

## Village Girl 151

### Chapter 151: Buy the Store

Hearing the shopkeeper's words, Lin Yuelan's calm eyes immediately turned sharp.

Did everyone think she was easy to bully? Everyone could point at her and scold her at will?

Little twelve also looked at the shopkeeper angrily and said, "how can you do this? We're customers, and we're here to buy something!" This was too much bullying. They had been kicked out as soon as they entered the store. This was a complete insult.

The shopkeeper looked at them arrogantly and said with disdain, "I'd rather have cats and dogs in here than her. What bad luck! Get out of here right now. Don't block my other guests!" The shop owner pointed at Lin Yuelan.

Little twelve was so angry that his face turned green. He wanted to rush over and hit the shopkeeper, but he was stopped by Lin Yuelan.

Since her reputation as the jinx had spread, she expected this treatment. Practically the whole town would treat her like this, and she couldn't solve every conflict with violence.

Lin Yuelan's eyes turned sharp as she said to the shopkeeper in a sonorous and cold voice, "please remember the humiliation you've caused me today. In the future, when you need my help, I'll make you kneel and kowtow to me in public. I'll make you apologize to me in public!"

The shopkeeper sneered and said to her in a mocking tone, "You really are crazy. There's no way I'll beg you!" At this point, he roared again, "Get lost!"

Lin Yuelan left. It wasn't that she didn't want to teach the shopkeeper a lesson, but she believed the man would only learn if she broke him mentally and not physically. The shopkeeper really needed to understand that fate was unpredictable.

If he had persuaded Lin Yuelan to leave, Lin Yuelan would have obliged. She was not an unreasonable person. She knew the influence of her reputation. However, this shopkeeper was too arrogant and self-righteous and insulted Lin Yuelan in a humiliating way. Lin Yuelan was no mat for people to stomp on. Therefore, in the future, she would definitely take revenge for the insult she had suffered today.

Lin Yuelan went to another cloth shop.

The assistant recognized Lin Yuelan as soon as she entered the shop. Even though Lin Yuelan had only been to town thrice, she had left a deep impression on people. She carried the tiger to town and bought many things. She had visited all the best stores in town. Lin Yuelan wanted to buy the best stuff. In this small town, there were only that many businesses. Therefore, basically, all the shopkeepers knew Lin Yuelan.

The assistant knew about Lin Yuelan's divine power, but he was more afraid of her reputation as a jinx. Her presence in the shop was taboo, but he was open for business. There was no reason for him to chase her out.

The assistant smiled and asked, "Miss Lin, what do you want to buy this time?" Lin Yuelan had visited this shop before.

Lin Yuelan glanced at the clothes and fabrics in the shop and asked in confusion, "assistant, why are the clothes in the shop all so old?"

The assistant said with some reluctance and sadness, "Jinyun Ge's business has been snatched away by Xiangyun Ge, so there's not much business. The shopkeeper is thinking of selling the shop. But this is his 30 years of hard work. He's been reluctant to put it on sale. However, he hasn't bought any new materials, so we've been selling old clothes and models."

Lin Yuelan asked, "How could Xiangyun Ge steal your business? As far as I know, the Jinyun Ge is an established brand in Ning An Town."

The assistant became furious and cursed, "The shopkeeper of Xiangyun Ge is really shameless. He stole the best tailors and designers we had. If there were people who didn't want to leave, the shopkeeper would use some underhanded method to force them to leave Jinyun Ge!"

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"Since we don't have any new designs, we don't have new customers, and our old customers left us too.

"But Miss Lin, I don't want to trouble you with our story. Just take a look and see if there's anything you like. I'll show them to you." The assistant put away his sad expression and immediately introduced them enthusiastically.

This was how the world worked. You could be chased out at one place, but you'd be welcome at another. One shouldn't look down on others because that person might just be a diamond in the rough. In the future, you'd only be able to see them shine from a distance.

Lin Yuelan decided to help this shop because the owner and assistant had good characters. Then again, it would be mutually beneficial. Lin Yuelan would use this opportunity to teach others some lessons too.

Lin Yuelan asked, "Assistant, is the shopkeeper here?"

The assistant was puzzled, but his tone was a little anxious as he asked, "Miss Lin, why are you looking for the shopkeeper? Or are you dissatisfied with me? If there is a problem with my service, please just tell me and I can correct my mistakes. The madam is sick, and she needs the shopkeeper to stay by her side. He can't leave."

Lin Yuelan was stunned. This was the most touching thing she had heard since she transmigrated here. For this reason alone, she decided to help them.

Lin Yuelan shook her head and said, "I'm not dissatisfied. On the contrary, I'm very satisfied with your service. You're just working here, but you're so loyal to your boss. I'm impressed."

