

Fat Wife 1301

Chapter 1301 Satisfying

"Big Brother Deng won't come to the house every day to urge me to hurry up, will he? Then I should embroider slowly and train him to have a better temper. We must make him feel a little anxious!" Qiao Mei said.

"I don't think you'll be torturing him if you do this. The one you'll be torturing is me!" Xia He said softly.

"Oh, oh , oh! Are you in such a hurry to get married? I wonder who's the one who says she won't get married for the rest of her life, that she just wants to see Xia Fan and Xia Xing grow up and does not need anything else," Qiao Mei teased.

"It's me! It's me, alright! You really like to bear grudges, little girl!" Xia He said as she looked at Qiao Mei dotingly.

However, even if she had her own children in the future, she would not forget to dote on Xia Fan and Xia Xing. They were equally important to her.

The two of them joked around noisily. However, before Qiao Mei and Xia He could have a good chat, Xia He left quickly after receiving a phone call from Deng Fan. Qiao Mei realized that she had already completely fallen out of favor!

When Deng Fan came to fetch the bride in the future, she would definitely make things difficult for him and let him know that he could not marry Xia He so easily!

Liu Fen and Xu Lan chatted with Qiao Mei in the living room. The three of them had not sat together for a long time. During this period of time, there were always guests at home, so they were all very careful and did not dare to gossip at all.

"Second Aunt-in-law, why is there no news about Xia Xing's marriage? Didn't Auntie Zhou say that she wanted to arrange for the couple to get married this year?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"Oh, this matter! The whole thing turns out to be really satisfying! I want to tell both of you about it!" Liu Fen said agitatedly.

Xia Wen had blocked all of Zhou Luo's means and ways to get things done. Actually, Xia Wen was not to be blamed for this matter. It was Zhou Luo who was too insatiable.

After Zhou Luo left Xia Jun's place, she shamelessly went to plead with Xia Mao for help. Xia Mao was not a fool. He had already heard about Zhou Luo badmouthing Qiao Mei in front of Xia Jun. Xia Mao was a person who bore grudges. He did not even agree to meet with Zhou Luo and had her locked out of the government military office building.

Zhou Luo was so angry that it showed on her face. She even tried to barge in and was forcibly escorted out by the security officers in the end. I think you should take a look at

In the end, Zhou Luo had no choice but take Xia Wen's suggestion to rent a house for Xia Xing to stay in after he got married. Xia Wen did not take the chance to cause trouble for them with regard to this matter. Instead, he genuinely rented a three-bedroom house for them. It was just that it was located a little far away, right at the edge of the capital. Every time they wanted to enter the city, they had to drive for two hours.

Xia Wen just wanted to keep the third son's family members away and stop them from harassing his family. It would have been fine if the third son's children were filial to Xia Jun and had a friendly relationship with the families of the eldest and second sons. However, the reason why everyone was being caught in such an awkward situation now was because of Zhou Luo's interference!

Xia Xing was already an adult, but he still did not know how to differentiate right from wrong. Every time Xia Wen saw Xia Xing, he did not look at Xia Xing kindly.

"So they agreed just like that? They didn't cause any more trouble?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"How can they be willing to move in! However, it's not Zhou Luo who wants to cause trouble. It's that little girl who's unhappy," Liu Fen said.

Shao Yin was originally overjoyed to hear that Xia Wen had found them a new three-bedroom house. She thought that only Xia Xing and her would be living in the house! She was about to become a rich wife who could enjoy life.

In the end, Xia Lu and Xia Yan were also moving in. Zhou Luo and her husband also wanted to live there. There was no way she could feel happy about the entire family squeezing into that house.

"Zhou Luo can actually be considered half a mother to Xia Xing. Shao Yin must feel uncomfortable facing Zhou Luo and the rest every day! Her real in-laws don't even bother about what she does, but yet the adoptive mother watches her every move. Do you think she'll be happy about this?" Liu Fen said with a smile.

Even if Shao Yin was unhappy, she still had to endure it. After all, not everyone could become a part of a prominent family like the Xia family. She must grab hold of Xia Xing tightly no matter what. Even if she could not get Xia Xing, there was still Xia Wen...

"Eldest Sister-in-law, you have to be careful of that little girl. I think she's interested in Xia Wen. You can't let her harm Xia Wen!" Liu Fen said worriedly.

"Second Aunt-in-law, Eldest Brother won't fall for Shao Yin! Don't worry!" Qiao Mei said.

"Hmph, you must always be wary of others! I don't trust his judgment of people! Back then, our three families objected to him being with Tan Jing but he insisted on getting his own way. Look at where he ends up!" Liu Fen said angrily.

Chapter 1302 Fall In Love Freely

"What's the use of us commenting on the children's affairs? As if they have ever listened to us," Xu Lan said resignedly.

Qiao Mei immediately thought of how Xia Zhe had secretly gotten married to her. She had heard from Xia He that Xu Lan was so angry back then that she fell sick and lay in bed for three days without getting up. She almost had a heart attack.

"Look at how your Xia Zhe has married such a good wife. You don't know how envious I am! Xia Zhe is clever enough to want to get married immediately when he sees Qiao Mei. Otherwise, you won't have such a good daughter-in-law!" Liu Fen said enviously.

Xu Lan was usually very humble, but when it came to talking about Qiao Mei, she would become very boastful. Those who did not know better would think that Qiao Mei was her biological daughter!

"That's true! Our Qiao Mei is one of a kind! Not everyone has our kind of luck!" Xu Lan said smugly.

