

Fat Wife 1061

Chapter 1061 Explanation

Even though the Zhong family was in charge of all the transportation matters for the troops, they would not dare to clash with the Xia family head-on. The Xia family's circle of influence was not only limited to that of the Xia family members, but also included everyone who was on good terms with the Xia family.

People would definitely be more willing to do the Xia family a favor than the Zhong family.

"Leave the things with me first. I'll make a call later and get it checked out. I'll give the things back to you after I've done the checks," Zhong Ye said.

Xiao Luo placed the two bottles of medicinal wine on Zhong Ye's desk and left the office in silence. Zhong Ye secretly hid the two bottles of medicinal wine and left the rest of the items in the package intact to be forwarded to Xia Zhe. In this manner, he not only would not offend Xia Mao, but also ensured that such good stuff did not fall into Xia Zhe's hands.

"The Zhong family has two bottles of 'divine medicine' in their hands now. Do you want us to deal with it quietly?" Huo Gao asked.

He Ning shook his head. What Zhong Ye did was a really stupid thing. It was very obvious when individual items went missing. Since the He family could find out about this matter, the Xia family must definitely already know about it.

"Let's just sit on the sidelines and watch the fun," He Ning said meaningfully.

The Xia family had received news of this matter at the same time. Xia Mao was still seriously ill and was unable to discuss this matter with the family. It was up to Xia Wen to make the decision.

"Xiao Wen, what do you think?" Xia Jun asked as he looked at the letter in his hand.

"Grandfather, we still don't have any clear evidence to prove that Xia Zhe's medicinal wine was taken by a Zhong family member. No one will believe that a department head will commit theft. Zhong Ye has never done anything wrong all these years, so he must have a way with things. We can't act rashly," Xia Wen said with a frown.

Zhong Ye was a person with a good reputation. He was magnanimous and very generous to his friends. He was also loyal and always kept his word, so most people liked Zhong Ye very much. However, only those who really knew Zhong Ye knew that he liked to play cheap tricks behind everyone's back. He was always cooking up some kind of scheme, making it impossible to guard against him. This was also the reason why the Xia family did not want to be friends with the Zhong family.

"Then tell me what we should do now," Xia Jun said as he looked at Xia Wen with interest. Given Xia Mao's absence, this could be considered a test for Xia Wen. He wanted to see if Xia Wen could shoulder the responsibility of being the head of the Xia family.

Xia Wen thought for a moment and said, "This person is sinister and cunning. We can't confront him directly. Let's get someone to search his house first and only make a move after we find concrete evidence. This way, we can defeat the enemy in one go. Let's pretend that we don't know anything for now and only make a move when we find what we need."

Xia Jun nodded in satisfaction. He had thought that the Xia family had already reached its peak under the care of Xia Mao's generation. He did not expect that there were already successors waiting in the wings. There was Xia Wen to take care of the family matters and Xia Zhe who worked hard outside the family. The Xia family was also lucky enough to have added a resourceful daughter-in-law like Qiao Mei into the fold.

It appeared that the Xia family could go even further in the future.

For the past few days, Qiao Mei had felt uneasy. She had been telling people about those 100-year-old, 1000-year-old or even 10,000-year-old ginsengs and Qiao Qiang had probably gotten wind of this by now.

Qiao Qiang was the one who had personally gone up the mountain to dig up the 100-year-old ginseng, so there was no need for Qiao Mei to explain it. However, Qiao Mei really did not know how to explain the existence of the 1,000-year-old and 10,000-year-old ginsengs to Qiao Qiang.

She was worried that people with ulterior motives would come and question Qiao Qiang about this in the future. If Qiao Qiang's story did not tally with hers, it could only bring disaster to both the Xia family and their family.

Qiao Mei walked over to Qiao Qiang, pulling along a wooden box with rollers. She hesitated for a while and did not know where to start. Qiao Qiang smiled and said, "Are you here to show me your new wooden box?"

Qiao Mei had made this wooden box based on her memories from her other life. It was modeled after a luggage bag. It was easier for her to move it around compared with a box that needed to be hauled around.

"Grandfather... have you heard about what's been happening outside?" Qiao Mei asked as she looked at Qiao Qiang nervously.

Qiao Qiang had heard too many versions of the same story recently and was aware of a lot of things, but he did not believe anything. He would only believe whatever Qiao Mei said.

"I've been at home and don't know anything about the outside world. Tell me about it," Qiao Qiang said with a smile.

Qiao Mei held her breath and opened the box. It was filled with ginsengs and not just one type. There were ginsengs of various ages.

These were all ginsengs that she had cultivated later. The original 10,000-year-old ginseng from before had already been given to Xia Mao for his treatment. The one in the box now was another one that she had planted subsequently.

Chapter 1062 Where To Hold The New Year Celebrations

Qiao Mei took a gulp nervously and said, "Grandfather... these are all the ginsengs that we have. Erm... there are 100-year-old ginsengs and also 1,000-year-old ginsengs... and... this... 10,000-year-old..."

Qiao Mei's voice became softer and softer until it was almost impossible to hear what she was saying.

Qiao Qiang looked at all the ginsengs in front of him in shock. The existence of a 1,000-year-old ginseng was already hard to believe, but he did not expect there to be a 10,000-year-old ginseng. For a moment, he could not recover from the shock and just stared blankly at the box in front of Qiao Mei. He found it hard to look away from that 10,000-year-old ginseng.

Qiao Mei looked at Qiao Qiang nervously. All she could think about was how to explain the origin of the 10,000-year-old ginseng. Now that they were not in Foshan Village, Qiao Mei spent her days under Qiao Qiang's nose. It was impossible for her to tell him that she had found it somewhere outside, like in the suburbs of the capital. Then again, she also could not tell him about her superpower.

