

Switched M 551

Chapter 551: Dignity Lies Only on the Edge of the Sword

"Right, you still have so many things you're unclear about. Is it worth wasting time on people who don't matter? You know they're just spreading baseless rumors without evidence. They have no goals and plenty of time to waste on such trivial matters. Do you have no goals either? If not, set one for yourself now. Second sister is supporting you through school, not so you can waste time discussing irrelevant issues with classmates."

Lin Jiadong thought his second sister's words were not quite right, "But they're talking about me."

Lin Chuxia asked him seriously, "Why are they talking about you and not someone else? You and Li Youmin both participated in the national math competition. Why is all the talk centered around you and not Li Youmin? Did your teachers praise Li Youmin? What is the principal's attitude toward him?"

"Li Youmin didn't place, so of course the principal didn't say anything."

"So, being targeted by classmates isn't coincidental, it's inevitable. You've become Ancheng First High School's top student, placed third in the national math competition, a good student and a role model in the principal's eyes. Jiadong, never underestimate human nature, and don't overestimate it either. Xunzi said, 'Human nature is originally evil.' From being inexplicably drawn into a case of a lost watch in the capital, to being targeted by classmates back at school, haven't you wondered why? Who would go out of their way to target you? Because your excellence poses a threat to others, or it's just pure jealousy. If you let those rumors affect your studies, you've fallen into their trap again."

Seeing her naive brother finally understanding, Lin Chuxia continued, "Your primary purpose in school is to study. We act righteously, with a clear conscience, so why care what others think? Focus on your studies—strength is the hard truth, the sword that conquers all evils. Dignity resides only on the blade's edge."

Dignity resides only on the blade's edge!

As these words were spoken, Lin Jiadong lifted his head. His eyes shifted from complex to resolute, and he nodded heavily, "Second sister, I get it now."

"What do you get?" Lin Chuxia asked with a smile.

"I shouldn't let those rumors affect my mindset, and I shouldn't have taken time off to clear my head over such trivial matters. I suspect the rumors came from Li Youmin. I didn't even have the courage to ask him why he did it. I've always considered him a friend, but now I realize there's no need to question him. What could it be other than jealousy? Let him be consumed by it. I'll study harder so he can't even reach me, and others who follow rumors haven't even seen things themselves, such character isn't worth my concern."

Lin Chuxia nodded. Her naive brother, although simple-minded, was obedient and salvageable.

"Though you've done many things you shouldn't have, you did the right thing by coming to me. Speak more to your second sister in the future, don't keep things bottled up."

Lin Jiadong nodded once again, heavily.

He truly opened up this time, the clouded thoughts he held before coming had cleared.

Looking at his second sister, his heart filled with admiration.

How does Second Sister manage to see things so clearly? No wonder she can do business and make money. Compared to Second Sister, his brain is like a pig's, easily led astray, boarding a thief's ship without realizing.

It seems that in the future, he should talk to Second Sister more when problems arise.

However...

"Second Sister, did you misspeak earlier? Isn't it 'Human nature is originally good'?"

Lin Chuxia looked at him and asked a question instead of answering, "Do you think human nature is good or evil?"

Here it comes, again.

Lin Jiadong found that every time his second sister asked him soul-searching questions, it turned his pre-existing notions upside down.

But this time, he didn't know from what angle his second sister would persuade him, maybe even overturn the words of the ancients.

He was somewhat looking forward to it.

"Isn't it, good for the most part?" he ventured.

Lin Chuxia didn't insist on this point, as it was inherently a paradox.

She went on directly, "The instinct of animals is self-benefit, and self-benefit inevitably harms others. In dire situations, one's inherent evil is more likely to show. Humans, as higher beings, only manage to suppress evil thoughts through rigorous social training. If personal interests are threatened or harmed, inherent evil will suppress acquired goodness. Human nature is originally evil; education guides it toward goodness, and the law is merely the bottom line."

Qin Yang entered from outside and happened to hear the little woman's words, "Human nature is evil, the goodness is imitated. Nowadays, human nature desires benefits at birth. By following this, contention arises, and courtesy vanishes."

Lin Chuxia smiled slightly, "You know this too?"

"Yes, Xunzi's 'Chapter on Evil Nature,'" he turned his head to look at Lin Jiadong as well, "Your sister's point isn't to make you view people as evil, but to have a cautious heart and not to take to heart the evils brought by those around you."

"Got it, brother-in-law, I will."

Qin Yang had been spending more time with Lin Jiadong recently and understood why his wife avoided the Lin Family but was wholeheartedly good to this brother.

This boy was straightforward and grateful, truly different from the Lin Family.

"Since you're in the city, spend some time with your sister. I'm heading to work."

"I will, brother-in-law, take care on the road."

After Qin Yang left, Lin Jiadong regained his spirits, different from his previously despondent self, chatting and laughing with Lin Chuxia.

Especially regarding his experiences in the capital.

At that time, the watch incident hadn't spiraled yet. He believed he hadn't taken it and didn't think much about it, so he was quite happy during the two days in the capital.

"Second sister, I want to go to Capital University in the future. They say it's the university all students dream of attending. I want to go too, though I'm not sure if I can get in."

"As long as you try hard, even if you don't get in, there'll be no regrets."

"Yes, second sister, you're right," Lin Jiadong glanced at the time, "I should head back. I took leave to come here, and I've missed a lot of classes today and the last couple of days. I need to review them."

After chatting with his second sister, Lin Jiadong felt he had been foolish the past few days. Why should he care about what others said? He didn't take the teacher's watch; truth speaks for itself, yet he wavered first.

If only he had sought out Second Sister sooner, even a phone call would have been good.

Lin Chuxia stopped him, "Wait a minute, I'll find someone to drive you back."

Lin Chuxia thought for a moment and called Jia Liang over.

Once he arrived, she handed him the receipt for the watch she had bought for Lin Jiadong.

The watch was bought at the People's Mall, and the receipts were official ones.

Chapter 552: Wearing Her Heart on Her Sleeve

While Lin Jiadong was outside bonding with Yuan Bao, Lin Chuxia briefly explained the issues at Lin Jiadong's school to Jia Liang.

Although she told Lin Jiadong to focus on his studies and not let the rumors affect his mindset, it didn't mean allowing some people to bully others without consequence.

Did they really think spreading rumors was cost-free?

Jia Liang, a righteous person, sneered after hearing Lin Chuxia's words, "Got it, Mr. Lin, leave this matter to me. I'll handle it properly."

"Alright, then you help me send him back, and be safe on the way."

Jia Liang put away the invoice and hesitantly spoke before leaving, "Um, Mr. Lin, is there anything you want to pass on to the family? Well, I'm going back to An City anyway, so if you need anything, feel free to tell me."

Oh, his intentions were written all over his face.

Lin Chuxia couldn't be bothered to expose him and just said, "You've reminded me, could you bring back some strawberries from my brother for me?"

"Sure, no problem."

Jia Liang got the message and happily went to call Lin Jiadong.

Lin Jiadong also said goodbye to Lin Chuxia, and the two drove off in Lin Chuxia's jeep.

Even though Lin Chuxia was nurturing her pregnancy, she still made sure to stay active, walking around and watching the car leave the residential compound before turning back.

Just as she was about to reach her row of residences, she suddenly heard the sound of a bicycle and cries of surprise behind her.

The road in the alley wasn't narrow; it could even accommodate a small car.

Lin Chuxia was walking by the side and didn't expect the bicycle could crash into her.

When she turned her head, the bicycle was already upon her.

Instinctively she took a step aside, but the snow that fell a few days ago had melted in the middle of the road, and there was still some piled up on the sides.

Her foot landed just on the snow.

The thin layer of ice on the sun-melted snow was even more slippery than pure snow.

Her body instantly lost balance, and she fell backward.

In that moment, her mind couldn't process how to minimize harm to the baby.

Just at that crucial moment, a figure rushed over, half-embracing her, and they both fell to the ground.

The figure who rushed over ended up cushioning her fall.

She even heard the person grunt, indicating it wasn't a light fall.

