

Switched M 401

Chapter 401: The Weight on the Shoulders

Qin Shusen noticed the enthusiasm of the villagers and reminded them again, "Let's make this clear, if we sign the agreement, we'll have to grow vegetables according to Xiyang Food Company's requirements from now on. This includes how to plant in the greenhouses, when to plant, what vegetables to plant, how to manage them, and at that time, Xiyang will provide us with technical personnel. You rough guys can't mess around anymore."

These were all outlined in the agreement. Qin Shusen had already read it. He was just giving a reminder now to prevent any commotion when signing, in case someone signed without fully understanding and later caused trouble.

"Don't worry, village chief, even though we've been farming vegetables our whole lives, growing in a greenhouse is new to us, we'll definitely listen to Mr. Lin," someone reassured.

"Exactly, village chief, forget about doing the things we don't understand. Mr. Lin told us to hang watermelons to grow them, and I'll do just that," another villager added.

Lin Chuxia touched her nose uncomfortably at the side. She couldn't deny that in the future, watermelons would indeed be grown hanging.

At this moment, seeing the villagers' commitment, the village chief was beaming with joy, "Then it's settled. You're all old enough to keep your word. If anyone disobeys later, don't blame me for turning against you. If so, next year you won't be included in the project."

"That can't happen."

"Absolutely not."

The money was provided by someone else, just asking them to farm the land, which was their very own specialty.

Moreover, when it came time to sell the vegetables, they wouldn't have to worry at all, just wait to count the money. What could they be unsatisfied with?

As for the thought of losing money, most villagers hadn't even considered it.

A joke, could following Mr. Lin lead to losses?

Even if the village chief warned of risks, those people were prepared; at worst, they wouldn't make a profit.

The investment was all from Mr. Lin. They were just helping out for free. Having the chance to follow Mr. Lin for a year, even if it meant working for free, was a matter of prestige when spoken of.

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With these people leading the way, the subsequent steps went even smoother.

Led by the accountant and a few other village cadres, including the three Qin brothers, everyone joined the queue to sign the agreement.

The village chief was in charge of the list of names. Those who signed the agreement also signed their names on his list and stamped their fingerprints.

Lin Chuxia didn't understand the significance of the village chief's actions at first until he handed her a list full of signatures in various handwriting and covered with numerous red fingerprints, after the villagers had completed signing the agreements.

In that moment, Lin Chuxia truly felt the weight on her shoulders.

"Lin, this list of names will be in your care. It represents the hopes of the 512 households of Qin Family Village."

Lin Chuxia felt a sudden warmth in her eyes and solemnly took the list with both hands, "Rest assured, village chief, I will give my all to this and won't let our fellow villagers down."

households, nearly the entire population of Qin Family Village.

Qin Han felt somewhat awkward amidst the atmosphere, chuckling, "I never expected the people of our Qin Family Village to be so united."

Hearing this, Qin Shusen also burst into laughter, "Honestly, I didn't expect it to go so smoothly either. In the end, it's because you, Lin, carry weight in the hearts of our fellow villagers."

Whether it was the previous Xiyang Food Factory or the later chicken and pig farms, hadn't they all brought benefits to the villagers of Qin Family Village?

Now, the people of Qin Family in the hearts of the villagers weighed heavier than him, the village chief.

Lin Chuxia humbly smiled, "It's all thanks to Uncle Qin's leadership. Without a good leader, even the most motivated villagers would be scattered."

After the routine mutual praise in business, everyone felt somewhat more reassured in their hearts.

With the support of the fellow villagers, this endeavor had successfully taken its first and most crucial step.

Since it was just after the beginning of spring, though the weather was still cold, it was time to start setting up the greenhouses for the early spring vegetables.

The group sat down again to discuss the preliminary construction of the vegetable greenhouses and the subsequent related details.

The villagers were willing to take orders, which made things much easier.

Moreover, Lin Chuxia could feel that the village chief's authority as the former brigade leader still held sway; they didn't have the iron-fisted execution of the old days of mustering by the bell, but when given an order, nine times out of ten, the villagers would comply.

Lastly, the village chief sought Lin Chuxia's input, "Do you need anything from the village? Anything you need Uncle to do, just say the word."

This question really struck a chord with Lin Chuxia, who smiled slightly, "I do have a small request."

Qin Shusen immediately sat up straight, "Go ahead."

"I want to ask Uncle to allocate another piece of land to me, not too big, just about the size of five or six rooms, with a larger yard. We need to hurry and build the agricultural store."

That was a trivial matter for Qin Shusen, "Sure. How about the land behind Xiyang Food Factory on the east side of the village facing the street? True, the area is dipped, but the pit isn't deep. Cut down the trees on top, fill in the pit, and there's not only enough space for five or six rooms but even for ten."

Lin Chuxia thought of the location and realized the village chief had a good point.

That location was by the main street and at the edge of the village, perfect for a store.

Not just for the villagers of Qin Family Village, but even nearby villagers would find it convenient to shop there if the store opened up.

"If Uncle says it's okay, then I'll get someone to handle it as soon as I get back. Let's get the store up and running first, so it'll be convenient when we start building the greenhouses."

"I'll have the villagers come help you fill in the pit tomorrow. I don't know much about the store business, so I won't interfere with that."

It was clear now, the village wouldn't dispute the ownership of the store; the store would be hers, and so would the house.

Lin Chuxia chuckled to herself; the village chief was doing her a favor.

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By the time they went back, the sky had already begun to darken.

The villagers who signed the agreement had gradually returned to their homes.

However, on the way back, they still saw people wandering and chatting in the village, all discussing the topic of the vegetable greenhouses.

Lin Chuxia and Zhang Guilan walked home side by side.

Zhang Guilan had been listening in the crowd all day. Although today's happenings weren't much related to her, she wanted to witness the scene.

Her heart was still brimming with excitement, and she marveled at the foresight of her sister-in-law in arranging for her husband to manage the agricultural store.

Otherwise, if Qin Han saw today's scene, who knows how many days he would have sunk into self-pity.

Lin Chuxia looked up and saw someone in the distance.

Seemingly noticing their approach, the person quickly entered the yard and closed the gate.

Nevertheless, she had already recognized the person as Qin Wen.

In fact, during the villagers' meeting earlier, she had seen Qin Wen.

After not seeing him for half a year, Lin Chuxia almost did not recognize him.

He had lost a lot of weight, probably due to daily labor under the sun; he had also become much darker.

Most notably, the sense of superiority that once came with being a formal employee was gone from him.

He slouched, looking much older than his peers.

Zhang Guilan saw Qin Wen too, and whispered to Lin Chuxia, "Full of ambition yet life is as fragile as paper, I wonder why he always had to contend with our second brother. Is he more educated or more skilled? Things that are clear to everyone, yet he insists on making things difficult for himself."

Chapter 402: Who Is Sick Between Them?

Lin Chuxia smiled, she couldn't understand Qin Wen's thoughts either.

"Just now in the crowd I saw him, talking to others about how risky vegetable greenhouses are, cautioning them not to get hot-headed and just do whatever the village chief says. Is he afraid of them following the village chief? Or is he afraid of them following us? It's true what they say, a leopard can't change its spots. I also heard that recently he's been taking Ma Suyun to see doctors everywhere, right?"

Lin Chuxia turned her head, "Which one of them is sick?"

"Who knows who is being seen, perhaps both of them. I hear they want a child, they have been married for almost 4 years. Before, when Qin Wen had a job in the county, Ma Suyun thought their family was different from others. Even without children, they didn't mind. But ever since Qin Wen was fired and came back, the two have been desperate to have a child. I've heard they've consumed quite a bit of herbal medicine..."

Meanwhile, on the other side, Qin Wen hurried into the courtyard and quickly shut the door.

Ma Suyun was feeding pigs in the courtyard. Seeing his behavior, she couldn't help asking, "What are you doing? Sneaking around like that, I heard they've all signed some contract with the village, about growing vegetable greenhouses. Should we join them and grow some too?"

Qin Wen peered through the door crack for a long time before turning his head to answer his wife's question, "Grow what? Don't you know this whole thing is being set up by the village and Lin Chuxia?"

"So what? If everyone else is growing them, let's grow too. She can't forbid us from growing them, can she? Besides, I heard we don't need to worry about them; we can invest and grow on our own..."

This way it wouldn't involve them at all.

"You say it as if it's so simple," Qin Wen cut her off, "Do you know how much money it takes to grow a vegetable greenhouse? Where will you get so much money to invest? What if we lose money, are we going to survive on Northwest winds together?"

