

Switched M 56

Chapter 56 You Gave Me All Your Wife's Savings?

After people left, Lin Chuxia went to the warehouse of the vegetable station, where Wang Cheng was working.

On arrival, she quickly found Wang Cheng himself, handed him the cooked food, and gave him the same story she had told to Li Jian.

Wang Cheng wasn't too cunning; introduced by Li Jian, he always thought that Lin Chuxia and Li Jian were close relatives, so he accepted the cooked food without question.

"Li Jian is really lucky to have a sister like you, those buns taste amazing, and the cold dishes are delicious too. We can't make it taste like that at home even with the same ingredients!"

"Isn't that something, Brother Wang do you have a pen? I can write it down for you. Let your sister-in-law try making it according to my instructions, it should taste about the same," Lin Chuxia replied generously.

Wang Cheng laughed, "That's great news, wait here, I'll get you a pen."

They worked at the vegetable station where there was never a shortage of vegetables. It was frustrating when the dishes didn't turn out tasty.

Lin Chuxia waited outside for him, next to a storage shed piled with broken handcarts; it seemed a few more had been added recently.

Wang Cheng was quick, grabbing a pen and paper.

Hearing his footsteps, Lin Chuxia naturally withdrew her gaze and took the pen and paper with a smile, starting to write down the seasonings needed for the cold dishes and some precautions.

There was no technical content or difficulty; bad tasting homemade cold dishes were usually due to insufficient seasoning.

"Wow, you even put sugar in the cold dish? And this one, we've never used MSG in our cooking."

"These are flavor enhancers, you can put a little. Try this method and have your sister-in-law give it a shot. If you're unclear about anything, feel free to ask me, or having her come to my shop to taste might work too. Sometimes cooking is like that, you always feel something's missing, but after a few tries, you'll figure it out."

Wang Cheng agreed readily; he was straightforward and liked Lin Chuxia's forthrightness.

Seeing how Lin Chuxia was looking at the handcarts in the storage earlier, he could not help but ask, "Do you need another handcart, sis?"

"No," Lin Chuxia laughed, "Just thought it's a pity seeing so many handcarts all piled up here. It's so hard to buy a bike in the market now. My husband and his brother at home have only one bike. If Brother Wang hadn't sold me a handcart, it would be difficult for me to get around and do things. Without connections like I have with you, others would only have to shamelessly borrow from their neighbors."

"Exactly, those are public properties, nobody dares to mess with them. Each vehicle is accounted for, so even if they rot here, we can't let the accounts go messy. If you ask me, they should have gotten rid of these ages ago. The vegetable station hasn't made a profit this year; might as well sell some assets and make some money," Wang Cheng added.

"You're speaking wisely, Brother Wang. Recycling waste, bringing income to the vegetable station and satisfying needs. But I think the leaders will see this one day soon. When the day comes that the station wants to handle these scraps, remember your sister here. You know I run a Bun Shop, one handcart is enough and two aren't too many either."

"No problem, as soon as there's a hint from the leaders, your Brother Wang will reserve a good one for you."

Wang Cheng didn't really take this seriously.

Honestly, if Lin Chuxia was here today for the handcarts, seeing the face of Li Jian, and for the cooked food and recipes he provided, he could also arrange one for her, but that would likely end their relationship.

With a bag of cooked food and a recipe, one lip touching another, asking him to do something against the rules, Wang Cheng was straightforward but not a fool.

Of course, Lin Chuxia was aware of these subtleties. After handling her business, she rode her bicycle back to the Bun Shop with an empty bag.

Su Wensong had been waiting in the Bun Shop; seeing Lin Chuxia returning as the shop had just cleared out, he came over, "How did it go?"

Knowing that Lin Chuxia went to borrow money, bringing just some cooked food for borrowing, he wondered how much she could borrow.

"Come over here."

Dragging Lin Chuxia to the backyard, he glanced around to make sure no one was around, then pulled something out of his pocket and stuffed it into her hand.

"This was given to me by Granny, I'm not sure if it's worth anything, but see if you can find a way to deal with it. Whatever money it can fetch, it can fetch, it might just tide us over."

Lin Chuxia looked at the small cloth bundle in her hand, puzzled, "What?"

Opening the cloth bundle, she saw a very fine jade bracelet lying inside and immediately burst into laughter.

"Are you giving me your entire dowry? If I'm not mistaken, this is what Granny Su meant to give to your future wife, right?"

