

Switched M 411

Chapter 411: Agricultural Bureau Sends Someone

Lin Chuxia watched Qin Liang standing atop the greenhouse, spreading a straw mat.

The vegetable greenhouse stood taller than a person, and with Qin Liang on top, Qian Chuncao below, their cooperation had become seamlessly tacit.

Each family in the village had built such greenhouses. Some families built one; some brothers shared one; Qin Liang's family had two—one on their own land, and another on Qin Han's land.

The very greenhouse mentioned before was situated on Qin Han's land, managed with the help of Qin Liang, but it was dedicated to Technician He for scientific research experiments.

This was a voluntary act by Qin Liang.

As the saying goes, good deeds bring good rewards. While Qin Liang's action seemed to sacrifice a greenhouse, the benefits were plentiful.

Not only could he learn planting knowledge directly from the technicians, but any issues with the greenhouse vegetables would be noticed immediately by the technicians for timely intervention.

These recent days Qin Han had been accompanying the researchers, while Mr. Qin oversaw the store.

By the time Lin Chuxia returned home, Mr. Qin had come back from the store as well.

Normally, He Shuji didn't dine with the Qin Family. Today was an exception; Lin Chuxia was present, so he joined them for dinner.

The next day, Lin Chuxia overslept. When she woke up, everyone had already left the house, save for Mrs. Qin who was tidying up the yard and had left some food for her in the pot.

After eating, Lin Chuxia wanted to go to the fields. But before she could leave, the village chief came looking for her.

Seeing Lin Chuxia's somber expression, "Lin, you're finally back. If you didn't return, I truly wouldn't have been able to cope. The Agricultural Bureau called again yesterday, wanting to send three technicians over. I'm at a loss on how to accommodate them."

Lin Chuxia first asked, "Uncle, you've interacted with Technician He these past days. What do you think of him?"

Qin Shusen spoke earnestly, "Look at the question you're asking, Lin. Although I don't understand the technicalities, Technician He is beyond reproach. He inspected our greenhouse construction even before settling in on his first day in the village. These past few days, he's been monitoring the greenhouses more diligently than even our villagers."

Lin Chuxia nodded, "Good, as long as Uncle approves of Technician He. When the Agricultural Bureau's technicians arrive, we'll treat them as we should, but remember, prioritize accordingly. Since the leaders from the bureau said they're here to help, let them help. As for the technical aspects, we'll follow Technician He's lead."

It's not that they distrusted the Agricultural Bureau's technicians, but credibility is essential in all matters.

The other details had already been discussed over the phone, so there was no need for Lin Chuxia to elaborate.

With his instruction clear, Qin Shusen prepared to make arrangements but then, as if struck by a thought, he took out a wad of money from his pocket.

"According to the village's custom, when guests stay with villagers, the village provides compensation to the host family. Even though Technician He was invited by you, the village must take care of his boarding and lodging."

It had been a long time since outsiders visited their village, the last time being when two educated youths were accommodated with a villager, who then received some extra public grains at the end of the year.

Now things were different. Qin Family Village had its own industry and income. Plus, with the technicians leading the village towards prosperity, the village chief had no intention of shortchanging them by dropping the ball halfway.

Additionally, the village chief wouldn't miss the opportunity to get on the good side of the Qin Family.

Lin Chuxia of course understood the village chief's underlying motives, and indeed, her mother-in-law had been working hard caring for the technicians every day.

"Alright, then I'll accept it."

Lin Chuxia also took out a wad of money from her pocket, exactly 200 yuan, and added it to the village chief's money. She then called over Mrs. Qin.

In front of the village chief, the wad of money was handed over to Mrs. Qin.

"This is the subsidy for Technician He's stay at our place."

Upon seeing the money, Mrs. Qin nearly dropped it in shock.

"I'm just cooking meals; do I really need so much money?"

Lin Chuxia spoke nonchalantly, "Mom, just take it since the village chief is giving it to you. Our village has money now, and besides, Technician He is a high-level intellectual from the capital, and he's going to stay with us for a long time, so consider it a salary from the village."

Reading Lin Chuxia's gesture, the village chief silently sighed, thinking it was too little, and went along with Lin Chuxia's words, "Yes, second sister-in-law, I am at ease with Technician He living in your home. This money is from the village, just take it."

Only then did Mrs. Qin accept the money with a smile, "I never thought I would see the day I'd receive a salary."

Since the village chief came over, Lin Chuxia didn't go back to the fields but accompanied the village chief to the county government compound.

The idea to bring in technical staff from the Agricultural Bureau was initiated by County Magistrate Bai.

Although Lin Chuxia did not take part in the Ancheng Food Factory issue, County Magistrate Bai still felt guilty towards Lin Chuxia.

Hearing that Qin Family Village was planning to set up vegetable greenhouses and that it was Lin Chuxia's suggestion, County Magistrate Bai spoke to the Agricultural Bureau, insisting that they must send technicians to Qin Family Village to help set up the greenhouses.

However, he hadn't expected that Lin Chuxia would directly invite technical staff from the Agricultural Research Institute.

Arriving at County Magistrate Bai's office, he first inquired about the current construction status of the vegetable greenhouses in Qin Family Village, giving them full affirmation and encouragement for this initiative.

He then brought up the matter of the Agricultural Bureau's technical staff.

"I've heard about Qin Family Village inviting technical staff from the Agricultural Research Institute, which is excellent news. I've already mentioned it to Director Liu of the Agricultural Bureau. This is a great learning opportunity for us. We must seize this chance to learn from the technicians of the Agricultural Research Institute. Rest assured, Mr. Qin and Lin, the Agricultural Bureau's involvement is purely to learn. If we can be of help, that would be best; we definitely won't drag down the construction of the vegetable greenhouses in Qin Family Village."

County Magistrate Bai was the first to express this stance.

Lin Chuxia thought to herself that County Magistrate Bai was certainly a clever man, a slick operator.

Opportunities to learn from the technical staff of the Agricultural Research Institute were indeed rare, and with the involvement of the Agricultural Bureau, not only could they gain cutting-edge agricultural knowledge, but the achievement of the Qin Family Village vegetable greenhouses would also be a significant mark on their record.

However, she was also willing to deal with smart people.

Dealing with a leader who can see the overall situation could avoid a lot of unnecessary troubles.

County Magistrate Bai also made a direct call, informing Director Liu of the Agricultural Bureau, and that afternoon, the technical staff from the Agricultural Bureau arrived at Qin Family Village.

Perhaps because Technician He from the Agricultural Research Institute was young and they wanted to find common ground, the three technicians sent by the Agricultural Bureau also appeared to be under 30, with one of the female comrades looking particularly young.

The village chief received the three technicians.

All three of them seemed very excited, and after meeting Qin Shusen, they proposed to meet the technician from the Capital Agricultural Science and Technology Institute so they could start working as soon as possible.

The village chief knew that Technician He had been very busy during this time.

There were over a hundred vegetable greenhouses in the village, and Technician He was nearly holding meetings with villagers every day.

Even with the help of few able village cadres and villagers, managing so many vegetable greenhouses was no small feat.

Chapter 412: Young man, why are you so curious?

As Lin Chuxia said, if the Agricultural Bureau really provides a few technical assistants, it would indeed be a good thing for their village and Technician He.

At this moment, Lin Chuxia and Technician He were in the greenhouse and saw the three people sent over by the Agricultural Bureau for the first time.

The leader, Hu Lichun, seemed to be the eldest among them, wearing a pair of thick glasses, and looked like an old scholar.

Li Jinglin seemed much more lively, his eyes gleaming when he saw the vegetable greenhouses in Qin Family Village and He Shuji's experimental fields.

The last member was a woman named Liu Yahong, in her early twenties, styled with big wavy curls.

Honestly, her attire didn't quite strike one as that of a technician but rather akin to a Department Store counter clerk.

But naturally, Lin Chuxia wouldn't judge anyone based on their appearance; the desire to look beautiful is universal.

Now with the pace of Reform and Opening-Up accelerating, especially in the lagging inland areas influenced by coastal cities in the south these past couple of years, both clothing and makeup are becoming more trendy.

Perming has become the latest fashion.

Before these three arrived, Lin Chuxia had given He Shuji a heads up.

He Shuji was very happy to hear that help from the Agricultural Bureau was coming, as he had been really busy lately and feeling somewhat overwhelmed.

After the three arrived, the village chief introduced everyone.

When introducing Lin Chuxia, he emphasized that she was the leader of the Qin Family Village's vegetable greenhouse project.

Hu Lichun, a reserved person by nature, shook hands with Lin Chuxia and Technician He.

