

Fat Wife 1021

Chapter 1021 Do Not Offend People

There was complete silence. Su Yang stood in the crowd like he was in a daze, as if he was not the person they were calling out for.

Old Madam Fan hurriedly pulled the stunned Su Yang over and said, "This is my son. He's Su Yang."

Chief Lu from the district office immediately smiled and said, "We're here to deliver the good news to your family! It's a joyous occasion for your family! Recently, there's a district office post that has become available. We've held a meeting and decided to let you take the position. The thing is it's not in our district, but another district. You have to be posted to Guang City. The workplace has a dormitory and a canteen there. Do you want to go?" Chief Lu asked.

"Yes, yes, yes! We'll go!" Before Su Yang could answer, Old Madam Fan quickly agreed.

The district office was a formalized workplace unit, which was a hundred times better than working in a factory. Although the salary was not as high as in the factory, it was a dignified workplace. It was something that one could flaunt proudly!

"Are you able to answer for him?" Chief Lu asked.

"Of course! My silly son is so happy that he can't speak. I'm his mother and I can decide for him! We'll definitely go!" Old Madam Fan said excitedly.

"There's also a job for you in Guang City. The two of you can go together," Chief Lu said.

Old Madam Fan hurriedly asked, "Oh, there's a job for me too! Then can I ask how much it pays per month?"

She was already so old. If the pay was only around 30 dollars a month, she would not take it! If the pay is so little, she might as well rest at home and live off her pension. Whenever she was free, she could go to the park for a walk and go dancing. In the event that a rich old man took a fancy to her, she would not have to worry about the rest of her life!

"Probably about 50 dollars. We're not from there, so we don't know the details. You'll only know when you get there," Chief Lu said earnestly.

"I'll go! Thank you for your organization's arrangements! Thank you so much!" Old Madam Fan said with a grin.

"But you have to be very aware about who is giving you this job. Don't accidentally offend them. The job can disappear at any time. Maybe it won't just be the job that can disappear." Chief Lu looked around at the people in the courtyard before finally turning to Old Madam Fan and saying in a deep voice, "Don't you think so?"

Old Madam Fan's smug expression instantly disappeared. She swallowed nervously and said, "Yes... That's right... I understand..."

The people in the courtyard who came to look for Old Madam Fan to intercede on their behalf gradually fell silent. They realized that these men were here to take them down a notch!

It was very difficult to find Chief Lu without making an appointment with him. The people from the district office were very busy every day and did not have the time to stop and talk about trivialities. Usually, they would use the loudspeaker to call out to whoever they were looking for and ask the person to go to the district office. There was no way that the chief would come over personally to send a message.

Whatever he just said was meant to tell all of them exactly how powerful Qiao Mei was and that they should think carefully who they could and could not afford to offend. These words were not just meant for Old Madam Fan alone. In the future, anyone who lived nearby should make sure that they did not become enemies with Qiao Mei.

"Alright, we've said everything we wanted to say. We're leaving now. Why are you all gathered here on such a freezing day? Don't catch a cold!" Chief Lu left after saying that.

When the rest of the people heard what he said, they also left the place one after another. A few of them disappeared even faster than Chief Lu. At the end, only Old Madam Fan and Su Yang were left in the courtyard, still immersed in the joy of having found jobs.

Once Old Madam Fan and Su Yang reached Guang City, Qiao Yu's good days would come to an end. Their workplace was only about 10 kilometers away from Qiao Yu's workplace and there was only one supply and marketing cooperative in that area. Sooner or later, they would bump into one another.

Guang City was also very close to Foshan Village. Xia Wen had already arranged for someone to go to the village to spread the news. When the time came, he would just watch the three families fall into chaos! Whatever happened next would be beyond Qiao Mei's control.

After resolving this matter, Qiao Mei finally felt at ease. From now on, no one would come shouting at her door every day. In addition, Qiao Yu would no longer have time to have any ideas about Xia Zhe in the future.

Late at night when it was time to go to bed, Xia He kept feeling as if there was a huge rock pressing on her chest, making her unable to breathe. No matter how hard she tried, she could not sleep well and could only toss and turn on the bed.

Chapter 1022 - 1022 Something Happened

1022 Something Happened

Xia He looked up and saw that the lights in Qiao Mei's bedroom were still switched on. She got out of bed and put on a padded cotton jacket. Without stopping to put on her socks, she simply put on her slippers and stumbled out, almost falling over on her way.

"Qiao Mei, are you asleep yet?" Xia He stood at the door and asked in a cautious manner.

"No, I'm not. Come in quickly. Why are you panting? Did you get chased by a dog?" Qiao Mei sat by the bed and asked Xia He, who stood at the door and looked in a sorry state.

"I... I just... I..." Xia He stammered, unable to speak properly. In the end, she mustered her courage and said to Qiao Mei, "Can I sleep over in your room?"

From when she was young, she did not allow Xu Lan to sleep with her for even one night. She had always slept alone. After she got married, she and Kong Lu did not spend a lot of time together. In a sense, she had always been alone.

She did not expect herself to be asking to sleep over in Qiao Mei's room when she was already in her 30s. Just thinking about what she was doing made her feel embarrassed!

"Sure! But why do you suddenly want to sleep over today? In the past, when I begged you to sleep in my room, you always looked so disgusted!" Qiao Mei said laughingly.

