

Chapter 101: The Little Cattle King

When Xiao Lingyu heard all the aunties wanted to borrow Little Light, she was confused. “Bring Little Light for a walk with you? Why?”

The gathered crowd looked at Xiao Lingyu and then at each other. Auntie Hu stood forward to explain, “Lingyu, I heard that... Little Light came to you to help his mother as you came home from town. He even cried. Is that true?”

Xiao Lingyu looked at the crowd, and she nodded, “Yes.”

Auntie Hu immediately smiled, “Little Light sure is intelligent.” Then, she added tentatively, “Lingyu, I heard that Xiao Chengbang had taken Little Light for a walk around his tomato field. Now his tomatoes are growing especially well. We also want to borrow some of Little Light’s good luck.”

Xiao Chengbang and Zhou Yan didn’t mention it was Little Light manure that helped their plant’s growth. The other villagers thought Little Light was a sign of good luck.

Xiao Lingyu finally figured out the real reason after hearing Auntie Hu. She had been giving the two cattle spring water. It would seem that their refuse had a magical effect too, granted at a weakened level. However, compared to normal harvest, the plants affected by Little Light’s manure would seem magical.

Xiao Lingyu had been trying to find an excuse to explain the wonderful quality of her harvest. Now, the excuse had landed before her.

Xiao Lingyu smiled, “It’s okay if you want to take my Little Light for a walk, but Auntie Hu, there are so many of you, I...” She meant she didn’t know who should get to walk Little Light first.

“We’ll take turns!” Auntie Hu said. Then, she looked at the other three, “Sanxiu, Changxiu, Chunxiu, I’ll take Little Light for the morning, and you guys can take turns after that. Is that okay?” The three aunties looked at each other. Even though they wanted to be first, Auntie Hu was the most senior among them. Also, she was the one who explained the situation to Xiao Lingyu.

“Okay.” The aunties allocated the time among themselves.

Since none of the aunties had objections, Xiao Lingyu had no objection. Xiao Lingyu went to her fourth uncle’s cow pen and led out Little Light. She patted the calf’s head and said, “Little Light, you’ll be going with these aunties for today. You can’t eat any of their produce, okay?”

“Moo!” Little Light replied.

When the four aunties saw this, they gasped, “The calf is so intelligent! I’ve never seen one like it!”

“It has to be to stop Lingyu on the road to save its mother.”

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Auntie Hu led Little Light to her field. Of course, she knew she couldn't just walk the calf around the field. At least, she had to feed the calf.

Auntie Hu brought Little Light to her house. She made some rice soup with bran for Little Light.

However, Little Light was not an ordinary cow. He was very smart. His intelligence only grew after being fed the spring water. It also made him a picky eater. He despised the rice bran soup. He turned his head away without even looking at it.

Auntie Hu was stunned, and then she realized Little Light was telling her he didn't like the food. Auntie Hu frowned and then cut some fresh grass for Little Light. When Little Light ate the grass, Auntie Hu sighed in relief. After Little Light was full, Auntie Hu led him to her vegetable field.

Little Light took a piss at the field. After a while, he even took a shit.

Auntie Hu wanted to lead Little Light to her other field when Auntie Liu came over to take over the shift. When the other villagers saw Auntie Hu and Auntie Liu herd Little Light around their fields, they were puzzled. 'Why are the aunts so free? They don't work their own fields but help the Xiao Family herd their cow?'

The four aunts fed Little Light well.

Two days later, many villagers noticed the vegetables and fruits that grew in the four aunts' fields had become larger and more alluring.

"Chunxiu, your chives two days ago look so yellow. Why are they so vibrant all of a sudden?"

"Changxiu, I remember your chili plants were dying. How come they have revived and flowered?"

"Sanxiu, how did your family's paddy suddenly become so nice? When your family planted the water paddy, the sun was already up. The water in the field was dry. The seedlings were shriveled too. The rain wouldn't have helped either. It has only been a few days, but your paddy has grown taller than ours."

"Lanying, why are the vegetables in your field growing so well these past two days?"

"We brought Lingyu's calf to the field for a walk. It took a piss and a shit. Its manure is more effective than any fertilizer we can find."

"What?" When the villagers heard this answer, they were shocked. "How is that possible? Isn't that just a normal calf?"

"How is it a normal calf?" Hu Lanying retorted, "Have you heard a normal cow shedding tears and stopping people to save its mother?"

"That's right. The calf is divine and intelligent. When you talk to it, it will reply to you. What normal cow can do that? This is a divine cow! Even if it is not, it is the Little Cattle King!"

"That's right. It is the Little Cattle King, so the Little Cattle King's pee is actually miracle water!"

Instantly, every villager knew the calf Lingyu saved was the Little Cattle King. The Little Cattle King's urine and feces had magical powers. They could accelerate the growth of plants and make them taste better.

Once the rumors spread, the villagers crowded the Xiao Family home.

Every day, many villagers came to borrow Little Light. In order to have the Little Cattle King pee and poop, they would feed Little Light with good water and food. Some of them treated Little Light respectfully like a divine.

To borrow Little Light, the villagers had to curry favor with Xiao Zhengyang and his family. They all praised Xiao Lingyu for her good eye to purchase the Little Cattle King.

At first, Little Light was quite happy because he was provided good food and water.

However, he eventually found out the villagers were only using him for his poop and pee. Most villagers only saw him as a tool. When he didn't have to do nature's business, the anxious villagers would push and force him.

Therefore, a few days later, the villagers found Little Light had become quite listless and tired.

Chapter 102: Little Light is Tired

These days, Xiao Xiaohui was very unhappy. He was supposed to be his eldest cousin's cow herder, but everyone in the village was fighting to do his job. It made him feel like something he had was snatched away from him.

"Little Loach, is Little Light really the Little Cattle King?" Little Moon asked curiously, "My mom told me that. He said the Little Cattle King's pee is actually miracle water that can promote vegetable growth. My mom told me to pull Little Light to our field for a stroll!"

Little Bun said with snot running down his nose, "Little Moon, my mom told me the same thing. She wanted me to bring Little Light to our field."

"My mom asked me to do that too!" Little Charcoal said as he munched on the bird eggs. "Little Loach, the villagers are still fighting for Little Light?"

Xiao Xiaohui said dispiritedly, "Yeah. They are really annoying. Little Light is still so young. He is still growing, but these people keep forcing him to poop and pee. It makes Little Light so listless recently." Over the days, Xiao Xiaohui formed a bond with Little Light. Or at least that was what Xiao Xiaohui thought.

His friends also turned their faces up with resentment when they heard Little Loach, "The adults are horrible! Little Light is still so young! How can he produce so much pee and poop! Look at how tired they have made Little Light."

They herded the cattle with Xiao Xiaohui, and also developed a friendship with Little and Big Light. Seeing how tortured Little Light was, they felt sorry for him.

Little Bun's eyes lit up, and he exclaimed, "Little Loach, how about we tell Sister Lingyu about this? Tell her not to loan Little Light out anymore. He is too exhausted!"

The other concurred, "That's right. Let's go tell Sister Lingyu."

As soon as they came to the decision, the kids went down the mountain to the Xiao Family home.

At that moment, another three families were at the Xiao Family home. Two of them were the scoundrels who refused to rent their land to Xiao Lingyu, Xiao Facai, and Xiao Fuqi.

