

Chapter 131: The Sheds

After Wang Zhimin came to pick up his daily portion, Xiao Lingyu took the bus and left the county town. It was around 8 am when she reached Taoyuan Village.

“Eldest cousin!” Xiao Xiaohui was rushing to school when he bumped into Xiao Lingyu. “You’re back!”

“That’s right!” Xiao Lingyu smiled.

“Eldest cousin, your two friends came over the day before yesterday! They came from the big city and drove a very nice car.” Xiao Xiaohui said, “We got to crawl on the car. It was very fun.”

Xiao Lingyu asked in puzzlement, “My friends from the big city?” But she didn’t have any friends in a big city. She had friends in Xing Yin County, but she only knew them a few days ago. Plus, shouldn’t her friends call when they wanted to come to find her?

Xiao Lingyu frowned, “Xiaohui, did they say which city they came from?”

“City Z!” Xiao Xiaohui answered.

Xiao Lingyu’s heart skipped a beat. The only rich person she knew from City Z was Yan Siming. ‘Did he follow me here?’ Xiao Lingyu forced herself to calm down and asked again, “Xiaohui, where are the two now?”

“They left!” Xiao Xiaohui said, “Eldest cousin, I can’t talk to you anymore. Little Bun and the others are waiting for me. We need to go to school.” Not far away, Little Bun, Little Charcoal, and Little Moon were calling Xiao Xiaohui. “Little Loach, hurry up. If you’re late again, you’ll be punished by the teacher.”

“Okay, I’m coming!” Xiao Xiaohui replied loudly, “Eldest cousin, goodbye!”

“Be careful on the way!” Xiao Lingyu instructed.

“Okay!” Xiao Xiaohui ran to join his friends.

After the kids left, Xiao Lingyu’s heart finally settled down. She walked home.

When she arrived, she noticed the yard door was closed. Xiao Lingyu believed her parents had gone to the fields. It was seeding season. Furthermore, Xiao Lingyu had contracted 17 Mu of land, so everyone was very busy.

Xiao Lingyu took out her eyes, opened the door, and walked to the backyard. She pulled back the plastic flap, and the green shoots greeted her. They looked so cute. The soil was damp. Mother Xiao probably watered them not too long ago. Xiao Lingyu hadn’t grown strawberries before, and her only reliance was the spring water. Thankfully, the spring water was really effective. A single pour and the plant would grow. Xiao Lingyu noticed that even the weeds that grew between the seedlings were so strong.

Xiao Lingyu pulled back the tarp so that the seedlings could enjoy the sun. Then, she pulled out the weeds as she went down the rows. She passed the morning just like that.

At 11 am, Xiao Lingyu went to prepare lunch. She had hired around 30 villagers to help with the shed-building. However, she only needed to feed her family and her fourth uncle's family. It was Friday, and Xiao Lingyu wondered if her little brother would come home.

When Mother Xiao returned and saw the yard door open and smelled the fragrance, she knew her daughter was home.

"Yu 'Er, when did you get back?" Mother Xiao asked. She placed the hoe at the corner and went to wash her hands.

Xiao Lingyu was picking through a cabbage. "Mom, you're home!"

Mother Xiao chuckled. "I didn't think you'd be back so early, so I already cooked some dishes. Let me handle the rest. You should go and get your dad and third uncle!"

"Okay!" Xiao Lingyu said, "Mom, I've washed the cabbage and beans. You can stir-fry them."

"Alright." Mother Xiao put on the apron. "Get your father back for lunch!"

"Oh, right. Where is dad?"

"At the back mountain, building the sheds!"

"Okay, I'll be going, Mom!"

When Xiao Lingyu arrived, she saw Father Xiao building a shed with the others.

"Dad, fourth uncle, it's time to eat!"

"Lingyu is back!" Everyone was very happy to see Xiao Lingyu. "Lingyu, what do you think of these sheds?"

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "They should be okay, but you should ask my fourth uncle. He is the real expert here."

Xiao Mingyang laughed, "Do you think this thing will be standing without my supervision? If the shed is not up to your standard, we'll tear it down and build it again for free!" Of course, the last sentence was a joke.

"Haha, Mingyang, with you around, there is no way the sheds won't work!"

"That's right!"

Over the past few days, Xiao Mingyang was strict in his supervision of the shed construction. If there were any spot that was not up to par, he would have the men rebuild it. The men grumbled, but since they were paid, they had to work.

Xiao Lingyu looked at the sturdy sheds and said, "Everyone has worked hard."

"It's what we're paid to do!" Someone joked. "Lingyu, when the strawberries can be harvested, just remember to share them with the villagers!" Of course, that was a joke too... or at least half of it was.

Strawberries were expensive. They cost 40 RMB per catty. No rural farmers could afford them. So if Xiao Lingyu could really grow strawberries, it would be fantastic... if they could get a taste.

"Of course! If this venture is a success, I'll definitely give everyone a try of the fruits." Xiao Lingyu was not stingy. She knew how expensive strawberries were for a common farmer. If she succeeded, she would give some to the villagers as a sample, and then she would sell them at a low price. That was the way of business.

Xiao Lingyu walked around the farm and realized the shed was really well-built. 30 people built the shed to cover 10 Mu of land. They were already on the finishing details like removing the grass. Xiao Lingyu's fourth aunt and the women had already dug up the ditches according to Xiao Lingyu's request.

Now, she only needed to transplant the strawberry seedlings. Of course, she could also plant peanuts and soybeans.

"Huh? You plan to plant peanuts and soybeans?" Liu Chunjiao was surprised when she heard that. "Why build the sheds to plant peanuts and soybeans? That's a waste of money."

Peanuts and soybeans were not as delicate as strawberries. As long as they were fertilized and watered, they could blossom and bear fruit. It was a waste to build sheds for these hardy plants.

Xiao Lingyu blinked, "Fourth Aunt, I was going to farm them according to a scientific method taught by my friend. It's still a secret, so it's safer to use a shed!"

Her fourth aunt was suspicious. "For real?" Liu Chunjiao was a simple countrywoman. She only knew the old ways. On the other hand, Xiao Lingyu had gone to the university and worked in the big city. When it came to new technology, she trusted Xiao Lingyu.

They reached the Xiao Family home where Mother Xiao was waiting. Food was served, and they continued the conversation from before.

"In that case," Liu Chunjiao nodded, "You need peanut and soybean seeds. I have around ten catties if you want them."

"I think we have another ten catties at home." Father Xiao said. "But even added, that barely covers one Mu of land."

"Should we ask the other villagers to see if they have any extra?" Liu Chunjiao offered.

Xiao Lingyu shook her head. "Fourth aunt, it's fine. I'm going to the county town later. I'm going to buy some more seeds and try to find dragon fruit seeds."

Mother Xiao frowned, "Yu 'Er, but you just came back from the county town. Won't it be tiring?"

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "No, it won't!" Then, she remembered she hadn't told them the news. "Mom, I just bought a car!"

"What?" The impact was like a bomb. "You bought a car?"

"Yes!" Xiao Lingyu explained, "Since I'll need to travel from Taoyuan Village and the county town very often in the future, having a car is more convenient."

“But Yu ‘Er, do you know how to drive?” Father Xiao asked.

“Yes, Dad,” Xiao Lingyu said, “I took a driving test in my spare time when I was working at City Z.”

“Did you buy a new car or a second-hand car?” Uncle Xiao asked.

“A new car!”

“How much is it?”

“70,000 RMB!”

“That is so expensive!” Aunt Xiao couldn’t believe this figure.

“70,000 RMB?” Mother Xiao asked, “Yu ‘Er, where did you get so much money?” Renting the land, building the sheds, hiring the villagers already cost 30,000 to 40,000 RMB. There shouldn’t be much money left to buy a car. As the person doing the account, Mother Xiao knew that very well.

“Yu ‘Er, do you have enough money?” Liu Chunjia said, “Yu ‘Er, how many more do you need? Your fourth uncle and I have some savings over the years, and we can lend it to you.”

“Yes, Yu ‘Er, how much more do you need?” Fourth Uncle Xiao echoed.

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said with a smile, “Thank you, fourth uncle and fourth aunt. But that won’t be necessary. 2000 RMB per month is enough to buy a car.”

“2000 RMB?” They were confused. “But didn’t you say 70,000 RMB? How did it become 2000 RMB? Yu ‘Er, what is going on?”

They didn’t know that a car purchase could be paid in installments.. They thought it required full payment upfront.

Chapter 132: The World of the Rich

Xiao Lingyu explained, “Think of it as buying a house, and you can pay in installments. Incidentally, the car dealership where I bought the car from was owned by a friend. He gave me a large discount.”

“Oh, I didn’t know you could do that.” Xiao Lingyu’s fourth aunt and uncle nodded.

However, Mother Xiao was still worried, “But Yu ‘Er, you still need to pay 2000 RMB per month. Will we have enough money?”

In the countryside, a normal family could barely earn one thousand per year. Some were in a state of close poverty. A car that cost 2000 RMB per month was still a hefty burden.

Xiao Lingyu said, “Mom, it’s fine. I have managed to negotiate a partnership with a big hotel in the county town. I will provide them with 300 catties of vegetables every day. Mom, you should know that will be a good constant stream of income.”

Mother Xiao asked suspiciously, “But Yu ‘Er, what about your cost? Don’t you need to pay your friend?”

The vegetables could sell for a high price, but they might not have a high clean profit. Furthermore, that was not counting the transportation fee and so on.

Xiao Lingyu, "... It's true that you need more lies to cover up the previous one.

Xiao Lingyu felt her future darken slightly. However, she still did not plan to say anything about the farming space for the time being.

Xiao Lingyu said, "Mom, my friend said that we can owe him the money for now. We can pay him back later. In any case, you don't need to worry about the car installments."

"Alright!" Mother Xiao nodded. "Yu 'Er, when you need money, you have to tell mom and dad, okay? We'll think of a way together as a family."

"Thank you, Mom!" Xiao Lingyu was warmed. Parents were always the safe haven for their children.

Liu Chunjiao added, "Yu 'Er, your fourth uncle, and I will be there for you too. If you need anything, just let us know!"

"Thank you, fourth uncle and fourth aunt!" Xiao Lingyu thanked them before continuing, "Mom, Dad, I should be able to drive the car back tomorrow. My friend at the car dealership is handling all the documents. I can drive the car away once I get my license."

