

Fat Wife 1441

Chapter 1441 Playing Matchmaker

"There's a huge forest in the north. I remember that there aren't many houses there and also very few villages. However, I have heard that there's a villa in the mountain area and people who stay there are those who prefer a peaceful and quiet environment. Is your family one of those who live in the mountain area?" Xia He said as she looked at Mo Zhu in shock.

"Yes, my house is indeed in the mountain area. After I started work here, I'm staying in a rented house nearby. Otherwise, I would have to make my way out of the mountains to go to work every day!" Mo Zhu said with a sigh.

The north side... Qiao Mei remembered that Xia Zhe had told her before that most of the people who lived in the north side were from scholarly families. There were many schools there and it was also the location for many private schools a long time ago! Many teachers lived around the area and many people even moved there for the sake of their descendants' education!

Xia Wen's laughter could be heard in the courtyard as he played with the two children. The two children did not know how to walk or climb yet, so they had to be carried out to see the world outside their room.

Sister Feng said that it was too boring for the children to stay in the room every day. It was also too stuffy in the room. Now that the weather was getting warmer, they could dress the children up warmly and then show them the outside world. By exposing children to more things when they were young, it was beneficial to the development of their brains. This could also be considered a form of early childhood education.

"Director Xia seems like a really good father. He even makes time to play with his children after work," Mo Zhu said as she looked out the door.

"Those are my children," Qiao Mei said.

"I'm sorry! You're so young, so I never expected..." Mo Zhu covered her mouth and said apologetically.

"It's fine, you don't have to be so sorry. Since my elder sister has brought you to our house, she must really think highly of you. I live in this house with my husband. Eldest Brother and Elder Sister don't live here, but they come here to accompany me occasionally and help me take care of the children. However, what you just said might be true. Eldest Brother might really be a good father," Qiao Mei said melancholically.

Generally speaking, such a big house was usually shared by a few brothers and their families. There was nothing wrong with Mo Zhu assuming that the children were Xia Wen's.

"Might? Director Xia is not married yet?" Mo Zhu asked.

"My eldest brother just got divorced! If not for that woman, my eldest brother would already have many children!" Xia He said resentfully.

Qiao Mei gently patted Xia He's hand to stop her from continuing. After all, this was the Xia family's family matter. Mo Zhu was also very diplomatic and did not ask about it. She only talked to Qiao Mei about the treasures in the house and nothing else. She did not even ask about the origin of these treasures and did not say anything that was out of line.

After dinner, Qiao Mei arranged for the chauffeur to send Mo Zhu home. Xia Wen could not bear to part with the children, so he decided to spend the night in the backyard part of the house. As usual, Xia He and Qiao Mei shared the same room.

"Qiao Mei... Do you think Mo Zhu is a nice girl?" Xia He muttered as she lay on the bed.

"Why? Are you interested in Mo Zhu?" Qiao Mei raised her eyebrows and asked Xia He.

Xia He quickly sat up and explained, "What nonsense are you talking about! I'm thinking... Mo Zhu and Eldest Brother, don't you think that they're a match made in heaven?"

"You haven't even asked Eldest Brother whether he likes her and you're already coming to a conclusion. Don't make a mess by trying to broker relationships. If you like to do such things, why don't you go and become a matchmaker?" Qiao Mei said disdainfully.

"I don't mind being a matchmaker! I want to find Eldest Brother the perfect partner! I want Eldest Brother to live the rest of his life in comfort and not have to be so tired anymore," Xia He said.

"If Eldest Brother heard what you said, he would probably be so touched that tears would well up in his eyes. Mo Zhu is indeed quite a nice girl, but it's not really an appropriate match..." Qiao Mei said tactfully.

"What's so inappropriate about it! Eldest Brother has such good qualities, don't tell me he's not worthy of Mo Zhu?" Xia He questioned.

"Our Eldest Brother is truly the best, but the fact is that he's not young anymore. Mo Zhu is only a few years older than me. Even if Mo Zhu agrees, Eldest Brother will still feel pressured!" Qiao Mei said honestly.

Xia He leaned back on the bed dejectedly. She really thought that she had found a very good candidate to be Xia Wen's wife! It did not cross her mind that the two of them would not be compatible because of Xia Wen's age.

"No! I don't believe it! I must matchmake the two of them! You must believe my judgment. Mo Zhu and Eldest Brother are simply a match made in heaven!" Xia He said firmly.

Chapter 1442 Accident

"How do you know that the two of them are the most suitable for each other? I don't think Eldest Brother likes Mo Zhu at all. At most, he just had a good impression of her," Qiao Mei asked Xia He, feeling puzzled.

"I... I just have a feeling! There aren't many women who can leave a good impression on Eldest Brother. You have to trust me!" Xia He said confidently. She had always been very good at judging people. As long as Mo Zhu liked Xia Wen, she felt that there would not be any problems at all.

The two of them chatted until late into the night. Xia He even started to make plans for Xia Wen's future children! If not for Qiao Mei asking her to stop, she would have even come up with names for Xia Wen's children. This woman was really scary...

Qiao Mei finally saw how crazy Xia He could be when she took on a role as a matchmaker. When Xia Fan and Xia Xing grew up, she would not let Xia He introduce anyone to them, not even one!