The assistant was a little embarrassed as he said, "It's because the shopkeeper is a good person. When I was down on my luck, it was the shopkeeper who gave me a bowl of rice and asked me to help with the work in the shop so that I could have a place to live. I will never forget the great kindness of the shopkeeper."

Lin Yuelan raised her eyebrows. "I see." Immediately, she repeated. "You should ask your shopkeeper to come to see me. Just tell him that I have a way to revive Jinyun Ge."

The assistant's eyes lit up when he heard that. He didn't care if Lin Yuelan was telling the truth or not and immediately ran to the back to find the shopkeeper.

After the shopkeeper came out, Lin Yuelan sized him up. He was an old man in his forties or fifties with a kind face, but his face was a little haggard.

The shopkeeper looked at the two children and asked, "Miss, are you looking for me?"

Lin Yuelan nodded and said, "Shopkeeper, I heard that you're going to sell this shop, right?"

The shopkeeper glanced at the assistant, who had his head lowered, and said with a dispirited expression, "yes, miss. I'm sure you've heard some things by now. The business of this shop isn't good at all now, and my wife has been sick for a while, so she needs money and care. So, I plan to sell this shop and get some money for my wife's treatment. "

The shopkeeper said honestly.

After hearing this, Lin Yuelan went straight to the point, "I won't hide it from you, shopkeeper. I want to buy your shop!"

As soon as she said this, not only the shopkeeper and the assistant were stunned, but even little twelve was also confused. They were supposed to buy clothes and fabrics. How did they end up buying a whole shop?

Honestly, the shopkeeper didn't really want to sell the shop. He had been running it for 30 years. The shop was like a child to him.

Before his wife fell sick, he had planned to hang in there no matter how bad his business was. However, everything changed after his wife fell sick.

The expenses were like a bottomless pit. In a short time, he had almost used up all his savings of more than 30 years. In addition, the business of Jinyun Ge was declining day by day thanks Xiangyun Ge. Sometimes, he couldn't even make ends meet. The shopkeeper had no choice but to consider selling the shop. But he really couldn't bring himself to part with it.

But now, a young woman girl said that she wanted to buy his shop, and he immediately felt that it was unbelievable.

Was this a joke?

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After a moment, the shopkeeper reacted and said, "Young lady, you..." He wanted to tell her not to play a joke like that.

Lin Yuelan knew what he was going to say. She waved her hand and said seriously, "shopkeeper, I'm not joking with you."

The assistant stood at the side. After looking at Lin Yuelan for a while, he whispered a few words into the shopkeeper's ear.

Then, the shopkeeper nodded and said, "miss, please enter the inner room!"

The shopkeeper had been taking care of his sick wife for the past two to three months and had no time to inquire about what had happened in the town. Therefore, although he had heard of an eight-year-old child carrying a tiger to sell in town, he did not know who she was.

Just now, the assistant whispered to him that Lin Yuelan was that child. So, Lin Yuelan was not joking with him. She was rich enough to buy his shop.

Lin Yuelan nodded and entered the inner room with little twelve.

Little twelve followed Lin Yuelan like a bodyguard.

After Lin Yuelan entered, the shopkeeper served her and little twelve a cup of tea. Then, he asked seriously, "miss, do you really want to buy this shop?"

This shop was his child. Even if he was reluctant to part with it, he had no choice but to do so.

Lin Yuelan nodded and said, "of course. But what is your price, shopkeeper?"

The shopkeeper sat down and pondered for a while, then said seriously, "to tell you the truth, my shop's location is a little remote. Many customers are not willing to come to my shop. If you really buy it, business will not be good, and you might even lose money. Miss, are you still planning to buy it?"

Lin Yuelan put down her teacup, then placed her left hand on the edge of the table and tapped it a few times. The corners of her mouth curved up, and she said clearly, "shopkeeper, I will deal with that in the future. I just need to know what is the shop's price!" She was telling him not to worry.

The shopkeeper didn't expect Lin Yuelan to be so sharp and sophisticated.

The shopkeeper said, "based on the size of this area and the shop area, as well as some stock, it would cost at least 500 taels of silver."

Lin Yuelan nodded. The shopkeeper didn't ask for an exorbitant price.

This shop was estimated to be 120 square meters in size. Taking into account the number of customers and the stock in the shop, 500 taels of silver was a very reasonable price.

"But since Miss is so sincere, I won't ask for that high of a price. I can sell it to you for four hundred taels of silver, but I hope miss can promise me one thing." 400 taels were just enough for his wife's treatment. He needed that moment.

Lin Yuelan said, "Of course, shopkeeper!"

