

Switched M 651

Chapter 651: Remembered Wrong

"Guo Cuihua," Zhuang Jingshu could hardly maintain her composure, shrieking, "When did I ever mention Chuxia?"

She looked at Mother Lin, her eyes filled with overwhelming anger, trembling with rage.

Even at this point, she still refused to admit it.

In pursuit of her biological daughter's wealth and glory, she abandoned all dignity, relentlessly slandering Chuxia.

What kind of life has Chuxia been living these past twenty-some years?

"If not her, who else could have said this to you?"

Mother Lin increasingly felt that Lin Chuxia was behind it all.

That little brat was very sly; someone as rich as Zhuang Jingshu—could she let her go?

If she could truly let her go, she wouldn't have gotten her to finance the construction of a factory.

Zhuang Jingshu laughed coldly, glancing towards the courtyard gate.

By this time, many elders from Daqing Mountain Village had gathered at the entrance.

This was exactly the outcome she wanted.

She took this trip personally to secure a future for Chuxia.

"Chuxia never said anything to me; the birthmark was something I mentioned offhand."

With her words, Mother Lin and Lin Jiayi's expressions changed yet again.

What unsettled them further was the villagers' gossip.

"So there wasn't a birthmark, huh? I thought Guangshan's wife really mixed up the children, sending her own daughter to recognize a wealthy mother and swapping the real daughter."

"Even if the birthmark was mentioned casually, did you see Guangshan's wife's reaction? I think, maybe a casual remark hit the mark."

"I saw it too. If she didn't do anything wrong, what is she guilty about? Just now, Mom Jia Dong clearly seemed guilty, even scolded Chuxia. I've watched that girl grow up; she's not one to lie or stir trouble."

"You're right; Chuxia's been such a good girl since she was little, but her mother doesn't care for her, mostly beating or starving her; among the kids, she worked the hardest and got the least, perhaps she's not her biological daughter after all..."

Mother Lin's face grew darker and darker, sneaking a glance at Zhuang Jingshu, seeing her also with a grim expression.

Don't ask; she must have heard those remarks too.

Regretting why she didn't invite her in to speak quietly.

Blame her carelessness; she thought after picking up Jiayi, she'd leave.

As the conversation went on, more outrageous, Mother Lin couldn't help but charge forward to drive people away, "What do you know? Stop gossiping here, leave, all of you leave..."

But at this moment, with such a spectacle of the Lin Family's daughter and her wealthy biological mother, the whole village was abuzz with gossip for so long, suddenly there's a twist, who would leave? Who wouldn't want to see the outcome?

Unable to drive people away, Mother Lin could only face off with Zhuang Jingshu.

"Sis, you can eat nonsense, but you can't talk nonsense. If you don't care for Jiayi and don't want your biological daughter, just say so, no need to slander me. I've raised my daughter to this age; I'm not about to hand her over to anyone else. Whether you want her or not, I can still raise her."

Anyway, she stood firm on this issue; what else could she do?

Lin Jiayi timely opened her mouth, no longer calling Mom, putting on a grievances air.

"If you have any issues with me, you can target me directly. My mom raised me for over twenty years; I can't let her suffer this grievance. Since you don't care for me, let's pretend we never knew each other; please leave."

Her words kept her heart pounding.

She didn't know what to do if Zhuang Jingshu really left. She never thought things would come to light.

Now, she just hoped what Ms. Zhuang said was mere talk, ultimately taking her away, she must surely confirm once again.

Her mother stood firm; she played the trick of retreating to advance, maybe there might be a turnaround.

But ultimately, they were left disappointed.

Zhuang Jingshu calmly extended her hand, Zhuang Yang immediately handed her a document.

She didn't intend to let Mother Lin and Lin Jiayi see it, but addressed everyone present, "The birthmark was indeed an offhand remark I made, of course, confirming one's child isn't necessarily marked; the blood flowing in their veins is the best evidence. This is a DNA report, perhaps some present haven't heard of this term—simply, it's taking two people's blood to a lab for analysis, confirming whether these blood samples have a parent-child relationship. This technology isn't yet available domestically but exists abroad, hence it took so long; the result is there is no biological relationship between me and Lin Jiayi."

Her words caused an uproar among the crowd.

Many began to discuss Mother Lin and Lin Jiayi's greed and audaciousness.

Some were concerned about the DNA report.

"Do you think DNA is really that impressive? Can it really determine if two people are mother and daughter?"

The spoken person's words made Lin Jiayi feel a renewed sense of hope, but before she could do anything, another person spoke.

"Nonsense, that's lab-tested; I've heard the lab has many precise instruments, what can't they test? Besides, taking two people's blood for examination—heard about the old drop of blood test? If Lin Jiayi were truly born from that woman's womb, could the blood be different?"

Zhuang Jingshu no longer listened to the villagers' gossip, directly looking at Mother Lin, "So, where is my daughter?"

She saw Mother Lin's eyes bulging, wanting to say something, reminding sternly, "I hope you've thought it over before speaking. I can do one DNA test, so I can do a second. You exploited my search for my child, using a random person to impersonate my daughter to deceive me for wealth and property; if pursued, it constitutes fraud, and that's imprisonment!"

The word 'imprisonment' caused Mother Lin to shudder.

She quickly shook her head, "I... I didn't deceive, I just made a mistake."

Yes, she just made a mistake.

"The two children grew up together; I can't remember clearly which is yours and which is mine."

With those words, the site burst into laughter.

How could she misremember?

Moreover, the two children are not the same age; bystanders wouldn't remember incorrectly, how could she, a mother raising the child since childhood, remember wrongly?

Mother Lin didn't care how others viewed it; she couldn't go to jail.

Heard there's not enough food, must work, life is hard.

"Sis, I really made a mistake; Jiayi is not your daughter, it is Chuxia, Chuxia is your daughter, definitely won't be mistaken this time. I've only raised these two daughters, Sis, seeing I've raised Chuxia to adulthood, arranged a good marriage for her, spare me this time. I truly made a mistake; after all, I've raised Chuxia for over twenty years, if not merit, at least some toil, right?"

Knowing this answer, Zhuang Jingshu's heart felt more anguished.

Her Chuxia, her poor daughter.

"Guo Cuihua, you never made a mistake from the start; if you did, there wouldn't be such a vast difference in treatment between the two children. You held your own daughter close while stepping all over mine. Today, I state clearly, for your past care of my daughter, I can overlook the past. From now on, I and Chuxia sever all ties with the Lin Family, never to be involved again, otherwise, it will be our time of reckoning."

Chapter 652: What Should We Do?

Zhuang Jingshu said this, then no longer glanced at the mother and daughter in the courtyard, turned with Zhuang Yang and left.

Mother Lin was drenched in cold sweat, her hands trembling.

She almost ended up in jail.

Beside her, Lin Jiayi suddenly stepped back and sat on the ground, mumbling, "It's over, everything's over, what should I do? What should I do? Mom, what should I do? It's all your fault for ruining me..."

The last sentence was practically a scream.

Mother Lin looked at her eldest daughter's desperate look and thought of her own future, then also sat on the ground and cried.

How would she know what to do?

How could she know about some AA technology? She thought as long as she denied it, no one would find out.

For a moment, the courtyard was filled with sounds of crying, rising and falling, while the onlookers were all satisfied.

"I think the Lin Family tried to steal a chicken only to lose the rice to lure it. If they had treated Chuxia well, with the success she has now and such a wealthy mother, could the Lin Family have fared badly?"

"Actually, I think this person is a bit too much, no matter what, the Lin Family did raise Chuxia to adulthood and arranged such a good marriage. Even if Guangshan's wife was confused at the moment, without her, who knows if Chuxia could have grown so big."

"Come on, do you forget how Chuxia's marriage came about? I know all about it, back then Chuxia mentioned marrying into the Li Family from Xiaoqingshan Village, Guangshan's wife even asked them for a 300 yuan dowry. What kind of family is the Li Family, living so close, don't you know? Can such a family afford a 300 yuan dowry? This wasn't marrying her daughter, it was selling her."

