

Village Girl 361

Chapter 361: Swindling the Truth

This voice was cold, loud, sharp, and majestic. The crowd was frozen. No one dared to move, holding their breaths and listening.

When Lin Erniu heard Lin Yuelan's stern questioning, his entire body felt as heavy as a mountain, making it hard for him to breathe. He was like a fish out of water, filled with suffocating horror and fear.

His back and hair were all covered in a cold sweat. A feeling of fear and panic suddenly rose in his heart.

After an unknown period of time, Lin Erniu met Lin Yuelan's sharp gaze and shouted angrily, "no! "Then, he shouted at Lin Yuelan, "Damn you! Don't think that you can frame me like this. I didn't do those things!"

"You didn't?" Lin Yuelan looked at Lin Erniu sarcastically and said, "it's a pity that your dearest father and your good big brother have personally admitted that you were the one who came up with this idea and that you were the one who did it. Everyone is to testify against you. So, what are you going to say for yourself?"

Basically, she was telling him that his biological father and brother had thrown him under the bus.

Some of the villagers went along with it, and they nodded. "That's right."

This was a bolt from the blue for Lin Laosan, Lin Daniu, and Li Cuihua. They panicked and wanted to say something, but they realized that they could only babble without making a sound. They panicked. They stuck their hands into their throats but couldn't say a word.

They didn't know why they were suddenly speechless, but they knew that it must be the doing of that wretched girl, Lin Yuelan. So, after glaring at Lin Yuelan, they wanted to run over and stop Lin Erniu. They wanted to tell Lin Erniu not to be fooled.

However, how could Lin Yuelan allow them to do so?

She gave Jiang Zhennan another look, and then Jiang Zhennan threw out a few more soybeans. In an instant, these people froze.

Hearing Lin Yuelan's words and seeing everyone's reaction, Lin Erniu was immediately infuriated. However, compared to his other brothers, Lin Erniu was much more scheming and shrewd. He still did not believe Lin Yuelan's words and was suspicious of the villagers' reaction.

He turned to his father, Lin Laosan, and his brother, Lin Daniu, and asked loudly, "is she telling the truth?"

However, it was a pity that both of them had been struck on their acupuncture points and were unable to move and talk. Therefore, they could only signal Lin Erniu with their eyes.

However, to Lin Erniu, their silence and wandering eyes meant that they were guilty. They did try to pin the blame on him.

Therefore, Lin Erniu roared out in anger, "You guys betrayed me!" He shouted angrily, "it was clearly you, big brother, who drugged Lin Mingqing's horse. Father, it was you who dug the big pit on the road. Now that the matter has been exposed, do you want to push the responsibility to me? Dream on!"

Lin Erniu's words stunned everyone.

This was great. There was no need to look for any more evidence. Lin Erniu provided the best evidence.

Lin Yuelan clapped her hands again, then said to Lin Laosan, whose face was green and ashen, in a mocking tone, "Lin Laosan, what are you going to say this time? This witness is not someone who has any grudge against your family. This is your own son. He has admitted to the crime."

"You cheated!" Lin Laosan shouted at Lin Yuelan. It was also then that he realized he could talk and move.

Then, he took a few quick steps and walked up to Lin Erniu. He immediately gave him a few tight slaps and said angrily, "You're so dumb!" After that, he shouted, "you unfilial son, you're really muddleheaded! How can you be fooled by a few simple words?"

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In reality, what made Lin Laosan even sadder was his second son's irresponsibility. He didn't expect his son to be so ruthless.

When a child heard that someone had harmed their parents, they would first aid their parents. They would take on the blame to save their parents. This was true filial piety.

His second son directly told everyone this bad deed was committed by his father and his big brother, so he could save himself.

Lin Laosan was really infuriated!

When Lin Laosan slapped him, Lin Erniu still didn't know what had happened. He immediately became angry at his father for hitting him. However, when he heard his father clearly, he realized what was wrong.

He didn't have time to explain to Lin Laosan. He glared at Lin Yuelan and asked loudly, "You tricked me, didn't you?"

Lin Yuelan spread out her hands and shrugged her shoulders. She said casually with a faint smile, "your father and your elder brother are stubborn. Even if there is a witness to prove that you've secretly harmed uncle Mingqing, they won't admit it. I have no choice but to make you admit the truth."

Lin Erniu was so angry that he leaned back and roared at Lin Yuelan, "you wretched girl, how can you be so sinister and vicious?!"

