

Chapter 221: Strawberries

“Good news, good news. Today, the group leader has tasted a wonderful new type of strawberry!” Once that post was released, all the lurkers appeared!

“Leader, are you for real? Where did you eat it? We want some too!”

“That’s right. You know we can’t resist the temptation of strawberries. If I could marry strawberries, I would!”

“Tsk tsk. Where’s your sense of morality?”

“It has already been sacrificed to the strawberry overlord.”

Another member asked, “Leader, where did you get the strawberry? Is it in China or abroad? Is it from Dongdan or somewhere else?”

“Yes. Group leader, where did you get this berry? You said it’s super delicious. But how delicious is it?”

“Give me a box to taste!”

“I’ll buy a box too!”

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“All of you are already making orders? Aren’t you afraid that the group leader will cheat you?”

“I remember that the group leader is from a small county. How can a person from a small county eat any delicious strawberries? If you ask me, he’s pulling our legs!”

Discordant voices appeared too. Berry Lovers was a large social media group with more than 1,200 members.

Back then, social media was just rising. There were not many people who knew how to use it. This was not yet the time when everyone had their phones glued to their palms. Back then, 1000 plus was already very impressive, and they came from all over the world. They had gathered due to their love of strawberries, but they all had different personalities.

“That’s right. The group leader is from a small county. He is narrow-minded. How many varieties of strawberry has he actually eaten?”

“Hehe...”

“What do you mean by that? Since you look down on the group leader, then just quit the group!”

“The group leader might have come from a small county, but he loves strawberries. He has eaten all kinds of strawberries all over the world.”

“Yes, he has sent me a strawberry package before. They are all very good!”

“You people are his friends. That’s why you’re defending him!”

“You’re telling me a small county person has eaten strawberries from all over the world? Listen to yourself. I bet he doesn’t even know the many strawberry varieties out there. Does he even know the difference between the different varieties?”

“That’s right. Group leader, if you’re so capable, list out all the strawberry varieties you know!”

Someone in the group sent out a laughing emoji.

“You people must be new to the group. Or did you join just to slander our group leader? If you’re an old member, you wouldn’t ask stupid questions like this.”

“That’s right. When the group leader started this group, he shared his wealth of strawberry knowledge. Even though he’s from a small county, he is someone who really understands strawberries. How can you question him? This is so laughable!”

“You people are the real laughable ones. So what if he knows these things? He might not have eaten them before. Everyone can bluff! The group leader is a liar!”

“You’re the liar!”

“No, you’re the liar!”

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The group was divided into two opposing camps and the neutral camp.

Someone said, “Group leader, the group is fighting. Say something, don’t just watch the fun!”

The group leader, Zeng Yaozu, sat next to the computer and quickly typed on the keyboard.

“Since everyone has doubts, I’ll send them these super delicious Hongyan strawberries. I’ll send them for free! Just leave your address in the group. However, I’ll be clear. There will only be six strawberries in the sample!”

“Is it true that it’s free?”

“Yes.”

“But six strawberries are too little! Group leader, where did you get your free strawberries?”

“That’s a secret for now! I can only say that this strawberry is something that none of you have ever eaten before!” Zeng Yaozu typed on the keyboard.

“Group leader, you are exaggerating. I have eaten every variety the world has to offer.”

“That’s right. As this group’s members, we’ve eaten all kinds of strawberries. You have to be lying when you said we haven’t tasted anything like your strawberry.”

“I agree, but I’ll leave my address. If the strawberries are not as delicious as promised, I’ll come back to scold the group leader.”

“Me too!”

The members scoffed at his words. They didn't believe him. They didn't have confidence in the group leader's recommendation. However, they left their address to verify the group leader's statement. However, they were also angry because the group leader was being so stingy for only mailing them six berries.

How expensive could six berries be? Of course, this had intrigued many people as well.

The group leader also said straightforwardly, "Those who leave their address will receive the strawberries tomorrow at the earliest, and three to four days at the latest. Then, you'll find out if I'm exaggerating about the taste. So, please leave your address if you're interested!"

Then Zeng Yaozu left the same message in many other chatgroups.

After a busy night, Zeng Yaozu gave Xiao Lingyu a call and asked her to prepare 300 boxes of strawberries.

Before dawn, Xiao Lingyu and the others picked some strawberries and packed them in boxes.

The box had the words "Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables' Strawberries" printed on it!

Xiao Lingyu had already registered "Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables" as a trademark at the Commerce Bureau. In the future, everything that she produced would have the name, Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. This was also to prevent others from using her name.

Xiao Lingyu had ordered the boxes from the factories when the strawberries were just blooming.

Strawberries were not easy to preserve. If they were to be transported far away, they had to be preserved well.

Xiao Lingyu chose the freshest strawberries and employed an express delivery company. Of course, Xiao Lingyu was very confident in her own strawberries.

Other people's strawberries could only maintain their freshness for a few days, and they had to be picked when they were not ripe. However, her strawberries should be able to maintain their freshness for at least half a month without any preservation measures.

Therefore, there was no need for Xiao Lingyu to store them in a vacuum box for now. But in the future, she would come up with more preservation techniques.

After receiving Zeng Yaozu's orders, Xiao Lingyu hired Auntie Zhou and Auntie Liu from the village to help her pack the strawberries.

Xiao Mingyang was the deliveryman, so he needed to rest well. Xiao Mingyang now slept until it was time to get up. The truck set off at 6 am, and then he stayed at the shop to work. His wife also had to help out at the shop, so she left with him.

Mother Xiao led people to harvest the vegetables. They had almost exhausted the six Mu of field. New vegetables had been planted, but they needed time to grow.

Xiao Lingyu and Father Xiao went to pick some additional strawberries. They got around 20 catties.

The strawberries were riper than yesterday, and they tasted purer. Of the 20 catties, 10 catties would be sent to Gu Family Hotel, and the rest would be sold at the shop.

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The strawberries ordered by Zeng Yaozu had to be packed the moment they were picked. They couldn't touch water, or they might easily rot. The packaging wasn't that complicated, but it still took time. It took Auntie Zhou and Auntie Liu about two hours to pack 300 boxes. Of course, their speed picked up after they got used to work.

After the strawberries were packed, they were shipped to the county town with the vegetables and sent to a reputable express delivery company.

Zeng Yaozu and his sister, Zeng Hongmei, were already waiting at the express delivery company. They spent half a day confirming the orders.

The people at the company were curious. The manager couldn't help but ask, "Are all your strawberries grown locally?"

According to his understanding, they could not grow strawberries in Xing Yin county. However, the strawberries he saw were not only bright red but also fragrant. They could smell them through the boxes.

Zeng Yaozu just smiled and said, "They are indeed grown locally."

Hearing Zeng Yaozu's answer, the people at the express delivery company were indeed a little surprised.

"Brother, where did you get these strawberries?" Zeng Hongmei wiped the sweat on her forehead and asked with confusion. "I didn't even get the chance to taste them yet!"

Zeng Yaozu smiled and said, "Do you know Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables?"

"Isn't that the shop owned by Xiao Lingye's sister?" Zeng Hongmei asked in surprise.

"We've heard of the shop, but we haven't tasted their vegetables before." The manager said, "I heard their crops are very delicious, but we haven't had the chance to try them yet." The main reason was that the crops sold out too easily. Even if they were very expensive, they had to queue up to buy them.

Zeng Yaozu said, "This strawberry is from that fruit and vegetable shop. The boss will probably sell some strawberries there today. But there are probably not that many, just around 20 catties."

"The shop sells strawberries?" Someone asked doubtfully, "Are they homegrown?"

"Yes, the boss grows them herself!" Zeng Yaozu took out a box from the truck.

There were more than ten strawberries in this box. He opened the box and told the people there.

"Come and have a taste. They are from Taoyuan Village. The quality is guaranteed! You will never forget this taste!"

Zeng Hongmei saw this, and she was a little angry. "Brother, how can you do this? These are products for sale! How can you open the box and give them away?"

Zeng Yaozu smiled, "Don't be angry. This is a gift from Xiao Lingye's sister. Come and have a taste!"

However, when Zeng Hongmei wanted to take one and have a taste, the box of strawberries was gone in the blink of an eye.

Zeng Hongmei was stunned.

Zeng Yaozu, "..."

"Wow, these strawberries are really delicious!"

"I have never eaten such delicious strawberries. It is sour, sweet, and fragrant!"

"Is it really local strawberry? I can't believe it! Is there really someone in Xingyin County who can grow such a big and delicious strawberry?"

"It's delicious."

Zeng Hongmei, "...". She wanted to cry. She should have first priority, but everything disappeared in the blink of an eye. She could only watch as others ate the strawberry.

Zeng Yaozu patted her shoulder and said, "We'll go to Taoyuan Village later. You can eat all you want."

"But is it free?" Zeng Hongmei's eyes lit up, and then she looked a little excited.

"..." Zeng Yaozu said, "I'll pay!"

Those, who had eaten the strawberries, chuckled, "Boss, can we come with you? You can pay for us too!"

"..." Zeng Yaozu smiled and said, "We can go together, but you'll need to pay on your own." After all, I'm not familiar with you people.

Hearing that, the others smiled and said, "Boss, how much is the price if we go to pick them ourselves?" They really wanted to have more strawberries. However, the average strawberry cost 30 to 40 RMB per catty. If it was too expensive, they couldn't afford to eat it even if they wanted to.

Zeng Yaozu smiled and said, "You are the first batch of customers. The boss will give us a discounted price of 45 RMB per catty. In a few days, the price of this strawberry will increase. As for the final price, it's hard to say yet!"

"45? That's too expensive!" Someone exclaimed immediately, "The strawberries are expensive at the store because of the transportation cost. If we go straight to the field to pick, how can it be even pricier?"

Zeng Yaozu shook his head and said with a smile, "How do you think the taste of the 30 RMB strawberries compare to this one?"

The few people had to admit, "They don't taste as good. But this is still too expensive. We can't afford it."

Zeng Yaozu said, "You get what you pay for! There's a reason for the price!"

Chapter 222: Break Off the Engagement?

Xiao Wang brought the washed strawberries to Elder Gong and said with a smile, "Elder, the Xiao family has sent over another batch of strawberries!"

Grandfather Gong looked at the strawberries and thought of how Xiao Lingyu had told him that she could earn over a million from her yield.

At the time, Old Master Gong found the girl to be hilarious and confident. Other than care and planting techniques, growing strawberries also depended on the weather and geographical environment.

Xing Yin County was not a suitable place to plant strawberries. Therefore, he found it curious that the girl was so confident to make a profit.

However, now that the strawberries were placed before him, he knew he was wrong. He had tried the strawberries and the taste was unforgettable.

Old Master Gong picked up a strawberry and put it into his mouth. After chewing it twice, he swallowed it whole.

He smiled and asked, "Xiao Wang, do you know how Lingyu does her farming? She can grow delicious vegetables and now strawberries too!"

Xiao Wang smiled, "Elder, I heard the secret is because of her Little Cattle King. Didn't you notice that every villagers have been going to her house to pick up the cow manure?"

"Every crop that has been grown with the Little Cattle King's cow dung are delicious and vibrant.

"I heard that many villagers want to grow vegetables and sell them, so they signed a contract with Xiao Lingyu. The vegetables they grow will be sold directly to Xiao Lingyu, and Xiao Lingyu will sell them to others."

Hearing this, Old Master Gong's eyes sparkled. He narrowed his eyes and said, "Xiao Wang, do you think something is wrong with Lingyu's head?"

"Why would she promise to help the villagers sell their vegetables? It's fine if she turns a profit but if she doesn't, she'll have to be responsible. As a business person, one has to ensure that one doesn't make a loss, right?"

Xiao Wang scratched his head and said in a simple and honest manner, "Old master, this means that Miss Xiao is a good person. Perhaps she just wants to help the villagers."

Even for Xiao Wang who didn't know business, he knew that Xiao Lingyu was not doing clever business.

"Besides, we've lived in the Taoyuan Village for a while already. We know Miss Xiao is not a dumb person. She must have some plans." Xiao Wang analyzed straightforwardly, "Take this strawberry as an example. I heard that Xing Yin County can't grow strawberries, but Miss Xiao has proven us wrong.

“The strawberries are huge. Even they haven’t fully matured, they are delicious. Moreover, the yield is large. Even if they don’t sell everything, she’ll at least get around four to five hundred thousand RMB, right?”

Old Master Gong thought about it and said, “But that is because of the Little Cattle King. Without it, could the girl grow these strawberries?”

Xiao Wang countered, “But Miss Xiao has the Little Cattle King!” That was the most convincing reason!

Xiao Wang continued, “It seems that the Little Cattle King and Miss Xiao are fated. When the cattle was at the Cow Village, no one thought it was anything special.

“However, it stopped Miss Xiao when its mother was about to be slaughtered. Then Miss Xiao bought it and it followed her to Taoyuan Village.

“Not long after, it was discovered that its excrement could actually make the things in the field grow better.

“Many people said that the Little Cattle King was grateful to Miss Xiao for saving its and its mother’s lives. Therefore, the God blessed it with magic and helped Miss Xiao grow her crops well.”

Xiao Wang said with great admiration, “This is Miss Xiao’s good karma, right?”

