

## Fat Wife 1281

### Chapter 1281 Very Satisfied

"Tell me, where exactly are you from? How did you manage to find me?" Director Qiao said calmly.

There were many people who said that they were his relatives, but he had simply rejected some of them directly. There were also people who did not bring nice gifts with them, so he rejected them too.

However, as he observed Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe, they did not look like people who decided to randomly come and ask him for help. They were dressed very well so there was no harm in talking to them.

He took the birdcage and returned to his desk to sit down. He wanted to show off his sense of authority, but that did not work with Qiao Mei. She was not impressed by such things at all.

"We came from home of course!" Qiao Mei acted as if she had entered her own house and pulled Xia Zhe along to sit on the sofa. Her actions stunned Director Qiao. He had never seen someone who acted so overly familiar with him.

Xia Zhe almost laughed out audibly. He turned his head to one side to suppress his laughter.

"How... how's your father? Has he been well recently? If he's free, you should bring him here. We haven't met each other for a long time," Director Qiao asked in a probing manner.

Qiao Mei did not say anything else. She took the two gift boxes from Xia Zhe and slowly walked in front of Director Qiao and placed them on his desk.

"My father is not in good health and can't move around often, so it's too inconvenient for him to come and visit Uncle Qiao. However, I have brought you a small gift. I wonder if you like it? I hope you do," Qiao Mei said with a slight smile.

Director Qiao opened the gift box curiously and his eyes were immediately drawn to the superior 12-item tea set. He was like a cat which had been hungry for a long time and had finally spotted some meat. He could not bear to take his eyes off the tea set.

Right on the heels of that, Qiao Mei opened the other gift box as well. Director Qiao's fondness for the gift was indescribable and he was so excited that he almost stood up.

"Uncle Qiao, do you like them?" Qiao Mei asked softly.

Director Qiao immediately came back to his senses and quickly put away the two gift boxes carefully. After coughing twice, he said amiably, "I like them. I like anything that my niece gives me! Qiao... Qiao Mei, am I right! Thank you for your kindness! Please send my regards to your father. Since he's not in good health, then he doesn't need to make the trip here."

"I told you that Uncle Qiao will definitely like them!" After saying that, Qiao Mei glanced at Xia Zhe and sighed helplessly. I think you should take a look at [pandasnovel.com](http://pandasnovel.com)

Director Qiao understood what she meant. The gifts were not for free and he immediately asked, "Qiao Mei, is there something that's troubling you? Tell uncle and let me solve this problem for you! Tell me what I can do! I will definitely help you!"

"Really? Uncle is indeed so kind to me! Then I won't hide it from you!" Qiao Mei continued happily, "Actually... we want to obtain some pig offal from you. The people in the village have not tasted meat or fish for a long time, so I want everyone to have some."

[pandasNovel.com](http://pandasNovel.com) "That's an easy thing to do! How much do you want!" Director Qiao said readily.

"Everything! I want everything from now onwards!" Qiao Mei said.

This sentence frightened Director Qiao so much that he almost fell off his chair. Qiao Mei was really asking for too much. If she wanted some pig offal to go back and sell to the villagers, he had no problem giving her some meat. Just these two gifts from her were worth the price of five pigs.

Giving Qiao Mei all the pig offal in the entire factory was equivalent to giving her a quarter of the total supply of pig offal in the capital. This was simply nonsensical!

He would not be able to explain himself if such a large amount of pig offal disappeared from his factory!

"No way! Why do you need so much!" Director Qiao said cautiously.

"Then... how about half?" Qiao Mei said.

"Qiao Mei, are you trying to kill me? This is too tough for me," Director Qiao said.

Qiao Mei thought for a moment and then said, "This is not going to be a one-off request. I'll still have to rely on your help in the future. There will be significant benefits! I know that this is the amount they are paying now."

Qiao Mei raised one finger and Director Qiao's face fell. Since Qiao Mei knew that she could come to him to ask for pig offal, she surely knew that there were already others who were working with him.

This woman was able to find out who those customers were and even accurately knew the price they were paying. She even knew what he liked and how far he could bend over backwards. With all this, he was even more afraid of Qiao Mei's real identity now.

Chapter 1282 - 1282 I Cannot Shortchange My Brothers

1282 I Cannot Shortchange My Brothers

"I can give you this," Qiao Mei said as she held up two fingers.

"You..." Before Director Qiao could finish speaking, Qiao Mei continued, "I know you definitely have a way to give me half, but I won't make things difficult for you. I won't ask for much, how about one quarter? I still offer the same price. It's much more suitable for you to work with me than those people.

One quarter was still too much. His biggest concession was to give Qiao Mei pig offal from 20 pigs a day. He could not give her any more than that.

Qiao Mei considered for a moment and then agreed. An amount of 20 pigs was not a small number and it would guarantee a supply of fresh offal if she sent someone to pick it up every day. She would feel much more at ease with using fresh ingredients. It just meant that if she wanted to expand this business, she would still have to wait another year or two!

They needed some form of agreement to seal the deal. However, they did not sign a written agreement. Instead, they took Director Qiao's name stamp with them. They would return it tomorrow when they came to collect the pork.

After the first deal was done, everything else could be easily resolved. They would be in the same boat and bound together.

On the way back, Qiao Mei sat in the front passenger seat and hummed a tune. It had been a long time since Xia Zhe had seen Qiao Mei so happy. It seemed that this little girl was really addicted to doing business.