Xiao Fuqi told Xiao Lingyu, "Xiao Lingyu, I've asked to borrow your calf a few days ago. You told me someone else had borrowed it. A few days had passed, so you have to let me lend the calf no matter what today!" He made it sound like Xiao Lingyu owed him.

Before Xiao Lingyu could respond, Xiao Facai cut in. He sneered sarcastically, "Xiao Fuqi, you sure are thick-faced. Everyone in the village knows that you dislike and envy Xiao Zhengyang's family. You always speak ill of them. Now you have the face to ask them to lend you the Little Cattle King."

Xiao Facai ignored Xiao Fuqi's angry face and turned to Xiao Lingyu with a smile, "Yu 'Er, I have a vegetable field. The plants are not doing so well. I need to borrow the Little Cattle King to go for a walk around my field. I heard that the field the Little Cattle King visited would have a wonderful harvest."

"No, no one can borrow Little Light anymore!" At that moment, Xiao Xiaohui and the kids barged in. They stood before Xiao Fuqi and Xiao Facai, their small faces filled with anger.

Xiao Xiaohui said loudly, "You adults are too shameless. You said you would bring Little Light for a walk, but you're really forcing him to pee and poop. Can't you see the toll it has taken on Little Light?"

The other kids chimed in. "That's right! If this continues, Little Light will get sick from exhaustion. What will you do then?" Then four kids turned to Xiao Lingyu and chirped, "Sister Lingyu, Little Light is not feeling well. He is very tired and needs to rest. We can't let him get sick."

"Exactly. What if Little Light gets sick? Then, he'll be given an injection."

"Yes, injections are very painful. I don't like it. Little Light is the Little Cattle King, and he won't like it too."

Hearing the kids, Xiao Fuqi turned his attention away from Xiao Facai. He glared at the brats and growled angrily, "You brats, this is none of your business. Hurry up and scram. Stop disturbing the adults."

Xiao Facai joined forces with Xiao Fuqi against a common enemy, "You brats should go and play, and not come here to disturb the adults. You need to be taught a lesson. Since your parents aren't here, I'll teach you a lesson on their behalf!"

The four kids immediately hid behind Xiao Lingyu. Xiao Xiaohui stuck his head out and shouted, "You only know how to bully kids. Shame on you! Blrrrr!" He made a face.

Xiao Facai said angrily, "You... Little Loach, I'll smack you on your father's behalf for disrespecting me!"

He rushed towards Xiao Lingyu to grab Xiao Xiaohui. Xiao Xiaohui was not afraid of the man. He continued to make faces at him. "Boo! Do you think I'm scared of you?" Then Xiao Xiaohui turned to shout at Xiao Fuqi. "And you, you're also a bad seed. You don't have a good relationship with my second uncle. Every day, you go around the village to talk bad about my second aunt, second aunt, eldest cousin, and third cousin. Now, you have the face to come to borrow Little Light from my eldest cousin? Shameless, shameless!"

Xiao Fuqi was indeed shameless. However, no adult dared to point that out. Therefore, Xiao Fuqi decided to borrow Little Light from Xiao Lingyu like everyone else.

However, a kid didn't care about decorum. Xiao Fuqi was about to explode. He shouted loudly, "Little Loach, you bastard, I'll smack you for your rudeness. Since your father doesn't teach you, I will!"

He strode towards Xiao Lingyu. He dragged Xiao Xiaohui out and made to smack the boy.

Xiao Lingyu's face darkened. Her tone was sharp, "Uncle Fu, Xiaohui is just a child. You shouldn't take things so seriously!" Xiao Lingyu shielded Xiao Xiaohui behind her.

"Xiao Fuqi, who are you calling a bastard?!" At that moment, a powerful voice echoed in the courtyard. "Who are you to teach my son a lesson? If you want to play a father, go back to your own home and deal with your own children!"

Once Xiao Mingyang reached home, he heard that Xiao Fuqi had gone to Xiao Lingyu's place to borrow the calf. He knew that his second brother was out working, his sister-in-law was helping at a village wedding. Xiao Lingyu was home alone. He was afraid that Xiao Lingyu might be bullied, so he came over to look.

As he arrived, he saw Xiao Fuqi try to grab his son.. He even called his son a bastard.

Chapter 103: I have the Little Cattle King

Xiao Mingyang's arrival silenced Xiao Fuqi and Xiao Facai. They lost their backbones.

Xiao Mingyang was not as reasonable and reserved as Xiao Zhengyang. Xiao Mingyang was big and muscular. He was strong and fierce. He was not someone to be trifled with. Many villagers were afraid of him.

In the end, Xiao Lingyu rejected the people who came to borrow the calf on the grounds that the Little Cattle King was tired and needed to rest.

Even though the men were unhappy, they didn't want to offend Xiao Lingyu. What if Xiao Lingyu refused to loan them the Little Cattle King in the future?

Xiao Fuqi whispered with a dark face. "Why can't we borrow the calf when the others can? The moment we come, the calf is tired? Just tell us she is stingy. Why the need to find such excuses?"

The others could pretend not to hear him but not Xiao Xiaohui. He huffed, "People need to rest and sleep, but Little Light doesn't need that? Hmph, Little Light is already so tired, but you people still want to take advantage of him for your own benefit. Shameless!"

Many people's expressions changed. Xiao Xiaohui was a child, and his father was around, so no one said anything.

After everyone left, Xiao Mingyang looked at Xiao Fuqi's figure and spat. "How ridiculous is this man?! On the one hand, he goes around slandering big brother's name, and now he wants to take advantage of us? Preposterous!" He turned to Xiao Lingyu and said, "Yu 'Er, ignore these people!"

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "I will. I was going to reject them anyway." Xiao Lingyu was not dumb. Xiao Fuqi wanted to borrow Little Light but he still went around talking bad about the Xiao Family. Did he think she was that foolish?

Xiao Mingyang nodded. "Clever girl!" Then, his eyes sharpened as he turned to Xiao Xiaohui. "You brat, you were going to get beaten if I didn't arrive in time!"

Xiao Xiaohui curled his lips and said, "That won't happen! That stingy uncle wouldn't dare to hit me. Plus, I can outrun him. Moreover, eldest cousin is here. I don't think they dare to hurt me. Once they did, they wouldn't be able to borrow the Little Cattle King." Xiao Xiaohui puffed up his cheeks and said confidently, "After all, I am responsible for the Little Cattle King!"

Xiao Mingyang smacked his son's head. "What nonsense! The calf is your eldest cousin's! Your eldest cousin decides whether to loan the calf to people or not, not you."

Xiao Xiaohui didn't deflate. If anything, he puffed up his chest further. "Hmph, eldest sister dotes on me the most. If I tell her not to loan Little Light, she won't loan him. Right, eldest cousin?"

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "That's right. I love you the most. If you don't want me to loan Little Light to someone, I won't!"

"See, Dad!" Xiao Xiaohui said happily.

Xiao Mingyang rolled his eyes at his son and said, "I'm not deaf. Alright, your eldest cousin has given you the task to herd the cattle. You need to get to work. If I hear Little and Big Light eating another family's food, I'll give you a beating you'll never forget."

Xiao Xiaohui retorted, "Dad, that's where you're wrong. Little Light is now the Little Cattle King. Any family will welcome him to their field. Why would they ever complain to you?" Xiao Xiaohui grinned wickedly, "I should make them come to beg me. But Dad, don't worry. I won't let Little and Big Light eat anyone's food again... Unless they give me some benefits. Then perhaps I can bring Little Light to their field for a stroll."

