

## Switched M 761

Chapter 761: Even a Powerful Dragon Cannot Overcome the Local Snake

As a middleman for herbal medicine dealers, Ma Laosan surely benefits a lot every year from this.

If Xiyang establishes a Chinese herbal medicine plantation here, regardless of the villagers' interests, Ma Laosan's interests will certainly be threatened.

But if Village Chief Ma knows that Ma Laosan would cause trouble, and still let the villagers complain in front of her, it also shows the chief's capability in handling things.

From the first time she came to Qingyan Village until now, she had given Village Chief Ma three or four days.

Back at the inn, Lin Chuxia let Niu Dali go back.

They didn't continue to stay overnight at the inn but packed their luggage directly, found the tractor the landlady had arranged a few days ago, and headed straight for the county.

A strong dragon cannot suppress a local snake.

Without necessary interests, Lin Chuxia would not confront those villagers head-on, nor put herself in danger.

The county's accommodation conditions were much better than those in the town.

Gu Peng directly found the best guesthouse in the county and booked three rooms.

Yu Fei was a bit downcast all the way and was also frightened by the imposing stance of the villagers.

After arriving at the guesthouse, he discussed with Lin Chuxia, "Why don't I go and find the county leaders, after all, establishing a Chinese herbal medicine plantation is a great thing for both the country and the people, I think the county leaders would support it."

He comes here to purchase medicinal materials almost every year, and still has some connections.

Lin Chuxia, however, waved it off, "No need for now, our main purpose this time is to survey, to truly decide if we want to build a herbal plantation in Qingyan Town, we need to consider many aspects, let's leave it like this for now, let's not talk about work, during these days in Qingyan Town, conditions have been limited, Yu has come all the way to accompany us, I haven't thanked him yet, we should find a place to have a good meal tonight."

This made Yu Fei a bit embarrassed.

"Not at all, Lin, you've come from afar and haven't accomplished the task yet, I feel bad in my heart, how could I let you treat me, let me take care of the meal later."

"Yu, don't argue with me, the pharmaceutical factory has to be built, and there will be many things I'll have to consult you about in the future," she said, turning to Gu Peng, "You find a place, today we must not let Yu leave sober."

Gu Peng nodded, "Alright, you guys rest first, I'll be back soon."

Lin Chuxia also asked Yu Fei to go wash up a bit, in this hot weather, they went to Qingyan Village early, encountered a villager protest, and ran all the way, it's impossible not to look disheveled.

Yu Fei, without being polite, went back to wash and change, and Lin Chuxia also returned to her room to take a shower.

Their idea of building a pharmaceutical factory and a Chinese herbal plantation would greatly benefit the local economic development, whether in the short or long term.

But Lin Chuxia also knew she was just a businesswoman.

Historically, scholars, farmers, craftsmen, and businessmen, have always placed businessmen at the end.

She has been in Qingyan Town for such a long time, and only the village chief of Qingyan Village entertained them, doesn't this say something?

She couldn't get a sense of superiority just because she was well-received in Ancheng County, after all, not everyone is Bai Qifeng.

Not everything is a given, she is a businesswoman, and in business, it's best to speak with interests.

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This county is far less prosperous than An City County, but it does have two seemingly nice restaurants.

The restaurant Gu Peng booked was not far from where they stayed, after booking he also went back to bathe and changed into clean clothes.

Seeing the time was about right, the three of them headed directly to the restaurant.

When they said they wanted to have a good meal, they really meant it.

The restaurant's signature dishes and local specialties were all ordered.

The three ordered eight dishes and a few bottles of beer.

Lin Chuxia could drink a little, and Gu Peng's alcohol tolerance wasn't bad either, but unexpectedly, Yu Fei was a lightweight.

One bottle of beer and his tongue was already tied, yet he felt that as a man and Lin Chuxia's senior, he couldn't lose face in front of her, not treating his junior well.

It was Lin Chuxia who saw that he was really not up for it, so she stopped him after he hadn't finished two bottles of beer.

She kept serving him dishes, telling him to eat more to soak up the alcohol.

But it didn't work, and before all the dishes were served, he was down.

Lin Chuxia was amused and exasperated.

Gu Peng was also helpless, "I'll take him back first, you eat slowly, I'll come back to continue eating later."

Looking at the unfinished dishes on the table, Lin Chuxia indeed hadn't had enough, and the food at this restaurant was also quite good.

If it was just the two of them eating there, letting Yu Fei lie there seemed a bit unkind.

So she nodded in agreement.

Gu Peng was quick, returning in less than fifteen minutes.

Lin Chuxia saw his eager look and laughed, "You must have been craving these days, hurry up and eat, try this dish, it's not bad."

In her previous life, Gu Peng didn't care for money or women, only for food.

He said he had suffered too much when he was young and wanted to make up for it in his lifetime.

So when she met Gu Peng again, Lin Chuxia never let him feel wronged when it came to food.

So he wouldn't keep dwelling on the hardships of his youth.

Gu Peng glanced at her, asking, "Is it that obvious?"

Lin Chuxia couldn't outright say she thoroughly understood him in her past life, but thinking about it, his behavior hadn't been that noticeable anyway.

But she had already spoken, so she nodded with a bit of embarrassment, "Seeing you had trouble with food in Qingyan Town these days with the landlady, I thought you must have been craving."

Gu Peng served her a piece of fish belly, "You've wronged me with that statement, I was only thinking about you, I can eat anything, as long as I'm not hungry."

His earnestness almost made Lin Chuxia believe him.

"Thank you for protecting me today, I'm glad I brought you along, otherwise it would have been troublesome today."

When they got down the mountain, they found the tractor surrounded by some villagers.

Yu Fei at that moment was just a gentle bookworm, not helpful in such matters.

Lin Chuxia had to take care of herself and protect him. Had it not been for Gu Peng paving the way for them, they might not have been able to retreat safely.

Gu Peng looked at her silently, with emotions swirling in his dark eyes, making Lin Chuxia feel uneasy under his gaze.

"Why are you looking at me like that? Hurry and eat."

Only then did Gu Peng withdraw his gaze, lifted a beer bottle, and poured her a glass, "With me, you never have to say thank you. Protecting you is what I ought to do."

Lin Chuxia was slightly dazed with the wine glass in her hand.

In her past life, when Gu Peng helped her teach Li Guangyuan a lesson, she also thanked him.

And he said the exact same words.

Only then, they had known each other for many years and Gu Peng told her, if he hadn't met her, he might still be wandering under some bridge or living from hand to mouth.

Chapter 762: Dazed

What Lin Chuxia has given him, he can never repay, so whatever he does for her, there's no need to say thanks.

Yet now, he was the first to speak such words.

Was it the same kind of feeling?

Clearly, by the time she met Gu Peng in this life, he already had a place to stay, didn't need to live under a bridge, and could make ends meet.

Seeing Gu Peng holding a wine glass and looking at her, Lin Chuxia didn't think much, picked up her glass and clinked it with his...

The two of them took a long time over this meal.

The summer night, with its gentle breeze, was much more comfortable than the day.

Lin Chuxia had also drunk quite a lot, feeling a bit tipsy.

Gu Peng seemed fine, accompanying her silently as they walked to the hostel.

Lin Chuxia glanced sideways at him, such a scene making her feel somewhat dazed.

Many scenes flashed in her mind, and finally, she said to him, "You're not young anymore; now that you have a stable job in Xiyang, you should consider personal matters. I remember you're 27, right? By 27, most would have children running all over the place. If you spot someone you like at the company, tell me, and I'll be your matchmaker. Don't be shy."

Gu Peng snorted a couple of times, ignoring that topic.

Lin Chuxia wasn't satisfied, "Don't just hum, give a response! They say a man is in his prime at 28; you're at your prime now. You haven't noticed the way the young women at our company look at you? If you take a fancy to one, make sure you tell me."

Gu Peng suddenly showed a rogue smile, "What would telling you do, get me into bed with her?"

"You..."

Lin Chuxia had only said half of her sentence when she abruptly turned her head, half sobering up from the alcohol.

"What did you just say?"

This tone, this behavior, and this demeanor...