A hint of discomfort flashed across Su Wensong's face, and his ears turned slightly red, "What future wife? I'm not planning to get married yet. Our shop is short on cash, so let's deal with this for now. It's not convenient for me to sell it, and you have more connections than I do, so I'll leave it to you."

Lin Chuxia directly pulled his hand, placing the bracelet in his palm, "This is a good piece, you keep it well, give it to your future child's mother. Don't worry about the money, it's already taken care of."

Su Wensong hadn't noticed her mention of a child's mother and stared at her with wide eyes, "It's taken care of? You've got the loan for the house?"

"Almost, just waiting on the news."

Although Li Jian verbally agreed, going to the bank with the documents to proceed would probably take another couple of days.

She wasn't in a rush.

If her suggestion for expanding the food station's sales channels was accepted, Li Jian would naturally come to her, which would be much less awkward than accompanying her to the bank.

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Lin Chuxia was right, and things even moved faster than she expected; the next afternoon, Li Jian arrived at the shop with a briefcase.

With no outsiders in the shop, Lin Chuxia joked with a smile, "Oh, Brother Li, you look radiant. Did you get a promotion?"

Li Jian just smiled, not denying it, and lifted his chin, "Didn't you want me to be your guarantor? Let's go before the bank closes."

Lin Chuxia raised her eyebrows, was this affirming her guess?

She believed that as long as Li Jian proposed the reform plan as she suggested, it would definitely work. Even if there were some flaws, wouldn't Station Chief Yang give him some face after eating the delicacies he provided? But she never expected things to go so smoothly.

It seemed that Li Jian was quite capable after all, no wonder he was able to become a bureau chief in her past life.

Lin Chuxia didn't delay, took the already prepared documents, and went to the bank with Li Jian.

With the documents complete, the proceedings were swift. Within half an hour, 3,000 yuan was handed over to her at the counter.

Lin Chuxia put the money into her purse, while Li Jian muttered, looking pained, "Why do I feel like this is the money for selling myself."

Lin Chuxia laughed, walking out and said, "How could that be? Brother Li, you are worth much more than that. Come on, I'll treat you tonight, you pick the place."

Li Jian waved a hand, "Forget it, I'm afraid one meal with you might cost me half my life."

Lin Chuxia smiled slyly, "How about Brother Li treats me then? You should treat to a meal to celebrate your promotion, right?"

This hit the mark, and Li Jian laughed somewhat proudly...

Chapter 57 The House Is Finally Ours

"The situation isn't settled yet. It's just that I submitted the proposal I wrote yesterday, and this morning Station Chief Yang talked to me, expressing high regard for my proposal and entrusting me with full responsibility for the next steps of the work. I've just gained a little bit more authority, that's all."

Authority in hand, what does the position matter anymore? It's only a matter of time.

Speaking of which, Li Jian felt that Lin Chuxia was truly his benefactor. He had been working at the vegetable station for four or five years, always on the front lines, until he met Lin Chuxia, and just a few words from her got him a minor position, and now Station Chief Yang was personally naming him.

This promotion was different from the previous ones. Being handpicked by Station Chief Yang meant that even if he was still sitting in the same spot, his status at the vegetable station was different.

Moreover, the task he held was a major matter for the station. If he managed to accomplish it, the next position he'd receive would definitely not be a low one.

With this information, Lin Chuxia had a clear idea in her mind. Seeing that he had other matters to attend to, she didn't hold him up any longer.

It was too late for today, so Lin Chuxia found a secluded spot, and using her handbag as a shield, she put the money into her space.

She didn't rely on the space for living, but having this convenience to reduce some risks was still necessary to use.

The next morning, after busying herself with the Bun Shop, Lin Chuxia took Su Wensong to find the homeowner and went to the Housing Authority to handle the property transfer procedure.

The deed had the man's father's name on it, and some other procedures were also processed until the transfer was completed in the afternoon.

Holding the deed with the changed owner's name as they exited the Housing Authority, Lin Chuxia let out a long sigh of relief.

After a few busy days, the house was finally in her hands.

The two hadn't eaten much for lunch, and now that the task was completed, they headed straight back to the Bun Shop.

Before reaching the Bun Shop, from a distance, she saw a loitering figure under the big tree opposite the shop.

Lin Chuxia handed her handbag to Su Wensong and gestured for him to stay silent, then tiptoed behind the person and gave a light tap on the shoulder, "Hey, Old Master."

"Ah! You little rascal, trying to scare me to death, huh?"

Old Master He's beard curled up, and his eyes glared at her.

