

Fat Wife 1101

Chapter 1101 The Same Problem

"Oh my, I've long heard from Xiao Jing that she has a fairly close friend who has a good temper and nice personality, and who's also a kind person. This friend will help her out every time she runs into any difficulties. I suppose you're the person whom Xiao Jing speaks about! My Xiao Jing doesn't have many good friends. It's so good that you think of her and have come to visit her," Jiang Yi said with a smile.

Judging from the glint in her eyes, it was as if she was not looking at Cheng Gu, but at the God of Fortune!

As long as she could manage to get some money from Cheng Gu today, it was not an issue for her even if she had to wait on him or sing high praises of him or take very good care of him.

"Oh, she has even told you about me! I thought she would just forget about me..." Cheng Gu lowered his head and said embarrassedly.

"That's right, she has mentioned you more than once! She says she's very grateful and that she's looking for an opportunity to invite this friend over to our house, but hasn't found the chance yet. I never expect you to come over yourself! This is really fate!" Jiang Yi said.

Actually, Tan Jing had never mentioned anything about Cheng Gu at home. Even Xia Wen did not know about the existence of this person.

Tan Jing had never brought home any friends since she was young. When it came to the topic of friends, it would be more accurate to say that Tan Jing refused to make any friends at all. She felt that she did not deserve to have friends!

Tan Jing's first job was not something she expected. The moment she graduated, she started doing odd jobs in a canteen. She was in charge of washing the dishes and pots every day and rinsing the vegetables needed for each day. There were more than 2,000 people in the entire factory and there were only two canteen staff rinsing the vegetables, an old master and her.

This old master took very good care of Tan Jing and even taught her many shortcuts. He would tell her about his experiences in his life and she benefited greatly from every session.

Not long after, this old master retired and his daughter took over his position. This was because Tan Jing was about the same age as his daughter and the two girls had hit it off very well. They could chat about everything under the sun.

For some reason, Jiang Yi found out about this. At that time, Tan Jing's salary was only about 30 dollars a month, which was barely enough for her living expenses. Every month, she still had to send eight dollars to her family. One day, Jiang Yi took advantage of Tan Jing's day off to go to the canteen to cause a scene and cheated the old master's daughter out of a lot of money.

Tan Jing felt very apologetic about this matter, so she quickly cut off all contact with the girl and quit the factory job to work elsewhere. When she found a new job, she tried her best to repay the money that Jiang Yi had taken.

From then on, Tan Jing did not make friends with anyone else, regardless of gender.

Tan Jing felt that being her friend seemed to be akin to going through suffering. As long as it was someone or something related to Tan Jing, Jiang Yi would do everything she could to get some benefits from them. She would not give up until she achieved her goal.

"I haven't done much. We're friends, so it's only right for us to help each other," Cheng Gu said gently.

After chatting for a long time, Jiang Yi had a rough understanding of Cheng Gu's temperament. She sat down enthusiastically beside him and held his hand as she said, "What's your name? Where do you live? What do you do now? How long have you known our Xiao Jing?"

This series of questions stunned Cheng Gu. Was this how the Tan family treated their guests? Why did every Tan family member come over to ask him these questions? Furthermore, they were all the same and even in the same order.

Out of courtesy, Cheng Gu answered Jiang Yi's question in full detail. Jiang Yi's expression then changed a little. He had an unstable job and he came from an ordinary family. He also did not live in the same

area as other rich people in the capital. The only good thing about him was that he was quite handsome. Apart from that, there was nothing impressive about him.

Jiang Yi's initial enthusiasm gradually died down. She sized up Cheng Gu and said, "Then... did you come empty-handed?"

"Oh... I was really in a hurry to contact Tan Jing. I left in a rush and didn't have time to buy any gifts for you." Cheng Gu quickly took out 100 dollars from his wallet and handed it to Jiang Yi. "Take this money as a gift from me. I hope you don't mind."

"Oh my, you're such a polite child. Then I won't stand on ceremony and I'll accept it. You're really a sensible child and exactly as Tan Jing described. I know that you must be a good kid. I never misjudge people!" Jiang Yi said.

Chapter 1102 Give Me A Call

As soon as Jiang Yi saw money, she immediately smiled brightly. Tan Hu and Tan Bao also hurriedly went into the house to talk to Cheng Gu. They tried to praise him in different ways, but no matter how hard they tried, they could only manage to come up with the same few phrases. The two brothers were uneducated and "handsome" was already the best word they could think of.

It was not until it was almost dark that Tan Jing reached home. At this moment, Cheng Gu was already very tired from the Tan family's shenanigans. His eyes were bloodshot and his throat was so dry it was about to emit smoke. He had never talked so much in his life. Today was the first time in his life that he had to do that.

"Why are you at my house? Who says you can come?" Tan Jing asked with a frown.

Jiang Yi stood up immediately and pointed at Tan Jing as she scolded, "How can you talk to Cheng Gu like that! Apologize to him now! Did you just eat gunpowder? Why are you shouting at him! He comes by to visit you because he is nice and yet you criticize him. Where's all the knowledge you learn from your books! Is this how I teach you!"

Cheng Gu hurriedly held on to Jiang Yi and said, "Auntie, it's fine! She's not doing it on purpose. I'm the one who didn't tell her in advance about my visit today. This is truly my fault."

