

## Fat Wife 1421

### Chapter 1421 Split Up And Live Separately

Xia Xing briefly tidied up his clothes and rushed to the front yard without even putting on his coat. He picked up a stick and pointed it at Shao Yin, asking "Did you really do those things with another man?"

Shao Yin turned her head to the other side and remained silent. She did not want to say anything about these things. At this moment, she only wanted to harp on the fact that Xia Xing had already slept with her. She did not want to talk about anything else!

The more she said, the more mistakes she would make. She was very clear about this logic!

Xia Jun coughed twice and said, "Xia Xing, put down the thing in your hand. Your eldest aunt-in-law has probably already asked you. So is what Shao Yin said true?"

"It's true... but I'd rather go to jail than let this woman get what she wants! I won't marry a slut!" Xia Xing said through gritted teeth.

"Good! As expected of a child of the Xia family! You have backbone!" Xia Jun said in satisfaction.

During this era, the act of taking liberties with women was not considered a minor crime. The man could be sentenced to jail or even death! Moreover, everyone in his family would be criticized by everyone and they would be disgraced for their entire lives. It was not only Xia Xing who would get into trouble, even Xia Xing's two younger brothers would not be able to hold their heads up high.

Xia Guang rushed into the house from outside and knelt on the ground as he said, "Father! We can't send him to jail! Father! I beg you! We can't send Xia Xing inside!"

"Then what do you think we should do?" Xia Jun asked.

The truth was that Xia Jun had never intended to send Xia Xing to jail. He was just very pleased with Xia Xing's attitude. At least this was a man who dared to take responsibility for his actions!

It may appear to other people that Xia Jun doted on Xia Mao the most, but he actually doted on his youngest son the most. Back then, he had chosen an army unit where Xia Guang had the best chance to get promoted. As long as Xia Guang trained well and completed his missions successfully, Xia Guang would definitely do even better than him at his age. He did not expect Xia Guang to turn out to be such a disappointment.

"Just... just let Xia Xing marry Shao Yin... Then at least he'll be taking responsibility for her..." Xia Guang said.

"Father! Are you asking me to marry a woman who has an affair with another man!" Xia Xing said as he looked at Xia Guang in disbelief.

"Then do you want to drag your entire family down with you! Your two younger brothers are about to make a name for themselves in school! Of course you have to take responsibility for the dirty things that you did!" Xia Guang said.

Xia Xing looked at Xia Guang dejectedly. Even at this point, Xia Guang was only concerned about Xia Lu and Xia Yan and was ready to disregard his well-being for the rest of his life. What a good father he had! Sometimes, he even suspected that he was not Xia Guang's biological child, but a child that Xia Guang and Zhou Hua had picked up from the roadside. Otherwise, why would he be treated so unfairly today?

"In that case, before the wedding, I want the family to split up and live separately!" Xia Jun said solemnly.

Xia Mao immediately said, "Father! Are you so angry that you're all muddled? The family can't be split up!"

"That's right! Father, the family can't be split up! This matter isn't so serious that we have to go to that extent!" Xu Lan said nervously.

Even though Xu Lan hated Xia Guang's family to the core, she still did not want the family to split up. This was not a good thing.

In this era, every family had many children. In fact, it was not really uncommon for families to split up and live separately. There were typically only two reasons for it. The first reason was that the parents were no longer around and the siblings wanted to live their own lives separately. Under such circumstances, they would find the elders in the family to bear witnesses to the family being split up. The second reason was that an adopted son had found his biological parents and wanted to become independent. If he left the family and took nothing with him, he could split from the family.

Apart from these two reasons, this thought would not cross most people's minds. This was because people believed that splitting up a family to live separately would affect a family's fortune! Everyone wanted to have a harmonious and united family. Even when Qiao Zhuang was nasty to Qiao Mei and treated her badly back then, Qiao Qiang still could not bear to split up with Qiao Zhuang and they were still one family.

"Don't try to dissuade me. Let's split up and live separately. We'll all go our own ways and you can all do as you please. Don't come and bother me anymore. When I'm old, I'll go and live with Xia Mao. I'm sure your eldest brother won't treat me badly," Xia Jun said sadly.

Qiao Mei brought Xia Jun a pot of hot tea and said, "Grandfather, my grandfather still lives in the backyard. When you're free, come over and play chess with my grandfather."

The Shao family already thought that victory was within their grasp, but they did not expect Xia Jun to take such a drastic measure! Once Xia Guang's family was removed from the sphere of Xia Jun's glory and influence, they were equivalent to nobodies. They might not even be on par with the common people in the capital!

Chapter 1422 Still A Long Way To Go In Life

"I've already made up my mind on this matter. There's nothing else to say. The family will split up and live separately!" Xia Jun said firmly.

Qiao Mei thought for a while, then looked at Shao Yin and asked, "It has already come to this. Do you still want to marry Xia Xing?"

Everyone looked at Qiao Mei in confusion, not knowing what she meant by that.

"Yes! Of course I want to marry him!" Shao Yin said firmly.

As the saying went, a starving camel was still bigger than a horse. Even if Xia Xing separated from the Xia family, he would always be related to the Xia family by blood. If he was in danger, the Xia family would not sit back and do nothing!

"Since you want to marry him, then I have to make things clear. If you return to your hometown obediently and pretend that this marriage never existed, then our Xia family will let you off. If you insist on getting married, then I'll go to the police station and let the police deal with this matter!" Qiao Mei said.

"You! What right do you have to threaten us! If you want Xia Xing to stay alive! It's best not to act rashly!" Shao Zhuang said with a mocking laugh.