"I hope that you can keep the assistant, Xiao Li. He has been with me for a few years and has developed feelings for this shop. I don't want him to leave the shop." Xiao Li was also his family, so he wanted to make arrangements for Xiao Li before he sold the store.

Lin Yuelan shook her head.

The shopkeeper's expression immediately changed, and he said angrily, "since you don't agree, I'm sorry, but I can't sell you this shop!"

Lin Yuelan shook her head and said with a smile, "shopkeeper, you've jumped ahead. I shook my head, not because I didn't want to keep Xiao Li. On the contrary, not only did I keep him, but I also wanted to hire you to continue to be the manager of this shop!"

The shopkeeper stood up with a whoosh. He looked very excited and in disbelief as he asked, "Miss, what do you mean by this?"

Lin Yuelan looked at the manager's flushed face and said in a clear voice, "my meaning is very simple. Xiao Li will still work here, and you will continue to manage this shop. However, the ownership of this store will be mine."

The shopkeeper was really excited.

He was reluctant to part with this shop that he had run for more than 30 years, but he had to sell it as a last resort. Other than heartache and regret, he had no other choice.

He had considered offering to work for the new boss so he could stay with the shop. However, he knew that was impossible.

He was already so old. Who would hire an old man to be an assistant who had to run errands everywhere? Wouldn't that be a waste of money?

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Having the new boss hire him as the manager was even more impossible. He had been running the shop for more than 30 years. The fact that he had to sell the shop showed his incompetence. Who would allow him to continue running the shop then?

That was why he had been hesitating about selling the shop, but he was in urgent need of money, so he had no choice.

Perhaps good things came to good people. Before the shopkeeper put up the sale sign, Lin Yuelan arrived and blessed him with all the gifts.

The shopkeeper said with disbelief, "Miss Lin, are you telling the truth?"

Lin Yuelan nodded seriously. "I always keep my word. I never lie! As long as you work hard, I will not mistreat you. Otherwise..." Lin Yuelan's tone suddenly changed as she warned them in a sonorous and sharp voice, "Even if you just betray me once, I'll make you wish that you were dead!"

The shopkeeper was so excited that he almost knelt down. "Miss Lin, please accept my gratitude!" Immediately after, his expression became extremely serious, and he promised, "I, Li Huaisheng, will never betray you. Otherwise, I will be struck by lightning, and my family will all perish with me!"

He wanted to continue to be a shopkeeper. Other than emotional reasons, there was also a practical one. He was in the dusk of his life. He needed a job to support his family. After all, his savings had been exhausted to treat his wife's illness. He had no money left. Lin Yuelan saved him and his family. It was a timely help too.

Therefore, he was very grateful.

He might never be able to repay such favor in his entire life. Betraying Lin Yuelan was simply an act of ingratitude, and he would be struck by lightning.

Therefore, he took this oath very seriously. He had implicated his whole family in it! In ancient times, such an oath was very serious. Not many would dare to make oaths like that.

Lin Yuelan immediately helped him up, then said to Li Huaisheng very seriously, “Manager Li, you need to get up first. I believe you!”

Li Huaisheng looked at Lin Yuelan with gratitude and said, “thank you, miss Lin!”

Then, Lin Yuelan took out five banknotes from the cloth bag. Four of them were for 100 taels of silver, and one was 50 taels of silver. She then took out two gold ingots and ten pieces of silver and handed them to Li Huaisheng, saying, “Shopkeeper Li, this is 660 taels of silver and ten pieces of silver.”

Li Huaisheng was a little stunned, but he quickly reacted and said, “miss Lin, you’re overpaying. It’s four hundred taels of silver, not six hundred and sixty taels of silver.”

Lin Yuelan shook her head and said, “that’s right. You gave me the shop for four hundred taels of silver. However, I want to update the shop. I need a creative and new business model.

“Then, I need you to order a batch of beautiful and fresh fabric. I will design the clothes, and you just need to find a good tailor and seamstress.

“Third, I’ll need to hire two more assistants.”

The renovation, restocking, and hiring people all required money. After deducting the 400 taels of silver for the transfer of ownership, the remaining 200 taels of silver was not much.

“In addition, these ten taels of silver are the money for the clothes I want to buy today. I need fifteen sets of clothes for five people. As for the sizes, Little Twelve will tell you. Also, I want to buy some canvas to make tents. Each canvas should be about three meters. Also, get me some bedsheets, pillows, and other daily necessities. Sorry for troubling manager Li!”

Ten taels of silver were more than enough to buy these things.

Li Huaisheng replied respectfully, “yes, miss Lin! I’ll ask Xiao Li to prepare everything for miss Lin!”

As he said this, he seemed to have thought of something and quickly walked out. When he came back, Xiao Li followed behind him.

