

Chapter 261: Arrested

In the end, Zhang Xiaolan was taken away. The police also took the video, the evidence of Zhang Xiaolan's crime. When Zhang Xiaolan was arrested, all the villagers, including Xiao Chengcai, were silent.

Zhang Xiaolan had committed a crime.

Although the village's reputation was important, it was too dangerous to harbor a criminal. No one could guarantee that she wouldn't repeat her crime.

When Zhang Xiaolan was taken away in handcuffs, she seemed to be on the verge of breaking down. She didn't think the consequences would be so serious. She didn't think she would be caught red-handed by Xiao Lingyu.

She cried. When she saw Zhang Chunjiao standing outside the door, she yelled at her, "Zhang Chunjiao, it's all your fault. If you didn't say those things, I wouldn't have thought to set off the fire."

When everyone heard this, they were stunned. This was related to Zhang Chunjiao?

Then, they got over the surprise. Zhang Xiaolan and Zhang Chunjiao were close. They were always up to no good. They sat around and gossiped about people every day. It was like the world had owed them or something.

Zhang Chunjiao probably instigated Zhang Xiaolan to start the fire. Zhang Xiaolan was an idiot. Everyone in the village knew that Zhang Chunjiao's family and Xiao Zhengyang's family were arch-enemies.

Ever since Xiao Zhengyang's family rented the land to start farming, they would hire villagers to do odd jobs. However, they had never hired anyone from Zhang Chunjiao's family.

Some villagers secretly said that Xiao Zhengyang's family was too stingy. They were from the same village. They shouldn't be so narrow-minded.

People were all like that. As long as the tragedy didn't befall them, they would treat it with indifference. However, if they were in Xiao Zhengyang's shoes, they would probably be more narrow-minded than Father Xiao.

However, no one dared to say anything openly. If they still wanted to benefit from the Xiao Family, it was best not to offend them.

Zhang Xiaolan's end was the best example. Birds of a feather flock together. The group close to Zhang Chunjiao was similar in temperament. They were narrow-minded and vengeful.

Someone said, "Zhang Chunjiao, how could you instigate her to start the fire?"

"What are you talking about?" Zhang Chunjiao was so angry that she stomped her feet and shouted, "I did say a few words about the Xiao Family, but I didn't tell her to start the fire! Did you see me force her to start the fire? Now that this has happened, you want to blame me? In your dreams!"

Afraid that Zhang Xiaolan would drag her down, Zhang Chunjiao quickly escaped the scene.

However, Zhang Chunjiao did not know that a sharp gaze had been following her.

Zhang Xiaolan watched as Zhang Chunjiao ran away. She was so angry that her gums were about to shatter.

However, in the end, she could only follow the police officers and get into the police car.

After Zhang Xiaolan was taken away, the atmosphere was still a little bad and tense.

Some of the villagers still felt that Xiao Lingyu had gone too far. No matter what, they were all villagers from the same village. The problem should be solved privately. Sending someone to jail was too much.

However, others agreed with Xiao Lingyu. A criminal like Zhang Xiaolan should be dealt by the law.

In short, people started to disperse. Some didn't think much of it. Others went home with a heavy heart as if they were the next ones to be arrested.

Not long after, there were only a few people left in the Xiao family courtyard.

Xiao Chengcai looked at Xiao Zhengyang's family with an ashen face. He growled and left.

The village chief was the last to leave. He looked at Father Xiao and reminded him, "Be careful in the future. Xiao Chengcai is normally so quiet and honest. I don't expect him to be so ruthless. Now that his wife is taken away, he won't let this matter rest. Lingyu is pregnant, so you need to be very careful."

"Yes, I understand. Thank you, Village Chief!" Xiao Lingyu nodded.

The village chief left.

Only the Gong family remained in the courtyard. There were old Master Gong, Gong Tianhao, Xiao Wang, Xiao Zheng and Chef Zhao. Old Master Gong began to lecture Xiao Lingyu, "Girl, what were you thinking going after the culprit yourself? Thankfully, nothing happened or else the consequences will be unbearable!"

An accident did almost happen, but Gong Tianhao and Xiao Lingyu didn't say anything.

Mother Xiao also snapped back to attention. She reprimanded her daughter. "Xiao Lingyu, why were you so rash? Like the old master said, thankfully nothing had happened."

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "But I'm fine, right?" That was a close call. "I saw the surveillance video and noticed the culprit was trying to retreat. I wanted to call someone to catch her, but everyone was busy rushing to save the fire. I didn't want the culprit to escape."

Xiao Wang and Xiao Zhang looked at each other secretly.

They remembered clearly that when they saw Xiao Lingyu, she was pushing and shoving with Zhang Xiaolan. If the eldest young master hadn't rushed over, something would have happened.

Of course, since the eldest young master didn't say anything, they didn't say anything either.

Mother Xiao's anger was directed at the culprit. "How did we offend Zhang Xiaolan? She came to our land and set fire to our things in the middle of the night. If the fire weren't discovered quickly, over ten Mu of land would probably have been burned to the ground." Even so, they had already lost hundreds of thousands.

"Mom, we can't understand the mentality of some people," Xiao Lingyu said, "They are jealous since our lives are getting better. Their minds will become more unbalanced. They want to destroy our things so that we'll lower back to their level."

"This Zhang Xiaolan..." Mother Xiao was speechless.

People's heart was incomprehensible.

"Mom, Zhang Xiaolan set fire to our things. Not only will she face imprisonment, but she will also have to compensate for the damage!" Xiao Lingyu said, "Tomorrow, we will have to go to Xiao Chengcai's house to talk about this."

"Ah?!"

Chapter 262: Strawberry Delivery

After returning to the Gong family, Gong Tianhao told Xiao Wang and Xiao Zhang, "This Zhang Chunjiao will be a huge disaster if she stays in the village."

She would occasionally show up around Xiao Lingyu. Even if she didn't cause any substantial harm, it was still extremely annoying. Furthermore, she was vicious enough to incite others to start a fire.

If they didn't deal with her now, she might actually harm the Xiao Family in the future.

The two of them were slightly stunned and said, "Eldest young master, what do you mean?"

Gong Tianhao said indifferently, "Just make sure she disappears from Taoyuan Village."

Xiao Wang and Xiao Zhang immediately understood. "Of course." This was a piece of cake for them.

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The next day, as promised, Mother Xiao gave two catties of strawberries to all the families who participated in the fire fighting.

This made the villagers both excited and happy.

The strawberries from Xiao Zhengyang's family were extremely expensive. The villagers would be happy with two teals, much less two catties. Two catties of strawberries were worth hundred of RMB. Xiao Zhengyang's family was really generous.

Since the whole village helped out, the fire didn't take that long to be extinguished. The fire was put out in less than thirty minutes.

"Two catties of strawberries are around four hundred RMB. Qiuying and her family send them over without thinking. It's surprising."

"It's not that surprising. Xiao Zhengyang's family has always been clear-minded. We helped put out the fire. They owed us a favor."

"Yeah. If it weren't for everyone's efforts to put out the fire, the fire would have burned the entire strawberry field, and the loss would have been even greater."

What she meant was that the Xiao Family should give them the strawberries. If it weren't for them, the Xiao Family would lose even more.

"This Zhang Xiaolan is really something. She has a good life, but she insists on committing a crime. Now she has to spend the rest of her life in jail."

"Who would have thought the consequence of arson will be so serious?"

"Zhang Xiaolan must be in deep regret now."

"So what? Can it change the fact that she's going to jail? But it's shameful that our village has a criminal now. Xiao Lingyu is a bit too harsh. She didn't even care about giving the villagers face and directly call the people from the police station to arrest Zhang Xiaolan."

"Harsh?" Someone countered. "You're saying that because it isn't your land which is destroyed. If you're the victim of the fire, you would have asked the police to shoot the culprit. And you want Lingyu to give the culprit face? What nonsense!"

The woman said weakly, "But it won't be good that our village has produced a criminal. What about our children's future?" She was worried about this point. Her family's children had reached the age of marriage.