In the event that Qiao Qiang could not accept the truth, he would treat her like a mutant or a monster. By then, Qiao Qiang would probably gradually realize that there were actually many differences between the current Qiao Mei and the past Qiao Mei. If so, Qiao Qiang may be the one who wanted to personally send her to "face the firing squad"!

Just as Qiao Mei was feeling worried and afraid, Qiao Qiang said with a smile, "Aren't these the treasures passed down from our ancestors? Why are you asking me about them? That particular ginseng was definitely left behind by our ancestors. Since you're my only heir, these ginsengs naturally belong to you."

For a person at Qiao Qiang's age, rights and wrongs and truths and lies did not really matter anymore. To him, as long as Qiao Mei was still by his side and she was blissful and happy, everything else was superficial and unimportant.

Qiao Mei looked at Qiao Qiang, feeling touched. She did not expect Qiao Qiang to react this way. Qiao Qiang's love for her was completely unreserved, to the extent that he could even give up his life for her.

As she recalled the memories of the original owner of the body, about how much Qiao Qiang doted on her throughout everything, all of this seemed to make sense. Back then, Qiao Qiang would rather starve and fall sick himself so that he could let Qiao Mei eat her fill and he would always give everything he had to her.

"Yes! These are all passed down from our ancestors. That's right!" Qiao Mei said happily.

After solving this problem, she had nothing more to worry about. Life went on peacefully and soon, it was time for the new year eve celebrations. During this occasion, many people from the different families would come and gather together. Apart from Qiao Mei's family, the other branches of the Xia family would also all be returning to the capital. Therefore, Qiao Mei wanted to discuss with Xu Lan to see if they could do the gathering at her house. The courtyard house was definitely big enough to host the event.

"Elder sister, do you think that Mother will agree with my idea?" Qiao Mei said with a troubled expression.

Even Qiao Mei herself felt that she was asking for too much. After all, she was now the daughter-in-law of the Xia family. It did not seem reasonable for her to ask all the Xia family members to come to her house just because she would feel sad for Qiao Qiang if he had to spend the new year alone.

It would also be awkward for Li Gui to bring her four children to the Xia family residence to celebrate the new year. Although Li Gui was Qiao Mei's biological mother, she had remarried and given birth to another four children who were not blood relatives of the Qiao family. It did not seem suitable for them to go to the Xia family residence.

Xia He did not know how to handle this matter either. Qiao Mei was really caught in a dilemma.

"How about... I go home and talk to Mother about it?" Xia He asked.

Qiao Mei shook her head. It would be more sincere for her to raise such an issue herself. Otherwise, it could lead to unnecessary misunderstandings and then it would become even more difficult to deal with.

"Let me think about it," Qiao Mei said disconsolately as she lay back on the rocking chair.

The matter could be settled easier if it only affected Xia Jun, Xia Mao and the immediate family. However, she had to take into account the fact that Second Uncle and Third Uncle were in town as well as their family members. Later on, Eldest Aunt Xia Xiu and Youngest Aunt Xia Fang would also be coming back. There were still many extended family members who had not met Qiao Mei yet. If they were

asked to come to Qiao Mei's house for the new year celebrations, it might leave a bad impression on them.

She did not expect life to become so troublesome after getting married. Even if Qiao Qiang was willing to stay in the backyard house alone for the new year, it was not acceptable to her. She must find a way to solve this problem.

Just as Qiao Mei was at her wits' end, there was a sudden knock on the main door as it opened. Xu Lan walked into Qiao Mei's house with numerous bags. Qiao Mei supported her stomach and slowly walked towards the door, looking at the scene in front of her in disbelief.

Xia He was also shocked by Xu Lan's actions. Xu Lan had even mobilized the family's security guards to assist her. There were another three cars behind hers and each car was also filled to the brim with stuff.

Chapter 1063 Spend New Year Together

"Mother, what are you doing? Are you fleeing a disaster?" Xia He asked in shock. It looked as if Xu Lan had moved her entire house over.

Xu Lan excitedly instructed Luo Yu and the others to move all the things out from the cars and sort them out by types in the courtyard. In order to store the frozen seafood and meat, Xu Lan had even brought the refrigerator with her.

"I'm here to sort out all the things we need for the new year," Xu Lan said with a smile.

"Huh?" Qiao Mei and Xia He looked at Xu Lan in confusion. They did not know what she meant and what they were doing for the new year.

Qiao Mei brought Xu Lan to the main hall. She took out the best tea leaves and made tea for Xu Lan. As she prepared the tea, she asked, "Mother, are those things in the courtyard meant for my mum and the rest of them?"

"Well... yes and no. It's indeed my fault for not letting you know in advance. I just think that since Xia Zhe is not at home this year and it's not convenient for you to move about now, it will be good if Xia Wen's family, your father and I come over to celebrate the new year at your place. Do you think it's a good idea?" Xu Lan asked cautiously as she observed Qiao Mei's expression.

This was something that Xu Lan had done on a whim. The idea came to her suddenly when she was doing her new year shopping. It was only when she bought everything and reached Qiao Mei's place that she realized the whole thing might be seen as inappropriate, but it was already too late for her to regret it.

Qiao Mei was not angry at all. Instead, she was very happy. This was exactly what she had in mind!

"There's no problem at all! I'm still thinking about discussing the same thing with you, but I just don't know how to bring up the topic. After all, it's unheard of for a new daughter-in-law to invite her in-laws to her house for the first new year after the marriage," Qiao Mei said apologetically.