"But in the end, wasn't Jiayi who married into the Li Family?"

"Indeed, but that wasn't Chuxia's fault; heard Jiayi somehow fancied the boy from the Li Family, insisted the boy would be very promising in the future, demanded the marriage swap, only then was the marriage swapped, so the Li Family didn't have to pay the 300 yuan dowry, heard they only paid eighty. In contrast, the Qin Family was asked for a 300 yuan dowry, still selling the daughter, have you ever seen someone asking for a 300 yuan dowry when marrying off their daughter? Demanding so much dowry, how can she hold her head high at her in-laws' house?"

"Exactly, if you ask me, this is still beneficial for the Lin Family. Didn't you hear, when the child was handed over to the Lin Family, it came with quite a sum of money and tickets. What times those were, money and tickets were lifesaving, let alone during the period Jiayi replaced Chuxia, the other side was quite generous with expenses for them. If you say it's all even, the Lin Family didn't lose anything, treated the child fairly, it's beneficial for them."

The Lin Family always had a mediocre reputation in the village, recently Lin Jiayi acknowledged a wealthy mother, and the whole family became arrogant. Now that things have ended like this, very few sympathize with them.

The village chief's wife watched the whole scene and then trotted back home.

As soon as she entered, she started shouting for the third son.

Sun Bingnan was listening to his dad's chatter, heard his mom calling him, and quickly ran out of his father's rambling.

"Mom, what's up?"

"Big news, Lin Jiayi isn't that woman's biological daughter, Chuxia is. Oh my heavens, what has the Lin Family done? No wonder they never favored Chuxia, such a wonderful girl for them is truly unlucky..."

Mrs. Sun was still unable to process the information she just took in, only thinking the Lin Family was too despicable.

The more Sun Bingnan listened, the more confused he became, quickly stopped his mom, "Hold on, hold on, speak slower, who's whose real mom? Who's whose biological daughter?"

Mrs. Sun swallowed her saliva, "Pour me a glass of water, let me drink some and slowly tell you about it. Do you think it's time to call Chuxia, that girl..."

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On the way back, Zhuang Yang glanced in the rearview mirror at the chairman resting eyes in the back, pondered, and spoke.

"Does anything need to be done for the Lin Family... Though they raised Miss for over twenty years, they treated her like that..."

Zhuang Jingshu raised her hand to rub her brows, "Let's leave it for now."

Just for the sake of Old Madam Lin.

If Old Madam Lin hadn't saved and helped her give birth back then, she and the child might....

"How will the vegetable station be handled?"

Though Lin Jiayi demanded the purchase of the vegetable station, she lacked the capacity to buy it; Zhuang Yang handled all the funds and paperwork, purchasing it in Walson's name, thus has nothing to do with Lin Jiayi.

Zhuang Jingshu then opened her eyes and glanced out the window, "Passed Ancheng County Town yet?"

"Not yet, about 10 minutes away."

"Then take me to see it."

"Okay."

Zhuang Yang agreed quickly.

The chairman hadn't asked about these matters before, but now wanted to take a look.

Seems the chairman already had plans for the vegetable station.

The car raced towards Ancheng County, Zhuang Yang thought carefully and made a turn at the town's edge.

Further ahead, a bustling market came into view, the large characters of the Qin Family Village Vegetable Market marked prominently on one side.

Not far from the other side, there was an imposing factory.

While passing by, Zhuang Yang introduced to the person in the back seat.

"Xiyang Food Factory was founded by Lin Chuxia; she started by selling buns, An City has two Qin's Buns Shops, her earliest ventures. Later she expanded and founded Xiyang Food Factory, as the Qin Family became prosperous, they didn't forget to help the elder villagers of Qin's Village. Look over there; although you can't see it in summer, during winter there are rows of greenhouses with white vegetables, and Qin's Village industries such as chicken and pig farms all rely on Xiyang Food Factory..."

Zhuang Yang wasn't exaggerating, just reporting his investigations to the chairman.

"Miss Lin Chuxia, though marginalized and oppressed by the Lin Family, grew into a strong and compassionate woman, well regarded in Qin Family Village and throughout Ancheng County..."

He intended to comfort the chairman with these details but didn't realize that, at first, the chairman listened intently, then closed her eyes again towards the end.

He didn't understand, she was a mother and never cared about whether her child was strong.

People usually become strong after experiencing setbacks and hardships.

If possible, she would rather Lin Chuxia remain just an ordinary young girl.

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At the bustling vegetable market in Qin Family Village, suddenly a man's voice raised.

"Mine are fresh eggplants, tender without seeds, yet you're offering me only five cents per jin? Are you buying vegetables or bullying people? I tell you, this is Qin Family Village, my surname is Qin, you might intimidate others, but bullying the Qin Family here, don't you want to do business in the Qin Family Village Vegetable Market anymore?"

Chapter 653: Market Bullying

The man backed down as soon as he heard the other person's surname was Qin, but he didn't agree with being accused of monopolizing the market.

"Brother, I'm just being honest here. Look at your eggplants, what color are they now? This is at least from yesterday's pick, already not fresh. It's good enough I offer you five cents; I'm running a business here. Coming all this way, I can't afford to lose money. This is the price. If you want to sell, then sell. If not, keep waiting and see if someone else will offer you more. I'm not forcing you. Why accuse me of dominating the market?"

Saying this, he intended to leave with no intention to argue further.

But as he turned to go, the other party wouldn't let it rest and grabbed his arm.

"Hey, why are you leaving with the conversation unfinished? Five cents won't work. Add a little more. Ten cents. If you offer me ten cents a pound, I'll sell it to you."

The other person waved his hand, "No way. Even if they were freshly picked with dew on them, they wouldn't be worth that much, let alone these leftover vegetables."

"Who told you these are leftovers? These are freshly picked."

"Alright, they're not leftovers, they're freshly picked. I can't buy at that price. Wait and see if someone will offer you ten cents."

"I want to sell to you. You said you wanted them earlier, now you're backing out. Are you messing with me?"

"Hey, how come it was you who rejected the price I offered, and now it's me who's messing with you?"

The buyer was getting anxious.

Though he was from out of town to deliver goods, he couldn't let himself be randomly wronged like that.

"You're messing with me. You touched my eggplants, rummaging through them for so long, and finally said you won't buy them. My eggplants are ruined because of you. You're not leaving without giving an explanation today."

"I just looked at them. Who buys vegetables without looking?"

"You were rummaging through them..."

Seeing their argument growing louder, more vendors stopped to watch the commotion, and suddenly a shout came from outside the crowd, "Qin Wen, what are you doing?"

"The security officer is here."

"The person in charge of the market is here."

Someone in the crowd murmured softly, and immediately a path was cleared.

Sun Guodong stood with a stern look, his dark eyes fixed on Qin Wen in the crowd.

A half-grown boy followed behind him.

At this moment, the boy wished he could bury his head in the ground to reduce his presence.

But Qin Wen glanced past Sun Guodong directly at the boy.

"Qin Jianshe, can't you see your third uncle being bullied here? Your family sent you to manage the market, not to watch your third uncle's antics!"

The boy was Qin Liang's second son, Qin Jianshe.

After the new year, Qin Jianshe couldn't focus on his studies. Even though his parents urged him to study hard and follow in his brother's footsteps working with their fourth aunt.

Some people are naturally inclined towards academics, like his older brother.

And some, despite trying hard, struggle to focus in class, like him.

Finally agreeing to let him drop out, his father feared he'd be a burden for his fourth aunt and had him tend to the greenhouse at home.

Until his fourth aunt visited the village recently, he secretly approached her for help, and she arranged for him to work at the wholesale market with Manager Wang.

Truly, his fourth aunt was kind-hearted.

After the incident with his second sister, his parents were reluctant to find opportunities for his older brother. It was his brother who approached the fourth aunt, paving the way for him.

Remembering this, he also sought his fourth aunt in secret when she returned to the village.

With her backing, Manager Wang treated him well. The work at the market wasn't exhausting, mainly handling security with Uncle Sun, and he received a monthly salary.

The Qin Family Village Vegetable Market was well-managed, rarely dealing with troublemakers.

