

Switched M 631

Chapter 631: How Should He Choose?

Lin Jiadong was even afraid to ask why, fearing that his mother and eldest sister would tell him straight to his face that it was because the woman had money, and that either his sister or mother had taken a liking to her money and wanted to hog such a good thing for themselves.

If that really were the case, what should he do?

"Lin Jiadong, what's wrong with you? Didn't you go home? Why are you back again?"

Someone called his name, and only then did Lin Jiadong snap out of it.

It was then that he realized, unconsciously, he had already returned to school.

"Why aren't you saying anything? Did something happen?"

The other person saw his absent-minded expression and asked again.

Lin Jiadong shook his head, "Nothing."

Li Youmin also climbed down from the upper bunk, chuckled, and put an arm around his shoulder, "I really envy you guys with bicycles, going home whenever you like and coming back to school whenever you like. If I had known you didn't want to go home this week, I would have borrowed your bike. Now that it's already dark, it's too late to go home."

"Come on Li Youmin, even if Jiadong lent you his bike, I bet you wouldn't go back. Aren't you still preparing for the October competition?"

"Studying requires a balance of work and rest. Look at Lin Jiadong; he doesn't bury his head in textbooks every day, and he still got third place nationwide. Since Jiadong's back, let's go out together and relax."

Lin Jiadong avoided his hand, speaking indifferently, "You guys go ahead, I want to stay in the dorm for a while."

Li Youmin missed the chance to put his arm around him and complained, "Jiadong, that's not cool. You've been going home almost every week lately, and it's rare for us to hang out together. Don't spoil the fun. I just talked about balancing work and rest, and now you're taking it seriously?"

"It's not about being serious; I'm just not feeling well," Lin Jiadong didn't want to explain more and lay down on his bed.

Li Youmin shrugged, "If Jiadong's not going, then I won't either. If even top-performing students are working so hard, what reason do we have not to?"

Lin Jiadong looked at the mottled wall, unaffected by his classmate's words, thinking about only one thing in his mind.

On one hand, his mother and elder sister, on the other hand, his second sister, how should he choose?

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Lin Chuxia hadn't expected to receive a call from Mother Lin.

These days, she had been constantly discussing the clothing factory with Wang Tianxue and Jia Liang.

The land had already been approved, and Jia Liang was busy overseeing the construction of the factory.

Here, one must mention the convenience of having government support.

The project construction was directly undertaken by government bidding in Yan City, and in just two months, it could be handed over for use.

With Bai Qifeng personally keeping an eye on the government side, there was nothing to worry about.

Lin Chuxia just needed to work with Wang Tianxue to make decisions and plans for the factory, then proceed with recruitment and production once the factory was built.

It was at this time that Mother Lin's call came.

The call was made to the main branch of Qin's Restaurant, and it was Qin Juan who answered.

Before receiving Mother Lin's call, Lin Chuxia had already received a call from Qin Han, telling her that Mother Lin had gone to their house to find Lin Chuxia's contact information. Qin Han didn't give her the phone number of their family compound, nor did he give her Qin Yang's work number, but left the number of Qin's Restaurant instead.

So when Lin Chuxia got notice from Qin Juan that Mother Lin had called her, she was relatively calm.

"Big Brother called me yesterday morning, saying that the in-law wanted the phone number, and he left the restaurant's number for her. Sister-in-law, is there something the Lin Family wants from you?"

Even though she didn't know why her big brother went through so much trouble just to give the restaurant's number to the Lin Family, she didn't reveal much and merely said she would pass on the message.

But she was still worried that the in-laws might interfere too much when it came to his sister-in-law's family.

Lin Chuxia also didn't know why Mother Lin was looking for her, but she was grateful for Qin Han's cautious consideration.

If he really had given Mother Lin their home phone number, she probably wouldn't have peaceful days anymore.

"Did she say anything to you, sister-in-law?"

"No, she just asked me to tell you to go back to the Lin Family when you have the time."

Actually, Mother Lin's tone wasn't very pleasant at the time.

She remembered hearing from her mother that her sister-in-law's family didn't seem to treat her very well.

Qin Juan didn't say much, worried that it would upset her sister-in-law if she heard.

"Okay, I got it, sister-in-law. If she calls again, ask her what it's about, if she doesn't say, forget it."

She wouldn't go back to the Lin Family. If it was truly important, Mother Lin would call again, and if she didn't specify, there was even less reason to go back.

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Lin Chuxia guessed right; just two days later, Mother Lin called again.

Qin Juan mentioned that Lin Chuxia was far away from there, making it inconvenient to call her over and asked if there was anything she could pass on.

Mother Lin angrily replied that there was no need, and demanded that Lin Chuxia hurry back home, or else she wouldn't recognize her as her daughter anymore.

When Qin Juan called, Qin Yang was at home, and upon hearing their conversation, his brows knitted tightly.

"Does the Lin Family want something from you?"

Ever since his wife married into the Qin Family, her family had been indifferent.

In the first couple of years, they even wanted to drain her like a blood bag, but fortunately, his wife was sensible and had severed ties with that whole bunch.

Now, they were calling repeatedly, asking her to go back. Qin Yang didn't think it was for anything good.

Moreover, with his wife heavily pregnant, he didn't want her running about either.

Lin Chuxia gently patted his arm in reassurance, "Don't worry, no matter what it is, I won't go back."

She had a feeling that Mother Lin's call for her to return was probably for her eldest sister once again.

Sometimes, she truly couldn't understand. She was the Lin Family's biological daughter, so why did her mother always want to sacrifice her interests to benefit her sister?

Was her mother truly such a selfless person?

Seeing that Lin Chuxia was aware, Qin Yang was also relieved.

"If there really is something, I'll go back myself. No matter what happens, I'll handle it. You just rest at home and don't worry about it."

"I know."

Lin Chuxia smiled slightly and extended her arm.

Qin Yang pulled her into his embrace.

Listening to the steady heartbeat of the man, the feeling was truly reassuring.

Even after three calls, Lin Chuxia remained indifferent.

She thought that with her attitude, the Lin Family would be left with no choice, especially since she was far away in Yan City. The mountains were high, and the emperor far away, so they would eventually give up.

Unexpectedly, Mother Lin managed to find the family compound.

Lin Chuxia hadn't gone out that day and was at home doing needlework with Sister-in-law Fu.

In the courtyard came Yuan Bao's barking, followed by a woman's voice scolding the dog.

Sister-in-law Fu heard the angry cursing outside and stood up first.

"Who is that, making such a fuss with a dog?"

Who visits someone's home with such arrogance?

It's not a visit; it's someone picking a fight, isn't it?

Lin Chuxia could see Mother Lin in the courtyard through the glass.

Seeing the stranger's overbearing demeanor, Yuan Bao barked even louder.

Refusing to give an inch.

Chapter 632: Is She an Enemy?

Sister-in-law Fu looked at the person outside, who was not a family member from the compound, and saw Lin Chuxia's calm expression. She asked with concern, "Do you know this person? If not, I'll go out and send them away."

"I know them," Lin Chuxia put down her work, stood up, and walked out.

Sister-in-law Fu, seeing the visitor's unfriendly demeanor, did not leave and followed behind Lin Chuxia.

She thought that in case something happened, she could lend a hand. Lin is now pregnant and due in a month, and nothing can be taken lightly.

Mother Lin thought she might have come to the wrong place since the dog had been barking for so long and no one came out of the house.

She was contemplating whether to go to the nearby unit to find her son-in-law.

Truth be told, she was a bit afraid to confront her son-in-law.

That second son-in-law seems even more cold-hearted than her second daughter, never showing respect to her as a mother-in-law.

He even dared to threaten her for the sake of that ungrateful second daughter.

But considering her eldest daughter's situation, she was willing to give a bit for her.

Coming all this way, it couldn't be for nothing.

Just as she was thinking, the door opened, and Lin Chuxia stepped out.

Mother Lin's eyes brightened at the sight of Lin Chuxia, meaning she didn't have to find the second son-in-law.

"Why did you take so long to come out? Didn't you hear me calling you at the door? You've really grown up and no longer care about your mother."

Sister-in-law Fu was slightly surprised to hear the visitor claim to be Lin Chuxia's mother.

Seeing Lin Chuxia standing at the door, not stepping forward or denying the visitor's words, she understood something and stood behind Lin Chuxia.