In contrast, Li Jinglin was much more exuberant; after greeting Technician He, he turned to Lin Chuxia with sparkling eyes.

"I've long heard of Mr. Lin, our famous female entrepreneur in the county, the general manager of Xiyang Food Company. Mr. Lin, are you planning the next steps for developing the vegetable greenhouses in Qin Family Village? Is Xiyang Food Company going to expand into a new business?"

Lin Chuxia: ㄟ (ㄟ ㄟ ㄟ) ㄟ

Can't a technician just focus on their technology?

Why so nosy, young man?

"Currently, there are no such plans; developing the vegetable greenhouses in Qin Family Village is just about finding a way to enrich our villagers."

"It's definitely a way to wealth. Mr. Lin, being so young and always keeping up with the times, is a role model for us," Li Jinglin continued.

Liu Yahong tugged at his sleeve, "We are here working on the vegetable greenhouse, Li Jinglin, don't forget your role. We are here to support Qin Family Village and assist Technician He."

Li Jinglin reined in his excitement, scratching the back of his head awkwardly, "I was just too excited to meet Mr. Lin. But don't worry, I'll adjust soon and won't delay the work."

Hearing this, He Shuji glanced at him, then looked at Lin Chuxia and smiled slightly.

Just as he was about to return to his task, a fair hand reached out, "Hello Technician He, my name is Liu Yahong, I hope for your guidance in the future."

He Shuji looked at the hand for two seconds and lifted his own muddy hands, politely declining to shake hands.

Liu Yahong didn't mind, she smiled and squatted down next to He Shuji, showing a strong eagerness to learn, asking what needs to be done currently, and what stage the village's greenhouse project had reached.

At this moment, He Shuji was discussing the greenhouse matters with the accountant, Qin Ming.

Qin Ming was a very capable learner, and as the village accountant, he was meticulous.

When Lin Chuxia proposed constructing vegetable greenhouses in the village, she also handed over the related books she bought from the capital and the city to the village chief.

These books are now at the team headquarters, available for any interested villagers to peruse.

Qin Ming had started reading those books before the New Year and has now almost fully read them. He has been assisting Technician He, who finds the books very useful. They often discuss the details and Qin Ming conveys the information to others.

The original discussion was interrupted by the arrival of several technicians from the Agricultural Bureau, and Liu Yahong asked about the progress of the greenhouses, causing He Shujie to unconsciously frown slightly.

Seeing this, Lin Chuxia spoke up, "Currently, our village's vegetable greenhouses have all reached the planting standard, and a portion already has cucumbers and green vegetables planted..."

She methodically introduced the current state of the village's vegetable greenhouses while Hu Lichun and Li Jinglin hurriedly took notes.

They also asked about the construction time of the vegetable greenhouses, the daily duration of sunlight, and the current highest and lowest temperatures inside the greenhouses.

As technicians from the Agricultural Bureau, and coming to assist with the vegetable greenhouses, they clearly came well-prepared.

Lin Chuxia provided them with detailed information, with Qin Han occasionally adding a few remarks.

When they had a basic understanding, the two moved closer to He Shujie and Qin Ming, listening intently to their conversation and occasionally jotting down notes.

Lin Chuxia also listened intently while sensing a gaze steadily fixed on her.

Turning her head, she met Liu Yahong's eyes.

Their gazes locked for a few seconds before Liu Yahong turned her head away, and Lin Chuxia did not miss the disdain in her eyes.

She remembered that when Hu Lichun and Li Jinglin were asking about the greenhouse, Liu Yahong had not taken any notes, how much she absorbed, Lin Chuxia did not know.

Lin Chuxia stopped paying her attention and got involved in the work with several others.

In the evening, after finishing work in the vegetable greenhouses, the village chief gathered the villagers.

At the grain drying yard in the team headquarters, He Shujie lectured everyone about the planting and managing of yardlong beans in the vegetable greenhouses.

This had become a routine, with He Shujie lecturing here every evening about vegetable management.

Although the Qin Family Village has been home to vegetable farmers for generations, the planting has always involved a bit of groping, learning from the older generation. This systematic and scientific approach to planting was a first for them.

Everyone understood that planting in greenhouses differed from their previous farming methods, and the villagers were very enthusiastic.

Lin Chuxia even saw some unfamiliar faces at the back of the crowd.

Qin Han lowered his voice and explained, "Word got out that we have technicians giving lectures, so many relatives and friends from our Qin Family Village came to join and listen. In the past few days, we even have villagers from neighboring villages, look at those, from Songjia Village, I don't remember them having any relatives in our Qin Family Village."

Lin Chuxia smiled, "It's good, it's a rare opportunity to learn."

Qin Han also smiled, showing his white teeth.

He knew his sister-in-law was a person of vision and great compassion.

At first, when relatives and friends came to eavesdrop on the lectures, the villagers didn't react much.

Later, as villagers from other villages started showing up, some became unhappy, worried that the outsiders would learn and steal their livelihoods.

Because many voiced their concerns, the village chief was also conflicted whether to manage the situation, so he turned to Qin Han for advice.

Among these people, Qin Han and Lin Chuxia were family, and many times Qin Han's thoughts represented Lin Chuxia's.

Chapter 413: I Want to Stay in Qin Family Village

Qin Han immediately vetoed the idea, considering his sister-in-law's temperament.

If his sister-in-law were so petty over such a small matter, how could she possibly devote so much effort to promoting vegetable greenhouses in Qin Family Village?

The 300-watt bulbs illuminated the grain drying yard, brightening up this patch of heaven and earth.

Technician He stood on the platform, his voice explaining the cultivation of vegetables through loudspeakers.

Some villagers, using pencils left over by their children and their unused notebooks, struggled to take notes.

While those who knew barely any characters sat on benches, listening intently with all their focus.

Even the usually gossipy aunties remained quiet and orderly.

They were probably afraid the men would miss something, ready to help remind them if needed.

The children were the happiest ones.

The kids loved this atmosphere, yet they dared not disturb their parents in the crowd.

If they were so careless as to make noise and their parents missed something important, they would not just be scolded when they got home—they would get a sole-and-bottom duet right there and then.

Now, they all hid far away, taking advantage of the light from the grain drying yard to play Square Treasure, jump rope, toss beanbags...

And the mischievous boys squeezed into the crowd to pick up the empty matchboxes discarded by smoking men.

A matchbox could be torn into two prized pieces of paper for these boys.

After the class was over, it had gotten completely dark.

Although it was dark, it was not late—it was only 6:30, just in time to go home for dinner.

Qin Han directly called over Technician He, and the village chief did not leave out the other technicians either.

In the era of the communes, the higher-ups would also send agricultural and forestry technicians to the countryside.

They were mainly responsible for providing scientific farming guidance to the production teams.

These technicians, trained by county-level departments, held a high status in the rural areas.

The village chief was initially worried that the arrival of technicians from the Agricultural Bureau might upset Technician He.

After a day of interaction, he realized he had been too concerned and became even more enthusiastic towards the technicians.

They had come by bicycle and were now ready to head home.

However, Liu Yahong approached the village chief, hoping the village could arrange accommodation for her.

She also looked at the other two, "I think since we're going down to the grassroots, we should live and eat with the locals and participate in planting the vegetable greenhouses. Only then can we understand and identify problems as they arise, and lay down roots in the grassroots like Technician He..."

She spoke with righteous fervor, immediately putting the others on the spot.

It seemed as if Hu Lichun and Li Jinglin would appear to have a problematic work attitude if they said no.

Hu Lichun didn't have any problems with this, but Li Jinglin was somewhat reluctant.

"Mr. Liu, I think our situation is different from Technician He's. Look, we all live in the family quarters of the Agricultural Bureau, and it's just a few miles from Qin Family Village. Even if we go home to rest, it won't delay anything."

He only got married last fall, and he hasn't had enough time with his wife.

"This isn't just a matter of a few miles. Since we live in Qin Family Village, no matter what problems the vegetable greenhouses may have, we can learn about them in real time. We came here to assist Technician He, and when he needs us, can you ignore the call just because of these few miles? Of course, if you insist on going home to stay, I won't force you, but this is my stance. Village chief, I will stay in Qin Family Village and advance or retreat together with the villagers of Qin Family Village. Could you please help me sort out my lodging issue?"

Liu Yahong finished speaking and glanced at He Shuji.

He Shuji was organizing his materials and did not pay attention to the conversation here.

Liu Yahong's eloquent speech ended up falling on deaf ears. Feeling unsatisfied, she stepped forward and protested, "Technician He, what do you think? I believe that since the county sent us to assist Technician He, we should be tightly knit and always ready to follow Technician He's command."

