

Switched M 421

Chapter 421: Complaining

"Who does she think she is looking down on? What's wrong with selling stuffed buns? Doesn't she eat them herself?"

"Just that, looking down on the stuffed bun sellers, does she also look down on those who farm? Since she thinks so lowly of us, why did she even come to our Qin Family Village? I heard that those technicians from the county are eager to come here, and even the town mayor and our village have been informed."

"I've always found Technician Liu not to be good-natured. Every time Technician Hu and Technician Li are helping the villagers with planting techniques, she just stands by idly. I think Mr. Lin went too easy on her."

"We can't just let this matter slide; if she dares to complain to the bureau, we must stand by Mr. Lin and support him."

"Right, here in Qin Family Village, we can't let Mr. Lin be bullied by outsiders..."

The Party Secretary grew more and more exasperated as he listened, "Oh come on, you guys, stop causing a stir, let's see how the county handles this. An official's rank is oppressive, do you think officials are just pushovers," especially since that's the director of the Agricultural Bureau, who knows how many tiers above their village cadres.

"Even if the official is high-ranking, they still can't be unreasonable!"

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The village chief didn't expect that his trip to the county wouldn't settle the matter, and that such a big problem would arise in the village.

He went directly to Director Liu of the Agricultural Bureau on this trip to the county, tactfully explaining the situation in the village and hoping to get a male comrade to replace her.

He even revealed that Technician He had a fiancée, to express many inconveniences.

He didn't know if he was too vague, or Director Liu pretended to be confused, but in the end, he just said he would remind Comrade Liu Yahong to work hard and not hold back Qin Family Village.

He also said he hoped the village would give her another chance.

With things said to this point, the village chief could not just dismiss Director Liu's face, so he reluctantly agreed.

He was still figuring out how to talk to Lin Chuxia about this when the situation had escalated to this point.

Lin Chuxia, on the other hand, was not worried at all and had even anticipated that this would be the outcome of the village chief's visit to the county.

"Liu Yahong wants to file a complaint, doesn't she? Let her. You don't have to worry about what follows. If the Agricultural Bureau really wants to seek justice for Liu Yahong, they can come talk to me."

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Office of the Director of the County Agricultural Bureau.

After leaving Qin Family Village, Liu Yahong went straight to the director's office.

As soon as she entered, she called out with grievance, "Uncle."

Director Liu, busy with his work, looked up when he heard her and, seeing it was Liu Yahong, put down his pen and said, "Yahong, you're here. I was just thinking about finding you."

He thought that it was the village chief who had sent her, and pointed to the seat next to him, "Sit down and talk, tell me what's been happening in Qin Family Village."

Liu Yahong was slightly taken aback, "Uncle, you already know?"

The news reached the director's office so quickly; without asking, it must have been that woman Lin Chuxia who had called her uncle.

Thinking of this, Liu Yahong sat down on the sofa, fuming with anger.

"The people in Qin Family Village are so unreasonable. It's bad enough that they don't treat our bureau's technicians well, but to even try and smear me with their dirty tricks, especially that Lin Chuxia, she's just jealous of me and targets me at every turn. Uncle, you have to find a way to get rid of Lin Chuxia. I heard she's self-employed; she should stick to her own business instead of fussing about with vegetable greenhouses?"

Director Liu slightly frowned, "Smear you with what? Who targeted you and did what?"

He knew that his niece had been spoiled rotten by his older brother and sister-in-law. If it weren't for the bond of uncle and niece, and his older brother delivering a message in person, how would it be her turn to deal with this matter?

Yet, she'd hardly been there for a few days before the village chief of Qin Family Village came to him with issues, and now his niece was here with a face full of indignation. It seemed there really was a problem.

He patiently explained to his niece, "The vegetable greenhouses in Qin Family Village are all invested in by Lin Chuxia. What's wrong with her returning to the village to work on the greenhouses? Instead, it's you. Given such a good opportunity to learn from the technicians at the Agricultural Research Institute, where has your mind been wandering? What do you have that would make others jealous?"

Liu Yahong felt guilty when scolded by her second uncle but couldn't help feeling defiant when Lin Chuxia was mentioned.

"Where could my mind possibly wander? Of course, I'm thinking about working with everyone to make the vegetable greenhouse project a success. Lin Chuxia, a bun seller, what does she know? Waving her hands around, so what if she provided the money, does that make her incredible? We, the technical professionals, aren't so mercenary."

Liu Yahong suddenly realized something as she spoke.

"Oh, second uncle, you didn't know about the incident this afternoon?"

Director Liu's forehead twitched, "What happened this afternoon? When the village chief of Qin Family Village came to see me, he only mentioned that one of your female colleagues was having inconveniences at the grassroots level and suggested I help by sending a male comrade there instead."

Hearing that the village chief came to her second uncle asking to replace her, Liu Yahong suddenly felt empowered.

Her eyes reddened as she was on the verge of tears.

"Look, second uncle, isn't this bullying? What difference does it make between a male comrade and a female comrade? The state advocates gender equality, saying women can hold up half the sky. Yet they target me like this. This afternoon, Lin Chuxia and her sister-in-law deliberately scattered the seeds on the ground and then framed me. Just as I was defending myself a few words, she slapped me across the face. Second uncle, I've grown up without ever being slapped by anyone, and she just did that to me, you must stand up for me."

By the end, Liu Yahong was indeed crying.

Director Liu, hearing this, was not angry but just closed his eyes in irritation.

He had originally thought that since the village chief of Qin Family Village came to him, he would give this child a chance for his sake.

As long as she stayed in Qin Family Village to witness the development of the village's vegetable greenhouses alongside Technician Hu and Technician Li, Liu Yahong's future prospects wouldn't be wrong.

But he hadn't expected her to be so impatient and shortsighted, even causing such a fuss with Lin Chuxia.

"Enough. Since you're unhappy there, you don't have to go to Qin Family Village tomorrow. I'll send someone else, and you go back to your office."

Liu Yahong didn't expect her second uncle to handle it like this.

Was it over just by transferring her back? What about Lin Chuxia?

She didn't want to come back; she just wanted her second uncle to put some pressure on Lin Chuxia and drive her away.

"Second Uncle, don't you believe what I said? You can call back Hu Lichun to ask; he was present at the time. Oh, Technician He was there too; they all saw Lin Chuxia slap me, even the Party secretary of Qin Family Village knows. When I went to the Party secretary, the slap mark was still on my face. Their hitting me is like hitting you in the face, second uncle."

Director Liu felt even more despondent.

If Lin Chuxia dared to hit her niece, it meant his niece must have done something unforgivable.

That incident with the seeds, eight or nine times out of ten, was her niece's doing and she framed someone else.

He knew well what his niece was like.

Seeing that Director Liu did not say a word, Liu Yahong became truly anxious.

What chance would she have to interact with Technician He if she returned to the bureau?

"Second uncle, are you afraid of Lin Chuxia? She's just a self-employed bun seller, why are you afraid of her?"

Chapter 422: Getting Too Big for Their Boots

"Yahong," Director Liu interrupted her, "Your second uncle isn't afraid of her. Don't you understand by now? You keep referring to her as a mere individual peddler of buns, but she's the person in charge of the Qin Family Village's vegetable greenhouses. Even the few technicians our bureau sent to the Qin Family Village were opportunities your uncle thick-facedly begged from the county head and forcefully inserted there. Frankly speaking, they've already sought technicians from the Capital Agricultural Science and Technology Institute; they don't need us at all. You can't even see that. It seems you've really been spoiled by your older brother and the others."

Liu Yahong was unconvinced, "But we went there and did help the villagers, didn't we? The village chief of Qin Family Village said that one technician was not enough, and they needed our support, right?"

Director Liu was so angry that he started pounding the table, "Can't you tell that was just polite conversation?"

"Even if it was just polite conversation, we truly did help them. Why should they treat me this way? They are in the wrong for hitting someone, Uncle. I won't go back to the office..." If she went back to the office, she would have no chance at all.

"What will you do if you don't go back to the office? Continue to pester the technicians from the Agricultural Research Institute in the Qin Family Village? Do you know that his fiancée is still waiting in the capital for him to return and marry her?"

Seeing her deluded demeanor, Director Liu frowned.

"I never expected you to go to Qin Family Village with such intentions. Yahong, do you understand what the vegetable greenhouses in Qin Family Village mean? They are the first national case of large-scale promotion of off-season vegetables. If successful, not only will Qin Family Village be celebrated, but also

the participating technicians will have their names go down in history. It's a tremendous honor, and I secured such a great opportunity for you, yet all you think about is love..."

