

## Village Girl 181

### Chapter 181: Wine

After the grapes were picked, Lin Yulan couldn't wait to start making wine. This was because the fresher the grapes were, the better the wine they made.

Lin Yuelan first picked out the ripe purple grapes. She cut off the stems and placed them aside so that the skin was not damaged.

As these grapes were grown without pesticides, they didn't need to be washed at all. There was a layer of white mist on the skin of the grapes, which was a natural yeast. The wine made in this way was very delicious.

Lin Yulan ordered the men to wash the clay pots by the river, dry them, and bring them back. They would dry quickly on such a hot day.

Lin Yulan took the clay pot and crushed the selected grapes one by one. The skin, seeds, and pulp dropped into the clay pot. Then, she started to process them.

She used a 6 to 1 ratio of grapes to white sugar. She mixed them evenly. After the white sugar had fully melted, she poured the mixture into clean jars. The jars weren't filled to the brim because the grapes would release gas during the fermentation process. If it was filled too much, the wine would overflow. In addition, in order to prevent the air from entering the jar, Lin Yuelan found a piece of airtight oilcloth to cover it.

Jiang Zhennan and the others did not say a word while Lin Yuelan was processing the grapes. They were all watching very seriously. Although they had many doubts and questions, no one asked anything.

They understood that this might involve Lin Yuelan's secret wine-making technique.

After a long time, Lin Yuelan finally finished the first jar. She stretched lazily and shook her head. Then, she immediately realized that a few curious babies were staring at her.

Lin Yuelan asked in confusion, "What's wrong? Why are you all looking at me?"

Lin Yuelan had never thought that her amazing act of brewing grape wine would shock these people. In fact, the soldiers didn't expect Lin Yuelan to make the wine right before them. Wasn't she worried that they would sell her secret formula? Of course, they would never do that. They would never betray her.

Guo Bing stared at Lin Yuelan and asked in surprise, "Miss Lin, is this how wine is made?"

"What do you think?" Lin Yuelan asked instead of answering this oldest curious baby. She then immediately instructed the others, "I need each of you to take a clay pot and follow what I did. Put the skin and meat of the grapes into the pot. Then, I'll teach you the grape to sugar ratio."

When she saw the large grape field earlier, she had already thought of making wine, so she had prepared everything like sugar, jars, and so on.

She wanted to try out different ratios of grapes and sugars to see how each would taste. She would ultimately pick the best wine.

Therefore, she bought more than 20 clay pots. Each pot could hold about one catty of materials. As for the sugar, Lin Yuelan had collected more than 100 catties of it during the apocalypse.

She used her own store of white sugar because the quality of the sugar sold in town wasn't that good. It would ruin the taste of her product.

When the men heard Lin Yuelan ask them to squat down and crush the grapes, they were dumbfounded.

They were all men who had fought bloody battles on the battlefield with knives and guns. It was fine for them to help out with clearing the land but asking them to use their tiny fingers to pinch grapes? That was rather preposterous.

None of the men moved.

Lin Yuelan raised her brows and looked at them with a faint smile. She asked indifferently, "what's wrong? Is no one willing? Does that mean that no one is willing to drink the wine when it's ready?"

That was a clear threat.

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In other words, if they didn't work the grapes, they wouldn't get to drink the wine.

That instantly moved the men.

The big baby, Guo Bing, immediately argued, "Miss Lin, you can't do this. It's fine if you want us to go hunting or fishing, but this... Isn't it a bit of a waste of our talent?"

Lin Yuelan glanced at Guo Bing. "A waste of your talent?" Then, she chuckled and said, "Then, it appears like your talent will be wasted here, no matter what. I don't think my place is suitable for you. How about this? You can go to other places where your talents are needed. I don't need you to stay."

Guo Bing's expression changed quickly. He immediately stepped forward and said, "Miss Lin, I didn't mean that. I'll go and crush the grapes, okay?"

Now that they were penniless, they could not return to the capital. More importantly, they had to hide their identities and not let those people find out that they were still alive. Otherwise, they would be hunted down again.

They were really pitiful. They had homes, but they had no home to return to!

Before Guo Bing could finish his words, Jiang Zhennan had already walked to the front of the clay pot, then squatted down and began to work silently.

However, when he held the grape, the grape exploded with a pop. The grape juice sprayed on Jiang Zhennan's mask.

Jiang Zhennan was stunned for a moment, and he was at a loss.

"Pfft!" Lin Yuelan laughed.

“Masked uncle, it seems to me that you can’t wait to drink the wine.” Lin Yuelan teased, “But you won’t get the wine so soon.” Then, she walked to Jiang Zhennan, squatted down, took a grape, and demonstrated it to Jiang Zhennan. She said, “You are too used to holding weapons. These grapes are very fragile compared to weapons. You have to be gentle. Think of it as peeling the grape skin. Just use the same amount of force to crush the grapes.”