Mother Xiao was still worried, "Yu 'Er, do you really know how to drive?"

"Mom," Xiao Lingyu said, "Don't worry. I've driven before. As long as I drive slowly, I'll be fine."

"Then you have to make sure to go very slowly. The road of Taoyuan Village is full of potholes," Mother Xiao reminded.

"Of course!" Xiao Lingyu nodded. Suddenly, she thought of something and asked, "Mom, did we have two guests from two days ago? They said they were my friends?"

Mother Xiao smiled. "Not really. They came from the big city to find a place for their grandfather to recuperate. They were unfamiliar with the Taoyuan Village. It was 2 pm when they arrived. They were very hungry, and they were too embarrassed just to barge in and ask for food, so they said they were your friends."

"Ah?" Xiao Lingyu widened her eyes in surprise. "Why would someone do that?"

'These people care too much about face. If they were hungry, just say it, why lie about being her friend? Wait, something is still not wrong.'

"Mom, since they are not really my friend, how did they know my name?" Xiao Lingyu asked.

Mother Xiao laughed. "I had the same question, so I asked one of the young men and quickly exposed the lie. Then, the other young man got down from the car and explained the situation. He said they knew your name from their friend, and they were really the friend of your friend. Then, he confessed how hungry he was. I still found it hilarious that this serious, tall, and imposing young man was admitting to me how hungry he was. So I invited them into the house."

Xiao Lingyu burst out laughing. She had a hard time imagining a situation like that. "Mom, you let them into the house and cook for them?" Xiao Lingyu chuckled. "But why didn't they carry any food with them since they're driving to the countryside?"

"They thought they could finish the trip in one morning, but they got lost halfway and got stuck in the potholes. When they arrived, their stomachs were growling." Mother Xiao said, "Speaking of, the two young were dressed sharply and very handsome. If your mother were twenty years younger, she might be tempted."

"Hey," Father Xiao said, "Am I not handsome when I was young?" He sounded surprisingly jealous.

"Handsome, even now you're a handsome old man!" Mother Xiao said.

Father Xiao blushed, and he said, "You're also still very beautiful."

Liu Chunjiao couldn't help laughing.

After the laughter died down, Xiao Lingyu asked, "Mom, you said they are friends of my friend. Did they say who this friend is?"

Mother Xiao nodded. "It's someone called Jiang Tao. Do you know him?"

"Yes, I do!" Xiao Lingyu nodded. "He's a friend of mine at the county town." Xiao Lingyu sighed in relief. Yan Siming didn't know Jiang Tao, and if Yan Siming came looking for her, Jiang Tao would inform her firsthand. Plus, Yan Siming would not know that Jiang Tao was friends with Xiao Lingyu.

Mother Xiao added, "To be honest, those boys, Li Yuanhang and Gong Tianhao, are really handsome, especially Tianhao. Not only is he handsome, but he also has a noble temperament. One look, and you can tell he comes from a special background." Then, she added in a small whisper, "Actually, Gong Tianhao told me that after he went back, he would arrange people to fix the road from Taoyuan Village to the town. The road will be paved with cement."

"Sister-in-law, are you sure?" Xiao Mingyang was shocked. "He wanted to build a road?" If the road were paved with cement, it would be more convenient for them to go to the town in the future. If it didn't rain, it would take 30 minutes to get to Xing An town by motorcycle because one had to navigate the potholes. After the road was fixed, the time could be lowered down to 10 minutes.

Mother Xiao nodded, "That's what Gong Tianhao told me. But I guess we'll know soon enough. He applied to build a house from the village chief, and the construction will start once the building materials arrive. At the same time, he will start paving the road."

"But how much it'll cost to build the road? It's about 40 miles." Liu Chunjiao wondered.

"If we count everything, it'll cost at least 400,000 RMB!" Xiao Mingyang calculated.

"And they're willing to pay that much?" Liu Chunjiao was suspicious.

Mother Xiao was uncertain. "That's what he said. But I suppose it is true. We will never understand the world of the rich."

"You're right." Liu Chunjiao concurred.

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "Fourth aunt, 400,000 is a huge sum of money for us, but for the truly rich, that is just a small change for a few meals."

Having lived in a big city, she knew a bit about the rich.

"Small change?" Liu Chunjiao and Mother Xiao were shocked. "400,000 for a few meals? What kind of meals are so expensive?"

Xiao Lingyu said, "Well, it'll involve the most precious ingredients in the world. They are normally very expensive. Common people like us will never get it. Therefore, 400,000 RMB is nothing to them. Plus, I think he is doing this for his own convenience." If the elder were really moving here, they would have to use the road often. The current road condition was very bad. For these rich people, time was of the essence, and they didn't have time to waste on the road.

Mother Xiao was really confused. She thought of something and said, "Right, Gong Tianhao chose the piece of land in front of Mingyang's house to build his house. That spot is quiet, and not many people go there."

Liu Chunjiao nodded. "That piece of land belongs to Xiao Chengqing, right?"

"That's right. Gong Tianhao bought the land from him with 300,000 RMB!" Mother Xiao revealed.

"What?" Liu Chunjiao was shocked again. "Why so expensive? The land costs only about 5000 RMB! Did Xiao Chengqing try to scam him?"

Mother Xiao said, "Gong Tianhao didn't mind. He didn't even bargain for the price. Chengqing said he was only joking, but the man gave him the money on the spot. It made some people die of envy."

Liu Chunjiao sighed, "I'd be envious too. The land costs around 5000, but it has been sold for 300,000 RMB!"

Yes, the price was high, but since one party was willing to give and the other party willing to take, what could the others say?

Xiao Lingyu couldn't help but think these people were really rich. After Xiao Lingyu rested for a while after lunch, she was chased out by Mother Xiao. She wanted her daughter to depart before dark.

It was a Friday. Xiao Lingyu contacted Xiao Lingye and asked if he was coming back home. If he were, she would drive him back.

When Xiao Lingye heard that Xiao Lingyu had bought a new car, he agreed immediately. He would take his sister's car back home!

Chapter 133: A Barbeque Party

Xiao Lingyu lived in a rather remote place, so Wang Zhimin had to come riding a tricycle every day. After Wang Zhimin took his portion, there were some left. They were reserved for Zheng Haiyang and his two friends as well as Uncle Chen, Grandma Song, and a few others.

Both Zheng Haiyang and Yuan Xuanhao had helped her, and they just wanted some vegetables in return, so why wouldn't she oblige? Of course, she couldn't just leave out Qian Yifan, or it'd be taken as an offense. She would repay those who treated her well and take revenge on those who wanted to harm her.

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After Xiao Lingyu finished her breakfast, Xiao Lingye arrived with his three good friends.

"Sis!" The four of them greeted.

Xiao Lingyu chuckled, "Why are the four of you here?"

Kang Le said, "We heard from Ye that Sis bought a new car, so we came to look!"

"Okay. Have you had breakfast? If not, I will treat you!" Xiao Lingyu offered.

"Thank you, but we already had breakfast!" They nodded.

"Okay, let's go to get the car then!" Xiao Lingyu led the way.

Xiao Lingye's group followed Xiao Lingyu to Teng Fei. Ning Weiyi asked in surprise, "Sis, you bought your new car here?"

"Yes!"

"This is my cousin's place!" Ning Weiyi gasped.

"Your cousin is President Yuan Xuanhao?" Xiao Lingyu asked.

"Sis, you know my cousin?!" Ning Weiyi was shocked.

"Yes." The world was too small. "President Yuan has given me a large discount. I'm in his debt."

"Lingyu, you're here!" Zheng Haiyang's group came out to greet them. When they saw Ning Weiyi and Yang Baolin, they were confused, "Weiyi, Baolin, why are you here?"

The group of five looked at each other. So everyone knew one another!

"Brother Zheng, Brother Xuanhao, we came with Sister Lingyu!" Ning Weiyi explained.

Zheng Haiyang asked curiously, "Lingyu, you know these children?"

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "They are all my brother's classmates. Right, this is my brother, Xiao Lingye! Lingye, these are Brother Zheng, Brother Yuan, Brother Qian!"

Xiao Lingye immediately shielded his sister behind him. Then, he greeted, "Brother Zheng, Brother Yuan, Brother Qian, I'm Xiao Lingyu, Weiyi and Baolin's roommates!"

The corners of Zheng Haiyang's lips twitched when he saw Xiao Lingye move to shield Xiao Lingyu from them. 'Does he think we're going to steal away his sister?'

Zheng Haiyang looked at Xiao Lingyu with a smile and said, "Lingyu, this is such a coincidence. Your landlady is my grandmother, your brother's classmate is Xuanhao's cousin. You're surrounded by good friends!"

Xiao Lingyu chuckled, "Hehe, I didn't expect this either!"

Ning Weiyi asked excitedly, "Brother Xuanhao, Sis bought a new car from you, right? Where is it?"

'Sis?' Hearing that, Zheng Haiyang and the other two's mouths twitched again. 'When is Xiao Lingyu their Sis? Apart from the mother and grandmother, when did Ning Weiyi become so close to another woman?'

Yuan Xuanhao pointed to the silver-gray SUV said, "This is it!"

The four young men immediately went to examine the vehicle. "Sis, why did you buy an SUV and not something smaller?"

Kang Le added, "Yes, isn't a smaller car more convenient?"

Xiao Lingye looked at her sister suspiciously and asked, "Sis, do you know how to Drive?"

"..." Xiao Lingyu said, "Of course! Why else would I buy a car? To look at it?"

Ning Weiyi asked, "Sis, how much is this car? How much discount did my Brother Yuanhao give you?"

Yuan Xuanhao walked over and flicked his forehead. He said unhappily, "Why? Are you afraid that your brother would scam your sister?"

Ning Weiyi rubbed his forehead. "That's right."

"You little brat!" Yuan Xuanhao scolded him. "Are you itching for a beating?" Yuan Xuanhao tried to grab the young man's ear, but Ning Weiyi avoided him.

Ning Wei said, "Brother, you're such a wicked merchant. Of course, I have to look out for my Sis!"

"What nonsense?!" Yuan Xuanhao said.

Xiao Lingyu intervened, "Weiyi, I've already said that President Yuan has given me the biggest discount. I have to thank him."

Yuan Xuanhao replied, "We're friends after all." Then, he handed some documents to Xiao Lingyu, "I've done everything for you. You only need to wire the money into this account on time. Now, this car is yours."

