

## Switched M 601

Chapter 601: The Produce Market Was Snapped Up by Someone Else

Lin Jiayi ordered two plates of meat buns, several side dishes, and two bowls of porridge.

Sitting there alone, she ate half and left half.

The most unexpected thing for Sun Lanlan was that she actually said she planned to buy the Bun Shop and have Sun Lanlan work with her.

"Xi Xia, has Lin Jiayi gone crazy? And what's with her outfit, like she's some kind of shaman, with her hair permed like that and her lips painted like that? I heard she got divorced, is she traumatized?"

Otherwise, why would she say such nonsense in broad daylight?

Lin Chuxia also didn't expect Lin Jiayi to say such things at the Bun Shop.

Whether she was traumatized, Lin Chuxia didn't know, but one thing's for sure, was Lin Jiayi having a good life and now coming to stir up trouble for her?

"What else did she say?"

"She said she knows I'm not in charge, and asked me to pass the message to you. It's not that she wants to oppose you; she just feels that since you're not in Ancheng County, the business shouldn't be managed by an outsider like me. After all, she's your eldest sister, and you should trust her to manage the business."

Lin Chuxia couldn't understand Lin Jiayi's actions.

Since childhood, this elder sister has loved to compete with her. If she now had money or a backer, it wouldn't be right to grab her stuff so blatantly.

She should know that Lin Chuxia was no longer the little sister she could easily manipulate when they were at home.

Moreover, even if she grabbed, she couldn't possibly take it away.

"Xiaxia, I say just ignore her; I want to see what else she can do."

Lin Chuxia nodded, she had never intended to pay attention.

However, Lin Chuxia hadn't expected that Lin Jiayi wouldn't give up even if she ignored her.

After two more days, Zhang Guilan also talked to her about this.

Lin Jiayi first went to the station shop where Sun Lanlan worked, waited a few days without any news, probably realized Sun Lanlan wasn't in charge of the Bun Shop, and didn't pass her message to Lin Chuxia because they were so close growing up, thus she found another shop.

"Your eldest sister asked me to convey a message, asking you to name a price. She can buy both shops."

Zhang Guilan spoke hesitantly, "Sister-in-law, are you really planning to sell the Bun Shop?"

Although the shop belongs to her sister-in-law, and she has the final say in buying and selling.

Even without the Bun Shop, she could return to the village to farm or open a farm supply store with her husband.

But having worked in the shop for so long, with so many old customers becoming acquaintances, she felt a bit reluctant to leave.

Lin Chuxia comforted, "Sister-in-law, don't worry, I have no plans to sell the shop. You don't need to mind my eldest sister's words; she has no say in my affairs."

"But she's already come to you, and she said she'd let your mom talk to you, that this won't make you lose out."

"Then let them come and talk to me directly."

Lin Chuxia also wanted to understand what they were up to.

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Lin Chuxia wasn't concerned with the Qin Family's matters.

She hadn't been in contact with the Qin Family for a long time; they probably thought she went to Yan City and didn't know she recently returned to An City.

And she had more important matters now.

On the fifth day, Wang Cheng brought news.

However, seeing Wang Cheng's expression, Lin Chuxia had a bad feeling.

Sure enough, Wang Cheng said dejectedly, "Mr. Lin, I might disappoint you; there's been a setback with the vegetable station matter."

"What setback? Did someone else beat us to the vegetable station?"

Wang Cheng nodded, a bit angry, "Originally, I had almost finalized the deal with the county, plus I had some connections at the vegetable station. This was basically a sure thing, but yesterday the county unexpectedly notified me that they had other arrangements for the vegetable station. I asked for ages but got no clear answer, then quickly contacted someone I knew at the station, only to find out a foreign company took an interest in the vegetable station and bought it."

"A foreign company?"

These words weren't unfamiliar to Lin Chuxia; hadn't she been dealing with these issues recently?

But for Lin Chuxia, in this era, foreign companies weren't common.

"Do you know which foreign company it is?"

Wang Cheng shook his head, "I haven't found out yet, Mr. Lin, but don't worry, I'll inquire more."

Qin Han looked puzzled, "What is a foreign company doing buying a vegetable station here? Do these foreigners intend to farm here?"

In his mind, foreign companies were prestigious, something seen on the news, usually in big cities.

Why would foreigners come to their small Ancheng County?

Wang Cheng couldn't understand either, "To be honest, Mr. Lin, earlier when I heard this, I had a drink with Station Chief Yang. Given the Old Food Factory situation, Station Chief Yang also felt if we wanted the vegetable station, it was practically guaranteed, yet who'd expect someone would intervene midway."

It was a major foreign corporation compared to an individual business, the choice was obvious, wasn't it?

If he were a county government leader, he'd also lean towards the foreign company.

Lin Chuxia said, "If that's the case, let's go with the flow; the vegetable station isn't a must-have."

She was eyeing that area for its space with her plans.

But plans can't keep up with changes.

If there were a real issue, she didn't have to fixate on that location.

With the social and economic development, the state-owned enterprises were about to collapse.

Besides, with a large number of unemployed workers, there were plenty of abandoned factories, and more opportunities coming later.

Lin Chuxia said, Wang Cheng agreed, "Alright."

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With the vegetable station matter settled, Lin Chuxia didn't immediately return to Yan City.

For some reason, she felt things in An City were a bit chaotic recently.

It wasn't societal chaos; it was the matters around her, one by one, seemingly unrelated, yet like something was about to happen.

Having lived a whole life, she had a keen sense of some things.

When the weekend came, Lin Chuxia was still pondering whether to return to Yan City, and Lin Jiadong came looking for her again.

He came directly to the Qin Family to find her.

They usually didn't keep in touch much, and most of the time she went to his school to see him.

When Lin Jiadong came in, he was visibly agitated.

Lin Chuxia was startled, "What happened? Did someone at school or a classmate give you a hard time?"

She couldn't remember when Lin Jiadong dropped out in her past life; there was only one year until the college entrance exams. Was it during this period?

Lin Jiadong shook his head, "No, no one at school gave me a hard time. I went home again this weekend, second sister, eldest sister isn't our real sister. We don't have any rich relatives; the rich relative is eldest sister's biological mother. Her biological mom found her, and from now on, she might not be our eldest sister; she might go with her biological mom."

Lin Chuxia: "..."

Indeed, just as the storm was about to break.

She had been sensing something was about to happen from all these unrelated incidents recently, and she didn't expect it to be so dramatic.

Chapter 602: Lin Jiayi Isn't Mother's Biological Daughter?

Lin Jiayi isn't Mother's biological daughter?

She's lived two lifetimes and only now learned this.

This is even more surprising than hearing that Li Guangyuan isn't Mrs. Li's biological son.

Mrs. Li's unusual preference for daughters over sons, willing to let her son's family fall apart just to not wrong her two daughters.

This kind of behavior was unusual for the time, so when it was said that Li Guangyuan wasn't Mrs. Li's biological son, she could easily accept it.

Mother Lin cherished Lin Jiayi deeply, although in Mother Lin's heart, Lin Jiayi didn't hold the same status as her son Lin Jiadong.

But compared to her, also a daughter, it was a world of difference.

"Do you know the specifics? Since Eldest Sister is well-off, why would other's daughter end up in our family? Mom never mentioned it before."

This really piqued Lin Chuxia's curiosity.

"I know a little about it, Mom told me in the past few days, it seems that Eldest Sister's family, when her family had a mishap, Eldest Sister's parents fled to our hometown and somehow got separated, and at that time Eldest Sister's mother was already more than nine months pregnant, suddenly gave birth early, and happened to be encountered by Mom, who saved both mother and daughter. Mom said when Eldest Sister was born, she was tiny and pitiful, like she couldn't survive, and left behind as they couldn't take her while fleeing. Later Eldest Sister's biological parents escaped abroad and only returned when the policies eased in recent years. This time Eldest Sister's biological mother came back just to find her."

Lin Chuxia nodded, her fingers gently tapping the table.

An City Vegetable Station has a foreign investment, and Lin Jiayi's biological mother is from abroad, and the overseas Chinese Ms. Zhuang Jingshu she's recently been in contact with happened to come to An City to fulfill a last wish.