Just as Gu Peng was about to speak, a dark shadow suddenly rushed in front of them, carrying a strong smell of blood.

Lin Chuxia let out a low cry in fright, but the man spoke with a hint of plea, "Don't make a sound."

He looked at Gu Peng, "Someone is after me, brother, could you do me a favor and deliver this..."

There were no street lights here, and it was quite dark, but Lin Chuxia could still see the man's hands were covered in blood, holding something resembling an envelope.

Gu Peng looked at the man with an indifferent expression, showing no intent to take the envelope.

The commotion was getting closer, and the man, with urgency on his face, pleaded, "I'm begging you, brother."

Gu Peng still made no move.

Lin Chuxia furrowed her brows slightly, snatching the envelope while helping the man up.

The man seemed taken aback that the tall man he pleaded with didn't react, but the woman who was scared screamed turned out to be warmhearted.

However, he knew how bad his injuries were, and with so many people chasing after him...

"Don't worry about me, just take this to where I said, and thank you, comrade, you should hurry."

But Lin Chuxia didn't let go, "I don't know the place you mentioned, if you want me to deliver it, you come with us, let's leave here first."

The man didn't look heavy, but his bones were dense, and he was unwilling to move, making it hard for Lin Chuxia to budge him.



She frowned at Gu Peng, "Why are you just standing there? Hurry up and help, those people are almost here."

Gu Peng looked at the man and coldly said, "This guy is trouble, if you don't want to get into trouble in an unfamiliar place, let him go and leave quickly."

The man had long felt Gu Peng's indifference and smiled at Lin Chuxia.

"Thank you, comrade, I really am trouble, you should leave, don't worry about me."

Lin Chuxia stomped her foot in frustration, "If you don't help now, when those people catch up, that's when the real trouble will start, stop talking and hurry up."

Then, without further ado, she hoisted the man onto her back.

Gu Peng eventually sighed helplessly, pulling the man's arms off Lin Chuxia's back and hefting him onto his own.

The man wanted to say something, but Lin Chuxia quickly gestured for him to be quiet, warily looking back as she held onto Gu Peng's arm, quickly moving towards a nearby alley.

Gu Peng was strong, carrying a load of cement was no big deal, so carrying this man didn't slow his pace.

The group had already moved quite a distance when they heard a shout from the alley entrance behind them, "Quickly, quickly, he's injured and can't get far."

Nearby was another alley entrance, and they quickly slipped inside.

Lin Chuxia and Gu Peng were indeed unfamiliar with this place, but fortunately, the man on their back was still conscious, and under his guidance, they finally shook off those people.

Seeing the man already losing consciousness, Lin Chuxia knew these were symptoms of severe blood loss.

"This won't do, let's take him to the hostel."

The situation with this man was unclear; taking him to the hospital would be like sending a lamb to the slaughter.

The hostel where they stayed was a single-story building with a back window.

If they got him through the back window, they shouldn't disturb the other hostel guests.

Gu Peng directly dropped the man on the ground, clapped his hands, "Just leave him here, life's up to fate and fortune to the heavens, we've done our best."

The man was roughly thrown to the ground, losing what little consciousness he had left.

Lin Chuxia was completely exasperated, "He's like this now, tossing him here is the same as letting him die! Saving a life is more meritorious than building a seven-tier pagoda, we should see it through to the end, take him back."

Gu Peng looked at her, "Do you know him?"

Lin Chuxia shook her head.

Gu Peng sneered coldly again, "A stranger can make you disregard your own safety, when will you cure this soft-heartedness?"

That strange feeling hit again, but Lin Chuxia couldn't afford to think about it, pulling the man onto her back again.

"If you won't help, I'll do it myself."

She couldn't quite explain why, but she felt strongly that he should be saved.

Moreover, the address he mentioned for delivering the letter, although unfamiliar, she knew what sort of place it was, indicating he was a good person.

Lin Chuxia knew that Gu Peng was always indifferent to emotions, perhaps due to his years in the Northwest, his character had become somewhat...

But Lin Chuxia would never allow a good person to sacrifice without reason.

Gu Peng watched her frail body, staggering yet determined to carry the tall man, eventually softening his heart.

Somewhat roughly, he hoisted the man onto his back again.

Their hostel was not far from there.

Upon reaching the hostel, Lin Chuxia first returned to her room, then opened the back window.

She saw Gu Peng standing by the back window of his room, carrying the man and looking at her coldly.

Lin Chuxia thought for a moment, then obediently closed her room's back window and ran to Gu Peng's room to open his back window.

After getting the man inside, Gu Peng, disdaining the man's injuries and blood, was unwilling to put him on the bed.

So Lin Chuxia let him be, thinking it was fine to sleep on the floor given the hot weather.

"I have medicine in my luggage, wait for me to fetch it."

Lin Chuxia returned to her room.

Her luggage didn't hold the medicine, it was in the space.

### Chapter 763: A Familiar Feeling

From the villa's emergency medicine kit, she took out various ointments, anti-inflammatory drugs, and gauze. After some thought, she peeled off the labels on the medicine bottles and then took them to Gu Peng's room.

Gu Peng had already taken the person's clothes off. There was a knife wound on his arm, and another on his abdomen.

Especially the abdomen, which looked like it had been stabbed.

Lin Chuxia handed over the medicine shakily, "Is this... okay? The injuries are so severe, won't there be a risk to his life if we don't take him to the hospital?"

Gu Peng looked at her coldly, "Regretting now?"

Lin Chuxia swallowed, saying she didn't regret it was impossible.

But to truly leave the man lying on the street would certainly be a death sentence.

Yet taking him to the hospital also posed a risk of exposure.

Gu Peng had already taken the medicine from her hand, paused momentarily, and then looked at her again.

However, Lin Chuxia's attention was entirely on the man, so she didn't notice Gu Peng's meaningful glance.

Gu Peng's actions were very efficient. He first disinfected the wound, poured the ointment on it, and then bandaged it with gauze.

Lastly, he stuffed the anti-inflammatory pills into the man's mouth.

Lin Chuxia quickly handed over a glass of water, which she had conveniently brought out from her space, filled with spiritual spring water.

Gu Peng hadn't intended to give the man water, but seeing Lin Chuxia hand it over so promptly, he took it and pinched the man's jaw, pouring the entire cup of water into him.

"Is this enough?" Lin Chuxia asked.

Gu Peng washed his hands in the basin, "He won't die for a while. Wait until he wakes up and asks him what to do."

Hearing this, Lin Chuxia secretly breathed a sigh of relief.

They were unfamiliar with this place and didn't know the man's identity.

When he wakes up, they can figure out if he should be taken to a hospital or dealt with some other way.

Seeing her still staring at the man, Gu Peng directly ushered her out, "What are you looking at? Not tired? Go sleep now."

Lin Chuxia felt a bit uneasy, "You should watch over him a bit more. In case anything happens, we can quickly figure something out."

If he really dies in his room, then they'll have a real mess to deal with.

Gu Peng let out another snort, making it clear that he wasn't pleased with her meddling.

With nothing else to say, she quickly returned to her room.

While carrying the man earlier, some blood had gotten on her.

Lin Chuxia showered, changed clothes, and as she lay in bed, suddenly recalled Gu Peng's unusual behavior that night.

Thinking carefully, this wasn't the first time Gu Peng had given her such a feeling.

A feeling strange and complex yet somewhat familiar.

Lin Chuxia sat up abruptly as an unbelievable idea crossed her mind.

Could Gu Peng have been reborn as well?

Since she and Lin Jiayi were both reborn, why couldn't Gu Peng be?

But then it didn't make sense. If Gu Peng were truly reborn, given his experience from the past life, he wouldn't just be living hand-to-mouth work after coming out of the Northwest.

Lin Chuxia lay in bed, thinking this and that, even wanting to rush to Gu Peng's room to ask him if he had been reborn.

Yet she thought if Gu Peng wasn't reborn, it would be really odd for her to say something so inexplicable to him.

Thinking and thinking, she unknowingly fell asleep.

That night, Lin Chuxia slept uneasily and dreamed of past disputes with Li Guangyuan over business matters.

