

Village Girl 531

Chapter 531: A Meal

Lin yuelan and Jiang Zhennan didn't take the incident of running into the young lady from Chen's medicine shop on the street seriously.

However, the people on the street who were watching the commotion immediately had a new topic of conversation.

There was a man who was fancied by the Chen family's young miss. In order to reject the Chen family's young miss, he actually pretended to be deaf and mute, and let his sister scare her away.

When Chen Yulan returned to the Chen Manor and learned from her servants that she had been tricked by the pair of brother and sister, her face turned livid with anger. Her expression was ferocious and twisted. She gritted her teeth and said, "What a pair of brother and sister! How dare they fool me?"

Then, she smashed the vases and paintings in the house.

"Men!" Chen Yulan angrily called for her servants, "investigate that brother and sister thoroughly. They dared to play with me, Chen Yulan, and embarrass me, so they'll have to pay the price! That man, I will definitely make him fall for me. As for that sister, I will chop her into pieces and feed her to the dogs!"

After Chen Yulan smashed the things and gave orders to her servants, the anger in her heart still hadn't subsided.

However, she could only suppress this anger for the time being and wait until she found the person before exploding.

As for Lin yuelan and Jiang Zhennan, who had made Chen Yulan furious, they were each holding a sugar figurine in their hands and walking around the bustling streets of An Ding County.

There were many fun things to see, so Lin yuelan went to join in the fun. There were many good things to eat or drink, so Lin yuelan also went to try them excitedly, especially some of the special snacks. Lin yuelan ate them with great joy.

However, Jiang Zhennan did not feel good.

Although Lin yuelan was only 12 years old, her facial features and some parts of her body were not fully developed yet. However, her skin was tender and white with a blush, and her long hair was flying in the wind. She was very beautiful. One look and one could tell that she was a great beauty.

Therefore, many men stared at Lin yuelan with burning eyes, which made Jiang Zhennan feel very depressed. The expression on his face became even colder, and his eyes glared fiercely at those men who revealed lecherous looks. His whole body exuded a cold aura, which froze people three feet away. It made those men who wanted to approach Lin yuelan retreat immediately in fear.

As for the women on the street, Jiang Zhennan's strong, powerful, and masculine figure immediately made them drool. What's more, Jiang Zhennan was also handsome and tough. He was a very handsome

man. He had a good figure and a good appearance. In addition, he had an extraordinary temperament. He was definitely not an ordinary person.

Such a man would make women go after him like ducks when he walked on the street!

Therefore, this scene appeared again.

Lin yuelan walked happily in front while Jiang Zhennan followed behind her unhurriedly. His eyes were deep and dark, like a dark abyss, making people nervous and afraid.

However, between him and Lin yuelan, there were always some women who were not afraid of death. They "threw" things in front of him, such as a handkerchief, a purse, or a sachet. In short, they threw away everything that could be thrown away.

Then, with a burning light in their eyes, they stared at Jiang Zhennan with a shy and coquettish look.

It was a pity that Jiang Zhennan was not only deaf but also blind!

No matter if the woman who lost something was ugly or beautiful, round or square, rich or poor, Jiang Zhennan turned a blind eye to them.

The women were so angry that they stomped their feet behind Jiang Zhennan's back, and they glared at him with either sad or resentful eyes.

However, no matter what these women did, Jiang Zhennan was completely unaware of all this.

Lin yuelan walked to the front of a restaurant called "food for heaven". She turned her head and waved at Jiang Zhennan, "brother Nan, I heard that this restaurant has a signature dish called fried duck. Let's go and try it!"

Jiang Zhennan's expression, which had been cold and exuded an icy aura the entire time, immediately softened. His cold voice had a hint of gentleness as he replied, "okay!"

He had brought some silver from the general's office, and he didn't lack money. It was enough to treat Lin yuelan to these things!

The women who followed Jiang Zhennan along the way were not willing to give up. When they saw Jiang Zhennan's obviously gentle expression, and his hoarse voice, which was full of charm, they were simply jealous to death.

Chapter 532: A Free Meal

After the two of them entered the "food for heaven" restaurant, they immediately ordered a signature dish and some of the restaurant's specialties.

Because the business of this restaurant was quite good, Lin yuelan and Jiang Zhennan waited for a while.

However, when she saw the dishes, Lin yuelan lost her appetite.

This was because the so-called stir-fried duck meat was actually a layer of pig oil wrapped around the duck meat and then fried in a pot.

Because of the oil and the pan-fried food, it was quite fragrant and looked much more delicious than the other dishes.

However, for Lin yuelan, who was good at cooking, and Jiang Zhennan, who was used to eating all kinds of delicious food, this dish was hard to swallow.

After Lin yuelan took a look, she didn't even want to put her chopsticks in. Jiang Zhennan picked up his chopsticks and picked up a piece of slightly yellow duck breast and put it into his mouth.

However, as soon as it entered his mouth, he chewed and frowned. Then, he put down his chopsticks and sighed to Lin yuelan, "Miss Yue 'Er, this can't be compared with what you've made! It's really too unpalatable!"