Lin Chuxia didn't think there could be such coincidences, so Lin Jiayi's biological mother's identity is probably that Ms. Zhuang Jingshu.

If it weren't for her connection with her master, when Ms. Zhuang's illness was severe, she would probably have returned abroad again or gone to a big hospital in the capital, or perhaps even...

Therefore, in her previous life, Lin Jiayi hadn't revealed this identity mostly because something happened with Ms. Zhuang's side.

"No wonder Mom was biased toward Eldest Sister since she was a child; she wasn't our family's kid. If that's the case, it's understandable, Eldest Sister is an outsider, after all, you should be more accommodating toward outsiders."

Lin Jiadong was muttering softly over there.

"Strangely, Mom also said not to let me go home for a while, telling me to stay in school on weekends. Before, when I wanted to study at school, she always urged me to go home, but now she's actively letting me stay."

"By the way, Second Sister, I'm sorry, I accidentally blurted out, Mom knows you've been in An City recently, she might come to find you."

Lin Jiadong looked guilty, "I really didn't mean to, Mom rarely asks me about you, I don't know what's going on with her and Eldest Sister lately. They ask me about you every now and then, and I accidentally let it slip."

This was also the main reason he came to find Second Sister.

Eldest Sister hasn't gotten along with Second Sister for a long time, and now she has a wealthy mother, Lin Jiadong doesn't think Eldest Sister is looking for Second Sister with good intentions.

His big mouth, however, let Eldest Sister pry the information from him.

"It's okay."

Lin Chuxia knew that even if Lin Jiadong hadn't slipped, eventually Lin Jiayi and her mother would have found her.

A couple of days ago, Sun Bingnan even called her, saying her mother asked him about her, even asked Sun Bingnan for her number.

Sun Bingnan knew about Lin Chuxia and her relationship, so he didn't give her the phone number.

"Since Mom doesn't want you going home, focus on your studies at school during these days, and perhaps return home less often, as the matters at home aren't something you can manage."

"I understand, Second Sister, don't be sad. From now on, you're my only sibling, and once I get into college, I'll have your back."

"Okay, I'll wait for you to have my back."

Lin Chuxia gave a faint smile.

As for being sad, she really didn't have much to be sad about.

She didn't feel sad not knowing that Lin Jiayi was someone else's child, and now knowing Lin Jiayi was someone else's child makes her even less sad.

Her mother was how she was towards her, and she understood it clearly, having a clear conscience.

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On the small road leading to Qin Family Village, two figures surveyed the surroundings as they walked toward Qin Family Village.

Lin Jiayi looked at the surroundings, her heart mixed with emotions.

This was the place where she spent half her previous life, and she thought she'd never set foot here again, yet unexpectedly...

And the Qin Family Village before her eyes was completely different from what she remembered. Even when in the last life it developed into an urban village by the government, it never looked like this.

A straight small road, even better built than city roads.

On the road, many people pushed carts carrying vegetables, heading to the vegetable wholesale market next to Qin Family Village.

There, too, people were bustling about, even more lively than their hometown markets.

She had heard Li Guangyuan talk about the vegetable wholesale market in Qin Family Village, which was already more prosperous than the county's vegetable station.

Qin Family people were also industrious, either growing vegetables in greenhouses or working in food factories.

In a few years, every household would become a millionaire.

Lin Jiayi knew clearly that the wealthiest in Qin Family Village was probably her ex-in-law's family.

But so what? No matter how rich, it couldn't compare to that woman.

She's practically half a foreigner, has big factories abroad, and everything she eats, wears, uses are things Lin Jiayi's never seen.

Even if Lin Chuxia were rich, she couldn't compare to her.

Pulling herself together, Lin Jiayi said to Mother Lin beside her, "Mom, when you see Lin Chuxia, you must talk to her properly. I know that little slut always responds to softness, not hardness. Now she's backed by the Qin Family, early on she doesn't regard us maternal family members anymore. Being hard won't work."

Mother Lin was in good spirits lately, nodded to whatever Lin Jiayi said, "Don't worry, I know, before I didn't want to ruin your brother's future, but people I've manipulated for so many years can't easily escape my grasp."

"I knew you are the best, Mom, you must help me with this. Whether I can win the favor of that woman and if she can give me the company, it's up to you."

Mother Lin was a bit puzzled, "Actually, I think there's no need to focus solely on her couple of shops. That surname Zhuang is so good to you, whatever you want, doesn't she give you? Now you're her only daughter. Before when you wanted the vegetable station, didn't she just have people buy it for you with a word? It's just a couple of shops, if you want to open one, tell her, she might just hand a ready-made shop to you, then you can sell whatever you like. No need to fixate on her bun shop."

"What do you know?" Lin Jiayi replied dissatisfiedly, "She might be willing to spend money on me, the money she spends on me is just pocket money to her, it's like handing a beggar pocket change. Now over there, I can't even compare to that Zhuang Yang around her."

#### Chapter 603: You've Been to Their House?

Mother Lin was also startled by these words, "No way, that Zhuang Yang is just an orphan she raised. How could he compare to you, her own daughter? Is she still guarding against you?"

At this, Mother Lin's expression changed even more, "Could she doubt that you're not her daughter?"

Lin Jiayi glanced at Mother Lin indifferently, "Whether I'm her biological daughter or not is just a matter of what you say, right? As long as you insist, she'll have to believe it even if she doesn't want to. The most important thing now is to make her value me. That Zhuang woman has her own skills, and she surely hopes her daughter is capable too. Only when she sees my ability will she be willing to hand over her things to me."

Lin Jiayi had previously thought about working with Li Guangyuan. She knew her own capabilities well.

Her small tricks probably wouldn't impress Zhuang Jingshu. To quickly demonstrate her abilities, she could only take shortcuts.

Mother Lin also realized this, "You're clever, don't worry. I'll take care of this. I will definitely persuade your second sister to give you the bun shop. After all, she's just doing it to make money. When the time comes, you give her some money, it will be like buying her bun shop. I don't think she'll be unwilling."

The two chatted as they entered Qin Family Village.

It was Mother Lin's first time visiting Qin Family Village. She was thinking of asking someone for directions to Qin Yang's house when she saw her elder daughter walking straight in one direction.

So she quickly followed.

After walking for a while, Mother Lin couldn't resist asking, "Have you been to their house before?"

Logically speaking, the elder daughter and younger daughter didn't get along, and as a mother, she had never been to the younger daughter's house. The elder daughter was even less likely to have come to their house.

Lin Jiayi paused slightly, then continued walking as if nothing happened, "Guang Yuan often comes to the village's wholesale market to sell vegetables. You have no idea how popular your younger daughter is. The Qin Family is a prominent family in the village; not many don't know where their house is."

Despite saying this, when the two stood at the gate of the Qin family, their feelings were quite complicated.

Lin Jiayi almost couldn't recognize the appearance of the Qin family. If it weren't for the row of old houses in the back, she would've suspected she had found the wrong place.

The once spacious yard now had two rows of houses. The front row clearly comprised newly built red brick big tile houses.

The courtyard walls were also newly rebuilt—tall walls, with impressive gate piers, and the two front doors were clearly customized, wider and taller than ordinary doors.

The courtyard was still neat and clean.

In her impression, no matter when, the Qin family's yard was always neat and clean.

It would never be like the Li family's yard, full of chicken droppings and leaves.

Seeing the yard of the Qin family, Mother Lin immediately regretted it.

"Look at this. I did my research, and the Qin family is a good family in ten miles and eight villages. I went through so much trouble to find this good family for you, yet you refused to marry and wanted to marry that poor ghost Li Guangyuan. Now, do you see how much worse the Li Family is compared to the Qin Family? These good days were given to someone else, and if you had listened to me earlier, obediently married Qin Yang, you would be the official's wife now. That dead girl wouldn't have any say, and you wouldn't come trying to negotiate with her. You might even own the bun shop yourself..."

Lin Jiayi didn't want to hear these words from her mom. In her past life, she listened to her mom, obediently married Qin Yang, and ended up being a widow for life, raising an ungrateful wolf.

