

Fat Wife 1461

Chapter 1461 Recruitment For The Factory

Now that the factory was completed, most of the machines had been moved in and the dormitory was also almost ready. They were all set and all that was left was the matter of staff recruitment.

"Didn't you say that there are many good candidates? Have you interviewed any recently?" Qiao Mei asked.

At the mention of this, Qian'e became worried. The only people she knew were all relatives of the Qian family. None of the Qian family members were decent people, so she did not dare to hire them.

The good thing was that Xia Zhe had put her in touch with many retired soldiers. Those people were all hardworking and capable and not doing so well at home. As they all wanted to give their children a good future, many of them told Xia Zhe that they would come to the capital to work.

If they had gone around looking for so many people on such a large scale earlier, people would surely have their doubts. However, with Chi Ze and Mao Hang already here and being testament to the success of the business, everyone believed in Xia Zhe and felt that they would find success by joining him!

"No, the people who came are all Xia Zhe's friends. The female workers whom we hired are all their wives. I haven't publicized this matter yet because I don't know what kind of arrangements you and Xia Wen have made. It would be bad if I leak anything which I shouldn't," Qian'e said cautiously.

"It's good that you have an awareness of such issues. You're behaving more and more like a boss!" Qiao Mei praised her.

"I'm just learning from you and simply following whatever you and Auntie do. I'm still a novice and have lots to learn from both of you," Qian'e said humbly.

"Has Zhao Liu come around recently?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Yes, he has. After I spoke to you the last time, I still see him coming here every day. Sometimes, he would sneak into the area in the middle of the night to wander around. I think he's not just eyeing Auntie, but also our factory!" Qian'e said resentfully.

"Ask Zhao Fei to go and take a look around the factory tomorrow and take the chance to give him some advice. If his uncle continues to do this, then our cooperation with their village will end here. At most, I'll just spend more money and grow the seeds in the surrounding cities. I can't accept my business partner being such a person," Qiao Mei said with a frown.

Qian'e fully agreed with what Qiao Mei said, but the thing was that even with the people whom Xia Zhe found, they still did not have enough workers. They were particularly short of female workers. Men could do manual labor like stir-frying seeds and moving things. However, it was still better to have women doing the jobs like washing the pig offal, making braised meat and preparing popcorn. This was because women tended to be more meticulous. I think you should take a look at

They would have to depend on Zhou Shuang and Sun Juan to help find more workers. The two women had been living in this alley for so many years and must know many other women who lived in the area.

"What about the salary and benefits for our workers? We still lack delivery vehicles. Also, how do we intend to sell our goods?" Qian'e asked.

"Benefits... I really haven't thought about this yet. How about this, you and my Mom can come up with some sample packs and go to the shops in various places to see if anyone wants to buy from us. Don't go to any of the state-run stores as they already have relationships with other sellers. We can't go around snatching other people's business," Qiao Mei reminded her.

"Yes, I understand. I'm good at such things!" Qian'e said with a smile.

Back when she was a piano tutor, she had become acquainted with many well-off families. During this era, people who could afford a piano tutor tended to be quite well-to-do. Qian'e decided to ask these people for help and see if there were any families in business who were willing to work with them.

They were only looking for collaborative relationships and not investors. Qiao Mei did not lack money at all and she was fully capable of funding the business on her own.

After discussing the important matters, Qiao Mei sat at her desk and thought hard about what kind of salary and benefits she should give her staff. The salary definitely could not be as high as before. At this point, there were a lot of expenses. If each of her staff could earn more than 100 dollars a month, then the employees of the other established factories would resign and come to work for her.

The salary for new staff should be at the same level as the other ordinary factories, but the salary of the existing staff would remain the same or could even be adjusted higher.

After that, Chi Ze would be in charge of the factory's fleet of vehicles, Mao Hang in charge of the cleaning of the pig offal and ensuring food safety, Wang Fang in charge of supervising the workers who pluck corn, Zhou Shuang in charge of the production of popcorn, Yang Mei in charge of the production of braised meat, and Sun Juan in charge of ensuring the quality of the fried seeds for sale.

Everyone of them would become a department supervisor and had to start learning how to manage the different issues in the factory. By then, Qian'e and Li Gui could just sit in the office and count money!

Chapter 1462 Disrespectful

After news of the job recruitment drive started spreading, many people wanted to come and work at Qiao Mei's factory. In less than an hour, the entrance of the factory in the suburbs was packed with people. Most of them were farmers from the nearby suburbs who did not make much money at the moment. In particular, the women had nothing to do at home so it was simply a godsend to them that the factory wanted to recruit many female workers!

It did not take long for them to select the workers they wanted to hire. However, the workers were still on probation at the moment. The new recruits could get fired if they did not do their jobs well. This factory was going to be operated differently from the state-run factories. If the workers did not do well, they definitely would not be retained!

There was no such thing as an "inherited job" in this factory. When the workers retired upon reaching retirement age, they would just recruit new people for the vacated positions. There was only a fixed number of job positions in the factory. Why was there a need for a hereditary system? How could a position be held by the same family for generations!

What if it was a family of lazy bums? Qiao Mei did not want to feed idle people!

Zhao Fei drove up happily to the main entrance of the factory. In order to continue working with Qiao Mei, he had used his earnings to buy two big vans and also asked all his friends to come and work with him. He wanted everyone he knew to earn money and also wanted to make more money for Qiao Mei.