Indeed, compared to Lin yuelan's dishes, which had all the colors, fragrances, and flavors, these dishes were all greasy and simply unpalatable.

When Jiang Zhennan said this, the waiter happened to hear it.

These two said their signature dishes were unpalatable. It was really infuriating.

The waiter ran over and suddenly scolded fiercely, " you two paupers! If you don't know how to eat and can't afford it, then don't order this dish. After ordering, you're still talking nonsense. I'm warning you, don't think that just because you gave a bad review to this dish, you can have a free meal here. Let me tell you, don't even think about it!"

Having been used to being a waiter in this restaurant, he also had some discerning eyes. He could judge the status of the guests based on their clothes or their extravagance. Then, he could customize his service attitude accordingly.

The waiter looked at Lin yuelan and Jiang Zhennan. Although they were dressed neatly, they were dressed in coarse sackcloth. In addition, when they came in, they looked around curiously and did some disdainful actions. He immediately judged that these two were poor people who wanted to cheat for food and drink.

Therefore, it was impossible for his attitude to be respectful.

Hearing the waiter's scolding, Jiang Zhennan's face darkened. His sharp eyes shot a menacing glare at the waiter, and he shouted in a deep voice, "Apologize now!"

They were only here to eat, not to be humiliated.

Of course, they didn't want to eat the dishes if they didn't taste good. Of course, they understood that they had to pay for the dishes they ordered, regardless of whether they ate or not.

However, Lin yuelan was humiliated.

This made him angry!

When the waiter looked into Jiang Zhennan's dark eyes, it was as if he would be sucked into the dark abyss. It made him feel afraid.

The waiter shuddered and snapped back to his senses. He did not dare to look into Jiang Zhennan's eyes. He lowered his head and said with a little lack of confidence, "Why should I apologize? You ordered the dishes and didn't eat. You must be looking for an excuse not to pay. You want to eat without paying. Am I wrong?"

The scene where the waiter and the guest quarreled became boisterous at once.

The surrounding customers also put down their chopsticks and joined in the fun.

Perhaps this was human nature.

Whether it was in ancient times or modern times, people loved to watch the fun and gossip.

Jiang Zhennan did not argue with the waiter. He shouted sternly for the second time, "Apologize!"

This majestic aura made the waiter sweat profusely as if he was suffocating, and even the surrounding guests who were watching the show suddenly felt breathless.

After a moment of silence, the shopkeeper at the counter heard the commotion and immediately put down his Abacus. He walked over and broke the silence.

He took a look and immediately judged that the people at Jiang Zhennan's table were the guests who were arguing with the waiter.

He raised his hand and bowed to Jiang Zhennan. He asked humbly, "Sir, is there anything that you are not satisfied with?"

With a cold expression, Jiang Zhennan glanced at the dishes on the table with his eyes half-lowered and said very honestly, "these dishes are really terrible, especially this fried duck. It is so greasy. Can't I say that your food tastes bad? Does your waiter have to call us poor?"

After following Lin yuelan for a long time, Jiang Zhennan's cold and reticent character changed slightly. At least now, he would argue with others. This was something that was meaningless to him in the past.

Upon hearing Jiang Zhennan's words, whether it was the shopkeeper, the waiter, or the people around who were watching the show, their expressions changed slightly. Especially the shopkeeper, his expression became even uglier.

No customer had ever said that their restaurant's signature dishes were not delicious, except for those who deliberately wanted to find fault with them. They wanted to eat but couldn't afford to pay, so they would say some bad things to get a free meal.

Therefore, the shopkeeper's thoughts were the same as the waiter's.

He changed his previous politeness and asked with a dark face, "Sir, you said that our dishes are not delicious. Why don't you ask the other guests whether the dishes are delicious or not?"

As he spoke, he immediately looked at the other guests.

These customers were more or less familiar with the shopkeeper, so they cooperated and replied, "this dish is obviously delicious."

The shopkeeper then turned to Jiang Zhennan and said, " Sir, you see, everyone says it's delicious, but only the two of you say it's not. So, we have reason to suspect that you're just looking for an excuse to eat for free!" He emphasized the last two words.

"Who is trying to eat for free?" A voice came from outside.

Chapter 533: Opening a Restaurant

A young man's voice came from outside the crowd.

Everyone looked at the source of the voice and was surprised.

When the innkeeper saw who it was, his arrogant and unforgiving expression immediately turned polite and fawning. He stepped forward and bowed slightly, saying to the person, " young master Zhou, what brings you here? "

Zhou Wencai replied with a smile that was not a smile, " shopkeeper Zhang, what are you saying? Isn't food for heavens a restaurant? What else do I come here for other than to eat? Do you think I'm here just to laugh at you?"

The moment Zhou Wencai's words left his mouth, shopkeeper Zhang's expression froze. He was unable to react in time.

Why did the words of the county magistrate's son sound so weird?

Did they offend young master Zhou before?

Manager Zhang thought to himself, but he still beamed at Zhou wencai and said, "Young master Zhou, I've embarrassed myself. It's just these two customers who ordered but didn't want to pay, so they're trying to find an excuse."

