

Switched M 611

Chapter 611: Stop Mixing Things Up

"Just in case, ask Dad to visit our hometown and check the situation over there," Lin Jiayi reminded.

Mother Lin nodded, "Yes, you're right. We should have done this earlier. I'll ask your Dad to go and see who's still around when we get back."

Although she knew there was likely no one there, Mother Lin still felt it was more secure to take a look.

"By the way, how did you respond when she mentioned Lin Chuxia? Did she notice anything?"

Lin Jiayi recounted the entire conversation she had with Zhuang Jingshu to Mother Lin.

She was feeling lost and desperately needed her mother's advice.

Mother Lin heaved a sigh of relief after hearing it, "What you said makes sense. I just have a kind heart, and I was committed to my promise from back then. I felt it would be heartless to abandon my two children plus an adopted daughter, so I had to be strict with my own daughter. Anyone else would do the same; after all, you need to strictly discipline your own kids."

"Mom, how about I take her suggestion and go somewhere else? An City is such a dump; there's nothing good here. Those two bun shops are nothing special. When I get to a big city, stay in tall buildings, and drive cars, won't that be better than this small county? Even if I don't work, her money would last me several lifetimes. Isn't that better? Plus, isn't Lin Chuxia in the city too? If I go to the capital, I'd be a hundred times better than her."

By then, I could find a city man, someone like Zhuang Yang, a hundred times better than Qin Yang.

Mother Lin frowned slightly, "And if you go to the capital, what about your dad and me? Jiayi, you're our only daughter. That little brat, Lin Chuxia, is an ungrateful white-eyed wolf. She doesn't care about us at all. She never visits us all year..."

"But you still have Jiadong, right? When Jiadong gets into college, he can bring you to live in the city, can't he? As for Lin Chuxia, just pretend she doesn't exist. Have her send living expenses for you every month. It wouldn't be a waste to have raised her."

Mother Lin worriedly asked, "Won't you send us living expenses? And it might take many years for your brother to get into college. Can't you take your dad and me to the city first? I'd love to enjoy city life."

Lin Jiayi impatiently responded, "I want to take you to the city for a better life, but how would that look to the Zhuang family? They're already suspicious now. Do you want me to lose this golden opportunity? Listen, Jiadong will take his college entry exam next year, and he's always had good grades. He should have no problem getting into college. It'll only take a few years, and I'll send you money during this time. You and Dad won't suffer."

Mother Lin earnestly advised her daughter, "Make sure you keep your word. Send us more money these years. It wasn't easy raising you, and you must not forget us like that ungrateful Lin Chuxia did. You are our real daughter..."

"Mom!"

Lin Jiayi suddenly interrupted Mother Lin's words, warily glancing around, reminding her with a cold and sharp gaze.

"What are you talking about? Lin Chuxia is your real daughter. I'm Zhuang Jingshu's daughter, always have been. You mustn't forget this."

Mother Lin, startled by her gaze, nodded after the reminder, "I remember now. I misspoke because I was anxious."

"Make sure you don't make that mistake again, and remind Dad as well. Whether you get to enjoy a good life in the future all depends on me. Don't forget, Lin Chuxia no longer cares about you. If she ever learns she's not your biological daughter, she won't care about you, and even Jiadong might not be able to count on her anymore..."

Mother Lin nodded repeatedly, "Don't worry, I've got it."

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The matter at the An City Vegetable Station was settled, and Lin Chuxia had no intention of selecting another location in An City.

From the standpoint of personnel and future development, larger cities always had better prospects.

Previously, by chance, but since that opportunity was gone, she might as well reach out to Bai Qifeng.

Director Bai did promise to give her a green light back then.

With this decided, Lin Chuxia didn't immediately return to Yan City.

She contacted Su Wensong, asking him to find a way to purchase some sports equipment, and she also intended to acquire some books.

The primary school in Qin Family Village was named Xiyang Primary School, so she couldn't let it bear that namesake for nothing.

Moreover, Lin Chuxia was keen on supporting school construction and rural development.

Su Wensong acted quickly, and within a few days, he located the necessary sports equipment, though he needed a detailed list of books.

Lin Chuxia had already prepared this list over the past few days, and she headed with Su Wensong to the Xinhua Bookstore in Ancheng County.

The books she needed were popular among children, especially science and history books, which were in high demand.

The Xinhua Bookstore had already prepared these books according to their request. Lin Chuxia went there today to review the book's content and quality.

Su Wensong wasn't keen on having Lin Chuxia go there personally, but she was determined to be hands-on.

At the Xinhua Bookstore, they were greeted and assisted.

Lin Chuxia got straight to the point, examining each prepared book.

She couldn't help but notice how appropriate the current readings for children were. The science and history books, in particular, were excellent, and even the ordinary ones carried educational value.

The authors genuinely wrote these with enthusiasm to guide children.

She flipped through quickly, soon deciding on a batch of books, asking the staff to pack them.

The remaining task fell to Su Wensong, while she continued perusing another book, engrossed.

"Mr. Lin?"

A gentle voice called out, and Lin Chuxia looked over to see Qiao Lan from a distance.

Recognizing her, Qiao Lan approached.

"I thought I was mistaken, but it really is you," Qiao Lan said, her eyes landing on Lin Chuxia's stomach. "No wonder I haven't seen Mr. Lin in a while — you have good news."

This year's customary gifts from Lin Chuxia's family weren't sent. Su Wensong handled affairs in An City, and Wang Tianxue and Jia Liang took care of things in Yan City.

Lin Chuxia offered her a slight smile, "It's been a while. How have you been? Are you here to buy books?"

"Yes, just browsing for some reading," Qiao Lan replied, noticing the books before Lin Chuxia. "You've started preparations early. You're quite thoughtful, Xiao Lin."

Lin Chuxia glanced at the children's books before her and smiled, "Not really. These are for the kids at the school."

At this moment, Su Wensong happened to walk over. Knowing Qiao Lan, he greeted her, then turned to Lin Chuxia to say...

Chapter 612: Not Even a Ghost Would Believe It

"Mr. Lin, a total of thirteen hundred books have all been packed up. The funds have been transferred. Are you heading back now? The village chief mentioned yesterday about leading all the students and teachers for a donation ceremony today."

Qiao Lan looked surprised and gazed at Lin Chuxia with even more kindness, "So it's for donating to the kids, huh? Lin, you're really incredible. I won't hold you up any longer. Let's chat again sometime."

Lin Chuxia nodded slightly, "Alright, we'll talk again when we have the time."

She glanced at the time and said to Su Wensong, "Let's go, the village chief is probably eagerly waiting."

Su Wensong walked ahead, but not too fast. Lin Chuxia, with her pregnant belly, followed a bit clumsily behind him.

When they got to the entrance, Su Wensong first opened the bookstore's door for her and then jogged over to open the car door.

It wasn't until the car carrying the books drove away that Qiao Lan withdrew her gaze.

Qiao Lan had always been a regular customer at the Xinhua Bookstore, and the staff were familiar with her. Seeing her expression, they said, "I used to think private enterprises were all about speculation, but if they're all like Mr. Xiyang, then it's not a bad thing for the country to promote private businesses. It's nice to see some care for the children in the village after getting rich."

Qiao Lan disagreed, "You've mentioned the country is promoting private businesses, so how could they be about speculation? That's wrong to say. Besides, back when the old food factory couldn't even pay its employees' salaries, how many people would have gone hungry if it really shut down? It was thanks to Xiyang Food Factory that they solved the employment issue. So every decision by the country has its reasons."

"Sister Qiao is right," the person nodded with a smile.

Qiao Lan didn't continue talking with them and went to the shelf to browse through her favorite books.

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On the other side, as Lin Chuxia and their car entered the village, it caused quite a stir.

It turned out that the village chief had already informed the entire village about Xiyang Food Factory donating books and sports equipment to Xiyang Primary School.

