

Chapter 281: Voting

With Xiao Lingyu's reminder, the villagers immediately thought of Liu Family Village. They had also contracted out their mountains. A Big Boss had rented out the mountains to develop a mine. Mining would cause serious pollution, but the people of Liu Family Village didn't mind.

Liu Family Village didn't have as many hilltops as Taoyuan Village. There were only three mountains. The Big Boss believed there were rare minerals in the mountains. He rented the mountains for 100 RMB per Mu. The mountains were quite big, with a total area of 3,000 Mu.

The Boss only rented it for two years, but the rent was distributed to everyone. It was still quite a lot of money.

Of course, the Liu Family villagers welcomed the money. After all, after two years, the mountains would still belong to the Liu Family Village.

As for the pollution?

Since the mountains were far away from their village, they didn't care. As for farmland near the foot of the mountain, the Big Boss promised to compensate if they were destroyed during mining. After a few years, when the mines stopped operating, they could start planting on the mountains again.

Currently, development was going at the mountains. Since this was a mining development, the Big Boss had to hire people. He directly hired the people from Liu Family Village. In the past year, almost all the adults at Liu Family Village had gone to work as miners. Their lives improved slowly. This made them the envy of many nearby villages.

"I remember now. Liu Family Village rented their mountains for 100 RMB per Mu."

"Yes, the people from Liu Family Village told me that too."

In comparison, the price of 150 RMB per Mu given by Xiao Lingyu was too generous. Xiao Lingyu continued, "That's right. The Liu Family Village rented out their mountains for 100 RMB per Mu. I feel that my offer is already very fair. However..." Xiao Lingyu's sharp gaze swept across all the villagers present, then she looked at her seventh uncle and continued, "If seventh uncle and all the villagers present feel that the price I offered is too low, then feel free to go and find the boss who is willing to rent your land for 200 RMB."

"As for me, since Taoyuan Village is unwilling to help me, I'll seek better opportunities at the surrounding villages. I believe that if I offer them 150, no, 120 RMB per Mu, they will be glad to rent their mountain land to me."

These people really thought they could bully her with this. Did they think she was so dumb?

Once Xiao Lingyu said that the faces of the villagers present changed. What did she mean by that? Did she want to rent the mountains from another village? Did she intend to benefit outsiders instead of her neighbors?

Many people were displeased... well, most who wanted a higher rent were displeased. They were so greedy. Xiao Lingyu had already offered them a high price, but they still wanted more. They really thought Xiao Lingyu was a pushover.

Someone immediately said with some dissatisfaction, "Lingyu, we're your neighbors. You refuse to rent from us but instead want to benefit other villages? How is that acceptable?"

Xiao Lingyu replied indifferently, "You can't blame me for this. I've already given everyone face by offering a fair rent. However, some people still think that is not enough.

"Even though I've earned some money in the past year, renting the mountains still requires a huge sum of money. I don't have the funds to offer a higher rent.

"In that case, I have no choice but to settle for the second-best scenario. If I rent from another village, I'll even save money.

"After all, my money didn't fall from the sky that I can squander them. That's the money my family has earned through hard work."

She almost said, 'I'm not a fool that you can take advantage of easily.'

As soon as Xiao Lingyu said that, the scene fell silent.

At this moment, Xiao Chengbang said loudly, "Lingyu, don't listen to some greedy people. The rental price you gave is already very fair.

"You're contracting the mountains, not to mine like the Big Boss at Liu Family Village. You are going to plant fruit trees. And you even allow us to continue foraging on the mountain. We should be glad that you've treated us so nicely.

"Anyway, I don't have any objections!"

As soon as he finished speaking, someone immediately retorted. Xiao Laigou said, "Xiao Chengbang, who doesn't know that you have a good relationship with her family? Of course, you don't have any objections."

Xiao Chengbang's sharp eyes swept over him as he asked sharply, "So do you have objections? Only because you want Lingyu to pay you 400 RMB per Mu? Xiao Laigou, how greedy can you be? Plus, the mountains aren't even yours!"

Xiao Laogou said indignantly, "It's true that the mountains aren't mine, but my family owns part of it. So why can't I have objections?"

"Your family is one of the many who own parts of the mountains. Your objection doesn't matter!" Xiao Chengbang said.

Xiao Laogou was furious.

"Enough!" The village chief immediately stopped them from arguing. Then, the village chief said seriously, "Xiao Lingyu's rental price is already very fair. She even offers us extra because we're from the same village.

“Certain people shall not take a mile when given an inch. If you want a higher rental price, go and find your own boss to rent. You can rent it for 200 or 400, and you’ll get rich immediately.”

Then, he pointed at the two cardboard boxes on the table, “Now, let us vote. Everyone has a card with a serial number. Those who agree to rent it to Xiao Lingyu put your card in the box on the left, and those who disagree put it in the box on the right.

“If more than half of the people agree, then it means that the village has agreed to rent these mountains to Xiao Lingyu and vice versa. Does everyone understand?”

“Yes!” They nodded.

Of course, there were also people who raised doubts and said disdainfully, “Why are we wasting time? Isn’t the result obvious?”

The majority would agree.

The village chief ignored them and said directly, “Alright, then let’s start voting now.”

The villagers rushed to the boxes and dropped their cards.

In a short while, everyone had finished voting.

The village chief and a few village officials verified the results on the spot.

Finally, the village chief announced, “There are a total of 186 households in Taoyuan Village. Other than Xiao Fuqi and Xiao Chengcai’s families, there are 184 here, so the halfway point is 92 votes. The village elders and I have tallied the votes. 162 votes are in favor of Xiao Lingyu, and the others are 22. So, Xiao Lingyu is allowed to contract the mountains.”

No one was surprised by this result.. There was only a small number of people who were greedy.

Chapter 282: Accompany Her to the Bank

The result was self-evident!

The negative votes were ignored because the vast majority agreed.

A few families were angry when they heard the result. But there was nothing they could do.

...

Back at home, Xiao Lingyu checked her bank loan documents and decided to visit the bank in the county town. If the loan was not approved, she had to find an investor.

When they heard that Xiao Lingyu was going to the county town alone, Father and Mother Xiao disapproved. However, they didn’t understand much about bank loans, so they decided to ask Gong Tianhao to accompany their daughter.

“...” Xiao Lingyu shook her head and refused, “Father and Mother, there’s no need. I can do it myself.”

However, Father Xiao and Mother Xiao were exceptionally insistent. Mother Xiao said, "No, you're pregnant. How can we let you go alone? You have to have someone accompany you."

Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment and said, "I'll take fourth uncle's truck to the county in the morning. When I reach the county town, I can ask my younger brother to accompany me."

"No. Your brother has just learned how to drive. I'll be more worried about him driving you around. It's better to let Tianhao accompany you. Tianhao is a steady child."

Xiao Lingyu, "... Dad, Mom, do you know that you've pushed your daughter into the jaws of a tiger?

