

## Switched M 391

Chapter 391: Why Do This?

The end of the year is approaching, and various units are about to take their vacations in succession. It feels better to handle things a day sooner.

Prior to this, after the factory purchased the 121, Lin Chuxia found time to obtain her driver's license.

Sitting in the driver's seat, owning her own vehicle, Lin Chuxia actually felt a bit excited.

In her previous life, Lin Chuxia always liked off-road vehicles, and all her private cars were various SUVs and large off-roaders.

Not to mention, this model 212 quite fits her aesthetic.

It's just that the sunlight reflecting off the snow was a bit blinding—she needed to consider buying a pair of sunglasses.

Now, there are fewer cars on the roads, and without the need to queue at each step, she managed to complete all the procedures in just half a day.

Having received the car license plate, Lin Chuxia couldn't install it herself and simply placed it on the passenger seat to take it back for Qin Yang to handle.

Passing by Qin's Restaurant, Lin Chuxia parked her car to the side.

At the same time inside the restaurant, though there weren't many people, it was far from peaceful.

It had been several days since Liu Na last saw Feng Zhong. Today, after the breakfast rush, and when the shop quieted down, she couldn't resist approaching Gao Lele, who was clicking away at the abacus at the front desk.

"Why would you do this?"

Gao Lele looked up, glancing around in confusion before looking at her former good friend. "Are you talking to me?"

"Don't play dumb with me, of course I'm talking to you," Liu Na lowered her voice and questioned, "My relationship with Feng Zhong is a mutual choice, and the state even advocates for freedom of love. Why would you break us up? What good does that do for you?"

Gao Lele's blank expression gradually grew colder.

She hadn't failed to notice Liu Na's coldness towards her these past days and had even wondered if Liu Na was taking out her anger on her because of Feng Zhong's dismissal.

But she could never have imagined Liu Na would think this way.

"Why would I want to break you up? Liu Na, if you had any brains at all, you wouldn't ask such a question. Feng Zhong was dismissed because he stole the money from the front desk. It was the manager who discovered and dealt with it. Why are you going mad at me?"

"But if this matter hadn't been exposed by you, how would the manager have started an investigation? It's you who reported it to the manager, isn't it?"

Gao Lele was almost driven to laughter by the ridiculous accusation. What kind of bandit logic was this?

At that time, there was a shortfall in the accounts, and she was so anxious about what to do, it was Qin Jianjun who took her to see the manager.

She had faced tremendous pressure at that time, fearing that the manager would penalize her.

How did it become scheming and setting up in her mouth?

Gao Lele, growing up, had never encountered such people and such situations. For a moment, she didn't know what to say, anger turning her cheeks red.

Just then, a voice came from behind.

"If you want to say something like that, it was me who brought Gao Lele to the manager."

Qin Jianjun stood not far away, watching the scene with a cold gaze.

Liu Na hadn't expected anyone else to overhear their conversation and felt wronged.

As for Qin Jianjun, he wasn't one to coddle her. Although he had only accidentally overheard their conversation, it was indeed him who had accompanied Gao Lele to see the manager that day.

"Feng Zhong's hands were dirty, and it's only right that he was punished for his wrongdoing. What does this have to do with Gao Lele? Instead of confronting Feng Zhong about why he stole the money from the restaurant, or talking to the manager who fired Feng Zhong, you blame Gao Lele, the victim here. If Gao Lele hadn't gone to the manager, would you cover the shortfall of more than 30 yuan for her?"

Of course, she couldn't afford it. Her monthly salary was only 40 yuan, and not even as much as Gao Lele's.

Liu Na knew she was in the wrong but didn't know what to do, and tears involuntarily flowed down her cheeks.

"I've been trying to find Feng Zhong too, but I can't locate him. Ever since he was fired, I went to look for him and he was no longer in the dormitory, all his things were gone as well. I'm sorry, Lele, I didn't mean to take my anger out on you, I really don't know what to do anymore..."

Liu Na was crying uncontrollably, and Gao Lele's heart softened.

"I don't know what sort of relationship you two had, but if he left without even saying goodbye to you, it can only mean he didn't take you seriously. Nana, I think it's better to just let it go. You're so young and beautiful, and you have a stable job. Can't you find any kind of partner you want? Feng Zhong is not worth this for you."

Moreover, this guy has a history of stealing; in Gao Lele's eyes, he's just a bad person.

Liu Na should be glad for this incident coming to light, resulting in the manager firing Feng Zhong.

Otherwise, marrying such a man, how could she have happy days?

Liu Na shook her head while crying, "You don't understand, you don't know anything. I can't be without him, I can't turn back now..."

The noise here ended up disturbing Jia Liang, who paused slightly as he came over and heard Liu Na's words.

"Manager."

"Manager!"

The surrounding waitstaff greeted him, and Liu Na's crying stopped, but the tears continued to flow.

"Come with me to the office."

Jia Liang called Liu Na's name and turned to head back to the office.

Liu Na looked around hesitantly, thinking that Jia Liang might be the only one who knew Feng Zhong's whereabouts, and followed him with gritted teeth.

In the office, Jia Liang scrutinized the young waitress before him.

Although he was the manager and had hired these waitstaff himself,

he believed he was much older than them and never really paid much attention to them. Their interactions were just normal day-to-day work.

This girl was always so lively and bubbly in his memory, just like Gao Lele at the front desk, cheerful and optimistic, but now she was crying like a child made of tears.

"Stop crying first, tell me what's going on with you and Feng Zhong."

Liu Na couldn't hold back her tears. After Feng Zhong was fired, she went to the staff dormitory to find him and discovered he had vanished, it felt like her world was collapsing.

"Manager, can you tell me where Feng Zhong has gone? I must find him, he promised he would marry me."

Jia Liang couldn't help but snort, "He didn't tell you when he left?"

Liu Na shook her head.

"He left without even telling you, and you still expect him to marry you?"

Liu Na's face turned even paler, "But... but he said he would take care of me for life, that he would marry me... He can't just leave me like this, what should I do..."

Jia Liang's expression turned darker as he listened to her repeating the same few sentences.

It was not that he was angry at Liu Na's naivety, but at Feng Zhong.

These two obviously hadn't been dating long, and he had personally warned Feng Zhong, but seeing the girl before him devastated, it's obvious her attachment to Feng Zhong wasn't due to a deeply entrenched affection.

He knew Feng Zhong's true nature all too well, having thought he had reformed...

At this moment, Jia Liang felt an indescribable sense of defeat and anger.

Suppressing the fury in his heart, he comforted her, "Feng Zhong really isn't someone you can entrust your life to, he has a track record of bad behavior, and you're still so young..."

Liu Na couldn't listen to these words anymore, and with a breakdown, she exclaimed, "If he's so bad, why did you let him work at the Bun Shop? Aren't you and he brothers of many years? If you knew he was such a bad seed, why let him continue to harm people..."

Chapter 392: Not All Prodigals Can Turn Back

Jia Liang sat there, letting her vent.

Only after she said she was tired did he continue, "I will help you find Feng Zhong's whereabouts so that you can settle things between you. Anyway, I hope you can adjust your emotions properly."

Liu Na, after crying, also regretted yelling at the store manager and nodded her head before turning and leaving the office.

Once she left, Jia Liang picked up the telephone on the desk and called Xiyang Food Factory, passing the message to Hou Xiaobao and asking for help to find Feng Zhong.

It turns out Feng Zhong was not a city resident or from Ancheng County. Their acquaintance was coincidental, leading them to come together.

After hanging up, Jia Liang sat in his seat, silently staring out of the window until the office door was knocked on again.

Lin Chuxia came in and saw Jia Liang in this dejected state.

"Wow, it's rare to see such a look on our big brother here."

Jia Liang stood up with a helpless smile, "Mr. Lin, please don't make fun of me. People say one should only fall once in the same place, but I've stumbled over and over again, I'm almost too embarrassed to face anyone."

"What's the situation exactly?"

When she came into the store just now, she saw Gao Lele thanking Qin Jianjun profusely at the front desk.

She heard the girl who had just been involved with Feng Zhong had an argument with Gao Lele, with Qin Jianjun helping to mediate.

Big sister had already told her about it: Feng Zhong stealing money from the store and Jia Liang firing him was justified. So why did that girl confront Gao Lele?

Jia Liang sighed and recounted today's events to Lin Chuxia, also hinting that Liu Na's overreaction and blaming everything on Gao Lele might be because of her relationship with Feng Zhong.

Although his words were subtle, Lin Chuxia as someone experienced understood and frowned, "This is indeed not easy to handle."

People at that time were generally conservative, premarital sex was highly frowned upon.

It was understandable for the young Liu Na to lose her composure in such a situation.

Feng Zhong's methods and shamelessness were also undeniable.

