

Chapter 171: Reminiscence

When Gong Tianhao helped Old Master Gong to Xiao Lingyu's house, he was surprised to see that their house was filled with flowers and plants.

In his memory, no one in the countryside would have the leisure to plant flowers in their courtyard. Most of them would plant small vegetables for more income. More importantly, the flowers at the Xiao Family were well taken care of.

"Wait, this is giant crinum lily!" The old master saw a pot of flowers, and he was exceptionally excited. "This is a waste of God's gift to plant them here just like that."

It was just five or six in the afternoon. The sky was bright. The old master was not blind. At a glance, he saw the many different flowers in the yard.

"This is the orchid, sword-leaved cymbidium!

"And this here is the chrysanthemum, Si Zang Zhu Lian!"

The old master was excited when he saw these expensive flowers. However, his heart ached because these precious flowers were placed so casually in the yard or on the wall. But to his surprise, they were raised so well.

Xiao Zhengyang saw how excited Old Master Gong was, and he was confused, "Sir, what are you talking about? We, the village folks, don't know anything about flowers. We picked them from the mountain, and some were abandoned by others."

When Old Master Gong heard this, he sighed. This family had such good luck. They went up the mountain to pick some random flowers, and they were so of such precious varieties.

Old Master Gong asked curiously, "Does your family like flowers that much?"

Xiao Zhengyang smiled, "My Yu 'Er has liked flowers since she was young. When she saw beautiful flowers in the mountains, she would dig them up. When she went around the village and saw flowers other families threw away, she would pick them back to plant. Strangely enough, she was able to raise all the plants from death. The villagers called her the flower goddess jokingly."

Old Master Gong asked with great interest, "So you let your daughter plant all these because she likes flowers?" In the countryside, the villagers relied on the land to survive. The work was long and tiring. During the high season, even children had to go down to the field to help. Farmers normally wouldn't allow their children to waste time on useless hobbies like raising flowers. So, Old Master Gong could tell immediately that this family was different.

When Xiao Zhengyang heard Old Master Gong's question, he said seriously, "Sir, this is a child's hobby. We parents naturally have to support it!"

Xiao Zhengyang was very open-minded. Other families would do everything to control their children, but Father Xiao and Mother Xiao didn't share that philosophy. As long as their children didn't do anything bad or illegal, they wouldn't stop them. In fact, they would support them.

"Haha..." Old Master Gong laughed loudly in a good mood. "You're right."

'This whole family is very interesting.'

"Lingyu, I didn't expect your parents to be so open-minded!" Jiang Tao told Xiao Lingyu. But when he turned around, he noticed that Xiao Lingyu's face was a little pale, and her entire body was trembling. He immediately asked with concern, "Lingyu, What's Wrong?"

Jiang Tao's words immediately attracted the attention of others.

Xiao Zhengyang noticed his daughter was not acting right, and he moved to ask, "Yu 'Er, are you alright? Are you not feeling well?"

Xiao Lingyu was jolted awake by Jiang Tao's words. When she came back to her senses, she met Father Xiao's worried gaze. Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "Dad, I'm fine."

"Yu 'Er, your face looks pale. Are you really fine?" Father Xiao said worriedly, "If you're not feeling well, you should go back to your room and rest."

"But..." Xiao Lingyu looked at the people in the courtyard and hesitated. As the host, she couldn't just abandon the guest. Plus, Jiang Tao, Li Yuanhang, and Gong Tianhao were technically her guests.

Old Master Gong said, "Girl, if you don't feel so well, you should go rest."

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, "I'm sorry, Sir. Forgive me for my rudeness. I'll need to retire first."

"Of course. You should rest if you're not feeling well." Old Master Gong said politely. "We are the ones disturbing anyway."

Xiao Lingyu returned to her room.

Li Yuanhang and Gong Tianhao were a little confused.

When they saw Xiao Lingyu this morning, she was energetic and full of energy. However, after seeing Gong Tianhao, her condition became very abnormal. After seeing Old Master Gong, her condition worsened.

Of course, they didn't ask Xiao Lingyu. Plus, Jiang Tao was there.

As soon as Xiao Lingyu returned to her room, she immediately locked the door. She leaned against the door, tears streaming down the corners of her eyes.

'So, is that why those things happened in my previous life?'

At that time, she didn't understand why Lan Hongxing suddenly brought people to their house. They snatched the valuable furniture and most of the flowers and plants in the yard.

Her brother and father fought with them, but they were outnumbered. Father Xiao was beaten until he vomited blood, while her brother's leg was directly broken.

By then, the Chen Family had already sucked the Xiao Family dry. The Xiao Family had no savings left, and they had racked up a lot of debt.

Father Xiao was heavily injured, and Xiao Lingye's leg was broken. Mother Xiao went around borrowing money, but no one dared to borrow her any money. Mother Xiao pleaded with her maiden family, but the money she got was not enough to heal two seriously injured men. The hospital wouldn't treat them without money.

Grandpa Xiao and the others received the news and rushed back. When they saw this situation, they were angry, anxious, and distressed. The family didn't say anything else and immediately raised the money and paid the medical expenses.

However, it was already too late by then. Father Xiao and Brother Xiao were left to deal with lingering side effects. Father Xiao had injured his head and lungs. From time to time, he would have a headache and cough. Every time, it sounded like he was going to hack his lungs out.

Xiao Lingyu's little brother limped as he walked. It became his lifelong disability.

Speaking of, Xiao Lingyu owed her little brother, Xiao Lingye, a lot.

In his previous life, Xiao Lingyu's return from City Z affected Xiao Lingye greatly. He performed badly during the university entrance exam. He had not even reached the mark of a second-tier college.

Father and Mother Xiao wanted Xiao Lingye to repeat his students and retake the exam. However, during this repeat year, Xiao Lingye's leg was broken, and he became disabled.

Xiao Lingye was devastated. He gave up and became extremely dispirited.

It was Grandpa Xiao who came to his rescue. He reminded Xiao Lingye that the whole family was now relying on him. If he gave up, who was going to protect his family? Was he going to allow the Chen Family to bully them forever?

A person could be physically deficient but not mentally deficient.

"Ye 'Er, if you throw in the towel, do you plan to watch your mother support this house on her own?" Grandpa Xiao was a very wise person. He was still alive, and with his orders, his other sons would help his second son. However, if his second son's family refused to bounce back, once Grandpa Xiao was gone, his other sons would have objections.

Even if his other sons didn't say anything, for now, Grandpa Xiao knew that resentment was already bubbling among his daughters-in-law and grandchildren. For the sake of family harmony, he needed to make sure that his second son's family rose from this tribulation.

Ever since Grandpa Xiao came back home, the Xiao Family did become more peaceful. The Chen Family still came to cause trouble, but they were all chased away by Grandpa Xiao and Grandma Xiao.

Grandpa Xiao said directly, "If you want to cause trouble, then let's go to City Z to cause trouble.

"Didn't you say my Yu 'Er betray that Chen Ran and thus owe you guys? Alright then, let's go to City Z to confront Chen Ran. We'll know the truth then.

“Since your Chen Ran is already married, why do you still come to my second son’s place to find problems? You used all kinds of excuses to ask for compensation and even injure people.

“Chen Dahua, Lan Erying, don’t think I don’t know what you’re planning. Fine, if you want to make a scene, then let’s make a big scene. Get Chen Ran to come back. If he doesn’t want to come back, we’ll go find him.

“Ten years of love, and he won’t be satisfied until his former lover’s family is ruined? All the while, he is living in luxury with his new wife.”

Chen Dahua and Lan Erying were shocked by Grandpa Xiao’s threat to find Chen Ran in City Z.

Why? Because they were guilty.

Chapter 172: Remembering the past

At first, Chen Ran’s parents really thought Xiao Lingyu had really betrayed Chen Ran, especially when they found out Xiao Lingyu was pregnant with an illegitimate child.

But later, they went to City Z and lived with Chen Ran and his wife for a period of life. Due to cultural differences, the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law could not tolerate each other. Zhao Wenman especially despised her mother-in-law and father-in-law. She felt that they were dirty, smelly, and slovenly. They were no different from beggars.

Lan Erying still believed her son was the best man in the world. She was proud that he had married the daughter of a rich man. However, in her mindset, after a woman was married, she should serve her husband and his family.

As the mother-in-law, Lan Erying put on airs. From time to time, she would pick on Zhao Wenman and make her do the laundry and cook for her husband.

Zhao Wenman was not someone who would submit to others. Moreover, she did not like her mother-in-law. Because of that, they quarreled every day. Neither of them was satisfied with the other.

However, when Lan Erying heard the secret about Xiao Lingyu’s pregnancy, she thought she could use it to control Zhao Wenman.

Unexpectedly, Zhao Wenman did not even change her expression and threatened to chase her parents-in-law away. She even warned them that if they were to tell anyone about this, she would make them lose everything. She would make Chen Ran lose everything and turn him into a beggar.

Of course, Chen Dahua and Lan Erying did not take it seriously.

In their mind, since Zhao Wenman was married to Chen Ran. Everything at the Zhao Family naturally belonged to the Chen Family. She didn’t have the power to threaten them.

This time, Chen Ran finally said something. He sided with his wife and chased his parents home. He said, “Mom, Dad, I’ll tell you the truth. I’m the one who married into the Zhao Family. The Zhao Family can really make us lose everything. Do you want me to go back to that poor village?”

When Chen Dahua and Lan Erying heard that their son was the lowlier party in the marriage, they were shocked and furious. They raised their son so well, not to give him as a present to the Zhao Family but to continue the lineage of the Chen Family. If the Chen Village people found out that Chen Ran's child would have the Zhao surname, they would mock them relentlessly.

"No, you can't do this!" Lan Erying cried and begged, "Son, what will happen to us in the future? Who will provide for us?"

Chen Ran said, "Dad, Mom, don't worry. No one will know the truth as long as you don't say anything. Also, I'll send you a sum of money every month. You should go back."

Lan Erying and Chen Dahua did not want to leave. How could they bear to part with the big and beautiful house with many maids serving them? However, Zhao Wenman had made it clear that if they did not go back, they would not send them any money from now on.

If they returned, they would still get 10,000 RMB every month.

Only then did Chen Dahua and Lan Erying leave City Z unwillingly and sadly.

Therefore, when they heard that Grandpa Xiao wanted to bring people to City Z, they felt guilty.

They were afraid that the truth of Chen Ran being the live-in son-in-law of the Xiao Family would be exposed. And they would lose face.

They were also afraid that the Xiao Family would find out the truth behind how Chen Ran and his wife had schemed against Xiao Lingyu.

They came to make trouble often because they wanted to remind everyone that Xiao Lingyu had betrayed Chen Ran and to remind themselves that their son was right. They were right, and Xiao Lingyu was wrong. They would only be happy when the Xiao Family was suffering.

Therefore, Chen Dahua and Lan Erying did not dare let the Xiao family go to City Z.

Finally, peace came to the Xiao Family.

Xiao Lingye also pulled himself together. He listened to his grandfather's words and repeated his studies.

Next year, he was admitted to the Capital University with the best result in science in Southern China.

His leg was broken, but his mind and determination were not. People would laugh and mock him occasionally, but more often than not, people admired him. Furthermore, Xiao Lingye was good-looking and kind-hearted, so many people were willing to make friends with him.

Xiao Lingye was also smart and good at socializing. He also had a good mind for business.

The next year, Xiao Lingye and a few of his classmates set up a network technology company in Beijing. The company was already big in its third year. Its assets exceeded 10 million. Moreover, the company had a bright future and attracted many investors.

When the company grew to a certain size, there was some internal strife. Some of the investors had issues with Xiao Lingye because he had a lot of shares even though he didn't contribute any starting

capital. Xiao Lingye provided all the technical background and setup, but they didn't think that should allow him to own so many shares. So they worked together to annex Xiao Lingye's shares.

When Xiao Lingye discovered this, he sold his company shares in time and left the company.

Their friendship was broken!

After Xiao Lingye's departure, the company lacked inspiration and leadership. Eventually, it imploded.

After Xiao Lingye graduated from university, he was directly hired by a large group in Beijing as the CEO. He became the youngest genius who started from scratch.

He was only 23 years old!

All the major financial news media rushed to report it!

At that time, Xiao Lingye was the inspiration for many young people. Most people forgot about his injuries. However, Xiao Lingye would always remember how his family was almost forced to the brink of destruction.

With his newfound power, Xiao Lingye had people reinvestigate the case of his sister's fall from grace. After years of experience, Xiao Lingye saw the problems immediately.

To be fair, his sister should have noticed the flaws in the story too. But she was too trapped in shame and guilt to notice the truth. Or perhaps, she was trying to convince herself that she was wrong because she didn't dare to face the cruel truth.

Xiao Lingye was very powerful then. He could protect his family easily. If something like this happened again, he would strike back. Just as Xiao Lingye found out the truth, Xiao Tong fell ill. It was a serious illness. Xiao Lingye didn't dare bring up the truth. It was not the time to do it.

Until Xiao Lingyu was reborn, she had no idea that her brother had already found out the truth.

But this was no longer important.

Because Xiao Lingyu had found out the truth too!

When Lan Hongxing sent people to smash her things, steal her flowers, and even hurt his father and brother, she was jolted awake. She knew that if she continued to waste her life like this, she would worry her family and be a huge disappointment to them. She knew she had to pick herself back up.