As he spoke, he was about to rush over and hit Lin Yuelan.

Jiang Zhennan immediately stood in front of Lin Yuelan. As he saw Lin Erniu approaching, he pushed Lin Erniu down without any hesitation.

Lin Yuelan walked toward Lin Yiwei and Lin an and said, "Grandpa village chief, great-grandpa An, the truth has been revealed. Three years ago, on the night before uncle Mingqing departed, Lin Erniu came up with the idea to create an accident. Lin Daniu drugged the horse, and Lin Laosan dug a hole on the road to the town. This led to uncle Ming Qing's accident, which broke his lower back and paralyzed him in bed for the past three years! They have not only broken the clan rules, but also the laws of the country, so they must be severely punished!"

Lin Yuelan didn't say anything about the damage and torment she had suffered.

She focused on the truth.

All of this was caused by Lin Laosan and his sons. They wanted to push the blame on Lin Yuelan.

"But, I'll defer to Grandpa village chief and great-grandpa An for their punishment." Lin Yuelan stated that the three of them needed to be punished because they had broken the law. However, she would not participate in the decision regarding their punishment.

Lin Yiwei replied, "yes." Then, he asked Lin Laosan sternly, "Lin Laosan, what else do you have to say?"

Before this, Lin Laosan was stubborn but now...

"Lin Erniu isn't someone who has a grudge against your family. He is your son. He told everyone the truth. You dug the hole on the road, and your other son drugged the house." Lin Yiwei was already very angry and even hated Lin Laosan.

Lin Laosan and his sons were so vicious. Just because he and his Mingqing saved Lan 'Er, Lin Laosan's family bore a grudge in their hearts. Then, in order to take revenge, they did such a terrible thing.

The most detestable thing was that they were still thinking of killing two birds with one stone. They planned to pin everything on Lan 'Er and have this prove that she was indeed a jinx. They even planned to use him to kill Lan 'Er.

These three people were truly too selfish and too vicious.

Lin Laosan's face was ashen and ugly. His old face seemed to have aged ten years.

Lin Daniu's face was red and swollen like a pig's head, and no expression could be seen. However, his eyes were filled with anger and fear, revealing his anxiety and fear.

On the other hand, Lin Erniu was completely infuriated and resentful.

He had been completely deceived.

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However, he was not willing to give up just like that.

It was all this girl's fault for being too sinister and cunning. If she hadn't been luring him, he wouldn't have said those words at all.

“Lin Yuelan, you jinx! For as long as you live, you will jinx us! Why didn’t you die three years ago?” Lin Erniu shouted.

Jiang Zhennan gave him a heavy slap on the face.

The loud voice reverberated in the courtyard.

Lin Daniu’s slap had caused blood and a few teeth to fall out. Now, Lin Erniu’s mouth was also full of blood. However, he was physically stronger than his older brother, who did not work. He was not knocked to the ground by Jiang Zhennan’s one slap.

Lin Laosan was furious that his two sons were beaten by the same person. He shouted angrily, “who the hell are you? How dare you hit my sons?”

Lin Yiwei, who knew Jiang Zhennan’s identity, was immediately scared, and his face turned pale.

Lin Laosan had insulted the God of War. If Jiang Zhennan was angry, the whole village might be implicated.

Lin Yiwei immediately shouted at Lin Laosan, “who are you to shout at our guest like that?” Then, he turned to Jiang Zhennan apologetically and said very sincerely, “Young Master Jiang... Young master Nan, Lin Sandou has been muddled by anger. Please forgive him!”

Jiang Zhennan nodded slightly at Lin Yiwei, then said to Lin Laosan, “As the head of the family, you have bred a family of selfish, sinister, and vicious people. If there’s no punishment for you, the heavens will not tolerate it!”

Jiang Zhennan had always been silent towards others. He was only talkative around Lin Yuelan. Now, he had spoken up because this involved Lin Yuelan.

Back then, as her biological grandfather, Lin Laosan had demanded Lin Yuelan’s biological father kill his own daughter. It was rare to see such a cold-blooded and ruthless family.

Therefore, Jiang Zhennan believed all the blame fell on the shoulders of Lin Laosan. He was the head of the family.

Jiang Zhennan’s rude words caused Lin Sandou’s face to turn green with anger. As he was about to retort, Lin An immediately rebuked and warned him, “Lin Sandou, mind your words!”

Lin Laosan opened his mouth, but in the end, he could only purse his lips and not say anything.