Li Guangyuan wanted to take over the company's ownership. Over the years, he had consistently presented himself as the company's boss, winning over many subordinates.

After the fallout, people tried to curry favor with him, openly or secretly pressuring Lin Chuxia.

Once, when he wasn't around, they even broke into her office to steal the company seal.

She went to retrieve it, and Li Guangyuan obviously didn't want to return it. Without a word, Gu Peng directly assaulted him, beating Li Guangyuan so badly that he finally had to give in and return the seal.

From then on, she further consolidated her power. Due to work matters, Gu Peng was always by her side.

Some gossip even led to Gu Peng's supposed girlfriend confronting her.

Of course, that was only what she thought of as his girlfriend.

Later, Gu Peng told her he had no relation with that woman; it was all the woman's wishful thinking.

Even so, Lin Chuxia felt it wasn't right, half-jokingly urging Gu Peng to quickly settle down with a woman, echoing what she said today.

When Lin Chuxia awoke, it almost seemed as if Gu Peng's resentful face was still before her.

Seeing daylight streaming through the window, she suddenly realized something and sat up quickly.

It was already almost 7 AM, and she heard other guests moving around outside.

Lin Chuxia hurriedly dressed, intending to check on the man in Gu Peng's room.

As soon as she stepped out, she bumped into Yu Fei, who was also heading to find Gu Peng.

Yu Fei smiled and greeted her, "Lin, I was just about to invite you and Gu Peng for breakfast."

As he spoke, he was about to knock on Gu Peng's door.

Lin Chuxia's pupils contracted as she swiftly blocked the door, "Yu, Gu Peng isn't in the room right now. We don't have to wait for him. Let's go eat first."

Yu Fei was puzzled, "So early? Where did he go? I've been wandering around the courtyard and didn't see him come out."

Lin Chuxia was speechless.

After so many days, today she finally had the chance to sleep in; yet he was wandering around the courtyard instead of resting?

"I sent him on an errand. He probably left very early."

Yu Fei asked with concern, "Is it something about the herbal base? You can tell me if it's anything; I've known this area better than you guys. If he's wandering around clueless, where'd you send him?"

Lin Chuxia twiddled her fingers, "It's not about that..."



As she was thinking of an excuse, the door behind her suddenly opened.

Yu Fei's eyes lit up, "He's in the room, isn't he?"

Lin Chuxia was taken aback as she stared at the now open door.

The guesthouse rooms were laid out so you could see everything from the doorway.

Last night, Gu Peng had left the man lying on the living room floor, if Yu Fei saw this...

Gu Peng didn't seem to notice Lin Chuxia's tension as he replied to Yu Fei, "Where else would I be this early if not in the room?"

Yu Fei pointed to Lin Chuxia, "Lin said you went out on an errand, early in the morning."

Gu Peng turned to look at Lin Chuxia, a hint of a smile in his eyes, "Is that so? What did Mr. Lin ask me to do? I just woke up and can't seem to remember anything."

He did it on purpose, this guy did it on purpose.

Since this business trip began, Gu Peng was like a different person than he was in Yan City.

That's why she felt a sense of familiarity and even suspected he too was reborn.

No matter how annoyed she was, Yu Fei couldn't know about the man.

The man's identity was still unclear; it's better if fewer people knew about him.

## Chapter 764: Deliberate

Lin Chuxia kept giving Gu Peng meaningful glances.

If this guy really had been reborn, surely he would understand her hints.

But Lin Chuxia felt like she was throwing flirtatious glances to a blind man. After blinking for quite a while, Gu Peng looked puzzled and asked her, "What's wrong with your eyes? Did something get in them?"

Lin Chuxia: "..."

That was just the start; Gu Peng even opened the door for Yu Fei and said, "I haven't washed up yet. You can come in and wait for a bit. We'll go out and eat together later."

Lin Chuxia: "..."

He did it on purpose, this guy was definitely doing it intentionally.

Even though they've been in contact with Yu Fei for several days, and despite Yu Fei treating them nicely, Gu Peng always wore a cold expression, handling everything strictly by official procedures.

Yet today, he seemed to have had a revelation and invited him to breakfast together.

Lin Chuxia closed her eyes, wondering how she should explain to Yu Fei when he saw that person.

As soon as Yu Fei entered the room, she didn't hear the commotion she imagined would occur.

Instead, it was just the two people chatting normally.

She didn't believe it and pushed the door open to enter, and she saw the room was empty, and there was no one on the bed.

The entire room contained only Gu Peng and Yu Fei.

Seeing her enter, Gu Peng asked her, "Is there something urgent that Mr. Lin needs to instruct? Oh right, is there something that Mr. Lin wanted me to handle early? I completely forgot, maybe Mr. Lin can remind me again?"

Lin Chuxia looked at his face, desperately wanting to scratch it.

She glared at him fiercely, then turned and went back to her own room.

She got up in a hurry and had yet to wash up either.

The guesthouse had a cafeteria serving white rice porridge, small pickles, boiled eggs, and staple food like buns and pancakes.

Lin Chuxia ate a bowl of rice porridge, a boiled egg, and half a bun.

Sitting across from her, Gu Peng finished his food and, seeing Lin Chuxia put down her chopsticks, reached out to take the other half-bun she had left.

Over the past few days eating out together, Gu Peng always collected the buns that Lin Chuxia left behind.

After all, buns were just split open and set aside.

In those days, grain was scarce, and nobody wasted food.

Lin Chuxia didn't think there was anything inappropriate about this behavior.

But today, before Gu Peng could take the bun, Lin Chuxia picked it up first and, under Gu Peng's confused look, ate it bite by bite.

Gu Peng chuckled slightly and put down his chopsticks directly.

On the way back, Lin Chuxia was so full she kept burping.

Yu Fei wanted to buy some things and asked them if they wanted to take a stroll in the county, which Lin Chuxia refused.

Passing by the door to her room, Lin Chuxia pulled Gu Peng inside as she returned.

Finally, just the two of them were left, and Lin Chuxia asked, "Where's that person? Where did you hide him?"

"I didn't hide him, he left."

Lin Chuxia clearly didn't believe him.

He was so badly injured, how did he leave?

Gu Peng shrugged, "Believe it or not, he woke up in the middle of the night. His injury isn't going to heal with just that bit of medicine you have; it might even get infected if not treated in time, so I just let him go to the hospital himself."

"He went to the hospital himself?"

Gu Peng looked at her coldly, "If he doesn't go himself, am I supposed to take him there? Oh, right, I should have woken you up, since after all, Mr. Lin has a heart of gold. If Mr. Lin personally took him to the hospital, maybe you could even gain a great deal of favor. I think that person isn't ordinary, maybe he's someone important..."

He spoke more seriously, "Hey, why don't we go find him at the hospital now? There's only one big hospital in the county, maybe we can find him, don't let Mr. Lin's favor go to waste..."

"Get out," Lin Chuxia said irritably, pushing him out again.

This person was really getting more and more infuriating.

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Today they didn't have any plans, and Lin Chuxia planned to rest well before visiting other places.

On their way here, they passed an area that also grows medicinal herbs. The area is closer to the transportation hub, making it more suitable for establishing a medicinal herb plantation or a pharmaceutical plant compared to Qingyan Village.

However, it turned out that the area not only didn't belong to Qingyan Town, but it wasn't even in the county they were in.

And that place only started growing medicinal herbs in recent years, even Yu Fei wasn't too familiar with it.

Gu Peng suggested that since they had their eyes set on it, they should go directly to negotiate with the leaders there.

This matter didn't even require Lin Chuxia to get involved, he could handle it himself.

Lin Chuxia knew he was displeased with the inspection trip to Qingyan Village.

When the plan to open a pharmaceutical plant was proposed, Gu Peng had some opinions on it.

In his view, if you want to open a pharmaceutical plant, just open one. If there's buying, there's selling.

Especially in a market economy, if there's demand, is it hard to collect herbs?

She worried about the quality of the herbs, but in his view, it wasn't a problem at all.

Strict quality control; any herbs not meeting standards would not be used.

