

Chapter 41: Good News

The Chen Family's eyes lit up with joy and excitement when they saw Xiao Lingyu at home. Since Xiao Lingyu was home, the Xiao Family would have to lend them the money. Xiao Lingyu would plead their case on their behalf if she still wanted to marry Chen Ran.

However, what Xiao Lingyu said made their expressions freeze. What was that? Xiao Lingyu broke up with Chen Ran? That was impossible! Right?

Xiao Lingyu had her eyes set on Chen Ran for so long, or else she wouldn't have seduced Chen Ran when they were just fifteen. Their relationship was already over a decade. Nothing happened, so why would they break up all of a sudden?

Lan Erying widened her eyes and demanded, "Xiao Lingyu, what is the meaning of this? Don't you still want to marry my Ran Er?" Lan Erying's expression turned up like a quintessential horrible mother-in-law. "Xiao Lingyu, if you still want to marry into our family, then you better persuade your mother to lend us 50,000..." At that moment, Lan Erying suddenly gasped and said, "Wait a minute. Xiao Lingyu, you're here, so where's my Chen Ran?"

Lan Erying looked around and shouted. "Chen Ran, get out now! You heartless little thing, how can you not tell us if you're coming back. Plus, since you're back, why tell us to go to City Z?"

There was no response. Lan Erying was not satisfied and wanted to charge into the Xiao Family's home to look for her son. She was stopped by Mother Xiao. "Lan Erying, go back to your own house to look for your son. Your son is not here, and I am not hiding him."

Lan Erying didn't believe Mother Xiao. She said angrily, "Chen Qiuying, get out of my way. Since Xiao Lingyu is here, then Chen Ran must be here too."

Xiao Lingyu laughed frostily. "Auntie Lan, Uncle Chen, I don't think you hear me clearly. Fine, I'll repeat."

Her expression turned serious as she enunciated each word clearly,

"I, Xiao Lingyu, have already broken up with Chen Ran. Now, do you hear me?"

Xiao Lingyu's eyes swept across the Chen Family. Other than Chen Ran's parents, there were four of Chen Ran's uncles. It was clear that they were not going to leave until they got the money from the Xiao Family. They would raise a ruckus if they didn't get their way.

"Since we've broken up, Chen Ran and I have nothing to do with each other anymore. Thus the Xiao Family has nothing to do with the Chen Family either." Xiao Lingyu announced, "Therefore, Uncle and Auntie Chen, stop threatening my family using my marriage to Chen Ran. I'm not marrying him. Now, please leave!" The last sentence was an expulsion order! Then again, these were uninvited guests, so they should leave.

"Xiao Lingyu!" Chen Dahua shouted angrily with an ugly expression, "If we leave, you'll never get the chance to marry into the Chen Family again." In the past, Xiao Lingyu would bow to them respectfully, so they didn't expect the same woman to be throwing them out.

Xiao Lingyu replied indifferently, "As if I care."

"You... You will regret this!" Chen Dahua pointed at Xiao Lingyu angrily.

Xiao Lingyu narrowed her eyes slightly. She said, "It's my problem whether I'll regret this or not. Uncle Chen, you don't need to live my life for me. However, I do have news about Chen Ran. One good and one bad, which one do you want to hear first?"

Xiao Lingyu couldn't be blamed for treating the Chen Family like this. They lorded Chen Ran over Xiao Lingyu and did everything to trample on the Xiao Family. They released nasty rumors about Xiao Lingyu and her family in the neighboring villages, ruining the Xiao Family's reputation.

In the past, Xiao Lingyu could turn a blind eye for the sake of Chen Ran.

But now, things were different. Then again, this was her fault for letting the Chen Family walk all over her. Therefore, this was her chance to correct everything.

Chen Dahua was startled. He asked subconsciously, "What good news and what bad news?"

Xiao Lingyu assumed Chen Dahua wanted to hear the good news first. She began, "The good news is, your son is really outstanding. His company's CEO's daughter fell for him, and they had gotten married! Therefore, you don't need to worry about me anymore. I won't be snatching your son away from you."

"Really?!" When Chen Dahua and his wife heard their son had married a CEO's daughter, they were almost jumping with joy. Their faces wrinkled like shriveled chrysanthemums as they smiled. This was good news. As they said, their son was the best man. Even a CEO's daughter fancied and married him. Since Chen Ran was now the son-in-law of a rich man, they would be able to retire to City Z and enjoy a comfortable life with their son.

The uncles were very happy and excited too. Chen Ran was now the son-in-law of a company CEO, so he must be very rich. The money slipping through Chen Ran's fingers could give them a very good life.

Naturally, what they needed to do now was to suck up to Chen Dahua and his wife.

"Congratulations, eldest brother. Ran Er is really amazing!"

"Congratulations, second sister. Ran Er is now the son-in-law of a rich man. In the future, he will have to look after us."

"Big Brother, Ran Er's cousins want to learn from him too!"

"Of course, when Ran Er is back, we'll have him arrange to have all the young kids join him at his company."

"Thank you, big brother." "Thank you, second brother-in-law."

Chen Dahua and his wife were floating from the flattery of their siblings. They had given birth to a promising son. He worked in a big city and married his boss' daughter.

Then, they turned to look at Mother Xiao and Xiao Lingyu. The derision in their eyes was clear.

Lan Erying rolled her eyes at Xiao Lingyu. She said disdainfully, "No wonder someone has escaped back home. She has no looks, no figure, and no money. It's little wonder our son doesn't want her." She was clearly talking about Xiao Lingyu.

Chen Dahua was elated. The humiliation he felt under the hands of Xiao Lingyu, and her mother disappeared. He added, "That's right. The girl is crazy jealous because our Ran Er has married someone else. That is why she suddenly decides not to respect us anymore. When Ran Er comes back, we'll have to tell him about the girl's show of disrespect!"

"That's right!" The others concurred.

Xiao Lingyu rolled her eyes said, "Since you've heard the good news, are you ready for the bad news?"

Chapter 42: Bad News

The Chen Family was so ecstatic from hearing the good news that they forgot about the bad news.

However, they didn't think the bad news could be that bad. Xiao Lingyu probably wanted to scare them because Chen Ran didn't marry her.

