

## Switched M 681

### Chapter 681: The Greenhouses Collapsed

Although the Qin Family Village has vegetable greenhouses, they haven't been fully promoted yet.

Right now, the common folks are relying on winter-stored vegetables to get through the winter.

As the two of them were talking, the phone rang.

Answering it, it was indeed Big Brother Qin Han.

"I was just about to call home, and Big Brother called first. How are things back home? Is the snow heavy?"

Qin Han was also concerned about this, "The snow is quite heavy. Some greenhouses in our village have collapsed. No one expected the rain to be this heavy, and it turned into snow in the end. The vegetable seedlings in those greenhouses were growing well, and they were worried about not covering them with straw curtains at night, which could freeze the vegetables. Who knew it would cause the greenhouses to collapse? This morning, the village chief called people to help those families to minimize their losses. I went over to check it out, and most of the vegetables in the greenhouses were frozen. On top of that, they have to rebuild the greenhouses, resulting in significant losses."

To keep warm, vegetable greenhouses need to be covered with straw curtains at night.

After the rain, the straw curtains absorbed a lot of water, which increased their weight, and then they were covered with a layer of snow. It's no wonder the greenhouses collapsed.

This is basic knowledge. When greenhouses were promoted, the technicians had already warned the villagers.

However, Lin Chuxia could understand these people, who had a bit of a lucky mindset.

If they didn't cover the straw curtains, the vegetables inside the greenhouses would be somewhat frozen.

Seeing the vegetables growing, how could they bear to watch them freeze and get damaged?

Seeing Lin Chuxia's concern about the village's vegetable greenhouses, Qin Han told her which families' greenhouses were crushed.

He finally sighed, "The other families are relatively okay, but it's Li Sanpang's family that I'm worried about. Their family is poor. Previously, they joined with others to build a greenhouse and finally made some money. This year, they wanted to go solo and invested all the money in this. Now the greenhouse has collapsed, and Sanpang's mom sat in the field crying for a long time. Later, the village cadres went there. I thought, seeing their pitiful situation, wouldn't the village chief help? But the village chief only invited people to help them work, without saying how they would assist them."

Hearing Big Brother's tone, Lin Chuxia couldn't help but chuckle softly.

"What do you want the village chief to do? It's not just Sanpang's family that suffered, there are a total of seven or eight families. Should the village chief help Sanpang's family and ignore the others? Moreover, the vegetable greenhouse is considered a collective project of our village. When the greenhouses were initially built, the technicians clearly explained everything. The consequences of their confusion can't just be patched up by the village, or will some people knowingly repeat the mistakes next time?"

Lin Chuxia's words left Qin Han stunned for a while.

"Sister-in-law, why didn't I think of that? To be honest, because of this matter, I was feeling blocked for a while, always thinking that the village chief was being unkind. There's no shortage of money with so many industries in the village. I was even considering how to help Sanpang's family and give those village cadres a piece of my mind. Turns out, I had misunderstood."

"Having compassion is a good thing for Big Brother," Lin Chuxia knew Qin Han's nature well.

Feeling embarrassed by the praise, Qin Han said, "Oh, sister-in-law, don't say that. My thinking is straightforward and can't process so many twists and turns. It's fortunate that I made this call to you, otherwise, I might have offended people."

At this moment, he came to realize.

Although Sanpang's family is pitiful, their situation is ultimately a result of their own decisions, and they can't blame others.

It's just bad luck, with misfortune piling on, that led them to gamble on a bad weather bet.

Seeing his tone lightened, Lin Chuxia further inquired about the situation of the other affected families.

In the end, she reminded him, "If Big Brother wants to help these disaster-stricken villagers, just do what you can, like giving them an extension. But be sure to stick to your principles when it comes to pricing."

This time, Qin Han didn't need further explanation from Lin Chuxia to understand.

If he gives them a cheaper deal, how would the other villagers look at him?

"I got it, sister-in-law. Don't worry, I know what to do now."

Qin Han replied verbally while secretly heaving a sigh of relief in his heart.

Today's call to his sister-in-law wasn't because of anything major, just to discuss village matters aloud with someone.

He really felt a lot for Sanpang's family and initially thought of doing something to help.

After chatting with his sister-in-law, he realized how impulsive his initial thoughts were and what seeds they could potentially sow.

His sister-in-law was right, distant water can't quench immediate thirst.

Sanpang's family is in financial difficulty now, and even if he gives a slight discount, it won't solve the fundamental issue but rather break the rules.

Offering credit is tantamount to lending them money.

The Qin Family Village's greenhouse business developed so well. As long as they follow the rules, they will definitely make money.

Sanpang's family suffered this time and won't act arbitrarily again.

As for defaulting? That's highly unlikely.

His sympathy for Sanpang's family stems from knowing their honesty; they are straightforward farmers.

They're not the type to default on their debts.

With the heavy weight off his mind, Qin Han chatted with Lin Chuxia about family matters.

This year, after the autumn harvest, he tore down their old house and built a two-story building.

Now the building is completed, and they're currently installing the heating.

"Sister-in-law, this year for New Year's, invite your master, your mom, and your brother over. Let's have a lively celebration. The house has plenty of room."

Lin Chuxia agreed with a smile, and only then did Qin Han hang up the phone.

Zhuang Jingshu, listening in, wasn't quite clear about the conversation and asked with a smile, "What were you talking about that made you so happy?"

Lin Chuxia looked at her elegant and noble mother, took little Qi Qi from her arms, and while nursing the child, she asked her.

"Mom, you've always been concerned about my development, but you haven't talked about yourself. I heard from my brother that you still have a business over there."

Zhuang Jingshu had been back in the country for over half a year with no intention of leaving, and even Zhuang Yang has been staying in the country with her.

Zhuang Jingshu smiled slightly, "Uncle is helping manage the business over there. I've decided to transfer all my shares there. From now on, wherever you are, mom will be too. During this period, Zhuang Yang helped me buy houses in Ancheng Yan City and the capital."

"Mom, why are you so fast? I should have handled the housing."

Lin Chuxia had long wanted to establish a home for Zhuang Jingshu here.

Not that she disliked having her live with her, just that every time Zhuang Yang came over to work with her, he felt the small guest room was too constrained for them.

Unexpectedly, her mother quietly made all the arrangements, not giving her a chance to show her generosity.

Zhuang Jingshu laughed and held her hand, "You don't have the time for that. I could hardly manage not to help you with your work. Don't worry, Zhuang Yang is by my side, so he can handle these trivial matters. Besides, I want to give you a gift."

Lin Chuxia clasped her hands back, "You are the best gift heaven has given me."

## Chapter 682: Motorcade

In the afternoon, Wang Tianyu came to the residential compound.

During this time, with Wang Tianyu's support, Lin Chuxia indeed felt much more at ease, able to understand the operational situation of various companies and timely solve some issues.

Wang Tianyu's capabilities also surprised Lin Chuxia; she secretly told Wang Tianxue that finding an assistant like Wang Tianyu was truly a stroke of luck.

Only on that day did she learn that Wang Tianyu was the president of the student council during university, demonstrating competence in handling matters.

Otherwise, Wang Tianxue would have been embarrassed to let Wang Tianyu attach himself to Lin Chuxia.

This time Wang Tianyu came because of the issues over at Qin Family Village.

The weather was getting colder, and transportation vehicles at the Qin Family Village Vegetable Market were decreasing day by day.

Wang Cheng discussed with the village the idea of forming their own fleet to facilitate transportation.

But this proposal encountered some hurdles over there in the village.

Not that the village chief didn't trust their judgment, it's just that the village spent a lot these years on road construction and building an elementary school.

Although the village has many industries, each was established by tightening the belt.

For greater profit, the year's gains rolled back into expanding production.

The money actually on hand is not much.

Building a fleet isn't cheap; even if the village chief grits his teeth, he couldn't gather enough for even one vehicle.

Lin Chuxia only briefly thought before saying, "You go back and tell Wang Cheng that we will build the fleet ourselves, let him first discuss with Su Wensong regarding vehicle type, quantity, and funding, and then report back to me, but make sure to tell them the fleet will be under Xiyang."

