

**Chapter 71: Spendthrift**

Liu Datou went to various villages due to his job. Everyone in Xing An Town's eighteen villages knew Liu Datou.

Liu Datou had a sound business mind. He would remember every customer he had.

Liu Datou was familiar with Xiao Zhengyang and his wife. The Xiao Family had a few pigs that they would sell to Liu Datou every year.

Xiao Zhengyang smiled when he saw Liu Datou, "Datou, it's already so late. Are you still going around making rounds?"

Liu Datou smiled, "No, I'm delivering goods!"

Father and Mother Xiao were puzzled. "What do you mean?"

Liu Datou laughed and pointed at Xiao Lingyu. "Big Brother, Big Sister, this is your daughter, right? She bought two cattle in town, and she didn't know how to herd them back here. So I offered to help." Liu Datou moved to unbolt the bed of the truck.

Father and Mother Xiao were surprised. "Two cattle?" They already had a plow machine. Why would Yu 'Er buy two cattle? They would ask Yu 'Er this question later.

They walked to the back of the truck. When they saw the calf and the aged cow, their brows furrowed deeper. However, they still helped to herd the cattle down from the truck.

The calf was agile and small. It moved swiftly. The moment the bars opened, it jumped out. Then, it raised its head to look at its mother as if worried for her. The old cow was slower and stiffer in her movements.

Clearly, the cow was about to die. 'Why did Yu 'Er buy her? Was it for slaughter? But if that was the case, the cow should be transported to the slaughterhouse and not brought home.' With everyone's combined effort, the old cow finally moved down from the truck.

Xiao Lingyu smiled at Liu Datou. "Uncle Liu, thank you! This is the transportation fee." Xiao Lingyu took out 80 RMB and handed it to Liu Datou.

Liu Datou looked at Xiao Lingyu and guffawed. "Girl, since you're Brother Xiao's little girl, I won't charge you. The transportation is for free, no charge!" Then something came to him. "Wait, are you our county's top-scorer from a few years ago?"

There were best scorers every year, but most of them came from other towns. In recent years, Xiao Lingyu was the only top scorer to come from Xing An Town.

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "Uncle Liu, that was already several years ago."

Mother Xiao was irked as she studied the two cattle. "Dear, where should we keep them?" The Xiao Family had a pig pen, but they didn't have a cow pen.

Xiao Lingyu, "..."

Liu Datou, "... Why buy cattle when you don't have a cow pen?"

Liu Datou was reminded of what Wang Dashan told him. Originally, the old cow was to be slaughtered. Her calf was restless and bumped into Miss Xiao on the road. Miss Xiao decided to buy the calf and the cow at any price. Wang Dashan was an honest person, so he didn't charge Xiao Lingyu a high price. If anything, he sold them at a price lower than the market price. In other words, this was an impulse purchase for Miss Xiao.

Liu Datou didn't know what to say. Purchasing cattle was a big matter for a farming farmer. Xiao Lingyu bought the cattle without even discussing it with her family... that was wrong of her.

Xiao Zhengyang told about it and said, "I remember fourth brother has a cow pen. I'll go ask." Then, Xiao Zhengyang told Liu Datou, "Datou, you should stay for dinner. Please go into the house first. I'll go to Fourth Brother's place now."

"Okay!" Liu Datou accepted the invitation. It was about dinner time. If he departed now, it would be too late for him when he reached home. Furthermore, he had reasons to stay. Both of Xiao Zhengyang's children were good students. They could enter university easily. The county's top scorer came from this family. This was the perfect opportunity for him to get pointers so he could share them with his two brats back home.

Father Xiao led the two cattle to his fourth brother, Xiao Mingyang's house. Mother Xiao told Liu Datou, "Datou, you better lock your car and come in for dinner! Yu 'Er, you've been traveling for the whole day. You should go wash your hands and then eat. I'll find some feed for the two cattle!"

Xiao Lingyu said, "Okay, Mom." Then, she was reminded of something and told her mother, "Mom, remember to bring them some water too."

"Okay!"

Mother Xiao went to the courtyard. She grabbed the feed for the chickens and pigs and gave them to the cattle.

Xiao Lingyu led Liu Datou to the well. They washed their hands and entered the house together. After a day of adventure, Xiao Lingyu was indeed hungry and thirsty.

Liu Datou was quite speechless when he saw Xiao Lingyu engulf the food. 'Is this girl really our top scorer? She looks more like a hungry ghost.'

However, he still asked curiously, "Girl, do you really have a way to extend the life of that old cow? How come I haven't heard your father mention something like that before?" If Father Xiao could do that, the whole town would know about it already. After all, the price difference between a dying cow and a cow who still had a few years in her was huge.

Xiao Lingyu smiled to herself. 'As if I'm going to tell you that!' She shook her head and said seriously, "Of course not!"

“...” Liu Datou was speechless again. He was confused, “Why did you tell Wang Dashan you can do that then?”

“I lied to him,” Xiao Lingyu confessed.

“Why?”

“I looked at the calf and felt sorry for it, so I bought the old cow on impulse.”

Liu Datou was wordless. ‘This girl is such a spendthrift.’

When Mother and Father Xiao returned and heard how their daughter ended up purchasing the cattle, they were as speechless as Liu Datou. Internally, they were roaring. ‘This is no way to spend money! Whose daughter is this? Someone take her away!’

After Liu Datou left, the family tribunal began.

“You wretched girl, you should have told your father before you make such a big purchase.” Mother Xiao was about to cough blood. “You used 1500 to buy one calf and one old cow. Do you plan to slaughter them or raise them? If you want to raise them, who will look after them? Who has the time? Have you considered these things?”

Cows could live on their own, but there had to be a shepherd. What if they ended up eating another family’s agricultural plant?

Honestly, Xiao Lingyu only thought of this problem now. But since she had bought the cattle, she couldn’t return them. If she did, the cow would be dragged to the slaughterhouse again. Xiao Lingyu had promised Wang Dashan and his son that she’d look after the cattle, so she couldn’t disappoint them. Wang Dashan sold them to Xiao Lingyu for a low price because he heard Xiao Lingyu would take good care of them.

Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment and said, “Mom, you’ve been telling me that Xiaohui is too active. He will be willing to help us herd the cattle if we give him some pocket money.” Xiao Xiaohui didn’t like to study, but he liked to cause trouble. It caused Xiao Lingyu’s fourth uncle and aunt a massive headache.

Mother Xiao, “...” She still thought it was easier to sell the two cattle. They had a plow machine, so they didn’t need the cattle. Furthermore, the cattle were too old and too young to plow the field.

Mother Xiao said, “That might be so, but have you taken a look at that old cow? It’ll probably die soon. Did you buy it to bury it?”

Mother Xiao was furious. Then again, how could she not be? Xiao Lingyu had wasted their money.

Xiao Lingyu tried to reason with her mother. She appealed to her mother’s emotional side. “Mom, these two cattle are not as they seem. How old do you think this calf is? It looked around three months old, but it knows how to beg others to save his mother. Mom, you might not believe me, but the calf was crying to me to save its mother. That was why I bought them. Can I turn a blind eye when such a miracle happened?”

Mother Xiao was actually a soft-hearted person.

When Mother Xiao heard Xiao Lingyu's vivid sorry, she was touched.

## **Chapter 72: Vegetable Vendor**

The calf showed great filial piety, which was already better than most humans. Mother Xiao sighed, "Forget it then. We can keep the calf but the mother..." She didn't know what to say.

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "Mom, believe me. The old cow will not die so soon."

Mother Xiao shook her head helplessly and said, "Fine. Since you've bought them, you can make your own arrangement."

"Thank you, Mom!" Xiao Lingyu thanked her happily.

After chatting with her parents for a while, Xiao Lingyu went back to her room.

Xiao Lingyu didn't know her mother sighed once she entered her room. Mother Xiao turned to her husband. "Dear, don't you think that your daughter has changed a lot?"

Their daughter was obedient and sensible. But now, she had also become more independent and headstrong. Such a girl would not make a good wife. She would butt heads with her future in-laws. Mother Xiao was worried.

