

Fat Wife 1321

Chapter 1321 Come To Fruition

Deng Fan's motorcycle was not registered to enter the neighborhood, so he could not come and go freely. He had to sign off at the guardhouse before he could ride in. The entire process would have taken up a lot of their time, so they just left the motorcycle outside the main gate and ran all the way in, worried that they would be too late.

Xia Zhe took the key from Deng Fan and went to help him with the registration process. The couple had already used up a lot of energy, so it was better for them to rest at home.

"You're always so rash. I'm fine now, see?" Xu Lan said with a smile. Although she was scolding Xia He, she felt warm inside.

"I'm just worried about you! It's like anyone can enter our house nowadays. Let's get Brother Luo to arrange for two of his men to stand guard at the door. People who are not related to our family cannot just enter or leave as they please. These people are really too much!" Xia He said angrily.

Deng Fan simply stood beside Xia He and did not say anything. This was the first time he was visiting the Xia family and he had never intended for his first visit to be so abrupt. He had even come empty-handed and it made him feel very awkward.

Liu Fen gave Xia He a look and she immediately noticed that Deng Fan felt left out. She quickly spoke in a gentle tone to Xu Lan and the rest, "Mother, Second Aunt-in-law, Mei Mei, this is the person I've told you before. He's Deng Fan."

Deng Fan quickly bowed deeply to Xu Lan and the others and said, "I'm sorry, Coach. I came over in a hurry today and didn't bring anything with me. I hope you can forgive my sudden visit."

"I know that you're a good kid. Our family is not so particular about such etiquette. You were also distracted because you were too concerned about my safety. It's fine, I don't blame you. Come, stand up straight," Xu Lan said gently.

Deng Fan only felt at ease when he saw that Xu Lan was not annoyed with him at all.

Qiao Mei sized up Deng Fan carefully. The last time, she had only taken a quick glance and did not really take a good look at him. As she looked at him now, she noted that he indeed had a very dignified bearing. It was no wonder that Xia He liked him so much.

If Xia He had not been blinded by love when she was younger, she might already have enough children to form a basketball team now!

"Come and sit down. Don't just stand here. Xiao Fan, stay and have a meal with us later!" Liu Fen said warmly.

Deng Fan was about to say something when Xia He stopped him and said, "Second Aunt-in-law! Let's eat at home! It'll be a nice and lively gathering!"

"Good, good, good! I'll go and start cooking now! Just wait for it!" Liu Fen went to the kitchen excitedly to prepare the dishes. I think you should take a look at pandasnovel.com

She thought very highly of Xia He's current prospective partner. He looked so much more reliable than that Kong guy! One look and she could tell that he was low-key and easy to get along with. When would Xia Yuan be able to find a partner? She also wanted to welcome her child's partner excitedly.

Xu Lan already knew Deng Fan well and there was nothing that she needed to ask him. Everyone just sat awkwardly in the living room and did not say a word.

"Elder Brother-in-law, are you busy with any projects recently? I heard from Elder Sister that you also do architectural design!" Qiao Mei said.

"Why are you calling him your elder brother-in-law! I'm not married to him yet!" Xia He said shyly.

pandasnovel.com "That's not an issue! It's only a matter of time! Don't you think so, Mother~" Qiao Mei held Xu Lan's hand and said sweetly.

"Yes, true. It all depends on what your elder sister wants!" Xu Lan threw the question back to Xia He. Since Xia He already intended to marry Deng Fan, she did not stop Qiao Mei from addressing Deng Fan as her brother-in-law.

Luo Yu could not bear to witness this scene and silently turned around to leave. Qiao Mei saw it and felt very sorry for Luo Yu. Deng Fan and Luo Yu had both waited and protected Xia He for so many years. In the end, it was Deng Fan's dream which came to fruition while Luo Yu was left behind.

"I haven't been doing much recently. I've just been busy with Xia He," Deng Fan said honestly.

"Then... then can I ask Elder Brother-in-law for help? The price is negotiable!" Qiao Mei stared at Deng Fan with sparkling eyes, as if she could eat him up in the next second.

"Tell me, I'll definitely help if I can. I can do it for free," Deng Fan said honestly.

Qiao Mei quickly flapped her hands and said, "Even biological brothers must settle accounts clearly. We must be clear that these are separate matters. My family keeps detailed accounts of all our dealings with Eldest Brother! So there's no exception for you as well!"

"Then let's do what you say. Go ahead," Deng Fan said with a smile.

Chapter 1322 Cannot Bear To Part

Xia Wen had been very efficient. Not long after Qiao Mei told him about her idea of building a factory, he rented a piece of land in the suburbs. Qiao Mei originally wanted to buy the piece of land, but they were unable to find out who owned it and the details in the land title were sketchy. Thus, she decided to rent it for the time being and would buy it after they could sort things out.

Since they were serious about expanding the business, they could not afford to do things in a slipshod manner. Xia Wen was no longer a professor at the university, so it was not appropriate for Qiao Mei to ask the previous group of people to help her with the building design. Moreover, she was not doing repairs on a courtyard house this time round, but designing a completely new building. Qiao Mei also did not want to owe anyone any favors, so she must find another way.

She did not expect to discover by chance the fact that Deng Fan was versed in architectural design, so she wanted to ask him to design the factory and to also hire him as the site supervisor. Of course, she was not asking him to do it for free. She intended to pay him a fee that was higher than market rate.