Zhou wencai continued to look at the two with a faint smile. He asked manager Zhang, " Oh, there's actually someone who dares to eat for free in this world? I'd like to see who's so bold."

It was just that the more shopkeeper Zhang listened to him, the more he felt that his words were a little strange.

Although young master Zhou often came to eat and occasionally met one or two customers who wanted to dine and dash, his way of doing things at that time was to sit by the side and watch, not wanting to meddle in other people's business.

But now ...

Shopkeeper Zhang had a bad premonition.

However, before he could react, the development of the matter was completely beyond his expectations.

The moment Zhou Wencai finished speaking, the waiter pointed at Lin yuelan and Jiang Zhennan without waiting for manager Zhang's reply. With a disdainful and contemptuous expression, he said to Zhou wencai, " it's the two of them!"

Soon after, Zhou Wencai's reaction completely exceeded everyone's expectations.

When Zhou Wencai saw Lin yuelan and Jiang Zhennan, his hand that was fanning paused. He immediately put on a dazed and surprised expression, but his surprise immediately turned into joy. He immediately closed his fan and walked toward Lin yuelan and Jiang Zhennan with a few steps. He said excitedly and happily, " Miss Lin, young master Nan, we're really fated. We've just separated, but we've met again in this restaurant in just a short while!"

Upon hearing Zhou Wencai's words and seeing his delighted expression, everyone was stunned, especially manager Zhang and the waiter, whose mouths were wide open in shock.

However, shopkeeper Zhang quickly reacted and asked carefully, " Mr. Zhou, do you know them? "

Zhou wencai replied without a second thought, " of course. They are my father's distinguished guests! Miss Lin, young master Nan, I've already prepared food and wine in my residence. Would the two of you please follow me back to the Zhou residence for a meal?"

Zhou Wencai's words were like a Boulder being thrown into a calm lake, causing huge splashes. Following that, the waves surged.

They would never have thought that this man and woman, whom they had regarded as poor would actually be County Magistrate Zhou's guests. That's right, not young master Zhou's guests, but Lord Zhou's guests.

Shopkeeper Zhang and the waiter's expressions immediately turned into horror and panic.

Because they had just offended these two guests. The next moment, they found out that they were actually the guests of County Magistrate Zhou. This made them panic.

Although they were the restaurant's manager and waiter, their status was not high at all.

Shopkeeper Zhang and the waiter's faces immediately turned pale, especially the waiter's.

Previously, he had been able to insult Lin yuelan and Jiang Zhennan because they had no status or background. Now, in the blink of an eye, the two people whom he had originally looked down on had become high and mighty figures. This kind of impact simply made him feel like finding a hole in the ground to hide in so that he could escape from this terrifying scene.

After being stunned for a moment, shopkeeper Zhang came back to his senses. His face was very ugly and ashamed. He said to Lin yuelan and Jiang Zhennan, " my two guests, it was my and the waiter's fault just now. The ignorant are innocent. Please forgive us for our recklessness and rudeness!"

As soon as he said this, Lin yuelan's expression didn't change at all. She just indifferently said to shopkeeper Zhang, " shopkeeper Zhang, how are you ignorant and innocent?"

Chapter 534: Opening a Restaurant

She didn't want to make things difficult for them on purpose, but she was a little displeased that they were treated so badly earlier.

She was acting like a child now. A child who was bullied would definitely want to make a fuss, wouldn't she?

Shopkeeper Zhang wiped the cold sweat from his forehead and immediately bowed to the two of them with great sincerity. "my two guests, it was the waiter and me who looked down on us and offended you. Please forgive my recklessness and rudeness!" This time, it was obviously more clear and more sincere than the last time.

She took out an ingot of silver from her bosom. It was ten taels in total. She said to shopkeeper Zhang coldly, "shopkeeper, bill please!"

As she said this, she glanced at the food on the table that had not been touched. Then, she saw the beggars outside who were peeking in. She pointed at the food and said, "let the beggars outside eat these!"

Ten taels of silver for a beggar to eat ...

This was a blatant slap to the face of Shopkeeper Zhang and the waiter, as well as the reputation of the restaurant.

Didn't he say that they couldn't afford the food?

This was Lin Yuelan's counterattack against them, and it was a heavy blow!

Shopkeeper Zhang was shocked, angry, and extremely nervous. He could only say stiffly, "okay!" He then instructed the waiter and shouted, "why are you still standing here? Go and give the food to the beggars outside!"

What an insult.

The signature dish of 'food is the heaven' was actually used to serve a beggar.

However, he knew that if he didn't do this, he would most likely offend County Magistrate Zhou.

Could a restaurant that had offended County Magistrate Zhou still survive in An Ding County?

Shopkeeper Zhang's face was bitter. He was secretly resentful that he had misjudged them. At the same time, he was even more resentful of the waiter. If he had not misled him, he would not have looked down on them and insulted them. Furthermore, it was heard by the son of County Magistrate Zhou.

The waiter was so scared that his face turned pale, and his hands trembled. He picked up the food on the table and carefully carried it out, not daring to say a word.