Ever since Gong Tianhao made his declaration, he stuck to Xiao Lingyu every day. He knew her schedule very well. Xiao Lingyu would wake up early and then walk around the village to exercise. Then, she would come back for breakfast. Half an hour later, she'd be tired and would go back to sleep.

She would sleep for one or one and a half hours. After waking up, she would lazily lay on the recliner and read for a while. When it was time, she would wash the dishes and do some simple housework.

After lunch, the Sleeping Beauty would lay down again. This time, she would sleep for two to three hours.

When she woke up, she would read for a while and then go out for a walk. When she came back, she would help prepare dinner again.

But after dinner, she would definitely go to bed before nine o'clock.

In short, Xiao Lingyu spent most of her time sleeping.

Xiao Lingyu went for a walk every day, and Gong Tianhao would be waiting for her outside the door every morning. He would follow her around.

Even though Xiao Lingyu disliked it, Gong Tianhao refused to leave. He stuck close to her.

Therefore, early in the morning, many villagers would see the young couple saunter around the village.

Someone joked with Xiao Zhengyang, and his wife, "Zhengyang, Qiuying, Elder Gong's grandson has become your son-in-law. He is sticking by Lingyu's side every day."

Xiao Zhengyang and his wife didn't mind having Gong Tianhao as their son-in-law. After all, Gong Tianhao really didn't mind Xiao Lingyu's child and was sincerely pursuing her.

However, they didn't push it. Mother Xiao smiled and replied, "That depends on their fate. Tianhao and Lingyu, this is their fate."

"That's true," Someone said.

When this topic was brought up, someone said with a sour tone, "Speaking of which, isn't Young Master Gong from a big city? Why would he like a girl from the countryside?" Her tone was awkward and sharp.

"What do you mean by that?" Someone refuted, "What's wrong with a girl from the countryside? We are not inferior to the city girls."

“Plus, Lingyu is a famous university student who has worked in a big city for a few years. When she is in the city, no one can tell she is from the countryside.”

“That’s right. Lingyu is beautiful and outstanding. She is better than the city girls.”

“Tsk, you people speak like you’ve seen many city girls before.”

“We actually have. When they were selling strawberries, many city girls came. If you ask me, none of them is comparable to Lingyu.”

...

Mother Xiao didn’t know the outcome of this argument.

She had left a long time ago.

However, in her heart, her daughter was the best.

To be honest, Mother Xiao and Father Xiao liked Gong Tianhao very much. It wasn’t because he was rich, but because he was sincere. He was serious about their daughter.

But... Mother Xiao sighed. Their daughter still pushed him away.

Thinking of this, Mother Xiao continued, “Yu ‘Er, with Tianhao accompanying you to the bank, we will be more at ease.”

Xiao Lingyu, “...” But she really didn’t want him to accompany her.

A smile immediately appeared on Gong Tianhao’s face as he said, “Auntie, don’t worry. I will definitely protect Yu ‘Er well. Nothing will go wrong.”

Mother Xiao smiled and nodded, “Tianhao, of course, we believe you.”

Xiao Lingyu, “...” Mom, does this mean you don’t believe me?

Xiao Lingyu relented, “Fine.”

However, the next day, when Xiao Lingyu and Gong Tianliang were about to head to the county town, they were delayed. That was because the news reporters had arrived.

These reporters swarmed into Taoyuan Village.

Xiao Lingye was the top scorer in the science of City Z. The reporters had received the news.

However, there was even more shocking news. The results of No. 1 High School were much better than before!

Last year, Xingyin County’s No. 1 High School only had 112 students who got into first-grade universities, accounting for 20% of the total. 260 people managed to get into the second-grade universities, accounting for 46.4% of the total. The school was ranked last in City Z.

However, this year, No. 1 High School had 276 students who got into first-grade universities, accounting for 40% of the total. 488 people managed to get into the second-rate universities, accounting for 70.7% of the total. This pushed No. 1 High School to 4th place in City Z.

Such a pleasant result made all the teachers and students extremely excited. It even attracted the attention of the bureau leaders.

The most interesting news was Xing Yin County had produced a top scorer in science. He was ranked third in the entire province, with a difference of 0.5 points from the second place.

When such a result came out, it was really a cause for celebration.

Therefore, these reporters had been conducting interviews in the school for the past two days.

They delayed the interview with Xiao Lingye to today.

Chapter 283: Tea

“What, the reporters are all at home for an interview? “Xiao Lingye received a phone call from home and frowned. “Then, Sis, should I rush home?”

Xiao Lingye had already gotten his driver’s license, but he had been helping out in the county town and did not go home much.

His plan was to leave the city to see the world. After all, he had two to three months of vacation.

However, the business in his sister’s shop was really good, so Xiao Lingye decided to help out in the shop.

Occasionally, he would go out with a few of his good friends. However, Xiao Lingye was always in control. He would never go overboard.

The school informed him immediately when they got the news that he was the top-scorer. Then, he informed his family at the first opportunity.

After the excitement, he regained his usual composure. He felt that the university entrance examination was only the first stage of a turning point in his life. No matter how well he did, everything would start from zero after he entered university. He had to plan for his future. He couldn’t rest on his laurels. He needed to work hard!

Xiao Lingye’s calm mentality was the result of his family’s teachings. He had a sister who was always calm and decisive. He had learned a little from her.

Xiao Lingye thought for a moment and said, “Yes, you should come back.”

It was the same every year. The media would report on the top-scorer annually. If her younger brother refused the interviews, who knew what kind of evaluation the reporters would give him. He could be described as arrogant and condescending.

“Alright, I’ll go back now.” Xiao Lingye was an opinionated person, but he would heed his sister’s advice.

Xiao Lingye promised that after Xiao Lingye got his license, she would get him a new car. However, since he just got his license, he had been using her car to practice on. After all, Xiao Lingye was pregnant and couldn’t drive anyway.

So, Xiao Lingye had inherited his sister's car after he got his license.

...

When the villagers heard about the reporters' arrival, they immediately hurried to Xiao Zhengyang's house.

Mother Xiao welcomed all the reporters into the courtyard and made a pot of tea for them. Then she took out some fruits and served them too.

"Wow, this tea is so delicious!"

Some of the reporters rushed here from City Z. After traveling for a whole morning, they felt a little thirsty and tired.

After sitting down, they were greeted by the fragrance of tea. Out of curiosity, they picked up their cups and took a sip. It was amazing. The taste of this tea was extraordinary.

"Auntie, your tea smells so good. What kind of tea is it?" A reporter asked curiously.

Mother Xiao had been interviewed before when Xiao Lingyu was the top-scorer, so she wasn't that nervous.

She smiled and said, "It's just an ordinary Da Hong Pao. It's the kind of tea leaves that costs 100 yuan per catty." They purchased better tea leaves after their family condition was better.

"Just ordinary Da Hong Pao?" The reporters found it hard to believe.

"Auntie, I've tasted normal Da Hong Pao before. It's not as fragrant as this," Someone immediately said suspiciously.

Mother Xiao smiled and explained, "That's not the tea leaves but the water. The water here is sweet and clear, so even the tea made from normal tea leaves can be very fragrant."

