

Village Girl 171

Chapter 171: Clearing the Land

They were talking about how many times Lin Yuelan and Jiang Zhennan had held hands.

When they first met, Lin Yuelan looked like she was only eight years old. In addition, Lin Yuelan always called them uncle, so they didn't feel that there was anything wrong with this child holding their boss' hand.

However, when they met again two months later, they found out that this child was not eight years old at all but twelve.

Eight and twelve were very different. Girls could be engaged and married at the age of twelve.

Therefore, when they saw Lin Yuelan and Jiang Zhennan coming back hand in hand last night, they were shocked!

They looked like a pair of lovers. However, the main characters were not aware of it. They had gone out hand in hand again. What was this?

Little Six looked at the departing couple and said worriedly, "Brother Bing, what's with Boss and Miss Lin?" He wanted to say that they looked like a couple of lovers. But he couldn't state that openly because it was related to a girl's reputation and integrity.

A man and a woman who were not husband and wife or lovers were holding hands in public. What kind of image would that give others? In some more conservative villages, the woman would be drowned. She had acted like a shameless and lecherous woman.

In fact, the whole Long Yan Kingdom would think that way. Lin Yuelan was the only exception because she came from the future.

Guo Bing's hand smacked the back of Little Six's head, and then he said very seriously, "the boss and miss Lin are just pure friends, do you understand?" They couldn't just say anything they wanted.

No matter what the reason was, Lin Yuelan and Jiang Zhennan were holding hands. Both of them were single, but neither seemed to want to bring the relationship further. Therefore, they could only be ordinary friends.

Actually, the soldiers realized that their boss had changed a lot since he met Lin Yuelan. In the past, he would not say a word for a whole month, but now he could chat and joke with Lin Yuelan. Even though they could not see his face, they swore they could sense the smile behind his mask.

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Jiang Zhennan's eyes under the mask stared at holding hands. When they approached the village, he noticed some villagers pointing at them from a distance. He immediately realized what was wrong. He treated Lin Yuelan as a friend, but she was ultimately a woman. She was already twelve. She had reached the marriageable age.

It was not right for them to hold hands in broad daylight. It would not be good for the girl's reputation. In the future, how would she get married then?

When Jiang Zhennan thought of this, he immediately shook off Lin Yuelan's hand in shock.

Lin Yuelan was walking ahead when Jiang Zhennan suddenly shook her hand off. She stopped in her tracks and asked in confusion, "What's wrong?"

Staring at Lin Yuelan's clear and innocent eyes, Jiang Zhennan's heart was filled with shame and bitterness.

He actually liked it when Lin Yuelan held his hand, but he couldn't be so selfish as to harm her. Therefore, he had to let go of her hand for her own good.

He shook his head and said, "nothing."

Lin Yuelan didn't think too much about it. She only shrugged and continued walking forward. However, her footsteps were obviously not as light as before.

The two of them walked in silence all the way to the village chief's house.

Lin Yuelan stood there and shouted, "Grandpa village chief, are you home?"

With a creak, the door to the courtyard opened. Then, a child of three or four years old popped his head out. His white and chubby face was very cute.

He tilted his head and asked in a childish voice, "who is it? Who's looking for my grandfather?"

This child was Lin Yiwei's youngest grandson, and Lin Yiwei usually doted on him.

Lin Yuelan bent over and smiled at the child. "Ranran, it's sister Lan. Is your Grandpa home?" As she spoke, she took out a small toy from her arms and handed it to him. "Here, this is for Ranran!"

The child was too innocent to know about Lin Yuelan and her jinx identity. Therefore, he didn't reject her. When he saw the little toy in Lin Yuelan's hand, he immediately ran out of the door. He took the toy and said, "Thank... thank you, Sister Lan."

Lin Yuelan touched his head and asked, "Ranran, tell sister Lan, where's your grandfather?"

Lin Xuran lifted his little head, and a worried look appeared on his little face as he said, "little uncle, pain pain. Grandpa is taking care of him!"

'Little uncle, pain pain? What does that mean? Does Lin Mingqing have other injuries other than the broken spine?'

Lin Yuelan was a little worried when she heard this. She asked again, "then, Ranran, can you take sister Lan to see grandfather?"

The child nodded at first, then shook his head. He frowned and said, "little uncle... no, no!"

What he meant was that Lin Mingqing did not want anyone to see him. He didn't want anyone to see him in this deplorable state.

Lin Yuelan felt a sour feeling in her heart. She was suddenly filled with indignation and anger.

Lin Laosan's family was atrocious. Simply because Lin Mingqing stopped them from killing her, they were cruel enough to take revenge on Lin Mingqing.

It was really too detestable.

'Just wait and see. I'll definitely pay you back double for what you've done in the past.'

Lin Yuelan patted the boy's little head and said very gently, "Ranran, don't worry. Your little uncle will definitely see sister Lan."

The child didn't think much of it. His big eyes were suspicious as he asked, "really?"

"Yes, it's true," Lin Yuelan nodded and promised.