"But if we don't think of a solution, how will the little we make be enough for medical treatments and medicine?"

For the past half-year, the couple had been seeking medical treatment and medicine, starting first in the nearby small county, later moving on to the big city, their savings nearly depleted.

Qin Wen frowned at her, "You know how much money is being spent on medical treatments and medicine, can't you be a bit stronger? Which family has to struggle as much as you to have a child, you're utterly useless."

Ma Suyun's lips trembled with grievance. The doctors clearly stated there was nothing wrong with her, even the city doctors bluntly said the problem lay with Qin Wen, but he refused to admit it, insisting it was her problem.

Now he was blaming all the faults on her.

Only today did Ma Suyun truly see this man clearly - to put it nicely, he is proud of his talents; to put it unpleasantly, he is arrogant and conceited.

Though not better than others, even if it was his issue, he would never admit it.

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Once the vegetable greenhouse project was settled, it was carried out with great vigor.

Villagers had started piling up greenhouses according to the dimensions given by Lin Chuxia.

On the other side, Qin Han also gathered the skilled workers from the village, filled the large pit in the eastern side of the village, and began laying foundations for building houses.

Lin Chuxia wasn't idle either, she contacted Qin Yang for the plastic sheets and bamboo strips needed for the vegetable greenhouses.

Lin Chuxia also got in touch with Xu Changping from the machinery factory to order a batch of metal greenhouse frames.

The machinery factory was on holiday, but greenhouse frames were simple to produce, so Xu Changping called back a few third-level workers to work overtime and produced this batch of metal greenhouse frames.

Emerging from a phone call with Xiyang Food Factory, Lin Chuxia stood at the entrance to the village and could already see the vegetable greenhouses rising from the ground not far away.

Some were already covered with plastic film, while others were still being eagerly constructed.

The villagers, who would normally be hibernating at home during this season, were all working with fiery enthusiasm.

On the way home, I often saw women sitting on straw in courtyards with open gates, weaving straw mats, which are important equipment for insulating vegetable greenhouses.

The courtyard walls of their agricultural supply store was already built up, and the courtyard was filled with piles of straw, bamboo strips, and other materials for the vegetable greenhouses.

The house for the agricultural supply store was also erected, and since it's a store, the back door faces the courtyard, while the front is being fitted with glass.

Qin Han has been keeping an eye on this side these days, watching the workers build the house and registering the quantities of materials taken by the villagers.

Seeing Lin Chuxia coming, Qin Han waved to her.

"How's it going, sister-in-law? Did you get in touch?"

Last time she went to the capital to buy related materials, Lin Chuxia had already contacted the technical staff of the Agricultural Research Institute.

Hearing that they were going to plant vegetable greenhouses on a large scale, the other party was very interested and promised to provide some technical support and would send someone over.

Lin Chuxia had just gone to make a phone call to confirm this matter.

"It's all set, they'll come at the end of the first lunar month."

The ground is still frozen now. Once the greenhouses are built, the first thing to ensure is the temperature inside the greenhouses and that the soil meets the planting standards.

Lin Chuxia has already instructed the village chief to communicate this to the villagers, who just need to follow the instructions.

With this matter settled, Qin Han was also relieved and pointed to the house behind him, "In another three to five days, this house will also be ready. The second brother said to buy a small boiler and directly heat radiators. I think it's unnecessary; just add a few more stoves."

"Big brother, just listen to Qin Yang."

It's not easy to have the house built at this time. If they can't ensure heating inside, staying in these rooms is no different from sitting in an ice cellar. If it goes on for too long, people will end up getting sick.

Qin Han knew his brother and sister-in-law were thinking of his best interest, and he grinned broadly, revealing a mouthful of big white teeth.

"Alright, I'll listen to you."

When Lin Chuxia got home, Qin Liang and his spouse were chatting with Mr. Qin and Mrs. Qin.

Whether it's the Bun Shop in Ancity County or the city, it reopened on the eighth day of the lunar new year.

Zhang Guilan, Qin Jianjun, and Qin Juan had already gone back to the Bun Shop to get busy.

Qin Liang and his spouse came over, definitely not for the matter of their son.

Sure enough, Qin Liang got straight to the point and directly said to Lin Chu, "The greenhouse in the field is already set up. Today we've covered it with plastic film and pressed down the straw mats. I was just telling your second uncle and aunt that whatever you want to plant in the greenhouse is up to you. My sister-in-law and I will help you look after it, and when the harvest comes, it's all yours."

The vegetable greenhouse Qin Liang mentioned is owned by Qin Han.

In the past two years, the family's land has been managed uniformly by Mr. Qin, with no difference between having divided the household or not.

Qin Han's land is adjacent to Qin Liang's. Knowing that the village was going to plant vegetable greenhouses, Mr. Qin was eager to try building one for the family, but Lin Chuxia stopped him.

It's not easy to grow in vegetable greenhouses. They wouldn't be able to help. Even Qin Han's agricultural supply store would need Mr. Qin's help to manage later on. By then, forget about the greenhouses; they probably wouldn't even be able to plant the fields.

Taking this into account, a few days ago, she consulted with big brother Qin Liang. When the time comes, the Qin family's land would be entrusted to them to plant, and the harvest would belong to Qin Liang and his family, as long as they pay the public grain tax for the family.

Chapter 403: How Did It Become My Agricultural Supply Store?

Qin Liang refused to agree, directly stating that the corn and wheat belonged to them, and they also needed to reserve one vegetable greenhouse.

Lin Chuxia did not object to their suggestion of reserving the vegetable greenhouse; she just did not plan to take it.

Now she spoke openly, "Big brother, I know you and my sister-in-law are capable, but managing a vegetable greenhouse is not easy. I've said it before, I'm grateful you can help farm our land, and there are also risks with the greenhouse. No matter the harvest, it's all from your hard work. If big brother delays further, I will have to let someone else farm this land."

Upon hearing this, Qin Liang and his wife immediately lost their temper. "If you let someone else farm the land, isn't that a slap in my face?"

"Then, big brother, please listen to me. I'll cover the expenses for the vegetable greenhouse, but you keep the profits, and I'll trouble you and my sister-in-law to also farm these few acres of ours."

"Oh, what trouble is that? One season of corn, one season of wheat, it's just something we pick up along the way. We are already getting quite the advantage. So, let's compromise, besides the grain we

contribute to the public, the rest is yours too. There are so many mouths to feed at home, we can't afford to buy grain while having land."

"Okay, let's do it this way," Lin Chuxia smiled along.

In Qin Liang's view, the materials for the vegetable greenhouse are all costs, just effort in farming.

But in Lin Chuxia's eyes, labor is the most valuable.

She trusted Qin Liang and his wife's character; she was at ease leaving the farm work to them.

That night, when Qin Han returned home, dinner was already finished.

The agricultural supply shop was not far from the brigade office, and the village chief declared that during this period, the brigade office was available for their use. Usually, all building tools and hosting meals for workers happened there.

Qin Han also had dinner at the brigade office with the workers, but Zhang Guilan still made him a bowl of hot noodle soup.

While Qin Han watched over the construction of the agricultural supply store, he also needed to attend to the villagers shopping.

Especially when large shipments arrived at the store, he couldn't afford to relax a moment.

Though he looked thinner, his spirit was good.

Lin Chuxia could tell that Qin Han genuinely enjoyed doing this.

The noodles were quickly ready, and Qin Han held the large bowl, slurping wonderfully as he ate.

Lin Chuxia waited until he was almost done eating before speaking, "The village chief said that the town government office is back to work, the paperwork for the agricultural supply shop should be handled too. You go ahead and get the land certificate sorted first. The village's certification is ready. Later you can directly go to the Land Office, just bring your ID and household registration."

Listening to Lin Chuxia, Qin Han nodded earnestly, but suddenly looked up at the last sentence.

"Take my ID and household registration? Sister-in-law, just use yours. Your residence has already been transferred to our home, so you are a person of Qin Family Village and eligible to handle the land certificate for Qin Family Village."

The year Qin Yang was admitted to university, his household registration was moved out and is now a non-agricultural household registration.

Whether it is his household registration or other aspects, it follows his work unit.

According to national regulations, non-agricultural household registrations cannot handle land certificates in rural areas.

But Lin Chuxia has an agricultural household registration, and it's been transferred to Qin Family Village. Regardless of Qin Yang's household registration, it doesn't affect Lin Chuxia's agricultural status.