Someone's eyes lit up and immediately asked curiously, "Auntie, is this true? Then, can we try your water?"

Mother Xiao nodded. "Of course, you can. One minute, I'll fill a pot for you."

Xiao Lingyu, "... " What is going on? Aren't they here for an interview? How did it become a tea tasting ceremony?

Mother Xiao filled a pot of water and asked with a smile, "Come. Who would like to try some water?"

"Auntie, come, pour me a cup! I want to see how your water is different from other water sources."

"Auntie, give me a cup too!"

The reporters who were sent to interview the best scholar were quite polite.

"Wow, this water is really delicious!" Someone took a sip and said, "It's sweet and refreshing."

"Is this just ordinary water? How can it be so delicious? No wonder the tea made from it is so fragrant. It made the 100 RMB tea taste like 100000 RMB tea!"

“Haha. It looks like I’ll have to pack some water with me when I go back.” Someone said half-jokingly.

“Haha. I have the same idea.”

“Hmm. These strawberries are so delicious. This taste... this taste is like those strawberries sold in Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.”

The reporters tried the fruits served.

“I’ve eaten the strawberries in that store. They taste alike.”

“Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables?” Someone immediately reacted, “Aren’t we in Taoyuan Village?” They looked at Mother Xiao curiously.

Mother Xiao smiled and said, “My family does own that shop. If you like these strawberries, feel free to bring some back with you.”

“Thank you, Auntie.” Everyone’s eyes immediately lit up. No one was willing to refuse.

The reporters from both Xing Yin County and City Z had heard of this vegetables and fruits shop before. There was even a rumor that the strawberries sold at the National Union Supermarket came from Taoyuan Village.

These people were reporters, so they had a keen sense of smell. They were immediately sure that the strawberries at National Union Supermarket and the strawberries at Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables came from the same place.

The five reporters ate and drank happily in the Xiao family’s courtyard. The food and drink of this family were too delicious. Even their plain water was so exceptional.

Among the reporters were a few who normally had a small appetite. However, when they arrived at the house of the top-scorer, they became big eaters! No matter how much they ate, they didn’t feel hungry. The fruits and snacks went down their stomach.

“Auntie, why are all the things in your house so delicious?” A reporter gasped, “The things that look so ordinary become incomparably delicious here.”

Mother Xiao smiled and said, “If you like it, you should eat more. I’ll pack some for you to take back too.” A few days ago, Mother Xiao already knew the reporters were coming, so she was prepared.

The reporters were embarrassed. “How can we do that? We already ate so much here.”

Mother Xiao said, “Why should you be embarrassed? We grew these strawberries ourselves. All the vegetables and fruits served are homegrown too. I’m just glad that you like them.

“Then, thank you so much, Auntie!” The reporters were very appreciative.. They came to the right place this time.

Chapter 284: Deep Feelings

The reporters were enjoying themselves at the Xiao family home.

It was only when they saw the main character appear that the reporters reacted. They came here that day with a mission. They were to interview this year's City Z's top-scorer and his family.

However, the good food and drinks derailed them greatly.

When they saw their interview subject, Xiao Lingye, a handsome and cute young man, walk in, their eyes lit up again. This family was all handsome men and beautiful women. They were very much unlike a normal rural family.

They immediately jumped back into work. They interviewed Xiao Lingye about his background, his feelings for getting into Imperial University, his study tips, and so on. Then, they interviewed his parents, how they cultivated such a brilliant child.

After that, they interviewed the villagers to get their opinions about the top-scorer. Their first interviewee was the village chief. When they heard from the village chief that Xiao Lingye was the Xiao Family's second top-scorer, the reporters were shocked. Two top-scorers in one family. Their parents were amazing.

The reporters learned from the villagers that this pair of parents were very open-minded and never restricted their children. They allowed their children freedom to grow. They rarely used beatings but always reasoned with them.

The interview lasted for half a day before the reporters completed their assignment. Finally, they had to return to their cities. However, they were reluctant to leave Taoyuan Village. Reporters had to travel all over, and food while traveling was always not that good.

They were still discussing it on the way back.

"It's very comfortable here. I really can't bear to leave."

"Indeed. If I had the chance, I would definitely come here again."

The delicious food was a great allure.

"Oh, right." A female reporter suddenly remembered something, "I heard from a friend of mine that some time ago, there was a strawberry-picking event here. She came and saw many people."

"Now that you mention it, I think I remember too. The entrance ticket was 100 RMB per person. After you're inside the greenhouse, you can eat as much as you want. However, if you want to bring the strawberries home, you have to pay extra."

"I also heard about this on the forum. In the beginning, there was a discount, a catty of strawberries was only 45 RMB. The first 100 customers could even enter the greenhouse for free. However, the first 100 spots were used up instantly. The rest had to buy tickets. The poster said that strawberries from Taoyuan Village would get more expensive, and he was right."

"Did you know that the strawberries at City Z's National Union Supermarket were sold at 35 RMB each? Even so, they ran out of stock often."

"35 RMB each? That is too expensive!" People gasped, and they hugged the two catties of strawberries Mother Xiao had given them closer.

“Based on the size of these strawberries, there should be around twenty of them per catty. Oh my god. We have around 1400 RMB in our hands each!”

“The mother is really generous.”

“I have to keep some for my son to taste. These are things you can’t buy with money.”

“That’s true. I heard that the strawberry harvest is coming to an end.”

“This trip is very worth it. Those who refused to come will be kicking themselves when they find out.”

Many reporters refused to do interviews like this. Other than the long distance, the news didn’t have much newsworthiness. The news wouldn’t help them with a raise or a promotion. It was a troublesome and meaningless interview. Therefore, mostly interns or newbies would be sent on these missions.

“Yes, it is really worth it.” Someone echoed. “And I did bring a bottle of water back with me.”

“For real?” Someone said in surprise.

“Yes. The water makes such delicious tea. I wish to bring some for my dad.” When she said this, she looked a little sad. “My dad’s health is worsening. I want to give him the best thing and spend more time with him. He really needs the company of his children.”

The car fell silent. Who among them didn’t have parents?

When they were young, they looked forward to growing up, but when they grew up, they found that their parents had grown old too.

Suddenly, their parents’ heads were peppered with white. The figures who had shielded them from wind and rain slowly bent over.

However, as children, their careers were just starting. They didn’t have much time for their parents. They didn’t realize they didn’t have much time with their parents left.

Their parents didn’t even want money or materials from them. They just wanted simple company.

Some couldn’t help but weep silent tears.

“I will ask for leave and go visit my parents in the countryside,” Someone said. Better spend some time with them before it was too late.

The reporters handed in their assignments and asked for a leave. They wanted to go back to the countryside to see their parents.

Many people were affected. Many thought of their elderly parents. People were touched. Even the superiors were moved. However, they couldn’t approve too many leaves at once.

The employees had to take turns.

...

Xiao Lingyu and her family did not know that just a bottle of water from their house and two catties of strawberries had stimulated filial piety.

After the reporters left, the family was also very happy. They were in a celebratory mood because Xiao Lingye had been admitted to a good university.