Lan Erying sized up Xiao Lingyu. She had always been dissatisfied with Xiao Lingyu. Lan Erying said in a picky and disdainful tone, "Xiao Lingyu, don't think about spreading lies and revenge simply because my son doesn't want to marry you."

Mother Xiao hurried to shield Xiao Lingyu and said sternly, "Lan Erying, do you think we're that crazy? The moment we say something negative about your family, we're being crazy or jealous? Who do you think you are?" Mother Xiao paused for a moment before continuing in a powerful aura. "In the past, we have allowed you to be unreasonable because we didn't want to add to Chen Ran and Yu 'Er's troubles. However, now that Chen Ran has found another wife, we don't need to care about your feelings anymore. Yu 'Er, tell them the bad news!" Mother Xiao was also tired of them already.

Mother Xiao tolerated many things in the past because her daughter might marry into the Chen Family. The Xiao Family had swallowed all grievances because they didn't want to add to Yu 'Er's burdens. However, things were different now. Since they were no longer related, why care about their feelings anymore?

Xiao Lingyu obliged and nodded. "Sure. The bad news is, once Chen Ran married the CEO's daughter, the company was gone. Also, Chen Ran was stabbed by his new wife. Who knows if he's still alive or not." Xiao Lingyu couldn't care less about the man.

"What?" Chen Dahua and Lan Erying were shocked. "You're lying! How is this possible?"

They just found out their son was to be rich but right the next moment, they were told their son's father-in-law lost his company, and his son was stabbed. This... this was impossible.

Xiao Lingyu knew they couldn't accept the truth, so she added, "Why would I lie to you? Right, didn't you say you were going to City Z? Chen Ran must have wanted you to attend his engagement party that would have happened in another half a month. However, something happened, and that engagement got turned into an early marriage."

Lan Erying's eyes darted about guiltily when she heard Xiao Lingyu. The latter was right. It was Chen Ran who informed them to go to City Z. Chen Ran didn't tell them it was for his engagement, and they didn't hear a thing about it. However, that was not the most important thing now. According to Xiao Lingyu, Chen Ran was stabbed by his wife.

Chen Dahua and Lan Erying were shocked and then flustered. They were caught in disbelief. Chen Dahua pointed at Xiao Lingyu and stammered, "What did you say? Ran 'Er was injured? How is that possible?"

Lan Erying suddenly growled as she widened her eyes at Xiao Lingyu. "It was you, wasn't it? You were the one who stabbed Ran 'Er. You couldn't stand him marrying another woman, so you wanted revenge. You have stabbed Ran 'Er and came back here to hide. No, we will not let you get away. We will call the police to come to catch you. That has to be the truth." The more she described it, the more she believed herself. The Chen Family agreed with her.

"That's right, second sister. That has to be it." Lan Erying's younger brother, Lan Zhaigou concurred, "Second sister, you need to go to the police station to get the police. Brother-in-law and I will stay behind to stop the murderer from running away."

Chen Dahua also reacted and said, "Yes. Go and call the police!" The rest of the Chen Family chimed in.

Lan Erying nodded. "Okay, I'll go get the police. You guys mustn't let her get away."

By then, other villagers of Taoyuan Village had gathered.

Lan Erying shouted, "Xiao Lingyu, your murderer. You stabbed my son because he didn't want to marry you. Just you wait. I'll get the police to come to arrest you."

The villagers were shocked when they heard Lan Erying.

"What? Xiao Yu stabbed someone?"

"Chen Ran didn't marry Xiao Yu?"

"What's going on?"

"Could Xiao Yu really be a murderer?"

"Are you crazy? Xiao Yu is such an obedient and sensible child. Qiuying asked her to kill a chicken one time, and Xiao Yu didn't even dare to do that. How would she have the guts to stab someone?"

"That's right. We watched Xiao Yu grow up. She wouldn't do something like this. Plus, do you really believe the Chen Family?"

"You're right. The Chen Family has been saying so many bad things about Xiao Yu simply because Xiao Yu liked their son. They even took advantage of Xiao Yu. And now they're saying Xiao Yu has stabbed their son? It's preposterous!"

However, there were some villagers who sided with the Chen Family.

"You don't know for sure. Didn't you hear Mother Chen? Xiao Yu stabbed Chen Ran because he refused to marry her. Hell has no fury on a woman scorned."

“Xiao Yu is a sensible child, but we’re talking about matters of relationship. She is always love-crazy, or else she wouldn’t have seduced Chen Ran when he was only fifteen. The whole village knows how shameless she is!”

Normally, they wouldn’t dare to say something like this. However, today, they had the Chen Family’s backing.

Mother Xiao immediately moved to stop Lan Erying. Mother Xiao’s face darkened. “Lan Erying, don’t go spouting nonsense without evidence. Your son was stabbed by his new wife. What does that have to do with my Yu ‘Er?”

She paused and then added with contempt. “When you heard your son was stabbed, you didn’t care about his injury but instead try your best to slander my Yu ‘Er’s name. You two are such good parents.”

The villagers started to gossip again.

“The Chen Family’s son is married?”

“So it was his new wife who stabbed him?”

“This is unbelievable.”

“That’s right.”

Lan Erying was so angry that her face turned pale.

At this moment, a young man suddenly ran over shouted loudly, “Uncle Chen, Auntie Chen, the village chief wants to see you.. He just received a call from City Z Hospital. Brother Chen Ran was stabbed!”

Chapter 43: Mother Chen

“Xiao Ming, what did you say? My Ran ‘Er was really stabbed?” Lan Erying stumbled to Xiao Ming. She demanded. “How can this be?”

Mother Xiao finally understood why the Chen Family was acting like that earlier. Chen Dahua and Lan Erying probably thought Xiao Lingyu was lying to them.

Mother Xiao said, “Lan Erying, so you thought my Xiao Yu was joking with you? However, you wanted to call the police on her, for you thought it was a joke?”

Chen Xiaoming was a young man in his twenties. He said, “Auntie Chen, that’s what the village chief told me. He said Brother Chen Ran’s injury is quite serious. He wants you to hurry to City Z. The hospital also said that Brother Chen hasn’t paid for his hospitalization and surgery fees, so they need you to clear that payment as soon as possible. Or else... the hospital will have no choice but to cut off Brother Chen Ran’s medication.”