Old Master Gong hummed twice and picked up two strawberries. He ate them and then asked, “Hao ‘Er hasn’t tasted these strawberries, right?”

Xiao Wang was stunned and then said with some uncertainty, “I don’t know. I don’t think so.” The eldest young master flew abroad every day. He would have tasted strawberries abroad, but there was no way those would taste better than these strawberries.

“Hmph!” Old Master Gong said disdainfully, “I haven’t tasted such delicious strawberries before, so how could that brat have?” He was sure that his grandson hadn’t tasted these super-delicious strawberries.

Xiao Wang stood upright with a plate in his hand and didn’t make a sound.

Old Master Gong thought for a moment and said, “Go to Lingyu’s place and buy some strawberries and send them back to them to taste!” He was referring to Gong Tianhao, Li Yuanhang, and some old friends in the capital.

“Yes!” Xiao Wang replied after receiving the order.

After Xiao Wang left, Old Master Gong smiled and said, “Those fellows will get itchy with envy when they taste these wonderful strawberries!”

His days in Taoyuan Village had become more and more peaceful. Without the hustle and bustle of the big cities and the disturbance of some people, his body had recovered rapidly.

Seven days ago, when Doctor Huang came to examine his body, he miraculously discovered that the bullet near his heart had actually deviated from the edge. If it continued to move further, the bullet could be removed through surgery. Even his previous old injuries had shown signs of improving!

Doctor Huang was shocked and decreed this a miracle. "Taoyuan Village is really nurturing. I should move here too. Old Master, I'll come to be your companion!"

Old Master Gong laughed. "I welcome you whole-heartedly!"

Old Master Gong was happy to know his body was recovering. After all, he had promised his grandson that he would live a long life.

The prerequisite for a long life was, of course, good health!

Doctor Huang was a famous doctor in the capital. He couldn't uproot and leave just like that. It was a pity that he left a few days too early. If he had stayed, he would have the chance to taste the strawberries.

After a moment, Old Master Gong sighed heavily and said, "My body has recovered. However, my eldest grandson's wife is nowhere to be seen, let alone my great grandson.

"If Little Peach didn't like Lingyu, I'll get Lingyu to be my granddaughter-in-law!

"But, I heard that Ol' Jiang has arranged a marriage for Little Peach. If that's really the case, then what about Lingyu?"

"With Ol' Jiang's character, if he knew about Lingyu, he would harm her. No, I have to protect her."

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"Are these strawberries?" A customer saw the half-ripe strawberries and she commented, "Aren't they too green? Won't they be sour?"

Strawberries were placed on a shelf at the shop. They were arranged in rows and looked especially cute.

Their sharp ends were red, but the bottom was green. Those who knew strawberries knew that strawberries had to be fully red to taste good. Otherwise, they would taste very sour.

"Plus, they are so expensive. They cost 60 RMB per catty!"

"God, that's a very high price! The market only sells them for 40 RMB per catty!"

"But the things here are pricier than the market. Still many people fight for them. So, it's expected that the strawberries are slightly more expensive than normal. However, will they taste good since they're so green?"

"They smell fragrant and sweet. They should be delicious."

"They should taste good or else the boss would put them out for sale!"

"You're right! The things here always have a high quality!"

At that moment, Liu Chunhua took out a plate of strawberries and said with a smile, "Dear customers, you can try these strawberries to tell for yourself if they are delicious or not. Our slogan has always been the same. Our crops always have a fair price!"

Hearing that there were samples, the customers quickly grabbed them. The shop always had good crops for sale. And who wouldn't want to taste them for free?

Seeing so many people swarming over, Liu Chunhua shouted, "Please take just one each!" In the blink of an eye, the strawberries disappeared.

"Wow, these strawberries are really delicious!" These familiar words echoed around the shop.

"They are! They are a little sour, but the overwhelming taste is this fragrant sweetness."

"I bet they'll be even sweeter when they're ripe!"

"But they're still quite expensive." Their daily salary was barely enough for a catty of strawberry. Who could afford that?

"Yes, but they'll be special treats. We'll get them once in a while. I'll get half a catty." The strawberries were huge. There would be several in half a catty. That was good enough.

"I'll have half a catty too."

"I want one catty!"

Those who had sampled the strawberries were immediately attracted. Unfortunately, they had to pay to taste more.

Soon, about ten catty of strawberries disappeared. Liu Chunhua was shocked. Then again, the strawberries were addictive. She would be willing to pay a high price for them too. Furthermore, the standard of living for Xiao Lingyu's customers was generally higher than normal. They wouldn't skimp to buy the wonderfully delicious strawberries.

After a customer weighed the strawberries, he asked with a smile, "Big Sister, where did you get this strawberry? Are they imported?"

Someone said, "If they are imported, then 60 RMB is really not that expensive."

"That's right. Imported strawberries often cost around a few hundred per catty. It's because of the taxes and stuff."

Liu Chunhua smiled and said, "We plant these strawberries ourselves. If you like it, you can go harvest them yourself. If you do that, you can get the strawberries at 45 RMB per catty."

Many people couldn't believe Liu Chunhua. "The strawberries are homegrown?"

"How can they be so delicious?"

"But I heard that Xing Yin County is not suitable for strawberries."

"I heard the same thing. The farms tried to grow strawberries but they were small and tasted bitter. They didn't taste like strawberries at all."

"Big Sister, you're not lying to us, right? Did you really grow these strawberries yourself?"

Liu Chunhua said, "Everything in this shop is grown at Taoyuan Village. We grow them locally."

“You’re not lying when you say we can get the strawberries at 45 RMB per catty if we pick them ourselves?”

After all, the price difference was quite large.

Fourth Aunt Xiao smiled and said, “That’s what the boss said. So, dear customers, if you really like our strawberries, you’re welcome to pick them in our Taoyuan Village.”

The purpose of selling strawberries in the shop was mainly for publicity.

“Okay, we’ll definitely go and take a look when we have time.”

45 RMB per catty was not that expensive than the price of strawberries on the market. Other shops sold their strawberries at around 40 RMB per catty.

“I’ll be going too. I’ll take my children and have them experience the life in the countryside.”

“Right, the children are on vacation. They usually only stay at home and watch TV. They don’t want to go outside. Even if they go outside, someone must watch over them. Otherwise, how can we adults feel at ease?”

“This is the perfect opportunity!”

The parents discussed about going to Taoyuan Village to pick strawberries and how they’d look after each other.

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Back at Beijing, two adults were conversing.

“What did you say?” Qin Yan looked at the man in disbelief. “You want me to break off the engagement?”

Jiang Tao nodded and said, “That’s right. Qin Yan, if I break off the engagement, it might cause a great damage to your reputation. So, I hope that you will be the one to propose the break off.”

“Why?” Qin Yan widened her beautiful eyes and asked with puzzlement. Her hands gripped her dress tightly.

She did not like Jiang Tao, but it was not up to her to decide on the matter of the marriage. However, she didn’t like that she was being rejected. This made her feel that she had suffered a great humiliation.

She was the number one socialite in the capital. However, Jiang Tao had come to ask her to break off the engagement. It meant that he had rejected her... like that man. Why?

She wanted the engagement to be annulled, but not on his suggestion! How could he dump her?

Chapter 223: Jiang Tao’s Resistance!

“Tianhao, someone is investigating Young Master Jiang’s movements in Xing Yin County again!” Li Yuanhang reported to Gong Tianhao.

Gong Tianhao frowned slightly and asked, "Who is it this time?"

"It seems to be someone from the Qin family!" Li Yuanhang said. Li Yuanhang was honestly dissatisfied with Jiang Tao. Jiang Tao had tripped over himself before Old Master Jiang. Tianhao had already reminded him. How could he make the same mistake with the Qin Family? This wasn't the cool and calm Jiang Tao they knew.

He hadn't dealt with Old Master Jiang, and now he dragged the Qin Family into this. Was he trying to roast Xiao Lingyu? What was Young Master Jiang thinking?

Gong Tianhao heard Li Yuanhang's report and felt a little strange. "A member of the Qin family? What's going on? Why would the Qin family suddenly want to investigate Tao Zi?"

Li Yuanhang thought for a moment and said, "Tianhao, Young Master Jiang, and Qin Yan met yesterday." And today, the Qin Family made a move, so it had to do with that meeting.

Gong Tianhao thought about it. He picked up the phone and made a call to Jiang Tao. After the call was answered, he asked directly, "Tao Zi, what did you tell Qin Yan yesterday?"

Jiang Tao tightened his grip on the phone and said, "Actually, I didn't say anything. I just told her to take the initiative to break off the engagement!"

"What?" This time, Gong Tianhao was also surprised. His tone suddenly became stern as he said, "Aren't you being too impulsive? You're asking Qin Yan to break off the engagement? Do you think that's possible?"

Jiang Tao wanted to frown and say, "But Qin Yan has already promised me she would do it."

Gong Tianhao took a deep breath and said, "Then, why is the Qin Family investigating your movements in Xing Yin County?"

"What?" Jiang Tao was obviously a little surprised, "How can this be? Qin Yan has agreed. Why would the Qin Family investigate me?" Who gave them the courage to investigate him in private?

Gong Tianhao sighed lightly and asked, "Tao Zi, are you sure that Qin Yan has already agreed to break off the engagement? Perhaps there were problems with the communication."

Jiang Tao was silent.

Then, Gong Tianhao asked very directly and sharply, "Tao Zi, what exactly are you doing? You are not acting like yourself! Therefore, I have reasons to suspect you are doing this on purpose!"

Jiang Tao was silent again.

Gong Tianhao heard nothing. Gong Tianhao sighed, "Tao Zi, no matter what you do, as a good friend, I will support you! But, I also hope that you will remember your promise!" No one was going to destroy the warmth and happiness of that small family. That family was the home they both longed for!

Jiang Tao replied seriously, "I always keep my promise!"

After Gong Tianhao put down the phone, Li Yuanhang's expression was a little surprised. He said, "Tianhao, you really think Young Master Jiang did this on purpose?" It was not impossible. It was very

unlike Young Master Jiang to act so stupidly. However, he asked, "But why would he do this? Doesn't he know that once the Qin Family starts the investigation, he'd put Xiao Lingyu in danger?"

Gong Tianhao shook his head and said, "He knows!"

"Then..." Li Yuanhang was confused.

Gong Tianhao said, "Because he also knows I'll do everything to protect Xiao Lingyu and her family! It is why he dared to do this."

"Huh?" Li Yuanhang was shocked. "But why would he do this? It's impossible to get Qin Yan to break off the engagement."

The marriage between the Jiang and Qin families was between the eldest daughter of the Qin family and the eldest son of the Jiang family. They were a match made in heaven.

This was not a joke. Neither party would break off the engagement. When it came to the actual marriage, both the bride and the groom had no say. Young Master Jiang couldn't do anything, and neither could the young miss of the Qin Family. Everything was decided by the two families. Qin Yan was powerless to break off the engagement, and Jiang Tao should know that. But he still asked her to do it. Why?

Gong Tianhao had some vague guesses in his heart.

Jiang Tao wanted the power of the Jiang family. To him, the marriage had become a business arrangement. In other words, he would marry Qin Yan for power.

This time, he found Qin Yan and asked her to break off the engagement. He was setting a bait. As for what he was fishing for, only Jiang Tao would know.

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After Qin Yan came back from the appointment with Jiang Tao, she returned to her room and threw a tantrum.

Qin Yan hammered the pillow, her fingertips almost poking holes into the pillow.

She gritted her teeth and said, "Jiang Tao, you've really gone too far!" He actually asked her to break off the engagement because he didn't like her. He said it was for the sake of her reputation, but she knew that in reality, he was humiliating her. He thought she wasn't worthy of him.

"Jiang Tao, you want me to break off the engagement? Never!" Qin Yan said with some resentment.

There were a few powerful families in the capital. Other than Jiang Tao and Gong Tianhao, the other single men couldn't match her. They were not as handsome as the two men, or they didn't have much power.

Qin Yan's first choice was Gong Tianhao. However, Gong Tianhao was powerful enough to decide his own marriage. Unless his heart was moved, no one could force him into a marriage.

Even though Qin Yan once imagined marrying Gong Tianhao, she knew it was not possible in this lifetime. In that case, she would settle for second best. "Jiang Tao, I will marry you!" Qin Yan clenched

her hands into fists and said with a determined tone, "I will definitely repay the insult you gave me ten times more in the future!"

The future was when Jiang Tao fell in love with her.

Qin Yan looked at the dressing table. Then, she took out the makeup box and put some powder on her face. Then, she wiped something on her eyelids. A moment later, Qin Yan was transformed.

Her eyes were puffy, and her small face was slightly pale. It was obvious that she had cried.

She ran down to look for her father. "Dad, I want to break off the engagement!"

Qin Xingbao was shocked and asked, "Why? Yan 'Er, what happened?"

Qin Yan shook her head and said, "Nothing. It's just that Jiang Tao doesn't like me. He came to find me today and asked me to break off the engagement. Otherwise, even if we get married, we won't be happy!"

"That bastard!" When Father Qin heard that, he was furious. "Can the engagement be broken off just like that? Does he not care about the Qin Family's face anymore?"

Qin Yan said, "Dad, since Jiang Tao and I haven't gotten engaged, there's still time to call off the engagement!" She looked so sad when she said that. She was trying to portray herself as the victim.

