

## **Fat Wife 1161**

### Chapter 1161 - 1161 Leaving the Scene

#### 1161 Leaving the Scene

The Xia siblings' forte was not in fire fighting and carrying out disaster relief. If they rushed into the scene now, it would only delay the work of the response team. It was better to wait quietly at the perimeter.

By the time Xia Mao and Xia Xiu arrived, it was already four hours after the accident. The villagers around the area had called the police when they heard the loud explosion, asking for help to deal with the fire and the aftermath of the accident.

Most of the people living around here relied on this mountain for their survival. A lot of wild vegetables, even mushrooms, grew on this mountain and there were a lot of fruit trees. All these were a source of income for the villages.

If the entire forest burned down because of the explosion, it would threaten their survival.

"Eldest Brother, whatever it is, it has already happened. We have to accept the fact. Perhaps this is not Xia Zhe's car? We shouldn't get too anxious. Let's wait for the staff to tell us what they found out," Xia Xiu lowered her head and said in a choked voice.

"I guess there's no other way. We can only wait for now," Xia Mao said sadly.

There were three or four people behaving sneakily in the crowd and who kept looking in their direction. These were probably the people planted by Cheng Gu.

Given that there were many villagers around, as well as police officers, Cheng Gu would not attack Xia Mao at this time. He would have to be extremely arrogant to do something like that.

After about three to four hours, the scene was almost all cleaned up. The response team prepared to pack up and return to their office to run tests on the evidence collected at the scene and start the investigation work.

Xia Xiu took out her work pass and said, "Hello. This is the car which my nephew is supposedly driving back to the capital. I want to know... I want to know how many people there are in the car and the age of the deceased."

"There are two people. At the moment, we can't confirm how old the deceased are, but we can confirm that they are two men. We still have to carry out further search and rescue operations and investigations. Please trust us and wait patiently. Thank you." The response team left after saying that.

Although Xia Xiu knew that it was not Xia Zhe and the chauffeur, she could not stop herself from trembling when she heard about the two bodies. The Xia family had managed to buy these two corpses from the black market, even though they did not know anyone from there. For people like them to do any dealings with the black market, it would be like a police officer making friends with a thief. It was very strange behavior and no one would trust them.

They had He Ning to thank for this. He Ning's condition was very simple. He simply wanted Qiao Mei's ginseng but he would not take advantage of the Xia family. He would pay the Xia family 20% of the original price.

He Ning was an opportunist. He would not do anything if he did not benefit from it.

"Eldest Brother, let's go back... Xiao Zhe, he... he won't come back to life..." Xia Xiu said sadly.

Xia Mao suddenly fainted. Xia Xiu was so shocked that she quickly called out for help to carry Xia Mao into the car so that she could send him to Xia Fang's hospital for treatment. In the car, Xia Xiu held Xia Mao's wrist tightly to check whether he was really unconscious or just pretending.

She was a very experienced interrogator. The rhythm of a person's heartbeat could tell her everything about that person's condition. Xia Mao's heartbeat was steady and strong and he did seem sick or flustered at all. He was just pretending!

Xia Zhe and the chauffeur sat quietly in the car sent by the Xia family. The car headed towards the suburbs and bypassed the capital.

“Xiao An, where exactly are you taking us?” Xia Zhe asked.

“Since it’s been announced that you’re dead, you can’t appear in front of the general public anymore. There will probably be many pairs of eyes on the Xia family residence tonight, so we have to send the two of you to the suburbs to stay for a couple of days. You can go back after the enemy’s spies leave,” Xiao An explained.

Xia Zhe said unhappily, “Turn around. I want to go to the hospital. I want to see Qiao Mei. Send me there!”

Xiao An was caught in a dilemma. By right, Xia Zhe could be considered his superior and he could not disobey Xia Zhe’s orders. However, Luo Yu had already instructed him not to take any instructions from Xia Zhe at all, otherwise it would lead to a disaster!

“Brother Xia Zhe, please spare me. If you go back now, the enemy will be able to make a comeback. In that case, the people we send after them will also be exposed. Just... bear with it... for us, is that alright?” Xiao An said with a troubled expression.

Chapter 1162 Thankfully You Are Fine

Xiao An knew that what he said sounded overboard and was unpleasant to hear. If he was in Xia Zhe's shoes, he definitely would not be able to accept such a way of handling this matter.

Xia Zhe remained silent. In his heart, no one was more important than Qiao Mei. However, what about the rest of the people who were still alive?

To take revenge for Qiao Mei, these people were not afraid to face death. If all of them lost their lives because of his willfulness, it would be an outcome that Qiao Mei also would not agree with.

If one was dead, one was dead. Even if he went to Qiao Mei's side immediately, he would not be able to revive her. It was better... better to allow the people who were alive to live safe and well.

Xia Mao and Xia Xiu entered Xia Fang's hospital through the main door. Immediately after, they slipped out of the back door when no one was paying attention. It was inconvenient for them to go home now, so Xia Mao wanted to go and meet Xia Zhe first.

He had not seen Xia Zhe for such a long time and Xia Zhe even had to experience such an incident. He was quite worried about Xia Zhe. The two charred corpses from earlier had also left a deep impression on him.

A thought kept echoing in his mind. "What would you do if it was Xia Zhe?"

Yes, what would he do, and what could he do? Xia Mao finally realized how important it was to spend time with his family. All the memories he had were of his missions and he could not remember anything about his family. He had been totally absent from all his three children's childhoods.