This scene caused the surrounding guests to feel bitter in their hearts.

Just now, they seemed to have agreed with shopkeeper Zhang and bullied these two people together. They worried that Lin Yuelan would remember this.

In fact, they were overthinking it.

Lin yuelan didn't take this matter to heart at all.

Humans were like this.

They used their power to bully others, looked down on others, bullied the weak and feared the strong, and so on. They were just instinctively choosing the side that was most beneficial to them.

Lin yuelan couldn't bring herself to continue eating.

She nodded at Zhou wencai and said, " thank you, young master Zhou. I'll accept your invitation!"

The group of people left just like that, leaving behind a group of surprised expressions.

Lin yuelan and Jiang Zhennan followed Zhou Wencai to the Zhou Manor once again.

This time, they were there to eat.

Looking at these dishes, they seemed to be all appetizing.

However, as soon as Lin yuelan and Jiang Zhennan picked up the food and put it into their mouths, they frowned slightly, but they still ate it without saying anything.

Naturally, Zhou Wencai understood the duo's expressions.

He had eaten Lin yuelan's cooking before. Unfortunately, he was in the county city and could not go to Ning An Town often.

Zhou Wencai said with a smile, " Miss Lin, young master Nan, I'm sorry."

Jiang Zhennan would not say anything, but Lin yuelan chuckled and said, " Young master Zhou, you're really too polite. I'm just a farmer's daughter. It's my honor to be able to have a meal at County Magistrate Zhou's house, even if it's a simple meal. Moreover, these dishes are all appetizing."

She was just saying that.

Zhou wencai was also very clear about this in his heart.

After the three of them had their meal, Zhou Wencai probed with a smile, " Miss Lin, your culinary skills are so good. Why don't you open a big restaurant in An Ding County?"

"If you're worried about the funds, miss Lin, don't worry. the Zhou family can gather some money."

Zhou Wencai said. The Zhou family didn't care about this amount of money. Of course, this money wasn't embezzled by his father. Zhou Wencai had his saving, in addition to the income he earned from selling some calligraphy and paintings.

Lin yuelan didn't agree immediately. Instead, she asked, " I wonder what kind of benefits Mr. Zhou would like after providing a portion of the funds? "

Lin yuelan had always been very direct when it came to business.

She had already planned to open a restaurant in An Ding County.

However, she had an agreement with Liu Qi that she would not open a restaurant like his in An Ding County. Therefore, this restaurant had to be different from the Liu family's.

Chapter 535: Hiring Laborers

Zhou Wencai was taken aback when he heard Lin yuelan's question.

But very quickly, a profound smile appeared on his face. He asked in return, " then, miss Lin, what kind of benefits do you think you can give me? "

Of course, he also needed benefits, whether it was connections or money.

The world bustled for profit!

Lin yuelan stretched out two fingers and said with a smile, " how about 20%? But it's only limited to the restaurants in An Ding County!"

He wanted money, but he wanted Jiang Zhennan's connection with her even more. At the same time, she also needed to rely on the Zhou family to support the restaurant's operations.

After all, out of all the officials in An Ding County, only County Magistrate Zhou had the highest authority.

With him as her backing, it would save her a lot of trouble.

Zhou Wencai was not a greedy person.

The main purpose of his suggesting Lin yuelan opens a restaurant this time was, of course, to build a good relationship and friendship with Jiang Zhennan. When he was recruited back by the main family in the future, he would also have a backer.

Zhou wencai nodded without any objections. "alright!"

Lin yuelan continued, " young master Zhou, other than opening a restaurant, I also plan to expand Lin's medicine shop to the prefecture capital. Whether it's the location of the restaurant or the medicine shop, I might have to trouble young master Zhou to help me find them. After all, I'm not familiar with this place, and I've just finished harvesting in the Lin family Village. There's still a lot of things to do at home, so I don't have time to stay."

Lin yuelan's words had always been straightforward.

Since they had already formed a cooperative relationship, their interests were closely linked.

Zhou Wen instantly gasped upon hearing that.

He had left Ning An Town for some time and did not know how Lin yuelan was faring. However, he often kept in contact with Liu Qi through letters. Liu Qi would inevitably marvel at Lin yuelan in his letters, and at the same time, he would feel heartache for the money he had to give out. It was at least a few hundred taels a month.

However, opening a restaurant wasn't something that could be done with just a few hundred taels of silver. Thus, he had tentatively suggested gathering some funds for the restaurant. He hadn't expected Lin yuelan to agree so readily.

However, what surprised him was that Lin yuelan was planning to open a restaurant and a medicine shop at the same time.

This would require a huge expenditure.

How much money did Lin yuelan have?

After Zhou Wencai secretly took a deep breath, he nodded and replied, "I'll use my connections and have someone look for it!"

Lin yuelan replied, "mm, then I'll have to trouble young master Zhou."

Zhou Wencai said with a smile, "there's no trouble at all. I'm free anyway." But he had a lot of things to do every day, such as holding poetry meetings with friends, reciting poems, discussing the situation of the world with his father, and so on. He was quite busy.

Lin yuelan only nodded with a smile.

