

Fat Wife 1221

Chapter 1221 - 1221 All the Relatives

1221 All the Relatives

Not long after, the Xia family heard from Xia Mao about what happened. He did not mercilessly send the Tan brothers to jail. Instead, he made Tan Hu and Tan Bao confess their crime and sign off on the statements.

With these two documents, the Xia family could now exert control over the Tan family. In the future, the Tan family would not dare to behave so arrogantly anymore and keep coming round to disturb the Xia family's peace. It turned out to be a good ending in the end.

Xia Mao even specially approved a bonus sum for Xiao An and told him to bring all the guys who were on duty that night for drinks. It was a small gesture from the Xia family to express their gratitude.

After the Tan family was quelled, the Xia family was immediately busy with something else. It was almost time for the one-month-old celebration for Xia Fan and Xia Xing. All the Xia family's relatives would be coming back and the entire house would be full of people!

Xu Lan and Liu Fen were busy with the shopping and marketing, so the children were fully left in Feng Hua's care. The two children were quite obedient and sensible, so Feng Hua did not have to expend much effort on them. However, she still had to change and wash the children's diapers every day, feed them powdered milk and handwash their clothes. All these minor tasks were enough to keep Feng Hua busy all day long.

With the help, Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe were able to focus on the matters relating to the events on the day of the one-month-old celebration. For the meal alone, there were 18 main dishes and two cold dishes to coordinate. They also had to go to the supply and marketing cooperative to pre-order items from the Xia family's entitlement. If they went on the day itself, they would not be able to get everything they needed.

Most of the dishes could be ordered from the state-owned restaurant outside, but they still had to make a few dishes at home. Otherwise, it did not make sense at all. If all the dishes were ordered from the state-owned restaurant, then they might as well host the meal at the state-owned restaurant! It would be a waste of effort to ask the restaurant staff to send all the dishes to their house.

Soon, the day of the one-month-old celebration arrived. Qiao Mei chose to wear a dark blue A-line dress. The style was simple and elegant, but the phoenix embroidered on the hem looked very lifelike. It had taken Qiao Mei more than a month to make this dress, specially for the purpose of welcoming the esteemed guests!

Xu Lan also wore clothes which Qiao Mei had made for her. She wanted all the relatives to take a good look at how skilful Qiao Mei was, so that everyone knew she had such a good daughter-in-law!

Xia Yao and Xia Guang would not be coming back for the event. After all, the two of them had just taken their vacation leave. Unless the occasion involved their own grandchildren being born, the army would not grant them any additional leave.

In addition, Xia Guang was situated far away in the border province and the trip back was not an easy one. There was no need for him to take the trouble to travel to and forth.

However, their children would be coming back for the event. This would be Qiao Mei's first time meeting these people!

Xia Yao and Liu Fen had a total of four children. Their two daughters were Xia Wan and Xia You. They had not been home for many years, not even to Liu Fen's place. The only reason why they were coming back was to take a look at Xia Zhe's wife. They wanted to see the legendary person who was able to drive Zhou Hua away from the family.

This time, Xia Yu had brought his wife, Yun Lan, with him. They had just gotten married but had not held their wedding ceremony yet. It was inconvenient to hold a banquet now as the weather was too cold. They intended to do it during springtime.

Xia Guang's children were also coming. This time, Xia Xing would also be bringing his girlfriend, Shao Yin, to the Xia family residence. Even Zhou Hua had only met this girl a few times! Xia Guang had never met her before, so he did not know what Xia Xing was up to this time. Why was Xia Xing bringing this girl to such an important banquet at the Xia family residence?

Xia Guang's other two sons, Xia Zhu and Xia Yan, were still in university. Everyone heard that they had made some achievements in scientific research and it appeared that their futures were going to be bright.

A large group of people flocked into the house. Qiao Mei stood uneasily at the door and listened as Xia Zhe introduced these relatives one by one. Qiao Mei tried her best to remember everyone's names. Although her memory was not too bad, it was still a little difficult to remember the names of so many new faces. She could only try to identify these people through their clothes and any special features.

Back then, the relatives had all heard rumors that Qiao Mei was a fatty weighing more than 200 pounds and was also a dowdy village girl. However, after meeting her in person today, they found that she was completely different from what they had heard!

At a glance, she looked like a pampered young lady from a wealthy family. Looking at her temperament and poise, how could she be from the countryside? Could it be that Xia Zhe had remarried someone else within such a short period of time?

However, given the Xia family motto, Xia Zhe would not dare to do this. Could it be that someone had deliberately spread rumors within the Xia family? Everyone stood rooted to the spot and stared at Qiao Mei.

Chapter 1222 Stranger

"Everyone, let's head inside. It's cold outside. We can talk inside the house," Qiao Mei said with a gentle smile.

Qiao Mei then caught sight of a stranger at the back of the crowd. She looked at Xia Zhe curiously. He frowned and seemed a little lost for words.

That person was Zhou Hua's older sister, Zhou Luo. As Zhou Hua was never fond of her own three sons, the three children had been placed in Zhou Luo's care since they were young. Zhou Luo was the person whom the three children were the closest to. She was more like their biological mother than Zhou Hua!

The Xia family had always been very polite to Zhou Luo. After all, without her, the three grandchildren from the third son's family would probably have all starved to death. It was all thanks to Zhou Luo's attentive care that the children were able to grow up well and healthy.

After Zhou Hua and Xia Guang divorced, Zhou Luo felt very unhappy. After all, Zhou Hua was her younger sister. Even if Zhou Hua had done something wrong, her marriage to Xia Guang should not have ended in divorce. Did the Xia family think that they could bully the Zhou family? It was uncommon to hear of a wife being divorced by her husband just because she did something wrong. There would always be difficulties in life and a couple was supposed to go through it all together.