Under Xiyang, it wouldn't be owned by the market, thus Qin Family Village would have no say in the fleet's arrangements or profits.

After all, the initial purpose of building the fleet was to solve the market's transportation issue, Wang Cheng had negotiated with the village chief on this.

If not clarified beforehand, it would be troublesome if Village Chief Qin misunderstood.

Wang Tianyu nodded, "Okay, I will make it clear to Manager Wang. Actually, Manager Wang has mentioned this too; some industries in Xiyang overlap with Qin Family Village, Village Chief Qin tends to mix personal and official matters when handling these things."

During this time, to familiarize himself with business operations, Wang Tianyu has been spending a lot of time in Ancheng County, making frequent trips to Qin Family Village.

Wang Cheng is an honest person, aware of Wang Tianyu's relationship with Lin Chuxia, concerned that the young man might lack insight in certain matters, he speaks quite frankly.

Additionally, he wanted to use Wang Tianyu's connection to convey some real situations to Lin Chuxia.

After all, Lin Chuxia is now in Yan City, has let go of family matters.

As a villager of Qin Family Village, she has always had a good relationship with the village chief, who helped her significantly in her early entrepreneurial days.

But business is business, no matter how good the relationship is, nobody wants to be taken for a fool.

She actually understood these matters without Wang Cheng's reminder.

As for the village chief, how should one describe this person?

Indeed, he is a good leader, genuinely wanting to lead the villagers to prosperity.

However, cultural levels and vision are limited, sometimes resulting in a tendency to take small advantages when dealing with problems.

Previously, Su Wensong mentioned this to her.

Luckily, the chicken farm and pig farm in Qin Family Village are not directly managed by Village Chief Qin.

The business transactions between the chicken and pig farms with Xiyang Food Factory are contractually bound, preventing major issues.

Nonetheless, Wang Cheng faces difficulties.

Qin Family Village Vegetable Market has half its shares held by the village.

Some matters inevitably need dealing with the village chief.

While they were talking, the phone rang again.



Although there's a phone in the house, it rings maybe twice a week.

Everyone knows Lin Chuxia is taking care of her child at home; they avoid disturbing her with work matters if possible. If really unsolvable, Wang Tianyu assists in passing messages.

Lin Chuxia knew Qi Qi was asleep in the bedroom, didn't dare to delay, quickly answered the phone.

The moment the call connected, Sun Bingnan's voice came through.

"Chuxia, there's a problem at the chicken farm..."

He had not finished speaking when a rustling sound interrupted, followed by another man's voice.

Clearly, the phone was snatched from Sun Bingnan.

Inside was the voice of the Eldest Son of Sun Family, "Chuxia, elder brother apologizes to you, entrusting such a large chicken farm to elder and second brother signifies your trust in us. Truly didn't expect such a problem, damn the weather, in what month is this that it's snowing..."

"Don't worry, elder brother, let's discuss the issue slowly."

Listening to the incoherent sentence, Lin Chuxia interrupted his words.

The Eldest Son of Sun Family's voice was almost crying, "Discussing slowly doesn't solve this, the chicks are all frozen to death, in such icy weather, where can I find so many chicks? Chuxia sister, I'm really sorry..."

The noise came again from the phone, this time it returned to Sun Bingnan's voice.

"Chuxia, Mr. Lin, let me explain."

Lin Chuxia calmly spoke, "Alright, you explain."

Turns out the chicken farm at Daqing Mountain Village was expecting a batch of chicks in the last couple of days.

After forming a scale, Daqing Mountain Village's chicken farm mainly raises two types of chickens.

Egg hens lay eggs; broilers supply Xiyang Food Factory.

Egg hens are easy, replaced every 2-3 years.

Broilers are a new variety on the offline market, characterized by a short growth period and tender meat texture.

After two years of exploration, the farm's broilers are typically ready in about two months.

This requires continuous supplementation of chicks.

The chicken farm there signed a contract with a hatchery center in a nearby city, which would deliver chicks on time.

Originally, this batch was due yesterday, but heavy rain hit, the road was difficult to travel, the driver took a break on the road, then unexpectedly snow fell overnight.

The temperature dropped sharply, and the insulation in the carriage was insufficient, the chicks couldn't stay long in the vehicle.

The driver gritted his teeth, hit the road early in the morning.

Unexpectedly, on slippery snowy roads, the vehicle overturned halfway, and all the chicks in the load froze to death.

Although both parties had a contract, the chicks not being delivered on time would incur penalties from the other side.

Yet, lack of chicks directly affects subsequent production at Xiyang Food Factory.

Even if the hatchery center quickly arranges a new batch, it would take at least half a month.

The Eldest Son of Sun Family thought about the impact on Xiyang Food Factory's production, worriedly clearing his throat.

"Have you contacted Su Wensong's side? What's the food factory's response?"

"We've already informed them, Manager Su said he'll contact other chicken farms to check their situation, and also asked us to think of ways to quickly resume supply."

Sun Bingnan thought for a moment, still lowered his voice to remind, "This batch of chicks was supposed to supply around the Spring Festival."

Based on experience over recent years, the food factory sees a surge in orders before and after the Spring Festival.

Ironically, this batch of chicks encountered issues.

Chapter 683: Unattainable

"Big Brother knows the seriousness of the issue and is very anxious; he insisted on calling you to confess."

"There's no need for a confession. Natural disasters and accidents happen, and no one wants them. We should quickly find a solution. First, negotiate with the incubation factory, and then wait for news from Su Wensong."

After everything was discussed, she hung up the phone, and Wang Tianyu looked over with a frown.

"Mr. Lin, is the situation serious?"

Lin Chuxia nodded slightly, "It is indeed a bit tricky."

From what she knows, Xiyang Food Factory has signed many orders for before and after the Spring Festival, and the chicken farm in Daqing Mountain Village is their largest supply source.

If there is a problem with this batch of chicks, it will definitely affect the Spring Festival orders.

After Wang Tianyu left, Lin Chuxia was still thinking about this matter.

Zhuang Jingshu had just coaxed Qi Qi to sleep, helped Lin Chuxia and them by bringing fruit, and happened to hear them talking about the chicken farm.

Seeing her daughter deep in thought, she knew she was still worrying about the issue.

She handed over a peeled apple.

The apple was peeled, clean and white, and carried a fruity aroma.

Lin Chuxia took the apple and thanked Zhuang Jingshu.

Zhuang Jingshu smiled gently, "Still thinking about work?"

Lin Chuxia nodded.

She asked again, "What are you planning to do? This issue doesn't seem too difficult."

Lin Chuxia thought the same.

Although the chicken farm lost a batch of chicks, there are still remedies available.

Even if it affects Xiyang Food Factory's orders, the losses won't be huge.

The compensation from the incubation center might be able to cover this gap.

Lin Chuxia was thinking more deeply about how to avoid such issues in the future after this lesson.

Zhuang Jingshu spoke again, "Since it's not a big issue, why not leave it to your assistant to handle?"

"Wang Tianyu?"

Lin Chuxia looked up.

Lately, Wang Tianyu indeed helped her handle many things, but most of those were mundane tasks or tasks where she provided the guidance and he executed.

This matter didn't seem difficult to her, but to fully entrust it to him...

Zhuang Jingshu could see her concerns.

"Do you know about the hurdle law?"

Seeing Lin Chuxia nod, she continued, "A person who isn't pressured or motivated can only realize 20% to 37% of their potential. When they are pressured and motivated, they can unleash over 80% of their potential. A person's achievements depend on the challenges they face. The higher the hurdle, the higher they jump. Challenges are like hurdles set up for people to overcome. Overcome them, and you become stronger; otherwise, you'll remain where you are."

She chuckled and looked out of the window, "An assistant must be used like your right-hand man. If you plan to make Tianyu your assistant, he should face issues and difficulties. Otherwise, if every problem requires you to step in, what do you need an assistant for?"