However, Father Xiao was not. "Isn't it a good thing for our children to be opinionated? That way, people won't bully them! In any case, we can't live their lives for them. It's getting late. We should go rest too." Father Xiao stood up and returned to his room. Mother Xiao thought about it and followed her husband.

Xiao Lingyu bolted the door once she was in her room. Then, she entered the farming space. She was greeted by a huge surprise. The space never stopped surprising her.

Some of the seeds sown yesterday were already flowering. The growth speed was incredible. A normal eggplant needs at least two months to grow and ripen. However, in this space, it only took two days. Xiao Lingyu studied them and believed the eggplants could be harvested tomorrow.

Normally, a tomato needs four months to mature and bear fruit. But Xiao Lingyu's tomato plants were already flowering.

It was the same with the others.

"I should have a plentiful harvest tomorrow." Xiao Lingyu stroked the branches.

'Wait, harvest?' Xiao Lingyu was shocked that she didn't think of this sooner. 'If I harvest the fruits and vegetables tomorrow, how am I suppose to transport them out? I can't leave them here forever, can I?'

She paced back and forth in the ditch. She thought about selling them, but she had to explain their origins. She couldn't tell people that the produce came from a magical space. Furthermore, where to sell the product was another problem.

Xiao Lingyu scratched her head in frustration. She was certain she couldn't sell them in Xing An Town. There were too many people she knew. She wouldn't be able to explain to them the origins of the plants.

'How about the county town?' Xiao Lingyu's eyes lit up. 'That's right! I can go to the county town. I can go there to rent a warehouse. I'll secretly deposit the harvest there. When asked, I'll just tell them they are products given by a friend!'

But then Xiao Lingyu started to frown again. She had to give Mother Xiao an excuse if she was going to the county town again. If not, Mother Xiao would definitely stop her. She was a university student. Xiao Lingyu doubted her mother would allow her to go to the county town to sell vegetables.

Unless...

Xiao Lingyu could prove to her mother that she was serious about farming. Perhaps she could get her mother to taste her harvest, and Mother Xiao would change her mind. Xiao Lingyu believed that would work. At least she had to try.

Since most of the vegetables could be picked tomorrow, Xiao Lingyu didn't plan to sow too many new seeds. She decided to wait.

Xiao Lingyu looked through her bags of seeds until she found the strawberry seeds. She muttered, "Sow!"

The seeds in her hand disappeared. A few small plots appeared on the previous empty land. They were where the strawberry seeds were planted.

Xiao Lingyu clapped her hands in satisfaction and said, "Done. I can finally go to sleep." She disappeared and reappeared in her room. She stretched lazily and sighed, "Time to sleep!"

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Early the next morning, Xiao Lingyu was woken by banging sounds.

Xiao Lingyu put on her clothes and headed outside. Mother and Father Xiao were building a cow pen. Since Xiao Lingyu planned to raise cattle, they had to have a cow pen.

Xiao Lingyu's fourth uncle had a cow pen, but they couldn't place the cattle with them forever.

Xiao Lingyu greeted her parents. "Good morning, mom and dad!"

Mother Xiao held a pillow for her husband. She looked up at Xiao Lingyu and said, "Why are you up so early? Did we wake you?"

Xiao Lingyu waved her hand and said, "No. I was already awake." Xiao Lingyu went to brush her teeth and prepare breakfast.

After the water in the barrel was diluted, the food still tasted delicious, but it was not preposterously so. Xiao Lingyu thought about it and decided to make seaweed soup and egg pancakes.

After breakfast, she would go to her fourth uncle's place to discuss with him about hiring Xiao Xiaohui to be her cow herder.

Xiao Lingyu found the flour and beat the egg. She looked around and found the leftover giant green onions. She chopped them up and mixed them into the flour. She added water and mixed them again. She put the mixture aside.

She grabbed the pot and washed it clean. Then, it was time to start making pancakes. Xiao Lingyu was used to doing these things, so she moved expertly.

The fragrance was arresting as she cooked. 'The harvest from the space should be more delicious. Perhaps I can sell them for a higher price.'

However, there was something that puzzled Xiao Lingyu. She poured the spring water on the vegetables outside, and they grew so big. However, the vegetables she planted inside the space were only slightly bigger than average, even though they were also directly fed the spring water. It seemed like Xiao Lingyu needed to study the space further.

Xiao Lingyu's actions were swift. She finished the pancakes and started on the soup. When she was done, she carried the soup and pancakes to the living room. She shouted, "Mom, Dad, why don't you rest and have breakfast first?"

Father and Mother Xiao put down their work. In the past, they would have finished their work first before eating. However, their food was incredibly delicious recently. They couldn't wait for mealtimes. The temptation was too strong.

Mother Xiao gasped when she saw the two large plates of egg pancakes. "Why did you make so many pancakes?"

Xiao Lingyu explained, "I'm going to find Xiaohui later and bring the extra pancakes to him." They would work as the perfect bribe. Mother Xiao nodded.

During breakfast, Xiao Lingyu began. "Mom, I might need to go to the county town again today."

Mother Xiao was confused. "Hmm? Haven't you just gone yesterday? Why are you going again?"

Xiao Lingyu explained, "Before I came back from the city, I ran into a friend. He has an agricultural research facility. I noticed his products are of good quality, so I ordered some wholesale from him. I will sell them in the county town. His stock will come tomorrow, so I need to go ahead to rent a warehouse at the county town."

Mother Xiao was baffled. "So you want to be a vegetable vendor?" Mother Xiao asked seriously, "Xiao Lingyu, what is really going through your mind? You are a university graduate. You can find a much better job. Why do you want to be a farmer and a vegetable vendor? People will laugh at you!"

Mother Xiao was worried for her daughter, that other'd criticize her.

Xiao Lingyu said, "Mom, the stock will come from that friend. Haven't you tried his products? Don't you think they will sell well?"

'That friend?' Mother Xiao was confused before it clicked. The friend that gave her daughter the secret formula. The friend at the Department of Agricultural Science had time to farm and sell products wholesale? Mother Xiao found it suspicious.

However, just going off on the product's taste alone, Mother Xiao did have faith that they would sell like hotcakes. The harvest was too delicious.

Mother Xiao sighed. "You're an adult now. I can't control you anymore as long as you promise me, you know what you're doing!"

In other words, she gave the permission.

"Thank you, Mom!" Xiao Lingyu said happily.

### **Chapter 73: Xiao Xiaohui, the Cow Herder**

They finished breakfast around 7.30 am. Xiao Xiaohui should still be at the house. Xiao Xiaohui was 13 years old. When he was seven, Xiao Lingyu's fourth uncle tried to send him to school. Xiaohui was extremely resistant and refused to go. He cried his heart out.

Grandma Xiao pitied the kid. She hugged her third grandson and chided Fourth Uncle, "The child is still young. If he doesn't want to go, then delay it for one year. It won't affect anything." Xiao Xiaohui had his grandmother's support, and he managed to escape school for two years.

"Xiao Xiaohui!" Xiao Lingyu shouted before she entered the courtyard.

Xiao Xiaohui ran out and shouted happily when he saw Xiao Lingyu, "Eldest cousin!" Xiao Xiaohui snatched the plate Xiao Lingyu was holding. He stuffed the pancake into his mouth. "Elas cousin beat me the west." Eldest cousin treats me the best. His words were unclear due to his stuffed mouth.

Xiao Lingyu patted his head and said, "Come on, you need to bring some to your parents. I'll go feed the cows. Also, I have something to discuss with your parents later."

"Okay." Xiao Xiaohui nodded.

Then, he carried a plate of egg pancakes into his house.

Xiao Lingyu moved to her fourth uncle's cow pens. Once the calf saw Xiao Lingyu, he was excited and poked his head out. Xiao Lingyu touched his head and smiled, "You are really intelligent. Come drink this!" Xiao Lingyu looked around, and then spring water flowed into the water bucket.

The calf was immediately attracted by it. He hesitated before running back to his mother. He mooed, and his mother mooed back.