The fact that these three children did not hate him was already the best thing he could hope for. He was very satisfied with that.

"Where's Xiao Zhe?" Xia Mao asked as he rushed into the house under the cover of darkness.

"I'm here, Father." Xia Zhe felt a little flattered. Xia Mao had never addressed him so casually before. Xia Mao had always called him using his full name.

"It's so great that you're fine," Xia Mao said emotionally.

Xia Zhe still wanted to go to the hospital to see Qiao Mei. He would not be able to feel at ease until he saw Qiao Mei.

"Father, Qiao Mei, she..." Xia Zhe said hesitantly. I think you should take a look at

"It's been hard on you, my child. Tonight, Luo Yu and the team will go around and check if there are any suspicious people nearby. If they don't find anything tonight, then we can go back tomorrow," Xia Mao said.

Xia Zhe nodded. After exchanging a few pleasantries, they all went to take their rest. It was not until the next night that Luo Yu could confirm that Cheng Gu's men were not nearby. He then informed Xia Mao and the others.

Xia Zhe could not wait to reach the hospital immediately. Xiao An secretly brought them back to the hospital and they went up through the VIP passageway. Xia Zhe stood in front of Qiao Mei's ward and did not dare to go in. He did not know what kind of expression he should put on to see Qiao Mei, whether to pretend to be calm or to cry bitterly.

Finally, he steeled his nerves and walked into the ward. When he pushed the door open and entered, he thought he would see Qiao Mei lying on a bed with a white cloth covering her or lying in a freezer like the type within the funeral parlor. However, what Xia Zhe saw was Qiao Mei carrying a little baby. It was an image that was warm and blissful.

"Hey! You're back! Come and take a look at our children! They're so cute! The older boy looks like you and the younger girl looks like me. They're so good-looking," Qiao Mei said to Xia Zhe with a wide smile. As she smiled, her eyes looked like crescent moons and she looked very beautiful.

Xia Zhe could not believe the scene in front of him. He pinched his thigh forcefully to make sure that it was not an illusion before walking forward. He wanted to reach out and hug Qiao Mei, but he had not showered or washed up for many days and his face was covered in dust. He did not know if he was carrying any germs and he did not want to pass them to his children.

"Sister Feng, you can bring them back." Qiao Mei seemed to sense Xia Zhe's concerns and asked Feng Hua to bring the children back to the nursery.

"What's wrong? Are you dumbstruck? Why are you still standing there motionlessly?" Qiao Mei asked.

"I... I..." Xia Zhe choked on his words. He did not know how to describe his current feelings. It was the joy of regaining something he had lost, and also the feeling of being so touched to be able to see his wife again.

"What do you mean by you, you! Come and hug me!" Qiao Mei opened her arms domineeringly to hug Xia Zhe, but she accidentally stretched the wound on her stomach. It was so painful that she gasped

audibly. Xia Zhe was so frightened that he quickly held Qiao Mei's hands and did not even dare to breathe loudly.

"What's wrong? Are you feeling unwell? I'll go get the doctor! Wait for me! I'll go get the doctor!" Xia Zhe said in a panic.

"I'm fine~ Just sit down. I feel dizzy looking at how flustered you are," Qiao Mei said coquettishly.

Chapter 1163 Like A Panda

Xia Zhe sat up primly beside Qiao Mei and did not even dare to breathe loudly. He only wanted to quietly imprint Qiao Mei's current appearance into his brain and remember this moment. He felt like he had not looked at Qiao Mei so closely for a long time. The last time they sat together like this was when they were still in Foshan Village.

"What are you looking at?" Qiao Mei looked at her clothes in confusion. She did not drip any soup on her clothes. Also, the clothes did not smell bad. She had only just changed into this new set of clothes.

"I'm just a little agitated and I want to take a good look at you. You have no idea how anxious I've been these past few days," Xia Zhe said sadly.

It was only when Qiao Mei woke up from the operation that she found out about the news which the Xia family had released to the public. Since then, she had been trapped in this small room every day and could not even go out to take a breath of fresh air.

The good thing was that Qiao Qiang's health was fine and he had recovered quite well. It was just that he was no longer friendly towards Xia Jun. He was still angry with Xia Jun!

At their age, they were no different from children. It was common for them to quarrel and throw tantrums.

The dark circles under Xia Zhe's eyes were so big and jet-black that he almost looked like a panda. Qiao Mei was worried that Xia Zhe would faint from exhaustion. If that happened, then instead of Xia Zhe taking care of her, she would have to take care of him!

Xia Zhe still looked at Qiao Mei sulkily. He held her hands and refused to let go, afraid that she would disappear if he let go. He only felt at ease when he could feel the warmth from her body.

"It's not your fault at all. I was careless and allowed someone to take advantage of the situation. Don't take it to heart. I'm fine now, aren't I? Don't worry," Qiao Mei said as she held Xia Zhe's hands.

"When people want to harm you, they will seize whatever opportunity they have. It's impossible to guard against them and it's useless no matter how careful you are. If there's anyone to blame, it's me. I didn't take good care of you. I didn't fulfill the promise I made to you back then and I don't know how to face your grandfather," Xia Zhe said apologetically.