Her actions would make others see that she was a kind and wronged woman. She was magnanimous and wanted to fulfill Jiang Tao's wish.

This would make Jiang Tao look irresponsible. It was one thing for him not to like the young lady, but how could he ask the woman to break off the engagement? He did it to preserve his face, but what about the young miss? Didn't she need to keep her face too? This was an insult to her.

Naturally, Qin Xingbao wouldn't let his eldest daughter suffer such injustice.

He said angrily, "This matter was personally arranged by Old Master Jiang. This will happen no matter the kid likes it or not! Yan 'Er, don't worry. I'll get the Jiang Family to give us an explanation. How can the kid force you to call for the annulment?!"

Qin Yan's eyes were red, and there were traces of tears on her face. She hesitated for a moment before saying, "Dad, since Jiang Tao isn't willing, let's just forget about it."

She was using defense as an offense. Jiang Tao was Qin Yan's best choice, so naturally, she wouldn't give him up.

She also understood her father and the rules of the Qin family. She knew that the marriage was not a child's play. It was not something that could be broken off just because she didn't like it. She had to stand in the position of the victim and make the Jiang Family feel like they owed her. At the same time, she would create the image of a kind, generous and understanding woman.

Qin Xingbao said angrily, "How can we just forget about it? Yan 'Er, you don't need to worry about this. I'll handle everything for you. As for you, just wait to be the most beautiful bride-to-be!"

Qin Yan could only nod. Then, she hesitated for a moment and said, "Dad, could it be that Jiang Tao has someone he likes in that backward place? Otherwise, why would he suddenly refuse the engagement?"

Qin Xingbao frowned and thought for a moment before saying, "Yan 'Er, don't worry. You are going to marry Jiang Tao. It doesn't matter if he likes someone else, because he can only marry you!"

"But Dad, if Jiang Tao really has someone he likes, we can't break up the couple, right?" Qin Yan thought for a moment and said, "Just like what Jiang Tao said, if he doesn't like me, even if he marries me, I won't be happy!"

"Who said that?" Qin Xingbao said loudly, "My daughter is beautiful and generous. She is well-educated and reasonable. It is his fortune to be able to marry you. Yan 'Er, remember, you can't be too kind. Or you'll be taken advantage of. That brat is using your kindness. But no worries, Father will take revenge for you."

"Dad..." Qin Yan mumbled before saying, "Can we..." break off the engagement?"

"No!" Qin Xingbao waved his hand and directly interrupted her. His expression became very serious as he said, "Yan 'Er, the engagement between Jiang Tao, the eldest young master of the Jiang family, and Qin Yan, the eldest young miss of the Qin family, is a fact set in stone. There is no room for negotiation. Don't even think about breaking off the engagement. Go back and rest! Rest well and be a beautiful bride-to-be in two days!"

"Alright!" Qin Yan said softly, "Dad, I'm going back to my room to rest for a while."

Once she returned to her room, Qin Yan leaned against the door and revealed a smug smile.

She said to herself, "Jiang Tao, you want me to break off the engagement, but I'm not going to do as you wish!"

...

When Old Master Jiang received a phone call, his expression immediately darkened.

After he hung up the phone, he immediately asked someone to call Jiang Tao over.

"Master, the eldest young master did not return home. He went to his own apartment!" Butler Li reported.

"Then immediately inform him to come back!" Old Master Jiang said sharply.

"Yes!"

After about an hour, Jiang Tao slowly arrived.

Just as he stepped into the study, an object flew straight towards him. He did not dodge or avoid it. The porcelain teacup directly smashed into his forehead. Immediately, blood gushed out, and there was a big bump on his head.

"You bastard!" Old Master Jiang was loud. His tone was very stern and authoritative. He shouted sternly, "Kneel!"

Jiang Tao obediently knelt, and he ignored the wound on his forehead. Then, he asked with understanding, "Grandfather is angry because I proposed to Qin Yan to break off the engagement, right?"

"Humph!" Old Master Jiang snorted coldly. "So, you do know your mistake."

Jiang Tao said with conviction, "Grandfather, what was my mistake? I don't like Qin Yan, and you won't allow me to refuse. So, I can only find Qin Yan and ask her to take the initiative to break off the engagement!"

"How dare you?" Old Master Jiang picked up an item on the table angrily and threw another item at Jiang Tao. It was an inkstone.

It directly hit Jiang Tao's head. Jiang Tao grunted and didn't say anything else. Another big bump appeared on his head. Jiang Tao pushed forward. "How am I wrong? I don't like Qin Yan. If I marry her, I'll only harm her."

Old Master Jiang said coldly, "I've told you before. Your feelings don't matter in this marriage. The marriage between the Jiang family and the Qin family will bring huge benefits and benefits to the Jiang family. As the heir of the Jiang family, you must bear this responsibility!"

Jiang Tao said without thinking, "Then I'd rather not be the heir of the Jiang Family!"

"Bastard!" This time, Old Master Jiang was really angry. he shouted sharply, "Have you asked for my permission to shed this responsibility?"

Jiang Tao said, "I know you wouldn't agree. But Grandfather, what's the point of me being the heir of the Jiang Family? I have no freedom and no power. I'm a puppet in your hands, grandfather. In that case, I'd rather be an ordinary person!"

Bang!

Chapter 224: Full Support

After Zeng Yaozu had sent the orders he placed yesterday, he went back to the shop to find Xiao Xinxin.

When they talked, their faces were red, and they stuttered. They looked very embarrassed, which made Liu Chunhua laugh. 'Why are they so cute? The boy is Young Master Zeng, but he is so shy when he is around girls. Haha...'

With Liu Chunhua teasing him, Zeng Yaozu left the shop reluctantly. Before he left, he picked up three customers who wanted to go with him to Taoyuan Village to pick the strawberries.

Zeng Hongmei asked, "Brother, are those strawberries really planted by Xiao Lingye's sister in Taoyuan Village?"

"But we can't grow strawberries here. Many big agricultural families have tried it before.

"How did Sister Xiao manage this?"

Zeng Yaozu rolled his eyes helplessly at Zeng Hongmei, who kept chattering along the way. He said, "You're so curious about everything. You can ask Sister Xiao directly when we get there."

"..." Zeng Hongmei blushed and said, "I will." She had only met Sister Xiao once. She was beautiful and had an extraordinary temperament. Her aura was very strong. It felt like she had to be careful with her words when they were by her side.

There was a cement road connecting Xing An Town and Taoyuan Village. This surprised the three passengers who came with Zeng Yaozu.

They asked, "There's cement road here? When did Taoyuan Village become so rich?" They still remembered Taoyuan Village as a poor village. The village only got electricity a few years ago. That was years behind the other villages.

The main reason for this was that Taoyuan Village was very remote. This also contributed to the general poverty of the village. The telecom and electricity bureau couldn't bother to make the electrical grid. The power lines would cost more to make than the potential electrical bills. After all, only one or two houses needed electricity.

When Xiao Lingyu became the top scorer, she brought up the village's lack of electricity. The telecom bureau chief waved his hands and said, "Get the power to Taoyuan Village!"

The village chief was very proud of Xiao Lingyu. Her reputation helped the village gain electricity. Except for a few villagers who thought the electricity was some kind of bad energy, most were thankful for the power source.

A passenger in Zeng Yaozu's car said, "I remember Taoyuan Village as the poorest village in our county. I didn't expect the village to have a cement road connecting to the town. This place has changed."

Zeng Hongmei did not say anything.

She did not know much about Taoyuan Village. Zeng Yaozu also did not know much about Taoyuan Village. When he heard his friend mention that Taoyuan Village was once the poorest village in the county, he couldn't believe it.

The cement road had brought a lot of changes to Taoyuan Village. But building a road required money. Even though the government provided yearly subsidies for the local bodies to build roads, the subsidies were often not enough. The villagers must have paid a lot to pave this cement road.

"It's no wonder Taoyuan Village is called Taoyuan Village. Look at the peach trees along the way!"

"Although the flowering period has passed, the luxuriant foliage is beautiful too."

"I heard that Taoyuan Village produces the best peaches. Unfortunately, due to the inconvenient transportation, most peaches had rotted in the field. However, now that the road has been fixed, we'll see more peaches in town in the future."

"The peaches here are indeed delicious. They are crisp and sweet. I bought them before."

"But can the same be said for the village's strawberries?"

“I guess we’ll know when we arrive.”

The group chatted all along the way. Soon, they arrived at Taoyuan Village.

Zeng Yaozu had called Xiao Lingyu in advance. After getting her permission, he brought them directly to the strawberry field.

From afar, they could see the plastic sheds. This was their first time seeing such a large plastic shed in the county town.

Someone immediately asked in puzzlement, “Are those all for strawberries?”

The production of strawberries was very high. One Mu of land could produce five to six thousand catties. For the size of the strawberry field they saw, if everything was sold, the boss would make a lot of money.

Zeng Yaozu explained, “No, Boss Xiao only planted six Mu of strawberries. The rests are peanuts and soybeans.”

“Peanuts and soybeans?” Someone asked in surprise, “Do you also need to build a greenhouse to plant peanuts and soybeans?”

Zeng Yaozu explained, “Boss Xiao used to be a famous university student. She has a friend from the agricultural college who taught her some new planting technique. How do you think Boss Xiao manage to cultivate her delicious crops?”

At this moment, Zeng Hongmei interrupted and said, “Brother, I heard from Xiao Lingye that the reason the crops taste so good is because they have the Little Cattle King.”

“Little Cattle King?” The non-villagers didn’t know what that was. Perhaps because Xiao Lingyu had allowed the villagers to pick the manure for free, most villagers rarely mentioned the Little Cattle King to the outsiders. They were afraid that the outsiders might take ill interest in the Little Cattle King. When asked, they’d say Xiao Lingyu was very clever because she had attended a good university.

However, as the name of Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables grew, and more people came directly to Taoyuan Village to purchase the vegetables, the legend of the Little Cattle King spread.

Of course, most people would not believe it.

In this information era, who would believe in a magical cow?

When asked, Xiao Lingye would tell his friends that his sister used a professional planting technique that she had learned from her friends at the Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Zeng Hongmei only heard Xiao Lingye and Xiao Lingyu mention the Little Cattle King in passing. There had to be a reason why they didn’t mention the Little Cattle King to the public. However, her big mouth had voiced it out loud. What if she created trouble for them?

Zeng Yaozu really didn’t know anything about the Little Cattle King. However, he was a smart person. He knew there had to be a reason why Xiao Lingyu’s crops were so different from the others. However, that reason was not known to outsiders.

When he heard Zeng Hongmei mention Little Cattle King, he was intrigued. 'Could the miraculous crops really be related to this Little Cattle King?' However, Zeng Yaozu didn't ask for more details. Instead, he shot Zeng Hongmei a look.

Zeng Hongmei understood it instantly. She smiled and explained, "There are many legends surrounded the Little Cattle King. Apparently, it ran into Boss Xiao when it tried to find someone to save its mother!"

"A cow who knows how to find someone to save its mother? Is it true or false?" The guests immediately asked with great interest.

Zeng Hongmei shook her head and said, "As I've said, it's a legend. I don't really know the details. Hey, we're here!" They arrived at the strawberry field.

Mother Xiao came out to greet them. "Welcome to Taoyuan Village!"

Zeng Yaozu politely called out, "Auntie Xiao." He then introduced Zeng Hongmei, "Hongmei, this is Sister Xiao's and your classmate, Xiao Lingye's mother! Auntie Xiao, this is my sister, Zeng Hongmei. These are the other customers I met in the county town. When they heard you offered the service for people to handpick the strawberries, they came over with me."

Zeng Hongmei smiled and greeted, "Hello, Auntie Xiao!"

Mother Xiao smiled and said, "Hello, Miss Zeng. Hello, everyone. Please come in! There are scissors and baskets over there. You can pick the fruits you prefer. I believe Yaozu has told you about the price already. It's 45 RMB per catty."

Chu Tianlan, who came along with them, thought for a moment and asked, "Auntie, are the strawberries all the same?"

"Yes." Mother Xiao answered. "Since you're our first batch of customers, we'll give you a big free offer. Since you're here, you can eat to your fill. It's free. However, any strawberries you take away have to be weighed and priced!"

Everyone's eyes lit up and they immediately asked, "Is this true? You won't lie to us, right?"

"It's real!" Mother Xiao laughed, "You can eat as much as you want."

Chu Tianlan asked with a smile, "Auntie, will this offer still be available tomorrow? I want to come back with my friends and family."

Mother Xiao smiled, "We only offer this generous freebie to our first 100 customers!"

"First 100!" Chu Tianlan nodded. "Auntie, you said we're your first batch of guests. So, are we your first three customers?"

"That's right! We won't hide that from the guests!"

Chu Tianlan said happily, "Then I will come back tomorrow. There's still a bit of distance to 100!" The other guests nodded in agreement.

Zeng Hongmei and Zeng Yaozu didn't say anything, but they lowered their eyes and seemed to think about something.

Mother Xiao smiled and said, "Guests, please come in!"

"Wow, there are so many strawberries! They are all so big!"

The female guests found it unbelievable and they squealed. They were tempted by the strawberries immediately.

"This is the first time I see strawberry plants up close! So this is how they look like!"