Following her gaze, Lin Chuxia saw Zhuang Yang coming in from the yard.

He was in a black wool coat, and even though it was freezing outside, he left his coat unbuttoned and walked in with a commanding presence.

Yet, there was a gentle and confident smile on his face.

Lin Chuxia couldn't help but sigh internally: Mother is indeed a capitalist who spent over twenty years abroad; her ability to teach is unmatched by Lin Chuxia.

But what Mother said made sense. After training Wang Tianyu for so long, it's the perfect matter to gauge Wang Tianyu's true capabilities.

When Zhuang Yang entered, he saw the mother and daughter looking at him with a strange expression.

While taking off his coat, he curiously looked around.

"Why are you both looking at me like that? Where's Qi Qi?"

Zhuang Yang, although still single, adored the little girl immensely.

Whenever he came to the family quarters, his first task was to play with Qi Qi.

It was cold today, and he was carrying a chill, so he decided to wait a bit.

Lin Chuxia didn't dare to express her thoughts to Zhuang Yang, directly changing the topic, "Brother, since you love kids so much, why not find me a sister-in-law? That way, when you have kids, they can grow up with Qi Qi."

Zhuang Yang rubbed his hands and poured himself a cup of hot water.

Seeing Zhuang Jingshu looking at him, he shook his head, "I'm still young; I don't plan on marrying early. I like being alone."

"You're young? You're two years older than Qin Yang, aren't you? Around here, at your age, you're considered an older man."

Lin Chuxia was right; people marry early here.

Previously, the marriage law stipulated men at 20 and women at 18. Although it was revised to 22 for men and 20 for women, traditional thinking prevailed, and many still prepared to marry at 18.

Lin Chuxia suddenly widened her eyes, "Brother, you're not thinking of marrying a blonde, blue-eyed foreign girl, are you?"

After all, growing up abroad, perhaps his taste had changed?

Zhuang Yang shivered, "No way, I'm actually quite conservative."

Those foreign girls, so young and... so open; he couldn't handle that.

Lin Chuxia was just teasing him, and seeing his reaction, she burst out laughing.

Zhuang Jingshu said earnestly, "Your sister is right; you should think about your future more seriously. Unless something exceptional happens, I might not go abroad anymore. Look around you; if you find someone suitable, developing a relationship isn't bad."

Zhuang Yang listened to Zhuang Jingshu and nodded, "Got it, Chairwoman."

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Lin Chuxia indeed assigned the chicken farm issue in Daqing Mountain Village to Wang Tianyu.

At first, Wang Tianyu thought he misheard. When he confirmed that Lin Chuxia indeed entrusted the task to him with full authority, he knew it was a test from her and took the matter even more seriously.

During that time, he handled the issue in Ancheng County and reported progress to Lin Chuxia as it happened.

The plans they discussed were gradually being implemented, and Lin Chuxia realized that this young man was methodically handling matters and had great potential.

When Wang Tianyu handed in a report proposing the chicken farm establish its incubation center, Lin Chuxia's face broke into a knowing smile.

This was something she had thought about before.

When Zhuang Jingshu had asked what she was thinking about, she was contemplating establishing her incubation center.

Their chicken farm was substantial, and buying chicks externally was a considerable expenditure. Any transport issues could lead to further complications.

However, establishing their incubation center was no easy task.



Though space and equipment could be arranged, the technology would require careful investment.

#### Chapter 684: Like

Lin Chuxia didn't say much, she directly approved the document Wang Tianyu submitted, and handed it over for him to handle.

And Wang Tianyu really didn't disappoint her. In just over a month, the incubation base for the Daqing Mountain Village chicken farm was completed.

In the blink of an eye, it's almost the Spring Festival again.

This year's Spring Festival is different from previous years. Not only do we have Little Qi Qi, but Zhuang Jingshu and Zhuang Yang are also spending the holiday with Lin Chuxia and others.

Old Sir He didn't come back during the Spring Festival; he called Lin Chuxia early on, telling him he would return after spring next year.

Lin Chuxia is very willing for Old Sir He to have his own circle, his own life.

On the twenty-sixth day of the twelfth lunar month, Qin Yang's workplace officially went on holiday. The couple brought Little Qi Qi, along with Zhuang Jingshu, Zhuang Yang, and Jia Liang, Qin Juan's family, and returned to Ancheng County with lively enthusiasm.

The house in An City, which Lin Chuxia gifted them as a wedding present, was tidied up by Jia Liang before the holiday. After returning to An City, Jia Liang and his group went straight to the Jia Family's courtyard, while Lin Chuxia and others went directly to Qin Family Village.

As soon as they entered the village, they saw from afar the two-story building located in the middle of the village, right at the Qin Family's spot.

"Brother really meant what he said, he actually built the first small Western-style house in Qin Family Village."

Lin Chuxia said as she pointed out the location to Zhuang Jingshu.

In the past two years, with Xiyang Food Factory and the vegetable greenhouses in Qin Family Village, the villagers have made money, and there are quite a few refurbished houses, but there are really only a few families who can build small buildings.

Being able to build is one thing, actually implementing the plan is yet another.

Qin Han is a man of action.

Zhuang Jingshu already knew about the Qin Family's situation.

The Qin Family are honest farmers, and Brother Qin and his wife have interacted with her a few times, getting along well with their daughter and son-in-law.

She knows her daughter's abilities. Not just the Qin Family, but the entire Qin Family Village has developed thanks to her daughter.

But people are indeed different.

Some people might envy you for your achievements, some might think they're entitled to them, and yet others, because of your goodwill, feel grateful to you.

Zhuang Jingshu knows the Qin Family are the last kind.

Qin Yang's lips carried a faint smile too, knowing better than anyone his brother's temperament.

Appearing steady and honest, but actually has a child-like simplicity and straightforwardness.

Now with money in hand, he loves to show off.

Qin Yang could already imagine his brother's proud look upon seeing him soon.

Sure enough, when Qin Han saw them come back, his mouth almost reached his ears.

While welcoming them out of the car, he began introducing the two-story house behind him.

"The area our family got isn't small; we could have built five rooms originally. But I listened to my sister-in-law's advice, did four rooms upstairs and downstairs. Well, you can't call it four rooms, from the outside it seems like four, but inside there's plenty to discover. You'll know once you're inside, it was actually my sister-in-law who designed it. I hired several batches of workers to understand the blueprint. Initially, I worried the outcome wouldn't match the drawings. After tidying up and taking a look, I'm glad my sister-in-law helped design it. Those who've seen more of the world think differently than we do. My imagined two-story building was just stacking two rows together. Now it's great, inside the house, there's a place to eat, sleep, and even shower and relieve oneself—all without leaving the house...

Once he started talking about the house, Qin Han wouldn't stop.

Mrs. Qin pulled at him when he started speaking indelicately, "Stop talking nonsense, go brew some tea, guests are here, all they hear is you."

It's not right for the elder brother to talk about urination in front of the sister-in-law and especially in front of the mother-in-law.

Zhuang Jingshu didn't mind though; after experiencing so much in the business world, she rather liked Qin Han's personality.

The building was already decorated and moved into, so the group went straight into the living room.

Zhuang Jingshu glanced around, indeed, the design was quite good.

Unlike those uniform apartment buildings in China, it resembled the design of villas abroad.

When Qin Han mentioned earlier, it was Chuxia who helped with the design.

She suddenly had an idea.

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Meanwhile, Jia Liang brought Old Mrs. Jia and Qin Juan mother and daughter to their courtyard as well.

Returning to the familiar courtyard after almost two years, Old Mrs. Jia's eyes brimmed with tears.

Ningning saw Grandma crying and quickly reached out her little hand to wipe her tears, "Grandma, what's wrong? Is the wind blowing into your eyes?"

She didn't know the story behind the courtyard; she only knew that this was their home in An City.

Old Mrs. Jia nodded with a smile, wiped her eyes with her sleeve, "Yes, yes, Grandma's eyes got some sand, Ningning, we're home now, Grandma will take you inside to have a look."