Xia He sighed deeply and said, "I don't know what's going on, but my left eyelid keeps twitching today. My heart doesn't feel very comfortable either and I feel like I can't breathe."

Xia He still made it a habit to practice her dance every day. Although her physical health was not as good as Xia Zhe and people like him, her fitness level was definitely much better than that of ordinary people. Why would she suddenly feel uncomfortable?

Just as Qiao Mei was deep in thought, a strong wind suddenly started blowing outside the house as torrential rain poured down. Streaks of silver-white lightning seemed to want to tear the night sky apart, followed by deafening thunder.

This was the first time they had seen such bad weather. Furthermore, it was winter now when storms were rare. Given such strange weather, something major must have happened. The discomfort that Xia He felt became magnified again and she kept feeling that something had gone missing, which made her feel very upset. The feeling of discomfort she felt earlier was not so serious, but now, it was so bad that she could not even sit still.

"No, Qiao Mei, I still don't feel well. Do you think something has happened at home?" Xia He said with a frown.

"Don't let your imagination run wild. Sit down and take a rest first. I'll make you a pot of tea." Qiao Mei quietly put two drops of 100-year-old ginseng juice into the tea, thinking that Xia He would feel much better after drinking it.

As Qiao Mei held on to the teapot, her hands trembled slightly. She was also afraid that something had happened at home, but she could not and did not want to think about it in detail. There was no such incident inside the memories of the original owner of the body.

Xia Zhe should have died in that previous earthquake. She was the one who saved Xia Zhe and rewrote his fate, which also meant that whatever happened from then onwards would be completely unknown to her.

“Have some tea. It might help you breathe better.” Qiao Mei placed the teapot on the table and handed Xia He a cup of tea. The tea was boiling hot, but Xia He still felt as cold as if she had fallen into an ice cave.

“Qiao Mei, is everything really fine? I want to make a call to eldest brother...” Xia He whispered.

“It’s raining so heavily outside now. You’ll be drenched even with an umbrella. I’ll sleep in the same room as you tonight. When the rain stops, we’ll go out to make the phone call. Or we can just go home directly to take a look tomorrow,” Qiao Mei said as she held Xia He’s hand.

The two of them fell silent. Xia He picked up the teacup and took a sip. Her chest no longer felt stuffy, but her heart still felt uncomfortable and she kept having that uneasy feeling.

Just as she was about to finish the cup of tea, the main door was suddenly kicked open. The door was always locked at night and only people with keys could open it. Moreover, there were security guards from the Xia family stationed around the house. It was definitely impossible for a stranger to enter this way, so it must be someone familiar to them.

Xia He hurriedly ran to the main hall. It was raining so heavily that she could not see who it was. She could only vaguely see a figure in the rain. It seemed to be Xia Wen!

“Eldest brother! Eldest brother, why are you here without an umbrella! Hurry over!” Xia He shouted immediately.

Xia Wen braved the rain and hurriedly ran into the house. Xia He quickly went into the room and took an unused blanket to wrap around Xia Wen, worried that he would catch a cold.

“Eldest brother, what are you doing! Why are you running around on such a rainy day! What if you catch a cold? You don’t take care of your health at all!” Xia He said reproachfully.

Xia Wen just looked at Xia He without saying anything, his eyes filled with sadness and seriousness. Qiao Mei sat at the side and looked at Xia Wen like she suddenly understood something. She clenched the armrest of the chair nervously.

“Who is it?” Qiao Mei asked in a trembling voice.

“Don’t be agitated. I’ll tell you slowly,” Xia Wen said in a deep voice.

Chapter 1023 - 1023 Leaving Immediately

1023 Leaving Immediately

Qiao Mei and Xia He looked at Xia Wen nervously, not even daring to breathe loudly.

Xia Wen said slowly, “It’s Father. He has sustained a serious injury during this mission. I heard that he wanted to protect his comrade and took a bullet for that young soldier. The wound is right next to his heart. Although his heart is fine, the risk is very high because of his age. The doctors are trying to save him now.”

Before Xia Wen finished talking, Xia He had collapsed to the ground and stared ahead with lifeless eyes. She just knew that something big must have happened. For a moment, Qiao Mei also felt a sense of panic. This was the first time she had experienced such a situation.

“Where is Father now?” Qiao Mei asked, putting on a front of calmness.

“He’s not in the capital. He’s being treated at the mission location. He can’t be moved now. The bullet needs to be removed and his vital signs stabilized before he can return to the capital for treatment,” Xia Wen said.

Xia He hurriedly grabbed Xia Wen's trouser leg and asked, "What about Mother? Does Mother know about what happened?"

Even if Xu Lan had strong mental fortitude, she had also aged and was already almost 60 years old. When the army notified the soldiers' family members of such incidents, they would always give the worst case scenario so that the family members could be mentally prepared. Xia He was worried that Xu Lan would fall ill before Xia Mao could even start to recover.

"She knows. Aunt is now taking care of Mother and Second Aunt-in-law at the house. They're still feeling alright. Eldest Aunt is currently investigating what has gone wrong during this mission," Xia Wen said.

Qiao Mei hurriedly returned to the bedroom to retrieve her money. As long as Xia Mao was still alive when they arrived, she would have a way to save him. If she had known that such a day would come, she would not have soaked the golden ginseng in wine. The juice extracted from it might even be able to bring a person back from the dead!