During the time when Zheng Yuan caused trouble, Xia Zhe had told Qiao Mei that he would definitely protect her well and not let her get hurt at all. Later on, when she reached the capital, she first met Qian'e and then He Mei. Now, she was suddenly attacked again. If not for Qiao Mei's good fortune, she might have died by now!

Qiao Mei also did not know whether Qiao Qiang would reprimand Xia Zhe later. After all, Qiao Qiang did not even cut Xia Jun any slack. Xia Mao did not even dare to visit Qiao Qiang. He would leave his gifts at the door and ask the helper to send them in and to let Qiao Qiang know that he had come by. From the looks of it, there was a high chance that Xia Zhe would get a scolding as well. I think you should take a look at

"It's fine! I'm here! Grandfather won't scold you! As long as I act cute, he won't be angry anymore," Qiao Mei said with a laugh.

"I don't believe you. Even my grandfather didn't manage to catch a break, so why would I be the exception. However, I deserve to be scolded. I definitely won't let you be in danger again in the future," Xia Zhe said firmly.

The two of them whispered sweet nothings to each other for a long time before Xia Xiu knocked on the door and said, "Xia Zhe, it's time to go."

The family had not announced that Qiao Mei was still alive. If anyone found out that Xia Zhe had stayed inside the ward for very long, it would definitely raise suspicions. After all, the Xia family had previously indicated that Xia Jun was staying in this ward.

"I... Wait for me. After I catch the culprit, I'll definitely come and see you immediately," Xia Zhe said.

"Sure, but you have to rest well too. You can't look like this the next time you come here. You look like a giant panda now," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Then it's a deal." After saying that, Xia Zhe turned around and left the ward. When he reached the door, he still looked back reluctantly.

Xia Jun was still getting lectured in Qiao Qiang's ward every day! Even when they played chess, Qiao Qiang would find a way to criticize him sarcastically.

"Oh my! Why do I lose to you again? Seriously, can't you just give in to me," Xia Jun pretended to be annoyed and complained to Qiao Qiang.

"You can't play well and you still want me to go easy on you. Why don't you get those criminals to go easy on us and ask them to let my granddaughter off!" Qiao Qiang muttered moodily.

Xia Jun did not dare to make a sound. He quietly tidied up the chessboard and continued to coax Qiao Qiang to play another round. The outcome was still the same as before, with his chess pieces being completely obliterated by Qiao Qiang.

Chapter 1164 - 1164 Dead People Cannot Stand

1164 Dead People Cannot Stand

When Xia Zhe pushed open the door and entered the room, he happened to witness the scene of Qiao Qiang scolding Xia Jun. He immediately regretted barging in so hastily.

"Look, I still can't win against you!" Xia Jun said resignedly.



“Hmph, when have you ever beaten me? You’ve never beaten me before,” Qiao Qiang said with a cold snort.

“Grandfather, are you playing chess?” Xia Zhe said with a smile.

Qiao Qiang looked up in disdain and totally ignored Xia Zhe. He turned around and gave Xia Zhe the cold shoulder. Xia Jun spread his hands out at Xia Zhe, indicating that there was nothing he could do. Looking at Qiao Qiang’s attitude now, it looked as if no one would be able to coax him.

“Grandfather, I came back in a hurry this time and didn’t bring you anything. My friend has some good Pu’er tea. I’ll bring some for you to try the next time I come,” Xia Zhe said.

“The next time you come? Am I supposed to stay in this hospital for the rest of my life? Are you going to make me stay here until I die of old age!” Qiao Qiang roared angrily.

“No, no! That’s not what I mean!” Xia Zhe quickly explained.

“Alright, alright. The two of you should just leave. Don’t keep appearing in front of me anymore and making me annoyed. Come and see me only when you’ve caught the culprit! Since you have so much free time, you should go and capture him!” Qiao Qiang said.

Xia Jun waved his hand to ask Xia Zhe to go out quickly. He was here to take care of things. If Xia Zhe provoked Qiao Qiang now, he would keep getting nasty scoldings.

Xia Zhe retreated silently and left the ward. He stood in the corridor and looked at the door of Qiao Mei’s ward. He felt like going in to see Qiao Mei again, but the urgency of the situation meant that he had to endure it for a while longer. Once the culprit was caught, their little family would be able to reunite again.

Xia Fang drove back to the Xia family residence with Xia Zhe. Along the way, Xia Zhe remained silent. He slowly tried to connect all the information he already knew but there were still many parts that were incomplete. He knew that when he reached home later, Xia Mao would show him the intelligence reports. Perhaps he would be able to connect all the dots then.

Xu Lan and Xia He were cleaning up the house. The house was in a mess and they did not have time to look for someone to replace Sister Fan, so they had to do all the chores themselves. Suddenly, they could hear the sound of a car outside the door. Xu Lan looked out warily and Luo Yu also asked everyone to be on guard. Luo Yu felt at ease only when he saw that the approaching car's plate number belonged to the Xia family.

"Xia Zhe! You're finally back! I miss you so much!" Luo Yu went forward and hugged Xia Zhe's shoulder as soon as he got out of the car.

When he first heard the news about Xia Zhe, he really thought that Xia Zhe had died in that explosion and was sad for a long time! If not for the fact that he was on duty, he would have brought two bottles of good wine to the location of the accident to send Xia Zhe off.

Fortunately, Xia Mao told him the truth. It was only then that he could finally relax. It was rare for one to be able to meet a confidant in one's life and Xia Zhe was a good friend who really knew him well. If Xia Zhe had died, he would probably feel terrible for a long time.