Lin Chuxia gave the old man a once-over; knowing him for so long, Old Sir He had always worn dingy, patched-up clothes that looked as if they had not been washed in ages.

Today, he not only was without patches, but his clothes were also clean, and upon a closer look, his hair and beard appeared well-groomed, too.

"You're dressed up so nicely today, Old Master. Don't tell me you've taken a fancy to someone's granny?" She then covered her mouth as if she had an epiphany, "No wonder you look so sneaky, Old Master, this isn't right..."

Old Master He's beard curled even more, fuming.

"You impudent girl, no respect for elders at all, what granny, sneaking around..., lacks discipline."

With hands clasped behind his back, he huffed coldly and headed towards the Bun Shop.

Lin Chuxia smiled and winked at Su Wensong, tilting her chin. Su Wensong laughed and shook his head helplessly.

There were no customers in the Bun Shop at that time. Old Master He chose a table in the middle and sat squarely.

Seeing Lin Chuxia come in, he went straight to the point, "Girl, didn't you want to take me, the old man, as your master? Come, bow to your master. Wensong, go call your granny over, let her witness this."

Not only Lin Chuxia, but even Su Wensong didn't expect this.

Su Wensong knew more about Old Master He's situation than Lin Chuxia. To have Old Master He actively take Lin Chuxia as an apprentice was a sign that the old man was ready to come out of his shell.

"Alright, I'll go right now."

Lin Chuxia stopped Su Wensong, leaned in close to Old Master He, and asked cheerfully, "How did you have a change of heart? You haven't been to the Bun Shop these past few days. I thought I had scared you away. So you weren't scared off, but were instead preparing a gift for your apprenticeship?"

Old Master He's face was full of proud coyness, "What, without a gift, you won't accept me as your master? Are you stopping Su Wen's boy because you want to go back on your word? If that's the case, then I, Old Master, have misjudged you. I'm leaving."

After saying that, she really was about to storm off when Lin Chuxia grabbed her.

"Where do you think you're going? Look at you being all stingy, I'm just thinking that since I'm taking you as my master, it should be done formally. In a bit, I'll cook personally and make you some delicious dishes, and bring out a bottle of wine. Granny Su will be our witness. Everyone at the Bun Shop is invited to witness this event. As Lin Chuxia's master, you've got to have some prestige."

Old Sir He's expression finally eased, and his face showed a bit of unnaturalness, "That... That's not necessary. Nowadays, we're in a new society, those old customs aren't a thing anymore, just give me a couple of respectful toasts for the apprenticeship, and that's good enough."

"No problem. Are you going to sit in the shop for a while or go chat with Granny Su? I'll go and make some delicious food for you. Is there anything in particular you'd like to eat?"

Lin Chuxia felt that this old master was really easy to coax, the softer the person's heart is, the tougher they pretend to be.

It was probably for that reason why in his last life, he ended up on a desperate path after losing his loved ones.

Old Master He waved his hand nonchalantly, "Anything is fine, it's up to you."

"Got it, you love meat."

"You little brat..."

Old Master He kept a stern face while walking towards the backyard, but he couldn't hide the smile on his face.

"Boss, congratulations," Su Wensong was the first to offer his felicitations.

Lin Chuxia indeed felt happy, "Today is a double celebration. Go to the meat shop and see if they have ribs or pork knuckles. Also, buy a fish. If the seafood shop has any fresh stuff, grab some too."

After giving instructions to Su Wensong, she said to the three busy in the kitchen, "Lanlan, Granny Sun, Third Brother, start wrapping things up, we're closing early today."

Sun Lanlan was the first one to come out, "What's the matter, Chuxia? Is there something going on?"

"There's a happy event. I'm about to formally acknowledge a master. We'll have a lively celebration tonight."

Granny Sun leaned in, "Are you really going to take that weird old man as your master?"

She used to sell buns at the train station too and knew about Old Master He. In their eyes, he was a bit of an oddball with some mental issues.

Lin Chuxia nodded.

"Wow, Boss Lin really has a good heart, I heard he's just a lonely old man."

Lin Chuxia didn't explain much. Since Old Master He didn't want to practice medicine anymore, she guessed he also didn't want others to know his identity.

She wasn't taking Old He as her master expecting to gain anything; as long as the old man could have something to focus on and enjoy his twilight years, that was enough.

If some regrets can be avoided, then her having lived through life a second time would not be in vain.