"Second Aunt-in-law, didn't you say you want to find a wife for Xia Yuan? Have you found anyone suitable lately?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

At the mention of this matter, Liu Fen looked gloomy. This was not supposed to be a difficult matter. For some reason, their family's Xia Yuan had suddenly become very popular. Even people who looked down on their family in the past had come to propose marriage. Distant relatives had suddenly popped up to recommend their daughters to marry into the family.

Many influential families wanted to introduce their daughters to Liu Fen. As long as they could marry their daughters to Xia Yuan, it did not matter what the conditions were. They were even willing to accept not getting any betrothal gifts!

Liu Fen was both happy and terrified. She knew that these people were not interested in Xia Yuan per se, but in his identity as the Xia family's grandson who was born in the family of the second son. Seeing that the Xia family was rising up in the political, military and business worlds, these people were naturally very interested.

There were a few families whose daughters Liu Fen took a liking to, but Xia Yuan did not want to meet any of them and looked down on all of them. Was this not a slap on Liu Fen's face? However, Liu Fen had no choice but to align with Xia Yuan.

She quickly looked for Xia Yao to discuss countermeasures, but Xia Yao was even more indifferent. He did not view Xia Yuan's marriage as an important matter at all.

Xia Jun also told Liu Fen to relax as the children and grandchildren all had their own lives to live. There was no need to expect too much, otherwise, plans would only backfire. He told her to just let Xia Yuan make his own choice. I think you should take a look at

"I heard that there's a girl from the Liang family called Liang Chun. Have you met her before, Second Aunt-in-law? How do you feel about her?" Qiao Mei asked.

Liu Fen had a troubled expression on her face as she said, "I guess she's alright... I don't really like this girl very much."

"Second Aunt-in-law, please just do what you want. Actually, my grandfather has nothing to do with the Liang family. He really hates those people from the Liang family. I'm just thinking that you may like that girl! It's even better if you don't. This way, I won't be stuck in a dilemma," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Liu Fen had thought that Qiao Mei wanted to grill her on this issue. She did not expect the relationship between the Qiao family and the Liang family to be so bad that it already could not be salvaged. This meant that the Liang family was previously unilaterally spreading all those rumors out there. It appeared that this Liang family was not one that was easy to deal with.

Liu Fen really did not like Liang Chun at all. All her scheming thoughts were so obvious to Liu Fen! She was just short of quickly writing the words "I am doing this because only because it is the Xia family" on her forehead! Moreover, Liang Chun was He Mei's friend, so this was one more reason why she could not be allowed to enter the Xia family. If she did, there would not be any peaceful days in the future!

It was a good thing for a couple to fall in love freely but not too freely.

When Xia Wen heard about this matter, he agreed with Xia Jun's point of view, though only half of it. On his day off, he took the chance to spend an afternoon with Xia Yuan so that they could have a good chat. Xia Wen told Xia Yuan everything that the Tan family had done all these years, with the intention of making him more alert.

Their family was supportive of allowing the family members to fall in love freely. Xia Yuan could definitely go ahead and be with a girl whose family background was not very good, but he must take a good and clear look at the characters of her family members first. Otherwise, Xia Wen's experience was a very good example of the disaster that was waiting to happen!

Xia Yuan realized the severity of this issue and took note of what Xia Wen told him. Only then did Liu Fen stop worrying about this matter.

"Second Aunt-in-law, just let Xia Yuan find his own partner himself. Won't you be happier if he willingly brings home a daughter-in-law to you one day?" Qiao Mei said.

"I'll be very satisfied if he can bring back a daughter-in-law like you. However, I also know that it's impossible. Only my sister-in-law is so lucky to have such a good daughter-in-law like you. I'm so envious!" Liu Fen said.

Chapter 1303 Sideline

Was there anyone who did not want to have a daughter-in-law like Qiao Mei? Unfortunately, there was only one Qiao Mei in the world and she was a rare find.

Liu Fen could only pray that the heavens would give Xia Yuan a nice girl who was decent and down-to-earth! She hoped he would not find a troublemaker like Tan Jing or Qian'e. There were already enough messy issues in the family and she did not want to be further vexed by such troublesome stuff.

"Mother, did you really agree to let Elder Sister be with Deng Fan?" Qiao Mei asked.

"I've met Deng Fan's parents before. They're upright people and Deng Fan is also a motivated kid. Xia He is making a good choice if she wants to marry him. At least she won't suffer any grievances," Xu Lan said in all seriousness.

However, Deng Fan could not manage to take part in performances and had been suppressed by Yang Xin for so many years. How could he have enough money to marry Xia He? Could it be that he intended to borrow money for the wedding?

"Then how much is Deng Fan's monthly salary?" Qiao Mei continued to ask.

It was not that Qiao Mei felt Deng Fan earned too little, but she did not want Xia He to live a hard life. If Deng Fan really did not have that much money, Qiao Mei could consider letting him run part of her family's business. It would not be too late to get married after he earned enough money.

"Your elder sister says that Deng Fan not only works in the art troupe, but he also takes on other work in private, something related to drawings. We don't know the details, but his father works in architectural design, so I guess it's something related to that," Xu Lan said.

Qiao Mei's eyes lit up. Architecture design was a good job and it was not so easy to come up with good designs. It seemed that Xia He had found a treasure this time.

She did not expect that dancing was just Deng Fan's hobby and that his real career was in design. Perhaps the reason why he had practiced dancing for so many years was so that he could see Xia He again.

He must be so infatuated with her. Xia He running into Deng Fan again could be considered a happy ending for the couple. It was still a mystery as to how Xia Wen would fare in the future.

During this period of time, everyone who worked in the government knew that Xia Wen had been staying in his workplace for a long time. There was only a simple folding bed in that office and nothing else. There were no facilities for him to take a shower and he had to go to the public bathroom to wash up every day. Xia Wen would go back to Xu Lan's place to take a shower and then go back to spend the night in the office.