Over a month of working, he encountered no conflicts, except occasionally managing order when crowds gathered.

Hearing about someone from Qin Family Village monopolizing the market, he thought he could showcase his skills, only to find the troublemaker was his third uncle.

Qin Jianshe felt extremely embarrassed.

Qin Wen singled out Qin Jianshe, noticing the buyer change his expression, triumphantly giving him a look.

With his nephew managing the market, the other party wouldn't have a smooth time if they crossed him.

Seeing Qin Jianshe silent, he called him again.

Forced to respond, Qin Jianshe stuck out his head from behind Sun Guodong, stiffening his neck while speaking.

"Third Uncle, our market values fair trade and free commerce. If your vegetables aren't appealing, it's normal for the price offered to be low. The first rule of the market's charter is no monopolizing the market leveraging Qin Family Village status. Otherwise, you'll be barred from trading at Qin Family Village Vegetable Market. If you think the price is too low, wait and observe. If it's acceptable, sell it. If you keep this up, I'll have to send you away."

After saying this, he swiftly retreated behind Sun Guodong again.

Qin Wen's anger surged, and he rolled up his sleeves intending to rush forward.

"Hey, you little brat, how dare you speak to your third uncle like that? You have no manners. Today, since your father isn't here, I'll educate you myself."

"I didn't speak wrongly. I'm just reminding you to follow the market regulations. We can't bully the vegetable buyers because we're from Qin Family Village. Manager Wang and the village chief both agreed we should treat every vendor at Qin Family Village Market respectfully. Even if you report to my father, I'm not afraid."

Qin Wen wouldn't dare report to Qin Liang.

Not just because of his brother, his sister-in-law's protective nature would be tough to deal with.

Despite being his uncle, he felt an obligation to guide his nephew.

But before he reached Qin Jianshe, Sun Guodong intervened.

"Qin Wen, what are you trying to do? Everything Jianshe said, I was going to say. Don't think being from Qin Family Village makes you above the rules. If the vegetables can be sold, then sell them. If not, take them away. Don't ruin our village's market reputation because of one individual."

His words dealt a heavy blow, leaving Qin Wen no room to save face, even inviting more resentment.

Immediately, those standing idle watching the commotion, especially Qin Family Village citizens, wore displeased expressions.

The security officer spoke the truth. If their market's reputation suffers, who will come to buy their vegetables?

If no trucks come to purchase vegetables, where will they sell the crops they worked so hard on?

Chapter 654: Baby

"Exactly, Da Wen, you should act with conscience. These eggplants are obviously not fresh. I just picked mine today and sold them for 8 cents, yet you want people to pay you 10 cents. Isn't that robbing people?"

"Yesterday, I saw you with these two baskets of eggplants, and someone offered you 8 cents, but you wouldn't sell them. I even reminded you that the price for eggplants is quite good this year. You're not growing gold nuggets, you know? With our Qin Family Village Vegetable Market, the prices are already stable enough. Don't be unsatisfied and ruin the market's reputation."

"Exactly, sell them if you can, let the people go if not. Is dithering like that something a man should do?"

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As more people talked, the words became harsher and Qin Wen's face grew darker.

He took a deep look at Qin Jianshe, turned around with the two baskets of eggplants, and left.

The villagers watched him with disbelief.

"Treating two baskets of eggplants like treasure? If you don't sell them today, they'll be even less valuable tomorrow."

"Of course they're treasured. You don't understand. With his elder brother around, when has Qin Wen ever worked the land? I heard he planted a lot this year, but only these eggplants yielded. Aren't they precious to him?"

Although this was said, anyone with a discerning eye knew that Qin Wen had previously fallen out with Qin Yang and Qin Han, lost his job, and upset his elder sister-in-law.

Among the three brothers of the Qin family, which one hasn't achieved something over these years? It's just Qin Wen who's going downhill.

Frankly, he just doesn't get it. Anyone who stays close to Qin Yang gets some benefits, right?

Even fellow locals receive advantages from them.

Yet, he's managed to offend everyone.

Bitterly holding back his anger, Qin Wen pushed the eggplants home, where Ma Suyun came out to meet him.

Seeing the eggplants unsold again, she slightly frowned, "Why didn't you sell them again? The eggplants we've been waiting for so long, are you planning to let them spoil in your hands?"

Qin Wen snapped back, "It's too hot outside. I'll sell them in the afternoon."

Ma Suyun glanced at the blazing sun, knowing Qin Wen's temper, but still worriedly reminded him, "You must sell them in the afternoon, preferably at a good price. We borrowed so much money from my family, we're counting on these eggplants to pay off the debt."

"How can we pay off any debt with just these few eggplants? It's not enough. Tell your mother we'll pay it back by the end of the year."

"But... my brother is pressing us. We initially agreed to pay him back once we sold them."

"But isn't our greenhouse also not making any money? Eggplants aren't grown in the greenhouse."

Ma Suyun looked at Qin Wen's impatient back, feeling bitter inside.

When he failed to borrow money from his older brothers, she had to borrow money from her own family.

Thinking, once they made money from the greenhouse, they could hold their heads high.

But who knew that Qin Wen wouldn't be able to farm and wouldn't listen to others pointing out his mistakes?

Busy throughout spring, nothing came out of the greenhouse, yet they lost so much money.

The long-awaited eggplants finally came, and he still didn't want to pay back the family debt.

Breaking his word made it hard for her to visit her family.

While Ma Suyun was thinking about this, Qin Wen came out from the house again, "Where are you going?"

Qin Wen paused his steps and turned to her, "Did you hear that the old lady from the second house came back from Yan City? Did they have a daughter or a son?"

Speaking of this, Ma Suyun's face also showed disdain, "I have no idea. Their mouths are sealed tight, wary of everything. Are they afraid or ashamed of having a daughter?"

Qin Wen snorted coldly, "Only those who have done something shameful would fear. I'm going to Mom's for a stroll."

Ma Suyun, knowing his intentions and feeling curious herself, ignored the debt for a moment and urged him to go quickly.

It wasn't long before Qin Wen returned.

Ma Suyun stepped out from the kitchen, hand unconsciously wiping, "Did you find out?"

Qin Wen seemed in a good mood, shot her a glance, and smirked, "I did find out, and you guessed right. They had a daughter."

"Really, no mistake this time?" Ma Suyun's eyes lit up.

"No mistake. The old lady from the second house told our mom herself when she came back, no wonder Qin Han and his wife have been keeping it quiet for so long."

"Isn't it likely to be embarrassing if revealed?" Ma Suyun snorted, "Among your brothers, Qin Yang loves to show off the most. Growing up, which of you could match him? And his wife Lin Chuxia is even worse. After so many years, they finally got pregnant only to have a daughter. Where do they put their face?"

"No place to hide doesn't change fate. Heaven didn't favor them. If they were to have a son, their pride would skyrocket. But now, Qin Yang can have only one child. If he wants a son, he must give up his career. For career, he must accept his fate of no heir."

Ma Suyun touched her belly, "Oh, I said it, didn't I? Today our Congcong is so lively, maybe eager to show his strength."

Qin Wen also showed a proud smile, after being overshadowed by Qin Yang for so many years, it's finally his turn.

"What's the use of earning more money? Without a son, the money goes to others anyway."

After speaking, Qin Wen finally couldn't hold back and laughed aloud.

Ma Suyun also laughed with him, but as she laughed, her expression suddenly changed.

"Da Wen..."

She exclaimed, feeling a warm flow between her legs.

Looking down, she saw a large wet patch on the ground.

Qin Wen saw it too, "What's happening?"

Ma Suyun's voice was trembling, "I... I don't know. Is it time? My... my stomach hurts..."

"Already? Isn't it half a month early?"

Qin Wen, now unable to focus on anything else, moved the eggplants off the bike and started pushing it, "You go back inside and wait, I'll find the midwife."

Ma Suyun was scared, "Didn't we agree on the hospital?"

"What hospital? You're like this, how can we go to a hospital? Hurry back inside and wait. Useless! Laughing and causing problems, if anything happens to my son, I won't stand for it..."

