

Fat Wife 1121

Chapter 1121 - 1121 Let me help you.

1121 Let me help you.

Tan Jing stood at the side, feeling embarrassed. She dared not look Cheng Gu in the face directly. What this man had done for her had already exceeded what normal friends did for each other. Deep down inside her heart, she also knew that Cheng Gu did not just treat her like an elder sister.

“It’s better that you don’t come here in the future. People will gossip about us,” Tan Jing said.

Even though she had only just arrived, she knew the speed at which gossip spread around in a village. In the few days since she moved here, these neighbors had already been making up all sorts of stories about her life. Some people even said that she was here to hide from her creditors, while others said that she looked like a child trafficker. There were even people who guessed that she was a mistress of some big boss out there. There were all kinds of stories, but none made her out to be a good person.

Tan Jing did not blame them. After all, there was not even one television set in this village. The people here could only gossip about one another to pass time. Once she lived here long enough, the rumors would die down.

Such things were commonplace to her. After so many years of being gossiped about because she was childless, she was already used to it.

“As a younger brother, I’m here to see how my elder sister is doing. What’s so bad about that? Why should I be afraid of them?” Cheng Gu said gently.

Cheng Gu noted down everything that was lacking in the house and quickly drove to the city to buy them. He filled up Tan Jing’s house with loads of things, including all the daily necessities that Tan Jing would need for the next month.

He was worried that Tan Jing did not know how to cook, so he bought a lot of instant food. If Tan Jing was really hungry, she could at least have something to eat.

“Is there anything else you need? Let me know and I’ll get it for you. Are these light bulbs in the house good enough? Do you want me to install a light in the courtyard?” Cheng Gu said.

“I don’t need anything else. You’ve already bought enough! I haven’t even returned you the money for the surgery and now I owe you so much,” Tan Jing said embarrassedly.

“I don’t want your money. I just want to help you. You don’t have to return anything to me. You just have to live well,” Cheng Gu said with a smile.

Tan Jing looked at Cheng Gu and shook her head helplessly. She was not doing well at all. It all felt so terrible, like there was no situation that could be worse than this.

Cheng Gu could also tell what was on Tan Jing’s mind and asked softly, “Can you tell me about what happened to you recently? Perhaps I can help you share your burden?”

Previously, Tan Jing had already told Cheng Gu about her issues in the Xia and Tan families. Not only did Cheng Gu not despise her, but he even helped her come up with strategies. If not for Cheng Gu, she would still be at her wits’ end!

She was no longer guarded against Cheng Gu. In fact, she trusted him more than she trusted Xia Wen. She told him about what happened over the past few days and even about those past grudges. She even told him about how Xu Lan treated her badly when she first married into the Xia family.

As Tan Jing spoke, she felt more and more aggrieved and slowly started crying. Cheng Gu held Tan Jing’s hands and said with heartache, “Why don’t you divorce him? It’s too torturous for you.”

“No! I can’t divorce him!” Tan Jing said in fear.

Her wealth and status were all given by the Xia family. She had seen what happened between Xia He and Kong Lu after their divorce. Xia He had forced Kong Lu to pay off all the debts he owed her for so many years. If Xia Wen divorced her, she would also have to bear a huge debt. The thing was firstly, she did not have a job now and secondly, she did not have any money. It was already a problem for her to support herself, so how would she be able to repay her debts?

No matter what Xia Wen said to her, she would not ask for a divorce. Unless they wanted her to die at the Xia family's door, they could forget about chasing her out of the Xia family!

"Then do you still want children now? If you don't have children, nothing in your life will change," Cheng Gu said.

"But my husband is very averse to this matter. How can I broach the topic again?" Tan Jing asked with uncertainty.

Cheng Gu thought for a moment and said, "Since you can't adopt children from either your family or their family, then just go to the orphanage. There are so many orphanages out there. There must be at least one baby who's suitable for you."

If Tan Jing's living arrangement was still the same as before, the orphanage might be comfortable to let her adopt a child. However, she was living in a village now and it was already a problem for her to provide for herself. How could she take care of a child? How could it even be possible?

Chapter 1122 - 1122 I Will Help You Achieve It

1122 I Will Help You Achieve It

No matter how capable Xia Wen was, he could at most earn 130 dollars a month. He had to pay off his debts and also had his own expenses. Part of his salary would also go to provide for her. This amount of money was not enough at all. If they still had to take care of a child, their lives would become even more difficult.

"No, the orphanage definitely won't agree to it with my current situation. Thank you for coming up with a plan for me, but let's forget about this matter," Tan Jing said dejectedly.

"Then do you still want your sister-in-law's children?" Cheng Gu asked seriously.

"What do you mean..." Tan Jing said.

Cheng Gu looked around, then lowered his voice and said, "Your sister-in-law is about to give birth. At this time, if there is some kind of catalyst thrown at her, she will definitely give birth prematurely. As

long as your sister-in-law dies, won't they ask you to bring up the children? Don't tell me they'll ask your husband's sister to do it?"

Both Xu Lan and Xia Mao were getting on in years, so they would not be able to keep their eyes on the babies at all times. Xia Zhe was always away in the army and would not have the time to take care of two newborn babies. Xia He had never given birth before. Furthermore, she was still young and her temperament was also not suitable.