"Yu Ying, it's not that I want to lecture you, but..." Someone said with disappointment, "Once our standard of living improves, do you think people won't marry our children? Haven't you noticed that since Xiao Lingyu returned to the village, the lives of many villagers have gotten better? Even if they just work for Xiao Lingyu, they have earned a lot of money.

"Furthermore, Xiao Lingyu promised to buy the vegetables that we grow. She will be there to make sure we won't suffer any losses.

"In short, you mustn't be stupid and go to offend Xiao Zhengyang's family. If they refuse to hire your family to work for them in the future, you're going to cry."

Nowadays, when rural people got married, it were usually based on their character and family background. The characters of their neighbors couldn't affect them that much. As long as they had an upright morality, what was there for them to worry about?

"Besides, do you really want to indulge the arsonist? What if she decides to burn down your house next time? If we don't arrest Zhang Xiaolan, she'll be an extremely dangerous factor in the village."

Yu Ying snapped back to clear understanding. She shook her head and said with a smile, "You are right." She was just muddled by what Xiao Chengcai said the night before.

Xiao Chengcai said that if Taoyuan Village had a criminal, it would affect the village's reputation. They would be the next Chen and Lan Villages. When they went to the town, there would be people pointing fingers behind their backs.

Most importantly, it would seriously affect the marriage of young people.

"If the villagers didn't put out the fire in time, the loss would have been millions. The crime would have been even more unforgivable."

"When the police came yesterday, they said that people who commit intentional arson shall be sentenced to more than ten years of imprisonment, or even death.

"If Zhang Xiaolan has burned down the entire field, she would be sentenced to death."

"It's that serious?"

"Yes. None of us know that in the past. In the future, we need to be more careful. It's true that they say we shouldn't play with fire."

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Mother Xiao delivered everyone strawberries. Well, not everyone. The few families who had capable men but didn't help with the fire didn't get any strawberries.

There were a few families that only had orphans and the elderly. Mother Xiao also gifted them the strawberries. These families were so grateful that they cried. Even though they didn't come out to help with the help, they got up last night and lent out fire extinguishers.

The Xiao Family always knew the right from the wrong. If you treat me well, I will treat you better.

The villagers knew the Xiao Family's character, so they chose not to offend the Xiao family as much as possible. They also tried to curry favor with them so that they could share some benefits. This was just human nature.

The strawberries cost several hundred RMB. Normally, they wouldn't be able to afford it. Even if they could get the strawberries at a lower price, they still cost quite a bit.

"Qiuying, thank you so much. We didn't help much yesterday. You don't have to do this." An old woman in his seventies declined.

Mother Xiao smiled and said, "Auntie, you did help us yesterday. You lent us a bucket to put out the fire."

"That was nothing. There's no need to give us so many strawberries." The old aunt said with a smile, "How about this? We'll only take a bit, and you can take back the rest."

"Auntie, my family doesn't lack strawberries. Please take them. You can share them with Uncle and your grandchildren. Auntie, I have something to do. I'll leave first."

With that, Mother Xiao quickly left.

Before the old auntie could say anything, Mother Xiao had walked far away.

“Qiu...” The old lady wanted to call her back, but Mother Xiao had already disappeared. She could only carefully carry these strawberries home. “Qiuying and her family are really good people. Old Man, come. Qiuying just sent a lot of strawberries over. Let’s have a taste.”

Then, an old man with a cane walked out. When he saw the strawberries in her basket, he immediately said angrily, “Old woman, these strawberries are so expensive. Why did you buy them? We can’t afford to eat them.”

The Auntie said with a smile, “Qiuying delivered them to us. She told us to accept them. In the future, we need to help her family when they need it. Old man, come and have a taste.”

The old man saw the tempting strawberries and said, “I’ll have a taste. We’ll keep the rest for the grandkids.”

“Okay!” His wife agreed with a smile.

However, after a few minutes, only half of the strawberries were left in the basket.

The old couple looked at each other speechlessly.

Then, they quickly put away the strawberries.

If they continued to eat, their grandchildren would not be able to eat a single strawberry.

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As for those families that didn’t receive the strawberries, they felt that it was very unfair.

Why did everyone have strawberries, but they didn’t? They said that they didn’t hear anything because they were sleeping too soundly. If the fire happened during the day, they would have helped.

The other villagers only chuckled.

Of course, those few families didn’t really dare to go to the Xiao Family to demand the strawberries.. They didn’t have the face to do so.

Chapter 263: Public Affection

Xiao Zhang reported the investigation to Gong Tianhao. Xiao Zhang said excitedly, “Young master, there is really something.”

Gong Tianhao sat in the courtyard. Xiao Wang was with the Old Master. Xiao Zhang did most of the investigation.

“What is it?” Gong Tianhao asked.

“Zhang Chunjiao has an affair!” Xiao Zhang said, “Her adulterer is actually her old lover.

“Before she got married, she had an affair with him and was found out. Technically speaking, after they were found out, they should have gotten married, but the man already had a wife and family. After this was exposed, the family was humiliated, and so was the entire village.

“The young girl was caught in bed with a married man. Everyone in the nearby village knew about it. Zhang Chunjiao’s family wanted to marry her off, but no one wanted her.

“They had no choice but to ask a relative to introduce Zhang Chunjiao to someone far away. It was how she moved to Taoyuan Village. She married an old bachelor here.

“However, after Zhang Chunjiao got married, she was still restless. Even after she became a mother, she still had the itch. One time, when she went back to her maiden village, she met that adulterer again. The two of them quickly hooked up.

“This relationship has been going on until now.”

Gong Tianhao asked in puzzlement, “Has no one noticed?”

Xiao Zhang smiled and said, “How is that possible? It’s just that everyone has decided to turn a blind eye to it.”

When Gong Tianhao heard this, he knocked on the stone table with one hand and said with a cold smile on his face, “Now this is interesting. It’s time for the blind eye to see again. Xiao Zhang, go and make some arrangements.”

“Yes, eldest young master!” Xiao Zhang said respectfully. He could deal with the peasant woman easily. However, Xiao Zhang was always efficient. If he had to do something, he had to do it well.

Zhang Chunjiao had always been at odds with the Xiao family. In the past, it was fine.

But now that the Xiao family became more prominent, this narrow-minded woman definitely couldn’t bear to see them live a good life. There was one Zhang Xiaolan. In the future, there would be Li Xiaolan, Liu Xiaolan. Zhang Chunjiao was too dangerous to keep around.

Therefore, it was better to cut off such a dangerous person as soon as possible. It would save the Xiao Family from future trouble.

Gong Tianhao left the house.

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The big fire had been put out, but it still burned down several strawberry fields.

Xiao Lingyu had people over to repair the greenhouses and remove the scorched strawberries. If they were left to rot, they would grow worms and infect the other strawberries.

“This is such a pity!” Seeing the charred strawberries, the people felt sorry.

“Why is Zhang Xiaolan so stupid to come to burn Lingyu’s field? What a sinner.”

“She’s really stupid. She trusted the woman after she said a few words. Now she is going to spend the rest of her life in prison.”

As people tidied up the burned field, they discussed the matter. Everyone felt that Zhang Xiaolan was simply crazy. She didn’t have any deep enmity with Xiao Zhengyang’s family, so why would she burn their fields?

“Who knows what Zhang Xiaolan, Zhang Chunjiao, and Liu Changnu have been talking about every day. But Zhang Xiaolan sure is dumb.”

“I wonder how many years she’ll be in prison for.”

“At least three years.”

“How do you know?”

“Those police officers said it last night. Arson is a sentence of at least three years in prison.”

“She’ll have to suffer for what she did.”

The villagers had been talking about Zhang Xiaolan since yesterday night.

Xiao Lingyu couldn’t care less about what these people were talking about.

She stood on the ridge of the field and narrowed her eyes when she saw the burnt sheds. They were all adjacent to Xiao Chengcai’s patch of land.

Early this morning, the police officers came to check out the crime scene and found that kerosene was doused around Xiao Chengcai’s land. That was proof that this was intentional arson.