Xia He was still thinking about Xia Wen and Mo Zhu on the way to work the next day. She did not want to waste a single minute of her free time, but still, she could not focus all her energy on Xia Wen today. It was the day when the troupe would announce the name of the dancer taking on the female lead role in the musical.

Then again, so long as there was no spanner thrown in the works, the female lead role in the musical was already hers!

She had heard that the female lead role originally belonged to someone else. It seemed that the investors had already made their choice. However, Xia He was really much more outstanding than this person. No matter which role Xia He took in the musical, she was going to end up outshining everyone. The investors were worried that this would affect the musical's box office takings, so they decided to give the female lead role to Xia He in the end.

As for the original female lead... they just needed to coax her with some money. It was not a big deal.

Xia He hummed a song as she rode her bicycle on the way home after work. She wanted to rush home and share the joy of her getting the role with Qiao Mei and the others. It had rained last night and the ground was very wet and slippery with many water puddles!

Xia He thought of herself as a very good cyclist and did not even bother to slow down. However, she did not expect someone to suddenly barge out into the middle of the road. Caught by surprise, she had to swerve the bicycle forcefully to one side in order to avoid the pedestrian.

However, because of this, Xia He lost her balance and fell to the ground. Fortunately, she was fine since she knew how to protect her limbs from getting injured.

"Hey... Are you crazy! Don't you look at where you're going!" Xia He said as she held her elbow which had taken a knock. I think you should take a look at

The pedestrian apologized profusely, saying, "Are you alright! It's all my fault. Don't be angry. Do you want to go to the hospital for a checkup!"

Xia He frowned and looked up. She felt that this pedestrian looked very familiar. She must have seen him somewhere before, but she could not remember where...

"Xia He! Why are you here!" The pedestrian turned out to be Song Dan and he looked at Xia He in surprise. At this moment, Xia He still could not remember who the person in front of her was.

Song Dan first helped Xia He up and then said, "It's me! I'm Song Dan. We were classmates in elementary school!"

"It's you! I remember now!" Xia He pointed at Song Dan and said furiously, "Don't you look where you're going! I was riding in a straight line! Do you have a death wish when you run out like this! It's fortunate that I braked in time. If I couldn't stop, you might be lying on the ground now!"

When Song Dan was young, he was often bullied by his classmates. As he was not good-looking and did not do well in his studies, everyone called him a fool and no one wanted to be his friend. Xia He still had some impression of him.

Xia He had specially worn a new set of clothes on this special day of the announcement of the female lead. The clothes were made by Qiao Mei and she was dismayed to dirty it after wearing it for less than a day. She looked at her dress in frustration.

Song Dan also noticed Xia He's emotions and immediately said, "Let me buy you a new set of clothes. There's a shopping mall nearby!"

Even if Song Dan bought 80 new dresses to replace this dress, it would still be useless. This was something made by Qiao Mei and was irreplaceable. It was useless even if he gave her money for it.

"Forget it, I'll go home and deal with it myself. Goodbye." Xia He picked up the bicycle from the ground. She patted the mud off herself, leaped on the bicycle and rode away from the road intersection, leaving Song Dan alone there in a daze.

Du Miao made sure that she had left before he slowly walked out from the back. He stood behind Song Dan and looked into the distance as he said, "You're still staring! I already told you that she's your type, but you didn't believe me."

Chapter 1443 Nothing Too Serious

Xia He used to look like a tomboy but she looked so different now. She had such a shapely figure now. When Song Dan helped Xia He up just now, he even took the opportunity to touch Xia He's hand. Her skin was so soft and tender! It seemed that Du Miao had made the right decision for him this time.

"It's just that she has a bad temper. Otherwise, she's quite an attractive woman," Song Dan said melancholically as he looked into the distance.

"You have a problem with her temper? She's the daughter of a rich family and is now a 'leading actress' in the capital! She's a famous actress now! Do you think anyone can be her partner? Isn't it normal for a woman who's so outstanding to be a little wilful? Isn't it more interesting to conquer a hot-tempered woman?" Du Miao patted Song Dan's chest with a lecherous smile.

Song Dan could not help but laugh along. So what if Xia He had a fiancé? As long as their parents had not officially met and they had not gone through the engagement ceremony, he still had a chance!

The Song family was not a prominent family, but they could still be of great help to the Xia family. At the very least, he thought of himself to be much better than that kid, Deng Fan.

"That's right! There are plenty of opportunities!" Song Dan was now completely determined to be Xia He's partner. He left the road intersection with his arm over Du Miao's shoulder as he continued to spout his dirty thoughts.

Xia He reached home while feeling furious. At the moment, Qiao Mei was clearing the withered flowers and plants in the courtyard. After the rain, there were many withered branches and leaves on the

ground. The gardener she previously hired turned out to be someone who wanted to murder her. Now, Xu Kang was the one doing the gardening, but Xu Kang was a little rough around the edges and did not know the art of cultivating flowers and plants.

Qiao Mei wanted to take this opportunity to trim the branches so that the plants would look better when they began to sprout after the beginning of spring. Then the courtyard would not be filled with strange-looking flowers and plants.

"What happened to you? Did you get into a fight or did you have a fall?" Qiao Mei looked at Xia He curiously as she stood on the ladder with a pair of shears.