"We don't have to care about what other people do, we'll just live our own lives well. Does that mean that you agree?" Xu Lan said excitedly.

"Then... what about Second Uncle and Third Uncle and their families?" Qiao Mei asked.

Xu Lan had not thought about this yet. In the past, everyone would gather at her house. Now that her own family was coming over to Qiao Mei's house for the new year, there would be no one at home to host them.

Xu Lan was so focused on Qiao Mei that she had forgotten about the rest of the family members.

"I... forgot..." Xu Lan said with an awkward smile.

Qiao Mei pursed her lips tightly to hold back her laughter. She did not expect Xu Lan to have such an adorable side. She had originally thought that Xu Lan was as meticulous as Xia Wen.

Xu Lan said nonchalantly, "It doesn't matter. This is not a difficult issue to resolve. On my way home later, I'll make a trip to your grandfather's place. As long as your grandfather agrees to come over to your place for the new year, Xia Yao and Xia Guang will definitely come over too."

Xia Jun doted on Qiao Mei the most. It was not only because Qiao Mei was sensible and well-behaved, but more importantly, Qiao Mei was also smart and capable. Such a granddaughter-in-law was really hard to come by.

Not only did Qiao Qiang save his life, but Qiao Mei also saved Xia Mao's life. It would not be a problem even if Qiao Mei did not pay him a visit during the new year.

"I never expect to be able to call the shots in this matter," Qiao Mei said with a laugh.

"Of course! Don't worry, they'll definitely come!" Xu Lan said firmly. Given that her daughter-in-law was such a nice person, she really did not expect anyone to say no to this request.

If there was really no other way... she would just put down her pride and ask them for a personal favor. Xia Yao and Xia Guang would at least do it for her sake.

"Thank you for the help, Mother. Once you have news, I'll have to trouble you to send me a message so that I can start to make preparations immediately," Qiao Mei said happily.

Xu Lan was a very efficient person and it ended up as they had expected. Xia Jun agreed to the idea without waiting for Xu Lan to even finish speaking. The Xia family was now waiting for Qiao Mei to continue their lineage! She was pregnant with his first two great-grandchildren, so he did not want her to have to travel around too.

After the matter was decided, there were endless deliveries made to Qiao Mei's house every day. Qiao Mei even ordered a huge custom-made table so that everyone could sit together for the reunion dinner.

In order to store things, she bought another four or five freezers. Fortunately, money was not an issue for Qiao Mei. Otherwise, she might go bankrupt after this meal!

They did not intend to do the cooking that day. Since the dishes they wanted were more troublesome and complicated to prepare, they intended to order food from the state-owned restaurant located at the entrance of the alley. The restaurant staff would deliver everything to the house.

There was also not enough bedding at home and they needed to buy more. In order to store these extra bedding, Qiao Mei also ordered a big custom-made cabinet for the storeroom.

Chapter 1064 How Many Pages To Go

Qiao Mei's courtyard was filled with the bonus items distributed by the government and the army during the new year. The items one received depended on one's rank in the organization. Some items were specially for the Xia family. Only the Xia family had these and no one else.

Given that Xia Mao had been injured in the line of duty this time round, it was very likely that he would get promoted when he resumed work. Many people sent gifts to him and there were particularly a lot of tonics.

In the past, these things were always sent to Xu Lan's house and the helper would sort everything out. This year, as everyone was gathering at Qiao Mei's house to celebrate the new year, even the items meant for Xia Yao and Xia Guang were also sent to Qiao Mei's house. There were a lot more things compared to the past years, so they were naturally running out of space.

"Oh my goodness, this is too tiring. My arms are about to break from carrying so many things for the past two days," Xia He said as she collapsed into a chair.

"Thank you so much for your hard work. I'm not of any help now. Why don't I get Qian'e to come and help you," Qiao Mei said.

Xia He quickly rejected the idea and said, "Better not. We have no chemistry and we quarrel whenever we meet. I don't want to interact with her unnecessarily. It's better that I do all these things myself!"

"Is there still a lot of stuff that hasn't been delivered yet?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

Xia He took out four pieces of paper from her pocket with a resigned expression. Each piece of paper was tightly cramped with words. These were the records of the items received over the past few days, including a list of the gifts exchanged between the Xia family and the other families they were on good

terms with during the festive season. This was a task usually handled by Xu Lan and Xia Mao in the past. This year, the two of them had simply delegated everything to Xia Wen and Xia He.

Fortunately, Xia He was very well-versed with these things and she did not face any problems during the entire process. However, the sheer volume of work still made her feel a little tired.

"Based on my rough calculations, there's probably still two pages to go," Xia He said helplessly.

Qiao Mei laughed. The unit of measurement that Xia He used was page and not item. It was really an eye-opener for her.

Xia He muttered unhappily, "Xia Wen and Tan Jing should be the ones doing all this. This shouldn't have anything to do with me at all. Mother does not trust Tan Jing to do a proper job. She said that Tan Jing is stingy and petty, and that if she offends any of our family and friends in the process, it's the Xia family who will suffer for it. I'm so angry that I can die. I wonder how our eldest brother managed to find such a wife."

"Never mind. I'll help you. Many hands make light work," Qiao Mei said.

"Forget it! If anything should happen to you, Mother will definitely kill me. I can't bear the responsibility. Just stay in the room obediently. You don't have to worry about any of these things. I'm just venting my frustration to you. Eldest brother is at work all the time and doesn't even come back to deal with any of these things at all. He just leaves everything to me. Sigh... it's so tough..." Xia He said aggrievedly.