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Li Huaisheng said to the assistant, “Xiao Li, from now on, miss Lin will be our boss!”

The assistant immediately bowed and greeted respectfully, “boss!”

Lin Yuelan told Xiao Li in a serious tone, “brother Xiao Li, as long as you do your best, I won’t mistreat you. However, if you betray me, trust me, the consequences will be something you won’t want to see!”

Xiao Li was an honest person. He made a serious oath like Li Huaisheng. "Boss, I, Li Xiaoman, swear that I'll be absolutely loyal to you. If I go against my oath, then I, Li Xiaoman, will die a terrible death!" When there was no better guarantee than a death oath.

Lin Yuelan nodded and said, "Alright. I won't hire people I doubt anyway. I hope you'll remember your oaths today."

"Don't worry, boss!" The two of them immediately promised.

Then, Li Huaisheng thought of something. He walked into an inner room. When he came out, he took out an iron box.

He carefully opened the metal box and took out the item inside. He said to Lin Yuelan, "Miss Lin, this is the deed to my shop. Please accept it!" Since she had bought the shop, the item should be hers.

After Lin Yuelan accepted the deed, Li Huaisheng solemnly bowed to Lin Yuelan and called out in a serious and respectful manner, "Boss!"

Lin Yuelan said, "Manager Li, please continue calling me Miss Lin. Also, I need you to keep the issue of the shop ownership transference a secret for now. To the public, you're still the owner. Do you understand?"

She didn't want to make a big commotion. First, she had no foundation and no power. Second, she had not completely cut off her relationship with Lin Laosan's family. As Jiang Zhennan had said, after a while, when the Emperor promulgated the revision of the "law of filial piety," she would do that.

Third, due to her age, she needed a front. Therefore, it was not appropriate to reveal this matter too early.

Li Huaisheng thought about it and he understood Lin Yuelan's concerns. He promised, "boss, don't worry. Before you agree, I'll definitely keep my mouth shut!"

The assistant wasn't that smart, but since his boss told him to keep mum, he would do as he was told.

Li Xiaoman also said in a serious and cautious manner, "boss, please rest assured. Like the shopkeeper, I will definitely keep my mouth shut!"

The deal was completed.

Then, Lin Yuelan said directly, "uncle Li, put up a sign and make an announcement that the shop needs to be renovated and designed. We need to close the shop temporarily. We will reopen in a month!"

However, Li Huaisheng had some doubts.

He said a little worriedly, "boss, this shop's business isn't good, to begin with. If we close for so long, I'm worried..." The business would be worse.

Lin Yuelan waved her hand and asked sharply, "uncle Li, do you think we'd have any business even if we keep the shop open? How long will the shop last?"

Li Huaisheng said with some hesitation, "this ..."

Lin Yuelan continued, "Resting is to prepare for a further journey. This shop's layout was old, and there were no new fabrics. The ready-made styles are old. Who would buy them? People are always after new styles and new clothes in the world of fashion.

"This is why I gave you money to renovate and decorate the place. As for the source of the new fabrics and materials, Uncle Li, with your 30 years of network, it should be easy for you, right?"

Li Huaisheng's eyes immediately lit up, and he said with a slightly excited expression, "boss, you're right. What you said makes sense. Jinyun Ge can't compete with Xiangyun Ge now because they have stolen my designers and blocked my import channel. It's why Jinyun Ge's business has been failing. However..."

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Li Huaisheng said worriedly, "But boss, the designers in town have been hired by Xiangyun Ge. Those who were unwilling to leave us were threatened. Where are we going to find a designer?"

His import channel had been cut off by Xiangyun Ge, but that was business. As long as he had money, his import channel would come back alive. Therefore, there was no issue with restocking. The issue was finding a designer.

People with such skills were either invited to Xiangyun Ge or chased out of town.

Lin Yuelan smiled at Li Huaisheng and said, "Uncle Li, don't worry. Leave everything to me! Three days later, I'll come back with the renovation design and the ready-made clothing designs.

"So, within these three days, you have to do two things. One is to restart the import channel, and the other is to hire some skilled tailors. When the designs are out three days later, they need to rush to work as soon as possible.

"When the shop reopens in a month, everyone will be shocked!" Lin Yuelan was very confident when she said the last sentence. She was a clothing designer before the apocalypse. She knew what she was doing.

Li Huaisheng was a little suspicious. After all, Lin Yuelan was just a young woman. How could she know how to design clothes? However, when he saw Lin Yuelan's determined and confident expression, he suppressed his doubts and replied, "yes, boss!"

"As for the future business model, I will submit a plan to you within this month. So, you need to be prepared. "

"Of course."

