

Fat Wife 1151

Chapter 1151 Something Wrong With Your Brain

"Nothing much, she's still alive and well. You're such a lucky man. The birthmark on your wife's shoulder is really beautiful. Her skin is so smooth that she doesn't look like a person who's almost 40! The guys all want to marry a woman like this!" Lu Miao said gleefully.

Xia Wen wished he could rip out the bones and tendons of the person on the other end of the phone. He gritted his teeth and said, "What exactly have you done to her? If she's even slightly harmed, I won't let you off."

"Don't worry, we haven't had enough fun yet! Of course we won't let her get hurt. But if you want to see her in one piece, then prepare 500,000 dollars quickly. I only have enough patience for one day, until tomorrow. The day after tomorrow, we'll do the exchange. You pay the money, you'll get the human. I'll contact you again about the exact timing." After saying that, Lu Miao hurriedly hung up the phone.

Xia Wen immediately asked his secretary to investigate where this person was calling from. They found out that the phone call seemed to have been made from a phone booth by the roadside. No one could remember what this man looked like. Even after asking everyone in the vicinity, no one could recall whether any man had made a phone call from there. Xia Wen was stuck in a passive position now, so he could only wait for Lu Miao to contact him again.

The only breakthrough he could get was the phone call he was going to receive the day after tomorrow. However, Qiao Mei had passed away and no one would be able to give him so much money in one go. Even if he sold all the Xia family's properties, he would not be able to pool together 500,000 dollars in a day.

Unless... unless he looked for the He family!

At this moment, He Ning was drinking tea at home and listening to music. His health had started to improve a lot thanks to the ginseng which Qiao Mei gave him. Huo Gao told him that if he continued to eat ginseng for another three years, he could basically recover his health and would not be as weak and sickly as before. He used to look like he could be blown over by a gust of wind.

If he continued to eat ginseng for another five years, he might be cured of 80% of his illnesses. If so, it would only be a matter of time before he was free from illnesses and discomfort.

Jia Zhong slowly walked in and said respectfully to He Ning, "Mr. He, something huge has happened in the Xia family recently."

"So what if something huge happened to the Xia family? Who would be so blind as to go and cause trouble for the Xia family? I want to laugh when I think of Xia Wen's worried expression now." The more He Ning thought about it, the happier he felt. There was nothing more fun for him than seeing Xia Wen anxious.

"Qiao Mei has died," Jia Zhong whispered.

"What did you say! Say that again!" He Ning sat up from the sofa in shock and looked at Jia Zhong in disbelief. I think you should take a look at

"The Xia family has already hung up white lanterns at their house. I hung around at the entrance of the Xia family house for a long time and received confirmation that Qiao Mei has passed away. Her two children are also in critical condition in the hospital. I hear that the doctor has said if they can't last through the next week, they will also die." Jia Zhong related all the information he had found out.

He Ning found it quite hard to accept. Previously, when he went to deliver money to Qiao Mei, he even asked Huo Gao to take her pulse. She was not in a worse condition than any ordinary pregnant woman. How could she have passed away suddenly?

"Did you find out why she passed away? Is there some misunderstanding?" He Ning asked with a frown.

"I heard that she was killed. We're still trying to find out the details," Jia Zhong said.

Xia Wen did not wait for the security officer at the door to announce his arrival and simply walked straight into He Ning's house. He looked at He Ning and said, "There's no misunderstanding. Qiao Mei has really passed away and my sister is in jail. Now, my wife has also been captured. Didn't you do all this? Why are you still pretending?"

"Me? What reason do I have to do that? Don't tell me I've taken a fancy to your wife? That wife of yours is very boring. Why will I take a fancy to her! Your sister is like a shrew. What's the use of having her! It's more realistic if you say that I've taken a fancy to Qiao Mei. Xia Wen, is there something wrong with your brain? You must be so anxious that you're all muddled," He Ning said as he looked at Xia Wen in disdain.

Xia Wen sat on the sofa opposite He Ning as if he had entered his own house. There was not much change in his expression.

"I know it's not you. I'm just asking a question. Why are you so anxious? Are you feeling guilty?" Xia Wen said.

"You're really! Really!" He Ning thought for a long time but did not know how to describe Xia Wen.

"Think about it. Other than you, who else in the capital can set up such a big trap?" Xia Wen asked.

Chapter 1152 I Am Not Short Of Money

He Ning had no clue either. Other than the He family and the Xia family, there were only the Gao family and the Chu family. The Gao family was in the tobacco and alcohol business and made a lot of money from it, but their family was also very principled and had a good reputation in the capital. The Gao family was friendly to everyone. Even a beggar would be able to get a lot of money from the Gao family if he could get to know them.

As for the Chu family, they were in the steel business and very ambitious. The He family was in the business of essential goods. Although it seemed very substantial, it was actually not as valuable as the steel or tobacco and alcohol business. He Ning was only able to gain a foothold in the capital through his wiliness.

"Who exactly did you offend? Even for me, I won't be able to arrange for something to happen to everyone in your family at the same time. It's impossible for an ordinary person to set up such a big trap. He must have received help from different places. The net being cast over your Xia family is really big," He Ning analyzed calmly.

"Of course I know that. Otherwise, why am I here to look for you? Tell me something I don't know." Xia Wen rolled his eyes resignedly.