Based on the property damage, Zhang Xiaolan would face a serious sentence.

However, Xiao Lingyu did not sympathize with her at all.

“What are you thinking about?”

Suddenly, a deep and sexy voice sounded in her ears. The breath touched her ears, and she instinctively stepped back in fright.

Xiao Lingyu screamed, giving the people around her a fright.

“What’s wrong? What’s going on?” Everyone raised their heads.

But when they saw the scene in front of them, they were so shocked that their mouths were wide open.

When Mother Xiao heard her daughter’s scream, she rushed over. “What’s wrong. Yu ‘Er...”

Mother Xiao saw the two hugging each other. Or rather, Gong Tianhao was holding Xiao Lingyu in his arms. His arm curled around Xiao Lingyu’s waist.

Mother Xiao’s emotions were a little complicated.

Gong Tianhao and Yan Siming were two outstanding young men. They didn’t mind the child in Xiao Lingyu’s stomach and wanted to pursue Xiao Lingyu.

Mother Xiao and Father Xiao had no problem, but they respected their daughter’s decision.

It had only been a short while since the confession competition of the two young men, but Gong Tianhao and Xiao Lingyu were already hugging each other in public.

Mother Xiao was happy internally, but this was too much. Everyone was watching!

Mother Xiao purposely coughed twice.

Xiao Lingyu immediately reacted. She looked around and saw that everyone was staring at them with their eyes wide open.

Her face could not help but turn red. Then, she said in embarrassment, "Gong Tianhao, let go of me!" Her face was red. 'This is so embarrassing!'

When Gong Tianhao saw Xiao Lingyu's bashful look, his eyes deepened, and he reluctantly let go of Xiao Lingyu's soft waist.

At this moment, Mother Xiao suddenly asked, "Yu'er, what happened? And why are you two hugging each other?" Mother Xiao asked in a low voice. She whispered because too many people were listening.

Xiao Lingyu patted her hot cheeks and took a deep breath. "Mom, don't misunderstand! I almost fell to the ground when I missed my step. Gong Tianhao helped pull me."

Mother Xiao looked at her suspiciously.

He was not pulling her. He was hugging her. Mother Xiao had eyes.

However, seeing the progress between Gong Tianhao and her daughter, she was both happy and worried.

After all, the relationship was progressing too quickly. Both parties should take some time to get to know each other first.

If Xiao Lingyu knew what her mother was thinking, she would definitely say, "Mom, it's not what you think!"

Chapter 264: Making a Move

Soon, everyone knew that the grandson of the Gong Family was pursuing Xiao Lingyu. They had already hugged each other in public!

Those who were working at the strawberry field saw it clearly.

When Gong Tianhao returned home, his grandfather looked him up and down. This made Gong Tianhao's hair stand on end. He asked, "Grandfather, what are you looking at?"

Old Master Gong laughed happily and said, "You're really something! It has only been a few days, but you've already taken such big strides with your wife!"

Gong Tianhao, "..."

Old Master Gong laughed and continued, "A few more times, and this will be settled, yes?"

Gong Tianhao, "..."

'It will probably be going to take more than that. The two close contacts so far are accidental.'

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At the Xiao Family, Mother Xiao was conducting her own interrogation, "Yu 'Er, how do you really feel about Gong Tianhao?"

Xiao Lingyu's face turned red as she replied, "Mom, what do you mean? Mom, I don't have any feelings for him at all."

Mother Xiao said with a serious expression, "You two were hugging in public, and you have no feelings for him? Yu 'Er, hear me out. It's not easy to find a man who doesn't mind your condition. If you like him, you shouldn't give up."

Xiao Lingyu nodded. "Mom, I get it." But in her heart, she was thinking, 'Of course, he doesn't mind it. The child is his.' But she couldn't tell her mother that she was afraid that Gong Tianhao was doing all this to snatch her child away.

No matter what Gong Tianhao did, she wanted to wait and see. She could not panic.

"However, Yu 'Er, don't rush into it either. Relationships need to go slow and steady." Mother Xiao could not help but nag, "It doesn't matter how rich or powerful he is. The most important thing is he has to have a good character."

Xiao Lingyu nodded nonchalantly. "Oh, I understand." She didn't want to hear the nagging anymore, so she said, "Mom, I'm tired and want to rest for a while."

"..." Mother Xiao sighed and said, "Alright, I'll leave you to rest. You have to think this through!"

After Mother Xiao left, Xiao Lingyu lay on the bed with her eyes wide open. She could not fall asleep no matter how hard she tried. After a while, she seemed to have thought of something. Her face was burning, and she felt a little hot.

Xiao Lingyu patted her cheek and said, "Xiao Lingyu, you mustn't think of that man anymore! You can't let your guard down! You mustn't be fooled! What if he's really here to snatch Xiao Tong away?" Xiao Lingyu was thinking about the two times she was embraced in Gong Tianhao's arms.

She felt Gong Tianhao's broad and thick chest. There was a sense of security and warmth.

However, she had to control herself. She could not be fooled. What if this was a trap?

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Outside, because of the hug between Gong Tianhao and Xiao Lingyu, it became the village headlines.

"Tsk tsk. Such shamelessness. They are hugging in broad daylight." When Zhang Chunjiao received this news, she was overjoyed, "This Xiao Lingyu is really a slut. She has charmed one man after another."

However, the villagers subconsciously avoided Zhang Chunjiao. Even though they had their opinion regarding the public show of affection, they were not going to talk to Zhang Chunjiao about it.

Zhang Chunjiao had a foul mouth and a bad heart. She would easily turn their words to offend the Xiao Family.

Zhang Xiaolan was arrested, and Liu Changnu was sternly ordered by her family not to go near Zhang Chunjiao anymore. They were afraid that she'd be brainwashed by Zhang Chunjiao and become the next Zhang Xiaolan.

Liu Changnu's family knew that Zhang Chunjiao wasn't on good terms with Xiao Zhengyang's family. Zhang Chunjiao wished that the whole village would be on bad terms with the Xiao Family.

Previously, Liu Changnu's family had already heeded Zhang Chunjiao's advice not to rent the land to Xiao Lingyu. Zhang Chunjiao said they would plant their own strawberries. However, they couldn't find any strawberry seedlings. Xiao Lingyu wouldn't share them either.

In the end, they left the plot of land as it was, a wasteland.

Any family that was on good terms with Zhang Chunjiao would find it very difficult to benefit from Xiao Zhengyang. For example, if Xiao Zhengyang had to hire people to work at his farm, he would always miss out on these few families.

Zhang Xiaolan's family and Liu Changmei's family had nothing to say. What else could they do? They were the ones who offended Xiao Zhengyang first.

Zhang Xiaolan's arrest was a huge wake-up call for Liu Changnu's family.

Liu Changnu's mother-in-law directly released the warning. If they saw Liu Changnu around Zhang Chunjiao again, they would kick her back to her maiden house. After all, that woman would only bring tragedy to them.

Liu Changnu was frightened by this and immediately became obedient. She did not dare to find Zhang Chunjiao again.

Zhang Chunjiao became a plague in the village. Everyone hid from her. Zhang Chunjiao had no one to nag but her family. However, Xiao Fuqi was also like Xiao Chengcai, a quiet person.

Zhang Chunjiao felt very bored talking to him.

Other than him, there was only a teenage son left in the family. Her two daughters were already married. Zhang Chunjiao didn't have a good relationship with her in-laws either.

Zhang Chunjiao was ostracized. This was perfect gossip, but she had no one to gossip with. She felt so itchy. Since Taoyuan Village people didn't want to talk to her, she would find people from other villages.

It was a market-fair day.

She bumped into someone from the Liu Family Village.

"Tsk, tsk. You didn't see it in person. The man and the woman were hugging each other in front of so many people. They were fondling each other breasts and waists. It's too ridiculous. We are so embarrassed for them!" Zhang Chunjiao said with relish. However, her expression was unusually excited. "The two have no shame. They're not embarrassed at all."