"Of course it's me. I'm a lucky man. How can I die so easily," Xia Zhe said.

Xu Lan looked out of the house and muttered to herself, "Who's back?"

Xia He also followed Xu Lan's gaze and looked out. It was Xia Zhe! Xia Zhe was back!

"Mother! It's my younger brother! My younger brother! Mother, look! My younger brother is still alive!" Xia He said excitedly.

"Xia Zhe! You're finally back! Do you know how worried I am! You little brat, you made me so worried!" Xu Lan quickly rushed out of the door and hugged Xia Zhe as she complained tearfully.

Xia He called out to the entire family to come out and welcome Xia Zhe home. Luo Yu quickly herded them into the house. Currently, Xia Zhe was still a "dead person" to the public! How could a "dead person" be standing in the courtyard?

"Alright, alright. Let's go into the house quickly. It's not safe outside," Luo Yu instructed.

Xia Zhe hugged Xu Lan as they quickly walked back into the house. Xu Lan looked at Xia Zhe with tears in her eyes. She had not seen him for such a long time. He had lost so much weight that his cheeks were sunken. Was this really her son? She even felt that she was in a dream now.

"Younger brother, are you injured? Are you feeling unwell anywhere? Do you need me to call the family doctor to come and take a look at you?" Xia He asked with heartache.

"Elder sister, I'm fine. Besides, Father is the one who set up this plan. Don't worry, I'm really not lying to both of you," Xia Zhe said seriously.

Chapter 1165 Doting On His Wife

Everyone sat on the sofa and looked at one another. Xu Lan and the others kept wondering if they should mention Qiao Mei in front of Xia Zhe, while Xia Zhe wondered why they suddenly stopped talking to him. He wondered if there was something that they found difficult to talk about.

"Um... let's... let's eat first! Sister Xiu has been so tired for so many days! I specially made chicken soup today!" Liu Fen said with a smile.

Everyone hurriedly took their seats at the table. Xia Mao and Xia Wen also came down from upstairs. Both of them looked very tired.

"This soup is quite delicious. Second Aunt-in-law, do you have any more? Ask Luo Yu to send some to Qiao Mei and both grandfathers later," Xia Zhe said as he drank the soup.

"Of course! I've already prepared their portions in the thermal containers! I'll get Luo Yu to send them over now!" Liu Fen ran to the kitchen to take the meal containers and went out to look for Luo Yu. She repeatedly reminded him to drive steadily and not to spill anything. This was chicken soup that she had boiled and simmered for an entire morning! There were even some ginseng roots inside! It was very nourishing food!

At the dining table, everyone was silent. Given that the matter was not resolved yet, everyone had their own troubles weighing on their minds.

Xia He was worried about Xia Zhe's health. She was concerned that Xia Zhe would always relay good news to them but not the bad. If he was badly injured but did not take it seriously, it would be too late for regrets in the future. Xia Wen, on the other hand, was worried about Xia He. After all, Xia He was only released upon Xia Xiu's request. There was still insufficient evidence to exonerate her and he did not know when he would be able to find enough evidence.

There were even more worries in Xia Zhe's mind. Qiao Mei had already been hurt to such an extent. He must make everyone who harmed her pay the price. Even if it was a member of this family, he would not look past any wrongdoings. He would definitely find out who this parasite of the Xia family was.

The room meant for Qiao Mei was disinfected and sterilized every day. Considering that Xia Zhe's health condition was currently unknown, it was not a good idea for him to use the room in case he was infected with any viruses. Xu Lan did not want Qiao Mei and the children to fall sick and would not allow the slightest possibility of any virus being near them.

Xia Mao always advised her to be less tensed up. He told her that if children did not experience some storms when they were young, they would grow up to be like flowers in a greenhouse, i.e. easily withered under the sun. It was better to let children grow up to be like the indestructible pine trees which grew in the border province.

"Have a good rest after dinner. Everyone is tired. Xia Zhe, don't use the bedroom meant for you and Qiao Mei. Just make do in the guest room for a few days," Xia Mao said.

In the end, Xia Mao could not win the argument with Xu Lan. After all, she was his wife and he had to listen to her. Otherwise, they would just end up arguing non-stop at night. He was most scared of her tears. The moment she cried, he would agree to anything, even if it was an extremely unreasonable request.

When Xu Lan was pregnant with Xia He, she had a craving for watermelon. However, where could he find watermelons for Xu Lan right in the middle of winter? Moreover, she could eat a lot during that time and could finish one watermelon a day! She had a huge appetite.

After she ate watermelons for four consecutive days, Xia Mao issued an order that watermelons were not allowed to appear at home for the time being and that they should buy something else for her. In the end, she wept until midnight and insisted on eating watermelons, saying that she would die with the

baby if she could not have any. He had no choice but to head out of the capital late at night to buy watermelons for her.

Just like that, the night passed quietly. Early the next morning, Xia Zhe went into the study. He wanted to catch up with everything that had happened during this period of time when he was not around.

The Xia family had a team of specially trained spies, but Xia Zhe was different. Xia Zhe had his own team of spies. Although there were only three people in his team, they were all extremely outstanding. Xia Zhe did not usually need them to do much. They traveled around and took on other jobs during the lull period.

They always felt like they were unemployed vagrants. Their employer did not give them any tasks, so they had to go out and find their own work.