"Don't mention it! It's so jinxed! I'm going to take a shower first. I'll tell you when I'm done!" Xia He said aggrievedly.

Qiao Mei hurriedly called Xu Kang over and asked her to wash Xia He's dirty clothes while Xia He was in the shower. By the time Xia He was done, Qiao Mei had almost finished trimming all the branches in the courtyard.

"Tell me, what exactly happened?" Qiao Mei sat back on the rocking chair and asked with a smile. I think you should take a look at

"You can still smile! You don't even know how miserable I am! I almost had a fracture today!" Xia He said as she pointed at her ankle.

"How is it so serious? Don't talk nonsense. Aren't you fine and well and standing in front of me?" Qiao Mei said.

"If my ankle gets injured, then my female lead role will be gone! It will drop into someone else's lap! Do you know how important this musical is to me! I'm so angry! Why didn't I grab hold of Song Dan and give him a good scolding just now! The new dress you made for me is so dirty now!" Xia He said angrily.

Qiao Mei already took a look at the dress. It was slightly damaged but that was not a big problem. She could just embroider a flower over the damaged part. She just did not know if Xia He had sustained any other injuries.

Usually, injuries from collisions would not be discovered immediately unless they were very serious. At that point of the accident, most people would be in a state of agitation and panic. Even if there were wounds or painful injuries on their bodies, they would not notice anything on the spot. They would only discover more wounds after they calmed down.

"Quick, drink some medicinal wine. Did you see any other wounds on your body when you were in the shower just now?" Qiao Mei asked worriedly.

"No, as you can see, I'm fine and dandy! As long as my face and my ankles are not injured, everything else is not a big deal," Xia He said optimistically, as if she was not the one who was hopping mad just now.

"It's good that there's nothing wrong. You should go to work by car from now on. It's not like our family can't afford to hire a chauffeur," Qiao Mei said.

"The traffic is too congested to drive to work! Besides, our family is in a precarious situation now. Eldest Brother is at the peak of his career and I'm also doing well at work now. Xiao Zhe's future in the army is so bright and you're about to start running a factory. Our Xia family also has future heirs now. Administration, landowning, agriculture and commerce. Now that our family has a finger in every pie, there will definitely be many jealous people around!" Xia He said with a slight frown.

"Since when do you worry about all this?" Qiao Mei said in surprise.

"I'm not a fool! Don't I know what are the things that will cause trouble for the Xia family? If I go around by car now, and even have a chauffeur, that would be too ostentatious and flashy. It would cause trouble for Father!" Xia He said.

Chapter 1444 Dowry

"What's there to be afraid of! I'm no longer doing business in secret anymore. Now, my income all comes from proper channels and Eldest Brother has made sure that the paperwork is done! Our family is rich and we have plenty of money! We're even richer than the He family! I'm happy to hire a chauffeur to send you around! What's so bad about that!" Qiao Mei said in a fit of pique.

The reason why she worked so hard to earn money was not only to ensure that she could live out her old age in comfort. She also wanted to let the people around her live a blissful life.

"Why are you getting angry? You're so easily worked up today. Does the money fall from the sky?" Xia He sat beside Qiao Mei and patted her hand as she said, "I know what you're saying and I know that you're nice to me, but isn't my bicycle already good enough? Most people can't even afford it. I'm the first person in my workplace unit to buy a bicycle! If you want to be nice to me, then you can make me a serving of braised pork."

Her favorite food was braised pork. Every time she went to a restaurant, she had to order a serving of braised pork. Even the helper at home had to learn how to cook this dish. When she came and stayed at Qiao Mei's place, she managed to convince Qiao Mei to make the dish for her once. After that, she could not get the taste out of her mind and would pester Qiao Mei to cook the dish for her every day.

To her, the braised pork that Qiao Mei made was the most delicious braised pork in the world!

Qiao Mei looked at Xia He helplessly and said, "Eat, eat, eat! You only know how to eat! Who knows when you will be taken disadvantage of outside! Just you wait! I'll definitely tell Deng Fan about this!"

"Don't! He's been so busy recently. Don't tell him these things," Xia He said worriedly.

"Then be careful when you're on your bicycle! Don't make me worry about you!" Qiao Mei rolled her eyes and continued, "The factory is about to be completed. The two of you should be able to get married soon."

Xia He turned her head away shyly and muttered softly, "I have told my parents about this some time ago and they have already agreed. Now, all we need is for both sets of parents to have a meal together and then we can go and register our marriage!"

"That's fantastic! Why don't I halt the factory construction work for now? The two of you should grab the chance and get married immediately!" Qiao Mei said anxiously.

"We've already waited for so long. These few more days don't really matter. There's no hurry," Xia He said.

"Then what about your wedding banquet? Where should we hold it? Are you doing it at their house or ours? Is the venue big enough? If not, you can just use my house. I can give you the house next door as part of your dowry!" Qiao Mei said excitedly. I think you should take a look at

Xia He had not discussed this matter with Deng Fan yet, but Xia He was the one who made all the decisions in the family. Deng Fan always respected Xia He's opinions.

"I think it's good enough for the relatives on both sides to have a meal together. I don't want to make a big deal out of it. It was only a while ago that Brother Xing's issue had made Grandfather so unhappy, plus I'm getting married for the second time, so why make it so ostentatious? I don't want to embarrass anyone at this juncture," Xia He said.