Father Xiao said, "In the future, you must work harder and be a promising citizen!"

Xiao Lingye nodded and said, "Yes, I know. Dad, please don't worry!"

Chapter 285: Encountering Obstacles!

When the news report came out, many people not only found out Taoyuan Village had produced a top-scorer but also Taoyuan Village was suitable for strawberry-growing. In fact, the expensive strawberries that were being sold at many supermarkets were from Taoyuan Village.

At the same time, many people realized how beautiful Taoyuan Village was. It was inconvenient transportation in the past that prevented people from discovering this paradise.

However, with the strawberries and the addition of a new top-scorer, Taoyuan Village instantly became a tourist attraction. Many people drove from the city to Taoyuan Village.

The arrival of these guests immediately made Taoyuan Village even more lively. They came to enjoy the beautiful scenery and would return with the local specialties like eggs, chickens, ducks, geese, and vegetables.

Every local household had sold something to the influx of visitors, and the prices were high. This made the villagers very happy. They had gained another huge income.

...

Gong Tianhao accompanied Xiao Lingyu to the county town bank.

Xiao Lingyu had prepared sufficient information. Gong Tianhao was also there to help with the negotiations. The bank representative soon gave an answer. They could give Xiao Lingyu a loan, but they had to take at least ten days to verify her documents.

Xiao Lingyu didn't mind. She knew about this already. However, Gong Tianhao was a little dissatisfied.

Whenever he wanted a loan, he would only need to make a phone call. He would never wait ten days.

When Gong Tianhao wanted to say something, Xiao Lingyu stopped him. She knew that with his identity, he could get a loan easily. After all, his rich assets were there for everyone to see. No one would waste time investigating his complicated background. However, her case was different. This was her first large loan, and she came from a small family. The bank was understandably cautious.

After they left the bank, Gong Tianhao said, "I know they need time to run the procedures, but isn't it too slow? If a company needs funding, they would have gone bankrupt in ten days already."

When a company faced problems in financial chains, it was a serious issue.

There were two ways for companies to solve this crisis.

The first was to find new investors. The second was to borrow a loan from the bank. Normally, the companies would go for the second method. This was because outside investors might completely derail the heart of the company. That was something most CEOs didn't want to see.

Gong Tianhao became the nation's richest man at a very young age. His companies had encountered such crises before, but he was able to deal with them quickly. Because with his identity, the bank would not make things difficult for him.

Gong Tianhao glanced at Xiao Lingyu from the corner of his eyes. There was no reason for Xiao Lingyu to even ask for a bank loan. He could wire her the money. He would give her three billion without a blink, much less a mere three million. But he knew Xiao Lingyu wouldn't accept it.

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "It's alright, I can wait!" The mountains were not going to run away anyway.

The mountains were not going to run away but some other people might have eyes on the mountains. Xiao Lingyu didn't expect that.

...

"What? The higher-ups didn't approve the request?" Xiao Lingyu frowned and asked with confusion.

Xiao Taiyang also said with confusion, "Yes, logically speaking, you are contracting the mountain to grow crops, not to engage in destructive development. The higher-ups should have approved it.

"However, your request was blocked. The reason given is they need to maintain the natural ecology. This... This isn't right at all."

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, "There must be something going on here."

Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment and said, "Village chief, how about this? See if you can find out the inside news through your connections. I'll also ask my friends."

The village chief nodded and said, "Alright, I'll ask around then." Even if Taoyuan Village was poor, the village chief still had some connections in the town. The problem came directly from the county town.

After the village chief left, Gong Tianhao's eyes flashed with a bright light.

The Xiao Family fell silent.

They did not expect something would go wrong.

Father Xiao said, "Yu 'Er, the county government is not willing to approve your request?"

Xiao Lingyu said, "Yes. Dad, Mom, don't worry. I'll call my friends and see if they know anything."

"Okay!"

On the other side, as soon as the village chief left, Gong Tianhao went out and made a phone call. He said directly, "It's me. Go and investigate the mountain contract request in Xing Yin County. Yeah, I want to get the answer as soon as possible."

Less than ten minutes after he hung up, his phone rang.

He answered, "Speak!"

Then, his face became more and more gloomy, and he said, "Okay, I got it." Then, he hung up the phone. His eyes narrowed, and his deep eyes were mysterious.

Then, he sneered, "Haha. Do you people want to bully my woman? Fine, I'll play with you." Then, he walked back to the Xiao family and sat down as if nothing had happened.

At this moment, Xiao Lingyu called Gu Ziyue and said, "Ziyue, I want to ask you for a favor. Well, I originally planned to contract a few mountains in Taoyuan Village. However, I face a problem with the county town government. My request was rejected because they said I'd destroy the natural ecology. But that is definitely not valid. I just want to plant fruit trees. I need your help to find out if there's a conspiracy behind this."

Gu Ziyue and a few friends were having dinner in the private room. He replied, "Yes, no problem."

After Gu Ziyue put down the phone, Zheng Haiyang immediately asked, "Is that Xiao Lingyu?"

Gu Ziyue nodded, "Yes!"

"Look at your serious expression.. Did something happen to Xiao Lingyu?" Zheng Haiyang asked anxiously.

Chapter 286: Complaint

The outpouring of Zheng Haiyang's concern made the other two look at him. They did not say anything but looked at Gu Ziyue in unison and asked, "Yes, Ziyue, did something happen to Xiao Lingyu?"

Gu Ziyue said, "Xiao Lingyu told me that she planned to contract a few mountains in Taoyuan Village, but she got rejected by the county town government officials."

"She wants to contract a few mountains?!" The other three were surprised, and their first reaction was to say, "What is Xiao Lingyu going to grow this time?" To them, Xiao Lingyu had a green thumb. She grew delicious vegetables and strawberries. She had to have a big plan to contract a few mountains.

Gu Ziyue shook his head and said, "I don't know either. She just said that her request was stuck. The officials told her it was because her activities would destroy the mountain's natural ecology. She knew this was just an excuse. So she wanted us to help her find out what is really going on."

As soon as he finished speaking, the three of them all stared at Qian Yifan. Among the four of them, Qian Yifan was closest to the political world.

Qian Yifan was confused by their stares. Then, he said, "Okay. I'll see if I can get anything from my dad."

Gu Ziyue smiled and said, "Yifan, then I'll thank you on behalf of Xiao Lingyu."

Qian Yifan rolled his eyes and said, "Why are you thanking me for? Besides, Xiao Lingyu and I are friends. It's only right for me to help her."

Zheng Haiyang said, "Yifan, I remember that Xiao Lingyu seems to know your grandfather. If your dad can't help you, you can ask your grandfather for help."

Qian Yifan rolled his eyes again and said unhappily, "There's no need to trouble him with this small matter."

This small matter was a huge deal to Xiao Lingyu though, because it meant she owed them a favor.

Seeing Xiao Lingyu calling another man for help, Gong Tianhao felt uneasy, and his eyes darkened. He didn't like that Xiao Lingyu had turned to another man to solve her problems. He was feeling jealous.

