

## **Fat Wife 1041**

Chapter 1041 - 1041 Good Weather

1041 Good Weather

It was soon time to eat. Everyone just looked at He Ning in silence. They had absolutely no desire to eat with He Ning, but it was not as if they could ask the helper to pack food for He Ning to go. If the people outside witnessed that and word got out, they would say that the Xia family had no manners.

He Ning did not seem to notice anything amiss and happily joined them at the dining table. Xu Lan and Liu Fen could not find any reason to chase He Ning away, so they could only quietly endure his presence.

Fortunately, He Ning had some self awareness. He sat at one end of the table alone while all the Xia family members sat at the other end. The helper portioned all the dishes into separate plates and placed them in front of He Ning.

He Ning did not feel that there was anything wrong and he was actually quite happy to go along with it. For so many years, he was already used to eating alone and he did not like to share food with other people. What the Xia family did was actually in line with his requirements . It was as if so long as he could eat the fish dish, the Xia family could do no wrong in his eyes and he would not hold anything against them.

There was only silence during the entire meal. This was the most difficult meal that Qiao Mei had ever eaten.

Everyone held their breaths and watched discreetly as He Ning ate the fish. The Xia family members all knew that Qiao Mei had only stood next to the helper and gave instructions on how to cook the fish. She did not do the cooking herself. They did not know if He Ning could tell the difference.

“This fish... seems different from the previous dish. Did you change the cooking method?” He Ning asked as he looked at Qiao Mei.

The Xia family members all tensed up when they heard what He Ning said. They were afraid that He Ning would become unhappy if the truth was exposed. At this point in time, no one in the family was

able to expend time and effort to handle the troublesome He family. After so many busy days, Xia Wen was already exhausted.

“Since you don’t have long to live, I use less seasonings in the dish. It’s just a simple stew seasoned with some salt.” Qiao Mei appeared nonchalant and answered He Ning’s question as she continued eating.

He Ning did not ask anything else. The previous dish he ate at the Xia family’s house was braised fish and it was more flavorful than the steamed fish today. He took it as Qiao Mei being concerned for him and he could not help but smile as he ate, even though Qiao Mei had just commented that he had a short lifespan.

Everyone in the Xia family heaved a sigh of relief.

After dinner, He Ning did not show any intention of leaving. Qiao Mei went to the study upstairs and wrote a receipt for He Ning. It clearly stated the amount of money she had received from him this round and the remaining amount that he still owed her.

“Take it and you can go,” Qiao Mei said as she slowly walked downstairs and handed the note to He Ning.

“Don’t tell me the Xia family can’t stand my presence. How can you chase a guest away after dinner?” He Ning said as he rubbed his round belly in satisfaction.

Qiao Mei shrugged nonchalantly and said, “The Xia family can, but I can’t. Haven’t you already finished eating the fish? Why are you still here? Don’t tell me you want to pay me more money?”

He Ning did not have any reply to that. He took the receipt from Qiao Mei and asked the bodyguards outside the door to put all the money into the house before they all left together. There was still a long way to go in the future and there would be plenty of opportunities for him to come to the Xia family house to eat fish.

Half of the crowd outside the main door had already left. There were still a few people who remained unrealistically optimistic. There were also people who stayed to observe the current dynamics between the He family and the Xia family so that they could try to predict what the future would hold.

“The sun feels nice today,” He Ning said as he looked up at the cloudy sky.

After saying that, he glanced coldly at the people outside the main door and read out their names to his subordinates one by one. He simply ignored those whom he could not recognize.

“This should be the Liang family’s nanny... That’s a distant relative of the Han family. Oh, there’s someone from the Jin family!” He Ning said as he slowly walked up to a young man.

“Join in the fun? What fun? Is it me or the Xia family that you find funny?” He Ning asked.

The Jin family had always been the He family’s lackey. Back when the Jin family was in dire straits, the eldest son of the Jin family, Jin Man, came to He Ning to ask for help. He knelt outside the main door of the He family’s house for one day and one night.

At that time, He Ning was still in good health and he was the one in charge of the He family’s business. He was extremely rich then and could make a lot of money even if he sat around and did nothing every day. He was so bored that he gave Jin Man 10,000 dollars and asked him to manage a shop, making Jin Man work for the He family.

Chapter 1042 Are You Saying That I Am A Horse

He was curious about this person who was willing to kneel in front of him and wanted to see how capable this person was.

At that time, He Guo and He Wei had even made a bet with him! His two brothers felt that Jin Man was hopeless and incompetent, and that it would make more sense to use the money to feed the dogs than give it to him. They did not expect Jin Man to really do quite well in the end.

If not for He Ning, the Jin family would live a life like the other ordinary people in this city. They might not even be able to afford food or clothes and might even have frozen to death during that harsh winter.

However, humans all behaved the same way. Once one had power and status, one would become insatiable and craved for more.

Jin Man even felt that the reason for his current achievements was entirely because of his own hard work and capability, and had nothing to do with He Ning. He did not feel an ounce of gratitude at all .

By now, the Jin family even wanted to gain a foothold in the government and the military. They had already started to look down on the He family and felt that they could become more powerful than the He family in the capital. However, none of the children from Jin Man's family worked hard. They only knew how to party, gamble and have fun.

In the past, there were many times when Jin Man came to the He family residence bearing expensive medicinal herbs, asking He Ning for help to bail his son out. He Ning had always been very generous to people who were on his side and always helped out with Jin Man's requests.