This could also be considered one of Qiao Mei's wedding gifts to Xia He and Deng Fan.

"Elder Brother-in-law, what do you think?" Qiao Mei looked at Deng Fan expectantly.

Without even thinking, Deng Fan turned to look at Xia He. It was only after she nodded slightly that he agreed to Qiao Mei's request.

While Xu Lan and Deng Fan were chatting, Qiao Mei pulled Xia He over to her side and whispered, "It's really not bad. Brother-in-law listens to you well!"

"What nonsense are you talking about! I haven't done anything," Xia He said with a red face.

"But when I asked him to take on the design job just now, he asked for your opinion first. Isn't it because you taught him well?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"I've never asked him for anything. He did all that out of his own accord. I do have to thank you though. I know you're doing this for my sake, but you keep things professional and not be too muddle-headed. If his designs don't meet your standard, you should not compromise, alright?" Xia He said earnestly.

"I just know that I'm still the one you love the most! Don't worry, I know what I want. You have to believe in Deng Fan's skills. I've seen his previous works and all his designs are not bad," Qiao Mei said admiringly. I think you should take a look at

Deng Fan and Xu Lan did not dawdle on frivolous topics and went straight to the point. Deng Fan honestly declared his monthly income, his future plans, as well as details of his properties and other assets.

Xu Lan had never imagined that Deng Fan was actually quite well-to-do. He had a house in the forest area on the outskirts of the capital. The feng shui there was excellent, it had a big courtyard and the

entire house was built using mortise and tenon techniques. Once he had earned enough money, he intended to move there with Xia He and live a carefree life.

He also owned a small house in the capital. There were only three rooms, but it was quite a decently sized house. Deng Rui had bought the place for Deng Fan to use as his future matrimonial home.

Deng Fan promised Xu Lan that the betrothal gifts from him would not be any less than what Xia Zhe had given Qiao Mei back then. He wanted to give Xia He the best of everything and also give her a grand wedding. He did not feel that he was compromising his standards by taking Xia He as his wife. In fact, he felt that he was marrying someone who was out of his league.

"It's good as long as you know what you want. Let's find a time when your parents are free and we can all meet up and then set the wedding date. Our family supports Xia He in whatever she wants to do. As long as the two of you are sure of what you are, then there's no problem," Xu Lan said.

After dinner, everyone went back to their respective homes. Xia He had been staying at Deng Fan's three-room house recently. The two of them slept in separate rooms of course. Deng Fan intended to renovate the house and wanted the design to suit Xia He's liking, so she had been helping him out.

"Now that Elder Sister is with Deng Fan, I actually can't bear to part with her," Qiao Mei said sadly.

"Silly girl, why can't you bear to part with her? I think Elder Sister is doing very well now, even better than when she first met Kong Lu. I hope Deng Fan will treat her well," Xia Zhe said.

αΠδsNovel.com "I just can't bear to part with her. It's probably the same way that a parent will feel. Not so long ago, Elder Sister was by my side every day, and now she has already found her own happiness. I have to hurry up and finish embroidering her wedding dress! Otherwise, it won't be ready in time for her wedding!" Qiao Mei said anxiously.

"If you can't meet the deadline, you can just hire a seamstress. Or you can ask Deng Fan to push back the wedding. Don't make yourself all tired out again," Xia Zhe said with heartache.

Chapter 1323 Overzealous Person

Xia He's wedding may be very important, but for Xia Zhe, nothing was more important than Qiao Mei. It would not be good if Qiao Mei became exhausted because of this.

"Don't worry, I'm in good health! I grew up eating ginseng!" Qiao Mei said proudly.

Xia Zhe held Qiao Mei's hand as they slowly made their way back to their house. He could not help feeling that such a life was quite comfortable. This time round, he had applied for a long period of leave from his superiors. He had also considered transferring back to the capital for two years so that he could accompany the two children and Qiao Mei for a period of time. However, this was just an idea and he had not decided yet.

Qiao Mei worked tirelessly day and night for half a month before she finally finished embroidering Xia He's wedding dress. She resisted the urge to give it to Xia He immediately, thinking that it was still in time to hand it over to her just before the wedding. She wanted to give Xia He a surprise.

Today, Qiao Mei had instructed Qian'e to give Zhao Fei the day off. Qiao Mei wanted to invite Zhao Fei to her house for dinner to thank him for his hard work during this period of time.

Zhao Fei arrived at Li Gui's house early in the day with many gifts. There were so many things that he could barely hold all the bags in his hands. He had even specially prepared two bulging red packets for the two children.

"Knock, knock, knock"

Zhao Fei knocked loudly on Li Gui's main door. Li Gui had already asked all her children to go to Qiao Qiang's house. Today, Qiao Qiang would take care of the four children and let them play in the backyard. They would only go home after Zhao Fei left.

She did not want these children to come into contact with any business matters for now, nor did she want to let anyone recognize their faces. Xia Wen had said previously that their business operations were not totally legal yet and there were still many problems at hand. She must be careful and not let anything go wrong.

"Coming, coming! You're really early! I only expect you to come around noon!" Li Gui said with a smile as she opened the door.

Zhao Fei did not come alone and there was a person following behind him. It was his uncle's son, Zhao Kai.