Qin Han thought Lin Chuxia was unaware, which is why he specifically reminded her.

Lin Chuxia chuckled, aware of all this, "I know, just do as I said tomorrow, big brother, manage the agricultural supply shop well; it all depends on you."

Qin Han was confused, barely able to continue eating his noodles.

At last, he caught Qin Yang trying to step out with his wife, "Second brother, what does sister-in-law mean by that?"

Although sister-in-law handed over the agricultural supply shop to him, he will manage it well of course, but he always felt there were underlying tones in her words.

Qin Yang looked at him disdainfully, "From the beginning, Xiaxia never intended to keep the agricultural supply shop, only worried that the investment was too large, and you didn't have the money. Just focus on your work. If the village's vegetable greenhouses expand, your agricultural supply shop won't earn less than Xiaxia's Bun Shop."

Qin Yang explained a bit, but Qin Han was still clouded in confusion and helplessly turned to look at his wife, "Why has it become my agricultural materials store now?"

Zhang Guilan understood and punched her husband on the shoulder, "You fool, Chuxia is giving us the agricultural materials store. You must work hard and not let Chuxia down. The store is the lifeline for our village's vegetable greenhouses, you must help Chuxia make this a success."

Qin Han naively replied, "Don't worry, I won't drag us down. And you too, I'm not at the Bun Shop, so you need to be more careful, don't mess up just because I'm not there."

"I wouldn't need you to say that," Zhang Guilan said with a smile and a sideways glance at him.

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Upon returning home, Qin Yang saw his darling wife bending over to pack their luggage.

After the fifteenth day of the first month, the Lantern Festival, Qin Yang's workplace would start up again, and it was time for them to return to the city.

He walked over, wrapped his arms around her waist, and pulled her entirely into his embrace.

Her slender and shapely figure fit perfectly in his arms.

"Hmm? What is it?"

Lin Chuxia felt his need and turned her head slightly to ask, only to be met with a kiss on her lips.

The tender and prolonged kiss, filled with indescribable emotions and his low murmuring, "Xiaxia, how are you so wonderful," he wondered what he did to deserve such a wonderful wife in this life.

She could manage everything impeccably, not only being a wonderful wife but also taking care of his family.

Lin Chuxia curved her lips in a smile, "That's good then? I've sworn to support our Mr. Qin."

Qin Yang whispered close to her ear with a chuckle, "I'll let you support me, but since supporting me is so tough on my wife, I really need to thank you properly."

His words had a playful hook to them that made Lin Chuxia's heart itch, and his hands became even more restless.

Before long, Lin Chuxia was completely overwhelmed by him.

"The light... the light is still on..."

This wasn't their own quarters.

While kissing her, Qin Yang's actions halted slightly, and he reached out to pull on the light cord.

The room instantly darkened, making his movements under the cloak of night even more passionate...

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Qin Yang officially returned to work on the seventeenth of the first month, and the couple packed up on the sixteenth, bid farewell to Mr. Qin and Mrs. Qin, and returned to the city.

The weather was growing warmer and some of the snow on the roads had melted, making it much easier to travel.

The couple drove the jeep and in less than two hours, they reached their quarters.

From a distance, they saw a group of people carrying big and small bags and walking with a child on the roadside.

Lin Chuxia recognized them just as Qin Yang already pulled over.

"Engineer Feng, hop in and we'll give you a lift for a bit."

It was Feng Dajun with Sister-in-law Feng and Feng Jingjing, they must have also just returned from their hometown.

Feng Dajun waved with a smile, "No need, we're almost home, just a few more steps. Had a good New Year, Mr. Qin?"

"Happy New Year!"

Qin Yang and Lin Chuxia nodded at each other.

Chapter 404: She Should Be More Modest

Feng Dajun waved them off, "Hurry back home, you'll need to tidy up once you get there."

The others insisted on not getting into the car, Qin Yang didn't say much else, simply said "See you tomorrow," and then drove off.

Sister-in-law Feng watched the car's tail and scoffed, "What's so great about that? Just showing off for nothing."

Feng Dajun's smile faded instantly, "What nonsense are you talking about? How is he showing off? It's just a coworker wanting to give us a lift, and you're clueless."

"Was he really trying to give us a lift?" Sister-in-law Feng put down her bag, mimicked Qin Yang's pose, lifted an arm, and slightly tilted her head, "Engineer Feng, wanna lift? If he really wanted to help, why didn't he get out and help us with the bags?"

Feng Dajun felt his wife was being more and more unreasonable and didn't argue with her, simply grabbed the stuff and led Feng Jingjing towards their home.

Sister-in-law Feng hurriedly picked up the large bag and jogged to catch up, "Don't block out everything I say, I'm just reminding you, those city folks will never respect us country folks. Even if they're warm to you, it's just being polite; don't take it seriously."

"I didn't take it seriously," Feng Dajun murmured back.

Satisfied, Sister-in-law Feng nodded, then noticing Feng Dajun's pace quickening, she gasped for breath and asked him to slow down.

"You see, your mom too, stuffing everything inside, what, can't we afford pickled vegetable and noodle? Who wants to kill themselves carrying all this heavy stuff? We can't drive a car like they do..."

Feng Dajun quickened his pace even more.

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Next door, the Hu Family, who are locals, spent their New Year in their residential complex.

As soon as Lin Chuxia's car stopped at their home, noise could be heard from the other side.

Hu Xingwei ran out from the courtyard and greeted them, "Uncle Qin, Aunt Lin, you're back? Is Yuan Bao back?"

Before he finished speaking, Lin Chuxia had already opened the rear car door, and Yuan Bao jumped down.

Hu Xingwei was very fond of Yuan Bao; he used to come over and communicate with it often, and Yuan Bao was friendly towards Hu Xingwei.

After not seeing each other for more than half a month, the man and dog were very affectionate.

"Yuan Bao, wait up, I saved some meatballs for you."

Hu Xingwei patted Yuan Bao's head and dashed back home, soon coming out with a pancake wrapped around a meatball.

"Here Yuan Bao, I saved this especially for you."

Sister-in-law Fu, hearing the noise, also came out and greeted Lin Chuxia and the others with a smile.

Pointing at her son, she said, "This boy has been thinking about your Yuan Bao. He wouldn't eat these meatballs during the festival; he wanted to save them for Yuan Bao."

Lin Chuxia thanked her on behalf of Yuan Bao.

Knowing they had just returned and there was still a lot to tidy up at home, Sister-in-law Fu, after exchanging pleasantries, took her son back home.

Lin Chuxia first let Yuan Bao into the yard.

Tomorrow, Qin Yang's workplace starts up again, and they were among the last to return.

Although Yuan Bao is sensible and well-behaved, others might not know.

Qin Yang moved bags from the car one after another; every time they returned to his parents' home, Mrs. Qin almost wanted to pack up the house and load it into the car.

During the festival, seeing Lin Chuxia liked eating the fried meatballs and tofu puffs she made, Mrs. Qin fried a lot yesterday and brought them along.

Qin Yang moved things into the house while Lin Chuxia started tidying up inside.

After moving everything, they went to light the boiler.

Lin Chuxia walked around the house inside and out, their house was tight, not much dust after being away for over ten days, but it still felt cold and empty.

"Don't start cleaning yet, wait until we have hot water."

Qin Yang, concerned she might catch a cold, reminded her.

Lin Chuxia glanced at the time and found it was still early, "I'm going to see Jiang Hong and bring her some things."

Jiang Hong is pregnant and didn't go back to her hometown for the Spring Festival this year.

Lin Chuxia took some New Year's goods that Mrs. Qin had given her, and went to Jiang Hong's family courtyard.

Li Wei was drying clothes in the yard, and saw Lin Chuxia across the clothesline.

"Sister-in-law, when did you get back? Happy New Year!"

"Happy New Year, Mr. Li. Is Jiang Hong at home?"

Before Li Wei could respond, Jiang Hong had already opened the door, "I'm here, come in, it's cold outside."

Lin Chuxia looked at her big belly and couldn't help but widen her eyes.

She had seen pregnant women before, but it was her first time seeing such a big belly.

"How come it's so big? Are you having twins?"

Jiang Hong held her belly with both hands, walking with a bit of a waddle, and laughed as she walked into the house, "No, not twins, it's just this big when it's close to time."

"When is the baby due?" Lin Chuxia remembered her saying it seemed to be after the first month of the lunar year.

"Still over half a month left," Jiang Hong said with a face full of joy.

That really is soon.