His father immediately smacked the back of his son's head. "Don't even think of that! Do your job properly!"

Xiao Xiaohui rubbed the back of his head. He muttered. "Fine..."

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That night, when Mother and Father Xiao heard about what had happened in the morning, they didn't look too happy.

Mother Xiao snorted, "This Xiao Fuqi sure is shameless! He often talks bad about our family and how he wants to come to borrow Little Light from us? What a joke!"

Father Xiao didn't say anything, but he nodded in agreement.

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "Dad, I've already rejected them."

“As you should!” Mother Xiao said matter-of-factly, “Unless they come to apologize, we won’t lend them anything. Who cares what they say!”

“Okay!” Xiao Lingyu nodded.

At this moment, there was a knock on the door.

Mother Xiao frowned and said, “I’m sure someone is here trying to borrow Little Light again.” Mother Xiao stood up. Then she turned to remind Xiao Lingyu. “No matter who is it, do not lend Little Light again. Little Light has been worked so hard that he doesn’t even have the appetite anymore.”

Of course, she had to look after their calf. Moreover, Little Light was not a normal calf but the Little Cattle King.

Xiao Lingyu nodded. “Understood.”

Mother Xiao opened the door. She was surprised to find the village chief standing there. “Village chief, please come in!”

The village chief took a look at the room and asked with a smile, “Am I disturbing the dinner?”

Mother Xiao smiled and said, “We just finished, and I was cleaning up. Village Chief, have you eaten? We still have some rice and dishes left!”

The village chief shook his head and said, “Thank you. I’ve already eaten.”

“Village Chief!” Xiao Lingyu greeted.

The village chief smiled and said, “Zhengyang, Yu ‘er, Xiao Facai, and Xiao Lichun relented earlier and decided to rent their land to you.”

Xiao Zhengyang was surprised. “Oh? They’ve agreed?” Everyone knew that they were waiting for the Xiao Family to raise the offer price. They thought the Xiao Family had no choice but to rent their land.

In reality, if they were unwilling to rent, Xiao Lingyu planned to plant around their land. They didn’t have much land anyway, only about five to six Fen.

However, the village chief added. “This is all thanks to your family’s Little Cattle King.”

Xiao Zhengyang nodded. “So that’s why.”

The village chief said, “They can’t borrow the Little Cattle King, but the other families can.” They had been calling Xiao Lingyu stingy, but they needed the Little Cattle King.

After all, the sandy land they owned didn’t produce much. However, they saw how the Little Cattle King managed to revive the fields of the other villagers. After some discussion, they decided to stop the wait and agree to rent their land.. This way, they could collect the rent, and as the landowners, they could lord over Xiao Lingyu to force her to lend them the Little Cattle King.

Chapter 104: Rent Or Not

Xiao Lingyu said with a smile, "Village chief, this is a coincidence. People had been lending and overworking Little Light, which caused him to be in a bad spirit. I was already planning to let Little Light rest when they came to borrow him. So I had to reject them."

The village chief believed Xiao Lingyu, but that couldn't stop the rumors. The villagers said that Xiao Lingyu refused to lend the three families the Little Cattle King because they refused to rent Xiao Zhengyang their land.

Little Cattle King only needed to go for a stroll, and the field would be rejuvenated. This was a huge benefit. The three families refused to help the Xiao Family but intended to take advantage of them. They had to be crazy to think the Xiao Family would be so saintly.

Xiao Zhengyang's family was not people who repaid offense with kindness.

When Xiao Lichun and Xiao Facai family heard this rumor, they were furious. They berated Xiao Zhengyang's family for being selfish and stingy. The Xiao Family was rich, so why couldn't they afford to give them a higher rental price? Now, they even refused to loan them the Little Cattle King because of this. It was unreasonable!

However, after some discussions and calculations, they decided it was more logical to rent the land to the Xiao Family.

First, they would get the rent; Second, they would get a good harvest; Third, the Xiao Family would owe them.

Xiao Lingyu had come back from the big city. She understood these two families' goals immediately.

She analyzed the situation for the village chief.

The village chief smiled and said, "No matter what, it's great that they finally come to their senses."

"Correct!"

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Xiao Fuqi and his family also heard the rumors. They cursed angrily, "Xiao Zhengyang, Xiao Lingyu, what a horrible pair of father and daughter. It's one thing you don't want to borrow us the calf, but you go around spreading rumors to ruin our reputation. This is infuriating!"

"We want to work our own land. What is wrong with that? How can they say such things about us?"

"Xiao Lingyu, that wretched girl thinks too highly of herself. So what if she graduated from some unknown university and worked a few years in the big city? Er Gou Zi, you have to study hard and fight for your father's honor. In the future, no one will dare to look down on our family anymore."

Er Gou Zi was Xiao Fuqi's second son. He was thirteen years old and slightly older than Xiao Xiaohui. Unfortunately, Er Gou Zi wouldn't live up to his father's hope. His result was even worse than Xiao Xiaohui. If Xiao Xiaohui was the second to last in their grade, then the last place winner was definitely Xiao Fuqi's second son.

Xiao Fuqi was still hoping that one day his second son's genius would be discovered. That hope was destined to be lost.

A fat lady beside Xiao Fuqi, Zhang Chunjiao, also grumbled with anger, "Fuqi, since that wretched girl won't lend us the calf, then we won't rent her our land. Let's see what she can do to us!"

She knew that most villagers had agreed to rent their land to Xiao Lingyu. Only a few of them held out. If they didn't cave, then Xiao Lingyu had to spend more money to build her farm. After all, she heard Xiao Lingyu plan to grow dragon fruits and strawberries. She would need to build a vegetable shed for that. By refusing to lend their land, they would make the building process a lot more difficult!

Xiao Fuqi said with some misgivings, "But if we do that, Xiao Lingyu might really not lend the calf to us."

Zhang Chunjiao snorted. "She will have to because she needs our land. She will come begging us and send us the calf on her accord." This was a clever plan.

But she was not the only clever person.

Later, the village chief visited Xiao Fuqi to see if he had changed his mind. Perhaps they would be willing to rent the land already. However, the result was not satisfactory.

Xiao Fuqi and Zhang Chunjiao said firmly, "If Xiao Lingyu brings us the calf and let us keep it for three days, we'll consider renting her the land." They were certain that Xiao Lingyu needed their plot of land.

The village chief was speechless. He rolled his eyes. 'Do these people think Zhengyang's family is stupid? They can't survive without this family's land?'

He said seriously, "Do you need to treat Zhengyang's family like this and order them around like slaves? Fine, I'm not going to waste time on you anymore. This is your land. When you decide to rent it, come to my place or Zhengyang's place. If you decide to keep it for yourself, then so be it." Then the village chief left in an angry huff.

Zhang Chunjiao looked at the village chief who had left, and her face revealed a look of disdain, "Who do you think you are? Everyone knows you need to suck up to Xiao Zhengyang. That land is mine. I'll rent it if I feel like it. If I don't want to rent it, nothing can change my mind! Now, Xiao Lingyu needs us, and you want me to go to her home to plead with her? You have to be kidding me!"

Xiao Fuqi agreed with his wife.

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"Village chief, Xiao Fuqi's family still won't rent us their land?" Xiao Zhengyang asked.