Xia Wen had no choice on his end. The leaders in the workplace kept organizing dinner gatherings and there was no way he could reject the invites, so he could only ask Xia He to help him out.

The busy days passed quickly and it was finally the last day of the year. Xia Mao had been drinking Qiao Mei's medicinal wine every day and he could already move around freely by now. His wound had also almost recovered, but he still needed to take care of his diet and make sure that he did not eat too much oily food.

There were many cars stopped outside Qiao Mei's house in an orderly manner, attracting the attention of many neighbors. They had never seen such a spectacle before! A few days ago, when a few cars

stopped outside Qiao Mei's house to deliver new year goods, everyone was curious about how grand the event at Qiao Mei's house was going to be. As they looked on, they realized that they could have underestimated the grandeur.

In order to avoid causing traffic congestion in the alley, the cars only stopped temporarily outside Qiao Mei's house. The chauffeurs would unload the items from the cars and once it was confirmed that there were no mistakes, the chauffeurs would then drive off. During this period of time, all the family members were staying over at Qiao Mei's house and they would contact the chauffeurs to pick them up if they needed to run any errands.

Qiao Mei had changed into a red padded cotton jacket coupled with a red maternity dress inside. To match the festive atmosphere, Qiao Mei even tied her hair into two buns on her head, looking very cheeky and adorable.

"Oh my! Why are you standing at the door! Go in quickly! Why are you out here!" Xia Jun hurriedly walked forward to chase Qiao Mei back into the house, worried that she might catch a cold outdoors.

"Grandfather, I'll be fine. My clothes are very thick! Let's go in quickly. My grandfather is still waiting to play chess with you in the backyard. He even says that he must thoroughly defeat you today!" Qiao Mei said.

Chapter 1065 - 1065 Acting Like a Mother-in-law

1065 Acting Like a Mother-in-law

Xia Jun straightened his back and said proudly, "Hmph, the person who can defeat me isn't born yet! Your grandfather couldn't beat me when we were both in the army. It's the same even if he's already retired now!"

Zhang Wei and the other children were already helping out in the front yard. Zhang Wei and Xia Jun were also quite familiar with each other. For some reason, the two of them felt a sense of affinity from the moment they met. Xia Jun liked Zhang Wei a lot.

"Grandpa Xia! I'll bring you to my grandfather!" Zhang Wei said happily.

“Fine, fine, fine!” Xia Jun followed Zhang Wei to the backyard.

Xu Lan stood beside Qiao Mei and pointed at Xia Yao as she introduced him. “This is your second uncle.”

“Hello, Second Uncle,” Qiao Mei said respectfully with a slight nod.

Xia Yao took out a red packet from his bag. As he held it in his hand, they could all see that it looked quite thick. He smiled and said, “I didn’t manage to come back to see you back then because of work. This is my first-meeting gift to you. It’s just a small token.”

Qiao Mei did not reject the gesture and accepted Xia Yao’s red packet in a dignified manner. She smiled and said, “Thank you, Second Uncle and Second Aunt-in-law. I won’t stand on ceremony with you.”

Xia Guang said almost the same thing as Xia Yao. The two brothers had come to an agreement on the amount of money to put in the red packets. Qiao Mei and Xu Lan went into her room after everyone else had entered the house.

After just standing for a short while, Qiao Mei’s back started to ache and it felt as if it was about to break.

“You must be exhausted. You can take a rest in the room first. Xia He and I can handle the things outside,” Xu Lan said with heartache.

Qiao Mei slowly closed her eyes to rest for a while. Xu Lan and Xia He left the room quietly and went to the backyard to chat with everyone. The house was filled with people both inside and outside.

Xia Wen, Tan Jing, Xia Fang and Xia Xiu only arrived at night.

“It’s been such a long time! Second Brother, Third Brother, you’re back! It’s rare for everyone to get together!” Xia Xiu said agitatedly.

Due to her work, Xia Xiu also rarely returned home. The few of them always missed out on chances to see one another because of work. It was rare for the entire family to be able to get together like this. It was a pity that Xia Zhe was still on a mission this year. It could only be considered a grand reunion if he was here as well.

“Eldest Sister, you still look the same! You haven’t changed a bit,” Xia Yao said happily.

Xia Xiu patted Xia Guang’s shoulder and did not say anything, keeping her thoughts to herself. It must be tough for Xia Guang during this period of time. It was a good thing for Xia Guang to take some personal time to sort things through.

“Where’s Qiao Mei? Why isn’t she out here?” Xia Fang asked anxiously.

“Qiao Mei is exhausted from all the work during the day. She had been busy planning for today’s event the past two days. She’s resting in the room now. Let her sleep for a while. I think she has even lost some weight,” Xu Lan said sadly.

“You’re acting more and more like a mother-in-law. I’m just asking where Qiao Mei is. Look at how precious she is to you!” Xia Fang said and laughed as she pointed at Xu Lan.

She felt that she would only be embarrassing herself by coming here. What was the point?

Qiao Mei finally managed to wake up and she asked Zhang Qin to go to the state-owned restaurant and tell them to send the dishes over. It was time for dinner.

As soon as Qiao Mei reached the backyard, everyone cleared a path for her. All the chairs had already been lined with warm cushions.

“Come, take a seat. We can start eating since everyone is here,” Xu Lan said.

At the dining table, the main conversation topic was about Qiao Mei’s babies and everyone’s wishes for these two children. Tan Jing lowered her head more and more. Every time someone spoke about the children, Tan Jing’s heart would ache.

