

Fat Wife 1031

Chapter 1031 - 1031 Recalling the Past

1031 Recalling the Past

Even when the cookhouse staff called out for everyone to go and have breakfast, there was still no news from the tent. Xia Wen decided that they should take turns to eat. Qiao Mei and Xia He would go with Sheng Dong to have their meal first and then they could come back to swap places with him.

Along the way, Qiao Mei kept thinking about an issue. She wondered who was able to hurt Xia Mao, but these were things that the higher-ups should be worried about. She had no right to ask about this.

“Let’s give Mother a call after we eat. I’m worried that she’d feel very anxious while waiting at home,” Xia He said worriedly.

“We should just tell her the good news and not talk about anything else for now. Let’s ask Aunt to prepare a single ward in the hospital. I reckon that after Father finishes my bottle of medicinal wine, he will be almost fully recovered. Then he can be transferred back to the capital to recuperate,” Qiao Mei said as she looked at Xia He and discussed the issue with her.

Xia He nodded in agreement. This place was located in the wilderness and they only had the most basic medical equipment here. The facilities and standard of care were definitely not as comprehensive and good as what they could get in the capital. It was better to make arrangements for Xia Mao to return to the capital as soon as possible to avoid any future incidents which could cause Xia Mao to suffer on the way back.

“Let’s eat first. Then we can go back and discuss it with eldest brother,” Xia He said.

Xia Wen sat alone outside the tent. He had put on very thick clothing and did not feel cold at all. As he sat there quietly, he was reminded of many things from the past.

Actually, when Xia Wen was young, he hated Xia Mao. He always felt that Xia Mao did not love them and that he cared more about his career than his family. Xia Mao might even feel that his career was more important than his life. Xia Wen was the one who brought up Xia He and Xia Zhe and he even had to attend the parent-teacher meetings for these two brats.

This was especially so when it came to Xia He. She was a girl, but she would always fight with the boys in school and did not have the bearing of a lady at all. At that time, he even wondered if he was the one who had led Xia He astray. However, even after Xia Fang took over the care of Xia He, there did not seem to be any changes in her behavior. He reckoned that it was just Xia He's true nature to behave like that.

Even though Xia He was mischievous, he was still proud of her. Perhaps it was because even when Xia He was up against three boys, she emerged unscathed while her three opponents ended up with bruised and swollen faces.

On the surface, Xia Wen kept his head down as he was reprimanded by the teacher. He apologized to the three kids' parents one by one, but behind everyone's back, he went to beat up these boys another time. If they did not bully Xia He first, why would Xia He beat them up? At least that was what the young Xia Wen thought at that time.

It was not until they were grown up that Xia He told Xia Wen that she was indeed the one who initiated the fight at that time. However, it was also because the three kids had kept causing trouble for Xia He for a while, so she had no choice but to start a fight. Her goal was actually to become the biggest bully among her peers. She was simply so childish then.

However, after that incident, there were no more fights among their cohort. Everyone listened to Xia He and got along well. Once Xia He found out about the possibility of a fight breaking out, she would immediately put a stop to it. This could be considered the good deed she did in school.

Just as Xia Wen was deep in thought, the doctor suddenly walked out of the tent.

"Ah! You give me such a fright! Why haven't you gone for breakfast?" the doctor yelled out as he held his chest in fear.

"I'm waiting to hear from you. How's my father?" Xia Wen asked.

"I'm actually on my way to talk to all of you. He's much better now, but there are still many instability issues. We need to observe him for another day. If his vital signs are normal today, he can be transferred to the foot of the mountain for treatment," the doctor said.

Xia Wen looked at the doctor expectantly and asked, "Then can we go in and see him now?"

"Yes you can, but not for too long. If all of you keep crowding around, it will cause delays to the treatment, so it's better not to go in too often. The three of you can take turns to go in and take a look for not more than 10 minutes each time," the doctor said in a cautious manner.

He still had not recovered from the shock he got when Zhuang Pin suddenly hung up on him yesterday. He did not even dare to go down the mountain now, and he did not know how to submit the report on his work for the past few days when he next saw Zhuang Pin. After the phone call last night, he had already started writing a self-reflection critique. It needed to be at least 5,000 words long and there must be some depth to it. Otherwise, Zhuang Pin would ask him to go through physical training with the soldiers in the team.

Chapter 1032 Becoming Awake

As long as the medics could keep up physically with the ordinary soldiers, their main job was to make sure that their medical skills were up to mark.

Xia Wen hurriedly entered the tent to take a look at Xia Mao. Xia Mao clearly looked much better than he did last night. If one were to use an analogy, the impression was of a shriveled balloon suddenly being blown up.

It was as if his entire person was filled with vitality. The Xia Mao from yesterday was clearly surrounded by a dark and lifeless aura.

"Father... can you hear me? If you can hear me, move your fingers slightly," Xia Wen said in Xia Mao's ear as he squatted carefully next to him.

After a while, Xia Wen saw Xia Mao's fingers move slightly. He was certain that Xia Mao could hear him.

"Father, I've come to see you with my younger sister and Qiao Mei. We have to thank Qiao Mei for the medicinal wine she brought with her. Otherwise, you wouldn't have been able to wake up so quickly. Qiao Mei is really our family's lucky star." Xia Wen sighed and continued, "I know you'll definitely

criticize me for bringing Qiao Mei to such a dangerous place. You can scold me after you wake up. I'll listen to whatever you say."