"Shao Yin and Xia Xing were already engaged. At the engagement banquet, she tried to sleep with my eldest brother but did not manage to succeed. After that, she even did something so despicable with her cousin. We still don't know who the real criminal is here!" Qiao Mei said seriously.

Everyone in the Xia family was stunned on the spot. Why had they not thought of this? Xia Jun had almost agreed to the Shao family's conditions and was on the verge of splitting up the family because of Xia Guang.

"You're talking nonsense! Xia Xing was the one who took liberties with my daughter first!" Shao Zhuang said in a panic.

"We never said that we won't take responsibility for it. We will. We're upright people. If we've done something wrong, we'll admit to it. However, everyone saw with their own eyes that your family members drugged my eldest brother and that she was found in bed with another man at the engagement banquet. We also have conclusive evidence that you did these things on purpose! In ancient times, Shao Yin would have been locked up in a pig cage and drowned!" Qiao Mei smacked the table and berated them.

Shao Yin was so frightened that she fell to the ground and did not dare to raise her head. The other Shao family members trembled and hugged one another, not daring to make a sound, worried that they would be implicated if they said even one word.

"It's true that Xia Xing is in the wrong, but you have to weigh carefully about what's more important. Xia Xing will at most be locked up for a few years. If he reforms well, he'll be able to come out even earlier. He's a man and will definitely be able to get a job after that. It's not impossible for him to get married eventually, perhaps to an orphaned girl. Think about it, how many people in your family can walk out of the police station alive? I will say none! Do you think you still have a future to plan for?" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Xia He stood behind Qiao Mei and kept staring at her back. For the first time, she felt that Qiao Mei was super amazing. Qiao Mei was even able to take control of the entire Shao family! Qiao Mei could actually solve a problem that even Xia Jun could not!

Qiao Mei was just lucky. In her other life, she had handled a complicated case similar to this situation. The woman in that case was even more wild. She had slept with more than 10 men within one week. At that time, the case had made her rethink her worldview, so she still remembered it vividly till this day.

She was also taking a gamble. She knew that the Shao family was as timid as mice and would not risk their lives for only a small benefit. The Shao family would definitely retreat in the face of such difficulties.

"What do you want us to do before you let us go!" Shao Zhuang said helplessly.

"It's simple. Write down your confessions and sign the documents. We won't send you to the police station, but the documents will always be in our hands. As long as you don't cause trouble for the Xia family and never mention anything about the Xia family or this engagement, then this matter will end here. Otherwise... you know very well..." Qiao Mei held up a stack of paper with everyone's crimes written out clearly.

As soon as they signed their names, this matter would be considered settled.

There was no other way out in this matter. Qiao Mei had removed all their options and they could only give up on the marriage with the Xia family. The Shao family members went forward one after another to sign the documents. Some of them did not even know how to write their names and just stamped their fingerprints. Everyone had to sign off before Qiao Mei was willing to let them go.

Before Shao Yin left, she glared fiercely at Qiao Mei. She would hold on to this grudge from today. If not for Qiao Mei, she would probably be Xia Wen's wife by now! If she had the chance in the future, she definitely would not let Qiao Mei off!

There was still a long way to go in life...

Chapter 1423 Cause A Lot Of Trouble

The Xia family arranged for a car to send the Shao family back to the guest house. From this point onwards, the Xia family had nothing to do with the Shao family anymore.

It was very quiet in the house. After Xia Jun finished his tea, he spoke slowly, "All of you, come to my place tomorrow. I want to split up the family!"

"Grandfather, now that this matter has been resolved, let's not split up the family. Isn't it good for a family to be together?" Qiao Mei said as she looked at Xia Jun. She could tell that Xia Jun was actually reluctant to go through with it.

"What's spoken cannot be unspoken. I always mean what I say. If I say I want the family to split up, then the family will split up. All of you, come to my place tomorrow. Don't be late." After saying that, Xia Jun turned to look at Qiao Mei affectionately and said, "Child, it's been hard on you to suffer so much for no reason. You've done a very good job today."

"Grandfather, I'm the Xia family's daughter-in-law. This is what I should do," Qiao Mei said with a sweet smile.

Deep inside, Xia Jun did not want the family to split up. He was very proud of Xia Mao and Xia Yao had never caused him any trouble even from a young age. Then again, he felt that he had let Xia Yao down. It would not matter to him if Xia Guang was only causing trouble for him, but the thing was that Xia Guang

was also creating trouble for Xia Mao's children. The entire family had to go through so much because of Xia Guang, therefore Xia Jun was adamant that the family must split up!

Xia Jun left Qiao Mei's house, hobbling with some difficulty on his walking stick. Xia Mao, Xu Lan, Liu Fen and the others also left in their cars. They still wanted to try to persuade Xia Jun to change his mind.

Xia Wen waited for everyone to leave and all the drama to end before he walked out of the backyard. He applauded Qiao Mei and said, "How capable. I was very impressed as I listened to the whole thing from behind."

"How am I as capable as Eldest Brother? I was so shocked by your scheme that I almost let the cat out of the bag. Have you already sent Shao Tu and Shao Xian away?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Yes, they have been taken away. Luo Yu personally dragged them out. The two of them were thrown into the truck like pigs headed for the market. It's a pity that you and Xia He didn't see that scene," Xia Wen said as he shook his head.

"Eldest Brother, do you want Grandfather to split up the family?" Xia He asked with tears in her eyes.

In his heart, Xia Wen hoped that Xia Jun would split up the family. Xia Wen was not the kind of person who was old-fashioned and wanted to keep to traditions. He preferred to be selfish and only wanted his father to have a happy family life and his siblings' own families to live harmoniously. He did not care about anything else.

