

Fat Wife 1381

Chapter 1381 Go Find Someone Else

Xu Kang stood helplessly beside Shao Yin and looked at the women quietly. She waited for them to finish exploring the courtyard before she led them to the living room.

The moment Shao Yin saw Qiao Mei, she immediately put on a troubled expression, as if she had suffered a huge grievance. She looked completely different from the person who was chatting and laughing in the courtyard just now.

"What's wrong with you, Sister Shao Yin? Why do you look so sad in broad daylight? Can it be that something has happened at home?" Xia He said sarcastically.

If one of the Shao family's elders passed away, then the Shao family would have to observe a mourning period of three years and none of the family members would be able to get married in those three years! If so, then Xia Xing could find another person who was more pleasing to the eye. That would be great news. Since Xia Xing was not interested in anyone, then it did not matter who he was forced to marry in the end.

It would be good if Shao Le were to marry Xia Xing instead of Shao Yin. Shao Le looked like a gentle and quiet person and she seemed to have a good heart. She was a hundred times better than Shao Yin.

"Second Cousin, you said the last time that we're all family, so I won't hide anything from you. My parents have come to the capital and I don't know where they can stay during this period of time, so I have come to discuss this issue with Second Cousin and Third Sister-in-law," Shao Yin said softly.

It was Qiao Mei who had passed that remark. Xia He would never treat Shao Yin as part of her family! All this while, the third son's family had always behaved very selfishly towards the eldest son's family and did a lot of plotting behind everyone's backs. It was wishful thinking if they thought that she would treat the third son's family as one family!

Shao Yin seemed to have remembered a lot of the pleasantries which they said to her, but conveniently forgot that they had also told her not to have designs on Qiao Mei's house!

Xia He turned to look at Qiao Mei. It was just like she had guessed. Shao Yin and the others were here because of the house. They knew that it was useless to waste their breath on the Xia family members, so they had come round to target the soft-hearted Qiao Mei. They were really too much!

"Is the house that my eldest brother rents for you not enough to house all of you? I seem to recall that it won't be a problem to house another four or five people there," Xia He said.

"But it's not just my parents who are here... There are also other relatives and friends..." Shao Yin said cautiously.

"Then just let them stay in a guest house for the time being. Go to the best and most expensive guest house in the capital," Xia He said indifferently.

Firstly, she was not the one paying for it. Secondly, she just wanted to get rid of Shao Yin as soon as possible so that Shao Yin could not cause trouble for Qiao Mei and her. As long as the matter was resolved, she could leave the rest to Xia Xing.

"I... There are more than 40 people from my family here. I wonder if the best guest house in the capital can accommodate so many people..." Shao Yin said embarrassedly.

Qiao Mei and Xia He looked at Shao Yin in shock. Xia He asked again in disbelief, "How many people?"

"More than 40 people..." Shao Yin said.

Just as Xia He was about to flare up, Qiao Mei patted her hand and said, "Elder Sister, have a drink first. You must be thirsty after talking so much."

Shao Yin could not tell what Qiao Mei was trying to do and thought that Qiao Mei wanted to help her. She quickly said, "Third Cousin-in-law, you have to save me! Only you can save me now."

"Me? What can a woman who doesn't have a job and only takes care of her children at home do for you?" Qiao Mei said.

"Before I came to the capital, I already heard that Third Cousin-in-law is the most capable person in the entire Xia family! Third Cousin-in-law, you don't have to be so humble. Please save me. I'll definitely repay you in the future!" Shao Yin said firmly.

"You're really flattering me. I don't have any good ideas. You can go and look for Third Uncle. After all, he's your father-in-law and he knows the people who run the best guest houses in the capital. Don't worry about the money. The Xia family will pay for it of course," Qiao Mei said gently.

Shao Yin said all that in the hope that Qiao Mei would let them stay in the corn courtyard house for the time being. Qiao Mei would not fall for it. If she really lent the place to Shao Yin, Xia Jun would get so angry that he might even fall sick. It had not been easy for him to reject helping his third son. If Qiao Mei indiscriminately helped them right on the heels of that, then Xia Jun would have wasted all his efforts!

Qiao Mei was not a fool. A mere Shao Yin was not her match.

"But... can that place really accommodate everyone in our family?" Shao Yin said worriedly.

"I think so. Go and talk to Third Uncle. I still have to take care of the two children, so I won't keep you here any longer," Qiao Mei said.

"What's the meaning of this? We haven't been here for long and you're already chasing us away. You haven't even served us any food," Bian Jiu muttered softly.

Chapter 1382 Not A Family

Qiao Mei and Xia He were not deaf. They could hear what Bian Jiu said, but they did not necessarily have to do as Bian Jiu said. It was already good enough for the three women to get the chance to come in, so they were dreaming if they wanted to stay for a meal!

Shao Yin looked at Qiao Mei without moving and it did not look like she had any intention of leaving. Xia He said in exasperation, "There's nothing else we can do about this and there's no point in you begging us here. You should go and look for Xia Xing!"

Unexpectedly, Shao Yin knelt down with a loud plop and almost broke Qiao Mei's marble floor tiles. These floor tiles were one size bigger than ordinary floor tiles and had different patterns from the ordinary ones. They were all rare materials which Xia Wen found and each piece was custom-made. If the tiles really broke, Qiao Mei might even want to kill Shao Yin!

Xia He closed her eyes and pretended not to see anything. If Shao Yin liked to kneel, then Xia He would let her kneel for as long as she wanted!