Xia Wen leaned next to Xia Mao's ear and talked incessantly about all the things that happened over the past few days. He had never spoken to Xia Mao like this before. The two of them only talked about work and family matters and never had a heart-to-heart conversation before.

This time round, Xia Wen also realized how important Xia Mao was to him. The misunderstanding from the past had completely dissipated.

After Qiao Mei and Xia He returned, Xia Wen came out and told them what the doctor said just now. Qiao Mei also told Xia Wen about the ideas she had earlier. After they came to an agreement, they started to contact the people in the capital.

When Xia Wen went to have his meal, Qiao Mei went into the tent and fed Xia Mao more ginseng wine. She still gave him about a glass full. Then, the two women said a few things to Xia Mao before leaving so that they did not disturb Xia Mao's rest.

Xia He and Xia Wen went to make arrangements for Xia Mao to be transferred out from the army camp. Qiao Mei was in charge of contacting the people in the capital and making arrangements for their trip back.

Qiao Mei first made a call to Xu Lan to tell her that everything was fine and that they would be able to return to the capital soon. She did this so that everyone at home would feel more at ease. After talking about the matter at hand, Xu Lan immediately asked Qiao Mei how she was feeling.

"Then how are you? Are you alright? Are you tired these few days? Why don't you go and stay in the nearby county city for a few days first and I'll arrange for a car to pick you up," Xu Lan asked anxiously.

"I'm fine. I can go back with eldest brother and the others. I'm in good health!" Qiao Mei said with a laugh.

"That won't do! The army vehicle is very shaky and bumpy on the road. When I followed your father around as a military spouse, I couldn't stand it at all and kept vomiting in the vehicle. You can't sit in that vehicle!" Xu Lan said.

"Mother, we came here in eldest brother's car. I'll just take that car back. Don't worry, I'll take good care of myself," Qiao Mei said gently.

Seeing that Qiao Mei knew what she was doing, Xu Lan did not say anything else. She left all the arrangements in the capital to Qiao Mei. Before hanging up, Xu Lan repeatedly reminded Qiao Mei to take good care of herself and that nothing was more important than her.

After making all the arrangements, Xia Wen and Xia He took turns to stand guard outside the tent. Qiao Mei was pregnant and it was inconvenient for her to do that so she stayed in the tent and waited for their update. Qiao Mei would go and feed Xia Mao the medicinal wine at regular intervals and there was a gradual improvement in Xia Mao's condition.

After two days, Xia Mao finally woke up.

"Commander! Commander, look at me!" the doctor said agitatedly as he looked at Xia Mao.

The doctor quickly shone the medical flashlight into Xia Mao's pupils. When he saw that Xia Mao's pupils were reacting, the doctor quickly called Xia Wen over.

"He's awake! He's awake! The division commander is awake!" The doctor was so agitated that he almost could not speak properly.

Xia Wen hurriedly rushed in without another word. After confirming that Xia Mao was really awake, he quickly went back to inform Qiao Mei and Xia He. The three of them then rushed back to see Xia Mao and Xia He even almost had a fall on the way.

By the time they came back, Xia Mao had already regained consciousness and was responsive.

As soon as Xia He saw Xia Mao, she started to wail loudly and her tears kept streaming down her face. Qiao Mei also teared silently at the side. They all needed to vent out the fear which they had kept inside.

Chapter 1033 Divine Medicine

"Father... you almost scared me to death! Do you know how worried I am about you! How can you treat us like this! I was almost scared to death!" Xia He knelt next to Xia Mao's bed fearfully and wailed loudly. At this moment, she had set aside her strong facade. At this moment, she was only Xia Mao's daughter.

No matter how old she was, Xia Mao would always see her as his adorable little daughter.

Xia Mao slowly tapped Xia He's cheek with his finger and looked at her in a kind manner. Although he had been lying on the bed all this while, he still retained his consciousness. These children had really suffered during this period of time.

"Don't cry anymore..." Xia Mao whispered with great effort.

Xia He quickly stopped crying and stayed quietly by Xia Mao's bed. She just looked at Xia Mao without doing anything. Although she could not help but cry occasionally, she tried her best to hold it in.

Xia Mao suddenly looked towards Qiao Mei. She understood what he meant and walked to his side, saying gently, "Father, we can go home soon."

She reckoned that Xia Mao's biggest wish now was to go home and reunite with his family. After all, he had just gone through a life and death situation and it had not been easy to wrestle his life back from the Grim Reaper.

"Mother is waiting for you at home. She's fine," Xia Wen said simply.

Qiao Mei took advantage of the fact that Xia Mao was awake and fed him another glass of ginseng wine. There was only a quarter of the ginseng wine left in the bottle, which should be enough to last Xia Mao until he reached the capital.

The doctors had all left the tent and only the four Xia family members were in the tent. No one would hear anything they talked about. The doctor only gave them 10 minutes to catch up, otherwise Xia Mao would feel overexerted.

"Qiao Mei, I actually keep wanting to ask, how old is the ginseng in that wine?" Xia Wen asked curiously.