“Three years ago, the three of them were involved in the plot against me. Now that the truth has been revealed, they deserve to be punished for their actions. According to the laws of the Dragon Lan Kingdom, those who deliberately hurt others and attempt to murder someone should be sentenced to at least ten years in prison. Therefore, if the three of them were to be sent to court and judged by the officials, three of them would definitely be imprisoned. They will be sentenced to at least five years in prison.” Lin Mingqing, who had been sitting calmly in his wheelchair, suddenly spoke.

And the words that came out of his mouth shocked everyone.

The three criminals were terrified.

If Lin Yiwei and Lin Mingqing insisted on sending them to the authorities, then it was obvious that they would face imprisonment.

They had to stay in prison for five to ten years and be controlled by the bailiffs. They would be whipped and bullied by the other prisoners. They had no freedom, no food, no clothes, and no warmth. It was terrifying to think about such a dark life.

Plus, there was no telling if they could even leave the prison. No, they couldn't be sent to court.

"However, since we're all from the same village, I think we can give them a chance." Lin Mingqing paused for a moment as if for suspense. This gave Lin Laosan's family hope.

Lin Mingqing looked at Lin Yuelan. At that moment, she immediately understood what Lin Mingqing wanted to do.

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The alternative he offered sounded like it was the best, but it was actually the cruelest and most ruthless.

Of course, this was still a choice for the three criminals.

Lin Yiwei did not understand Lin Mingqing's plan. He thought that Lin Ming Qing was being kind and wanted to let the three of them go. He frowned and disagreed with this.

He called out softly, "Qing 'Er ..."

Lin Mingqing shook his head at his father and said, "Father, let me handle this matter myself!"

This matter was essentially attempted murder. However, that would mean bringing this to court. In this era, not everyone was willing to deal with the court. Unless the culprit was a serial killer, many villages preferred to deal with such incidents among themselves.

This was because if this were brought to court, it would ruin the reputation of the village. A village with a murderer was not good. It would also affect the marriages of unmarried young men and women.

After all, who would want to marry their children to a village with murderers? How safe could it be? Plus, the village's reputation would be notorious too. If no one was willing to migrate to this village, it would eventually wither and die.

Therefore, for the sake of the village's reputation, many elders would usually cover up things that would damage the reputation of the village and not let anyone else know.

The Lin family Village was the same.

Even the righteous Lin Yiwei wouldn't let a rat's poop spoil a pot of porridge. Therefore, his plan was really to punish the three criminals in private as an example for the others. Even though this involved his own family, that was the extent of the punishment Lin Yiwei could think of.

However...

“What do you mean?” Lin Laosan asked urgently.

Lin Daniu and Lin Erniu’s faces were swollen, and their teeth were knocked out. They couldn’t even speak properly, so even though they were anxious, they were still one step slower than Lin Laosan.

Lin Mingqing had a gentle and elegant smile on his face as he looked at Lin Laosan. He didn’t reply immediately and just looked at him.

The atmosphere returned to silence, other than the panting of the crowd and the barking of dogs outside.

Everyone was also very curious about what Lin Mingqing was up to.

Three years ago, Lin Mingqing was an intelligent, kind, humble, and polite scholar. Therefore, with his kindness, gentleness, and consideration for the big picture, he would let the three of them go.

After an unknown period of time, Lin Mingqing suddenly said in a serious tone, “Uncle San, it’s actually very simple. Like I said, if we brought you to court, all three of you would be sentenced to prison. However, your family will lose three able-bodied men. How will your family survive?”

“So, after thinking about it, I feel that instead of punishing three, why not we just punish one? I’ll plead with the authorities to reduce the sentence so that only one will be given the imprisonment sentence. This way, everyone will survive!”

Lin Mingqing’s words shocked everyone, including the Lin family’s father and sons.

However, everyone’s shock was different.

Those who were slightly dumber would think that Lin Mingqing was as kind and magnanimous as he used to be. Three people tried to kill him, but he decided to only punish one of them. This was because he was concerned about the survival of Lin Laosan’s family.

However, a smart person would be able to understand Lin Mingqing’s motive. This was actually really heartless. However, Lin Mingqing had suffered so much over the past three years. If he wanted to punish all three of them, no one would have objected. This was perhaps already the biggest kindness on his part.

In any case, Lin Mingqing still wanted to bring this to court.

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This made Lin Yiwei frown again. He frowned and thought deeply. In the end, he sighed heavily in his heart and said, ‘Forget it. I’ll leave it to Qing ‘Er to deal with it himself.’