Xiao Lingyu's rationality returned. When she analyzed the situation, she suspected the cruel and heartless truth behind it. She was caught between rationality and emotions. In the end, she decided to investigate the truth!

She would thoroughly investigate the matter!

But she was already pregnant at the time. Her family was afraid that she would do something stupid, so they watched over her tightly. She couldn't go to City Z to question Chen Ran. Therefore, she waited in peace.

When the Xiao Family noticed the change in Xiao Lingyu, they sighed in relief. They felt comforted.

Three months later, Xiao Lingyu gave birth to a child. It was a boy.

However, Xiao Lingyu hated him very much. After giving birth to him, she did not even look at him.

On the day of the child's first month, everyone celebrated the happy occasion. No one paid attention to Xiao Lingyu because the star was Xiao Tong. Xiao Lingyu wrote a note and left home.

The note told her family not to worry. She just wanted to go back to work, and she would call home after she settled down.

Mother Xiao was furious when she saw the note, but there was nothing she could do. She wished she could go to City Z to drag her daughter back home. However, she couldn't leave!

Father Xiao was still suffering from the aftermath of being beaten up. Xiao Lingyu was devastated by his leg injury. On top of that, they had a screaming baby.

How could she leave?

After Xiao Lingyu returned to City Z, she was unable to find a job.

It was because many company bosses had heard of her name. In order not to offend the Huiqing group, these companies did not dare to hire her.

She didn't have enough experience to work for companies more powerful than Huiqing Group. It was impossible for her to find an easy job.

Xiao Lingyu gritted her teeth and went to work as a cleaner in a big company.

There was an accident one day. The general manager was negotiating with a foreign delegate, and the translator was missing. Xiao Lingyu volunteered to help. At first, no one believed that a cleaner could actually understand a foreign language.

However, when Xiao Lingyu conversed in a fluent foreign language, the general manager hired Xiao Lingyu to be the company translator on the spot. Thanks to Xiao Lingyu's outstanding performance, the negotiation was very successful.

The general manager admired Xiao Lingyu's talent and transferred her to the foreign investment department. Xiao Lingyu proved to be an outstanding worker. In half a year, she was promoted from a normal translator to a team leader at the foreign investment department. Three years later, she was the director of the foreign investment department.

Xiao Lingyu was becoming more and more famous in the industry.

Some people were envious, while others were jealous.

Gradually, there were rumors in the industry that Xiao Lingyu had slept with an old man for the sake of her future. She then betrayed her lover of ten years and even gave birth to an illegitimate child. So why should she be given a chance in this industry?

By then, Xiao Lingyu was strong enough to ignore all these rumors. Her actions spoke louder than words.

The general manager of the company had always believed in Xiao Lingyu and admired her style of doing things. He did not believe in those rumors at all.

Therefore, Xiao Lingyu's position was stable.

Some people wanted to seek a better future from the Huiqing Group. When they heard that Xiao Lingyu was doing well at a big company, they wanted to curry favor with her. They fed her the rumors they heard about Chen Ran, Zhao Wenman, and Xiao Lingyu from way back then.

Only then did Xiao Lingyu confirm that it was Chen ran who betrayed her first and got together with Zhao Wenman. To not bear the bad reputation, he teamed up with Zhao Wenman to set her up.

When she heard the truth, she was furious.

After she calmed down, she chose to take revenge.

However, before she could take revenge on that bastard, her family called her and told her that Little Tong was dying. As the mother, she should come back to see her son for one last time.

When she received the call, her head spun, and she fainted.

Chapter 173: Xiao Tong's Regrets: Hug from his Mother

It could be said that Xiao Lingyu and Xiao Lingye's fates changed after the Xiao Family was smashed, robbed, injured, and crippled.

That was the end of their family's bad luck and also the twist in their fate.

Those who were not strong would always be bullied.

Therefore, Xiao Lingye became stronger, and so did Xiao Lingyu. However, no one expected the end of Xiao Tong's life.

When Xiao Lingyu rushed back, she did not even get to see Xiao Tong one last time. Mother Xiao was so angry that she hit, scolded, and scolded her.

Xiao Lingyu cried her heart out, filled with regret.

So what? Xiao Tong was still dead.

Before Xiao Tong left, he wanted to see his mother the most, but he didn't get that wish. He lay in the hospital bed. His small eyes kept looking at the door, not daring to miss anything.

His grandmother told him that his mother would come back to see him. When his mother returned, she would definitely give him a good hug. Xiao Tong missed his mother, and he wanted his mother to hug him. After he got that hug, he could leave in peace.

But he failed to persist until his mother's return. He left with deep regret.

...

Xiao Lingyu's tears fell like rain.

She slowly sat on the ground and leaned against the door. Her entire body trembled, and she was heartbroken.

So what if she had her own career later on?

So what if she had the ability to take revenge?

Xiao Tong was gone forever. Xiao Tong only wanted his mother's hug, but Xiao Lingyu didn't even once glance at him. It was not until Xiao Tong's death that Xiao Lingyu understood her mistake. Xiao Tong was the most innocent party.

However, she placed all the blame on Xiao Tong. She treated him like he was the source of all her despair. This was the cruelest thing she could do as a mother. Xiao Tong's death carried both Xiao Tong and Xiao Lingyu's regret.

Therefore, after her rebirth, Xiao Lingyu was merciless with her revenge. However, she was also anxious about Xiao Tong's arrival. Ever since her rebirth, Xiao Lingyu had been controlling herself not to think so much about her previous life.

However, when Old Master Gong mentioned those flowers, it triggered her memories.

Before Old Master Gong arrived, Xiao Lingyu thought Lan Hongxing snatched those flowers just to annoy the Xiao Family. But now she understood, Lan Hongxing or someone behind him had seen through the value of the flowers and had Lan Hongxing steal all of them.

After Lan Hongxing left, the Xiao Family called the police. However, the police refused to start a file. Then, the Xiao Family went to the county police station and demanded that they arrest the Lan Family for intentional injury, smashing, robbery. Similarly, no one paid attention to them. They said they wouldn't handle village conflict and chased them away.

Now that she thought about it, Xiao Lingyu realized the person who told Lan Hongxing to steal the flowers must have connections with the county police.

Lan Hongxing's father knew the deputy chief of Xing An City's police station, so it was understandable that they were chased away there. However, what about the police at Xing Yin County? Grandpa Xiao had some connection there, but even so, they couldn't do anything to the Lan Family.

There had to be a reason behind this. The reason was clear to Xiao Lingyu now. The person who wanted the flowers was someone with a powerful status. The Xiao Family had no choice but to suffer the pain back then. This meant that the Xiao Family had an enemy that they hadn't even seen yet.

This enemy fancied her family's flowers. If they had come to ask with sincerity, Father and Mother Xiao might have given them the flowers for free. Instead, the person sent people to smash the house and injure Father Xiao and Brother Xiao. After that, they controlled the police force so that the Xiao Family couldn't lodge a case.

Xiao Lingyu's eyes sharpened. She had dealt with the Chen Family and Zhao Family. Both Chen Ran and Zhao Wenman were done for. As for this unknown flower snatcher, Xiao Lingyu would wait patiently. If they tried the same method as from her previous life, she would make sure they would be punished by law this time.

“Yu ‘Er, what’s wrong? Are you alright?” Suddenly, there was a knock on the door. Liu Chunhua asked with concern, “I think I heard crying. Are you okay?”

When Liu Chunhua heard from Xiao Xiaohui that Xiao Lingyu was not feeling well, she immediately ran over to take a look.

Just as she was about to knock on the door, she seemed to hear a faint cry.

At first, she thought that she had heard wrongly. However, after listening for a moment, she was sure that she did not hear wrongly.

Xiao Lingyu was startled. She quickly wiped her tears and tried her best to sound normal as she said, “Fourth aunt, I’m fine. I’m not crying. You heard wrong!”

She was too immersed in her reminiscence that she forgot there were many people outside the door. Try as she might, her voice was still hoarse from crying.

Liu Chunhua frowned. “Yu ‘Er, you don’t sound well. Open the door and let fourth aunt take a look.” Liu Chunhua was very concerned about Xiao Lingyu. She needed to see Xiao Lingyu to be at ease.

Xiao Lingyu couldn’t open the door due to the tear stains on her face. She said, “Fourth Aunt, I’m really fine. We have many guests, and they’re my friends. I’m not feeling well, so I can’t entertain them. Can you help me instead?”

Hearing how stubborn Xiao Lingyu was, Liu Chunhua sighed. She couldn’t really barge into the room. She said, “Okay, I’ll go serve the guests then. Remember that Fourth Aunt is always here for you, okay?”

“Thank you.” Xiao Lingyu nodded.

After Liu Chunhua left, Xiao Lingyu secretly heaved a sigh of relief.

She was a little surprised that her fourth aunt’s ears were so sensitive.

What Xiao Lingyu did not know was Liu Chunhua was not the only one with sensitive ears.

The black-clothed men, Gong Tianhao and Jiang Tao, who had received training, could all hear the faint sobbing. Even though Xiao Lingyu didn’t cry so hard and there was a door between them, they could still hear her sobbing.

Gong Tianhao and Jiang Tao frowned.

Could it be that Xiao Lingyu was frightened by the assassination this morning? Had she been holding back her tears? But why would she cry now?

They were a little puzzled.

Especially Gong Tianhao.

This was because every time Xiao Lingyu acted strange, it was all related to him. During the rear-end collision, Xiao Lingyu deliberately tried to sneak a look at him; during the assassination incident, a shocked expression flashed across her eyes when Xiao Lingyu saw his face; and after that, when she saw her grandfather, Xiao Lingyu’s face turned pale, and she lost her composure.

Now, she ran to her room to cry. It was when his grandfather mentioned the flowers that she became like this. Why?

Gong Tianhao didn't know why, but he wanted to ask. However, he saw Jiang Tao beside him. He was not going to steal from his friend!

He suppressed that impulse.

Jiang Tao also furrowed his brows tightly at Xiao Lingyu's crying, and a faint worry appeared on his face.

As for those men in black, their mission was to protect the Old Master Gong. They didn't care about the rest.

Xiao Zhengyang invited Old Master Gong to the dining table. He didn't know his daughter was crying.

Old Master Gong continued, "Zhengyang, you are so lucky. You randomly pick some flowers, and they are extremely precious. You manage to raise them well too."

"Old Master, please take a seat!" Xiao Zhengyang asked Old Master Gong to sit down and asked curiously, "Sir, the flowers that you mentioned, are they that precious?"

Old Master Gong nodded. "That's right. Take, for example, that pot of giant crinum lily, and it can sell for 5000 RMB on the flower market."

Xiao Zhengyang's hand trembled. "What? 5000 RMB? Is it that expensive?" He only spent 10 RMB on buying that pot of plant. It overturned his understanding of flowers.

"Yes." Old Master Gong nodded. "And that is considered cheap already. Do you see that pot of sword-leaved cymbidium? It can be sold for 50000 to 80000 RMB."

Xiao Zhengyang, "... " Yu 'Er dug that back from the mountain.

"And Si Zang Zhu Lian is a precious chrysanthemum flower. It can sell for 20,000 to 30,000!"

"..." Xiao Zhengyang. This was something people didn't want, and Ye 'Er brought it home.

When Xiao Zhengyang and the village chief heard this, they sucked in a deep breath. So, Xiao Zhengyang had flowers worth hundreds of thousands in his yard? They should be thankful that no one knew the values of these flowers, or they would be robbed a long time ago.

"Zhengyang, you have hundreds of thousands just placed around your courtyard?" The village chief said in shock.

Hundreds of thousands. Most villagers wouldn't earn that in their lifetime. The village chief had no idea that these flowers that the villagers normally threw away would be worth so much.

Xiao Zhengyang was shocked for a moment before he quickly recovered. He smiled bitterly and said, "I didn't know that these flowers were so valuable. Yu 'Er planted them because they looked pretty."

"That's why I said your luck is really good. Haha!" Old Master Gong laughed. Then, he saw another flower pot, and he asked curiously, "Hmm, what kind of flower is this? The flowers are white. Are they

strawberries? But I haven't seen such a large strawberry flower before." Old Master Gong pointed at a flower pot.

"Old Master, you have good eyesight. This is a strawberry plant!" Xiao Zhengyang said, "In a few days, it will bear fruit. We'll send some to Old Master for a taste!"

"Thank you then!" Old Master Gong said bluntly, "Your family is really good at planting flowers and plants. Even your strawberries are different from others."

"Grandpa, let's eat first!" Gong Tianhao suddenly interrupted.

Gong Tianhao smelled the food on the table and instantly felt his stomach rumbling. He also heard the rumbling from other people's stomachs. However, his grandfather was too excited, talking about flowers. Since he didn't move his chopsticks, the rest didn't dare to.

After being reminded by Gong Tianhao, the old man immediately paid attention to the food on the table and smelled the fragrance.

"What a fragrant smell!" Old Master Gong couldn't help but praise.

Li Yuanhang almost drooled when he smelled the dishes. He added, "Old Master, Auntie Chen's dishes are really delicious! Try them!"

"Okay!" Old Master Gong picked up his chopsticks and picked up a piece of cabbage. As soon as he put it in his mouth, he couldn't help but praise, "They are really delicious. Everyone, let's eat."

Other than the village chief who was reserved, the others couldn't hold it in any longer. They immediately picked up their chopsticks.