He Ning looked at Xia Wen and suddenly found the current situation quite funny. The two of them had not sat together and talked for a long time. At this moment, it felt as if they had returned to the time when they were in school. Both of them had not changed at all. They were still the same as before, getting into an argument after exchanging a few words.

He Ning did not like Xia Wen's holier-than-thou attitude and Xia Wen did not like He Ning's way of doing things. Otherwise, the two of them could have become very good friends.

"So why are you here to look for me? Are you looking for comfort or to scold me to vent your anger?" He Ning asked.

"I'm here to borrow money," Xia Wen said frankly.

"How much? If you want to borrow money from me, you have to be mentally prepared. My interest rate is not low," He Ning said as he looked at Xia Wen smugly.

It was rare for him to get a chance to take down Xia Wen once in his life, even rarer that Xia Wen was actually begging him. The probability of this happening was even lower than that of a volcanic eruption!

"500,000," Xia Wen said.

"Both you and your sister-in-law really think I'm an ATM! Do you think my family runs a bank? Go and check how much you can sell me for! See if I'm worth 500,000 dollars! Your family can't even save 5,000 dollars a year, but you're asking me for 500,000 dollars! Xia Wen, did you get drunk before you came to my place?" He Ning stood up and pointed at Xia Wen.

"I-I'm very clear-headed. If it's not because I've run into some trouble, do I need to come and look for you? Are you going to lend it to me or not? If not, I'm going to the Gao family and the Chu family," Xia Wen said impatiently. He did not have that much time to waste with He Ning.

"The Gao family's youngest daughter liked you when she was young. You rejected her so heartlessly and then married Tan Jing. Don't you know the Gao family hates you to the core now? You're lucky they didn't skin you alive. As for the Chu family, you won't get far with them. They would never get involved in these matters," He Ning said.

"Then what do you think I should do?" Xia Wen asked.

"Tell me what exactly happened in your family. Let me make it clear first that I'm not going to help you for free. Qiao Mei is dead, but Qiao Qiang isn't. Qiao Qiang is the one who knows how to dig up the ginseng. Qiao Mei still owed me one last 100-year-old ginseng. Go back and tell Qiao Qiang that I want three more 100-year-old ginsengs and to give them to me for free. Otherwise, I won't help your family," He Ning said.

The total value of three 100-year-old ginsengs would work out to about 1.8 million dollars. Even when Qiao Mei was alive, she would not give away so many ginsengs for free. It was too big a decision for Xia Wen to make. Furthermore, Qiao Qiang was still unconscious in the hospital. Even if he was awake, he would faint again from anger when he saw He Ning.

"You're asking for too much. Change the condition and I might agree," Xia Wen said as he looked at He Ning.

"Other than me, do you have any better choice now? Xia Wen, get this straight. You're the one who's begging me now, not the other way around. You don't have the right to negotiate," He Ning said with a smile.

"I can owe you money, but I don't have any say when it comes to ginseng. If you're so capable, you can talk to Uncle Qiao yourself," Xia Wen said.

"Look at me. Do I look like someone who lacks money? What I want is ginseng. I'm not interested in anything else," He Ning said.

Chapter 1153 Do Not Be Nosy

Xia Wen had no other choice now. Other than working with He Ning, he really could not think of another way out. If He Ning was willing to help him, this difficult situation could be easily resolved and he might even be able to find the real culprit sooner.

Xia Wen was certain that he would be meeting the mastermind tomorrow.

"Are you sure you want to negotiate with me behind your father's back? As far as I know, your family is already investigating this matter. With both your Eldest Aunt and your father working on it, they will get results in less than a week. Why are you asking for trouble by coming to me?" He Ning said.

Xia Xiu was a very famous interrogator in the military and could extract information from anyone. She had all kinds of methods to interrogate people. In addition, everyone knew how capable Xia Mao was. The two of them formed an invincible team when they worked together.

Xia Wen also knew that the Xia family would definitely survive this crisis, but Tan Jing did not have much time left. He could not bear to see Tan Jing continue to be tortured but he knew that there was no way that Xia Mao and Xia Xiu would risk everything just to save Tan Jing.

What Tan Jing did earlier had hurt all his family members. He was too ashamed to ask his family for help.

"I guess you're not telling me the truth," He Ning said.

"Just give me 500,000 dollars. I don't need your help with the rest. You can quote whatever interest rate you want," Xia Wen said stubbornly.

He Ning could not dissuade Xia Wen, so he could only ask Huo Gao to go to the bank to withdraw 500,000 dollars. In fact, he had set aside this sum of money to return to Qiao Mei. He did not expect to be giving it to Xia Wen after so many twists and turns.

"Take it. We'll talk about the interest rate after you settle this matter. I'm not in a hurry," He Ning said nonchalantly.

Xia Wen asked earnestly, "You should let me know now. I'm worried that I'll fall into a trap later. At that time, who knows what you will come up with."

"Do you think I'm going to behave like a loan shark in front of you? If I do that, you'll be able to arrest me. You're now a government official in charge of the economy. Everyone who does business in the capital wants to curry favor with you. My family has to make a living in the capital too. There are so

many people whom the He family is responsible for. Why should I make things difficult for you for nothing?" He Ning said as he rolled his eyes helplessly.