Tan Jing did not appreciate Cheng Gu's help at all. Before Jiang Yi could say anything polite to him, Tan Jing pulled Cheng Gu out of the door, not giving Jiang Yi and the others any time to react.

"Hey! You're bringing him away just like that! Are you skipping dinner tonight!" Jiang Yi shouted from behind them.

She only shouted out once. After all, Cheng Gu had already given her the money and it did not matter if he left or not. She had expected Cheng Gu to stay for dinner but she could save on the food now!

Tan Jing did not speak to Cheng Gu along the way as they drove to the park where they first met and then sat on the same bench. Tan Jing and Cheng Gu sat next to each other, not knowing what to say.

After a long time, Tan Jing asked, "Why did you go to my house? How did you find my house? Who asked you to go to my house?"

"I... I'm just very worried about your wound and want to come and see you. I had wanted to just steal a glance from outside your house but I didn't see you after waiting for a long time, so I really couldn't help going to your house to ask about you. I didn't expect Auntie to be so enthusiastic, so I didn't leave." Cheng Gu lowered his head guiltily.

He was the one at fault for what happened today. Actually, he had his own selfish motives. He just wanted to see what Tan Jing's parents and her family environment were like. This was so that he could know more about Tan Jing.

"Then don't you know how to give me a call? Why do you have to come to my house to look for me? Do you know how much trouble you'll cause me?" Tan Jing said reproachfully.

Cheng Gu did not retort. After all, he was the one in the wrong. He must make Tan Jing stop being angry with him first. If not for the fact that he really cared about Tan Jing, he would not have done something so overboard.

After Tan Jing reprimanded Cheng Gu, she slowly calmed down. She did not know why she was so angry. Perhaps it was because she was afraid that Jiang Yi would have designs on Cheng Gu. After all, Cheng Gu was just a simple-minded kid. It would be disastrous if he was tricked by Jiang Yi. She did not want to see a repeat of what happened back then.

"Did you give my mother anything?" Tan Jing asked.

"... I gave her some money," Cheng Gu whispered.

"How much?" Tan Jing continued to ask.

"Only a little. After all, I didn't bring any gifts with me for the house visit today. That's my fault, so I gave Auntie some money to buy something she likes," Cheng Gu quickly explained.

"How much!" Tan Jing asked agitatedly.

"100 dollars..." Cheng Gu answered honestly.

Tan Jing was so angry that she could feel some pain in her heart. History was repeating itself. Back then, that good friend of hers had been bullied by Jiang Yi in the same manner. In the end, the relationship between them eventually fell apart.

"Did... did I do something wrong? Don't be angry," Cheng Gu said tentatively.

"I'll think of a way to return the money to you. In the future, if you want to look for me, give me a call first. I'm not always at this house. My relationship with them... is not very good. I think you can tell," Tan Jing said with a deep sigh.

Chapter 1103 What Do You Think

After what happened today, Cheng Gu also understood Tan Jing's plight in the Tan family. However, how could such a nice person like Tan Jing be treated like this?

Perhaps in Jiang Yi's eyes, Tan Jing's biggest mistake was that she did not make any mistake. Jiang Yi had never been able to find any evidence of Tan Jing's wrongdoings to use against her. Jiang Yi also did not have any good reason to go and look for the Xia family. Naturally, she became more irritable and she spoke even harsher than usual. Sometimes, she would even purposely dredge up Tan Jing's painful memories.

She did all these things to provoke Tan Jing into a state of panic so that Tan Jing would speak without thinking, and perhaps even be drawn into saying something that could let her demand a large sum of money from the Xia family.

If Tan Jing had been born into a normal family, she would not have ended up like this. She must have done something wrong in her past life and was reincarnated into the Tan family to suffer during this life.

"I'm sorry... I don't know about these things in your family. I'm just worried about you. It's not my intention to delve into your family background. I'm not doing this on purpose," Cheng Gu lowered his head and said with a sense of guilt.

He looked like a puppy that had done something wrong and was obediently waiting for its owner to reprimand it. If Tan Jing were to reach out with her hand in front of Cheng Gu, Cheng Gu would definitely instinctively put his own hand on Tan Jing's hand.

Seeing Cheng Gu like this, Tan Jing could not bear to reprimand him. After all, Cheng Gu was just too worried to think straight. She was the one who did not make things clear to him, so this matter had something to do with her too.

"It's fine. Now that you see that I'm feeling alright, does that ease your worries?" Tan Jing said with a smile.

Cheng Gu stared into Tan Jing's eyes and thought for a long time before saying sternly, "I'm still worried."

There was a magnetic quality to his voice, like the whisper of an angel that could steal one's soul. If Tan Jing did not clearly know that it was impossible for anything to happen between her and Cheng Gu, she would have been seduced by Cheng Gu.

"I am feeling fine and right in front of you. Why are you still worried? My wound doesn't hurt very much now and I change my dressing and take my medicine on time," Tan Jing said helplessly.

"It's not about your health. The thing is you don't look happy. You have a lot of things on your mind, so many that you can't contain them anymore. Your eyes are filled with fatigue. I can see all these," Cheng Gu said earnestly.

