

Fat Wife 1111

Chapter 1111 What Do You Want

However, Xia Wen could not be totally absolved of blame in the current situation. If he had done something and stopped the damage in time, it would not have made things so awkward for everyone.

Qiao Mei would not allow anyone to take her children away from her. No matter who had such an ulterior motive, she would not let the villainous person succeed. In particular, Qiao Mei did not take foolhardy people like Tan Jing seriously at all.

At the moment, she was most worried about how Xia Wen was going to make the decision. It involved his own family on one hand and the Xia family on the other. She did not know how he was going to choose.

Sister Fan observed that Xia Wen had been standing for a long time and secretly brought over a chair for him to sit down and rest for a while. Sister Fan felt that Xia Wen was also a victim in this matter and that he was an innocent party.

"I... I... I'm sorry..." Xia Wen stammered, unable to speak properly. This was the first time he had ever felt so embarrassed at home.

Qiao Mei looked at Tan Jing and pondered for a long time. If Xia Wen was made to come up with a solution to this matter himself, he would again sacrifice his own benefits to exchange for peace in the Xia family. In the end, this matter would still remain resolved. It appeared that she needed to be the one to take action in this case.

"What exactly do you want?" Qiao Mei looked at Tan Jing and asked calmly.

Tan Jing felt dazed for a moment. She thought that Qiao Mei would behave threateningly and scold her or even hit her, but she did not expect Qiao Mei to be so calm.

"I don't want anything..." Tan Jing whispered.

Qiao Mei said mockingly, "Didn't you want my child just now? Why are you saying that you don't want anything now? I don't have any other intentions when I ask you this question. I just want to know what I can give you for you to completely drop the idea regarding my child."

Xia He hurriedly tugged at Qiao Mei's sleeve and looked at her in shock. What was wrong with her? Why was she handing out things to Tan Jing?

Qiao Mei quietly patted Xia He's hand to ask Xia He not to be worried. She knew her own limits.

Tan Jing observed Qiao Mei's expression and thought that Qiao Mei did not seem to be faking it. It seemed that Qiao Mei really wanted to know what she wanted. Perhaps Qiao Mei thought that she could simply spend some money to buy peace.

No matter what it was, since Qiao Mei had asked her so openly, she definitely would not let go of this opportunity.

"I don't really expect much. It's just that if I adopt or have my own children in the future, our 50-square-meter house won't be big enough for all of us to live in. Look, you have so many empty houses. It shouldn't be too difficult for you to give me one," Tan Jing said probingly.

"Just one house?" Qiao Mei asked.

"An entire courtyard house," Tan Jing said.

Xu Lan, Liu Fen and Xia He all gasped audibly. They did not expect Tan Jing to be so greedy to ask for an entire courtyard house. That was something that Tan Jing would never be able to afford in her life. How audacious of her.

Xia Wen shook his head resignedly. He just knew that the Tan family was the root cause of this matter. These were things that the Tan family coveted. However, rather than saying that the Tan family made her do it, it would be more accurate to say that the Tan family appealed to her vainful desires so that she would do all these. If Tan Jing did not crave for all these things herself, the Tan family would not be able to convince her to do it.

"There'll only be three or four people in your own family. Why do you need such a big house?" Qiao Mei said.

"I... I have to go back to work by then. There needs to be someone around to take care of the children at home. Mother is usually very busy in the art troupe, which means I'll have to get my mother to come and help me take care of the children. I won't want to trouble any of you," Tan Jing said earnestly.

Was Tan Jing expecting them to thank her for being so considerate? She had asked for an entire courtyard house so that she need not trouble them. What a good reason to cook up.

She used children as an excuse to ask Qiao Mei for the house so that she could give the Tan family what they wanted. It was truly killing two birds with one stone.

"Anything else?" Qiao Mei continued to ask.

"Also... the money you lent to us to repay the debts. My parents don't have the ability to repay it. Why don't we just forget about it? Anyway, you don't lack money at all," Tan Jing said shamelessly.

Xia He rolled her eyes in anger. Even though Qiao Mei had a lot of assets, she had obtained them with her own abilities. How could Tan Jing have the cheek to ask for all these things?

Shameless people were truly invincible!

"Do you need anything else? It's now or never. In the future, I might not even agree to let you speak up. Hurry up and say it while I'm still in a good mood now," Qiao Mei said.

Chapter 1112 Selling The House

"That house is really quite old, so you should renovate it before you give it to me. You don't have to do too much, just repaint it and buy all the necessary household appliances. I want a 40-inch color television and a big refrigerator. The oven which Aunt has in her house is quite good. Get one for the house too."

"Oh right! There seems to be a big tree at the entrance of the courtyard. I want another one. That tree doesn't look nice. Get it changed once you can."

"My parents have weak legs, so they'll need a chauffeur and a helper to take care of them. Otherwise, they won't be able to cope with taking care of such a big family."

"Isn't that business of yours quite profitable? Since our families will be living so close to each other, we can work together. This way, your mother will feel less pressure and everyone can earn more money, right?"

"..."

Tan Jing rambled on for a long time. Everyone else just watched quietly as she described her unrealistic dream. As she spoke, she made more and more requests which became more and more overboard. She was just short of asking Qiao Mei to support the entire Tan family in their old age!