Ning Weiyi leaned over again. He grinned and asked, "Sis, how about I try out the car for you first?"

Yuan Xuanhao's face turned black, "Ning Weiyi, have you gotten your driver's license? Do you want to be caught by the police?"

Ning Weiyi cowered like a quail. "Fine, you don't need to be so mean."

Xiao Lingyu thought the pair of cousins was quite cute. Xiao Lingyu crawled into the car and backed out of the garage. She told Xiao Lingye. "Hop in. We'll go for a ride."

“Sis, I want to come to!”

“Me too!”

Before Xiao Lingye even got in, the other three had already claimed their seats.

The corners of Zheng Haiyang and his friends’ mouths twitched again.

Xiao Lingye saw the way his sister handled the car, and he was shocked. “Sis, you really know how to drive?”

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, “Of course. Here’s my driver’s license!” Xiao Lingyu took out her driver’s license and showed it to Xiao Lingye.

“It’s real!” Ning Weiyi and his friends leaned over to take a look. “Sis, you got your license last year. Have you driven a vehicle after that?”

Xiao Lingyu answered, “Of course! Why would I apply for a driver’s license if I don’t have a car to drive? Come on. I’m a very scrupulous driver.”

“Lingyu, how about we go to the countryside to have a barbeque party?” Zheng Haiyang suggested.

“Yes, we should do that!” Ning Weiyi cheered. “Sis, can we do that?”

Xiao Lingyu smiled, “But isn’t that dangerous? What if we cause a fire?”

Ning Weiyi laughed. “We know a campsite meant for barbeques. We can fly kites and so on.”

Xiao Lingye was interested, “Sis, let’s go!”

Xiao Lingyu nodded, “Alright!”

Zheng Haiyang immediately said, “I’ll get Ziyi to bring us a grill, or we can rent one there. However, we should prepare our own ingredients. The place does provide food materials, but they are not fresh, especially the meat.” At this point, Zheng Haiyang’s eyes sparkled. “Lingyu, I’ll have Gu Ziyi bring the meat and seafood. Can you bring the vegetables?”

Xiao Lingyu was speechless. The man would find any excuse to have her crops.

“Okay!” Xiao Lingyu said, “I’ll stop by the rental house to grab the vegetables. We’ll gather at the campsite then!”

“Okay!” Zheng Haiyang nodded. “Remember to bring more of those vegetables.

Xiao Lingyu,”...” Aren’t men supposed to be carnivores?

Xiao Lingyu drove Xiao Lingye and his three classmates to the rented house. Xiao Lingyu parked the car by the roadside since it was too big to enter the alley.

The young men followed Xiao Lingyu to the house. Xiao Lingyu invited them in. Ning Weiyi was confused. “Isn’t this Grandpa Song’s place? Sis, you’ve rented Grandpa Song’s house?”

Xiao Lingyu nodded. “That’s right.”

“Wow.” Ning Weiyi reminisced, “I used to come here when I was a kid. But I stopped coming after Grandpa and Grandma Song moved away. But now I’m back here with Sis! Time flies!”

“We don’t have time for your sentimentalities!” Yang Baolin shouted, “Come and move the things. Wash these vegetables!” He brought out a box with several vegetables.

Ning Weiyi studied the vegetables, and he gasped, “They look so fresh and clean. I think you can eat them without any washing!”

Kang Le rolled his eyes. “Then you eat the unwashed food. We’ll wash our own food!”

“...” Ning Weiyi sighed, “Fine, I’ll go wash them!”

Xiao Lingye was picking the vegetables inside the warehouse with his sister. “Sis, do we really need that much?” They had already filled up three boxes.

Xiao Lingyu hesitated, “There are nine of us. I don’t think three boxes is enough!” She had no idea how large Zheng Haiyang and the men’s appetite was. “It’s better to bring more. The leftovers, we can bring back or gift them to take home.”

“Okay!” Xiao Lingye nodded.

After they washed the vegetables, Xiao Lingyu drove them to the countryside.

Gu Ziyue, Zheng Haiyang, and the other three had already arrived. They were roasting meat at the burning grill.

They smiled when they saw Xiao Lingyu and her group. “Lingyu, you are too slow, so we started the barbeque first!”

Ning Weiyi walked over with a box of vegetables. “That’s because we stopped to wash the vegetables.” Then, he looked at the pork on the grill and asked, “Did you guys wash the meat?”

“No!” Yuan Xuanhao shrugged, “Feel free not to eat them if you’re so afraid!”

Xiao Lingyu and the rest, “....”

Chapter 134: Barbeque Party

Xiao Lingyu’s group had a beautiful woman and many handsome men. Naturally, they attracted a lot of attention. Not all of them were good though.

“Eight men and one woman, something fishy is going on there!” Two fashionably-dressed women with heavy make-up said in a sharp tone.

One of the women studied Xiao Lingyu’s group and narrowed her eyes slightly, “I believe that is Zheng Haiyang, the prince of the Zheng Real Estate; Gu Ziyue, the general manager of Gu Family Hotel; Yuan Xuanhao, the owner of Fei Teng Car Dealership; and Qian Yifan, the son of Deputy County Magistrate Qian.”

“Sister Lan, do you know them?” Liu Lingling said with slight surprise, “They sound so powerful.” Then, she nodded, “Then again, Sister Lan Lan is the daughter of the UMALE Chief. It’s natural for you to know these people.” She looked around and urged with a smile, “Sister Lan Lan, since you know them, why don’t we go and say hello to them?”

Every single one of the men was rich and powerful. If she hooked up with one of them, she would be raised from the ashes. Most importantly, she wouldn’t need to serve Liu Jielan anymore. Liu Lingling had confidence in her charm. She could make the men fall for her. She only needed an opportunity.

Liu Jielan hesitated, “I don’t think that’s a good idea.”

Liu Lingling said, “Sister Lan Lan, why not? We’re just going over to say hello to them. You’re friends with them, right?”

Liu Jielan thought for a moment and said, “Alright then.” The two women walked over.

Liu Jielan stopped before Gu Ziyue’s grill and watched as the men busied themselves with skewers of vegetables and meat. She smiled and greeted them, “Young Master Qian, Young Master Zheng, President Yuan, President Gu, what a coincidence to meet you here.”

The people who were named raised their heads. The four men narrowed their eyes in confusion. It was Zheng Haiyang who remembered the woman’s identity first, “Oh, it’s Miss Liu! How is Chief Liu doing recently?” This statement was to remind others of this woman’s identity.

There were several Chief Liu’s at the county, but there was only one who had an adult daughter. He was the UMALE Chief, Liu Jinhong.

The others nodded indifferently. “Oh, hello.” Then, they returned to their work.

Liu Lingling was dissatisfied with the men’s lack of reaction. She said in a sweet and gentle voice, “We were flying kites over there. But we have to come over when we saw you guys!” She thought she could hook the men with her melodic voice, but none of the four men even responded. It made her angry and embarrassed.

However, Liu Lingling didn’t dare show it on her face. But, she knew she couldn’t give up this precious opportunity. She raised her voice but continued in her strangely soft voice, “Sister Lan Lan, didn’t you say you were hungry earlier? We should find a place to buy something to eat!”

She was giving the men a chance to invite them to join the party. It was the opportunity to prove what a gentleman they were.

However...

Liu Lingling did grab Zheng Haiyang’s attention. But at the same time, she noticed the sarcastic grin on his lips. He looked at Liu Lingling with contempt. Zheng Haiyang added in a mock concerned tone, “Miss Liu is hungry? Then, Miss Liu should go and find something to eat. Good luck!”

Liu Lingling, “...”

Liu Jielan, “...”

'What is going on? Shouldn't he invite us to join them? Is he trying to chase us away?'

Those who had self-respect would have left once they heard Zheng Haiyang's words. At least, they would save face.

Liu Jielan's face turned red. She already wanted to turn and leave, but Liu Lingling pulled her back and shot her a look. 'Sister Lan Lan, you've been pursuing Deputy Magistrate Qian's son. How can you give up now?'

Since the other party didn't give them any face, Liu Lingling reacted by becoming more thick-skinned. She said in a friendly tone. "Young Master Zheng, Sister Lan Lan, and I are quite hungry. President Gu, President Yuan, can you spare us some of your skewers?"

Liu Lingling noticed that Zheng Haiyang didn't fall for her trick, so she turned her target to Gu Ziyue and Yuan Xuanhao instead. Her original target was actually Qian Yifan, but since Liu Jielan wanted him, she couldn't make any moves at him yet. She would go behind her back when she wasn't looking. For now, Gu Ziyue and Yuan Xuanhao were good enough choices.

Gu Ziyue and Yuan Xuanhao immediately frowned and looked at each other. 'Does this woman think we're fools? Does she think we can't see her obvious goal? What a joke!'

They wanted to ignore her, but the woman kept chattering around them, and it was very annoying.

Gu Ziyue glanced at Liu Lingling and then Liu Jielan. "Miss Liu, who is this young lady? Why is she making all the decisions for you? And she is rather chatty. She reminds me of a buzzing fly."

Liu Lingling thought she finally got Gu Ziyue's attention, but the next second, her face paled. She thought the other two men would be easier to deal with, but they had a sharper tongue than Zheng Haiyang. They were not gentlemanly at all.

However, Liu Lingling had many experiences dealing with proud and powerful men. She had to endure no matter how severe the humiliation was. Eventually, the men would fall inexorably in love with her. Then, she would take revenge by stepping on them and having them surrender their money to her willingly. She had done the exact thing with five of her exes.

At first, all five were indifferent to her. But in the end, they were seduced by her beauty and sweet voice. Even now, they were crying to get back together. Liu Lingling had the means, the brain, and the patience. In comparison, Liu Jielan was weaker.

Liu Jielan also looked insulted when she heard Gu Ziyue. Her face turned red and white. However, she was still the daughter of the UMALE Chief. To think she and her friend would be insulted like this. Gu Ziyue was too disrespectful!

Liu Jielan said angrily, "Gu Ziyue, how can you talk about my friend like that? You're being too ungentlemanly. Can't you see that you're going to make my friend cry? Is it okay for the general manager of a big hotel to bully a weak girl like this?"

Liu Lingling wore a green dress. Her long hair was wavy and curly. She had fair skin and passable facial features. A touch of make-up made her look charming and pure. Her sweet voice was also incredibly attractive to men.