Xu Lan wanted to give Xia Mao's 60-square-meter house to Xia Wen, but he would not agree to it no matter what. He just wanted to sleep in his office. I think you should take a look at

The workplace unit had hired a new girl recently. Her name was Mo Zhu, a name which did not sound feminine at all. When Xia Wen heard this name, he thought that the new staff member was a very cultured young boy.

"Hello, comrade Xia Wen. My name is Mo Zhu. I'm a member of your department from now on. Please guide me well," Mo Zhu said in a manner that was neither servile nor overbearing.

"Hello, comrade Mo Zhu. I can't say that I'm able to guide you. Let's communicate more and exchange ideas," Xia Wen said with a smile.

The two of them worked very well together at work and that led to many people wanting to matchmake the two of them. Director Xu even took the liberty to inquire about Mo Zhu's family, eager to facilitate this match as soon as possible.

"Director Xia, oh no, we're talking about private matters now, so I'm going to call you Xiao Wen." Director Xu smiled and said, "Xiao Wen, how do you feel about Mo Zhu?"

"She's a good colleague. She's very responsible and completes all her tasks on time," Xia Wen said objectively.

"Then... then what do you think of her personally?" Director Xu asked curiously.

"Me? I don't have comments on that. Uncle, let's forget about this matter. I've been married before and she's someone who hasn't been married yet. Why should I hold her back? Besides, I just want to work hard now. I don't want to get married. I don't even have enough time to take care of my younger brother's two babies." Xia Wen could not help but smile when he mentioned Xia Fan and Xia Xing.

Seeing how stubborn Xia Wen was, Director Xu stopped talking to him about Mo Zhu.

As the current lunar year drew to a close, every household began to stock up on the food they needed for the lunar new year celebrations. Everyone needed to buy a lot of new goodies to prepare for visiting relatives and friends. Li Gui's business became even better than usual. Seeds, popcorn and braised meat were popular with everyone. In the family compound alone, the daily order for braised meat could reach as much as 200 pounds!

After everyone worked very hard for three days, it was time for the whole country to shut down for the holidays. Li Gui planned to have a good rest for a period of time, until the Lantern Festival on the 15th day! She was going to take a break for a full half month.

Chapter 1304 The Qiao Family Members

Of course, Li Gui could not let everyone go home empty-handed for the lunar new year. Not only did she pay everyone their salary, but she also gave each of them a red packet with 50 dollars inside and two pounds' worth of food stamps and meat coupons. She also prepared five pounds of braised meat for each person so that their families at home could also get a taste of it.

"Everyone, have a good rest! Go home and celebrate the lunar new year well!" Li Gui said happily.

"Auntie, we don't know how to thank you. You've given us so much!" Chi Ze said agitatedly.

"That's right. The sum of 50 dollars is enough for us to use for three months! This is really a lot!" Mao Hang said.

"What do you mean by a lot! As long as you do well in the future, there will be more red packets! Let's stop chatting. Quickly pack up and go home. You've been in the capital for so long and your children probably miss you a lot," Li Gui said with a smile.

Chi Ze, Mao Hang and their wives quickly packed their things and set off for their respective hometowns. Zhou Shuang's husband had also just returned home. Sun Juan lived by herself and did not have many relatives and friends, so she spent the lunar new year with Zhou Shuang's family. Now, the two of them were so close that she was like Zhou Shuang's elder sister!

It was rare for Li Gui to be able to stay at home and spend time with the children for a few days. The children all beamed with joy as they wore their new clothes. Qiao Mei had sewn these clothes for them herself!

Li Gui had been so busy during this period. If not for Qiao Mei taking care of these things for the children, they probably would not even have a single piece of new clothing for the new year.

"Mom, why don't you hire someone to work for you? It's so tiring for you," Zhang Wei said with heartache.

Li Gui had already worn out four pairs of cloth shoes in the past few months and there were holes in countless pairs of socks. In the past, when Li Gui did farm work in Foshan Village, she only needed to

work hard during the day. Moreover, the four siblings could also go up the mountain to pick wild vegetables and help the family in whatever ways they could.

Here, they could only stay at home and study and could not help with anything else. Zhang Wei saw how Li Gui woke up early and slept late so that she could take care of the business. Although the family was having a better life now, it was also getting tougher and tougher for Li Gui. I think you should take a look at

"I'm not tired. I've found what I like to do, so no matter how hard and tiring it is, I'm still very happy. Xiao Wei, it's just like how you want to become a soldier. When Professor Zheng Peng trained you, you still persevered no matter how tough it was, right?" Li Gui said.

"Mom, it's alright as long as you're happy. There's no need to work so hard if it's only because of us. Even if we don't get an education, we can still live well. Grandfather said that as long as one has ambition, one need not be not afraid of anything," Zhang Wei said firmly.

Li Gui patted Zhang Wei on the head. She suddenly felt that it was the right choice to divorce Zhang Qian back then. Otherwise, Zhang Wei and Zhang Chao would be living like gangsters in that county city now. It was also very likely that the Zhang family would have forced Zhang Qin and Zhang Miao to get married.

Qiao Qiang treated these four children very well, as if they were his own grandchildren. Li Gui took advantage of this holiday break to go out and buy Qiao Qiang a new set of clothes and a box of good quality tea leaves. She bought whatever she felt that Qiao Qiang would like.

Whatever Qiao Mei usually did for Qiao Qiang was her way of showing concern. Li Gui buying things for Qiao Qiang now was her way of being filial to him. Although she was no longer the Qiao family's daughter-in-law, she did not have the chance to wait upon her in-laws in the past. Therefore, she wanted to grab this opportunity to be nice to Qiao Qiang so as to make up for all the debts she owed him over the years.

