

Chapter 181: Losing Composure

Old Master Gong was very happy after breakfast and said with a smile, “Qiuying really knows how to cook. No wonder her cooking skills are praised by everyone!”

Xiao Zhengyang was happy to hear the praise for his wife. However, he still said modestly, “Master, you’ve already praised her once. If you continue to praise her, I’m afraid that the child’s mother will become too full of herself!”

Old Master Gong shook his head and said with a smile, “She deserves all the praise. Plus, if I praise her more, she might cook for me more often!” At this point, Old Master Gong paused. “Zhengyang, may I discuss something with you?”

“Of course, Sir!” Xiao Zhengyang said very respectfully.

“Ahem, it’s like this.” Old Master Gong seemed to be a little embarrassed, “I came in a hurry and didn’t bring my chef with me. Over the next few days, can Xiao Wang, Xiao Zhang, and I go to your house for food? Of course, we will pay! When my chef is here, we’ll stop bothering you.” Xiao Wang and Xiao Zhang had large appetites, so he had to ask.

Xiao Wang, who stood behind, had his eyes glow with anticipation.

“Oh. It’s that!” Xiao Zhengyang replied, “Of course, there’s no problem! My family cooks every day anyway. We always welcome guests. However, Sir, we only know how to cook simple meals. I hope you, Xiao Wang, and Xiao Zhang don’t mind. As for the fees, it’s alright. We grow our own paddy and vegetables anyway.”

“Haha. We like Qiuying’s home-cooked dishes the best!” Old Master Gong said, “Then, we’ll have to trouble Qiuying more in the future. However, we need to pay. Or else we’d be too embarrassed. Xiao Zhang and Xiao Wang have big appetites!”

Xiao Zhengyang thought about it and nodded. “Okay then.”

Old Master Gong turned to Xiao Lingyu, who was so pale and cautious. He asked, “Girl, are you afraid of me?”

Xiao Lingyu didn’t answer because she was dazed.

Xiao Zhengyang used his hand to nudge his daughter, “Yu ‘Er, Elder Gong is talking to you.”

Xiao Lingyu was flustered, and she mumbled, “Ah? What is it?”

Xiao Zhengyang, “...” What is wrong with my daughter? I know she is pregnant, but why is she so easily distracted all of a sudden?

Before Xiao Zhengyang could say anything, Old Master Gong asked again, “Girl, are you afraid of me? I notice that you’re always in a flighty state when you’re around me.”

'The girl is friends with Jiang Tao and Hao 'Er, so she shouldn't be so easily fazed.'

Xiao Lingyu gathered herself and shook her head. "Of course not, Old Master Gong. You're so kind, so why would I be afraid of you? I'm just not feeling so well lately." Actually, when Xiao Lingyu heard Old Master Gong say they were going to have meals at their home every day in the future, she was dumbfounded.

She wanted to avoid this, but she was in no position to deny Old Master Gong his request. She had no valid reason to stop him from coming.

So, she was caught in another dilemma.

'Oh well. Things will straighten themselves out in the end! I'll deal with this in the future! Being too evasive now will only make people more suspicious!'

Xiao Lingyu tried to relax, and then, she asked, "Old Master Gong, I heard that you've bought almost all the flowers and plants dug up by the villagers?"

Chapter 182: Expensive Strawberries

Old Master Gong seemed to expect Xiao Lingyu's question. He said, "Girl, look at my courtyard. It's still a little empty. I need some flowers and plants to decorate it."

Xiao Lingyu nodded and only said one thing in return, "Old master, we know you mean well. You won't let the villagers go up to the mountain and work for nothing." Xiao Lingyu didn't elaborate.

"Haha..." Old Master Gong suddenly laughed and said, "Girl..." He also didn't elaborate.

He knew that Xiao Lingyu was telling him not to buy the plants at a high price just because he pitied the villagers. Xiao Zhengyang was baffled by the two's interactions.

Then, Old Master Gong said, "Alright, Girl. I'll listen to you!"

Father Xiao was even more confused. 'What does the elder mean?'

Old Master Gong didn't explain. He smiled and said, "But, girl, you have to promise me one thing."

"Old master, of course!" Xiao Zhengyang said on behalf of his daughter.

Old Master Gong nodded. "Can you not look so stern around me in the future? You're making me feel like you don't like me that much."

"Old Master, that's not true!" Xiao Zhengyang anxiously explained.

Old Master Gong raised his hand to stop Xiao Zhengyang. Then, he stared at Xiao Lingyu with a pair of eyes that looked exactly similar to Gong Tianhao. He had lived over 50 years already. His younger years were filled with turbulence. His mind was sharp. He could see through many things. He just didn't want to point most things out.

Xiao Lingyu's continuous loss of composure was not due to fear but something else. But that something else, Old Master Gong didn't need to know because he believed time would reveal everything.

Xiao Lingyu felt so exposed under the old master's scrutiny. At that moment, she believed the old master already knew everything. She started to panic, and she became flustered. She quickly took a deep breath. Then, Xiao Lingyu said with a smile, "Elder Gong, my family is honored that you'd come to have meals with us. I am friends with Mr. Gong and Brother Jiang, and you are their elder, so how can I not like you?"

Old Master Gong heard the difference in the address, and his eyes flashed. Then he smiled and said, "Alright then. I'll have to trouble your family more in the future."

"It's no trouble at all!" Xiao Lingyu said with a smile. However, her eyes darted about. After Xiao Lingyu finished his exam, Xiao Lingyu would move to the county town to stay with him. When she returned, the old master's chef would arrive at the village already.

However, Xiao Lingyu had no idea she was dealing with a fox. The old master had seen through her ploy. He was confused about this subterfuge, but he didn't say anything.

Then, he changed the subject, "Girl, I heard from your father that it was your idea to move the flowers from your yard to my place?"

Xiao Lingyu said, "Old master, the flowers should be yours because you're the only one at the village who knows how to appreciate them! Before you arrived, people thought they were just wildflowers."

Old Master Gong narrowed his eyes. "But now the flowers are worth hundreds of thousands. You can take them to the flower market and gain a lot of money. That money is enough for you to buy a new house or a big car. Many people won't have that much money in their lives. Are you really giving away so much money?"

Xiao Lingyu said with a smile, "Old master, my father should have told you this before, but I'll repeat it. The flowers are only valuable in the eyes of the people who know how to appreciate them, or they are worthless. The flowers have been in our yard for decades, but who knew their values? In the eyes of the other villagers, they are a waste of time to grow." She paused before continuing seriously, "Old master, if I am honest, we can't bear to sell the flowers since we've raised them for years. A hundred thousand is a lot, but I believe I will be able to earn them through other methods soon."

Old Master Gong was intrigued. "Oh? Are you that confident?"

"Of course!" Xiao Lingyu said, "Old Master, have you seen those strawberries in my courtyard?"

"I did!" Old Master Gong said, "But what does this have to do with strawberries? The berries will get you several hundred thousand?"

"Elder Gong, that's right!" Xiao Lingyu said, "I have planted strawberries on six Mu of land. One Mu should produce 5000 to 6000 catty. One catty can be sold for 30 RMB. So one Mu of land can yield around 160,000 RMB. Six Mu of land is almost a million yuan."

This was the first time Xiao Zhengyang heard Xiao Lingyu calculate this number. When he heard the astronomical figure, his eyes widened in disbelief. When Xiao Lingyu said she wanted to plant strawberries, her family supported her unconditionally, but they never calculated the profit. Now that Xiao Zhengyang heard that the projected profit could be over a million, he was stunned!

They worked the whole year and would earn several thousand RMB. But this few Mu of land was worth over a million. The difference made him speechless.

If people knew planting strawberries was so profitable, they would all be planting them in the future.

When Old Master Gong heard her calculations, he immediately said with great interest and sharpness, "Indeed, based on your calculation, you can earn a million. However, the price you use is the market price and not the wholesale price.

"The price difference is huge. Strawberries can be sold for 30 RMB per catty on the market, but most people would only buy wholesale for 10 RMB per catty.

"Furthermore, you have to deal with strawberry quality and taste. If they are small and sour, I doubt you'll find a wholesaler who will work with you. Where will you get a million? It's lucky if you don't lose money."

Xiao Zhengyang's eyes trembled. He remembered their climate was not suitable for strawberries. Other farms had tried growing them before, and the harvest was always small and sour.

Xiao Zhengyang was worried. He wanted to consult with Xiao Lingyu, but they were at other people's homes.

Xiao Lingyu smiled with confidence. "Old Master, I think you've misunderstood me. I do plan to sell one catty for 30 RMB for wholesale price. I don't care how much the wholesaler sells on the market!"

"Oh, you're that confident?" Old Master Gong raised his eyebrows and asked.

"Of course!" Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, "My strawberries are unique. As for how unique, I'll let Old Master Gong taste some later. What do you think?"

"Wonderful!" Old Master Gong smiled and said, "Girl, I can't wait to taste your unique strawberries!"

"Then, old master, please look forward to it!" Xiao Lingyu said confidently, "I definitely won't let you down!"

Xiao Lingyu and Xiao Zhengyang left Old Master Gong's courtyard.

Outside the courtyard, the villagers were still lining up, waiting for Old Master Gong to inspect their flowers and plants. Even though no one had found valuable flowers like the ones in Xiao Zhengyang's family, the villagers had them sold for around 50 RMB, which was better than working the field. Many villagers knew that the old master was doing this out of kindness, but they couldn't resist the temptation of money!

In the afternoon, the village chief sent out a notice asking all the villagers to have a meeting.

During the meeting, the village chief told them not to bother the old master with the flowers and plants anymore. It caused many people to complain.

"Village chief, if we can't sell the flowers to Old Master Gong, who can we sell them to? To you?"

"Village chief, the old master needs these flowers, or he wouldn't buy them. We didn't even force him to buy them, so why can't we sell him the things we dug?"

“That’s right, village chief!”

Everyone objected.

“This old man’s grandson is so rich. He used 340,000 RMB to build a road. He won’t care about these small changes!”

“Besides, we don’t know if these flowers are worth anything or not. Only the old master knows how to identify them.”

Some were more extreme. For example, someone whispered, “The old man has accepted all of our flowers. He has planted them in his courtyard. The flowers look similar to the ones in Xiao Zhengyang’s house, so how can he pay us so little?” Clearly, the person was trying to say that the old master had scammed them. Of course, they didn’t dare to say these words out loud.

First, they were afraid of Old Master Gong. They couldn’t match a rich man with bodyguards.

Second, they understood it was Old Master Gong’s grandson who paid for the road. This was a good thing for the village. They were their great benefactors.

Third, they were only running their mouths.

Xiao Taiyang said, “Old Master Gong is not in good health. It’s our honor that his grandson has chosen Taoyuan Village for his grandfather to recuperate. Since Old Master Gong is here, our roads have been repaired. They benefited our village economy greatly. Just take the house building as an example. They bought the land for 30000 even though it was only worth 5000. They bought the wooden pillars for 5000 each even though the pillars only sold for 50 each. Now, the old master is kind enough to take in the plants you dug up from the mountains. When have they ever been bad to us? But.” He paused and glanced around. “We should know our limit! We shouldn’t take their kindness for granted. If you continue to do this and exhaust their good intentions, what will happen? They will move away. What should we do then? Is this how we treat our benefactor?”

The village chief was saying that once the old master left, who were the villagers going to sell their worthless plants to?

“Also, everyone has been running up the mountain these past two days. What about your fieldwork? Don’t you notice the dry land? Or the disease and insect?”

“Don’t lose big because of a small gain! Zhengyang’s family found the orchid on the mountain more than a decade ago. Whether you’d have the same good luck, I can’t really tell. But if you don’t have that good luck, be prepared to have an empty stomach for the second half of the year since you haven’t been working your fields!”

“Furthermore, for the past two days, the villagers have searched through the mountain. What’s the point of going back?”

The village chief was reasonable, and most villagers agreed. For the past two days, the flower fever was strong. Most ignored their fields. If their negligence caused their paddy to die, then they’d starve during the latter half of the year.

The mountain at Taoyuan Village was only so big. The villagers had searched every inch of it already.

The flower fever was doused instantly. The day after the meeting, most returned to the field. Of course, there were still a few who went into the mountain to try their luck.

Others like children and the elderly also returned to the mountain. They had nothing better to do anyway. What if they really found a flower worth tens of thousands?

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Xiao Lingyu was sleeping blurrily, when she heard Mother Xiao's angry voice.

"During the emergency, it was my Yu 'Er who sent you to the hospital. Now that you're healed, you still want my Yu 'Er to drive you? Have you forgotten how to take the bus?"

"It's too arduous? Why have I never heard you complain about that in the past? If you think taking the bus takes too long, then you can book a taxi. My Yu 'Er is not feeling well. I won't let her go fetch you. Go figure it out yourself!"