Unable to withstand the calf's mooing, the mother cow shuffled over and lowered her head to drink. The calf spun around his mother happily.

When the mother cow was done, the calf stuck his head into the bucket to drink the water.

Xiao Lingyu was impressed and charmed by the intelligent calf. She touched his head, "You'll have to stay at Fourth Uncle's place for another two days. When mom and dad finish our cow pen, I'll fetch you home." The calf mooed as if agreeing.

Xiao Lingyu turned to her fourth uncle's house. When she saw her fourth uncle's family of three fight over the pancakes, she was quite speechless. 'Are the pancakes that delicious that they made fourth uncle and fourth aunt fight over it with their kid?'

Xiao Lingyu had no idea this was the best food her fourth uncle's family ever had.

So naturally, they couldn't have Xiao Xiaohui eat everything. Liu Chunhua grabbed a piece of pancake and asked Xiao Lingyu, "Lingyu, your pancakes are delicious. I've never eaten something so delicious. When Xiaohui told me about it yesterday, I couldn't believe it. But now I know it's true." She took another big bite and chewed. "Who made them?"

Xiao Lingyu said, "I did!"

As soon as Xiao Lingyu said that, Xiao Xiaohui looked up. "No wonder it's not as delicious as yesterday! Eldest cousin's cooking is not as good as second aunt."

Xiao Lingyu, "...". She was offended, but she had to admit the pancakes were more delicious yesterday. Yesterday's pancakes had more spring water. Today, she only used a bit.

"You brat, what are you talking about?" Xiao Mingyang smacked Xiao Xiaohui on the back of his head. "You should be thankful!"

"But I'm only telling the truth!" Xiao Xiaohui grumbled at his father.

"Then, you shouldn't eat them. Your dad will finish everything." Xiao Mingyang then snatched the pancakes from his son.

Xiao Lingyu, "...".

"No, I'm not full yet." Xiao Xiaohui protested. "Furthermore, I plan to bring them to school. I'll eat them during breaks."

Xiao Xiaohui was in his puberty. Even if he had a full breakfast, his stomach would be grumbling when it came noon.

Xiao Xiaohui held his pancakes tightly as if afraid that his father would really steal from him. He took another big bite and said, "Dad, I'm a child. You can't steal stuff from me!"

Xiao Mingyang burst out laughing.

Then, he thought of something and turned to Xiao Lingyu, "Lingyu, Xiaohui said you have something to discuss with us. What is it?"

Xiao Lingyu said, "Fourth uncle, I have bought two cattle. I want Xiao Hui to herd them for me. I'll pay Xiaohui 2 RMB per day. Xiaohui, will you do it?"

"Of course!" When he heard he'd be paid, Xiao Xiaohui volunteered immediately. After all, he had nothing to do in the afternoon after returning from school. He could help his cousin and earn money. Why not?

Liu Chunhua said, "Lingyu, you don't need to pay Xiaohui. He's free in the afternoon anyway. He goes around causing trouble. He'll help you for free!"

"No! I'm getting paid!" Xiao Xiaohui complained loudly, "If you don't pay me... I... I will not help!"

Although, to be honest, Xiao Xiaohui would help either way. At Taoyuan Village, he admired his eldest cousin the most. She went to a good university and worked in a big city.



He would do anything his first cousin asked him to. But of course, if he were paid, it would be better. He had so many things he wanted to buy, but now he could only stare at them.

Liu Chunhua's face darkened. She pinched her son's ear. "You brat, you're only going to herd some cattle, and you dare to demand money? You went over to your second aunt's place to get food and drinks all the time. Do you pay for them?"

Xiao Xiaohui was ashamed, and he pouted, "Fine, then don't pay me." His mother let go of his ears.

Xiao Lingyu had to chuckle, looking at Xiao Xiaohui's puffy cheeks. She shook his head. "Fourth Uncle, Fourth Aunt, I need Xiaohui to herd the cows for me for a long time. It's not for a day or not. I feel bad having Xiaohui do it for free. I'm sure he's not going to feel satisfied working for free either. Right, Xiaohui?"

Xiao Mingyang said sternly, "He wouldn't dare!" He thought about it and said, "How about this, Lingyu? If you want to pay him, don't give him too much money. Give him 50 cents per day. That is enough for him to buy candy."

Xiao Lingyu was speechless. She was sure Xiao Xiaohui wanted to buy stuff more expensive than candies.

For Xiao Xiaohui, the amount of money didn't really matter as long as he had money. Fifty cents was still money. He could save up and buy the things he wanted. He definitely wouldn't buy candies. They would only stick to his teeth.

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "50 cents is too little. How about I give him 1 RMB? Xiaohui, I'll pay you every ten days, is that okay?"

"Yes!" Xiao Xiaohui immediately nodded. 1 RMB a day, 10 RMB in ten days. He could buy a big toy with 10 RMB already.

His parents sighed and didn't say anything else.

Xiao Lingyu looked at the time and told her fourth uncle and aunt. "Fourth Uncle and Aunt, I'm going to the county town. Do you need me to buy anything for you?"

"It's alright. Thank you!" Her aunt and uncle shook their heads.

Xiao Xiaohui's eyes lit up, and he said, "Eldest cousin, can you buy me a Transformer toy? You can deduct the money from my future salary!"

Xiao Lingyu, "... " Where did the boy learn something like that?

Xiao Mingyang and Liu Chunhua, "... " They wanted to cover their faces. Their son was not good at studying, but he was very shrewd about everything else.

Xiao Lingyu nodded. "Okay!"

Xiao Xiaohui immediately jumped up in joy. "Thank you, eldest cousin!"

Xiao Mingyang smacked his son's head and said, "So you have to work hard herding the cows for your eldest cousin in the future, understand?"

Xiao Xiaohui patted his head and said, "Dad, I know..."

Xiao Lingyu said goodbye to her fourth uncle's family.

Xiao Xiaohui went to the school in the opposite village, and Xiao Lingyu took the bus to town.

She didn't stop at Xing An Town and took another bus to Xing Yin County City.

When she arrived, Xiao Lingyu walked towards the wholesale market.

#### **Chapter 74: Looking for a House**

There were many warehouses for rent around the wholesale market. However, Xiao Lingyu wanted to find a quiet, remote, and inconspicuous warehouse. That meant it had to be far from the wholesale market.

However, Xiao Lingyu still visited the market because the warehouse owners would put up their rental notices there. Xiao Lingyu walked around the market and paid attention to the notices. She jotted down the phone numbers and addresses.

She searched for half a day and realized none of them was suitable. They were either too small or too expensive. They charged hundreds per day. Some of them were too far away, it was secluded but overly so. Some suited Xiao Lingyu's requirement, but the warehouse was also rented out to workers.

Xiao Lingyu was tired. She sat down in a small park. As she took out a bottle of mineral water, she heard someone say, "Old man, let's rent the house." An old lady told an old man, "We've lived here for half our lives already. I don't feel good selling it. If we rent it, at least the place will still be ours."

The old man concurred, "That's what I think too." However, he had his doubts. "But our place is so remote. I doubt it'll be easy to rent out. Plus, renting it comes with its own problem. What if we get a bad tenant? They'll only ruin our house."

The pair of elders were in their eighties. They looked very kind. Xiao Lingyu had an idea. She stood up and walked over to them. She smiled, "Granny, Grandpa, I couldn't help but overhear you. Do you intend to rent a house? Can I take a look?"

The two elders were shocked by the girl's appearance. They were stunned.

The old lady responded with a smile when she saw how dignified the girl was. "Miss, are you looking to rent a house?"

"Yes!" Xiao Lingyu nodded. "I've been searching for a long time and can't find a suitable one. I was resting over there when I overheard you. So I came over to ask. Is it okay, Granny and Grandpa?"

The two elders shared a look. The old man narrowed his eyes and asked cautiously, "Miss, why do you need the house for?"

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "Grandpa, to tell you the truth, I plan to start a small business in the county town, so I need a place to stay."