Lin Xuran brought Lin Yuelan into the house and to one of the rooms.

When Lin Yuelan opened the door and saw the scene inside, she was extremely shocked!

Chapter 172: Lin Mingqing

Lin Yiwei's family had four generations of scholars. Starting from his grandfather's generation, there would be people from every generation who would go to the examination hall and then manage to get the title of elementary scholar or provincial scholar.

Lin Yiwei's grandfather's young brother, Lin Guoan became a provincial scholar. He was hired to be a teacher at an academy in the capital. Later, his wife and son were brought to the capital as well. His descendants would only return once every three years to pay their respects to their ancestors.

In Lin Yiwei's father's generation, his second uncle, Lin Yuanren, was an elementary scholar. However, he was not as lucky as Lin Guoan. After becoming a scholar, he kept failing the Imperial examinations to become a provincial scholar. It was only when Lin Yuanren was 45 years old that he gave up and became a teacher in a private school in An Ning County.

In Lin Yiwei's generation, it was his younger brother, Lin Yishan, who became an elementary scholar. However, Lin Yishan had chosen to be a private advisor in the county government. He had no further goal of becoming a provincial scholar.

Then, it was Lin Yiwei's next generation. His youngest son, Lin Mingqing, became an elementary scholar. However, tragedy struck.

Lin Mingqing's scholar status was eliminated due to his illness.

Lin Yiwei wanted to use his connections to keep Lin Mingqing's title. When Lin Mingqing recovered, he would resume his title as a scholar.

However, Lin Mingqing was a man with strong self-esteem, even though he looked delicate and elegant. Once he heard that his father was going to use the backdoor to maintain his title, he ran into a rage. He rejected this nepotism.

They all assumed Lin Mingqing would heal within a few months, but he ended up a cripple. Someone had to help him eat, pee, and drink. He would only lie in bed all day as the doctors came and went. Hope slowly turned into disappointment and festered into despair.

His gentle and refined personality began to change day by day. He became impetuous, and his temper became violent. He smashed things and scolded his parents. But Lin Mingqing didn't want to do this. He was in so much shame. Seeing how his aged parents had to take care of him like a baby, he'd rather die. The idea of suicide fermented inside his mind.

One night, while his parents were asleep, he broke a bowl by the bed. Then, he took a sharp piece of porcelain and cut a wound on his wrist.

In an instant, blood gushed out from the wound. In the dark, the smell of blood slowly filled the small dark room.

At the same time, Lin Mingqing felt himself getting dizzier and dizzier. He was falling asleep.

"This is not bad." His eyes looked at the door with an apology. There was a relaxed expression on his face as he muttered, "I'm sorry, Mom and Dad."

However, just as he was about to close his eyes, the door to his room opened with a 'bang'. Then, he heard hurried footsteps.

Very quickly, the dark little house was lit up.

When Lin Yiwei saw the man covered in blood, his eyes almost popped out of their sockets. He would never have thought that his youngest son would commit suicide!

Lin Yiwei looked at the lifeless child and immediately cried out in shock and pain, "Qing 'Er, Qing 'Er, wake up! Why are you so stupid?!"

Lin Yiwei's shout attracted other people. Everyone was shocked when they saw the blood covering the floor and bed.

"Qing 'Er..."

"Brother..." Lin Mingliang knelt on his brother's bed with a pained expression, "Why are you doing this to yourself?"

"Qing 'Er, are you going to leave your mother like this? In that case, Mother will accompany you so that you won't be lonely in the netherworld..." Lin Yiwei's wife, Zhou Erniang, cried.

"Qing 'Er... How could you leave father behind?" Lin Yiwei cried. "If you do, what will father do?"

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"Damn old man. I'm going to kill you!" Zhou Erniang suddenly stood up and started punching Lin Yiwei. "Who told you to be a busybody? Who told you to care about the jinx? Now, she has cursed our son to his death. Are you happy now?"

Zhou Erniang had great resentment towards Lin Yuelan.

“So what if that wretched girl dies? If she’s dead, the entire Lin family Village will be at ease. We won’t have to worry about her jinxing us to death. You, on the other hand, wanted to save the jinx. But why did you bring my son into this? Bring me back my son!”

Lin Yiwei also blamed himself.

He also believed that if he hadn’t pulled his youngest son to interfere in the matter between Lin Laosan’s family and Lin Yuelan, his Qing ‘Er would have been a provincial scholar by now.

Lin Yuelan had been saved, but his Qing ‘Er died.

He was also very remorseful and guilty that he had not noticed his youngest son’s intention to commit suicide.

If he’d noticed earlier, he would’ve kept a close eye on him 24 hours a day.

If he had stayed by Qing ‘Er’s side all the time, he wouldn’t have had the chance to commit suicide.

Lin Yiwei felt the pain of losing his son. He felt that intense sorrow that was worse than death.

The whole family was immersed in the shock of Lin Mingqing’s suicide that no one checked if he was still alive.

Lin Mingqing’s head was spinning, and he could hear his father, mother, and brother’s sorrowful cries from far away.