"Second Cousin! Third Cousin-in-law! Please help me! I'm really at my wits' end!" Shao Yin cried.

"Are you going to force Shao Yin to her grave! She's already begging you like this! What else do you want! Our Shao family's daughter doesn't have to worry about not being able to get married! Why does she need to suffer such grievances after she marries into your Xia family!" Bian Jiu pointed at Xia He and Qiao Mei and yelled at them angrily. The loud noise caused the two children sleeping soundly in the next room to wail loudly and Qiao Mei immediately heard their cries.

"Then don't marry Xia Xing. Find someone else to marry!" Xia He retorted.

"You!" Before Bian Jiu could continue, Qiao Mei smacked the table and said, "Did we force her to beg us! Did we force her to kneel! Instead of going to Xia Xing and Third Uncle, you come to my house! Do you think you're behaving reasonably!"

It had been a long time since Xia He had seen Qiao Mei like this. Qiao Mei did not want to quarrel with them. Ever since she became a mother, she had been very gentle. However, whenever she saw the two children crying, she would feel as if her heart was being fiercely squeezed by someone.

It was very difficult to coax Xia Xing to sleep. Even though she had already dropped her habit of needing someone to hug her to sleep, she was still a little harder to wait upon than Xia Fan.

"You... Aren't you Xia Xing's relatives! Why can't we look for you!" Bian Jiu stammered.

"Then I have to ask you. Did you tell the Xia family in advance that the Shao family members are coming to the capital? Was the date fixed? Who did you tell in the Xia family? Give me all the details!" Xia He questioned. I think you should take a look at

Shao Yin whispered, "I did... I told Xia Xing..."

At this moment, she could only blame everything on Xia Xing. Looking at how Qiao Mei and Xia He reacted, she might not even be able to walk out of Qiao Mei's house otherwise.

She just wanted to put some pressure on Qiao Mei. However, she not only did not manage to do that, but had even made Qiao Mei angry now.

Previously, every time she saw Qiao Mei, Qiao Mei was always smiling and speaking very gently to others. Shao Yin thought that Qiao Mei was someone who did not get angry and was a pushover. She did not expect to see this side of Qiao Mei today.

"Then go and look for whoever you've told! If he can't make the proper arrangements, why are you here to look for us? Although we're all from the Xia family, there's still a difference! We're from the eldest son's family and you're from the third son's family. If you want to ask our family for help, you have to ask the head of our family, either my father or my eldest brother! What's the meaning of coming to look for us privately? Is this how your family behaves!" Xia He said.

Even if the entire matter ended up being a mess, it was the third son's family who would feel embarrassed. As the eldest son's family members, they had already done their best to be kind. How much more did they need to do before the Shao and Zhou families would feel satisfied!

"They're all men! How can we go and look for them!" Bian Jiu said.

"Then is my mother-in-law sick? Even if it's not convenient for you to speak to the men, my mother-in-law is still the head of the womenfolk. Don't use these lame excuses on us. We've already told you how to resolve this matter. Either you do as we say or get lost! Don't be an eyesore here!" Qiao Mei pointed at the door and roared.

Bian Jiu was so frightened by the imposing manner with which Qiao Mei and Xia He spoke. The three women scrambled out of Qiao Mei's house and ran into the distance. They only dared to stop after running for a long time.

After they left, the children's cries became much softer. Feng Hua coaxed them for a while before they fell asleep again. Fortunately, this matter did not affect the children much.

Chapter 1383 Being Supportive

Li Gui had told Qiao Mei before that if a child got a fright, it was very likely to cause a high fever. Some children might even get convulsions! There were even fatal cases! Taking care of children was not a small matter and one had to be especially careful.

Young children were very fragile and would fall sick easily. The adults had to be especially careful.

"Look, this is the end result of you insisting on letting them enter the house! This family is not an easy one to deal with!" Xia He said angrily.

Qiao Mei sat on the chair and sighed. As the saying went, curiosity killed the cat. In the future, she would not be curious about these things anymore. Her curiosity had caused her a lot of trouble!

"I'll listen to you from now on, alright? How would I know that they'd behave so inappropriately? I'm so shocked," Qiao Mei said aggrievedly.

"There are more than 40 people here. Is she going to move all the Shao family members from the village to the capital? You can't let them move into the corn courtyard house. Who knows if they will ever leave after they move in. Perhaps they have come here with the intention of settling down in the capital!" Xia He said.

"I'll remember that. Should we call home? What if they really go to trouble Mother?" Qiao Mei said with a frown.

"There's Luo Yu at Mother's place. Father has long issued an instruction not to let anyone enter the house. We are among the few who are allowed to go in," Xia He said.

"What exactly is Zhou Luo thinking? Why would she introduce such a person to Brother Xing," Qiao Mei said.

"Who knows! Isn't she like another version of my ex-sister-in-law? She's not going to be easy to get along with in the future. They shouldn't have let Xia Xing return to the capital. There will definitely be more troublesome matters in the future!" Xia He said melancholically.

"Sigh... Let's continue talking about the schools..." Qiao Mei picked up the introductory booklets from the various schools and continued the discussion with Xia He. Even if she chose this school, the children might not be able to study there. There was still the entrance examination at the school! If they did not have the aptitude, they might not even be able to pass the entrance examination.