Originally, only families with children attending the primary school knew about it, and even they weren't clear on the details.

But with the village chief's announcement, it became a significant event for the whole village.

After all, who doesn't have children attending school? If not now, then in the future?

Donating books and supplies to Xiyang Primary School is a beneficial thing for every household.

Moreover, since it was Lin Chuxia who made the donation, they had to come and support.

So even those working in the fields laid down their tools and rushed to the school to join in the fun.

Lin Chuxia hadn't expected the villagers to be so enthusiastic, they kept greeting them as soon as they entered the village, and Su Wensong had to slow down the car's speed.

At the school, both the village chief and the principal came out to welcome them.

As for the books and equipment in the car, the villagers voluntarily helped unload them without needing any instructions from the village chief or the principal, neatly placing them in front of the school's main playground.

All these things were donated by Xiyang, and the assembly later had to let the children see and remember Xiyang's generosity.

The principal quickly organized all the teachers and students for a donation ceremony on the big playground.

It was lively and noisy over there, and more villagers kept coming to join the excitement as they heard the news.

Ma Suyun heard the broadcast over the loudspeaker and thought she heard it wrong. When she stepped out, she saw people heading towards the primary school, and a villager called out to her, "Suyun, why are you standing there? Everyone's going to the primary school to see the excitement, let's go and have a look!"

"Sister-in-law, what's going on?" She played dumb, unwilling to believe what she had just heard from the loudspeaker.

The sister-in-law, unaware of the grudge between Ma Suyun and Lin Chuxia, enthusiastically explained.

"You didn't know? Xiyang Food Factory is donating books and equipment to the village's primary school today, and everyone went to watch the excitement. Didn't you hear the village chief's broadcast just now? And Mr. Lin also came today, and it's said that it's him who's donating. But Xiyang belongs to Mr. Lin, so it doesn't matter if Xiyang donates or Mr. Lin does, it's the same."

Ma Suyun commented dismissively, "Isn't it just a few books? Is there a need to make such a big fuss?"

Really, some people are easily impressed; Lin Chuxia is so wealthy, donating a few books, and they're all so happy.

But the person said, "What do you mean a few books? It's not just a few books; it was a whole carload! All bought from the Xinhua Bookstore, and those pieces of equipment are ones only city kids usually get to play with. I heard some of the equipment isn't even available in city primary schools, so our kids are lucky. Just that carload of stuff is at least worth a thousand bucks, if not more. Suyun, even if you don't have kids in primary school now, you're pregnant. In a few years, your kid will need to go to school too. Mr. Lin has done a really good deed! Alright, I'm off to join the crowd."

After saying this, the person jogged off, leaving Ma Suyun standing there in a daze.

A thousand yuan worth of stuff, just given away like that?

Is her money blown in by the wind?

Not long ago, she heard Qin Han was planning to build a house after the fall, had already coordinated with the brick factory, and ordered over a hundred thousand bricks.

They had just built a new house the year before last, and now they were building another one. How many houses do they need? It's not like Qin Yang and his wife are home often.

Ma Suyun felt a pang of jealousy.

Why is it so easy for others to make money, but so hard for their family?

In spring, when Qin Wen went to borrow money from the big brother's family, Qian Chuncao wouldn't let the big brother lend it, saying it was for building a house for their son to get married.

The situation made both families unhappy; even the old folks had opinions about the big family.

They wouldn't lend, so Qin Wen went to Qin Jiang, who immediately said he had no money.

What a joke, saying they have no money?

Xu Yun, being a primary school teacher, gets a monthly salary. They've never lived worse than any of our families.

Now, Qin Jiang is the director of the village's chicken farm, and they're saying they have no money?

Who would believe that lie?

The big brother's family has a son who needs a house and a wife, but Qin Jiang's family doesn't.

They just look down on us and don't want to lend us money.

They talk about being close brothers, but in the end, none can be relied on.

Ma Suyun stormed back into the house and pushed the still-sleeping Qin Wen on the bed.

Qin Wen opened his eyes impatiently, "What's your problem again?"

"Don't sleep; something's happened in the village. Didn't you know?"

Qin Wen turned over, speaking with irritation, "I didn't know."

He couldn't sleep earlier anyway; the loudspeaker was so loud, and he's not deaf.

She knows he doesn't like those people, yet she stirs trouble.

Ma Suyun sneered, "Your fourth sister-in-law really knows how to grab attention, not resting even while pregnant, not afraid of losing the baby."

Seeing that Qin Wen had closed his eyes again, she spoke in annoyance, "Others can throw money around freely, yet I'm stuck with you living in poverty, and you can still sleep? Don't sleep anymore! So what if we have no money? Send me back to my parents later, I'll borrow from them."

Chapter 613: It's All Fate

Qin Wen sat up abruptly with glowing eyes, "Why did you change your mind?"

"What's there to not understand? Isn't it just about building greenhouses? As long as you work hard, once we have money, see who dares to look down on us."

She was previously reluctant to return to her family to borrow money because she feared they wouldn't succeed and would end up losing money.

But now, so many people in the village have made money, how could they not?

When the time comes, they can grow watermelons and strawberries and have her brother help them sell, achieving good prices.

Qin Wen also perked up, "You should have thought this way earlier, we wouldn't have wasted a season in vain."

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The sunlight in early summer was strong but not too hot, with a gentle breeze bringing a hint of coolness under the trees.

Under the big banyan tree in the yard, a small table with several exquisite snacks and a pot of rich coffee made for a perfect afternoon tea time.

Two elegantly dressed women sat at the small table, gently stirring their coffee, intensifying the aroma in the air instantly.

One of the women wore a serene smile, taking a small sip of coffee, praising, "I never thought after all these years, cousin, your skills would be even better. Abroad, I rarely find such authentic coffee."

The other woman also smiled, "It's you who's sweet-talking. After all these years, what haven't you seen abroad? I'm satisfied that my coffee suits your taste."

If Lin Chuxia saw this, she'd be surprised that these two seemingly unrelated people would know each other and be so intimate.

It was indeed their patient, the Walson chairman Zhuang Jingshu, who returned from abroad, and Qiao Lan, the wife of the director of the textile factory.

"Speaking of which, I haven't forgiven you. Such big news of you returning to the country, yet you didn't tell me at the first moment. Do you even consider me your family? You were so ill and didn't tell me to see you."

Mentioning this, Qiao Lan wore an unhappy expression, her eyes even reddening slightly.

"In this country, I'm your only family. You didn't come to me; are you still resentful of the past?"

"Cousin," Zhuang Jingshu spoke helplessly, "look at you, why would I? Back then, you had no contact; we didn't even know we could find you. And you had your struggles, it wasn't your fault. I never blamed the past on you, nor resent any of you. It's all fate."

"Then why didn't you come to find me? You were already in Yan City, couldn't you send a message when you were sick? I could have come to see you."

Thinking her cousin almost didn't make it, Qiao Lan couldn't help but shed tears.

Zhuang Jingshu handed her a handkerchief with a calm expression, "I thought I could hold on until I saw you, but in the end... Despite the regret, I didn't want to witness the pain of family separations. Rather than causing them heartbreak again, I'd instead leave quietly alone. One person's regret is better than two."

"What are you saying? We're family. If so, you might as well never find me. Wouldn't I be equally sad now?"

Zhuang Jingshu smiled helplessly, "Sorry, cousin. It was my fault. It won't happen again."

Hearing her admit her mistake, Qiao Lan's expression eased slightly.

"We really owe thanks to Old Sir He this time. He truly brought you back from the brink. To think, someone this skilled in traditional medicine, I hadn't even heard of during all my years in An City."

"Understandable. I hear he stopped seeing patients long ago."

The topic dredged up sad memories, too sensitive for either to continue.

Qiao Lan directly changed the subject, asking about Zhuang Jingshu's future plans.