To meet standards and sell for better prices, those herbal farmers would naturally cultivate properly. There's really no need to build a separate herb plantation.

Lin Chuxia at that time felt unable to explain to him.

The growth process of medicinal herbs directly affects their potency; two seemingly identical herbs could have drastically different properties.

If she couldn't explain it, she simply wouldn't. Besides, Gu Peng was her assistant; whatever she wanted to do, he just had to follow orders.

But before they could make a move, someone came looking for them.

The guesthouse owner brought someone to Lin Chuxia and introduced him, "This is Vice County Magistrate Zhang Liang, who is responsible for agricultural production in Yuncheng County."

Yuncheng County was exactly the county they intended to visit, and upon hearing the title of the Vice County Magistrate in front of her, Lin Chuxia guessed the reason for his visit.

As expected, he had found out somewhat that Lin Chuxia and her team intend to establish a medicinal herb plantation here, and even have plans to build a pharmaceutical plant, so he specially came to visit.

Sending a vice county magistrate to discuss showed sincerity in their approach.

They immediately presented generous terms and indicated that if Xiyang established a medicinal herb plantation in their Yun City, he would personally lead and preside over this matter as the vice county magistrate.

Just this one condition greatly tempted Lin Chuxia.

When they went to Qingyan Town, they had informed the local government, yet only a village chief from Qingyan Village accompanied them.

Lin Chuxia knew that the leaders of Qingyan Town and even the county leaders were likely waiting for her to make the visit.

In comparison, the difference was clear.

What's there to hesitate about?

Lin Chuxia immediately arranged a time with Vice County Magistrate Zhang to visit them.

Vice County Magistrate Zhang was impulsive and eager for Lin Chuxia to pack her bags immediately, promising they had prepared accommodations at the guesthouse.

However, since Yu Fei helped connect them to Qingyan Town and had business dealings here, Lin Chuxia wanted to ensure there was a proper explanation for Yu Fei to Qingyan Town before leaving, so as not to leave abruptly.

No matter Qingyan Village's attitude, she couldn't allow Yu Fei to be in a difficult position over this matter.

Chapter 765: Why Is This Kid So Stubborn

After Vice County Magistrate Zhang left, Lin Chuxia shared her plans with Yu Fei.

Yu Fei, who followed all along, understood Lin Chuxia's concerns.

Straightforwardly, "Alright, you can proceed with your plan for this matter. Don't worry about Qingyan Town, I'll handle it."

Lin Chuxia planned to head to Yuncheng County together with Yu Fei once things here were sorted out.

Yu Fei was efficient; however, the issue wasn't completely resolved.

When he returned, he was accompanied by several leaders, including Village Chief Ma from Qingyan Village, the town mayor, and local county government leaders.

It was evident that those leaders who previously put on airs were now panicking upon realizing the situation wasn't what they presumed it to be.

Especially the town mayor of Qingyan Town, who severely criticized Qingyan Village's situation, causing Village Chief Ma to hang his head.

He repeatedly apologized to Lin Chuxia, promising that the issues in Qingyan Village had been resolved, with strict criticism and education for those involved.

The local villagers, too, had previously misunderstood, but that misunderstanding has now been cleared up.

Lin Chuxia wanted to develop a Chinese herbal cultivation base in Qingyan Village and its surroundings, and both villagers and the local government promised their utmost support.

However, Lin Chuxia politely declined even the best conditions offered.

Adding brilliance to something already beautiful is easy, but providing timely help in dire need is difficult. She couldn't guarantee that if she truly established the herbal cultivation base locally, these government leaders wouldn't change their stance.



In contrast, the conditions offered by Vice County Magistrate Zhang in Yun City were more enticing.

These leaders came looking forward to success but returned disappointed.

Lin Chuxia immediately decided to leave.

Before leaving, she gave Qin Yang a call.

Knowing Qin Yang worried about her trip, she frequently called him these past few days to assure him of her safety.

The guesthouse had a phone, and at the time Qin Yang was at work, so the call was quickly connected.

Lin Chuxia briefly mentioned her plan to shift to Yun City and refrained from discussing the events in Qingyan Village, only saying the environment there wasn't suitable.

Qin Yang seemed genuinely concerned about her situation and asked for many details.

After catching up, he also updated Lin Chuxia about the home situation.

"Qi Qi misses you a lot, constantly talking about looking for mommy. If things aren't going smoothly there, you can take your time. Establishing a pharmaceutical factory and the herbal cultivation base is significant; there's no need to rush. We can proceed gradually."

While Lin Chuxia verbally agreed, she suspected that besides Qi Qi missing her, Qin Yang might also be feeling uneasy.

She realized she had been away for over ten days, which was not a short period.

While talking on the phone, there was a knock on the room door from outside.

Gu Peng entered with his luggage, curious if she had finished packing, and seeing her on the phone again, he smirked and sat in a chair beside her to wait.

With someone else present, Lin Chuxia felt awkward about saying certain things.

Ultimately, all necessary things were discussed thoroughly, and the call ended shortly.

Only then did Gu Peng raise an eyebrow and ask, "Isn't this exhausting for you? Going out and having a call every few days. If he's so concerned, why doesn't he accompany you?"

Lin Chuxia rolled her eyes, "What are you saying? He has work. How could he accompany me?"

Gu Peng retorted wistfully, "So you both might not necessarily be compatible. Two suitable people should accompany and support each other, right?"

Lin Chuxia looked at him, "Why do you think that way? Even in a marriage, there should be individual careers and ambitions. As long as the two hearts are together, that's enough."

"Is that so? But I think two people together should at least share similar values, so neither has to constantly accommodate the other. Besides, how can hearts be together if bodies aren't?"

Lin Chuxia stared at Gu Peng; it was the first time she heard his views on relationships in both lifetimes.

So this was his perspective on gender relationships, no wonder he never married in the past life.

Though, his viewpoint seemed somewhat excessively nitpicky.

Lin Chuxia felt this wouldn't do; if he continued with such views, wouldn't he end up single for another lifetime?

She earnestly began, "Gu Peng, I think love is not about constant accommodation but rather about inclusion. A loving couple will support each other and show mutual respect. Since you haven't had a girlfriend yet, you might not know the feeling of loving someone. Once you meet the one who makes you willing to give your feelings and respect, you'll understand."

Gu Peng coldly replied, "So, it's all about compromising for the other person in the end."

Lin Chuxia, "..."

Why was this child so stubborn?

.....

Upon arriving in Yun City, everything proceeded more smoothly with government officials accompanying them throughout.

Even the guesthouse accommodation was arranged by the government side.

Not only were the living conditions excellent, but the services were also comprehensive.

As Lin Chuxia predicted, with the government's support, Yun City was heavily promoting Chinese herbal cultivation, although it was a recent initiative, the farmers were highly enthusiastic about growing herbs; it's just their technical skills needed improvement.

This was easily resolved.

Back when the Qin Family Village set up vegetable greenhouses, she engaged Technician He from the Agricultural Research Institute for support.

She had maintained contact with Technician He over the years.

He mentioned that his senior, an expert in herbal cultivation, found the prospect very interesting.

He would personally come to provide guidance.

Soon, they selected a location perfect for establishing a herbal cultivation base.

Regarding the pharmaceutical factory, Yun City government also promised robust support, welcoming Lin Chuxia and her team to set up the plant.

The trip proved worthwhile.

Lin Chuxia's team finalized the preliminary matters and signed agreements.

The remaining tasks could proceed step by step at a gradual pace.

In a blink of an eye, it's been over a month, so Lin Chuxia must return.

Yu Fei had already returned half a month ago due to matters at the pharmacy.

However, after these events, he had some opinions on Qingyan Village and decided to procure herbs from Yun City in the future.

Thus, Lin Chuxia and Gu Peng boarded the train for the journey back.

.....

"Li Guangyuan, you scumbag, everything at home was earned through my hard work. Want me to leave empty-handed? Take a look at your own capabilities first."

"My capabilities? Lin Chuxia, do you really think the earth stops revolving without you? I'm a man, and I'm the only son in the Li Family. Is it wrong for me to want to continue the family line? You can't have children anymore. Are you suggesting that we let the Li Family end without descendants?"