After Shao Yin sent Bian Jiu home, she secretly ran out with Shao Le to look for her parents. The two of them quietly slipped into the guest house while doing their best to avoid Shao Chun and Shao Tu.

"What took you so long! It's already getting dark! What does the Xia family say? Are we supposed to continue staying here?" Shao Zhuang asked as he grabbed Shao Yin's wrist.

Shao Yin frowned and said unhappily, "Dad! You're hurting me!"

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry! I'm just too anxious!" Shao Zhuang quickly let go and asked, "Do you have any news?"

"No... Xia Xing just started work at the workplace unit recently and is very busy there. My father-in-law is in the same situation as Xia Xing," Shao Yin said with a sigh. She did not intend to hide anything from her parents. Anyway, Bian Duo and Zhou Luo knew each other. It would be useless for Shao Yin to lie.

"Is there no one else in the Xia family who can take care of this matter?" Shao Zhuang asked.

"They're all very busy and have no time for me! Zhou Hua has already divorced my father-in-law. Who else can I look for now! I can't go to my father-in-law to talk about these family matters," Shao Yin said angrily.

Back then, Bian Duo and the others were the ones who forced her to marry Xia Xing. They kept telling her how powerful the Xia family was, but now? It was completely different from what they had said back then! Now that something had happened, everyone was questioning her like it was her fault. She was the real victim here!

"The Xia family is really terrible! Zhou Luo is the one who urged us to marry our daughter to Xia Xing, but now they're making my precious daughter suffer all kinds of grievances! It's too much!" Shao Zhuang said.

"You're still blaming the Xia family! Why didn't you tell me in advance that you were coming to the capital! You even brought so many people with you. How do you expect me to make the arrangements!" Shao Yin said angrily.

"You said that you're living in a big house in the capital, so that's why I brought so many people to come and show their support for you! Why are you blaming us for coming!" Bian Duo said unhappily.

Shao Le stood up and said, "Everyone, calm down. Let's think about what to do next. There's no use talking about who's the one responsible as it won't solve any problems."

Shao Zhuang walked forward and gave Shao Le a slap. Shao Yin and Bian Duo pretended not to see anything, as if they were already used to such things.

"Wretched girl! You've been staying here for so many days, did you even speak up for your younger sister! You still want to teach us what to do! Get lost! Don't be an eyesore here!" Shao Zhuang said disdainfully.

Chapter 1384 Embarrassing

"That's right. At this moment, you're so talkative and have so many ideas! If not for Shao Yin saying that she wants you to come to the capital to accompany her, you'd still be farming at home! What a jinx!" Bian Duo said as she rolled her eyes.

"I'm sorry..." Shao Le said as she covered her face. After saying that, she hid in a corner and did not make a sound, afraid that she would attract the attention of Shao Zhuang and Bian Duo and get beaten up again.

The reason why Shao Le was not well-liked in the Shao family was because she was not the couple's biological daughter. After Bian Duo married Shao Zhuang, she had not been able to get pregnant and everyone in the village gossiped behind her back. The couple had originally planned to adopt a child, but by chance, they found a basket at the entrance of the village with a small baby inside.

It was as if the heavens had heard their wish and granted them a daughter,

Later on, after asking around, they found out about a family with many children living in the neighboring village. The woman had died after giving birth to this child. When her husband saw that the child was a girl, he threw her away. There were already too many people in the family and he could not afford to feed her, so he abandoned her.

In the first few years, Shao Zhuang and Bian Duo doted on Shao Le very much and gave Shao Le all kinds of delicious food. The two of them would rather go hungry so that they could let Shao Le eat her fill.

Unexpectedly, after five years with Shao Le, Bian Duo suddenly became pregnant. The two of them treated the new baby like a treasure and it did not matter even when it turned out to be a daughter. After that, Bian Duo never became pregnant again. Shao Zhuang saw Shao Yin as his only child so he naturally doted on her more.

After the two children grew up, Shao Zhuang and Bian Duo would leave them alone at home when they went out to work. As the elder sister, Shao Le was supposed to take good care of her younger sister. However, Shao Yin was a naughty kid and one time, she fell after tripping over a stone when Shao Le was not paying attention. The wound on her knee bled a lot and there was still a big scar there until now.

Shao Zhuang and Bian Duo resented Shao Le for this matter and often hit her after that. At that time, Shao Yin was still young and did not understand why. Even when Shao Yin stopped Shao Zhuang and Bian Duo from bullying Shao Le, they would just treat Shao Le even worse the next time. As time passed, Shao Yin accepted it as the norm.

"Have you found out all the details about the Xia family? I think Xia Xing's status in the Xia family is not as good as what Zhou Luo said! Look at the vehicle he came in to pick us up!" Shao Zhuang said.

Shao Zhuang had imagined that the entire Xia family would be at the train station to pick them up. The cars they prepared would be small sedans, just like those cars in television dramas. It would be so grand to have more than 10 cars arriving at the train station to pick them up!

He did not expect Xia Xing to come in a big private bus to pick them up. The seats in the bus were narrow and cramped and there was even a weird smell. It was extremely embarrassing! After that, Xia Xing even sent them to such a lousy guest house!

Last night, he had heard Shao Chun and Shao Tu talking about his family, saying that Shao Yin did not marry well and that Shao Zhuang was just bragging about the grandeur of the Xia family.

"Back then, who was the one who told me that Xia Xing was the eldest son of the Xia family's third son! That all the good things would be given to the eldest son first! It's all lies! The Xia family's eldest son is the most capable among them all and not all eldest sons have it good!" Shao Yin said angrily.