Although Jiang Tao was worried about Xiao Lingyu, since she didn't come out, he couldn't do anything either. He couldn't ask to go to her room, could he?

Therefore, he turned his powerlessness into appetite and joined the food fight. He was targeting Gong Tianhao and Li Yuanhang. He would follow their chopsticks everywhere they went.

Li Yuanhang had missed and waited for the food from Auntie Chen for a long time. Young Master Jiang blocked him and snatched the food away from him. Li Yuanhang was too cultured and polite to compete with the barbarian, Jiang Tao. So he placed his hopes on Gong Tianhao. Only Gong Tianhao could deal with Jiang Tao.

Gong Tianhao had been waiting for as long as Li Yuanhang. He missed these ordinary yet delicious home-cooked meals.

However, because of Xiao Lingyu's crying, he felt distracted and frustrated. He turned his frustration into a fighting spirit. He fought Jiang Tao for food.

Seeing that Jiang Tao kept snatching the dishes from him, he didn't want to be outdone and snatched them back.

The people of Taoyuan Village had no idea what was going on.

Old Master Gong and his subordinates turned a blind eye to this scene as if they were already used to it.

Mother Xiao cooked two tables of dishes because she knew they were going to have guests.

There were twelve dishes at each table. There were meat and vegetables: pork with preserved vegetables, beef brisket stewed with radish, braised pork trotters, boiled beef slices, chopped fish head with pepper, stir-fried meat with green peppers, beer duck, eggplant pot, mushroom soup with old hen, stir-fried cabbage, stir-fried spinach, cold cucumber.

Mother Xiao was afraid of making too little, so she made extra. Every plate was filled to the brim.

However, even so, in less than two minutes, the three pots of rice in the rice cooker were almost gone, and so did all the plates.

The five men in black were fast eaters. Each of them ate as much as three men.

Mother Xiao underestimated them.. She had no idea these people had such big appetites.

Chapter 174: Li Yuanhang's Reminder

Mother Xiao knew these people could eat, but she had no idea they could eat so much! They ate so fast that Mother Xiao had to cook another pot of rice.

“Mother Xiao, there’s no need to cook anymore.” Old Master Gong saw this and quickly stopped her. “They should be full already. You’ve been busy all day. Come sit down and eat!” If his people were not full, they would go back and eat. They had boxes of instant noodles at home!

Mother Xiao looked at her guests who put down their bowls, and she said hesitantly, “But...”

“Auntie, we’re full!” The men at the table said in unison. They wiped their mouths. The eldest young master and Secretary Li weren’t lying to them. Auntie Chen’s cooking was really delicious.

It would be great if they could eat it every day in the future!

But was it possible?

Maybe it was possible!

The five people’s hearts suddenly surged.

Their mission was to keep the old man safe. With the old master’s picky taste and thick skin, if he really likes Auntie Chen’s food, he would hire her to cook for him every day. When the old master came to the Xiao Family to eat, they would follow him.

However, there was another problem. Five of them were tasked to escort the old master to Taoyuan Village, but only two would remain to protect him. Before they arrived, none of them wanted to stay at Taoyuan Village. It was not that they didn’t want to protect their general, but they knew the place would be too peaceful. They were soldiers, and they couldn’t get used to a peaceful life. They hoped to return to the battlefield and fight alongside their comrades.

However, after eating this meal, they changed their minds.

Old Master Gong also ate this dinner very happily and contentedly. Before this, he heard from Li Yuanhang and Gong Tianhao that there was an Auntie who was an amazing cook. They said he would love her cooking after he had a taste. Old Master Gong had to admit it was true.

Mother Xiao's cooking skills were not the best he had seen, and she was not as professional as the chefs in the capital city. However, the dishes she made had a great taste. This taste was home and love. She poured her love into her every dish. Everyone who ate them would be wrapped in love.

Old Master Gong noticed that this family was one filled with love and harmony. Old Master Gong spent most of his life in the capital. The first half was on the battlefield, dancing around life and death. In the second half, he was honored for his service, but he lost his wife, son, and daughter-in-law in an accident. He only had a young grandson left. However, due to the busy schedule of a military officer, he ignored his eldest grandson.

If not for the accidental discovery of his grandson's injury, he would never have known his second brother's family would be so cold-blooded and heartless. For the sake of the Gong Family's wealth and power, they had been trying to kill his eldest grandson.

When he found out, he was exceptionally furious. He went to his second brother's house to give him a warning. From then on, Old Master Gong brought his eldest grandson everywhere with him. However, he could never give his grandson the feeling and warmth of a family. The battlefield was not a place for that.

Now, Old Master Gong understood why his picky grandson had such high praise of Mother Xiao's cooking. Her cooking tasted of a mother's love. Old Master Gong felt he owed his eldest grandson. At this point, Old Master Gong smiled and said, "Mother Xiao, your cooking is really delicious!"

Mother Xiao smiled and said, "Old Master, you flatter me! My cooking is only average!"

"You're really too modest!" Old Master Gong smiled and said, "Zhengyang, you're really lucky to have such a capable wife!"

Xiao Zhengyang was still in a state of shock due to the flowers. When he heard Old Master Gong's words, he snapped to attention and said, "Yes, it's my good luck to marry such a wonderful wife!"

Xiao Zhengyang never concealed his respect and love for his wife. In this family, he never acted like the ruler and thought marriage was for the sake of having children. He didn't think his wife was born to help around the house and take care of the family on her own. Xiao Zhengyang had a positive outlook on life, so his family was filled with love and happiness. No matter how big the storm was, the family would be able to survive it.

Xiao Zhengyang said proudly and contentedly, "Not only is my wife capable, but she has also given birth to a pair of good children for me!"

Mother Xiao blushed when Xiao Zhengyang praised her so openly. She said with a smile. "What nonsense are you talking about in front of the elder?"

Xiao Zhengyang said seriously, "I'm not talking nonsense!"

"Haha..." Old Master Gong burst into laughter.

Li Yuanhang poked Gong Tianhao and said with a smile full of envy, "Auntie Chen and her husband are so cute!"

They had seen many loving couples in the capital. They were often hailed as the model couples on the news. However, everyone knew that the husband and wife had their own flings on the side. Gong Tianhao and the others didn't comment too much on it.

When they saw this pair of simple love, it made them feel envious. There were many women around the two young men. They were daughters of socialites. They wanted to give themselves to Gong Tianhao and Li Yuanhang. But both men knew that the women only saw them for their money and power. If they lost those things, would the women still love them? Impossible.

Li Yuanhang glanced at Gong Tianhao and said deliberately, "If Young Master Jiang can win over Miss Xiao, this will be the life he'd lead."

As soon as he said this, two pairs of eyes glanced at him.

One was Gong Tianhao. When his sharp eyes shot at him, he seemed to be a little dissatisfied. However, what was he dissatisfied with? No one knew.

The other was, of course, Jiang Tao. He seemed to have made up his mind.

Gong Tianhao glanced at Jiang Tao and also noticed the change in his expression.

He frowned and finally asked, "Tao, did you and Miss Xiao have any misunderstanding or conflict?"

Jiang Tao smiled bitterly and said, "Actually, you're not wrong. We do have a misunderstanding between us!"

Gong Tianhao and Li Yuanhang nodded with understanding. Gong Tianhao thought for a moment and reminded, "Since that is the case, you better clear it up as soon as possible!"

"I know!" Jiang Tao finally met a woman who could move him. He didn't want to miss out on her.

Li Yuanhang looked at Jiang Tao and then at Gong Tianhao. He opened his mouth and wanted to say something, but in the end, he didn't say anything.

He just sighed in his heart and said in puzzlement, 'Am I wrong? Didn't Young Master Gong fall in love with Xiao Lingyu at first sight? Oh well, it's hard for outsiders to do anything about these things. Hopefully, the young master can figure it out soon so that the old master can have a great-grandchild.'

Li Yuanhang didn't think Xiao Lingyu was worthy of Jiang Tao or Gong Tianhao. However, Xiao Lingyu had such a great charm that she made the two greatest bachelors at Beijing fall in love with her.

However, Li Yuanhang also worried for Jiang Tao.

This was because the Jiang family would never allow Jiang Tao to marry a woman who had no status and would bring no benefits to the family. He had heard that the Jiang Family had already prepared a fiancée for Jiang Tao. They were only waiting for Jiang Tao to come home. Then they would hold the engagement ceremony.

However, this was only hearsay. The Jiang family had not spread the news. They didn't even know if Jiang Tao knew that or not.

Thinking of this, Li Yuanhang frowned.

If Jiang Tao knew he already had a fiancée in the capital and still pursued Xiao Lingyu, it would be too unfair to Xiao Lingyu. It would even bring trouble to Xiao Lingyu.

If Jiang Tao did not know that his family had found him a fiancée, it would also bring trouble and harm to Xiao Lingyu.

Old Master Jiang was an extremely stubborn person. He didn't like his grandson to go against him.

If he knew that Jiang Tao liked a poor country girl, while he might not do anything to his grandson, he would definitely do something to this girl.

Li Yuanhang knew he had to remind Tianhao and Jiang Tao about this. He didn't want Xiao Lingyu to be harmed by the Jiang Family.

Xiao Lingyu had a nice family, but they would be ruined if they were targeted by the Jiang Family.

...

Everyone enjoyed themselves at the Xiao Family. Old Master Gong left unwillingly after being urged by his grandson.

Gong Tianhao said helplessly, "Grandfather, from now on, you'll be living in Taoyuan Village. Are you afraid that you won't have time to come back?"

Xiao Zhengyang immediately agreed, "Yes, old master. Our family will always welcome you. However, it's getting late now. You should go back to rest. You must be tired after traveling for a whole day!"

Old Master Gong nodded. "That's right. I live here now. I can come and play whenever I want!"

The group left Xiao Zhengyang's house and returned to their own residence.

On the way back, Old Master Gong muttered, "Hao 'Er, you and Yuanhang are really thoughtful. Grandpa really likes this time. I will stay here."

Gong Tianhao said, "Grandpa, I'm glad!" Most importantly, those people couldn't disturb Grandpa anymore, so Grandpa could recuperate and rest.

Old Master Gong slept in the main room. Of the remaining three rooms, one was occupied by the security staff, and the remaining two were used by Jiang Tao, Gong Tianhao, and Li Yuanhang.

Gong Tianhao didn't like to share rooms, and he was the host. So naturally, Gong Tianhao had one room while Li Yuanhang and Jiang Tao shared the other room.

However, apart from the main room, each side room had at least two single beds.

Each room was very spacious. Even with the two single beds, the rooms were large.

Li Yuanhang and Jiang Tao lay in bed.

Li Yuanhang thought about it and couldn't help but ask, "Young Master Jiang, do you really like Xiao Lingyu?"

Jiang Tao frowned and asked with some dissatisfaction, "Yuanhang, are you suspecting me?"

Li Yuanhang shook his head and said, "Young Master Jiang, I'm not suspecting you. I'm just asking, how long has it been since you've inquired about the movements in the capital?"

He did not directly mention the Jiang Family but the capital. He wanted to remind Jiang Tao, but he couldn't be too obvious, or else the Jiang Family might see it as meddling. It would not end well if they found out.

Jiang Tao shot him a sharp gaze. "What do you mean by that?"

Li Yuanhang was certain that Jiang Tao absolutely did not know that the Jiang family had found him a fiancée.

Perhaps the Jiang family thought that this was a fact set in stone, so it did not matter whether they told Jiang Tao or not. They just needed to wait for Jiang Tao to return to the capital and get engaged directly.

For the big families, marriages were used to cement power than the coming together of two lovers. As for the bride and groom, it was perfect if they could fall in love at first sight or eventually. If not, at least they needed to pretend in public.

Li Yuanhang shook his head. "Young Master Jiang, it's nothing."

Jiang Tao didn't believe that Li Yuanhang would bring these up without any reason. Since Li Yuanhang was unable to say more, it had to be because Li Yuanhang couldn't.

The light in Jiang Tao's eyes darkened as he thought to himself, 'Perhaps something has happened in the capital or with the Jiang Family. I need to find time to go back and take a look!'

...

The next morning, Jiang Tao bade farewell to Old Master Gong and returned to the county.

Xiao Lingyu's case of the assassination was still under investigation. He had to go back and personally supervise and investigate. Someone dared to hire a murderer. It was simply ridiculous. If this case weren't investigated, it would definitely cause people to panic.

Gong Tianhao and Li Yuanhang didn't have the time to stay and enjoy the beautiful scenery of Taoyuan Village with Old Master Gong.

"Grandpa, we're going back. You have to take good care of yourself and take care of your health, understand?" Gong Tianhao urged, "There's a river around the village. Have Brother Wang accompany you to go fishing or walk around the village if you're free."

Old Master Gong waved his hand and said impatiently, "Alright, I got it. I'm not a child. I know how to take care of myself. You guys should hurry back."

"..." Gong Tianhao continued, "Grandfather, I'll come and visit you when I have more time in the future."

“Okay. I know you’re very busy, so you should hurry back!” Old Master Gong chased them away like he was chasing away flies.

Gong Tianhao and the others, “....”

Chapter 175: Flowers

After having dinner, Liu Chunhua knocked on Xiao Lingyu’s room door. She was worried. “Lingyu, are you okay? Are you not feeling well?”

“Fourth aunt, I’m fine!” Xiao Lingyu replied, “I’m sleeping.”