"Hurry and get this little dog away. Why do you keep a dog in such a spacious courtyard? Who are you guarding against? Even at home, you were unapproachable. Now that you've moved to the city with your husband, you still don't know how to get along with the neighbors. People will see and think your parents didn't raise you well, bringing shame to the family..."

Mother Lin had made three phone calls, expecting Lin Chuxia would obediently return. Yet after waiting for over a week, there was no sign of her.

She could wait, but her eldest daughter couldn't.

In her old age, apart from her initial escape journey, she rarely went to Ancheng County. Her trips to the city were even rarer, only to be blocked by a dog this time.

From home to here, she had accumulated a bellyful of anger and was furious at the sight of Lin Chuxia's face.

Lin Chuxia looked calmly at Mother Lin, her deep black eyes like a still pond, inscrutable.

The baffled Sister-in-law Fu frowned a bit; had she not known the visitor was Lin Chuxia's mother, she would have been less polite.

Even so, she couldn't believe someone's mother could be so absurd.

Is this a mother or an enemy?

Seeing Lin Chuxia unmoved, Mother Lin sounded even more dissatisfied, "Are you deaf or what? Didn't you hear me telling you to move this dog away? I've come all this way, dying of thirst. Let me in for a drink of water."

"There's no hot water at home today. Say what you need here," Lin Chuxia wouldn't let Mother Lin inside.

She knew her mother too well, having never cared for her from childhood.

After three phone calls and coming all the way herself,

If she were really here for Lin Jiayi, and wasn't satisfied, who knows what she'd do.

She's currently pregnant and due in a month.

She couldn't take any chances.

Mother Lin widened her eyes incredulously, "I've come all this way to see you, and you won't let me in? You ungrateful girl, do you have no conscience? I am your mother. Aren't you afraid of lightning striking you?"

Lin Chuxia looked indifferently at her mother, familiar with these curses since childhood.

She was used to it, just as Mother Lin uttered them so effortlessly now.

"If you have nothing to say, forget it. Qin Yang will be home soon. If you don't want to talk to me, you can speak with him," Lin Chuxia turned to leave.

Mother Lin dared not speak those words to Qin Yang. Seeing Lin Chuxia turn away without hesitation, her voice sharpened with anger.

"Stop right there, you ungrateful girl! What do you mean by turning your back on your mother? This is your attitude? Marrying down but ignoring your family? Are you not afraid of others gossiping and ruining your reputation?"

Her voice was piercing, disregarding that this was the family compound of Qin Yang's unit, where his coworkers lived.

Afraid Lin Chuxia would really just go inside, she quickly added, "Don't you know why I'm here? Your elder sister is concerned for you, wanting to help manage your shops. You're not grateful, fine, but why take what belongs to your sister? Since childhood, how have I raised you? How did you turn out so spiteful..."

Lin Chuxia slightly turned to look at her, her black eyes making Mother Lin fall silent.

"What... what did I get wrong?"

Lin Chuxia spoke blandly, "What did I take from my elder sister?"

"Stop playing dumb with me. How did you get new machines for your food factory? Do you dare say you don't know about the Zhuang Family's relation to your sister?"

Mother Lin's heart ached.

She heard those machines cost several ten thousand, and funding was provided for her factory.

That money was meant for her daughter.

Lin Chuxia remained indifferent, "What's her relationship with Elder Sister?"

Mother Lin was stumped.

Since the Zhuang liaison, all was hidden from Lin Chuxia.

Yet somehow the secret slipped, and this brat found a way to mingle with the Zhuang Family.

She had long been fuming about it.

"Don't pretend clueless. You have lackeys all over Ancheng County; how can you not know your sister's relationship with the Zhuang Family? How else would you ingratiate yourself?"

Lin Chuxia didn't deny her words, just voiced her doubt.

"Mom, I've never understood—since Elder Sister is part of the Zhuang Family, as your biological daughter, shouldn't you wish me well? At least be fair..."

"Are you shameless?" Before Lin Chuxia could finish, Mother Lin cursed, "You know she's with the Zhuang Family, yet you take their money for your factory? Return the money immediately, and cut all ties with the Zhuang Family. I can't bear this disgrace. Or I'll die right at your doorstep, so neighbors and your husband's coworkers can see how you drove your mother to death for greed..."

"Elder Sister, isn't that a bit much," before Mother Lin could finish, a woman's voice came from behind.

Chapter 633: It's an Honor to Work with Her

Mother Lin seemed to be frozen in place like someone struck by an acupoint. She slowly turned her head and saw Zhuang Jingshu's elegant and beautiful face.

But that elegant and beautiful face was currently faintly suppressing anger.

And the middle-aged woman beside her, with whom she stood side by side, showed no restraint in her anger.

When their eyes met, she even gave her a glare.

Mother Lin had no time to think more and quickly put on a smiling face.

"Sister, how come you're here? Oh dear, it's all my fault for not teaching this dead girl well, letting her do such a shameless thing. Don't worry, I've already scolded her. I'll make her return the money to you at once. Our poor family, though poor, has dignity. How can we take your money?"

Zhuang Jingshu looked at Lin Chuxia's extremely indifferent little face and felt even more heartache for this little girl.

If it weren't for her daughter being in the Lin Family, would she be the only daughter of the Lin Family, and would her mother still treat her this way?

Turning to look at Mother Lin again, her eyes couldn't suppress the coldness, "Sister, you're mistaken. Chuxia didn't ask me for money. I appreciated her ability and actively sought cooperation."

"What cooperation? How could she have such skills? I know the character of the child I gave birth to, she's just envious of Jiayi for having a rich mom like you and does things against Jiayi to spite her, cozying up to you to swindle your money. She's been pulling stunts like this from childhood to now, don't let her deceive you..."

"Ms. Guo," Zhuang Jingshu suddenly raised her voice to interrupt her.

Although Guo Cuihua was the adoptive mother of her daughter and indeed her benefactor.

But having a mother belittling her own daughter this way still ignited her anger.

Moreover, Lin Chuxia was also her life-saving benefactor.

"I don't know if you have some misunderstanding about Chuxia, but I trust my judgment. Chuxia is a very assertive and courageous child, and I am honored to partner with her."

She refrained from calling Lin Chuxia "Miss Lin" twice in a row to let Mother Lin see her recognition of Lin Chuxia.

Mother Lin didn't care, "How can there be any misunderstanding? I know her too well. From childhood to now, she's always grabbing her older sister's things, can't stand seeing her sister doing well. Otherwise, why would I treat her this way? Not to mention that she isn't grateful to her sister, but instead goes further and even competes for her own mother. I can't stand it anymore. Without any other things, even her marriage was snatched from her sister, otherwise how could she have become a wife of an official in the city?"

"Mother-in-law, your skill at twisting the truth truly impresses me."

The man's voice rang out, and Qin Yang had already strode in from outside, heading directly to Lin Chuxia.

Seeing Lin Chuxia in good condition, he finally relaxed, then turned to look at Mother Lin.

"Mother-in-law traveled all the way here just to debate the marriage issue with me? Why don't we go inside and have a good talk?"

Mother Lin honestly didn't expect that in such a short time, not only had Zhuang Jingshu arrived, but Qin Yang had also returned from work.

She was indeed intimidated by Qin Yang, her son-in-law.

However, with several people watching, retreating now would make her trip useless today, not to mention her eldest daughter's future days, how could they go on?

She took a deep breath and her face turned cold, "What is there to say with you? I came today just to find my daughter. What, my daughter married into the Qin Family, and now I'm not allowed to say a word as her real mother?"

Lin Chuxia wanted to speak, but Qin Yang stood before her and spoke up, "My wife is pregnant and will give birth in a month. Mother-in-law hasn't asked since she got pregnant, and now comes to accuse, even distorting the truth to give her a bad name. Those who know would see you as her mother, and those who don't might think my wife is adopted."

To Sister-in-law Fu and Sister-in-law Gong, those words were nothing out of the ordinary.

Mother Lin's attitude towards Lin Chuxia was too harsh. They were all familiar with Lin Chuxia, having done needlework and chatted together frequently over the past half-year.

One's nature can be seen not only from actions but also from words and deeds.

They knew Lin Chuxia wasn't the type of person Mother Lin described.