"Uncle Qiao, take a look and see if you like these. It's the lunar new year, so this is a gift from me," Li Gui spoke to Qiao Qiang softly.

Qiao Qiang smiled at Li Gui and did not say whether he liked the gift or not. He only said softly, "You're Qiao Yue's wife. No matter what happens, you're still his wife. From now on, you should address me as 'Father' like before. The children all address me as Grandfather, so how can you address me as Uncle?"

Li Gui was so touched that she teared up. All these years, she had always felt that she had let down the Qiao family, Qiao Mei and, even more so, the deceased Qiao Yue. Now, Qiao Qiang's words made her feel completely at ease. She was considered a member of the Qiao family now.

Humans were all emotional creatures after all. In the beginning, Qiao Qiang was indeed a little prejudiced against Li Gui, but it was all because of what happened to Qiao Mei. He had hated Li Gui for the fact that she totally neglected Qiao Mei after she remarried. However, when the truth was revealed, he realized that Li Gui had also been deceived and that she had led a hard life as well.

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Chapter 1305 Your Surname Is Not Qiao

Furthermore, in those days when Qiao Qiang was making a living away from his hometown, Li Gui was the one who visited the grave of Qiao Qiang's first wife, Wen Ran, on her death anniversary every year. Even after Li Gui remarried, she would still go regardless of the weather and she never missed a single occasion. By now, Qiao Qiang had realized he misunderstood Li Gui in the past.

Qiao Qiang only wanted to live a happy life from now on. All those grudges and grievances were just small matters. He wanted to let bygones be bygones.

However, there were people who did not want these things to pass.

"Knock, knock, knock!" There were suddenly the sounds of knocking at the door.

"Uncle Qiao... No, Father, I'll go to the door to see who's here," Li Gui said with a smile.

She thought that it was Qiao Mei or the others who came back because they had forgotten their things, but when she opened the door, she realized that it was the Liang siblings and a woman whom she did not recognize.

"Why are you here?" Li Gui asked as she blocked the entrance.

Li Gui had already heard about what happened to Qiao Qiang in the past and she was thus very brusque with the Liang family. The Liang siblings were really a pair of sanctimonious beasts!

"It's the Spring Festival and we're here to see our father. Move aside," Liang Lan said rudely.

In the past, Liang Lan's impression of Li Gui was that this woman looked mousy and weak, as if she would shatter with a gentle push. She always walked with her head lowered and did not dare to raise her head at all. Liang Lan never took her seriously at all.

In her eyes, Li Gui was just like the Qiao family's servant, a maid who worked for free and had no value. Since she was a "maid" who waited on Qiao Qiang, it was only right for her to wait on them too.

"If you want to come in, I have to go and ask the Old Master first. You can only enter if the Old Master allows it. Otherwise, no one can take even half a step into this house," Li Gui said sternly.

"Who are you to talk to us! How dare you block me! Where do you get the guts!" The woman standing at the side finally spoke. She was Qiao Qiang's ex-wife, Liang Shu. I think you should take a look at

She was still as unruly and domineering as she was back in the past. She originally did not want to come and see Qiao Qiang. If not for her status in the Liang family and the fact that she had to help her children secure their future, she would not even want to see Qiao Qiang again! She felt disgusted to even have to see him one more time!

Li Gui finally remembered who this person was. Based on family hierarchy, this was actually her stepmother-in-law! She did not expect to be meeting her under such circumstances and it felt really awkward.

"Our Old Master usually doesn't receive guests. It's not just you. Even the Xia family has to inform the Old Master in advance when they want to come over. Don't you know about such things?" Li Gui said sarcastically.

She was implying that the Liang family did not have any sense of social etiquette! That even a country woman like her knew how to behave properly, yet the Liang family did not.

"What right do you have to argue with us here! You remarried and then subsequently divorced, yet you still have the cheek to stay here. Your surname is no longer Qiao! How is it that you're shameless enough to still be alive! If I were you, I would have jumped into the well and committed suicide long ago!" Liang Shu said cheerlessly.

In the past, Li Gui might really feel that it was all her fault. However, Qiao Qiang had just personally acknowledged her as the Qiao family's daughter-in-law. Qiao Mei was highly regarded in the Xia family and they all treated Li Gui very well too. In addition, she had money of her own and need not be afraid of others at all.

"Then is your surname Qiao? At least I have a daughter whose surname is Qiao. Are your children's surnames also Qiao? As if you are related to the Qiao family," Li Gui said mockingly.

Liang Shu was so angry that she rushed forward to hit Li Gui. Li Gui did not manage to dodge in time and received a hard slap from Liang Shu. Just as Liang Shu was about to continue hitting her, Li Gui pushed her to the ground and the two of them started fighting. Liang Lan and Liang Guo also went forward to help Liang Shu bully Li Gui.

"Your parents did not bring you up well! I'll make you aware! About who has the final say around here!" Liang Shu said furiously.

When the people in the backyard heard the commotion, Qiao Qiang quickly rushed over with the four children. When Zhang Wei saw Li Gui being bullied, he rushed forward and bit Liang Lan on the arm, refusing to let go. Liang Lan soon cried out loudly from the pain.

Seeing this, Zhang Chao and the other children also went forward to help Li Gui. They were still young and could not fight with the adults, so they simply bit whichever body part they could and held on. No matter how hard they were hit, they would not let go. They definitely would not let anyone bully Li Gui.

"Stop right now!" Qiao Qiang shouted angrily.

Chapter 1306 Let Us Never Meet Again

The four children helped Li Gui up from the ground. By now, Li Gui's cheek was already slightly swollen and there was a very obvious palm print on it.

