

Fat Wife 1471

Chapter 1471 I Have White Hair

"A chance encounter, an apology and a treat. No matter how I look at it, everything seems to be deliberate. I hope Deng Fan is alright with all this," Xia Wen said.

"No, he's very understanding," Xia He said.

"You don't have to worry. I'll handle this matter. You and Qiao Mei should go and rest early. It's been a tiring period for you too." After saying that, Xia Wen returned to his own room in the backyard. Even if he wanted to do something, he would have to wait until daytime.

Xia He looked at Xia Wen's departing figure for a long time before saying, "Am I never able to get anything done right? Why do I always make Eldest Brother worried?"

She had caught sight of one or two strands of white hair on Xia Wen's head just now. Xia Wen was not even 40 years old, but he already had white hair. This was all because he toiled too much.

White hair was not necessarily caused by stress. Sometimes it was related to diet!

"Stop letting your imagination run wild! Go and sleep!" Qiao Mei said.

Xia He shook her head gently, as if she could get rid of all these troubling matters by doing this. She said happily to Qiao Mei, "I'll listen to you! Don't think about these things! Let me tell you! The show is doing well! I'm going to get a big bonus!"

"Bonus? How much is the bonus?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

In this line of work, one could make a lot of money once one was famous. The theater was in charge of selling the tickets and would take a small percentage as commission. If the price of a ticket was 10 dollars, then Xia He would get 50 cents. The initial plan was for Xia He to perform five shows. For every sold out show, she would get at least 1,000 dollars.

That was not all. In total, she should be able to get 6,000 dollars!

"Heavens! That's quite a lot!" Qiao Mei said in surprise.

"That's right, I'm thinking about how to spend this money! Tell me what you want! I'll buy it all for you!" Xia He said generously.

After thinking about it, Qiao Mei still liked properties the most. She suddenly thought of something and said, "Why not... I'll sell you that house for 5,000 dollars!"

Qiao Mei was talking about the small house which she had just bought. It was near her house and there were a total of four rooms. Qiao Mei had bought two houses which were opposite each other. Back then, Xia He had felt that the other house she offered was too big. Given that this house was even smaller than Li Gui's place, Xia He should feel satisfied.

"For 5,000 dollars! You spent 10,000 dollars to buy it back then! Don't make such a loss-making deal!" Xia He said.

"Am I someone who does business at a loss? I'm talking about the house that I just bought recently. It has just been renovated and I've redone everything both inside and outside. It's just that I haven't bought the furniture yet. You can think about it. I'll sell it to you for 5,000 dollars and I won't make a loss. Don't worry," Qiao Mei said.

Seeing how determined Qiao Mei was, Xia He felt a little tempted. She had always wanted to have her own house. Deng Fan's current house was a rental unit. Recently, Deng Rui had told her that he wanted to buy it and had already discussed it with the owner of the house, but Xia He still preferred to stay near Qiao Mei.

Dancers did not always get a bonus for performances. They only had one or two chances to perform in a year and sometimes, they may even need to spend more than what they made!

"I have to go back and discuss this with Deng Fan. I can't just decide on this matter on a whim," Xia He said seriously.

"It's alright, I'll always set aside this house for you," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Why do you want Eldest Brother and me to stay around your area?" Xia He asked.

"Because I want you to help me take care of the children! How's that for a reason!" Qiao Mei said.

In another 20 years, property prices would skyrocket crazily. One square meter might only cost about 10 dollars now, but in the future, every square meter here would be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars!

Qiao Mei really wanted Xia Wen and Xia He to get rich alongside her. She did not want the three siblings to have too much of a gap when it came to their personal wealth. At this moment, she would just keep persuading them to buy a house. Even if Qiao Mei had to make a loss to get it done, she was more than willing to do it.

In any case, she had a lot of money. In the future, she would just keep getting richer and richer, so much so that she would not have space to store her money in the house! When the time came, she would ask Qiao Qiang and Li Gui to sit at home and count money every day. Whenever they saw money, they would feel like throwing up!

"Then I'll buy it! After that, I'll get Deng Fan to design it for me. Can I put him in charge of the furniture?" Xia He said.

"Sure. I have to pay him his salary at the end of the construction period anyway," Qiao Mei said.