Jiang Zhennan was okay because he had peeled the skin for Lin Yuelan earlier, but things were not that simple for the other men. They normally didn’t peel off the skin when they ate grapes.

Jiang Zhennan failed at first, but with Lin Yuelan’s demonstration, he slowly became more skilled.

His subordinates were dumbfounded.

When did their boss become so patient?

Guo Bing’s bargaining was fruitless, so he could only hang his head in frustration and obediently squat in front of another jar, slowly and patiently pinching the grapes like Jiang Zhennan.

He kept mumbling, “I’ll crush you. I’ll crush all of you!”

Since the two bosses had started to work, the three little ones had to work too. There were only so many grapes. They’d be done with them in a while.

While the five of them were prepared the grapes, Lin Yuelan walked to a quiet place and took out the white sugar from her space.

The grapes were done very quickly.

Lin Yuelan gave the men 5.3 catties, 5.6 catties, 5 catties, 6.6 catties, 7 catties, and 7.5 catties of white sugar each. These white sugar were placed in separate clay jars, stirred and mixed, and then sealed.

After everything was done, it was already dark.

Lin Yuelan carried the jars one by one to the cellar.

Although the hut was small, it was once Lin Laosan’s family’s old house, so it had a cellar. The cellar was not big, so Lin Yuelan used her power to expand it further. Now, the cellar was even bigger than the hut aboveground.

Jiang Zhennan followed Lin Yuelan, also holding a clay pot in his hands. He still had some doubts as he asked, “Miss Lin, can you really make that wine with this?”

Could a few catties of grapes with some sugar really make the fragrant wine of the western region?

Lin Yuelan said mysteriously, “Just wait and see.”

Of course, wine-making was not that simple. The quality also depended on the fermentation process and time. Plus, Lin Yuelan had a secret ingredient. She had added a drop of her spring water into each jar.

After everything was done, Lin Yuelan planned to cook a few dishes to reward the men.

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They had hunted some prey yesterday, including a few pheasants.

Lin Yuelan planned to cook beggar's chicken. Before the apocalypse came, she liked to read romance transmigration novels. The female leads would cook beggar's chickens in those transmigration novels she read.

At first, she was very puzzled. Why would every author make their leads cook beggar's chicken? The taste would always be amazing too.

Due to her interest, Lin Xinlan did some research online about beggar's chicken. She learned how to cook it. It was then that she also found out that beggar's chicken was invented around two hundred years ago, but the settings of those transmigration novels always took place more than a few thousand years back. Since then, she cast aside her doubts about the beggar's chicken.

However, she didn't expect that she'd follow in the footsteps of so many female protagonists of those transmigration novels.

She had never made beggar's chicken before, but she did know its recipe. She would treat this first time as an experiment. She could improve it in the future.

Lin Yuelan asked Guo Bing to pick some big lotus leaves from the wild ponds.

As soon as Guo Bing heard that the lotus leaves were meant for cooking, he immediately departed happily.

Lin Yuelan carried a few pheasants and went to the river with Jiang Zhennan to clean them.

Of the three remaining children, one went to call doctor Zhang, while the other two went to collect the firewood to make a fire.

Jiang Zhennan looked at the eight pheasants and was a little speechless. They had only hunted ten pheasants, and eight would be used in the dinner that night. Lin Yuelan said that she wanted to leave a cock and a hen to start a coop.

When they were at the river, Jiang Zhennan grabbed a chicken, then took out a small knife and wanted to cut the neck of the pheasant.

"Wait, masked uncle. You don't need to bleed the pheasant for this recipe," Lin Yuelan immediately stopped him.

Jiang Zhennan was a little puzzled. "Miss Yue'er, what should I do then?"

Lin Yuelan explained, "You need to wring the pheasant's neck, then make a small opening on the back, dig out the internal organs, and wash the inner cavity."

Jiang Zhennan followed Lin Yuelan's instructions.

The two of them moved very nimbly, and in a short while, they had finished processing the eight pheasants.

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On the other side, Guo Bing followed Lin Yuelan's directions to look for the pond, but he was not very familiar with the place.

Therefore, he stopped a person on the road to ask, "miss, where is the pond with lotus flowers?"

Unfortunately, the person Guo Bing stopped was Ying Zi.

Ying Zi had heard that Lin Yuelan had brought a few burly men into the village. The men looked fierce and scary. Plus, their stay had been approved by the village chief, so not many villagers dared to go see them.

Who were they? Even the village chief vouched for them even though he had met them only once. He even told the villagers not to go disturb them.

The villagers had been observing the five from a distance. Other than the man in the silver mask, the villagers realized that the men were not that fierce-looking. The initial rumors were not true. In fact, they looked dignified and decent. One of them was very handsome, with sword-like eyebrows and fine skin. He had the appearance of an elegant young master.