It was time for him to activate them.

No one dared to go to the study to disturb Xia Zhe. Anyway, there was no immediate urgency to deal with Cheng Gu. All the Xia family members were in this house now. They were safe unless Cheng Gu was bold enough to rush into the neighborhood and die together with them.

"Just put food outside the study door so that Xia Zhe can eat when he is hungry. He knows what he's doing," Xia Xiu said.

"Really? I'm concerned that he'll starve," Xu Lan said worriedly.

Chapter 1166 Basic Trust

She was sure that he did not eat much on the way back and he had even encountered such a dangerous explosion. After so many days, he must be exhausted. If he still did not eat well at home, he would definitely fall ill within a few days.

"In the army, sometimes there are occasions when we don't get to eat for a few days. When we run out of food, we even need to eat weeds to survive. Don't worry, Xia Zhe won't starve to death. He's not a

fool. He just doesn't like to be disturbed when he's concentrating on his thoughts. Just let him be." Xia Xiu looked very proud when she said this.

Xu Lan could not understand her family members' military way of thinking. She could not help being worried about Xia Zhe. She was almost unable to withstand the stress of seeing her children getting into trouble one after another.

At night, Xia Zhe received news from his spies. The report he received was even more detailed than what Xia Mao had. The most glaring part of the information were the words "Tan Jing".

He would never have dreamed that it was Tan Jing who colluded with those people who wanted to destroy the Xia family. She actually worked with them to attack the Xia family!

No! It would be more accurate to say that her target was Qiao Mei and their small family.

Xia Zhe walked out of the study with a dark expression and everyone's eyes were on him. Xia Zhe held the photos and documents in his hand and did not know where to start. Xia Wen was also sitting in the living room.

"Xia Zhe, come down and eat! I cooked today! You haven't tasted my cooking for many years! Come and try!" Xu Lan said expectantly.

Xia Zhe suppressed the anger in his heart. He would have a meal with his family first and settle the score later.

"Eldest Brother, do you know the reason for Qiao Mei's incident?" Xia Zhe sat on the sofa after the meal and questioned Xia Wen coldly.

"I... I don't know. I only have fragments of information and I can't seem to put them together," Xia Wen said honestly.

"Take a look at this. This is what I found. I think it's also the last thing you want to see," Xia Zhe said as he handed the brown envelope to Xia Wen.

After Xia Wen opened it, he could not believe what he saw. The traitor was not only Sister Fan's husband, but also Tan Jing... That was his wife...I think you should take a look at

There were three pages of detailed records, listing down information like the exact date when Tan Jing first met Cheng Gu, the separate occasions she met him after that, and even the date of that one night when Cheng Gu stayed overnight in that house in the countryside. The two of them were alone in the same room and no one knew what they did inside.

Furthermore, these were only the information provided by the villagers, which meant that it was only the tip of the iceberg. There were still more things that Xia Wen did not know. After what happened to Tan Jing, Xia Wen had gone to that house to take a look and his impression was that Tan Jing had maintained the place very well. He was proud of how capable she was and had felt even more guilt towards her.

In the end, she had received help from another man and many people actually thought that she and the other man were husband and wife.

Where did this leave him, her actual husband? Perhaps he really did not put in effort in the relationship, which was why the villain had a chance to take advantage of the situation and put the Xia family in danger. He had been muddle-headed during this period of time. What exactly was he doing all this while!

"I... I'm sorry. I'm the one who caused Qiao Mei to get hurt," Xia Wen said apologetically.

"Eldest Brother, this is not your fault. It's all because of Tan Jing's jealousy and the Tan family's greed. Don't take the blame for everything," Xia Zhe patted Xia Wen's shoulder and comforted him.

Xia He hurriedly snatched the documents and read the report word for word. She was so furious that she crumpled the papers in her hand, as if every word written on it was a knife that could hurt Qiao Mei.

"This Tan Jing! She's such a jinx!" Xia He said resentfully.

Everyone frowned. None of them had even thought about suspecting Tan Jing. No matter the kind of danger they were in or how serious this matter was, they did not think about casting any suspicions on Tan Jing.

This was because Tan Jing was a member of the Xia family and she was the family's daughter-in-law. They would not suspect any Xia family members. This was the most basic trust which everyone gave to everyone. They all thought that although Tan Jing was just a very jealous person, she still had a good character, and that she would have grown up to be a good kid if not for the kind of maternal family she had.

However, from the looks of it, they had completely underestimated the evilness of the human heart. In order to seriously injure Qiao Mei, Tan Jing did not hesitate to cooperate with outsiders, even if it meant the Xia family would be doomed. She did not even check on Cheng Gu's identity and could only think about getting Qiao Mei's children for herself.

#### Chapter 1167 Cannot Accommodate Her Anymore

In the past, no matter what the Tan family did or how much money they asked for, the Xia family was not calculative about it. They saw it as only the loss of some worldly possessions which they could still afford.

After all, Tan Jing had not done anything out of line and she still treated Xia Wen very well. No matter what, the Xia family would render help to Tan Jing on account of Xia Wen. They always felt that she did whatever she did because she was left with no choice and that she would not have done it if it was not for her maternal family.

However, it was a totally different story now. Tan Jing had almost gotten Qiao Mei killed and even brought trouble into the family, almost wiping out all the Xia family members in one fell swoop. Their ancestors' foundation was almost destroyed in one day. In order to save Tan Jing, Xia Wen had even gone to ask He Ning for help.