Li Jinglin wanted to say something, but when he saw that she had dragged Technician He into the conversation, he had to keep quiet.

He Shuji adjusted his glasses, his tone mild, "I respect your opinions on this matter. If your home is close by, it's okay to go back. If you want to stay in Qin Family Village, I have no objections. Leave it to the village chief to arrange it. As for the command, the villagers of Qin Family Village are doing very well at the moment, there's nothing too complicated."

Liu Yahong's face lit up, "Then it's settled. I will stay in Qin Family Village and share weal and woe with Technician He. The two of you can do as you please."

Li Jinglin naturally didn't want to stay in the village, and Hu Lichun had been silent until now but was also reluctant to live in the village.

After all, the Forestry Bureau's family compound wasn't far from Qin Family Village, so there really wasn't a need.

Both expressed their thoughts diplomatically, assuring that it wouldn't interfere with their work.

The village chief hadn't expected that some of these technicians would want to stay in the village. After Hu Lichun and Li Jinglin spoke, the village chief indicated no problem, secretly wishing they would all go home.

Wouldn't staying in the village being so close to home be troublesome?

While inwardly complaining, the village chief realized he'd still have to make arrangements if Liu Yahong really insisted on staying in the village.

Technician He had already packed his things and saw Qin Han and Lin Chuxia waiting for him. He smiled politely, "I've kept you waiting, let's go."

"Wait for me, I'll go with you."

Liu Yahong called out and hurried to get her bike.

"Today I didn't bring any luggage, so I'll trouble Mr. Lin to prepare a new set of toiletries for me. If there's no new bedding, just clean ones will do. I'm not that picky in this regard. Going to the grassroots, I'm prepared for the harsh conditions and able to overcome them..."

She walked ahead only to find that no one was following her.

The village chief was rendered speechless by Liu Yahong's dramatics.

He hadn't even made arrangements yet, and how did she already latch onto Lin?

Seeing Lin Chuxia's expression, he immediately stepped forward and said, "Technician Liu, you don't need to go with them. Later, you can just follow me. You can stay at my house for the time being, in the same room as my daughter."

Liu Yahong turned to look sharply, "Aren't I staying at the Qin Family's? I heard that Technician He is staying at the Qin Family's."

The village chief thought to himself, Technician He was personally invited by Lin, and Lin arranged for him to stay at the Qin Family's place, with the Qin Family people personally looking after him to ensure he wasn't inconvenienced.

Who do you think you are?

Though that's what he thought inside, he still kept a smile on his face, "The Qin Family has already arranged for one person, it would probably be difficult for them to take care of another."

Liu Yahong spoke nonchalantly, "I'm an adult, and as a female comrade, what care do I need? I may as well stay at the Qin Family's too. That way, if there are any technical issues, it would be easier to communicate with Technician He. If the Qin Family people are overburdened, I can also help take care of

Technician He's daily life. After all, Technician He came to us in An City from the capital, and as Ancheng people, we must extend our local hospitality."

He Shuji frowned slightly. His life at the Qin Family's was very good, Aunt Qin took good care of his meals, and as for the rest, he had hands and feet, who needed others to take care of him?

Especially since the other party was a woman.

But this was someone else's turf, and if the village really arranged for Liu Yahong to stay at the Qin Family's, he didn't have a reason to refuse.

Chapter 414: Different

At that moment, Lin Chuxia spoke up, "I think we should listen to the village chief on this matter. Our family has many members, and there's only the one empty room where Technician He is staying now. It really can't accommodate any more."

Liu Yahong didn't expect Lin Chuxia to object and asked reflexively, "How can it not accommodate anyone? I heard that your family just built a new house last year, with only your in-laws living in it. Now, with an extra technician from the Agricultural Research Institute, there's still a room available."

Lin Chuxia, with her hands in her pockets, silently looked at her. Her pair of black eyes, lit up by the light bulb in the corner of the grain drying yard, shone exceptionally bright, giving off an indescribable sense of pressure.

Liu Yahong held her gaze for a few seconds before backing down, feeling somewhat resentful. The words that came out of her mouth were somewhat accusatory.

"Are you just unwilling to have me stay at your house? We are technicians sent by the county, here at Qin Family Village to support the construction of your village's vegetable greenhouses. For work, I've even given up the chance to go back home. Shouldn't you be fully supporting our work? Whatever the reason, you are now making things difficult for a technician; shouldn't you feel ashamed of your mean-spirited thoughts?"

She was about to expose her right in front of Technician He.

Don't think that just because you have a little money and some good looks that you can do whatever you want, as if everyone should hold you in high regard.

Just a steamed bun seller, after all, what's so great about that.

Lin Chuxia smiled faintly and finally spoke.

"Technician Liu came to Qin Family Village to support the village's vegetable greenhouse construction. As for your technical contributions, I haven't seen much to speak of, but you've managed to learn a lot about our family's affairs. Have you also looked into whether the other room is reserved for my eldest aunt? She needs it when she returns to her family home. As for whatever thoughts Technician Liu mentioned, I know what I am doing, and don't need your reminder."

After Lin Chuxia finished speaking, she nodded to the village chief and left with Qin Han and Technician He.

The village chief was also displeased, and Lin Chuxia was right. This Technician Liu, it wasn't apparent what technical expertise she brought, but she certainly did cause chaos.

What attitude does Lin Chuxia have towards the people of Qin Family Village, and did she need her to cause trouble here with a few words?

But, given that she was dispatched by the county, they still had to treat her courteously.

Liu Yahong knew that she wouldn't be able to stay at the Qin family's place and glancing at the village chief, said, "I think we should also move Technician He to the village chief's house tomorrow. Letting Technician He stay at such a person's house, who knows if he can rest well. Technician He has come all the way from the capital; the village chief, you shouldn't casually arrange for him to stay at a villager's home."

The village chief thought to himself that Technician He was personally invited from the Capital Agricultural Science and Technology Institute by Lin, how could Lin treat him poorly?

Moreover, what conditions do the Qin family have and what does his own family have?

The village chief had seen for himself when Technician He arrived; the room prepared by the Qin family was all new.

Even their meals were almost like his family's New Year's feast.

He muttered to himself in his heart but still put on a smile and said, "We don't have much space in our house either, and my son is quite naughty and mischievous, so I truly apologize for not being able to let Technician He share a room with him."

Liu Yahong seemingly understood and, pretending to help the village chief think of a solution, said, "Why not let Technician He stay at a guest house? Doesn't Qin Family Village have so many industries? You can't possibly tell me they can't afford a guest house?"

The village chief immediately shut his mouth, unable to maintain the smile on his face.

The village chief was not happy at all, and Li Jinglin was similarly frustrated.

By now it had gotten dark, and he and Hu Lichun were riding their bicycles home.

The two lived in the residential complex of the Agricultural Bureau, with Hu Lichun being a few years older than Li Jinglin. Both of them worked in the same department, and Hu was, in a sense, Li Jinglin's direct superior.

It's just that for their kind of unit, apart from the few top leaders, everyone else in each department is also hard-working.

"Once we return today, Liu Yahong will stay in the village. Do you think Technician He and Village Chief Qin will have any objections about the two of us?"

Although Li Jinglin doesn't want to stay in the village, he also doesn't want to be affected in this respect.

Hu Lichun was much more relaxed, "No worries, I don't think Technician He is that kind of person."

He turned his head and glanced at Li Jinglin, "Haven't you realized it yet? Technician He is definitely a person with strong professional knowledge and extremely serious about his work. His research on vegetable greenhouses and off-season vegetables definitely didn't just start recently. For someone like him to be invited by Qin Family Village, they must have put in a lot of effort."

Li Jinglin nodded, "I heard that it was Mr. Lin from Xiyang Food Company who invited him. The woman I saw today is nothing like what I had imagined."

Hu Lichun smiled and asked him, "How so?"

Li Jinglin didn't miss the teasing in his eyes and shot back, "Weren't you surprised as well?"

He sighed while looking at the distant streetlights, "I never expected Mr. Lin to be so young and such a beautiful woman. When I heard about her before, I thought she would at least be a middle-aged woman in her thirties or forties."

Speaking of this, he remembered Liu Yahong, "I don't know what the head of the Agricultural Bureau was thinking, letting someone like Liu Yahong who knows nothing about planting techniques join us in the field. Isn't that just causing trouble? Now she's staying in Qin Family Village and we are running back; really...it doesn't matter where you live if you're serious about working with technology."

And they insisted on staying at the Qin Family's place, even if the Qin Family wasn't happy about it.

