

Chapter 211: Background

People were surprised that the South University graduate was so good at scolding people. This whole family was truly rotten and dirty!

When Gu Qingjiao heard this, she was furious. She pointed at Xiao Lingyu and shouted, "You bitch, who are you calling rotten and dirty? Do you dare to say that again?" No one had ever dared to scold her so harshly before.

Xiao Lingyu said calmly, "I can't help it if you think I'm talking about you."

"Why you..." Gu Qingjiao was so angry that her face turned green. She suddenly shouted at San 'Er, "San 'Er, teach her a lesson!"

"Who dares touch my sister?!" Xiao Lingye, Xiao Chengbang, and the others shielded Xiao Lingyu.

"Gu Qingjiao, this lady is pregnant. You ask people to hit her? Do you still have any humanity?" Grandpa Zeng asked angrily. Then, he looked at San 'Er and the others. He warned them sternly, "I will never let you hurt a pregnant woman!"

Although San 'Er and the others were hooligans, they were not so heartless as to really harm a pregnant woman. After all, this was too big of a risk. However, if they didn't do something, they would lose face in front of the public.

San 'Er said fiercely, "Hmph, so what if she's pregnant? Since she dares to insult my big brother and sister-in-law, she'll have to be taught a lesson."

Then, he walked in front of Xiao Lingyu and reached out to push her. Xiao Lingye immediately moved to block him. The people around quickly moved to protect Xiao Lingyu.

"What are you doing!"

"You monster!"

Then, there were several loud thumps.

One was Xiao Lingye hitting San 'Er with the wooden stick. The other was the thump when San 'Er hit the ground. The person who attacked him was Grandpa Zeng. Grandpa Zeng pulled his foot back.

When San 'Er was coming over, Grandpa Zeng already aimed his leg at the man's waist. San 'Er toppled over. At that moment, Xiao Lingye smacked him on his shoulder. Attacked on both fronts, San 'Er fell to the ground.

Grandpa Zeng said disdainfully, "Do you think you can harm someone when I'm around? You need to be taught a lesson first!"

"Big Brother!" Zhang San's brothers immediately came forward to help him up. "Big Brother, how are you?"

After Zhao Si helped Zhang San up, he growled fiercely at Grandpa Zeng, "Old man, how dare you bully my big brothers? I'm going to kill you!" He charged at the old man.

Xiao Lingyu was nervous, and she told Xiao Lingye and Xiao Chengbang, "Brother, Uncle, you need to protect Grandpa!"

Grandpa Zeng stopped them. "No need. Young man, look after your sister. These hooligans are no threat to me. I haven't exercised for a long time already. This is the perfect chance to work my muscles."

The crowd knew Grandpa Zeng would win. Just now, he moved even quicker than the young man.

Zhao Si was furious. He shouted, "Time to die, old man!" At that moment, Chief Qin arrived. Zhang San immediately stopped Zhao Si.

Since Chief Qin was there, it was better if they solved this through words and not punches. After all, they shouldn't implicate themselves too much.

Division Chief Qin was a little short and bald. He was full of fat, and his belly was round. As soon as Qin Fufa came over, he put on the airs of an official and said, "Who is causing trouble here?"

Lei Zhenhu immediately came over with a face full of smiles to welcome him. He lowered his head and bowed as he said, "Division Chief Qin, you're finally here."

Then, he acted like a victim and said, "Chief Qin, you have to stand up for me. This is all the fault of my former employee, Xiao Xinxin. She didn't do good work. During the probation period, she often made mistakes. Her bad attitude scared away many of my customers.

"I wanted to fire her, but she knelt and begged us. She said she needed to job to support her family. She couldn't find a job at another place. She sniveled and wept and begged us to keep her.

"She promised that we could deduct her wages freely if she made another mistake.

"My wife and I pitied her, so we gave her many chances. However, she didn't improve. Like how she had promised, we had no choice but to deduct her wages when she made a mistake. She worked for us for another few months.

"Last month, she suddenly told us she wanted to resign. How can she do that without warning? Where would I find a replacement so soon? So we asked her to stay for another month, to give us time to find a new employee. Then, we'll pay her all the owed salary.

"However, we just paid her yesterday, and today she's already here with her family to create problems for us.

"She said we had unfairly deducted her wages. She has a sister who has graduated from South University. Apparently, the sister knows the laws. She said since we haven't signed a labor contract, based on the labor law, we have to compensate the girl twice her wages.

"Division Chief Qin, this is nonsense. We wanted to sign a labor contract with the girl when we hired her. But she refused to sign it! She said she was afraid of being cheated.

“But now, she claimed we were the ones who didn’t offer her a contract and demand we pay her compensation!

“Division Chief Qin, you have to help us!”

Lei Zhenhu’s expression was very aggrieved and innocent. He was close to tears.

Xiao Xinxin was furious when she heard her former boss had turned everything upside down. Lei Zhenhu also added many untrue details. She pointed at Lei Zhenhu and shouted angrily, “You’re talking nonsense. You... You bastard, that’s clearly not how it happened!”

“Then, what happened?” Lei Zhenhu retorted, “Everything you say has to be the truth? Do you have evidence?”

Lei Zhenhu was clearly cleverer than his wife. He twisted everything so beautifully. If people didn’t know the truth, they would have believed him.

Plus, his question was sharp, “Do you have evidence?”

Both parties had their own version of the story, but who had the evidence? There were witnesses if the other supermarket employees would stand up for Xiao Xinxin. However, it was clear that Lei Zhenhu had made sure that wouldn’t happen.

Earlier, their plan was to insist that Xiao Xinxin was not their employee, but the wife was scammed and accidentally let that slip. So now, their plan was to belittle Xiao Xinxin and make themselves into kind individuals who took Xiao Xinxin in.

They would insist that it was Xiao Xinxin who refused to sign the contract!

After Division Chief Qin heard Lei Zhenhu’s narration, he nodded with a solemn face. Then, he said righteously, impartially, and sternly, “Boss Lei, don’t worry. I’ll definitely help you. You’re the victim in this case, after all.”

After saying that, Division Chief Qin looked at Xiao Xinxin and reprimanded her with a serious face, “Girl, you’re so young, yet you’re already full of lies, ungratefulness, and greed. How did your parents ever raise a wicked child like you?”

Xiao Xinxin said with a face full of anger and grievance, “I’m not lying! The one who’s lying is Lei Zhenhu! Why can’t you see that?” Xiao Xinxin came from the countryside. She had an innate fear around an official. However, she mustered up her courage to confront this official.

Division Chief Qin’s face darkened when Xiao Xinxin rebuked, “I can see that you’ve not learned your lesson. I know Boss Lei and his wife. They are famous for being kind businessmen. They don’t cheat the elderly and never rip off customers.”

It was clear that he was in cahoots with Lei Zhenhu.

“Besides, you were the one who didn’t want to sign the labor contract, and now you’re here to ask for double the salary. Don’t you think you’re being too obvious? Boss Lei and his wife are honest people, so you think you can blackmail them into giving you more money?”

“You were the one who didn’t want to sign the labor contract in the beginning, and now you’re using this as an excuse for blackmail. This is entrapment. Boss Lei and his wife don’t owe you anything!”

As a staff member of the Labor Bureau, he definitely understood the labor contract law. He knew that Xiao Lingyu’s understanding of the law was right. Xiao Xinxin was entitled to double the salary as compensation.

Of course, that was when the employer purposely didn’t sign the contract with the employees. Therefore, now all they needed to do was to pin the blame on Xiao Xinxin and insist that it was she who refused to sign the labor contract.

Grandpa Zeng was about to explode when he heard this.

He rolled up his sleeves and pointed at Qin Fufa angrily, “Is this how you work for the people? You came and blamed the girl without doing any investigation. It’s evident that you are in cahoots with the black-hearted boss of this De Wang Supermarket.”

“Old man, what are you talking about?” Zhao Si scolded, “Division Chief Qin is the fairest person I know.”

Grandpa Zeng said disdainfully, “Of course, you’d say that. He’s fair towards you. Only the blind will think he’s fair.”

Qin Fufa’s face darkened, and he said sternly, “Old Man, I won’t argue with you since you are old. But if you continue to slander me, I won’t be polite to you.”

Grandpa Zeng rolled up his sleeves and said, “Do you think I’m afraid of you? Like the female boss and these others, you want to teach me a lesson too? Come on. I’m not afraid of you. Come at me at once if you dare!”

Qin Fufa was so angry that he wanted to slap the old man. However, he couldn’t do that in public. He had to endure it.

After this was over, he had many chances to teach this old man a lesson. ‘Old man, you’re unlucky to have offended me.’

Qin Fufa gloomily stared at Grandpa Zeng and did not say anything else. He turned Xiao Xinxin and said, “Little girl, Boss Lei won’t take charges against you. In fact, he’ll give you another 500 RMB as a goodwill donation to you. You should take it and leave. Or else, Boss Lei has all the right to report you to the Labor Bureau for blackmail.”

Then, he signaled Lei Zhenhu with a look.

Lei Zhenhu understood immediately. He took out five hundred from his wallet and handed it to Xiao Xinxin. He said proudly, “Hmph, take the money and leave now.”

Just as Xiao Lingyu was about to speak, a panting voice called out, “Dad, I’m here. What’s the matter? Why did you call me in such a hurry?”

“Chief Zeng!”

Chapter 212: Backing

Zeng Yunbing was still sound asleep at home when he suddenly received a call from the retired emperor. Zeng Yunbing shivered and immediately got out of bed. He brushed his teeth and did not even wash his face. In his hurry, he broke a teacup.

He didn't bother to tidy up and only shouted to his son in the room, "Son, get up and tidy up. Your Grandfather is looking for me. I have to rush over."

Zeng Yaozu had been driving all night yesterday and didn't go back to bed until three or four o'clock.

He was sleeping soundly when he was woken up by a loud noise. Then, he heard his father order him to tidy up something. When he heard his father say his grandfather was looking for his father, Zeng Yaozu was shocked. His grandfather usually got up early in the morning and went for a walk. If it weren't for something serious, Grandfather Zeng wouldn't call his family.

Out of concern for his grandfather, Zeng Yaozu immediately got up and shouted at his father, "Dad, wait for me. I'm coming with you." He ran out without even brushing his teeth.

Zeng Yunbing urged, "Hurry up. I don't know what's wrong with your grandfather. He sounds so angry. We need to be there as soon as possible."

As soon as Zeng Yaozu got in the car, Zeng Yunbing drove away.

When they arrived at Sunshine Road, they saw many people crowding around the entrance of De Wang Supermarket. Loud shouts could be heard from time to time.

Zeng Yaozu frowned and asked curiously, "Dad, Grandpa said he's here? What happened?"

Zeng Yunbing stopped the car and said to his son, "Find a place to park. I'll go and take a look!"

Then, he ran away.

Zeng Yaozu took over the driver's seat and parked the car. When he got out, he saw a familiar car parked beside him.

"Wait, isn't this Zhang San's car?" Zeng Yaozu was confused. "Why is their car parked here? Are they here too?" Then, he widened his eyes and said, "Wait. Are they the ones causing Grandpa trouble?" He ran off quickly.

Zeng Yunbing squeezed into the crowd with great difficulty. When he found his father, he panted and said, "Dad, I'm here. What's so urgent?"

"Chief Zeng!"

Section Chief Qin had Lei Zhenhu use 500 RMB to get rid of the country bumpkins. He promised they would take revenge in the future.

However, Zeng Yunbing suddenly appeared. When he greeted his superior, Section Chief Qin immediately regretted it. Zeng Yunbing saw him, and he couldn't retreat soundlessly anymore. He could only hope that the country bumpkins would take the money and leave.

Otherwise, the matter might get exposed before Zeng Yanbing. Section Chief Qin had two options: it was to make Xiao Xinxin leave or to make Zeng Yunbing leave.

Section Chief Qin gave Lei Zhenhu and Zhang San a look.

Lei Zhenhu and Zhang San were sworn brothers. They had worked with Qin Fufa many times before. They knew each other well. Therefore, when they caught Qin Fufa's look, they immediately understood what to do.

Their secret dealings had been kept a secret from Zeng Yunbang.

Qin Fufa smiled and said respectfully to his superior, "Director Zeng, why are you here so early in the morning?"

Zeng Yunbing saw Qin Fufa and frowned. He asked sharply, "Chief Qin, why are you here so early in the morning? What are you doing?"

Lei Zhenhu took out 500 and handed it to Xiao Xinxin. She didn't take it. Lei Zhenhu lowered his head and warned Xiao Xinxin in a low voice, "Xiao Xinxin, you have to take this money. If you don't, we will settle the score after these people are gone!"

Xiao Xinxin's face turned pale, and she looked especially frightened and uneasy.

Zeng Yunbing saw this.

Qin Fufa immediately laughed and explained, "Chief Zeng, this is nothing. This little girl complained about Boss Lei for giving her a low salary. However, she didn't know that it was because she had made many mistakes and Boss Lei was already being very kind to give her even some money. Why are people so dishonest these days? They are clearly in the wrong, so how can they blame others? Ouch!" Qin Fufa fell to the ground, and he grimaced in pain.

