

Switched M 591

Chapter 591: Truly a Wonderful Age

Old Sir He pointed at Lin Chuxia, "Let her entertain you, so she won't always be bothering an old man like me."

"Master, I was clearly helping," Lin Chuxia disagreed and rebutted, somewhat defiantly.

Old Sir He didn't even give her a glance.

Zhuang Yang had visited often and was well aware of how Lin Chuxia and Old Sir He interacted.

Ms. Zhuang had only thought that the old man valued this young disciple of his before. Now, seeing how the two interacted, she was both surprised and amused.

The old man had a quirky temperament, and Lin Chuxia, as his young disciple, didn't cater to it at all. Their interactions were not only harmonious but also very heartwarming.

Ms. Zhuang's gaze fell on Lin Chuxia again, taking a closer look at her belly.

"It looks like you're six or seven months along, right?"

Lin Chuxia nodded and gently touched her belly, "Exactly 7 months."

"It's a big commitment to make you brew medicine for me every day at this stage. I feel really guilty. As I heard, Zhuang Yang is clumsy and knows nothing about brewing traditional Chinese medicine. When he told me about the methods of brewing, I couldn't trust anyone else to do it."

"It's okay. This is something we ought to do. Since I promised to help nurse Ms. Zhuang back to health, it's our responsibility as doctors to ensure you recover quickly," Lin Chuxia said.

Ms. Zhuang thanked her again and looked at Lin Chuxia with a slight daze, "Miss Lin, you're not that old, are you?"

"I'm 23 years old," At 23, being able to become a mother, Lin Chuxia was quite satisfied with her age.

While immersed in her own happiness, she didn't notice the slight surprise on Ms. Zhuang's face across from her.

Ms. Zhuang sat on the stool Lin Chuxia had provided.

The weather was nice today, and the sunlight was warm, just like the smile on Lin Chuxia's face.

"23 years old, such a good age. I hear from Zhuang Yang that you're quite the business person. What kind of business are you involved in? Would you mind sharing with me?"

At this point, she seemed to feel a bit impolite and smiled as she explained.

"You know, another reason I returned to the country was to explore some investment opportunities. These were things I wouldn't have dared to consider before, thinking I might die abroad. It's only in the past couple of years that I've realized our country's development has been significant and open to people like us, so I returned to see for myself. But even returning, I'm still not very familiar with the domestic situation."

Lin Chuxia thought she could clarify things for Ms. Zhuang.

She poured each of them a glass of water before starting to talk about her business, then moving on to emerging industries in the country.

She spoke slowly and had her own unique insights into various industries.

After all, being seasoned with life, she was more aware of the country's development direction.

During this interaction, she knew Ms. Zhuang truly wanted to invest in national development, and interacting with Ms. Zhuang made Lin Chuxia feel very comfortable.

This led her to say even more.

Ms. Zhuang transitioned from being nonchalant to occasionally posing questions and sharing her own insights.

She was also a businesswoman abroad and understood the value of Lin Chuxia's words.

Based on both domestic and foreign situations, she offered some of her own thoughts.

The traditional Chinese medicine on the stove had already begun to boil, simmering slowly and emitting steam.

The aroma of the medicine filled the courtyard, blending harmoniously with the unhurried discussions between the two women.

It wasn't until Old Sir He reminded them that the medicine was ready that Lin Chuxia realized she'd been chatting with Ms. Zhuang for over an hour.

And at the side, Zhuang Yang had already taken out his notebook to jot down some key points.

She smiled sheepishly, "These are just my shallow opinions, I'm sure Ms. Zhuang finds them laughable."

"Not at all, these ideas of yours seem highly feasible to me. Since returning to the country and falling ill, Zhuang Yang has been handling all the work-related matters. On one hand, he's investigating the market, and on the other, taking care of me. It's really taxing on him. Sometimes, I wonder if the day comes when I pass away, I'll just let Zhuang Yang bury me here, and as for other affairs, I'll let Zhuang Yang follow his heart."

She spoke these words, and Lin Chuxia understood that if left to his own devices, Zhuang Yang would most likely return to his original country.

One aspect being that Zhuang Yang didn't seem to have the same dedication to national development as Ms. Zhuang.

Furthermore, accompanying Ms. Zhuang on her return, should Ms. Zhuang pass away domestically, how could he stay here and deal with business matters? He would definitely return to handle affairs on Ms. Zhuang's side.

Lin Chuxia recalled her past life, and indeed, she hadn't heard of any foreign enterprises in Yan City.

With the medicine ready, Ms. Zhuang and Zhuang Yang took their leave, carrying the medicine back to their lodging.

Lin Chuxia asked Old Sir He if he'd like to eat out, as she could accompany him today.

Old Sir He looked at her with suspicion and, seeing that she wasn't joking, dusted off his hands and had his young disciple drive the Jeep to take him to Qin's Restaurant.

By now, Qin's Restaurant had expanded to two locations.

The original store on Construction Road in the east of town was managed by Qin Juan, while Jia Liang went to the second store on Yongding Road in the west of the city.

Lin Chuxia took Old Sir He to the old store, coincidentally, Qin Han happened to be delivering vegetables to the restaurant.

Seeing Lin Chuxia, he was quite surprised, "I was thinking of going to see you after lunch. My older brother's watermelons and melons have come in, so I brought you some to taste, along with strawberries picked for you."

"Thank you for always thinking of me, brother. It's fortunate we ran into each other, otherwise, there might not be anyone home when you arrived."

Today, Qin Yang's unit had some business, and he had lunch with his unit's leaders, which he mentioned to her in the morning. Otherwise, Lin Chuxia might not have accompanied Old Sir He to dine out.

She asked Qin Juan to bring some strawberries and melons, and Qin Han told her Qin Juan's share was already given to her, the rest was reserved for her.

Given the situation, Lin Chuxia opened the trunk and had Qin Han help load things into the car.

Qin Han hadn't eaten lunch, as Old Sir He had already ordered dishes, so the three of them ate lunch together.

Old Sir He had no hobbies besides enjoying a little drink.

Under Lin Chuxia's supervision, he didn't drink much each time, but just enough to satisfy his craving.

Qin Han had driven here, and though there weren't strict laws against drunk driving back then, for his safety, Lin Chuxia only let him drink tea.

Qin Han understood this and drank tea while eating, and couldn't help but bring up matters from the village.

Like the Qin Family Village this year, it might not change daily, but changes were happening all the time.

The village's vegetable greenhouses doubled compared to last spring.

Moreover, this year's greenhouses were no longer reliant on support from Lin Chuxia or the village, as individuals used their own savings from the previous year to build them.

Not only Qin Family Village, but nearby villages also set up a few greenhouses.

Chapter 592: Fated to Survive

However, none of them received investment support, nor any technical support, so there were not many families who could build vegetable greenhouses.

There is also an interesting piece of news. Other villages that have built vegetable greenhouses, upon investigation, most have relatives in Qin Family Village.

Even so, this is a good sign of economic growth.

It is worth mentioning that this year the vegetable greenhouses in Qin Family Village are more diverse.

In addition to various vegetables, there are also strawberries, watermelons, melons, etc.

Wang Cheng has negotiated a collaboration with a storage company in the capital, so the fruits and vegetables from Qin Family Village's greenhouses are directly delivered there to enrich the capital's vegetable basket.

Although Lin Chuxia had already heard this from Wang Cheng over the phone, hearing Qin Han lively recount it still brings excitement.

The capital's vegetable basket; the Qin Family Village has been vegetable farmers for generations, and this is the first time they have received such high praise and honor.

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As the weather gets warmer day by day, Zhuang Jingshu's health gradually improves.

By the fourth treatment cycle, Old Sir He no longer needs to visit her, instead, Zhuang Yang brings her to Old Sir He for follow-up and to adjust the prescription.

Old Sir He checks her pulse and is surprised by her recovery, even sneaking a glance at his little apprentice.

