

Chapter 201: The Head of Year Three

Three days passed in the blink of an eye. Xiao Lingye was going to take the university entrance exam the next day. His entire family was constantly telling him to calm down and not to give himself too much pressure.

Even his grandparents, uncles, and aunties, who were far away, called to cheer him on!

They also told him not to give himself too much pressure. If he got in, great. If he couldn't, he could repeat the exam next year. However, if he got a good result, they would come to celebrate by holding a banquet for him.

The whole family accompanied Xiao Lingye to the county town on the day of his exam.

It was an important stage in his life. They wanted to be by Xiao Lingye's side.

Xiao Lingye and his family went the afternoon before because they didn't want Xiao Lingye to hurry on the day of the exam. His fourth uncle and aunt would come over the next day. Xiao Mingyang still needed to transport the vegetables the next day.

The university entrance exam was two days long. During these two days, no one in the Xiao Family would be home. Xiao Mingyang only came in the afternoon to load the truck and left in the morning. The rest of the family stayed in Xiao Lingye's rental to cheer for Xiao Lingye.

However, they needed someone to watch over the farm. Xiao Zhengyang asked the village chief for help to water the vegetable and strawberry farms.

Xiao Taiyang said straightforwardly, "Don't worry, I'll keep an eye on the farm. You should stay with Ye 'Er. After all, he is most likely our next top scorer!"

Xiao Zhengyang said gratefully, "Thank you, village chief."

The village chief smiled and said, "Zhengyang, you're so polite to me. This is just a small matter."

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Xiao Lingye brought 200 tomatoes, 200 cucumbers, 200 carrots, and 200 carrots and went straight to Xiao Lingye's school.

She arrived at the field, and her parents helped her bring down the boxes of vegetables. When the other students saw this, they asked curiously, "Xiao Lingye, what is your family doing? Are they setting up shop on school grounds?"

Xiao Lingye laughed, "Have you heard of Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in town?"

"Of course we have! The shop is the talk of every student across the three high schools in our county! How can we not know about it?" Someone asked.

“To tell you the truth, my sister owns that shop.” Xiao Lingye stopped hiding the truth. He continued, “My sister has brought her produce so I can share them with everyone.”

“Damn, Xiao Lingye, are you for real?” Someone immediately asked excitedly. They knew the shop’s owner came from Taoyuan Village, but they had no idea the owner was the big sister of their school’s top student!

“It’s true!” Xiao Lingye said proudly, “This is my dad, this is my mom, and this is my sister!”

“Wow, Xiao Lingye, you come from a farming family?” Many students praised, “Your sister and mom are so beautiful. Your dad is dashing too! You look so average standing with your family.”

When they saw Xiao Lingye’s family, they understood why he was named as one of the best-looking male students at No. 1 High School. It was because of genetics!

Then, the students politely greeted the others. “Auntie, uncle, big sister, hello!”

“Hello, everyone.”

“Screw you. Who’s so ugly? I’m also very handsome, okay? Although I’m not as handsome as my dad, I’m at least more handsome than you!”

“Here, take this to try! You can pick whichever vegetable you like to eat. But one person can only pick two each.”

“That’s wonderful!” The students exclaimed, “How much are you selling them for?”

Xiao Lingye waved his hand and said, “It’s free! But only those who are sitting for the university entrance exam can take them. The other students will have to wait for next time. With regards to how to authenticate everyone’s identity, it’s easy. Just show us your student id!”

Xiao Lingye was a famous person in the school. Everyone in the school knew him, but he did not know anyone else.

“Xiao Lingye, is it really free? You won’t lie to us, right? You won’t charge us afterward?”

“Of course, it’s real!” Xiao Lingye said, “If you really want to pay me, then fine, 100 RMB!”

“Screw you!” The few students smiled and said, “Lingye, we thank you in advance.” They turned around and said loudly, “Third-year students, if you want to receive the free tomatoes and cucumbers from Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, bring your student Id card and line up!”

Most of the first and second-year students were on vacation, but it was always better to be safe. Many students who didn’t carry their student id immediately rushed home.

“Come on now, line up in four lines! Everyone can only pick two items!” Xiao Lingye added seriously. “If you cut the line, I will cut you off!”

“Okay, line up now!” The students arranged themselves. The students heard the commotion. Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables was giving out free vegetables at their school!

Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables was well-known in the county town. The shop's crops were extremely delicious, and they could help the students stay energized throughout the day. Many of their parents had been trying to buy vegetables from that shop. However, the shop's business was too good. No matter how early they went, there would always be a large crowd already waiting at the door.

But now, Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables actually came to their school to give out free vegetables.

All the third-year students crawled out of different corners of the school. After all, it would be a waste not to take this opportunity. They had long heard about the taste of this shop's vegetables.

The students lined up. They held their student Id and claimed their free vegetables. Xiao Lingye didn't need student Id from those he was familiar with. He knew they were his classmates.

Some chose tomatoes, some chose cucumbers, and of course, some chose carrots.

The only one that no one chose was the white radish. Most people knew white radish as an ingredient in soup. They didn't know it could be eaten raw.

"Wow, it's so delicious!" Some immediately took a bite of their tomatoes and cucumbers. Their mouths immediately filled with a mellow fragrance. It was a luxurious enjoyment.

"It's really delicious. I've never eaten such delicious tomatoes!"

"No wonder Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables is so famous. I heard that these things are sold at a very high price."

Those who hadn't taken their turn asked curiously, "Are they really that delicious?"

"Of course. This is simply the best taste in the world."

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The news of the top student, Xiao Lingye, giving out free food from Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables attracted not only the attention of students but also teachers.

The teachers had heard of Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables too, but none of them realized the shop was run by Xiao Lingye's family.

Since they were giving away the vegetables for free, they wanted to try them. However, Xiao Lingye had stated clearly that the free vegetables were only for the third-year students. Therefore, these teachers could only watch from the side and swallow their saliva.

When the students made repeated exclamations about how delicious the vegetables were, the teacher's stomach grumbled.

"What are you people doing?" Suddenly, a sharp voice was heard. "The university entrance exam is tomorrow. Why are you all at the field instead of making revisions or resting at home?"

The originally noisy scene immediately quieted down.

The students parted for the new arrival. It was a middle-aged man wearing black glasses. He was of medium build and had a stern look on his face.

He was the year three director, Qiu Zhonghua.

“Director Qiu!” The students immediately greeted him with trepidation. They were afraid of this stern teacher.

Qiu Zhonghua walked over. When he saw the few boxes of vegetables in front of him, his face immediately darkened. “Who can tell me what’s going on?”

As a director, he was often too strict with his students and staff. So he wasn’t that popular with people. No one answered him.

Xiao Lingye said, “Director Qiu, I’m giving these things to my classmates to have a taste and replenish their strength so that we can prepare for tomorrow’s exam!”

Qiu Zhonghua’s sharp eyes swept across the vegetable boxes before he looked at Xiao Lingye and said very sternly, “Xiao Lingye, don’t think that you can be proud and complacent just because your results are good. To think you’d come to school to sell vegetables on the day before the exam, you sure are ballsy! Plus, these vegetables are raw, right? Have you washed them? What if the other students have diarrhea after eating these things? Will you take responsibility?”

Before Xiao Lingye could answer, Qiu Zhonghua looked at Father Xiao, Mother Xiao, and Xiao Lingyu. When he looked at Xiao Lingyu, his eyes narrowed, and his expression was a little puzzled. “Wait, are you...”

The girl looked very familiar to him. Then, he gasped. “I remember now. You are Xiao Lingyu!”

The students were shocked to know the director actually knew Xiao Lingyu.

“You are Xiao Lingyu, the top scorer of the class of 1999, right?” Qiu Zhonghua asked.

‘The top student, Xiao Lingye, also has a top student elder sister? How can a family’s gene be so good?’

‘With Xiao Lingye’s results, if he performed normally, he will be the county’s next top scorer. To have two top scorers in one family, that is so enviable!’

Xiao Lingyu bowed slightly to Qiu Zhonghua and greeted him, “Teacher Qiu, yes, it’s me, Xiao Lingyu!”

Chapter 202: University Entrance Examination

“Teacher Qiu, it’s me, Xiao Lingyu!” Xiao Lingyu was very respectful and polite when she saw her former teacher. “It’s my fault for not coming back to see you for so long!”

A rare smile appeared on Qiu Zhonghua’s serious face. Then, he pretended to be serious and displeased. “You’re really at fault for not coming back to visit your former class teacher!”

“I’m sorry!” Xiao Lingyu said apologetically, “I’ll definitely visit you often in the future.”

“That’s more like it!” Qiu Zhonghua nodded in satisfaction.

This convivial conversation between Xiao Lingyu and teacher Qiu shocked all the teachers and students present.

Damn, they had no idea Director Qiu could be so gentle! But wait, from their conversation, it sounded like Xiao Lingyu was Director Qiu's student. If that was true, how did Xiao Lingyu survive three years in the hands of Director Qiu? Director Qiu was famously strict with his students, subordinates, and even his colleagues and superiors.

Director Qiu was in a good mood meeting his former star student. Xiao Lingyu was not only his best student but also his most clever one. It was why he remembered her after all these years.

But...

Qiu Zhonghua looked at the vegetable boxes in front of Xiao Lingyu and Xiao Lingye. Director Qiu looked at the vegetables, and he was confused. He asked seriously and sternly, "Xiao Lingyu, what are you doing? Why are you giving raw food to your juniors? Don't you know that they are facing a serious exam tomorrow? We can let them have any accidents! This exam is too important for them."

Xiao Lingye wanted to explain, but Xiao Lingyu gently pinched his shoulder. Then, she answered Teacher Qiu's question very seriously. "Teacher Qiu, don't worry. As a former student of No. 1 High School, I will not harm my juniors."

Then, she tried to bend down to grab a fruit. Seeing this, Mother Xiao immediately stopped her. She grabbed a tomato and handed it to Teacher Qiu. She said respectfully and politely, "Teacher Qiu, hello! I'm Xiao Lingyu's mother, Chen Qiuying. Do you still remember me?"

"Mother Xiao?" Teacher Qiu remembered and nodded. "I do. Hello, Mother Xiao."

Xiao Lingyu was their school's most outstanding student. She would often take the stage to give speeches. Even her parents were invited to school to share their experience in educating their children. Teacher Qiu had a good impression of Mother Xiao.

Mother Xiao smiled and said, "I'm sorry, Teacher Qiu. The children have caused you trouble. I'll apologize to you. Here. Please take this tomato and try it!"

Mother Xiao handed the tomato directly to him. This was a present from a student's parent. Teacher Qiu felt bad rejecting it. After some hesitation, he accepted it, but he didn't eat it. Instead, he asked, "Mother Xiao, what are all these?" Then he said seriously, "Mother Xiao, it's not that we don't allow people to set up stalls inside the school but..."

"Director Qiu, they are not selling the stuff. They are giving them away for free." Xiao Lingye's class teacher came to defend them. "Director Qiu, have you heard of Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables?"

"Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables?" Qiu Zhonghua couldn't say he had. He had no friends. Whenever he arrived, the conversation would stop.

"Yes." The class teacher, Teacher Yin, explained, "They offer special vegetables. Every student's parents are fighting over them."

“Special vegetables? What do you mean?” Qiu Zhonghua asked in puzzlement, “Aren’t the vegetables all the same?”

“Teacher Qiu, why don’t you try the tomato to find out?” Xiao Lingyu suggested. Actions spoke louder than words.

