

## Fat Wife 1081

### Chapter 1081 Treat Her Well

"Oh my goodness. Xia He, did you get beaten up last night? What happened to your face?" Xia Fang asked as she looked at Xia He, feeling sorry for her.

Xia He was so tired that she could barely open her eyes and did not have the energy to talk to Xia Fang at all. She staggered towards the rocking chair and wanted to sit down and sleep without even covering herself with a blanket. Xia Fang quickly stopped her. If she took a nap here, she would definitely catch a cold.

"Come with me and sleep in my room. Why is this child so tired!" Xia Fang said as she pulled Xia He along.

Xu Lan tiptoed to the door of Qiao Mei's room and slowly pushed it open to take a look inside. Qiao Mei was still sleeping soundly and was not woken up by Xia He's antics.

"It's probably because Qiao Mei felt uncomfortable last night, so Xia He did not sleep well too. There's no need to wake her up for breakfast later. We can ask Sister Fan to heat up the food when she wakes up. The two girls can eat together later," Xu Lan said with a sigh as she closed the door.

Xia Xiu could not hide the worry on her face as she said uneasily, "Qiao Mei is still so young. It's her first pregnancy but she's having twins. She's still a child herself! It's really hard on her."

"I know what you're saying. Moreover, even at such a young age, she's so much more sensible than her peers. My heart really aches for her. She has lived with Uncle Qiao since she was young and Uncle Qiao has brought her up so well. Our Xia Zhe really found a gem. When he comes back, I'm going to give him a good scolding. How can he let Qiao Mei go through such a hard time!" Xu Lan said.

"You! Two years ago, you kept telling me that you wanted to have a grandchild! You were so envious when you saw other people's children. Now that Qiao Mei is pregnant, you feel sorry for her. Don't you think that you're conflicted?" Xia Xiu said with a smile.

"It's just that my heart aches for Qiao Mei! Even though I want a grandchild, I'm not in a hurry. I can wait for another two years. This Xia Zhe is currently in the army and can't come back. Qiao Mei has been alone from the moment she got pregnant and will still be on her own when she gives birth. It's a good thing that her mother is by her side. Otherwise, how can she cope!" Xu Lan said with a frown.

"Then you have to dote on her for continuing the Xia family line. You have to treat her well," Xia Xiu said.

Xu Lan was willing to do anything for Qiao Mei as long as it was good for her health. She had already sent all the good things in her house to Qiao Mei. Since ancient times, the relationship between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law was always dicey. When the two of them first met, Xu Lan even tried to take Qiao Mei down a notch, so she was sure that Qiao Mei must not like her.

That was why she did not come and visit Qiao Mei often. The younger generation had their own way of life. If she spoke too much for no reason, she would only be despised, so she might as well give Qiao Mei some peace and quiet!

In fact, Xu Lan was envious of Li Gui for being lucky enough to have all her children by her side. Her eldest daughter also took such good care of her. As Xu Lan got older, she realized the importance of having children.

Although Xu Lan's three children had the brightest futures even within the extended Xia family, they were also the busiest. It was already good enough if they could spend some time at home two or three times a year.

Before Xia He got her divorce, she could not even come back during the festive seasons because she had to stay with the Kong family. If Xia He returned to visit the Xia family, Old Madam Kong would have a reason to scold her. Kong Lu would also criticize her.

"I'm already treating her like a treasure! She's probably due very soon and I'm also feeling very anxious. I don't know what else to do. I keep feeling as if I haven't prepared enough things. If anything happens, I won't be able to deal with it," Xu Lan said.

"Your house is almost completely filled with all the things you've prepared. What else do you want to buy? You have to calm down. Why are you so anxious at a time like this? It's not as if you're like me and

have never given birth. You've given birth to three children. Shouldn't you know the entire process best? We also have Xiao Fang around. Relax and don't be afraid," Xia Xiu comforted her.

"I'm still wondering if Xia Zhe is able to come back! No one knows where this child is now. I don't even dare to tell Xia Zhe about your eldest brother's accident in case he gets distracted," Xu Lan said with a sigh.

"Wait a little longer. Eldest brother told me yesterday that he has already sent a message to Xia Zhe. He only talked about Qiao Mei and did not mention anything about himself. You don't have to worry anymore in the future. Eldest brother no longer has to go to the frontline now. I hear that the higher-ups take this matter very seriously and want to promote him!" Xia Xiu said happily.

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Chapter 1082 Because She Is Worth It

Xu Lan did not feel happy at all. Xia Mao was already so old, so the promotion did not matter at all. His health was no longer as good as before. This time, it was all thanks to Qiao Mei's "divine medicine". If Xia Zhe had not married Qiao Mei, or if Qiao Mei was a person who did not know anything, would Xia Mao still be alive?

In the past, she believed in Xia Mao's capability and always felt that he would handle everything well. However, when she received the news that he had met with an accident, she felt as if the sky was about to collapse on her. Nothing was more important than being alive.

Tan Jing woke up early in the morning and thought for a long time. In the end, she decided to return to Qiao Mei's house. The most important thing now was to discuss the adoption issue with Xia Wen. The child would be arriving in the capital very soon and she must finalize this matter today to avoid any unnecessary trouble.

When she reached the main door of Qiao Mei's house, she saw two guards standing on both sides. They were only responsible for checking on the identities of the people coming and going and they did not have the authority to open the door for her.