Tan Jing turned away and did not dare to look into Cheng Gu's eyes. Her heart started to pound uncontrollably. This man in front of her, who looked like a kid, could always accurately read her mind. It was as if nothing could escape his eyes. As long as she looked into his eyes for five seconds, he would be able to read her thoughts and she could not hide anything at all.

It had been a long time since she felt her heart race like this. It was as if something was slowly taking root and growing in her heart.

However, how could Cheng Gu understand all those trivial family matters in the Xia family and the Tan family? It would be boring for a person who had never been married to have to listen to all these. Cheng Gu would not understand the bitterness in her heart.

"Why would a kid make a fuss about happiness? How can there be so many happy things in this world? Isn't it normal to feel tired? Don't make a mountain out of a molehill," Tan Jing said.

"But you did not seem unhappy at all when you were with me. Your eyes were smiley then, but now your eyes are misty and I can't see them clearly at all. I'm not a child. I'm a man. You can't keep treating me like a child," Cheng Gu said.

Tan Jing sighed deeply. Perhaps Cheng Gu was someone she could talk to?

She leaned back on the bench and said, "It's an embarrassing thing to talk about. I'm infertile and I want to adopt one of my relatives' children, but my husband and in-laws are not happy about it because my husband's younger brother's wife is going to give birth soon. She's having twins and the entire family is only fully focused on this matter."

Cheng Gu was shocked for a moment before he accepted the fact that Tan Jing was infertile. Not many people could say such things so calmly. Such a matter was actually a lifelong sore point for a woman.

"Well... then what do you think?" Cheng Gu asked.

"What?" Tan Jing was a little surprised. She had thought that Cheng Gu would ask her to avoid doing what she wanted to do during this period of time, like what the Xia family did. She did not expect Cheng Gu to ask her for her opinion.

Chapter 1104 A Perfect Plan

"I mean, what's your own opinion? Since this is what you want to do, then why can't you do it? There are so many issues that you seem to be wary of and trying to avoid. If you can settle all these troublesome issues, won't the problem be easily solved then? Actually, it all depends on whether you are keen to adopt this child or not," Cheng Gu analyzed calmly.

"This is the first time someone has asked me for my opinion. I haven't felt this way in a long time." This was the first time Tan Jing felt relaxed and happy in a while. She had never been so delighted before.

Actually, she was doing all this to fight for a say in the Xia family. She wanted to have a say in the Xia family so that they would pay attention to what she wanted and not always order her around.

"Actually... I don't know either..." Tan Jing said.

In the beginning, Tan Jing knew what she wanted, but at this moment, she already did not know what she really felt inside. She did not know if she was just angry with the Xia family, or she wanted to get a share of the Xia family's assets, or she wanted to adopt a child before she liked children.

So many things had happened recently and she could not calm down and think about it properly. She needed someone to help her with the decision.

"Then can you tell me why your husband doesn't agree?" Cheng Gu asked.

"Because that child is not related to them by blood. He doesn't like my family, so he won't agree to let me adopt the child. He says that he will rather adopt an unrelated child from the orphanage than adopt a child from my family," Tan Jing said with a frown.

If Xia Wen got wind of what she said, they might have another big fight. Tan Jing had completely misinterpreted the Xia family's intentions and did not bother to understand the Xia family's train of thought. In her eyes, everything she did was wrong, so she might as well just go all the way.

"Then why don't you just look within the Xia family for a child?" Cheng Gu said with a smile.

A child from the Xia family? All the children in the Xia family's main family branches had already grown up, so there were no more children for her to adopt. Furthermore, the Xia family did not have many distant relatives. The children from those families were also not young anymore and there was no suitable candidate at all.

"They're very picky. There's no way they'll let me do that. They'll think it's embarrassing!" Tan Jing said as she flapped her hands.

If Xia Jun found out about this, Tan Jing would definitely be severely punished. Xia Jun would never agree to such an embarrassing thing. He would rather Xia Wen be childless than let the Xia family experience such embarrassment.

Cheng Gu pondered for a long time before he said, "Didn't you just say that your sister-in-law is pregnant with twins? That means they have an extra child. You can bring up her child. This is your husband's bloodline and it's perfectly justifiable. Won't this be the best of both worlds? You're even helping their family ease the burden. After all, the two men are biological brothers. They can also be sure that you won't mistreat that child."

Tan Jing felt suddenly enlightened and wondered why she had not thought of such a method! This method satisfied all the Xia family's requirements! It also solved the urgent problem she had at hand. When the time came, it would be justifiable for her to get a share of the Xia family's assets. It was simply too perfect!

"But... will my sister-in-law agree?" Tan Jing asked worriedly.

"As long as your mother-in-law and the rest of the family agree, what else can she say? After all, she has already married into the family. There are so many of you. Can't anyone manage to persuade her?" Cheng Gu said.

The more Tan Jing thought about it, the more she felt that this was a good idea. She did not even stop to say goodbye to Cheng Gu before she hurriedly went to the bus stop and took a bus back to Xu Lan's house to discuss this idea with them.

In the end, as soon as Tan Jing mentioned it, Xu Lan completely tore into her.

"How shameless of you! How dare you have designs on Qiao Mei's babies! Are you crazy!" Xu Lan pointed at Tan Jing and reprimanded her.