Lin Laosan and his sons had caused Qing ‘Er to almost lose his life. Fortunately, the heavens had blessed their Qing ‘Er with good luck. Otherwise...

Lin Yiwei felt a lingering fear when he thought of the consequences.

This was no different from the crime of murder. Therefore, it was better not to forgive such individuals.

“Lin Mingqing, are you planning to send them to court?” Lin An asked sternly. From his stern tone, it was obvious that he did not approve of this. This would tarnish the Lin family Village’s reputation.

“Yes! Grandpa An, what would you do if something like this happened to uncle Ping?” Lin Mingping was Lin An’s youngest son.

This was Lin Mingqing’s way of telling Lin An to put himself in his shoes.

He had suffered so much for the past three years. How could he let these culprits off so easily?

“Great-grandfather An,” Lin Yuelan stood up and said, “if it wasn’t for uncle Mingqing’s good fortune, he would become a pile of bones by now. However, his soul wouldn’t be able to rest. Do you think the peace of the dead is more important, or is it more important to protect the culprit and ruin the reputation of the village?”

No matter how vicious a person was when they were alive, they would be given respect after death. Furthermore, people of this era believed that people would come back as ghosts if they had died an unjust death.

So, if Lin Mingqing had really died in that accident three years ago, then the Lin family Village would have been haunted by his vengeful spirit.

Lin An’s shrewd gaze turned to Lin Yuelan, and he asked sternly, “Girl, what do you mean by protecting the culprit and ruining the reputation of the village?”

Lin Yuelan wasn’t afraid of Lin An’s sharp gaze at all. She said, “there are good and bad people in every village. However, if we cover up for the criminals to preserve the village’s reputation, then let me ask you, great-grandfather An, can you guarantee that these people will turn over a new leaf?”

“As the saying goes, it’s hard to teach an old dog new tricks. Furthermore, the fact that the villagers decide to cover up their bad deeds will give them confidence that they will not be punished if they do anything horrible. Therefore, they might kill more people without any restraint. When the kill count adds up, the authorities will be alerted. Then the village will really become a murderer’s village.”

“Oh yeah. I remember that a year ago, there was a murderer in Back village. He killed a woman and was caught. However, for the sake of the village’s reputation, the elders there didn’t send him to the authorities. Instead, they made him kneel in the ancestral hall for three days without eating or drinking and punished him with thirty strokes. A month later, he started killing again, and it was another woman. He was punished with kneeling again. When he recovered, he killed more people. I heard that this continued until his fifth victim. Everyone was afraid. The villagers finally couldn’t stand it anymore, and someone secretly reported it to court. Only then did the murder case come to an end. However, the reputation of the village rose because of this. It was said that the villager who reported it was driven out of Back village by the clan elders.”

“Hey, I’ve also heard about that.”

“Yes. If they had sent the killer to court at first, four innocent lives wouldn’t have lost.”

“You’re right. They wouldn’t have to live in fear all day long either.”

“That’s why we should punish these criminals. Or we might end up as Back Village.”

“Back Village was called Murder Village not because of the murderer but because too many women had died. If the culprit was secretly sent to court, who would know that there was a murderer in the village?”

“That’s true.”

Listening to the villagers’ discussion, Lin Yuelan’s lips curled up, and then she said sternly, “so, instead of shielding the criminals and letting them continue to commit crimes unscrupulously, it’s better to stop these people’s criminal activities from the beginning and let the authorities give the most severe punishment. Sending them to jail is the best warning to the villagers. This will prevent the others from making the same mistake. The village would become more peaceful. Don’t you think so, great-grandfather An, Grandpa village chief?”

Since Lin Mingqing had already made up his mind, Lin Yuelan would help him. She had to get Lin An to agree to it. Otherwise, it would cause a backlash from the villagers. That would make Lin Mingqing and Lin Yiwei lose the people’s support. This would place Lin Yiwei in a difficult position, and Lin Yuelan didn’t want that.

Therefore, she had to first convince Lin An and Lin Yiwei. The surrounding villagers were thankfully very supportive.

With the example from Back Village, the villagers didn’t want to cover up for Lin Laosan’s family in case they followed the same fate.

As expected...

Lin An furrowed his brows deeply, and after some careful consideration, he said to Lin Yuelan, “Girl, what you said seems to make sense. Forget it, forget it. I’ll leave this matter to Lin Mingqing to handle. I’m old. I’m tired now and I need to go back and have a good rest!”