Xia Wen knew very well what the Xia family's current main issue was. Xia Guang was no longer the Xia Guang of the past. He was no longer on the same page with the rest of the Xia family and had repeatedly harmed Xia Wen and Xia Wen's younger siblings. Xia Wen really could not take it anymore.

All these years, Xia Guang had always felt that he owed the Zhou family and his children too much. Therefore, he had done many wrong things and made one mistake after another. There was no turning back for him.

During this period of time, the third son's family had already caused the eldest son's family a lot of trouble. In this short period of time, the eldest son's family had already spent more than 5,000 dollars in cash! Would anyone in this era even think that this was a small sum of money?

If the Xia family kept the third son's family around, there might even be more trouble in the future. Since Xia Jun was still around at the moment, Xia Guang would not dare to do anything out of line. Once Xia Jun was gone, Xia Guang would only become even more demanding and ask Xia Mao for more things because Xia Guang always felt that the Xia family owed him too much.

"Actually, I agree with what Grandfather is doing..." Xia Wen said seriously.

"Elder Sister, don't think too much about it. Grandfather must have his own reasons for making such a decision. We just have to take good care of Grandfather and our parents. Besides, it's not like we can't contact each other anymore after the family is split up. Second Aunt-in-law will still come to our house often!" Qiao Mei looked at Xia He and comforted her.

Xia He also knew that this entire matter was targeted at the third son's family, but her heart still felt empty and she needed some time to get used to it.

Everyone washed up quickly and went to bed. Xia He pestered Qiao Mei to sleep in the same room with her and the two of them chatted until very late at night before falling asleep. Xia Jun did not rush everyone to go over to his place first thing in the day. He chose to ask everyone to go over in the afternoon so as to accommodate Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei liked to sleep until past 10 a.m. in the morning. If she was in any other family, she would have long been woken up to do the chores. Xia Jun and the rest of the family doted on Qiao Mei and always accommodated her schedule.

In the past, Liu Fen and the others were quite upset about this. Why did they have to follow a village girl's schedule? Was the Xia family going to change their surname to Qiao?

Chapter 1424 An Unrelated Party



Ever since Qiao Mei went all out to save Xia Mao, plus the fact that she had saved the Xia family's reputation yesterday, everyone was full of admiration for Qiao Mei and no one dared to say the word "no" to her.

As long as it was something which Qiao Mei wanted, the Xia family would find a way to give it to her even if they had to go bankrupt.

Xia He prodded the sleeping Qiao Mei and said, "Qiao Mei, time to wake up! If you continue to sleep, it will be nighttime soon! It'll be hard to answer to Grandfather! Everyone is already there and waiting for us!"

"Mmm... Does Grandfather really need me there? Splitting up the family is something that only requires the people from our parents' generation, not us. As grandchildren, why do we need to be there?" Qiao Mei sat on the bed and said aggrievedly.

"I don't know either. Grandfather says that we all have to go. Anyone who lives in the capital has to be there," Xia He said honestly.

Qiao Mei forced herself to perk up. Although Xia Jun doted on her, it was not right for her to go against all the family rules. She must still be filial to Xia Jun and could not let the family elder be the one to wait for her.

Xia Wen and the two women went to the meeting at Xia Jun's place together. Xia Jun was pulling a long face when Qiao Mei's group got there, the last of the attendees to arrive. Xia Mao and the rest had been trying to persuade Xia Jun not to split up the family since the morning and had come up with all kinds of reasons. They were just short of getting a fortune teller to do a divination and state that it would be inauspicious for the family to split up!

The moment Xia Jun saw Qiao Mei, he was overjoyed. He smiled and said, "Qiao Mei, you're here! Come over quickly! I've been waiting for you for so long!"

"Grandfather, I overslept. I'm really sorry for making everyone wait for so long," Qiao Mei said.

"It's fine, it's fine! You can sleep as long as you want! If there's really no other way, I'll just hold the meeting tomorrow. There's no hurry!" Seeing that Qiao Mei wanted to sit at the end of the table, Xia Jun immediately said, "Come! Sit beside me! Don't sit there, otherwise I won't be able to talk to you!"

Qiao Mei went over to Xia Jun's side obediently and sat down. Xia He smiled as she looked at Qiao Mei. Those who did not know better would think that Qiao Mei was Xia Jun's biological granddaughter! However, she was not jealous at all. If Xia Zhe had not married Qiao Mei and made Qiao Mei her sister-in-law, she might even have asked Qiao Mei to become her sister! I think you should take a look at

It did not matter to her if everyone in the family treated Qiao Mei well. On the contrary, if anyone said anything bad about Qiao Mei, she would definitely not let that person off easily.

"Oh my, Old Master Xia is really fond of Qiao Mei. We've been waiting here all morning for you. It's really difficult to make an appointment with a person of such importance!" Zhou Luo mocked.

She should not be in attendance at a meeting regarding the splitting up of the Xia family. She was neither a member of the Xia family nor a daughter-in-law who had married into the Xia family. How could an outsider participate in the Xia family's meeting?

However, no one could persuade Zhou Luo to leave, and it was not as if they could ask someone to chase her away with a big stick, so they could only arrange for a seat for her. She was here to see whether Xia Jun was going to split up the family assets fairly and equitably, and to make sure that Xia Lu and Xia Yan were not shortchanged.

