

Switched M 621

Chapter 621: Priority Admission

Since we're introducing new equipment and production lines, expanding production, naturally the manpower will also increase.

"Shall we go over and take a look first?"

Qin Yang noticed Lin Chuxia was continuously looking in that direction and asked.

Lin Chuxia shook her head, "Let's go home first."

Things at the factory are entrusted to Su Wensong and his team, and they'll report to her once they have results.

Qin Yang didn't say anything more and directly drove home.

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At the entrance of Xiyang Food Factory, there were already a lot of people gathered.

Besides those who came for interviews upon hearing the news, there were also many villagers from Qin Family Village.

This time, the recruitment of new employees followed the previous hiring plan, giving priority to villagers from Qin Family Village.

Additionally, if the villagers from Qin Family Village had suitable relatives, they could also come over for an interview with the same treatment as the villagers, being prioritized for hiring.

This recruitment plan was agreed upon by Su Wensong and Lin Chuxia.

They hadn't forgotten how the villagers stood firmly by their side defending them when people from the old food factory came to cause trouble.

Although this matter has been over for more than a year, and the old food factory was merged with Xiyang Food Factory.

This gratitude has always been in Lin Chuxia's heart.

And she will repay them in her own way.

Thus, when the village chief announced this news through the loudspeaker, the whole Qin Family Village was in an uproar.

Xiyang Food Factory, being a private enterprise of the Qin Family, already gave preference in hiring to villagers of Qin Family Village, out of village solidarity.

And this time they opened up even more, allowing their relatives, as long as they met the factory's employment criteria, to be prioritized for hiring. What does this show?

It shows that the Qin Family and Lin Chuxia genuinely consider these fellow villagers as one of their own.

None in the crowd watching the buzz from the Qin Family were not beaming with smiles.

Even those who were supposed to be working in the fields stopped just to come over and watch the spectacle.

Li Dajun's mother stretched her neck out trying to peer inside, and upon hearing the discussions around her, she joined in.

"You see what you're saying, Qin Yang's wife said long ago, she is one of us in Qin Family Village, sure to support Qin Family Village. What does it matter if she's not in the village? Which matter in the village these past two years hasn't she helped with?"

People nearby immediately laughed and agreed, with someone asking, "Dajun's mother, I see you're so eager, your son Da Jun has worked at the factory for several years, what are you still curious about?"

Li Dajun's mother laughed while patting her leg, "Our Da Jun is doing well at the factory, he just got promoted to team leader not long ago. But who says there's ever too much good news? Last time the factory was hiring, my daughter-in-law was pregnant and couldn't go to work, now the kid's a bit older, perfectly timed for me to watch the child so she can take the job. If she gets selected, our family will have two workers."

With the greenhouse farming at home, having two factory workers, isn't that money visibly rolling home?

Li Dajun's mother's eyes squinted into slits as she spoke.

Of course, although the factory gives hiring preference to villagers from Qin Family Village, not everyone can handle the job.

In cases like Li Dajun's family, having two workers is rare in their village.

On the side, Ma San smirked, "Auntie Da Jun, you'd still dare to send people to the factory? Don't forget last time when something happened at the factory, the police took your Da Jun away, you were scared out of your wits."

"Hey, that was so long ago! Besides, our Da Jun, even if taken by the police, it was due to exerting effort for the factory. Mr. Lin said it outright, they called it self-defense, the factory will never let employees suffer injustice, didn't they release him after only a few days and even gave a fifty yuan comforting fee, which was equivalent to over a month's salary? Wouldn't our Da Jun say, as long as genuinely working for the factory, there's no losing out, where else can you find such a factory? If my daughter-in-law gets chosen, it's only a matter of pride, not worry."

As she spoke these words, it was true, back when her son was taken by the police, they as family were anxious for several days.

After returning unharmed, the factory even gave fifty yuan in compensation.

Seeing those fortunate not to be taken away, some envied wishing they were the ones caught.

She finished speaking and glanced at Ma San, "I say Ma San, your home is closest to the factory, you don't miss any excitement at the factory, might as well go work there and earn some money, knowing factory matters immediately, isn't that better than watching from outside with us old ladies?"

Another auntie laughed too, "Right Ma San, if you become a worker, your wife won't quarrel with you? She'd have to stick by you peacefully and even pamper you."

"Whether pampering him or not, seems unlikely to kick him off the bed anymore..."

After the aunties finished, they immediately burst into laughter.

Ma San wanted to argue a few more rounds when a sturdy woman squeezed through the crowd from outside and twisted Ma San's ear, "I say, where did you run off to so early? The vegetables at home are getting dry, yet you have the heart to watch the commotion here? Do you think the factory will choose you? Hurry back with me!"

Ma San was being pulled by the ear, and the aunties' laughter grew even louder.

His face turned bright red as he shouted, "Wife, slow down, slow down a bit, I was just watching around, I'm going back, let go..."

"I let go and you might run off somewhere again, I know you too well, Ma San, if I find you mingling with those old ladies again, I swear you'll be an old lady this lifetime!"

As they walked away, Ma San's wife's voice was still audible.

The aunties' laughter didn't cease, Li Dajun's mother scoffed, "Serves right, needs someone like that to settle him."

Everyone knows Ma San's little schemes, can't bear to see others doing well.

When Xiyang Food Factory was first established, he wished the factory would go bankrupt.

Nowadays, the factory is the pride of their village, yet he still harbors such meager thoughts.

"Exactly," another auntie concurred, "Ma San, if not for the fortune of being in this village, everyone knows Qin Family Village has greenhouses and a factory, making money, he wouldn't have been able to get married and might still be single now?"

"I know this well, she originally didn't fancy Ma San, just because he was a Qin Family Village man. His wife may be twice married with a fiery temper, but I've met her twice, she's sensible, truly a loss paired with Ma San."

"I say, who credit does Qin Family Village owe for its development? Ma San managed to marry not grateful, better just hope he remains single all his life."

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Chapter 622: Job Application

The group vented their frustrations about Ma San and then shifted the topic back to the factory recruitment.

"I have to agree with Dajun's mother. My sister-in-law from my mother's side asked me about jobs at the food factory recently, hoping my nephew could work there. At that time, I dared not make any promises. As soon as I heard the factory was recruiting, I ran to my mother's home without even eating. Knowing that relatives from Qin Family Village are given priority, I did my sister-in-law a favor. Now, when I go back to my mother's place, I feel proud."

"You know, the food factory not only made our Qin Family Village feel proud but also boosted our confidence when we return to our maternal homes."

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At the back of the crowd, Li Guangyuan stood for a long time, feeling indescribable emotions as he listened to the discussions around him.

He learned about Xiyang Food Factory's recruitment when he was delivering vegetables at Qin Family Village Vegetable Market yesterday and came here specifically.

Ever since Lin Jiayi divorced him, his life has become increasingly difficult.

The child is still young and has lost his mother. Normally, his own mother should be able to look after her grandson well, but she asks him for money to care for his child.

She won't take care of the child unless he gives her money.

No choice, he no longer has a wife, just a son and a mother, so he earns money just to spend on them.

He also knows that most of the money his mother takes will likely be given to his married younger sister, and he has been angry about it.

If it weren't for his mother's endless support for his two sisters, would his wife really have divorced him?

But what can he do even if he is angry?

He truly didn't expect Lin Jiayi to actually divorce him; after all, she didn't leave for all those years despite his abuse, but suddenly she initiated a divorce, catching him off guard.

He even doubted that she was joking.

It was only in recent days that he found out Lin Jiayi wasn't the Lin Family's biological daughter; her real mother, a wealthy woman, found her.

Lin Jiayi always wanted to be a rich wife, and now she doesn't need to push herself to make money; she has a wealthy biological mother and is rich herself.

Daqing Mountain Village and Xiaoqingshan Village are adjacent. Originally, Li Guangyuan hoped that he would hear any news from the Lin Family since they were so close, thinking Lin Jiayi was just throwing a tantrum and would come back as she did countless times before.