As soon as Xiao Lingyu hung up the phone, she met Gong Tianhao's sorrowful gaze.

Xiao Lingyu was baffled. She asked, "What's wrong?"

Gong Tianhao said, "Yu 'Er, I can help you with this. You should ask me for help and not some other man. I'm feeling jealous now."

Xiao Lingyu, "..."

This man is... really shameless.

When Father and Mother Xiao heard this, they covered their mouths and snickered at the side.

They felt that Gong Tianhao was really too cute.

He was really straightforward and sincere. He was so straightforward in expressing his feelings for their daughter. They could tell that Gong Tianhao really liked their daughter. At least they didn't think Gong Tianhao and his grandfather were master actors.

Xiao Lingyu rolled her eyes and said unhappily, "What does it have to do with me if you're jealous? You can be jealous all you want."

Mother Xiao immediately coughed twice and reprimanded, "Yu 'Er, how can you speak like this?"

Then, she changed into another person and said to Gong Tianhao in a very amicable manner, "Tianhao, don't mind her. Yu 'Er has always been spoiled by us. She has no manners."

Technically, she only had no manners around Gong Tianhao.

Gong Tianhao smiled sweetly and said, "Auntie, it's fine. I'm already used to it!" He was referring to Xiao Lingyu's distant attitude towards him.

Xiao Lingyu, "... Did he just complain to my parents about me?"

Mother Xiao felt so sorry for Gong Tianhao. She knew how harsh her daughter had treated the man.

She said, "Tianhao, Yu 'Er has made you suffer. Don't worry, I will stand up for you. I will teach her a lesson."

Xiao Lingyu, "..."

Mom, who is your child?

Mother Xiao immediately said to Xiao Lingyu in a harsh tone, "Xiao Lingyu, Tianhao is our guest. When did I teach you to treat our guest so badly?"

"..." Xiao Lingyu said innocently, "Mom, when did I treat Young Master Gong badly?" After saying that, she glared at him. The man was the richest man in the world. To think that he'd tattle about her to her mother...

"You're glaring at him!" Mother Xiao scolded. "You're already treating him like this when we're here. Did you beat him up and scold him in private?"

Xiao Lingyu opened her mouth to speak, but Mother Xiao didn't let her speak at all. She continued, "Xiao Lingyu, let me tell you. Don't think that just because Tianhao likes you, you can treat him badly."

"Mother," Xiao Lingyu called out as if she wanted to explain herself.

Then, Gong Tianhao immediately explained, "Auntie, you're wrong about Yu 'Er. She doesn't treat me badly.

"It's just that she doesn't let me hold her when she can't walk properly and almost falls. She doesn't let me shield her when those naughty children rush over, and she doesn't let me get her water when she's thirsty..."

Xiao Lingyu, "..." Does the complaint never end? How can he bring up these things to complain to her mother? It is absolutely detestable.

Xiao Lingyu's parents, "..." Tianhao is so concerned about our daughter, but she doesn't seem to care about him. What is she thinking? Doesn't she know that she is lucky to find a man who treats her so well?

Mother Xiao sighed. 'I have to help him along.' Mother Xiao said, "Tianhao, Auntie will make the decision on this matter. When she doesn't look where she's going, hold on to her. When she's thirsty and hungry, get her some water and snacks. As for her own opinion, you can completely ignore it."

Gong Tianhao received the support of Mother Xiao. His deep eyes lit up, and the corners of his mouth curled up. He said happily, "Alright, Auntie, I will definitely listen to you and take good care of Yu 'Er."

Xiao Lingyu's mouth twitched. Who is her biological child?

Gong Tianhao had received permission from Mother Xiao. In the future, he would have a legitimate reason to stick to Xiao Lingyu.

From then on, Gong Tianhao stuck to Xiao Lingyu like sticky candy. She was unable to pull him off.

It was just as he said. No matter she liked it or not, she had to get used to him being by her side!

Chapter 287: Inquiry

Qian Yifan's eyes lit up when he saw his father and grandfather having dinner at home.

Qian Yifan's mother immediately said sarcastically when she saw her son coming back, "Hey, isn't this our Qian family's eldest young master? Is he not going out clubbing but has decided to come back home?"

Qian Yifan said helplessly, "Mom, I was having a gathering with my friends. How is that clubbing?"

Zeng Yulian snorted coldly, "What kind of gathering happens daily?" She put down her chopsticks and said earnestly, "Fan 'Er, your friends are all successful in their careers. For example, Gu Ziyue has taken over the Gu family's hotel, Zheng Haiyang has his own career, and Yuan Xuanhao has become a big boss. You're the only one who spends all day by the computer. You don't have a proper career at all."

Qian Yifan immediately said unhappily, "Mom, I have a career. I'm in web development. Don't always criticize me about my work."

Zeng Yulian said, "How can I not? You've invested so much, but there is no return. You might as well flush the money down the drain."

Qian Yifan said firmly, "I believe that the future will be all about the internet. At that time, my work will truly be rewarded."

"In the future? When will that be?" Zeng Yulian asked sharply.

Qian Yifan, "... He had no answer either.

Zeng Yulian said coldly, "You can't answer, right? Qian Yifan, let me tell you, from tomorrow onwards, you must find a proper job. If you can't, ask your father to arrange a position for you in the government unit."

Qian Yifan immediately retorted, "You can't have father do that. He'll be criticized for nepotism. Isn't that right, grandfather?!"

Grandfather Qian immediately nodded and said, "That's true!"

"Father!" Zeng Yulian called out helplessly. Her father-in-law would spoil this grandson and support him in everything he did, which made her very helpless.

Qian Yifan was happy to have his grandfather's support, but his happiness lasted not longer than two seconds.

"You can't just drop in on a high position like this. People will talk." Grandfather Qian said, "So you will have to start from the bottom like everyone else."

Zeng Yulian was stunned for a moment before she said with a smile, "Dad, you're right. Yifan, you should listen to your grandfather. You need to start from the bottom."

Qian Yifan, "..."

Qian Yifan glanced at the silent and slightly serious Father Qian and asked, "Dad, are you done eating?"

Father Qian glanced at him and asked, "Is there something wrong?"

Qian Yifan said, "Dad, I heard that the mountain contracts in Taoyuan Village got held up. What's going on?"

Qian Yifan's father put down his chopsticks, and his expression immediately became very serious as he asked, "How did you know about this?"

Zeng Yulian was also curious as to why her son was suddenly concerned about these things.

Qian Yifan said truthfully, "Dad, I'll tell you the truth. The person who wanted the contract is Xiao Lingyu. She is from a local village and a friend of mine. She heard about the rejection, so she asked me to help her inquire about it."

Zeng Yulian frowned and said with some dissatisfaction, "And you are helping her? Even if she's your friend, there are rules. Normal people like her are not supposed to know about these things. What if it involves some confidential information? Wouldn't that harm your father?"

Qian Yifan said, "Mom, what are you talking about? She just wants to know the real reason. Why would it harm Dad?"