“Zhang Chunjiao, the strawberries planted at your village are sold at a high price. They’re grown by someone from a famous university. Is her name Xiao Lingyu?” Xiao Lingyu was famous throughout Xing An Town already.

“Yes, that’s the one. You didn’t know this, but she worked in the big city for a few years. But she had to run back home because she was knocked up by some unknown man! She couldn’t stay in the big city anymore!”

“Ah?”

The non-villagers hadn’t heard about this gossip before, so they were highly interested.

“So the child is a bastard?”

“Of course! However, even with a bastard child, she is all dressed up like a butterfly, going around to seduce men. She really doesn’t have any scruples. How embarrassing...” At that moment, someone tapped her shoulder. Zhang Chunjiao was in the groove. She turned around and said, “Who is it? Can’t you see that I’m...”

When she saw the man standing behind her, her expression changed. Then, she smiled. “It’s you.”

The people saw this and asked curiously, “Chunjiao, who is this man?”

Zhang Chunjiao smiled and said, “He’s a relative of my family. I have something else to do today. Let’s talk another day.”

“Okay!” The women from Liu Village looked at the man and then looked at Zhang Chunjiao with a strange expression.

‘A relative of your family? Who are you kidding? Would a relative look at you with such a salacious gaze?’

These women were old acquaintances of Zhang Chunjiao. They knew exactly what kind of person Zhang Chunjiao was.

Zhang Chunjiao ignored the gazes and walked beside the man.

When she walked with him, her eyes looked around. She was very attentive, but she was also bold.

Suddenly, the two of them were hit hard by someone. That man’s face was full of beard, and he immediately apologized, “Sorry, sorry. There was someone chasing after me, so I didn’t notice you.”

Zhang Chunjiao’s delicate nose wrinkled. She smelled a special pungent smell, but she didn’t pay much attention to it. She sneered, “Hurry up and get lost. We’re still in a hurry.”

“Okay, okay. Sorry, sorry. I’ll leave now!” The man scampered away.

After the man reached the empty corner, he took off the beard, revealing a familiar face.

Xiao Zhang wiped the sweat from his forehead and snapped his fingers. He said happily, “Done!”

He looked at Zhang Chunjiao and her adulterer with disdain and sneered, “Let’s see how you’ll like your own medicine!”

Chapter 265: Zhang Chunjiao's Lesson

Zhang Chunjiao and Lai Wuqian flirted all the way to the restaurant. They were frequent customers of this restaurant.

As soon as the two of them arrived, the lady boss asked with a smile, "What do you want to order? We have a softshell turtle today. Don't worry. My culinary skills are very good. I'll make it into a wonderful dish."

Zhang Chunjiao nodded and said, "Okay!" She didn't ask about the price.

Lai Wuqian's expression twisted a little.

Softshell turtle was very expensive, and they wouldn't be able to finish it. However, he gritted his teeth and agreed in the end. Then, he ordered a few more dishes.

As soon as the boss left, Zhang Chunjiao said unhappily, "What's wrong with you? Didn't I tell you not to approach me when other people are around?"

Lai Wuqian said innocently, "I didn't want to, but I waited for too long, and I was hungry."

After hearing that, Zhang Chunjiao said, "Alright, that's my fault. Let's eat."

Zhang Chunjiao and Lai Wuqian walked out of the restaurant. They intended to find a motel.

However, as soon as they walked out of the restaurant, Zhang Chunjiao and Lai Wuqian felt something wrong. Zhang Chunjiao's head pounded, and she felt powerless all over.

A moment later, she was compelled to grab the man beside her and kiss him. The man responded in kind.

The crowd at the market was shocked. The people around the couple retreated. However, they didn't run far. They instead formed a circle around the couple. Everyone was confused seeing the heated couple. At the same time, there was a faint sense of excitement.

Some of the children stopped too. They were small and nimbly squeezed through the crowd. Then, they asked in surprise and puzzlement, "Hey, why are these two adults hugging each other?"

When the children's parents realized this, they immediately ran over and carried their children away. They covered their children's eyes and said, "You brat. You're not supposed to look!" Then, they carried the child and stood behind the crowd.

More people gathered. The atmosphere became more lively!

After all, it was market-fair day, and the people from nearby villages gathered at Xing An Town. The people in the countryside more or less knew each other. "Wait. Isn't that Zhang Datou's daughter, Zhang Chunjiao? What is she doing? Has she gone crazy? This is so embarrassing!"

"Zhang Datou? Is he from Xia Ba Village?"

"Yeah!"

“Hasn’t his daughter been married to Taoyuan Village?”

“That’s right.”

“Tsk, tsk. What are they doing in broad daylight? But who is that man with her?”

“It seems to be Lai Wuqian from Shangba village.”

“Lai Wuqian? The man who beat his wife and children?”

“It seems to be him.”

“Oh, now I remember it. I heard that before Zhang Dazou’s daughter was married, she had an affair with a married man and was caught by the man’s wife in bed. This was hot news back then. After his daughter’s reputation was ruined, no one was willing to marry her. They had no choice but to marry her to an old man in Taoyuan Village, the poorest village in our district.”

“That is true. However, I heard that the woman still didn’t settle down after moving to Taoyuan Village. The affair continues for decades.”

“So, this man is Lai Wuqian?”

“That’s him. Lai Wuqian is a famous scoundrel. He has a wife and children. He is quite rich too. After Zhang Datou’s daughter got married, he abandoned her. However, it looks like that is not true after all.”

These people knew everything. It was like what Xiao Zhang said. They only turned a blind eye.

“But what’s wrong with the two of them? No matter what, they shouldn’t be doing this. It’s so embarrassing!”

There were villagers from Taoyuan Village who came to Xing An Town that day.

Liu Erying, Zhang Qiuxiang, Chen Chunxiu, and a few others came over when they heard the commotion. However, they were blocked off by the large crowd. They could only see the entangling limbs and not the faces.

Chen Chunxiu immediately said, “Oh, this is so embarrassing. Who are these two? Which village are they from?”

Then, they heard that it was Zhang Datou’s daughter.

The few women looked at each other, “Wait. Zhang Datou’s daughter is Zhang Chunjiao, right?” Then, one of them gasped, “This can’t really be Zhang Chunjiao, right?”

“Let’s go and take a look!”

They passed through the crowd and reached the front. When they saw the woman’s face, they gasped, “Oh my god, it’s really Zhang Chunjiao!”

Zhang Chunxiang blushed and said, “What is she doing? Is she crazy?” They would never have imagined that Zhang Chunjiao would do such an outrageous and embarrassing thing in public.

“What should we do now?” Liu Erying asked anxiously, “Should we go and pull them away?”

Chen Chunxiu said sharply, "How? The two are stuck like glue. Plus, if we go to help, we'd be shamed too."

"But..." Zhang Chunxiang pointed at the couple speechlessly.

"I'm going to mind my own business. If you want to help, go ahead!" Chen Chunxiu said.

The others looked at each other and felt that Chen Chunxiu made sense.

Why would they sacrifice their reputation for Zhang Chunjiao?

At this moment, a man with a livid face ran over angrily. He raised his hand and slapped the woman's face.

Zhang Chunjiao felt her face burning. When she saw Xiao Fuqi's angry expression, she immediately scolded, "Xiao Fuqi, are you crazy?"

Xiao Fu's face was red as he shouted angrily, "You're the one that's crazy! Why don't you look around?"

Zhang Chunjiao did. She saw the crowd and the two men beside her...

"Ah!"

There was an earth-shattering scream!

Chapter 266: Utterly Disgraceful

"Eldest young master, the matter is settled!"

Xiao Zhang, who had returned to the Peach Blossom Village, reported to Gong Tianhao, "I've treated them with the aphrodisiac powder. They'll be a huge disgrace on the streets!"

Gong Tianhao said with a cold smile, "The woman has always caused trouble for the Xiao Family. If we were at the capital, I would have sent her to Africa already. She wouldn't even be allowed to show up before the Xiao Family anymore. However, we're at Taoyuan Village. If she just disappears, it'll bring trouble to the Xiao Family."