He felt embarrassed just standing on the sidelines.

Hu Lichun laughed, "Just say that you want to go back to your wife, why bother getting upset over it? We can't question the leaders' decisions; just do your job well."

"I don't necessarily need to go home, I'm just saying. Let's just head back, and if need be, we can head over earlier tomorrow morning."

...

By the time Liu Yahong and the village chief arrived home, the village chief's wife was cooking.

Seeing the village chief return with a female technician, the village chief's wife wiped her hands on her apron, looking at her husband unsure what to do.

The village chief made it clear, "Cook one more dish tonight. Technician Liu will be staying with us from now on. Later, make sure to warm up Yufeng's room well and lay out an extra quilt."

"Would it be okay to fry some cabbage? That's all we have left at home. I've made corn porridge, and we have leftover steamed buns from lunch. If that's not enough, I can make some dough drops, they taste good in the porridge."

The village chief's wife negotiated, glancing at Liu Yahong from time to time.

"Sure, just arrange as you see fit. You take Technician Liu to Yufeng's room to have a look first. Yufeng should be getting off work soon, right?"

"She should be arriving home soon. When she gets here, we'll have her warm the kang."

The village chief nodded, feeling that he had made everything clear and went back to his room.

After all, she was a female comrade; leaving the eating and living arrangements to his wife was better. It was inconvenient for an old man like him to ask too many questions.

The village chief's wife now felt at ease. Back when her husband was the brigade leader, they had hosted visitors at their home; she still remembered how to take care of them.

"Technician Liu, you go back to your room and rest for a while. Dinner will be ready soon."

Chapter 415: Will It Really Work?

The village chief's wife took Liu Yahong to her daughter Qin Yufeng's room, then turned around and went back to the kitchen to cook.

Qin Yufeng lived in the east wing room, having an independent room for a girl in their village was already quite good.

Liu Yahong stood at the doorway of the room, looking around with a face full of disdain.

The innermost part of the room had an earthen platform bed with a cabinet on top, and beside the platform bed, there was only a table and a chair.

The floor was relatively clean, but it was made of bricks.

The walls were pasted with newspapers.

When had she ever lived in such a room in her entire life?

It was dirty and worn, there might even be fleas inside.

Just thinking of that word, Liu Yahong truly did not want to stay here another minute.

Without greeting anyone, she pushed her bike and left.

Hearing the noise, the village chief's wife quickly came out from the kitchen, only to see the back of Liu Yahong.

Seeing the door of her daughter's room still open, she hurried over to close it.

It's the dead of winter, leaving the door open for a while would let all the warm air out, how cold would it be when her daughter came back?

After closing the door, she went to look for her husband, wondering why this person had left again.

Turning her head, she saw the village chief coming out of the room too, with a smoking pipe in his mouth, puffing away.

"Where did Technician Liu go? It's so late at night, should I let Zhuzi follow her to see?"

The village chief puffed at his smoking pipe twice but couldn't draw any smoke, he looked closer and realized the pipe was already full of ash.

He tapped the bottom of his shoe, then poked his pipe into a hanging tobacco bag to load it again, indifferently saying, "Don't worry about her, we'll eat when it's time to eat."

Having lived to his age, what hadn't he experienced?

Even Lin had seen through Liu Yahong's petty thoughts, how could he not?

Meanwhile, Liu Yahong rode her bicycle straight back to the Agricultural Bureau's family quarters.

Her parents, Mr. Liu and Mrs. Liu, were eating, they looked up when they heard the noise and saw their daughter returning. Mrs. Liu quickly put down her chopsticks.

"Why are you back so late? Didn't you say you were going to stay in Qin Family Village? It's not safe for a girl to be running back and forth late at night. Were the two male comrades who went with you not able to escort you home?"

Liu Yahong pouted and threw her bag onto the sofa.

"Don't even mention it, I feel like the people in Qin Family Village look down on others. The place they arranged for me to stay was like a dog kennel, I refused to stay there."

Hearing this, Mrs. Liu came over to comfort her, "I thought something serious happened. It's just the village, that's how it is. You went there to endure hardship, didn't you have that mental preparation? If you're not used to it, I'll bring you some bedding later. You still need to stay there. That will show our determination to serve at the grassroots level and give you more chances to interact with the technicians from the capital."

"Mom, don't even mention it," Liu Yahong grew even more irritated, "The living arrangement they made for me was not even near Technician He, I feel like they did it on purpose."

"Not in the same place? Then you should make a request to the village. Our county's technicians are there to serve them, why should we have to endure their disdain?"

Mrs. Liu held Liu Yahong's hand and lowered her voice, "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, I know you've always been ambitious, and now the opportunity is right in front of you, you must seize it. Or is it that you look down on the technician from the capital?"

Thinking of Technician He, Liu Yahong blushed slightly and complained coquettishly.

"That He guy looks okay, but he's like a piece of wood. All day long, he only talks about seeds, temperature, soil. I tried to initiate a conversation with him several times, but he barely paid any attention."

Seeing her daughter like this, Mrs. Liu immediately understood.

"He's technical-minded, what did you expect, romance? You've seen those at the Agricultural Bureau who focus on technology, aren't they all a bit dull and foolish-looking? It has its advantages though, less scheming in his mind. Besides, what we value is his status, a senior intellectual at the Agricultural Research Institute. Marrying him means becoming a professor's wife, becoming a capital resident. Haven't you always longed to live in a big city like the capital?"

Liu Yahong's face turned even redder, "Mom, can this really happen?"

"Of course, why not? When he arrived, I already noticed for you; his introduction letter clearly states he's unmarried. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Would this chance have come to you if your uncle wasn't the director of the Agricultural Bureau? You must seize it."

Liu Yahong nodded, "Mom, I understand, there's no need for you to say more. I was just complaining casually. I've decided on He Shuji. It's just that I find that Lin distasteful, what does he have besides some foul money, after all, he's just a bumpkin."

If they didn't want her to stay at their house, they should've just said so directly instead of making excuses.

Once a daughter is married, she's like spilled water, which house keeps a room for a married daughter?

I even heard that the idea of the vegetable greenhouses in Qin Family Village was suggested by a woman, and I thought it was someone significant, turns out she's narrow-minded.

Mrs. Liu slightly frowned, "How did it link back to Lin? Which Lin?"

Liu Yahong didn't want to discuss this with her mother anymore and linked arms with her, heading to the dinner table.

"It's nothing, mom, let's eat first, I'm starving."

...

Lin Chuxia hadn't reached home yet when she ran into Qin Yufeng who just got off work from Xiyang Food Factory.

"Mr. Lin," Qin Yufeng specifically took a detour to find Lin Chuxia, "Factory Director Su asked me to give you a message. When you're free tomorrow, please return a call to Xiyang Food Factory."

She didn't specify whom the return call should be for, but Lin Chuxia knew it probably involved Qin Yang.

Qin Han also sensed the implied meaning in these words, mercilessly whispered a small complaint, "Just came back a few days and already the calls are rushing in."

Lin Chuxia pursed her lips and smiled, "Alright, got it, thank you."

He Shuji was currently staying in Qin Family, naturally aware of the household's conditions.

He had great admiration for Lin Chuxia, and these days in Qin Family Village had deepened his understanding of this woman, which piqued his curiosity about her husband as well.

"I heard Mr. Lin's husband is an engineering designer."

"Yes," whenever she mentioned her husband, Lin Chuxia always carried a hint of pride.

"Then we must meet sometime. Our country has a huge volume of infrastructure projects each year. To get rich is to build roads first. According to the current national development trends, they will be the mainstay architects of our country for decades."

"Technician He, you're no different. Feeding 1.3 billion people in the country, all of you are indispensable."

Qin Han scratched the back of his head; he wasn't good with fancy words but felt that both Technician He's and his brothers' work was very important.

"It's not difficult to meet, my sister-in-law won't be home for long, the second eldest will be back soon, then you'll get to meet the technician."

Technician He paused briefly, then smiled again, "Mr. Lin and Mr. Qin must have a very good relationship."

Chapter 416: If I Say I'll Buy It, I'll Buy It

"I heard Technician He and your girlfriend get along very well. Now that Technician He is coming down to the grassroots level, isn't that holding you guys up? I heard you were planning to get married this year."

When his girlfriend was mentioned, a gentle look flickered in He Shuji's eyes, "It's alright; we were originally planning to have the wedding in the fall, by which time Mr. Lin wouldn't need me anymore."

The technical guidance is really only necessary at the beginning. Once they have the experience, even if there are any issues later on, they can fully contact me by phone or mail. This was initially agreed upon by Lin Chuxia and Technician He, to only stay in their village for three months.