After all, their son was still with him.

Lin Jiayi always cared deeply for their son.

Besides, what kind of mother would abandon her child?

It wasn't until he heard of Lin Jiayi's wealthy mother finding her that Li Guangyuan completely lost hope.

He and Lin Jiayi had been married for so many years; he knew exactly what kind of person she was.

Ultimately, Lin Jiayi was heartless; in her eyes, there was only money.

Li Guangyuan retracted his thoughts and looked at the large words "Xiyang Food Factory" above the factory gate.

He was already aware that Xiyang Food Factory was opened by his sister-in-law, Lin Chuxia.

Not only that, but even the Qin Family Village Vegetable Market was also her handiwork.

The manager of the vegetable market, Wang Cheng, is said to be her subordinate.

He heard that Wang Cheng previously was the director at An City Vegetable Station. Before An City Vegetable Station went bankrupt, he came over to work for Lin Chuxia.

Clearly, his sister-in-law Lin Chuxia has formidable skills.

Entering the factory gates, rows of factory buildings are spacious and bright. The sound of machines roaring can be heard in some workshop buildings.

The line of applicants extended to the gate, and each person had a smile on their face, as being chosen by Xiangyang Food Factory was a great fortune.

Those chosen might work at this factory or perhaps at the old food factory in the city.

Now, both factories belong to Xiyang.

Two years ago, working at the old food factory was something these people wouldn't even dare to dream of.

And all these changes came because of Lin Chuxia.

Li Guangyuan recalled three years ago, when the matchmaker talked about marrying him off, mentioning Lin Chuxia from Daqing Mountain Village.

But later, it was heard that Lin Chuxia favored the rich over the poor, insisting on marrying Qin Yang to death. This led to a switch in the sisters' marriages, and Lin Jiayi became his wife.

Lin Jiayi herself told him this, and at that time, he felt lucky. Although Lin Chuxia didn't like him, the Lin Family was kind enough to marry their other daughter to him.

Lin Jiayi didn't favor riches, and even after marrying him, she encouraged him to do business and earn money.

But now looking back, the one who truly favored riches was Lin Jiayi herself.

By now, Li Guangyuan also understood why the Lin Family wed Lin Chuxia to someone from Qin Family.

Lin Chuxia is the Lin Family's biological daughter and naturally would choose a better family.

"Next one!"

The voice of the interviewer snapped Li Guangyuan out of his thoughts, and he respectfully stepped forward...

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Lin Chuxia returned to the Qin Family, tidied up briefly, and then went to the food factory.

According to the plan, today the factory was recruiting a batch of workers, who would participate in production in the general workshop after training.

At the same time, a group of elite employees would be selected from the existing workers to operate the new production line.

In the past two days, the technicians from the machinery factory have translated a general outline of the imported equipment manuals.

However, there's a part that couldn't be translated, precisely the core components of the equipment.

Su Wensong, knowing Lin Chuxia would return today, had informed her about this situation in advance.

Lin Chuxia was already aware of such possibilities; English and Chinese are quite different.

Chinese characters transmit the essence of our ancestors' wisdom through five thousand years, and even if the society evolves, forming new words, the meaning can be grasped from simple combinations of characters.

In English, using 26 letters to create new words, one can hardly guess the meaning just by looking at the word.

This is one of the reasons why our country has valued English language learning for so long.

After all, as an international universal language, many research projects and academic papers are in English.

Seeing her arrive, Su Wensong immediately greeted her.

Today, the factory is crowded, and given Lin Chuxia's situation, he worries someone might accidentally run into her.

While explaining the situation at the factory, he steered her towards the factory manager's office for safety.

Halfway there, Lin Chuxia stopped, "What's wrong, Mr. Lin?"

Noticing her focus on the long line in the distance, he inquired with a smile, "Shall we go take a look? Pang Yongli and Qin Yufeng are handling the recruitment today."

Lin Chuxia had already noticed the two familiar faces behind the table.

Pang Yongli and his wife have always been diligent, becoming key workers in the factory, with Pang Yongli even becoming the deputy manager.

No need to mention Qin Yufeng; she hasn't been surpassed.

Being the daughter of the village chief, she also has a knack for staff management and production.

However, her gaze wasn't on the two helming the interviews; she was focused instead on the people opposite them.

Chapter 623: Eyesores

Lin Chuxia withdrew her gaze, "No need, many people came today for the job application. If the interview is successful, when will the results be out?"

"The results will be out tomorrow. The list of those hired will be posted on the notice wall on the right side of the main entrance."

With the equipment in the factory, other things must follow suit.

Mr. Lin always emphasizes efficiency, and they can't lag behind.

Lin Chuxia nodded, "Show me the list when it's out."

Su Wensong was slightly stunned but quickly responded, "Alright."

Lin Chuxia first communicated with the two technical personnel from the machinery factory and their food factory's equipment maintenance masters, then went to the workshop to check on the equipment, comparing the manual and discussing with several technical personnel while translating.

Her actions greatly surprised the two technical personnel from the machinery factory.

They were directly sent by Director Xu, who told them to do their best to help translate the equipment manuals and learn as much as possible, as this is a rare learning opportunity.

They naturally acknowledged this opportunity as valuable.

But faced with the equipment and manuals, they were worried.

Today, hearing that Mr. Lin was returning, they were concerned that Mr. Lin would dismiss them for incompetence and send them back to the machinery factory.

Unexpectedly, not only did Mr. Lin not mind, but also delved into discussions with them without reservation.

Even more surprising for them was Lin Chuxia's talent.

In the eyes of the two technical personnel, it seemed there was no need for people from the machinery factory; she could handle it herself.

Initially, they felt that the food factory was getting a great deal by having two technicians from the machinery factory translate the manuals for free.

Now, they only feel that the machinery factory is the one benefiting from the food factory.

This busyness lasted until noon when Qin Yang came over to call Lin Chuxia back for lunch.

Su Wensong was considering treating Lin Chuxia well, inviting the two people responsible for hiring today and four technical personnel for a meal together.

Seeing Qin Yang's demeanor, he knew the meal invitation wouldn't work out, and obediently let her go.

When several people walked out of the workshop, the hiring process was also wrapping up.

Su Wensong remembered Lin Chuxia's request and directly had Pang Yongli bring over today's hiring list.

This time they hired at least 150 people, including 50 slots for the Old Food Factory.

The other 100 were open for social recruitment.

Lin Chuxia picked up the list of 100 people for social recruitment and quickly scanned from top to bottom, finally focusing her gaze on a name.

"Do you have a pen?" she asked.

Qin Yang directly removed the pen from his shirt pocket and handed it to her.

Lin Chuxia took the pen, drew a circle and then a cross over that name, then returned the list to Pang Yongli.

Su Wensong craned his neck for a peek and saw the name clearly: Li Guangyuan.

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On the return journey, the two walked side by side in silence towards home.

As Lin Chuxia progressed in her pregnancy, Qin Yang naturally held her hand.

Despite this act being rather conspicuous in their era, Qin Yang paid no heed.

Lin Chuxia initially worried about gossip and reminded him a few times.

Later, seeing his unchanging demeanor, she couldn't be bothered anymore.

Looking at his cold and handsome face, she quietly asked, "Why don't you ask why I crossed out Li Guangyuan's name?"

Seeing Li Guangyuan made her feel nauseous.

Although in this life, there wouldn't be much interaction, especially since Lin Jiayi divorced him, they could essentially be strangers.

But the thought of Li Guangyuan working at her food factory irked her.

So she simply crossed off his name.

This action might seem odd to others, though.

Qin Yang looked at her with a lovingly amused expression and then rubbed her head.

"People say pregnancy makes you silly. It's hard for you, my dear wife."

Lin Chuxia was yet to understand his reaction as Qin Yang continued, "Is there even a need to ask? You must have your reasons for doing so. The entire food factory is yours; isn't it up to you to decide which employee to use?"

The wife crossed him out because he was an eyesore to her.