However, he doesn't say much, just tells Lin Chuxia to bring pen and paper to write the prescription.

Once the prescription is written, it is directly handed to Zhuang Yang for him to fetch the medicine.

Now Zhuang Yang is not a novice anymore; he takes the prescription and goes to the usual pharmacy to get the medicine.

Ms. Zhuang takes the opportunity to ask Old Sir He about her condition.

"It's not that I don't want to follow the doctor's advice; it's just that I have some private matters when I returned to the country. Previously, when I was seriously ill, I thought I would take my wish to the grave, but didn't expect a turnaround like this. Old Sir He, you are my savior."

Old Sir He waved his hand, "Treating and saving people is a doctor's responsibility. Your illness improving is also your fortune, your life shouldn't end yet."

"You are modest, Sir. No matter what, now that my illness is greatly improved, I also want to take care of my own business. Just wondering if it's possible. It's not a risk-taking matter, just need to leave Yan City for a few days."

Old Sir He thought for a moment and replied, "A few days is not a problem. Just pay attention to the precautions I mentioned, and take your medicine on time."

Upon hearing this from Old Sir He, Ms. Zhuang's eyes shined, "Alright, Sir. I'll be gone one or two days and will return then. I've remembered all your advice."

One who has faced despair and regained the chance to live will cherish life more than before.

Whether abroad or during the time back home, Ms. Zhuang thought she was really going to die.

Now she truly feels alive again.

She still has many things unfinished, although she had accepted meeting her end with regrets.

Yet, when given the chance, who would wish to leave such regrets?

That has been her unsolved issue for over twenty years.

She then said to Lin Chuxia, "I have to trouble Miss Lin to prepare the Chinese medicine for the next few days, as I'm really not good at it."

"I can prepare it, but how do we preserve it? Chinese medicine can't be stored for long, or it might spoil and cause not just loss of efficacy, but possibly side effects," Lin Chuxia reminded.

"That's easy to solve, I have a small fridge in my car as well, just put it there," then she asked Lin Chuxia, "Is that okay?"

If there's a fridge, it's fine.

Lin Chuxia thought of Ms. Zhuang's compact car, originally imported.

Couldn't help but sigh; for now, regarding household appliances or the automotive industry, foreign technology still prevails. Cars even have fridges.

Know that her Jeep doesn't even have air conditioning, naturally, no heating in winter either, it's the type that's cold in winter and hot in summer.

Also, her Jeep has a canvas top; suffering in the big winter, apart from the great off-road performance, the comfort level is really far behind.

Once she is financially better off, she should replace it with a more comfortable car.

Heard the latest Santana has air conditioning installed.

There's a saying, with a Santana, you can travel the world without fear.

Before long, Zhuang Yang returned with the medicine and Lin Chuxia prepared three doses.

Zhuang Jingshu asked Zhuang Yang to visit the department store to buy several large-capacity bottles or cups with screw caps.

Before Zhuang Yang left, Lin Chuxia reminded him, if really unavailable, buy orange soda.

Don't underestimate the requirement for screw caps, this year it's really hard to find.

There are no ready-made empty bottles, and money can't buy any either. Cups now are all enamel mugs or glass cups, neither of which is sealable.

The only available screw cap is on thermos bottles.

Current thermos bottles are small; to fit three days' worth of medicine, dozens wouldn't be enough, and a compact car fridge might not fit.

Sure enough, Zhuang Yang returns soon with five bottles of orange soda, explaining, "Miss Lin was right, the department store really doesn't have sealable cups. If not for her reminder, I would have returned empty-handed."

Ms. Zhuang was a bit surprised, "Is this technology difficult?"

Though she had been back in the country for some time, she hadn't really looked outside.

The items she used were mostly those she brought back and used often, and any needs, the research office provided the best.

She hadn't paid attention to these.

Lin Chuxia lightly smiled, "Difficult, it's not difficult, but currently, it seems our people haven't had such demand yet. As living standards improve, I believe related products will gradually emerge; where there's a need, there's a market."

Currently, people's water consumption at home utilizes a big teacup, some not even particular about drinking boiled water.

Especially in summer, scooping half a gourd of water from the water jar solves thirst.

Even when going out, water from field watering sources, river flowing water, or asking hospitably at a villager's home, water from their well is drunk freely.

Thriftier ones buy a military canteen, which is decent.

It's just because they're filling Chinese medicine, military canteens are metal-made, worry about reactions, need glass products.

Otherwise, who would spend money on these things, people aren't really affluent.

Zhuang Jingshu looked at her, slightly smiled approvingly, "Miss Lin certainly has business acumen. You're right; demand creates market. But knowing future demand, isn't getting ahead of the market acquiring the advantage? I know Miss Lin has a commercial talent. I'm considering investing in the domestic market now that I'm back. Until now I haven't decided where to invest, if Miss Lin is interested, I'd be happy to partner with you."

Chapter 593: A Windfall from the Sky

Lin Chuxia's eyes lit up slightly.

Becoming a business partner? This was practically a money tree coming her way.

However, she didn't show any eagerness on her face, simply saying, "So, Ms. Zhuang already has a direction?"

Zhuang Jingshu shook her head, "Not at the moment. I just think highly of Miss Lin. My investment direction can be set according to Miss Lin's intentions. But regarding our previous topic, I do have some equipment in this area, and if Miss Lin is interested, Zhuang Yang can introduce it to you."

Of course, Lin Chuxia was interested.

At present, the large-scale production equipment in the country is relatively outdated, and imported equipment is expensive and mostly inaccessible to ordinary people.

Since she took over the Old Food Factory, it has been slowly getting back on track, but the outdated equipment there makes it difficult to make further progress.

It was only through their management that they achieved a balance between income and expenses, allowing employees to receive their salaries every month.

No matter what kind of equipment Ms. Zhuang had, it presented itself as a channel for her.

"Then I look forward to cooperating with Ms. Zhuang in the future," Lin Chuxia extended her right hand.

Ms. Zhuang gently shook the delicate hand in front of her, "I am also looking forward to working with Miss Lin."

The medicine took quite some time to brew, so Lin Chuxia asked them to return in the afternoon to pick it up.

After Zhuang Jingshu and Zhuang Yang left, Old Master He also drove Lin Chuxia out.

Lin Chuxia knew the old man was worried she would tire herself out brewing such a large quantity, and understanding his temper, she didn't argue. She tidied up a bit and returned to the residential compound.

As the weather warmed, more people began coming and going in the residential compound.

It was also close to lunchtime, so she occasionally exchanged greetings with familiar faces.

As she neared home, she saw Sister-in-law Feng and a few other women talking at the foot of the residential building.

As she approached, their expressions turned a bit peculiar.

But before she reached them, they all dispersed.

It wasn't just Lin Chuxia's imagination; she felt their conversation likely involved her.

However, Lin Chuxia didn't take it to heart.

Who would bother with a sick person?

Lin Chuxia parked her car at the front door, and as she got out, Sister-in-law Fu came out from next door.

"Lin, just got back?"

"Yes, sister-in-law, haven't made lunch yet?"

"Not yet, I'm planning to make noodles for lunch today, will start when Old Hu comes back from work."

As Sister-in-law Fu spoke, she had already walked to Lin Chuxia's car.

Lin Chuxia knew she had something to say, so she took out her key and opened the courtyard door, inviting Sister-in-law Fu inside.

Once inside, Sister-in-law Fu didn't proceed further but instead pulled Lin Chuxia aside and lowered her voice, "If you've heard any rumors in the compound these past couple of days, don't take it to heart. If others ask you anything, just ignore them. As family members, our men are out in the world making a career, and they won't inform us about any matters. Let them talk, we should focus on ourselves."

These words left Lin Chuxia feeling puzzled, "Thanks for the reminder, sister-in-law. But honestly, I've been with my master these days and truly don't know what major things have happened in the residential compound."