"So this is the strawberry flower."

"But the strawberries still look a little green!"

"Yes, they are a little green. However, the strawberries at the store this morning are even greener. But they already tasted so good."

Chu Tianlan picked a strawberry and put it into her mouth without washing it. Then, she exclaimed, "Wow, these strawberries are so delicious!"

Fortunately, they could eat as much as they wanted. Or else, they would have to spend a lot to satisfy themselves. They were glad they decided to come along with Zeng Yaozu.

"They're delicious! How can they be so delicious?"

"Exactly. These strawberries are sour, sweet, and fragrant. They're just right for my taste."

"They taste sweeter than the ones at the shop!"

"The big and small strawberries taste equally sweet!"

"I'll pick some small strawberries later. They're easier to share among the family. The bigger ones are too hard to divide."

"You have a point. I'll do that too!"

"I have to pick some large ones for my girlfriend!"

...

When Zeng Hongmei entered the field, she shed her image and munched on the strawberries. "Wow, they taste amazing!" She exclaimed, "I'm willing to work without pay as long as I can eat these strawberries every day!" She looked at Zeng Yaozu when she said that.

Zeng Yaozu had to deal with a lot of orders yesterday night. He needed help, so he went to Zeng Hongmei.

Zeng Hongmei had just finished her university entrance examination. She had nothing to do. She either stayed at home and watched tv or went shopping with her friends.

Zeng Yaozu came over to ask for her help. He needed her to build the strawberry business with him. He needed her help with the statistics. Zeng Hongmei was reluctant at first. But when she found out Zeng Yaozu was doing this to woo a girlfriend, she had to help him. Otherwise, with her eldest cousin's shy personality, he would never get a girlfriend.

For the sake of her eldest cousin's future happiness, she promised to help.

Of course, that didn't mean she would work for free. She was going to work for two months, so she needed to be paid.

After tasting the strawberries, Zeng Hongmei decided that she'd work for rewards of these beautiful strawberries.

Zeng Hongmei immediately told Zeng Yaozu, "Brother, from now on, I'll work with you every day."

"..." Zeng Yaozu said with a smile, "I'm giving you salary to work for me. Plus, second uncle said that it's time for you to learn about business and how to earn your own money. You are not to come to feast on the strawberries. That is not your job."

Zeng Hongmei, "..."

Who knew her eldest cousin would be so cunning... Hmm....

Chapter 225: First Order

The three customers left with a full load! Perhaps they felt too shy from eating too much, so they all brought back several catties of strawberries. The strawberries cost 45 RMB per catty, but they thought it was worth it!

They all decided to bring their families over tomorrow.

Of course, they were hoping for the free benefits. Strawberries were too expensive. They had to take advantage of the free offer when it was still available.

...

Early the next morning, Zeng Yaozu's phone rang.

Zeng Yaozu was drowsy. Last night, he finished a very long order. He had just fallen asleep not long ago.

He wanted to sleep longer, but he knew Xiao Lingyu was sending the stock to the express delivery company soon. He had been busy dealing with the sample orders for the past two days.

When he heard the phone notification, Zeng Yaozu grabbed his phone to take a look.

"Group leader, I just received the strawberries! They are as you said! They are so so delicious. I have eaten all the strawberries in the world, but I have never tasted anything as delicious as the strawberries you sent me!"

It was only early in the morning, and many people were still sleeping.

However, the situation was lively in the Berry Lover Group. It was as if these people didn't sleep.

"Hey, are you sure you're not working with the Group Leader? How can you have tasted all the strawberries in the world? That is just too much of an exaggeration!"

“That’s right. Do you think we’re children who can be fooled? One has to be very rich to have tried every strawberry variety in the world. How rich can you be? The Group Leader himself came from a small county. You two must be working together to lie to us.”

As soon as he said this, someone immediately retorted. “You poor loser. Don’t think everyone is as poor as you!”

“Exactly, do you really think we can’t afford strawberries? All of us in this group can afford strawberries whenever we want... Except you, loser!” This was a direct mockery.

In a dark room, an unkempt, bespectacled man kept typing beside the computer. “Hmph, who’s a poor loser? Let me tell you. I’ve eaten a lot of strawberries. Who cares about the free strawberry?”

“In that case, tell me, what’s the difference between Feng Xiang, Hongyan, Nv Feng, Gui Nu? What are the famous strawberries plantations in Country R, L, and M? What are their varieties? And what are the differences?” This poster really understood his strawberries.

Sun Jun was furious when he was cornered. He replied, “Why should I answer you? Who are you? You’re just a poor loser! Each and every one of you pretends to be rich, but in reality, each and every one of you is so poor that you can’t even afford instant noodles.”

The group exploded.

“Fuck, who is this person? Why is he so arrogant?”

“You’re the real loser here! You can’t even answer any of the simple questions above! This proves that you don’t even like strawberries. Then, why are you in this group?” Someone pointed out sharply.

“Group leader, kick this person out of the group. He is just a troublemaker!”

“Exactly, kick him out!”

Everyone in the group had the same opinion. Zeng Yaozu immediately woke up when he saw this message. He thought about it and decided to kick out the group member with the online name, Saint Love.

It was obvious that this member had a character issue. If he was allowed to stay, it would only lead to more conflicts.

Saint Love, who had been kicked out of the group, was almost driven mad with anger.

He tried to rejoin the group a few times but was always rejected.

Sun Jun cursed loudly, “You bunch of bastards, Just wait and see. One day, I will become the richest person in the world and eat all the strawberries. Then, I will locate every single one of you and have you kneel before me!”

If someone were beside him, they would burst out laughing. Such a person without character and ambition would never amount to anything!

“Great job for kicking that person out. Finally, some peace and quiet. He kept trying to create drama. What’s his problem?”

“Exactly! I am furious. He’s so annoying!”

“Group Leader, who is that guy? Is he really a berry lover? He sounds more like a hater!”

“We mustn’t let him back into the group!”

Zeng Yaozu replied, “Of course, I won’t let him come back. When he joined, he said he liked strawberries a lot.”

“It’s good that we’re not letting him back in!” Someone added, “Yesterday night, he was already cursing the Team Leader. Our team leader is too good-tempered to deal with him. But it only made him worse!”

“Speaking of, are the free strawberries really that delicious?”

“Yes!” A member called Strawberry Eater said, “I’m not lying. The strawberries sent by the group leader are really too delicious. I was so touched that tears flowed down my face.”

After saying that, she also sent two photos. One was the strawberries in a box. The other was the strawberry entering her mouth. The comment was, I can’t resist the temptation!

“No way. This strawberry looks so green and unripe. Is it really delicious?”

“That’s right. It looks so sour to me!”

“I heard of people eating green apples and cucumbers, but this is the first time I’ve seen someone eating green strawberries.”

“The strawberries aren’t fully unripe. The tips are already red.”

“We all know that a strawberry has to be fully red to achieve the height of its sweetness and fragrance.”

“So, Strawberry Eater, are you in cahoots with the Group Leader?”

Strawberry Eater was furious. “If you don’t believe me, then forget it. Anyway, I’ve tried the strawberries, and they are truly delicious.” Then she asked, “Group leader, I want to buy the strawberries. How do you sell them?”

The first order came.

Zeng Yaozu’s eyes lit up, and he immediately cheered up and said, “Because this is the first order. The boss gave us a special discount. They are 50 percent off, 60 RMB per catty.”

“60 RMB per catty, and that is after 50 percent discount? Group leader, are you crazy? How can you even ask for that price?”

Someone in the group started to mock.

“That’s right. Even Dongdan’s first batch of strawberries only sells for 100 to 200 RMB per catty. What kind of strawberries are yours that you sell them so expensively?”

“You better go rob the bank!”

Strawberry Eater said, “In my opinion, the strawberries are cheap for 60, no, 120 RMB!

"I don't know if anyone else has received the free strawberries like me. If you have, you'll know the strawberries are really worth it. Group Leader, I'm going to need 5 catties, no wait, 10 catties!"

She wanted to give some for her grandparents to try! Strawberry Eater ordered 10 catties at one go! That was 600 RMB! That was not a small amount.

"@Strawberry Eater, are you sure you're not hired by the group leader? This is too suspicious!"

"This feels like a self-directed movie to me."

"This is not the way to waste money. You spent 600 RMB just like that!"

"I'm also suspecting that Strawberry Eater is actually the Group Leader's alt."

Strawberry Eater was indignant. She typed furiously beside the computer and said sharply, "Hmph. My family is rich. I don't know the Group Leader. I don't need him to hire me. I have the money. I am very poor because I have nothing but money left!"

Her tone was full of pride.

Then she added, "Group Leader, I've changed my mind. I'm going to buy 100 catties of strawberries."

"100 catties?"

The group exploded again.

"Damn, this is crazy. My monthly salary is only 2000 RMB. 100 catties is triple my monthly salary!"

"Sponsor us @Strawberry Eater!"

"+1"

"+2"

Strawberry Eater said proudly, "No sponsor. Because you people doubted me earlier!"

Then, someone sent a picture of a hammer.

Strawberry Eater typed, "Anyway, back to business. I really think that the strawberries sent by the group leader are really delicious. That's why I want to buy so many at once. I'm sure the 100 catties disappear instantly."

"Damn, this makes me furious for some reason."

"Me too."

Strawberry Eater added, "I saw many people gave their address to the Group Leader last night. I reckon you'll get your free sample soon."

"Once you've tasted the strawberries, you'll understand that I'm not exaggerating at all. I have to order these strawberries first because I'm afraid they'll run out."

"@Group Leader, I notice that the box has a unique logo. It says Taoyuan Village."

Zeng Yaozu answered. "Yes. The strawberries came from Taoyuan Village."

“Where is that? I haven’t heard of it before.”

The group chat began to bustle with discussion again.

“I’ve never heard of it either. Taoyuan Village, it sounds like a remote village.”

“I’ve only heard of Dongdan Strawberries, Nanxiang Strawberries, An Lin Strawberries, but never Taoyuan Village Strawberries.”

“I’ve never heard of them either.”

“But the question is, are the strawberries grown there that delicious? Is the Group Leader lying to us?”

“Do you think the Group Leader needs to lie? The free samples are coming. You’ll know the truth soon enough. Just wait for that faceslap!”

“I can’t wait! We’ll see who is going to be faceslapped!”

“I want to see what kind of strawberry can be produced at Taoyuan Village!”

Zeng Yaozu said lightly, “I hope everyone can leave a review after they receive the sample.” He was very confident in the strawberries. The members could taste and find out the truth themselves.

Strawberry Eater didn’t argue with the rest. She DMed Zeng Yaozu and ordered 100 catties of strawberries. Then, she gave the account number and paid half of the deposit in advance. She would pay the rest when the stock arrived.

Strawberry Eater lived at City Z, so she received her sample earlier.

He hurriedly sent the order to Xiao Lingyu.

He asked Xiao Lingyu to ship the 100 catties of strawberries along with the free strawberries and send them out.

...

In a magnificent villa at City Z, Yan Ruyu slept until noon. She didn’t eat breakfast and had lunch.

Mrs. Yan saw her daughter and frowned, “What time did you sleep last night? Did you spend the night playing computer games again? Don’t you know that is not for your health?”

Yan Ruyu stretched her body and twisted her neck. Hearing her mother’s nagging, she said discontentedly, “Mom, I can’t sleep at night, so I was only finding something to do.” She was still suffering from jet lag.

Mrs. Yan was silent for a moment and then said, “I think it’s because you sleep too much in the day. That’s why you can’t sleep at night. You should try to learn to settle down and help your father.”

Yan Ruyu asked, “Mom, what problem would Dad have?”

Mrs. Yan sighed and said, “Sigh, the supermarket’s business has been sliding!”

“What?” Yan Ruyu was surprised.

Chapter 226: So Many People!

Chu Tianlan got home, her child and husband were watching TV in the room.

Her husband, Hao Xiaofeng, and her child, Hao Jiajia, only took a glance at their wife/mom before turning their focus back to the TV.

Chu Tianlan walked over and asked in puzzlement, "What are you two watching? Why are you so serious and rapt?"

Hao Jiajia said, "Mom, we're watching Gone with the Wind! It's so touching."

Chu Tianlan, "... Isn't that movie known for being notoriously boring?"

Chu Tianlan silently took out the strawberries that she had brought back from the Taoyuan Village and put them on the coffee table. She said, "Alright, I brought some delicious food for you to try."

However, the father and daughter didn't hear her words. Their eyes were glued to the TV screen.

Chu Tianlan thought for a moment and immediately opened the package. The smell of strawberries instantly wafted out.

The father and daughter frowned at the same time and asked in puzzlement, "What's so sweet? It smells like strawberries?"

Then, the two turned to the source of the fragrance.

"Wow, it's strawberries!" Hao Jiajia shouted immediately. Then, she reached out and pinched a strawberry from the box. Then, she asked in confusion, "Mom, this strawberry looks green and white. It's not ripe. Won't they be sour?" Then, she put the strawberry under her nose and sniffed it, saying, "But it smells really good. I wonder how they taste."

Chu Tianlan rolled her eyes and said unhappily, "If you don't like it, don't eat it."