The village chief nodded, "That's right." Then, he added with hesitation, "Zhengyang, Zhang Chunjiao said that they'd consider renting you the land if you give them the Little Cattle King for three days. But they'd only consider it!" That was not a promise they'd rent their land in the end.

Xiao Zhengyang grasped the hidden meaning. Xiao Zhengyang's expression didn't change. "So be it. My Yu 'Er said that we'll just build and farm around their land."

"That's not a bad idea!" The village chief nodded.

Xiao Lingyu said, "Village Chief, since no one has any objections, please tell everyone to come to the village committee center to sign the contract in three days."

The village chief was slightly surprised. "There's a contract involved?"

At their village, most of the land rentals were done verbally. There was no contract involved. Of course, as the village chief, he had dealt with contracts in the past, but that was with the people from Xing An Town and Xing Yin Town.

This was the first time things would be so formal at Taoyuan Village.

Xiao Lingyu smiled and explained, "Village chief, I know land rentals at our village are normally done verbally. I'm not worried that people will renege on their words. However, I'm going to rent more than ten Mu of land, and many families are involved. Having a contract is safer. It will have legal effects and protect both parties.. It'll stop people from suddenly deciding to take back their lands, and it'll ensure that I pay everyone the required rental."

Chapter 105: Discussions

Every family in the village received a notice that they had to go to the village committee center to sign a land contract. After they signed the contract, they would get their rent immediately. Many villagers were happy when they received this news.

"Yu 'Er, you should have your father and fourth uncle accompany you to the country town to get the money!" Mother Xiao advised. Xiao Lingyu was going to withdraw a large amount of money. Mother Xiao would be more at ease if her daughter didn't go alone.

Xiao Lingyu nodded. "Okay." She was also worried about being targeted when she had so much money. But with her father and fourth uncle around, she'd be protected.

Father Xiao rejected a few job offers to clear some time for Xiao Lingyu. Xiao Mingyang also skipped work for the day.

Xiao Lingyu rode on her father's motorcycle, and Xiao Mingyang rode on his bike as they traveled to Xing An town. They parked before an acquaintance's shop and took a bus to the county town.

Xiao Lingyu withdrew 48,000 RMB from the bank counter. She planned to withdraw 50,000 RMB initially, but for that, she had to make an appointment.

After the visit to the bank, the three went to order the materials required to build the farming shed. Xiao Lingyu's fourth uncle had connections since he often came to the county town to work. He led Xiao Lingyu and her father to a few shops.

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Back at the village, they guessed that she had gone to withdraw money when the villagers saw Xiao Lingyu travel to town. They discussed this animatedly, with envy in their eyes.

“Lingyu wants to rent so much land, and she’ll pay three years of rental in advance. She’ll need at least 30000 RMB.”

“Yes. On top of that, I heard she is renting the land to grow strawberries. To do that, she has to build gardening sheds. She will have to hire people to do that. The cost should be more than 50000 RMB. Just how much Lingyu has earned when she was working in the big city?”

50000 RMB was an astronomical sum for the villagers. Xiao Lingyu worked in the big city only for a few years. She not only helped her family pay off all the university debt but also managed to save up a lot of money. It was enviable.

“She wants to plant strawberries? But not one farm at Xing Yin County has managed to do that before. I doubt strawberries will grow here. If she fails, this will be a huge loss.” Someone said loudly. These people were the ones who were jealous of the Xiao Family.

“So what if they lose the money? Xiao Lingyu can just earn more by returning to the city. The loss will be rectified in two years. Unlike us, we’ll have to lose everything if we fail at something like this.”

“Yeah, Xiao Lingyu is capable. Perhaps she can get strawberries to grow here and earn a lot of money.”

“If she succeeded, we’d benefit from it too.” Some had high hopes for Xiao Lingyu.

“Benefit? At least you have to wait for the girl to succeed first!” Someone scoffed, “What if she failed? Will we have to return her the rental?”

“Of course not!” Someone said immediately, “The failure is hers, so what does that have to do with us? Why should we return her the money?”

“Yes, we have to clarify this when we go to sign the contract. If we have to return the money should she fail, then I’m not going to rent my land!”

“Yes, I agree.”

“You people worry too much. Did you forget how lucky Xiao Lingyu is? The calf she bought is the Little Cattle King. As long as she has the Little Cattle King, how can she fail?”

“That’s right. With the Little Cattle King on her side, she will make a fortune.”

“How can Xiao Zhengyang be so lucky? Both his children are clever and hardworking. Xiao Lingyu sent back tons of money after she graduated. His family’s life has improved exponentially in a few years. Now, they even have the blessing of the Little Cattle King.”

Speaking the Little Cattle King, someone thought of something and asked worriedly, “Xiao Lingyu is starting her own farm. Will she lend us the Little Cattle King in the future?”

The Little Cattle King’s manure was amazing. They had verified the results themselves. Some greedy villagers wanted the Little Cattle King to visit their fields every day.

“We’ll go ask Zhengyang and Qiuying.”

“Yes, that’s a good idea!”

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For the past three days, Xiao Fuqi and Zhang Chunjiao had been waiting at home for Xiao Zhengyang or Xiao Lingyu to come to beg them by offering them the Little Cattle King.

They didn't wait for that result, but they did receive the news of the contract signing.

Xiao Fuqi was anxious. "What does Xiao Zhengyang mean by this? Does he intend to skip over our land?" They didn't care if the land was rented or not. It didn't bring them much profit, and their real goal was the Little Cattle King.

Zhang Chunjiao was full of confidence at first. She was sure that Xiao Lingyu would definitely come and ask for their family's land.

However, the lack of news for the past three days made her confidence waver.

In the face of her husband's doubt, Zhang Chunjiao still said proudly, "They will come. Their cost will skyrocket if they don't rent our land. It's cheaper for them to rent from us than not to. If they are smart, they will come."

"But the village chief is already telling people to go to the village committee center to sign the contract tomorrow!" Xiao Fuqi was doubtful. "Should we go?"

"Of course!" Zhang Chunjiao said loudly, "I want to see what kind of contract it is! Xiao Lingyu, that wretched girl, thinks she can fool us after she worked in the city for a few years?"

"Yes. If there are some problems, we'll expose them on the spot!" Xiao Fuqi agreed.

This pair forgot that they were the ones who needed help from the Xiao Family. They had pictured themselves as the agents of justice and the Xiao Family a family of criminals.

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At that same time, many people came to the Xiao Family to probe for information.

"Qiuying, is Lingyu really going to contract the land to grow strawberries and dragon fruits?"

"Qiuying, how much money did Lingyu earn in the big cities? The initial rental alone is over 30,000 RMB. There are also other costs, right? We have worked our whole life, and we can't earn that much. I envy your family for having such an outstanding daughter."

"Qiuying, my family wants to follow Lingyu's lead and grow some strawberries too. Can we borrow some money?"

Mother Xiao listened to them ramble. She would reply to those she thought she should and ignore the others..

Chapter 106: A Father' Love

Once the three-day period was up, every family with land in the back mountain sent at least one representative to the committee center. The whole family went for some.

This was very novel. They wanted to see what a contract was. When the villagers arrived at the committee center, it was all they could talk about. It was very lively.

At nine am, the village chief, Xiao Taiyang, and Xiao Lingyu's family of three arrived on time.

Xiao Taiyang picked up the microphone and said, "Everyone, please be quiet!"