"Sister Qiao Mei, this factory is really grand! It must have cost you a lot of money!" Zhao Fei ran to Qiao Mei's side and said with a smile.

Qiao Mei looked at Zhao Fei indifferently and said leisurely, "What does how much I spend have to do with you? You don't have to come and work with us anymore. We're going to work with someone else."

"Huh! Sister Qiao Mei! Didn't we agree that I will be your exclusive... exclusive agent? Why aren't you letting me do it anymore!" Zhao Fei asked anxiously.

He could not waste all the money he spent on the new vehicles. If he had to sell them second-hand, they would not be worth much anymore!

"It's not that we don't want to keep our word. You're the one who did not convey our rules to your family. Your uncle kept coming over and hanging around this place. Back then, we had an agreement and you're the only Zhao family member that we want to work with. Now that your people are not keeping to your side of the bargain, then there's no need for me to honor our agreement," Qiao Mei said.

Zhao Fei widened his eyes and looked at Qiao Mei. He had been keeping guard over Zhao Liu at home for the past few days and did not leave the man's side at all. Even when Zhao Liu went to the toilet, he would follow behind. He had repeatedly reminded Zhao Liu not to come and look for Li Gui and the others. I think you should take a look at

When did Zhao Liu come out here? Could it be that Zhao Liu sneaked out while he was out buying the vehicles?

"Give me some time! I'll go back and teach my uncle a lesson now! Sister Qiao Mei, you must not work with other people! You must wait for me!" Zhao Fei begged.

"Whether I work with other people or not depends on what you're going to do. If your family repeatedly violates the agreement but yet I still continue to let you continue, then what about my business? Most of the workers in our factory are women. If anything happens to them, then what about their reputations!" Qiao Mei said sternly.

"I'll go home now!" Zhao Fei quickly ran out of the factory. He ran so fast that one of his shoes even flew off but he did not even care. He must go home immediately to interrogate Zhao Liu.

At the moment, the village chief and Zhao Liu were having a chat at home. The two men were actually related. The village chief, Zhao Kuo, was the younger brother of Zhao Liu's father. Zhao Kuo was the only one left in his generation. To everyone, Zhao Kuo was like their "father".

"Zhao Liu! Come out! You really deserve a thousand cuts! Get out here! I must teach you a lesson today!" Zhao Fei held up his shovel and rushed into the house, shouting loudly.

"Why are you yelling! Zhao Fei, when did you become so rude? He's still your uncle. As a junior, how can you call him such names?" Zhao Kuo said as he looked at Zhao Fei unhappily.

Zhao Kuo was a person who placed a lot of importance on social hierarchy and believed in having respect for seniors. Otherwise, he would not have become the village chief and the villagers would not have trusted him so much.

"Second Grandpa! It's not that I don't want to respect him, but do you know what he did! He went to sneak around Qiao Mei's place and was discovered! They don't want to do business with us anymore! She told me that she wants to get another business partner and even said that she wants to dig out all the seeds planted in the village and not leave a single one behind!" Zhao Fei said furiously.

Zhao Liu immediately stood up and said, "Impossible! How can she dig out so many seeds! Isn't she afraid of losing money?"

Chapter 1463 Will Not Go There For Now

"What's so impossible about that! They don't care about this bit of money at all. They have such a big factory now. Do they still care about the money for these seeds?" Zhao Fei said.

"You! I already told you to endure it until summer. Why didn't you listen to me?" Zhao Kuo said as he pointed at Zhao Liu.

Summer? Why did he have to endure until summer? Could it be that these people had other plans which they never mentioned? Summertime was when the seeds were ripe for harvest!

Zhao Liu sat sulking on the brick bed and did not say anything. How could this be something that he could endure? He had been a bachelor for almost half his life. It was not easy for him to find a woman he liked, so how could he let her go?

He initially thought that Li Gui would be a burden since she had to bring up so many children. However, he recently realized that the more he looked at Li Gui, the more he found her good-looking. She was even more beautiful than the most beautiful girl in their village! Furthermore, she knew how to make money and could also run a household. Which man could be able to hold back?

He had not done anything and just wandered outside the factory to try his luck. He just wanted to see if he could run into Li Gui by chance and did not expect his movements to be discovered.

"It's not my fault..." Zhao Liu muttered.

"If it's not your fault, then is it my fault? Give me a straight answer. Do you still want this business or not? If you don't, I'll go back and tell Qiao Mei now and ask her to immediately arrange for someone to remove all the seeds! Let's not do it anymore!" Zhao Fei said angrily.

"Xiao Fei! What nonsense are you talking about! This is such a good opportunity for our village. How can we not want it!" Zhao Kuo said.

"Then it all depends on whether my uncle can control himself!" After saying that, Zhao Fei sat down on the brick bed and stared at Zhao Liu without saying anything. He had to give Qiao Mei an explanation today, otherwise his reputation would be tarnished! Then who would still be willing to do business with him!

"I just went there to take a look. I didn't do anything. Do they want to beat me to death for that?" Zhao Liu said stubbornly.

"What do you know! They say that the next time they find you near the factory or near their house, they'll get someone to break your legs and throw you into jail. You can wait for death there!" Zhao Fei said.

The fact was that Qiao Mei did not say any of this. Zhao Fei was just trying to scare Zhao Liu since he was a timid person and was most afraid of getting killed. Zhao Fei wanted to plant this idea into Zhao Liu's head to scare him off and stop him from harassing Li Gui.