"I've already notified Houzi to help find Feng Zhong," Jia Liang hammered his fist on the desk emphatically, "Just firing him is letting him off too easy."

Jia Liang didn't find it appropriate to tell Lin Chuxia that Feng Zhong initially aimed for the second floor.

In his view, Qin Juan was the boss's cousin, and even if there were discrepancies in the accounts, it wouldn't be taken too seriously.

But finding Qin Juan too diligent at work and without the slightest opportunity to embezzle, he then diverted his target toward Gao Lele on the first floor.

Jia Liang thought of the moment when Feng Zhong regretted his actions.

"Brother Liang, Brother Liang, just give me another chance, I know I was wrong, I really had no choice, my mother at home fell ill, even if I am a scoundrel, I can't neglect my mother, I sent all the money I had home, and it still wasn't enough..."

"Not enough so you steal? What did you tell me at the beginning? If you said you couldn't change your bad habits, I wouldn't have hired you."

"I didn't want to steal again, I tried other ways, honestly, Brother Liang, I once brought in some cheap meat for the store, just trying to make a little difference in price. The meat was fine, just frozen for a few days. In such cold weather, with the meat being frozen, how could there be a problem? But Qin Juan spotted it right away, I was afraid she would tell Brother Liang, disappoint you - after that incident, I never dared again. Brother, I was really desperate, I know I was wrong, please give me one more chance, I swear I won't steal again..."

Hearing that he had tampered with the meat as well, Jia Liang stood up and kicked him.

"I entrusted you with such an important job, and you think you can get away with such sloppy work? You can leave. I won't hold this against you, but that's the end of our brotherhood..."

Jia Liang snapped back to the present and looked guiltily at Lin Chuxia.



"Mr. Lin, rest assured, I will handle this matter properly and give you a satisfactory report."

"It's not about me, after all, the shop didn't suffer any loss. You should pay more attention to that young lady, Liu Na's emotions; make sure nothing serious happens."

The Spring Festival was just around the corner, and she didn't want the New Year celebrations to be ruined.

"Yes," thought Jia Liang with a lump in his heart at this critical juncture, "I've always fancied myself as someone who has good judgement of character. The brothers under my command were willing to follow me, always calling me righteous, and I took pride in these words. I even thought the burden on my shoulders was heavy, always eager to help my brothers whenever I could—I'd share my blessings and face hardships together with them. But who would have thought they'd be so heartless."

For some reason, whenever Jia Liang brought up his past, Lin Chuxia couldn't help but silently criticize him.

A group of lawbreakers, without the assistance of a certain Uncle Hat, rarely manage to turn over a new leaf.

A prodigal who returns is more precious than gold!

Why is it so valuable for a prodigal to come back?

In other words, not all prodigals can make a return.

"Mud, when it's good and wet, you insist on sticking it to a wall. Dead fish, laying flat, you insist on turning it over. These actions all go against the laws of nature. A conscience is something you either have or you don't—there's no awakening it. Never punish yourself for others' mistakes. Only by letting go of others' wrongs can you free your own heart."

Lin Chuxia tossed her car key to him, "It's a new car, I just got the plates for it. Go put them on for me and give it a test drive. You're coming out with me tomorrow."

Qin Yang was busy at the end of the year, but after much thought, Lin Chuxia decided it was better to have Jia Liang accompany her.

He could double as a driver and a bodyguard.

Plus, he'd come in handy as a mover after buying books.

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On the day Qin's Restaurant closed for the holiday, Jia Liang finished handing out salaries and bonuses to the staff, prepared a staff dinner, and even invited Lin Chuxia.

Everyone had a lively meal filled with New Year's greetings before departing.

Qin Yang's workplace had given him time off two days earlier, and Qin Jianjun's school had also started their winter vacation earlier.

Knowing that Jia Liang had to celebrate the festival in the city, Lin Chuxia gave him an extra red envelope so he could have a good New Year with Aunt Jia.

Then, with a wave of her hand, she gathered Qin Jianjun and Qin Juan, "Let's go, back to our hometown."

Little Ningning had been looking forward to returning to Ancheng County and cheerfully chanted, "Going to Grandma's house."

Qin Jianjun lifted her onto his shoulder with one swoop, "We're heading back to our hometown."

Ningning giggled without fear of being dropped.

Qin Juan watched the siblings with a smile in her eyes, "Jianjun only seems like a child now. Usually, he appears so sensible, kind of reminds me of how the Second Brother was as a kid."

"I heard from mom that when Jianjun was young, he would always follow Qin Yang around, really fond of his Fourth Uncle," said Lin Chuxia with a sense of admiration.

"Yeah, not just him, the village kids of that age nearly all looked up to Second Brother back then."

As they chatted, they saw Qin Jianjun getting stopped in his tracks.

Gao Lele had surprisingly not left yet and was waiting at the door, speaking to him about something before she stuffed something into his arms.

Qin Juan and Lin Chuxia exchanged a look, both raising their eyebrows.

Outside, Lin Chuxia caught sight of the knitted gloves poking out of Qin Jianjun's pocket and deliberately drew out her words, "Wow, Lele is really skillful with her hands, these are very well made."

Qin Juan seriously nodded in agreement, "Better than my own knitting, I'll have to ask her for some tips. Maybe I'm doing it all wrong."

Qin Jianjun immediately took out the gloves and handed them to Qin Juan, "She thanked me for helping her out that day. Aunt, if you like them, I'll give them to you. A big guy like me can do without gloves."

Qin Juan: "..."

Lin Chuxia: "..."

Is he... a typical straight guy?

### Chapter 393: Heaven and Earth Apart

Qin Yang had already packed everything for the trip back to his hometown, waiting for others to come so they could leave right away.

When they got a new car, it caused quite a stir in the residential complex, but driving it back to the village was a total bombshell.

At the village entrance, children on vacation were climbing trees, playing with marbles, and wrestling with Square Treasure; spotting a car enter the village, they all looked over curiously.

Qin Jianye, sharp-eyed, nudged his cousin who was distressed from losing at Square Treasure, "Zhuangzhuang, isn't that your second uncle driving?"

Zhuangzhuang was just about to secretly retrieve his king-sized Square Treasure that he had just lost from his cousin's stack when he got caught red-handed.

Square Treasure (photo)

Just as he was about to explain, he heard his cousin's words and glanced towards the car, his eyes widening all at once, and he threw the Square Treasure in his hand and started hopping after the car.

"It's my little uncle, my little uncle is driving back in a car, little uncle, little uncle..."

Ningning had already spotted Zhuangzhuang and was waving at him through the car window.

Qin Yang also heard the children's voices and stepped on the brake to stop.

Lin Chuxia rolled down the window, "Get in the car."

She also saw Qin Jiang's son, Qin Jianye, who seemed hesitant to approach, but when their eyes met, he shyly called out, "Auntie Four."

Lin Chuxia smiled instantly, "Ah, come on, sit in the back with Zhuangzhuang."

She and Yuan Bao were already occupying the passenger seat, which left no more room there.

"Ah!"

Little Jianye's face broke into a big smile.

He walked forward two steps, then remembered his trophies, hurriedly bent down to pick up the Square Treasure from the ground, and as he ran toward the car, some fell along the way.

He then dumped all his Square Treasures into Zhuangzhuang's arms, "They are all yours now."

Little Zhuangzhuang's face lit up with surprise, "All for me?"

"Yep, all for you."

Qin Jianjun had already gotten out of the car, "Uncle Four, Auntie Four, Aunt, I'll go ahead, it's just a short walk," always making room for the younger ones.

Qin Jianye and Little Zhuangzhuang then got into the car under the envious gaze of their friends.

The car continued, with children chasing and clamoring behind it all the way to the Qin Family's front gate.

After the new house in the front courtyard was built, Mr. Qin and Mrs. Qin had moved there.

It's not that the old couple insisted on living in the new house, but with the children rarely at home, the front courtyard was closer to the main gate and allowed them to easily check on any noises.

Just like now, as soon as the car reached the house, Mr. Qin and Mrs. Qin heard it and came out.

Seeing the car enter the yard and their youngest son driving, the old couple were both surprised and delighted.

Watching the car doors open, the children jumped out one by one.

Zhuangzhuang, holding Ningning's hand, rushed to Mrs. Qin first, "Granny, Ningning sister has come to our house for the New Year, and Auntie too."

Ningning, tilting her little face up, was no longer timid like before and softly called out, "Grandma, Grandpa."

Though her voice was soft, comparing to the child who used to hide behind her daughter on seeing people, she was remarkably different.

"Ah, ah..."

Mr. Qin and Mrs. Qin answered continuously, and Mrs. Qin's gaze was already searching for her daughter's figure.

These days she had been unable to sleep well, always worried about her daughter's life.

While she was reassured that her younger son and daughter-in-law were looking after her in the city, the thought of her young daughter going through a divorce and suffering alone with a child made her heart ache indescribably.