"What do you plan to do with these things when you get them? Are you going to process them yourself?" Xia Zhe asked.

"My mother knows how to make the sauce now, so I'll just leave it to her. Didn't you say Elder Brother Chi knows how to drive? I plan to get Eldest Brother to get me a small van. Elder Brother Chi can then go to Director Qiao's factory every day to get the supply and then we'll process it every night so that it can be ready for sale early the next morning," Qiao Mei said.

"Shouldn't we sell it on the same day? When the weather gets hotter, the food products won't keep well," Xia Zhe said.

Qiao Mei had not thought about this issue. Actually, she could use her ability to keep the temperature in a room at a constant level, but that would be too obvious. Their refrigerator and freezer were too small to hold everything they had. Moreover, if they really make use of electronic equipment, their costs would also increase.

What Xia Zhe said made sense and she did not have an immediate solution for it.

"I... I don't know. Why don't we try it out first and then talk about it later," Qiao Mei said.

"The workers at Director Qiao's place go to work very early. The people we saw are those who pack up the items. In fact, the people who process the meat work through the night. We just need to drive over to pick up the supply in the wee hours of the morning," Xia Zhe said.

It was not as if he did not do anything during this trip. After taking a look around just now, he basically understood the general production process of the slaughterhouse. He knew very well how much meat could be produced every day and how much the workers were paid on average.

Even though Director Qiao secretly sold pig offal on the side, no one in the factory had reported him for such a long time. Everyone looked very content and it was obvious that Director Qiao had also allowed the workers to bring some of the pig offal home.

Qiao Mei also felt that this was a good idea, but it would then be tough on Chi Ze and the rest. They would have to clean up these pig offal in the morning and stir-fry seeds in the afternoon. In that case, their salaries would need to be adjusted.

"Wow! How do you know that! Why didn't I notice anything?" Qiao Mei asked in surprise.

"It's written on the noticeboard. You were so busy with Director Qiao that you didn't see me chatting with the workers in the factory, so of course you don't know," Xia Zhe said.

"Your idea is a good one, but your three friends will have it tough. I wonder if they'll be able to handle it." Qiao Mei was a little worried about their health. She did not know if anything would happen to them if the work was so packed and intense.

"Why don't I get a few more brothers to come over? Besides, you can set working hours for them. Their wives are all from the countryside and they're all very nice people. Why don't we get them to deal with these pig offal?" Xia Zhe suggested.

Qiao Mei's eyes lit up. Xia Zhe's idea was definitely more comprehensive. This way, not only could he ensure that his friends earned good income, he would also be able to ensure that they had enough time to rest.

In that case, the previous salary structure would not work anymore. Otherwise, it could cause big trouble. It was better to make sure that everyone was earning about the same amount. It would not be good if conflicts arose because one person earned more and another person earned less.

Qiao Mei wanted to take an impartial approach and not shortchange any of them.

Chapter 1283 "Osmanthus Braised Meat"

After careful consideration, Qiao Mei came up with a temporary plan for now. There were still many rough edges that needed to be gradually smoothed out. She would slowly make improvements as she went along.

In the wee hours every morning, Chi Ze had to do the difficult task of going to the slaughterhouse to buy the freshest batch of pig offal. When he returned, he would hand it over to the womenfolk. By the time the women finished processing it, it would be around 7 a.m.

The space at home was not big enough to accommodate the pig offal from 20 pigs, nor did they have a pot that was big enough to contain everything. Qiao Mei was currently buying the pig offal at the price of 25 cents per pound and about five pigs' worth at a time. The price was high, so Director Qiao naturally did not say anything.

Once Xia Wen completed the renovations on the other place, they would be able to move to the suburbs to work and would not have to work tensely in this cramped and small courtyard.

Zhao Fei had bought a new van and it was now even more convenient for him to transport the goods. There were many people helping him with the sales now. Zhao Fei had asked many of his relatives and friends to help out. As his business grew bigger, he kept an even lower profile. It seemed that this person was a good business partner.

Every morning, Zhao Fei would drive to Qiao Mei's place to pick up the goods. No matter what he picked up, he would proceed to sell it. He accepted whatever cost price and selling price that Qiao Mei stated.

At first, he was a little unwilling to do so. After all, the cost price which Qiao Mei offered him was very close to the selling price. What he wanted was to earn more money! Qiao Mei said that his idea was termed market disruption and that although he could make huge profits in the short term, it was not a long-term solution. It was better to be down-to-earth and sell the goods in a slow and steady manner.

When Qiao Mei decided to sell braised meat, she had asked her elderly neighbor to help her modify the three-wheeled vehicle. They could now put four gas stoves at the back and connect them to the gas pipe at the side using wires at the bottom. One gas pipe was enough for Li Gui to use for more than a week!

[pandasnovel.com](http://pandasnovel.com) Braised meat did not taste good once it got cold. It was best to sell it while it was hot. It was a good time to enter the market now and they did not want to miss out on the opportunity.

They had so much pig offal that they could not manage to process everything for sale. A lot of it was given to the neighbors for free as compensation for the disturbance caused to them during this period of time. With that, everyone's attitude towards Qiao Mei running a business secretly softened a lot. Who did not like having things for free every month?

Other people could not even manage to buy the goods that Qiao Mei was selling. It was so good that they could get it for free! It was not right to be picky.