He glared at Grandpa Zeng. "You old fart, how dare you kick me? Do you think I won't hit you? If you anger me, I'll get my people to..."

When he scolded Grandpa Zeng, Qin Fufa didn't notice Director Zeng's face was getting gloomier. Zeng Yunbing asked sharply, "Tell me, what are you going to do to my father?"

"What..." Qin Fufa was in a daze. He asked in a daze. "Father? Director Zeng, this... This old man is your father?"

Zeng Yunbing snorted and said, "What do you think? Answer me, what do you want to do with my dad?"

Grandpa Zeng pointed at Zeng Yunbing and warned him, "Zeng Yunbing, I'm telling you, if I find out you've been colluding with these worms to cheat the public, I will break your legs! I will have your post taken away from you!"

Zeng Yunbing, "..."

What did Qin Fufa do to make his father so angry?

A dark light flashed in his eyes.

Zeng Yunbing immediately comforted his father. "Dad, don't you know the kind of person your son is? How would I collude with them? I'll be a good official who serves the people!"

Grandpa Zeng nodded in satisfaction and said, "That's more like it." But then he reacted and said angrily, "Wait, that's wrong too. Even if you're a good official, you do not lead a good team! Since your subordinates are horrible people, then you have to take responsibility too!" He pointed at Qin Fufa, who was still sitting on the ground.

Zeng Yunbing, "..."

'Dad, what are you talking about? How is the man's fault mine?'

"Father, what's going on?" Zeng Yunbing was not stupid. He quickly knew that something must have happened.

Grandpa Zeng did not say anything to his son. Instead, he turned to Xiao Lingyu. "Girl, give me your recording pen. I'll help you hand it directly to the Labor Bureau's Director."

"..." Xiao Lingyu.

Then, she silently handed the recording pen to Grandpa Zeng. Grandpa Zeng slammed it in Zeng Yunbing's hand. "Hmph! Listen to this, and you'll see what's going on."

Gu Qingjiao was nervous when she saw the recording pen. And the pen was going into the hands of the Labor Bureau's Director. This was bad!

Gu Qingjiao's face was pale, and she felt uneasy.

She nervously ordered Zhang San and Zhao Si, "San 'Er, Si 'Er, grab the recording pen. Quick!"

Zhang San, Zhao Si, Qin Fufa, and Lei Zhenhu were dumbfounded when they saw the recording pen. They were not there when Gu Qingjiao's words were recorded.

"We'll see who dares to do that!" Grandpa Zeng took a stance to guard against Zhang San, Zhao Si, and the others.

Zhang San, Zhao Si, and the others were confused. However, they were not fools. The old man before them was the father of their Brother Qin's boss. How could they offend him?

By then, Zeng Yunbing had already started listening to the recording. It was a delicious recording.

It started when Auntie Zhou came to the supermarket.

"Everyone, please help a poor woman!"

"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 500 RMB!"

...

“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?”

“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?”

“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!”

...

The director’s face darkened. His sharp eyes glared fiercely at Qin Fufa, who was wiping his sweat away.

Qin Fufa wiped the cold sweat from his forehead while cursing Lei Zhenhu and his wife internally. ‘These two are trying to kill me. They have created such a big mess and want me to come to clean up! I’m going to die because of them!’

Then, he heard Gu Qingjiao threaten Director Zeng’s father, and his face blanched.

“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!”

“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!”

...

While everyone was quietly listening to the recording, Zhao Si was kicked from behind, and he fell.

“Who did this?” Wang Wu demanded angrily.

Zeng Yaozu put his hands in his pockets and walked out slowly. He said, “It’s me. Do you have any problem?”

Wang Wu wiped his sweat and said, “Of course not. Brother Zeng, why are you here?”

Zeng Yaozu became angry immediately. He pointed at Zhang San, Zhao Si, and the others and scolded, “Zhang San, Zhao Si, you guys really have guts. You dare to curse and threaten my grandfather?”

“Your grandfather?” Zhang San and the others looked at Zeng Yaozu in confusion and then at the old man. They immediately understood.

Zhang San and the others immediately apologized, “Brother Zeng, we’re sorry. We really didn’t know that this old man was your grandfather. If we knew, we wouldn’t dare to touch him.”

Zeng Yaozu frowned and said, "So, if the senior weren't my grandfather, you'd still beat him up? Zhang San, Zhao Si, you guys are getting more and more courageous. You dare to go after old people and pregnant women. Aren't you afraid of karma?"

To be fair, they had already found karma.

Lei Zhenhu and his wife panicked. They tried to figure out what to do.

At that moment, a few police officers came. "Who called the police?"

Xiao Xinxin immediately said, "Police officers, it was me. I called the police!"

Lei Zhenhu and Gu Qingjiao immediately had a bad premonition.

They heard Xiao Xinxin say, "Officer, De Wang Supermarket is selling expired food and illegal imprisoning people against their free will. You need to arrest them."

"Bullshit!" Gu Qingjiao said angrily and anxiously, "Xiao Xinxin, I know you want to take revenge on us, so you're maliciously fabricating the truth. I'm going to sue you for slander."

Gu Qingjiao turned around and said to a few police officers, "Police officers, please don't believe her.

"We're all decent business people. We've never sold expired food or illegally imprisoned anyone.

"This girl used to be my employee. She didn't do a good job, so I deducted her salary. She must hate me because of it. Now, she's trying to take revenge. Please don't believe her."

At this point, she paused for a moment before saying, "Division Leader Wang Yongkang knows my husband and me. We're his friends. He's such a wonderful police officer. Why would he be friends with us if we're criminals, right?"

Everyone, "..."

No wonder the woman was so unreasonable. She had backing in the police force too. However, how could she gloat about her connection with an officer in public? Was there something wrong with her brain? Was she trying to show off or dig her own grave?

"You must be Officer Li." Xiao Lingyu walked over and asked.

When Officer Li saw Xiao Lingyu, his expression immediately changed. He became respectful!

"Miss Xiao!" Officer Li called out in surprise, then asked, "Miss Xiao, why are you here?"

Xiao Lingyu said, "I'm Xiao Xinxin's sister. She called the police."

"Oh." Officer Li nodded.

"Officer Li, how is Chief Wang doing recently?"

Everyone, "..."

Was this a competition to see who had the bigger backing?

Chapter 213: This Is Fate

When the people present heard Xiao Lingyu's greeting for Chief Wang, they were shocked. "Is this a competition to see whose backing is bigger?"

One was openly flaunting her relationship with Leader Wang. The other revealed that she knew Chief Wang. Both of them had the surname Wang, so who was the more powerful backer?

Officer Li was not surprised by Xiao Lingyu's greeting for Chief Wang. He said very seriously, "Miss Xiao, Chief Wang is on vacation. You can call Chief Wang directly should you need any help from him."

Officer Li respected Xiao Lingyu, not because of her relationship with Chief Wang, but because she was a true hero. He admired an ordinary woman like Xiao Lingyu for being so courageous and knowledgeable.

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, "Okay, thank you, Officer Li!"

Lei Zhenhu and Gu Qingjiao's expressions were extremely ugly. Their faces were pale. They opened their mouths, not knowing what to say for a moment.

Gu Qingjiao gloated about her connection in the Labor Bureau, but now, the girl had a backer who was more powerful.

Then, they called the police on them. The boss and his wife were not afraid because as business people, they had to have connections with the police. They knew the section leader, but the girl knew the bureau chief!

They said they knew the people in the underworld, but the girl happened to know the boss of these gangsters from the underworld!

They really didn't know what to do.

They had connections in the Commerce Bureau, but somehow they had a feeling Xiao Lingyu would know someone there who was more powerful than their backer.

After Lei Zhenhu saw this situation, he was stunned for a moment before he reacted.

He immediately ordered Gu Qingjiao. "Go and get 7000, no, 10000 and give it to Xiao Xinxin."

When Gu Qingjiao heard that, she was shocked. She roared. "Why should we give the bitch so much money? The bitch..." Had caused them so much misery.

Lei Zhenhu immediately covered her mouth. He needed to stop her from offending more people, especially Xiao Xinxin's sister. She was too powerful. Lei Zhenhu whispered into his wife's ear. "Woman, you're normally smart. How can you be so stupid now? Look at the powerful characters you've already offended! Go and get the money!"

"All the powerful characters are here because of her. So what we need to do now is to appease her. Otherwise, you can stand here and watch our supermarket be shut down!"

Gu Qingjiao finally understood. However, taking out 10,000 was no different from asking to slice off a part of her meat. She said, "I'll only give her 7000 RMB. 10,000 RMB is too much."

When Lei Zhenhu heard this, he really wanted to slap her head. Their supermarket was about to be shut down but she was still stingy about the 3000 RMB. It was really infuriating.

He put on a straight face and shouted angrily, "Just follow my orders. Stop giving me so much nonsense!"

Gu Qingjiao gritted her teeth and went back to the shop. A moment later, she took out a stack of cash.

Lei Zhenhu could tell at a glance that the stack was not thick enough for 10000.

He asked with a dark face, "How much is this?"

"Eight thousand!"

"What's wrong with you?"

Lei Zhenhu really wanted to slap her.

"Slap!" No, wait. He really slapped her.

Lei Zhenhu scolded loudly, "Bitch, how many times I've told you to treat our employees better. It looks like you never took my words to heart. I need to teach you a lesson today."

Everyone, "..."

They were stunned by Lei Zhenhu's actions.

Of course, after hearing what he said, the smart ones immediately understood what Lei Zhenhu was trying to do.

He wanted to shirk responsibility and push all the blame onto his wife.

Gu Qingjiao covered her slapped face and looked at Lei Zhenhu with a dumbfounded expression.

Then, Gu Qingjiao shouted angrily at Lei Zhenhu, "Lei Zhenhu, how dare you hit me!" She threw herself at Lei Zhenhu, "How dare you hit me? You're going to teach me a lesson? I'm going to beat you to death first!"

Everyone, "... Who has popcorn? Share some, please!

They were ganging up on others earlier, but now they had turned on themselves. This was very interesting!

Lei Zhenhu was usually afraid of this wife, mainly because of her family. De Wang Supermarket was opened by Gu Qingjiao's family. It was also Gu Qingjiao's family who had all the connections.

Because of this, Gu Qingjiao was always bossy, whether at home or outside. She pinched her husband's ears before everyone, not giving him any face.

Everyone laughed at Lei Zhenhu for being such a wife-slave. However, Lei Zhenhu didn't want to endure it anymore.

A country bumpkin caused them huge trouble. If they didn't handle this well, the supermarket would be shut down, and they'd be in danger too. After all, they knew what they had done.

Xiao Xinxin, the bitch, had already reported them to the police. If the police investigated further, they would find out more crimes than just wage deduction.

The key person was Xiao Xinxin. Xiao Xinxin worked with them before, so she definitely knew some of the inside information about the supermarket. That was why Lei Zhenhu wanted to appease Xiao Xinxin.

However, his wife decided to act stupid and drag him down. Lei Zhenhu vented all the anger in his heart on his wife. In the past, no matter how Gu Qingjiao hit or scolded him, he did not retaliate. But now, it was different. Between the two of them, one of them had to take the blame.

Lei Zhenhu wouldn't take the fall, so the blame had to go to Gu Qingjiao. People said hell has no fury on a woman scorned, but Lei Zhenhu proved that a furious man could be terrifying too!

Lei Zhenhu was quite heartless. When he hardened his heart, he could sacrifice his own family. He pushed Gu Qingjiao away and roared, "You venomous woman, I've tolerated you for a long time already. If you didn't deduct the employees' wages for no reason, would we be in this state now?"

Gu Qingjiao roared, "Lei Zhenhu, how dare you hit me? I want a divorce!"

Lei Zhenhu didn't want to bother with Gu Qingjiao at all. He took the money he took from Gu Qingjiao and the 1,000 yuan in his bag and came before Xiao Xinxin. He said with full sincerity, "Xinxin, I'm sorry. You know that it's normally my wife who runs this supermarket. I didn't know that she'd be so ruthless." Then he handed 9000 RMB to Xiao Xinxin. "Here's 9000 RMB. Consider it compensation for all the bad things she has done to you. Do you think it's enough? If not, I can give you extra."

Xiao Xinxin looked at the pile of cash in front of her and was at a loss. She did not know if she should accept the money or not. She didn't take the money but turned to Xiao Lingyu.

Xiao Lingyu walked over and said with a cold smile, "Boss Lei, you're an interesting man. Earlier, you wanted to chase us away with 500 RMB like we were beggars but now you're giving us 9000 RMB? Can we consider this a bribe?"

Lei Zhenhu was a little embarrassed by Xiao Lingyu's sarcasm, but he managed to control his anger.

He smiled, but his stomach was burning with anger. He thought to himself. 'Bitch, in the future, you're going to regret going against me! But now, I have to focus on what's important.'

