

## Switched M 91

Chapter 91 Really Want to Pinch Her Cheeks

Mentioning Lin Chuxia, a touch of tenderness flashed through Qin Yang's eyes, "I will."

Minister Wang is an experienced man, he could easily see the change in Qin Yang, and laughingly pointed it out, "You young man, hurry back. Don't bother with the Liu Family's matters."

"Yes!"

As Qin Yang left the office, Xu Qiang's expression turned somewhat unsightly.

"This soldier under you is getting too big for his boots."

After all, he was the Secretary of the Party branch, and he had lowered his stance considerably. It was fine if Qin Yang did not appreciate it, but he even turned the tables on him.

Minister Wang just smiled, "What's this about getting too big for his boots? Qin Yang is just stating a fact. Think about it from another angle, Mr. Xu, you should be thankful to him. If someone brought up this issue, have you considered the consequences? In my opinion, your daughter Sijin really mishandled this situation; trying to smooth things over is fine, but that's not the way to do it."

Xu Qiang knew that his daughter was at fault, "Alright, I know Minister Wang, you're protecting your own. Consider this an IOU from me, I'll buy you a drink another day."

"It's no issue owing me, just think about how you're going to handle things with the union."

Qin Yang that lad, when he says his heart is big, it's big, but when it comes down to the facts, he can be quite the stickler.

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After leaving Minister Wang's office, Qin Yang immediately headed towards the dormitory, but he had only got halfway there when he bumped into Zhang Dawei who was looking for him.

"Mr. Qin, Mr. Bai sent me to ask you to come over for a bit."

Qin Yang frowned slightly, glancing in the direction of the dormitory.

His wife was still waiting for him in the dorm.

Seeing where his gaze fell, Zhang Dawei instantly got it and chuckled, "Mr. Qin, your sister-in-law really is a beauty. No wonder you guys are always looking forward to seeing your wives. If I had such a pretty wife, I wouldn't even go to work."

Qin Yang gave him a cool glance, noticing his leering look, and raised his foot for a kick...

Lin Chuxia finished tidying up, but Qin Yang hadn't returned yet.

By now the sky was getting dark; something must have held him up.

People were already going in twos and threes outside, holding their meal containers and walking in one direction—probably heading for the canteen.

She timed her arrival just right; today happened to be Qin Yang's birthday.

Seeing his reaction, she realized he wasn't even aware it was his birthday, so he probably had missed out on eating longevity noodles too.

She changed into a neat jacket and wrote Qin Yang a note before heading out.

On her way, she encountered two comrades holding meal containers and confirmed the direction to the canteen.

The canteen had just started serving meals, with queues at every window.

Lin Chuxia looked over their meals; there were many windows at the canteen, resulting in each window selling the same fare.

Today's menu was stir-fried pork slices with cauliflower and tofu stewed with bok choy, with the staple being duohe flour steamed buns and rice.

Although there were pork slices in the cauliflower, they were just a few thin slices, and having two or three pieces in each serving was considered good.

Knowing that conditions were tough around here, she didn't expect the food to be so poor, no wonder everyone liked the beef sauce she made.

"Comrade, are you here to get food? If you're getting food, go join the queue at the back."

A man who looked like a master chef saw Lin Chuxia lingering in front of the window for a long time and took the initiative to speak.

Those who came to their canteen were either workers or workers' families.

Lin Chuxia, tall and beautiful, wearing a neat little jacket, looked sharp and capable.

When she entered the canteen, she caught the attention of many; a woman this eye-catching, if she were a worker or a worker's family member, they would definitely remember her, so since they didn't, it meant this was her first time here.

Lin Chuxia looked at the person who had asked the question. This master chef's hat was different from the one worn by the chefs serving food at the window, and judging by his demeanor, he was clearly a manager.

She smiled and nodded, "I was planning to get some food. Chef, do you do stir-fry here?"

"Sure, as long as we have the ingredients in the kitchen, you can order whatever dishes you'd like," Master Chen replied.

It was apparent that she wasn't short on cash, and the master chefs in the cafeteria were more than willing to accommodate someone like that.

Lin Chuxia took a couple of steps forward, getting a bit closer, "Then what ingredients do you have in the kitchen? Can I take a look? I don't mean to hide it from you, Chef, but I came here especially today to celebrate my man's birthday. I want to cook him a few special dishes to celebrate."

As she spoke, Lin Chuxia stuffed a pack of cigarettes in his direction.

Master Chen glanced down at the pack, and exclaimed inwardly—Daqianmen cigarettes, which were considered high-end in the Northwest.

His face grew even more enthusiastic, "The kitchen's all done for now, it's no trouble if you want to have a look."

Lin Chuxia followed the master chef into the kitchen, where Master Liu, who liked to chat, asked whether it was her first time there and whose family member she was. Lin Chuxia casually chatted with him.

Upon reaching the kitchen, she saw a variety of ingredients, and with the weather turning cool recently, they even had a good stock of fresh meat.

Lin Chuxia pointed at the meats and asked, "Can I order several dishes?"

"Of course, we were planning to use these for making stir-fry dishes anyway."

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Qin Yang finished his work before mealtime and hurried back to his dormitory, only to find it pitch-dark.

"Lin Chuxia..."

He called out but got no response. He entered the room but didn't see anyone. However, he did notice a note on the table, written by Lin Chuxia.

Once he made out the content of the note, his eyes and brows instantly relaxed, and he turned and headed back out the door.

Seeing Zhang Dawei, who was about to go to the cafeteria with a food container, he said, "Hold off on going to the cafeteria for now, go get some people for me first."

Qin Yang listed all the people from their group, thought for a moment, and then added, "Tell Mr. Bai to bring his wife and child along, too."

Zhang Dawei's eyes lit up, "Is Mr. Qin planning to hold a welcome feast for sister-in-law?"

Qin Yang lifted his chin proudly, "Something like that. Today's my birthday, and my wife is throwing a birthday celebration for me, inviting everyone to join the fun."

"Sister-in-law is really good to you."

With a face full of envy, Zhang Dawei hurriedly went off to call people.

If Mrs. Qin is good to Mr. Qin, they too could bask in the reflected glory.

When Qin Yang found Lin Chuxia in the cafeteria's back kitchen, she was busy kneading dough, getting ready to personally make longevity noodles for him.

The dough was already well-kneaded, and she could start making noodles as soon as the water boiled.

Master Chen, upon seeing Qin Yang, praised Lin Chuxia without stop. A beautiful woman who could cook was not common, let alone one who was also great at handling affairs.

Qin Yang was somewhat bemused; his wife was incredibly capable to have made her way into the cafeteria's back kitchen so quickly.

Wasn't the back kitchen off-limits to outsiders?

Lin Chuxia smiled and gestured to him, whispering, "I gave Master Chen 5 yuan, and now I can do as I please in the entire kitchen."

Looking at her sly fox-like expression, Qin Yang really felt like pinching her face.

"Did you call everyone? The food is almost ready. Do you want to have the longevity noodles now or save them for last?"

"Let's have them now," Qin Yang replied without any hesitation.

The others hadn't arrived yet, and he could enjoy his wife's culinary skills all to himself.

Lin Chuxia didn't know what he was thinking and assumed he was just hungry, so she efficiently made a bowl of hand-pulled noodles.

Chapter 92: Qin Yang, Happy Birthday!

Paired with cooked bright green bok choy, silky fried eggs, and her unique seasoning skills, topped finally with sesame oil, even Master Chen was drawn over by the aroma.

"Really smells good, Mr. Qin, your wife's cooking skills could open a restaurant."

Mr. Qin smiled, his wife does indeed own a restaurant, and it's doing quite well.

Just as Lin Chuxia was about to serve the noodles, a pair of large hands reached out first, "Let me do it, careful it's hot."

Lin Chuxia let him serve the noodles to the table outside and sat across from him, seeing the man not moving his chopsticks for a while, she smiled and said, "Eat, it won't taste good once it gets clumpy. Also, Qin Yang, happy birthday!"

Qin Yang looked up, his eyes brimming with mirth and emotion, scratching the back of his head embarrassedly.

"Lin Chuxia, you know? It's been a long time since I celebrated my birthday."

Back in his hometown, his mom would make him longevity noodles, but after he went out to study and work, nobody remembered his birthday anymore, and over time, he himself forgot.

"Then from now on, I'll celebrate your birthday with you every year," Lin Chuxia said.

Qin Yang's dark eyes looked at her, and suddenly his smile widened, showing a mouthful of big white teeth.