Xia Mao also looked over curiously. He had eaten all kinds of supplements over the years, but none of them had such a magical effect. It really made him wonder if it was a spiritual herb obtained from a divine immortal.

Qiao Mei did not know how to explain the origins of this ginseng. After thinking for a long time, she said, "My grandfather found this ginseng in the mountains and we have never told anyone about it. This ginseng... should be more than 10,000 years old."

"10,000 years!" Xia He exclaimed. Then, she felt as if she did something wrong and quickly covered her mouth. She whispered, "Oh heavens, Qiao Mei, are you joking with us? Is this thing actually 10,000 years old? Can it already be a spirit?"

Qiao Mei pursed her lips awkwardly. In theory, it had indeed become a spirit and could even run around the courtyard! If not for the fact that Xia Mao was in mortal danger, she would not have brought this ginseng here so rashly.

She was already prepared for the worst. If Xia Mao did not get better after drinking the medicinal wine, she would just take out the ginseng and grind it into powder for him to eat. Fortunately, the medicinal wine proved to be effective. Otherwise, Xia Mao would probably bleed from all seven orifices after eating the 10,000-year-old ginseng powder.

"It's really more than 10,000 years old. My grandfather only found this ginseng after he made his way to the deepest part of the mountain. I guess their fates are intertwined," Qiao Mei said deceptively.

"Then we really have to thank Grandpa Qiao. He not only saved my grandfather's life, but my father's life as well. I don't know how the Xia family can repay both of you," Xia Wen lamented.

Qiao Mei said indifferently, "We're all family, so there's no need to be so polite. Let's think about what to eat and how to celebrate when we get back!"

They did not manage to hold any celebrations when they got back. The main door of the Xia family's house was so crowded with people that it almost broke. As soon as their car arrived in the capital, there were people who received the news immediately. Everyone had heard that the Xia family was in possession of divine medicine which could even save the critically ill Xia Mao.

Everyone came to the Xia family's door to ask for that divine medicine regardless of whether they knew the Xia family personally or not. The phone at home did not stop ringing as the calls kept coming. Xu Lan was so angry that she pulled out the phone line to get some peace and quiet.

It was not just the Xia family. The Zheng family, the Zhuang family and even Qian'e were not spared. Those people tried their best to contact anyone who was close to Qiao Mei and the Xia family. They just wanted to get hold of Qiao Mei's divine medicine, even if it was only one mouthful!

There were even rumors flying around that drinking Qiao Mei's divine medicine would allow one to stay young forever and extend one's lifespan! One could instantly return to being 20 years old! They had even prepared the advertising slogan for Qiao Mei.

There were even people who said that Qiao Mei's divine medicine could revive the dead. This was simply nonsense.

Chapter 1034 Full Effects

Even the area in front of Xia Mao's ward was jam packed with people. In the end, Xia Wen had to quickly arrange for a private doctor to come to the house. Qiao Mei was worried that the home environment was not conducive to providing Xia Mao with the best treatment, so she spent a lot of money to rent all the medical equipment from the hospital. She also hired another two private doctors so that the three of them could work on shifts to take care of Xia Mao 24 hours a day.

"Qiao Mei, this is too extravagant. If people find out that our family is spending so much money, they'll probably make an issue out of it again," Xia He said worriedly as she looked at the mob outside.

Qiao Mei did not care about all this. Even if the Xia family lost everything, she was able to support the entire family on her own. If required, she could just go into business like the He family.

However, Qiao Mei only said those words in a fit of anger. She had already asked Xia Wen before she did all that. Xia Wen had already conveyed Xia Mao's intent to retire to the higher-ups. The higher-ups did not agree to Xia Mao's request and only asked him to recuperate well. They even said that he could ask for anything he wanted.

"Don't worry, as long as the people outside want my legendary 'divine medicine', they won't attack our family. Do you see the person in the gray vest in the corner?" Qiao Mei said as she pointed at the corner to her right.

Xia He nodded and said, "Yes I do. He squats outside our house every day and is even more punctual than any office worker."

"That's the family member of one of the government leaders, so don't worry. Everyone wants what we have. If they destroy us now, they won't get anything," Qiao Mei said seriously.

"How do you know who he is?" Xia He asked.

Qiao Mei was actually not too sure, but this person avoided Xia Wen every time he came, seemingly worried that Xia Wen would recognize him. That was why Qiao Mei guessed that he might be from the government.

"Intuition," Qiao Mei said as she looked at Xia He smugly.

Xia He knocked Qiao Mei's head impatiently. Qiao Mei always liked to joke with her. Then she asked curiously, "So do you intend to give them the medicine?"

"Yes, but not real medicine. When the time comes, I'll mix some aged vinegar with water and give them some so that I can send them away. Anyway, they don't even know what the supposed 'divine medicine' looks like," Qiao Mei said.

This was quite a good plan, but what if someone saw through it? Besides, not all their family members were medically trained. Once everyone was satisfied with what they got and then someone took the opportunity to sabotage their family, the family would be caught off guard.

Now, they were caught in a dilemma. They reckoned that the jam outside Qiao Mei's courtyard house must be worse than the situation at the Xia family's house.

Xia Wen had to wait until the dead of the night, when the people outside the door left, before he could make his way home. He had to take leave from work for a period of time so that he did not need to go into the office for the time being.