Tan Jing tried to push the door open, but it was locked from the inside. It was impossible to push it open from the outside. At this time of the day, everyone would be in the backyard and it was very likely that no one would hear her knocking on the door to the front yard. Tan Jing knocked forcefully, hoping to attract the attention of the people in the house to open the door for her.

Xu Lan quickly walked out of the main hall and opened the door with a smile on her face. However, when she saw Tan Jing, her face instantly fell.

"Why are you coming back from outside?" Xu Lan asked.

"I... Something happened at my parents' house yesterday and I left in a rush. I forgot to tell you..." Tan Jing lowered her head and whispered.

"Next time, either use the back door or come back in the afternoon. Qiao Mei is still sleeping in her room. You could have woken her up when you banged on the door so hard just now," Xu Lan said with a frown.

Tan Jing clenched her fists tightly and gritted her teeth so hard that there was an audible sound.

Qiao Mei! Qiao Mei! Qiao Mei again! She had been gone for an entire day and the Xia family did not even seem to notice. Even when she knocked on the door to come into the house, she had to keep track of the time so that she did not disrupt Qiao Mei's rest or disturb her peace and quiet. She felt so humiliated.

They were both the Xia family's daughters-in-law!

Why did she have to wake up early to serve the entire family while Qiao Mei could sleep in!

Why did she have to endure it when she was hungry, while Qiao Mei could get Auntie Fan to make a lot of delicious food the moment she was hungry!

Why was it that even though they were all part of the Xia family's younger generation, she could not live in such a nice courtyard house while Qiao Mei could enjoy life here!

This was so unfair!

Tan Jing glared fiercely at Xu Lan. Xu Lan was not a good-tempered person, so she stared back and said, "Why? Do you have something to say?"

"No," Tan Jing said as she suppressed the anger in her heart.

After all, Xu Lan was Xia Wen's mother and her elder. If she made Xu Lan angry, nothing good would come out of it and Xia Wen would become even more distant from her.

"I think you have something to tell me. You look like you want to eat me up," Xu Lan said mockingly.

"There's just something I don't quite understand. Why are you so nice to Qiao Mei?" Tan Jing asked as she pretended to be calm.

"Because Qiao Mei is worth it. If you want to question me about this, then you should think about what your Tan family has done. All these years, we've helped your family pay off gambling debts, find jobs and even enroll the kids in school. What about Qiao Mei? Qiao Mei's grandfather was Father's savior and now Qiao Mei is also my husband's savior. Tell me, why shouldn't I treat Qiao Mei well?" Xu Lan said.

Just as Tan Jing was about to speak again, Xia Xiu suddenly came to Xu Lan's side and said, "Let's go in. Breakfast is served. My eldest brother is looking for us."

Xu Lan nodded and left the main door angrily without looking back. She decided that she must speak to Xia Wen about this matter. She was already very unhappy with all the things related to the Tan family, and now Tan Jing was being so rude to her. How did Xia Wen find such a wife!

Xia Xiu was about to turn around and leave when she noticed that Tan Jing was rooted to the spot, not wanting to enter the house. She frowned slightly and said, "If you don't want to come in, then go out. The main door of the house isn't open all the time." With that, she left.

Chapter 1083 - 1083 Come to the Study for a While

1083 Come to the Study for a While

Tan Jing walked into the courtyard dejectedly and the door slowly closed behind her. In this place, she was not valued by anyone, not even Xia Wen. She was not even as precious as a weed in this courtyard.

Everyone was already sitting at the dining table. Tan Jing was the last one to arrive and they waited until she was seated to start eating. At this moment, the atmosphere in the room was very tense. Everyone was very angry that Tan Jing had gone out on her own without informing anyone. This was such an important festive season and the entire family was gathered here, yet she still went out on her own.

Fortunately, there were only close relatives gathered in this house. If there were outsiders around, they would laugh their heads' off at the Xia family!

Xia Wen did not look too happy. He had thought that Tan Jing would not be back, so he had treated the matter lightly. He did not expect Tan Jing to suddenly come back and ever managed to make Xu Lan angry. If Xu Lan really lost her temper, even ten Xia Wens would not be able to appease her!

"Ahem, has everyone finished eating?" Xia Mao said as he wiped his mouth.

As Xia Mao spoke, he looked at his brothers who were seated next to him. The fact was that everyone ate as fast as him. What he said was meant for Tan Jing.

Tan Jing immediately put down her bowl and chopsticks and said on tenterhooks, "I'm done..."

"Xia Wen, Tan Jing, the two of you come with me into the study." Xia Mao stood up and patted Xu Lan's shoulder, saying, "Ask Xia He to come along too."

"Xiao He is still sleeping. She had stayed up all night to take care of Qiao Mei," Xu Lan said.

"Then let her rest well. It's not a big deal," Xia Mao said.

Tan Jing lowered her head slightly. She just knew it. As long as it was something related to Qiao Mei, everyone would downplay any issue and not pursue it at all.

The four of them went to Qiao Mei's study in the front yard. Qiao Mei had specially made the study a soundproof room. Even if firecrackers were being set off outside, nothing could be heard in the room. Qiao Mei had also specially designed a bell. If the people outside needed to contact the people in the study, they could pull the rope at the door to ring the bell in the room.