Then, Lin yuelan asked, "Young master Zhou ..."

"Wait," eldest young master Zhou was a little upset. He said unhappily, "Miss Lin, I'm a few years older than you. You can call me big brother Zhou. Calling me young master Zhou feels a little awkward!" They seemed to have talked about this problem before.

Lin yuelan nodded without hesitation and said, "alright, big brother Zhou. You don't have to call me to miss Lin, just call me Yuelan."

However, it wasn't appropriate for a man to call an unmarried girl by her name.

Zhou Wen thought for a moment and said, "I call Jiaying a younger sister. As for you and Jiaying, you're like sisters. Why don't I call you little sister yuelan?"

"Alright then!" Lin yuelan nodded.

Lin yuelan thought of another reason for coming to the county. She asked, "Brother Zhou, I have another reason for coming to the county this time. I want to hire laborers!"

This once again surprised Zhou Wencai.

"Hire laborers?"

"That's right. I want to hire laborers! We have a lot of fields at home, so I want to get some laborers to take care of these." Lin Yuelan said without hiding anything.

Previously, she already had this intention. However, her house was small, and there was no place to stay. Thus, she delayed the purchase.

However, now that the house was almost finished and she was in the county, she might as well get this done.

Chapter 536: Getting Laborers

Only then did Zhou Wencai put away his surprise and say in all seriousness, "there's an old camphor tree on the east side of the county Street. That's the laborers' market. We can go there and take a look. However,"

With that said, Zhou Wen paused and said hesitantly, "I think it's better to get official laborers. It just so happens that there are a few families in the prison that are waiting to be exiled. Why don't we go take a look?"

Lin yuelan raised her eyebrows and asked, "how many families?"

Zhou wencai nodded and replied, "there are three. Most of them have a criminal family member and were implicated. One family committed the serious crime of murder, which caused the massacre of an entire family. The other family protected them, and according to the laws of the country, this entire family was charged with the crime of protection. The other family was ordered to be sold as slaves by the higher-ups. As for the real reason, no one knows. As for the specific details, my father doesn't know either. The third family was found guilty of smuggling salt, which is a serious crime."

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Zhou Wencai explained their situation one by one.

After hearing this, Lin yuelan lowered her head slightly and half-closed her eyes, deep in thought.

A moment later, she said, "Let's go to the cell and take a look first before we make a decision."

Why did Zhou Wencai recommend a criminal to Lin yuelan?

This was because these prisoners would only leave the prison with a death contract. They could not redeem themselves or escape with the official mark on their bodies. No matter where they escaped, the mark would brand them. Once they were found, they would be sent to the government and punished.

As for the normal laborers, they sold their services. They were sold as slaves because their families were too poor and could not support them. These people could still redeem themselves as long as they had enough money. This would not foster loyalty because their goal would always be making money.

Therefore, getting inmate laborers would be more worth it.

Since Lin yuelan had decided to take a look at the families in prison, the other two naturally accompanied her.

As they conversed, Jiang Zhennan sat beside Lin yuelan in silence, acting as a guard in the background. Zhou Wencai occasionally felt the cold aura emanating from him. It gave him goosebumps.

When he heard that they were going to prison, Jiang Zhennan immediately stood up. Then, his tall and slender shadow completely covered Lin yuelan's petite body in the shadow, as if he wanted to envelop her in his own protection.

Zhou wencai felt a slight tremor in his heart.

It was because the rumors said that Jiang Zhennan had always avoided women.

But now, what was going on?

Zhou Wencai had been mumbling to himself in his heart, 'What's the relationship between Lin yuelan and Jiang Zhennan? One was in the capital, while the other was in the village. One was the defender-general of the state, while the other was a village farmer's daughter. However, the two of them knew each other and seemed to have a close relationship. What's going on?'

Of course, Zhou Wencai wouldn't foolishly ask.

After the three of them left the Zhou mansion, they went straight to the county government's prison cell.

Only then did Zhou Wencai bring them directly to the cells that held the three families.

When she opened the first cell, Lin yuelan saw a few angry gazes glaring at Zhou wencai and company.

One of the obese women was dressed in ragged clothes. The moment she saw Zhou wencai, she cursed angrily, "you dog, let us go! We're clearly innocent. On what basis are you sentencing us? We're going to sue you corrupt officials!"

The group of people behind the woman also roared with anger in their eyes, "dog official, let us out. Otherwise, we won't let you off even if we become ghosts!"

Zhou Wencai's face darkened as he shouted angrily at them, "your good son and grandson killed a family of three. Not only did you not turn them in, but you also hid the truth and protected the criminal. According to the country's laws, you are guilty and will be sentenced to be laborers."

The woman angrily shouted, "It's clearly that family of three who deserves to die. It's their fortune that my son has taken a fancy to their daughter. What right do they have to reject my son's marriage proposal? People like them don't deserve to live. "

Chapter 537: Getting Laborers

When Lin yuelan saw the family's selfish, domineering, arrogant, and unreasonable looks, she shook her head at Zhoucai Wen and said, "let's go take a look at the other two families!" If she really hired these people, they would act more like masters. She didn't want to serve people.