It was as if they were not talking about Qiao Mei's joyous news. To her, these were all voices complaining about her, tormenting her nerves over and over again.

After three rounds of drinking, the atmosphere started to become very lively.

"Grandfather, this is the arrival of the first great-grandchildren in the family. Shouldn't you do something!" Xia He said.

"That's right, that's right! Father, it's time for you to take out those nice things of yours," Xia Fang said with a smile.

Xia Jun had never given away any of his cherished treasures. He felt honored to have these treasures and there were very few people who had ever seen them before, let alone him taking the initiative to give them away as gifts.

Chapter 1066 Precious Gifts

The first time he gave away one of his treasures as a gift was after Xia Wen joined the army. When Xia Wen received the title of top army warrior title for the first time, Xia Jun gave him a watch. It was the watch which Xia Jun wore throughout his entire career and continued to use even after he retired from the army.

The next time was when Xia Zhe first received the title of top army warrior. Xia Jun gave him the bullet shell of the first bullet he ever fired after becoming a soldier. It held a lot of meaning for him.

"Of course! Once the babies are born, I'll give each of them one of my merit medals!" Xia Jun said generously.

Xia Jun cherished his merit medals the most. Every month, he would wipe them carefully and no one was allowed to touch them. Even Xia Mao had never seen them before. All the merit medals were stored in one room and no one was allowed to enter the room.

"My goodness. Qiao Mei, say thanks to Grandfather quickly. He doesn't give gifts to just anyone!" Xia He said excitedly as she grabbed Qiao Mei.

"Thank you, Grandfather~" Qiao Mei said sweetly.

Xia Jun was overjoyed, but Qiao Qiang, who was sitting next to him, felt a little upset. He had brought up his granddaughter all these years and now that she had married Xia Zhe, it felt like a loss to him.

"Hmph, only two? I have merit medals too. Who cares about those lousy things of yours? Take out something that shows your sincerity! I know you have something better! Hand it over quickly!" Qiao Qiang said unhappily.

Xia Jun was so amused by Qiao Qiang's behavior that he laughed out loudly. Xia Jun really had something that was exceptionally precious to him. To other people, it might seem like a very cheap item, but he had treasured it for his entire life.

That item was the first ring he gave Wu Min and it was also a token of their love.

At that time, his family was very poor and he could not afford to get married at all. He did not have much money, so he kept exploring the area near the army camp, found a nice big tree and secretly went to the tree every day and used a small knife to saw at it bit by bit.

After a long period of time, Xia Jun finally managed to cut out a chunk of wood. Then he started to carve it secretly under his blanket nightly until he finished making the ring. By then, more than a year had passed.

When he returned home during the holidays the next year, he did not even return to his own home first. He rushed straight to Wu Min's house and put on this wooden ring for her. This marked the beginning of their relationship.

"What exactly is it? Grandpa Qiao, tell us!" Xia He asked curiously.

"I won't expose your grandfather's exploits when he was young. Let him talk about it himself," Qiao Qiang said with a smile.

Xia Jun coughed shyly and explained, "It's... the token of love between your grandmother and I. I'll still give the babies the merit medals! As for the ring, let it be my wish for Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe to live happily ever after, just like Wu Min and I."

After saying that, Xia Jun's eyes seemed to tear up. Wu Min had already been gone for many years, but he still could not help but think of the way she looked when she was still around. If Wu Min was still around, she would probably be very satisfied with Xia Zhe's wife as well.

"Yes, I'll definitely get along well with Xia Zhe. Don't worry, Grandfather," Qiao Mei said earnestly.

Xia Jun smacked Qiao Qiang's shoulder and said, "Old man, are you satisfied now? I don't have anything left except that wall of merit medals! I don't have anything else even if you make any more demands!"

"Hmph, who cares about your merit medals? I also have a wall full of them and I even have two more than you!" Qiao Qiang said stubbornly.

"Nonsense! You're wrong! I have more than you! I have four more than you!" Xia Jun corrected him.

The two of them were not to be outdone and insisted on returning to the house to list down all the merit medals they had ever received. They wanted to see who had more between the two of them.

Qiao Mei smiled resignedly. Most of the people present tonight had their own merit medals. If they all took their medals out, her entire courtyard house did not have enough space to showcase them!

Just the merit medals belonging to Qiao Qiang, Xia Jun, Xia Mao and Xia Xiu were enough to take up all the space in the entire house.

"Qiao Mei, have you decided on the names for the children?" Xu Lan asked.

Qiao Mei shook her head. She had discussed this matter with Xia Zhe before, but the names that he came up with were really not very flattering. The names that Xia Wen came up with back then were also not very appropriate. She felt that this matter ultimately needed to be decided by Qiao Qiang and Xia Jun. They should each come up with a name for each child. Otherwise, the two of them would argue about it again.

Chapter 1067 Unable To Have Children

"I'll let both grandfathers worry about this. I don't want to crack my head over such things," Qiao Mei said.

By the time it was late at night, everyone settled down in the rooms that Qiao Mei had prepared for them. She did not have to worry about the crockery and cutlery as the helper was in charge of cleaning up. As there were not enough rooms to go round, Xia He finally had the chance to bunk over in Qiao Mei's room. She was very happy to have her wish come true as she had long wanted to sleep in the same room as Qiao Mei!

Tan Jing lay on the bed for a long time, unable to calm her jealous frame of mind. She originally thought that Qiao Mei had only gained everyone's favor temporarily and that not every member of the Xia family would like her.

However, it seemed to her today that Qiao Mei had easily won the favor of all the Xia family members. Xia Jun even gave her a gift. Putting aside what the gift was, it was a privilege that Tan Jing had never enjoyed before.