"Think about it, Lin Chuxia. Why have we worked hard all this time? Isn't it to preserve our family's honor? I've said before, if you are willing, we don't have to divorce. The child from another woman can be handed to you to raise. He will be your son then, can't you be satisfied with this?"

#### Chapter 766: Sweet Dream or Nightmare

"Lin Chuxia, don't think you can refuse a toast and opt for punishment. With my current status and position, I can have any woman I want, and I can do whatever I want with you. Don't push me to a corner..."

"President Li, shouldn't I be the one to tell you that? Do you really think a tiger that doesn't show its power is a sick cat? Depending on women to climb up, what right do you have to say such things? Today I'll teach you how to be a man..."

.....

"Ah..."

Li Guangyuan suddenly sat up, gasping for breath.

Looking at the blazing sun outside, he felt a chill down his back.

His head felt like it was going to explode.

He had that dream again, the dream that was as vivid as a past life.

These days, every time he was exhausted and closed his eyes, he would dream of those events.

He married Lin Chuxia as his wife, and then the two of them started from scratch, beginning with selling vegetables, gradually growing rich, and becoming famous wealthy entrepreneurs in Ancheng County.

They even expanded the company into the city, and he became the respected President Li.

Those scenes played out like a movie, one after another.

It was a beautiful dream, a dream he never wanted to wake up from.

At first, because of that dream, he even deliberately wore himself out just to immerse himself in it.

Until recently, he kept dreaming about unpleasant things between him and Lin Chuxia.

A perfect woman like Lin Chuxia was unable to have children.

But Lin Chuxia had indeed given birth to a daughter for Qin Yang.

And the man beside him in the dream, for some reason, he could never see his face clearly, but hearing his voice made him shiver.

Just like a moment ago, he seemed to feel that man's murderous aura rushing at him.

Li Guangyuan touched the spot over his heart, which was still racing.

"Guangyuan, what's wrong? Did you have a nightmare again?"

Lin Jiayi was outside making breakfast; she came in holding a spatula when she heard the noise.

Seeing Lin Jiayi in front of him, Li Guangyuan felt increasingly detached from reality.

He had also dreamt of Lin Jiayi, who came to his company demanding money from Lin Chuxia.

How ridiculous, that Qin Yang's wife would come ask his wife for money.

Dream Lin Jiayi was the same, timid and insignificant but pretended to be superior.

Asking for money while trying to act superior, how laughable?

Li Guangyuan found it all absurd, yet he couldn't laugh at all.

This woman was like this in a past life, and she is still like this now; it's just that in a past life, she harmed Qin Yang, and in this one, she came to harm him.

If not for her, Lin Chuxia would still be Li Guangyuan's wife.

Lin Jiayi, seeing Li Guangyuan staring at her without speaking, his eyes heavy and increasingly frightening, asked tremblingly, "What's wrong with you? Did you have a nightmare? Why don't you tell me, don't scare me."

Clearly terrified, yet speaking with a tone of concern.

Li Guangyuan suddenly chuckled.

"I did have a dream, come over and I'll tell you about it."

Lin Jiayi, seeing him showing a smile, sighed quietly with relief, coming forward while saying, "Then hurry up and tell me, there's still porridge cooking in the pot."

Even as she said this, she still sat down beside Li Guangyuan.

These days, Li Guangyuan had been cold and distant, although they lived together, he never mentioned remarriage.

Li Guangyuan's silence left Lin Jiayi feeling uneasy.

Seeing him in a seemingly good mood today, Lin Jiayi began to think.

Once he finished telling the dream, she would properly comfort him whether it was a good or bad dream.

Taking advantage of his good mood, coax him into getting their marriage certificate, then she would feel at ease.

As she thought this, Li Guangyuan began talking about the dream.

"I didn't have a nightmare; it was a beautiful dream. Do you know, Lin Jiayi? I've had this dream many times already, and I've been wanting to tell you about it."

"Really? Then quickly tell me, what was the beautiful dream about," Lin Jiayi seemed quite interested.

With a gentle ease, Li Guangyuan began, "I dreamt I was married, not to you, but to Lin Chuxia..."

The smile on Lin Jiayi's face suddenly froze, "Re-really? How could you have such a strange dream?"

"Strange? Back when the matchmaker arranged the proposal, it was clearly for Lin Chuxia. If the switch hadn't happened midway, my wife would've naturally been Lin Chuxia. In the dream, the switch didn't happen, and I scraped together 300 yuan as a dowry for your Lin Family and brought Lin Chuxia home.

Lin Chuxia was very capable. To pay off debts, she suggested going to the county to sell vegetables. We both got up before dawn, worked all day, and returned home under the stars and moon..."



"Isn't that just us? Have you been too tired lately? Maybe that's why you're dreaming like this."

Li Guangyuan raised a hand to indicate she shouldn't interrupt and shook his head.

"No, it's not us. We don't have Lin Chuxia's capabilities. In the dream, we sold vegetables for a year and then opened a Bun Shop, which grew larger and larger. We built a new house and later also opened a food factory. My two sisters found good husbands through Lin Chuxia."

He looked at Lin Jiayi, eyes full of mockery, "Truly good families, they were all city people, very different from the Zhang Family kind. They were honest working families, my brothers-in-law were all hardworking, family-oriented men. Oh, by the way, in the dream, the Zhang Family wasn't my sister's in-laws but Qin Yang's brother-in-law's home..."

Lin Jiayi's vision turned to terror, she suddenly stood up, "There's still porridge cooking in the kitchen; I'll check on it..."

"No rush," Li Guangyuan pulled Lin Jiayi's arm back, "I'm not finished. How could the Zhang Family be Qin Yang's brother-in-law's home? Oh yes, Zhang Wenbin did have a former wife..."

As if just realizing, Lin Jiayi quickly followed his lead, "None of us know who Zhang Wenbin's ex-wife was. Maybe she is Qin Yang's sister. Did you hear something that made you dream like this? Quite a coincidence."

"Coincidence? From what I remember, Li Dongmei was able to marry Zhang Wenbin after getting pregnant out of wedlock because of the help from you as her sister-in-law."

"I know nothing," Lin Jiayi immediately denied, "It had nothing to do with me. You know, your sister had her heart set on marrying someone from the city. Whatever was between her and Zhang Wenbin happened right under your nose. I was home with the kids; I wouldn't know about her and Zhang Wenbin, much less who his ex-wife was."

Li Guangyuan silently observed her panicked demeanor and ultimately nodded.

"Alright, let's say you didn't know anything. Now, let's continue talking about my dream."

#### Chapter 767: How Did He Know?

Lin Jiayi struggled to break free from Li Guangyuan's hand, "I really can't listen anymore, there's porridge cooking in the pot, it's going to burn."

Li Guangyuan, however, refused to let her go, "Weren't you just very concerned about me? How come now you care more about a pot of porridge? If it burns, we'll just eat it like that. This dream of mine is a rare one, you must listen carefully."

He gazed out the window, his face filled with fascination, "We started a food factory, and I became Director Li. The food factory grew bigger and bigger, and later we ventured into other businesses. Those businesses didn't even need my involvement, Lin Chuxia could handle them all by herself, but she still didn't want to be a leader. She respected me as her husband, putting me first in everything. Later on, we founded a company, and I became the general manager..."

Lin Jiayi's face couldn't even be described as terrified, her whole body was trembling.

How did he know about these things...?

And the things he said earlier, one could guess that he was so eager to get rich, seeing Lin Chuxia succeed in business, driven to madness by greed.

After all, when the matchmaker first proposed, they did say it was Lin Chuxia, so it's understandable for him to have such fantasies.

But the things he said later made it impossible for Lin Jiayi to deceive herself.

Those things clearly happened in the past life; he described how they obtained those businesses in detail.

How does he know?

Looking at Lin Jiayi's expression, Li Guangyuan's face finally turned cold.