"That's right, Auntie Zhou. Our Qiao Mei has to take care of two children! Can't you see that she's been so tired and has lost weight over the past two days? It's really tough for her to have given birth to two children at such a young age. She's only a little late today. You shouldn't mind, right?" Xia He then slapped her thigh in frustration and said, "Oh my, how can I have forgotten that you don't have any children of your own. You won't know how hard it is. But it's alright, I can brief you."

The family members of the eldest and second sons lowered their heads and pursed their lips as they smiled. After hanging around Qiao Mei's side for a long time, Xia He had become even more sharp-tongued and could even say things that many of them did not dare to say. In this house, probably only Qiao Mei and Xia He could subdue this vicious woman, Zhou Luo!

"You make it sound like you've given birth before. Don't tell me you got a divorce because you can't have children," Zhou Luo said sarcastically.

Xia He was so angry that her face flushed red and she was speechless for a moment. Was it her fault that she did not have children? It was because Kong Lu did not go home at all back then! How could she have the chance to have children? Should she just drag someone from the streets back to her house?

"That's because my elder sister is very busy and her presence is needed in so many performances around the country! Auntie Zhou, you should go out and ask around, then you'll know the number of people who can't manage to get a ticket to watch my elder sister's dance performances. Sigh, she's definitely not as idle as Auntie Zhou who has the time to take care of our Xia family's two grandsons. It's such an admirable feat," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

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Chapter 1425 Let Me Live A Few More Years

Zhou Luo was illiterate and did not know anything about being classy and elegant. She did not know anything about musical instruments or dance, and only went around eyeing other people's money.

She could even help another family bring up their children for the sake of the family's money! The Xia family really did not know how to repay this type of kindness!

Zhou Luo turned to look away and did not reply. Qiao Mei smiled in satisfaction. She looked at Xia He and secretly gave a thumbs up, making Xia He feel much better.

After what happened with the Shao family yesterday, whatever Zhou Luo was doing today was really only child's play. Qiao Mei did not think highly of Zhou Luo at all. Such a person could be easily gotten rid of and there was no need for her to waste too much energy.

"Now that everyone is here, I'll get the process started. I don't have a lot of assets, so it's really very straightforward," Xia Jun said seriously.

He took out a bankbook. There was more than 30,000 dollars in the bank account. This was all his savings and also the money for his eventual funeral expenses. This was the money he had put aside for

his retirement and would remain untouched for now. If there was any money left after he passed on, the three families could split it equally.

The house that Xia Jun was living in now was not his private property, but belonged to the government. Only people who had made great contributions to the country could live in such properties. After his death, the government would take back this house and give his estate 20,000 dollars as compensation. The three families should also split this amount of money equally.

By right, this house should have already become his personal property, in a similar manner to the one Xia Wen's workplace unit allocated to him. However, due to the special nature of such properties only being available to an elite group of people, it was understandable that the government preferred to pay some money to retain the house. In fact, for people who qualified to live in such properties, the amount of money was nothing much to them.

How could Xia Jun's value be measured against all these assets? It was his connections that were valuable! Xia Jun personally knew many old cadres in the army and officials in the government. Some of them were even his disciples! As long as Xia Jun gave an instruction, none of these people would disobey him.

At this point in time, the eldest son's family was doing very well. Xia Mao was still in good health and could continue working for another few decades! Xia Wen was an important staff in the government and Xia He was quite famous in the military art troupe. Xia Zhe was doing even better. He was already akin to being Xia Jun's successor! Furthermore, he had Qiao Mei supporting him at home.

If Qiao Mei went into business in the future, no one in the capital would be able to catch up with the Xia family! By then, even the He family might not be worthy of carrying shoes for the Xia family!

Qiao Mei still had the "divine medicine"! As long as Qiao Mei was around, they would have a cure for any illness. Everyone would only want to further curry favor with Xia Mao. In the future, the families of the second and third sons would only lag behind more and more.

Xia Yao and his family did not care about such things. They had always maintained a clear conscience towards Xia Mao's family and Xia Jun. They could make a good life for themselves with their own hands. They only wanted their family to live harmoniously and stay out of trouble for a long time. Even after the family is split up, their relationship with Xia Mao's family would be no different from before. The third son's family should be the ones who felt most anxious!

"Father, why don't you come and live with me? I can also take good care of you," Xia Guang said as he looked at Xia Jun.

Xia Jun laughed coldly and said, "Live with you? I think what you mean is for your whole family to come and live with me! If you want me to live a few more years, then don't come and bother me! I've already found jobs for you and your sons. From now on, it's all up to you."

"But..." Xia Guang was about to say something when Xia Jun immediately interrupted him.

"That's all I have. In the future, when I'm old and I can't walk anymore, I'll go to Xia Mao's house. I don't need my two younger sons to worry about me. After the family is split up, don't trouble one another anymore. From now on, there's no more relationship between us. If you still have a conscience, you can come and pay your respects when I die. It doesn't matter if you don't come," Xia Jun said.

While everyone was immersed in the sadness of the whole situation, Zhou Luo suddenly said, "Then what about Wu Min's house? That's also the Xia family's asset, right?"

Xia Mao and Xia Yao immediately had dark expressions on their faces. It was already not appropriate for Zhou Luo to participate in the Xia family's meeting, yet she still had designs on the Xia family's assets. She was simply delusional!

"I know you'll ask about this house. When my wife was still alive, she already said that she wanted to give the house to Xia Zhe. It doesn't belong to the family anymore. It's already Xia Zhe's private property and can't be shared among everyone," Xia Jun said.

"If we don't get a share in the house, then what about the things buried underground? Don't tell me those things also belong to Xia Zhe?" Zhou Luo questioned.