Although she didn't know why there was such a big change in the Qin family this life, Lin Jiayi was also clear that even if she did marry into the Qin family, their days wouldn't look like they do now.

She didn't want to accept it but had to admit that Lin Chuxia had some skills in business.

Just like that woman.

"So what's the use of saying these things now? Better to think about how to persuade Lin Chuxia later."

"Right, right, now's not the time for this," and her elder daughter had already recognized that woman as her mother. From now on, she'd be richer than Qin family's kind of household.

The two entered through the gate, and after taking a few steps into the courtyard, Mrs. Qin, who was coaxing the child in the house, heard the commotion.

Seeing two unfamiliar women walking into the courtyard, she placed her granddaughter in the baby carriage and quickly went out to greet them.

"Who are you two..."

She looked them over, the older woman was about the same age as herself, her eyes scanning everywhere.

The younger one was immediately eye-catching.

She had two daughters-in-law and a daughter, and the children were all working outside, some as store managers, some as managers.

Having been to the city, she considered herself more worldly than her peers, more accepting. Yet, seeing the young woman in front of her, she found her eye-watering.

That hair looked like a firecracker had exploded on her head, her face painted like a monkey's butt, and her lips like she'd been chewing on a dead rat.

And those clothes—it's just early summer, the temperature hadn't risen yet, and she already wore a dress, wouldn't that be cold?

And those shoes with such high heels, wasn't she afraid of twisting her ankle?

As Mrs. Qin was sizing them up, they were also sizing up Mrs. Qin.

Lin Jiayi's impression of Mrs. Qin was being industrious.

Qin Yang's father was not in good health and bedridden young.

Mrs. Qin not only helped with the fieldwork but also took care of Qin Yang's father, her back bent early from labor, her hair turned gray early too.

But this Mrs. Qin not only stood tall and straight, but her hair was jet black with only a few gray strands mixed in, even fewer than her mother's gray hair.

Mother Lin had the same feeling upon seeing Mrs. Qin, her hair was jet black, with few wrinkles on her face, especially her skin, fair and plump, obviously not needing to work in the fields.

Couldn't compare with having sons.

Mrs. Qin had two sons, who married early, there was no need for her to labor in the fields?

Unlike her, with two daughters ahead, leaving no helper in the home.

Her son was still in school, waiting for him to marry to support them, who knows how long that'd take.

Upon hearing Mrs. Qin ask, Mother Lin chimed in, "In-law, I'm Chuxia's mom. I heard Chuxia came back, so I specially came with her older sister to visit her."

Once she heard it was Lin Chuxia's mother, Mrs. Qin immediately became enthusiastic, "Oh, it's the in-law, please come in, come in, you came all this way, you must be tired, right? If you'd told us earlier, I would've had the elder son pick you up at the station."

Mother Lin appreciated Mrs. Qin's attitude. She had worried the dead girl would tell the Qin family bad things about them and they'd come to a closed door.

Now, thinking about it, that dead girl was shrewd. How could she talk bad about her mother's family, making her husband's family look down on them?

## Chapter 604: How Are You Pregnant?

"Where's Chuxia? Isn't she home?"

Mother Lin glanced into the house a few times, not seeing Lin Chuxia come out, and asked.

Mrs. Qin pointed towards the backyard, "Xiaxia and the others don't live in the front yard; they're in the backyard. The noise from the front yard can't be heard in the back. I'll go call them for you; you can go inside and wait for a bit."

Mother Lin replied directly, "No need; we'll just go to the backyard to find her ourselves."

Mrs. Qin was about to accompany them when she suddenly heard her little granddaughter crying inside.

She had been out for a long time, and her little granddaughter was anxious not seeing her.

Mother Lin didn't really want Mrs. Qin to follow, so she quickly told her to go back to watch the child while they headed to the backyard to find Lin Chuxia themselves.

Lin Chuxia had already heard the sounds from outside and saw Mother Lin and Lin Jiayi through the glass. She hadn't expected the two of them to find the Qin Family's place and increasingly felt the situation was odd.

It wasn't until the two reached the door to call her that she finally responded from inside.

With no outsiders, Mother Lin entered the house swearing.

"Your mom and your sister made it to your doorstep, and you didn't even come out to greet us. If we hadn't come over, would you have forgotten you still have a mom? I've seen ungrateful children, but never one as ungrateful as you..."

Mother Lin's words stopped abruptly when she saw Lin Chuxia inside.

And beside her, Lin Jiayi had an even bigger reaction upon seeing Lin Chuxia in the house.

Her eyes were fixed on Lin Chuxia's swollen belly, almost blurting out, "You're pregnant? How can you be pregnant?"

Lin Chuxia smiled and retorted, "Why can't I be pregnant? Big sis has her own son; why can't I have my own child?"

Lin Jiayi couldn't accept it. In her past life, Qin Yang hadn't even touched her, and she even suspected the man had a problem.

And Lin Chuxia, after being married for so long, still had no children, further solidifying her original view.

Even when Li Guangyuan was so disappointing, and Old Mrs. Li and those two little bitches from the Li Family made things difficult for her, she always thought no matter what, she was better than Lin Chuxia.

At least she wasn't a living widow; at least she had a son.

But now, all her persistence had become a joke.

Even more undeniably, Qin Yang in her past life did not touch her because he didn't care for her.

Didn't care for her, but did he care for Lin Chuxia?

She thought back to when they had just been married, Qin Yang and Lin Chuxia would still come to visit her family, and how Qin Yang would protect and care for Lin Chuxia...

Why?

Lin Chuxia watched the fire in Lin Jiayi's eyes and continued, "Oh right, big sis gave her son to her ex, and now she's single again. I also heard big sis isn't mom's biological daughter and has a rich mom now..."

"How do you know?"

At this moment, neither Mother Lin nor Lin Jiayi was in the mood to care about Lin Chuxia being pregnant.

Lin Chuxia observed their reactions and simply said, "With such a big family matter, why wouldn't I know? Besides, big sis ran to my shop to ask for a store. It's only right for me to be concerned about her, isn't it?"

Lin Jiayi wanted to say something, but Mother Lin pulled her back and took over the conversation.

"It's not like we were hiding it from you. We always thought you were in the city, and you haven't come home for so long. Even if we wanted to tell you, we couldn't find you. Since you already know, you should know your sister's situation. We came this time to ask you to help your sister."

"What situation could big sis be in? Her outfit today isn't cheap, is it? I think she's doing well, much better than when she was with the Li Family."

Lin Chuxia looked up and down at Lin Jiayi, as if watching a performance.

Lin Jiayi didn't catch on to her meaning and proudly tilted her chin.

Mother Lin continued, "Yes, better than with the Li Family. Your sister had it rough there for years, enduring a lot from the Li Family. Now she's finally out of the pit, but I'm still worried. No matter what, your sister was raised by me. Even if she found her biological mom, I can't bear to see her suffer. The same goes for you. If you were in her place, I'd be just as worried. I can't stand her being bullied elsewhere..."

"Mom, you're overthinking. I think big sis found her real mom to enjoy life. Why would she be wronged?"

Mother Lin couldn't control her emotions anymore, seeing Lin Chuxia's indifferent attitude, and sharply said.

"How can you talk like that? That's the sister you grew up with. Is your heart made of stone? She's about to leave our family, and instead of helping her, you make sarcastic remarks. I must have spoiled you too much. Let me tell you, we didn't come today to discuss anything with you. Ever since you got married, we haven't asked anything of you. Even if you didn't come home for years, your father and I never blamed you. Now the family needs your help, and you will help whether you like it or not. Moreover, your sister isn't trying to trouble you."

Lin Jiayi chimed in, "Exactly, dear sister, I'm doing this for your own good. Look at you now, heavily pregnant. The baby will come soon. You won't have time to manage the shop, and don't tell me Qin's Buns Shop belongs to Qin's family. Those lies would've passed two years ago."

Mrs. Qin, feeling even more annoyed, said, "We are your family, yet you play tricks like these. Saying the bun shop belongs to Qin's family, you marry and immediately side with outsiders as if you've forgotten who your real family is. I've told you since you were little, your mother's home is your root, and outsiders can't be relied upon. When you're wronged, it's your maternal home that'll back you up."