Sister-in-law Fu pursed her lips, closed the courtyard door tightly, and led Lin Chuxia a couple more steps inside.

"What could there be? It's still about the Vice Minister Liu's transfer from their department. Everyone knew about it last year. Recently, some wind blew in, claiming that after Vice Minister Liu leaves, Feng Dajun will be promoted to deputy minister. They talk about it as if they have all the details. Even I'm curious, our Old Hu is still working at the unit and hasn't heard a thing, yet these family members seem to know everything. And look at Feng Dajun's wife, her eyes are practically on top of her head. Feng Dajun hasn't even become a deputy minister yet, if he does, she might start strutting like a crab."

Lin Chuxia was amused by her description and burst into laughter.

No wonder Sister-in-law Feng gave her such a look earlier.

"I understand, sister-in-law. Thank you for the heads-up."

"Ah, no need to thank me. I just saw you and thought I'd mention it. It's getting late, I should get back home to cook. We can hang out when there's time."

"Alright," Lin Chuxia escorted Sister-in-law Fu to the door.

In the following days, not just at Sister-in-law Fu's place, Lin Chuxia also heard similar things from other people.

Although no one said it outright, everyone seemed quite concerned about the personnel arrangements after Vice Minister Liu's transfer.

But as the rumors spread, someone brought up the incident where Feng Jingjing almost ran into Lin Chuxia.

There were all kinds of things being said, the most outrageous being that Lin Chuxia was jealous of Feng Dajun's successful career, so she deliberately fell to frame them.

Lin Chuxia, hearing such gossip, began to understand why Sister-in-law Fu specifically came to warn her about it.

Perhaps these rumors had been circulating early on, but Sister-in-law Fu didn't feel comfortable telling her directly, and others certainly wouldn't confront her, the person involved.

However, Lin Chuxia didn't let such matters weigh on her mind.

Since Zhuang Jingshu wasn't in Yan City these days, there was no need to brew Chinese medicine, so Lin Chuxia hadn't visited her master.

These days she had been pondering over what Zhuang Jingshu mentioned the other day.

That afternoon, when Zhuang Yang came to pick up the Chinese medicine, he also brought an introduction to their company for Lin Chuxia.

What she didn't expect was that she had heard about this company in her past life.

This also confirmed her previous suspicions.

In her past life, there wasn't any joint-venture company in Yan City, nor were there rumors about Zhuang Jingshu.

It seemed that after falling ill, Zhuang Jingshu either returned to her country for treatment or...

In short, the investment did not proceed.

Now, this kind of opportunity had fallen right into her lap, and Lin Chuxia felt as if a pie had fallen from the sky.

A few days ago, Sun Bingnan called her, mentioning that the yellow peach trees were blossoming across the hills; come autumn, they should bear plenty of fruit.

And over at the Rong City Office, after the New Year, Qin Wu again showcased his skills, opening up markets in several cities surrounding Rong City.

The production at Xiyang Food Factory was said to be unable to meet the demand.

Lin Chuxia jot down a few notes in her notebook, circling a couple of key terms.

There was a peculiar sensation in her belly, and even through her clothing, she could see her abdomen protruding and moving.

The little one was kicking inside her belly.

Lin Chuxia gently placed her hand over the area that had just moved, her gaze soft.

Footsteps could be heard from outside; Lin Chuxia knew it was Qin Yang returning home.

During this period, Qin Yang had been very busy with work, sometimes even having to resolve lunch at the office.

Lin Chuxia rarely asked about his work, also knowing his personality of not liking to pry into matters, so she didn't mention the gossip to Qin Yang either.

The first thing Qin Yang did after entering the house was to look for Lin Chuxia. Seeing her at the desk writing something, he moved closer to discover that it was some work plan.

Chapter 594: Official Appointment

"Has it been naughty today?"

Seeing Lin Chuxia's small hand resting on her swollen belly, Qin Yang's big hand also covered it.

As soon as he touched the woman's hand, he felt the belly bulge; even with a hand in between, it was obvious.

"Is the little one kicking you again?"

From initially being curious and expectant about the baby's movements to now, Qin Yang watched as the little one practiced tai chi in his wife's belly at any given moment, and he began to feel sorry for her.

Sometimes, seeing her belly get deformed from the kicks, he worried that it might hurt her.

Even though Lin Chuxia repeatedly assured him that it didn't feel too intense, he was still unsettled.

Lin Chuxia smiled slightly, "The little one is very good; he just knows dad is home and is welcoming you."

Qin Yang lowered his head and kissed her cheek, "Always trying to sweet-talk me," he said, holding her again and then glancing at her notebook, "Why are you working on these things again? Didn't we agree you wouldn't be working recently?"

"It's a rare opportunity. I initially thought of letting Su Wensong and Ms. Zhuang have some contact, but after thinking about it, it seemed inappropriate. If we can get this done, not only will our food factory business grow, but my business empire can add another division."

"My dear wife, while thinking about expanding your business empire, can you remember you have a husband who is supposed to be handling these tasks?"

It didn't make sense for his wife to charge forward into battles while he enjoyed a comfortable life behind the scenes.

Lin Chuxia disagreed, "There's nothing about who should do what. You and I, as a couple, are a whole unit. Whatever we do, it's for this family," and for their child in the future, "Besides, you have your duties, and I have my pursuits. I've told you I enjoy this kind of work."

Lin Chuxia indeed had said that before, and Qin Yang immediately found himself at a loss.

"Then promise me you'll take care of yourself."

"Don't worry, I'll take good care of myself."

Qin Yang didn't delay any longer, knowing Lin Chuxia might get hungry easily, and quickly headed to the kitchen to prepare a meal.

During their meal, Qin Yang unexpectedly brought up something about work.

"I probably won't be home for lunch tomorrow. Vice Minister Liu's transfer order has come down; we've been doing handovers these past few days, and tomorrow he's officially leaving the department. A few of us from the unit are planning a get-together."

Lin Chuxia nodded, "Okay, I can handle lunch myself, don't worry about me."

"And... if there are any rumors around the family compound lately, don't let them get to you. Let them say whatever they want; you don't need to pay them any mind. Others may make things sound complicated, but do you trust me?"

Lin Chuxia looked up to see Qin Yang appearing rather earnest for once and suddenly laughed, "If I don't trust you, then who? Silly."

Qin Yang laughed along, "Is everyone outside saying that after Vice Minister Liu leaves, Feng Dajun will take his place?"

Lin Chuxia nodded without denying and added, "I also know that most of these rumors probably came directly from Sister-in-law Feng herself."

Qin Yang snickered, "Feng Dajun indeed has the capability, and he has the ambition too. Li Wei once told me that as soon as he learned Vice Minister Liu was leaving earlier this year, he started preparing for it."

Lin Chuxia added a piece of food to Qin Yang's plate.

Clearly, hearing such news from someone inside was quite interesting.

Feng Dajun had the ability and ambition, and he'd been making efforts in this direction since before the New Year.

Yet now, hearing Qin Yang talk about it meant that the hard work some people had put in might be for naught?

Whether Feng Dajun becomes vice minister or not, she wasn't interested, but imagining Sister-in-law Feng boasting in the compound and then seeing her pride dashed if Feng Dajun didn't get the position was quite amusing.

One wonders if Feng Dajun is aware of Sister-in-law Feng's revelations.

He probably doesn't.

Often, the last person to know about such rumors is the person involved.

Indeed, what Qin Yang said next confirmed Lin Chuxia's thoughts.

But she only expected the beginning, not the ending.

Qin Yang's exact words were, "If I don't enter this competition, the vice minister position should indeed go to Feng Dajun."

"So you want to become the vice minister?" Lin Chuxia truly didn't know Qin Yang had such ambition.

"I hadn't thought about it before. But after seeing Sister-in-law Feng bullying you, I wanted to stand up for you. Now seeing how hard you work, I want even more to reach a higher position, to be deserving of someone as outstanding as you."