With that, Mother Xiao hung up the phone.

Chapter 183: Oddity

"Mom, who is it?" Xiao Lingyu asked in confusion.

"It's Xiao Jun's mother. Xiao Jun just got discharged from the hospital today, and Chen Guihua wants you to drive them back to the village. Hmph, why should we? Who are they?"

Xiao Lingyu, "... These people are too conceited.

She was not their chauffeur. She had already sent them to the hospital! Xiao Lingyu nodded. "I'm not going to pick them up. Let them come back on their own. If they want me to pick them up, the gas and labor fees will be at least 80 RMB. They have to pay!"

"That's right!" Mother Xiao also agreed.

Their family did have a car. Xiao Lingyu already helped when she offered to drive them to the hospital. However, how could these people demand Xiao Lingyu drive them back after they were well?

Then, Mother Xiao made another call back to the woman.

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After two days of hospitalization, the doctor confirmed that Xiao Jun was safe, and he could go home. As he went through the discharge procedure, his mother said she had to go look for someone and a ride home.

Soon, Chen Guihua ran back angrily. Her husband, Xiao Chengcai, asked in confusion, "What's going on? Why are you so angry?"

Chen Guihua said angrily, "It's Chen Qiuying. I asked her to have Xiao Lingyu come and pick us up, but she refused. She said that Xiao Lingyu is not feeling well."

“But then, she called back and said she could pick us up for 80 RMB! How can they be so stingy? How much petrol can a trip cost? She is clearly trying to scam us!” The more she thought about it, the angrier she became. “So what if her family has a car? What’s so great about that? If not for Jun ‘Er, we don’t even need her. We are giving her face to ask Xiao Lingyu to pick us up. After all, she is now a ruined woman. Who would befriend her anymore?”

However, there was a hint of jealousy in her tone.

Xiao Chengcai and Xiao Jun, “...”

Xiao Chengcai’s face darkened as he sternly shouted, “Shush! Do you think Xiao Lingyu owe you? How can you talk about her like this? Chen Guihua, I’m telling you now. You will never repeat this in Taoyuan Village. Do you think it’ll help us if Xiao Lingyu’s family heard about this?”

Xiao Jun also added, “Mom, Sister Lingyu is already kind enough to send us to the hospital. It’s not her duty to drive us around. She didn’t even charge us for gas and helped us with the hospitalization procedures. She has helped us a lot. We should be grateful and not hold a grudge. Otherwise, who is going to help us if something else happens to us in the future?”

“Shush, what is going to happen to us?” Chen Guihua immediately said.

“Good things can happen to us too!” Xiao Chengcai said with a dark face. “When Jun ‘Er gets married, don’t you need Chen Qiuying to help cook too?” Xiao Chengcai had a headache dealing with his shallow-minded wife. However, for his son, he couldn’t let her provoke Xiao Lingyu’s family.

So what if Xiao Lingyu was raped? Times had changed. People could cohabit before marriage. Virginity was not that important for marriage anymore. People had pre-marital sex often. The difference was Xiao Lingyu didn’t know the man she slept with.

Even so, Xiao Lingyu was still a famous university graduate, she had worked in a big city, and she had powerful friends. Xiao Lingyu was important for the road to Taoyuan Village to get fixed. The person who fixed the road was Xiao Lingyu’s friend. Taoyuan Village needed the Xiao Family more than the other way round!

The time when the Xiao Family needed to beg others was in the past. In fact, those who helped the Xiao Zhengyang in the past had been given great rewards now that Xiao Lingyu was successful. It was clear that Xiao Zhengyang and his family only hired those few people to work for them.

Furthermore, once Xiao Jun was bitten by a poisonous snake, Xiao Lingyu immediately helped to drive him to the county hospital. If she refused to help, who knew what would have happened. This was a poisonous snake bite. If they didn’t reach the hospital in a hurry, Xiao Jun would be dead already.

Therefore, they should be grateful.

Xiao Chengcai warned her sternly, “Chen Guihua, don’t offend Xiao Zhengyang and his family, especially Xiao Lingyu.”

Chen Guihua was annoyed. She was reprimanded by her husband and she said indignantly, “Xiao Chengcai, when have I offended them? I am only telling the truth. Why did Jun ‘Er get bitten by a poisoned snake? This is all their fault!”

Xiao Chengcai frowned. "What do you mean by that? How is this their fault?" He really didn't understand Chen Guihua's thinking.

Chen Guihua said matter-of-factly, "If it weren't for the few pots of valuable flowers found in their courtyard, would we have gone up the mountain? If our family didn't go up the mountain, would Jun 'Er have been bitten by a snake? So in the end, it's all their fault! So they owe us!"

Xiao Caicheng and Xiao Jun were stunned when they heard Chen Guihua's words. They looked at Chen Guihua in disbelief.

Xiao Jun sighed helplessly, "Mom, how can you think like that? You were the one who urged us to get up the mountain at night because you wanted the money. If you really want to find someone to blame, shouldn't it be you? How is this Sister Lingyu's fault?"

Chen Guihua, "..."

Xiao Caicheng was furious.

He said sternly and seriously, "Chen Guihua, is your brain full of shit? I can't believe you'd say something like this. You were greedy. You heard about their flowers and wanted to find something similar, so you urged Jun 'Er and me to get up the mountain. Yun 'Er was bitten, and Xiao Lingyu was kind to drive us to the hospital. Instead of thanking her, you're blaming her?"

Xiao Jun nodded. "Dad is right."

Chen Guihua opened her mouth, but her husband stopped her. "Stop arguing. If I hear you talk bad about Xiao Lingyu again, I'll sew up your mouth shut, or you'll bring us more tragedies!"

Chen Guihua's face paled. Then, the family went to the station, took the bus to Xing An Town, and then back to Taoyuan Village.

They left the hospital in the morning, so they returned around noon.

As soon as they entered the village, the villagers asked about Xiao Jun's health. They were very happy to know that he was completely fine.

However, someone asked, "Guihui, I heard that you didn't bring enough money that night, and it was Lingyu who borrowed 300 RMB to pay for the hospital bills. Is that true?"

Chen Guihua's face froze.

When Xiao Chengcai heard that, he had a suspicious look on his face. 'I have given Guihua enough money that night. Why would she need Xiao Lingyu to borrow her money?' Then, it dawned on him, and he turned to glare at Chen Guihua. With people around, he didn't question her.

Xiao Chengcai nodded and said, "Yes, we really have to thank Lingyu for her help. We don't know anyone in the county town. Thankfully, Lingyu was there, or else, where were we supposed to find the money to pay the bill?"

The villagers laughed and said, "Lingyu is really capable. That's why education is so important. She has friends all over the world!" These words were exaggerated now but not in the future...

“Yes, yes!” Xiao Chengcai said with a smile, “I really have to thank Lingyu! She helped send Jun ‘Er to the hospital and even paid for the hospital fees.”

Chen Guihua wanted to say something, but Xiao Chengcai gave her a sharp look. Chen Guihua was so scared that she swallowed her words.

“My Jun ‘Er has just been discharged from the hospital and needs rest. We will go home first!” Xiao Chengcai said.

“Yes, of course. Ah Jun, you just got out of the hospital. You need to rest well!”

“Yes, thank you for your concern, Auntie!”

Xiao Chengcai and his family of three returned home. Before they even put down their luggage, Xiao Chengcai began to question, “Chen Guihua, what exactly happened? I clearly gave you enough money, so why did you still ask Xiao Lingyu for a loan?” When Xiao Jun was bitten, Xiao Chengcai handed the cash to his wife. When he arrived, and the doctor told him that his son needed to stay for observation, he went to withdraw money from the bank because he was worried they didn’t have enough cash.

When he returned to the hospital, Chen Guihua told him that the procedures were done and she had paid the deposit. At the time, Xiao Chengcai didn’t think much of it. He didn’t see Xiao Lingyu, and so he asked, “Where is Lingyu?”

Chen Guihua said, “After she was done, she left. She said she had to meet a friend.” So, he trusted Chen Guihui. He had no idea it was Xiao Lingyu who paid for his son’s bills. He was annoyed that his wife didn’t tell him.

The whole thing was a coincidence or... maybe not. Chen Guihua only asked Xiao Lingyu to pay the bills when Xiao Chengcai was away at the bank. Then Chen Guihua urged Xiao Lingyu to leave after she got the money and before Xiao Chengcai returned.

Xiao Chengcai was not familiar with the county town, so he took a long time to find the bank.

When he returned to the hospital and planned to pay, his wife told him the bill was already settled. The biggest problem was since they had the money, why would they borrow them from Xiao Lingyu?

Chen Guihua was a little scared when she saw Xiao Chengcai’s angry face. Xiao Chengcai had already issued a warning at the hospital. Now that she saw him like this, she was even more scared and didn’t dare to tell the truth.

“Well? Why aren’t you saying anything?” Xiao Chengcai shouted. “Have you become mute?”

“What’s going on?” Grandma Xiao ran out of the kitchen when she heard the commotion. She looked at Xiao Chengcai and asked in confusion, “Cai ‘Er, what are you shouting for? Don’t scare my precious grandson. He just got out of the hospital! My precious grandson, you’ve must have suffered a lot at the hospital. Look at how thin you are.”

Xiao Jun smiled and said, “Grandma, you are amazing. I only lost two taels, and you can tell?”

Grandma said with a smile, “You are my precious grandson. Even if you have only lost two Qian, I can tell, much less two taels!”

“Grandma, you’re awesome!” Xiao Jun gave her a thumbs up.

Grandma Jun was happy to receive her grandson’s praise. She suddenly thought of something and immediately asked Xiao Chengcai, “Cai ‘Er, did Jun ‘Er spend a lot of money in the hospital this time? We even had to borrow money from Lingyu?” She was worried when she asked that.

If they had to borrow money, it meant that the hospital bills were bigger than their family savings. That was why they say the poor couldn’t get sick! Once they did, they would go bankrupt.

“No, I didn’t borrow money from her!” Chen Guihua denied it immediately.

“So, you mean Xiao Lingyu was lying?” Xiao Chengcai stared sharply at Chen Guihua. “But why would she lie about this?”

“How... how would I know?” Chen Guihua said guiltily, “Go and ask Xiao Lungyu!” She would never admit that she borrowed money from Xiao Lingyu.

“Chen Guihua, if you don’t tell me the truth, you..” Xiao Chengcai said angrily, “Get out of this house!”

Chen Guihua’s anger also rose. She yelled, “Xiao Chengcai, I said I didn’t borrow money from Xiao Lingyu! Xiao Lingyu said I owe her money, then tell her to show us the evidence!”

“It’s not murder and arson. How do you expect her to produce the evidence?” Xiao Chengcai was really angry and disappointed. If this matter really reached Xiao Lingyu’s ears, they would have completely offended her family.

Xiao Jun said at this moment, “Mom, Sister Lingyu isn’t a bad person. She wouldn’t go around telling people she had loaned you money if she didn’t. In fact, I think she didn’t even borrow the money from a friend. She knew you wanted to renege on the debt, so she made this move to stop you.”

Xiao Chengcai, “...”

Chen Guihua, “....”

Chapter 184: Strawberry Blooms

That night, Xiao Chengcai brought his family to Xiao Lingyu’s house.

Xiao Chengcai took out 400 RMB and handed it to Xiao Lingyu. He said sincerely, “Jun ‘Er got into trouble. Thank you for your help. I can’t imagine what would have happened to my Jun ‘Er if you didn’t help!”

Xiao Lingyu looked at the 400 RMB in her hand and frowned. “Uncle Cai, I only borrowed 300 RMB. Why the extra 100 RMB?”

Xiao Chengcai said, “It’s for the petrol fee! You’ve helped us so much. This is our token of appreciation.”

Xiao Lingyu took out the 100 RMB and returned it to Xiao Chengcai. She said, “Uncle Cheng, I helped Jun ‘Er as a favor, so I won’t charge any money. Please take this extra money back!” Then, she turned to

Chen Guihua and said with a smile, "Auntie Chen, you are indeed very trustworthy." However, the meaning of her tone was not clear.

Chen Guihua's expression immediately became a little stiff. She pulled her face and said with a smile, "You have already helped us so much. We must pay you back as soon as possible." However, she didn't want to really pay back the money in the first place. If she weren't forced by her husband and son, she wouldn't be here!

Xiao Chengcai knew Xiao Lingyu was very smart.

As his son, Xiao Jun had said, Xiao Lingyu knew that his wife intended not to return the money, so she told the other villagers about her loan to Chen Guihua.

Thankfully, Xiao Chengcai heard about this from the villagers. Otherwise, he wouldn't have known he had offended Xiao Lingyu.

Xiao Chengcai took back the 100 RM, but he still said sincerely, "Lingyu, since you are not willing to accept the money, I can't force you, but I will remember your kindness. If you need my help in the future, just let me know as soon as possible. I will not decline."