“You should come and eat something first!” Liu Chunhua said, “You’ll get hungry in the middle of the night if you sleep with an empty stomach.” Due to the pregnancy, Xiao Lingyu was indeed hungry. She took out the mirror and looked at her reflection. Her eyes were red. She teleported to the farming space and washed her face with the spring water. When her eyes were no longer swollen, she immediately went out of the space and said, “Okay, Fourth Aunt, can you get me a bowl of noodles?”

Hearing that, Liu Chunhua was relieved.

She came to the kitchen and saw that mother Xiao was tidying up the kitchen. She said, “Second sister, let me do the dishes. Lingyu said that she wants to eat a bowl of noodles.”

Mother Xiao frowned and said somewhat worriedly, “What’s wrong with this child? She was fine when she went to the county town in the morning. Why did she become uncomfortable when she came back in the afternoon? Is it a cold?”

Mother Xiao spoke as she began to boil the water. She covered the lid and wiped her hands with a towel. She took out the noodles from the cupboard. She put them aside, took out some scallions, washed them, and chopped them up. After thinking for a while, she took out an egg from the cupboard.

Liu Chunhua washed the dishes and said worriedly, “Second sister-in-law, I think I heard Yu ‘Er crying in the room just now. Although it wasn’t very loud, my ears were very sensitive. Second Sister, did something happen to Yu ‘Er in the county town?”

“What?” Mother Xiao was shocked. She knew her daughter well. Xiao Lingyu was a strong-willed child. She rarely cried. When she heard Xiao Lingyu was hiding and crying, Mother Xiao knew it had to be something serious.

Mother Xiao said worriedly, “No, let me take a look!”

Liu Chunhua stopped her. “Second Sister, we should finish making the noodles. We can ask her later.”

Mother Xiao thought about it. “Okay, you’re right.”

Xiao Lingyu came out of the room and saw that Father Xiao and village chief Xiao were still sitting in the living room. Their expressions were a little solemn.

She greeted them and said, “Father, Village Chief!”

Xiao Zhengyang came back to his senses and asked, "Yu 'Er, how are you feeling? Are you still feeling unwell?"

Xiao Zhengyang did not know that Xiao Lingyu had been crying.

The Village Chief also asked, "Yes, Lingyu, do you feel better?"

Xiao Lingyu nodded. "I'm fine. I'm just hungry. I'll go and see if mom has made the noodles."

Xiao Zhengyang nodded and said, "Okay!"

When Xiao Lingyu walked into the kitchen, her expression was lively. "Mom, you're done with the noodles?"

Mother Xiao and Liu Chunhua looked at Xiao Lingyu. They couldn't detect any traces of tears. This confused Liu Chunhua. Still, she asked worriedly, "Yu 'Er, are you alright?"

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "Fourth aunt, I'm fine! Look at me, don't I look fine?" The redness in her eyes had subsided, and no one could tell that she had cried.

Mother Xiao stared at her with a suspicious expression and asked, "Yu 'Er, your fourth aunt said that you were crying in your room. What's going on?"

"What?" Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "Mother, Fourth Aunt must have heard wrongly. Fourth Aunt, I wasn't crying."

Now, even Liu Chunhua wondered if she had misheard everything.

Mother Xiao stared at Xiao Lingyu for a long time. In the end, she only said, "Alright, your noodles are ready. Take the bowl and go eat."

Xiao Lingyu was indeed a little hungry. Now that she smelled the fragrance of the noodles, she was even hungrier. "Hmm, it smells so good!"

After Xiao Lingyu left, Liu Chunhua frowned. "Perhaps I was wrong."

Mother Xiao shook her head, "Chunhua, I don't think you're wrong. Yu 'Er must have used some method to clean up the signs. However, since she doesn't want us to worry, we'll just go along with it." Sometimes, they couldn't help how stubborn and headstrong how Xiao Lingyu was.

Xiao Lingyu walked back to the living room with the noodles. Xiao Zhengyang and the village chief were still sitting there with serious expressions. Xiao Lingyu asked, "Dad, what's going on?"

Xiao Zhengyang asked seriously, "Yu 'Er, do you know that some of the flowers in our courtyard are extremely precious? They are worth hundreds of thousands."

"What?" Xiao Lingyu was also surprised when she heard this. "Are those flowers that precious?" Xiao Lingyu was in her room when Old Master Gong gave the detailed prices of the flowers. She knew they were expensive, but she didn't expect them to have such impossible prices!

“That’s right!” Xiao Zhengyang explained, “During dinner, the old master said the giant crinum lily is worth around five thousand RMB. The sword-leaved cymbidium is worth fifty to eighty thousand RMB. The chrysanthemum with the beard is actually a rare breed called Si Zang Zhu Lian...”

Xiao Lingyu’s mouth fell wide open. Now she understood why someone ordered Lan Hongxing to snatch their flowers in her previous life. The culprit feared that her family would find out the flowers’ worth. After all, the Xiao Family was almost at the end of their rope. With the flowers, they could earn a lot of money.

This confirmed Xiao Lingyu’s determination to root out that culprit. In this life, her family already knew the value of these flowers. However, she had no idea if the culprit would come again or not.

“Yu ‘Er, what do you think we should do with these flowers?” Xiao Zhengyang asked, “Should we sell them or continue to keep them? But if we keep them, where should we keep them? I don’t feel at ease keeping them in the courtyard.”

If no one knew about the value of these flowers, he would keep the flowers in the yard. However, many people outside the door heard the old master. They couldn’t keep the flowers where they were. If they wanted to care for the flowers, they had to watch over them all the time. But who had the time?

Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment and suggested, “Dad, why don’t we give these flowers to the old master?”

“Huh?” When Xiao Zhengyang and the village chief heard this suggestion, they were somewhat dumbfounded. Could they give away such expensive flowers just like that?

The village chief couldn’t help but say in surprise, “But these flowers are worth hundreds of thousands. Are you giving them away just like that?”

Xiao Lingyu took a sip of the broth and said, “Village Chief, who knew the flowers were so valuable before the old master arrived? If someone did, they would have stolen them a long time ago.”

The village chief nodded, “That’s true. Before this, we only treated them as normal flowers. Who would have thought that a wildflower dug up from the mountain would be so valuable?” At this point, the village chief paused and said with a smile, “I believe the whole Taoyuan Village will go up the mountain to dig for wildflowers tomorrow.”

The most valuable flower Xiao Lingyu found was worth more than 50,000 RMB. That was more than what a normal farmer could earn in a lifetime!

However, Xiao Zhengyang said, “I don’t think we need to wait until tomorrow. There will be many people going up the mountain tonight to dig wildflowers.” If they waited until tomorrow, the wildflowers might be gone already. A large group of people would be heading up the mountain tonight.

The village chief frowned. He suddenly stood up and said with a grave expression. “This is not good. It’s too dangerous to go up the mountain at night. There are poisonous snakes and wild beasts. Zhengyang, I have to send a notice not to let them go up the mountain!”

Xiao Zhengyang nodded and said, “Yes, you’re right, village chief. It’s too dangerous. You should try to persuade them!” But if they refused to heed the advice, then what could they do?

The village chief left in a hurry.

Mother Xiao and Liu Chunhua came out of the kitchen. Mother Xiao asked, "Has village chief left?"

Xiao Zhengyang said, "Yes. The values of the flowers in our courtyard are too shocking. We reckon people will go up the mountain tonight to dig up the flowers. The village chief is worried about dangers at night, so he went to stop them."

Mother Xiao nodded. "He's right."

Liu Chunhua smiled, "Second Brother and Sister, you have such good luck. You dug up a flower in the mountain, and it's worth tens of thousands. You picked up a flower someone dumped, and it's also exceptionally precious. You have a treasure trove in your courtyard, but it must be worrying, right?"

Xiao Zhengyang smiled helplessly, "You're right. We don't know what to do with the flowers. If we don't guard them, the flowers will disappear in the blink of an eye. But we can't guard them 24 hours a day."

Liu Chunhua suggested, "Why don't you sell them?"

"Sell them?" Xiao Zhengyang frowned. "Yu 'Er told us to give the flowers away!"

"Give them away?" Mother Xiao and Liu Chunhua were surprised.

"Yu 'Er, why do you want to give them away?" Liu Chunhua asked in confusion.

Xiao Lingyu ate a bowl of noodles and did not feel full yet. However, in order to avoid being discovered, Xiao Lingyu did not say anything.

She said, "The flowers are only precious in the eyes of those who know how to appreciate them. Father, mother, fourth uncle, who knew these flowers were so precious before the old master came?"

The three nodded. "No one did."

"I remember how excited the old master was when he entered the courtyard and saw the flowers. He managed to list out all of them. He even told us the values of these flowers. This shows that he is a flower lover and an upright person." Xiao Lingyu explained, "If he wanted, he could have hidden the values of the flowers from us. Then, he might have asked us for the flowers. Would we have given them to him?"

"Of course!" Xiao Zhengyang said. After all, if someone liked the flowers, he would give them away generously. He would be happy that someone knew how to appreciate the flowers.

"That's right!" Xiao Lingyu said, "The old master clearly loves these flowers. Therefore, he will raise them well."

"But Yu 'Er, these are more than 100,000 RMB!" Liu Chunhua said, "Perhaps you can sell them to the old master?"

Xiao Lingyu said, "Fourth Aunt, without the old master, we would have thought these flowers are not even worth several cents. So we should sell them based on the price we know. I doubt Dad would ask people for several cents, and he'd give them away!"

“Hmm.” Mother Xiao and Father Xiao looked at each other and didn’t know what to do.

Xiao Lingyu didn’t mean to use the flowers to bribe Old Master Gong, but she really thought the flowers should go to someone who knew how to appreciate them.

In her previous life, her family’s fate had changed because of these flowers. However, she didn’t like the changes the flowers brought.

Old Master Gong was Xiao Tong’s great-grandfather. Since he liked these flowers, she would consider them as a gift for him from Xiao Tong. Once Xiao Tong was born, she hoped that Old Master Gong would spare her and Xiao Tong on account of this kindness.

Xiao Lingyu was planning a backup plan for herself and Xiao Tong. She didn’t know what would happen after Old Master Gong found out the truth. But it didn’t hurt to have an ally in him.

After thinking for a moment, Father Xiao made a decision and said, “Okay, we’ll do as Lingyu said and give these flowers to the old master. I’ll move these flowers to him tomorrow!”

But Mother Xiao had other concerns.

She said, “These flowers are so valuable, someone will come to steal them. If we give them to the old master, will we bring him trouble? He’s new here and unfamiliar with the place. What if something happens?”

Mother Xiao was more attentive and quickly thought of this.

“You’re right!” Xiao Zhengyang frowned.

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, “Dad, Mom, don’t worry. Ordinary thieves won’t be able to enter that courtyard.”

“Yu ‘Er, what do you mean?” The three asked curiously.

Chapter 176: Gong Tianhao’s Identity

The news of extremely valuable flowers at Xiao Zhengyang’s family immediately spread through the village.

The entire village, young and old, came to see these few pots of valuable flowers.

They knew that these flowers were tea flowers, orchids, chrysanthemums, and so on.

Most villagers didn’t even return to have dinner. Instead, the whole family went up to the mountain to dig for wildflowers and weeds.

By the time Xiao Taiyang sent out the notice, almost half of the people in the village had already gone up the mountain.

Xiao Taiyang frowned deeply, but he comforted himself. ‘Since so many people are up the mountain, they should be fine.’ Almost half the village was gone, so they should be able to handle themselves.

Furthermore, the villagers visited the mountain often. They knew the mountain well, so there shouldn't be any accidents.

The frowning Xiao Taiyang returned to Xiao Zhengyang's house.

"Village chief, what's wrong?" Xiao Zhengyang looked at the village chief's expression and was a little puzzled.

Xiao Taiyang took a deep breath and said, "More than half of the people in the village have already gone up the mountain."

"Ah?" Xiao Zhengyang was a little surprised and said, "They move so quickly?"

"The pull of money is too strong!" The village chief said with a heavy sigh, "The orchid your family found in the mountain is worth tens of thousands. For rural people like us, we can't even earn that amount in our lifetimes."

The output for one Mu of land was about 1000 catties of rice. A hundred catties of rice was worth fifty to sixty RMB. Most families had two to three Mu of land. Paddy could be harvested twice a year. In total, they would earn around one to two thousand a year. However, most villagers planted paddy for self-sustenance. They rarely had extra to sell. Therefore, saving money was hard for rural people. Or else, most young people wouldn't leave to work in the big cities.

Xiao Zhengyang comforted him, "Since so many people are up the mountain, nothing should happen."

"I hope so!" Xiao Taiyang sighed. Then, the village chief thought of something and asked, "Zhengyang, have you sold these flowers?"

Xiao Zhengyang shook his head and said, "Yu 'Er said to give these flowers to Old Master Gong. She said since the old master appreciates these flowers, he should have them."

"Ah!" The village chief was really surprised when he heard this decision. "But these are flowers worth hundreds of thousands? Are you willing to give them away just like that? Can't you sell them?"

"Why wouldn't we be unwilling?" Xiao Zhengyang said, "Before Old Master Gong came, who knew that these flowers could be sold at such a high price? We don't understand these flowers, so they are worthless to us. In fact, many villagers used to tell us that it's better to pick off the flowers to make room for more vegetables. But now everyone in the village couldn't wait to go and find flowers.

"Besides, it'll be too shameful for us to sell the flowers. The old master came to eat and spotted the flowers on accident. He could not have told us about their real value and asked us directly to gift him the flowers. Do you think we wouldn't give it to him?"