"Sigh..." Qiao Mei took a deep breath. She had thought that Xia He would be able to get married in a grand manner. She did not expect that the situation in the capital was worse than in the countryside! There were so many rules here!

Qiao Mei went to her room and took out a wooden box containing the dowry that she had prepared for Xia He. The moment she found out that Xia He and Deng Fan were a couple, she had started to make preparations. She did not expect to buy more and more things until she needed a box to contain everything.

"Open it and take a look," Qiao Mei said as she pointed at the box.

Xia He opened the box curiously. The moment she opened it, she was stunned by what she saw inside. Not only was there the wedding dress which Qiao Mei had embroidered for her, but there was also an exquisite pearl headpiece. That was a treasure which Qiao Mei had sourced for and was worth a lot of money.

The dress itself could be considered a work of art. The embroidery on it was all done using gold thread. In particular, the phoenix's eyes were sewn on using special embroidery techniques.

"How... how long did it take you to prepare all this?" Xia He said with a trembling voice.

"It's been a while. I always feel that the thing a woman looks forward to the most in her life is her marriage proposal and getting married. I couldn't have a grand ceremony when I got married but I thought that it would be possible for your wedding. Who would have thought that you can't do it at your wedding either" Qiao Mei said regretfully.

"I'm sorry... I have let you down. My younger brother has let you down. The Xia family has let you down," Xia He said as she looked at Qiao Mei guiltily. If Qiao Mei had not married into the Xia family but into any other family in the capital, that family would have been able to give Qiao Mei a grand wedding.

Chapter 1445 Childhood Sweethearts

Qiao Mei raised her hand and knocked Xia He on the head. "What nonsense are you talking about? I've never been angry or ever complained about these things. It's just a casual remark."

"I don't want so many things. I don't know how to store such valuable items. I just want the wedding dress you embroidered for me." Xia He hugged the dress like it was a treasure that she did not want to let go for even a moment.

"If you don't want the items, then I'll throw them onto the streets and let someone else take them all. I don't lack these things either," Qiao Mei said stubbornly.

She actually liked all the jewelry very much, especially the headpiece. It would be worth a lot of money in the future and might even become a priceless treasure. Her heart would ache if even one pearl dropped out! However, she also knew that Xia He would not bear to let these things fall into the hands of others.

"I... I'll just take them, alright!" Xia He said resignedly.

She had only seen merchants forcefully buying and selling things, but she had never seen anyone forcefully giving away something! Moreover, these were all such valuable items.

The two of them chatted about everything. Once Xia He got married, there would be very few opportunities for them to hang out like this. The next day, Xia He went to work on time and nothing happened along the way. Xia He also kept Qiao Mei's words in mind and rode the bicycle carefully, not daring to be so rash anymore.

Inside the practice studio, everyone worked very hard. Ever since Xia He became the principal dancer, the practice studio was a much nicer environment to be in. They were all very enthusiastic about rehearsing their own parts and worked harder than before.

This was because they all knew that as long as they worked hard, they would get results. Xia He would help them fight for the roles they wanted and would not bully them like what Yang Xin did.

"Sister Xia He, why isn't Brother Deng Fan here? He hasn't come to work for many days," Xiao Nan asked.

"That's right, that's right! Sister Xia He! When are the two of you getting married!" another colleague asked.

Xia He blushed and said, "He's been busy recently and probably won't come back in the future. Our... our matter can only be settled after this busy period."

"Then you must invite us to the wedding banquet!" Xiao Nan said excitedly.

"We don't plan to hold a wedding banquet, but we can have our own gathering. We will definitely give you wedding candy!" Xia He said. I think you should take a look at

Everyone understood that Xia He's status was quite unique. It was true that she should not be overly extravagant now. They were already very happy to be able to receive wedding candy.

Then again, there were also many people who felt that Xia He was just being stingy. There were also people who were jealous that a previously married woman like Xia He could actually settle down with a good man like Deng Fan. These issues were unavoidable and there was no way that Xia He could make everyone like her.

When it was time to get off work, everyone left together. The moment they stepped out of the main door, they saw Song Dan standing at the door with a big bouquet of flowers. As he looked at Xia He passionately, everyone stared at him intently. Only Xia He walked towards her bicycle as if she did not see anything.

"Xia He! Xia He, wait for me! These flowers are for you!" Song Dan chased after her agitatedly.

"What nonsense are you talking about! What have I got to do with you!" Xia He said in annoyance.

"I'm here to apologize! Let's go and buy clothes! I still feel bad for dirtying your clothes the last time," Song Dan shouted loudly, as if he wanted everyone around them to hear him.

Xia He's colleagues instantly gasped. They did not expect Xia He to be involved with another man. What could the two of them be doing to get their clothes dirty? Furthermore, it sounded that they were alone when that happened.

"I just know it. Xia He isn't a decent person. She's engaged to Deng Fan on one hand, but she's still flirting with another man on the other hand. What a slut. She probably got a divorce because she had an affair," whispered Li Hua, who used to be quite close with Yang Xin.

"What nonsense are you talking about! How do you know that Xia He had done this!" Xiao Nan said indignantly.