The villagers quieted down. They looked at the document bag Xiao Lingyu was holding curiously. Many villagers were illiterate. However, the village chief and some youngsters knew how to read. As educated as Xiao Lingyu was, they were not afraid of being scammed. Furthermore, they had faith in Xiao Zhengyang's personality. His family was honest and upright people.

The village chief continued, "Everyone knows why we are here today. Xiao Lingyu wants to rent the sandy land at the back mountain. The land is low-grade dry land. For their normal rental price, they will go for 300 RMB per Mu. However, Xiao Lingyu is a fair child. Since we're all from the same village, she will rent it for 400 RMB per Mu. Therefore, don't even think about complaining that the offered price is too low. If anyone reneges on the agreement, I will be the first to punish you!"

As soon as he said that, someone replied loudly, "Village chief, don't worry. We won't do that."

"That's right, village chief. Lingyu has given us a higher price than average. Only the unreasonable will continue to cause trouble."

"I agree! Village chief, since we've agreed to rent the land to Lingyu, we won't make problems for her."

"Yes."

Everyone said.

However, someone asked.

"Actually, Lingyu, we want to know if we can still go to your house to borrow the Little Cattle King in the future?" In other words, they wanted the Little Cattle King's manure. Of course, the implication was, since we had rented you our land, you had to borrow us the Little Cattle King, right?

"Yes, Lingyu." The land was sandy. It limited the types of crops that could be grown. Even so, the harvest was average. For most, it was better to rent the land to Xiao Lingyu.

However, there were rumors recently that those who refused to rent the land to Xiao Lingyu couldn't borrow the Little Cattle King anymore. This raised another worry in the villagers' hearts. Xiao Lingyu allowed them to walk the Little Cattle King for free because she needed to rent their land. Once she had their land, she wouldn't let them walk the Little Cattle King anymore.

Xiao Lingyu answered, "I won't be lending anyone Little Light anymore."

Once she said that the venue burst into a commotion.

"What?"

"If that's the case, then... we're not renting our land." Some villagers were furious. "Lingyu, you lent us the Little Cattle King to get us to rent you our land. The moment we agreed, you won't lend us the Little Cattle King anymore? Xiao Lingyu, how calculative can you be?"

“Zhang Qiuxiang, what are you talking about?” Zhou Yan was disappointed in these people. “Lingyu has no responsibility to lend you the Little Cattle King. Furthermore, there are so many cattle-raising families around Taoyuan Village. Why don’t you go and borrow a cow from them? Every family will charge you for it. Lingyu’s calf is not public property.”

Zhang Qiuxiang snorted coldly and said, “But none of them has the Little Cattle King, so why should I borrow from them?”

“Isn’t the Little Cattle King a cattle too? Didn’t Lingyu use her money to purchase him?” Liu Chunhua retorted. “If there’s someone who is calculative, it’s you. Once you hear that Lingyu won’t be lending the Little Cattle King, you don’t want to rent the land anymore. If that is not a threat, what is?”

Zhang Qiuxiang’s face turned red. She said loudly, “The land is mine. It’s my freedom not to rent it! How can that be considered a threat?”

“Lingyu, you’re really not going to borrow us the Little Cattle King anymore? In that case, we probably won’t rent you our land either.”

“But we’ve already agreed to rent the land. It’s not good to go back on our words like this.”

“I’m willing to rent my land. The land is going to be left unused anyway. Might as well rent it to Lingyu and earn some money.”

“That’s right. Yu ‘Er is already very generous to give us 400 RMB per Mu. I heard that people from the Liu Family Village only offered 280 RMB per Mu to contract low-grade dry land!”

“That’s right. No matter what, I plan to rent the land to Lingyu.”

Instantly, the people separated into three groups.

The first was the one unwilling to rent their land. The second was willing. The third was neutral.

The committee center was noisy. People argued, and it was going to escalate to a fight.

Xiao Lingyu picked up the microphone and immediately stopped them, “Everyone, listen to me! I haven’t finished yet!”

The crowd quieted down immediately, but many still looked angry.

“Lingyu, go ahead. Everyone is listening!”

Xiao Lingyu said, “I said that I wouldn’t borrow Little Light, but you can still go to my family’s pen to gather the manure. Isn’t that more convenient?”

Xiao Lingyu noticed that not many villagers cared about Little Light. Little Light was only a tool for them. If Little Light didn’t pee or poop, the villagers would resort to desperate measures like overfeeding him grasses, beating him, or even using laxatives. Therefore, Xiao Lingyu decided she’d look after Little Light herself.

After Xiao Lingyu said that, people were stunned.

Zhou Yan laughed. "I knew that Lingyu is a kind girl. Now, let's see what those thick-skinned people will say."

"That's right. They think their land is made of gold. Lingyu has to rent it."

"Haha, Yu 'Er, some people think so highly of themselves that they might not even be willing to go to your place to pick up the manure."

"That's right. They'd want you to shovel the manure and personally deliver it to them, or else they won't rent you their land!"

Some were embarrassed by the insinuation. However, they didn't dare to say anything. If they said the wrong thing, Lingyu might ban them from even going to collect the manure.

So they could only laugh awkwardly, "We were only joking!"

Xiao Zhengyang grabbed the microphone. "I believe everyone is familiar with my personality. My Yu 'Er lent the calf to the villagers out of kindness, but I don't want anyone to take her kindness for granted. In the future, if I hear anyone call my Yu 'Er scheming on account of Little Light, there will be consequences!"

As a father, he would do everything to protect his daughter..

Chapter 107: Signing the Contract

Taoyuan Village's villagers knew about Xiao Zhengyang's character. He was easy to talk to as long as it didn't involve offending his family. It was natural for him to have a temper when people were openly slandering his daughter's name.

At Taoyuan Village, other than the village chief, Xiao Zhengyang's family was the most prominent family.

Xiao Zhengyang was the richest family in the village. Other than that, he had two very knowledgeable children. One of them was a university graduate.

Xiao Zhengyang's words were even, but they carried a severity that could not be ignored.

Some immediately smiled sheepishly and said, "Zhengyang, why are you so serious? We were just joking."

"Yes, yes, we were just joking!"

It was not the right time to offend Xiao Lingyu or Xiao Zhengyang. Xiao Lingyu had just promised to allow the villagers to collect the Little Cattle King's manure. Offending her was no different than shooting their own foot.

Xiao Zhengyang's gaze swept over the guilty faces. He said indifferently, "I don't like this kind of joke!"

No one dared to say anything. They only smiled guiltily.

Then, Xiao Lingyu added, "But I have to make something clear. My family only has two cattle, but Taoyuan Village has around 200 households. It's going to be a problem when it comes to distribution."

That was indeed a big problem. Many families at Taoyuan Village had their own cattle, but their manure was incomparable to the Little Cattle King's manure.

However, there was only one Little Cattle King to about two hundred families. The ratio was not right.

"Yu 'Er, what is your plan then?" Xiao Chengbang asked.

Xiao Lingyu said, "Each family can only come to collect the manure once every six months. Those who come will have to register with my family."

Taoyuan Village had 186 families. So if one family had the chance every six months, then every family would have their turn. This arrangement was reasonable but...

Liu Chunxiu asked, "We can only go every six months? What if we have an emergency?"