The old man nodded. "Miss, my house is rather remote, and traffic is not convenient. Plus, there are no neighbors. Do you mind that? Will you live alone?"

Xiao Lingyu's eyes lit up. 'This is perfect. The house sounds wonderful. I'll need to go and see if the location is suitable or not.' Xiao Lingyu smiled, "My family will probably move in to live with me in the future!"

The grandfather thought about it and said, "Okay, we'll bring you to take a look!" The elder had a good eye. He could tell that the girl was not a liar.

"Thank you, Grandpa and Granny!" Xiao Lingyu said.

The old lady was very happy. "Girl, you are so polite! You don't need to thank us yet. You haven't even seen the house."

Soon, the two elders led Xiao Lingyu to the county town's Sunshine District. They entered a small alley, turned a corner, and arrived at a house with a red iron gate. Before even she got in, Xiao Lingyu was already very satisfied with this place. The place was secluded, and there was little foot traffic. The iron gate provided an extra layer of privacy.

The old lady took out her key. The iron gate creaked open. The house was a two-story building with white walls and red tiles. In the courtyard, there were large trees on both sides and some fallen leaves on the ground. However, the overall appearance was clean and tidy.

The old lady led Xiao Lingyu on tour inside the house. "Miss, this is the kitchen, this is the woodshed, this is the bedroom, and this is the warehouse. Do you think it's okay?"

Xiao Lingyu gave a bright smile. "Granny, this place is perfect. How much are you renting it for?"

The old lady reminded her. "Miss, you must have noticed it when you came in. You have to go through many small alleyways. They are very narrow. Cars can't go through. However, you are going to do business. You have to consider that factor."

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "Granny, I can't afford a car yet. Even if I buy one, it'll be a tricycle. The alley is definitely large enough for a tricycle to pass through."

The old lady nodded. She thought for a moment and asked, "Miss, if you don't mind me asking, what kind of business do you plan to do?"

"Oh, I plan to sell some vegetables." Xiao Lingyu didn't hide anything. "Granny, Grandma, my vegetables are very delicious. I'll give you some to try another day!"

The elders were surprised that the girl was going to be a vegetable vendor. A market vendor had to get up early and go home late. Furthermore, one had to bear the bone-chilling frost during winter. It was not an easy job. The two elders had a better impression of Xiao Lingyu. Not many young people would choose to be a vendor. Those who did were willing to work hard.

The old lady held Xiao Lingyu's hands and said, "You're such a hardworking child!" She noticed Xiao Lingyu's delicate skin. She was surprised that Xiao Lingyu would think about being a vendor.

The old lady had no idea that Xiao Lingyu's skin wasn't always so fair. She was a farmer's daughter. The suppleness of her skin was thanks to the magical spring water.

Xiao Lingyu had a good impression of the kind old lady too. She said with a sad smile, "Granny, one has to be hardworking to survive in this world." Xiao Lingyu glanced around the house and asked, "Granny, Grandpa, how much do you charge for monthly rent?"

The old lady liked Xiao Lingyu very much. Without thinking, she said, "300 RMB a month!" The elders were not short on money, and it was hard to find a good renter.

Xiao Lingyu was surprised. She had been looking at warehouses so she had a certain understanding of rental prices.

The house was remotely located, but the environment was good. Both the house and the yard were huge. It could easily rent for 600 RMB.

Xiao Lingyu hesitated. The old lady thought Xiao Lingyu believed the rental was too expensive. She was about to lower the price further when Xiao Lingyu said, "Granny, that is too cheap. I've been checking out other houses. A place of this size definitely costs more than that to rent."

The elders were surprised before looking at each other and smiling. The girl was very honest. Others always complained about high prices, and this was the first time they encountered someone who complained because the rent was too cheap.

The old lady smiled kindly, "Girl, you are just a gem. Others will only complain about how expensive the rent is. You're the first to do the opposite."

"But, granny, the rent is indeed too cheap." Xiao Lingyu said. The two elders treated her well, so she couldn't take advantage of them. Xiao Lingyu offered, "Granny, I'll rent this place for 500 a month. I'll pay for half a year first, is that okay?"

Xiao Lingyu was very satisfied with this place, and she wanted to settle down as soon as possible. The harvest was ready for her tonight. She had to ship them out and sell them tomorrow. Xiao Lingyu could tell that the elders didn't live here. So once she rented the place, she could start using it immediately.

The elders didn't expect Xiao Lingyu to be so honest. They liked her more and more.

The old lady thought about it and patted Xiao Lingyu's hands. She chuckled, "Girl, I know you don't want to take advantage of us. To tell you the truth, we don't lack the rent. This house has been empty for almost half a year before you arrive. We'll settle for 350 RMB per month. If you think that's too low, you can give us your leftovers vegetables to make up for it."

It was easy dealing with honest people.

Xiao Lingyu thanked the elders profusely and accepted.

## **Chapter 75: Foodies**

Xiao Lingyu had confidence that her harvest would sell well.

Xiao Lingyu smiled. "Granny, you've given me such a great deal. How can I give you leftovers? Granny, if you need any vegetables and fruits, feel free to come to me."

“Okay!” The old lady grinned. The two elders had no idea Xiao Lingyu had magical vegetables and fruits. If Xiao Lingyu didn’t promise to reserve her stock for them, they would never get to taste Xiao Lingyu’s harvest. Of course, that was something for the future.

After Xiao Lingyu gave them half a year of rent, she pondered and went to buy a tricycle that could move through the small alleys. She spent almost all the money she brought. Xiao Lingyu didn’t ride the tricycle home. She kept it at the rental home.

After that, Xiao Lingyu went to a toy store to buy a transformer for Xiao Xiaohui and took the bus home. She didn’t delay in case she missed the last bus. She spent quite a long time looking for a warehouse and buying the tricycle.

When she reached Taoyuan Village, it was already dark.

Her parents were worried. Mother Xiao said, “I should have accompanied Yu ‘Er to the county town. It’s already so dark, why isn’t she home yet? Do you think something might have happened to her?”

Father Xiao comforted. “Don’t worry. Yu ‘Er has never made us worry, other than the issue with the Chen Family kid. She probably got delayed on the road.”

Once Xiao Lingyu got down from the bus, Xiao Xiaohui pounced on her. He reported to Xiao Lingyu, “Eldest cousin, I went to herd the cows today.” His eyes moved all over Xiao Lingyu until they settled on the bag Xiao Lingyu was holding. He jumped up in joy. “Eldest cousin, is that for me?”

Xiao Lingyu tapped the kid’s forehead and laughed, “You only care about your toy and nothing else.”

Xiao Xiaohui rubbed his forehead and laughed. “It’s because transformers are fun. One of my classmates has it. And everyone is envious.” He stared at the item with burning eyes.

Xiao Lingyu handed the toy to Xiao Xiaohui. “Okay, here you go!”

“Thank you, eldest cousin!” Xiao Xiaohui cheered. The pair of cousins walked home.

Xiao Xiaohui followed Xiao Lingyu to his second aunt’s place. Xiao Xiaohui held his transformers high and said happily, “Second aunt, second uncle, eldest cousin bought me a transformer!”

Mother and Father Xiao smiled. “That’s wonderful. Xiaohui, you have to take good care of the toy, okay?”

“Of course!” Xiao Xiaohui nodded. “I will treasure it.”

Mother and Father Xiao turned to Xiao Lingyu with concern. “Girl, why did you come back so late? Did something happen?”

Xiao Lingyu shook her head. “Nothing happened. I spent some time looking for a house. Then I bought a tricycle to start my vending business!”

Mother Xiao was surprised. She asked, “Yu ‘Er, you really plan to farm and sell vegetables and fruits?”

Xiao Lingyu nodded. Mother Xiao fell silent. Father Xiao was also silent before saying, “Come, let’s eat first.”

Xiao Xiaohui gasped like he had heard some big secret. "Eldest cousin, you're going to stay to farm and sell vegetables and fruits? You're not going back to the big city?" In Xiao Xiaohui's mind, his eldest cousin always worked in the big city. She would only come back during the new year. She always brought him gifts. They were expensive and rare. They were not available even in the county town.