Almost with a grotesque face, he asked her, "I'm asking you one last time, why did you switch marriages with Lin Chuxia back then? Why did you marry me? This is your last chance, you better think carefully before you speak. Lin Jiayi, you were originally supposed to marry Qin Yang and be alone in an empty house, and now in this life, you've married me, not only have you experienced the pleasure of being a woman, but you've also had a son. Is this how you repay me?"

With the last words, Li Guangyuan gave a fierce shake, throwing Lin Jiayi violently to the ground.

And the words that followed erased even her last hope.

He knows, he knows everything.

Lin Jiayi lay on the ground and suddenly started laughing, then she cried while laughing.

"Why? Why else? In the past life, Lin Chuxia married a poor boy like you and ended up living a prosperous life, with your love and an endless supply of money, living a life everyone envied. And what about me? Everyone said I married well, yet I lived a life worse than neither human nor ghost. When heaven gave me another chance to choose, of course, I chose the best one. But who knew, the glamorous President Li, lauded entrepreneur by everyone, turned out to be nothing but a kept man climbing to the top. Without Lin Chuxia, Li Guangyuan is just a worthless pauper..."

Li Guangyuan stood up in anger, lifted his leg, and kicked, "You bitch, you were the one who harmed me, it turns out all of this is your fault..."

Lin Jiayi laughed through tears, and even as Li Guangyuan punched and kicked her, she continued laughing...

.....

When Lin Chuxia and Gu Peng returned, a light rain was falling in Yan City.

The drizzle wasn't heavy, but it washed away the summer heat of Yan City.

As Lin Chuxia got off the train, she immediately saw Qin Yang waiting at the station and quickly walked over with her luggage.

Qin Yang held an umbrella over her, shielding her completely, and took over her luggage.

His eyes never left her face, "You've tanned, and lost weight, must have had a hard time over there, right?"

"It's true I tanned, but not necessarily lost weight; I didn't feel it was hard at all. The scenery over there is great. Going out made me feel very relaxed."

She was telling the truth.

They had been running around a lot recently to investigate a suitable site for planting medicinal herbs, which naturally led to getting tanned.

The natural scenery over there was very beautiful, standing on the hillside looking into the distance, she felt refreshed and happy.

Lin Chuxia really enjoyed that feeling.

Seeing her in good spirits, Qin Yang finally felt the burden he had been carrying for days lift.

"The car is outside, let's hurry, it's a bit chilly today."

With that, he protectively steered her to the exit.

Lin Chuxia helplessly pulled him back, "Do you have another umbrella?"

Gu Peng was still behind her.

This man, she really didn't believe it if he said it wasn't intentional.

It's the first time she's seen him being so petty.

Qin Yang was startled for a moment, suddenly realizing the problem.

"I only brought this one umbrella, otherwise you two go to the car first, I can catch up quickly."

Lin Chuxia, "..."

At this moment, Gu Peng directly said from behind her, "Mr. Lin, I'm not going the same direction as you. I'm heading back first."

With that, without waiting for Lin Chuxia's response, he strode away into the rain.

Lin Chuxia was amused and exasperated, glancing at Qin Yang, "Let's go, we should head back too."

Qin Yang immediately grinned, "Mom and Qi Qi have been eagerly waiting for you at home."

Not just Ms. Zhuang and little Qi Qi, Old Master He was also at the family quarters.

Learning Lin Chuxia would return today, Old Master He was eager to hear about the inspection results.

Ms. Zhuang prepared dumpling fillings; dumplings were just perfect for a rainy day.

The family bustled over making dumplings while chatting about the inspection this time.

Of course, Lin Chuxia maintained a cheerful demeanor, only mentioning some of the challenges encountered and the positive attitude from the Yun City County Government.

Old Master He, upon hearing that the matter seems settled, joyously ate a few more dumplings.

Meanwhile, Gu Peng reached his residence, opened the door, and saw a note tucked in the door frame, with only a few brief words on it: The person has been found.

After reading it, Gu Peng crumpled the note and tossed it into a nearby wastebasket.

He then threw his luggage bag onto a chair and took off his wet clothes.

In no time, he was stark naked.

Picking up a towel hanging on the washstand, he casually wiped his wet hair.

He then opened the wardrobe to find clean clothes.

The wardrobe had quite a few clothes, some of which were bought with Lin Chuxia initially and some he bought himself.

Finally, he picked a shirt and put it on.

If Lin Chuxia were there, she would have noticed that the shirt he was wearing was identical to the one she had bought for Qin Yang.

After changing clothes, the rain outside had lessened, and he didn't bother with an umbrella, just grabbed a baseball cap and put it on before heading out.

Ever since Lin Chuxia got the Santana, she handed the Jeep to Gu Peng for his convenience.

After all, Gu Peng represented her when handling matters externally.

But today, Gu Peng drove the Jeep, not for Lin Chuxia's errands, but directly back to Ancheng County.

It was still that small courtyard on West Street, the Jeep parked at the courtyard gate, and someone came out of the house.

Hui Zi came up first, "Brother Gu, when did you get back? A few days ago, a brother sent you a message, but you weren't in Yan City, so he left a note for you in the door frame."

Chapter 768: Rely on Yourself

Gu Peng walked into the room, saying, "I saw it."

Hui Zi quickly followed him, "The mother and son you mentioned have been found, but that woman has remarried and has a child with her new husband. As for the child you mentioned, ever since his mother remarried, he's turned into a neglected wild child, having a tough time surviving. When we found him, he was being beaten by a man who claimed the child had stolen something..."

Gu Peng found a chair and sat down. The room was quite messy, with dishes and bowls left on the table with remnants of food.

Hui Zi noticed his gaze and awkwardly began to explain, but Gu Peng wasn't interested in listening. He said directly, "I haven't eaten yet. Get me something to eat."

Hui Zi readily agreed, "Alright, I'll get Yanzi up to cook you some side dishes and make a bowl of noodles, how about that?"

At the mention of Yanzi, Gu Peng thought of the woman who had clung to him and frowned slightly, "No need for her, just go buy it from outside."

"Alright, how about Qin's meat buns and a couple of side dishes? Qin's meat buns are famous in Ancheng County."

Gu Peng nodded. Hui Zi didn't go himself but ran out to get someone to buy food for Gu Peng. After giving instructions, he returned to the room to chat with Gu Peng.

Qin's Buns Shop wasn't far away, and the food was bought and brought back in less than a quarter of an hour.

Gu Peng was really hungry, and not having eaten well on the train, he grabbed a bun and started eating.

By the time he reached the third bun, someone outside called for Hui Zi.

Earlier, while Hui Zi was instructing someone to get the food, he also asked them to bring the child over.

Now the child was here, just outside.

Hui Zi brought the child directly in front of Gu Peng.

A boy of about 10 years old, dark and skinny, with fairly long hair.

It seemed he had been cleaned up after being found, his clothes relatively tidy and clean.

But those black and white eyes were filled with wariness as he looked around and at Gu Peng in front of him.

Gu Peng bit into a bun nonchalantly, looking at the boy.



Especially at his gaze, he couldn't help but let out a cold laugh from within.

The evil in people is innate, ingrained in their bones.

No matter the different living environments, some people will never develop a kind heart.

They will only selfishly calculate for themselves, doing what benefits them the most, always putting themselves first, even when dealing with family, thinking about the benefits they can get.

Gu Peng noticed his gaze lingering on the buns before him, unable to hide it.

"Want a bun?"

The boy swallowed, looking at Gu Peng without uttering a word.

Gu Peng picked up a bun and tossed it over.

The boy quickly reached out to catch it and then stuffed it into his mouth, eating ravenously, as if afraid Gu Peng might change his mind.

Hui Zi, standing by, angrily knocked him on the head, "You little brat, it's as if you haven't eaten in eight lifetimes. I'm the one who brought you here, lacking neither food nor drink. Are you trying to make me look bad in front of the boss?"

Making it seem as if he hadn't taken care of the child properly.

Hui Zi glanced nervously at Gu Peng, who paid no attention, just watching the boy eat, which made him breathe a sigh of relief.

After the boy finished stuffing a bun into his mouth, Gu Peng asked him, "What's your name, how old are you?"