"Don't be angry. I also don't know this about Xia Xing. Back then, Zhou Luo even guaranteed that everything she said was true! That as long as you marry Xia Xing, you will definitely live a good life in the future. Otherwise, how can I bear to let you marry into such a family," Bian Duo said with heartache.

"So... what's going on with the Xia family? Did Zhou Luo lie to us?" Shao Zhuang asked.

"Not entirely. It's just that everything Zhou Luo said is about the eldest son's family. Every one of his three children is outstanding! The eldest son is the government director in charge of the economic market, the second daughter is a lead actress in the art troupe, and the third son is doing very well in the army. I hear that he's the top army warrior every year. The third son's wife is the most outstanding. She lives alone in a siheyuan courtyard house which looks extremely imposing," Shao Yin said enviously.

"Then... about the eldest son you mentioned. Is he married?" Bian Duo asked.

Indeed, a mother knew her child best. Shao Yin's eyes had lit up when she talked about these things. Since the third son of this family was already married, Shao Yin must have taken a fancy to the eldest son!

"He's divorced..." Shao Yin said shyly.

Chapter 1385 Create Opportunities

Bian Duo clapped her hands excitedly and said, "This is a good thing! Since Xia Xing is so useless, why don't you just marry that eldest son? It really doesn't matter who you marry!"

"What are you saying! Xia Xing and I are about to get married. How can I be with Xia Wen!" Shao Yin said as she looked at Bian Duo in disbelief.

"Your mother is right! You are only about to get married, so that means it's not official yet, right? Since you're not officially married yet, then you can still try. He's single and you're not married yet. Isn't this a match made in heaven?" Shao Zhuang said agitatedly.

This was really a whole new interpretation of the phrase "a match made in heaven"...

"But... but how do I get close to Xia Wen? He doesn't even want to see me now. Even if I want to, I don't stand any chance," Shao Yin said while blushing.

"Silly child! Opportunities can always be created! Since Xia Xing is useless, then let's find someone else. We've already endured the experience of staying in this lousy guest house. You must think of a way to be with Xia Wen! Do you understand?" Shao Zhuang said.

Shao Yin nodded shyly. Since her parents had already told her to go ahead, why would she still need to hesitate? However, she did not know how to get close to Xia Wen. If there was really no other way, she would go to Qiao Mei's house and wait at the main door every day and night. At some point, she would bump into Xia Wen when he went to visit the children.

"My daughter, even as you try to get close to Xia Wen, you have to consider Xia Xing's feelings. In the event that Xia Wen is too stubborn to accept you, then you won't find yourself being disadvantaged! Don't throw away the apple in your hand before you harvest the watermelon. If you lose both the watermelon and the apple, that would be a massive loss!" Bian Duo said.

"I'll remember that. I won't let you down," Shao Yin said firmly.

"Alright, you'd better go back now. There's no need for your elder sister to go with you. It's useless for her to be there anyway. She'll stay here with us," Shao Zhuang said impatiently.

Shao Yin took a long glance at Shao Le in the corner and then quietly ran out of the guest house. She did not go home immediately but walked towards Xia Wen's workplace. Xia Xing had mentioned the address to her before and she found the place by asking for directions.

"This place is so imposing..." Shao Yin stood at the entrance of Xia Wen's workplace in a daze.

Xia Wen's office was at the government headquarters in the capital. The main entrance naturally looked more grandiose and was much bigger than those district government office buildings.

Shao Yin carefully memorized all the decorative details on the main door. She wanted to describe it to Shao Chun and the others about it next time! She must make them feel envious of her. Still deep in thought, Shao Yin walked towards the entrance to enter the building. When the security officers saw that, they immediately stopped her.

"Who are you! How can you come in as you wish!" the security officer said.

"Oh! Do I need to register? I'm Xia Wen's family member and I'm here to see him," Shao Yin said instinctively.

When she went to Xu Lan's house the last time, she had to register at the main gate. At first, she thought that it was such a troublesome thing. However, now that she thought about it, this was actually a status symbol. Only powerful people would need to have such a cumbersome registration method at the place they lived. Seeing it this way, Shao Yin did not find it troublesome anymore. Instead, she felt that it was a symbol of glory.

"This is not a building where you can enter just by registering. Come with me." The security officer brought Shao Yin to the security booth and left her outside the door. He knew what Xia Wen's wife looked like and this woman was definitely not his wife. This person was behaving so sneakily at the main door just now. There must be something fishy going on!

The security officer made a call to Xia Wen's secretary and said, "Report, there's a woman at the door who says that she's Director Xia's family member. I'm calling to check if you're expecting anyone."

"Family member? Director Xia is in a meeting now. He has instructed that he will not see anyone, including people from his family. Please ask her to go back. It's not a convenient time now," Xia Wen's secretary said.

"Alright, I understand." The security officer hung up the phone and turned to Shao Yin. "I'm sorry, Director Xia is not free. You may wish to come again another day."

At the Xia family residence, he had found all kinds of reasons to avoid her. Now that she was at his workplace, he was not free. Could it be that she had really done something unforgivable and made him angry?

Shao Yin wanted to barge in, but when she saw that there were another two people in police uniforms inside the security booth, she hesitated. If they arrested her and put her in the detention center, she did not know what Shao Chun and the others would say about her when they found out!