Xia Wen really could not stand it anymore and said in disappointment, "Do you want to take my life as well!"

"What do I want your life for? It's Qiao Mei who says that I can make any request. What has it got to do with you! Why am I doing this, isn't it for our family?" Tan Jing whispered.

"I did say that you can make any request, but did I say that I would agree? I still have to consider whether I can agree or not," Qiao Mei said with a sly smile.

"You! You lied to me!" Tan Jing looked at Qiao Mei angrily.

Qiao Mei's main purpose was to draw out Tan Jing's most inner desires. None of her requests were related to children. She only focused on the house or the money. In fact, Tan Jing's ultimate goal in wanting this child was to obtain these things.

If she truly wanted the best for the child, how could she not consider the issue of the child's education? Another concern should be the child's upbringing. There were so many issues that she needed to consider when it came to bringing up a child, but none of them crossed her mind at all. Yet, she was very enthusiastic about making so many demands regarding her own living environment.

"Why don't you take a good look at yourself in the mirror! As if you're worthy of getting so much! If you rely on your own capability, there's nothing I can say. You keep saying that there's nothing good about Qiao Mei, yet you still demand gifts from Qiao Mei. You behave so brashly even when you're asking for charity! Even beggars aren't as unreasonable as you!" Xia He said.

Liu Fen turned her head away to cover her mouth and laugh. Xia He could be really pushy and unforgiving when she wanted to. Once Xia He caught on to a person's wrongdoings, that person would be in deep trouble.

Xu Lan glanced at Xia He and coughed lightly before saying, "Xiao He, be polite."

Xia He hugged Qiao Mei's arm and looked away. She just could not stand Tan Jing's pretentious manner. She wondered how Tan Jing could so presumptuously ask Qiao Mei for so many things.

"Eldest Brother, now that you know what my eldest sister-in-law wants, the matter can be resolved easily. If you can't resolve it, then I'll get Grandfather to come and uphold justice," Qiao Mei said sternly.

Qiao Mei was their younger sister-in-law after all, so she could not make a call to punish Tan Jing. At the end of the day, Xia Jun still had the final say in the Xia family. However, Xia Jun doted on her the most now and would not say no to anything she wanted. The moment she told Xia Jun about this, he would definitely not let Tan Jing off easy.

"There's no need for that. I know what to do," Xia Wen said calmly.

Everyone's eyes were on Xia Wen as he spoke up, "Our family still has a house in the suburbs near the capital. I'll sell the house in the city and we'll move there. I can stay in the workplace unit's dormitory during the week and go home to see you during the weekend. Let's start working on this in the next two days."

He wanted to imprison her! Tan Jing looked at Xia Wen in shock. She was unfamiliar with that place and transport was also inconvenient there. It would be difficult for her to escape even if she wanted to.

Things like buying groceries, cooking and starting a fire would become very difficult tasks there. She could not handle all these things on her own. Xia Wen was trying to kill her!

"No! Absolutely not! Over my dead body!" Tan Jing said fearfully.

"The house in the city will definitely be sold and the money will be used to repay my parents and Qiao Mei. If it's still not enough, I'll think of another way. We definitely have to move away. I've already found someone to deal with the sale of the house," Xia Wen said.

Chapter 1113 Prepare Your Dowry

Xu Lan's heart ached for Xia Wen. If a married couple lived separately for too long, it would affect their relationship. Moreover, the way Xia Wen and Tan Jing lived separately was a totally different situation from how his brother lived separately from his wife. It was such an odd thing for a couple in the same city to live in separate locations.

With this arrangement, the relationship between Xia Wen and Tan Jing would likely break down soon. However, if they did not do this, the Xia family would face more difficulties in the future. It was better to let Tan Jing go away and do some reflections first. After the matter blew over, they could persuade Xia Wen to let Tan Jing come back.

"It's settled then. We'll start moving out tomorrow. I've already gotten someone to clean up the house in the countryside," Xia Wen said.

"I'm not going! I won't go! Over my dead body! How can you disregard the wishes of a living person like this! I haven't agreed yet! Don't even think about sending me there!" Tan Jing shouted hysterically as she pointed at Xia Wen.

The deafening yells were starting to bother Qiao Mei. Xia He could tell that Qiao Mei was feeling unwell and immediately said to Tan Jing, "Why are you shouting! It's not like we're going to kill you. It's none of

our business if you don't like the idea! Why are you acting so atrociously here! Eldest Brother, bring her home quickly! Don't let her disturb the peace here."

The main issue had already been resolved. All that was left were the personal issues between Xia Wen and Tan Jing. Since Xia Wen had already made up his mind, it was not appropriate for them to say anything.

Xia Wen grabbed Tan Jing and started walking out. Tan Jing turned around fiercely and said to Qiao Mei, "Qiao Mei! You'll definitely die a horrible death! Something will definitely happen to you when you give birth! Hahaha! Just wait and see! The heavens have eyes! They'll definitely make what I say true!"

"Madness! From now on, she's not allowed to come to our house! She's really crazy!" Xu Lan said fearfully towards the door.