"Mom, go and try it out today and see if it sells well. We'll just sell a bit over the next two days. The main thing is to introduce our products to the market and let everyone know about us," Qiao Mei pulled Li Gui aside and reminded her. I think you should take a look at [pandasnovel.com](http://pandasnovel.com)

"What market?" Li Gui asked.

"It's the way everyone buys and sells things. A market is a place where you conduct business. What we call a black market means an underground market!" Qiao Mei explained patiently.

Li Gui carefully noted down everything that Qiao Mei said. If she did not understand something, she would write it down with a pen in her notebook. She carried a small notebook with her every day so that

she could write down the things that she did not understand. If she did not know how to write the word, she would replace it with phonetics. If phonetics was also not possible, she would do drawings. It was fine as long as she could understand it when she got home.

There were so many educated people in the family, so she could ask anyone and have them explain it to her. Qiao Mei had said before that their family business must eventually expand and become the best in the country!

In the beginning, Li Gui just wanted to make enough money to support her family. However, since Qiao Mei said that they could do more, then she must study hard! According to Qiao Mei, they had to have standards and rules and could not do things in a haphazard manner anymore. This was the only way they could do business for a long time and grow it bigger.

This was what was meant by "nothing can be done without rules".

"I understand now. Then what should I tell people? We don't have a brand name yet, so it's not that convenient to introduce ourselves," Li Gui said as she looked at the four big metal containers in the vehicle.

Qiao Mei thought about it seriously. Li Gui liked to grow flowers the most and she even had the word "Gui", meaning osmanthus, in her name. In that case, let's use the name "Osmanthus Braised Meat"!

"Mom, what do you think of this name? In the future, our products can all be branded with the word 'Osmanthus'. It'll be so recognizable!" Qiao Mei said excitedly.

"Good, good, good. That's a good name! I like it very much!" Li Gui said happily.

It was almost lunchtime. Li Gui did not continue to talk to Qiao Mei. She had to hurry up and sell the goods at this hour. If she delayed any longer, it would be too late!

Chapter 1284 Ethical Person



Li Gui got on the three-wheeled vehicle and left the house hurriedly. In a flash, she disappeared into the alley. The three-wheeled vehicle was almost as heavy as three Li Guis. No one knew where she got the strength to ride it so quickly.

Qiao Mei shook her head resignedly. The two of them were really a pair of biological mother and daughter. Even their hobbies were the same. They both liked to earn money!

pandasnovel.com Li Gui had woken up in the wee hours of the morning. Qiao Mei had originally planned to let Zhao Fei rest for a few days as there was no hurry to sell the goods. However, she did not expect Li Gui to be the first to disagree! Now that the seeds were already on the way to the capital, business would become even more prosperous after two days. She did not want to miss out on the chance of making a single cent. Given that she still had the energy to make popcorn at the moment, she wanted to make the best use of her time.

It was a workday today and most people had gone out to work. At noon, most workplace units catered lunch for their employees, so there was no need for anyone to come out to buy Li Gui's braised meat.

Li Gui turned her attention to the family compound not far away, which was also near Xia Fang's neighborhood. There were many doctors and teachers residing there who were so busy that they did not have time to cook at all. There were also many elderly people at home in that compound, so it was a good place to sell braised meat!

She pushed the vehicle and stood quietly downstairs. This was the first time she came out to sell braised meat and she was full of confidence! She did not even have the same amount of confidence when she sold seeds and popcorn.

She firmly believed that the things Qiao Mei made would not be inferior and that there would definitely be buyers! Furthermore, she expected everything to be sold out,

Not long after, an old lady came back from marketing. She looked curiously at the four big metal containers in Li Gui's vehicle. She had never seen anyone selling things in this manner!

"Sister, what are you selling?" the old lady asked.

Li Gui opened the container and the fragrance wafted over. The old lady's eyes lit up. She had never smelled anything so fragrant!

"Elder sister, this is braised meat that I made myself. This is pig intestine, this is pork liver, this is pig's head meat, and this is braised pig trotter. Do you want to buy some to try at home?" Li Gui asked expectantly.

"How much is it?" the old lady asked.

Li Gui did not discuss this matter with Qiao Mei at home. She made a decision and said, "The liver and intestines are one dollar a pound! The pig's head meat is one-fifty a pound, and the pig trotters are 80 cents each." "I think you should take a look at [pandasnovel.com](http://pandasnovel.com)

The old lady got a shock and quickly took a few steps back. She waved her hands and said, "Sister! This is too expensive! One dollar can buy three pounds of meat! Your price is so scary!"

"You don't have to use meat coupons to buy this. Besides, imagine the taste. Buy one pound to try. I promise that you will want to buy more after you try!" Li Gui patted her chest and made a guarantee.

The old lady was a little hesitant. The braised meat was indeed very fragrant, but the price...

"If you think it doesn't taste good! I won't charge you!" Li Gui said generously.

When the old lady heard Li Gui say such arrogant words, she went home without another word and brought back a big bowl. She wanted to see how delicious Li Gui's braised meat was!

Another important reason was that she was not a good cook. Her family always complained about the food she made, so she wanted to offer them something nicer during mealtimes.

Li Gui did not hesitate. She picked up the big ladle and filled the bowl with pig intestines for the old lady. The old lady had been buying meat for so many years that she could tell the weight by feel. Li Gui's one full ladle of meat, excluding the sauce, was definitely more than one pound. It was perhaps almost one and a half pounds. She was an ethical person.