Lin Mingqing was shocked.

Then, he suddenly had a strong will to live!

He had thought that his death would free his family.

However, he finally understood. It would not do that. If he died, this family would always be shrouded in pain.

His father and mother would be depressed because they would lose their son. His brother and sister-in-law would be in pain because they lost their younger brother. He didn’t want to be a bad example to his two nephews.

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He didn’t want to die. He had imagined all the pain. He thought that he’d be released once he died.

However, he was wrong.

He might see himself as a burden but his family would only be happy with him around. So why did he choose to die?

Would the burden be gone after he died? Of course not. His death would add pain and resentment to his family. He would hate to add those extra burdens on his family. He didn’t want his family to be in pain because of him.

Lin Mingqing didn't want that to happen.

Therefore, he didn't want to die anymore. He wanted to live.

Lin Mingqing's eyes were heavy. He could not open them. He knew that he had to open his eyes. If he didn't, he would be claimed by eternal slumber.

He also wanted to reach out his hand to comfort his mother, but he couldn't move.

In the end...

"Little brother." Lin Mingliang knelt by Lin Qingqing's bed and immediately cried out in surprise, "father, little brother is not dead. He just moved his fingers."

Lin Mingliang immediately stood up from the bed and went to check for Lin Mingqing's breath.

This time, Lin Mingliang said happily, "father, little brother is still alive."

Lin Yiwei's shock turned into surprise. He then realized that his youngest son's wound was still bleeding. He immediately shouted to Lin Mingliang, "Liang 'Er, go and find Doctor Zhang! Go!"

Lin Mingliang quickly stood up and rushed toward Doctor Zhang's home.

Lin Yiwei immediately picked up some clean cloth and bandaged Lin Mingqing's wound.

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Lin Qingming was eventually saved by Doctor Zhang. However, it caused a problem.

Due to the excessive blood loss, Lin Mingqing's brain suffered from temporary hypoxia and insufficient blood supply. In other words, his brain couldn't control his body and actions anymore.

His limbs were stiff, his eyes were a little dazed and dull, and there was drool at the corner of his mouth. However, his mind was still sharp, he merely couldn't express his will.

Lin Mingqing had broken his spine during the fall from the horse carriage, so he couldn't move anything below his waist.

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Lin Mingqing couldn't walk. Therefore, the muscles in his legs had atrophied severely, and some of them had even festered, emitting a strong horrible smell.

This was Lin Mingqing's state when Lin Yuelan and Jiang Zhennan came in.

Lin Yuelan had no idea Lin Mingqing's condition was so serious. Such a delicate, refined, and elegant young master with a bright future was completely destroyed because of a single act of kindness.

Lin Yiwei was wiping Lin Mingqing's body with a towel.

Suddenly, he felt a little uncomfortable. He quickly turned his head and saw Lin Yuelan standing at the door, looking at his youngest son.

He immediately roared at Lin Yuelan, "Yuelan, who let you come here?"

Ever since his son had become like this, they didn't dare to bring him out of the house. They knew his son didn't want others to see him like this. Lin Yiwei and his family were not embarrassed, but Lin Mingqing was. He was afraid of meeting people.

Now, Lin Yuelan and Jiang Zhennan had appeared in front of Lin Mingqing without his permission. He was afraid that this would trigger Lin Mingqing, which made Lin Yiwei very angry.

Lin Yuelan walked to Lin Mingqing with a serious expression. She squatted down and pulled up his pants. She saw his shriveled muscles and festered muscles. Then, she looked at his thin face, his slightly dazed eyes, and his drooling mouth.

She opened her mouth with difficulty and asked Lin Yiwei, "Grandpa village chief, when did uncle Mingqing become like this?" To her knowledge, Lin Mingqing was only paralyzed. He wasn't a retard.

Lin Yiwei couldn't chase Lin Yuelan away now. He looked at Lin Yuelan and thought of how she had caused this to happen to his youngest son. He was angry. However, as an elder, he knew he shouldn't vent his resentment and anger on a child.

Finally, he sighed heavily and said truthfully, "three years ago!"

Lin Yuelan was shocked to hear this answer. She said in disbelief, "How can that be?"

After that, Lin Yiwei told them about Lin Mingqing's suicide attempt three years ago. He didn't want to be his family's burden. In the end, Lin Mingqing's life was saved, but it left behind severe side effects.

After Lin Yuelan and Jiang Zhennan heard Lin Yiwei's story, their hearts were very heavy.

Lin Yuelan felt a deep sense of guilt. The guilt came from the host, but Lin Xinlan was now Lin Yuelan. Since she had taken over Lin Yuelan's identity, she would help the host.

Lin Mingqing had saved Lin Yuelan and had to suffer so heavily for it. Lin Yuelan must feel so guilty. Therefore, Lin Yuelan had to correct this mistake.

Lin Yuelan looked at Lin Yiwei seriously and said, "Grandpa Village Chief, please believe me. I will cure uncle Mingqing!"

Then, she ran out without waiting for Lin Yiwei's reaction.