Everyone present, except Qiao Mei, was so frightened that they broke out in a cold sweat. Qiao Mei behaved like nothing had happened and simply sat there drinking tea and eating snacks. She had almost finished half the snacks on the table.

"Qiao Mei, don't take her words to heart. She's a crazy woman. Don't get angry. You're pregnant now, so don't let it affect your health," Liu Fen said worriedly.

"I know, Second Aunt-in-law. I don't take her seriously at all." Qiao Mei smiled sweetly at everyone and they all felt much more at ease.

Since it was getting late, Qiao Mei and Xia He did not rush back home. They made a call to Zhang Wei and told him that everything was fine and that there was no need for everyone at home to worry.

As Xia He recalled what happened, she still felt a little afraid. She insisted on sleeping in the same room as Qiao Mei tonight. Since the bed in the room was big enough to accommodate three to four adults, Xu Lan just let them be.

As they lay on the bed, Xia He held Qiao Mei's hand tightly and did not dare to let go for even a moment. She behaved like if she let go, Qiao Mei would disappear, or that if she got distracted for a moment, Qiao Mei would leave her.

"Say, if you grip any tighter, my bones will break!" Qiao Mei said as she patted Xia He.

"Nonsense! I'm not gripping that tightly." Xia He quickly took a look at Qiao Mei's hand. There was already some redness on her fair hand. It seemed that she had indeed used too much strength.

"I'm sorry..." Xia He said guiltily as she gently rubbed the redness on Qiao Mei's hand.

Qiao Mei knew that Xia He was worried about her, so she did not say anything. The two of them just leaned against each other, neither of them able to sleep or wanted to speak. They just lay there quietly, as if they would be able to console each other this way.

Qiao Mei thought that it was fortunate that Xia He was around today. If Xia He had not spoken up for her, she would have to be the one to say those harsh words about the Tan family. It was inevitable that she would get angry and it would not be good for the babies.

She would always remember how nice Xia He was to her.

"What kind of person do you like?" Qiao Mei suddenly asked curiously.

"Why are you suddenly asking me this? Don't tell me you still want to matchmake me with Luo Yu. I already told you that I don't like Luo Yu and it's impossible between us," Xia He said in all seriousness.

"That's not what I mean. I just want to know what kind of person you like. Then I can help you keep a lookout. Won't it be good if you can find someone suitable? I can even prepare a bountiful dowry for you," Qiao Mei said.

"Dowry? How can you be the one preparing dowry for me? How can a younger sister-in-law prepare dowry for her elder sister? You're really muddle-headed," Xia He said as she looked at Qiao Mei dotingly.

Chapter 1114 Go Find Someone Else

Xia He knew that Qiao Mei was doing this for her own good and wanted her to have a better life. Qiao Mei wanted Xia He to find her own happiness again and start a new life.

However, she did not lack or need anything. She only wanted the family to be well. She had already lost one home and did not want to lose the Xia family. As long as the Xia family was well and her brothers were safe and happy, she did not care about anything else.

After experiencing a failed marriage, she definitely did not want to go through it again.

"Just tell me what kind of person you like," Qiao Mei said sweetly as she held Xia He's little finger and shook it gently.

Without a second thought, Xia He said, "I want to find someone whose parents have already passed away. Someone who can treat me well and knows how to cook. Someone who's an only child and doesn't have any siblings, and has a good job. It's best if he's about the same age as me."

Qiao Mei sat up slowly and reached out to flick Xia He's forehead. She laughed and said, "You! Do you know what you're saying! If Mother hears what you're saying, she will definitely punish you for being rude and insensible. What nonsense are you spouting!"

The ideal person whom Xia He described was the complete opposite of Kong Lu. It only served to show how much the relationship with Kong Lu had affected her.

Based on her list, just those two conditions about both parents having passed away and being an only child had already ruled out every one of Xia He's current suitors. During this era, most people had many siblings and very few were an only child. Most people thought that having more children was a symbol of wealth. Furthermore, given that the amount of coupons each family received was based on the headcount, each family would definitely have as many children as they could.

In order to get more land in the village, Qiao Zhuang had six children! Each person was allocated one or two mu of land. Even after handing over a fixed amount of food to the village every year, there would still be some excess left for the family's own use. Many people were envious of him!

"Don't worry about me. You should worry more about yourself! If I get married, what will happen to you? Who will accompany you? It won't be like now," Xia He said.

"I don't need your company! If I have nothing to do, I'll ask Qian'e to come and visit me. Or I can ask my younger siblings. I still have my two children! How can there be no one to accompany me!" Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Mei did not want to be the one to hold Xia He back.

However, Xia He thought that it was because Qiao Mei no longer liked her and found her annoying. Xia He looked at Qiao Mei with a look of jealousy. Ever since Qian'e and Qiao Mei resolved their past grudges, Qiao Mei had become more and more concerned about Qian'e. She would give Qian'e a share of all the good things in the house. Whenever she bought anything, she would also buy an extra share for Qian'e.

Xia He was Qiao Mei's husband's biological elder sister! That Qian'e was at most considered a neighbor and not even a good friend of Xia Zhe. Why was Qiao Mei still so nice to her? Although Xia He usually did not usually say anything when she bore witness, she still felt jealous.

