

Switched M 351

Chapter 351: Making the Zhang Family Pay the Price

"What do you mean, Qin Yang? Do you still consider me your brother-in-law? With such a commotion, have you thought about how your sister would feel when she finds out? How is Zhang Juan supposed to face people after this?"

Qin Yang didn't listen to Zhang Wenbin's explanations and barged straight into the house.

Mrs. Zhang, Old Master Zhang, as well as Zhang Wenbin, all blocked the door together.

Jia Liang and Lu Dafa each grabbed one, easily pulling Mrs. Zhang and Old Master Zhang aside as they were no match for them.

Qin Yang also shoved Zhang Wenbin into the corner.

Taking the opportunity, Lin Chuxia entered the room.

The layout of the room was similar to that of the room of the Qin Family, with only a bed, a table, and a wardrobe.

She went straight for the large wardrobe to open it, but with a sharp eye, she noticed the tip of a finger peeking out from under the bed skirt.

With quick steps, she yanked the bed skirt aside and saw Qin Juan tied up hands and feet, tossed under the bed with her mouth firmly gagged.

"Sis!" Lin Chuxia cried out in shock.

She had imagined that her elder sister's days at the Zhang Family might not be pleasant, but she never expected the Zhang Family to not even treat her sister like a human being.

Hearing Lin Chuxia's voice, Qin Yang let go of Zhang Wenbin and rushed into the room.

Seeing Qin Juan under the bed, his whole demeanor changed.

Zhang Wenbin, following behind Qin Yang, couldn't help but exclaim as well, "Juanzi, how did you end up here?"

Then he looked incredulously at Old Master Zhang and Mrs. Zhang, "Mom, why did you tie Juanzi up? She was indeed in the wrong yesterday, she shouldn't have pushed you and caused you to hit your head, that was serious, I would just have her apologize to you, but you... ah..."

He sounded sincerely anguished, and if it wasn't for the fact that he had just been trying to block Qin Yang with Mrs. Zhang and Old Master Zhang, one might almost believe he was unaware.

Qin Yang did not listen to his nonsense, throwing a harsh punch before Zhang Wenbin could finish.

Zhang Wenbin tried to dodge while explaining, "Qin Yang, I really didn't know about this, listen to my explanation, it's all a misunderstanding... ah... stop hitting me, I really didn't know... ah..."

No matter how much Zhang Wenbin explained, Qin Yang grabbed his collar and didn't let go, his fists raining blow after blow.

"Qin Yang, let's get your sister out first."

Lin Chuxia stopped Qin Yang and at the same time instructed Jia Liang, "Jia Liang, who will call the police?"

Lu Dafa knew that the woman in front of him was their true boss.

He had joined the manager today to help the boss with some work, hoping to make a good impression in front of the boss, but he had accidentally witnessed the boss's family affairs.

And such affairs at that.

Hearing the boss's words, he quickly volunteered bravely, "I'll go call the police," it was better for him to stay out of this kind of situation.

Qin Yang had no intention to stop, wishing he could beat Zhang Wenbin to death.

That was his elder sister, the one who had cherished him from childhood.

No one in the family would dare lift a finger against her.

Lin Chuxia directly grabbed his wrist, "Qin Yang, look into my eyes, let's first check on your sister's condition and get her to the hospital. Your sister's well-being is what's most important."

Naturally, this scum would be dealt with by law enforcement.

She understood Qin Yang's anger, she was also unbelievably angry, wishing she could beat up the Zhang Family.

But this matter wouldn't be settled by just a beating, the Zhang Family must pay the price.

Qin Yang was acting in the heat of anger, hitting without restraint, and couldn't afford to turn a just cause into an unjust one.

Qin Yang was still not satisfied, his eyes red as he looked towards Lin Chuxia, "They beat up my elder sister."

"I know," he leaned close to Qin Yang and whispered, "However many blows the elder sister took, we must return them all, but not now. Go and see how the elder sister is doing."

Open confrontation was out of the question. It wasn't worth it to get Qin Yang involved over such scum.

Qin Yang finally regained his composure, and threw off Zhang Wenbin, rushing towards Qin Juan.

At this moment, Qin Juan had already been pulled out from under the bed by Lin Chuxia and Jia Liang, with Jia Liang untying the ropes on her. Qin Yang clumsily helped, not stopping until all the ropes were undone, yet Qin Juan still seemed dazed.

"Elder sister, it's me, Yangyang, you're safe now..."

Qin Yang's hands shook, furious and heartbroken.

Lin Chuxia held Qin Juan's hand, a hand covered in scars, "Elder sister, Qin Yang and I have come to take you home. We won't let anyone hurt you again."

Qin Juan's gaze finally focused, sweeping over Lin Chuxia and Qin Yang's faces, and at last, a single tear rolled down.

Mrs. Zhang was initially astonished that her son had pushed all the responsibility onto her under such circumstances, but now she also became indignant and pointed at the people inside the house, cursing.

"You are breaking into private property. I'm going to call the police, and let the police comrades arrest you all."

"Qin Juan is my daughter-in-law. She disrespected her parents-in-law and even caused me to bleed from a head wound. She was the first to lay hands on me. Hitting her is what she deserves. Even if you call the police, I am not afraid."

"Since Qin Juan married into our family, she is part of the Zhang Family. This is a family affair, and even a clear-headed official would find it hard to settle domestic issues. However, you barged into our house and beat someone up. This is not the end of it. Qin Juan has such siblings, we of the Zhang Family dare not keep her anymore. It's merely that we taught her a lesson, and you beat my son nearly to death. This time, if you don't give me an explanation, I won't let it go with the Qin Family."

Lin Chuxia stood up and walked over to Mrs. Zhang.

Mrs. Zhang involuntarily took a step back, "You... what are you going to do? You, this meddling girl, I tell you..."

Mrs. Zhang didn't finish her words when Lin Chuxia slapped her hard across the face.

Lin Chuxia's slap was merciless; her hand was naturally strong, and it sent Mrs. Zhang crashing into a wall.

The pain made Mrs. Zhang's eyes roll back, and she nearly fainted.

Blood flowed from the corner of her mouth, and with a spit, a tooth came out along with the bloody saliva.

"It's outrageous," Mrs. Zhang covered her face, speaking indistinctly, and said to Old Master Zhang, "Hit this meddling girl for me."

Old Master Zhang silently took a step back.

He was no match.

At that moment, Lu Dafa arrived with the police officers.

Seeing the police, Mrs. Zhang immediately found her backbone and pointed at Lin Chuxia and others, "Police comrades, they trespassed and assaulted people, hurry up and arrest them."

Lu Dafa pointed at the Zhang Family and told the police, "It was they who beat someone to grave injury and hid her under the bed. If we hadn't arrived in time, who knows what would have happened next. She is the victim."

Although the ropes on Qin Juan had been untied, the ropes were still thrown aside.

Considering Qin Juan's overall condition, the police officers couldn't simply let Mrs. Zhang rail on.

"Take them to the police station."

"They also hit people, look at my swollen face, they beat up my son too..."

Mrs. Zhang struggled as she spoke.

On the way here, Lu Dafa had already explained the situation to the police, indicating that Qin Yang and the others were from the maternal family.

Seeing Qin Juan's condition, one could only scoff in contempt, thinking, 'So what if you got beaten? You got off lightly.'

If he was a member of the maternal family, seeing his own family member beaten up like this, he'd also give them a beating first.

As law enforcement, however, he had to proceed legally, "Everyone, come back to the police station with me to clarify the situation."

Chapter 352: Testimony Invalid

Qin Yang stood up and took out his work ID from his pocket, handing it over and discussing with the police officers.

"This is my older sister, she's got some serious injuries and her mental state isn't great. Can you let my wife take her to the hospital first, and I'll go with you guys to the police station to understand the situation."

The police officer glanced at the identification and was about to nod when Mrs. Zhang spoke up.

"No, this little bitch also hit people. She's the one who hit my face."

Qin Yang's cold eyes looked over, and Lin Chuxia had already spoken, "Old hag, who did you say hit you?"

"It was you... who hit me..."

Mrs. Zhang realized only after finishing her sentence that Lin Chuxia had called her an old hag and her eyes bulged in anger.

At her advanced age and with her son's standing, who would dare to speak to her like this?

Lin Chuxia looked unimpressed, glancing around, "This old hag says I hit her, did any of you see it?"

Jia Liang and Lu Dafa were the first to shake their heads, "Didn't see it, none of us saw it."

Zhang Wenbin held his stomach, wincing in pain, "You woman are stirring up trouble, don't listen to them, officer. It was her that hit."