If Qiao Mei died, Tan Jing would be the most suitable person to bring up these two children. The two children would still be the grandchildren of the Xia family and would receive the best care with her.

"No! Definitely not! We're talking about the loss of a human life! Won't my life be ruined as well?" Tan Jing said in shock.

She still wanted to live for many more years! Murder was punishable by death. In the event the babies died with their mother, that would be a loss of three lives at one go! Then she would be sentenced to death! She did not want to die with Qiao Mei.

"You don't have to do it yourself. As long as it's what you want, I'll help you fulfill it," Cheng Gu said firmly.

It would be a lie for Tan Jing to say that she did not waver in her decision. However, she could not be so treacherous for her own selfish desires. If she could sacrifice other people to achieve her goal, then she was no different from a beast.

Cheng Gu was still so young and had a bright future ahead of him. In the future, he would marry a virtuous wife and have a smart child. They would live happily together. Cheng Gu should not give up his lifelong happiness for her.

"No, don't get involved in my family's affairs. Even if you help me, I won't remember your kindness. Instead, I'll hate you for the rest of my life," Tan Jing said.

“I know a friend whose team specializes in such dirty business. As long as this is what you want, I’ll arrange for them to do it. They’re very tight-lipped, so you don’t have to worry even if they fail,” Cheng Gu said.

As long as it did not affect Cheng Gu and her, then it was not such a big deal to her. All this while, Qiao Mei had bullied and suppressed her in every aspect. If she could get rid of Qiao Mei, then she would be able to fulfill all her desires.

Her nightmare would also finally come to an end.

“Then how do we find him? Do we need a lot of money? Or does he want something else?” Tan Jing asked.

“There’s no need for anything. You just need to tell me about your sister-in-law, such as her normal schedule, habits, diet and what she likes,” Cheng Gu said.

Tan Jing told Cheng Gu everything she knew and remembered, down to the minute detail of the timing when Qiao Mei would go to the toilet.

“This is enough. Just wait to hear from me.” After saying that, Cheng Gu patted Tan Jing on the head and left coolly.

Tan Jing was both excited and afraid. She looked forward to Cheng Gu bringing her good news. As long as she could get rid of Qiao Mei and get the children, she would be more than willing to shorten her own lifespan in exchange! When the time came, all of Qiao Mei’s houses would belong to her, together with Wu Min’s courtyard house. She would be able to take back everything that Qiao Mei took from her one by one!

She was going to be a mother soon! She was going to have a son soon!

At this moment, Qiao Mei was sitting in the courtyard and suddenly sneezed twice. Xia He was so worried that she quickly brought over a thick cloak to put over Qiao Mei.

“Are you going to catch a cold! Come in with me!” Xia He reprimanded sternly.

Xia He had already sealed off the corridor in this courtyard with plastic sheets so as to block out the wind. She only put in a small door opening, making the place look like those greenhouses in the suburbs.

Chapter 1123 - 1123 Worried

1123 Worried

“It’s just two sneezes. I guess someone was scolding me. What has it got to do with a cold?” Qiao Mei pouted and said.

It was a common saying that one sneeze meant that someone was thinking about you, two sneezes meant someone was secretly scolding you behind your back, and three sneezes meant someone was talking about you behind your back. Any more than that and it meant that you had caught a cold.

“You only know how to quibble with me! You never listen to me!” Xia He said angrily.

“I didn’t do anything wrong! Why should I listen to you? Didn’t I just sit in the courtyard for a while? I’m wearing so many layers of clothes. Do you still need to criticize me?” Qiao Mei said aggrievedly.

Xia He was so angry that she left Qiao Mei behind and returned to the room. With a loud bang, she closed the door forcefully, leaving Qiao Mei sitting there and feeling at a loss.

What was going on? Why was Xia He so angry? Usually, Xia He could not even bear to say anything harsh to her, so she had never seen Xia He behave like this. Could it be that she had really done something which offended Xia He?

Qiao Mei gave it some thought and finally decided to go to the kitchen to get some delicious snacks. Xia He really liked snacks and would definitely forgive her after eating some. She quietly went to Xia He’s room door and quietly pushed it open a little.

“Elder sister~ My good elder sister~ Come and take a look. These are some new pastries~ Come and smell them~” Qiao Mei leaned against the door and shouted sweetly.

Xia He could not help herself from taking a gulp, but she turned her head away from Qiao Mei. Qiao Mei continued to act pitiful and said, "If my elder sister doesn't let me in, then I'll just sit at my elder sister's door until my elder sister forgives me! Ah... it's so cold outside..."

"Are you a child! How dare you joke around with your health!" Xia He said as she opened the door out of exasperation.

"Hehe, you're finally willing to pay attention to me~" Qiao Mei held the plate and smirked at getting what she wanted.

Xia He pulled Qiao Mei into the room and covered her tightly with the blanket. She only spoke when she saw Qiao Mei's face gradually turning rosy.

"Don't you know how dangerous it is for you now! You still dare to stand outside in the wind! What if something happens to you! How am I going to explain this to my family! You always don't listen to me and you always think that everything is fine. What if something really happens! How will either of us be able to handle it!" The more Xia He spoke, the more agitated she became and she started crying aggrievedly.