Xia Mao sat down on the rocking chair beside the desk and just leaned back quietly without saying anything. Qiao Mei really liked this type of wooden rocking chair, so she bought one for each room. She found it very comfortable to take a nap in the chair. Xu Lan sat at the side and made tea, not saying anything. Xia Wen and Tan Jing stood in the middle of the room, feeling lost.

After a long time, Xia Wen said, "Father."

"Hmm, you can't maintain your composure anymore? Have I taught you everything for nothing?" Xia Mao said.

Xia Wen chuckled and said, "I keep thinking but I can't work out what's going on. You're right, I indeed can't manage to keep my composure."

"Tan Jing, tell us. What have you been doing recently?" Xia Mao asked as he sat up.

Tan Jing immediately panicked. She did not know what Xia Mao was referring to. Was it about her being fired from school, or about her family asking Qiao Mei for a house, or... about the matter of the child.

"Father, I just stay home and don't even go out much. I usually just cook at home or something..." Tan Jing whispered.

Xia Mao was a man and the head of the family. It would be beneath his position to argue with a junior or say anything harsh. It was better to leave such matters to Xu Lan. After all, Tan Jing was their daughter-in-law and it would sound very harsh if he was the one who raised these issues.

"Why did you go back to the Tan family's house so suddenly yesterday?" Xu Lan asked.

“Tan Jing suddenly felt homesick, so she rushed back and did not inform Father and Mother. She told me but I was careless and did not pass on the information.” Xia Wen decided to take on all the blame. After all, Tan Jing was still his wife.

“You don’t have to speak up for her on this matter. She knows very well what she has done,” Xu Lan said.

Tan Jing pondered carefully about whether she had been too careless in her actions. It was very likely that they found out about what she did yesterday because for the sake of convenience, she had asked the Xia family’s driver if he could send her back to the Tan family’s house.

It was unlikely that the Tan family had already told the Xia family about the matter of the child. These two elders were probably just trying to probe and find out from her what was going on. As long as she refused to admit it, the Xia family would not find out about this matter.

“My father was not feeling well, so I had to rush back,” Tan Jing said.

Chapter 1084 Owe Debts Everywhere

"Is that so? I think your father's health is still quite good. Not long ago, he went to one of the state-owned restaurants for a meal but made the reservation under the Xia family. The manager of the restaurant called our house. Otherwise, I wouldn't even know that the Xia family owes money outside!" Xu Lan said angrily.

This was the first time Xu Lan had encountered something so crass. The Tan family usually did not dare to make use of the Xia family's name so blatantly. However, that day, Tan Bo had invited many of his old friends to the capital and they all knew that Tan Bo had a capable son-in-law. They decided to trick Tan Bo into going to the restaurant and it was too late by the time Tan Bo realized it.

After Tan Bo drank too much, he spoke without thinking and generously offered to pay for everything. However, he did not have any money at all. Not only that, he would not be able to pay for the entire meal even if he asked the Tan family members to pool together all their money.



By right, the state-owned restaurant did not allow credit payment. Even if the restaurant operator himself came for a meal, he had to pay cash too.

However, during that point in time, the Xia family was in the limelight because of the so-called "divine medicine". If anyone could get the chance to help the Xia family in any way, they would definitely grab it with both hands and try their best to curry favor with the Xia family. They would definitely try their best to do whatever they could. It was an opportunity that no one else had!

After running a business in the capital for many years, the restaurant operator had his own connections. When he received confirmation that Tan Bo was indeed the Xia family's in-law, he hurriedly sent over another bottle of good wine. After that, when Tan Bo asked to pay on credit, he decided to settle the bill first, just so that he could get the Xia family's phone number and be able to contact them in the future.

"My... my father might have left the wrong phone number! He couldn't have done it on purpose! After all, he was drunk at that time and not in the right frame of mind, so it's possible that he made a mistake!" Tan Jing explained in a state of panic.

Xu Lan had already guessed that Tan Jing would quibble about it, so she took out three or four receipts with thumbprints on them. These were proof of the debts that Tan Bo had racked up over the past week in the name of the Xia family. Xu Lan had kept the receipts after she made payment.

"Look at all these and then explain to me why your father ran up so many debts out there but left behind the Xia family's phone number. These are only from the stores which proactively came to settle the bills. We don't even know how many more stores there are!" Xu Lan smacked the table and yelled angrily.

These receipts added up to more than 80 dollars, which was already one and a half months' worth of salary for an ordinary family. If this continued, it would cost the Xia family more than 400 dollars a month! Even if the Xia family was rich, they would not be able to handle such excessive expenses!

Xia Wen could not find a way to defend Tan Jing. The Tan family had already become a sore point for the Xia family. Every family would have a few poor relatives and it was not a big deal. Everyone just hoped that their poor relatives were not unreasonable people who went around causing trouble everywhere. Otherwise, no matter how rich one was, one would not be able to reverse the damages done!

There were truly very few families who could tolerate the Tan family's despicable behavior. It was already nice enough for the Xia family to have tolerated it until now.

"It's useless even if you don't speak up. We have to clear up this matter today. This is only the first thing I want to talk to you about today. Don't think that your Tan family can do things in secret. Is it your intention to adopt a child from the extended Tan family? That child is coming to the capital soon, right?" Xu Lan looked at Xia Wen after saying that.