"I'll go home and try it now," the old lady said as she handed Li Gui a dollar.

Li Gui hurriedly dropped a few more pieces of pig's head meat for the old lady and whispered to her, "Elder sister, if you think it's delicious, please help me publicize it."

"My surname is Liang. You can call me Sister Liang. Seeing that you're so forthright, I can't take your things for free. Wait a while. I'll put down the bowl and bring you around to promote the food." After saying that, Old Madam Liang walked home and returned not long after, followed by two boys who were about 16 or 17 years old.

After the two boys greeted Li Gui politely, they ran around the building floor by floor. The people living here had been neighbors for decades. It could be said that every family had watched the children in the compound grow up. When they heard that there was something good to try, they quickly went downstairs to join in the fun.

"Sister Liang, are they your grandsons? They're so good-looking! And so polite as well. One look and I can tell that they have a good upbringing!" Li Gui said enviously.

Chapter 1285 Sold Out

"I'm too old and it's too tiring to go up and down, so I ask my two grandsons to do it for me. Sister, the food you made is indeed delicious. The moment I brought it home, my two grandsons finished everything. Are you coming back another day?" Old Madam Liang asked expectantly.

"Sure! I can come here every day! Sister Liang, tell me what you like to eat and I'll make some specially for you!" Li Gui said with a smile.

"Hahahaha, that's great!" Old Madam Liang said brightly.

A slightly plump woman hurriedly ran downstairs and stated that she wanted to buy the braised meat even before she could catch her breath. This was her favorite food! However, she had never made it at home. It was extremely difficult to process the pig offal. If it was not cleaned up well, the smell would be too strong and simply inedible.

It was also difficult to buy pig offal! One had to get up very early and wait at the entrance of the supply and marketing cooperative, otherwise one would not be able to get any.

"Auntie Liang! You're here too!" the woman said.

"That's right. I know you'll definitely come by." Old Madam Liang turned to Li Gui and said, "This is one of the most kind-hearted people in our courtyard. Her name is Sun Yan and she loves braised meat the most in this entire compound!"

Li Gui hurriedly turned on all the gas stoves. As the bottom of the big containers heated up, the smell of the braised meat kept wafting out. Sun Yan was so tempted that she was almost drooling.

"Quickly, you can move these four containers to my house! I'll take them all!" Sun Yan said excitedly.

"I haven't even told you the price yet! What if you find it too expensive?" Li Gui was a little surprised. Was the food really that delicious?

"Auntie Liang's recommendations definitely won't go wrong. Moreover, just by this fragrance, I already know that it must be delicious! I've eaten these things for so many years, but this is the first time I've encountered something so fragrant! Just bring everything to my house! I'll go home and get money for you!" Sun Yan said excitedly.

Sun Yan had just retired and all her children were doing very well. There was no need for her to worry about them at all. Not only did she and her husband have a retirement pension every month, their children also gave them living expenses, so they had a lot of spare cash.

Sun Yan's maternal family members also liked to eat these things very much. She intended to share them with her relatives and friends. She still thought that the braised meat which Li Gui brought today was not enough! It was still not enough to share among all the families.

"Come back, come back! How can you do this? It's her first day here. Just buy some to try. There are still so many people waiting to buy! How can she run her business if you behave like this!" Old Madam Liang whispered as she grabbed hold of Sun Yan. I think you should take a look at [pandanusnovel.com](http://pandanusnovel.com)

"Then... then are you still coming tomorrow?" Sun Yan asked as she looked at Li Gui reluctantly.

"Yes! Of course! I'll come here every day! Tell me what you like and I'll make it for you!" Li Gui said with a smile.

"Then give me five pounds today! Give me as much as you can make tomorrow! Give me at least 30 pounds of each type! I want all of them!" Sun Yan waved her hands and put in her order for tomorrow.

When Sun Yan went home and came back with her containers, there were already many people surrounding Li Gui to buy the braised meat. Li Gui had already set aside a portion for Sun Yan. Otherwise, by the time Sun Yan came back, there would be nothing left!

"I want five pounds!"

"Give me 10 pounds!"

"Don't fight! I was here first! Give me five pounds of each type!"

The crowd made so much noise that the security officers became alarmed. Old Madam Liang hurriedly stepped forward and said, "Everyone, calm down! We all know that it's not easy to find this type of food. If you continue to make so much noise, we won't have a chance to eat it again in the future!"

Everyone immediately fell silent. The economy had not completely opened up yet! What Li Gui was doing was still considered an opportunistic venture and she would have to go to jail if she was reported! Li Gui's family would be implicated too!

pandasNovel.com No matter how much they liked the food, they could not ruin her business.

"I'm already sold out for tomorrow! I'll come back here every day in the future! Don't be anxious! Everything is sold out today. You can buy them the next time I come!" Li Gui said.

"We all recognize you now! The next time you come here, we'll all come out to buy!" an old man shouted from the crowd.

"I have to state the price upfront! You can't buy blindly! Everyone, choose what you like to try! I only use the freshest ingredients!" Li Gui repeated the prices she quoted just now, particularly emphasizing that there was no need for them to use coupons.

Chapter 1286 Big Business

Li Gui thought for a moment and continued, "If anyone wants more than 50 pounds of braised meat, you can order it one day in advance! However, you have to make payment in advance too. When you come to buy it, you have to prepare your own containers. I don't have any containers with me."