Director Qiu gave face to his beloved student. He looked at the tomato and placed it doubtfully in his mouth. Immediately, his stern expression turned into one of shock. Then, he chewed on it a few times with disbelief in his eyes.

When Mother Xiao saw the other teachers, she greeted them, “Please take some and have a taste too.” She then passed some tomatoes and cucumbers to the teachers.

The teachers hesitated but in the end, they couldn’t stand the temptation. They took the stuff from Mother Xiao and put them into their mouths without hesitation.

“Wow. It’s my first time tasting the vegetables from Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. They are really delicious!”

“Same here. My wife went there several times, but they were always sold out. I can’t believe I have the chance to try them today.”

Director Qiu swallowed the tomato. He felt a warm glow spread through his chest. The fragrance of the tomato flowed through his mouth and nose. His mind cleared, and his spirit soared.

He was shocked by the vegetable’s unusual effect. He finally understood why Xiao Lingyu was giving away these things for free. But, his eyes glowed with worry. However, he didn’t say anything more. He told Xiao Lingyu softly, “Thank you so much for doing this for the school.”

Xiao Lingyu shook her head. “I also hope that my school can produce more wonderful talents.” Director Qiu nodded with gratification. Then, he turned to leave.

Mother Xiao immediately took out a few tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots, and white radishes and handed them to Director Qiu. She said respectfully, “Teacher Qiu, it is my girl’s fault for not coming to visit you for all these years. I apologize on her behalf. Please take these. When we have time, I’ll have the children come to apologize to you further.”

Qiu Zhonghua glanced at the surrounding students, who were looking at him carefully. The corner of his stern mouth slightly curved up as he said, “Mother Xiao, leave these for the students. I’ll visit the vegetable shop in the future.”

Director Qiu understood that Xiao Lingyu and her family had brought these vegetables for the students. How could he take them?

“But...” Mother Xiao hesitated.

At this moment, Xiao Lingyu came over and said, “Mom, I will visit Teacher Qiu in the future and bring him more vegetables.” She understood Teacher Qiu’s intention. Having been his student for three years, Xiao Lingyu knew that Teacher Qiu was hard on the outside but soft on the inside. Teacher Qiu would do anything for his students.

After Qiu Zhonghua left, many teachers also left.

They had already tasted the vegetables, and that was enough. If they stayed, they would be suspected of stealing from the students.

The parents of the students were doing this out of kindness. As teachers, they shouldn't stand in the way.

Many students saw Director Liu walk away. For the first time, they felt Director Liu was not so stern and harsh. They felt quite touched.

"So the Director has a human side too."

"Did you see that? Director Liu actually smiled when he talked to Sister Lingye!"

"Yes, it's amazing. I didn't think I'd live to see a smile on the Director's face."

"Then again, didn't you hear what the Director said? Sister Xiao Lingyu was the top scorer from class 99."

"Xiao Lingye has good results too. As long as he performs normally, he'll be our class' top scorer."

"Two top scorers from one family. How did the family do this?"

After the teachers left, the children returned to their lively selves. They lined up to take their share. Similarly, most took tomatoes, cucumbers, and carrots.

"Ah, only the white radishes are left?" The students who lined at the back had no choice.

"I heard that white radishes can be eaten raw. They have a sweet taste."

"But have you really tasted one before?"

"Maybe they will taste good. They are white and tender. They are quite big too. One and you'd be full."

"Wow, why is this radish so sweet? And it's so crispy!"

The students were shocked after they took a bite of the white radish.

"This radish is really delicious. It's sweet and watery!"

After that, the others didn't hesitate to pick the white radishes. It was the first time they realized white radishes could be so delicious.

"I knew these white radishes are different. Or else Sister Xiao Lingyu wouldn't have brought them over."

"You were complaining about the lack of choice earlier! How shameless can you be? Haha."

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Many students' parents were at the shop the next day.

The moment they saw Xiao Lingyu, they said, "Boss Xiao, my child had your free tomato and cucumber at school yesterday. He said he had never felt so energized in his life. He promised me he would get a good score during the exam. Boss Xiao, thank you so much."

“Boss Xiao, I’ve been your customer for so long, but I have no idea you’re the sister of our top student, Xiao Lingye. My child also had the food you offered them for free yesterday. After I sent her off to the exam hall, I specially came to thank you.”

“Me too. My child is so appreciative of your help.” A parent said sincerely, “If she really gets a good result, I’ll come back to thank you!”

After the parents dropped their children off at the exam hall, they came over to thank Xiao Lingyu. Most of these parents had not been to Xiao Lingyu’s shop before, and they found out about it from their children.

Xiao Lingyu said with a smile, “Uncles, Aunties, if the students did well in the exam, it’s because they work hard. It’s their hard work, not mine. There’s no need to thank me.”

“But, I know my own child. When he came back yesterday, he was very quiet and focused. It’s like he’s a changed person. When I asked him, he said it’s because of your vegetables!”

“That’s right. My child said the same thing!”

“I really don’t deserve your gratitude!” Xiao Lingyu shook her head, then reminded them, “Uncles and Aunties, I’m sorry, but I need to open for business now.”

“Oh, I need to buy more vegetables from you!”

“Me too!”

No matter what, they had to snatch some vegetables today.

Even though the shop had a limited purchase policy, the shop only had so much in store, and more customers were still coming.

Father Xiao came to the store to help, while Mama Xiao stayed at home to prepare the food.

They couldn’t help much during their son’s exam. The only thing they could do was to provide the best nutrients for their son.

Xiao Lingyu also took out some spring water and fed it to Xiao Lingye. The pure spring water energized Xiao Lingye’s mind.

Xiao Lingye was a very hardworking student normally, so the spring water only boosted his usual ability..

Chapter 203: Jiang Tao’s Fate (Trigger Warning)

In the CEO’s Office of the Imperial Palace Group, Jiang Tao sat opposite Gong Tianhao. His expression was a little ugly.

At this moment, a woman dressed in formal attire brought in a cup of coffee and placed it in front of Jiang Tao. She said very politely, “Young Master Jiang, please have some coffee!” Then, she walked out.

Gong Tianhao held a pen in front of his eyes. He raised his eyebrows and asked with a smile that was not a smile, “So you know already?”

Jiang Tao was a little speechless. He asked Gong Tianhao sharply, "Why didn't you tell me? Do you still treat me as a friend? You actually hid such a big matter from me!"

Gong Tianhao shook his head and said, "It's not that I hid it from you. Even if I told you, what can be changed? Your grandfather had personally arranged this marriage for you."

The Jiang family's grandfather was extremely stubborn and domineering. Even outsiders knew that.

"Plus, I did tell you. If I didn't, would you be in the capital now?" Gong Tianhao said,

Jiang Tao immediately smiled bitterly.

He said self-deprecatingly, "Is this all a joke to you?" He was trying to pursue Xiao Lingyu, but his family had already arranged a marriage for him. If Xiao Lingyu found out, his hope to be her boyfriend would be dashed.

Gong Tianhao said very seriously, "This is not a joke to me. I think you should deal with this before you can pursue actual happiness. You know very well that the only way for you to reject this marriage is to be more powerful than the emperor of the Jiang Family. Otherwise, you will only bring the others down with you." Gong Tianhao's last sentence was light as the wind, but it landed heavily on Jiang Tao's heart.

Jiang Tao was the eldest young master of the Jiang Family. On the surface, he was the noble crown prince who wielded both power and influence. However, every step of his life was decided by his family since he was born. He didn't have any freedom, and he couldn't break free. He could only walk like a walking corpse on the prescribed line. Moreover, he couldn't make any mistakes. Otherwise, he would be severely punished.

When he was young, he wanted a dog as a pet. However, his grandfather refused him. He thought having pets was a waste of time. Jiang Tao's time should be spent elsewhere. Jiang Tao was dispirited. He only wanted a dog as company. After all, no one in the family really cared about him. However, he was taught to submit to his grandfather's will, so there was nothing he could do about it.

One day, on his way back from school, he encountered a stray dog. He secretly took it home and kept it. He was discovered two days later. When Jiang Tao was caught, he was very angry and asked his grandfather, "Why can other people have dogs, but I can't?"

At that time, his grandfather didn't say anything to him. He just glanced at him with his sharp eyes and said indifferently, "You want to have a dog, right? I'll let you keep this one!"

To his surprise, his grandfather really let him keep that dog.

He was extremely happy. He fed it, bathed it daily, and even slept with it at night. In the entire Jiang Family, the dog was his best friend. Those were the happiest days of his childhood.

However, one day, his dog disappeared.

"Young master, the old master invites you over!" The Jiang family's servant came over and said.

"Where is grandpa?" Little Jiang Tao was impatient. His dog was gone, and he needed to find it.

The servant said, "The old master invites you to the courtyard."

“Courtyard!” Little Jiang Tao’s little brows furrowed. “Okay!”

When Little Jiang Tao walked to the middle of the courtyard, he saw a piece of dog skin hanging on a tree.

He could tell at a glance that it was his dog.

Because his dog’s fur was completely black, there was a strand of white fur on its head.

He was very surprised and could not believe it as he shouted, “Little Black!”

“Tao ‘Er, you’re back!” Grandfather Jiang sat at the stone table in the courtyard and sipped his tea as he said calmly, “It’s good that you’re back. The dog meat is almost ready. You should eat some to nourish your body!”

When he heard his grandfather’s voice, Little Jiang Tao instinctively felt fear. Then, he smelled the fragrance of meat in the air. He turned and noticed an iron stove at the corner of the courtyard. There was firewood placed under it, and there was a pot on top of it. The head chef of the family was stirring the pot with a spatula.

He then noticed the chopping board placed beside the chef. The chopping board that had not been washed was blood red.

He immediately understood what was going on.

He ran to the chef and pushed him away. Then he saw the dog meat in the pot. Little Black’s head was looking at him.

He turned his head and shouted angrily at the chef, “You killed my dog, didn’t you? Why did you kill my dog? Why did you kill my friend? You murderers, how can you be so cruel? Little Black...”

The young Jiang Tao was heartbroken because of Little Black’s sudden death. He did not know who to blame, so he could only blame the chef.

At this moment, Grandfather Jiang spoke again, “Xiao Ma, is the dog meat ready?”

“Sir, it’s ready!” Xiao Ma replied.

“Then get a bowl for the young master to Eat!” Grandfather Jiang immediately ordered. His attitude was very firm.

When Xiao Ma heard this, his scalp immediately tightened. He glanced at the young master, who was crying so hard. His heart weakened. However, he couldn’t resist Master Jiang’s order. Otherwise, he would be in big trouble.

He secretly sighed and turned around to get a bowl of dog meat. However, he made sure only to fill it with broth and small pieces of meat.

Grandfather Jiang raised his eyelids and shouted sternly, “Fill the meat to the brim.”

Xiao Ma had no choice. Then, he handed it to Jiang Tao and said, “Young master, here!”

When Jiang Tao heard that his grandfather wanted him to eat dog meat, he was dumbstruck.

He could not believe his ears. His grandfather wanted him to eat his friend's meat. Little Black was his friend. How could he eat him?

The bowl of dog meat appeared before him.

He staggered two steps and subconsciously pushed the bowl away. The bowl fell and shattered. The dog meat was scattered all over the ground.

When Xiao Ma saw the broken bowl, he secretly heaved a sigh of relief. 'At least, the young master won't be forced to eat the dog meat anymore.'

However...

"Get him another bowl!" Grandfather Jiang ordered again, "Make sure he has to finish one bowl of dog meat!"

Xiao Ma could not resist the order and could only fill another bowl of dog meat.