These days, Ying Zi had been trying to find a chance to get in touch with this elegant young master.

That day, she saw the young man leave Lin Yuelan's place and then head to the fields. Her eyes brightened as she came up with an idea. She tidied up her clothes and moved towards the field, pretending to be looking for something.

When Ying Zi heard the voice, she looked up and was stunned. 'This young master is so handsome!

'He has good facial features and snow-white skin. He is even fairer than the young ladies she had seen in town.

'This man is more handsome than young master Liu who came last time. Plus, he is manlier than Young Master Liu!'

Ying Zi looked at Guo Bing in a daze, not moving an inch.

Guo Bing's eyes flashed with distaste. 'Another love-crazy woman.'

However, his almond-shaped eyes immediately lit up, and the corners of his mouth curled up into a charming arc. He asked in the most alluring voice, "Miss, are you from the Lin family Village? Can you tell me how to get to the pond with the lotus flowers?"

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Ying Zi's eyes were still fixed on Guo Bing's face as if she had not heard his question.

The annoyance in Guo Bing's eyes intensified. He thought to himself, 'If you weren't the only villager around, I would have left already.'

Now that Guo Bing thought about it, Lin Yuelan was the only woman who didn't seem to be infatuated with him. Since Guo Bing was young, he had always been very good-looking. He had the appearance of a beautiful flower, causing many people to misunderstand that he was a lady.

Later, as if to prove that he was a man, he went to the battlefield without telling his family.

After a few years of training on the battlefield, his feminine face had become sharp, and he gained a soldier's masculinity. Therefore, no one would mistake him for a woman anymore.

However, even though they no longer misunderstood him as a woman, he became even more attractive to women. When they saw them, they wanted to throw themselves at him. When he went out on the streets, he would bend down all day to pick up embroidered handkerchiefs, incense sticks, or other things. In short, these women stared at him like wolves and tigers.

Although Guo Bing was affectionate to women, he was actually most heartless with his ways. He was gentle and considerate because that was his nature. However, this was mistaken by women as hope, even though he was not interested in any of them. But was that his fault? Therefore, Guo Bing became annoyed by women who couldn't conduct themselves with dignity around him because they'd only bring him trouble.

It seemed like that hadn't changed when Guo Bing reached Lin Family Village.

Guo Bing raised his hand and waved it in front of Ying Zi. He continued to call out, "Miss, miss ..." He called out a few times, and the more he called, the louder he got.

Ying Zi was finally woken up by Guo Bing's roar. Then, Guo Bing took out a handkerchief and said, "miss, you should wipe your saliva first!"

'How could she be so man-crazy that she'd drool all over the floor? This is disgusting.'

To be polite, Guo Bing still presented Ying Zi with his handkerchief. However, his words were sarcastic. He was reminding her to conduct herself with dignity.

It was a pity that Ying Zi didn't understand these things, or rather, she wasn't smart enough to understand the meaning between the lines.

She immediately took the handkerchief, then blushed and lowered her head shyly. She wiped the corner of her mouth with the handkerchief, then said to Guo Bing in a reserved and delicate voice, "Young master, please don't take offense. It's because I've never seen a man as good-looking as Young master, so..." I was too enraptured looking at you.

A sarcastic expression appeared on Guo Bing's face, but it disappeared in an instant. Then, he asked with a gentle smile, "Miss, have you seen a lot of men? Otherwise, how would you know that I'm the best-looking man you've ever seen?"

Upon hearing this, Ying Zi's face turned pale, and her eyes were filled with panic.

Even if she wasn't smart, she could understand the meaning of the man's question.

He was mocking him for being shameless and always staring at the man.

Ying Zi's hand that was holding the handkerchief paused. Then, she explained helplessly, "No... No... It's not like that. Young master, I... I just haven't seen a man as good-looking as you in the Lin family Village." She didn't want this man whom she liked to have the wrong idea of her.

Guo Bing was getting fed up with this cheap dance. He cut to the point, "Miss, please tell me where I can pick lotus leaves?"

Ying Zi asked, "Young master, do you want to pluck the lotus leaves? Did that ji... Lin Yuelan ask you to do this?"

Guo Bing nodded.

"Why are you picking the lotus leaves, young master?" Ying Zi asked. "What is that jinx up to now?"

Guo Bing's annoyed expression immediately appeared on his face. He said coldly, "Girl, this is my own business. Aren't you asking too much? Miss, please tell me where the pond is. I will be very grateful. If you insist on the interrogation, then I'll go and find it myself." As he said that, he turned around.

When Ying Zi heard Guo Bing's words, she immediately became a little angry. She didn't think she was interrogating anyone. In fact, she was doing this to protect this young master. This was because he didn't know what kind of person Lin Yuelan was.