Lin Chuxia couldn't help but look away, what a silly guy.

Before long, Bai Xiaoming, Li Wei, Zhang Dawei, and others also arrived.

Bai Xiaoming, as the eldest among them, brought his family, feeling a bit embarrassed, "I heard earlier that the sister-in-law had come, and we, as hosts, should have treated you properly. Instead, you had to spend first."

Qin Yang introduced Lin Chuxia to the newcomers. He had occasionally mentioned his colleagues here in his letters, including Bai Xiaoming, whom Lin Chuxia had already taken note of because Qin Yang had made a point to invite him.

"Brother Bai, you are being too kind. Today is Qin Yang's birthday, and I also took this opportunity to invite everyone to join in the fun. These are your two sons, aren't they? They look very spirited, both handsome young men."

Bai Xiaoming's smile grew bigger, "They are both quite mischievous, come over here and call her aunt."

Bai Liang and Bai Tian called out loudly, "Auntie!", with Bai Tian being noticeably more lively, giggling, "Auntie, you are so pretty."

Bai Xiaoming's wife Song Ye slapped her son playfully, laughing, "You child..."

Just as everyone was seated, three more people entered the cafeteria through the door. It was past mealtime by then, and the cafeteria was mostly empty except for their table.

Among the newcomers was Sister-in-law Feng, who immediately spotted Lin Chuxia and pulled the man and child next to her over to greet.

"Sister-in-law, you're also having a meal here?"

"Yes, sister-in-law, haven't you eaten yet?"

"Not yet, we ran out of coal at home today, so I couldn't cook. We came here to see what's available."

After she finished speaking, she turned to the man next to her, "Da Jun, this is Qin Yang's family, I told you about them earlier today. You can tell they're urban people, educated, see I wasn't wrong, right?"

Feng Dajun wasn't planning on coming over initially but was dragged by his wife. Seeing the table of people, he felt slightly awkward but still managed a smile and greeted everyone.



Qin Yang and he were not on the same project team, but they were colleagues and met often, and Qin Yang had a good impression of Feng Dajun.

"Since you're here, come sit down and have a meal with us."

Li Wei, Zhang Dawei, and a few others were about to help make room and find seats. Feng Dajun also seemed intrigued, as he always admired Qin Yang.

Before he could say anything, Sister-in-law Feng shouted from the side, "You guys go ahead and eat, we won't join you. Jingjing and I don't deserve this fancy meal; we'll just grab something simple over there."

Then she looked at the man next to her with eyes sparkling, "Da Jun, just stay here and eat with Mr. Qin. We're lucky today to run into Mr. Qin and Mr. Bai. Mr. Qin respects you; don't ruin their fun. Later, make sure to accompany Mr. Qin and drink a couple of glasses, taking good care of them to eat and drink well."

As she spoke the first half of her sentence, everyone present felt a bit uncomfortable, and as she continued, it became even more awkward.

Bai Xiaoming interjected, "Sister-in-law, Engineer Feng and we are colleagues. Regardless of rank or job type, we are all equal. Mr. Qin inviting Engineer Feng to eat is just to liven things up a bit; you're thinking too much."

"No, no," Sister-in-law Feng didn't think there was anything wrong with her statement. "Our Da Jun can't compare with you guys. You are the backbone of the department, all very capable. Da Jun has his job because of his ancestors' good fortune. Knowing you all is the blessing of his eight past lifetimes..."

As Sister-in-law Feng continued exaggerating, Feng Dajun looked increasingly embarrassed and hurriedly pulled her away, "Mr. Qin, you guys continue to eat and drink well; we will not disturb you."

But Sister-in-law Feng didn't want to leave, "Hey, Da Jun, Mr. Qin wants you to eat with them. It's a good opportunity. Haven't you always said Mr. Qin is a nice guy..."

Feng Dajun, without a word, just kept his head down, forcibly pulling Sister-in-law Feng out of the cafeteria without even getting their food.

"Come on, let's not worry about them. Let's first wish Mr. Qin a happy birthday and welcome Sister-in-law on her family visit. Let's have a drink together."

Bai Xiaoming raised his glass, and Zhang Dawei, Li Wei, and Wu Zhenfa enthusiastically responded, moving past the recent awkward incident.

Today, Master Chen in the cafeteria also put in extra effort—braised pork ribs, red-braised lamb, squirrel-shaped mandarin fish, and several other stir-fried and cold dishes.

Lin Chuxia, who doesn't care about spending, had a good chat with the chefs in the kitchen, ensuring each dish was generous and tasty.

The liquor was a unique sorghum liquor from the Northwest, brewed purely from sorghum with a rich aroma.

As it was baijiu, when pouring, it was only served to the men at the table, with Sister-in-law Song and Lin Chuxia drinking tea.

After several rounds of toasting, Lin Chuxia found just drinking tea boring, especially since the aroma of the liquor was so enticing.

Qin Yang got her a piece of pork rib, then noticed the young lady eyeing his glass with sparkling eyes.

He warned, "This has a high alcohol content; you probably can't handle it."

Yet he found it amusing in his heart; this girl, always so bold, wanting to try everything.

Lin Chuxia extended a finger, "I'll just have one cup."

"One cup?" Qin Yang outright laughed, "This one cup is just a tiny tael; it could make you lose your bearings."

"If I lose my bearings, I'll still have you, won't I?" Lin Chuxia said nonchalantly.

She knew that the alcohol content of baijiu was generally high in this era, and she had drunk strong liquor before. At the last apprentice banquet, she had three to four taels, which had no effect.

She knew her own body. In her past life, she also drank plenty the first time she was at a wine table, without any issues.

It was only later, when she often had to drink for social reasons and some clients were too demanding—drinking too much red, white, and beer—that her stomach started having issues, but that was later.

#### Chapter 93: Look at You

Qin Yang relaxed his expression because of her words, "and him too." His wife was independent; he only learned about her big business dealings through letters afterward, but now there were times she relied on him.

"Alright, we agreed on just one drink."

Lin Chuxia nodded like a pecking chick, receiving a glass of white liquor from Qin Yang as if it was a reward.

She took a deep sniff, "Smells so good."

Li Wei laughed at her, "You don't know, sister-in-law, if we're talking about specialties from the Northwest, this sorghum liquor is second to none."

"Seeing how lively you all are talking, I'll try some too," Sister-in-law Song also picked up an empty glass.

Bai Xiaoming was not pleased, "What chaos are you adding? With your little alcohol tolerance, do you still want to go home later?"

Sister-in-law Song, who was sitting next to Lin Chuxia, had overheard most of the conversation between Lin Chuxia and Qin Yang, finding the young couple interesting and quite envious.

She and Bai Xiaoming had been living apart since marriage, unfamiliar in the early years, even the times when they had their first child were courteous.

There really wasn't a time for the young couple to be coquettish.

She immediately said, "If I can't return home, I still have you, right?"

Bai Xiaoming, unsure what got into his wife, scanned her from top to bottom, "If you really drink too much, do you think I can carry you home?"

Bai Tian said loudly nearby, "It's okay dad, if you can't carry her, I'll help you lift. Big brother can also help us lift, you carry mom's head, big brother and I will carry one leg each. We should definitely be able to carry mom back."

As the child finished, everyone at the table burst into laughter.

Sister-in-law Song, who originally thought she was only slightly overweight: "..."

Well, even if this home isn't returned to, it doesn't matter.

The lively birthday and welcome party continued for over two hours, and it might have gone even later if not for considering the canteen staff on duty.

Everyone drank quite a bit, especially Zhang Dawei, whose speech was slurred, being supported back to the dorm by Li Wei and Wu Zhenfa on each side.

Zhang Dawei still refused to leave, waving his arms, "No, I haven't had enough drinks with sister-in-law. It's rare for sister-in-law to come, we must make her satisfied."

Li Wei grabbed his hand, "Your sister-in-law is already very satisfied, let's go, if we don't leave now, there will definitely be dissatisfaction."

This young couple finally reunited; the pleasures of spring are short, who would want to waste their time here.

This guy, when drunk, just kept rambling to Mrs. Qin, almost causing Mr. Qin to kill him with his glare, yet the fool was too drunk to notice.

Sister-in-law Song said to Lin Chuxia, "Mr. Qin knows where we live, it's easy to find. When you have time, come visit, I am mostly idling at home."

"Sure," Lin Chuxia responded with a smile.

After everyone left, Lin Chuxia looked at Qin Yang, noticing his cheeks were slightly flushed, clearly having drunk a bit too much.

"Are you okay? Should I ask the canteen chef to make you a bowl of soup to sober up?"