"Your family definitely would!" Said the village chief without thinking.

"You're right! The flowers will be worth more when they are with people who know how to appreciate them." Xiao Zhengyang said, "The old master could have swindled the flowers away, but he didn't. He helped us discover the value of these flowers. Our family can't keep them, so we want to give them to him."

“Okay then!” The village chief nodded. Then he said with concern, “But aren’t you worried that the villagers might cause trouble for the old master? The old master has been kind to Taoyuan Village, so we mustn’t trouble him.”

“Hehe.” Liu Chunhua said with a smile. “Village chief, you have the same concern as second sister. However, don’t worry. Yu ‘Er said that the old master didn’t come from an ordinary background. Did you see the men in black who came with him? Yu ‘Er said they were Old Master Gong’s bodyguards.

“We’ve only heard and seen bodyguards on television. They are skilled and have the ability to leap over roofs and walk over walls. Ordinary thieves won’t be able to steal the flowers from the old master.”

The village chief was stunned and asked, “Did Yu ‘Er really say that?” He looked at Xiao Zhengyang.

Xiao Lingyu had gone back to rest.

“Yes.” Xiao Zhengyang nodded and confirmed, “Village chief, you should know that the young men who came this afternoon are all Yu ‘Er’s friends. Yu ‘Er is the one who knows their situation the best. Yu ‘Er said that the old master’s bodyguards aren’t even ordinary bodyguards. We don’t have to worry about the flowers moving to his place.”

Xiao Taiyang nodded and said, “Oh, I see!”

Xiao Lingyu could be so sure about this because she had investigated Gong Tianhao. She heard about Gong Tianhao in her previous life. After Xiao Lingyu returned to the workplace in her previous life, the people she came into contact with became more and more important. She would occasionally hear the name Gong Tianhao from some big shots.

Gong Tianhao was unusually low-key. However, everyone knew the Imperial Palace Group. Imperial Palace was the richest company in the country. Their annual turnover was calculated in the tens of billions.

The total assets of the Imperial Palace Group exceeded 300 billion. No one knew how much they had. The outside world only knew that the Imperial Palace Group was ranked first in the world.

However, very few people knew who the person in charge of the Imperial Palace Group was.

The person in charge of Imperial Palace at public events was different every time. This made it impossible for people to tell who the real decision-maker was. In her previous life, Xiao Lingyu heard people say a young man called Gong Tianhao ran Imperial Palace Group.

Therefore, when Xiao Lingyu heard Li Yuanhang introduce the name Gong Tianhao, she felt that it was very familiar. Xiao Lingyu went online to look for Gong Tianhao’s info. She combined it with the info she had from her previous life, but even so, she only found a little info about Gong Tianhao. She found out a bit about Gong Tianhao’s family background and his powerful grandfather.

Therefore, as the grandfather of the richest man in China, how could Old Master Gong be assigned normal bodyguards?

Although the village chief felt that it was a pity that Xiao Zhengyang’s family had decided to give the flowers to the old master, it was their choice, so he didn’t say anything else. Besides, the grandson of Old Master Gong was a benefactor to Taoyuan Village.

...

The next day, before dawn, someone knocked on the door.

“Lingyu, get up, get up!”

Hearing the commotion, mother Xiao hurriedly put on her clothes and opened the courtyard door, asking, “What’s wrong?”

“Qiuying, my Jun ‘Er was bitten by a poisonous snake. Can Xiao Lingyu drive us to the hospital?”

When she heard that, Mother Xiao’s expression changed. She immediately rushed to Xiao Lingyu’s room and shouted, “Yu ‘Er, get up quickly. Xiao Jun has been bitten by a poisonous snake. He needs to go to the hospital immediately!”

Xiao Lingyu, who was sleeping soundly, immediately shivered when she heard Mother Xiao. She hurriedly got up from the bed and said as she put on her clothes, “I’m coming!”

After that, Xiao Lingyu brought Xiao Jun and his family to the town hospital.

When they arrived at the town hospital, there was no serum that could save their lives, so Xiao Lingyu immediately sent them to the county hospital.

Xiao Jun was lucky. There was only one serum left in the county hospital.

Xiao Lingyu called the village chief and told him about this.

After the village chief heard the news, he immediately sent out a notice to warn the villagers to be cautious. The last vial of poisonous snake serum in the county had already been used up. If someone was accidentally bitten by a poisonous snake, then there would be no serum to save their lives!

When the villagers heard this, they were shocked.

Those flowers and plants were extremely tempting, but they were not more important than their lives. Moreover, it was indeed dangerous to go up the mountains at night.

Last night, more than half of the villagers went to the mountains to find flowers and plants. They dug up a lot of flowers and plants, but they did not know whether they were valuable or not.

The only appraiser in the village was the old man who arrived at their village yesterday.

Therefore, many people had been waiting at the entrance of Old Master Gong’s house early in the morning.

The villagers knew their limits. They didn’t go forward to make a ruckus or ask the old man to get up. Instead, they waited quietly at the entrance.

There was another reason why the villagers didn’t make a ruckus. Before they got to the door, a man in black opened the door. His sharp eyes stared at them for a while. His entire body was filled with a fierce aura. He scared them.

Xiao Wang, the guard, looked at the group of villagers and then at the flowers and plants on the ground with fresh soil. He immediately understood their purpose.

However, as a guard, he still asked seriously, "Aunties and Uncles, what's the matter?"

When the villagers saw Xiao Wang, they were so scared that they took a few steps back and stammered, "It... it's nothing." He turned to look at the flowers on the ground and said, "We... We just want the... old master to look at these flowers and plants. Are they worth anything?"

Xiao Wang said, "Our master is still resting. If you don't mind, please wait here. I'll inform the old master, and he'll come if he's willing."

"No problem, no problem!" The villagers immediately nodded and said, "We'll wait here!"

After that, Little Wang directly closed the courtyard door and smiled bitterly. 'To think we'll run into this trouble on our first day here.'

He thought about it and decided to give Young Master Gong a call. Young Master Gong should decide what to do.

At five o'clock in the morning, Gong Tianhao was still sleeping on the bed. When he heard the ringtone, he immediately sat up and picked up the phone. The ringtone was the one he set specifically for calls from his grandfather.

"Xiao Wang..." Gong Tianhao's voice was hoarse and magnetic since he just woke up, "Let grandpa decide. Just make sure Grandpa isn't too tired. Sorry for the trouble. Alright."

Xiao Wang went to inform the old master and asked the villagers to wait for his instruction.

The villagers nodded repeatedly.

After the old master got up and heard Xiao Wang's report, he quickly walked out of the courtyard. He was willing to help identify the flowers. He also wanted to see if he could find any more precious flower breeds. If he could, he would buy them on the spot. However, when he saw the mess of plants at the door, he walked around with disappointment.

"Grandfather, how are these flowers?" A villager asked anxiously.

Old Master Gong replied honestly, "These flowers are just ordinary flowers." There were even weeds.

"How can this be?" A villager said unwillingly, "Grandfather, take a look again. Look at this one. Doesn't it look the same as the one in Lingyu's house?" They looked the same, so how could his be an ordinary flower? He heard the flower at Xiao Lingyu's house was worth 50,000 to 80,000 RMB.

Old Master Gong said, "Fellow villager, your flower is also an orchid, but orchids are divided into many varieties. The top varieties are Ghost Orchid, Emerald Orchid, spring orchid, butterfly orchid, and so on. Some of them look similar, but their prices are vastly different.

"The orchid at Xiao Zhengyang's family is called sword-leaved cymbidium. It has extremely high gardening value and medicinal value. It is very suitable for garden design, so its price is relatively high.

"However, this orchid of yours is just a very ordinary one. It's worth about ten RMB."

The villagers couldn't really understand the talk about flower breeds, but they did understand the price difference.

After knowing it was just a normal flower, many people's eyes were filled with disappointment.

"Sir, is this flower only worth a few dozen RMB?" The villagers looked at the orchid in their hands and felt very indignant.

Old Master Gong nodded and said, "Indeed!" Then, he thought for a moment and said, "Fellow villagers, how about this? I'll use 100 RMB to buy this flower. Is that alright?" In reality, the flower was worth 30 RMB at most.

"Of course!" The villager couldn't get 80,000 RMB, but 100 was better than nothing. At least it didn't waste his trip up the mountain.

Old Master Gong turned around and said to Xiao Wang. "Xiao Wang, give him the money."

"Yes!" Xiao Wang said very respectfully.

When the villager got the money, the others' eyes glowed with envy.

Then, Old Master Gong tried his best to buy all the flowers he could.

Chapter 177: Clear the Air

The Zhou family, Zhou Guojian, Zhou Huaming, and Zhou Tanxiong had been waiting for news at home.

Zhou Guojian looked at the time and asked with some doubt, "What's going on? Why hasn't there been any news yet? Third son, are you sure that the person you hired is reliable?"

Zhou Tanxiong frowned and said, "I've worked with that person a few times, and nothing has gone wrong. There shouldn't be any problems now." However, he didn't sound confident when he said that. Theoretically speaking, he should hear the latest news by now.

Zhou Huaming thought for a moment and asked, "Third brother, why don't you ask your people at the police station to see if there have been any recorded cases in the past two days?"

Zhou Tanxiong took out his phone. Just as he was about to make a call, he heard the doorbell ring.

His heart jumped.

The three of them looked at each other. Their hearts were beating a little.

Zhou Guojian thought for a moment and said, "Maybe? It's that person! Eldest son, go and open the door!"

"Okay!" Zhou Huaming stood up and opened the door.

Unexpectedly, the moment the door was opened, a few police officers barged in. They pointed their guns at them and said, "Don't move!"

Zhou Huaming's expression changed drastically. Then, he raised his hand and said in confusion as if he was frightened, "Police officers, what's going on? We are good citizens. We haven't done anything illegal!"

At this moment, Jiang Tao, who was standing outside, placed an arrest warrant in front of him and said, "Zhou Guojian, Zhou Huaming, Zhou Tanxiong, you are suspected of buying for a person's murder. This is an arrest warrant. Please cooperate with the investigation!" Then, he ordered his people, "Search the place!"

Zhou Guojian and Zhou Tanxiong were brought out.

When Zhou Tanxiong saw Jiang Tao, his expression was abnormally agitated. He shouted, "Jiang Tao, what do you mean by this? What right do you have to arrest me? I'm the Deputy Director of the Police Station!"

Jiang Tao said very sternly, "Everyone is equal before the law. Zhou Tanxiang, you are not above the law because you are a police officer. Whether you can be arrested or not, that is not decided by you or me, but the law! Since you've violated the law, then I have the right to arrest you! Take all of them away!"

When Zhou Tanxiong heard that, he was very flustered. He said loudly, "Jiang Tao, you can't arrest me!"

Zhou Guojian understood that the matter might be exposed. He panicked for a moment, then said sternly, "Jiang Tao, how can you accuse us of hiring people to murder someone? Do you have evidence?"

A cold smile appeared on Jiang Tao's face. He didn't answer Zhou Jianguo. If he didn't have evidence, would he be there? If he didn't have evidence, would he have an arrest? They were not in feudal China, where people could be arrested at will.

"Take him away!" Jiang Tao gave the order and left immediately.

"Jiang Tao!" Zhou Guojian's angry shout could be heard for miles.

...

Xiao Lingyu sent Xiao Jun's family to the hospital. The doctor suggested Xiao Jun stay in the hospital for two more days in case of an accident.

Xiao Jun was about 15 years old. His family had never been to the hospital before, so they were not very clear about how to handle the hospitalization procedures.

Xiao Lingyu helped with the procedures after Xiao Jun's family requested it.

However, when they reached the part where they had to pay the hospitalization fee and deposit, Auntie Chen said, "Lingyu, we didn't bring much money with us. Why don't you help us pay for it first?"

Her choice of words was interesting because she said 'help pay' and not 'borrow'. The two-day hospitalization required a deposit of 300 RMB.

Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment. "Auntie Chen, of course! However, this happened too suddenly, so I didn't carry that much money with me either. I'll call my parents to send some money over." Xiao Lingyu's meaning was clear. She didn't carry that much money. Therefore, she had to ask her parents to bring her some. Xiao Lingyu wouldn't be able to demand the money back from Auntie Xiao because Xiao Lingyu was the junior. However, things were different if it was Father Xiao or Mother Xiao who lent Auntie Xiao the money.

Xiao Lingyu could guess from Auntie Chen's words that Auntie Chen didn't plan to pay her back the money loaned. Xiao Lingyu was not dumb. She was already very kind to drive them to the hospital. But, the woman wanted her to pay the hospital bills on top of that? That was too much.

300 was not that much for Xiao Lingyu, but it was a big number for most farmers. However, Xiao Jun's family had many lands. Auntie Chen was not poor. She just wanted to take advantage of Xiao Lingyu.

Furthermore, if Xiao Lingyu relented this time, the other villagers would ask her to drive their injured family members to the county hospital and ask her to pay the bills too in the future!

Auntie Chen's expression changed. Then, she smiled embarrassedly and said, "Lingyu, don't you have many friends in the county? Can't you borrow some money from your friends first?"

Xiao Lingyu guessed correctly. Auntie Chen did intend to get Xiao Lingyu to pay and then deny the debt. However, if Xiao Zhengyang and Chen Qiuying were clued in, they would ask her to return them the money in the future.