Lin Chuxia chuckled.

This way of retaliating against Sister-in-law Feng indeed packs a bigger punch than any other method.

Lin Chuxia didn't have to wait long; the day after Vice Minister Liu left, Qin Yang's appointment came through.

Officially appointed as vice minister.

When the news broke, the unit didn't react much.

Qin Yang's credentials and work abilities were well-known; him being appointed to this position was not surprising.

The most significant reaction came from the family compound.

Sister-in-law Feng had acted so jubilant when good things were happening, everyone practically assumed the vice minister position was a done deal for Feng Dajun's family.

After all, it had been known for a while that Vice Minister Liu was leaving, so it seemed justifiable if someone had been pre-selected.

More so, no one would boast loudly about something that wasn't even slightly confirmed.

Yet there was one who did.

Those who were envious and disliked seeing Sister-in-law Feng proud when they thought Feng Dajun would be promoted now found joy in her downfall.

And those who had gone out of their way to curry favor with Sister-in-law Feng for the sake of their own husbands couldn't take back what they'd given and felt bitter about their losses.

For a time, Sister-in-law Feng didn't dare show her face outside her door.

That wasn't even her most significant fear; she dreaded what would happen if Feng Dajun found out what she'd done—he surely wouldn't forgive her.

However, this worry didn't last long. Feng Dajun found out the day after the appointment was finalized.

It was one of his competitors who actually came and mocked him face to face.

Not getting the vice minister position had already left Feng Dajun dissatisfied. Upon hearing the mockery, he discovered what his wife had been up to.

He hadn't felt ashamed when the appointment went to someone else because he acknowledged such outcomes of battles as common.

Moreover, he admired Qin Yang's abilities.

Earlier, he felt that the vice minister role was undoubtedly his because he understood Qin Yang's character.

The man was a workaholic, ordinarily indifferent to official positions, not competitive, unconcerned with such matters, and more interested in the technical side of things.

Plus, Qin Yang detested officialdom, so he didn't consider Qin Yang as a contender.

Thus, even if he lost to Qin Yang, he didn't feel ashamed.

But when faced with the sarcastic remarks of another competitor, he felt utterly disgraced.

Chapter 595: Disgrace

The main thing was, in that fleeting moment, he actually thought about the incident where his wife almost hit Qin Yang's wife.

He didn't know why, but he suddenly linked it to Qin Yang's motive for competition.

So when he faced Sister-in-law Feng, Feng Dajun couldn't help but growl in a low voice, even though he forcibly suppressed the anger in his heart.

"Now you realize how embarrassing it is? Where were you before? How many times have I told you not to meddle in my work affairs? Who told you that the Deputy Minister position would fall to me? There are so many people in the office, so many eyes watching, yet you dared to boast like that?"

Sister-in-law Feng, seeing Feng Dajun's angry demeanor, shrank back in fear.

"Keep your voice down, aren't you the one who said that the soundproofing in the family building isn't good and that arguing would be heard by others? You're embarrassed."

"I'm embarrassed? You actually realize I'm embarrassed? My dignity has almost been thrown away by you. If you knew it was embarrassing, what were you doing earlier? Now the bragging has been exposed, and all the people in the family housing and the whole office are watching me make a fool of myself. What am I afraid of losing anymore? What dignity do I have left to lose?"

"It's not entirely my fault. Didn't you also say before that your performance at work was quite good and that this position was very likely to come to you..."

Before Sister-in-law Feng could finish, Feng Dajun pushed her away.

"I said those things at home, and you dared to repeat them outside?"

What he regretted the most now was drinking too much during the Spring Festival and speaking nonsense at home.

This was his first year celebrating the New Year away from home.

He wanted to return to his hometown to reunite with his parents, but the round trip cost for the three of them would be over a hundred.

Add in all sorts of other expenses, and the trip would take up two months of his salary.

So, he didn't go back to his hometown and saved the money for socializing.

On New Year's Eve, staying in this empty family building, spending a cold and dismal New Year, he unknowingly drank too much.

Sister-in-law Feng was pushed back by him and started crying, feeling aggrieved.

"I didn't mean to say it outside. Besides, how are you worse than Qin Yang? In the Northwest, you and he were on par. Coming here, your position is even a bit higher than his. Even if there's a promotion, it should be yours first. I think they're looking down on you because you come from the countryside. Qin Yang is deliberately doing this. Their family is so wealthy that even if he never works in his life, he won't worry about food and drink. They live the best life, yet he still wants to compete with you?"

Sister-in-law Feng felt such hatred.

She really thought good days were about to come.

Initially, she didn't plan to mention this outside, knowing that speaking about it wouldn't be good until things were settled.

But since that new neighbor tried to flatter her, saying Feng Dajun had great prospects, she unintentionally let it slip, and the other person's attitude towards her became even more servile. Then she...

She enjoyed being respected way too much.

Whenever those people smiled and greeted her, bringing all sorts of good things to please her, she genuinely felt like an emancipated serf singing, finally in charge.

She thought days would always be like this, never again facing disdain, never being laughed at for being from the countryside, only flattery and laughter in the days to come.

But the result was even more disdain and ridicule.

Some even mocked her openly.

She hated Qin Yang and Lin Chuxia to the core.

Her husband Da Jun had mentioned that Qin Yang didn't care about being in office.

It must be Lin Chuxia, holding a grudge because their daughter Feng Jingjing almost hit her in the past, and thus asked Qin Yang to take the Deputy Minister position from their Da Jun.

"Their family is already so well-off, why do they come to steal yours?"

Feng Dajun struggled from the countryside to this point, and it was hard-won for him to have a chance to shine. The whole family was counting on Feng Dajun to make a name for himself, why did Qin Yang still compete with him?

"Why do you think? At this point, you still don't know why? I've said it countless times, don't go out to offend people. Obviously, Qin Yang and I both came from the Northwest. How did Li Wei's wife become best friends with his wife? Qin Yang's wife even found a job for her - look at you, what have you done in the Northwest, and what have you done here?"

On the way back, he realized that Qin Yang was targeting him.

Last year, their daughter almost hit his wife, the matter seemed settled, but ever since that incident, Qin Yang's attitude towards him became somewhat cold.

"I also want to get along well with them, but they all look down on me, disdaining me for coming from the countryside, and nobody wants to talk to me. What can I do?"

"If they don't want to talk to you, look at yourself for the reason. Stop saying it's because you come from the countryside. Li Wei's wife is also from the countryside, even Qin Yang and his wife came from the countryside. In our entire family building, how many aren't from the countryside?"

Feng Dajun lost all hope in her, "Pack your things, tomorrow I'll buy you a train ticket, and you can go back to the hometown first."

Sister-in-law Feng, upon hearing she should go back to her hometown, was so frightened that her crying stopped.

Recovering, she immediately rushed forward to hug Feng Dajun's leg.

"I don't want to go back to the hometown, Da Jun, don't make me go back, I promise I'll behave, I won't dare anymore, your mother doesn't like me, if I go back home, I'll be bullied by your mother and your brother and sister-in-law."

"Is it really my mother and my brother and sister-in-law bullying you, or is it actually your own fault?"

Feng Dajun started to question her words.

It was precisely because of her words that he brought her with him.

Since she was his wife, he naturally couldn't let her be wronged.

But now thinking about it, his mother and sister-in-law got along well, so why couldn't she get along with his wife?

Sister-in-law Feng shook her head while crying, "It's not my fault, really not my fault. You know your mother prefers boys; she detests me for having a daughter and not carrying on the family line for the Feng Family. If I go back, there will be no way for me to live. I'm begging you, Da Jun, don't make me go back..."

When she left, she thought she could become a city person and never return to the village.

After finally having a moment of pride, she had already said the absolute words.