With that, Lin An left with the help of others.

“Uncle An, take care!”

“You can’t go, uncle An, you can’t go!” Li Cuihua immediately shouted to stop him.

“Uncle An is already tired. Do you want him to die of exhaustion? You shrew, get out of the way!”

“Grandpa An, be careful!”

“Great-grandfather An, take care!”

Along the way, no one asked Lin An to stay.

Seeing Lin An leave, Lin Laosan’s family’s faces turned ashen.

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Lin An’s departure meant that he didn’t want to be involved in the punishment of Lin Laosan’s family. He was leaving everything to Lin Yiwei’s family.

Lin Laosan's family's faces were ashen as they watched Lin An leave. The panics and fears on their faces were evident.

Lin Yiwei looked at Lin Laosan with a serious expression and said sternly, "In order to show a warning to others, Lin Sandao, your family has to be punished. Three years ago, because of your own selfishness, you secretly plotted and harmed my son, causing him to be paralyzed in bed for three years. Whether it's for public or private reasons, the three of you should be severely punished. However," He paused for a moment and looked at the three criminals. Lin Yiwei was kind, but he was not a saint. Lin Laosan and his sons had brought endless pain and despair to his family. Therefore, he was angry and resentful towards them. He wanted to take revenge.

However, the biggest revenge he wanted for them was not as simple as kneeling in the ancestral hall and being punished with a few beatings. Instead, they would be handed over to the authorities and imprisoned.

Lin Yiwei was still the chief of the Lin family Village. If he directly handed them over to the authorities, it would definitely cause the villagers to be dissatisfied. The villagers would think that he disregarded the village's reputation for the sake of taking revenge. He abused his power to take revenge on Lin Laosan's family.

It didn't matter if it was true or not. The villagers would start gossiping. They wouldn't care what kind of crimes Lin Laosan's family had completed, or how much pain and despair Lin Yiwei's family had suffered in the past three years. They would see Lin Yiwei as abusing his power.

However, everything was settled now. Lin Yuelan and his Qing 'Er had convinced the villagers to agree to send Lin Laosan's family to court.

Why?

It was because this involved the villager's self-interest and safety.

What if Lin Laosan's family decided to plot murders against other villagers? Therefore, instead of leaving them in the village, it was better to remove the ticking time bomb.

Such was human nature. When it didn't involve their own problems and interests, they would stand aside and watch. They would even stand on the moral high ground to judge others. They would coerce the victims to forgive the perpetrators. They wouldn't consider how innocent the victim was or how much pain and despair the victim had suffered.

However, when people realized they might become victims themselves, their perspective changed. It was unacceptable. The perpetrator had to be punished.

Lin Yuelan used a few words to change everyone's perspective. Lin Yiwei could now send Lin Laosan's family to court. This was exactly what he wanted.

Lin Yiwei glanced at Lin Yuelan and was amazed by her intelligence. She was so young.

However, the extreme wisdom would definitely hurt her, and this made him a little worried.

However, when he saw the tall and strong man standing next to her, he was a little relieved.

Lin Yiwei's tone changed as he continued, "however, my son is kind and can't bear to have your family suffer the loss of three members. Therefore, only one of you will be taken to court. The other two will kneel in the ancestral hall for three days, receive thirty canings, and be under the supervision of all the villagers!"

Someone had to go to prison. However, two of them would be given lesser punishment.

This sounded like a merciful arrangement but...

"Second brother, you were the one who came up with this idea, and you were the one who started this. You're the main culprit," Lin Daniu immediately shirked the responsibility.

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Even though he had lost a few teeth, his words were still clear, and everyone could hear him clearly.

Hearing Lin Daniu, Lin Laosan and Lin Erniu were so pissed. Lin Daniu appeared to be usually clever, but he was so stupid at the critical moment.

Once he said that, it meant that they had indirectly confessed to the crime. Now they couldn't even wiggle out of the punishment anymore.

What an idiot!

However, Lin Erniu was furious that his big brother wanted to push all the blame on him. Then, he had to counter.

Lin Erniu's face turned green with anger. He turned to Lin Daniu and said angrily, "big brother, I was only saying words. I didn't harm anyone. On the contrary, you and father did everything. One of you drugged the horse, and the other dug the hole."

Lin Erniu wanted to push all the blame on his father and brother. Lin Daniu started it, so he had no choice.