"Sister Li, we just don't want to keep you waiting! Some of these things are for your children and some are for Qiao Mei's two babies. Those things that my younger brother is carrying are for you. These are all a token of our appreciation," Zhao Fei said happily.

Before Li Gui could speak, Zhao Kai quickly rushed out from behind Zhao Fei and said enthusiastically to Li Gui, "Sister Li! You must accept these! I picked them out specially for you!" "I think you should take a look at

"Ah... fine, fine, fine. You've really spent too much and bought too many things," Li Gui said, feeling a little awkward.

She was very afraid of overzealous people. Before this, she had only met Zhao Kai a few times, but they had never spoken to each other. She did not know why Zhao Kai was being so enthusiastic.

Was it because Zhao Kai wanted to thank Li Gui for the chance to make money? However, the person who gave him the chance was actually Zhao Fei! What did it have to do with Li Gui? She found it really puzzling.

"Don't just stand at the door. Come in! My daughter will be here soon! Come inside and wait. I'm still in the midst of preparing two dishes!" After Li Gui brought them to the living room, she quickly ran back to the kitchen.

When Zhao Fei saw that there was no one around, he said to Zhao Kai with a dark expression, "Don't talk nonsense later! Do you hear me!"

"What has it got to do with you whether I speak or not! I'm just being polite to Sister Li. How can you disallow me from doing that?" Zhao Kai looked at Zhao Fei nonchalantly.

"Hmph, don't think that I don't know what you're up to. Don't even think about it! Otherwise, don't even think about getting involved with this business in the future! You should just go with Uncle and become a scavenger!" Zhao Fei sneered and warned.

"You're so petty! Alright, alright! I won't say anything, alright?" Zhao Kai complained.

After Qiao Mei washed up and dressed up, she came to Li Gui's house and went straight to the living room. When Zhao Fei saw Qiao Mei, he immediately took out the two red packets from his pocket and said, "Sister Mei Mei! This is a small gift for the kids. Please accept it!"

Novel.com Zhao Fei could be considered the children's uncle after all, so it was only right for him to give them a first-meeting gift. Qiao Mei had helped Zhao Fei make quite a lot of money, so she did not stand on ceremony with him and took the red packets.

"In that case, I thank you on behalf of the children. Come, sit down," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Chapter 1324 Be My Stepmother

From the moment Qiao Mei entered the house, Zhao Kai had not stopped staring at her. He had originally thought that Qian'e fitted his idea of a classic beauty, but he did not expect Qiao Mei to be even more beautiful, especially with her full bosom, slender waist and perky butt. It was a sight that made him drool.

Qiao Mei had seen the same kind of look in the eyes of many men too many times and it was clear to her that Zhao Kai was definitely not a good person. It seemed that Qian'e was right. Zhao Fei indeed needed to relook at the kind of people he was working with.

Zhao Fei realized how rude Zhao Kai was and quickly gave him a kick before saying, "This is my younger brother, Zhao Kai. I think you haven't met him before. He just started working for me recently."

"No wonder. I'm just thinking that I don't seem to recall this person," Qiao Mei said with a faint smile.

"It's fine, it's fine! We can get to know each other today! Let's get along well from now on!" Zhao Kai quickly extended his hand towards Qiao Mei, but she refused to acknowledge his gesture and pretended not to see his hand. Zhao Kai could only retract his hand awkwardly and sit down obediently.

Zhao Kai thought to himself, "What's there to be so arrogant about! You just have a bit more money than us!"

Li Gui brought out the last two dishes. She had made eight dishes, five of which were meat dishes! She had never done something so grand before and this just showed how highly Li Gui thought of Zhao Fei.

"Sister Li, you're way too hospitable. There are so many dishes, I don't even know which one to eat first!" Zhao Fei said embarrassedly.

Li Gui even made some braised meat for them! Zhao Kai's eyes lit up when he saw the dish. This was a rare delicacy. There was probably no other person in the capital who could make pig offal taste so delicious!

"You address me as sister and yet you also address my daughter as sister. This doesn't sound right at all. It's better that you address me as auntie," Li Gui said with a smile.

"Sure! Then I'll call you Auntie Li!" Zhao Fei said.

Just as everyone was eating happily, Zhao Kai suddenly said inappropriately, "Auntie Li's cooking is so delicious. It will be great if she can become my mother! Our entire family will be so happy!"

"What kind of joke is this!" Zhao Fei said awkwardly.

"I'm not joking! If she joins my family, we'll be able to eat and drink well every day!" Zhao Kai was so excited that he simply blurted out what he was thinking. I think you should take a look at

Li Gui's face instantly turned pale. She did not expect Zhao Kai to say something like this. She was already a divorced woman with four young children. It was already good enough that she did not cause trouble for Qiao Mei.

She had already been married twice. If she got married again, the children would feel disgraced! She had no intention of ever getting married again!

Qiao Mei's face instantly fell and she slammed her chopsticks on the table. She did not expect the Zhao family to have such an intention. No wonder there were so many gifts and this stranger also tagged along. It seemed that Qian'e was very spot-on with her judgment this time.

"Sister Qiao Mei, Auntie Li, that's not what my younger brother meant... He just... he just has no sense of propriety when he speaks!" Zhao Fei explained in a panic.