Jiang Zhennan nodded at Lin Yiwei and followed Lin Yuelan.

Lin Yiwei looked at Lin Yuelan and Jiang Zhennan and sighed heavily again. He said, "child, all the doctors in the world said there's no cure. What can you do to cure Qing 'Er?" With that, he wrung the towel dry and continued to wipe Lin Mingqing clean. He didn't think Lin Mingqing could be cured. Lin Yiwei only hoped that he could be with his youngest son when he was still alive, and after he passed away, he hoped that his grandchildren would look after their little uncle. Then, his life would be complete.

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When Jiang Zhennan walked to the door, he saw that Lin Yuelan's eyes were red.

His heart ached as he walked over, but he didn't know how to comfort her.

Although they didn't know what happened with Lin Laosan's family, they knew that Lin Mingqing had played a huge role in enabling Lin Yuelan's survival.

In other words, Lin Mingqing was Lin Yuelan's savior.

Lin Yuelan had already owed Lin Yiwei and his son a huge favor.

However, Lin Mingqing was injured because of Lin Yuelan. Lin Mingqing was in this state because of Lin Yuelan.

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Therefore, Lin Yuelan must have felt a deep sense of gratitude and guilt toward Lin Mingqing.

Jiang Zhennan raised his hand and wanted to pat Lin Yuelan's small shoulder, but he seemed to have thought of something and put it down gently. Then, he looked at Lin Yiwei's house and said, "The village chief's family is very kind."

Lin Yuelan had a lot to do with Lin Mingqing's current state. Although they had some resentment in their hearts, Lin Yiwei's family had never really spoken ill of Lin Yuelan or argued with her. Even Lin Yiwei's wife, Zhou Erniang, had never really hurt Lin Yuelan.

At most, she would roll her eyes at Lin Yuelan when they met on the road. She was not like other people, such as Lin Yuelan's grandmother, who would grab Lin Yuelan and give her a scolding or a beating.

Lin Yuelan felt terrible when she saw Lin Mingqing. No one in the village knew about his latest condition. In fact, Lin Yuelan didn't know it too. She assumed Lin Mingqing was only paralyzed from the waist down. He could still talk and laugh like normal.

But, looking at Lin Qingming now, even if he was not technically a retard, what was the difference? In fact, his situation was worse. A retard wouldn't feel pain because he didn't know anything but Lin Mingqing's mind was sharp. He was trapped inside a body he couldn't control, and he needed his parents to feed and serve him all day long.

This was such a sorrowful, painful, desperate, and helpless matter.

It was hard not to consider suicide again.

Lin Yuelan's eyes were red as she sobbed, "uncle Mingqing became like this because of me. I feel terrible!" She had been through five years of the apocalypse. She thought she had become a heartless, emotionless, and cold-hearted person. However, when she saw Lin Mingqing, she felt sad and guilty.

Jiang Zhennan did not know how to comfort her. He could only say, "they are good and righteous people!"

Everyone believed that they were good people, but no one would admit that openly. In fact, many people did horrible things because they believed they were doing good things. So many people had killed because the victims were 'bad people'. So what were good people?

Lin Mingqing and his family had to suffer for the rest of their lives because of a single act of kindness. But the villagers only called them stupid!

Yes, real good people wouldn't be praised but they'd be called stupid. They were dumb for sacrificing themselves for the sake of others.

Jiang Zhennan was the well-known God of War in the country. He had killed countless people on the battlefield. He was never one to comment on a person's morality. But he had given Lin Yiwei's family the highest compliment he could. They were all good people!

Lin Yuelan was amused. With reddened eyes, she laughed, "Yes, you're right!" Then, she changed the topic and asked, "masked uncle, how do you think I should repay and thank them?"

Jiang Zhennan's eyes under the silver mask reflected a sharp light. He said deeply, "I believe that no amount of money is going to be as meaningful as curing Lin Mingqing's illness."

Lin Yuelan nodded and said, "yeah! Uncle Mingqing had suffered for three years. It's time for him to get better! Then, he'll continue his study and become the provincial scholar."

Lin Yuelan hinted that she had a way to cure Lin Mingqing. Actually, she was testing Jiang Zhennan. After all, she would have to rely on her ability to cure Lin Mingqing. Of course, she could rely on Doctor Zhang to provide her with a front, but she knew that she wouldn't be able to fool Jiang Zhennan.

After a short time together, Lin Yuelan knew that Jiang Zhennan was a man who was cold, upright, and valued honest relationships.

However, she couldn't look into his heart. One couldn't judge a book by its cover.

From the first time they met, she had revealed much of her unusual powers, and it'd be dumb for her to expect someone as clever as Jiang Zhennan not to suspect anything.

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Lin Yuelan didn't want to harm anyone, but it didn't mean that she wouldn't defend herself. She just wanted to be an ordinary farmer.