Why find a reason for someone you deem an eyesore?

Lin Chuxia took a moment, then laughed; indeed, she was being silly.

Do it if you want; dislike what you dislike. She had the right and didn't need to explain it to anyone.

She was thinking so much earlier only because she cared about Qin Yang's opinion.

And Qin Yang's thoughts were simpler: whatever she does is right, as long as she likes it.

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Li Guangyuan didn't expect the interview to go so smoothly.

In his impression, factory workers were typically city people. Rural folks needed skills and education, at least a high school diploma, to become workers.

He only attended elementary school, never finished middle school, and attended the interview today merely to try his luck.

Unexpectedly, the food factory focused more on labor skills, while education wasn't a major emphasis; as long as they could read the newspaper and solve arithmetic problems posed, it sufficed.

Neither of these was particularly difficult for him.

Hands-on skills were even less of an issue.

His father died early, so he took care of household chores himself before he turned ten.

Over the years, besides his household chores, neighbors always preferred to ask him for help with tasks they couldn't manage.

Operating the machine just now felt surprisingly simple to him.

He sensed that the man responsible for recruitment seemed pleased with him.

As he was thinking, someone patted his shoulder.

"I recognized you from afar; it really is you. Good lad, yesterday when we talked about this, you stayed quiet. I thought you had no plans, but here you are sneaking off for the interview."

It was Lao Feng, a fellow vegetable seller.

Though called Lao Feng, he was only two or three years older. It was Lao Feng who told them about the recruitment news at Xiyang Food Factory.

Li Guangyuan smiled faintly, "Just wanted to check things out. If I'm selected, great; if not, I'll continue selling vegetables."

Although he spoke modestly, he felt somewhat confident.

"Yes, if one could work as a factory worker and earn a wage, who would want to sell vegetables at dawn, facing the elements, with an uncertain income?"

Besides, even if you earn money, mentioning you sell vegetables isn't as esteemed as being a factory worker.

"I say Guangyuan, how do you feel? Do you have a shot? Honestly, my heart's still racing. Those two examiners looked young; the man seemed about my age, while the woman looked like a little girl, yet her presence alone was intimidating. Reading the newspaper made me tremble, and if I were to operate that machine again now, perhaps I could manage, but under that man's scrutiny, my hands wouldn't cooperate."

After speaking, he sighed heavily, clearly quite shaken.

Chapter 624: Targeted

Although Li Guangyuan felt those were quite simple, he didn't show it on his face. "More or less, when I arrived at the entrance of the food factory today and saw the scene, it gave me quite a scare."

"You're pulling my leg, right? There's something you're afraid of? Oh, I remember you have relatives in the Qin Family Village. I've heard that if someone is from the Qin Family Village, they get preferential treatment. If you really have relatives there, you might as well go and see them, bring some gifts and get close. If you actually get a job at the food factory, that would be a huge advantage. I've heard that the basic salary of an ordinary worker at Xiyang Food Factory is 50 yuan. Even during the first month's probation, it's 40 yuan. How much can we earn selling vegetables all day? We might not even make a profit, but being a worker is a surefire deal."

"I don't really have any relatives around here," Li Guangyuan's face showed a hint of detachment.

If Lin Jiayi hadn't divorced him, Lin Chuxia would be his sister-in-law, and indeed connected to the Qin Family.

Now that Lin Jiayi had divorced him, what relationship does Lin Jiayi's sister still have with him?

Besides, if he didn't frequently come to the Qin Family Village's vegetable wholesale market, he wouldn't even know that Xiyang Food Factory belonged to his sister-in-law.

Such a big deal, even Lin Jiayi didn't know before, proving that his sister-in-law never considered them family.

If they really treated each other as family, would he still have to come here for an interview? Would he still have to toil away selling vegetables all these years?

Old Feng, seeing his expression, only thought he was bragging earlier, and now that the pretense was exposed, he must feel uneasy.

Generously, he put an arm around his shoulder, "It's okay, if we don't have relatives, we'll rely on our skills. I have faith in you; with your capabilities, you'll definitely get chosen."

"Thanks for the kind words, Brother Feng."

At the intersection, Li Guangyuan was ready to head home, but Old Feng wanted to go towards the county.

"Brother Feng, you're still going to the market to sell vegetables?"

Old Feng saw Li Guangyuan's posture and knew he was going home. He smiled, "I can't not sell vegetables; I can't compare to you. My whole family counts on me to earn this bit of money. I'm just hoping that tomorrow I'll be picked by Xiyang Food Factory, so I won't have to hustle every day."

"Alright, see you tomorrow then."

It was said during the interview today that the list of hires would be posted tomorrow morning.

Whether he got selected or not would be clear tomorrow morning.

In the blink of an eye, it was the next day. Li Guangyuan got up early, riding his bicycle as soon as dawn broke.

Originally, he thought he came early enough, but when he reached the food factory entrance, he found it surrounded by crowds multiple layers deep.

Old Feng had just arrived and spotted Li Guangyuan from afar, greeting him.

"I have to hand it to them; Xiyang Food Factory is thorough. I was worried about coming too early before they opened, thinking the list wouldn't be posted. Didn't expect they were even earlier than us, they really understand our eagerness and consider us ordinary folks."

Li Guangyuan didn't expect such an early posting either.

He had come out early because he couldn't sleep, thinking to arrive earlier to wait.

Since the list was out, they didn't hesitate any further, stretching their necks and squeezing into the crowd to find their names on the wall.

The factory had announced beforehand they would hire 150 people this time, with 50 from the old food factory employees and the remaining 100 from the public.

There were three pages of names altogether, with the far left listing the old food factory employees, followed by the 100 new hires.

Li Guangyuan bypassed the old food factory list and started from the second page, searching from left to right.

Suddenly, a shout erupted from beside him. Old Feng shook Li Guangyuan's arm excitedly, pointing to one of the names, "Guangyuan, Guangyuan, look, I've been selected. My name is here; I've actually been chosen. I can work at the food factory; I'm going to be a worker..."

Li Guangyuan saw the name too. Feng Dehai, isn't that Old Feng's name.

"How about you? Did you see your name? I've been selected, so you definitely have no problem."

Li Guangyuan shook his head, his eyes fixed firmly on the names on the notice board, searching line by line downwards.

Old Feng was helping him search, "Don't worry, I came early for the interview yesterday; your name must be after mine. I got in, you're much better than me, you'll definitely be selected."

Li Guangyuan didn't say anything but thought so too. However, he had already finished one page without finding his name; his eyes landed on the last page.

As his eyes moved down line by line, his brow furrowed deeper.

Until he read the last name, Li Guangyuan stood frozen in place.

Old Feng had also finished reading and scratched his head.

Seeing Li Guangyuan's disheartened look, he showed sympathy, "Could it be that we missed it? Let's go through it again; with so many names, perhaps we overlooked it."

Li Guangyuan snapped back, his eyes returning to the notice board.

This time, they started from the first page, going through line by line.

After finishing the last line, he finally gave up hope.

Old Feng wanted to say something else, but Li Guangyuan sluggishly turned away, walking out of the crowd.

Old Feng quickly squeezed through the crowd to catch up with him, "Guangyuan, where are you going? Why not go to the factory and ask them what happened? Maybe they accidentally missed your name."

Li Guangyuan shook his head, "Each page has 50 names, 150 in total, how could they miss one?"

Old Feng understood this too, but didn't know how to comfort him.

Li Guangyuan forced a smile, "Congratulations, Old Feng, now you don't have to bear the sun and rain selling vegetables with us; go report to the factory, I'm fine."

"Are you really okay? Well then, I'll go report. Cheer up, maybe something went wrong somewhere. You're so capable; there will be more opportunities."

Li Guangyuan nodded, but in his heart, he knew, what opportunities could there be in the future?

He was clearly better than Old Feng, and even Old Feng admitted so.

Moreover, his performance yesterday was excellent, and the recruitment people also showed satisfaction towards him.

But Old Feng got selected, and he didn't.