"You should divorce Tan Jing. This family can't accommodate her anymore," Xia Mao said as he looked at Xia Wen calmly.

Xia Wen also knew that this would be the outcome. However, Tan Jing had done all this in a moment of folly and she was also seriously injured at the moment. If he divorced her now, the Xia family would be despised publicly.



"Can we wait for her to recover before we get a divorce?" Xia Wen said.

"No! How can we wait! Even if Tan Jing's injuries can heal, what about her drug addiction? It's drugs we are talking about! If she can't recover from that, do we have to take care of her for the rest of her life! Eldest Brother, wake up!" Xia He said agitatedly.

Xu Lan quickly reprimanded her, "It's not your place to comment about your eldest brother's issues. Xia Zhe, bring your sister back to her room. Don't let her disrupt our discussion."

Xia He felt gloomy as Xia Zhe grabbed her. As she walked away, she kept looking back, as if she wanted to make a case for Qiao Mei. She just wanted to see justice being dealt out. How could she be deprived of that?

Xu Lan was doing this for Xia He's own good. Even Xu Lan could not make any decision on the matter concerning Xia Wen and Tan Jing. It was Xia Mao who had the final say. Xia He was an impatient person and what she said just now had already hurt Xia Wen. If she said anything more, it would probably cause discord between the three siblings.

To Xia Wen, it was his own flesh and blood on one hand and the love of his life on the other. He was in a dilemma and did not know what to do. The last time he spoke to Xia Mao, Xia Mao had already tactfully requested for him to divorce Tan Jing. However, Tan Jing had not caused that much trouble at that time and he felt that the problem was not at the point where they needed to get a divorce yet.

However, he had no choice but to let go now.

"I also agree with what your younger sister said. Our Xia family can only take care of her to this point. After she receives treatment for her wounds, get the divorce finalized and send her back to the Tan family. Let them take care of her. After so many years, she has already taken enough money from our family to give to the Tan family. After the divorce, let her leave without giving her anything," Xia Mao said.

"Father! Can we give her that house in the countryside? She... I want to at least give her a roof over her head," Xia Wen said.

"No, we can't. It's not that I don't agree with your idea, but are you sure that Tan Jing will be the one living in this house if you give it to her? Will your decision help her or harm her?" Xia Mao asked.

Xia Wen slumped on the sofa. Xia Mao was right. At the end of the day, all Tan Jing's assets would end up belonging to Tan Bo and Jiang Yi. Tan Jing would not have anything at all. It was best if he did not give her anything. Not giving her anything would be equivalent to giving her everything.

Seeing that Xia Wen did not talk back, Xia Mao took Xia Wen's silence to mean consent. He said sternly to Xia Wen, "Stay at home with your mother and siblings during this period of time. Don't worry about your work. I've already applied for leave of absence for you."

Xia Mao only wanted Xia Wen to rest at home for now without doing anything else. Xia Mao did not even allow him to see Tan Jing and left this matter to Xia He instead.

Tan Jing did not receive treatment in Xia Fang's hospital. She was sent to a clinic that had a very good relationship with the Xia family. The doctors there were very discreet and very capable. It was not an issue for them to save Tan Jing.

The doctors and nurses worked hard to treat the wounds on Tan Jing's body. Although the wounds looked scary, they were actually not that bad.

"Where are my family members? Why aren't they here yet?" Tan Jing asked weakly.

"Your current condition is very serious, so you're not allowed visits from your family yet. Hold on for a while. Once your condition is stable, we'll inform your family members," the nurse said patiently.

Chapter 1168 - 1168 Private Clinic

1168 Private Clinic

Tan Jing would often fall into bouts of madness and convulsions. She would also say things that they could not understand, and even spout nonsense and dance around. Sometimes, she would even hurt herself.

During this period of time, they had been injecting Tan Jing with sedatives. However, if they continued to increase the amount, Tan Jing's body would not be able to take it. Yet, there was no other better solution.

"I want to see my family members! I want to see them! Why don't you allow me to see them!" Tan Jing suddenly struggled and shouted loudly.

"Doctor! Doctor!" The nurse quickly called out to the doctor for help.

The doctor injected Tan Jing with a tranquilizer and four doctors and nurses held down on each of Tan Jing's limbs. They only heaved a sigh of relief when Tan Jing gradually stopped moving.

"This can't go on every day. If this continues, even a normal person will be tortured to death," the nurse said as she looked at Tan Jing. In her heart, she pitied Tan Jing. It was too much for a woman to have to endure such pain.

"Speak less! Don't you know her background! How many lives do you have to lose?" the doctor reprimanded her softly.

The nurse quickly closed her mouth and packed up the equipment before walking out quickly.

This was a private clinic. The doctors and nurses were very discreet and no one could get any information about any families out of them. Moreover, they had clinics in many locations in the capital. Each clinic only took care of one particular family and all the administration matters were handled by a mysterious person.

Until now, no one had been able to find out who the owner of the clinics was. People only knew that the owner was a highly skilled medical professional and nothing else. They did not even know if the owner was a man or a woman.

At night, the Xia family could finally have some peace! However, Xu Lan and the rest still felt targeted.

Xu Lan and Liu Fen were overwrought with having to cook for the entire family every day. Before Cheng Gu was caught, no person unrelated to the Xia family was allowed to enter the Xia family residence.