She was chock full of hatred. She hated the fact that someone like Qiao Mei appeared in her life. She also hated the fact that although Qiao Mei's family background was not as good as hers, yet everyone treated Qiao Mei the nicest.

In the years she had been in the Xia family, Tan Jing always felt that she had to behave dutifully so as not to make Xu Lan angry. However, even as Qiao Mei joked around so casually with Xu Lan, she did not get into any trouble and everyone still continued to favor her.

It could only be because of the babies. Tan Jing wondered if she would be able to gain a foothold in the Xia family like Qiao Mei if she also became pregnant.

Tan Jing looked at Xia Wen intently and her hands started to move all over Xia Wen's body. It had been a long time since they had been intimate. It was already rare for them to kiss or even hold hands.

Xia Wen grabbed Tan Jing's hands tightly and said, "Don't mess around. We're at Qiao Mei's house now and all our relatives are sleeping in the rooms nearby. Don't do anything stupid."

"Why! Do you despise me so much!" Tan Jing said furiously.

"Can you please be more clear-headed and take a look at where we are. Is it appropriate to do this now?" Xia Wen roared at her while keeping his voice low.

Tan Jing lay down aggrievedly as tears flowed down her cheeks and spent the night like that.

In fact, Tan Jing knew very well that she was the one who could not get pregnant. When she was young, she often went out to work in very thin clothing. Even in winter, she did not have any padded cotton jacket to wear.

Jiang Yi gave all the good things at home to her younger siblings. As the eldest sister, she could only bear with the tough life. As time passed, her health became affected. The doctor had told her countless times that her body was considered too cold in the concept of traditional Chinese medicine and it would probably be very difficult for her to have children.

However, she kept lying to herself and Xia Wen. She even blamed Xia Wen for being the cause of their unhappy marriage because he was infertile.

This was all a self-directed show that she put up to lie to everyone.

Some time ago, Jiang Yi had come to look for Tan Jing. This time, it was not to discuss the matter of the house. Instead, she wanted Tan Jing to adopt a child from a distant relative of the Tan family. The little boy was six years old and quite good-looking. He had thick eyebrows and big eyes and was very likable. This family had too many children and they could not afford to raise this child, so they were looking to find someone to adopt him.

Jiang Yi immediately thought of Tan Jing. If Tan Jing adopted this child, it could be considered as her giving the Xia family a descendant! Then Tan Jing would have a more stable status in the Xia family.

"Xiao Jing, what do you think about this idea?" Jiang Yi asked obsequiously.

"It's better that you revert to calling me a wretched girl. I feel uncomfortable when you use my name," Tan Jing said stubbornly.

If Jiang Yi had not gone to Qiao Mei's place to cause a scene, Tan Jing's relationship with Xia Wen would not have reached this stage and Xia Wen would not make himself so busy every day that he could not go home. All of this was Jiang Yi's doing!

"You wretched girl, do you feel uncomfortable if I don't scold you for a day! Just answer me! Do you want this child or not!" Jiang Yi said impatiently.

Tan Jing rejected Jiang Yi without a second thought. She knew what Jiang Yi was up to. Jiang Yi wanted a child from the Tan family to become a member of the Xia family. After Xia Jun and Xia Mao died, the child would then have a share of the family's assets.

Although the child's surname was Xia, he was still a part of the Tan family. Therefore, the assets should belong to the Tan family!

"Don't even think about it. I'll have my own child. I don't need to adopt any child! You'd better give up those thoughts!" Tan Jing said fiercely.

"Don't be ungrateful! You know very well whether you can have children or not! You don't have to pretend in front of me!" Jiang Yi scolded.

Chapter 1068 - 1068 I Will Give You One Day

1068 I Will Give You One Day

Jiang Yi's words caused Tan Jing to be completely infuriated. If not for Jiang Yi's cruel treatment of her back then, she would not have become infertile. If not for Jiang Yi, she might have both a son and a daughter now and she would not have to endure all the gossip from her neighbors.

It was all Jiang Yi's fault. It was Jiang Yi who caused her all this pain!

"If not for you, I won't have ended up like this! Yet you question me about this now! How can a mother behave like this!" Tan Jing said in agony.

However, Jiang Yi did not think much of it. She felt that she was already very nice to Tan Jong. Normally, when a girl reached marriageable age, the family would quickly make arrangements for her to be married off. Not many mothers would have done what she did, allowing Tan Jing to date Xia Wen freely.

If not for the fact that the Xia family was a prominent and well-to-do family, Jiang Yi would not agree to let Tan Jing marry Xia Wen. Her original intention was to make a big sum of money from marrying Tan Jing off. If Xia Wen was from a poor family, Jiang Yi would never even consider it. She would just ask Tan Jing to break up with him and then marry anyone from the village who could fork out 500 dollars as betrothal money. She did not care about Tan Jing's happiness at all.

"What did I do to you? What did I do wrong? Tell me! How did I raise you wrongly!" Jiang Yi said angrily.

Tan Jing looked at Jiang Yi aggrievedly as tears silently flowed down from the corners of her eyes. She thought for a long time before saying, "Why didn't you buy a padded cotton jacket for me when I was young? Yet you bought it for my younger siblings. Do you know that my health was affected by the cold winter because of that? If you had given me even a thin cotton jacket, the condition of my body might be much better than now."

She thought that by saying that, Jiang Yi would feel sorry for her, feel guilty and blame herself. However, Jiang Yi did not think that it was her fault at all. Instead, she thought that Tan Jing should just bear with all that she had gone through.