"This is a society governed by law! Don't tell me they can just do whatever they want!" Zhao Liu said.

"Have you forgotten what I told you before? Someone had hurt Li Gui's child in the past and he's still in jail! He won't be able to come out for decades! Also, the person who bullied them in the village was also sentenced to jail for more than 10 years. There were other people who had to move their entire family out of the capital!" Zhao Fei roared angrily.

What did the Zhao family have? The Zhao family were farmers for generations and very few people in the family even knew how to read. There was no capable person in the family. The Zhao family were like ants to Qiao Mei and it would be easy for her to stomp them to death. Qiao Mei did not even need to do anything and could just let the wind blow them away.

"Didn't those people move out of the capital to have a better life? Don't lie to me." Zhao Liu still did not believe what Zhao Fei said.

Zhao Fei stood up furiously and said, "If you don't believe me, go and check it out for yourself. Do you think going to the mountains means getting rich? Then why don't you exchange places with them and go to the mountains to get rich! You can go to prison and enjoy life!"

"What nonsense are you spouting!" Zhao Kuo said with a frown.

"There's no need to say anything! I see that you still won't admit your mistake! Then I'll go and look for Qiao Mei now!" After saying that, Zhao Fei was about to walk out when Zhao Liu hurriedly blocked his way.

"We're a family. Let's talk things out!" Zhao Liu said with a grin.

The other children in the family could no longer sell seeds together with Zhao Fei now. They could only make money from planting the seeds which Qiao Mei gave them. If even this business was gone, their family would not be able to survive for long. There were so many mouths to feed.

However, was Qiao Mei's family really as powerful as what Zhao Fei said? What was their background?

At first, when they heard Zhao Fei talk about these stories, they found it entertaining. However, now that they were the protagonists themselves, it was a little scary.

"Um... I promise you that I won't go there for the time being," Zhao Liu stammered.

"What do you mean by for the time being! You cannot go there at all!" Zhao Fei said sternly.

Chapter 1464 Throw Me Away Quickly

Zhao Liu picked up the shoes from the ground and wanted to throw them at Zhao Fei. As he raised his hand, he said, "You little brat! Do you think you're the head of the family! I'm not dead yet!"

Zhao Fei was not afraid of Zhao Liu at all. He stood where he was and straightened his back as he glared at Zhao Liu. At most, they could all just suffer together. In any case, he would be able to have a more carefree life after leaving this village. He still had his friends who worked as scavengers and did not have any problem with starting from scratch.

Qiao Mei was also a nice person. Once he got rid of the Zhao family, Qiao Mei might even be willing to help him! He had already secretly bought a house on his own and did not have to worry about his life at all. On the contrary, Zhao Liu's family would not be able to survive without him!

"Stop it!" Zhao Kuo said furiously.

Zhao Liu pointed at Zhao Fei and said, "Second Uncle! Are you still going to tolerate this unfilial child? He'll destroy our village! How can such a scourge be worthy of the surname Zhao! I shouldn't have brought you home back then!"

"Then throw me away. I'll be thankful to you for it," Zhao Fei muttered softly.

Although Zhao Kuo was old, he was neither imperceptive nor muddle-headed. His mind was still very clear and he knew who was right and who was wrong. He did not want to talk about what happened in the past. The most important thing now was for everyone in the village to be able to earn money.

"Xiao Liu, talk nicely. Why are you being so rough with a child? How can you behave like this!" Zhao Kuo said.

"But !!" Before Zhao Liu could finish speaking, Zhao Kuo interrupted him and continued, "Since we've made a promise to the Qiao family's mother and daughter, we have to follow their rules. I don't think you cause the entire village to lose the chance to earn money. Otherwise, who can help us if we suffer such a big loss? Now that the season for planting is already over, what can we do if all the seeds are dug out?"

"I hear you... I'll behave myself for now..." Zhao Liu glared fiercely at Zhao Fei.

Zhao Kuo smiled in relief. It was actually very easy to deal with Zhao Liu. He was a greedy and lecherous man. As long as there was money to be made, he would be willing to do anything, even if it meant he had to give up on a woman.

Back then, Zhao Liu had brought Zhao Fei home because of his eldest brother's assets and also because Zhao Fei was a smart boy. The house that Zhao Liu was living in now was actually built by Zhao Fei's father! The previous owner was also Zhao Fei's father. Zhao Liu had forced Zhao Fei to become part of his family in order to prevent the house from falling into Zhao Fei's hands. I think you should take a look at

According to the rules in the village, whoever took in an orphan would get a portion of the orphan's inheritance.

Over the years, Zhao Fei had spent about half of his earnings on this family. Otherwise, at Zhao Fei's age, he could have bought a house and gotten married long ago. There was no need for him to wait until now.

"Xiao Fei, don't lower yourself to your uncle's level. Why argue with him since he's so insensible? It's inevitable for people to become muddle-headed as they get older. You're a person who's magnanimous enough not to hold grudges. Let your uncle off. Go and talk nicely to the Qiao family's mother-and-daughter duo. Buy some gifts and apologize to them sincerely," Zhao Kuo said as he took out 20 dollars shakily from his pocket.

Zhao Kuo was a person who diligently saved every cent of his money. He had no children and was all alone. If Zhao Fei's father had not died early, Zhao Fei's father would have taken care of Zhao Kuo in his old age. Zhao Fei had always treated Zhao Kuo like his own biological grandfather.

"Second Grandpa, keep your money. As long as my uncle doesn't go there and disrupt their lives, they definitely won't have any objections," Zhao Fei said.