"Auntie Zhou, you're here today too," Xia Zhe said.

"Why? Am I not welcome?" Zhou Luo asked unhappily.

"Of course we welcome you, how can we not? We just don't know that you're coming. Xiao Xing didn't tell us in advance either. Come on in." Xia Wen quickly brought Zhou Luo into the living room. As he walked, he gave Xia Zhe a look as a reminder to stay calm.

Even if Xia Jun was here, he also had to show Zhou Luo some respect. If they made Zhou Luo upset today, then Xia Xing and his two brothers would become completely alienated from the Xia family. For the sake of the overall situation, they must be hospitable to Zhou Luo.

"Who is this? Why do both of you have the same expression?" Qiao Mei whispered into Xia Zhe's ear.

Xia Zhe told Qiao Mei the whole story and she quickly had an idea of what it all meant. It seemed that she would not be able to have a comfortable meal today.

"Elder sister, I think we won't be able to execute our plan," Xia You whispered to Xia Wan as they walked on.

Xia Wan hurriedly pulled Xia You to a corner and said, "You'd better stop it! Don't you see how concerned Xia Zhe is about Qiao Mei? At first, I'm curious about how a village girl is able to chase Third Aunt-in-law away. Now that I've seen her, it seems that she's indeed not a simple person. Since Auntie

Zhou is here, it has nothing to do with us now. Just sit back and watch the show." I think you should take a look at

"I had wanted to tease her! But I never expect her to be such a beautiful woman. I can't bear to do it to her!" Xia You said as she pouted.

"We'd better talk less and help out more today. Let's go and help Mom and Eldest Aunt-in-law. I hear that they don't have a helper at home now. They must be very busy today," Xia Wan said.

The kitchen was bustling with activity, but it was not Xu Lan and Liu Fen who were cooking. It was Li Gui and Xia He.

Ever since Xia He started learning how to cook, she helped out at every occasion where there was cooking involved. She did not care if the food she made tasted good or not, so long as it was edible! She just needed to make sure it did not poison people to death.

By now, she knew how to make many types of dishes and her cooking had also improved a lot. Xia He's purpose in learning how to cook was not to please her future in-laws. She simply liked to cook. When she moved out to live on her own in the future, she would be able to cook for herself at home and be able to save more money to pay for the house.

Although Xia He was not as fast as Li Gui when it came to cooking, she was very proficient with a knife. She was able to chop the ingredients neatly and into pieces of almost equal thickness. She was also very quick and nimble, which made her a very good assistant in the kitchen.

"Mom, your cooking smells so good!" Qiao Mei said as she leaned against the kitchen door.

Li Gui smiled and said, "How can my cooking be as delicious as yours? Do you want to show off your skills later?"

Qiao Mei shook her head forcefully. She was dressed so nicely today. It would be difficult to wash off the oil stains if she got the dress dirty into the kitchen. This was a dress which took her a lot of effort to make and she must take good care of it.

"You'd better go out now. It's oily and smoky here. If you breathe too much fumes, you may get a headache later!" Xia He said in all seriousness.

She spoke with the tone of voice of an experienced mother who had given birth to many children before and it made Qiao Mei laugh out loud. Xia He had been hanging out with Li Gui for so long that she was starting to resemble Li Gui in her mannerisms.

Chapter 1223 - 1223 Children Are Very Smart

1223 Children Are Very Smart

"I see you're taking my mother away from me!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"What's wrong! If you can snatch my mother away from me, I can also stick close to your mother!" Xia He turned around and said sweetly to Li Gui, "Auntie, let's ignore her and start cooking!"

Xu Lan was so focused on Qiao Mei that it seemed she might have forgotten she had a daughter named Xia He! Her mind was only filled with matters related to Qiao Mei!

"Sure, sure, sure!" Li Gui did not stop smiling throughout the entire conversation. Given that Qiao Mei had married into such a good family, she felt gratified just thinking about it. At least her daughter did not have to go through what she had experienced. That was the best thing that could happen.

Qiao Mei also realized that Li Gui seemed to look much better recently. She used to look like she was in her 70s although she was only about 50 years old! Her originally saggy skin had disappeared and she now looked no different from a person in her 30s. She did not even look very much older when she stood beside Xia He.

This was the effect of the ginseng juice! Even for Xu Lan, who had always looked quite good, she looked as if she had been rejuvenated after drinking the medicinal wine from Qiao Mei during this period of time. Her skin looked glowy and she did not look her age at all. If one looked at her from the back, one would even believe that she was a young girl!

Qiao Mei did not expect the ginseng juice to have the effect of beautifying appearances. She suddenly had a new idea. If she infused the ginseng juice into cosmetics products, would they sell exceptionally well?

However, one needed to register a trademark before selling cosmetics and the products had to undergo quality checks as well. If the inspectors came to check on the raw materials, Qiao Mei could not possibly tell them that it was 1,000-year-old ginseng juice. They would think that Qiao Mei was lying!

She could rethink this in the future. There were still many other ways to get rich!

Everyone sat around in the living room. Feng Hua and Xia Wen walked out with the two babies in their arms. No one knew whether Xia Wen had found a special method, but Xia Xing was surprisingly quiet in his arms. She even kept looking at Xia Wen and smiling at him!

“This kid is really good-looking. The eyebrows and eyes bear some resemblance to Xia Zhe!” Xia Wan said excitedly.