Finally seeing her daughter getting off the car, Qin Juan called out with a smile, "Mom, we're back."

Mrs. Qin's tears nearly overflowed when she saw Qin Juan, but she quickly held them back.

"Is... is this her daughter?"

Tall and robust, her complexion rosy, her cheeks and forehead plump and rounded, her eyes smiling.

In her memory, her daughter had always been frail and thin since getting married, especially after giving birth, as if she had been struck by a severe illness, frail and emaciated.

She had asked about her daughter's health more than once, but her daughter always dismissed her concerns with various excuses.

"Good, it's good you're back, you've gained weight, there's flesh on your face now."

Mrs. Qin's tears finally fell.

One can tell if a person is doing well, but she had seen it before and still believed those excuses from her.

Angry, Mrs. Qin raised her hand and slapped Qin Juan on the shoulder, "You child."

Qin Juan understood her mother's feelings and spoke to her gently and softly, "I'm now working at the Bun Shop every day, eating well and drinking well. After Ningning gets out of school, I finish work. There's nothing troubling me, it's no wonder I've gained weight. My siblings helped me rent a home, right next to the Bun Shop staff dorm, where Ningning and I live very conveniently and safely. Mom, I'm very content and happy with my life now."

"Good, that's good, that's really good..."

Mr. Qin joined in, "Alright, the kids have finally all come home, why are you crying?"

While wiping her tears with her sleeve, Mrs. Qin responded, "I'm crying because I'm happy, happy that they've all come back."

Qin Yang and Lin Chuxia were unloading items from the car, Qin Juan and Mr. Qin also went over to help.

They had brought back quite a few nice things, purchased by Lin Chuxia and Qin Yang, as well as Qin Juan.

In previous years, although Zhang Wenbin cared about appearances and bought decent items, he still gave Qin Juan a displeased look.

Not to mention, Qin Juan couldn't decide on her own what she wanted to buy.

Now that she had her own money, Qin Juan could buy whatever she wanted, buying fabrics and food for Mr. Qin and Mrs. Qin, and clothes for the kids, fulfilling her wishes of many years.

Today was the last day before the festival for both the Bun Shop and Xiyang Food Factory.

Qin Han and Zhang Guilan had come back early too, and seeing that Qin Yang's family had already arrived, and a small car parked in the yard, it was quite lively.

After dinner, the family chatted in the new house.

Lin Chuxia brought out the family portrait that was taken at home that day.

She had printed four large copies, each about five inches big and in color.

Among those present, it had been many years since anyone had had their photo taken, so holding these colored photos and seeing their images made everyone very happy.



Especially Mr. Qin and Mrs. Qin, who had never had their photo taken in their life.

Little Zhuangzhuang curiously squeezed into the crowd, "What is it? Let me see, let me see..."

"Wow, Yuan Bao's dog head looks so silly!"

Hearing his name called, Yuan Bao nuzzled Little Zhuangzhuang's leg, making him giggle.

As he laughed, the smile on his face suddenly froze, and pointing incredulously at the photo he questioned, "There's grandpa and grandma, dad and mom, little uncle and little auntie, aunty and Ningning, even Yuan Bao is there, but where am I? Little Auntie, did you forget to draw me?"

He took the photo to Lin Chuxia and pointed to a spot next to Ningning, "Little Auntie, you forgot Zhuangzhuang, you need to draw again, just put me right here."

Lin Chuxia couldn't help but cover her face, as that was not her drawing.

#### Chapter 394: Dreams Have Everything

Qin Han scooped up his son and perched him on his shoulder, "Silly boy, it's too late to draw now."

Zhuangzhuang looked as if the sky had fallen, "Ah, what should I do? I want to be in it too."

"We'll take a new one during the New Year," this time it would be a real family portrait.

Qin Yang had also brought back his camera this time.

"That's settled then. Auntie, I'll sit here next to Ningning," Zhuangzhuang reiterated, still not reassured.

Lin Chuxia ruffled his little head, "No problem, I'll take a photo of you and Ningning then; from now on, we'll take one every year and watch Little Zhuangzhuang and Little Ningning grow up bit by bit."

Ningning, blinking her big eyes, asked softly, "Then will I become beautiful? As pretty as auntie."

"Definitely, you'll be even prettier than auntie."

Zhuangzhuang boasted, "I will definitely be more handsome than uncle, and more successful too."

His uncle was successful and praised by the entire village.

Qin Han carried his son off to bed, "Let's hurry up and sleep then; dreams have everything."

It's quite late already, his younger brother's family had come from far away and should rest early; there'd be plenty of time to talk later.

Lin Chuxia and Qin Yang's room had already been warmed by the stove; they also went back to their room.

In the new front yard, the main house had been built with 4 rooms, with Mr. Qin and Mrs. Qin occupying two of them.

After Qin Juan got divorced, Mr. Qin and Mrs. Qin cleared out a room next to theirs specifically for their daughter and granddaughter to stay. The room was now warmed up and cosy.

But Qin Juan didn't want to sleep there and clung to Mrs. Qin's arm, "Let's sleep with mom and dad tonight, I don't mind sleeping at the foot of the bed."

Mrs. Qin laughed, "The older you get, the more you go back to being a child. This is only because your brothers have left. What would your sisters-in-law and younger siblings think if they saw this? No need to sleep at the foot; I'll give you the place at the head of the bed."

Although Mrs. Qin said this, she also looked forward to sleeping with her daughter. She swiftly made the bed and even gave the warm spot at the head of the bed to her daughter.

Ever since her daughter got married, she hadn't stayed over at her parents' home. Especially after moving to the city, they'd hardly see each other twice a year.

Now mother and daughter could finally chat next to each other to their hearts' content.

Meanwhile, Lin Chuxia and Qin Yang returned to their room. Qin Yang was preparing washbasin with water for her feet while asking, "Is it cold at home? I'll fill a hot water bottle for you in a bit."

"It's okay," Lin Chuxia liked the atmosphere of the Qin Family, so warm that she didn't feel cold at all.

"Tomorrow I have to take care of the company matters. Do you want to come with me?"

It was the end of the year, and she, the company's CEO, had to pay a visit and express appreciation for her staff.

It was mainly about two bun shops, the Xiyang Food Factory, and the person in charge of the chicken farm. Everyone would sit together and have fun, and she had some things to arrange.

The calls had already come in before, and today Qin Han told her that everyone was notified.

"I won't go; I'll stay at home with dad and get ready for the New Year."

Lin Chuxia nodded, "That's fine." Qin Yang wasn't fond of socializing, "Hey, come here too, let's wash together."

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The dinner was still arranged at the Bun Shop managed by Qin Han.

There were quite a few people who came today, the managers of the two bun shops: Qin Han and his wife, Sun Lanlan; the factory manager Su Wensong, deputy factory manager Qin Wu and his wife, workshop director Pang Yongli and his wife, the heads of the sales and procurement departments Sun Bingnan, Hou Xiaobao, the chicken farm manager Sun Bingwen and Sun Bingshan, the two brothers, and moreover, Jia Liang had also returned from the city.

It's called a dinner party, but it's more like a mini annual meeting.

Lin Chuxia, as the general manager of Xiyang Food Company, first summarized this year's operations of the various divisions and departments, especially mentioning the Xiyang Food Factory and Qin's Restaurant in the city.

In addition, she also affirmed the two chicken farms in Daqing Mountain Village.

Sun Bingwen and Sun Bingshan had not expected that they would be invited to such an event.

When Sun Bingnan notified them, both brothers were utterly dumbfounded, and on the way there, they repeatedly asked Sun Bingnan if they had done something wrong and if the boss was going to take away their management rights.

Sun Bingnan reassured them the whole way there, but still couldn't make the brothers feel at ease.

Once they arrived at the restaurant, seeing everyone in the room, besides their younger brother and sister-in-law, dressed to the nines.

Especially the brother-in-law, wearing a suit and leather shoes, moving with the air of a big shot.

The two brothers came wearing their best clothes, only to find they still fell short compared to everyone else.

They even felt out of place among the people here.

Just as they were feeling ashamed, they heard Lin Chuxia mention the chicken farms in Daqing Mountain Village.

"Big brother, second brother, next year's chicken farms are expected to expand further, so we will be relying on you two."

Sun Bingwen and Sun Bingshan immediately stood up, their movements nearly in sync.

"Don't worry, we'll definitely take good care of it."

Sun Lanlan covered her mouth and snickered on the side, pulling at her eldest brother's sleeve, "Big brother, why are you two so nervous? Xiaxia won't eat you up."

Speaking of which, aside from the Qin Family, there were quite a few people from the Sun Family in the room.

If it really came down to a fight, it was still uncertain who would win.