"Eldest brother, think of a way quickly. This can't go on," Xia He said with a frown.

Xia Wen sighed deeply. He had not gone back to his own home for a month already and this matter had made it even more difficult for him to go home. When he was at his workplace today, many management staff had come to cozy up to him. If he read between the lines, they were all approaching him to ask for the "divine medicine".

"Do you know what they say about Qiao Mei's medicine?" Xia Wen said.

"Isn't it about being able to resurrect the dead or live forever or become young again? Other than that, what else is there?" Xia He asked.

"Now, there are even people who say that Qiao Mei's 'divine medicine' is an aphrodisiac. There are even people who make jokes about me!" Xia Wen said helplessly.

Qiao Mei was drinking water at the exact moment and what she heard made her spit it all out. Xia He also looked at Xia Wen in shock with her mouth wide open. Then, the two women collapsed on the sofa as they laughed loudly.

"Hahahaha, are there people who say that! It's too funny. How can it have such an effect." Xia He laughed so hard that her tears flowed out.

Qiao Mei laughed so hard that she could not speak. She did not know that this medicine could have so many functions.

"Be serious. My solution is to tell everyone that the medicine is developed by the army and has nothing to do with our Xia family," Xia Wen said.

Qiao Mei immediately rejected this idea. Such a blatant lie might be able to fool some people, but it would not be able to fool those people who were familiar with the army. Many of the people who made phone calls to them were Xia Mao's army comrades from the past. These people could find out all the details once they asked around in the army. How could anything be hidden from them?

Chapter 1035 Shield

Just as the three of them were wondering what to do next, Qiao Mei thought she had come up with a good idea.

"How about we get some fake medicine and then arrange for two of our own people to come up and snatch it from me. Once we break the bottle, then won't it be the end of all this?" Qiao Mei said excitedly as she looked at the two of them.

"Will those people outside believe it? They're not fools. It's very likely that they will beat up our people instead. If that happens, we'll have to pay for their medical fees." Xia He looked at the crowd outside the door worriedly. She felt that those people had already gone crazy. If anyone made the "divine medicine" disappear, they would probably make that person disappear too.

There was no lack of medical professionals in the crowd. If people found out that there was fake stuff involved, the Xia family's reputation would be tarnished. The solution to this problem must be foolproof and not even the slightest mistake could be allowed.

"I still think it's better to just tell everyone that the medicine has all been used up. After all, everyone knows how serious Father's injuries are. Since it's a 'divine medicine', then they must know that a rare thing tends to be very valuable. It won't be good if it appears as if we are a distributor of the 'divine medicine'. At some point in time, someone will use this fact to kick up a fuss," Xia Wen said.

Qiao Mei still felt unsettled. There were capable doctors who were able to work out the ingredients in medicine just by smelling it. After some experimentation, they would gradually be able to adjust the ratio of the ingredients so that they could work out the formula.

Furthermore, the Xia family was already caught between a rock and a hard place. They could not give it to outsiders, but if they did not give it to anyone at all, there would definitely be people who could not sit still anymore.

"Sigh..." The three of them sat on the sofa and sighed together. They had never encountered such a difficult problem before!

Qiao Mei flipped through the messages on her pager out of boredom. She suddenly stood up from her seat and cheered happily, "I have an idea!"

Xia He and Xia Wen looked up at Qiao Mei and asked, "What is it?"

Qiao Mei showed them the pager. There was a message from He Ning asking Qiao Mei to call him when she had time. He said he had something to tell her.

"Let's make it known to the public that He Ning has bought all the medicine. I don't think there's anyone in the capital who needs this medicine more than He Ning," Qiao Mei said.

He Ning was well-known for being weak and sickly. Everyone had thought that He Ning would not be able to live longer than another two to three years and that he was going to die young. As He Ning was a businessman, it made sense for him to offer to buy this medicine at a high price. This would not only explain how Xia Mao's family had the money to rent expensive medical equipment for him to use at home, but it would also put an end to this matter once and for all.

No one would dare to covet this medicine once it fell into He Ning's hands. It would not even be enough for He Ning himself! There was no way he would sell it to anyone else. Besides, was there anyone who was richer than He Ning?

Apart from the wish to live for a few more years, He Ning did not lack anything else. Even if anyone offered to exchange all kinds of rare treasures with He Ning, he would not be interested.

"But our family and the He family are irreconcilable enemies. Would anyone believe this?" Xia He asked.

At the moment, both the Xia family and the He family were just biding their time. Once there was a chance, the He family would definitely relaunch an attack. How could a vengeful person like He Ning be afraid of the Xia family just because of that little bit of ginseng?

It was just that he could not find an opportunity. Qiao Mei was the key that kept the He family in check. As long as Qiao Mei was around, the He family would not be able to create any big trouble for the time being.

"Leave it to me," Qiao Mei said as she snapped her fingers smugly.

Qiao Mei went to the house phone. As soon as she plugged in the phone line, a call came in. Within three seconds after she hung up, another call came in. As long as Qiao Mei hesitated for a moment, the calls would keep coming in, not giving her any time to catch her breath. Qiao Mei quickly hung up the phone and dialed He Ning's number at the same time.

"Ring, ring, ring..."

After a long while, someone picked up the phone.

"Hello?" He Ning said in a hoarse voice.