Xia Wen took the case and left without looking back. Huo Gao looked at Xia Wen's back and sighed. He wondered if Xia Wen would be able to come back alive. I think you should take a look at

"Are we really not going to help him?" Huo Gao asked, unable to bear the thought.

"Not helping. I'm not an immortal who's here to deliver all living beings from suffering. Do I have to help with everything? He only wants to give me interest and not ginseng. It's already good enough for him that I agree to lend him the money. You don't have to be overly sympathetic," He Ning said.

Huo Gao pursed his lips. He should not have asked He Ning such a question. It was not as if he did not know that He Ning was a mercenary person.

"Then do you have any clues? Who do you think is doing all this?" Huo Gao asked curiously.

He Ning did not know who exactly the person was, but he knew that if He Guo was not in prison, He Guo would definitely know that person. He Ning ran the legitimate part of the business while He Guo was the one familiar with the illegitimate business dealings.

"Stop disturbing me. I want to sleep," He Ning said impatiently.

Xia Wen took the money and returned to the office. He just sat there quietly and looked at the case full of money. If he did not make it back this time, what would happen to Xia Mao and Xu Lan? What would happen to Xia He? Xia Zhe had not returned yet. He did not know if he would get a chance to see Xia Zhe when he returned.

Suddenly, the phone rang. Xia Wen quickly picked it up and said, "Hello? Is that you?"

"How sharp of you! I guess the money is ready?" Lu Miao said with a laugh.

"So what if it is." Just as Xia Wen had guessed, Lu Miao must have planted a spy near him. His every move was made under Lu Miao's watchful eye. Even if he went to the toilet now, Lu Miao would know about it.

He did not know if it was just him being put under surveillance or the entire Xia family.

"Bring the money to the small forest in the western suburbs tomorrow. Just follow the path up. You've been in the army before, so your observation skills should be quite good. We'll put markings in the forest. If you can't find Tan Jing, you can only blame yourself for being useless." After saying that, Lu Miao hung up the phone without giving Xia Wen a chance to ask any question.

Chapter 1154 - 1154 Trap

1154 Trap

Similar to the earlier one, this call was also made from a random roadside phone booth. No one could remember what the person looked like. It was as if he could do magic and make everyone forget about him.

Perhaps he had used some kind of high-tech equipment to cover up any traces of him, but what could it be?

Xia Wen stayed up the entire night while staring at the case. There were many things on his mind, including the Tan family, the Xia family and even the Qiao family. However, he still decided to go and save Tan Jing, even if it meant meeting his own death.

The next day, Xia Wen went to the forest in the western suburbs as agreed. He did not go in blindly without making any plans. Before he left, he wrote a letter and asked his secretary to deliver it to Xia Mao. After reading the letter, Xia Mao would definitely come and save him. Based on his calculations, help should arrive at around the same time when he found Tan Jing.

"Such effort just to trick me into going up the mountain." Xia Wen laughed mockingly.

There were many marks on the trunks of the trees in the surrounding area. Some of these marks were caused by animals, while others were man-made. Lu Miao and his people had drawn markings on almost every tree trunk. Only a few had meanings to them and the rest were there to obfuscate.

Lu Miao had his own selfish motives in doing that. Cheng Gu always said that Xia Wen was very capable, and that if not for Xia Wen's poor health, he would probably be the invincible "God of War" now. Lu Miao did not believe what Cheng Gu said. If Xia Wen was really so capable, why would he have put his wife in danger?

Furthermore, he must be out of his mind to dare to come here alone for a woman. Only a fool would do this.

"Big brother, he has already entered the forest. Should we take action?" one of Lu Miao's underlings asked.

"There's no hurry. Let's wait a little longer. I haven't observed enough yet," Lu Miao said.

Xia Wen took every step carefully. He carefully inspected the stones on the road, the weeds in the surrounding and the branches on the trees to see if there was anything different about each of them.

He had already left the army for a long time and it was inevitable that he was unfamiliar with these things since he had not trained for a long time. However, for Tan Jing's sake, he must persevere.

After three or four hours, Xia Wen still had nothing. He did not manage to find any valuable information. He even began to wonder if the person on the phone was playing a trick on him or if he was really unable to find anything.

"Did you really do proper markings?" Even Lu Miao began to wonder if his subordinates had done the markings properly.

"We... we don't know how to make the markings, big brother. We just casually drew a few things..." the underling lowered his head and said fearfully.

Lu Miao was so angry that he kicked the underling to the ground. What a piece of trash! They made him wait so long for nothing!

“Trash! A bunch of trash! What’s the use of having you! Is your brain for show? Don’t you know anything except how to eat?” Lu Miao pointed at his underling and scolded him.

“Big brother, I’m sorry! I’m sorry! Give me another chance! I’ll definitely do it well! Don’t worry!” the underling knelt on the ground and said fearfully.

Lu Miao did not even bother to look. He waved his hand and the subordinate beside him simply hacked this underling to death with a clean stroke. This underling did not even have time to react.

“Let’s move!” Lu Miao picked up his gun and walked towards Xia Wen, taking extra care along the way.

Xia Wen looked at the withered grass that had been blown by the wind and the traces of footprints on the ground. He was quickly able to estimate the number of people and their approximate build.