Grandpa Qian frowned slightly and asked, "Fan 'Er, Xiao Lingyu wants to contract the mountains?"

"Yes!" Qian Yifan nodded and said, "But it was rejected."

Zeng Yulian hadn't met Xiao Lingyu, but she didn't like her because Xiao Lingyu was just a country bumpkin.

No matter how well her crops sold, it did not change the fact that she was a country bumpkin.

Moreover, she heard that Xiao Lingyu was not a good person because she was pregnant before marriage. She was afraid that the woman wanted to curry favor with her son. She had talked to her son about it several times, but it only made her son befriend the woman even more.

Qian Yifan said impatiently, "Mom, since you don't want me to be friends with Xiao Lingyu, fine. We will stop eating her crops."

"..." Zeng Yulian said unhappily, "Why should we? Haven't we paid for them?"

Qian Yifan said sharply, "Mom, you should go and ask your friends. These vegetables are sold out so easily. Sometimes, you can't even get them with money. If we're not friends with Lingyu, we won't even have these vegetables to eat."

Zeng Yulian said unhappily, "Regardless, she's just a farmer. What's the big deal?"

Qian Yifan didn't want to argue with her in this aspect. He knew her mother's scruples. He said directly, "Mom, don't worry. Xiao Lingyu has no interest in my friends and me."

Zeng Yulian didn't believe him at all. "Like that's true. She's just a countrywoman. Why would she stick to your group if she didn't have an ulterior motive?"

Qian Yifan couldn't make sense of it and didn't want to talk to her anymore. He said, "Mom, you don't need to meddle in my relationship. Plus, if you want to talk about that, you should persuade Grandpa too. He is also friends with Xiao Lingyu."

Mother Qian, "..."

She changed the subject, "So what if her contract is not going well? It's none of your business. How can she come directly to you to ask for an explanation? What a sinister woman!" She was actually quite happy when she heard Xiao Lingyu's contract was rejected.

"Mom!" Qian Yifan furrowed his brows in dissatisfaction. "Can you not be so prejudiced?"

"Xiao Lingyu hadn't offended you, right? Even though she's from the countryside, she's a graduate of a famous university and has worked in a big city for a few years. If it weren't for some accidents, she probably wouldn't have returned to the farm.

"Plus, her little brother, Xiao Lingye, is our city's current top-scorer in science, and he got into Imperial University!" Qian Yifan said, "Plus, Xiao Lingyu was also the top scorer of Arts in our county."

"Two top-scorers in one family!" Father Qian remembered this news.

"Yes." Qian Yifan nodded. "Mom, they are very good people."

Zeng Yulan curled her lips and said, "Regardless, it's none of our business. Besides, even if they get into a famous university, it doesn't change the fact that they are uncultured country swine!"

Smack!

Chapter 288: The Reason

"Bang!"

Grandpa Qian put down his chopsticks heavily, giving everyone a fright.

Zeng Yulian, in particular, looked a little uneasy when she saw Grandpa Qian's expression.

Grandpa Qian's sharp eyes stared at his daughter-in-law, Zeng Yulian, and he said sternly, "Uncultured swine? So what if someone comes from the countryside? Do they steal from you? Why are you so prejudiced? Zeng Yulian, let me tell you. I was born in a farming family too. I'm also a country bumpkin. Does this mean you look down on me?"

Zeng Yulian's face turned pale. She opened her mouth and called out, "Dad..."

Grandpa Qian continued, "You happened to be born in a better family. You were born in the city. But didn't your parents come from the countryside? So, tell me, what right do you have to look down on the country people? The Xiao siblings relied on their own abilities to get into good universities. What about you? Tell me, what university did you go to?"

Qian Guoxin looked at his wife's ugly expression and frowned. He called out, "Dad, that's enough!"

Grandpa Qian glanced at him and harrumphed.

Qian Yifan didn't feel very good when he saw his mother being scolded. He said, "Mom, you should stop having such biased prejudice. Besides, there's no nobility or lowliness in making friends. Xiao Lingyu is my friend. I don't feel good if you keep slandering my friend like this."

Father Qian scolded his son sternly, "Qian Yifan, shut up!" The brat was the reason this all started. He continued, "Your mother may have gone too far sometimes, but she only cares about you. You can't talk to her like this."

Qian Yifan lowered his head and said in a low voice, "Dad, I understand."

Qian Yifan's father looked at his wife and said, "Yulian, the child has grown up and has his own social circle. As long as his friends aren't criminals, you shouldn't mind his life that much."

Zeng Yulian felt wronged and said, "I... I'm just afraid that my son will be deceived by sinister people." Obviously, she was talking about Xiao Lingyu. Zeng Yulian was annoyed because she was scolded by her family. She felt wronged.

Qian Yifan couldn't help but defend himself again and said helplessly, "Mom, don't need to worry about me. To tell you the truth, even if I like her, she might not like me. So you don't need to worry."

Zeng Yulian still felt uncomfortable, but she tactfully stopped talking. Otherwise, she would be reprimanded by her father-in-law.

Seeing that everyone had quieted down, Father Qian thought for a moment and said, "I'm not too sure about the mountain contract because I'm not in charge of it. However, I heard that it was a higher-up who rejected the request."

Qian Yifan and Grandfather Qian looked at each other in confusion.

Qian Yifan said, "Dad, why don't you find out what's going on? At least I can give my friend some answers."

Father Qian nodded and said, "Okay, okay!"

With his position, it wasn't too difficult for him to find out what was going on.

While the men were talking, Zeng Yulian didn't say anything else. However, she remembered this grievance she suffered due to Xiao Lingyu.

She was reprimanded by her father-in-law because of that country girl, Xiao Lingyu.

After Qian Yifan returned to his room, he gave Gu Ziye a call and told him the news that he had gotten from his father.

He said, "Don't tell Xiao Lingyu yet. My father will ask around."

Gu Ziye nodded. "Okay!"

...

Xiao Lingyu waited for two days before she finally got the answer from Gu Ziye.

"Wait. You mean to say someone has taken an interest in Taoyuan Village and wants to develop it into a tourist destination?" Xiao Lingyu's parents and the village chief were obviously surprised to hear about this.

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, "That's right. My friend told me so. My friend said that this matter is still confidential. I reckon that someone will come here about this soon."

Father Xiao frowned and said, "No one was interested in our village in the past. But the moment we wanted to contract the mountains, this happened?"

The village chief hadn't heard any news in the past two days. Therefore, the news that someone wanted to turn Taoyuan Village into a tourist destination was a huge surprise.

This made him feel very complicated. He asked worriedly, "Lingyu, are they turning this place into a tourist hotspot? How are they going to do it? Why haven't I heard any news?"

Xiao Lingyu said, "Village chief, father, if someone really wants to develop tourism here, I'm afraid that all the villagers will have to move to make way for tourist attractions."

"Move?" Village chief Xiao and Xiao Lingyu's parents were shocked. "Where would we move to?" They had settled in Taoyuan Village for life. They had taken root here.