"Why do you sound half-dead?" Qiao Mei said mockingly.

He Ning was really too tired to argue with Qiao Mei. He yawned slowly and said, "Sister, please look at the time. It's already past one in the morning. Isn't it normal for me to be sleeping?"

"Didn't you ask me to call you back? I received your message the moment I switched on my pager?" Qiao Mei looked at the pager in confusion.

Chapter 1036 - 1036 Fish

Qiao Mei, Xia He and Xia Wen did not bring their pagers around with them recently. They had all switched off their pagers. Any communication device around them would ring non-stop as soon as it was turned on.

“I’m here to talk to you about something beneficial. It all depends on whether you’re willing to do business with me,” Qiao Mei said laughingly.

The moment He Ning heard that it was about business, he immediately perked up. The commotion surrounding the Xia family in the past two days was so huge that it was impossible for him not to know about it.

“I’m not buying your ‘divine medicine’. You’ve already emptied all my assets and you’re still coveting my money. I still owe you a lot of money,” He Ning said.

“I don’t want money. Am I such a tacky person? Besides, there isn’t any ‘divine medicine’ at all. I just chopped up some ginseng and mixed it with water for my father to drink. The rumors flying around are too wild. I just want you to tell the general public that you’ve obtained this divine medicine and that the effect is quite good,” Qiao Mei said.

He Ning snorted coldly. Whoever wanted to do this thankless task could go ahead and do it. She really took him for a fool!

“No way,” He Ning said coldly.

“I’ll give you a discount of 50,000 dollars,” Qiao Mei said even as she felt a sense of reluctance.

“50,000 dollars? Do you think I’m someone who lacks 50,000 dollars? If you say 500,000 dollars, I might still think about it. You only offer 50,000 dollars. Are you looking down on me or are you flattering yourself too much?” He Ning said angrily.

Now that Qiao Mei was the one asking for help, she could not be too forceful. If He Ning remained stubborn, Qiao Mei and the rest would need to pay a high price to find another way out.

Qiao Mei pondered for a long time before saying slowly, "Fish."

"Deal," He Ning said quickly.

After that, Qiao Mei hung up the phone. Xia Wen and Xia He were both stunned to the spot and looked at Qiao Mei quietly. They did not know what kind of riddle Qiao Mei and He Ning were talking about.

"Qiao Mei... what kind of fish is worth 500,000 dollars?" Xia He asked.

"The kind that I cook," Qiao Mei said confidently.

At first, Xia Wen did not understand what Qiao Mei was talking about, then he came to a realization. Back then, when He Ning came to their house to buy flowers and ginseng, Qiao Mei's stomach was not so big yet and she could still help Liu Fen prepare meals for the family. At that time, He Ning had dawdled at their house until dinnertime.

"How can you cook in your current condition? He Ning is really the most shameless person in the world. Let's think of another way. Can't this issue be solved without He Ning?" Xia He said angrily.

Xia Wen also felt that what Xia He said made sense. They could always find another way. At most, they could just forcefully suppress this issue. The Xia family had been active in the capital for so many years and it was not as if they did not have the resources to do that.

"We can solve this issue with just one fish. Besides, He Ning won't be coming empty-handed. He still owes me so much money. When he comes to our house with the money, it'll mark the end of this shenanigan. I won't be the one doing the cooking. I'll get the helper to do it," Qiao Mei said.

The secret to Qiao Mei's delicious food lay in the ingredients. When the time came, she would transfer some energy to the fish and the other ingredients and the dish would naturally taste good.

It did not matter if Qiao Mei was the one who made the meal. As long as He Ning went to the Xia family's house with the money, Qiao Mei's plan would have succeeded. At that time, they could just push all the issues to He Ning. It would be useless even if He Ning denied it. Why would people believe him if they thought that he was the ultimate beneficiary?

Furthermore, the Xia family was known for their honesty and sincerity. As for the He family, everyone knew their reputation very well. Therefore, people naturally formed their own impression about who was more trustworthy.

"... I think Father will break my legs if he finds out how this matter was resolved," Xia Wen said with a deep sigh.

Too many things had happened during this period of time and there were so many family elders who had threatened to break his legs. It was because things had become too chaotic and he was not able to handle everything perfectly, so there were many people who felt dissatisfied with the situation.

The areas outside the front and back doors of Qiao Mei's courtyard house were jam packed with people. The entire family had been trapped in the courtyard house for many days and they all had to live a life of frugality and ration whatever they had. Fortunately, all the children were no strangers to hardships.

There was still a lot of corn at home and it was enough to last them for a while. It was not as if they could not buy any groceries, the thing was that they did not dare to go out at all!

Chapter 1037 Not Good At Something

The moment any of them left the house, they would be surrounded and intercepted by the people outside and these people were unrelenting. However, these people definitely had no intention of starving the residents of the courtyard house. They bought a lot of fresh fruits and vegetables every day for Li Gui and the others and would leave the groceries outside the door.

Li Gui and the rest did not even bother to take a look. They were not interested at all.

"This is really like a weasel paying a visit to a chicken!" Zhang Miao muttered angrily.

"What does that mean?" Zhang Wei asked as he looked at Zhang Miao curiously.

Zhang Chao whispered from the side, "Being up to no good."