The farce related to the Zhao family finally came to an end and it was soon time for Xia He's performance. Qiao Mei even specially bought new clothes for the four children. Zhang Qin and Zhang Miao were dressed like princesses. The simple girls from the village now looked like daughters from wealthy families.

"I'm not going!" Qiao Qiang said stubbornly as he sat in the backyard.

"Grandfather~ How can you not go! This is Xia He's first stage appearance after returning to the capital. Don't you want to go and take a look?" Qiao Mei said as she hugged Qiao Qiang's arm.

"I'm not going. If I go, I'll have to see Old Man Xia again. If I see him, my blood pressure will shoot up. Don't ask me to go!" Qiao Qiang said angrily.

"Grandpa Xia isn't going today! I've already asked Xia He. Grandpa Xia has been busy recently and has gone on a business trip," Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Qiang looked at Qiao Mei doubtfully and asked, "Are you telling the truth? You're not lying to me, are you?"

Chapter 1465 Look Like Sisters

"Why would I lie to you! You're my grandfather. Do you think it's good for me if you get sick from being angry?" Qiao Mei said, caught between laughter and tears.

Qiao Qiang was like an overgrown child now. Xia Jun had come to play chess with Qiao Qiang one day and won. After that, Qiao Qiang no longer spoke to Xia Jun. He even said that until Xia Jun realized his mistake, Xia Jun would never be able to step into his house again and they need not see each other again in this lifetime.

The problem had even escalated to the point that Xia Jun was unable to see his two great-grandchildren!

When Xia Jun had some free time, he would send Qiao Qiang all kinds of interesting playthings, but Qiao Qiang would send them all back. The two old men kept bickering with each other and in the end, Xia Jun got angry and ignored Qiao Qiang too.

Qiao Mei could only sigh silently. There was no good way to resolve the conflict between the two old men, but then again, the two of them were like children and would probably make up after a few days.

In the end, Qiao Qiang still insisted on not attending the performance and came up with all kinds of strange reasons to reject the invite. Qiao Mei just went along with what Qiao Qiang wanted. She thought that he probably could not stand being in such a noisy place too.

The children arrived at the entrance of the theater joyfully. At the main door, there was a huge poster with Xia He's face on it. The children surrounded the poster and happily kept calling out to their elder sister. Li Gui stood beside the children uneasily and would stare at other people when she had nothing to do. Occasionally, she would even tug at her clothes, trying to maintain her image at all times.

"Mom, what's wrong? Are you feeling unwell?" Qiao Mei asked softly.

"I'm fine..." Li Gui said embarrassedly.

Qiao Mei knew that Li Gui was worried that she would embarrass Xia He. After all, there were all kinds of people in the capital. Back in the village, everyone liked Li Gui because she was beautiful and hardworking. When she went to live in the county city, there were countless beautiful girls around, so why would anyone pay any attention to an older woman like Li Gui?

In the capital, there were many people who were much more capable than her. The Xia family was one of the most prominent families and the family's children were all outstanding people. She did not want to embarrass any of them.

"Don't worry, you're the most good-looking person today. Just walk forward with your back straight!" Qiao Mei said as she patted Li Gui's back.

The children's clothes were the most fashionable pieces in the mall and the colors were especially bright. They had heard that recently, human traffickers liked to abduct children under the cover of a big crowd. If the children wore eye-catching clothes, it would be harder for those people to make any moves.

Li Gui's clothes were different. Qiao Mei had made it herself. The style and embroidery were not available in the capital and it was very stylish! However, Qiao Mei did not make it too fashionable or else people would think that it looked weird.

"Really? Are you lying to me..." Li Gui said shyly.

"Take a look at the people looking at us. How is this disdain? They're all envious!" Qiao Mei said.

"That's right, Auntie. Who can be prettier than you!" Qian'e echoed.

Li Gui observed carefully. Many women looked at her and quite a few of them even exclaimed in surprise! Then again, they might not be saying that she was beautiful. After all, Qiao Mei was so beautiful and dazzling that she would attract a lot of attention just by standing there.

Qiao Mei was her daughter and she felt extremely proud when she heard people praising Qiao Mei. She suddenly felt confident. Since she did not embarrass her children, she would walk forward proudly and let everyone see how good her children were.

After Qian'e moved near Qiao Mei's house, she would eat at Li Gui's house every day. It was not a bad thing for the two of them to look out for each other. Qiao Mei also felt that it was a good thing. All the foodstuff at Qiao Mei's house contained some energy and eating it for a long time would definitely be beneficial for the body. Now that Qian'e had become fair and beautiful, many people also could not help but steal a few more glances at her!

Those who did not know better would think that the three of them were sisters!

"Let's hurry in. The show is about to start," Qiao Mei said.

The tickets which Xia He gave them were for seats right at the front and in the middle. The tickets for this zone were the most expensive and were all reserved for the VIPs!

There was not a lot of entertainment during this era. Whenever there were new movies or theater performances, everyone would come and attend the show. Every show was full house without exception. If the performers were someone famous, the theater would even have to add stools in the aisle! People were more than willing to stand and watch the performance!

Chapter 1466 They Are Here Too

Qiao Mei immediately saw Xia Wen and Xu Lan. Second Aunt-in-law had brought Xia Wan and Xia You with her and they greeted Qiao Mei warmly.

"Qiao Mei! Come over here! I've been waiting for you here for a long time! I thought you had something on today and couldn't come!" Xia You said excitedly.