As they chatted, they headed home, and Mrs. Qin had already prepared dinner.

Technician He was having dinner with them today.

Mr. Qin had been at the agriculture store this whole time and had to go back after dinner.

Such a big store couldn't be left unattended at night.

Lin Chuxia had suggested hiring another person, but Mr. Qin couldn't relax about this, and besides, he had finally gotten something to do, hiring another person would just leave him idle again, wouldn't it?

These past two years, his health had been getting better, and it was uncomfortable for him to see his children busy while he had nothing to do.

Technician He, upon seeing Mr. Qin, suddenly remembered something.

"A couple of days ago, I called the Agricultural Research Institute to request a batch of heat-resistant cabbage seeds, which I estimate will arrive in the next few days."

Qin Han immediately followed up, "Alright, I'll check the post office tomorrow."

The cabbage seeds available on the market now are all for winter storage, which are cold-resistant and good for storage.

They planned on planting off-season vegetables, which really required seeds from the Agricultural Research Institute.

"This batch of seeds is still being tested. Our Qin Family Village will serve as a pilot now, whether or not it can be planted on a large scale in the future will depend on the planting results of Qin Family Village."

Whenever they talked about these matters, He Shuji had more to say.

Lin Chuxia could tell that he truly loved this career.

The next day, Qin Han got up early and went to the agriculture store.

Since the agriculture store was built, Lin Chuxia hadn't been there yet and followed along.

Mr. Qin was already up and tidying up things in the yard.

Those were all big items used for farming and the greenhouses.

"Dad, take a break first, have some breakfast while it's hot."

Qin Han brought breakfast over as well.

Mr. Qin patted his hands clean and walked over to the counter to pick up an order list, "In a few days, we need to stake the green beans in the greenhouse. You go pull up some stakes, and at the bottom, there's a list of inventory that needs restocking."

Lin Chuxia was surveying the agriculture store.

The plot of land given by the village chief wasn't small; now, it was encircled by a wall, used as a backyard for the agriculture store to store large items.

The storefront was built with a total of seven compartments: five for the store and two for storage.

In addition, they built side rooms where Mr. Qin was now living.

Hearing the father and son's conversation, Lin Chuxia also came over to take a glance.

Heh, quite a bit of inventory needed to be ordered.

Qin Han put the order list straight into his pocket, "Okay, I'll go in a bit. Uncle Three's tractor should be home."

Lin Chuxia looked over, "Big brother, have you been using Uncle Three's tractor to deliver goods to the agriculture store all this time?"

"Yeah, Xiao Wu and his wife are working, and there's not much to do on Uncle Three's farm. The tractor would just be sitting idle at home anyway, so I used his and filled it up with fuel."

Qin Han knew what his sister-in-law meant.

From the start of building the agriculture store to now stocking it with a good amount of inventory, it has all been paid for by his sister-in-law.

Initially, the sister-in-law and the village had an agreement that Xiyang would cover the initial investment for the vegetable greenhouses.

So the siblings-in-law never imposed any restrictions on spending at the agricultural store.

Qin Han also knew that having a vehicle for the agricultural store was convenient, but his siblings-in-law had entrusted such a big store to him; how could he have the nerve to use Chuxia's money to buy a transport vehicle for the store?

But Lin Chuxia didn't have so many concerns and spoke directly, "I saw some new trucks in the city, big brother. You should go buy one later, and I'll get the money for you soon."

Qin Han waved his hands hurriedly, "No need, little sister. It's convenient to get a car from Uncle Three's place, and if really necessary... if really necessary, I'll buy a tractor later."

These past two years, he and his wife had also saved some money; it was enough to buy a tractor.

Lin Chuxia frowned slightly, "Big brother, are you planning to settle accounts with me separately? If I say buy, then we'll buy. I still have a say in this agricultural store, you know."

Qin Han suddenly cracked a smile, "Of course you have a say, little sister." The agricultural store was only adding money in, and all the funding was provided by his little sister; how could she not have a say?

Lin Chuxia also smiled, "Then hurry up, big brother. The village is waiting for the seeds. We can talk about buying the truck later."

"Alright!"

Qin Han agreed and turned to leave the agricultural store.

Mr. Qin watched all this with a smile and said to Lin Chuxia, "Your big brother has a good heart; he just doesn't want to bother you."

Mr. Qin was worried that Lin Chuxia might misunderstand, as his eldest son had confided to him in private that his second daughter-in-law wanted to give him the agricultural store.

Mr. Qin had told his son to just do whatever his sister-in-law asked, without overthinking or feeling too burdened psychologically.

He had long noticed that his second daughter-in-law was family-oriented; since the time she started selling buns at a stall, she always thought of providing for them, the old couple, and Yangyang's older brother and sister-in-law whenever she made a bit of money.

Now that her business was growing bigger and bigger, she wanted to lift up her eldest brother's family, which was indeed the style of his second daughter-in-law.

As long as the eldest brother's family had their hearts in the right place and did not become ungrateful or heartless, that would be enough.

Of course, as their father, he also had his own understanding of his children.

But indeed, having such a good thing resting on the shoulders of his eldest son was still giving him a psychological burden.

Lin Chuxia smiled and nodded, "I know, my elder brother and sister-in-law are always looking out for me from the bottom of their hearts."

This time, Mr. Qin truly laughed from the core of his heart.

"Speaking of which, since you're here, take a look at the store's accounts."

Mr. Qin took out two account books from the agricultural store, one in each hand.

"Although we initially agreed to cover the upfront investment for the vegetable greenhouse, many villagers also paid in cash when they took goods. This book is for those who paid, and this one is for the credit accounts."

Lin Chuxia hadn't expected that under these circumstances, there would still be villagers willing to make this investment, and she first looked at the book of those who had cleared their accounts.

Even though it was only a matter of a few dozen households, given that people generally didn't have much cash on hand at the time, and the investment for vegetable greenhouses was huge, there weren't many who could afford this investment.

Lin Chuxia smiled knowingly; she saw her eldest brother Qin Liang's name in there, as well as the name of Uncle Three.

There were also a few others who had family members working at Xiyang Food Factory.

She knew that these people had a little more to spend because they had stable jobs at home, and also wanted to lighten the load on her shoulders.

After flipping through that account book, she picked up the other, where everything was clearly recorded.

"Dad, you and big brother have been working hard these days."

Mr. Qin waved it off with a smile, "Hard work? I have something to do every day, and I feel more spirited. Besides, managing this is much easier than farming."

"I think you're even looking younger, Dad."

While they were chatting, Qin Jianshe came running in hurriedly from outside.

"Grand-uncle, is my fourth aunt here?"

Before Mr. Qin could answer, Qin Jianye had already spotted Lin Chuxia.

In the dead of winter, the boy was sweating profusely and also seemed to have reddened around the eyes in urgency.

Lin Chuxia was slightly taken aback, "What's happened?"

Chapter 417: Gas Poisoning

Qin Jianye wiped his eyes, "My dad and mom have carbon monoxide poisoning, right there at the greenhouse. Technician He and Technician Li are there too, showing some symptoms. Uncle Qin asked me to come find you and second uncle, to see if we can borrow a car from the food factory to take my dad to the hospital."

Lin Chuxia's face changed, and she headed out before Qin Jianye could finish speaking.

"What are you doing, child? Hurry to the food factory and tell the security guard; ask Hou Jinbao to drive there directly. How are your mom and dad right now?"

"My mom can't stop vomiting and my dad still hasn't woken up when I left."

"Then hurry up, take my bicycle."

Lin Chuxia handed her bicycle to Qin Jianye and ran towards Qin Liang's land.

The greenhouses in the village were built by the villagers one after another. Because of different locations and management discrepancies, each household's vegetable greenhouse varied in condition.

Among them, Brother Qin Liang had the most ingenious ideas; he even lit a fire inside the greenhouse.

His greenhouse had the highest internal temperature in the village, and the seedlings were growing the best.

As a result, the technicians frequented his greenhouse more often.

When she heard about this, she reminded Brother Qin to be very cautious of carbon monoxide poisoning.

The vegetable greenhouses were well-sealed. Carbon monoxide poisoning was no trivial matter.

She didn't expect that an accident would happen in just a few days.

Lin Chuxia quickly made it to the land, and by now a crowd had formed around Qin Liang's greenhouse, with several village cadres among them.

As Lin Chuxia arrived, people automatically made way for her.

"Mr. Lin is here."

"Qin Yang's wife has come."

.....

Lin Chuxia spotted Qin Liang sitting on the ground, and the heart she was holding in her throat finally settled down.