Qiao Mei was at a loss. The only time she saw Xia He cry, it was because of Xia Mao. Even when Xia He divorced Kong Lu, she was not so sad. Yet Xia He actually broke down out of concern for her health.

The thing was that she had a multifunctional bangle. As long as she soaked this bangle in the 100-year-old ginseng juice every day, it would naturally be filled up with energy the next day, like a portable charger. Even if she wore short-sleeve clothes and walked around outside the house, she would not catch a cold.

However, no one else knew that Qiao Mei had such an ability. Therefore, they were naturally worried about Qiao Mei's health. After all, Xia He was not Qiao Mei's biological elder sister and she could not behave like one. Xia He was worried that if she interfered too much, Qiao Mei would find her annoying and reject her presence.

As time passed, Xia He felt more and more pressurized, leading to the breakdown today.

“I’m sorry... I’ll definitely take good care of myself in the future. I won’t let my elder sister worry anymore,” Qiao Mei said as she tugged at the corner of Xia He’s sleeve.

“You must be healthy and well. Otherwise, what am I going to do? Other than my elder brother and younger brother, you’re the only one I can talk to. If you don’t take good care of yourself, what will happen to me in the future?” Xia He asked.

“I swear, I’ll definitely be healthy and well. I’ll definitely listen to you!” Qiao Mei raised three fingers and made an oath.

“Then you have to listen to Mother as well. Recently, she has found you a few helpers and a gardener to take care of your meals and daily needs,” Xia He said.

It made sense to look for helpers, but why was there a need for a gardener? She could handle all the flowers and plants at home herself, so why was there a need for an outsider?

Was she going to get a chauffeur after another two days! This house was getting more and more crowded.

Chapter 1124 - 1124 Getting Helpers

1124 Getting Helpers

Xia He seemed to notice Qiao Mei’s puzzlement and explained patiently, “Recently, your younger siblings have to clear the weeds in the courtyard during their usual rest time. After I put up the plastic sheets around this corridor, a lot of new grass started growing for some reason, so we need someone to find someone to deal with this.”

Qiao Mei lowered her head silently. Perhaps she was the real reason for the grass growing. Some time ago, she had been repeatedly cultivating 10,000-year-old ginseng at home. It was likely that the surrounding land had been affected.

In the past, without the mock greenhouse setup, the courtyard was very cold and it was not conducive for plants to grow. Now that the environment had changed, the plants were all popping out one by one.

It was actually very easy to deal with these things. Qiao Mei could solve the problem by absorbing all energy from the plants and there was no need to expend so much effort at all. However, doing that would attract attention and make the whole situation seem even weirder. She decided to go with the flow and let them find a gardener to handle the issue. Anyway, the flowers in the backyard could bloom well even if they were only watered randomly.

“Alright then, I’ll follow the family’s arrangements,” Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Mei decided to let Xu Lan and the others do whatever they wanted. If she rejected their kindness, they might even come to her house tomorrow and ask her to move immediately to Xia Fang’s hospital and stay in the small VIP infirmary. They would need to incur expensive charges every day and she could only go home after she gave birth and when it was deemed safe for the babies to do so.

In that case, she might as well hire a few more people at home! At least she could continue to stay in a familiar environment and she would feel much more relaxed and be in a better mood. Most importantly, she could continue to secretly grow her ginseng!

Sister Fan was the one who found the helpers and gardener. Xu Lan knew nothing about such things. The previous helper at home was the one in charge of such matters. Now that she was no longer around, Xu Lan could only trouble Sister Fan.

Soon, Sister Fan picked out two capable nannies and a male gardener. Sister Fan knew Qiao Mei’s daily schedule and only brought the three of them to Qiao Mei’s house in the afternoon. Qiao Mei was already waiting in the study by the time they arrived.

“Auntie Fan, I miss you so much~” Qiao Mei said sweetly.

“I think you miss the food I make!” Sister Fan was so tickled that she laughed loudly. She looked at Qiao Mei as if she was looking at her own daughter. She had four sons and her greatest wish in life was to have a daughter. Seeing Qiao Mei made her want a daughter even more.

“I miss both. Auntie Fan, please take a seat,” Qiao Mei said.

After Sister Fan sat down, she did not make small talk and went straight to the topic at hand. She pointed at the three people and said, "This is Feng Hua and she's 38 years old this year. She has 12 years of experience as a nanny and is very good at taking care of children. She has five children herself! There are both boys and girls. The other one is Wei Hao, she's 30 years old this year and she has been working as a nanny for six years. She's very diligent and cooks very well."

"I'm definitely comfortable with people whom Auntie Fan recommends! Then this is..." Qiao Mei's gaze landed on the gardener. This person looked much younger than the rest, like a university student. He did not look like a gardener at all.

"This is Shen Gui. Although he's young, he knows a lot about flowers and plants. He's recommended by my husband. My husband plants trees for a living so he knows many gardeners," Sister Fan said.

Qiao Mei nodded. These three people fitted what she needed the most for the moment. She hoped that they could get along harmoniously.

"So what are your expectations on salary?" Qiao Mei asked as she looked at the three of them.

Feng Hua had a lot of confidence in her capability due to her many years of experience. She said confidently, "I've been a nanny for many families. I heard from Sister Fan that food and accommodation will already be covered in this job, so I'd like a salary of 120 dollars a month."