Seeing that Guo Bing was about to leave, Ying Zi immediately became anxious.

She asked, "Young master, do you know what kind of person Lin Yuelan is?"

Guo Bing immediately looked at Yingzi and said with a smile, "Miss, aren't you being a little too nosy? All I've asked is the direction to the lotus pond. How is that related to what kind of person Miss Lin is? It seems like Miss is not willing to help me. Goodbye then."

Ying Zi immediately spread her arms and rushed in front of him. She said anxiously, "Lin Yuelan is a jinx. Anyone who gets close to her is unlucky and will get into trouble." Young master, for the sake of your safety, it's best for you to leave that jinx as soon as possible."

As Lin Yuelan's life got better and better in the past two months, Ying Zi felt more and more unbalanced. Lin Yuelan had to live like an animal. How could she suddenly become so capable, beautiful, and good at seducing men?

However, Ying Zi knew that these men definitely didn't know anything about Lin Yuelan's jinx identity. Otherwise, they wouldn't have stayed with her.

For the sake of the young masters' lives, she had to tell them the truth about Lin Yuelan and then persuade them to leave as soon as possible. She was doing this for their own good. That was what Ying Zi believed. She didn't think she was acting out of line at all.

In fact, she believed she was being kind. She couldn't bear to see these people die because of Lin Yuelan. Especially this young master, who was so handsome and beautiful. How could he die because of that jinx?

However, she didn't know the story between Lin Yuelan and these people.

Without waiting for Guo Bing's reply, Ying Zi quickly continued, "I know that you guys must not be willing to follow her. She must have used sorcery to make you obey her, right?"

“Young master, you need to wake up. Lin Yuelan is a monster who can control fierce beasts. Some time ago, that jinx controlled my mother and made her stay on Mount Da Ao for a night.

“Lin Yuelan is also a cold-blooded animal. It is said that she was given divine power by the King of Hell and the ability to communicate with animals. But who knows if that’s a lie or not. After all, the jinx wasn’t like this at all in the past.”

Ying Zi rambled, but Guo Bing caught a few key points.

Guo Bing’s attitude changed immediately. He seemed to have just realized the truth and asked seriously, “Miss, what do you mean by this? What jinx? And what was it that the King of Hell gave him the power to communicate with animals? And what did you mean when you said she wasn’t like this before?”

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Upon hearing Guo Bing’s question, Ying Zi was secretly pleased.

‘I knew it. These people didn’t know about the jinx’s background. Otherwise, they would have shown fear around the jinx.’ Ying Zi suppressed the excitement in her heart and asked with a surprised and suspicious expression, “Don’t you know?”

Guo Bing endured his disgust and nodded. He thought that only the women in the capital would play mind games, scheme, and even be vicious. He did not expect that a girl in her teens in a remote mountain village could be so scheming and vicious.

Guo Bing didn’t know what grudges this young girl had with Lin Yuelan, but from what they knew of Lin Yuelan, she was the kind of person who was cheerful, generous, kind, and ruthless at the same time. She was not the kind of person who was petty, so it was impossible for Lin Yuelan to take the initiative to make enemies with others.

This girl kept saying she was telling him this for their own good, but Guo Bing could see the jealousy, envy, and resentment in her eyes. She thought she was smart, but she wasn’t. Guo Bing didn’t want to care about the petty grudges between this woman and Lin Yuelan, but he couldn’t stand the girl’s continued slandering of Lin Yuelan’s name. Plus, he was curious about what she’d say.

He wanted to know why Lin Yuelan, in their eyes, was completely different from the one the villagers knew.

From Ying Zi’s words, Guo Bing could tell that Lin Yuelan had a transformative change. There was a reason behind this, and the entire Lin family Village knew it. The soldiers didn’t know about this because they were new to the village.

Ying Zi was excited when Guo Bing stopped to listen to him. ‘I knew that the jinx must have lied to them. Now, I’m going to tell them the truth. Lin Yuelan, you bitch, just wait to suffer their indignation and anger.

‘I want everyone to leave you. No one will dare to approach you because you’re destined to die alone. You don’t deserve to have family or friends. You don’t need so many handsome men surrounding you.

‘I’m going to expose your true face to them. You’re actually a demon in human skin.’

Ying Zi stared at Guo Bing's face and unconsciously took a few steps forward. Seeing this, Guo Bing's eyes flashed with annoyance, and he took a few steps back, keeping a certain distance from Ying Zi.

He didn't want to be seen being too close to this woman. He couldn't care less about this woman's reputation, but Guo Bing cared about his dignity.

Guo Bing reached out to stop her and shouted, "Miss, please conduct yourself with dignity! Although it is broad daylight, we should conduct ourselves properly. Miss, please don't come any further."