Since that's not the case, and Mother Lin is slandering her like this, isn't it just like a stepmother?

But both Mother Lin and Zhuang Jingshu took those words to heart.

Mother Lin even guiltily glanced at Zhuang Jingshu, her heart racing as if it would leap out of her throat.

Seeing that Zhuang Jingshu had no reaction, she slowly let out a breath.

Then she angrily eyed Qin Yang, "Don't give me this useless talk. Whether she's my biological daughter, I know clearly. She is my flesh and blood."

Having said that, she didn't wait for Qin Yang to argue, directly looking at Lin Chuxia, "Don't think just because outsiders stand up for you, you can defy heaven. I am still your mother. Today, I'll put my words here: no more taking anything related to the factory or machines from the Zhuang Family. I didn't think

of taking their things while raising your sister, nor should you break my rules. Now that you're pregnant, focus on resting and raising the child, and stop stirring up things, or I won't acknowledge you as my daughter."

She laid down her harsh words and then turned to speak to Zhuang Jingshu, "I know you give her things and money for our sake. I've said not to take it, and won't take it. If you have a kind heart, treat Jiayi well. She's never endured grievances for the past twenty years by my side. Ironically, after you acknowledged her, rules are imposed everywhere. If you truly don't see her as a daughter, don't recognize her. I raised her to adulthood and can continue to care for her for decades more."

After Mother Lin finished speaking, she didn't look at the reactions of those in the yard and just turned to leave.

Sister-in-law Gong had a face full of anger toward this person originally, but after hearing the conversations, she was also baffled.

The other person, although arrogant, was Lin Chuxia's mother and seemed to have some connection with Zhuang Jingshu beside her.

She looked at the woman next to her and found Zhuang Jingshu was just watching her leaving back with a calm expression.

When she looked at Lin Chuxia and Qin Yang, they also maintained calm and composed expressions.

"That..."

She opened her mouth, not knowing how to begin.

Today she went to Old Master He's place for a pulse check and intended to get some Chinese medicine to regulate her body, just running into Zhuang Jingshu who was coincidentally rescheduled for a follow-up visit as well.

Knowing that Sister-in-law Gong was the wife of Minister Wei and lived in the same family compound as Lin Chuxia, the two hit it off immediately and had a delightful chat.

Lin Chuxia had been resting at home to take care of her pregnancy recently and hadn't been to Old Master He's place, and Zhuang Jingshu hadn't seen her for a while too.

So she proposed coming to the house with Sister-in-law Gong to see Lin Chuxia, and that's how they came over.

Unexpectedly, they encountered such a scene.

Zhuang Jingshu sensed Sister-in-law Gong's unease, turned to Lin Chuxia, and said, "I'll handle the matter of cooperation with your mother. I believe there's certainly a misunderstanding in this. Our cooperation is a win-win, mutual benefit exchange and has nothing to do with the past kindness your mother spoke of."

Chapter 634: What Is She Feeling Guilty About?

If there are indeed personal feelings involved, it is because she is grateful to Lin Chuxia and Old Master He for curing her illness, allowing her to do what she wishes during her lifetime.

Lin Chuxia nodded at her.

She certainly knew what the cooperation with Zhuang Jingshu was about.

This situation was not suitable for staying any longer, so Zhuang Jingshu and Sister-in-law Gong directly said their goodbyes.

Sister-in-law Fu also didn't stay, simply telling Lin Chuxia to call her if anything came up.

Once everyone had left, Qin Yang looked at Lin Chuxia worriedly, "Are you alright? She didn't give you a hard time, did she?"

Lin Chuxia smiled slightly, "Didn't you see? With you all here, how could she trouble me? Why did you come back so early?"

"I heard someone was causing trouble at home, so I hurried back."

He immediately thought it might be the Lin Family.

Thinking of his mother-in-law's usual attitude towards his wife, he couldn't stay in the office anymore.

"Don't worry, I won't be taken advantage of."

Seeing her mother approach, Lin Chuxia had already thought of a strategy, but she hadn't expected Zhuang Jingshu to come at this time or Qin Yang to return so quickly. Even before she could take action, Mother Lin had fled in haste.

Qin Yang furrowed his brows, still not at ease.

"I think we might as well call off the cooperation with Walson. Since Zhuang Jingshu is your elder sister's biological mother, we should try to distance ourselves from them."

Not because of Mother Lin's words, Qin Yang simply felt that as long as they were connected to that family, his wife wouldn't have a peaceful life.

"The project has already been approved by the city; how can we just stop it?"

Their cooperation was no longer just between individuals, and by now, many people were watching. It wasn't easy for her to back out.

Moreover, Zhuang Jingshu is an extremely opinionated woman, not someone who is easily manipulated.

Seeing that his wife didn't agree, Qin Yang was helpless.

"If the Lin Family comes to find you again, just call me."

"Got it, I'm not as fragile as you think," Lin Chuxia said with a smile.

Since they were both back, and it was almost time to get off work, Qin Yang didn't return to the office. Instead, he discussed with Lin Chuxia what to eat that evening.

Lin Chuxia now had a big appetite, sometimes eating so much that Qin Yang worried, as her belly grew like a balloon.

Knowing she was eating for two, he always made delicious food according to her taste.

"Let's go to the market and buy a fish to make fish soup, and get some green vegetables," Lin Chuxia suggested.

She also realized that her weight was increasing too fast recently.

It's good for the fetus to be healthy and growing, but gaining too much weight too quickly in late pregnancy could cause problems during childbirth.

Moreover, the medical standards at that time were still limited, and a cesarean section was a major surgery.

Lin Chuxia didn't want to take that risk; she just wanted a smooth delivery.

So when necessary, she had to exercise some control.

Qin Yang wasn't aware she had thought through all this; he never said no to her requests for food.

The market wasn't far from the compound, so they walked there.

They bought fish and vegetables, and when they saw fresh fruit, they bought some too.

Back home, Qin Yang cooked the meal himself.

With Lin Chuxia's large belly, it was inconvenient, so Qin Yang took care of all the household chores, trying not to let her do anything.

After dinner, Qin Yang circled a date on the calendar, signaling it was time to take Lin Chuxia for a check-up at the hospital again.

Lin Chuxia wasn't keen on going, as she felt fine, and the doctor had said there was no need for a check-up unless there were unusual circumstances.

But Qin Yang was worried.

Finally, Lin Chuxia couldn't resist him, realizing that if she didn't go, Qin Yang wouldn't be able to concentrate at work or do his job well.

To ease his mind, Lin Chuxia eventually agreed.

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The twilight glow swept across the sky, gradually being enveloped by the night.

A gentle breeze dissipated the day's heat.

Zhuang Yang knocked on the door but didn't hear a sound inside, so he gently opened a crack in the door.

The room was dark, with the dusk casting shadows through the window on a figure seated by the window.

Reaching out to switch on the light, he saw Zhuang Jingshu sitting motionlessly in a chair, quietly staring at the street outside, not even reacting to his entrance.

Today he took the chairman to see Old Master He for a follow-up, where they met Minister Wei's wife. Later, the two went to the compound, saying they wanted to see Lin Chuxia.

After dropping the chairman and Minister Wei's wife at the compound, he went to the government offices to handle some matters.

Only after handling the matters did he know that the chairman had returned.

He had greeted the chairman back then, and the chairman sat in that position.

Had she been sitting here for two or three hours?

"Chairman?" he called softly.

Seeing Zhuang Jingshu move slightly, he continued, "Dinner is ready, prepared according to your taste. Will you go downstairs to eat, or should I have them bring dinner to your room?"

"Bring it here," Zhuang Jingshu said, withdrawing her gaze indifferently.

Receiving the instruction, Zhuang Yang was about to leave when he heard Zhuang Jingshu calling him again.

"Call and urge them on that side. I want to know the results as soon as possible."

Zhuang Yang was slightly stunned, "You mean your and Miss Jiayi's samples?"

Zhuang Jingshu nodded.

"Didn't you say..."

Zhuang Jingshu looked out the window again.

She thought of Mother Lin's reaction when Qin Yang said those words today.

The flicker of guilt in her eyes flashed by, but she still caught it.

What was she guilty of?

Was she guilty of treating her biological daughter this way, or...