Hearing her plans to bring her daughter with her, carefully nurturing her to do what she loves, Qiao Lan couldn't help frowning.

"I heard she has a good relationship with her adoptive mother and wasn't initially inclined to leave. What changed her mind?"

Zhuang Jingshu shook her head, "The child's thoughts are somewhat unique. I'm not sure, but as long as she's happy."

"Even though she's your daughter whom you've just reunited with and you want to make up for her loss, I must remind you: everything should have limits. It was out of necessity back then. Give her what's due, but don't overdo it..."

"Cousin, I understand," Zhuang Jingshu interrupted her.

Qiao Lan smiled awkwardly, "As long as you know. I'm not trying to interfere with your mother-daughter relationship. Just worried you might get hurt again. Letting go of your own son just like that requires a cold heart."

"Cousin, no matter what she's like, I owe her. If necessity hadn't forced me to leave her then, she wouldn't have grown into this temperament, nor ended up with someone like Li Guangyuan. Since she's unhappy with Li Guangyuan, I'll support her to choose her path," Zhuang Jingshu expressed gently.

"Choosing her path is fine, but why does she need your help to buy the market's land? Lin is diligent and contributed much to the county's development. If your daughter wants to start a business, that's fine, but why compete with Lin right off the bat? I truly don't get it. She hasn't done anything; what can she accomplish by buying the market?"

She met Lin Chuxia at Xinhua Bookstore that day and told Old Kang about it when she got home.

That's how she heard about the market from Old Kang.

She knew her cousin felt guilty for her daughter, but could guilt justify ignoring right from wrong?

"I'll explain to Miss Lin. If compensation is necessary, I'll do my best. It's just a piece of land; I don't think Miss Lin is set on it."

Zhuang Jingshu understood Lin Chuxia likely wanted that piece of land to build a garment factory.

While that land was good, there's plenty of good land available. If needed, she could invest more funds.

"But cousin, I see you actually think highly of Miss Lin. I never expected anyone would catch your eye."

Mentioning Lin Chuxia, Qiao Lan became talkative.

"I do admire that girl very much. She accomplished many things I wanted but couldn't do..."

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After dealing with the donation of books to Xiyang Primary School, Lin Chuxia didn't stay longer in her hometown.

Since the An City Vegetable Station land didn't work out, she still needed to find the right place.

After returning to Yan City, she directly found Wang Tianxue and discussed the garment factory matter again.

After the An City Vegetable Station plan fell through, she had called Wang Tianxue to share her thoughts.

Chapter 614: Securing the Partnership

Wang Tianxue also strongly supports building the clothing factory in Yan City.

In her view, while Ancheng is their hometown, from a long-term perspective, whether it's workers or the market, the city is better than the small county of Ancheng.

Lin Chuxia has always admired Wang Tianxue's vision. In her past life, if it weren't for Xiao Long's problem, she would certainly have become an outstanding businesswoman.

Moreover, Wang Tianxue has already selected several good locations for the factory in the past few days.

After returning to Yan City, Lin Chuxia immediately went to see those sites and quickly settled on two locations.

Choosing two locations is still out of concern that if the one she favored isn't approved, she won't have to make a second trip.

With two options, she figured she could negotiate with the leaders.

Lin Chuxia never drags things out—she went straight to find Bai Qifeng.

"Director Bai, didn't you previously say you'd fully support my development? I've taken a liking to a piece of land; can you help me acquire it?"

In the office, Lin Chuxia got straight to the point.

Bai Qifeng was initially pleased to see Lin Chuxia come over, but didn't anticipate this young lady to bluntly ask for land, almost making him laugh in disbelief.

"Mr. Lin, I'm just a small deputy director of the Development and Reform Commission. Do you really think you can get land from me?"

Lin Chuxia nodded, "I believe in Director Bai's abilities and even more in Director Bai's integrity. You promised to do your utmost to support me back then."

Bai Qifeng truly wished time could rewind; had he known this young lady would be so bold, he wouldn't have made grand promises to her.

But time can't be turned back, and he could only hope the stone he raised wasn't too heavy, so it wouldn't hurt too much when it fell on his foot.

"Alright, tell me, which piece of land you want, and under what pretense. I'll listen first, and if feasible, I'll do some groundwork for you. Just to be clear, I can't guarantee if it'll pan out."

Lin Chuxia wouldn't mince words with him, directly sharing her thoughts and intentions for collaboration with Zhuang Jingshu's company, then pulled out a project proposal from her bag.

Bai Qifeng's hand trembled as he received the project proposal.

It was a collaboration with Walson Company.

All this time, he and Ms. Zhuang had been in talks to seek such a collaboration for Yan City, hadn't they?

Knowing that Ms. Zhuang returned to fulfill a personal wish was more crucial, hence during her illness, Bai Qifeng nearly gave up on the collaboration.

After all, facing life and death, a wish is close to regret—who still has the mind for investments?

Yet unexpectedly, the collaboration suddenly fell into place.

Though it's a matter with Lin Chuxia, as long as the factory site is chosen in Yan City, it's Yan City's industry.

Bai Qifeng couldn't help but grin, "I planned to wait until Ms. Zhuang finished her personal matters before discussing the collaboration. Didn't expect you'd beat me to it."

"So, Director Bai, is it easy to deal with the land?" Lin Chuxia asked him slyly.

Bai Qifeng shot her a glance.

This young lady did it on purpose; knowing they've always sought collaboration with Walson, her collaboration is something the government couldn't possibly not support. Yet she purposely talked to him that way.

"Don't worry, even if I do nothing else next, I'll help you with this."

"Thank you in advance, Director Bai."

Bai Qifeng flipped through a few pages of the proposal, becoming more satisfied as he read, suddenly recalling something. He lowered his voice to ask, "Such a great investment you cheapen for me? Ancheng is really your main base, isn't it?"

An investment like this, regardless of where it's placed, would be a highlight on a political leader's record.

Had he been Ancheng's county head, letting go of Lin Chuxia, a God of Wealth, would have made his heart bleed.

Lin Chuxia smiled easily, "Ancheng is my hometown, and Yan City is my second hometown. Supporting national construction is the same wherever it is, plus Ancheng has already attracted foreign investments. Director Bai's information isn't up to date."

Bai Qifeng was stunned, Ancheng has foreign investments too? He truly hadn't heard.

No way, he must call Ancheng's county chief later for a chat. He had left Ancheng without reservation towards his junior—how could there be things kept from him now?

Alongside, he'd also ask what's happened.

From Lin's tone, it seemed she was displeased with Ancheng.

After Lin Chuxia left, Bai Qifeng first scheduled a meeting with several leaders the next day to discuss this major project.

Ever since Zhuang Jingshu arrived in Yan City, these leaders were like eyeing a succulent piece of meat.

Yet later, Zhuang Jingshu's serious illness made their hearts rise and fall.

Now the project finally came to fruition—even if it's not a government enterprise, so what, private businesses are still a cornerstone of national development.

After several days of discussions, the leaders generously approved a piece of land.

Simultaneously, Bai Qifeng asked Secretary Wang to investigate matters in Ancheng.

This secretary was brought from Ancheng to work here, having served several years as county chief there, thus knowledgeable about Ancheng.

He understood right away that Director Bai wanted him to probe into matters about Lin Chuxia and Xiyang.

The investigation revealed much, even shedding light on Zhuang Jingshu's wish he'd been curious about but couldn't inquire directly.

Although he understood Ancheng leaders had their reasons for decisions, it didn't stop Bai Qifeng from adding insult to injury.

So after learning Lin Chuxia faced obstacles in Ancheng, he promptly made a call to He Shichang, the current county chief of Ancheng.

When the call connected, hearing the familiar voice inside, Bai Qifeng preemptively spoke, "Old He, you're not fair at all. If I hadn't called, did you plan to wait until the project report arrived before letting me know?"

He Shichang immediately knew what he meant, "What are you saying? It has only just begun."