When the village chief got the call, he thought it was a scammer. He had to confirm multiple times before he was certain it was really a call from the hospital. When the chief heard Chen Dahua and his wife had brought his whole family to Taoyuan Village, he immediately sent a messenger. That messenger was Chen Xiaoming.

Lan Erying swayed. She covered her forehead. Her face was extremely pale. She was frightened and uneasy. This was the normal reaction of a mother after she heard her son was injured.

“Big Brother!”

“Second Sister!”

Chen Dahua and Lan Erying’s siblings immediately went to help them.

Lan Erying shook her head and stood up. She rushed towards Xiao Lingyu and scolded angrily, “Xiao Lingyu, you bitch, what have you done to my son? Let me tell you, if anything happens to my son, I will make you pay with your life!”

Mother Xiao immediately shielded Xiao Lingyu behind her and fired back, “Lan Erying, you’re crazy. What does your son’s injury have to do with my Yu ‘Er? If you have time to waste here, why not hurry to City Z to see your son?”

Lan Erying shouted, “How is it not related? My Ran ‘Er and this bitch went to City Z to work together. Now, my Ran ‘Er is lying at the hospital, and she’s hiding at home? If she’s not guilty, then who is?” Then, she strode past Mother Xiao to grab Xiao Lingyu. She cursed, “You little bitch, you are coming with us to City Z. You have to take care of Ran ‘Er until he recovers. And the Xiao Family has to pay the medical bill. Give us 100,000 RMB, or we are not letting this little bitch go!”

Mother Xiao smacked Lan Erying squarely on her face. “Lan Erying, I didn’t want to take issue with you since your son is injured but don’t you push it. Stop calling my Yu ‘Er a bitch. Do you think I, Chen Qiuying, am so easily bullied? Do you really think you run the law here? Do you think the villagers of Taoyuan Village are so easily-bullied?”

Lan Erying went mad. She collapsed and rolled on the ground. She cried. “They are bullying me! The villagers of Taoyuan Village are bullying me. The daughter stabbed my son, and the mother slapped me. They are horrible people.

“Oh my God, I don’t want to live anymore. I can’t live anymore. Just let me die in front of this little bitch’s house. I will come back to haunt them.

“My poor son... Why is your fate so pitiful? In the past, you cared so much about this little bitch, but in the end, this is how she repays you.

“The little bitch didn’t even stay to take care of you even after she stabbed you. She ran home and left you alone in City Z...”

Xiao Lingye just came back from the field, looking for his father, Xiao Zhengyang. When he arrived, he heard Lan Erying lay on the ground and say those horrible things about his sister.

The young man’s anger flared up, and he was about to charge forward to beat up Lan Erying. His sister liked Brother Chen Ran, so he allowed the Chen Family to take advantage of them. However, it was too much to have the Chen Family slander his sister’s name so openly.

However, Xiao Zhengyang pulled his impulsive son back. “Don’t be rash. If you really go and beat her up, you’ll fall into her trap. It’ll only make things worse for your sister after she marries the Chen Family.” Since they had just returned, they didn’t know Xiao Lingyu and Chen Ran had already broken up.

Xiao Zhengyang walked through the crowd and saw Lan Erying lying on the ground. He frowned and asked in puzzlement, "Sister Lan, what's wrong? Why are you lying on the ground?" Then, he looked at Chen Dahua and said, "Brother Chen, what is going on? What are you doing at my house?"

"Xiao Zhengyang, come over here!" Mother Xiao roared. "Who told you to care about them? They are accusing our Yu 'Er of stabbing their son and are trying to extort 100,000 from us!"

"What?" Xiao Zhengyang was shocked. He looked around and was very confused, "What happened?"

He asked Xiao Lingyu.

Xiao Lingyu said calmly, "Dad, Chen Ran and I broke up. Chen Ran married the daughter of our company's boss. However, once they got married, the boss lost his company. Then the CEO's daughter stabbed Chen Ran. The hospital called to rush them to cough up the medical fees. But the Chen Family insisted that I was the one who injured Chen Ran and wanted us to pay 100,000 RMB!"

Xiao Lingyu explained loudly for Xiao Zhengyang and the other villagers to hear. She was telling them the truth.

"You liar!" Chen Dahua roared, "You're making this up. Everyone knows you hunger after my Ran 'Er. Why would he suddenly marry someone else? You have to be lying! It's because you don't want to have Ran 'Er as a burden! You don't want to be responsible! How can you be so heartless? You are his girlfriend!"

Xiao Lingyu took out her camera phone and showed them a photo. She said, "This is the marriage certificate of Chen Ran and his wife, Zhao Wenman."

Xiao Lingyu's old Nokia didn't have a camera function. However, knowing what would happen, Xiao Lingyu went to purchase a camera phone after she left Marriott Hotel. It had come in handy.

Many villagers' eyes flashed in envy seeing the new phone in Xiao Lingyu's hands.

Xiao Lingye snatched the phone and studied the marriage certificate. His pupils constricted, and he huffed angrily, "It's true. Chen Ran has already married another woman. He is no longer related to my sister, so why should she be held responsible for his medical bills? Go and find his new wife!"

The other villagers immediately surrounded Xiao Lingye. After they saw the snapped marriage certificate, they tutted. "So it's true. Some people are too shameless."

"That's right. The man is already married to another woman, but they demand his ex-girlfriend to take care of him. This is just ridiculous."

The members of the Chen Family also rushed over to look. The evidence was real.

"Big Brother, Chen Ran is really married to another woman."

Chapter 44: Concealing and Confessing

Chen Ran had betrayed Xiao Lingyu for another woman. That was a shock for everyone present. Chen Xiaoming scratched his head anxiously.

He ran to Chen Dahua, "Uncle Chen, you guys need to hurry. Brother Chen is still waiting for you. We can't waste any more time."

Chen Dahua finally snapped back to his senses. They had to hurry to City Z to check on Chen Ran.

Chen Dahua shouted at Lan Erying, "Hurry and get up. Go home to pack. We will go to City Z immediately." Chen Dahua had one son and three daughters. If something happened to Chen Ran, the lineage of the Chen Family would die. Money was important, but his son was more important. Furthermore, they would get their money eventually. Xiao Zhengyang's family was not going to move away.

Once Lan Erying heard that she jumped up from the ground with a grunt. Then she turned to the Xiao Family and said fiercely, "Hmph, this is not over!"