However, he did not expect the Jin family to have designs on the Xia family now. His spies had told him more than once that the Jin family was both openly and covertly trying to get close to the Xia family and had even sent gifts to the Xia family. However, the Xia family did not accept any of the gifts and also rejected the Jin family's visits.

The young man standing in front of He Ning now was Jin Man's eldest son, Jin Yue.

"Sigh... I wonder how your father is doing recently. Does he also need this medicine to save his life? I haven't seen him for so long and I do miss him a little. Go back and tell your father to come to my place for a visit when he's free." He Ning smiled and patted Jin Yue's shoulder, but it only made Jin Yue feel as if the Jin family was in danger. He Ning smiled like the Grim Reaper announcing his death date.

"I... This matter has nothing to do with my father. I'm just here to watch the fun!" Jin Yue said fearfully.

He Ning patted Jin Yue's shoulder and smiled. He said joyfully, "I'm just asking your father to come to my house for a visit, nothing else. Why are you so afraid? Don't forget to pass him the message when you get home."

Jin Yue slumped to the ground, not knowing what to do. As for He Ning, he felt refreshed. He stretched as he walked on and returned to the car to set off for the He family house.

It had been a long time since he teased someone like this.

Jin Yue hurriedly ran home and passed Jin Man the message, but Jin Man did not care at all. He said mockingly, "Hmph, what's the big deal? How much money does He Ning have left now? He's probably been wiped clean by the Xia family until there's nothing left! Why should we be afraid of him!"

"But... but even a starving camel is still bigger than a horse," Jin Yue said nervously as he looked at Jin Man.

Jin Man did not hesitate to go forward to give Jin Yue a slap. He said unhappily, "Are you saying that I'm a horse! Do you think our family is not as powerful as the He family!"

"No, no! It's just an analogy! I don't mean that!" Jin Yue covered his face and explained himself quickly.

In the past, Jin Yue was arrogant and domineering. Even if people just took a glance at him on the roads, as long as it made him feel uncomfortable, he would pick a fight. If anything happened to the other party, he would simply offer compensation.

Originally, Jin Man's biggest headache was his eldest son, Jin Yue. Then, Jin Yue got into trouble and was rescued by the He family. He Ning brought Jin Yue to stay at the He family's house for one week. When Jin Yue returned home, his temperament had changed drastically. He had become as timid as a mouse and would feel scared whenever others raised their voices at him.

He was much better now, but whenever he met someone from the He family, he would still tremble all over. Even when he saw He Mei, he behaved like a mouse that had seen a cat.

"Alright, just get back into the house. I get angry whenever I see you!" Jin Man said unhappily.

He Ning waited at home until evening, but no one from the Jin family came to look for him. He called Huo Gao to come over and asked, "Do you think I should go to the company to do something? There's nothing for me to do at home."

"Think about your own health. Do you want to reduce your lifespan by another two years?" Huo Gao asked.

Chapter 1043 Disappear Overnight

"Tsk, what can I expect from a hog but a grunt. Can't you say something nice, like about me living a long life," He Ning said as he rolled his eyes in disdain.

"I'm a doctor and I never tell lies. Do you want me to say that you can live to 500 years old when I discuss your condition with you? If you want to hear something auspicious, go and look for Jin Man. He's the best at singing praises," Huo Gao said with a laugh.

He Ning picked up an apple next to him and threw it at Huo Gao. This man was purposely rubbing his nose in something he was currently annoyed with.

"Don't you already know how two-faced Jin Man is? There's no need to get angry over such a person. If you don't like him, then get someone to teach him a lesson," Huo Gao said as he picked up the apple.

To He Ning, what the Xia family and Jiang Jin ganged up to do to him was not really a big deal. Although it meant that he had fewer ways to make money, it did not affect his family's status in the capital at all. At the end of the day, there were very few companies which kept a lot of cash at hand. Their main assets were always their stocks and goods.

Even without the illicit ways to make money, the few private businesses he had which were endorsed by the government made enough money to support the three generations of the He family. It was really a big joke that someone would even dare to look down on the He family.

He Ning did not intend to let Jin Man off so easily. He sat back on the rocking chair and thought for a long time before coming up with an idea. He Ning called out for his trusted aide, Jia Zhong, who specialized in helping him deal with shady matters.

"Let the Jin family return to the state when I first met the guy," He Ning said lazily with his eyes closed.

"Noted. About their lives..." Jia Zhong said as he looked at He Ning hesitantly.

"Let them keep their lives. Death is too good for them, how can we let them off so easily?" He Ning said.

Staying alive was definitely a harder thing to do. He Ning wanted Jin Man to watch helplessly as all his assets disappeared and he became a pauper overnight. He wanted Jin Man to drop to the bottom of the social hierarchy. Perhaps Jim Man would be even worse off than the lowest social class since he would still have to bear a huge debt.

Defeating a person meant taking away the person's most precious thing.

Jia Zhong understood what He Ning meant. After leaving the He family's house, he instructed his subordinates to get the matter done overnight. He told them to do it cleanly and accurately, and not to give Jin Man any chance to get out of it.

The news of the Jin family going bankrupt overnight spread throughout the streets and alleys. All of the Jin family's assets were back in He Ning's hands.

The entire day was very eventful. Early in the morning, Xia Wen was recalled to his workplace to deal with these matters urgently. People no longer gathered outside the Xia family's main door. It was very likely that the crowd outside the courtyard house had probably dispersed as well.