Only then did Zhou Wencai take Lin yuelan to another cell. He ignored the family that roared angrily behind them.

The second family was imprisoned by the higher-ups.

As for the specific reason, neither County Magistrate Zhou nor Zhou Wencai knew.

However, since the higher-ups had requested, these people also had the official mark.

Lin yuelan looked at the family. They were still quiet, but their faces were ashen, and they looked like they had nothing left to live for.

Perhaps all prisoners would have such despair.

Lin yuelan looked at them and asked, " if I give you a chance to live freely, do you want it? "

Lin yuelan's question didn't only shock the prisoner but also Zhou Wencai. Jiang Zhennan was only slightly surprised before his expression immediately returned to its cold state.

As for why they were so shocked?

This was because Lin yuelan's words meant that after she hired them, she would have the opportunity to restore their status as commoners from official slaves.

This was a great temptation.

It should be known that after some buyers hired prisoners, they were equivalent to their slaves. It was very likely that they would be beaten and scolded for the rest of their lives. They were not even as good as a dog. The master would usually not let them go.

Therefore, it was almost impossible for them to be free.

Unless the buyer was a very kind person.

However, how many kind-hearted buyers were there?

But now, this person had opened her mouth and wanted to give them freedom. It would be strange if they didn't feel surprised.

Zhou wencai didn't expect Lin yuelan to have the thought of giving them freedom. She had the heart of a bodhisattva.

However, he knew very well that Lin yuelan was not a kind person. It was clear from how she treated the Lin family.

So ...

"What are your conditions?" Suddenly, a tall man with a beard stood up from the corner and asked. His sharp eyes did not dim even a little because of the official-laborer mark on his forehead.

Lin yuelan looked at the man and said with a faint smile, " loyalty!"

The normal laborers were forced into indenture due to poverty. Many of them were originally laborers, so they didn't have any heart to resist. On the other hand, these prisoners were originally young masters who fell from heaven to hell. They still didn't control their temper. Such people were naturally unwilling to be controlled.

The man thought for a moment and asked again, " what kind of loyalty do you want? "

Lin yuelan said, " the kind of person who would die without hesitation if I asked him to! "

Zhou Wencai gasped.

However, what kind of riddle were they playing?

These inmates couldn't resist their master's order, even if it were a death order.

Then why did Lin yuelan have to do something unnecessary?

The man asked again, "In that case, how long will it take for us to have such freedom?"

"Three years!" Lin yuelan said without hesitation, " however, you must be absolutely loyal to me within these three years. After three years, it's up to you to decide whether you want to stay or leave. If you leave, I'll return the contract to you. If you stay, I'll personally go to the court and change your status to commoners!"

He only needed to be an official laborer for three years, and he could regain his freedom.

This was a great temptation for those who had already been marked.

"However, if you have any intention of betraying me in the next three years, " Lin yuelan said sharply, " you will be working for me for life. You will be my cows and horses for the rest of your lives. You will be whipped by me and live a life worse than death! "

As soon as Lin yuelan said this, except for the man who was talking to her, the others who were sitting or standing behind him immediately changed their expressions and became terrified.

"I've already told you the conditions. You can decide for yourself whether you want to follow me or not. I'll give you half a quarter of an hour to think about it! "

Zhou Wen was somewhat puzzled about choosing this family, but he wondered if Lin yuelan's promise of freedom to them was a little too impulsive.

However, before he could continue to think about this question, the man in the lead replied, " we agree!" however, " he suddenly changed the topic and said seriously, " you have to promise to get all of us!"

Chapter 538: Back to the Village

Lin yuelan looked at the twelve or thirteen people behind the man. There were two or three young ladies with soft skin and tender flesh. Besides looking a little haggard, there were also two or three patients who looked like they were beyond cure because they had not been treated in time.

Lin yuelan replied straightforwardly, "Sure. As long as they can work, listen to me, and have the right awareness that they'll be working for me, it's fine." Lin yuelan pointed at the young ladies and young masters behind the man and said.

When the three men heard this, their faces immediately turned livid with anger. One of them looked at the thirteen or fourteen-year-old boy, and his face flushed red. He shouted at Lin yuelan in anger, " you ... You're going too far."

Lin yuelan looked at the furious young man with a faint smile and said lightly, " I'll give you a chance to be free if you want it. However, you should know that any freedom has a prerequisite and a price.

"I'm not a philanthropist. Since I've paid the price to get you, you should have the right awareness because you're no longer the young masters with servants and servants!"

Lin yuelan said sharply.

“So, whether you want to be free after becoming a slave or become a servant who can’t lift his head for the rest of his life, that’s your own choice.”

The three men were embarrassed and angry, but they couldn’t refute Lin yuelan’s words.

What Lin yuelan said was the truth. They were no longer high and mighty young masters who had people serving them.

They had no meaning in resisting unless they chose to die and end all this pain.

However, if they died, they would really lose everything.

But they wanted to live.

The three of them didn’t dare to make a sound. They could only lower their heads and remain silent with red faces.