Lin Chuxia felt the soft touch beneath her and realized that her weight of over a hundred pounds would have been uncomfortable for the other person, and instinctively tried to get up.

The other person stopped her, "Don't rush, get up slowly. Did you get hurt just now? Did you strain your back?"

Ignoring their own situation, they showed concern for her first.

Lin Chuxia saw clearly that it was Sister-in-law Gong beneath her.

"Sister-in-law, I'm fine," Lin Chuxia didn't hurry to get up, but turned and sat on the ground beside her, reaching out to help, "How are you? Where did you get hurt? Can you get up?"

Seeing Sister-in-law Gong's frown, Lin Chuxia got really worried.

Sister-in-law Gong's health wasn't great to begin with, and now she had fallen while also cushioning Lin Chuxia.

Sister-in-law Gong clearly wasn't well; she was half-lying on the ground and unable to get up, yet waved her hand to reassure Lin Chuxia, "It's alright, I'll be fine in a moment."

By this time, people from the adjacent houses had run out.

Everyone in the compound knew each other from work, and seeing the situation outside, they helped those who had fallen, asked questions, and some even ran to the unit.

Lin Chuxia was helped up; she was fine, being in the early months of pregnancy, not very heavy, and her entire weight was caught by Sister-in-law Gong, so she didn't feel any discomfort.

Her eyes were fixed on Sister-in-law Gong, and from the corner of her eye, she saw the culprits of the incident sneaking away.

It was Sister-in-law Feng and her daughter, Feng Jingjing.

If she guessed correctly, Sister-in-law Feng was teaching Feng Jingjing to ride a bicycle, and it was Feng Jingjing who had ridden into her just now.

Sister-in-law Gong couldn't move, so kind neighbors brought out small stools, one also for Lin Chuxia.

Just after she sat down, Qin Yang came running over from afar.

He hadn't even put on a heavy coat, and in the middle of winter, sweat was on his forehead from running.

"Xiaxia!"

He came up and grabbed Lin Chuxia, his eyes full of worry.

"Are you okay? Are you uncomfortable anywhere? I can take you to the hospital to check."

Lin Chuxia shook her head, "I'm fine, Sister-in-law Gong caught me, I didn't fall at all, but Sister-in-law Gong, she took a hard fall while holding me. I just had Jia Liang drive the jeep away. See if there's a vehicle at the unit to take Sister-in-law to the hospital for a check-up."

Sister-in-law Gong was waving her hand at this moment, "I'm also alright, Xiao Qin, take your wife back home, it's cold outside, she can't catch a chill while pregnant. Even though she wasn't hurt just now, it was a scare. Take her back to settle her nerves; I'll be fine after a rest."

"That won't do," Lin Chuxia was worried.

Minister Wei had also heard and came over, seeing his wife sitting on the stool, he was heartbroken and called for someone to fetch a car from the unit.

Sister-in-law Gong refused again.

"Alright, can't I even rest here for a moment? Must you insist that I go back now?"

She leaned on Minister Wei's arm, struggled to stand up, and reassured the people around her, "It's just a fall, really nothing happened, it's just my old bones aren't as nimble as the young ones."

Turning to Minister Wei, she said, "Let's go, I can see that with me sitting here, no one will be at ease."

Then, she thanked the neighbors who helped and hobbled home holding Minister Wei's arm.

Lin Chuxia wanted to follow them, but Qin Yang suggested she go back first, and he would go to Minister Wei's house to check later.

Lin Chuxia thought it made sense; if she followed, even if Sister-in-law Gong felt something, she would pretend nothing happened to avoid making Lin Chuxia feel guilty.

With Lin Chuxia's permission, Qin Yang didn't care about being outside, he simply lifted her horizontally and carried her.

Lin Chuxia was already three months pregnant; even from a small fall, he wasn't taking any chances.

After placing Lin Chuxia on the bed and getting her assurance that she was alright, Qin Yang finally went to Minister Wei's house at her urging.

Meanwhile, back in the residential building, Sister-in-law Feng pinched Feng Jingjing's arm viciously.

"You little troublemaker, you're going to be the death of me! Why crash into Lin Chuxia of all people, don't you know who she is? She's the most precious person in the entire compound, they even drive a car. If you hurt her, even if they crash a car into you, you wouldn't be able to afford it..."

Feng Jingjing winced in pain, tears streaming down and her body trembling.

She didn't do it on purpose, she had said she didn't want to learn to ride a bicycle. Her mom insisted she learn.

The bike was so big, she couldn't control the direction at all.

She didn't mean to crash into someone.

Just a moment before, her mother was still holding her bike, but then she let go.

She really didn't mean it.

Chapter 553: Faking It

"Mom, I don't want to die, I didn't do it on purpose..."

Feng Jingjing was terrified, continuously pleading for forgiveness.

She didn't know what to do, helplessly letting her mother vent her fury, crying and begging for mercy.

Sister-in-law Feng was also a bit scared at this point, all her fear and resentment found an outlet as she saw her daughter in tears.

"What's the use of crying? Who would believe you didn't do it on purpose? Do you know, you not only hit Lin Chuxia, that precious woman, but also Minister Wei's wife. Minister Wei is your father's boss, how can your dad work under him in the future? It's all your fault, you've ruined your dad's future, why don't you just die, then it would be over, and you wouldn't drag anyone else down..."

Feng Jingjing's face turned ashen with fear, she even forgot to cry.

Sister-in-law Feng kept on rambling, "It must have been eight generations of bad luck to have given birth to you, you little debtor. Do you think it's easy for your dad to become an official? You've ruined it all. If I knew it would be like this, I should have just strangled you at birth to save others the trouble..."

There was a noise outside the door, and Sister-in-law Feng immediately fell silent, giving Feng Jingjing a fierce glare.

Then she saw Feng Dajun come in from outside, his brows tightly furrowed.

Seeing Feng Jingjing's tear-stained little face, his frown deepened.

"What happened? How did you hit someone?"

He had heard about the incident in the residential area, initially someone said Qin Yang's pregnant wife was hit, then it was said Minister Wei's chronically ill wife fell, and then he heard it was his daughter who hit them, so he couldn't stay put and rushed back after work.

He had heard a lot of gossip along the way, knowing it was indeed his daughter who was involved.

But how could his daughter, who couldn't even ride a bicycle, hit someone?

Sister-in-law Feng pulled a distressed face, "I don't know what happened, this dead girl insisted on learning to ride a bicycle, I took her to ride, kept telling her to go slow, but who knew this wretched girl would ride faster and faster, in the end I couldn't catch up, it was just at that time Qin Yang's wife didn't come out early or late, just happened to come out then, watched as she collided with Qin Yang's wife..."

She paused and looked at Feng Dajun, "But actually there was no collision, it was Qin Yang's wife who fell herself, our bicycle didn't even touch her clothes."

"What about Minister Wei's wife?"

Feng Dajun knew his wife always exaggerated, so he asked with a stern face.

When it came to Minister Wei's wife, Sister-in-law Feng seemed more confident.

"She saw Qin Yang's wife was about to fall, and ran over to cushion her, it had nothing to do with us," she said with a sneer, "they call them good neighbors, Minister Wei's wife is famous for being unwell, rarely seen outside, walking a step takes three breaths, you didn't see it earlier, when Qin Yang's wife fell, she was quick to react, not at all like someone sick. I think her illness might be a facade."

Feng Dajun nodded, though knowing his wife's words were not reliable, he grasped the gist of the situation.

"Why ride a bicycle in this freezing weather? Falling down even slightly wouldn't be pleasant."

Seeing that Feng Dajun had no intention of blaming them, Sister-in-law Feng gathered her courage, "Isn't it your daughter, seeing other classmates riding bicycles, insisted on learning too, if she hadn't caused such a fuss, this wouldn't have happened?"

Feng Jingjing, with red eyes, looked at Sister-in-law Feng in disbelief.

It wasn't her who wanted to learn to ride a bicycle, it was her mom who, seeing other kids in the compound riding, thought she was inferior and insisted she learn.

She didn't want to learn, she only did it because she was afraid of making her mom angry and getting beaten.

Why was she being blamed now?

She quietly lowered her head again.