So, if one day Jiang Zhennan suddenly decided to go on a power trip and manipulate her, then she'd have no choice but to kill him. Therefore, this was a test Lin Yuelan set up to probe Jiang Zhennan. She wanted to see if the man would try to steal her powers or not. If he had such thoughts, she would have to silence him to prevent future trouble. If he didn't have such thoughts, she wouldn't mind having the soldiers around her hut.

Jiang Zhennan was a smart person. When he thought about it, he instantly understood what Lin Yuelan meant. His expression under the mask was hurt.

The fact that Lin Yuelan didn't believe in his character and came up with this test made him feel sad. Of course, his expression was shielded behind the silver mask. Lin Yuelan couldn't see it. She merely looked into his eyes. For some reason, she anticipated his answer.

Jiang Zhennan said very seriously, "Miss Yue 'Er, good people will have good karma!"

Lin Yuelan was stunned.

Then, she laughed. She was very satisfied with this answer.

Indeed, good people would have good karma. Once the time came, the good people would be rewarded.

'Lin Mingqing is a good person but has suffered so much. Even heavens pity him and give him a miracle pill. I wonder if people will believe this explanation.' Lin Yuelan thought to herself.

The two didn't mention this matter anymore. They walked back home.

Halfway there, Lin Yuelan suddenly remembered their purpose of going to Lin Yiwei's house and immediately shouted, "masked uncle, I actually forgot to tell Grandpa village chief about the land reclamation."

However, considering Lin Yiwei was taking care of Lin Mingqing, Lin Yuelan thought about it and said, "forget it. I'll find Grandpa Village Chief another day!"

On the way home, they passed by a small ditch. There was a school of small fish the size of tadpoles in the small ditch. Jiang Zhennan looked at them for a while, and then he remembered something.

He opened his mouth a few times, and in the end, he said, "Miss Yue 'Er, Guo Bing and the others said that they want to have you prepare a fish dish for them. Is that okay?" In fact, he wanted to try her cooking too. However, for the sake of his face, he had to use Guo Bing's name.

Lin Yuelan immediately replied, "no problem. Let's go, masked uncle, let's catch some fish. Without fish, how are we going to cook fish?" As she spoke, she reached out to hold Jiang Zhennan's hand out of habit.

Jiang Zhennan looked at his hand that was being held and felt really helpless. 'Miss Yue 'Er doesn't have the slightest idea of what's going on. I really didn't know what to do.' However, for Lin Yuelan's sake, he shook her hand and changed the subject, "miss Yue 'er, there's no need for us to go to the river to catch fish. Guo Bing and the others were drooling when they heard Little Twelve describe your cooking. They were too shy to ask you to cook for them, so they requested me to approach you instead. They're probably catching the fish in the river now." After all, they were penniless leechers at her house. Their food, clothing, and accommodation were arranged by Lin Yuelan. She had provided them with so much that they felt ashamed, demanding her to cook them specific dishes.

Lin Yuelan burst into laughter and said, "masked uncle, they feel too shy to ask me, but aren't you shy too?"

Jiang Zhennan was stunned. 'That's right. Why didn't I feel shy asking Miss Yue 'Er to do this for us? I am also freeloaded at Miss Yue 'Er's house too. So why wouldn't I mind approaching Miss Yue 'Er with this request?'

Jiang Zhennan asked himself these questions, but he did not seem to find any relevant answers.

Seeing how Jiang Zhennan had lowered his head to try to figure out the answer, Lin Yuelan found it even funnier. "Haha, masked uncle, you look so cute like this!"

A burly man was huddled in a corner and thinking hard because of a simple question. He reminded her of a primary school student who was ordered to stand at the corner and think about the solution to the homework.

Jiang Zhennan's face under the silver mask turned red.

He was a burly man, but he was called "cute". This made him feel a little embarrassed.

Lin Yuelan laughed even louder, "haha... Masked uncle, I can't help it. You are too cute. My stomach hurts..."

Jiang Zhennan was a little confused. He really didn't know what was so funny about this.

After laughing for a while, Lin Yuelan was a bit confused too. She had seen funnier things than this, and she never laughed this hard. So why was she so amused by Jiang Zhennan's reaction?

She couldn't figure it out, but she didn't waste her time trying to.

She said to Jiang Zhennan, "masked uncle, just help me relay this message to them. I can cook anything they want, but the caveat is that they have to work hard for me!" After all, she wouldn't be cooking for free.

Chapter 177: Guo Bing who was despised by Little White

Ever since Lin Yuelan became Doctor Zhang's grand disciple, she began to 'learn' how to read and write while reading those thick medical books.

Some of the ancient characters were not that different from modern characters. However, there were some that Lin Yuelan needed help with. Even if she was gifted, she was still a human. She wasn't born with the world of knowledge.

Ancient Chinese Characters had a lot of shapes, and they were not spelled out like pinyin. There were two ways one would teach language. The first was through verbal teaching, and the second was with a method called Zhi Yin. The second method allowed people to pick up the language without the help of others, but the premise was the student had to be able to recognize the character's Zhi Yin.

Lin Yuelan was from the modern world, so naturally, she wouldn't understand Zhi Yin. Therefore, she had to ask Jiang Zhennan to teach her verbally.