The only possibility is that someone behind the scenes manipulated it.

Someone powerful with a grudge against him.

Although Li Guangyuan thought this possibility was slim, it could only be this reason.

He was once Lin Chuxia's brother-in-law; now that Lin Jiayi had divorced him, Lin Chuxia naturally didn't want any dealings with him, the ex-brother-in-law.

Or maybe, regardless of whether he and Lin Jiayi had divorced, Lin Chuxia would never let him work in her factory.

After all, Lin Jiayi did not have a good relationship with her, they were often at odds.

Li Guangyuan wiped the sweat off his forehead, looking at the glaring sun.

What is this?

Having been married to Lin Jiayi, only to end up with nothing, and now causing Lin Chuxia to resent him so much he couldn't even get a working opportunity?

Li Guangyuan didn't know how he got home, his mind was in turmoil, and he couldn't lift his spirits.

As soon as he entered the door, he heard a woman crying inside, mixed with a child's crying.

His headache worsened immediately.

Upon entering the room, he indeed saw Li Dongmei holding a child, shedding tears to his mother.

His mother, heart aching for her daughter, was also wiping the corners of her eyes.

As soon as the two saw him come back, they both turned to look...

Chapter 625: It Takes Two to Tango

As soon as Li Dongmei saw Li Guangyuan, she started crying even louder.

"Brother, you're finally back. You have to stand up for me."

Old Mrs. Li chimed in, "Guangyuan, you have to come and see, your sister has been wronged so much. That Zhang Wenbin is no good, he actually hit your sister. Look at your sister, her face is swollen from the beating. Is he hitting your sister, or is he hitting the Li family in the face? You can't just let this slide. Otherwise, how will your sister continue living with the Zhang Family?"

At this moment, Li Guangyuan also noticed that Li Dongmei's eyes were red, her face was flushed and swollen, and the corners of her mouth were a bit bruised, which showed how hard the person who hit her had struck.

However, Li Guangyuan didn't feel much pity. He knew his sister's temper better than anyone, and his mother had a tendency to exaggerate everything related to his sister, twisting the truth entirely.

As the saying goes, it takes two to tango. If Zhang Wenbin hit his sister, it was unlikely that she was entirely innocent.

Moreover, with Lin Jiayi divorcing him, Li Guangyuan harbored some grudges against this sister of his.

If it weren't for her constantly coming home asking for money, would Lin Jiayi have left everything behind and divorced him?

When he was caught with Widow Tian, Lin Jiayi wasn't even as outraged.

Thinking of this, Li Guangyuan's voice carried a hint of accusation, "Why did Zhang Wenbin hit you? Did you do something?"

Li Dongmei screamed at his words, "Brother, what do you mean? What do you mean by did I do something?"

Old Mrs. Li didn't expect that Li Guangyuan wouldn't immediately seek revenge for his sister and instead asked such a question. She stopped crying, her voice shrill, "You scoundrel, your sister gets beaten by someone, and instead of standing up for her and taking revenge, you ask if she did something? Is she automatically at fault no matter what she does? Whose side are you on, anyway? What kind of sin did I commit to raise such a thankless wretch like you? Has your conscience been eaten by a dog?"

Li Guangyuan was scolded thoroughly by the old lady, and in her urgency, she dealt him a few blows, causing him to gradually calm down.

"Mom, I'm just asking. Even if I went to the Zhang Family, I need a reason, right?"

"Your sister got beaten. Why do you need a reason to ask for an explanation?" Old Mrs. Li persisted.

Seeing her unreasonable, Li Guangyuan held back his anger, "Then you tell me, how should I ask for an explanation? As long as you say the word, even if it means killing that beast Zhang Wenbin, I'll do it. After all, I'm just a lonely bachelor now, and I'm not afraid of anything."

On hearing her brother's tone, Li Dongmei became scared and subtly nudged her mother.

She had already explained very clearly to her mother that she was just trying to gain some sympathy, without wanting her brother to confront Zhang Wenbin.

The Zhang Family people, she had already figured them out by now.

The Zhang Family already looked down on them as rural folks. If her brother really went over to cause trouble, the Zhang Family would look down on her even more.

She still hoped to live well with Zhang Wenbin. She had painstakingly become a city dweller and didn't want to go back to the village.

By then, she'd be a divorced woman, possibly with a child, and what man would want her then?

Li Dongmei thought it through, and so did Old Mrs. Li.

Glancing at her daughter, she suppressed her displeasure towards her son and calmly said, "No matter what, Zhang Wenbin is your brother-in-law. What is all this fighting going to achieve? Do you want to ruin your sister's life? You can't manage your own life, couldn't control your wife, and let her divorce you. Do you want your sister to have a miserable life as well?"

Li Guangyuan said nothing, but his face grew darker.

His wife divorced him, but it wasn't because he couldn't manage his wife.

Li Dongmei saw it was enough, gave Old Mrs. Li a signal to stop.

Upon receiving her cue, Old Mrs. Li started crying again, pinching her nose.

"Mom, I know brother is unhappy, and I didn't want to come back to bring you all grief. But my life is truly hard. We rural folks marrying into the city are already marrying up. Now I've only given birth to a daughter, and I've let the Zhang Family down..."

Old Mrs. Li wailed instantly, holding Li Dongmei, "My poor daughter, it's all because of our family's incompetence. If our family had supported you, let you stand tall in the Zhang Family, you wouldn't have suffered these grievances. I just hate myself for being an old bag of bones, utterly useless."

She finished crying for herself and started crying for her late husband, "My poor husband, open your eyes and see. If you hadn't gone so early, how would I have dragged three children through hardships until they're grown, only to still not support them? You left early and spared your worries, leaving me to watch our children suffer, it's ripping my heart out. I might as well have gone with you..."

Li Guangyuan, his head aching from their crying, knew why his mom said all this.

"The money from the house, I have to continue the business. The family relies on this to live. Besides, you married into the Zhang Family to raise children for them. The Zhang Family can't rely on you to support their whole family, can they?"

"Wenbin lost his job after a fight with someone. Their family has no fields, no land, and they were living off his meager salary. Without it, they can't even afford flour. My in-laws despise me because I'm from the countryside, without a job or salary. They always think if Wenbin found a city woman, the family wouldn't go hungry."

Thinking about her current life, Li Dongmei was filled with bitter tears.

This was the city life she dreamed of marrying into, but it was worlds apart from her imagination.

From childhood, she was influenced by her older sister, and only wanted to marry a city man.

Knowing that meant living a good life, eating commercial food without working in the fields.

Now she doesn't need to work in the fields, but without work, she doesn't even have food to eat, let alone the good life she imagined.

Her older sister despised Ma Dazhuang so much, but Li Dongmei knew after her sister married him, she didn't have to work in the fields. All household chores were done by Ma Dazhuang.

Even washing clothes and cooking, Ma Dazhuang would do.

In contrast, before she married, she was already trying to win over the Zhang Family.

After marriage, they treated her like a servant.

House chores like washing and cooking fell on her, even during her pregnancy.

When she gave birth, they saw it was a girl, and didn't even let her rest for a month before putting her back to work.

Zhang Wenbin went without saying.

When he had a job, he would come home and wait to be served like a lord.

Without a job, he was still a lord, still ignoring the crying, wet child, much less her.

Moreover, he grew increasingly displeased with her.

Compared to this, it seemed marrying into the city was no better than marrying Ma Dazhuang.

Chapter 626: She Must Be Given Money

Li Guangyuan had known for a long time that his sister hadn't married a decent man.

He still remembered how disdainful Zhang Wenbin was when he first visited the Li family.

Not to mention how he went back on the promise of the "three-piece dowry" and even expected his sister to bring it as part of her dowry.

Was this marriage? It was more like willingly becoming a servant for someone.

But he didn't expect that the Zhang family not only made his sister a servant, but also wanted the Li family to serve them.

"But the household really has no money left, and it's not just you who can't eat in the Zhang family. We can't expect you to figure it out alone. At worst, you can stay at your mother's with the child, and see if they dare to let you starve."