“That’s true. Look at Xia Fan. He looks exactly like Xia Zhe when he’s young! I feel my heart melting just looking at him,” Xu Lan said.

Zhou Luo just sat on the sofa and did not even look at the children. This attracted Qiao Mei’s attention. If she came to attend the one-month-old celebration but did not even bother to look at the children, then she must be targeting Qiao Mei. It seemed that Zhou Hua must have told Zhou Luo a lot of things when she went back. Otherwise, Zhou Luo would not have appeared here today.

Xia Zhe slowly approached Qiao Mei and whispered, “In a while, say that you’re not feeling well and want to go back upstairs to rest. I’ll bring some food up and eat with you during mealtime.”

“I’m not afraid of her, so why should I hide from her?” Qiao Mei asked.

“She’s very cantankerous. I’m worried that you’ll get angry and it won’t be good for your health,” Xia Zhe said with heartache.

“Don’t worry, who can be more cantankerous than me? If I don’t stay around, I think she’ll make a fuss out of it and try to legitimize her complaints. I won’t go and provoke her, so don’t worry.” Qiao Mei held Xia Zhe’s hand and comforted him.

Xia Zhe sighed deeply. He only wondered why they had not handled the matter between Xia Guang and Zhou Hua cleanly back then and allowed it to drag on, leading to the situation now.

Soon, it was mealtime. Xia Wen and Feng Hua wanted to send the children back to their room, but the moment Xia Xing was put down into her small bed, she started wailing. Qiao Mei had already weaned her off the bad habit two days ago. What was wrong with her today?

Xia Wen had no choice but to pick Xia Xing up again and she immediately stopped crying.

“Eldest Brother, you’re the one who’s spoiling Xia Xing. She knows how to scratch people now. You have to be the one to hold her while she sleeps today,” Qiao Mei said in a fit of pique.

Xia Wen looked at Xia Xing tenderly and said, “It’s my fault. I’ll put her onto the bed later. Let me hold her for a while.”

Children were very smart! Xia Xing clearly knew who doted on her the most and who was strict with her. Xia Fan was the more simple-minded one who simply ate and slept well. As long as he was fed well, he could sleep for an entire day!

Qiao Mei often worried that Xia Fan would become stupid from sleeping so much. She intended to control the children’s sleep time and try her best to make it consistent for the two of them. Otherwise, it would be stressful when coaxing them to sleep in the future.

Chapter 1224 At Loggerheads

Shao Yin hid in a corner and kept quiet. Xia Xing was so excited to see his two younger brothers that he left her on her own. That was nothing she could do except to get some food and eat by herself in the corner. No one paid any attention to her since Xia Xing did not formally introduce her.

She did not expect to bump into a man like Xia Wen in this place. He looked so refined and elegant, like a young master from a novel who had come to life. Shao Yin's eyes sparkled and she looked like she wanted to pounce on him immediately.

"Your child must be very blessed too! You must be a very good father! How old is your child this year?" Shao Yin walked to Xia Wen's side and asked anxiously.

The people standing around felt a little awkward and the smiles on everyone's faces froze. Zhou Luo snorted coldly at one side. People who did not know how to read the situation would always do things which embarrassed themselves.

Xia Wen did not show any emotions. The corners of his mouth remained curled up, as if he did not take anything which Shao Yin said to heart.

"I'm divorced," Xia Wen said in a gentle manner. With that, he carried Xia Xing back into the room.

Only then did Shao Yin realize that she had said something wrong. She just thought that every man here was either married or attached. Moreover, before she came, Xia Xing had told her that his eldest uncle's three children were all married. He had never mentioned anything about any of them being divorced. She had thought that Xia Wen's wife was not here because she was preoccupied.

"I didn't do it on purpose..." Shao Yin whispered.

"It's fine. This is something that we don't even know about. Your eldest uncle and eldest aunt-in-law won't blame you. Xia Wen probably doesn't want to make a big fuss about it as well. It's not like anyone can blame our Shao Yin for this," Zhou Luo said as she looked at Xu Lan. On the surface, it seemed like she was helping Shao Yin and giving her a way out, but in reality, she was using Shao Yin as a needle to poke at the Xia family's eldest son.

Her purpose for being here today was to avenge her younger sister, Zhou Hua. Although her younger sister did not take care of the children after giving birth to them, she had been loyal to the Xia family. Xia Guang was posted out of town for so many years, but she never thought of leaving him. She waited for Xia Guang for so many years and also gave him three sons, in turn contributing to the extension of the Xia family's bloodline, so she had already done well!

Did they still expect Zhou Hua to wait on this big family like Liu Fen? It was none of their Zhou family's business if Liu Fen was willing to degrade herself this way, but if the Xia family wanted her younger sister to wait on the Xia family as well, they could dream on! I think you should take a look at

"What are you saying? You're still young and don't know anything about what's going on. We won't blame you. It's probably because your elders haven't made it clear to you. It's not your fault," Xu Lan said gently to Shao Yin as she pretended to hold her hand affectionately.

Shao Yin did not know how to read between the lines and thought that Xu Lan had really forgiven her! She was so touched that she almost cried. Zhou Luo rolled her eyes helplessly and turned her head away.

At this moment, Xia Xing was still chatting with his two younger brothers. Xia Lu and Xia Yan were promising youngsters who had both gained admission into the same university, one of the top few in the country. Their future prospects would definitely be bright.

The two of them had always lived in Zhou Luo's house and had been brought up by Zhou Luo since they were young. Xia Xing had at least stayed with Zhou Hua for a period of time, but Xia Lu and Xia Yan were entirely brought up by the Zhou family.