Liu Lingling blushed with embarrassment. She looked like she was going to cry. She looked like an innocent bunny that men wanted to hug and protect.

However, the eight men present ignored her and showed zero sympathies. Instead, Liu Lingling's acting attracted the attention of other men at the campsite.

A short man with acne all over his face came over to point angrily at Gu Ziyue. "Are you still a man? How can you bully a girl like this?" Then, he turned to comfort Liu Lingling. "Miss, it's okay. This man doesn't know how to look after you, but big brother does. Come with big brother." Then, he moved to touch Liu Lingling's slender fingers. 'Oh, such tender skin! I'd die for her.'

Liu Lingling lowered her head to hide her disgust. She endured nausea and pulled back her hand. She sighed sadly, "Big Brother, thank you. I'm fine."

Then, she turned to Liu Jielan. She looked innocent and harmless. Her expression was full of grievance.

Gu Ziyue rolled his eyes in annoyance and said, "Okay, please take your pity party elsewhere. Don't interrupt our party." He had no pity for this white lotus.

"Shoo!" At that moment, Yuan Xuanhao came over with a handful of leeks and cabbages. "Why are you two standing here? You're being such a hindrance!"

The acne-faced man, "..."

Liu Jielan, "..."

Liu Lingling, "..."

These men were really... too infuriating.

Liu Jielan was embarrassed. She stood up for her friend, but the men didn't give her face at all. She couldn't stay any longer. She turned to Liu Lingling and said, "Lingling, let's go!" Liu Jielan's status was lower than these men, so there was nothing she could do but to make a retreat.

However, Liu Lingling was not willing to admit defeat. There was no man she couldn't charm. Furthermore, these men and their power were too tempting for her. Even if she had been told to leave, she was not going to. Due to her deluded confidence, Liu Lingling believed the men were only treating her like this because they only saw Liu Jielan and hadn't really paid her any attention. Liu Jielan had dragged her down!

Therefore, she had to think of a way to get them to focus their attention on her. She would use another method to lure in the men. She looked around and saw the younger men surrounding Xiao Lingyu.

However, if she ran over now, her motive would be too obvious, so she needed a stooge. Who was the better candidate than her Sister Lan Lan?

Liu Lingling held Liu Jielan's hand and nodded. "Okay, let's go!"

Chapter 135: Barbeque Party

When Liu Lingling dragged Liu Jielan past Xiao Lingyu and Xiao Lingye, who were skewering the vegetables, Liu Lingling silently pulled Liu Jielan forward. Thanks to inertia, Liu Jielan tripped forward and fell on Xiao Lingyu.

Xiao Lingyu was working with skewers and leeks. The skewers were sharp. Due to the sudden pressure from behind, her hand that held the skewer was knocked aside. She quickly pulled back and accidentally sent Liu Jielan falling to the ground. If Xiao Lingyu didn't do that, she might have injured herself or her little brother.

"Ah!" Liu Jielan shouted.

"What's wrong with you?" Liu Lingling immediately scolded Xiao Lingyu, "How can you push people like that?" She was too busy interrogating Xiao Lingyu that she forgot to help Liu Jielan. Liu Jielan hit the ground with her butt. She grimaced in pain.

Xiao Lingyu frowned. She put down the things in her hand and helped Liu Jielan up. She asked, "Miss, I'm sorry. Are you okay?"

Liu Lingling finally realized she still needed to care about her stooge. "Sister Lan Lan, are you okay?"

Liu Jielan's palms were scratched and bleeding. Liu Lingling shouted, "Sister Lan, you're hurt!" Then, she turned to Xiao Lingyu and scolded her. "What is wrong with you? How can you push Sister Lan Lan and injure her like this? Sister Lan, don't worry. I will seek justice for you."

Liu Jielan glanced at her injured hands and frowned as she looked at Liu Lingling, who she had always considered her good friend. Liu Jielan stood up and sighed, "I'm fine. Forget it. Let's go."

When Liu Lingling heard Liu Jielan wanted to let this go, she was shocked. Then she huffed indignantly. "Sister Lan Lan, how can we leave just like that? You fell accidentally and brushed against her, but she pushed you with such force that you got hurt."

Xiao Lingyu frowned. "Then what do you want me to do?" She thought this woman was very unreasonable. On the surface, she seemed to care about her Sister Lan Lan, but Xiao Lingyu noticed the envy and hatred in her eyes. 'I don't even know this woman, so why would she have those emotions against me?'

Liu Lingling's goal was to get the attention of Gu Ziyue and the others. Her goal was achieved. She noticed the men had put down their work and were walking over.

"Lingyu, what happened?" They were not that far from Xiao Lingyu and Xiao Lingye. Xiao Lingyu and Xiao Lingye worked in the skewers away from the grill to avoid the smoke. Everyone was working with their heads lowered. They only realized something had happened when they heard Liu Lingling's loud complaints.

Xiao Lingyu shook her head. "It's nothing. I accidentally pushed this lady down."

Zheng Haiyang narrowed his eyes and looked around. He immediately asked in puzzlement, "Lingyu, you were just making skewers. Why would you suddenly push this young lady?" It made no sense.

Xiao Lingyu was confused too. "Actually, it was an accident. When I was skewering the vegetables, someone fell on me from behind, so I pushed back in reflex. Before I knew what happened, this girl beside the young lady accused me of pushing her friend down. She said I was being malicious."

Qian Yifan asked, "Miss Liu, the road is flat and wide. Why would you fall? And so coincidentally on Lingyu?"

When Liu Lingling heard how close the men were to Xiao Lingyu, the envy within her burned stronger. However, when she heard Qian Yifan's question, her heart skipped a beat. 'Not good.'

Before Liu Jielan could speak, Liu Lingling interrupted, "Young Master Qian, Sister Lan Lan... broke her shoes, and she must have tripped because of that!" After spending so much time with Liu Jielan, Liu Lingling knew Liu Jielan valued her face a lot. Therefore, she would go along with the excuse Liu Lingling had provided her.

Zheng Haiyang looked at Liu Lingling and revealed a mocking look. He said meaningfully, "Miss Liu, your shoes really broke at the most inopportune timing." Then, he added, "This sounds like you fell because of an accident, so how can you blame Lingyu? Furthermore, isn't it strange that your friend came to accuse Lingyu as soon as you fell?"

Yuan Xuanhao added indifferently, "Miss Liu, shouldn't this young lady be your good friend? When you fell, instead of checking on you, she left you on the ground and turned to interrogate Lingyu. In the end, it was Lingyu who helped you up. She sure cares about you!"

Liu Lingling's face paled. She panic. She felt a little uneasy and clenched her fists. She was too anxious to attack Xiao Lingyu that she forgot about Liu Jielan earlier.

Now, her hypocrisy was exposed, and a rift was torn between her and Liu Jielan. Liu Lingling couldn't afford to have a fallout with Liu Jielan. She still needed to use Liu Jielan to land a powerful and rich husband. After that, Liu Jielan could be abandoned.

Liu Lingling was anxious as Yuan Xuanhao exposed her. She defended herself as best as she could, "Sister Lan Lan, it's not like that. I... I was simply too angry... Yes, too angry at the girl who pushed you. Sister Lan Lan, do believe me. I only wanted to help you seek justice." Liu Lingling moved to pull on Liu Jielan's sleeve. She put on her innocent act. She believed her explanation was believable.

Unexpectedly, Liu Jielan avoided her hands and looked at her with an unusually cold gaze.

She asked, "Lingling, why did I fall?"

"..." Liu Lingling did not expect Liu Jielan to ask this question. In her mind, Liu Jielan was a dummy. Liu Lingling stammered. "Sister Lan Lan... didn't your shoes break, and you fell by accident?"

Liu Jielan sneered and said, "Really? It was because my shoes broke, and not because you pulled me with sudden force?" Her expression changed, "Liu Lingling, I've always treated you as my friend, but what about you? Do you treat me as your friend?"

Liu Jielan was not stupid. Now that she thought about it, she saw that Liu Lingling was only using her. She was stepping on her to find a better life. Today, the few men of high status had gathered at the

campfire. Liu Lingling would never miss this precious opportunity. Now Liu Jielan understood why Liu Lingling insisted on coming over to greet the men. She wanted to get to know them.

However, her first tactic failed, so she came up with another tactic. Regardless, Liu Jielan was thankful because Liu Lingling's eagerness to succeed revealed her true colors. Otherwise, Liu Jielan would be none the wiser.

Liu Lingling was interrogated, and the other shot questioning gazes at her. In that instant, she was unusually nervous and uneasy.

Liu Jielan had always been a toy in her hand. She had no idea when that toy grew a brain.

Liu Lingling tried her best to put on a smile and pretended to be ignorant. "Sister Lan Lan, are you sure I pulled you?" Then, she added innocently, "Perhaps you were walking too fast, and I was trying to hold you back? Sister Lan Lan, I'm sorry. I will be more careful in the future."

Liu Jielan's eyes filled with disappointment. Liu Jielan had already exposed her, but Liu Lingling was still trying to cover up her track.

Liu Jielan's heart chilled from knowing the woman's true identity. If she kept this unscrupulous woman by her side, eventually, Liu Lingling would be her downfall.

Liu Jielan said, "Liu Lingling, you have disappointed me! We are no longer friends!"

Ignoring Liu Lingling's stunned face, and the others, Liu Jielan turned to Xiao Lingyu and said apologetically, "Miss, I'm sorry for dragging you into this."

Xiao Lingyu shook her head. "It's fine." She glanced at Liu Jielan's hand and asked, "You're injured. Do you need help?"

Liu Jielan shook her head and said, "It's alright. I have more friends over there. They can help me." Liu Jielan came kite-flying with a group of friends. Even without Liu Lingling, they could have fun on their own.

Xiao Lingyu didn't know if Liu Jielan was being truthful or not. Regardless, she said, "Miss, take care of yourself then."

Xiao Lingyu didn't expect that tragedy would befall her at a barbeque party. Disaster really could strike at any time.

Liu Lingling saw Liu Jielan walk away. After she recovered from her shock, she quickly ran over, "Sister Lan Lan, I'm sorry, please forgive me!"

'Without Liu Jielan, how am I supposed to get close to the rich and powerful in the future?' Therefore, Liu Lingling had to abandon her mission and appease Liu Jielan first.

Gu Ziyue smiled, "Hmm, Chief Liu's daughter is not dumb after all. Or else, she'd eventually suffer under the hands of her friend."