Director Liu waved his hand tiredly.

"Just go. Don't go to Qin Family Village tomorrow, return directly to the bureau to work. I will send someone else there, and also, don't think about creating opportunities to go against Lin Chuxia anymore; she's not someone you can contend with. Your second uncle isn't afraid of her; he doesn't want to offend her."

With that, Director Liu only hoped his niece would take his words to heart.

Liu Yahong was shocked by Director Liu's words, but became dismissive again upon hearing the latter part.

What 'names going down in history,' that's an overstatement.

Second Uncle always deals in mystical nonsense, in the end, it's just because he's afraid of offending Lin Chuxia and doesn't want to help her.

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Director Liu was still considering how to handle this matter. Although the village chief was quite easy to talk to and had agreed to give Liu Yahong another chance, the conflict with Lin Chuxia was there, and it wasn't appropriate for him to send Liu Yahong back to Qin Family Village.

Apart from that, the conflict between Liu Yahong and Lin Chuxia appeared to have put Liu Yahong at a disadvantage on the surface, but he couldn't take her word for it. He might even need to give Lin Chuxia some face and inquire about it.

Liu Yahong incessantly referred to Lin Chuxia as just a bun seller, but Director Liu wasn't as shallow or naive as his niece.

Not to mention what the vegetable greenhouses could bring to Qin Family Village and Ancheng County at the moment, Lin Chuxia's name was tied to the Xiyang Food Factory, Qin's Buns Shop, and other Qin Family Village industries. Which one wouldn't be noted in the County Committee's annual report?

She was a talent that even Bai County wanted to woo before the New Year. How foolish would he be to offend her?

Moreover, he had already dispatched technicians to Qin Family Village. Once the vegetable greenhouses achieved results, he, the chief of the Agricultural Bureau, would be the first to benefit.

Director Liu would say he had no regrets now, but it was impossible; he shouldn't have sent his niece to Qin Family Village out of consideration for his older brother's face.

Director Liu still hadn't figured out how to properly deal with the situation when Liu Yahong's mother, his sister-in-law, came to his door.

Liu Yahong's mother, Sun Miaofang, is in her forties and also works at the Agricultural Bureau.

Yahong told her about this incident the moment she returned yesterday. Sun Miaofang didn't rush to Director Liu right away because she felt her daughter lacked sense.

Even if her visit to Qin Family Village was for Technician He, it wouldn't interfere with other matters.

Focus on the technology work at Qin Family Village, time will pass, and affection may grow. Who cares if there is a fiancée or not?

In the end, what does it have to do with Lin Chuxia?

But she just had to butt heads with Lin Chuxia.

Still, her daughter was hit by Lin Chuxia. Even if her daughter doesn't go to Qin Family Village anymore, she can't just come back so dejectedly. How would she face anyone in the Bureau after that?

Director Liu pinched his brow, "How is this coming back dejectedly? The village chief of Qin Family Village came to me yesterday with a request. It's a good opportunity to send a male comrade over, isn't it?"

Sun Miaofang scoffed coldly, "How is that good? Yahong's beating was in vain? She's your own niece, and I have never laid a finger on her since she was born. Why should she be hit by another woman? Did she commit some heinous crime? Even if she did something terrible, we have the police station and public security. How are you going to handle this? I can't just let it go. If it comes to it, I'll call the police."

"What does Sister-in-law think should be done? Surely you don't expect Yahong to hit back? I make it clear here: even as the head of the Agricultural Bureau, I can't condone my staff assaulting others."

Director Liu's voice also turned cold.

His sister-in-law had always been strong-willed, with even his brother listening to her.

Now that he was the head of the Bureau, everyone flattering her had made her lose all sense of proportion.

Seeing that her brother-in-law had cooled down, Sun Miaofang moderated her tone as well.

"I'm not insisting that Yahong should retaliate. We are not that kind of unreasonable, barbaric people who call for fighting and killing every day. It's just that Yahong can't come back like this without explanation. Even if she doesn't need to go to Qin Family Village at some point, it shouldn't be this time. I've already spoken to Yahong, she won't target Lin Chuxia anymore and will concentrate on her work."

"I've already said it, Qin Family Village had come with a request to send a male comrade over," Director Liu persisted with his stance, this time he had made up his mind not to cater to the pride of his brother and sister-in-law.

Sun Miaofang raised her voice, "They want to change, and we just change? Since when do we need the village's consent when the county leadership dispatches a technician? Has Qin Family Village become

too arrogant? Younger brother, you have to stick to your principles on this one. It's not just about saving face for Yahong, but also about the reputation of our Agricultural Bureau."

Director Liu was about to say something more when suddenly there was a commotion outside.

Secretary Xiao Wang knocked and came in, "Director Liu, a lot of folks from outside have come saying they're from Qin Family Village and want to speak with Director Liu about some issues. What do you think..."

"From Qin Family Village?" Sun Miaofang stood up and asked, "All villagers?"

"Seems like it."

"I won't see them. If they have issues, let their village chief come," Sun Miaofang turned to look at Director Liu again, "See what I said? We shouldn't be too polite to these troublemakers, lest they get above themselves."

Chapter 423: How Much Trust Does This Show Her?

Secretary Wang bowed his head, waiting for Director Liu's instructions.

He knew the relationship between Director Sun and Director Liu, so he could only let her words go in one ear and out the other.

Director Liu's face had already turned thoroughly dark. He first said to Secretary Wang, "Take the villagers to the meeting room first, tell them I'll be there shortly."

Sun Miaofang suddenly became anxious, "Why should a director like you meet with those bumpkins? I've already made myself clear, these people never bring any good when they come to the bureau. You must assert your stance, otherwise these people will walk all over you and there's still the issue with Yahong, we absolutely cannot give in."

She had already guessed that these people coming to the bureau today was most likely because of her daughter's matter.

She didn't understand why her brother-in-law wanted to meet these people. Isn't this giving them too much face?

What to say after meeting them?

A bunch of troublemakers have come to their home to bully her daughter.

Director Liu couldn't tolerate it any longer, "Sister-in-law, shut your mouth. Do you know what you are even saying? Open your eyes and see what you've turned the child into. This trip to Qin Family Village was a great opportunity. Yahong is young and can't see clearly, can't you see that?"

Sun Miaofang secretly rolled her eyes internally. How could she not see it? If she couldn't see it, would she have had men approach her brother-in-law to squeeze her daughter in?

But the good opportunity at Qin Family Village isn't just about the vegetable greenhouses. No matter how well a woman performs at work, marrying a good man is better.

Moreover, this situation is a win-win. Having her daughter 'gold-plated' in Qin Family Village and marrying Technician He from the capital wouldn't be considered reaching beyond her status.

Director Liu, having no desire to continue speaking with his sister-in-law, straightened his clothes and strode out.

In the meeting room, seeing Director Liu coming, a group of already nervous villagers immediately stood up.

Most of them had only ever met someone as senior as the village chief before, coming to the Agricultural Bureau today was something they bolstered each other's courage to do.

Secretary Wang first introduced these villagers, "This is Director Liu of the Agricultural Bureau."

The villagers hadn't expected that the director would actually meet with them, and were then even more reverently fearful.

One by one, they hunched and slouched, a few younger ones wanted to step forward to speak but cautiously looked at the older ones.

Although Director Liu didn't know what issues these villagers wanted to reflect upon, he had a fairly good guess.

He smiled slightly and opened the conversation, "Folks, don't be nervous. Let's sit down and talk things over slowly."

At this moment, an elderly leader among them stood up, "Director, we won't sit down. We all came here today, mustering our courage, also hoping to plead for mercy for our village's Lin."

The elder glanced around at the villagers, and seeing that the director showed no sign of annoyance, continued speaking.

"Yesterday, Technician Liu from the county had some conflicts with our village's Lin. We heard that Lin hit Technician Liu, and this is indeed a fault on our villagers' part. Lin acted out of urgency, those cabbage seeds that were carefully cultivated by the Agricultural Research Institute and shipped from afar were just spilled, which was truly a pity. We all felt terrible when we heard about it, but no matter what, hitting someone in a rush can't be justified, so today we came to apologize for Lin, and we see the county supports our Qin Family Village's vegetable greenhouses and even sent a technician. It's all a misunderstanding indeed."

Following the elder's words, Qin Jun also spoke, "Director Liu, what my great-grandfather means is also our intent. My great-grandfather is the eldest in our Qin Family Village, we hope that the county won't see us simple villagers in the same light. It's embarrassing for Technician Liu to have been wronged in our village and for her to suffer with us. However, we always keep Technician Liu's contributions to Qin Family Village in our hearts."