In the past, Xia Jun had intended to bring these two children back so that they could grow up in the Xia family, but the Zhou family had refused to let them go. Moreover, Zhou Hua kept a tight grip over the three children. Even if she could not be the one to bring them up, she would not allow the Xia family to do it. Therefore, the Xia family's attitude towards Zhou Luo was also quite nuanced. Xia Jun had previously instructed that as long as Zhou Luo needed help, the Xia family should help her without any hesitation.

Zhou Luo had found out a long time ago that she was infertile, but her current husband treated her very well. Her husband was a nice man and did not care about the matter of children at all. They had been very loving all these years, so Zhou Luo had long treated these three children as her own biological children.

Over the years, she had spent a lot of money and effort on these three children and had never asked the Xia family for help. Even when Zhou Luo was so poor that she could not afford to eat, she still managed to find a way to take care of the three children.

The three children also worked hard and did well. Each one was more hardworking and diligent than the last. They were even a hundred times more outstanding than the two sons from the Xia family's second

son! Zhou Luo's neighbors all said that she was blessed with good fortune. The three children not only gave in to Zhou Hua all the time, they were also very obedient and always did whatever she said.

Xia You secretly tugged at the corner of Xia Wan's clothes and said, "Elder Sister, look at how silly that girl is. Where did Brother Xing find such a person?"

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Chapter 1225 - 1225 Up to No Good

1225 Up to No Good

"I don't know either, but it looks like Auntie Zhou is up to no good this time. Let's just keep our heads down and eat quietly later. Don't try to be a hero or I won't be able to save you then!" Xia Wan said worriedly.

Her younger sister was full of quirky ideas and liked to get involved in everything. If she witnessed a bully in action, she would definitely be the first one to step up and protect the people who were being bullied. However, she did not even have the ability to protect herself!

Then again, it was not exactly a bad thing. Such a pure and kind heart was rare in the world and very few people would want to stand up for a stranger. Xia Wan had always silently protected Xia You and her kind heart since they were young.

Xia Yu and Xia Yuan also felt the same way. Although Xia Yuan was the youngest, everyone in their family actually doted on Xia You the most! Even Yun Lan, who had just married into the family, liked Xia You very much and took care of her in small ways which no one noticed.

"When have I ever caused trouble! I always only do the right thing! Besides, isn't Mom here as well? She won't let Auntie Zhou bully me. In my opinion, Auntie Zhou shouldn't be here today. It's our Xia family's banquet. It's not like she has any right to be here," Xia You muttered softly.

Xia Wan quickly covered Xia You's mouth and looked around warily. After confirming that no one had heard what Xia You said, she said, "My little ancestor, can you please take a break. Don't just say whatever you feel like saying."

“There’s no one else here! Why are you so worried! My guess is that Auntie Zhou is here to talk about the issue of the 50,000 dollars. This Qiao Mei is also very strange. If she had agreed to lend Auntie Zhou money, why did she suddenly change her mind? It seems that this Qiao Mei is not a nice person either. Why does Xiao Zhe like her? Do you think it’s a shotgun marriage? Perhaps he was deceived by this woman.” The more Xia You thought about it, the angrier she became.

Whatever they had heard about the matter was what Zhou Hua went around telling others. Everyone did not think that Zhou Hua would lie about something like this.

Xia Wan and Xia You actually had no interest in coming to this banquet today. They only came because the celebration was meant for Xia Zhe’s children and they both had a soft spot for Xia Zhe. In addition, since they had heard about how Xia Zhe’s new wife was so tough and badass, they were also curious about her and wanted to take a look for themselves.

“Just keep quiet and eat later! Why do you have to comment about everything everywhere you go! Please, I’m begging you! Just do it as a show of respect to Xia Zhe. This matter has nothing to do with our family, so don’t make things awkward for everyone,” Xia Wan said earnestly.

“I know. I’m an adult and I already have two children of my own! Don’t you think I understand all this!” Xia You said.

The fragrance from the food wafted into the living room from the kitchen. Everyone had had a long journey and did not manage to have a proper meal on the way. By now, everyone was starving.

“Everyone, come and take a seat. We can eat soon!” Qiao Mei stood up and said with a smile.

They had to put two tables together in order for so many people to sit together. Xia Jun did not come to join in the fun today. He had decided to eat at Qiao Qiang’s house before coming back to visit the children at night.

Now that he was much older, he did not like to be in a crowded place. The noise gave him a headache. Old people like him preferred peace and quiet. The fewer people who disturbed them, the better!

Qiao Mei and Xia He brought out all the dishes and everyone was stunned at what they saw. These dishes all smelled good. The different dishes were made by different people, namely Li Gui, Xia He and even Qiao Mei. In particular, the sweet and sour pork was Qiao Mei's masterpiece.

All the visitors stared at the dishes with their eyes wide open. They had never seen such extravagance when it came to food. Life had also been hard for the Xia family in the early days and they only began to prosper after many years. However, their living habits were still as frugal as before.

Xia Mao's family was the only one among them who enjoyed having special entitlement. With their ranks, Xia Yao and Xia Guang still did not qualify to have such entitlements, therefore their children never had the chance to taste such nice food. They were naturally shocked at the sight of the delicacies in front of them.

"Wow! This is so delicious!" Xia You's eyes lit up when she took the first bite of the meat and she could not stop eating.

Xia Wan smiled and said, "Xiao Zhe, you're really lucky to have married such a good wife. You'll always get to eat well in the future!"

"But you're an even better cook! I've heard from Second Aunt-in-law many times that you're the best cook among everyone at home. I'm hoping to be able to come to you for guidance!" Qiao Mei said.