However, Zhao Kai remained self-righteous and did not feel that he had said anything wrong. He already had his eye on Li Gui for a while and wanted her to become his mother. What was wrong with that? Moreover, he was not the only one who thought that way. His entire family liked Li Gui and wanted her to quickly marry into the family and become their stepmother!

He did not understand why Zhao Fei was being so cautious, but he did not really blame Zhao Fei. After all, Zhao Fei was not related to his family by blood. He would not expect an adopted child to watch out for their benefits.

"I'm telling the truth. Auntie Li is such a good person. Isn't it good for her to become my mother? Then we'll be able to do business together and also be a family from now on! We'll be even closer!" Zhao Kai said happily.

Qiao Mei did not expect him to be so ambitious. Not only did he want to get Li Gui, but he even coveted their family's business. What an arrogant person!

"Get out," Qiao Mei said coldly.

"What... what did you say?" Zhao Kai asked in puzzlement, as if he did not hear what Qiao Mei said clearly.

"I told you to get out!" Qiao Mei roared at Zhao Kai.

Zhao Kai still wanted to argue with Qiao Mei, but when he saw the look in Zhao Fei's eyes, he left Li Gui's house angrily. Before he left, he even kicked over the stools in Li Gui's house.

"Mom, you can go to your room first. I want to talk to Zhao Fei," Qiao Mei said calmly.

Chapter 1325 Two Options

Li Gui wiped the tears from the corners of her eyes and nodded before returning to her room. There was nothing she could say about this matter. It was really too embarrassing!

"Sister Qiao Mei, my younger brother is too thoughtless. Don't be angry! I apologize to you on his behalf!" Zhao Fei said cautiously.

"How long has it been?" Qiao Mei asked suddenly.

"Wh... what?" Zhao Fei stood rooted to the spot and did not dare to make a sound.

παΠdasNovel.com "I'm asking you, how long have you people had designs on my mother?" Qiao Mei tried her best to keep her voice level. She believed that Zhao Fei was not involved in this matter. Given his character, even if he was attracted to any woman in her family, he would not do such a thing.

Zhao Fei had also only found out about this matter recently. In the past, he had always been on his own and lived unrestrainedly. However, after his uncle rendered a helping hand to him, there were actually more restrictions in his lifestyle.

When he was younger, he worked hard at his own business and lived a carefree life. When he ran out of money, he would go out to do sales. When he had money, he would play cards with his friends from the small alley.

After Zhao Fei reached adulthood, he did not know how it happened but his uncle found out about him and insisted on bringing him home. When he did not agree, his uncle kept causing trouble at the alley neighborhood until he gave in.

Zhao Fei had no choice but to follow his uncle home.

In the first week, the family hosted Zhao Fei with nice food and drinks and he gradually lowered his guard. It was the first time he experienced this thing called "kinship". However, things changed later on. Whenever he earned some money, he had to share it equally with all of them. In the end, he never had much money left for himself.

It was not until Zhao Fei and Li Gui did business together that he finally made more money and gradually had more savings.

"Sister Qiao Mei, it's not what you think. Listen to me, let me explain it to you," Zhao Fei said nervously.

"Explain? I don't want to hear whatever you want to say anymore. This crooked idea has probably been brewing for a while. I trust you, but I don't trust them. If you want to continue working with me, then from now on, I don't want to see anyone from your uncle's family, not even your other relatives from the Zhao family," Qiao Mei said coldly. I think you should take a look at

"Sister Qiao Mei! Give them another chance! They are not doing this on purpose!" Zhao Fei said.

Qiao Mei shook her head and said, "I don't have that much time to waste on this. You also know that time is money right now. I'll give you two options. Either you work with us on your own and we remain very good friends, or we end our collaboration. I'll find someone else to do this business with me. You can choose between the two options."

Zhao Fei looked at Qiao Mei in disbelief. She spoke as if there had never been any friendship between them. However, it also made sense. After all, it had always been a professional partnership all this while. They were business partners first and friends second. If he put himself in Qiao Mei's shoes, there was nothing wrong with what she was doing.

"I understand... I'll go back and make the arrangements now," Zhao Fei said disappointedly.

"We'll take a break this week. Let me know after you've settled your business matters. Our future collaboration will depend on your attitude moving forward." After saying that, Qiao Mei sent Zhao Fei out.

Zhao Fei walked home dejectedly. He did not know how things had turned out like this. Was his path to becoming rich going to be completely cut off?

As soon as he reached the door of his house, he could hear Zhao Kai cursing inside and even making groundless allegations about Qiao Mei and Li Gui.

"I really don't know what's so good about those two sluts! Zhao Fei even spoke up for them! He simply asked me to get out! Pfft! Who do they think they are! Do they really think that I'm attracted to them!" Zhao Kai said furiously.

Zhao Kun hurriedly echoed, "That's right! Elder Brother, I support you! I've long found them to be an eyesore and they order us around just because they have some money! They really don't treat us as humans at all!"

"Bang!!!"

Zhao Fei kicked open the main door and everyone stared intently at him. Zhao Fei's uncle, Zhao Liu, immediately scolded him, "You little brat, are you sick of living! Do you think that it doesn't cost money for repairs if you break this door? Where do you get the guts to strut around so arrogantly at home? Why didn't you behave this way in those people's house when your younger brother was being bullied?"