Old Mrs. Li immediately nodded in agreement, "Your brother is right. If they have nothing to eat, let them starve. You and your child can stay here as long as you like. If the Zhang family can't get your money, they'll naturally find a way themselves."

When these words were said, Li Dongmei's tears fell even more fiercely, "Wenbin said if I don't go back, I should never go back—he'll divorce me."

The word "divorce" was very distant from them just two months ago.

In their village, no matter how couples lived, even if there were fights that led to head injuries or drinking poison, they wouldn't divorce.

There was never any news of a girl coming back to the village after a divorce.

Even though Li Dongmei's husband was on his second marriage, they still thought divorce was something far away, something only city people did.

But after Lin Jiayi and Li Guangyuan really divorced, hearing the word "divorce" only made the Li family feel disgusted and annoyed.

"He says divorce and it's just got to be divorce? Why?"

"Exactly, he's already divorced once. If he divorces you again, who else would want to marry him?"

"He's just trying to scare you. Don't listen to him—nobody is scared that easily."

Li Guangyuan and Old Mrs. Li both retorted, the louder they talked, the more uncertain they felt inside.

Li Dongmei said, "Do you think he's just scaring me? You all know, my in-laws and Zhang Wenbin only want a son. Back then, just because his wife gave him a daughter, they didn't want the mother and child anymore. Now that I've given birth to another girl, he'd really dare to abandon us. Once he's divorced from me, he's a free man—still a city man—with lots of young single women throwing themselves at him."

Wasn't that how it happened with her? She only wanted Li Guangyuan's city status and gave him her virginity.

If she could do it, others could too.

"Mom, I don't want to get a divorce."

Old Mrs. Li also believed her daughter shouldn't divorce. If she didn't divorce, she'd have to meet Zhang family's demands.

Besides, from another perspective, the Zhang family now completely depended on her daughter for living. Her daughter was the only one with money, so how could the Zhang family mistreat her?

By then, wouldn't the Zhang family be at her daughter's command, and wouldn't Zhang Wenbin still dare to hit her?

With this thought, Old Mrs. Li suddenly understood.

She finally understood what her daughter was implying when she came back and talked to her; she needed to be given money.

"Guangyuan, your sister is right, she cannot divorce. You've already divorced. If your sister divorces too, wouldn't our Li family's backbone be utterly broken? I still plan to find you another wife, so you both can live happily. If your sister divorces and comes back home, what girl would be willing to marry you?"

Li Guangyuan naturally understood this principle. With his situation, getting another wife should be no problem.

But if his sister returned, she'd bring back a child too, and it would be more than he could handle to support a big family, let alone attract a good girl?

If he really ended up marrying one who was half foolish, wouldn't that be another burden?

But to give out money...

"I really don't have any money in hand. Why don't you talk to Wenbin and ask him to figure it out first? Then, once I have more funds, I'll lend some to you."

He deliberately emphasized the word "lend."

Even with close siblings, accounts should be clear, let alone a sister who was already married off.

But Li Dongmei didn't care one bit how he phrased it; money in her hand was never meant to be returned.

Her mother never made them return money to her brother.

In her eyes, her brother's money was equal to family's money, which meant her mother's money.

Her mother's money was her own money.

Right now, she needed to figure out how to get the money, as waiting wasn't an option for Wenbin.

She wiped her tears, her eyes glimmering as she looked at Li Guangyuan.

"Brother, do you know Lin Jiayi has money now?"

Mentioning the name again, Li Guangyuan's mind went to Lin Chuxia and Xiyang Food Factory.

Slightly impatient, he asked, "How could she have money?"

Lin Chuxia had always been at odds with her, and apparently wasn't on good terms with the Lin family either.

Even if Lin Chuxia had money, it wouldn't reach Lin Jiayi.

"You really haven't heard a thing?" Li Dongmei was exasperated. "Our village is right next to Daqing Mountain Village, and you haven't heard such big news? Lin Jiayi isn't the Lin's biological daughter; she has a wealthy birth mother who came looking for her not long ago, driving a car to Daqing Mountain Village."

With this, Li Dongmei had a sudden realization, "No wonder she hid it from you and wanted a divorce; she has a rich birth mother now and wants a better life, so she kicked you aside."

Li Guangyuan felt his head buzzing, "Is what you're saying true?"

"Of course it's true. Recently, I ran into Wang Erya from Daqing Mountain Village. She's my classmate; she told me personally. I heard that Lin Jiayi's birth mother treats her extremely well, giving her anything she wants. Lin Jiayi now has so many new clothes she can hardly wear them all and eats out at restaurants every day in the city. Brother, how could you be so dense? She's been taken care of well by

our Li family for years. Why should she throw you aside just because she has a wealthy birth mother now?"

Li Guangyuan watched Li Dongmei's lips open and close, and all the inconsistencies finally made sense to him.

Yes, that's the real Lin Jiayi.

He had been wondering why, despite everything in the past, Lin Jiayi didn't dare to bring up divorce, yet suddenly she did?

The Lin family didn't stop her from making a fuss about the divorce; it was all a conspiracy against him.

Old Mrs. Li grew angrier as she listened. Only today did she hear her daughter mention this, and she hadn't expected that little slut to have such reasons for divorce.

She found a rich birth mother and wanted to climb higher.

And to think she once considered using the child to control that little slut; she hadn't realized the woman had already wanted to get rid of this encumbrance.

"We can't let this matter slide just like that," Old Mrs. Li began, "Our old Li family hasn't wronged her in any way. Genbao is also her flesh and blood. She married into our Li family; she lives as a Li's person and dies as a Li's ghost. How could she just leave like that? Guangyuan, you must go to Daqing Mountain Village to get her back. If she doesn't come back, tell her I won't look after her son anymore; let her take him."

Li Guangyuan clenched his fists tightly, his eyes turning red with anger...

Chapter 627: Humiliation

The recruitment work at Xiyang Food Factory was very successful. Lin Chuxia took two days to fully understand the two pieces of equipment along with the factory's maintenance personnel and the technical staff from the machinery factory.

Next, there would be systematic training for the employees using the new equipment.

Su Wensong had already reported to Lin Chuxia that the employees who would be operating the new equipment were carefully selected from Xiyang Food Factory and the Old Food Factory, all of them being skilled, with strong exploratory abilities, and quick to adapt to new things.

These matters naturally did not require Lin Chuxia to worry, as Su Wensong and Pang Yongli could handle them well.

Lin Chuxia managed to complete the task ahead of schedule, as arranged by Qin Yang, happily returning to Yan City with him.

Meanwhile, someone was racking their brains over the equipment issue.

Lin Jiayi never expected that just asking for a few pieces of equipment, something that Zhuang Yang could have done with a simple word, would now involve bringing in her mother.

Faced with Zhuang Jingshu's deep-set eyes, Lin Jiayi cursed Zhuang Yang in her heart but could only wait respectfully for Zhuang Jingshu's questions.

Zhuang Jingshu quietly observed the daughter she hadn't seen in over 20 years before sighing softly.

"You said before that your sister has been bullying you since you were little, resenting you for taking away her parents' attention, taking everything you like, and destroying anything she couldn't take. She even wanted to steal your marriage proposal, and you've endured humiliation for 20 years in that family..."

Lin Jiayi swallowed, struggling to suppress the guilt in her heart, nodding, "Mom, everything I said is true. If you don't believe me, ask my foster mother. Even if you don't trust me, you should trust her, right? If it wasn't for her going too far, why would my foster mother favor me, a stranger, over her own daughter?"

"Naturally, I believe you and your foster mother, and I'm willing to trust you both. However, what are you doing now? Didn't we agree that once things here were settled, you would come with me to the capital to start a new life? So why are you asking Zhuang Yang to get you equipment?"

Zhuang Jingshu's tone was gentle, but Lin Jiayi dared not take her words lightly.