Lin Chuxia handed her the bag, "I didn't know what you liked to eat; it's all homemade, you can try some."

Jiang Hong's eyes lit up as she opened the bag, "These are all my favorites, Chuxia, how did you know? You don't know how this year, just the two of us, it's not lively at all. I can't do much in this condition, and Li Wei's cooking, really, there's no way to speak of it."

As she spoke, she already started pinching a ball and threw it into her mouth, praising its taste while eating.

Li Wei couldn't cook, and before, like Qin Yang, he ate in the company's cafeteria.

After all, these days, few men enter the kitchen, and even fewer can cook.

Not everyone has a knack for cooking like Qin Yang, who simply looks and figures things out to make delicious meals.

Sigh... She should be more modest.

Lin Chuxia suppressed her slight self-congratulatory thought, and asked with some concern, "What will you do after the baby is born?"

During the confinement period, it is most crucial for a woman to replenish nutrition, and even if she could eat in the cafeteria with Li Wei, she still needed to eat better.

"It's okay, my mother-in-law will come over then. Li Wei has already spoken to his mother; right after the first lunar month, she'll come and help with my confinement."

"That's good then."

Lin Chuxia chatted with Jiang Hong for a while, and when she saw it was about time, she headed home.

Qin Yang had already lit the stove and was preparing lunch in the kitchen.

The radiators in the house were hot to the touch and began emitting a cozy warmth.

Today the sun was nice, and Lin Chuxia took all the quilts and mattresses out to the yard to air.

She filled some hot water from the boiler to wipe down tables and window sills, cleaning inside and out thoroughly.

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Mrs. Qin had brought them a lot of things, so she divided them into two portions, one for Qin Juan, and planned to have Jia Liang deliver one to Aunt Jia later.

Ningning hadn't officially started school yet. On the seventh day of the lunar year, Mrs. Qin originally planned to have Ningning stay with them.

But Little Ningning was still not used to being away from her mother for too long, and returned to the city with Qin Juan and Qin Jianjun on the seventh day. These days, she had been going to the Bun Shop with Qin Juan.

Seeing Lin Chuxia, the little one was joyfully chirping nonstop.

Now, Ningning was no longer that shy, timid child who was afraid to speak loudly.

Chapter 405 She Looks Really Good When She Smiles

The shop isn't busy right now, Lin Chuxia and Jia Liang are chatting, and Jia Liang took the opportunity to report on some of the shop's situation before and after the holiday.

Qin Juan, worried that Ningning would be in the way, came over wanting to take Ningning away.

Lin Chuxia really likes children clinging to her, and Ningning is well-behaved, aware that they are discussing serious matters, sitting beside her playing with a cloth doll, not disturbing them at all.

At this moment, Jia Liang was talking about the second-floor restaurant, so Lin Chuxia simply pulled Qin Juan over, "Sister, why don't you sit down and listen as well."

Qin Juan is always serious about work and sat down quietly listening to the two of them talk.

At this time, the working hours for factories and various government agencies are mostly postponed until after the Lantern Festival.

Some units start work earlier, but only involving minor activities and post-holiday networking.

Their restaurant has hosted several tables of patrons under these circumstances.

"From the restaurant's opening last year to the beginning of this year, corporate meals have accounted for a large portion. I heard some news at the beginning of the year that the State-Owned Restaurant is going to be contracted out to an individual. When that happens, their business will definitely be affected. Our restaurant has already made a name for itself, under these premises, I estimate business will only get better."

Jia Liang is very confident in their restaurant.

Qin Juan nodded in agreement, but reminded, "When these people come to eat, they almost never pay on the spot. Before, they used to issue invoices, but yesterday I received another IOU, the second one after the holiday has begun. This year has just started, if it continues like this, by the end of the year it will be a substantial sum. What do you guys think we should do about this...?"

Settling accounts at year-end is an unwritten rule among enterprises.

Not to mention the current operating situations of the enterprises, if IOUs are issued so frequently and the accounts are dragged out for a year, it'd be too big a loss for the restaurant if it can't settle the accounts later.

"I originally worked at a place where, although the shop was small, it was individuals dining, and hardly anyone asked for tab."

Qin Juan remembered the place where she initially washed dishes, the honest owner, although the shop wasn't big, the business was also good.

Now their shop is larger, business is good, and the daily cash flow is high, but if the money isn't actually received, good business is worthless.

Jia Liang, however, didn't seem to mind, he had lived so long and no one had dared to owe him money.

However, Lin Chuxia thought more about it, she knew the later developments, Qin Juan's concerns were indeed very necessary.

"Jia Liang, later you should liaise with the units that frequently rack up tabs in our restaurant, even if we can't settle the accounts monthly, let's try to settle them quarterly."

Although Jia Liang didn't see it as a problem, still he nodded when Lin Chuxia spoke, "Okay, I understand."

The few were talking in the lobby, Lin Chuxia noticed Liu Na not far away with a vivid expression.

It had been more than a month since Feng Zhong was fired, even if it was a breakup, she should have moved on by now.

"Did Feng Zhong contact you afterwards?"

Lin Chuxia looked at Liu Na with meaning.

Jia Liang shook his head, "I don't know where he went after leaving the Bun Shop. I asked Houzi to inquire in An City but found nothing."

He also glanced at Liu Na, "The Bun Shop opened on the eighth, and this girl seemed happy, I thought the matter was over, I don't know what happened, but she's been in this state the last couple of days. Maybe it has nothing to do with Feng Zhong. Should I talk to her in private?"

Handling this wasn't really Jia Liang's forte, but as a manager, it's still appropriate to care about the staff's well-being.

Especially since this also involved Feng Zhong.

Lin Chuxia thought for a moment, "That's fine, we should pay timely attention to the mental health of the employees, and if there's anything the restaurant can help with within our capacity, we should assist."

While the two were speaking, they suddenly saw Liu Na covering her mouth as she ran out.

Lin Chuxia was slightly stunned, then turned her head to look at Qin Juan, who also had a complex expression.

Immediately stood up, "I'll go have a look."

Jia Liang, the simple man, said, "Mr. Lin, no need to worry, I can handle this little matter. I'll have a good talk with that girl later."

Qin Juan pulled him back, "Let her go, you don't interfere for now."

Jia Liang looked bewildered and earnestly said to Qin Juan, "I really can do it, don't judge me by my rough exterior, I can comfort people too."

Qin Juan was amused by his serious face, imagining a former gang leader who always had over a dozen brothers under his command, and whose word was law.

Now saying earnestly that he can comfort people, he even looked a bit silly.

Really... don't know what to say.

"Alright, I know you can comfort people, but it might be more convenient for the young sister to handle this. Just don't interfere."

Jia Liang thought about it; indeed, comforting a young girl might be better suited to women than to a rough man like him.

However, Qin Juan actually smiled at him, and her smile was genuinely beautiful.

On the other side, Lin Chuxia caught up outside and saw Liu Na at the base of a big tree beside the wall, bent over retching.

But after a long time, she threw up nothing.

Liu Na straightened up, took a couple of deep breaths, then turned her head and saw Lin Chuxia not far away.

"Mr... Mr. Lin..."

Lin Chuxia signaled her to come over, and the two walked to a corner of the wall before she asked, "What happened to you, are you feeling unwell?"

Liu Na forced a pale smile, "I might have eaten something bad these past few days, and I've been feeling uncomfortable. Thank you for your concern, Mr. Lin, I'm fine. It won't affect the business."

"Eaten something bad? What did you eat that you think made you sick?"

This question stumped Liu Na, as she had been eating with the restaurant's staff these days.

She had been eating the same things before, and the restaurant's food was delicious, but these few days she suddenly lost her appetite, even feeling nauseous at the smell of meat buns.

However, she dared not say this to Mr. Lin; their bun shop's meat buns were a signature dish, how could they possibly make someone nauseous.

"I'm not sure, maybe I just caught a cold these past few days. Mr. Lin, I'm really fine. After work, I'll go see a barefoot doctor to get some medicine; that should do the trick."

Lin Chuxia looked into her clear, bright eyes, unsure whether she really didn't understand or if she actually had eaten something bad.

"No need to wait until after work, I'll take you to the doctor now."

Luckily, she had driven today.

Liu Na wanted to refuse, but Lin Chuxia gave her a firm look, "Be obedient, let's see the doctor first."

Liu Na pinched her clothes' hem, but still followed Lin Chuxia into the Jeep.

Lin Chuxia drove out of the city, and Liu Na, seeing the decreasing number of people around, started to panic.