Xiao Lingyu didn't refuse. She nodded and said, "Okay, I'll remember Uncle Cai's promise. I won't hesitate to ask for help."

Xiao Chengcai thanked Xiao Zhengyang and Chen Qiuying too before his family left.

After Xiao Chengcai's family left, Chen Qiuying said, "Fortunately, Xiao Chengcai and Xiao Jun are sensible people. Otherwise, Chen Guihua, that petty person, would have offended countless people." Then, she thought of something and said, "Yesterday, I heard from Auntie Chen that Xiao Chengcai had withdrawn all their family savings to pay the hospital bills. They should have enough money to pay the hospital, so why did he ask you to loan him money at the hospital?" Auntie Chen was Xiao Jun's grandmother.

Xiao Lingyu just smiled and said, "Who knows? Maybe she was trying to look for a sucker."

"Ah?" Mother Xiao was slightly surprised, but she immediately reacted. Her expression became ugly, "This Chen Guihua really treats people like fools! Fortunately, Xiao Chengcai is wise! Or else his wife would have brought tragedy to his whole family."

The Xiao Family was richer than other villagers, but that didn't mean they didn't work hard for them.

Xiao Zhengyang nodded. "Yes. Thankfully, Xiao Jun is not influenced by Chen Guihua. He's a clever child. Then again, Xiao Chengcai isn't a muddle-headed person. He knew Chen Guihua's character. He has been handling his son's education since Xiao Jun was young."

"This Chen Guihua is really ridiculous. Lingyu had already helped them by sending them to the hospital. She even dared to call and asked Yu 'Er to drive them back. She thought Yu 'Er is their chauffeur!" Mother Xiao was still angry when she thought about this. "How thick is her face to think of something like that?"

"Let it go. At least the husband and son are clever people. Don't be angry anymore." Xiao Zhengyang said.

“Thankfully, Xiao Chengcai is clever!”

At this point, Mother Xiao looked at the time. It was already past nine o’clock. She immediately said, “Yu ‘Er, it’s already so late. Pregnant women need to sleep more and rest well. Only then will their babies be smart and beautiful!”

Xiao Lingyu, “...” She had never heard that fetus needed beauty sleep. But she relented in the end.

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With Xiao Lingyu and the village chief’s persuasion, Old Master Gong stop buying the flowers and plants. The plants were left to rot. Many villagers didn’t want the plants, so the flower fever died out.

The villagers gradually returned to peace. Only occasionally, children and elders would go up the mountains to try their luck.

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“Did you see that? The strawberry seedlings of Lingyu’s family are growing very well. These strawberry flowers are white. There are so many flowers. This will be a large harvest!”

“I know. Two days ago, Xiao Lingyu noticed some bugs on the seedlings. She hired people to catch the bugs and had them feed the chickens the bugs! 20 people searched the six Mu of lands for bugs!”

“Wouldn’t it be faster to use pesticides? Why catch them by hands? It’s so laborious!”

“What do you know? Lingyu said her strawberries will be fully organic and free from pesticides!”

“Pesticides aren’t harmful, right?” Someone asked doubtfully, “We use pesticides on our paddy, and we still eat the rice!”

“Lingyu has always been a good and hardworking child. She is a clever person. She works the land differently from us.”

“That’s right. We spray pesticides, but she hires people to catch bugs!”

“But, can the farm really produce strawberries?”

“I believe so. Don’t you see those clusters of white flowers? They’re blooming so well! Maybe they can produce strawberries!”

...

Xiao Lingyu and Mother Xiao carried two plastic buckets and came to the strawberry shed. They smiled with joy when they saw the green seedlings and the bunch of white flowers hanging on the branches.

Mother Xiao said, “Yu ‘Er, can we really produce strawberries?”

“Definitely!” Xiao Lingyu said with certainty, “Mom, don’t you see these flowers? Soon, they will definitely bear fruit!”

However, Mother Xiao was not as optimistic as Xiao Lingyu.

She said, “Yu ‘Er, I heard that our geography is not suitable for growing strawberries. Even if they can bear fruits, the fruits will be small and sour!”

Xiao Lingyu smiled. “Mom, don’t worry. Our berries will be very special. Mom, just wait and see!”

At this point, she looked at the bright green strawberry seedlings and continued, “Mom, these strawberries will definitely be sold for millions!”

“Yu ‘Er, how much did you say?” Mother Xiao thought she heard wrong. “Millions? With these strawberries?” Mother Xiao pointed around.

“Yes, it’s a rough calculation, but I estimate a profit about a million!” Xiao Lingyu said.

Mother Xiao’s mouth was wide open in shock. She assumed they would only get a few hundred thousand. After taking away the cost, their clean profit would be around forty thousand a year. However, her daughter told her that her projected profit was one million!

Thanks to the farming space, the cost for raising these strawberries had been greatly lowered.

Mother Xiao opened her mouth and said, “I hope these flowers will really bear fruits then.”

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, “Mom, help me!”

The two of them came to the side of the pool. Xiao Lingyu placed two plastic buckets in the pool. From a distance, it would seem like Xiao Lingyu was scooping water from the pool into the buckets. But in reality, she was pouring the spring water into the buckets.

The two plastic buckets were filled to the brim in a moment.

Mother Xiao immediately bent down and took the buckets out. Then, she asked worriedly, “Yu ‘Er, are you okay?”

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, “Mom, I’m Fine!” Then, she filled mineral bottles with the water from the buckets. She filled four bottles.

She handed two bottles to her mother and kept two for herself. “Mom, I’ve pierced a few small holes on the cap. We just need to sprinkle the water on the leaves.”

Mother Xiao asked with confusion. “Yu ‘Er, just the leaves? Not the roots?”

“No!” Xiao Lingyu shook her head. She had experimented with this before. If the water touched the root, it would become too big. But the effect would be less obvious if they only sprinkled the leaves. Plus, they didn’t need to bend down to water the soil.

As confused as Mother Xiao was, she followed the instructions. She held one bottle in each hand and poured water on the strawberries on both sides. Since they didn’t need to water the roots and only the leaves, the work was fast. Therefore, Xiao Lingyu didn’t hire anyone for this job.

She gently pressed the bottle, and the water would spill out on the leaves or flowers. It took little effort and time. They literally needed to walk around the farm. Soon, they finished their work.

“Yu ‘Er, are you tired? Do you want to rest for a while?” Mother Xiao asked with concern. She looked around and continued, “There’s not much left. Let me do it! You can rest here for a while.”

“Mom, I’m fine!” Xiao Lingyu said.

“No, you need to rest!” When she said this, Mother Xiao brought a bench over and let Xiao Lingyu sit down. She said, “Alright, you just sit here and rest well. I’ll water the rest!”

“Mom, apart from the strawberries, we also need to water the soybeans and peanuts. You can’t handle all of them alone!” Xiao Lingyu said.

Mother Xiao frowned. “You want to water the peanuts and soybeans? But they don’t even need water to grow!”

“It’s to make them taste special!” Xiao Lingyu said, “The tofu made from our soybeans and peanut oil extracted from our peanuts will be different!”

Mother Xiao was stunned. Then, she nodded. “Yu ‘Er, you’ve planned so far ahead?”

“That’s right!” Xiao Lingyu nodded. She grabbed the jade pendant around her neck to show her mother. She was hinting at the spring water. They were outside, so they needed to be careful. Mother Xiao narrowed her eyes and understood everything immediately. She sighed. “In that case, I’ll pull your father over this afternoon. This job isn’t tiring, so he should be able to do it!”

Xiao Lingyu did not object. “Okay!”

After the farming space was exposed, Xiao Lingyu had her parents bathe in the spring water and drink from the spring. However, in order to not attract attention, they only used a little every time. The water was good for their bodies. They could live healthily.

In the afternoon, Father Xiao came to join them. When he saw the strawberry blooms, he was happy, nervous, and a little afraid.

He was happy because the seedlings were growing well.

He was nervous because he had no idea if the flowers would breed fruits.

He was afraid because he feared the seedlings wouldn’t bear fruits, or that the fruits would be small and sour.

Ever since he knew the worth of the strawberries, Father Xiao would come to the field to look around every so often. Sometimes he would smile, and sometimes he would frown.

“Yu ‘Er, these strawberries are growing really well. The fruits will definitely be big and good!” Father Xiao said. Then again, he said that every day. Who wouldn’t want to make money? Everyone wanted good results.

Then, he frowned and asked, “How long it’ll take for the flowers to bear fruits?”

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, “I’m not sure either. Generally speaking, it takes about 30 days from flowering to ripening. However, our strawberries are special, so it probably won’t take long.”

“But how long will it take?” Father Xiao asked nervously.

“Maybe five days, or maybe ten days.” Xiao Lingyu shook his head and said, “Probably just three days!”

“Then, have we found a buyer?” Father Xiao said worriedly, “There are so many strawberries. Won’t they rot if we can’t have them sold?”

Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment and said, “Dad, that won’t happen. Did you forget about this?” She pointed to a jade pendant on her chest. “This can keep them fresh forever!”

“Oh, right!” Father Xiao patted his head.. “I forgot about that!” He was optimistic again.

Chapter 185: Visiting the Shop

Xiao Mingyang returned home with joy. He held a blue notebook and said excitedly, “Chunhua, what do you think this is?”

Liu Chunhua also asked curiously, “What is this?”

“It’s a driver’s license!” Xiao Mingyang said.

“Really?” Liu Chunhua immediately stopped washing the clothes. She washed her hands and took the driver’s license. When she opened it, her eyes glowed. “Mingyang, does this mean you can drive legally?”

“Of course!” Xiao Mingyang puffed out his chest proudly. Of the eight driving students, Xiao Mingyang was the oldest one. He was not as clever as the other seven, but he was hardworking and practiced diligently. Even though he had to take the exam twice, at least he passed in the end. Some of the other students still hadn’t passed the exam!

Liu Chunhua smiled, “Then, you can help second sister in the future.”

Xiao Lingyu was very happy when she heard the news. That night, she came to Xiao Mingyang’s house with her parents. They were very glad as Xiao Mingyang showed them his new license.

Xiao Lingyu asked, “Fourth Uncle, since you have a license, perhaps you should buy a small truck! It’ll be more convenient! After all, my car is not that suitable for transporting stock.”

Xiao Mingyang thought about it and said, “I’ve considered that. I do wish to buy a small track. In the future, I’ll be your truck driver. I’ll help you transport the stock as long as you have need of me!”

“Thank you, Fourth Uncle!” Xiao Lingyu smiled, “But, Fourth Uncle, do you plan to buy a new truck or a secondhand truck?” Then, she added, “Fourth Uncle, you can pay in installments for a new truck!”

Xiao Mingyang said, “Since I can pay in installments, I think buying a new truck is better. I don’t know anyone who has a secondhand truck to sell, and buying one from strangers doesn’t feel safe.”

“Fourth Uncle, when do you plan to buy the truck?” Xiao Lingyu asked, “I can bring you there!”

Xiao Lingyu really believed her Fourth Uncle would have a big business in the future. He would be very busy just transporting her goods. In the future, she planned to persuade him to expand into a logistic team or company.

Xiao Mingyang thought about it and said, "How about the day after tomorrow? Yu 'Er, I saw that your crops are about to mature soon. I should get the truck as soon as possible."

"Okay!" Xiao Lingyu nodded.

...

Xiao Lingyu would face his university entrance exam in about ten days.

Some people started to cram for the exam. They needed to make up for the time they had spent playing in the past. The parents went to the temples to pray for their children so they could get into their ideal schools.

At the same time, Xiao Lingyu's plants grew green and lustrous. They were cute, and it was near the time of harvest. However, the problem of sales became a headache for Father and Mother Xiao. Xiao Lingyu explained, "Mom, Dad, I've rented a shop in the county town. It's a shop meant to sell our crops exclusively."

Mother and Father Xiao were stunned. Father Xiao asked, "Yu 'Er, the rental at the county town is very expensive. Isn't it a bit of a waste to rent one just to sell vegetables?? Besides, how much money can we earn just by selling some vegetables?"

Xiao Lingyu said with a smile, "Dad, others might not have faith in our vegetables, but you too? Therefore, our prices will be different from others. We'll sell them at a higher price."

"But will people buy them then?" Father Xiao still said worriedly.

"Dad, I've already planned this. We'll have two kinds of stocks." Xiao Lingyu explained, "The public stock and the high-end stock.

"The public stock includes the crops we planted in the fields. They will be priced slightly higher than normal, but they'll still be acceptable to the public. Take tomatoes, for example. On the market, it's two RMB per catty, but we'll sell them at three RMB per catty.

"You get what you pay for.

"The high-end stock are the crops grown in the farming space. They will be targeted at rich customers. Using the same example, a tomato will be sold by units. Two RMB for one. As long as the taste is good, our target market wouldn't even blink when they buy it."