"True! My sister is a better cook! But you're not bad either," Xia You said sincerely.

Chapter 1226 May The Heavens Strike Me Dead

Qiao Mei really liked the four children from the second son's family. Yun Lan also made her feel very comfortable. She just felt a sense of familiarity the moment she saw them. Even though Xia You did not look at her in a friendly manner upon entering the house, she felt that Xia You and Xia He probably have similar characteristics. Both of them were the kind of people who were very straightforward and direct.

Seeing that everyone had picked up their chopsticks and started to eat, Zhou Luo picked up her liquor glass and stood up. She looked at Qiao Mei seriously and said, "Qiao Mei, my younger sister has done many bad things to you in the past but I seek your understanding on that. As her elder sister, I apologize

on her behalf. I hope you can forgive her. You're a magnanimous person, so don't hold it against my younger sister."

Xu Lan's expression immediately darkened. The three siblings from the Xia family's eldest son also looked very unhappy. Xia Wen looked at Qiao Mei worriedly. Zhou Luo was clearly forcing Qiao Mei to forgive Zhou Hua. If Qiao Mei did not agree to forgive Zhou Hua today, Zhou Luo might even find a way to accuse Qiao Mei of some wrongdoing!

Qiao Mei just sat there quietly and looked at Zhou Luo without saying anything.

"It seems that I have not drunk enough to satisfy Qiao Mei. Maybe I should do this." Zhou Luo picked up a bottle of liquor and said to Qiao Mei, "I'll drink this entire bottle of liquor as a gesture of apology from our family. What do you think?"

Xia Lu and Xia Yan immediately looked nervous. This was a bottle of baijiu—the strong distilled spirit unavoidable at Chinese social functions—and it was potent enough to cause serious damage to anyone who drank the entire bottle! However, it was not appropriate for them to interrupt, so they could only let Zhou Luo and Qiao Mei settle it between the two of them.

If Zhou Luo really intended to drink the entire bottle, the two brothers had decided that they would rush forward and drink it on her behalf.

"Auntie Zhou, I don't understand what you are saying. Why would I need to forgive... Third Aunt-in-law?" Qiao Mei hesitated before she decided to address Zhou Hua as "Third Aunt-in-law". After all, Xia Guang had not remarried and Zhou Hua had given the Xia family three grandsons. They could not be disrespectful to her just because the couple had divorced. Even if she had done something wrong, they must still remember her contributions to the Xia family.

"Back then, my sister had borrowed 50,000 dollars from you. You agreed to lend it to her, but then you suddenly changed your mind and said that you didn't want to lend it to her anymore. It's my sister's fault for arguing with you and insisting to get the money, but do you think what you have done is above board?" Zhou Luo questioned.

All the grandchildren from the other family branches turned to look at Qiao Mei in unison. Qiao Mei looked away and smiled. So this was the problem. No wonder all these people seemed quite hostile to her the moment they entered the house. It turned out to be part of Zhou Hua's scheme.

In order not to embarrass Zhou Hua and Xia Guang, Xia Mao and Xu Lan did not tell anyone the truth regarding this matter. Even when someone asked about it, they just replied in a vague way. Liu Fen also did not mention anything to her children. I think you should take a look at panovel.com

In the end, this allowed Zhou Hua to take advantage of the missing information and fabricated her version of the truth, pushing all the blame to Qiao Mei. In her version, she was the person who had done nothing wrong.

panovel.com "What are you smiling at? Is there anything wrong with what I said?" Zhou Luo asked with a frown.

Xia Wen looked at Zhou Luo and said, "Auntie Zhou, I think you've really misunderstood what happened. It's not like what you said. Qiao Mei did provide a loan of 50,000 dollars, but it was to pay a debt for Third Aunt-in-law. The money was never meant to be given to her."

Zhou Luo was still a little puzzled. She had never heard of Zhou Hua borrowing money from anyone. Zhou Hua did not smoke or drink. She did not spend much money, so why would she owe someone money?

Xia Wen related the whole story in detail. Only then did everyone realize the truth. It turned out that Qiao Mei was the one who had saved everyone in the Xia family and was the family's benefactor.

Xia You now looked at Qiao Mei with admiration and fondness, but Zhou Luo still did not believe what Xia Wen said. Even if Xia Wen was telling the truth, why would Zhou Hua lie to her own family? What good did it do her to lie to them?

"Auntie Zhou, if you want to talk about forgiveness, then Third Aunt-in-law should beg Grandfather for forgiveness. After all, she did do something which violated the Xia family's house rules. Or maybe... she needs to beg He Ning for forgiveness," Qiao Mei said in a gentle manner.

"You! How dare you talk about your elders like this! As an elder, do I need you to teach me how to do things?" Zhou Luo said angrily.

"I dare not, but I must make things clear to Auntie Zhou. This matter has nothing to do with me from the beginning to the end. All I did was to top up the missing money. Third Aunt-in-law has not let me down in any way. I don't know why Third Aunt-in-law would say that about me. If I have done anything wrong, then let the heavens strike me dead!" Qiao Mei daringly made a cursed oath.

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Chapter 1227 Accumulate Merit

Xu Lan was so shocked that she hurriedly shouted, "Pfft, pfft, pfft! How can you say such things! Don't talk about death! It's inauspicious!"

"Mother, I need to let Auntie Zhou know how serious I am. I can't bear to let Auntie Zhou misunderstand me like this," Qiao Mei said haltingly.

With Qiao Mei's good looks, she looked particularly pitiful when she put on such an aggrieved expression.