This wasn't the first or second time such things happened, every time something went wrong, her mom habitually pushed the blame onto her.

Feng Dajun was not entangled in this, "How is Qin Yang's wife? I heard she's a few months pregnant, Qin Yang and she have been married for so long and finally have a child, with Qin Yang's devotion to his wife, nothing must go wrong. And what about Minister Wei's wife, at her age no matter what she deserves concern."

Sister-in-law Feng glanced around nervously, "Regardless of how delicate their wife is, it's not our concern, we didn't really hit her..."

"You didn't go to see them?" Feng Dajun's eyes widened instantly, "Even if you didn't hit them, wouldn't they have fallen if you hadn't been rushing at them with the bicycle? Didn't you go to show any concern?"

Sister-in-law Feng's eyes flickered anxiously, "So many people were concerned at the time, there wasn't a place for us, besides, they look down on us, even if we went over, we'd be despised, better to stay away and save them the irritation..."

Feng Dajun's fists clenched tightly hearing this.

Sister-in-law Feng shrank back in fear, "I've already said it's not our fault, are you going to hit me? Blame your daughter for this, it has nothing to do with me, you just care about Qin Yang's precious wife, can't afford to offend Qin Yang, afraid Minister Wei would hold it against you, hindering your career? It's your own lack of ability? If you could protect your wife and daughter, they wouldn't blame us. If you were powerful enough, even if your daughter paralyzed someone, they wouldn't dare utter a word. Is that how you're going to take it out on us? Fine, hit us, beat us to death, so we don't have to endure people's contempt and loathing anymore..."

Sister-in-law Feng became more and more agitated, pushing her head against Feng Dajun's body as she ranted, forcing him back several steps.

Her relentless pestering and crying stirred a sense of despair in Feng Dajun.

Finally, he coldly pushed her aside, leaving with a remark, "Truly unreasonable."

Seeing him leave, Sister-in-law Feng secretly breathed a sigh of relief.

Turning to see Feng Jingjing looking at her with wide eyes, she slapped her directly, "What are you staring at, it's all for you..."

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Lin Chuxia waited at home for a while, Qin Yang still hadn't come back.

She was thinking about whether to visit Sister-in-law Gong at Minister Wei's home.

She didn't actually fall hard; it was winter and she was dressed thickly. Sister-in-law Gong rushed to hold her, cushioning her fall, and bearing her full weight, so she didn't get hurt at all.

No matter what she said, Qin Yang wouldn't be at ease, and if she ran out now, Qin Yang would surely worry even more.

While she was hesitating, she heard voices outside, and through the glass, she saw Feng Dajun standing at the door, with Yuan Bao watching him intently.

Chapter 554: What Would a Mentally Disturbed Woman Not Dare to Do?

Although it was chaotic just now, Lin Chuxia also knew that the person riding a bicycle was Feng Dajun's daughter, Feng Jingjing, and Sister-in-law Feng was following behind her.

She even saw that mother-daughter duo earlier, wobbling while Feng Jingjing was riding the bicycle in the alley, with Sister-in-law Feng helping her from behind. It was clear they were practicing riding the bicycle.

At that time, she was on the main road, while Sister-in-law Feng and Feng Jingjing were in the less crowded alley, and somehow they rushed out.

The road is so wide; she was walking in front, even if Feng Jingjing came toward her, Sister-in-law Feng had enough time to grab the bike, or she could have alerted her beforehand. In any case, the bike reached her before any other sister-in-law told her.

If there were no other people on the road at that time, would Sister-in-law Feng just watch as Feng Jingjing crashed into her?

Lin Chuxia didn't want to think badly of people, but since it's Sister-in-law Feng, she couldn't help but overthink.

What can a woman with psychological problems not do?

She didn't respond, nor did she go out to greet them.

Feng Dajun probably thought there was no one in the house, but he didn't leave, just wandered at the door.

Very soon, Qin Yang came back.

Lin Chuxia saw the two talking at the door, and Qin Yang's face clearly showed urgency and impatience. He nodded from time to time and would occasionally look towards the room with a frown.

Finally, he said something else to Feng Dajun, and then he left.

After Feng Dajun left, Qin Yang hurriedly returned to the room.

"Xiaxia, are you okay? Are you feeling uncomfortable anywhere?"

Lin Chuxia held his outreached big hand and gave him a slight smile, "I'm really fine, don't worry. I care about this baby even more than you do. If anything feels wrong, I'll definitely go to the hospital."

Qin Yang squeezed her hand firmly, speaking with dissatisfaction, "I care about the baby, but I care more about you. Xiaxia, my concern for the baby stems from the fact that it's our child."

He was very expectant about this baby, but if it jeopardized Lin Chuxia's health and safety, he would certainly put Lin Chuxia first.

Just like before when Lin Chuxia wanted a child but had such a huge mental burden, he had told her, even if they didn't have children between them, as long as she stayed by his side, it would be enough for a lifetime.

Lin Chuxia nodded with a smile, "I know. By the way, how is Sister-in-law Gong doing? Did she go to the hospital for a check-up?"

Qin Yang sat beside Lin Chuxia and pulled her into his arms, "Sister-in-law Gong is so temperamental, even Minister Wei couldn't do anything. She said she was fine and refused to go to the hospital no matter what. It looks like she definitely didn't hurt her bones."

"Fortunately, Sister-in-law Gong was there today. If she hadn't cushioned my fall, sitting firmly on the ground, the consequences would have been unimaginable."

Thinking about the scene, Lin Chuxia still felt some lingering fear.

Qin Yang prioritizes her health, yet this baby is the one she's waited for two lifetimes, their child, and she's already deemed it more important than herself.

"I saw Feng Dajun come over. What did he say to you?"

"He asked about your condition, apologized on behalf of that mother-daughter duo, saying the child acted unintentionally. I didn't really want to hear him ramble on about it, so I casually responded. Now he's probably gone to Minister Wei's house."

Qin Yang spoke lightly, but he made a deep mental note about Feng Dajun.

The unintentional actions of children can be forgiven, but there was an adult beside them.

Anyway, he has remembered what that mother-daughter duo did against Feng Dajun.

Even though Lin Chuxia repeatedly said she was fine, Qin Yang was still not at ease.

The next day he took a leave, and took Lin Chuxia to see Old Master He.

Nowadays, Old Master He lives with Qin Jianjun, making life a bit more lively than when he was in An City.

Qin Jianjun works at Huamei Mall, doesn't need to rise early, and he makes breakfast for the two every morning after getting up.

Old Master He is old, sleeps little, and when he gets up in the morning, he first looks at his few pots of flowers, then goes to help Qin Jianjun make breakfast.

It's called helping, but he ends up ejecting him from the kitchen, even tossing him a medical book.

In the name of saying young people should learn more knowledge, no skill is a burden.

Initially, Old Master He didn't intend to teach Qin Jianjun Chinese Medicine, but after Qin Jianjun moved in, he discovered this boy went to night school at TV University every night.

With all the enterprises Lin Chuxia manages under her, working under his aunt's hands, can he be hungry?

Even with such conditions, after work he braves the cold to attend night school.

This spirit truly moved Old Master He.

Kids who love to learn are great, and Old Master He favors diligent kids, more than his disciple who is unreliable.

Qin Jianjun has always been good-tempered, sensible and polite, learning a lot from working under Lin Chuxia over the years, and becoming increasingly composed.

Old Master He told him to read medical books and he did, not only agreeing with Old Master He's idea that no skill is a burden, but thinking that since Old Master He is his fourth aunt's teacher, it can't hurt to learn more about what his aunt learned.

Reading these books, Qin Jianjun found the topics of Chinese medicine and herbal pharmacology much more interesting than his legal books.

Thus, every morning they would either study herbs or cook and read together, living harmoniously and with flavor.

After breakfast, Old Master He would usually wander around, and Qin Jianjun would go to work at Huamei Mall.

When Qin Yang and Lin Chuxia arrived at Old Master He's courtyard, no one was home, but Lin Chuxia had the key, so she directly opened the courtyard gate and went inside to wait for her mentor.