Xia Wen's face was filled with shock. He did not know about this at all. Although Tan Jing had mentioned the matter of adoption to him some time ago, he had told her that now was not the right time. He was not ready to bring up a child yet and there were still many things for him to handle in the Xia family. Also, Xia Mao had not fully recovered yet, so he had tons of things to do.

He barely even had time to take a breather at night and get some sleep. There was no way that he would have time to take care of a child.

"I... I..." Tan Jing stammered, unable to speak properly.

"Xiao Wen, what do you think about this matter?" Xia Mao asked suddenly from where he was seated.

Xia Wen did not know what to do either. The Xia family had already suffered a lot at the hands of the Tan family and he still had not come up with a good solution yet. The Tan family was not afraid of falling out with them at all. They were people who had nothing to begin with, so it was useless even if the Xia family went to reason with them.

He would have to let Xia Mao and Xu Lan decide on this matter because no matter what he did, he would get into trouble. He would either break his parents' hearts or damage his relationship with Tan Jing.

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Chapter 1085 You Are A Little Magnate

Firstly, the Tan family did not have any money, and secondly, they were incapable of talking nicely to other people. When things were in their favor, they would behave arrogantly and look down on others. They would talk down to people loudly and boorishly.

When things were not in their favor, they were never worried. They would sit on the ground and cry and weep for three days and three nights. As long as they persevered with such behavior, there was nothing they could not achieve.

They were more than willing to hang themselves at the entrance of the Xia family residence and see who would find it more embarrassing! It would be terrible for the Xia family if word got out that they wanted to force their in-laws to their deaths for that bit of money!

If the descendants of the Xia family still wanted to make a name for themselves in the future, they must always maintain a good reputation.

The thing about reputation was that once one's reputation was tarnished, there were many aftereffects. At best, it would not be easy for the children in one's family to get married since no one from a reputable family would be willing to be part of one's family. At worst, all the members of one's family would have tough lives and become looked down upon and ignored by others.

The Tan family had banked on this fact to exert control over the Xia family. They knew that the Xia family did not have time to waste on the Tan family. Moreover, Xia Wen would not bear to put Tan Jing in a difficult position. However, from the looks of it now, it was Tan Jing's weakness which allowed the Tan family to become so demanding and ungrateful.

"Let's sum up the amount of money which the Tan family had borrowed from us in the past five years. One must put the saddle on the right horse. We'll ask them to repay all the money they owe us. Otherwise, we'll file a police report," Xia Wen said firmly.

Tan Jing looked at Xia Wen and said, "Do you intend to drive my parents to their graves! They're already so old and you want them to scramble to pay the debts! How do you want them to live for the rest of their lives!"

"Is this a bad time?" Qiao Mei whispered as she gently pushed open the door.

Xu Lan hurriedly got up to let Qiao Mei in. Xia He followed behind Qiao Mei. When Xia He woke up and heard that Xia Mao and Xu Lan were looking for her and had asked her to go to the study, she asked Qiao Mei to join her. She was a little afraid to go into the study alone. She had been very obedient recently and had not done anything wrong, so she did not know why they had asked for her presence.

"Why are you here when you're not feeling well? You should sleep a little longer. Did we make too much noise and wake you up?" Xu Lan asked.

Qiao Mei shook her head. It was not a must for her to come in, but she had heard from Xia Xiu that the matter was more serious this time, so she accompanied Xia He to come and see what was going on.

"I'm just wondering what's happening. From what Eldest Sister-in-law said just now, is our family having money issues?" Qiao Mei probed.

"It's not our family. If our family is short of money, we will definitely let you know. You're the little magnate here," Xu Lan said gently.

Xu Lan's attitude was a complete opposite from when she spoke to Tan Jing just now. The speed at which she changed her demeanor was astounding.

"The key thing is not the money. What's most important for us is what else has your Tan family done while using the Xia family's name? You'd better give us all the details," Xu Lan said sternly as she looked at Tan Jing.

The truth was that Tan Jing did not know either. The Tan family would never tell her about what they did. Most of the time, she was just taking the blame for trouble which they caused on their own.

Qiao Mei suddenly took out 12 receipts from her pocket. The contents of these receipts were similar to the ones Xu Lan had produced. These were all signed off by various shopkeepers.

"I haven't had the chance to tell all of you about this. After I reached the capital, many people came to ask me for money. I didn't think it was a big deal since each bill was just tens of dollars and I kept forgetting to tell Eldest Brother and Eldest Sister-in-law about this. I hope it's not too late to bring up this issue now," Qiao Mei said.

Xia Wen's ears flushed red. He did not expect that there were people who had gone to look for Qiao Mei. The thing was that Qiao Mei had produced even more receipts than Xu Lan and the amounts were also larger.

Although he was their eldest brother, it was his sister-in-law and sister who were cleaning up the mess at home. It was really too embarrassing!

"Why do you still have such things too! I hope they didn't do anything to you!" Xu Lan asked worriedly.

"No, these people are all from proper shops. When they came, they were all very polite. They probably heard that Auntie Tan had come to my place to kick up a fuss a few times, so they came to look for me," Qiao Mei said.

Xu Lan's eyes widened even more. Jiang Yi had actually gone to look for Qiao Mei! When exactly did this happen! Why was it that she did not know anything about it!

Chapter 1086 | Guarantee There Will Not Be A Next Time

That old b\*tch, Jiang Yi, only had those same few tricks up her sleeves. Whatever she had done at Qiao Mei's place was intended to scare Qiao Mei into submitting to her requests.