"Just begun, you're keeping such a great news under wraps so tightly? Afraid I'd steal your investment? Come on, tell me, what project is making you overlook Xiyang?"

He Shichang responded with a wry smile, "Old Bai, would you believe me if I said to date, I still don't know what the buyer plans for An City Vegetable Station after acquiring it?"

"I don't believe," Bai Qifeng bluntly said, "I've heard that after An City Vegetable Station went bankrupt, Wang Cheng from Qin Family Village Vegetable Market repeatedly contacted relevant personnel, showing willingness to purchase it. Even both sides had intentions, yet in the end, you sold the station to someone else, claiming not to know what the buyer's plans are?"

"Indeed, I don't know. At the time, seeing the buyer was a foreign company, it seemed like attracting foreign investment. But after completing the acquisition, they took no further action, leaving it idle. I'm quite anxious. But this matter is different now; assets are privatized, and even if they let grass grow over it, I can't interfere."

Chapter 615: Mockery

He Shichang felt a bit of regret.

In the past two years, Qin Family Village had nearly driven the entire economy of Ancheng County, and anything related to Qin Family Village, he had always supported vigorously.

But this time, it was foreign investment, so he abandoned Wang Cheng and thought that no matter what, Wang Cheng belonged to Lin Chuxia, who was partially part of Qin Family Village, so ultimately, Qin Family Village would back him up.

At most, if Wang Cheng needed land, the county could approve some land for him in the territory of Qin Family Village.

Even if it bent the rules a little, that would be fine.

Who knew Wang Cheng couldn't secure the vegetable station, and there were no further moves.

Meanwhile, the foreign-invested company that did secure the vegetable station seemed to have vanished.

"Old Bai, are you calling me today because you have some news? If you have any news, you can't keep it from your old buddy."

"I do have some news for you," Bai Qifeng said lightly. "Lin Chuxia, also known as Mr. Lin of Xiyang, came to me some time ago for land, wanting to build a Sino-foreign joint garment factory. I've already helped her apply for the land. It shouldn't be long before construction starts. Once the factory is built, our city will have a Sino-foreign joint venture. But if you're quick, maybe your Ancheng County will be the first in our city to have such a joint venture. Old He, I'm looking forward to you proving me right."

"Lin Chuxia wants to build a garment factory in the city? Why would she want to set it up in the city? An City is her home, how could she..."

He Shichang abruptly paused, "Are you saying the land she asked you for recently?"

"Yes, I heard she wanted to build in An City but faced setbacks, so she came back to find me. Alas, this is why you still need to rely on us old acquaintances. It's just a matter of a word. Old He, I've told you before, back when I left, that if you supported Lin Chuxia well, you wouldn't have to worry about your performance while in office. Why did it still..."

Bai Qifeng's words weren't intended to mock him.

In his current position, it didn't make much difference whether Lin Chuxia's garment factory was built in Yan City or An City.

The ones most affected would be the top officials of An City and Yan City.

He Shichang was utterly stunned by what he heard, to the point he didn't even remember hanging up the phone.

After hanging up, he took a while to gather himself before calling in the staff member. "Have you found out what project Walson Company is undertaking after buying the An City Vegetable Station? If necessary, you can contact their person in charge and inform them that whatever investment they make, our county government will provide full support."

The staff member was also in a difficult position, as the county leaders had asked several times, and he had been keeping an eye on it.

But just keeping an eye on it doesn't guarantee results.

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Lin Chuxia had no idea what effect her choices had on these leaders.

Finally, there was news from Sun Bingnan.

He had gone to Yan City personally for this matter to speak with Lin Chuxia face to face.

"I went to the address you provided, and it was similar to what Mr. Lin had mentioned earlier. Almost twenty years ago, that village became nearly vacant. The families left there weren't among the original ones, and for the whereabouts of the original families, I've tried asking around, but eventually, all leads went cold."

Essentially, no useful information was gathered.

This wasn't unexpected for Lin Chuxia.

Firstly, it had been too long ago. Secondly, back then, communication wasn't developed. Once people moved away, many lost contact entirely.

"Thank you, Third Brother. I understand. I appreciate you going out of your way."

"Oh, don't thank me. I couldn't find anything useful and feared you'd be disappointed."

"I had anticipated that."

"Regarding matters of the Lin Family..."

Sun Bingnan didn't know the purpose of Lin Chuxia's inquiries, but it naturally couldn't be disconnected from the Lin Family.

"Let's just let things take their course," she speculated that Zhuang Jingshu and Lin Jiayi wouldn't stay in An City for long.

Zhuang Jingshu's hometown wasn't here. Currently, apart from needing her master's treatment for her illness, there were also matters of investment keeping her here.

But these were only temporary.

As they were chatting, Qin Yang came back from work.

Since someone from his hometown was visiting, Qin Yang insisted Sun Bingnan stay for a meal.

Qin Yang had recently been promoted to Deputy Minister, but at home, he hadn't changed. He was still himself.

After lunch, Sun Bingnan said he wanted to wander around the city and left.

Once he saw the guest off, Qin Yang noticed Lin Chuxia hadn't taken a nap and was sitting by the bed in a daze, so he walked over, "Are you doubting something?"

Lin Chuxia looked up at him, somewhat amused, "Do you think I'm doubting whether I was really born to my mom, wondering if I might have a rich mother?"

After saying that, she laughed at herself, "I never thought about it that way. It's more about being prepared. You know my mom and my elder sister's personalities. They want to buy Qin's Buns Shop from me. I'm afraid that even if I refuse, they won't give up, so I planned to have Sun Bingnan look into the past."

Qin Yang embraced Lin Chuxia, "Don't worry. Even if they don't give up, I won't let them hurt you again. You've been running around too much lately. From now on, tell me if there's anything, and I'll handle it for you."

He glanced at Lin Chuxia's belly, now eight months along. Walking had become more cumbersome for her.

He truly didn't want her to work so hard anymore.

Lin Chuxia kissed Qin Yang on the cheek, "Thank you, hubby. I know."

Her casual response told Qin Yang she hadn't taken his words to heart.

But he understood her character, so he reached out to gently touch her belly, "Tomorrow, I'll accompany you to the hospital for a check-up."

"Okay, sure."

"Also, you can delegate the garment factory tasks to others. Some things aren't an absolute necessity," he said, sitting across from Lin Chuxia and locking eyes with her, "Xiaxia, your hard work really makes me feel inadequate."

In the past, he would think that if he worked a little harder and advanced a bit more, his wife might find things easier.

Now that he had reached the Deputy Minister position, he realized his wife seemed busier than ever.

Even with her big belly, she was worried about so many things.

Looking into those deep dark eyes, Lin Chuxia saw the emotions churning and felt a sudden flutter in her heart.

She gently cradled his face with her hands and spoke earnestly, "Alright, I'll listen to you. I'll have Wang Tianxue and my brother-in-law handle the garment factory matters. They both have experience in that field, and also..."

Her tone shifted, eyes lit with a smile, and she suddenly leaned in to kiss him hard, "And besides, my man is amazing. How could he feel inadequate? Isn't that right, Minister Qin?"

Qin Yang pulled her into his embrace and kissed her back, "No matter how amazing I am, I'm not as great as Mr. Lin."

Lin Chuxia's belly was very large, so Qin Yang didn't dare use too much force. When he embraced her fully, there was still a round belly between them, as if he was holding the whole world in his arms.

Chapter 616: Do You Know Them?

"The doctor said the last few months are the critical period. I've seen you not sleeping well these past nights, so hand over the tasks to them. You can get some rest, and as for the Lin Family, if there's anything, let them come to me," he won't bother with his wife's pride.

"Alright, I'll listen to you."

Lin Chuxia leaned against his chest, listening to his heartbeat, feeling unusually at ease.

.....

The next day, Qin Yang took a leave from work and specially took Lin Chuxia to the hospital.