Xia You could not stand it anymore and muttered softly, "It's not Qiao Mei's fault to begin with. Why will a good girl like Qiao Mei do such a thing? Auntie Zhou is still behaving so aggressively. Is she trying to force her into a corner?"

Zhou Luo glared fiercely at Xia You, but Xia You did not back down and simply glared back. Xia Wan hurriedly held on to Xia You to calm her down and stop her from speaking up again. Otherwise, Xia You would only make the situation even more chaotic.

"Alright, now that everyone knows what actually happened, let's eat. Sister Zhou, if you're still unsure, you can go and ask Xia Xiu. You also know that this sister-in-law of mine is the most impartial person in this family. You should be able to believe what she says," Xu Lan said.

Zhou Luo sat back down slowly and decided to put this matter aside for now. She must investigate it carefully and not let anyone fool her. She did not intend to blindly believe in what she heard, even if Xia Xiu said the same thing. She must investigate it herself! What if the Xia family was spouting nonsense to stop her from taking any action!

Could her biological sister have lied to her? Impossible! They were a family!

All the people around the dining table finished the delicious food in front of them in silence. Once the meal ended, they would have to face the issue of their accommodation. Xu Lan had not said anything. Based on the usual practice, the family members of the Xia family's second son would stay at Xu Lan's place and the family members of the Xia family's third son would stay at Xia Jun's place. This was enough of an indication of the relationship between the three families.

Zhou Luo always felt that Liu Fen was like a slave to the family of the Xia family's eldest son. She had actually gotten it wrong. Liu Fen would be more than happy to stay at Xu Lan's place forever! It was a nice and big house and she had someone to talk to every day. Moreover, there was a helper to do all the housework, so she did not have to do anything. Xu Lan would also always give her a share of whatever good stuff she had.

Which family's "slave" could receive such treatment? If there was really such a thing, everyone would be happy to be slaves!

"Hmph, let's go!" Zhou Luo left Xu Lan's place arrogantly with the three children of the Xia family's third son. After they left, Xia You immediately came up to Qiao Mei. I think you should take a look at panDasnovel.com

"Wow... are these eyelashes real? How can a person have such long eyelashes! And this skin, you don't have any spots at all! How exactly do you take care of your skin! And your figure! It's such a pity that you're not a model! Goodness... Xia Zhe, where did you find such a wife!" Xia You lamented.

Liu Fen hurriedly pulled Xia You back and said to Qiao Mei in embarrassment, "Please don't take it to heart. This child of mine is just too talkative. She's already so grown up but she can't seem to change this habit."

"I don't think so! I like this elder sister's personality very much. I will be more than happy if she wants to chat with me!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

paᅇdasNovel.com Xia You was so touched that she felt like crying. Other than her siblings, this was the first person in the Xia family who did not find her bothersome! She decided that she must become good friends with Qiao Mei!

She suddenly thought of something and pulled Xia Zhe aside, ignoring everyone's puzzled gazes, and asked softly, "Um... let me ask you, did you do something beastly to Qiao Mei?"

"Absolutely not! I only want to dote on her. Why would I do anything bad to her? Elder sister, what are you thinking about," Xia Zhe said helplessly.

"Then how did you find such a nice girl? And how long has she known you before she became pregnant? Are you sure you didn't make her pregnant so that you can marry her? If you really did that, I'll break your legs right now!" Xia You raised her fist and said fiercely.

For a moment, Xia Zhe did not know what to tell Xia You. Should he tell her that Qiao Mei was actually the one who plotted for a long time and had ulterior motives towards him, and that it was Qiao Mei who got him drunk and then slept with him? That... that was something he could never say out loud!

He was a grown man, yet a woman had forced herself on him. If word got out, he would be utterly embarrassed!

"Of course not... Qiao Mei and I were already betrothed when we were young. Qiao Mei's grandfather is the person who saved our grandfather in the past," Xia Zhe explained.

Chapter 1228 Formal Introduction

Realization dawned on Xia You and she was no longer worried. She patted Xia Zhe's shoulder forcefully and said, "Don't forget what I said. Treat Qiao Mei well! Marrying a good wife will bring you prosperity for three generations! This is your blessing from our Xia family ancestors!"

"Of course. Do I need you to remind me about such a simple matter?" Xia Zhe said happily.

Xia Wan and Xu Lan had always been very close. Xu Lan always liked gentle girls like Xia Wan and felt that this was how daughters of wealthy families should behave. If only Xia He could have Xia Wan's temperament and character, then Xu Lan would not have to worry about anything!

"Eldest Sister-in-law, I haven't had the chance to make this introduction yet. This is my third son's wife, Yun Lan. Both of you have met before, but this is the first time she's visiting you as my daughter-in-law!" Liu Fen was so happy that she kept grinning. Her wish was for Xia Yu and Xia Yuan to get married soon. With this, it was like half her wish coming true. The remaining half would depend on whether Xia Yuan was willing to do the same soon.

"Yes, yes, we've met before! Your mother-in-law didn't tell me that you've already registered your marriage. I only found out about it today! Take a seat downstairs first! I'll be down soon!" Xu Lan hurriedly returned to her bedroom upstairs.

Yun Lan looked towards the upper floor in puzzlement and asked awkwardly, "Did I do something wrong? Why did Eldest Aunt-in-law go upstairs all of a sudden?"

Liu Fen said laughingly, "Silly girl, your eldest aunt-in-law has gone to look for treasures! Basically, all the daughters-in-law of the Xia family will receive gifts from her. This is a custom of our Xia family. Qiao Mei also received presents from us. Don't worry and just accept it later."