Qiao Mei felt that it was time for her to go home and check on her grandfather and the rest. She wondered how they had been over the past few days.

"Mother, I have to go home and take a look today," Qiao Mei said to Xu Lan.

Xu Lan looked at Qiao Mei wistfully and hurriedly ran to her bedroom. She dragged down a big bag of things that she had prepared for Qiao Mei to use when it was time for her to give birth. She was so

meticulous that she even prepared a few sets of hospital gowns for Qiao Mei to change into, as she was worried that the gowns which the hospital provided would not be comfortable enough.

"Mei Mei, bring these back with you. I'm worried that you won't have time to come and take them later. It's safer to keep these things with you," Xu Lan said.

"There's really too much stuff. I already have enough things at home. If we prepare too many things, it will be wasteful if I don't need to use them. There's really a mountain of things at home," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Liu Fen quickly chimed in, "Mei Mei is right! Your mother acts like she wants to move the entire shopping mall to your house. She wants to buy everything she sees. That day, she even went to tailor clothes for the two children. It's not as if she has never birthed and raised children before. Kids grow up so quickly that they probably won't get the chance to wear most of the clothes we have at home. Yet, she still wants to buy more."

Xu Lan felt embarrassed by what Liu Fen said. She was just worried that Qiao Mei and the children would feel uncared for. Her concern for them had made her go overboard. To be honest, she did not have much experience in taking care of children. She had left her three children with Wu Min after they were born and she did not have to worry about anything related to them.

"I have listened to you and I'm not buying anything anymore! What's the point of telling Qiao Mei about this!" Xu Lan said.

"I know that Mother is doing all these for me. Let's stop buying any more things. If there's really not enough, we can buy more when the time comes. Right now, there's already enough for the two children to wear a new set of clothes every day for a month without repeating!" Qiao Mei said.

Chapter 1044 Bathtub

Xu Lan thought about it carefully. She had indeed bought too many things over the past few months. In the future, she would buy less and only get necessities for the children.



"Then let me know whenever you need to buy things for the children. I'll go and buy it for them," Xu Lan said generously.

"I have so much money on hand. If I still need you to buy things for me, then what do I do with all the money at home? Don't worry, when the children are born, I'll definitely need your help to take care of them!" Qiao Mei said laughingly.

At the mention of taking care of the children, Xu Lan immediately beamed with joy. She had already made plans to go over and help to take care of these two children once Qiao Mei gave birth. Children needed to be around adults all the time until they turned one or two years old. There must be someone keeping an eye on them at all times. The children's diet was also a very important matter. Qiao Mei definitely would not be able to cope on her own.

Even though Li Gui was Qiao Mei's biological mother, she was also the mother of four other children. She could not possibly ignore the other children to take care of Qiao Mei. Those children were still too young to be able to take care of themselves.

Therefore, Xu Lan had to take the initiative to take on more responsibilities. Although she did not have much experience, she could still share some of Qiao Mei's burdens. Not having real life experience was not an issue. Back then, she had observed how Wu Min took care of the children.

"Alright, go back with Xia He then." Xu Lan quickly shouted for Xia He, "Xia He! Go home with Qiao Mei! You must take good care of Qiao Mei, do you understand!"

Xia He nodded hurriedly. She could not wait to leave as soon as possible! At this moment, she would agree to any request Xu Lan made.

"No problem, leave it to me," Xia He patted her chest and made a promise.

The two of them made their way home with the gifts from Xu Lan. Just as Qiao Mei expected, the people outside the courtyard house had already all left. If nothing had gone wrong, this issue was already completely resolved.

The chauffeur stopped in front of Qiao Mei's house and got out of the car to carry all the items from the trunk into the house. Xia He slowly got out and did a big stretch. She said lazily, "I'm finally back~ I miss this small courtyard so much! I don't have to wake up early to practice my basic skills anymore!"

"Don't let Mother hear this. She'll ask you to go back and stay for a few months. Besides, don't you want to be a dancer? If you don't work hard, how can you realize your dream?" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"My mistake! It's just the sense of novelty I feel when I see this courtyard. Mother is the nicest person in the world. Of course I like living with her the most! I'll definitely train hard!" Xia He said unconsciously.

Qiao Mei pretended not to hear anything and laughed as she returned to her room to take a rest. During this entire trip to bring Xia Mao home, there was no way for her to take a nice bath. Today, she must take a nice and comfortable bath in the bathroom.

The so-called bathroom was just a small room in the house which Qiao Mei had fitted out. It was actually not too small and the area was about 12 square meters. Qiao Mei had spent a lot of money on the renovations. The walls were tiled and the water heater was the latest model on the market. The only thing was that there was no shower head installed as her main focus was on the bathtub.

Qiao Mei preferred the traditional wooden bathtub where one could totally soak in the water. It was so comfortable that Qiao Mei even felt like taking a nap inside sometimes.

However, such a wooden bathtub needed to be cleaned thoroughly every time after taking a bath. It was time-consuming and laborious. Therefore, Qiao Mei was currently using the most commonly found tiled bathtub.

In her current condition, it was inconvenient for her to go in and out of the bathtub and she needed Xia He's help to do that. It would be disastrous if she were to have a fall.

Just like that, they lived in peace for three to four days. It was rare that nothing happened and everyone had a few nice and quiet days. The backyard house was very lively though. For some reason, Qian'e started quarreling with Zheng Peng again and they bickered every day over all kinds of trivial matters.