"Mr. Lin, where are we going?"

Lin Chuxia replied, "Do you have any relatives or acquaintances in Sanchang County?"

Liu Na shook her head, "No, I have never been there."

"Then we are going to Sanchang County, don't worry, we'll arrive soon."

Chapter 406: Early Pregnancy

Seeing her unease, Lin Chuxia started to make small talk with her, "Who else is in your family? I heard you and Gao Lele were classmates from the same year."

"Um, we were in parallel classes," Liu Na's eyes flickered with a trace of guilt when Gao Lele was mentioned.

Back then, when she couldn't find Feng Zhong, in a fit of desperation, she took out all her frustrations on Gao Lele.

Later, she knew she was wrong, but she just couldn't bring herself to apologize to Gao Lele.

Thinking back to the time when she and Feng Zhong had first gotten together, Gao Lele had even tried to advise her.

She was foolish and failed to see people for who they truly were, causing even a friend to be hurt.

The road was not busy, and Lin Chuxia drove quickly, and in less than an hour, they arrived at the county hospital of Sanchang County.

Not knowing why Mr. Lin brought her to a hospital in a small county, Liu Na obediently followed behind Lin Chuxia.

In the small county hospital, the departments were not very detailed, and Lin Chuxia found her a female gynecologist in charge.

After inquiring about the illness, the female doctor glanced at Liu Na.

"Go get a blood test done."

Liu Na did not expect to have a blood test, she had never had a blood test in her life; she looked towards Lin Chuxia for help.

Lin Chuxia comforted her by patting her shoulder and took her to do the blood test with the form.

While waiting for the test results, Liu Na asked her nervously, "Mr. Lin, what disease do I actually have? The way that doctor looked at me was very strange."

"It's okay, I'm here for you," Lin Chuxia held her hand.

Looking at that hand which was about the same size as her own, and even more fair and delicate, Liu Na felt an endless strength flow into her and suddenly calmed down.

"Liu Na, your test results are out."

The voice of a female nurse came from the lab window.

Liu Na and Lin Chuxia were about to get up to go over, but heard the nurse continue to say, "You're pregnant, in the early stages of pregnancy."

With a "thud", Liu Na sat back down on the chair, her face completely devoid of color.

"Liu Na, is Liu Na there?" The nurse called out her name again.

"I am here," Lin Chuxia stepped forward to take the test results, "Thank you, doctor."

Liu Na was still sitting there dazed, like a statue, unmoving for a long time, not even blinking.

It was not until Lin Chuxia returned to her side that she suddenly raised her head and grabbed Lin Chuxia's arm, tears following suit.

"Mr. Lin, I... I... I don't know how this could happen, Mr. Lin..."

Lin Chuxia took her hand and led her back to the jeep.

Liu Na was in a state of panic, crying incessantly, as if the sky had fallen.

"You didn't know that having sexual intercourse can lead to pregnancy?"

Liu Na shook her head frantically.

She didn't know, back then she even didn't know what sexual intercourse meant.

Feng Zhong invited her to watch a movie, and after the movie, Feng Zhong kissed her in a deserted place. She was so embarrassed she almost died, afraid of getting pregnant and her family finding out.

When she shared her thoughts with Feng Zhong afterward, he laughed at her stupidity, telling her kissing wouldn't lead to pregnancy.

He also said that even if she did get pregnant it wouldn't matter, he would marry her, and then she could bear him a son. He would earn the money and give it all to them to spend, they would be his motivation to make money.

At that time, she thought Feng Zhong was a true man, standing tall between heaven and earth. When she got home, she kept dreaming about their life after marriage over and over again.

Later on, kissing became a common place for them, until that time, Feng Zhong did something even more embarrassing to her.

Liu Na knew it wasn't right, and she did resist.

Feng Zhong told her that it was something only a husband and wife could do, and he considered her his wife.

He already saw her as part of his family, and her actions towards him had hurt him deeply.

Just as Liu Na hesitated, he succeeded.

She was very scared at the time, but Feng Zhong told her over and over again that he would propose marriage and take her as his bride soon after.

Before she could even ask when he would propose, she received the news that Feng Zhong had been fired.

And he had disappeared.

During that time, she felt helpless, knowing she belonged to Feng Zhong, yet the very man was nowhere to be found.

Now that she had barely come to terms with this reality, she found herself pregnant.

Liu Na fell to her knees before Lin Chuxia with a thud.

"Mr. Lin, please save me, I can't have this child, my parents will kill me, Mr. Lin, please help me, I'm begging you..."

Getting pregnant before marriage would not only infuriate her parents but if the neighbors found out, she wouldn't be able to live with herself.

Lin Chuxia pulled her up, a trace of pity in her eyes.

In this conservative era, sexuality was considered shameful.

Let alone sex education, even mentioning related terms was regarded as dishonorable.

An unwed pregnancy would indeed drown one in spit and scorn.

"Is it Feng Zhong's?" Lin Chuxia pondered before asking, "If... I mean, if Feng Zhong could be found..."

Liu Na interrupted Lin Chuxia's words with tears.

"Mr. Lin, there is no if; he can't be found, and even if he could, I wouldn't be with him again, Mr. Lin, I was too naive to believe his sweet talk..."

She had come to understand these past days; Feng Zhong was not a reliable person.

He had been deceiving her from the start, and even without the incident of money missing from the store resulting in his dismissal by the store manager, they wouldn't have had a good outcome.

Now that she realized all this, she even felt thankful that the store manager had fired him, severing ties between them.

She had been so foolish; it was he who had forced her that one time.

Why would someone who truly cared about you force you to do things you weren't willing to do?

Why would someone who truly valued you risk exposing you to gossip and slander, just to satisfy their desires?

"Mr. Lin, please help me out, I will never forget your great kindness for as long as I live, I can't have this child..."

Lin Chuxia sighed silently; she also knew that from any perspective, aborting the child was the best option.

"Alright, I'll accompany you to get an abortion."

When they returned to the original consulting room and proposed the abortion, the doctor's look changed.

The look he gave Liu Na was one of scrutiny, "Where's the family? Abortion requires the family's consent signing, does your husband agree to the abortion?"

Liu Na became instantly panicked, looking to Lin Chuxia for help.

Lin Chuxia's gaze was indifferent, "I'm her family member. Where do I need to sign? My brother is working out of town and can't come over."

The doctor sized up Lin Chuxia and said nothing else, just handed her the consent form.

Once Lin Chuxia had signed, the medication was prepared.

The pregnancy was still in its early stages, so medical abortion was an option.

Now that family planning was being strictly enforced, abortion was something the doctors had grown accustomed to.

Still, while waiting for the medication to take effect, the doctor couldn't help but give a few warnings.

"You look pretty young. You need to take care of your own body. You should take contraception seriously, not necessarily sterilization, but maybe get an IUD at least. If not, there are also condoms. Abortion harms the body, and even though following the national policy of having only one child is good, you shouldn't joke with your health."

Chapter 407: She is Protecting Her with All Her Might

Liu Na felt so ashamed that she wished she could crawl into a hole. Lin Chuxia responded, "Thank you, doctor, for the reminder. We'll be more careful next time."

The abortion process was undoubtedly painful. Liu Na bit her lips tightly, not making a sound throughout.

But when it was almost over, Lin Chuxia went to help her up, her clothes nearly soaked with sweat due to the weather of the first lunar month.

Lin Chuxia asked the doctor some precautionary measures before helping Liu Na into the car.

Staring at the car roof, as the car drove away from the hospital, Liu Na felt as if she had survived a great ordeal.

She finally understood why Mr. Lin didn't take her to a hospital in the city, but rather to this small place she had never been to before.

And everything Mr. Lin had just done for her, she was protecting her with all her might.

...

As days passed, Lin Chuxia gave Liu Na a week off to recover.

Yet, Liu Na dared not go home and wanted to stay in the staff dormitory for a while, but worried about others finding out about her situation, she was torn.

Eventually, Qin Juan spoke up, offering to let her stay with her for a few days.

Lin Chuxia went all out to help, even buying her many nutritional supplements.

When the young girl stood before Lin Chuxia again, she looked like a completely different person.

"Mr. Lin, your great kindness is something I can never repay, even with my life. From now on, I'll follow you. You can ask me to do anything, my life is yours."

Liu Na knew that a simple 'thank you' was not enough to express her gratitude towards Mr. Lin.