An amount of 120 dollars! Xia He almost lost her balance at the side. This person was really daring to expect so much pay for a nanny job which was inclusive of food and accommodation. Sister Fan only earned 60 dollars a month!

"Then can you tell me what I'm spending the 120 dollars on?" Qiao Mei leaned back in her chair and asked with some interest.

"I graduated from high school so there's definitely no problem for me to teach the children in the early stage of their lives. You can safely leave the children in my care. I'm also very good at cooking for children. I also know how to prepare the confinement meals for you after you give birth. You don't have to worry about a single thing," Feng Hua said firmly.

Chapter 1125 - 1125 It Is Settled

Qiao Mei really liked people who were confident and honest. What Feng Hua said indeed made her feel very interested. She was very curious to know the extent of Feng Hua's capability to say that she could comfortably go through her confinement period and that her children would receive the best care and education. She did not expect the nannies of this era to have such advanced knowledge and abilities.

"Then what about you, how much do you want?" Qiao Mei turned to look at Wei Hao and asked her.

Wei Hao did not hesitate and said frankly, "50 dollars."

This piqued Qiao Mei's interest. Under normal circumstances, since Feng Hua had asked for a salary of 120 dollars a month, the next person would either ask for the same amount or thereabout. At the very least, it was unlikely to be lower than 100 dollars. However, Wei Hong immediately quoted a figure that was less than half of Feng Hua's salary.

Could it be that this person had other intentions? Or was she a fool?

"Why aren't you asking for more?" Qiao Mei asked.

"That's because my work is only worth that much. I must describe my capability honestly. I haven't been in this line of work for very long and I've only worked for three families before this. I definitely don't have as much experience as Sister Feng Hua. My best skill is cooking. As for cleaning the house and washing the clothes, that's the basics and nothing to shout about. Therefore, I'm fine with 50 dollars," Wei Hong said humbly.

Qiao Mei nodded in satisfaction and then looked at Shen Gui. He had an obtuse look on his face, as if he was not interested in anything other than flowers and plants. She caught him staring at the asparagus fern on her desk for a long time.

"Do you... think my asparagus fern is not nice?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

“No, no! It’s too nice! I’ve never seen such beautiful asparagus fern! It’s just that it’s not trimmed properly often enough, so the shape isn’t beautiful enough,” Shen Gui said with a hint of pity in his voice.

“Then what are you expecting with regard to salary?” Qiao Mei asked.

“I’m fine with the amount as long as it’s enough for my living expenses,” Shen Gui said with a smile.

As the other two helpers were women, they could live in Qiao Mei’s house. There was no use for a live-in gardener. He just needed to come and take care of the plants twice a week. There was no need for him to come over every day.

“How about this? Sister Feng and Sister Wei, you’ll get the amounts you ask for. As for Shen Gui... you can come three times a week on Monday, Thursday and Saturday. You’ll be paid 6 dollars per session. We’ll talk about your main responsibilities when you start work. I’ll make a list for you by then. I don’t just have flowers and plants in this courtyard, there’s also flowers and plants in the backyard. Your job is to take care of everything,” Qiao Mei said after careful consideration.

Everyone was very satisfied. There was no need for them to start work today. Qiao Mei chose a room in the front yard for the two helpers to stay in. There were two beds, two desks and two closets in the room, which was definitely enough for the two of them. When the time came, Feng Hua would be the one to follow her to Xu Lan’s place.

“Auntie Fan, are you leaving now? Aren’t you going to stay with me for a while longer?” Qiao Mei said reluctantly.

“Your mother is still waiting for me at home! If I don’t go back soon, she’ll starve to death. I’ll bring you delicious food next time.” Sister Fan patted Qiao Mei’s head and got into the car to go home.

Tonight was the last time that Xia He needed to help Li Gui with the cooking. They had helpers at home now! She would no longer have to do all these tiring chores!

She even hummed a tune as she cooked, wanting everyone to know how happy she was.

The next day, Xia He woke up on time and got ready to go to the art troupe. It had already been so many days and she still did not know what had happened to Yang Xin. She decided to deliver some materials to the art troupe and take a look at what was going on.

Deng Fan was still the first person to arrive at the art troupe. After Yang Xin was not around, the atmosphere in the entire practice studio became much better. Everyone was hard at work and diligently practicing their basic skills.

Their biggest opponent, Yang Xin, had an injured ankle and definitely could not go on stage. In addition, Xia He had made it clear that she did not want to participate in this performance. Therefore, the main role would go to one of them. They definitely wanted to seize this opportunity and perform on stage. If they did well, then this would be the chance for them to make a name for themselves!

At that time, not only would there be an additional salary for the performance, but the benefits would also be huge. It was definitely much better than just practicing basic skills in the practice studio every day.

Chapter 1126 - 1126 Just You Wait

1126 Just You Wait

“Sister Xia He! You’re here! I thought you won’t be here for a while!” said Yuan Shan, one of Xia He’s colleagues from before, as she came over happily.

“Oh, you’re still here. I thought you had gone somewhere else,” Xia He said with a polite smile.

“Where else can I go? It’s good enough that this place wants me. I’m not like you. You’re so talented and you also have Coach Xu to back you up. I’m so envious!” Yuan Shan said obsequiously.