Ying Zi was awoken by Guo Bing's shout, but when she reacted, her small face immediately turned red and white.

She was both embarrassed and angry.

This was the second time the man had implied that she was shameless.

'How detestable! Hmph, when you fall into my hands, I'll make you kneel in front of me and admit your mistakes.'

However, at that moment, Ying Zi immediately restrained her expression and pretended to be careful and fearful as she looked around. Finally, she said softly, "Young master, you don't know this, but the current Lin Yuelan is very likely not the Lin Yuelan of the past. We all suspect that she is possessed by a demon."

Guo Bing's expression instantly became shocked, and there was a little panic on his face. "Why do you say that?" he asked in surprise.

Guo Bing might have exaggerated his expression, but at the same time, he was also genuinely shocked.

He didn't know that other than the fact that Lin Yuelan was a jinx who would bring bad luck to her husband and family, the villagers also suspected that she was a demon.

Therefore, the villagers were not hiding from them, but they were actually hiding from Lin Yuelan. Lin Yuelan was a demon to them!

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To be fair, Guo Bing and the rest also suspected Lin Yuelan was a demon when they encountered the strange scenes in the forest. However, they also saw the kindness she had shown them.

Kindness and evil were not determined by species.

There were good and bad people;

There were good and bad demons.

Even if Lin Yuelan was a demon, she was also a good demon. She was much more loyal than some people. So the soldiers admired Lin Yuelan. She didn't misuse her power, and she knew her bottom line. As long as people didn't provoke her unnecessarily, she wouldn't harm them.

Ying Zi's eyes twitched, and she bit her lip. She seemed to be hesitating and afraid. She looked pitiful.

Guo Bing was even more annoyed when he saw this. 'This girl really knows how to act! How can a child in her teens be so scheming? In any case, the Lin Family Village is very special. It has Lin Yuelan and now this shameless woman.

'They are both precocious, but one uses her smarts to plan for herself, but the other only knows how to scheme against others.'

Guo Bing comforted her, "Miss, don't worry. I will not let Lin Yuelan know that you have told me the truth."

Hearing Guo Bing's promise, Ying Zi seemed to be relieved. She continued, "Hear me out. Just two months ago, Lin Yuelan was an ugly and hateful jinx of the Lin family Village. However, on that day, she offended the king of children, Yan Xiaoyoung. He paid everyone a copper coin and asked his friends in the village to teach her a lesson.

"I clearly remember that jinx was given a kick to her chest by Er Gou Zi, and she died..."

"What? You had kicked miss Lin to her death?!" Guo Bing said in shock. This was beyond his expectation. He had thought that Lin Yuelan was a demon or a spy sent by the enemy, but he never once thought that she had returned from the dead. If the real Lin Yuelan had died, who was this Lin Yuelan?

Ying Zi nodded and said, "Yes, when Er Gou Zi and the others tested her breathing, she had already stopped breathing."

That was not true. When Er Guo Zi went forth to test Lin Yuelan's breathing, Lin Xinlan transmigrated into Lin Yuelan's body and instinctively grabbed Er Guo Zi. However, in order to justify Lin Yuelan's demonic nature, Ying Zi distorted the truth.

Guo Bing's face changed immediately when he heard this. He asked anxiously, "You must have done that to protect the village from the jinx. Also, since you said that you've kicked the jinx to death, then who is this Lin Yuelan now?"

Guo Bing slyly planted a lure in his question. He wanted to know if the girl was involved in Lin Yuelan's death or not.

Ying Zi was a little smart, but she was not as smart as Guo Bing, the old fox. Ying Zi's face turned serious as she said, "Yes, we did help protect the village by eliminating the jinx, but..."

Guo Bing was a little scared.

This child was still a teenager, yet she had kicked someone to death just like that. Furthermore, she had justified it so righteously. She had committed murder without a change in her conscience. Just twisted, how vicious, and how resentful she was.

'People say that mountain villagers are innocent. But these people can commit murders without hesitation and are completely unrepentant!'

Then, Ying Zi's expression turned serious. "Something strange happened. After the jinx was kicked to death, she suddenly sat up again!"

"What?"

Guo Bing was really too shocked and surprised.

They had never heard of people who could come back to life. This was the first time they had heard of it.

Ying Zi continued, "After Lin Yuelan woke up, she changed instantly. She was originally a stupid, weak, and powerless person, but the moment she woke up, she was able to lift a boy who was a head taller than her with one hand without even opening her eyes."

Ying Zi seemed to have a lingering fear as she said, "Everyone was scared to death at that time! She slowly stood up from the ground, holding the person in one hand. Her eyes were half-closed, and she looked like a corpse that had come back to life."

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"At that time, everyone was so scared that they immediately ran away."