Old Master He's room wasn't anything new, except the few pots of flowers were meticulously cared for, and one pot had already bloomed with little yellow flowers.

Lin Chuxia didn't read many medical books, but she knew these flowers were actually herbs.

Not long afterward, Old Master He returned.

Wearing the black cotton coat Lin Chuxia bought him, warm woolen boots on his feet, a blue cotton hat on his head with ear flaps down, covering half his face.

Old Master He saw the Jeep at the door and knew Lin Chuxia and the others had arrived.

Although he hadn't entered the house, his voice came through.

"I'm doing quite well here, no need for you to worry. If there's anything, I'll contact you. Your own nephew is here, aren't you at ease? In this freezing weather, don't come here without a reason. I know you have this filial piety."

"Master, I really disappointed you. I'm not as kind-hearted as you think."

A sentence that directly stupefied Old Master He, glaring at her displeased.

He knew accepting this disciple was just inviting trouble, not as obedient and sensible as her nephew, even high praises couldn't cover it.

He took off the cotton hat on his head and tossed it on the kang bed, "Speak up, why are you running to me?"

Afraid Lin Chuxia might say something to upset the old man enough to drive the two of them away, Qin Yang hurriedly explained their reason for coming.

Chapter 555: Minister Wei Is Looking for You

Of course, Lin Chuxia wouldn't really be heartless. Ever since it started snowing, she had been thinking about Old Master He. If it weren't for Qin Yang worrying about her slipping on the snowy roads, she might have come over earlier.

Today, she brought a bunch of food, drinks, and necessities.

When Old Master He heard Lin Chuxia had fallen, he didn't care about anything else and his face turned serious.

"I keep saying, in this icy and snowy weather, don't go out if you don't need to," he said, but didn't finish the rest of his sentence.

"Master, you said that too late, I've already fallen," Lin Chuxia quipped.

Seeing that she still had the mood to tease, Old Master He gave Lin Chuxia a light flick on the forehead.

"Stretch out your hand."

Lin Chuxia grimaced in pain but obediently stretched out her hand for Old Master He to feel her pulse.

As she expected, she had leaned on Sister-in-law Gong when she fell, so she hadn't strained or hurt herself. The baby was fine, and her body was also fine.

After checking her pulse, both Old Master He and Qin Yang breathed a sigh of relief.

To soothe Old Master He's worried heart, Lin Chuxia and Qin Yang had lunch at his place.

After lunch, they chatted with Old Master He for a while. When he went for his nap, they returned to their housing compound.

Just as the jeep arrived at the unit entrance, a colleague from the gate house ran out to stop them.

"Mr. Qin, you just got back? No wonder someone from the unit went to your home and found no one. You should check at the unit first. Minister Wei is looking for you."

Qin Yang had taken leave from Minister Wei today, so he didn't expect Minister Wei to go looking for him at home.

There must be something important.

The colleague, being quick-mouthed, continued before Qin Yang could think much, "It's good news! The family of the child you saved came to the unit again, and I heard there's a city leader too. They want to give you an award for acting bravely for a good citizen. This is such great news! A colleague like Mr. Qin Yang, who does good deeds and is brave, should be publicly commended and the whole society should be encouraged to learn from Mr. Qin Yang's spirit."

Then he said to Lin Chuxia in the front passenger seat, "Qin's family, it's perfect for you to come and see as well. This is Mr. Qin's shining moment, so glorious."

Hearing this, Qin Yang gave up the idea of letting Lin Chuxia go home first and directly turned the jeep towards the unit.

This wasn't Lin Chuxia's first time at Qin Yang's unit. Occasionally, when the two didn't feel like cooking, they would eat at the unit canteen. During winter, they would also use the unit's communal bath.

However, it was her first time going to Qin Yang's office.

Their office was in a two-story small building in the compound, a newly built office building from a couple of years ago.

Units that had office buildings these days were all doing well, prioritized by the state.

Qin Yang's office was on the second floor, the same floor as Minister Wei.

Before they reached the office, they encountered a colleague from the same floor. It seemed today's event had caused quite a stir. Seeing Qin Yang, the colleague smiled and greeted him.

"Mr. Qin, you're here. They're in the meeting room. Minister Wei and the city leader are both there."

Qin Yang nodded, thanked the colleague, and asked Lin Chuxia to wait in his office while he went to the meeting room.

Qin Yang had a private office here, a room about over 20 square meters in size.

The room was simply furnished with a desk, two chairs, two file cabinets, a coat rack, a face basin on a basin stand, and a thermos with some everyday items.

The desk was also clean, with only a phone and a pen holder.

Lin Chuxia was a bit unaccustomed to not seeing a computer outfitting the desks, like she was used to in later times.

She didn't have to wait too long for Qin Yang, who returned in about fifteen minutes.

Looking as usual, he gestured to Lin Chuxia to leave the room, "We can go now."

Then he held her hand and left the office.

Since Lin Chuxia became pregnant, Qin Yang was extremely careful with her, protecting her everywhere even in public settings.

And since her last fall, whenever they went out, Qin Yang would almost always hold her hand.

He no longer cared whether it was appropriate or what others might say.

Those things were not as important in Qin Yang's heart as Lin Chuxia's safety.

The two went downstairs straight to where they parked. Before they reached the jeep, two figures stood in front of them.

Without Qin Yang introducing them, Lin Chuxia already recognized them as the parents of the child who was saved, He Liyan and Yu Manwen.

The man's gaze was fixed on Qin Yang, repeatedly expressing his gratitude.

However, Yu Manwen's eyes were examining Lin Chuxia, and when their eyes met, she gave a friendly smile.

Lin Chuxia slightly nodded, returning the smile.

Yu Manwen's gaze then returned to her husband and Qin Yang.

Lin Chuxia heard bits and pieces by now. Essentially, they felt nothing could repay their gratitude to Qin Yang, even suggesting having a meal together.

Qin Yang directly declined.

Initially, Qin Yang hadn't saved the child for any repayment, and he certainly wouldn't want any now.

"I appreciate your kindness, truly. You don't need to go through any trouble on my behalf. In that situation, I would have saved any child. Similarly, if it weren't me passing by, I believe anyone else wouldn't have turned a blind eye. I'm not as great as you think, just did what I believed was right," he said.

Yu Manwen said directly, "What seemed like a small effort to Mr. Qin saved an entire family, including our lives. Without Xing Xing, we couldn't continue living. I know we might be causing trouble for Mr.

Qin, we're merely trying to repay you in our way, perhaps for our comfort to prove we're not negligent as parents. Even if it's selfish, rest assured, we won't come to your unit again."

Yu Manwen felt genuinely guilty, recalling a letter she had received before.

At the time, she thought it was inexplicable, believing her son was well-behaved and wouldn't do anything outrageous.

To her surprise, something did happen.

She's tried to find the person who wrote to her, but so far, she hasn't succeeded.

You could say her son's two saviors are one she can't find and one who doesn't need her gratitude.

If things continued this way, she'd feel more unworthy as a mother.

At this moment, she looked at Lin Chuxia.

"I heard your husband does business in Yan City. Coincidentally, we have some connections in this field. If needed, feel free to ask, as our gesture of goodwill. We truly don't know how else to express our gratitude," she said.

They could find Qin Yang, so finding out about Lin Chuxia was no surprise.

Qin Yang looked at Lin Chuxia.

Even though he had no thoughts about being repaid for his life-saving actions, he was willing to help his wife if possible.

He understood the couple's status and knew they could indeed assist his wife.

Chapter 556: This Is Just Fine

Lin Chuxia smiled faintly, "Mr. Yu, you're too polite. We have received your gratitude, and I support my husband's decision."

In her past life, Yu Manwen was her business benefactor. Without her help, the crisis would have squandered all her previous efforts, and there would have been no subsequent success.

Originally, she hadn't considered taking the path of the He Family; it was Li Guangyuan who knew she had saved a child from the He Family and reached out to Yu Manwen behind her back.

Though Yu Manwen hadn't found He Xing's true savior, she was grateful for Lin Chuxia's effort to save and, upon learning about their predicament, went to great lengths to assist them.

In her past life, Lin Chuxia was grateful for Yu Manwen's help, yet she knew she was a despicable thief.