"How can I not attend Xia He's performance? If I don't come, she'll definitely skin me alive later!" Qiao Mei said with a laugh.

This indeed sounded like something that Xia He could do. After Xia Wan helped to settle the four children, Li Gui and Qian'e into their seats, she returned to her own seat. If Xia Wen was the leader

among their generation, then Xia Wan was like the head of logistics. She always quietly took care of all the minor details and handled many things that Xia Wen did not take notice of.

Xia Wen had lamented before that he felt Xia Wan should continue to work in the government and not stay at home to take care of her husband and children. She would be able to achieve so much more if she pursued her career.

There was nothing that Xia Wan could do about the whole situation. After all, her child was very young at that time, fell sick often and needed a lot of care. As a mother, she was often worried about how her own child was doing at home. In the end, she decided to resign and take good care of the child herself.

After Qiao Mei greeted everyone, she suddenly saw Zhou Hua and Zhou Luo sitting on the leftmost seats. She had thought that the people from the third son's family would not come!

"Oh! Third Aunt-in-law and Auntie Zhou are here too!" Qiao Mei said in surprise as she looked at the two people sitting next to them.

"Are you seeing them only now! I'm so angry that I'm about to die. Third Aunt-in-law didn't say anything sarcastic, but Auntie Zhou said a lot of things to criticize Sister Xia He. She made me so angry that I almost slapped her!" Xia You said furiously.

Zhou Hua really liked to come to such places. She was not very cultured, but she liked to pretend to be a cultured person. She would attend every performance at the theater. Zhou Luo was probably just here to join in the fun.

"Don't be angry. I'm the one who asked Xia He to send them the tickets, but I didn't know that Third Uncle would give the tickets to the two of them. I thought it would be Xia Xing and his two younger brothers coming today," Qiao Mei said softly.

"It's a waste to give them tickets! You've helped their family solve such a big problem, yet they don't even feel grateful and still bully you all the time. If you ask me, you shouldn't care about such heartless people!" Xia You deliberately raised her voice and said this.

Liu Fen patted Xia You's arm and said, "You're a junior, so how can you gossip about your elders here? Be quiet! Be careful or I'll tell your father to come back and teach you a lesson!"

"Hmph, I'm not afraid!" Xia You pouted and said.

"Yes, yes, yes! You have Lu Huai backing you up, so what do you need to be afraid of! Why isn't your husband here today?" Qiao Mei asked.

Although Qiao Mei was very young, Xia Zhe was not! Basically, other than Xia Wan, the rest of the cousins needed to address her like their senior.

"He has something on today. He's been busy recently and he's out of town right now!" Xia You said.

Lu Huai was a truck driver and delivered goods between factories and vendors all over the country. Every time he came back, he would bring Xia You all kinds of local specialties from other areas. Nowadays, Xia You would also share some of the specialties with Qiao Mei. Lu Huai probably earned about 40 dollars per trip. It was not a lot of money.

Qiao Mei looked down and pondered for a while. Suddenly, she thought of a good idea. She grabbed Xia You's hand and asked, "Does your husband know other truck drivers!"

"Yes... yes, they even have a convoy. They worry about getting into accidents on the road so they take care of one another," Xia You said honestly.

"Alright! I'll tell you more when I have a more concrete idea!" Qiao Mei said.

At the moment, she still did not need Lu Huai and his big truck. She did not know how well their seeds would sell in other areas. However, it was something that she needed to do eventually. She could not stick to only retail sales in the capital. If she wanted to maximize profits, she would need to become a wholesaler.

Once the time was right, she would ask Lu Huai to come and work for her. She just needed Lu Huai to sit in the office every day and arrange the schedules for the other drivers. There was no need for Lu Huai to

drive around anymore. This way, Xia You would have a lot more time with Lu Huai and the two of them would not need to be separated like now. They had been married for more than a year but did not have children yet!

The good thing was that Xia You's mother-in-law was a nice person. She understood that it was not easy for Xia You to always be alone at home, so she often cooked for Xia You and doted on Xia You very much. Life was still quite blissful for them.

Chapter 1467 Acknowledging Someone Else as Mother

"How rude. They don't even know how to greet their elders when they reach! Hasn't their family taught them anything? They're so badly brought up," Zhou Luo shouted in Qiao Mei's direction.

Li Gui, Zhang Wei and Zhang Chao looked a little displeased. Zhang Qin and Zhang Miao were still young and did not understand what Zhou Luo meant. They did not even know who Zhou Luo was talking about. Qian'e was busy taking care of the two younger children and did not hear what Zhou Luo said.

Xu Lan held Li Gui's hand to indicate that she need not care about what she heard. The two of them chatted about the four children's future and also about whether they saw any fashionable clothes recently. They pretended that Zhou Luo had not said anything.

Qiao Mei was about to greet Zhou Hua and Zhou Luo when Xia You hurriedly grabbed Qiao Mei's hand to stop her. After that, she shouted in Zhou Luo's direction, "Huh? What elders! Aren't all our family members sitting here? Why are there still other elders! Oh my, isn't this Auntie Zhou? Auntie Zhou, you like my elder sister so much that you even bought tickets to her show! Why didn't you tell us? We could have sent you a few tickets."

The fact was that Zhou Luo did not buy the tickets. She was occupying one of the seats belonging to the Xia family's third son's family. It was the same for Zhou Hua.