Xiao Zhang thought for a moment and said, "Young master, this lesson should be enough for that woman, right?"

"It's far from enough!" Gong Tianhao said with certainty, "That woman has thick skin. Without further punishment, she'll start acting up again."

Xiao Zhang was confused, "Then, young master, why didn't you go for the kill? It shouldn't be that hard to do that to a peasant woman, right?"

"You're right." Gong Tianhao said, "But that'll be too easy for that woman."

"Young master, what do you..." Xiao Zhang was confused.

"Just wait and see." Gong Tianhao said mysteriously.

...

"Divorce! It's the only option!" Xiao Fuqi's family was turned upside down. Xiao Fuqi's mother angrily pointed at Zhang Chunjiao, "This immoral woman is so embarrassing. She went to the market and did that in public. I'm so angry."

Zhang Chunjiao was also deeply agitated. She didn't expect herself to be so shameless in front of so many people.

When she snapped out of it, she was so shocked. However, Zhang Chunjiao was shameless. Even after she knew what she had done, she didn't show weakness before Xiao Fuqi.

Hearing her mother-in-law's criticism, she immediately retorted angrily, "You damn old woman, who ask for your opinion? If you divorce me, your son can forget about marrying another wife. He'll die alone!"

Xiao Fuqi's mother was so angry that she felt like fainting. She pointed angrily at Zhang Chunjiao and said in an unusually angry tone, "Even if my son has to be single for the rest of his life, I will never let him keep a shameful and immoral woman around as his wife!

"Son, do you hear me? Divorce this woman! Why are you keeping her around for? Do you want to be criticized by people your whole life?"

Zhang Chunjiao immediately shouted, "He wouldn't dare! Xiao Fuqi, let me tell you, if you want to divorce me, I will bring my son away with me. You'll be all alone." She used the son to threaten him.

"How dare you!" Xiao Fuqi's mother said loudly, "If you dare to take my eldest grandson away, I'll fight you to the death!"

Their eldest grandson was the family's only legacy. They couldn't let this woman take him away.

Zhang Chunjiao was not afraid at all. She said sternly, "Come and kill me then! After I'm dead, your precious grandson is going to be motherless!"

"You... You..." Xiao Fuqi's mother was shaking from anger. "Zhang Chunjiao, you're too ridiculous!"

"Yes, so what?" Zhang Chunjiao said shamelessly. "Old woman, this is my house. You came here and demanded that I be divorced? In your dreams!" Zhang Chunjiao turned her head to tell Xiao Fuqi. "Xiao Fuqi, let me tell you. If you want to divorce me, that's fine. I'll take the son with me so that you'll have an easier time remarrying!"

With that, Zhang Chunjiao turned around and went back to her room. She lay on the bed. Everything that happened that day felt like a dream. She still didn't understand why she acted like that with Lai Wuqian at the market.

Lai Wuqian was a scoundrel. He would hit his wife and children. Even with this incident, nothing would happen to him. However, Zhang Chunjiao had a family. It would be so shameful if she were found out. Therefore, when she hooked up with Lai Wuqian, they always did it in secret. Who knew something like this would happen today. They almost had sex in public. The entire Xing An Town was their witness.

The moment Xiao Fuqi slapped her awake, she was really angry and embarrassed. She put on her own clothes, got on the bus, and went back to the village.

On the bus, she also noticed that everyone was looking at her strangely and pointing at her.

She roared angrily, "What are you looking at? If you keep looking, I'll dig your eyes out."

In reality, she was the one with a guilty conscience, so she felt like everyone was mocking her.

Actually, the people on the bus didn't even know what had happened. They were looking at her because her clothes were put on the wrong way. She wore her underwear outside her pants and her bra outside her shirt. Zhang Chunjiao, in her hurry and embarrassment, didn't notice this.

A kind old woman reminded Zhang Chunjiao, "Miss, your clothes are on backward."

Then, a few teenagers on the bus giggled. "This adult woman doesn't even know how to properly put on clothes. She wore her underpants on the outside. Does she think she's superman?" The other people joined in the laugh.

Zhang Chunjiao looked down, and her face immediately turned red.

She was embarrassed again.

She hurriedly got off the bus and changed her clothes in the toilet at the station.

After she changed her clothes and came out, she got on the bus again.

At the station, the bus picked up more passengers. Among them were two persons who had seen the live sex show.

When the woman saw Zhang Chunjiao, the woman pointed at her in surprise and said loudly, "Oh, aren't you the woman who was climbing all over that man on the streets earlier?"

The man who was in his forties whistled. He said sarcastically, "Where's your man? In the toilet?"

Zhang Chunjiao's face turned red, and she immediately felt hot.

She yelled at them, "None of your business!"

The woman was the same age as Zhang Chunjiao. Being scolded by Zhang Chunjiao, she was unhappy. She immediately told everyone in the car. "Everyone, did you know what did woman did? She was openly trying to have sex with a man on Upper Castle Street just now!" Then, she gave Zhang Chunjiao two thumbs up. She continued, "It was so fiery and exciting. How can one be so shameless?"

The people in the car then really looked at Zhang Chunjiao strangely.

Zhang Chunjiao was abnormally angry. She walked up to the woman and spat angrily, "Bitch, I'm going to tear your mouth apart!"

That woman was not easy to bully. As soon as she saw Zhang Chunjiao coming over, she tried to grab Zhang Chunjiao's hair. She shouted at the man beside him. "Are you dead? Someone wants to hit your wife, and you are going to sit there? Or do you want to have sex with her too?"

The husband stood up and pulled Zhang Chunjiao away. During this process, he grabbed Zhang Chunjiao's breasts.

Zhang Chunjiao was outnumbered, so she could only curse out loud, "You damned woman, if you continue to spout nonsense, I'll tear your big mouth apart!"

The woman was not scared. "You're the crazy woman. You were the one trying to have sex in public..."

The argument gave everyone a headache.

The driver and the ticket seller chased them out of the bus.

After they got out of the bus, they were still arguing.

As they quarreled, more people gathered. They started to recognize Zhang Chunjiao.

The shameful news spread. Everyone looked at her with contempt. Everyone was pointing at her. Zhang Chunjiao was thick-skinned, but her face was burning red.

In the end, it was Xiao Fuqi who came. In order to avoid further humiliation, he directly rented a motorcycle and brought his wife back to the village.

However, the news of Zhang Chunjiao's incident reached Taoyuan Village before they did. When Xiao Fuqi's mother heard about this, she almost fainted from anger.

Therefore, she forced her son to divorce Zhang Chunjiao.

Chapter 267: Chain Reaction

Zhang Chunjiao's live sex scene at the market was a big deal.

When Zhang Chunjiao's father at Xia Ba Village got the news, he was so angry that he almost fainted.

No matter what, now that his daughter was caught having public sex with that man, it affected her maiden family more than her in-law's family.

The Zhang Family still had two grandsons and granddaughters. They were at the marriageable age. They should be able to marry next year.

However, once this matter came out, it would seriously impact their family reputation. After all, people would consider the problem of genetics. Since their aunt acted like this, how pure could the younger generation be? What if the girls followed their aunt's example?

Therefore, a few of the families, who were already discussing marriage with the Zhang Family, pulled out immediately. They turned and left before even entering the Zhang Family door.

The Zhang Family thus lost many dowry and betrothal gifts.

Zhang Datou was so angry that he wanted to drag Zhang Chunjiao back and hang her. His eldest daughter had always been a troublemaker. He didn't expect that she'd be able to create trouble for them after she had been married off so far away.

Zhang Daman, Zhang Datou's eldest son, looked at his father angrily. "Father, how can little sister do this? She has even affected my son's future marriage."

“Father, let me tell you. I won’t recognize such an embarrassing sister. In the future, she is not allowed to call me her brother anymore. Father, if you still want her as your daughter, then you can move back to your old house. When your precious daughter visits, you can stay with her. However, she is not going to take one step into my house.”

Zhang Datou was shocked. He roared angrily, “Zhang Daman, she is your biological sister! Do you really have to be so heartless?”