Qin Yang shook his head, "No need, I didn't drink much, just happy."

Happy that she came to see him, to celebrate his birthday with him, to give him such a big surprise.

Also happy that she handled his colleagues so well, earning him plenty of face.

Although he didn't mind much about it, seeing Wu Zhenfa constantly inquiring how to get more marriage leave days for him, and hearing Zhang Dawei several times mentioning finding a wife, envious that he had married well, his male pride was greatly satisfied.

Seeing him say so, Lin Chuxia didn't linger any longer, the two greeted the canteen staff, then headed back.

The night wind was somewhat cold, Qin Yang held Lin Chuxia's hand, trying his best to shield her from the wind with his body.

Lin Chuxia didn't feel cold. It was somewhat late now, and the whole unit was quiet. Occasionally, there was the sound of the wind, but it wasn't filled with as much dust as during the day.

Tonight, there was no moon, making the stars exceptionally bright.

Having experienced the smog pollution of future generations, such a starry sky was truly sigh-inducing.

Lin Chuxia was led by Qin Yang, walking along with her head tilted up, gazing at the myriad of stars, she couldn't help but exclaim, "Qin Yang, the sky here is really beautiful."

There was no response for a long time. When she turned her head, she saw that the man was looking at her with deep, focused affection.

She looked into the distance, took a deep breath of fresh air, then turned her head and smiled playfully, asking, "What are you looking at?"

"Looking at you," he replied almost instinctively.

"Am I beautiful?"

Qin Yang didn't reply to her question but stretched out his hand, pulled her into his embrace, and without hesitation, leaned down and kissed her.

Beautiful, how could she not be beautiful? Her eyes were even more beautiful than the stars in the sky...

His Lin Chuxia, his woman, he used to think nothing of these words, but mentioning them today made his heart swell with emotion.

Lin Chuxia found herself confined in his embrace, initially impressed by the young man's progress, but in the next second, the smile on her face disappeared.

This kiss with Qin Yang was neither gentle nor romantic. It started with him pressing tightly against her, and then it turned into a senseless nibble on her lips.

It was like, treating her as a bone he was gnawing on, just like their wedding night, immature, reckless, and disordered...

Lin Chuxia felt her lips burning hot, and if this continued, they might break the skin.

With a resigned sigh, she reached up and wrapped her arms around his neck, turning passivity into initiative, gently kissing him. In his stunned moment, she delved in, playfully flicking her tongue like a naughty fish...

Qin Yang was briefly stunned, but his eyes instantly turned passionate, like a student thirsty for knowledge, needing only a slight guide from his teacher to master the skills and transpose them.

The control was taken away; even the air in her chest seemed to be plundered.

Just as Lin Chuxia's legs began to weaken, thinking to stop this dominating and aggressive kiss, a beam of light danced around their bodies...

"Who is there?"

Lin Chuxia took the opportunity to push the man away. Qin Yang, too, was momentarily panicked.

Without much thought, he grabbed Lin Chuxia's hand and ran forward.

"Hey, who are you? Don't run."

The people behind them shouted louder, making the two of them run faster, almost running back to Qin Yang's dorm in one breath.

Lin Chuxia hadn't run like this in a long time, she bent over, gasping for air and laughed, "Qin Yang, isn't that person from your unit? Why did we run, we're not having an affair."

Not hearing a response from the man, she cocked her head to look at him, and when she raised her head, she met his deep, somber eyes in the unlit room, appearing even more profound.

Her arm was captured, and her whole body lifted, her back against the door panel, with his hot chest in front of her, and the kiss that followed seemed to continue the unfinished feast from earlier.

Yet, it was completely different from before, no longer aggressive or forceful, but more gentle and lingering.

Bathed in the starlight filtering into the room, she could clearly see the expression in his eyes, gentle as water, seemingly gathering a galaxy, deeply captivating her.

Men are naturally kings in this realm, merely after a few turns, he became skilled like a veteran of love, making one feel comfortable yet also inexplicably agitated.

With a mischievous thought, Lin Chuxia hugged him tightly. Her slender fingertips traced around his lean waist and gently caressed up his spine...

The man trembled slightly as if electrified, the kissing grew more intense, and before long, clothes were scattered all over the floor, filling the room with the boundless aura of spring...

Chapter 94: It's deadly!

The two young bodies, reunited after a long separation, both had an urgent craving.



Lin Chuxia liked this feeling, as it seemed to her what young people should experience, and this feeling could only be brought to her by Qin Yang.

The extreme sensation brought about by the collision of body and soul made her also become infatuated.

However, she did not lose her reason at the crucial moment.

Laboriously, she took out a small thing from under the pillow and waved it in front of the man, "Put this on."

Qin Yang looked at the small bag she took out, his brow furrowed with restraint, sweat sliding down his forehead, his voice slightly hoarse, "What is it?"

"To prevent pregnancy."

Qin Yang was stunned, his deep eyes looked at her for a moment, seeing all the charm in her eyes and her body exuding a pink hue, and she still remembered this?

Impatiently, he grabbed the small bag, biting one corner with his teeth and pulling...

As he moved, the tense veins on his neck and collarbone looked incredibly sexy.

Lin Chuxia swallowed her saliva, God, it was unbearable!

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After an unknown amount of time, a snow-white arm climbed onto the man's shoulder, her tone lazy.

"Hungry wolf, have you had enough?" How many times was this already?

The man looked at her reddened eyecorners, her charming and moving appearance, and lowered his head to kiss her.

Not enough, holding the person he dreamed of, engaging in such an intimate and enjoyable activity, how could it be enough...

...

The morning sun in the Northwest shone even brighter, mischievously shining through the curtain onto the quilt.

Outside the window, the day was already bustling, with workers starting their day.

Qin Yang's biological clock had already awakened him, but he didn't rush to get up, instead propping up his head and looking at the woman sleeping in his arms with a flushed face.

He could never get enough of looking at her.

Remembering the rude words she said in haste last night, he couldn't help but start laughing.

He, a grown man, was listening to a woman talk dirty for the first time, this girl, who knows where she learned that from.

And to be honest, her dirty talk really was different from those men at the unit, quite interesting.

Seeing her sleeping eyelashes exceptionally long, and thinking of her watery almond eyes, Qin Yang couldn't help but reach out and touch.

But he did not expect to wake her up.

Lin Chuxia frowned, grabbed his big hand down into her arms, still with a sleepy nasal voice, "Ancestor, spare my life..."

Qin Yang's handsome face blushed.

She just held his hand in her arms, and his feeling was...

This girl, truly seductive without even realizing it.

Helplessly, he got out of bed, fearing he wouldn't be able to lie down any longer.

He kissed her small face, "You sleep a little longer; I'll go to the cafeteria and bring back breakfast."

"Mmm," Lin Chuxia responded with closed eyes, "Buy a couple more eggs," she needed to replenish protein, oh right, Qin Yang also needed to replenish.

After Qin Yang bought the breakfast, Lin Chuxia also woke up; upon knowing he would take a day off to accompany her around, she instantly brightened.

"Is there any scenic spot nearby, or shall we go to the city for a stroll? I want to bring some specialties back home," Lin Chuxia planned while eating.

Qin Yang doted on her, agreeing with everything she said.

Lin Chuxia laughed and patted him, "Silly? Why is it all yes, yes, yes?"

Qin Yang was embarrassed by her laughter, "The leave today was specially approved by the leader knowing you were coming, of course, whatever you say goes."

"Let's go to the city and check out the surrounding scenery while we're at it."

After dinner, Lin Chuxia started to tidy up, changing into a wool coat. She had focused on looking cool yesterday and ended up a bit cold in just a trench coat.

She also found a set of clothes for Qin Yang, all of which she had brought with her.

Qin Yang usually wore work clothes, and he only had one other set which he bought when he first started working. Neither the style nor the quality matched up to what Lin Chuxia brought.

Now that she had money, she wanted to spend some on him too.

For a man who earns a 63 yuan salary and was willing to give her 60 yuan, what could she possibly be reluctant to give?

By the time Qin Yang changed his clothes and stood in front of her somewhat stiffly, Lin Chuxia's eyes lit up.

"Qin Yang, do you know how handsome you are!"

Now in new clothes, Qin Yang looked even more dashing than the models in the mall, truly a feast for the eyes and the heart.

This money was well spent.

Qin Yang cracked a smile and involuntarily puffed up his chest.

So his wife likes good looks too, thinking he's handsome; does that mean the men she hires in her shop aren't as good-looking as him?