If Feng Dajun humiliated her by sending her back, the disdain she faced would be no less than that in the family building.

Even if Feng Dajun didn't become Deputy Minister, he was still a notable small cadre at the office, and the families in the family building would give him face.

Moreover, city people were, after all, more polite than those from the countryside; even if they curse someone, they do it behind their back.

If she went to the village, there would definitely be people gossiping about her.

"Da Jun, I promise you, from now on, I'll definitely listen to you, stay home obediently, care for you and our child, oh right, Jingjing, Jingjing's schooling over here can't do without me, you can't possibly want her to give up city school for village school, you know full well your mother's bias towards boys. If we go back to our hometown, will she let her continue school?"

Chapter 596: Friends

Speaking of his daughter, Feng Dajun finally closed his eyes.

The daughter really can't go back to her hometown, and his mom indeed favors boys over girls.

If he leaves only the daughter, he can't take care of her alone.

"Remember what you said, if it happens again, you'll go back to your hometown."

"I, I... I remember, I won't dare again..."

.....

The ringing of the school bell echoed through the campus, and the children ran out of the classroom like little birds.

Ningning, with a backpack on, skipped out while thinking about whether to have dinner with Mommy and Daddy Jia tonight or go back to eat with Grandma.

This was the most troublesome thing for her recently.

Daddy Jia now works at a different store from Mommy, and he only gets to have dinner with her when he picks her up from school.

But if she eats with Mommy and Daddy Jia at the store, Grandma would be home alone.

Grandma would also feel lonely without company.

Although Grandma says it's the same with Ningning sleeping with her, Ningning feels that Grandma looks so happy when she eats with her.

As she was thinking, Ningning saw a familiar figure sitting by the flower bed not far away, and hurriedly quickened her pace to run over.

"Feng Jingjing, why aren't you in a hurry to go home? Waiting for your mom to pick you up?"

Feng Jingjing slowly turned her head, saw it was Qin Ningning, and turned her head away again, speaking faintly, "No."

Ningning sat down next to her with a thud to keep her company, "Are you going home by yourself then?"

Go home? Feng Jingjing was silent.

She didn't want to go back to that home. Her mom's been in a bad mood lately, getting angry at any little thing.

Every time she got home, as long as her mom saw her, she would either hit or scold her. Even being extra careful not to make mistakes, her mom would always find faults.

Only when Dad was home would Mom let her off.

But Dad has been busy recently too, always coming home late.

Ningning noticed her unhappiness and asked with concern, "What's wrong? Didn't do well on the exam?"

Feng Jingjing shook her head again.

Ningning thought for a moment, then took out two candies from her backpack and put them in Feng Jingjing's hands, "These are for you."

Feng Jingjing held the candies and couldn't help but ask, "Why are you so good to me?"

"Because we are friends," Ningning said matter-of-factly.

Though she hadn't interacted much with Feng Jingjing, the first time she saw her, she felt like seeing herself.

It was hard to describe that feeling.

Although she doesn't feel that way anymore, she still thinks Feng Jingjing seems pitiful.

But she wouldn't share that feeling; her mom said no one likes being pitied by others.

Feng Jingjing turned to look at Ningning; she didn't expect Ningning to see her as a friend.

At school, she had no friends.

Her mom said city people are very cunning, and they look down on people from the countryside. Even if she tries hard, those city kids won't play with or befriend her.

Her mom also said one should know their place, recognize their status, and not shamelessly mingle with others, only to be looked down upon.

However, seeing the light in Ningning's eyes made her feel that Mom might not be entirely right.

Ningning had always been nice to her.

Ningning was about to say something else when she spotted Jia Liang across the street, her eyes brightened and a smile appeared on her face.

"My family is here to pick me up, you should hurry home too."

Following Ningning's gaze, Feng Jingjing saw the man in the distance, tall and fierce-looking.

"Is that your family?"

She remembered a man coming to pick up Ningning last year, claiming to be her father.

Ningning didn't want to go with him, and they even fought at the school gate.

Even from afar, she could tell that man was not the same person as the one in front of her now.

Ningning leaned in mysteriously, "Let me tell you a secret, this is the new dad Mommy found for me."

"New dad?"

"Yes, I used to have a dad who wasn't nice to me, and that grandma, they disliked me because I'm a girl. Later, Mommy and I left that home, and she found me a new dad. Daddy Jia is very good to me, and my new grandma is especially fond of me. They don't mind that I'm a girl."

She glanced around and lowered her voice, "I'll secretly tell you, last time Daddy Jia took me out to play, I forgot to do my homework. The teacher asked me to call a parent. I didn't dare to tell Mommy, but Daddy Jia came to apologize to the teacher and took the blame."

After speaking, Ningning couldn't help but cover her mouth and giggle.

Daddy Jia and Grandma Jia had always been good to her, and ever since Mommy married Daddy Jia, they've been even better. They said now they're truly a family.

Ningning really liked such a family.

Feng Jingjing widened her eyes in disbelief, "He took the blame from the teacher for you? What happened then, did he hit you when you got home?"

Forget about getting blamed by the teacher, if her mom knew she hadn't finished her homework, she would definitely be beaten badly.

Her mom said that girls going to school is just wasting the family's money, and if she doesn't study well, she is being ungrateful.

Ningning proudly raised her little head, "Daddy Jia wouldn't hit me. After leaving school, he even bought me candied haws, saying I must have felt bad being scolded by the teacher... Oh, I won't talk to you anymore, Daddy Jia is calling me."

Ningning saw Jia Liang had already spotted her and was waving. She quickly waved to Feng Jingjing and ran over.

Feng Jingjing watched the butterfly-like figure run over to the very fierce-looking man, jumping up and down, saying something to him.

That man, though looking so fierce, smiled gently when he saw Ningning and quickly took her pink backpack onto his own shoulder.

The tall and sturdy figure didn't match the small pink backpack at all.

She quietly averted her gaze.

Ningning's dad wasn't nice to them, so her mom found her a new dad.

If her mom wasn't nice to her, could she also find a new mom?

The campus was getting emptier, and Feng Jingjing knew if she didn't head back soon, she'd get scolded by her mom again.

But even if she went back early, she would still get scolded. Coming home a bit late meant her dad would be back soon, and her mom might scold her less.

The weather today wasn't good, the sky was gloomy. Feng Jingjing lowered her head and slowly walked home, suddenly seeing several feet blocking her way up ahead.

Looking up, she saw some familiar and arrogant faces. Instinctively, she wanted to run, but turned and was blocked by two more people.

This was the shortcut to her house, and when her mom used to drop her off, they'd take this path.

She rarely took this path alone, as it was too secluded, and it scared her a little.

Today she was lost in thought and found herself walking onto this path again without realizing it.

Chapter 597: Bullied

Feng Jingjing was cornered by a few people, she didn't say a word, but fear was evident in her eyes.

The people opposite seemed to enjoy this feeling, arrogantly laughing as they slapped her face, "So scared? You looked quite impressive today."

Then they said to the girls beside them, "Come and see, even the top student in our class has moments of fear."

Surrounding them, the girls burst into unrestrained laughter.

Feng Jingjing bit her lip tightly, tears falling one by one.

The girls grew impatient, directly slapping her a few times, "How are you so amazing? As a transfer student scoring 100, who are you trying to embarrass?"

"Exactly, aren't you country folk supposed to value hard work and endurance? Not feeding chickens and pigs in your rural areas, so why come to the city?"

"Who are you crying pathetically for? Seeing you look so pathetic just makes me want to hit you. A loser should stay a loser..."

One student even grabbed her backpack, pulled out her 100-point test paper, and tore it to shreds.

Feng Jingjing hugged her head, not daring to resist or cry for help, not even daring to make a sound.

Because she knew, the more she cried, the harder they would hit her.

She remained silent, letting them hit and insult her, knowing they would eventually leave her alone.

Sure enough, after a while of punching and kicking, they stopped and walked away without turning back.