Lin Chuxia raised her hand, "Officer, they are all family, their testimony is invalid."

In the end, Qin Yang and the Zhang family were taken by the officers back to the police station to find out what happened, Lu Dafa having reported the incident, counted as a witness and followed along.

"Big Sister."

Lin Chuxia looked at Qin Juan with heartache and called out softly.

But Qin Juan gave no response.

"Let's take her to the hospital first, I'll go get a car."

Jia Liang said straightforwardly, "The hospital is not far from here, I'll carry Big Sister over."

Lin Chuxia nodded, "That works, I'll go find her a coat."

Qin Juan didn't speak, but one could only see injuries all over her body, not knowing if any vital parts were hurt, now was not the time for pretense.

Lin Chuxia found a long coat in the closet of Qin Juan's room and draped it over her.

Jia Liang carried her all the way to the hospital.

When the doctor removed Qin Juan's clothes, Lin Chuxia wished she could drag Zhang Wenbin over and give him a severe beating.

She saw bruises all over Qin Juan's body, every shape and size.

She didn't dare to imagine what Qin Juan had gone through, how much pain she suffered.

Fortunately, after the doctor's examination, there were no bone injuries; most of the wounds were on her back and limbs, with good care she could recover slowly over time.

The troubling part was Qin Juan's mental state.

Arriving at the hospital, Qin Juan remained silent, just letting the doctors handle her.

"In this situation, her family needs to stay close, we doctors don't have much we can do, she needs to come out of it on her own."

After the check-up, the doctor said privately to Lin Chuxia.

Lin Chuxia also knew that with the current medical level, there were no psychological doctors, so Big Sister could only rely on herself to recover.

Not long after, Qin Yang also returned from the police station.

"How is Big Sister?"

Lin Chuxia repeated the doctor's findings and what had been said to Qin Yang.

Qin Yang clenched his fists tightly, thinking the same as Lin Chuxia.

Lin Chuxia gently took his fist, "Beating a person like Zhang Wenbin ten times wouldn't be enough, but right now the most important thing is to get Big Sister away from the Zhang family, to get her out of this misery."

Qin Yang looked over at the Big Sister lying on the distant hospital bed, and spoke in a low voice, "I've already brought up the notion of divorce between Big Sister and Zhang Wenbin at the police station. However, Zhang Wenbin pushed all the blame to Mrs. Zhang, who admitted to arguing with Big Sister. Big Sister started it by pushing her over, which led Old Master Zhang and Mrs. Zhang to jointly beat Big Sister. Zhang Wenbin claimed he was unaware. Zhang Wenbin even told the police that this was a matter between husband and wife, that divorce should be resolved between them, and he didn't look willing to divorce."

"We must divorce, after what they did to Big Sister, is she supposed to keep living with them?"

Qin Yang also held this view, but divorce is not something that can simply be done just by saying it.

Zhang Wenbin has cleared himself of any ties, with his status, if he doesn't want a divorce, it will become very complicated. For now, they still have to wait until his elder sister gets better.

"Shouldn't we tell mom and dad about this?"

He felt uncomfortable in his heart. His elder sister was having a tough time, even his wife could see it, yet he had always foolishly thought his sister was very happy.

His parents thought the same, always believing that his elder sister had married well, and that his brother-in-law also treated her well.

He suddenly hated the family's practice of only reporting the good and not the bad. Even if his parents would feel sad seeing his sister like this, he still wanted to inform the family.

Lin Chuxia nodded, "We are all family, we are all elder sister's support, we should let mom and dad and elder brother and his wife know."

"No, don't!"

Qin Juan suddenly spoke from the hospital bed, her gaze drifting over, and tears streamed down the corner of her eyes.

"Don't tell mom and dad."

"Elder sister!"

"Elder sister."

Qin Yang and Lin Chuxia hurriedly walked over.

"Elder sister, how do you feel?"

Qin Juan closed her eyes, tears streaming down her cheeks.

"Xi Xia, I was wrong."

"Elder sister, don't talk about this anymore. What's important right now is to recover."

Qin Yang also said from the side, "Elder sister, let's get a divorce. Don't go back to the Zhang Family anymore. Whether it's in the city or returning to An City, anywhere can be your home."

Qin Juan opened her eyes, "What about Ningning?"

Lin Chuxia and Qin Yang exchanged looks. They had not seen Ningning since they arrived at the Zhang Family's house.

They searched inside and outside the Zhang Family's home while looking for Zhang Juan.

"I'll go and check again."

Qin Yang said, then turned to leave.

"There's no need, Ningning isn't at the Zhang Family's house, she was sent away yesterday."

Lin Chuxia frowned slightly, "Where was she sent?"

Qin Juan shook her head.

Lin Chuxia realized she was asking a redundant question. Qin Juan herself had been beaten up that badly, how would she know?

"After all, Ningning is the biological child of Zhang Wenbin. Even a tiger would not eat its own cubs. Rest assured, elder sister, Ningning will be okay."

Qin Juan looked at Lin Chuxia, "If I get a divorce, can I take Ningning with me? Ningning can't stay at the Zhang Family's."

Lin Chuxia only hesitated for a moment before nodding firmly, "Yes, as long as we want to, we can definitely fight for Ningning's custody."

Qin Juan felt like she had taken a reassurance pill, tears flowing even more, "Thank you, Xiaxia."

"Elder sister, we are a family, this is what we should do."

Qin Yang put his arm around Lin Chuxia's shoulders, "Elder sister, rest well. Xiaxia and I won't let anyone hurt you again. We will definitely get a divorce. Tomorrow I will go and speak with Zhang Wenbin, and we will definitely bring Ningning with us."

Jia Liang came back from outside, still holding the food he bought.

It was already 10 o'clock at night, to say nothing of eating, they hadn't even had a sip of water.

Under the persuasion of Qin Yang and Lin Chuxia, Qin Juan ate a bun and drank half a bowl of porridge.

The two of them wanted to stay for the night, but were refused by Qin Juan.

"I'm really okay, you heard what the doctor said. You all go back, for Ningning's sake, I will also live on properly."

Seeing that Qin Juan's condition had improved a lot, especially after Lin Chuxia assured her that they would definitely fight for Ningning's custody, Qin Juan seemed revitalized. Only then did the two return home to the family courtyard.

Chapter 353: Disagree with Divorce

Back home, the two began to discuss their next steps.

"Wenbin probably won't agree to a divorce; a divorce would cost him too much, especially his position at work. As long as he wants to advance his career, he won't agree to a divorce."

Qin Yang brought up divorce at the police station, and Wenbin reacted strongly.

These days, a stable marriage plays a crucial role in one's career development.

Especially for someone like Wenbin, even if the relationship is strained, they would maintain a facade to prevent marriage from becoming a stumbling block in their careers.

"This marriage isn't up to him whether he wants to divorce or not," Lin Chuxia wasn't indulging him, "Considering the impact on his workplace for a divorce? What about when he committed domestic violence? Tomorrow, I'm going to confront the leadership at his workplace, I don't believe they can condone this."

Qin Yang shook his head, "It's hard to say, Wenbin has already disconnected himself from it, pushing all the blame onto Mrs. Zhang and Old Master Zhang, and they admitted they impulsively hit my sister."

"Pfft, those shameless old fools, just because they said it, does it make it true? There's still another side to my sister's story."

Lin Chuxia, furious, cursed out loud, recalling Mrs. Zhang's hypocritical demeanor, feeling that a slap was too light.

Qin Yang, looking at his angry wife, helplessly touched her face, "No swearing."

"I'm just really angry, so what should we do?"

Qin Yang looked solemn, "Let's prepare for multiple possibilities. Sister is now stable, and the police might come to ask her tomorrow; let's see the outcome. I'll also find out more about Wenbin."

This was about probing for Wenbin's vulnerabilities at work.

Although Lin Chuxia swore to Qin Juan that she would definitely win custody of Ningning,

But Qin Juan having no stable job or income source, if Wenbin doesn't let go, it would be very difficult for Qin Juan to get custody of Ningning.

"Alright, I'll talk to sister tomorrow again, to see what other advantages we have."

After discussing, it was nearly midnight, and they hurriedly went to bed.

The next day Qin Yang went to work as usual, and Lin Chuxia took the packed breakfast to the hospital.

Upon arriving at the hospital room, someone was already there ahead of her.

"Qin Juan, I've tried to reason with you, and mom and dad have apologized, what more do you want? Is it just to make them bow down? As a junior, what's so bad about getting hit by the elders a few times? I don't believe you haven't been hit by your parents at home, and yet, you took my parents hitting you twice straight to the police station? After all said and done, you still don't consider us family, and now you're even considering divorce, are you thinking I would be scared if you bring up divorce? I have to tell you, the police didn't pursue my responsibility, even if you keep causing trouble, I won't divorce, and you won't be able to divorce as well, don't push your luck, or I'm really going to make it so you can't even see Ningning."