Chapter 1326 Greed

"Why don't you talk about what he did! What he said to them! How am I able to back him up!" Zhao Fei said as he pointed at Zhao Kai.

"What did I say! I just casually chatted with them!" Zhao Kai said unrepentantly.

"Hmph, now they don't even want to do business with us anymore! Your 'casual chat' caused our entire family's business to be gone! Are you satisfied now!" Zhao Fei said furiously.

Everyone in the house was shocked. By now, it was not just Zhao Liu's family members who were involved in the business. Zhao Liu's younger brother, Zhao Ming, and his family were also a part of it. Each person earned about one dollar and fifty cents a day. Sometimes, they could even earn three dollars. This was enough money for all of them to survive and they were now living a much better life than when they could not afford food in the past.

When people got what they had always yearned for, their greed would only grow day by day. They even conspired to try and find a way to get Li Gui's recipe as they thought that they would be able to earn more money if they knew how Li Gui made the popcorn.

How could it be that a woman could run such a successful business, but they could not? They did not believe that they could not do it just as well. They had tried making the popcorn three or four times at home but did not manage to succeed. In the end, they even thought about stealing the recipe! However, they were too scared to go around stealing things, so they dragged their feet until now. They had evil intentions, but not the guts to do it.

However, no matter how hard Zhao Liu, Zhao Ming and their family members racked their brains, they would never have guessed that the secret behind the popcorn was butter. Even if they knew that it was butter, they still would not know how to use it.

"What exactly did you say to them!" Zhao Ming's wife, Wang Meng, asked as she pointed at Zhao Kai.

Zhao Kai did not dare to look at everyone out of a guilty conscience. He whispered, "I... I didn't say anything... Why are you all looking at me..."

"You say that you want Auntie Li to be your mother! Do you think the big boss will let you off? It's one thing for you to eye her recipe, but you even dare to have designs on her mother! You're lucky that she didn't break your leg!" Zhao Fei said angrily.

"What! How can this be!" Wang Meng looked at Zhao Kai in shock.

Zhao Ming's family only wanted to know the recipe for Li Gui's popcorn or the method for frying the seeds, or even just the recipe for the braised meat would do! Knowing the secret to one of these items would be enough for them to live out the rest of their lives well!! think you should take a look at

As conniving as they were, they did not expect Zhao Liu's family to directly have designs on Li Gui. Zhao Liu had the same idea as his son. What was the point of trying so hard to get those women's secret recipes? They might as well just get hold of Li Gui! If they got their hands on this woman who knew how to make money, then would it not mean that everything would be theirs?

Zhao Liu had never been in direct contact with Li Gui and had never even met her before. However, he heard from Zhao Kai that she was divorced, had four children and owned a big house. If she became his wife, it was definitely no loss to him!

He had heard that the two boys among those children were about to reach adulthood. Did that not mean that they would be able to go out and earn money very soon? In addition, Li Gui had a daughter who married into a wealthy family. Life could only be good for him!

Zhao Liu did not seem too nasty and he was a hardworking and diligent man. However, he had a very bad habit. He loved to drink and would beat up women whenever he drank. In fact, he had beaten his first wife to death. If Li Gui married into Zhao Liu's family, things definitely would not end well for her.

"Xiao Fei, did that woman really say that she doesn't want to do business with us anymore?" Wang Meng asked regretfully.

"That's what she's saying for the time being. The other option is for me to do business with them myself and all of you can't get involved," Zhao Fei related to them everything which Qiao Mei said.

Only a fool would give up such a good business! However, what would happen to them if they could not earn money in the future? In order to work with Zhao Fei, Zhao Ming's eldest son, Zhao Tu, had even quit his job at the factory. He was not able to go back there now.

If they had to take this option, there was another way out for them.

After thinking about it, Zhao Liu asked, "Then... Xiao Fei, after you earn money while working with them in the future, how are you going to split the earnings?"

"What do you mean?" Zhao Fei asked with a frown.

"You can't be the only one getting such a good deal! Why should you go out alone to earn money and enjoy, while we suffer at home and can't even eat our fill! You have to share some of the money you earn with us!" Zhao Kai said shamelessly.

Chapter 1327 Hard To Earn Money

"You!" Zhao Fei was so angry that he could not speak. How could he have relatives who were like bloodsucking vampires! His father and mother might as well have taken him with them back then! It would have saved him the agony of having to live in this world!

"Xiao Fei, we've always treated you well. If you cast us aside, then you're really an ingrate! There'll be retribution!" Zhao Liu said.

"And our family as well! Our family has also helped you before. You can't forget our kindness!" Zhao Ming said hurriedly.

Zhao Fei had nothing to say to these people. The more he said, the worse it would get and they always had all kinds of reasons to rebut him. In the end, he could only silently agree to this arrangement.

At most... at most, he would also quit the business and idle around at home. As time passed, Zhao Liu and the others would not be able to stand it and would naturally chase him out. By then, he would be alone and carefree again.

If the storeroom remained filled with popcorn, as the humidity set in, it would not taste good and they would not be able to sell it. When Qian'e heard that Li Gui was in a bad mood, she quickly went over to stay with her for a period of time. With Qian'e by her side, Li Gui seemed to be in a happier mood.

"Auntie, why don't we go shopping! Let's go shopping at the mall! We can bring the children with us too!" Qian'e said with a smile.