"There are much worse things that I can say. Who do you think you are? Are you Xia He's lapdog? Even if you want to curry favor, don't pick the wrong person!" Li Hua said as she raised her head smugly.

Xia He glared at Song Dan and said, "I haven't settled the score with you for bumping into my bicycle when it rained the last time! Just go away! I won't pursue the matter anymore!"

"Even biological brothers have to settle their accounts clearly! We're childhood friends! I must make it up to you!" Song Dan said as he pestered her.

Chapter 1446 He Likes Men

Li Hua covered her mouth and pretended to be surprised as she said, "Oh! Childhood friends! That means childhood sweethearts! So these two people have a history together! Looks like Deng Fan is the third party here."

"You'd better be careful about what you say! Keep your mouth shut! Otherwise... otherwise I..." Xiao Nan said hesitantly.

"Otherwise what? You'd throw mud at me? Throw away my clothes?" Li Hua looked at Xiao Nan mockingly and said, "You only know how to do such childish things. Don't embarrass yourself by acting like a child. If I'm you, I will look for a hole in the ground and hide inside. I won't come out for the rest of my life. How shameful!"

There was laughter all around. Everyone in Li Hua's group laughed at Xiao Nan's incompetence. Xiao Nan lowered her head aggrievedly. She felt so indignant. She did not want to leave like this and did not want to be mocked by Li Hua and the others.

Bai Dian hurriedly pulled Xiao Nan away from the main entrance of the art troupe. The two of them were newbies and there was no way for them to win against these veterans in the art troupe.

The two of them only stopped when they reached an alleyway.

"Why did you pull me away!" Xiao Nan said as she struggled.

"Should I leave you there to be bullied by Li Hua? How can you be so unappreciative to someone who helps you!" Bai Dian said angrily.

Xiao Nan lowered her head apologetically and said, "I... I don't mean it that way..."

"I know. Li Hua has a big group of people with her and they all act like shrews. How are you going to fight them? Don't be silly. Besides, the most they can do is gossip about others. It's fine as long as we don't take them seriously. Don't lower yourself to their level," Bai Dian said.

"I just can't stand the way they talk!" Xiao Nan said.

"It's fine. We'll just find an opportunity to teach them a lesson in the future!" Bai Dian said.

After Xiao Nan and Bai Dian left, Xia He did not spend too much time arguing with Song Dan. She quickly left on her bicycle and was still panting when she reached Qiao Mei's house.

"I thought I told you to ride slowly. Is there a dog behind you trying to bite you? It's very dangerous for you to do this," Qiao Mei said to Xia He with a frown as she stood in the courtyard.

"Yes there is! Something scarier than a dog! If I don't run, I'll be skinned and swallowed alive!" Xia He yelled out angrily.

Qiao Mei put down the clippers in her hand and asked curiously, "What is it? What are you talking about?"

Xia He told Qiao Mei everything that had happened. Qiao Mei immediately covered her mouth and said, "Oh my goodness! Don't tell me this person is interested in you!"

"Him? I've never seen him interested in any woman. I think he likes men!" Xia He said.

Xia He did not care if other people liked men or women. After all, it was none of her business. It was up to others to decide who they liked. She had no right to comment.

However, during this era, these people would die if others found out about such behavior! They would be forced to their graves!

"Really? Did you hear wrongly?" Qiao Mei asked as she looked at Xia He agitatedly. She knew that homosexuality was also prevalent in the past, but she did not expect to be able to see it for herself.

"It's absolutely true! Why would I lie to you! Seriously, if you don't believe me, you can check it out for yourself!" Xia He said in annoyance.

Qiao Mei went to the kitchen and personally made a portion of ice jelly for Xia He to appease her anger. She had recently worked out how to make this! Later on, she would look into how to make milk tea. Otherwise, she was going to find life unbearable soon. She was someone who could not live without milk tea!

That night, Qiao Mei wrote a letter and sent it to Yeo Nian using the pigeon. She asked him to find out exactly what was going on. She was not concerned about the fact that someone fell for Xia He. After all, Xia He was a beautiful woman and it was not surprising for men to like her.

She was more concerned that Song Dan had other motives. If anyone wanted to harm Xia He, she would definitely tear that person into pieces!

After Song Dan reached home, he started drinking to drown his sorrows. He felt that all the women in the world were the same. They all hated his appearance and were afraid that he had ulterior motives towards women.

Du Miao pushed the door open and entered. He behaved as if he was in his own house and did not have the self-awareness of a guest at all.

"Get lost!" Song Dan said impatiently.

"Did you drink too much? It's me, your brother," Du Miao said with a smile.

Chapter 1447 Giving Ideas

"It's all your fault for coming up with such a lousy idea. She's completely ignoring me now. Women are all the same. They think too highly of themselves! I don't want to have anything to do with them anymore!" After saying that, Song Dan took another big gulp of liquor.

"Then tell me what you did. Let me see if I can give you some advice," Du Miao said.

After Song Dan finished relating everything that happened, Du Miao almost wanted to pick up the liquor bottle and smash it on Song Dan's head! No wonder no woman ever liked Song Dan. No one would like a man who was so insensitive and even caused trouble for others!

"You're really muddle-headed! Think about it from her perspective. Would you like someone to woo you like this? This is clearly more like coercion!" Du Miao said.