He Xing's real savior wasn't her, but she enjoyed all the rewards from the He Family.

This life... it's just fine like this.

.....

Lin Chuxia and Qin Yang returned home, and neither mentioned the matter again.

Lin Chuxia had developed a habit of taking an afternoon nap. After having lunch at her master's place, she planned to nap at home, but the delay had left her yawning non-stop.

Qin Yang laid the bed for her as soon as they got home and urged her to take a nap.

Lin Chuxia didn't fuss, lying on the bed, and soon drifted into sleep.

When she woke up, the sky outside was tinted red—it was already dusk.

She was still worried about the matter, hurriedly got up from bed, and upon hearing Qin Yang coming in from outside, she muttered softly, "Why didn't you wake me? We agreed to visit Sister-in-law Gong."

She hadn't visited Sister-in-law Gong, who had saved her in the fall, although everyone said it was okay; she wouldn't be at ease until she saw her in person.

At this moment, Lin Chuxia could somewhat understand the mindset of the He Family.

Qin Yang handed her a coat and comforted her, "No need to rush, it's just a few steps. Minister Wei probably just got off work too."

"Are the things still in the car?"

When they went to buy things at Old Master He's place in the morning, they also bought some for Sister-in-law Gong.

"I brought them inside; we can just carry them directly," replied Qin Yang.

Lin Chuxia nodded, dressed, and went outside to wash her face.

She fiddled with her big curls in front of the mirror and asked Qin Yang, "Should I cut my hair a bit shorter?"

Since becoming pregnant, she had indeed been lazier. When not going out, taking care of her curly hair daily seemed a bit too tedious.

Recently, she had often kept it tied at the back.

Qin Yang took the hair tie from her hand and gathered her long hair at the back, "This looks perfect."

Lin Chuxia wrinkled her small nose at the man in the mirror.

She had noticed that asking Qin Yang for any opinion was pointless. She couldn't tell if his aesthetic was just like this or if everything about her seemed fine to him.

Whenever she asked for his opinion, he was always agreeable and affirming.

If Lin Chuxia didn't know him, she'd really think he was just placating her.

After tidying up and carrying the things, the two headed to Sister-in-law Gong's house and indeed met Minister Wei returning from work halfway.

Before they finished exchanging pleasantries, another person with items walked over from the family apartment in the direction of Minister Wei's house.

Minister Wei's house was in the last row, almost parallel to the family apartment's entrance; the group's position was still a bit distant from there, but Lin Chuxia recognized the person—it was Sister-in-law Feng.

Minister Wei also recognized the person, furrowing his brows slightly.

The incident involving Sister-in-law Gong and Lin Chuxia's fall spread throughout the family courtyard. Everyone knew Sister-in-law Gong was not in good health, and her fall required some recovery time.

Furthermore, given Minister Wei's status, there were likely many visiting Sister-in-law Gong to check on her today.

Lin Chuxia visiting Sister-in-law Gong was understandable; being pregnant and having fallen herself, she naturally had to prioritize her own health today.

But Sister-in-law Feng, the culprit, only coming now, was a bit unreasonable.

Minister Wei quickened his pace.

As he explained to the two behind him, "It's that your sister-in-law doesn't want to go to the hospital, worried about the hassle with too many visitors at home, which would prevent her from resting properly."

"No matter what, health must come first," Lin Chuxia agreed.

Upon reaching the Wei Family's home, they heard Sister-in-law Feng's voice before entering.

"You must talk to Minister Gong. This matter can't really blame our Jingjing. Sure, a child riding a bicycle isn't completely controlled, but I was following from behind. Even without dodging, it wouldn't hit Mrs. Qin, and honestly, she is too timid. Everyone knows she's been married for several years and it's tough for her to carry this pregnancy—she ought to cherish it. But the bicycle didn't even touch her, and she was so scared she fell, making us look bad inside and out, and dragged Sister-in-law Gong down with her as a buffer. If she's that timid, she shouldn't come out; the roads are for everyone—you can't prevent others from passing."

Upon hearing this, Qin Yang's face instantly darkened.

Lin Chuxia, at his side, gently squeezed his hand and shook her head at him.

Minister Wei's face also darkened, and Sister-in-law Gong's gentle voice emerged from inside.

"Pregnancy and childbirth are always significant matters. As women, we should understand how hard it is for other women. I'm fine and didn't blame you. I willingly helped Lin. Old Wei certainly won't trouble anyone over this matter. You can go back, and don't give your child a hard time either. Almost hitting someone would have scared the child too."

"Ah, Sister, I knew you were the kindest. My Da Jun has been blaming me these past few days. Only you truly understand me. I specifically went to the market and bought these free-range eggs. Quite a few

dollars for this basket. You should eat them without holding back. With your health, you need to eat well, and Minister Wei and your Wei Bing earn money, don't they?"

"We have plenty at home; take them back for the child to eat. My family is small; too much stuff would spoil."

"No, no, I won't take them back. If I did, my Da Jun would scold me again. Enjoy them; I'm off."

"Hey, take them back..."

Sister-in-law Gong wanted to say more, but Sister-in-law Feng left the basket and walked out. On her way out, she encountered Minister Wei and his group.

Seeing Lin Chuxia behind Minister Wei, Sister-in-law Feng's expression shifted slightly but quickly put on a smile, "Minister Wei, I've come on behalf of our Da Jun to see Sister-in-law Gong. Yesterday's incident had our Da Jun worried for her, it kept him up all night, urging me to come early to check on her."

Minister Wei nodded slightly.

After Sister-in-law Feng said this, she glanced at Qin Yang and Lin Chuxia behind Minister Wei and quickly ducked her head and left.

Chapter 557: If You're Sick, Get Treated

Minister Wei didn't give her another glance and let the two people behind him enter the house.

Sister-in-law Gong had already heard the commotion at the door. She just assumed Minister Wei was back from work and sat up straight when she saw Lin Chuxia behind him.

"Lin, what brings you here? You should be resting at home. Xiao Qin, you too. Your wife is pregnant now. Why do you let her run around?"

Lin Chuxia stepped forward and took Sister-in-law Gong's hand, "Sister-in-law, I'm fine. I just came to show you that I'm all right, so you can relax now, right? It's actually you, sister-in-law, who got a significant bump from me."

Sister-in-law Gong smiled and nodded, "You don't say, seeing you like this, I am relieved. I'm fine. It's just been cold outside these past few days, and I've been too lazy to go out, but really, I'm okay. So don't worry."

The two of them, seeing that neither was seriously hurt, felt much relieved and started chatting idly.

Minister Wei and Qin Yang sat by the table and discussed work.

They also talked about the He Family's visit today.

The He Family does have some connections and knows how to show gratitude. The title of bravery that Qin Yang earned has already come through, bringing honor to their unit, and the unit plans to give him a commendation.

After Qin Yang and his group left today, Minister Wei and the unit's leaders discussed the matter, and they have already made some preliminary decisions. Minister Wei simply disclosed a bit to Qin Yang.

The group chatted for a while until Wei Bing came back. It was late, and only then did Qin Yang and Lin Chuxia say their goodbyes and leave.

Upon leaving Minister Wei's house, Qin Yang looked sternly towards the direction of the family building.

Lin Chuxia knew he was still upset about Sister-in-law Feng's words, so she curled her hand in his and scratched his palm.

Qin Yang turned his head to look at her, his gloomy expression softened slightly in front of the little woman beside him.

"Hmm?"

"Still upset about what you heard just now?"

Qin Yang pressed his lips but didn't deny it.

His wife was walking along just fine and got hit with this unwarranted trouble, and he hadn't settled the score with them yet.

Sister-in-law Feng, however, instead of apologizing, used it against them, even blaming his wife.

To him, his wife is precious, whether or not she's pregnant. The person he cherishes dearly in his life doesn't need anyone else's dotting tolerance, so who are they to judge them?

Lin Chuxia sighed, "You may not know Sister-in-law Feng well due to limited interactions. When I first went to the Northwest, Sister-in-law from Mr. Bai's family warned me to keep my distance from her. It's not that the sisters purposely isolate her; rather, she has peculiar ways of thinking. You see the same thing here; no sister is close with her, and I found she does have issues here."