The man glanced at them and said to Lin yuelan, “ as long as I’m here, they must be obedient and loyal to you.”

“Big brother!” The three men looked at the man with wide eyes.

The man’s sharp eyes glared at his three siblings, and he shouted sternly, “ don’t you know the situation we’re in?”

The three siblings lowered their heads again and could only stand there uneasily and helplessly.

Lin yuelan nodded and said, “ alright. I’ll hire all of you. As for the premise, of course, it was enough as long as these people could recognize their own identities. And I can guarantee that I’ll cure all of their illnesses!”

When the man heard Lin yuelan’s words, he was obviously a little emotional. He said, “ thank you. I, Wu Jinxia, will be loyal to the master, even if it costs me ten thousand lives!”

Lin yuelan nodded before asking Zhou Wencai, “I’ll get them all!”

Zhou Wencai looked at the family’s master and servant. Not only were they old, weak, sick, and disabled, but there were also these young masters with delicate skin and tender flesh. Could they be used for work?

Zhou Wencai’s mind was filled with puzzlement as he persuaded Lin yuelan, “ sister yuelan, why don’t you consider it again? these people...” although he didn’t finish his sentence, everyone present understood.

These people would be useless and a waste of money.

When acquiring laborers, one didn’t necessarily have to buy a whole family. Most families would choose people according to their needs, such as young and strong men or beautiful maidservants. If a family had both young and old members, they might even go their separate ways and never see each other again!

Such an ending was the most unacceptable, most painful, and most helpless!

This was because the laborers did not have the power to decide whether they were a family or an individual.

Therefore, upon hearing Zhou Wen's dissuasion, everyone except Wu Jinxia looked at Lin yuelan nervously. They were really afraid that she would abandon them and separate them.

The people looked at Lin yuelan nervously.

In his heart, he was crying bitterly, 'if I knew this would happen, I would have kept quiet. What if she only wants Big brother and doesn't want us?'

Lin yuelan scanned the family's expressions before rejecting Zhou Wencai's good intentions. She shook her head gently and said, "there's no need to be picky. Since I promised him, I won't go back on my word. If they still have other thoughts after following me, I, Lin yuelan, have plenty of ways to deal with them."

Chapter 539: Back to the Village

In fact, her main target was the man named Wu Jinxia.

In the future, as her career grew bigger and bigger, she couldn't do everything by herself. Therefore, she wanted to recruit another chief spokesperson besides the boss of Lin's medicine Hall. She would command from behind while he would execute her orders in front.

This man looked steady and mature, but there was ambition in his eyes. If such a person were trained well, he would be her right-hand man.

Therefore, Lin yuelan chose to get him. As for his freedom, it was indeed as she had promised. As long as he didn't have any intention of betraying her in the next three years, she would go to court and restore their status. After that, it was up to them to decide whether they wanted to stay or leave.

The Wu family had around 12 people. Lin yuelan didn't look at the third family.

Zhou Wencai had gotten his servants to arrange for two carriages.

One was a luxurious carriage, and the other was a handcart. Except for Wu Jinxia, who was Lin yuelan's coachman, the other twelve people were all squeezed into this handcart.

When Lin yuelan returned to the Lin family Village from the county, the people in the carriage once again caused a stir in the entire village.

The villagers thought Lin yuelan had pulled back beggars from the streets.

After that, when they found out that these people were actually government servants bought from the county government, they were both envious and jealous.

Those who could buy official laborers from the county government needed to have a strong background.

Therefore, it was obvious that Lin yuelan's trip would definitely be about the farming method. The county Magistrate had given Lin yuelan a reward, but it was also very enviable.

One must know that getting official laborers were at least twice as cheap. Most importantly, ordinary people could not do this.

But now, Lin yuelan had gone to the county and did this through her connections.

However, when the villager saw the old, weak, sick, and disabled men and women getting out of the carriage, his jealousy and injustice dissipated a little. He thought to himself, 'Hmph, I don't want this kind of official servant who can't work. Is the jinx blind? Didn't she know that these people are disabled and sick? These are all useless and money-wasting trash!'

The population had suddenly increased by more than a dozen people, so the courtyard of this small thatched cottage would definitely not be able to accommodate everyone.

It seemed that she could only put them in the workers' dormitory for now.

When Wu Jinxia saw a large building from afar, he was surprised.

Especially when the carriage was headed in that direction, he was even more shocked.

Could it be that this house belonged to their current owner?

If it really was her family's, then her family was really not simple.

However, when the carriage stopped in front of a small thatched cottage, he was slightly disappointed.

After all, before this, he had thought that the master was from a rich family and at least could make proper arrangements for his people.

"It can't be. Are we going to work in this broken house?"

Wu Jinxia's third brother, Wu Jinwu, couldn't stand the cart trip and immediately vomited the moment he got off.

After a while, when he finally felt less uncomfortable, he looked up and saw the tattered little thatched cottage. His pale face instantly became even paler. He couldn't bear the look of despair on his face and screamed in his heart.

"Miss Lin, who are they?" Little Six heard the commotion and quickly ran over to take a look.