Weasels preyed on chicken and it was their favorite food. What kind of predator would send gifts to its prey?

Zheng Peng was also trapped in Li Gui's house. He actually found life quite comfortable. He was a person who was satisfied as long as he had food to eat and he was not picky about food at all. However, he just felt a little defeated during this period of time.

Qiao Qiang kept asking Zheng Peng to play chess with him. Zheng Peng originally thought that he would definitely be able to defeat Qiao Qiang with his skills, but he did not expect to be completely crushed by Qiao Qiang in less than 10 minutes. Zheng Peng felt indignant and continued to play a few more rounds, but he lost every round to Qiao Qiang without any exception.

"Why can't you even win against my grandfather?" Zhang Chao's immature voice sounded beside Zheng Peng.

"Are you saying that you play better than your grandfather?" Zheng Peng asked curiously.

Qiao Qiang grabbed Zhang Chao proudly and said, "Our Zhang Chao is invincible in the park! No one can win against our Xiao Chao. Do you think he read all those books for nothing?"

Zheng Peng suddenly felt a little emotional as he thought about Qiao Mei's philosophy when it came to education. She was different from most people. Other families would not let their children spend so much time and effort on these hobbies. They would say that if the children could not even absorb the contents of the school textbooks, then how could they spend so much time on these hobbies?

He had asked Qiao Mei about this before. Qiao Mei said that there were so many professions in this world and each profession would have its own master. Zhang Wei had his mind set on being a soldier, so if he persisted and continued to chase after his dream, he could definitely become the most outstanding soldier. As for Zhang Chao, at such a young age, he had already mastered knowledge that surpassed

what many children his age knew. This was his strength. One should study to broaden one's horizons, not to study for the sake of studying.

As for Zhang Qin and Zhang Miao, Qiao Mei did not want them to live a tiring life. However, if she nurtured Zhang Qin well, then Zhang Qin might be able to take over her business in the future! At that time, Zhang Qin would be known as a famous female entrepreneur in the capital!

"Come! I'll play a round with you! I don't believe that you can beat me!" Zheng Peng said stubbornly.

This time, he suffered an even bigger defeat. The game lasted for 20 minutes though, and the reason was because Zheng Peng did not know how to play his moves and needed to think for a long time. If not for Zhang Chao being a patient boy, he would not have wanted to play with Zheng Peng anymore.

"I have never expected that there is something which Professor is not good at," Zhang Chao said softly.

Zheng Peng smiled and patted Zhang Chao's head. "I'm not Superman, so how can I know everything? Of course there are things that I'm not good at. There will also be things that you're not good at."

Zhang Chao's eyes suddenly lit up. He looked at Zheng Peng in surprise and asked, "Really? But none of the children outside are willing to play with me. They say that I'm a boring person..."

"Our Xiao Chao is just not good with words. It's not that you're boring. Don't you see that I like talking to you? You're also willing to chat with me. You don't need to expect everyone to like you, but you have to like yourself, do you understand?" Zheng Peng said.

Zhang Chao nodded vigorously. Before he walked away, he turned around and said to Zheng Peng, "But Professor, your chess skills are really... just average."

The thing that made Zheng Peng sad was not the fact that Zhang Chao defeated him, but that Zhang Chao even comforted him after defeating him and said that his chess skills were only average!

That was not acceptable! He must work hard to improve his chess skills! He must surpass Zhang Chao! At the very least, he must be better than Qiao Qiang!

After a few days of persistent research and learning, Zheng Peng could finally last 20 minutes when playing with Qiao Qiang. This could be considered a huge improvement. After all, Qiao Qiang was not as amiable as Zhang Chao, who would wait patiently for him to make his moves.

Even before dawn the next morning, the area outside the Xia family's main door was already packed with people. These people were all prepared for a protracted battle. They each had a small stool with them and some people were even ready to set up tents outside the main door.

Chapter 1038 - 1038 Imposing

1038 Imposing

These people were still quite reasonable and just quietly waited outside the house. They were all from reputable families in the capital and there was no need for them to fall out with the Xia family over such matters. Some of them were the helpers or chauffeurs of the prominent families while some of them were the family members of government officials. The rest were people who knew the Xia family quite well and had either elders or other sick people at home who needed help.

A few hours later, everyone in the Xia family gradually woke up and started their day. Qiao Mei also washed up and dressed up before going downstairs to take a look at the situation outside.

"Don't they get hungry? Do they just wait around without eating or drinking for the whole day?" Xia He asked as she stood behind Qiao Mei.

"There will probably be other people who come to take over their shifts. If a person doesn't eat for a day and yet spends such a long time outdoors in the snowy weather, the person will fall sick sooner or later," Qiao Mei said resignedly.

Xia He could not bear to see these people go hungry while waiting outside, but the reason why they were there made it hard for her to pity them. She said unhappily, "Then if they faint outside our door, will they blame us?"

Qiao Mei said thoughtfully, "I think so. After all, they're all here only because of the medicine. If anyone freezes to death outside, even though it's not our fault, we'll still be criticized for not making a clear stand after so many days. No matter what, we're in a disadvantaged position."

Xia He nodded. Once she could make it through the day today, she would be able to return to Qiao Mei's courtyard house. She was so tired of living with Xu Lan. Every morning, Xu Lan would wake her up early and ask her to practice her basic skills. These torturous days made her feel as if she had returned to her school days. It was so miserable!