She slowly squatted down to pick up her shredded test paper.

Suddenly she felt her mother's words might be right, these city folks disliked them country folks, no matter how they were, they'd always be an eyesore.

Otherwise, how could she explain why she hadn't offended them, yet they constantly stopped her to hit and insult her?

They came to the city just to be bullied.

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Three days later, Zhuang Jingshu returned, staying in the city for only a few days before asking Lin Chuxia to prepare her some herbal medicine, then left with the medicine again.

Although Zhuang Jingshu's health had greatly improved, Old Sir He suggested she rest more, but she seemed unable to relax.

From Zhuang Yang's words, Lin Chuxia could roughly tell that Zhuang Jingshu had traveled back across the seas for her current endeavor.

It was her so-called last wish.

When Lin Chuxia next saw Zhuang Jingshu it was a week later.

She came to see Old Sir He for a follow-up examination and to begin the next course of treatment.

Old Sir He checked her pulse, his expression calm afterward, "Though your body has been adjusted well, if you continue to neglect it as before, even an immortal wouldn't be able to help. You are most aware of how your health deteriorated to this point, from now on, the length and quality of your life is down to you."

Zhuang Yang was immediately anxious upon hearing this, "Chairwoman, I've said before, you can leave some matters to me, you should listen to the elder and stop being so headstrong."

Yet, Zhuang Jingshu seemed unfazed, she even smiled, "The elder is just trying to scare me, I know my body best. With the elder's medicine, I feel a few years younger, this is a feeling I haven't had for years. Moreover, isn't it said in traditional medicine that the heart's ailment needs heart's medicine to treat? The elder is right, I know why my health turned like this, now I've found my heart's medicine. Coupled with the elder's treatment, I believe it'll work wonders."

Old Sir He responded to her words by calling Lin Chuxia over to help write a prescription.

Traditional medicine addresses issues from the root, its treatment is slow, but achieves results that Western medicine cannot.

Zhuang Jingshu had been adjusted for over a month, starting from this set of medicine, her treatment cycle changed from weekly to every ten days.

Lin Chuxia could also see that after over a month of adjustment, Zhuang Jingshu's condition had indeed improved significantly.

While waiting for Zhuang Yang to fetch the medicine, she enthusiastically chatted with Lin Chuxia about hometown matters.

Only then did Lin Chuxia realize, Zhuang Jingshu had been to Ancheng County during her absence.

"Have you considered what I mentioned last time? During my days in Ancheng County, I heard that the Xiyang Food Factory belongs to Miss Lin. I previously only knew Miss Lin was in the food and clothes business, but never expected such a large food factory, Miss Lin is indeed outstanding, I didn't misjudge."

Lin Chuxia smiled humbly, since the Xiyang Food Factory was mentioned, she did have some ideas.

Previously uncertain how to propose them to Ms. Zhuang, as she sought long-term investment projects.

She even considered waiting until collaboration was achieved with the Xiyang Food Factory and discussing privately with Zhuang Yang afterward.

Since Ms. Zhuang brought it up now, Lin Chuxia didn't hold back and shared her thoughts.

Apart from the Xiyang Food Factory, the merged Old Food Factory has all outdated equipment.

These machines have simple technology and low efficiency, unable to meet current market standards.

Lin Chuxia intended to import a batch of foreign food production equipment through Ms. Zhuang's company.

She had already noticed that some equipment was manufactured at Ms. Zhuang's factory.

For those unavailable, she believed it wouldn't be difficult for Ms. Zhuang.

Indeed, after proposing the requirement, Ms. Zhuang wasn't surprised nor displayed any reluctance.

"You can negotiate these things with Zhuang Yang directly, I'm more interested in our cooperative project."

Lin Chuxia smiled slightly, "Ms. Zhuang, you must adhere to the medical advice, seeing your urgency in work reflects you're a workaholic when it comes to business."

Thinking of her past experiences, speaking bluntly, no achievement is worth risking one's life for.

However, Lin Chuxia had considered this matter for a long time, "Please wait for a moment, I've recently drafted a project plan and would like your review."

Lin Chuxia got up to fetch the documents from the room, while Zhuang Jingshu raised an eyebrow in surprise.

Truthfully, she proposed cooperation with Lin Chuxia because Old Sir He cured her illness and Lin Chuxia took great care of her during her pregnancy.

The small diagnosis fee was insufficient to express her gratitude for Old Sir He's attempts.

Even if Lin Chuxia proposed any project, she planned to offer financial assistance.

Even if it ended in failure.

Her visit to Ancheng County revealed the connection between the Xiyang Food Factory and Lin Chuxia, as well as the conflicts between the Xiyang Food Factory and the Old Food Factory, which was a pleasant surprise.

After all, according to Zhuang Yang's investigation, Lin Chuxia managed only two restaurants and one mall, and none were directly managed by her.

Chapter 598: Much in Common

In her eyes, Lin Chuxia was like any other director, merely participating in shareholder dividends, yet she never expected her to have genuine management skills.

She even single-handedly created the Xiyang Food Factory and the Qin's brand.

And now she brought out a cooperation project proposal, how could that not be astonishing?

Zhuang Jingshu watched Lin Chuxia come out of the house and smiled warmly, reaching out to take what she handed over.

"A clothing company? Are you thinking of entering the garment industry?"

Lin Chuxia nodded, sharing her thoughts.

"During your time back in the country, you likely have grasped the current situation, many people have just managed to solve the issue of food and clothing, even some regions still haven't, food, clothing, shelter, and transportation are the biggest concerns for ordinary people, and closely related to their lives. In business, if we want to capture the market, we must capture people's hearts; through the past six months' performances of Huamei Mall and analyzing the consumer data from before, it's clear that once people's basic needs are met, they seek further refinement, from eating enough to eating well, from being warmly dressed to dressing well. In these two years, Southern clothing styles have been very popular, which deems it reasonable that I want to start a clothing company and create my own clothing brand."

She had always wanted to do this, but the timing wasn't right.

Firstly, there wasn't enough capital on hand, secondly, in her last life, this was something she did together with Wang Tianxue, but now being pregnant, she doesn't have the energy to pursue it, and Huamei Mall has only been open for half a year, Wang Tianxue's side is still establishing its foundations.

But now it's different, if there is financial support from Zhuang Jingshu, this task becomes much easier.

Moreover, she also found out that Wang Tianxue has already had thoughts about this, but it was hindered by reality.

Zhuang Jingshu nodded in agreement, "You're right, now the domestic market is open, as people's living standards keep rising, brand effects will gradually show their advantages, what are your plans for the next steps, where will the factory be located?"

Lin Chuxia is from Ancheng County, her Xiyang Food Factory is located there, so she must have a unique sentiment towards An City.

However, she herself lives in Yan City, reportedly with her husband.

Lin Chuxia rubbed her forehead, "I haven't decided on this yet, I've just written down some ideas and plans."

She appeared calm on the surface, but her heart had long been shouting.

This plan must first gain Ms. Zhuang's approval before moving on to the next step.

Otherwise, if she chose a location and the other party disagreed, wouldn't it be a waste of brain power?

Zhuang Jingshu also realized she was too hasty.

She considered whatever investment proposal the other party would present, she would unhesitatingly invest in it, though the other party was unaware of this.

"No worries, take your time to think, anyway, I will stay in the country for a while, and my health is getting better, no need to worry about me suddenly departing from life."

Lin Chuxia laughed along with her.

Zhuang Yang returned to see the two chatting happily.

Perhaps it's his imagination, but the President always seemed relaxed whenever chatting with Miss Lin.

No matter the topic, they always find common ground.

Just, very much in tune.

Lin Chuxia also saw Zhuang Yang return and stood up to take the medicine from his hand.

Zhuang Jingshu handed the item in her hand to Zhuang Yang, "When you have time, take a good look at this, it's our next cooperation with Miss Lin, and Miss Lin also wants some equipment, so you can liaise with her."