As the saying went, one would never visit unless one needed something. She would never give up easily before she got something she wanted.

"Why are you only telling me about this now! Did you get hurt?" Xu Lan turned to look at Tan Jing angrily and roared, "Tan Jing! What exactly is your mother trying to do! It's one thing for your family to come to the Xia family to cause trouble, but now they want to disturb Qiao Mei and her family! What more does your Tan family want!"

Whenever it was anything related to Qiao Mei, Xu Lan would get very worked up! If someone hurt Qiao Mei, Xu Lan would not let that person off easily. If she had to, she would chase that person to the ends of the earth and tear that person into pieces!

"I... I don't know about this either. My mother and the rest of the family never discuss anything with me. There's nothing I can do about it," Tan Jing said as she lowered her head.

It was the same story all over again... Xu Lan was always biased towards Qiao Mei. This was only a matter of Qiao Mei being reprimanded by an elder, so how could it be considered a serious matter? Jiang Yi could be considered Qiao Mei's elder. It was not a big deal for her to come and pay a visit.

"There's nothing you can do? These are your parents! If you don't have a solution, are we supposed to find a solution for you? You don't agree with our plan to have the Tan family return the money they borrowed and yet you can't come up with a solution. Does the Xia family look like suckers to you? Are we an easy target for your Tan family? Are the two of you going to repay this debt? Do you know how much money the Tan family has taken from the Xia family over the past five years?" Xu Lan questioned.

Tan Jing and Xia Wen had been married for more than 10 years and it was already impossible to calculate everything in detail after so many years. Xu Lan and Xia Mao had only started to carefully record everything which the Tan family had taken from them in recent years. They had no idea initially, but they got a shock once they did the math. In the past five years, the Tan family had taken more than 20,000 dollars from them. This did not include the value of any physical items. Just the cash alone was more than 20,000 dollars.

There was no wonder that Xia Wen did not have any savings at all after so many years. Everything he owed had been taken away by the Tan family. In addition, Tan Jing gave away all the valuable things in their house, leaving nothing behind.

The Tan family was like leeches sucking on the Xia family. In the past, the leeches were small so the damage was not obvious. As time passed, these leeches were almost as thick as bamboo sticks now. If they were not completely eliminated, the Xia family would be destroyed by the Tan family sooner or later!

"But my parents really don't have the ability to repay the money. It's difficult for them to even support themselves, so how can they repay the money?" Tan Jing said.

"Eldest Sister-in-law, don't you still have so many younger siblings at home? They must have taken a portion of that money too. Shouldn't they help to repay the money? They are all young and healthy adults, so it shouldn't be difficult for them to repay the debt, right?" Xia He looked at Tan Jing mockingly.

Tan Jing looked troubled. It was already good enough if her younger brothers did not do anything illegal and she did not expect them to have any money. If they were people who knew how to save money, they would not have ended up like this.

"Even if we put aside the issue about the money, what about the matter of the child? We can't delay the resolution of this issue," Xu Lan asked Tan Jing.

"The child... the child is just coming to the capital for a visit. He's just here to take a look and visit his relatives," Tan Jing said guiltily.

Xia Wen took a step forward and said, "Father, Mother, let me handle these issues."

"Let you handle them? That's what you told us the last time. In the end, you took everything upon yourself. The current issue is much bigger than before. Are you still going to take it upon yourself?" Xu Lan said with heartache.

Xia Wen had always been her most sensible child and she rarely needed to worry about him. However, this child was always muddle-headed when it came to Tan Jing and always took all the blame on himself. This could not be the solution and it would only make things worse.

If Xia Wen could not bear to make a hard decision, then she would have to do it for him. She definitely could not allow the Tan family to continue causing harm to the Xia family.

"Mother, let Eldest Sister-in-law think about how to solve this problem. After all, it's related to her family. No one knows the Tan family better than Eldest Sister-in-law," Qiao Mei said.

Tan Jing thought for a long time before saying, "I... I'll go back and advise my parents and the other family members to behave themselves and not cause any more trouble."

"Is that all?" Xu Lan asked.

"Yes, that's right. I guarantee it! There won't be a next time!" Tan Jing swore.

Even if Tan Jing was willing to make a cursed oath, she would not be able to gain Xu Lan's trust. However, the thing was that both Xia Mao and Xu Lan also did not know how to handle this matter.

Chapter 1087 You Can Make Your Own Decision

Tan Jing had no status in the Tan family. Even if the Xia family wanted to use Tan Jing as a bargaining chip, it would be useless. They had no way to threaten the Tan family at all.

That was unless... unless Xia Wen and Tan Jing got a divorce. Then there would be no reason for the Tan family to come and look for the Xia family anymore.

However, Xia Wen would never agree to this solution even if he already had a good reason for it. Xia Wen was the Xia family's eldest male in his generation and Tan Jing did not have any children after more than 10 years of marrying into the Xia family. Based on this fact, even if word got out that Xia Wen and Tan Jing had gotten a divorce, no one would not say anything bad about the Xia family.

"I'll pay back all the money borrowed by the Tan family as soon as I can. Father, Mother, please let me know the total amount," Xia Wen said apologetically.