Seeing what Sun Lanlan was getting at, Sun Bingwen, annoyed, pulled his sleeve away and whispered sternly, "You better behave yourself, don't act recklessly just because you're close to the boss, we should be grateful for how he treats our family. Isn't there a saying? 'Do not grow arrogant on account of favor.'"

Sun Lanlan held her belly, shaking with laughter, "Wow, big brother, getting cultured, are we? 'Growing arrogant on account of favor,' look at you."

Sun Bingshan ground his teeth in annoyance, just about to teach his clueless sister a lesson when he caught his brother-in-law's somewhat unsatisfied gaze fixed on her.

The look gave him goosebumps.

He quickly leaned away to the side, better to avoid trouble if he could.

What if he upset his sister and the brother-in-law made things difficult for him later?

Their chicken farms still needed to send chickens to the Xiyang Food Factory.

After the simple opening remarks, Lin Chuxia handed out a big red envelope to everyone present.

The festival was already a joyful and lively occasion, and Lin Chuxia didn't want to make the atmosphere too formal.

Su Wensong had invited two chefs to take care of the cooking, so by the time their meeting finished, the dishes were served on the table.

While eating and drinking, the noise and excitement picked up again.

Lin Chuxia sat next to Sun Lanlan, who was now over 8 months pregnant, looking like she was carrying a ball.

Lin Chuxia knew that she was still working at the Bun Shop, and even though Su Wensong couldn't persuade her to stop, he directly ordered her.

After the Spring Festival, she must stay at home and rest until the birth, and the affairs of the Bun Shop would be handed over to someone else temporarily.

Lin Chuxia poked her belly with a bit of annoyance, "Don't say you're worried about not getting the authority back once you hand it over, the temporary manager will be chosen by you. Once you're ready after having the baby and have time to spare, you can decide when you want to go back to work, and the position of the store manager will still be yours."

## Chapter 395: Planting Fruit Trees

Sun Lanlan hugged her arm emotionally, "Xiaxia, why are you so good to me?"

"I only have you as a good sister, who else should I be good to if not you?"

Lin Chuxia gave her many more dishes, "Eat up, don't starve the baby in your belly."

As Sun Lanlan ate, she glanced at her flat stomach and asked softly, "Are you and Mr. Qin not planning to have children yet? I was thinking if both our children are boys, they can be brothers, if both are girls, they can be sisters, and if one's a boy and one's a girl, we could even arrange a future match."

"Arranged marriages are an old feudal custom, we shouldn't practice that anymore."

However, Lin Chuxia was also somewhat looking forward to it; it seemed that she and Qin Yang should consider having a child too.

After dinner, Lin Chuxia called Sun Bingwen and Sun Bingshan aside again.

She could tell they were a bit uncomfortable at the gathering today.

Some things might be better said to them in private.

"Big brother, second brother, did you both eat well just now?"

During the meal, she saw others toasting to the two of them, and they did not decline, drinking quite earnestly.

"Yep, we ate well, everyone was good."

Lin Chuxia smiled, "Big brother, second brother, we are all colleagues here, you don't have to be so formal. Also, as I mentioned earlier, the scale of the chicken farm will expand next year. You two will be in charge of personnel by then. When the chicken farm was just built, we had nothing, and I was also running workshop production. Now that Xiyang Food Factory is on the right track, and the chicken farm is a supply industry for Xiyang Food Factory, we need to formalize step by step. Big brother and second

brother, as the leaders of the chicken farm, it's time you had a title too, that would make things easier for you no matter what."

Lin Chuxia said this, and Sun Bingwen and Sun Bingshan exchanged glances.

They were clear about Lin Chuxia's intentions; in a room full of factory directors and store managers, directors, and managers, only they had no title.

But Sun Bingwen still scratched the back of his head sheepishly, "What do we need a title for? Does raising chickens need a title?"

"Of course, you and second brother are the ones in charge of the chicken farm. As more people get hired, having a title makes it easier to manage them."

"Then we'll do as you say," Sun Bingwen smiled naively.

Lin Chuxia then called Sun Bingnan over, and as he came over, so did Sun Lanlan. When Sun Lanlan came, Su Wensong also came.

Looking at the whole family in front of her, Lin Chuxia couldn't help laughing, but there were still matters at hand that needed to be discussed.

"Here's the thing, starting next year, the two chicken farms will be managed separately. Big brother and second brother, you'll both be farm managers. Also, I plan to plant fruit trees on the hilltops of the chicken farm. Third brother, you'll be in charge of this. After the new year, hand over what you're doing to someone capable and get ready for this. Do you have any issue with that?"

"No problem!"

Sun Bingnan agreed without hesitation.

Sun Lanlan asked curiously, "What kind of fruit trees are you planning to plant?"



"Yellow peaches."

Lin Chuxia had been reading about planting recently, including fruit tree cultivation.

Yellow peach trees are very suitable for their region; if managed well, they can bear fruit in 2 to 3 years.

The others exchanged glances without prior agreement.

Sun Bingwen and Sun Bingshan had always lived in the village, and Daqing Mountain Village had several mountains; fruit tree planting had been done since the production team's time.

There were pear, peach, apricot, and plum trees, but no yellow peach trees.

"Sis... I mean, Mr. Lin, are you sure about yellow peaches? We don't have any around here."

Sun Bingshan also spoke up, "That's right, Mr. Lin, folks around here only know about hairy peaches. To say something uncultured, I've grown up here and I don't even know what a yellow peach looks like."

If we end up cultivating them with great effort and no one buys them, unsold, wouldn't that just be a complete waste.

Lin Chuxia was aware that there were no yellow peaches in their local area, but her intention to grow yellow peaches wasn't to sell them as fruit.

"No worries, I have my own reasons for planting yellow peaches. The biggest difficulty isn't whether people recognize them or not, but rather the issue of obtaining quality saplings and mastering the cultivation techniques."

She looked towards Sun Bingnan with a slight smile, "Third Brother, I've prepared quite a few books for you."

Sun Bingnan didn't mind at all, "Don't worry, sis. Just chart the path for Third Brother. Even if it's through fire and knives, I'll forge ahead."

Sun Bingnan had worked with Lin Chuxia for a long time and knew her well.

Whenever she set out to do something, she never just talked big—she made it happen.

In the afternoon, with nothing much to do, Lin Chuxia encouraged everyone to disperse early.

After a year of busyness, they all looked forward to going home, resting well, and having a relaxed New Year.

After the others left, Sun Bingnan approached her, "Mr. Lin, about those books you mentioned, can I have them now?"

He chuckled, "After all, it's idle time during the New Year, I might as well start reading the books first."

Lin Chuxia wanted him to have a steady New Year and had planned to talk about this matter after the holiday. But since he was keen, she was happy to comply.

"Sure, get in the car. Come home with me to get them," the books were still at the Qin Family's place.

Sun Bingnan turned to push his bicycle, "You go ahead by car; I'll follow shortly."

Lin Chuxia arrived home first and found all the books related to yellow peach tree cultivation, handing them directly to Sun Bingnan when he arrived.

"I have a friend in the Northwest, and Qin Yang also has some connections there. There are quite a few yellow peach plantations in that region. You'll go there to learn for a while when the time comes. And as for the saplings, we've already made contact with the suppliers."

Jia Yuanliang called before New Year to discuss the bun shop and to wish her a happy New Year incidentally. Lin Chuxia took the opportunity to mention yellow peach cultivation.

During her visit to the Northwest to see Qin Yang, she had seen quite a few yellow peach plantations.

When Jia Yuanliang heard that Lin Chuxia wanted to plant yellow peaches, he generously offered to take care of it.

He said it was enough to just talk to his older brother, Jia Yuanliang.

With limited time before the holiday, she wasn't entirely sure how much pull Jia Yuanliang could have, but it didn't matter. When the time came, she would send Sun Bingnan over. If the Jia brothers couldn't handle it, Qin Yang indeed still had some connections.

Hearing that Lin Chuxia had everything planned out, Sun Bingnan knew their Mr. Lin was reliable.

"Alright, I'll go after the fifth day of the New Year."

It was better to act sooner rather than later. The earlier the preparations, the better the chance to get the trees planted by spring.

Before Sun Bingnan left with the books, something suddenly occurred to him.

"I heard the vegetable station is not doing well, and they haven't paid wages for several months this winter, even resorting to layoffs. A few days ago, I saw Wang Cheng repairing bikes by the roadside. I don't know if he was laid off or just trying to earn a bit extra to support his family. I was driving by and only caught a glimpse."

Sun Bingnan felt somewhat sentimental about this.

Thinking back to the days when these enterprises were so prosperous, with the planned economy controlling all supplies and sales, farmers had to look up to them for everything.

And look at the state they're in now.

Thinking about the fates of those laid-off workers, Lin Chuxia felt that being able to find some livelihood was already quite good.

"Okay, I've got it."