"Elder sister and I will pack our things now... No! Let's set off immediately!" Qiao Mei said nervously.

Xia Wen had not intended to involve Qiao Mei in this. After all, the journey was long and Qiao Mei was pregnant. If anything unexpected happened on the way, they would not be able to take care of her. One of their family members was already unwell and they could not let anything happen to anyone else.

"Qiao Mei, you can't go. It's sufficient for eldest brother and I to go. I'll call... call Qian'e in a while and ask her to come over and take care of you. The weather is bad now and the journey is too bumpy," Xia He wiped the tears from the corners of her eyes and stood up to look at Qiao Mei firmly.

She was an elder sister and could not always let her family protect her. She also had to protect these people who loved her.

She reckoned that Xu Lan and Liu Fen were probably also feeling at a loss now. It would be a mess if they were asked to take care of Qiao Mei. As for Li Gui, she not only had to run her business, but she also had to take care of the four children. Qiao Qiang was already so old and also needed someone to take care of him, but she was also worried about finding a suitable nanny at such a last minute. In the end, Qian'e was the best person for the job.

Although there was a grudge between Qian'e and Qiao Mei in the past, they had a very good relationship at the moment. Qiao Mei could talk to Qian'e about anything and they were as close as sisters. Sometimes, Xia He also felt jealous of the relationship between Qiao Mei and Qian'e.

"Stop dawdling. If you continue talking, dawn will be breaking soon. Let's hurry and go over to save him! I must go today!" Qiao Mei said stubbornly.

The two siblings could not dissuade Qiao Mei at all, so they had no choice but to bring her along to the place where Xia Mao was injured. They did not have time to wait for the heavy rain to stop before setting off. The three of them braved the heavy rain and left the house. They were drenched just walking the distance from the main hall to the main door and there was no way for them to bring along a change of clothes. Qiao Mei's school bag was not spared either and it was totally drenched.

Fortunately, Qiao Mei had the bangle which allowed her to maintain her body temperature and not catch a cold. Her clothes could also slowly dry up. Xia He and Xia Wen did not have such a good thing with them.

Xia Mao's mission location was a valley surrounded by forests. If they were not careful, they could become separated. If they accidentally walked into the depths of the valley, they could also be targeted by ferocious beasts looking for a meal.

On the way, Xia He and Qiao Mei sat together in the back of the car. Xia He was so nervous that her palms were sweating and she kept muttering to herself, praying that the heavens would save Xia Mao's life.

"I also think that everything will definitely be fine. Father is such a brave and skillful warrior. Nothing will go wrong!" Xia He said with a trembling voice.

Chapter 1024 - 1024 So You Feel Afraid Too

1024 So You Feel Afraid Too

"After we bring Father home, let's ask him not to go to the frontline anymore. He should retire and enjoy life. In the future, he can help to look after his grandchildren and go square dancing with Mother," Qiao Mei said.

Xia Wen's nervous expression also relaxed. Xia Mao had long reached the age of retirement, but he was still focused on fighting for the country. In addition, Xia Zhe was not still not experienced enough during that time, so he felt that he should continue with his work for a few more years.

With this injury, even if he wanted to go back to the frontline, his superiors would probably not grant approval anymore.

Xia He pointed at Qiao Mei's hands and said with a smile, "You still have the cheek to comfort me! Look at how your hands are trembling."

Qiao Mei quickly hid her hands behind her back. She thought that Xia He would not discover it, but she did not expect to be exposed.

"I'm just feeling nervous too..." Qiao Mei said shyly as she looked out of the window.

In her other life, she was a criminal lawyer and she had seen too much about the dark side of human nature, as well as life and death issues. She thought that she had gotten used to these things, but when such things happened to her own relatives, she still felt afraid and nervous.

Xia Mao was a very nice person. When they first met, Xia Mao had treated her very well and since then, he had been very nice to her until now. Xia Zhe also respected his father very much. No matter what, Qiao Mei must save Xia Mao.

By the time they arrived, it was two days later. After traveling for two days and two nights, they were all already extremely tired. Xia Wen had stubble on his chin and Xia He's dark circles were so big that she almost looked like a panda.

Qiao Mei was the only one who remained in good shape. Although she was very tired, she was still in good spirits. This was all thanks to the bangle. Whenever the color of the bangle started to fade, Qiao Mei would drip one drop of 1,000-year-old ginseng juice on it. After the bangle absorbed it, it would emit a faint glow, as if it had been recharged by a power bank.

"It's another three kilometers to our destination," Xia Wen said as he looked at the road ahead.

“Are we able to drive all the way there?” Qiao Mei asked.

Mountain roads were hard to maneuver and cars could usually only travel until the foot of the mountain. If they wanted to go any further, they would have to get down and walk. The worst thing ahead was not climbing the mountain, but the fact that it was already late afternoon. If they progressed too slowly, they would not be able to move forward once it became dark. There were dangers everywhere in the forest. Even if there were many people following them into the mountain, they could not ensure everyone’s safety.

“I’ll ask the chauffeur to send you to the camp at the foot of the mountain to stay for the night. I’ll go up the mountain first to take a look at Father,” Xia Wen said.

He had left the army for many years, but he still retained his physical fitness and actual combat experience. He should be able to reach the camp, which was halfway up the mountain, before dark.