"Are you talking about a lousy piece of clothing! What do you mean by I didn't buy it for you! When you were young, I fed you, didn't I! When I was young, not only did I not have a padded cotton jacket, I didn't even have food to eat! Despite that, I still took care of my entire family! Why are you so delicate!

Why are you so difficult! If I am like you, I would have starved to death long ago! Don't blame me for the fact that you can't have children!" Jiang Yi scolded.

Tan Jing's heart completely turned cold when she saw how atrociously Jiang Yi behaved in her house. She should not have expected anything from Jiang Yi nor imagined that Jiang Yi would feel sorry for her.

All this time, all Jiang Yi wanted was money. As long as she could get money from Tan Jing, it did not matter even if Tan Jing died.

"Let me tell you! You have to do this! I've already come to an agreement with the child's family. It's up to you to convince the Xia family to accept the child! I'll give you one day to do it!" After saying that, Jiang Yi left Xia Wen's house, leaving Tan Jing depressed and alone at home.

In the end, this matter was left unsettled. Xia Wen was too busy with Qiao Mei's family matters and helping the Xia family get ready for the new year. He often stayed over at Xia Jun's house and did not go back to his own house. Even if she wanted to reconcile with Xia Wen, she did not get the chance to meet him.

At this point, it was a situation of the two of them staying together despite not being able to stand the sight of each other.

Later on, Jiang Yi came back a few times to kick up a fuss. However, due to the Xia family's prestige, Jiang Yi could not make the decision to directly send the child to the Xia family. It would not be a good thing to offend the Xia family.

Tan Jing woke up early the next morning. Although she did not like staying at Qiao Mei's house, as the Xia family's daughter-in-law, she still had to get up early to help out with the chores. Otherwise, Xu Lan and the others would have a lot to say about her.

Xia Guang was used to waking up early in the army. He woke up before dawn and proceeded to sweep the courtyard, then he even wiped down the handrails of the long corridor and tidied up everything inside and outside the house.

After that, there was really nothing else for him to do, so he went to the kitchen in the front yard to assist the helper. This helper's surname was Fan, so everyone addressed her as Sister Fan. The previous helper had to take care of her grandchild and did not have time to work for the Xia family anymore, so they had to hire a new helper.

This new helper was a diligent person. She had worked as a helper for many families and was quite tight-lipped. In fact, she was recommended by the previous helper, so she should not be too lousy.

"Hello, Third Uncle." Tan Jing greeted Xia Guang and he simply nodded at her. He was busy cutting up vegetables and did not have time to chat with Tan Jing.

Chapter 1069 Do Not Talk While Eating

However, this made Tan Jing feel that Xia Guang was looking down on her. She recalled that Xia Guang's reaction was not so subdued when he met Qiao Mei yesterday. He even helped Qiao Mei take food from the dishes that she could not reach. Tan Jing had witnessed all this for herself.

Seeing that she was not needed in the kitchen, Tan Jing sat down in a corner of the courtyard.

This was such a big courtyard. There was more than enough space for the children to run around and play in the future. During the time when Qiao Mei was renovating the house, she had even thought about building a car porch. However, if she sacrificed two rooms to build a car porch, it would make the entire house look much more cramped and the value of the house would depreciate greatly.

The house opposite hers had a layout that was similar to Li Gui's house. It also had six rooms and was half the size of the front yard part of her courtyard house. Qiao Mei had long set her sights on the house opposite, but she did not know if the neighbors had any intention to sell it.

However, all this could wait. She was not in a hurry. Driving was a tiring chore and it was better to hire a chauffeur. In her other life, she was a "road menace" and she was always very cautious and scared when she drove.

"If only my children can live in such a house in the future..." Tan Jing muttered to herself.

It was a rare thing for Xia He to get up early. It took her more than 10 minutes to get out of Qiao Mei's bed, worried that she would bump into Qiao Mei or make a sound and wake her up.

Perhaps Qiao Mei had been feeling better mentally and physically recently, so she had slept well these past few days. She did not have to make multiple trips to the toilet every night like before. Although she still needed to wake up to go to the toilet, it was much less frequent.

As usual, Xia He got dressed and started to do her leg presses in the courtyard. Qiao Mei knew that Xia He must do her morning exercise every day, so she specially installed a dance barre in the courtyard. In any case, Zhang Miao would also be practicing dancing at home in the future, so the barre would not go to waste.

Qiao Mei even had plans to ask Xia He to teach her daughter in the future! It was not that she wanted the child to be a good dancer, but she just wanted to improve the child's temperament. Dancers all looked very radiant and had very good postures. If not for the fact that Qiao Mei was stunningly beautiful and overshadowed Xia He's radiance, Xia He would have been the most good-looking girl in the vicinity.

Slowly, everyone woke up one after another. By now, the helper had gotten breakfast for everyone.

"Where's Qiao Mei?" Xia Fang asked as she looked at Xia He.

"Let's eat. Don't worry about Qiao Mei. She doesn't sleep very well at night nowadays, so she can't manage to get up in the morning. Usually, she only has two meals a day. Sometimes, she doesn't even get up for lunch. We always keep some food in the kitchen so that she always has something to eat. At times, she can't fall asleep the entire night," Xia He explained.

"So serious? Is she sick? Should we bring her to the hospital for a checkup? Xiao Fang, do you know about Qiao Mei's current condition?" Xia Xiu asked as she looked at Xia Fang nervously. She had never been married and never had children, so she naturally did not know anything about pregnancy.