This woman was really shameless. The children were not even born yet and she was already thinking about taking one of them, completely disregarding Qiao Mei's safety. Her scheme was so obvious that one must be blind not to see it!

What a scheming and conniving woman. She had been asked to go back and reflect on her mistakes, but after so long, all she did was come up with such a beastly plan! It would have been better for her to just stay here and receive the Xia family's punishments!

"I! I'm also doing this for the sake of the Xia family..." Tan Jing whispered.

Chapter 1105 No One Can Think About Leaving

"You're doing this for the sake of the Xia family! If you want to do something for the sake of the Xia family! Go back to your parents' house and watch over your parents and brothers! Make sure they don't come to the Xia family to ask for money! Don't use the Xia family's name to swindle other people! Do you really not know or are you pretending not to know! Are you proud of what your family has done!" Xu Lan was so angry that she smashed the cup on the coffee table.

Xu Lan had paid a lot of money for all her tea sets and they were all made by grandmasters. Any one piece was worth a lot of money. In the eyes of outsiders, it might not be worth much, but to people in

the know, these were treasures which they would not bear to sell no matter how much money they were offered.

This showed how angry Xu Lan was.

"What does that have to do with anything! They're all the Xia family's children! It's not as if I will abuse the child! The child will still be brought up within the Xia family. Isn't it the same?" Tan Jing explained with a frown.

Xu Lan was so worked up by Tan Jing's words that her heart felt a little uncomfortable. She quickly took out a small medicine bottle from under the coffee table and took two pills to alleviate the pain. This woman could really drive her to her grave.

Liu Fen hurriedly held on to Xu Lan to calm her down. She looked at Tan Jing fiercely and said, "Can you bear to give your child to someone else! Fortunately, you can't have children. Otherwise, you'll destroy the life of a child from the Xia family!"

"Sister Fan! Sister Fan!" Xu Lan shouted with all her might.

Sister Fan rushed out with her apron on, without even turning off the fire under the pot in the kitchen.

"Aye! I'm here!" Sister Fan said.

"Give Xia Wen a call and ask him to get back here! Also, ask Qiao Mei and Xia He to come back! There's trouble in our family!" Xu Lan said angrily.

Seeing that the situation was starting to look bad, Tan Jing wanted to leave quickly and stay away from this place of trouble.

"Sister Fan! Tell the guards outside to lock down the house! Immediately! Let's see who dares to leave through this door today!" Liu Fen roared.

Sister Fan quickly made a phone call to Luo Yu from the guard team. In less than five minutes, Luo Yu brought his team to surround the Xia family's house. Tan Jing had no way of getting out.

"Mother... isn't this a little exaggerated? I'm not a villain. There's no need to do this," Tan Jing said with an awkward smile.

"You're not a villain! You're trying to cause trouble! You think you can do whatever you want in this family! Do you think that your father and I are both dead! Today, let's thrash things out as a family! If we don't resolve this matter today! I won't let it go!" Xu Lan said.

It just so happened that Xia Mao had returned to the army unit to hand over his work today. If Xia Mao was at home, Tan Jing definitely would not dare to speak in this manner. Xia Mao would have just asked someone to throw her out.

After Qiao Mei and Xia He received the phone call, they immediately rushed back. Ever since Qiao Mei was pregnant, Xu Lan had never asked Qiao Mei to do something so tiring. As long as it was something that Xu Lan could handle herself, she would definitely not pass it on to Qiao Mei. If she had asked the two of them to go back so urgently, something major must have happened.

"Do you think that something has happened to Father?" Xia He said fearfully.

"It can't be. Father has already fully recovered. How can he be sick again? Don't worry, it shouldn't be a big deal." Qiao Mei held Xia He's hand and comforted her.

"Then why does she call us back so urgently? Can it be that something's wrong with Grandfather! Or Mother!" Xia He said in fear.

Qiao Mei quickly covered Xia He's mouth and said, "Don't say anything anymore. Otherwise, you'll be making wild guesses about every member of our family. Grandfather's health is even better than yours, yet you say he may be sick? It's more likely for you to be sick! Mother dances every day and is in good health. How can anything be wrong with her? Don't think too much. We'll know when we get there."

Xia He shut her mouth tightly and used this method to alleviate the worry in her heart. When they reached the main entrance of the house, the two of them were completely dumbfounded.

"Luo Yu, what happened? Why are there so many people here?" Xia He asked as she rushed forward.

"We're not sure either. You should go in first. It's cold outside." Luo Yu hurriedly took off his jacket and wrapped it around Xia He as he said with some heartache.

Xia He was not in the mood to think about anything else at all. Not long ago, she had just experienced the pain of almost losing Xia Mao. Was she going to lose someone else now?

Chapter 1106 A Suitable Candidate

Xia He ran straight into the house and Luo Yu's jacket fell to the ground. She shouted loudly, "Mother! Mother! Mother, what's wrong!"

"Lower your voice. I'm fine," Xu Lan said calmly.

"Then what has happened at home that you need us back in such a hurry? Don't you know you almost scare me to death!" Xia He picked up the water bottle from the coffee table and gulped down half a bottle of water. Fortunately, nothing had happened at home, otherwise she did not know what to do next.