It was better to play safe. If she could not achieve her goal today, she could come back another day!

Chapter 1386 Rich And Willful

After the meeting ended, Xia Wen returned to his dormitory to pack his things. Some time ago, his superiors had approved his application for a house. Xia Wen had specially chosen a place that was very close to Qiao Mei's house. He heard from his superior that the house had three bedrooms and a living room. It was very spacious and the layout was basically similar to Xia Fang's house.

This house was not given to him for free. He had to fork out 40% of his monthly salary to cover the cost of this house for five years. After five years, this house would completely belong to him.

He could also choose to pay a lump sum of 3,000 dollars and the house would immediately belong to him. The total amount would work out to be around the same no matter which payment option he chose.

Now that his workplace unit had allocated a house to him, he could not continue staying at the dormitory. Xia Wen wanted to do some renovations to the house before moving in. In that case, he would have to make do by staying at Xu Lan's place for the time being.

The most important thing now was to knock off and visit the two babies. He had not been to Qiao Mei's place for a long time.

"Director Xia, someone wanted to barge in to see you just now, but was stopped by the security officers. Be careful when you get off work later," Xia Wen's secretary said.

Xia Wen was stunned for a moment. Some time ago, he had taken Qiao Mei's advice and instructed his secretary not to let anyone come in to look for him. He did not expect Qiao Mei to be right about this.

"Alright, you should go back earlier too," Xia Wen said in a kind manner.

The people who worked under Xia Wen all felt very blessed. They all liked Xia Wen's personality very much. Working until Xia Wen meant receiving difficult assignments at times, but no matter how tough the assignments were, they would try their best to do their work well. This just proved to show how charismatic Xia Wen was.

On the other hand, Xia Xing was a complete mess. Every day, he was either being scolded or about to be scolded. He did not do a single thing that earned him praises or commendations. In fact, he could not even complete the most basic tasks.

Xia Wen asked the Xia family's chauffeur to drive into the office compound to pick him up and send him home. There were packages of all sizes on the floor around him. Some packages were beautifully wrapped, while others were cloth bags which obviously contained clothing items.

When they arrived at Qiao Mei's house, the chauffeur and Xia Wen walked in with all these things. During this period of time, Qiao Mei had bought the house next door to use as a garage. Qian'e felt that it was such a pity to do that. It was such a waste to tear down such a nice house and build a garage in its place!

Qiao Mei did not think that it was a big deal. Although the siheyuan courtyard houses would become very valuable in a few decades' time, they would have been in disrepair for a long time by then and people would not be able to live in this alley anymore. There was still a long way to go before the relocation exercise. It would be better to just buy all the houses and renovate them nicely so as to ensure that they could live comfortably here. I think you should take a look at

If they ever became affected by the relocation exercise, they would receive a lot of money as compensation. No matter what, they would not suffer any losses.

There was nothing anyone could do about it. She was rich! And willful!

It was not a problem for her to buy all the siheyuan courtyard houses in this area if she wanted.

"Eldest Brother! How is it that you can find time to come here! I thought you had forgotten about the children!" Xia He leaned against the door frame and teased him.

"Nonsense! Even if I forget everything, I won't forget Xia Fan and Xia Xing! I've gone on a business trip recently and it's been so busy at work since I came back. I don't have any time to rest at all and I don't even have much time to sleep. Don't tease me anymore. Just let me in to take a look at the children!" Xia Wen walked into the room after saying that.

Xia Fan was still sleeping soundly on the cot, but Xia Xing widened her eyes and looked at Xia Wen excitedly. She kept babbling non-stop and moving non-stop.

"Qiao Mei! Come and look at Xia Xing! She keeps crying when I hug her. But when Eldest Brother comes in, she's all smiles. If she can speak, she will definitely call Eldest Brother by his name!" Xia He said, feeling jealous.

Perhaps Xia He just did not have much luck with children. She was not popular with the children from all the different families. When she was young, she did not have many friends who wanted to play with her. It was only after she grew up that she had a better relationship with other people of her age.

In the past, Wu Min was worried about this matter for a long time. How could a child not have any playmate? However, when she saw that Xia He was very happy being alone, she did not dwell on this matter anymore.

"Then you should buy more toys for my two darlings. This way, they might remember you too," Qiao Mei said slyly.

"It's not that I don't have money to buy toys, but look at the amount of things Eldest Brother bought! If I buy more, your house won't be able to fit all of them!" Xia He said as she pointed at Xia Wen's bags.

Chapter 1387 Are You Going To Kill Her

During Xia Wen's recent business trip, he bought many things for the children every time he reached a new place. As he bought more and more things, he could not even fit them all in his luggage. His colleagues had to help him by packing most of the things in their luggage.

Many people thought that Xia Wen had an illegitimate child! It was only later that they found out it was his younger brother who had children.

"These are all things which other people recommended to me. They say that children of this age like to play with these things. Qiao Mei previously mentioned that children grow up very quickly, so I have also bought some toys for them to play with in the future. From now on, I'll be in charge of supplying all your children's toys!" Xia Wen said excitedly as he held onto the toys.

Qiao Mei rummaged through the toys on the floor. Most of them were new toys from overseas and there were also a few high-end toys made domestically. These needed to be reserved in advance. She guessed that Xia Wen had spent a lot of money on these toys.

When Xia Wen was born, the Xia family was only starting to make a mark. There was not a lot of money to spare and it was already good enough that he could go to school. He was often envious of other children who had toys to play with. Every time he passed by a toy shop, he would lean against the display window to look at the toys inside.