Seeing Wenbin's gesturing wildly in front of the hospital bed, Lin Chuxia directly grabbed his collar.

"Hey... who is it..."

"Early in the morning and already hearing a dog barking, truly disgusting."

Lin Chuxia, while holding him, forcefully threw him aside.

Seeing Lin Chuxia, Wenbin instinctively looked behind her for Qin Yang, and upon not seeing him, he relaxed.

"I'm saying, sister-in-law, haven't you been married to Qin Yang for over a year now, don't you know the saying a couple fights at the head of the bed but ends it at the foot? Your elder sister-in-law and I just had a small quarrel, it will pass in a couple of days. It's not good for you to meddle in others' family affairs, right? I gave you face yesterday, but if this continues, I won't be polite anymore."

As he spoke, he rolled up his sleeves and stepped forward.

Qin Juan on the bed, seeing Wenbin's demeanor, her face drained of color, and she tried to get out of bed regardless, "Wenbin, what are you trying to do?"

But before she could step forward, she saw her frail sister-in-law, swing her arm and deliver a solid slap.

With a "smack," the sound echoed in the empty hospital room.

Qin Juan found the scene familiar; when she was dragged out from under the bed yesterday, she seemed to have seen her sister-in-law slap someone in a daze.

The one being slapped was her mother-in-law, Zhang Wenbin's mom.

Zhang Wenbin did not expect the other party to strike as soon as she said she would, so swiftly that he couldn't even dodge in time.

The thick glasses on his nose were knocked off, blurring his vision.

"You dare hit me, just you wait, just you wait..."

As Zhang Wenbin spat out his threats, he fumbled for his glasses.

It took him a while to find and put them back on, only to see cracks all over the left lens.

At least his vision was clear again.

He then saw the young woman opposite him beckoning with her fingers, "Come on, I'm waiting. Isn't the hospital room a little too small? Why don't we take this outside to the yard? It's been a long time since I've exercised my limbs. Slapping is really not as satisfying as punching."

Somehow, despite facing only a frail woman, Zhang Wenbin felt intimidated.

Having grown up, he always prided himself in knowing when to advance or retreat for benefits, but now his instincts told him this was not a woman to provoke.

Not just because of Qin Yang behind her, but he couldn't be sure if he could take her down by himself.

"Decent men don't fight women, and considering that we're still relatives, I'll let this go."

"Ugh, who relates to you? Having you as a relative is my shame."

Qin Yang forbade her from swearing, but right now Qin Yang wasn't here, so she could say it.

Unable to handle Lin Chuxia, Zhang Wenbin turned his anger towards Qin Juan.

"My parents are still at the police station. They're old and can't handle the hardship. Clean yourself up a bit, come with me to the station, explain that this is a family matter, bring my parents back. Then I'll let you see Ningning. Can't our family just get along? You're not getting any younger—after the divorce, who would want you... What are you doing?"

Zhang Wenbin stopped mid-sentence when he saw Lin Chuxia step forward again and quickly assumed a defensive posture.

"I see you can't speak properly."

Lin Chuxia was about to make a move when Jia Liang's voice came from outside.

"Mr. Lin, do you really need to handle this yourself? Let us do it."

By Jia Liang's side, Qin Jianjun was already clenching his fists, throwing a punch at Zhang Wenbin, "That's for hitting my aunt."

Despite Zhang Wenbin and Qin Juan's bluster and fierce demeanor, in reality, being skinny as a stick and self-proclaiming as an intellectual, he was no match for Qin Jianjun, who was accustomed to farm work.

Jia Liang didn't even need to make a move; the beating had Zhang Wenbin screaming.

After all, they were in a hospital, concerned about disturbing other patients, Lin Chuxia felt it was enough and stopped them.

Jia Liang directly lifted Zhang Wenbin and threw him out into the yard.

Zhang Wenbin was still waving his hands and shouting, "Help, they're beating me..."

Suddenly feeling no more pain, he saw Qin Jianjun looking at him with scorn.

"Such a coward, a weakling. If I ever hear you hit my aunt again, you'll have me to answer to."

Getting beaten and insulted by a younger person, Zhang Wenbin lost all face; turning his head, he saw many people nearby enjoying the spectacle.

All eyes were on him.

Chapter 354: She can't abandon her child

One side of his face was swollen, clearly, he had been slapped, and even his glasses were broken. The deep myopia lens still had cracks, which looked absurdly funny.

Even a child pointed at him and laughed, "Mom, look at that man's glasses, they look like they're blooming."

Zhang Wenbin dodged, indescribably embarrassed, and simply left without face. Ultimately pointing at the door of the hospital room, he said, "Qin Juan, you better think it through, I already gave you a chance. If you don't appreciate it, don't blame me for being rude. If you really want to divorce, then leave but don't think about taking Ningning with you. You don't have a job, even if you go to court, Ningning will never be awarded to you."

Right after Qin Jianjun returned to the room, he swiftly opened the hospital door, scaring Zhang Wenbin into running away.

Qin Jianjun chased after him and kicked him in the buttocks.

Zhang Wenbin stumbled, nearly fell face down, but didn't dare to stop and fled scrambling.

In the hospital room, Qin Juan was stunned after he finished that sentence.

She looked completely at a loss.

"Xi Xia," Qin Juan turned to Lin Chuxia, "if I get divorced, am I really not going to get Ningning's custody?"

Over the years, it wasn't that he hadn't considered divorce, and he was well aware of his situation.

"I can't be without Ningning, they hide Ningning precisely because they know I can't bear to be without her, Xiaxia, what if he doesn't give me Ningning? Maybe I should still..."

She spoke agitatedly and incoherently, tears falling down.

"Big sister," Lin Chuxia knew what she was about to say.

"You can't jump back into that fire pit again, domestic violence is either zero times or countless times, do you want to live like this forever?"

"But I can't give Ningning to them. Zhang Wenbin's mother always disliked Ningning because she is a girl, when I'm around she even makes Ningning cook and do laundry for them. If I'm not there, Ningning's life will be ruined."

All these years she had been enduring, just to stay by her child's side.

She knew it was weak, but she had no choice, Zhang Wenbin wouldn't divorce her for the sake of his career, and she couldn't just abandon the child.

And, where could she go after the divorce?

Her brothers were all getting married, she, a once-married woman, couldn't just go back and live with her brothers.

It would not only be embarrassing for herself, but even her brothers would be ridiculed by the villagers.

Lin Chuxia consoled, "Big sister, don't worry for now, we won't leave Ningning to Zhang Wenbin. Since he is using your unemployment against you, I'll arrange a job for you, and moreover, I don't believe he has spent all these years in his department without any mistakes."

Qin Yang has already started working on this.

"Mr. Lin is right," Jia Liang added from the side, "I still have a few friends in the city, I'll reach out to them and thoroughly check into that surnamed Zhang."

Lin Chuxia didn't expect Jia Liang to have connections here too, and immediately let him go ahead with it.

As long as they can find dirt on Zhang Wenbin.

Although Qin Yang was also capable of doing these things, having more people involved provided more avenues.

Jia Liang nodded, "I'll go see my friends today, give me some time."

"Alright, let's take it step by step."

Qin Juan was so moved she didn't know what to say, tears kept falling.

Lin Chuxia comforted her for a while longer, and once she was calm, had her eat breakfast, then finally had the time to ask, "How did you guys get here?"

"There wasn't much happening at the Bun Shop this morning, so I thought I'd come and see if there was anything I could help with, you and Mr. Lin just arrived in the city, unfamiliar with everything, and I've been around here for some years."

Qin Jianjun added, "I heard about what happened to my aunt and wanted to come to see her."

He comforted Qin Juan, "Aunt, don't be afraid, I and my uncle and aunt will protect you, and also, just listen to my aunt, she definitely has a way."

Even though his uncle is mighty in his heart, Qin Jianjun felt his aunt was still mightier.

Qin Juan nodded and thanked them.

Jia Liang seemed rough, but his heart wasn't.

Just from Hou Jinbao and Tian Jinzhu's matters, it was evident he was a man of loyalty and moral integrity.

"Big Sister, tell me more about Zhang Wenbin's situation, the more detailed, the better."

Qin Juan understood how crucial this matter was, so she shared with Jia Liang all she knew about Zhang Wenbin's workplace and work content.