"Yes Director Liu, we are all very grateful for the county's support for Qin Family Village."

"Although Technician Liu doesn't often enter the greenhouse, her coming to Qin Family Village represents the attitude of the county leaders, and we are all very grateful."

"We villagers are rough people, we're rash when anxious, please don't take it to heart, Director Liu."

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The group of villagers, previously timid, now initiated a discussion, making the meeting room lively.

Director Liu raised his hand for silence, and everyone immediately quieted down.

Director Liu looked towards the elderly leader who appeared to be over 70, yet was quite spirited, especially those eyes, which weren't clouded as often seen in the elderly.

"Old man, I've understood the situation clearly by now, you really didn't need to make this trip at such an elderly age, and all of you folks, I heard that it's currently the seeding season for vegetable greenhouses, everyone must be busy at home, doesn't this trip to the Agricultural Bureau delay the spring planting?"

"It's alright if it's delayed," before the elder in front could speak, a voice from behind interrupted.

"The Qin Family Village's vegetable greenhouse was built by Mr. Lin leading everyone. For Mr. Lin's sake, let alone a day, even if it delays a whole season, we are all willing."

"Yes, Mr. Lin has been working with us in the greenhouse these days, if we don't clear this matter up, we also can't continue our work."

"Director Liu, if you feel that the county's technician has been wronged, then go ahead and slap me twice, consider it as me making it up for Mr. Lin. Although I'm thick-skinned and not as delicate as the young lady, you slapping me twice or even ten times works too."

"Qin San, with your thin frame, how many slaps can you take? Director Liu might as well hit me, I have more flesh, it won't hurt your hand as much."

"Hit me, I'm short, easier for you to reach."

"Or hit me..."

The scene turned somewhat chaotic for a moment.

The elder grunted dissatisfiedly, "You bunch of rowdy boys shut up, do you think this is a place for jokes?"

He turned and apologetically said to Director Liu, "The village folks are inexperienced, but this is also truly what everyone feels. Today, we came here behind the backs of the village cadres and Lin, although only a few of us came, every one of us represents a family in Qin Family Village, we hope the county leaders can see our sincerity and forgive our mistakes."

Director Liu's earlier question was indeed purposeful.

Seeing a group of villagers turning up at this critical juncture made him suspect that Qin Family Village had a cunning plan.

He even suspected that after rejecting the request of Village Chief, Qin Shusen yesterday, this was Qin Shusen's tactic, aiming to make him replace Liu Yahong.

These villagers spoke apology after apology, but each apology also carried defense, defending a comrade named Lin Chuxia.

But seeing these pair of sincere eyes, hearing the elder's words of protection, unwilling to blame Lin Chuxia but rather blaming themselves.

What great trust was this?

Was this hinting at him that targeting Lin Chuxia was like targeting the whole Qin Family Village?

What unity was this?

Chapter 424: This Is the End

Director Liu couldn't help but feel sorry again for his naive niece; united villagers like these, coupled with a determined leader like Lin Chuxia, what couldn't be accomplished?

"Sir, your words are too harsh. I've already mentioned that I'm aware of the situation. Both parties were at fault in this matter. I understand Mr. Lin's feelings deeply, how could such a trivial matter delay the construction of the vegetable greenhouse in Qin Family Village?"

He stood up and spoke directly to the villagers present, "The Agricultural Bureau strongly supports the vegetable greenhouse of Qin Family Village. We hope to see your achievements. Liu Yahong, despite her youth, has technical shortcomings, which I have already acknowledged and adjustments will be made. Tomorrow, I will send new technical staff to ensure the success of our vegetable greenhouse."

"We trust Director Liu."

"Director Liu, we will do our best, and not let the county down."

"Director Liu is our good director, a progressive director."

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The villagers even gave him a round of applause.

Faced with such praise, Director Liu felt a bit bashful, knowing that in this matter, he did have selfish motives.

Fortunately, identifying and correcting the issue promptly meant all was not lost.

Just then, the door of the meeting room was knocked abruptly, and Secretary Wang stood by the door, opening it to see Village Chief Qin, anxious and sweating, entering.

He first glanced at the villagers, then bowed slightly to Director Liu, "Director Liu, we are all unrefined folks here. If anyone spoke indiscreetly, please don't take it to heart. It was unbeknownst to me that they would come to find you. I'll take them back now."

Director Liu chuckled, "Mr. Qin, what kind of person do you think I am? I can't be blamed for not distinguishing between right and wrong."

"Yes, Village Chief, Director Liu is very approachable," Qin San shouted from the crowd, "Director Liu is indeed our good parent-official."

"Yes, having Director Liu as our parental official is a blessing for us common folks."

Director Liu waved his hands, "It's getting late, hurry and take your people back. It's planting time, every moment is precious for Qin Family Village."

These people were too good at flattering, if this continued, they dare to say it, and he would be ashamed to hear it.

Seeing Director Liu wasn't actually angry, Village Chief Qin quickly seized the opportunity to retreat.

"Alright, hurry back now. Have the cabbages been planted at home? Veggie trellis set up? And you, Qin San, isn't it time to tie up your cucumber plants?"

The group, which had arrived timid and cautious, left the Agricultural Bureau lively and noisy.

Sun Miaofang saw that the villagers from Qin Family Village had left, and then went to the director's office.

"You just let those people go like that?"

Director Liu took a sip of tea, speaking indifferently, "What else could I do? They came to apologize sincerely..."

"Was that an attitude of apology?" Sun Miaofang suddenly raised her voice.

Director Liu set down his teacup forcefully, "Comrade Sun Miaofang, don't overstep your bounds. It's best for everyone if this matter ends here."

Sun Miaofang looked at the water spilled from the teacup and instantly fell silent.

She huffed coldly and exited the director's office.

Liu Yahong had been in Sun Miaofang's office all along and quickly approached her mother as she returned.

"Mom, what did Uncle say? Can I still go to Qin Family Village tomorrow? Did Uncle press any influence on Qin Family Village?"

Hearing this made Sun Miaofang all the more irritated, "Press what influence? Your uncle is now in cahoots with those bumpkins from Qin Family Village. Let's just drop it. It's also better for you to avoid hardship in the village. As for Technician He, haven't you always said he's just a blockhead? We will find someone better later."

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Lin Chuxia did not expect the villagers of Qin Family Village to go to the Agricultural Bureau to help her out.

With that slap, she intended to cut off the Agricultural Bureau's desire to continue pleading for Liu Yahong and let her stay in Qin Family Village.

She asked the village chief not to interfere anymore because she wanted to go to the Agricultural Bureau herself to negotiate with Director Liu.

Unexpectedly, the elders and folk of Qin Family Village took a step ahead of her.

A wave of warmth flowed through Lin Chuxia's heart.

These lovely villagers always protected her with their simplest and sincerest intentions.

She knew that even if she had ample reasons to confront the Director of the Agricultural Bureau directly—dealing with both a technical staff sent by the Bureau and the director's own niece—this might inevitably lead to potential problems between the two.

Given Qin Family Village's current situation, it was impossible not to interact with the Agricultural Bureau.

With such hidden issues, facing the Agricultural Bureau in the future could inevitably be restrictive.

The villagers' intervention thus spared her the embarrassment of a direct confrontation with the Director and also softened the relationship between the two parties.

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The response from the Agricultural Bureau was swift.

The next day, along with Hu Lichun and Li Jinglin, there was an additional new colleague who visited Qin Family Village.

This person, named Yang Bo, seemed a few years older than Hu Lichun.

It was said that Yang Bo had been descending to the grassroots frequently before the reform, stationed in various brigades to help villagers cultivate and produce, making him a very experienced technical staff.

In their conversations, Lin Chuxia heard something about Yang Bo.

Yang Bo, nearly 40 years old, was still a junior clerk at the Agricultural Bureau.

At his age, one would normally expect good career development; it was said that his reserved demeanor and lack of understanding in worldly matters, aside from his agricultural techniques, held him back.

Initially, Yang Bo was among those slated to be sent to Qin Family Village as technical staff, but Liu Yahong was sent instead just two days before departure.

Lin Chuxia naturally welcomed such a technician specializing in the field.

After two days of integration, He Shujie and Yang Bo found much common ground.

The vegetable greenhouses in Qin Family Village steadily progressed under the guidance of these technicians.

By mid-March, the first batch of greenhouse vegetables went to market.