Xiao Xiaohui's parents always told him to work hard so that he could work in the big city like his eldest cousin. Then, he could buy all the toys he wanted. However, that same eldest cousin was moving back to the village to farm. It confused him.

Xiao Lingyu said, "Yes, I'm staying. I'm not going back to the big city."

"Oh!" Xiao Xiaohui nodded. He asked in puzzlement, "But eldest cousin, why don't you want to go back to the city?"

"I'm tired and I miss home." Xiao Lingyu said with a smile. "I realize home is the best place to be!"

Xiao Xiaohui nodded in confusion. Then he wrinkled his nose, and his eyes sparkled. He exclaimed, "What smells so good?!"

He turned his head and saw the dishes on the table. There was a large plate of cabbage, a plate of fried eggs with chives, a big bowl of braised pork feet with soybeans, and a plate of shredded celery.

Mother Xiao had prepared more than enough for three people.

The kid jumped on the chair and lay on the table, drooling. "Everything looks so delicious." He looked at Mother Xiao and claimed openly, "Second aunt, I want to stay for dinner!"

Mother Xiao laughed seeing the saliva slip down Xiao Xiaohui's lips. "Okay, I'll go get you a bowl!"

"Thank you, second aunt!" Xiao Xiaohui said.

"You brat, I knew you'd be here!" Suddenly, Liu Chunhua's voice came from outside. "What are you sitting at other people's dining table? Haven't you already had dinner? Why are you here again?" Then, she rushed into the house to give Xiao Xiaohui a quick smack on the head. "You rascal!"

Xiao Xiaohui rubbed his head and protested, "Mom, stop hitting my head or I'll be stupid." Xiao Xiaohui noticed that everyone liked to hit his head, including his eldest cousin.

"You're already not that clever. How else can you be so bad at studying?" His mother knocked his head again.

"I inherited my brain from you. Mom, I heard that you and dad didn't like to study when you were young either." Xiao Xiaohui rubbed his head indignantly.

At this moment, Mother Xiao appeared with bowls and chopsticks. "Chunhua, have you eaten? Come join us!"

Liu Chunhua said, "Sister-in-law, I've already eaten. We can't impose."

Xiao Xiaohui added, "But mom, the food at second aunt's place is so delicious!"

Liu Chunhua took a sniff and she swallowed her saliva. 'It does smell good! Second Sister has always been a good cook but not to this level. Has her skill improved recently?'

Even though Liu Chunhua had already eaten, when she smelled the fragrance, she could hear her stomach grumble.

Liu Chunhua's hands unconsciously went to her stomach. She wanted to refuse but her stomach growled. In the end, she took the bowls and chopsticks from Mother Xiao. She said with an embarrassed smile, "Second sister-in-law, your food smells so good that even those who have eaten will gain an appetite."

Mother Xiao smiled, "Join us then. I've made a lot. It's enough for all of us."

"Alright then!" Liu Chunhua started to eat. Those who didn't know might find Liu Chunhua and her family rude. However, the reality was the two families were very close. The brothers and even the sisters-in-law were good to each other. Liu Chunhua was a straightforward person. In Taoyuan Village, Liu Chunhua was closest to Mother Xiao.

The atmosphere during dinner was lively. There were five fighters in the food war.

"These dishes are delicious! Second sister-in-law, you're such a good cook!" Liu Chunhua praised between bites.

"Mom, you stole my food." Xiao Xiaohui grabbed a piece of the beef tendon but it was snatched away by his mother.

His mother countered, "I'm your mother, you rascal. Never mind, I'll find another one." The pair of mother and son loved beef tendons. Liu Chunhua surrendered the piece to her son.

Xiao Xiaohui reached for more before his mother swiped the rest.

Xiao Lingyu's fourth uncle watched the television alone at home. He waited but his wife and son didn't come home. He felt lonely. After some thought, he turned off the television and went to his second brother's house.

When he arrived, he was rendered speechless by what he saw.

### **Chapter 76: Snatching Food**

His wife and son, who already had dinner, were snatching food at his second brother's home. It was so embarrassing.

Xiao Mingyang entered the house and scolded, "What's wrong with the two of you? Haven't we already had dinner? Why are you stealing food from second brother's family?"

Liu Chunhua didn't stop eating. She glared at her husband. "That's because you have no idea how good of a cook second sister-in-law is." Xiao Xiaohui also lifted his head to add, "Dad, the food here is really delicious. It's better than the egg pancakes this morning!"

Xiao Mingyang was immediately reminded of the delicious pancakes. He saw the dishes on the table, and he was tempted. "Is the food really that delicious?"

“Yes!” His wife and son responded with a fierce nod.

Xiao Mingyang surrendered to the temptation. He snatched the chopsticks from Xiao Xiaohui and grabbed the two pieces of meat on the plate. He put them into his mouth. The taste was indeed incomparably delicious.

Xiao Xiaohui glared at his father and complained, “Dad, you stole my chopsticks!”

Xiao Mingyang ignored his son. To his surprise, the vegetables tasted better than meat. His chopsticks moved quickly, and the vegetables disappeared into his mouth. Xiao Xiaohui knew he had to deploy an emergency tactic. He stretched to grab the plate of celery. He shielded it with his arms.

Seeing this, Xiao Mingyang was embarrassed. He scolded his son, “What are you doing? You’re acting like a barbarian. Put the plate back down!”

“I won’t!” Xiao Xiaohui didn’t back down. “If I do, you will steal it from me.”

Xiao Mingyang grabbed the last piece of cabbage, and his wife grabbed the last soybean. Then the couple turned to Xiao Xiaohui, who hid the last plate of celery. “Xiao Xiaohui, put the plate down!”

Liu Chunhua went for Xiao Xiaohui’s arm. Xiao Mingyang joined in. Xiao Xiaohui was attacked from both sides. He quickly lowered his head and sucked all the celery into his mouth. He was just a child, so he couldn’t win his parents. However, when they pried the plate loose, the celery was already in Xiao Xiaohui’s mouth. He munched and said, “It’s all gone!”

Xiao Mingyang and his wife sighed. They looked at the empty plates and put down their chopsticks. Xiao Mingyang had to admit the dishes were delicious. He turned to Mother Xiao, “Second sister-in-law, your cooking skill is amazing. You have to teach Chunhua.” Or his family might come to their house every day to scrounge for food. His second sister-in-law’s cooking was simply irresistible.

Mother Xiao smiled. “My cooking skill hasn’t changed. I’ve merely used better ingredients.” However, Mother Xiao was puzzled.

The vegetables tasted good because they were part of the big vegetable harvest. Yu ‘Er said she had used special fertilizer on them. The fertilizer helped remove impurities and enhance the taste.

However, why did the meat also taste better than before?

The answer was in the water barrel. Mother Xiao cooked with normal water mixed with spring water, so the dishes were more fragrant. Mother Xiao said, “If you want, you can come over to eat any time.”

Xiao Zhengming and his wife smiled and said, “Second Sister-in-law, how can we impose like that?”

“What are you saying? We’re brothers! You’re not imposing!” Father Xiao laughed.

“That’s right. We’re family.” Mother Xiao concurred.

“Second brother and sister, then I shall thank you in advance.” Xiao Mingyang said. It was too hard to refuse good food.

Then, Xiao Mingyang turned to Xiao Lingyu. He asked, “Yu ‘Er, what did you do in the county town today? Why did you come back so late?”



Xiao Lingyu admitted, "Fourth Uncle, I went to the county town city to look for a warehouse and buy a tricycle!"

Xiao Mingyang was confused, "Why do you need those things?"

Xiao Lingyu explained, "Fourth Uncle, I plan to be a vegetable vendor."

"A vegetable vendor?" Xiao Mingyang and his wife were shocked. "Yu 'Er, you're not going back to the city?"

"No!" Xiao Lingyu shook her head. There was no point for her to return. She knew she was pregnant. It would be hard to find a job with a big belly. Plus, the city was not as peaceful as Taoyuan Village. Furthermore, she had to make use of the farming space.