"Oh, by the way, uncle Li, you said your wife is sick. What sickness is it? Is it serious?" Lin Yuelan was concerned about Li Huaisheng's wife's condition.

Li Huaisheng shook his head and said with a choked voice, "the doctors in the town can't diagnose it. My wife is getting thinner, and she's always sleepy. Her memory is also getting weaker and weaker. Sometimes, she can't even remember me."

Lin Yuelan believed Uncle Li's wife had suffered from Alzheimer's disease.



Such an illness was not easy to treat even in modern times, much less in ancient times.

However, she had a way to cure Mrs. Li. Of course, she had to learn medicine first. After learning medicine, she could cover up the fact that she used her special ability.

Lin Yuelan nodded and said, "Uncle Li, I know a highly skilled doctor. I'll ask him to take a look at Madam Li."

Li Huaisheng was very touched. He thanked Lin Yuelan with snot and tears in his eyes.

When Lin Yuelan and little twelve left the Jinyun Ge, little twelve still hadn't come back to his senses. He was still in a daze.

Little twelve carried two or three big bags of things and stood in front of the Jinyun Ge. He asked in a daze, "miss Lin, so you're the owner of this shop now?"

'Was Miss Lin still a human? Perhaps as boss said, she is a fairy.' He felt that miss Lin was really amazing. At such a young age, she actually knew so much. She was even proficient in the ways of business and planned everything in an orderly manner.

After leaving Jinyun Ge, Lin Yuelan looked up at the sky. It was noon, and it was time for lunch.

Little twelve, the foodie, immediately became more energetic when he heard that they were about to have lunch. Carrying a few bags, he followed behind Lin yuelan.

Lin Yuelan walked to the largest restaurant in Ning An town, Yuelai Inn.

Then, she waved at little twelve and said, "come, little twelve, big sister will treat you to a good meal today!"

Little twelve's mouth twitched when he heard that. Lin Yuelan was not taller or bigger than he was, so why was she referring to herself as his big brother?

Little Twelve looked at the three-story Yuelai Inn and said happily, "thank you, miss Lin!"

They had not had a proper meal since they were chased out of the capital.

When Lin Yuelan entered Yuelai Inn with little twelve, there were many evil stares.

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The waiter looked down at them too. When he saw the two in plain clothes, he was a little unhappy. He grinned and said loudly, "Miss and Mr, we are Ning An Town's high-class restaurant. Ordinary people can't afford to eat here. One meal will cost at least ten taels of silver. I advise you to consider this carefully!" He meant that they were too poor to eat there.

Little twelve was angry again. 'Why is this small town full of snobs? Even in the capital, they don't treat their guests like this.'

He said angrily, "Since we're here, of course, we're here to eat. What's there to consider?"

The waiter's face turned green, but he still said in a disdainful tone, "I'm just advising the two of you to think about it carefully before ordering. Running away from a bill is prohibited at Yuelai Inn. No one is going to eat for free. If caught, you'd be sent to court!"

Little Twelve really didn't know what to say. The waiter was so smart with his words because he managed to insult them without even using a curse word.

Little twelve wanted to shout at the waiter, but Lin Yuelan spoke. She said coldly, "I don't know about the others, but I can't believe even a small waiter at this high-class restaurant would look down on their guests. I guess this place is not that high-class after all if the employee training is so bad. I don't think I'll have my meal here because it'll only lower my standard."

Lin Yuelan suddenly wanted to thank the apocalypse. It had cultivated her superhuman talent. She was kicked out of the clothing store and now she was insulted at a restaurant. If she wasn't super patient, she would have exploded already. However, she was not a homicidal maniac. There was no need for her to kill people for such a small matter. Otherwise, it would really make her become a bloodthirsty demon.

Immediately after, Lin Yuelan changed her tone, "However, I have a strange habit. I like to do things others don't want to do. Therefore, I'm going to have my meal here today. So serve us some tea and water. Make sure not to spill a single drop of water or soup. Otherwise, I won't pay because of your poor service. We'll see who the court will side with then. Plus, I have to warn you. I'm abnormally strong. You have to forgive me if I accidentally break some cups and tables!"

She didn't pay not because she was poor but because she didn't want to. She was purposely testing them.

Then, Lin Yuelan and little twelve took a seat by the window.

Little twelve's eyes sparkled with stars. He was full of admiration for Lin Yuelan. 'Miss Lin is really impressive!'

One could tell from the waiter's face that he was very angry. His face was red. People like him would only bully those who didn't dare to fight back. He feared the strong. To deal with this kind of people, you had to put on a strong front. Then, they would back off.

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Zhou Wencai and Liu Qi were having their meal in a private room of the second floor of Yuelai In..