"Haha. Anyway, that is none of our business. Let's continue the barbeque!" Zheng Haiyang said, "Lingyu, ignore that woman and don't take it to heart!"

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "Okay!"

Chapter 136: Persuasion

No one took the girls' incident during the barbecue to heart.

Xiao Lingye concluded, "The woman really brought this on herself!"

'She wanted to frame Sis, but she got caught up in this. She has no one but herself to blame!'

After the party, there were some vegetables left. They were quickly divided up by Zheng Haiyang and his friends.

Ning Weiyi rubbed his round belly. "Sis, your family's dishes are amazing. I still can't forget the dishes Auntie cooked for us last time."

Yang Baolin asked curiously, "Sis, I heard that these vegetables are grown by your friend at the Academy of Agricultural Sciences?"

Xiao Lingyu nodded.

"Then, do you think your friend..." could sell them to me too? Yang Baolin wanted to ask.

"Yang Baolin, you should be satisfied that Sis is willing to share them with us. What more do you want?" Ning Weiyi berated.

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "If you guys have a hankering for the vegetables or food, you can come to my house. I can cook them for you!" By house, she meant the rental at the county town.

"Really?" The other people's eyes lit up instantly. "Sis, we'll take you on your offer!"

Xiao Lingyu chuckled, "But don't forget that you guys are sitting for the university entrance exam soon. You are not to leave the school on weekdays!" They could only leave the dorm during weekends. Staying at the dorm would allow them to be closer to study resources. Furthermore, this was safer.

They were students from Number One High School's elite class. They would bring honor to the school in the future. If anything happened to them outside of school, the consequences would be unimaginable, especially since many of them were from powerful families. The school valued their safety greatly.

Ning Weiyi and the others deflated immediately. He complained, "Our school admin is too cruel. They will only allow us to go home during weekends! If we want to eat some homecooked food, we can only satisfy our hunger with our imagination or have someone send them over."

Kang Le suggested, "Sis, since we can't leave the dorm, can you send over some tomatoes and cucumbers every day? At least, we can snack on them!"

"That's right!" Ning Weiyi added, "Sis, can you?"

Yuan Xuanhao was embarrassed. "Aren't you people ashamed? Do you know how big of a favor you're asking of your Sister Lingyu? Do you think she is so free?"

Ning Weiyi argued, "But Sis' vegetables can help us focus more in class."

Everyone, "...". They wanted to say it was an exaggeration, but when it came to the miracle food, no one could be sure.

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "Alright then. Since I'm supplying the Gu Family Hotel every day, I'll deliver some for you guys on the way!"

Ning Weiyi and the gang were ecstatic, but out of politeness, they asked, "Sis, will it be too much trouble for you?"

Xiao Lingyu said, "It's fine. I have a car now, so it's not that troublesome!"

With that, the matter was settled.

When Zheng Haiyang and the rest heard that Xiao Lingyu was planning to grow peanuts and soybeans at home, they wanted to join in the fun. They planned to head to Taoyuan Village too.

However, it was already late afternoon. If they departed now, they would arrive at night. The accommodation would be hard to arrange. In the end, it was decided that Xiao Lingyu would drive Xiao Lingye and his roommates over first. They could make do in the same bed, similar to last time. Zheng Haiyang and the other would come the next day.

Xiao Lingyu bought peanuts, soybeans, and some other seeds before bringing Xiao Lingye and the others back to Taoyuan Village.

The car's convenience was shown then. Normally, she would have to wait and change buses during this journey. It would take more than three hours. But since she drove, it took her less than two hours. Regardless, when they arrived, it was evening and time for dinner.

The light was dim, and there were not many villagers on the road, so no one noticed Xiao Lingyu had driven a car back.

However, when Mother Xiao, Father Xiao, Xiao Mingyang, and Liu Chunjiao saw Xiao Lingyu really drive the car back, they were shocked and excited.

"Yu 'Er, you really know how to drive?" Mother Xiao touched the car door and said happily, "This vehicle is beautiful!" The other three also examined the car. They were curious. It was not that they hadn't seen a car before, but it was the first time they could touch a car that belonged to their family.

They heard that the car was selling for 100,000 RMB, but Yu 'Er's friend gave her a discount and had sold it to her for 70,000 RMB. In Taoyuan Village, probably no family other than Xiao Lingyu who would spend 100,000 RMB on a car.

Liu Chunjiao couldn't help but feel that prick of envy. Her sister-in-law had two promising children. When Liu Chunjiao thought about her mischievous son, she felt a headache coming. They had the same Xiao Family lineage, so how come her son's study was such a tragedy? Regardless, at the end of the day, Liu Chunjiao was happy for her sister-in-law. The two families shared a good relationship. They would rise together.

Liu Chunjiao smiled, "In the future, it'll be easier for Yu 'Er to travel to the county town."

Mother Xiao laughed, "You're right! In the past, just the journey to the county town alone would take a full day! It'll be more convenient now that we have a car. It'll save time for all of us."

Xiao Lingyu suddenly asked, "Fourth Uncle, do you want to learn how to drive?"

Xiao Mingyang was stunned. "Huh? But I'm already so old."

Xiao Lingyu chuckled, "Fourth Uncle, you're only in your thirties. That is not old! Plus, people in their sixties are learning how to drive."

Xiao Mingyang was confused, "But why?" Why would he learn how to drive?

Xiao Lingyu explained, "Fourth Uncle, you know that I've contracted the land to make a farm. Once the harvest is in, I will need someone to drive them to the county town for me."

Xiao Mingyang said, "But Yu 'Er, your farm..." No one knew it was going to be successful or not.

At this moment, Father Xiao said, "That's right, fourth brother. In the future, Yu 'Er will need your help. I also think that you should learn how to drive now."

Liu Chunjiao thought about it and said, "Mingyang, you should listen to second brother." Even though she didn't know if Yu 'Er's farm would be a success or not, having the ability to drive would look good on Xiao Mingyang's resume, it would help him look for a better job.

Seeing the hesitation on her Fourth Uncle's face, Xiao Lingyu added, "Fourth Uncle, you know that I'm planting strawberries. If the cultivation is successful, do you think I can trust others to deliver the harvest for me? You're the only choice I have!"

This struck a chord with Xiao Mingyang. Strawberries were too expensive for rural people. If they had to rely on someone else to deliver the goods, they might run away with the products. That would indeed be a problem.

Mother Xiao joined the rank of persuaders. "Mingyang, like Lingyu said, you're only in your thirties. You should go and learn how to drive. Lingyu is a girl, and I don't feel too comfortable seeing her drive around all day long. You can help her with that."

Xiao Mingyang really did care for Xiao Lingyu. He also wanted to help her in any way he could. Instead of having her rely on others, he would step up to the plate.

Xiao Lingye said, "Fourth Uncle, there's no way you can get out of this!"

"Haha. Fourth Uncle, that's right! Surrender while you still can!" Xiao Lingye's roommates joked.

Xiao Mingyang laughed. "Alright. I'll go learn how to drive." But then, he added in difficulty, "Yu 'Er, where can I do that?"

At this moment, Yang Baolin stood up and said, "Fourth Uncle, I have a relative who runs a driving school. The coaches are good, and the place has a perfect environment. I'll bring you to go sign up."

"Thank you so much, Student Yang!" Xiao Mingyang nodded. "After I finish my farm work, I'll go to the driving school with you!"

“Fourth Uncle, you’re too polite!” Yang Baolin said, “If Fourth Uncle is short on time, I’ll ask my relative to register you in the intensive course. You’ll get your license within seven days!”

“Seven days to get a license?” Xiao Mingyang thought it would take several months to get a license. “You can get a license that fast?”

“That’s right!” Yang Baolin nodded.

Xiao Lingyu added, “Fourth Uncle, I’ll pay the course fee and drive you to the school until you get your license.”

Xiao Mingyang shook his head. “Yu ‘Er, I’ll pay the fee myself!” He didn’t want to trouble Xiao Lingyu. Plus, he was doing for himself too. In the future, perhaps he’d have the chance to buy his own car to drive. “I’ll only need to trouble you to drive me to the school!”

The driving school was at Xing Yin County, so he would need help to cross the distance.

Everyone studied the car for a long time. Eventually, it was time for dinner.

When they had dinner, Ning Weiyi and the others once again experienced Mother Xiao’s superb cooking skills.

Ning Weiyi’s mouth was especially sweet. He praised, “Auntie, with your cooking skill, you’ll win first place in the national cooking competition easily!”

Mother Xiao was acknowledged as the best cook in Taoyuan Village, but when she heard the praises from the kids, she was still very happy.. She said humbly, “These are just some home-cooked meals. How can I compare to those real chefs? Kids, if you like them, you should eat more of them!”

Chapter 137: Planting Peanuts

The next day, Ning Weiyi and the guys pleaded to go along to the fields to plant peanuts.

The farm was huge, and it would take some time to fill it up. Xiao Lingyu planned to have six Mu of strawberries, three Mu of peanuts, three Mu of soybeans, four Mu of dragon fruit, and five or six Mu of vegetables. Other than strawberries and dragonfruit, all the others had to be planted within two days. In other words, there were twelve to thirteen Mu of land that needed to be planted. In addition to her own family, Xiao Lingyu hired her fourth uncle and aunt as well as six women from the village.

Xiao Lingyu brought a part of the seeds to plant in the farming space while she handed the rest to Mother Xiao. Mother Xiao grew them into seedlings, and they would be transplanted now.

The villagers of Taoyuan Village were confused by Xiao Lingyu’s decision. Mother Xiao had grown vegetables to sell before, but business was bad, and most vegetables were left to rot at home. Now, Xiao Lingyu was walking her mother’s old path. Furthermore, she started with such a large piece of land.

Many villagers didn’t have high hopes. However, this was the Xiao Family’s money, so why should they care?

With this in mind, someone sighed. Back then, Xiao Zhengyang was the poorest family in the village when he was separated from the Xiao Family. He and his family lived in an old house that leaked during rain and was cold in winter. Their lives were hard. But now, Xiao Zhengyang had a new house, good savings, and his daughter was rich. It was enviable.

Mother Xiao arranged everyone their job, including Xiao Lingye and his three roommates. Of course, Mother Xiao gave the three the easiest job. Xiao Lingyu, Xiao Lingye, and Liu Chunhua would lead the three kids to plant peanuts.