Lin Chuxia smiled and said, "That's an exaggeration. You're still so young and have a long life ahead. I can't take your life. Just work hard and live well. You will meet better people in the future."

Liu Na shook her head, "Mr. Lin, you don't understand, that thing really..."

She knew her parents too well. If they found out about her premarital pregnancy, they would definitely kill her.

They would see her as a disgrace to the family.

She couldn't imagine bearing the wrath of her parents, let alone the disdain and spit from those around her.

Such a life would truly be worse than death for her.

"I don't want to look for any man anymore. Right now, I just want to earn money, lots of money. Living alone like Sister Juan is quite nice."

During these days living with Qin Juan and her daughter, she saw through the bitterness of marriage.

Even a good woman like Sister Juan wasn't cherished. There really isn't a single good man in this world.

Lin Chuxia knew this incident deeply hurt her and it might take a long time for her to recover.

These kinds of things can only be digested slowly by oneself.

Moreover, having her own career and money gives a woman confidence; there's nothing wrong with that.

Seeing that her health had recovered, Lin Chuxia felt relieved.

Before one knew it, the end of the first lunar month arrived, marking the end of the New Year festivities.

The weather warmed up day by day, and their vegetable greenhouses had already met the planting standards.

Lin Chuxia had previously contacted technicians from the Agricultural Research Institute who had arrived at Qin Family Village, and they were personally received by Su Wensong, Qin Han, and the village chief.

Following Lin Chuxia's instructions, they were arranged to stay at the Qin Family residence.

In addition to Mr. Qin and Mrs. Qin, Qin Han was also busy in the village and they definitely would not neglect the technicians.

Even so, Lin Chuxia decided to go back and check on things.

However, before she could leave, the village chief called her again.

In the past two years, the village had established chicken farms and pig farms, and a telephone had been installed at the central village office.

The voice of the village chief carried a hint of anxiety, "Lin, it's like this. The town places high importance on our village's vegetable greenhouse project, and not just the town—leaders from the county are also very concerned. Just a couple of days ago, the County Agricultural Bureau contacted our village, intending to send several technicians to support us in planting in the greenhouses."

The village chief continued, worried that Lin Chuxia might misunderstand, quickly explaining, "I've already spoken with the leaders of the Agricultural Bureau. They were delighted to hear that technicians from the Agricultural Research Institute are guiding us in our vegetable greenhouses. They view it as a learning opportunity and plan to send their technicians to learn thoroughly from the Institute's, which

will be beneficial for promoting vegetable greenhouses across the county. Lin, what do you think about this..."

The village chief was unsure what Lin Chuxia's thoughts were on organizing the entire village of Qin Family Village to plant in vegetable greenhouses, and whether she had further plans?

Personally, the village chief certainly did not hope for outsiders to interfere.

Vegetable greenhouses were an emerging industry, and before they could truly profit, other people were already eyeing their slice of the pie, which was naturally discomforting.

But those people were county leaders, and as the head of the village, he had no right to stop them.

He called to see what Lin Chuxia's opinion was.

Lin Chuxia had anticipated that county leaders would get involved after learning about the vegetable greenhouses in Qin Family Village.

After all, if well-managed, it would be a great community-serving achievement and a significant accomplishment.

However, she did not expect that technicians from the Agricultural Bureau would also be involved.

"Uncle Qin, don't worry too much about this. If the Agricultural Bureau wants to send technicians, let them. When the time comes, you organize it. We have many greenhouses, and the Institute's technicians will definitely be busy. It'll be good to have them help out. But we need to clarify the priorities; the Institute's technicians are our main support here. I went through a lot of effort to get them here. If there's a difference in opinions, we won't blindly trust, but we should also show sufficient respect."

The village chief quickly reassured, "Lin, don't worry about that, uncle understands this principle clearly."

"Additionally, since the leaders are paying attention to our vegetable greenhouses, uncle, you shouldn't feel burdened. This is also a good thing. Remember the issue with the plastic film supply for the greenhouses we discussed previously? This is a good opportunity to bring it up with the leaders, and any other difficulties can also be addressed to them."

On the other end of the phone, Qin Shusen chuckled, "You and I think alike. The day the town mayor mentioned it, I brought up the plastic film issue. The plastic factory has already started working overtime for us, making it according to the dimensions for our vegetable greenhouses. The county leaders have even announced that from now on, all the greenhouse films for our village will be custom-made by the plastic factory in any size we need."

Their greenhouses in the early stage, due to limitations in the plastic fabric dimensions, mostly consisted of two pieces stitched together.

"Uncle Qin, experience speaks," praised Lin Chuxia immediately, "And as for other villages, or even spreading greenhouses across the county, you needn't worry too much. Other villages don't have a village chief like you, nor do they have our village's capabilities. Even if they start planting in vegetable greenhouses, it won't shake our village's status."

Lin Chuxia gave him another reassuring affirmation.

Qin Shusen experienced a moment of clarity on the other end of the phone.

Indeed, what use is just having the technology?

His family had also set up a vegetable greenhouse; he knew very well how much it cost.

Chapter 408: Jiang Hong Gives Birth

If it weren't for the support of Xiyang Food Company, and if the villagers had to pay for it themselves, just the cost of the plastic film for the greenhouse would be enough to empty many people's life savings.

"Alright, Uncle got it. Also, County Magistrate Bai let the town mayor bring a message, asking if you could go to the county government when you have time."

"Mhm, okay," Lin Chuxia directly responded.

After everything was explained, Qin Shusen tested the waters and asked Lin Chuxia if she would be coming back to the village soon.

For some reason, although everything was arranged and they only needed to follow Lin's plan, having Lin there to oversee it just felt different.

Qin Shusen had never felt this way before.

The other person was only a few years older than his daughter but he never dared to underestimate her.

Knowing that Lin Chuxia would be returning to the village soon, he was completely at ease.

The village chief was at a loss on the phone, but once he hung up, he was overjoyed and even hummed a little tune, leaving the small office clerk beside him completely baffled.

.....

On the day of February 2nd, Lin Chuxia planned to return to Qin Family Village for a visit.

Qin Yang still had work to do and couldn't accompany her back.

Lin Chuxia didn't insist, she told him to take care of himself as she planned to stay a few more days at home this time.

The village chief had called earlier to mention that it was time to start sowing the first batch of seeds.

These seeds were all brought over by the technicians from the Agricultural Research Institute, and were well-suited for planting in vegetable greenhouses.

This was also their new research project, coincidentally being promoted as a pilot in Qin Family Village.

Lin Chuxia was driving out of the family quarters when she spotted Sister-in-law Feng hurriedly coming out of an alley.

And that alley was where Li Wei's house was located.

Lin Chuxia thought of something, stopped the car at the side of the road, and greeted Sister-in-law Feng, "Sister, where are you off to?"

Sister-in-law Feng didn't expect to run into Lin Chuxia, and even more so that Lin would take the initiative to greet her, smiling she pointed in the direction of the school, "The school's about to finish for the day, I'm going to pick up the kids."

"Sister, did you just come from Li Wei's house?" Lin Chuxia asked again.

"Yes, I had a talk with Li Wei's family, and I won't keep you, I need to go to pick up the children."

After saying this, Sister-in-law Feng hurried off.

The more Lin Chuxia thought about it, the more she felt something was off; Sister-in-law Feng's expression coming out from the alley wasn't quite right.

Still uneasy, Lin Chuxia decided to lock the car and head over to Li Wei's house.

Just as she entered the courtyard, she heard Jiang Hong's moaning from inside the house.

She hurried over and was about to push the door open when Jiang Hong opened it from inside first.

She was supporting her waist with one hand and the door with the other, her face pained, and her trouser leg was already soaked.

"Jiang Hong, are you about to give birth?"

Lin Chuxia's face changed dramatically, broken waters couldn't be delayed.

Jiang Hong nodded, "Chuxia, can you go call Li Wei to come back? I'm about to have the baby."

"Call Li Wei? I'm taking you to the hospital first."

Jiang Hong clutched her belly, wincing in pain, "I'm in too much pain to walk."

Without another word, Lin Chuxia picked her up.

Jiang Hong was startled and forgot to let go of the door she was holding.

Lin Chuxia tried to turn around to leave but couldn't move for a moment, she glanced at her hand, "Let go, I'm taking you to the hospital first, and we'll call Li Wei on the way."

It was then that Jiang Hong came back to her senses and hurriedly released her hand.

It wasn't that she was fixated on calling Li Wei; she simply hadn't expected Lin Chuxia, who was thin and frail, to have so much strength.