The simplest way to cheer up an unhappy woman was to bring her shopping and buy lots of stuff! Most women liked to shop. As soon as they bought something they liked, all the unhappy things from before would disappear like smoke in the air.

"Mom! What's a mall?" Zhang Miao looked at Li Gui in puzzlement.

It was only then that Li Gui realized she had not taken a good look around after being in the capital for so long! All her waking hours only revolved around the business. It was a little too absurd that she did not know how to spend any of the money she had earned.

Her original goal of earning money was to give the children a better life. If she spent all her time being busy and did not have any time for the children, then the whole process of earning money seemed to have become quite meaningless.

"Alright! Let's bring the children to the mall today! Let's go and spend some money!" Li Gui said happily.

"Yay!!!" The four children cheered loudly. They even put on their new clothes which they usually could not bear to wear. Li Gui held the young Zhang Miao's hand while Qian'e walked with Zhang Qin. The two boys, Zhang Wei and Zhang Chao, ran boisterously in front. The family arrived at the shopping mall in a showy manner. I think you should take a look at

It was a workday and there were not many people in the mall. The bustling activity level of the Spring Festival was over and it was now back to a lull period. A sales assistant's eyes lit up when she saw Li Gui and her group. She stood at the door and kept asking Li Gui to go into the shop to take a look!

Zhang Qin's eyes were immediately drawn to the princess dress in the display window. She had never seen such a beautiful dress! If she wore this dress, could she turn into a princess from a fairy tale?

However, when she looked at the price tag, she realized that it cost 80 dollars.

This was such an astronomical price! Was this dress made of diamonds? Was it made of fabric weaved by fairies? Why was it so expensive?

"Xiao Qin, do you like it?" Qian'e asked softly when she saw Zhang Qin standing rooted to the spot.

Zhang Qin immediately shook her head against her will and said, "I don't like it. I just want to take a look. There's nothing special about these things."

Zhang Qin knew how difficult it was to earn money. In the past, when they were still in the village, she also had to go up the mountains to pick wild vegetables. Although she could only earn a few cents at that time, it was enough to make her happy for a long time. She did not know how long it would take her to earn 80 dollars! It was better not to buy it.

Qian'e wanted to enter the shop to buy the dress for Zhang Qin, but Zhang Qin hurriedly grabbed her and walked out. She did not expect such a tiny girl to have so much strength and could almost drag her down to the ground.

"Alright, alright. I get it that Xiao Qin doesn't like this dress. We won't buy it. Then what do you like? I'll buy it for you," Qian'e said.

"Mom says that I can't just casually accept gifts from other people. If I like something, I'll ask Mom to buy it for me," Zhang Qin said sensibly.

Qian'e patted Zhang Qin's head and her heart ached for the girl. When Qian'e was at Zhang Qin's age, she had no concept of money at all. Her family had always provided for her when it came to food and clothing. Ever since she was young, she had worn all kinds of gowns to perform in many different places.

Chapter 1328 Cannot Afford It

However, the reason why Zhao Ni was so willing to spend money on Qian'e was also because Qian'e was good at earning money. Every time she won a competition, she would get a generous award. The money she made would be enough for her family to spend for three months!

She was like the goose who could lay golden eggs! It was a pity that when Qian'e was young, she thought that those gestures were a sign of Zhao Ni's love for her.

παΠdasNovel.com "I'm not just some other person. I'm very good friends with your elder sister Qiao Mei, and your mother is very nice to me too. So you can think of me as your elder sister as well. Do you still consider me to be just some other person?" Qian'e squatted down and said patiently to Zhang Qin.

Zhang Qin thought for a moment and said, "No... You're my elder sister..."

"That's right! So Xiao Qin, just tell me what you want and I'll buy it for you. Don't stand on ceremony with me. We're family, do you understand?" Qian'e said with a smile.

"I understand now! But you can't spend money recklessly! All of you work so hard to earn money. You have to spend your money carefully and only buy things that have value," Zhang Qin said as she looked at Qian'e earnestly.

Qian'e laughed and touched the tip of Zhang Qin's nose as she asked, "You're still so young, but yet you make so much sense. Who told you all this?"

"Elder Sister Qiao Mei!" Zhang Qin yelled out proudly.

It was as expected of a child brought up by Qiao Mei. Her manner of speaking and doing things were simply carved from the same mold. The entire family was so quick-witted!

"Then do you know the meaning of value?" Qian'e threw the girl a new question.

Zhang Qin fell into deep thought again. She did not seem to know what it meant to refer to things of value and Qiao Mei had never explained it to her.

"I don't know..." Zhang Qin said honestly.

"You can think about it. We can discuss this again after you come up with an answer. Let's shop around first," Qian'e said.

In the end, they walked around the mall and left without buying anything. The same thing happened at the next mall. When they reached the last mall, Qian'e forcefully dragged Li Gui into a clothing shop and told Li Gui that she had to buy a set of clothes before she could leave.

Li Gui sat there quietly and watched Qian'e as she picked and chose the clothes. Li Gui tried on many pieces of clothing but was not satisfied. Either the price was too high or the style was too uncomfortable. In the end, the shop assistant became a little impatient.