The vibrant green bok choy, tender garlic chives, and fresh green onions, though not cheap, were very popular.

The initial supplies were mainly to various restaurants, including their own Qin's Restaurant in the city, government entities, and canteens in factories—it could be said that demand exceeded supply.

Just as the vegetable greenhouses were making promising progress, Sun Bingnan returned from the Northwest, bringing with him two truckloads of yellow peach seedlings.

Sun Bingnan did not go straight to Daqing Mountain Village but took a detour to Qin Family Village.

The trucks stopped in front of the village's agricultural supply store.

Mr. Qin knew that Lin Chuxia intended to plant yellow peaches in Daqing Mountain Village; seeing the two trucks of seedlings, he hurriedly sent a child to find Lin Chuxia.

By the time Lin Chuxia arrived, Sun Bingnan and the driver were enjoying the snacks she had bought for Mr. Qin.

Upon seeing Lin Chuxia, Sun Bingnan eagerly swallowed his snack and choked because he swallowed too quickly, causing him to stretch his neck from the discomfort.

Lin Chuxia spoke irritably, "What's the rush? I've seen both the items and the person. You don't have to say anything; I know your trip wasn't in vain."

Chapter 425: Poked the Hornets' Nest

Sun Bingnan finally swallowed the pastry and grinned, showing off his big white teeth, "I'm just eager to report my achievements to the leaders. I didn't even go back to Daqing Mountain Village, because I wanted you to see these two trucks of tree seedlings. These are high-quality seedlings that the Jia Family Brothers helped me get in touch with; they're cold-hardy, drought-resistant, and alkaline soil tolerant, the most suitable for planting in the mountains."

Chuxia circled around the trucks twice, nodding continually, "They are indeed good, and this season is just perfect for planting trees."

"Don't worry, a few days ago my family called me and said the tree pits on the mountain have all been dug out, just waiting for me to bring the seedlings back."

Chuxia couldn't help but laugh, "Uncle Sun is still so impatient. If you couldn't bring the seedlings back, then those pits would have been dug for nothing."

Sun Bingnan slapped his chest, "That can't happen."

If he couldn't get the job Mr. Lin entrusted to him done, how could he have the face to come back?

He not only wants to get the job done but also wants to get it done splendidly.

Chuxia looked at her watch, "Since we're already here, there's no need to rush back to the village. Let's find a place to have lunch first; the two driver comrades have had a tough journey as well."

Sun Bingnan touched his stomach, "Sister really understands me. That pastry didn't even put a dent in my hunger. We've been hurrying over here without a proper meal just to make it on time for the planting season."

"Then what are we waiting for? How about Qin's Buns Shop?"

"No problem."

Chuxia's Jeep was right over here, and she drove the three of them to Qin's Buns Shop.

She went a little out of her way to the main store at the train station.

Sun Lanlan was going to give birth soon and had been resting at home.

Knowing Chuxia and the others were coming over, she waddled out like a penguin.

Upon seeing her big belly, Sun Bingnan's eyes widened in shock.

"How can it be so big? Won't your belly burst at this rate?"

When Chuxia first saw Jiang Hong's belly before she was about to give birth, she felt the same, but now she was much more composed.

After exchanging a few pleasantries, the dishes were served on the table.

Sun Bingnan gobbled down half a bun in one bite, then followed it with a few bites of the side dishes, immensely satisfied.

"There's a reason why our old shop is the best. Even though Jia Yuanliang's Bun Shop doesn't taste bad, it still doesn't compare to our buns. How to put it, it's like they can't quite grasp the essence of our buns."

Speaking of Jia Yuanliang, Chuxia realized it had been a long time since she last contacted him.

"How's his Bun Shop doing?"

"Not bad, the taste might be a little off compared to our old shop, but it's famous locally. That guy has been pondering opening another branch recently. If Qin's doesn't go there to steal business, his shop would undoubtedly be very profitable."

Sun Lanlan covered her mouth and laughed at him for not being serious. Qin's was developing well here; how could they possibly go to the Northwest to compete with Jia Yuanliang?

After finishing lunch, Sun Lanlan wanted to go back to Daqing Mountain Village with Sun Bingnan, but he directly refused.

"You're so heavily pregnant now; I can't risk taking you with me. Forget about whether or not your brother-in-law would be looking for me, even our parents would have endless issues with me."

Sun Lanlan knew she had to stay home obediently to keep everyone at ease.

Still, she wrinkled her nose in disdain, "Coward."

...

Chuxia did not go back to Daqing Mountain Village with Sun Bingnan.

On the surface, it was still the Sun Brothers who were planting yellow peaches.

During his time in the Northwest, Sun Bingnan not only found high-quality Yellow Peach Seedlings but also learned management techniques.

From the beginning, Chuxia intended to entrust this management task to Sun Bingnan.

She had always been the type to trust those she employs fully, and since she had given the task to Sun Bingnan, she let him take the reins.

After seeing Sun Bingnan and the others off, Lin Chuxia returned home for a bit and saw that Qin Yang had come back.

Her eyes immediately revealed a touch of surprise, "Why are you back? Didn't you have work today?"

"It's Saturday, I only had to work half a day," Qin Yang watched her with a slightly aggrieved expression, leaning in slightly, lowering his voice, "You've been back for almost a month, and you've only called twice. If I hadn't come back, would you have forgotten that there's still a home in the city? And that you have a man there."

Lin Chuxia knew she had indeed neglected him due to being too busy with work recently, and quickly soothed, "How could I? Even if you didn't come back, I was about to return to the city. In a couple of days, it will be Jiang Hong's son's full month celebration."

"So, you're going back to attend someone else's son's full month celebration, not because you miss me?"

Lin Chuxia: "..."

That was like poking a hornet's nest.

"No, no, of course, I missed you. Attending Li Wei's son's full month celebration is just by the way."

Lin Chuxia looked at his still chilly handsome face. She used to like his icy beauty looks, but at this moment, her little heart shivered.

She glanced around, then pulled the man back into the house.

She tiptoed to kiss that handsome face, and her voice softened a tad.

"I was wrong, honey, I really didn't forget about you, it's just been too hectic around here."

"Honey, you don't know, I missed you so much at night that I couldn't even sleep."

He knew she was coaxing him; if she really couldn't sleep from missing him, would there have been not even a phone call?

But just hearing that word 'honey,' all the resentment in Qin Yang's heart dissipated.

The last time she called him 'honey,' he didn't quite grasp its significance.

He specifically inquired about it later and found out it was a term of endearment for husbands, exclusively used by women in Hong Kong.

Hearing her call him that again made his heart warm and fuzzy.

Even though his resentment had vanished internally, his face still looked stern, "That's not enough sincerity."

A sly sparkle flashed in Lin Chuxia's eyes, and she tiptoed to kiss his thin lips.

With their lips touching and her bright, lively eyes blinking, "Is this enough sincerity now?"

Qin Yang couldn't hold back anymore, his lips curved slightly as he embraced her into his arms, "It's passable," and he kissed her deeply again.

The two reunited after a long time, releasing their longing for each other...

.....

The sight of Sun Bingnan's two trucks entering Daqing Mountain Village caused quite a stir.

In the last two years, the Sun Family had been very high-profile in Daqing Mountain Village.

First, the siblings went to work in the city, and then the two eldest Sun Brothers built a chicken farm.

To be honest, when the eldest Sun Brothers first built the chicken farm, many villagers were just waiting to see some excitement.

They were all bona fide farmers, ignoring the fields and going to raise chickens on a bare mountain top. How would they sell so many chickens?

No one had imagined that the Sun Brothers would not only raise chickens but also establish a relationship with a food factory.

The Sun family was living a prosperous life, and it was said that the two Sun Brothers planned to rebuild their houses when the weather warmed up.

But before they could start the house construction, the Sun family began digging tree holes on the mountain, apparently planning to plant fruit trees.

People with aspirations were ready to follow the Sun family's lead and make a big move, but upon inquiring, they found out the Sun family was planning to plant yellow peaches.

Let alone planting yellow peaches, many of them have never even seen a yellow peach.

Chapter 426: The Leader of the Village Cadres

They all like to eat hairy peaches here when autumn cools down, but what does a yellow peach taste like? Is it sweet? Is it tasty?

They haven't even seen one before, and you want them to leave their land fallow to plant yellow peach trees?

No way, no way.

What if nobody recognizes the yellow peaches when they are harvested, and they can't sell them? Wouldn't they just be left holding the bag?

Planting fruit trees is different from planting crops, isn't it? Doesn't it take two or three years for any fruit tree to start bearing fruit?