"Then what should I do! Do I have to worship her!" Song Dan said furiously.

"You're wooing a woman now! Not kidnapping a woman! If you don't get Xia He, then your grandfather can't be saved! Go on and continue to be so stubborn. Let's see how long you can last!" Du Miao said angrily.

After that, Song Dan sobered up a little. Yes, he still had his grandfather to think about. For his grandfather's sake, he must be patient and woo Xia He properly. However, he did not know how to do it. He had never wooed a woman before.

"How... how did you woo sister-in-law back then?" Song Dan asked softly.

"At least you still have some brains..." Du Miao said disdainfully. After saying that, he cleared his throat and continued, "For a woman like Xia He, you can't use money and gifts to impress her. She doesn't lack anything and she won't be interested in anything that you can offer. You have to put yourself on her level before she will take you seriously."

"I don't understand. Tell me in detail what you want me to do," Song Dan said.

Du Miao sighed resignedly. However, he had no choice as Song Dan was his brother. If he did not do anything, Grandpa Song would be out of options. Grandpa Song was quite nice to him, so he could not leave the old man in the lurch.

He came up with a series of plans for Song Dan to follow.

The next morning, Xia He went out to work. Scared that Song Dan would block her way at the main door, she ran out as fast as she could when it was time to get off work, but she still bumped into him.

This time, Song Dan was not so aggressive. Instead, he stood at the side and said politely to Xia He, "Um... I was in the wrong yesterday. I went overboard. I apologize."

"Alright... I'm fine," Xia He said awkwardly.

Song Dan did not do anything else and did not say much to Xia He. He came today purely to apologize to Xia He and make her lower her guard against him.

As usual, Li Hua came to the door to see what was happening with Xia He. She shouted in Xia He's direction, "Look! That man is here to see Xia He again!"

"I'm not here to see Xia He. I'm just here to apologize to her. We used to be classmates," Song Dan explained with a smile.

Xia He was surprised by what he did. She had thought that Song Dan would continue to pester her like what he did yesterday, but she did not expect him to explain the situation on her behalf. However, it did not matter what he did. He was doing it in a way that seemed to reveal what he intended to hide. It would only make Li Hua more suspicious of his motives.

"I forgive you. Don't come here again." With that, Xia He rode her bike home.

Song Dan did not continue to pester her. There was no sight of him at the door for three or four days after that and Xia He finally relaxed.

At home, she said joyfully to Qiao Mei, "I've been so happy these past few days! It's so comfortable not to have anyone pestering me!"

"Has he really given up?" Qiao Mei asked suspiciously.

"I don't know, but he hasn't appeared for a while. Let's not talk about him anymore! I'm going to go on stage soon. The ticket sales will start tomorrow and I'll get you a few. You must come and support me!" Xia He said excitedly.

"What about Mother and the rest? Are you giving everyone tickets?" Qiao Mei asked.

There was no need for Xia He to give Xu Lan one because Xu Lan could enter the performance venue directly and walk around as she pleased without the need for a ticket. Xia He intended to send tickets to Second Aunt-in-law's family as well as to Xia Wen and Mo Zhu. Xia Mao and Xia Jun were usually very busy and did not have the time to watch her performance. This was an unspoken mutual understanding between them, so she would not send any tickets to them.

"Then... what about Third Uncle's family?" Qiao Mei asked.

Although the family had already split up, they were still related by blood. As long as Xia Guang remained above board, everyone could still live together harmoniously.

Chapter 1448 See You There

"Third Uncle and his family... I don't know if I should send them the tickets," Xia He said hesitantly.

"I think you should send them the tickets. This way, we'll have done our part. Whether they come or not, it's their business and has nothing to do with us. What do you think about handling it this way?" Qiao Mei said.

"It's a small matter to give them tickets, but what if they cause trouble in public? It's not like you didn't see the look in Zhou Luo's eyes!" Xia He said worriedly.

This musical was Xia He's first performance after returning to the capital. She could not afford to make any mistakes, otherwise she would not be able to continue on this career path! This performance was one that could make or break her.

Given Xia Guang's character, he definitely would not come to watch Xia He's performance. The tickets would be passed to Zhou Luo or Xia Xing. It was unlikely that Xia Xing and his siblings would want to hurt the other Xia family members.

Zhou Luo was the one they had to guard against!

"Then... then call Xia Xing and tell him. If they want to attend the performance, I'll wait for them at the door and hand the tickets to them. This way, we can also prevent those unrelated people from entering," Qiao Mei said.

"That's a good idea. I'll call Brother Xing tomorrow!" At the mention of Xia Xing, Xia He suddenly said sadly, "I wonder if Xia Xing has settled things with that woman. I also don't know how Xia Xing has been recently."

No matter what, they were all members of the Xia family. Even if the family was already split up, they were still related by blood. If the third son's family really encountered any difficulties, no one would really sit back and do nothing.

"Don't worry, Xia Xing can handle it. He's not a child anymore," Qiao Mei said as she patted Xia He's shoulder.

It was another bright and sunny day as Xia He hummed a song and rode her bicycle to work. Before she reached the main entrance of the art troupe, she could already see Song Dan standing there motionlessly, holding a big bag in his hand.