Father and Mother Xiao still didn't quite get it. In the end, they got the idea. Some would be sold for cheap, others expensive.

Mother Xiao was still worried. "But, Yu 'Er, will we be able to sell everything? These crops are not like clothes that can be kept for days. Vegetables have to be sold on the day they are harvested, or they won't be fresh!"

The harvest from six Mu of land was huge!

Xiao Lingyu smiled. "Mom, we're not growing just one kind of crop. We have about 20 types of vegetables over six Mu of land. When you break it down like that, we are not really selling that much."

Mother Xiao nodded. "You're right."

Xiao Lingyu said, "Mom, Dad, I plan to open the shop three days later. Tomorrow, I'll bring you to the shop and see if there's any improvement to be made! Then, we'll start the harvest."

There was a reason why Xiao Lingyu picked that day. She knew as they approached the exam season, the higher the pressure on the students. They would be stressed and unable to eat, sleep, and so on. Her vegetables were blessed with spring water. Consuming them would help ease these symptoms.

"Alright!" Father and Mother Xiao nodded in agreement. "We should get your Fourth Aunt and Uncle to come along too. Your Fourth Uncle wants to buy a truck, right?"

Of course, they had to go and check out their daughter's new shop.

The next day, Xiao Lingyu brought her parents, her uncle, and aunt, as well as Little Loach to the county town. It was a Saturday, so it was also a fun trip too.

"Yu 'Er, is this the place?" Liu Chunhua pointed at the high-class shop and was shocked. She looked at the surroundings, and the surprise grew bigger.

"The shop is so high-class, and it's located in the city center. The rent must be very expensive. It must have cost a lot." Mother Xiao was concerned.

Xiao Lingyu smiled. "It did cost some money, and I do owe some people money."

"You owe people money?" Mother Xiao frowned. "Yu 'Er, do you need money? Your dad and I have saved some money over the years." That was the mindset of the rural people. They would feel uneasy owing people.

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "Mom, there's no need. Believe me. We can pay back this money very quickly."

"Yu 'Er, how much do you owe? And who do you owe?" Father Xiao asked.

"It's mainly the renovation company. However, the company is introduced to me by a friend. The renovation company's owner is a good friend of my friend." Xiao Lingyu didn't hide anything. Then, she added, "Mom, Dad, don't worry. Many people owe money in the business world. I'll pay him back the moment I have the money!"

Father Xiao nodded and seriously said, "I do not know how to do business, but I still want to tell you something. We have to be honest. I believe that applies to doing business too."

"Dad, thank you!" Xiao Lingyu nodded.

Xiao Mingyang said, "Second Brother, Yu 'Er has always kept her promises. Don't worry."

Father Xiao said, "I'm just reminding her."

“Dad, Mom, fourth uncle, fourth aunt, let’s go in and take a look!”

Once they entered the shop, Mother Xiao and Father Xiao noticed the place was quite large. It was more than 60 square meters, which was relatively big compared to an ordinary shop. And to think this place was going to be a vegetable store.

The shop had been renovated. The orange and white walls were decorated with some cute and watery vegetable pictures. Below each picture was extra info about the vegetables and the price they were sold at. Even the cashier was well designed.

“Wow, eldest cousin, this place is so beautiful!” Little Louch exclaimed, “If I didn’t know any better, I’d think this is a hotel!”

“You always have such a sweet mouth!” Xiao Lingyu smiled and patted the back of Xiao Xiaohui’s head.

“This is not bad.” Mother and Father Xiao didn’t know what to say, but they were quite satisfied.

“Yes, it is brilliant!” Xiao Mingyang said, “This is the most beautiful shop I’ve ever seen!”

He really couldn’t think of any words to describe it, so he could only say it was beautiful.

They hadn’t been to any high-end place before. Otherwise, they wouldn’t be so shocked.

“Yu ‘Er, can you manage such a big store on your own?” Mother Xiao asked with concern. “We don’t know how the business will be. How about I come to help you?”

“I can help too!” Liu Chunhua also volunteered.

“Me too.” Xiao Mingyang added.

Xiao Lingyu thought. “Alright, I’ll have to trouble mom, Fourth Aunt to help me for a while then. Dad, you’ll have to handle everything at home then. Fourth Uncle, you might have things to do when the shop opens.”

Fresh vegetables had to be delivered early. This meant that the delivery person had to wake up early! So when they were not working, they needed to rest to prepare for the long journeys!

“...” Xiao Mingyang nodded in confusion, “Okay.”

Father Xiao immediately waved his hand and said, “Yu ‘Er, don’t worry. I’ve already recovered. Leave the family matters to me. You and your mother should stay in the county town. But...” Father Xiao looked around again, “Yu ‘Er, can you handle such a big shop? Don’t tire yourself out. Yu ‘Er, you can’t be too tired.”

Mother Xiao immediately said, “I’ll be here. Plus, we also have Chunhua. It’ll be fine.”

Xiao Lingyu said, “Dad, we’ll see first. If we can’t handle it, we’ll have to hire people.”

“That’s fine, but how are the crops going to be delivered?” Father Xiao asked. “Yu ‘Er, you can’t be driving back and forth every day.”

Xiao Lingyu smiled. “Dad, have you forgotten about fourth uncle?”

Father Xiao slapped his forehead and said with a smile, "If you don't remind me, I really have forgotten all about that. Fourth brother knows how to drive now!"

"..." Xiao Mingyang was speechless before saying, "Second brother, how can you forget about me when I'm standing right here? It looks like you don't care about me at all!"

Xiao Zhengyang said self-deprecatingly, "I think I'm getting senile!" He forgot that they were in the county town to help Xiao Mingyang buy a truck too.

"Haha..." The other laughed.

Xiao Lingyu chuckled. "I've planned this beforehand. I asked Fourth Uncle to get a license to help me transport the crops."

Everything was ready at the shop. They were just waiting for the stock to arrive. Father Xiao and the others didn't feel like anything was missing. After walking around, they left.

At noon, Xiao Lingyu brought her parents and fourth uncle's family to the Gu family's hotel for a meal.

Mother Xiao said hesitantly, "Yu 'Er, I heard that it's very expensive to eat at the hotel. Why don't we go to a small restaurant? Or we can buy some ingredients and go home to cook."

Xiao Lingyu said, "Mom, you've been cooking every day. It's rare for us to eat out, so we have to treat ourselves better. The Gu Family Hotel is our big client. Mom, do you remember Gu Ziye who came to our home last time?"

"Of course!" Mother Xiao nodded. "I'm not that old yet. I can still remember the guests we've entertained. Gu Ziye runs a hotel. He asked for our wine. He said it could be his hotel's house wine." Mother Xiao had a good memory.

"That's right. Gu Ziye is the general manager of this hotel." Xiao Lingyu said, "And Mom, your wine is now the house wine. Why don't we go in and take a look!"

When Mother Xiao heard the wine she brewed was the hotel specialty, she was excited.

Father Xiao glanced at Mother Xiao. He nodded and replied, "Alright then. Yu 'Er, let's go in and have a big meal today!"

Xiao Mingyang's family of three didn't have any objections, especially Xiao Xiaohui. He really wanted to go into the hotel!

Chapter 186: Fawning

"Lingyu, uncle, Auntie, it's really you." Gu Ziye, who was about to head to his own private room, saw Xiao Lingyu and the others walk in, so he went over to greet them.

Mother Xiao smiled. "Ziye!"

Gu Ziye said, "Uncle, Auntie, you're here to eat, right? Let's go to my private room!"

"We can't impose on you!" Xiao Lingyu said, "We can just eat in the restaurant."

Gu Ziyue said with some dissatisfaction, "Lingyu, I'm inviting Uncle and Auntie to my private room. If you don't want to join us, you can go to the restaurant on your own."

Xiao Lingyu, "..."

Mother Xiao chuckled, "Okay, then. Ziyue, thank you so much."

A moment later, Gu Ziyue led Xiao Lingyu and the others into the private room.

Gu Ziyue said with a smile, "Uncle, Auntie, order whatever you want to eat. Don't worry. This is my treat!"

"How... can we ask you of that?" Mother Xiao was shocked.

"Auntie, don't worry!" Gu Ziyue said sincerely, "You've treated us many times when we went to Taoyuan Village!"

"You are Yu 'Er's friend, so of course, we have to look after you." Mother Xiao smiled.

At this moment, Gu Ziyue took out a menu, "Uncle, Auntie, this is the menu. Order whatever you want to eat. It's on the house!"

"Then, we'll thank you for your kindness!" Mother Xiao took the menu and handed it to fourth aunt and fourth uncle, "Chunhua, Mingyang, you should see what you like."

Gu Ziyue added, "That's right. Just order anything that catches your eyes!"

Xiao Xiaohui took the menu and asked suspiciously, "Second aunt, can we really order anything?"

"Of course!" Gu Ziyue said.

"Yay!" Xiao Xiaohui happily opened the menu. When he saw the various pictures on it, he almost drooled. Then, he waved his small hand and pointed at one of the pictures, "I want a grilled fish! Grilled fish is good. What else..."

"That's enough. Who gave you the right to make the orders?" Xiao Mingyang nudged the back of his son's head. "Let your second uncle and aunt order first!"

"Okay!" Xiao Xiaohui reluctantly pushed the menu back to Mother Xiao and said, "Second aunt, here."

Mother Xiao laughed. After consulting with the others, she ordered a few dishes.

Gu Ziyue looked at their order and frowned. But he didn't say anything.

After he delivered the order, he came back. He sat down and asked, "Lingyu, I heard that your shop is ready. When will you open?"

"Probably on May 20th!" Xiao Lingyu said.

"Ah, okay. I'll definitely come over to support you then!" Gu Ziyue said.

"Thank you!" Xiao Lingyu thanked him sincerely.

He knew that Xiao Lingyu opening a vegetable store might have a certain impact on his hotel business. But the impact wouldn't be that big. After all, he couldn't demand Xiao Lingyu to only do business with him.

Gu Ziye thought for a moment and said, "Lingyu, can we discuss something?"

"..." Xiao Lingyu said, "Of course, President Gu."

"It's about the hotel's daily vegetable supply. Can you double them?" Gu Ziye asked. Now, he had 300 catties of vegetables daily, which was around 10 catties of each vegetable. It was simply unable to meet the hotel's demand.

"Double it?" Xiao Lingyu frowned and asked, "You mean 600 catties daily?"

"That's right!" Gu Ziye said, "A daily amount of 300 catties is simply not enough. Previously, you have promised to increase the amount after a month."

Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment and said seriously, "President Gu, you also know that my shop is about to open. After that, many people will probably know that you bought your supply from me. Naturally, my shop might affect your hotel business. So, 600 catties..." wouldn't it be too much?

Gu Ziye smiled and said, "Lingyu, thank you for your consideration. Yes, your shop will certainly affect my hotel business. However, this hotel serves a lot of foreign guests.

"Ever since we cooperated, we have had a lot of foreign guests. They praise your food endlessly. Then, they spread the words among the other foreigners.

"Over the past month, the hotel restaurant has been constantly full. Foreign guests account for 80 percent of our business. We already have a long waiting list."

Xiao Lingyu really didn't know about the hotel business. She nodded. "In that case, sure. I'll provide the Gu Family Hotel with 600 catties of ingredients every day!"

The others at the table were shocked. So many vegetables were sold just like that?

The farmers always had problems with sales.

However, now that the Gu Family Hotel had made such a large purchase, they should have no problem selling their harvest.

The business of the Gu Family hotel was booming. Every day, it was filled with customers. This was all thanks to Xiao Lingyu. Xiao Lingyu was truly Gu Ziye's lucky star!

Gu Ziye also knew he couldn't offend Xiao Lingyu. He couldn't stop Xiao Lingyu from opening her own business. So he would congratulate her wholeheartedly. This was the secret of the business world. Other than the government, no one could dominate the market.

It was unscrupulous to block others' business. Gu Ziye asked, "Lingyu, have you prepared everything in your shop? Is there anything that you need help with? Your shop isn't small either. It will probably be busy once it opens. Are you hiring anyone now?"

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "Not at the moment. I don't know about the business situation yet. We'll see in the future."

"Oh, I see!" Gu Ziyue nodded and said, "Let me know if there's anything I can help you with."

After chatting for a while, the dishes were served one after another.

The first to be served was the grilled fish.

"Wow, it's so beautiful!" Seeing the grilled fish, Xiao Xiaohui couldn't help but exclaim, "It looks like a flower."

The plate of grilled fish was adorned with purple flowers. The plate was sprinkled with red peppers, onions, and parsley. A blue flame was burning under the plate.

Xiao Xiaohui held a pair of chopsticks in one hand and his chin in the other. He asked curiously and naively, "Why is there a fire? Is the fish not cooked yet?"