Jia Liang also inquired in detail about his interpersonal relationships at home and with relatives and friends.

The two exchanged information for over an hour.

"Alright, big sister, we'll leave it here for now, I'll go meet my friends and see what I can find, I'll contact you if there's an update."

Lin Chuxia asked Qin Jianjun and Jia Liang to head back together.

They had just left when the police officers from the station arrived.

Yesterday, Qin Juan wasn't in a good state, and the officers couldn't reach her; they came today to understand the situation.

As a family member, Lin Chuxia could stay by her side.

Listening to the fact that not only Zhang Wenbin but also his parents had beaten Qin Juan, Lin Chuxia was genuinely furious.

After all questions were asked, Lin Chuxia finally spoke.

"Officer, for situations like my elder sister's, would this not be considered intentional injury? Not only did Zhang Wenbin and his parents beat my sister, they also tied her up and hid her under the bed, if my husband and I hadn't shown up in time, who knows what else might have happened next, maybe they would have used even more brutal methods to harm her, even destroy the body to get rid of the evidence? It's all possible, their actions are too egregious, I hope the government handles this seriously."

Because Zhang Wenbin's parents took responsibility and actually got him off the hook.

The officer nodded, "We have also learned about these conditions, but what you mentioned is just speculation and hasn't actually happened, the police must carefully consider evidence when handling cases, and without evidence, all speculation is in vain, of course, we will never wrong a good person and never let off a bad one."

"My sister's injuries are right here and also what happened yesterday, you should have seen it when you arrived," how could this be perceived as framing.

The officer present was the same one who attended the scene yesterday.

He looked at Lin Chuxia, smiled meaningfully, "Indeed, we did see the situation yesterday, not only was your relative injured, but Zhang Wenbin and his mother were also injured, with wounds on Zhang's mother that were confirmed to be caused by Qin Juan, what do you say, Qin Juan?"

Qin Juan pursed her lips, Lin Chuxia knew, they were trying to water it down.

When it comes to family disputes, law enforcement officers often like to muddy the waters, after all, it's difficult even for an upright official to settle domestic disputes, and ending with both parties taking equal blame and making peace is often seen as the best outcome.

Sure enough, he shifted the topic, "Of course, we understand the family's emotions, but the law values justice and evidence, I have already learned from the doctors that the injuries on Qin Juan's body are

not sufficient to deem the Zhang family criminal, moreover, the Zhang's have recognized their mistakes and hope to be forgiven by Qin Juan..."

Chapter 355: This Is Your Whole Life

"Impossible," Lin Chuxia said firmly, "My elder sister was not only beaten, but she was also deprived of her personal freedom, detained."

Qin Juan would never let this matter slide lightly.

The police officer nodded, "I have understood this situation and will reflect it accurately."

After the police officer left, Qin Juan collapsed on the bed, drained of all her energy.

Lin Chuxia handed her a cup of water with sympathy, "Big sister, have some water."

Qin Juan shook her head and suddenly let out a miserable laugh.

"Xiaxia, am I really useless? A total failure in life? My life is a mess, I worry you all and I can't even protect my own child."

"Big sister, when did it all start?"

Remembering the first time she saw Qin Juan, Lin Chuxia felt her complexion was bad and thought it was a health issue.

Contacting Ningning during Spring Festival, she found the child was also timid.

After all, it all stemmed from the family environment.

A father who commits domestic violence, a grandmother who is not loved, how could a mother's love, no matter how abundant, make one confident and generous?

And seeing Zhang Wenbin's arrogant demeanour, this definitely wasn't his first time laying hands on Qin Juan.

Qin Juan looked outside the window, "I don't remember clearly, the first time seemed to be after Ningning was born, I forgot what it was about, he's quick-tempered, and likes to use his hands when disagreements arise..."

She bowed her head as if reflecting on something, also seemingly trying to calm her emotions.

"I thought he was just bad-tempered, and besides, when two people live together, isn't it normal to have some friction..."

Lin Chuxia frowned, listening to her as if it were someone else's story, feeling a surge of melancholy.

She knew, in this era, spouses physically fighting was common.

Now, while Lin Chuxia feels heartache for Qin Juan suffering domestic violence and wants to help her escape this torment, how many other women cannot break free?

"Why didn't you think about speaking to your family about it, letting them help and make decisions for you?"

Whether it were Qin Family's parents or elder brother and sister-in-law, including Qin Yang, knowing Qin Juan suffered such grievances, they wouldn't sit idly by.

"It's useless," Qin Juan shook her head, "I know it's of no use to speak up, it just unwarrantedly worries my parents. They look down on me for coming from a rural area, not having a job, being a burden, and giving birth to a daughter ending the Zhang Family line..."

"It's better to divorce, big sister, this is your whole life."

Qin Juan laughed, "Xiaxia, divorce sounds simple, but look around our village, how many get divorced? The whole village knows I married a city man, they envy my good marriage, once I get divorced and return home, how many would speak ill of me, their spittle could drown someone, my parents would be poked in the spine, accused of not raising their children right, Qin Yang wasn't married then, I can't make my family suffer because of me."

Her younger brother, at twenty-five or twenty-six, had not married yet and already the talk of the village; if she divorced, with a divorced elder sister at home, which girl would want to marry him?

Her younger brother was so outstanding, she as a sister hadn't helped them much, she definitely couldn't drag them down.

Lin Chuxia knew what she was saying was true, the reality was as such, but it was this very reality that angered her even more.

"Sister, how can you be so foolish, what idle talk is more important than your happiness? Must people live inside other's gossip? I believe mom, dad, and elder brother feel the same as I do."

"I'm not as carefree as you, I don't want to be a burden to the family, and besides, I know, Zhang Wenbin for the sake of his career wouldn't divorce me, I've brought up divorce before, he threatened me with the child..."

Lin Chuxia looked at Qin Juan, understanding her helplessness and forbearance.

In the backward era of the present, how many parents who have married off their daughters are truly willing to sacrifice their sons' interests for their daughters?

Even though the Qin Family were not that kind of people, her older sister, living in this era, had subconsciously assimilated those views.

In her past life, she had seen too many parents who, for the sake of face, advised their daughters to endure, and mothers who suffered for their children.

They might have thought of resisting at first, but for various reasons they couldn't continue to fight, and over time, they gave up resistance.

The American psychologist Han Ligman placed a group of dogs in a cage, and whenever a buzzer sounded, the dogs would be electrocuted.

At first, the dogs would struggle desperately to escape, but after repeated experiments, they realized they couldn't escape no matter what, so when the buzzer sounded again, most of the dogs simply lay down, not even struggling anymore.

Later on, even when the dogs clearly could escape, they gave up on trying.

When we repeatedly experience uncontrollable negative events, we develop a sense of powerlessness, feeling that we can't change the situation no matter what.

Today's older sister and those women who suffer unjust treatment are just like those dogs, unable to resist and silently enduring the injustice brought by the era's norms.

.....

At the police station, Mrs. Zhang finally saw her son return.

The police officer told them that the matter would be thoroughly investigated, and if both parties were at fault, they could coordinate to handle it.

She had taken all the blame on herself the day before, firstly because she worried about affecting her son's future, and secondly because her son was abroad, surely he would take care of them.

Mrs. Zhang had great confidence in her son.

With such capabilities, reaching this position in his early thirties, and bound to be promoted soon, who wouldn't praise him as young and promising?

What did Qin Juan have?

A woman from the countryside; marrying her son was the fortune of eight lifetimes for her.

Even stepping back ten thousand steps, this matter was ultimately their family issue, and outsiders shouldn't interfere, let alone the police.

If it wasn't for her meddling brother and sister-in-law calling the police, they wouldn't have had to come here to suffer.

Mrs. Zhang had already decided; once they got out, she would make Qin Juan's brother and his wife apologize.

If they didn't apologize, she would have her son divorce her.

She had heard her brother just transferred to the city area, surely still relying on her son.

Just the threat of divorce, not to mention Qin Juan, even her brother would have to bow his head and admit his wife's mistake.

Mrs. Zhang had been contemplating all day, thinking of what sincerity the other party would show before she would nod her head, when she saw her son brought in by the police officer.

"Wenbin, you finally came to pick up your parents. How is it? Did that little wretch bow her head in apology? She wouldn't dare come to see us, right? Also, after injuring her own mother-in-law and sending her family to beat people up, she has no face to meet me. But I'm not unreasonable; once we're home, it all depends on her attitude. If she fulfills her duties as a daughter-in-law, takes good care of me and your father, for your sake, I might forgive her this time..."

Mrs. Zhang finished speaking, but saw her son and the police officer standing still, showing no intention of opening the door for them, slightly frowning.