"Xia Wen, this is not the outcome we want. If you're the one who's going to repay this debt, we might as well just leave it. We only want the Tan family to pay it back, no one else. You've already cleaned up the Tan family's mess for so many years. Are you going to clean up the mess again this time? Are you going to continue indulging the Tan family in the future?" Xu Lan said.

Tan Jing's face instantly fell. Although she sometimes also felt that her parents and brothers go overboard with their requests, what did it matter if they asked for help from her in-laws? Why did they have to be so calculative?

Xia Mao coughed lightly twice and stood up. "We won't help the Tan family settle any more debts in the future. We have already informed everyone out there about this. The Tan family's creditors will probably go knocking on their door very soon. We won't talk about these few sums of money or whatever happened in the past anymore. As for the matter about the child, Xia Wen, you should deal with it yourself."



"I understand, Father. I'll think about it carefully," Xia Wen said respectfully.

Tan Jing panicked. They already owed the Xia family nearly 1,000 dollars by now. The Tan family probably still owed more debts amounting to a similar amount. If the Xia family was unwilling to help anymore, the creditors would come looking for her! She had experienced such a thing before and did not want it to happen again.

"Father! This won't do! My parents don't have the ability to repay the debts. In that case, these people will come and look for me! Father! Save me! Xia Wen and I are husband and wife! You can't just leave Xia Wen in the lurch! Please treat it as you're saving Xia Wen!" Tan Jing knelt on the ground and said as she looked at Xia Mao.

Xu Lan was so angry that she wanted to flip the table. She was never calculative with the Tan family because of the fact that Xia Wen and Tan Jing were husband and wife and they were bound together for good or ill. The Xia family did not want Xia Wen to suffer too much, so they repeatedly helped the Tan family and cleaned up their mess. However, this was not a reason for the Tan family to hold them ransom!

"You don't have the ability to restrain your parents so you use my son to threaten us. You're such a good daughter-in-law of the Xia family!" Xu Lan said angrily.

"I'm not! I really have no choice! If the creditors go to my family, they will definitely ask the creditors to come and look for me! But we also don't have much money left!" Tan Jing said aggrievedly.

Xu Lan could not take it anymore. She smacked the table angrily and pointed at Tan Jing as she said, "Then is my son a sucker! Does our Xia family owe you anything! Your family is the one who does all these things and it's also your family's debts! But now you want us to repay the debts for you! Dream on! We don't have a daughter-in-law like you!"

"Mother!" Xia Wen said sternly.

If he allowed Xu Lan to continue, she might say something overboard.

"You can make your own decision on this matter. Come and talk to me after you've decided," Xia Mao said.

Xia Mao was feeling tired after this long session. He grabbed hold of Xu Lan to go back to the backyard to chat with his siblings. There was no question that Xia Wen would pay Qiao Mei back for the share that she borne. They could not let every member of the family clean up the mess for the Tan family.

"Father and Mother have gone out and it'll be noon soon. Elder sister and I have to go and check if the food is ready." Qiao Mei found a random reason to drag Xia He away. Xia He was actually unwilling to leave and wanted to stay in the study to see what happened next.

Even after the door to the study was closed, Xia He still looked back repeatedly with reluctance. Qiao Mei quickly pulled Xia He towards the main hall. If they continued to stay there, Xia He and Tan Jing would probably get into a fight.

"Why did you leave so quickly! I still want to see what's happening!" Xia He said aggrievedly.

"Do you think Eldest Brother doesn't have enough on his plate? He already has to worry about so many things. If you continue to sit there, then how can he have a good talk with our sister-in-law?" Qiao Mei said disdainfully.

Chapter 1088 Wanting A Child

After everyone left, Xia Wen walked dispiritedly to the chair beside him and sat down. Recently, he had been avoiding having any interactions with Tan Jing. Every time he said something to Tan Jing, they would end up leaving on bad terms. Tan Jing was also much more willful than before and would start kicking up a fuss whenever things did not go her way.

Xia Wen looked at Tan Jing helplessly. The issue with the Tan family was simple and difficult at the same time. Moreover, the Tan family was the one who could decide on their own fate, not Tan Jing.

Even if Tan Jing and Xia Wen stood on the same side and joined forces to deal with the Tan family, they would not be able to achieve anything. The Tan family was more than willing to fight to the death with them and they would even end up benefiting in the end.

After all, one who was down would fear no fall. If one already had nothing to lose, what else was there to be afraid of?

"Let's talk about the money issue later. Let's talk about the most important thing first. What is this thing about a child? Why would my parents find out about something like this?" Xia Wen said as he massaged the space between his eyebrows.

"I actually came back today to discuss this matter with you. I don't know how the news got out, but I did tell my mother that I want to adopt that child," Tan Jing said as she looked at Xia Wen self-righteously.

As soon as Xia Mao and Xu Lan left, Tan Jing immediately showed her true self. She did not even want to pretend in front of Xia Wen anymore. She was really too tired.

"Didn't I already say that now is not the best time to adopt a child? If you adopt a child now, where does that leave Qiao Mei and her babies? How do you expect my parents to deal with it?" Xia Wen questioned.

Qiao Mei was about to give birth anytime. Xia Wen was not worried about this matter affecting Qiao Mei. He was actually worried that the adopted child would feel uncomfortable.

Qiao Mei's two babies would definitely be the focus of the entire family. After all, they were the biological grandchildren of Xia Mao and Xu Lan. The two of them were already at the age when their peers' grandchildren were already in elementary school. Yet, they had only just become grandparents. It was inevitable that they would dote on the babies a lot.