"Oh! Mom! Someone hit your face!" Zhang Miao said angrily.

"It's fine, Miao Miao. Mom is fine," Li Gui comforted her.

Liang Shu patted the dust off her body and stood up, saying, "Hmph, she's just a low-class wench. Her thick skin can definitely withstand a beating. How delicate can she be?"

"Who do you think you are! How dare you be so impudent in my house! Get lost!" Qiao Qiang pointed at Liang Shu and roared.

Liang Shu looked at Qiao Qiang in shock. Back then, when she married Qiao Qiang, she was still an innocent maiden while it was already his second marriage. It was Qiao Qiang who was way out of his league! How dared he chased them away at this moment! What a joke!

To her, it was simply too humiliating!

"How dare you talk to me like that! Qiao Qiang, have you forgotten how our family treated you back then!" Liang Shu said.

"Hmph, if you don't mention the past, I might have let you off. Was your family very good to me in the past? It was your father who forced me to marry you, and it was also your entire family who forced me to do things that I didn't like. In the end, weren't you the ones who abandoned me too? Now that you're in trouble, you want me to go back! Pfft! You're not worthy! Get lost! Don't let me see you again!" Qiao Qiang said angrily.

"Father, how can you say that! We had no choice back then! That's... that's all my maternal grandfather's fault! You can't blame everything on us!" Liang Lan said.

In any case, Old Master Liang had long died. Even if they blamed him for all those things back then, there was no evidence to prove the contrary. There was nothing that Qiao Qiang could say.

"You should just continue to call me Bastard Qiao! Weren't you very happy calling me that back then? Why are you calling me father now?" Qiao Qiang said mockingly.

The Liang family had put in a lot of effort to sever ties with Qiao Qiang. Not only did they publish letters to disown Qiao Qiang in all the major newspapers, but they also asked Liang Guo to hold up a poster and display it as he paraded on the streets with Qiao Qiang. As for Liang Lan, she wrote a statement of repentance and read it out loud in front of everyone. I think you should take a look at

Qiao Qiang was not afraid of anything. Even if the Liang family acted like that and even if Liang Shu divorced him, he was not afraid at all. However, when Liang Lan called him "Bastard Qiao" in public, she said it with clear intent and did not look sad at all. Only then did he completely realize that it was all a scheme cooked up by the Liang family and that they were serious about denouncing him.

He realized then that his children would never return to his side again. Their surname was Liang, not Qiao.

Speaking of his children, he had felt guilty towards Qiao Yue for his entire life. When he first married Liang Shu, he had always intended to bring Qiao Yue's family to the capital to live with him. After all, Qiao Yue was his flesh and blood and he did not want his son to live a hard life outside.

However, Liang Shu was already pregnant with Liang Guo at that time. She threatened Qiao Qiang that she would kill herself with pesticide if he brought Qiao Yue home. If he did that, she would die together with the baby!

Liang Shu already had to accept the fact that she needed to marry Qiao Qiang, a man who was already in his second marriage. Did she need to be a stepmother as well? This was something which she absolutely could not tolerate.

She made use of the baby she was carrying to prevent Qiao Yue and Qiao Qiang from reuniting. This was why Qiao Qiang was not even able to see Qiao Yue for the last time.

Qiao Qiang hated the Liang family, but even more than that, he hated himself for being so useless. If he had resisted the Liang family with all his might back then, perhaps they would all be living a different life now. Qiao Mei would not have grown up without her parents and Li Gui would not have remarried.

"Get lost! Get lost, all of you! I have nothing to do with you! Don't come and look for me either! From now on, we should just mind our own business! Otherwise, I'll make your Liang family lose everything!" Qiao Qiang said as he looked fiercely at Liang Guo and Liang Lan.

The two of them immediately realized that Qiao Qiang was very serious about what he said. Zhang Wei pushed the Liang family members out of the door and closed it tightly.

At this moment, Liang Shu suddenly had a heart attack and fell to the ground, twitching non-stop. Liang Lan was so frightened that she grabbed Liang Shu and shouted, "Mother! Mother, what's wrong! Father, save Mother!"

"Close the door and let them shout. It has nothing to do with our family," Qiao Qiang said coldly.

The few of them returned to the backyard and ignored the Liang family. Liang Lan and Liang Guo cried at the Qiao family door for a long time. It was only when they saw that Liang Shu could not hold on anymore that they rushed her to the hospital.

Chapter 1307 Partially Paralyzed

After the doctor examined Liang Shu, he found out that she had suffered a stroke and was now partially paralyzed. She could no longer speak properly and it was very likely that she would lose control of her bowels in the future. The family would need to find a caregiver to take care of her.

Liang Lan and Liang Guo were stunned when they heard the diagnosis. They did not expect it to be so serious. Liang Shu already had very serious hypertension and was taking medicine to control it. Although

she might faint whenever she got too agitated, she would usually be fine after she recovered consciousness. They did not expect her to become seriously ill this time round.

Liang Lan's husband, Xiao Jing, and Liang Guo's wife, Bai Ming, were also sitting outside Liang Shu's ward. The four of them gathered to discuss and come up with a solution.

"I still need to go to work! I don't have time to take care of Mother. My superior is about to promote me! I can't let anything affect my work at this point in time," Xiao Jing said quickly.

Bai Ming also chimed in, "That's right, I have a job too. My workplace doesn't allow me to take leave!"

Liang Guo and Liang Lan also came up with reasons to decline. None of them wanted to wait on Liang Shu. They all blamed Liang Shu for being too arrogant today. The only reason why they could all keep their jobs until now was because of their link to the Xia family. After the commotion at Qiao Mei's house today, everyone would know that they had not actually reconciled with Qiao Qiang.