Chapter 396: When did the village chief learn to change faces?

Lin Chuxia didn't take Wang Cheng's situation to heart after hearing about it.

Firstly, as society progresses, more and more units like food distribution stations will be eliminated, and there will be increasingly more laid-off workers.

This is an inevitable result of social development, and she, a small individual trader, cannot influence it.

Qin Yang didn't go anywhere today; he was preparing New Year's goods with Mr. Qin, Mrs. Qin, and Qin Juan.

The tofu they had ordered two days ago was delivered early in the morning.

Fried goods are a necessity every year.

In the past, the family was poor, and the amount of meat distributed by the production team was limited, generally not too much.

To satisfy their cravings, every household liked to make fried goods.

Now that the living conditions have improved, Mr. Qin and Mrs. Qin still feel that it's not quite New Year without these items prepared.

When Lin Chuxia arrived home, the whole courtyard was filled with the strong aroma of food that had been deep-fried, making one's mouth water.

Zhuangzhuang and Little Ningning were playing in the courtyard, and Yuan Bao was looking after the two children, occasionally joining in their play.

Zhuangzhuang saw Lin Chuxia returning, ran over hopping, and said, "Little Auntie, Grandma made a lot of delicious food," patting his round belly, "I don't need to eat lunch today."

Lin Chuxia ruffled his small head, "Is that so? Then I need to make something delicious for dinner."

Zhuangzhuang looked up with incredulous wide eyes, as if to protest what kind of aunt you are.

Lin Chuxia laughed heartily at his reaction.

Hearing the noise, Qin Yang came out of the house carrying a basin of water.

His mother and older sister were frying things, and he and his father were butchering a chicken.

"I'm back."

Lin Chuxia responded with a smile and headed into the kitchen to help.

Qin Juan immediately stopped her, "We're almost done. Stay back, don't get oil splashed on you."

Mrs. Qin handed her a bowl of fried meatballs, "Your favorite meatballs; both meat and vegetarian ones are there. You can tell, the ones with carrots are vegetarian, those are tofu meatballs, and the darkest

ones are meat. You probably didn't eat well at lunch today, go and tide yourself over with these while they're still warm. We'll be frying the skewers in a bit and call you when they're ready."

Lin Chuxia took the bowl with a smile, "Thanks, Mom, I want lots of sesame on my skewers."

Mrs. Qin's face beamed with affection, "I remember. Speaking of which, your sister also likes it this way. When she was little, she always liked to add extra sesame. Back then, the production team couldn't even distribute two pounds of sesame seeds in a whole year; we couldn't afford sesame oil and just used it to make sesame salt to satisfy our cravings..."

Qin Juan joined in the conversation, "Every time I said that, Mom would make me two with extra sesame, and after frying them, she secretly gave them to me. Looks like today Mom has to hide a few more."

Mrs. Qin glanced at her with a smile, "There's no need to hide. This year, our fields are all planted with crops, but we planted a mu of sesame. Today, I'll add lots of sesame for you to enjoy."

"Mom, I also want to eat the sesame salt."

Not thinking about it, she didn't miss it, but when mentioned, Lin Chuxia started to crave the taste.

Our own home-grown sesame seeds, toasted golden in the pan, finely ground into powder, and mixed with fine salt.

When drinking corn soup, just sprinkle a layer on top.

The aroma of sesame combined with the aroma of corn, it's simply the taste of childhood.

Qin Juan also chimed in, "Mom, I want some too."

"Alright, we'll make some tonight," Mrs. Qin responded with a smile.

Having a daughter-in-law who acts without reserve and a daughter who, after many years, is once again childishly making requests.

Mrs. Qin, smiling and smiling, felt her eyes sour.

This really is a good life she never even dreamed of before.

These past few days, she had noticed that her daughter and Ningning, after the divorce, had become more cheerful and confident; their faces smiled more often.

The daughter-in-law not only brought prosperity to their lives but also rescued her daughter from that wolf den.

"By the end of the year, I had exchanged several bottles of sesame oil and sesame paste, when you leave, take them with you. The sesame oil ground at home is pure."

While several people were talking inside the house, Qin Han came in from outside.

He returned only after Zhang Guilan and everyone else left and he had finished tidying up.

Qin Han looked at Lin Chuxia, his expression somewhat grave.

"Little sister, when I came back just now, I ran into the village chief. It seems the chief knows about our company gathering today. He asked me to tell you to visit him tomorrow if you have time."

"What's the matter?" Mrs. Qin, looking worried, asked her eldest son.

Lin Chuxia had already guessed the underlying implications and reassured Mrs. Qin, "What could happen? At most, Uncle Qin felt a bit offended because the pig farm wasn't invited to today's company gathering."

Qin Han glanced at Lin Chuxia, surprised that she had guessed it so quickly.

"The chief does seem to have that intent, and I'm worried about what he might say to you tomorrow..." what he might say that could be unpleasant.

Lin Chuxia was not worried at all, "No, the chief isn't that kind of person."

The village chief might have a stern face and say a few harsh words to Qin Han, probably just putting on some pressure out of concern that he wouldn't comply otherwise.

The village chief is Qin Han's elder and has watched him grow up. Having been respected in the village for so many years, Qin Han has to listen to whatever he says.

In the end, it's just to scare him slightly.

If she really goes tomorrow, she expects the village chief to greet her with nothing but smiles.

Qin Han was unsure, after all, from childhood onwards they had always followed the chief's commands.

Especially when they were children, Qin Shusen was the brigade leader, and the entire village's livelihood depended on his orders.

The childhood shadows still made Qin Han a bit afraid of the chief.

Lin Chuxia also wanted to connect with the village chief. Seeing Qin Han's uneasy attitude, she simply said, "Big brother, come with me tomorrow."

Qin Han was momentarily surprised, glanced at his younger brother, "Aren't you going to invite the second brother?"

Qin Yang also looked over, not that he wanted to go, but if his wife needed him, he could back her up.



Lin Chuxia gave him a smile, "Let it be, he should stay with mom and dad. He wouldn't be able to contribute much to our matters, and it would be awkward for him."

Qin Han knew his younger brother's character, "Okay, then I'll go with you."

If the village chief makes things difficult for his sister-in-law, he could also speak up.

By the next day, when it was about time, Lin Chuxia and Qin Han, carrying two bottles of wine, went to the village chief's house.

As soon as they entered the yard, they could hear the lively chatter inside the house.

Then they saw the people in the house, who all came out to greet them.

Leading them, the village chief, all smiles, said, "I was just saying why haven't you arrived yet, if you didn't come soon I'd have to shed my old face and come to your house to invite you personally. Come inside, come inside, it's warm inside."

Following beside Lin Chuxia, an anxious Qin Han, "..."

Yesterday your attitude was not like this, when did the chief learn to change faces?

At that moment, the chief walking in front glanced back at Qin Han with a cunning smile.

Village Chief: ￣^￣￣￣

Qin Han: 〇人〇

Inside the house, there were many visitors today, all village cadres were present, and also included was Qin Jiang, the person in charge of the chicken farm.

The pig farm is currently managed by the director of public security, Sun Guodong.

Qin Jiang saw Lin Chuxia, greeted her with a slight nod, and Lin Chuxia also nodded back at him, acknowledging the greeting.

### Chapter 397: The Entire Village Prospers

Today, it's just everyone gathering together to eat and drink.

The village chief's wife and her daughter Yufeng, along with the security director's wife, started bustling in the kitchen early in the morning.

By now, they had prepared a big table full of dishes, with several main courses.

Everyone had arrived, eating and chatting together.

As soon as the village chief opened his mouth, he sounded sour, "I heard that your bunch had a New Year's meal together, so what, the pig farm is no longer your business?"

Although it's a bit out of place for an old man to be sitting with young people,

Having Guo Dong participate represents a closer connection between Qin Family Village and Xiyang Food Company.

Even though pigs have a long cycle and their pig farm hasn't yet had pigs ready for market,

Those dozens of fat pigs are already well-fed and robust, with two sows having already stirred trouble by getting pregnant, so by next year, the income from their pig farm will definitely not be less than that from the poultry farm.

Qin Shusen saw it clearly; as long as Qin Family Village can rely on Xiyang, they can truly lead the entire village to wealth.

To rely on Xiyang, you have to maintain a good relationship with Lin Chuxia.

Frankly speaking, as long as this girl takes a few extra glances at Qin Family Village, fortune will follow for them.

So, yesterday Qin Shusen thought about, by any means necessary, inviting Lin Chuxia to today's event.

Lin Chuxia smiled as she raised her glass, "It was my oversight, this drink is to apologize."

The village chief was satisfied. He also knew how could a pig farm compare to her other ventures?

But as long as Lin Chuxia still takes him, the village chief, seriously, he's content.

"Not an apology per se, you have your team and we in Qin Family Village have our industries too. Today you're part of our team, which makes us alike."