Qin Wen left like that, while Ma Suyun, frightened, endured the pain and found someone passing by to call Mrs. Qin over.

Waiting for Mrs. Qin to arrive, Qin Wen also brought back the midwife.

However, Ma Suyun had broken her water prematurely, and she wasn't contracting yet, nor was her pelvis expanding.

The midwife had to let her wander around inside.

With the water broken, her stomach heavy and painful, Ma Suyun cried out in agony, unable to move.

Struggling from noon until midnight, finally, with the cry of a newborn, the child was born.

Chapter 655: Girl

Ma Suyun felt like her life was being drained away, but she forced herself to ask, with dry lips, "Is my son okay?"

The midwife had long since lost her patience.

In all the years she'd been delivering babies, she'd never seen someone like Ma Suyun who could scream and struggle so much.

She screamed from day into night, and the more she was told to conserve her energy, the louder she screamed.

The baby was clearly not big, yet it just wouldn't come out.

And when Qin Wen hired her, he even haggled over the price. She'd never heard of bargaining for a delivery.

If conditions hadn't improved and everyone had started going to hospitals to give birth, leaving her with less work, she never would have taken this job.

In the end, she didn't earn much more money, but spent twice the effort.

Hearing Ma Suyun's question, she replied impatiently, "What son? It's a girl, and she's fine."

But Ma Suyun didn't hear the part about her being fine; she insisted on getting up, "What girl? It's supposed to be a son."

The midwife immediately held the child up for her to see, "Look for yourself, is there anything there?"

Ma Suyun saw the child clearly, felt the world spinning, her eyes rolled back, and she fainted.

Qin Wen, who was outside, heard this too, and rushed in after lifting the curtain.

He stared intently at the child in the midwife's hands, his eyes bloodshot...

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After Mrs. Qin left, all matters fell upon the new parents, Qin Yang and Lin Chuxia.

Lin Chuxia was very confident.

Qi Qi was well-behaved, sleeping and eating all day. If not for crying when wet, hungry, or having an accident, the baby was peaceful. She'd even found a pattern to it over these days.

Qin Yang, however, was not at ease. After breakfast, he left a pot of soup he'd been simmering for Lin Chuxia all morning on the stove, knowing it was almost time for work. He repeatedly reminded her not to touch the diapers and wait for him to clean them together after work, forbidding her from washing them casually herself.

His mother had emphasized before that although it was summer, postpartum women should not touch cold water.

Fortunately, the window air conditioner from the mother-in-law had cooled the room quite a bit; otherwise, he couldn't guarantee his wife would behave.

Lin Chuxia was almost used to his nagging, "Alright, alright, I know. Don't worry. If anything happens, I'll call you, plus, in just a few hours you'll be back from work."

Qin Yang wanted to say he couldn't rest easy when he didn't see the two of them, even for a while.

Just about to leave, he heard a commotion outside and saw Zhuang Jingshu coming in with a bag.

She smiled gently at Qin Yang, "Worried your mom's departure left you two overwhelmed, so I came early today. Hope I'm not disturbing you?"

Qin Yang wasn't ungrateful. He'd noticed everything Zhuang Jingshu had done for them recently.

He also knew his wife already accepted this mother.

Yet, there still seemed to be this thin layer of barrier between them that they couldn't quite break.

"No, I was just about to head to work. You're just in time; I'm indeed a bit worried about Xiaxia."

Through spending time together recently, Zhuang Jingshu became increasingly satisfied with her son-in-law Qin Yang.

Her daughter, treated unjustly by her adoptive family, was pampered in her husband's home like a princess, which was her sole comfort.

After Qin Yang left, seeing that the baby was asleep, she talked to Lin Chuxia about the Lin Family.

She hadn't hidden from Lin Chuxia that she'd gone to Daqing Mountain Village yesterday. She intended to conclude affairs over there, but hadn't told Lin Chuxia she planned to unilaterally sever ties between Lin Chuxia and the Lin Family.

"Originally, I wanted you to handle this matter yourself, but back then, I couldn't bear it. In such a circumstance, Guo Cuihua kept trying to soil your reputation. I couldn't imagine what mean, extreme things she might say face to face..."

Just thinking about it made Zhuang Jingshu's heart ache.

That's why she spoke out angrily.

Those were her true feelings, but for Lin Chuxia, the person involved, she had overstepped.

If Lin Chuxia still had feelings for the Lin Family, she wouldn't stop her from contacting them.

But no matter how Lin Chuxia felt about the Lin Family, it was her emotion towards them, not something the Lin Family reciprocated with nurturing sentiment to her.

They weren't worthy.

Looking at her pained expression, Lin Chuxia smiled gently, "How could I blame you for this? I know you meant well for me. As for the Lin Family, I suppose I've paid back any affection owed," in my past life, it was already settled.

Her smile was calm, yet in Lin Chuxia's eyes, Zhuang Jingshu saw something different.

It was a sort of indifference and disillusionment.

How much disappointment and coldness had her daughter endured to become indifferent and disillusioned towards the family she grew up with.

Finally, Zhuang Jingshu couldn't help but cry.

Since finding out Lin Chuxia was her biological daughter, Zhuang Jingshu hadn't shed a tear.

Even though remembering Lin Chuxia's experiences over the years felt like a knife repeatedly piercing her heart, she didn't cry.

She feared her emotions would affect her daughter, yet at this moment, she couldn't hold back anymore.

Her daughter seemed to handle everything indifferently, dealing with everything effectively.

Yet precisely because of that, Zhuang Jingshu deeply understood that her daughter didn't seem to need her anymore.

She tightly covered her mouth, tears flowing endlessly, clueless about how to interact with her daughter going forward.

What lay ahead.

She returned to fulfill her wish of finding her daughter, yet after finding her, realized it was irreparable.

Lin Chuxia watched her quietly, waiting for her catharsis to subside, then reached out and patted her shoulder.

Zhuang Jingshu finally calmed down, took a deep sniff, and wiped her tears away.

"I'm... I'm just too emotional. Don't take it to heart, I'm fine."

Crying so hard yet offering comfort in return, Lin Chuxia felt that strange feeling rise again.

Zhuang Jingshu stood up, "I'll go wash my face outside. I bought strawberries when passing through the market this morning. I heard you like strawberries the most, let me wash some for you."

"Mom!"

Zhuang Jingshu's hurried steps came to an abrupt halt and she turned back in disbelief.

Lin Chuxia smiled gently, "Mom, thank you!"

Zhuang Jingshu's tears suddenly poured out again, and she rushed out of the room in a panic.

Lin Chuxia's face still bore a gentle smile.

Being able to live again, meet such wonderful Qin Family members, encounter Qin Yang, and have Qi Qi, she was deeply grateful.

Now, she even had her biological mother.

She'd never blamed her mother, so why be so cautious and tentative?

Why not openly embrace happiness?

Lin Chuxia gazed down at Qi Qi's peacefully sleeping face.

What she yearned for in her past life was completely fulfilled in this one.

Qin Yang returned from work and immediately sensed a change in the household atmosphere.

Zhuang Jingshu was already preparing lunch, and Qin Yang hurriedly washed up to help in the kitchen.

With a smile, Zhuang Jingshu said to him, "Today, let me show you my cooking skills. Go and keep Chuxia company. Qi Qi started making sounds today; Chuxia's been talking to him half the day. You should go and see too."

Chapter 656: Moving in with Us

Hearing that his daughter could make sounds, Qin Yang immediately dropped everything and rushed into the room.

Little Qi Qi, who was over 20 days old, was awake and had grown fair and chubby. She wore a small red bellyband, waving her lotus-like little arms and legs, while pouting her lips and cooing.

Yuan Bao was also in the room, pacing in circles and whimpering, either not understanding the commands of his little master or trying to communicate with her.

Lin Chuxia was even more engaged, bowing her head and chatting back and forth with her daughter in coos and gurgles.

Seeing Qin Yang return, Lin Chuxia's eyes sparkled, "Qin Yang, come here quickly, Qi Qi is talking."