Xiao Mingyang looked at his second brother and sister-in-law. He wanted to persuade Xiao Lingyu, but he swallowed his words. Xiao Lingyu must have thought this through before coming to this decision. His second brother and sister would have approved as well. So there was no point in him saying anything.

Therefore, Xiao Mingyang instead offered, "Yu 'Er, if we can help you, don't hesitate to ask!"

"Okay!" Xiao Lingyu nodded.

...

That night, Xiao Lingyu was about to enter the space when there was a knock on her door. Xiao Lingyu opened the door and saw her mother standing outside. "Mom!"

Mother Xiao walked in and asked, "Yu 'Er, you said your friend will send the vegetables over tomorrow?"

Xiao Lingyu nodded, "Yes!"

"Then I'll go to the county town with you tomorrow." Mother Xiao's tone didn't allow for a refusal. Mother Xiao was worried about her daughter. It was one thing to go on a stroll in the county town. It was completely different to sell stuff there. She was worried about Xiao Lingyu going alone.

Xiao Lingyu had no choice but to nod. "Okay!"

"Then, you better go to bed now. You need to wake up early. Vegetables sell better in the morning. People will want the freshest vegetables!" Mother Xiao advised.

"Understood."

After she confirmed Mother Xiao had left and wouldn't return, Xiao Lingyu bolted the door and leaned against it. Soon she disappeared.

Once she arrived, her eyes brightened at the ripe fruits and vegetables. Her guess was correct. She would have a huge harvest that night.

She had planted spinach, eggplant, tomato, chili, and cabbage

The spinach was jade green, the eggplant bright purple, the tomato ruby red, the cabbage tender and white. The chili was the local long chili, they were green and cute.

Xiao Lingyu walked over and picked a tomato. She took a bite. In an instant, the fragrance filled up her every cell. The tomato was sweet and refreshing. She gasped, "This tomato is too delicious."

She ate a few more tomatoes until she burped.

"I should sell them per unit, or people might fight over them. The vegetables and fruits are of the same size. There's no difference to the naked eye. Moreover, I don't need to worry about sales since they taste so good."

With a thought, all the vegetables and fruits were harvested. They piled on the ground.

Xiao Lingyu bent down and counted. There were 186 tomatoes, 133 eggplants, and 35 cabbages. There were quite a lot of spinach and chilies, so she could sell by the catty.

Xiao Lingyu stood up and chanted, "Exit!" Xiao Lingyu reappeared in her room, so did the harvest.

"Enter!" The vegetables and fruits disappeared.

Xiao Lingyu lay in bed and thought about how to secretly produce this stuff without her mother finding out the next day.

Soon, Xiao Lingyu was shaken awake by Mother Xiao.

Xiao Lingyu rubbed her eyes, picked up her phone, and looked at the time. It was still four o'clock.

She replied lazily, "Mom, do we need to get up so early? It's only four."

"What do you mean early? A vegetable vendor has to wake up at 2 or 3 am to transport the fresh vegetables. It's already 4.30 am. After some washing up, it'll be 5 am. By the time we reach the county town, it'll be at least 6 or 7. Our stall will probably be set up around 8 or 9 am. By then, most of the market-goers would have finished their purchase. Who would buy from us then?" Mother Xiao rambled on.

When Xiao Lingyu needed university tuition, Mother Xiao tried to sell vegetables. However, Taoyuan Village was very remote. Even a trip to sell vegetables at the county town was quite taxing.

## **Chapter 77: Selling Vegetables**

Mother Xiao planted a Mu of vegetables. When they ripened, she harvested them. However, in the countryside, nothing was commoner than vegetables.

In fact, many villagers grew vegetables at home. They would sell the extra. Mother Xiao grew many vegetables, and she didn't have any business channels. She had to bring them to Xing An town to set up the stall herself.

Rarely, Mother Xiao would be lucky, but most of the time, she wouldn't finish selling her crops. Mother Xiao thus considered selling them at the county town. However, the journey was far. Mother Xiao could get up early, but how was she going to transport her crops to the county town?

The public bus between Taoyuan Village and Xing Yin County Town was only available on fair days. Normally, a villager had to rent a tricycle if there was an emergency. However, the rental was expensive, and it was not worth it.

Therefore, Mother Xiao had to settle for fair days. She took the early bus at 5.30 am, but even so, it was already quite late when she arrived at the county town. Most people had already finished their shopping.

Thankfully, Mother Xiao's crops were fresh and beautiful. Sometimes, a restaurant would purchase all of her crops. After taking off the bus fee, Mother Xiao would only earn a little. Over the year, Mother Xiao realized it was simpler to grow paddy. Therefore, Mother Xiao stopped growing vegetables.

But now, her good daughter decided to continue where she left off. Xiao Lingyu even went so far as to rent a warehouse and buy a tricycle.

Mother Xiao thought to herself, 'I need to drive the tricycle back later. Next time, we wouldn't need to take the bus, and we can ride the tricycle to cover the journey.'

"Xiao Lingyu, wake up already!" Mother Xiao raised her voice.

"Mom, I'm coming!" Xiao Lingyu said a little sullenly. The weather was too good, so it was hard to leave the bed. However, since this was her first time selling the vegetables grown inside the farming space, she knew she couldn't slack off.

Xiao Lingyu quickly got up, put on her clothes, folded the quilt, brushed her teeth, and washed her face. She looked for small changes. As Mother Xiao said, they had a long day ahead.

Meanwhile, Mother Xiao was in the kitchen making egg pancakes. They were easier to carry on the road. The pancakes were wrapped in a clean plastic bag and then a towel to help keep them warm.

Mother Xiao carried the black bag she usually took with her to the county town. Xiao Lingyu and Mother Xiao were ready. The two of them departed.

Father Xiao came out to say, "Take care of yourselves on the way!"

"Got it, Dad!"

"Got it, Dear!"

The mother and daughter said in unison.

Father Xiao wanted to go with them, but several families rented his service, and he couldn't leave. The mother and daughter moved to Xiao Mingyang's house. There was a brand-new motorcycle idling at the door. Xiao Mingyang was sitting at the door waiting for them.

This was not a fair day, so there was no bus. They had to get Xiao Mingyang to drive them to the county town.

"Fourth Uncle, you're so early!" Xiao Lingyu greeted with a smile.

However, Xiao Mingyang said very seriously, "Yu 'Er, you need to be early for this job. Are you sure you can handle it?"

Xiao Lingyu chuckled, "Fourth Uncle, I've suffered through a lot since I was a child. This bit of hardship is nothing."

Xiao Mingyang laughed. "That's true. I remember you waking earlier when you were studying." Xiao Mingyang climbed onto the bike. "Come, get on!"

After they were all ready, the bike left with a whoosh. Xiao Mingyang dropped them at Xing An Town and went home. Xiao Lingyu and her mother still needed to take the bus to the county town.

When Xiao Lingyu led her mother down the confusing alleyways, Mother Xiao frowned and asked, "Where is the warehouse, Yu 'Er? We've been walking for long, and I haven't even seen it yet." Mother Xiao looked around. "It's getting more and more remote. It's not safe."

Xiao Lingyu said, "Mom, we're almost there."

Xiao Lingyu turned into another alley and stopped before the iron gate. Mother Xiao looked beyond the gate and saw a two-story building. She asked, "Yu 'Er, this is it?"

"Yes."

"This place is too big. Did you rent this place alone or with other vendors?" Based on the housing price in the county town, the rent for such a place would at least be seven to eight hundred RMB.

They hadn't had profit from sales, but they were already bleeding money. Mother Xiao felt sad for the wastage, but she felt sadder for her daughter, who had to suffer so much.

When Mother Xiao followed Xiao Lingyu into the house, she immediately studied the place. The house was clean and comfortable.

Xiao Lingyu explained, "Mom, this place is not bad, right? I rented it alone, and the rent is 350 per month. It's not expensive at all. The two elders who rented it to me are also very kind."