Xia Mao had only just recovered. If something happened to Xu Lan, then when Qiao Mei gave birth in the coming days, Xia He would need to play a bigger helping role. She had never given birth before, so she did not know what to do! At this time, nothing must happen at home!

"Mother, I'm back." Qiao Mei slowly walked in through the door with a smile. The angry expression on Xu Lan's face immediately turned gentle.

"Come over and sit down. I hope it's not too tiring for you. If it isn't for something important today, I won't have asked you to come," Xu Lan said with a troubled expression.

"I know. Mother will never come to me unless it's something important," Qiao Mei said.

"Mother, what's the matter? Just say it!" Xia He said unhappily.

"What's the hurry! Your eldest brother isn't back yet! Let's talk about it when he's back," Xu Lan said sulkily.

Tan Jing felt like a cat on a hot tin roof. She wanted to leave, but she could not do so. If she had known earlier that it would end up like this, she would not have come back to discuss this matter with Xu Lan. She would have just gone to look for Qiao Mei directly. If she really could not convince Qiao Mei, she could ask Jiang Yi to go to Qiao Mei's house to make a fuss and they would most likely succeed in what they wanted. She must have really lost her mind to come here to get reprimanded.

Xia Wen did not come back even after two hours. Xu Lan stood at the door and waited. Sister Fan asked tentatively, "Do you want me to call Xiao Wen again?"

"Yes, call him. He must come back today. Tell him that everyone in the family is waiting for him! If he doesn't come back, he can only see my dead body!" Xu Lan said.

Qiao Mei rested on the rocking chair in the corner. Ever since Xu Lan found out that Qiao Mei liked rocking chairs, she had specially created an area for Qiao Mei at home. She had floor-to-ceiling windows installed on the far right side of the ground floor. In the morning, when the sun rose, the sunlight would fill the entire room. There were also many flowers and plants outside and it was very pleasing to the eye.

The design inside the room was also very unique. Behind the rocking chair was a huge bookcase filled with all kinds of books that Qiao Mei liked. The carpet was a shaggy one which Xu Lan had chosen personally. Qiao Mei could lie down on the floor and read comfortably.

Xia He quietly came to Qiao Mei's side and sat down. She whispered, "Why is Mother so angry? Look, Eldest Sister-in-law is also here today. Do you think it's Eldest Sister-in-law who makes Mother angry again?"

"In any case, it's definitely not the two of us who make Mother angry. Just find a spot and take a rest. Don't you find it tiring to think so much? Don't you always argue with me at home about how tired you are every day? Why are you so energetic after coming to Mother's place?" Qiao Mei said.

"How can it be the same! Why are you not curious at all about such a big drama! I have to take a good look at what made Mother go to such lengths. Mother has never activated the guard team all these years! It's only after you married into the family that she gets the guard team to do all kinds of things because she's worried about getting outsiders to do it," Xia He said enviously.

"When you get married, I'll ask Xia Zhe to bring all his brothers-in-arms to do a parade march to celebrate for you, alright? Is this grand enough for you?" Qiao Mei said jokingly.

"Pfft! I'm not going to get married! It's not bad to be alone. Isn't one marriage enough?" Xia He said.

Qiao Mei pointed out of the window mysteriously. They could both see Luo Yu patrolling outside near the door.

"Isn't this a good choice? Why don't you even want to take a look?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"It's not possible between the two of us. He's eight years older than me! Moreover, he talks and behaves exactly like Father. I don't want to marry such a person! I treat him like an elder brother and don't have any other feelings," Xia He explained.

"I thought you don't know that he likes you. You were so heartless just now," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Shoo, shoo, shoo! Stop teasing me! Do you still want your children to receive a big gold lock? If you continue to criticize me, their aunt won't give them any!" Xia He said.

"So be it. Who cares? My children don't like your gold lock anyway," Qiao Mei said with a pout.

Chapter 1107 Blind Date

Xia He reached out and gently touched Qiao Mei's stomach with her fingertips carefully, saying, "The kids want them even if you don't! Otherwise, they'll say that their aunt doesn't dote on them."

"Then you have to stay by my side and say nice things about yourself in front of my stomach every day. Then, they'll definitely feel close to you after they are born. Education has to start from when they are still babies," Qiao Mei said as she looked at Xia He earnestly.

Xia He never had kids and did not know if what Qiao Mei said was true. She had indeed heard about prenatal education from other elders, but she did not quite believe that it would be useful for her to say nice things about herself.

"Are you just trying to trick me into buying a big gold lock? There are only a few days to go before the babies are born. What's the use of me repeating 'Your aunt is the person who's nicest to both of you' to you 24 hours a day?" Xia He said as she stared at Qiao Mei's stomach doubtfully.

Qiao Mei held back her laughter. She was just teasing Xia He and did not expect Xia He to really believe her. It was really cute. What she liked most about Xia He was her forthrightness. She was truly nice to people and was not a calculative person.

Xia He kept staring at Qiao Mei's stomach as she pondered about prenatal education and touched the stomach from left to right. She did not notice Qiao Mei's expression at all. As she thought, she felt that having kids was not such a bad thing after all. However, she also witnessed Qiao Mei's discomfort during the entire pregnancy process, so it made her feel a little conflicted as well.

Her marriage with Kong Lu had already made her feel utterly disappointed. Rather than living with someone else, she preferred to be on her own as she had so much more freedom.