She walked a few steps quickly forward and suddenly remembered something, turning to Qin Juan, "Juanzi, come quickly too. Now, this is really your dowry. Let's take a good look together."

Qin Juan shook her head helplessly, first responding to Old Mrs. Jia, then turned to Jia Liang, "Mom always keeps this on her mind."

She didn't care about the dowry matter; this was the Jia Family's old residence, and now she's married to Jia Liang, the family living here, making no distinction.

But Jia Liang said earnestly, "Mom's right, this is your dowry. We coming back this courtyard is because of you. You shouldn't be polite here."

Qin Juan chuckled, "Alright, I won't be polite. I won't be polite anywhere."

Jia Liang also laughed along, "That's the way, that's the temper my wife should have. It's cold outside, let's go inside. I'll go light the boiler."

The courtyard has four rooms originally, and Jia Liang tidied it up before, replacing all the furniture except in the old lady's room.

It's not like he didn't change for his mother; Old Mrs. Jia specifically asked for it.

If the furniture at home is still there, her room must be the same as it was.

Even all the furniture from Jia Liang's room she couldn't bear to throw away, insisting on moving it to her room instead.

People grow old, they tend to be nostalgic.

Especially in the year they rented in Yan City, Old Mrs. Jia often longed for her small shabby courtyard.

In addition to a living room, the four rooms were made into bedrooms.

Old Mrs. Jia still stayed in her original room, Jia Liang and Qin Juan stayed in the room Jia Liang had before, and Ningning, having grown up, got her own room cleaned up by Jia Liang.

Little Ningning had already seen her room and came out running excitedly, pulling Qin Juan towards her room, "Mom, come quickly and see, Daddy Jia bought me pink sheets, a pink quilt, and pink curtains, I love them."

Jia Liang was adding wood to the boiler, hearing Ningning's voice, he turned around to see his wife and daughter, smiling broadly showing his big white teeth.

Qin Juan gave him a sideways glance with a smile.

This man, no wonder he kept asking Ningning's preferences during that time, it turns out he was arranging her room.

Feeling a gratitude beyond words.

Chapter 685: True Hearts Are Exchanged with True Hearts

Qin Juan recalled the time when Ningning was just born.

The Zhang Family wanted a boy; from the day Ningning was born, she was not welcomed by the Zhang Family.

Not to mention Old Master Zhang and Mrs. Zhang, even Zhang Wenbin, her own father, didn't show her a kind face.

The little girl learned to get by based on the moods of adults from a young age.

The Zhang Family always said she was timid and incapable.

But they never said why the child became this way.

Since she left the Zhang Family, she has become graceful, kind, and confident, her smile radiant.

Facing her stepfather, Jia Liang, she affectionately calls him "Daddy Jia," and to Old Mrs. Jia, she is close and dutiful.

Her child has always been a good child.

If there's blame to be cast, it should be said that you reap what you sow.

Genuine feelings are exchanged with sincerity.

The boiler was lit, and the room gradually started to warm up.

Jia Liang returned to the room and saw Qin Juan tidying up clothes; he quietly hugged her waist from behind.

After embracing her, he paused slightly, and his large hand moved a bit lower.

Qin Juan slapped his hand with a loud smack, glancing outside, "What if the kids or mom see us?"

Jia Liang looked aggrieved, "I didn't mean anything, just suddenly noticed your belly seemed bigger, like it's growing fast."

Qin Juan is now over six months pregnant, a time when the belly grows quickly.

Realizing she misunderstood him, she drew his large hand to rest on her belly.

Soon, they felt the little one inside moving restlessly.

Jia Liang was filled with joy, squatted down, and placed his ear against her belly.

Qin Juan sat on the bed, watching the bald head resting on her belly, looking somewhat amusing, and reached out to touch his head.

"What do you hope to hear?"

Jia Liang listened for a while, but besides some gurgling sounds, he heard nothing.

Still, he wore a satisfied smile.

Closeness with his wife and getting his head touched was too good a feeling.

But he didn't want his wife to notice, so he asked earnestly, "Are you satisfied with how the house is tidied? Let me know if you need anything, and I'll buy it tomorrow."

"It's great, nothing is lacking," the house is clearly arranged like their home in Yan City, what could be missing?

Jia Liang scratched his head, feeling he had asked a silly question.

"So, are we going to Qin Family Village to see your parents later? I'll buy some things."

"Don't bother; with our siblings there today, it'll already be lively. Let's visit during the New Year for the festivities."

Having married into the Jia Family, she couldn't keep thinking about her own family.

With just a few days left until New Year, although the house was mostly tidied, they hadn't bought any festive items yet.

Jia Liang was only bringing her home today and would return to the city tomorrow as the restaurant hadn't closed for the holiday.

These days, Qin Juan planned to prepare for New Year with her in-laws; it was her first New Year as part of the Jia Family, and they should have a good time together.

Hearing her plan, Jia Liang agreed happily.



He stayed over for the night and left early the next morning to oversee the restaurant in the city.

Old Mrs. Jia planned to tidy the house again after breakfast.

Though Jia Liang had rearranged and bought a lot of furniture and supplies, as a man, he lacked attentiveness; some detailed cleaning still needed attention.

Qin Juan wanted to help, but Old Mrs. Jia insisted she didn't need to.

"Now you're the hero of our family. Even if you do nothing, you're still the hardest working one. I'm a woman too and have been through that. When I was pregnant with Liangzi, we were poor, and the sisters-in-law were all watching closely, afraid of anyone slacking off. If not for Liangzi's dad protecting me, those days would have been unbearable. I couldn't understand then; did none of those sisters-in-law have hard pregnancies too? Having been through such hardship, how could they bear to scrutinize others every day? Women shouldn't make it hard for women. I couldn't be in charge then, but as the matriarch now, I won't be the kind of mother-in-law who, having suffered herself, makes her daughter-in-law suffer more. I'd be struck by lightning."

Warmth surged in Qin Juan's heart, "Mom, our lives will only get better now. We won't let you suffer anymore. I can handle these chores; moving around more is good for the baby."

Little Ningning chimed in beside, "Grandma, I'll help you."

Old Mrs. Jia beamed happily, "Alright, alright, I've always loved a busy household. These chores don't count. Having you all around makes me happy."

She glanced around, eyes slightly teary, "Living in this house for over 30 years, I never imagined it being so lively."

Jia Liang's father passed early, leaving the widow and orphan in a cold, quiet home for years. Later, when Jia Liang grew up, he got into trouble and rarely came home. Even when he brought people over occasionally, it was more of a nuisance than lively for Old Mrs. Jia.

The three of them cleaned the windows and swept the yard, leaving the inside and outside spotless.

By noon, Qin Juan went to the market to buy groceries.

Living near the night market, she rode her bike there directly.

In the days leading to New Year, the night market wasn't just in the afternoon; vendors were there all day.

The nearby butcher and grocery stores were all open too.

Qin Juan started at the butcher, buying 10 pounds of pork and 5 pounds of lamb, then picked up some vegetables and fruits along the way.

Big bags and small bags hung from the bike handles and were strapped to the back.

With most things bought, she was about to head home when she found the road ahead crowded and unable to move.

She could vaguely hear quarrelling voices in the crowd, seemingly due to some dispute.

Though this road wasn't the only way home, taking another path would mean a long detour.

And the other direction was also crowded; Qin Juan didn't want to take the long way.

She asked an older lady who emerged from the crowd about the situation ahead.

The lady, having just watched the commotion and eager to gossip, instantly felt favorable towards Qin Juan's gentle demeanor and slow, calm speech.

Seeing her with a big belly buying groceries, the older lady was instantly concerned.

"Oh dear, I'd advise you not to push forward. Those people might start fighting and you could get bumped."

Qin Juan subconsciously moved aside and asked, "Could it really escalate into a fight? I heard it's a little sister-in-law arguing with her siblings-in-law. How serious could it be to fight on the street?"

Qin Juan caught an earful earlier, thinking it was a family shopping argument between siblings-in-law.