The villagers of Taoyuan Village remained after the Chen family left.

"Alright, it's time for everyone to disperse. Go back to your own home!" Mother Xiao broke up the crowd.

The villagers were curious about how Chen Ran suddenly got married to another woman and stabbed, but they were embarrassed to stay after Mother Xiao had started to openly chase people away.

However, some thick-skinned villagers asked with a smile, "Xiao Yu, what happened? You were so close to that kid from the Chen Family, so why did he suddenly marry another woman? Did you run back home because of that? Or you came back to hide after stabbing Chen Ran?"

"Lai Lao Er, what are you talking about? Can't my Xiao Yu come back to her family? She did nothing wrong. Why does she need to hide?" Mother Xiao complained loudly. "In any case, this is none of your business. Shoo!" Mother Xiao chased him away.

As thick-thinned as Lai Lao Er was, he knew it was time to go.

After everyone left, Mother Xiao's expression changed. She looked at Xiao Lingyu sternly and said, "Damn girl, get into the house!"

Chen Ran married another woman, so her daughter must have suffered greatly. Mother Xiao was angry. It was clear from the way she stomped into the house.

Xiao Lingye called out worriedly, "Sis!"

He really didn't expect the bastard Chen Ran to cheat on his sister. His big sister must have suffered a huge blow from this betrayal. He gritted his teeth and said, "Sis, don't worry. I will find that bastard to settle the score for you! I will make him pay!"

Xiao Lingyu shook her head. "Little brother, I'm fine! You don't have to worry!"

Xiao Zhengyang was a middle-aged man. He worked under the sun his whole life. He looked very similar to his son, Xiao Lingye. In other words, Father Xiao must be very handsome when he was young. However, now his features were carved by lessons of time. At the same time, time had also increased his wisdom.

Xiao Zhengyang was the father of Xiao Lingyu and Xiao Lingye. He protected them like a big tree. Xiao Zhenyang looked at his daughter, and he didn't know what to say. He patted his daughter's shoulder and sighed lightly, "Yu 'Er, sorry for making you suffer. No matter the decision you make, I will support you!"

Xiao Lingyu saw her father's caring and worried face, and tears welled up in her eyes as she said, "Thank you, dad."

"Then you better go in. Your mother is waiting for you inside the house!" Father Xiao walked into the house. Xiao Lingyu and her brother entered at the same time.

When Mother Xiao saw the three of them walk in, she glared at Xiao Lingyu with a stern gaze. She suppressed her anger and asked, "Tell me, what happened between you and Chen Ran? Why did he suddenly end up marrying someone else?"

How could he betray a decade of love like that? The kid from the Chen Family had disappointed her daughter. She would not let him off easily.

Xiao Lingyu explained, "Our company CEO's daughter took a fancy to Chen Ran. Chen Ran couldn't resist the temptation, so they hooked up behind my back. They already had engagement plans. I only found out a few days ago. I immediately broke up with him and came back home!"

Xiao Lingyu was detached, but the others were furious. Xiao Lingye jumped up from anger. He wanted to run to City Z to demand an explanation from Chen Ran. "How can that bastard bully my sister like this? I'm going to go beat him up!"

"Get back here!" Mother Xiao shouted. "He's in City Z! How are you going to beat him up? At least wait until he comes back first."

Xiao Lingyu pouted. He grumbled, "I can't wait. I'll go to City Z to find him."

Mother Xiao glared at him. "Didn't you hear your sister? The man is stabbed and is lying in the hospital! Do you want to become a murderer because of him?"

Mother Xiao then turned to Xiao Lingyu. "Speaking of, why did he get stabbed?"

Xiao Lingyu admitted. "That has something to do with me." Her family was shocked. They asked cautiously, "Yu 'Er, did you stab him?"

Xiao Lingyu was speechless. She shook her head. "Of course not! He was stabbed by his newly married wife."

The three of them let out a sigh of relief and said, "Don't scare us like that. We thought you really stabbed him." Mother Xiao added, "Even though the kid is horrible and I want to cut him into pieces myself, Yu 'Er, it is not worth it to sacrifice yourself to harm a piece of garbage like that!" If Yu 'Er did stab Chen Ran, she would have to go to jail.

"If he was stabbed by his wife, then why did you say you have to do with it?" Mother Xiao was confused.

She was not concerned about that kid from the Chen family, but she wanted to figure out how this had to do with her daughter.

Xiao Lingyu answered, "I decided to break up with Chen Ran after I found out he betrayed me. However, to take revenge, I grabbed a random man on the street to pretend to be my new boyfriend." Xiao Lingyu didn't dare say she was drugged into having a one-night-stand. "I didn't realize this temporary boyfriend is a powerful character in City Z. He considered buying out our company. He left the decision to me. I told him to do it. Chen Ran and his new wife turned on each other. In her anger, she stabbed Chen Ran!"

Xiao Lingyu skimmed over many things. She didn't have the courage to tell her parents the truth. She decided to wait a few days before confessing the whole thing to her parents.

Chapter 45: Worry

At City Z's Yan Corporation, Secretary Wang reported to Yan Siming. "CEO Yan, Miss Xiao has returned to the countryside!"

Yan Siming frowned. "What? Where is her hometown?"

"It's in Xing Yin Country, Xing An Town, Taoyuan Village!" Secretary Wang reported to Yan Siming. "The village is poor and backward. Miss Xiao Lingyu is the only university student to have come from this village."

Yan Siming waved his hands. "I get it now. You can go!"

'Since she's gone, then so be it. It's not like I'm lacking in woman anyway.'

Secretary Wang replied, "Yes!" After he left, he let out a deep breath and said in a low voice, "Fortunately, CEO Yan didn't tell me to follow her to that remote village."

Even though he told himself not to think about it, Young Master Yan couldn't help but frown. He murmured. "Is the woman really not playing hard to get? Otherwise, why would she run back to the countryside when I have offered her such a good opportunity?" He shook his head. "Impossible. No woman can resist a man as rich, handsome, and as charming as me. No, this Xiao Lingyu has to be playing hard to get. I swear she will return to City Z soon. I doubt she is going to stay in that backward village. Her family wouldn't allow a university student to waste her life doing fieldwork anyway."

The more Yan Siming thought about it, the more he felt that Xiao Lingyu was being hard to get.