"What are you waiting for? Hurry up and open the door. This place is really not fit for humans. I didn't sleep well all night last night, I need to get some rest as soon as we return home. Right, tell Qin Juan to buy a chicken to stew, I need to nourish myself."

Zhang Wenbin spoke, "Mom, you might not be able to leave just yet."

Chapter 356: Breaking His Hopes

"What? What do you mean?"

Mrs. Zhang became anxious when she heard this; she didn't want to stay here for another moment.

Zhang Wenbin felt embarrassed, "Today I went to speak with Qin Juan and ran into her brother and sister-in-law, and they ended up kicking me out."

Only then did Mrs. Zhang notice that her son's face, just like her own, clearly showed signs of being slapped, and his glasses were broken too.

"It's too much, they're really too much. Officer, did you see? They hit people too. Why only detain us? Hurry up and arrest that cheap woman, and also Qin Juan. She's disrespectful to her in-laws, take her in as well. They are the ones who should be in jail, we are the wronged ones."

The officer stood aside, treating her words as if she were merely farting.

Furious, Mrs. Zhang hissed at Zhang Wenbin, "You go, go now and tell them, if they don't come to apologize properly and take us back, you'll divorce her."

Zhang Wenbin's expression was complex, "I didn't finish what I was saying; not only did they hit me, but they also told Qin Juan to divorce me."

"No way," Mrs. Zhang widened her eyes in disbelief.

Which sibling would want their sister to divorce and return to her parents' home? Even if a brother agrees, his wife certainly wouldn't want to support a divorced elder sister.

Not just a burden, if an elder sister gets divorced and returns home, wouldn't the villagers humiliate them by breaking their backbones?

But looking at Zhang Wenbin's expression, it didn't seem like he was lying, and Mrs. Zhang clenched her teeth in anger.

"I've always disliked that wicked woman; she just wants to be against us. If not for them, would Qin Juan have become like this? I think Qin Juan is being influenced by them. Next time you find a chance to talk to Qin Juan alone, I don't believe she really wants to divorce you."

Zhang Wenbin also felt that Qin Juan was led astray by her brother and his wife.

Before they came, Qin Juan would never have acted like this; it used to be whatever he said goes.

The officer, seeing them sprouting nonsense, urged, "If you have something to say, say it quickly. Currently, you are still in the detention phase and don't have the right for visitation. If you have any information, you can provide it, but time is limited; your time is almost up."

Zhang Wenbin then remembered the pressing matter, nodded repeatedly, and leaning closer to Mrs. Zhang whispered softly, "Mom, I came to tell you, since you've taken responsibility for this matter, be sure to stick to the story. As long as I'm outside, I can find ways to save you and dad."

Today, he saw clearly that with Qin Yang and his wife involved, especially his strong-willed wife, this matter probably won't end well.

Now it's about minimizing the loss. It couldn't be better if his parents could be released, but if someone really needs to take responsibility and go to jail, it could only be his parents. Otherwise, his future and the rest of his life would be over.

He believed his parents would agree with his decision; after all, they are old and in the future, everything would depend on their son. Only if he is well, will his parents have a good life.

Mrs. Zhang didn't know what Zhang Wenbin was thinking and grasped her son's hand, "When will you get me and your father out? I can't spend another day here, I can't eat or sleep well, it's unbearable. I'm old and I can't withstand this torment. That wicked woman wants to divorce you, right? If it comes to it, just divorce her. I don't believe she can find someone better than you. Let them regret it."

"Mom, I can't divorce Juanzi yet," he's under an official assessment right now, and getting a divorce would have too great of an impact.

Mrs. Zhang felt as if she had been struck by lightning, "So we are just going to let them control us like this?"

Zhang Wenbin, helpless, "I'll find a way. You and dad just bear with it for a few days inside."

Bear with it for a few days? Mrs. Zhang doesn't want to endure another day.

.....

In a few days, Qin Yang gathered evidence of Zhang Wenbin accepting bribes during his tenure.

However, he himself didn't have much power, and the bribes he accepted were just low-value gifts, not enough for a criminal sentence but likely enough for a disciplinary action at most.

Lin Chuxia and Qin Yang were unsatisfied with this outcome; their target was not just to have him disciplined.

To fight for Ningning's custody and make Zhang Wenbin pay the price, we must destroy what he cares about most.

The Zhang Family was oppressed in the past, and the family lived in a miserable state of having one meal with no guarantee of the next.

Under those circumstances, the Qin Family, considering past relations, married Qin Juan to Zhang Wenbin.

They showed no gratitude, looked down on their elder sister the moment they were better off, and even subjected her to domestic violence.

In the end, it was all because Zhang Wenbin, who had a decent job, became arrogant.

Didn't Mrs. Zhang always praise her son for being capable? Isn't Zhang Wenbin afraid that divorce would affect his promotion?

Then let him lose his job directly and cut off his hopes.

Lin Chuxia asked Qin Yang to keep calm and wait for news from Jia Liang.

In these few days, Zhang Wenbin went to the hospital again, still for his parents' issues.

Because of Lin Chuxia's insistence, the police station wouldn't be able to mediate this lightly.

Eventually, considering both parties had injuries and Qin Juan admitted to initially pushing Mrs. Zhang leading to her fall and other facts, it was decided that Mrs. Zhang and Old Master Zhang be detained for 15 days.

Of course, Zhang Wenbin did not want his parents to stay in the police station so long.

How could he mix in his unit or get promoted if his parents had been in the police station? The political review would be affected.

He came to Qin Juan because he wanted her to speak on behalf of Mrs. Zhang and Old Master Zhang at the police station.

This time he changed his previous tough attitude, started playing the emotional card, and even bowed his head to apologize to Qin Juan, promising never to lay hands on her again.

Qin Juan had long seen through Zhang Wenbin; she had endured before for the sake of the child and the Qin Family's reputation.

Now under Lin Chuxia's influence, she had figured things out herself, so why would she fall for Zhang Wenbin's tactics again?

Lin Chuxia knew that Zhang Wenbin came to harass Qin Juan again. After confirming with the doctor that Qin Juan's injuries were not serious, she directly discharged her from the hospital and took her in.

"Big sister, you just stay comfortably at my place. If Zhang Wenbin dares to come here, see how I teach him a lesson."

"Chuxia, thank you, sorry for the trouble," Qin Juan always felt guilty.

"Big sister, we are family, let's not talk like this anymore. Right now, the most important thing is fighting for Ningning's custody."

If Qin Juan wants to fight for the custody of Ningning, she needs a stable job. Lin Chuxia has already decided to let her work at the Bun Shop.

Having her own shop, she could take care of her.

It is just not known whether Qin Juan is willing to work at the Bun Shop.

Before Lin Chuxia finished speaking, Qin Juan decisively said, "Chuxia, I'll work at your place."

How could she look down on working at the Bun Shop when her cousin had thought so thoroughly for her?

If it hadn't been for worrying about her cousin finding out her real living situation, she would have wanted to work there long ago.

Her mother mentioned more than once in her letters that her elder brother, sister-in-law, and Xiao Wu as a couple all worked at her cousin's Bun Shop, and she envied their family time together.

Lin Chuxia smiled, "Okay, that's settled then. By the way, do you know where Ningning is now?"

Chapter 357: Scumbag

Qin Juan shook her head, "Zhang Wenbin knows that my child is my life, how could he easily let me see the child? He said as long as I go to the police station and tell the public security officers that I forgive his parents, take his parents out of the police station, then he would let me see the child. But I know, as long as I still want to get a divorce, he would never let me see the child."

Ningning has been hidden by Zhang Family, and Qin Juan hasn't seen her these days.

"Don't worry, big sister, we will definitely find a way to get Ningning back."

Qin Juan nodded, these days she truly felt the saying that one's family is one's backing.

In the evening, as several people were having dinner, Jia Liang came by.

Seeing Jia Liang, Lin Chuxia knew there was news.

"Have you had dinner? Sit down and eat while we talk."

Jia Liang waved his hand, "I've already eaten at the Bun Shop, and it was during the meal that I got the news."

Qin Juan poured him a glass of water.

After taking a sip of water, Jia Liang began to speak.

He looked at Qin Juan, "Do you know about Zhang Wenbin's interpersonal relationships at his unit? He has a clerk under him named Li Wenhong."

Qin Juan shook her head, "He rarely talks to me about things at his unit. Whatever I know is because we live in the staff residence, and I've heard from neighbors. But I've heard of this Li Wenhong, seems like she was assigned here a couple of years ago and has been working under Zhang Wenbin ever since."