Lin Chuxia didn't care about what Jiang Hong was thinking, she put her in the car first, "Where have you put the things for childbirth?"

"It's in the cabinet next to the bed, the one you saw last time."

Lin Chuxia went back into the room and got her the things she needed.

When she came out, she ran into the sister-in-law from next door, who probably heard the commotion and came over to check on the situation.

Lin Chuxia asked the sister-in-law to let Li Wei know that his wife was about to give birth, and then she drove straight to the hospital.

On the way, she passed by Qin Yang's workplace gate and asked the gatekeeper to notify Li Wei that his wife was giving birth and to find him at the hospital.

By the time Lin Chuxia took Jiang Hong to the hospital and got her into the delivery room, Li Wei had only just arrived in a rush.

It was the dead of winter, and he was sweating profusely, showing how hurriedly he had come.

"Little sister-in-law, how's Jiang Hong doing? How... how is it that she's giving birth today? It's still half a month early."

He was extremely anxious, and if not for the nurse stopping him, he almost wanted to push open the delivery room door to check on her.

"I don't know what's going on either. When I got to your house, Jiang Hong's water had already broken."

On the way, Jiang Hong was enduring the pain, and all Lin Chuxia could do was to keep comforting her.

Suddenly, a suppressed moan from Jiang Hong came from inside the delivery room. Li Wei immediately forgot about Lin Chuxia and leaned against the delivery room door, shouting, "Jiang Hong, Jiang Hong, don't be afraid, I'm right outside..."

Before he could finish, the door to the delivery room suddenly opened, and a female doctor with a cold expression said, "What are you yelling for? Don't you know this is a hospital?"

"My wife, my wife is in there."

Li Wei tiptoed to look inside, but the female doctor blocked him firmly, "Stop looking; there are two women giving birth in there. Family members, behave. This is a hospital, not your home's kang (heated bed)."

With a "bang," the door closed again.

Had Li Wei not dodged quickly, his face would have been squarely hit.

Footsteps were heard again, as Qin Yang also arrived.

He passed by Li Wei and came directly to Lin Chuxia's side, "Is everything alright?"

"What could be wrong with me? It's Jiang Hong who's inside giving birth. I just happened to be there, so I rushed her to the hospital. Li Wei is the nervous one. Perhaps you should go and comfort him?"

Only then did Qin Yang glance at Li Wei, "It's fine."

At that moment, another painful cry from a woman came from the delivery room; everyone could tell it was Jiang Hong's voice.

Lin Chuxia instinctively grasped Qin Yang's arm, her little face turning a shade paler.

She had never given birth, but she knew the pain of childbirth, which is like having ten ribs break at the same time, unbearable for ordinary people.

At this time, with medical conditions being poor and no pain relief measures, one could only endure the pain by sheer willpower.

Li Wei was now even more flustered, and if it weren't for the fear of affecting the doctors' work, he really wanted to rush in to see for himself.

Qin Yang noticed the change in Lin Chuxia and took hold of her hand in response, "Don't worry, it will be all safe."

Lin Chuxia nodded her head.

Jiang Hong was giving birth inside, and she couldn't rest easy until she saw the outcome, so she simply joined Qin Yang in accompanying Li Wei to wait outside.

Fortunately, it wasn't a long wait. Accompanied by a suppressed scream from Jiang Hong, the loud cries of a baby echoed in the delivery room.

"She's given birth!" Lin Chuxia suddenly stood up.

Li Wei also spun around happily at the doorway, "It's born, it's born..."

After a little while, a nurse came out with a newborn baby, "Family member of Jiang Hong."

Li Wei hurried forward, "Here, I'm here."

"Congratulations, it's a boy, both mother and child are safe."

Li Wei took the baby, and without looking twice, he quickly asked the nurse as she was about to re-enter the delivery room, "When will my wife come out?"

"She'll be out in a little while."

"Ah! Okay... good..."

Li Wei held the baby, grinning foolishly, as if he was holding a fragile treasure.

Chapter 409: So Ugly

Lin Chuxia approached to have a look at the infant.

The baby was rather big, its little face already chubby upon birth. It had stopped crying now, its eyes closed as it intermittently puckered its lips.

"So cute!"

This was Lin Chuxia's first time seeing a newborn, feeling indescribable.

"Qin Yang, take a look at him."

Qin Yang glanced only once before averting his gaze, "The hospital probably doesn't need us anymore, and don't you have to return to An City? Let's head back after a meal."

Lin Chuxia did intend to do that. Only after Jiang Hong came out of the delivery room and confirmed that both mother and child were safe, did she and Qin Yang leave the hospital.

While Qin Yang was driving, Lin Chuxia was still in awe and recalled Qin Yang's reaction to seeing the baby, she tilted her head and asked, "Don't you like children?"

They had discussed having children before, but he didn't seem enthusiastic when they saw this baby.

Qin Yang replied without looking away, "So ugly."

Lin Chuxia: "..."

She never expected Qin Yang to focus on this.

Suddenly she laughed, "Babies just born are all like this."

Although he hadn't seen a newborn before, he still had some theoretical knowledge.

Babies are soaked in amniotic fluid in the womb, causing their skin to be red and swollen, and their facial features puffy. It's all normal.

Qin Yang did not comment and asked what Lin Chuxia wanted for lunch.

"Let's have noodles with soybean paste, it's quicker."

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Feng Dajun returned to his apartment and saw his wife cooking, his gaze complex.

Upon hearing her husband's footsteps, Sister-in-law Feng looked up, "You're back, quickly wash your hands, dinner will be ready soon."

Feng Dajun entered the room and saw Feng Jingjing writing something.

Feng Dajun approached, "What are you writing, Jingjing? Can you write everything? If not, you can ask Dad, I'll teach you."

Jingjing looked up at Feng Dajun, then nodded, "Dad, I can do it."

As she spoke, she closed her notebook and packed it into her school bag.

Feng Dajun waved his hand nonchalantly, "Come wash your hands after finishing your homework, it's almost time to eat."

For lunch, there was a plate of stir-fried cabbage, a dish of salty radish strips, and large white steamed buns as the main staple.

Feng Dajun took a bite of the bun, speaking while eating, "Li Wei's wife apparently gave birth today. When the doorman came to notify him, that guy had not even finished his work, just ran off. Normally he seems careless, but it turns out he really cares for his wife."

Sister-in-law Feng hummed indifferently, "Speaking of which, there are quite a few here in this compound who spoil their wives. I heard that Mr. Qin cooks at home. These people are all cunning, following Minister Wei's example in pampering their wives."

"Don't always think of people as so self-serving. The folks in this unit are all highly educated, inherently have higher standards, and can't be compared with the people back in our hometown..."

Feng Dajun hadn't finished his sentence when Sister-in-law Feng interrupted him.

"You also realize now that they are not the same as us? When I used to say this, you never liked to listen, but now you also admit it?"

Feng Dajun slightly frowned, "What did I admit? How am I different from them? We've been married for so many years, have I ever laid a hand on you?"

He didn't want to dwell on this issue, as he knew his wife wasn't highly educated and always felt inferior after coming out with him.

Even if he comforted her with words, she wouldn't listen, better to avoid the topic altogether.

"I heard you went to Li Wei's house today? Weren't you there when Li Wei's wife was about to give birth? Why did someone else go to the unit to call Li Wei, and Qin Yang's wife took her to the hospital?"

He heard about this on his way back.

Li Wei and he were in the same department, and both had been transferred from the same place; his wife got along well with Li Wei's wife, and Feng Dajun was happy about it.

But at such a crucial moment, why hadn't his wife help out?

Hearing this, Sister-in-law Feng's eyes darted guiltily, her voice raising several decibels.

"Da Jun, what do you mean by that? I did go to their place this morning, but it was also time to pick up Jingjing from school. I can't just neglect my own daughter at school for someone else's issues, can I?"

Feng Dajun furrowed his brow, still patiently explaining, "I'm not blaming you. I just think you should help out with colleagues' matters when possible. Giving birth is no small event, Jingjing is old enough, and our home isn't far from the school, hasn't she gone home by herself before?"

Sister-in-law Feng scoffed, "Oh, you were worried when I let her go home alone before, and now it's my fault for picking her up from school on time? Da Jun, I know what you mean, but think about it, even if I went out of my way to help, what good could I have even done without a car?"

With a smack, Feng Dajun slammed his chopsticks down on the table.

"How can you be so unreasonable?"