"What are you thinking about? Why are you happy one moment and feeling down the next," Qiao Mei asked softly.

"I'm thinking about what you said. Eldest Brother and my parents all think that Luo Yu is a nice person. Moreover, Eldest Brother says that Luo Yu is not married yet because he's waiting for me. However, the two of us are not compatible at all. I need to find an opportunity to make things clear with him," Xia He said with a troubled expression.

"Don't stress about it. He has never told you how he feels and has always behaved carefully around you all these years. What if he just feels protective of you like a younger sister? Since he has never made it clear, you don't have to be in a hurry to reject him. If he doesn't admit it, the two of you will feel very

awkward in the future. However, you must make sure you don't accept any of his kind gestures, otherwise he will misunderstand," Qiao Mei said.

"I know. I don't really pay much attention to him all this while. Unless it's absolutely necessary, I don't talk to him at all. Sigh... Let's not talk about this anymore. I get very frustrated whenever this issue is mentioned. For the past two days, Mother has been trying to sound me out both openly and covertly. She's thinking of asking me to go on a blind date. I'm not going!" Xia He complained.

Recently, when one of Xu Lan's friends heard that Xia Mao was unwell, she made a call to Xu Lan to express her concern and even sent over a lot of supplements. In such situations, friends would send at most three to five cartons of supplements. Her friend came in a truck and filled up the Xia family's living room with supplements.

Although she said that she was paying Xia Mao a visit, it was actually to sound out Xu Lan and see if it was possible for Xia He and her son to date each other. Her son was six years younger than Xia He, but she was not concerned about age. As long as the two young people liked each other, nothing else mattered.

Xu Lan had watched the boy grow up and knew him well. Furthermore, he lived in the capital, which meant that the couple would not move far away after getting married and would still be near Xu Lan. Furthermore, the two families had always had a good relationship and there was no worries about them not getting along. It all depended on how Xia He felt.

"Then you have to discuss it nicely with Mother. If you get angry with Mother, you won't have an easy time. What if Mother doesn't allow you to stay at my place?" Qiao Mei said.

"I know my own temper too and I have been very careful. I'm just scared that I won't be able to control myself. Whenever Mother mentions this matter nowadays, I'll change the topic so that she'll forget about it. My life has been really difficult recently," Xia He said with a sigh.

"Mother is just concerned about you. She's worried that you won't have anyone to take care of you in the future. However, let her say whatever she wants and you just do whatever you want. It's fine as long as you don't fight about it." Qiao Mei patted Xia He's shoulder and comforted her.

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Chapter 1108 Delay In Getting Home

"Who knows what the future will bring for me. I remember you saying that you want to buy me a house. If I give all my money to your two children, can the two of them handle my funeral affairs in the future?" Xia He asked laughingly.

"Sure, sure, sure! I've already set aside a house for you. I'm just waiting for you to agree," Qiao Mei said.

"Shoo, shoo, shoo. As if I can accept a house from you. I'm just saying for the sake of saying," Xia He said as she flapped her hands.

Another half an hour passed but Xia Wen was still not back yet. Xu Lan became so agitated that she wanted to just burn down the whole house. Xia Wen was usually very proactive in handling the Xia family's affairs, but when it came to his own matters, he would dawdle and make no progress for a long time.

If Xia Wen had curbed Tan Jing's actions much earlier and set out a clear boundary with the Tan family, the Xia family would not have suffered so much! No matter how successful their family was, they could not let the Tan family waste their money like this! Men were all the same. They were not in charge of household matters so they did not know how big household expenses were. What was the use of spending all their time on socializing outside! The family was going to run out of money!

"Sister Fan! Has Xia Wen returned our call?" Xu Lan asked anxiously.

"Not yet. He's probably on his way. Let's wait a little longer. He should be back soon," Sister Fan said in a careful manner.

"Wait, wait, wait! All I do is to wait! Is it wrong of me to ask him to come back quickly! Is his work so pressing that it's more important than his family!" Xu Lan said angrily.

Qiao Mei and Xia He immediately stopped chatting and looked in Xu Lan's direction. If Xia Wen did not return soon, he might even have to kneel in the courtyard tonight and not be able to enter the house.

"Come, let's go chat with Mother and buy Eldest Brother some time," Qiao Mei said.

Tan Jing sat on the sofa like a statue and did not even blink. If not for the fact that she could still breathe, Qiao Mei would have thought that she had fossilized!

"Mother, why are you throwing such a big tantrum? You'll have wrinkles if you get angry," Qiao Mei said as she walked over and held Xu Lan's hands.

Wrinkles? If having one or two wrinkles meant that she could get these vicious people in the family to get lost, then she would be more than willing to have them! Xia Wen was already a grownup now and did not listen to her and Xia Mao anymore. He kept insisting on doing things his own way and his entire family was going to get harmed in the end!

Initially, the Tan family only coveted the Xia family's authority and money. Xu Lan did not expect them to have designs on Qiao Mei's two unborn babies now. Xu Lan did not even dare to tell Qiao Mei yet, worried that Qiao Mei would rip out Tan Jing's tongue right away. If Qiao Mei knew why they were asked to come back today, there was no saying what she might do!