Xia Fang smiled and said, "It's fine. Some time ago, Qiao Mei had already done a full-body checkup. The indicators are all good and we're just waiting for her to give birth. It's normal for her to feel like this now. Moreover, she's having twins, so her stomach is bigger than other pregnant women. It's inevitable

that this will happen during the late stages of her pregnancy and it's not a big deal. I think she eats well and sleeps enough, it's just that she doesn't get restful sleep."

After Xia Fang's explanation, all of them felt more at ease. Everyone at the table was very quiet as they ate. This might have something to do with their profession. Soldiers ate very quickly. In addition, the military rules prohibited them from chatting and whispering to each other while eating. They were so used to it that they brought this habit back to their own homes.

Although Xu Lan and Xia He were only part of the military art troupe, they had also gone through military training. Even though the training duration was only one month, it had a huge impact on them and they also got used to such habits. As for Liu Fen and Xia Fang, although they were not in military service and had never lived in an army unit before, their husbands and sons were from the army, so they were familiar with such things.

However, it was different for Tan Jing. She had only married into the family after Xia Wen retired from the army. They did not have so many rules in their own home and Xia Wen was also not that rigid a person. Even though she was well aware of the Xia family's rules, she still could not get used to it. Unless it was absolutely necessary, she rarely ate with the family elders. She felt very uncomfortable to have to eat under such an oppressive dining environment.

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Chapter 1070 Introducing A Girlfriend

After around five to six minutes, everyone put down their bowls and chopsticks. They had all finished eating and only Tan Jing was still eating slowly alone.

Seeing that everyone had stopped, Tan Jing quietly put down her bowl and chopsticks. Sister Fan cleared the table efficiently. The next meal would be at noon.

Everyone went to the backyard to chat as it was rare that the weather was warmer today. The men went back into the house to talk business, so the women gathered together to have a casual conversation about the gossip they had heard recently and the trivial matters at home.

"Eldest sister, are you and that... Jiang Jin still seeing each other?" Xia Fang asked.

Xia Xiu and Xia Fang got along very well and could tell each other everything. Xia Xiu also especially favored Xia Fang's son. If she had to rank her favorite children in the Xia family, Xia Zhe and Xiang Chen would share the top spot.

"He's so stubborn. He feels that being with me now will only hold me back for the rest of my life. We aren't really in contact now," Xia Xiu said resignedly.

At their age, as long as they were each doing well, they would not force anything on each other. Jiang Jin knew very well that he had let Xia Xiu down back then and he felt too ashamed to continue the relationship. Xia Xiu was living well now, so he did not want to disrupt her peaceful life.

"That's good too. You won't have to worry about trivial matters. I really can't imagine you being busy with groceries and household chores every day," Xu Lan said with a laugh.

As Liu Fen munched on seeds, she asked, "Xiao Fang, is your Xiao Chen already of marriageable age? Does he have someone he likes or an idea of the kind of girl he likes? We can all keep a lookout for him."

"Second Sister-in-law, are you muddle-headed? My Xiang Chen is still in school this year. He doesn't even have a stable job yet, so how can he get married? Won't he just be making life difficult for the girl!" Xia Fang said.

Regarding the topic of marriage, Liu Fen should be the one feeling more anxious. Her two sons were not young anymore and they still had not even found someone they liked! Both of them had been single for many years.

"Xia He, didn't you promise me to find girlfriends for your two younger cousins? It's been half a year. Where are the candidates?" Liu Fen asked.

Xia He only wanted to just sit down and listen to the gossip, but she did not expect to be called upon. She had really brought this upon herself!

"I did! I've been looking around all this while. I can't do such a task too casually and I have to choose carefully. But then again, Second Aunt-in-law, you have such high expectations. It's hard to find a girl like Qiao Mei. Why don't you lower your expectations?" Xia He said with a troubled expression.

"No! I want to find a daughter-in-law like Qiao Mei!" Liu Fen said stubbornly.

Xia Xiu could not stop smiling. This was the first time she had seen Liu Fen like this. Back then, she wondered who was the one who despised Qiao Mei so much and said that Qiao Mei was just a pretty face with nothing going for her apart from her good looks. This same person even called Qiao Mei a foxy woman who seduced Xia Zhe into doing something wrong and then forced him to get married.

The image of Liu Fen gnashing her teeth was still vivid in Xia Xiu's mind. Now, Liu Fen would praise Qiao Mei many times a day. Not long ago, she even went to the temple to burn incense and pray to the gods to give her two daughters-in-law like Qiao Mei.

"You should just lower your standards. Not everyone can find a girl like our Qiao Mei. Our Xia Zhe is still the best and he has good taste!" Xu Lan said proudly.

Liu Fen angrily grabbed a handful of seeds and stuffed them into Xu Lan's hands as she said, "Don't say things to make me angry. Eat some seeds. There's so much to eat, yet it can't stuff your mouth!"

"I still want to say it! My Qiao Mei is so likable! Oh well, it's something you can't have even if you want it~" If Xu Lan had a tail, she would be wagging it proudly!

Today was the first day of the new year. After Qiao Mei woke up, she tied up her hair in a simple bun and decorated it with a hairpin. Then, she put on a simple teal-colored cheongsam with a modified design. The upper part of the dress was still based on the traditional design, but the lower part was an A-line skirt that could hide her bulging stomach. She had designed this dress herself!

After getting dressed, Qiao Mei put on a cloak made from fox fur. Xia Zhe had personally hunted the fox in the mountains! She had designed and made the cloak herself. If she had time in the future, she could open a boutique and create her own brand.

After the children grew up, she not only wanted to enter the food and beverage industry, the clothing industry and the furniture industry, but she also wanted to dabble in logistics and expand her business widely.