For dinner, Lin Chuxia personally cooked braised pork knuckles in soy sauce, braised ribs, steamed fish, blanched shrimp, and several other main dishes, along with a few home-cooked dishes.

The table was set up in the Su Family courtyard, and the Bun Shop didn't make many buns in the afternoon and closed early.

Just as several people were happily gathering around the table, someone knocked on the door of the Bun Shop.

"I'll go have a look," Sun Lanlan said as she stood up.

Lin Chuxia nodded, "Go ahead and tell whoever it is that we're closed for the rest of the day and will resume normal business tomorrow."

Closing early today was bound to raise questions from regular customers.

The Bun Shop had a door opening onto the street. When Sun Lanlan opened the door, she saw a policeman in uniform standing outside, about to knock again.

"Hello, today the Bun Shop is closed for half a day. If you want to buy buns, please come back tomorrow, we'll be open as usual."

Sun Hao looked at the unfamiliar girl and smiled, "I'm not here to buy buns, I'm looking for my mom."

Chapter 58: Becoming a Disciple

Sun Hao is not short, standing at about 1.75 meters tall, looking sharp in his police uniform. When he smiles, a small canine tooth shows, and for some reason, Sun Lanlan suddenly feels her heart racing.

"Where... where is your mom?"

It's unusual. Normally it's the police officers who help children find their mothers, but here he is, a grown man, constantly asking for his mom.

Realizing what he said, Sun Hao replied, "My mom is Granny Sun from the Bun Shop. Has she returned? I just passed by and saw that the Bun Shop closed early today, so I came to find out what's going on."

"Oh, Granny Sun, no she hasn't returned..."

Lin Chuxia heard the noise outside and shouted, "Lanlan, let Officer Sun come in. It's good to liven things up."

Hearing this, Granny Sun also called her son, "You came at the right time. Boss Lin is apprenticing today, do you have money on you? This is a big celebration, you should give a red envelope."

She can now have this job, all thanks to her son and Lin Chuxia. She must take this opportunity to use her son to make a good impression on Boss Lin.

She knows that her own face is not as good as her son's.

Sun Hao looked at his mother in surprise; she was usually very stingy, let alone asking him to give money. Even if he wanted to contribute money with his colleagues, his mother would ask for a long discussion.

But now, after last month's salary was spent compensating, and just when yesterday's salary was handed out, she's trying to fleece him again?

Although he thought this, his hands moved quickly. He handed ten dollars to Granny Sun and naturally ended up staying as well.

Old Master He and Granny Su were seated in the honored seats, Lin Chuxia next to Old Master He, then Sun Lanlan, Granny Sun, Sun Hao, Third Brother Sun, and Su Wensong next to Granny Su.

Eight people perfectly surrounded a large table.

The men poured white liquor, and the women poured light champagne.

Lin Chuxia personally poured a drink for Old Master He and then stopped Sun Lanlan who was about to pour her champagne, holding up the bottle of white liquor.

"Today is my apprenticing, I'll drink this."

Sun Lanlan's eyes widened, "Chuxia, when did you start drinking white liquor?"

They grew up together, when had she ever seen her drink white liquor?

Lin Chuxia hadn't had a drink in this life, but in her previous life, she drank quite often, knowing her own limits, "Don't worry about whether I've drank before or not, Master said to drink a few more glasses as my gift for apprenticing, and this must be done properly."

She said, pulling out three glasses, pouring three glasses of white liquor, and standing up, she addressed everyone present, "First of all, I want to thank everyone for being here to witness, I, Lin Chuxia, am apprenticing under Old Master He."

Raising her glass towards Old Master He, she said, "Master, your disciple toasts you."

Drinking the six-dollar glasses in one gulp, three times in a row, fully showing her sincerity.

Old Master He originally thought that it would suffice for the girl to just respectfully offer him a cup of tea in front of Old Mrs. Su. He hadn't expected her not only to carefully prepare a whole table of delicious dishes but also to invite so many people to witness it, and most importantly, these three glasses that she drank made his eyes well up with warmth.

"Good, good, good..."

Three goods in a row, Old Master He trembled and couldn't speak.

He is just an old man, what virtue and capability did he have to deserve such treatment from a good child.

He admitted that when he first tasted Lin Chuxia's buns, he was somewhat dependant on her. His days were too lonely, no one cared about whether he lived or died.

Her appearance was like a beam of light illuminating the darkness.

But when Granny Su suggested he take her as a disciple, he hesitated again. He had made a firm decision a long time ago, how could he waver?

Yet these past few days, in that courtyard, his heart was no longer calm as it used to be.