"Sure, sure, sure! Then let Qian'e accompany you! Anyway, she's the best at making you happy. You find me annoying even though I'm here in front of you. I think you don't want me as your elder sister anymore! Tomorrow, I'll tell Mother that I'm not going to wait upon you anymore. I'm going to Guanghai to find a dance teacher!" Xia He said in a fit of pique.

"How can that be? I like you the most. How can I not want my elder sister? Qian'e is just a friend. I just want to matchmake her with Zheng Peng. Of course I know that my elder sister is nicest to me! Don't be angry~ I like my elder sister the most~" Qiao Mei leaned on Xia He's shoulder and said sweetly.

Xia He hurriedly helped Qiao Mei to sit up straight. That posture just now caused her stomach to be squashed and that would hurt the babies. It was very important that Qiao Mei did not get hurt.

"You're at the most critical moment now. Be careful with your actions. You can't do what you did just now! Do you understand!" Xia He said sternly.

"Yes, yes, yes. I'll definitely listen to my elder sister," Qiao Mei said.

The two of them chatted for a while longer and only fell asleep when it was almost dawn. By the time they woke up, it was already almost lunchtime. If this was any other day, Xu Lan would already have woken Xia He up to practice her basic skills. However, she was worried that if she entered the room, she would disturb Qiao Mei's rest, so she let Xia He off. This was also the other reason why Xia He insisted on sleeping in the same room as Qiao Mei.

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Chapter 1115 - 1115 What Right Do You Have to Get the Same Treatment

1115 What Right Do You Have to Get the Same Treatment

The four of them ate quietly at the dining table. Suddenly, Xu Lan seemed to recall something and hurriedly asked Sister Fan to go upstairs to retrieve a letter.

"Keep this with you. In the next two days, find some time to go to the art troupe to take a look. I don't think this role is suitable for you. It's just a small performance and there's no point in taking part, but you have to pretend to fight for the role. Don't let others think that you look down on such roles and make everyone look bad," Xu Lan said as she handed the letter to Xia He.

It was a list of the art troupe's upcoming performances. Furthermore, the performances were all in other regions and the dancers needed to be away for a long time. Just as Xu Lan had said, she was not keen on any of these performance items. She had already done them when she was 17 or 18 years old.

Qiao Mei was about to give birth, but there was still no news of Xia Zhe coming back. Xia Wen was usually very busy and did not have much time for Qiao Mei. Xu Lan and the others were not young anymore, so they could not be overworked. Right now, she was the only one who could fully support Qiao Mei. She could not leave at this time, so it was better to give the opportunity to others.

"I understand, but Mother, don't you never care for such things? Why are you giving me a tipoff now?" Xia He asked with a smile.

"Don't try to be smart. Eat up quickly! There's so much delicious food, but yet they can't shut you up!" Xu Lan said embarrassedly.

Although Xu Lan's words were a little harsh, it was a sign of her love for Xia He.

It was rare for Xu Lan to be willing to give Xia He pointers, so Xia He felt really warm inside. For once, she could feel her mother's love for her. She reckoned it was true that one became different after having grandchildren. Xu Lan seemed to have become a different person. This was probably what people meant when they said there was always a closer bond between grandparents and grandchildren. An elder would change after having grandchildren.

When it was time to go home, Xu Lan prepared a trunk full of things for Qiao Mei as usual. In the past, Qiao Mei would reject the gesture, but now she happily accepted it. Xia He sent Qiao Mei back first before asking the chauffeur to send her to the art troupe.

It had been almost half a month since she last went to the art troupe and she did not know the situation there. At this hour, it was the time when everyone practiced their basic skills, so all the dancers were around. When they saw Xia He, they all looked a little surprised.

Yang Xin stopped what she was doing and slowly walked up to Xia He, saying, "I am still wondering who it is! So it's the beloved daughter of the Xia family. Why is she gracing the art troupe with her priceless presence? Can it be that she has rushed back because she knows that there's going to be a new performance soon?"

If Xia He could get the news, so could Yang Xin. No one was surprised by this, but everyone was very worried that Xia He was here to fight for a role.

Everyone knew in their hearts how much Xia He had sacrificed to dance well and that she was very talented. Yang Xin was no match for her at all. As long as Xia He was willing to work hard and practice wholeheartedly, she was totally out of their league.

"Do I need to tell you why I'm back? You're not my superior. I don't have to report to you," Xia He said disdainfully.

"You haven't turned up for so many days, so you at least have to give everyone an explanation! Why is it that you can stop coming in for half a month and still get the same salary as us? Then does that mean we can stop coming in too!" Yang Xin said.

When the rest heard her talking about money, they all came closer. Only Deng Fan continued with his practice in the corner and was not distracted by their conversation at all.

As the art troupe paid a high salary, everyone there did not dare to take leave at will since a lot of money would be deducted from the salary for the days off. Furthermore, they would not be able to get the monthly full attendance bonus if they did not turn up every working day. The bonus was 30 dollars a month!

“What’s going on? Is what Sister Xin said true?” a young girl who had just joined the art troupe whispered to the person beside her.

Zhou Ling immediately said, “Don’t you believe what Sister Xin said! Sister Xin is usually so nice to all of you, yet you’re suspicious of her!”