The boy's mouth was still full of bun as he replied unclearly, "Sun Gou Dan, 10 years old."

After speaking, he looked again at the buns in front of Gu Peng.

This time, Gu Peng didn't give him another but asked, "Would you like to have meat buns every day and wear new clothes in the future?"

The boy looked at Gu Peng again, without speaking, but his eyes said it all.

This was a complete egoist.

Gu Peng stood up, walking over to him.

This ten-year-old child was only up to his waist.

Dark and skinny, with a scar on his face that was obviously from being beaten.

Completely different from how he looked in his past life.

"When did your mother stop wanting you? Do you remember how your father died?"

Facing those eyes that were no longer clear at just ten years old, Gu Peng said, "Good days are earned. Your mother doesn't want you anymore. If you want to live a good life, you can only rely on yourself..."

.....

Several days of continuous rain turned the weather even more humid and hot.

Early in the morning, the sun seemed to hide behind thick clouds. Even without the harsh sunlight, it still felt unbearably hot.

The air was thick with moisture, making people feel like they were in a sauna all the time.

Despite the weather, people still got up early to work in the fields.

After all, the morning temperature was somewhat lower. By midday, when it got hotter, they'd be close to heatstroke.

At the Qin Family Village Vegetable Market, a lot of people gathered early in the morning.

Earlier this spring, Wang Cheng had brought people to plant a batch of poplar trees around and inside the market.

But these young poplar saplings weren't grown yet, with leaves just the size of a basket handle, unable to provide much shade.

Qin Wen, lazily guarding his basket of eggplants, watched the bustling market.

Suddenly he saw a familiar figure, instantly perking up.

"Brother, bringing more vegetables again?"

Li Guangyuan had already noticed Qin Wen. Hearing this, he glanced at the basket of eggplants in front of him with disdain, though he didn't show it outwardly.

"Yeah, you selling vegetables again?"

"The family only has these eggplants. If I don't hurry and sell them now, they'll all rot in the field with this rain. How about you take them? If you can sell them, it saves me from sweating it out here."

As he spoke, he took a cigarette from his pocket and handed it to Li Guangyuan.

"They say the hardest is us old farmers. No matter the weather, we have to tend to the fields, or we have nothing to eat or drink. It's not like those doing business, sitting in an office, with fans blowing and tea to drink, making loads of money. They even drive cars, I heard, with air conditioning better than fans..."

Li Guangyuan lit the cigarette, squatting next to Qin Wen, listening to his rambling.

The two of them tacitly didn't mention names, but it was clear who they were talking about.

Li Guangyuan didn't know his own thoughts now. Ever since repeatedly dreaming that dream, especially after Lin Jiayi admitted she had lived another life, he was more convinced Lin Chuxia should be his wife.

His once happy life was destroyed, and he didn't know how to change this situation.

He came to the Qin Family Village Vegetable Market, disdaining Qin Wen, yet hoping to see him.

Only Qin Wen would tell him more about Lin Chuxia.

As if by hearing more, Lin Chuxia would feel closer to him.

## Chapter 769: Rogues and Scoundrels

Qin Wen was speaking dryly, Li Guangyuan had smoked two cigarettes already and still hadn't mentioned the eggplants.

He had to ask again.

Li Guangyuan knew enough was enough, "We're so familiar, no need to be so polite? But I have to take the basket away, I'll bring it back to you tomorrow."

"Sure, no problem," Qin Wen agreed readily.

The two of them lifted the basket to weigh it, and Li Guangyuan directly handed him the change.

With the money in hand, Qin Wen didn't want to stay under the scorching sun anymore and headed home with the money.

After walking a while, he looked back at that man, unable to hold back and spat.

"Dreaming, thinking about swan meat as a toad."

He had long seen through Li Guangyuan's intentions, otherwise, he wouldn't have directed the conversation towards Lin Chuxia.

But thinking if Qin Yang hadn't married Lin Chuxia but rather her sister, their Qin Family second branch wouldn't be in this state today, and he wouldn't have lost his job.

Perhaps Qin Yang's days wouldn't be as good as his.

How much of the good life the Qin Family's second branch enjoys today is not thanks to Lin Chuxia?

The more he thought about it, the more unfair Qin Wen felt, and he turned back again.

Li Guangyuan was looking disdainfully at the basket of eggplants when someone patted him on the shoulder, and he saw Qin Wen had come back.

"Anything else?"

Qin Wen simply said, "It's nothing, I just see you're a sincere and honest person living a straightforward life. As the saying goes, good people should be rewarded with good things. You, an honest man with a good heart and hardworking nature, shouldn't live like this, your fate shouldn't be this way. You should find a way to turn the gears of destiny around. Life is only a few decades long, don't leave yourself any regrets."

After speaking, he patted Li Guangyuan's shoulder again with a look of heartfelt sympathy, seemingly feeling sorry for him.

Inwardly thinking, go stir up trouble with the Lin Family, go find Lin Chuxia.

Even if he can't ruin Lin Chuxia and Qin Yang's relationship, he wants to see the couple embarrassed.

.....

Li Guangyuan collected a cartload of vegetables at Qin Family Village Vegetable Market and biked to the night market under the scorching afternoon sun.

After a busy day without eating, his clothes were soaked with sweat.

But when he got to the night market, he saw everyone had set up their stalls while his was still not ready.

Lin Jiayi was sitting on a vegetable basket, being pointed at by two elders.

Seeing Li Guangyuan arrive, one of the old ladies limped over, grabbing his bike handle.

"Good timing, your wife says she has no money, surely you have some, right? Hurry and take out the money, I don't want to delay your business..."

Li Guangyuan frowned at Mrs. Zhang in front of him, "Didn't we just give you money a few days ago? Why are you asking for it again?"

"The 20 yuan you gave isn't enough. It's not even enough to eat, let alone your niece who needs good food."

Li Guangyuan was furious hearing this, "That's your Zhang Family's business, what do I have to do with it? If you keep coming to disrupt and harass at our stall, I'll report to the police."

Upon hearing this, Mrs. Zhang lay down directly on the ground, throwing a tantrum.

"Go ahead, report to the police and let them take me away, I can even go see my son. Oh heavens, truly leaving me no way out. If your sister hadn't abandoned her child, would I be lowering myself to ask you for money? The child is your sister's, you must take responsibility."

Lin Jiayi was already fed up with the shameless antics of this old lady.

Mrs. Zhang and Old Master Zhang come to their stall to cause trouble at the slightest refusal to give money, refusing to let them do business.

Absolutely hooligan-like.

If she had known the Zhang Family were such people, and Li Dongmei marrying into it wouldn't resolve the issue with the sister-in-law, affecting their whole family, she wouldn't have let Li Dongmei marry Zhang Wenbin.

"The child is a Zhang, that's your Zhang Family's child, what's it got to do with the Li family? Go find Li Dongmei, why come here and make a scene?"

"Don't think I don't know, you hid Li Dongmei. At first, seeing my son was promising, you clung to him. Now my son has troubles, you're trying to shake us off. How can it be so easy, either hand over Li Dongmei or give the money, or else my old bones will be unable to survive. You have the nerve, put me in jail, at least there I'll be taken care of..."

Seeing the crowd growing, Lin Jiayi was anxious and helpless.

Li Guangyuan directly took out 10 yuan and tossed it onto Mrs. Zhang.

"If you want the 10 yuan, take it and leave. If not, we'll stay here, anyway, not doing business won't starve me."

Mrs. Zhang saw Li Guangyuan's gloomy face and knew to quit while ahead.

Taking the money, she scrambled up and left pulling Old Master Zhang.

Lin Jiayi looked anxiously, "Why did you give her money again? How much have we given her in total? The more you give, the more she'll keep asking, Li Dongmei isn't even responsible for them, why are you being so charitable?"

Li Guangyuan was stewing with anger, coldly looking at Lin Jiayi, "Isn't it all because of you?"

"What's it got to do with me? It's not like I told Li Dongmei to run."

Lin Jiayi's voice lost its strength speaking so.

Li Guangyuan lowered his voice, "If it weren't for you letting Lin Chuxia marry Qin Yang, would Zhang Wenbin have divorced Qin Yang's older sister? Zhang Wenbin divorced his sister, and then the younger one married him?"