After experiencing warmth, he began to fear the harsh cold, wanting to stay close to that thread of warmth.

Old Sir He looked at the full table of people, saw the old partner smiling at him, saw the young smiling faces, watched Lin Chuxia smilingly calling him master...

He finally understood why Granny Su made an exception for Lin Chuxia.

Old Sir He lowered his head, trying to mask his emotions by pretending to drink.

Granny Su saw him and gulped down her drink, advising, "At your age, why are you still competing with the youngsters in drinking?"

Old Sir He wiped his mouth, "I'm happy, don't worry. Even if I get drunk today, my apprentice will take care of me, it won't bother you."

Granny Su looked at his smug expression, speechless for a moment, but also recalled the times when they were young and together, he was always such a proud man.

Lin Chuxia peeled two shrimps: "Granny Su is right, I will definitely take care of you. But if it gets tough, aren't you the one who suffers? Have some shrimp to soothe the liquor. You can't drink like this in the next round."

"Look, look, just recognized and already bossing around," he said, but his eyes were full of laughter.

The others also raised their glasses to toast, Lin Chuxia and Old Sir He sipped with everyone and then began to eat.

Lin Chuxia was a good cook. With no outsiders present and such a great feast, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the meal.

Knowing that the courtyard had been bought, it could be spruced up in the next few days to expand the cooked food business, which made everyone quite confident.

The cooked dishes that Lin Chuxia made in the past days, like some pig lungs and intestines, weren't delivered outside but were reserved for the shop workers, and everyone who tried it praised the delicious taste.

Granny Sun picked a piece of elbow meat for her son, "You boy are in luck today."

Before the meat even reached Sun Hao's bowl, another pair of chopsticks placed a rib first.

Sun Lanlan hurriedly withdrew her chopsticks and explained, "I saw the ribs were far, and I was afraid he couldn't reach."

Granny Sun had grown accustomed to Sun Lanlan, and quite liked her, knowing both her and Lin Chuxia were warm-hearted, and laughed, "Hey, he is a big fellow with long arms and hands, don't worry about him, just enjoy your food."

Sun Lanlan complied, and also tried to pick a rib for Granny Sun, "This is far from you guys."

Lin Chuxia looked at the harmonious group and then at Sun Lanlan's flushed face, her eyes sparkled...

The apprentice acceptance feast ended very late, and everyone was full and satisfied.

Despite several people stopping him, Old Master He was still slightly drunk, and Granny Su had Su Wensong send Old Master He home.

Everyone was also worried about Lin Chuxia going home alone, so Sun Bingnan volunteered to walk her home on the way.

There was no moon that night, the sky was quite dark, especially as the road without streetlights was pitch black.

Sun Bingnan and Sun Lanlan had been walking in the night nearly every day, carrying a flashlight, and Lin Chuxia followed alongside them, walking for a while, and finally simply pushed her bicycle.

"The newly purchased courtyard will be cleaned up in the next few days. The houses there are quite worn down. Once they are fixed up, Third Brother Sun and Lanlan, you can move there to make things easier than commuting every day."

Daqing Mountain Village was nearly 10 kilometers from the county. It was really inconvenient for them who were in the catering business with early mornings and late nights, she really couldn't bear to see the siblings work so hard.

"That's great," Sun Lanlan, who had been running around these days, was a bit worn out.

Sun Bingnan also said, "That's wonderful. You don't know, I worry most about waking up early. This way I can sleep a few more hours."

"Let's settle it then. You explain things to Aunt Sun, don't make the family worry," Lin Chuxia reminded.

Sun Bingnan understood instantly, "Don't worry. If Lanlan came to work alone, my mom really wouldn't be at ease. With me here, I'll just say we're renting a place to stay and my mom won't worry."

This was also the reason why Lin Chuxia initially asked Sun Lanlan to bring her Third Brother along.

As they were talking, a beam of light from ahead shook towards them.

Chapter 59: Worrying People

"Is that you, sister-in-law?" Qin Han's voice.

She probably got back late today, and the family must be worried.

"Big brother, it's me."

With someone from the family picking her up, there was no need to delay Sun siblings' time, so Lin Chuxia turned to them and said, "Qin Yang big brother has come to pick me up, you two hurry back and watch out for your safety on the road."

"Okay, then we're off."

Sun Bingnan turned his bicycle around and set off in a different direction with Sun Lanlan.