Everyone looked even unhappier. When Qiao Mei first moved into the siheyuan courtyard house, the He family had already come to cause trouble once and turned the entire house upside down, but they did not manage to find anything then.

Chapter 1426 Talent

However, Zhou Hua refused to believe it. She insisted that there was something buried under the siheyuan courtyard house, and that those were very valuable treasures. Zhou Hua had also told Zhou Luo about this, which was why Zhou Luo kept harping on this issue.

The Zhou family had been tomb raiders for generations, so they naturally knew the value of such things. Treasures like these were even more valuable than the house itself! One family heirloom could be enough to feed everyone in their family for half their lives! Even if they did not get a share of the house, they could not possibly not get even a single cent!

"What is it? Is there anything buried under our house?" Qiao Mei asked as she looked at Zhou Luo in confusion.

"Qiao Mei, stop pretending. There are no outsiders here. Tell the truth. You may be able to hide the truth from others, but how can you hide it from me?" Zhou Luo said confidently.

"I don't know what I'm supposed to be hiding from you, Auntie. You should just say what you mean. Since you already say that we're one family, then don't scare me. I'm very timid and easily frightened!" Qiao Mei said weakly. She looked completely different from the person who stood up so forcefully for the Xia family yesterday.

"Wu Min was previously the daughter of a landlord and the family was very rich. How could she not have left anything behind? There must be something buried underground! We won't hold it against you if you present it out earlier and share it with everyone. Otherwise, if we're the ones who dig it out later, then it won't look good on anyone!" Zhou Luo said.

"Auntie Zhou, you don't trust the government? Or you don't trust the He family?" Qiao Mei looked at Zhou Luo and asked seriously.

Zhou Luo stood up and pointed at Qiao Mei, saying, "I'm talking to you about your house. Why are you talking to me about the government and the He family!"

"Back then, the He family said that we had hidden something underground and asked the government to send people to come and dig up the entire house inside and out. They even pried open the bricks in the house and dug three feet into the ground, but they did not find anything in the end. Can it be that Auntie Zhou is more capable than these government officials? If you're so capable, then I'll get Eldest

Brother to talk to the relevant departments and ask them to hire a talent like you!" Qiao Mei said excitedly.

"That's true. I still have to thank Sister-in-law for recommending such a talent to me. Why didn't I realize it in the past?" Xia Wen snickered.

It looked as if Qiao Mei was really feeling happy for Zhou Luo. In fact, Qiao Mei knew that Zhou Luo was not an honest person as well. There were also many treasures hidden under her family's house, things that had been stolen and passed down by their ancestors. If Qiao Mei arranged for people from the government to dig up the treasures beneath Zhou Luo's house, Zhou Luo's losses would outweigh her gains!

"You! You little b\*tch, how dare you have designs on my house!" Zhou Luo pointed at Qiao Mei and said angrily.

Xia Jun smacked the table angrily and shouted, "Who do you think you are! How dare a person like you behave so atrociously in our house! We're already done here. Xia Guang, you can get lost and take your family members with you! What a useless thing! Don't be an eyesore here!"

"Father, do you only care about the families of Eldest Brother and Second Brother?" Xia Guang asked as he looked at Xia Jun in disbelief. Even at the last moment, his own father still wanted to treat him like this?

Xia He really could not take it anymore. There were some things that she needed to get off her chest. She said unhappily, "Third Uncle, you should speak with some conscience. Who helped your Xia Xing get rid of those clingy in-laws last night? Who helped Xia Xing avoid being imprisoned? Who made it possible for your entire family to return to the capital? Were all these done by the immortals from the heavens?"

"Third Uncle, now that you're in such a situation, it's time for you to think about who are the ones helping you and who are the ones hurting you. Who's the one who caused the situation today? For us children from the eldest son's family, which one of us hasn't relied on our own efforts to achieve what we have today? If we have had even the slightest bit of help from our father and grandfather, then let us die a horrible death!" Xia Wen raised three fingers and made a cursed oath.

For a moment, Xia Guang did not know what to do. However, even up to now, he still did not feel that it was his fault or the fault of anyone in his family. He blamed everything on Xia Jun and Xia Mao.

This was the kind of person he was. He always felt that he was the most miserable person in the world and that there was no one in a worse situation than him. He blamed everything on others so that he could feel much better.

From now on, they would have nothing to do with one another. There was nothing the rest of them could do for Xia Guang even if he clung onto them. Xia Guang would have to suffer alone henceforth.

Zhou Luo had thought that she would be able to get at least 50,000 dollars from the family getting split up. She did not expect not getting even a single cent and even ended up getting a scolding.

Chapter 1427 He Is Sickly!

Zhou Luo would never come to the Xia family residence again. She also did not want to care about these two little brats of the Xia family anymore. Back then, she had taken in Xia Lu and Xia Yan in order to obtain the Xia family's assets. Now that the family had split up, she no longer had anything to gain. These two children were no longer of any use to her.

"Xia Guang, either you take care of Xia Lu and Xia Yan yourself, or you let the two of them take on the surname Zhou. From now on, they'll be my children and have nothing to do with your family! Make your choice!" Zhou Luo said.

"If you like them, then take them with you! I have nothing to say..." Xia Guang said dispiritedly as he sat at the door.

He did not even have a home now, so what was the point of having children? These children had not been brought up by his side since they were young. Even if he kept them with him, they would not be filial to him. He might as well give them to someone else!

"Then from now on, these two children will be called Zhou Lu and Zhou Yan. They'll have nothing to do with you anymore!" Zhou Luo left after saying that. In this era, it was also a glorious achievement to



have two university students in the family. Zhou Lu and Zhou Yan would have a bright future ahead of them.