Lin Jiayi's temperament wasn't nurtured well, and as a mother, she felt she owed her, so she could raise her slowly over time.

She could accept a daughter with nothing to her name, but she wouldn't tolerate a long-planned deception.

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The next morning after breakfast, Qin Yang took Lin Chuxia to the city hospital.

Qin Yang's unit also had an affiliated hospital, but its scale was small, with simple departments, and only two doctors in the obstetrics and gynecology department.

Therefore, Qin Yang initially chose the city hospital, which had better medical facilities.

He always knew that pregnancy and childbirth meant bringing a new life into the world, but also facing mortality challenges.

Even healing a broken bone requires months of recuperation, so extracting such a large child from a woman's body—a child that gathered a woman's vital energy—it's evident how much a woman sacrifices for this child.

Qin Yang couldn't manage the fate of everyone but wanted to ensure his wife received the best medical conditions, the best care, minimizing risks.

This was why he insisted on taking Lin Chuxia for prenatal check-ups.

He wouldn't allow any additional risks.

Once they arrived at the hospital, there weren't many pregnant women getting check-ups.

There were only two pregnant women outside the room of the doctor responsible for Lin Chuxia.

One seemed about five or six months along, quietly sitting in front of the doctor's office.

The other was accompanied by her husband, and her months appeared similar to Lin Chuxia's.

As the weather heated up, there were no fans in the hallway, and not even the wind could blow in.

The woman, hot and irritable, fanned herself with her hands, frowning and complaining to the man about something.

Chapter 635: Accident

Qin Yang chose a spot a little further away for the two of them and let Lin Chuxia sit down.

Then he took out some water from his bag and let her drink a couple of sips first.

After putting down the cup, he took out a folding fan and stood next to her, fanning her.

Ever since the onset of summer, Lin Chuxia had become especially sensitive to heat. At home, she wished for the fan to always blow directly at her, and when going out, she always carried a small fan.

Qin Yang knew she was afraid of heat, so whenever he was around, he'd always fan her.

This gesture was commonplace between them but drew the attention of surrounding onlookers.

Especially the woman who came with her husband, her complaints grew louder.

"Look at other husbands, they know to bring a fan. You, on the other hand, don't want to think about anything all day long. How did I end up marrying such a useless person? Worthless and troublesome, I said you didn't need to come, but you insisted. Now I'm suffering because of it."

The man had a good temper and coaxed her gently, "Okay, okay, I'll be more mindful next time. I'll bring you a fan next time."

After speaking, he gave a resentful glance at Qin Yang and Lin Chuxia.

Lin Chuxia pursed her lips and also glanced at Qin Yang.

To be honest, in this day and age, how many husbands who accompany their wives for check-ups have bad tempers?

Those with bad tempers who don't care about their wives wouldn't come at all.

The woman continued to complain when suddenly the sound of hurried footsteps came from the end of the hallway, along with a man's shout and a woman's painful moans...

A man, carrying a woman, quickly ran over from that side, shouting for a doctor as he ran.

Immediately, a passing doctor pushed an emergency bed over, instructing him to put the woman on it.

It was only then visible that the woman's belly was significantly swollen — she was pregnant and seemed about to give birth.

After placing the woman properly, the doctors and family members of the patient pushed the emergency bed swiftly towards the delivery room.

After the chaos, only the woman's anguished cries remained, one after another, miserable and haunting.

Until the delivery room door closed, only then did it block out part of the sound.

The corridor was quiet for a brief moment, then the woman beside them suddenly started crying.

"It's terrifying. I don't want to have children anymore. Can I not have them?"

The man again comforted her with kind words.

Fortunately, it was almost their turn for the check-up, so the two of them entered the examination room, and the hallway fell silent again.

Qin Yang continued fanning Lin Chuxia steadily, noticing her still staring intently in the direction of the delivery room. With his other hand, he gently touched her hair, "Were you also frightened?"

Inside, he was equally unsettled.

He saw the woman bleed a lot, the blood even staining the man's clothes.

Lin Chuxia shook her head. While childbirth is arduous, it is essentially a natural occurrence in the continuation of life.

She had seen Jiang Hong give birth, and it wasn't this frightening.

Most likely, the woman encountered some unforeseen incident.

The reason she stared so long was to identify the two people.

Earlier, it was chaotic; the woman's hair was scattered, almost concealing her face.

With medical staff busy around her, she could only see the man's profile, resembling Yang Rui.

Now, with the medical staff and the woman all in the delivery room, only the man waited at the door.

A slight turn verified his identity: it was indeed Yang Rui.

Meaning, the woman giving birth inside should be Tang Lili.

After this incident, no one spoke, leaving the corridor in silence.

The couple who went in came out, and the woman's feelings had calmed significantly. She no longer shouted about not wanting children; presumably, the doctor had offered plenty of comforting words.

After the woman who came alone for her check-up went in and came out, it was Lin Chuxia's turn.

The doctor observed her healthy complexion and immediately gained confidence, even complimenting her several times.

In these times, it's indeed rare to see someone maintain such good health during pregnancy.

After some basic inquiries, Lin Chuxia was asked to lie down for the next step of the examination when there was a knock at the consultation room door.

A nurse pushed the door open and entered, "Doctor Wang, there's a patient in the delivery room with a difficult labor situation, it's critical. Doctor Li asked me to get you to lend a hand."

Upon hearing this, Doctor Wang immediately put down the stethoscope, "What's the situation?"

While inquiring, she started preparing herself.

"The fetal position is incorrect. She's only a few days away from her due date, but she fell this morning, and her water broke. No one was home, and after a neighbor found her and called her husband back, they brought her to the hospital. The cervix is fully dilated, but only one leg came out first."

"One leg?" Doctor Wang turned her head abruptly to inquire.

"Yes, one leg. By the time she reached the hospital, a little foot was already out and has been stuck there since..."

Doctor Wang, in a rush, put things in order and headed out without saying goodbye to Lin Chuxia.

Lin Chuxia sat up from the bed and patted Qin Yang's arm.

"Hmm?"

Qin Yang, startled, turned his head, seeing Lin Chuxia was already sitting up, hurried to assist her.

Lin Chuxia raised a hand to wipe the sweat off his forehead, "It's okay, you heard too, hers is a special case."

Qin Yang supported her as she got up, nodding repeatedly, "I know... I know, it's okay... You're always in good condition, there's nothing to worry about, I'm not worried..."

Not worried?

The person who was comforting her earlier was now visibly pale with fear.

That sweat isn't from the heat.

"What should we do? Should we come back tomorrow?" Qin Yang asked.

Mainly, having encountered such a situation today, staying there felt like torment.

Lin Chuxia didn't plan to leave, "Since we're here, let's wait a bit."

She also wanted to see how things turned out over there.

Seeing Qin Yang restless, she added, "The woman who just entered the delivery room, I know her. She's the one who argued with Doctor Li during the last check-up."

Qin Yang now remembered as well; they were right next door then.

The doctor had already identified incorrect fetal positioning and asked her to try adjusting it herself at home.

She didn't follow the doctor's instructions and instead blamed the doctor for lack of skill.

But how did his wife know her?

Lin Chuxia nodded, "The man with her is Yang Rui, Wang Tianxue's ex-husband. Back then, Yang Rui cheated on Tang Lili, leading Wang Tianxue to divorce him. The patient in the delivery room is Tang Lili."

...

Half an hour later, Doctor Wang finally returned, seeing Qin Yang and Lin Chuxia still waiting in the consultation room. Only then did she realize she had left so abruptly that she forgot she had patients waiting, promptly apologizing to Lin Chuxia.

Lin Chuxia naturally wouldn't hold a grudge against the doctor for this.

No matter the situation, life comes first.

For doctors, this belief is their guiding principle.

Doctor Wang made the most appropriate choice in that situation, which Lin Chuxia understood.

Having interacted with Lin Chuxia multiple times, Doctor Wang had grown quite fond of her.

Especially her rational behavior.

Had it been another patient, they might have complained about her leaving without a word of explanation, not putting the patient first.

Conversing casually while examining her, Lin Chuxia took the opportunity to ask about Tang Lili's condition.