The light from the flashlight swayed, accompanied by the ding-ding-dang-dang sound of the bicycle, gradually moving away. Qin Han also approached Lin Chuxia and asked as he looked into the distance, "Someone walked you back?"

"Yes, they were worried about me coming back alone at this hour," Lin Chuxia answered truthfully.

In the darkness, Qin Han frowned, "That Su... Su what-his-name?"

"It wasn't him."

Qin Han handed the flashlight to Lin Chuxia and followed a meter behind her, with a frown knotted on his brow.

Judging by the voice, it was clearly a man; if not someone with the last name Su, then who could it be?

Lin Chuxia didn't notice Qin Han's reaction, and remembering the things she had done in the past few days, she continued, "There are two new people at the shop. I plan to add a cooked food section to sell alongside the existing items, so we'll need more hands on deck."

"Oh."

Qin Han just responded, indicating that he understood, there was yet another man by his sister-in-law's side.

No, probably more than one.

How vexing!

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After returning home, Lin Chuxia thanked Qin Han and greeted Mr. and Mrs. Qin, then returned to her own room.

She felt very happy today, hoping that after seeing Old Master He so delighted tonight, he would never take that desperate path in his lifetime.

After bathing in her spatial dimension and stepping out, she looked at the room that belonged to her and Qin Yang and suddenly felt that she should write a letter to Qin Yang.

The matter of her taking Old He as her master wasn't a big deal, but it wasn't trivial either; she should inform him about it.

After writing about Old He, she also briefly mentioned the situation at the shop, nothing more—Qin Yang always wrote about his daily work in his letters, and responding in kind, she also shared some of her own.

Otherwise, she really wouldn't know what else to write.

Lin Chuxia thought of the somewhat childish man and smiled to herself.

When Lin Jiayi suggested that she marry Qin Yang, she just went with the flow, seeking to escape the Lin Family.

Marriage was the only way out of that house, and since she had to marry someone, it didn't matter who it was. Qin Yang was rarely home, which made it more convenient for her to do her own thing.

However, she hadn't expected the Qin Family to be completely different from what she had imagined, splitting the household upon her arrival, with reasonable in-laws, and a kind-hearted big brother and sister-in-law. Now, with the business on the right track and growing step by step, and having taken Old He as a mentor...

Lin Chuxia felt that life was becoming more and more promising.

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Meanwhile, at Li Family in Xiaoqingshan.

Lin Jiayi, dragging her weary body back home from the fields, collapsed directly onto the kang bed.

She now regretted helping Li Guangyuan with the farm work, even though they agreed she'd only lend a hand. Who knew that "lending a hand" meant diving into the cornfields for an entire day.

And the most annoying part was that Li Guangyuan had promised to look for a business opportunity after finishing that bit of work. To look forward to better days, she could only endure with gritted teeth.

"I seem to have married a princess, never seen any bride with such airs before. She's even more demanding than a mother-in-law, expecting her mother-in-law to cook and serve her meals every day."

Just as she was resting for a while, Old Mrs. Li's voice came from outside the window, and Lin Jiayi irritably closed her eyes.

Speaking of which, Mrs. Li Senior was just as annoying as Qin Yang's sister-in-law from her past life. Last time she was plagued by Qin Yang's sister-in-law's passive-aggressive attitude, this life she had Mrs. Li as her mother-in-law.

Thankfully, Li Guangyuan was on her side, always speaking up for her, and with that thought, Lin Jiayi felt somewhat more balanced.

She figured that Lin Chuxia was probably being targeted in the other family. Qin Yang and his wife could do anything they wanted, and Lin Chuxia's skills wouldn't be considered much in their eyes.

With Qin Yang not around, Lin Chuxia didn't even have anyone to speak up for her, just like how Lin Jiayi herself had managed in her past life.

Old Mrs. Li's voice came from outside again. Just as Lin Jiayi was about to go out and retort, she saw Li Guangyuan pushing a bicycle into the yard.

Mrs. Li instantly found her backbone, pulling Li Guangyuan aside and murmuring something to him. After a while, Li Guangyuan pushed open the door and entered the room.

Lin Jiayi turned over with her back to him and snorted coldly, "What complaint has your mom been making to you now?"

Li Guangyuan, feeling helpless, said, "Look at you getting angry again. I haven't even said anything yet."

Lin Jiayi sat up and faced him, "What more is there to say? You want me to work in the fields all day and then come back to cook and serve the young and the old in your family? Forget it!"