Jiang Tao cried loudly, "I won't eat it. I won't eat it. Little Black is my friend. I won't eat it."

Grandfather Jiang stood up. His shrewd and sharp eyes stared at Jiang Tao as he said very sternly, "Jiang Tao, I'm telling you, you will eat it no matter what! This is the consequence of your disobedience! Remember this lesson. If you don't follow my orders, while I can't punish you, I will destroy everything that you love, be it human or dog!

"Guards, make sure the young master finishes the bowl of dog meat. If he refuses, force it down his throat!"

Then, he left ruthlessly, ignoring his crying eldest grandson.

Whenever Jiang Tao thought of that, his heart would still bleed. He thought the pain had lessened through time, but he was wrong.

Back then, he just wanted a pet dog, but his grandfather skinned his dog, boiled its meat, and forced him to eat it. It was a lesson forever imprinted in his mind.

His grandfather promised to destroy everything he liked if he refused to follow family orders. Jiang Tao was in deep pain. He asked Gong Tianhao. "Tianhao, what do you think I should do? I really like Xiao Lingyu. But, I also know that my grandfather definitely doesn't like Xiao Lingyu."

It was because Xiao Lingyu was a peasant girl. She would not bring any benefits to the Jiang Family. Instead, she would drag down the Jiang family and make the Jiang family a laughing stock in the capital. His grandfather would not allow that to happen. Jiang Tao felt like he had returned to that day in the courtyard. He was afraid and lost.

Gong Tianhao frowned. He did not comfort Jiang Tao and said, "Tao Zi, I can't interfere in the matters of the Jiang Family! But if you involve Xiao Lingyu in the internal affairs of the Jiang family, I will definitely interfere!"

Jiang Tao looked at Gong Tianhao suspiciously and asked sharply, "Why?" He knew that Gong Tianhao never liked to meddle in other people's business. So this was a very unusual exception. This was very

much unlike Gong Tianhao. Therefore, Jiang Tao suspected that Gong Tianhao had also fallen in love with Xiao Lingyu.

Then, Jiang Tao asked, "Tianhao, tell me the truth. Have you also fallen in love with Xiao Lingyu?" Then, Jiang Tao laughed to himself. "Xiao Lingyu is indeed very different. She is beautiful and self-reliant, exuding a unique charm. It is very comfortable being with her. It is precisely because of this comfort that I am deeply fascinated and fall in love with her."

Gong Tianhao furrowed his brows and said, "I am not interested in her. Plus, she's your love interest. I won't fight with you." However, when he said this, he felt a little uncomfortable.

Jiang Tao immediately heaved a sigh of relief. Then, he asked curiously, "But why did you say that you would interfere?"

Gong Tianhao said plainly, "Because of my grandfather and her family!"

"My grandfather likes to eat Auntie Chen's cooking. Two days ago, when Doctor Huang came back from Taoyuan Village, he told me that my grandfather's body was getting healthier. His face was glowing red, and he was more energetic than in the capital.

"If he continued in this state, my grandfather would have no problem living for a hundred years. This was all thanks to the care of Xiao Lingyu's family.

"Secondly, Xiao Lingyu's family is very harmonious, friendly, warm, and happy. We've always admired such a family. So, I want to protect that family from being destroyed!"

Gong Tianhao was telling the truth.

When Jiang Tao heard this, he immediately fell silent.

He lowered his head and clenched his fists as if he was deep in thought. After a moment, he said, "Tianhao, I will definitely not let the Jiang family touch her, and I will also not let the Jiang family destroy that family."

Even though he only interacted with the Xiao Family for a short period of time, like what Gong Tianhao said, he knew her family was very different from theirs. There was no scheming or fighting for power. It was a very warm and happy small family.

Gong Tianhao nodded slightly, "Tao Zi, you have to remember what you said today. If I find out that the Jiang family is trying to get their hands on Xiao Lingyu, I will definitely interfere! As for you, you need to look after yourself first!"

Jiang Tao nodded. "But Tianhao, can you promise me something?"

"What is it?" Gong Tianhao asked with slight doubt.

"If one day, I really can't protect Xiao Lingyu anymore, can you protect her and take care of her for me? Can you do that?" Jiang Tao asked very seriously.

Gong Tian's brows knitted tightly. Seeing Jiang Tao's serious expression, he nodded and said, "Okay!"

Chapter 204: Xiao Xinxin

Xiao Lingyu thought that after the university entrance examination was over, there would be fewer people coming to the store to buy vegetables. However, she was wrong. The number of customers only increased.

Her family only had a few Mu of land. After the many harvests, the production had dropped a lot. Even if they sold in limited quantities, they couldn't satisfy the customer's needs anymore.

She had more vegetables in her farming space, but she couldn't withdraw all of them without drawing attention to herself.

There was still a large piece of uncultivated land in the farming space. She had to find a way to bring the vegetables out. She didn't have the opportunity, so she had to seek other solutions.

It was time to talk about contracting a mountain.

Over the period of time, Xiao Lingyu had earned around 300,000 RMB after taking out the salaries for her fourth aunt and uncle, the shop utilities, and rent. She would go back to ask the village chief how she would go about renting a mountain.

After the university entrance exam, Xiao Lingyu stayed in the county to take the driver's license exam.

Ever since Xiao Lingyu introduced the Taoyuan Village brand, her life had been very busy. From time to time, the villagers would come to her to sign the contract. This meant that she had to go back and forth. Her stomach was getting too big for her to keep on doing this.

Her fourth aunt and uncle were familiar with working at the shop. But she needed to hire another person to take her place at the cashier. Xiao Lingyu immediately thought of someone. She was just 20 and found a job in the county town, but she was not satisfied with it.

"Lingyu, you want my Xinxin to help you look after the shop, and you'll pay her 1200 RMB per month?" Xiao Chengbang and Zhou Yan were shocked when they heard Xiao Lingyu. 1200 RMB a month? That was an astronomical number for them.

Xiao Lingyu said, "1,200 is just the salary for the probation period. If Xinxin does well, I'll raise it to 1,500 RMB."

"But, Lingyu, my Xinxin is only a junior high school graduate. Can she really help?" Zhou Yan was still worried.

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "Aunt Zhou, I know Xinxin is a capable person. She will definitely do well!"

"Alright, Xinxin will work for you!" Xiao Chengbang decided. Xiao Lingyu gave Xinxin such a good offer. Moreover, Xiao Chengbang also wanted his daughter to follow Xiao Lingyu and learn some things. Xiao Lingyu was very capable. If she had 30 percent of Xiao Lingyu's talent, she could look after herself already.

"Uncle Chengbang, don't you want to discuss this with Xinxin first?" Xiao Lingyu still felt that they should respect Xiao Xinxin's opinion.

Xiao Chengbang said, "There's no need to discuss. She will definitely agree. She has idolized you since she was young. She won't miss this opportunity to work with you!"

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, "If that's the case, tell Xinxin to look for me when she comes back."

"Okay!"

After Xiao Lingyu left, Zhou Yan turned around and went back into the house.

"Where are you going?" Xiao Chengbang immediately asked.

"To call Xinxin!" Zhou Yan replied loudly.

"Oh, yes. Of course!" Xiao Chengbang reacted and walked back into the house with large strides.

Xiao Chengbang's house had a landline.

"Xinxin, are you busy? Have you had dinner yet?" Zhou Yan said, "You're still cleaning the shop even though it's already so late? You need to rest well. Your father and I are fine. Your brother? He's not back yet. He's probably playing with Little Loach..."

Xiao Chengbang became anxious, "Get to the point. Our daughter is still at work. If you keep nagging, you'll cause her to be scolded by the boss. No, give me the phone. I'll talk to my daughter."

Zhou Yan gave the phone to Xiao Chengbang.

Xiao Chengbang picked up the phone and said, "Xinxin, Sister Lingyu came over and said she wants you to work for her and look after her shop. She'll pay you 1000 RMB a month during the probation period and then 1500 RMB a month. Your dad has already agreed on your behalf. You should quit your current job as soon as possible. Oh? You're coming back tomorrow? That's good. What about your job? You have already told the boss you would quit last month? Good, we'll see you tomorrow then."

After Xiao Chengbang hung up the phone, Zhou Yan immediately asked, "How was it? Did Xinxin agree?"

Xiao Chengbang said proudly, "No one knows my daughter better than me. She agreed. She would come back home tomorrow."

"That's good!" Zhou Yan suddenly thought of something and asked with puzzlement, "Just now, you said that Xinxin told the boss she would quit last month. What was that about?"

Xiao Chengbang frowned and said, "She's at the shop, so she can't talk. We'll ask her tomorrow. Tonight is her last day of work, and she's teaching her replacement."

"Okay." Zhou Yan nodded.

...

Xiao Xinxin was excited after she hung up. She didn't expect her Sister Lingyu would offer her a job. She knew Xiao Lingyu had opened a vegetable shop, but she had never been. She heard the business was very good.

“Xiao Xinxin, what are you doing?” At this moment, a lion’s roar came. “Do you think you can slack off on the last day? Let me tell you, if I catch you slacking off again, you won’t be able to get your salary for this month!”

Xiao Xinxin’s heart suddenly surged with anger, but she endured it.

She gritted her teeth and said, “I know, Madam Boss.”

“Good!” The lady snorted.

After the woman left, Xiao Xinxin immediately made a face. “What a stingy person!” Xiao Xinxin currently worked at a privately owned supermarket in the county town.

She had thought of leaving the county, but she didn’t want to be so far away from her parents. She had worked here for half a year already. At first, the boss deducted her salary, and now, they deducted and deferred her salary.

At first, the agreed-upon salary was 1000 RMB per month plus food and accommodation, but when she got her first salary, it was less than 500 RMB. Apparently, it was to deduct the cost of utilities, water, and electricity. Her boss and his wife would also find fault with her work just to deduct her salary. Once, because a customer kicked over the trash can, she was deducted 10 RMB. How was that her fault? She still had no idea. After that, Xiao Xinxin learned to avoid mistakes, and she would get around 600 to 700 RMB monthly.

Xiao Xinxin took all these in strides. Plus, her boss promised that as she learned to be better at the job, she would have a salary raise. Xiao Xinxin endured until she couldn’t do it anymore. In a fit of anger, she resigned.

The Madam Boss seemed to expect her resignation. She told Xiao Xinxin that she had to work for another full month before she could leave or else she wouldn’t get her salary. Also, the boss had to recruit new people, and Xiao Xinxin had to train them.

In this last month, Xiao Xinxin had to do extra work, and the boss and his wife also worked extra hard to find fault with her. Thankfully, after working here for so long, Xiao Xinxin did learn how to stay out of trouble.

After her job was done, the Madam Boss called Xiao Xinxin over.

“This is your salary for a month!” The Madam Boss took out 550 RMB and placed it on the table. “After tonight, you’re not my employee anymore, so you can’t stay in my dorm. I’ve asked someone to pack your things. They’re now in front of the supermarket.” The woman said these words with a contemptuous expression. She looked at Xiao Xinxin as if she was giving her alms.

Xiao Xinxin was shocked when she heard the rest of the words. She blurted out, “You won’t let me stay at the dorm for one last night? Where am I going to stay then?”

The woman couldn’t care less. She said impatiently, “You can stay wherever you want. In short, you’re no longer an employee of my supermarket. You don’t have the right to stay in my dorm!”

At this point, she caught a glimpse of the 550 in Xiao Xinxin's hand from the corner of her eye and reminded her kindly, "You just got your salary, right? There are many hotels nearby. That money is enough for you to stay for two nights."