Using the depth of a person’s footprints, the size and the way weight was distributed, he could make out how the person walked.

“Come out, I know you’re nearby,” Xia Wen suddenly stood still and shouted to his surroundings.

If he continued forward, he would fall into the trap set up by Lu Miao.

“Not bad, not bad. As expected of a member of the Xia family. You manage to find my tracks,” Lu Miao said as he clapped his hands.

Xia Wen muttered to himself, “The sound of your footsteps is almost as loud as a bear’s...”

“Where’s my wife?” Xia Wen went straight to the point.

“Don’t be so anxious! Have fun with my guys first! We’ll talk about it after we’re done playing.” Lu Miao gestured to his band of brothers and they all rushed forward.

Chapter 1155 - 1155 Wasted

1155 Wasted

Xia Wen did not come empty-handed. He took out the expandable baton strapped at his waist and engaged in a fierce fight with the group. It had been a long time since he needed to work out like this. He was glad for the chance to take part in a fight again.

There were more than 10 people fighting the lone Xia Wen, but they did not manage to take any advantage of him at all. Lu Miao watched from the side with some relish. Not long after, all the people whom Lu Miao brought with him were lying on the ground.

“Where’s my wife?” Xia Wen asked again.

Lu Miao looked at the guys lying on the ground. There were so many of them and they could not even defeat one man? He thought these guys were from their team of elite fighters? Why were they so weak?

However, Xia Wen’s injuries were not mild either. His left leg looked broken.

Lu Miao was not that stupid to send out all his guys in one go. He still had a group of guys waiting behind him. His team was not completely wiped out yet.

“Don’t be so boring. It’s your wife who can’t bear to leave us! She even clamored to come into our arms. Oh right, I think you still don’t know. Your wife has long made a cuckold out of you behind your back! Otherwise, how do you think we caught her so easily?” Lu Miao said laughingly.

Xia Wen did not believe what Lu Miao said. He did not believe a single word of it. After he rescued Tan Jing, he would pass his own judgment. It was not up to other people to say anything about this.

“Put the money on the ground and go left. You’ll see your wife at the end of the road,” Lu Miao said.

Xia Wen raised his baton and pointed it at Lu Miao, saying, “You’d better be telling the truth! Otherwise, I’ll use your head as an offering to her.”

“Hmph, you’d better go quickly. I don’t know if she’ll still be alive if you’re too late.” Lu Miao revealed a strange smile.

Xia Wen had a very bad feeling and ran in Tan Jing’s direction. Lu Miao and the others took the money and quickly left the forest. Their goal was not to deal with Xia Wen. Cheng Gu had told them that now was not the best time to hurt Xia Wen.

The Xia family definitely had a backup plan. Cheng Gu told Lu Miao not to continue fighting and to return immediately after getting the money. As for Tan Jing...

Tan Jing had been tied to a chair by Lu Miao. Her clothes were in tatters and there were countless bruises on her face and body. There were also whip marks on her back.

However, these were all not important. Tan Jing also had many needle marks on her left arm. Xia Wen knew very well what these needle marks meant.

“Xiao Jing... Xiao Jing, look at me... talk to me...” Xia Wen squatted down and looked at Tan Jing with heartache.

When Tan Jing saw Xia Wen, she did not react at all. There was only vigilance and fear in her eyes. She was completely different from her usual self.

“Let’s go home... I’ll bring you home.” Xia Wen struggled to untie Tan Jing and then carried her on his back down the mountain. It was at this time that Xia Mao and the guard team arrived in a rush.

Tan Jing suddenly bit Xia Wen’s neck with such force that it was like she wanted to tear his flesh off. Xia Wen gritted his teeth and did not say anything. He felt that he deserved it... He had let Tan Jing down.

“I’m sorry...” Xia Wen said apologetically.

However, Tan Jing could not hear whatever he said at all. She was like a lunatic, one who had gone completely mad. Xia Wen took off his jacket and put it over Tan Jing. Members of the guard team carried her away on a stretcher and Xia Mao stood in front of Xia Wen with a stern expression.

“Father...” Xia Wen said.

“Slap!” Xia Mao gave Xia Wen a hard slap on the face. In Xia Wen’s memories, this was the first time that Xia Mao had ever hit him.

“Do you know why I hit you?” Xia Mao asked as he suppressed the anger in his heart.

“I don’t know...” Xia Wen answered honestly.

“Have you forgotten everything I taught you in the past? Have you investigated these people’s backgrounds? Do you know where they are from? You actually barge into their territory alone. How confident are you that you can escape unscathed? Do you intend to walk into your grave yourself?” Xia Mao scolded fiercely.

Xia Wen had been so worried that he could not think straight. He was so anxious about Tan Jing’s safety that he had forgotten about his own. He wanted to save Tan Jing even if he died doing it.

“You’re really my good son! Everything I taught you in the past was in vain! Come back with me quickly! Don’t embarrass yourself here!” Xia Mao roared furiously.

Chapter 1156 - 1156 Rescued

1156 Rescued

Xia Wen followed Xia Mao back to the Xia family residence with a dejected expression. Xia He and Xu Lan were anxiously waiting for them at home.

“Xia He? You’re back?” Xia Wen said in surprise.