He had heard about it from Qin Wen.

It was Lin Chuxia who facilitated Qin Juan's divorce from Zhang Wenbin.



Zhang Wenbin is simply scum, and Qin Yang's sister is like soft clay.

For years she had been bullied by Zhang Wenbin but never spoke up to her family.

As a result, shortly after Lin Chuxia went to Yan City, Qin Juan divorced Zhang Wenbin.

Not only that, but also lost Zhang Wenbin's job in Yan City, forcing the Zhang Family back to An City.

Qin Wen spoke through clenched teeth.

His job was ruined by Lin Chuxia too.

But Li Guangyuan heard that Zhang Wenbin was scum to begin with, he was at peace with his wife before Lin Chuxia made them divorce, giving the younger sister the chance to marry.

Otherwise, how would the Li family have gotten involved with the Zhang Family?

So all this, in essence, was Lin Jiayi's fault.

Lin Jiayi never imagined it would come back to her.

Since Li Guangyuan learned about past life events, his personality almost completely changed.

Originally she still considered remarrying, but now she wouldn't dare think about it, as long as Li Guangyuan doesn't kick her out, she'll thank the heavens.

Seeing Li Guangyuan's gloomy eyes, she doesn't dare say more, swallowing her anger and going to set up the vegetable stall.

The more Lin Jiayi was like this, the more Li Guangyuan's anger had nowhere to go.

In his mind was Qin Wen's phrase: Your fate shouldn't be like this, you shouldn't live like this. Life is short, don't leave yourself any regrets...

Chapter 770: Where There's Smoke, There's Fire

Lin Chuxia went home to rest for a few days and also started to work on the pharmaceutical factory business.

This matter is indeed much harder and more complex than building a food factory or a clothing factory.

However, Lin Chuxia isn't in a rush; she has plenty of people available now, everyone doing their own job in an orderly manner, and she only needs to focus on this one thing.

Additionally, she has Gu Peng helping her running errands for this task.

After a day of work, it was still early, so Lin Chuxia went to the market.

Qi Qi is now over a year old, right at that mischievous age.

After learning to walk, she doesn't want to be held, running around the whole yard all day.

Sometimes, even the yard can't contain her.

Zhuang Jingshu gets so tired chasing her every day that her waist and back are sore.

Luckily, the family has been drinking spiritual spring water all the time, which has improved Zhuang Jingshu's overall condition.

If not, she wouldn't know if she could handle this little one.

Even so, Lin Chuxia feels for her mother, trying to get off work early every day to buy groceries.

Carring her groceries, she had just arrived at Qin Yang's workplace entrance when Uncle Zhang stopped her.

"Lin, did you just get off work?"

"Yes, Uncle Zhang, have you eaten? I just bought some peaches, let me leave a couple for you."

As Lin Chuxia spoke, she began to take the peaches out.

Uncle Zhang quickly waved his hands, looked around, pulled Lin Chuxia to the side, and whispered, "Forget about the peaches, something happened with your Deputy Minister Qin. Today a child came looking for him at the office, a boy about this tall..."

As Uncle Zhang spoke, he gestured with his hand.

"He was dark and thin, looking pitiful, shouting at the entrance to see Deputy Minister Qin, saying he came from the Northwest. Hasn't your Xiao Qin worked there for a few years before? When asked what the child's relationship with Deputy Minister Qin was, he wouldn't say, just kept crying, saying his mom didn't want him anymore, so he came to find Deputy Minister Qin..."

Uncle Zhang didn't speak too clearly, but with matters like this, trying to cover up only raises more suspicion.

Apparently, the child intended to seize on this point.

"Where is the child?" Lin Chuxia asked.

"Where else? It was so inappropriate at the entrance, and the effect was bad, so they notified Deputy Minister Qin, and now the child is in Deputy Minister Qin's office."

Uncle Zhang finished speaking and shot a worried glance at Lin Chuxia.

"Lin, I don't think Xiao Qin is like that, so don't overthink it."

Lin Chuxia naturally wouldn't overthink it; she trusted Qin Yang's character.

It's just that with such an event, who knows what others might say.

Qin Yang, being so young and already a deputy minister, surely has many people watching him, waiting to find faults.

Uncle Zhang cautiously asked again, "Want to go take a look? Or should I give Vice Minister Zhang a call?"

"No need, Uncle Zhang, Qin Yang will be off work soon. I'll go home and make dinner for him."

Since the child was already in Qin Yang's office, he should be able to manage it.

Rushing directly to Qin Yang's office would only make it a laughingstock.

Making something out of nothing.

Lin Chuxia went straight home with the groceries, not expecting that within less than half a day, rumors would spread wildly.

When she got back to the residential compound, she noticed that the staff families there were giving her somewhat meaningful looks.

Even their smiles and greetings carried a hint of discord.

After she left, she could even hear their whispers behind her back.

Back at home, Zhuang Jingshu was also full of worry, seemingly wanting to speak but stopping short.

She seemed unsure how to tell her, yet wanted to keep it from her.

Lin Chuxia set the groceries aside, took the child in, and smiled at her, "Mom, I already know about the matter. Qin Yang hasn't returned yet, let's not speculate. I trust Qin Yang's character."

Zhuang Jingshu breathed a sigh of relief, "I know Xiao Qin isn't like that either, it's just that the child coming, all inexplicable, was said to have caused a fuss at their office entrance for quite a while. Otherwise, it wouldn't have gotten gossiped about, I'm just wondering if something happened at work with Xiao Qin?"

Competitors playing small tricks is a regular occurrence in commerce, let alone in bureaucratic circles.

The thing they most avoid is issues with conduct.

However, they say that Qin Yang indeed knows the child.

Where there's no wind, there are no waves; where there's no hole, no wind blows through.

But these are not things to be told to a daughter.

Better to wait and ask the son-in-law when he gets back.

Unexpectedly, before Qin Yang returned, Jiang Hong came rushing over.

Seeing Lin Chuxia, she pulled her inside and asked with a concerned expression, "Chuxia, what's going on? I came back from work and the entire residential compound is talking about Deputy Minister Qin."

Lin Chuxia shrugged, "Qin Yang hasn't returned yet, so I'm not sure either. But you can tell me what exactly they're gossiping about."

Although she had caught some wind of it, no one had come to her, the person involved, directly.

She was quite curious.

Jiang Hong looked at her expression, "You're not angry?"

Lin Chuxia began nonchalantly, "The person involved hasn't even returned yet, what's there to be mad about?"

Seeing her like this, Jiang Hong also breathed a sigh of relief, "You've got a point. Despite all the rumors flying around here, we actually trust Deputy Minister Qin's character. My husband, Li Wei, even stood up to clarify when he heard people gossiping, but those people said we were covering for Deputy Minister Qin, things got more and more excessive, Li Wei almost got into a fight with them. I thought that would not do, so I came to see you, Deputy Minister Qin's character, he certainly wouldn't do such a thing, but idle gossip is bad too."

Lin Chuxia nodded, "Stay calm, wait for Qin Yang to get back, and then talk. First, tell me what exactly they are gossiping about. From what you're saying, has Li Wei already gotten off work?"

Jiang Hong sighed, "What else are they saying? Claiming Deputy Minister Qin has an illegitimate child from the Northwest who has found his way here, saying it vividly. I asked Li Wei, but he couldn't say clearly. He only said that the child cried terribly at the office entrance and when someone asked, he said he came to find Deputy Minister Qin across a thousand miles, saying his mother was the one who wronged Deputy Minister Qin, saying his mother had already abandoned him, begging Deputy Minister Qin not to abandon him too. By the time Li Wei got wind and went over, the child had already been taken by Deputy Minister Qin."

Lin Chuxia realized why the rumors spread so quickly.

Just listening to those words from the child, who wouldn't overthink?

She became a bit curious about what kind of child would talk like that.

Also wondering where this child came from and what his purpose was?

Jiang Hong had mainly come because she was worried that Lin Chuxia, having heard those rumors, might end up fighting with Qin Yang.