"No, no, look at you getting worked up. Why would I think that way? My mom is just old, and it's not proper for her to be cooking outside while you're lying on the kang inside, is it? She actually meant well, afraid others would gossip about you. Next time, you don't have to do anything, just sit on the sidelines."

"There won't be a next time," Lin Jiayi knew all too well the consequences of being around Mrs. Li, "Where did you go? Don't you dare leave me behind again. We go home together."

Normally, the couple would work in the fields and go home together, and Mrs. Li wouldn't have anything to say.

Today, Li Guangyuan insisted he had something to do and asked her to go home first, which gave Mrs. Li a handle on her.

"Do you have something to do so important that you have to keep it from me?"

At the mention of this, Li Guangyuan became enthusiastic.

"Aren't you interested in doing business? I've been considering some business opportunities these past days, and I finally found a good one."

Lin Jiayi's eyes lit up as well, "What sort of business? Tell me quickly."

"Selling vegetables," Li Guangyuan said proudly, lifting his chin.

Yet, Lin Jiayi frowned, "Selling vegetables? How is that considered business?"

"Yes," Li Guangyuan said excitedly as if he discovered an incredible secret, "Let me tell you, Jiayi, don't look down on selling vegetables. I've checked; vegetables here at our place are several cents cheaper per pound than in the city's night market. For a pound of vegetables, it's two or three cents, for ten pounds it's two or three dimes, for a hundred pounds it's two to three yuan. Calculate that for a month, and it's more than a wage worker earns."

Li Guangyuan spoke more and more excitedly. "Even if I can't sell a hundred pounds every day, as long as we make one yuan a day, it's thirty yuan a month, the same as a worker's wage."

Lin Jiayi wasn't interested in selling vegetables, after all, it sounded like the same old farmer's work, "Can't we do something else?"

"I think selling vegetables is quite good. I know this business, and it doesn't need much capital. Even if we can't sell them, we can still eat them ourselves. It's a business with no losses," he said with all the ideas he had managed to come up with.

Seeing Lin Jiayi still reluctant, fearing she might ask for her investment back, he tried to coax her gently, "The fieldwork is almost done. Let's start with a small business to try, and when we have more capital later, we can do bigger business."

Chapter 60: Never Dreamed of in Two Lifetimes

Lin Jiayi thought about how Li Guangyuan in her past life had also started from a small business and gradually made it big. She didn't know what kind of business Lin Chuxia and he had started, but considering the Li Family's circumstances, it couldn't have been a big business. Perhaps it really started with selling vegetables. Thinking this, she nodded, "Well, it's agreed then, once you have some capital, you'll expand the business."

"Definitely, we will become wealthier and wealthier."

Lin Jiayi believed this; she had seen Li Guangyuan when he was prosperous.

Thinking of something, she extended a hand, "Then return the money I originally gave you. Selling vegetables doesn't require much capital, the leftover money should stay with me. I still need to buy some fabric to make a cotton dress."

Li Guangyuan was momentarily stunned, then he pulled her into his embrace, "Jiayi, it's like this, the vegetable selling business doesn't need much initial capital. I can frequently travel to the county on the day after tomorrow. I definitely need to buy a bicycle, and luckily Li Ergou is willing to sell his bicycle to me, so I bought it."

Lin Jiayi's voice raised a couple of notches, "That bicycle outside, you bought it from Li Ergou's family? How much?"

She recognized that bicycle; it was the one Li Guangyuan rode when he married her.

She thought it belonged to the Li Family, but a few days ago, Li Ergou took it back.

Li Guangyuan just brought it back, she thought maybe after finishing the work in the field, Li Guangyuan was going to take her to the county for a stroll, that he borrowed the bicycle for this purpose.

It was previously agreed that after fertilizing the corn, he would accompany her to the city to get fabric.

Li Guangyuan weakly held up a finger, "One hundred yuan."

"One hundred yuan?" Lin Jiayi sprung to her feet, "One hundred yuan for an old bicycle? Do you know how much a new bicycle costs?"

Of course, Li Guangyuan knew, "Nowadays, bicycles are not that easy to buy, we don't have any connections to get a bicycle ticket. Even for a used bicycle, many people are unwilling to sell. It's just that Li Ergou and I have a good relationship, his family agreed to sell the bike to me. I finally found a way to make money, we can't just give up because of the bicycle, can we?"

Lin Jiayi looked reluctant, "Even so, you should still have one hundred yuan on hand, give me seventy."