Mother Xiao couldn't believe it. "The rental is so cheap?"

"Yes." Xiao Lingyu said, "Mom, you, dad, and brother can come to stay here in the future."

"Didn't you say your friend would deliver the crops? Where are they?" Mother Xiao turned her focus to the goal that day. She was worried they could not make any profit selling vegetables. As she said, it was almost 9 am. If they didn't start selling soon, the market would close.

Xiao Lingyu walked to the warehouse door. She took out her key and pushed the door open slightly. She slid her hand in and chanted, "Exit!"

She pushed the door open further, and a pile of vegetables was sitting neatly on the tricycle. Mother Xiao was surprised by the fresh vegetables.

She walked forward to check them. "Yu 'Er, these are the vegetables your friend grew with the special fertilizer?"

"Yes!" Xiao Lingyu picked up a tomato from the pile and handed it to Mother Xiao, "Try one." Mother Xiao took a bite. Her eyes glowed with shock. "This... is amazing!" It was tangy and sweet. It was delicious even when eaten raw!

Xiao Lingyu said, "Mom, I'll plan to sell the tomatoes, cabbages, and eggplants 2 RMB each. What do you think?"

Mother Xiao choked on the tomato. She was incredulous. "Yu 'Er, 2 RMB each? That's too expensive!" The market sold 2 to 3 RMB per catty. This was double the price.

"Mom, don't you think the tomato is worth the price?" Xiao Lingyu argued, "They are much more delicious than other more expensive fruits."

Mother Xiao hesitated. "Alright, no harm in giving it a try!"

Xiao Lingyu went to pick up some vegetables.

"Yu 'Er, what are you doing?" Mother Xiao was confused.

Xiao Lingyu explained, "Yesterday, I promised the landlady I'd reserve some vegetables for her. Also, we should keep some for Fourth Uncle's family too."

"But why are you picking them now? We'll give them the leftovers." Mother Xiao said. "You can pick some for the landlady, and that's enough."

Such was the way of the countryside. The leftovers that couldn't sell would be given away or eaten by the sellers.

Xiao Lingyu said helplessly, "Mom, what if we're sold out? We need to reserve some for our own family. We should drop some off for little brother too."

Mother Xiao, "..."

When Xiao Lingyu was choosing the vegetables, an old lady's voice came from outside, "Little Xiao, are you here?"

Xiao Lingyu immediately replied, "Granny, I'm here!"

Mother Xiao saw a kind old lady in a dark floral dress walk in with a vegetable basket.

### **Chapter 78: First Little Guest**

Mother Xiao guessed that this was the landlady. She smiled and greeted her, "You must be the landlady. Hello, I'm Xiao Lingyu, this girl's mother. Thank you for taking care of Yu 'Er."

The old lady smiled and said, "Mother Xiao, you can call me Auntie Song. I like your daughter very much."

Mother Xiao smiled, "Okay, Auntie Song."

Grandma Song said, "Yesterday, the girl said she would come to sell vegetables, so I was waiting for her."

Mother Xiao took her basket and smiled, "Auntie Song, you didn't need to come here in person. We can send it to your house."

Grandma Song waved her hands. "That's not necessary. At my age, I need to walk around more."

Xiao Lingyu held out a tomato. "Granny, come and have a taste."

Grandma Song was impressed by the tomato. It was red and translucent. It was cute and beautiful. She took the tomato and smiled, "Such a well-grown tomato." Then, she took a bite. Her old eyes immediately shone with surprise. She chewed and exclaimed, "Girl, your tomato is so delicious."

By then, Mother Xiao had filled up Grandma Song's basket. It was filled to the brim. "Auntie Song, are these enough?"

Seeing the many different vegetables in her basket, Grandma Song gasped in surprise, "They all look so fresh." Then, she paused to ask, "How much are they?"

Mother Xiao said, "Auntie Song, you took care of my Yu 'Er. How can I take your money? They are free!"

Grandma Song still said, "But this is too much. My family can't finish them. You should take some out." She did it herself but was stopped by Xiao Lingyu. She said, "Granny, you can store them in the fridge if you can finish them. I will not be coming back until two days later." Today, she was merely exploring the market. She still had some seeds, but Xiao Lingyu didn't plan to sell everything in one go.

Noting Grandma Song's hesitance, Xiao Lingyu said, "Granny, my vegetables are very delicious. If you don't take these home, you might not get them tomorrow."

Grandma Song stopped declining Xiao Lingyu's good intention. Grandma Song didn't want to delay Xiao Lingyu and Mother Xiao anymore. She carried her basket and left happily. Grandma Song was quite embarrassed. Xiao Lingyu hadn't even opened for business, but Grandma Song had already taken a few things for free. However, the girl refused to take her money.

Xiao Lingyu locked the gate and pushed the tricycle to the market with her mother. As they crossed the alley and were about to go up a slope, a five-year-old boy walked by them. His mother was holding his hand. He saw the red tomatoes and his eyes lit up. He stopped and told his mother, "Mom, I want to eat tomatoes!"

The young woman, Yang Yan, turned around and saw Xiao Lingyu's tricycle. Seeing how fresh the tomato was, she asked, "How much are the tomatoes?"

"Two RMB each!" Xiao Lingyu said.

"What? How much is one catty?" Yang Yan thought she misheard.

"2 RMB each, not per catty!" Xiao Lingyu repeated.

"Are you trying to rob me? That's so expensive!" Yang Yan recoiled. "The market is only selling 1 catty for 1 RMB, but you're selling 2 RMB each. Are you crazy? Son, let's go. I'll go to the market to buy you some."

But the boy refused to go. He pulled his mother's hand and cried, "But mom... I want this one!"

Seeing the child cry, Mother Xiao immediately took a tomato and placed it in the child's hand. She said very amiably, "Boy, don't cry. Grandma will give you one for free."

Yang Yan was suspicious. She asked Mother Xiao, "Auntie, your stuff is so expensive. Is this really for free?"

When Xiao Lingyu saw this, her eyes flashed with an idea. Xiao Lingyu said, "Miss, since my mom said it's free, then it's free. Consider it a free sample for the child."

The boy took a small bite. Yang Yan was shocked and shouted. "Li Junxuan, how many times do I need to tell you? As long as it has skin, you have to wash them first. Things like tomatoes and apples are covered in pesticides!"

Li Junxuan munched on the tomato and looked at his mother. He said honestly, "But, mom, Grandma's tomatoes are really delicious."

He held the tomato in his small hands and tried to pass it to his mother. He wanted Yang Yan to taste it but Yang Yan smiled.

Xiao Lingyu explained, "Miss, don't worry. My crops are all organic and natural. We do not use pesticides at all."

Of course, Yang Yan didn't believe Xiao Lingyu. However, since this was an offer by her son, Yang Yan couldn't bear to reject him. She endured the discomfort and took a small bite.

### **Chapter 79: Have a Taste**

Yang Yan took a bite of the tomato. When her tongue touched the tomato's juice, the small bite turned into a big bite. The discomfort in her heart dissipated. She began to eat in earnest.

When Li Junxuan saw this, he cried, "Mom, you're eating my tomato!"

When Yang Yan heard that, she realized she had already almost eaten half of her son's tomato. 'Is my mouth that big?' In any case, consoling her son was more important. "Okay, Xuan 'Er, don't cry. Mommy will buy a few more for you." Yang Yan coaxed in a gentle voice.

"Really?" Li Junxuan, who still had tears in the corner of his eyes, asked suspiciously.

"Of course!" Yang Yan said, "Auntie, give me five tomatoes!" Yang Yan handed over 10 RMB, and she looked at the other vegetables. They were alluringly fresh. She thought for a while and asked, "Auntie, how much is the eggplant and spinach?"

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "The eggplant is 2 RMB each, and the spinach is 15 RMB per catty."

Yang Yan was surprised. "Your vegetables are so expensive!" She was incredulous.

Xiao Lingyu smiled and explained, "They are all naturally grown and well-cared for. They are worth the price. You've tasted the tomato, don't you think it's worth the asking price?"