"Erm..." The seemingly simple question stumped a large group of people. No one had seemed to consider this problem before. The flame was probably to make the dish look more impressive.

"It'll make the fish more delicious!" Xiao Lingyu explained.

"Oh, okay!" Xiao Xiaohui nodded.

Then, the other dishes were served. When Xiao Lingyu saw the sea cucumber, abalone, and shark's fin soup, she frowned. These things were expensive. She could guarantee that her parents would never order them. Therefore, the person who ordered these dishes must be Gu Ziyue.

She sighed lightly and thought to herself, 'Such is the way of the business world. O well. This shall be a treat for the family. They probably haven't tasted any of these dishes before.'

"What are these?" Mother Xiao pointed at a plate of abalone and asked, "I don't think I ordered this dish. I don't think I've ordered any of these." Taoyuan Village was not close to the sea, so they didn't know the expensive seafood.

Gu Ziyue smiled and said, "Auntie, this is steamed abalone, this is steamed egg with fragrant sea cucumber, this is shark fin soup, and this is scallop with garlic. These are all seafood. This is bird's nest soup. It is good for beauty. Aunties, you have to eat more!"

Mother Xiao and Liu Chunhua's eyes lit up. However, Mother Xiao still said politely. "They sound so expensive. Ziyue, you shouldn't spend so much on us!"

"Auntie, it's not often for you to come to my hotel. Of course, I have to treat you well." Gu Ziyue said, "Plus, Lingyu is my friend, so this is the least I can do."

Everyone, "...". Does this mean he is interested in Yu 'Er?

Xiao Lingyu's lips twitched when she heard that. Then, she noticed the strange expressions on her family. She took a breath and said, "Dad, Mom, fourth uncle, and fourth aunt, this is President Gu's good intention. We shouldn't disappoint him. After this, we still have to go look at the cars."

“Lingyu, you’re going to buy another car?” Gu Ziyi looked at Xiao Lingyu with some confusion. He remembered that Xiao Lingyu had already bought a car.

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, “My fourth uncle wants to buy a small truck.”

“Oh, wonderful. I’ll accompany you to Xuanhao’s place after this.” Gu Ziyi said matter-of-factly.

Everyone, “...” What is going on? Did Gu Ziyi really have a crush on Yu ‘Er?

Mother Xiao and Liu Chunhua looked at Gu Ziyi with strange expressions. Gu Ziyi was handsome, tall, and had a successful career. Why would a man like that fall for Yu ‘Er?

After all, Yu ‘Er was...

Xiao Lingyu saw her mom and fourth aunt’s faces, and she knew they had a misunderstanding. ‘Gu Ziyi is doing this because he wants my business, not because he’s interested in me!’

But she couldn’t really point that out before the man. She went along with him and said appreciatively, “Thank you, President Gu. But is President Yuan in the shop?”

Gu Ziyi nodded, “Yes! He’s usually at the dealership.”

“Ah?” Xiao Lingyu was a little surprised, “Why does he need to be there? Doesn’t he have employees to help him?”

Gu Ziyi said with a laugh, “He is too free. What else can he do?”

Mother Xiao couldn’t help but ask, “Yu ‘Er, who is President Yuan?”

“Auntie, it’s Yuan Xuanhao!” Gu Ziyi explained, “He’s the boss of Teng Fei Car Dealership. After this meal, we’ll go meet him.”

Mother Xiao and the others were stunned. When Gu Ziyi and his friends came to Taoyuan Village, many people guessed they came from rich families. It was true. One of them was the general manager of a big hotel, and the other was the boss of a car company.

Birds of a feather flock together. That meant the other two had deep backgrounds too. They were surprised that Yu ‘Er had made such powerful friends in the town.

However, Liu Chunhua and Xiao Mingyang were not as shocked. Xiao Lingyu was knowledgeable, cultured, smart, and beautiful. Naturally, she could attract many members of the opposite sex.

The group continued eating.

“This food is so delicious!” Xiao Xiaohui’s mouth was full of oil. “I’ve never eaten such delicious food before!”

Xiao Lingyu looked at the garlic scallops in his hand, and the corner of her mouth twitched again. Then, she said, “I remember a little brat saying that his second aunt’s cooking is the best. So how come he said something totally different today?”

Xiao Xiaohui immediately understood that his first cousin was talking about him. He said righteously, “Second aunt’s cooking is the best. However,” He looked at the food on the table. “Since I can’t have

these food daily, they are considered snacks. These are the best snacks I've tasted. And second aunt cooked the most delicious meals in the world!"

"..." Xiao Lingyu was speechless.

Xiao Xiaohui hadn't eaten in a big hotel before, so this was all very new to him. Liu Chunhua immediately scolded, "Alright, look at you, you're eating all over the table. Be careful, don't get oil on your clothes."

"Okay!" Xiao Xiaohui's mouth didn't stop.

The meal ended in about half an hour.

Xiao Xiaohui and the adults were impressed by the delicacies. They were really fresh and delicious. They tasted so different from what they usually had.

Of course, the adults knew the food was very expensive, and it wouldn't be affordable for ordinary people like them.

Xiao Xiaohui was naive. When he walked out of the hotel, he raised his head and looked at Xiao Lingyu with anticipation. He asked, "Eldest cousin, can we come here to eat again in the future?"

Liu Chunhua's face darkened, and she immediately lectured, "You've just finished eating! You're already thinking about next time?"

Xiao Xiaohui stubbornly retorted, "Why can't I? Honestly, I haven't had enough."

"You brat..." Liu Chunhua went to twist her son's ear. Xiao Xiaohui quickly ran to hide behind Xiao Lingyu. He only wanted to eat the food again, so why was his mom so mad?

Xiao Lingyu stopped her fourth aunt and said, "Fourth aunt, don't be mad. If Xiaohui likes it that much, I'll bring him here again next time."

Liu Chunhua said, "Yu 'Er, you can spoil him. The dishes look so expensive. Ziyue was nice to treat us today, but we can't take further advantage of him."

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "Fourth aunt, since we can afford it, why would we take advantage of him?"

"Huh?" Liu Chunhua was surprised.

Chapter 187: Business Preparation

The sky was still not too bright, but there were already people busying themselves around the shed in the mountains of Taoyuan Village.

"Say, we're all planting vegetables, but why do Lingyu's vegetables grow so well? Look at them. They are so precious."

"Indeed. Look at this cole leaf. It's bigger than our face!"

"The radish is white and tender. It's very crispy and sweet even when eaten raw."

“Ah, you’ve eaten it before?”

“I have. Two days ago, Qiuying plucked a radish from the field and sliced it. I was curious, so Qiuying shared one with me. It’s so delicious. It’s crispy and sweet and full of water. It’s even more delicious than normal fruits!”

“This eggplant is like a gem. It’s so shiny.”

The group harvested the vegetables as they chatted.

“But where are they going to sell these six Mu of vegetables?”

“I heard that Lingyu has opened a vegetable shop in the county town. Plus, she is working with a big hotel that has made a big order already.”

“Really?”

“Of course. Chunhua told me two days ago.”

Liu Chunhua wasn’t a big mouth, but too many people looked down on Xiao Lingyu, so it was why she told them about the hotel business and the vegetable shop.

“Oh, no wonder Lingyu never seems worried about sales.”

At this point, someone seemed to have thought of something and asked curiously, “Have you noticed that Xiao Lingyu’s stomach is a little bigger?”

Someone joined in. “Perhaps she has gained weight? Xiao Lingyu has been staying at home. Even her face is rounder!”

“I don’t think she has gained weight. Like what third sister said, only her stomach has gotten bigger.”

Then, the working women became silent. They recalled what the Chen Family said that night. Therefore, they suspected that Xiao Lingyu was pregnant. However, with how strict Chen Qiuying was, she wouldn’t have allowed Xiao Lingyu to keep the child. Otherwise, the child would be born as a bastard child. How would Xiao Lingyu plan to marry someone with a bastard child? Would Chen Qiuying allow Xiao Lingyu to give birth to this child?

Of course, it was possible that Chen Qiuying didn’t notice her daughter was pregnant. Then again, even the outsiders had noticed that Xiao Lingyu’s stomach had gotten bigger, so how could Chen Qiuying and her husband not notice?

The outsiders couldn’t tell the truth.

“Anyway, let’s get back to work. Lingyu said we have to harvest everything before 5.30 am. It’s not good to talk bad about others. If Qiuying heard about this, she’d be so mad.”

When the other women heard this, they piped down.

Xiao Lingyu and her family were in another shed. Today was their first harvest so they were more than a little excited. They could overhear the women.

The women understood Chen Qiuying very well. Mother Xiao wouldn't mind others insulting her, but she would never accept others talking bad about her daughter. If she was mad and refused to hire them anymore, they would lose their income. It was now the resting period for farmers as they waited for the paddy to grow. So, this job was perfect. They worked for a day and would earn 20 RMB. Even if it was just 10 RMB, that was better than most vegetable farmers would pay.

The women picked up speed and harvested the vegetables.

Xiao Lingyu went to check on every farm. She heeded Mother Xiao's advice and told the women which vegetables could be picked and which couldn't.

"Yu 'Er, I'll stay here. You should go back to rest. You can come back when it's done." Mother Xiao glanced at Xiao Lingyu's slightly bulging stomach, her face full of worry and concern.

A pregnant woman's stomach would start to expand at the fourth month, and at the sixth month, it would expand like a balloon.

Xiao Lingyu was four months pregnant. As the weather turned warmer, she couldn't wear so many layers anymore. It would be impossible to hide her stomach. People would start to gossip.

Mother Xiao sighed softly and said to herself, 'Since I've promised Yu 'Er to let her keep the child. I mustn't let her and her child suffer.'

Xiao Lingyu saw the worried look on Mother Xiao's face and smiled. "Mom, I'm not tired. I'm not that fragile." She looked outside and looked at the sky. "The sky is already bright. We need to weigh these vegetables and have Fourth Uncle transport them to the county town."

At that moment, Xiao Mingyang ran over. He asked excitedly, "Second sister, Yu 'Er, how many vegetables are we moving today? Can my small truck hold them?"

A few days ago, Xiao Mingyang bought a new car from Teng Fei Car Dealership. The owner, Yuan Xuanhao was good friends with Yu 'Er, so he gave them a big discount. He chose to pay in 3-year installments. Over the past few days, Xiao Mingyang had been familiarizing himself with the truck.

Finally, he could take it on the road, so how could he not be excited?

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, "We have around 800 catties of vegetables, so it should be fine." If the truck couldn't transport 800 catties, they might as well return it. The truck her fourth uncle bought had a carrying capacity of two tons, which was 4,000 catties.

After a while, Liu Chunhua came over. "Yu 'Er, we've picked all the vegetables. Should we weigh them now?"

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, "Yes!"

Xiao Lingyu planned to bring 800 catties to the county town. As for the supply for the Gu Family Hotel, Xiao Lingyu would supply them with the vegetables grown in the farming space. There was still a taste difference between them.

The 800 catties of vegetables were all meant for the vegetable and fruit shop. She would take out another 200 catties from the farming space for the high-end clients. Xiao Lingyu wondered if she could

sell all of them, considering this was her first day. Thankfully, the vegetables could last for fifteen days. They would look like they had just been picked for all fifteen days. So she was not worried.

The vegetables were placed in plastic baskets. Of course, the weighing process would eliminate the weight of the baskets.

By the time all the vegetables were weighed, it was almost six o'clock.

There were not that many cars on the road in the morning. If they drove fast, they could reach the county town around 7 am. Xiao Lingyu estimated they would open for business at around 8 am after arranging everything.

Xiao Lingyu frowned. 'Will that be too late? Most people would have finished their morning shopping by 6 or 7 am. O well, we'll take things slow.'

When Xiao Lingyu and Xiao Mingyang arrived at the county town, the time was six-fifty. There were already crowds. They felt quite uneasy when they passed the noisy market. They were late.

After getting out of the car, fourth uncle Xiao, fourth aunt Xiao, and Mother Xiao immediately carried the vegetables down.

Xiao Lingyu was strictly forbidden by Mother Xiao to carry heavy items.

However, Xiao Lingyu did not stay idle. She quickly arranged the vegetables and sorted them into categories.

Fortunately, 800 catties of vegetables was not a lot. With all four working together, they were fast. After moving all the vegetables, the three helped Xiao Lingyu.

Xiao Lingyu asked her fourth uncle and aunt. "Fourth aunt and uncle, can you help with the inventory? Mom and I will go to the warehouse to bring the high-end products."

Liu Chunhua asked, "Lingyu, will they be heavy? Why don't you let your fourth uncle help you?"

Xiao Lingyu shook her head. "It's not that much, just 200 catties. Fourth uncle, please help fourth aunt. Mom and I will be back before you know it." She was going to withdraw the vegetables from the farming space, so how could she let them see it? Xiao Lingyu and Mother Xiao didn't really return to the rental. They drove around, and the vegetables magically appeared. Even though this was not Mother Xiao's first time seeing this, she was still shocked every time Xiao Lingyu made things out of nothing.