The Li Family's bridal gift to her was taken by the two daughters of the Li Family, her new cotton dress was still unresolved. Initially, she thought of buying it when Li Guangyuan made money from the business. Now it's simpler; the vegetable business doesn't need much capital, so she'll get the fabric for her new cotton dress first.

Li Guangyuan's eyes flickered, he coughed lightly, "Jiayi, it's like this, when we got married, to gather your bridal gift, my family borrowed fifty yuan. Recently, when that family urgently needed money, they came to our house to collect the debt, so I paid them back first."

Lin Jiayi was truly upset now, "Li Guangyuan, do you know what you are talking about? You actually used my money to fill the gaps of the Li Family? That was my bridal money, intended for investing in your business, and you spent it without even consulting me?"

She pushed Li Guangyuan away, her eyes almost red with anger, "I don't care, you must get that money back for me, every single penny."

Li Guangyuan lowered his eyes to hide a hint of dissatisfaction, then lifted his face again, appearing pitiful, he took Lin Jiayi's hand and placed it on his face.

"Jiayi, I know I did wrong. If you are angry, slap me twice, it's my lack of capability that made me resort to using your bridal money. What can I do? I'm my mother's only son, and it was borrowed for our marriage. If I don't pay it back, who will? I originally planned to get the business up quickly and use the

profits to repay the debt. Little did I know things would turn out this way, and I ended up using your bridal money. I'm truly incapable."

He held Lin Jiayi's hand, and gave himself a hard slap.

Lin Jiayi pulled her hand back, already having calmed down significantly by the time he admitted his fault.

This was President Li, revered and respected by everyone in her past life, now speaking kindly and pleading for her forgiveness in front of her. Such a disparity, Lin Jiayi couldn't have even dreamt of in two lifetimes.

His attention to her went far beyond what she had imagined.

Moreover, although Li Guangyuan used her dowry money to alleviate the famine, it showed his credibility and sense of responsibility towards the whole family.

These were things she had known long ago, as the Li Family's business did so well in the past precisely because of their good reputation.

Li Guangyuan was always observing Lin Jiayi's expression, and seeing her soften, he hurriedly said, "I didn't tell you about the business opportunity because I wanted to surprise you, Jiayi. I will definitely make life good for you. All the money earned in the future will be managed by you. The financial power of our family must be entrusted to you, please forgive me this time."

Upon hearing this, the last bit of resentment in Lin Jiayi's heart dissipated, "I know you are a man of your word, but you should still discuss things with me."

Li Guangyuan hugged her again, "I was wrong this time. I've never seen you as an outsider, I just forgot to tell you about it. Don't be angry, seeing you upset hurts me more than if you were to slap me twice."

Lin Jiayi nestled in his arms, feeling a surge of sweetness, thinking that she really shouldn't be quibbling with him over fifty yuan. Considering Li Guangyuan's future achievements, what's fifty yuan?

Furthermore, Li Guangyuan valued her so much, much more than the cold-hearted Qin Yang. What more could she be dissatisfied with?

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The location was set, and next, preparations for the cooked food had to be scheduled.

The courtyard was somewhat dilapidated and needed refurbishment. Since the courtyard was now hers, Lin Chuxia decided to refurbish it thoroughly.

This was also why she had some savings and directly took out a loan of three thousand yuan.

With the rent from the rooms and the money she had, it was enough for her to invest.

Business is about making money from money, how can you make money without having any?

Su Wensong was experienced, and Lin Chuxia entrusted all the activities of his Bun Shop to Sun Bingnan, specifically to oversee the renovation of the courtyard.

In two days, she replanned the courtyard.

The main house's roof was old and leaked in several places, so she directly renovated the roof. The clay beds inside were removed, and the four rooms in the main house were changed into three rooms that shared one door, and one room with a separate door, which would serve as a workshop and office layout once the business developed.

Both sides of the courtyard had annex rooms erected, with the east side arranged as employee dormitories, one for men and one for women, and the west side made into a large kitchen.

Finally, the whole courtyard was covered with a simple shed, ensuring that even if the weather was bad, it wouldn't affect production inside.

At the same time, a large stove was set up in the courtyard, and the water pipes and sewer system also needed to be reinstalled, along with a special cleaning pool.

As always, in catering, food hygiene must be ensured.

For this type of meat product, raw and cooked foods must be separated, and wastewater from the raw meat processing must be promptly drained.

Although by Lin Chuxia's future standards, this setup was still a bit simple, it was considered very good for that period.

While the courtyard was being refurbished, it was also a good time for the employees at the Bun Shop, as their salaries were distributed.