Zhou Wencai happened to see Lin Yuelan walking in from the window. He immediately curled his lips and said to Liu Qi, "brother Liu, isn't that the lady named Lin Yuelan?"

Liu Qi raised his head and saw that it was true. 'The man behind her is carrying many things. It looks like they have gone shopping. But who is that man?' Liu Qi was puzzled.

Zhou Wencai's interest was piqued as he said, "brother Liu, why don't we ask miss Lin to have a meal with us? After all, she is miss Yin 'Er's friend, so she's our friend as well. "

Liu Qi laughed and said, "brother Zhou, you want to treat her as a friend, but she might not treat you as a friend."

Zhou Wencai said in disbelief, "Why don't we make a bet then, brother Liu?"

"A bet?" Liu Qi asked doubtfully, "What do you mean?"

Zhou Wencai said with confidence, "We'll invite Miss Lin up for a meal. If she admits that I'm her friend, you'll lend me that new piece of jade you got for three days. If she doesn't, I'll give you the inkstone I got from Yan Zhou. How about this?"

This was very alluring to Liu Qi. He had been after Zhou Wencai's pure graphite inkstone for a long time already. Therefore, Liu Qi had no reason to reject his friend.

However, as he was about to say something, he heard the waiter downstairs insult Lin Yuelan. Liu Qi's face turned black.

Yuelai Inn belonged to the Liu Family. Yuelan Inn was a big business. The delicious food was a big reason but the other big reason was their impeccable service.

However, Liu Qi noticed that recently the business had declined. He had asked the manager, and the manager's answer was that the weather had been hot recently, so many people did not like to come to the restaurant to eat.

Liu Qi had some doubts. Summer days came by every year, but this situation only happened this year. But he still accepted the reason. After all, the summer was extra hot that year.

However, from what he heard, that was not the reason at all. The real reason was that the service level at Yuelai Inn had dropped tremendously!

In fact, he just remembered that the decline in the business started when they recruited this new waiter.

He heard that the waiter was a distant relative of the manager.

Liu Qi was furious at the thought.

This was clear nepotism!

When Liu Qi and Zhou Wencai came down, Lin Yuelan was already sitting by the window.

When the waiter saw Liu Qi, he was a little surprised. He immediately went forward and smiled flatteringly. "Young master, if you need anything, just let me know. You don't need to trouble yourself to come down."

Liu Qi didn't even look at the waiter and walked straight to Lin Yuelan.

The waiter thought that Liu Qi was here to chase Lin Yuelan away, so he immediately began to complain, "young master, this person has no money but..."

"Shut up! Miss Lin, I'm so sorry for the bad service you've been subjected to. Please don't take it to heart!" Liu Qi said to her with an apologetic expression.

"What?" The waiter's eyes widened in shock. He looked at Lin Yuelan and then at Liu Qi's serious expression. He immediately realized that he had made a big mistake.

Then, Liu Qi continued, "As an apology, miss Lin, would you please come with me to the private room upstairs for a meal?"

### **Chapter 158: The Fragrant Carp Soup**

Lin Yuelan did not refuse Liu Qi's invitation. She said half-jokingly, "young master Liu, I was planning to eat for free. I will not pay even if you invite me to a private room. You should know that eating in a private room is twice as expensive as eating in the main hall of this restaurant. I'm a poor person, so I can't afford it!"

When Liu Qi forbade Lin Jiayin from interacting with her, Lin Yuelan made the decision that her relationship with Liu Qi would be purely business. However, Liu Qi seemed to have considered things and wanted to be her friend. But people often had only one chance!

Therefore, her relationship with Liu Qi would only be strictly business.

Little Twelve was shocked to hear Lin Yuelan. 'Is Miss Lin really planning to eat a free meal? Wasn't she saying that to scare the waiter?'

He really couldn't understand Miss Lin. She was at two extremes when it came to money.

On the one side, she loved money a lot. When they first met, she scammed them by selling them a mushroom for one tael of silver each, and a rabbit for three taels each. She earned around four hundred taels of silver from them instantly. Of course, most of the money came from the general and the First Lieutenant. Small fries like them didn't have any money on them.

Plus, Little Twelve also understood that Miss Lin was particularly stingy. If she could get a discount, she would. If she could get things for free, it would make her day. This was the perfect example. Since the young master treated them to a meal, she accepted easily. Miss Lin was the most bandit-like woman Little Twelve had ever met.

On the other hand, Miss Lin was very generous. For example, she took in five of them and bought them a full set of clothes and shoes.

When she found out Li Huaisheng's wife was sick, she gave Li Huaishuang plenty of money without even bargaining.

Miss Lin's actions were incomprehensible.