He said with a stiff smile, "Miss, you sure like to joke. What bribe? This is just my compensation for Xiao Xinxin."

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, "Xinxin, in that case, you should take what you're owed from Boss Lei and nothing more."

Xiao Xinxin was owed 7000 RMB and not 9000.

Xiao Lingyu said sternly, "Boss Lei, we're not here for the money. We're here for justice.

"My sister, Xiao Xinxin, had worked in your supermarket for half a year. She came early in the morning and returned late at night. Yesterday was her last day of work and you had her work until 11.30 pm.

"Then you paid my sister 550 RMB, and that was her full salary for two months. But that's not even the most outrageous thing. You threw my sister out with her luggage in the middle of the night. Where did you expect her to find a place to stay? If something happened to her, are you going to take responsibility?"

Xiao Xinxin counted 7,000 RMB and returned the rest of the money to Lei Zhenhu.

Lei Zhenhu apologized and said, "I'm sorry. My wife did something wrong. Xinxin, I apologize on behalf of my wife. Please forgive her, okay?"

Xiao Xinxin did not say anything.

Xiao Lingyu sneered, "You think everything is over with one apology? You and your wife have a lot of explaining to do to the people at the Labor Bureau and the police." Then, she walked to Grandpa Zeng and smiled, "Grandpa, thank you so much. If it weren't for your help, this wouldn't be settled so soon."

Then, she glanced at Zeng Yunbing, who had a dark expression on his face. "Grandpa, so you're the father of the Labor Bureau's Director. No wonder you said you could help me bring the evidence to the director. But, Grandpa Zeng, you're not getting younger. You should leave the hard work to the young people."

Grandpa Zeng said, "It's fine. I'm good at fighting. Few young people can beat me."

"Dad, you're old. Can you stop fighting with others?" Zeng Yunbing said with a headache.

At this time, Zeng Yaozu said, "Grandpa, you should leave all the fighting to me instead!"

Chief Zeng was speechless.

Everyone, "... They are really grandfather and grandson!

"Wait! It's you!"

"It's you!"

Xiao Lingye said the first while Xiao Xinxin said the second. It was clear that they were surprised to see Zeng Yaozu.

"You are Grandpa Zeng's grandson?" Xiao Lingye asked to confirm.

Xiao Lingyu asked with slight doubt, "Brother, Xinxin, do you know Young Master Zeng?"

Xiao Xinxin's face was pale, and her eyes were filled with fear and unease.

Xiao Lingye looked at Zeng Yaozu and said angrily, "Sis, this man was part of the biker gang from yesterday night!"

Xiao Lingyu, "..."

Zeng Yaozu, "..."

Zeng Yaozu wanted to cry.. 'Now how am I supposed to clear my name?'

Chapter 214: Poor Zeng Yaozu

Xiao Lingye continued, "When I went to pick up Sister Xinxin last night, he and a few other people were surrounding her and teasing her."

Everyone, "... Then, they turned to Zeng Yaozu. This was another interesting development. This morning was really exciting. They regretted not bringing any popcorn.

Granted, they were right in front of a supermarket, but they didn't dare to buy from them. Their former employee just said that they sell expired products!

Zeng Yaozu wanted to die when he heard Xiao Lingye's accusation.

Just as he was about to explain, Grandpa Zeng immediately stomped towards Zeng Yaozu. He pinched Zeng Yaozu's ear and shouted angrily, "You little brat, what are you doing? It's one thing for you to go racing, but to think you have the audacity to tease a girl!" Grandpa Zeng kicked Zeng Yaozu's butt, and he didn't let go of his ear.

Zeng Yaozu was in so much pain that his expression became very ferocious and twisted. He kept shouting, "Grandpa, it hurts, it hurts..."

However, Grandpa Zeng ignored his pain and continued to scold him, "Brat, so you know how to feel pain? Have you forgotten what I've taught you? Did I teach you to tease a girl? Aren't you afraid of scaring her?" He raised his leg and kicked at Zeng Yaozu's calf.

Zeng Yaozu felt pain in his ear and calf. Cold sweat kept pouring out of his forehead. Zeng Yaozu endured the pain and tried to explain, "Grandpa, it's a misunderstanding!"

The crowd couldn't help but pity Zeng Yaozu. The old man was harsh to his family too. Even Xiao Xinxin felt sorry for Zeng Yaozu.

She bit her lip and walked over to Grandpa Zeng, saying, "Grandpa... He seems to be in a lot of pain. Why don't you let him go?"

Grandpa Zeng waved his hand. "Don't worry, little girl. He has thick skin. I've taught him like this since he was a baby."

Everyone shed a tear of sympathy for Zeng Yaozu. It was not easy to be the old man's grandson.

Xiao Xinxin did not know what to say and how to persuade him. She stood there with a red face. She felt guilty because she was the reason why Grandpa Zeng was punishing Zeng Yaozu.

Grandpa Zeng took a look at Xiao Xinxin and sighed in his heart. Then, he let go of Zeng Yaozu's pinched ear, but he still scolded him sternly, "Look at the girl. She is so kind. When she saw your grandfather beat you, she came to plead for you! Hurry up and apologize to the little girl. Otherwise, the lesson will continue!"

"Grandpa, I'll apologize now!" Zeng Yaozu touched his red ear and said immediately.

Then he said sincerely, "Miss, I'm sorry for scaring you last night. I apologize for my friends and me!"

Xiao Xinxin's face turned red. She breathed a sigh of relief and stammered, "It... It's okay!"

Zeng Yaozu also secretly let out a sigh of relief. He touched his ears, bent down, and rubbed his calf that was kicked by his grandfather. He tried to explain himself, "But Miss, you really need to listen to my explanation. We didn't mean to scare you yesterday night. We had our reasons..."

“Brat, you’re telling me you have a reason to scare a girl?” Grandpa Zeng’s voice suddenly sounded again.

Zeng Yaozu was so scared that he shivered and quickly explained to Xiao Xinxin, “We were indeed racing yesterday. We saw you hiding in the corner. We decided to bring you to the hotel...”

“You Little Brat!” Grandpa Zeng immediately shouted when he heard that his grandson was going to bring the girl to the hotel.

“Grandpa, it’s a misunderstanding!” Zeng Yaozu felt like he was making things worse. “We can’t bring her back to our home, so of course, we had to bring her to the hotel!” Then, he realized he had made it worse.

Xiao Chengbang and Auntie Zhou looked at Zeng Yaozu as if they were about to spitfire. The boy and his friends were about to drag their daughter to a hotel!

Zeng Yunbing’s face turned darker as he listened to his son’s explanation. His son was so stupid. It was hard for others not to misunderstand him. In any case, the stupid son was still his son. So, he had to help him.

Zeng Yunbing coughed and then explained for his son, “Girl, please don’t misunderstand.

“I believe my son only wanted to find you a hotel room yesterday night. After all, it was too dangerous for a girl like you to stay outside on your own. He can’t take you back to where his friends stay. The place is too smelly.

“Of course, he couldn’t bring you back to our home either. That’s unreasonable, right?”

Zeng Yaozu immediately nodded and said, “Yes, yes, that’s what I meant.”

Zeng Yunbing glared at Zeng Yaozu and thought to himself. ‘How can I have such a stupid son? He even needs his father to come to help him!’

Zeng Yunbing then said with a very amiable smile, “Little girl, my son is a bit dumb. But, he is very kind and a man with a strong sense of justice. He would never do anything bad. There has to be some kind of misunderstanding.”

Xiao Xinxin looked at the pitiful Zeng Yaozu suspiciously. Was that a misunderstanding? If it was a misunderstanding, what about the disgusting promise like he’d make her his woman?

Xiao Xinxin bit her lip and did not respond to Zeng Yunbing’s words.

Xiao Lingye’s anger was still not appeased. He questioned in a stern voice, “I clearly heard you tell Sister Xinxin that you want her to be your woman! You promised salaciously that you wouldn’t disappoint her! You told her to follow you and your friends. How is that a misunderstanding?”

Xiao Lingye didn’t hear everything, or else, he would complain even more.

Xiao Xinxin didn’t say anything. After all, the young man was Grandpa Zeng’s grandson and chief Zeng’s son. They had helped them a lot, so she really could not say anything bad about his grandson.

“What?” After Grandpa Zeng heard this, he started to get angry again.

“You Brat, is that how you should act around a girl?” Grandpa Zeng pinched his grandson’s ears again.

Zeng Yaozu’s face turned pale from the pain. He cried out in pain, “Grandpa, it hurts. I’m afraid that my ears are going to fall out!”

The crowd silently shed tears of sympathy for Zeng Yaozu.

How did the child manage to grow up with both of his ears intact?

“You know how to be afraid?” Grandpa Zeng reprimanded loudly. “When you were teasing the little girl, didn’t you think that the little girl would be afraid too?”

“You and your friends surrounded the girl in the middle of the night and asked her to be your woman and wanted to drag her to a hotel! Do you think it was a funny joke? Have you thought about what the girl might feel?”

“Grandpa, I was wrong. I will never do such a stupid thing again,” Zeng Yaozu immediately begged for mercy, “At that time, we just thought that it was fun. This... is a complete misunderstanding!”

Tears flowed out because of the pain. This made the people present feel both amused and sympathetic.

Even though Chief Zeng sympathized with his son, he didn’t speak up for him. If someone asked how his son died, he’d answer he died from stupidity. It was so embarrassing.

Chief Zeng couldn’t bear to look at his son. But he felt pitiful that his father was so harsh on his son.

Then again, he couldn’t intervene because he might end up in the same state as Zeng Yaozu.

‘Son, it’s not that Dad doesn’t want to save you, but I can’t!’ As Zeng Yaozu cried, Zeng Yunbing’s heart quivered. He decided he needed to do something. He thought for a moment and said to Xiao Lingye, “Young man, this might really be a misunderstanding. My Brat might look rebellious and strong, but he hasn’t even touched a girl’s hand other than his sister’s. He would blush around a beautiful girl.”

“That is true.” Grandpa Zeng said. “The brat would blush whenever he saw a pretty girl. He doesn’t even dare to talk to a girl. As a result, even though he’s 23 now, he’s still as single as ever.”

The father and grandfather were not lying.

“Ah?” Everyone present was dumbfounded. They looked at Zeng Yaozu with a strange look. The young man was dressed so uniquely, but he was a big boy who would blush when he was around a pretty girl? That was so cute.

It was hard to tell who was the first, but someone started to giggle. Then, there was a second and a third. Soon, the crowd started laughing.

Even Xiao Xinxin, Xiao Lingye, and the others also laughed out loud.

Zeng Yaozu immediately cleared his name, “So, it’s really a misunderstanding. Last night, I saw the girl alone in the corner. I was afraid, so I said those words to bolster my courage. My friends were egging me on too.” He told Xiao Xinxin seriously, “Miss Xiao, I’m sorry for scaring you last night.”

Xiao Xinxin was relieved.

She looked at the shy boy in front of her who was dressed like a bad guy. She covered her mouth and smiled. She then said, "It's okay. I'm fine, and it's in the past. But, can you stop scaring other girls like that in the future?"

"Of course!" Zeng Yaozu secretly sighed with relief after getting the forgiveness.

Xiao Xinxin was really happy. All the unfairness she suffered had been fixed.

The atmosphere was lively. Grandpa Zeng released his grip on Zeng Yaozu's ear. He slapped the back of his head and warned him sternly, "Brat, if you ever make such jokes again, I'll break your legs!"

"I won't anymore!" Zeng Yaozu promised. He was not stupid. He wouldn't make the same mistake twice.

"Haha..." Everyone suddenly burst into laughter.

...

Lei Zhenhu and Gu Qingjiao were still fighting when more officers arrived. The officers came because more people provided them with info about bad dealings inside De Wang Supermarket. The couple stopped fighting and followed the officers.

Soon, the officers found a big bag of unopened and expired food in the warehouse. There was no concrete evidence for imprisonment, but they were still investigating.

The officers called the Food Safety Bureau over. The boss and his wife had connections there too, but compared to the director of the Labor Bureau and the police chief, their connection was nothing.

Even though Lei Zhenhu and Gu Qingjiao were not arrested, their supermarket was forced to close down.

They didn't sign labor contracts with their employees, and they exploited their employees. The Labor Bureau launched an in-depth investigation.

When the case concluded, even though the couple wasn't involved in serious crimes, it was true that they had illegally exploited employees, illegally deducted employees' wages, and so on. They also violated the laws of the Food Safety Bureau. They were told to compensate all their employees double their wages. The Food Safety Bureau fined them 100,000 RMB for selling expired food on purpose.

In short, Lei Zhenhu and Gu Qingjiao had a horrible ending!

Chapter 215: The Jiang Family

After the matter was settled and they returned to the Taoyuan Village, Xiao Chengbang and his family were very grateful to Xiao Lingyu.

They knew very well that if Xiao Lingyu weren't involved in this matter, they would have been more likely to be on the receiving end of the revenge.

As Gu Qingjiao said, she had connections. Xiao Chengbang and his wife couldn't touch her.