They might not even be able to keep their jobs anymore! Where would they get the money to treat Liang Shu's illness?

"Elder Brother, Mother dotes on you the most. Why don't you make the arrangements for someone to take care of her? I still have to look after my own family! Besides, I'm a daughter who has already gotten married and has nothing much to do with the Liang family anymore," Liang Lan said.

"Aren't you Mother's flesh and blood too? What do you mean by saying you have nothing to do with the Liang family anymore? Isn't it the Liang family who has given you everything you have now?" Liang Guo said in disbelief.

"Mother doesn't even ask me to go home for any festive celebrations. My daughter isn't treated very kindly at her house either. On the contrary, you're the one who benefits in every way, so of course you have to be the one who takes care of Mother when she's sick. I still have to go back and pick Xiao Yu up from school. Elder Brother, please take good care of Mother." After saying that, Liang Lan grabbed Xiao Jing and left without even looking at Liang Guo.

Bai Ming sat at one side and pretended not to hear anything, as if this matter had nothing to do with her. Back then, it was Liang Shu who forced her to get married to Liang Guo as Liang Shu had taken a fancy to the Bai family and how influential they were.

Even though Bai Ming was already engaged to someone else, Liang Shu simply just ignored the fact. Bai Ming hated the Liang family to the core and there was no way she would take care of Liang Shu! It was already good enough that she did not kill Liang Shu herself.

"You can stay here by yourself. I'm going home to play mahjong," Bai Ming said nonchalantly. I think you should take a look at

Liang Guo did not even look at Liang Shu. He simply paid a sum of money and left the hospital. As long as they gave enough money, the hospital would do their best to keep Liang Shu alive. He did not want to help out with anything else and left Liang Shu to settle the rest of the medical expenses herself.

He felt that since Liang Shu had so much money, she should pay for her own treatment.

While the Liang family was in an uproar, the Xia family was bustling with noisy excitement. The entire family was gathered together and Qiao Mei was personally cooking a feast for everyone tonight.

"I wonder what our cousin-in-law is cooking today. Just the fragrance alone makes me want to drool!" Xia You said as she looked towards the kitchen eagerly.

"Then why aren't you helping out in the kitchen?" Xia Wan said as she laughed.

"I went just now! Qiao Mei said that there was nothing for me to do and our mother also said that my cooking doesn't taste good. She even said that I'm not good with a knife!" Xia You said aggrievedly.

Her best dish was stirred fried shredded potatoes, which was also one of the simplest dishes to make. However, after eating the same dish cooked by Qiao Mei, she felt that her version was like swill in comparison!

Her version of the dish was to simply cut the potatoes into shreds and stir fry them. What Qiao Mei did was to slice the potatoes evenly, making them look like thin pieces of paper. Xia You felt that she really had to improve her own culinary skills.

Since it was the Spring Festival, Zhou Luo did not come to the Xia family house to cause trouble. Then again, only Xia Xing and his fiancée, Shao Yin, came with Xia Guang to the Xia family residence. Xia Lu and Xia Yan were unwilling to turn up.

Xia Jun did not really care. If they came back, they would only get on his nerves and make him feel annoyed.

"Qiao Mei is really very capable," Shao Yin said ingratiatingly as she stood beside Liu Fen.

"That's right. Our Xia family's daughters-in-law are all nice girls. My third son's wife, Yun Lan, is also a good cook," Liu Fen said proudly. Then she looked at Shao Yin and asked, "Do you know how to cook?"

Chapter 1309 An Ulterior Motive

After Xia Guang and Xia Jun were done talking, they returned to Xia Jun's house together. Xia Xing and Shao Yin stayed behind and continued to mingle with Xu Lan and the rest.

The moment Xia Wen finished his meal, he carried Xia Xing and got busy with changing her clothes and diapers, feeding her the powdered milk drink, coaxing her to sleep and so on. Xia Zhe could not offer his help even if he wanted to. Xia Wen's actions were smooth and systematic, as if Xia Xing was his child.

Qiao Mei patted Xia Zhe's hand and whispered, "Are you unhappy?"

"No, it's just that my heart aches when I see Eldest Brother like this. If he had married someone else back then, his child might even be the same age as you now," Xia Zhe said with a smile.

"I was worried that you might be jealous! These two little babies smile whenever they see Xia Wen. The two of them seem to know that Xia Wen will let them do whatever they want," Qiao Mei said resignedly.

Children of this age liked to grab people they saw! However, these two babies did not seem to feel excited when they saw Feng Hua and Xia Zhe. They only kept babbling and asking for hugs when they saw Xia Wen.

Seeing this, Shao Yin immediately went forward to chat with Xia Wen. She spoke to him very affectionately, "Brother Wen! You must really like children. I can see that you dote on Xia Xing a lot!"

She was almost pressing her entire body against Xia Wen. Initially, she had thought that it did not matter which Xia family son's family she married into since she would be taken care of no matter what. Her only purpose in marrying into the Xia family was to let her own siblings live a better life and to bring them over to the capital together to enjoy life. However, she did not expect Xia Xing to be like an empty vase, one which was good-looking but useless.

The eldest son's family still had the final say in the Xia family. If only she could marry Xia Wen, then she would really be able to enjoy a good life!

"Look, Brother Xing's fiancée is sticking so close to Eldest Brother again. What exactly is she trying to do? Brother Xing doesn't even care and just lets her go seeking out Eldest Brother?" Xia He said angrily.

"What else can she be doing? Our eldest brother is so handsome and he's also single at the moment. If it's up to you, will you choose Xia Xing or Xia Wen? Besides, Xia Xing and her are a match arranged by Zhou Luo. Perhaps Xia Xing doesn't want to marry her at all," Qiao Mei said.