Even though Xia Wen would not be able to help much even if he got there, he would feel better to be able to ascertain that Xia Mao was fine. As long as he could see Xia Mao, he did not care how tough it was for him.

“No, I have to go up. I walked on such mountain paths every day in the village. It’s a piece of cake for me and nothing will go wrong,” Qiao Mei said.

Xia He also echoed, “That’s right, eldest brother. I want to go too!”

“Why are you messing around too!” Xia Wen said earnestly. “Qiao Mei, now is not the time to let your emotions get the better of you. Even though there’s so many of us, even if we all get there, we won’t be able to help much. I’ll go up and take a look at Father’s situation first. You’re pregnant and it’s already been very taxing on you for the past two days. Listen to me and stay at the foot of the mountain with Xia He for one night before going up the next day.”

He needed to be responsible for Qiao Mei, as well as Xia Zhe’s children. Even if the sky fell down, he must bear the burden for the entire family and not let anything happen to anyone.

Xia He also backed Qiao Mei up. Xia Wen really could not dissuade this stubborn sister-in-law of his, so he could only compromise. It was definitely not an easy task to be their eldest brother.

“Then we have to promise one another. If you feel any discomfort, we’ll stop immediately. No matter how small the issue is, you have to tell me,” Xia Wen said sternly.

Qiao Mei and Xia He nodded together with a very sincere attitude, worried that Xia Wen would go back on his word and end up detaining the two of them in the camp below the mountain. The closer they got to the foot of the mountain, the more agitated everyone felt.

Chapter 1025 - 1025 Simply Messing Around

1025 Simply Messing Around

Xia He crouched at the window and looked at the surroundings as her breathing started to quicken. The car gradually slowed down. It was becoming difficult to drive on the road.

Qiao Mei noticed that Xia He was behaving abnormally and took out a water bottle to pour a glass of water for her. Her water bottle was filled with water mixed with 100-year-old ginseng juice. Drinking it would temporarily make one feel refreshed and comfortable.

Not long after, the car was unable to go forward anymore. They had arrived at the military camp at the foot of the mountain. The person who came to meet them was Xia Mao’s partner, Zhuang Pin. He was slightly younger than Xia Mao and they had been partners for more than 30 years. They had a very tacit understanding of each other and knew what each other wanted with just one look.

“You’re here!” Zhuang Pin hurriedly ran forward to greet them. When he turned around, he was very shocked to see the petite and pregnant Qiao Mei.

Zhuang Pin pointed at Xia Wen and shouted bluntly, “Xia Wen! Don’t you know what this place is! It’s already bad enough for you to bring your younger sister here! But you even have a pregnant woman with you! Don’t you know how dangerous it is here!”

Xia Wen lowered his head and endured the lecture obediently. He also felt that he did not handle this matter well, but with Qiao Mei’s stubborn temper, even ten donkeys would not be able to hold her

back. Even if he did not bring Qiao Mei with him to look for Xia Mao, Qiao Mei would still find a way to get here. Therefore, it was better to keep her by his side.

“Godfather! Don’t scold my brother! We’re the ones who insist on coming with him. It has nothing to do with him!” Xia He quickly explained.

Zhuang Pin looked at Qiao Mei coldly. He knew that Xia Zhe had a young and beautiful wife who was pregnant with two eldest grandchildren of the Xia family. This news had long spread like wildfire in the army and many young men were envious that Xia Zhe had married such a good wife. They even said that in the future, they wanted to find a wife like Qiao Mei.

The Zhuang family and the Zheng family were also very good friends, so Zhuang Pin naturally knew about what happened with Zheng Yuan.

He had two daughters and one son. Ever since the children were young, he liked Zheng Yuan very much and treated her especially well. Zhuang Pin was not only the godfather of these children from the Xia family, but also godfather to Zheng Yuan and Zheng Peng. He did not have many hobbies, but he liked to go around collecting godchildren. It was a fun thing for him, but of course, he did not allow just anyone to join in the fun.

If not for the fact that Zheng Yuan liked Xia Zhe so wholeheartedly, Zhuang Pin would have long asked his son, Zhuang Hua, to marry Zheng Yuan. Despite that, the ending turned out to be not too bad. Zhuang Hua was trying his best and had followed Zheng Yuan to a local army unit for training.

The Zhuang family did not care about those big titles. They were not interested in becoming high-ranking officials and earning big money. Their family motto was to be loyal and righteous. Zhuang Pin was very supportive of Zhuang Hua giving up his career in pursuit of love. He was even very proud of it!

“You’re Xia Zhe’s wife?” Zhuang Pin said sulkily.

“Hello, Uncle Zhuang. My name is Qiao Mei and I’m Xia Zhe’s wife. I have come here this time despite the risk because I’m worried about my father’s health. Don’t worry, I won’t cause you any trouble,” Qiao Mei said in a gentle manner.

She was a beautiful girl and spoke politely, thus Zhuang Pin could not pick on her at all. He could only purse his lips and say, "Then you can stay here and wait until the troops there send Xia Mao down."

"No, I have to go up. I have to see my father today. It doesn't matter even if I have to climb up by myself," Qiao Mei said firmly as she looked at Zhuang Pin.

"Nonsense! Do you think your pregnancy is child's play!" Zhuang Pin scolded angrily.