Zhou Wencai, who was standing beside Liu Qi, found Lin Yuelan's words amusing. He couldn't help but laugh.

Zhou Wencai said with a smile, "miss Lin, don't worry. This restaurant is brother Liu's. He would be too embarrassed to take money from you anyway. So, Miss Lin, you don't need to worry about the bill. This will be Brother Liu's treat."

Lin Yuelan nodded and said, "well, in that case, thank you!"

Zhou Wencai's mouth was slightly agape in surprise.

This girl was rather shameless. Normal people would reject due to politeness. However, she jumped on the free meal readily. Didn't she know that men didn't like women who were too straightforward?

Of course, Zhou Wencai only mocked in his heart. To be honest, if Lin Yuelan weren't a jinx, he might be interested in her. She wouldn't be his wife, but she could be his concubine.

However, if Lin Yuelan knew what Zhou Wencai was thinking, she'd scoff. As long as she wasn't interested, she wouldn't take the role of the queen, much less the concubine of the county magistrate's son.

Lin Yuelan didn't know what Zhou Wencai was thinking.

The group went up to the private room on the third floor. Previously, Liu Qi and Zhou Wencai were in ordinary room on the second floor.

The third floor was reserved for distinguished guests. Other than Liu Qi's private room, the rest of the rooms were permanently booked by distinguished guests.

Lin Yuelan glanced at the layout of the restaurant and secretly admired the wisdom and shrewdness of the ancient people.

They knew to categorize people based on the customer's rank. The guests in the first-floor hall were ordinary guests, and the guests in the private rooms on the second floor were powerful town individuals. Finally, only guests with great status and influence from bigger towns than Ning An Town would have a room on the third floor.

Thanks to Liu Qi, Lin Yuelan managed to taste what it was like to be the third category of people.

As soon as they entered the room, Liu Qi gestured and said politely, "miss Lin, please have a seat!"

Liu Qi would have given Lin Yuelan a lot of face even if he treated her in the first-floor hall.

However, Liu Qi had invited her to the private room on the third floor. Perhaps he was really sincere in treating her as a friend. Or was he plotting something else?

### **Chapter 159: The Fragrant Carp Soup**

When the waiter downstairs saw this scene, he was so scared that his face turned pale.

Although he was usually snobby, he still had some sense. He was really polite to the truly rich and powerful guests. However, he was very rude to the others. He would sometimes ridicule them. He had chased away many customers who came to town and decided to have a meal at Yuelai Inn. They didn't want this kind of treatment when they were eating.

This was the reason why Yuelai Inn's business had declined.

However, the waiter had the support of the manager, so he was not afraid of anyone complaining. Liu Qi was swindled too.

However, the waiter had done the wrong thing that day. He was very rude to Lin Yuelan. He didn't expect that this plain and unremarkable child was actually a friend of the young master.

Seeing Liu Qi being so polite and generous to Lin Yuelan, the waiter was so scared that he immediately asked for help from the manager.

Lin Yuelan was not interested in how Liu Qi would deal with the waiter.

However, Lin Yuelan was a little speechless when she saw the dishes being served.

This was because most of these dishes were either stir-fried or deep-fried. There was no other variation. Also, there was a lack of seasoning for all the dishes. The kitchen appeared to lack knowledge of using things like gingers and garlic.

'So is this the food served by the best restaurant in Ning An Town?' Lin Yuelan understood why Jiang Zhennan and the others were so willing to spend money to buy food from her when they first met. Their fight for the food last time with the village chief and her grandmaster also made sense now.

Compared to her cooking, these dishes were practically tasteless.

For the past two months, Lin Yuelan had been cooking at home. She had never been to town. Therefore, she assumed that the food outside would not be that different from her own cooking. They might just miss out on some newer ingredients. However, the reality was they couldn't be more different!

For example, the fish dish didn't even have a single piece of ginger in it. It was incredibly fishy. How could it be delicious?

When the dishes were served, they began to eat.

However, when Liu Qi saw Lin Yuelan holding her chopsticks in the air and staring at the dishes on the table in a daze, he thought that Lin Yuelan had never seen these good dishes before, and he immediately found it funny.

His smile was not meant to be sarcastic. Actually, he was very proud. After all, his intention was for Lin Yuelan to clearly see the difference between Liu Jiayin and Lin Yuelan. In addition, this was also a test. He wanted to confirm once more whether Lin Yuelan had befriended his younger sister because of her status.

Liu Qi smiled and said, "miss Lin, why aren't you eating? These are the best dishes in the restaurant."

Lin Yuelan raised her head, and her clear and sharp eyes met Liu Qi's eyes. The meaning was unclear.