Qin Yang checked himself out in the mirror, indeed looking more spirited than in his work clothes. It seems he should dress up like this more often since his wife likes it.

The couple then took the bus to the city.

Thinking back to the sorghum liquor they had yesterday, Lin Chuxia found it quite good. Old Sir He liked drinking, Mr. Qin's health had been improving and he also enjoyed the occasional drink, and then there were Li Jian, Xu Changping...

With this in mind, Lin Chuxia bought a few more bottles of liquor.

Seeing sheepskin for sale, she picked a few good pieces to make sheepskin coats and mats for Mr. and Mrs. Qin.

Mr. Qin was weak and feared the cold in winter.

Oh right, she must also get one for Granny Su.

And the local snacks, she must get some for her good friend, Sun Lanlan.

Lin Chuxia wanted to buy quite a few things. In both her past and current lives, she never lacked money, so she never skimped when shopping.

However, whenever she was about to pay, a large hand would always reach out with the money first.

Even the silver bracelet that she casually glanced at twice, Qin Yang was ready to buy without hesitation.

Lin Chuxia stopped his hand as he was about to pay, picked up the silver bracelet and examined it again.

The bracelet was clearly old, half a finger wide, with the word "fortune" and cloud patterns on it.

Qin Yang thought she was reluctant to spend the money, and said beside her, "If you like it, just buy it. I think the bracelet is beautiful," Lin Chuxia in white would surely look stunning with it.

Lin Chuxia turned to the man selling the bracelet, "Where did you get this bracelet? This isn't something that should be around nowadays, if it isn't passed down by ancestors then it's from..."

She glanced around; a secluded alley with hardly anyone walking by was not a great place for business.

In the Northwest, Tomb Robbers were not uncommon; she would accept items passed down by ancestors, but anything from a tomb, no matter the cost, she wouldn't want.

Wearing such items could harm one's fortune.

The man immediately understood Lin Chuxia's implication and quickly waved his hands. "No, no, absolutely not, this is handed down by my ancestors, it's my old mother's, and she needs money for medical treatment, we really can't afford it, so we had to sell the bracelet. My mother is still alive, really, I'm not lying."

The man's skin was already dark, and as he got anxious, his face flushed an even darker shade of red and black.

"How long have you been selling this bracelet? What's wrong with your mother?" Lin Chuxia continued to ask.

The man looked at Qin Yang and then back at Lin Chuxia, "My mother always has chest pains, the village barefoot doctor has seen her, and the medicine he prescribed doesn't work. Later he said she needs to go to the city hospital for a checkup, and hearing that the city hospital's expenses are high, we really couldn't afford it. Miss, I assure you, this item is definitely from my family; we are honest people through the generations and wouldn't do anything underhanded."

Seeing that Lin Chuxia's expression was indifferent, he added, "I've been selling this bracelet for three days, you can give me 4 yuan for it, I won't ask you for 5 yuan."

Lin Chuxia examined the bracelet again, nudged Qin Yang with her mouth, "Pay him, give him 5 yuan."

Qin Yang readily handed over 5 yuan.

The man happily received the money, thanking them profusely.

After he left with the money, Lin Chuxia handed the bracelet to Qin Yang, extending her fair, white wrists for him to help her put it on.

Qin Yang felt somewhat embarrassed; the area was indeed secluded, but people were still passing by not too far away—was their display of affection a bit too much?

Chapter 95: Call It Again to Hear?

Lin Chuxia urged, "Hurry up, isn't this the gift you gave me? Don't you want to put it on me yourself?"

Hearing this, Qin Yang immediately slipped the bracelet onto her wrist without a second word.

Lin Chuxia looked satisfied at the bracelet on her wrist, her eyes sparkling as she gazed at the man, "Qin Yang, do you know this is the first time I've ever received a gift and it's from you."

"Really?" Qin Yang asked, surprised.

Lin Chuxia nodded, "Really, thank you, I like it a lot."

Seeing the silly boy pleased again, a sly glint flashed in Lin Chuxia's eyes.

She actually enjoyed watching the silly boy spend money happily. Since the money was spent, she had to give him the emotional value he deserved, making him feel that his spending was worthwhile. That way, he would continue to spend money on her in the future.

Lin Chuxia wasn't worried about spending this bit of money, but she knew how to utilize money.

When next Lin Chuxia saw something novel that Qin Yang wanted to buy, she stopped him.

"I was just curious to look, I didn't want it. If there's something I want, I'll tell you."

Thinking back to when he bought the silver bracelet, Qin Yang said seriously, "Then you must tell me."

Just like when he bought the bracelet, the moment his wife pouted, he would pay. That feeling... it felt like he was needed.

Lin Chuxia naturally said, "Of course, you are my husband, isn't it natural for a husband to spend money on his wife? Just don't complain if I spend too much."

"Of course not."

His wife had bought him so many things, his repayment was far from enough; how could he complain about her spending too much?

Lin Chuxia was almost done shopping, she took two small bags from his hand to carry, and casually said while they walked to the bus station,

"Qin Yang, have you ever heard that a woman who knows how to spend money leads a good life, and that women are the motivation for men to earn money?"

Qin Yang shook his head, he hadn't heard that.

His colleagues always bragged about how thrifty and capable their wives were, not wasteful with money.

He also felt his wife was good, beautiful, and knew how to do business and earn money, also capable and thrifty.



Qin Yang felt that being thrifty had nothing to do with how one spends money; his wife could spend money well but still was a thrifty and capable good wife.

His gaze landed on her wrist, remembering how her eyes curved when she put on the bracelet, Qin Yang suddenly understood the meaning of those words.

He now felt that his income was not enough; he wanted to work hard to earn more money for his wife to spend, to make her happy and to prevent her from leaving him because he couldn't earn enough.

He also decided to buy himself a few new clothes so his wife wouldn't get bored of seeing him in the same ones.

Lin Chuxia watched the big silly man getting serious and making resolutions, and continued, "Do you know that money is earned, not saved? Look at all the things we bought, adding up to more than fifty yuan. Ordinary people earn thirty yuan a month; even if they don't eat or drink, they can't buy these things, but you're different. As a talented engineer, you not only have a salary but also bonuses. Even after buying so many things, it doesn't affect our life, plus the money I make from my business. I think our well-off days are not far off. Of course, Mr. Qin, you still need to work hard!"

Lin Chuxia earnestly patted his shoulder.

Qin Yang suddenly realized; his salary was fixed, but if he performed well, there were bonuses and also promotion opportunities.

Like their chief engineer, his salary was over a hundred, and the department head had a salary of over two hundred yuan.

His eyes brightened, "Don't worry, wife, I will work hard."

He used to think that doing his job well and contributing to the country was enough, but now he realized that he must fulfill not only the country's contributions, but also his wife's wishes. This is truly serving both the country and the family, and there is no conflict between the two.

Lin Chuxia said "huh" in surprise, gazing at him leisurely, "What did you just call me?"

Qin Yang paused, realizing what he had just said, and his ears turned red.

It was all those guys' fault, always casually referring to their wives so much so that he inadvertently called Lin Chuxia his wife.

Using that term among his buddies was one thing, but calling her that to her face felt... somewhat embarrassing.

Seeing him not speak, Lin Chuxia teased him, "Say it again, let's hear it?"

Qin Yang: "..."

He looked away to avoid her gaze.

This was in the middle of the street, it was unintentional to call her that once, but how could his wife...?

Lin Chuxia pulled at his clothes, "Qin Yang, Qin Yang? Can you repeat what you just said?"

Qin Yang started to walk away, and Lin Chuxia, trying to hold back her laughter, chased after him, "Don't go, did you just call me your wife? Why aren't you calling me that anymore? Am I not your wife?"

With each mention of "wife," Qin Yang seemed as if he had been burned, frantically looking around. The people were quite far from them, so he felt slightly relieved.

He gave Lin Chuxia a warning look, "Shut up!"

Lin Chuxia burst into laughter, "Qin Yang, are you feeling shy? Qin Yang, do you know how cute you look when you're shy?"

Qin Yang decisively covered her mouth with his hand, "Stop talking..." his face was about to catch fire.

Indeed, he had not misjudged her; this girl was indeed bold.

At noon, both of them ate at a State-Owned Restaurant, enjoying local specialty dishes.

After the market opened up, it was great to satisfy people's desires for food, not limited to fixed meals and quantities like before.

No matter how many lives Lin Chuxia lived, she remained a worldly person, loving to earn money, spend money, look beautiful, enjoy delicious food...