In this era, prenatal care wasn't as standardized and frequent as it later became, and there wasn't the concept of building a medical file.

After confirming pregnancy, as long as nothing went wrong, there was almost no need for frequent hospital visits.

Especially in their hometown, many people never went to the hospital from pregnancy to childbirth.

When labor started, they would call the midwife to their home, and many children were born on the heated kang bed.

Even more dramatically, some gave birth directly in the field while working.

This being Lin Chuxia's first pregnancy, with no elders around to guide, Mrs. Qin repeatedly reminded them to be cautious once they learned of the pregnancy.

Since finding out Lin Chuxia was pregnant, Qin Yang had crammed a lot about women getting pregnant and giving birth. The more he learned, the more alarmed he became, finding it increasingly treacherous.

So from the beginning, he paid special attention to Lin Chuxia, never neglecting the hospital checkups.

Lin Chuxia could sense his unease, and since this child was something she'd longed for over two lifetimes, she too sought optimal prenatal care; on this matter, they were in agreement.

Doctor Wang was already an old acquaintance of theirs.

She first inquired about Lin Chuxia's recent condition and then used a stethoscope to listen to her abdomen.

Finally, she had her lie on the bed and gently pressed her abdomen with both hands, constantly changing positions.

After the whole set of checks was complete, she smiled faintly, "Mr. Lin's fetus is in good shape, and the child is very healthy. They have already started engaging, and the fetal position looks right. As it's said, optimal prenatal care depends significantly on the woman's good health."

Qin Yang and Lin Chuxia both breathed a sigh of relief and hurriedly thanked Doctor Wang.

At that moment, another doctor's voice came from the side, "Have you been doing the exercises I told you? Last time I mentioned your fetal position wasn't correct, and you need to spend time daily on all fours before engagement. It's been over half a month now, and there's been no change. Have you been following my instructions?"

This examination room had two rooms with two doors, with two gynecologists examining pregnant women.

There was only a curtain separating them.

While Lin Chuxia was being examined, they could hear some movements from the other side.

This situation was quite normal.

Seeing Lin Chuxia being drawn by the voices next door, Doctor Wang spoke a few more words to her, "Your situation is different from hers, so there's no need to worry. However, since the baby is moving at any time around this period, it would be best to return for another check-up in about half a month, so we can adjust as necessary."

"If the fetal position is indeed incorrect, can adjusting posture really help?"

Lin Chuxia didn't have any experience with pregnancy or childbirth. In those early years, she was busy with business, and no one talked to her about these things.

Later on, with the advancement of medicine, if the fetal position was incorrect, a C-section was entirely feasible, posing little danger to the mother.

So she was quite curious about the methods used by gynecologists in this era.

For instance, this doctor who just examined her could determine the baby's position just by feeling her belly.

She tried feeling it herself and couldn't tell anything.

Doctor Wang smiled slightly, "There is certainly reason to it. If you do as the doctor says, most of the time it can be adjusted, though, of course, there are cases where it can't be adjusted, and the labor will be more painful in those situations."

As she finished speaking, a woman's defiant voice came from the side, "I said I did the posture, but it won't turn on its own. What can I do? Aren't you doctors supposed to be skilled? Why can't you just adjust it for me?"

"How can you talk like that? The child is in your belly. If you don't listen to the doctor, how can we achieve the desired results? If you don't put in the effort, doctors aren't all-powerful."

"Why am I doing everything myself then? What's the point of having doctors..."

As the voices seemed about to escalate into a quarrel next door, Doctor Wang smiled helplessly at them.

Lin Chuxia understood; doctor-patient relationships have always existed in any era.

Since there was nothing else on their end, they bade farewell to Doctor Wang.

As they stepped out of the examination room, they saw two figures emerging from the other door.

The pregnant woman looked furious, and the man hurriedly supported her, "Be careful, slow down with the baby."

The woman angrily retorted, "You're so concerned about the baby; why didn't you say anything when the doctor was speaking? She just keeps telling me to do this and that, yet she can't do anything herself. What kind of doctor is that? I think she's incompetent."

"Oh dear, quiet down a bit. You don't want the doctors to hear you. We'll need to come back to her, you know. Besides, what the doctor said isn't wrong. She told us that the fetal position isn't correct, and you've been told to be on all fours when you have nothing to do at home, how many times have you done it?"

"Ha, so it's all on me now? Yang Rui, do you have a conscience? Can't you see how big my belly is? It's easy for you all to say this. Why don't you try having a belly this big and getting on all fours? I'm telling you, I won't go to her next time. You find me another doctor, or else I won't have this baby."

"Oh dear, your belly is already so big. How can you say you won't have it? Fine, fine, I'll think of a way. Next time, we'll see another doctor..."

The voices of the two faded away, and Lin Chuxia finally withdrew her complex gaze.

Qin Yang asked, "Do you know them?"

Judging from his wife's earlier expression, she obviously recognized the couple.

Lin Chuxia gave a cold laugh, "The man is Wang Tianxue's ex-husband, and that woman was the mistress when he had an affair back then."

Qin Yang naturally knew Wang Tianxue too, and also let out a cold laugh, "What a fool."

How could he not be a fool?

When the couple walked past Lin Chuxia, she almost didn't recognize Yang Rui.

His shirt was crumpled and even had stains on it.

It had only been about two years since she'd last seen him, and his skin had darkened several shades, with gray hair at the temples.

Clearly, life's pressures were quite significant.

It was said he still hadn't paid off the debt owed to the Department Store, and every day, besides working in the warehouse, he would set up a stall after work.

While Yang Lili, although pregnant, looked very different from before, her outfit suggested she hadn't faced much hardship.

She mocked, "It seems she's enjoying herself. Left and right she's pampered, and no first wife can compare to genuine love."

In this regard, she really admired Yang Rui.

She remembered the first time she met Yang Rui, he was the head of the procurement department at the Department Store, standing alongside Manager Wang, full of vigor.

It was a world of difference compared to the person they'd just seen.

Chapter 617: Feeling Warmth

If someone else's situation changes so drastically, they would also blame others, right?

Even Manager Wang would blame Yang Rui, thinking that it was his personal grudge with Wang Tianxue that led to the Department Store having such a strong competitor.

Wang Rui can still speak kindly to and pamper Tang Lili, providing her with the best food and drink. Isn't that true love?

In terms of appearance, character, and ability, in what way can Tang Lili compare to Wang Tianxue?

Qin Yang couldn't help but pinch her cheek, "Everyone has their own fate. Let's go, what do you want for lunch? How about eating out?"

"How about hot pot? I've been craving hot pot."

There was a period when she didn't like the smell of lamb, and she barely ate hot pot all winter.

Now that the weather had turned warm, she suddenly craved it again.

However, she didn't want to eat at home to avoid filling the room with the smell.

"Okay, then let's go for hot pot," as long as she suggested it, Qin Yang would never refuse.

.....

After Lin Chuxia returned to the city, her life went back to normal.

She usually stayed at home nurturing her pregnancy and occasionally visited her master.

As her belly grew bigger, Old Master He began to nag her, even giving her a prescription and sending Qin Yang to get the herbs.

Lin Chuxia couldn't stomach herbal concoctions and kept pestering for half a day, asking her master if she could avoid drinking it.

Old Master He's attitude was firm this time, asking her sarcastically, "Not drinking my medicine but taking your vitamins instead?"

Lin Chuxia knew her master was the one person she couldn't hide anything from.

Luckily, her master always stopped at the right point.

She gave a cheeky smile, "Is that not okay?"

Old Master He frowned for a moment, "It's fine. Take your vitamins, but you also have to drink the medicine I prescribed. You don't have to drink it all the time, just for a week before the birth," he glanced at her belly, "to save you some trouble."

Lin Chuxia liked this arrangement, only a week after all.

Who wouldn't want to suffer less during childbirth?