If that's the case, it's nothing serious, hardly worth fighting over, she thought.

Chapter 686: Juanzi, It's Me, Wenbin

"Oh, you don't know, but I know that young man. He's been buying vegetables at the night market here. It's New Year's, probably more people are buying vegetables, so he called his wife over to help. Her sister came later, supposedly to borrow money from her brother, and she didn't come alone, she also brought her mother-in-law. I've been watching from the side, and his sister and mother-in-law are something else. Borrowing money from a brother as if it's their right, even more boldly than using their own money. The brother didn't say anything, but the sister-in-law couldn't take it, and that's when the shouting started."

Anyway, there's no way forward ahead, and Qin Juan, seeing the aunt getting so animated, also got interested.

"A little sister-in-law, once married off, belongs to another family. Even if her husband's family is having difficulties and she wants to ask her own family for help, she should discuss it properly with her brother and sister-in-law. At the end of the day, the brother and sister-in-law are family now, and she definitely shouldn't be bringing her mother-in-law to the street to argue with them."

"Isn't that right?"

The aunt also has children, with a daughter married off and a son who has taken a wife. If she thought of her daughter arguing with her son and daughter-in-law in the street over money issues, she wouldn't stand for it, even if she's equally fond of both sides.

"You didn't hear how nastily the sister-in-law cursed her sister-in-law, calling her a whore, trash, a worthless woman that nobody wants, each insult worse than the last."

"The sister-in-law just let her curse like that?"

Suddenly, Qin Juan felt a bit sorry for that sister-in-law.

To be cursed by the sister-in-law in front of her husband likely means she's been mistreated at her husband's home.

She recalled her days at the Zhang Family.

Whether a woman can stand up in her home without being wronged ultimately depends on the man's attitude.

Just like now at the Jia Family, if anyone says a bad word to her, Jia Liang would shoot them a look, who would dare give her grief?

Jia Liang often says that she came into his family because of him, since he married her, he will support her and protect her, that's his responsibility.

Such is a simple truth, yet how many people don't understand it?

The aunt slapped her thigh hearing this, "I thought the same. No matter how you see it, that's her sister-in-law, how could she let the sister-in-law curse her in the street? Later, I heard that the sister-in-law has something on her. She disliked her brother because he was poor and divorced him, then for whatever reason, she came back. People say you don't chase business like that, isn't it standing out to be humiliated? This path is one you walk yourself."

The two of them were talking when the crowd next to them dispersed.

The aunt was worried Qin Juan might get bumped, so she pulled her to the side.

Qin Juan also noticed an old and a young person coming through the crowd.

Her pupils suddenly shrank.

The aunt beside her whispered into her ear, "It's these two, the young one is the vegetable seller's sister, and the old one is her mother-in-law. No wonder they're family, it's the sister-in-law giving trouble, and her mother-in-law is even worse. If it were another family, how could a mother-in-law go to her daughter-in-law's home to demand money? Not afraid to get talked about behind her back? Yet, she does such things right in the street, tsk tsk tsk..."

Qin Juan looked at the old lady in the distance, and after two years without seeing her, she almost didn't recognize her.

This was her former mother-in-law, Mrs. Zhang.

In just two years, Mrs. Zhang aged terribly, while before only her temples were gray, now most of her hair had turned white.

Her once fair and plump skin was now full of furrows due to severe weight loss.

Even her spine had bent.

The only thing that hadn't changed was the defiant flesh on her face and the fierceness in her eyes.

Mrs. Zhang walked with her hands behind her back, her face long and scolding the woman holding a baby next to her.

"Our Zhang family has had terrible luck for eight generations, taking in a daughter-in-law like you, with a mouth that only knows how to eat and drink without being able to do anything, eat first. And they don't think, you, with an agricultural household registration, where does your food come from? Isn't it my son

who bought it for you? Now that my son has lost his job, you can't even lend a hand. If I had known, I wouldn't have let you into our Zhang family, just a jinx..."

The woman holding the baby kept her head down, but seemed to have reached her limit, as she looked up and said, "Mom, what you said, how can you not think, Wenbin hasn't worked for a long time now, everything eaten, drunk, and used at home, which hasn't been bought by me?"

"You bought it? With what money? Isn't it all from what Wenbin earned before, don't even claim it's from your family, the way your brother and sister-in-law acted just now, it's like they were about to eat me alive. Saying it's money from your family, who would believe that?"

At this point, Mrs. Zhang seemed to recall something and snorted coldly again.

"Didn't your brother and sister-in-law divorce? Why are they still meddling in your affairs? I say you should drive them out with a big stick, where do they get the nerve to show off here? I heard your brother's child was lost by your sister-in-law, and still, you keep them? What a disgrace..."

"Let me tell you, today's matter is not over. Who was your sister-in-law cursing just now? I, Mrs. Zhang, will not tolerate her antics, don't even mention twenty yuan, even two hundred yuan I won't forgive them. You better think it over, if Wenbin comes later, I still might say a few good words for you, otherwise, you and your worthless little one there can go back to your family, we're not fools at the Zhang Family, daily feeding two mouths for nothing..."

"Mom, you can see, my brother and sister-in-law really have no money..."

Qin Juan watched indifferently as the two passed by, glancing at Mrs. Zhang's increasingly harsh face, with a hint of mockery in her eyes.

She used to verbally abuse her like this, demanding help from her family, knowing the second brother had good prospects.

But she understood the Zhang Family's attitude, no matter how bad things got, she'd never drag her family down.

As she thought, a figure ran from the distance, quickly arriving in front of Mrs. Zhang.

"Mom, what are you doing here? I heard you got into a fight, what happened?"

Seeing Mrs. Zhang was fine, Zhang Wenbin coldly turned to look at Li Dongmei beside him.

His sharp gaze stiffened when it caught sight of someone in the crowd.

Like fearing he'd seen wrong, he rubbed his eyes, "Juanzi..."

Seeing Zhang Wenbin, Qin Juan wanted to walk away, but before she could move, she heard him call her, realizing she must have been seen.

She said nothing and pushed her bike forward, as if she hadn't heard his voice.

After two steps, the bicycle was grabbed.

"Let go," Qin Juan's voice was cold, her eyes colder.

Zhang Wenbin stood there, his face frozen with surprise.

He seemed uncertain whether the fierce woman was the timid wife he once knew, muttering again, "Juanzi, it's Wenbin."

Chapter 687: Will You Forgive Me?

Qin Juan of course knew the man in front of her was Zhang Wenbin.

Even if the man in front of her had become thin and old, even a bit shabby.

But so what?

She would recognize this family even if they turned to ash.

"We are already divorced, I have nothing to do with you, let go, if you don't, I will call for help."

The word "divorce" struck Zhang Wenbin like a heavy hammer. He stared firmly at the woman in front of him, showing no sign of letting go.

"Juanzi, I was wrong, it was all my fault in the past, I didn't treat you well, can you forgive me?"

Zhang Wenbin's eyes measured the woman before him inch by inch.

He hadn't seen her for almost two years. In two years' time, the woman before him not only hadn't aged but had become even more beautiful.

It seemed as if heaven had favored her specially, with her fair face, rosy complexion, and jet-black hair, even her lips were a healthy, full color.

In the past, he was so blind, always thinking his wife was old and plain, a straightforward rural woman with no grace to speak of.

After he married Dongmei, he realized what a country woman really was, what being small-minded really meant.

Since Qin Juan married him, she had always treated him with gentleness, handling all his affairs and family matters around him with utmost care, never letting him worry for a moment.

Every day when he opened his eyes, he had clean clothes to wear, a hot meal when he came home, and the entire house was kept spotless by her.



Even the children never cried or made noise in his presence.

He used to think his life was just like this, clothes came when he stretched out his hand, meals when he opened his mouth, without a bit of worry.

After marrying Dongmei, he realized, not every woman could maintain such a life with him.

No, to be precise, it was after divorcing Qin Juan that he realized it.

He no longer had such a perfect and comforting life.