"I won't even accept a free ticket to such a performance! Why would I even spend money on it!" Zhou Luo said angrily.

"Then why are you here with the free ticket?" Xia You asked as she looked at Zhou Luo mockingly.

Zhou Luo was so angry that her whole face turned red and she could not speak for a long time. In the entire Xia family, Zhou Luo hated Xia You the most. Every time she ran into Xia You, nothing good would happen. Xia You would always think of all kinds of ways to bully her.

"Auntie Zhou, why are you free today?" Qiao Mei asked gently.

"I'm free every day!" Zhou Luo replied sulkily.

Qiao Mei did not argue with Zhou Luo. Once they had spoken to each other, it meant that she had already greeted them. There was no longer any basis for Zhou Luo to say that she did not respect her elders.

People like Zhou Luo were attention seekers. She would stop fussing around once she felt satisfied.

"Why aren't you at home taking care of the children? Why are you here? The children are still so young and you just leave them at home. How can you call yourself a mother!" Zhou Luo looked at Qiao Mei and said accusingly.

Qiao Mei looked back coldly. She could ignore anything that was said about her, but she could not accept others passing comments about her children.

"I have two helpers taking care of the children, so nothing will happen to them. I hear that Xia Xing is working very hard now. Not long ago, his superior even put him in charge of many projects. Brother Xing is doing well," Qiao Mei said.

"That's true. They even say that our Xia Xing is a promising talent!" Zhou Hua said, feeling gratified.

Ever since Zhou Hua got divorced, she was a lot more restrained than previously. She was probably worried that she would not have anyone to rely on in her old age, so she was much more concerned about her three children than before. In particular, after what happened to Xia Xing, Zhou Hua was especially concerned about the children's feelings.

Zhou Luo immediately said, "Helper? A helper is surely not as good as the children's own mother. Is your helper the mother of your children? Don't say that I didn't warn you. My neighbor hired a nanny to take care of their child. The nanny taught the child to address her as mother and doesn't allow the child to acknowledge her real mother. I hope your children won't acknowledge someone else as their mother."

Qiao Mei said nonchalantly, "Really? Then how do Xia Lu and Xia Yan address you?"

"You! They... of course they call me Eldest Aunt!" Zhou Luo did not know what to say for a moment. Zhou Hua also looked at her with a complicated expression.

Back then, after Zhou Hua gave birth, she let Zhou Luo take care of them. In front of Zhou Hua, the children addressed Zhou Luo as their eldest aunt, but Zhou Hua would not know what went on behind her back. Could it be that the story which Zhou Luo just told actually referred to Zhou Hua and her children?

"I don't understand why, but after Shao Yin left, our Brother Xing seems to be doing exceptionally well. It's like what happened in the past. He suddenly can't do well at work when he had been doing well for so long. What exactly is going on?" Xia You asked as she pretended to be curious. Qiao Mei covered her face and smiled. This girl really had many tricks up her sleeve.

Zhou Luo was the one who introduced Shao Yin to Xia Xing. Back then, Zhou Luo had sung such high praises of Shao Yin, but in the end, Shao Yin turned out to be such an indecisive woman who even wanted to seduce Xia Wen.

It was so fortunate that Qiao Mei had exposed the Shao family's evil scheme at that time. Otherwise, Xia Xing would forever be a cuckold!

Chapter 1468 Super Huge Bouquet of Flowers

Zhou Hua coughed lightly and said, "Maybe it's because he's not distracted anymore. He told me some time ago that he wants to concentrate on his career and doesn't want to think about the matter of marriage."

"What do all of you mean by this! Are you blaming me!" Zhou Luo said angrily.

"We're just having a casual chat. Why are you angry, Auntie Zhou? Does this matter have something to do with you?" Xia You asked.

Zhou Hua looked at Zhou Luo with an intriguing gaze. Zhou Luo stood up like an angry rooster and pointed at Zhou Hua as she scolded, "Why are you looking at me like that! I'm your elder sister! Will I harm your children?"

"Why would I suspect you?" Zhou Hua said.

Xia You rolled her eyes. Back then, if Zhou Hua had not been influenced by Zhou Luo and had allowed Xia Jun to take care of her two younger children, Xia Lu and Xia Yan would already be more exceptional than their peers! In addition, Xia Xing would not have to enter government services as a low-level employee now.

Furthermore, Shao Yin had also caused Xia Xing to be mocked by everyone by saying that he was infertile and not good in that aspect. It would be even harder for him to find a nice girl in the future. However, Xia Xing also had to take responsibility for this issue. He was not exactly unjustly treated after everything that happened. This could be considered due punishment for him.

"Auntie Zhou, lower your voice. We're in the theater," Qiao Mei reminded her kindly.

Zhou Luo felt very indignant. She stood up and shouted, "So what if I make noise today! It's none of your business whether my voice is loud or soft!"

All the Xia family members had a look of displeasure on their faces. This was Xia He's first performance but if Zhou Luo continued to cause trouble, Xia He would not have to go on stage. The main character tonight would become Zhou Luo!

The rest of the audience was also very unhappy with Zhou Luo's behavior. Some people even wanted to get the security officers at the door to come and chase Zhou Luo out. Seeing that the people around her ignored her, Zhou Luo sat down awkwardly and continued to be at loggerheads with Zhou Hua.

"Alright, alright. Why do you get so piqued at her? Let's wait for Xia He to come out," Qiao Mei said as she patted Xia You.