"I'm not talking nonsense! Instead of wasting time here, it's better for us to go up the mountain now. I've lived in the mountain village since I was young and I've walked more mountain roads than you. I definitely won't lose to any soldier!" Qiao Mei said firmly, not afraid of Zhuang Pin at all.

Xia He was stunned by what she was seeing as she stood behind Qiao Mei. From young, she had never dared to talk to Zhuang Pin in such a manner. He was as scary as Xia Mao, but the difference was that no matter how angry Xia Mao became, he would still talk calmly. On the other hand, Zhuang Pin would fly into a rage and criticize a person without holding back, just like what he was doing now.

Even Xia Wen was afraid of Zhuang Pin. He did not expect Qiao Mei to disregard everything to save Xia Mao.

Chapter 1026 - 1026 How Much Longer

1026 How Much Longer

Qiao Mei did not back down at all and said, "I'm also very determined. I have to go up the mountain today. If we can't reach an agreement, I'll go up the mountain myself. No one can stop me."

Just as the two of them stood eyeball to eyeball with daggers drawn, Xia Wen quickly stood up and said, "Godfather, I'll bring Qiao Mei up. Don't worry, she's just feeling too worried about my father. She has a stubborn temper, so don't lower yourself to her level."

Xia Wen hurriedly gave Xia He a look and she immediately reacted. She quickly went forward to hold Zhuang Pin's arm as she led him towards the camp. As they walked, she said, "Godfather, let's go back to the camp first. There are so many people here! We should not make her look bad in front of them."

After Xia He utilized her power of persuasion, Qiao Mei was finally able to follow them up the mountain. As Zhuang Pin also needed manpower at the camp at the foot of the mountain, he could not assign too many people to them. He picked six elite soldiers from the team to go with them and escort them up the mountain.

Everyone carried a load of emergency items with them. As Qiao Mei was pregnant and it would be difficult for her to walk if she carried heavy items on her back, Zhuang Pin tagged two soldiers to her and ordered them to stick close to her. These two soldiers were trustworthy people who had been personally trained by Xia Mao. Even if they had to sacrifice themselves to save Qiao Mei, they would definitely do it without any complaints.

“Look, my godfather’s bark is worse than his bite. He actually still cares about you,” Xia He whispered into Qiao Mei’s ear.

In this military camp, other than Xia Mao, Zhuang Pin had the final say. He also wanted to go up the mountain to take a look at Xia Mao’s situation, but Zhuang Pin had his own mission and orders to follow. If he left his post, the troops at the foot of the mountain would be in a mess. Therefore, he could only stare at the phone every day and wait for updates from the camp halfway up the mountain.

“He just wants to do right by Father. After all, I’m pregnant with the Xia family’s children,” Qiao Mei said bluntly.

She did not hate Zhuang Pin. Instead, she liked people like him very much. Zhuang Pin was the kind of person who would say whatever was on his mind and did not hide anything. Qiao Mei liked to talk to people who were straightforward as it made things so much more convenient.

It did not matter to her even if Zhuang Pin did not like her. It was impossible for everyone in this world to like her. In the eyes of outsiders, her current behavior was indeed very crazy.

It was people like He Ning that Qiao Mei hated more. If He Ning had not begged her for the ginseng, she would not have bothered with him!

Along the way, everyone was very vigilant and paid full attention to their surroundings. After walking on the mountain path for five hours, they finally reached the camp halfway up the mountain only when it had turned completely dark. This was the place where Xia Mao was being treated.

Xia Wen did not rest at all. He rushed into the camp and asked, "Where is Xia Mao? I'm his son!"

The doctor inside the tent was shocked. He immediately took out a gun and pointed it at Xia Wen's head as he questioned, "How can you prove that you're his relative! And how did you get here!"

He was just a medic. When he saw that Xia Wen was not wearing a military uniform, not accompanied by anyone he knew in the army and barging in alone, he thought that Xia Wen was someone sent by the enemy. He could not let anyone get close to Xia Mao so casually and he had to ensure that Xia Wen was not a dangerous person.

Just as Xia Wen was about to explain, the team leader of the elite soldiers accompanying the group walked into the tent quickly and said, "We're all on the same side! We're on the same side! Put down your gun!"

The doctor reluctantly put away his gun and said mockingly, "Captain Sheng, you don't follow rules and neither do the people you bring with you."

Sheng Dong laughed embarrassedly and said, "I have no choice. This is an urgent situation. We seek your understanding."

"How's my father's condition now? Can we go in and take a look?" Xia Wen asked anxiously.

The doctor's face fell. He opened the folder beside him and said, "As a family member, you need to be mentally prepared. This bullet has already been removed, but your father is in very bad shape. We've tried our best to save him but the vital signs are weak. I think... he has been hanging on to wait for you guys to get here."

"If there's no improvement in his condition, it's probably three to five days." The doctor lowered his head after saying that.

Chapter 1027 Ginseng Wine

The doctor did not know how to face Xia Wen. Any other ordinary person in Xia Mao's condition would not have been able to hold on for so long. It had already been five days since the accident, but Xia Mao was still tenaciously alive. Perhaps Xia Mao was waiting for Xia Wen and the rest to arrive so that he could see them one last time.

Medically speaking, it was a miracle that Xia Mao was still alive.

Qiao Mei stood silently behind them. When she heard that Xia Mao was still alive, she was finally able to relax.