Xia Xiu looked at Xia Wen with a furious expression. If she had not brought Xia He out of the detention center in time, both Xia He and Xia Wen could be dead by now!

From the moment Xia He was sabotaged and sent to the police station, Xia Xiu had already received the news. Under her interrogations and investigations, she found out that this matter was not as simple as it seemed. Bian Zhuo had honestly told her the truth about the matter and gave her the background.

Not long ago, Bian Zhuo had a sudden windfall. The Bian family ran a small business, so how could they suddenly have so much money? Someone had bribed Bian Zhuo and asked him to use the money to pay off the people from the art troupe. The person said he would also help Bian Zhuo to complete the task. If Bian Zhou succeeded, he would be able to replace the Xia family and take over the Xia family's position.

"Bian Zhuo was too useless, so he asked Bian Ding and Yang Xin to put pressure on the people in the art troupe both internally and externally. Most of them were from ordinary families and they did not want to lose their jobs or get into trouble, so they were forced to follow the instructions given," Xia Xiu said.

"But why didn't they control Deng Fan? Deng Fan has never heard anything about this," Xia He asked curiously.

"What can one person do? Can one person be more credible than a group of people? Besides, that kid Deng Fan is so upright. If he knew about this, he would definitely report it to the police. Why would he sit on it?" Xia Xiu said.

"It's all my fault... I didn't protect my younger sister well, nor did I protect my family," Xia Wen said apologetically.

Xia Xiu looked at Xia Wen with heartache. Xia Wen was the child she thought most highly of. She did not expect him to make such a mistake when it came to this matter, but then again, she could not blame him. No one was free from making mistakes. He had been so stressed from all the recent family matters that he probably could not cope.

"Go and take a rest. We'll talk about your issue once you get some rest," Xu Lan said.

Xia Wen shook his head stubbornly. He had not caught the mastermind yet and had not made the person who harmed the Xia family pay the price. How could he rest now?

“Get back to your room! Who can you protect in your current state! You can’t even protect yourself, so what’s all this talk about protecting your family!” Xia Mao said angrily.

Sensing trouble, Luo Yu hurriedly grabbed Xia Wen and dragged him into the room. If they moved any slower, Xia Mao’s fist would have landed on Xia Wen!

“Mother... Qiao Mei, is she really...” Xia He asked in a choked voice.

Xu Lan looked at Xia Mao. She did not know how to tell Xia He about this. Ever since Xia He returned, she had been crying. Whenever she thought about Qiao Mei and saw Qiao Mei’s things, Xia He could not stop herself from crying.

Xia He felt that if she had not acted on impulse, Qiao Mei would not have been attacked, leading her to give birth prematurely. Then, Qiao Mei would not have died and the two children would not have been motherless from the moment they were born.

She was the culprit. It was all her fault.

Xia Mao and Xia Xiu looked at each other. Now that they knew who the real perpetrator was, there was no need to hide the truth about Qiao Mei’s matter from Xia He.

“Qiao Mei is not dead,” Xia Mao said.

“Sob sob sob... It’s all my fault... Don’t lie to me... I know that Qiao Mei died because of me. How can I face Xia Zhe!” Xia He continued sobbing.

Xu Lan held Xia He’s shoulders and said slowly, “Qiao Mei is not dead! She’s still alive and well! Don’t cry! Otherwise, you’ll make bad things come true!”

“Huh? Still alive?” Xia He asked.

“This is all part of your grandfather’s plan. He told us not to tell anyone about this at first, not even you and Xiao Wen. Your grandfather suspects that there’s a traitor in the family and he’s still investigating it very thoroughly. Who knows that Xiao Wen... that he’ll make such a misstep...” Xu Lan said with a deep sigh.

“Traitor in the family? Do you mean those people are colluding with our people?” Xia He asked.

“Yes. It was the gardener who hurt Qiao Mei and it was your Auntie Fan who recruited the gardener, so it’s definitely suspicious,” Xu Lan explained.

Chapter 1157 More Powerful

Auntie Fan... how could it be her?

"No way. Isn't Auntie Fan a very honest and loyal person? Why would she betray us?" Xia He said in surprise.

pandasnovel.com It was true that Sister Fan would not betray Xu Lan, but the same could not be said about Sister Fan's husband. Cheng Gu was very good at planning everything down to the last detail. He even took notice of Sister Fan's husband.

Sister Fan's husband was also a gardener. He was a mediocre person his whole life and everyone he knew always said that he was a man without ambitions. They said that he was a person who sat around waiting to die and relied on Sister Fan to support him.

Many people gossiped behind his back, saying that he would not be able to survive without Sister Fan and that he was a freeloader and a useless man!

From then onwards, his attitude towards Sister Fan completely changed. The two of them used to live a happy and harmonious life together, but nowadays, as long as he got drunk, he would beat up Sister Fan. She had bruises all over her body, all of which looked very scary.

Sister Fan was someone who cared about her reputation, so she did not raise this issue with other people. After all, in this era, it was not a big deal for a man to beat up his wife. The people around her would not care about such a matter.

It was just a man beating up his wife to vent his anger, was it not? At the end of the day, it was a matter between husband and wife. Outsiders would not want to interfere. If he had beaten Sister Fan to death, they would call the police. Otherwise, they did not have any reason to do that.