Chapter 636: Every Family Has Its Troubles

"They had a baby boy. Although both mother and child are safe, it was a tough ordeal. At first, one leg came out, but the other got stuck and wouldn't come out, so a cesarean section had to be done. The mother lost too much blood, and the incision location might mean she won't be able to have more children in the future. Fortunately, the country now advocates family planning, having only one child is good. As long as the body is nurtured well, it won't be an issue."

"Is the baby okay?"

Although Lin Chuxia doesn't think much of Tang Lili, the child is innocent.

The amniotic fluid broke early, and after such a long labor, it's hard not to affect the baby.

Doctor Wang sighed, "As of now, the vital signs are normal. But although this child is full-term, he looks much smaller than a full-term baby. The delivery took a long time, and when he was first born, he didn't cry at all. Doctor Li and I worked hard to get him to cry. Though the cry was quiet, thankfully, there were no mishaps. With good care, he can slowly grow."

"That's good," Lin Chuxia nodded.

Doctor Wang added, "So you need to listen to the doctors, that way you can endure less pain. But as of now, your pregnancy looks good, the fetal position is straight, the delivery should be smooth."

Lin Chuxia gently rubbed her belly, tenderly and softly, "I hope so."

.....

Sister-in-law Fu was carrying a basket of groceries out the main entrance when she saw a well-dressed woman standing at the neighbor's doorway.

She had seen this person before, when the neighbor Lin's mother came, this woman was also there.

Though she arrived a little later than Lin's mother, with Minister Wei's family.

At the time, she even quarreled with Lin's mother. From what she heard, this woman seemed to be some relative of the Lin Family.

Thinking of this, Sister-in-law Fu stepped forward a few steps, glanced at the locked door and asked, "Are you looking for Lin?"

Zhuang Jingshu nodded but couldn't recognize the woman in front of her, she was with Lin Chuxia yesterday.

Judging from the direction she came from, she's Lin Chuxia's neighbor.

"Do you know where she went?"

Zhuang had been there for a while, the yard door was locked.

Thinking Lin Chuxia's belly is so big, she usually doesn't go to Old Sir He's place much, couldn't have gone far, just thought to wait for her a while.

Unexpectedly, she waited over an hour and still didn't see her.

"Oh, I heard she said she was going to the hospital for a checkup, she should have gone to the hospital."

Sister-in-law Fu saw the disappointment on the woman's face, remembered that this woman spoke up for Lin Chuxia that day, and kindly suggested, "Why don't you come to our house and sit for a while, wait for Lin?"

Zhuang Jingshu smiled and shook her head, "No need, I can come back tomorrow."

Sister-in-law Fu hesitated, but couldn't resist saying, "I don't know what your relationship with Lin is, but I can vouch that Lin isn't the type of person her mother says she is."

"Hmm?" Zhuang Jingshu raised her eyes, "Seems like you have a good relationship with Lin?"

Sister-in-law Fu gave a small smile, "Well, we live on the same street, and we often sit together and chat. I do passable needlework, and since Lin got pregnant, she often pulls me along to do needlework together. Over time, we got closer."

"But... Lin's mother says bad things about her, why do you think she's a good person?"

Upon hearing this, Sister-in-law Fu's smile faded and her voice got a bit louder.

"Do I not have eyes or mind? Lin and I have lived here for over a year; I've seen her clearly. To be honest with you, I had wondered before, that Lin and her husband had been here for so long, I've only ever seen Lin's mother-in-law, never her biological mother, even after Lin got pregnant, I've only seen a brother from her family come over. I thought perhaps their home was far away, and it's not easy for her family to come even once. I was even wondering if Lin's mother would come when she gives birth. A woman giving birth is like going through the gates of hell, if her mother doesn't come, and something happens, wouldn't it let the in-laws have control over her fate? Yesterday, I saw her mother and understood."

A mother like that should really not come, what good would it do?

Just add to the aggravation?

"So, we should use our eyes and hearts to see things, not just listen to rumors."

Zhuang Jingshu nodded, "You're right, I think Lin is a good kid too."

Getting this agreement, Sister-in-law Fu showed a smile.

"That's right, not to mention, among the families living in this big courtyard, there aren't many who can find fault with Lin. I really can't understand how her mother can be so dismissive of her. I have kids myself; it's hard not to care for the flesh that fell off your own body. Even if some value boys over girls, it's not so much as to disdain their own daughter. Is she their biological one, or adopted?"

After speaking, Sister-in-law Fu felt she might have said too much, how did last night's complaints with her husband end up being spoken outside?

Quickly waving her hand, "I didn't mean it that way, I'm just feeling sorry for Lin... Big sister, don't take it to heart, my mouth really has no filter."

Zhuang Jingshu gave a light smile, "I know, I also pity Lin very much."

Sister-in-law Fu secretly let out a sigh of relief, and didn't dare stay much longer.

She kept feeling that this woman had something strange about her; she hadn't meant to say much, but with just a few words from the other, her mouth went off like a dam.

Afraid she might spill more, she quickly carried her basket and left.

Once Sister-in-law Fu had walked far, Zhuang Jingshu looked again at the tightly closed door.

Gone for a hospital checkup, judging by the days, it's about time for the birth, indeed she should check frequently at the hospital.

Childbirth for a woman is like going through the gates of hell.

Guo Cuihua probably doesn't care at all whether her daughter gets through safely.

.....

Sister-in-law Fu returned from buying groceries, and from afar, saw someone standing at Lin Chuxia's door.

This wasn't the same woman she saw when she left, but a young man.

She knew this person too, Lin Chuxia's brother from her family.

Yesterday the mother from her family came, scolded Lin Chuxia for no reason, and today the brother from her family comes again?

Sister-in-law Fu shook her head internally.

Every family has its own troubles.

Previously seeing Lin Chuxia and Qin Yang's smooth days, not only did the couple have a good relationship, but both were good at making money.

In the whole courtyard, theirs was the most respectable life.

Who would have thought Lin Chuxia would have such a troubled family, such a mother.

Sister-in-law Fu saw the neighbor's door still locked, paid no attention to Lin Jiadong at the door, and went home directly with her groceries.

As soon as she entered home, her daughter Hu Yaping came out, "Mom, I finished my homework, let me help you with the groceries."

Sister-in-law Fu answered, looked at her daughter and thought of Lin Chuxia.

When you talk about a child, daughters are the ones who are considerate.

Her daughter usually isn't very chatty, but is mindful of what's going on, knows to care for her mother, helps with work whenever she has time, and never makes her worry about her studies even a bit.

Chapter 637: Narrow-Mindedness

Taking another look at her son.

It's said that sons are the foundation of the family, but their foundation was never at home, never to be seen all day, not coming back until mealtime.

Not to mention helping her with things, it's already good if he doesn't cause trouble.

Just as she was thinking of her son, Hu Xingwei came back from outside.

As he entered the house, he said, "Mom, why is there no one at Aunt Lin's house next door? Hasn't Aunt Lin been home every day lately? I saw her brother wandering at the door; it's so hot, and there's not even a tree at the door. Why not let him come over to our house for a while?"

Hu Yaping looked up upon hearing this, also glancing at Sister-in-law Fu.

Sister-in-law Fu was picking vegetables and didn't lift her head, "There's no tree at the door, is there nowhere else with a tree? It's hot inside the house too, I think it's cooler under the big tree outside."

Hu Xingwei disagreed, "Isn't there a fan in the house? Besides, if he comes to our house, he can have a drink of water." Usually, their family had a good relationship with Aunt Lin's family, so why was his mom acting like this?

Sister-in-law Fu sneered, "He won't get thirsty not drinking water for a short while. You help me pick the beans instead of minding others' business."

Now Hu Xingwei and Hu Yaping both sensed something was up.

Their mom wasn't usually like this.

"What's going on?" Hu Xingwei asked.

Sister-in-law Fu couldn't say much to the kids, only said, "Every family has problems of their own; you two don't need to get involved. That's Aunt Lin's family business."

"Oh," Hu Xingwei responded, obediently squatting down to pick beans.

But Hu Yaping stood up directly and walked out.

Sister-in-law Fu called after her, "Where are you going?"

"I'm going to take a look."

"What are you going to see?"

Hu Yaping ignored Sister-in-law Fu, walked out the door, and saw Lin Jiadong squatting at the neighboring gate.

It was nearly noon; the sun was blazing, and he was just squatting there under the sun, with his head down, letting the sun beat down on him.