"Uncle Qin speaks the truth, whether I'm a villager of Qin Family Village or an investor in the pig farm, I'm part of your team."

Qin Shusen knew Lin Chuxia was articulate, but her words always seemed so fitting.

"Ah, let's not talk about that anymore, let's drink."

Everyone drank and spoke, and the topic naturally turned to the industries of Qin Family Village.

Since the establishment of the pig farm, Lin Chuxia had invested money but hadn't really paid attention to the pig farm.

Other things were manageable, but there was one thing the village chief wanted to mention to Lin Chuxia.

"Initially you said to raise the two breeding pigs together, they're still kept in the same pen. It's been over half a year, the breeding pig I bought from the breeding station now weighs nearly 200 lbs. The one Qin Wen bought for our brigade is probably not even 110 lbs, compared to that pig, it's like grandpa to grandson. I happened to run into Qin Wen a few days ago, called him to the pig farm, so he could see for himself and avoid any misunderstanding that it was our fault, these two pigs were raised and fed together without any difference in treatment."

Initially, when he discovered there was a problem with the breeding pig, he called Lin Chuxia for advice, and Lin promptly decided to buy another breeding pig from the breeding station.

Qin Wen knew this and made a big fuss at Lin's house, as if he had been wronged.

Without Lin's quick decision, just relying on the pig Qin Wen bought, even slaughtering it for meat would have been slow.

Later, Lin suggested raising the two pigs together, and the village chief had been harboring resentment about this issue, now he finally released it.

"Qin Wen saw the pig and admitted his fault, said he was deceived, the money already given to the other party, and he couldn't afford another 80 yuan," Qin Jiang was still at the dinner table, so the village chief refrained from speaking harshly.

Lin Chuxia appeared indifferent, "Hmm, as long as he knows he wasn't wronged, that's fine, just slaughter that pig, there's no need to keep it."

Qin Jiang discreetly glanced at his younger sister and, seeing her glass empty, picked up the teapot and poured her a glass of water.

After discussing the past year, they began to look forward to the future.

Lin Chuxia took the opportunity to talk to the village chief about off-season vegetables, which she had planned to discuss with him anyway, especially since all the village cadres were present.

The village chief perked up immediately upon hearing about farming.

They are vegetable farmers, and farming is their traditional livelihood.

Although Qin Family Village now has Xiyang Food Factory, as well as chicken and pig farms, these industries are only suitable for the younger people.

There are over 500 households and more than 2000 people in Qin Family Village, and most of them are still farming.

"Girl, talk to your uncle properly about this, explain how exactly we can grow these off-season vegetables."

Lin Chuxia put down her chopsticks and started talking about greenhouse farming.

Greenhouse farming, also known as facility-based vegetable cultivation, was already practiced to some extent, mainly focusing on windbreaks and sunbeds.

Regreening spinach in spring is a typical example of windbreak facility vegetables.

In the fall, before winter, spinach is sown; although it can grow at this time, it grows slowly, reaching about one centimeter, then in winter, freeze water is applied and windbreaks are set up.

Most of the cornstalk windbreaks occasionally seen in the fields are used for growing spinach.

When spring comes, because of these windbreaks, the temperature around the spinach will be slightly warmer, and the spinach will grow a bit faster.

However, this bit faster only cuts the time by about 10 to 15 days.

Sunbeds operate on a similar principle.

Both use the existing natural conditions for "early maturation in spring" and "extended harvest in fall" for certain vegetables, but cannot achieve true off-season cultivation.

Lin Chuxia remembered that real off-season vegetable cultivation began in the early 90s.

As bona fide vegetable farmers, the people of Qin Family Village had a deeper understanding of farming, and many were still planting windbreak spinach, so when she brought up the idea of vegetable greenhouses, almost everyone present understood.

"I think this is feasible. Village chief, I think we can do it," accountant Qin Ming was the first to speak, his voice tinged with excitement.

Sun Guodong also looked at the village chief eagerly, "I think it's feasible too. Ever since the market opened up, whatever we plant in the village is a gamble, sometimes making money, sometimes not. Most importantly, the land lies idle for almost half a year, if we really get the vegetable greenhouses going, enriching the whole village wouldn't be just talk."

Enriching the whole village.

Qin Shusen yearned for these words.

Isn't that why he has been so active all these years?

"Let's do it!"

The village chief said and then looked towards the party secretary.

The party secretary, being the eldest, although not as quick to accept new things as the others, knocked his tobacco pipe and seriously returned the word, "Do it."

Lin Chuxia knew this would be the outcome, smiling knowingly and raising her glass, "Then here's to our success."

"Good."

"Here's to success."

"It will definitely be a success!"

...

The conversation that followed revolved around the vegetable greenhouse.

The villagers of Qin Family Village were already vegetable farmers, so there was no need for much guidance in farming itself; they just needed technical guidance in terms of greenhouse construction and temperature control inside the greenhouse.

Lin Chuxia discussed these issues with the few people present.

#### Chapter 398: Something Meaningful

Among these people were the elderly Party Secretary, the village chief in his forties and fifties, and the accounting and security director in their prime, along with the two brothers, Qin Jiang and Qin Han.

They could almost represent the understanding of all the villagers.

After some discussion, combined with the data she researched during this period, Lin Chuxia realized that starting a greenhouse vegetable farming operation in Qin Family Village was much easier than she had imagined.

The meal took a long time, and the discussion continued after the meal until the sky gradually darkened. Qin Yang came over, concerned, and it was only then Lin Chuxia realized how long the discussion had gone on.

Even so, everyone seemed to want more, and their eyes were shining incredibly brightly.

It could be said that the more they discussed it, the more enthusiastic everyone became about the greenhouse vegetable farming.

However, it was getting late, and with the Spring Festival around the corner, the remaining tasks could only be implemented step by step after the festival.

"Qin Yang, you really have the ability, not only are you the pride of our Qin Family Village, but you've also brought us such a golden phoenix. You and Lin are both big benefactors to our Qin Family Village."

The village chief was inexpressibly moved.

Qin Yang knew that Lin Chuxia must have discussed the greenhouse vegetable farming with the village chief, and from their spirited discussion, he knew his wife had got the matter settled.

It must be said that this matter was an excellent opportunity for the whole village, and the benefits his wife could gain from it were minimal.

Especially the initial investment, which would be supported by his wife, and if anything unforeseen happened with the greenhouse vegetable project, she would bear all the losses.

It can be said that she did all this for the villagers of Qin Family Village.



Seeing his wife poring over planting materials night and day a while ago, he had asked out of curiosity why she wanted to do this.

His wife always said that she was a businesswoman and that the most crucial thing for businesspeople was profit.

Whether it's the Bun Shop, Xiyang Food Factory, or their chicken farm, even investing in Qin Family Village's pig farm, they are all profitable enterprises.

Building the greenhouse vegetables was just to support the villagers of Qin Family Village, and she would bear the risks.

He remembered his wife telling him that when pursuing profits, one should always do something meaningful.

At that moment, Qin Yang understood that this was the meaningful thing she was talking about.

Leading all the villagers towards food security and wealth.

.....

This year is Xiao Jin, the twelfth lunar month has only twenty-nine days, and the twenty-ninth is also the New Year's Eve.

Yesterday, after returning from the village chief's house, dinner was already prepared at home, and after dinner, everyone hurried to rest.

Since Lin Chuxia came back, she hadn't been busy, but there seemed to be endless chores every day, and Mrs. Qin felt sorry for her and hardly let her do any housework.

This year, Qin Juan was at home, her sister-in-law was pregnant, her sister was busy, and almost all the housework fell to her.

But she enjoyed it.

In the past, even though there were fewer people in the Zhang Family than in the Qin Family, all the chores were on her shoulders, and she had to carefully budget the money she was given, which was really exhausting.

At her parents' home, neither her mother nor her elder sister-in-law would let her do much work even if she wanted to.

Her father and brothers would also lend a hand, and even her 6-year-old nephew knew to help sweep the floor.

She hadn't felt such an atmosphere in many years and cherished it immensely.

After Lin Chuxia got up, she didn't rush to the kitchen to help.

She poked around here a while, tidied up there a bit, and occasionally turned back to glance at Qin Yang.

"Aren't you going to wash up?"

It's cold outside, but the house had a stove and hot water, so washing up in the winter was done inside the house.

Qin Yang took a cup and began drinking water, "I'm about to wash."

While he said he'd wash, he showed no signs of doing so after finishing his water.

Instead, he asked her, "Aren't you going to check the kitchen? Mom and the others should be done with cooking by now."

"Oh, if it's done, then I don't need to go."

Lin Chuxia held back a laugh, but eventually, she couldn't help but break into giggles under Qin Yang's speechless gaze.

Qin Yang paid no attention, took a washbasin, and went to wash his face.