At that time, everyone's attention would be on Qiao Mei's babies. Who would pay attention to the child that he and Tan Jing just adopted? Moreover, this child did not have the approval of the family. Even after the child joined the Xia family, everyone would at most be nice to him, but it was probably impossible for them to really like him.

On one hand, this child would have already lost his biological parents. Yet, on the other hand, he would feel unvalued in the Xia family. Instead of something like that happening, it was better not to adopt him and cause him to suffer for no good reason. It was not good for his personal growth and this

psychological trauma from his childhood would affect him for the rest of his life. Xia Wen did not want to see such a thing happen.

"What does this child have to do with Qiao Mei! Don't tell me we need Qiao Mei's approval for our own family matters now! Do I need Qiao Mei's permission for everything I do!" Tan Jing said furiously.

Her mind was simply filled with thoughts of Qiao Mei now and she did not bother to understand what Xia Wen was trying to say. She only held on to her belief that she was being rejected by "Qiao Mei", "Father and Mother" and Xia Wen, and she stubbornly refused to listen to Xia Wen.

"Can you calm down? This is not the time to let your emotions get the better of you. You're not young anymore, so why can't you consider the big picture? Is it appropriate to adopt a child at this time? Have you observed the child's character properly? You made such a reckless decision to have him sent over. Do you even respect my family's opinions?" Xia Wen said with a frown.

"This is my child! Do I need your parents' permission to have my own child!" Tan Jing asked in disbelief.

"How can it just be your child! Does the issue have nothing to do with me? Does it have nothing to do with the Xia family?" Xia Wen asked.

Tan Jing was speechless for a moment. If she threw a tantrum now and said that this child had nothing to do with the Xia family, her plan would fail. In that case, this child would not be able to help her get a share of the Xia family's assets and she would not gain anything. Instead, everyone would blame her.

"I... I really want a child of my own..." Tan Jing said pitifully as she looked at Xia Wen.

It was not as if Xia Wen did not want that as well. He had always liked children. Whenever there were children around him, he would look intently at them, especially the girls. He used to fantasize about what his own child would be like, what he wanted to teach the child and what kind of person his child would become.

However, it was just a dream. Till this day, Tan Jing had not told Xia Wen the truth yet.

Chapter 1089 It Is Just Not Possible

Tan Jing had always refused to go to the hospital for a checkup, so no one had any conclusive evidence of Tan Jing being infertile or facing difficulty in getting pregnant. They could not accuse her without any proof.

Furthermore, Tan Jing could not handle any such discussions. As long as the matter of having children was mentioned in front of Tan Jing, she would always kick up a fuss. Sometimes, she would even cry for a few days. In the end, Xu Lan and the rest of the family simply did not care anymore.

"I know you want a child, and I'm not saying that it's impossible, but this is really not the right time. Besides... do you know the child's character and personality? Won't you just be hurting the child if you bring him back so rashly?" Xia Wen said.

Ever since Xia Wen found out that Tan Jing had such an intention, he had carried out an investigation in secret. He had already found out everything about that child. His family was not an honest family at all.

This family did not even have any actual blood relations with the Tan family at all. They had spouted some nonsense to lie to the Tan family. Their family was really too poor and this sinister man used his children as tools to earn money. His wife had not stopped getting pregnant for the past few years and she just kept giving birth. Once they could not afford to feed the child, they would sell the child away.

The man's current wife was his second wife. His first wife had bled profusely when she was giving birth and both lives were lost. Neither one could be saved.

Using this method, this man was able to support his family during the past few years. They were going to sell this child to Tan Jing for the same reason this time round.

They were not after Tan Jing's money, but the golden mountain known as the Xia family. The child was already grown and was not an infant who did not know anything. As long as they could keep this child under their control, they would be able to enjoy endless wealth.

Xia Wen knew this very well, which was why he did not agree to adopt this child. There were so many pitiful children in the orphanage who would be a better choice. He was the eldest son of the Xia family and he could not take such a risk.

"Let's go to the orphanage to adopt an adorable child after this period of time. We really can't do this right now," Xia Wen said as gently as he could as he looked at Tan Jing.

"Why! Why can she have her own child! And I have to wait! Why can't I have a child of my own! Is it wrong for me to want to have a child now! Why do you have to treat me like this!" Tears welled up in Tan Jing's eyes. She just could not understand why Qiao Mei was so lucky but nothing went smoothly for her.

"No means no! This matter is non-negotiable! Don't you know the real reason why! There are some things that become meaningless if they are spelt out too clearly." Xia Wen's patience was completely exhausted by Tan Jing. He had already endured her for a long time.

Tan Jing looked at Xia Wen. The way Xia Wen looked at her was as if he was looking at a stranger, no, an enemy. In the past, Xia Wen had always looked at her with a smile on his face, making her feel as if there was a warm spring breeze blowing at her. During those moments, it felt as if no problem was too big to be solved. However, what had caused this to change?

She could not figure it out, nor did she want to. All these people from the Xia family did not understand her nor like her. The only person they liked was Qiao Mei. As long as Qiao Mei was around, she would not have a good life...

Yes! As long as Qiao Mei was around, she would not have a place in this family! As long as Qiao Mei's children were around, she would not be able to have her own child!