Zhuang Yang glanced at the project proposal for the clothing company.

He had just gone out to buy medicine, and in such a short time, the President had finalized the investment project?

As expected, she truly deserves the title of President.

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The first thing Lin Chuxia did was share this good news with Wang Tianxue.

Wang Tianxue was equally excited, hugging her happily, "I used to think my idea was a pipe dream, but now you've managed to secure it quickly, and even brought in foreign investment, our garments can directly be labeled as foreign brands in the future."

They run a mall and frequently went to the south for stocking up, understanding the current market very well.

Although people say nothing, the moment a product is associated with abroad, it instantly appears sophisticated and the market won't be bad.

Even if they didn't agree, people's perceptions weren't something they could change.

What was the phrase Lin Chuxia always said?

If you can't change the market, conform to the market.

"Chuxia, you're simply amazing, how are you so amazing? Can I worship you as my deity? You truly make my dreams come true."

Lin Chuxia gave her a cold look, "No."

Nonetheless, she also felt that this was done too easily.

She thought Zhuang Jingshu would review the proposal for a few days, but in reality, she just expressed her ideas, and the other party didn't even look at the proposal.

In summary, Zhuang Jingshu isn't short on money.

They encountered a wealthy patron.

After all, for a business with billions in assets, hundreds of thousands or millions are mere pocket change.

While they still sing about being a millionaire and striving for prosperity, others already possess assets worth tens of millions, it's just not the same level.

"Chuxia, since there's an investor, have we decided on where to open our clothing factory? And what type of clothing will our factory produce, men's, women's, or children's clothing? Or produce all sorts? That wouldn't work, it's too exhausting and won't be done well, no clothing factory does such, so maybe women's wear, as it's the best seller in our mall..."

Wang Tianxue was rambling on and on, but Lin Chuxia directly interrupted her.

"No need to rush about that, if you have ideas, write them down, then we'll make the final decision, as for the clothing factory's location, I have some thoughts."

A while back, Wang Cheng called her, mentioning that the Ancheng County vegetable station formally declared bankruptcy, and its assets were up for auction, including that piece of land.

Wang Cheng called Lin Chuxia with the idea that, although the vegetable station had been an industry for decades, the locals were familiar with it, if they purchased the land, relocating the vegetable wholesale market there would increase the variety and amount of vegetables, there are existing warehouses, it could be a win-win.

Lin Chuxia never considered relocating the vegetable wholesale market.

Nowadays, the Qin Family Village vegetable wholesale market has gained fame, changing places is unnecessary.

However, the vegetable station's location is rather excellent, a spacious area, building a clothing factory there might be a good idea.

With such thoughts in mind, Lin Chuxia eagerly wanted to visit the site.

She took advantage of Qin Yang's weekend, and they drove back to Qin Family Village.

Mrs. Qin was delighted to see her younger son and daughter-in-law return, promptly went to buy groceries and meat, and returned with a large watermelon.

Lin Chuxia was almost eight months pregnant, was at the peak of her appetite.

Chapter 599: Did Lin Jiayi Get Divorced?

Seeing the watermelon, Lin Chuxia knew it was grown by Brother Qin Liang's family, and she hurriedly asked Qin Yang to cut half of it for her. She took a spoon and started scooping out and eating the watermelon directly.

Little Yaoyao was now crawling really fast on four legs. She saw the big watermelon, babbling as she crawled over, drooling long before she even got to eat it.

Lin Chuxia scooped a spoonful of watermelon and deliberately waved it in front of her, but didn't put it in her mouth, making the little girl so anxious she finally called out for her mom.

That soft, milky voice melted Lin Chuxia's heart.

Just like that, the two of them ate the watermelon, one spoonful at a time, feeling completely at ease.

In the afternoon, Wang Cheng, after hearing the news, came over and brought the relevant documents from the vegetable station with him.

Lin Chuxia took the documents with a smile and said, "Brother Wang, you're always so thoughtful."

Wang Cheng confidently waved his hand, "Actually, you don't even need these documents. Whatever you want to know, just ask me. I've been working at the vegetable station for almost 20 years; I even know how many rats are nesting there."

Lin Chuxia chuckled, "I'll leave this matter to you then, Brother Wang. To be honest, I've taken a liking to this place, but with my current situation, funds are quite limited to buy it, so about the price..."

"Don't worry about it, leave it to me," Wang Cheng understood even without her saying, "I've already inquired about it for you. The vegetable station is under liquidation due to bankruptcy, and the price shouldn't be too high. If your future plans can get government support, we might be able to negotiate this number down further."

Lin Chuxia glanced at the figure he indicated, understanding what kind of government support he referred to.

It's nothing more than doing related industries like the old food factory; even the staff at the vegetable station can be suitably placed.

Lin Chuxia directly said, "Brother Wang, the Qin Family Village's vegetable wholesale market won't change. I see other uses for the vegetable station."

"Alright, I understand," Wang Cheng didn't say much, just agreed directly.

Actually, when he thought about it, not moving the Qin Family Village's vegetable wholesale market seemed fine.

In Qin Family Village, in winter, the vegetables from the greenhouses could quickly be stored, avoiding the hassle and loss during transportation.

Lin Chuxia was a resident of Qin Family Village, so naturally, she would consider the villagers' interests.

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Handling the vegetable station matter wasn't too problematic; it could be resolved within a few days.

Lin Chuxia stayed directly in the village, planning to return to the city after everything was settled.

In the evening, she and Qin Yang took a trip to Ancheng First High School to bring some clothes and living expenses for Lin Jiadong.

Lin Jiadong had just returned from the weekend, and upon hearing someone was looking for him at the school gate, he saw it was Lin Chuxia and immediately showed his big white teeth.

"Second Sister, why are you here? I'm doing fine, you don't need to make a special trip to see me."

Seeing Lin Chuxia's big belly, Lin Jiadong was deeply touched.

When Lin Chuxia handed him the clothes and money, he was so moved that he nearly cried.

"Second Sister, I have enough clothes and money," he sniffed and couldn't help but tell Lin Chuxia about the family's matters.

"I didn't intend for you to know, thought family matters are always a mess. Our eldest sister divorced; she's at home now. Oh, Second Sister, don't go home anytime soon."

"Eldest Sister got divorced?"

Lin Chuxia knew that Lin Jiayi and Li Guangyuan's life was chaotic and unexpected, but she didn't expect her to have such courage.

"Yeah, they divorced a few days ago, and she didn't keep the child. Also, there's one more thing, Second Sister, do you know we have a wealthy relative?"

Lin Chuxia shook her head, "What wealthy relative? How wealthy?"

She worried that this silly brother's perception might differ from hers, and she laughed as she asked.

Lin Jiadong thought seriously, "I don't know how rich exactly, but they drove a nice car to visit us, and dressed well. They were good to our eldest sister, bought her a lot of new clothes..."

Halfway through his explanation, Lin Jiadong changed his mind, "Can't really say that. They did buy Eldest Sister a lot of clothes, but if they hadn't given her so many new clothes and money, Eldest Sister wouldn't have divorced Brother-in-law. You know what Eldest Sister is like, looking down on Brother-in-law for not earning enough. She's obsessed with getting rich, and now that she actually did, she despises him even more, even doesn't want the kid. So is this good for her or not?"

He wasn't clear on the specifics, he just learned upon going home this time that her Eldest Sister had divorced, and the family now has this wealthy relative.

When he asked his mom, she just said they've always been around, just distant relatives.

She also urged him to focus on studying and not to worry about family matters.

He knew his mom always treated him like a child, but he was already eighteen, practically an adult.

Even Lin Chuxia was a bit confused, she really didn't know there was a wealthy relative in the Lin Family.

Although she wasn't very close with the Lin Family, she maintained contact in her past life and never heard of a wealthy relative.