Compared to Lin Daniu's petty tricks, Lin Erniu was the really clever one. However, he was also a true villain. He would scam his own family. There was no kinship at all. Just look at how fast he turned on his father and brother.

Lin Erniu and his wife were the ones who encouraged Lin Laosan to kill Lin Yuelan. After Lin Yuelan was rescued, Lin Erniu hated Lin Yiwei and Lin Mingqing. Therefore, he incited Lin Daniu and Lin Laosan to attack Lin Mingqing as revenge. However, throughout, he was not involved in any of the actual crimes.

Lin Yuelan was lucky and escaped death many times. She lived for three years and died to be replaced by Lin Xinlan from the apocalypse.

When Lin Ernie and Zhou Guixiang saw that Lin Yuelan had become rich overnight, they incited Li Cuihua to pester Lin Yuelan for money. When Li Cuihua failed, they turned to encourage Lin Sanniu and his wife to ask Lin Yuelan for money.

However, the current Lin Yuelan was not the Lin Yuelan of the past. Lin Erniu knew that Lin Yuelan was capable of taking revenge on them. So he had been keeping a low profile. However, he didn't expect Lin Yuelan to bring up Lin Mingqing's accident that happened three years ago.

Why did Lin Erniu and Zhou Guixiang want to kill Lin Yuelan?

There was a reason for this.

Lin Erniu and Zhou Guixiang had been married for many years. They only had three daughters but no sons. When they saw that the siblings had sons, resentment and hatred gradually grew in their hearts.

Their hatred was directed at Lin Sanniu's family. Why?

Of course, it was because Lin Sanniu's family was the easiest to bully.

However, Lin Sanniu and Chen Xiaoqing were the main labor force of the family. They did not dare to go overboard with the two. However, that didn't mean that they were kind of Lin Sanniu's children. Lin Yuelan, who was forced to work in the fields, became their secret punching bag.

They scolded and hit her for no reason.

One year, Zhou Guixiang got pregnant, but she had no idea. She was ordering Lin Yuelan around like usual. Lin Yuelan was starved, and she dropped the stuff. Zhou Guixiang ran over to slap Lin Yuelan. Zhou Guixiang tripped over a stone. Then, her lower body suddenly started bleeding. She called the doctor over and found out that she was pregnant and had had a miscarriage.

To tell the truth, this child had not even taken form. They did not even know if it was a boy or a girl. However, Li Erniu and his wife believed that their lost child was a son.

Therefore, when it was revealed that Lin Yuelan was a jinx, they pushed all the blame for the miscarriage onto her. They believed that Lin Yuelan was the one who caused them to lose their son.

Thus, they wanted Lin Yuelan to die so that they could avenge their miscarried son.

However, things didn't go according to their wishes. Not only did Lin Yuelan not die, but her life was also getting better.

Lin Erniu and his wife were the ones who really wanted Lin Yuelan dead, but they always borrowed the hands of others. People like their siblings, parents, and even Lin Yiwei were just puppets.

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Lin Yuelan's plan was to take revenge for Lin Mingqing. However, after analysis with Little Green, she realized that the person who wanted her dead the most was not Lin Laosan, Lin Daniu, or Lin Siniu. Instead, it was the honest-looking Lin Erniu. Why would Lin Yuelan be kind to someone who wanted to kill her?

But now, she would just watch the show.

She wanted to see the outcome of the argument between the three criminals.

Lin Erniu's words caused Lin Laosan's face to turn so dark that ink could drip from it.

His sons were really nice to him. Two both wanted to push the blame on him, their biological father. Without him, where would they be? However, once something bad happened, they wanted to cast aside their responsibilities and sacrifice their father.

Lin Laosan said sternly, "shut up!"

He glanced at his two sons with his sharp eyes and said coldly, "you're really my good sons. Instead of absolving your father, you keep pushing the responsibility onto me." He told Lin Daniu, "Don't you know that you can't get away from this responsibility no matter how hard you try? It's undeniable that you were involved in the poisoning, and you can't shirk your responsibility." He immediately turned to Lin Erniu and shouted, "You might not have physically joined the activities, but you're part of the murderers. There are witnesses now. No matter how you try to defend yourself, you can't push the blame on your father and your brother. On the contrary, you are the real mastermind, while your father and your brother are just accomplices. Therefore, the one who should bear the responsibility is you!"

In comparison to Lin Daniu, Lin Erniu was the one who truly made Lin Laosan angry and sad.