If it doesn't work out, what are they supposed to do for these few years, starve?

Those who were initially interested are now hesitating, and those familiar with the Sun family even take the opportunity to ask extra questions while helping out.

"Ah, this yellow peach, it's our first year planting them. I heard they aren't very sweet when unripe, but sweet when ripe."

"Village Chief, what you said... isn't every peach not sweet when it's unripe? You're just hearing about it, haven't you ever eaten a yellow peach yourself?"

Village Chief Sun waved his hand, "Where would I have tried that stuff, I haven't even seen it."

"You haven't seen it and you dare to plant a mountain full of fruit trees? These saplings must have cost a pretty penny to bring back, right? What if the fruit that grows isn't tasty?"

Village Chief Sun: $\Leftarrow(\rightarrow_{\wedge}\leftarrow``)\gg$

Well, you really got him there.

Village Chief Sun watched as his third son brought back two truckloads of peach saplings, his oldest son and his wife along with his second son and his wife were all excited about unloading the truck, they even skipped meals to help.

After unloading the trucks, the oldest son and his wife, along with the second son and his wife, were all carefully handling the saplings, he then took his third son aside.

"Son, Chuxia had you plant yellow peaches on the mountain, did she mention how to sell them once they grow? That girl might not understand, but we've never heard of yellow peaches here. Even if we set up a stall and sell them on the streets, not necessarily anyone would want to buy them. I'm not against planting them, but after all that effort, if it's all for nothing, think of the wasted money on saplings, management, and labor."

During this time, the family dug tree holes, so the eldest and second sons were hiring help, each tree hole cost five cents, and those with quick hands could dig over 20 in half a day, which amounts to more than one dollar.

Working at the factory for half a day wouldn't earn more than a dollar.

He knew all this money was invested by Lin Chuxia.

Even if it's not their own money, his sons and daughter rely on Lin Chuxia; he couldn't let Chuxia waste her money unjustly.

Sun Bingnan looked at the tree holes on the mountain and the saplings unloaded from the trucks, all revved up.

Hearing what his old man said, he smiled and reassured, "Dad, don't worry too much about this. Whatever Chuxia asks us to do, we just do it. Haven't you seen in these two years? Chuxia knows what she's doing. As long as we follow her directions closely, we can't go wrong."

Village Chief Sun was still hesitant, Sun Bingnan pulled him aside and lowered his voice, "Dad, do you know about the vegetable greenhouses in Qin Family Village? I passed by Qin Family Village today, there are three to four hundred vegetable greenhouses, a vast expanse of them shining bright. Do you know how much investment each greenhouse represents? Even if you don't know about these, you've heard of Village Chief Qin Shusen from Qin Family Village, haven't you?"

Mentioning Village Chief Qin, even though Village Chief Sun is not in the same commune, the name rings a bell.

That is the representative of advanced progress last year from the county, the leader among village cadres.

Sun Bingnan continued, "Why does Qin Family Village have its current achievements? Why is Village Chief Qin so renowned? It's all because of Lin Chuxia. Not to mention the Xiyang Food Factory by the side of Qin Family Village, the poultry farm in Qin Family Village is just like ours, relying on Xiyang Food Factory. Qin Family Village's pig farm was invested in by Lin Chuxia. Now, Qin Family Village is running large vegetable greenhouses, and the vegetables in those greenhouses have already hit the market. I heard that a single cucumber can sell for ten cents. Once these vegetable greenhouses start making money, that will be the whole village moving towards prosperity..."

Village Chief Sun was boiling with excitement as he listened.

Before, he hadn't taken the glorious achievements of Qin Family Village to heart.

Their Qin Family Village has a good geographical location, close to the county, and is a village of vegetable farmers.

But now, after hearing his third son analyze so much, Village Chief Sun's mind flashed with inspiration and suddenly grasped something.

"Third son, you're right. Qin Family Village is Chuxia's in-laws' village, but we are Chuxia's parents' village. Whatever Qin Family Village can do, our Daqing Mountain Village can do too."

Although Chuxia's parents' home isn't powerful, isn't she taking care of our Sun Family? Isn't that giving us in Daqing Mountain Village an opportunity?

If the Lin Family can't support the girl, their Sun Family will.

If the in-laws' village develops, their parents' village must not fall behind.

Realizing all this, Village Chief Sun no longer saw those peach saplings as mere saplings.

Not the slightest bit of dislike or hesitation, his eyes were even more affectionate than when looking at his grandson.

This is the hope of our Daqing Mountain Village.

"Third son, what do you say about me going to broadcast via the loudspeaker later, to see who wants to plant yellow peach trees, we could sell them the saplings at a fair price? If our own saplings are not enough, you could run another trip to the Northwest later, the village will cover the travel expenses."

Seeing his father finally understood, Sun Bingnan's face sincerely revealed a touch of smile, "Sure, dad, just do it. Your son supports you. But let me say the ugly part first, folks might not recognize this stuff, and if no one wants to plant, don't be too disappointed."

"No worries, your dad understands this point. If they don't value it, it's their loss. We'll be the first ones to eat the crab, and by the time we have enjoyed it, they will regret it."

By then, when they want to plant fruit trees, it won't be him eagerly pleading anymore; it will be them coming to ask him.

Village Chief Sun walked out cheerfully, and after a few steps, suddenly thought of something.

"This afternoon I'll visit the County Forestry Bureau. I heard that Qin Family Village is running large vegetable greenhouses, and the Agricultural Bureau sent down several technicians. If our village wants to plant fruit trees on several mountains, the Forestry Bureau should also send us a technician, right?"

Sun Bingnan gave his father a thumbs-up, "Not to mention, our dad's mind is really sharp. Dad, I support you on this. If our village gets the fruit tree project running, it will definitely be no worse than the vegetable greenhouses of Qin Family Village. Then you will also be an advanced figure in our county."

Village Chief Sun's dark face beamed like a flower, "You lad, stop flattering me. Let's not think about being advanced or not now. I am just thinking about how Chuxia always has us on her mind, and we absolutely can't hold her back."

Sun Bingnan secretly chuckled, wondering who was just worried earlier that they wouldn't make money once the fruit trees matured.

Village Chief Sun, made self-conscious by his sons' gaze, put on a stern face and told his three sons, "You three rascals are basking in your sister's glory. Otherwise, how could such good fortune fall upon us? From now on, Chuxia and your sister are your closest family. Do your jobs well and never neglect them."

"Dad, don't worry. We won't let that happen."

Chapter 427: Pretending to be Mysterious

Village Chief Sun's broadcast through the loudspeaker had the same effect as they had anticipated - not good.

The success of the vegetable greenhouses in Qin Family Village was based on the villagers' trust in Lin Chuxia, as well as the fact that the entire investment for the greenhouse was shouldered by Lin Chuxia.

Village Chief Sun had been broadcasting for half an hour, yet not a single person was willing to plant, and there were even a few who, taking advantage of their age and seniority, tried to persuade him to plant other types of fruit trees instead.

"I know these saplings are all something your third son brought back. It's good for young people to have drive, but as elders, we must also keep a lookout for the kids, we can't let them run wild."

"Exactly Qiangzi, I heard your eldest and second sons made some money from chicken farming last year, it wouldn't be that the third son is using the money they earned to buy these saplings, right? If they end up losing money, won't that cause conflict among the brothers?"

"That's right, Uncle Sun, it's one thing for you to spoil your son, but now you want the whole village to indulge in this nonsense with you, aren't you just afraid that your third son will lose all the money and you want everyone else to help share the burden? That's not right, other families don't have the spare cash like your family does."

"Indeed, you have good land and yet you ask us to plant trees, yellow peach trees at that. If they really don't sell, isn't that scamming people?"

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There were all sorts of comments, and some of them were getting nastier.

Village Chief Sun took all this in but didn't get too upset, he even responded with a smile.

"This matter is entirely voluntary anyway, if you're not willing, of course, I won't insist. Now that everyone understands the situation, let's head back. I need to make some further plans. When work resumes on Monday, I'll have to visit the County Forestry Bureau. With the village planting so many trees, the Forestry Bureau should send a technician over."

Village Chief Sun walked home cheerfully with his hands behind his back, unlike someone burdened by a prodigal son.

Someone sneered, "Putting on airs. Can the technicians from the Forestry Bureau come just because he says so?"

"Right, I think the village chief is just putting on a brave face. I heard that Sun Laosan lost his decent job in the county and got fired by his superiors. He's too embarrassed to come back to the village to farm, so he's resorted to planting yellow peaches here out of some misguided idea."