Jia Liang nodded, "Li Wenhong originally worked at the slaughterhouse. Three years ago, Zhang Wenbin accompanied some leaders to the slaughterhouse for a visit and met Li Wenhong, and they've kept in contact since then."

At this point, everyone present understood what he meant.

Qin Yang clenched his fists in anger, while Lin Chuxia cursed, "Scum."

As for Qin Juan, she seemed much more emotionally stable.

Jia Liang continued, "Li Wenhong initially had a family. When her husband discovered her improper relationship with Zhang Wenbin, the matter was not exposed because Zhang Wenbin paid the husband 200 yuan to keep quiet. Li Wenhong also arranged her job for her husband's family, managed to divorce smoothly. After the divorce, Li Wenhong and Zhang Wenbin's interactions became even more frequent, and Zhang Wenbin also arranged her current job for her."

He looked at Qin Yang, "If you want to make sure Zhang Wenbin has no way out, this is the best angle to work from. It's understood that Zhang Wenbin frequents Li Wenhong's house, he just became more cautious recently because of the issues."

With Mrs. Zhang and Old Master Zhang detained at the police station, Zhang Wenbin, being alone at that home, naturally prefers to visit his lover.

"Did any of your friends mention whether Li Wenhong has children?"

Lin Chuxia looked over, "A little girl, around six or seven years old."

The sisters of Zhang Family had long broken off relations with them. Mrs. Zhang had once given Qin Juan's job quota to her third daughter, hoping to earn some favors from her daughter for when they grew old.

However, the third daughter of the Zhang Family took Qin Juan's job and then acted arrogant.

Moreover, all three daughters of the Zhang Family are in An City, it's unlikely they would send Ningning there.

"I'm not too sure about this, I'll ask around later."

He asked his friends mainly to investigate Zhang Wenbin's private life, not paying attention to these details.

Qin Yang nodded, "Thanks, ask your friends to keep a close watch on Zhang Wenbin in these next few days, and inform us immediately if he goes to Li Wenhong's place again."

"Okay."

Jia Liang saw that they had only eaten half of their meal and didn't stay long after finishing his words.

There's a lot of work at the Bun Shop, as they have been busy with renovations and hiring new staff lately.

But he quite enjoys this fulfilling and goal-directed feeling.

After Jia Liang left, Lin Chuxia and Qin Yang began discussing the next steps in their plan.

Zhang Wenbin's career cannot tolerate any personal indiscretions.

They could use Zhang Wenbin and Li Wenhong's relationship, along with the bribery evidence, to definitely send him packing back to his hometown.

At this moment, Lin Chuxia didn't know how to comfort Qin Juan.

A husband who committed domestic violence and had an affair, it's hard to imagine what kind of life Qin Juan had been living these years.

Yet Qin Juan smiled indifferently, "Actually, I had a hunch about this. You don't have to worry about me. Besides Ningning, there's nothing else in this family I care about. Isn't it good that he has such a weakness? It just solves our problem."

"Thinking like this is correct, big sister. Nothing is more important than yourself. It's not worth it to grieve over such scum. At most, we regret the years wasted on him."

"You're right," Qin Juan gratefully looked at her, "Xiaxia, sometimes big sister really admires you. Seeing how clearly you live at such a young age, big sister is not as good as you, I should learn from you."

Lin Chuxia smiled, saying nothing.

She lived clearly because she had lived longer than others in her past life.

In her past life, she too was trapped in outdated concepts for many years.

Only after stumbling numerous times did she finally wake up.

"Xiaxia, I heard that the Bun Shop needs some staff. I'm physically fine now and would like to start working at the Bun Shop tomorrow, what do you think?"

"Sure, I'll take you there tomorrow."

Lin Chuxia agreed without hesitation.

Qin Juan hesitated to leave such a family because she lacked the courage to do so.

The empowerment of a woman comes from her own abilities and the money in her hands.

Having her work at the Bun Shop, with a stable job and income, getting the maximum recognition of her abilities, she can quickly step out of the shadows of a failed marriage.

The atmosphere at their Bun Shop was always good, much better for Qin Juan than staying at home alone lost in thought.

The next morning, the three of them had breakfast, Qin Yang went to work on time, and Lin Chuxia took Qin Juan to the Bun Shop.

The Bun Shop was already bustling with customers coming in for breakfast.

Now, with the second floor under renovation, only the ground floor was available for dining, and it was nearly packed, with waitstaff bustling about.

When Jia Liang saw Lin Chuxia bringing Qin Juan in, thinking they came to eat, he personally came to serve.

"Mr. Lin, what would you like to eat?"

"We didn't come to eat. My big sister will be working at the Bun Shop from now on, please arrange a position for her."

Jia Liang, being the manager of the Bun Shop, naturally took care of the arrangements.

After pondering for a moment, he decided.

"I'm not sure about big sister's educational background."

Qin Juan was a bit embarrassed, "I only finished middle school."

That educational level was quite good for that era.

Jia Liang nodded and discussed with Lin Chuxia, "Once the second floor renovation is complete, we'll need someone to manage there. I plan to separate the management of the first and second floors. When the time comes, big sister can manage the front desk and accounts on the second floor. For now, she can start as a waitress on the first floor."

He arranged the job neither out of favoritism due to the relationship with her nor blindly assigning tasks, showing that Jia Liang's arrangement was indeed well thought out.

Chapter 358: Silly and Goofy

"Okay, let's do as you say."

Qin Jianjun, sneaking some time from his busy schedule, saw Lin Chuxia and Qin Juan coming over and ran over to greet them.

"Auntie, aunt, are you here to see me? Aunt, are you feeling any better?"

Qin Jianjun only knew a bit about the situation with Qin Juan and Zhang Wenbin, as it wasn't widely publicized.

He only knew that his aunt and uncle had a conflict, and Auntie and Uncle were backing his aunt to divorce his uncle.

Naturally, he sided with his aunt and would fiercely oppose anyone who bullied her.

Lin Chuxia said straightforwardly, "Your aunt is going to work at the Bun Shop, you're an old hand here, make sure to take good care of her."

"No problem, leave it to me."

Qin Jianjun responded loudly.

He took Qin Juan to get an apron and sleeves, got dressed, and started working, introducing her to other staff members they met along the way.

Knowing that Qin Jianjun was dependable, Lin Chuxia felt relieved to leave Qin Juan with him and went upstairs with Jia Liang.

In the morning, they needed to prepare for the breakfast customers, and the construction on the second floor didn't start too early, so there were no workers around at that time.

Even so, the renovation progress on the second floor was not slow, the overall layout was taking shape, and they were working on further detailed decoration.

"In another week, the renovation should be complete, and after airing it out for three or five days, it will be ready for use. The tables and chairs have been ordered from the wood factory according to Mr. Lin's requirements, and they will be ready in about 10 days. After another few days of airing, it will not delay the use at all."

Jia Liang reported to her the recent developments while showing her around.

"How about the chefs and wait staff? If suitable, they can start interning at the Bun Shop."

"The chefs have been contacted, just waiting for Mr. Lin to have time to test the dishes."

"Okay, let's schedule it for the day after tomorrow."

These matters should not be delayed, in case they aren't suitable, there will still be time to make another selection.

After arranging everything, Lin Chuxia was ready to leave.

As she was going downstairs, she saw Qin Juan serving steamed buns to a customer, with a gentle and amiable smile that was quite infectious, and the customers buying buns were charmed by her.

Lin Chuxia didn't want to disturb them and left the Bun Shop.

Master Old Sir He had left An City for a while now.

When Old Sir He left by train, Lin Chuxia asked him repeatedly to call or write to her once he arrived, to leave a contact.

However, the old man didn't follow up and it was only a few days ago that he sent a letter to his home.

She asked Sun Lanlan to help forward the letter to her, which should have arrived within a couple of days.

Upon inquiry at the post office, indeed there was a letter for her, which had just arrived today.

Lin Chuxia, somewhat impatient, took the letter, the return address was from Capital City; the old man had actually gone to the capital.

The content of the letter was very simple, a thin sheet of paper, with a tone of reproach.

Complaining about how well he is doing currently, grudging Lin Chuxia for bothering him, even having to write to her while he's away, not allowing him to have a moment of peace.

Lin Chuxia knew that Old Sir He meant to reassure her; he was fully aware of what she was going through, and he didn't want her to worry about him on top of everything else at the factory.

Knowing the old man's current situation, Lin Chuxia indeed felt reassured. The weather was getting cooler, and Capital City was even colder than their place, so she went straight to the department store to buy some warm clothes to send to him.

She lost track of time shopping, not only buying warm clothes for the old man but also picking up a few items for herself and Qin Yang.