Jiang Zhennan was very surprised when he was teaching Lin Yuelan. This was because Lin Yuelan was a very smart student. In just one day, Lin Yuelan had memorized more than half of the characters.

When she looked at the scrolls, she asked Jiang Zhennan with some doubts, "Is this how most people learn the language? Through verbal teachings?" This meant that teachers were vital, unlike in the future, where people could turn to media like the internet to pick up a new language.

Jiang Zhennan was confused. Verbal teaching had always been how they taught language.

Jiang Zhennan nodded.

Lin Yuelan rested her chin on her hand and leaned on the table. She asked doubtfully, "Isn't there a way for people to learn how to read and write on their own?"

“Pfft!” Guo Bing was amused and said, “Miss Lin, this is how it has been for decades. Who would be so smart to know how to write on their own?”

Lin Yuelan secretly rolled her eyes at Guo Bing and thought to herself, ‘Just because it doesn’t happen now doesn’t mean that it won’t happen in the future.’

Lin Yuelan gave Guo Bing a scornful smile and said, “First lieutenant, even if something has been fixed for decades, it doesn’t mean that there wouldn’t be innovation. Since ancient times, what haven’t been invented through human innovation? Or are you content to enjoy the fruits of your predecessors?”

As soon as Lin Yuelan’s words fell, the entire courtyard immediately fell silent.

The boisterous atmosphere just now disappeared.

All of them had their heads lowered, as if they were in deep thought.

That’s right, why should they only enjoy the results of their predecessors? Why wouldn’t they think of new innovations?

Jiang Zhennan suddenly felt a little excited.

They had never thought about revolutionizing the education process. If people could learn to read and write on their own, the level of illiteracy would decrease, and Long Yan Country would rise.

Jiang Zhennan’s deep and magnetic voice was filled with excitement as he asked, “miss Yue ‘er, do you have any ideas?”

‘Of course I have.’ Lin Yuelan really wanted to say that, but she knew it was impossible.

Lin Yuelan shook her head and said, “Not at the moment, but with my extremely smart brain, I’ll definitely invent something that will allow people to pick up the language easier and faster.”

The others laughed.

They didn’t know that miss Lin was such a narcissist besides being stingy.

But in the future, Lin Yuelan would prove them wrong. She was not narcissistic but confident.

Guo Bing laughed and said, “Miss Lin, we’ll be waiting for the results of your invention!” Of course, Guo Bing didn’t mean any mockery.

He just found it interesting.

In fact, he believed that Lin Yuelan would give them a big surprise. This was something he had observed after spending a few days with Lin Yuelan.

Lin Yuelan closed the book. Then, she stretched and said, “You all look so free. Come with me to go up the mountains to pick some grapes.”

Chapter 178: Guo Bing who was despised by Little White

Guo Bing and the others were unfamiliar with this place. Lin Yuelan's hut was far from town, and it was not market day. They had gone up the mountain yesterday to bring back some meat and wild vegetables. They didn't need to do the same thing again. So they were bored.

It just so happened that Lin Yuelan found a large grape forest in the back mountain not too long ago.

The sweet and sour grapes were a favorite among the villagers. However, the grapes grew in the back mountain. Although the back mountain was not as dangerous as Da Ao Mountain, it would take the villagers half a day to travel to the back mountain.

Plus, ripened grapes were not easy to store. They would rot after two or three days. Therefore, many villagers would not spend the effort to pick those grapes unless they wanted to harvest them to sell.

However, not many people would spend money to purchase wild grapes. After all, they could go and harvest the grapes themselves. In their eyes, it wasn't easy to earn a copper coin, so they wouldn't even think about spending money to buy these wild fruits.

As a result, the grapes in the back mountain ended up rotten on the ground. Lin Yuelan planned to harvest them. Apart from planting them in her space, she also wanted to make wine out of them.

"Grapes?" Little three was confused. "What are grapes, miss Lin? Is it delicious?"

In his eyes, as long as it was made by Lin Yuelan, it would definitely be delicious.

Lin Yuelan patted her head. She forgot that grapes were not called grapes here. The green ones were called green crystal fruits, and the purple ones were called purple crystal fruits.

Lin Yuelan said, "it's the purple crystal fruit and the green crystal fruit."

"Hmm? Then why would Miss Lin call them grapes?" Little three asked again.

'This one needs Grapes for Beginners.'

Lin Yuelan shrugged, "How would I know? I know they are called grapes." She was not a horticulturist, so she didn't know the background of every plant and fruit.

Lin Yuelan smiled at Little Three and said, "If you really want to know, go and buy Grapes for Beginners."

Jiang Zhennan was confused. 'What exactly is this for Beginners series? Why is it that Miss Lin would tell them to buy this series whenever they had a question.'

Jiang Zhennan stepped forward and asked in confusion, "miss Yue 'Er, what is this x for Beginners? Why do you always tell us to buy them?"

All of them looked at Lin Yuelan with curiosity.