"This strawberry is really good!" Hao Xiaofeng had already eaten a strawberry. "It's slightly sour and sweet, and it has a refreshing strawberry flavor. It's really delicious. Jiajia, try one. It's really good."

Hao Jiajia immediately put a strawberry into her mouth and bit it. Her big eyes widened immediately.

She couldn't help but exclaim, "Wow, these strawberries are so delicious!" She stuffed a few more berries into her mouth. She swallowed them whole.

Hao Xiaofeng couldn't let his daughter finish everything. The two stopped focusing on the movie and fought for strawberries instead.

After a while, Hao Jiajia asked curiously, "Mom, where did you buy the strawberries? Why are they so delicious?"

Chu Tianlan said, "I bought them from Taoyuan Village!"

“Taoyuan Village?” Hao Xiaofeng frowned and asked again, “The same Taoyuan Village from Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables?”

Chu Tianlan nodded and said, “That’s right.”

Hao Xiaofeng lowered his head and looked serious as if he was deep in thought. Chu Tianlan asked curiously, “Hubby, what are you thinking about?”

Hao Xiaofeng said, “I’m wondering if we can cooperate with that boss.”

Chu Tianlan’s eyes lit up, and she said immediately, “It should be possible. Boss Xiao planted six Mus of strawberries, and the strawberries are big and plentiful. It looks like it’s going to be a big harvest.”

Hao Xiaofeng said, “I wonder if her family has sold all their strawberries yet?”

He saw a big market for these strawberries! Although he lived in a small county, his company specialized in purchasing. In other words, he was a wholesale and general reseller.

His business mainly focused on agricultural products and fruits. His market was middle to high end. He would buy good fruits and vegetables and sell them to high-end stores in big cities or big supermarkets. For example, he was one of the resellers who bought peaches from Taoyuan Village.

However, his company was only medium-sized, and he only had a few limited retail partners. He had been meaning to expand the scope of his company and to find more partners. He lacked an opportunity. When he saw the strawberries, he knew his opportunity had arrived.

Chu Tianlan saw this and immediately understood what he was thinking.

However, she shook her head and said, “I don’t know about that. How about we go there together tomorrow and ask Boss Xiao?” At this point, she paused for a moment and said happily, “The boss is doing promotion now. The first 100 customers who visit the strawberry farm can eat the fruits to their heart’s content. I had a great time there this afternoon.”

Hao Jiajia immediately said excitedly, “Mom, are you for real? Can we eat strawberries for free there?”

Chu Tianlan nodded and said, “It’s true. Only three of us went there today. So there is still plenty of empty spots for the first 100 customers.”

Hao Xiaofeng looked at the strawberry in his hand and suddenly asked, “Honey, how much is this strawberry per catty? It shouldn’t be cheap, right?”

Chu Tianlan nodded and said, “Well, the boss is selling them at a discounted price if you pick them at the farm. It’s 45 per catty. At the shop, it’s 60 RMB per catty.”

Hearing that, Hao Xiaofeng nodded slightly and said, “It’s not expensive!”

Chu Tianlan nodded and agreed, “For the taste, the price is indeed not high. However, Hubby, the strawberries are not famous. Can we sell them if we buy them?”

Hao Xiaofeng said, “Fame can be slowly earned. I don’t think anyone who has eaten this kind of strawberries will ever forget it.”

“We should go and take a look tomorrow!” Chu Tianlan nodded and said.

The other two guests who went that morning had the same idea.

...

When Chu Tianlan’s family came to Taoyuan Village the next morning, Chu Tianlan realized how wrong she was.

Chu Tianlan stared at the crowd with her mouth agape.

As soon as she entered the village, she found cars parked everywhere.

Looking at the bustling place, the 12-year-old Hao Jiajia asked curiously, “Mom, there are so many people. Are they all here to pick strawberries?”

Chu Tianlan said hesitantly, “I think so.”

Hao Jiajia frowned and asked, “Then, can we still get into the first 100?”

“I don’t know either!” Chu Tianlan said with uncertainty.

She didn’t expect that so many people would come.

Hao Jiajia asked hesitantly, “Mom, are we still going?”

The normal pricing policy at the farm was that a person had to pay before they entered the field. Then, they could eat as much as they wanted. If they wanted to buy and take the strawberries home, they had to weigh and pay for them.

Chu Tianlan thought for a moment and said, “I’ll go ask.”

The family of three got off the car. Chu Tianlan went to the strawberry shed while Hao Xiaofeng took his daughter to look around.

Chu Tianlan walked over and asked Mother Xiao, “Big sister, I came here yesterday. Do you remember me?”

Mother Xiao smiled and replied, “Miss Chu, it’s you. Of course, I remember you.”

Chu Tianlan looked around and asked with a smile, “I didn’t expect so many people to be here. I already came early, but so many people were earlier than me!”

Mother Xiao smiled and said, “I really have to thank everyone for their support.”

Chu Tianlan asked directly, “Then, Big Sister, is there still a spot in the top 100 customers?”

Mother Xiao said, “I’m sorry. We had our 100th customer half an hour ago. Yesterday, many customers at the shop heard about the discount. Today, they came with their families to pick the strawberries.”

Honestly, the Xiao Family didn’t think so many people would come at once.

The reputation of Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables was spreading in Xing Yin County. Once Xiao Lingyu sold the strawberries, the customers spread the news.

The strawberries were grown locally, and the boss was having an event at the strawberry field. Today was a holiday, and so many customers brought their children to experience the country lifestyle.

Soon, the first 100 spots were gone.

Chu Tianlan asked, "Then, Big Sister, what is the pricing for the rest of us?"

Mother Xiao said, "For today, we'll charge 100 RMB for each adult, 50 RMB for each child, and free for children under the age of seven."

Chu Tianlan nodded and waved at her husband and children. Chu Tianlan said, "Big sister, my family has two adults and one child. So it's 250 RMB!"

Chu Tianlan handed 300 RMB to Mother Xiao, and she was given back 50 RMB.

The family of three went into the greenhouse immediately.

Of course, Xiao Lingyu wouldn't open all six Mu of strawberry fields for people to pick. She was afraid that the customers might spoil them. Instead, she marked out one Mu of land for the visitors.

"Wow, look at these strawberries!" As soon as they went in, Hao Jiajia exclaimed. After all, Xing Yin County was not a place to grow strawberries. Many people hadn't seen a real strawberry plant before. They only saw them on TV.

Now that they were there, it was an interesting experience. This was a unique experience for the children.

"Wow, there are so many people!" Hao Jiajia exclaimed, "Hey, little fatty is here too."

Then, Hao Jiajia said to Chu Tianlan, "Mom, my classmate is here too. I'll go and say hello to him!"

Chu Tianlan nodded and said, "Okay, but watch your step. Don't step on the strawberry seedlings and strawberries!"

"Okay, I got it," Hao Jiajia answered while running away.

Hao Xiaofeng's glasses flashed. He pushed them up and said to Chu Tianlan, "The strawberries are really good! They're big and taste good! I need to talk to the boss."

"Okay!" Chu Tianlan never understood business. "I'll go ask the Big Sister for Boss Xiao." Chu Tianlan walked to the entrance and asked Mother Xiao in a whisper, "Big Sister, we have a cooperation business offer. Who can we talk to?"

"Business offer?" Mother Xiao was confused.

Chu Tianlan thought for a moment and asked directly, "Have you sold your strawberries? Can you sell them to me? My family is in the agricultural products and fruit business."

This time, Mother Xiao understood.

She smiled and said, "You have to talk to my daughter about this. Do you mind waiting here? My daughter isn't doing so well, so she's resting at home. She'll be over later."

Chu Tianlan didn't quite get what Mother Xiao meant by her daughter not being well. However, she did grasp from Mother Xiao that the strawberries hadn't been sold to a wholesaler yet.

Chu Tianlan smiled. "Actually, we're free now. How about we go and find Big Sister's daughter?"

Mother Xiao smiled and said, "Sure. If you want to go over, I'll get someone to lead the way."

"Okay, Big Sister!" Chu Tianlan said with a smile.

Chu Tianlan returned and told her husband the news she got from Mother Xiao.

Hao Xiaofeng nodded.

...

Xiao Lingyu found that the bigger her stomach was, the more sleepy she became. She also gained a huge appetite.

Compared to her previous life, she had things a lot easier. But she had worked hard for it.

Xiao Lingyu finally had enough sleep and woke up refreshed.

She touched her stomach and felt hungry.

She immediately went to the kitchen and opened the stove. Mother Xiao had made breakfast. There were warm soy milk and steamed buns.

Xiao Lingyu took out the soy milk and steamed buns. The temperature was just right!

She took a bite of the bun. The juices of the vegetables burst in her mouth. Then, she took a sip of the soy milk! It was heavenly!

After eating and drinking her fill, Xiao Lingyu decided to do a little sunbathing in the front yard.

Xiao Xiaohui, who was strolling past, saw Xiao Lingyu, and he ran in. His forehead was covered in sweat, and he said happily and excitedly, "Sis, so many people are here. They are here to pick strawberries."

As if she had expected it, Xiao Lingyu said with a smile, "They sure are. Xiaohui, take care of the guests, okay? Do you remember what I told you?"

Xiao Xiaohui patted his small chest and said, "Sis, don't worry. We are doing everything we can to lead the way for the guests!"

Xiao Lingyu had hired Xiao Xiaohui and his gang of young friends. They were posted at the village entrance. When someone came to ask for directions for the strawberry shed, the kids would bring them there!

Of course, Xiao Lingyu paid the kids for their work. They would get 10 RMB a day.

Xiao Xiaohui said, "Sis, why are there so many people here today? And how did you know there is a big crowd when you haven't left the house?" He was really curious.

Xiao Lingyu only smiled.

Chapter 227: Another Big Order!

While people were visiting the strawberry fields and Xiao Lingyu was basking in the sun, Taoyuan Village was bustling with activities too.

“The guests going to Zhengyang’s field to pick strawberries have to pay money to enter the shed! They are charging 100 RMB per adult and 50 RMB per child. It’s early in the morning, but there are already batches of guests!”

“I heard from Qiuying that the first 100 guests to visit will get to enter for free. However, if they want to bring the strawberries out, they have to pay. It’s 45 RMB per catty!”

“45 per catty? How can they be so expensive? When we went to the fruit stores in town, at most strawberries would be sold at 30 RMB per catty.”

“That is not all. I heard from the villagers that she is selling the strawberries at her shop for 60 RMB per catty. It is why they came here in person to pick the strawberries. It is cheaper.” Chen Chunxiu said with envy.

“I heard the people say that 60 RMB is already a discounted price!” Zeng Zhangxiu echoed.

“Oh my God!” The other villagers found it unbelievable. “These strawberries are too expensive!”

“And yet, people are crowding over like the things are free. They charge people for going in to pick strawberries. It’s barely noon, and there are already so many people. I wonder how much they’ll earn in a day.”

“I see more than a hundred people. If everyone is charged 100 RMB, the daily income will be more than ten thousand. Plus, the customers are all leaving with bags of strawberries.”

“If this continues, the Xiao family will be rich. They will earn hundreds of thousands a month.”

“When they were selling vegetables, they were already earning thousands per day. It’s been about a month already. They must have already earned hundreds of thousands.” The person was jealous.

When Xiao Lingyu first opened her shop, the villagers didn’t know about her high asking price. But as time passed and more people came to Taoyuan Village to buy vegetables, the villagers started to find out the truth. Someone calculated and instantly realized Xiao Lingyu had a daily income of at least 5000 RMB. From there, one could easily determine how much was her monthly income.

This really made everyone in the village envious.

Before they got over that shock, there was now this strawberry craze. Many people arrived with their children to give money to Xiao Zhengyang’s family.

“Ever since the Little Cattle King arrived at their place, their luck has soared.”

“Why do you think Xiao Lingyu is so lucky? Why was she the one who stumbled across the Little Cattle King and saved its mother?”

This group of people's tone was filled with envy and jealousy.

Another group was also discussing Xiao Lingyu's family, and their tone was filled with hatred and resentment.

"Xiao Lingyu's expensive strawberries are selling so well. If she sold all six Mu of land, she'd be a millionaire!" Zhang Chunjiao smiled. "Haha. What did I say earlier? I told you all to plant strawberries with Xiao Lingyu, but no one wanted to listen to me."

"We did listen to you." Zhang Xiaolan, who was on good terms with Zhang Chunjiao, said with some resentment, "It was Xiao Lingyu who didn't let us plant strawberries."

Liu Changnu nodded and said, "That's right. If we plant strawberries, she won't let us pick the cow dung. She also didn't give us any strawberry seedlings. How are we going to plant strawberries?"

Zhang Chunjiao rolled her eyes and said, "Hehe, that's why I look down on Xiao Zhengyang's family. They can do good for everyone, but they are so stingy. How can they be so selfish, am I right?"

"You're right!" The other two nodded in agreement.

"If Xiao Lingyu gave you some of the strawberry seedlings, you'd be earning big money now." Zhang Chunjiao added, "I heard that the yield of a Mu of land is at least 5,000 to 6,000 catties. With your 40 Fen of Land, you could produce at least 1,000 to 2,000 catties. If you were selling them like Xiao Lingyu at 45 RMB per catty, you would have earned at least 50,000 to 60,000 RMB.