Xiao Lingyu answered, "Each family will be given a fixed portion. You don't need to use all the allotted portions in one go. You can pick a little at a time. In short, you need to monitor the ratio yourself. You just need to register every time you come. My family will make a manure collecting tool for everyone to use." That way, no one would complain that someone had more than the others.

"That sounds fair." The villagers knew this was not a problem. The Little Cattle King's single piss could water a large field.

"Yu 'Er, do we need to pay to collect the manure?" Someone asked. After all, the manure was extremely valuable. Many villagers were concerned about this issue. Their gazes were fixed on Xiao Lingyu.

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "Of course, it's free."

Many people were surprised. If the Little Cattle King were with any other family, they would charge people for it. They would get rich from it. However, Xiao Lingyu was so generous.

"Lingyu... You are too kind!" Zhou Yan was shocked. She thought for a moment and said, "Lingyu, I still think we should pay for it. We'll pay you 100 RMB per bag!"

"That's right, Lingyu. The Little Cattle King is amazing. I don't know about others, but I don't think it's right for us to get the stuff for free. Lingyu, my family will pay for it."

"I also think that it's more appropriate for us to pay!" Some villagers felt bad taking such a big advantage of the Xiao Family.

"That's right, let us pay to buy them!"

Most villagers agreed to pay. After all, they had to spend on fertilizers normally, and the fertilizer was not better than the Little Cattle King's manure.

However, there were others who were just stingy and greedy. Since the Xiao Family was such a generous fool, they should be taken advantage of.

"Lingyu is being kind to us, so why should we deny her?"

"That's right. We're only allowed to go twice a year, and you want us to pay? That's too much!"

“What do you mean? Your family buys fertilizers every week. Don’t you need to pay for those fertilizers?”

“That’s different. People have to pay to make fertilizers. Lingyu don’t need to pay her calf, right?”

These people always had reasons to justify their actions.

“Please quiet down!” Xiao Lingyu shouted into the microphone again. She continued, “You can come to pick the manure for free, but I have a small condition.”

“What is it, Lingyu?”

Xiao Lingyu said, “When everyone wants to sell their harvest, can you sell them to me first?”

Xiao Lingyu knew the effect the spring water had on crops. “Of course, I won’t take advantage of you. I’ll give everyone a fair price!” Xiao Lingyu added.

Many people were confused.

“To be honest, other than to start a farm, my family plan to start a business selling vegetable and fruit.”

Everyone finally understood.

“Lingyu, this is nothing. We’re still taking advantage of you.”

“That’s right. We’ll need to sell the harvest when we can’t finish it. If you can sell them for us, we’ll be thankful!”

“That’s right. You’re making things convenient for us! We’re taking such a huge advantage of you!” Many people echoed.

Xiao Lingyu smiled and did not say anything. She was clear about the value of the crops. Before their value was discovered, she needed to dominate the market.

“Lingyu, we agree to this condition!” Most people agreed without hesitation, “Do you have any other conditions? You should tell us now!”

“That’s right!”

Xiao Lingyu shook her head. “That’s all.”

Xiao Lingyu took out the contract and asked seriously, “I hope everyone has thought thoroughly about the contract. Does anyone still have any opinion?”

“No!” Some replied directly.

Some were silent.

Even though they didn’t understand what the contract was, they heard from the village chief that once they signed the contract, it would be difficult to get their land back.

Xiao Lingyu explained, “I have with me the land rental contract. If you have no problem, then please sign with your thumbprint. That means that you’ve officially rented your land to me.”

“Also, I need to make this clear. Based on the contract, if you want to take back the land before the contract is up, you’ll have me pay me ten times the rental price as well as the total income you gain from the plot of land that year. In contrast, if I violate the contract, I will compensate you with ten times the rental price and the total income for the affected plot of land for that year.”

Xiao Lingyu continued to explain the contract clauses.

Chapter 108: Signing the Contract

“So, now is the time to back out if you have hesitation about the contract!” Xiao Lingyu explained with a serious expression, “Once the contract is signed, the rights to land will be mine for the next ten years. After you sign the contract, you’ll need to pay me ten times the amount if you want the land back.”

Many people were shocked after they heard Xiao Lingyu’s proclamation.

They thought the land rental was going to be like how it usually was in the village. Everything was verbal and non-official. I would rent you my land today, but tomorrow I could take it back if I wanted to.

However, Xiao Lingyu was clearly dealing with something completely different. Once the contract was signed, their land would belong to Xiao Lingyu. If they wanted the land back, they had to compensate her ten times the price. It was unbelievable. They had to pay to use their own land? They had never heard of anything like that before!

For a moment, many hesitated. They felt taken advantage of.

However, if Xiao Lingyu broke the contract, they would get ten times the compensation.

The venue was quiet.

Suddenly, the village chief spoke, “Lingyu, what happens if one party broke the contract but refused to pay up?” Many people wanted to know that too. After all, almost everyone present didn’t know anything about legalese. They thought that after they rented the land, the land would still be theirs. They could take their land back any time they wanted. There wouldn’t be consequences or things like that.

Xiao Lingyu explained, “Naturally, we’ll have the police handle it!”

The crowds exclaimed, “What does this have to do with the police?”

“Because breaching the contract is against the law!” Xiao Lingyu explained, “This contract is legally binding, so uncles and aunties, please consider this seriously before you sign!”

The committee center was silent. Based on what Xiao Lingyu said, it was hard to get the land back after they rented it. If they forced their way to reclaim their land, they had to pay a considerable amount of compensation. If they didn’t pay, they had to deal with the police. Many villagers’ hearts pounded nervously. For rural people, most of them would live their whole life without interacting with the police.

“I’ll rent!” Xiao Chengbang said, “I trust Lingyu. Furthermore, we won’t be able to grow anything on that sandy land for the next two years or even twenty years. We might as well rent it to Yu ‘Er. She might get good use out of them!”

“I agree with Chengbang!” Someone else concurred. “If the back mountain land can be worked, we would have grown something there decades ago. It would not be left abandoned like it is now. Yu ‘Er, I’ll rent my piece of land to you. When do I need to sign the contract?”

Xiao Lingyu smiled. “Uncle Lin, you can sign the contract now. Do you want to?”

“Sure!” Xiao Chenglin agreed readily.

“I’ll sign it too!” Xiao Chengbang added.

“Me too!” The village chief joined in.

“Okay.” Xiao Lingyu opened the contract and said, “Uncle Chengbang, Uncle Lin, Village Chief, please come and sign over here!”

The three uncles walked over to sign their names according to Xiao Lingyu’s instructions. They pressed their thumbprints.

“Uncle Lin’s land is three Fen, Uncle Chengbang’s is two Fen, and village chief’s is 3.5 Fen, is that correct?”

“Yes, that’s right!” They nodded in agreement.

After they signed the contract, Xiao Zhengyang took out a stack of money from a black bag. “Xiao Taiyang, 3.5 Fen, so the rental for three years is 420 RMB; Xiao Chengbang gets 240 RMB for two Fen; and Xiao Chenglin is 360 RMB for three Fen.”

Many people’s eyes glowed with envy once Xiao Zhengyang took out the money. As the money changed hands on the spot, many people were moved.

They had no use for the back mountain land, but once they rented it out, they could get several hundred RMB. It was a good deal. If they worked the land themselves, they were lucky to get more than 50 RMB. After the three, more villagers went to sign the contract.

For villagers who had 5 to 6 Fen, they could get 500 to 600 RMB, which was more than half a year of income for a normal rural family. The people who got the money smiled so brightly.