"It looks like the village chief is swallowing his pride. As for Sun Laosan, he's of such an age and still without a partner. Da Jun is two years younger than him, right? And his son is almost running around."

"Isn't that the truth."

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On the outskirts of the crowd, Lin Jiadong, who had just gone to the small store to buy a pen refill, listened to the villagers' discussions, his eyes flashed, and he walked away from the crowd.

As soon as he walked through his house's door, he heard the sound of a child crying from inside, causing Lin Jiadong's brow to involuntarily furrow.

Indeed, upon entering, he saw that his eldest sister had come again.

His seven or eight-month-old nephew, whom she raised thin as a rail, resembling a little monkey, was all skin and bones and did nothing but cry all day long.

At the moment, he was being held and cooed by their mother.

His eldest sister sat on the edge of the kang bed, pulling a long face as if someone owed her a lot of money.

Lin Jiadong took one look at the door, then turned to go back to do his homework.

Lin Jiayi spoke out unhappily, "Are you blind or mute? Can't you see someone has come to visit? Don't you know how to speak?"

Lin Jiadong unapologetically responded, "I would like to treat you as a relative, but you run home at every chance, more often than I do, what's left to say?"

Lin Jiayi immediately widened her eyes, "What do you mean Lin Jiadong? I come back to my parents' house and they don't say anything, are you expressing disdain for me?"

Lin Jiadong frowned impatiently, "Why would I disdain you? If you want to come, then come. Can we not start issues over nothing?"

He had long run out of patience with his eldest sister.

Before getting married, she was already sharp-tongued, and although she was the eldest, they, as her younger siblings, still had to yield to her.

Yielding was one thing,

but after getting married, the eldest sister became even more unreasonable.

Lin Jiayi, upon hearing the disdain in his voice, couldn't help but let out a cold laugh.

"Me, starting a fuss? Mom, listen to how he talks. Does anyone speak to their sister like this?"

She then looked toward Lin Jiadong, exuding the authority of an elder sister.

"So, you're always fawning over the second sister and now you look down on me? Did you only learn to suck up to those above and trample over those below while attending school in the city? Lin Jiadong, let me tell you, don't think that Lin Chuxia is truly looking after you, she's only doing it for herself. She's been unpopular since she was a child, nobody wanted to play with her, and now she just wants everyone to revolve around her, she enjoys the feeling of being coddled by everyone. In reality, she is the most selfish one. If she truly had a conscience, if she truly cared about the family, why haven't we seen her show any filial piety toward mom and dad? The Qin Family is so rich, but she hasn't given mom and dad a single penny. During festivities, she doesn't even bother to visit home. If you ask me, she's nothing but an ingrate."

Mother Lin couldn't help but avert her gaze with a twinge of guilt upon hearing this.

It was true that the second daughter didn't return home for the Spring Festival, but Sun Laosan had brought a message from her, saying she was worried her elder sister would feel uncomfortable if she saw her, so she didn't come back to avoid spoiling everyone's festive mood.

Mother Lin believed the second daughter had a point. The eldest daughter hadn't been living a satisfied life for the past two years. How could she feel good about herself after seeing the second daughter's situation?

Mother Lin knew all too well about her eldest daughter's temper. If she felt unhappy, she had to vent it out, causing everyone else to be unhappy before she would stop.

In that case, it might truly be better for her not to come back.

What Mother Lin didn't expect was that the second daughter had also sent her 50 yuan through Sun Bingnan.

Now, Mother Lin had come to a realization. The eldest daughter was unreliable, and although the second daughter was not much to count on either, at least she still cared for her youngest son.

At least the second daughter remembered to send her some money during the festivals, which made all her efforts of raising her worthwhile.

Considering the money, she couldn't let the eldest and the second daughters continue fighting.

If the son-in-law got upset and stopped the second daughter from giving her money, the eldest daughter certainly wouldn't give her any.

The second daughter was easy to handle, but that son-in-law was not someone you'd want to provoke.

Of course, she couldn't control the second daughter anymore either.

Lin Jiadong couldn't stand listening to his elder sister slander the second sister.

The second sister supported him through school, bought him new clothes, and took him out for good food. How could that be considered ulterior motives?

He retorted with his neck stiffened, "And you're the perfect daughter, aren't you? You know how to give mom and dad filial respect, only with your mouth and eyes. Every time you return to your husband's place, you make mom and dad pay. From what I see, your so-called filial piety is nothing compared to the second sister's."

Lin Jiayi's sore spot was hit, and like a cat whose tail was stepped on, she let out a sharp scream, "Lin Jiadong, are you looking for trouble?"

She even tried to hit him.

How could Lin Jiadong just wait for his elder sister to hit him? He dropped a comment about going to do his homework, then retreated to his room and locked the door.

Lin Jiayi was furious, scaring the child into crying out loud.

Mother Lin could only coax gently from the side, and after a while, Lin Jiayi gradually calmed down. Seeing her son still quietly sobbing, she was filled with a sense of grievance.

Chapter 428: Do Not Plant

"Do you also think I'm inferior to her? She's living a good life now, she's a city person, you must want to be closer to a daughter like that, right?"

Mother Lin knew who she was talking about and while cradling her grandson, she spoke indifferently.

"What's the use of saying these things now? When I found such a good match for you, you were so against it, you insisted on marrying Li Guangyuan. Are you regretting it now? If you had listened to me back then, you would be the city person."

Lin Jiayi turned to look out of the window, "I don't care about being a city person, even less about the Qin Family people."

Mother Lin took it as her speaking out of spite.

What about the Qin Family? Qin Yang is said to have become an official now, and Brother Qin has started doing business.

The Qin Family's business is not like Li Guangyuan's; their business makes big money.

As for not caring about city people, Mother Lin believed that even less.

Who in their village didn't envy the city people for eating commodity grains?

Not to mention others, just look at the two younger sisters-in-law from the Li Family, who are almost going crazy wanting to marry into the city.

Thinking of that, Mother Lin couldn't help but speak, "How are your sisters-in-law doing? I heard your mother-in-law found several matchmakers to set up meetings for them during the Spring Festival, and

none were suitable? If you ask me, your younger sister-in-law is not getting any younger, she should find someone and get married. It's a disaster just having her at home causing trouble all the time."

"I do want her to get married, but who listens to me at home now?" Mentioning the Li Family, Lin Jiayi had even more grievances, "Li Hongmei didn't marry well at first, and they blamed me for it. They still hold a grudge against me to this day; I don't know what she's told Li Dongmei. Now, Li Dongmei doesn't even listen to her mom, let alone us."

"She's just going to stick around at home and remain an old maid? You should talk to Guang Yuan about this; it's not that you guys dislike this younger sister-in-law, but a woman's prime years are only so long. Once she turns into an old maid, it will be even harder to marry her off."

Lin Jiayi actually quite looked forward to that scene.

Her two sisters-in-law, one is more lofty-minded than the other.

Originally she thought Li Hongmei, who was more cunning, would be harder to deal with, but Li Dongmei turned out to be quite ambitious without making a sound.

"Let them be. Now saying one extra word in that family is wrong. If they want to treat their daughter like a gem, let them."

Mother Lin nodded, understanding her daughter's difficulty, "That makes sense. Fortunately, your younger sister-in-law now runs to the city with Guang Yuan often, which is great help to him. It spares you the trouble of having to take care of the child and running around. But as for your elder sister-in-law, when I ran into your cousin over the New Year, he said she also causes a lot of trouble at her in-laws'. I think that family treats her well, and the husband looks out for her. Though they're poor, which family isn't poor these days? With willing hands, one can always make a living, but she insists on comparing herself with their biological son. How can she compete?"

Lin Jiayi looked at her son who had fallen asleep in Mother Lin's arms, biting her cheek to express her frustration, "Of course, a non-biological child can't compare with a biological one."

She said this with much emphasis, but whether Mother Lin really took it in, she didn't know. Mother Lin spoke with concern, "With the way she's making a fuss there, she wouldn't really get a divorce, would she? If she gets divorced and returns to her maternal home, how would you live your life then?"

Lin Jiayi snorted coldly, "Don't worry, Mom, she's sharper than anyone else. She won't get a divorce. Not to mention the Ma family won't let her divorce; even if she really did and came back to the village, she would be drowned in spit."

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Lin Jiadong finished his homework and only after hearing that there was no noise outside did he quietly open the door.

Seeing his mother cooking in the outer room, he quietly called, "Mom, has my eldest sister left?"

