a cigarette with a chuckle and sighed deeply.

"It's not that I don't want to help you with this matter."

He pulled out a match, lit the cigarette for Guo Zhenyi first, then lit his own, shaking the match to extinguish the flame.

"I know you want to develop township enterprises; I remember Qin Family Village also has chicken and pig farms, which is quite good, but Xiyang Food Factory..."

He didn't finish, just shook his head.

Guo Zhenyi frowned slightly, "What do you mean by that? The chicken and pig farms in Qin Family Village are certainly good, but Xiyang Food Factory is even better. I have had contact with the person in charge of Xiyang Food Factory, a woman who managed to develop Qin's Steamed Bun Shop into Xiyang Food Company, a very remarkable and capable person."

"But don't you think Xiyang Food Factory is overreaching? They targeted the Old Food Factory right from the start. What does that mean? We can't let the Old Food Factory close just because of one private enterprise, right?"

Zhou Zong circled his fingers and tapped the table.

"Think about it. The Old Food Factory isn't just about the workers; it also involves the retired employees. It supports over a thousand people, top to bottom. Are you going to leave them all to the mercy of the Northwest wind? Once a factory closes, these people enter society, have you thought about the negative impact this will create?"

Chapter 310: Are You Worthy?

Guo Zhenyi, "But the market has already opened up now. Why did the market open up if not to encourage the development of private enterprises?"

Zhou Zong said solemnly as he patted Guo Zhenyi on the shoulder, "Lao Guo, I know what you're thinking, but we must take things one step at a time, eat our food one bite at a time. It's only been a few years since the market opened up. We can't just throw away the rules the moment things open up. It's inevitable that individual traders might have limited vision. Selfishness and the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few is ultimately not right. We have to look at the bigger picture – it's only when everyone has enough to eat that we truly live in good times."

Guo Zhenyi felt that what he said was off and wanted to argue on the basis of reason, but Zhou Zong suddenly lowered his voice.

"Besides, these are not things you and I can decide."

He gestured upwards, his face full of meaningful expression.

Guo Zhenyi's words got stuck in his throat, not able to come out.

He had actually considered this possibility, but he simply did not want to believe it.

He nodded dejectedly, "Fine, I understand."

Zhou Zong patted him again, "Lao Guo, take it easy, think about it from another angle. Even if Lin Chuxia loses the Xiyang Food Factory, doesn't she still have Qin's Bun Shop? You and I both know how good business is for both bun shops in An City. Even without the Xiyang Food Factory, Lin Chuxia is still a prominent individual business owner, one of the leading private entrepreneurs."

Guo Zhenyi nodded and didn't say anything more.

.....

Lin Chuxia waited until Village Chief Qin returned. Knowing that Guo Town had agreed to help resolve the issue, she didn't hold much hope but agreed to wait for news.

Production in the factory was proceeding normally anyway. Even with the Old Food Factory workers crowding around the entrance, it wouldn't affect anything for the time being.

She simply told Village Chief Qin to lead the villagers back home to do whatever they needed to do, ignoring the Old Food Factory workers altogether.

As for the rest, Xiyang Food Factory still had its security department.

The village chief was still not at ease and left some people to watch in shifts, just in case they did something over the top again.

Lin Chuxia thought their arrangements were good and didn't interfere any further, after all, she wouldn't mistreat these people who had helped her later on.

She hadn't visited Qin's Bun Shop these past two days and was a little worried about the situation.

Zhang Guilan was still in the city branch instructing newcomers, and it had been a week already. She was supposed to have Qin Han fetch her in the next couple of days, but due to the incident, the Bun Shop couldn't afford to be short-staffed, so Zhang Guilan was asked to stay in the city a few more days.

Not far out of Qin Family Village, a figure blocked her path.

Lin Chuxia had to stop her bike, staring at the man in front of her without speaking.

Li Guangyuan was also looking at Lin Chuxia, wearing a simple white shirt and black pants, yet she exhibited a unique aura.

Her face was fair. Even though she was blood-related to Lin Jiayi, their skin was worlds apart.

And her facial features were even more beautiful.