Xia Xing felt a little sad when he saw Xia Guang like this. In the past, he was so proud of Xia Guang being his father! Now... now, he was like a public enemy! This was all Xia Guang's own fault and he could not blame anyone else.

"Everyone, don't be so unhappy! I'll cook a table full of nice dishes for everyone!" Qiao Mei said to everyone with a smile.

"Sure, I love Qiao Mei's cooking the most. I'm in for a treat today!" Xia Jun said with a smile as he patted Qiao Mei's head.

When everyone saw that Xia Jun was not feeling so sad anymore, they felt relieved. The family gathered together happily for a meal, knowing that they would not need to be embarrassed by other people's issues in the future.

The Shao family did not return to the county city quietly as told. The rest of their family who were still in the guest houses did not know what had happened and kept asking, "What happened to your family? Why are you in such a hurry to go back? Didn't you say that we would stay here until Shao Yin got married? Where did Shao Yin go?"

"That kid from the Xia family... There's something wrong with that kid! Shao Yin doesn't know about it at first, but now that she knows, she insists that the marriage is canceled and has rushed home last night," Shao Zhuang said as he randomly made up an excuse. I think you should take a look at

The truth was that they felt too embarrassed and sent Shao Yin back to the county city overnight so that this group of relatives would not be able to dig up any dirt on her. They could not stay in the capital anymore, so they must make sure that they could still stay in the small county city that was their hometown.

"Oh! What a pity. What's wrong with that kid? Can't Shao Yin just bear with it?" a relative of the Shao family asked.

Shao Zhuang did not know how to reply. He had only just made up a random reason and did not give any thought to the sickness which Xia Xing supposedly had. He hurriedly looked at Bian Duo, who gave it some thought, and finally said, "He can't have children!"

"What? He can't have children?" The Shao family's relatives looked at Bian Duo in shock. Should this not be something that could only be discovered after a year or two of marriage? How did an innocent maiden like Shao Yin know about this?

"Yesterday, their family spilled the beans after drinking too much. They even asked our Shao Yin to adopt a child in the future. Our Shao Yin is such a good girl. Why should she be a mother to a child who is not related to her by blood! Shao Yin refused to marry him anymore and ran back to the county city in a fit of anger," Bian Duo said regretfully.

They spoke very loudly when they discussed this matter and everyone else in the guest house could hear it. During this period of time, they had bullied many people around them and told everyone they met that they were the Xia family's in-laws. They told everyone to behave carefully around them or they would beat them to death!

The news of Xia Xing's infertility started to spread during the time when the Xia family was dealing with the split in the family. In the future, there would not be any girls from the prominent families who would want to be with Xia Xing. No one else could be blamed for this. Xia Xing was the one who had done something wrong and he had to bear the consequences himself.

After the family finished their meal happily, Xia Wen had to go back to the workplace unit to work overtime. He had been drinking all day yesterday and had to stay home to deal with the family matters today. He was behind on a lot of work, so he had to go back to handle all the paperwork. Otherwise, if the progress of the project slowed down, his subordinates would get reprimanded.

It was supposed to be a rest day today and there should not be anyone at the office except for the security guards. Xia Wen did not expect that there was someone else working overtime apart from him!

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Chapter 1428 Working Overtime

"Why are you here? Isn't it a day off today?" Xia Wen asked in puzzlement when he saw that Mo Zhu was in the office.

Their latest project was under the care of one of Xia Wen's staff, Xiao Zhang. Mo Zhu did not have any urgent work recently, so why would she appear at the workplace now?

"There are some things which I'm not too sure about, so I thought of coming to the office to go through past data and see if I can learn more from it," Mo Zhu replied honestly.

"Is there anything I can help with? I can take a look at it for you," Xia Wen said.

"It's fine, Director Xia. I can handle it. What about you? Why are you here?" Mo Zhu asked.

"I was on leave yesterday as I had something on at home, so I have a lot of backlog. I happened to pass by the office today and decided to come in to do some work. I'll go and get busy. If there's anything you need, you can come and look for me." After saying that, Xia Wen returned to his own office.

His office was diagonally opposite Mo Zhu. Whenever Mo Zhu looked up, she would be able to see Xia Wen working earnestly at his desk.

Mo Zhu had thought that Xia Wen was the kind of obsolete leader who only cared about having an easy life and had no real interest in political matters at all. She did not expect Xia Wen to be so serious and responsible.

Xia Wen did not even notice that Mo Zhu was secretly looking at him. He was only focused on his work and wanted to finish as early as possible. Then, he would be able to take the day off tomorrow and go to Qiao Mei's house to visit the two children.

It was very likely that he would have to go on another business trip shortly and would not have much time to visit the children. The children grew up so quickly and they looked different every day. The last round, there were so many things he bought for the children which did not fit them by the time he came back.

The sky gradually darkened but Xia Wen was still not done with his work. Mo Zhu knocked gently on Xia Wen's office door and asked, "Director Xia, I have a few questions for you. Is it a convenient time now?"

"Sure," Xia Wen said.

Mo Zhu asked him many questions about the previous year's economic report. Some of the data in the report was very different from the actual data. It could even be said that the report was all for show and did not present the real picture. It was all a lie cooked up to fool the superiors.

Xia Wen had been dealing with new projects since he took office and did not have time to check on things from the past. Mo Zhu was helping him a lot by pointing this out. I think you should take a look at

"I've never paid attention to the things that you have pointed out. I'll investigate this matter carefully. Once the truth is out, I'll gather everyone for a meeting to discuss this issue," Xia Wen said in a kindly manner.