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "I don't know how the development company will arrange for us. However, if they really want us to move, they will definitely give us a certain amount of compensation."

After Xiao Lingyu said this, everyone present became silent.

A moment later, Mother Xiao asked again, "Yu 'Er, does this mean that we can't contract these mountains anymore?"

Xiao Lingyu smiled bitterly and said, "The person interested in Taoyuan Village is a big and powerful company. They can easily fund their projects. How can we fight with them? They have the money to make a better offer than we do."

She had some connections in the county, but compared to those big, rich, and powerful companies, her connections were not enough.

Father Xiao was shocked and asked, "Then what should we do now? Give up just like that?"

Xiao Lingyu said, "Give up? How is that possible?"

She thought for a moment and said, "Since people want to turn Taoyuan Village into a tourist spot and stop my contract request, I'll have to contract the mountains from other villages."

"But, what about the move? Where are we supposed to move to? And what kind of compensation will we get?" Mother Xiao was very upset.

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "I don't know. Let's wait. After a while, someone will definitely come and talk about this. We'll know when the time comes. We'll have to put the mountain contracts on the backburner for now." Speaking up to this point, she reminded the village chief, "Village Chief, I heard about this from a friend. Please keep this matter a secret for the time being. Don't make everyone in the village panic."

The village chief nodded and said, "Yes, I know what to do."

If it was really like what Xiao Lingyu said, with big companies wanting to turn Taoyuan Village into some kind of tourist attraction, the locals would be forcibly moved away. They needed the land to build attractions and amenities.

However, the villagers had lived here for generations. Where would they move to?

Chapter 289: Grandfather and Grandson Fighting

The village chief had a lot on his mind.

Of course, this news was still uncertain and couldn't be revealed for the time being.

However, this matter was really a big deal for Taoyuan Village.

...

When Grandfather Gong saw Gong Tianhao sitting in the courtyard and having a video conference with his subordinates, he glared fiercely and said with a resentful tone, "Work, work, work. Is work more important than your wife?"

"Wife?" The subordinates who were having a video conference with Gong Tianhao were stunned. When did their boss have a wife?

Gong Tianhao ignored the shock of his subordinates and turned off the video.

He turned to his grandpa and said calmly, "Grandfather, of course, my wife is more important than work!"

Old Master Gong immediately said, "In that case, why didn't you help when the girl's request to contract the mountains was blocked?"

Gong Tianhao curled his lips and said, "Grandfather, how do you know that I didn't help?"

"..." Old Master Gong said, "Then, why are you still sitting here and working? You should be out there helping her!"

"Because this is a small matter to me!" Gong Tianhao said calmly.

"Oh, because it's a small matter to you, you'll let your wife and your in-laws stew in anxiety?" Old Master Gong said unhappily, "You can easily resolve this problem, but you stand there and watch the show. Are you really sincere about getting a wife? If you don't get the wife, then I won't have my great-grandson. You unfilial son," Old Master Gong scolded.

Gong Tianhao said, "Grandfather, I have my own plans. If you want to get a granddaughter-in-law and great-grandson as soon as possible, you'd better not interfere!"

Old Master Gong, "... How did this brat know that he wanted to interfere.

Old Master Gong looked at him suspiciously and asked, "Gong Tianhao, do you really have a plan?"

Gong Tianhao said domineeringly, "Grandfather, do you think I'd let my wife be bullied by others?"

Old Master Gong smiled, "Alright, since you have your own plan, then I won't interfere. The only thing I want from you now is to marry that lass as soon as possible so that I can be the first to carry my great-grandson."

'That will be a little difficult.' Gong Tianhao thought. 'The first to carry your great-grandson is my mother-in-law. Grandpa, you'll have to line up.'

Old Master Gong sat down and asked, "Who wants to develop Taoyuan Village into a tourist spot anyway?"

Gong Tianhao laughed coldly, "It's a large tourism development company in City Z. They found out about Taoyuan Village through the strawberries and the news reports. They wanted to develop this place into a tourist destination in name, but in reality, they want to occupy the land where Xiao Lingyu grows strawberries."

Hearing this, Old Master Gong immediately understood everything. He frowned and asked, "So, they aren't interested in tourism, but the land where the strawberries are grown? Do they want to seize the land?"

"That's right!" Gong Tianhao nodded and said, "Xiao Lingyu's strawberries have gained some fame.

"Xiao Lingye is this year's top-scorer. Many reporters came to interview him. The reporters had many good things to say about Taoyuan Village.

"At the same time, Xing Yin County, which shouldn't be able to grow strawberries, had created a miracle with Taoyuan Village's strawberries. The people who came here to visit bought many local vegetables when they returned." Gong Tianhao sighed. "Grandpa, you should have noticed that the vegetables grown here are much more delicious than the ones on the market. Xiao Lingyu's family's vegetables are the best, but even the crops of the normal villagers are better-tasting than the ones sold at high-end markets."

Old Master Gong's expression became unusually serious. He said, "Therefore, these people suspect that the soil here is special? And it can grow delicious crops?"

"That's right," Gong Tianhao continued, "With a special land that can grow delicious vegetables and strawberries, grandfather, how much profit do you think can be gained from Taoyuan Village?"

"Xiao Lingyu's strawberries are already being sold at 300 RMB per catty. Even then, her vegetables are out of stock often. In City Z's National Union Supermarket, the strawberries are sold for 35 RMB each. However, the clients have no complaints.

"Grandpa, if these people really get their hands on this land, how do you think they'll sell the crops?"

"Those profiteers wouldn't be as friendly as Lingyu with their pricing." Old Master Gong said directly, "So, their things will definitely sell for a sky-high price.

"Xiao Lingyu planted six Mu of strawberries, and she sold them slightly more expensive than normal strawberries, but even so, she had already earned several million. The profiteers would have sold them for a much higher price. They'd have a projected profit of more than 100 million."

Gong Tianhao nodded. "And that's the real reason."

“So, these people are going to openly occupy Taoyuan Village with the name of developing the place.” Old Master Gong frowned. “The villagers will be moved away. Their land will be taken from them.”

“Cough, cough...” Gong Tianhao corrected, “Grandfather, the land is not taken, but the land will be leased.”

Old Master Gong said disdainfully, “These are just excuses. The profiteers will pay a small sum of rent to take over the land. Do you think I’m dumb?”

As a businessman, Gong Tianhao had done similar things in the past.

“Cough cough...” Gong Tianhao coughed again.

Old Master Gong glanced at him and said disdainfully, “Take your medicine if you have a cold. Don’t spread it to others, especially my granddaughter-in-law.”

Gong Tianhao, “...” He was no better than a fart in his grandfather’s heart.

Who was his real grandchild?

Gong Tianhao said, “Don’t worry, grandfather. I’m fine. It was an itch in my throat.”

“Just settle this matter as soon as possible,” Old Master Gong ordered sternly. “Don’t make my granddaughter-in-law worry!”

“...” Gong Tianhao nodded, “Okay, I understand.”

Chapter 290: Investigation

One day, a white car drove into the Taoyuan Village.