She had already come up with an excuse, looking at Zhuang Jingshu with determination, "Mom, I know I let you down before. I was too naive, growing up in a village with no vision and learning things slowly. But don't worry, I'll work hard. I know you still have many things to do here, and I don't want to waste time. The vegetable station has already been purchased, and I won't let you spend that money in vain. I've thought it over; I want to open a food factory at the location of the vegetable station. Once Zhuang Yang gets me the equipment, I'll start recruiting workers and make you proud."

Zhuang Jingshu nodded, "It's good that you have the determination to do something. Why do you want to open a food factory? In my view, a small county like An City already has a sizable food factory in Xiyang Foods. Why do you want to start a food business in such an environment? Do you have any plans?"

Lin Jiayi was slightly stunned. What plan did she have? She just wanted to take over Lin Chuxia's business and make her factory go bankrupt.

But she couldn't say this to Zhuang Jingshu.

Before Lin Jiayi could answer, Zhuang Jingshu continued, "You can also let me have a look at your business plan."

Where did she have a business plan?

She had just heard that Xiyang Foods was recruiting, and the whole Ancheng County knew about it. After some inquiries, she found out it was because Zhuang Yang had bought new equipment for Lin Chuxia, and it was even imported from abroad.

She was Zhuang Jingshu's daughter, so why should the family's things go to that little brat Lin Chuxia while she got nothing?

That's why she had Zhuang Yang get her the same equipment, even twice as much as Lin Chuxia's.

Originally, she thought that once the equipment arrived, recruiting some workers would be easy, given the momentum of Xiyang Foods' recruitment.

With workers and equipment, how hard could it be to get something started?

But this wasn't what Zhuang Jingshu thought.

Seeing her motionless for a long time, she asked again, "You've already asked Zhuang Yang to get you equipment, so haven't you planned anything for the factory? How will you arrange the equipment once it arrives? As far as I know, the An City Vegetable Station hasn't been repaired yet; you can't just leave equipment worth hundreds of thousands in a warehouse, right? It's the rainy season now. As for the personnel, what kind of management structure have you considered for the entire factory? Are you planning to manage the whole factory by yourself? I remember you asked Zhuang Yang for four sets of equipment; how many workers will you need to operate them? How will you solve the technical aspects? How about sales? You want to open a food factory; which area of food processing do you plan to focus on? Or are you going to follow Xiyang Foods and produce deli meats and sauces? I've heard they have secret recipes for their deli meats and sauces; where's your formula going to come from? Or are you just going to imagine it..."

Question after question poured out, and only then did Lin Jiayi realize she had oversimplified things.

She knew nothing, yet here she was, being stripped layer by layer in front of Zhuang Jingshu, humiliated and exposed.

Tears fell uncontrollably.

For her embarrassment, and for her helplessness.

She was afraid of Zhuang Jingshu, which is why she only dared to discuss this matter with Zhuang Yang.

Yet, knowing she knew nothing, Zhuang Jingshu still exposed her like this, word by word.

Wasn't she her biological mother? Didn't she say she wanted to make amends?

She had said that whatever she wanted, she would try to satisfy it, and whatever she wanted to do, she would support it.

Is this her support and satisfaction?

It was just a few machines. She could give them to Lin Chuxia but was unwilling to give them to her.

Feeling wronged, Lin Jiayi continued to cry, when she suddenly heard a change in Zhuang Jingshu's tone.

"You say you've been targeted and ostracized since you were young, that Lin Chuxia took everything you liked. Now, what are you doing? Without even a basic plan, you're asking Zhuang Yang to buy you equipment. Are you trying to compete with Xiyang Foods?"

"I didn't!" Lin Jiayi hurriedly denied.

This lie was something she and her mother came up with to deceive Zhuang Jingshu; otherwise, it wouldn't explain why her mother treated her better than Lin Chuxia.

Originally, the mother and daughter weren't worried about it, but who would have thought that Zhuang Jingshu actually knew Lin Chuxia.

As long as she knew Lin Chuxia, it wouldn't be hard to figure out the treatment the siblings had received at home over the years with just a little inquiry.

It had been hard just to deceive Zhuang Jingshu.

"Mom, I don't want to target her. I only saw that my sister is doing so well, and you seem to have a special regard for her, supporting her in her career. I also want to accomplish something for you to see. I used to envy my sister at the Lin Family for having a biological mother. Now that my biological mother has returned, and you value her so much, I'm scared of losing you..."

Lin Jiayi cried helplessly and pitifully, with tears flowing down her face.

Chapter 628: You Are Not Like Her

Zhuang Jingshu quietly looked at her, finally sighing, "I've said it before, it's not the time for you to act yet. I've found you a school in the capital city. Go there and study well, and once you complete your studies, I'll naturally support you in doing what you want."

Lin Jiayi was secretly resentful. If it weren't for hearing that Zhuang Jingshu had actually found her a school and wanted her to go study, she wouldn't have thought of opening a food factory.

She simply didn't want to study.

Since she was young, her academic performance was poor, and by middle school, she couldn't keep up. Over the years, she's forgotten everything she learned before. Going to study now would only bring her embarrassment.

Where would she study? Elementary school or university? No matter which type of school, she wouldn't be able to continue.

Seeing Zhuang Jingshu's firm attitude, Lin Jiayi gritted her teeth and said, "Since you support me in doing what I want, let Zhuang Yang help me buy equipment and build a factory. It's okay if I don't know how to do it; you and Zhuang Yang can teach me. I'll learn well. You've already bought equipment for Lin Chuxia, why can't you buy a few for me?"

Zhuang Jingshu shook her head, "You're different from her."

You're different from her!

You're different from her!!

These few short words pierced Lin Jiayi's heart, reddening her eyes.

Since childhood, everyone has compared the two of them.

She didn't look as good as Lin Chuxia, wasn't liked outside as much as Lin Chuxia, didn't perform academically as well as Lin Chuxia.

Even after getting married, she was inferior everywhere.

In her past life she wasn't as good, in this one she changed partners and still wasn't as good.

It seemed as if she was born to highlight Lin Chuxia, forever living under Lin Chuxia's halo.

Clearly, she is the biological daughter of the Lin Family.

If it weren't for her mother favoring her everywhere, she'd wish for Lin Chuxia to disappear from this world.

If it wasn't for Zhuang Jingshu leaving Lin Chuxia at her home, she wouldn't be overshadowed by Lin Chuxia everywhere.

Now she still says they're different.

But clearly, she is her biological daughter now.

"We're not the same; I don't look as pretty as her, don't please people like her, don't have her skills, so Mom, have you regretted acknowledging me as your biological daughter? If so, then don't recognize me. I'll just pretend you're not my biological mother, live my life as the adopted daughter of the Lin Family, endure others' disdain and bullying..."

After saying this, Lin Jiayi didn't look at Zhuang Jingshu's expression, and turned to run out.

When Zhuang Yang heard the arguments between the two, he entered to see Zhuang Jingshu's slightly pale expression.

"Chairman, are you okay?"

Zhuang Jingshu waved her hand, sitting silently for a while.

Zhuang Yang hesitated before speaking, "I see that the conflict between Miss and Miss Lin seems quite big. Do you think the cooperation with Miss Lin should..."

He knew the chairman's main purpose of returning to the country was to find Miss.

If the cooperation with Miss Lin affects the mother-daughter relationship between Miss and the chairman, it's not worth it.

Zhuang Yang didn't expect things to turn out so coincidentally. The chairman always treated Miss Lin as a lifesaver but she turned out to be the arch-enemy of her biological daughter.

On one side is the lifesaver, on the other is the biological daughter; it's indeed a difficult choice.

However, Zhuang Yang thought of many ways to repay the lifesaver's kindness. Since Miss resists too much contact between the chairman and Miss Lin, terminating the cooperation and repaying Miss Lin in another way also works.

Zhuang Jingshu waved her hand, "No need, make arrangements to handle matters here quickly, then we'll head to the capital."

"But Miss seems quite resistant to going to the capital to study," Zhuang Yang roughly knew why.