His furrowed brows loosened, and he smiled. He chuckled, "My little firecracker, it looks like you want to play a game of cat and mouse. Fine, we'll see who is caught in the end."

With that problem solved, Yan Siming turned his energy back to work.

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Mother Xiao was incensed when she heard Xiao Lingyu. She pointed angrily at her daughter. "Girl, you are too bold! How can you pull a man off the street to be your boyfriend? What if he was a bad person? What if he was a human trafficker? What would you do then?"

The more she thought about the bad possibilities, the angrier she got. She picked up the feather duster on the table to hit Xiao Lingyu.

“I’m going to teach you a lesson. How can you be so dumb?! Even if you wanted to take revenge, there were many other ways. Why did you choose one that put yourself in danger? Ah, get out of my way!” The last sentence was meant for Xiao Zhengyang and his son.

Xiao Lingyu was protected by her father and brother. None of the hits fell on Xiao Lingyu.

Xiao Lingye pulled his sister behind him. He comforted. “Mom, you need to calm down. Sis... She has already suffered so much mentally. You shouldn’t hit her anymore. Please forgive her this time. I’m sure she will not make such a mistake again. Right, Sis?” He turned to look at Xiao Lingyu.

Mother Xiao was amused and angered when she heard Xiao Lingye. Mother Xiao roared, “Xiao Lingye, do you know the kind of danger your sister might have put herself in? And you’re still protecting her?”

Xiao Lingye pouted and argued, “No matter what, you shouldn’t hit her. The villagers will laugh at Sis when they find out she is beaten by her mother even though she’s already an adult.”

Mother Xiao’s hand that held the feather duster trembled as she pointed at Xiao Lingye, “You don’t want me to hit your sister? Fine, then I’ll hit you!”

With that, the feather duster swept towards Xiao Lingye.

Xiao Lingyu couldn’t let her little brother suffer because of her. She moved to stop Mother Xiao. “Mom, I know I was wrong. Please don’t hit Xiao Ye. Hit me instead.”

Xiao Zhengyang stepped forward to snatch the feather duster from Mother Xiao. He ordered. “That’s enough. The children are all grown up already. We can talk this out like sensible adults. Don’t always resort to beating. If this gets out, people will laugh at us.”

Usually, Mother Xiao ran the household, but Father Xiao still had the final say. Since Father Xiao said that, Mother Xiao couldn’t help but stop.

Mother Xiao stood there for a while, and then her shoulders shook. She said through suppressed tears, “Do you think I want to hit her? I was only too scared... scared that our girl might be hurt.”

Like a Tiger Mom, Mother Xiao’s worry manifested as anger.

Xiao Lingyu’s emotions unwound when she saw this. She rushed over to hug her mother. “Mom, I’m sorry for making you worry. I’m sorry...”

The father and son’s eyes reddened too.

Mother Xiao cried and patted Xiao Lingyu’s shoulder, “Silly girl, why didn’t you tell us when something like this happened? Even if you want to take revenge on that kid from the Chen Family, you have to tell us. We can stand up for you. It’s safer than you finding a random man on the street. Do you want to worry us to death?”

Xiao Lingyu leaned on Xiao Lingyu’s shoulder and nodded. She said, “I’m sorry, Mom. I was too angry at the time. I won’t do it again next time.”

“Wretched girl, do you think there’s a next time?!” Mother Xiao patted Xiao Lingyu.

“Of course, no more next time.” Xiao Lingyu promised.

Father Xia moved to tell the mother and daughter, "Alright, stop crying. Come sit down. We should talk about this."

Mother Xiao and Xiao Lingyu nodded. They sat down around the table.

Xiao Zhengyang said seriously, "Even though that kid from the Chen Family was stabbed by his wife, the Chen Family will push the blame onto Yu 'Er." He turned to Xiao Lingyu and asked, "Yu 'Er, you said you have to do with the collapse of your boss' company?"

Xiao Lingyu nodded. "Yes, I told that man to buy out the company."

Xiao Zhengyang continued, "All the more reason for the Chen Family to come after us. Lan Erying's eldest brother's eldest son is our town's famous gangster. In the future, we have to be more careful when we go out."

Xiao Lingye asked, "Dad, do you mean Lan Hongxing might find trouble with us?"

Xiao Zhengyang said seriously, "Not might, he will. So, if you are going to town, you have to bring friends. Ye 'Er, you still have school, so when you see him, go and hide!"

Xiao Lingye nodded.

"Yu 'Er, although I don't know the situation with that kid, for your own safety, you should stay in the village for now." Xiao Zhengyang instructed.

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, "Okay, Father!"

But in her heart, Xiao Lingyu was thinking of ways to make sure the Chen Family would never come to cause trouble again. Or else, the Xiao Family would never have peace!

Chapter 46: Gong Tianhao's Revenge

Many villas stood at the most luxurious real estate area of Beijing. Only the rich and powerful could afford to live here.

In the middle of this district, there was a mansion that occupied the biggest space. There were tall trees that lined the path that led to the main building.

The building had traditional Chinese architecture. It maintained the elegance, simplicity, and rich artistic style of traditional Chinese architecture.

At the same time, it took a lot of inspiration from nature. It had a simplistic courtyard design and a watering system that provided a misty forest look. It made the place feel so mysterious yet imposing.

At that moment, inside the house, a stern man asked a middle-aged man anxiously, "Doctor Huang, how is my grandfather?"

Doctor Huang answered, "Young Master, the elder's condition has passed the critical period. As you know, the elder was shot near the heart. It's too dangerous to attempt to extricate the bullet. The elder has to watch his emotions, and his body will hopefully recuperate on its own."

Gong Tianhao nodded. "I understand."

Doctor Huang suggested, "Therefore, Young Master, I suggest sending the elder to a place where he can focus on his healing." At this point, he sighed. "The elder is in the 80s. He can't suffer too much pressure. If this happens again, even God can't save him."

Gong Tianhao's expression turned cold. He said, "I was careless this time. I will not let anyone come disturb grandfather again!"

Doctor Huang nodded. "Young Master, I hope you're right. I'll return to prescribe some medicine for the elder. Make sure he takes them after he wakes up."

Grandfather Gong Zhen was a war veteran, but now he was an old man who was afraid of taking bitter medicine. He had come up with all kinds of strange tricks in order to avoid taking the medicine. One time, he even rolled on the ground, crying for mercy. This was a headache for the Gong family.