She glanced at the man in front of her, oh, and also fell for handsome young men.

When the two were heading home, walking in the sunset, just as they were about to reach the unit, a figure suddenly dashed out from the side, heading straight for Qin Yang.

Before Qin Yang, who was carrying bags, could react, Lin Chuxia, who was half a step behind him, kicked out directly.

With a pained cry, the figure flew out.

Liu Xiaohua lay on the ground, taking a while to slowly lift her head, spitting out the sand in her mouth, looking pitifully at Qin Yang, "Qin... brother..." it hurt her so badly.

Lin Chuxia recognized it was Liu Xiaohua the moment she kicked.

Seeing her charging like that, directly aiming for Qin Yang's arms.

Was this her trying to force herself on Qin Yang?

Stepping forward to stand in front of Qin Yang, Lin Chuxia coldly watched the person on the ground, "I'm saying, Liu Xiaohua, hasn't your brother's unit resolved your issue yet? If it's not resolved, go find who you need to find. Charging at a man in broad daylight, do you really think the hooliganism only targets men? Don't you know that if a woman acts like a hooligan in the street, you could be charged with hooliganism and indecency, both legally and morally condemned?"

Liu Xiaohua, who had rarely left her village and never attended school, had never heard of what Lin Chuxia talked about.

Hearing that she could be charged, she looked flusteredly towards a nearby tree...

#### Chapter 96: Cheesy Love Words

Old Lady Liu couldn't stand by when she saw her daughter being beaten and ran out on her bound feet, "Oh my baby, you people are too much, picking on us because we're widows with no one to help us, just hitting us, someone come and see..."

"Mr. Qin, you just watch this woman hit my daughter, are you being fair to my son? My son died in your company..."

"Look Old Lady, if your son died at their company why don't you go to the company? Qin Yang is neither a leader nor a union member; do you really think he is easy to bully? Or do you think that having Xiao Hua hug Qin Yang during the day will make him divorce and marry Liu Xiaohua? Saying you are wildly imaginative is an understatement."

Old Lady Liu was so choked up she couldn't speak, with guilt flashing in her eyes.

They really thought so, and it wasn't just them, the woman had suggested this.

The woman said Qin Yang was responsible—otherwise, he would not have sent them money and supported Xiao Hua until adulthood.

As long as people saw Qin Yang and Xiao Hua embracing on the street, Qin Yang would definitely take responsibility.

Even though he has a wife, don't worry, the marriage was arranged by the family and they haven't really been together but a few days, he knows Xiao Hua longer and doesn't have feelings for his wife.

"You're talking nonsense, our Xiao Hua was just walking down the road, she didn't do anything at all, it was you who bumped into us," said Old Lady Liu denying fiercely.

Lin Chuxia pointed to some workers in the distance, "Fine, I'll call those people over and ask who bumped into whom. Think hard, Old Lady, Qin Yang is the outstanding technician of their unit, the protected kind. You caused a scene at the department yesterday, and now you must have received a resolution from them by now, yet here you are blocking Qin Yang. If you're not hooligans, then what are you trying to do? Endanger the safety of a national technician? If that's so, I'll have to call the police to investigate thoroughly."

Old Lady Liu listened to her increasingly severe remarks, grabbed Liu Xiaohua to run, but Lin Chuxia directly stopped them.

"Hey, brother, please call your Security Department over," she shouted toward the entrance.

The Security Department at that time was not on the same level as later security guards, especially in state-owned enterprises; they were equipped with firearms and had certain law enforcement powers, capable of direct handling of many cases.

Qin Yang added, "Call Captain Li."

The Security Department was right by the entrance, and Captain Li came over quickly with two people.

Qin Yang didn't need to explain much, if it weren't for the unfamiliarity with the specific situation yesterday, and the union had stepped in, their security department would have driven these two away.

After all, that's Mr. Qin, the engineer heavily cultivated by the department.

After a day, they were also clear about what happened, and thought the issue was resolved, but didn't expect the mother and daughter were still pestering Mr. Qin, so they immediately took control of them.

Upon seeing the Security Department personnel, Old Lady Liu panicked and struggled to run.

The Security Department personnel were not to be trifled with.

A big man also subdued Liu Xiaohua, her eyes full of resentment looking at Qin Yang and Lin Chuxia.

"Brother Qin, are you really going to treat us like this for this woman? Open your eyes and see, this woman is not as kind-hearted as she appears, she's not worthy of you."

"Who's worthy of Qin Yang if I'm not, you?" Lin Chuxia glanced at her, her eyes full of disdain, "Comrade Liu Xiaohua, your snot is crossing the river."

Liu Xiaohua froze for a moment, realizing something, she went to wipe it, but her arms were controlled by the Security Department personnel.

She just felt a stream of coolness running down her nose to her mouth.

Thinking that Qin Yang was watching her from across, she couldn't help but break down and scream.

It's over, all over, her image.

Qin Yang will never look at her again, she can never marry Qin Yang now.

Lin Chuxia dug at her ears, too noisy.

Seeing the two people being taken away by the security department, someone kindly reminded them, "Make a good confession about who instructed you. If you have really been deceived by someone, you might still have a chance, otherwise, prepare to go to jail."

Qin Yang, carrying things, watches the petite woman fiercely dealing with everyone.

Especially that last sentence to Liu Xiaohua, it was a direct attack to the heart, almost making her crumble.

But how could such a wife be so charming?

Lin Chuxia looked at him with burning eyes, glanced at him and said, "This is what you get for your foolish kindness, Mr. Qin Yang, learn your lesson. I hope there won't be anyone competing for my man next time. If it happens again, I might not be able to protect you anymore, and if you're taken away, I won't chase after you."

His wife said she was protecting him, although he didn't need a petite woman to protect him, but she did it to prevent other women from taking him away.

Doesn't that mean the wife really cares about him?

His eyes shone like a starry sky, curling into a beautiful curve, "Don't worry, no one can take me away, I will always be yours."

Lin Chuxia: "..."

This cheesy love talk...

Qin Yang had just returned when Zhang Dawei called him away again, apparently for some important matter that needed his attention.

Lin Chuxia sorted the things she bought. These items needed to be put in the suitcase first, and she could store them in her space once on the train.

But it seems she bought a bit too much.

By the time she finished sorting the items, the sky had already darkened, and it was already dinner time.

When Qin Yang left, he told her that if he hadn't returned by dinner time, she should go eat in the canteen by herself. He also found her an unused food tray and placed food tickets in it.

Seeing that it was indeed getting late, Lin Chuxia took her food tray and left the dormitory.

The setting sun dyed half of the sky red. All people and objects were enveloped in a golden glow. Lin Chuxia walked towards the canteen against the sunset, only to see a figure blocking her way ahead.

Lin Chuxia stopped in her tracks and looked at the person in front of her.

She knew this person, a comrade from the union. Just yesterday, when she arrived, this person was representing the union to deal with the Liu Family's mother and daughter.

However, her method of resolving it...

Xu Sijin also looked at the woman in front of her, tall and fair-skinned with delicate and beautiful features.

After digesting the information overnight, until now, she still couldn't believe that this woman was Qin Yang's wife.

The more she didn't want to believe it, the more imbalanced she felt inside.

Three years ago, when she started working, she fell for Qin Yang the first time she saw him.



Initially, she just silently observed him, and it was such observation that made her increasingly recognize his merits and decide to be with him for the rest of her life.

Back then she had her father try to arrange a marriage proposal, but she didn't expect to be rejected.

For a long period, she was in agony, wanting to ask him personally why he rejected her.

But being the prideful person she was from a young age, her pride didn't allow her to do so.

Later, she realized Qin Yang was a man too devoted to his work, with almost nothing else in his eyes but his job, also turning down all the matchmakings people talked about for him.

Gradually, she came to accept it.

#### Chapter 97: Instigation

Qin Yang didn't dislike her, he just wasn't planning on getting married yet.

Those who knew him understood how disciplined he was, so his life plan was definitely very strict.

Xu Sijin thought, she was still young, she wasn't in a hurry, she could wait.

Wait for him to come around, wait for a wife to be part of his plans, she would become part of his life plan then.

But she didn't expect him to suddenly go back home and get married.

By the time she heard the news, Qin Yang was already on the train.

She couldn't accept it, hearing that he married a rural wife—how could she, Xu Sijin, not compare to a rural woman?

Until today...

Taking a deep breath, Xu Sijin showed a generous and graceful smile.