As Qin Yang stepped forward, little Qi Qi's gaze immediately locked onto him, her little pouty mouth moving: "Coo... coo..."

Qin Yang's heart melted, "Missing daddy, aren't you? Come on, let daddy hold you..."

After playing with the child for a bit, Qin Yang glanced at Zhuang Jingshu's busy figure in the yard and said to Lin Chuxia, "It looks like you two have been getting along well today."

Lin Chuxia nodded, "Mom wants to stay and help with the baby, and I'd like her to live with us."

Qin Yang immediately picked up on Lin Chuxia's use of the word 'mom.' It was her first time calling Zhuang Jingshu by this title.

He smiled knowingly, "Won't that be too exhausting for her? Her health still needs careful nurturing, right?"

Lin Chuxia shrugged helplessly, "She mentioned it several times this morning. You don't know how envious she was of your mom staying in the guest room before."

Qin Yang was aware of this.

Every time Zhuang Jingshu was about to return to the guesthouse, the way she looked at Mrs. Qin was telling.

"Alright, then I'll tidy up the room and change the bedding for mom later."

Having his mother-in-law stay to help with the wife and child was something he couldn't be happier about.

In the afternoon, Zhuang Yang came to pick up Zhuang Jingshu. Knowing she would stay at the Qin Family, he felt both happy and concerned.

He was glad that the chairman's wish had come true but also worried about her health.

However, thinking about Old Sir He being Lin Chuxia's mentor, he was assured they wouldn't let anything happen to her, turning his concerns into contentment.

He immediately went back to the guesthouse to pack the chairman's things and sent them over directly.

If the house had more rooms, Zhuang Yang would have wanted to pack himself along too.

The following days were uneventful.

Lin Chuxia had initially thought Mother Lin would come over to cause trouble, knowing very well about the nature of the Lin Family.

But that didn't happen.

Not even a phone call was made.

Lin Chuxia truly believed what Zhuang Jingshu had said, that she need not worry about the Lin Family causing her trouble. With her around, the Lin Family would no longer bully her.

It seemed that when she visited Daqing Mountain Village last time, Zhuang Jingshu had really handled things thoroughly.

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Days passed, and in the blink of an eye, it was time for Qi Qi's full month.

According to customs, a grand feast should be held for a child's full month celebration.

The more the family values the child, the more elaborate the feast is.

If they were still in the village, with the Qin Family's connections and their importance on little Qi Qi, at least a dozen tables would have been set.

But since Lin Chuxia had given birth and been in Yan City, it wasn't possible to go back and forth, so they decided to keep it simple and hold the feast at their residence here.

They didn't know many people here; when they moved and held a feast before, they mainly invited Qin Yang's direct superiors and colleagues from the office.

Now, Qin Yang was the only one in his office, and being recently promoted to Deputy Minister, it required more attention in inviting guests.

Minister Wei, his former leader, and his wife, Sister-in-law Gong, definitely had to be invited.

Moreover, during the postpartum month, Sister-in-law Gong and Sister-in-law Fu had visited her, so it was proper to invite these two families as well.

Then there were Li Wei and his wife who should also be invited.

Finally, there were Fu Shouquan and his wife.

They had invited Fu Shouquan's whole family when they moved, and they had attended.

Back then, Qin Yang and Fu Shouquan worked in the same office, and Qin Yang had just transferred, so inviting them to the housewarming was also a way to build relationships.

Since Qin Yang's promotion, there have been some changes in Fu Shouquan's position—not a promotion or demotion—but his work has become less connected to Qin Yang's.

Although they lived in the same residential area, the interaction wasn't like that with neighbors such as Sister-in-law Fu.

After Lin Chuxia gave birth, Fu Shouquan's wife, Sun Yanmei, hadn't made any contact, so they decided not to notify them for this feast.

After all, a full month celebration is different from a housewarming; besides expecting a gift, it represents the continuation of family ties. If you invite them now, it means frequent interactions in the future.

Colleagues living in the same residential area didn't always have deep ties.

There were also some uninvited ones who came early with gifts like a piece of fabric, two jin of eggs, or a jin of brown sugar.

These people Lin Chuxia wasn't very familiar with, knowing they came for Qin Yang's status.

Lin Chuxia was prepared, accepting their gifts and returning a gift of similar value.

These weren't people they were close enough with to receive charity from; however, turning them away would have been awkward for both parties.

Especially since Qin Yang was in a high position, and their family was known to be well-off in the residential area; it wouldn't be good to be labeled as looking down on others.

Lin Chuxia didn't mind these things herself, but since they were all colleagues of Qin Yang, any gossip wouldn't sound good if it spread.

Accepting the gift and returning one of similar value preserved the dignity of both sides and reminded the others that their families weren't at the stage of having frequent interactions. You came this time because I had something, but if you have something, I might not come; it's an even exchange.

Not all gifts can be taken without a guilty conscience, especially given Qin Yang's position now.

Mrs. Qin came to Yan City the day before, bringing a lot of things.

Besides fresh vegetables from home and an old hen she raised, she also brought some full month gifts from the villagers.

"This is from your brother Qin Liang's wife, this is from Wu's wife, this is from Da Jiang's wife, and these are from the village chief's wife, the accountant's wife, Old Lady Sun..."

Mrs. Qin showed each gift to Lin Chuxia while commenting, "After receiving so many gifts, without inviting everyone for a feast, I feel quite ashamed."

Qin Juan, having arranged restaurant matters in advance, came over to help and didn't think much of what Mrs. Qin said.

"Why worry? These families have had interactions with us. Take Old Lady Sun, for instance; did she ever come to help when we had matters in the past? No, right? So why did she eagerly bring gifts when Xiaxia had a baby? Furthermore, this isn't something the old lady bought."

In the village, for a child's full month, gifts usually were eggs, flower buns, and sometimes millet if the family had it. Buying two jin of brown sugar or a piece of fabric was considered generous.

Old Lady Sun brought a set of children's clothes and a piece of patterned cotton cloth that was quite thick, clearly showing it was a significant amount.

Chapter 657: She's Pregnant

"Even your own daughter giving birth wouldn't earn an old lady this much good stuff, right? This is clearly stuff that Guodong and Guoliang sent with her."

Mrs. Qin chuckled, "You've got it right. Elder Mrs. Sun said that both Guodong's and Guoliang's families had her bring these over."

"No doubt about it," Qin Juan smugly raised her eyebrow at Lin Chuxia, "Let's not even mention Sun Guodong, who was originally the village's security director. I've heard that after the Qin Family Village wholesale market was established, he became a security manager there. Doesn't someone from our construction team work under him? And his brother Sun Guoliang, who has been the security captain at Xiyang Food Factory since it was established, now he manages a whole team under him. They are sending things not for us but as a nod to Mr. Lin. Also, the village chief and Zhuizi's mom, just accept it without other thoughts. We'll interact with them as usual later on."

Lin Chuxia understood too. She didn't need Qin Juan to point it out, she knew just from the people sending these gifts.

.....

On the full moon day, it was Qin Juan and Jia Liang handling the cooking, with Mrs. Qin and Zhang Guilan assisting.

Qin Han and Zhang Guilan came early, with Mr. Qin, Little Zhuangzhuang, and Little Yaoyao.

The whole family was completely gathered.

Qin Juan and Jia Liang managed the restaurant, and with their experience from taste-testing and learning new recipes from the chefs, their culinary skills had improved greatly, managing two full tables of dishes was no big deal.

However, when Qin Juan was simmering the fish, she felt bouts of nausea.

Being experienced, she calculated her cycle and realized she was a few days late.

Suddenly understanding, she called out to Jia Liang, "You handle this, I'll go steam the buns with sister-in-law."

Jia Liang, still chopping meat, took the spatula she handed over with a puzzled expression, "There's no rush for buns, sister-in-law and mom can do it, right? If you don't want to cook, just stay by me and chat."

It was a rare chance to be with his wife.

Qin Juan gave him a direct look, "I don't want to stay in the kitchen, I need some fresh air."

Jia Liang noticed her pale face too and asked worriedly, "What's wrong?" She was fine just moments ago.