Xia He lost her relaxed mood from the past few days and felt stressed again. Why was this Song Dan looking for her again? He must be up to no good!

"Xia He! Xia He!" Song Dan shouted.

Xia He acted as if she did not see Song Dan and walked straight towards the building. Seeing this, Song Dan stood in front of Xia He and said, "Xia He! I have something to tell you!"

"I still have to go to work. Please move aside. I don't think we have anything to talk about." Xia He took a step back to keep a distance from Song Dan and looked at him coldly.

Song Dan scratched his head awkwardly and said, "I'm here to tell you something important! There's going to be a class reunion soon. You must attend it!"

"Class reunion?" Xia He looked at Song Dan in confusion.

They were classmates from elementary school and for so many years, no one had ever contacted Xia He. It would cost money to organize a gathering. During the gathering, all the attendees would make comparisons between those who contributed to the funds and those who did not, and also about who did well in life and who did not!

In order to find a proper reason to go out for a meal with Xia He, Song Dan had specially spent a lot of money to organize this class reunion. Of course, it was not done in his name and it was Du Miao who had gone around to send the invitations. Everyone showed Du Miao some respect and agreed to attend the event.

"That's right, you're the only one left!" Song Dan said excitedly.

Xia He really had no reason to reject the invitation. Even though she transferred out of the school early, she was still acquainted with the people in this class. It was inevitable that people would gossip about her if she did not turn up.

"When is it?" Xia He asked.

Sensing that she was going to agree, Song Dan quickly said, "Is tomorrow night alright for you?"

Xia He looked at Song Dan in puzzlement. She thought the date of the class reunion should already be fixed? Why did Song Dan ask her if it was alright for her?

"Yes, alright. Where is it held? I'll go over after work," Xia He said coldly.

"It's fine! I'll come and pick you up! This is the gown that I'm giving you as compensation. You must wear it! I'll see you there!" Song Dan ran off after saying that, ignoring Xia He's shouts behind him. Xia He knew that there was nothing she could do to change the situation and entered the practice studio resignedly.

"Who wants to see you there..." Xia He muttered disdainfully.

Nothing was more important than the musical at the moment. She must focus on her rehearsals and put everything else aside for now.

Chapter 1449 Giving Clothes As A Gift

After Xia He reached home after work, she kept staring blankly at her wardrobe. Everyone said that attending a class reunion was no different from going to the battlefield. The main purpose of the gathering was not to greet one another, but to compare among themselves to see who was doing better now.

The Xia family was doing very well in the capital, but Xia He was not doing that well for herself. She was completely reliant on the halo effect of being part of the family.

Coupled with the fact that she had many scandals recently, she must look more beautiful than everyone else at this class reunion! She could not let others look down on her!

Qiao Mei quietly appeared behind Xia He and suddenly patted her on the shoulder. "You've been standing here for a long time with your things all over the room. What exactly are you doing? Are you going to run away during the night?"

"You gave me a fright! You can still stand here and make sarcastic remarks! Hurry up and help me choose! What do you think I should wear tomorrow?" Xia He asked with a frown.

"Don't you have some new clothes?" Qiao Mei said as she pointed at the unfamiliar bag at the door.

Xia He frowned slightly and looked at the bag. If not for Qiao Mei's reminder, she had already forgotten that Song Dan gave her something in the morning. She had brought it back with the rest of her things when she got off work.

"I won't wear that dress even if I have to die. I'll throw it away later! I get so annoyed when I see it!" Xia He said furiously.

"Why throw it away? Recently, there are a lot of clothes at home that we can't wear anymore. I'm getting Auntie Xu to pack them up so that I can send them to the poorer families. This way, they won't have to spend money on clothes," Qiao Mei said.

"You're giving these people clothes? Aren't you afraid that they won't be thankful but will despise your charity instead?" Xia He asked.

Xia He had seen this kind of thing many times. In the current society, people hated the rich and could not bear to see others doing better than them. If they received things from the richer people, they would think that it was a charitable act that was done out of pity. In the end, they ended up hating those people who were nice to them.

Qiao Mei also knew about these things and Xu Kang had also told her about it, but she still wanted to do it. It was enough if six out of ten families could remember her kindness. Besides, she was going to send the things back to Foshan Village and not to people she didn't know, so there should not be any big problems.

"Don't worry, I know what I'm doing." Qiao Mei walked forward and picked up a navy blue dress with an exquisite pattern of lilies embroidered on it.

"You want me to wear this?" Xia He asked as she looked at the dress in Qiao Mei's hand. I think you should take a look at

"Yes, I think this one looks very nice. It's low-key and luxurious. I have a set of pearl jewelry that matches the lilies. You can wear them with the dress," Qiao Mei said.

Xia He immediately threw herself into Qiao Mei's arms and said, "Qiao Mei~ Why are you so nice! It's my blessing that Xia Zhe married you!"

"What are you talking about? Shouldn't I be Xia Zhe's blessing?" Qiao Mei raised her eyebrows and said with a laugh.

"Yes, yes, yes! You're our Xia family's lucky star! Our lucky charm! Our family can't survive without you!" Xia He said agitatedly.

"Stop flattering me! Hurry up and tidy up your things. Don't tell me you want Auntie Xu to clean up your mess!" Qiao Mei said disdainfully.