"Then can we go and see him now?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Yes, but you have to be quiet and not affect the patient," the doctor said earnestly.

The doctor brought them to the tent in the center of the camp. There were many soldiers guarding outside and many doctors inside taking care of Xia Mao. They monitored Xia Mao's condition 24 hours a day so that they could administer treatment immediately if there was any issue. They made sure that they would not miss out on the golden window for emergency treatment.

"He's still conscious. If you talk to him, he might be able to hear you," the doctor whispered.

Qiao Mei hurriedly walked forward to check on Xia Mao. The originally high-spirited and energetic person was now lying on the hospital bed. Xia Mao was as fragile as a piece of paper at the moment. It was hard to imagine that a person could lose so much weight in such a short period of time. Xia Mao was unable to eat at all and was being kept alive by the intravenous drips. The moment he was disconnected from the drips and oxygen, he would die immediately.

Xia Wen and Xia He completely did not know what to do. They just stood quietly next to Xia Mao and wept silently. In their memories, Xia Mao had always been the hero whom they admired and aspired to become. Even if the sky collapsed, Xia Mao would always be there to hold it up.

This was the first time they ever saw Xia Mao looking so weak. Only then did they realize that Xia Mao was getting on in years and was at the age when he needed their care and protection. He was no longer that omnipotent hero from the old days.

Qiao Mei clenched her fists tightly and tried her best to calm herself down. She slowly placed her right hand on Xia Mao's wrist to feel his pulse and quietly sensed his vitality. She suddenly discovered that Xia Mao seemed to have her energy in his body, which gave her a shock.

Back then, she had distributed the 1,000-year-old ginseng juice to everyone. For the sake of convenience, she had made the containers in the shape of a small medicine bottle which could be worn around the neck like a pendant. Could it be that Xia Mao had listened to her and carried this medicine bottle with him everywhere he went?

Qiao Mei hurriedly walked out of the tent and looked at the doctor anxiously as she asked, "When you were saving my father, did you find any glass shards on his chest or in his body?"

The doctor replied without any hesitation, "Yes, we did. There were indeed some glass shards found near the wound and also a little bit in the body. We've removed everything. We still don't know why these things appeared and we're still investigating the reason."

He remembered this matter very clearly. After investigating for so long, they still could not find the answer. They even suspected that it was some kind of new weapon which the enemy developed and they had handed it over to the R&D team for research.

Qiao Mei did not wait for the doctor to finish speaking. She quickly returned to the room and opened her bag to take out the medicinal wine. This medicinal wine was not much different from the usual 1,000-year-old ginseng juice. If she put a drop or two in a glass, it would look dark green. However, inside the bottle, the liquid looked like ink and it was impossible for anyone to be able to tell what it was.

Ordinary people would not be able to see the luster of this ginseng. Only Qiao Mei could see the golden sheen on it.

Xia Mao could never have imagined that the reason for him surviving for so many days was because of the few drops of 1,000-year-old ginseng juice. It was fortunate that the bullet had accidentally shattered the bottle, but it was also very dangerous at the same time. If the glass shards had cut through his heart, even an immortal would not be able to save Xia Mao.

"Qiao Mei, what is this?" Xia He asked as she looked at Qiao Mei nervously.

"Ginseng wine." After saying that, Qiao Mei wanted to pry open Xia Mao's mouth and pour the wine into his mouth. Xia Wen and Xia He were so frightened that they quickly stopped her. Even the doctors outside were so shocked by what she did that they rushed in.

"What are you doing! What exactly is this!" the doctor asked in a low voice.

Qiao Mei thought for a moment and said, "Uh... this is a remedy from my hometown. This is wine made with ginseng and it's very useful for treating illnesses and saving lives."

Chapter 1028 - 1028 Alive!

1028 Alive!

Even though Xia Wen and Xia He knew that this was a very rare type of ginseng wine, they did not dare to make a rash decision to let Qiao Mei try the remedy. They only had one chance. If they made a wrong choice, then there was no other way to save Xia Mao.

"No! You can't use this strange thing on the patient!" the doctor said nervously.

He had been a doctor for so many years, but this was the first time he had seen medicinal wine that was such a color. Was this not poison? How could wine be of this color?

He definitely could not allow this thing to be used on Xia Mao. If Xia Mao died because of what Qiao Mei did, he would not be able to redeem himself even if he had 10 lives to give!

Qiao Mei looked at Xia Wen with a stern expression and said, "You know Father's situation and I know it too. He's not just my father and I can't make the decision alone. I'm asking you now, should we try or not!"

After all, Xia Wen was Xia Mao's eldest son and he should be the one making this decision. Qiao Mei was just a daughter-in-law. If Xia Mao's health did not improve but worsen instead, Qiao Mei would be criticized by everyone. The gossip and mockery would be enough to crush her.

Qiao Mei did not care about what others would say. She was just scared that if they made a hasty decision today, Xia Wen and Xia He would regret it for the rest of their lives.

Xia Wen pondered for a moment and asked, "How confident are you?"

"Not at all. It's my first time trying this. This wine is better than everything I have at home. But I don't know how confident I should be," Qiao Mei said honestly.

"Then... are we supposed to just throw the dice?" Xia He said with a trembling voice.