Beside him were He Shuji and three other technicians from the county.

"Brother, how are you feeling right now?"

She then glanced at the nearby vegetable greenhouse, which was ventilating by opening the curtains.

Qin Liang still looked weak, but his voice was loud.

"Ah, I'm fine, you all are making a big fuss over nothing. Zhuzi, help me roll down the curtains; this whistling wind is coming in and will freeze the crops."

A hesitant young man from the crowd stepped forward, but Lin Chuxia stopped him with a stern face, "Don't close it; we need to ensure thorough ventilation here."

Once she confirmed that there was no life-threatening danger to those present, Lin Chuxia coldly addressed the villagers, "What's the point of growing vegetables in greenhouses? It's to improve our lives. Both the greenhouses and the vegetables inside are meant to serve us. When we're living day to day, we should put people first. If the money we make comes at the expense of our health, or even our lives, then what's the point of earning it?"

Qian Chuncao felt somewhat guilty and trembled with fear at Lin Chuxia's genuine anger.

She timidly tugged at Lin Chuxia's sleeve, "Sister-in-law, it's really not a big deal. Your brother and I just stayed inside for too long. Think about it, don't we all light fires at home every winter? Nothing has ever happened before. This time it was just that your brother and I weren't careful. Next time we'll just pay more attention."

Besides, who hasn't experienced carbon monoxide poisoning from lighting fires at home? A headache for a day and a half and then it's all better.

The village chief also took over the conversation, "I think Lin's right. Although we're no strangers to carbon monoxide poisoning, and many people tend not to take it seriously, today we have to sound an alarm for everyone. Those who plan to light fires in the vegetable greenhouses must be mindful of the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning..."

As the village chief spoke, a 121 van drove up.

Qin Jianye got out of the car and ran over, shouting as he did, "Dad... Dad... the car's here, hang in there..."

Qin Liang's forehead veins pulsed irritatedly as he shouted back, "I'm not dead yet, stop howling..."

Would his son ever stop causing a fuss and needing the younger siblings to hurry and get so worked up?

He was old enough to care about his dignity, wasn't he?

Seeing Hou Xiaobao driving up, Lin Chuxia's face relaxed as well.

"Put everything else aside for now, Brother Qin, Sister-in-law Qin, Technician He, Technician Li, you all should go to the hospital for a check-up."

Qin Liang wanted to say it wasn't necessary, but a look from Lin Chuxia shut him up.

He Shuji really didn't think it was needed, "I don't need to go, I haven't spent much time in the greenhouse today, and aside from some dizziness, I don't have any other physical discomforts. I'm already feeling better after getting some fresh air."

Liu Yahong stood by with a concerned expression, "How can you not go? Technician He is a valuable asset to the country. If something happens to you in Qin Family Village, we cannot bear the responsibility. Better go to the county hospital for a check. I know some people there, I'll accompany you."

She went to help He Shuji up.

But He Shuji subtly dodged her hand, shifted a couple of steps aside, and said to the Qin Family folks, "Hurry and take Brother Qin and Sister-in-law Qin to the hospital. It looks quite serious, don't delay it. Technician Li, you should also go get checked out."

His gaze eventually landed on Lin Chuxia.

Seeing that He Shuji indeed seemed to be okay, Lin Chuxia signaled for Hou Xiaobao to help Qin Liang and Chun Cao onto the van.

Li Jinglin didn't have any issues by now and didn't get on the van.

Today, Qin Liang and his wife had come to work in the greenhouse early, and Li Jinglin got up extra early specifically for today because he had rejected Liu Yahong's suggestion to stay in Qin Family Village yesterday.

Technician He and Technician Hu followed one after the other.

It was Technician Hu who discovered something strange in the greenhouse after arriving, just when Qin Jianye was delivering breakfast.

Qin Liang stood up to come over for breakfast and just like that, without any warning, collapsed again.

Meanwhile, Liu Yahong had had a good night's sleep at home and only came to Qin Family Village after breakfast.

Therefore, Brother Qin and his wife were seriously affected, whereas Technician Li and Technician He showed mild symptoms.

Hou Xiaobao and Qin Jianye helped Qin Liang and Chun Cao into the vehicle, said goodbye to Lin Chuxia, and then hurriedly drove away.

Seeing the car leave, Liu Yahong spoke with worry, "Since Technician He doesn't want to go to the hospital, he should at least rest some more. I think he shouldn't work today, I'll take you home to rest."

She approached He Shuji again to help him.

He Shuji slightly frowned, "No need, I know my own body best," and turned around heading to his greenhouse on the opposite side.

Liu Yahong followed him, "How can that be okay? Carbon monoxide poisoning can damage the brain, and your brain is so important."

Then she turned to Qin Ming and said, "You are a village cadre, and something nearly happened to Technician He in your village. Aren't you a cadre supposed to take responsibility? He needs rest now. You can't let the greenhouse work affect Technician He's health. Just now, some people mentioned, no matter the situation, health is most important."

Lin Chuxia, the one referred to as 'some people', spoke up, "Technician Liu is right. Technician He, I think you should take the day off today. My brother has gone to the post office to pick up some seeds, and we'll discuss planting early cabbage later."

Chapter 418: Mr. Lin is Very Impressive

He Shuji thought for a moment and nodded, "That's fine."

Liu Yahong's face lit up with joy, but then listened to Lin Chuxia addressing the others, "Technician Li should also take a day off today, your health is the capital for the revolution. Technician Hu, how about you?"

Hu Lichun shook his head, "I'm fine."

"Then I'll leave it to Technician Hu and Technician Liu to take care of things here. Technician Liu should be fine too, right?"

Liu Yahong's smile paused, "With Technician He like this, he needs someone to look after him."

He Shuji was just about to say it's not necessary when he heard Lin Chuxia say, "Technician Liu, don't worry, we'll take good care of Technician He."

Liu Yahong widened her eyes, was Lin Chuxia specifically opposing her?

"I... I mean..."

Before she could continue, Lin Chuxia slightly smiled, "Mr. Liu is a technical staff member dispatched to Qin Family Village by the County Agricultural Bureau, specializing in vegetable planting techniques. If the villagers have any questions, they can also ask Mr. Liu."

Having finished, she ignored Liu Yahong and left with He Shuji.

Liu Yahong watched Lin Chuxia's back, grinding her teeth in secret.

On the way, He Shuji's eyebrows were still tightly furrowed, "This Mr. Liu from the county is always inexplicable. This morning, she even brought breakfast, this isn't what people working in scientific research do. I don't know what the leaders in your county are thinking, but Technician Hu and Technician Li are still good. Can you talk to your leaders to replace Mr. Liu with another male comrade?"

Liu Yahong's behavior these past few days had made even the slow-responding He Shuji realize.

Deep down, he was annoyed by such people.

Lin Chuxia nodded, "Okay, I will mention it to the village chief."

This matter was dealt with by the county and the village, so it had to be managed by the village chief.

When he arrived home, Mrs. Qin had already heard about the situation in the fields and asked about He Shuji's health as he came back early.

Knowing that He Shuji was not seriously ill, she told him to go back to his room to rest and called him for lunch.

She asked Lin Chuxia about Qin Liang and his wife only when the two of them were left alone.

"It should be fine, they have already gone to the hospital for a check-up, and Hou Xiaobao will come back and tell me the situation."

Mrs. Qin patted her chest with a residual fear, "This gas poisoning is the scariest. Every year you hear about people being suffocated. How could your brother and sister-in-law be so careless?"

"With this incident, they should learn their lesson. I heard that other families in the village started following my brother by lighting stoves in the greenhouses. This indeed served as a reminder to everyone."

"Right, we should talk to everyone about this again, it's not a joke."

"Don't worry, mom, the village chief will definitely talk about it."

After sorting out the matters at home, Lin Chuxia went to the fields to find the village chief.

Liu Yahong's behavior was indeed a problem; her attitude toward He Shuji was apparent to anyone.

He Shuji already had a fiancée that he got along well with, and if something happened in their Qin Family Village, they would be ungrateful.

Today, two technicians encountered problems, and the village chief, feeling uneasy, was following Hu Lichun and Liu Yahong in the fields.

By asking around, it didn't take long to find out where the village chief and the others were.

At this moment, they were in the fields of Qin Jun's house, which were planned for cabbage planting.

Hu Lichun was explaining to Qin Jun and other villagers who were preparing to plant cabbages about the temperature in the vegetable greenhouse and early management.

There is still a significant difference between early spring cabbage and autumn-winter storage cabbage.

Lin Chuxia did not interrupt their conversation and was quietly listening on the side.