She sighed softly and finally picked up her chopsticks to pick up the stir-fried cabbage.

As soon as it entered her mouth, she couldn't help but frown. The cabbage was blanched in hot water and then fried with oil. It tasted bland and a little greasy.

When Lin Yuelan stopped moving her chopsticks, Liu Qi assumed she was frightened by the good food.

He immediately introduced another dish, "miss Lin, please have this steamed fish. This is the signature dish of Yuelai Inn. The fish is smooth and tender. The other restaurants can't make something like this."

Lin Yuelan rolled her eyes in silence. The fish smell was so strong, and it was actually Yuelai Inn's signature dish? What the hell?

How could this be called a signature dish?

Little twelve had always been by Lin Yuelan's side. He was like a quiet, invisible person. When someone insulted Lin Yuelan, he would stand in front of Lin Yuelan to protect her. Otherwise, he would never say a word.

### **Chapter 160: The Fragrant Carp Soup**

Since everyone was eating, Little Twelve followed suit. Little Twelve was fascinated by Lin Yuelan's cooking. He assumed everyone's cooking in this corner of the country was the same.

Therefore, when he picked up a piece of wild rabbit meat and put it into his mouth, his face wrinkled. He looked at Liu Qi with some doubt and asked, "Is this the best dish in your restaurant?"

Liu Qi was a little confused, but he still nodded and said, "yes, this red braised rabbit meat is the chef's specialty. The rabbit meat is tender and chewy, and the customers like it very much. "

Liu Qi didn't know little twelve's identity, but since he was following Lin Yuelan, he was still polite to him.

Then, Liu Qi's face darkened.

Little twelve said rudely, "Bullshit. Is this your master's specialty? This is simply inedible. "

Liu Qi's face was so dark that ink could drip out of it. If it wasn't for his good upbringing, he might have immediately chased him out. He had treated them to a meal but they were still so picky. Not only did he not thank him, but he even judged the master chef so rudely. That was equivalent to insulting the delicacies of Yuelai Inn.

Liu Qi looked at little twelve, who picked up another piece of fish with his chopsticks. He gritted his teeth and asked, "If this rabbit doesn't taste good, who can make a better rabbit dish? Can you tell me?"

"Of course, the rabbit meat that miss Lin makes is the best. Actually, Miss Lin can make some very delicious vegetables too. They are finger-licking good," little twelve said without any hesitation.

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When Lin Yuelan heard little twelve, she wanted to run and hide. She wondered if it was a mistake to bring Little twelve with her. She should have brought little six, who was known for his reticence.

Once Little Twelve said something, he would bring Lin Yuelan trouble.

As she expected, Liu Qi and Zhou Wencai's eyes immediately lit up as they looked at Lin Yuelan in disbelief. Although they were a little suspicious of little twelve's words, they believed that this boy would never lie.

Liu Qi's eyes glowed. He was a businessman, and he'd always see profit.

He first turned to little twelve and asked politely, "brother, how should I address you?"

Little twelve chewed on a fried chicken leg and replied, "you can call me little twelve." That was how everyone called him since he joined the army.

Liu Qi and Zhou Wencai were slightly surprised. What kind of name was that?

However, Liu Qi didn't think too much about it. Instead, he asked curiously and interestedly, "this ... Brother Twelve, you said that miss Lin is very good at cooking. Is it true?"

"Of course. Miss Lin's cooking skills are superb." Little Twelve elaborated as he munched on the chicken leg. "And miss Lin's dishes are not only delicious, but the most important thing is they are also very appetizing to look at. For example, yesterday night, we had braised rabbit. The rabbit meat was red and had a translucent skin. The taste is really tender and smooth. The meat is fat but not greasy, thin but not dry. It's fragrant when it enters the mouth. Compare it to your rabbit. It's so pale and unappetizing. It's so chewy that it's like eating dry wood. The meat has no texture at all."

The more they listened to little twelve's description, the more Zhou Wencai and Liu Qi wanted to drool.

They had never heard of a rabbit dish that could have a translucent skin. They really wanted to see it and taste it for themselves.

Before Liu Qi could say anything, Zhou Wencai began impatiently, "miss Lin, little twelve says that you're very good at cooking. It's making brother Liu and I drool. Can you make some dishes for us and let us have a taste?"

Then Liu Qi added, "Don't worry, miss Lin. There's everything in the kitchen. You can use it without worry!"

Lin Yuelan, "... When did she agree? Why did they make the decision on her behalf?

Then, she thought about it. She had made an impromptu purchase of a clothing shop. Plus, she had bought many daily necessities and clothes to accommodate the arrival of Jiang Zhennan and his men. The money she had earned from the sale of the tiger and from plundering Wang Bapi was almost gone.