However, Zhang Daman said, “Father, I’m not heartless. She is the one who did this. If I continue to associate myself with her, my family will lose face.”

Zhang Datou said, “So, you’re chasing your father out for the sake of face?”

“I’m not chasing you out!” Zhang Daman said, “I said if you still want to keep that daughter, then you can move back to your old house. However, if you promise that you won’t let that woman into this house, then we’ll always welcome you.”

“You...” Zhang Datou was so angry that he didn’t know what to do.

Zhang Daman’s wife also said coldly, “Father, we all know that you favor eldest sister! You always give her the best food and clothes. I don’t care about that.

“But she has done this shameful thing. She has affected my son and daughter. I can’t face her anymore. Father, if you want to live with this family, you need to cut off relations with that woman!”

Zhang Datou’s youngest son, Zhang Xiaoman, and his wife had the same opinion. They said, “Father, if eldest sister returns, she is not welcomed by our family too.”

Zhang Datou had no choice but to submit. Was he going to abandon his sons and grandchildren for the sake of a ruined daughter?

...

At Ten Miles Village, a series of slaps could be heard. “Damn woman, no wonder you would cheat on me. You learned it from your mother. Look at your mother. She’s already so old, but she doesn’t know shame. She tried to have sex with a man on the street!” Then, he continued to smack Xiao Dahua.

“Bitch, I’m going to slap you to death for cheating on me!”

“I don’t dare anymore. Please don’t hit me...” The woman cried out miserably.

Outside the house, the villagers gathered.

“This Guo Guang started hitting his wife again!”

“I can’t even tell how many times this has happened already.”

“But, is it really his fault? She deserves it. She has a good life, but she has to go around cheating with other men. Guo Guang didn’t divorce her considering their children. Otherwise, she would be sent home already.”

“But Xiao Dahua is well-behaved recently. Why is this happening?”

“You haven’t heard? This time, it was Xiao Dahua’s mother who caused this.”

“Ah? What did her mother do?”

“Xiao Dahua’s mother was seen having a live sex scene with her lover at Xing An Town today. There was a huge crowd.”

“Is Xiao Dahua’s mother crazy?” Some people found it unbelievable. Only a crazy woman would do such a thing!

Someone immediately curled her lips and said, “Who knows if she’s really crazy or not. Her husband came and slapped her awake. She put on her clothes in a hurry and ran away.” Then, the person added, “She didn’t even notice that she had worn her clothes the wrong way. She wore her underwear on the outside. It was way too funny!”

“Is that true?” The others found it unbelievable.

“Yes. She probably didn’t notice this because she was in a hurry.” After all, under that circumstance, a person’s first reaction was to put the clothes back on.

“It looks like the behavior is hereditary. With a mother like this, no wonder Xiao Dahua is itchy all the time. You can’t really blame Guo Guang.”

A tragic wail came from the house, but no one sympathized with her.

“Get lost! Don’t ever come back!” The man shouted again.

A moment later, the door of the Guo family’s house opened.

Xiao Dahua walked out. She was crying with a big palm print on her face.

Her face was swollen. She was in a sorry state. When she walked, she even limped.

This gave people a big fright, and they said, “This is way too ruthless. She can’t even walk.”

Someone reacted and said, “Where is Xiao Dahua going?”

Xiao Dahua was heading toward the village entrance.

Someone answered uncertainly, “She’s probably going back to her parent’s place. Guo Guang chased her home, right?”

Someone immediately asked worriedly, “Should we follow her and take a look? What if she decided to do something stupid?”

Someone frowned and said, “Then have Guo Guang keep an eye on her. It is best if she just returns to her parent’s house. If she tries to do anything stupid, it’ll be a real sin.”

A fat young man then walked out of the house.

“Guo Guang, hurry up and follow your wife. She looks unstable. She might jump into the river. That would be terrible,” Someone immediately advised.

Guo Guang said indifferently, "If she wants to do that, let her be! Once she dies, she won't make this family lose face anymore!"

Chapter 268: Mother and Daughter

"Have you heard? Zhang Chunjiao's eldest daughter, Xiao Dahua, jumped into the river!"

"What? Is she dead?"

"No, she was rescued."

"Why did she jump into the river all of a sudden?" Someone asked doubtfully.

"It's not all of a sudden... Xiao Dahua's mother-in-law was embarrassed by Xiao Dahua's mother, so they beat Xiao Dahua up and chased her home."

"What do you mean by chasing her home? In the past, that would mean divorce. Does that mean the Guo Family plans to divorce Xiao Dahua?"

"Divorce is so embarrassing. No wonder Xiao Dahua couldn't take the embarrassment and try to jump into the river."

"What is wrong with Zhang Chunjiao? She has a good life, but she has to do something like this to harm her own daughter."

"Xiao Dahua gave birth to a son after she got married. She became a show-off because of that. She refused to work and went around the village chatting with people. There were few lazy men in Ten Miles Village too. They chatted and played cards under the big tree. Eventually, Xiao Dahua hooked up with one of them."

"This is really a case of like mother like daughter. Before her marriage, Dahua wasn't like this. Why did she change so much after she got married?"

"Before she got married, she was trapped in this village. Everyone knew each other, so who could she seduce? Plus, our village was very poor back then."

"However, Ten Miles Village is different. Her in-laws are quite rich. They only have one son. Her father and mother-in-law are quite young and hard working. Everything they earn belongs to the young couple. Xiao Dahua didn't have to do anything but look after her son. She must have gotten bored."

"Tsk. These two are just ridiculous. The mother is awful, and so is the daughter. What are they trying to do anyway?"

Someone covered his mouth and laughed. "What can they do? They are trying to seduce all the men in the world!"

"Hehe..."

Everyone laughed, and then someone asked in confusion, "So where is Xiao Dahua now?"

"She didn't die, so she was sent back to Taoyuan Village by her in-laws."

“Oh, so she is back here now. Does the Guo Family really plan to divorce Xiao Dahua? If they really divorce, what will happen to the child? Will he get a stepmother?”

“The victim here is really the child.” Whenever there was a divorce, the children suffered the most.

“When Xiao Dahua was sent back with injuries all over her body, Zhang Chunjiao was so angry that she took out a knife from the kitchen and wanted to kill her son-in-law. Fortunately, someone stopped her. The Guo Family heard the news and escaped out of fear.”

“How are they going to live their lives from now on?”

“Why should we care?” Someone curled his lips and said, “Zhang Chunjiao is thick-skinned. She continues to live as nothing has happened. Xiao Fuqi’s mother is so furious. She has been nagging her son to divorce Zhang Chunjiao. However, Xiao Fuqi didn’t dare to do anything.

“Other than the initial anger, he has been extremely quiet.

“Xiao Dahua is sent back with serious injuries. She was drenched in the dirty river. Some of her wounds have started to fester. If she doesn’t go to the hospital, she might be crippled for life.”

“Ah, is it that serious?”

“Yeah, we saw her when she was sent back. She was in a very bad state. There were plenty of bruises on her body. It was terrifying.”

“Why would Zhang Chunjiao chose such a violent in-law for her daughter?” Some people did not quite believe it.

“Originally, they weren’t that violent. However, Xiao Dahua had to follow her mother’s example. She cheated with another man and was caught by her family in bed.”

“She really asked for it.”

...

For the next few days, the only thing people could talk about was Zhang Chunjiao and her daughter.

Zhang Chunjiao was a cheater and tried to have sex with her lover in broad daylight. However, her daughter was not to be outdone.

The Xiao Family was too busy with their own work to mind this business. They couldn’t care less about Zhang Chunjiao’s family.

The arson had caused a loss of 108,000 RMB.

Of course, Zhang Xiaolan had to pay for this money.

However, since she was arrested, her family had to pay for it.

Mother Xiao and Father Xiao were confused when they heard this. They didn’t think it was that moral either. “Yu ‘Er, Zhang Xiaolan has already been arrested. Are you still asking her family for compensation?”

Xiao Lingyu nodded. "Of course. Zhang Xiaolan is arrested because of arson. That doesn't mean she can shirk the responsibility to compensate for the things she damaged."