Men always wash their faces quickly, not needing hot water—just scooping a couple of ladles of cold water from the bucket, they'd be done with a "splish-splash."

After washing, he provocatively glanced at Lin Chuxia.

Lin Chuxia: (\*´ ۞ `\*)

Seemingly unable to bear his wife's disappointment, Qin Yang gave a helpless sigh in the end.

"It's all matters of many years past. Mom is old-fashioned, and these outdated customs should change."

Don't think he didn't know—his wife wanted to see him wash his face while turning in circles.

Who knows who she heard it from last year; she must have been thinking about it for a year now.

Lin Chuxia sighed dejectedly, "I actually think that having these customs is good. It is precisely because of these various customs that our holidays feel meaningful. Nowadays, people's daily lives are generally not so good, but at least they can look forward to eating some fish and meat during festivals, wearing new clothes. Once people's lives improve to the point where they can eat fish and meat every day, wear new clothes whenever they want, without these customs, what would be the meaning of celebrating the New Year? Wouldn't it just be like any typical day?"

Qin Yang thought his wife was dreaming.

Fish and meat every day? What kind of households are those?

Not to mention wearing new clothes whenever one wishes.

Given their country's supply situation, being able to ensure food and clothing for over a billion people is already impressive—wearing new clothes every day would simply be wasteful.

But whatever the wife says goes. If she likes these old customs, then they shall carry them on.

Let's start with washing the face.

"How about I teach you how to wash your face on New Year's Eve morning?"

Lin Chuxia:  $\{ (1, \cdot, 1) \}$

She just wanted to see him wash his face while turning in circles for fun, not to be watched.

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After fooling around in the room, hearing the increasing bustle outside, they quickly left the room as well.

Mrs. Qin, her eldest daughter-in-law, and eldest niece were making breakfast in the kitchen, while the little ones Ningning and Zhuangzhuang had also gotten up early and were chasing each other around the yard.

Yuan Bao, following the two little ones, was also extremely happy.

Seeing Qin Yang and Lin Chuxia come out, Zhuangzhuang and Ningning ran over.

"Little Uncle, Grandpa said that we can put up the couplets once you two are up. Shall we do it now? Ningning and I both want to put up the couplets."

He's a first-grade elementary student now, having learned many characters, and wouldn't be fooled by his father into sticking an image of a fat pig filling the pen on the headboard of the bed like last year.

Qin Yang replied with a smile, "Sure, let's do it together."

The couplets had been written the day before by Qin Yang himself.

Lin Chuxia was going to the kitchen to help with the paste, and Zhang Guilan had prepared it early in the morning, handing it directly to her.

Lin Chuxia looked around but didn't see Qin Han.

In previous years, Qin Han was very eager to participate in the pasting of the couplets, but this year he seemed quite unusual.

So she casually asked, "Where's eldest brother?"

Zhang Guilan hadn't intended to tell Lin Chuxia about this, but since she asked, Zhang Guilan did not hide it.

"Gosh, your eldest brother is brooding over things again. He didn't sleep well last night, and I reckon he hasn't come out from his funk yet."

Lin Chuxia recalled that yesterday she and Qin Han had visited the village chief's house together, not noticing any issues.

Why had he become so troubled after returning home?

"Did he encounter some issue?"

Mrs. Qin and Qin Juan also looked over, as they genuinely did not know what was troubling their eldest son (eldest brother).

During the New Year celebrations, the whole family should be happily together.

Knowing she had to clarify, so as not to worry the family further, Zhang Guilan sighed helplessly.

"Sister-in-law, I think you're the only one who can persuade him. Otherwise, when we go to the graveyard later, our ancestors might think something serious has happened to our family."

Chapter 399: Despicable Bone

Yesterday, Qin Han heard that Lin Chuxia wanted to set up a vegetable greenhouse with the villagers, and he was intrigued.

Having been influenced by those around him since childhood, Qin Han had always loved gardening.

During dinner yesterday, the idea of a vegetable greenhouse was brought up, and he was very interested in this new venture and wanted to give it a try.

However, Qin Han also knew that he was indispensable at the Bun Shop.

How could he just abandon the Bun Shop, which his younger sister had entrusted him with, to return to farming?

Last night, Zhang Guilan both persuaded and scolded him, calling him a fool.

Many people who wanted to quit farming for office jobs couldn't find the opportunity.

Now he had a good position as a manager, not only earning a salary but also sharing in the profits of the shop.

Such opportunities were rare, yet he was still not satisfied and wanted to go back to farming.

Qin Han knew this, so he was even more conflicted.

On one hand, he felt that he should manage the shop well for his younger sister; on the other hand, he was drawn to what he loved doing.

Upon hearing this, Lin Chuxia smiled and said, "Alright, call your brother out then. I'll have a word with him."

Zhang Guilan responded, handed her the prepared dough, and quickly went inside to call Qin Han.

Lin Chuxia let the two children work with Qin Yang on their calligraphy and went to the main hall to wait.

Qin Han arrived still looking puzzled, "Did my younger sister need me for something?"

"Big brother, your sister-in-law just shared your thoughts with me."

Upon hearing this, Qin Han glanced at Zhang Guilan, then hurriedly said to Lin Chuxia, "Younger sister, don't listen to her nonsense. I was just mumbling. Being a manager is such a great thing; I wouldn't let it go."

"Really? I was actually planning to let sister-in-law take over the Bun Shop, and you could come help me with the village matters. It seems I thought too much. I'll find someone else from the village then."

"Ah?" Qin Han was taken aback, a look of surprise on his face, "Younger sister, you mean you want me to come back to the village to manage the vegetable greenhouse?"

Lin Chuxia shook her head, "Managing the vegetable greenhouse might not fulfill your wish, brother. Actually, I plan to open an agricultural supply store in the village, and I want you to manage it."

A vegetable greenhouse would certainly be considered a novelty, requiring both technical support and a variety of facilities, as well as good strains of off-season vegetables.

Rather than letting the villagers blindly struggle to find what they need, it made more sense to solve the problems from the source.

Initially disheartened by Lin Chuxia's rejection, Qin Han perked up upon hearing the rest, "Alright, anything related to gardening works for me."

He was almost stifled working daily at the Bun Shop.

He was naturally not suited for detailed work.

But an agricultural supply station was different; whether it was seeds, pesticides, or fertilizers, he knew them well.

He was also interested in growing off-season vegetables. Even if he wasn't allowed to farm himself, just being involved with the villagers in the daily affairs would keep him motivated.

Zhang Guilan watched as her husband quickly came out, his mood having transformed completely, in stark contrast to just a moment before.

Lin Chuxia was straightforward in handling affairs, so while talking to Zhang Guilan, she shared her plans.

"I'm just not sure if sister-in-law's health will be up to it. If not..."

"What wouldn't be up to it?" Zhang Guilan interrupted Lin Chuxia before she could finish.

"I'm pregnant with my second child; I have experience. Don't worry, I even worked in the production team during the first few days of my pregnancy with Zhuangzhuang."



"Alright, that's settled then. When Wu's wife can start working again, she can help you out for a few months."

Both Lan Chuxia's elder brother and sister-in-law, and Wu and his wife, are people Lan Chuxia trusts.

"Don't talk about work during the festival; it's time to eat."

Qin Yang came over to call Lan Chuxia after he finished putting up the couplets.

They went to the kitchen to serve dishes, and Zhang Guilan gave Qin Han a meaningful look, "Are you satisfied now? It's only because your sister-in-law is easy-going. If it were someone else, giving them such a good job and still being ungrateful, you wouldn't have such good days."

Even the manager position didn't impress him; has he gotten arrogant?

Qin Han scratched his head with a smile, feeling a bit capricious about the whole thing, but indeed his sister-in-law is a kind person.

"Who else do we have such good fortune with than such a sister-in-law?"

Zhang Guilan nudged him with her arm, "Then, you better behave yourself. Your sister-in-law entrusted the agricultural supply store to you, and you must do well; don't think about doing anything fishy."

"I wouldn't dare. I'll definitely take good care of the agricultural supply store and earn her some good money."

With this matter settled, Qin Han was particularly proactive and energetic in everything he did today.

Even his parents were getting a bit fed up with their eldest son.

Lan Chuxia was somewhat unable to understand Qin Han's thoughts, apologizing to Qin Yang, "I originally thought having the big brother help manage the Bun Shop would let him learn something and make more money, but I didn't expect it would constrain him."

Qin Yang looked disdainful, "Don't take his words to heart. He just loves farming and everything about it. When he was a kid at school, studying was all frowns for him, but talk about working in the fields, and he was all ears. Probably his grandparents influenced him; they valued the land too much."

"I don't take it to heart. It's good for Big Brother to be this way; I am planning on setting up a vegetable greenhouse and need someone just like him."