It was the first time Guo Bing had heard of such a strange thing. This was a dead person coming back to life. That was already strange enough, but when that person came up, she grabbed someone by his neck and slowly stood up. This was very scary to think about.

"What happened after that?" Guo Bing did as Ying Zi wished and continued to pretend to be shocked and curious.

"Later, we called our parents, and we brought all the villagers to take us to the place where we killed Lin Yuelan. However, no one could find her. It was like she had disappeared.

"We spread out to look and finally found her near the river.

"However, she was no longer the weak and easily bullied person she used to be. She... Had an aura that made people afraid. She slapped her uncle and instantly broke one of his hands and one of his legs. She could even split a 20-centimeter rock."

When Guo Bing heard this, he lowered his head and pondered for a moment.

The crucial point in Lin Yuelan's transformation was when she died and came back to life. This made him think of many legends he had heard in the past.

There were two possible explanations for this.

One, Lin Yuelan was still Lin Yuelan. However, she had a fortuitous encounter with some divine beings after death. She made a trip to the netherworld and came back. Probably her destiny had not been fulfilled, so she was sent back. However, she would have been corrupted by the Yin energy of the netherworld, so she was given some special powers by the power beyond as compensation.

Two, the villagers were right, and Lin Yuelan had been possessed by a demon. Or else Lin Yuelan's transformation couldn't be explained.

However, Guo Bing was more inclined to believe it was the first situation with Lin Yuelan. He believed he had heard Li Cuihua mention something about the King of Hell. At the time, they were puzzled. But now, there seemed to be an explanation.

“With such a change, everyone thought that she was possessed by a demon. Just when everyone was about to tie her up and burn her to death, she said that she was sent back by the King of Hell. She said that she had an unfinished destiny. She also said that the King of Hell bestowed her with divine power and an affinity with animals so that she wouldn’t be bullied anymore.” Ying Zi said angrily, “Those are lies by the demon. However, the people actually believed her and let her go.

“But young masters, you must not be fooled by this demon. She’s a monster that sucks men’s essence. Without men, she can’t live even a day. She doesn’t touch you now, but one day, she will definitely suck all of your essences.”

Ying Zi added fuel to the fire and slandered Lin Yuelan. She had become a demon in Ying Zi’s description.

Guo Bing stopped her in annoyance. “Miss, I don’t know what grudges you have with Miss Lin for you to slander her like this.

“But let me tell you, Miss Lin, we know, is not the demon that you say. In our eyes, she is a naughty, lively, lovely, and kind young woman. Oh, in my opinion, miss Lin is ten thousand times kinder than some people!”

Guo Bing’s words were meant to cut. He implied that Ying Zi was really cruel. Guo Bing ignored Ying Zi’s changed expression and left.

In any case, he basically knew what he wanted to know. He could guess the rest.

Now that he had found the answer, Guo Bing was very clear that Lin Yuelan was not a spy of the enemy country, as he had suspected.

That was enough.

Regardless of whether Lin Yuelan was a human or a monster, he only had to remember this. Lin Yuelan was their savior. Without her, they would be dead already. She had saved their lives!

Ying Zi’s face turned green and red.

Other than being embarrassed, she was also furious!

She was actually mocked by her crush.

Damn it!

She glared at Guo Bing as he walked away. Ying Zi bit her lips. Her eyes were filled with anger and determination.

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‘Hmph. What a stupid man. Why would you side with that bitch? This is just perfect.

‘When you’re jinxed, you’ll definitely come begging me for help.’

...

“Oh my, it smells so good.” Doctor Zhang smelled the salivating aroma the moment he entered the small courtyard. “Girl, what delicious food did you make?”

Lin Yuelan gave Doctor Zhang a mysterious smile. "Grandmaster, you'll know in a moment!"

This piqued Doctor Zhang's curiosity even more.

He turned his head and asked the honest Little Six. "Come, Little Six, tell me what dish this is. It smells like chicken."

Before Little Six was dispatched to get Doctor Zhang, he only knew that Miss Lin was going to cook the pheasants they hunted the day before. But he didn't know what kind of dish she was making.

Little Six blushed and said, "Doctor Zhang, I don't know either. Miss Lin didn't tell me." However, his eyes were darting around. It smelled so good. He also wanted to know what miss Lin had made.

When Doctor Zhang saw the burning fire, he asked in confusion, "girl, it's summer. Even if it's nighttime, it's not cold enough to start a fire. What's going on here?"

Little three and little twelve, who knew the truth, giggled to themselves. They looked at Lin Yuelan, then lowered their heads and continued to add firewood to the fire.

Doctor Zhang was an astute man. One look at their expressions, and he knew that they definitely knew something.