Qin Juan couldn't suppress her discomfort any longer and whispered in his ear, "I might be pregnant, and the fish smell is making me sick."

Jia Liang still looked foolish, "Pregnant with what?" Why can't you stand the fish smell? We just had fish at home a few days ago.

Seeing his silly expression and insistence for clarity, Qin Juan pinched his waist, "You might be becoming a father, let go of me, I need some air."

Jia Liang's silly look turned to a stunned one, the word "father" making his blood boil with excitement.

If it wasn't for the pain from where she pinched him, reminding him it wasn't a dream, he would've thought he was floating.

Watching her walk into the yard, Jia Liang chased after her with the spatula in hand.

"Juanzi, what did you just say? Say it again, slow down, don't rush, be careful not to trip..."

His voice was loud enough that people in the living room turned to look.

Qin Juan's face turned red as she quickened her pace.

Mrs. Qin and Zhang Guilan were steaming buns on a temporary stove and upon seeing Qin Juan hurry over, with Jia Liang chasing after, looked puzzled too.

"What's going on? Weren't you cooking inside?"

Once Qin Juan sat on a small stool, only then did Jia Liang look away from her.

Showing off a big grin to Mrs. Qin, "Mom, Juanzi can't stand the fish smell, she might be pregnant. Please keep an eye on her, I'll cook lunch by myself."

Even if Qin Juan didn't repeat herself, Jia Liang had already understood.

He was going to be a dad, Juanzi was going to have his baby.

Lucky he came early today, seeing Mr. Lin's fair little girl was quite tempting.

Now he didn't need to envy anymore.

Mrs. Qin's eyes brightened at the news, "Really? Juanzi, are you really pregnant?"

Qin Juan felt overwhelmed. She just had a feeling, not a confirmation. This fool, why spread it around? Wasn't she embarrassed enough?

Faced with her mother's eager eyes, she had no choice but to admit cautiously, "I'm not sure yet, my cycle is just a few days late, and I got nauseous while making fish."

Mrs. Qin clapped her thigh, "Then it's most likely true, that's wonderful news."

Her daughter had suffered before; they had been blind enough to match her with such an unsuitable family.

Now remarried to Jia Liang, they could see their days getting better and better.

While Jia Liang seemed rugged, he was gentle with Qin Juan.

A woman's well-being shows in her complexion.

Now her daughter looked radiant, smiling more, appearing younger by a few years.

This showed she was living comfortably.

If she were to add a child or two, there would be nothing left to worry about.

Zhang Guilan was also thrilled, "Our family really has one happy event after another. Juanzi, stay here and steam buns with mom, I'll go cook with brother-in-law."

Having heard about Qin Juan's pregnancy, Lin Chuxia came to help with the cooking.

But Mrs. Qin and the rest wouldn't allow it.

"Even though it's your full moon, you can't over-exert yourself. It's summer now, but in winter, you should really take a month in-house recuperating."

Lin Chuxia felt perfectly fine, but seeing no one at ease with her involvement, went back inside to mind the child.

She had just entered when more people arrived outside.

Wang Tianxue holding Xiao Long, alongside Old Mrs. Jia and Little Ningning, arrived first in the courtyard.

Followed by Qin Jianjun and Old Sir He.

Finally, Zhuang Yang.

The gathering was complete all at once.

After Old Sir He arrived, Lin Chuxia had the master check her big sister's pulse.

As expected, big sister was indeed pregnant.

Now the atmosphere was even more celebratory, especially for Jia Liang and Old Mrs. Jia, grinning like their own daughter or granddaughter was celebrating the full moon.

Old Sir He scoffed twice, dismissing them, turning to see his little grandchild.

His serious demeanor crumbled at once.

Her master was good-looking, and this little grandchild was cuter still.

Plump, fair, and serene, with eyes like black grapes, big and full of spirit.

Giggling with a toothless grin at him.

Old Sir He couldn't help but grin back, "Look at this, my little grandchild is the affection of everyone's heart. They say children smiling at elders means I've got many years yet to live."

"Yes, master, wishing you a long, healthy life."

Lin Chuxia gathered her child and placed her into Old Sir He's arms.

Chapter 658: Just as Overbearing as Her Mother

Old Sir He was stunned when she handed the child over to this old man.

It wasn't until Lin Chuxia reminded him, "Master, hold him well. If you drop your grand-disciple, you'll have to take responsibility."

Old Sir He snapped back to reality, repeatedly assuring, "Oh, oh, I won't drop him, I won't drop him. Even if all my old bones scatter, I won't let my grandson fall..."

As he spoke, his voice began to choke with emotion.

To avoid being noticed, Old Sir He lowered his head, only to meet the eyes of the little girl in his arms, who gave him a big smile.

Old Sir He couldn't hold back, his eyes turned red.

He thought of the time when his two daughters severed ties with him to protect themselves.

At the time, he didn't resent them for it.

In that situation, cutting ties with him was the best choice.

He believed they had no other option.

Until he returned and the two daughters didn't visit him for a long time, he had his suspicions but remained hopeful.

He secretly went to his second daughter's house.

He knew his eldest daughter had always been resolute; if she didn't come, it was because she no longer wanted to acknowledge him.

But his younger daughter was different in his heart.

As he reached his younger daughter's doorstep, a little boy ran out of the yard.

Everyone says nephews resemble their uncles, and the little boy looked a lot like his own son when he was young. So, he knew this was his younger daughter's child.

That was his first time seeing his grandchild, and it was impossible not to feel excited.

He went forward, coaxing, offering the only twenty cents he had to buy the boy some candy so he would let him hold him.

Just as he held the child in his arms, his younger daughter came out of the yard.

At first, she was stunned, then quickly acted as if she didn't recognize him, grabbed the child, and slapped him twice.

"You naughty child, how can you let anyone hold you? Look how dirty he is. What if he has lice that crawl onto you? Get back inside. If I see you talking to strangers again, I'll break your legs. Be careful not to get kidnapped..."

He only hugged his grandson briefly, yet not only was he criticized by his daughter for being dirty, but she even suggested he might be a kidnapper.

The child's crying brought Old Sir He back to the present.

He clumsily comforted the little girl, "Don't cry, don't cry, Grandpa will buy you candy later..."

This little girl sure has a temper.

He just drifted off for a moment, and she cried like that.

Just like her mother, so headstrong.

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There were three full tables set.

One for the men, one for the women, and one for the children.

Luckily, it was summer. Without enough room indoors, they set up under the tree shade in the yard.

Ever since Mrs. Qin left twenty days ago, Qin Yang had been taking care of Qi Qi during mealtimes.

Today was no exception.

Qin Yang held the baby with one hand and ate with the other, quite content, which made Li Wei envious.

Thinking back to when his son was little, it was his mother who held the baby while eating.

Why hadn't he experienced that?

Holding a child with one hand and still managing gracefully looked quite impressive.

But on second thought, he shook his head.

His son wasn't as well-behaved as their little girl.

Look at that little girl nestling in her father's arm, only blinking her big eyes, staring at her father's face.

If it were his son, he wouldn't have looked at his face. He'd be watching his mouth.

Whenever his mouth moved, his son would definitely pry it open to see what was being eaten inside.

If there was food, it had to be scooped out and stuffed into his own mouth.

Just thinking about that chaotic scene made Li Wei shiver.

Indeed, nothing compares to children.

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In the nearby family building, Sister-in-law Feng craned her neck to look from the balcony.

When Feng Dajun came in and saw her like that, he frowned and asked, "What are you looking at? Is the meal ready?"

Sister-in-law Feng had been following more rules lately, rarely leaving the house except to buy groceries, and making meals on schedule, just so she didn't anger Feng Dajun enough to send her back to her hometown.

Seeing Feng Dajun return, she quickly ran to the kitchen, "It's ready, it's been ready for a while."

She brought out the dishes one by one, and Feng Dajun, after washing his hands, looked around but couldn't see his daughter.

"Where's Jingjing? Why isn't she back yet?"

Sister-in-law Feng casually replied while serving Feng Dajun rice, "Who knows where that silly girl has run off to again, I'll scold her when she comes back."