He remembered the words he had overheard outside the window that day, said by his mother-in-law. It was Lin Jiayi who had switched the marriage arrangement. Which meant, Lin Chuxia hadn't looked down on him. Had it not been for Lin Jiayi insisting on changing the arrangement, Lin Chuxia would have become his wife.

"Is there something you want?"

Seeing that he was staring at her without speaking, Lin Chuxia asked impatiently.

Li Guangyuan quickly came back to his senses, gave a light cough, and said, "I'm really sorry about what happened last time. I didn't expect those people would come and trouble you..."

Lin Chuxia let out a cold laugh, interrupting him, "You didn't expect? When you misused Xiyang precooked food, did you not think about the consequences? Should I say you've got guts, or is your head filled with shit?"

Li Guangyuan knew he was in the wrong regarding the last incident and accepted Lin Chuxia's attitude.

"No matter if my sister-in-law believes it or not, I truly didn't expect it to cause so much trouble for you. Now, I've received my punishment..."

"You getting punished is what you deserve. What now, went to the police station and now you think you're in the right?"

Lin Chuxia had zero patience for this man.

He could have just stayed away from Lin Jiayi and lived his life quietly, but no, he had to show up where he's an eyesore.

"That's not true," Li Guangyuan answered earnestly, "I just feel sorry for my sister-in-law and your family. I heard that the Xiyang Food Factory is having some problems, and since we're relatives after all, if my sister-in-law needs my help, I'll definitely lend a hand."

He found out about the troubles of the old food factory and the Xiyang Food Factory while selling vegetables; people around him were talking about it.

He had inquired before and knew that the Xiyang Food Factory belonged to his sister-in-law, so he stopped selling vegetables and came to see her at the first opportunity because he wanted to help her.

He didn't know why he had such thoughts but just felt that when she was in trouble, he should help.

Perhaps deep down inside, ever since he found out that Lin Chuxia was originally meant to be his wife, he started to regard her as one of his own.

Lin Chuxia didn't know his thoughts, and if she did, she'd probably vomit her overnight meal.

With an ironic look on her face, she looked at him, "You help me? How?"

The coward of his past life, who only knew how to hide from problems, has nothing to do with him this life, yet he comes forward offering to help her.

How ironic.

"I... "

Li Guangyuan was suddenly at a loss for words; he didn't know how he could help as these issues were beyond his abilities.

Seeing Lin Chuxia's undisguised scorn, Li Guangyuan felt embarrassed.

"I... I may not have any other skills, but I can still run errands. If my sister-in-law needs anything done, I can do it..."

"Bang!"

Li Guangyuan hadn't finished speaking when he felt a blur before his eyes and his mouth corner took a heavy punch.

Lin Chuxia shook off her hand, unable to hold back any longer.

"Get lost. Don't let me see you again. Run errands? Do you think you're worthy?"

Li Guangyuan felt a sharp pain in his mouth; it was tasting blood, and his teeth felt a bit loose.

He looked at Lin Chuxia, feeling humiliated, with a hand over his mouth.

He clearly had good intentions; even if the previous issue with the cooked food was their fault, he had already come forward to apologize, so how could she just hit him?

"What's wrong? Feeling aggrieved?"

Lin Chuxia took a step forward.

Li Guangyuan instinctively stepped back two steps.

Lin Chuxia did not pursue further, looking at him with full disdain on her face.

"Li Guangyuan, do you really take yourself seriously if we don't make things clear? You swindle me and still want me to treat you as a relative, as a brother-in-law? You really have some nerve. Remember, stay out of my sight in the future, or I'll hit you every time I see you."

Li Guangyuan wanted to say something, but as he met Lin Chuxia's cold gaze, he couldn't utter a word.

He could only watch her bike away into the distance.

He couldn't figure it out - if not for the change of relations, she would have been his wife, but now she treated him like an enemy.

Li Guangyuan walked dejectedly forward, and without realizing, he found himself in front of Tian Cuixia's home again.

At some point, this place had become a sanctuary for him.

The women at home had long since exhausted him both physically and mentally, and only here he could find a moment of tranquility and comfort.

Upon seeing the visitor, Tian Cuixia laughed with arms folded, "Oh, does the sun rise from the west now? Instead of taking care of your precious elder son at home, what brings you to me?"