When it came to the field management such as fertilization and watering, Lin Chuxia suddenly spoke up.

"If we say that early-sown spring cabbages require stricter temperature control and are less heat-resistant, should we also extend the watering time when planting them in the greenhouse?"

Hu Lichun thoughtfully nodded, "Mr. Lin, share your views."

The spring cabbage seeds from the Agricultural Research Institute, although developed specifically for the season,

currently, early spring cabbages generally have poor heat resistance and can easily suffer from rotten roots and hearts.

"The humidity in the greenhouse and the vegetable greenhouse is different; the vegetable greenhouse has higher humidity and temperature, especially at noon, where temperature can exceed 30 degrees. Such humidity and temperature are not ideal for cabbages. Ventilation and cooling are essential, and I believe humidity control is also necessary."

Before Hu Lichun could speak, Liu Yahong expressed her disagreement from the side.

"I think Mr. Lin is wrong. Our planting of vegetable greenhouses is to grow off-season vegetables. As everyone knows, vegetables love water and warmth. We built vegetable greenhouses to maintain warmth and humidity. If we do as Mr. Lin suggests, lowering the humidity with ventilation and cooling, then what's the point of having vegetable greenhouses? If we are worried about rot in the cabbage, we should focus more on keeping them warm and moist to shorten their growth period and let them grow faster."

Her points seemed reasonable, and the surrounding villagers nodded non-stop.

However, Lin Chuxia disagreed, "Has Technician Liu looked into the most suitable growing temperature for cabbages and the growing period of early-sown spring cabbage before making her statement?"

Liu Yahong was slightly taken aback. She had lived in the city since she was young and worked in the Agricultural Bureau due to her uncle's connections; why would she care how cabbages grow?

Still, being a technician in the Agricultural Bureau, she straightened up, "I am naturally aware of these factors, and I have considered them in what I said."

"Really? Then, Technician Liu, could you tell us how long is the growth period for cabbages, and will increasing the temperature in the greenhouse shorten this period?"

Lin Chuxia pressed on, and Liu Yahong's face turned red with embarrassment.

Hu Lichun knew what Liu Yahong was like in their department, a minor clerk with what knowledge of early-sown cabbage techniques?

"I think Mr. Lin's points are valid. This is also the direction that we and Technician He have been researching these past few days. Let's stop here for today. Once the seeds arrive, we will plant them first, and we will handle the subsequent management step by step. We will strive together with everyone."

"Okay, we will go by Technician Hu's advice."

"Technician Hu, our Mr. Lin is very capable; I think her points make sense too."

Someone in the crowd shouted, Hu Lichun chuckled, "Yes, Mr. Lin is very capable."

The atmosphere became lively again.

Only Liu Yahong, her face almost contorted, scoffed disdainfully at Lin Chuxia's cheerful appearance, muttering, "Blind flattery, sycophant."

Lin Chuxia just glanced at Liu Yahong coolly before withdrawing her gaze.

In the afternoon, Qin Han returned and indeed brought back the seeds.

This time, their Qin Family Village's vegetable greenhouse planting also received significant attention from the Agricultural Research Institute. Not only did they get technical support from Technician He, but they were also supplied with their newly developed seeds, hoping they could promote the vegetable greenhouses nationwide and enrich people's vegetable baskets.

Chapter 419: He Slapped Her Directly

Technician He received the vegetable seeds and, based on his own records, distributed them one by one.

In the end, he couldn't help feeling sentimental, "These seeds weren't easy to come by. Although they seem plentiful, Qin Family Village has so many vegetable greenhouses that the seeds won't cover much ground when distributed. On top of that, the germination rate will affect the outcome, so we must be meticulous and economical."

Lin Chuxia nodded in agreement, "No matter what vegetables are grown in the greenhouses this year, I will ensure that the villagers keep meticulous records. I hope this can also provide some assistance to the research at the Agricultural Research Institute."

Lin Chuxia firmly believed that all endeavors should be mutually beneficial; collaboration that's all taking without giving is doomed to be short-lived and also cuts off future opportunities.

Technician He also admired Lin Chuxia's attitude.

Working with intelligent people is always so effortless.

By the afternoon, Technician He had rested enough and started handing out the seeds, urging everyone to plant them quickly.

Lin Chuxia and Technician He also went to their experimental greenhouse, where they always planted a portion no matter what vegetable it was.

Upon arriving at the experimental greenhouse, they found Qin Liang and Qian Chuncao busy tidying up their own greenhouse.

The couple had returned in the morning after a check-up at the county hospital; there were no major issues, and Hou Xiaobao had already informed them.

However, it was unexpected that without even taking a rest, they were back working in the greenhouse.

Qin Liang was ensuring the greenhouse was covered securely, his face displaying a look of worry that could not be faked.

Seeing Lin Chuxia, he couldn't help but nag, "Actually, simply opening a door to air it out would have been enough. Look, after airing it out for most of the day, the vegetables are nearly frozen."

Lin Chuxia stepped inside the greenhouse to check; luckily, it was only a bit less vibrant than before.

In fact, of all the Qin Family Village, the vegetables from Brother Qin's family were the best grown, even Technician He had nothing but praise for them.

"It's fine, they will recover in a couple of days."

Technician He also comforted him, saying, "The vegetables in the greenhouse have already grown sufficiently, allowing some air circulation will be beneficial for their later growth."

With those assurances, Qin Liang finally felt somewhat better.

Knowing that cabbage was to be planted, the couple also entered the greenhouse to help.

Qin Liang had already prepared the soil, so they just needed to create furrows and plant cabbage seeds.

With exactly three men and three women inside the greenhouse—Technician He, Technician Hu, and Qin Liang working on the furrows—

Lin Chuxia, Qian Chuncao, and Liu Yahong were responsible for sowing the seeds.

Before starting work, Technician He divided the tasks, "Mr. Lin, you and I will be one group. Sister-in-law Qian, you will work with Technician Hu. Technician Liu, you'll pair up with Brother Qin. Brother Qin, please pay attention to Technician Liu's seeding quantity."

At this arrangement, Liu Yahong immediately protested, "Technician He, can I be in a group with you? I don't really like working with strangers."

Technician He, with a cold gaze, directly rejected her, "No, when working with me you have to follow my assignments. Besides, I met Technician Liu the same day I met Brother Qin, so if Brother Qin is a stranger to you, then I'm also not familiar with you."

In fact, he could have explained from other perspectives why the teams were divided this way.

Both he and Lin Chuxia were technically skilled; they had theoretical knowledge but lacked practical experience, so it made sense for them to work together.

Hu Lichun had theory but no practice, so it was just right for him to work with someone like Sister-in-law Qian—who had no theoretical knowledge but was good at and did the work well.

Brother Qin was an old hand at work, rich in experience, and as long as the task was clearly explained to him, he would know what to do.

Having him guide Liu Yahong, who had no experience, they should manage to get the work done.

But He Shuji didn't want to explain to Liu Yahong; this was the first time he had spoken so firmly to an outsider since arriving at Qin Family Village.

He had been utterly disgusted by Liu Yahong's behavior that morning.

Liu Yahong, hearing He Shuji speak in such a manner, didn't dare to argue back and turned around to get the cabbage seeds from the entrance of the greenhouse.

The cabbage seeds were packaged in paper, exactly three packages.

Liu Yahong picked up one, opened it to check, and, seeing Qian Chuncao and Lin Chuxia approaching, enthusiastically handed them the paper-wrapped seeds.

Sister-in-law Qian smiled and thanked her; after working in the fields with the technicians these days, she had picked up those polite phrases common among city folks.

They genuinely respected the technical staff, and whatever warm and polite gestures they made, they felt it was only proper.

As she reached out with both hands to receive the cabbage seeds from Liu Yahong, before she could even touch the packet, Liu Yahong suddenly withdrew her hand.

Qian Chuncao's face changed, and she frantically tried to grab it, only catching the corner of the paper parcel.

The packet, which was already open, let the tiny, millet-sized cabbage seeds spill out all over the place.

And right below there was a pile of pigsty manure left over from prior fertilization.

Though the manure had been fermented and didn't smell as bad, it was mixed with wheat straw and loosely piled there, and as soon as the cabbage seeds touched it, they all trickled down through the little gaps, disappearing in an instant.

Qian Chuncao's face immediately went pale, and she recklessly reached out to grab the seeds that fell on the dung.

"Ah, what shall we do? How can we find them..."

Tears were about to fall from her frantic eyes.

Liu Yahong also shouted in shocked, "Ah, Mr. Lin, how can you be like this? These are seeds sent by the Agricultural Research Institute; we only had so few to begin with. Even if you have an issue with me, you shouldn't take it out on the seeds."