"However, we were coerced to rent her our land for cheap. She used our land to earn riches for herself. How is that fair for us?"

It had to be said that Zhang Chunjiao was indeed a person who was very shrewd. Her family didn't get along with Xiao Zhengyang's family. She was jealous that Xiao Zhengyang's family was flourishing. She wished that the strawberries would disappear. She wanted the Xiao Family to suffer.

However, everyone knew that Zhang Chunjiao's family did not get along with Xiao Zhengyang's family. If something happened to Xiao Zhengyang's family now, her family would be the first suspect.

However, that didn't mean that she couldn't instigate the others.

These two families had refused to rent their lands to Xiao Lingyu. Zhang Chunjiao persuaded them to grow strawberries on their own, but Xiao Lingyu refused to give them any seedlings. This matter had always been in the minds of the two families.

The fire of hatred only needed a fuse to ignite.

Zhang Chunjiao said indignantly, "Xiao Lingyu must have known that she could grow strawberries and sell them at a high price. She was afraid of others standing in her way of making money, so she had done everything she could to stop the rest of us."

Zhang Xiaolan and Liu Changnu listened, and their eyes burned with resentment.

Zhang Xiaolan gritted her teeth and said, "I didn't expect Xiao Lingyu to be such a scheming bitch. She can't even let others earn some money. She is so hateful."

Liu Changnu didn't say anything, but the resentful expression on her face showed that she agreed with Zhang Xiaolan.

Zhang Chunjiao said, "Xiao Lingyu's way of doing things is not only hateful but also detestable. She is selling her crops in the name of Taoyuan Village. The village belongs to all of us. Who gave her the right to use the village's name?"

...

After lying in the courtyard for a while, Xiao Lingyu wanted to go to the strawberry field to have a look.

Last night, Zeng Yaozu received an order for 100 catties.

Xiao Lingyu didn't expect so many people to come to pick strawberries. She had expected many people but not that many! The first 100 free customer slots were used up in an instant.

The others were willing to pay to visit the fields.

When Xiao Xiaohui saw Xiao Lingyu stand up, he immediately asked, "Sis, are you going to the Strawberry Field?"

Xiao Lingyu nodded.

Xiao Xiaohui smiled and said, "Then Sis, I'll go with you." He was worried about her eldest cousin's big belly.

There were many people coming and going, especially in the strawberry field. What if someone accidentally bumped into his eldest cousin?

His eldest cousin had become the most precious member of their family.

When Xiao Lingyu arrived at the greenhouse, her old customers recognized her immediately. They greeted her with a smile, "Hey, Boss, it's been a long time."

Xiao Lingyu also smiled and replied, "Hello! Are you guys having fun?"

"Yes!" The customer nodded in satisfaction, "Boss, you're amazing. You're already such a wonderful vegetable farmer. But now you've done the impossible by growing such delicious strawberries!"

"You're flattering me." Xiao Lingyu said humbly, "This was just an accident. I didn't expect the fruits to grow so well."

"Haha..." The customer was amused, "An accident? Boss, you're going to hurt so many people's hearts."

"In the past, many big farmers in our county wanted to grow strawberries, but they all failed. No one dared to mess with strawberries anymore. It is a losing investment."

"However, you managed to grow such perfect strawberries in an accident!" Mr. Zhang laughed.

Xiao Lingyu, "... Am I supposed to say that I have a cheat?"

"I'm just lucky!" Xiao Lingyu said.

After that, many people came to greet Xiao Lingyu when they saw her.

Auntie Lin came over with her youngest daughter. Beside her was her husband, who had been sticking to her closely these days.

Auntie Lin was a transformed woman. She was no longer the same old tired-looking middle-aged woman. Instead, she was fit and energized. Her hair was set in a fashionable wave. She looked like a charming woman in her thirties.

“Boss Xiao!” Auntie Lin greeted Xiao Lingyu with a smile.

For a moment, Xiao Lingyu did not recognize her at all. She asked in puzzlement, “You are?”

Auntie Lin smiled, “Boss Xiao, I’m Auntie Lin! I once doubted your vegetables, but now I’m your biggest fan!”

“Auntie Lin!” Xiao Lingyu was shocked by the woman’s change. “Auntie Lin, you’ve changed so much!” She had changed from a haggard old woman to a dazzling vixen.

Auntie Lin chuckled. “Yes. But it all started with a change in my mindset.”

The former Auntie Lin had sacrificed everything for her family. She worked hard to be a good wife and mother, but in the end, she was despised and betrayed by her husband.

When she went to the company to send her husband the lunch box and was chased out by his mistress, she was really furious. Why was she suffering all the hardships, but he had to enjoy all the luxury with another woman? Why did she work so hard for another woman to reap her benefits?

From then on, she started to turn her focus back on herself. She threw her husband out of her mind. He was nothing but a burden for her. She focused on getting fit, eating healthy, and so on...

But then, the burden started to come home obediently. Their relationship changed.

In the past, her husband and children were her whole world. But she had given up on her husband, and her children were old enough to be independent. Therefore, she focused on herself.

But her husband made her his whole world instead. The most obvious change was that he would return home on time for dinner every day. Even if he had to work overtime, he would give her a heads-up.

When did this all change? It was the day she brought the vegetables from Xiao Lingyu.

Women were sentimental creatures. For the sake of giving her children a complete home, Auntie Lin was willing to play along with her husband. However, that didn’t mean acceptance.

Almost half a year had passed. She acted like a harmonious couple with her husband before their children, but there was still a gulf in her heart. The husband and wife still slept in different rooms.

As for when the gulf would close, Auntie Lin did not know.

Lin Tianhui, who was standing at the side, looked at his wife. Pain flashed across his eyes.

However, he was not discouraged. At least, his wife stopped mentioning the divorce. He believed that with sincerity, she would eventually forgive him. And they’d become a loving couple again.

Seeing his wife, Huang Shiwen, who was chatting leisurely with Xiao Lingyu, Lin Tianhui immediately made a decision. He said, "Boss Xiao, have you sold all the strawberries in the field?"

"Who is this?" Xiao Lingyu looked at Lin Tianhui in confusion.

Auntie Lin introduced, "This is the child's father."

"Oh, it's Boss Lin. Nice to meet you!" Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "This is my first time planting strawberries. I haven't found a seller yet."

"No one has approached you as a wholesaler for your wonderful strawberries?" Lin Tianhui asked in surprise.

Xiao Lingyu just smiled and shook her head, "No!"

Lin Tianhui thought for a moment and said, "Boss Xiao, I want to order 3,000 catties of strawberries from you. I'll give them as a bonus for my employees!" His company had more than 3,000 employees. 3,000 catties was just right.

"Ah?" Xiao Lingyu did not expect that she would suddenly receive a large order.

"Sure! When will Boss Lin need it? I'll make some preparations!" Xiao Lingyu said.

Lin Tianhui said, "In three days."

"Okay!"

Chapter 228: Gong Tianhao's Doubts

Once the news of Taoyuan Village's strawberries spread, many people rushed to the Taoyuan Village to experience the joy of picking strawberries.

Over the past few days, Xiao Lingyu had negotiated a few large orders. They came from bosses of large enterprises, buying the strawberries to reward their staff.

Things were going well with Zeng Yaozu's Berry Lover group. After they had the free sample, they were shocked by how delicious the berries were. The members came from all over the world and from all walks of life. There were big bosses, teachers, government officials, and so on. They had gathered in one group for one hobby.

Zeng Yaozu's group had a total of more than 2,000 people. He received orders from the members, some big and some small.

The big orders could be as big as 5,000 to 6,000 catties, and the small ones could only be about half a catty.

In the past few days, he had sold more than 10,000 catties.

In addition, Xiao Lingyu had also sold about 10,000 catties.

20,000 catties of strawberries had been sold just like that.

It was unexpected.

Half of the strawberries in the six Mu of land had been sold. Xiao Lingyu was not too worried about the rest.

Her strawberries had started to gain reputation, especially with Zeng Yaozu's help. She believed that soon Taoyuan Village strawberries would make a name for themselves.

...

At the same time, there was another news spreading through the Beijing upper-class. The Jiang and Qin Families were joining through marriage!

The marriage was between the eldest young master of the Jiang family, Jiang Tao, and the eldest young miss of the Qin family, Qin Yan.

When the wedding invitations were sent out, some had complicated emotions, and others were jealous.

In the VIP room of Golden City Club, Jiang Tao slurped down the wine as if they were water.

Gong Tianhao frowned and looked at a certain someone who treated wine like water and would not stop until he got drunk.

As Jiang Tao raised another bottle to his lips, Gong Tianhao stopped him.

He asked sternly, "What are you doing? Are you giving up? Since you don't want to get engaged to Qin Yan, you don't have to."

Jiang Tao bitterly smiled, "If only that is true. But Tianhao, you should know that my will is meaningless in this matter."

Gong Tianhao tightly knitted his brows and said, "But you're not happy at all!"

"Happy?" Jiang Tao said with a cold and discouraging smile, "Haha. Since I was born, my right to be happy had been taken away. I was given the burden instead as the heir of the Jiang Family. I didn't want the responsibility, but what could I do?"

"Grandfather decided my life since I was born. I had to follow his every move. Once I strayed, I would be severely punished.

"To be a qualified heir, I was not allowed any emotional attachment. I am not even allowed to have my parent's love. My parents are not allowed to hug me. I can only meet them once a month."

Gong Tianhao was silent. He did not know how to comfort Jiang Tao.

They were both heirs of their families, and they were both raised by their grandfather. However, Old Master Gong gave Gong Tianhao love and freedom.

Jiang Tao was different. He had been under his grandfather's control since he was young. He had no freedom, no happiness, let alone love.

Jiang Tao took the wine and poured it down his stomach. Then, he threw the bottle away and continued, "It's been 28 years. I've been living like a walking corpse. I really want to take my life back!"

“But how is marrying Qin Yan going to help?” Gong Tianhao said sternly, “If you marry Qin Yan, what will happen to Xiao Lingyu? Don’t tell me you want her to be your mistress?”

Unless one of the families fell from grace, there was no divorce between big families.

Or unless Jiang Tao became so powerful that the divorce wouldn’t affect his family.

Jiang Tao smiled bitterly and said, “Haha. What can I do? Grandfather has already decided everything. Even if I leave the Jiang Family and escape to the ends of the Earth, Grandfather can still find me.

“I don’t want the woman I like to live a life like a fugitive. I don’t even have normal freedom, much less freedom of love.

“Therefore, I can only use my marriage as a bargaining chip. In this marriage alliance, I have taken some power from Grandfather.”

Jiang Tao resisted Old Master Jiang and refused the political marriage. In the end, he managed to get some power from his Grandfather, but he still had to marry Qin Yan.

When Gong Tianhao heard this, his eyes narrowed, and he didn’t say anything.

After a while, he said, “The people your grandfather sent out almost found out about Xiao Lingyu. Fortunately, I managed to stop them in time. So, Jiang Tao, what will you do with Xiao Lingyu after you get engaged to Qin Yan?”

Jiang Tao shook his head and said, “I don’t know either.”

He paused for a moment and then smiled sadly. “I like Xiao Lingyu, but she doesn’t like me at all. I confessed to her, but she rejected me. She probably doesn’t care who I get engaged to, right?”

Even after Jiang Tao had made it clear that he didn’t mind her past and also didn’t mind the child in her belly, Xiao Lingyu still didn’t like him and only treated him as a normal friend.

If Xiao Lingyu had given him a bit of hope, Jiang Tao wouldn’t choose to compromise and get engaged to Qin Yan. However, Xiao Lingyu was adamant that she had no feeling for him.

After Gong Tianhao heard Jiang Tao’s words, his pupils could not help but shrink.

Gong Tianhao had heard about Xiao Lingyu’s rejection of Jiang Tao before. Jiang Tao was a handsome and rich young man. Why would Xiao Lingyu reject him? Gong Tianhao thought that would change after Xiao Lingyu got to know Jiang Tao, but even after so long, her mind was unshaken.

He could not help but ask, “You confessed to Xiao Lingyu, but she rejected you? Why?”

Jiang Tao was really drunk and intoxicated. He said, “Because she said that she was not worthy of me. Hehe...”

Jiang Tao laughed helplessly and said, “Tianhao, she is already pregnant. So she is not worthy of me.” Jiang Tao started to cry.

For the first time in 28 years, he fell in love with a woman. However, the woman rejected him. The saddest thing was he still cherished her, and for that, he had to protect her. His grandfather would not allow Xiao Lingyu to continue to exist once he found out her influence on Jiang Tao.

Once, he loved a dog. In the end, the dog was skinned and made into a stew. He was forced to eat the stew. If his grandfather found out about Xiao Lingyu, she would end up like the dog.

He couldn't allow that to happen!

Jiang Tao once thought that he could settle the matters of the Jiang Family and return to pursue Xiao Lingyu. He would make her the happiest woman in the capital.

However, he was still too inexperienced in front of his grandfather. Before he could make any move, his grandfather had already found out there was something wrong with him through just one meeting.

If it was not for Gong Tianhao, Xiao Lingyu would have been captured by his grandfather and tortured to death already.

Jiang Tao's heart winced with fear. He was glad that Gong Tianhao had found Taoyuan Village for his grandfather to recuperate. He was also thankful that Gong Tianhao also liked Xiao Lingyu's family.