He immediately stepped forward and patted Little Three's shoulders. He said, "Little Three, tell me. Why are you starting a fire?" He was very sure that the bonfire had something to do with the fragrance. Doctor Zhang's nose twitched. Then, he asked in confusion, "The smell seems to be coming from underground. What's going on? Is the chicken buried underground?" Doctor Zhang was asking Little Three.

Little Three's eyes immediately lit up. He nodded and said, "yes, this chicken was buried here to roast. Doctor Zhang, you're really amazing!" Little three was not stingy with his praise.

The corner of Doctor Zhang's mouth twitched. 'This child is so innocent. Plus, the fragrance from the ground is so strong.'

But Doctor Zhang was still puzzled. "Why was the chicken buried underground to be roasted? Plus, if the chicken was buried underground, it would be very dirty. How are we going to eat it?" Doctor Zhang was interested, "Or have some preparation been done to the chicken before it was buried?"

"Oh, the chicken was wrapped in lotus leaves, coated with mud, and tied with a few strings." Little three said.

That answered a lot of Doctor Zhang's questions. However, he was still confused. He was an elder who had tasted all the delicacies in the world. He had not heard of any dishes that needed to be buried in the ground to be cooked.

Doctor Zhang walked to the side and sat down quietly.

Anyway, he would know the answer when they ate. His impression of Lin Yuelan became more favorable. 'The dishes she cooks are simply superb. Even I have to be impressed by her creativity and skills.'

For a moment, only the crackling sound of firewood could be heard in the courtyard.

Guo Bing was eating the fresh lotus seeds picked from the pond. He asked Lin Yuelan, who was mixing the sauce, curiously, “miss Lin, what dish is this?”

“Beggar’s chicken!” Lin Yuelan replied indifferently.

“What?” The lotus seed that Guo Bing put in his mouth rolled down. Obviously, he was very surprised by the name of this dish. The others were filled with curiosity and surprise too.

After a while, Guo Bing, the curious baby, asked, “Why is it called Beggar’s chicken?”

Lin Yuelan said, “according to legend, in a wartorn era, an Emperor lost a battle and was pushed out of the palace by the rebels. He lost contact with his subordinates. Poor and hungry, the emperor fainted from hunger. A beggar passed by, and he fed the emperor a chicken he stole from a farmer. The chicken was covered in mud and roasted inside the ground under a bonfire.

“The emperor was impressed by the taste. He asked curiously about the name of the food. The beggar didn’t know many words and thus named it Beggar’s Chicken. When the Emperor re-ascended the throne, he still remembered the best chicken dish he had ever tasted. Thus, beggar’s chicken became popular.”

### **Chapter 189: Curses**

Lin Yuelan’s story was half-true and half-false. She had to adapt some of the details to the time.

Guo Bing frowned and asked, “Is there really such a legend? Why have I never heard of it before?” If such a legendary dish existed, then it would have been known by the world already!

However, this was the first time they had heard of this beggar’s chicken. Whether it was delicious or not, he didn’t know for now. However, the fragrance did suggest that it would be very delicious.

Lin Yuelan winked and said, “Of course, you haven’t heard of it before. The legend came to me in my dream, and so did the recipe!”

Erm...

No one knew how to respond.

‘This young woman...’

As the fragrance became stronger, Lin Yuelan believed that the pheasant was almost ready. She immediately had Little Three and Little Twelve put off the fire.

When they dug out the pheasants wrapped in yellow mud and lotus leaves, all of them were drooling. It was simply too fragrant.

Lin Yuelan cracked open the muddy shell. In an instant, the fragrance in the courtyard became even stronger.

“It smells so good!” All of them stared at the pheasant like greedy little ghosts, drooling.

Lin Yuelan looked at these people, then waved her hand and said, "let's eat!"

These pheasants were a few kilograms in weight each. There was enough for them. However, there was still fighting and snatching during dinner.

While the men fought, Lin Yuelan set away two pheasants and planned to send them to the village chief. Jiang Zhennan carried a drumstick to eat on the road and offered to go with her.

When they arrived at the village chief's house, Lin Yuelan shouted at the courtyard gate, "Grandpa Village Chief, are you in? Lan 'Er is looking for you!"

Then, the courtyard gate opened. The person who opened the gate was Lin Yiwei.

Lin Yiwei looked at Lin Yuelan in surprise and asked, "Lan 'Er, what's the matter?"

Lin Yuelan smiled, "Grandpa Village Chief, here." Then, she handed the two lumps of mud to Lin Yiwei.

Lin Yiwei was a little stunned. Why was Lin Yuelan giving him two lumps of mud?

She looked at Lin Yiwei's dumbfounded expression and smiled. "Grandpa Village Chief, this is not an ordinary mud ball. You'll definitely be surprised if you open it."

Lin Yiwei stared at Lin Yuelan in disbelief. He asked, "really?"