Gong Tianhao nodded. "Yes. I will supervise grandfather to make sure he takes his medicine."

"Okay then. Young Master, I'll leave first." Doctor Huang nodded.

After Doctor Huang left, Gong Tianhao's expression changed. It was extremely cold and terrifying. He immediately called for the butler and had him summon all the servants and bodyguards of the Gong family.

The butler obliged. When everyone was gathered, the butler said, "Young Master, everyone is here."

Gong Tianhao nodded. Then, he swept his sharp across the sixty members of staff. "From now on, no one is allowed to disturb the old master's rest! Remember, no one is given an exception! If I discover someone has broken the rules, there will be consequences!"

"Yes, Young Master!" All the servants and bodyguards replied in unison.

"Alright, leave!" Gong Tianhao said.

After everyone left, the butler turned to Gong Tianhao with shame. "Young Master, I'm sorry. This is my fault for letting the Second Old Master and the others in."

Second Old Master was Gong Tianhao's grandfather's second younger brother, Gong Qi!

Gong Tianhao glared at the butler. "Butler, I will forgive you this time because you have served grandfather for thirty years. If there's a next time, don't blame me for being ruthless. Nothing is more important than grandfather's safety!"

The butler's expression changed slightly, and then his expression became very serious as he promised, "Young Master, there won't be a next time."

The butler was soft-hearted. Gong Qi and the others said they only wanted to visit the old master. However, the butler didn't expect them to have an ulterior motive.

They wanted to intervene in the Young Master's marriage. They wanted Young Master to marry the niece of Second Old Master's eldest daughter-in-law. The Old Master was against it, and they argued. In Beijing, everyone knew that the Young Miss of the Bai Family, Bai Xue was a promiscuous woman. She

had a messy private life. How could such a woman be good enough for the Young Master? These people must be crazy!

However, the butler knew their goal. They wanted to pull the woman in to control the Gong family, to secure more wealth. They should look at themselves in the mirror first!

The butler thought for a moment and said, "Young Master, the Bai family wants to interfere with your marriage."

Gong Tianhao snorted and said, "It looks like they're too free. In that case, we'll find something for them to do!"

'These people sure are ambitious. But they should take a look at themselves first before taking more than they can chew!'

The butler's lips curled, and his expression relaxed. His gaze darkened as he said, "Young Master. Since they have started this, we don't need to show mercy!"

The Bai family was a small family who managed to rise to the top thanks to the marriage to the Gong Family. It was one thing that they weren't appreciative of the kindness. However, they wanted more and more. They attempted to steal everything from the Gong family.

Gong Tianhao's eyes were as deep as black rocks. His cold voice rang out. "Since they want death, then we'll give it to them."

The second day, the Bai family suffered a huge blow. Bai Group's share fell endlessly. In less than half a day, they reached their record low.

Most of the shareholders had to sell their shares to save their lives. However, the share price was still falling.

The Bai family was anxious, and the members blamed each other.

"We have to go and beg Gong Tianhao to let us off," the head of the Bai family, Bai Shixing, said decisively. This was clearly Gong Tianhao's revenge. He didn't even cover his tracks. Since this was Gong Tianhao's doing, no one dared to help the Bai family. They were afraid of getting into trouble too.

"Dad, what is happening? Why is Gong Tianhao suddenly coming after us?" Bai Zirui, Bai Shixing's youngest son, asked. Then, he thought of something and asked sharply, "Is it our Aunt? Did she do something to make Gong Tianhao angry?"

Bai Shixing's expression froze.

Bai Zirui got his answer. He was furious. "Dad, that meddling woman has married out of the family. Why is she still meddling in the Bai family affairs?" Bai Zirui demanded, "Dad, what has that meddling woman done this time?"

Bai Shixing opened his mouth and lectured, "Stop calling her that. She is still your aunt!"

But then, his presence weakened and he sighed. "Your aunt has been trying to marry Xiao Xue to Gong Tianhao, so she went to find the Old Master Gong to force the match. In the end..." She caused the old master's condition to worsen.

He didn't finish the sentence but everyone knew what happened.

Everyone was silent for a moment before they erupted in anger.

"Fuck, so this is really that meddling woman's fault!" Bai Zirui was furious.

Chapter 47: Past Events

Xiao Lingyu knew that when Chen Ran's parents came back from City Z, there would be plenty of trouble. Therefore, she had to think of a way to resolve that problem before it happened.

When she returned to her room, Xiao Lingyu held the jade pendant tightly in her hand. She recalled what had happened in her previous life with an angry and sad expression.

In her previous life, she was disgraced and fled home in a daze.

However, not long after she returned, Chen Ran's parents brought the whole family over to cause a ruckus. They called her many horrible names. They scolded her for betraying Chen Ran and prostituted herself for the sake of money with an old man who could be her father. Because of her betrayal, Chen Ran was heavily devastated. He was in bed drinking, depressed, and dispirited.

The Chen Family demanded a mental reparation fee of 100,000 from the Xiao Family. They would not accept anything else or else they would come to Taoyuan Village and the Xiao Family to create problems every day. If the Xiao Family still refused, the Chen Family would spread the news around the town so that everyone would know Xiao Lingyu was a shameless prostitute.

The Chen Family had created such a big ruckus that Mother and Father Xiao had no choice but to cough up the money. For the sake of their daughter's reputation, they borrowed money from everyone they knew and gave the money to the Chen Family. They thought the Chen Family would leave them after that. However, that was only the beginning.

The Chen Family had found a voluntary ATM machine, so naturally, they wouldn't let the Xiao Family go. The Chen Family kept on coming over to blackmail them. Mother Xiao and Father Xiao had to sell their lands, beg Grandparents Xiao and owe many people to appease the Chen Family.

When they thought they couldn't suffer anymore grievances, the Xiao Family found out Xiao Lingyu was pregnant.

Once she knew about that, Xiao Lingyu broke down. She kept hitting her stomach, trying to kill the child. However, no matter how hard she tried, the child refused to leave.

Xiao Lingyu was tormented by what had happened. She was wrapped in pain and despair. She lost all hope for life. Therefore, she considered suicide. She chose to slit her wrist. However, she was discovered by Xiao Lingye who returned early from school. The frightened Xiao Lingye had to carry Xiao Lingyu and run to the town hospital.