Yang Xin looked at Xia He smugly, as if she had done something marvelous. All this while, Xia He could not be bothered with Yang Xin at all. This was just a petty issue. It would be a waste of her time to argue with Yang Xin.

“Is there anything else? If not, I’m leaving.” Xia He turned around to go and change into her training clothes, but Yang Xin still blocked her way.

Chapter 1116 - 1116 Give You a Ride

1116 Give You a Ride

“If you don’t make yourself clear and give everyone an explanation, we won’t let you leave!” Yang Xin said.

Xia He frowned slightly and said, “Regarding my salary and how much I get, that’s the decision of the higher-ups. If you’re so unhappy, go and look for our superiors. What’s the use of coming to me? I don’t want to fight with you for roles in this performance. Just get out of my way. Don’t be so persistent here.”

Yang Xin continued to block Xia He and spread her hands out to prevent Xia He from leaving. She said domineeringly, "Who will believe what you say! It's just empty talk. Who knows if what you say is true! What if you're just bluffing us!"

"That's right! You're always telling lies! We won't fall for it!" Zhou Ling echoed.

"So what does it take for you to believe me?" Xia He asked.

Zhou Ling and Yang Xin looked at each other. Zhou Ling smiled sneakily and said, "Unless... unless you break your own leg, we won't believe what you say!"

Xia He laughed mockingly and stared at Yang Xin and Zhou Ling as if she pitied them. She kept shaking her head and sighing. Yang Xin looked at Xia He in puzzlement. Why was Xia He putting on such an expression! Did she need other people to pity her? Was there anything about her that deserved to be pitied?

"Why are you looking at me like that!" Yang Xin pointed at Xia He agitatedly.

"I'm just laughing at you for being stupid. If you have so much time to waste on me, isn't it better for you to go and practice your basic skills? You already know in advance about the performance items, but wait until I'm here to tell everyone about it. If you're really more capable than me, then what difference does it make whether I come or not? You attack me in a group just because you're not as good as me. Don't you find it embarrassing to do this," Xia He said.

"You! How dare you say that I'm stupid!" Yang Xin had never suffered such a grievance before. She raised her hand to hit Xia He, but Xia He was not someone who could be bullied easily and started fighting with Yang Xin.

Yang Xin was no match for Xia He at all. It did not take long for her to be pressed on the ground by Xia He and she could not move at all. She also twisted her ankle by her own doing.

"Ah!!! My leg!!!" Yang Xin screamed in pain.

For dancers, their legs were the most important parts of their bodies. If they injured their legs or feet, it was tantamount to ending their lives!

“Let’s not push each other to the limit. It’ll be difficult for both of us if things turn ugly.” After saying that, Xia He stood up and patted the dust off her hands, as if she had touched something dirty. She did not even change her clothes and headed straight out the door to go home.

She felt really unfortunate to have encountered such an unlucky thing today. Next time, she must do her best to avoid Yang Xin. This woman behaved like a rabid dog going around to bite people.

“Quick, call for an ambulance! Get the troupe leader!” Zhou Ling was so frightened that she hurriedly went forward to hold Yang Xin. The whole team was in an uproar except for Deng Fan, who continued practicing in the corner. He did not care about anything that happened and pretended not to see anything.

All the male dancers who went forward to help Yang Xin were rejected by her. Yang Xin lay on the ground and shouted in Deng Fan’s direction, “Brother Deng~ It hurts~ Come and help me~”

Yang Xin made herself look so delicate and pitiful. Zhou Ling frowned and looked at her. She clearly knew that Zhou Ling was fond of Deng Fan, so what was she trying to do by calling out to him in public? Furthermore, she was already married with children, so why was she still behaving so close to other men outside?

Deng Fan picked up his bag and walked out of the door. He did not even look at Yang Xin who was still on the ground. Yang Xin was so angry that she simply fainted. As for whether she really fainted or pretended to faint, no one really knew.

Coincidentally, Xia He was driving her car from the car park to the main entrance when she saw Deng Fan. She stopped and wound down the window as she said, “Deng Fan, do you want me to give you a ride? I’m heading in the direction of your house.”

Deng Fan said in surprise, “You know where my house is?”

“Of course! I even went for a visit when I was young! Don’t tell me you don’t remember anything?” Xia He said with a smile. That bright smile made Deng Fan recall all kinds of past memories. If not for Kong Lu... Forget it, it was best not to dwell on the past.

Chapter 1117 - 1117 Ignoring People

1117 Ignoring People

“Alright, thank you.” With that, Deng Fan got into Xia He’s car.

Deng Fan was a person who did not like to talk, but Xia He was one who could not sit still for a moment and chattered non-stop. She just liked to share all kinds of fun and interesting things with other people, and she had been like this since she was young.

“I realize that you’re the first one to reach the art troupe and the last one to go home every day. Moreover, your house is so far away from here. You’re really hardworking. I can’t do what you do,” Xia He said approvingly.

“I’m not as talented as you, so I have to practice harder. Otherwise, I won’t be able to catch up with you,” Deng Fan said earnestly.

“What are you talking about! I think you’re the best dancer among those people! Although it’s important to have talent when it comes to dancing, hard work is also very important. I think you’re the most capable person in the troupe!” Xia He then added, “Other than me, of course.”