Xiao Xinxin worked at the supermarket without signing a contract. They were not as well-versed in the law as Xiao Lingyu was. The black-hearted boss would take advantage of them.

Auntie Zhou caught a few old hens and filled a basket of eggs. The whole family came over to thank Xiao Lingyu, "Lingyu, we have to thank you for helping Xinxin. You got her salary back and even made her bosses pay the price!"

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "Auntie Zhou, you're too kind. I see Xinxin as my little sister. I can't sit there and watch her getting taken advantage of."

Auntie Zhou said, "Regardless, our family still has to thank you." Even though the young man said, he was only joking, who knew what would have happened if Xiao Lingyu didn't come on time. If Xiao Xinxin's reputation was ruined, what would they do?

Xiao Chengbang praised, "Lingyu, you and your brother are amazing. You do things in a methodical way, with courage and strategy."

"If you didn't prepare that recording pen from the beginning, and if Lingyu didn't lure the black-hearted lady into saying those words, we wouldn't get the evidence."

"With Section Chief Qin, they might be able to turn everything on us!"

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "Uncle Cheng, you're wrong. With Grandpa Zeng there, they won't be able to distort the truth. Besides, the crowd has sharp eyes. They know who is right."

"But, we're indeed lucky to run into Uncle Zeng. He has helped us save a lot of trouble."

Lei Zhenhu was very cunning. He could lie through his teeth. With Qin Fufa's support, they could really suppress the truth.

Hearing this, Xiao Chengbang nodded and said, "We really should thank Grandpa Zeng. Otherwise, the evidence wouldn't reach the director so smoothly."

If Grandpa Zeng lived in the country, they would go over to thank him in person. However, he lived in the county town, and his son was a high-ranking official. Xiao Chengbang was afraid that they would look down on them.

He would have his wife catch a few good hens and get Xiao Lingyu to pass the hens to them. The county people got their chickens from the farm. But the chickens there were raised on the regular feed. They couldn't compare to wild chickens raised in the mountains.

...

When Mother Xiao and Liu Chunhua heard the whole process, they were shocked. The madam boss ran a big supermarket, so she should be smart. Why did she fall for the trap so easily?

Liu Chunhua laughed. "Second sister, the lady was too arrogant, and that was her downfall!"

Mother Xiao sighed, "They think people from the countryside can't do anything to them, so they boasted shamelessly to the crowd about their connections. It made it sound like they own all the government agencies."

Xiao Mingyang nodded. "That's right. If the lady were not that arrogant and didn't reveal anything to us, we wouldn't get her weakness so easily. However." He looked at Xiao Lingyu and smiled, "She is clearly no match for our female genius. No matter how cunning they are, they can't outsmart Yu 'Er."

Xiao Lingyu chuckled and shook her head. "Fourth Uncle, you've placed a huge hat for me. Everyone has worked hard. It's not just me!"

"But you're the mastermind behind everything!" The others countered, "If you didn't come up with the plan and manage to argue with them, we would be in a worse state."

Xiao Xinxin's eyes sparkled as she said in admiration, "Sister Lingyu, you're really amazing."

Auntie Zhou placed her hand on her head and knocked it, "In the past, I told you to study hard, but you kept complaining. You always slept in class. I can't even tell you how many times the teacher came to look for me. Look at your Sister Lingyu. With just a few words, she made that arrogant, black-hearted lady boss speechless."

Xiao Xinxin rubbed her head and said somewhat helplessly, "Mom, you can't blame me for this. You know how much I admire sister Ling Yu. I also want to study hard. But when I opened the book, I wanted to sleep. I couldn't control myself." At this point, her big eyes rolled around, and then she said, "Mom, I must have inherited that. Dad, Mom, which of you doesn't like to read?"

Auntie Zhou's face turned red. "How can you blame that on your dad and me?"

But internally, she muttered, 'Could this really be hereditary?' She remembered the times when she was attending classes. Once the teacher started lecturing, her eyes would close.

Xiao Chengbang immediately denied it. "You definitely didn't get it from me. When I was young, I had the best results."

Xiao Xinxin and Auntie Zhou looked at Xiao Chengbang suspiciously. They didn't believe him.

Xiao Chengbang felt embarrassed when his wife and daughter looked at him like that. He immediately said, "If you don't believe me, you can ask Zhengyang and Mingyang. They know."

Xiao Mingyang nodded seriously and said, "That's right. Chengbang's grades were indeed the best. I remember one time, the teacher gave us a math question. The family has one duck, and the father brought back another duck, so how many ducks the family has? Everyone said two, but Chengbang was the only one who said three. The teacher said he was wrong, but Chengbang said he'd prove that he was right."

This was the first time Xiao Xinxin heard about her father's dark history. She laughed, "Haha. Dad, your grades were so bad in the past. But you kept on boasting to us that you were so good at studying!" Then she back to Xiao Mingyang, "Uncle Mingyang, did my dad really prove it?" She couldn't figure out how her father would do that.

Xiao Mingyang smiled. "Why don't you ask your dad?"

"Dad..." Xiao Xinxin turned to her dad curiously.

Xiao Chengbang coughed with embarrassment. "Your grandfather raised ducks in the past, so I brought a hatched duckling to school to show the teacher."

"Ah?" The juniors were shocked.

"Fine, your dad is not good at his studies," Xiao Chengbang said with a slight blush, "Because of that, I know the importance of studies. That's why I have you two study hard. But you two aren't good at studying either."

Xiao Xinxin refuted, "Dad, we inherited that from you and mom! But..." At this point, she paused for a moment and said with determination, "I'll definitely read more in the future. Even if I can't go to university, I'll read more and master some knowledge. That way, I won't be cheated anymore."

If she had known that she had to sign a labor contract law with the employer when she went to look for a job, she wouldn't have been cheated so badly. This incident had opened her eyes to the importance of culture and knowledge.

"It's good that Xinxin has this determination. Reading is always good." Xiao Lingyu smiled at Xiao Chengbang and Auntie Zhou. "Uncle Chengbang, Auntie Zhou, everyone has their own path in life. Not everyone has to achieve success through studies. Perhaps Xinxin can be successful in other areas."

"Yes," Xiao Xinxin clenched her fists and said firmly, "I'm still young now. There are still many things that I need to master and learn. I'll definitely work hard in the future and try my best to keep up with Sister Lingyu's footsteps."

"Good, it's good that you can think like that!" Xiao Chengbang and his wife nodded. "Our girl is all grown-up now."

"Xinxin, do you want to go to my shop to work tomorrow, or do you want to rest for a few days before going?" Xiao Lingyu asked.

Xiao Xinxin said decisively, "I can start tomorrow. Let bygones be bygones."

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, "Okay. From tomorrow on, you'll work with my fourth aunt first. After I draft the contract, we'll sign it."

"Sister Lingyu, we are so familiar with each other. There's no need to sign a labor contract!" Xiao Xinxin said nonchalantly, "I don't think you'd cheat me like my former boss."

Xiao Lingyu, "... The child hasn't learned her lesson. Then again, perhaps I should thank her trust.

"Ouch. Dad, why did you hit my head?" Xiao Xinxin hugged her head and groaned.

Xiao Chengbang said, "Lingyu definitely won't treat you as harshly as that black-hearted boss, but can you guarantee that you'll be a good employee? What if you slack off? We have to protect Lingyu's interest too."

Xiao Xinxin pouted and said, "Dad, how can you criticize your own daughter like that?"

"I'm just telling the truth!" Xiao Chengbang rebuked her. Then, he looked at Xiao Lingyu and said, "Lingyu, do what you have to do. Don't treat Xinxin differently because you're her friend. If she doesn't work hard, you can scold and hit her when you have to!"

Xiao Lingyu, "... " Do I look like someone who'd beat my employees?

Xiao Xinxin, "... " Am I his biological daughter? Why he'd encourage others to hit me?

Then, they talked a bit about Xiao Xinxin's work details.

After Xiao Chengbang and his family returned home, Xiao Chengbang and Auntie Zhou said seriously, "Xinxin, when you go to work in Lingyu's shop, you have to work hard and not slack off. Do you understand?"

Xiao Xinxin nodded and said, "Of course! I will definitely work hard."

"Good," Xiao Chengbang said. "With Lingyu and Zhengyang's character, as long as you work hard, they will definitely not mistreat you."

"I know!" Xiao Xinxin said, "Actually when the other villagers found out Sister Lingyu had offered me this job, they were so envious. So many people want my job, I will not surrender it so easily!"

"Good!" The couple nodded.

"Alright, you have to work early tomorrow, so you should go to bed now. Lingyu's family wakes up at 3 or 4 am to pick the vegetables in the field. Even though you don't need to do that, you still need to wake up early. Mingyang's truck will leave around 5 or 6 am."

"Okay. Don't worry, Mom and Dad. I'll get up early tomorrow!" Xiao Xinxin then went to her room to sleep.

The couple chatted for a while.

"This time, Xinxin suffered such a huge loss. I wonder if she had learned her lesson."

"I think so. Our daughter isn't that stupid, right?"

"This time, we really need to thank Lingyu and Lingye. We only have one daughter. What if something happens to her?"

"That's right. If it wasn't for their help, we really don't know what would have happened to Xinxin. We owe Zhengyang and his family a huge favor."

"We must remember this favor. We can't be an ungrateful person."

"I know it even if you don't tell me!"

The husband and wife then retired to sleep.

...

Inside Jiang Tao's apartment in Beijing, Jiang Tao's face was dark when he got the report. After a moment, he put down the documents and looked at the ceiling. He said somewhat helplessly, "So it's the Qin family..."

At this moment, his phone rang.

He picked up the phone and looked at the display. He couldn't help but frown!

"Grandpa!" He answered the phone and called out respectfully.

An old but authoritative voice came from the phone, "You've been back to Beijing for a few days. Why didn't you come home immediately?"

"Grandpa, I..." Jiang Tao wanted to explain.

"I don't want to hear your explanation!" The person on the other side said sternly, "Come home immediately!"

After hanging up the phone, Jiang Tao smiled bitterly.

To him, the place was not a home but a birdcage.

Chapter 216: Return to the Jiang Family!

When Jiang Tao returned to the Jiang family mansion, the servants greeted him respectfully, "Eldest young master!"

Jiang Tao asked, "Where's grandfather?"

The servants replied, "He's fishing in the pond in the backyard!"

"Alright, I got it!" Jiang Tao nodded and went straight to the backyard.

When Jiang Tao's parents heard that Jiang Tao had returned, they had been waiting in the courtyard.

When they saw him, Mother Jiang was so excited that her tears sparkled. She called out, "Tao 'Er!" She wanted to go forward, but she was worried about something. She stood there and looked at him.

Jiang Tao didn't share his parent's excitement. He greeted them respectfully. "Father, Mother!" It was respectful and aloof. This was not a normal relationship between parents and children. It was more like the relationship between a superior and a subordinate.

Mother Jiang held back her tears and opened her mouth. She wanted to say something, but in the end, the words that came out of her mouth became, "It's good that you're back!"

Father Jiang asked, "Tao 'Er, are you coming back to stay for a few days, or are you going to stay in the capital?"

Jiang Tao said, "I'll go back after a few days. Father, mother, I'm going to look for grandfather."

"Tao 'Er..." Mother Jiang called out. The expression in her eyes was very complicated. She wanted to say more, but she felt she didn't have the right.

Father Jiang nodded and said, "Go on then!"

After Jiang Tao left, Mother Jiang finally could not control her tears and covered her face as she began to cry.

Father Jiang hugged her shoulders and sighed. "Tao 'Er is the future heir of the family. He can only follow the path decided by father."

Mother Jiang couldn't help but feel sorry for him. "But this sends Tao 'Er further and further away from us. Why does the old man have to force Tao 'Er like this?"

Father Jiang was shocked and immediately covered her mouth. "Qingfeng, don't ever say these things again. Otherwise, we might not even see Tao 'Er anymore."

As the son, Father Jiang knew how controlling and domineering his father was. In order to nurture the most outstanding heir, Grandfather Jiang raised his grandson, Jiang Tao, like a machine. He was not allowed to have any weaknesses, especially emotional ties!

Ever since Jiang Tao was born, he was left with Old Master Jiang. Jiang Tao was forbidden from getting close to his parents so as not to form any emotional ties. Father and Mother Jiang could only see their son once a month. They were not allowed to hug or be too close to him.

Therefore, Jiang Tao treated them like strangers.

Father Jiang sighed and said, "Don't cry anymore. Tao 'Er is back. He'll eat at home. Get the kitchen to prepare Tao 'Er's favorite food. I'll call Bin 'Er and Wen 'Er. Their eldest brother is home. We should have a meal as a family."

Mother Jiang nodded silently and went to the kitchen.

Father Jiang gave his second son, Jiang Bin, and his youngest daughter, Jiang Wen, a call and told them to come home for dinner.

In a private room at Golden City Club, there were smoking and drinking. Young men and women lay on the coffee table or the floor. The men gasped, and the women moaned.

Suddenly, someone's phone rang. It was very abrupt in this space.