"Mom, let's not talk about this now," Lin Jiayi tried to mediate. "I believe my sister has her reasons. But regardless of whether the bun shop is Qin's or yours, I'll offer you a fair price, ensuring you won't lose out."

"Your sister is doing this for your own good. You're in the city with two bun shops, one run by a sister-in-law, the other by outsiders. If those two even schemed a little, the money reaching you would be peeled. Aren't you just benefiting outsiders for nothing? If you want to open a bun shop, take the money your sister gives you and open one in the city instead. Why compete with your sister?"

"And don't use Jiadong to silence us. From now on, I'll cover Jiadong's tuition. Even if you do nothing with the money, it'll be enough for you for a while."

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Lin Chuxia let the mother and daughter perform their duet for a good while without any reaction.

Finally, Mother Lin noticed something was wrong and looked up to ask her, "Why aren't you saying anything? Did you hear what your sister and I said?"

"You've said everything there is; what else is there for me to say?"

Mother Lin was stunned and exchanged glances with Lin Jiayi.

Did she agree? It seemed easier than they thought it would be.

They had assumed that with her stubborn nature, she wouldn't agree.

Chapter 605: Still Not Her Equal in This Lifetime

"Then it's settled. You tell the people in the shop that they can stay and keep working there just like before," Lin Jiayi said with a smile.

Those people can't leave. If they do, what's the point of her buying two shops?

Just like before, she won't have to worry about anything, just like Lin Chuxia, and just collect the money.

Lin Chuxia smiled slightly, "I can't control that. They just work at the bun shop; it doesn't mean they are for sale to the shop. Didn't Mom just say that? They're outsiders, and if they have any ideas..."

Lin Jiayi was momentarily stunned.

She wanted Lin Chuxia's shop to show off to that Zhuang guy, not let him see a well-managed shop go downhill the moment she got her hands on it.

Especially not to throw money into the bun shop and see it go down the drain.

If that happened, how could that Zhuang guy ever trust her with anything?

"Isn't Sun Lanlan your best friend? And Zhang Guilan, she's your sister-in-law. Talk to them and have them work well for me, I'll definitely not treat them poorly."

Lin Chuxia's smile didn't fade, "Yes, big sister, Sun Lanlan is my best friend, Zhang Guilan is my sister-in-law. If you think they'd screw me over, who knows what they'll do with a new boss?"

"What do you mean by that? Didn't your big sister say you should talk to them? Do you think they'd do something so dishonorable? Or are you harboring such thoughts, wanting to make your big sister miserable? Let me tell you, if you dare have such thoughts, don't blame me for not recognizing you as my daughter," Mother Lin said.

As Mother Lin's words fell, Lin Chuxia's smile vanished as she looked at her coldly.

"Mom, there's something I never understood. Ever since I was a child, you've always favored my big sister. Recently, I found out that she's not even a Lin Family's biological daughter and tried to comfort myself that you favored her out of obligation. But now that her real mother has come looking for her, you still say such things. I want to ask, am I your real daughter or is she? You couldn't possibly make such a mistake because what kind of biological mother wouldn't acknowledge her own child for someone else's? I don't think you're so selfless."

As Lin Chuxia's words landed, both Mother Lin and Lin Jiayi were shocked.

Lin Jiayi gave a glare to Mother Lin, wondering how she lost her cool and raised suspicions in this little brat.

Mother Lin, realizing she had misspoken, resorted to throwing a fit, "Oh my heavens, look at what kind of daughter I've raised, saying such heartless things to her mother. Could I possibly confuse my own child? You're just an ungrateful wretch. You see your big sister's rich biological mom and look down on your own. If you have such luck, go recognize a rich mom. It's like I'm raising an ingrate..."

Lin Jiayi looked equally hurt, "Chuxia, how could you say that to Mom? I know you're upset that Mom treated me well all these years. I've already decided that even if I find my biological mom, I'll still be filial

to Mom. My biological mom has money. I'll support you and Jiadong. I've already told Mom that I'll cover Jiadong's school fees, so you won't have to pay for your brother and cause issues with your in-laws. Mom only spoke for me because of this. If you're upset by those words, blame me. Don't say things to upset Mom."

"If big sister is so considerate of me, why insist on buying my shop? Supporting me by stabbing me in the back first? I heard that An City Vegetable Station got the attention of a foreign company recently. Is that your doing? If it is, congratulations on having such an impressive mom."

Lin Jiayi's expression could no longer be maintained, and she stood up abruptly, pulling Mother Lin and saying, "Mom, if sister doesn't want to sell her shop, forget it. I don't want to trouble you."

Mother Lin, still confused, was pulled out by Lin Jiayi.

Even the backs of their figures looked a bit disheveled.

When they reached the front yard, they saw Mrs. Qin coaxing a child. Lin Jiayi barely gave Mrs. Qin a glance and led Mother Lin out of the Qin Family.

Mother Lin wanted to greet Mrs. Qin, thinking that this in-law was far better than the Li Family one they just met.

But seeing her elder daughter's demeanor, she didn't bother with anything else.

Once outside the gate, she hurriedly spoke, "Why leave all of a sudden? Weren't you going to have her sell you the shop? Why change your mind? Even if we can't trust the people inside, at least keep an eye on them. If not, your dad and I can help watch them; we won't let them take advantage."

Lin Jiayi looked around. Still in Qin Family Village, it was inconvenient to speak about certain things.

Her pace quickened until Mother Lin nearly had to jog to keep up.

Once they left the village, Lin Jiayi spoke with a dark expression, "Did you notice she knows much more than we imagined?"

This matter isn't a secret in Daqing Mountain Village. Everyone knows Lin Jiayi isn't a biological daughter of the Lin Family and that recently a rich biological mother came to recognize her.

But Qin Family Village is so far from Daqing Mountain Village, and Lin Chuxia has been in Yan City. How did she know?

Even if Sun Lanlan or Lin Jiadong mentioned it to her, how could she know her mom returned from abroad? Neither the villagers nor Lin Jiadong knew about that.

When she conspired with her mom about this earlier, they kept a lot of information close to their chest.

Yes, she knew Wang Cheng wanted to buy the vegetable station, so she deliberately opposed Lin Chuxia to acquire it.

She heard these things from people she used to sell vegetables with, knowing of Wang Cheng and Lin Chuxia's relationship, and planned to take a small revenge.

Even though she lived a lifetime knowing everything, she was still no match for her.

In the previous life, she couldn't compete with her; now in this life, it was still the same.

Finally, the opportunity for a reversal came, and she wanted to take a minor revenge. What's wrong with that?

Moreover, Zhuang Yang handled the matters afterward.

But how did Lin Chuxia know about Zhuang Yang's relationship with her, or even associate the vegetable station issue to her?

There's only one possibility: Lin Chuxia is investigating her.

Mother Lin also considered this angle but remained unflustered, even letting out a cold snort, "Let her snoop. Such an ungrateful wretch. Spotting a wealthy woman and wanting to recognize a mom—does she have that destiny? As long as your dad and I remain tight-lipped, what waves can she stir up?"

"Mom, did anyone really know about the past?" Lin Jiayi was still worried.

Mother Lin patted her hand reassuringly, "Don't worry. Back then, people barely had food; who would care about others' affairs? So many years have passed, and those people scattered everywhere. Even if the little wretch wanted to ask anyone, she'd find no one. If not, why do you think the Zhuang believed everything I said? Except for me, no one knows about this matter. They have no choice but to believe me."

Chapter 606: Cutting Off All Future Troubles

Lin Jiayi finally felt relieved, though there was still a glimmer of coldness in her eyes.

"Mom, I'll listen to you. Buy out the Bun Shop for me and help me keep an eye on it with Dad," Lin Chuxia absolutely cannot appear in An City anymore.

Once her Bun Shop is bought, she won't have any attachment to An City.

Even though her mom claimed it absolutely, she must eliminate all future troubles.

However, knowing that Lin Chuxia wouldn't hastily sell the shop to her, Lin Jiayi didn't want to seek her out again.

By then, she could have Zhuang Yang help her figure out a way; she didn't believe that money couldn't solve any issues.