"Yu 'Er, I still don't think you should keep on doing this!" Mother Xiao disagreed. "If someone saw this, they'll think you're a monster!"

"Mom, it'll be fine. No one will discover it if I'm careful." Xiao Lingyu comforted, "Plus, you'll be with me every day."

"But..." Mother Xiao said worriedly, "What if I'm not around anymore?"

"Mom..." Xiao Lingyu didn't know what to say.

It was a fact that the farming space was hers. She wanted Xiao Tong to grow up happily, but with his background, he would definitely be treated unfairly.

She didn't want Xiao Tong to grow up under the strange eyes of others. For that, she had to become a strong mother so that no one dared to insult and look down on her and Xiao Tong.

Furthermore, Xiao Tong technically did have a father. In fact, his dad was the richest man in China. In her previous life, Xiao Lingyu had no idea who Xiao Tong's father was until he died. However, she recognized him in this life.

Even more, coincidentally, he was her friend, and his grandfather had chosen to settle at Taoyuan Village.

It would be best if Old Master Gong healed and left Taoyuan Village before Xiao Tong was born. After all, if Old Master Gong were still there after Xiao Tong was born, he would eventually find out the truth. Xiao Lingyu didn't dare to gamble with Xiao Tong's fate when she didn't know the intention of Gong Tianhao and his grandfather. So the only way for her to protect Xiao Tong was to get stronger.

Then, when the truth was exposed, she wouldn't be powerless. The only way she could do that was through the farming space. But she couldn't tell Mother Xiao all that yet.

Mama Xiao looked at Xiao Lingyu's anxious expression and sighed lightly. "Then forget it. I won't stop you." Mother Xiao added, "But you have to promise me to be careful. I don't want money and wealth. I just want our family to be safe and happy!"

"Okay, Mom!" Xiao Lingyu said gratefully. She was really thankful to God for giving her a pair of parents who were very tolerant and loved her.

Xiao Lingyu and her mother soon returned to the shop.

"Second sister, you're so fast!" Liu Chunhua was surprised to see them return so soon. Xiao Mingyang walked over to help remove the vegetables from the trunk. Xiao Lingyu explained, "There are not that many people on the road!"

Xiao Lingyu glanced around and realized her fourth uncle and aunt were very efficient. All the stock had been laid out.

Xiao Lingyu looked at the time. It was 7:30 am.

It was her first day of business. She wanted to find an auspicious time. 8.18 am was a perfect time.

Xiao Lingyu was a university student, but she decided it was better to follow these cultural habits than not.

The four of them made some preparations and looked at the time. There were still thirty minutes left.

Xiao Lingyu said, "Mom, fourth uncle, fourth aunt, there's still half an hour left. Let's go eat something first!"

The group of them had woken up at three or four in the morning. They had been busy since then and had not eaten anything. They must be hungry.

Mother Xiao nodded and replied, "Yes, it's still early. Chunhua, Ming Yang, let's go eat breakfast."

They were even more superstitious than Xiao Lingyu. When a shop opened at the auspicious hour, business would be better!

Just as the four of them were about to leave, a woman who was passing by the shop took a look and said with a slightly surprised expression, "Eh, when did a vegetable shop open here?"

After saying that, she directly stepped into the shop and took a look. She found that these vegetables were all fresh.

Just as she was about to buy some, she saw the price and was extremely surprised. "Why are these vegetables so expensive?!" She was talking about the high-end vegetables on the shelves.

Xiao Lingyu immediately came over to explain, "Dear customer, the vegetables in our store are all purely natural and pollution-free vegetables. Therefore, they are a little more expensive than the ones sold in the market outside."

She waved at the high-end shelves. "As for the vegetables here, they are all top-grade varieties. You will get your money's worth, trust me."

The middle-aged woman did not believe her at all. She snorted coldly and said, "Humph, just say that you're off to scam people! Why all the excuses?" Then, she said, "I'll take these 'higher-grade' ones if you sell them to me at the same price as the other vegetables!" She didn't even want to buy the vegetables.. She only made this offer because she saw how fresh the products were.

Chapter 188: Shop Opening-Congratulations

Mother Xiao and the rest were nervous when they heard the middle-aged woman. What to do? The customer was already complaining about the price.

The middle-aged woman thought her offer was reasonable. After all, she could get the vegetables at a lower price at the market. She was only making this offer because she saw how fresh the vegetables were. Her family was rich, but it didn't mean she was going to spend money casually.

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "I'm sorry, Madam. Our prices are fixed!" In other words, if you want low prices, then go to buy from the other shops.

The middle-aged woman's face was a little pale. She thought Xiao Lingyu was rude. She said with an unpleasant tone, "You won't even allow customers to bargain?! Look at your prices. They will only sell in your dreams! An eggplant costs 2 RMB each, but the market only sells them for 70 cents per catty. The market sells cabbage for 50 cents a catty, and you're asking for 15 RMB each. Are you that money-hungry?"

If Xiao Lingyu wasn't sure that she didn't know this woman, she would suspect she was there to create problems.

Xiao Lingyu still said in a good-natured manner, "Madam, there is a reason behind my high price. I mark them at these prices because they are worth it! If Madam wishes to buy something, then we'll welcome you. But our shop hasn't officially opened yet, and we're actually planning to go and have breakfast."

'So if you want to buy, hurry up. If you don't want to buy, then leave!' Xiao Lingyu did not specifically say this, but that was what she implied.

The middle-aged woman's expression became unsightly. She put down the eggplant and growled, "Fine, I'm not buying. Do you really think your vegetables are that precious?" With that, she left.

Liu Chunhua said worriedly, "Lingyu, are our prices too high?" They hadn't even opened, but they had already scared away their first customer.

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "Fourth aunt, don't worry! Have faith in our products. But for now, let's go eat. Everyone must be hungry already!"

Xiao Lingyu locked the door and led his mother, fourth uncle, and aunt to a nearby eatery. They didn't have much time to enjoy breakfast, so they bought quick food like steamed buns, fried dough sticks, soy milk, and so on.

After the four of them had breakfast, they returned to the shop. They were surprised when they saw a large group of people in front of the shop.

Mother Xiao asked, "Yu 'Er, why are there so many people in front of our shop?"

Liu Chunhua asked suspiciously, "Are these people here to buy vegetables?"

Xiao Mingyang guessed, "That's possible!"

"The Miss is here!" One person in the crowd shouted when she saw Xiao Lingyu.

'These people knew Lingyu? So they're really here to buy the vegetables?' Mother Xiao and the other two thought.

Xiao Lingyu recognized the woman who called her. She smiled and said, "Miss Yang, it's You!"

Yang Yan nodded and looked at the shop sign that said Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. She asked, "Miss Xiao, this place is yours, right?"

Xiao Lingyu nodded and then asked in confusion, "Yes! Miss Yang, how did you know that my family has opened a shop here?" She didn't think she had told Yang Yan that.

Yang Yan smiled and said, "I heard it from someone."

"Heard it from someone?" Xiao Lingyu was even more confused.

"I heard it from Yifan."

"Yifan? Qian Yifan?"

"Yes. Qian Yifan is my eldest sister's son." Yang Yan explained. "Miss Xiao, how can you treat me like this? You have my number, so why didn't you call me when you've decided to set up a business here?"

"Do you know how much my kid missed your vegetables when you were not here? He cried to eat tomatoes every day. One day, we went to my sister's place to eat. Only then did we realize Yifan only got his vegetables from you! From then on, my son has gone to his aunt's house to eat every day."

Xiao Lingyu, "... Can the world be smaller?

"Miss, I've bought your vegetables before, but I couldn't find you after that. My pregnant daughter-in-law couldn't eat anything without your vegetables. My whole family was so anxious." A middle-aged woman immediately said, "Fortunately, my youngest son found out about your shop on the forum, so he quickly notified me. I came over to take a look. And, it's really you!"

"Oh, you saw the message on the forum too? Me too!" Someone added, "I also came to verify the message. Now that I see Miss, I know that it is true!"

"Same!"

Most of them were old customers. However, Xiao Lingyu didn't expect someone would have posted info about her new shop on the forum. When did that happen, and who did it? Not many people knew about her new shop.

Xiao Lingyu said gratefully, "Thank you for your support. But I wish to know, what forum are you talking about?"

Yang Yan answered, "Oh, that is the work of Yifan! Two days ago, I heard from him that you're opening this shop. He also said he would promote the shop on the internet." Yang Yan looked around and chuckled, "I bet he didn't expect the effect would be so resounding!"

Xiao Lingyu was really surprised. "I really need to thank Young Master Qian then."

Yang Yan waved her hand and said, "Yifan doesn't talk too much, but he's actually a warm-hearted kid. Miss, you don't need to be so polite with him." Then, she looked at the shop and asked curiously, "Miss, is your shop not open yet?"

Xiao Lingyu explained, "Today is our first day of opening. We will officially open at 8:12. Please wait a moment!"

People looked at their watches and phones. It was 8 am. People knew about the importance of an auspicious time.

The crowd said, "Alright, we can wait for 10 minutes."

Xiao Lingyu nodded and took out the key. She opened the door. The customers were all very polite. They didn't barge in. Xiao Mingyang went inside to grab the firecrackers. He hung them on a long pole. He would light it when the time was right.

At this moment, a black car came to the door. The door opened, and a tall and handsome man walked out.

Someone recognized the new arrival immediately and said, "Isn't that President Gu, the manager of the Gu Family Hotel?"

Most of Xiao Lingyu's clients were well-off people. So it was not uncommon for them to have visited the Gu Family Hotel before. They knew the general manager there.

"Yes, he is carrying a flower basket too."

“Does he know Miss?”

Gu Ziyi carried a flower basket and placed it at the door. On the flower basket was a red piece of paper that read, “The Gu Family Hotel congratulates boss Xiao on her grand opening!”

Gu Ziyi was there on behalf of the hotel and himself. He walked up to Xiao Lingyu and said, “Lingyu, Congratulations!”

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, “Thank you!”

At this moment, two more cars drove over. Zheng Haiyang, Yuan Xuanhao, and Qian Yifan walked out. Zheng Haiyang drove his own car, while Qian Yifan and Yuan Xuanhao shared a ride.

They each held a flower basket. They placed them at the door and smiled at Xiao Lingyu, “Congratulations, Lingyu. We’re not late, are we?”

“No!” Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, “Thank you for coming!”

At this moment, Yang Yan looked at Qian Yifan and asked, “Yifan, are you really friends with Miss Xiao?”

Qian Yifan looked at Yang Yan and asked in puzzlement, “Auntie, why are you here?”

Yang Yan smiled and said, “Two days ago, I heard from you that your friend is opening a fruit and vegetable store. You mentioned how special her stocks are. Furthermore, you have a supply of the vegetables I’ve bought from Miss before. I suspect you’re talking about Miss, so I came to look. It turns out you’re really friends with Miss Xiao!”

Qian Yifan said, “Yes, we’re friends!”

Zheng Haiyang looked around and asked, “Lingyu, we’re not late, right?”

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, “You’re not late. The store officially opens at 8:12 am!”

Zheng Haiyang raised his wrist to look at his watch and said, “Yes, there’s still five minutes left!”

At this moment, another car drove over.

After the car stopped, Jiang Tao got out of the car and picked up the flower basket from the trunk. Then, he walked to Xiao Lingyu and said, “Congratulations, Lingyu!”

“Thank you!” Xiao Lingyu smiled and nodded.

She did not expect that the opening of a small shop would alert so many people.

“Wait... That’s Chief Jiang, right?” Someone recognized Jiang Tao, and they were shocked. However, that only made them more curious about Xiao Lingyu.

The girl opened a vegetable store, but she had attracted the attention of the Gu Family Hotel’s general manager, the eldest master of the Zheng Real Estate, the boss of Teng Fei Dealership, the county magistrate’s son, and the police chief.

‘They are all young and successful men. Are they all interested in the female boss? She is so charming!’

The men didn’t forget about Mother Xiao.

“Auntie, congratulations!”

“Auntie, congratulations to all of you!”

When Mother Xiao saw them, she smiled and said, “Thank you!”

Then, Mother Xiao’s sharp eyes captured Grandma Song and her husband coming over with a flower basket. She immediately went up to them and said, “Grandma Song, Grandpa Song!” Then, she reached out to help take the heavy flower basket from them.

When Grandma Song saw Mother Xiao, she immediately smiled and said, “Mother Xiao, long time no see!”

“Grandma, Grandpa, why are you here?” When Zheng Haiyang saw Grandma Song and Grandpa Song, he immediately went to greet them.

Grandma Song ignored her grandson and turned to Xiao Lingyu with dissatisfaction. “Girl, why didn’t you tell me that you have a new shop opening? If Haiyang didn’t mention it, I wouldn’t have known.”