Lin Chuxia pointed to her own head.

Qin Yang still maintained a stern face, "If she's ill, she should get treated. Letting her out to snap at people is Feng Dajun's fault."

Lin Chuxia couldn't help but laugh; it was her first time hearing such sharp words from Qin Yang.

Back home, Qin Yang went to make dinner while Lin Chuxia helped him out beside him.

"I was thinking of introducing my master to Sister-in-law Gong. Her illness isn't one that developed overnight, and perhaps where Western medicine fails, traditional Chinese medicine might help."

After that special period, traditional Chinese medicine suffered devastating blows.

Even now, with the implementation of policies, the gap in traditional Chinese medicine is inevitable. Some skilled old practitioners, like his master, have become reclusive and no longer practice.

So, finding a skilled old traditional Chinese medicine practitioner without connections is really difficult.

Now that his master has untied his heart's knots and no longer refuses to treat people, occasionally even traveling far for treatments.

Lin Chuxia thought it might be possible for her master to see Sister-in-law Gong.

As Qin Yang stir-fried, he told Lin Chuxia to step back and talked to her, "I just worry Sister-in-law Gong has given up on herself. I heard from Minister Wei that she was treated by a traditional Chinese medicine practitioner before. She took several doses, but with no effect, she's since lost faith in traditional medicine."

Rather than mistrust, it could be called despair.

"It's okay. I'll have a talk with Sister-in-law Gong later."

Lin Chuxia was confident she could persuade Sister-in-law Gong...

Before she finished speaking, she suddenly coughed twice, then frowned slightly and ran out covering her mouth, retching by the big locust tree in the yard.

"Xi Xia..."

Qin Yang forgot to turn off the stove and immediately put down the spatula, following her out.

"What's wrong? Where do you feel uncomfortable?"

Lin Chuxia dry-heaved a couple of times and took a few deep breaths. Once the sensation passed, she looked at Qin Yang with slightly reddened eyes.

"It's nothing. I just felt nauseated suddenly by the smell of the cooking fumes. Did you use animal fat for today's dish?"

"Yes!"

Lin Chuxia wanted stir-fried dried radish. In their household, it's always cooked with animal fat, with garlic and chili added for flavor, which Lin Chuxia loves.

With a bitter face, she said, "Don't use animal fat for frying anymore. I don't seem to like the taste now."

No need for her to say anything; seeing her earlier reaction, although knowing it was a normal pregnancy response, Qin Yang was already frightened.

"Then I'll eat the dish in the kitchen and make you something else," Qin Yang quickly said.

"No need for such hassle. I suddenly want to have millet porridge with pickled cucumber. Just slice some cucumber and mix it with soy sauce for me."

The millet porridge was already prepared.

Seeing Qin Yang still frowning and hesitating, Lin Chuxia pushed him towards the kitchen, "Go check your dish quickly, or it'll burn. I really want millet porridge with pickled cucumber right now, so hurry."

This made Qin Yang stop hesitating and quickly returned to the kitchen to cook.

Soon, millet porridge and pickled cucumbers were served in front of Lin Chuxia.

The cucumber was pickled by Zhang Guilan, using small, tender cucumbers pulled in the fall, cut into small pieces and seasoned with soy sauce, vinegar, sesame oil, and a touch of garlic, which appetized with just the aroma.

Seeing her eating with relish, Qin Yang was finally relieved and returned to the kitchen to eat his own meal.

He finished a whole plate of animal fat-fried radish strips, leaving no evidence for his wife to see the next day.

As for the future, there's no talking about frying with animal fat anymore; they could give that jar of animal fat to someone else.

The next day, after breakfast, Qin Yang took a jar of animal fat to work.

As he passed the alley opening near Li Wei's house, he saw Li Wei coming out of the alleyway.

Without a word, Qin Yang directly tossed the jar he was holding into Li Wei's arms, "It's yours."

Suddenly flung with a black jar, if not for his trust in Qin Yang, it might have ended up smashing on the ground.

Li Wei fumbled to catch it, opened the lid to find it full of animal fat.

The fat looked well-rendered, with a luster like jade, and an aroma wafted from it when opened.

The animal fat was seasoned during rendering, making it fragrant enough to make vegetable stir-frys or stuffing tastier than just eating pork meat.

This large jar, although a few scoops seemed to be taken off, still weighed about three or four jins.

Chapter 558: Quite Considerate

With a grin, "So, had enough of the greasy food?"

He always knew their family was well-off. Ever since his wife started working at Huamei Mall, Li Wei understood even more what kind of wife Qin Yang had married.

Back when Qin Yang rode that big motorcycle in the Northwest, a few of them joked about how most men earn money to support their families, but Qin Yang seemed to be relying on his wife for support.

Looking at it now, it's more than that.

Qin Yang adjusted his scarf, "My wife can't stand the smell of meat right now."

Li Wei nodded, "I get it. When my wife was pregnant, she couldn't stand even the smell of oil, let alone greasy food. She'd often run outside to vomit while cooking."

Qin Yang looked at him with an expression that screamed "are you an idiot?".

Li Wei was slightly taken aback, "Why are you looking at me like that?"

Qin Yang let out a light scoff, "Cooking while throwing up?"

Oh, that.

"I didn't want it either. I suggested bringing my mom over, but she insisted she didn't need it. Anyway, even if my wife vomited next to me, I wouldn't find her dirty."

"You've got quite a good heart," Qin Yang responded nonchalantly.

Li Wei chuckled, "Well, she is my wife. Wait for a moment, let me put back the oil, and I have something to discuss with you."

Qin Yang originally planned to leave after his last comment, but hearing this, he waited a bit longer.

Li Wei returned quickly, "How's your wife? I heard she fell the day before yesterday."

"She's fine!"

Li Wei nodded, "Yesterday, Engineer Feng asked me to organize this year's engineering tasks and some technical materials for him in the next few days. I see you guys are quite busy towards the end of the year. I heard the leadership really values your batch of new cadres, hoping with you leading the way next year, you can significantly improve performance. Vice Minister Yu is set to retire next year, and his position is quite sought after."

Qin Yang responded casually, seeing the office building entrance ahead, the two changed the topic.

Entering the office building, they parted ways.

As if by coincidence, just as Qin Yang reached the second floor, he ran into Da Jun coming up from the other staircase.

The other nodded at him, "Morning, Mr. Qin."

"Morning!"

Qin Yang glanced to the side as he opened his office, seeing Da Jun carrying materials into Minister Wei's office.

He calmly withdrew his gaze and pushed his way into his office.

.....

Lin Chuxia occasionally had morning sickness, making Qin Yang even more attentive, though Lin Chuxia felt it wasn't too bad. Other than feeling a bit gaggy while brushing her teeth in the morning, she was okay most of the time.

Additionally, with Qin Han's brother's second batch of strawberries coming in, the addition of strawberries made her discomfort negligible.

Qin Han's second batch of strawberries was noticeably larger than the first, with a vastly improved taste.

It's said that after Technician He from the capital heard about it, he became very interested in Qin Han's greenhouse strawberries and brought a colleague over to guide for a few days.

Not only that, but he also provided Qin Han with a sales route, directly supplying the strawberries to the capital, with prices doubling from the previous batch.

In the first batch, prices gradually rose as sales channels opened up.

Even by the end, they only sold for one yuan per pound.

This batch of strawberries started at one and a half yuan per pound, going up to two yuan, and even then, demand exceeded supply.

Also, Qin Liang's brother's watermelons also benefited from this sales route, fetching a good price.

.....

Before anyone knew it, New Year's Day had arrived. Qin Yang and his group got a one-day break, taking Lin Chuxia and Old Sir He to the village to celebrate the holiday.

Jia Liang was envious when he heard they were returning to the village.

Last time, under Lin Chuxia's request, he took Lin Jiadong back to school, and after dealing with Lin Jiadong's matters, he visited the Qin Family.

On the surface, he was there to get strawberries from Qin Han, but who would bring large and small gift bags just to get strawberries?