"Which bastard forgot to silence his phone?" The man who was 'working' asked sharply.

The men and women present looked at each other and eventually found the source of the sound. A high-end black phone was lying on the sofa, and it was still ringing.

Someone took a look and said in a low voice, "Young Master Jiang, it's your phone."

When Jiang Bin heard this, he said angrily, "Give me the phone. I want to see which bastard dares to disturb me."

The person handed the phone to Jiang Bin. In this process, he glanced at the caller Id, and he was so scared he almost dropped the phone. He stammered, "Young Master Jiang, it's your father!"

“What?” Young Master Jiang jumped up on the spot. Then he quickly picked up the phone and shouted, “Dad, what’s wrong? Okay, I’ll be back soon!”

When he hung up the phone, his face was very ugly. It was dark and gloomy. No one knew what he was thinking with his sharp eyes.

“Young master Jiang, what’s wrong?” After some time, someone swallowed his saliva and asked carefully.

“Nothing. It’s just that my big brother suddenly came back. My dad asked me to go back for dinner!” He said as he put on his clothes.

The people’s expressions changed when they heard that. Someone cried out in surprise. “Eldest Young Master Jiang is back?”

Jiang Bin’s movement paused. His sharp eye turned to the person. He gritted his teeth and said, “That’s right. The actual heir of the Jiang Family is back. Are you scared?”

The others didn’t know how to answer his question, but Jiang Bin didn’t expect them to answer either. He sneered and said, “I sure am scared!”

When he said this, he felt a faint sense of dissatisfaction in his heart.

‘Why is the eldest son treated as the heir while the others are treated like crap? No matter how outstanding we are, we’ll never catch grandfather’s eyes.’ Jiang Bin’s eyes darkened. He took a white jacket, threw it on his shoulder, and left.

As soon as he left, the remaining men and women in the private room had complicated expressions.

“Eldest Young Master Jiang is back!” Suddenly, someone said with some fear, “Can Young Master Jiang still come out to play with us?”

“I don’t think so.” Someone answered.

“Yes.” Someone concurred, “Whenever the Eldest Young Master is back, Young Master Jiang will become very obedient.”

“Eldest Young Master Jiang is very cold. Whenever I’m around him, I feel uncomfortable. I wonder how Young Master Jiang manages to live with him.”

“I heard that the Jiang family and the Qin family are going to have a political marriage.”

“I heard the same thing. It’s between Eldest Young Master Jiang and the Qin family’s eldest daughter, Qin Yan.”

“The two of them are a perfect match. They are of equal status. Qin Yan is the number one socialite in the capital.”

“But, I heard Qin Yan likes Young Master Gong?” Everyone was silent. They respected Eldest Young Master Jiang, but they feared Young Master Gong. To them, Young Master Gong was someone they couldn’t afford to offend.

Although he was young, he was steady, experienced, and ruthless! If someone provoked him, he could wipe out a whole family from existence.

He also didn't have any sympathy for women.

Once, a daughter of a large family in the capital used some tricks to get Young Master Gong. She climbed into bed, stripped naked, and even called the reporters. Her intention was very clear. She wanted everyone to know that Young Master Gong had slept with her. Then, he would have to take responsibility and marry her.

However, the reality was harsh.

The moment Young Master Gong entered the room and found a naked woman on the bed, and he had his bodyguards directly throw her out. The reporters were stunned to see a naked woman in the corridor, but they soon got into action.

The headlines were filled with the woman's pictures. She stripped naked to try to seduce Young Master Gong, but she was thrown out ruthlessly.

Her family was humiliated. Her family exiled her. They even had to prepare a generous gift and apologize to the Gong family. Her family had lost a lot.

In reality, everyone knew that the girl only dared to do that because she was ordered to do so by her family. Otherwise, she wouldn't have done something as shameless as this.

There were so many socialites in the capital who liked Young Master Gong, but none of them had the courage to pursue him.

Young Master Gong had no time for fools. Once they upset Young Master Gong, he might destroy not only the woman but also her entire family. Young Master Gong was a fickle person. He might take revenge on the woman if he was in a good mood, but he might level her entire family if he was in a bad mood.

Therefore, the younger generation trembled in fear when they had to face Young Master Gong. If they were not careful, they would face the wrath of this tyrant. They didn't dare to gossip about him either. However, when they heard Young Miss Qin liked Young Master Gong, they were intrigued.

"Where did you hear that? Is it true?" Ge Tianlian asked, "Why haven't we heard of it?"

"Yea." Guan Zhengpeng asked in puzzlement, "Qin Yan likes Young Master Gong, but she is marrying Young Master Jiang? Everyone knows that Young Master Gong and Young Master Jiang are good friends. They are not going to fight for a woman, right?"

Young Master Gong and Young Master Jiang were princelings of the capital.

"I don't think so." Ge Tianlian said! Even if Qin Yan likes Young Master Gong, it doesn't mean that Young Master Gong likes young Miss Qin."

"That's true!" The others echoed.

“Besides, with Young Master Gong and Young Master Jiang’s strong friendship, they definitely won’t fall out over women.”

“Yes, that’s true!”

They agreed unanimously! However, they were curious about what would happen next.

...

Jiang Tao came to the back garden. Old Master Jiang was sitting by the pond fishing while Butler Li stood at the side, very quiet.

“Grandfather!” Jiang Tao called out respectfully.

Butler Li called out very respectfully, “Eldest young master!” Then, he glanced at Old Master Jiang who was fishing and said meaningfully, “Eldest young master, Old Master has been waiting for a long time!” He meant that Old Master was angry because Jiang Tao didn’t return home immediately.

Jiang Tao nodded at Butler Li and then said respectfully to the old man, “Grandpa, I’m sorry!”

The old man didn’t answer.

Butler Li secretly sighed and asked, “Eldest young master, why didn’t you inform Uncle Li when you returned to the capital? Uncle Li can go pick you up.”

Jiang Tao said, “Uncle Li, I came back suddenly. I didn’t want to trouble you.”

“Hmph. That’s because you don’t want anyone to disturb your investigation of the political marriage between our family and the Qin Family, right?” Grandpa Jiang snorted coldly and asked directly, “So, what do you think?”

“Grandpa!” Jiang Tao’s pupils suddenly shrank. Then, he took a deep breath and asked directly, “Grandpa, why didn’t you tell me about the marriage between the Jiang and Qin families?”

“Why should I tell you?” Grandpa Jiang said domineeringly.

“Why shouldn’t you tell me?” Jiang Tao frowned and found it unbelievable. He couldn’t help but ask, “As the one getting married, shouldn’t I have the right to know?”

“It doesn’t matter because the ending will never change.” Grandpa Jiang said. At this point, his eyes narrowed and he asked sharply, “Are you questioning grandfather?”

Jiang Tao’s breathing stopped for a moment, and then he said, “Grandfather, I’m not questioning you. I don’t have the right. However, I merely feel that I should know since I’m getting married.”

Grandfather Jiang nodded and said, “Well, now you know. What do you intend to do? When do you want to get engaged?”

“I...” Jiang Tao wanted to say he wanted to reject the marriage, but he didn’t want to raise his grandfather’s suspicion. He said, “Grandfather, but Qin Yan and I are not suitable! We... are just ordinary friends. There is no romantic feeling within us.”

However, grandfather Jiang directly waved his hand and interrupted him. His sharp eyes stared at Jiang Tao and said, "Don't bring up feelings! As the heir of the Jiang Family, feelings shouldn't feature in your life! What I want is benefits for the Jiang Family! As the heir of the Jiang Family, the Qin Family's daughter is your best choice!" His eyes narrowed in slits. "Tao 'Er, you grew up together with Qin Yan. You are like a big brother to her. Now, you will be her husband. In the future, you'll fall in love with her!"

When Jiang Tao heard this, he opened his mouth. He wanted to say something, but he didn't know how to say it.

However, Old Master Jiang waved his hand and said, "Since you're back, you should rest at home for a few days. In a few days, we'll announce to the public the marriage between the Jiang family and the Qin family. You should be prepared!"

"Grandfather!" Jiang Tao cried out in surprise.

At this moment, Uncle Li said, "Eldest young master, Old Master is tired and needs to rest. Please go back first. If there's anything, we'll talk about it after old master has rested!"

Butler Li was Old Master Jiang's spokesman. Jiang Tao got the meaning. He could only take his leave.

After Jiang Tao left, Old Master Jiang said, "Butler Li, get someone to investigate what happened to Tao 'Er in that small county."

Butler Li was a little surprised when he heard that. "Old Master, do you suspect something?"

"Tao 'Er is particularly resistant to the marriage. This will not happen if nothing has influenced him in that small county. I will not allow anyone or anything to obstruct the path that has been arranged for him. Do you understand?"

Uncle Li immediately understood. "Yes!"

Chapter 217: Jiang Tao's Difficult Choice

The Qin Family was exceptionally happy when they heard about Jiang Tao's return. According to their original plan, they would wait for another two months before announcing the two families' engagement. However, now that Jiang Tao had returned early, Old Master Jiang decided to announce the marriage earlier too.

The head of the Qin Family, Qin Xingbao, was elated when he received the call from Old Master Jiang.

He made a call after that. "Yan 'Er, where are you?"

"I'm in a coffee shop. What's the matter, Dad?"

In a high-end coffee shop, a girl with long straight black hair, fair and smooth skin was sitting in a private room by the window. Her facial features were very exquisite. Her face was shapely with a pair of big, round eyes, faint eyebrows, and a cherry-red mouth. She was a great beauty.

She was Qin Yan, the publicly acknowledged number one socialite in the upper circles of the capital city.

At this moment, her beautiful eyes looked through the bright glass and at the building in front of her, Imperial Palace. She ignored the occasional gazes that shot her way.

“Okay, I got it. I’ll be back in a while!” After Qin Yan put down the phone, she stared at the Imperial Palace building again. She sighed lightly, but there was some unwillingness in her eyes.

Then, she took her bag and prepared to leave.

At this time, a man in a suit and leather shoes went forward to strike up a conversation, “Hello, Beauty!”

Qin Yan completely ignored the man. The man couldn’t allow her to leave just like that. He blocked her way and said with a burning gaze, “I’m sorry, dear Beauty. You look too much like my girlfriend. It’s just that my girlfriend...” has already passed away. He wanted to buy sympathy.

Before he could finish speaking, he heard Qin Yan say in a sweet and indifferent voice, “I’ll leave this to you!”

Immediately, two men in black came out of the private room next door. They were clearly bodyguards. They accosted the man and said coldly, “Please leave now.”

The man was so scared that his face turned pale, and he staggered back two steps. The girl was clearly a person of power and status. Ordinary elites like them couldn’t afford to provoke her!

The others who wanted to come to talk to Qin Yan were frightened too.

Qin Yan’s beautiful eyes scanned her surroundings and took in the cowering men. The corners of her lips curled up slightly, and her eyes revealed a contemptuous and disdainful look. Then, she left the cafe.

After returning to the Qin family, Qin Yan asked, “Dad, what’s the matter?”

Qin Xingbao asked happily, “Yan ‘Er, Jiang Tao is back. Do you know?”

“Jiang Tao?” Qin Yan was slightly surprised for a moment, but then she shook her head and said, “I don’t know.”

Ever since she knew that she was going to be engaged to Jiang Tao, she was absent-minded. She didn’t care about anything other than that person.

Qin Xingbao immediately asked in puzzlement, “How can you not know? Don’t you two keep in touch? Aren’t you two good friends?”

Qin Yan shook her head and said, “Ever since Jiang Tao went to that backward place, we had lost contact.”

Actually, she only befriended Jiang Tao to get close to Gong Tianhao. After Jiang Tao left for that backward jungle, Jiang Tao had less contact with Gong Tianhao, so Qin Yan had less contact with Jiang Tao.

Qin Xingbao was a little suspicious, but then he said happily, “Yan ‘Er, Old Master Jiang just called. He said that Jiang Tao is back, so you can get engaged in advance.”

“Get engaged in advance?” Qin Yan looked very surprised. “But why?” She didn’t want an early engagement, in fact, she didn’t want to get engaged at all. Of course, if the engagement were to another man, she would be very happy. But, she didn’t want to be engaged to a man she didn’t even care for.

Qin Xingbao saw Qin Yan’s agitation, and he mistook it as happiness. He secretly nodded his head in satisfaction.

His daughter was heavenly and beautiful. She would help advance the family. Jiang Tao was the perfect candidate. Well, the better candidate was the Gong Family, Gong Tianhao. However, Gong Tianhao had power, money, and status. He didn’t need to rely on a political marriage to obtain further benefits for his family.

Qin Yan and Gong Tianhao had a good relationship since they were young. Qin Yan’s father thought Gong Tianhao would eventually marry Qin Yan.

However, after the Li Family’s daughter was stripped naked and reported on the family, Qin Xingbao’s heart thumped.

Gong Tianhao was ruthless and merciless. If he had feelings for Qin Yan, it was perfect, but if he didn’t, then it would be tragic if she tried to pursue him.