The two of them quarreled all the time and the reasons for their fights were all very childish. However, they would always reconcile the day after they squabbled, like two little kids.

Xia He leaned against the pillar in the backyard corridor and watched the two people bickering. The longer she watched, the more she found it interesting. She did not even notice that Qiao Mei had been standing behind her for a long time.

"What are you looking at!" Qiao Mei whispered into Xia He's ear.

#### Chapter 1045 Quarrelsome But Loving Couple

Xia He got a big shock. She patted her chest with her left hand and said, "How do you move so sneakily? I'm just here to watch the fun."

"What fun? I want to watch it too." Qiao Mei also leaned against the pillar and looked in the direction Xia He was facing.

"Don't you think that Qian'e and Zheng Peng are quite compatible? One is a painter and the other one a pianist. There's an artistic aura around the both of them and they look good together too. They're simply a match made in heaven!" Xia He said enviously.

"I think so too," Qiao Mei said with a nod of satisfaction.

With Xia He's eloquence, it was a pity that she was not a wedding organizer. It would not be a bad idea for Xia He to consider becoming a matchmaker after she retired.

Qian'e and Zheng Peng behaved like a quarrelsome but loving couple. Previously, Qiao Mei had tried to ask Zheng Peng indirectly about his opinion of Qian'e. Even though Qian'e was a person who was difficult to get along with, Zheng Peng felt that Qian'e was a nice girl and that it was normal for her to have a bad temper since artists usually had weird temperaments.

When Qiao Mei asked Qian'e the same question, Qian'e gave a completely different answer. She was full of criticism for Zheng Peng, as if Zheng Peng was the worst person in the world. However, when Qiao

Mei went along with what she said and complained about Zheng Peng, she would instinctively feel protective of Zheng Peng and wanted to defend his reputation.

The two of them admired each other in their hearts. However, because of their personalities, they did not say it out loud.

"I reckon that Qian'e will invite us to attend her wedding banquet after a while! I have to buy a beautiful dress in support of Qian'e!" Xia He said excitedly.

Qiao Mei felt that the two of them would not end up together. Previously, the distant relative of the Xia family also wanted Qian'e to marry her son, but Qian'e rejected the idea. Zheng Peng was an outstanding person and the only son of the Zheng family. Even if he was fond of Qian'e, his father would not allow him to marry Qian'e.

It would probably be very difficult for the two of them to end up together. However, as the saying went, the road to happiness was full of hardships. If two people were determined to pursue the same goal, they would definitely be able to be together.

"Let's make a bet. I don't think they'll end up together," Qiao Mei said sternly.

"You'll definitely lose! I'll definitely do my best to help them end up together! What's the stack!" Xia He said confidently.

Qiao Mei did not lack anything but she had taken a fancy to a gramophone recently. It had an antique feel that she loved, so she might as well use this as a stake.

"If I win, you have to buy me something I like. If you win, I'll buy you something you like," Qiao Mei said casually.

Xia He was not satisfied with this proposal. Money was something that Qiao Mei did not lack at all. Buying things was not a big deal for her and was not a difficult task at all.

"No, it's meaningless this way. If I win, bring me to your hometown to take a look. I want to go to that mountain of yours to dig for ginseng. If I also find a ginseng that's old enough, I'll become rich too! You have to help me look for it," Xia He said with a laugh.

"No problem, it's a deal!" Qiao Mei said.

Even if Xia He did not mention this, Qiao Mei already had such an intention. She also wanted to ask Xia Wen to come along and she would make sure that the two of them would be able to dig up ginseng. This way, they would have the money to buy their own house near her courtyard house. In the future, the Xia family's three siblings would be able to live here together and there would be very little disparity between them.

It was all calm on Qiao Mei's end, but it was not so peaceful at the Xia family's end. After Liu Fen heard about Xia Mao's accident, she immediately informed Xia Yao and asked him to come back quickly. Given that such a major incident had happened at home, he should come back for a visit.

Xia Guang also made a trip back to the Xia family residence, and he even brought Zhou Hua with him. The issue of her joining forces with the He family was not resolved yet. Xia Guang never managed to find out the whereabouts of the money from Zhou Hua, so he had no choice but to bring her back to face the Xia family's punishment.

The moment Xia Guang got out of the car, he rushed into the house and looked at Xu Lan nervously. "Eldest Sister-in-law! How's my eldest brother! What's the situation now! Is he awake!"

Xu Lan calmed Xia Guang down before saying slowly, "He's fine. He's almost fully recovered now. It's just that he didn't get to sleep well during the mission period so it's inevitable that he's been sleeping more recently."

Chapter 1046 - 1046 Reunion

1046 Reunion

When Xia Guang heard that Xia Mao's health was fine, he heaved a sigh of relief. Xia Jun only had these five children. Among them, they would rather take it upon themselves than let anything happen to Xia Mao. Xia Mao was the one who followed Xia Jun into the battlefield since he was young and could be said to be the child whom Xia Jun cherished the most. If Xia Mao were to pass away, Xia Jun would not be able to withstand the shock given his current physical condition.

“Second Brother is back too. Since everyone is back, I’ll get Xia Wen to bring Father over for a meal. Let’s have a proper gathering,” Xu Lan said with a smile.

“Will Qiao Mei come over later? I haven’t met this kid yet,” Xia Guang said.