He was the one who incited them to harm Lin Yiwei and Lin Mingqing. But now he wanted to throw them under the bus.

Therefore, Lin Laosan was very angry. Since Lin Erniu didn't acknowledge him as his father, then fine, he would denounce him as his son too.

Lin Erniu's face turned pale, and he was dumbfounded.

When he finally reacted, he cried out bitterly in his heart, 'oh no!'

When he was quarreling with his big brother, he shouldn't have implicated his father. Now, he had offended his own father, which was very unfavorable to him.

Based on what Lin Laosan said, it sounded like Lin Laosan wanted to sacrifice him and save Lin Daniu.

Of course, he wouldn't allow that.

Lin Erniu immediately said anxiously, "father, how can you do this? That's right, I was the one who suggested it, but it's up to you whether you want to listen or not. Oh, no, father, I was wrong. I shouldn't have suggested this, and I shouldn't have asked father to dig a hole..."

Lin Laosan felt a little better after hearing these words. At least, Erniu still had some conscience left.

"I was only suggesting it back then to big brother. I suggested that we could drug the horse, but I didn't suggest that we dig out a hole. Big Brother was the one who was worried that drugging the horse was not enough, and he said we should go for the kill. Therefore, we should do more than just drugging the horse. He suggested that we dig a hole on the road so that the carriage could topple over. Therefore, father, if there's the main culprit, big brother is the one!"

This was why Lin Erniu was clever. While pleasing his father, he immediately shifted the blame to Lin Daniu. There were only three of them, and one had to be sacrificed. If Lin Erniu had Lin Laosan on his side, then they could easily sacrifice Lin Daniu.

Therefore, he shifted the blame away from Lin Laosan and placed it on Lin Daniu.

“You’re talking nonsense!” Lin Daniu immediately stomped his feet as he pointed at Lin Erniu and scolded, “Lin Erniu, you’re a real bastard! Do you still have a conscience? When we were young, I’d share everything with you. But now, you are doing your best to frame your big brother!”

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“Plus, you were the one who told me that we should drug the horse and dig a hole on the road. I remember everything you said clearly. Also, there is a witness that night!”

At this crucial moment, Lin Daniu wasn’t stupid. How could he take the blame for this?

Lin Daniu was speaking the truth. Their conversation back then had been heard clearly by a third party.

Earlier on, she had also stepped out to testify. However, when Lin Erniu was brought over, she had already finished testifying. Therefore, when Lin Erniu heard that there was a witness, his heart skipped a beat. However, he forced himself not to panic as he asked suspiciously, “Witness? Who’s the witness?”

It caused everyone to burst into laughter.

Lin Erniu looked at everyone, who suddenly burst into laughter. It was mocking laughter. He was very puzzled and felt deeply uneasy in his heart. Was his word very funny? Why was everyone laughing?

He didn’t have to ponder for long before someone spoke up, “Erniu, don’t you know? Before you came here, someone had already relayed what you and your big brother said on the haystack on the big stone bridge near the back of the village.”

Lin Erniu was so shocked that he jumped in fright. He suddenly felt very uneasy.

“So, Erniu, we know that you have suggested to your brother to drug the horse and to dig a hole on the road. You can’t refute that.” Someone “kindly” reminded Lin Erniu. However, there was a gloating expression in his eyes.

Hearing this, Lin Erniu clenched his fists so tightly that his veins were popping out. His face was ashen, and his expression was twisted. It was truly unsightly.

He had never expected that their conspiracies from three years ago would be overheard.

It was no wonder that Lin Yiwei had called for a large group of people to arrest them all.

It turned out that someone had told on him.

“Who is it?” Lin Erniu asked through gritted teeth. He wanted to know who the witness was.

Everyone looked at Zhou Xiaoliu, who was standing next to Lin Yiwei.

Following everyone’s gazes, Lin Erniu quickly realized that she was the one who had overheard their conversation.

Lin Erniu was so angry that his eyes were spitting fire. He wanted to tear Zhou Xiaoliu apart. His sharp and angry gaze seemed to want to cut Zhou Xiaoliu into a thousand pieces.

He gritted his teeth and asked, "Chang Xing's wife, did my family or I offend you? How can you make up such a ridiculous lie?"

As expected of a father and son, both of them immediately attacked the Zhou Xiaoliu. Unfortunately, Lin Erniu was too late. If he had come earlier, then, he could have worked with his father to discredit the witness. However, this whole family was selfish. Once they heard that only one of them would take the fall, their immediate thought was to push the blame on the other two to save themselves.