Speaking of money, Xiao Xinxin immediately reacted, "Wait a minute. Normally, I can still get 700 after all the deductions, so why is it only 550? Plus, this is just one month's salary. You should pay me for two months, last month and this month!"

The woman sneered and said mockingly, "Who told you it was two months' salary?"

"But you have me worked for two months!" Xiao Xinxin argued, "When I told you I wanted to quit last month, you told me I have to work one more full month because you need me to train the new worker, so you need to pay me two months' salary! Also, you've deducted my salary for no reason!"

The lady snorted with contempt, "Hmph, I said you'd get your salary after working for another month, but it was only for one month. You were already not my employee since the day you resigned last month. You should be thankful that I let you stay in my dorm for one extra month without charging you.. You didn't clarify things with me, so how is that my fault? Xiao Xinxin, this 550 RMB is all you'll get. Take it or leave it!"

Chapter 205: Xiao Xinxin's Accident

"Zhengyang, Qiuying, please help!" Someone kept knocking on Xiao Zhengyang's courtyard door.

Mother Xiao immediately got up and opened the door. When she saw the anxious Xiao Chengbang and his wife, she asked, "Chengbang, Zhou Yan, what's going on?" At that moment, Xiao Zhengyang walked out too. "What's wrong?"

Zhou Yan cried anxiously, "Zhengyang, Qiuying, can you ask Lingyu to send me to the county town?!"

"What happened?" Mother Xiao asked anxiously, "Tell us clearly. If something happens, we will think of a way together." Then, she ordered Xiao Zhengyang, "Dear, go and wake Yu 'Er up."

Xiao Zhengyang returned to the house to get Xiao Lingyu. Xiao Lingyu was still very sleep-hungry. Even if there was a storm at night, she would rarely wake up. Mother Xiao didn't want to wake Xiao Lingyu so late at night, but this appeared to be a serious case.

Zhou Yan cried, "Qiuying, my Xinxin was chased out by her evil boss. She was stranded outside in the middle of the night. She had just called us, and she kept crying. Her father and I are so nervous, so we need Lingyu to send us to the county town."

"What?" Mother Xiao was very surprised. She immediately asked, "It's so dangerous for Xinxin, a girl, to be left alone outside. How can her boss be so ruthless?"

"Uncle Chengbang, Auntie Zhou, what's wrong?" Xiao Lingyu rubbed her sleepy eyes as she walked out.

Mother Xiao said anxiously, "Yu 'Er, Xinxin was chased out by her black-hearted boss. She is now alone. It's very dangerous for a lady to be alone at a time like this. We need to get to the county town to help her."

Xiao Lingyu was shocked, and her drowsiness disappeared. She comforted them, "Uncle Chengbang, Auntie Zhou, don't worry. I'll give my brother a call right now and ask him to find Xinxin immediately. Then we'll go to the county town!"

There was a certain distance between Taoyuan Village and the county town. Who knew what would happen before they arrived.

Xiao Lingye was in the county town, and he had a tricycle at home. He would find Xinxin before they did.

"Yes. Call Ye 'Er now." Mother Xiao said as she went to search for her old cell phone.

"Auntie Zhou, I need you to call Xinxin and get her to tell you her exact location." Xiao Lingyu said decisively. "That way, my brother can get to her as soon as possible!"

"Okay. I'll go call her now." They only had a landline and no cell phone. Xiao Lingyu asked her father to grab her cell phone from her room.

Xiao Chengbang and his wife remembered their daughter's number. They recited the number as Xiao Lingyu keyed it in.

On the other side, Mother Xiao had just reached Xiao Lingye. She instructed, "Ye 'Er, your Sister Xinxin in the county town has just been chased out by her horrible boss. I need you to go find her. It's too dangerous for her to be out there on her own. Okay. Wait a minute." She turned to Xiao Lingyu, "Where's Xinxin now?"

Xiao Lingyu had just reached Xiao Xinxin. "Xinxin, this is Xiao Lingyu. Where are you now? I'll have my brother go find you. Okay. You're at the entrance of Xin Hua Bookstore on Xin Hua Street. Alright, just stand there and don't move. Don't go anywhere. My brother will be there soon. Don't be afraid!"

"She's at Xin Hua Bookstore on Xin Hua Street. Yes, go there now. After you find her, bring her to your sister's rental. Uncle Chengbang and Auntie Zhou Yan will be there soon. Okay." After saying that, Mother Xiao hung up the phone.

Xiao Chengbang and Auntie Zhou were very nervous. They stared at Xiao Lingyu's phone anxiously.

Xiao Lingyu looked at Auntie Zhou and said, "Xinxin, I'll let your mother talk to you."

Then, she handed the cell phone to Auntie Zhou.

Auntie Zhou held the cell phone tightly. She was worried and anxious, "Xinxin, it's Mommy. Don't be afraid. Mommy will be there soon. Stay where you are, and don't wander around. Lingye will be there soon. Don't be afraid, okay?" As she spoke, Aunt Zhou cried again.

Parents would never stop worrying about their children.

Mother Xiao said, "Yu 'Er, you should stay at home. I'll get your fourth uncle to drive them to the county town."

Xiao Chengbang nodded. "Yes, Lingyu, it's not that convenient for you. Plus, it's too dangerous to drive at night. We'll get Mingyang to drive us."

The weather was hot, and Xiao Lingyu's stomach couldn't be covered anymore. Xiao Lingyu's family directly admitted that she was pregnant, and they planned to keep the child.

Xiao Zhengyang and his wife's decision made the people in the village exclaim endlessly. They were harming Xiao Lingyu's future. Xiao Lingyu was pregnant with a bastard child. If she gave birth to this child, how would she be able to get married in the future? No one knew what they were thinking.

Of course, some villagers kindly advised Xiao Zhengyang and his wife to let Xiao Lingyu abort the child. However, the couple only said that it was fate for the child to come. It would be a sin to abort the child.

In the future, if a man truly loved Yu 'Er, they would accept her and her child. Those who couldn't did not love her anyway.

Seeing how stubborn Xiao Zhengyang and his wife were, everyone stopped trying to persuade them.

While some villagers felt sorry for Xiao Lingyu, there were others who looked down on her. She carried a bastard child, and that was embarrassing. However, none of them dared to say that in broad daylight.

Other than the few families in the village who did not get along with Xiao Zhengyang's family, not many could afford to offend Xiao Zhengyang's family.

Moreover, Xiao Lingyu was a capable person. She was helping everyone make money.

After the villagers knew Xiao Lingyu wanted to keep the child, they started to help her. For example, wherever Xiao Lingyu went, someone would bring a stool over and sit her down.

In short, while there was some gossip around the village, most of the villagers felt sorry for Xiao Lingyu. After all, she might not be able to get married because of this child.

This was a completely different situation from her previous life.

Xiao Lingyu couldn't help but exclaim, "When you're weak, everyone wants to step on you. When you're strong, who dares to say anything? This is the difference between weak and strong."

Therefore, for the sake of Xiao Tong, she had to become stronger and stronger.

...

Anyway, Xiao Zhengyang didn't agree for Xiao Lingyu to drive at night either. He said, "Yu 'Er, listen to your mother. You should stay at home. Your fourth uncle and I will go."

Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment and said, "How about this? I won't drive. Fourth Uncle can drive, but I want to come along. I want to know how Xinxin was chased out by her boss. I want to seek justice for her."

"Okay then." Xiao Zhengyang did not object. After all, they had a place to stay in the county town.

After Xiao Zhengyang woke Xiao Mingyang up, Xiao Lingyu and Xiao Chengbang went over together. Xiao Lingyu's father stayed at home.

After Xiao Lingye received a call from his mother, he immediately jumped up from the bed. He quickly put on his clothes, picked up his cell phone and keys, locked the door, and rode his tricycle to look for Xiao Xinxin. He knew this was not a matter that could be delayed.

A girl was stranded outside in the middle of the night. Who knew what could have happened to her.

Xiao Lingye called Xiao Xinxin and said, "Sister Xinxin, are you still at the entrance of Xin Hua Bookstore? Okay, I'll be right there soon. Don't be afraid."

Xiao Lingye hung up the phone, stepped on the gas, and drove towards Xin Hua Road. It was late at night, and there was not a single person on the road.

Xiao Xinxin put down the cell phone in her hand. Other than the dim yellow lights on the roadside, the entire street was quiet. The empty night made her extremely afraid. She leaned against the wall and crossed her arms. She sat in the corner of the bookstore with her head tucked into her arms. She was afraid and uneasy.

Occasionally, whooshing sounds came from the street nearby. It reminded her of the biker gangs she saw on television.

For rural people, biker gangs were bad people. She was afraid that she would be discovered by these bad guys, so she hid in a corner.

She was unlucky because after a few motorcycles sped past, they suddenly turned back.

"I thought I was seeing things. It turns out there really is a woman hiding in this corner."

A man took off his helmet. He was around twenty-six. His short crew-cut hair was dyed yellow.

Xiao Xinxin, who was hiding in a corner, saw four or five men approaching her. She immediately asked in fear and horror, "What are you doing? Don't come any closer!"

"Oh, she is quite a beauty!" After they saw Xiao Xinxin clearly, one of them whistled. He teased Xiao Xinxin with a smile, "Pretty lady, why are you here alone in the middle of the night?" Then, he glanced at the luggage beside Xiao Xinxin and said, "Oh, did you run away from home? Come with us then, pretty lady. Big brother will take care of you."

"What... what do you want?" Xiao Xinxin shrank and asked in fear.

"Nothing much. I just want you to be my woman. Don't worry, I won't let you suffer," said the yellow hair.

"I... I don't want!" Xiao Xinxin refused.

"Why do you refuse us so soon?" said Huang Guanghui. "Come with Big Brothers. You won't be disappointed."

Then, he went to pull Xiao Xinxin.

Xiao Xinxin shouted in horror, "No! Help!" She staggered and tripped.

Those people ignored Xiao Xinxin. Instead, they had a sick pleasure from this.

“Haha...”

“That’s enough. You’re going to scare her. Lady, don’t worry. We’re not bad people.” The man with the yellow hair, Zeng Yaozu, moved to offer Xiao Xinxin his hand.

“No!” Xiao Xinxin slapped the man’s hand away in horror and shouted, “Help, Help!”

“...” Zeng Yaozu. He was really doing this out of kindness.

Just as he was about to explain, a loud roar was heard. “What are you doing?”

Xiao Lingye saw the few figures from afar. He sped up and rode over.

Xiao Xinxin heard the familiar voice and suddenly rushed out of the corner. She ran to Xiao Lingye’s side and shouted as she ran, “Xiao Lingye, save me!”

Zeng Yaozu frowned when he heard the name Xiao Lingye. He felt that the name sounded very familiar.

Then, he remembered where he had heard this name before.

It was from his sister.

His sister said that Xiao Lingye was a famous person in their school. He was good at his studies, was handsome, had a good temper, and was very gentle to everyone.

“Sister Xinxin, don’t be afraid!” Xiao Lingye shielded Xiao Xinxin behind him. When he saw the five young men in front of him, he asked loudly, “Who are you? I’m telling you, I’ve called the police. The police will be here soon!”

Zeng Yaozu narrowed his eyes and asked sharply, “Are you Xiao Lingye, the top student from No. 1 High School?”

The other four were speechless. ‘What is going on? Yaozu knew this boy?’

Xiao Lingye, ‘...’ Why does he know me? It doesn’t matter. I am not afraid of them.