"Auntie, try this! I think this color suits you very well! You'll definitely look younger wearing it!" Qian'e said. I think you should take a look at

"You can't try this one," the shop assistant said moodily.

"Can't try it? Why not?" Qian'e asked with a frown. She had never heard of such a rule. There was no such thing as clothes that could not be tried on. It was not as if these were someone else's tailored clothes.

"You just can't try it. This is the rule in our shop. Why don't you go to other shops to take a look," the shop assistant said.

Qian'e immediately understood what the shop assistant meant. Was she looking down on them and saying that they could not afford it?

"I don't want to leave this shop today. I just want to try on the clothes here. I also want to try the clothes piece by piece until I'm satisfied!" Qian'e said.

"Can you afford it? Don't dirty our clothes, otherwise you'll have to compensate us later! I'd advise you to go to the market opposite to take a look at the clothes there! You're not worthy of the clothes we have here!" the shop assistant said disdainfully.

Qian'e immediately became very worked up. She pointed at the shop assistant and said, "Where's the shop owner? Ask her to come out and talk to me!"

"The shop owner isn't around today! Even if you ask the owner to come, it's not going to make any difference!" the shop assistant said.

Another shop assistant wanted to come forward and stop her colleague from arguing, but just as she reached Qian'e, Qian'e grabbed hold of her and said, "You're also an employee of this shop, right?"

"Yes, Miss. Don't be angry. This is all a misunderstanding," the other shop assistant said politely.

"What's your name?" Qian'e asked.

"Miss, you can just call me Xiao Lu," Xiao Lu said.

"Alright, you can serve me. Pack up all the clothes that we tried on just now. I want to buy everything. I remember that you people have sales targets, right? All my purchases will count towards your sales target," Qian'e said generously.

Xiao Lu was still in a daze. Based on the shop's commission structure, she would earn a 1% commission from each piece of clothing she sold. If she could really sell so many pieces of clothing, her commission today could even exceed 100 dollars!

Chapter 1329 Getting Fired

"Tsk, you're just bragging. I've met so many people like you! One look and I can tell that you're not rich. The clothes in our shop are not cheap. The ones you tried just now add up to more than 2,000 dollars. Can you afford them? Stop putting on a pretense!" The shop assistant rolled her eyes and talked as if she was the shop owner.

"What does it have to do with you whether I buy the clothes or not! It's not like the amount will count towards your sales target. What a busybody." After saying that angrily, Qian'e turned to Xiao Lu and

said, "Go and ask the shop owner to come by. As long as you can get her to come to the shop, I'll buy these clothes and add the amount to your sales target. I always keep my promise."

Xiao Lu's eyes lit up and she quickly ran to the public phone booth near the door to make a phone call to the shop owner. The shop owner quickly rushed over from home, still wearing her slippers. It was a rare thing to have such a big client who would spend thousands of dollars in the shop. To her, people who could buy 500 dollars worth of clothing at one go were already considered very affluent.

While on her way, the shop owner even lost one of her slippers and ended up having to hobble into the shop.

"Oh! Isn't this Miss Qian! It's been such a long time! It's so rare for you to have the time to come to this place!" the shop owner said politely.

"Sister Fang! I'm still wondering who owns this shop. It turns out that you've moved on to prosper here," Qian'e said with a smile.

Qian'e was originally one of those young ladies from a rich family and had tailored countless gowns. In the past, she would often tailor her clothes at the shop where Sister Fang used to work. At that time, Sister Fang was still a junior shop assistant. Now, she was already a shop owner!

Time really passed quickly. Everyone had moved on and progressed in life.

"How is it that you have time to come to my shop? Do you find these clothes suitable for you?" Sister Fang asked.

With a look of dissatisfaction, Qian'e looked at the shop assistant who had rebutted her earlier and said, "I'm here today with my godmother to buy clothes, but who knows that your shop assistant won't let us try on the clothes. I thought that these are all tailored clothing!"

"How can that be! Go ahead and try whatever you like! Even if it's someone else's tailored clothing, I'll still give it to you!" Sister Fang said politely to Qian'e after giving the shop assistant a fierce glare.

"There's no need to try." Qian'e picked out a few pieces which she thought looked good on Li Gui as well as two pairs of shoes which suited Li Gui and then handed everything to Xiao Lu. "Count these toward your sales target. Wrap them all up for me."

"Miss Qian, you're still as generous as before. Xiao Lu! Wrap them up nicely for Miss Qian!" Sister Fang smiled so widely that wrinkles appeared at the corners of her eyes. "I think you should take a look at

Qian'e took a nonchalant glance at the shop assistant who argued with her. Sister Fang immediately understood what Qian'e meant. Although she did not know where Qian'e was working now, based on how freely Qian'e spent her money on clothes which cost nearly 1,000 dollars today, it was enough to prove that Qian'e was doing very well now.

"You don't have to come to work tomorrow! You can leave after handing over your work to Xiao Lu today," Sister Fang said sternly.

The shop assistant immediately said, "Sister Fang! Don't chase me away. It's all my fault! I won't do it again in the future! Please forgive me. I still need money to take care of my elders at home!"

"What's the use of begging me? You've offended a client, so I can't let you stay!" Sister Fang said firmly.

The shop assistant immediately came to Qian'e and said, "Miss Qian, I'm sorry! I'm so ignorant to not recognize you earlier. I shouldn't be so stuck up as to look down on you. Please be magnanimous and let me off. I won't ever do it again."