Everyone else had disdainful expressions on their faces. Back when Yang Xin took over Xia He’s position and acted like a tyrant in the art troupe, Yuan Shan also said something similar to Yang Xin. For many years, she not only waited upon Yang Xin, but also gave Yang Xin massages like she was a slave.

Yuan Shan did all that hoping that Yang Xin would bestow upon her one or two roles and let her have a chance to go on stage. However, Yang Xin did not really take her requests seriously at all. On one hand, Yang Xin appeared to agree, but on the other hand, Yang Xin belittled her behind her back. Over the

years, one could count on one hand the number of times Yuan Shan had been on stage and those were all dispensable roles.

Now that Xia He had come back, it meant that Yuan Shan had a chance to change her strategy. If Xia He was willing to help her, it would definitely be more worth it than being Yang Xin's follower!

"Is that so? Coach Xu scolds me more than anyone else and punishes me the most. Have you forgotten all this already? It seems that your memory isn't very good. If you have time, you should go to the hospital to get it treated. I have to go and deliver something. You should go practice too." After saying that, Xia He patted Yuan Shan's shoulder and left.

Yuan Shan stood rooted to the spot in anger. If not for the fact that there were too many people around, she would have thrown a big tantrum and cussed out Xia He!

When Zhou Ling found out that Xia He had returned to the art troupe, she dressed up and ran to the dance studio without even combing her hair. As soon as she entered, she pointed at Xia He and scolded, "How dare you come here! See if I don't rip out your tongue!"

"Go ahead. Let's see whose tongue gets ripped out," Xia He said with a smile as she sat at the side.

"You beat up Yang Xin and she's now in the hospital, yet you're here as if nothing has happened. Do you think you're so great just because your mother is Xu Lan! Don't you get this position only because of your mother? Everyone knows that! Why are you so pretentious! How can you even compete with Yang Xin!" Zhou Ling said angrily.

Xia He stood up and went forward to give Zhou Ling a tight slap. Everyone was caught off guard by what she did. Zhou Ling definitely did not expect it.

"Show more respect to my mother. She's my mother and also your teacher! Don't you know you have to respect your teachers!" Xia He roared.

"You! What's so great about you..." Zhou Ling said fearfully.

“Whether I’m capable or not has nothing to do with you or Yang Xin. Have I ever said that I want to compete with you two rotten eggs? You are the ones who keep imagining things and come looking for trouble for no reason. That day, you were the ones who started it! She was the one who was stupid enough to lose her footing because she couldn’t balance herself. What has it got to do with me?” Xia He said as she rolled her eyes helplessly.

Zhou Ling was so angry that she took a broom from the side and pointed it at Xia He, saying, “You’re lying again! You’re such a liar! Why are you always telling lies!”

Xia He had no idea which part of what she said was a lie. She also did not know why Zhou Ling thought of her as a liar. When she left the art troupe, Zhou Ling had not even joined. Zhou Ling only came to the art troupe after she left.

“You can’t even hold a broom properly, yet you’re still trying to play bluff here? Do you have the confidence to beat me? You can’t even manage to dodge a slap from me,” Xia He said mockingly.

Zhou Ling was a little hesitant. The scene of Yang Xin being beaten up by Xia He and getting sent to the hospital was still vivid in her mind. If she also had to be hospitalized now, she would not have a chance to take part in the performance anymore. Now that Yang Xin could not perform, as long as she begged Yang Xin, she might get a chance.

She decided not to get involved in this matter. Yang Xin should be the one to get the troupe leader to uphold justice for herself! Yang Xin must ask the troupe leader to teach this arrogant person a lesson!

“Just you wait! You just wait! We won’t let this go just like that!” With that, Zhou Ling threw down the broom and ran away gloomily.

Chapter 1127 Send You Home

Xia He did not understand why Zhou Ling wanted to create such a scene today. Her last sentence sounded like a line spoken by villains in television dramas. Generally speaking, people who mouthed such lines did not end up with a good ending.

Sigh... Her good mood today was spoiled by another crazy woman again. Why was it that every time she went to the art troupe, there would always be a "mad dog" coming to bite her?

She must remember to bring a beating stick with her whenever she went out so that she could beat up any barking mad dog she met. There was no need to say anything. If she had to talk too much, it would only make her feel even more annoyed. If those dogs were too disobedient, she would just beat them up a few more times. With time, those "mad dogs" would know that they must avoid her.

Xia He left the art troupe dejectedly again. This time, Deng Fan did not hesitate. He chased after her and said, "How did you come today?"

"I'm going to have to disappoint you. I didn't bring a chauffeur today. I came by bus," Xia He said sulkily.

At this moment, she was not in the mood to be nice to anyone. She felt so annoyed. In the future, whenever she wanted to come to the art troupe, she must check if it was an auspicious day for her to go out. Why was she so unlucky every time!

"I... I rode my motorcycle. I can send you back," Deng Fan mustered his courage and said.

"My place doesn't seem to be on your way. Isn't your house nearer than mine?" Xia He asked curiously.

"Yes, but it doesn't really matter. Take it that I'm thanking you for sending me home the other day." Deng Fan started scratching his head out of embarrassment.