What kind of surprise would there be in the mudballs? Plus, why were they hot? Could there be something hidden inside? Why was there a chicken fragrance coming from inside the mudballs?

Lin Yiwei swallowed his saliva and asked Lin yuelan suspiciously, "Lan 'Er, I can smell the chicken fragrance coming from inside. Is there a chicken inside?"

Lin Yuelan nodded. "Grandpa Village Chief, you're right!"

Lin Yiwei took another sniff. The smell was really mouth-watering. But he still returned them to Lin Yuelan, "Lan 'Er, I can't accept your gift." He knew how many people were staying with Lin Yuelan. He didn't want to deprive them of their food.

Lin Yuelan waved her hand and said, "Don't worry, Grandpa Village Chief. We have enough to eat. Please keep these two pheasants. It's for Ranran and Mingqing to nourish their bodies."

Lin Yiwei was in tears. He said, "Okay, Lan 'Er. But, did you need something from me since you came yesterday?" Lin Yiwei suddenly remembered.

Lin Yuelan didn't hesitate and said, "yes, Grandpa village chief. It's like this ..."

## **Chapter 190: Rumors and Slanders**

Lin Yiwei was a little surprised when he heard Lin Yuelan. He asked, "Do you mean you want to develop some wasteland?"

Lin Yuelan nodded and said, "Yes, Grandpa Village Chief. I want to know how to determine the land rights." Jiang Zhennan said that whoever developed the land would have the right to use it. However, he also knew that every place had its own land rules, so he didn't interrupt.

Lin Yiwei frowned and thought for a while. "Lan 'Er, how much land do you plan to develop, and where will it be?"

Lin Yuelan, "It'll be to the southwest of Mount Da Ao. I plan to develop 10 Mu of land!"

Lin Yiwei was surprised. "Ten mu?"

In ancient times, the most important resource was food, so many kingdoms encouraged their citizens to reclaim wastelands to form farms. That was true in Long Kan Country too. Therefore, the Imperial Court decreed that for the first three years of the land being reclaimed, the operator didn't need to pay tax. After that, they would pay half the tax for two years before following the normal tax rates. In other words, they would have a subsidy for five years. Many farmers tried to develop new land. However, it was not easy.

First, developing land required a lot of manpower. Most farmers couldn't afford cows and horses. They had to excavate and clear the land themselves. At the same time, they had to look after their own families. This meant that they had to develop new lands while maintaining existing farmland. It was too much to do!

When they managed to reclaim the wildlands, it might have been decades already.

Therefore, in order to save trouble, the farmers usually rented from landlords or saved money to buy land.

Secondly, the level of productivity in ancient times was low. For example, the tools were backward, and they were not conducive to land development. In ancient times, the economy was mostly dominated by small-scale farming and not expanding new land.

Lastly, not everyone was brave enough to develop new lands. After all, the wildlands would be filled with dangerous animals. Therefore, for the sake of their lives, many farmers did not dare to expand to a new land.

Due to the above factors combined, many farmers might only expand their farms by one to three Mu every few years.

Therefore, Lin Yiwei was surprised that Lin Yuelan said that she wanted to develop up to ten Mu of barren land. It was unbelievable.

However, he also knew that Lin Yuelan had divine power, so developing new land wouldn't be too difficult for her. However, no matter what, she was still a teen. Developing ten Mu of land would be very taxing.

Besides, she could do other things like hunting to sustain herself. For example, she managed to earn a lot from selling the tiger. She didn't need to farm at all.

Lin Yuelan nodded to Lin Yiwei and said, "yes, Grandpa Village Chief, I plan to develop 10 Mu of land first. But what kind of procedures do I have to go through now?"

Lin Yiwei thought for a while and asked, "Lan 'Er, it's very tiring developing new lands. Besides, can you farm 10 Mu of land by yourself?"

He didn't mention Jiang Zhennan and the others who were currently staying at Lin Yuelan's house.

He knew that Jiang Zhennan and the others would return to the capital sooner or later. Moreover, these people, to put it bluntly, had nothing to do with Lin Yuelan. Therefore, he didn't think these soldiers would help her at her farm.

Lin Yuelan said, "Don't worry, Grandpa Village Chief. I know it's tiring, but how can there be rewards if you don't put in the work? Furthermore, I don't need to farm all the land myself. I can rent them to the other villages. Don't you think so, Grandpa Village Chief?"

Lin Yiwei was slightly surprised by Lin Yuelan's words.

It turned out that this child wanted to be a landlord.

Lin Yiwei laughed. "You've become so mischievous. It sounds like you've already planned this out."

It didn't matter if Lin Yuelan was a jinx or not. As long as she had benefits to give the villagers, Lin Yiwei believed that the villagers would put their interests first. They wouldn't care about her being a jinx then. So, Lin Yuelan's plan was clever.