"Hmph, I just can't stand the way she talks. It's such a pity for those three younger cousins! Don't help them next time. Good intentions don't go unpunished. It's like they don't know who helped them get rid of those evil people from the Shao family back then and they actually want to play the blame game now! How shameless!" Xia You muttered angrily.

Xia Wen whispered to Qiao Mei, "Are the children really fine at home?"

"They're fine, Eldest Brother. My grandfather is also at home and Sister Feng is taking care of the children. It's just that the children haven't been feeling too well recently," Qiao Mei said as she pretended to look worried.

"What's wrong! What happened to the children! Did you bring them to the hospital!" Xia Wen said nervously.

"It's fine! It's just that the children miss their Eldest Uncle and want him to play with them," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Only then did Xia Wen feel relieved. He looked at Qiao Mei helplessly and said, "You scared me to death. You only know how to make fun of me. I've been very busy recently. After this period, I'll go and visit those two naughty kids."

It had indeed been a long time since Xia Wen last went to visit the children. He had been focused on all his projects and spent all his time at work, but he had not forgotten about the children. He had bought a lot of things for them, but he just did not have much time to accompany them.

Qiao Mei definitely hoped that everyone in the family would like these two little children. How could it not be good to have one more person loving them?

The Xia family had ordered a lot of flowers to be sent backstage. They did not want to be too ostentatious and just wanted Xia He to know how they felt. They had already prepared their gifts for her at home and were just waiting to celebrate with her later.

Song Dan also arrived at the theater on time. He had tapped his own connections to buy a ticket and his seat was in the middle of the first row. It was not easy for him to get this ticket and it had cost him a lot of money!

A man dressed in a well-pressed white suit and holding a bouquet of gorgeous red roses would definitely become the center of attention in an instant. However, Song Dan looked out of place and even a little comical. The white suit made him look even more tanned. Normal bouquets were usually a bundle of around 30 to 60 flowers, but he extravagantly brought a bundle of 520 flowers with him. The bouquet was even bigger than him.

"Qiao Mei, who is that person? Is that my new cousin-in-law?" Xia You asked as she pointed at Song Dan.

When Qiao Mei saw the bouquet of flowers, she was quite sure that the person carrying it was the one Xia He said was harassing her. Deng Fan was keeping an eye on the work progress at the factory in the suburbs today, so how would he have the time to come here?

Chapter 1469 Something Definitely Happened

Qiao Mei had already given Deng Fan a day off, but he insisted on going to work at the factory. The sooner he completed his work, the sooner he would be able to marry Xia He. Only then could he feel completely at ease. Xia He thought the same way too. The two of them had made a pact to shine brightly in their respective careers so that they could have a sweet future together.

"It's probably one of Xia He's fans," Qiao Mei said calmly.

"Fans? What do you mean by fans?" Xia You looked at Qiao Mei in confusion.

For a moment, Qiao Mei did not know how to explain it. She stammered, "It's... it's someone who admires Xia He's talent and likes her for how outstanding she is."

Xia You nodded as if she only vaguely understood what it meant. The performance started very soon after that. The moment Xia He stepped on the stage, she saw a sea of faces and was filled with

excitement. She had thought that an unknown actress like her would not attract anyone's attention and she did not expect so many people to turn up.

The performance went very smoothly and there were no errors at all. When Xia He took the curtain call, there was thunderous applause from the audience.

Song Dan sat rooted to his seat in a daze. He had never seen Xia He like this before. She was like a mermaid in the deep sea, with a beautiful singing voice that could move one's heart. At this moment, he was finally sure about what he wanted to do.

Even if he could not get the Xia family's "divine medicine", he still wanted to marry Xia He.

When it was time to leave, Xia Wen went back with Qiao Mei and her family. He had definitely noticed Song Dan as well. After arriving at Qiao Mei's house, the two of them went to the study.

"That person must be Song Dan. He's eyeing your medicine," Xia Wen said sternly.

"As expected of Eldest Brother, you discover their motive so quickly," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Ever since he spoke to Du Miao at the police station the last time, Xia Wen had already felt that something was wrong. Now that he saw Song Dan in person, he was even more certain of this.

"Does Xia He know about this?" Xia Wen asked.

"I haven't told her yet, but Song Dan is wooing her fanatically and making her a little overwrought," Qiao Mei said.

"He's even wooing Xia He!" Xia Wen stood up angrily and said to Qiao Mei.

"That's right. It seems that everything which happened earlier is actually part of their scheme. I had thought that he's really wooing Xia He. Deng Fan has been worried sick for the past two days. He's

working day and night just so he can complete the work early and marry Xia He," Qiao Mei said. I think you should take a look at

Xia Wen did not expect Song Dan and Du Miao to be so callous and even dared to have designs on Xia He. They were really going overboard and did not respect the Xia family at all.

After the performance, Xia He prepared to walk back to Qiao Mei's house. The theater was very near Qiao Mei's place and she could reach home within 10 minutes. The moment she stepped out, she saw a huge bouquet of flowers that seemed to move on its own.

"Xia He! I came to watch your performance!" Song Dan said excitedly.

Xia He raised her eyebrows and looked at the scene in front of her. She did not know if she should laugh or be more serious, but the scene in front of her was really too funny. It was like a potato wrapped up with a white paper towel was rolling around crazily on the ground.

"What... what are you doing here," Xia He said.

"To congratulate you, of course. These are the flowers I bought for you. I hope you can accept them," Song Dan said sincerely.