"Eldest Sister-in-law is already here. Why isn't Eldest Brother back yet?" Xia He sat opposite Tan Jing and asked her.

"I... I didn't come back with him. I came back first," Tan Jing said nervously.

Just as they were talking, Xia Wen arrived breathlessly, having run all the way in. He had a very important meeting today and no one was allowed to leave without permission. There was nothing he could do.

"I'm back! I'm so sorry, I have something on today and can't rush back immediately. Mother, what's the matter?" Xia Wen asked as he stood at the door.

Xu Lan was furious the moment she saw Xia Wen. Although Xia Wen had a very respectable job now, he did not have as much freedom as he did when he was a university professor. Nowadays, he was bound by those rules and regulations every day and she saw him much less often than before.

"Do you still know your way back! Doesn't our Director Xia have a secretary? Why can't your secretary return our call? What do you need this secretary for! You might as well fire him and find another secretary!" Xu Lan roared as she pointed at Xia Wen.

Xia Wen was confused for a moment. Why was Xu Lan so angry today and even asked everyone to come over? Even Liu Fen was sitting here. He must have done something to provoke Xu Lan.

Coincidentally, his secretary was on leave today so he had to do many things himself. That was why no one returned Xu Lan's phone call. Otherwise, she would not have to wait so long at home for a reply.

He quickly took out a pair of gold earrings from his bag and carried the box to Xu Lan. He had bought them on the way back just now. When he read the message on the pager, he knew that he would definitely be reprimanded when he returned home today. He thought that if he bought a small gift, it would make Xu Lan happy and he would get a less severe scolding.

"Mother, don't be angry. It's my fault. I'll definitely contact the family as soon as possible next time. I definitely won't let this happen again," Xia Wen said tentatively.

Chapter 1109 Unable To Have Children

If this was in the past, Xu Lan might have been pacified by Xia Wen's sweet gesture and forgave him easily, but it was different today. She must see the matter settled, otherwise she would not let it go, even if it meant bringing it to Xia Jun's attention.

"Put it away! What's the use of dangling such petty favors! You can't even manage to settle your own family issues properly. What's the use of trying to use these things to make me happy now! If you just settle all those awful matters in your family, it's better than any gift you can get me!" Xu Lan held the box that Xia Wen had given her tightly and slammed it on the coffee table.

Tan Jing looked at Xia Wen with a complicated expression. The Tan family had basically taken all the money that they had. On the surface, she seemed to be doing well, but in reality, she did not even have enough money to buy groceries. Yet, Xia Wen still had money. This pair of gold earrings was definitely not cheap and was the latest design for this season. In the past, Xia Wen used to hand over all his money to Tan Jing.

"Why are you so angry..." Xia Wen looked towards Qiao Mei and Xia He for help. The two of them shook their heads expressionlessly. Ever since they entered the house, they did not really dare to talk to Xu Lan, worried about making her even more irritable.

"Have you done what your father and I asked you to do the last time?" Xu Lan asked calmly after taking a deep breath.

Xia Wen lowered his head and said softly, "Yes. The Tan family's debts outside have all been paid off and the news of our decision has already been disseminated. The casino and the other shops won't send people to come to the Xia family's house to look for us anymore."

He had borrowed the money from Qiao Mei. The Tan family had owed a total of 5,000 dollars outside. This did not include the money that Tan Hu owed the loan sharks yet. The expenses which the Tan family put on credit and all their loans already added up to 5,000 dollars.

He really had no choice but to borrow money from Qiao Mei to repay the debts first. He would slowly repay the money to Qiao Mei in the future. After all, they were family and she was definitely nicer than those creditors who kept hounding him.

They had done this behind Xu Lan's back. If Xu Lan found out that it was the Xia family who forked out the money, she would definitely go to the Tan family to demand an explanation. Of course, Tan Jing did not know about this either.

"I don't want to hear about such things again in the future. Then do you know why I asked you to come back today?" Xu Lan asked coldly.

Tan Jing sat at the side and kept fidgeting with her hands. She was so nervous that she did not dare to raise her head to look at Xia Wen. She was afraid of seeing the disappointed expression on Xia Wen's face, as well as everyone's disgusted glance.

"That good wife of yours! She wants to snatch your brother's child to become her son! Yet you're still in the dark!" Xu Lan said as she pointed at Tan Jing.

"What! Snatch the child!" Xia He quickly sat close to Qiao Mei and held her tightly and protectively.

Xia Wen found it unbelievable as well. He heard that the child from the Tan family had already been sent back so he thought that this matter had already come to an end. He did not expect such a thing to happen.

"I'm not snatching... I just want... want to take care of him. We're family. Isn't it the same for me to take care of the child?" Tan Jing explained.

Qiao Mei frowned and stared fixedly at Tan Jing. She did not expect this matter to drop in her lap in the end. She had thought that asking for money and a house was the worst thing these people could do, but now they even wanted to target her children.

So many people eyed her children even before they were born. In the past, there was Qian'e and He Mei. Now, there was Tan Jing. It seemed that it was the same situation, be it the village or the capital. It was not safe anywhere.

Xia He was so angry that she almost rushed forward to give Tan Jing a slap. How could she have such a ridiculous idea? Was this even something a human could do?