"Hello, Mr. Lin, let me introduce myself. I'm Xu, Xu Sijin, a colleague of Qin Yang. I work over at the union, so I interact with Qin Yang quite a bit. If Mr. Lin needs any assistance, feel free to let me know. As Qin Yang's colleague, I'll definitely help."

Lin Chuxia knew this woman didn't come with good intentions and quickly picked out several meanings from her words.

She wanted to imply that she was very familiar with Qin Yang, maybe even more than Chuxia, his wife.

Qin Yang's business was her business too, they had no boundaries.

The two of them interacted regularly, whether it was for work or personal matters was anyone's guess.

If not for knowing Qin Yang's personality, just a few words could easily stir up trouble.

With a small smile, "Thank you, Mr. Xu. Qin Yang took leave these two days to specifically accompany me, so I don't think there's anything I need to trouble outsiders with."

Xu Sijin's expression stiffened slightly but quickly recovered naturally.

"Mr. Lin, you are really beautiful, no wonder you got Mr. Qin to agree to marry you. You wouldn't know, since Mr. Qin transferred to our area, so many girls have pursued him. The girls working here are all capable, and yet Mr. Qin hasn't been interested in any of them."

Was she saying she was all looks and no substance?

Lin Chuxia nodded, "Mr. Xu is right, Qin Yang is a man, and he can't escape liking beautiful things."

Xu Sijin's smile stiffened again; she hadn't expected Chuxia to admit it.

What's so proud about a woman flaunting her looks?

Before she could say more, Lin Chuxia continued, "Did Mr. Xu suddenly come up to me to say this because you feel you're not pretty enough?"

"I..."

Seeing her at a loss for words, Lin Chuxia kindly continued, as if understanding her, "Actually, it's okay, our looks are given by our parents, no matter what we look like, it's a blessing from them. You don't need to be too concerned, be grateful, and even if you're not standout, you'll still be welcomed by everyone."

Xu Sijin finally found her voice, "Mr. Lin, you're overthinking. I never thought I looked that bad."

With a calm face, since childhood, she had always been treated as the apple of her parents' eyes, receiving compliments about her looks too.

How could she not be extraordinary?

Naturally, she would never admit she wasn't as pretty as Lin Chuxia.

Originally, she wanted to give Lin Chuxia a hard time—any woman wouldn't be happy hearing her implications, might even lose her temper, and then she'd have the upper hand.

Qin Yang hated trouble at work, anything that could affect his work would irritate him.

I heard she was arranged by the family for Qin Yang, they only stayed at home for three or four days for marriage, surely he didn't know her well.

If she caused trouble at work, Xu Sijin believed Qin Yang would not let her come anymore, even his visits home would decrease.

Unexpectedly, Chuxia, without appearing either foolish or clever, ignored her implication entirely.

Lin Chuxia, with a naive expression, asked her, "Does Mr. Xu have any other questions? If you need, I can help you answer them."

Taking a deep breath, "Since Mr. Lin doesn't need me, I'll take my leave."

Watching her defeated retreating back, Lin Chuxia saw her lips curl.

When people want to mock you, it often exposes their insecurities. When she's sarcastic, she's trying to see you lose control. If you really get mad, you've lost.

At this time, it's best to graciously acknowledge it, then reflect their ridicule back onto them.

And to feign concern, leave them seething internally.

Isn't that just like Xu Sijin now?

"Oh, by the way, Mr. Xu, have you resolved the issue with Liu Xiaohua and her mother? We ran into them today, but they were unlucky, taken away by security. I wonder how the interrogation went."

Xu Sijin snapped her head back, "Why were they arrested?"

Lin Chuxia opened her hands innocently, "I don't know either, maybe they couldn't get money from Qin Yang and wanted to harm him. You wouldn't believe it, Liu Xiaohua charged at Qin Yang today, who knows if she had a weapon. If I hadn't kicked her away, who knows what might have happened."

Xu Sijin's eyelid twitched repeatedly, that useless one, always unreliable.

But if she got caught by security, especially for hurting Qin Yang...

"I think Mr. Lin is overthinking, Liu Xiaohua is just a girl. How could she harm Qin Yang? It must be a misunderstanding."

"Whether it's a misunderstanding, I can't say. I think security will give Qin Yang justice. Threatening national tech personnel, tsk, tsk. Who knows what they'll find out, but I doubt those two can hold out at security."

Raising her food tray, "Enough chatting with Mr. Xu, I need to get my meal."

Watching her silhouette in the sunset, Xu Sijin clenched her nails into her palms.

.....

Lin Chuxia glanced at the cafeteria menu, today they were serving spicy tofu and cabbage with glass noodles, and the cabbage dish had some pork, all fatty.

Given people's limited living standards, the meals were low in oil, and those who could have meat preferred the fatty cuts; the sight of the lardy meat left Lin Chuxia with no appetite.

She ordered a portion of spicy tofu, noticing Master Chen nearby she asked for two side dishes, a moo shu pork, and dry-fried green beans.

While waiting for the dishes, she suddenly saw Qin Yang stride in from the outside.

"Done with work?"

Qin Yang nodded and seeing her waiting, knew she had ordered the side dishes.

The cafeteria took meal tickets or cash; given the special circumstances yesterday, Lin Chuxia paid cash upfront for the meals. Today, Qin Yang had left meal tickets for her, and when Master Chen brought out the dishes, he was the first to pay.

Lin Chuxia didn't argue; men, when they're out they still want to handle the check, it fulfills their machismo and heightens their sense of responsibility.

#### Chapter 98: The Daughter-in-Law Also Cares About Him

The two found a spot on the side where there were fewer people. Qin Yang handed her a pair of chopsticks, "Mr. Bai just told me that he's inviting us to dinner at their house tomorrow night, and I've already accepted. You can go a bit earlier, Sister-in-law Song has long admired your cooking skills and wants you to give her some tips."

Lin Chuxia nibbled on a steamed bun and nodded casually, "That's fine. I was planning on going back to my hometown tomorrow, but since that's the case, I'll stay another day."

"You're going back to your hometown?"

Lin Chuxia looked at his shocked expression and couldn't help but laugh, "Of course, I have to return home. I can't just stay here indefinitely. There are things to arrange at the shop, and it has been about ten days since this trip."

Qin Yang suddenly felt that the food was no longer appetizing.

She had been out and about for a dozen days, but in his place, it had been barely three days.

He had thought that a visit might mean a longer stay.

Since the topic was broached, Lin Chuxia simply discussed her upcoming plans with Qin Yang.

"The bun shop near the train station has stabilized. Once I get back, I plan to open a branch of the bun shop in Ancheng County. My eldest brother's harvest wasn't good this year, so I thought about how they work hard in the fields and don't make much money. If they are willing, they can come work with me in business. I am considering whether to pay them a monthly salary at the new shop, or just hand over the management rights to them, provide them training, and giving them a share in the rights to the shop's signboard. Then we could distribute the profits based on the ratio."

Speaking of serious matters, Qin Yang also pulled together his emotions.

His wife was capable, managing their daily life well so they need not worry about food or drink, and she still kept his brother and sister-in-law in mind.

His mother's letter mentioned that his father's illness hadn't flared up in a long while thanks to the medicine Lin Chuxia bought.

His wife was truly their family's lucky star.

But about what she said...

"I think you should manage the new shop the same way as the original one. Let my brother and sister-in-law help you there, and paying them a monthly salary would be better."

His brother and sister-in-law had no experience in running a business, and even with Lin Chuxia's guidance, they might not achieve the same success as her.

Moreover, his wife has her own shop, splitting attention with his brother and sister-in-law's side, in case their shop doesn't perform as well as hers, would they feel that she was holding back?

It would be unfortunate if her wife ended up tired and accused.

Lin Chuxia also leaned towards paying his brother and sister-in-law a salary, understanding the old saying "Favors cause resentment over time."

It's just that these were Qin Yang's sibling and sister-in-law. When dealing with Qin Yang's family matters, she wanted to see Qin Yang's stance.

Luckily, this silly guy was only slow in matters between men and women, but was quite discerning in serious matters.

No, Lin Chuxia thought about last night, this guy seemed not so "silly" in matters of men and women anymore.

"Speaking of which..." Qin Yang held his chopsticks, pondering for a moment, then tentatively asked, "I heard...you've hired a few employees in your store, who are they, are they trustworthy? Since you plan to have my brother help, maybe hire some more people and let my brother give you some advice. After all, we live on the edge of the city, and we contact more people."

Lin Chuxia looked at his hesitant appearance and couldn't help but secretly laugh.

She cleared her throat, "That might be difficult. I have a set standard for hiring, and my brother's judgment might not align with mine."