Mo Zhu had thought that Xia Wen would just let it be. After all, this issue was related to the previous leader. If they launched an investigation, it would definitely implicate many people.

"If Director Xia trusts me, I'm willing to be the one to carry out the investigation. I will definitely give you a satisfactory answer," Mo Zhu said.

"Then I'll await your report," Xia Wen said.

Xia Wen believed that Mo Zhu had the capability to do this. For some reason, everyone seemed to be prejudiced against Mo Zhu, as if they were deliberately targeting her. There were even rumors that Mo Zhu had gotten the job through the back door.

Mo Zhu kept to herself and rarely interacted with others. She was also very outstanding in her work. It was very easy for a newcomer like this to attract jealousy. Xia Wen had read reports prepared by Mo Zhu. She was meticulous and logical and had a talent for writing. Xia Wen would never believe that such a person needed to get in through the back door.

"Let's go. The sky is already so dark. Where do you live? I can get my chauffeur to send you back," Xia Wen said in a gentlemanly manner.

"There's no need, Director Xia. I can go back on my own," Mo Zhu said.

"Really? If you feel awkward about it, then I can get Chen Mu to send you back," Xia Wen said.

This time round, Mo Zhu did not reject Xia Wen's kind offer. The two of them discussed a little more about the project and then went their separate ways. Xia Wen returned to his own house first and planned to go to Qiao Mei's house for a visit the next morning after buying some powdered milk and diapers.

Early the next morning, it was not Xia Wen who came to Qiao Mei's house, but an uninvited guest.

"Qiao Mei! Qiao Mei!" Liang Lan tried very hard to look in through the main door. When Xu Kang saw her, Xu Kang pretended not to see anything. During Li Gui's previous casual chats with Xu Kang, she had told Xu Kang about those issues between Qiao Qiang and the Liang family. Xu Kang wished that she could beat Liang Lan out of the alley and stop her from standing at the main door and disturbing Qiao Mei's peace and quiet.

Chapter 1429 Be Looked Down Upon

"Stop shouting. Even if you want to look for Qiao Mei, you have to wait until she wakes up. There's no such thing as disrupting someone's life when asking for help. How shameless of you," Xu Kang stood at the door and said softly.

"I really need to talk to Qiao Mei about an urgent matter. Can you please go and get Qiao Mei? Or let me go inside and wait for Qiao Mei!" Liang Lan said as she suppressed the anger in her heart.

"Our Old Master says that we are not allowed to let in any members of the Liang family. Previously, all of you were so arrogant and had bad-mouthed the family so much that our Old Master said he wanted to cut ties with the Liang family. Why do you come here so often now? Don't tell me that everything you say in the past doesn't count?" Xu Kang said sarcastically.

Liang Lan gritted her teeth and looked at Xu Kang. No matter how down and out she was, she was still a member of the Liang family. Everyone she met would still show her some respect. This was the first time she had met someone as tactless as Xu Kang. What right did a helper have to criticize her!

If not for the fact that she had to beg for Liang Shu's medicine, she would not have to suffer like this!

Liang Lan continued to shout Qiao Mei's name outside the door. Xu Kang was so annoyed that she closed the main door. Out of sight, out of mind. Qiao Mei's house had very good soundproofing and no one would hear Liang Lan shouting outside at all.

Qiao Mei only got up at noon. After that, she thought about going out for a walk. The moment she opened the door, she bumped into Liang Lan, who was sitting on the steps at the door. It gave her such a shock that she jumped back in fright.

"Ah! Why are you here!" Qiao Mei said as she held onto her own chest.

"I... I kept knocking on the door, but no one answered, so I had to wait outside..." Liang Lan said aggrievedly.

Qiao Mei knew immediately that Xu Kang had deliberately refused entry to Liang Lan. She decided to give Xu Kang a sum of bonus this month!

"Are you here because of Liang Shu?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Yes, yes, yes! My mother feels much better after taking the medicine you brought last time, but she's still partially paralyzed and can't speak properly yet. Can you give me some more medicine?" Liang Lan said embarrassedly.

Qiao Mei did not want to get involved anymore, but as the saying went, to receive a favor was to sell one's liberty. Since the butterfly mark was obtained from the Liang family, she felt uneasy if she did not give anything back to them.

"You can come in. Be quiet and don't let my grandfather find out. I'll give you one last dose of medicine. Take it and don't come to my house again. Otherwise, if my grandfather finds out, you won't even be able to keep this last bottle!" Qiao Mei said.

Liang Lan followed behind Qiao Mei carefully, worried that she would run into Qiao Qiang. Qiao Mei asked Liang Lan to wait in the living hall and said that she would be back soon. I think you should take a look at

Liang Lan went around the room, looking and touching different items, seemingly curious about everything. In the living hall, there was a new treasure which Qiao Mei had just bought and it looked very rare and interesting.

It was a standing clock and it looked very ancient. Some time ago, the owner of an antique shop had given it to Qiao Mei as a gift since she had given him a lot of business.

This clock belonged to his family. Due to some issues at home, his family had to leave the capital for a period of time and he had to sell away most of his goods. This clock was the only thing that he could not bear to part with.

He could tell that Qiao Mei was a person who cherished antiques. Giving Qiao Mei this clock could be considered as finding it a good new owner and he could also feel at ease with this decision.

"Don't touch it! Can you afford to pay for it if you damage it!" Xu Kang said loudly.

"Hmph, as if it's something special. There's nothing great about it," Liang Lan said as she rolled her eyes.