He knew that life was tough for his family and they could not afford to buy him toys, so he had never proactively asked for anything. At that time, Xia Mao and Xu Lan were very busy with their careers and did not have time to take care of him and Xia He.

Fortunately, Xia Jun knew how to make all kinds of toys. In particular, the slingshot he made was even sturdier than the ones sold in the toy shop. Even now, Xia Wen still kept all these toys with him.

"Eldest Brother, children don't need so many toys at this age. You don't have to buy so many for them. When the children are older, I'll hire another helper to take care of them separately. You can buy more toys then," Qiao Mei said.

At this age, the two babies just ate and slept most of the time and it was still easy to coax them. In particular, Xia Fan slept a lot. Some time ago, Qiao Mei even felt worried that there might be something wrong with Xia Fan's brain. After going to the hospital for a checkup, the doctor said that this was a normal phenomenon. Only then did Qiao Mei feel relieved.

Once the two children learned how to climb, Feng Hua would not be able to take care of them on her own anymore. At that time, the factory would have just been completed and there would be many things that Qiao Mei had to deal with. Other than Qiao Qiang, there was no one else in the house.

"Qiao Mei, have you considered bringing the children back for Mother to take care of when they're older?" Xia Wen asked.

Xu Lan really wanted to take care of her grandchildren personally, but she was too embarrassed to tell Qiao Mei. Firstly, she did not know how to raise the issue. Secondly, Qiao Mei did not lack money at all and it was not a problem for her to hire a few more helpers to take care of the children. In the end, she did not talk to Qiao Mei about it. Xia Wen only found out about Xu Lan's wish when he overheard a conversation between Xu Lan and Liu Fen. I think you should take a look at

"We'll see how it goes when the time comes. I still hope that I can take care of them myself. If I really don't have the time, then I'll ask Mother to come over and help," Qiao Mei said.

This thought had really never crossed her mind. Even though Xu Lan was very nice to her now, Xu Lan was not her own mother after all. She still felt a little embarrassed to ask Xu Lan for help. However, she would keep what Xia Wen said in mind and consider it carefully.

"Eldest Brother, has any Shao family member gone to look for you recently?" Xia He probed.

"I don't know. Even if they try, they won't be able to find me. Did something happen at home?" Xia Wen asked as he turned to look at Xia He.

Xia He was about to start complaining to Xia Wen when Qiao Mei covered Xia He's mouth and said, "It's nothing serious. Eldest Brother, you can go and play with Xia Fan and Xia Xing first. Stay for dinner later!"

"Sure," Xia Wen said as he shook his head helplessly. He did not know what these two were up to, so he did not probe further. When it was time for him to know, they would naturally tell him.

Qiao Mei dragged Xia He back to her bedroom. It was rare for Xia Wen to be able to relax so she did not want to disturb him with these trivial matters at home. It was not as if they could not handle these things themselves.

"Why didn't you let me tell Eldest Brother? The earlier I tell him, the earlier he can be prepared!" Xia He pouted and said.

"It's useless even if he's prepared. As long as Shao Yin is still eyeing Eldest Brother, it's useless no matter where he hides! We might as well target the Shao family directly!" Qiao Mei said huffily.

Target? Xia He widened her eyes and looked at Qiao Mei. She said nervously, "You... Don't tell me you want to kill her... It's not like she did anything heinous! Xia Fan and Xia Xing are completely fine and did not get sick out of fright. I think you should spare her."

Chapter 1388 Three Versions of the Architectural Plan

Qiao Mei looked at Xia He and laughed loudly. "What are you thinking about! How can I do something illegal? I just want the Shao family to be obedient and not cause trouble everywhere. It's not what you think. Do you really think of me as such a ruthless person?"

Xia He did not know if Qiao Mei was ruthless or not, but when the Shao family members woke Xia Fan and Xia Xing up, the look in Qiao Mei's eyes was murderous indeed.

"That's good..." Xia He heaved a sigh of relief and continued, "You say you want the Shao family to be obedient, but what's the difference between that and Eldest Brother wanting the Tan family to be obedient back then? Unless Xia Xing marries someone else, there won't be any positive outcome."

"We'll see. The Shao family might not be as insensible as you think. What if they become obedient after this matter?" Qiao Mei said.

After dinner that night, Xia Wen was going to leave Qiao Mei's place and return to Xu Lan's house. After Qiao Mei found out about Xia Wen's situation, she tried to persuade Xia Wen to stay with Qiao Qiang in the backyard part of the house. Since Xia He was also staying here now, the more the merrier.

However, Xia Wen felt that it was not a good idea. Given that Xia Zhe was not at home at the moment, it was not appropriate for him to stay here. Qiao Mei did not insist. After sending Xia Wen off, she returned to the room with Xia He to rest.

Early the next morning, Deng Fan brought the architectural plans to show Qiao Mei. She had felt that the first draft of Deng Fan's design was not perfect enough and still lacking something, so she had repeatedly asked Deng Fan to modify it.

"Brother-in-law, why are you here so early? Didn't I tell you that there's no hurry?" Qiao Mei stood in the courtyard and said with a smile.

"I must treat the assignment you give me seriously. Otherwise, what if your elder sister skins me alive?" Deng Fan said with a laugh.