"How so? Just tell him what kind of people you want to hire, or you can discuss it together with him."

Lin Chuxia naturally said, "Men and women have different aesthetics. I want to hire some handsome men and beautiful women. Think about it, the effect of a young and beautiful girl standing in the window selling buns versus an older man is not the same, right? Of course, I don't mean to discriminate against anyone. While providing services, I also want to give customers a better visual enjoyment."

"Then...then hire a few more girls," stuttered Qin Yang.



Lin Chuxia shook her head again, "Just hiring girls won't work either. There are many heavy tasks in the shop that require men, and besides, not only men come to eat at the shop, but also many older women and elder sisters. I can't favor one over the other, right?"

Qin Yang looked at the food in front of him, his lips pursed tightly, as if he met some technical problem, his brows furrowing deeply.

His wife was determined to hire male waiters, and also young and handsome ones. What could he do? How could he handle this?

Lin Chuxia watched Qin Yang becoming increasingly tangled and couldn't help but start laughing.

"Dummy, I'm just teasing you, look how worried you are."

Qin Yang looked up at her, and Lin Chuxia raised her hand to smooth the wrinkles between his brows.

"The shop currently has three men. You should know Wensong from the early days, the bun shop is rented from his family's house, and he was my first helper, a returned educated youth, who had no job due to some issues. The other two, one is the brother of my best girlfriend, the girl you met on the wedding day. She is my best friend, and now she and her brother both work at my shop. Another couple was introduced by Wensong, his educated youth friends, so overall, I know their backgrounds well."

Lin Chuxia knew he had been worried about this, so she was honest with him.

Her frankness made Qin Yang somewhat embarrassed.

Feeling uncomfortable, he picked up a chopstick of stir-fried pork with scrambled eggs and wood ear mushrooms for Lin Chuxia, his gaze a bit evasive, his words not matching his thoughts, "I actually don't mind about this..."

Lin Chuxia reached across the table and took his large hand, her gaze firm, her tone serious, "Actually, I'm really happy you can be like this, it shows that you care a lot about me as your wife, just like when Liu Xiaohua and Xu Sijin think about you, I also get unhappy."

Hearing this, Qin Yang's heart finally settled.

His wife was right; he was just too concerned about her, and she cared about him, too.

Lin Chuxia didn't let him stay happy for too long, continuing, "So, Mr. Qin Yang, you should always remember that you are a married man, manage what you should manage, don't meddle in what you shouldn't, when dealing with female comrades, have the awareness of a married man, if I encounter such messy situations again next time..."

She withdrew her hand, Qin Yang anxiously grabbed it back, "It won't happen next time, wife, there will definitely be no such situations again."

Getting the assurance, Lin Chuxia patted his hand soothingly, "I believe you, rest assured, no matter when, you will always be the most important one in my heart, even if we live separately, we won't be heartbroken."

Qin Yang nodded, but thought about Li Wei's words—being apart for a long time indeed wasn't good for a couple.

But his wife had her bun shop, asking her to follow his family would definitely not work.

Since his wife couldn't come here, could he think of a way to transfer himself, even if just to be nearer to her?

## Chapter 99: Suddenly Felt Like Laughing

After dinner, the sky had already darkened, and the two of them walked towards the dormitory along the dimly lit path.

"Did Manager Xu come looking for you this afternoon?"

He had hurried to the cafeteria upon hearing about it, and seeing that she was all right, he knew that Xu Sijin, that woman, wouldn't be able to take advantage of his wife.

Lin Chuxia looked up at the starry sky and responded, "Mm, she said I am very beautiful, and I sincerely thanked her for the compliment."

Qin Yang: "..."

He suddenly felt like laughing.

Seeing that he hadn't reacted for a while, Lin Chuxia asked him, "What's wrong?"

"Nothing, you did the right thing, you are indeed beautiful. After finishing my business, I went to the security department, and the mother and daughter from the Liu Family have already been sent back on the train home. Manager Xu will also be recorded a major demerit, with a deduction of this month's bonus and half a month's wages."

It's not easy to dismiss someone these days, so a major demerit and fine are already severe punishments.

Especially with the major demerit, even with her father's support, it wouldn't be easy for her to get a promotion in the future.

Lin Chuxia understood these things, and she knew that Xu Sijin's punishment must have had Qin Yang's involvement.

"You did well this time realizing the truth, keep it up."

Qin Yang looked at her deeply, "Just verbal praise?"

Meeting his profound gaze, Lin Chuxia guessed what he was thinking.

This guy, really is becoming more and more...

.....

Family quarters, the Xu Family

It was already past dinner time, and the dishes on the dining table were still untouched.

Xu Sijin sat on the couch silently wiping away her tears, while Mrs. Xu also sighed with worry.

Until Xu Qiang came back, Mrs. Xu hurried to greet him, "How did it go, is everything clear? Our Sijin has always been sensible and well-behaved since childhood, she couldn't have done such a thing. It must be that surnamed Liu mother and daughter who are framing our daughter."

Xu Qiang handed his coat to his wife and glanced at the daughter wiping her tears on the couch, his face gloomy.

"Why didn't they frame someone else, but framed her instead? The issue was clearly resolved yesterday, and that mother and daughter agreed to return to their hometown, so why didn't they leave today? You need to ask your good daughter exactly what she has done."

Upon hearing this, Mrs. Xu knew things hadn't been resolved smoothly, "Then what should we do? We can't let our daughter be recorded a major demerit, she just started working, and her career is still long ahead."

Looking back at her daughter, she said, "Sijin, speak up, the mother and daughter are wronging you, right? Tell your father the truth."

Xu Sijin knew the matter hadn't been resolved, and her tears fell even harder.

It wasn't the potential consequences of the demerit that worried her, but the hurt from Qin Yang's attitude.

Liu Xiaohua hadn't even touched his clothes, yet she was subjected to such severe punishment, not even giving her father's face any consideration.

The one who delivered the message had said that Qin Yang was keeping an eye on this matter, and they must provide him with an explanation.

Qin Yang wanted to make her suffer to the extreme.

They had been colleagues, and she was hopelessly devoted to him, only to be met with his cruel treatment. How could Xu Sijin not be heartbroken?

Xu Qiang was angered by the sight of her like this, "What did I tell you yesterday? Is Qin Yang that easy to provoke? I don't oppose you trying to scheme against others; if one doesn't fight for oneself, heaven and earth will perish them. But you failed to outwit others and even dragged yourself down, that's just stupid. Keep being stupid and you'll drag your father down with you."

"Yesterday, I went to great lengths to ask Minister Wang for a favor on your behalf. And look at you, not even 24 hours have passed, and you've foolishly messed up again. The Liu Family's situation was already indefensible, and yet you still want to help them? Are the Liu mother and daughter, those rotten people, someone you can afford to provoke? I heard you even gave them US\$30?"

Upon hearing this, Mrs. Xu was also confused, "Sijin, why did you give them money? US\$30 is your monthly salary."

"Because she's foolish, she thinks she can control everything," Xu Qiang said indignantly.

"Mr. Xu, just say a little less, will you? Look how distressed your daughter is," Mrs. Xu felt pity as, after all, it was her own daughter.

Xu Qiang was angry but righteous, "Her distress is her own doing. You say you like Qin Yang, but when your family tried to arrange a marriage with him and it didn't succeed, why didn't you stand up for yourself then? What kind of influence does Qin Yang have in the office? Wouldn't your mother and I have helped you if you had spoken just one more word? What could have happened after being

rejected? The Liu mother and daughter can manipulate him, so do you think your parents are less capable than the Liu Family? Yet, you didn't want to say a word to us earlier. Now you're rushing because he's getting married. It's too late to say anything now, I advise you to let go of this thought."

Hearing this, Mrs. Xu got worried and discussed with Xu Qiang, "I heard that Qin Yang's wife was also chosen by his family, what kind of affection can they develop over just a few days of marriage leave? Since you and your daughter both have this idea, even if they get married, what's done can be undone. I think..."

"I think you're foolish too," Xu Qiang interrupted Mrs. Xu, "How can you be so grown up and yet so brainless? Do you think Qin Yang is just like an ordinary employee? Do you think you can manipulate him now? If he really starts taking it seriously, even the minister has to give him some face. By that time, not to mention your daughter's reputation, even my position as Secretary won't be able to protect you."

Upon hearing her father's words, Xu Sijin could no longer hold back and went back to her bedroom crying.

Xu Qiang rose in irritation, "I think she's just spoiled by you. Her suffering is self-inflicted."