Those, who were still considering, immediately relented once they saw the money. They stepped forward. “I’ll sign the contract!”

In that morning, more than half of the 83 families involved signed the contract. The rest was still considering. They were worried about losing their land after they signed the contract.

Xiao Lingyu didn’t force them. She said, “Uncles and Aunties, you can go back to think about it. Once you’ve thought it through, you can come back tomorrow morning to sign the contract.”

The people sighed in relief. ‘At least we can have the time to think!’

“However, I need to plant the strawberry seeds as soon as possible. They should be able to sprout in ten days. Therefore, the time to think won’t be that long. Tomorrow is the last day to sign the contract. After that, I won’t rent any more land!”

Once Xiao Lingyu said that another ten families signed the contract and got their money on the spot.

The remaining 20 plus families decided to sleep on it.

...

Xiao Fuqi and Zhang Chunjiao were waiting at home for Xiao Lingyu to bring the Little Cattle King to them. However, Xiao Lingyu didn’t come. They could not help but feel a little anxious.

When they heard that Xiao Lingyu wanted everyone to go to the village committee to sign the contract, they decided to go and raise a ruckus.

Unexpectedly, something happened to Zhang Chunjiao’s maiden family. She rushed home that night. She didn’t come back until the next day’s afternoon, so she missed the gathering at the village committee center.

Zhang Chunjiao and her husband inquired about the meeting. They heard that the land would be lost after the contract was signed. If they wanted the land back, they had to pay ten times the compensation. There were still more than twenty families considering it.

The couple secretly heaved a sigh of relief. They couldn’t help but feel a little smug.

“The girl is a scammer. No wonder there are still so many families who refuse to rent her their land.”

Zhang Chunjiao’s expression was disdainful, “We would go and visit these families. We need to persuade them not to rent the land to Xiao Lingyu until she raises the rental price.”

“Okay, let’s go!”

Chapter 109: Shameless

On the next day, out of the 23 families who hadn’t decided, five more said they wouldn’t sign the contract. The five had been persuaded by Zhang Chunjiao.

These five families had a good relationship with Xiao Fuqi’s family. They were no better than each other.

Zhang Chunjiao said, “Didn’t Xiao Lingyu want to rent the land to grow strawberries? We can do the same. She will use the Little Cattle King’s manure to grow the strawberries, and we can copy that. After all, she had promised that we could go to her house to pick the manure for free.

“Naturally, the strawberries will grow with the Little Cattle King’s manure! In that case, why should we be afraid that we won’t be able to sell the strawberries? If we think about it, working the land ourselves is more cost-effective than renting it to Xiao Lingyu. We will earn a lot by growing strawberries.”

“Yes, that’s a good idea.”

“That’s true. We’ll do what Xiao Lingyu plans to do. We’ll use the Little Cattle King’s manure to make the strawberries plants thrive. We can sell them on our own.”

“Besides, Xiao Lingyu promised to take our leftovers. Even if we can’t sell the strawberries, we’ll push them to Xiao Lingyu and make her pay for them!”

“Yes, what a wonderful idea!”

“But, we don’t have any strawberry seeds.”

“That’s right. The entire Xing Yin County doesn’t have strawberry seeds for sale anymore!”

Zhang Chunjiao said, “In that case, we’ll just ask for some from that girl. Didn’t she say she is planning to farm strawberries? Therefore, she’ll have plenty of seeds.”

“Is that really a good idea?” Someone hesitated. It was one thing not to rent the land to the Xiao Family, but now they wanted to use her seeds and her manure.

“What is so wrong about it?” Zhang Chunjiao said, “Shouldn’t we help each other? Furthermore, it was Xiao Lingyu who said we are free not to rent her our land. Plus, she has no right to stop us from planting strawberries on our lands.”

“That’s correct, but it doesn’t seem right for us to ask her for the strawberry seeds.” Not all were thick-skinned enough to do something like this.

However, some sided with Zhang Chunjiao. “Xiao Lingyu promised us these things. She can’t go back on her words.”

They wouldn’t rent the land to the Xiao Family, but they would pick the manure from the Xiao Family, take the strawberry seeds from the Xiao Family, and have the Xiao Family buy their leftover fruits.

Most people wouldn’t be shameless enough to do that. However, some were persuaded by Zhang Chunjiao. Therefore, on the second day of the contract signing, they chose not to show up.

The village chief, Xiao Lingyu, and the others heard about this. The village chief frowned and said with dissatisfaction, “Zhang Chunjiao and her husband are too shameless. Also, how can the other families even be persuaded by them? They become as thick-skinned as Zhang Chunjiao!”

Xiao Lingyu smiled, “Village chief, there’s no need to be angry. The land is theirs, so it’s their freedom not to rent their land.”

Xiao Zhengyang chose that moment to speak. “They sure are confident. Do they think my family is so easily bullied? Village chief, since everyone is here, I’ll make this announcement right now. If someone wants to grow their own strawberries, fine. However, they have to get the seeds themselves. My Yu ‘Er spent a lot on the seeds. We don’t even have enough for our own farm, so we won’t be sharing them for free.”

Even if they did have leftovers, they wouldn’t give them away.

These families made it feel like the Xiao Family owed them. Xiao Lingyu was junior, so she couldn’t criticize them, but Xiao Zhengyang could.

His words immediately destroyed these people's plans to 'borrow' the strawberry seeds. Xiao Zhengyang was the man of the house, and in the matter, he had the support of his wife.

Chen Qiuying added, "I agree with my husband. We have no objections if other family wants to plant strawberries. However, they want my family to provide the seeds and the fertilizers? Plus, I hear that they plan to force my Yu 'Er to buy their harvest should they fail to find a market. I refuse to believe people can be so thick-skinned. Since they are being so greedy, then, we're not going to give them face anymore." In other words, the Xiao Family would not be providing free strawberry seedlings.

Since her parents had spoken, Xiao Lingyu added, "Village chief, my parents have voiced what is on my mind. The strawberry seeds are hard to come by. I currently have 10 Mu of land. I don't even have enough seeds to plant myself. Even if someone offers a high price, I won't be selling any strawberry seeds!"

Hearing that, the people who had signed the contract sighed in relief. To be honest, when Zhang Chunjiao and Xiao Fuqi came to persuade them to plant the strawberries themselves, they were tempted. However, they couldn't go back on their words. Besides, there was no telling if Xiao Lingyu was willing to give them the strawberry seeds or not.

If they reneged on their words, they had to pay the compensation. It was too high of a risk. After much consideration, they decided to follow the contract.

At that moment, Mother Xiao spoke again, "I have no objections for the villagers to come to our house to pick Little Light's manure. Even the five families who didn't rent their land are welcome. However, we do not welcome Xiao Fuqi's family! They have to be responsible for their actions! They have said so many bad things about my family in the past, but I never cared about it. However, they tried to sabotage my Yu 'Er's business, and I will never forgive that!"

They incited others not to work with Xiao Lingyu and even came up with the ideas to take advantage of Xiao Lingyu. Only a saint would be magnanimous to such parasites.

Some people grinned hearing Mother Xiao. They mocked Xiao Fuqi and Zhang Chunjiao internally. They had brought this upon themselves.

Before this, Xiao Zhengyang's family didn't say Xiao Fuqi's family couldn't come to pick the manure. But now, the Xiao Family had stated explicitly that Xiao Fuqi's family was not welcomed.