Previously, Lin Jiayi had asked him to teach her how to drive. He spent half a day teaching Lin Jiayi the most basic operations, but she couldn't understand.

Later, having no choice, he found books on learning driving skills for her to read. She couldn't understand them, let alone recognize many of the words.

Clearly someone who attended middle school, yet not even comparable to an elementary student.

Zhuang Jingshu did not explain further, "Just do as I said."

"Then... not waiting for the report results either?" Zhuang Yang asked again.

"Not waiting."

.....

Lin Jiayi ran quite far until she slowed down after entering an alley.

Wiping the tears from her face, she covertly looked back, relieved only when realizing no one was chasing after her.

Her heart was uneasy, lacking assurance.

This was her first time speaking such forceful words to Zhuang Jingshu, truly driven to desperation.

She dared not allow Zhuang Jingshu to continue questioning; that woman was too formidable, no match for her.

Afraid that continued questioning would reveal her flaws.

Lin Jiayi was even more reluctant to go with Zhuang Jingshu to the capital.

Apart from not wanting to study, she didn't wish to be with that woman every day.

The best solution was to stay in An City; with enough money, she could live well anywhere.

Establishing her own business would enable her to demand money from that woman legitimately.

She never anticipated things going so unsuccessfully.

Lin Jiayi glanced towards the distant hostel, her gaze darkening.

Indeed, being non-biological makes a difference. Seems like she'll still need her mother's help for ideas.

Lin Jiayi came on a bicycle today, having recently bought a women's bicycle with her newfound money.

Actually, she desired more to drive a small car, but she hadn't anticipated driving a car being so troublesome, it seemed she couldn't learn.

Lin Jiayi mounted the bicycle, riding home while pondering her options.

Wondering what kind of reaction Zhuang Jingshu would have to her words.

Lost in thought along the way, she unknowingly arrived at her doorstep.

Even before entering, hearing her child crying in the courtyard reached her.

She was very familiar with this crying; wasn't it her son Genbao's voice?

Lin Jiayi's face suddenly darkened, angrily pushing the door into the courtyard.

Sure enough, she saw Li Guangyuan and Genbao in the courtyard.

Her commotion attracted their attention.

Li Guangyuan almost didn't recognize Lin Jiayi at first glance.

Was this the wife he lived with for three years?

Wearing a bright red dress, the material looked unusual, contouring her figure revealingly.

The two braids had also come undone, styled into large waves.

This was his second time seeing this hairstyle on a woman nearby.

The first was Lin Chuxia, except her hairstyle made her beautifully aggressive, whereas Lin Jiayi's hairstyle gave a chaotic impression.

Not just the hairstyle was similar, Lin Jiayi also wore lipstick.

Her mouth was bigger than Lin Chuxia's, with bright red lipstick, evoking a ferocious bloody mouth.

None of this was noteworthy.

In Li Guangyuan's eyes, Lin Jiayi now was just a moving money tree.

He was no ignorant peasant; he'd seen all sorts of city people from selling vegetables in the town these years.

Even among city folk, few could dress as she did now.

Finding one's biological mother definitely makes a difference.

Chapter 629: Her Shame

Lin Jiayi felt a surge of disgust as she noticed Li Guangyuan's scrutinizing gaze, "What are you doing here? We're already divorced."

Mother Lin quickly approached when she saw Lin Jiayi return, whispering softly, "Oh my, you're finally back. Li Guangyuan heard you've found a wealthy mother, so he's here trying to freeload with the child. Don't let the sight of the child soften your heart. A man who only knows how to live off others doesn't deserve even to carry your shoes, and as for that little brat, you can't keep him. Having such a burden will ruin your future."

Lin Jiayi didn't need her mother to remind her; she knew that truth well enough.

Otherwise, she wouldn't have swiftly divorced Li Guangyuan when Zhuang Jingshu showed up.

She just didn't expect the shamelessness of the Li Family, showing up to pester her even after the divorce.

Li Guangyuan, watching the mother and daughter murmuring, could guess what was being said. He looked directly at Lin Jiayi, "I need to talk to you. Let's go inside for a chat."

Lin Jiayi sneered, "I've got nothing to say to you. Li Guangyuan, didn't you only care about your mother? Didn't you only think about your two sisters? I've let you have them. From here on out, it's your mother and your sisters in that house. You can devote yourself to filial piety however you wish, give all your earnings to your sisters, and no one will stop you."

"Jiayi, don't speak in anger," Li Guangyuan said as he stepped forward, trying to grab her arm.

Lin Jiayi quickly dodged his hand, "What do you want?"

Mother Lin also stepped in front of Lin Jiayi, glaring angrily at Li Guangyuan.

Li Guangyuan helplessly called out, "Mom, I just want to talk to Jiayi."

"Who's your mom? Don't call me that. I can't bear it."

Lin Jiayi mocked him too, "Li Guangyuan, have you no shame? We are divorced, and we have nothing to do with each other now. Get out of my house immediately."

"How can it be nothing? Even if we're divorced, you're still Genbao's mom."

Li Guangyuan pushed the child in front of Lin Jiayi.

"You're Genbao's mom, I'm Genbao's dad, how could there be nothing between us? Jiayi, I was wrong. I really know I'm wrong now. I'll listen to whatever you say from now on. Come back with me, and we'll live well together."

Lin Jiayi looked at the child in front of her, once seeing him as her lifesaver, but now only feeling he was a disgrace.

"Now you realize you want me back? Why didn't you come for me when I went back to my maternal home? Li Guangyuan, wake up. There's no way I'm going back with you. If you still have any dignity, leave my house immediately and never step foot in here again. I've cut all ties with you."

Li Guangyuan suddenly laughed, "Cut all ties? That's easy for you to say. The child is half yours too. If you don't want to come back with me, then you have to support the child."

"That's the Li Family's child, Li Guangyuan. Have you forgotten what your mom and you said when we divorced? If you have, let me remind you: your mom said we could divorce, but the child belongs to the Li Family, and I was to leave alone, leaving the child behind. What, you forgot already?"

Of course, Li Guangyuan remembered those words.

No one imagined Lin Jiayi would really go through with the divorce then; they only said that to keep her tied with the child.

It never occurred to them that this woman would climb high and eagerly throw the child at him.

Since he came here, Li Guangyuan had already resolved to fight.

Why should Lin Jiayi have a good life and abandon him? If Lin Jiayi doesn't let him live well, he won't let her live well either.

"I don't want to waste words with you. If you don't come back to the Li Family with me, fine, give me three thousand yuan, and I'll take the child away. Otherwise, you have to take care of the child; one month you, one month me."

If she didn't want to give money, she had to co-parent with him. As long as they still had ties, he could eventually drag her back.

"Three thousand yuan? Are you crazy?"

Lin Jiayi couldn't believe how shameless Li Guangyuan could be.

She couldn't even get US\$ 30 from him back then, and now he asked for three thousand.

Li Guangyuan laughed coldly, "Don't tell me you don't have it. Everyone knows you've found a wealthy mom. Three thousand yuan isn't a problem for you. Solve this burden for three thousand, and it's worth it for you."

This time, before Lin Jiayi could speak, Mother Lin couldn't help it, "Worth it, my foot! Li Guangyuan, you really think we Lin Family have no one to stand up? You're coming to bully us now."

As she spoke, she rolled up her sleeves, picked up a broom, and started swinging at him.

Lin Jiayi didn't hold back either.

She's had enough of suffering in the Li Family these three years. Before, she was cautious, fearful that if things blew up, Li Guangyuan would divorce her out of annoyance.

Now, she had nothing to worry about.

The mother and daughter, one with a broom and one with an iron shovel, prepared for a full assault.

Li Guangyuan had no intention of fighting them. He had come prepared, knowing that presently Lin Jiayi was unlikely to return to the Li Family with him, but she dreaded the burden of the child. If she didn't want to keep the child, she had to give him money.

The child was her Achilles' heel.

That woman who dreamt day and night of becoming a wealthy wife, how could she let a child ruin her plans?