Even Sun Lanlan and Zhang Guilan, it's best to buy them off.

Sun Lanlan is beyond words, having always been closely bonded with that little cheapster as if they wore the same pants together since childhood.

Zhang Guilan didn't spare her any trouble in her past life, acting cocky like a proud rooster in front of her, not even casting a proper glance.

This life, she was surprisingly on such good terms with Lin Chuxia.

Once the shop is bought, having Zhang Guilan report work to her daily, seeing her respectfully pleasing her boss would certainly be amusing.

To return to Daqing Mountain Village, one must go to the bus station to take a bus.

Just as they entered the city, a car stopped beside the two.

Zhuang Yang looked over from inside the car, "Miss Lin, it's really you. What are you doing here? Need a ride back?"

Seeing the car and the driver, Zhuang Yang, Lin Jiayi subconsciously glanced behind.

Seeing only Zhuang Yang, she secretly breathed a sigh of relief and spoke arrogantly, "Mom and I came out for some errands, you might as well give us a ride back."

Though Zhuang Yang wasn't fond of Lin Jiayi's attitude, he politely agreed since she was the chairman's daughter and got out to open the car door for them.

Lin Jiayi wasn't sitting in this car for the first time, yet still didn't know where was appropriate to touch.

She even recalled the first time she sat in this car was when her rich mom took her to the city to buy new clothes and to have a health check-up.

Clearly watching her affluent mom get in effortlessly, yet when she tried to get on, she bumped her head with a thud.

Even attempting to get in feet first wouldn't work, neither would head first.

It was that woman who couldn't stand it and let Zhuang Yang teach her how to get in.

She felt the woman did it on purpose; had she been taught initially, she wouldn't have made such a spectacle.

If she were treated as a biological daughter, what harm would there be in letting her drive this car?

Didn't Lin Chuxia drive herself?

Instead, she's treated as though she's an ignorant country bumpkin, allowing people to look down on her for no reason.

Don't think she can't tell Zhuang Yang's attitude; it's one of condescension.

Thinking of this, Lin Jiayi raised her voice two tones and asked, "How's the vegetable station coming along? Just a petty vegetable station, mom already said she's allocated money for it, how come it hasn't been sorted out yet?"

Zhuang Yang drove while saying, "The process is already underway, since the vegetable station is state-owned by your side... it requires governmental approval, processing is indeed a bit troublesome."

He didn't expect the domestic situation to be like this; it's his first time handling such affairs, indeed a bit unfamiliar.

"By the way, Miss Lin, what plans do you have regarding the vegetable station after acquiring it? The procedures are just a matter of time, if Miss Lin has further plans, you can start preparing."

The chairman entrusted him to fully cooperate with the young lady, regardless of her attitude, he would dedicate himself to his job.

This question indeed stumped Lin Jiayi, making her momentarily lapse.

What to do next? She hadn't really thought about it.

She merely heard Lin Chuxia wanted to buy the station and mentioned it to her wealthy mom.

No one knows why Lin Chuxia wants to buy the station, and she merely doesn't want Lin Chuxia to be too smug.

Seeing Zhuang Yang glancing through the rearview mirror occasionally, Lin Jiayi straightened her posture, "You don't need to worry about the next steps, I have my own plans."

"Here's the thing, Miss Lin, the chairman asked me to fully cooperate with your work, in the coming days the chairman will also be staying in the country for a while, and I have other jobs..."

"What does it matter if you have other jobs? My mom already told you to fully cooperate with me," Lin Jiayi unconsciously retorted, then realized she was too quick, falling into Zhuang Yang's trap, she altered her tone, "Of course, you can also attend to your other duties first. I'll tell you when I need you."

Zhuang Yang pleasantly smiled, "I mean, if Miss Lin has any plans, you might as well divulge them to me, so I can arrange forthcoming businesses accordingly."

Pressed hard, Lin Jiayi was impatient, "I have my own estimation for my own matters, just wait."

As the conversation reached this juncture, Zhuang Yang ceased speaking further.

Mother Lin gently nudged Lin Jiayi's arm, prompting Lin Jiayi to suddenly remember something.

She coughed lightly, "Oh yes, there's indeed something I'd like you to handle, I'm interested in two Bun Shops in An City, could you help me purchase them when you have time, perfect for me to idle away with managing a couple of shops."

Zhuang Yang readily nodded, "Okay, Miss Lin, which two shops have you set your sights on?"

"They're the Qin's Bun Shops near the night market and the train station..."

Upon hearing about Qin's Bun Shops, Zhuang Yang paused slightly.

Lin Jiayi was still speaking, "I think the buns from those two shops taste quite good, buying them would make it convenient to have them myself, hasn't mom always said that whatever I fancy, she'd strive to fulfill, such trivial matters, just sort it out, no need to bother mom."

"Miss Lin, from what I know, those two shops are operating pretty well, are you sure the owners would sell them?"

"Now that's your concern, even such a major factory like the vegetable station can be bought, can't manage two shops?"

"Alright, I'll find time to get in touch with the people in charge there."

Knowing what kind of lengthy spiel the opposing party would pursue afterward, Zhuang Yang had no choice but to agree.

Lin Jiayi and Mother Lin exchanged a tacit glance, a satisfied smile gleamed in their eyes.

On the other side, Mrs. Qin felt a pang seeing Lin Family's mother and daughter leave with unsightly expressions without even a greeting.

She knew her younger daughter-in-law wasn't favored at her natal family.

Let's not mention the swap marriage matter; back when the younger daughter-in-law got married, not a single person from her family attended, indicating her standing in her natal family.

Initially encountering both parties, they spoke politely hence she thought nothing of it.

Even though her natal mom and sister came, the mother and daughter must have a lot to talk about; she as an outsider shouldn't interfere.

Presently, though, she regretted greatly, snatching up her granddaughter and heading for the backyard.

If anything happens to her younger daughter-in-law, how would she answer to her younger son?

She called Lin Chuxia's name while making her way and found Lin Chuxia coming out as she reached the backyard.

Chapter 607: Don't Flaunt Yourself Too Much

"Mom, what's wrong? Is there something happening?"

Mrs. Qin looked at her closely and saw there was no change in her demeanor, and only then did she let out a long sigh of relief.

"Just now, I saw your mom and sister storm out angrily, and I thought something happened to you guys. Xiaxia, your mom and sister didn't give you a hard time, did they?"

It's not something she should say as a mother-in-law.

But after all these years, she's come to see her younger daughter-in-law as part of the family.

If the other party were really unreasonable, she wouldn't care whether it was her daughter-in-law's mother or sister; she wouldn't sit idly by.

Seeing Mrs. Qin's worried look, Lin Chuxia felt a warm current flow through her heart.

She stepped forward to help her inside, "I'm fine, don't worry."

"And your mom and sister..."

"They're fine too, and even if there was anything, I'm able to handle it."

Hearing this, Mrs. Qin felt reassured, "If there's anything, tell me. Your dad and I, as well as your elder brother and sister-in-law, can all help you come up with ideas. If it's hard to tell me, call Yangyang back."

"Okay, I understand, Mom."

.....

Lin Chuxia could indeed handle that mother and daughter pair pretty well.

She was no longer the Lin Chuxia who had been PUA-ed by her mother for over twenty years in her past life, unable to escape the bonds of family.

As long as she broke free from the bonds of family, no one could control her.

Lin Chuxia called Sun Bingnan over to ask about the situation with the chicken farm and the yellow peach trees first.

Sun Bingnan had been planning to report to her anyway.

"You wouldn't believe it, but the Jia Family brothers got us some excellent Yellow Peach Seedlings. The Forestry Bureau praised our peach saplings highly, and sure enough, they're bearing fruit this year. The Forestry Bureau sent technicians to carefully tend to our fruit trees. They said, although it might not be a bumper year, we should still have some yield by autumn. Plus, the technician said that by next year,

most of the fruit trees should bear fruit. You don't know how happy my dad is; ever since the yellow peach trees started blooming in spring, he's been grinning from ear to ear, following the technicians up the mountain every day, just hoping one of these days we can win an award for the village."

Lin Chuxia could imagine the scene.