"Yes, it's nothing great. If it's beneath you, then you can leave! There's no need for you to wait here!" Xu Kang said.

Liang Lan put her hands on her hips and said mockingly, "You're just Qiao Mei's helper! What kind of attitude is this! I'm here as a guest! I'm not here to be looked down upon by you!"

"So long as it's a Liang family member! That's how I will behave! It's already good enough that I'm not whacking you with a big stick! If you're not happy about it, I'll go and ask Old Master Qiao to come over!" Xu Kang said.

At the mention of Qiao Qiang, Liang Lan immediately fell silent. Once Liang Shu recovered, she would definitely come back and teach this bunch of people a lesson!

"Here's the medicine," Qiao Mei said as she walked over, pretending not to see Xu Kang bullying Liang Lan.

Liang Lan took the medicine carefully and put it into her bag. She smiled and said, "I want to ask you about the photo you took the last time. Was there another photo with it?"

"Photo? I guess you mean that photo of my grandfather. There's indeed another photo stuck to it," Qiao Mei said.

Chapter 1430 Auntie Taozi

Qiao Mei did not intend to hide this matter from Liang Lan. Even if the Liang family did not find out about it now, they would still learn about it when Qiao Mei sent someone to investigate the matter. It would be much easier to get the Liang family to tell her who the people in the photo were. In that way, she would not have to pay Yao Nian to do the investigation.

Although Qiao Mei was not short of money, she could not spend it too recklessly. She should still save whenever she could.

"Then can you return the photo to us? That photo is very important to my mother," Liang Lan asked tentatively.

Ever since Qiao Mei took the photo away, Liang Shu had been cursing every day. No matter what Liang Lan gave her, she would throw it on the floor forcefully. She had never been concerned about this photo before, but she became very anxious the moment it was taken away.



Liang Lan did not understand why Liang Shu was doing this. She just wanted to bring the photo back quickly so that Liang Shu would stop this behavior and stop torturing her. She was not getting any quality sleep nowadays because Liang Shu was being so unreasonable.

Liang Lan was taking care of Liang Shu out of the kindness of her heart, but Liang Shu despised her for it instead. In that case, Liang Lan might as well just rest at home for a few days and let Liang Shu fend for herself!

"To be honest, the photo fell out when I was showing my grandfather his photo. When my grandfather realized that one of the people in that photo was your mother, he was so angry that he almost had a heart attack. In a fit of anger, my grandfather threw the photo into the stove pit and burned it. There weren't even any ashes left. There was nothing I could do about it," Qiao Mei said with a sigh.

The corners of Liang Lan's mouth twitch a few times involuntarily. She did not imagine that it had ended up like this. It seemed that Qiao Qiang's hatred for Liang Shu was at a maximum. She wondered how she should tell Liang Lan about this when she reached home.

"Then... then forget it..." Liang Lan said.

"Who are those people in the photo? I thought your mother only has one brother? Is that her younger sister?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

Liang Lan quickly denied it, saying, "Of course that's not my mother's younger sister! She's a friend of my mother's cousin. I heard that her name is Gao Tao and everyone calls her Taozi."

In that era, it was a dishonorable thing for a person to have illegitimate children. If word got out, one would live in disgrace for the rest of one's life and one's family would also be humiliated because of this. She could not let Qiao Mei have any misunderstandings about their family.

Both Liang Lan and Liang Guo were facing big trouble in their careers now. They could not allow the spread of any rumors that could be detrimental to their careers. I think you should take a look at

"Gao Tao? Then why is the photo very important to your mother? Since it's not even your aunt in the photo," Qiao Mei asked.

Liang Shu had known Gao Tao from when she was still in school. Liang Shu's older cousin, Liang Jin, had wanted to have more participants in an outing to go boating. Coincidentally, Liang Shu and Gao Tao were among the people invited, which was how the two of them got to know each other.

Gao Tao was a very cheerful person and was very good at socializing. Liang Shu hit it off with her at first sight. After that outing, they would arrange to go out together. Later on, Liang Shu and Gao Tao realized that they were actually studying in the same school. They never had the chance to meet because they were not the same age and therefore attended different classes.

"What happened after that?" Qiao Mei asked.

"I heard that Auntie Taozi was the daughter of the richest family in the capital at that time. They were super rich and half of the farmland in the capital belonged to her father. When the war broke out, their family was also the most plundered, so Grandpa Gao fled and hid in many places with Auntie Taozi in tow. All their assets were taken away," Liang Lan said regretfully.

"Do you know where they ended up?" Qiao Mei said.

Liang Lan suddenly leaned over and whispered, "I heard it from someone else. It seems that Grandpa Gao's entire family has gone overseas. Perhaps Auntie Taozi is among them."

Qiao Mei nodded slightly. Perhaps the Wen Ran whom Qiao Qiang met was actually Gao Tao. It was just that Gao Tao had hidden her identity and did not tell anyone the truth. Perhaps she was also afraid that people would investigate her background and then she would implicate her entire family.

"Oh right! That brooch was Auntie Taozi's gift to my mother. My mother cherishes this treasure very much," Liang Lan said as if she was taking credit for something.

Liang Lan told Qiao Mei everything she knew. She just wanted to curry favor with Qiao Mei so that it would be much easier for her to come back and talk to Qiao Mei in the future. If the medicine she received this time was still not enough, then she could still come and beg Qiao Mei!

"I'll go to the Liang family's house with you to take a look. The medicine I'm giving you today is different from the one I gave you the last time. The effect is stronger than that one. I want to see the effects it has on your mother and whether I should give you the previous medicine instead," Qiao Mei said, coming up with a random excuse.