Qin Yan was instrumental in helping the Qin Family rise to a higher level through political marriage.

There were six great families in the capital, Gong family, Jiang family, Li family, Qin family, Chu family, and Leng family. Their power was ranked in this order.

Qin Xingbao would only choose his son-in-law from these families. The best choice was, of course, the Gong Family, followed by the Jiang Family.

The Li family was the Qin family’s sworn enemy. There was no possibility of a political marriage at all.

Qin Xingbao tried to probe the Gong family, but he received a rejection from Old Master Gong and Gong Tianhao. It was obvious that Gong Tianhao didn’t like Qin Yan at all.

Therefore, when Old Master Jiang showed interest in a political marriage, the two families’ heads immediately decided on a union. This was not a secret among the upper circles.

When Qin Yan first heard the news, she was so shocked that her head was spinning. Her face was pale, and her entire person was weak and limp.

But she couldn’t resist fate. She had been making preparations ever since.

However, when the news of the arrangement came, she was still unwilling. She suppressed her emotions and asked very calmly in front of her father, “Dad, I heard that Jiang Tao was supposed to return in August. Why is he back now?”

Qin Xingbao shook his head and said, “I don’t know either.” At this point, he patted Qin Yan’s shoulder and said, “Yan ‘Er, it’s good that he’s back early. We need Jiang Tao as our son-in-law, or else he might be snatched away by the other families. Yan ‘Er, Jiang Tao is the best choice for you and for the family. Do you understand?”

Qin Yan's expression changed slightly. She nodded and replied, "Dad, I'm also very happy to marry Jiang Tao."

"Good, good!" Qin Xingbao said, "You're going to be the Jiang Family's bride in two days. You should be prepared."

"Okay!"

...

In the Imperial Palace Group, Li Yuanhang walked into the president's office and pushed the glasses on his nose. Then, he reported to Gong Tianhao, "Tianhao, Old Master Jiang is suspicious of Young Master Jiang. He has sent people to Xing Yin County!" Li Yuanhang asked suspiciously, "Did Young Master Jiang tell Old Master Jiang that he likes Xiao Lingyu? Otherwise, why would the old master move so quickly?"

Gong Tianhao frowned, "With old master Jiang's keen and shrewd senses, even if Tao Zi didn't say anything, as long as he showed the slightest bit of abnormality, old master Jiang would be suspicious."

"Ah?" Li Yuanhang was a little surprised. "Then does Young Master Jiang know about this?"

Gong Tianhao leaned against the back of the chair and narrowed his deep, dark eyes. Then, he said, "I doubt it."

Jiang Tao was raised by Old Master Jiang.

Old Master Jiang had Jiang Tao in his palm. Even if there was a slight deviation from Jiang Tao, Old Master Jiang would know. Jiang Tao was raised as Old Master Jiang's puppet. The puppet was naturally fearful before his puppeteer. It was natural for him to reveal some flaws.

"Tianhao, what should we do now?" Li Yuanhang said worriedly, "With Old Master Jiang's emotionless personality, once he finds out about Xiao Lingyu, he will crush her." Li Yuanhang continued, "Granted, I didn't have a good impression of Xiao Lingyu when we first met. However, after more interactions, I found out that she is a kind, opinionated and strong woman. It would be such a pity if she got destroyed by the Jiang Family."

It was unknown if Li Yuanhang was purposely saying all these for the man before him or not. When he said these things, the corners of his mouth curled up. He pushed up his glasses again, hiding the craftiness in his eyes.

Li Yuanhang had low hope of the pairing between Jiang Tao and Xiao Lingyu. The biggest reason was the Jiang Family. Jiang Tao's love was too heavy for Xiao Lingyu. Xiao Lingyu simply could not bear it.

Jiang Tao was a puppet who couldn't love freely!

Unless he could shake loose of his puppeteer first.

To be honest, Li Yuanhang thought Xiao Lingyu was more compatible with his boss. For reasons he couldn't explain, he had an intuition that they were compatible.

However, Jiang Tao and his boss were good friends.

Jiang Tao had fallen in love with Xiao Lingyu first. Regardless of whether Xiao Lingyu accepted Jiang Tao or not, it would be unwise for Gong Tianhao to intervene. Of course, if Jiang Tao let go of Xiao Lingyu, then things would be different.

Gong Tianhao thought for a moment and said, "Get people to keep an eye on this. Make sure that the old man's people don't find out about Xiao Lingyu."

Li Yuanhang smiled and replied, "Alright!"

After Li Yuanhang left, Gong Tianhao gave Jiang Tao a call.

Gong Tianhao said, "Tao Zi, your grandfather is already suspicious!"

After Jiang Tao put down the phone, he looked a little shocked. Then, his cold eyes filled with tears.

It turned out that he was just a clown in front of his grandfather. His grandfather could see through any of his actions.

He smiled bitterly. He had underestimated his grandfather. He hadn't even started his resistance, but his grandfather had already made a move.

He was still too weak. And his weakness would hurt Lingyu. His family would hurt the woman he loved.

He urgently needed power, the power to control the family, and the right to control his own freedom. However, to get that power, he had to get married first. And the person had to be someone his grandfather approved. Or else his grandfather wouldn't give him the Jiang Family's power. Without power, he couldn't protect the woman he loved. However, if he wanted to obtain power, he had to give up the woman he loved!

This was a difficult quandary. As Gong Tianhao said, he had no right to love before he stopped being the Jiang Family's puppet.

If that was the case...

Gong Tianhao put down the phone and sat quietly.

His brows furrowed and relaxed. He was deep in thought.

Jiang Tao told him before, "Tianhao, if I fail to protect Lingyu and her family, please help me protect them. This is our agreement. Don't let anyone ruin the happiness of that small family!"

Gong Tianhao held the phone and remained silent. After a long while, he replied seriously, "Okay!"

...

"Damn, the business here is so good!"

At Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, Zeng Yaozu, the blond ruffian, looked at the business in shock.

"Auntie, is the business in this shop so good every day?" Zeng Yaozu asked Fourth Aunt Xiao curiously.

Liu Chunhua frowned at the unusual customer. She nodded and said, "Yes!"

Zeng Yaozu looked here and there and exclaimed, "The vegetables are so expensive, but the business is still so good. It's unbelievable."

Fourth Aunt Xiao had never seen Zeng Yaozu before. Seeing his strange behavior, she was a little suspicious. She walked over and asked, "Young man, how may I help you?"

Zeng Yaozu was reminded of his reason for being there. He scratched his head and asked with a blush, "Auntie, are you hiring? I'm here for a job!"

"You want to work here?" Liu Chunhua was shocked. She studied Zeng Yaozu and his strange way of dressing. She said hesitantly, "Little brother, our shop is not hiring right now." He might scare the customers away, so how could she hire him?

"Hmm? You're not hiring anymore?" Zeng Yaozu was disappointed. "Auntie, I'm very capable! I know how to check accounts."

Auntie Xiao politely refused, "But we already have a cashier. We really don't need more staff."

'Even if we do, we won't hire a ruffian.'

Zeng Yaozu scratched his head again, and then he asked in a low voice, "Auntie, do you need a cleaner then?"

"What?" Liu Chunhua didn't hear him clearly.

At this moment, Zeng Yaozu's eyes lit up, and he shouted cheerfully, "Xiao Xinxin!"

Chapter 218: The Love of Youth

Xiao Xinxin and Xiao Mingyang were walking out of the warehouse when they heard a familiar voice. Their bodies shivered instinctively, and then they asked warily, "Young Master Zeng, why are you here?"

Liu Chunhua heard their conversation and smiled. "Xinxin, do you know each other?"

"Yes, we do!"

"Not really!"

The first sentence was said by Zeng Yaozu, and the second sentence was uttered by Xiao Xinxin.

Liu Chunhua, "...". So they do know each other.

When Zeng Yaozu came to his senses, he asked, "Xinxin, have you not forgiven me yet?"

Liu Chunhua, "...". Is there something between them?

Xiao Xinxin, "...". Why would he say that? It makes things sound so suspicious.

Just as Xiao Xinxin was about to say something, she noticed Fourth Aunt Xiao's curious gaze and thought. 'Look, he has caused a misunderstanding.'

Xiao Xinxin took a deep breath and asked, "Young Master Zeng, why are you here?"

Zeng Yaozu scratched his head. His face was red, and he looked a little shy. He said, "I... I'm here to apply for a job?"

"Apply for a job?" Xiao Xinxin looked at Zeng Yaozu suspiciously. She asked again, "Young Master Zeng, you're here for a job?"

Xiao Xinxin was very doubtful. With his rich family background and his father being a high-ranking official, Xiao Xinxin could not believe Zeng Yaozu needed to work. Plus, if he wanted a job, he could find a job easily at the Labor Bureau.

Zeng Yaozu smiled and said, "Yes, I'm here to apply for a job."

Xiao Xinxin said, "Young Master Zeng, our shop is too small for a big character like you. We can't hire you!"

Even though Liu Chunhua didn't know Zeng Yaozu's real identity, she wouldn't hire him due to his appearance. He'd scare away the customers.

Zeng Yaozu asked anxiously, "Why?"

Xiao Xinxin said, "Our boss isn't here, so we can't make the decision. Besides," she looked at his outfit and said reluctantly, "Your way of dressing is going to scare off our customers!"

Liu Chunhua, "... Why is Xinxin being so direct?"

Zeng Yaozu, "... So that's why?"

Zeng Yaozu scratched his head again and said straightforwardly, "Oh, you don't like my outfit. No problem. I'll change. Wait for me!"

With that, he ran away.

Liu Chunhua, "..."

Xiao Xinxin, "..."

Liu Chunhua watched the young man run away, and she asked curiously, "Xinxin, who is this boy? He looks imposing with his appearance, but he's so shy."

"..." Xiao Xinxin said, "Auntie Liu, that is the son of the director of the Bureau of Labor. He is also a member of the biker gang from that night."

"..." Liu Chunhua was surprised, "So, that's him." Liu Chunhua had heard about Xiao Xinxin's adventure. She sighed, "Xinxin, it doesn't seem wise for us to offend the young master."

"Auntie Liu, we should tell Sister Lingyu about this." Xiao Xinxin said.

Liu Chunhua shook her head. "We'll keep this from her for now. She's pregnant. She's going into labor in about three months. We shouldn't disturb her now."

Xiao Xinxin nodded. "Okay, we'll handle this on our own. If we can't, then we'll tell Sister Lingyu."

"Yes."

When Zeng Yaozu returned to the shop the next day, Xiao Xinxin and the others were shocked.

Zeng Yaozu's hair had been dyed back to its normal black color. He wore normal white clothes. The strange gear was gone. There were no earrings on his ears either.

Zeng Yaozu was quite good-looking. He had thick eyebrows, big eyes, and tanned skin. He looked very healthy and handsome.

Seeing Zeng Yaozu dressed so formally, Xiao Xinxin's face could not help but turn red. She muttered to herself, "Young Master Zeng is quite handsome. Why did he have to dress so weirdly in the past?" Xiao Xinxin was only 20 years ago. When she saw the handsome man, her heart skipped.

"Xinxin," Zeng Yaozu called Xiao Xinxin again.

"Yes?" Xiao Xinxin was too caught up in the pleasant surprise that she didn't notice Zeng Yaozu's call of affection.

The silly and cute Young Master Zeng didn't notice the effect of his charm on Xiao Xinxin either. He asked shyly, "Xinxin, I wanted to ask you, will you hire me now? I called you three or four times, but you didn't respond."

Xiao Xinxin's face immediately turned as red as an apple. It was extremely cute.

Zeng Yaozu was stunned by her appearance. He blurted out, "Xinxin, you're so cute!"

Xiao Xinxin's face turned even redder. She stuttered helplessly, "What... What are you talking about? What... What are you talking about? I... I'm not cute."

Auntie Xiao, who was watching from the side, suddenly realized something. She had been through this before. 'This young man is trying to woo our Xinxin. No wonder he is acting so shy around Xinxin!'

"But you are cute!" Zeng Yaozu added.

Xiao Xinxin's face turned crimson.

Seeing this, Liu Chunhua couldn't help but burst out laughing. The two youngsters blushed when they heard Liu Chunhua.

Liu Chunhua asked with a smile, "Young Master Zeng, do you really want to work here? Or do you have another purpose?"

Young Master Zeng's face was so red that it looked like it was going to bleed. He was flummoxed by the question. He opened his mouth to say something, but he did not know how to say it.

Liu Chunhua waved her hand and said very seriously, "Young Master Zeng, your background is really too hefty to work at a small shop like ours."

"I... I..." Zeng Yaozu was anxious. "I really want to work here. I have no motive. Auntie, don't worry. I can do anything. I'll man the cashier and even clean the shop. I've asked around, and I know you are hiring people because you only have three employees, and your business is very good." Then, he thought of something and added, "I don't mind the salary. Auntie, you can pay me as much as you want!"

Liu Chunhua, "..."

'So he is willing to work for free? Who would believe that he has no purpose working here?'