Xia Wen closed his eyes, knelt on the ground weakly and held Xia Mao's hand with both hands. He was afraid of losing Xia Mao and did not dare to take the risk, but his only hope now was the bottle of wine in Qiao Mei's hand. If Xia Mao did not drink it, he would only have three to four days left. If he drank it, he might still have a chance of survival.

"Father... I... I'll make a decision for you today..." Xia Wen looked at Qiao Mei with tears streaming down his face and said, "Let him drink it."

Xia He also knelt on the ground and buried her head in Xia Mao's arm. She kept praying to the heavens that if Xia Mao could stay alive, she was willing to give up 10 years of her lifespan in exchange. She did not dare to open her eyes and watch Qiao Mei pour the ginseng wine into Xia Mao's mouth. If they failed, this would be a nightmare for her for the rest of her life.

The doctor slowly retreated outside the door. As a doctor, his sense of professionalism did not allow him to let Qiao Mei try her remedy, not even to feed just one drop. However, even the doctors were already totally helpless now and could only watch on silently as Xia Mao's life slowly slipped away.

However, as a person, the most important thing for him was to let Xia Mao's children express their filial piety. Since Xia Wen had agreed with Qiao Mei's actions, he would let Xia Mao's children boldly give it a try. Perhaps they would succeed?

Qiao Mei gritted her teeth and slowly poured the ginseng wine into Xia Mao's mouth. She did not dare to waste a single drop and fed him roughly the volume of one glass before stopping.

She stared intently at Xia Mao's face and listened carefully to the sounds coming from the medical equipment. Her fingers gently pressed on Xia Mao's wrist to feel his pulse. Qiao Mei's heart beat together with every beat of his heart. After 10 minutes, Qiao Mei realized that Xia Mao's face was gradually turning rosier and his heartbeat was getting stronger.

Xia Wen could also feel Xia Mao's fingers trembling slightly. He looked up at Qiao Mei in surprise and stared nervously at Xia Mao's hand. After confirming that the fingers were moving, Xia Wen was so happy that he almost jumped up and cheered.

"Doctor! Doctor, come and take a look!" Xia Wen called the doctor over excitedly.

The doctor quickly gathered all the other medical staff and asked the three of them to leave the tent. They nervously carried out a full-body checkup for Xia Mao.

At this moment, a diminutive soldier suddenly rushed in front of them and knelt on the cold and hard ground with a plop. He kept kowtowing and saying, "It's all my fault... Please hit me... It's all my fault... I'm so sorry..."

Xia He forced herself to stand up straight. Xia Wen went forward to help the soldier up and said, "Get up first. Whatever it is, we can talk about it."

Chapter 1029 "Skinny Monkey"

Unexpectedly, the soldier said tearfully, "I'm too ashamed to get up! I'm sorry! It's all my fault! If not for me, Master won't have to face death! I've let him down!"

Xia Wen recalled the identity of the person in front of him. Xia Mao had mentioned this kid to him during one of their casual chats.

In the beginning, the kid's name was Fugui and he did not have a surname. He was a bastard child who did not know who his parents were. He was saved by Xia Mao and the team at the scene of a huge flood. They were unable to find his parents, so they asked if anyone in the army was willing to adopt him. In the end, a retired old cadre adopted him and when he grew up, he joined the army as he wished.

The old cadre had named him Wan Zhuang because he wanted this child to grow up stronger. However, over the years, Wan Zhuang did not gain weight no matter how much he ate. Everyone teased him and gave him a nickname, "Skinny Monkey". He accepted this nickname coolly and even used "Skinny Monkey" as his code name in the army.

Xia Mao said that when he looked at this kid, it was like looking at Xia Wen from the past. Although this kid's results were mediocre and there was no way to compare his results with Xia Wen's results from back then, this kid's propensity for hard work was not inferior to anyone. He was just like Xia Wen in the way that he kept conquering peaks. If Wan Zhuang was nurtured well, he would definitely become a pillar of strength for the army.

"You're not at fault in this matter. Get up," Xia Wen said gently.

Wan Zhuang stood up while still weeping. He had only just reached adulthood and Xia Wen was old enough to be his uncle.

"I know you. My father mentioned you to me before. He said that you're the soldier he thinks most highly of. He is looking forward to seeing you develop even better in the future. I won't blame you. I was once a soldier. If I'm in my father's position, I will make the same choice as him," Xia Wen said emotionally as he looked towards the tent.

After hearing what Xia Wen said, Wan Zhuang wept even harder.

"I... I let him down... If I hadn't acted rashly and exposed my whereabouts, Master wouldn't have needed to take that shot for me!" Wan Zhuang said as he wept.

"Then what about now? Can you achieve anything by crying?" Qiao Mei asked as she looked at Wan Zhuang coldly.

Her words stunned everyone present. They did not know what Qiao Mei's intentions were. Xia Wen even thought that Qiao Mei was angry and that she resented what this kid did.

"Qiao Mei, watch what you say. He's still a child..." Xia Wen reminded her softly.

Qiao Mei completely ignored what Xia Wen said. She stared straight at Wan Zhuang and said, "Can crying solve any problems?"

Wan Zhuang shook his head and said softly, "It... it can't solve any problem..."

"Then can crying bring my father back from the dead?" Qiao Mei pressed on, not giving Wan Zhuang a chance to catch his breath at all, nor telling him that Xia Mao had already gotten better.

"No... I'm sorry..." Wan Zhuang said.