Cheng Gu had given him a lot of money and asked him to recommend someone to work for the Xia family. Once the person was successfully employed by the Xia family, he would receive another sum of money.

Sister Fan had invited trouble only because she trusted her husband too much. She always felt that she had let her husband down. If she had not insisted on marrying him in the past, perhaps the two of them would be living separate and happy lives now.

"Sister Fan has already gone home. Although it's not her fault, this matter is still related to her and our family can't employ her anymore," Xu Lan said regretfully.

"So it means Qiao Mei is attacked by that gardener!" Xia He said. I think you should take a look at

"That gardener is just a hired thug and not an important character. When we found him, he was already dead. The nanny from Qiao Mei's house, Wei Hao, was also dead. The two of them died together in a very tragic manner," Xia Xiu said with a frown.

"Dead? Murdered? Those people are too bold! How can this be!" Xia He said in shock.

"It's not just them. There's also the possibility that Tan Jing... has a very low chance of survival. The doctor just told us that Tan Jing was injected with a large amount of drugs and the wounds on her body are starting to fester. The chances of her being cured are very low. For now, we can only use tranquilizers to control Tan Jing and treat her external injuries. The damages which the drugs caused to her body... might stay with her for the rest of her life," Xia Xiu said regretfully.

This was the first time Xia He felt that her family had protected her very well. She had never heard of such things until now. How could someone be so inhumane and kill people without batting an eyelid?

"Then what should we do next?" Xu Lan asked calmly.

Xia Mao and Xia Xiu had already made arrangements for the next steps. Now that they knew who their opponents were, they were the ones holding the upper hand. Since the Xia family's children had gotten into trouble one after another, it meant that those people would soon make a move on Xia Zhe.

It was about time. Xia Mao and Xia Xiu had other things to do. Luo Yu had already secured the area surrounding the Xia family residence and would make sure that no suspicious person could get close to the perimeter.

Actually, there were usually a few guard team members stationed near Qiao Mei's house. However, on the day of the incident, the capital's army unit was holding a recruitment drive. Every festive season, the military would organize training sessions. For the soldiers, being chosen to become a ceremonial guard was tantamount to getting a promotion!

The guard team members were also considered a part of the army. Those young men with dreams and ambitions could take this opportunity to fight for the promotion. Therefore, Luo Yu transferred the guard team members back in batches so that they could be screened by the military representatives. He did not expect that when he did that, Cheng Gu found a way to take advantage of the situation.

Luo Yu had only wanted to be part of the Xia family's guard team for the rest of his life. He was satisfied with a position where he could always see Xia He, even if it meant that his job was to protect her family. However, after this incident, it made him understand that he could only protect Xia He and the Xia family well if he himself became strong enough.

Of course, Cheng Gu would not let Xia Zhe off. Xia Zhe was Xia Mao's most favored son. If he hurt Xia Zhe, the Xia family's foundation would be completely destroyed and they would not be able to have any achievements in the military in the future.

Chapter 1158 - 1158 News of the Death

1158 News of the Death

Cheng Gu wanted to see who else would be so blind as to block his way!

Anyone who got in his way would not have an easy time!

Everyone in the Xia family must be buried together with his dead brothers! Even after the Xia family members died, he wanted to chop off their heads and make the heads into incense burners to be placed in front of the graves of his dead brothers. Even in hell, they must suffer the torture of his brothers!

Otherwise, Cheng Gu really could not let it go!

Cheng Gu originally wanted to make Xia Zhe spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair, but he had changed his mind. He wanted to chop off Xia Zhe's head and make it into his new footrest! He wanted Xia Zhe to be stomped on by his feet day and night!

Xia Zhe received a call from his family before the end of his mission. The military did not allow phone calls unless it was absolutely necessary. When he checked the date, he noted that it was almost time for Qiao Mei to give birth. Could it be that the children had arrived?

He ran to the military phone excitedly and said with a smile, "Report! This is Xia Zhe! What instructions do you have for me?"

"I'm your father..." Before Xia Mao could say anything, he was interrupted by Xia Zhe's excited voice.

"Father! Has Qiao Mei given birth! How's Qiao Mei? Is Qiao Mei in good health? Did she suffer from giving birth? Father, tell me, did Qiao Mei suffer?" Xia Zhe only asked about Qiao Mei and did not ask about the health of his children at all. He only had eyes for Qiao Mei.

This made it even more difficult for Xia Mao to lie to Xia Zhe, but for the sake of the plan, he had no choice but to do it.

"Xiao Zhe, hear me out. Qiao Mei... she's gone. She gave birth to two children, a boy and a girl, and they haven't been named yet. Qiao Mei's wish is for the two grandfathers to come up with a name each.

Also, Qiao Mei's grandfather has fallen ill and your grandfather's health has worsened. They're both in the hospital, but don't worry too much..." Xia Mao listed down all the different things which happened.

Xia Zhe only heard the first few sentences but not the rest.

Qiao Mei was gone... Where did Qiao Mei go? Did she go back to her hometown? In what sense was she "gone"? He had not returned home yet, so why did Qiao Mei leave?

"Father... Qiao Mei... Qiao Mei, she..." Xia Zhe was so nervous that he could not speak. His throat felt like it was being strangled and it was especially difficult for him to breathe.