'Perfect, another one.' Lin Yuelan chuckled and said, "Just contemplate it on your own." Then she walked into the house, leaving the five to look at each other.

In the end, little twelve touched the back of his head and said, "first lieutenant, you're the smartest. Can you tell me what is this x for beginners?"

Everyone's eyes were fixed on Guo Bing again.

Guo Bing also wanted to shout, “who knows?” However, Guo Bing held his chin with one hand and pretended to be deep in thought. Then, he gave an answer, “It’s actually very simple. We’re all beginners, so we need to buy these for beginners series.”

The others felt like beating Guo Bing when they heard him. They didn’t need this literal explanation.

At that moment, the sharp eyes under the mask were slightly lowered as if they were in deep thought.

After a while, Lin Yuelan took out a few baskets from the woodshed and told them, “here, take them all. Let’s go pick grapes now.”

The few men who were freeloading had to carry a basket on their backs each. Even Jiang Zhennan was no exception. The only one who didn’t need to do that was Lin Yuelan.

Lin Yuelan was quite sluggish. Even though the back mountain was not as far as Da Ao Mount, she still called Little White over to carry her there.

Chapter 179: Guo Bing who was Despised by Little White

Seeing little white again, Guo Bing and the others had a deep respect, admiration, and sympathy.

Little white, the poor king of beasts, became a human’s mount! It came at Lin Yuelan’s beck and call.

Looking at the big white tiger with its snowy white fur and majestic appearance, Guo Bing’s heart was a little itchy.

Why?

He wanted to ride it.

However, he knew that this big white tiger was an animal that was even more difficult to approach than Liefeng. Therefore, he could only take a roundabout route to achieve his goal.

When Guo Bing saw miss Lin riding on little White’s back, he went forward. Then, he asked curiously, “miss Lin, I would like to ask, how did you and little white meet?”

As he spoke, he reached out his right hand, trying to stroke little White’s fur.

However, Little White was not willing. It was the king of beasts, not some pet.

“Roar!” Just as Guo Bing was about to approach, little white suddenly turned its head and roared at Guo Bing, its hot breath blowing on Guo Bing’s face.

Guo Bing was so frightened that he immediately put down his hand. Then, he said in a flattering manner, “Lord Little White, don’t be angry. I was just curious and wanted to touch your fur. Your coat is so beautiful...”

Before Guo Bing could finish, Little White roared again as if in a warning.

Seeing little white, who had been so gentle and kind to Lin Yuelan, suddenly become so fierce, Guo Bing was startled and staggered back a few steps.

He could not help but feel aggrieved as he looked up to the sky and cried internally. 'Little White, do you have to scare me like this? I just wanted to touch you, not eat you. Why are you suddenly so fierce to me? So many people are watching. You're making me lose face!' But Guo Bing said outwardly, "Lord Little White, don't be angry. It's just that you're too pretty. I just want a quick touch..."

However, before Guo Bing could finish his words, little white roared at him again.

Guo Bing was confused. Little White would roar at him whenever he said it was beautiful. Then with everyone looking shocked, Guo Bing knelt down and looked at Little White's underside. Little White was a male tiger!

No wonder it didn't like to be called pretty.

'How is Little White so smart?' Guo Bing was confused. But he quickly stood up to apologize, "young master Bai, I really didn't mean to say that you're beau... Please don't be angry, okay?"

This time, little white finally didn't roar at him, but it rolled its eyes at Guo Bing instead. Guo Bing felt the shame of being despised again.

"Brother Bing, did Little White just roll its eyes at you?" Little Six looked at the Little White and Guo Bing. In order to not expose their identity, they stopped calling Guo Bing first lieutenant but Brother Bing. However, they still referred to Jiang Zhennan as their boss.

Jiang Zhennan was the oldest among them, so calling him the boss would not arouse any suspicion.

Guo Bing almost vomited blood.

However, he would never admit that he was once again looked down on by a tiger. He'd become a laughing stock if this got out.

Guo Bing said to Little Six in a bad mood, "you must be seeing things!"

"But, brother Bing," little twelve said very honestly, "I also saw Little White roll its eyes at you."

Guo Bing simply wanted to take something to seal little twelve's mouth.

He also said to Little twelve angrily, "you're seeing things too!"

"Hmm? But I saw it too." Little three echoed. "Am I also seeing things?"

Guo Bing felt like losing his temper. His brothers would only be there to drag him down. They only knew how to undermine him.

Lin Yuelan, who was sitting on Little White's back, found this funny.

Chapter 180: Guo Bing who was Despised by Little White

These few clowns were really too funny. Lin Yuelan felt like her life was more interesting after taking them in.

Lin Yuelan patted little white and said with a smile, "little white, someone didn't see that you've rolled your eyes at him. I think he has bad eyesight. Don't you agree, masked uncle?"

The corners of Jiang Zhennan's lips curled up, and he replied softly, "yes!"

Guo Bing suddenly felt that he had been deserted by his friends and family.