Sun Bingnan's temperament was just like Uncle Sun's—an open-minded and endearing old man.

"This year, Uncle Sun might be disappointed," Lin Chuxia smiled at Sun Bingnan, "The only real goal is to sell the yellow peaches at a good price."

Sun Bingnan became a bit serious, "Yes, I've been thinking about that too. We have quite a few mountain worth of fruit trees. Even if only some bear fruit this year, getting a few thousand pounds by autumn won't be a problem. How do you plan to sell them?"

From the beginning, Lin Chuxia had guided him, letting him go to the Northwest to select superior Yellow Peach Seedlings, and then carefully tending to them.

He had always done things methodically, following Lin Chuxia's instructions.

Yet in a few months, when the yellow peaches would be ripe, selling the ripe peaches became the big problem at hand.

Even if Lin Chuxia hadn't called him over today, he had planned to discuss this matter with her anyway.

Seeing Lin Chuxia's reaction, Sun Bingnan was a little nervous.

Could it be that Mr. Lin had forgotten about these yellow peach trees on the Daqing Mountain and hadn't yet thought about the sales problem?

If that's the case, it could really turn into a mess. When the yellow peaches ripen in large quantities, and the locals don't recognize this fruit, won't they all just rot on the trees?

Seeing his worried expression, Lin Chuxia directly said something to his surprise.

"I honestly hadn't thought about the sales issue for the yellow peaches. I didn't expect you guys to take care of the trees so well that they're bearing fruit already."

Sun Bingnan didn't think for a moment that this was a compliment, and his smile looked more like a grimace.

"Mr... Mr. Lin, please don't joke about this with me, okay?"

Don't say his dad couldn't handle such a hit.

The thought of the yellow peaches they've worked so hard to grow rotting on the trees made Sun Bingnan feel like his heart was bleeding.

"I'm not kidding, but..."

Upon hearing these two words, Sun Bingnan suddenly became spirited, looking at her intently.

Lin Chuxia couldn't help but laugh, "But we can let Wang Cheng try to come up with a solution first."

Right now, the Qin Family Village's vegetable greenhouses aren't just growing vegetables; during spring, strawberries, watermelons, and melons have good sales too.

By then, the yellow peaches can also explore these sales channels.

"Okay, then I'll go talk to Wang Cheng about this later."

With a path ahead, there was no need for Lin Chuxia to say more about the rest.

Both working for Lin Chuxia, he and Wang Cheng had had prior interactions.

"However, don't hold out too much hope. At the time, regardless of the price or income, it doesn't matter. Our yellow peach trees aren't targeting the current market," Lin Chuxia added.

Though she didn't state it explicitly, Sun Bingnan felt reassured.

But even if he felt reassured, if the yellow peaches didn't sell for a good price this year, his old dad might really be disappointed.

Thinking about his dad's disappointed look, Sun Bingnan actually laughed.

In the past two years, his elder and second brothers made money raising chickens, and he also earned a lot following Lin Chuxia. As for his sister, there's no need to mention it; her husband is the manager of a food factory, and she has her own shop to oversee.

In the village, whoever met his dad would have a word or two of praise? It's to the point where his dad's tail was almost wagging sky-high.

A little blow wouldn't be bad; his dad always taught him to be modest.

Lin Zhuxia and he wouldn't say these things to his dad first.

Let his dad experience how one cannot be too arrogant.

Seeing the look on Sun Bingnan's face, Lin Chuxia knew he had something up his sleeve.

Having said everything that needed to be said, the rest was up to him.

Lin Chuxia changed the topic and asked about the Lin Family.

"I was just talking to Lanlan about this the other day, wanted her to mention it to you when she sees you. That Lin Jiayi's real mom isn't simple; everyone in the village knows Lin Jiayi isn't the real daughter of the Lin Family. A wealthy woman came to recognize her as her daughter. I've met her real mom before; she drives a car that's not ordinary, not something common people can get. There was a young guy with her. When he opened the car door for her, I happened to pass by and heard him speak a foreign language to her. That woman even reminded the guy to speak Chinese while in the country. I suspect Lin Jiayi's real mom returned from abroad, which makes sense. If her real mom had always been in the country, how could she not have sought out her real daughter after all these years?"

What Sun Bingnan said made sense, confirming Lin Chuxia's suspicions.

"Although I've been in Daqing Mountain Village since I can remember, I've heard from the elders in my family that we weren't originally from Daqing Mountain Village. Did you know about this?"

"It's quite the coincidence. If you had asked me last month, I wouldn't have known. It was just recently when Lin Jiayi's real mom came seeking her that I found out some things about your family's past."

Talking about this, Sun Bingnan let out a sigh of emotion.

Who would have thought there were such stories with the Lin Family?

#### Chapter 608: Fulfilling a Trust with Loyalty

"According to my dad, back then in Daqing Mountain Village, my grandfather was the team leader. Your parents came over with two kids fleeing hardships. At that time, the villagers of Daqing Mountain Village were all over the place. My grandfather saw your parents bringing two kids and felt sorry for them, especially the younger one, who was just skin and bones. If they didn't settle down, they probably wouldn't survive. So, he agreed to let you stay in the village."

Lin Chuxia nodded, Sun Bingnan said that the younger one was her.

"My grandfather decided and gave your parents two empty houses in the village. Lanlan was still small then, and my mom felt sorry for the kids. She heard that your mom had no milk to feed, so she took the

initiative to nurse you, even though our family's food was scarce. But they still gave a bit of sweet potatoes to help out. That's how your parents managed to settle in Daqing Mountain Village. Later, when life got a bit better, probably fearing that the villagers might bully outsiders, they proactively reached out to the Lin Family in the village, becoming their branch family."

Sun Bingnan sneaked a glance at Lin Chuxia.

One thing he didn't mention was that at that time, his mother noticed the smaller child in the Lin Family, which was Lin Chuxia, being so pitifully thin that she barely had any strength to cry. Knowing Mother Lin had no milk, she offered to nurse the little one with her milk.

Unexpectedly, Mother Lin handed the bigger child over to his mother.

His mother thought Mother Lin misunderstood, thinking she wanted to nurse both children. But his mother didn't have enough milk, and there was a baby sister at home who needed milk too.

So, his mother emphasized again about nursing the little one.

Mother Lin heard this and seemed indifferent, saying the little one had just been fed and wasn't hungry.

The bigger child hadn't eaten for several days and needed to be nursed.

But at that time, the bigger one was clearly stronger than the smaller one, and Lin Jiayi already looked three or four years old.

His own child, even at three or four, wouldn't breastfeed anymore. How could he give his milk to someone else's child that big?

When his mother said there was no need to nurse then, Mother Lin reluctantly handed the little one over to his mother.

At that time, his mother said, she'd never seen a mother who could play favorites so blatantly.

A while ago, Lin Jiayi's mom came over, reminding his mother of the past events.

She started to feel that Mother Lin had a noble character.

Trusted by others, loyal to others' affairs.

Others entrusted their child to them. Even if she had to starve her little daughter, she had to take good care of the child from another family.

The favoritism Lin Family showed towards their eldest daughter over the years was incredibly clear to them.

While praising Mother Lin, they also felt more sympathy for Lin Chuxia.

The most unfortunate one in such situations was Lin Chuxia.

Lin Chuxia nodded, it was similar to what she knew.

"I heard from my dad before, the original village was hit by famine and couldn't survive, so they ended up wandering to Daqing Mountain Village. This is the address of our old village. I'm not sure if it's accurate, but can you help me find out and check if anything from the past can be traced about the Lin Family?"

This address was something she accidentally heard in her past life, didn't really take it to heart.

Sun Bingnan took the note, slightly stunned, "Mr. Lin, did something happen?"

Lin Chuxia didn't hide anything, "I came back this time originally for the An City Vegetable Station, but just when Wang Cheng was about to get things done there, someone beat him to it. It wasn't anyone else; it was my elder sister. Using her biological mother's international connections, she secured the An City Vegetable Station and then came to me with my mom, trying to buy Qin's Buns Shop from me."

Lin Chuxia chuckled lightly, "My dear elder sister now seems to have money. Today is different from the past. I'm quite curious how my sister ended up with such a wealthy mom, so I want to look into the past."