Qian'e was not that kind-hearted. She was not magnanimous enough to forgive everyone who had hurt her. As adults, people must be responsible for what they did and must pay the price for their mistakes.

"Rather than spend your time begging me here, you might as well go to another shop to find a new job. I don't have that much time to waste on you. Sister Fang, are my clothes ready?" Qian'e asked.

"Yes, yes! We've wrapped it all up for you!" Sister Fang brought the clothes over enthusiastically.

After Qian'e paid, she left the mall arrogantly with Li Gui and the children, as if she had just won a battle and stepped on all those people who looked down on her in the past.

"Xiao'e, will that kid really get fired?" Li Gui asked worriedly.

"I don't know. If she gets fired, then she has brought it on herself. Auntie, don't worry about her. If she cannot withstand this outcome, then why provoke me in the first place?" Qian'e said.

Chapter 1330 Wait For Me To Come Back

Li Gui already treated Qian'e like her own daughter and she trusted that whatever Qian'e said would always make sense. Why could Qian'e want to harm her?

She had always been bullied in the past because she was too soft-hearted. One could not always just let things be and she must change her habit of being too kind-hearted.

Although it was a good thing for Qiao Mei and her team to have settled the issue with Zhao Fei, it did not bring her any happiness. It was almost time for Xia Zhe to return to the army. The days had flown by unknowingly and it was already more than a month since he came back.

"Do you really have to go back? Then I'll have to take care of the children on my own..." Qiao Mei looked at Xia Zhe aggrievedly.

"Be good. I'll be back soon after this mission. If everything goes well, I'll try my best to come back within a month, is that alright?" Xia Zhe said as he hugged Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei did not believe what Xia Zhe said! He had never managed to come back within a month. He only said that to pacify her every time! Qiao Mei was actually just throwing a tantrum so that Xia Zhe would dote on her more for now. She knew that she had to look at the bigger picture and should not delay Xia Zhe from going back to work.

As usual, she packed Xia Zhe's luggage this time round. The medicinal wine she gave him the last time had been too eye-catching and attracted envious looks too easily. This time, Qiao Mei had bought two

small metal bottles from the antique market. They were each about the size of a thumb and Xia Zhe could carry them around conveniently.

The liquid inside was also different from the previous batches. Recently, Qiao Mei had accidentally discovered that she could extract red-colored juice from the ginsengs, which looked like fresh blood. However, she was not sure how old the ginseng needed to be for this kind of juice to be extracted and she also did not succeed every time she tried. Sometimes, it was still the same golden color as before. She had to try around 20 times before she managed to get one or two drops of red liquid.

However, she was sure that this red ginseng juice was definitely more effective than the golden ginseng juice. Xia Zhe already knew that the ginseng juice could even bring people back from the dead, so Qiao Mei did not hide anything from him.

"I used an extraction method that I found from studying ancient books. The medicinal effect is better than the previous types. You have to keep it well in case of emergencies. You can't take it out unless you're in danger, do you understand?" Qiao Mei said as she stared into Xia Zhe's eyes.

She simply came up with a random reason as a form of explanation. If she really could not convince him, she would just say that it was a method passed down from her ancestors and that Xia Zhe could check with Qiao Qiang if he wished. She believed that Xia Zhe would not really go to Qiao Qiang to refute it.

"Alright, whatever you say. I'll definitely carry it next to me," Xia Zhe said.

"You can't give it to others, not even if they're in danger. This is only for you, do you remember! If you let others use it, I'll be very annoyed with you!" Qiao Mei said. I think you should take a look at

"Yes, yes, yes. I know. I'll definitely listen to my wife and won't do anything that you disallow," Xia Zhe agreed.

"That's good. If I find out that you lied to me, you can forget about coming home from now on!" Qiao Mei pouted and said with a furious look.

Qiao Mei was not such a heartless person for sure. How could Xia Zhe watch his brothers-in-arms die of their injuries? Qiao Mei had also prepared a big bottle of diluted 100-year-old ginseng juice for him. She

knew that Xia Zhe would definitely not be able to hold himself back from saving other people, so she might as well prepare a share for those people as well!

Xia Zhe hugged Qiao Mei tightly in his arms. This was the first time he had stayed by Qiao Mei's side for so long, and also the first time he felt the warmth of home. Furthermore, it was not the home he shared with his parents, but his own home.

It was such a blissful thing to have his wife and children by his side. He really could not bear to leave this place.

"Once my mission is over, should I come back to the capital and work here?" Xia Zhe asked.

"Are you willing to give up your title of 'top army warrior'? If you return to the capital, won't you have to take up a civilian position and end up like Second Uncle? Are you willing to do that?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

He was actually unwilling.

However, he would make this choice for his family. If he was still the old him, he would definitely want to perform well on the battlefield and be like Xia Jun, fighting bravely at the front line until the end.

Yet he knew the kind of trauma that would bring to his family and children. He also did not want Xia Fan and Xia Xing to go through what he had experienced when he was young.

"Who says that I can only take up a civilian position when I come back? Don't worry, I'll be back when the mission is over," Xia Zhe said with a smile.

The two of them hugged each other in the courtyard as they looked at the stars in the sky. This was actually the first time they spent such a quiet moment together.