Besides, Qin Han was right at the village's farm supply store, Jia Liang directly inquired and went to the Qin Family.

If Mrs. Qin hadn't known about Jia Liang and Qin Juan before, she might have thought this big guy was a bit slow.

Mrs. Qin also talked to Mr. Qin about Qin Juan's matter when she returned that day.

Mr. Qin didn't have as many concerns as Mrs. Qin; he mostly trusted Lin Chuxia.

In his eyes, as long as his daughter was willing and the person treated her well, it was enough. Appearance and family background were secondary compared to how much someone truly cared for his daughter.

From their current perspective, the Zhang Family had decent conditions, being true city folk, and Zhang Wenbin had an enviable job, but in the end?

They relied on their city identity to look down on the Qin Family and Qin Juan, treating her terribly.

So when Mr. Qin saw Jia Liang, he was quite pleased with the young man.

The combination of humility and a bit of nervousness was vastly different from the confident Qin's Restaurant manager he'd heard about from his son.

What does this indicate?

It only shows how much he likes Qin Juan, to the point of caring about his impression in front of her parents.

Moreover, this was the person chosen by their younger daughter-in-law; he had no reason to feel uneasy.

As a result, Jia Liang received special treatment during his first visit to the Qin Family house.

This kind of treatment was something he'd never experienced in his thirty-some years of life.

His father died early, and his mother, raising him alone, ended up with a strained relationship with their relatives, making the neighbors look down on them.

In school, his grades were poor. Always skipping class and fighting, even when he visited friends, their parents would make snide remarks in his presence.

Later, as he entered society, although he was the big brother among his peers, in front of their families, he was seen as the one corrupting them.

Forget special treatment; it was enough they didn't chase him away with sticks.

The gentle treatment Jia Liang cherished came from his mother, his later colleagues, and after that, Qin Juan.

The feeling he got from Qin Juan's parents was different.

It was the care of elders for the younger generation.

He really liked that feeling, wanted to become part of the Qin Family, even if it just meant visiting more and being more present in front of the old couple.

Of course, he could only think about it for now as Qin's Restaurant couldn't spare anyone.

But Jia Liang wasn't anxious. Once Qin's Restaurant closed for the holiday, he'd go to the Qin Family to propose, and Qin Juan had already agreed.

Lin Chuxia, Qin Yang, and Old Sir He went straight to the Qin Family, and spent a lively and warm New Year's Day there.

In the afternoon, Su Wensong, who heard Old Sir He was back, also came over.

During the time Old Sir He was away, Su Wensong would walk around Old Sir He's house every day.

In this period, Old Sir He's second daughter had visited several times, but his eldest daughter was nowhere to be seen.

He Caixia was caught by Su Wensong pacing in front of Old Sir He's gate twice, leading him to keep an extra eye out.

As a result, he caught her red-handed when she climbed over the wall to enter.

Not only did Su Wensong come by himself, he also brought Sun Hao along.

Chapter 559: Troublesome Nuisances

Sun Hao is responsible for the security of the train station area, not the area of Old Sir He's house, but He Caixia doesn't know that, especially since she really did climb the wall to get in.

When Su Wensong caught her with a uniformed officer, He Caixia was genuinely frightened.

She quickly explained her relationship with Old Sir He.

Having been warned in advance by Su Wensong, Sun Hao naturally didn't let her go, asking for proof or to contact Old Sir He.

What evidence could He Caixia provide? She hadn't been in touch with Old Sir He for a long time; it was only because her sister told her that Old Sir He had a very capable apprentice, and this apprentice could solve her husband's work problem, that she wanted to reconnect with the old man.

As for contacting Old Sir He, it was impossible.

She didn't even know where Old Sir He was, so how could she contact him?

Sun Hao saw her reaction and didn't listen to her explanation, directly taking her to the police station.

He spoke with a colleague and detained He Caixia for three days.

Even three days scared He Caixia badly.

Ordinary folks like them had never seen such a scene, and being taken to the police station wasn't something to boast about; once the neighbors knew, she wouldn't dare leave her house.

He Caixia repeatedly promised never to do it again, and only then did the police release her.

Old Sir He snorted after hearing, "During the festival, don't mention these people to me, it's just upsetting."

Though he said that, it was clear that Old Sir He was very satisfied with Su Wensong's handling of the situation.

Since the moment his two daughters cut relations with him, Old Sir He's heart had been deeply hurt.

Now they came back clinging, they weren't healing Old Sir He's wounded heart, but tearing open his scars and rubbing salt into his wounds.

His two daughters being unreasonable, Old Sir He had no solution and was actually fed up long ago.

After returning from Qin Family Village, Lin Chuxia first brought Old Sir He to the residential compound.

After Lin Chuxia and Minister Wei's ideological work, Sister-in-law Gong finally agreed to see a Chinese doctor.

Upon hearing that Lin Chuxia had brought an old Chinese medicine doctor to the compound, Minister Wei hurriedly brought Sister-in-law Gong to Qin Yang's house.

Minister Wei wanted his wife's health to be good; they had visited hospitals often and taken lots of medications with no results over the years.

He knew about the profoundness of Chinese medicine, but the previous doctor they consulted was not skilled, which made his wife lose confidence.

If this old Chinese medicine doctor could improve his wife's health even a little, it would give them hope.

Old Sir He was in the room drinking tea, and upon seeing Sister-in-law Gong's appearance, he knew what to expect.

The pulse examination wasn't complicated or lengthy, but when it came to prescribing medicine, Old Sir He directly pointed at Qin Yang, "I'm old, my eyesight isn't good, I'll say and you write."

Qin Yang rushed to the study to get paper and pen, sitting aside obediently listening to Old Sir He recite the names and weights of the medicines. When encountering unknown characters and looking at Old Sir He in bewilderment, Old Sir He directly glanced at Lin Chuxia.

Lin Chuxia stepped forward obediently this time, and told Qin Yang how to write each character.

Watching them, Minister Wei and Sister-in-law Gong felt tense yet amused.

After finishing treating Sister-in-law Gong, Old Sir He asked Qin Yang to take him home.

Lin Chuxia wanted him to stay for dinner, but Old Sir He mumbled that he was tired after being out all day and wanted to go back to sleep.

After he left, Sister-in-law Gong chuckled and said, "Your master is quite interesting; had I known he was your master earlier, I would've surely asked you to take me to him for treatment."

Previously, Lin Chuxia only mentioned introducing an old Chinese doctor without revealing her relationship with Old Sir He.

Minister Wei, feeling hurt, interjected, "So, ultimately, you agreed to see a doctor just for Lin's sake, didn't listen to a word I said despite my persuasion?"

Sister-in-law Gong looked back at him laughingly, "Of course, I could disregard your request, but I had to consider Lin's. Besides, your repetitive old sayings, I've heard countless times, my ears are about to form calluses."

Minister Wei got pierced in the chest again.

To prevent his wife from poking his chest again, Minister Wei promptly changed the subject.

"Is the 'three-nine acupoint' that Old Sir He mentioned really that miraculous? This is the first time I've heard of it."

Sister-in-law Gong also looked at Lin Chuxia.

Earlier, besides prescribing Chinese medicine, Old Sir He also formulated a treatment plan, where Sister-in-law Gong would need to visit him regularly for acupuncture.

Lin Chuxia nodded, "The 'three-nine acupoint' is a type of acupuncture therapy, which has benefits such as warming and invigorating qi, strengthening the spleen and kidneys, benefiting the lungs, and opening up meridians. Chinese medicine emphasizes the person being part of a unified whole with nature, thus, while treating diseases, it harmonizes the body's yin and yang with seasonal climate characteristics. Moreover, the 'Inner Canon of Huangdi' also discusses nurturing inner harmony in autumn and winter and treating summer ailments during winter. Sister-in-law's condition wasn't developed overnight, and now during the 'three-nine days', Master wants to seize this opportunity to help adjust her health."

After Lin Chuxia's explanation, Minister Wei and Sister-in-law Gong were filled with confidence.

"Make sure you listen to the doctor's advice this time; we have to follow through no matter what," he said.