Although Xu Kang was Qiao Mei's helper, she could not ask Xu Kang to do everything. She could leave the household matters to Xu Kang, but if there was an intentional mess or any mistake that they had made, she could not ask Xu Kang to clean up their mess.

It was already late at night when Qiao Mei finished matching the accessories for Xia He. The next morning, right after Xia He set off happily, Qian'e came to look for Qiao Mei for a discussion.

"Why do you have time to come and look for me?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

During this period of time, Qian'e had been going around to find resellers for her popcorn. Now that the factory was under construction, Zhao Fei and his team were no longer big enough to fulfill her requirements. She also needed to find some trusted aides. Xia Zhe's help was indispensable when it came to this. Xia Zhe had asked his old comrades who had retired from the army to come to the capital for interviews. It was up to Qian'e to decide if she wanted to hire them.

Qiao Mei was the one who arranged for Xia Zhe to do this.

"I've discovered something strange recently," Qian'e said with a frown.

"Something strange? Tell me about it." Qiao Mei put down the needlework in her hand and looked at Qian'e with a serious look.

Chapter 1450 Sneaky

During the past few days, Qian'e had gone to the factory in the suburbs to supervise the process. The factory was basically completed by now, except for the mechanical equipment inside and the beds in the dormitory. Qian'e and Li Gui still needed to go to the factory to discuss with Deng Fan in detail with regard to these outstanding issues.

By chance, Qian'e discovered Zhao Liu behaving sneakily in the area one day. Every evening, Zhao Liu would go walking around the factory at dusk using a very well-hidden route. If not for the fact that

Qian'e had taken the wrong path when she was rushing to go to the toilet, she would not have caught sight of Zhao Liu.

"Why is he there?" Qiao Mei muttered to herself.

The exact location of the factory was not released to the public yet. Before it was completed, she did not want to tell anyone. Those who knew were all her trusted aides. For Zhao Liu to know this, it was not something simple anymore.

"I don't think he has any good intentions. I suspect that this matter is also related to Zhao Fei. Should we consider finding another business partner?" Qian'e asked.

Back then, Zhao Fei had promised them that he would not let anyone else from the Zhao family dabble in the business. At the moment, Zhao Liu's actions just served to tell them that Zhao Fei did not keep his word!

Everyone knew that Zhao Liu had designs on Li Gui. They were worried that he would catch Li Gui unaware and do something bad to her. If that happened, Li Gui would not be able to resist even if she wanted to.

Qian'e had heard too many such stories when she was in the hospital. She did not want Li Gui to experience any of those things and she would rather do too much than too little!

"I don't think it's that easy to find someone else immediately. Right now, we still need the land in Zhao Fei's village to produce the seeds. It's definitely not enough to rely on what my hometown village can produce and the cost will also increase greatly. It's not a good idea to replace Zhao Fei now," Qiao Mei said with a slight frown.

"Then... then I'll think of another way. Zhao Liu hasn't done anything out of line yet. He's just walking and looking around outside. We'll deal with this matter when he makes a move," Qian'e said.

"That's doable too. When the time comes, we'll net them all in one fell swoop! I'll go and talk to my mother later and ask her to stay at home for the time being. The children are starting school soon and

the factory is almost completed. I'm afraid you'll have to work very hard during this period of time," Qiao Mei said apologetically.

"It's not hard at all. This is not just your business. I have a share too! We're a family! It doesn't matter which one of us is keeping an eye on the business. There's no need to be so polite between us. I'm going to work. Take care of your own health," Qian'e said.

After sending Qian'e off, Qiao Mei went to Li Gui's house. Li Gui went to supervise the work at the factory often and she would go out early and return late every day. The children would play at Qiao Qiang's house when she was not around.

"Elder Sister is here!" Zhang Qin said excitedly when she saw Qiao Mei.

"Is Mom at home?" Qiao Mei asked gently as she patted Zhang Qin's head.

"Yes. Mom didn't go out today. She's preparing our stationery at home!" Zhang Qin said excitedly.

The children's schooling arrangements have been settled. Xia Wen had arranged for Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin to go to an elementary school near their house. With Xia He's recommendation, Zhang Miao was accepted at the best dance academy in the capital. Zhang Wei also got his wish to study in the military school where Xia Zhe had graduated. Each child was able to continue with their studies.

Li Gui had bought new school bags for the children. The designs were still the most basic ones and as usual, each child's name was embroidered on his or her school bag. Even if the family had money now, she could not let the children develop the habit of spending money recklessly.

Money should be spent wisely. One should know when to save and when to spend, depending on the circumstances.

"Mom, I'm here." Qiao Mei walked into the house with a smile.

"Oh my! I'm so busy dealing with the things for those little brats that I didn't even hear you enter the house. Come and sit down to help me take a look. What else do they need? I'm worried I'm not meticulous enough," Li Gui said.

Xia Wen had written down a list of items that each child needed when school started. Li Gui bought all the items according to the list and checked them over and over again. She had checked them more than 10 times, but she was still afraid of missing out on something.

This was especially true for the things which Zhang Wei and Zhang Miao needed. Li Gui had checked the items many times. The two children were going to boarding schools and they would not be able to come back except during the holidays. She would not be able to help out the two children at all times as they would be far away. What if they lacked any item!