"Are you trying to get heatstroke by exposing yourself to the sun like that?"

A woman's calm voice came through, and Lin Jiadong finally noticed the pair of legs beside him.

Looking up along the legs, the glare of the sunlight pierced his eyes, but he saw the owner of those legs.

She was wearing a light-colored dress with a ponytail.

Lin Jiadong recognized her, Hu Yaping, the neighbor of his second sister.

"No."

He just couldn't figure some things out, even after so many days had passed, he still couldn't understand why his mom did what she did.

That was his second sister's biological mother, and his second sister never had a good day in their house; now her real mom came looking for her, how could they let them meet without recognition?

He also heard that the woman was sick and didn't have long to live. She returned to the country this time just to find her daughter and fulfill her wish.

Were his mom and sister's hearts made of stone?

Or did money matter more than anything else in their eyes?

These days, he couldn't focus on his classes, couldn't sleep, sometimes even regretted coming home that day.

If he hadn't come home, he wouldn't have overheard the conversation between his mom and eldest sister, wouldn't know the truth, wouldn't be so torn.

On one side was his mom and eldest sister, on the other was his second sister.

No matter what he did, there was a hurdle in his heart.

But he was also glad he went home that day. His second sister endured so much grievance in their house, and treated him so well; he should tell his second sister the truth.

In such torment, Lin Jiadong finally mustered up the courage to come to Yan City.

But seeing his second sister's home tightly shut, he started to feel tormented again.

Hu Yaping saw he had something on his mind and said no more, turning back to go home.

Soon, she came out with a small bench.

"Here, there's shade under the tree over there."

Lin Jiadong took the small bench, "Thank you."

After thanking her, Lin Jiadong looked at her again.

This girl didn't say much, but every word was apt.

Just like when he was wrongfully accused in the capital.

At that time, the teacher was from the elite school they all were a bit intimidated by, no one dared to speak up for him.

Only Hu Yaping stepped forward to tell everyone that the watch was his own.

Thinking of this, Lin Jiadong asked, "I heard there will be a national math competition again this year; will you participate?"

Hu Yaping nodded, "Yes, I'll participate, so see you in the exam room. I hope you won't disappoint me, I'll try to surpass you this time."

After saying this, Hu Yaping went home.

Lin Jiadong looked at her back in a daze; the gloom in his eyes gradually filled with spirit, as if he had figured out something.

He realized he was too narrow-minded.

Every day he agonized between his eldest sister and mother's actions.

He didn't have to be like this.

Trouble and pain wouldn't solve problems.

A jeep drove in from the road in the distance; his second sister was back.

Lin Chuxia also saw the person at the door from afar.

When the car stopped at the gate, Qin Yang got out first, and then helped Lin Chuxia out of the car.

"Second sister."

For some reason, seeing his second sister this time, Lin Jiadong felt a lump in his chest.

"Why did you come over? Does school have a holiday today?"

Lin Jiadong nodded.

When Qin Yang opened the door, Lin Chuxia invited Lin Jiadong into the yard.

Lin Jiadong remembered something, took the bench over to return it next door.

When he came back, Lin Chuxia was already sitting inside, drinking a glass of water Qin Yang had poured for her.

Qin Yang also poured him a glass.

"Thanks, brother-in-law."

Lin Jiadong sat across from Lin Chuxia, fumbling with the glass of water.

Seeing him like this, Qin Yang didn't linger, told Lin Chuxia he'll be in the kitchen cooking, leaving the siblings to talk.

After Qin Yang left, Lin Jiadong still stared at the water glass in his hand.

Lin Chuxia finished her glass of water, yet he sat like a statue, unmoving.

"Did you come to see me for something?"

Lin Jiadong looked up; it wasn't that he didn't want to talk to his second sister, he just didn't know where to start.

He opened his mouth, took another gulp of water, and said nothing.

Lin Chuxia quietly waited for him, watching him place the glass on the table, and when he raised his head again, his eyes were faintly bloodshot.

"Second sister," he called dryly.

Lin Chuxia nodded, "Go ahead, I'm listening."

Lin Jiadong glanced at her swollen belly, "Then... no matter what I say, don't get upset. I don't know how to tell you about this, but if I don't, I feel guilty. Second sister, I'm sorry..."

He knew his second sister was pregnant and shouldn't be stressed, but if he didn't say it he was afraid his mom and eldest sister might do something again.

Lin Chuxia smiled gently, "Go ahead, what could you have done? Why would you be sorry to me?"

Lin Jiadong lowered his head, covered his head with his hands, "I went home that day, and suddenly heard mom and eldest sister talking. Eldest sister said... she said Lin Chuxia is her biological daughter, and I am the fake one..."

Afraid Lin Chuxia wouldn't understand what he was saying, he recounted his mom and Lin Jiayi's conversation from that day to Lin Chuxia, exactly as it was.

Chapter 638: Any Way Is Fine

"Second Sister, I don't know who they were talking about, if it's... if it's that woman, Second Sister, Big Sister she..."

He looked at Lin Chuxia. The answer was so obvious, yet he dared not jump to conclusions.

He only stared intently at Lin Chuxia's face, watching her reaction.

Anger, unwillingness, grievance... or would she curse them for their malice.

But he saw nothing, only Lin Chuxia maintaining her previous demeanor, giving him a slight smile, "Is it just this matter?"

Lin Jiadong instinctively nodded, "Just this matter."

Lin Chuxia poured him another glass of water, "You kept this in your heart for several days without studying properly, right? Now that you've said it, do you feel better? I understand now, thank you for telling me."

"Second Sister," Lin Jiadong felt his second sister's reaction was off and spoke with some concern, "If you want to vent, just vent. I know that what Mom and Big Sister did was wrong. Don't get yourself too worked up, think of the little nephew in your belly. If necessary, you can tell Second Brother-in-law and let him help you vent."

Lin Chuxia smiled again, "How can your Second Brother-in-law help me vent? Go to Daqing Mountain Village and beat them up?"

Seeing Lin Jiadong dumbfounded, Lin Chuxia continued, "Don't worry, I'm fine. I have a handle on this. You don't need to worry anymore, just go back to school and study well."

"Oh," Lin Jiadong responded mechanically.

He didn't know how his Second Sister would handle it, but it didn't seem like she was pretending. Gradually, his anxious heart settled.

In any case, his Second Sister would handle it better than him.

No matter how Second Sister treated his mom and big sister, they deserved it.

After lunch, Lin Jiadong returned to school.

Qin Yang also felt that Lin Jiadong was acting strangely today. Although there was nothing wrong during lunch, he surely must have said something to Lin Chuxia.

In the end, Lin Chuxia took the initiative to talk to him.

When he heard his wife say that she might not be a daughter of the Lin Family, but Zhuang Jingshu's daughter, Qin Yang was truly shocked and then felt an immense heartache.

No wonder the Lin Family's attitude towards their two daughters was so different.

If that's the case, everything makes sense.

Then he became furious at the Lin Family's shamelessness.

He knew Zhuang Jingshu, who dragged her frail body back to the country just to find her lost daughter.

Yet the Lin Family had the audacity to impersonate.

Thinking about it all, Qin Yang was both furious and amused by the Lin Family's shamelessness, "What do you plan to do? Will you acknowledge Ms. Zhuang?"

Lin Chuxia shook her head, "I haven't decided yet, let's just wait and see."

She didn't know the cause of the matter, nor did she understand how she ended up at the Lin Family.

In her previous life, she died as a daughter of the Lin Family, and in this life, a biological mother suddenly appeared. She didn't quite know how to face it.

Naturally, Qin Yang supported Lin Chuxia's decision.

He reached out to hug her, "Whatever you decide is fine."

.....

At night, a fierce storm raged, heavy rain poured down, and after the storm passed, it turned into a light drizzle.

By morning, the rain hadn't stopped, and the air was humid.

After a period of heat, this rain felt quite considerate.

After breakfast, Qin Yang was about to go to work. Before leaving, he repeatedly reminded Lin Chuxia not to go out.

Yesterday's check-up results were very good, Lin Chuxia's baby's position was correct, and the fetus's head had already descended.

Plus, Lin Chuxia had always been in good health, and Doctor Wang optimistically said that they could wait until labor to go to the hospital.

But Qin Yang wasn't at ease.