It was rare for He Ning to drive his luxury car out. Two black cars followed behind him. His bodyguards were in those cars and the trunks were filled with money. It had been a long time since he behaved in such an arrogant manner.

He soon arrived at the entrance of the district where the Xia family's house was located. The door guards could not be bothered to ask for details anymore. In any case, all the visitors were there to look for the Xia family, and they were all prominent people whom the guards could not afford to offend. The guards felt caught in a dilemma as they would be at fault no matter who they sided with, so they turned a blind eye to everything as long as no one caused any trouble in the district.

"Hello, may I ask who you're looking for?" the guard asked routinely.

He Ning slowly wound down the window and said, "He Ning here to look for Xia Wen."

The guard took down He Ning's license plate number and let him in. He Ning stopped at the roadside about 200 meters away from the Xia family's house. He knew that the scene at the entrance of the Xia family's house would be a spectacular one, but the actual scene in front of him still made him feel incredulous. There were even ladders which were propped up against the fence in the distance, and many people who could not enter the district had climbed in from there.

There were people everywhere he looked. One really could not underestimate the power of human desires.

"Hey! Is that the He family's third son!" someone in the crowd whispered.

Everyone looked in He Ning's direction in unison. This was also within He Ning's expectations. Otherwise, why would he put on such a show of grandeur today? It was to let them know about what he was capable of and make them feel wary of the He family.

Previously, when the Xia family and Jiang Jin joined forces to eradicate his elder brother's business chain and dig up the treasures buried under his family's house, many people began to slight the He family and felt that they were easy to bully. Some people even looked down on He Ning.

Today, he would let these people see if he, He Ning, was capable or not.

"That's right! I don't expect him to really come! In that case, we have no hope anymore," a man said with a sigh.

Many people started to look for the families in the district who had phones in the house. They needed help so that they could call up their superiors. A resident even moved the house phone outside to join in the fun and put up a sign next to it with the words "One dollar per use" on it.

In just the past few days, he had already earned more than 500 dollars! This was a new way to get rich!

"Get out of the way! Get out of the way, everyone! The people at the back, quickly move backwards!"

Chapter 1039 - 1039 "The Fiery Female Chef"

1039 "The Fiery Female Chef"

"Can't you see who's coming? Make way!"

"Don't make us use force! If you know what's good for you, then get lost quickly!"

Two bodyguards took the lead and cleared a path for He Ning. The rest of the bodyguards quickly surrounded He Ning and dispersed people standing nearby, clearing a wide path for him.

He Ning quietly enjoyed the moment and did not care about what others thought of him. Ever since his health deteriorated three years ago, he had rarely appeared in front of the public. It had been a long time since he felt this way.

Qiao Mei stood at the door and said impatiently, "Why are you only here now? Do you want our entire family to wait for you?"

"There was a traffic jam and I was held up for a while. It's my fault. It's so cold outside. Should we go in and talk?" He Ning asked. To this, Qiao Mei frowned and replied, "It's not impossible for you to come in. Where are the things I asked you to bring? Have you brought everything?"

He Ning smiled resignedly. This little girl was putting on a show and involving him in it. It was so troublesome to have to do all these. In the future, if anyone wanted to film a television drama, he would definitely recommend Qiao Mei to act in the show. It would be such a pity to let such a talent go to waste.

Otherwise, he could invest in a movie himself. He had already thought of the title. It would be called "The Fiery Female Chef". The script was simply full of scenes of Qiao Mei cooking for him every day. He decided that she could maintain her own personality in the show. Just thinking about it made him feel very amused.

He raised his hand and the bodyguards beside him opened the boxes one by one. The eight boxes were all filled with money. This was the money he owed Qiao Mei for the ginseng. If not for the fact that he wanted to eat Qiao Mei's fish dish, he would not have been so generous as to fork out 400,000 dollars to put on this act with Qiao Mei.

Initially, he wanted to stretch out the entire payment process. The previous few times when he came to return the money, Qiao Mei did not offer him anything. It was rare for Qiao Mei to agree to let him freeload a meal this time. Out of a moment of impulse, he had brought too much money with him. He decided not to pay back the money so readily in the future. He still wanted to eat the fish dish a few more times!

"What about now? Can we go in and have a chat?" He Ning asked.

Qiao Mei took a few steps back and let He Ning enter the house alone. The bodyguards waited in the courtyard with the boxes. Without Qiao Mei's permission, they could not enter or leave as they pleased.

After closing the door, Qiao Mei looked more relaxed. She acted as if He Ning was invisible and just walked straight towards the kitchen. The food was not ready yet and He Ning needed to wait a little longer.

The entire house was silent and no one spoke to He Ning. They were not like Qiao Mei and the enmity between the families was not something they could let go. Xia Wen even suspected that Xia Mao's accident this time was related to the He family. It was all too much of a coincidence.

He Ning did not care about all this and did not behave like an outsider at all. He walked to the sofa opposite Xia Wen and sat down. After staring at Xia Wen for a long time, he said, "Your book is upside down. Have you developed some sort of new method recently?"

Xia He silently turned her head to one side. Even though she tried her best to hold back her laughter, her trembling shoulders still betrayed her.