Without any hesitation, Xia He immediately said, "Of course I'll choose Eldest Brother! Ah! So... so that little girl is targeting Eldest Brother! No, no, we have to stop her. We can't let this scourge enter our family!"

"Don't worry, how can Eldest Brother get harmed by her? How can she be wiler than Eldest Brother? It's not as if she can force herself on him." After Qiao Mei finished speaking, she had a feeling that someone was staring at her from behind.

Qiao Mei turned around and saw Xia Zhe looking at her thoughtfully. There was even a faint smile on his lips. She suddenly thought of their first night together and immediately felt a little embarrassed. Xia Zhe must have heard what she said just now.

Xia Zhe recalled how the two of them spent that passionate night together. Sometimes, he felt that it was not too bad to have a wife who liked to take the initiative...

After some consideration, Xia He still felt that it was better to tell Xu Lan about the matter. This way, they could be on guard and not get scammed. One had to be wary of others!

Xia Wen looked at Shao Yin politely and said, "Cousin-in-law, I'm going to put Xia Xing to bed now. You should find someone else to chat with."

He left Shao Yin standing downstairs in a daze. Xia Xing had only just woken up but she was about to be coaxed to sleep by Xia Wen again.

Shao Yin then turned around and came to Qiao Mei's side. "Cousin-in-law! I think I should be addressing you as Third Cousin-in-law!"

"Yes," Qiao Mei said.

"Third Cousin-in-law, why is your cooking so delicious? Can you teach me? Do you have any secrets up your sleeves?" Shao Yin asked in a familiar manner.

"There are no secrets. You just have to make sure that everything is well-cooked. If you can't even do that, then you should go buy a few books. There are all kinds of dishes in the books. You can learn to make whichever dish you want," Xia He said moodily.

Qiao Mei was already so tired from having to cook for everyone, so how would she have the energy to deal with Shao Yin? Yet Xia Xing just stood there like a block of wood. Shao Yin was behaving so inappropriately. She tried to chat casually with whoever she saw. Those who did not know better would think that she had already married into the family!

"I'm just so envious of Third Cousin-in-law. You've only just married into the family and you already have two children. They're even a pair of twins! Tell me, did you eat some kind of folk remedy?" Shao Yin asked curiously.

"I didn't eat anything," Qiao Mei said with an awkward smile.

Chapter 1308 Estrangement Between Father And Son

Shao Yin was rendered speechless. She did not know how to do anything apart from working in the fields and doing manual chores like chopping firewood and washing the dishes. She did not know anything about needlework and did not have any skills that she could boast of.

The food was ready very soon. Since the rest of them did not help with the cooking, they quickly helped to bring out the dishes. With so many pairs of helping hands, all the food was placed on the table in a jiffy.

After Xia Jun took his seat at the table, everyone sat down one after another.

No one spoke when everyone was seated at the dining table. It was usually Zhou Hua who gave the opening speech for the Spring Festival celebrations. Now that Zhou Hua was no longer around, no one knew who should take over this task.

Suddenly, Shao Yin stood up and raised her glass at Xia Jun while saying, "I wish Grandfather happiness and good health in the new year!"

Her posture reminded everyone of Zhou Hua and all of them frowned slightly. Shao Yin was not considered a daughter-in-law of the Xia family yet. By doing this, she was only bringing bad luck to their family.

Xia Xing also felt a little awkward and nudged Shao Yin, asking her to sit down.

"Thank you. Everyone, let's eat." After saying that, Xia Jun started eating.

Shao Yin sat down awkwardly with the glass in her hand. The atmosphere felt cold as the family ate quietly. It would have been much more lively if only the families of the eldest and second sons were gathered together. With the addition of Xia Guang and his family, everyone else felt a little uncomfortable.

No one knew what was wrong with Xia Guang recently. Whenever he saw his relatives and friends from the Xia family, he always had a distressed expression on his face, as if someone owed him a few million dollars. It felt like he was ready to leave and return to the border as soon as anyone made him unhappy.

Perhaps he hated them for making Zhou Hua leave the Xia family, or perhaps he felt resentful towards the family, or perhaps he did not think of this place as his home at all.

Recently, Xia Jun had been thinking of transferring Xia Guang back to the capital so that the whole family could be gathered together. It might be better for Xia Xing and his two brothers to stay with Xia Guang rather than Zhou Luo.

It was still better for Xia family members to return to the Xia family. If these three brothers continued to be brought up by a vicious woman like Zhou Luo, something bad would happen to them sooner or later. After dinner, Xia Jun asked Xia Guang to go to the study with him so that the two of them could have a chat.

It had been a long time since the two of them sat down to talk to each other face to face.

"Xiao Guang, do you hate me?" Xia Jun asked calmly. I think you should take a look at

Xia Guang did not know how to answer the question. Perhaps he hated his father, but he did not know what it was that he hated. Regardless, he definitely did not have any good feelings towards Xia Jun.

"No, I don't," Xia Guang said.

"Then tell me why you've been in such a state recently. Is there a conflict between you and your eldest brother? Or do you have a conflict with your second brother, or a problem between you and the grandchildren. Tell me and I can help you resolve it," Xia Jun said.

"No, there isn't," Xia Guang said again.

"Then it must be me. You must be blaming me for asking you to divorce Zhou Hua and for not giving Xia Xing a grand wedding. Is that right?" Xia Jun asked.

This time, Xia Guang did not say anything. It seemed that Xia Jun had guessed correctly.

"If there's anything you are dissatisfied with, you can say it. Let's think of a solution together. Haven't you been angry with me for so many years already?" Xia Jun said resignedly.