“Qiao Mei is in the advanced stage of her pregnancy now. Since it’s getting late, let’s not ask her to come. Xia He is staying at the old residence to accompany Qiao Mei,” Xu Lan explained. In fact, Xia Wen had specially instructed her not to inform Qiao Mei about the gathering. If Qiao Mei was around, it would be very difficult for them to handle the matter at hand today.

Xia Guang thought for a moment and asked, “Is Fifth Sister coming? Is she busy at the hospital?”

He had not returned to the capital for a long time and wanted to take this opportunity to meet everyone. In this world, these were the only people he cared about. Other than his own family, he only had these relatives left.

“I’ve called and asked her. She’s on duty tonight and will probably come to stay over in the latter half of the night. I’ll ask the helper to keep a lookout and let her in when she comes,” Xu Lan said.

Only then did Xia Guang feel at ease. It was a rare occasion for him to take leave to come back. He definitely intended to stay for an extended period so that he could spend time with Xia Jun and his siblings.

After everyone entered the house, they seemed to have an unspoken mutual understanding not to mention the issue regarding Zhou Hua. Zhou Hua also knew her place and kept a distance from everyone. She sat alone in the corner in a daze and would occasionally respond with a sentence or two when spoken to. Most of the time, she just sat there alone.

“Second Brother, I haven’t seen you for a long time,” Xia Guang said as he went forward.

“That’s true. We haven’t seen each other for two years. You’ve been busy in other regions and don’t have much time to come back for a visit. Have you thought about transferring back to the army unit in the capital?” Xia Yao asked tentatively.

Xia Yao was a person who did not have any grand ambitions. He worked as an army clerk in the capital troops and would occasionally go on business trips to other regions with his superiors. His work was not dangerous, but it was a different story for Xia Guang. This year, Xia Guang was assigned to the border troops again. Although he would be promoted when he returned from the assignment, the border was a dangerous area. If not for Xia Mao's accident this time, it would probably be at least three years before the family could see Xia Guang again.

"I'm doing quite well at my current unit now. Let's see how things develop in the future. It's better to stay put for the time being," Xia Guang said after thinking for a moment.

The two brothers chatted about their future plans. Both brothers wanted to settle down in the capital eventually. Xia Yao also wanted to spend more time with his family. Given that Xia Guang's latest posting was very recent, he would be criticized if he returned to the capital now. People would spread rumors about him doing it by getting through the back door or something like that. It was better for him to stay at the border for two years and wait for his promotion to be finalized before returning to the capital.

While they were preparing the food, Xia Wen arrived with Xia Jun. Along the way, Xia Jun had a dark expression on his face and did not say a word. He did not visit Xia Mao immediately after the accident because he himself had also been sick recently.

Xia Jun had been in poor health since the beginning of winter. After hearing about what happened to Xia Mao, the shock he felt had affected his heart and he caught a bad cold. However, he still talked to Xia Wen on the phone every day to find out more about Xia Mao's health.

He also knew that it was Qiao Mei who had saved Xia Mao this time. If not for Qiao Mei, he might not have been able to see his eldest son again. Therefore, Xia Jun was here today to back Qiao Mei up.

"Grandfather, don't pull a long face when you enter the house later. It's not easy for my second and third uncles to be able to come back. If you're unhappy, then Second Uncle and Third Uncle won't feel comfortable either. The one who causes the trouble should bear the responsibility. Don't blame the innocent parties," Xia Wen reminded as he sat in front.

"You little brat, how dare you educate me. Even your father doesn't have the guts to do that," Xia Jun said with a doting smile.

Xia Wen said mischievously, "That's because Grandfather dotes on me. Otherwise, I would never dare to talk to you like that."

When the car reached the main door, people started coming out of the house to welcome Xia Jun. Xia Wen held Xia Jun's arm and whispered, "Grandfather, put on a smile. Don't pull a long face and refuse to talk."

"Oh... all of you are here," Xia Jun said coldly.

"Father, how have you been recently?" Xia Guang asked.

Chapter 1047 Get Lost Together

"Hmph, I'm doing very well. If you come back to the capital, maybe I can even live for a few more years!" Xia Jun said in a fit of pique.

"Father! What are you saying!" Xu Lan said angrily.

"I'm speaking the truth! If all of you are obedient, I will be able to live to a ripe old age!" After saying that, Xia Jun strode into the house.

His children followed behind him quickly. Xia Jun slowly sat on the sofa, using his walking stick to support himself, and then looked sharply at the people in the room. "Third son, recite the Xia family's house rules."

Xia Guang was a little stunned for a moment and did not know what Xia Jun's intentions were. He said honestly, "We must be magnanimous and repay kindness with kindness, be honest and keep our word and never betray others."

"Correct! You must all remember the Xia family's house rules! As long as I'm alive, you have to abide by these rules! Do you understand!" Xia Jun roared furiously.



"We understand," everyone said in unison.

"Alright. Then third son, tell me. How do you plan to deal with that awful piece of business in your family?" Xia Jun asked.

Xia Wen held his forehead slightly. He did not expect Xia Jun to be so outright and raised this issue as soon as he entered the house. All his reminders along the way had been in vain. He had already come up with a better plan to help Qiao Mei and Zhou Hua resolve this conflict, and he did not expect Xia Jun to completely disrupt his plan.