"But, how is her family going to do that?" Mother Xiao was worried. "Her family is poor too. They can't even pay 1000, much less 100,000."

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "Mom, leave this to the court. They will pay as much as the court requires them to."

Father Xiao asked in confusion, "Do we still need to bring the court into this?"

"Yes." Xiao Lingyu nodded. "This is the procedure. It doesn't matter if their family can't pay. We have to go through the procedure. We're living in a lawful country. We can't give people exception simply because they are poor."

The villagers didn't know the law, so Xiao Lingyu wanted to use this opportunity to make them understand the severity of punishment. If they did something wrong, they would have to face the law.

It didn't matter if someone was arrested. There was something called shared property. If the wife was arrested, then the husband's family had to cough up the compensation on her behalf. If there was no money, there was the liquidation of assets like houses, lands, and so on.

Mother Xiao and Father Xiao nodded. "Alright, this shall be an example for everyone."

They also knew that their family had grown rich too quickly. There were quite a number of people who were jealous. These people were hard to understand. They couldn't bear to see other people have a good life. Therefore, they would give up their own lives to destroy the other party.

...

After Zhang Xiaolan was taken away, the villagers received another earth-shattering news.

Zhang Xiaolan was already arrested, but her family had to compensate Xiao Zhengyang for the damage to his property.

Since it was intentional arson, they were fully responsible for the loss of 108,000 RMB.

The people from the court came over to assess the state of their family's property. If they didn't have the ability to pay, they would have to pay in installments.

The villagers were dumbfounded. They didn't think the consequence could be so serious. The compensation was more than 100,000. Even if they didn't eat or drink for decades, they wouldn't have this kind of money.

Someone said, "Zhang Xiaolan is really a jinx."

"Not only did she let herself go to jail, but she also implicated her family."

"Xiao Chengcai's family will have to work for Xiao Zhengyang's family as free labor for decades to pay this debt off."

...

After Xiao Chengcai's family heard the court's verdict, Xiao Chengcai's mother immediately rolled on the ground and cried out shamelessly, "We don't have money. You might as well take my life. Let them take my old life as compensation."

The people from the court had seen this kind of situation many times. After they completed their mission here, they quickly left. The victim could be rolling around or throwing tantrums, but it had nothing to do with them.

After the people from the court left, Xiao Chengcai and his mother came to make a fuss with the Xiao Family.

However, the Xiao Family's door was tightly shut.

Xiao Chengcai's mother angrily pointed at the courtyard door and said, "Xiao Zhengyang, I know you're in the house. Hurry up and open the door, or I'll smash it."

"Auntie, Zhengyang and Qiuying are not at home," Someone said.

"Then, Xiao Lingyu must be home." Xiao Chengcai's mother shouted arrogantly, "Xiao Lingyu, come out. You vicious bitch, you've caused my family so much misery. Come out and face me!"

With a creak, the door of the Xiao family courtyard opened.

Chapter 269: Rolling on The Ground

After the courtyard door was opened, a cold, domineering, and imposing man walked out.

The villagers who stood at the door watching the show shivered. They had heard that Old Master Gong's grandson was pursuing Xiao Lingyu. This confirmed it.

Gong Tianhao's cold and imposing manner immediately gave Xiao Chengcai's mother a fright. Old Master Gong was normally very amiable, so it gave them the illusion that his grandson was also easy to talk to.

Xiao Chengcai's mother looked at the tall and cold Gong Tianhao and said loudly, "Where's Xiao Lingyu? Call Xiao Lingyu out. The bitch has harmed my family. If she doesn't give me an explanation, I won't leave. There is no way she is getting compensation from my family."

When Gong Tianhao heard the word bitch, he furrowed his brows and shot a sharp gaze at Xiao Chengcai's mother.

He walked forward with steady and sharp steps. His sharp aura scared everyone into taking two steps back.

Gong Tianhao looked at Xiao Chengcai's mother and said coldly, "I don't hit women, and I don't hit old people. However, there are many other methods to shut someone down."

"Wh... What?" Xiao Chengcai's mother trembled in fear and stuttered in confusion.

Gong Tianhao's sharp eyes looked at the people around him and said coldly, "Xiao Lingyu is the woman I want to pursue. I will never allow anyone to bully her or scold her, and that includes you."

His sharp eyes stared at Xiao Chengcai's mother and almost scared her to the ground.

"Your wife has done something wrong, so she should be punished. You are her family, so you have the obligation to help her!

"So, why are you making a scene here?"

Although Xiao Chengcai's mother was frightened by Gong Tianhao, she was not afraid of anything when she thought of the compensation of more than 100,000 RMB.

She said, "Zhang Xiaolan has already been sent to jail. Why do they still need us to compensate them? They are already so rich, yet they are still so cold-blooded and heartless. They want to see our family collapse and die. Aren't they afraid of retribution?"

"Exactly. This is retribution for your family who has done bad things!" Gong Tianhao said coldly, "I'll only say it once, get lost." No one expected Gong Tianhao to chase them away like this.

With a signal from her son, Xiao Chengcai's mother immediately lay down and rolled around on the floor. "They are bullying us. Someone is taking advantage of their wealth and power to bully poor people like us. How are we going to live like this?"

Some villagers pitied Xiao Chengcai's family. Although Zhang Xiaolan had committed arson, she had been arrested and imprisoned. She had received severe punishment, so the Xiao Family was being cruel to ask for more compensation. Xiao Zhengyang's family was already so rich. They didn't lack the money. Why would they insist on compensation other than the fact that they were cruel and black-hearted?

However, none of the villagers dared to say that. They still needed to rely on Xiao Zhengyang's family for work. Hence, everyone tactfully watched but did not say anything.

At this moment, Xiao Chengcai suddenly knelt down at the door. His action gave everyone a big fright. Even Gong Tianhao's brows were tightly knitted together.

In the business world, no matter how difficult things were, he was able to handle them with ease.

However, when faced with these mischievous peasants, he was helpless.

Firstly, his grandfather now lived at Taoyuan Village. Secondly, his wife and in-laws were both people from Taoyuan Village.

If things were not handled properly, they would be harmed in the future.

If this had happened in the capital, Gong Tianhao would have dealt with these people already. No one would be rolling around on the floor.

At this moment, Xiao Chengcai shouted, "Xiao Lingyu, my wife has done something wrong. I apologize to you. But can you please let our family live? I have my parents and children to support. I won't be able to compensate you the money unless you want my family to die!"

People were always sympathetic to the weak. Zhang Xiaolan had already been punished. Like what Xiao Chengcai said, even if he sold his entire family, he couldn't pay 108,000. Xiao Chengcai had his parents and children to feed. If they were forced to pay the money, how could they survive? Did Xiao Lingyu really want this family to die?

Gong Tianhao said calmly, "The people from the court didn't ask you to pay in full. Instead, you can pay in installments."

Xiao Chengcai choked.

Everyone's expression also froze.

Xiao Chengcai continued to act miserable as he said, "Even if I pay in installments, that is 9000 RMB every year. I can't earn that much money. I can barely feed my family. How do you expect me to pay?"

This was the case for most farmers. They worked an entire year, and they would have barely enough to feed their family. However, this was often because the families had a small labor force.

Gong Tianhao said sharply, "The solution is very simple. Your family has three able-bodied members. Actually, you'll only need to send one to work at Xiao Lingyu's farm as labor to work off the debt."

Then, he turned to the surrounding villagers and said directly, "Their family is not as pitiful as you think.

"The oldest family member is this auntie. She looks like she is in her sixties. The youngest is her son, who is twelve.

"Both of them can still work. Moreover, they have three adults in their prime years. There's this uncle and his two adult sons. So what are you talking about when you say you don't have the means to make the compensation?"

The villagers immediately understood.

To put it bluntly, Xiao Chengcai's family had a lot of able-bodied members. As long as they were not lazy and worked diligently, they could pay off the debt easily.

Xiao Chengcai's mother immediately got up from the ground and refused, "No. We need to save the money to send my youngest son to the university. We will not let you take that money!"