"I don't have any right to be angry with you. You've never thought highly of me anyway. After I started working, you left me all by myself out of town and I was even bullied by other people everywhere I went. Even until now, I'm still not as successful as Eldest Brother and Second Brother. I think it's more a situation of you being dissatisfied with me," Xia Guang said.

Xia Jun sighed deeply. Back then, Xia Mao and Xia Yao had both started at the bottom of the rung too. Why was Xia Guang the only one who had an issue with it?

"A few years ago, I said that I wanted to transfer you back here, but you insisted on going to the border. I've also discussed with you about the issue of my three grandsons, about letting me bring them up. However, you still went with what Zhou Hua wanted. You have to divorce Zhou Hua because she did something hurtful to the family. It's not our fault," Xia Jun said.

"Yes, that's why I think I'm a failure. I can't do as well as anyone, not even Eldest Brother's children," Xia Guang said self-deprecatingly.

"I want to ask you if you're willing to return to the capital to work? You can live with Xia Xing and the other two boys. You've seen how Zhou Luo takes care of these children. Don't tell me you want to be a hands-off parent and leave the three children to their own devices?" Xia Jun questioned angrily.

"Then I'll do what you say. I'll come back to the capital," Xia Guang said.

Chapter 1310 No More Hugs

"Is that so! When my eldest sister was pregnant, she tried all kinds of prescriptions and they were all very useful. Second Cousin, do you want them? If you do, I can give you a copy of all the prescriptions!" Shao Yin said obsequiously.

She had heard from Zhou Luo that Xia He had been married for so many years but did not have any children. There was probably something wrong with her and she might even be infertile!

If any of her prescriptions could help Xia He, then Xia He would definitely remember her kindness!

Xia He's face instantly fell. Being a person who did not like being slighted, she definitely would not let Shao Yin off easily. Qiao Mei lowered her head silently and said a silent prayer for Shao Yin.

"I'm still single, so why do I need this prescription? But Shao Yin, aren't you a little too eager? You're still so young but you already know so many of such prescriptions. Are you facing some kind of difficulty? Or do you really like children that much?" Xia He asked.

Shao Yin immediately realized how stupid her earlier remark sounded and quickly explained, "I'm just very curious about such things. Besides, I used to boil the medicine for my elder sister, so that's why I remember all these prescriptions."

"I see. Then remember to go to the hospital for a checkup. Just in case... don't you think so?" Xia He deliberately paused and looked at Xia Xing. She was trying to highlight this to Xia Xing!

"I'm fine! There's nothing wrong with my health!" Shao Yin said in a panic.

"I'm not saying that there's anything wrong with you, but you should also ask your sister to eat less of such things. If such prescriptions really work, then she just needs one and shouldn't need to try so many. Don't you think so?" Xia He said casually.

Qiao Mei held back her laughter. When it came to scolding people, Xia He was still the best at it. She managed to make Shao Yin speechless with just a few words. After suffering a setback in front of Qiao Mei and Xia He, Shao Yin learned her lesson and obediently returned to Xia Xing's side and sat down.

Everyone went to bed early since they expected many relatives from the Xia family to come visiting early the next morning! That was when they realized that Xia Wen had indeed spoiled those two babies.

The moment they heard any sounds outside their room, they would wail loudly. After two or three rounds, the babies had already gone hoarse from the wailing. Xu Lan's heart ached for them and she asked Qiao Mei to quickly bring them back to the courtyard house. She told Qiao Mei not to come back in the meantime and to return only when there were fewer people around. I think you should take a look at

"It's all your fault! My grandchildren can't even live here! Don't carry them so often in the future!" Xu Lan looked at Xia Wen angrily.

Xia Wen scratched his head in embarrassment and said, "I didn't do it on purpose. It's just that the children are too cute and I can't help myself. I'll carry them less in the future. I'll definitely carry them less."

"I'm so angry! You will go and greet the guests today!" Xu Lan watched as Qiao Mei and her family left her house and returned to her room unhappily. Xia Wen had no choice but to go and take care of the guests downstairs.

It was only when Qiao Mei returned home that she found out that the Liang family had taken advantage of her absence to cause a scene here. Li Gui was even pressed to the ground and beaten up. Qiao Qiang was so angry with the Liang family that he almost fell sick. The four children also all had some bruises on their bodies.

"Elder Sister! Look at Mom's face! Mom also has many bruises on her body! The three of them gang up to bully Mom!" Zhang Miao said angrily.

"Yes, I can see that. I can't even accept them touching an inch of Mom's hair, not to mention them beating her up! I'll go and settle the score with them tomorrow!" Qiao Mei said angrily.

When Xia Zhe heard about what happened, he was also quite angry. If Qiao Mei allowed it, he would destroy the Liang family and make them leave the capital, never to be able to cause trouble again.

Li Gui quickly grabbed Qiao Mei's hand and said, "Mei Mei, it's better if you don't go and look for them. I hear that Liang Shu is in the hospital from getting too worked up. It seems that she has suffered a stroke and it's quite serious. She might be paralyzed in the future."

Li Gui kept feeling that she was the cause of all this. If not for her, Liang Shu would not have been hospitalized. She just wanted to stand up for herself and not let others look down on her, but she did not expect to cause such big trouble.

Of course, the Liang family would not go to Qiao Mei and her family to ask for compensation. They might want to use this matter to gain Qiao Mei's sympathy instead. If Liang Shu's illness could improve their relationship with Qiao Mei, then Liang Shu would have made a great contribution.

"A stroke is not an issue that suddenly pops up. This has nothing to do with you so don't take it to heart. She'll get better. If she hadn't come to our house to cause trouble, nothing would have happened to her. She brought it upon herself with all her complaints," Qiao Mei comforted Li Gui.