Deng Fan lowered his head and smiled quietly. Xia He had always been like this. She was like a little sun, dazzling and warm and full of vigor. No matter her age now, to him, she looked exactly the same as when he saw her for the first time when they were young. He had been deeply attracted to her since then.

“There’s a role in this performance that suits you. Aren’t you going to fight for it?” Xia He probed.

“Me? I don’t think I’ll get any chance,” Deng Fan said regretfully.

Ever since Xia He left, Yang Xin behaved like a tyrant in the art troupe. She did not usually turn up to practice her basic skills and performance roles, but because of her relationship with the troupe leader, she still received all kinds of good resources. Even though Yang Xin always made mistakes on stage, the troupe leader never punished her. Other dancers might not even get a single chance to go on stage to perform after two to three years in the troupe.

Deng Fan was not a competitive person, so he did not take these things too seriously. He knew himself best and did not mind whether he went on stage or could only practice off stage. It made no difference to him.

“I believe in you. You can definitely do it. Don’t give up so easily,” Xia He said.

The two of them chatted in the car about the troupe’s previous performances during the past few years and arrived at Deng Fan’s house before they knew it. The Dengs were ordinary people who lived in a tiled house in a small alley, which had a medium-sized courtyard. His parents were very loving and it could be considered his blessing to grow up in such a family.

“Let’s meet up again another day,” Deng Fan said politely.

“Alright, then you have to prepare good wine and nice dishes! Otherwise, I won’t turn up for the appointment!” Xia He said happily.

“Then it’s a deal,” Deng Fan said with a gentle smile.

Deng Fan watched as Xia He’s car gradually disappeared into the alley. Even when he could not see her anymore, he still stood at the door in a daze and stared into space. He did not even notice his mother, Jiang Shu, standing behind him.

“What are you looking at? Which family’s fairy daughter has captivated my son? She’s already gone and you’re still staring!” Jiang Shu asked curiously.

“Mom! Why is it that you don’t make any sound when you walk!” Deng Fan said.

Jiang Shu pointed in the direction that Deng Fan was looking and said, "Quick, tell me who it is. If you don't tell me, I'll go and do a thorough investigation! It must be someone you already know. I've met everyone, including your high school and university friends. Otherwise, she must be from the art troupe, and she must be the type you like."

Deng Fan had been introverted since he was young and he had found it very difficult to play with the neighbors' children. Moreover, there were always children who bullied Deng Fan. Gradually, Jiang Shu stopped letting Deng Fan interact with those children.

When he was in elementary school, his teacher even specially asked her to come to the school for a chat. The teacher thought that Deng Fan might have some psychological problem as he was different from other children. He was unusually quiet at the age when children should be lively and active. There were very few children who behaved like Deng Fan.

Jiang Shu was very worried about Deng Fan and even brought him to the best child psychiatrist in the capital. She was concerned that Deng Fan had autism or some other problem.

After the doctor's detailed examination, he found out that Deng Fan did not have any illness. He just preferred to ignore people and did not like to talk.

One day, when they passed by a dance classroom, Deng Fan suddenly broke free from Jiang Shu's grip and went to lean quietly against the glass window, refusing to leave. He stayed put like this for an entire afternoon.

Chapter 1118 - 1118 The Xia Family's Daughter

1118 The Xia Family's Daughter

From then on, Jiang Shu decided to send Deng Fan for dance lessons. As long as it was something which Deng Fan liked, she was willing to let him try it out. Just like that, Deng Fan persevered until now.

"Are you going to tell me or not! If you don't, I'm really going to call them one by one! I mean what I say!" Jiang Shu said as she pointed at Deng Fan.

"The Xia family," Deng Fan said bashfully.

“The Xia family! Oh heavens! Isn’t their daughter already married? Why are you still with her! Isn’t she out of town? When did she come back? Did you provide a random name just to lie to me?” Jiang Shu used her fist to give Deng Fan a punch angrily.

Deng Fan held his shoulder in pain and said, “She’s Xia He... She’s not...”

“Oh my goodness! Old Man Deng, come and discipline your son! Your son is totally lawless! He’s doing such a beastly thing! Is he still your son! Quickly come out to discipline him!” Jiang Shu cried out as she ran back into the courtyard, not giving Deng Fan any time to catch his breath or a chance to explain himself.

Deng Fan’s father, Deng Rui, walked out of the house. He held the cage containing his crickets in his left hand and two walnut palm massagers in his right hand. When he saw his beloved wife weeping as she rushed in, he looked helplessly at Deng Fan who was right behind her. Deng Fan shook his head helplessly to indicate that he had not done anything.

“What’s wrong? Who bullied you? Tell me and I’ll avenge you,” Deng Rui said dotingly.

“Your son! Your son actually fell for that girl from the Xia family! That girl is already married! How embarrassing! Why don’t you know anything!” Jiang Shu said angrily.

Jiang Shu was a petite woman. As she was not very tall and spoke softly, even when she was angry, she looked like she was throwing a little tantrum. It only made people feel a sense of tender affection for her.

Deng Rui sighed. He and his son always had it tough in the family since Jiang Shu needed to be pampered all the time. Deng Fan had never been a frivolous child and he had a mind of his own.