He answered loudly, “Yes, that’s me. I’m Xiao Lingye. Come at me. What kind of man are you that you’d bully a girl?”

Zeng Yaozu, “...”

He felt so wronged.. He just wanted to be nice.

Chapter 206: Black-hearted Boss

Zeng Yaozu touched his forehead and tried to explain, “Xiao Lingye, listen to me!”

“What else is there to say?” Xiao Lingye said angrily, “A group of men bullying a girl, aren’t you ashamed?”

Zeng Yaozu and the others, “...”

They saw a girl hiding in the middle of the night. It was very dangerous, so they planned to take her to a safe place. Granted, they didn't approach this the right way. They flirted with the girl, which scared her so much that she screamed.

Was that their fault? Well, a little bit.

Zeng Yaozu sighed and explained, "Calm down, brother. You don't even know who I am. Ahem... you misunderstood. I... I Am..."

Xiao Lingye looked at the man and became even angrier, "I don't care who you are. You're bullying a girl in the middle of the night, and I've seen it with my own eyes."

Zeng Yaozu, "..."

'Didn't little sister say Xiao Lingye has a good temper and treats everyone well? So who is this man roaring at them?'

Zeng Yaozu's brothers said, "Boss, since the girl's family is here, let's go. We did things wrongly, so it's understandable for him to misunderstand us."

Zeng Yazu nodded. "Okay." Before he left, he told Xiao Lingye, "My little sister is Zeng Hongmei. I'm your friend's big brother!"

Xiao Lingye, "..."

'Zeng Hongmei's brother is so rebellious? He is part of a biker gang!'

After Zeng Yaozu and the others left, Xiao Lingye pulled Xiao Xinxin out from behind him and said, "Sister Xinxin, don't be afraid. They have already left!"

Xiao Xinxin threw herself into Xiao Lingye's arms and immediately broke down in tears. She cried as she said, "I was so scared earlier!" This night was the darkest for her. First, she worked in the supermarket until 11 or 12 o'clock. The madam boss instantly kicked her out after deducting her salary. She tried to argue with the boss, but it was pointless. The madam boss had more people. She was pushed out of the store, and the door slammed in her face. She was left outside alone. She banged on the door, and no one answered.

It was midnight, and all the stores were closed. There was not a single person on the street. She carried her luggage and tried to find a store with lights on, but she could not find it.

She put her luggage down at Xin Hua Bookstore. She was really afraid, so she called home.

Xiao Lingye patted her shoulder and said, "It's alright. They've all left. Come, let's hurry up and leave this place."

One biker gang had left, but who could tell if there'd be another. It was better for them to leave first.

Xiao Xinxin was really frightened. She cried. "Lingye, you have no idea. Those people said they wanted me to be their woman, and they said they'd never disappoint me. They tried to grab me. I was so scared. If you didn't come, I didn't know what would have happened. There were so many of them. I couldn't escape."

Xiao Lingye was filled with anger again. "Did those people really say that?"

'Damn it, Zeng Hongmei's brother is really a scumbag. To think he'd call himself a good person. A good person wouldn't have said and done the things he did!'

Xiao Lingye comforted Xiao Xinxin, "Sister Xinxin, everything is fine now. Didn't those people say that they were just joking with you?"

But secretly, he thought, 'When I see Zeng Hongmei next, I need to tell her about his brother! Zeng Hongwei is a righteous person. She'll punish her brother!'

"The yellow hair is my classmate's older brother. Now that we know his identity, we can take revenge on him in the future!"

Xiao Xinxin immediately stopped crying. She frowned and said, "Lingye, forget it. Those people are from the county town. Their families might be powerful. It's better for us not to provoke them!" They were from the countryside, how could they win against the rich?

Xiao Lingye helped Xiao Xinxin move her luggage onto the tricycle. She and Xiao Lingye sat at the front.

Soon, Xiao Lingye brought Xiao Xinxin to the rental. When they went through the winding alleys, Xiao Xinxin's heart shivered. She asked, "Lingye, why is your rental so remote?"

Xiao Lingye said, "Although it's a little remote here, it's very quiet. The environment here is very suitable for my sister, so she rented the house here."

When they arrived, and Xiao Xinxin saw the large courtyard and a two-story-high house, she asked curiously, "Did your sister rent the whole house?"

"Yes!"

"This place is so big! How much is the rent?"

"I heard from my sister that it's 300 RMB per month. The landlady is really nice to my sister."

"It's that cheap?!" Xiao Xinxin was clearly a little surprised. She had been in the county town for some time already, so she knew the rental prices. Even though the place was remote, the environment was good. The courtyard and the house were huge, so the rent had to be high. Normally, it would be at least 600 RMB.

Renting it for 300 here was really worth it.

Xiao Lingye helped Xiao Xinxin move her luggage to the living room. Then, he poured Xiao Xinxin a glass of water. She drank the water to calm down.

Xiao Lingye asked, "Sister Xinxin, are you hungry? Can I make you a bowl of noodles?"

Xiao Xinxin shook her head and said, "I'm not hungry!"

"Then, are you tired? Why don't you go to my sister's room to rest for a while?" Xiao Lingye asked again.

Xiao Xinxin shook her head and said, "There's no need. I can't sleep now!"

Xiao Lingye comforted her, "It's alright. Your Dad and mom will be here soon."

Just as he said that, the phone in his pocket rang.

"Mom, yes. Sister Xinxin is with me. Yes, tell Auntie Zhou that Xinxin is fine. Sure!" Xiao Lingye handed the phone to Xiao Xinxin and said, "Sister Xinxin, it's Auntie Zhou!"

Xiao Xinxin took the phone, and Aunt Zhou's worried voice immediately came out of the phone, "Xinxin, are you okay?"

Now that she was safe with good company, Xiao Xinxin stopped crying. She said, "Mom, I'm fine now. I'm with Brother Lingye."

Then, the mother and daughter spoke some more and hung up the phone.

Then, Xiao Lingye sat down and asked in puzzlement, "Sister Xinxin, what happened? Why did your boss suddenly kick you out of the dormitory in the middle of the night? Don't they know how dangerous it is?"

Xiao Xinxin was furious when she was asked about this. She asked, "Do you know De Wang Supermarket?"

"De Wang?" Xiao Lingye nodded. "It's the one on Sunshine Road, right?"

"That's the one!" Xiao Xinxin nodded and said, "I worked there. It's a huge supermarket, but the boss and his wife are so stingy that they only hire two employees. We're ordered around like slaves. Obviously, we can't possibly do everything, and when mistakes happen, they'll deduct our wages!"

"What? How can they be so horrible?" Xiao Lingye echoed.

"That's not all!" Xiao Xinxin huffed, "When we first started to work, they told us our monthly wages were 1000 RMB. However, we'd only receive 600 to 700 RMB every time."

"Why?" Xiao Lingye was confused. That was almost half of what was promised.

Xiao Xinxin gritted her teeth and said, "The boss told us 1000 RMB was supposed to include food and accommodation. However, when it's time for salary payment, he'd deduct the other expenses like accommodation, utilities, and other expenses. They will always have a way to deduct our pay!"

"Then, you should quit!" Xiao Lingye blurted out, "What's the point of working for such a strict and stingy boss? You work so hard, and there's not even that much money."

Xiao Xinxin nodded. "After the first month, I already wanted to quit, but the Madam Boss told me that as long as I continued to work hard, I would get my money back through an increase in wages."

"And you believed her?" Xiao Lingye asked in surprise, "Obviously, she was lying!"

Xiao Xinxin was ashamed. She bit her lower lip and continued, "But I did believe her. Brother Lingye, aren't I stupid? I even worked there for half a year."

Xiao Lingye didn't know how to comfort her. He just said, "Sister Xinxin, you were too young and trusted people too easily." Then, he changed the subject, "What happened tonight?"

Xiao Xinxin said, "After working in that supermarket for half a year, I really couldn't stand it anymore. They treated us like slaves, so I resigned in a fit of anger.

"The Madam Boss took it in stride. But she told me I had to work another full month before she could give me my salary.

"I thought she meant two months of salary. I didn't even think I'd get back the salary that was deducted in the past.

"So today was my last day of work. She had me work until 11.30 pm. She only gave me my salary when the shop was about to close. But she only gave me 550 RMB and told me that was all my salary!"

"Wait, didn't you work for two months? How can it be 550 RMB?" Xiao Lingye was confused.

"That's right! I was really mad, so I argued with her. She insisted that was all she owed me. I could take the money or leave it with her.

"Then, she had people toss my luggage outside. She said, since I am no longer her employee, I have no right to stay in her dorm anymore."

"This is too much!" Xiao Lingye's heart was also filled with anger. He said, "Sister Xinxin, I'll go and seek justice for you tomorrow! Black-hearted people like that should be punished!"

Xiao Xinxin shook her head and said, "It's useless. When I started working, we didn't sign any contracts. Moreover, Madam Boss has connections in both the Labor Bureau and Commerce Bureau. She welcomed me to sue her, but..."

Xiao Xinxin bit her lips again. "If I failed to bring her to court, she would make sure I won't be able to find another job in the county town. She said she had connections in the underworld too. If I make a big deal out of this, I'd be punished!"

"What?" Xiao Lingye found it unbelievable. He said, "Do they still have the law in their eyes?" Xiao Lingye was at an age where he was rebellious, impulsive, and chivalrous.

Xiao Lingye said, "Sister Xinxin, we will go to her place tomorrow. I can't believe they'd so openly bullying their employees!"

"But..." Xiao Xinxin's eyes were still filled with fear, "But they have strong backers, like people from the Commerce Bureau and Labor Bureau. What if they take revenge on us? Sister Lingyu has a shop here. We shouldn't drag her down with us."

"Don't worry. They don't have the ability to take revenge on my sister," Xiao Lingyu said confidently. Even though he had no idea what kind of backing the black-hearted boss had, her sister also had some backing.

Xiao Xinxin felt relieved after confiding in someone. However, she was worried when Xiao Lingye said they'd go and reason with her former boss.

At that moment, they heard the sound of the iron gate opening. Their hearts jumped. They shared a look, and Xiao Lingye said, "Sister Xinxin, don't worry. It should be my mom and Auntie Zhou."

Just as he said that, there was the sound of hurried footsteps running in.

Auntie Zhou rushed in front, followed by Xiao Chengbang, Mother Xiao, Xiao Lingyu, and fourth uncle Xiao.

“Xinxin, my daughter, are you alright?” As soon as Auntie Zhou entered, she hugged her daughter and looked at her, her eyes filled with worry. When she saw that her daughter was unharmed, she immediately heaved a sigh of relief and said loudly, “Do you know how worried I am? It’s the middle of the night. If anything were to happen to you, what am I supposed to do?”

Xiao Chengbang looked at his daughter and let out a long sigh of relief. Then, he looked at Xiao Lingye and said gratefully, “Lingye, thank you so much!”

They took one hour to travel from Taoyuan Village to Xing Yin County. Who knew what could have happened in that one hour. Thankfully, Xiao Lingye was staying in the county town. Even though he was young, he was already over eighteen and thus a man. It was safer to know their daughter was with a familiar man.

Xiao Xinxin immediately said, “Dad, Mom, if Brother Lingye didn’t arrive in time, I... I might have really been in trouble.”

“Ah?” Xiao Chengbang and his wife asked anxiously, “Xinxin, what happened?”

Xiao Xinxin said, “After hanging up, I waited for Brother Lingye at the bookstore. However, not long after, a group of bikers came. They discovered me and wanted me to follow them. Fortunately, Brother Lingye arrived in time, and those people left!”