Feng Hua had to take care of Qiao Mei and Xia Jun's helper had to wait upon the two elderly men. The two women were the only ones left to handle all the household matters at home. No one else had the time.

Xia Wen was currently feeling depressed and was absent-minded in everything he did. It was already a blessing if nothing happened to him!

Xia Zhe and Xia Mao had gone on a mission to capture Cheng Gu and would likely not be back for the next two days. They all heard from Xia Xiu that there was already some progress. Xia Mao wanted to capture Cheng Gu in one fell swoop and Xia Zhe wanted to personally take revenge for Qiao Mei.

As for Xia He... Xia He was still sulking in her room! She could not go to work now, nor could she go out or to visit Qiao Mei and the two children. At home, Xu Lan complained and criticized her every day. It was so intolerable!

"Why aren't you coming down to eat! It's already so late! Don't you know how to come down and help me and your second aunt-in-law! You only know how to stay in your room!" Xu Lan shouted at the top of her lungs towards Xia He's bedroom.

Xia He covered her ears impatiently. She was not allowed to talk about Xia Wen's issues nor interfere with Xia Zhe's matters. Then what else could she do at home? She might as well go and become a nun! It would be more peaceful and quiet!

"Are you coming out or not! The food will get cold soon!" Xu Lan shouted again.

Xia He walked out of the room unwillingly. There were only three of them eating together today. Xu Lan had placed Xia Wen's portion outside his room. He had locked himself in his room and there was nothing they could do about it.

"Is Eldest Brother still unwilling to come out and walk around? How long is he going to lock himself up like this?" Xia He asked.

"Your eldest brother will probably need a week or two. He needs to figure it out for himself. There's no other way," Liu Fen said with heartache. Over the past few days, Xia Wen had lost weight. The dark circles under his eyes had become more serious and he looked much more haggard. He did not look like that young and energetic young man of the past.

"Then what about Qiao Mei? When can I go and see her?" Xia He asked again.

"You have to wait until Xia Zhe captures the culprit. If they can't catch the culprit, Qiao Mei and the children won't be able to come out for the rest of their lives. Otherwise, their lives will be in danger," Xu Lan said jokingly.

During this period of time, Deng Fan would call Xia He from time to time. At first, Xu Lan would still pick up the phone to ask who it was, but later on, she made Xia He responsible for picking up phone calls. She did not want to listen to young people whispering sweet nothings to each other every day. It was way too annoying.

#### Chapter 1169 Captured

"Xiao He, when are you going to bring that kid Deng Fan home for us to take a look?" Liu Fen asked with a gossipy look.

"Second Aunt-in-law! We're just ordinary friends! Don't misunderstand!" Xia He said as she blushed.

Xu Lan and Liu Fen looked down and smiled to themselves. Everyone could tell what was going on. Xia He was the only one who did not know!

"Or why don't you consider Luo Yu? I think this young man is not bad. He can be considered to have grown up alongside all of you and has worked hard for the Xia family for so many years. He's also very nice to you. Won't you think about it?" Liu Fen said.

"What's there to consider! Luo Yu is like my older brother! How can I fall for him! Stop joking." After saying that, Xia He muttered, "Deng Fan would be a better suggestion than him..."

"Look! Good grief. Second Aunt-in-law won't nag at you anymore. It's good as long as you have a plan in mind." Liu Fen smiled in satisfaction.

Everyone waited quietly for a week. Cheng Gu was finally captured and the truth was out. The Xia family could finally heave a sigh of relief.

It was Xia Zhe who personally led a team to capture Cheng Gu. After a week of investigation and searches, they finally found Cheng Gu's lair and captured all of them in one fell swoop. At the same time, they also rescued many kidnapped women, the majority of whom were captured by the gang for pleasure.

Some of them were already delirious, while others had densely packed needle marks on their arms and thighs. It was simply inhumane. By the time these women were discovered, they had been there for a long time. These women were locked up in a container and it was so crowded and small inside that they could not even breathe properly. They even had to live, eat and do their toileting inside the same place. It was a very tragic sight.

Xia Zhe went to the interrogation room in the prison with a solemn expression. He sat on a chair and quietly looked at Cheng Gu, who was behind the metal bars. Cheng Gu had been smiling happily in a carefree manner, as if being caught meant nothing to him.

"How can you be alive! Shouldn't you be dead? Why are you still alive! You clearly..." Cheng Gu said in shock.

"Sorry to disappoint you, but I'm actually not dead. I jumped out of the car before the explosion. It's so regrettable that your plan failed," Xia Zhe said.

Cheng Gu was only shocked for a moment before he said smugly, "Hmph, so what if you're not dead? Didn't your family die at my hands? Your wife and children are either dead or weakened. What's the point of living on your own? I'm guessing you must hate me very much now?"

"There's a high chance that you'll be sentenced to death. Most of your brothers will also die together with you. All your goods have also been confiscated," Xia Zhe said calmly.

Cheng Gu did not believe what Xia Zhe said. Qiao Mei was dead and he had caused Xia Zhe's two children to be born weak. Xia He had also lost her job and Tan Jing probably would not be able to survive. As for Xia Wen, he was probably crying in some corner!

He had caused the Xia family to be in such a miserable state, yet Xia Zhe did not hate him at all. How was this possible?