Xiao Lingyu was touched. She said, “This is just a small shop. I don’t want to trouble you and Grandpa Song!”

Grandma Song tutted, “Girl, is it because you treat us as outsiders?”

“Of course not. I treat you like my real grandma. How can you be outsiders?” Xiao Lingyu shook her head.

“In that case, why didn’t you inform me of the grand opening?” Grandma Song questioned.

“Grandma Song, I’m sorry!” Xiao Lingyu apologized.

“Uncle Chen, Auntie Chen, Uncle Li, Uncle Yuan, and Uncle Qian, why are you here?” Xiao Lingyu was shocked when she saw a large group of elders coming over.

“Grandpa!” Qian Yifan and Yuan Xuanhao were also surprised by their Grandpa’s arrival. “Why are you here?”

Uncle Yuan and Uncle Qian glanced at their grandsons and shouted with a stern face, “Why? You can come, but I can’t?”

Qian Yifan and Yuan Xuanhao immediately went up to them and said, “We didn’t mean it that way!”

They were extremely shocked. They knew their grandfathers very well. The elders had many political and social invitations, but they rejected all of them. However, they had come to attend Xiao Lingyu’s shop’s small opening ceremony!

However, what puzzled them further was when did their grandfathers and the other elders become so close to Xiao Lingyu.

In truth, Xiao Lingyu wasn’t that close with the elders. She had only met them two or three times, and they were all at Uncle Chen’s place.

Uncle Chen and Auntie Chen came over with a flower basket and said, "Girl, Congratulations. We're not late, are we?"

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, "No, no!"

Xiao Mingyang and Liu Chunhua were dumbfounded. 'When did Yu 'Er make so many friends in the county? And they are from all age groups! They all came to congratulate her!'

Uncle Qian and Uncle Yuan looked at the shop from the outside and frowned.

Uncle Yuan suddenly asked, "Girl, isn't your shop a bit too small?"

Everyone looked inside and saw the shop was about 60 square meters. In the city center, this place was considered very big already. So who was this elder to say that the shop was small? He had to be extremely rich and powerful. Besides, how big a vegetable shop should be?

Of course, only a few thought that.

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "The size is just nice." After all, her target market was small too.

"We're ready!" Xiao Mingyang suddenly shouted. Then, he ran over to light the firecrackers.

The firecrackers boomed and crackled. The legend of Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables officially began!

Chapter 189: The Opening of the Shop-Lively

The moment the firecrackers went off, some ran away screaming, others covered their eyes. Everyone clapped. They congratulated Xiao Lingyu, "Miss Xiao, congratulations on the shop opening!"

"Congratulations! I wish you a prosperous business and future!"

"Congratulations, Boss Xiao!"

Xiao Lingyu smiled and replied one by one, "Thank you! Please come in!"

The group of customers entered the shop one after another.

As soon as they entered the shop, they noticed that the shop was decorated like a boutique, giving off a luxurious feeling.

The orange-red striped walls, the lamp features from the ceiling, the shelves and counters looked comfortable and harmonious. 60 square meters was quite big, but the shop made the space feel very at home. Everything was arranged in an orderly manner.

The customer's eyes lit up when they entered the shop and saw the vegetables. They were very excited and went to fight for the vegetables they wanted to buy.

"Hey, how come these vegetables are so much cheaper?" Someone immediately expressed the doubt. "But the vegetables look the same as before."

"Miss Xiao, did you lower the prices?" Someone asked.

Gu Ziyue and the others also looked at the prices on the shelves and frowned. The prices were too low.

At this moment, Xiao Lingyu took out the loudspeaker and explained, "Dear distinguished guests, let me explain. There are two grades of vegetables in this shop. One is ordinary vegetables, and the other is high-grade vegetables. There is a price difference between them. The high-grade vegetables have a slightly better taste than normal vegetables, so they are more expensive. However, the normal vegetables are very delicious too. If you have bought from me before, they were high-grade vegetables.

"However, our shop has a limited daily supply of high-grade vegetables. I'll only offer 200 to 300 catties per day."

The customers nodded with understanding.

"With regards to the difference between the two grades," Xiao Lingyu announced, "You can test it out yourself! Since today is our grand opening, everything will have a 20 percent discount. The prices will be back to normal tomorrow!"

Then, Liu Chunhua took out a plate of sliced tomatoes. She carried the plate and served the customers.

Out of curiosity, the customers took a slice to taste.

Gu Ziyue and the other often ate Xiao Lingyu's supply, and they were curious about this new grading system too. After Gu Ziyue and the others tasted it, they expressed their opinions. "The taste is indeed somewhat different!" Zheng Haiyang looked at the slice of tomato in his hand and said, "The taste of the normal-grade tomatoes is more mellow. But the taste is still much better than the tomatoes sold in the outside market. There is a pure, natural bouquet about them."

That's right. The biggest difference between Xiao Lingyu's crops and those sold in the market was the natural bouquet. Xiao Lingyu's crops had this natural scent that could make people feel refreshed.

"You're right. The vegetables still have that unique natural taste, but it is more mellow than the usual ones!" The old customers had bought Xiao Lingyu's vegetables once or twice, but they remembered the taste clearly. After the taste test, they exclaimed in admiration. It was really a nostalgic feeling. They could taste the difference too.

"They taste wonderful as well!" Someone had already made the purchase. They came from average families. If not for their children and pregnant women, they wouldn't spend so much on vegetables. Now that Xiao Lingyu had offered a cheaper variant with only a slight change to the taste, of course, they would go for the cheaper ones.

The high-grade stuff was popular too. After all, Xiao Lingyu had customers from impressive backgrounds like Uncle Li and Uncle Qian.

Before this, Xiao Lingyu had a limited supply of crops. These rich families had money, but they couldn't get the crops from Xiao Lingyu. Now that Xiao Lingyu had introduced high-grade vegetables, they naturally fought for them.

Around eight o'clock, there were more pedestrians on the street. Xiao Lingyu's shop was located in the city center. The bustle of a newly opened shop naturally attracted a lot of attention. People stopped and their curiosity drove them to go in and take a look.

They were shocked to see how good the business was. The crowd was surging, and there was no space for them to walk. Then, they saw the customers frantically fighting for the vegetables on the shelves.

“What the? This is just a vegetable store? There’s a store just to sell vegetables? Shouldn’t these be sold at the market?”

“Isn’t it too wasteful to open a shop to sell vegetables? Is the owner crazy? I doubt the profit is enough to cover the rent!”

“But look at the business. The owner should be able to earn money from the good sales.”

“Even so, how much can they earn from selling vegetables? Plus, this is their first-day opening, so there is a discount. Many shops have good business on their grand opening. Then, they will lose business.”

When these people entered the shop and saw the prices, they were shocked again.

“Oh my God, look, isn’t the vegetables too expensive? The cabbage sells for 2 RMB per catty, and you can get the same amount for 70 cents at the market! And the eggplant is 3 RMB per catty! They only go for 80 cents per catty at the market.

“There are spinach and garlic sprouts. Goodness, everything is so expensive! But so many people are fighting for them. Are they actors to drive up the hype?”

The others got suspicious too. But could the boss hire actors every day?

Xiao Lingyu sat at the cashier’s seat. On her right, Mother Xiao and Xiao Mingyang were manning the weighs.

Liu Chunhua walked around the shop, attending to the customers. She noticed the new customers standing at the entrance and immediately carried a tray with sliced tomatoes over. She said to these customers, “Welcome to Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. Our crops are natural, organic, and pollution-free. Please have a taste!”

They saw the sliced tomatoes and were curious. They took a slice and tasted it. Immediately, their eyes widened, and they said in disbelief, “This... this tomato is too delicious. There’s a fragrance, and it’s very sweet.”

Some customers were not satisfied with one slice. They took another slice and then another. Soon, they realized they had cleaned the tray. They were embarrassed, and their faces were red.

Someone spotted, from the corner of his eyes, a few scattered tomatoes on the shelves. He immediately ran in towards the tomatoes. He didn’t care about the price anymore.

However, as his hand reached forward, a chubby hand smacked him back. A middle-aged woman told him through gritted teeth. “I’m sorry, young man. I need these tomatoes. You’ll have to come back tomorrow.” Then she spoke as if to the tomatoes. “My eldest grandson loves Boss Xiao’s tomatoes. I’ve waited for a month for the boss to come back.”

The young man, An Ming, asked curiously, “Auntie, don’t you think the prices here are too high?”

The Auntie glanced at him and said, "Expensive? What do you know? Have you seen the high-grade shelves over there? Those are the truly expensive ones. But there is a reason for the price. And people are still fighting for them."

An Ming asked, "Auntie, what is the reason behind the high price?"

The vegetables were fresh and watery. It was understandable if they were slightly more expensive than the market. However, the prices here were pretty much double the outside price.

The Auntie said, "Young man, you haven't tasted Boss Xiao's vegetables before, right? If you have, you wouldn't be asking that question. The vegetables sold here are very delicious. They taste fragrant and sweet. Even for someone like Auntie, who is a bad cook, my family still fights for the dishes after I cook them. I don't have time to talk to you anymore, or the vegetables might get sold out!"

An Ming, "..."

This was the first time he saw people fight over expensive vegetables.

"An Ming!" A girl came over with two cucumbers. "An Ming, I managed to snatch these two cucumbers. Let's go up the mountains and share the cucumbers." The girl, Sun Li, liked raw cucumbers. They were sweet and crisp. Sun Li added regretfully, "It's a pity that the tomatoes that we tasted just now are gone. Otherwise, we can buy a few tomatoes. Wait, is someone eating raw radishes over there?"

An Ming looked over and saw someone take out the raw radish to eat after paying for them. "Yes, that seems to be the case."

Sun Li asked in surprise. "Can radish be eaten raw?"

An Ming saw that there were still two radishes left on the shelf, so he asked, "Why don't we buy and try them?"

Sun Li looked around and said, "Does this shop have anything to try other than tomatoes?" Then she said, "Okay, let's buy a white radish to try. If it's not delicious, we can just throw it away!"

Since his girlfriend said that, An Ming quickly picked up the remaining two radishes and queued up to pay the bill.

"Don't rush! Please queue up!" Mother Xiao said she saw someone cutting the line.

Previously, Xiao Mingyang and Liu Chunhua were worried that the expensive vegetables wouldn't sell, but they were worried for nothing. The shop was filled with customers, and they were fighting like crazy. The 1000 catties of vegetables flew off the shelves despite their prices.

Liu Chunhua sighed. There were so many rich people in the county town.

Many people put the vegetables in the basket and then queued up to pay.

Gu Ziyue and his friends walked around and then walked out. They didn't want to disturb the other customers. Zheng Haiyang was shocked when he saw the crowded shop. "When did Lingyu make the advertisement? How did she get the words out?"

“She didn’t!” Qian Yifan said, “I helped her post the info about her shop on the local forum. However, I didn’t think so many people would see it. My little aunt told me that Lingyu actually had a solid customer base from her previous ventures in the city.”

Zheng Haiyang nodded. “No wonder business is so good.”

“Come on, let’s get back to work!” Gu Ziyi said. The four of them left.

Grandma Song and Grandpa Song were surprised to see their old acquaintance, Uncle Li, and Uncle Yuan in the crowd.

“Ol Li, you come vegetable shopping too?” Grandpa Song was surprised to see Uncle Li carrying a full plastic bag.

Uncle Li said, “Is there a problem with that? Why can’t I buy vegetables?” Then, Uncle Li said with dissatisfaction. “The girl always told us she had a limited supply, so she couldn’t provide us with much. So where did these vegetables come from?”

Grandma Song laughed. “Ol Li, you mustn’t fault Lingyu. The girl indeed didn’t have much supply at first. Apart from providing them to the Gu Family Hotel, she had to reserve them for her friends. She told me that she would have extra after a month when her farm could be harvested. Plus, this is her first day of business. Naturally, she has to reserve some for sale.”

Uncle Qian nodded. “Ol Li, we can come here to buy the vegetables in the future. But don’t you think this shop is a bit too small?”

Uncle Li nodded. “You’re right. It’s her first day of business, and there are already so many customers. With her vegetables, she’ll get a lot of return customers.”

The vegetables were a little expensive, but they tasted so good. Plus, the vegetables could help with sleep and spirits. Even the elders didn’t feel the pain of rheumatism anymore. Even though they suspected vegetables could have such a miraculous effect, they couldn’t argue with the results.

Grandma Song was speechless when she heard them say that the shop was too small. “The place is not small. The market at Xing Yin County is only so big. There are not that many people who could afford the expensive vegetables. If this place was bigger, it would be redundant!”

“But can’t you see the crowd around us? We can barely find a space to stand!” Uncle Yuan still thought the shop was too small.