However, Xiao Lingyu's injuries were too serious, and she had lost a lot of blood. The town hospital couldn't treat her. They bandaged her and asked Xiao Lingye to transfer her to the county hospital.

Xiao Lingyu's suicide was big news. This news naturally reached the Chen Family too. This became another reason for them to create another uproar.

They berated Xiao Lingyu. She became pregnant with a bastard child for money. In contrast, their Chen Ran was still devastated from Xiao Lingyu's betrayal.

They didn't care that Xiao Lingyu was hospitalized. They gathered a group of people and came to the Xiao Family to demand exorbitant compensation for mental health recovery. The Chen Family's reputation was supposedly ruined because people said their son had a relationship with a prostitute. They were laughed at, and they demanded the Xiao Family repay them for the damaged reputation.

They demanded 50,000, or they would come cause trouble every day.

Mother Xiao was under great pressure due to Xiao Lingyu's suicide attempt. The Chen Family was the straw that broke the camel's back.

Mother Xiao's heart hardened. She ran into the woodshed to pick up an ax. She shouted, "Fine, go on and make trouble. I'll see who dares to do that. I'll chop whoever enters the house. I will fight them to death.. I don't mind dying. After all, thanks to you people, we already have nothing to lose!"

Chapter 48: Past Events 2

Everyone knew Mother Xiao's personality. She was a woman of her words.

The Chen Family had repeatedly bullied the Xiao Family because the Xiao Family was honest and kind people. Plus, Xiao Lingyu also believed she was the guilty party.

After the Chen Family knew they could blackmail the Xiao Family, naturally, they wouldn't let the money tree go so easily. However, they didn't expect Mother Xiao to retaliate. They didn't understand that a rabbit would bite when cornered. If the Xiao Family allowed this to continue, it was better that they die. Furthermore, the Chen Family had already sucked them dry. They had nothing else to give the Chen Family other than their lives.

In contrast, the Chen Family had many things going for them. Chen Ran was going to marry the CEO's daughter. Their in-laws could make them incredibly rich. It would pave a comfortable life for them in Xing An Town or even Xing Yin County. Therefore, the Chen Family wouldn't risk their lives to fight Mother Xiao for the measly 50,000.

In the end, the Chen Family backed off.

However, Lan Erying had to have the last words. She looked at the sharp ax Mother Xiao held and chided, "Chen Qiuying, don't make it sound like we've cornered you into this. It was your daughter who prostituted herself first. She is pregnant with a bastard child, and that has harmed the reputation of my Ran 'Er and the Chen Family. Shouldn't we ask for compensation?"

Mother Xiao sneered. "Lan Erying, do you think I'm dumb? You said my Yu 'Er betrayed your Chen Ran but based on what I know, your son got engaged to his boss' daughter only a few days after my Yu 'Er returned.

“Lan Erying, there is no telling who has betrayed whom. If you continue to push us, then fine. I’ll go to City Z to make an expose on the new son-in-law of this big company. He has abandoned his loyal girlfriend for the sake of money. We’ll see whose reputation is ruined then!”

Mother Xiao was shrewd. When Xiao Lingyu first came back so dejected, Mother Xiao also believed the rumors. However, when Mother Xiao heard about Chen Ran’s engagement with his boss’ daughter, Mother Xiao started to doubt. She could guess the horrifying truth.

Chen Ran probably had hooked up with that woman a long time ago. However, to save his and that woman’s reputation, Chen Ran pushed Yu ‘Er out as a scapegoat. Yu ‘Er’s pregnant needed a more in-depth investigation. However, the Xiao Family had no power or money to do something like that. Furthermore, Xiao Lingyu was in no state to return to City Z.

Mother Xiao said these things to test the Chen Family. The Chen Family’s reaction verified her suspicion.

Lan Erying panicked and shouted, “Chen Qiuying, stop talking nonsense. It was your Xiao Lingyu who betrayed my Chen Ran. His fiance pitied him, so she decided to help him by getting engaged to him to get over your prostitute daughter!”

Mother Xiao looked at Lan Erying with sarcasm and contempt. She retorted sharply, “We’ll know who is telling the truth once we go to City Z and ask. Chen Dahua, Lan Erying, do you want to continue this madness? If you want to make a scene, that’s fine. We will go to City Z to make a big scene together!”

Mother Xiao scared Chen Ran’s parents. If Mother Xiao really went to City Z to find trouble with Chen Ran, even if he was innocent, his name would be tainted. He was now the son-in-law of a big company CEO. He couldn’t have that.

After Mother Xiao’s ultimatum, the Chen Family finally gave up.

For one, they were scared that Mother Xiao would really come after them with the ax.

For two, they were guilty. It was true that Chen Ran got engaged to another woman not long after Xiao Lingyu returned to the village.

The Chen Family told the others that the CEO’s daughter took pity on Chen Ran. Seeing how Chen Ran was betrayed, she decided to be with him to help him walk out of the scar of betrayal.

The people at Chen Family Village and Taoyuan Village believed them, but some people worked in City Z at Xing An Town. If these people did a little digging, the truth might be found. Someone might suspect it was Xiao Lingyu who was framed. Chen Ran’s reputation could be affected.

Therefore, the Chen Family decided not to take so much risk for 50,000 RMB. After all, Chen Ran would bring them more money. Therefore, they had to protect him with everything they had.

On the other side, Xiao Lingyu was transferred from the town hospital to the county hospital for treatment. When Xiao Lingyu arrived, she had already lost too much blood. Xiao Lingyu demanded an abortion, but her body was too weak to support that. If she insisted, both the mother and the child might die.

Mother and Father Xiao immediately stopped Xiao Lingyu. They didn't want to lose Xiao Lingyu. Furthermore, the baby was innocent. Since abortion was not an option, then they would keep it. It meant that the baby was fated to be with the Xiao Family.

At the hospital, Mother Xiao finally heard the truth from Xiao Lingyu. She didn't sleep with an old man but a young man.

It was because Xiao Lingyu was drugged that the incident happened.

It was not Xiao Lingyu's fault.

Chapter 49: Past Events 3

No one else other than Xiao Lingyu's family knew that the girl was framed.

However, for Yu 'Er's sake, the Xiao Family decided to keep the child despite its unknown origin.