"Then I'll listen to my master."

Seeing how quickly she changed her tune, Old Master He couldn't help but laugh, "Now you're willing to listen, but before you had so much to say."

"I was just eager to learn more about medical knowledge. How would I know the purpose of this prescription if I didn't ask?"

"If you read more books, you wouldn't be so clueless."

As the two bantered, Zhuang Yang's voice came from outside, with Zhuang Jingshu beside him.

Seeing them, Lin Chuxia also stood up, "Ms. Zhuang, when did you come back?"

During this period, Zhuang Jingshu and Zhuang Yang had been handling affairs out of town, taking several days' worth of medicine with them.

Lin Chuxia knew they were in Ancheng County.

Zhuang Jingshu affectionately helped Lin Chuxia sit back down, "Why are you still so formal? Your condition is becoming more inconvenient, there's no need to be so conscientious."

When Lin Chuxia's pregnancy advanced, Old Master He personally brewed her medicine.

Zhuang Jingshu respected Old Master He. Seeing how much he cared for his little apprentice, she dared not treat her lightly.

Prior to this, she had already admired the young girl, and now knowing more about her, Zhuang Jingshu liked her even more.

Zhuang Jingshu had come to seek a follow-up from Old Master He today.

Old Master He routinely checked her pulse and prescribed her medicine again.

According to Old Master's assessment, Zhuang Jingshu's condition had been treated to an almost satisfactory stage.

After all, having been ill for so many years, reaching this stage was quite an achievement.

From now on, she just needed to take good care of herself.

However, since Zhuang Jingshu wasn't short on money and trusted Old Master's medical skills, she intended to take a few more doses.

Old Master He then prescribed her some mild fortifying herbal remedies.

Zhuang Yang went to fetch the medicine while Zhuang Jingzhu sat in the courtyard under the shade watching Lin Chuxia and Old Master He handle the medicinal herbs.

The potted flowers Old Master He had cultivated had small buds now. He had harvested these flower buds and dried them as medicinal ingredients.

Each bloom was meticulously processed, careful not to let them deteriorate during drying.

Old Master He didn't let Lin Chuxia touch those things, so she helped him organize the rest.

Zhuang Jingshu watched quietly, actually enjoying this kind of time.

During her years abroad, she worked tirelessly like a spinning top every day, afraid to stop for fear of thinking about a past she couldn't return to or make amends for.

Day by day passed this way, the company grew larger, and her health deteriorated more and more.

She once thought maybe it would end this way; when her body finally gave out, she wouldn't have to think about anything anymore.

Until she received news from home, giving her a chance to return.

Such news caught her unprepared, and trying to restore her health was already too late.

It was during this time that she realized that for over two decades, she had never truly been herself.

Until the impending approach of death, she had never felt regret.

No matter when only a healthy body allows one to accomplish more.

And as she looked at Lin Chuxia and Old Master He, Zhuang Jingshu felt that she had never experienced such peace in her life before now; this feeling truly warmed her heart.

Completing her tasks first, Lin Chuxia looked up to find Zhuang Jingshu watching her quietly.

Catching her eyes, she offered a gentle smile.

"Do you like these things?"

Lin Chuxia nodded, "Working with my master to sort out the herbs always brings a sense of tranquility."

"I feel it too. I'd like to join in, but I'm not familiar with these things and worry I'd mess them up."

Lin Chuxia laughed, pouring Zhuang Jingshu a cup of tea from a small teapot, "Try it; it's a health-preserving herbal tea made by my master."

Zhuang Jingshu sipped a little, catching a faint medicinal fragrance, slightly sweet with a hint of bitterness, yet not unpleasant.

"As expected, the master's craftsmanship is exceptional. Would it be possible for me to purchase some to brew at home later?"

"You're still taking the medicine prescribed by my master, so maybe hold off for now. Once you no longer need medicine, you can drink this normally."

Lin Chuxia was aware of the tea's benefits. It was particularly suitable for someone as frail as Zhuang Jingshu.

"Thank you in advance," Zhuang Jingshu expressed sincerely.

If she hadn't encountered Old Master He and Lin Chuxia, she might not even be alive today, let alone think about fulfilling her wishes.

Thinking of this, Zhuang Jingshu couldn't help but gaze at Lin Chuxia, her voice filled with guilt, "These years have been hard on you. I should apologize. If it weren't for Jiayi, maybe your mother wouldn't be so biased. I appreciate your mother's love for Jiayi and at the same time feel deeply sorry. I'm sorry, child, for disrupting the life you once had."

Although Lin Jiayi had told her some things about them, Zhuang Jingshu had her own judgment based on what she saw and heard.

Besides, from the beginning, she never believed what Lin Jiayi said.

Chapter 618: That Strange Feeling Surfaces Again

She first came into contact with Lin Chuxia and believed more in her own judgment of people.

Lin Chuxia was not the kind of person she described.

Moreover, a child who is not protected by elders at home, how unruly can they be?

In contrast, the one who is favored everywhere can exercise more rights.

Lin Chuxia didn't expect her to bring up this topic with her, she must have investigated and discovered her other identity.

However, she didn't accept Zhuang Jingshu's perspective and spoke calmly, "No one can say for certain what things would be like if none of this had happened. Since it has, we can only face it. I can't influence

my mother's decisions. What she does is her business. I just hope that when she makes decisions, she doesn't sacrifice her other daughter. Of course, if that were the case, I won't let her control me."

It was an explanation and also a statement of her stance.

Zhuang Jingshu was Lin Jiayi's biological mother, indeed providing a strong support for Lin Jiayi.

Her words were speaking about her mother, but also a reminder to Zhuang Jingshu.

How she loves and compensates her daughter is none of her business, she is not even afraid of fair competition in the market.

Just like the matter of the An City Vegetable Station, she doesn't resent or blame.

If based on abilities.

Her failure to obtain that land was due to insufficient capability and lack of external funding's strength and allure.

But if the other party tries to use improper means to satisfy Lin Jiayi's selfish desires, affecting her business, she won't just stand by.

Feeling the change in Lin Chuxia's emotion, Zhuang Jingshu also understood the implication in her words.

For some unknown reason, hearing these words from Lin Chuxia made Zhuang Jingshu feel uncomfortable.

During her time in An City, she initially wanted to ease the relationship with her daughter and spend more time with her.

It wasn't until later when Zhuang Yang discovered her daughter's hostility toward Lin Chuxia that she delved deeper into the matters of the Lin Family.

And also gained a deeper understanding of this little girl she admired.

Precisely because of this, she understood the meaning behind Lin Chuxia's words.

Back then, the marriage, though Lin Jiayi's was unhappy, was her own choice.

The Lin Family wanted her to marry Qin Yang, while Li Guangyuan was initially chosen for Lin Chuxia.

This wasn't a twist of fate or a scheme, but an open plan.

It was just Lin Jiayi's misfortune that her choice was unsatisfactory.

But it was evident how the Lin Family favored Jiayi, biased towards this daughter.

As long as Lin Jiayi desired, she could change things without consulting the other daughter.

Even though Lin Jiayi was her biological daughter, Zhuang Jingshu couldn't help but feel unfair for Lin Chuxia.

The words "I'm sorry" could no longer be spoken.

"You're a good child. I didn't know you were sisters before, nor did I know you had your eyes on the An City Vegetable Station, and certainly didn't know Jiayi's nature was so..."

Lin Chuxia smiled slightly, "There's nothing to apologize for, the market is open, and it's all about capable people rising, this is also a kind of competitive situation."

Zhuang Jingshu didn't expect her to be so open-minded and with such a good attitude.

Even though Lin Jiayi grew up in the same family, she couldn't match her vision and character.

"Rest assured, I will compensate you. I heard from Zhuang Yang that you've already selected the location for the garment factory, we will ensure the follow-up funding is provided promptly. Just go ahead and do it without any other concerns."