Or else...

Only now did Jiang Tao know that as long as he wasn't the head of the Jiang family, and as long as he didn't have power in his hands, he didn't have the right to love.

Therefore, in order to protect the person he liked, he chose power.

No one knew the helplessness, pain, and despair he experienced when he was forced to give up on Xiao Lingyu.

The only person he could confide in was Gong Tianhao.

This was the only friend he had ever had since he was young!

When Gong Tianhao heard that Xiao Lingyu was pregnant, his brows furrowed slightly.

He, who had never meddled in other people's business, could not help but ask another question.

He asked, "You said Xiao Lingyu is pregnant. What exactly is going on?"

He and Xiao Lingyu had only met briefly. He really did not know what had happened to Xiao Lingyu.

Jiang Tao leaned against the sofa. He held a bottle of wine and poured it into his mouth. With the mention of Xiao Lingyu, his eyes flashed with heartache.

He said, "Xiao Lingyu once had a boyfriend she had been in love with for ten years. The two of them had been together since junior high school until they graduated from university and worked together. However, the city has changed them.

"When the two of them worked in a large company, her boyfriend was taken in by the company's chairman's daughter. That Boss's daughter's heart was vicious.

“But the one who was more vicious was her boyfriend.

“The pair wanted to be together, so they needed to get rid of Xiao Lingyu. They didn’t want their names to be ruined, so they took the initiative to ruin Xiao Lingyu first.

“They lured Xiao Lingyu to a hotel and drugged her. They arranged for an old man, who could be her father, to rape her.

“But Xiao Lingyu noticed something was wrong, and she ran away. However, due to the effects of the drug, she still ended up sleeping with a man.”

Jiang Tao did not investigate these matters. When the Chen family went to Xiao Lingyu’s house to cause trouble, Xiao Lingyu told him everything. Therefore, Jiang Tao easily found out the truth.

All these sounded very familiar to Gong Tianhao.

Back then, when he went on a business trip to City Z, he met a woman. She was lying on his bed. He wanted to chase her away, but the woman instantly latched on him. She ignited his inner fire, and they spent a night together.

The next morning, Gong Tianhao left the room because he had business to attend to. When he returned, the woman was gone. However, before she left, she had used his identity to negotiate some things with the hotel, which instantly made Gong Tianhao lose interest in her.

Clearly, the woman approached him with a purpose. Since she had left, Gong Tianhao decided to let it be. Furthermore, his grandfather’s illness required his attention.

However, after he arrived at Xing Yin County, he noticed that Xiao Lingyu was very similar to that mysterious woman.

That night, it was already very late when he returned to his hotel room. The lights in the room were dim. Furthermore, Xiao Lingyu wore big glasses that covered half of her face. He didn’t remove her glasses.

Gong Tianhao left the room when the sky was slightly bright. He had a business deal in City Z. When he returned, and the woman was gone.

The first time he saw Xiao Lingyu, he only felt that she looked familiar.

When he noticed her superhuman running speed, he suddenly decided to help her with the cover-up.

The second time he saw Xiao Lingyu, it was when she argued with Li Yuanhang. He was intrigued by her. He apologized because they were in the wrong.

The third time they met...

The fourth time they met...

He became more and more interested in Xiao Lingyu.

At that moment, he really wanted to investigate Xiao Lingyu, to see if she was really that woman in his hotel room. However, he had some misgivings.

Because she was the person Jiang Tao liked.

What if he found out Xiao Lingyu was that person? Was he going to keep her as his mistress? Or was he going to tell his brother that he had already slept with Xiao Lingyu? How would Jiang Tao feel?

Therefore, Gong Tianhao didn't launch an investigation because he was afraid of the truth.

However, now that Gong Tianhao knew that Xiao Lingyu was pregnant, he started to panic.

Could the child... be...

He didn't dare to imagine it. He didn't dare to find out, but he had to know!

What if it was?

Gong Tianhao asked seriously, "Tao Zi, were Xiao Lingyu and her boyfriend working in City Z?"

He had another question, but he didn't dare to ask.

'Was Xiao Lingyu drugged at Grand Marriott Hotel?'

Chapter 229: Re-investigation

As soon as Gong Tianhao returned to the company, Li Yuanhang came over with a box and said, "Tianhao, the old master sent something over."

He opened the box and found that it contained two plastic boxes of strawberries.

"Oh, it's strawberries!" Li Yuanhang said with some surprise, "These strawberries are so green. Why would the old master send them to us?" He put the two boxes of strawberries on the desk and asked curiously, "Is there anything special about these strawberries?" The old master wouldn't have sent them over if they weren't. However, the strawberries looked quite unripe.

Gong Tianhao looked at the two boxes of strawberries on the desk. The strawberries were only a little red at the top. Although they weren't fully ripe, they looked very tempting.

He did not say anything and opened the plastic box.

In an instant, the fragrance of the strawberries immediately overflowed.

Li Yuanhang wrinkled his nose and could not help but exclaim, "This smell is so fragrant!" He grabbed a strawberry from the box and took a bite. He didn't even wash it.

"Delicious!" Li Yuanhang took a bite, and the fragrance of the strawberries filled his entire mouth.

"Why is this strawberry so delicious?" Li Yuanhang couldn't help but exclaim in admiration again.

"No wonder the old master sent the strawberries over to us." Li Yuanhang was close to both Gong Tianhao and the old master. He knew about the two's relationship.

Although the grandfather-grandson duo argued every day, they were very considerate of each other. If there were a good thing to share, they wouldn't forget about the other.

Gong Tianhao, who had always been a germaphobe, grabbed the strawberry and put it into his mouth without washing it.

His brows relaxed, and he nodded. "The taste of the strawberries is really good." Gong Tianhao had eaten all the high-end fruits in the world, but this was the first time he had eaten such delicious strawberries.

"They're not fully ripe, but they are very sweet. The important thing is they smell heavenly!" Li Yuanhang commented, "After they ripen further, the taste will get better!"

Gong Tianhao nodded in agreement.

Before they knew it, the box was empty. They reached their hands into the box, and their hands touched each other. There were no more strawberries in the box.

"The strawberries are already gone?" Li Yuanhang complained, "Tianhao, the old master must have done this on purpose. He sent back a limited amount just to hook our appetite. There were only nine strawberries in the box. How could that be enough?"

Gong Tianhao agreed with Li Yuanhang. His grandpa liked to play pranks like this.

"I wonder where these strawberries came from?" Li Yuanhang asked.

Gong Tianhao pointed at a label on the box and said, "They are from Taoyuan Village."

"What? Taoyuan Village?" Li Yuanhang exclaimed in disbelief. "Can strawberries grow in that place? According to our investigation, Xing Yin County is not suitable to grow strawberries."

Gong Tianhao didn't answer Li Yuanhang. His slender fingers knocked on the table. Then, he dialed a number. After two rings, he heard the other party say, "Hello!"

"Xiao Wang!"

"Eldest young master!" Xiao Wang was a little surprised. "Eldest young master, Hello!"

"Where's Grandpa?"

"The General and Xiao Zhang went to pick strawberries!" Xiao Wang reported truthfully.

"Pick strawberries? Where?" Gong Tianhao asked.

"At Miss Xiao's strawberry fields at Taoyuan Village." Xiao Wang said, "Eldest young master, the chief sent some strawberries to you a few days ago. Have you received them? Those strawberries are delicious. The chief likes them too."

Hearing Little Wang's report, Gong Tianhao's eyes flashed. He asked indifferently, "Have Xiao Lingyu planted these strawberries?"

"Yes, that's right." Xiao Wang nodded and said, "She planted six Mu of strawberries. These days, people have been coming over to pick strawberries. I heard that people have already booked 20000 to 30000 cattles over the past few days."

Xiao Wang wasn't required to report these things. However, life in Taoyuan Village was so peaceful that Xiao Wang became chattier.

Gong Tianhao immediately grasped the crux of the matter.

He asked, "Her family's strawberries have been sold in large amounts only over the past few days?"

Xiao Wang was stunned for a moment, then nodded and replied, "That's right!"

"So, Xiao Lingyu's family hadn't had any cooperation with wholesalers before they planted the strawberries?"

Xiao Wang frowned and shook his head in confusion, "Eldest young master, I'm not too sure about that. However, I heard from the villagers that before the strawberries were grown, Miss Xiao didn't have any wholesale and retail partner."

If that was really the case, the woman was really courageous. She dared to plant six Mu of strawberries without a confirmed market. Wasn't she afraid of losing money?

Gong Tianhao thought for a moment and ordered, "Xiao Wang, go and find out how many strawberries Xiao Lingyu still hasn't sold. No matter how many there are, get Grandpa to buy them all."

Gong Tianhao used his grandfather's name because he recalled how strangely Xiao Lingyu had acted whenever they met. He was certain that Xiao Lingyu knew him. Perhaps that woman was really her. In that case, her child...

No, he had to investigate this thoroughly.

"Ah?" Xiao Wang was confused, but he agreed. "Eldest young master, are we sending all the strawberries to the capital?"

"Yes!" Gong Tianhao ordered readily.

After Gong Tianhao hung up the phone, Li Wanhong looked at Gong Tianhao in confusion and asked, "Tianhao, you really plan to buy out all the remaining strawberries?"

Gong Tianhao glanced at him and said, "When have I lied before?"

Li Yuanhang asked suspiciously, "Tianhao, tell me, why are you doing this? Is it because of Xiao Lingyu? But why would you ask for the Old Master's help?"

The purchase could be made by sending someone over from the City Z Branch. So why ask the favor from the Old Master?

Gong Tianhao was silent for a moment and suddenly asked, "Yuanhang, do you remember the woman who appeared in my room in the hotel half a year ago when we went to City Z?"

"Of course!" Li Yuanhang nodded.

That was the first time Gong Tianhao slept with a woman in so many years. Even he was a little surprised.

Then, he asked, “No, Tianhao, why are you bringing this up now? This is already in the past. Plus, you said you’re not interested in that woman’s identity.”

Gong Tianhao said with a serious face, “I had some clues when I talked to Tao Zi today.”

“What clues?”

“The woman in my room back then might be Xiao Lingyu!”

“Huh?” Li Yuanhang was stunned. “How can things be so coincidental?” Li Yuanhang had tried to set up Gong Tianhao and Xiao Lingyu, but he couldn’t make it too obvious because of Jiang Tao.

But if that woman was really Xiao Lingyu, would the friendship between Gong Tianhao and Jiang Tao be affected? Could Jiang Tao accept the truth? His best friend had slept with the woman he liked.

Gong Tianhao asked, “Then, do you remember the strange way Xiao Lingyu acted whenever we met? She seemed to know me, but she didn’t want to show that. I was confused. But it all makes sense if she was that woman.”

Li Yuanhang furrowed his brows and said, “But that woman used your identity to negotiate things with the hotel. She was only using you.”

“That’s why I need to investigate this clearly,” Gong Tianhao said very seriously this time, “We left in a hurry because of Grandpa’s sudden illness. But if that woman was really Xiao Lingyu, there had to be a story behind this.”

He paused for a moment and then said seriously, “And Xiao Lingyu is pregnant.”

Li Yuanhang widened his eyes in disbelief and asked anxiously, “Tianhao, what do you mean?”

“That woman from that night was a virgin!” Gong Tianhao explained, “Xiao Lingyu had a boyfriend of ten years, but they hadn’t had sex. They were waiting for the wedding. But now she is pregnant.”

“So, Tianhao, do you mean that the child that Xiao Lingyu is carrying is very likely to be yours?” Li Yuanhang was so shocked that he almost could not speak.

Was there really such a coincidence in this world?

“Yes!” Gong Tianhao nodded and said, “So, I need to investigate what happened back then!” Why had Xiao Lingyu used his identity, and what did she ask the hotel for?

“Okay, I understand,” Li Yuanhang said very seriously. “I will go investigate now!”

After Li Yuanhang left, Gong Tianhao could not help but rub his forehead.

If that woman was really Xiao Lingyu, then he could only apologize to his good brother.

...

Old Master Gong fell in love with the joy of strawberry-picking. Since he moved to Taoyuan Village, his physique had improved. Once he felt better, he couldn’t stay idle.

Usually, he would chat with the old men in the village, but the old men in the village weren't always free. Other than the invalids, most of them had work to do.

Old Master Gong felt depressed. He also wanted to work, but his people had already finished everything for him. Therefore, he'd spend most of his time fishing by the river or following Xiao Xiaohui to herd the cows. He would get the chance to study the Little Cattle King up close. The Little Cattle King was amusing.

It was very smart and intelligent. It could understand simple human language.

Old Master Gong estimated that the Little Cattle King had the intelligence of a three-year-old child.

Children at this age were the most mischievous. They rummaged around everywhere and caused trouble.

This was what the Little Cattle King was like.

It was very obedient and would not carelessly spoil the things in the ground. However, it passed by fields of those who had harmed the Xiao Family, and it would stop to 'accidentally' stomp on their crops. Or it would suddenly chase a child around until they cried.

However, no one would dare scold the Little Cattle King. In anything, they happily praised it for its intelligence.

After all, this was the Little Cattle King.

For some reason, Old Master Gong actually became good friends with the Little Cattle King.