Upon hearing this, Sun Bingnan's fist clenched tightly.

If others don't understand why Lin Jiayi would do this, as Sun Lanlan's older brother and Lin Chuxia's close friend, he knows too well about the conflicts between Lin Chuxia and Lin Jiayi.

He's never seen such a sister as Lin Jiayi, who, relying on their parents' favoritism, bullied her sister in every way.

Back when Lin Chuxia got married, he and his little sister were happy for her, thinking she finally escaped that wolf's den.

Now Lin Jiayi just acknowledged having a wealthy mother and turned around to bully her again.

And yet, Mr. Lin's mother took the adopted daughter's side; Sun Bingnan thought about making a banner for Mother Lin's noble character.

"I'll set off tomorrow, Mr. Lin, just wait for the news. I'll try to get the information as clear as possible."

"Okay."

This matter with Lin Jiayi always felt off to her.

If Lin Jiayi had reconciled and left with her biological mom, Lin Chuxia wouldn't have taken it to heart.

But she had to make a move against her, and Lin Chuxia knew Lin Jiayi's nature all too well.

Because of this, she still felt it necessary to understand the past conflicts.

Know yourself, know your enemy.

.....

Zhuang Yang didn't immediately follow Lin Jiayi's orders but instead looked into the shops Lin Jiayi wanted.

It turned out those two shops belonged to the same family, and coincidentally, he knew the manager of these shops, Lin Chuxia.

Moreover, after completing the acquisition procedures for the vegetable station, he learned that it was also eyed by another individual business. The entrepreneur's boss was also Lin Chuxia.

Lin Chuxia had done a favor for the chairman, who thought highly of her and wanted to seek cooperation.

So, after finding out that the owner of Qin's Buns Shop was Lin Chuxia, he didn't disregard Lin Jiayi's instruction not to inform the chairman and reported directly to Zhuang Jingshu.

Whether or not he was overthinking it, the two incidents seemed too coincidental, and the new daughter the chairman found seemed to be deliberately or inadvertently targeting Miss Lin.

"At the time, I found the situation too coincidental. I always felt that Miss Lin was deliberately or inadvertently targeting Miss Lin Chuxia. As a result, this investigation also unearthed another identity of Miss Lin Chuxia."

Zhuang Jingshu looked up, and Zhuang Yang continued, "I also found out Lin Chuxia is another daughter of Lin Guangshan and Guo Cuihua."

Zhuang Jingshu squinted slightly, "Miss Lin is also a daughter of Lin Guangshan and Guo Cuihua?"

"Yes, so I've always thought whether Miss Lin Jiayi might be retaliating against Miss Lin Chuxia because as an adopted daughter in the Lin Family, she suffered the wrongs of Lin Family's biological daughter."

If explained like this, it would make sense.

Zhuang Jingshu stared at a flower pot in the distance in a daze, while Zhuang Yang didn't make a sound.

This matter was indeed something that required careful assessment from the chairman; on one side was her biological daughter, and on the other, her lifesaver.

The chairman wanted to make up for the neglect owed to her biological daughter over the years and also repay the life-saving grace of Lin Chuxia and Old Master He.

For anyone, this was indeed a difficult decision.

Just as Zhuang Yang thought the chairman would take some time to deliberate before responding to him, Zhuang Jingshu spoke up, "Where's the sample now?"

#### Chapter 609: Didn't Understand a Word

Zhuang Yang immediately replied, "Our people are already handling the procedures, I believe she'll be sent abroad soon," then he thought for a moment and added, "The chairman didn't take her away immediately, is it because of concerns about her identity? But we went through so much trouble at the time, practically turned the place upside down, and only then found Lin Guangshan and Guo Cuihua in Daqing Mountain Village. Or do you think there's something off about Guo Cuihua's words?"

Zhuang Jingshu didn't answer his question, and only said, "Didn't Jiayi want you to help her take over Qin's Buns Shop? Have her come find me, and tell me directly."

"Alright."

.....

Lin Jiayi didn't expect Zhuang Yang to tell Zhuang Jingshu about Qin's Buns Shop, nor did she expect Zhuang Jingshu to directly inquire about it.

Facing the noble and beautiful woman before her, Lin Jiayi stood there, somewhat at a loss.

She had to admit, she was very afraid of this woman, even though the woman had always treated her well, yet seeing her cold demeanor made her feel like they would never belong to the same world.

Especially when those dark eyes looked over, carrying a sense of oppression.

It seemed as if nothing could be hidden from those eyes.

"Mom, did you want to see me for something?"

"Sit, how many times have I told you, you don't need to be formal with me," Zhuang Jingshu pointed to the seat beside her as she spoke.

Lin Jiayi sat on the sofa to the side, still unsure of where to put her hands, her entire back rigid and straight.

"I heard from Zhuang Yang that you have your eye on two shops?"

On the way here, Lin Jiayi had already thought of what to say.

She smiled and said, "I heard from Zhuang Yang about some of mom's past, I admire you very much, and also want to start my own business, so I wanted Zhuang Yang to buy two shops..."

Zhuang Jingshu quietly watched her, and the words that Lin Jiayi had long thought out suddenly became difficult to articulate under her gaze.

Zhuang Jingshu retracted her gaze calmly, "Having ideas is good, I also considered taking you abroad straightaway, but then worried that you might not like the environment abroad either. Since you and your adoptive mother both want you to stay and live here, I'll naturally respect your choice. The past twenty years and more of regrets, I will also try to make up for as best as I can. If you want to make a career in your hometown, that's even better, I will fully support you."

Lin Jiayi breathed a silent sigh of relief, "Thank you, Mom, don't worry, I will definitely work hard and achieve something to show you."

Zhuang Jingshu nodded again, "I naturally believe in you, what's your plan for the vegetable station that you previously had Zhuang Yang buy?"

The smile on Lin Jiayi's face stiffened slightly, "I do have some plans, but... haven't fully figured them out."

"Oh?" Zhuang Jingshu seemed interested, "What do you plan on doing? Feel free to tell me, so I can help you with some advice."

The smile on Lin Jiayi's face was almost unmaintainable.

What plans could she have? She never thought of what to do with that place.

She only heard that Lin Chuxia wanted it, so she wanted it too.

Who knows what Lin Chuxia wants with such a large area?

Buy it and build a food factory? Isn't the old food factory big enough for her?

Being stared at by Zhuang Jingshu, Lin Jiayi felt sweat on her back.

In that flash of a moment, she suddenly thought of something, "I want to set up a vegetable wholesale market, yes, a vegetable wholesale market."

Lin Chuxia bought the old food factory to continue the food business.

Surely buying the vegetable station was also to continue the vegetable wholesale trade.

Lin Jiayi had never felt her brain react so quickly before.

"A vegetable wholesale market?" Zhuang Jingshu murmured, "To my knowledge, the largest vegetable wholesale market in Ancheng County is the Qin Family Village Vegetable Market, and Qin Family Village is an urban village, the wholesale market's location is within Ancheng County. An City Vegetable Station initially closed quickly because of the impact from the Qin Family Village Vegetable Market; continuing a vegetable wholesale market after buying it, do you have any innovative ideas? The Qin Family Village Vegetable Market grew rapidly into a sizable operation due to Qin Family Village's greenhouse industry and generations of residents as vegetable farmers. What kind of confidence do you have to find an advantage in this market field to overcome Qin Family Village?"

A series of questions, let alone thoughts, left Lin Jiayi completely baffled.

Innovative ideas?

How would she know? She's not a worm in Lin Chuxia's stomach.

To talk about an advantage over Qin Family Village, she had none.

Lin Chuxia is the daughter-in-law of Qin Family Village, the villagers are willing to sell vegetables to her, that's only natural.

She had no connection to Qin Family Village, why would those people sell her vegetables?

"I... I just think... think..."

Lin Jiayi stuttered, unable to utter a complete sentence under Zhuang Jingshu's gaze.

She truly didn't know what to say.

Zhuang Jingshu quietly waited for her and comforted, "Don't rush, think it through before speaking."

Lin Jiayi simply stopped speaking altogether, only hanging her head and looking at her toes.