This was the result of self-conceited, self-righteous, and selfish actions.

"Lin Erniu, the truth has been revealed. It doesn't matter what Changxing's wife said. You have already confessed to the truth." Lin Yiwei stood up to protect Zhou Xiaoliu, "If you want to blame someone, blame yourselves for having evil thoughts! Back then, we didn't find any evidence, so you guys could live in peace for three years. Now, it's time for you to pay the price for what you've done!"

At this point, Lin Yiwei was done with them.

Then, Lin Yiwei looked at Lin Sandou and the others and said, "Lin Sandou, you guys should discuss among yourselves who will admit this responsibility. I'll give you three days. Three days later, I'll bring my men to arrest that person!"

Was Lin Yiwei giving them three days to escape?

Of course not.

Every village had its own rules, and these rules had to be followed by every villager.

Everyone knew that the criminals had to be monitored. That was Lin Yiwei's intention. Even if the criminals exited to use the toilet, there would always be someone watching.

Chapter 370: The Punishment for Lin Laosan's Family

The patrols and guards would be made up of mostly young and strong people. However, the whole village would be watching. Once the person under surveillance acted out of the ordinary, the guards would immediately report it to the village chief.

The patrols would work in shifts. In short, there would be people watching 24 hours per day. And there would be more than three guards always. This was to ensure the personal safety of the guards.

Therefore, it was impossible for Lin Laosan and his two sons to escape!

Lin Yiwei gave them three days to think about this.

"What's there to think about? He'll go to prison!" Lin Daniu pointed his finger at Lin Erniu and said arrogantly, "my son is going to be a scholar in the future. If I am arrested, it'll tarnish his reputation!"

Lin Daniu's potential scholar son was indeed a very powerful argument. For the sake of glory, the villagers most likely wouldn't send Lin Daniu to prison.

Therefore, the choice was only between Lin Laosan and Lin Erniu. Many people believed that Lin Erniu would be the sacrificial lamb.

Lin Daniu continued in a disdainful tone, "As for him, he only has three useless daughters. There's nothing for him at home. Second brother, don't worry. When you're in prison, I'll definitely take good care of my three nieces."

Lin Erniu did not have a son, so he was at a complete disadvantage.

Furthermore, in the hearts of Lin Laosan and his wife, he was not as important as Lin Daniu. Without a doubt, Lin Laosan would agree with Lin Daniu.

After hearing Lin Daniu's words, Lin Erniu was shocked and scared, and he was filled with resentment and hatred.

If he could, he wanted to punch his big brother's face. But he couldn't!

He couldn't persuade them to try to send Lin Laosan to prison because that would be highly unfilial. It would only make his sentence worse.

He had to think if he had a way to get himself out of this. However, he couldn't think of anything.

After hearing Lin Daniu's words, Lin Laosan frowned and pondered for a moment. Then he said, "then ..." We'll send Erniu to prison.

However, someone barged in before he could finish his sentence. She knelt down to Lin Laosan and said, "father, you can't do this. If Erniu goes to prison, what about me? What about my three girls? Are you going to let me become a widow and take their father away from your three granddaughters?"

This person was Zhou Guixiang.

Zhou Guixiang was also a smart person. She came with Lin Erniu. However, when she saw Jiang Zhennan and Lin Mingliang's aggressive appearances, she had a bad feeling. Therefore, she did not enter the courtyard rashly but stood in the corner and listened.

However, the more she looked, the more shocked she was. At the end, when Lin Yiwei asked them to make a choice, her heart was even more panicked.

That was because she knew very well that Lin Erniu was most likely the one to be sacrificed.

When she saw that Lin Laosan was about to give up on Lin Erniu, she rushed in and knelt down in front of Lin Laosan.

Lin Laosan looked at his second daughter-in-law, who ran in, kneeling and crying. The veins on his forehead jumped, then he immediately shouted at Zhou Guixiang sternly, "second daughter-in-law, what are you saying? How would you become a widow? Do you think Erniu will not exit the prison eventually? After he comes out, you two will still be a loving couple. Plus, when have I ever mistreated my grandchildren? Also, if they miss father, they can visit their father in prison."

What was his second-in-law up to? If Lin Erniu didn't go to prison, who would?

Zhou Guixiang's face turned pale. "Father, Erniu will be sentenced to at least ten years in prison. Erniu is still so young, and he can work and support the family. It'll be a waste if he's trapped behind bars for the next ten years."