When the Little Cattle King saw Old Master Gong from afar, it would moo twice to greet him. Old Master Gong would bring fruits and vegetables for Little Cattle King.

The two's interaction amused everyone.

When Old Master Gong saw Xiao Lingyu's strawberries, he was eager to try picking them personally because he was bored again.

"Girl, I came over to help you pick strawberries again." When Old Master Gong saw Xiao Lingyu, he smiled from afar.

Xiao Lingyu had the urge to roll her eyes. The old man didn't need money. He was there to snatch other people's work!

Of course, there was another reason.

Xiao Lingyu's attitude towards Grandfather Gong was very complicated.

She wanted to befriend Grandfather Gong because he was Xiao Tong's grandfather. However, she didn't want to have too much contact with Old Master Gong. She was afraid that Old Master Gong would find out the truth about Xiao Tong and become angry. He might even separate her and Xiao Tong.

Old Master Gong clearly noticed Xiao Lingyu's strange attitude towards him, which piqued his curiosity even more. From time to time, he would come over to show himself around Xiao Lingyu.

He was like a child who needed the attention of an adult!

Childish!

This made Xiao Lingyu feel helpless and amused.

Xiao Lingyu sighed softly and said, "Old Master, how can I trouble you to come and pick strawberries for me? You should go back to rest."

Old Master Gong was as stubborn as a child and said, "Hmph, since I'm here, I won't go back. I know you think I'm annoying! In that case, I'm going to stay to annoy you!"

Xiao Lingyu, "..."

Xiao Zhang, who had accompanied Old Master Gong, "..."

Was this the commanding and imposing chief that he used to work under? He was acting more like a three-year-old child.

Xiao Wang also noticed that his chief liked Xiao Lingyu, so much so that he wanted to snatch her to be his granddaughter-in-law. But had the chief asked the eldest young master about it?

Xiao Lingyu replied with a helpless smile, "Since old master wants to help, then alright. However, old master, if you're tired, you must stop and rest."

Old Master Gong waved his hand and said, "You don't have to tell me that. Girl, how many strawberries do you need to pick today?"

Old Master Gong came because he heard Xiao Lingyu was fulfilling the orders she had received lately. The order was more than 20,000 catties. The strawberries had to be picked and then packed!

He wanted to help.

Chapter 230: The Results of the Investigations!

"Master, the people we sent didn't find anything abnormal about that place. Young Master Jiang was doing well, and he didn't have intimate contact with any woman!" The people sent by the Qin Family reported. Of course, this report had already been edited by Gong Tianhao.

When Qin Xingbao heard this, his serious face scrunched up slightly. This was completely different from what he had expected.

He trusted his subordinates, but he had a strange feeling in his heart.

Since Jiang Tao didn't find any woman at that backward place, why did he ask Qin Yan to break off the engagement?

As the heir of the Jiang family, he should understand that the political marriage would bring great benefits for both the Qin and Jiang Families.

Qin Yan overheard the conversation between her father and his subordinates outside his father's study. A wave of doubt immediately rose in her heart.

With her sixth instinct as a woman, she knew Jiang Tao had a woman in his heart. It was the only reason why he had rejected her.

She clenched her fists, then let go, turned around, and left.

She walked to the garage, got into the car, made a phone call, and drove out. About an hour later, she arrived at a relatively abandoned city district. Her car stopped.

She got out of the car, wearing a pair of large sunglasses. It covered half of her beautiful face. Even so, her clothes and temperament did not fit in with this place.

However, she seemed to be very familiar with this place.

As soon as Qin Yan got off the car, she went straight to the entrance of the alley. This alley was a little dark, but after making several turns, she came to an old neighborhood. It was very dark, and the surroundings were also quiet. It looked a little creepy.

She came to a staircase in the middle of the neighborhood and walked up. In the quiet place, only the sound of her high heels could be heard.

The room was a mess. Pieces of waste paper were scattered on the ground. Photos were piled on a long and big desk. The pictures were of the most powerful people in the capital. They were incriminating pictures of these people cheating or doing some dirty deal. Any of the pictures would cause a huge wave if released to the public.

A skinny man wearing a brimmed hat was sitting in front of the table. He was holding a pen in his hand and writing something with his head down.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door. He immediately became alert and looked up. His beard was long, and his face couldn't be seen clearly. His pair of beady eyes looked around.

He asked sternly, "Who is it?"

"It's me!" The woman said from outside the door.

"Come in!" He went to open the door.

As soon as Qin Yan entered, she wrinkled her nose. Then, she covered her nose with her hand. She looked at the messy house and frowned. Then, she complained, "Your house is still smelly and dirty. Can't you clean it or change to a cleaner and more beautiful room?"

It sounded like she was close to the owner of the room.

The man, Leng Feiyang, mocked, "I'm not as rich and powerful as Miss Qin. I'm just a small private detective." He walked to his chair and sat down. Then, he asked directly, "May I know why Miss Qin is here?"

Qin Yan waved the smell away and walked forward. Her eyes scanned the pictures on the desk. She didn't seem surprised to see them.

She frowned when she reached the other dusty chair in the room. She didn't sit but took out two stacks of cash from her bag. "Investigate someone for me!"

Leng Feiyang looked at the cash on the table without any change in expression. He chuckled and said, "No negotiations at all? This target must be a complicated one."

Qin Yan said directly, "It's Jiang Tao. I want to know everything about Jiang Tao when he was in that small place, including which woman he was close to."

"Jiang Tao? The eldest young master of the Jiang Family?" Leng Feiyang raised his eyebrows and asked.

"That's right!" Qin Yan nodded.

"That's crazy!" Leng Feiyang said indifferently, "No matter how bold I am, I don't dare offend the capital's big families."

"Two hundred thousand!" Qin Yan said.

Leng Feiyang pursed his lips into a smile and said, "Miss Qin, if I remember correctly, young master Jiang is about to become your fiancé. The Jiang and Qin families have already announced this good news to the public. I don't think it's good for you to ask me to investigate your fiancé!"

"300,000!"

"I'm just a small fry compared to the big families. I don't want to die. I still wish to live."

"One million!" Qin Yan said indifferently, "Detective Leng, I believe in your ability. I'll pay you one million no matter you complete the investigation or not. How about it?"

Leng Feiyang spun the pen with one hand and tapped the table with the other. His sharp eyes stared at Qin Yan for a moment, and then he said with a smile, "Deal! However, Miss Qin, you should know my rules."

Qin Yan took out a card and placed it on the table. She said, "There's 500,000 yuan in here!"

"Wonderful!" Leng Feiyang laughed out loud. "In that case, Miss Qin, I'll accept your order."

"I want the result as soon as possible!" Qin Yan said, "Jiang Tao will return to that place after the engagement. It'll be hard for you to do your work when he's back there."

Leng Feiyang nodded and said, "Okay, thank you for your reminder, Miss Qin!"

After Qin Yan left, Leng Feiyang picked up his phone and made a call, "I want to book a plane ticket to City Z."

...

In the Jiang family's study room

"Master, the eldest young master was normal when he was over there!" The people reported to Old Master Jiang.

Old Master Jiang frowned slightly and asked with slight doubt, "Everything is normal?"

“Yes,” the subordinate reported. “When the eldest young master is over there, he spent his life working. He is a working machine.”

“There’s no woman whom he’s close to?” Old Master Jiang asked with obvious doubt.

This wasn’t right at all. But the report couldn’t be wrong.

His subordinate reported, “No. The only people he was in contact with were his female subordinates. But, he was very aloof around them. He didn’t have any contact with them in private.”

Old Master Jiang held his walking stick with both hands and looked deep in thought and doubt. He ordered, “Then, stop the investigation.” After all, Tao ‘Er had agreed to the engagement.

After his subordinates left, Old Master Jiang held his walking stick and rubbed the jade ring on his thumb with one hand. He frowned slightly and thought deeply. A moment later, he asked his men to summon Jiang Tao.

He said with a stern expression, “You must perform well at the engagement ceremony tomorrow.”

Jiang Tao replied expressionlessly, “Okay!”

...

Li Yuanhang reported the investigation to Gong Tianhao at Imperial Palace Group.

He reported the information in his hands to Gong Tianhao and said seriously, “Tianhao, the woman who was drugged and broke into your room was indeed Xiao Lingyu!”

Gong Tianhao frowned slightly and looked serious. He opened the document and it was all about Xiao Lingyu when she was in City Z.

Li Yuanhang said, “At that time, Xiao Lingyu was framed and drugged. She knew she had to escape, but she accidentally broke into your room. After that, you...”

At this point, Li Yuanhang paused, “After you left the room, she used your identity and asked the hotel to get a video of her being followed and drugged as evidence. Tianhao, it seems that we have misunderstood her.”

At that time, they thought that the woman was someone who approached Gong Tianhao to use his identity. They had no idea she was a drugged victim.

Gong Tianhao was thus certain that the child in Xiao Lingyu’s stomach was really his. Jiang Tao told him that he was rejected because Xiao Lingyu was pregnant with a stranger’s child.

At the thought of this, Gong Tianhao, who was always calm, cold, ruthless, and calm, had a change in his heart. Emotions like excitement, happiness, rare timidity, and other complicated feelings surfaced.

At this moment, Li Yuanhang said hesitantly, “Tianhao, since the woman that day is Xiao Lingyu, and Xiao Lingyu is pregnant, then the child in her belly is...”

“It’s mine.” Gong Tianhao’s tone sounded no different, but Li Yuanhang, who knew him well, could obviously hear the slight tremble.

Gong Tianhao immediately stood up from his chair, picked up the suit on the hanger, and put it on his arm. He said, "Yuanhang, book the fastest flight ticket to City Z. I want to go to Taoyuan Village as soon as possible!"

'I have a child! I have a child! I have a child!'

Li Yuanhang somewhat understood Gong Tianhao's feelings. He was also happy for Gong Tianhao.

Previously, he had already noticed Gong Tianhao showed extra care for Xiao Lingyu. He was already planning to set them up. Now, there was no need for that.

Li Yuanhang nodded with a smile and said, "I'll book a plane ticket for you now. Tianhao, do you need to prepare anything else?"

Gong Tianhao was slightly stunned and did not understand.

He asked, "Why do I need to prepare anything?"

Li Yuanhang rolled his eyes helplessly and said, "Tianhao, Xiao Lingyu is pregnant. She is pregnant with your child. I believe she is six months pregnant. Pregnant women need nutrition."

Gong Tianhao immediately snapped to realization.

He said, "Okay, then get someone to buy the best milk powder and other nutrition products as soon as possible."

He hesitated for a moment and added, "Yuanhang, get someone to customize a baby carriage. Then, get the designer to design a children's room. Also, get someone to prepare the necessities for the baby!"

When Li Yuanhang heard this, he asked in surprise, "Tianhao, what..."

"I'm not going to let my child be an illegitimate child." Gong Tianhao said sharply.

"Okay, I understand," Li Yuanhang nodded. Then, he sighed and said, "The world is really fickle. Just a moment ago, you were a diamond bachelor in the capital. But suddenly, you're a father with a child. If people knew, jaws would drop."

Of course, he also understood it was not the right time to announce this matter. He was also shocked by how calmly and easily Gong Tianhao had accepted this news.

"Alright. Tianhao, I'll go arrange the things now." Li Yuanhang said.

"Wait!" Gong Tianhao suddenly stopped Li Yuanhang.

Li Yuanhang stopped and looked around with some confusion. He asked, "What's wrong, Tianhao?"

Gong Tianhao said, "Yuanhang, I don't know how long I'll be staying at Taoyuan Village this time. I'll need you to look after the company for me."

Li Yuanhang smiled and said, "Tianhao, of course, I'd do that for you. We're buddies. Do you even need to ask me that?"

Gong Tianhao just smiled.

...

After Old Master Gong returned home from picking strawberries, Xiao Wang told him about Gong Tianhao's order.

"The brat wants me to buy Xiao Lingyu's remaining strawberries?" Old Master Gong was slightly surprised. "He wants me to go negotiate with the girl?"

Xiao Wang scratched the back of his head and nodded very seriously. "Yes, Chief!"

Old Master Gong immediately asked with some confusion, "That's strange. Why would the brat ask me to do this?"

"Chief, I have no idea." Xiao Wang replied very seriously.

Old Master Gong looked at Little Wang and said unhappily, "I expect nothing less from you. You know nothing but to snitch about me to that brat. Whose subordinate are you?"

Xiao Wang said, "Chief, I wasn't snitching. I was merely updating your latest condition to the eldest young master. The young master is very concerned about you."

Old Master Gong waved his hand impatiently and said, "Alright, alright. I've heard that excuse more than a hundred times already."

Xiao Wang and Xiao Zhang, "..."

They were also very helpless.

They simply couldn't afford to offend the eldest young master.

Old Master Gong said, "Since that brat wants to buy the remaining strawberries, I'll go to Zhengyang's house. His strawberries are selling like hotcakes. If I fail to get anything for him, the brat is going to blame me." Then, Old Master Gong paused. He turned to Xiao Wang, "Xiao Lingyu's strawberries are expensive, be it wholesale or retail prices. Did the brat set a price for you?"

Xiao Wang shook his head and said, "No."

Xiao Lingyu's strawberries were expensive, but would that matter to the eldest young master?

He was the richest person in the country!