She didn't dare look into Zhuang Jingshu's eyes.

As always, if she remained silent for long, Zhuang Jingshu would ask if she had any other needs.

Anything she asked for would be granted, and she'd be considerate of her discomfort and allow her to leave quickly.

Sure enough, the next moment Lin Jiayi heard her ask, "Are the two bun shops you want called Qin's Buns Shop?"

Lin Jiayi raised her head, nodding heavily, "Yes, I've had my eye on those two bun shops for a long time. As long as you help me buy them, I can run them well."

"As long as you have that confidence."

Lin Jiayi finally let out a sigh of relief.

It didn't matter if the vegetable station couldn't be managed well, once she had the bun shop in her hands, she'd run it properly for a while and show the bun shop's success.

Next, she heard Zhuang Jingshu say, "Since you have that confidence, I'll have Zhuang Yang pick two suitable shops for you. The Qin's Buns Shops you previously fancied aren't suitable; their business is running well and won't be sold to you."

Lin Jiayi felt like she was about to crack open, "But... but Ancheng people all recognize Qin's Buns, if I start a new bun shop..."

"It's okay," Lin Jiayi's sentence wasn't finished when Zhuang Jingshu interrupted disapprovingly.

"Now that the market has opened up, competition is the market's norm. Although Qin's Buns Shop has established a foothold in Ancheng, it doesn't mean other bun shops have no market. Right now, people's living standards are gradually improving, and basic needs like food, clothing, housing, and transportation are major concerns. This market will only see increasing demand, not saturation."

This was also what Lin Chuxia had analyzed for her.

She wasn't familiar with the domestic market, but after Lin Chuxia's analysis, she agreed with the young woman's views.

Didn't understand.

Lin Jiayi, once again, didn't understand.

She only knew that Qin's Buns Shop's business was so good that starting any bun shop wouldn't be able to compete with their business.

Chapter 610: Is Blood Really Thicker Than Water?

Moreover, how would she know how to run a bun shop?

She doesn't even like eating the buns she steams herself.

"But mom, I just want those two shops from Qin's. I've already talked it over with the owner; they're willing to sell the shops to me. The owner isn't in An City now, and can't manage it herself. It's perfect for me to take over..."

"Really?" Zhuang Jingshu's expression remained unchanged, but her tone showed impatience, "Is the owner of the bun shop you're talking about Lin Chuxia?"

Lin Jiayi suddenly looked up, eyes full of shock, her mind blank.

Then she heard the words she least wanted to hear, "I heard that Lin Chuxia is your sister. Are you sure she's willing to sell the bun shop to you?"

Lin Jiayi forced a smile more bitter than crying, "Yes... yes, she wants to sell the bun shop to me. She's living in the city with her husband now, and can't take care of the bun shop here, so she wants to transfer it to me."

"But Zhuang Yang said that Lin Chuxia didn't plan to transfer the bun shop. Also, she intended to acquire the An City Vegetable Station earlier but you got to it first. It's not exactly first come, though, because Lin Chuxia had already sent someone to contact the government. However, Zhuang Yang's foreign assets advantage helped him acquire the An City Vegetable Station. Jiayi, do you really want these things, or is it just because they belong to Lin Chuxia? Aren't you sisters? But everything you're doing seems to be targeting her?"

Zhuang Jingshu asked this just to understand calmly.

During this period of contact, she had grown to trust Lin Chuxia's character.

She's a perceptive young girl.

In contrast, her newly acknowledged daughter seemed somewhat mediocre in her perspective.

But it's okay. What she doesn't understand, I can teach her. What she gets wrong, I can help her correct.

I've missed over twenty years of her life, and as long as she is healthy and safe, everything else can be settled slowly over time, slowly made up for.

Just like her previous marriage.

Marrying into such a family wasn't her fault. If she had been by my side, I would certainly have helped her find a good family, choose a proper husband.

And not allow her to suffer in her husband's family.

So when she proposed a divorce, I supported her. Even if she doesn't want that child, I unconditionally agree.

She's only in her twenties, and there's a long road ahead.

I can pay child support and help fulfill a mother's duty of care.

If my daughter doesn't want to, I won't morally bind her to let the child become a burden for her.

With Zhuang Jingshu's words, Lin Jiayi's face also turned paler.

She didn't know how Zhuang Jingshu found out so much.

From the moment this woman reached out to the Lin Family, her mother told her about the past, firmly insisting she was the child from back then, this woman never showed suspicion.

She took her for health checks, bought her new clothes, and all kinds of tasty food.

No matter the clothes or the usage, whatever she wanted, she never said no.

She never cared about the situation of others in the Lin Family, Lin Jiayi always thought she didn't care since those people were unrelated to her.

Unexpectedly, she even knew about Lin Chuxia, and knew about her interest in the vegetable station and bun shop was because they belonged to Lin Chuxia.

Lin Jiayi's eyes suddenly reddened, feeling utterly wronged.

"I didn't mean to target her, but she's been targeting me all these years. Since childhood, she always suppressed me, isolated me at home with my brother. Now that you know Lin Chuxia, you should know there's also Lin Jiadong in the Lin Family, he's our brother. Lin Chuxia combined with this brother to always oppose me, bully me. Until now, those two are close-knit, they look at me with scorn. At first, I thought it was just me being unlikable, until after you came, mom, I realized I wasn't a biological child of the Lin Family, that's why they didn't like me. Otherwise, why would my adoptive mother treat me better even though I'm not her biological child, it's because those two bullied me everywhere. Fortunately, my adoptive mother treated me well over the years; otherwise, I would have been bullied to death by them."

She glanced secretly at Zhuang Jingshu, "That's why after you came, mom, I thought about a small revenge against her. Really, I didn't have any other thoughts, I was just oppressed by her for so many years and felt that finally someone else would support me, so I wanted a little revenge. I'm sorry, mom, I won't do it again."

Zhuang Jingshu sighed, the investigation results from Zhuang Yang indeed showed Lin Chuxia was closer with that brother.

Could it be that blood is truly thicker than water?

She couldn't say Lin Chuxia was right, but neither could she criticize her biological daughter in such a situation.

"No matter what, the Lin Family shelters you, that's a life-saving grace for us. As for your grudge with Lin Chuxia, if you don't want to stay here, I can take you abroad or to other more developed cities. There's no need to fight over these things," Zhuang Jingshu looked at her earnestly, "You're not her match."

She had always been somewhat confident in judging people, this daughter had been spoiled.

And Lin Chuxia's abilities were evident.

To pit Lin Jiayi against Lin Chuxia would be harming her.

Lin Jiayi, although she didn't like hearing this from Zhuang Jingshu, knew that she likely passed this hurdle today.

"I understand, mom, let me think about it."

She didn't dare to go abroad, but perhaps other big cities... she could consider.

Zhuang Jingshu saw she was still listening to reason and nodded, "Then go back and think it over. I won't leave here for now, and once you've thought it through, we can discuss the next steps."

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After leaving Zhuang Jingshu, Lin Jiayi realized her clothes on her back were soaked.

Mother Lin was waiting not far from her, and when she saw Lin Jiayi come out, she hurried to meet her.

"What did she say to you? Why do you look so unwell?"

Mother Lin really hadn't seen her daughter like this much, like something tremendous had happened.

Lin Jiayi glanced behind her, seeing no one following, pulled Mother Lin into an alley, and opened up, "Mom, she knows about Lin Chuxia, knows Lin Chuxia is one of us, she seems to know Lin Chuxia well. She called me over today to ask why I want to buy Qin's Bun Shop, and why I'm targeting Lin Chuxia."

Upon hearing this, Mother Lin's face turned pale, "She... she wouldn't know anything, would she?"

"You're asking me who should I ask? Didn't you say it was foolproof?" Lin Jiayi couldn't help but shout.

Thinking back to Zhuang Jingshu's gaze just now made her heart tremble.

Mother Lin, brought back to her senses by her daughter's shout, shook her head firmly, "No way, she wouldn't know. Only your father and I know about this, no one else. Didn't she also search for a long time before finding us? If anyone knew anything back home, she wouldn't have taken so long to find us."