...

Bai Xiaoming's home wasn't far from Qin Yang's dormitory. Sister-in-law Song had given a heads up for Lin Chuxia to come early, so after an afternoon nap, Lin Chuxia freshened up and left the house.

Carrying a bottle of sorghum liquor, a couple of pounds of pastries, and a bag of fruits, she hadn't gone far when she bumped into Sister-in-law Feng playing with her child.

Lin Chuxia had intended to pass by unnoticed, but Sister-in-law Feng saw her and came over with her child.

Glancing at the items in Lin Chuxia's hands, she spoke in a somewhat lowered voice, "Who among the leaders are you visiting? It's true what they say; you city folks know how to do things right. Bringing gifts for the leaders when you visit, unlike me, I've lived here for half a year and still have no idea which way the leaders' house doors open. Mr. Qin is really capable."

Lin Chuxia was baffled, "Sister-in-law, you misunderstood, I'm going over to Sister-in-law Song's place."

When invited over for dinner by someone, she couldn't possibly show up empty-handed, could she?

Besides, who would bring this kind of stuff as a gift for a leader?

Upon realizing her misunderstanding, Sister-in-law Feng felt a bit embarrassed.

Once she realized Lin Chuxia was headed to Sister-in-law Song's place, she looked envious.

"Of course, of course, both Mr. Qin and Mr. Bai are outstanding, and the two of them are long-time partners. It's only right they should get closer. Not like us. My Da Jun doesn't have close acquaintances he can turn to. I understand we rural folks are lucky enough to work alongside everyone else; we can't expect to form personal ties outside of work, we're just not their equal."

Lin Chuxia frowned slightly. She couldn't stand to listen to this self-deprecating talk, "Sister-in-law, actually, we also come from the countryside."

Chapter 100: She is redundant to explain this

What's the big deal about coming from the countryside? Two generations up, which family here wasn't from the countryside?

It's really rare to see someone speak so disapprovingly of themselves with such fluidity.

Sister-in-law Feng's eyes widened as she looked Lin Chuxia up and down, then slapped her thigh, "Oh my, just think, some people are born with good fortune. You and Mr. Qin don't resemble people from the countryside at all. Nobody would believe it if you said it; you look like city folks born and raised. Then there's us, even after living here for so long, we don't even compare a tiny bit, we just can't compare..."

Lin Chuxia: "..."

No need for her to explain this.

"Sister, you play with the kids. Sister-in-law Song is waiting for me, I need to go."

"Ah, right, go on then. Sister-in-law Song is really nice too, she's so well-liked. Everyone here likes to talk to her. I actually enjoy chatting with her too, it's just that..."

Sister-in-law Feng was still prattling on behind her, but Lin Chuxia had already hurried away from the scene, heading straight to Sister-in-law Song's place.

Seeing her slightly out of breath, Sister-in-law Song thought she was in a hurry and laughed, "You really didn't need to rush. It's all because Brother Bai is so picky about my cooking. It wasn't easy waiting for you to come, and he just wants you to give me a couple of pointers. Cooking skills can't be learned by just saying a few words, can they? I think he's dreaming."

Lin Chuxia laughed along with her and handed over the items, "I ran into Sister-in-law Feng on the way here."

That day in the canteen, Sister-in-law Song was also present, and having lived here for so long, they knew exactly what kind of person Sister-in-law Feng was.

As soon as Lin Chuxia mentioned her, it was clear that Sister-in-law Feng had been up to her tricks again.

"Don't mind her. When it comes to it, their Project Division Two doesn't have much to do with our Project Division One. Her husband is quite capable too, but I don't know what she thinks, always feeling inferior to others. Especially when she sees these genuine university graduates, she wants to curry favor. When she first came here, she often sought me out, and it wasn't just me—other colleagues' family members were quite friendly to her too. Since our men work together, we housewives have nothing better to do than to visit each other and chat. But whenever she talks, she goes on about not being worthy or not as good as others. Many of these family members are from the countryside themselves, and none of them looked down on her, let alone disdained her. Yet she always puts herself down, making everyone uncomfortable. In the end, no one wanted to deal with her anymore, afraid of being blamed for bullying without reason."



Lin Chuxia nodded in agreement. That sounded about right.

Bai Xiaoming had gone to work, and the kids Bai Liang and Bai Tian were off playing somewhere.

Sister-in-law Song had already bought all the ingredients for tonight's dinner, getting all the greens and beans ready.

It's not like she was relying entirely on Lin Chuxia; it's just that her own cooking skills were nothing to boast about. Especially after tasting Lin Chuxia's beef sauce, she feared inviting her over for a meal only to end up making her sick.

"In a bit, you don't have to lift a finger; just stand by and teach me how to do it. Learning a trick or two from you is a big win for me."

"Sister, you're too modest. I'm not that skilled; I just started cooking at a young age."

"That's not the same. I've been cooking since I was young too, and now at this age, I still haven't made a single tasty meal."

Jokes aside, the two of them seriously started cooking together.

Sister-in-law Song bought some pork belly, planning to make braised pork, and since people in the Northwest eat a lot of lamb, she also got some fresh, tender lamb.

The pork belly was already cut up, and Lin Chuxia first asked Sister-in-law Song how she usually cooked it.

"Just boil some water in a pot, put the meat in, add some seasonings, and let it stew slowly. That's how I was taught at home since I was a child."

"Let's try a different method today."

Lin Chuxia guided Sister-in-law Song, starting by blanching the meat in water.

This step actually requires some finesse too, with cold pot, cold water, and cold meat, the meat will come out with no gamey taste.

After blanching the meat, put it aside for later use, and since there was sugar at home, Chuxia taught Sister-in-law Song how to make caramelized sugar.

Sister-in-law Song never knew that sugar could be added when braising meat, and once the blanched meat was rolled in the caramelized sugar, her eyes lit up immediately.

"This color is exactly like the braised pork sold at the State-Owned Restaurant."

These days, soy sauce isn't like it is in the future; there's no fine division between light soy sauce, dark soy sauce, or yellow bean soy sauce—just one bottle of soy sauce at home does it all.

Moreover, the soy sauce technology of this era is crude and scarce; the color is somewhat light, and relying solely on soy sauce for color would cost a pretty penny.

So making caramelized sugar is the most perfect.

Add green onions, ginger, and spices to the pot and stir-fry for a while, Sister-in-law Song scooped a scoop of cold water from the water jar to pour in, and was stopped by Lin Chuxia.

"Sister-in-law, it's time to add hot water now."

"Braising meat has so much attention to detail. No wonder the meat I braise doesn't taste good."

Sister-in-law Song took a thermos and poured half a thermos of boiling water into it.

The rest was just simmering on low heat.

During this time, the two of them made other dishes on another stove.

At this moment, the two kids came back, their voices reached the house before they did.

"Mom, what delicious things are we making today? I smelled something delicious outside the courtyard, and I thought it was the aroma from Grandma Li's place next door, but it turns out it came from our house."

Bai Tian rushed in while shouting, with a big lump on his forehead.

Sister-in-law Song frowned immediately, "You little monkey, where did you run off to play wildly again? How did you get such a big lump on your head?"

She turned to look at her elder son who had just come in.

Bai Liang was 9 years old this year, and Bai Tian was not yet 6. Usually, when the two children went out to play, Bai Liang would look after him, so she didn't have to worry.

Bai Tian had his mind solely on the good food and didn't care to answer his mom.

Bai Liang and Bai Xiaoming were like two peas in a pod; even at only 9, he already had Bai Xiaoming's mature manner.

But before he could speak, a woman's voice came from outside, "Sister-in-law, are you at home?"

Sister-in-law Song and Lin Chuxia looked at each other, both recognized it was Sister-in-law Feng's voice.

Sister-in-law Song wiped her hands and went outside.

The Bai Family's kitchen was set up in the side room, with the kitchen door open at the moment, although Lin Chuxia couldn't see Sister-in-law Feng, she could clearly hear their voices.

"Sister-in-law, I am truly embarrassed to face you, it's all my fault for not watching the kids properly. Just now, Jingjing was throwing soil clods, and somehow, it hit Bai Tian right in the head creating a big bump, oh my, looking at that bump really makes my heart ache. I said I would take him to the clinic, but in the time I went home to get money, the two kids ran back, look, it's our fault. Where is the kid now? I'll take him to the clinic right away."

"Hey, it's alright, these two little monkeys of ours getting bumps and bruises is a common occurrence, I've seen that big lump too, it'll fade in a couple of days, there's no need to go to the clinic."