Xiao Lingyu, who was saved, was like a walking corpse. She did not speak, did not eat, and did not drink. Her eyes were empty and indifferent. She did not show any expression.

Mother Xiao tried to persuade, scold, and beat her. However, Xiao Lingyu was unfazed. Mother Xiao's heart ached so much that she wiped her tears every night.

In the end, Mother Xiao told Xiao Lingyu angrily, "Xiao Lingyu, you're making yourself into some kind of zombie for that Chen Ran. But do you know what kind of life he is currently living? He has a beautiful new wife and a successful job. His life cannot be better!" Mother Xiao pointed out, "Xiao Lingyu, have you not suspected why you were drugged? How come everything collapsed once you woke up at the hotel? If you ask me, this is all thanks to that kid from the Chen family and his new wife. It's to protect their reputation so that they can be together officially. You are sacrificed for their gain!"

Mother Xiao didn't want to say these things without evidence. However, she had to do something to pull her daughter out of her daze.

As expected, Xiao Lingyu's eyes brightened when she heard her mother. She tugged at Mother Xiao's clothes and asked in disbelief, "Mom, you're saying that it was Chen Ran who betrayed me first? Is it really true?" Xiao Lingyu was trapped in the pain of betraying Chen Ran. The guilt suffocated her.

She had been immersed in the pain and despair of betraying Chen Ran and could not walk out of it.

Suddenly, someone came to tell her it was the opposite. She needed time to process this.

Mother Xiao looked into Xiao Lingyu's eyes and said seriously and calmly, "Yu 'Er, think about it. Why were you called to the hotel that night? How did the pictures about you appear in the company the next morning? How can everything be so coincidental?" These questions sparked something in Xiao Lingyu's mind. She started to suspect something was wrong.

However, she was still hesitant. What if Chen Ran was innocent? She had already betrayed him. How could she suspect him on top of that?

Mother Xiao saw Xiao Lingyu's hesitation, and she let out a heavy sigh, "Yu 'Er, what is the truth? You'll need to find out yourself. Yu 'Er, do you really want to live in guilt and carry the shame of a traitor for the rest of your life?"

Mother Xiao gently stroked Xiao Lingyu's long hair and said with empathy. "Yu 'Er, I know what kind of person you are. Even if you want to die, you need to clear your name first. If you don't do it for yourself, do it for your mother, your father, and your brother." Mother Xiao pleaded with Xiao Lingyu. "Ever since this incident, people would point fingers at us wherever we go. They say we've raised a prostitute daughter."

Mother Xiao didn't want to add to Xiao Lingyu's pressure. However, she had to say something for her daughter to find the will to live. Hopefully, bond and responsibility to her family could awaken Xiao Lingyu.

Xiao Lingyu was shocked. She had no idea how much pain she had caused her family. She looked at her mother's haggard face and red eyes. Suddenly, she burst into tears, "Mom, I'm sorry."

"It's okay. Just cry it out." Mother Xiao patted Xiao Lingyu's shoulder.

Father Xiao and Brother Xiao, who were standing outside, also had red eyes.

Chapter 50: The Chen Family People

Xiao Lingyu had tears streaming down her face when she thought of these things from her previous life. She held the jade pendant tightly.

Other than Xiao Tong, she had disappointed so many people in her past life. Her father, her mother, her brother, and those who had helped her, she had failed them all. How much had they suffered because of her?

All because she couldn't get over a scumbag.

However, now that she was given a second chance, she would do things differently. Revenge had been taken on the scumbag, Chen Ran. All his dreams and ambitions were shattered.

However, Xiao Lingyu had not forgiven Chen Ran's family for hurting her family in her previous life. The Chen Family was a group of greedy bastards. Chen Dahua's siblings and Lan Erying's siblings were fence-sitters. They were on good terms with Chen Dahua and Lan Erying solely because of Chen Ran.

Chen Ran was the only university graduate from their village. He worked in a big city and brought them benefits. But what would happen after Chen Ran became a burden to the Chen Family? Would the same siblings stand up for Chen Ran's parents?

Xiao Lingyu touched the jade pendant and came up with an idea.

The next two days, wild rumors started at the Chen Village.

Apparently, after Chen Ran married the CEO's daughter, the CEO lost his company. It was because Chen Ran and his wife had offended someone powerful at City Z. Chen Ran's wife blamed everything on her husband. In a fit of anger, she stabbed him.

At Chen Sanhua's home in the Chen Village, ten people gathered. They were Chen Dahua's three brothers and their wives, as well as Chen Dahua's two sisters and their husbands.

"Third brother, I heard that Ran 'Er offended someone in City Z, and he caused his boss' company to collapse?" Chen Dahua's sister, Chen Guihua, asked anxiously.

Chen Ran was the only university student from their village. They thought they could bask in his glory. They didn't expect him to offend someone important. He actually caused his father-in-law to lose his family company just like that...

What kind of big character did Chen Ran offend? If said person wanted to take revenge, villagers like them wouldn't stand a chance.

If that was the case, they needed to distance themselves from Chen Ran as soon as possible. After all, there was no telling if the person would one day take revenge on those close to Chen Ran. Of course, they had to find out the truth before cutting off ties with the Chen Family's only university student.

Chen Sanhua, Chen Dahua's third brother, frowned. "Big sister, I'm not sure either. That was what Xiao Lingyu said when we went to find the Xiao Family in Taoyuan Village." Chen Sanhua frowned and continued, "But it is true that Chen Ran was stabbed. The village chief received a call from the city hospital. Big brother and big sister-in-law already rushed to City Z the day before last."

Chen Erhua said, "That's right. Big sister-in-law even asked me for 200 RMB for travel fees before they departed." Chen Erhua's heart was pained. 200 RMB was enough for him to buy ten cigarettes.

"In that case, Big brother and sister-in-law should arrive in City Z already." Chen Honghua said, "But we have not heard single news from them. There is not even a call."

Chen Guihua nodded. "Honghua is right. It's already been two days. Why haven't big brother and big sister-in-law called back?"

Everyone was puzzled, but they had a guess in their hearts.

"Little brother, how about this? You should give Big brother and Big Sister-in-law a call. Help us find out what is going on!" Chen Guihua looked at Chen Xiaohua.

Chen Xiaohua replied, "Okay!" He took out a red flip phone from his pocket.