"Ahem, I just want to try out a new way of reading. Do you have any objections?" Xia Wen closed the book awkwardly and placed it on the coffee table.

"Not bad. It's good that you know there are benefits to making progress." He Ning looked towards the upper floor and asked politely, "How has Uncle Xia been recently? Has his health improved?"

"He's alive. He will definitely live longer than you," Xia He said viciously.

He Ning did not take what Xia He said to heart. The indistinct fragrance had appeared in the house again. It was strange that he could only smell this fragrance in the Xia family's house. Even though he had already bought all the flowers and plants they had in the house, the fragrance dissipated when he reached home.

"Has your family been using incense recently?" He Ning asked.

"No, we don't use such things," Xia Wen said.

It was so strange. There were mainly cactuses in the house and the rest were plants that were easy to care for. There were no plants with blooming flowers at all. Where did the fragrance in the house come from?

Could it be that someone was wearing perfume? However, he knew the Xia family members very well. Xia Wen did not have the spare cash to buy perfume. Xia He was so lazy that she did not even put on makeup, let alone wore perfume. Perhaps it was Xu Lan's perfume or Qiao Mei's perfume.

Chapter 1040 - 1040 For the Fish

1040 For the Fish

Qiao Mei was now in the late stages of pregnancy. The Xia family members were so careful that they probably would not let her touch such things. In that case, the fragrance was probably from Xu Lan.

"These plants are all... quite green. Auntie must have taken good care of them," He Ning sang praises against his conscience.

The plants in the Xia family's house had once again died at Xu Lan's hands, although this time, they lasted much longer than the last time. By the time everyone realized there was a problem, the cactuses in the house had either rotted from being given too much water or shriveled up because Xu Lan had forgotten to water them.

They did not know what Qiao Mei did in the past two days to bring these flowers and plants back to life after just two days. Qiao Mei was not spouting nonsense when she said that she knew a lot about flowers and plants. She was really knowledgeable.

He Ning, Xia Wen and Xia He chatted awkwardly. Out of politeness, they did not feel good about leaving He Ning alone in the living room.

Qiao Mei sat in the corner of the kitchen and quietly watched on as the helper did the cooking. The fish was the last dish to make. Qiao Mei had just slaughtered the fish, so it was definitely fresh. However, the smell of blood was making her a little dizzy.

"Mei Mei, why don't you wait outside? There's too much oil and smoke here and it's not good for your health," the helper said worriedly.

"It's fine, Auntie. Our guest is outside and we can't let him find out what's happening. I'm fine," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

The helper did not argue with Qiao Mei and quickly put all the ingredients into the pot. She put the fish in last and then let the pot simmer over low heat. She did all the steps very smoothly and skillfully.

"You can go out now. I'll watch the fire," the helper said.

Qiao Mei slowly walked out of the kitchen and sat down beside Xia He. She smiled at He Ning and said, "Pay me."

He Ning thought that Qiao Mei was asking for the bodyguards outside to deliver the money. He was about to get up to call for them when Qiao Mei stopped him.

"I'm talking about my fish. Don't tell me you think you can eat my fish for free?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Isn't this fish what you're giving me in exchange for my help? Why are you putting a price on it now?" He Ning said.

"I didn't say last night that I'm giving it to you in exchange. You have misunderstood it yourself. This is a fish which the government gave to our family. We can't even bear to take it out," Qiao Mei said with heartache.

Even if it was the one and only fish in the world, He Ning must still eat it today!

"How much?" He Ning said.

Qiao Mei stuck out one finger and smiled at He Ning as she said, "10,000 dollars."

“10,000!!! Are you crazy about money!” He Ning lost his cool and yelled out. Then, he realized that his voice was a little ear-piercing and said softly, “Qiao Mei, your fish is worth at most 100 dollars. It’s too much to charge me 10,000 dollars.”

Qiao Mei had no intention of changing the price at all. In any case, the money which He Ning brought already belonged to the Xia family. All the people outside had seen He Ning enter the Xia family with their own eyes, so that was good enough. Qiao Mei’s wish had already been fulfilled. As for He Ning’s wish, he would have to work hard to fulfill it himself.

“Deal!” Qiao Mei happily reached out to He Ning for the money. He Ning had no choice but to take out the money from his pocket and give it to Qiao Mei. It was so hard for him to eat this fish!

He Ning was sure that Qiao Mei must have put some kind of magical potion in the fish dish, otherwise he would not be so obsessed with it. After He Ning ate Qiao Mei’s fish dish for the first time, he asked all the famous chefs in the capital to come to his house to cook fish for him. He was not satisfied with any of the dishes and he felt that Qiao Mei’s dish was the best.

During that month, the stray cats outside his house all gained a lot of weight. They did not even bother about ordinary things and just waited outside the He family’s house to scour the trash bags for food that He Ning threw out.

Qiao Mei quickly took the money from He Ning and handed it to Xia He. The two of them started counting the money excitedly.

“You should discipline your younger sister and sister-in-law. Isn’t your Xia family’s values about living a simple life?” He Ning looked at Xia Wen and questioned him.

“You make it sound like you can control He Mei,” Xia Wen rolled his eyes and said mockingly.

He Ning was rendered speechless. He could not even educate his own niece well, so it was true that he did not have any right to lecture Xia Wen.