Putting aside everything else, just the simple matters of having clean clothes when he opened his eyes, having a hot meal when he got home, and keeping the house spotless, Dongmei couldn't do well, and that little brat would cry and fuss in his presence for no reason.

Without comparison, he didn't know how good Qin Juan was...

Even back then, Li Wenhong couldn't match up.

Zhang Wenbin regretted it, starting from witnessing his parents become increasingly harsh, from coming home to chaos day after day, from seeing Dongmei's face grow more and more hideous.

He no longer cared who was to blame for his current plight, as long as Qin Juan returned to his side, he could forgive everything they did in the past.

Of course, he would also treat Qin Juan well, and would never again be unfaithful and seek other women outside.

That was what he thought, and that was what he said.

As soon as Zhang Wenbin finished speaking, Dongmei was the first to jump out, "Zhang Wenbin, are you crazy? I am your wife, I'm the one who is your wife now..."

She now realized that the woman across from her was the shameless ex-wife Zhang Wenbin and Mrs. Zhang had always talked about.

Seeing the woman's appearance, Dongmei became more flustered.

In Mrs. Zhang's words, Zhang Wenbin's ex-wife was useless, a lazy and gluttonous woman from the countryside who wasn't even good-looking.

It was only because the Zhang family felt somewhat indebted that they reluctantly let Zhang Wenbin marry her.

The woman was fickle and promiscuous, and even their child might not be Zhang Wenbin's.

Zhang Wenbin, when speaking of his ex-wife, gritted his teeth with hatred.

Not to mention putting a green hat on him, she even caused him to lose his job.

You could say that the current predicament of the Zhang family was all thanks to that woman.

Yet the woman in front, with bright eyes and a graceful demeanor, even looked imposing in her anger.

And what was Zhang Wenbin doing now?

Bitterly begging the woman to change her mind? Even ignoring her, the current wife, standing beside him with a child in her arms.

Dongmei stepped forward to pull him away; she would never allow Zhang Wenbin to plead with that woman.

If that woman really changed her mind, what would she do? Wouldn't Zhang Wenbin divorce her?

Zhang Wenbin directly shook off Dongmei and looked at Qin Juan affectionately.

"Juanzi, I was really wrong. As long as you can come back, I will do anything, even kneeling before you if I must."

He truly regretted it.

But Mrs. Zhang couldn't stand to see her son behave so shamefully in front of a woman, especially the one she once disdained the most.

Her voice was even harsher, "Qin Juan, seeing my son grovel before you, are you satisfied now? Are you particularly proud now? Let me advise you to stop while you're ahead, don't overplay your hand."

Qin Juan glanced at the two of them and spoke coldly, "Aren't you the ones who are overplaying your hand? Do you really not know what you did back then? Stop while you're ahead? Is this kind of 'good' what you want?"

Qin Juan pushed the bicycle, but Zhang Wenbin held on tightly, unable to move it.

She simply let go and took a few steps away from them.

This entire family was crazy, and although it was in broad daylight, she didn't want to risk her own safety.

Jia Liang's anticipation for the child in her belly made her even more cautious.

Mrs. Zhang had never heard Qin Juan speak to her like that, and she cursed loudly, "My son is even willing to kneel to you, what more do you want? You're just putting on an act here, don't overestimate yourself..."

But then Zhang Wenbin saw Qin Juan's belly.

He knew Qin Juan had married another man.

But knowing was one thing; seeing Qin Juan with such a big belly was another.

The thought of Qin Juan doing such things with another man turned his face dark as the bottom of a pot.

Just as he stepped forward to grab Qin Juan's hand, an angry shout erupted in his ear, followed by a figure crashing directly into him.

"Damn you to hell, what do you think you're doing out in broad daylight here? You think our Old Jia Family has no one left? If you dare lay a finger on my daughter-in-law, you'll have to go through me first..."

Zhang Wenbin was hit hard, stumbling back and stepping on Mrs. Zhang's foot.

Mrs. Zhang, unable to keep her balance with her small feet, fell to the ground with a cry of pain.

In a panic, she grabbed Zhang Wenbin's collar, who was already unsteady, and pulled him down hard onto her.

A horrific scream resounded, piercingly inhuman.

Old Mrs. Jia's condition was no better; she used all her strength for the crash, stumbling several steps herself.

Qin Juan, quick-eyed and quick-handed, caught her to prevent her from falling too.

Qin Juan, trembling with fear, spoke, "Mom, please be careful, don't rush."

That elderly woman was really too brave; she hadn't even seen Mrs. Jia approach, just a blur knocking Zhang Wenbin away.

No matter how you see it, Zhang Wenbin is still a grown man.

In this icy, snowy weather, if someone really fell badly, what should be done?

Chapter 688: She Has Only Daddy Jia as Her Father

Old Mrs. Jia stood firm, straightened her back, and directly shielded her daughter-in-law behind her.

"Don't worry, your mom is no pushover. I won't let these bastards bully you."

Mrs. Zhang cried out in pain, and seeing it was just a little old lady opposite her, she instantly protested.

"Where did this shrew come from? My waist, my leg, my hip bone... I need to go to the hospital, and you have to pay for it."

Old Mrs. Jia rolled up her sleeves, "Pay you, my foot! Do you think I don't know what you people are up to? Blocking my daughter-in-law in broad daylight? I should say that you frightened my daughter-in-law and my unborn precious grandchild."

Zhang Wenbin squinted slightly at the old lady opposite, realizing who she likely was.

He straightened his back, "Old lady, this is between Juanzi and me. No matter what, I'm still Ningning's father, and Juanzi was my wife for many years. I just have a few things to say to her. You didn't have to hit me."

"Peh! When my Juanzi married you, she must have been blind. The Zhang Family was burning high incense on their ancestral grave back then. What's wrong, now that the smoke's gone, you regret it? Go ahead and regret then. Don't even mention Juanzi, even Ningning has nothing to do with you anymore."

The Zhang Family doesn't deserve a wife or granddaughter. If you dare to harass us again, I'll report you for harassment to the police. Take a good look at yourself... I spit on you!"

Zhang Wenbin's face flushed with embarrassment and anger.

"It's not up to you to decide if there's a relationship. No matter what, Ningning has my blood running through her veins; she's my daughter too," he looked at Qin Juan again, "Juanzi, just because of you, I won't argue with this old lady today. Since you're back in An City, bring Ningning to me sometime. I have things to tell you. I think Ningning hasn't seen her dad in a long time, she must be missing her dad."

Thankfully, they still have a child between them.

When he sees Ningning tomorrow, he'll buy her some nice treats. Surely, Ningning will still fondly remember him as her dad.

As long as Ningning remembers him, Qin Juan won't have an easy time cutting ties with him.

"Keep dreaming," invoked Ningning, Qin Juan snapped, "Zhang Wenbin, have you forgotten what you've done? How can you even mention Ningning? Weren't you the one who tried to snatch her at the school gate? Ningning has never wanted you. If you want her to see you, forget about it."

Qin Juan finished speaking and pulled Old Mrs. Jia, "Mom, let's go home."

"You can't leave."

"Don't let them get away..."

Both voices spoke simultaneously.

Before the words finished, how could Zhang Wenbin allow Qin Juan to leave?

Without getting the medical compensation, Mrs. Zhang absolutely couldn't let those two women run off.

Zhang Wenbin grabbed the rear frame of a bicycle, glaring angrily at Old Mrs. Jia and Qin Juan.

Old Mrs. Jia protectively shielded them behind her, glaring back fiercely without backing down.

Just then, a commotion erupted in the distance.

"Make way, make way..."

"Juanzi, we're here..."

Qin Juan recognized the voices of her sister-in-law and fifth sister-in-law.

Little Ningning ran ahead, "Mom, I called auntie. Auntie and they will help us beat up the bad guys."

Little Ningning pointed directly at Zhang Wenbin, "Auntie, they are bullying mommy."

Zhang Guilan and Zhou Hongmei didn't need Ningning's explanation. Seeing Zhang Wenbin and Mrs. Zhang made their anger flare up.