"Alright!" everyone said in unison.

Before she left, she gave the guard one pound of each type of braised meat and some popcorn, as a way of asking him to be magnanimous and let her off. This gesture was always very effective with security guards.

Li Gui was still in a daze on the way home. She even felt that she might have priced it wrongly. They would probably still buy it even if it was priced at two dollars a pound. She was already heading home less than two hours after she started selling. Those people even bought all the remaining sauce to bring home to use as gravy.

Qiao Mei sat on the swing at home and basked in the sun. She had thought that Li Gui would only be back at night!

"Mom! How did you do!" Qiao Mei asked as she looked at Li Gui expectantly.

When Li Gui left the house, her waist pouch was still flat and empty. It was now bulging and almost could not be closed. She hurriedly pulled Qiao Mei towards the backyard, into her room and she quickly closed the door. As soon as she opened the bag, all the money inside sprang out.

"Look, look! This is all the money I earned! This is much more profitable than selling popcorn!" Li Gui said excitedly as she held the money.

The two of them counted the money carefully. There was a total of 135 dollars! They had made so much money in just three hours! Even after they deducted the cost and labor fees, they still made a lot of profit!

Li Gui danced around excitedly. In the future, there would be more people queuing up to buy the braised meat. That represented money! There was still a big order of 120 pounds tomorrow! She must ask Chi Ze to buy more pig offal later.

At night, Xia Wen came to Qiao Mei's house with a lot of things again. Xia Zhe was in the room coaxing the babies. Qiao Mei was really glad that she had twins. If she had only given birth to one child, the two brothers would definitely be fighting it out.

"Eldest Brother, don't carry Xia Xing for so long. Spend more time with Xia Fan. Xia Xing is so spoiled by you that she doesn't even want to sleep on the bed," Xia Zhe said unhappily.

"But our Xia Xing is so adorable! Look, she's smiling at me!" Xia Wen said happily. Whenever he saw Xia Xing's smile, he felt like all the troubles of the day had disappeared.

"In that case, if she doesn't want to sleep on the bed in the future, Eldest Brother will have to come and carry Xia Xing to sleep every day. Sister Feng has been so tired for the past two days and her shoulders are aching!" Qiao Mei said as she stood at the door. I think you should take a look at [pandasnovel.com](http://pandasnovel.com)

Xia Wen wanted nothing more than to hug Xia Xing and not let go! It was not that he did not like Xia Fan, but Xia Xing was more lovable. Xia Wen and Xia Zhe had the same educational philosophy.

The boy should suffer more and nurture iron-like will and strength so that he could face the world on his own. They just needed to make sure that he did not starve to death. Apart from that, he should grow up freely.

παΠdasNovel.com However, it was different for the girl! A girl must be cherished and protected carefully. They wanted to treat her like a princess and give her the best things in the world. As long as it was something that Xia Xing wanted, they would try their best to satisfy her.

"If you spoil her, I want to know which one of you will take responsibility for it!" Qiao Mei said in a fit of pique.

"There won't be any problems! Don't worry, if there's really no other way, we can ask Grandfather to take care of her. Anyone whom Grandfather brings up will become an elite overachiever. Xia Xing will become just like Eldest Aunt, a heroic rose!" Xia Wen said.

Qiao Mei tried to imagine what that would be like. If Xia Xing turned out to be similar to Xia Xiu, then would Qiao Mei be the mother or the daughter in the relationship? Xia Xiu was merciless when she reprimanded Xia Jun!

Previously, Xia Jun had even secretly complained about this matter to Qiao Mei. He said he did not know who was the father and who was the child, making Qiao Mei laugh out loudly.

"Forget it," Qiao Mei said with a pout.

"Did something joyous happen to Auntie? I heard her singing when I came in and she's still singing now! I've never seen her so happy before," Xia Wen asked curiously.

"It's the braised meat you tried a few days ago. She made good sales today and is in high spirits. I hear that there's a big order of 120 pounds tomorrow and she's so excited that she's already starting to prepare the ingredients now. It's already difficult to prepare the 70 to 80 pounds she sold today, yet she now wants to sell more than 100 pounds. I can't dissuade her, but it's fine as long as she's happy," Qiao Mei said with a deep sigh.

"Do you want me to arrange a car for Auntie?" Xia Wen asked.

"Arrange for a car? Just open a shop for her!" Qiao Mei said with a laugh.

Chapter 1287 Doing What I Can



Xia Wen had already helped them enough. They could get Xia Wen to help with the purchase of items, but they definitely could not let Xia Wen get involved in their business.

As a government official and the director in charge of the economy, he must set a good example and not have any external business dealings. Otherwise, he would never be able to clear his name. If someone reported Xia Wen for running a business, he would go to jail! This was no child's play!

"It's not impossible. You can just put in an application for her. It's just that the procedures are a little complicated, but I guess you'll feel more at ease after opening a shop," Xia Wen said.

"That's easy to say! How can we earn so much money after opening a shop? The monthly expenses are not low! However, I already have a plan. I just need to think more thoroughly about it later. I have too many businesses to run now!" Qiao Mei said smugly.

Xia Wen shook his head helplessly and turned to look at Xia Zhe. "Please control your wife. Don't let her buy another house. Take control of your family's money."