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "Auntie Chen, I can't just go around asking money from my friends. Unless it's absolutely necessary, I won't borrow money from my friends."

"But it's only 300 RMB!" Auntie Chen exclaimed, "That is a small number for you rich people!"

Xiao Lingyu's face darkened, and she became very unhappy. She asked sharply, "Oh, Auntie Chen, 300 RMB is a small number for you? In that case, Auntie Chen can pay the deposit yourself. It shouldn't be a problem, right?"

Auntie Chen's face immediately turned ugly. She said, "Lingyu, can't you help me?"

At this moment, a nurse came over and said, "Xiao Jun's patient's family member in Room 303, bed 2, pay the deposit as soon as possible!"

"Okay, okay. Nurse, we'll pay it right away!" Auntie Chen immediately replied. Then, she turned around and said, "Lingyu, the nurse is rushing us. You need to give me the money!"

Xiao Lingyu didn't want to waste time anymore. She said directly, "Auntie Chen, I will pay this money for now. However, let's make it clear. I'm only lending this money to you. After we return to the village, I hope that Auntie will return the money!"

Auntie Chen was a little angry when she heard that. She said in a bad tone, "Alright, I'll return you the money when we return!"

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, "Then Auntie Chen, wait here for a while. I'm going to borrow money from a friend."

Xiao Lingyu did not care whether Auntie Chen was angry or not. She sent Xiao Jun to the county hospital early in the morning, and she didn't even charge them the petrol money. And now Auntie Chen wanted to take advantage of her!

She might have money, but she worked hard for them.

Auntie Chen saw Xiao Lingyu walk away, and her eyes darkened. She said fiercely, "What a miser. You are so rich, but you care about a measly 300 RMB!" Auntie Chen didn't plan to return the money at all.

Her family went up the mountains to dig for flowers in the middle of the night. They did not find any flowers, but they were bitten by a poisonous snake. It was a huge loss. This was all due to Xiao Lingyu's family. If not for the news about the expensive flowers at the Xiao Family yard, Auntie Chen's family wouldn't have gone to the mountains!

This was why Auntie Chen wanted Xiao Lingyu to pay the hospital bills. She promised to return the money, but that was a lie.

Xiao Lingyu was also lying when she said she was going to find a friend to borrow the money. She often came to the county town to do business, so she would leave some money in her rental.

Not long after, Xiao Lingyu returned to the hospital. After settling the hospitalization procedures for Xiao Jun, she said, "Auntie Chen, I still have something to do, so I'll leave first!"

"Oh, okay!" After Auntie Chen saw Xiao Lingyu really paid the bills, she sighed.

After Xiao Lingyu left the hospital, she went straight to the police station.

When she went to retrieve the money, Jiang Tao called her to tell her that the assassination case had a breakthrough. He wanted her to go to the station because he had some questions for her.

When she arrived at the police station, Jiang Tao waited at the door.

Jiang Tao brought Xiao Lingyu to the office.

"Lingyu, the case is wrapping up. There is evidence to prove that the Zhou Family has paid the beggar to murder you."

"The Zhou Family?" Xiao Lingyu was shocked. She did suspect the Zhou Family, but she didn't think the Zhou Family would be so ruthless in wanting her dead!

"That's right!" Jiang Tao nodded. "You sent Zhou Hongwei to jail. His family decided to take revenge on you." He paused. "Interestingly enough, the Zhou Family's assassination case has brought out the sinister sponsors behind Zhou Tanxiong.

"We have punished Zhou Tanxiong by having him stay at home so that he couldn't intervene. However, the old fox made use of his sponsors and tried to come after you.

"In the past, we were privy to the existence of this group of background sponsors, but we do not have enough evidence to identify them. However, this time, we managed to find more leads because he had used them to exact revenge on you!"

Xiao Lingyu was dumbfounded.

She also didn't expect the Zhou family to think so highly of her. The deputy chief of the police station actually utilized the mysterious forces behind him just to harm her.

Xiao Lingyu combed her mind. In her previous life, when her grandfather came to lodge a case against the Lan Family, the chief was Chief Zhou. However, she was not sure if that person was Zhou Tanxiong.

But something confused Xiao Lingyu. Shouldn't Jiang Tao be the police chief? So, where was Jiang Tao in her previous life? Had he transferred away?

Xiao Lingyu thought about it. It was very possible. Jiang Tao had been the police chief for three years already. His excellent service meant that he could have been promoted. If Jiang Tao were still the police chief at the time, her family wouldn't be bullied so hard.

Xiao Lingyu felt a pang of hatred towards Zhou Tanxiong. At the same time, she was sad because she would have to part with Jiang Tao soon. She would miss him as a friend. After all, she had no idea if they would meet again after this separation.

With that thought, Xiao Lingyu kept glancing at Jiang Tao.

This made Jiang Tao a little puzzled. He could not help but ask, "Lingyu, is there something dirty on my face?"

Xiao Lingyu smiled and shook her head. "No! I just feel that I'm very lucky to have a friend like you!"

Jiang Tao sighed in relief. Then, he said, "I feel the same way!" Then, he thought for a moment and added, "Lingyu, I don't think I explained myself clearly last time, and it might have caused a misunderstanding. Actually... I don't mind... it as long as you agree to be my girlfriend!"

This was the first time in history that Jiang Tao had used his official time to deal with personal matters. Jiang Tao had always been a man of business. But he made an exception for Xiao Lingyu. This went to show how much he cared for Xiao Lingyu.

Xiao Lingyu could not help but be stunned.

She didn't expect Jiang Tao to confess to her suddenly!

Xiao Lingyu felt trapped and uneasy. Ever since she decided to give birth to Xiao Tong, she never thought about having a boyfriend or marrying. But now, this handsome and outstanding man didn't mind her history and wanted to be her!

If she didn't have Xiao Tong, she might have accepted him... Alas.

Moreover, Xiao Tong's father was this man's best friend. If she said yes, how was Jiang Tao going to face his friend in the future? How could she face Jiang Tao?

Lastly, she owed Xiao Tong too much. She would do everything to give Xiao Tong the world. Once Xiao Tong had a stepfather, he might have step-siblings. However, Xiao Lingyu didn't plan to have any other children.

Therefore, she could not accept Jiang Tao's confession.

Xiao Lingyu's expression was very flustered. She smiled and said, "Brother Jiang, please don't joke with me. I will take it seriously. I know I am not worthy of you."

Jiang Tao said very seriously, "Lingyu, I am not joking!"

At this moment, Xiao Lingyu's expression slowly calmed down. Then, she sighed and said with a heavy tone, "Brother Jiang, I'm really not worth it. To tell you the truth, I'm already pregnant. I plan to raise this child on my own.

"Can you really marry a woman who has a child who you did not father? Even if you can, what will your family say? They will be mocked and ridiculed. You will suffer too. They will say that you've brought back an unclean woman and a bastard grandson. So, Brother Jiang, I'm really not worthy of you.

"So, please don't bring this up again.. We are still friends, okay?"

Chapter 178: Jiang Tao's Blankness

Jiang Tao was still in shock that Xiao Lingyu was pregnant. He appeared unable to accept Xiao Lingyu's words. If he didn't come from a unique background, he would have continued to pursue her. However, that was not the case...

When he came to, Xiao Lingyu had already left. He thought Chen Ran drugging Xiao Lingyu and having her raped was already the biggest shock. However, Xiao Lingyu had another surprise for him.

If Xiao Lingyu didn't plan to have the child, he would fight for her at all costs. However, he couldn't marry a woman carrying a child with an unknown father. It was not that Jiang Tao couldn't accept that, but he knew the Jiang Family wouldn't accept that.

Jiang Tao was in great pain. On the one hand, it was the woman he liked, and on the other, he could feel the despair coming from his family. If he insisted on marrying Xiao Lingyu, his grandfather would never forgive Xiao Lingyu. Xiao Lingyu was just a common girl, so how could she fight against the patriarch of a big family at the capital?

Jiang Tao felt so helpless. He didn't know what to do. At that moment, he needed to calm down to think about his and Xiao Lingyu's future.

...

On the other side, Li Yuanhang could not help but inquire about the Jiang family after returning to the capital.

After confirming the rumors, Li Yuanhang mentioned it to Gong Tianhao out of concern. "Tianhao, the Jiang Family has started to release the news of the marriage between the Jiang family and the Qin family."

Gong Tianhao frowned, "Is the news accurate?"

"Yes!" Li Yuanhang said with certainty, "I heard that both families are hiding this news from Young Master Jiang. They are waiting for Young Master Jiang to come back, and then they will force him into the engagement directly!" Li Yuanhang hesitated. "Tianhao, if Young Master Jiang really gets engaged to the eldest daughter of the Qin family, what about Xiao Lingyu? Is she going to end up as Jiang Tao's mistress?"

Li Yuanhang was sure that Jiang Tao really liked Xiao Lingyu. But Jiang Tao was also Young Master Jiang. Unless the Qin Family gave up, the marriage between him and the Qin Miss was a certainty. If he insisted on being with Xiao Lingyu, he had to give up being Young Master Jiang. However, his identity couldn't be shed just like that.

Knowing how overbearing Old Master Jiang was, he would do anything to save Young Master Jiang, and that meant Xiao Lingyu would be in great danger.

Since Li Yuanhang could think of this, so could Gong Tianhao. In fact, Jiang Tao had thought of it too. If this was another woman, Li Yuanhang and Gong Tianhao would have ignored this. They might even think this was the girl's karma for seducing Young Master Jiang.

However, they had formed an indissoluble bond with Xiao Lingyu from the first day they set foot on Xing Yin County. They also knew that Xiao Lingyu hadn't accepted Jiang Tao. Of course, as outsiders, they had no idea if Xiao Lingyu even liked Jiang Tao or not.

Xiao Lingyu came from a loving and caring family. But if she got entangled with Young Master Jiang, Old Master Jiang would wipe them out. Li Yuanhang and Gong Tianhao couldn't bear to see that happen.

Before things reached that state, the only people who could stop the Jiang Family was the Gong Family.

Gong Tianhao's stern expression was slightly wrinkled. He took a puff of smoke, and the smoke lingered in front of the eyes, making his deep eyes faintly discernible. Then, he put out the cigarette butt in the ashtray and said faintly, "If Jiang Tao couldn't handle his family, he wouldn't have gone after Xiao Lingyu in the first place!"

"Tianhao," Li Yuanhang asked, "Do you mean that Young Master Jiang can protect Xiao Lingyu?" He hoped that was the case.

Gong Tianhao said, "I know Jiang Tao. He can handle this!"

Jiang Tao looked unapproachable, but the man had known his direction in life since he was young. Furthermore, he was ultimately the eldest grandson of the Jiang Family. Old Master Jiang loved him unconditionally. Jiang Tao's road was paved the moment he was born. As for Jiang Tao's relationship, his family would naturally marry him to a big family to form an alliance. Jiang Tao knew his fate, so he never got interested in outside relationships.

However, fate couldn't be stopped. Even Jiang Tao didn't expect to fall in love with Xiao Lingyu after a few meetings. Xiao Lingyu was not more talented or beautiful than the socialites in the capital, but he was captured by Xiao Lingyu's intelligence, courage, and directness.

Xiao Lingyu also had a very amiable charm. He would forget about his worries when he was around her. Jiang Tao could not help but fall in love with Xiao Lingyu.

Once that happened, it was as Gong Tianhao said. Since Jiang Tao had decided to pursue Xiao Lingyu, he had started to deal with things back home. Jiang Tao struggled for a long time and came up with a firm plan before he made the decision to confess to Xiao Lingyu.

However, fate played a big joke on Jiang Tao. The child was a huge surprise.

Gong Tianhao and Jiang Tao were childhood friends who grew up in the same yard. Even Gong Tianhao didn't expect this big accident.

...

Xiao Lingyu's heart was still pounding when she drove back to her rental. Even though she didn't know Jiang Tao's true identity, he must have come from an impressive background to be the police chief at a young age. However, the most important thing was that Jiang Tao and Gong Tianhao were friends. Xiao Lingyu had been wondering how a rich young man could be friends with a poor county station's police chief.

Based on her observation, Gong Tianhao and Jiang Tao were old friends. It meant that they were childhood friends. Jiang Tao was also very familiar with Old Master Gong. Old Master Gong treated him like he was his own grandson. Since Gong Tianhao was from the capital...

Xiao Lingyu's beautiful eyes suddenly widened, and her expression was one of disbelief.

'Jiang Tao is from the capital!'

Since he was from the capital, then his family must be powerful enough to insert Jiang Tao at any place he wanted. They could easily place Jiang Tao at Xing Yin County to earn experience. After three years, they would haul Jiang Tao back to the capital.

This explained why the police chief wasn't Jiang Tao when her family came to make a case her last lifetime.

Xiao Lingyu walked around the room, feeling very anxious.

She felt that she had discovered an incredible secret.

But she did not dare to reveal such a secret.

Xiao Lingyu was anxious after she found out a person from a powerful family background confessed to her. Even if Jiang Tao was just a normal person, she was not worthy of him, much less now.

Xiao Lingyu knew that powerful families would be extremely picky when they chose a daughter-in-law. Life after marriage would be torture. Xiao Lingyu immediately shivered.

Right now, Xiao Lingyu's goal was to give birth to Xiao Tong and raise him to adulthood. She didn't want to consider marriage and relationships.