Sister-in-law Gong agreed with Minister Wei, but still didn't spare her words, "Do I even need you to tell me? Lin has introduced such a good doctor to me, I will definitely follow their advice."

Lin Chuxia noticed that Sister-in-law Gong, who always presented herself as composed and good-tempered around outsiders, became feisty and unyielding in front of Minister Wei.

It seemed as if arguing with Minister Wei a bit made her feel less lifeless and helped Minister Wei forget her afflictions.

Seeing nothing else needed doing, Minister Wei and Sister-in-law Gong also left.

After seeing off Minister Wei and his wife, Lin Chuxia was about to head to the kitchen to cook dinner when Jiang Hong's voice came from outside.

"How come you're free to come today?"

Jiang Hong now works at Huamei Mall and has to take care of her child after coming home; it's been a while since Lin Chuxia had seen her.

Jiang Hong raised the cloth bag in her hand, "Got off work early today and came to see you. Look what good stuff I've brought you."

Lin Chuxia saw the contents and her eyes lit up, "Pickled bean sprouts? How did you know I wanted to eat these?"

"To be honest, I loved eating these when I was pregnant."

Jiang Hong then asked Lin Chuxia about her recent situation; regarding pregnancy matters, Jiang Hong is experienced, and Lin Chuxia didn't hide anything, telling her about her recent condition.

"You're much better than I was; at your month, I was already vomiting like crazy. I was worried you'd be the same, so I specially made these for you."

She took out another jar from the bag.

Lin Chuxia had seen the jar earlier but hadn't figured out what it was.

Chapter 560: As Long As You Like It

"What's this?"

"Preserved plums. These plums are a local specialty from my hometown. I heard about your pregnancy nausea, so I specifically wrote to my relatives back home to send them over. It takes some time to make this sauce, but it's finally ready today. You can eat it straight from the jar. Let me tell you, when I was nauseous to the point of dizziness, this really saved me. Although, in your case, you might not even need it."

As Jiang Hong spoke, she opened the jar and handed it to Lin Chuxia.

Lin Chuxia took the jar and sniffed it, and a sharp sourness shot straight to her brain, making her cheeks tingle, and her mouth watered profusely.

Strangely, she usually avoided these sensations.

Yet looking at these bright red preserved plums and smelling their sourness, she actually wanted to try one.

She picked up a small spoon from the table, scooped a little, and put it into her mouth. It wasn't as overwhelmingly sour as she had imagined; there was sweetness within the sourness.

The most important thing was that after swallowing a mouthful of preserved plum, she felt incredibly refreshed.

Lin Chuxia's eyes lit up, "This is indeed good stuff. Thank you so much."

It's hard to get plums this season, and even harder to transport them under current conditions.

It was clear that Jiang Hong really put her heart into this.

"I'm glad you like it. These pickled green beans were made by my mother-in-law; they're quite tasty too. You can eat them with your meals. If you like them, I'll get you more when you finish."

The two chatted for a bit in the room, and Qin Yang finished up in the kitchen.

Jiang Hong stood up to leave, "I should go back and cook now. I'll come chat with you again when I have time."

"Alright, take it easy on your way back."

As Jiang Hong was leaving, she nodded to Qin Yang, who happened to be coming in, and greeted him.

Qin Yang naturally accompanied Lin Chuxia to see Jiang Hong off at the door.

After Jiang Hong left, the two returned indoors.

Lin Chuxia eagerly picked up the jar of preserved plums, scooped a small spoonful, and held it up to Qin Yang's lips.

"Jiang Hong specially made this for me. You should try it; it's really delicious."

A strong sour aroma filled Qin Yang's nose. He frowned and looked at the little woman.

Was this really good to eat?

But seeing the little woman's expectant eyes, his brain didn't even register the taste as he opened his mouth.

The sourness spread from the tip of his tongue, making Qin Yang frown tightly, eventually causing him to turn his head and press his hand to his forehead.

"Is it really that sour?"

Lin Chuxia knew the preserved plums were sour, but there was sweetness too, and she found them quite tasty.

She scooped another spoonful into her own mouth. It was fine.

The contents in Qin Yang's mouth had already gone down. Seeing the innocent look on the little woman's face, he reached out and pinched her cheek.

"As long as you like it."

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The next acupuncture sessions were taken very seriously by Minister Wei and Sister-in-law Gong. Whenever possible, Minister Wei would accompany Sister-in-law Gong to Old Sir He. If work kept him busy, Sister-in-law Gong would go alone. Occasionally, Lin Chuxia would accompany her.

With the help of traditional medicine, Sister-in-law Gong's complexion visibly improved after one treatment cycle, which strengthened both her and Minister Wei's confidence in continuing the treatment.

"We really owe it to you this time. I haven't felt so relaxed for years. Honestly, I can't believe I can be active outside in this cold weather without feeling terribly uncomfortable."

This was Sister-in-law Gong's personal experience.

Her condition had persisted for so long that she had forgotten what having a healthy body should feel like.

"If it's effective, that's great," Lin Chuxia was also happy for Sister-in-law Gong.

"Of course it's effective. I'm not just saying pretty words to make you happy. Over the past few days, the neighbors have been saying I look healthier, and I feel full of energy myself. You wouldn't believe it, but I used to get exhausted just cooking a meal. By the time I finished, I had zero appetite and only wanted to rest. Because of this, my Old Wei felt sorry for me and wouldn't let me do anything. After working hard all day, he'd still cook for me when he got home. Back then, I thought it might be better if I just died, so I wouldn't burden anyone. Old Wei could have a little more peace."

"Sister, you can't think like that. Minister Wei cares deeply for you. If anything happened to you, it would be a huge emotional blow for him."

Sister-in-law Gong smiled slightly, "Yes, I don't think that way anymore. Now I just want to live healthily, to share life with them, to see Wei Bing get married and have children. Maybe I could even help take care of the grandchildren. You don't know, but yesterday I made a big meal for them with all my specialties. They were so happy. Old Wei ate so much he said it had been a long time since he'd tasted my cooking. It's true — I haven't put in so much effort into cooking for them for quite a while..."

As they talked and walked back, Lin Chuxia could see that Sister-in-law Gong indeed had newfound hope.

As they neared home, Lin Chuxia reminded Sister-in-law Gong of a few things, "Master said treatment should continue. This is his newly adjusted prescription, Sister, you have to drink it on time. Also, 'three-nine acupoint' — we're only in the second nine; you must continue on schedule. But don't worry, Master said that the frequency of acupuncture will lessen later on."

Lin Chuxia had always been afraid of injections, worrying that Sister-in-law Gong might be too, so she gave her a heads-up.

Unexpectedly, Sister-in-law Gong was carefree, "Don't worry, I'll take my medicine and get my acupuncture on schedule. Little Lin, you don't know this, but over the years I've almost eaten medicine as though it were food, and I've had quite a few injections too. This is really nothing."

Hearing this, Lin Chuxia felt relieved. As they reached the front gate of their home, she said goodbye to Sister-in-law Gong.

Sister-in-law Gong's home was in the next row. After Lin Chuxia went home, she continued walking home herself, thinking about what delicious food to make for her husband and children at noon.

So immersed in her thoughts, she didn't even notice someone passing by.

Sister-in-law Feng opened her mouth to speak, but seeing Sister-in-law Gong's expressionless face, who didn't even give her a glance, she closed her mouth again.

She felt extremely displeased.

She had quickened her pace to catch up with Sister-in-law Gong when she saw her in front.

The person who was all smiles with Lin Chuxia had zero smiles for her, pretending not to see even when she wanted to greet her.

Did Sister-in-law Gong truly blame her for the fall?

Why? Leaving aside the fact that her daughter had nothing to do with Lin Chuxia, and even if she did, it was Lin Chuxia she bumped into.

Sister-in-law Gong rushed over to be the hero and ended up falling. Instead of blaming the real culprit, why blame her?

Back at the residential building, every household was cooking, creating a continuous sound of pots and pans in the hallway.

Someone greeted Sister-in-law Feng, and she responded with a faint "hmm," walking home with a sullen face.

The person behind shrugged and continued with their cooking.

Someone nearby moved closer...