Xia He said politely, "Thank you for the flowers. Our staff will take care of these flowers. You can leave it with them. I'll get going first."

"Hey! Don't go! Let me send you home! It's already dark and it's not safe for you to go home alone," Song Dan said worriedly.

Xia He looked at Song Dan helplessly. She even suspected that Song Dan's bout of alcohol poisoning was just an act at that time. It had only been a few days and Song Dan was already able to appear so energetically in front of her. Anyone else would have needed to rest for a long time!

She had heard from Xia Wen that Song Dan's family member had even asked Qiao Mei for the "divine medicine". It looked like Song Dan's illness was not serious at all and that it was all a lie.

"There's no need. I can go back on my own. Goodbye," Xia He said determinedly.

Li Hua stood at the staff entrance passageway and looked at Xia He, saying, "Do you see that? It's such a big bouquet of flowers and all red roses. How can you say that the two of them have nothing to do with each other? Even a dog won't believe it!"

"What nonsense are you talking about! Don't make me rip out your tongue!" Bai Dian said as she pointed at Li Hua angrily.

Bai Dian's performance did not go smoothly today. As a supporting role, she did not have many scenes, but before she went on stage, Li Hua had caused her to trip and her ankle felt a little uncomfortable. Li Hua must have done it on purpose!

Chapter 1470 A Dog Biting Someone

Bai Dian was still thinking about how to pick a fight with Li Hua. She did not expect Li Hua to be the one to start the ball rolling.

"Am I talking about you? Why are you getting so angry here? You're really very nosy!" Li Hua said impatiently.

"Let me ask you! Were you the one who tripped me backstage just now!" Bai Dian stood in front of Li Hua and interrogated her.

When Xiao Nan saw that they were arguing, she threw the things in her hand to one side and came to be Bai Dian's back up. With her hands on her hips, she said, "That's right! I saw everything! Don't you dare to deny it!"

"What did you see? What right do you have to slander me? You have to show evidence if you want to say this! If you frame me like this, I'll tell the troupe leader!" Li Hua said.

"If you think you can do it, then go ahead! Let's see who the troupe leader will side with! We usually don't see you when it's time to practice our basic skills. Now that you're not selected to go on stage, you become jealous of us! You actually want to get me in trouble! Other than that, you're also spreading

rumors about Senior Xia He! I must rip your tongue out today!" After saying that, Bai Dian rushed forward and started fighting with Li Hua.

Xiao Nan also got involved in the fight. While Song Dan was distracted by the fight, Xia He took the chance to slip away. She got on her bicycle and raced home. Along the way, no matter who called out to her, she did not respond. She just wanted to reach home quickly.

"Qiao Mei! Oh my goodness! Qiao Mei! Come out quickly!" Xia He shouted as she rushed into the courtyard in a panic.

Qiao Mei and Xia Wen hurriedly rushed out of the study. Xia Wen was very agitated and went forward to grab hold of Xia He and took a look at her a few times. He only heaved a sigh of relief when he saw that there were no injuries on Xia He's body.

"Why are you so flustered? Did you get bitten by a dog?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"What a guess! When have I ever been afraid of dogs! Of course it's because!" Xia He wanted to complain about Song Dan, but as she calmed down, she realized that Xia Wen was staring at her seriously to hear her out. She immediately forgot about what she wanted to say.

"Say it. Of course it's because of what?" Xia Wen asked anxiously.

Xia He stammered, "Well... it's... that... actually... of course... of course it's because I performed too well! Everyone likes my performance very much! They all praised me! They even wanted to treat me to a meal! It was so difficult for me to get home!"

Xia Wen did not believe Xia He at all. If the audience were to witness her lousy acting skills now, they would not believe that the person who performed on stage just now was Xia He.

"So the two of you are teaming up to hide things from me nowadays. Xia He, so you think you're so capable now. After that you're all grown up, you don't tell me anything anymore. You even start to hide things from me now?" Xia Wen questioned angrily.

When she was young, Xia He liked to tail Xia Wen everywhere and find all kinds of problems for him to solve every day. Even though Xia Mao was Xia He's father, it was Xia Wen who seemed more like Xia He's "father"!

When they were young, Xia Wen was even the one who attended her parent-teacher meeting. It was something that everyone tacitly agreed to.

"It's not like that... I just feel that Eldest Brother is very busy. I'm all grown up now, so I shouldn't trouble you with such a small matter..." Xia He whispered.

Xia Wen stared at Xia He for a long time before sighing deeply and saying, "It's true that I've been too busy with work these past few years and didn't pay attention to you and Xia Zhe at all. It's my fault, not yours. But you have to remember that I'm still your eldest brother. No matter what happens, I'll definitely protect you."

Ever since Xia He got divorced, whenever Xia Wen thought of this matter, he would feel that it was his fault. If he had paid more attention to Xia He at that time, perhaps Xia He's marriage would not have ended in such a manner.

"Eldest Brother, I'm not doing this on purpose..." Xia He said, feeling touched.

"Alright, alright! Are the two of you intending to feed the mosquitoes outside? Quick, come in. I already have two or three mosquito bites!" Qiao Mei pouted and said unhappily.

Xia He immediately stopped feeling so melancholic. How could there be mosquitoes in this weather? Qiao Mei was only teasing them. Xia He hugged the two of them and walked back to the study with them. She told Xia Wen about everything that had happened during this period of time. From time to time, Qiao Mei would add fuel to the fire and spout some nonsense and Xia He did not stop her.