In the past, when Jiang Shu saw her peers’ children getting married and having children, she kept urging Deng Fan to get married and nagged at him every day. She did not care which family’s daughter he married. He could do anything to find a wife as long as it was not against the law. She was fine with it even if it was someone that Deng Fan picked up from the streets! She just wanted to see Deng Fan married with his own family.

From the start, Deng Fan was very unwilling. He did not even want to meet the girls whom Jiang Shu were fond of. In fact, whenever Jiang Shu mentioned this issue to Deng Fan, he would lose his temper.

In the end, he even went on a hunger strike. From then on, Jiang Shu and Deng Rui did not dare to force Deng Fan to do anything. As long as Deng Fan was safe and healthy, everything was fine.

“Deng Fan! What’s wrong with you! Quick, apologize to your mother!” Deng Rui gave Deng Fan a look, indicating that he should apologize quickly and let the matter rest. It would be hard to handle once Jiang Shu kicked up a fuss later.

“Xia He is divorced and she’s single now. Besides, we’re just colleagues. She just sent me home as it was on her way,” Deng Fan said calmly.

“What? Divorced! Why would she get a divorce? Why doesn’t that family want her anymore! The Xia family is so prominent, yet the man wants to divorce Xia He?” Jiang Shu asked in shock.

Although Jiang Shu did not know Xia He very well, she knew very well what kind of upbringing the Xia family’s children had. The children from such a strict family would never be too bad. Moreover, she heard that the Xia family’s three children were all talented and capable. How could there be a problem?

Should it not be a great blessing for whoever married Xia He?

“It’s not her fault. I heard that her mother-in-law took all her money and scolded her every day, which was why she got a divorce. Moreover, it was Xia He who wanted the divorce,” Deng Fan explained.

Deng Rui quickly said, “See, I always say that our son has good taste.”

“How do you know? I thought you don’t care about anything other than dancing?” Jiang Shu asked curiously.

Deng Fan lowered his head in silence. He had found out about all this through his connections in private. Luckily for him, his former classmate was Kong Lu’s comrade-in-arms.

Chapter 1119 - 1119 Goddess

1119 Goddess

Over the years, he found out about how Xia He was doing through this classmate. He knew that the rumors were all exaggerated and that the truth was already tainted. People only wanted to see the ending they hoped for. It was possible that Xia He's experience was not so terrible, but his heart still ached for her and he felt that she deserved so much better.

A woman like Xia He deserved all the best things in the world! She deserved everything good!

"Why are you asking so many questions! Our son knows what he's doing! Don't you trust your son?" Deng Rui said.

"Is it because I don't trust him? It's because I dare not trust him! Deng Fan is already an adult but he still doesn't want to get married yet. How can I not be anxious? I'm looking forward to having a grandchild as soon as possible. Do you think I'm doing this for myself! I'm doing this for your Deng family! Will our grandchild have my surname? His or her surname will be Deng! Why are you grumbling about me now!" Jiang Shu said in annoyance.

Deng Rui pulled Jiang Shu into his arms and coaxed her with all kinds of sweet talk. He waved his hand secretly to ask Deng Fan to hurry back into his room. This was a common trick used by father and son. Whenever Deng Fan did something wrong, Deng Rui would always cover for him. As long as Deng Rui put more effort into coaxing Jiang Shu, her anger would naturally dissipate.

Deng Fan heaved a sigh of relief when he reached his room. He took out a precious photo from the drawer and touched it gently. It was the only photo he had taken with Xia He in high school, and it was also his only yearning.

All these years, he had been waiting for Xia He. Now that he finally had a chance, he still did not dare to express his feelings to Xia He. In his eyes, Xia He was like a high and mighty goddess, sacred and inviolable. How could a mediocre person like him be worthy of Xia He?

Deng Fan held on to this love for many years and had hidden it deep in his heart. As long as no one discovered it, he could hide it for the rest of his life.

Qiao Mei had just finished lunch when she bumped into Xia He who had returned in high spirits. Xia He even skipped as she walked in. Did Xia He not say that she would only be back at night? How strange.

“Why are you back so early?” Qiao Mei asked.

“I did something fantastic today! It was especially satisfying! I even feel like setting off firecrackers to celebrate!” Xia He said excitedly.

“We still have firecrackers in the storeroom. Why don’t you set them off now?” Qiao Mei said.

“I’m just saying. We should set off those firecrackers when you give birth. Let’s keep them for now. I went to the art troupe today and got into a fight with someone. She’s probably still wailing in pain in the hospital now!” Xia He felt happy whenever she thought back to how uncomfortable Yang Xin looked. This was retribution for evil people. It was her fault for always spreading rumors. Let this be a lesson for her!

Qiao Mei thought highly of Xia He’s combat strength and hoped that Xia He remembered to go easy on the other party. If Xia He beat up that person badly, how was she going to return to the art troupe in the future?

Based on Xia He’s character, as long as she was not provoked, she would not take the initiative to attack. To Qiao Mei, there was nothing for her to worry about.

The next day arrived very quickly. Xia Wen and Tan Jing had finished packing their things for the move to the countryside. Tan Jing had a big fight with Xia Wen over this matter and even smashed everything in the house when she was packing her luggage, but Xia Wen still refused to give in.