He couldn't understand how she could have become like this, blatantly in the wrong yet insisting she was right.

He could excuse some past behaviors as her being inexperienced or short-sighted.

But childbirth was a matter of life and death. If she didn't know it's one thing, but being there and ignoring it, wouldn't that be like leaving someone to die?

Seeing Feng Dajun's sudden grim expression, Sister-in-law Feng instantly put on a pitiful face.

"I was just afraid of causing you trouble, what could I, a woman with neither car nor strength, have possibly helped with? What if something happened, and we were to blame? Besides, at that time, she had just started feeling unwell. When I was giving birth to Jingjing, I was in pain for a whole day and night, and you were not home, didn't your mom make me endure it all night? How come you care more for someone else's wife than your own?"

Feng Dajun watched as Sister-in-law Feng sobbed and wiped her tears, recounting her grievances, his feelings of helplessness intensified.

Suddenly, the atmosphere in the room felt overwhelmingly suffocating.

"Go ahead and eat, I need to get some air."

Sister-in-law Feng's expression changed slightly as she saw that Feng Dajun was genuinely angry, and quickly followed him, "Da Jun, where are you going? You haven't finished your meal."

Only seeing the back of Feng Dajun as he stomped down the stairs.

Sister-in-law Feng's voice was loud, drawing the attention of cooking neighbors in the hallway.

Their gossiping eyes almost seemed to say right to her face: Fighting again?

Sister-in-law Feng slammed the door shut with a bang, turning around to see Feng Jingjing beside her, anger drove her to pinch her fiercely.

"It's all your fault, would your dad be angry if I hadn't gone to pick you up from school?"

"Why did I even give birth to such a useless child?"

"Eat, eat, eat, is that all you know?"

"You're still hiding? I told you to stop hiding, stop..."

Sister-in-law Feng pinched Feng Jingjing repeatedly, specifically targeting areas on her thighs that weren't visible.

Feng Jingjing cried silently, not daring to make a sound...

Chapter 410: He Shuji

The technician from the Agricultural Research Institute is named He Shujie, a young technician under 30 years old.

Despite his young age, to hold a position at the Agricultural Research Institute means his professional skills are top-notch.

Technician He specializes in off-season vegetable planting, and it took Lin Chuxia a lot of effort to invite him to provide guidance for the greenhouses in Qin Family Village.

After arriving in Qin Family Village, Technician He was arranged to stay with the Qin Family.

There was just one vacant room in the newly built house of the Qins.

Lin Chuxia specifically instructed Qin Han to tidy it up nicely, and Mrs. Qin prepared fresh bedding.

All three meals were personally taken care of by Mrs. Qin herself.

When Lin Chuxia got home, Technician He was not around.

Mrs. Qin was preparing dinner, with soy-braised tofu, omelette, freshly steamed large white buns, and also cooked a thick rice porridge.

"Mom, dinner is so lavish."

Lin Chuxia took a freshly steamed white bun, tore half of it, and went to look for sugar.

Mrs. Qin passed her the sugar jar with a smile, "The technician from the city is working for our village; we can't skimp on food and drink. Your brother also brought some ready-made food, I'll cut some more in a bit."

Lin Chuxia took a bite of the bun with sugar, and gave Mrs. Qin a thumbs up, "Mom, your awareness is getting higher and higher."

Mrs. Qin, feeling flattered and seeing her just eating a bun, quickly went to get the sausages.

"Don't just gnaw on the bun, let me slice some sausage for you."

"Mom, you don't have to fuss, I like this."

The freshly steamed buns with sugar brought back the taste of childhood.

Lin Chuxia quickly ate half a bun, clapped her hands, "I'm going to the field to have a look, do you know where they went?"

"They went to your brother's field. Your brother set up two greenhouses, one in his field and one in ours. I heard that the one in our field is now contributed by your brother for the technician to conduct experiments; Technician He mainly runs over to that side."

Lin Chuxia knew the brother Mrs. Qin mentioned was her elder brother, Qin Liang.

"Okay, I got it, I'll go have a look."

Lin Chuxia didn't drive this time, but rode her bicycle straight to their own field.

The fields in Qin Family Village had changed a lot, with neat rows of vegetable greenhouses.

From time to time, she'd run into villagers working in the fields, all of whom would greet Lin Chuxia warmly.

Upon reaching her own field, she saw Qin Han, standing outside the greenhouse smoking.

Qin Han was surprised to see her, "Sister-in-law, when did you come back?"

"Just got home a little while ago, big brother, is Technician He here?"

Qin Han hurriedly snuffed out his cigarette, "They're all in the greenhouse, the village chief's accountant is also there."

The village chief put the accountant Qin Ming in charge of the greenhouses, with the village chief responsible for coordination.

After all, as one ages, energy and mental acuity are far from what they were in youth.

As the person in charge of the agricultural supply store, Qin Han also needs to be involved in many matters.

For instance, right now, Technician He is deciding which kinds of vegetables need to be planted in the village greenhouses next and what seeds are required; once determined, Qin Han is responsible for purchasing and selling the seeds.

Technician He has also brought some seeds suitable for vegetable greenhouses this time, although the quantity is limited.

What they need to do now is to continually develop new varieties that adapt well during the planting process.

An excellent agricultural technician, from seed selection and seedling cultivation to disease and pest control, weeding, fertilizing, and other field management, all the way to the harvest,

will pay close attention and manage carefully to cultivate better quality varieties.

Lin Chuxia followed Qin Han into the greenhouse, where people were crouching on the ground, touching the soil and talking.

As she drew closer, Lin Chuxia heard a man in a white shirt and glasses seriously analyzing the relationship between soil and temperature, Qin Ming was helping him by earnestly taking notes.

Lin Chuxia just stood to the side and quietly listened.

Not until everyone had finished talking did Qin Liang first notice Lin Chuxia.

"Little sister-in-law, when did you come over?"

Lin Chuxia smiled and greeted Qin Liang, then turned to Technician He and extended her right hand, "Hello Technician He, sorry for not welcoming you right away, that was neglectful of me."

Technician He He Shujie, who had previously interacted with Lin Chuxia, spread his hands and said with an embarrassed smile, "My hands are all dirty, so let's not shake hands. There's no neglect; the conditions here are much better than I imagined. By the time I came, the villagers' vegetable greenhouses had already been built. The standard here far exceeds my expectations of the current rural areas."

He looked up at the towering vegetable greenhouses, full of hope, "If every village could act decisively like Qin Family Village, I believe the spread of vegetable greenhouses can happen quickly on a large scale."

Of course, he also knew that behind Qin Family Village stood Xiyang Food Company, and not every villager had such a support system.

Lin Chuxia did not miss the regret in his eyes and nodded in agreement, "All these hardware facilities are inanimate. What people need most are excellent varieties and technical support. As long as those aspects are met, I believe the widespread adoption of vegetable greenhouses is just around the corner. So in this regard, Technician He, you are the one Qin Family Village relies on."

Technician He smiled again, and this time he was genuinely embarrassed by Lin Chuxia's words but gave an affirmative response, "I will do my best."

The sun was about to set, and the temperature inside the greenhouse was also falling, requiring the covering with straw mats for insulation.

He Shujie and Lin Chuxia walked out while discussing the recent developments.

The vegetable varieties he brought had already been distributed to some of the farmers, and those who were quick had already seen seedlings sprout.

"The villagers of Qin Village are very unified and disciplined; it makes managing the promotion of planting quite easy. Before I came here, I was worried that the seeds distributed would go to waste, but it turned out that my concerns were unfounded."

He Shujie was clearly satisfied with the cooperation of the villagers of Qin Village.

Lin Chuxia replied with a smile, "Didn't the village chief tell you? The villagers and the village have signed an agreement; this season, the villagers must comply with the village's management in the vegetable greenhouses and listen to you, Technician He. You go ahead and do your work with confidence. You are the God of Wealth I've invited. Anyone who disobeys and offends my God of Wealth will be punished."

You can talk directly with the village chief about this or with me. And if you need anything, just let Qin Han know. Our Qin Family Village agricultural supply store is your backup force."

He Shujie laughed outright at her words.

Indeed, it was because of some promises made by Lin Chuxia that he had come to Qin Family Village.

Before coming, he had been prepared. Promises are one thing, and reality is another; he had experience at the grassroots level.

Yet, the actual conditions exceeded even what she had promised.

With the sun about to set, it was also time for them to finish work for the day.

Qin Ming handed over the notes to He Shujie, and they agreed to continue the next day, then went their separate ways home.