There was a reason why she did not tell everyone about the good news in advance. After all, the two youngsters had only registered their marriage and had not held the wedding ceremony yet. It was not appropriate to tell too many people about it. Therefore, she asked Xia Yu to bring Yun Lan here on this occasion so that she could inform the rest of the family.

She did not expect Zhou Luo to have come and stirred up trouble, causing chaos at the family banquet. In the end, Yun Lan had to suffer for it.

Xia Zhe and Xia Wen went upstairs to look after the babies, leaving the women to chat downstairs. It had been too long since these women last saw one another, so they definitely would have a lot of gossip to catch up on. They would only find it awkward if the men stayed around. Xia Yu and Xia Yuan also felt the same way, so they drove out to buy the ingredients for dinner.

Xia Jun had not returned to his own house for a while. He had already gotten used to living at Qiao Qiang's place after so many days. Now that he was back, he found everything to be an eyesore, but he could not sell this house and move to Qiao Mei's place yet. Although the Xia family was rich and powerful, this house was still government property after all. It would only belong to him after he occupied the property for 20 years!

Even when it belonged to him, he still could not sell it off too as and when he liked. However, if he only depended on his pension, it would not even be enough for him to buy one bathroom at Qiao Mei's place. It was more cost-effective for him to continue to freeload from Qiao Qiang!

"Grandfather," Xia Xing called out indifferently. Xia Lu and Xia Yan did not even say anything. They only stood behind Xia Xing and bowed slowly. Then, they went upstairs to the guest room which they usually used. They did not even bother to spend time with Xia Jun at all and Xia Jun was also already used to it.

He had his own bias for sure. His favorite grandchildren were Xia Mao's three children. He adored them and was more than willing to give them everything.

Although Xia Guang's children would stay with him whenever they came to the capital, they were just doing it for show. Between his two younger sons' families, he preferred his grandchildren from his second son's family. Although Liu Fen had a brash personality, she still managed to bring up her children to be kind-hearted people.

He just wanted his grandchildren to be good people, there was nothing else he wanted. It did not matter if they were not outstanding, at least they must be upright with a clear conscience.

When Zhou Luo saw Xia Jun, she also only exchanged a few simple pleasantries with him. She had been to Xia Jun's house before, but she had never stayed there. It was not appropriate for her to stay at Xia Jun's house, so she would return to her accommodation at the nearby guest house after dinner.

Xu Lan and Xia Wan were chatting happily with the other women when the flowerpot by the window suddenly fell to the ground and shattered. Only then did they realize that there was someone else in the room with them.

"You... Aren't you Brother Xing's partner?" Xia You said as she looked at Shao Yin.

Xu Lan was a little unhappy. This girl was not a member of the Xia family yet and she also did not conduct herself well. Now, she even broke the pot containing the flowers which she had specially prepared for Qiao Mei. It had taken her a lot of effort to find those flower seeds.

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Chapter 1229 Why Are You Here

Xu Lan knew that Qiao Mei liked to grow flowers and plants, so she specially asked someone to find some seeds of rare blooms from overseas. She wanted Qiao Mei to have something to do to ease her boredom when she lived here, so that she would not feel too tired from taking care of the children at home.

Previously, some people had told her about postpartum depression but she did not understand what it was. However, she had heard many people say that this was a terrifying illness which could deal a huge blow and cause a lot of pain to a woman who just gave birth. Xu Lan definitely did not want Qiao Mei to have such thoughts. She would rather tire herself out than see Qiao Mei feel down.

Qiao Mei had done so many things for the Xia family and saved them many times. Even if Qiao Mei was not Xia Zhe's wife, she would still need to be nice to Qiao Mei and treat Qiao Mei like her own daughter!

Feng Hua quickly used the broom to sweep the floor. She knew how important the contents of the flowerpot was to Xu Lan, so she did not just throw everything away. Instead, she brought whatever she swept up to the backyard so that she could put everything into a new flowerpot.

Xia Wan went forward to help Shao Yin up from the floor as she had fallen down earlier. The two of them slowly walked to the middle of the room. Shao Yin felt a little uneasy as she did not know how to explain why she was still there.

"You..." Before Xia You could say anything, Xia Wan quietly grabbed her palm tightly and she immediately shut her mouth.

"When are you and Xia Xing getting married? Third Brother has never mentioned anything about this to us," Liu Fen said bluntly.

"We... we're already engaged, but we haven't chosen an auspicious date yet! We intend to discuss this issue while we are back this time round," Shao Yin said softly.

Qiao Mei clearly remembered that this girl had followed Xia Xing out just now. Could it be that she had sneaked back when it was chaotic just now? However, why would she want to stay behind in their house instead of following Xia Xing to his grandfather's place? Could it be that this girl wanted to harm her children?

"Are you still here because there was no more space for you in the car? Did Brother Xing say when he would come back to pick you up?" Qiao Mei asked.

"I... I didn't know the way out and they left so quickly, so we were separated in an instant. That's why I'm still here. I hope it's not too much trouble for all of you... Why don't you give me the address and I'll go there myself..." Shao Yin said nervously.

Shao Yin and Xia Xing had been dating for a long time. It was actually the Zhou family who introduced her to Xia Xing! Xia Xing had dated one of his colleagues previously and she had broken up with Xia Xing for a very simple reason. Zhou Hua did not approve of the relationship as the girl was from another city. She wanted Xia Xing to marry a girl who lived in the capital. I think you should take a look at

Zhou Hua's only thought was to get Xia Xing to return to the capital to fight for a share of the family assets. She wondered why Xia Zhe could monopolize Wu Min's entire courtyard house while the third son's family did not get anything. These kids were all Wu Min's grandchildren, so how could she be so biased?