Unexpectedly, before he could get close to Lin yuelan, he heard a disdainful and disappointed voice. He immediately asked in confusion, "work? What kind of work are they doing?"

Then, he ran over anxiously and asked, "Miss Lin, are you and the boss alright?"

They had been at the court for a day, and their hearts had been in their throats for the whole day. Now that they had finally returned, they had brought back a group of strangers.

Lin yuelan shook her head and said, "We're fine."

Little Six looked around and did not seem to see his boss. He muttered to himself and asked, "Miss Lin, where's my boss? Didn't he come back with you?"

Lin yuelan pointed to the carriage shed and said, "He's there!"

This time, Little Six could clearly see where Jiang Zhennan was, but what he was curious about now was these strangers who had suddenly come.

"Miss Lin, who are they?" he asked again.

Lin yuelan said, "they're the official laborers I got!"

Little Six was surprised, but he didn't ask much.

Lin yuelan glanced at these people and pointed at six or seven men and women with haggard faces. She said coldly, "From tomorrow onwards, these few will work with you."

"What?"

"What?"

The first sound came from Little Six's surprised voice.

The second voice was Wu Jinwu's cry of disbelief.

What surprised Little Six was that these people, who looked so delicate, actually had to start working tomorrow.

Wu Jinwu's exclamation was because they did not expect that they would have to work the moment they started. It was their nightmare because they had never done any work before.

Wu Jinwu resisted and said, "no, I'm not in good health. I'm still sick. How can I work?"

Lin yuelan's eyes turned cold, and she told Wu Jinwu, "Since you don't want to start working tomorrow, I can send you back to your cell now!"

Chapter 540: The Wu Siblings

Wu Jinwu was frightened by Lin yuelan's sharp eyes and vicious tone. He immediately shrank his neck, lowered his head, and blushed. He did not dare to resist at all. He was afraid that if he were to show even the slightest dissatisfaction, he would be sent back to prison by Lin yuelan. Then, he would be separated from his big brother, second sister, and third sister, and they would never see each other again.

Wu Jinmei, Wu Jinxia's eldest sister and Wu Jinwu's second sister, saw that the atmosphere was not right. She immediately pulled Wu Jinwu over. Although she looked a little panicked, she did not lose her calm. She slightly bent her legs to Lin yuelan and said, "I'm sorry, master. My little brother is not sensible. In the future, as his sister, I will teach him a lot and give him more advice."

Then, she turned to Wu Jinwu and scolded, "little brother, hurry up and admit your mistake to master. Apologize to master and promise that you won't make the same mistake again!"

Hearing Wu Jinmei's words, Lin yuelan raised her eyebrows. She now had a whole new level of respect for this woman, who had been pale and silent from the time she had been in the cell until the time she had been in the Lin family Village.

She clearly looked like she had nothing to live for just a moment ago, but in the blink of an eye, she actually changed her mind.

It was rare to see a woman with such self-awareness.

Wu Jinwu had been scolded by his sister and was ordered to apologize to Lin yuelan. He could only stand up and say to Lin yuelan in a low and nervous voice, " master, I'm sorry!"

Lin yuelan nodded slightly. 'Not bad. He's not that stupid!' If he still wanted to act like a young master after being scolded by his sister, she would really consider whether to send him back.

Wu jinwu's face reddened. He wished there was a crack in the ground so that he could hide in it and escape from the abuse.

After Lin yuelan finished speaking to Wu Jinwu, she turned to look at the others and said sternly, " I don't care who you were in the past and what your status was. But now that you're in my territory, you have to put away all your airs. Everything is centered around me, the master. Or else ..."

Her eyes turned cold, and her sharp gaze swept across everyone. She said sternly, " for those who betrayed me, I will definitely make you suffer a fate worse than death. You must know that your Indenture contracts are all in my hands. Whether you live or die, it's all up to a word from me, your master!

"I've told you before that I'm not a philanthropist. I got you because I saw your value. As long as your value can create enough benefits for me, I'll give you your freedom. I, Lin yuelan, am a woman of my word.

"If there comes a day when all of you are of no value, that would be after you have betrayed me!"

Lin yuelan's sharp and powerful aura made everyone's hearts tremble.

They understood the meaning behind Lin yuelan's words.

This was because she needed absolute obedience and loyalty. Otherwise, they might end up in a miserable state!

She continued, " of course. As long as you work hard, you are my family. As long as it's my family, I won't mistreat them, and I won't allow anyone to bully my family. Do you understand what I'm saying?"

This time, it was even more shocking.

What did he mean?

A servant would actually become family?

But weren't they just servants?

The word "family" struck everyone's hearts.

From the moment they became official servants, they were ready to be dogs, very obedient dogs at the master's command.

Wu Jinhua, Wu Jinwu's third sister, had been expressionless the entire time from the prison to the Lin family Village. It was as if she had isolated herself from the rest of the world, the kind of numbness and silence that a person would have when they were immersed in their own world.

In the outside world, she was like a ragdoll that could be manipulated by others, causing people to feel heartache and pity.

However, when she heard the word family, she suddenly stood up and asked excitedly, " can you really do it? Can we really become a family?"