“What? A biker gang?” When Xiao Chengbang and his wife heard this, their hearts skipped a beat. They had not seen the bikers, but they knew them from the television. They had scary tattoos.

“Lingye, thank you so much!” Auntie Zhou was indescribably grateful. “If it weren’t for you, we wouldn’t know what would have happened to Xinxin.”

Xiao Lingye said, “Auntie Zhou, Uncle Chengbang, Sister Xinxin, and I grew up together. Of course, I’d help her. Oh right, you should look after Sister Xinxin. She must be tired already. She only had a glass of water to drink. Why don’t you go make something for her to eat?”

“I’ll go!” Mother Xiao said.

Xiao Lingyu asked, “Xinxin, what’s going on?”

“Sis, Sister Xinxin has told me everything.” Xiao Lingye told her about Xiao Xinxin’s encounter with the black-hearted boss.

After that, he said, “Sis, tomorrow I will go and get justice for Sister Xinxin!”

Chapter 207: Crying and Complaining

After hearing Xiao Lingye’s story, the people present all had angry expressions on their faces.

“Xinxin, tomorrow mom will go to those people and seek justice for you. I refuse to believe the world is so lawless!” Auntie Zhou said angrily.

Her daughter had worked in that supermarket for more than half a year. Xiao Xinxin always sent money home so she thought her daughter was faring well. Auntie Zhou had no idea her daughter was living such a horrible life. And she wasn’t even paid much for it!

“They are too much!” Xiao Chengbang was also unusually angry. “Xinxin, tomorrow your Dad and Mom will go to look for that pair of black-hearted bosses and get back all your money back!”

Xiao Mingyang heard them and said, “Chengbang, you need to calm down. We definitely have to do something about this, but we can’t do this rashly. Otherwise, we will definitely be at a disadvantage.”

Since ancient times, the common people had always been bullied by the rich, the rich colluded with the officials, and the officials protected each other!

Since the Madam Boss said they had connections, even if they went to make a scene, they wouldn’t get anything done. Plus, the Madam Boss knew people in the underworld. It was easy for her to deal with country people like them.

Xiao Lingyu said, “Uncle Chengbang, Auntie Zhou, my fourth uncle is right. We will seek justice, but we can’t do this rashly. We must be reasonable and make sure that we have justice on our side.”

“Lingyu, you’re right. But what should we do?” Xiao Chengbang asked anxiously. Their daughter had been bullied. Other than heartache, they were also furious. They had to avenge their daughter!

However, they were illiterate, and they didn’t know what to do.

Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment and asked, “Xinxin, you didn’t sign a labor contract, but do you have any evidence to prove that you worked in that supermarket? For example, a payslip, work badge, or a colleague’s testimony.”

Xiao Xinxin thought for a moment and shook her head, “No. The Madam Boss would give us cash for our salary. There are no payslip or work badges. As for the colleague, I have a friend still working there, but I’m not sure if she’ll cooperate with us or not.”

After all, most of the people who worked there also came from the countryside. Their family conditions were not good and they were uneducated. It was difficult for them to find jobs in the county. That was why they chose to endure and continue working under the pressure of the supermarket boss and the Lady Boss. Even though their salary was constantly deducted, it was better than working the fields at home.

Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment. Her eyes shone with a fierce light as she said, “The boss and his wife rely on the fact that there’s no labor contract to squeeze and bully their employees. However, this will also be their downfall.”

No one understood Xiao Lingyu.

Xiao Chengbang frowned and asked, “Lingyu, what do you mean by that?”

Xiao Lingye explained, "Uncle Chengbang, these two black-hearted bosses oppress their employees because there is no labor contract. In that case, we'll focus on the lack of a labor contract and attack that point."

Other than Xiao Lingyu, others were still confused.

...

There were quite a number of pedestrians at 6 or 7 am in the morning. It was summer and the weather was hot. Many people took the opportunity to walk around and breathe in the fresh air.

Businesspeople were afraid people would come to create trouble when they just opened.

"Xinxin, is this the place?" Xiao Lingyu and the rest came to the place where she used to work under Xiao Xinxin's lead.

Xiao Xinxin nodded and said, "Yes, De Wang supermarket! The Boss is Lei Zhenhu, and his is Gu Qingjiao! Both of them are horrible!"

Xiao Lingyu nodded. She gave Xiao Lingye the signal. He grabbed a wooden swing and knocked on the door. The door crashed loudly, causing the passersby to stop in their tracks curiously.

Xiao Lingyu gestured to Auntie Zhou.

Auntie Zhou shouted, "Everyone, please help a poor woman!"

Aunt Zhou was a rural woman, and her voice was loud. With her loud voice, the pedestrians around her stopped in their tracks.

"Everyone, the boss of this supermarket is black-hearted and vicious. They do not treat their employees as human beings and instead work them like animals. At first, they promised their employees 1000 RMB a month, but the employees would only get around 600 RMB!"

"What? How can a human be so evil?"

"Actually, I've heard about the legendary stinginess of this supermarket's boss and his wife. The supermarket is so big, but they only hired two people. And they have to work basically all day!"

"They promised 1000 RMB and gave only half? How can they do this? Don't they have a conscience?"

"If they had a conscience, they wouldn't have done that."

Auntie Zhou continued to lament. "My daughter couldn't stand their oppression and resigned. After she resigned last month, the Boss, Gu Qingjiao, told her she had to work for another full month before she could get her salary.

"But do you know how much the boss gave my daughter for two months of work?"

"It can't be 500 RMB, right?" Someone joked.

"Big Sister, you're right!" Auntie Zhou continued, "The black-hearted woman gave my daughter 550 RMB and told her that was her full salary.

“My daughter has worked for two full months, that should be 2000 RMB but she only gave her 550 RMB. What kind of evil person would do such a thing?”

“Plus, that is not counting the salary they have deducted in the past! In the end, they only gave her 550 RMB and chased her out.

“This is my daughter. I raised her well but now look at her. She’s as thin as a bamboo pole. My heart aches. It’s like a knife cutting into my heart.

“This is all my fault. I thought my daughter has found a good job in the county town. Every day, I talk with my daughter on phone. She only gave us the good news so we assumed she was living well. It’s our fault for not coming over to see her.

“My poor daughter...”

“This boss is really evil. This is someone’s daughter too. How can they torture her like that?”

“They are paying people to do work, but how can they treat people like this? They obviously don’t care about their employees’ well-being!”

Xiao Xinxin wanted to cry when she heard this. Her eyes reddened. She silently swallowed the grievance.

Aunt Zhou wiped her tears, “However, what’s even more outrageous is that after the boss paid my daughter, she had her luggage thrown out. She said that she was no longer an employee of the supermarket and had no right to continue living in the dormitory.

“What was a girl supposed to do after being thrown out to the street in the middle of a night? What if something happened to my daughter?”

“What? That is just immoral!” The crowd was incensed.

“She shouldn’t have done that! What if something happened to the girl, could they bear the responsibility?”

“The supermarket is big. I didn’t think the boss would be so evil and vicious. They chase a young girl out in the middle of the night. That is just ridiculous!”

“Do they think we’re still in the slave society? They are treating their employees as their own slaves.”

Auntie Zhou cried until her eyes were red and swollen, “I don’t care if they didn’t pay my daughter well. My daughter didn’t know the law, so she didn’t sign a labor contract with them. We’ll take the loss and move on so that we won’t be fooled again in the future.

“However, I will never forgive the boss for chasing my daughter out in the middle of the night. I know I’m making a scene, but I have to seek justice for my daughter.

“My daughter met a group of bikers last night. They tried to drag her away. My heart bled just thinking about the possible consequences. Thankfully, my friend’s son came in time to save her.

“I’m sure everyone has their own children. Imagine if my daughter is your daughter. What would you do? Can you understand what I’m feeling?”

“If my daughter is treated like this, I’ll burn their shop down!”

“The bosses’ hearts are not only black, but they are also rotten! Don’t they have daughters too? What would they feel if their daughter was treated like this?”

“Sister, stop crying. We’ll support you!”

“Yes, we’re on your side!”

Auntie Zhou’s heart warmed from the words of support.

She said, “Thank you for your support. But you shouldn’t say anything to offend the bosses. I can’t drag you down with me.”

“Why is that?” The people around asked in puzzlement.

Aunt Zhou sighed heavily and said, “The Madam Boss warned my daughter that she had to stomach this loss even if she didn’t want to.

“The Madam Boss has connections with the Labor Bureau and Commerce Bureau. They are not afraid even if we sue them. She even threatened my daughter. She has people in the underworld. She wouldn’t hesitate to get them to harm my daughter!”

“What! What nonsense is this?!”

Chapter 208: Collecting Evidence

“This boss is really too much.”

“Sister, don’t worry. We are not afraid of those people from the underworld. Do they think that a small supermarket boss can really rule over the entire Xingyin County?”

...

Inside De Wang Supermarket, Gu Qingjiao was bossing people around when she heard a series of knocking on the door.

Gu Qingjiao frowned and was very puzzled. ‘What is going on outside?’

She thought for a moment and then got an employee to open the door.

The employee put down the work and obliged.

The supermarket’s main door was the roll-up kind. After pressing a button, the door would roll up. The employee saw a young man holding a wooden stick out the door.

She was so scared that her face turned white. She screamed, “Who are you? What do you want?”

Xiao Lingye didn’t trouble the young woman. He spoke to her politely, “We are not here to create problems for you. We are here to look for your boss. Go and get your black-hearted boss and his wife.”

The employee, Zhang Xiaoqing, was nervous. She stuttered, “Why... Why are you looking for the Boss?”

Xiao Xinxin saw Zhang Xiaoqing and came over, "Xiaoqing, it's me, Xiao Xinxin."

"Xinxin!" Zhang Xiaoqing was surprised when she saw Xiao Xinxin. She saw the people behind Xiao Xinxin, and she immediately understood what was happening. Zhang Xiaoqing was only a small employee, and she was not going to cover for the boss.

She said, "Wait a moment. I'll go get the Madam Boss."

Zhang Xiaoqing ran back into the shop. She was a bit flustered. She accidentally touched the shelves, and the things on the shelves were knocked down and scattered everywhere!

The Madam Boss' face darkened immediately. She angrily questioned, "Zhang Xiaoqing, what are you doing? That is on you. You'll be deducted 50 RMB!"

Zhang Xiaoqing's face immediately showed a hint of anger. Then, she said in a very unpleasant tone, "Madam Boss, someone came to cause trouble outside."

In her heart, she scolded. 'Who told you to chase Xinxin out in the middle of the night?! Now, her family comes to seek revenge!'

Zhang Xiaoqing hoped that this matter could be blown up as much as possible!

But in her heart, she was a little worried. She knew that Xiao Xinxin was also from the countryside. Her parents were farmers, and she didn't have any relatives in the county, let alone any backers.

The boss and his wife had connections. They weren't afraid of people coming to cause trouble.

It was best if Xiao Xinxin's family could win, but if they lost, the two narrow-minded bosses would take revenge on them.

When Gu Qingjiao heard that someone was causing trouble outside, her anger immediately rose. She said angrily, "Who is causing trouble? It's still early in the morning!"

It was bad luck to have problems before the shop even opened.

Zhang Xiaoqing said, "It's Xiao Xinxin and her family!"

"That bitch!" The Madam Boss hissed angrily. "She dares to bring her family to create problems for me in the morning? Does she think I am so easily bullied? It looks like I really need to treat her a lesson." She stomped towards the door.