Guo Bing immediately shouted at Jiang Zhennan, "boss, you can't do this. Little White was probably just moving its eyes. It didn't look down on me. Besides, why would it suddenly roll its eyes at me?" Guo Bing was handsome, suave, and gentlemanly. He was a man who could win the world with his tongue. He was both talented and beautiful. Many women would throw themselves at him. There was no reason for Little White to despise him.

However, Guo Bing forgot one thing.

First of all, little white was an animal. How could it know the standard of human beauty and ugliness?

Secondly, little white was a male tiger. It had no interest in pouncing on men.

Therefore, Guo Bing was daydreaming again.

After Little White gave Guo Bing another eye roll, it knocked Guo Bing to the ground with its head.

"Ah, little white, you can't be like this!" After the others had gone far away, Guo Bing complained in grief and indignation. "I didn't do anything to you. Why do you treat me like this? You already look down on me, and now you're pushing me to the ground." Guo Bing felt so wronged.

He was just a little scared of little white when they first met, and because of that, Little White looked down on him. Who would have thought Little White would remember that encounter until now?

They soon arrived at the back mountain amidst all kinds of teasing.

Lin Yuelan and the others found the grape forest.

There were dense clusters of grapes. The purple and green grapes were crystal clear and glowed with a bright luster. It was as if he had entered the world of jewelry.

Lin Yuelan's appetite was immediately aroused. She swallowed her saliva, then quickly found a bunch of ripe and large grapes, plucked them, peeled them, and put them into her mouth.

It was sweet and sour. It was really delicious.

Natural fruits that were not fertilized with agricultural products were indeed different.

In the end, Lin Yuelan didn't even peel the skin and directly threw it into her mouth. There was no pesticide anyway.

When the others saw the bunches of beautiful grapes, their stomachs growled too. They immediately picked a few bunches and planned to eat their fill first.

Jiang Zhennan watched as Lin Yuelan ate the grapes without even peeling the skin. He picked the largest and most beautiful bunch of grapes and plucked them. Then, he walked in front of Lin Yuelan, peeled a grape, and handed it to her mouth. Lin Yuelan took the offering with her mouth without thinking.

Thus, one was happily peeling, and the other was happily eating.

Guo Bing and the others were shocked at first. Then they looked at each other and continued eating their grapes as if nothing had happened.

However, their eye contact betrayed them.

'Do you think there's a chance between the boss and miss Lin?'

'No clue.'

'Let's just observe for now.'

'Okay.'

They had returned with a bountiful harvest!

"Miss Lin, what do you need so many purple crystal fruits and green crystal fruits for?" Looking at the boxes of crystal fruits being carried down the mountain, Guo Bing was really confused and curious.

Miss Lin would definitely not let them pick so many purple-green crystal fruits for no reason. She was going to make something delicious out of them again. Why would they think that? Because grapes were meant to be eaten. If she weren't going to prepare them as food, what would Lin Yuelan do with them?

Lin Yuelan didn't hide anything. She said indifferently, "I'm planning to get some wine and raisins."

"Wine?!" This time, it was only Jiang Zhennan and Guo Bing who were surprised. As high-ranking officials of the Imperial court, they naturally knew about wine. They had been rewarded some in the past.

The wine was made by people of the western region. The people of Long Yan Country didn't know how to make them. But suddenly, Miss Lin said she wanted to make wine.

They didn't hear wrong, did they?

They had no idea that wine could be made from the purple crystal fruit of the Long Yan Country.

Lin Yuelan replied indifferently, "yes, wine!"

Guo Bing immediately asked curiously, "miss Lin, do you really know how to make wine?"

"Yes." Lin Yuelan simply replied.

"Miss Lin," Guo Bing really looked at Lin Yuelan in a new light. He was really curious about her. "How on earth does your head work? How can you be so smart? I've heard of geniuses who have a photographic memory, but you're a genius among geniuses. Other than having a photographic memory, you have so much interesting knowledge.

"Tell me, is there anything you can't do? You have divine power. You know martial arts, cooking, business negotiations, and so on. You're almost omnipotent," Guo Bing pointed out one by one with his finger. "Miss Lin, I'm just curious. What don't you know?"

This was only their second day in the Lin family Village, and apart from Li Cuihua, who wanted to drive a wedge between them and Lin Yuelan, the other villagers didn't dare to approach them.

On the one hand, they hid far away as soon as they saw them, but on the other hand, they were full of curiosity about them. However, no one went up to them.

As such, they still didn't know the real reason why the Lin family Village was so afraid of Lin Yuelan. They didn't know that she had died once and returned with all kinds of abilities.

Lin Yuelan was reading a book in her hand. When she heard Guo Bing's question, she rolled her eyes and said indifferently, "I don't know how to be a man!"

Guo Bing choked. 'Is she teasing us? She's a woman, so of course, she wouldn't know how to be a woman.

'However, even though she's not a man, her ruthlessness and killing methods can rival the strongest man. She is manlier than some men. So why would she want to be a man?'

The others' mouths twitched again.

Of course, Lin Yuelan was only joking with them. The soldiers knew that.