Mother Lin didn't lift her head as she fed the firewood into the stove, "Gone, she left a while ago. And you, why do you have to twist the knife in your sister's heart when she's having such a hard time?"

Lin Jiadong stood up straight and strutted out of the room.

"Her hard times are of her own making, what's that got to do with us? And what's it got to do with my second sister? Every time she comes back, it's as if we owe her something. At the mere mention of my second sister, she flies off the handle. Wasn't it her choice to marry my brother-in-law?"

Mother Lin lightly whacked him with the stick in her hand, "Talking nonsense again? Haven't I told you before? We shan't discuss this matter anymore."

"Fine, fine, I won't mention it," Lin Jiadong quickly surrendered.

Mother Lin noticed he didn't take it to heart and continued advising patiently, "Regardless of the circumstances back then, your eldest and second sisters have been married for so many years. Not to mention your eldest sister's situation, you wouldn't want your second sister and her husband to have a fallout over this, right? They still don't have children, and the Qin Family is so wealthy, and your brother-

in-law is quite capable. If he becomes dissatisfied with your second sister over such a trivial matter, I think you can forget about continuing your studies."

Lin Jiadong's expression changed slightly upon hearing this.

He wasn't afraid of not being able to continue his studies; he just couldn't bear the thought of his second sister and her husband having issues because of this, as he would feel very guilty towards her.

"I understand, Mom. I'll remember this and won't bring it up again."

At that moment, Mr. Lin returned from the fields carrying a hoe, and Lin Jiadong's eyes lit up.

"Dad, you're back," he said, approaching to take the hoe from Mr. Lin's shoulder, then followed him into the house.

Mr. Lin felt his scalp tingle under his son's gaze and asked while washing his hands, "What's this about? Does your school need more money? Didn't we agree that your second sister would finance your education?"

"No."

Lin Jiadong didn't like it when his parents brought this up, but considering the matter at hand, he didn't dwell on it and directly asked,

"Dad, did you hear the loudspeaker announcement in the fields today? The village chief said that they're planning to plant yellow peaches in the village, and if any family wishes to grow them, they can buy saplings from him. Don't we still have that piece of mountain land? Should we plant peach trees too?"

Previously, the village outsourced the management of the mountain to external parties, and after leasing out several parts, there were no takers for the remaining land.

The village cadres then decided to divide it up and distribute it to the villagers.

Their family got a parcel of the land.

Mr. Lin had indeed heard about this; a few of the workers had discussed it while working in the fields.

Now, hearing his son mentioning it, he flatly rejected the idea, "We're not planting."

"Why not? Dad, do you think Third Brother Sun planting yellow peaches is a nonsensical idea too? Don't listen to what others say; in my opinion, they're just jealous of him. Look how prosperous the Sun Family has become in the last two years; how can it be a fool's errand?"

Mother Lin, overhearing the conversation between father and son, also looked over.

Despite this, Mr. Sun insisted, "I don't care what others say. I trust what I see. If you want to eat peaches, I'll plant some wild peach trees on our mountain land for you to enjoy your fill. As for the yellow peaches, who knows what Sun Laosan is really up to? Maybe those peach saplings are just a front. After we buy them and strain to keep them alive, what if they don't bear fruit in the end? You'll have nowhere to cry."

Lin Jiadong felt his father was wrong and wanted to say more, but Mother Lin spoke up.

"Jiadong, you don't understand the matters of the household; just focus on your studies. Isn't your father's experience more valuable than yours?"

Mr. Lin didn't wish to continue the topic, "Is dinner ready? I'm hungry, let's eat."

Lin Jiadong moved his lips, wanting to say more, but ultimately he did not.

Having spent more time in the city with his second sister, he had begun to suspect something over the past half year.

If he wasn't mistaken, the yellow peaches that Third Brother Sun was planting were likely suggested by his second sister.

His second sister was an impressive woman, well-known both in Qin Family Village and the county. Third Brother Sun and others held a lot of respect for her.

Yet his own family tended to think less of the second sister...

Never mind, perhaps it's for the best.

Chapter 429: Proud of Myself Too

Going back to the city to attend Li Wei's son's full moon celebration, she definitely had to buy a gift for the child.

Qin Yang also took the rare opportunity to come back, and Lin Chuxia especially wanted him to see their achievements.

She had never felt this way before; no matter what she did or what accomplishment she achieved, she could accept it calmly.

Even if she failed, she just gathered her emotions and continued on.

But now, she increasingly enjoyed sharing her achievements and joy with Qin Yang.

After walking around the field together, they drove to the Department Store.

"How about it? After this tour, are you filled with expectations for the development of Qin Family Village?"

Qin Yang looked at her sparkling eyes and nodded, "It's going smoother than I imagined."

Back when the villagers were building the vegetable greenhouses, they were still in the village and witnessed the start of the greenhouses.

At that time, Qin Yang thought, although Lin Chuxia could invest money into the hardware, the software, the technology aspect, was a huge challenge. The villagers of Qin Family Village, having been vegetable farmers for generations, finding technicians and expecting them to uniformly follow instructions was not an easy task.

To his surprise, the reaction of the villagers far exceeded his expectations.

Seeing such achievements in the vegetable greenhouses now, Qin Yang looked at his young wife with new respect.

It wasn't just respect for her capabilities, but also her prestige in the eyes of the villagers of Qin Village.

"I'm afraid in the future, you as the daughter-in-law of Qin Family Village, might be even more popular than me, someone born and raised here."

"Oh, why do I hear a hint of jealousy in that comment? Let me think, when I first came to Qin Family Village, I heard that Mr. Qin Yang was the pride of Qin Village," Lin Chuxia said, tilting her head with a sly spark in her eyes.

Qin Yang raised his hand to touch her head, his eyes smiling, "Mr. Qin Yang is still the pride of Qin Village now, because he married a good wife. It's not just the villagers who are proud of him; he is proud of himself too."

Lin Chuxia chuckled and suddenly seeing something, she quickly told Qin Yang, "Hey hey, pull over."

Qin Yang turned the steering wheel and parked the car.

"Wait for me a moment."

Lin Chuxia told him, already opening the car door and getting out.

Qin Yang watched her walk straight towards a roadside bicycle repair stall, he turned off the car, opened the door, and followed her.

Lin Chuxia looked at the man repairing bicycles in front of her, feeling a mix of emotions.

Earlier she had heard that the vegetable station was not doing well and that the employees were facing layoffs, and she also heard that Wang Cheng was repairing bicycles on the roadside.

But seeing him in person still gave her a sense of disbelief.

The last time she saw him was at the vegetable station; Wang Cheng helped her pick a cart.

He stood in front of a pile of dilapidated carts, generously letting her choose freely, even pointing out a few better ones for her.

His voice was loud, his laughter was hearty, quite like a man of great vision.

Now, he was huddled on a small stool, with an apron full of grease around his front, probably worried about getting his clothes stained, his clothes also seemed tattered.

And that square face, in just half a year, seemed to have aged several years.

"Brother Wang Cheng," Lin Chuxia called out.

Wang Cheng was repairing a bicycle bearing, picking out the ball bearings one by one with his hands.

Hearing someone calling his name, he looked up cheerfully, "Ah, something wrong with your bike... Lin?!"

"It's me."

Lin Chuxia looked around and then took a stool nearby to sit down.

Wang Cheng quickly set aside the ball bearings he was holding, covered in black oil, and placed them on the ground, with two rebellious ones rolling away.

He bent down to pick them back up, arranged the bearings properly, then looked at Lin Chuxia. He instinctively wanted to shake hands with her but immediately withdrew his dirty hand.

With an awkward lift of his greasy hands, he glanced around and laughed, "My hands are too dirty, it's a bit messy here."

Looking closely, there was a hint of bitterness and melancholy in his eyes.

He had long heard from Li Jian that Lin Chuxia was no longer in An City.

Though not in An City, both Qin's Buns Shop and Xiyang Food Factory are still developing very well.

It could only be said that she no longer favored the small Ancheng County and has moved on to develop in bigger cities.

That girl who once cozied up to him wanting to buy an old cart, now has become a female boss.

He never expected to run into Lin Chuxia here and even less expected her to greet him.

"I heard you went to the city, are you back home to visit relatives?"

Wang Cheng initiated the conversation.

Lin Chuxia nodded, "Kind of, but mainly I have some other business."

She glanced at Qin Yang next to the car, who was bored and smoking, and decided not to beat around the bush, speaking directly to Wang Cheng.