When it came to work, Lin Chuxia's attitude became more serious, "I've been following this matter, and the project is progressing smoothly. After securing the land, we will provide your side with a complete project plan, probably in about half a month..."

Zhuang Jingshu watched her meticulously. Clearly, it was the normal process of cooperation, yet when she described it so seriously, that peculiar feeling surfaced again in her heart.

She nodded, her expression unconsciously becoming gentler, "I trust your ability. Zhuang Yang will be in charge on my side, for any issues, you can directly communicate with him. Also, no need to rush your current situation, work is important, but yourself is more important."

Her gaze fell on Lin Chuxia's belly, "I heard you have some reliable people on your side, can they handle it? If not, I can send Zhuang Yang over, and additionally, I can also send people over from the company."

Lin Chuxia could tell, Zhuang Jingshu genuinely wanted to help her.

But as previously agreed, her side was only investing, if she really let her people come over, it would be inconvenient for management.

"Thank you, Chairman, I currently have enough people."

"That's good," Zhuang Jingshu still focusing on her belly, her voice soft, "If I remember correctly, it's been over eight months, right? In less than a month, the baby should be born. I heard from Zhuang Yang that you're very capable, not only do you have a shopping mall under your belt, but also a few

restaurants and a food factory. When I was your age, I was still clueless, unable to discern anything, yet you have your own business."

Suddenly she changed the topic, "But no matter how much wealth a career brings, they are all external affluences, only the body is truly ours, along with the child..."

Not knowing what she thought of, she sniffled, then suddenly chuckled, "Look at me, seeing you reminds me of some past events, don't let my emotions affect you."

"It won't," Lin Chuxia roughly guessed she was reminded of her own pregnancy and childbirth.

To entrust her child to a stranger to raise, the situation back then must have been forced.

"I heard your relationship with your mother isn't well, will she be there to accompany you when you give birth?"

Once Zhuang Jingshu said that, she realized it seemed inappropriate and quickly added, "I didn't mean it that way, I just think childbirth is significant for women and it's best to have family around."

Lin Chuxia smiled slightly, "My husband will be with me."

Zhuang Jingshu was slightly stunned, then sighed, "Yes, it's the husband who accompanies you through life."

Maybe it was because they were familiar now, Lin Chuxia felt today's Zhuang Jingshu was different from usual, seeming more sentimental.

Fortunately, Zhuang Yang came back with the medicine at this moment.

During this period, Old Master He was the one preparing Zhuang Jingshu's medicine, she couldn't intervene even if she wanted to.

Old Sir He started brewing the medicine, and Zhuang Yang brought back another piece of news.

"I got a call from Luo Sen when I was picking up the medicine, he told me the equipment is expected to arrive at the port in three days."

The latter part was addressed to Lin Chuxia.

This was about the imported production equipment for the food factory that Lin Chuxia asked Zhuang Jingshu's side to purchase.

Upon hearing this news, Lin Chuxia immediately smiled, "That fast, that's really great."

She knew how difficult it was to obtain imported equipment in the country, especially for individual enterprises like theirs.

Channels, funding, paperwork...

Any of these posed as a mountain in front of individual businesses like them.

Even though the domestic market has opened now, it's not something anyone can easily acquire.

She didn't expect that in just over a month, the equipment would be arriving in the country.

Chapter 619: About How Much Longer Will the Results Take?

Upon receiving this news, Lin Chuxia could hardly sit still.

"I'll go notify the staff in a bit to pick up the goods at the port."

This is no small matter. In three days, she needs to arrange personnel and vehicles to the port, plus some related paperwork.

Old Sir He spoke first, "If you're busy, just go ahead with your tasks. You don't need to be here."

Zhuang Jingshu also nodded with a smile, "Be safe on the road. If it's really inconvenient, you can have Zhuang Yang take you back."

Lin Chuxia came by car herself, so she didn't need a ride.

After thanking Zhuang Jingshu, she left eagerly with her small bag.

The medicine would take a while to finish brewing, so with Lin Chuxia gone, Zhuang Jingshu also didn't want to stay.

She bid farewell to Old Sir He and asked Zhuang Yang to take her back first.

On the road, Zhuang Jingshu kept gazing out the window, lost in thought.

Zhuang Yang drove all the way to the main road before he heard the woman in the back seat speak softly, "Under what circumstances would a person not care about their mother?"

Zhuang Yang thought she was pondering over the newly acknowledged daughter and consoled, "The chairman's decision back then was a last resort, and under the circumstances, the chairman couldn't reunite with Miss Lin in time. I think Miss Lin should understand the chairman and wouldn't disregard you."

But Zhuang Jingshu shook her head, "I'm talking about Lin Chuxia. She doesn't seem to care about her mother at all."

Zhuang Yang pondered and indeed, from their interactions with the Lin Family, they hadn't heard anyone from the Lin Family mention Lin Chuxia.

It seemed that whether she was there or not made no difference to this family.

However, Lin Jiadong, the son of the Lin Family, was frequently mentioned by the family's matriarch, who bragged about how excellent her son was.

Actually, in Zhuang Yang's view, among the Lin Family's children, including the chairman's newly recognized daughter, Lin Chuxia was the most outstanding.

It's just...

"Didn't Miss Jiayi say so? When they were young, Miss Lin and Miss Jiayi often fought because of some issues, and because of Guo Cuihua's promise to the chairman back then, she always shielded Miss Jiayi. This caused the conflicts between Miss Lin and the family to deepen, leading to their current strained relations... It's probably because Guo Cuihua couldn't handle the conflicts between the two daughters well."

He couldn't say Miss Jiayi was wrong, nor did he think Lin Chuxia was to blame.

He wasn't a witness to what happened back then, but both were children at the time. If there was any fault, it was that the adults didn't handle things well, failing to maintain balance, thus letting family relations worsen.

Whether Zhuang Jingshu listened to Zhuang Yang's words or not, she softly murmured after he finished speaking, "Pregnancy and childbirth are such big matters. She didn't consider her family at all. Normally, every daughter thinks of her mother first during childbirth."

If she had her mother with her back then, maybe the child wouldn't have been born prematurely or ended up away for so many years.

The child suffered, and she endured many years of internal torment.

"The chairman seems to sympathize with Miss Lin a lot," Zhuang Yang sensed that Zhuang Jingshu's mood wasn't great.

"The person Miss Lin described by Ms. Guo is quite different. Is Miss Lin truly Lin Guangshan's daughter? Could it be a coincidence that they have the same name, and we've got it wrong?"

He expressed it subtly. Guo Cuihua had mentioned Lin Chuxia, but they mostly heard about her from Lin Jiayi.

The Lin Chuxia they've been acquainted with is worlds apart.

"How can there be so many coincidences? Although the Miss Lin we know is indeed different from the one they describe."

Zhuang Jingshu sighed and looked up again.

"How long do we estimate the results will take?"

.....

As soon as Lin Chuxia got home, she called over to the Xiyang Food Factory.

She had already mentioned to Su Wensong about improving equipment and expanding production at the factory.

Lately, Su Wensong had been busy with this matter as well.

When they initially built the Xiyang Food Factory, the scale was planned out. There are still two large factory buildings unused.

Originally, they planned to introduce new equipment to expand production once things got on track, but the takeover of the Old Food Factory caused delays.

In their view, taking over the old factory's staff and equipment wasn't as smooth as gradually following their path.

But County Magistrate Bai personally approached them, and even though they're a private company, at their scale, they need to maintain good relations and collaborate with the government.

Managing a workforce of over a thousand and such a large factory isn't easy. It's like asking someone with a small appetite to eat three bowls of rice at once.

The result of forcefully eating it is increased difficulty in digestion, even leading to stomach discomfort.

Fortunately, it was temporary. It took them a year, not only to digest this major issue but also to turn it into energy and resources.

Now is the right time to reintroduce production equipment and expand production.