Jiang Tao was handsome and came from a decent family. He would find a better partner in the future, and not someone ruined like her. Even though she knew the identity of her child's father, she also didn't think she could match his status.

Xiao Lingyu rubbed her stomach and whispered, "Xiao Tong, don't worry. In this life, I won't let you suffer any grievances. I won't marry and stay by your side forever, okay?"

At this moment, she was suddenly shocked, and then a pleasant surprise flashed across her face.

The baby kicked! Xiao Tong had responded!

“Xiao Tong, is that you?” Xiao Lingyu’s eyes were filled with tears, and she said very emotionally, “Does this mean you agree with my decision?”

Xiao Tong kicked twice.

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, “I knew Xiao Tong would always be supportive of mommy.”

Xiao Tong kicked twice again. ‘Mommy, it’s not that. Xiao Tong wants Mommy to be happy. Mommy must not give up her happiness for Xiao Tong.’

This was the mother and son’s first interaction. However, the communication was bad. After some more movements, Xiao Tong was tired, and he quieted down.

Xiao Lingyu was so immersed in the joy that she forgot about her worries.

After thinking it through for a while, Xiao Lingyu sent a message to Jiang Tao. “Brother Jiang, I’m sorry. I’m not lucky enough to be your match. I have to keep the child in my stomach. I’m sorry!”

When Jiang Tao received this message, his eyes slowly dimmed.

A moment later, his eyes lit up again. He held the phone in his hand and seemed to have made up his mind.

...

“Lingyu, is Xiao Jun Alright?” Xiao Lingyu drove into the village and ran into the villagers. “I heard that he was bitten by a poisonous snake.?”

Xiao Lingyu smiled, “Fortunately, Xiao Jun reached the hospital in time. After the serum was injected, the Doctor said that he would be hospitalized for observation for two days. Auntie Chen didn’t bring any money, so I borrowed 300 RMB from my friend and paid the bills first.”

Xiao Lingyu knew Auntie Chen’s plan. The auntie wanted to scam her. Xiao Lingyu was not dumb.

When the villager, Auntie Liu, heard Xiao Lingyu, she smiled and said, “Lingyu, you’re really nice. You’re actually willing to borrow money to pay for Xiao Jun’s bills.” Then, Auntie Liu suddenly said, “Lingyu, I heard your father wants to give the flowers at your yard to the old master. You should go and have a look. That’s hundreds of thousands!”

She wouldn’t be able to give away so much money if it was her.

Xiao Lingyu nodded. “Okay, I got it. Auntie Liu, I’ll go home and take a look now!”

Auntie Liu was a big mouth. Through her, the whole village would soon know about how Xiao Lingyu had to borrow money from her friends to pay Xiao Jun’s hospital bills. If Auntie Chen still refused to return the money, she would be ashamed.

When Xiao Lingyu arrived home, Father Xiao and Mother Xiao were moving the few flower pots Old Master Gong admired.

Mother Xiao saw her and asked, “Yu ‘Er, is Xiao Jun alright?”

Xiao Lingyu said, "He's fine. The serum was injected in time. However, the hospital still requires him to stay in the hospital for two days for observation."

"It's good that he's fine!" Mother Xiao said, "Yu 'Er, come help us send these pots of flowers to the old master!" Mother Xiao pointed at the flower pots.

Xiao Lingyu frowned. She hadn't even reached her first trimester, so it was too dangerous to carry heavy stuff. She had hidden everything well, and her parents didn't find out about her pregnancy.

Once, she had probed Mother Xiao. What if she was pregnant? Mother Xiao told her to have an abortion.

Xiao Lingyu was still living in that trauma, so she didn't mention anything about the baby. She needed to wait until the baby was big enough that abortion would harm her body, then Mother Xiao would have no choice but to let her keep Xiao Tong.

Therefore, she couldn't take any unnecessary risks now.

"What's wrong?" Mother Xiao saw Xiao Lingyu standing still. Her eyes flashed with confusion, "Why are you standing there? Come help move the pots."

Xiao Lingyu said, "Erm... Mom, I woke up early in the morning, and I haven't had breakfast. I'm starving. I'm going to make noodles to fill my stomach!"

Xiao Lingyu fled to the kitchen. Mother Xiao opened her mouth but didn't stop Xiao Lingyu.

At this moment, Father Xiao came over with Xiao Wang. Seeing Mother Xiao standing there in a daze, he asked, "Dear, why are you standing there?" He looked around and said, "Isn't Yu 'Er back? Where is she?"

Mother Xiao said, "She said that she was hungry and went to the kitchen to make noodles!"

"Oh!" Father Xiao didn't doubt anything. He pointed at a few pots of flowers and said, "Xiao Wang, these are all the pots. I'll have to trouble you to move them to the old master."

"No problem!" Xiao Wang bent down and left with a pot in each hand.

Father Xiao bent to carry a small pot, but Mother Xiao immediately stopped him. She said, "Put it down! You can't carry heavy objects. Don't you know that? Do you want to eat pork liver for a few more days?"

Father Xiao immediately put down the small flower pot and said embarrassedly, "This is just a small flower pot. It's not very heavy."

"A flower pot about 20 kg is not heavy? Then what is heavy?" Mother Xiao glanced at him and said very sternly, "Stay away from them, or I'll have you eat pig liver for ten days!"

Faced with the threat, Father Xiao immediately surrendered.

Chapter 179: Exposed

At night, Xiao Lingyu got up again in the dark and went to the kitchen with a flashlight. She wanted to find something to eat, but there was nothing in the kitchen, so she made herself a bowl of noodles to satisfy her hunger.

Just as Xiao Lingyu turned on the gas stove and was about to boil some hot water, the kitchen light came on.

Mother Xiao, in her pajamas, stood at the kitchen door. Seeing Xiao Lingyu sneaking around, she sternly asked, "Xiao Lingyu, what are you doing? Why didn't you turn on the light?"

The guilty Xiao Lingyu was immediately frightened by Mother Xiao's question.

She explained, "Mom, I... I was just hungry and wanted to come to the kitchen to eat a bowl of noodles. Mom, why are you up? Are you also hungry? Why don't I also cook you a bowl of noodles?"

Mother Xiao asked sharply, "If you're hungry and want to cook, why are you sneaking around like a thief?"

Xiao Lingyu said, "I... I was just afraid of disturbing you and dad."

"Haha..." Mother Xiao chuckled coldly.

Xiao Lingyu was scared. She had a bad feeling. Then the question came...

"Xiao Lingyu, this is not your first time coming to the kitchen to find something to eat, right?" Mother Xiao asked coldly.

"Of course, it's my first time." Xiao Lingyu smiled embarrassedly. "I was hungry in the middle of the night, so I came to the kitchen, and Mom, you caught me."

"Stop lying!" Mother Xiao glared at her and said with a serious expression, "Xiao Lingyu, do you think I'm blind or a fool? I always know how many things are there in the kitchen. And our gas is getting drained faster than usual."

Xiao Lingyu's expression froze, and her face turned slightly pale. She explained, "Mom... I... I was hungry once in a while at night, so I got up sometimes to cook for myself."

"Once in a while? Sometimes?" Mother Xiao scoffed. "Xiao Lingyu, do you still want to lie to your mom? You've been sneaking up to the kitchen every night, right?"

Xiao Lingyu was shocked and panicked. She said, "Mom, I... I..."

"You're pregnant, right?" Mother Xiao asked directly, "Your appetite is obviously much bigger than before. In addition, you've been unusually careful these days. You even touched your stomach from time to time. I am the mother of two kids. Do you think I can't tell? Xiao Lingyu, do you still want to lie to me?"

This time, Mother Xiao was unusually serious and fierce.

Xiao Lingyu was pregnant. The father of the child was unknown. If this child was born, how would her daughter be able to marry in the future?

“Mom... I...” Xiao Lingyu didn’t know how to respond to Mother Xiao’s stern questioning. “I didn’t lie to you on purpose.”

“Then, what were you doing earlier?!” Mother Xiao suppressed her anger and demanded, “Xiao Lingyu, I’m your mother. How could you keep this from me? If I didn’t spot you this time, how long do you plan to keep it from me? Do you want to wait until the child is born?”

Since the matter was exposed, Xiao Lingyu said firmly, “Mom, I really did plan to tell you after a while. But since you already know the truth, I will tell you my decision. I will give birth to this child!” Xiao Lingyu could be extremely stubborn. Once she made up her mind, nothing could change it.

When Mother Xiao heard her daughter, her head buzzed, and her body swayed.

“Mom!” Xiao Lingyu called out worriedly.

“Don’t come near me!” Mother Xiao scolded, “Do you still see me as your mom? How many secrets you’ve hidden from me?”

Xiao Lingyu’s pale face suddenly turned even paler.

She opened her mouth but didn’t know what to say.

“What’s wrong?” Father Xiao’s voice suddenly came over. “Qiuying, it’s so late at night. What are you two arguing about?”

As soon as he entered the kitchen, Father Xiao noticed Xiao Lingyu was extremely pale. He was confused.

“Do you know what time it is? Why are you two arguing?” Father Xiao.

“Ask your daughter!” Mother Xiao pointed at Xiao Lingyu. She was so angry that her entire body was trembling.

Father Xiao looked at Xiao Lingyu in confusion and asked, “Yu ‘Er, what happened? Why is your mother so mad?”

Xiao Lingyu looked at her father and said seriously, “Dad, I’m pregnant.”

“What?!” Father Xiao was stunned. “Yu ‘Er, what did you say? You’re pregnant?”

“Yes!”

Since it had been exposed, Xiao Lingyu decided not to hide it anymore. She continued, “I plan to keep the child!”

Father Xiao was dumbfounded. “You want to give birth to the child?”

“I disagree!” As Xiao Lingyu expected, Mother Xiao’s reaction was intense. She said with equal stubbornness. “You can’t give birth to this child. How do you expect to get married in the future? Plus, the child doesn’t even have a father. The child will be looked down on and called a bastard. What is the point?”

“No, Mom, the child is not a bastard!” Xiao Lingyu argued, “He is my baby.”

“Regardless, you are not giving birth to this child!” Mother Xiao was as stubborn as Xiao Lingyu. Xiao Lingyu inherited her stubbornness from her mother, after all.

“No, I will!” Xiao Lingyu didn’t back down.

“You...” Mother Xiao pointed at Xiao Lingyu and shouted angrily, “Xiao Lingyu, do you plan to anger me to death?” Then, she saw a pile of firewood in front of the stove. She grabbed a stick and swung it at Xiao Lingyu.

Father Xiao was shocked. He snatched the stick away before it could hit Xiao Lingyu. He grabbed his wife and talked to her. “Dear, calm down. We can talk about it nicely. We shouldn’t resort to violence. Yu ‘Er is pregnant. She might die if you hit her like that!”

“So what? I want to beat this disobedient daughter to death!” Mother Xiao was furious.

Father Xiao threw the stick away. He tried to persuade Mother Xiao. “You’re not thinking right. Who would be saddest if Yu ‘Er died? You!.” Then he turned to Xiao Lingyu with a dark expression. “Xiao Lingyu, quickly apologize to your mother. Look at how angry you’ve made her!” Mother Xiao even threatened to kill her daughter, so she must be furious.

Xiao Lingyu was stubborn. She said, “Dad, I did nothing wrong. I will have this baby. Mom, if you insist on having me lose the child, then I’d leave this family!”

This time, even Father Xiao was feeling the fury. His face darkened, and he shouted, “Xiao Lingyu, what nonsense are you talking about? You are planning to abandon your parents for the child in your stomach?”

Xiao Lingyu’s face was pale. She bit her lower lip tightly, but her eyes were unusually determined. She shook her head and said, “Dad, Mom, it’s not that I want to abandon you, but I owe the child in my belly too much.”

Father Xiao frowned and asked in confusion, “How can you owe the child?” She hadn’t even had the child yet. Mother Xiao also looked at Xiao Lingyu in confusion.

Xiao Lingyu sighed softly and said, “Dad, Mom, I have disappointed the child too much. So this time, I need to make it up to him and treat him well. I want to be a good mother and let him grow up healthily!”

Father and Mother Xiao were shocked. Their hearts shivered. They looked at each other and thought, ‘Why is she talking like that? Is there something wrong with her mind?’ Then, they felt a surge of fear.

Father Xiao was the first to say something. He commented, “Yu ‘Er, don’t scare Dad. How can you owe the child when you haven’t even given birth to him? I’m still recovering from the surgery, so I can’t stand too much shock.”

Xiao Lingyu smiled bitterly. She knew that if she didn’t give her parents an explanation, with her mother’s temper, she would really pull her to abort the child. In order to protect the child, she would really run away from home.

But where would she go?

Xiao Lingyu said, "Dad, Mom, I need you to follow me." She didn't plan to expose this so soon, but she had no choice.

"Ah?" Father Xiao looked outside. "Where are we going in the middle of the night?"

Xiao Lingyu didn't answer. She walked over to hold her parent's hands. "Enter!"

In the blink of an eye, Father Xiao and Mother Xiao found themselves in another place.

The couple was extremely shocked. They looked around in disbelief. They couldn't see the sun, but it was as clear as day.

They saw a large piece of land, a small river, and a deep pool.

They also saw a lot of vegetables growing on a piece of land. They were very cute.

But the most important thing was the vegetables looked very familiar. What did their daughter say? She got the vegetables from a friend from the Academy of Agricultural Sciences?