Qiao Mei turned around to look into the room and at Xia He, who was still sleeping. Last night, she tossed and turned a lot when she was sleeping and kicked Xia He to the floor at one point. During the later part of the night, Xia He had gone to sleep on the recliner outside. If Qiao Mei had not woken up in the middle of the night and realized that Xia He was not next to her, Xia He would have caught a cold after sleeping outside the entire night.

"Let's talk in the study. She's still sleeping." After saying that, Qiao Mei brought Deng Fan to the study. As soon as he entered, he realized that there was now a bird in the study.

"Since when do you like to raise birds? Is this... a pigeon?" Deng Fan asked as he looked at Qiao Mei in puzzlement. Other people would usually raise beautiful birds like parrots, but Qiao Mei had a pigeon, and a single one at that.

"Oh this! A friend gave it to me. I find this bird quite interesting, so I asked him for it," Qiao Mei said with a laugh.

When Coo-coo heard what Qiao Mei said, it silently turned its face to the other side. Qiao Mei was lying! This woman had clearly kept it here against its will!

This time, Deng Fan had prepared three sets of architectural plans. Each one was of a different design. He did not have much confidence in what Qiao Mei had requested of him the last time. What he usually did was only interior design and he had never tried designing such a big factory. He was afraid that any mistake he made would delay Qiao Mei's plan.

"Take a look at which one of the three versions you like. If you don't like any of them, I'll go back and redo it," Deng Fan said seriously.

"You... you're really responsible. These must have taken you a long time," Qiao Mei said as she looked at all the markings on the plans.

"Not really, not a lot of time. Take your time to look at them. If there's anything you don't understand, you can ask me. Or you can just circle them out on the plans and I'll make the changes," Deng Fan said.

Qiao Mei could not bear to directly make modifications on the plans! They looked like pieces of artwork. If she put any markings on them, she would feel as if she had tainted the artwork.

She was very satisfied with all three designs. She could tell that Deng Fan had put in a lot of effort and thought of many details that she had overlooked. In the end, she chose the design which had a layout that was easier for everyone to move around.

"Let's use this one. I also want to build a glass-covered garden at this location. A small one will do. There's no need to make it too grand," Qiao Mei said as she pointed at a corner.

"Sure, no problem. Then when do we start work? When do we start buying the materials?" Deng Fan said.

"No hurry, no hurry! You can rest for a few days before we start!" Qiao Mei said immediately.

Chapter 1389 Buns At The Entrance Of The Alley

"Didn't you tell me the last time that I only have half a month? Did you change your mind?" Deng Fan was most afraid of clients who behaved like this. The initial time frame would be half a month, then the

client would procrastinate in the early stages, with no intention of making any progress. Then when the deadline was almost up, the client would put a lot of pressure on everyone. In the end, things that could have been comfortably done over half a month had to be completed within a few days.

If such a big factory really had to be completed within a few days, it would be a dangerous building! It definitely would not meet his standards.

Qiao Mei laughed awkwardly. She had already forgotten that she had agreed on a time frame with Deng Fan. Since he put it this way, it would not be good for her to make any changes, so she just went along with the previous timeline.

Some time ago, Chi Ze had brought some workers to the site to clean up all the rubbish there. When that piece of land was first rented, it was still occupied by an abandoned factory that had been left untouched for many years. It looked like it would collapse with a light touch. Qiao Mei had asked Chi Ze to pull the entire place down and leave behind only an empty piece of land so as to facilitate the building works.

"Then I'll go with whatever you say." Qiao Mei took out a big bag from the safe under the table. She patted the bag and said, "There's 100,000 dollars here. Take it and use it first. If it's not enough, just let me know. I'll leave you to decide on all the purchases. I'll also make a list of the equipment I need in the factory. You just need to buy everything that's on the list."

Deng Fan widened his eyes and looked at Qiao Mei. She was handing so much money to him so easily? Qiao Mei did not seem worried that he would run away with the money. This was a sum of 100,000 dollars! It would be enough for him to use until he was 60 years old!

"This money..." Deng Fan said hesitantly.

"Don't worry, the money is clean. As you know, many people begged me to buy my medicinal wine. This is part of the He family's payment," Qiao Mei explained.

Deng Fan still did not dare to accept it. He looked at Qiao Mei and said, "This is a lot of money and it's not safe to leave it at my house. It's also inconvenient for me to bring it around. I'll take 10,000 dollars first to buy the materials. In the future, if I want to buy other things, I'll ask Xia He for money. What do you think?"

"Anything is fine as long as it's convenient for you," Qiao Mei said.

Just as the two of them were discussing how to start the construction of the factory, Xia He woke up. When she saw Deng Fan, her originally happy expression darkened.

Although the two of them had reconciled after their argument the last time, she was still feeling angry. It was all her fault for not being able to resist the temptation. Whenever she saw Deng Fan's face, half of her anger would disappear.

"You're up! There's no food for you at home. You have to go out and eat," Qiao Mei said deliberately. I think you should take a look at

"I don't believe it. I'll ask Auntie Xu. Don't tell me Auntie Xu won't give me food?" Xia He knew that this was Qiao Mei's plan, but she refused to fall for it!

"You can ask her but there's nothing for you. Even if there's ingredients at home, we won't cook for you! You have to go out and eat." Qiao Mei rolled up the plans on the table and handed them to Deng Fan. "Brother Deng, just do as I say. If there's nothing else, you can go back."

Deng Fan immediately understood what she meant and quickly took the design plans and walked to the door. "Xiao He, there's a new bun shop at the entrance of the alley. The food is very delicious. I'll bring you there to try it."