Xia He did not read too much into it and believed that Deng Fan wanted to return the favor. She patted Deng Fan's shoulder readily and said, "Let's go! Then I won't stand on ceremony with you! But you have to stay for dinner. We have a new helper at home. I hear that her culinary skills are outstanding!"

Deng Fan's motorcycle was one of those huge ones, and he seemed like a different person when he rode on it. He sped on the road like a streak of lightning.

Xia He hugged Deng Fan's waist tightly, scared that she would be thrown off if she let go. This was actually part of Deng Fan's selfish plan. He could enjoy this short period of intimacy when they rode at high speed.

When they reached Qiao Mei's house, Deng Fan stabilized the motorcycle before he let Xia He get down. After that, he went to find a parking spot. When he returned, he found Xia He sitting on the steps at the door, hugging the helmet and taking deep breaths. She looked a little pale.

"Are you... alright?" Deng Fan asked worriedly.

"I'm fine! You're so cool when you ride a motorcycle! It never crosses my mind that you know how to ride one! You're super cool!" Xia He said excitedly.

Deng Fan was a little flattered. He did not expect Xia He to like the experience so much. He originally thought that she would think that he was a lunatic.

"I just ride occasionally, not often. You don't look too well. Do you want me to help you into the house?" Deng Fan asked.

"I just don't get to ride a motorcycle often, so I'm not used to it. If I do it more often, then your speed is not a problem for me! However, I never imagine this is how you are in private. I always think that you have a similar character to my grandfather," Xia He said with a smile as she stared at Deng Fan.

Deng Fan's cheeks were a little flushed. He coughed twice to hide his joy and tried his best to ask calmly, "So what's your grandfather like?"

"He's fierce and doesn't smile. He must drink tea every day and he keeps drinking even after the tea leaves have been soaked colorless! Anyway, he's an old-fashioned and thrifty person," Xia He commented.

"I... I'm not too extravagant..." Deng Fan explained.

"Of course I'm not saying that you're extravagant, but how much is this motorcycle of yours? Actually, I rarely see anyone riding a motorcycle. Did you get it from out of town? My younger brother tried to fight against my father's objection for half a month but he still failed," Xia He said.

Deng Fan quickly waved his hand and said, "My father gave it to me. It's not worth much. I only ride it to the art troupe when I wake up late."

Qiao Mei leaned against the big pillar at the door and listened for a long time. The two of them were having such a lively conversation. This man was very delicate-looking. She thought that Xia He would not like this type, but perhaps Xia He had a change in taste? It was hard to say.

Just as Qiao Mei was thinking about these, she felt a sudden pain in her stomach and cried out, "Ah..."

Xia He immediately rushed to Qiao Mei and asked anxiously, "What's wrong? What's wrong? What happened? Deng Fan! Quick, call an ambulance! Save her!"

Chapter 1128 - 1128 Invitation to Enter the House

1128 Invitation to Enter the House

Deng Fan almost started running towards the small shop at the entrance of the alley. Qiao Mei quickly stopped him and said, "Brother Deng, there's no need! It's not a big deal!"

"How is it not a big deal! Doesn't your stomach hurt? Why don't I give Aunt a call and ask her to come to our house to check on you! You can't ignore this!" Xia He said anxiously.

"It's just the baby kicking me. I was caught off guard for a moment and got a shock. It's nothing serious. There's no need to ask Aunt to come over. Don't alarm anyone," Qiao Mei said as she stroked her stomach.

Only then did Xia He and Deng Fan heave a sigh of relief. The two of them did not have partners or children, and also did not have siblings with children. It was normal for them to get so flustered since they did not know what was going on.

It was good to know that Qiao Mei was fine. The two of them took deep breaths. If this kind of thing happened a few more times, they could get heart attacks!

"Alright, come in quickly. Brother Deng, come in and take a seat too. I've prepared nice snacks and tea!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Even if Deng Fan wanted to refuse, there was no reason for him to do so. Xia He also called out to him to hurry in and he slowly followed behind Qiao Mei and Xia He. He had never seen such a big courtyard before.

His parents' house only had two rooms, a small kitchen and a toilet. It was not even as big as two rooms in Qiao Mei's house! There were also two helpers taking care of Qiao Mei in the house. It was such an imposing place. He did not expect Xia He to live in such a place.

After Deng Fan entered the house, he was even more shocked. There were calligraphy and paintings all over the wall and exquisite porcelain everywhere. Deng Rui liked these things very much. Back in those days, he was almost reported and arrested for illegally stashing away antiques! Fortunately, Deng Rui was meticulous enough to ask for a receipt for every item he bought from the antique market, even if it was just a small stone.

It was easy for him to explain himself with the receipts. Even when someone reported him, he was not afraid of being accused by other people. The owners of those antique shops, whom he knew well, would always tell him that they would definitely testify for him if anything happened, but he knew that no one would turn up when there was trouble brewing!

"Do you like calligraphy and paintings?" Deng Fan asked as he looked at the calligraphy and paintings on the wall in the main hall.

"Yes, I don't just have calligraphy and paintings. I also have porcelain and many precious jade stones in my study. I like gemstones very much too. Brother Deng, are you familiar with such antiques?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"It's my father who likes them, but he's more interested in literary playthings like walnut palm massagers. He hung calligraphy and paintings at home to make the ambience better," Deng Fan said humbly.