And for Qin Juan, her sister's clothes were all quite old, and it was evident they were well-worn. Getting new clothes signified a fresh start.

By the time she returned home laden with big and small packages, Qin Yang had already finished work and was bustling about preparing lunch in the kitchen.

"How come you bought so much stuff."

Qin Yang hurried over to help her with the bags.

After shopping, Lin Chuxia felt like she was returning home triumphant from a battle, pointing at her spoils of war, introducing each one, "This is for Master, this is yours, and these are for me and eldest sister."

Apart from those for the master, the things for his eldest sister were the most plentiful.

Qin Yang stretched out his hand to stroke the little woman's hair, his voice touched as he spoke, "Xiaxia, during this time... I really want to thank you for helping eldest sister."

If it wasn't for Lin Chuxia's attentive care, he would still think that his sister was living a good life.

Not to mention, without his wife, his sister wouldn't have made the decisive move to step out of her marriage.

He understood his elder sister's temperament more than anyone, though it seemed gentle and agreeable, wasn't it also a display of weakness?

Her good temper was achieved through constant concessions.

As her loved ones who understood her nature, they naturally took care of her.

The Zhang Family had lost all their decency, not only failing to appreciate her kindness and good temper, but when they saw her make constant concessions, they went even further, treating her like a beast of burden and still looking down on her.

If it had not been for his wife's astuteness, who knows how much longer his sister would have been bullied.

Lin Chuxia deliberately put on a stern face, "Isn't it enough that elder sister thanks me every day? You even have to tell me this; it's as if you guys don't treat me as family."

"I didn't mean that," Qin Yang quickly refuted.

How could he not treat his wife as family? His wife was an inseparable part of him.

"Since you don't, then don't talk like that in the future. Here, take this; these go into elder sister's room."

Lin Chuxia handed over the items meant for Qin Juan to Qin Yang.

"Today, elder sister went to work at the Bun Shop, and you could see that she was very happy. Turns out elder sister graduated from junior high, and Jia Liang arranged for her to start as a waitress on the first floor. After the second-floor renovation is complete, she will manage the reception and accounts on the second floor. I think this is good too, having elder sister manage the accounts makes me feel at ease."

Qin Yang nodded, "Eldest sister is actually very smart and diligent; she always had good academic performance when she was in school. It was only because I had reached high school, bearing the expenses for three children was truly a heavy burden for the family, so she didn't continue her studies."

Eldest brother didn't want to study, that's why he didn't continue, but eldest sister truly gave up the opportunity to study so that he could go to school.

Lin Chuxia suddenly laughed, "You're the youngest among your siblings, yet you were the first one to get into high school. Qin Yang, could it be that you were worried the family funds could only support one high school student and you eagerly skipped grades to get into high school early?"

Qin Yang was momentarily stunned, his handsome face revealing a trace of bewilderment.

He... had never really thought about this question.

From this perspective, the suspicion fell heavily on him.

Seeing that he had taken her seriously, Lin Chuxia's laughter grew even more exuberant.

Yuan Bao, hearing Lin Chuxia's laughter, came running over wagging its tail, wanting to share in her joy.

Lin Chuxia rubbed its doggie head and then looked at the man in front of her.

It was rare to see such a foolish and goofy expression on Qin Yang's face.

...

The setting sun gave way, its afterglow steeping the edge of the sky slowly swallowed by the night.

Dim street lights came on, casting sparse shadows through the gaps in the trees onto the road.

Qin Juan wrapped her clothes tighter around herself, walking home against the north wind.

Suddenly, a figure darted out from the side, grabbing her arm...

Chapter 359: Want to Destroy Him?

Zhang Wenbin glared at Qin Juan, his expression ferocious.

His parents were locked up in the police station, yet this woman ignored it and hid away.

He thought that time would heal things, and he even considered forgiving her if Qin Juan would just lower herself.

But unexpectedly, her brother still had tricks waiting for him.

After so many days, he finally seized the opportunity to approach her.

"Was it you who let Qin Yang leak what happened at work? What good does that do for you?"

Zhang Wenbin gritted his teeth, looking at the woman in front of him, still unable to believe she could be so heartless.

She clearly wants to ruin him.

"After all, we have been married for so many years, are you satisfied only after you've completely destroyed me?"

Qin Juan knew what Qin Yang had done, her younger brother was avenging her, and it was to fight for the custody of Ningning. Why would she be unsatisfied?

However, looking at him now, he was even more furious than when he begged her softly at the hospital to pick up Zhang Family's parents from the police station.

Indeed, in his heart, power is what matters most.

Qin Juan felt an extreme sense of satisfaction, even more so than seeing her sister-in-law slapping him.

Her sister-in-law was right, dealing with such a person, the best way to get revenge is to make him lose what he cares about the most.

"Zhang Wenbin, what goes around comes around. It was you who threatened me with Ningning's custody."

"Ningning is my daughter too, Qin Juan. I didn't expect you to be so cruel. It's one thing for the old folks to be locked up in the police station, but do you really want Ningning to not even have a home?"

After saying that, his tone suddenly softened, "You know my nature over all these years. I was just impulsive that day. I'm just a lower-level worker who came up, with no background, facing discrimination at work, and I've never complained to my family. But the pressure is huge. When I get home and see all the conflicts, how can I stay calm? I've already said, I won't treat you that way anymore, let's live a good life together. After the New Year, I might even get promoted. Wouldn't it be

nice for our family to live in harmony? Why insist on divorcing at this crucial time? Ask yourself, do you really want a divorce?"

Yes, to this day, Zhang Wenbin still cannot believe Qin Juan would divorce him.

In the past, she wouldn't even dare to fight back when he hit her, where would she get the courage to divorce?

"Your younger brother and sister-in-law are just being impulsive. If you really get divorced, can they take care of you for a lifetime? Look at any family keeping an elder sister for a lifetime, isn't it embarrassing? Not to mention bringing along Ningning as a burden, do you want her to follow you back to your mother's house and endure others' contempt? This is not for a day or two, it's for a lifetime. Think it over, apart from me as your husband, who else will willingly spend money to support you?"

Seeing Qin Juan silent, Zhang Wenbin thought she had reconsidered, and continued.

"Tell Qin Yang to stop messing around at my workplace. Let's solve our family issues internally. If need be, I'll apologize to him in person and write a guarantee letter, then we can bring the parents back, and just move past this, right? If you want to go back to work, I can pick up and drop off Ningning..."

His words sounded pleasant, but inside, he hated Qin Juan to death.

He had been running around for his parents these days, and this woman, instead of showing concern, had even gone to work, really intending to cut him off completely?

He could not think further, as Qin Juan quickly gave him an answer.

"This cannot be just brushed aside, Zhang Wenbin, divorce is good for both of us. If you disdain Ningning for being a girl, then give her to me. After the divorce, find another woman, have a son, wouldn't that fit your wishes? What's the point of clinging on? Just agree to the divorce, give me Ningning, and I will tell my brother to leave you alone."

Zhao Wenbin's expression slowly turned cold.

For so many years, when has Qin Juan ever threatened him?

"Qin Juan, I really underestimated you. You've turned a fine home upside down, now asking me, what's the point? I'm telling you, don't push it. If I can't get promoted, don't even think about getting a divorce. I'd rather drag someone down with me if I die. If you want to live well in the future, tell your brother to mind his own business, otherwise don't blame me for making you never see Ningning in your lifetime."

Qin Juan saw him so agitated that his chest heaved, and she finally understood the phrase her sister-in-law mentioned, "Domestic violence occurs either zero times or countless times."

How could one expect this Zhang Wenbin to reform?

Even when the things he cared most about were threatened, he still acted arrogantly, such a person must already be rotten to the core.

"My little brother isn't meddling in unimportant matters, I am definitely going to divorce."

"You motherfucker..."

Zhang Wenbin, overwhelmed by shame and anger, could no longer bear the woman who used to obey him defying him repeatedly. He cursed angrily and raised his hand to hit her.

Qin Juan, now unrestrained, wouldn't let him beat her anymore.

However, before she could react, someone had already kicked Zhang Wenbin out first.

With a bang, followed by Zhang Wenbin's scream, he held his stomach and couldn't get up for a long time.

Qin Juan also saw who it was, "Jia Liang!"

"Big sister, are you alright?"

Qin Juan shook her head.

Confirming Qin Juan was indeed alright, Jia Liang went up and kicked again, "If I see you harassing someone again, beware I'll cripple you."

He was originally a gangster, who usually managed a bun shop and put away all his fierceness; but now his ruthless side emerged, frightening Zhang Wenbin so much that he involuntarily recoiled.