"My family's money is not under my control. I only have one dollar in my pocket and it's only because Qiao Mei forgot to take it back yesterday," Xia Zhe said pitifully.

It seemed that he could not count on Xia Zhe at all. His usually imposing younger brother was like a cute little puppy at home. In front of Qiao Mei, he was like an excitable little boy and not at all like that domineering person he showed others.

After Xia Wen coaxed Xia Xing to sleep, he went to the kitchen to help Li Gui. Whenever Li Gui saw him, she felt as if she was looking at her own son. She treated Xia Wen and Xia He very well and always kept the two of them in mind whenever there was anything good.

As long as it was someone who was genuinely nice to Qiao Mei, she would repay them regardless of the cost.

"Auntie, you sing so well. What did you do today? You seem so happy," Xia Wen asked naturally as he washed the vegetables.

"Xiao Wen! You don't know how much money I made today! I made popcorn at night and went out to sell braised meat during the day. I made almost 300 dollars in one day! Oh my! If this continues, I can make more than 10,000 dollars a month! Is there something wrong with my calculation or do I actually have so much money!" Li Gui said excitedly. I think you should take a look at [pandasnovel.com](http://pandasnovel.com)

Xia Wen was also shocked when he heard the amount. There was no way an ordinary peddler could earn as much as Qiao Mei. It was already considered a lot if a peddler could earn 300 dollars a month.

He looked thoughtfully at Qiao Mei who was in the distance. All these ideas definitely did not come from Li Gui. Qiao Mei had been strategizing behind the scenes and stabilizing the situation. Moreover, Qiao Mei was a clear-minded person who did business decisively and would not abandon her own interests because of interpersonal relationships. She was a person who could achieve great things.

Could it be that the Xia family now have a business genius in their midst? It looked like the Xia family might actually be able to gain a foothold in the business world as well.

This thought made Xia Wen excited. He really could not imagine how the future of the Xia family could turn out. However, he also understood that it was dangerous to be too ostentatious. The Xia family was already very outstanding in the political and military fields. If they dominated the business field as well, it would probably attract the wrong kind of attention.

[pandasnovel.com](http://pandasnovel.com) These things all needed to be thought out carefully.

When the food was ready, the family sat down harmoniously to eat together. Before Xia Wen left, Qiao Mei even gave him a lot of braised meat so that he had something to eat when he returned to the office dormitory.

"Eldest Brother, why don't you consider moving to that house I prepared for you and Xia He. If you come and live in this area, you can help me take care of Xiao Xing as well," Qiao Mei said gently.

"That won't do. Don't worry, I'm living in the workplace unit's dormitory now and it's not too bad. My superior is already considering allocating a house to me. I hear that it's quite big, so you don't have to worry about these things. It's also not too far away from here so I'll be able to come to visit Xia Xing and Xia Fan often," Xia Wen said.

He knew that Qiao Mei only had good intentions and nothing else. She just wanted him and Xia He to have a better life. Xia He was right about one thing. The more capable a person was, the more power they could enjoy. He and Xia He were just ordinary employees and could not be too extravagant, otherwise they would attract a lot of trouble.

Early the next morning, Chi Ze went to the slaughterhouse as usual to buy pig offal. This time, the quantity he wanted was twice as much as the last time. Director Qiao kept his word and supplied it to Qiao Mei. As long as it did not exceed 20 pigs, Qiao Mei's price would remain at 25 cents per pound.

Chapter 1288 Full Of Enthusiasm

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It was rare to see Qian'e around today. She was wearing tattered clothes and an apron as she sat with the other womenfolk to process the pig offal.

She had never done something like this before, but she learned from them diligently. She did what the other women do and was not inferior to them at all.

No matter how Li Gui tried to dissuade Qian'e, she refused to listen and continued to sit there and work. Li Gui had no choice but to wake Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe up. Only Qiao Mei was able to persuade Qian'e.

"Mei Mei, go and take a look at Qian'e. Is this kid crazy? She's only just discharged from the hospital and hasn't recovered yet!" Li Gui said worriedly.

Qiao Mei took a quick look and said, "It's fine. Let her do it. She has to do something to relieve her boredom. From the looks of it, she must have thought things through. Mom, when you come back in the afternoon, teach her how to make popcorn."

Li Gui nodded and went back out to work. Qiao Mei stood there and watched Qian'e for a long time. Actually, her heart ached for Qian'e. Those hands were the hands of a piano player. It was really heart-wrenching to see Qian'e doing such manual work now.

However, it was better for Qian'e to have something to do than stay at home and mope alone. Qian'e would feel happy as long as she could earn money. She could buy clothes that she liked, the best piano and a big house eventually. Everything would be fine.

"Xiao'e, can you handle the work? There are so many of us! Why don't you take a rest again?" Li Gui asked. Qian'e had just been discharged from the hospital and she originally had a weak constitution. Li Gui was worried that she would tire herself out.

"It's fine, Auntie. I'm in good health now and I'm very strong," Qian'e said with a faint smile.

What Qian'e said was not a lie. After she was discharged from the hospital, her health seemed much better than before. It seemed like she had recovered from those lingering effects from her abortion and surgery. She did not know what kind of magical medicine the hospital had given her that had actually nourished her body.

Perhaps Qiao Mei had given her the "divine medicine" that people kept talking about not long ago. If that was the case, she must do her best to help Qiao Mei's family and to repay Qiao Mei for this kindness.