Liu Chunhua said, "Okay. I'll ask the boss and get her opinion. What do you think?"

"The boss?" Zeng Yaozu frowned. "Do you mean Xin Xin's sister?" He reminded the pregnant woman of that day.

Liu Chunhua nodded.

Zeng Yaozu thought for a moment and nodded. "Okay. Thank you, Auntie. I'll come back tomorrow." He knew that Xinxin and her family would go back to the Taoyuan Village every day. They had to restock the shop every day.

"..." Liu Chunhua nodded.

After Zeng Yaozu left, Liu Chunhua turned to Xiao Xinxin with a smile, "Xinxin, why do you think he wants to work here? Does he have any ulterior motives?"

Xiao Xinxin's face was still red. She said, "Auntie Liu, how would I know? I don't know even know him that well!"

"Oh." Liu Chunhua nodded, but her tone was teasing, "I don't think we should hire him either way. We don't need to ask Lingyu and tell him tomorrow that we can't hire him. What do you think?"

"Auntie Liu, that's not good." Xiao Xinxin shook her head. "We've already promised him to ask Sister Lingyu, right?"

'It looks like our Xinxin is not completely uninterested in Young Master Zeng.' Liu Chunhua said, "Alright, I'll ask Lingyu then."

After hearing this, Xiao Xinxin secretly heaved a sigh of relief.

...

Xiao Lingyu spat out the chicken soup she was drinking. She sat in the courtyard enjoying the sunset. Mother Xiao handed her the chicken soup earlier.

She asked again, "Fourth aunt, what did you say? That Young Master Zeng is interested in Xinxin?"

Liu Chunhua immediately came to find Xiao Lingyu when she returned to Taoyuan Village.

Xiao Xinxin stayed in the county town. Ever since her incident, she understood the power of knowledge. Therefore, she had been studying. Xiao Lingyu realized Xiao Xinxin had talent in management, so she had been finding related books for her. When the shop was closed, Xiao Xinxin would stay at Xiao Lingyu's rental and read.

So, only Liu Chunhua came to find Xiao Lingyu to tell her about Zeng Yaozu.

Liu Chunhua nodded. "Lingyu, you have no idea how red these two's faces were when they were just standing beside each other!"

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "Young Master Zeng's father and grandfather did say that he is very shy around girls."

Liu Chunhua chuckled, "I'm surprised that the handsome man would be so shy around girls. Has he never been in a relationship before?"

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "I'm not sure about that! Young Master Zeng should be around twenty-four or twenty-five already."

Liu Chunhua asked, "Lingyu, should we hire Young Master Zeng then?"

Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment and said, "But the way Young Master Zeng is dressed..."

"Aiz, how can I forget to mention this!" Liu Chunhua patted her head. "Young Master Zeng has dyed his hair back to black and changed his clothes back to normal. He is quite handsome, actually. Xinxin was dazed when she saw the changed Young Master Zeng."

"Oh," Xiao Lingyu said with a smile, "It seems that Xinxin is not completely uninterested in him."

Love at first sight stories mostly involved handsome men and beautiful women.

Although Xiao Xinxin was born in the countryside, she was quite pretty. She worked in the supermarket and was not exposed to the sun. She was fair and pretty. It was understandable for Young Master Zeng to like her at first sight.

Young Master Zeng had once scared Xiao Xinxin. His gangster way had frightened Xiao Xinxin too. However, the man had changed.

Young Master Zeng was handsome, and Xiao Xinxin was pretty.

Liu Chunhua added, "That's right. When they were at the shop earlier, I was drowning in their sweetness. It was too cute!"

Xiao Lingyu nodded, "Fourth aunt, let's not rush this. If they are both interested, we can help them along, but..." She frowned and said worriedly, "There's a big gap between the two families. One is the son of an official in the county, and the other is the daughter of a farmer in the countryside. They don't belong to the same circle. We need to protect Xinxin so that she doesn't get hurt."

Liu Chunhua agreed. "Lingyu, you're right."

Xiao Lingyu added, "But Xinxin is still young. She has a lot of time to grow. Xinxin can work hard to become someone who can impress the man's family."

Liu Chunhua didn't quite get that. Marriage was more than just love. It was a matter of union between two families. Marriages between mismatched families would lead to tragedies.

Xiao Xinxin was only a rural girl who had just graduated from junior high school. If she married Zeng Yaozu, then people would have things to say.

Xiao Xinxin's parents wouldn't say anything, but Zeng Yaozu's family would have comments. They would look down on her. No matter how strong their love was, there would be cracks. Over time, the cracks would shatter the love.

However, if Xiao Xinxin worked hard and became someone as equally powerful as Zeng Yaozu, then her in-laws wouldn't trouble her anymore.

Chapter 219: How to Win a Girl

Once Zeng Yaozu returned home, Grandpa Zeng asked eagerly, "Eldest grandson, how is it?"

Zeng Yaozu's face turned red as he said, "I talked to her a lot today."

"This is progress. It's a good thing!" Grandpa Zeng was delighted when he heard that. He immediately asked curiously, "What did you guys talk about?" His eldest grandson was finally enlightened.

Zeng Yaozu said with a red face, "I said she's cute! Her face was red. She's really cute."

"..." Grandpa Zeng asked, "That's all you said?"

"I told the Auntie in the shop that I would work there for free too." Zeng Yaozu recalled.

Grandpa Zeng suddenly felt so disappointed. He pointed angrily at Zeng Yaozu and cursed, "How can I have such a stupid grandson? You don't even know how to pursue a girl! Don't ever say you're Zeng Qingguo's grandson! With how slow you're moving, when will I be able to hold a great-grandson?"

His eldest grandson could do many things, but he shut down around girls. Plus, due to his normal way of dressing, many girls were scared and didn't dare to approach him. As a result, his eldest grandson hadn't been in any serious relationship. Actually, there were girls who showed interest in Zeng Yaozu for his background, but the young man didn't like them. He liked girls who were simple, kind, gentle, and beautiful. However, his unconventional way of dressing wouldn't attract girls like that.

Zeng Yaozu blushed at his Grandpa's rebuke, and his handsome face looked a little aggrieved. He honestly didn't know how to pursue a girl.

Grandpa Zeng thought for a moment and waved his hand. "Forget it. I'm going to help you. I'll probably die first if I wait for you."

"Grandpa!" Zeng Yaozu was scared when he heard this. "You're going to scare her away!"

"I'm going to scare her away?" Grandpa Zeng stared at his eldest grandson and pointed at his nose in disbelief. "What do you mean?"

Zeng Yaozu was silent.

Grandpa Zeng pinched Zeng Yaozu by his ears. He cursed loudly, "You Little Brat, how dare you doubt your Grandpa? Do you know how many tricks I've done to get your Grandma to agree to marry me? Otherwise, you wouldn't be standing here today."

Zeng Yaozu hugged, "Grandpa, but that's between you and Grandma. How can you use the same tricks to get a granddaughter-in-law? Do you think it's reasonable for you to use those outdated tricks to help your grandson woo a girl?"

Grandpa Zeng really wanted to smack his grandson's head open. How could someone so stubborn ever win a girl? He said he'd help him, but when did he say he'd use the same methods from years ago? He was furious.

As soon as Zeng Yunbing returned home, he saw the old man twisting his son's ear. "Dad, what did Zu 'Er do wrong this time?"

Grandpa Zeng said, "Let me tell you, this young man is ridiculous! He said he fell in love with Xiao Xinxin at first sight and wanted to pursue her. We have both agreed. But how did he go about doing that? He couldn't even speak properly around the girl. I said I'd help him, but he looked down on me instead. How can I have such an ignorant grandson? He must have inherited it from you. You were quite dumb when you were young too!"

Zeng Yunbing, "... In that case, we both inherited it from you.

Of course, Zeng Yunbing didn't say that.

He smiled and said, "Dad, you'd better not get involved in this matter. Zu 'Er already said he's going to work at that shop, right? Once they get to know each other better, they'll develop feelings over time. You should just wait and prepare for the arrival of a great-grandson!"

Grandpa Zeng argued, "But I'm too impatient. Look at how dumb this man is. When will he ever get the girl?"

Zeng Yunbing said, "Dad, one has to take things slowly when it comes to love. This is not something that can be rushed. Do you want your grandson to force himself on the girl?"

"Of course not!" Grandpa Zeng denied it without thinking. "We absolutely can't do anything that will tarnish the girl's reputation."

"Indeed. So we need to give the young people some time." Zeng Yunbing persuaded.

"But I'm just anxious." Grandpa Zeng sighed and said, "I hope we'll have a mistress of the house soon. That way, the house will be home."

Grandpa Zeng gave birth to two sons and a daughter.

The eldest son was Zeng Yunbing, the director of the Bureau of Labor. Zeng Yunbing gave birth to a son, Zeng Yaozu!

Grandpa Zeng's youngest son, Zeng Yanbing, was the director of the Bureau of Education. He gave birth to a daughter, Zeng Hongmei, who was Xiao Lingye's classmate. He also gave birth to a son, Zeng Hongqing.

Grandpa Zeng's children had already moved out with their families.

However, more than ten years ago, Zeng Yunbing and his wife had an accident when they were on a business trip. His wife had sacrificed her life to save him.

After that, Zeng Yunbing never married again for Zeng Yaozu. He was afraid that the stepmother would not be good to his son, and he was afraid that his son would have strong feelings of resistance. He also felt it would be a betrayal of his wife.

Grandpa Zeng decided to move back with his eldest son to take care of his eldest grandson. Other than the marriage of his eldest grandson, Grandpa Zeng also worried about the marriage of his eldest son.

He was still young. He could not stay single forever. He needed someone to take care of him.

Zeng Yunbing had refused all match-making. He wanted to wait for his son to grow up and get married first before he thought about settling down again.

Hearing the old man sighed, Zeng Yunbing smiled and said, "Dad, we all think that the girl is not bad. Most importantly, Zu 'Er likes her. But love needs to be mutual. Zu 'Er needs to win her over on his own. We can't intervene too much."

Grandpa Zeng thought about it. "You're right." Then he put down Zeng Yaozu's twisted ears and sternly told Zeng Yaozu, "Zu 'Er, love requires sincerity and hard work. You must use sincerity to move her. Then she will definitely like you."

"Okay, Grandpa, I got it!" Zeng Yaozu nodded and said.

"Also, two people who are truly in love must never lie to each other, understand?" Grandpa Zeng reminded with a serious expression.

"Okay, Grandpa, I got it!" Zeng Yaozu nodded seriously.

...

"Why are you here again?" Fourth Aunt Xiao felt a headache when she saw Zeng Yaozu at the shop again. She said, "Our boss said that the shop is temporarily not recruiting people."

This was the fifth time this had happened already. The young man sure was determined.

Zeng Yaozu anxiously said, "Aunt, where is the boss? Can I talk to her directly?"

He had to work here so that he and Xiao Xinxin could work together.

Auntie Xiao said, "Our boss is pregnant, so she rarely comes here. If you want to find her, you need to go to Taoyuan Village."

"Taoyuan Village?!" Zeng Yaozu's eyes lit up, and he said excitedly, "I got it. Thank you, Auntie!"

Then, he left.

Liu Chunhua, "... If she didn't know the young man liked Xiao Xinxin, she would have thought that he was interested in Xiao Lingyu.

Zeng Yaozu rushed to Taoyuan Village.

As he arrived at the village entrance, he saw a villager and asked, "Uncle, where does Boss Xiao Live?"

The villagers were no longer surprised by the customers coming to look for Xiao Lingyu. It happened much too often. This really made the villagers extremely envious.

So many people farmed vegetables, but they had to worry about the lack of sales. Xiao Lingyu, on the other hand, was worried about having too little to sell!

Following the instructions, Zeng Yaozu came to Xiao Lingyu's house. However, no one appeared to be home.

Xiao Xiaohui was playing by the roadside with his friends. When he saw another customer at his second aunt's home, he went up to ask, "Uncle, are you looking for Xiao Lingyu?"

"Uncle?" Zeng Yaozu's eyes twitched. He nodded and said, "Yes, I am looking for Xiao Lingyu. May I ask where she is now, little friend?"

Pregnant women had to walk around for exercise.

Xiao Xiaohui said, "My eldest cousin is in the strawberry field now. Let me take you there!" Then, he called his friends and said, "I'll take the guests to find my sister. You guys play first!"

"Little loach, let us go with you!"

Then, the group of little guys went to the strawberry farm.

Xiao Xiaohui took Zeng Yaozu to the strawberry shed and shouted, "Cousin, another customer is here!"

Zeng Yaozu was surprised to see the large patch of strawberries.

He knew that Xing Yin County's climate and soil were not suitable for strawberries. However, the strawberries here looked very pleasant. The fruits were large. Some were green, and others were red.

Zeng Yaozu swallowed his saliva and wanted to pick a few to try. However, he was polite. He needed to ask the owner first.

He saw Xiao Lingyu with a big belly. She was squatting down. There was someone beside her supporting her. She picked a strawberry and put it in her mouth.