"What do you want to do? I am hitting my wife, what does it concern you? Come any closer and I will call for help."

Jia Liang, seeing his cowardice, couldn't even be bothered to hit him.

Too disgraceful.

He casually kicked him a few times, then turned to Qin Juan, "Big sister, it's getting dark, let me take you home."

Qin Juan gratefully thanked him, "Do you live around here too?"

Jia Liang scratched his head and honestly said, "Not really, today was your first day at work and the boss entrusted you to me; it's my duty to ensure your safety."

Since the matter with the Zhang Family had not been resolved, Jia Liang was worried Zhang Wenbin would bother Qin Juan again and followed her after cleaning up.

He didn't expect his guess would be accurate.

Qin Juan thanked him again, knowing that Zhang Wenbin was backed into a corner now, and any trouble would cause issues for her brother and sister-in-law. She didn't refuse Jia Liang's kindness.

Zhang Wenbin, watching their cohesive interaction, found it extremely irritating.

He got beaten up, and not only did Qin Juan not care, but she left with the man who beat him?

Suddenly he scoffed, "No wonder you insist on divorcing me, Qin Juan. It turns out you already found someone else outside, you wench, putting a cuckold on me. No wonder you got a job so quickly, you must have sold yourself..."

Before Zhang Wenbin could finish his sentence, he saw Jia Liang, who had already walked away, suddenly turn around.

Not having the time to vent his emotions, he got up and ran, faster than a rabbit.

"Pah, coward..."

Jia Liang spat, turning his head towards Qin Juan, "Big sister, don't listen to his nonsense, just pretend he is farting."

Chapter 360: A Desperate Dog Will Leap Over a Wall

Qin Juan had a guilty expression on her face. "It's not too far from home; maybe I should go back by myself. You should go home early, too. Zhang Wenbin is capable of anything, and I don't want any misunderstandings to arise with your family."

Her own reputation didn't matter anymore; she was about to get divorced and couldn't implicate kind-hearted people.

Jia Liang waved his hand with nonchalance, "No worries. My mother won't mind these things. Even if she knows about this, she would tell me to help you."

His mother always praised Mr. Lin, telling him to take good care of Mr. Lin's matters.

Now that Mr. Lin's family was in trouble, if his mother found out, she would probably want him to be Mr. Lin's 24-hour bodyguard.

Qin Juan looked at him with confusion.

Although Jia Liang called her 'big sister', he seemed to be about the same age as her and was capable, too. He shouldn't be unmarried yet, should he? Why does he keep mentioning his mother?

Then, thinking about Zhang Wenbin's attitude towards his family, which also prioritized his mother in everything, Qin Juan pursed her lips.

But after all, it was someone else's private matter, so she didn't continue the topic.

When she got home, Lin Chuxia was still waiting to have dinner with Qin Juan.

Seeing that Jia Liang came back with Qin Juan, she thought something had happened.

Turns out, there really was an issue.

"Jia Liang, I really owe you one this time. I didn't expect Zhang Wenbin to still be fixated on my sister even now."

Qin Yang had already made his move; by this point, Zhang Wenbin should be too busy dealing with his own troubles.

"This is a small matter, and it was on my way anyway. If Mr. Lin is worried, I can come and pick up your sister for work tomorrow, too. From now on, I can take care of her transport."

Without waiting for Lin Chuxia to speak, Qin Juan quickly said, "There's no need for that. It was just late today; during the day, Zhang Wenbin wouldn't dare to be so bold."

The way from their house to the Bun Shop was all on main roads. Zhang Wenbin was a coward, extremely concerned with his own reputation; he was too timorous to make a scene by assaulting someone on the street in broad daylight.

Moreover, Qin Juan was also worried about the implications for Jia Liang if Zhang Wenbin continued to behave this way over time.

Qin Yang also said, "I'll take care of picking up and dropping off my sister from now on. I was too careless today."

This matter wasn't over yet; they had to be prepared for Zhang Wenbin becoming desperate.

...

The cold streets were swept by gusts of north wind, and the leaves swirled in the air as they fell.

Zhang Wenbin walked down the deserted streets, occasionally touching the corner of his mouth, the pain making him gasp for breath.

It wasn't until he arrived in front of a particular courtyard that he impatiently knocked on the gate.

The courtyard door opened, and the woman inside, seeing Zhang Wenbin, first cautiously checked the surroundings, and then quickly pulled him into the yard.

"Why did you come? Didn't we agree not to meet for these few days?"

Entering the house, Li Wenhong finally saw his face clearly and couldn't help but take a sharp breath.

"What happened to you? Your brother-in-law beat you up again? They are too lawless. Why do you let him beat you like this? If they can call the police, can't you? Have the police arrest them."

Zhang Wenbin, thinking of Jia Liang's look, kept a stern face and said nothing.

Li Wenhong pursed her lips as she looked at him, "Then why not just get divorced? The people from her maternal family are too unreasonable, resorting to beating and detaining people at will. You're no match for these barbaric people. Besides, haven't you been sick of her for a long time?"

"You're not unaware of the situation right now; I can't get divorced yet."

Speaking of the current situation, Li Wenhong also became anxious.

"Who dug up these old issues? How many years have they been buried? What to do now? The leaders seem really angry, could this affect your promotion?"

Zhang Wenbin squinted his eyes. "Who else could it be? My dear little brother-in-law. Just transferred to the city and he's already so capable, I truly underestimated him."

If only I had known he had so many connections, I wouldn't have fought with Qin Juan, or I should've listened to her, gotten closer to her and her brother-in-law, and my promotion would have been more secure.

But by now, regret is useless.

"Tomorrow, go to Secretary Xu and test the waters for me. It shouldn't be that serious; for such a small amount of money, I can't believe they've never been greedy," the clearest water has no fish.

Zhang Wenbin, after years in the bureaucracy, became most adept at navigating these intricacies.

He firmly believed that only by fully understanding these human interactions can one quickly rise.

Listening to him, Li Wenhong felt relieved and clung to his arm, half-coquettish.

"Of course, I'll help you. Right now, I can only rely on you. In my opinion, once you get promoted, you should reconsider your marriage. Your wife is boring and rigid, even went as far as to send your parents to the police station. It seems she's heartless and not caring about face at all."

Zhang Wenbin was not unaware of this.

"How's Ningning doing today? Hope she hasn't been a nuisance?"

"Children throw tantrums, she'll be fine once she's tired. Today has been uneventful," Li Wenhong said nonchalantly.

"I'll go check on her."

His arm was held, "Check on what? Don't you trust me? It's late, haven't you eaten dinner yet? Let's eat first."

Li Wenhong brought the meal from the kitchen, steaming rice and stir-fried dishes, plus a bowl of ready-to-eat food.

"Hurry and eat while it's hot. I know you love Xiyang's ready-made food, I went out especially to buy it for you."

Zhang Wenbin had things weighing on his mind and had hardly eaten all day. Now, seeing the appealing meal, he felt hungry indeed.

"Thank you, you're very considerate."

Qin Juan, although good-natured, gentle, and virtuous, just didn't have Li Wenhong's attentiveness, nor did she know him as well.

Even when it came to food, Qin Juan would only prepare simple meals daily, unlike Li Wenhong who always prepared what he enjoyed.

This was the reason he was willing to maintain this relationship with Li Wenhong.

A man struggles outside, there's always a time when he's tired; he doesn't just need food and clothing – anyone can provide those. Someone to talk to is what's truly precious.

Li Wenhong also hadn't eaten yet. She served herself a bowl of rice and sat down to dine with Zhang Wenbin.

First, she put several pieces of ready-to-eat food onto Zhang Wenbin's plate, then picked up a couple for herself. She watched him eat with big mouthfuls, clearly enjoying his meal.

"I heard Xiyang Food is a private enterprise. I didn't expect these small business owners to develop so impressively now. Xiyang Food's ready-made meals have taken over quite a market share; people find them really tasty."

"Food is naturally about taste; whoever's food tastes better is the one we eat," Zhang Wenbin never compromised on eating.

"That's true. I saw the address on the packaging is Ancheng County, have you heard of this food company?"

Zhang Wenbin's gaze grew darker, "How would I know? I've been in the city for so many years. I only go back to Ancheng when it's Qin Juan's family's turn."

After a few more bites, he put down his chopsticks, "I'll go check on Ningning."

Li Wenhong watched her usually cheerful man turn sour just from a few words, and couldn't help but purse her lips in disapproval.

He might have come from a mere county, but is he ashamed when people mention it? If no one speaks of it, does he become a city person?

What's the use of this vanity, really?