Zhang Xiaoqing thought for a moment and followed behind. She even motioned for the new employee to go with her.

The new employee was a little timid, and she was afraid that the boss would deduct her salary later. She pretended not to see Zhang Xiaoqing and worked obediently.

Zhang Xiaoqing did not think as much as she did. She wanted to watch the show. It would be best if the boss could suffer!

At worst, she would follow Xiao Xinxin's lead and quit!

Gu Qingjiao ran to the door and saw a young man holding a wooden stick standing in the middle of the door.

When Gu Qingjiao met his dark eyes, she was stunned for a moment.

But when she came to her senses, the fury climbed another level.

She looked at Xiao Lingye and sternly asked, "Who are you?"

A cold smile appeared on Xiao Lingye's handsome face as he said, "Who am I? I'm the younger brother of your employee, Xiao Xinxin! She was chased out yesterday night!"

Hearing Xiao Lingye's self-introduction, Gu Qingjiao spat on the ground and said, "And I thought we were in the company of some big shot. So you're that bitch's younger brother. In that case, you have to be a country bumpkin too. What do you think you can do to me?"

"You'll find out soon enough. But now I just want to know. Was Xiao Xinxin your employee? Did you deduct her salary?"

Gu Qingjiao knew Xiao Xinxin's family background, so even if her family came to cause trouble, she wasn't afraid at all.

She said arrogantly without thinking, "Xiao Xinxin used to be my employee. But she was fired yesterday! As for her salary..." Her long and narrow eyebrows revealed a mocking and contemptuous expression as she said disdainfully, "She came late and left early every day, so shouldn't I deduct her salary?"

"Even so, it doesn't warrant deducting almost half of her salary! Plus, I know my Sister Xinxin well. She is a very diligent and hardworking person." Xiao Lingye argued, "She might be occasionally late, but she won't be late every day. Plus, she is a fast learner. There is no way she can make the same mistakes every time. You have to be deducting her salary because you want to!"

Gu Qingjiao said loudly, "Yes, you're right! I am her boss, so I decide how much salary she will get. If you're that capable, go and sue me. She hasn't even signed the labor contract. So let's see how you'd sue me. As long as I insist that she's not my employee, what can you do to me?"

"Wow, how arrogant!"

The crowd around the shop couldn't stand it anymore.

"I've lived here my whole life, but this is the first time I see a boss bullying her employee so openly. She is too arrogant!"

Xiao Lingye turned to the crowd. "Aunties and Uncles, you hear the Madam Boss, right? She has admitted earlier that Sister Xinxin is her employee, right?"

"Don't worry, young man, we all heard it. I will gladly testify for you if they refuse to admit your sister worked here!"

"Right, we'll all testify for you! These people can't be so arrogant and treat their employees like slaves! This can't be allowed to stand!"

Gu Qingjiao was simply dumbfounded when she heard the crowd.

Chapter 209: Domineering and Mighty!

When Gu Qingjiao heard these people's words, she was stunned, and her vision turned black.

When she came to her senses, her anger rose from the bottom of her heart. She gritted her teeth and cursed at Xiao Lingye, "You country bumpkin, you're really cunning!"

However, her face suddenly turned into a cold smile as she said disdainfully, "So what if you have testimonies that Xiao Xinxin is my employee? Without something tangible on paper, what can you do to me? If you want to sue me, go ahead! Do you think I'm afraid of you? Let me tell you, I have friends in the Commerce Bureau and Labor Bureau. We'll see how you can touch me!"

She was complacent. She couldn't wait for everyone to know that she was powerful and nothing could harm her.

"This woman is ridiculous."

"So what if she has connections in these two bureaus? Does she think she can do anything she wants?"

"That's right. She's acting like she owns not only this supermarket but also the two bureaus!"

Gu Qingjiao's face couldn't be any darker as she listened to the discussions of the crowd.

She took two steps forward and said fiercely to these passers-by, "What are you looking at? This has nothing to do with you. Get lost!"

An old master pointed at Gu Qingjiao and shouted angrily, "We can't stand idle, seeing you oppress and humiliate your employees like this. You don't treat your employees as human beings. Today, I'm going to poke my nose into your business. Why don't you ask your people from the underworld to teach me a lesson then?"

Gu Qingjiao was furious and scolded the old master, "Old man, don't push your luck. Do you really think I won't dare to do anything to you? If you anger me, I'll get my people to send you into a coffin!"

"I've lived for so long, but I've never seen someone as black-hearted, arrogant, and unreasonable as you. You dare to threaten people in public." The old master stood proud. "Fine, I'll wait here for you to call your people. Let's see what they can do to me." Master Zeng was furious. His face was green from being threatened.

Xiao Lingyu immediately stepped forward and said, "Grandpa, don't be angry. Don't be mad with an unreasonable person."

Grandpa Zeng looked at Xiao Lingyu and said, "But I can't stand her being so arrogant and despotic. How outrageous!"

Xiao Lingyu said, "It's not worth it."

Grandpa Zeng nodded and said, "Yes, you're right. The woman is not worth my anger." He turned to Xiao Lingyu and her big belly. He gasped and kindly advised, "Miss, you shouldn't be here. You have to be careful!"

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, "Yes, I will be careful. Thank you for your concern, kind elder!"

Then, Xiao Lingyu shot a sharp look at Gu Qingjiao and said, "Madam, who told that we couldn't sue you because there is no labor contract? Do you really know the labor law?"

"Who the fuck are you?" Gu Qingjiao saw Xiao Lingyu and asked angrily.

To prevent accidents, Xiao Chengbang followed beside Xiao Lingyu.

Xiao Lingyu did not answer directly. "According to the labor law of our country, it is clearly stipulated that if the employer doesn't sign a written labor contract with the worker, the onus of blame lies with the employer. The employer is required to pay a certain amount of compensation to the worker.

"According to Article 82 of the Labor Law, if the employer has not concluded a written labor contract with the employee after the latter has worked with the former for more than a month from the date of employment, the employer has to pay the employee twice the monthly wage.

"If the employer fails to do that, even if both parties have reached an oral agreement not to sign a labor contract, the employee still has the right to report to the Labor Bureau.

"So, Madam, do you really think you're in power since no labor contract has been signed between you and your employees? You can bully them all you want since there's no labor contract?"

At this point, Xiao Lingyu pursed her lips into a faint smile. She looked at Gu Qingjiao with a confident and slightly mocking expression and said in a clear voice, "Actually, it's the exact opposite. Not signing a labor contract is more beneficial to the employee.

"Once the employer fails to sign a written contract one month after the date of employment, the employer has to pay their employee twice the monthly salary.

"You just admitted to everyone that Xiao Xinxin has worked at your supermarket before. She has worked here for half a year, that is clearly more than a month. Therefore, based on the labor law, you owe her twice the salary.

"When you hired Xiao Xinxin, you promised her 1000 RMB per month. Not counting the wages you've deducted for no reason, you still have to pay Xiao Xinxin 6000 for those past six months. Then you have to pay her the one extra month she has worked for you, so it's 7000 RMB in total."

Once Xiao Lingyu finished, she attracted a wave of surprise and praise. Some people could not help but cry out in surprise.

Zhang Xiaoqing, who was hiding at the side, had her eyes lit up. She looked at Xiao Lingyu with starry eyes, full of admiration.

"Amazing! I didn't even know not signing the labor contract is more beneficial to the employees. If the girl didn't explain it to us, I would be none the wiser!"

"Yeah. In the past, we simply signed what was given to us. The boss told us to, so we did it. The bosses also fired us without reason. We didn't know better, so we could only take it silently. If I had known this back then, I would have sought justice for myself!"

“Double the salary! Haha. Now someone has to pay back 7000 RMB for being black-hearted in the first place. This is really self-inflicted punishment!” Someone said mockingly.

Gu Qingjiao was also shocked when she heard Xiao Lingyu’s explanation of the labor contract law. She honestly didn’t understand the law that well. She merely heard from a friend at the Labor Bureau that she could freely deduct an employee’s salary if they didn’t sign a labor contract. The friend didn’t explain the full details of the law to them. Their employees also didn’t know better, so they could only allow their bosses to take advantage of them.

Therefore, Gu Qingjiao and her husband’s work every day was to find ways to deduct their employee’s wages.

They didn’t expect they’d one day face a steel wall.

“Who the heck are you?” Gu Qingjiao sized Xiao Lingyu up. She could not tell anything from Xiao Lingyu’s way of dressing. The only thing she knew was that Xiao Lingyu was pregnant.

Gu Qingjiao had been in business for many years and was good at reading people. But at this moment, she couldn’t figure out Xiao Lingyu’s identity. Since she couldn’t figure it out, she could only ask.

Once she found out Xiao Lingyu’s identity, she could act accordingly.

Xiao Lingyu smiled and introduced herself, “I’m Xiao Lingyu, Xiao Xinxin’s sister!”

After hearing that, Gu Qingjiao’s panic disappear. She assumed Xiao Lingyu was just bluffing. She didn’t think Xiao Lingyu would actually know the labor laws.

Gu Qingjiao sneered and said, “Ah, so it’s the country bumpkin girl’s sister. That makes you another country bumpkin. You sure paint a beautiful picture. Fine, go and sue me then. If you can successfully sue me, I’ll give you 7000 RMB. How about it?” Gu Qingjiao knew people at the Labor Bureau. With a call, she would make sure no report against her would be made.

Xiao Lingyu said coldly, “Madam, you’re so confident because you have connections in the Labor Bureau, right?”

“Hmph!” Gu Qingjiao didn’t say anything, but her head was raised high like a proud hen. This arrogant behavior represented her answer.

At this time, Grandpa Zeng suddenly took out his phone and made a call. When the call was connected, the person inside called out, “Dad!”

Grandpa Zeng said loudly, “I don’t care where you are. Come to the De Wang supermarket at Sunshine Road immediately.”

Then, without waiting for the other party to speak, he hung up.

Xiao Lingyu told Xiao Chengbang, “Uncle Chengbang, take out the thing.”

Xiao Chengbang nodded and took out a recording pen from his pocket.

Xiao Lingyu took it, then pressed it, and the recording came out.

“Who are you?”

“Who am I? I’m the younger brother of your employee, Xiao Xinxin! She was chased out yesterday night!”

“And I thought we were in the company of some big shot. So you’re that bitch’s younger brother. In that case, you have to be a country bumpkin too. What do you think you can do to me?”

“You’ll find out soon enough. But now I just want to know. Was Xiao Xinxin your employee? Did you deduct her salary?”

“Xiao Xinxin used to be my employee. But she was fired yesterday! As for her salary...”

“She came late and left early every day, so shouldn’t I deduct her salary?”

“So what if you have testimonies that Xiao Xinxin is my employee? Without something tangible on paper, what can you do to me? If you want to sue me, go ahead. Do you think I’m afraid of you? Let me tell you. I have friends in the Commerce Bureau and Labor Bureau. We’ll see how you can touch me!”

“Madam, you’re so confident because you have connections in the Labor Bureau, right?”

“Hmph!”

...

The recorded conversation was very clear. Xiao Lingyu smiled, “Madam, do you think we still can’t sue you with this? Oh, wait. That’s right.” Xiao Lingyu nodded. “We can’t do anything to you because you have friends in the Labor Bureau. But, let me tell you. I have a network in the county town too. Unless your friend is the director of the Labor Bureau, I promise you that I’d deliver this recording personally to the table of the Labor Bureau’s Director!”