"Don't keep scolding her," Feng Dajun took the bowl and started eating heartily.

Sister-in-law Feng served herself a bowl and sat across from him to eat.

After a few bites, her eyes darted around, "It's quite lively at Minister Qin's house today. I'm sure Minister Wei and the others went."

"Minister Wei has always been close to Qin Yang's house. What's so surprising about them going?"

Feng Dajun didn't pay much attention. From the last incident, he'd already realized the gap between himself and Qin Yang.

With Qin Yang around, he might never stand out in Minister Wei's eyes.

Does he feel unwilling? Maybe a little.

Sister-in-law Feng pouted, "But just for having a girl, they make such a big fuss. I think they're just using this chance to make connections. Otherwise, who throws a big full-month celebration for a girl?"

Seeing Feng Dajun stay silent, Sister-in-law Feng knew she was making sense and her boldness grew.

"You say their family's so rich, could they be content with having a girl? With no son, no matter how much they earn, it all becomes someone else's eventually. Who would be satisfied with that? I bet the two of them will definitely want a second child soon. You need to keep an eye on it. Doesn't your unit fire people for violating family planning policies? If Qin Yang gets fired, who else but you would take his spot?"

Feng Dajun thought she was overthinking it and reminded her once again not to meddle in his work matters. Hadn't he told her enough?

"I'm telling you, stop worrying about useless things. Spend more time caring about your daughter. Haven't you noticed she's quieter lately?"

"What's there to care about? I take good care of her every day. She has food, drinks, goes to school, and has new clothes to wear. What more could she want? When I was young, I couldn't even get enough to eat. I had to wait for my brother and younger brother to finish before I could eat whatever was left, and didn't I turn out fine?"

Feng Dajun glanced at her, thinking it's like talking to a wall. He just focused on eating his meal.

Lazy to bother with her.

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After the full-month banquet, Mrs. Qin, Mr. Qin, and Qin Han were planning to return together.

She had actually wanted to stay in Yan City for a few more days, to help Lin Chuxia with the baby and because she was a bit worried about Qin Juan, who was newly pregnant.

But neither of the two people involved, Lin Chuxia nor Qin Juan, cared about these things.

There were lands and a shop to look after at home, not to mention that the bun shop their elder sister-in-law managed was also Lin Chuxia's. How could she let Mrs. Qin neglect her Little Yaoyao to take care of her own child?

Moreover, Qin Yang and she were managing Qi Qi quite capably, not to mention they also had Zhuang Jingshu's help.

As for Qin Juan, that goes without saying.

This was her second child, and she was already well-acquainted, plus there were Old Mrs. Jia and Jia Liang to help, leaving no need for Mrs. Qin to worry.

Chapter 659: Worried

Old Mrs. Jia even patted her chest to assure her that she would definitely take good care of Qin Juan.

After all, the child Qin Juan is carrying is the precious grandchild of the Old Jia Family, and Jia Liang is already in his thirties. How could she not cherish this hard-won child?

With these words, Mrs. Qin could only go back, reminding the two of them to call her if there was anything, and she would come over.

The food factory frequently delivers goods to the city; catching a ride is very convenient for her.

After the full month celebration, life became stable again.

Zhuang Jingshu stayed in the family quarters to help Lin Chuxia take care of the baby. Occasionally, Zhuang Yang would come over, and the two would discuss work-related matters either in the courtyard or in the guest room.

Most of the time, it was Zhuang Yang reporting to Zhuang Jingshu, who would then give instructions.

Sometimes, Lin Chuxia was present, and they didn't hide anything from her, mostly regarding matters of the An City Vegetable Station.

Lin Jiayi is not Zhuang Jingshu's biological daughter, so naturally, the ownership of the vegetable station would be reclaimed.

Zhuang Jingshu began to make new plans for the vegetable station, which Lin Chuxia wasn't interested in.

She knew that Zhuang Jingshu was a woman with a strong career drive.

But she worried that juggling childcare and work might be too much for her, so from the day she moved into the family quarters, Lin Chuxia replaced all the home's drinking water with spiritual spring water.

After the start of autumn, the weather was no longer so oppressively hot, and Qi Qi began to like being outside.

If she wasn't taken outside for fresh air every day, the little one would get cranky.

On this day, Lin Chuxia and Zhuang Jingshu were cooling off in the courtyard with Qi Qi.

A chugging sound from a tractor approached, finally stopping at the gate.

Yuan Bao dutifully ran to block the gate, and soon Sun Bingnan appeared there, accompanied by Village Chief Sun, who was scrutinizing the surroundings.

"Uncle Sun, Third Brother, why are you here?"

Lin Chuxia quickly handed the child to Zhuang Jingshu and got up to greet them.

Sun Bingnan smiled and said, "We've long wanted to come see you and the child. We all miss you, knowing you've had the baby. We'd all have come if we weren't worried about disturbing the child."

"Feel free to come, it's just the right time to visit the city," Lin Chuxia said, taking the things from his hands.

Sun Bingnan leaned over slightly and whispered, "The whole family sent me as a representative to check on you. My dad insisted on coming, too. The peaches are ripe on the mountain. See, he's worried to the point that his hair's turning white. I told him you'd already arranged everything, but he didn't believe it and insisted on coming to talk to you in person."

Lin Chuxia did notice that Village Chief Sun didn't have the same confident demeanor he used to have; it seemed he had faced quite some setbacks recently.

She glanced at Sun Bingnan again.

Is this his biological son?

Although Village Chief Sun was somewhat proud and complacent, the accomplishments of the Sun Family did give him enough reason for pride. However, his own son was intent on undermining him.

Sun Bingnan rubbed his nose and chuckled, "There are some things I can't say, but you can."

Lin Chuxia gave him a reassuring look and went to greet Village Chief Sun with a smile.

Village Chief Sun was just unloading chickens from the tractor. "These are old hens raised for two years by your aunt, good for making nourishing soup."

"Uncle and aunt always think of me."

Just as Lin Chuxia was about to reach out, Sun Bingnan stepped forward to take the chicken and put it directly into the chicken coop in the courtyard.

There was a small table in the courtyard, and Lin Chuxia invited the two inside, but the father and son sat directly under the big tree's shade.

The child was too young, and upon seeing visitors, Zhuang Jingshu, worried they might startle the child, took the baby inside when Lin Chuxia got up.

From a glance earlier, both Village Chief Sun and Sun Bingnan recognized each other as the affluent woman recently gossiped about in the village and Lin Jiayi's biological mother.

Later, it was known that Lin Jiayi and her mother were eyeing her wealth, falsely claiming Lin Jiayi as her biological daughter to deceive her.

Who knew the woman wasn't so easy to fool and used some experimental technique to prove Lin Jiayi wasn't her daughter at all.

Sun Bingnan's mother was there for the spectacle and, after returning home, thoroughly berated the Lin Family.

Never seen such heartless, venomous people, no wonder they treated Lin Jiayi and Lin Chuxia so differently.

"Has that heartless foster mother of yours caused you any trouble?" Village Chief Sun asked with concern.

Lin Chuxia shook her head, and Village Chief Sun scoffed, "She's wise not to. After treating you like that, what face does she have to cause you trouble? Their current situation serves them right."

Lin Chuxia raised an eyebrow and looked at Sun Bingnan.

Such words were indeed not suitable for Village Chief Sun to say as a village leader and Lin Chuxia's elder.

Sun Bingnan picked up the conversation, "After Lin Jiayi found a wealthy mother, the mother and daughter strutted around the village. Especially the divorce between Lin Jiayi and the Li Family, given how close Daqing Mountain Village and Xiaoqingshan Village are, the Li Family even tried to arrange mediation, only to be flatly refused with harsh words. In essence, they didn't want others meddling in their affairs, but those words offended many people. When the truth came out, onlookers gathered to watch the Lin Family, already having poor relations at Daqing Mountain Village. Now, fewer people want to have anything to do with them. As for Lin Jiayi, Mother Lin seems worried having a divorced daughter linger at home will affect finding a wife for her son, so she's planning to match her with someone else. But as you know, it's tough to find a suitable match for a twice-divorced woman in the village."