Knowing the equipment would arrive at the port in three days, Su Wensong was also very excited.

Their current production equipment is decent, but compared to foreign equipment, there's still a noticeable gap.

"Get in touch with Director Xu at the machinery factory. They have experience in transporting large production equipment. See if they can offer any assistance. If not, reach out to County Magistrate He and see if they can help think of a solution."

Lin Chuxia hadn't interacted much with the present County Magistrate, He Shichang, but Su Wensong, as the factory manager, had dealings with the county leadership.

Given that Xiyang helped the county solve the Old Food Factory issue, the county should offer assistance.

After arranging everything, Lin Chuxia remained in good spirits.

When Qin Yang returned home from work, he saw his lovely wife wearing a loose cotton dress, eight months pregnant, humming a song while preparing dinner.

She appeared to be in a great mood.

While washing his hands, he asked, "What made you so happy?"

"You noticed?" Lin Chuxia arched her brows, her eyes sparkling with delight.

Qin Yang couldn't help but be infected by her mood, "The way you look, even Yuan Bao's tail would wag its way off if it were here beside you."

If he couldn't tell, he'd be worse off than a dog.

Lin Chuxia burst into laughter at his joke, and Yuan Bao wasn't just wagging its tail now, it even hopped twice.

Lin Chuxia recounted the matter of the production equipment to Qin Yang.

Though Walson Company didn't interfere in Xiyang Food Factory's business, this was her first transaction with them.

From what she saw, her partner was reliable, and she was satisfied with the efficiency.

She was also looking forward to being equally satisfied with the upcoming cooperation with the clothing factory.

But Qin Yang wasn't too pleased upon hearing this, "Are you going back to Qin Family Village once the equipment is installed?"

Chapter 620: The Wife Wants to Find a Pretty Boy Assistant

Qin Yang's gaze fell on her heavily swollen belly as he spoke.

Lin Chuxia:

She knew he was simply being considerate of her health, but she was worried that Su Wensong and the others might not be able to handle those pieces of equipment.

Translating manuals, for instance, is not something just anyone can do.

She had experience and skills in this area, and even if she couldn't reveal everything, guiding them a bit was definitely necessary.

"I'm just going back for a look; it's my first time seeing imported equipment. I don't know if it's good or not. You can't expect me to spend so much money on equipment and not even take a look, right? I'd be restless and heartbroken."

"I'm really just going back for a look. What if they don't know how to use it and ruin it? Then all the money I spent would be wasted. I wouldn't just be heartbroken; I'd be devastated. You wouldn't want that, right? That's all money I've earned through hard work. Would you really let it go down the drain?"

Qin Yang was worn out by her cute mannerisms. "I'll go back with you this weekend and stay at most for three days. You can't keep running around for everything."

Lin Chuxia made an OK gesture at him. "Don't worry, I can't really run with such a big belly."

Qin Yang squeezed her slightly round face, which had grown fuller due to pregnancy, "Oh, you..."

Before Lin Chuxia could return to Qin Family Village that weekend, Xu Changping from the machinery factory called.

"Mr. Lin, why are you so quiet about such good news? You should've informed us at the machinery factory. We can send someone over to help you inspect the machines, and don't worry, our factory will cover all the costs."

He had met Su Wensong and learned that their factory had introduced some imported equipment, so he immediately called Lin Chuxia.

He knew Lin Chuxia was quite capable, but he hadn't expected that she could actually obtain the imported equipment.

Those were imported machines, and their factory couldn't even get in line or find a way to send someone abroad for study.

Now, having the opportunity to see imported equipment, how could they miss it?

Lin Chuxia understood Xu Changping's eagerness, and given their relationship, she couldn't easily refuse. "Director Xu, don't be so polite. The equipment will arrive at the port in a couple of days, and we'll rely on you to help check them then."

"No problem, I've got it covered."

Xu Changping took the opportunity to ask briefly about the equipment's status and Lin Chuxia's recent situation.

Speaking of which, the two hadn't met for quite a while. Since Lin Chuxia came to Yan City, she had been in semi-disconnected status with old friends from An City.

Knowing Lin Chuxia would return to An City in a few days, Xu Changping enthusiastically invited her for a meal.

Lin Chuxia glanced at Qin Yang beside her and politely declined.

Besides, given her current state, she really wasn't in a good position to socialize.

The weekend arrived quickly. The couple had breakfast early, and Qin Yang drove the jeep to bring Lin Chuxia back to Qin Family Village.

The summer morning was still quite cool; with the windows open, the fresh air carried a variety of plant fragrances.

During the early stages of solving people's food and clothing issues, agriculture was still the top priority.

Along the road from Yan City to An City, there were vast stretches of farmland.

Lin Chuxia remembered how these places looked later. As urbanization progressed, many parts of these routes would change.

First was the outskirts of Yan City, designated as a development zone, with a focus on economic development.

The land she and Bai Qifeng wanted would later be at the center of the development zone.

Having lived another life and doing these things again, she naturally had her own little plans.

Moreover, she requested a sizable plot of that land. Once approved, she could do nothing and sit idly by; she would be a multimillionaire in the future.

She glanced at Qin Yang beside her.

So this man's worries were really unnecessary. She cared more about her own health and the child in her belly than he did.

In her previous life, she had everything except a healthy body and a child.

This time, money and wealth were easy for her to obtain with just a little maneuvering. But the things she cherished, including her familial bond with the Qin Family and her feelings for Qin Yang, she would protect well.

Noticing her gaze, Qin Yang turned his head. "What's up?"

Lin Chuxia smiled softly. "Nothing much. I just thought that I have to come back with you taking leave to accompany me. Maybe I should hire an assistant or secretary like Zhuang Jingshu, so I don't have to run around myself, and you won't have to take leave."

Qin Yang's mind immediately flashed with Zhuang Yang's image.

He hadn't interacted much with them, only once when he had gone to pick up Lin Chuxia at Old Master He's place and encountered Zhuang Yang.

In his thirties, he looked stable and confident, and seemed quite agreeable visually.

He glanced at Lin Chuxia again, hesitated but couldn't resist asking, "Find an assistant or secretary like Zhuang Yang?"

Lin Chuxia didn't pick up the implication in his words and nodded, "Mmm, ideally someone capable, with certain skills, visionary, and mainly someone whose thinking aligns closely with mine and is willing to work for me wholeheartedly."

She chuckled lightly, "I just realized it's really not easy to find a suitable assistant or secretary."

Her requirements might be too high.

Zhuang Yang was an orphan adopted by Zhuang Jingshu and raised carefully by her.

To find such an assistant or secretary, she could only search within society.

Nowadays, with the national university placement system, offering stable jobs, no graduate would wish to work for her, a private business owner.

As for social hires, while she didn't care much about academic qualifications, anyone with some ability could have made a name for themselves over the past few years.

Finding someone like Su Wensong was genuinely difficult.

Additionally, Su Wensong and she were companions in adversity.

She helped him during his hardest times, and Su Wensong has always appreciated her assistance; he even married her good friend Sun Lanlan.

Moreover, Lin Chuxia truly worried that her small business might not hold him.

Besides, Su Wensong was still a factory director, and hiring an assistant or secretary wasn't within her authority.

Lin Chuxia pondered deeply, and Qin Yang furrowed his brows tightly.

If Lin Chuxia glanced at him now, she'd definitely see a look that screamed "My wife wants to hire a pretty face, and I'm helpless about it."

But their focus quickly shifted. As they approached Qin Family Village, it was bustling with activity.

Qin Family Village was vibrant, especially at the vegetable wholesale market at the village entrance, bustling with people every morning and evening.

Sellers, buyers, constantly coming and going.

Not only was the vegetable wholesale market busy now, but many villagers seemed headed towards Xiyang Food Factory.

The equipment had entered the factory yesterday, as Su Wensong reported to her.

The people heading in that direction might be because Su Wensong was hiring new employees.