The strawberry is still green. Won't it be sour?

Xiao Lingyu tried it and told her parents, "The taste now is a little sour but fragrant. We can harvest them in another two days. They'll be sweeter then."

Mother Xiao and Father Xiao tried a strawberry too. "Yes, they are sour now. The taste will sweeten. The sourness will mellow out then." If this was the quality, they didn't need to worry that the strawberries would be sour and small.

However, they had planted so many strawberries, and they still hadn't found a buyer. According to their daughter's projected price, finding a buyer would be a big problem. They were worried. However, they didn't voice it lest they added to their daughter's concern.

Xiao Lingyu said, "We can pick some tomorrow and try to sell them."

Mother Xiao said, "But Yu 'Er, the strawberries are still so green. They don't look ripe yet. Can they be sold?"

Xiao Lingyu said, "Mom, although our strawberries don't look ripe yet, their taste is the same as other strawberries. Plus, some people prefer sour strawberries. Our strawberries are a mixture of sour and sweet now."

Mother Xiao and Father Xiao had no objections.

Up until now, Xiao Lingyu had never made a wrong decision. Therefore, they listened to her decision.

"Eldest cousin, a guest is here to see you!" Xiao Xiaohui began to shout from afar.

Xiao Lingyu and the others turned around and saw a young man who seemed to be in a daze over the strawberries. He even swallowed his saliva.

Xiao Lingyu found it funny, and she laughed.

Zeng Yaozu felt a little embarrassed, and his face turned red again.

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "Young Master Zeng, sorry for not going to welcome you!"

Zeng Yaozu was stunned and asked in surprise, "Boss, you actually recognized me?"

"Why wouldn't I?" Xiao Lingyu said with a smile, "Your appearance has changed, but your person hasn't."

Xiao Lingyu had a good memory. She would remember every person she met.

Zeng Yaozu scratched his head in embarrassment, "After I changed into this appearance, many of my friends didn't recognize me anymore. Boss, you've seen me once, but you remember me."

Mother Xiao smiled and said, "My Yu 'Er has a good memory. She is always good with faces."

Zeng Yaozu nodded.

Xiao Lingyu saw the way Zeng Yaozu looked at the strawberries, and she believed he liked them.

She said, "Young Master Zeng, try this strawberry and see how it tastes."

Xiao Lingyu was right. Zeng Yaozu really liked strawberries.

He couldn't wait to pick a strawberry and put it in his mouth.

Chapter 220: Finding a Partner

When Zeng Yaozu put the strawberry into his mouth and took a bite, his eyes immediately widened in surprise.

He chewed twice and then exclaimed, "This is the best strawberry I've ever eaten."

Xiao Lingyu's eyes lit up when she heard that. She asked with a smile, "Young Master Zeng, it sounds like you've tasted many kinds of strawberries before."

“I have!” Zeng Yaozu said, “I have eaten all the top ten varieties of strawberries, for example, Fengxiang, Hongyan, Nufeng, Gui Nu Gan, and so on. They are fresh, red, and tender. The taste is slightly sour, sweet, and has a hint of fragrance. People love them.

“However, after having your strawberry, even though it is not ripe yet, it is already better than all those strawberries! The size is huge, and the taste is amazing. Boss, how did you grow your strawberries? How can they be so delicious? They are simply the best. The taste is super sweet and fragrant. It leaves a lingering fragrance on the lips, and the aftertaste is endless!”

After saying that, he turned to study the strawberry field. He narrowed his eyes. “But this is strange. I don’t think I’ve seen this strawberry variety before.”

Xiao Lingyu didn’t understand strawberries. She bought the strawberry seeds at random at the seed station. After that, she planted them in the farming space. Xiao Lingyu had to admit she didn’t know anything about growing strawberries. So she bought some books to read on it. However, the spring water had eliminated the dregs from her strawberry seedlings. Even she couldn’t tell what variety they were now. However, she did remember the girl at the seed station saying the strawberry seeds came from the Liao Province’s Dongdan City.

Dongdan city in Liao Province was the top ten strawberry cultivators in China. It was also China’s agricultural center!

Dongdan was part of the mountainous range of the Liao Province. It was part of the Changbai mountain range. It had rich water resources, a humid climate, abundant rainfall, and plenty of light. It was suitable for the growth of strawberries. Dongdan strawberries are famous for their beautiful appearance, bright color, rich fragrance, and sweet and sour taste. Most of the strawberries planted at Dongdan are in the Hongyan variety.

Therefore, the seed she bought was most likely Hongyan.

Xiao Lingyu answered Zeng Yaozu, “This is Hongyan!”

“Hongyan?” Zeng Yaozu said in surprise, “But I’ve never tasted a Hongyan like this before!”

Xiao Lingyu explained, “Young Master Zeng, this is indeed a Hongyan. However, my planting technique is somewhat different from Dongdan city. It involves cleansing and purification. The technique improves the taste.”

Zeng Yaozu nodded.

He only knew how to eat strawberries, but he did not know how to plant strawberries. Therefore, he was an amateur when it came to technical problems.

Xiao Lingyu asked again, “Young Master Zeng, since you are a strawberry connoisseur, how do you think I should price my first batch of strawberries?”

“You’re asking the right person!” Zeng Yaozu said, “I know the prices of all strawberry varieties because I eat them often. For example, Dongdan’s Hongyan strawberries are the best strawberries in our country. Their first batch is the most expensive. One kilogram of them can be sold for 120 to 200 RMB. They are

really expensive. That is because the first batch is usually very limited in numbers. Not many people can afford them.”

Mother Xiao and Father Xiao found it unbelievable when they heard that a kilogram of strawberries could reach between 120 yuan and 200 yuan.

They planted so many strawberries. If they only sold one Mu of strawberries, they would get hundreds of thousands already! Was strawberry that profitable? Father and Mother Xiao had no idea.

They thought Xiao Lingyu was disheartened due to Chen Ran’s betrayal, so she returned home to farm. They thought Xiao Lingyu was farming as a way to adjust her mood. She was doing it for fun. However, their daughter had made a lot of money from farming already.

They had already earned around three hundred thousand RMB just from selling the vegetables from the six Mu of land. They hadn’t even included the vegetables from the farming space. This was something they didn’t dare to imagine in the past.

The six Mu of strawberries was worth much more than the vegetables. They also had a higher yield. If everything were sold, no, even if they just sold half of these, they would still be able to earn hundreds of thousands. It was terrifying!

Because it might expose their daughter’s farming space.

Zeng Yaozu continued, “Your strawberries taste better than Dongdan Strawberries. Yours is also the first batch. If you ask me, they should cost more than 120 RMB per kg. Honestly, they should cost at least 200 RMB per kg. But...” At this point, he frowned, “However, your strawberries are not famous. How do you plan to sell them if no one knows about them? Boss, do you have any seller for your strawberries?”

It was impossible to sell all the strawberries in retail. She needed a wholesale partner! Otherwise, how was she going to sell the tens of thousands of kilograms of strawberries? They would be left to rot in the ground. That would be such a pity.

However, Zeng Yaozu knew Boss Xiao wouldn’t be so unreliable. She must have already found a wholesale partner before she planted so many strawberries.

Xiao Lingyu said a little embarrassedly, “To be honest, I still haven’t found a wholesale partner.”

“Ah?” Zeng Yaozu was shocked. “The strawberries are almost ripe, but you don’t have a partner? Do you plan to sell them through retail?”

Xiao Lingyu smiled, “That’s actually my plan!” She had sold six Mu of vegetables through retail. But of course, the six Mu of vegetables contained many different varieties. Their price was also more acceptable to the public.

However, strawberries were different. Good strawberries were very expensive. They could reach up to hundreds of RMB per catty. Ordinary people couldn’t afford them. The target market was much smaller. Could Xing Yin County digest Xiao Lingyu’s six Mu of strawberries? It was impossible.

Perhaps even the entire City Z couldn’t sustain six Mu of strawberries.

Moreover, this strawberry was a fragile fruit that was not easy to preserve. It was not like apples or pears. For logistics, strawberries had to be preserved in a vacuum or made into jams. Or one day of travel would rot most strawberries.

Generally, the strawberries were picked before they were fully ripe. Although the taste was a little bad, it was easier to preserve.

For fully ripe strawberries, only the rich would be able to afford them. Of course, the price was higher due to different preservation methods and so on.

Unfortunately, Xiao Lingyu's strawberries weren't famous. She couldn't go around asking for a high price.

Zeng Yaozu was stunned and speechless when he heard Xiao Lingyu. 'Boss Xiao is too rash. How can she not take this matter to heart?'

Xiao Lingyu was not worried because she had the farming space. She would store the strawberries in the farming space and take them out to sell when she found a partner. Of course, she had to be careful not to let anyone discover the farming space.

Suddenly, Zeng Yaozu had a flash of inspiration and said excitedly, "Boss Xiao, actually I'm in a group called Berry Lovers..."

"Very Lovers?" Mother Xiao looked at him suspiciously. She thought this was some kind of sex group.

Zeng Yaozu noticed the strange look in Mother Xiao's eyes and immediately explained, "It's a group of people who love strawberries. We have a chatgroup. We are called the Berry Lovers."

"Oh, I see!" Mother Xiao nodded.

Zeng Yaozu said, "All of us like strawberries. Among us are some big bosses. Do you mind if I send them your strawberries to taste? Maybe it will have an unexpected effect."

Xiao Lingyu's eyes lit up. She was very lucky. She was very confident in her own strawberries. Anyone who had tasted her strawberries would definitely not forget it. It was the same with her vegetables.

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "Young Master Zeng, that is a good idea. How about we work together?"

"Work together?" Zeng Yaozu immediately frowned and asked, "What do you mean?" He only liked eating strawberries and had never considered selling strawberries before. Even if he had that idea, he couldn't do anything because Xing Yin County couldn't grow strawberries.

He came to look for a job at the shop, but he instead stumbled across a large patch of strawberries. And the taste of the strawberries was the best he had ever tasted.

Once the strawberries became famous, he would definitely be able to sell them for a good price. He had access to many online sales platforms. He was very confident in the taste of the strawberries. With some promotion, he could make them very popular. With the internet becoming more common, more people turned to online shopping.

He had a woman he loved. He wanted to create a rich life for her. Therefore, he didn't deny the chance to work with Xiao Lingyu.

Xiao Lingyu had no idea this former ruffian had access to many online sales platforms. If she had known, she would have long sought out his cooperation. Of course, it was still not too late.

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "Young Master Zeng..."

"Boss Xiao, don't call me young master Zeng. It sounds really awkward to me!" Zeng Yaozu scratched his head and said in embarrassment, "My name is Zeng Yaozu. You are older than me. Just call me Yaozu."

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, "Okay. I'm only two or three years older than you. You can call me sister Lingyu just like Xinxin!" Xiao Lingyu deliberately mentioned Xiao Xinxin because she knew that the young man in front of her liked Xiao Xinxin.

As expected, Zeng Yaozu's eyes lit up, and he said happily, "Okay, Sister Lingyu!"

"We should continue to discuss the collaboration!" Xiao Lingyu said.

At this moment, Mother Xiao said, "Yu 'Er, why don't we discuss it when we get home? You can't keep standing like this."

Zeng Yaozu nodded and said, "Auntie is right!" As anxious as he was, he knew to be cautious of a pregnant woman's health.

Xiao Lingyu didn't object. "Okay, we can return now. Mother, these strawberries can be eaten now. They taste pretty good. We'll pick some later and send them to Elder Gong for him to taste!" He was Xiao Tong's grandfather, so Xiao Lingyu wanted to treat him well.

Mother Xiao nodded and said, "Alright, Yu 'Er, let your father bring you back. I'll pick some strawberries and let everyone have a taste first!"

After Xiao Lingyu returned home, she sat on the chair.

Zeng Yaozu looked a little anxious as he asked, "Sister Lingyu, tell me, how do you plan to cooperate?"

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "Yaozu, you know now that I don't have a partner for my strawberries, so I can't sell them in large quantities. But I believe you have the resources to help me with that. How about this? I'll hand over the sales of my strawberries to you, and then I'll give you a 10% commission. I only have one request. Whether it's wholesale or retail, the price mustn't be less than 30 RMB!"

Her strawberries had to be high-end, and the price must not be low. Even if it was her first time selling them, she didn't want to sell them for cheap. Branding was very important. This was something she planned from the beginning.

Zeng Yaozu said decisively without thinking, "There's no problem with the price." The strawberries tasted better than Dongdan Strawberries. As long as people liked the taste, they wouldn't mind the price.

"As for the commission..." Zeng Yaozu said hesitantly, "Isn't it a little too high?"

“Ah?” Xiao Lingyu was a little surprised. At first, she thought he was going to say it was too low. Then, she understood this was because of Xiao Xinxin. He was helping her because of Xiao Xinxin, so he didn’t dare to take too much money.

Xiao Lingyu smiled, “It’s not high. The ratio is average. Yaozu, we might work together long term. You deserve the money.”

Zeng Yaozu thought for a moment and said, “Okay!”