Mother Xiao and the others had already tilled and fertilized the land. The fertilizer came from Little Light. Xiao Lingyu said that she would grow only organic stuff. She would not use chemical fertilizer or pesticides. Her fertilizer was organic. Big and Little Light contributed a lot to the natural fertilizer. Their manure had the effect of the spring water.

Xiao Lingyu, Xiao Lingye woke up early in the morning. They moved around quietly to not wake up Ning Weiyi and the rest. However, their movements still woke up the guys. Kang Le opened his hazy eyes and looked out the window. There was barely light. "Ye, what are you doing so early in the morning?"

Xiao Lingye explained, "We're going out to work! You guys can sleep longer. You can join us after breakfast."

Xiao Lingye's words woke them up immediately. "What?" The three sat up and gasped in shock. "Ye, you need to start work so early? But the sun isn't even up yet!"

Xiao Lingye explained, "Such is the life of a farmer. If you work early in the morning, the weather won't be hot, and the soil will be naturally damp, so the seedlings will take to root more easily."

Ning Weiyi scratched his head. "I thought we'd go to the field at 9 am, like a normal 9 to 5 job."

"I thought so too." Yang Baolin echoed. "I didn't expect that we'd need to get up so early in the countryside."

Xiao Lingye rolled his eyes at these young masters and said, "You should plan your year in spring, and your day in the morning, that is from Wu Ming Si. The farmers rely on the heavens for their food. Our daily plan and yearly plan are heavily impacted by weather. Look at the sky now. The sun will be hot around noon, so we better finish our work before then."

Kang Le said in a daze. "Who knew there'd be such deep philosophy to farming! Yi, Bao, come up, let's get to work too!"

"Okay!" The three lifted the quilt and got out of bed.

Xiao Lingye said, "Why don't you guys sleep a bit longer? You already study so hard normally. Use this chance to take a break."

Yang Baolin rolled his eyes and said, "You study even harder than us. But you're already up to work. We need to follow your example."

"That's right!" Ning Weiyi rolled out of bed and put on his shoes. "As you said, you should plan your year in spring and your day in the morning. If we continued to sleep, we'd become pigs!"

“But...” Xiao Lingye still wanted to persuade them.

Yang Baolin immediately wrapped his arms around Xiao Lingye’s neck. “Ye, I heard that the morning air in the countryside is the freshest. We also want to go and breathe some fresh air.”

“Alright!” Xiao Lingye stopped persuading them, “Then, hurry up and brush your teeth and wash your faces. I’ll lead you to the farm. Sis and fourth aunt should have left already. They’ll be back around eight for breakfast. The work will continue after breakfast.”

He was a country boy. He was used to getting up early for work since he was young. However, it was different from these three young masters. They were there basically for a tour.

“Okay, we got it. Let’s go!”

The sky was bright when they departed. The air was fresh, and the birds chirped. On the way, they saw many villagers who were already hard at work. Some were weeding, and others were planting. There were villagers checking the water level in the fields and the conditions of the seedlings. Children were picking snails to be fed to the ducks and geese. Everyone looked so energetic and diligent.

This was something the three had never seen in the county town.

When they arrived at Xiao Lingye’s field, Xiao Lingye and his friends were surprised.

Xiao Lingye saw them and said, “Little Brother, why did you wake them up so early in the morning?”

Xiao Lingye mumbled, “Sis, I’m innocent. I didn’t wake them up. They got up on their own and wanted to come with me.”

Xiao Lingye asked the guys. “Why didn’t you guys sleep more and come after breakfast?”

Ning Weiyi smiled, “Sis, we’re here to work. We can’t keep on sleeping when we know Sis and fourth aunt are already here working.” The three of them looked at Liu Chunjiao, who was already working with another woman. Liu Chunjiao put the peanut seed in the trench, and the other poured the fertilizer around the seed.

The three studied for a while and asked, “Sis, we’re here to help, not to have fun. Teach us how to grow peanuts!”

Xiao Lingye pointed at the ditches. “See those ditches? You put the peanuts in the ditches, two nuts each time. Then, you’ll move down another 15 cm and repeat. You three can start with planting the seeds. Ye ‘Er, help me with the fertilizing.” The fertilizer was rather smelly, so she didn’t let the guests deal with that.

“Okay!” Xiao Lingye had no issues. He used to help his parents do this.

Ning Weiyi and the two knew their limits. They were beginner farmers. They would start with the easy work first. They studied Xiao Lingye and clumsily tried to imitate her.

Each of them picked a trench and started to seed. They couldn’t gauge the distance well like experienced farmers, so they found a stick about 15 cm and used that as a guide.

Xiao Lingyu and Liu Chunjiao covered their mouths and snickered. The kids were too cute. Xiao Lingye rolled his eyes.

Soon, the three got used to the farm work. They didn't need to use the stick anymore. They came around 6 am. When it was 8 am, they stopped for breakfast. The three of them had seeded one Mu of land.

However, they were also extremely tired. They felt that their waists were not even their own. They felt sore and painful. They finally understood the hardships of being a farmer.

Mother Xiao commented with concern, "Kids, you've done good enough work for the day. Perhaps you should go back home to study or rest. Look at how tired you are. You can't even straighten your waists."

The three of them refused immediately, "No, Auntie. We can't quit just like that!"

Ning Weiyi added, "Auntie, it is tiring, but we're enjoying ourselves. We'll continue to help out after breakfast!"

Mother Xiao tried to persuade them a few more times, but since they were so insistent, she stopped.

"Auntie, this porridge is so delicious!" It was the first time Yang Baolin had tasted such delicious porridge. "I feel much better after drinking this porridge. My waist doesn't feel so sore anymore!"

"Yeah, I have the same feeling!" Ning Weiyi and Kang Le also said, "Auntie, it's a blessing to eat your food."

Mother Xiao laughed. "If you like my cooking, you should eat more!"

Liu Chunjiao asked, "Sister-in-law, how did you make this porridge? It's so delicious!"

Xiao Lingyu drank the porridge and ate the buns to cover her expression.. They had no idea the spring water was used in the preparation of the porridge.

Chapter 138: Planting Soybeans

After breakfast, the group returned to the field to plant peanuts and soybeans. The three kids continued with peanut planting. Practice makes perfect. They tried to finish planting the remaining one Mu of land within an hour.

However, before they could finish, Mother Xiao led four men over. Ning Weiyi looked up and saw Gu Ziye and his gang had arrived.

"Yu 'Er, they said they're your friends, and they're here to help with the planting of peanuts and soybeans." Mother Xiao looked at the four men with suspicion.

Why?

The main reason was these four men were around Xiao Lingyu's age, and they were handsome. Two were dressed in suits, and the other two were in casual clothes. Mother Xiao could tell that they were in

better outfits than the villagers. Furthermore, they drove here. Mother Xiao saw their cars when they arrived at the Xiao Family home. Clearly, they were rich.

Yu 'Er had been working at City Z, and she hadn't been back for long. How did she manage to make so many new friends in such a short amount of time? Mother Xiao was worried that these men were here for Yu 'Er, and they had ulterior motives.

On the way, Mother Xiao and the men ran into other villagers. The villagers' strange gazes made Mother Xiao very uncomfortable. Life in the countryside was conservative. Even if Xiao Lingyu had left the village before, she was still a country girl in these people's eyes.

Suddenly, so many men came to find Xiao Lingyu. Some villagers naturally thought that Xiao Lingyu was being indecent and she was dating all of these men. They were here to settle the score with her. The villagers criticized and even despised her. Therefore, Mother Xiao didn't feel too good about it.

Initially, Mother Xiao thought about chasing the men away, but she thought better of it. She wouldn't stand in her daughter's way of making friends.

Xiao Lingyu grew up in the countryside, so she knew that the villagers had been talking when she saw her mother's face. To dispel her mother's concern, Xiao Lingyu said, "Mom, they are my friends. This is Gu Ziyue, and his hotel has been purchasing our crops. This is Yuan Xuanhao, and he is the friend that gave me the big discount on the car. And finally, they are Zheng Haiyang and Qian Yifan!"

At that moment, Ning Weiyi and the boys came over. Ning Weiyi greeted, "Brother, Brother Zheng, Brother Gu, Brother Qian, what took you guys so long? We're almost done?planting peanuts."

The other two greeted them as well.

When Mother Xiao saw how familiar Ning Weiyi was with the men, she felt slightly relieved. She smiled, "Weiyi, you know each other?"

Ning Weiyi nodded. "Yes. Auntie, this is my cousin. The three big brothers are friends of our family!" Ning Weiyi made a quick introduction. Then, he paused before adding, "Actually, Auntie, we only found out yesterday that Sis has surrounded herself with people that knew each other!" Ning Weiyi was reminded of something, "Auntie, do you know the house Sis has rented at the county town?"

"You mean Granny Song?" Mother Xiao said. Then, she looked at the group of men and asked, "Is Granny Song related to any of you?"

"Yes!" Ning Weiyi exclaimed, "Auntie, Grandma Song is Brother Zheng's grandmother and our neighbor!"

"Huh?" Mother Xiao was surprised. She laughed, "Haha, what a coincidence!"

"It really is!" The others nodded.

After Mother Xiao clarified the relationship of the new arrivals, she told Xiao Lingyu and Xiao Lingye, "Look after our guests. I'll head back home first!" Someone had to stay at home to cook. Mother Xiao was the best cook. Even Xiao Lingyu only had half of her mother's cooking skills. Mother Xiao rushed home because she had to prepare extra since they had more guests!

After Mother Xiao left, Ning Weiyi and his friends surrounded Gu Ziyi and his group. The later group shivered. "You little brat, why are you looking at us like that?" Yuan Xuanhao asked unhappily.

Ning Weiyi said, "Brother, are you here to play or help?" His tone was a little disdainful.

"What nonsense, of course, we're here to help!" Yuan Xuanhao said loudly.

"In that case, why are you in suits?" Ning Weiyi chided. "And it's a branded suit. Are you trying to show off?"

Only then did Zheng Haiyang and the three realize what was wrong. They looked at each other and noticed they were wearing their best suits. Even the casual clothes were from expensive brands. They were used to going out to their friends' place in their best get-up. It was to give the host's face. They forgot that things were different in the countryside!

Gu Ziyi and Yuan Xuanhao wore suits, while Zheng Haiyang and Qian Yifan wore casual clothes.

"So, what are we to do now?" Yang Baolin came over to ask. He grinned wickedly, "Are you going to go back and change? The suits cost at least several thousand. Will you farm in them?"