"Yes... You have to be mentally prepared. Qiao Mei, she... she has left this world. The reason for this phone call is to ask you to come back and see her for... one last time." In the end, Xia Mao still tried to deliver the message to Xia Zhe in a vague way. He did not want to use the word "dead" as it was too cruel and he could not bring himself to say it.

Xia Zhe did not get overwhelmed by his sorrow. His intuition told him that this matter was not so simple. Xia Fang had frequently asked Xia Mao to tell him about the results of Qiao Mei's prenatal examinations and the development progress of the two children. The results had been very good all this while.

Why would something go wrong now? Something else must have happened. Xia Mao was not telling him the truth and he would never believe that Qiao Mei was already dead. Even if she was dead, he must see it with his own eyes. He must see her, be it dead or alive.

"Is Qiao Mei's death caused by a medical issue or an accident?" Xia Zhe asked with a trembling voice.

"It's an accident. I've already put up a request with your superior for your transfer. Someone else will cover your work for a period of time. The children are still young and they need their father to be around. They can't be without their father after losing their mother. You should stay in the capital until the children grow up," Xia Mao said.

Xia Mao would not bear to let such an outstanding kid languish in the capital. It would be like keeping him in a cage. Xia Zhe had a bright future ahead of him and he was meant for bigger and better things.

Xia Mao was only putting on an act. Only by putting on such an act would others believe that something had really happened to the Xia family.

It would just be hard on Xia Zhe to have to grieve for a period of time. However, it was probably a good thing to let him experience the feeling of losing Qiao Mei. In the future, he would cherish and love Qiao Mei even more and this experience would also help the young couple maintain a loving and harmonious relationship.

“Yes, I understand. I’ll set off immediately,” Xia Zhe said.

Chapter 1159 - 1159 Returning to the Capital

1159 Returning to the Capital

After hanging up the phone, Xia Zhe walked back to the dormitory like a zombie. He looked at his cabinet and thought that there was nothing much to pack. He just wanted to return to Qiao Mei’s side immediately and stay with her all the time.

When Zhao Wu saw Xia Zhe, he immediately put his arm around Xia Zhe’s shoulder and said, “Oh my, are you officially a father now! Can I be your child’s godfather!”

“Shoo, shoo, shoo! Why are you fighting with me! How can you be the godfather of Xia Zhe’s child with your sloppy character! I’m a much better candidate!” Zhang Yong looked at Zhao Wu with disdain.

Zhao Wu did not want to argue with Zhang Yong. He was feeling very excited at the moment. Among them, Xia Zhe was the first one to become a father. He was very curious about what babies were like, especially about whether Xia Zhe’s children would look exactly like Xia Zhe.

Seeing that Xia Zhe did not speak for a long time, Zhao Wu asked, “Why are you in a daze? What happened? Don’t tell me you were too shocked by the huge surprise? Don’t tease me. You didn’t even blink when you met so many bandits in the mountain region. Yet you can’t even speak after your wife gives birth!”

Xia Zhe stammered, “Qiao Mei... she’s... dead...”

“What nonsense are you talking about?” Zhao Wu looked at Xia Zhe in shock. Zhang Yong did not say anything and only patted Xia Zhe’s shoulder. In the light of such a situation, it was useless for them to say anything. The only thing they could do was to be there for Xia Zhe when he needed them.

The three of them knew one another very well. Both men knew that what Xia Zhe needed the most now was peace and quiet. Zhao Wu and Zhang Yong went out to take a walk together, letting Xia Zhe spend time in the dormitory alone.

Xia Zhe packed his luggage and set off towards the north in the car allocated to him by the military district, heading in the direction of the capital. He was fully focused on the road ahead and would at times urge the chauffeur to drive faster, so that he could reach the capital as soon as possible.

Initially, the chauffeur had planned to take a relatively smoother road. Although the travel time would take half a day more, it was very safe and there would not be any surprises. He liked to use this route the most.

Xia Zhe, on the other hand, wanted to use the mountain road. If they traveled on a straight route using the smooth road, it would take about five days to get back. Even if the two of them took turns to drive day and night, it would still take them four days. However, it would be different if they took the mountain road. They could reach the capital in three days. If the two of them took turns driving, they would probably be able to reach in less than two days.

After the two of them had a discussion, the chauffeur drove in the direction of the mountain road. However, it was already getting late and they were forced to take a rest at the foot of the mountain for the night and set off at dawn the next day.

After they arrived at the guest house, the chauffeur lay on the bed and fell asleep immediately. Xia Zhe looked out of the window quietly. He could not fall asleep and did not want to sleep either. His mind was filled with thoughts of the capital, but the chauffeur was right. No matter how urgent the matter was, he must still protect his own life.

Now that his children had already lost their mother, he could not let them lose their father too.

Suddenly, the distinct whistle tone used by the Xia family’s spies could be heard outside the door. It was very soft but Xia Zhe could recognize it right away. A note was thrown in through the crack in the door.

Xia Zhe hurriedly ran over to read it. There were only a few words written on it, "Go along with the plan". There was nothing else.