But whether or not there's such a relative doesn't concern her.

She wouldn't go back to her family, didn't want to deal with Lin Jiayi, preferring to avoid unnecessary trouble.

"Since Mom doesn't want you involved in family matters, don't get involved. Focus on studying at school. Whether the relatives are wealthy or not is their business, unrelated to us. We should manage ourselves well, as only what we've learned and earned belong to us."

Lin Jiadong nodded heavily, "Got it, Second Sister. I think so too. Didn't our ancestors say? If you take people's things, you're at their mercy, and when you eat at their table, you're beholden to them."

He understood such simple logic, but couldn't fathom why his mom and his eldest sister didn't.

Even as distant relatives, Eldest Sister divorced because of them.

But Second Sister's right, he can't manage family matters. Whether it's his mom or his eldest sister, to them, he's just a chick, and his words don't count.

Better to study hard and tend his own business.

Lin Chuxia was quite happy with his attitude, recalling past events, she gave him another piece of advice.

"Next year is the college entrance exam, it's a turning point in your life. You must grasp this opportunity well and set high standards for yourself in this final year. I know the boys your age secrete hormones heavily, some things should be considered later, don't break school rules."

Lin Jiadong didn't quite understand Lin Chuxia's meaning at first and asked puzzled, "Second Sister, why would I break school rules? I'm very well-behaved at school."

"Of course, I believe you. But I also know my brother is outstanding, upright and good at studying. It's natural for female classmates to fancy you, but I think there's no one worth pausing for at this stage, is there?"

Chapter 600: Thinks She's Ugly?

At this point, Lin Jiadong understood, and combined with what his second sister said earlier about hormones, his face turned as red as a monkey's butt, making it hard for him to speak clearly.

"Second sister, what are you talking about? I'm just a student now, and my goal is to get into college. After graduating, I want to help you with your work. Other than that, nothing else matters to me," besides his second sister, no one else deserved his attention, let alone halting his progress for.

The second sister, really, how could she say such things?

Lin Chuxia noticed the young man's displeasure and patted his shoulder, "That's good then. I'm not against you dating. It's just about doing the right thing at the right time. The opportunity to study is only a few years; missing it would be a real loss. Plus, you'll have plenty of time for love in the future, then you can truly enjoy romance..."

In the past life, Lin Jiadong was expelled from school for breaking the rules related to early dating.

Early dating alone wasn't enough to get expelled, but it's said that the situation escalated significantly. The girl's parents relentlessly pursued it with the school, even threatening to report Lin Jiadong for hooliganism to the police. In the end, to protect the school's reputation and save Lin Jiadong, the school expelled him.

By the time Lin Chuxia heard about this, a long time had passed, and the Lin Family didn't want to talk to her about it, so she only knew the rough outline.

But she believed in her brother, that even if he dated someone, he wouldn't have done anything excessive.

Compared to these things, she even suspected that in his past life, her foolish brother was merely someone else's pawn.

After all, in his past life, her brother's grades were excellent, and he even had the opportunity to be recommended to college.

"Second sister, I really don't," Lin Jiadong pleaded, "I don't have those thoughts, don't worry, I won't break school rules either."

"Second sister trusts you."

The siblings chatted for a while longer; soon it was time for the evening class, and Lin Jiadong got out of the car with his things.

Lin Chuxia didn't rush to leave, watching Lin Jiadong as he walked into the campus.

Just as he reached the school entrance, a girl ran up from the side and stuffed something into Lin Jiadong's arms.

Lin Jiadong was still thinking about what his second sister had said, and when someone bumped into him, he didn't even react.

When he took a closer look at the heart-shaped folded letter paper in his arms, his mind was suddenly buzzing.

His second sister had just warned him, and now someone slapped him in the face?

Looking again, the girl hadn't gone far and seemed to be waiting for his reaction. Lin Jiadong suddenly became infuriated.

His second sister was still at the entrance, and now this person came to mess with him?

He pointed sharply at the distant girl student and shouted in anger, "You, stop right there."

The girl student indeed wanted to see Lin Jiadong's reaction, so she wasn't walking very fast.

When she heard Lin Jiadong's voice, she turned around, and before she could decide on what expression to face him with, Lin Jiadong had already approached her and stuffed the letter paper back into her hands.

"You dropped your thing. Besides, we're students, our current task is to study well. You need to correct your attitude, don't blindly make mistakes. Next time, I'll tell the teacher."

Tian Qiaofeng looked at Lin Jiadong with a dumbfounded expression.

She had imagined many possibilities: that she was so pretty, Lin Jiadong would accept her, or that the note she gave him would disappear without a trace, so she would need to persevere and confess several more times, or perhaps a gentle rejection.

But she never expected that he would run over and criticize her.

Is he out of his mind?

In the stunned gaze of Tian Qiaofeng, Lin Jiadong added, "Also, you're really ugly, don't appear in front of me again. You're eye-searing, I'm afraid I'll have nightmares at night."

After saying that, he didn't care about the girl's shocked expression and turned to leave.

Tian Qiaofeng was stunned for a long time and only angrily stamped her foot after he had walked far away.

Turning her head, she glanced at the Jeep parked outside the school with a snort and walked towards the classroom.

If it weren't for hearing he had a rich sister, she wouldn't want this kind of idiot even if he was free.

And he said she was ugly? She hadn't even complained about him being dumb yet.

Tian Qiaofeng had only taken a few steps into the school when a male classmate emerged from the side.

Li Youmin looked around, then glanced at Tian Qiaofeng's unhappy face, "What's wrong, things didn't work out?"

"Is your roommate's brain broken?" Tian Qiaofeng said displeased, "I gave him something, he didn't even look at it, and then he lectured me, telling me not to break school rules."

Li Youmin hadn't expected things to go so poorly and frowned slightly, "Was anyone watching when you gave him the stuff? Maybe he said that deliberately because someone saw it."

As a guy, he understood men's thoughts the best.

No guy doesn't like being flattered by girls handing them notes, even if they're not interested in the girl herself. Who would refuse a freebie?

"I made sure there was no one around; no one saw it at all."

Moreover, the other party had humiliated her, saying she was ugly.

Tian Qiaofeng couldn't even bring herself to say that.

"I think we should just let this go. Lin Jiadong doesn't seem like someone you can sway easily."

"No," Li Youmin interrupted, "In the next math competition, I have to secure a spot. It's my only chance, and we agreed, didn't we? As long as I get the recommendation to college, I'll find a way to switch it to you. By then, you'll be recommended, and with my grades, I can surely get into college too, and we'll always be together."

"But, even if you get the recommendation, can you really give it to me? Will the school agree?"

"Why wouldn't they? Once I've got the recommendation, of course, I decide what to do with it. If I give it to you, I can still take the exams and get another college spot for myself. The school would love to have more students going to college to bring honor to it."

Tian Qiaofeng nodded, feeling what he said made sense, "But..." Lin Jiadong simply doesn't fancy him.

"No buts," Li Youmin interrupted her, "I don't want to toil under the sun anymore, and neither do you, right? You should head back, and I'll think of another way."

Tian Qiaofeng nodded again.

Who wouldn't want to be a white-collar worker instead of laboring in the fields?

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Wang Cheng was the most skilled in matters related to the vegetable station, and Lin Chuxia entrusted everything to him, just waiting for news at home.

However, instead of hearing from Wang Cheng, she was visited by Sun Lanlan.

Seeing Lin Chuxia, Sun Lanlan's face was flushed with anger, clearly holding in a lot of frustration.

"Xi Xia, is your oldest sister crazy? She actually came to our bun shop, declared she wanted to buy it, and said I should work for her in the future, that she'd take good care of me."

Apparently, someone with a lot of style came to the store the day before. Sun Lanlan didn't pay much attention at first, but then the person directly called the waitress, specifically inviting her over by name.

When she went over, surprisingly, it was Lin Jiayi.