Qin Yang smiled, turned to Qin Han and said, "Big bro, I have lots of books on vegetable cultivation in my room, want to take a look?"

Qin Han's eyes lit up immediately, "When did you start liking these books, little brother?"

Zhang Guilan smiled and slapped him lightly, "You think everyone's like you?" That book was definitely bought by his sister-in-law.

Qin Han also realized he'd gotten a bit too excited today.

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In the evening, after dinner, the family started watching the Spring Festival Gala.

Lan Chuxia had bought a television for Qin Father and Qin Mother, and Qin Han had bought them a radio last year.

Nowadays, the elders lived a unique life in Qin Family Village.

Little Zhuangzhuang, who couldn't sit still, dragged his dad out into the yard to set off fireworks and called Ningning to join.

Outside, fireworks popped continuously while Little Ningning watched with wide hopeful eyes.

Qin Juan patted her little head, "Ningning, be good. Let's just watch TV inside."

A shadow fell over Ningning's eyes as she softly agreed, "Okay."

Little Zhuangzhuang wouldn't accept this; he had been inseparable from Sister Ningning these past few days. How could he leave her behind on such a fun occasion as setting off fireworks?

He grabbed Ningning's little hand, "Sister Ningning, let's go, let's go. My dad will set off big fireworks for us, and I can set off my little red fireworks for you too."

Mrs. Qin also chimed in, "Juanzi, let the children go play. Why restrain her during the festival?"

"Exactly, with all the excitement outside, how can the kids stay in?" Zhang Guilan also added.

Qin Juan looked at her mother and lowered her voice to remind, "Mom, I am a married daughter, and a married daughter can't come and step on her parental home's threshold during New Year's."

Chapter 400: Hello, 1987!

Mrs. Qin's complexion instantly changed as she too thought of this aspect and subconsciously glanced towards Zhang Guilan and Lin Chuxia.

According to local customs, married daughters should not return to their parents' home for the Spring Festival.

Even if they had to return home for some reason, they should not be present at their parental home on New Year's Eve, as it was believed to "step on" the blessings of her brothers for the coming year.

By evening, the courtyard was strewn with sesame stalks, symbolizing a rising fortune.

Zhang Guilan and Lin Chuxia were both aware of this belief but voiced their disagreement.

"Juanzi, those words are alienating; remember, from now on you are a part of the Qin Family."

"Yes, elder sister, we're all your kin, and how could family concern themselves with these baseless superstitions? If you keep feeling like an outsider, that's what truly hurts the hearts of your relatives."

Mrs. Qin's eyes were already reddening. She pained for her daughter but took solace in having daughters-in-law who were understanding and genuinely did not disdain her.

Qin Juan held back her tears and nodded firmly, "I understand, I was overthinking it."

In her 8 years of marriage to Zhang Wenbin, she had always been extremely cautious, for fear of upsetting her mother-in-law.

Yet in this home, whether it was her parents, brothers, or sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, none had ever looked down on her.

Qin Juan finally realized what true kinship was.

Little Zhuangzhuang, being particularly good at reading the room, grabbed Ningning and ran outside, "Let's go, let's go set off firecrackers."

Lin Chuxia also took Qin Juan by the hand, "Come on, let's go have a look."

Qin Juan smiled and nodded, "Sure, let's go have a look."

This year, Qin Yang specifically bought whistling rockets in the city.

Qin Yang handed out one to everyone; when the fuse was lit, it shot up with a whoosh and burst open midair, showering the sky with colors; truly beautiful to behold.

Zhuangzhuang and Little Ningning were hopping and clapping joyously.

Lin Chuxia, listening to the intermittent sounds of firecrackers from afar and watching this heartwarming scene.

Another new year had arrived.

Hello, 1987!

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On the fifth day after the New Year, after eating the Day Breaker dumplings, the village loudspeaker suddenly started broadcasting, calling for all the villagers to attend a community meeting.

During the production team era, the loudspeaker was busiest around the holidays.

Whether it was dividing this or that or mobilizing the team members for temporary tasks, everything depended on the loudspeaker announcements.

Ever since the household contract responsibility system was implemented, and the land was in the hands of the farmers themselves, who made their own decisions, the role of the production team dwindled.

Especially during the festive season, when it was typically the quietest period.

However, ever since the establishment of Xiyang Food Factory, chicken farms, and pig farms in Qin Family Village, the villagers reached a consensus.

When the village chief calls, one must attend.

In no time, one by one, they gathered at the grain drying yard in front of the team headquarters.

The winter sun in the afternoon was warm, and everyone, wearing new cotton clothes made for the festival, huddled with hands in their pockets, exchanged New Year's greetings, and were curious about the village chief's summons.

At this moment, the village chief was still inside the house with other village cadres. Lin Chuxia, Qin Yang, Qin Han, and Qin Jiang were also there.

This community meeting had already been planned before the festival.

Lin Chuxia intended to promote vegetable greenhouses in Qin Family Village, a concept that was not only novel but also not a simple endeavor.

First, the initial investment for the vegetable greenhouses needs to be addressed—it's no small sum. Without seeing any return yet, it is nearly impossible to expect villagers to commit such an amount to invest in the greenhouses.

Even if some people are willing to take the risk, just a few households participating is not what they wanted to see.

Lin Chuxia has decided that for the villagers participating in the construction of the vegetable greenhouses, she will front the first year's investment.

That's also why she wanted to open an agricultural supply store in Qin Family Village.

While waiting for the villagers, Lin Chuxia took this opportunity to share her idea with the village chief.

Qin Shusen's eyes lit up, and he smacked his thigh, "That's a great idea! I've been worrying these past few days—what if the agricultural supply store in town doesn't have what we need?" He didn't want to always go to Lin Chuxia for solutions.

If they had their own agricultural supply store in the village, and it was run by Lin Chuxia, wouldn't they have everything they needed on hand?

With all future concerns alleviated, Qin Shusen had even more confidence in the upcoming village assembly.

When the time came, and outside was already crowded with people, Qin Shusen stepped onto the raised platform at the end of the grain-drying yard and started with some good news.

For him, it was good news; for the thousands of villagers of Qin Family Village gathered in the grain drying yard, it was also good news.

Lin Chuxia did not expect such an enthusiastic response from the villagers; every face lit up with excitement upon hearing Qin Shusen's words.

There were continual glances towards Lin Chuxia and the Qin Family members beside her.

Even whispers from nearby villagers could be overhead.

"I've heard about these vegetable greenhouses before, never expected Mr. Lin to lead our whole village in growing greenhouse vegetables, that's really showing us a path to wealth."

"Indeed, that's true, but Second Qin's wife has never farmed vegetables before; can she really lead everyone in doing this?"

"Can she do it? Just look at what she's done, what's not to like? I don't care about the others, but I'm in for sure. She's taking care of the initial investment; what's there to hesitate about?"

"She may be taking care of the initial investment, but we still have to pay it back eventually. What if we lose money? Won't we be neck-deep in debt?"

"Following them, even if I end up neck-deep in debt, I'll accept it."

Lin Chuxia, standing by the side: /^-^- ㄟ

Absolutely no need.

The village chief continued speaking, aside from discussing the planting of the vegetable greenhouses themselves, the main point was to solicit the willingness of everyone.

Farming, after all, should be voluntary.

Although Qin Shusen very much hoped that all villagers would participate, there were risks involved since it was their first attempt; so in the end, it was still based on the principle of voluntariness.

Those willing to grow in the greenhouses fell into two scenarios.

One was to invest on their own; the village would provide technical support for free, and once the vegetables were grown, they could also sell them independently.

Another scenario was for those without the funds to invest. Not only would the village provide technical support, but Xiyang Food Company would also front the initial investment.

After the vegetables had grown, Xiyang Food Company would have the priority right to purchase them.

This essentially resolved all concerns for the future.

Of course, when Xiyang Food Company would purchase the vegetables, the cost of the initial investment would also be deducted to settle the accounts.



"Everyone can discuss it with your families, and when you've made a decision, if you want Xiyang Food Company to invest, come to the brigade to sign an agreement."

As soon as Qin Shusen finished speaking, someone in the crowd shouted, "Village chief, no need to discuss, can I sign that agreement right now?"

Qin Shusen said with a smile, "Qin San, aren't you afraid that if you don't discuss it with your wife, she won't let you into bed?"

That person chuckled, "I'm not afraid, this was my wife's idea to begin with. She said there's no going wrong following Mr. Lin, and she's worried we might miss out on a quota if we wait too long. She told me to sign up quickly. Village chief, I've made up my mind, I won't regret it."

Following his remark, a few more people echoed, "Village chief, we've also made up our minds, can we sign the agreement now to have a peaceful New Year?"

"Just so, village chief, such good news should have been told to us earlier in the year, so we could buy an extra couple pounds of meat for the New Year..."