Once Liu Chunjiao and the other women heard the suits cost several thousand, they couldn't help but pause. It was terrifying!

They could work their whole life, and they wouldn't be able to afford the men's suits.

However, they were also wondering in their heart. 'Who are these people, and how did they become Yu 'Er's friends?'

Liu Chunjiao had the same worry as Mother Xiao. 'These men are clearly rich. Why would they come farming as a favor to Yu 'Er? Perhaps they have another goal? Are they helping out to make a good impression on Yu 'Er? But their appearance will definitely get people talking. This will not be good for Yu 'Er's reputation.' Liu Chunjiao wanted to ask for more details, but she couldn't do that when the guests were still there.

Ning Weiyi and his friends teased until Yuan Xuanhao and Gu Ziyi removed their coats. They found a clean place to put them.

Ning Weiyi grinned. "Brother, you can remove the coat, but can you remove the suits and pants?"

Yuan Xuanhao rolled his eyes and scolded him, "Shut up!" They would work in their suits. It was not like they couldn't afford another set. What was the big deal?

Zheng Haiyang walked up to Xiao Lingyu and asked, "Lingyu, what can we do for You?"

"Huh?" Xiao Lingyu looked at the sharply-dressed men, and she said, "We need help planting soybeans!" Ning Weiyi and his friends had almost finished planting the three Mu of peanuts.

Xiao Lingyu put down the hoe and brought Gu Ziyi and his friends to another gardening shed.

Father Xiao and Xiao Mingyang were digging holes with shovels. When they saw Xiao Lingyu bringing over the four men, they were confused. Father Xiao asked, "Yu 'Er, who are these men?"

Xiao Lingyu introduced, "Dad, they are my friends from the county town, Gu Ziyue, Zheng Haiyang, Yuan Xuanhao, and Qian Yifan. They told me that they wanted to experience the rural life, so they're here today to help us grow peanuts and soybeans!"

"Hello, Uncle!" The four of them greeted politely.

Father Xiao nodded and smiled. "Nice to meet you. Yu 'Er, what is your plan?"

Xiao Lingyu said, "Little brother and his friends are growing peanuts, so I asked them to come help with planting soybeans!" Xiao Lingyu looked around and commented, "Dad, you and fourth uncle have dug so many holes. So they only need to sow the seeds!"

Growing soybeans was different from growing peanuts. Peanuts were grown in rows, while soybeans were seeded more randomly over a large piece of land. There was no trench or ditch. During harvest time, peanuts would be picked in rows while the soybeans would be cut with machines or sickles.

Xiao Lingyu turned to the men. "Do you see the small holes? You only need to put the soybean seeds in the holes. Each hole should have three to five seeds. After you're done, my dad and fourth uncle will cover up the hole with the fertilizers."

Then, she handed them a gourd each. The gourd was filled with soybeans seeds.

Just like Ning Weiyi and his friends, the four men were clumsy at the beginning. They counted the seeds carefully before dropping them into the pits.

Due to the holes, the ground was uneven. Gu Ziyue accidentally fell onto one. He didn't fall, but the beans in the gourd fell out.

Eventually, they got the hang of it, and they moved much faster. However, they soon felt sore all over their bodies.

Father Xiao looked at them and said with a smile, "Kids, you should take a rest!" Father Xiao pointed at the two benches. "Why don't you go and sit there for a while?" The benches were placed there for people to rest. The four wanted to keep on working, but their bodies were already crying for mercy. So they decided to take a rest.

They sat on the benches, and they felt like their bodies were about to break.

Zheng Haiyang's face was red as he said, "The country life is not easy."

Gu Ziyue chuckled, "Naturally. People in the countryside work hard but earn little. Therefore, many parents here hope for their children to study hard so that they can find a better life."

They grew up in the county town, and they came from a rich family. They hadn't suffered much in their lives. They had gone to experience rural life when they were in primary school, but it was merely to pull weeds or pick branches. Plus, most of the trip would be filled with playtime.

After a short rest, the four returned to work.. They were embarrassed because the others were still hard at work.

Chapter 139: Drinking and Eating

Li Yuanhang, who was standing in front of Gong Tianhao's desk, rubbed his belly and said, "It's lunchtime again. Tianhao, are you going to the restaurant or ordering takeout?" Before waiting for Gong Tianhao's reply, Li Yuanhang said in a nostalgic tone, "Either way, it's not going to be as good as Auntie Xiao's cooking!"

Gong Tianhao furrowed his brows slightly and asked, "Has everything been arranged for the construction of the house and roads in Taoyuan Village?"

"Yes, everything has been arranged!" Li Yuanhang said. "The An Lin Branch has already arranged a construction team." Everything about Taoyuan Village was good except for the roads. Therefore, it was interesting that a famous university student came from that poor village.

Even though Li Yuanhang had not met Xiao Lingyu, from Jiang Tao's description and Mother Xiao's behavior, she should be a nice girl. If Li Yuanhang knew he had met Xiao Lingyu before, his impression would turn immediately.

She was the country bumpkin who he had rear-ended. She forced them to apologize to her.

"Get them to hurry up!" Gong Tianhao said sternly. "I've already given my orders, but these people still won't give up. They're still trying to get close to grandpa!"

"Of course!" Li Yuanhang hesitated for a moment and asked, "Tianhao, after the elder leaves, do you want to deal with these people?"

Gong Tianhao didn't want to do anything when his grandfather was still home. Old Master Gong was overly kind to his greedy children and in-laws to give face to his brother. These people took advantage of that and wanted to consume the entire Gong family! It was ridiculous!

Their surnames might be Gong, but what had they done to help the Gong Family?

Gong Tianhao said, "These people have already crossed my bottom line!" Gong Tianhao's bottom line was his grandfather's health. These people disregarded his grandfather's illness and made him so angry that he almost died. Gong Tianhao would never tolerate this. He had to put an end to this.

Li Yuanhang nodded. "Understood!" With the order from Gong Tianhao, he knew what to do next. "So, Tianhao, are we going to a restaurant or takeout?"

"Get the takeout." Gong Tianhao said. After Li Yuanhang left, Gong Tianhao touched his belly and then frowned. He also missed the dishes made by Auntie Xiao. They were just ordinary home-cooked dishes, but they were filled with emotions. If it was possible, he really wanted to hire Auntie Xiao to cook for him.

However, since his grandfather was going to move to Taoyuan Village, Gong Tianhao would need help from Auntie Xiao in the future.

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"Did you see the people who came to Lingyu's family today? They are all men!"

“Are they here to pursue Lingyu?”

“That’s possible! They’re working so hard in the fields. I say they want to impress Lingyu.”

“Didn’t Lingyu just break up with the kid from Chen Family not too long ago? Does she already have so many new pursuers in just a month? Could there be something fishy going on?”

“Zhang Qiuxiang, what are you talking about?” Someone cut in. “Lingyu has been staying home since she came back. Are you trying to say she managed to seduce men from home?” Liu Chunxiu said angrily, “Zhang Qiuxiang, you’ve already taken so many benefits from the Xiao Family, and now you’re going around talking shit about them! If you continue to do this, I’ll go to Lingyu and tell her what you did. We’ll see if they’ll allow you to get close to Little Cattle King anymore!”

Zhang Qiuxiang shivered, but then she retorted, “I only said there might be something fishy going on. I never said she seduced anyone. Liu Chunxiu, you can’t frame me like that!”

Liu Chunxiu sneered and said, “Do you think we’re dumb? Who doesn’t know what you’re implying? I merely pointed out what was on your mind!”

Zhang Qiuxiang curled her lips and said, “What?! You were the one who said Xiao Lingyu was out there seducing men! I didn’t even say those words!”

“You...” Liu Chunxiu was furious.

“Alright, please stop.” Someone came to be the peacemaker. “I’ve already asked Qiuying. She said those men are Lingyu’s friends from the county town. They are also Lingye’s classmates’ cousins and friends.”

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With the collective effort, all the peanuts and soybeans were planted in one morning.

It was taxing for Ning Weiyi and the other men even though they only planted seeds and did nothing else. Their bodies were sore, but when they reached home and smelled the fragrance, they were re-energized.

Mother Xiao brought out the dishes and looked at the young men. She smiled kindly, “You kids have worked hard. I’ve cooked a lot. You can wash your hands and come eat!”

“Auntie, it smells so good! What did you make?” Ning Weiyi said excitedly, “Auntie, your cooking is always so perfect!”

Mother Xiao laughed. “They’re nothing special, just a few home-cooked dishes.” Mother Xiao made extra for the guests.

“Braised fish, fermented tofu, braised radish with beef brisket, braised pork with preserved vegetables, braised seaweed with duck, stir-fried pork with chili, sauteed cabbage with pork intestines, braised eggplant, stir-fried white cabbage, fried peanuts, and tomato salad. Auntie, what a sumptuous meal. They must taste heavenly!” Ning Weiyi took a big sniff.

Gu Ziyue and the others looked at the dishes. They were ordinary dishes, but their appearance and smell were not inferior to those of real chefs. Zheng Haiyang took a sniff and said, "They smell wonderful! Ziyue, with Auntie's level of cooking skill, she can be the head chef at your hotel!"

Gu Ziyue laughed, "If Auntie is willing, I will welcome her with open arms."

'Even though Auntie Xiao hasn't taken systematic seduction, with her talents and lessons from third uncle, third uncle will be able to retire early. Then again, Auntie is at retirement age herself.'

Mother Xiao laughed. "You kids will praise me every meal. It's making me feel so embarrassed. Since you said the food smell so delicious, you have to promise me to finish all of them. Or else, I'll know you're lying to me."

"Auntie, don't worry. Which time have we not cleaned the table?" Kang Le said.

Due to the guests, Father Xiao took out a jar of wine and poured it for Gu Ziyue and the others. "Here, your Auntie made this wine herself. The taste is not worse than the wine sold on the market. Try it!"

Apart from Qian Yifan, the other four were all businessmen, so they knew how to drink. They didn't reject Father Xiao's offer.

Once the wine was poured, the aroma permeated the air. It was so divine that Qian Yifan, who did not know how to drink, wanted to have a taste.

"This wine smells so good, uncle!" Qian Yifan said.

Father Xiao laughed. "Come and have a taste then!" Father Xiao knew that Qian Yifan didn't drink because he said that earlier. But now that he had shown interest, Father Xiao naturally wanted to be a good host.