Li Gui took out the seasonings she had prepared last night and started to boil the braised meat in a big pot. The longer it cooked, the more flavorful the braised meat would become.

After packing up all the things, the two of them worked together to push the vehicle slowly along the road. The vehicle was really very heavy now and needed two people to push it to make it move slowly. It was fortunate that Qian'e was around today. Otherwise, Li Gui would not have been able to send the goods to the family compound on time. I think you should take a look at [panDasnovel.com](http://panDasnovel.com)

As soon as they entered, Li Gui saw Sun Yan standing in the courtyard waiting for her. There was also a man standing behind her. That must be her husband.

"Sister, you're here! Hurry up! Hubby, quickly pay up! Let's carry it upstairs together! If we're any later, there won't be any left for us!" Sun Yan shouted anxiously.

"Sister Sun, don't be anxious. This whole big container is specially for you. Can the two of you carry it up? If you can't, the two of us can help you," Li Gui said.

"Sure! Sister, you're so considerate! I was still worried about how to carry everything up! We'll bring it up first and then we'll come down and return the container to you after we're done!" After Sun Yan finished speaking, she and her husband worked together to carry the container upstairs.

Sun Yan's husband took out 155 dollars readily. The extra two dollars was compensation for the hard work done by Qian'e and Li Gui. Yesterday, Li Gui had given them more than two dollars' worth of extra meat! They could not be too petty.

"Xiao'e, keep the money!" Li Gui said as she was busy.

Qian'e put the money away. She did not expect the food in the big container to be sold for more than 150 dollars. It was so profitable! Even if they gave her a share of 20 dollars a day, it would still be 600 dollars a month! She could make more money than teaching children how to play the piano!

After getting a taste of making real money, Qian'e was full of energy and became even more enthusiastic about selling the braised meat.

Old Madam Liang also arrived at the courtyard on time today with her basin. She joined the back of the long queue, but there was nothing left by the time it was her turn.

"Sigh... Sister, your things are too popular. My old arms and legs can't beat the queue!" Old Madam Liang said sadly.

Li Gui quietly took out a big lunchbox from between the big containers. When she opened it, it showed a full box of braised pig intestines with a layer of pig's head meat at the bottom!

Chapter 1289 Eating Popsicles In Winter

"Sister Liang, I will never forget your share no matter what! Take these home to eat. I specially made them for you with less oil and salt. It's much healthier this way. My daughter says that at our age, we should eat less salt. It's better for our health," Li Gui said thoughtfully.

"I just know that you're nicest to me!" Old Madam Liang quickly took out five dollars from her pocket and stuffed it into Li Gui's hand. "You have prepared such good things for me, so you must take payment from me! Take it! Otherwise, I won't come to buy your braised meat next time!"

Seeing how determined Old Madam Liang was, Li Gui had no choice but to accept the money. It was through reciprocity that a business would be able to continue for a long period of time.

After packing up, she went home with Qian'e. She felt unusually relaxed on the journey home. They sold more today than yesterday! They had made more than 200 dollars!

What surprised Li Gui even more was how good Qian'e was at doing sales. She did not expect Qian'e to be so capable and constantly help out with helping the customers. Even when she encountered difficult customers, she did not get angry. She even explained to everyone the differences between each type of meat and which one she thought was the most delicious.

When they neared the convenience store, Qian'e saw a person selling popsicles. She stopped and stared fixedly at the box. At this time, popsicles were very expensive. Even though the popsicles were just frozen sugared water, they cost 20 cents a piece. The flavored ones were even more expensive. Most people could not bear to buy such expensive stuff.

If one had to choose between paying 20 cents for a pound of meat or a popsicle, one would most likely choose the former under current circumstances.

"Do you want one? If you do, Auntie will buy it for you," Li Gui said generously.

"Forget it, Auntie. This thing is quite expensive. Let's go home," Qian'e said sensibly.

Without another word, Li Gui immediately parked the vehicle and went forward to buy a small popsicle for Qian'e. She was not in good health and could not eat too much of such cold things.

"Here! Let's eat it together. Let's just do it because we're too tired today and need to relax!" Li Gui said.

"Thank you, Auntie." Qian'e smiled happily like a little kid. It turned out that one popsicle was enough to bring her happiness.

παΠδαςNovel.com The two of them sat by the roadside and ate the popsicle happily. Many passers-by were very envious of them, but it was still winter! It was a strange sight to see people eating popsicles outdoors on such a cold day.

"Xiao'e, are you happy today?" Li Gui asked, looking Qian'e in the eyes. I think you should take a look at παΠδαςnovel.com

"I'm so happy! Auntie, this is the happiest day I've had since all those things I experienced," Qian'e said melancholically.

"It's good as long as you're happy. I'm just worried that you are still dwelling on the unhappy things!" Li Gui finally felt relieved.

Qian'e looked at Li Gui curiously and asked, "Auntie, why did you get a divorce? You're such a nice woman, yet the man still wants to divorce you."

"For me, I actually did not dare to get a divorce. In the past, I was beaten up by my ex-husband every day and my two younger daughters also got beaten up together with me. Later on, it was Qiao Mei who helped me and my children despite what she went through in her past. If not for Qiao Mei, I would still be living in that hellhole!" Li Gui said.