"Take care! You should just take care of yourself! Your family owes Qiao Mei so much money and you still have the cheek to want to snatch her child away! What a joke, you can't even take care of yourself and you still want to take care of the child! Don't get the child involved in your nonsense. A child would grow up into a better person while living as a wanderer than under your care!" Xia He said spitefully.

"Nonsense! You've never given birth or raised a child! How do you know that I can't do it well!" Tan Jing stood up angrily and reprimanded her.

Not one to be outdone, Xia He retorted, "Hmph, I don't have children because Kong Lu doesn't come home at all! You make it sound like you have personal experience! Don't you know the reason why you don't have children! You can't have your own children, so you want to snatch other people's children! Stop talking about how benevolent you are. There are so many children in the orphanage, so why is it that you can only have a child from the Tan or Xia families? What ulterior motives do you have!"

Chapter 1110 Pick One Of Two

These words were like a wake up call for Xu Lan. Previously, Tan Jing was very unhappy about the fact that Wu Min left the house to Xia Zhe and would always come to Xu Lan to complain about it both openly and covertly. As time passed, Xu Lan also felt that there was something wrong with this decision and even wanted to move into the courtyard house herself. However, if she gave it some careful thought now, was this not Tan Jing's scheme?

If Xia Fang had not managed to stop them at that time and Xu Lan and Tan Jing had successfully moved into the courtyard house, then all the relatives of the Tan family would have come to take their share of the loot. By then, Xu Lan would not be able to reject them even if she wanted to.

It was not as if the family did not support Tan Jing's decision to adopt a child, but it was not the right time now. Also, it was really difficult to find a child of the right age with a good personality.

Their family definitely met the criteria for adoption, but they had to be very strict when it came to choosing the child. It did not matter as much if the child was very young, as they would be able to educate the child well. If the child was older and already had formative memories, then they would need to consider it more carefully. The Xia family could not allow just anyone to become a member of the family. The child must have a really good character, otherwise it was better not to go through with it.

If that child from the Tan family had an upright character, they naturally would not reject him. However, that child was greedy, lazy and had even committed theft. He was not a child of two to three years old who could still be reeducated from scratch. He was already more than five years old and had already developed habits. It would be very difficult to correct his mistakes.

As the saying went, one could tell a person's future by the age of three. This boy was too mischievous and his biological parents did not even bother to teach him properly, so the Xia family did not hold any hope that they would be able to teach this child well.

"Xia Wen, are you mute! This is your wife, can you control her behavior! If you can't, the two of you should get a divorce quickly. If so, then you're still my good son. Otherwise, both of you can get lost from the Xia family together! I'll pretend that I don't have a son like you!" Xu Lan pointed at Xia Wen and said angrily.

Liu Fen quickly stood up and held on to Xu Lan as she whispered, "Tsk. Eldest Sister-in-law, don't be so rash. It's not that big a deal, so calm down. Xiao Wen is just caught off guard for a moment. This kid has also never experienced such a thing, right? You have to let Xiao Wen take a breather."

Xu Lan was so angry that she felt dizzy and even had a slight ringing in her ears. It was useless for anyone to persuade her. When Xia Wen wanted to marry Tan Jing back then, she had been very against it. Although she could not see any bad traits in Tan Jing at that time, Tan Jing's family was really unbearable.

The Xia family did not care about family status. As long as their children found a partner they liked, it did not even matter if that person was an orphan. It was alright as long as the person had a good character.

In the beginning, Xu Lan disliked Qiao Mei only because Xia Zhe took matters into his own hands. None of her children gave her an easy time. Xia Wen insisted on going against her wishes and stood firm about marrying Tan Jing. Xia He did not care about her family's opinions and insisted on getting married even when she had to move far away. Xu Lan originally thought that she would find someone she liked to be Xia Zhe's wife, but she did not expect Xia Zhe to act without any notice to them and marry Qiao Mei straightaway.

Therefore, at that time, she had strong feelings about Qiao Mei. Coupled with the fact that someone had tried to frame Qiao Mei in the beginning and Tan Jing had further fanned the flames, she disliked Qiao Mei even more.

"Eldest Brother, I think you've almost forgotten that your surname is Xia," Xia He muttered softly.

Qiao Mei quickly covered Xia He's mouth and whispered into her ear, "Eldest Brother is very nice to us. Don't wrong him because of the acts of others."

"But... but looking at how he treats the Xia family and you, does he even care about the Xia family at all? When Tan Jing quarreled with me just now, he didn't even look at me or speak up for me. How is he still my eldest brother!" Xia He said aggrievedly.

"Of course Eldest Brother is good to you. It's just that there are so many things going on now and he needs time to react. Don't be angry." Qiao Mei patted Xia He's back and comforted her.

Xia He thought that Qiao Mei looked very calm in contrast. It was as if it was not her child whom Tan Jing was trying to snatch away, like everything had nothing to do with her at all.

"Why aren't you angry at all?" Xia He asked curiously.

"Me? Getting angry won't solve the problem. I can't even be bothered with her," Qiao Mei said with a relaxed smile.

Qiao Mei just did not know how to start feeling angry. During this period of time, Xia Wen had come to look for her countless times and always to borrow money. She could see how embarrassed and helpless Xia Wen felt and also knew how difficult it was for him.

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