Zhang Guilan called out to the strong young men she brought with her, "This guy bullied our aunty. Beat him up, and I'll take full responsibility."

In their eyes, Zhang Guilan was the boss. Helping the boss, what was there to hesitate about?

The group assaulted Zhang Wenbin with punches and kicks. Even Mrs. Zhang, who was lying on the ground, received several kicks.

Zhang Wenbin had no chance to retaliate. He cried out for help to the onlookers, asking them to call the police while simultaneously covering his head and fleeing.

The bystanders had long figured out the relationships.

Wasn't it just a family being harsh on the daughter-in-law, then the man regretted the divorce?

He kept pestering his wife in front of the current one and the ex.

Everyone's got their own ways of being wretched. But this man here was truly contemptible.

And the old lady on the ground, earlier she had accompanied her daughter-in-law to her maternal home to demand money; now she was encouraging her son to harass his ex-daughter-in-law, truly despicable.

Instead of calling the police for them, the kind elderly women around were cheering on the young men assisting in the beating.

Zhang Wenbin, enduring his pain, pleaded with little Ningning in the distance, "Ningning, I'm your dad, don't let them hit me anymore."

Before Qin Juan could cover Ningning's eyes, she saw Little Ningning standing straight, her voice cold, "You are not my dad. My dad is Jia Liang."

She only had Daddy Jia as her father.

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At the end of this farce, Zhang Wenbin could only escape in disgrace, carrying his old mother on his back.

Zhang Guilan watched their backs, spat in disdain, "What trash."



She turned to Qin Juan and Old Mrs. Jia, "Juanzi, don't be afraid. People like them bully the weak and fear the strong. If you meet them again, call me, and I'll bring people to help you teach them a lesson."

Qin Juan gratefully thanked her.

The shop still had business to tend to, and it was lunchtime when they had the most customers.

Now that things were settled here, Zhang Guilan took her people and left.

Qin Juan saw Zhang Guilan off, then supported Old Mrs. Jia, concern in her eyes, "Mom, how do you feel? Did you get hurt? Let's go to the hospital and have it checked."

Old Mrs. Jia took quite a hit earlier, knocking Zhang Wenbin away, showing how much strength she used.

Even though she kept saying there was nothing wrong, Qin Juan worried that she might be putting on a brave face in public.

Old Mrs. Jia suddenly weakened, grimacing as she rubbed her shoulder, "No need for the hospital, it's nothing major. I really am getting old, more and more useless. Let me tell you, Juanzi, back in the day when I was younger, never mind skinny guys like that, even Jia Liang's uncle, this old lady could handle them."

Qin Juan gently massaged her shoulder, her voice gentle, "Let's wrap it with warm water when we get home. I'll put on a medicated patch for you."

Little Ningning stood by, full of sympathy, "I'll blow on it for grandma."

Old Mrs. Jia laughed, her face like blooming flowers, feeling no pain at all.

She reached out to touch Ningning's little head, "Okay, if Ningning blows on it for grandma, it won't hurt anymore."

Her heart felt sweeter than honey.

Who says you can't gain genuine affection from a non-biological bond?

The fall Mrs. Zhang took earlier wasn't a light one, and she was even slammed by her son. From the looks of it, she wouldn't get off the bed for ten days to half a month.

That was Ningning's biological grandmother, yet Ningning didn't even spare her a glance, preferring instead to show concern for her step-grandmother.

So you see, if you position your heart right, you won't have to suffer retribution one day.

Chapter 689: Northwest Wind

Qin Juan pushed her bicycle while Old Mrs. Jia held Ningning's hand. The three of them walked home at a leisurely pace.

Qin Juan curiously spoke, "Mom, what brings you here at this time?"

When she left, Old Mrs. Jia was still tidying up her room.

Recalling the situation, Old Mrs. Jia shuddered, "I saw you out there for so long and felt uneasy, so I took Ningning for a stroll. Upon reaching the night market, I heard there was a fight. For some reason, my right eyelid wouldn't stop twitching, and from afar, I could see people bullying you. Though I'm confident in my own strength, even a hero can't fend off many hands. Just as a brave man can't overcome a crowd, I and two women managed somehow. But you're pregnant, you can't take things lightly. It just so happened that someone nearby was going to Qin's Buns Shop for lunch. So, I thought of our relatives' bun shop at the night market and had Ningning call for help while I went ahead to assist. How about it? Did I slow you down, dear?"

Hearing her say "even a hero can't fend off many hands" almost made Qin Juan laugh.

By the end, a faint smile graced her lips, "No, I'm so glad you came, Mom."

"That's right," Old Mrs. Jia said proudly. "I'm telling you, Juanzi, as women, we can't be too honest. The world bullies honest people; even a clay figurine has a bit of fire. If I hadn't been tough, when Liangzi's father passed away, we would have been bullied to death..."

Qin Juan knew some things about the Jia Family.

Jia Liang's father died young, and Jia Liang's uncles tried to seize their house.

It was her mother-in-law who, wielding a kitchen knife, fought those few people to keep their house, maintaining a refuge for herself and her child.

The little old lady was still going on and on. Noticing Qin Juan's prolonged silence, her expression suddenly changed, "Juanzi, you don't think I'm too domineering, do you? Rest assured, Mom only acts this way with outsiders, never at home with family."

Earlier, she had been too agitated and couldn't help but reveal her past.

Could she have scared her daughter-in-law?

Her son had told her that when her daughter-in-law was with the Zhang Family, her previous mother-in-law's family had beaten her, which led to her divorce.

She better not frighten her daughter-in-law away.

Qin Juan, holding the bike with one hand, squeezed the old lady's hand with the other, "Mom, I understand. They forced you; you're actually a very good person."

Now Old Mrs. Jia was happy again.

She placed Ningning's little hand in Qin Juan's, "You take the child, I'll push the bicycle."

"Mom, I'm not tired, let me push it."

Old Mrs. Jia grabbed the handlebar resolutely, "It's just pushing a bicycle, this old lady can still do it."

With a cheerful smile, Old Mrs. Jia briskly made her way home, her small feet moving steadily and rapidly.

If she weren't worried about her pregnant daughter-in-law keeping up, she'd probably be skipping along.

But as soon as they stepped into their own yard, her cheerful mood was abruptly dampened as if a bucket of cold water was thrown over her, even the smile on her face faded away.

Little Ningning noticed her grandmother's shift in emotion, looked up at her, then at her mother.

Qin Juan raised her hand to gently rub her daughter's little head in reassurance.

She didn't recognize the few people at her door, but it was obvious that her mother-in-law's mood was related to them.

Before she could inquire as to why, Old Mrs. Jia restrained her temper to speak.

"It's like running into a ghost only to have them haunt you. Those two at the door, one is Liangzi's big uncle, the other his Third Uncle, and the women are his aunt and Third Aunt. These were the very people who forced us mother and child out of this home back then. We've since severed ties with the Jia Family, no matter how difficult things got, we've never asked them for anything. But those two aren't done scheming yet. Later, when Liangzi went astray, they secretly hoped he would end up jailed so they could kick this old lady out. But Liangzi always had back-up plans, knowing they came to cause trouble at home. Upon release, he'd firmly teach them a lesson, making them quiet for a while. Who knows what wind blew them here today."

Ningning, with an innocent face, chimed in, "Grandma, today the northwest wind is blowing."

Old Mrs. Jia burst into laughter at that, affectionately looking at little Ningning, "Yes, today the northwest wind is blowing."

Meanwhile, Qin Juan silently observed the people at their doorstep.

Both men weren't very tall nor very strong-looking. The older one was bald while the slightly younger one had a balding crown, leaving just a ring of hair around the back of his head and temples.

This lone ring of graying hair encircling what looked like a boiled egg appeared somewhat comical.

Qin Juan knew that Jia Liang's baldness wasn't by choice but due to early-onset hair loss.

She had heard from her sister-in-law that this type of hair loss was hereditary, passed down to sons, not daughters.

Because of this, when Jia Liang proposed to her, her sister-in-law had pulled her aside to talk privately, lest she mind this aspect of him and was unprepared.