Li Gui told Qian'e about everything that happened in the village. Qian'e never knew that Qiao Mei had experienced so much. She always thought that Qiao Mei was the kind of person who had a smooth sailing life and that everything she did would go well and be very successful. She did not expect Qiao Mei to have almost died when she was young. In comparison, she seemed to be the lucky one.

"Qiao Mei is a very nice person," Qian'e said.

Li Gui was so amused by what Qian'e said that she laughed out loudly. Qian'e looked at Li Gui in confusion. She did not understand why Li Gui was laughing so happily. Did she say something wrong?

"Am... am I wrong?" Qian'e asked.

"Actually, Qiao Mei is a little money-grubber. She's not nice to everyone. She's only nice to those people she likes. She considers you a very good friend, so of course she'll help you!" Li Gui said.

Li Gui had seen Qiao Mei breaking Zhang Cong's bones with her own eyes. With just a gentle touch, Zhang Cong let out wild sobs that echoed throughout the entire village.

It had been a long time since Li Gui had seen Qiao Mei behaving like that. After coming to the capital, she no longer took revenge openly. Instead, she was full of schemes and plots that were impossible to guard against.

In life, it was easy to dodge an open attack but difficult to escape from a clandestine one. She wished that Qiao Mei would be able to go to another city where she did not know anyone and live out the rest of her life safely.

Chapter 1290 Earning Money Wholeheartedly

"Alright! Let's go back! I'll teach you how to make popcorn!" Li Gui said happily.

The two of them kept shivering after eating the popsicle, but they still felt like eating another one. A delicacy like the popsicle should be enjoyed in winter. It was so boring to eat it in summer!

Li Gui suddenly thought about asking Qiao Mei to try making popsicles. They could sell them at the same price and even come up with different types of flavors. She felt that it would also be a booming business.



With Qian'e helping out, they made 160 pounds of popcorn in one afternoon. This was an unprecedented amount. When Zhao Fei came to collect the goods tomorrow, he would definitely be overjoyed. Each portion of popcorn represented money to him.

After Qian'e started working hard to earn money, she seemed to have become Li Gui's twin. It was as if Li Gui had found a confidant and the two of them busied themselves with earning money every day.

Xu Kang took care of everything at home. Zhang Wei and the other children were under the care of the new teacher. Feng Hua took care of Qiao Mei's two babies.

Everything was arranged in a very orderly manner. Li Gui only needed to devote herself to her own career and her business kept getting better and better.

Li Gui's house had six rooms and she never knew what to do with the last room. Now, she finally had a good idea. Li Gui decided to use that room as a study. Although she did not do it up as nicely as the one in Qiao Mei's house, it still looked quite decent.

She had specially found a famous carpenter living in the alley to fill an entire wall with bookcases. Each child's bedroom was not very big. When they went to school in the future, they would definitely have many books. At that time, they could put their lesser used books in the study. The children could also put their storybooks and novels in the study and take turns reading them.

She intended to specially use the room to do her accounts every day and store the ledger books. She had watched television dramas where all the big bosses had their own offices. This could be considered her office.

"35 dollars plus 12 dollars... plus... and this is 11 dollars..." Li Gui did her best to do the accounts in the study.

She had specially bought a thick notebook to keep track of the accounts. Qiao Mei had even helped her buy a lot of paper from the paper printing factory. She could use one piece a day and then bind it at the end of every month. This way, she would not waste paper and could write freely.

Early the next morning, Qian'e ran into Li Gui's courtyard while panting. Her anxious manner frightened Li Gui a lot and she thought that something big had happened. I think you should take a look at [palidrasnovel.com](http://www.palidrasnovel.com)

"What's wrong, Xiao'e? What happened?" Li Gui said worriedly.

"Auntie, there's a person called Zhao Fei at the entrance of the corn courtyard house. He said that he's here to collect the goods. I don't know if I should let him in, so I quickly come to look for you," Qian'e said.

"Oh my! My brain! I actually forgot about this important matter! Come, let me introduce him to you!" Li Gui grabbed Qian'e and went to the corn courtyard house.

Zhao Fei was someone they trusted very much now and they only allowed Zhao Fei to come alone to collect the goods. The popcorn was not heavy although it took up a lot of space. There was no need for many people to help with transportation.

Besides, the more the number of people who were involved, the more dangerous it would be. What if someone coveted the nice things in Qiao Mei's house? One still must always be wary of others.

"Xiao Fei! There's a lot today! You have to work harder!" Li Gui said with a smile.

"Auntie, aren't you looking down on me? I still think we're not selling enough! Bring out all the goods you have! I can surely sell them all!" Zhao Fei said as he patted his chest confidently.

Coincidentally, Huang Xu was helping out in the backyard. It did not take him and Zhao Fei long to load the 160 pounds of popcorn into the van together.

"This is Zhao Fei. He helps us to sell the goods." After Li Gui spoke to Qian'e, she pulled Qian'e in front of Zhao Fei and continued, "Xiao Fei, this is your Sister Qian'e. From now on, she will be the one in charge of all our business with you. I'm getting old and can't do so much anymore. Don't worry, we're all family! She's definitely reliable!"

"Sure! Whatever Auntie says! The people you introduce are definitely alright," Zhao Fei said with a smile.

"Then I hope that Brother Fei will take good care of me in the future," Qian'e said politely.

"How can you call me Brother Fei? I should call you Sister Xiao'e! Just call me Da Fei. All my brothers call me that," Zhao Fei said as he scratched his head in embarrassment.