"My wife, Zhou Hua, is in the wrong in this matter. She has already turned over a new leaf! She said that she would hand over all the money." Xia Guang hurriedly pulled Zhou Hua, who had been hiding at one side, to Xia Jun and turned to her with a smiling face as he asked, "Right? Quick, tell Father where the money is."

Zhou Hua looked at Xia Jun stubbornly. There was no way that she would accept defeat and admit her mistake to the Xia family! Even if she had to die, she would not tell the Xia family where she hid the money. The Xia family could forget about getting even the smallest detail from her.

Zhou Hua gritted her teeth. No matter what the people around her asked her about this matter, she refused to speak.

Seeing that the murderous glint in Xia Jun's eyes had become more and more obvious, Xia Guang knelt on the ground and looked at Xia Jun with a solemn expression. "Father, this is my family's fault. I'm willing to bear all the responsibility. I'll slowly return the 50,000 dollars to Qiao Mei. I'll definitely pay her back."

Xia Wen already knew that Xia Guang would say this. All the money that Xia Guang had earned over the years had been sent to the Zhou family by Zhou Hua. Xia Guang's three sons lived a life of misery and Zhou Hua had always ignored the well-being of these three children. After the three children got married, they did not go back to visit Zhou Hua even once. Every year during the new year, they would avoid Zhou Hua and only pay visits to Xia Jun.

"Third Aunt-in-law is the one who took the money, so Third Aunt-in-law should be the one to repay the money. There's no reason for Third Uncle to be the one to pay it back. Besides, it's not a small sum of money. With your salary, you won't be able to repay it for a long time. Third Uncle, you'd better consider carefully," Xia Wen said calmly.

Xia Guang lowered his head and did not respond to Xia Wen. What Xia Wen said was the truth. It was not as if he had not gone home to take a look. Zhou Hua had taken all his money and there was not a single cent left in his bank account. It was not that he did not know about what had happened at home in the past few years, but he was really too busy to do anything about it.

Or perhaps he was just a coward who did not dare to come back and face all these issues.

It was all Zhou Hua's fault. If Zhou Hua had not made a willful decision to cooperate with the He family, their family would not have ended up in this situation and also almost put Qiao Mei in danger.

Seeing that Zhou Hua did not speak for a long time, Xia Wen gave her a sharp look and said, "Third Aunt-in-law, I'd advise you to tell us the location of the money yourself. It will be a different story when we find out on our own."

"Hmph, little brat, you can go ahead and investigate if you're so capable. If you are able to find out for yourself, why do you still have to ask me? I won't say a word even if I die!" Zhou Hua said stubbornly.

When Xia Jun saw that Zhou Hua was not repentant at all and even wanted to fight to the end with the Xia family, he decided that the Xia family could not keep such a traitor among their midst.

"Xia Guang, I'm giving you two choices now. Either you get Zhou Hua to quickly settle the issue about the 50,000 dollars, or you divorce her. Our Xia family can always find a way to pool together this sum of money and return it to Qiao Mei," Xia Jun said sternly.

"Father! Can you give us a few more days! Zhou Hua didn't do it on purpose!" Xia Guang said.

"Then you can pack your things and get lost together with Zhou Hua! I cannot allow the two of you to stay in the Xia family anymore!" Xia Jun said heartlessly.

Chapter 1048 Do Not Want Such A Life Anymore

The atmosphere became more and more oppressive, so much so that everyone felt suffocated. Liu Fen had never seen Xia Jun so angry. Even when Xia Guang stubbornly wanted to go to the border back then, it did not become as dramatic as this. She cowered into Xia Yao's arms in fear and did not dare to make a sound.

No one dared to speak up rashly. Currently, Xia Mao was still unwell and the only person in the eldest son's family who could make decisions was Xia Wen. He did not intend to let Zhou Hua off so easily. Qiao Mei had to suffer so much and experience all those grievances, and the He family almost got away with causing the loss of three lives. Zhou Hua played a part in everything that happened and he would not let it go just like that.

When Zhou Hua fled with the money, everyone witnessed how the Xia family had suffered a huge blow. They had to borrow money from almost all their friends and relatives so that they could repay the money to the He family. If not for Qiao Mei, their family would have to endure a lot of suffering and criticism. They could not even imagine how embarrassing it could have turned out for them!

"Third Uncle, don't blame Grandfather for speaking so harshly. He's just feeling angry right now and saying all those words in a fit of anger. We're all family, so how can there be such enmity," Xia Wen said to Xia Guang with his usual smile.

Xia Wen turned to look at Zhou Hua and continued, "Third Aunt-in-law, you should also spare a thought for your children. Think about what will happen to my younger cousins in the future? If you don't hand over the money, we might have to go to the police station to settle this. If that happens, you should know how it will affect my younger cousins who just joined the army or the government service."

"They can live their own lives. I don't care. I don't want to think for them either. I've already said many times that I don't have the money you want. I have already lost it and I don't have it at all," Zhou Hua said stubbornly.

She was ready to even face death calmly. It did not matter even if the Xia family wanted to send her to jail. After living with Xia Guang for so many years, she had had enough!

Xia Guang's job was different from that of Xia Mao and his other siblings. He was always carrying out missions in the army and might be away from home for two to three years at a time.

When they first got married, Zhou Hua had followed Xia Guang around as a military spouse. They had quite a comfortable life and the two of them were very much in love. Later on, when she became pregnant, she returned to her mother's house to rest well during the pregnancy. After the baby was born, she dedicated herself to taking care of the baby. Even after the baby grew up into a toddler, Zhou Hua could not bring herself to revert to living the life of a military spouse with the baby in tow.