Yesterday's scene at the hospital not only scared the pregnant women waiting there but also terrified Qin Yang.

The thought of accidents leading to severe consequences made him wish he could stay by Lin Chuxia's side every moment, keeping an eye on her without blinking.

However, reality made it impossible for him to do so, and he could only nag incessantly like an old lady.

He nagged Lin Chuxia to the point of annoyance.

After Qin Yang left, Lin Chuxia finally enjoyed some peace and quiet.

On a rainy day, she naturally didn't want to go out, so she took out the cotton fabric she bought earlier and thought about making some small belly bands.

Previously, she made small clothes, but a few days ago Sister-in-law Fu saw her still making them and reminded her that babies born in this hot season can't wear small clothes; just make a few small belly bands to cover the tummy.

The belly bands are easy to make, and Lin Chuxia now had no pressure making these things.

Just after cutting out the pattern, she heard Yuan Bao barking in the yard.

At the gate, someone stood holding an umbrella, standing quietly.

Seeing that person, Lin Chuxia was a little surprised, then put down what she was doing and went out to greet them.

Just as she got to the door, before opening the umbrella, the person stopped her.

"The ground is slippery outside, don't come out."

Lin Chuxia put the umbrella down again, "Then please come in and talk," she said, calling for Yuan Bao.

Yuan Bao obediently returned to the doghouse.

Zhuang Jingshu entered the yard with an umbrella.

.....

Inside the house

Lin Chuxia looked at Zhuang Jingshu and felt no waves in her heart after knowing their relationship.

Perhaps they were already familiar with each other.

Without thinking much, she poured a glass of water for Zhuang Jingshu.

"Thank you."

Zhuang Jingshu thanked her, her gaze towards Lin Chuxia soft and serene.

"I heard you went for a check-up yesterday, is everything okay?" she smiled, "I actually came by yesterday, waited outside your house for a while, and your neighbor said you were at the hospital for a check-up."

So she had come yesterday.

Lin Chuxia nodded, "Everything is fine."

Hearing this, Zhuang Jingshu also smiled, "That's good. Being a woman isn't easy. Pregnancy and childbirth is like stepping into the gates of hell, you must take good care of yourself. If you need anything, feel free to ask me."

Lin Chuxia looked up, puzzled, "Ask you?"

Zhuang Jingshu nodded; Sister-in-law Gong's words from that day echoed in her ears repeatedly as she remembered the difficulties of childbirth, feeling increasingly guilty towards Lin Chuxia.

Afraid that Lin Chuxia wouldn't accept, she explained with a smile, "Don't misunderstand. Consider it my way of repaying you for saving my life. I'm also a woman, and I understand how tough it can be."

Lin Chuxia lowered her gaze. Earlier, she thought she knew.

It turned out she overthought.

"Aren't you afraid that your biological daughter will be dissatisfied with you for helping me again? And the others in the Lin Family..."

"Child," Zhuang Jingshu interrupted her, eyes urgent, "I'm sorry, I didn't know they caused you so much pain. I know you're not the person they portray you as. It's my failure in fulfilling a mother's duty, and my negligence has hurt the innocent you."

Lin Chuxia met her gaze and then turned away.

After a moment, she said, "It's not your fault."

She already knew the nature of Mother Lin and Lin Jiayi in her previous life.

And from her interactions with Zhuang Jingshu over this period, she understood her character.

If she were truly someone who couldn't distinguish right from wrong, when Lin Jiayi opposed her and Mother Lin came knocking, she should have clearly stated her position and distanced herself from her.

Instead of repeatedly coming to her to explain.

Chapter 639: The Truth

She shifted the topic and tried to ask, "Ms. Zhuang, what's going on between you and my older sister? My mom says you are her biological mother."

Zhuang Jingshu nodded, not intending to hide that part of Lin Chuxia's past.

This child has had a hard time, and she feels sorry for her.

"Your older sister is the child I left in foster care with the Lin Family. I originally thought it would be just a temporary arrangement for a few days, but it ended up lasting 23 years..."

years?

Although she had heard the result from Lin Jiadong, hearing it confirmed from Zhuang Jingshu's mouth still made Lin Chuxia's heart tighten.

She is 23 this year, and Lin Jiayi is two years older than her, so she should be 25.

So, the Lin Family did indeed deceive Zhuang Jingshu.

In her thoughts, Zhuang Jingshu had already begun to talk about that past.

"It was 1964 when a sudden change occurred in my family. Before that, my father had noticed something was wrong, and he arranged for the younger generation to hide with relatives first, while he used his connections to contact people abroad, hoping we could go abroad to avoid trouble."

She looked at Lin Chuxia with a sad smile, "But back then, it wasn't easy to go abroad, and no one was willing to take us in for fear of being implicated. My husband and I sought refuge with a distant relative, but when we got there, they didn't want to take us in. So we had to go to someone else's home. At that time, I was like you, over eight months pregnant. After days of traveling, I was exhausted, and my health wasn't good to begin with, so I went into premature labor."

The pattering sound of rain outside the window seemed to pull her back to that past, making her voice even more somber.

"At that time, my husband and I were in a remote valley, calling for help in vain. I even thought my life would end there. In utter despair, an old lady passing by saw my plight and took us to her home. She personally helped me give birth. By the grace of heaven, I safely delivered a baby girl. But the child was premature and had been through so much turmoil; she was very frail. We couldn't stay there long, and the child couldn't withstand even a bit of disturbance. Ultimately, the old lady came up with a compromise to keep the child, and we would come back for her after things settled. My husband and I

thought about it and realized it was our only option. We left most of our money and food tickets with them, asking them to take good care of the child. We promised to retrieve her, also promising a generous reward upon return."

"So that old lady is..."

Zhuang Jingshu nodded, "She is your grandmother, the old lady of the Lin Family. I went to your original village this time and heard that your grandmother waited with the child but couldn't wait any longer and had to hand her to her daughter-in-law to raise with her granddaughter."

She finished speaking and looked at Lin Chuxia again.

"So, child, I owe an apology to the Lin Family and to you. Don't take to heart what your mom says. I will explain everything to her. Our cooperation is based on your capabilities, not related to the Lin Family," she paused and continued, "If there is a relationship, it's because you and your master saved my life."

"I know."

Lin Chuxia had never taken Mother Lin's words to heart.

She met Zhuang Jingshu first, so how could it possibly be through them that she collaborated with Zhuang Jingshu?

Seeing no misunderstanding, Zhuang Jingshu spoke again, "In a little while, I will take Jiayi away. I initially wanted to have her by my side for proper guidance, but she doesn't seem close to me. She said she couldn't bear leaving her original parents, and your mom also said she has emotions attached after so many years and couldn't bear to part with her. I didn't want to cut off their mother-daughter bond abruptly, so I let her stay with the Lin Family. It was thoughtless on my part. These days I've thought it through: I can't selfishly consider only Jiayi. After I take her away, your mother should focus her affection more on you."

Lin Chuxia pressed her lips together without speaking.

Zhuang Jingshu presumed she agreed; after all, no child doesn't long for parental affection.

Seeing the time running late and having said all she needed to, she reminded Lin Chuxia to take good care of herself before leaving with an umbrella.

Lin Chuxia watched the drizzling rain curtain in the yard, where the person had long disappeared, yet she remained in deep thought for a long time.

On the other side, Zhuang Yang saw the returning chairwoman with an umbrella, quickly got out of the car to open the rear door for her.

"Let's go to Daqing Mountain Village," Zhuang Jingshu instructed.

"Chairwoman, are you sure you don't want to wait for the result? I called, and the result should come out soon."

Zhuang Jingshu shook her head, "No waiting," she wouldn't selfishly let innocent people suffer anymore.

"Have them prepare well first, and leave after sorting things out here."

.....

By the end of June, the weather in Yan City was becoming increasingly hot.

Lin Chuxia was already afraid of heat, and in such weather, she stayed mostly under the fan.

Even tasks like washing her hair and taking a bath were handled by Qin Yang.

During this time, Wang Tianxue came once to discuss the clothing factory situation with her.

The clothing factory project was progressing smoothly, and she started recruiting fashion designers, offering salaries twice as high as those in state-owned enterprises.

Lin Chuxia held a high opinion of Wang Tianxue's ability; she had done similar work in her past life and did it well.