"What new bun shop? I walk around this alley every day and there's no new shop at all," Xia He turned away and said stubbornly.

Deng Fan scratched the back of his head in embarrassment and said, "It's... it's at the entrance of the alley near our house, not the one here."

"Who... what our house! I'm not married to you yet! It doesn't count!" Xia He said in a fit of pique.

"It'll be our house in the future. Go get changed and I'll bring you out to eat," Deng Fan said.

As Xia He looked at Deng Fan's earnest expression, she began to feel uneasy about what she was really thinking. Before she could decide whether she wanted to go or not, she had already started to walk towards the bedroom.

Qiao Mei stood at the window to watch the commotion. After it was over, she went to take care of the children. Feng Hua had said that Xia Fan and Xia Xing were starting to become chatty recently.

"Fan Fan! Say Mommy~" Qiao Mei hugged Xia Fan and said with a smile.

"Children at this age still can't speak yet! They need to be at least one year old before they can speak clearly," Feng Hua said as she looked at Qiao Mei.

Chapter 1390 Grow Up in the Blink of an Eye

"Sister Feng, look at how fast the children have grown. It's only been a few months and they've already so big!" Qiao Mei said as she looked tenderly at the two children.

When the two babies were first born, she could not tell who their eyes and mouths resembled. Only Xu Lan and Li Gui could tell which part of the babies looked like which member of the family. At that time, she did not think that these two children looked like her at all.

Now that the children's small faces had grown, Xia Fan was starting to look more like Xia Zhe and Xia Xing was starting to look more like her.

"Children grow up so fast. They just keep changing every day. If you don't pay attention, you'll miss out on a lot of things," Feng Hua said.

"I'm so lucky to have Sister Feng here. Otherwise, I won't know what to do." Feng Hua had taken care of Qiao Mei from the late stages of her pregnancy until she gave birth. When the accident happened back then, it was even Feng Hua who had saved her life.

In her other life, she had heard of many pregnant women suffering from prenatal and postpartum depression, but she did not feel any sort of sadness at all. It was all because Feng Hua had silently helped her out with everything.

"Sister Feng, starting from next month, I'll give you an additional 50 dollars a month," Qiao Mei said.

In the past, when Feng Hua only took care of one child, her pay was 120 dollars a month. Now that she had to take care of two children alone, it was more than reasonable for her to be paid another 50 dollars a month.

"No, no, no! My salary is already very high now. I don't need that much money. Moreover, Xia Fan is easier to take care of than many children. I also like these two children very much. You don't have to increase my salary." Feng Hua quickly rejected the offer.

"That won't do! Then... how about an additional 30 dollars? It's settled then. Sister Feng, don't stand on ceremony with me. Don't worry about taking this money!" Qiao Mei said.

"You're such a child..." Feng Hua smiled and shook her head.

After coaxing the two children to sleep, Qiao Mei went to the courtyard to get some fresh air. The weather was getting better and she should start heading out more often. If she stayed at home every day and did nothing all day, it would not do her health any good in the long term.

Just as Qiao Mei was doing some stretches, she suddenly saw Shao Yin standing at the door. It looked like she had been standing there for a long time and did not dare to come in.

"Why are you standing at the door?" Qiao Mei walked over and asked.

"Third Cousin-in-law, the last time, I... I had scared the two children. I dare not go in to look for you, so I thought I'd just wait at the door. If anyone sees me, they can then bring me in," Shao Yin said pitifully.

Seeing how pitiful Shao Yin looked, Qiao Mei did not have the heart to chase her away. After all, she was also the daughter-in-law of the Xia family. Even if she did not care about the Shao family, she had to show Third Uncle some respect.

"Come in." Qiao Mei went to the kitchen and said to Xu Kang, "Auntie Xu, please send a pot of ginger soup to the living room. We have a guest."

Shao Yin's hands and feet were all frozen from the cold. After she entered the house, she was still shivering vigorously. She did not have a thick coat and was still only wearing the coat which Xia Xing had bought for her! No matter how much the Shao family doted on her, they were still too poor to buy new clothes for her.

Qiao Mei handed the blanket on the recliner to Shao Yin and said, "Put it over yourself. I have asked the helper to make some ginger soup. Drink a bit more later and you'll be fine after sweating it out."

"Thank you, Third Cousin-in-law," Shao Yin said shakily.

"Why are you here? Is it just to take a look at me?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"I'm here to ask Third Cousin-in-law for help. I wonder if you can help me?" Shao Yin's tone of voice today was exactly the same as the other day. Qiao Mei subconsciously frowned, her mind filled with the sound of the children crying.

"I'm not that capable and can't help you much. You should try to ask someone else," Qiao Mei said coldly.

Shao Yin said agitatedly, "Only Third Cousin-in-law can help me with this! My father-in-law also asks me to come and look for you..."

Third Uncle? Qiao Mei looked at Shao Yin in surprise. Xia Guang had never asked her for anything. Furthermore, his entire family was still in her debt. Why would Xia Guang ask Shao Yin to come and beg her for help?

"Shao Yin, you have to know that it's a bad habit to tell lies. If I find out that what you're about to say is not something which Third Uncle asked you to come and say, then I'll have to go home and tell Grandfather. I'll let Grandfather find out what happened. If so, you should know how serious the consequences can be," Qiao Mei said with narrowed eyes.