"Yu 'Er, what... What is going on?" Father Xiao was trembling. This was the age of science, not many people believed in the supernatural anymore, but now, they had been teleported to a strange place.

Xiao Lingyu said, "Dad, Mom, do you still remember the jade pendant I found at the bottom of the river when I was young?"

"Jade pendant? That phoenix-shaped jade pendant?" Father Xiao was very confused, "But what does this have to do with the jade pendant?"

"We are inside the jade pendant now!" Xiao Lingyu said.

"What?!" Father Xiao was so shocked that he sat down on the ground. His face was still filled with disbelief. "We're inside the jade pendant? How... How is this possible? Yu 'Er, what is going on?"

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "I don't know either. When Zhou Huiqing wanted to kill me, I was saved by Yan Siming. However, the fruit knife still cut my chest. The blood dyed the entire jade pendant red. And I found this space by accident. The spring water here is miraculous!"

Mother Xiao immediately reacted and pointed at the small river. "So, the fertilizer you have been using is not a secret formula from a friend but the spring water here?"

"Yes!"

Mother Xiao asked worriedly, "Yu 'Er, will this thing harm you? If it does, you have to throw it away!" A parent would always put her child first, no matter what. Father Xiao nodded. "Yes, Yu 'Er, this thing is too dangerous. We should drop it!"

Xiao Lingyu shook her head, "Dad, Mom, don't worry. This thing won't hurt me. Besides, the vegetables grown in this space are good for your body."

"Even so, this thing is too eye-catching. If other people find out about this, it will be so dangerous." Father Xiao said worriedly, "Yu 'Er, I still think you should toss this thing away."

People were very selfish. Once people found out about this miraculous pendant, the Xiao Family would be in great disaster.

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "Dad, it's useless. I can't throw it away." She had tried it before, "The pendant has joined with me. Mom, Dad, I didn't say anything because I don't want you to get implicated."

"Silly child, why would you think that?" Mother Xiao cried. "We're your parents. We're family. We should face both blessings and disasters together."

Father Xiao was silent, but his expression echoed mother Xiao's words. He asked, "Yu 'Er, tell us, what exactly is going on?"

Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment, then slowly said, "Mom, Dad. I can't explain what is going on with this jade pendant but once I had it, I was given a predictive dream. In the dream..."

Xiao Lingyu did not hide what happened in her past life from her parents.

Then again, she couldn't be sure that the things that happened in her previous life would repeat themselves in this life or not.

Chapter 180: Exposed

After hearing about Xiao Lingyu's dream, Mother Xiao burst into tears. Even Father Xiao's eyes were red. They didn't expect the Xiao Family in Xiao Lingyu's dream would lead such a miserable life.

Xiao Lingyu said, "I was scared awake. When I woke up, I found myself in an unfamiliar bed, and my body pressed down by an unfamiliar man. I wanted to fight back, but my body was weak. However, there was a burning sensation. Then, it hit me. I was not dreaming. I was drugged. The dream was predictive."

Her eyes were red. She wiped the tears from the corner of her eyes and continued, "I couldn't fight back.

"When I woke up the next day, all I could think of was how to avoid that horrible future in the dream. First, I had to find evidence to stop Chen Ran and Zhao Wenman. So I asked the hotel for the video of me being drugged. Mom, Dad, I had told you the rest.

"Mom, the dream was too real. I knew I had to do everything to stop it from happening in real life. In a way, I feel that I owe this child. Mom, Dad, I beg you, let me keep him, okay?"

Xiao Lingyu practically begged her parents, "Xiao Tong... He is very sensible. Mom and Dad, you will like him. Mom, I can't bear to part with him again."

After hearing the story, the soft-hearted Mother Xiao didn't have the heart to ask for an abortion anymore. Mother Xiao nodded. "Okay, we'll keep the child. In the future, I'll do my best to protect my grandson. We'll see who dares to bully him!"

"Thank you, mom!" Xiao Lingyu said gratefully.

Mother Xiao laughed and then cried, "Silly child, I'm your mother. Why thank me?"

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "Mom, no matter what, I'm very grateful to you!"

Mother Xiao sighed. "But you shouldn't sneak around anymore. We haven't done anything wrong, so why should we care about other people's opinions?"

"Okay!" Xiao Lingyu nodded in agreement.

Father Xiao was a good man who obeyed his wife. He rarely objected to his wife's decision.

He looked around and said worriedly, "Yu 'Er, this place is still too strange. You mustn't tell anyone about it, okay?"

"Right, don't even tell your brother!" Mother Xiao immediately agreed. "He's too young. I'm afraid that he'll be easily tempted by the outside world and won't be able to keep his mouth shut!"

"Okay!" Xiao Lingyu nodded. She never planned to tell anyone in the first place. The fewer people who knew about it, the better. The farming space was too inexplicable.

Father Xiao thought and said, "Yu 'Er, you're pregnant now. From now on, your mother will accompany you to the county town."

Mother Xiao nodded. "That's right. I'll go with you to the county town. Fortunately, the road from Taoyuan Village to Xing An town has been repaired. Otherwise, it would be a bumpy and dangerous ride for you and your child!"

Xiao Lingyu didn't refuse, "Okay, but mom, you can't accompany me forever! Little brother will take his exams in a few days. After that, he'll get his driver's license, and then he can drive me."

"That works too!" Mother Xiao said, "But try not to tell your brother about this place, okay?"

"I know!"

Father Xiao looked around, "Yu 'Er, we should leave. I feel uneasy being here!" Father Xiao seemed to lack a sense of security in the space.

They were all in this space. If someone came to look for them, they would be suspicious.

Mother Xiao remembered that too. "Yes, Yu 'Er. We should get out. Aren't you hungry? I'll cook you noodles!"

"Okay!"

They had been in the farming space for a long time, but in the outside world, only one or two minutes had passed. The water was still boiling and the fire was burning.

Mother Xiao thought it was magical. "What... What's going on?"

Xiao Lingyu explained, "Mom, the flow of time in the space is slow. A minute outside can actually be half an hour inside."

“Oh, that’s interesting!” Mother Xiao nodded. Then, she took out two eggs from the cabinet and found two green onions. Then, she continued to instruct Xiao Lingyu, “Yu ‘Er, that space is too weird. You shouldn’t use it too often. You mustn’t let anyone see you appear or disappear from thin air. Don’t you agree, Dear?”

“Yes! Limit your usage of it in the future!” Father Xiao nodded. “The thing is too strange. It will be horrible if it catches the wrong attention.”

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, “Mom, Dad, I’m not a three-year-old child. I know the severity of the matter. I will definitely make some observations before entering the space.”

“It never hurts to be careful!” Father Xiao reminded, “Chen Ran and the Chen Family are now in the past. Since we’ve decided to keep the child, he is our grandson. We’ll definitely treat him well.”

“Thank you, Dad, thank you, Mom!” Xiao Lingyu was really grateful that she was born into such a loving family. If she were born into another family, she would be beaten to death already. They wouldn’t be as understanding as her parents.

By the time Xiao Lingyu finished her supper, it was already three o’clock in the morning.

Mother Xiao and Father Xiao returned to their rooms. Once the door closed, their faces turned up with worry.

Mother Xiao asked in puzzlement, “Dear, what do you think of Yu ‘Er’s dream? Don’t you feel it’s too realistic? Plus, why do you think the dream comes to Yu ‘Er? Is it really, as she said, that it is a predictive dream? It’s a premonition?”

Mother Xiao was still trying to process the many information. However, what she cared about the most was her family, or rather her family in Xiao Lingyu’s dream. It felt too surreal.

Father Xiao also had a solemn expression on his face.

He said, “You’re right. Yu ‘Er’s dream is too real. If we didn’t know the truth, I would have suspected that Yu ‘Er had experienced that life herself... Perhaps it was not a dream, and she had already reincarnated once?”

Father Xiao had no idea how close his guess was. However, the rural villagers didn’t know about the common trope of webnovels, reincarnation!

Mother Xiao tapped on the wooden table. “Yu ‘Er is clearly fine. How could she have died once already? It’s just a predictive dream!” Mother Xiao emphasized, perhaps to herself. Of course, it was also hard to believe that Xiao Lingyu could come back from the dead.

“Dear, do you think things would have been as bad as the situation in her dream if Yu ‘Er didn’t find out about Chen Ran’s plan?” Father Xiao suddenly asked.

Mother Xiao immediately fell silent. The silence was the best answer. It was a yes.

Father Xiao sighed heavily. “It seems like we really need to thank Mr. Yan, who helped Yu ‘Er. If it weren’t for him, Yu ‘Er wouldn’t be able to fight Chen Ran and his powerful in-laws.”

When they thought back to how they had treated Yan Siming when he came to Taoyuan Village, they felt ashamed. That was his first visit to Taoyuan Village, and he had helped them immensely, or else, things wouldn't have ended so well with Chen Dahua and his family.

Mother Xiao was silent for a while before saying. "Mr. Yan is a good person. We didn't get the chance to thank him before he left. I heard he is a big character and a very busy person!"

"We should thank him properly when he comes next time. Why don't you cook for him?" Father Xiao suggested with a smile.

"Okay!" Mother Xiao replied without thinking.

"It's still early. We should get back to bed." Of course, the couple couldn't sleep. They tossed and turned in bed.

The next day, three pandas appeared in the Xiao family's courtyard.

Xiao Lingyu felt guilty when she saw the dark circles under her parents' eyes. They couldn't sleep because they were worried about her.

Mother Xiao saw her daughter and read her thoughts. "Silly child, don't blame yourself. We couldn't sleep because it was information overload. We'll be fine after a while. Are you hungry? I'll go make you some porridge and steam two eggs. You need to have more nutrition during this period. Later, I'll make a chicken stew. Today is Marketfair Day. I'll go to town to buy some chicks to raise at home. We'll need to make sure you get all the nutrients you need!"

"Thank you, Mom!" Xiao Lingyu said gratefully. She was lucky to have such a wonderful family. However, in her previous life, her emotions clouded her mind. It caused her parents and brother to suffer greatly. Even though she and her brother grew stronger, there were things that couldn't be healed.

Mother Xiao smiled and said, "I'm your mother. Who is going to take care of you if not me?"

Father Xiao woke up early. He did not go to walk around the village as usual. Instead, he sat in the courtyard with his brows tightly knitted, as if he was thinking.

Then, he stood up and began to observe the flowers in the courtyard.

Ever since the news of the expensive flowers in his yard had spread through the village, many villagers came to visit his yard. They studied the flowers and asked Xiao Zhengyang for their origins.

Even though Xiao Jun was bitten by a snake, many people still wanted to try their luck. Of course, the number was not as large as before. Plus, they took a better protective measure. For example, many people wore gloves and rain boots to prevent snake bites.

Yesterday, the villagers dug up more flowers and dropped them off at the old master's. They wanted the old man to identify them, but in the end, they just wanted the old master to buy the flowers from them.

Xiao Zhengyang was sure the old master was just being kind. It seemed like he needed to discuss this matter with the village chief.

The villagers couldn't keep on treating the old master like a sucker. The old master was a benefactor to Taoyuan Village. They couldn't afford to offend him. Furthermore, the old master moved to Taoyuan Village to recuperate because of his poor health. How could he do that when the villagers disturb him daily?

Father Xiao called Xiao Lingyu over and said, "Yu 'Er, many people went up the mountains to dig for flowers since the night before yesterday. Then, they went to drop them off at the old master's place. They said they wanted the old master to help them identify the flowers, but in the end, the old master always bought all of them. Later, you should come with me to visit the old master."

When she heard that, Xiao Lingyu's heart shook. She didn't want to be so close to Old Master Gong. If he found out about Xiao Tong's identity, there would be unforeseeable consequences. However, the villagers had also crossed the line by forcing all their worthless finds on the old master.

The old master was her friend's grandfather.

Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment and said, "Alright. After breakfast, I'll go with Dad!"

When Mother Xiao heard this, she said, "I'll make some breakfast. You should bring some over. Also, invite the old master and the others to come over for lunch!" Everyone could see that the old master liked Mother Xiao's cooking.

The old master was Yu 'Er's friend's grandfather, and he was a benefactor to Taoyuan Village, so they should treat him well.

When Xiao Lingyu and her father arrived at the old master's place, they saw a large group of villagers gathered at the gate. There were all kinds of wildflowers and weeds on the ground. Old Master Gong was bent over studying them.

"Zhengyang, Lingyu, you're here!" Someone greeted them.

Xiao Zhengyang said, "What are so many of you doing here so early in the morning?"

Someone answered, "We dug up the flowers from the mountain. We want to keep them fresh, so we came early in the morning."

Xiao Zhengyang didn't say anything.

When the old master heard Xiao Zhengyang and Xiao Lingyu coming over, he immediately raised his head to take a look. When he saw the box in their hands, he immediately became excited and walked over like a child. He asked, "Is this breakfast for me?"

He smelled an alluring fragrance.

When Xiao Lingyu saw Old Master Gong, she thought of Xiao Tong. With that in mind, she found it hard to face Old Master Gong. Xiao Lingyu would smile at everyone, but she couldn't smile at Old Master Gong no matter how hard she tried.

When Xiao Zhengyang saw how stern his daughter looked, he quickly said, "That's right, old master. My family prepared this for you. Old Master, you should finish the breakfast when it's hot!"

“Okay!” Old Master Gong replied happily, as if he didn’t notice Xiao Lingyu’s impudence.