“That’s because we’re here during peak period!” Grandma Song said with a smile, “That girl has her own plans.” Xiao Lingyu wasn’t a big boss like these elders.

Grandma Song walked to the cash register and said with a smile, “Girl, you stay here and do your work. Grandpa Song and I will leave first.”

Xiao Lingyu said with a smile, “Okay, Grandma Song. I’m sorry I didn’t have time to entertain you this time. I’ll make up for it next time.”

After a while, Grandma Song and the others left.

“10 RMB for the white radish, 8 RMB for the eggplant, 12 RMB for the spinach, a total of 30 RMB. After the discount, it’ll be 24 RMB.”

“Yours is 80.6 RMB. After the discount, it’ll be 64.48 RMB. I’ll take 64 RMB!”

Xiao Lingyu glanced at the vegetables and calculated immediately. She was faster than a calculator.

At first, these customers did not believe her. They took out the calculator and calculated one by one. They checked and realized Xiao Lingyu was right every time.

“Boss Xiao, your arithmetic is amazing!” Someone praised. “I’ve never seen someone who can calculate so fast.”

“Boss Xiao, how did you do it? You just took a glance and knew the final price. Do you have any tips? Can you teach us? We can go back and teach my children.”

“Yes, yes, boss Xiao, do you have any tips?”

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said with a smile, “There are no tips. I’m just good at math.” She really didn’t know any tricks. She just took a glance at the numbers, and the result was in her mind.

Xiao Lingyu calculated the bill very quickly. Even though there were two people at the weighing station, they weren’t familiar with the machines yet, so they were slow. Thankfully, the customers were very patient.

When Chu Mingjiao came back from the market and passed by Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, she was suspicious. She didn’t believe the business would be so good. ‘These people are probably actors hired by the boss. When I was here earlier, there was no one around.’ That’s right. Chu Mingjiao was the first customer from earlier.

With this suspicion, she entered the shop. She looked around and realized more than half of the vegetables were gone. Some of the shelves were even empty.

At the checkout line, there were two long lines. Everyone had a full bag of vegetables in their hands, waiting to pay the bill.

This made Chu Mingjiao even more suspicious.

She walked over and saw a woman who was about her age. She asked, “Did you buy these vegetables to eat?”

The woman said, “Of course. Would I buy them to look?”

“But they are so expensive. Can you finish so many of them?” Chu Mingjiao asked.

“It’s clear that you haven’t tasted Miss Xiao’s crops before.” The woman said with a smile. “If you have, you wouldn’t be asking this question.”

“No, you have to be an actor!” Chu Mingjiao ‘exposed’ the woman. “A normal person won’t be buying such expensive vegetables!”

Chapter 190: Shop Opening-Questioned

Chu Mingjiao was angry because she believed she was being cheated by an actor. "If you're not an actor, why would you buy such expensive vegetables? Do you have that much money?"

Most of the customers present were old customers who had received the news or new customers recommended by old customers or those attracted by the info on the forum. After the tomato taste test, they believed the vegetables were worth their prices.

Clearly, Chu Mingjiao didn't understand the situation. She was suspicious when she saw so many people inside the store.

Some of the old customers were insulted when they heard her call them actors.

"How can you talk like that?" The woman who was talking to Chu Mingjiao was angry too. "Who are you calling an actor? Are you crazy? Do you think the boss can hire so many actors? Just to buy vegetables?"

"Exactly. Do you think the boss can hire actors every day? Or do you think the boss opens the shop to lose money?"

People could be fooled by actors on the first day, but it was not a trick that could be relied on forever. Xiao Lingyu's shop was going to be here long-term.

"Auntie, it's your choice not to buy anything, but you shouldn't be questioning the rest of us." A young lady said, "Miss Xiao's vegetables are expensive, but they are worth the price. Auntie, you haven't tasted her food before, so you have no right to throw your suspicions around like that!"

"That's right. Boss Xiao's vegetables are reasonably priced if you asked me. Who are you to call us actors?"

Chu Mingjiao didn't expect to get such a large reaction from the crowd. She stood there, and her ears turned red. She said, "Fine, since you people say the vegetables are reasonable for their prices, then I'll buy some today. I want to find out why they can be so expensive. If they are not worth the price and I find the boss is deceiving the customers, I'll bring the Commerce Bureau to seize this shop tomorrow!"

Xiao Lingyu narrowed her eye and said in a good-natured manner, "Madam, my shop has clear pricing and no bargaining. The bureau can come to supervise anytime."

Chu Mingjiao looked at the shelves and grabbed a handful of leeks. She didn't even line up and ran to the weighing area angrily. She placed the leeks on the weighing station and said, "Weigh these for me!"

Xiao Lingyu said, "Madam, please line up. This is just normal courtesy." She could not give the woman special priority because she was unreasonable.

"That's right. Line up! We've been queuing orderly, and no one has cut in line!"

"Queue up!"

Chu Mingjiao was so angry that her face turned red. She pointed angrily at Xiao Lingyu and said loudly, "You... Fine, I'll queue up!"

Chu Mingjiao thought to herself, 'Just you wait. I'll bring the Commerce Bureau over tomorrow to close down your shop!' The price might be marked, but it was clearly a hiked-up price.

Xiao Lingyu didn't pay much attention to Chu Mingjiao. As long as she didn't ruin the store, she could do anything she wanted.

Finally, it was Chu Mingjiao's turn. But she was asked 9 RMB for a dozen of leeks.

Chu Mingjiao immediately screamed in disbelief, "Nine RMB? Are you trying to rob me? So expensive! There is not even a catty there. The market sells them for 3 RMB per catty, and you're asking for 9 RMB for less than a catty. This is ridiculous!"

Someone reminded her, "You've taken the high-grade leeks. They are priced at 10 RMB per catty. The normal leeks are 6 RMB per catty!"

"What?" Chu Mingjiao huffed back to the shelf where she took the leek. It was written clearly: High-grade Leeks 9 RMB per catty.

Then, she turned to another shelf. The leeks there were indeed sold for 6 RMB per catty. She frowned and stomped back. She glared at the leeks.

Mother Xiao was nervous. She asked politely, "Madam, do you still want the leeks? If not, do you mind giving the space for the customer behind you?"

"Fine, I'll take them!" Chu Mingjiao said, "I'll see how high-grade they are that they cost so much!"

After Chu Mingjiao paid the bill and left, there weren't many customers left in the shop.

Around 11 am, most of the customers had left.

Liu Chunhua and Xiao Mingyang looked at the empty shelves with disbelief. They had sold 1000 catties of vegetables in two hours.

"Dear, let me pinch you to see if I'm dreaming!" Liu Chunhua told Xiao Mingyang. She really went to pinch Xiao Mingyang's arm.

Xiao Mingyang winced in pain. He groaned. "You should pinch yourself. Why did you pinch me?"

"I'm afraid of pain!" Liu Chunhua said matter-of-factly.

Xiao Mingyang, "..."

Liu Chunhua said, "So we're not dreaming. All the expensive vegetables are almost sold out." There were probably less than 100 catties left.

"Yes, it's unbelievable." Xiao Mingyang was surprised too. He thought no one would buy such expensive crops. But once the doors opened, people rushed in. They fought for the vegetables like they were free.

"Lingyu, you said most of the customers were return customers?" Xiao Mingyang asked.

"That's right!" Xiao Lingyu nodded. "When I came to set up stall last month, I told them that I might open a shop, but I didn't give them the exact address and location." Then, she paused and smiled.

“Honestly, I didn’t think the business would be so good too. I really need to thank Qian Yifan and the customers brought over by Uncle Chen.”

Qian Yifan posted the information about her shop on the forum, which attracted many people’s attention.

Uncle Chen’s social circle was filled with rich elders. Their most important thing was not money but good health. It was why Xiao Lingyu’s crops were so famous in that circle.

Xiao Lingyu had a limited supply in the past. Many people wanted to eat them, and they could only visit Uncle Chen. However, Uncle Chen had limited supply from Xiao Lingyu too. He couldn’t feed everyone. Therefore, once they heard Xiao Lingyu was opening a shop, they all came to buy vegetables.

Some of the customers were there due to introduction by old customers.

A thousand catties of vegetables sounded like a lot, but there were more than 20 types of vegetables. Each type occupied around forty to fifty catties.

The customers bought 10 catties on average. So the stock depleted quickly.

Liu Chunhua asked, “Yu ‘Er, do you know all the grandmas and grandpas who came this morning?”

Xiao Lingyu nodded. “I know some but not all!”

“That’s why education is so important. It’s beneficial to have a wide range of friends.” Liu Chunhua sighed. “My brat can’t even sit down to read. What will he do in the future?”

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, “Fourth aunt, Xiaohui is still young. What are you worried about? Plus, Old Master Gong likes Xiaohui very much. He says that he’s very smart!”

Liu Chunhua’s smile immediately appeared. However, she said humbly, “The old master is just praising him casually.” However, her tone couldn’t hide her pride.

Among all the children in the village, Old Master Gong only liked Xiao Xiaohui. As for Xiao Xiaohui, he seemed to like Old Master Gong very much and often went to his house.

At this moment, Mother Xiao smiled and said, “I heard that Xiaohui is very talented in martial arts. He has been going to Old Master Gong’s house and pestering Xiao Wang to teach him martial arts.”

“This child is always up to something.” Xiao Mingyang chided with a smile. “Why is he learning martial arts? To fight? Now, no one his age is his match. If he learns martial arts, he’ll only be more arrogant.”

Mother Xiao said, “I don’t think it’s that bad. At least, he won’t be bullied by others in the future.”

Liu Chunhua shook her head and said, “I still hope Xiaohui can study well and learn from Yu ‘Er and Ye ‘Er.”

Xiao Lingyu chuckled, “Fourth Aunt, Xiaohui is still young. Plus, he might be successful in other fields.”

“Haha. That is not bad too!” Xiao Mingyang guffawed.

“This is it! I bought it here!” A voice came from outside the shop. “This place’s cucumbers and radishes are very delicious.”

Xiao Lingyu and the others looked over and saw a group of young men and women walking in.

“Sun Li, is this really the place?” A young girl looked at Xiao Lingyu and her family.

Sun Li answered, “Yes. When I was here this morning, there were so many people. Hmm, there’s not many people now.”

An Ming glanced around and said, “It’s already so late, and there aren’t many vegetables left on the shelves. Isn’t it for there to be fewer people now?”

Zeng Yanhong frowned and said, “The vegetables are all sold out. What can we buy then?”

Xiao Lingyu walked over and asked, “May I ask what are you looking for?”

Zeng Yanhong said, “Do you still have green cucumbers and radishes?”

Xiao Lingyu took a look, shook her head, and said, “I’m sorry, but they’re all sold out. Would you like other vegetables? Or do you want to come back tomorrow?”

“Ah, they’re really all sold out.” Sun Li appeared a little disappointed, and then she said, “I guess that’s to be expected. When I was here this morning, there were so many people fighting for the vegetables. It’s already so late, so it’s normal for the stock to be sold out.”

An Ming asked, “Miss, do you still have any vegetables that can be eaten raw?”

Xiao Lingyu shook her head and said, “They’re all sold out. If you want, you can come back tomorrow.”

The vegetables that could be eaten raw were only tomatoes, green cucumbers, white radishes, carrots, and cabbage. But these vegetables had all been sold out.

Zeng Yanhong looked around and asked curiously, “Boss, your vegetables are so expensive!”

A few friends beside her echoed, “Yes, the vegetables here are indeed expensive. Look, a cabbage costs more than ten RMB.”

Xiao Lingyu explained with a smile, “My vegetables are expensive, but there is a reason why they are so expensive. You have eaten cucumbers and white radishes, right? Don’t you think they are worth the prices?”

“Your cucumbers and radishes are indeed delicious.” Sun Li didn’t deny it. They were worth more than 4 RMB per catty.

They were climbing the Nanshan Temple Mountain this morning. They took a break and sat down to eat.

Sun Li took out the green cucumbers and white radishes from her bag and broke them open. There were six people in the group, three couples in total.

“Sun Li, why did you buy two white radishes? Are they delicious?” Zeng Yanhong was very confused when she saw Sun Li take out the white radish.

Sun Li shook her head and said, “I don’t know either. An Ming and I saw people buy them and eat them directly. We bought the last two.”

An Ming broke the radish and put it into his mouth. The others immediately stared at him and asked, "An Ming, is it delicious?"

An Ming shook his head and said, "It's not good, not good at all. I'll eat it for you!" He held the radish in his arms, afraid that it would be snatched away.

The rest of his friends eyes An Ming suspiciously. "Is it really not good?"

Would An Ming act like this if the radishes were not delicious?

No.

Therefore, the two young men snatched the radish from An Ming and took a bite. After a moment, they cried out in surprise, "Damn, this is heaven's delicacy! An Ming, how can you lie to us? Brothers, get him!"