So all of this was Qiao Mei's fault! It was all Qiao Mei's fault!

"Qiao Mei... That's right... It's her... It's because of Qiao Mei... It's all because of this b\*tch..." Tan Jing muttered softly to herself.

Xia Wen tried to listen carefully but he could not hear what Tan Jing was saying. Suddenly, Tan Jing rushed out of the room and headed straight for Qiao Mei's bedroom.

As long as Qiao Mei and her babies were eliminated! Everything would return to its original state!

"Let me tell you..." Qiao Mei was chatting and laughing with Xia He when she looked up and saw the fierce-looking Tan Jing with something in her hand. Qiao Mei asked tentatively, "Eldest Sister-in-law? What's the matter?"

"Qiao Mei! I'm going to kill you!!!" Tan Jing raised the small garden shovel which she had picked up in the courtyard and rushed angrily towards Qiao Mei. Xia He reacted quickly and kicked Tan Jing to the ground, snatching the shovel from her hands and pinning Tan Jing tightly to the ground so that she could not move.

Chapter 1090 Punishment

When Xia Wen heard the screams, he hurriedly rushed over. He was shocked by the scene in front of him. Tan Jing, who would not even dare to slaughter a chicken at home, actually wanted to kill Qiao Mei!

"What are you waiting for! Quickly tie her up with a rope!" Xia He turned and shouted angrily at Xia Wen as she held Tan Jing down.

Xia Wen stood rooted to the spot and felt at a loss. That was his wife after all. How could he tie her up?

Xia He did not have time to waste with Xia Wen and asked Qiao Mei to go into the room to get some rope. Qiao Mei quickly ran to the bedroom and found some thick hemp rope under the bed and handed it to Xia He. Without another word, Xia He tied Tan Jing up.

"Xia He! Let go of me! I won't let you off! Ugh!!!" Before Tan Jing could say anything more, Xia He stuffed a handkerchief into her mouth.

This woman was so noisy that it gave her a headache. Tan Jing wriggled on the ground like a worm. Xia He tied Tan Jing to a table leg at the side so that she could not move.

There was nothing that Xia Wen could do about this. Even if he wanted Xia He to let Tan Jing off, Tan Jing had wanted to kill Qiao Mei just now. Given that she had made such a huge mistake, there was nothing he could do even if he wanted to protect her.

When everyone in the backyard heard the commotion, they hurriedly rushed to the front yard. Qiao Qiang and Xia Jun were at the forefront, both of them worried about Qiao Mei's safety.

Once Qiao Qiang reached the door and saw that Qiao Mei was safe and sound, he said to Xia Jun with a dark expression, "What a fantastic granddaughter-in-law you have. This is the second time she has tried to take my granddaughter's life. Her mother has also been here once. Altogether, they have already done this at least four times. This is your family matter, so I'll leave it to you. I'm going back to take a rest."

The underlying meaning of his words was that he blamed Xia Jun for everything. It was not acceptable for a Qiao family member to join the Xia family just to suffer grievances. These people had been coming to create trouble every few days and even wanted to get Qiao Mei killed. If the Xia family could continue tolerating such behavior, then Qiao Qiang must make a move to demand an explanation from the Xia family.

Although it looked as if Qiao Qiang spent all his time in the backyard and occasionally went for walks in the park, he knew everything that was going on at home. He did not want to worry about it because Qiao Mei was able to handle it well, but if anyone wanted to hurt Qiao Mei, he would be the first to take action!

Xia Jun walked into the house with a dark expression and slowly walked up to Tan Jing with his walking stick. Tan Jing curled up in a corner and looked up at Xia Jun with a murderous aura. His eyes seemed to be able to see through Tan Jing's heart. In front of Xia Jun, she had no chance of winning at all. She was like an egg that could be smashed with a light tap.

"Xia He, bring Qiao Mei into the room. The rest of you, stand at the side." Xia Jun came to the master seat opposite the main door and slowly sat down.



Tan Jing was now tied up like a dumpling and could not move at all. She could only lean against the table leg and sit there uncomfortably to look at the people in the room.

Xia He helped Qiao Mei back into the bedroom. No one would not be able to plead for leniency on Tan Jing's behalf. Now that Xia Jun was made aware, it would not even be enough for Tan Jing to have 10 lives.

"I'm already old and I don't want to care about the family affairs anymore, but look at what all of you have done! Do you intend to anger me to death!" Xia Jun growled angrily.

Xia Mao quickly said, "Father, it's all my fault. I haven't disciplined my children well."

"Xiao Wen, tell me what you think and what you're planning," Xia Jun asked Xia Wen.

The question which Xia Wen had heard the most today was about what he planned to do. He was also in a mess and did not know how to resolve these matters. The Tan family refused to let go and Tan Jing was also very stubborn nowadays. Xia Wen was really at a loss.

"If you don't speak, then I'll decide for you. I've also heard a little about the issues with the Tan family. All these years, your father has also come to me for help at times. I don't think he has ever told you about it. I don't care about the Tan family's matters, but I have to give Qiao Mei an explanation today. I can't let it go so easily," Xia Jun said with a frown.

"Mmm!!! Mmm!!!" Tan Jing yelled with all her might. Her mouth was gagged and she could not say a word. Even if he wanted to punish her, he should at least give her a chance to speak! He could not just pass judgment without hearing from her!