Xia Guang was stationed at the border all year round. That region was either scorching hot in the summer or bone-chillingly cold in the winter and the weather was never pleasant. She did not want to bring her young children to suffer there, so she could only stay at home and wait in silence.

This wait lasted for more than 20 years. In the past 20 years, Xia Guang returned home less than 50 times and he even spent most of those time staying over at Xia Jun's house. Zhou Hua even felt as if Xia Guang was not her husband. As time passed, she no longer wanted to take care of her three sons. She maintained a belief that her life would not have been so difficult if not for these three children.

Subconsciously, she felt exceptionally disgusted with these children. However, due to her motherly instincts, she cared for the children as well. As time passed, Zhou Hua's mental health gradually deteriorated under the weight of such complicated emotions.

Her three sons did not have their father around to take care of them since they were young. They also did not know what it felt like to feel the warmth of home. They could only remember feeling a sense of warmth when they visited Xia Jun, where the environment was not so joyless.

"Really? Don't tell me you still think that your brother is taking good care of your money?" Xia Wen asked with a laugh.

Zhou Hua looked at Xia Wen in shock and said with a trembling voice, "Hmph, don't try to trick me with just a few words! This matter has nothing to do with my family. Like I said, I've already lost that sum of money."

"Your younger brother is a seasoned gambler and your sister-in-law is also a person who spends money freely. The two of them face a lot of difficulties and you must have given them a lot of money. You're

still stupid enough to believe that your younger brother will keep your money properly. He has long gambled all the money away and has even bought a big house in another city using your money," Xia Wen said.

"Impossible! You must be lying to me! It's absolutely impossible! My brother told me that he would definitely take good care of this money and that he would not spend it!" Zhou Hua said hysterically.

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#### Chapter 1049 Setting You Free

Zhou Hua did not have any other relatives nor did she have any good friends over the years. Other than her younger brother, there was no one else she could ask to look after the money for her. If the money was deposited into a proper account, the Xia family would hear of it quickly. Zhou Hua had promised to give half of the money to her younger brother after this, so how could he not keep his word?

Xia Wen looked at Zhou Hua mockingly and said, "Yes, he hasn't spent it at all. The money is still in the big jar."

Zhou Hua hesitated for a long time before she realized that Xia Wen was only putting on an act just now! Xia Wen had lied to her! Moreover, the Xia family already knew the exact location of the money and must have already retrieved it! Everything that happened today was just a show put on for her sake!

"You! You lied to me! Xia Wen! You actually lied to me!" Zhou Hua pointed at Xia Wen and roared ferociously.

Xia Wen's eyes were filled with disappointment and disdain for Zhou Hua. Back when Xu Lan and Xia Mao first got together, the Xia family was poor and had nothing to its name. Later on, when the family's financial situation became better, Xia Yao was able to marry Liu Fen. By the time Xia Guang married Zhou Hua, it could be said to be the Xia family's most prosperous period.

Zhou Hua did not go through a single day of suffering after her marriage. Even when she was taking care of her pregnancy in the capital, she lived in a luxurious house with a professional nanny taking care of

her. At that time, Wu Min was still alive. Although Wu Min was not in good health by then, she would still go to Zhou Hua's place every week to make soup for her.

Zhou Hua not only did not appreciate this act of kindness, but she even said that Wu Min was only pretending to be nice to her. Wu Min returned home feeling sad and fell seriously ill not long after. Xia Jun was so angry that he almost wanted to ask Xia Guang to come back and divorce Zhou Hua. It was Xia Mao who suppressed this matter in the end.

"Grandfather is giving you this last chance today to see if you're sincere about repenting. After all, you're getting old and my third uncle has indeed been less than fair to you because of all the time he spends at work. If you had told the truth just now, we would have made arrangements for a house for you to live out your old age in peace," Xia Wen said to Zhou Hua in disappointment.

When he was at Xia Jun's house earlier, he had suggested many ways to deal with this matter which would not cause much harm to Zhou Hua. Xia Wen had always kept Zhou Hua's future well-being in mind. Even if she had done something wrong, Xia Guang did owe her a great deal for so many years. They should not force Zhou Hua to a dead end.

Xia Jun and Xia Wen even made a bet. Xia Wen felt that Zhou Hua would definitely tell them where the money was hidden. Even if she did not care about Xia Guang, she still had three sons. He did not believe that she did not care about her sons.

The truth was beyond his expectations. He did not expect Zhou Hua to be so heartless and blinded by greed. There was no reason for him to put in a good word for Zhou Hua in front of Xia Jun.

It seemed that experience really came with age. Xia Wen's wrong bet showed that he still did not grasp the truth of human nature.

"Hmph, stop putting on a pretense here. Since you know where the money is, you can go and get it. I have nothing to say," Zhou Hua said.

Even if Zhou Hua did not say anything, Xia Wen had already sent someone to retrieve the money.

"Third son, do you have anything else to say?" Xia Jun asked as he looked at Xia Guang.

Xia Guang lowered his head, at a loss for words. He had never wanted to rely on his family's reputation. It was a nightmare for him to be a member of the Xia family. No matter what he achieved, there were always people around him who said that he would not have achieved those results if not for the Xia family.

It was precisely because of this that Xia Guang disregarded everyone's advice and went to guard the border without any hesitation. It was all so that he could get rid of the halo effect of being part of the Xia family and make a name for himself.