They continued with the contract signing ceremony. Those who wanted to rent would sign the contract, those who didn't could leave. Xiao Lingyu didn't force anyone.

Xiao Lingyu went home to do some calculations.

Other than Xiao Fuqi and the five families, Xiao Lingyu rented 16.2 Mu land. She didn't have that many strawberry seeds. She believed she could plant six Mu land with strawberries. For the rest, she would attempt to grow peanuts, soybean, and dragonfruits.

The Xiao Family also had six Mu of water plot and two Mu of the high-grade dry plot. Xiao Lingyu would grow water paddy in three Mu of water plot while using the rest for vegetables.

In total, she would farm around 20 Mu.

In the future, she planned to expand her business to contract the land on the other side of the back mountain.

But that was a story for the future.

Chapter 110: Regret

When the five families who didn't rent the land to Xiao Lingyu heard Xiao Zhengyang and Chen Qiuying's messages from the others, they were immediately assaulted by regret. Why would they listen to Zhang Chunjiao?

That night, two families came to Xiao Zhengyang's house. They didn't say openly they were there to sign the contract, but every word they said involved how they were fooled by Zhang Chunjiao and her husband. It was why they were being so foolish.

They had thought it through and decided to rent their land.

However, Xiao Zhengyang and Chen Qiuying were not so easily cowed. They kept changing the topic. They refused to talk about the contract. These people used their land to try to bully their Yu 'Er. Now that these people realized the Xiao Family wasn't so easily bullied, they finally understood their mistake. Then why did they make such a mistake in the first place?

Xiao Chengying and his wife were anxious since Xiao Zhengyang and Chen Qiuying were playing Tai Chi with them. Xiao Chengying said directly, "Zhengyang, I'll be frank. We won't be planting anything on our piece of land. After some consideration, we plan to rent it to you. So, when can we sign the contract?" Once they signed the contract, they would get the money. That was their goal.

Xiao Chengying's wife, Zhang Qiuxiang, looked around and couldn't see Xiao Lingyu. She asked with a smile, "Qiuying, where's Lingyu?"

Chen Qiuying said indifferently, "She's been busy all day. She's tired and sleeping!"

"She is sleeping so early?" Zhang Qiuxiang said with slight surprise, "It's not even nine o'clock yet!"

Chen Qiuying really wanted to roll her eyes. She already told them her Yu 'Er was tired from moving around all day. That was why she had to sleep earlier. It was like these people couldn't hear her.

Chen Qiuying repeated. "The child is tired, so she went to bed early."

"Then, what about our contract?" Zhang Qiuxiang was anxious. "Didn't Lingyu say we can still sign the contract today?"

"You silly woman!" Xiao Chengying rebuked his wife. "Do you want to wake Lingyu up for this?" Xiao Chengying regretted listening to his wife and her friend, Zhang Chunjiao. They would make a fortune if they planted strawberries like Xiao Lingyu, they said. They almost offended Xiao Zhengyang and got nothing to show for it.

Xiao Zhengyang frowned. "Chengying, have you really thought it through this time? Are you sure you won't be swayed by others? You're not going to regret it after signing the contract, are you? If you've really made up your mind, I'll wake up Yu 'Er for you."

“Of course. We won’t regret this.” Xiao Chengying and Zhang Qiuying nodded.

Mother Xiao went to wake Xiao Lingyu up. Xiao Lingyu was just coming out of the farming space when Mother Xiao knocked on her door. Xiao Lingyu walked out with the contract.

Xiao Lingyu looked at the guests and said, “Uncle Chengyin, Uncle Chengfa, we can sign the contract now, but we need to go to the village chief’s place because we need a witness.

“Also, I need to be clear. Once the contract is signed, you can’t breach it anymore. If you do, you have to pay me ten times the compensation.”

“Yes, we know!” Xiao Chengying, Xiao Chengfa, and the others nodded.

“Okay then. Let’s go to the village chief’s house and sign the contract.” The contract signing was quick. The two families got their money, and they were very happy.

...

The next day, Xiao Lingyu took the strawberry seedlings out of the farming space. She waited for them to sprout, and then she moved them to the Xiao Family backyard.

Three plots of land were sequestered to cultivate the strawberry seedlings. A plastic tent was built over them. In order to grow good strawberries, Xiao Lingyu went to purchase some farming books.

Honestly, this was Xiao Lingyu’s first time trying to plant strawberries. She was making things up as she went. However, she had her farming space to rely on, so she was not afraid.

As soon as the contract went through, Xiao Lingyu hired a dozen of strong men and women from the village to help. Xiao Lingyu paid the men 20 RMB per day and the women 15 RM per day, without meals. After all, the back mountain was not far from the village, so they could go back home to eat.

The men would build the sheds while the women cleaned the grass and turned the land. The men were led by Xiao Lingyu’s fourth uncle and the women her fourth aunt.

Xiao Lingyu planned to build the shed all over the rented land. It would cover the planting of strawberries, peanuts, soybeans, and dragonfruits.

The villagers were rather surprised that Xiao Lingyu moved so fast. They had just signed the contract, and Xiao Lingyu was already building the shed. The sheds were completed in three days. As Xiao Lingyu said, they had completely isolated the land they didn’t rent.

...

Xiao Lingyu was not at home when the sheds were being built. She left the blueprints with her fourth uncle, and she departed for the county town to sell fruits and vegetables.

Xiao Lingyu had had many harvests in her farming space. There was one harvest almost every day, and the quantity of the harvest was the same every time. The number of crops was piling up in the farming space.

Originally, Mother Xiao wanted to follow her daughter to the county town, but her daughter gave her a special task. She needed Mother Xiao to water the strawberry seedlings. Xiao Lingyu gave her mother a

bottle of spring water. Mother Xiao was to pour a cap of the spring water into a bucket of normal well water and then use that to water the seedlings. She needed to water the seedlings once in the morning and once at night.

Mother Xiao didn't dare give others this task, so she had to stay back and allowed Xiao Lingyu to go to the county town alone.

Xiao Lingyu arrived at the county town the day before. She was not in a hurry. Without Mother Xiao, Xiao Lingyu materialized the crops on the tricycle directly. She planned to sell them bits by bits. Then, she'd stop to find a storefront. That way, she wouldn't spend her days avoiding the UMALE officers.

That night, Xiao Lingyu called the landlady, Grandma Song. She told her that she had reserved some crops for her. Xiao Lingyu would send them over to Grandma Song.

"Girl, you're back in town?" When Grandma Song got Xiao Lingyu's call, she was very excited. She was glad that they could have the special vegetables and fruits again.

"There's no need to send them to me. I have time, and I'll be there tomorrow morning!" Grandma Song said with a smile. She would have rejected it if they were normal vegetables. However, Xiao Lingyu's vegetables were definitely not average.

Grandma Song said, "Girl, our family has discussed it. Your crops are not ordinary, and the price is not ordinary either. You don't need to hide it from me. I know people who had bought from you that day." Xiao Lingyu's products were expensive.

"We feel bad taking them for free. Let us pay!" Grandma Song said, "And Girl, don't say you're going to balance it out with the rent. The house's rent is not that expensive!"

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "Okay then, Grandma Song. Thank you so much!"

Xiao Lingyu hung up, and she was filled with confidence. She knew her sales would be good tomorrow.

She cheered, "We can do this!"