Xia Wen was not that unreasonable. He gave Tan Jing two choices. Either she moved to the countryside with him and became self-sufficient, or she could return to the Tan family and live with them. Of course, Tan Jing would not choose to go back to the Tan family, so she could only leave with Xia Wen silently.

Although people termed this place as the countryside, it was more like the urban-rural fringe. The living environment was not as arduous as Xia Wen had described and it was not that far from the city. The whole place was also quite well-equipped. The courtyard was very big and the farmland was vast. Tan

Jing could grow vegetables or flowers, depending on what she liked. Life could be very cozy and comfortable here.

If Qiao Mei saw this place, she would be very eager to buy it for herself! She was still worried about not having a place to plant her seeds. If she was the one who had to come to this village, she would definitely help all the villagers here to make money together. It would be just like her neighbors in Foshan Village, where she helped every family to live a comfortable life.

Chapter 1120 - 1120 Do Things With Conscience

1120 Do Things With Conscience

However, in Tan Jing's eyes, this was hell! It was even more terrifying than hell and more uncomfortable than death.

Back then, when Tan Jing lived alone and had to work very hard, the environment was even tougher than this. However, she was willing to endure the hardship then and did not have any complaints at all. Perhaps she had been living too well for too long.

It was easy to go from frugal to extravagant, but difficult to go from extravagant to frugal.

"Do we really have to live here? Can't we plead with Father and Mother to let us return to our original home and continue living there?" Tan Jing asked.

"Unless you ask your parents to repay all the money they owe our family or bring back all the things they have taken from my house over the years, my parents won't let us go back so easily," Xia Wen said expressionlessly.

"What do you mean by your parents! My parents! Aren't they our parents? Why do you have to make the distinction!" Tan Jing said agitatedly.

"Then what about my younger siblings! They're part of the family too! You actually want my younger sister-in-law's children! Aren't you trying to kill her? If you give birth to two children and I give one to my younger sister, can you bear to do that?" Xia Wen questioned.

Tan Jing rejected him directly. "It's not like Xia He can't have her own children! Why should I give my children to her!"

"Then why should my younger sister-in-law give you her child! In this world, does it mean that whoever is poor and whoever can't have children can demand for things? Then has our family ever asked you for anything? I don't think so. Even this house is given to us by my parents. If you're really so full of pride and want to have a standoff with my parents, then bring out your own bargaining chips!" Xia Wen said.

"Xia Wen, are you crazy!" Tan Jing said.

"Am I crazy? When you say that, take a good hard look at your own conscience as well. Is your conscience clear?" After saying that, Xia Wen got out of the car and started moving things into the house.

In order for Tan Jing to live well here, Xia Wen even specially refurbished the fireplace. The stove he installed was the best one available on the market. If she wanted to cook, she would definitely have to burn firewood. After all, there was no one to deliver gas cylinders to this area.

They did not have a lot of luggage. The bulk of their stuff was bedding and pillows from their wedding. After so many years, they were still as good as new so Xia Wen did not buy more. He had left all the household appliances in the other house. In order to be able to sell it for a higher price, Xia Wen had put in a lot of effort.

The house did not sell for a lot of money, only 5,000 dollars. He had to ask a friend for help to be able to sell it so quickly. Xia Wen immediately sent the money to Qiao Mei as soon as he received it. As for the money that he owed Xia Mao and Xu Lan, he would think of a way to repay it as soon as possible.

On the other hand, Tan Jing only knew how to wallow in self-pity although she was clearly the one who caused this tragic situation. If not for her and the Tan family creating all kinds of mess endlessly, Xia Wen would not have to worry so much and had to do everything himself. Things would not have suddenly become so complicated.

After cleaning up the house, Xia Wen left, leaving Tan Jing behind alone. He also left some food stamps and 100 dollars on the table. There was also a second-hand bicycle in the courtyard to make it more convenient for her if she wanted to go out.

Xia Wen had considered everything, but Tan Jing still did not appreciate it. She felt that the lousy bicycle was not as presentable as a car. In the past, when she went out, Xia Wen's chauffeur would pick her up personally!

No matter how big a fuss she kicked up now, no one would see it. Xia Wen was actually doing this for Tan Jing's own good. In this place, not only could she isolate herself from the Tan family, but she could also quietly and peacefully reflect upon the mistakes she made during this period of time. It also meant that Xia Mao and Xu Lan would not feel irritated every time they had to look at Tan Jing.

After another two to three days, Tan Jing sat in the courtyard and washed her clothes. The bone-chillingly cold well water made her fingers red and swollen and she could not help but tear up. She still could not understand how she ended up in such a state.

"Stop washing. Leave it to me," Cheng Gu said as he squatted in front of Tan Jing and dipped his hands into the basin to hold her hands.

"You! Why are you here! How did you find me!" Tan Jing looked at Cheng Gu in shock, completely forgetting to withdraw her hands from Cheng Gu's grip.

Cheng Gu did not answer Tan Jing's question. He filled a basin with fresh water and asked Tan Jing to wash her hands properly. Then, he took off his coat and washed her clothes in the courtyard.

"I found out that your house had been sold. Then I asked around and found out that you are here, so I'm here to see you," Cheng Gu said.