Qian Yifan thought for a moment and said, "Okay, just a little!"

Zheng Haiyang said with a smile, "Qian Yifan, we all know once you have one drink and you'll be drunk. Thankfully, you'll only fall asleep when you're drunk. Or else, we wouldn't let you drink."

Father Xiao poured only a little for Qian Yifan.

Xiao Lingye and his friends were still in school, so they couldn't drink alcohol yet.

After the men tasted the wine, they agreed it was better than the white wines sold on the market.

Gu Ziyue had a taste and asked, "Auntie, can you brew more of this wine and sell them to me?"

"Huh?" Mother Xiao was confused. She was startled.

Gu Ziyue explained, "Auntie, I own a hotel. After tasting your wine, I realized that it tastes better than those brand-name wines, so I want to buy them from you. It'll be another feature at my hotel."

Xiao Lingye added, "Mom, Gu Ziyue owns one of the biggest hotels in the county town. We're supplying him with our vegetables now."

Mother Xiao smiled. "Auntie is happy that President Gu likes my wine, but Ziyue, how much do you need? Do you have desperate need of them? I still have some bottles in storage. Why don't you bring some back with you and check for feedback? What do you think?"

Gu Ziyue thought about it. "That's wonderful! Thank you, Auntie!"

Gu Ziyue really liked Auntie Xiao's home-brewed wine, but he didn't know how his clients would react to it because they weren't branded. Therefore, some samples to get feedback would be perfect.

The guests and hosts enjoyed themselves to the fullest.

The weather was hot at noon. After food, most villagers would rest and then return to work around 2 or 3 pm.

However, Zheng Haiyang and his friends were knocked out from the wine. Therefore, Mother Xiao arranged for them to rest in Xiao Lingye's room and the guestroom.

Xiao Lingyu and the rest went back out to work at 3 pm. Mother Xiao stayed behind to watch over the drunk men.

Ning Weiyi giggled.. "I don't know what my brothers are doing. They said they'd come to help, but all they did was to get drunk! They will never hear the end of this from me, I swear! Haha!"

Chapter 140: The News of the Scumbag

The peanuts and soybeans were planted. The drunken men eventually got up and moved to the fields to help.

The last thing to do was plant the six Mu of vegetables. Xiao Lingyu didn't build a shed for the vegetable fields. The vegetable farm was on her family land, and they were not at the same spot. There was five Fen here, another one Mu there. Other family's lands were mixed in the middle, so in short, it was impossible to set up a shed.

Xiao Lingyu hired people to plant the vegetables for them too. Four Mu of land had been planted, so two Mu of land were left.

Xiao Lingyu and Liu Chunjiao worked at the peanut fields; Father Xiao and Xiao Mingyang were at the soybean field; Mother Xiao was at home cooking. No one was supervising the work at the vegetable fields.

The vegetable fields were different from the sand fields. The soil here was wet. Farmers had to take off their shoes or wear rainboots, or else it would be difficult to walk in the wetlands.

When they arrived at the vegetable fields, Xiao Lingyu told Xiao Lingye, "Little brother, you should take our guests to go play and rest."

Xiao Lingye had no objections. The seven were already extremely tired from planting peanuts and soybeans. They had worked very hard. Furthermore, if they got down into the field, it would dirty their clothes. Their clothes were all branded and expensive. It would be a mess.

Gu Ziyue knew that Xiao Lingyu planted her own vegetables. He assumed they were grown differently since they tasted so well. But now, he realized it was not so different. She was using ordinary methods too. He asked, "Lingyu, how many Mu of land did you plan for the vegetables?"

"Six!" Xiao Lingyu replied.

"Have you found a market channel for them?" Gu Ziyue asked.

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "Not yet."

"Oh!" Gu Ziyue did not ask further.

The men wanted to help, but the women in the field rejected them. One, they were afraid that the men's expensive outfits would be ruined; Two, they had taken the money from the Xiao Family, it would be immoral for them to push their work to the outsiders; Three, they were worried that the men would cause trouble for them with their inexperience.

Planting vegetables was not as simple as planting soybeans and peanuts. Planting vegetables started with transplanting seedlings. This was a delicate job. If they were not careful, the seedlings might break.

The men stood on the ridge of the field for a while before leaving with Xiao Lingyu. Ning Weiyi and his two friends had been to Taoyuan Village, but Gu Ziyue and his gang had not.

Ning Weiyi and his two friends wandered to the other fields, taking in the beautiful view. The boys were curious about everything.

Xiao Lingyu was a good tour guide to Gu Ziyue's group who hadn't been to Taoyuan Village. He showed them many hidden natural groves. The men decided to follow Xiao Lingyu and enjoy the treasures of nature.

After these people left, Xiao Lingyu took off her shoes, rolled up her pants, and waded into the vegetable fields. When the women saw Xiao Lingyu's perfectly fair calves, they gasped. Someone joked, "Lingyu, you're a standout even in the vegetable fields!"

Xiao Lingyu laughed, "Auntie Liu, why would you say that?"

"Look at your tender skin!" Auntie Liu joked. "Has it been around seven years since you last worked the fields?"

Xiao Lingyu thought about it, "I believe so!"

Xiao Lingyu didn't come home much during her university days. Even during summer vacation, she had to work as a market vendor to enter her tuition. She would only come home during the winter vacation. Even so, it was only for a few days. When Xiao Lingyu was in university, she was only studying and working part-time to earn her tuition.

After her graduation, Xiao Lingyu found a job and didn't have a chance to come back home. There were not that many work holidays. The longer one was the Lunar New Year holiday, but even that was only for a few days. It was precious for her to come back home, so naturally, her parents wouldn't have her work the fields.

"It has been seven or eight years." Some of the women sighed. "That's why education is so important. Educated people don't need to work so hard, but they can earn so much money. However, I can't even get my child to pay attention in class."

Everyone was envious of Xiao Zhengyang for raising a university student, and the changes this university student had brought to the Xiao Family were evident to everyone. The poorest family in the village became the richest over twenty years. They started to buy plow machines, contract lands, and so on.

Xiao Lingyu didn't know what the other women were thinking, but she could make an educated guess. However, what they thought didn't affect her. In a way, Xiao Lingyu was paying back the kindness shown to her. She hired the people who had lent her father money to send her to university to start her farm.

"Yu 'Er, are those men your friends?" Chen Lan asked.

Xiao Lingyu chuckled, "Yes, they are my friends. They are also my brother's classmates' cousins and brothers."

"Oh, I didn't know that!" When the other women heard that, they nodded to themselves. Chen Lan smiled, "We thought they were your pursuers, and they'd chased you all the way to Taoyuan Village!"

"Yea, look at these men. They are handsome and young. I heard they drove here too. They must be from a good family."

"Lingyu, you've already broken up from that Chen Family kid. Perhaps it's time to find a new boyfriend." Hu Lanying suggested, "These guys are not bad. You should pick one."

Xiao Lingyu laughed. "Auntie Hu, do you think we're at the livestock market? Can I pick one just like that? They are really just my friends. Plus, they are all from the county town, they're rich. Why would they settle for a country girl like me?"

"What do you mean?" Auntie Hu countered, "Everyone knows that you have a promising future. You went to university and worked in a big city. You are not that different from them."

"That's right." Another Auntie chimed in. "You're not young anymore. It's been a while since that breakup. You should find a good man to marry. Marriage is the responsibility of every woman."

Xiao Lingyu didn't know what to say as the aunties supplied her with endless relationship advice. In the end, she sighed, "Aunties, my heart is already broken by one man, and I am in no hurry to find another!" Even though that damage was from her previous life, she had to use that excuse to stop the Aunties from talking.

The Aunties were silent.

"The kid of the Chen Family is horrible." Chen Lan said indignantly, "He had such a good girlfriend in Lingyu, but he's still not satisfied. He deserved to be stabbed!"

"That's right!" Auntie Hu concurred, "They've been together for ten years. How can he throw that away just like that?"

Xiao Lingyu said, "It's human nature to go for the better choice. I can't blame him for picking our boss' daughter over me."

The women were enraged. "What kind of human nature is that? He is just an ungrateful person. He chose the boss' daughter for his future! What about you? He wasted ten years of your life! He's a real bastard."

At this point, Chen Lan recalled the rumors she heard when she went back to her maiden home at the Chen Family Village. She said, "Lingyu, I just came back from my mom's place a few days ago. Guess what I heard."

"What is it?" Xiao Lingyu asked.

After the incident with the Chen Family members, Xiao Lingyu had stopped paying attention to them.

However, based on her understanding of the Chen Family, she knew they would return to create trouble eventually. Of course, Xiao Lingyu was not afraid. After all, she was not the one in the wrong.

"Chen Lan, why did you hear? Quickly tell us!" Hu Lanying urged.

Chen Lan explained, "The kid was hospitalized, right? However, they couldn't afford the hospital fees and were chased out. Chen Dahua and Lan Erying created fuss at the hospital entrance every day. They claimed that their son worked at a big company and he was a manager there. When he recovered, they would take revenge on the hospital."

Auntie Hu spat. "As if the hospital will be threatened."

The villagers knew what kind of person Chen Dahua and Lan Erying were.

All these years, since their son dated Xiao Lingyu and their son worked in the big city, they looked down on the people from Taoyuan Village. Whenever they were free, they would come to borrow money from Xiao Zhengyang, but they would never return the money.

At the time, Xiao Zhengyang and his wife didn't want to trouble their daughter. Therefore, to appease the Chen Family, they would borrow the money every time. They didn't tell Xiao Lingyu about this, and they didn't once ask the Chen Family to return the borrowed money.

They detested the greedy nature of Chen Ran's parents.

Chen Lan continued, "Of course, the hospital was not threatened. The Chen Family didn't own the hospital, so what if the kid was the manager of a big company. Could he make the hospital go bankrupt?"

At this point, Chen Lan hesitated.

"Chen Lan, is there something else?" Auntie Hu noticed Chen Lan's expression, and she asked.

Chen Lan thought about it and said, "I heard the kid is now paralyzed. He can't leave the bed. If he doesn't find the treatment soon, he might be paralyzed for the rest of his life!"

"What?" The women were surprised. Even Xiao Lingyu was shocked. A stab caused paralysis?

"Is it real or not?" Hu Lanying was suspicious.

Chen Lan shook her head. "I don't know.. That's the rumors I heard."