“Haha. Young woman, don’t worry. I can guarantee you that the Director of the Labor Bureau is not her friend!” Grandpa Zeng said happily. If they were indeed friends, he would break his eldest son’s leg!

Xiao Lingyu understood Grandpa Zeng’s meaning immediately. Even though she didn’t know the relationship between the Director of the Bureau of Labor and the old master, from his tone, it sounded close.

God was really kind to her.

Gu Qingjiao was really a little scared by Xiao Lingyu.

She took out her phone from her pocket and made a quick call. After the call was picked up, she did not wait for the other party to speak and said loudly, “Hubby, come quickly. Something has happened at the supermarket. It’s that Xiao Xinxin. Her family came over to cause a ruckus. No, they used underhanded tactics, and I fell into their trap.

“They lured me to say that Xiao Xinxin used to be our supermarket’s employee. Somehow, they’ve pulled up the labor contract law. Employers who haven’t signed a labor contract need to compensate their employees twice their salary. Oh, okay, I got it. Mm, then come over quickly.”

Her husband had probably given Gu Qingjiao courage and support. She turned her head and immediately looked at Xiao Lingyu with a cold smile as she asked, “Do you think I really believe some poor country bumpkins will have connections in the county town? Silly girl, do you think you can scare me? Dream on.”

“It seems madam still doesn’t want to give up!” Xiao Lingyu’s clear and beautiful voice sounded, “Alright, let me introduce myself again. My name is Xiao Lingyu. That’s right. I’m a farmer from Taoyuan Village. I have just opened a vegetable shop in the county town.”

“Taoyuan Village? Wait, I know a shop with that name.”

“The only shop I can think of is Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.”

“Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables?!” Someone gasped. “No way. If it’s really that shop, then the girl really has some deep connections.”

“Miss, but what’s the name of your shop?”

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, “It’s a small shop called Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.”

“What?” Someone screamed, “You’re the boss of Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables?”

Gu Qingjiao couldn’t believe it.

Although she had never been to Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, she had heard of its big grand opening. Many people of high status in the county city went to give the boss face.

If the girl was really the boss...

Gu Qingjiao’s vision faded.. At that moment, she had to admit they might have really found their match this time.

Chapter 210: Background

When Xiao Lingyu announced that she was the owner of Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, many people were surprised.

Many of them had heard of the shop.

Some of them had never seen the owner, but they had eaten the vegetables, for example, Grandpa Zeng.

As soon as he heard Xiao Lingyu was the owner, he immediately smiled and said, “You own the shop often mentioned by Ol Qian and Ol Chen? I’ve eaten your vegetables before. They are not bad. However, it’s hard for my family to get them. I hear your business is really good.”

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, “Grandpa, I need to thank my customers for their support.”

Grandpa Zeng thought for a moment and said, “Miss, I heard from Ol Qian and the others that they ordered their vegetables directly from you. Is that true?”

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "Sir, there are indeed a few old clients who book daily vegetables from me."

Grandpa Zeng looked around and whispered to Xiao Lingyu, "Girl, do you think I can book daily vegetables from you too?"

Xiao Lingyu readily replied, "Of course, Grandpa." She knew many people with the surname Qian and Chen, but only a few handfuls of them had booked daily vegetables from her. Seeing how familiar Grandpa Zeng was with those elders, he had to come from a powerful background too. Xiao Lingyu was a businesswoman. She was shrewd. She knew she needed connections. Why would she miss out on this network?

"Okay, it's a deal then!" Grandpa Zeng said happily, "Save some vegetables for me like how you did Old Chen and Old Qian."

Xiao Lingyu nodded. "Grandpa, just tell me how much vegetables you need every day, and I'll reserve them for you. Then, you can go straight to the Gu Family Hotel to get them." The vegetables she sold to the Gu Family Hotel and the vegetables she reserved for her familiar clients all came from the farming space.

Gu Qingjiao was nervous when she saw Xiao Lingyu and the nosy old man talking and laughing together. But she immediately became angry.

She pointed at Grandpa Zeng and scolded, "Old Man, what does my shop's business have to do with you? If you continue to mind my business, I'll really have someone come to break your bones!"

The Madam Boss was flustered by Xiao Lingyu's self-introduction. She was not scared by Xiao Xinxin and her family, but she was cautious of Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. When that shop opened for business, the event was really grand.

The general manager of the Gu Family Hotel, the boss of Fei Teng Car Dealership, the eldest son of the Zheng Real Estate, and many others went to celebrate. They were powerful people at Xing Yin County. They were not scary as merchants, but their background was terrifying. They had sent flower baskets for the shop's grand opening, so they must have a certain degree of friendship with the owner.

Gu Qingjiao was someone who bullied the weak and feared the strong. After being in the business for so many years, she understood the importance of connections.

If Xiao Lingyu were just the owner of an ordinary shop, she would not be a threat. However, her shop was not ordinary. She didn't know how to deal with Xiao Lingyu, so she could only wait for her husband to come.

However, she couldn't just stand there and do nothing. She had to vent her anger. She decided to make the old man who had been standing up for Xiao Xinxin her target.

After being scolded, Grandpa Zeng's face turned livid again.

He pointed at Gu Qingjiao and said loudly, "Fine. I will wait here for your people to come to break my legs!"

Xiao Chengbang frowned and said to Gu Qingjiao with a cold expression, "Are you crazy? You actually threatened an elder because he said a few words of support? Do you think you're the empress or

something? Don't worry, elder. If someone really aims to harm you, I'll protect you. I'm just a common farmer, but I do have strength."

Grandpa Zeng said, "Young man, thank you. But I am not afraid."

"You're not afraid? Good, then just wait right here! You really think I'm a pushover?!" Gu Qingjiao said fiercely.

She took out her phone and made a call. When the call was connected, she immediately said, "Hubby, call third brother and the others. There's an old man here who wants to die. He needs to be taught a lesson. You've already called them? You're almost here? Okay. Hurry up."

Everyone was stunned by the woman. Was she arrogant or brainless? She actually asked her husband to come to beat people up in public. Did she really think the police couldn't do anything to her?

Of course, some of the onlookers were afraid of getting into trouble, so they subconsciously backed away.

The woman put down the phone. She looked very confident.

She looked at Grandpa Zeng and said fiercely, "Old man, you can't blame me. Who told you to be so nosy? You asked to be taught a lesson, so I will give you that!"

Xiao Lingyu said coldly, "Madam, do you think you really rule over this county town?"

Since this grandpa was familiar with Uncle Qian, how could he be an ordinary person? Plus, she confirmed that when she conversed with Grandpa Zeng. Therefore, the Madam Boss was really digging her own grave!

Xiao Lingyu said with some worry, "Grandpa, why don't you go and hide first? It's not good if you're injured. The boss is really black-hearted."

Gu Qingjiao might really call people to hit Grandpa Zeng. She would be punished later, but Grandpa Zeng shouldn't suffer for no reason.

Grandpa Zeng waved his hands. "Don't worry. I'm not concerned about a few ruffians. When I was young, I could take on more than a dozen soldiers by myself."

"But Grandpa, you're not young anymore." Xiao Lingyu persuaded.

"Don't worry about me. I might be old, but I'm not out of practice yet!" Grandpa Zeng said proudly. "When I was young, Ol Qian, Ol Yuan, and the others couldn't beat me. Now, they can't beat me either. So, I can handle a few ruffians."

Xiao Lingyu, "... That was then, but this was now..."

Before Xiao Lingyu could persuade Grandpa Zeng, a white sedan arrived. It stopped with a whoosh. Then, the door opened, and a few tall and strong men came out.

When the man who came out of the passenger seat saw the crowd gathered in front of De Wang Supermarket, he shouted angrily, "What are you people looking at? Get lost!"

Most of the crowd consisted of people who came out for a morning walk. They were just ordinary people. Now that the gangsters were here, some of them were frightened. They didn't want to get beaten up.

When the man saw the frightened crowd, his face showed a proud expression. Then he looked at Gu Qingjiao and shouted loudly, "Sister-in-law, we're here! Who bullied you? My brothers will avenge you."

Gu Qingjiao was happy when she saw her reinforcements.

"Third brother, you're here. I am so happy. Quick! Chase these people away!" Gu Qingjiao pointed at Xiao Xinxin, Xiao Lingye, Xiao Lingyu, and Xiao Chengbang. "They're the ones who caused trouble in front of the shop. Now, my supermarket can't open."

"Okay, sister-in-law, leave this matter to us." San Er patted his chest and said with great loyalty.

After that, Gu Qingjiao pointed at Grandpa Zeng and said with malice, "And this old man, he is too nosy. You should teach him a lesson. Let him understand the price for being too nosy!"

"Okay, sister-in-law, leave everything to us!" San Er promised again.

"Gu Qingjiao, don't you dare!" Xiao Lingyu shouted coldly. She was furious when she heard Gu Qingjiao order her men to beat up Grandpa Zeng.

San Er noticed Xiao Lingyu when she spoke up. When he saw her face, he blew a whistle and said with a malicious smile, "Yo, where did this beauty come from? Pretty woman, why don't you come with me? I promise to give you a good life."

When Xiao Lingye saw these people coming, he quickly ran to her sister's side. Xiao Chengbang and the others also walked to Xiao Lingyu's side and surrounded her to protect her.

Therefore, San Er did not notice Xiao Lingyu's stomach.

When Xiao Lingye heard this hooligan teasing his sister, he immediately shouted angrily, "You hooligan, stay away from my sister!"

He held the wooden stick and looked at San Er warily. If the ruffian made a move, he would smack him.

At this moment, Lei Zhenhu, who had parked his car, walked to the entrance of the supermarket and shouted, "Who came to cause trouble?"

When he saw Xiao Xinxin, his face immediately darkened and he said in a stern voice, "Xiao Xinxin, you don't work at De Wang Supermarket anymore, and your salary has been paid. Why are you making trouble here? If you have any problem, you can sue me at the Labor Bureau. You must be daydreaming to come to ask me for a double salary. Do you really think I don't know the Labor contract law?"

Lei Zhenhu didn't know the law, but he could pretend to know to scare a few country bumpkins!

Lei Zhenhu said fiercely, "I have a friend who is the head of the labor dispute section. When he arrives later, we'll ask him in person who is at fault for not signing a labor contract!"

Before Lei Zhenhu came, he had contacted Section Chief Qin.

He told Section Chief Qin the situation, and Section Chief Qin said to him, "Don't worry. My words are the law. Since I say you don't need to pay compensation, then that is it. These are a bunch of country bumpkins, so what do they know about labor contract law?!"

When Section Chief Qin said this, Lei Zhenhu immediately put his mind at ease and called a few of his brothers.

When Xiao Xinxin saw these people appear, she was a little afraid in her heart. However, since Xiao Lingyu and Xiao Lingye were backing her, she couldn't surrender. Otherwise, she would disappoint those who had supported her.

Xiao Xinxin mustered up her courage and argued, "My sister graduated from South University. She knows these laws. The law will decide that I'm right."

"Fine, we'll wait!" Lei Zhenhu said disdainfully and proudly, "However, let me tell you. Even a university graduate will not change anything. Because this is not up to the law but the Labor Bureau."

"You..." Xiao Xinxin's face turned red from Lei Zhenhu's shameless words.

Xiao Lingyu patted Xiao Xinxin's shoulder and shook her head. Then, she walked out, looked at Lei Zhenhu, and said coldly, "Birds of a feather do flock together.. The whole family is rotten and arrogant! Fine, Boss Lei, Madam, we'll wait and see what kind of law the section head of the Labor Bureau will enlighten us with."