Having experienced a scoundrel like Zhang Wenbin, Qin Juan wasn't bothered by this minor flaw of Jia Liang's.

The richness of character far outweighed appearances in her view.

Beside them, the two women were also not tall. Upon seeing Old Mrs. Jia, their eyes lit up instantly.

"Oh, Second Sister, when did you get back? You didn't even send word to the family. When Big Brother, Sister-in-law, and I heard you were back, we hurried over. Wasn't this house sold before? When I heard about it back then, I was so upset, wondering if we'd ever meet again. Who would've thought you'd buy the house back, Jia Liang really seems to have accomplished much..."

Old Mrs. Jia looked at the group across from her, raising her eyelid, giving them no face at all.

"Don't give me that, what could my Liangzi accomplish? A fatherless child, poorly raised, stealing chickens and acting up all the time, bringing disgrace to the Jia Family name."

Third Aunt's face stiffened at those words. Though outsiders might not know, everyone there was perfectly aware that those were the exact words Third Aunt had once used to scold Jia Liang.

She let out a dry laugh and furtively glanced at her own husband, knowing her Second Sister-in-law wasn't easy to deal with.

The slightly elder woman beside them spoke up, glossing over Third Aunt's words and looking at Qin Juan behind Old Mrs. Jia with a smile.

"Is this Jia Liang's wife? It's our first time meeting, oh my, Jia Liang is truly fortunate to have married such a beautiful wife. Looking at your belly, you're about five or six months along, aren't you? It'll be just right for confinement once it warms up; this is such a blessing, isn't it? Second Aunt, your hardships really have paid off. I always said, you could tell Liangzi was blessed just by looking at him. Now he's a big businessman, has a wife, and soon you'll have a big, chubby grandson. Truly, no one can compare to you. Jia Liang's wife, I'm your Great Aunt, this is your Big Uncle, along with your Third Uncle and Third Aunt. You don't visit Yan City often, so we don't see each other much, but we're all real family here."

#### Chapter 690: Still Going Strong

Aunt Jia looked at Qin Juan with a smile, waiting for her to respond.

Jia Liang's mom isn't easy to deal with, but surely Jia Liang's wife won't show a sour face to her elders, right?

At first glance, this woman seems to have a good temper, looking gentle and standing there quietly.

A sense of frustration filled her heart once more.

That little rascal Jia Liang actually married such a beautiful wife, even prettier than our two daughters-in-law, truly money can make the world go round.

However, after waiting for quite a while, Qin Juan still didn't respond, and the smile on her face started to falter.

Only then did Old Mrs. Jia speak, "My old woman and our Liangzi are indeed lucky, we met someone generous, always there to lend our Liangzi a hand. Our Liangzi, he may not have many virtues, but he's grateful and gives back tenfold for every bit of kindness shown to him. But I must admit, our Liangzi has many faults, the biggest being his grudges; whoever bullies us will be enemies for life, doesn't matter if it's his third uncle or second uncle, even if the heavens themselves intervene..."

Old Mrs. Jia's words were already quite straightforward, and Uncle Jia interrupted her with a sullen face.

"Second daughter-in-law, those words are a bit much, since Liangzi is a Jia, we're family after all, no hard feelings among family? We never intended to kick you out back then, with the second brother gone, we just wanted to help you..."

"Oh, don't go there," Old Mrs. Jia directly interrupted before Uncle Jia could finish, "Help us? Help us how, by taking our house or our food? There's no need to sugarcoat things, I'm not senile. I know why you're here today, just like how you tried to push us out for a house back then. Now that Liangzi is doing well, you want to stick around, but where in the world is there such a convenient thing?"

"Second sister-in-law, no need to make it sound so harsh, big brother already said, back then it was all a misunderstanding. We came today to see if there's anything at home we can help with, we're family, we care about you."

"Care?" Old Mrs. Jia glanced at Uncle Jia, raising her voice, "Your so-called care is really special. When we were struggling, you schemed against us, not to mention in past years, young people badmouthed Liangzi as a hooligan. Now you see Liangzi succeeding, and you pretend to care. You sniff the meat and come running, the whole village hears your plans. If you aren't ashamed, I'm embarrassed on your behalf."

Old Mrs. Jia clapped her hands and directly made a gesture for them to leave, "Our Liangzi doesn't have such opportunistic big uncles and third uncles. Leave at once, or don't blame me for being rude."

Whoever spoke got choked up; even Uncle Jia knew there was no point in continuing the conversation.

More importantly, everyone saw Jia Liang wasn't home, and his newlywed wife seemed like a pushover, not daring to say a word in front of such a strong mother-in-law like Old Mrs. Jia.

However, this was fine, since the old lady won't act sensibly forever; sooner or later, the young will take charge.

Today, at least they met, they can find Jia Liang's wife alone another day.

Maybe, under this old woman's long-term suppression, Jia Liang's wife might actually communicate better with relatives unfriendly with the old lady.

Overall, this trip wasn't in vain.

Uncle Jia and Uncle Jia left dejectedly, while Old Mrs. Jia bitterly complained to Qin Juan a bit more.

Her main point being, her current state was all because Uncle Jia and Uncle Jia were dishonorable, worried that she'd leave a bad impression on her daughter-in-law.

Qin Juan consoled her with a smile, "Mom, I know who you are, you don't have to explain."

If it weren't for her mother-in-law's strength, she might have suffered today in front of the Zhang family.

Seeing she truly didn't mind, Old Mrs. Jia told Qin Juan to rest well while she went to cook lunch.

Qin Juan hurriedly stopped her, taking some ointment from the drawer to help her put it on.

Old Mrs. Jia waved it off, "It doesn't hurt anymore, this old woman is still strong."



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The Zhang family caused trouble for Qin Juan on the street, greatly upsetting Zhang Guilan.

The Qin Family knew very well how despicable the Zhang grandmother and Zhang Wenbin were.

Thinking back on today's incident, Zhang Guilai was worried since Qin Juan is pregnant.

Returning home in the evening, Zhang Guilan didn't dare mention this to Mr. Qin and Mrs. Qin, and only told her own husband.

Hearing this, Qin Han couldn't sit still, pacing around the room, smoking a cigarette yet still feeling uneasy, deciding to go find Qin Yang.

Qin Yang's room light was still on, Qi Qi just fell asleep, and Lin Chuxia and Qin Yang were whispering.

Hearing Qin Han, Qin Yang quickly put on his shoes and went out.

In no time, Qin Yang returned, grabbing his coat and telling Lin Chuxia on the bed, "I'm taking a walk with big brother, you sleep first."

Lin Chuxia gave him a puzzled look.

Married for several years, although Qin Yang and Qin Han are biological brothers with a good relationship, this late-night walking together only happened once a few years back.

Yet Lin Chuxia didn't ask much, knowing neither were reckless.

She simply said, "Okay, come back early and stay safe."

Qin Yang nodded, putting on his clothes and heading out.

Qin Han was waiting outside, asking worriedly seeing him, "What did you tell your sister-in-law? You're out so fast."

Qin Yang lazily shot him a glance, "What did you tell sister-in-law?"

"What else could I say, who wouldn't be angry hearing this? I'm stifled and need air, can't I walk to vent my anger? You, did you tell sister-in-law?"

"No," he didn't want his wife to get upset too, "Let's go."

Qin Yang walked out first with a stern face.

Currently, the two brothers along with Zhuang Jingshu and Zhuang Yang live in a two-story building.

Mr. Qin and Mrs. Qin stayed in the front yard.

The front yard was also a newly built house from a few years ago; the elders preferred not to move to a building, finding living in a bungalow more convenient.

Moreover, the front yard was closer to the gate, making it easier for Mrs. Qin to mind the children and the house.

Before they even reached the front yard, a figure approached.

Zhuang Yang had just returned home after dining with a few contractors, and upon seeing the two men neatly dressed, casually inquired, "Going out this late?"

Qin Han didn't think much before using his excuse for his wife, "Just going for a walk."