"Since the facts can't be changed, then don't let my father get shot for nothing. It's not your fault, but you have to become what my father expects to see and work hard to realize your dream. You shouldn't be apologizing to us over and over again here and doing such meaningless things," Qiao Mei said.

Wan Zhuang listened quietly to what Qiao Mei said. This was something that no one else had ever said to him and this was also the first time that someone had "reprimanded" him so blatantly. During this period of time, everyone had been comforting him, but every time someone comforted him, he hated himself even more. He wondered why he did not listen to Xia Mao's instructions at that time and kept falling into a cycle of self-blame.

At this moment, however, his confused heart seemed to have seen a bright light.

"I understand. I'll work hard and definitely won't disappoint him!" Wan Zhuang said as he looked at Qiao Mei firmly.

Qiao Mei nodded in satisfaction. Although this child had snot and tears all over his face and he did not sound imposing at all when he spoke, it was a good thing that he had a positive attitude and he knew what to do next.

Xia Wen looked at Qiao Mei and shook his head helplessly. She was clearly being kind, but she insisted on using the cruelest words to provoke others. Fortunately, the effect was not too bad. This was simply Qiao Mei's temper and personality and the way she did things.

After Xia Mao's physical examination was over, the doctor ran out excitedly and said, "He's alive! He's alive! He's all well now!"

Chapter 1030 Furious

Xia He walked forward agitatedly and asked, "Is it true? My father is really saved!"

"That's right! It's a miracle! His body has really recovered! However, we can't allow the family members to go in yet. His condition isn't very stable yet. You can go and take a rest for the night. If there's any changes in the situation, we'll come and report it to you. Once his condition stabilizes, everyone can come and see him," the doctor said.

Qiao Mei and the others stood outside the door and did not go to take a rest immediately. They all heaved a sigh of relief at first. They were finally able to relax after being on jitters for three days. All of a sudden, everyone felt a little sleepy, but no one felt like leaving this place.

It was only after Sheng Dong came to persuade them that everyone went to their respective tents to rest. The doctor immediately gave Zhuang Pin a call to tell him the good news.

"Reporting to Commander Zhuang. Commander Xia is out of danger. His vital signs are gradually stabilizing and improving," the doctor said.

"Not bad. It seems that this old man is still attached to his children after all. He feels much better after his children arrive." Zhuang Pin laughed happily.

"That's not it. It's because Commander Xia's third daughter-in-law gave him some medicine and he miraculously recovered after that," the doctor said in a tone of disbelief. Even now, he still could not believe that this was true. He must definitely find an opportunity to discuss it with Qiao Mei tomorrow.

Such a divine medicine must be studied carefully. It might very well become the most powerful weapon in the army in the future!

"Medicine? Did you allow it to be given to Xia Mao without checking it?" Zhuang Pin asked sternly.

This was not a small matter. It might have cost Xia Mao his life if it failed to work! How could they be so careless! If something happened, who would bear the responsibility!

He just knew that this young lady was not a good person. She had rashly given Xia Mao something that she had never even tried before. She was simply fooling around!

"I... At that time, it was Xia Wen who agreed. We were already totally helpless, so we boldly gave it a try. If anything had happened, I would definitely have taken responsibility," the doctor said firmly.

Zhuang Pin was so angry that he smashed the phone receiver in his hand. Taking responsibility! How did he think he could take responsibility! Now that it was a success, it was easy for him to say that he would definitely take responsibility! Where had everyone gone when they were trying to do this! No one came to inform him of such a big matter!

He vented all his frustration inside the tent. By the time his emotions stabilized, he realized that his clothes were all drenched in cold sweat.

Zhuang Pin was actually feeling afraid. He had almost lost his best friend of a lifetime. It was really a case of touch and go.

However, he was also glad that Xia Wen and the others had tried their remedy on Xia Mao and allowed him to survive the ordeal. Zhuang Pin felt a little conflicted about Qiao Mei. He was grateful to Qiao Mei for saving Xia Mao, but he also hated Qiao Mei for her boldness.

"Luckily..." Zhuang Pin sat on the chair and sighed deeply as he muttered to himself.

Everyone slept soundly that night. It was the most peaceful sleep they had had in a week and it was also the most unforgettable night for them.

The next morning, everyone woke up early at the same time, even earlier than the big rooster in the cookhouse. They were already waiting outside Xia Mao's tent at dawn.

"It's not a good idea for us to keep watch like this. Although the weather here is not as cold as in the capital, it's still quite chilling. Qiao Mei, you can go back first. Once there's any news, I'll go back and tell you immediately," Xia He said as she looked at Qiao Mei with heartache.

Qiao Mei shook her head. She was not in the mood to sleep at all. She did not know how long the effect of the medicinal wine would last or whether it had any healing effect on Xia Mao's wound. She did not know the effect of one glass of wine and the extent it managed to cure Xia Mao. If this medicinal wine could not save Xia Mao, she had decided to grow a 10,000-year-old ginseng overnight to save him.

Although she had used up all her energy when she grew that first one and had not fully recovered yet, she could replenish enough energy by doing energy exchanges with the entire mountain.

Fortunately, they were in the forest and there were many plants that could exchange energy with Qiao Mei. Otherwise, even an immortal would not be able to do anything.

"I'm fine. Let's wait for a while more," Qiao Mei said with a smile.