Three young men walked out. They were all dressed in suits and holding briefcases, but they had an arrogant look.

As soon as they got out of the car, they looked around and immediately showed disdain on their faces.

“CEO Li, you must be joking when you say this lousy place can be turned into a tourist spot.”

“That’s right. The name of this place sounds nice, but the place is not. The terrain is remote, and people can’t even find it.”

Li Jianmin glanced at the village with disdain and said, “Let’s go. Let’s look around. It’s best if we find a local villager.”

He had a mission. He was not interested in the scenery of Taoyuan Village. The three of them soon found a villager.

Liu Jian stopped Xiao Chengcai and asked, “Fellow man, we’re from outside. Can you show us the features of your village?”

When the three saw Xiao Chengcai's clothes, their eyes were filled with disgust. He was really poor. Also, why did he look like a ghost? Did he not have food? To be honest, they didn't want Xiao Chengcai to be their guide. They wanted to find someone who was more pleasing to the eye.

However, Xiao Chengcai had that sinister presence about him, and that was what the trio needed.

If this were in the past, the villagers would panic when they saw well-dressed people from the city. However, recently, more people have come from the city. The villagers had gotten used to it.

Xiao Chengcai originally did not want to pay attention to these city people. He still had to go to the fields to work. After finishing his family's work, he had to work for Xiao Zhengyang's family for free. When he thought of this, he became unusually angry. However, there was nothing he could do.

Ever since his house had accidentally burned down, he had been afraid. He feared if he didn't work, he would suffer retribution.

Xiao Chengcai raised his head and noticed the disdain in the trio's eyes. He said, "Go look for someone else." After saying that, he turned around and prepared to leave. He didn't have time to be their tour guide.

At this moment, Li Jianmin opened his mouth and said, "I'll give you 200 RMB to show us around."

Xiao Chengcai's eyes lit up. Then, he thought for a moment and said, "3,000 RMB."

Li Jianmin and the other two were surprised for a moment. Then, they revealed a sarcastic look and said disdainfully, "3,000 RMB? Brother, are you sure you're not dreaming?"

3000 was nothing for them. However, it was a huge amount for these country bumpkins. They were shocked that the man would ask them for so much money.

Xiao Chengcai rubbed his hands nervously and said, "If you give me three thousand, I'll take you to a special place in our Taoyuan Village. I'll also tell you the secret of our village."

"What secret?" Liu Jian asked.

Xiao Chengcai pursed his lips and didn't say anything. He knew that he wouldn't get the money once he said it.

Li Jianmin looked at Xiao Chengcai's tightly shut mouth. He frowned and asked, "You have to let us know what kind of secret it is so that we'll know if it's worth the price."

Xiao Chengcai wasn't stupid. He said, "Since it's a secret, of course, I can't say it casually. Otherwise, I'll offend the entire Taoyuan Village." At this point, he said, "I've changed my mind. I think the secret is worth at least 30,000. So, if you really want that secret, then give me 30,000 RMB."

"What?" The three people were shocked. "You are so greedy. You went from 3000 to 30000. Have you ever seen that much money in your life?"

Xiao Chengcai ignored their taunts and said seriously, "Let me tell you. No one in the entire Taoyuan Village will tell you this secret except me.

"Therefore, I took a big risk by selling this secret to you."

He looked at Li Jianmin, who seemed to be the leader, and continued, "So, if you want the secret, you'll give me 30,000. If not, I'll leave now. After all, I'll be hunted down by the whole village once they know what I did. I'm not risking it for nothing."

Li Jianmin thought for a moment and said, "Okay! But I have to know what your secret is before I can give you the money."

Xiao Chengcai was not stupid. He said, "No, you have to give me the money first." At this point, he thought of something and said, "You're here for the strawberries, right?"

Liu Jian said in surprise, "How do you know?"

Xiao Chengcai said with a sarcastic expression, "Because most of the city people who come to the village are here for the strawberries. Do you want to know why?"

Li Jianmin was a smart man. He immediately understood that Xiao Chengcai's secret was related to the strawberries. However, based on his knowledge, the secret of the strawberries was limited to the farmer's family. How did it involve the whole village?

But then, his mission that day was to find out about the secrets of Taoyuan Village.

Li Jianmin replied, "Okay. I'll give you 30,000 RMB."

If he could buy that secret with 30,000 RMB, it would be worth it.

...

Back in the office of the Chairman of the Global Tourism Development Company in City Z, a middle-aged man in his 50s with a big belly received the report from his subordinate standing in front of him, "Boss, everything has been investigated."

"Speak!" Liao Guohui's shrewd eyes contained a hint of greed and ambition.

Li Jianmin reported, "The scenery of Taoyuan Village is pretty good, but because of the traffic and the narrow and remote terrain, there isn't much value in developing it.

"If we are to develop it, apart from investing and making all kinds of attractive tourism projects, we need to invest in basic amenities. The investments will be huge."

Liao Guohui nodded and said, "Oh, what about the other investigation?"

Li Jianmin nodded and said, "Boss, we've investigated it. Boss, there's actually nothing special about the land in Taoyuan Village. It's not suitable for growing strawberries."

Liao Guohui narrowed his eyes and asked sharply, "Then, how do you explain what's going on? How can they manage to grow strawberries all of a sudden? And the farmer is someone so ordinary."

It was because he was dealing with country people that he would do something like this. He was only doing what most companies would do. After all, there was profit to be gained. On top of that, he had a big company and deep connections.

Li Jianmin said, "There's nothing special about that land, and there's nothing special about Taoyuan Village. What's special is a cow."

"A cow?!" Liao Guohui was obviously shocked. "What do you mean?"

Li Jianmin said, "We were lucky this time. We ran into a villager who had a grudge against the strawberry farmer."

"We gave him 30,000 RMB, and he told us the secret of the Taoyuan Village. I even gave him an extra 10,000 so that he could keep this a secret from other outsiders."

Liao Guohui tapped the table with one hand and patted his thigh with the other. His heart was filled with ecstasy.

He didn't think it would be so easy to obtain the secret of Taoyuan Village. Even God was helping him to procure Taoyuan Village. He said, "Continue."

When Li Jianmin continued, his eyes were filled with fanaticism and greed. "Boss, the person who plants the strawberries is a person called Xiao Lingyu. The reason why she was able to grow strawberries was because she was lucky enough to accidentally get a Little Cattle King."

"Little Cattle King?" Liao Guohui was confused.

"Yes, its manure was used to fertilize the plants. Their crops grow well, and they taste very special. They also help with the growth of the strawberries."

"The vegetables at Taoyuan Village taste much better than the ones sold in the market. They even taste better than the ones sold in our organic vegetable store."

"Taoyuan Village has a top-scorer this year. Many people went there to travel. They came back with the local vegetables. They were sold cheaply."

Speaking up to this point, Li Jianmin couldn't restrain his greed and said excitedly, "Boss, if we buy that cow in the name of tourism development, the cow will be our money-printing machine! The bills will come rolling in!"

The Little Cattle King was a gold maker. They had to get their hands on it!