He quickly recalled Xia Mao's tone of voice during the call with him and the contents of their conversation. It did not sound like Xia Mao's usual tone of voice at all. It seemed that there was something more to this matter. Xia Mao did not tell him the truth because he was worried that the plan would become exposed and fail.

Xia Zhe immediately burned the note. He lay on the bed and took a quick rest. At the crack of dawn, Xia Zhe and the chauffeur immediately set off.

If someone was going to come at him, the only thing they wanted must be his life. All these were simply small matters to him. He had many such experiences after so many years of missions. He had offended so many people over the years that there was always someone who wanted to take his life, but no one was capable enough.

This chauffeur was Xia Zhe's subordinate and there was definitely no problem with him. However, this car was not theirs. Xia Zhe used hand gestures to inform the chauffeur of his plan and the chauffeur immediately understood what he meant.

When they were about to reach the midway spot up the mountain, Xia Zhe swapped places with the chauffeur. Xia Zhe would drive the car personally to lure out the people who wanted to ambush them.

Xia Zhe wanted to end the fight quickly. He did not want this matter to delay his return to the capital.

The car gradually reached a steep mountain road with slopes on both sides. If one was not careful, one could easily roll down and plunge into the river at the foot of the slope.

Chapter 1160 Exaggerated Acting

Xia Zhe's intuition told him that this should be the spot of the ambush. If the person who wanted to kill him did not set up an ambush here, then this person was not even worthy of being his opponent.

Xia Zhe drove very slowly. He suddenly realized that there was something strange about the soil on the ground, as if it had been dug up previously. On such a dangerous and deserted road, the soil on the road should not be this color. There was also a lot of soil covering the grass beside the road.

"How old are you this year?" Xia Zhe suddenly turned around and asked the chauffeur.

"Me! I'm already 35 years old! I'm much older than you." The chauffeur focused on Xia Zhe's expression. On the surface, he looked nonchalant, but in reality, they both knew that it was time.

Xia Zhe suddenly stepped on the accelerator. As the car drove across the strange-looking part of the road, it triggered a mechanism and the entire car was blown up by a bomb. The raging flames wrapped around the car tightly and kept becoming bigger. The sound of the explosion echoed in the mountains for a long time.

As soon as Lu Miao heard the sound, he sent his men to the location of the ambush. Two underlings ran over furtively. After some consideration, Lu Miao remained worried. The last time when these underlings were told to make the markings for Xia Wen, they had screwed it up. This time, the boss attached special importance to Xia Zhe. He could not let anything go wrong!

He did not want to die at Cheng Gu's hands so soon! Moreover, it would be such an unjust death!

"When will this bunch of trash improve! I'd better go and take a look at it myself!" Lu Miao said with a frown.

Their current subordinates were all newly recruited. The previous batch had all been exterminated by the Xia family. It was inevitable that the new batch was not as competent as the old batch.

When Lu Miao arrived, the car had already been burned to the point that only the bare frame was left. He could vaguely see two bodies in the front seats. Given the ferocity of the fire, the bodies must be badly burned by now.

"Alright, let's go back and report it." Lu Miao whistled happily. They set off joyfully on their journey back and did not notice that there were some "tails" following closely behind them.

Only after Lu Miao and his group left did Xia Zhe and the chauffeur stick their heads out of the water. When they accelerated earlier, they had used their shoes to jam the accelerator and then jumped out immediately. This was how they had managed to avoid the disaster. This was likely to be part of the plan which Xia Mao had mentioned.

The two of them followed the river current to the meeting location arranged by the Xia family. They changed into clean clothes and then continued driving towards the capital. I think you should take a look at

Xia Mao and Xia Xiu also had parts to play in the plan. Along the way, the siblings did not speak. This was their usual behavior. It was Xia Mao who did not like to talk and had nothing to do with Xia Xiu.

"Eldest brother, do you know how to act?" Xia Xiu asked skeptically.

Such a loud explosion would definitely attract the attention of the media and the villagers nearby. Once this matter blew up, people would definitely find out that the victim was Xia Zhe. As Xia Zhe's father, he must put on an act in front of everyone and shed tears to make them believe that the person who died in the car was Xia Zhe.

"I... why not you play the part," Xia Mao said awkwardly.

"I'm not Xia Zhe's father, so you have to do it. You'd better not slip up. Cheng Gu isn't a fool and can tell if it's an act or not. Just think about what expression you should have on your face later!" Xia Xiu said gloatingly.

Xia Mao sighed deeply. Life was so difficult.

The car soon arrived at the location where Xia Zhe's car had crashed. Before Xia Xiu could react, Xia Mao pushed open the car door with all his might, got out of the car and ran towards the explosion site. As he ran, he shouted Xia Zhe's name.

His action stunned Xia Xiu to the spot. Was this the acting skills that Xia Mao mentioned? It was really... exaggerated...

Xia Mao even wanted to approach the burning wreckage to search for Xia Zhe, but Xia Xiu held him back.

"Eldest Brother! Calm down! That car is still dangerous! You can't approach it!" Xia Xiu said as she grabbed Xia Mao's arm tightly.

"That's my son's car! Xiao Xiu! We have to save him!" Xia Mao pointed at the car agitatedly.

Xia Xiu almost could not hold back her laughter, but she kept it in and continued to put on an act. It was possible that Cheng Gu's subordinates were among the crowd.