In fact, Deng Fan knew his stuff. Many of these paintings were from famous masters and were definitely not something that could be bought casually and off the shelf. It must have cost a lot of money, manpower and resources to preserve such ancient calligraphy paintings until now. It was already very rare for them to be in such intact condition.

Qiao Mei's admiration for Deng Fan increased a little more. Xia He did not dislike Deng Fan and the two of them looked very compatible together. Qiao Mei was very satisfied with him and almost wanted to run home and bring Xu Lan over to meet Deng Fan.

As long as Xu Lan was satisfied! Then they should quickly get married! She must not let this man slip out of Xia He's grasp!

Wei Hao used the best tea leaves in the house and made tea for the three of them. A professional touch indeed made a difference. Compared to the tea that Qiao Mei usually brewed herself, the difference in taste was like the difference between heaven and earth.

"I don't know what you like. This is a new Pu'er that just arrived. See if it suits you?" Qiao Mei said.

Deng Fan had drunk all kinds of good tea before. The fragrance and mellow taste of Qiao Mei's tea was definitely extraordinary. It appeared to him that Qiao Mei was treating him with a lot of sincerity. He had thought that Qiao Mei would think of him as a bad guy who wanted to harm Xia He.

"Are you my elder sister's colleague? I don't think I've ever seen you before," Qiao Mei asked in a gentle manner.

Deng Fan quickly put down the tea bowl and said, "Xia He and I were classmates in junior high school. Later on, we worked in the art troupe together. I guess we're considered colleagues now."

"We're old classmates! It's so formal to say we're colleagues!" Xia He said enthusiastically.

Qiao Mei looked at Xia He with a teasing gaze. Xia He had never treated any "colleague" like this before.

Chapter 1129 - 1129 Matchmake

1129 Matchmake

Could Xia He have taken a fancy to this person? So that was why she rejected Luo Yu!

“Oh~ Since you’re about the same age as my elder sister and the two of you are old classmates, can I call you Big Brother Deng?” Qiao Mei asked politely.

“Of course,” Deng Fan nodded and said.

Xia He rolled her eyes resignedly. This little girl had addressed Deng Fan as Brother Deng earlier. It seemed that this little girl was going to play matchmaker again!

Without batting an eyelid, Qiao Mei asked Deng Fan about his family situation and what his parents did for a living. She also asked him if he had any other siblings at home. The only thing she did not ask him to do was to recite the names in his family tree!

The person in front of her met all of Xia He’s criteria, other than the condition of both parents having passed away. He was not bad at all, and he was also handsome and very elegant. He and Xia He could be considered to be like-minded and would have common topics. He was 10,000 times better than Kong Lu.

She just did not know where the two of them should live in the future. They could not possibly have to stay with Deng Fan’s parents. After they got married, Qiao Mei would not be able to give Xia He a house as a gift anymore. Otherwise, that would be such a slap in Deng Fan’s face!

She decided to give some careful consideration to this matter later. For now, she had to matchmake the two of them first! If she could matchmake them, then at least that was done! Qiao Mei was very satisfied with Deng Fan from all angles. All that was left was for Xia He to agree to the arrangement.

The three of them chatted until the sky turned dark. Deng Fan imparted a lot of knowledge about calligraphy and paintings to Qiao Mei and she benefited a lot from the session. She asked Deng Fan to stay for dinner and he only rode his motorcycle home after dinner was over. Xia He stood at the door and watched reluctantly as Deng Fan left the alley, unwilling to go back into the house even after he was gone.

“You’re still looking? It’ll be tomorrow morning soon! You won’t be able to see the sunrise at this door!” Qiao Mei teased with a smile.

“What are you talking about! I’m just enjoying the breeze here! Who’s looking at him! Stop talking nonsense!” Xia He said with a blushing face.

“I didn’t say anything! Why are you so anxious! Who said you were looking at him? You have a guilty conscience and yet you’re blaming me. I feel so wronged!” Qiao Mei said with a grin.

“Who likes him! But you! Why do you try to matchmake everyone you meet! That Qian’e and Zheng Peng from the backyard is still your work-in-progress! Don’t set your sights on me!” Xia He said.

Qiao Mei raised her eyebrows smugly and said, “How do you know I haven’t succeeded?”

Xia He’s eyes widened in an instant. What was going on! Could it be that there was a new development in the backyard! She did not notice anything!

“You must be lying to me. Qian’e hasn’t come to teach Miao Miao for the past few days. How did you manage to matchmake them?” Xia He asked doubtfully.

“It’s beyond your understanding! I have my own ways! You don’t have to care about how I do it. As for you, you have to hold on tight. I think Big Brother Deng is really not bad. He’s such a nice person!” After saying that, Qiao Mei ran back into the room. She was worried that if she was any slower, Xia He would catch hold of her and scold her.

Qian’e had been sick at home for the past few days. Qiao Mei told Zheng Peng about it with a worried expression and asked him to pay Qian’e a visit so that he could help her deliver the supplements she bought for Qian’e. She said that both she and Xia He did not have much time recently, but she could not possibly ask the children to go on her behalf. After a few rounds of persuasion, Zheng Peng finally agreed to go and visit Qian’e.