His current achievements in the army were all a result of his own hard work. Even though his current military rank was not as high as his older brothers, he was already very satisfied.

He did not expect his actions to have caused so much harm to Zhou Hua. In his memories, Xia Jun and Wu Min lived their lives in a similar manner, but Wu Min never blamed Xia Jun at all. That was why he felt that Zhou Hua could also endure such a life. The reason why he allowed Zhou Hua to handle all his money was because he hoped that Zhou Hua could have a better life at home.

There was no point for the two of them to continue being entangled. It was better to set her free.

"Do you want a divorce?" Xia Guang looked into Zhou Hua's eyes and asked earnestly. He still hoped that Zhou Hua would change her mind.

"Let's get a divorce," Zhou Hua said calmly.

Chapter 1050 Backing Xia Wen Up

Xia Guang nodded silently. He would need to submit a report to his superiors about his intention to get a divorce. Army officers could not get a divorce on their own and must receive the organization's approval before they could go ahead. Xia Jun had probably already informed the higher-ups about this matter and the divorce could be settled very quickly.

"We have bought you a house located in the county city of your hometown. It's paid for by Xia Guang and your children. You can live well there," Xia Jun said with a cold expression. After saying that, he used his walking stick to get up and slowly walked to the dining table for dinner.

Xia Wen chuckled secretly. Xia Jun had a sharp tongue but a soft heart. Even though Zhou Hua was leaving the Xia family, Xia Jun still felt that he owed something to Zhou Hua after so many years. Since Zhou Hua would have nothing to do with them anymore, the best they could do was to give her a place to stay.

Zhou Hua did not stay for dinner and left the Xia family residence immediately. She was no longer a member of the Xia family and there was no seat for her at the Xia family's dining table.

Everyone was very quiet during this meal and no one said a word. It was only after everyone had finished eating that Xia Jun spoke up, "Xia Wen, go and send the money to Qiao Mei tomorrow morning. Make sure there's not a single cent less. I still have some bird's nests with me. Remember to bring it to Qiao Mei as well."

"Grandfather, Qiao Mei has all kinds of tonics at her place. When I brought her some good quality silver fungus the last time, she even reprimanded me!" Xia Wen said helplessly.

Xia Jun said stubbornly, "Just bring it with you! Pregnant women should eat bird's nests! Your grandmother ate that in the past! Qiao Mei has to eat it too! Just say that it's from me and she definitely won't dare to reject the gift."

Xia Wen nodded and agreed. Xia Jun had asked his friends who were overseas to send him those bird's nests! They were of the best quality.

The womenfolk chatted gaily in the house after the meal. It was already late at night when Xia Wen drove Xia Jun home. Xia Guang followed Xia Jun back to his house. Now that Zhou Hua was not around, it did not seem appropriate for him to stay at Xia Mao's place.

After sending Xia Jun off, Liu Fen collapsed on the sofa and took deep breaths of the fresh air like a drowning person.



"What's wrong with you?" Xu Lan asked Liu Fen in surprise.

"I'm so scared! Sigh... why is Father so scary... I was really scared to death tonight! If I wasn't so far away, I would have knelt in front of Father out of fear," Liu Fen said seriously.

Xia Yao laughed out loudly. He sat beside Liu Fen and massaged her shoulders as he said laughingly, "Father is actually not that scary. He just looks serious. He actually had no intention of blaming Zhou Hua tonight."

"Not blaming her? How is that possible! She has to leave the Xia family! How is this not blaming her!" Liu Fen said.

"Father gave Zhou Hua a place to retire and let her leave with her reputation intact. He won't say anything bad about Zhou Hua to outsiders. If Father is really angry, Zhou Hua would have gone to jail long ago. She wouldn't have been able to divorce Third Brother in such a proper manner," Xu Lan said as she sat at the side.

Xia Yao gave Xu Lan a thumbs up and said, "As expected of Eldest Sister-in-law. Xia Wen has indeed inherited your intelligence!"

"What do you mean?" Liu Fen asked as she looked at the two of them blankly.

Xu Lan said disdainfully, "It is Xia Wen who put on such a big show tonight and Father is here to back Xia Wen up. Although Zhou Hua has done something wrong to the Xia family, the Xia family has also owed her a lot over the years. She had even given the Xia family three grandsons and that alone already balanced out this matter. I think Xia Wen is just taking revenge on behalf of Xia Zhe."

Everyone had seen how Zhou Hua bullied the eldest son's family for so many years. Whenever she came to Xu Lan's house, she always spoke aggressively, especially when the subject was about Wu Min's old house. When it came to this issue, Zhou Hua raised the most objections.

If Zhou Hua had not secretly said all kinds of things to Tan Jing to sow discord, Tan Jing would not have such a big grudge against Xia Zhe.

"My insensible son has put the two of you through an ordeal. You should go back to your room to wash up and take a rest. Second Brother, you haven't been back for such a long time. You should have a good chat with Liu Fen," Xu Lan instructed.

"Then Eldest Brother..." Xia Yao looked upstairs worriedly.

"You can go and see him tomorrow morning. It's too late now. Anyway, you have taken a long period of time off this time, so there's no hurry," Xu Lan said.

Xia Yao agreed that it was not good to disturb Xia Mao's rest so late at night and he went back to the room with Liu Fen. Xu Lan also returned to her room to take care of Xia Mao. It was a night when everyone was occupied with their own thoughts.