Xiao Chengcai added, "My sons are adults. They need to get married. How can they be working as free laborers at Xiao Lingyu's farm? How will they ever get married like this?"

At this moment, Xiao Lingyu came out.

She asked, "Then what do you want? Let me tell you. If you want to get the compensation waived, you need to go to court. No matter how big of a fuss you make here, nothing will change.. My family might be rich, but the money didn't fall from the sky. We worked hard for them, so what's wrong with me asking back for what should have been mine?"

Chapter 270: Merciless

Xiao Lingyu continued, "If people feel sorry for them, or if they think I'm cold-blooded and merciless, so be it.

"Because I don't think I've done anything wrong. Everyone has to pay for the mistakes they've made, no matter who they are. It is true that Zhang Xiaolan has been imprisoned, but what about the damage she caused? Is my family supposed to suffer that loss silently?"

"A family is a unit. They share the joy and suffering together. Zhang Xiaolan has contributed to her family before she is captured, so it is only logical for her family to help her after she is captured!"

Xiao Lingyu would never compromise. She wouldn't pity them either.

In her previous life, when the Xiao family was in the most difficult situation, it was one thing that these people didn't help her family, but they added insult to injury. They helped the Chen Family and took advantage of her family.

Xiao Lingyu had a very strong memory.

The villagers looked at the proud Xiao Lingyu and the kneeling Xiao Chengcai. The contrast was too stark. They thought Xiao Lingyu was heartless.

Zhang Chunxiang's mother-in-law, Auntie Li, stood out and said, "Lingyu, we know that your family has worked hard for your wealth.

"However, your family's strawberries have already earned a lot of money. You don't lack this little bit of money. But look at their family. They have to eat, drink and marry. I think they really don't have the money to compensate you.

"Why don't we just forget about this? After all, the culprit, Zhang Xiaolan, has already been punished, right?"

Aunt Li pressured Xiao Lingyu with her seniority. Even Xiao Lingyu had to call her fourth grandmother.

As soon as she finished speaking, Old Master Gong came out of the room with a cane.

He looked at Aunt Li and said sternly, "Big Sister Li, you're wrong. The Xiao Family doesn't lack 108,000 RMB, and the culprit has been captured, but the unlawful has to be punished.

"Fortunately, the villagers helped to put out the fire in time, and the consequences were not that serious. If the entire strawberry field were burned down, then the culprit wouldn't just be imprisoned but shot.

"The Xiao Family doesn't lack 108,000 RMB, but they have the right to ask for compensation. After all, why should they suffer for the mistake made by the culprit?"

"108,000 RMB might look like a lot, but no one is asking them to pay the debt in one go. They can pay in installments. Don't tell me they can't even do that?"

"That's simply shameful!"

"Is this how you want to educate your younger generation? When you do something wrong, instead of admitting to it, you should push the blame to someone else?"

"I'm telling you, people who have such thoughts will never be able to get rich!"

The villagers were shocked by Old Master Gong's last sentence. People who shirk responsibility will never be rich.

All the villagers hoped that their children would be successful and rich. Of course, they had to set the best example for them.

Old Master Gong continued, "Big Sister Li, I think you shouldn't worry about them. If they really don't want to pay compensation, then we can only ask the court to enforce liquidation."

Aunt Li was a little confused and asked, "What is that?"

"It means turning Zhang Xiaolan's and Xiao Chengcai's assets into money and using that to compensate Zhengyang's family."

At this moment, Xiao Chengcai's mother immediately jumped out and said, "That slut doesn't have any assets."

Old Master Gong said, "How is that possible? The house that you live in was built after your son's marriage to Zhang Xiaolan. There is also livestock in the fields. These things can be auctioned by the court and converted into cash. If there is lingering debt, Zhang Xiaolan can work to pay it off after she comes out of jail.

"But..." Old Master Gong's eyes sharpened. "Zhang Xiaolan has two sons. I'm sure they'll be criticized. They won't even help their own mother. They aren't even willing to aid their mother. Just on that fact alone, I don't think your grandsons will be able to find anyone to marry them.

"After all, who will be willing to marry their daughters to these two men who have no filial piety at all?"

Xiao Chengcai's mother and the others were dumbfounded when they heard this. They didn't expect these long-lasting consequences...

When Xiao Chengcai's mother heard this, she immediately said angrily, "My two grandsons are filial to our family. Zhang Xiaolan is just an outsider. She's just a tool to give birth. She's an outsider who made a mistake. My children and grandchildren shan't be implicated." Clearly, she still didn't want to pay the compensation.

Xiao Lingyu chuckled, "Grandma Chen, Auntie Zhang has worked hard for your family for more than 20 years. She even gave birth to two grandsons and a granddaughter. But she's still an outsider? If Auntie Zhang hears about this, she'll be so sad."

Xiao Lingyu turned her head to Xiao Chengcai. "Uncle Chengcai, in your eyes, is Auntie Zhang also an outsider?"

Xiao Chengcai said matter-of-factly, "Her surname isn't Xiao, so of course, she's an outsider."

"What about Grandma Chen?" Xiao Lingyu directly pointed at Xiao Chengcai's mother and asked, "Her surname isn't Xiao either, right?"

Xiao Chengcai said, "She's my mother, so of course she's not an outsider."

“It looks like to your family, only Auntie Zhang is the outsider.”

The farmer’s wives were shocked when they heard these. Zhang Xiaolan had been married to them for more than twenty years, but in her mother-in-law’s and husband’s eyes, she was still an outsider. They didn’t want to help Zhang Xiaolan because she was ultimately an outsider.

They immediately thought of themselves. Were they outsiders to their married families? If something happened to them, would their husband’s families help them?

Xiao Lingyu glanced at the people present and continued, “In fact, the compensation will reduce Auntie Zhang’s sentence. Assuming Auntie Zhang is sentenced to seven years in prison, if you pay the compensation, she might get only three years in prison. Other than to make up for the loss my family suffered, the compensation is also a chance for Auntie Zhang to correct her mistakes.”

“Oh, we didn’t know that.” Someone said.

“Lingyu, why didn’t you say that earlier? That is a good thing!” Someone smiled.

Xiao Lingyu said indifferently, “It’s not my place to say it. But the people from the police station and the court should have told Uncle Chengcai and Grandma Chen about it.”

“What?” The villagers were shocked again. “Then, why are they still...” unwilling to pay but came to make a scene here?

They looked at Xiao Chengcai and his mother suspiciously.

When Xiao Chengcai and Grandma Chen saw the strange looks in the villagers’ eyes, their faces turned red.

Grandma Chen said matter-of-factly, “We don’t have money. How are we going to pay?”

“It’s not that you don’t have money, but you are unwilling to pay. After all, it was your daughter-in-law who has committed the crime, right?” Gong Tianhao pointed out. “She’s an outsider. If the person in jail is your son, you would have sold even your house to bail him out, right?”

Xiao Chengcai’s mother said, “You’re right. Zhang Xiaolan is an outsider. She’s not worth my family saving her. So what if she is in prison for a few years? What does she have to lose?”

All the women present felt a chill in their hearts. Previously, they thought that Xiao Chengcai’s family was pitiful, and they sided with them. They even thought Xiao Lingyu was being unnecessarily cold-blooded.

However, now, they realized who was the real cold-blooded one.

Zhang Chunxiang’s mother-in-law, Auntie Li, looked at the expressions of the women around her and sighed in her heart. After that, she didn’t say anything else.

‘Chen Jiumei is really an idiot. Even if she sees her daughter-in-law as an outsider, she shouldn’t say that in front of everyone. She announced before everyone that her daughter-in-law is an outsider, and she even told her son to do the same. How will she get the crowd on her side like this?’

Xiao Lingyu said sternly, "I don't care whether Auntie Zhang is an outsider to you or not. She is your daughter-in-law. You have the obligation to bear her mistake!"

At this moment, Xiao Chengcai suddenly asked, "What if I divorce her? Do I still need to bear the compensation?"

Everyone present was shocked.