"Sorry to disappoint you. My wife and children are fine and my family is doing well," Xia Zhe said. He knew what Cheng Gu was thinking and feeling smug about.

He Ning was right. Destroying a person meant destroying the thing that the person cherished the most. Death did not cause the most pain. The most cruel thing was to torture someone's mind and soul.

That was why everyone was so afraid of He Ning. He was an expert in this subject.

"Impossible! How is this possible! I clearly made all the arrangements! You must be lying to me!" Cheng Gu smacked the table and shouted furiously.

The prison guard immediately pressed Cheng Gu down on the table and restrained his hands as he scolded, "Be quiet! Behave yourself!"

"I'm not lying to you and I don't have any desire to lie to you. I do hate you for hurting my family, but you have nothing left now. What can I take away from you? You don't seem to have anything valuable for me to take away. You should spend your last few days here alone." After saying that, Xia Zhe left the interrogation room. Before he left, he even turned around and smiled at Cheng Gu.

Xia Zhe stood under the sunlight and smiled disdainfully at Cheng Gu with his back against the light. This action was like an arrow piercing through Cheng Gu's heart. At the same time, it made Cheng Gu completely understand that he had really lost this time. He was completely defeated.

Chapter 1170 Wanting To Get Married

After Cheng Gu was arrested, the Xia family did not immediately release the news that Qiao Mei was still alive. The Xia family was worried that Cheng Gu still had accomplices who had not been eliminated. The Xia family wanted to capture all of them in one fell swoop this time and did not intend to let any of them off.

Back then, they did not investigate deeply enough and also did not have such an opportunity, leading to the tragedy that befell to the Xia family. This time, they must eliminate the root of the problem and wipe it out in one fell swoop. Otherwise, it was very likely that these people would make a comeback in the future.

When the Zhong family heard that the Xia family had finally taken revenge, they could not sit still anymore.

"Dad! Do you know that Xia Zhe is back! Quickly help me think of a way! I can't just see him leave again! After they finish dealing with that person called... Right! That person is called Cheng Gu. He will definitely return to the army to continue his mission!" Zhong Wan pouted and said angrily to Zhong Ye.

Zhong Ye patted Zhong Wan's head dotingly and said, "My precious daughter, how can I bear to see you so sad? I'll go to the Xia family's house tomorrow, alright? You can come with me to take a look."

"I don't want that! I want to see Xia Zhe today! Please think of a way~ Dad, you're the best. Don't you dote on Wan'er the most! If you don't care about Wan'er anymore, then what will happen to me!" Zhong Wan became more and more agitated as she spoke and even covered her face and started crying.

Zhong Ye only had this one precious daughter and he gave her everything. Even if Zhong Wan wanted the moon in the sky, Zhong Ye would think of a way to get it for her. He would definitely be able to take down a mere Xia Zhe!

"Sure, sure, sure. Wan'er, don't cry anymore. I'll go to the Xia family house now, alright? Go freshen up and put on your most beautiful clothes. Let's go to the Xia family house now!" Zhong Ye said.

Zhong Wan jumped up with joy and hurriedly went into her room to put on an extremely dressy light pink gown. If she did not say that she was going to the Xia family's house for a visit, people would probably think that she was marrying into the Xia family!

"Dad! Do you think that I look beautiful!" Zhong Wan lifted the hem of her dress excitedly and walked around the house. Even though her dress overturned many furniture items, Zhong Ye did not care. He doted on his daughter a lot. If Zhong Ke dared to do this at home, Zhong Ye would have beaten Zhong Ke up with a big stick. I think you should take a look at



"My daughter is as beautiful as a fairy. It's such a waste for you to be with that kid from the Xia family! Why don't you reconsider? This will be a remarriage for Xia Zhe. Are you really willing to be someone's second wife?" Zhong Ye said with heartache.

"Dad! How can you be so biased! It's not like Xia Zhe got a divorce because of personal reasons! He's a widow! It's not his fault," Zhong Wan protested.

"But he has two children. Are you going to take care of those two children? If you marry him, you'll have to be a stepmother! Silly girl! It's not easy to be a stepmother," Zhong Ye said.

Zhong Ye's wife passed away when she was giving birth to Zhong Wan. This was also the reason why Zhong Ye doted on Zhong Wan so much. Zhong Ke was a premature baby and was not in good health, but he was doing very well now and did not cause any worries. However, Zhong Wan was different. Zhong Wan had grown up being doted on by him.

Back then, there were many women who wanted to marry Zhong Ye and were willing to be stepmother to Zhong Ke and Zhong Wan. However, Zhong Ye rejected all of them. His work brought him outstation all year round. Although his work was not that tiring, he could only come back two days a week and he spent the rest of his time in the army.

At that time, Zhong Wan was still young and needed someone to take care of her, so he brought her everywhere with him. Later on, after Zhong Wan grew up, he hired two helpers to wait upon her at home! One of them was in charge of her daily life and the other was in charge of cleaning the house and sending Zhong Wan to and from school.

Under Zhong Ye's dedicated care, Zhong Wan had never experienced the real world. Zhong Ye did not have any other wishes. He just hoped that Zhong Wan would be able to marry a man who could protect her like he did.

Xia Zhe was indeed an outstanding man, but he would not be able to protect Zhong Wan! Qiao Mei's death already proved that Xia Zhe did not have the ability to protect his wife well, so there was no way that Zhong Ye could bear to let Zhong Wan marry into the Xia family.

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