Their voices had already alerted the three men at a distance.

Qin Liang, seeing the seeds spill, was also distressed, squatting down to help look for them.

But with the seeds so small, and now strewn across the manure, how could they possibly find them?

Liu Yahong continued to complain, "I know about this morning's incident..."

"Slap!"

Before she could finish, Lin Chuxia directly slapped her across the face.

This slap shocked everyone in the greenhouse.

Qin Liang and his wife Qian Chuncao even forgot what they were doing with their hands.

Hu Lichun and He Shuji also stopped in their tracks.

Liu Yahong screamed incredulously, "Lin Chuxia, you hit me? You dare to hit me, do you know what you're doing? I'm a technician sent from the county, on what grounds do you hit me? Who do you think you are?"

Lin Chuxia's eyes were cold as she spoke indifferently, "I can tolerate your baseless accusations and harassment, but when you let your personal feelings affect the village's seeds, I will not let you off."

"What do you mean by affecting the village's seeds with my feelings? I don't understand what you're talking about. I was kindly handing you the seeds, and you just slapped me because of it, and now you're blaming me for the spill?"

Her eyes were red as she looked towards Technician He, her expression a mix of grievance and innocence.

"Technician He, here I can only trust you to stand up for me. I know I won't be able to clear things up myself; after all, Mr. Lin and Sister-in-law Qian are family, they will definitely side with each other. But I have to say something in my defense. Mr. Lin is treating me this way because I offended her this morning. I know I might lack some technical skills, but as a professional technician from the Agricultural Bureau, I don't believe I have no right to speak. Mr. Lin is blaming me for hindering her chance to show off, but she shouldn't accuse me of mishandling the seeds from the Agricultural Research Institute..."

Chapter 420: Competing for the Spotlight?

"Who would slander you?"

Qian Chuncao had now also come to her senses, and with a pang of distress, she looked at the seeds that had spilled on the ground and could not be recovered. She had been worried about the seeds all along, and now she heard Technician Liu actually trying to pin the blame on her sister-in-law.

Although she didn't know what had happened in the morning, she knew her sister-in-law, who was definitely not the kind of person who liked to show off.

Besides, the vegetable greenhouses were suggested by her sister-in-law to begin with. Wasn't that limelight enough? Was there really any need to compete with a technician for fame?

Ridiculous.

"Technician Liu, although my sister-in-law and I are family, we would never tell blatant lies. The seeds were clearly handed to me by you, and you let go before I could even reach out. I initially thought you were just being careless, but now I see you had this scheme in mind all along—wanting to dirty my sister-in-law's name. How could you be so foul-hearted?"

Forget about my sister-in-law hitting someone; at this moment, Qian Chuncao herself felt like giving her a slap.

She just regretted that her sister-in-law's slap earlier was too light.

Liu Yahong's tears immediately began falling, and her grievances seemed hard to fully express.

Pointing at Lin Chuxia and Qian Chuncao present on the scene, she shudderingly stepped back.

"How can you... how can you bully someone like this? It's clearly your fault, yet you're pinning it on me. I know you cover the sky with one hand in Qin Family Village, but you still can't insult someone like this, right? If it weren't for Technician He and Technician Hu being here, wouldn't I have been bullied to death by you?"

She looked for help towards He Shujie and Hu Lichun, but the two men just watched the scene, neither showing any sign of wanting to intervene.

Liu Yahong frowned slightly and gave Hu Lichun a profound look.

Hu Lichun silently lowered his head, his heart filled with complaints.

He wasn't at the scene of the incident, so how could he know who was right or wrong.

Yet, based on his interactions with Lin Chuxia and Sister-in-law Qian over the past few days, he actually felt that Sister-in-law Qian and her party had the upper hand in the argument.

But Liu Yahong was the director's niece, and they had been reminded when she arrived to take good care of her.

Just as he hesitated about whether to step forward or not, Liu Yahong had already covered her face and run out.

"There's no one here to stand up for me, I'll go find someone who can. I refuse to believe there's nowhere I can seek justice."

Qian Chuncao wore an expression of worry, not for Liu Yahong, but because she just ran off crying like that. Qian Chuncao was concerned that Liu Yahong might say something unreasonable and tarnish her sister-in-law's reputation.

Qin Liang and his wife had the same thought and began to step outside, "I'll go have a look, she must have gone to the village chief."

"No need, big brother. Let her go wherever she wants. Farming is more important, let's see if we can recover any of these seeds first."

Lin Chuxia certainly didn't care how Liu Yahong might smear her name. As for the village chief, he was not even in the village today.

He Shujie watched as a few people searched for vegetable seeds in the manure but couldn't bring himself to do the same.

"Let's not search any longer. We'll plant what seeds we have left and we can also plant other crops."

Lin Chuxia stood up and dusted off her hands, "No, we cannot let these seeds go to waste as they are the fruit of your labor. Big brother, can we just spread this manure evenly on the field? Once the seedlings emerge, we'll transplant them. I'm just not sure if the fertilizer will be too strong and burn the seedlings."

Qin Liang's eyes lit up, "That's also a solution. No worries, leave it to me. I'll handle it."

In terms of farming, Chuxia had faith in Qin Liang; if he said there was a way, then there certainly was one.

On the other hand, Liu Yahong went straight to the village chief's house, only to find that the village chief was not home, leaving only a teenager, Qin Yuzhu.

She did not linger and turned to visit the Party Secretary's house.

The Secretary of the Qin Family Village was not young and didn't involve himself much in village affairs, but he was aware that the authority of the Party Secretary was intact, and his words carried no less weight than those of the village chief.

Moreover, she noticed that the village chief had an extremely good relationship with the Qin Family, almost to the point of fawning over Lin Chuxia, so perhaps it would be better for the Secretary to handle this matter.

Arriving at the Secretary's house, Liu Yahong stood at the doorway, pitifully imploring him to stand up for her without even entering.

The Secretary's daughter-in-law respected the visiting technicians very much and, upon seeing Liu Yahong like this, first invited her to come inside.

Liu Yahong refused to enter no matter what, and so the Secretary's daughter-in-law hurriedly summoned the elderly Secretary from inside.

With this back and forth, the passing villagers who saw the commotion at the Secretary's doorstep began to stop and watch, which was exactly what Liu Yahong had intended.

When the Secretary appeared, Liu Yahong exaggerated the story in front of a few local villagers.

"I don't know why the villagers of Qin Family Village would do such a thing. If you really look down on the technicians sent by the Agricultural Bureau, just say so directly to the Bureau and forget it, instead of going through such lengths to insult people."

The Secretary's brow had long been knitted into a frown. Although he had little contact with Lin Chuxia, he did not believe Lin to be that kind of person.

Moreover, he was familiar with Qin Liang and his spouse. They were very honest and unlikely to do such a thing.

"Could there be some misunderstanding here? Since it was unintentional, let's not take it to heart. I believe Lin was just too concerned about those vegetable seeds. After all, they are sent from the Agricultural Research Institute and are exceptionally valuable."

"But no matter how precious, she can't just hit people, right? I see it clearly now, you people from Qin Family Village are all the same. To you, we are just outsiders. If that's the case, I'll go to the Bureau and say, no need for you to drive us away—we'll leave and save you the trouble of having us around."

With that, Liu Yahong left fuming, and the Secretary was at a loss.

With the rapid development of the country in recent years, he felt out of touch due to his age, not as quick-minded as the younger folks, and most village matters were handled by the village chief.

He held onto his position as Secretary out of respect from the community.

The commotion caused by the supporting technicians really put him in a difficult position.

Knowing that the village chief was not around today, he turned and said to his daughter-in-law, "Go find Lin quickly and tell her about the situation here; let her be aware."

The Secretary's daughter-in-law didn't hesitate for a moment; she hopped on her bicycle and left.

The old Secretary stood at the doorway, hesitating whether to persuade Technician Liu to stay, but the onlooking villagers had already started talking.

"I think Technician Liu has come with bad intentions, who knows if what she's saying is even true."

"Well, that's not definite, right? Look at her face, all red, looks like she really did get slapped."

"Even if she got slapped, does that make her right? Mr. Lin has such a good temper; if he raised his hand to slap her, the other person must have gone too far."

"I heard that Technician Liu had a little friction with Mr. Lin this morning. Liu looked down on Mr. Lin, thinking she knew nothing yet was bossing people around, and I personally heard Technician Liu muttering under her breath that our Mr. Lin was a stinky baozi seller."

"What? Did she really say that?"

That one remark set the attending villagers ablaze.