Seeing Mother Lin and Lin Jiayi move to attack, Li Guangyuan ran straight for the door.

Lin Jiayi, still rational, shouted, "Take the child with you. This is your Li Family's child."

Mother Lin shifted from expelling to blocking him, "Take the child when you leave. Don't even think about dumping this burden on my daughter, not a chance."

Lin Jiayi picked up the child and shoved him into Li Guangyuan's arms. Li Guangyuan refused, and the two pushed and shoved, paying no mind to the child wailing loudly between them.

Eventually, Mother Lin and Lin Jiayi managed to push Li Guangyuan out of the house, successfully stuffing the child into his arms, and slammed the door shut.

The whole process was seamless.

Li Guangyuan stood outside the door with the crying child in his arms, the broom scratches on his face stinging his nerves, making his gaze grow colder.

"Lin Jiayi, open the door for me, you heartless mother, Genbao is your son..."

No matter how he shouted, the Lin Family's door remained unopened, though the commotion attracted the neighbors out to watch.

The news of Lin Jiayi's divorce had spread long ago, as divorces were unheard of in the village in these times.

Now seeing Li Guangyuan show up, whispers and murmurs started among the onlookers.

Post-divorce and coming around again, Li Guangyuan was clearly in the wrong, now feeling utterly humiliated under the pointing and gossiping gaze of the crowd.

"What are you looking at?"

He roared, seemingly ready to fight someone.

The crowd came for the spectacle, not to be scolded, and promptly retreated to their homes.

After the onlookers dispersed, Li Guangyuan placed the child right at the Lin Family's doorstep.

Leaving the child there, he didn't believe Lin Jiayi would ignore it.

Mother Lin and Lin Jiayi had listened silently to the commotion outside, hearing Li Guangyuan's harsh words and the child's incessant crying from the doorstep, realizing that he had indeed left the child at their door.

Chapter 630: The Impostor

"What a bastard, discarding his own son like that. It's fortunate that you divorced him. We were really blind back then."

Mother Lin cursed harshly, but after venting, she looked at Lin Jiayi, "What if he really doesn't take care of the child?"

Leaving the child at their doorstep isn't a solution, is it?

Lin Jiayi's face darkened as she opened the front door.

Seeing that Li Guangyuan's figure was indeed gone and the child was sitting on the ground crying, she turned around and walked back inside.

"He can leave the child wherever he wants, that's his son. We made everything clear during the divorce; it's no longer my concern."

"Exactly, it's not our problem. He's a child of the Li family. They want to tie my daughter down with a child for life? Dream on."

Seeing her daughter's resolute attitude, Mother Lin finally felt relieved.

Her daughter is still young and has now found a wealthy mother. There's still a long road ahead.

Finding a young and promising city dweller isn't hard. Bringing a burden like this would ruin her daughter's life.

Thinking of this, she remembered Lin Jiayi going out earlier today.

"When will the machine you're buying arrive? Does your dad need to hire some people first? I heard that the county's food factory was recruiting workers recently. Even people from our village went there. I've heard it was packed. Everyone wants to work at the food factory. I've decided, when our factory opens, your dad must think thoroughly about recruiting people. Absolutely can't hire those we're at odds with. Let your dad be the factory manager and manage it for you, so you won't get taken advantage of."

She had already decided who absolutely wouldn't be hired, and not only that, she planned to humiliate them greatly.

When they first moved to Daqing Mountain Village, those people bullied them as outsiders.

Lin Jiayi irritably said, "My biological mother has returned."

"Why has your mother come back again? Didn't she return to Yan City?" Mother Lin immediately sensed the key issue, "Does she not want you to open a factory?"

Seeing Lin Jiayi's face, Mother Lin became anxious, "Why should she stop you from opening a factory?"

This was something the three of them had discussed behind closed doors. That woman wanted to take her daughter to the city for studies.

If it were really to enjoy the good life there, it would be fine, but to study?

Her daughter has never liked studying. You can only imagine how much she'll be wronged. She'd rather keep her under her watchful eyes.

That woman is wealthy; she can get the equipment. Let her open a factory for her daughter too.

With their support, how could this be difficult?

Lin Jiayi sank onto the edge of the brick bed, "That woman watches me like a thief. She treats me, her biological daughter, worse than she treats Lin Chuxia, that little bitch."

Thinking about Zhuang Jingshu's words, "You and she are different," Lin Jiayi's heart ached with anger.

"Mom, Lin Chuxia, that little bitch, I don't know what kind of magic potion she gave that woman. That woman buys her equipment, helps her set up a factory, but doesn't care about me. She is determined to take me away. What should I do, mom?"

"Has she bought stuff for that little bitch again?"

Mother Lin couldn't sit still upon hearing this.

Lin Jiayi's eyes flared red with anger, "I heard from Zhuang Yang that in Yan City, they're helping Lin Chuxia build another factory. The site is set; they're just waiting to construct the buildings and install the equipment. That factory is even bigger than Xiyang Food Factory; it's all funded by that woman..."

She looked at Mother Lin, feeling utterly wronged, "Mom, you see Lin Chuxia having so many factories, I just wanted her to help me set up one food factory, but she specially rushed from Yan City to scold me today, not allowing Zhuang Yang to get me equipment. She said I'm not as good as Lin Chuxia. I think that little bitch is doing this on purpose, knowing I recognized a rich mom, she deliberately approaches, she just can't stand seeing me doing well..."

Mother Lin's face turned extremely dark, clenching her teeth, she said, "I really underestimated that little bitch. Right, when the one named Zhuang scolded you, did you not say anything?"

Lin Jiayi's face became unnatural at once.

Seeing her like this, Mother Lin understood, "I told you to stay calm. Of course, Lin Chuxia, that little bitch can be dealt with. You must focus on appeasing that one named Zhuang. As long as you appease her well, your good days will come."

"But I can't seem to appease her well. She only has eyes for Lin Chuxia now. Mom, could she really not know? Or is she acting with us, and already knows that Lin Chuxia is her biological daughter, and I'm the imposter? Otherwise, why would she be so good to Lin Chuxia yet target me everywhere?"

Thinking of Zhuang Jingshu's look, Lin Jiayi felt a chill down her spine.

That one look seemed capable of seeing right through her.

"No, absolutely not," Mother Lin assured, "You must not lose your cool. As long as I insist, you are her biological daughter. As for your little sister, I will handle her later. How can she rebel against us?"

"But I really don't want to go to the capital to study. You know, I hate studying the most, and I don't want to leave you either."

In An City, she still had her mom to give her advice and share the burden.

Living in the capital facing that woman daily, Lin Jiayi couldn't imagine what that life would be like.

She wanted a good life, but a good life with money, not a life forced to study.

"Okay, I understand, sweetheart. Don't worry, mom will find a way for you..."

The mother and daughter comforted each other, not realizing a figure entered and left the house.

Lin Jiadong stood at the doorway, his mind echoing his elder sister's words, "Lin Chuxia is her real daughter, and I'm the imposter"...

So it was... so it was...

He should have realized earlier.

From childhood to adulthood, the way his parents treated the three children. When he was young, he couldn't tell, but growing up, especially after the two sisters got married, he realized it.

His elder sister was pampered, and because he was a boy, he too was favored by his parents.

Only his second sister worked the most and ate the worst.

Good food at home seldom reached her, and sometimes their mother would sneakily give it to him and the eldest sister.

With his mother's nature, how could she not care for her biological daughter in favor of an outsider?

Only the eldest sister could be her biological daughter. The second sister must be the adopted one for it all to make sense.

But why did Mom and his big sister do this? Hasn't the second sister suffered enough at home?

Finally, when their real mother came, she let the elder sister go and acknowledge kinship.

Lin Jiadong clenched his fist tightly, his mind in chaos, barely able to think straight.

He walked out of the door numbly, even forgetting that he had rushed in to call someone because he saw his little nephew at the door.

He didn't want to stay in this home, unable to face his mother and elder sister after knowing the truth.