Yang Yan thought about it. "Okay, give me two eggplants and half a catty of spinach."

Xiao Lingyu obliged. Then she tossed in two tomatoes. "Since you're our first customers, I'll toss in two free tomatoes. Remember to come again. That's a total of 21.50 RMB, but I'll give you a discount and charge you 20 RMB." They had given Yang Yan three free tomatoes actually, counting the one in the boy's mouth.

Yang Yan paid and left happily. Mother Xiao held the 20 RMB, and she couldn't believe it. She couldn't believe Xiao Lingyu managed to sell a tomato for 2 RMB each.

"Yu 'Er, am I dreaming? Did we really sell the vegetables for that price?" Mother Xiao was excited, "This is a real 20 RMB? Back then, when we were farming our own vegetables, we could barely earn 20 RMB in a day after selling all the vegetables!"

Xiao Lingyu smiled. "Mom, this is just the beginning!"

The two continued their journey. They pushed the tricycle up a ramp and then turned right into another road. There were big trees that lined the road. There were many small vendors on both sides. Foot traffic was heavy.

The left side of the road was a school, the right was the residential area, a few meters forward was the market, so there were a lot of pedestrians here.

When Xiao Lingyu and Mother Xiao appeared with the tricycle, many people looked at the vegetables with curiosity.

"They look so fresh!"

"You're right, and they are of the same high quality."

"Do you notice that the vegetables are also bigger than the ones sold at the market? See, those tomatoes are as large as a man's fists. But I heard that some unscrupulous farmers would use ripening and swelling agents to make their fruit ripen earlier and grow larger. The crops are too good-looking and they are of uniform size. That is unnatural, so they must have used those chemicals!" A middle-aged lady claimed. The lady heard from her university son that most vegetables and fruits in the big cities came from greenhouses. They were treated with various chemicals and didn't taste good. Therefore, she immediately came to that conclusion when she saw the crops on Xiao Lingyu's tricycle.

Xiao Lingyu did not pay attention to the criticism. She smiled, "Auntie, you're wrong. I don't use any of those things. These are natural, organic vegetables and fruits. I don't use any pesticides. That is most evident from their taste. Auntie, if you don't believe me, you can have a taste."

Xiao Lingyu then took a fruit knife to cut the tomato. She cut them into slices and handed one to the middle-aged woman. "Auntie, come and have a taste." She turned to the others, "You can have a taste too."

When Xiao Lingyu cut open the tomato, the people were drawn by its fragrance. They crowded around Xiao Lingyu's tricycle.

When Xiao Lingyu offered a taste test, they didn't hold back. They reached for the slice and popped it into their mouth. The ten tomato slices disappeared in an instant.

"Wow!"

"Is this really a normal tomato? Or is it a rare delicacy?"

## **Chapter 80: Selling Vegetables**



“Miss, how much are the tomatoes? I’ll buy some.”

Someone had a free taste, and they wanted to buy some tomatoes home. They already tasted so good raw, so they would be better if stir-fried.

“2 RMB each!”

“2 RMB each?” Someone thought they misheard. “Miss, did you mean 2 RMB per catty?”

“No, 2 RMB each. Everything on my tricycle, other than the spinach and chilies, is sold by the unit.” Xiao Lingyu explained seriously, “Eggplants are 2 RMB each, cabbage is 15 RMB each, spinach 15 RMB per catty, and chilies are 20 RMB per catty.”

Many people’s interest waned when they heard the price. The market sold a catty of tomatoes for 2 RMB, but the girl sold them for 2 RMB each; The market sold eggplants for 60 cents per catty, but the girl sold 2 RMB each. The prices for cabbage and spinach were also ridiculously high. However, those who had taken the samples thought the taste was worth the price.

For example, the auntie who complained of pesticide said, “Okay, give me ten tomatoes, one cabbage, three eggplants, and half a catty of chilies.” She would consider this a purchase of exotic vegetables. After all, the taste was indeed exotic.

Mother Xiao immediately packed the order. Mother Xiao handed the bag and smiled, “Big Sister, it’s 51 RMB, but I’ll take 50 RMB. Please do come back again.”

The Auntie was a direct person. She laughed. “As long as your crops are organic and delicious, I’ll come back again.”

“Don’t worry. We’ll maintain a high quality of our vegetables.” Mother Xiao promised.

After the auntie made the purchase, some others joined in. However, there were not many customers due to the high price. Most of the customers were the ones who had tried the free tomato slices. Soon, about half of the tomato stock was gone. Only around 50 was left. As for the other vegetables, Xiao Lingyu and Mother Xiao sold fifty eggplants, ten cabbages, eight catties of spinach, and four catties of Chili.

Due to the constant crowd around their tricycle, the passerby slowed down when they saw the bustle. They stopped to join the crowd.

“Are they selling vegetables?”

“Why is there such a big crowd here?”

“I heard from people that the tomatoes here are very delicious. However, they’re quite expensive too, 2 RMB for one.”

“Are they worth the price? I’ll buy one to try.”

“Oh my God! The taste is unreal. I thought they were exaggerating, but they’re not! Auntie, give me five more tomatoes please!”

“I’ll have five too!”

The tomatoes were gone in half an hour. Mother Xiao was excited, but she didn’t show it.

Soon, the crowd dispersed as the tomatoes sold out. Mother Xiao looked at the remaining stock, and she said with worry, “Yu ‘Er, the tomatoes are gone, but what about the rest? Can we get them sold?”

Xiao Lingyu said, “Mom, it’ll be fine! Let’s push our tricycle forward!” Her original plan was to set up at the market. She didn’t expect that half of her stock would be gone before she even reached the market. Plus, they arrived at 9 am, a time when most of the shoppers had already left.

Xiao Lingyu and Mother Xiao pushed forward and reached the intersection of Sunshine District.

An old lady passed by, pulling along a small shopping trolley. She looked like she was going to the market. When she saw the vegetables in Xiao Lingyu’s cart, her eyes lit up, and she asked, “Miss, are your vegetables for sale?”

Xiao Lingyu answered, “Yes, Granny.”

“Let me take a look.” The old woman took a look and said, “Your crops are fresh. How much do you sell them for?”

“The cabbage is 15 RMB per head, eggplant is 2 RMB each, spinach is 15 RMB per catty, and the chilies are 20 RMB per catty.”

The old lady frowned. “Why are they so expensive? They’re several times higher than the market price.”

“Granny, I believe my crops are worth the price.” Xiao Lingyu answered. She was not budging on the price. She knew how much they were worth. In the future, the price would only go up and not down.

Xiao Lingyu was still feeling the market, so for her, the price was already low.

The old lady’s brows were furrowed. She asked, “Are you sure your crops are worth the high price?” The old lady’s eldest grandson was sitting for the university entrance exam. He was under a lot of pressure. He had no appetite. No matter what she cooked, her grandson couldn’t stomach them. The old lady came out today to find something delicious to hopefully regain his grandson’s appetite.

The old lady brought an old hen from the countryside. She woke up early to slaughter it and make chicken stew. It was why she was late to the market.

Xiao Lingyu didn’t waste time. She broke off a leaf from the cabbage and handed it to the old lady. “Granny, why don’t you try it yourself? This cabbage tastes sweet even when eaten raw.”

Mother Xiao was dumbfounded. ‘How can Yu ‘Er ask the customer to eat raw vegetables?’ Mother Xiao glared at Xiao Lingyu and was about to say something when Xiao Lingyu added, “Granny, don’t worry. Our vegetables are all clean.”

The old lady hesitated before she took the leaf. She bit on it. Then her brows relaxed.

“You’re right.” The old lady said. “Fine, it is a bit more expensive, but it is worth it. Give me a cabbage, six eggplants, two catties of spinach, and one catty of chili!” Since the cabbage tasted good, the other vegetables should be good too. The old lady bought some for her grandson.

However, the old lady soon came to regret it. Her grandson's appetite recovered so much that the vegetables were finished in two meals.. The old lady regretted not buying more. A shame she didn't know where to find the vegetable vendor!