The current national situation is like this: university graduates have job allocations, and without high wages to tempt them, few want to leave the stability of a state job for a private enterprise, even if it's a joint venture.

For technical and management staff, high wages must be given.

Mrs. Qin also called twice, calculating that the time was near and wanting to come over to take care of her, but Lin Chuxia declined.

She felt good now, and Qin Yang came back every noon, so she could call him directly if anything happened.

Yaoyao was still young, her sister-in-law still needed to manage the Bun Shop, and there wasn't enough help at home, so there was no need for Mrs. Qin to come over early.

Lin Chuxia felt confident about not having Mrs. Qin come, but as the due date approached, Qin Yang became increasingly anxious.

While working, he would call home several times a day, and sometimes even wake up in the middle of the night.

Only after confirming nothing was wrong with Lin Chuxia could he continue sleeping.

Until July 7th, when Qin Yang, as usual, called home from work but didn't get an answer right away. A few minutes later, he called again and still got no response, which made him restless.

He informed a colleague in the next office he was going home to check and hadn't reached the door when he saw Liu from the duty room coming his way, followed closely by Sister-in-law Fu.

Liu's voice was loud, and upon seeing Qin Yang, he shouted, "Minister Qin, Sister-in-law Fu is here to deliver a message; your wife is going into labor..."

A single sentence, in the scorching heat, sent a shiver of cold sweat down Qin Yang's back.

Chapter 640: Labor

He couldn't care less, and ran straight to Sister-in-law Fu, "Sister-in-law, I'm heading back now, let me use your bike first."

Sister-in-law Fu had come by bike.

Just as he was about to leave, Sister-in-law Fu called out, "Don't go home, Lin couldn't reach you by phone, so she drove herself to the hospital."

Qin Yang's leg went weak just as he stepped on the pedal, nearly falling right there.

He looked back in disbelief, "She went to the hospital by herself?"

"Yeah, Lin is really something else. When she saw the bleeding herself and realized the baby was coming, she initially tried to call you back, but after two unsuccessful attempts, she didn't wait for you and asked me to come and tell you that she has already gone to the hospital. You should hurry there, she looked pretty pale, probably already in pain..."

Sister-in-law Fu hadn't finished speaking before she saw the man pedaling the bicycle, disappearing from sight in the blink of an eye.

Liu on the side sighed, "Minister Qin is truly young and strong; that bicycle pedal was almost sparking."

Sister-in-law Fu thought to herself, "Who wouldn't be anxious?"

Everyone knows how much Qin Yang treasures his wife; such a big event like childbirth, how could he leave her alone at the hospital?

But she truly admired Lin Chuxia as well, who, under those circumstances, was still not panicking and drove herself to the hospital.

Earlier, she calmly knocked on the door and then said she was bleeding and went to the hospital to give birth, asking her to inform Qin Yang.

The whole sentence was said before she realized it.

Only after the car drove away did she realize how urgent the situation really was.

Indeed, a fierce woman.

Meanwhile, Qin Yang rode the bicycle with almost all his strength, reaching the hospital at the fastest possible speed.

His mind was filled with images from the day Tang Lili gave birth, and Yang Rui's blood-soaked back.

As he got off the bike, his legs went weak again, almost falling.

After parking the bike, he rushed inside, full of zeal.

He's been to the hospital many times and already knows where the delivery room is.

Just as he arrived at the delivery room entrance, he heard heart-wrenching screams from inside.

The sound was almost cracking, indicating the immense pain the person inside was enduring.

Qin Yang's face instantly turned pale, his hands trembling uncontrollably, and he fixated on the delivery room door, almost ready to rush in without thinking.

A hand grabbed his arm, and Qin Yang, with red eyes, turned his head, "Releasing... wife... wife?"

Lin Chuxia supported her waist with one hand and held him with the other, her eyes sparkling while she grinned showing her little white teeth, "You're here, so quick?"

Qin Yang was dumbfounded, looking at her, then at the delivery room, finally resting his firm gaze on Lin Chuxia, holding her arm, "I heard from Sister-in-law Fu that you were about to give birth, how are you feeling?"

"When the bleeding started, I tried to call you twice but couldn't get through. Fearing I wouldn't handle driving if the pain started and that you might not be at work, I drove over here first. Doctor Wang just checked, the cervix is only slightly open. He told me to wander around a bit..."

Before she could finish her sentence, a frown appeared, and her grip on Qin Yang's arm tightened involuntarily.

"What's wrong, my wife? Is it painful? Why don't you sit down for a while."

Qin Yang had read many books about childbirth before, and seeing Lin Chuxia's appearance now, he quickly realized it was a contraction.

Lin Chuxia waved her hand, enduring the pain until it passed and she felt fine again.

"Doctor Wang said it will hurt for a while, you better go and handle the admission procedures first."

Qin Yang understood that the labor pains could last for several hours, but he didn't want to leave Lin Chuxia alone.

Lin Chuxia saw his forehead sweating, his clothes soaked through with perspiration, aware of his worry.

Actually, she saw him as soon as the man showed up, and before she could call him, he was already rushing towards the delivery room.

This was at the hospital, she couldn't make a racket, and by the time she chased up to him, she saw him about to storm into the delivery room.

If she hadn't acted quickly, who knows what might have happened.

This man always cares more about her than herself.

"Why don't I go with you, Doctor Wang advised me to walk around for an easier delivery, just right for a little walk."

Qin Yang thought about it, indeed it was more reassuring than leaving her alone.

Besides, the admission office wasn't far.

Once the admission procedures were completed, Lin Chuxia's contractions became shorter in intervals, and Qin Yang's face grew paler, leaving the passing doctors and nurses unsure who was actually experiencing the labor pains.

Lin Chuxia couldn't bear watching him suffer any longer, fearing she wouldn't go into labor before Qin Yang collapsed, she tried to change the topic, "A girl was born in the delivery room just now. Would you prefer a son or a daughter?"

People often say when the Goddess of Fertility delivers, she does so in waves, so if the previous one had a girl, they are likely to have a girl too.

Lin Chuxia knew Qin Yang wanted a daughter, but what if they had a son? Surely, this guy won't mind.

Qin Yang may not have even heard what she was saying, nodding vaguely, "Anything is fine, anything. How are you feeling? Is it painful again? It seems it's been ten minutes, last time your interval was eleven and a half minutes."

It was fine until he mentioned it; as soon as he spoke, the contractions started again.

Doctor Wang came over to help her with an examination, calling the nurse to take her into the delivery room.

Lin Chuxia lay on the delivery bed, and as the door closed halfway, unable to see Qin Yang's anxious face, she breathed a sigh of relief.

The delivery process was not as painful as she had imagined.

The nurse gave her an oxytocin injection, and Doctor Wang artificially ruptured her amniotic sac.

Without the cushioning of the amniotic fluid, she discovered how truly painful contractions could be.

Feeling the contractions while following the doctor's commands to exert force repeatedly, just when she thought she couldn't bear it, her belly suddenly felt loose, followed by the loud and pleasant cry of a newborn baby.

It was the arrival of new life.

All the pain vanished for Lin Chuxia, left only with immense joy, indescribable joy.

"It's a daughter, looks just like her mother, very beautiful."

Doctor Wang cradled the child and showed her.

Lin Chuxia felt weak all over, but clearly saw the little one, flailing limbs, crying with an open mouth.

Wonderful!

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Meanwhile, a series of hurried footsteps echoed in the Yan City Government Guest House.

Knocking sounded at the door, and as soon as Zhuang Jingshu called out to enter, the door was pushed open.

Zhuang Yang came in from outside, keeping the door ajar, looking at Zhuang Jingshu inside, panting heavily, sweat sliding down the forehead.

"Chairman," he called softly, raising the documents in his other hand, "There's news from there, this is the fax just sent over."

Zhuang Jingshu suddenly stood up, her urgent demeanor utterly inconsistent with her usual calm and gentle demeanor.

Zhuang Yang was also startled, taking several steps forward to support her arm.

"Chairman, the doctor said you mustn't be anxious. The results are out, take a look slowly."

He handed the documents into Zhuang Jingshu's hands.

Zhuang Jingshu nodded and sat down slowly again.

"Alright, I'll take a look calmly."

She said she'd look calmly, but directly flipped to the last page.