"Here's the thing, Qin Family Village has developed a batch of vegetable greenhouses; the first batch of seeded vegetables has begun to produce, and there will be a continuous output of more vegetables. Currently, the vegetables from Qin Family Village primarily supply big restaurants and the canteens of agencies and factories..."

Wang Cheng's dark eyes brightened, and upon closer examination, his hands were slightly trembling.

Holding a hope yet still cautious he asked, "Why... why are you telling me all this?"

Lin Chuxia smiled slightly, "Brother Wang, as you know, Qin Family Village is skillful at vegetable farming, but those vegetables also need a good distribution network to sell. Qin Family Village currently lacks such talent. I remember that you used to manage distribution at the vegetable station, and professional matters require professional people. I'm just wondering if you'd be willing to come to Qin Family Village and muddle through this."

It was just as he had imagined, Wang Cheng could hardly believe it.

"Are you serious about having me come to Qin Family Village to work with you?"

Lin Chuxia nodded, "Brother Wang, you were capable at the vegetable station," otherwise he wouldn't have been put in charge, "but now Qin Family Village is just starting up, and everything is still in the exploration stage, including the market. It's tough with many tasks; I just don't know if Brother Wang would consider it. If you come, the salary will be at least 80 a month, with a bonus on performance. It's up to you if you're willing to give up a secure job."

Wang Cheng hardly hesitated and slapped his thigh, "Done, I'll come work with you."

A salary of 80, when he was making just 50 at the station.

Whatever about a secure job, their vegetable station is just a sham now.

Since last harvest, they hadn't been able to pay salaries until Spring Festival when one month's salary was issued just so everyone could celebrate, and this year it was uncertain.

He had already heard about Qin Family Village's vegetable greenhouses, initially thinking they were self-established, but never realized it was Lin Chuxia leading the project.

He knew this woman's capability, and Li Jian also praised her endlessly.

Wang Cheng had a premonition that following her lead was the right choice.

Chapter 430: My Wife Knows How to Make Money

Chuxia Lin knew it would turn out this way, but hadn't expected Wang Cheng to be so agreeable.

She smiled, "Alright, then. Will there be any problem for you to come to the agricultural supply store at the entrance of Qin Family Village tomorrow? I will wait for you there."

Wang Cheng stood up excitedly, "No problem, no problem at all. I'll pack up right now, prepare a bit, and then go to Qin Family Village for work tomorrow."

Chuxia Lin pointed to his pile of dismantled bicycles, "Brother Wang, what will you do with these after you pack up?"

Wang Cheng also realized this and awkwardly chuckled, "I'm just too happy. But don't worry, I'll definitely take care of these things today, and I'll be there on time tomorrow morning."

"Alright then, Brother Wang, you go ahead with your work, we'll meet tomorrow."

After saying goodbye to Wang Cheng, Chuxia Lin returned to the Jeep and asked Qin Yang with a smile, "Were you impatient waiting?"

Qin Yang had already dissipated the smell of smoke and opened the passenger door for her first, "I'm not in a hurry. What's the situation with that man?" He looked like an old acquaintance of his wife.

Every time he returned to An City, Qin Yang felt a faint sadness.

In the past, he prioritized his work and didn't think marrying a wife would affect anything. Even when he was at his job and his wife was back in her hometown, he didn't feel anything wrong with them living separately.

Before they got married, when he saw his colleagues, he thought it would be comfortable to live separately from each other.

Now, however, he felt his initial thoughts were utterly despicable and even regretted them.

He was comfortable, but it seemed his wife was even more so.

Moreover, his wife had gone through so much without him being a part of it. Now, following her around, he felt like an idiot.

Chuxia Lin shared with Qin Yang the identity of Wang Cheng along with her thoughts.

"I was worried about how to sell the produce from the greenhouses in the future. Once all the greenhouses started producing, it would be a great loss if we encountered sales blockages. But now with Wang Cheng coming, this issue should be mostly resolved."

She wasn't offering a salary of 80 yuan for nothing. Li Jian had once told her that Wang Cheng had worked at the vegetable station for over a decade, and during its heyday, he had accumulated quite a few resources.

In Chuxia Lin's mind, her little abacus was clattering away, and when she turned her head, she saw Qin Yang clutching the steering wheel with both hands, his handsome face tense, and his lips tightly pursed.

She immediately sensed that the man was being stubborn about something again.

Her hand touched his arm and before she could speak, Qin Yang spoke first.

"Xiaxia, I've been thinking, a few of my classmates might be able to help you. It's just that I have been working outside for so many years and have not kept in touch with them. Don't worry, when we return, I'll find a way to contact them..."

Chuxia Lin's fingertip moved slightly and pinched his arm, interrupting him.

Qin Yang looked at her puzzled and then turned his head back to the road ahead.

Then he heard the delicate voice of the young woman beside him, "Qin Yang, you don't need to do this."

"Hmm?" He didn't quite understand.

Chuxia Lin smiled faintly, "What I mean is you don't need to compare yourself with them. You don't have to feel guilty for not being able to help me with these things. You are different from them. There are plenty of such people around me; I can have as many as I want if I have the money. But the only one who can give me emotional value is you alone."

Qin Yang slowly stopped the car in front of the Department Store and slowly turned to face her, even starting to speak with some disapproval, "Do you really think that love, something so elusive, is more important than anything else?"

He understood Chuxia Lin to be outstanding, strong, and tenacious. All the best adjectives suited her, and he didn't think she was a person who put love above everything else.

Back in the Northwest, he even felt that he was a dispensable existence to his wife.

If Lin Chuxia knew what Qin Yang was thinking, she would definitely give him an approving look.

Back when they first got married, knowing that Qin Yang was a workaholic, the kind who neglected his family in his past life, she hadn't taken her husband, Qin Yang, seriously at all.

But as the two of them interacted more and more, their affection deepened, especially with Qin Yang's meticulous care and love for her, Lin Chuxia felt for the first time in her two lifetimes what it meant to love and be loved.

She didn't feel that love, an ethereal thing, was more important than anything else, but she nonetheless cherished their relationship deeply.

"Qin Yang, I love you, and I know you love me too. In my eyes, making money is the easiest thing in the world, but having someone you love who loves you back is not an easy feat."

Qin Yang's eyes instantly lit up.

This wasn't the first time his wife had said she loved him, even during those intimate moments, to achieve her own psychological fulfilment, whenever he saw her almost overwhelmed, he'd deliberately be naughty and make her say she loved him...

But to say it so solemnly and earnestly was the first time.

A warm and intense feeling flooded through his heart.

Seeing that he was sweet-talked, Lin Chuxia changed the subject and deliberately put on a stern face.

"So if you ever feel neglected because I'm busy with work, please don't be mad at me, my work means I can't look after you as attentively as other wives might."

"How could I?" Qin Yang said earnestly, "There's no need for you to be like them. Anyone can do laundry and cook, but my wife can earn money. I'm being spoiled by my rich wife, who can compare to that?"

His clothes, food, shelter, and the luxurious living environment, not only for himself but also his parents and elder siblings, had greatly improved because of Lin Chuxia.

He had been indifferent to the concept of money before, feeling that having enough was sufficient.

Now, seeing the changes in his home and Qin Family Village, he felt an unwavering conviction that having a wife who could earn money was wonderful.

No wonder the chief designer would say a cat that catches mice is a good cat, regardless if it's black or white.

Their country was at the start-up stage of construction; indeed, they needed a group of people to get rich first, then lead more to prosperity.

Lin Chuxia was amused by his seriousness, "Alright, then we won't compare ourselves with anyone else; we'll just be ourselves."

Upon arriving at the Department Store, Lin Chuxia realized there weren't many gifts suitable for babies.

The salesperson recommended things like little clothes and blankets.

Lin Chuxia knew Jiang Hong had already prepared little clothes and blankets for the child, and buying more would be superfluous.

Babies grow fast, and such items would become unusable after a short period.

Qin Yang couldn't offer any suggestions in this aspect; he really didn't understand.

Lin Chuxia wandered over to the counter selling gold and silver jewelry and finally spotted something to her satisfaction.

She asked the salesperson to show her the longevity locks and little bracelets for children to look over and over again.

At that time, the variety of gold and silver jewelry designs wasn't vast, but they were made to be very cute and exquisite.

The pure silver longevity locks and little bracelets, engraved with beautiful patterns and characters, immediately gave Lin Chuxia a hard time choosing.

"Which one should we gift? The longevity lock or the little bracelet?"

She held up both for Qin Yang to choose, but seeing her fondness, he said directly, "If you like them, just buy both."