Almost no one in their village was divorced; for a woman remarrying after divorce, requirements had to be loosened.

Usually, those who remarried widows were widowers or bachelors who couldn't find a wife, sometimes even those with cognitive issues.

But given Lin Jiayi's personality, she couldn't possibly take interest in such people.

As long as Lin Jiayi doesn't remarry, she'll remain an eyesore to Mother Lin, and family life would naturally be lively.

Lin Chuxia's expression remained calm, having no feelings toward the mother and daughter.

She just thought Lin Jiayi, if given another lifetime, would only live in a more chaotic way.

Some people should just learn to be content.

In the past life, she didn't know how things were between Lin Jiayi and Qin Yang, but from her understanding of the Qin Family, if Lin Jiayi had behaved herself, she wouldn't have been neglected by the Qin Family.

But in her eyes, each member of the Qin Family appeared detestable, with not a single good person among them, and Qin Yang was a cold-blooded creature.

This lifetime, it's even more significant.

Given a slim chance to relive her life, instead of living well, she consistently schemed against others, only to end up scheming against herself.

Lin Jiayi, living another lifetime, hasn't gained much intelligence but considers herself too clever while viewing others as fools; this is truly foolish.

From inside the house, hearing that the guests were villagers from Daqing Mountain Village and seeing their good relationship with her daughter, Zhuang Jingshu came out holding the baby.

Chapter 660: Sales Channels

As soon as Village Chief Sun saw the child, his eyes lit up, "This must be our little granddaughter, right? Look at her, she really stands out, those eyebrows are eyebrows, those eyes are eyes, so fair and chubby, even better looking than those New Year paintings."

Sun Bingnan nearby: "Dad, if you can't praise people properly, don't overdo it."

Village Chief Sun might not be good at praising people, but what he said came from the heart.

At his age, who doesn't like children?

Especially children who look good.

He thought of something, bent down and rummaged through his bag, finally taking out two large peaches.

The golden yellow peaches, each as big as Village Chief Sun's fist, were held in front of Qi Qi, "Look what Grandpa Sun has brought you? These peaches are grown on the mountain in our village, all thanks to your mom who had us plant them. Look at the size of this, isn't it pleasing to the eyes? Not only is it pleasing, but it also tastes sweet. But such good peaches don't have any recognition, can you believe it? Is it just because they're not red or green? Or because they don't have fuzz, which even saves washing..."

Behind him, Village Chief Sun started talking to himself, his brows furrowing.

Sun Bingnan shrugged helplessly at Lin Chuxia, here we go again.

Lin Chuxia picked up the conversation, "The peaches from the mountain have come down? I've only heard Third Bro talk about it, didn't expect them to be this big. I'll wash some to taste."

Village Chief Sun suddenly perked up, "Who says it's not so, our peaches are not only big but also sweet. I picked these from the tree early this morning, worried that if you can't finish them they'd spoil, so I picked the hard ones especially. Our peaches, when eaten hard, are crisp and sweet, and after a few days, they'll soften up and be sweet and soft, making you want more after one bite. Today, Old Three and I specifically came here to bring you peaches."

"Is that so? Uncle Sun, hearing you say that, I have to try them."

The peaches were too big, Lin Chuxia washed three, cut them into small pieces, and placed them on a plate to serve, first offering a piece to Zhuang Jingshu, "Mom, try this. It's from the mountains of Daqing Mountain Village, a good variety of yellow peach, in its second year of fruiting."

Her addressing her as mom made both Village Chief Sun and Sun Bingnan exchange glances, feeling genuinely happy for Lin Chuxia.

His wife had mentioned it at home before, about how Chuxia had suffered so many grievances at the Lin Family, and finally found her mother, only to be mistaken. Who knew if that girl would hold a grudge and then not acknowledge her birth mom?

Although her mom was blind to this situation, after all, it was the Lin Family's sins, and if it really turned out that way, Chuxia would ultimately be the one wronged.

After all, she would lose someone who loves her.

But unexpectedly, this mother and daughter got along quite well.

Village Chief Sun thought to himself that he should mention this to his wife when he gets home, Chuxia is indeed a reasonable girl.

Zhuang Jingshu also didn't expect Lin Chuxia to give her face like this in front of these people.

Their time together recently had been pleasant, with Zhuang Jingshu living on campus at the faculty housing, going to the market every day to buy groceries, cook meals, take care of the child, and chat with her daughter.

While their life was plain, it brought her immense satisfaction.

After spending time in this way, she realized that her daughter really didn't blame her, and their relationship grew increasingly close.

But in front of these two men who came from Daqing Mountain Village, who had watched Lin Chuxia grow up, she called her so naturally.

Zhuang Jingshu felt a warmth in her heart, taking the peach handed over by Lin Chuxia and taking a bite, nodding continuously, "The taste is indeed good, but the texture is somewhat different from the fuzzy peach."

This season is when the peaches are coming off, and just days ago she bought some at home: the Jiubao Peaches that people liked the most right now.

These peaches had firm flesh, low fiber, were juicy, and had a strong sweetness. The locals favored them.

The yellow peaches in front of her were crisp and sweet, but not as sweet as the Jiubao Peaches, with a slightly astringent aftertaste.

Lin Chuxia also took a piece to taste, "There is indeed a difference. This peach might not sell well on the market, right?"

Her words struck a chord with Village Chief Sun.

He might praise them, but he knew the state of the peaches well.

The first basket of peaches from the mountain was personally carried to the market by him to sell.

But no one knew what he was selling; those who asked were just looking out of curiosity, but shook their heads when it came to spending money.

Later, he had no choice but to cut the peaches into small pieces, offering samples before buying, but the effect wasn't good either.

For the same money, people preferred to spend an extra ten cents to buy fuzzy peaches rather than eat his.

Those who bought them just wanted to try something new.

"Right now is the season when the mountain peaches are coming down, if we don't pick them they'll rot on the trees. Our family is fine, but there are several other families in the village who planted them with us. Chuxia girl, your Uncle Sun came to see you, even at the cost of losing face. To be blunt, when those families followed your uncle to plant trees, I already boasted your Uncle Sun's ability. Now that the peaches are here with no market, I have no face left as a village chief."

After saying this, Village Chief Sun sighed again.

His oldest and second sons followed Lin Chuxia in raising chickens, making a great profit and the new house was about to be up.

This yellow peach business was also arranged for the youngest son by Lin Chuxia. He thought that following Chuxia girl would definitely not end in loss, bringing along fellow villagers so that Daqing Mountain Village could stand tall. But who would've thought, his third son had no idea what to do with these peach trees either.

While on the surface no one said anything to his face, how could those words not reach his ears?

Everyone's land was accounted for, and fruit trees, once delayed, were a few seasons lost. Now he knew a few households were considering cutting down the trees to plant grain instead.

They waited two years, and now the trees were bearing fruit just to be cut down. Who would be willing, who wouldn't feel heartache?

Lin Chuxia turned to Sun Bingnan, "How about over at Wang Cheng's side? Is there also no market?"

"He can handle some, right now we manage our own fruit trees best, and the fruits they bear are mostly sold through Wang Cheng. The rest relies on my dad to sell at the market."

As soon as Sun Bingnan said this, Village Chief Sun stared at him in disbelief, "You still have a market? Didn't you sell at the county?"

Sun Bingnan innocently spread his hands, "Yes, I sold at the county, at the Qin Family Village Vegetable Market."

Village Chief Sun raised his hand and slapped him, "You little rascal, dare to fool me."

Who didn't know that Qin Family Village Vegetable Market belonged to Lin Chuxia, and Wang Cheng was under Lin Chuxia, the person in charge of the vegetable market.

He sold peaches to Wang Cheng, was there no trickery involved?

Yet this kid kept his mouth shut tight.

Every day the duo went out with peaches, the son would sell them early, while this old father struggled to sell even half. If he hadn't noticed that other families selling yellow peaches were in the same situation, he would have called this rascal his dad.

This kid told him nothing about it.