Perhaps Zhou Hua was not actually doing this for the children's future, but only because she was piqued with the Xia family. Her goal was to get a share of the Xia family's pie because she did not want to be left out.

Xia Mao and Xia Yao both worked in the capital and both their families could enjoy life in the capital. Xia Guang was the only one of Xia Jun's sons to be stationed out of town and he even went to the border area later on. If this was not the old man being biased, then what was it!

Zhou Hua had poured out all the grievances in her heart to Zhou Luo. The entire purpose of Zhou Luo's visit this time round was to stand up for Zhou Hua and to fight for the children's future.

Xia He frowned as she looked at this girl who had yet to marry into the Xia family. She did not understand why Xia Xing would take a fancy to such a stupid person. Could Xia Xing have gone crazy? Did his taste in women suddenly change after all these years?

Xia Xing looked like a decent person, but he was actually a libertine. Due to the lack of discipline and education from Zhou Hua and Xia Guang in his early years, Xia Xing had been undisciplined since he was young. Zhou Luo also allowed him to do whatever he wanted as long as he did not cause any trouble.

Deep down, he was still a good person, but he would suddenly come up with weird ideas from time to time. However, none of these ideas were anything good. Xia Xing liked women who either had good figures or wanton lifestyles. In the past, Xia Xing would not even look at a woman like Shao Yin.

"I'll ask the chauffeur to get the car and send you to Grandfather's place," Xia He said calmly.

Shao Yin wanted to explain herself further, but seeing how guarded the entire family was as they looked at her, she could only agree to the arrangement.

She had only stayed behind because she was hoping to see Xia Wen again! Since Xia Wen was single now, that meant she had a chance. Perhaps Xia Wen may fall for her too!

Chapter 1230 Unladylike

Everyone there was no longer in the mood to chitchat. Xia You was particularly obvious about expressing her annoyance. She originally wanted to take this opportunity to have a good chat with Qiao Mei so that they could get closer! Her plan was all messed up by this weird person!

How unlucky!

They did not know if this woman was really Xia Xing's girlfriend or how Xia Xing really felt about this woman. Was he planning to marry her or was he just fooling around? They did not know how they should respond to Shao Yin while she stood in front of them.

"Luo Yu, is the car ready?" Xu Lan asked impatiently.

"The car is on the way back now. It will probably reach in half an hour at the earliest. We can only send Miss Shao Yin to Grandpa Xia's place in half an hour's time," Luo Yu said.

Xu Lan sighed resignedly. It seemed that they still had to continue to bear with Shao Yin's presence for a while.

Xia You simply ignored Shao Yin and said excitedly to Qiao Mei, "Qiao Mei, your clothes are really nice. Where did you buy them? It seems to me that both Eldest Aunt-in-law and you buy your clothes from the same place! Tell me. I want to go there and buy clothes for my mother and elder sister too."

At the mention of her clothes, Xu Lan straightened her back and said smugly, "Your cousin-in-law made them herself! She even did all the embroidery! Isn't she amazing? She also designs all the clothes. Most of my clothes are made by her! My daughter-in-law also made something for your mother!"

As Xu Lan spoke, she stood up to show them what she was wearing and held out the hem to show the patterns to Xia You and Xia Wan. These few women had always been on good terms and knew each other's personalities well. Xu Lan had always been quite nice to these two younger women, so they naturally did not think that Xu Lan was showing off.

Instead, they felt that Xu Lan seemed very happy now. In the past, whenever they saw Xu Lan, she always looked dignified, putting on the air of a family matriarch. Either that or she looked super elegant and calm and rarely spoke. She would only speak briefly to Liu Fen.

Now, she looked like a child showing off her beloved items to others! They were both very happy to see such a change in Xu Lan. I think you should take a look at

"My mother must like it very much. I've never been good at needlework since I was young and I've been beaten up a lot!" Xia You complained.

"In the past, I was stubborn and always felt that girls must know how to sew and do needlework. Otherwise, how can she take care of her family? But I won't impose these requirements on you anymore! You can go ahead and do whatever you want," Liu Fen said.

Xia Wan and Xia You looked at each other in surprise. Was this still their mother? Was she a doppelganger? Or was she possessed?

"Heavens, does Qiao Mei have some kind of magical power? Even my mother has changed. Now I also feel like staying here for a few more days. Perhaps I will also change after a while. Maybe I can become a good wife and mother like my elder sister!" Xia You said enviously.

"No way! With your personality, you'll probably lead our Qiao Mei astray. I can't let you stay here for too long!" Xia He said laughingly.

"Shoo, shoo, shoo! As if you're the only one who can monopolize Qiao Mei. Why can't I like Qiao Mei too? I also work in the capital. At most, I'll just take the effort and go to Qiao Mei's place every day to stick close to her," Xia You said in a fit of pique.

Qiao Mei looked at Xia He and Xia You arguing with each other and felt a sense of warmth inside. At first, she was worried that the younger generation of the Xia family would not like her, but now it seemed that she had been worried for nothing.

"Don't you think you're fine the way you are? I really like how carefree you are," Qiao Mei said sincerely.

"There are things you don't know! My husband's friends think that I should be more gentle. Although they have never said it explicitly, I can feel it. It's not like they want me to behave in a gentle and virtuous manner all the time. They want me to be a little more ladylike when there are outsiders around. I've been so stressed out over this matter!" Xia You said with a frown.

Xia You's husband, Lu Huai, was a small-time businessman who often had to socialize with his business partners. Sometimes, Xia You would be invited to attend the events as well, but such social gatherings were not her cup of tea at all. She only endured it for Lu Huai's sake.