Qiao Mei did not know if she would succeed in her plan or not, but the truth would be revealed when Qian’e recovered from her illness!

When Xia He reached her room, she could not help but turn around to look in the direction of the main door. She lowered her head and smiled sweetly before entering the room.

Everyone had a good night's sleep that night and their dreams were filled with sweetness. However, the next morning, Xu Lan received a call from the Bian family, asking her to bring Xia He to the hospital immediately to apologize to Yang Xin. Otherwise, they would ask the art troupe leader to sack Xia He!

The previous art troupe leader had recently retired. The current troupe leader was Bian Ding, Bian Zhuo's biological uncle. Xu Lan was not very familiar with this person. She heard that he had used some underhanded methods to become the art troupe leader. Otherwise, he would not be able to get the position at all. Moreover, he knew nothing about dancing and was just a boorish person.

Xu Lan hurriedly asked the chauffeur to send her to Qiao Mei's house to ask Xia He about what happened. She was no longer the rash person from before.

Chapter 1130 - 1130 Notifying the Parents

1130 Notifying the Parents

In the past, Xu Lan would always blame her daughter at the first instance. She did not care about her daughter's reputation or the truth of the matter at all. She only knew that she must keep a distance from any trouble and that there was never anything wrong with being humble and cautious. The Xia family was rich and powerful. Even if they were in the right, people could still make them out to be bullying others who were weaker. Therefore, to avoid that, it was inevitable that they had to suffer some grievances.

Ever since Xia He was young, she suffered a lot from Xu Lan's way of handling things.

After Xu Lan arrived at Qiao Mei's house, she went to the main hall to look for them. It was a good thing that they were both already awake and doing embroidery.

"Mother? Why are you here?" Xia He asked curiously.

"I received a phone call from the art troupe. How can I not come and find out what actually happened?" Xu Lan looked at Xia He as if she expected better behavior from her.

Qiao Mei was also lost and confused. Xia He did not tell her in detail about this matter, but she did know that Xia He had gotten into a fight with someone in the military art troupe.

“She’s already a grownup, yet she notifies my parents about our issue. She really doesn’t find herself an embarrassment. Does she really think she’s still a child!” Xia He said angrily.

“Don’t talk about others. Hurry up and tell me how this happened. I have my own way of explaining it to them. Otherwise, even if I want to go and kick up a fuss, I don’t have any reason to do so,” Xu Lan said.

Xia He told Xu Lan the full story, including the details of how Yang Xin fell. She even wanted to demonstrate it to Xu Lan there and then.

Xu Lan quickly stopped Xia He from doing anything stupid. She frowned and said, “This matter is both simple and difficult. It all depends on what Yang Xin wants. There are no surveillance cameras in the art troupe. Unless you can find a witness to prove that you’re innocent, it’s going to be very difficult.”

“What’s so difficult about that! I didn’t hit her first! How can it be my fault!” Xia He said furiously.

“Without any witnesses, they will definitely believe Yang Xin’s lies. After all, she’s the one in the hospital now,” Qiao Mei said.

There was no other choice now. Xu Lan could only bring Xia He to meet the Bian family and see what they wanted.

“I want to go too,” Qiao Mei said.

“Why would you! What if there’s an altercation and you get hurt?” Xu Lan said worriedly.

Qiao Mei was worried that Xu Lan and Xia He would be at a disadvantage. Although Xia He was a hothead and had a sharp tongue, she was quite naive and easily fell into traps. It was not a good thing for her to be barging around. Xu Lan also had a soft personality. What if they ran into a shrew?

Qiao Mei would only feel at ease if she went along as well.

“It just so happens that I feel like going to Aunt’s place for a checkup to see how much longer it is until my delivery date. Didn’t Aunt also say that I should move around more often? I haven’t been out for a long time, so let me go along and take a look,” Qiao Mei said sweetly.

After much consideration, Xu Lan decided to bring Qiao Mei along. She reminded Qiao Mei repeatedly, “You must not enter the ward. Once you reach the hospital, go and look for your Aunt immediately. Do you understand?”

“Yes, yes! I promise I’ll go to Aunt’s lounge and not cause any trouble!” Qiao Mei said obediently.

After getting dressed up, the three of them set off for Xia Fang’s hospital. It was such a weird coincidence. There were so many hospitals in the capital, so why did the Bian family choose the hospital that was known for its gynecology department?

It would have made more sense to go to the hospital closest to the military art troupe. The orthopedic department of that hospital was the best in the capital and all the top orthopedic doctors worked there.

No one knew what the Bian family was up to.

As soon as they reached the entrance of the hospital, Xu Lan asked Xia Fang to come downstairs to pick Qiao Mei up. She did not believe that Qiao Mei could keep away from the Bian family! This little girl was very smart. If she did not get someone to keep an eye on her, she would definitely sneak away.

Qiao Mei did not expect Xu Lan to have become smarter. She was indeed thinking what Xu Lan was thinking. She had originally planned to secretly follow Xu Lan and Xia He into the Bian family’s ward.

“Mother... I really won’t run around. There’s no need to trouble Aunt,” Qiao Mei said helplessly.

“No! I must ask your Aunt to come down and pick you up!” Xu Lan said firmly.