Chapter 1472 Getting Drunk

Qiao Mei had originally wanted to give Deng Fan a salary of 10,000 dollars by giving him something extra for the wedding. However, from the looks of it, 10,000 dollars seemed a little too much. It was better to just give him 5,000 dollars.

The two of them chatted until dawn before falling asleep in each other's arms. Qiao Mei started to miss Xia Zhe a little by now and wondered if he was doing well at the moment.

It had been a long time since Qiao Mei was last in contact with Xia Zhe. With so many things happening at home, she did not even have time to make something and send it over to Xia Zhe. They could not possibly be as affectionate when they first got married. Now that they had children and been married for a while, such formalities were not so important anymore.

When she had some free time, she would call Xia Mao and ask him if Xia Zhe's current mission location accepted deliveries. If it was really not possible, she would ask Xia Mao to get someone to send it over.

The next morning, Xia Wen went out very early and drove straight to Song Dan's house. He immediately saw a big bouquet of red roses in the courtyard. The flowers had already wilted though.

Last night, Song Dan asked Du Miao to go over to his place and the two of them had gotten drunk in the living room. Du Miao came up with many ideas for Song Dan, but he did not like any of them. He even thought about forcing Xia He to get married to him. Once he slept with her, she would definitely need to stay with him!

Xia Wen stood outside and knocked on the door. After knocking for a long time, no one came to open the door, so he kicked the door open and entered. Song Dan and Du Miao woke up with a start.

"Damn it! Who are you!" Song Dan asked impatiently.

Du Miao rubbed his eyes and immediately recognized Xia Wen. His previously annoyed expression immediately changed into an amiable smile.

"Oh my, Brother Xia is here. Why didn't you tell us in advance? It's really embarrassing for you to see us like this," Du Miao said politely.

"What Brother Xia? Which Brother Xia? Even if the heavenly emperor is here, he can't smash the door in!" Song Dan said as he pointed at Xia Wen.

Du Miao hurriedly went forward and covered Song Dan's mouth. He whispered in Song Dan's ear, "Shut up! This is Xia He's brother, Xia Wen. Do you want to get married or not!"

"Oh, oh..." Song Dan immediately toned down his arrogance.

Xia Wen sat down on Song Dan's sofa and looked at Song Dan as he said, "The two of you know my sister, right? Did you do all the things that happened to my sister recently?"

"What are you saying, it's all fated," Du Miao said.

"So what if I like your sister! I want to marry her!" Song Dan said pompously.

Xia Wen sized up Song Dan. This man was not outstanding in terms of looks, but he was doing quite well in his career. His family background was not too good though, and both his personality and character were terrible. Such a person was not worthy of Xia He at all, yet he still had the cheek to say that he wanted to marry her.

"My sister is already engaged to be married. I'm afraid she won't be able to accept Mr. Song's kindness. When she gets married, she'll send some wedding candies to Mr. Song," Xia Wen replied politely.

Du Miao wanted to say something on Song Dan's behalf, but the moment Song Dan heard Xia Wen rejecting him, he got angry and pointed at Xia Wen as he questioned, "Why can't I marry Xia He? If she's engaged, it means that she's not married yet. What's there for me to be afraid of if she's still not married? Besides, I've already had that man investigated thoroughly. He's inferior to me in every way, so why shouldn't she choose me?"

"Since Mr. Song is such a good catch, then our Xia He is definitely not worthy of you. It's better to forget it," Xia Wen said sarcastically.

Du Miao wished that he could sew Song Dan's mouth shut. Song Dan just did not know when to stop. He even belittled Xia He in front of Xia Wen and made her sound worthless. By now, even if Xia He liked Song Dan and wanted to marry him, no one in the Xia family would agree to it.

"I just like Xia He! I'm flattering her by liking her! She has already been married before! How can she be so picky! Brother, just marry her to me. Don't worry, I'll definitely treat her well! I promise she'll be fine and dandy!" Song Dan said as he stood in front of Xia Wen unsteadily.

Xia Wen clenched his fists and wished that he could rush up and give Song Dan a good beating. Song Dan was the first person ever to badmouth Xia He in front of him. He would definitely remember this. If he did not take revenge, his surname would not be Xia!

"Um... Brother Xia, he has had too much to drink and is talking nonsense. Don't take it to heart!" Du Miao said awkwardly.

"He knows very well whether he's speaking the truth or not. I know it too," Xia Wen said moodily.

Chapter 1473 Severing Friendship

Du Miao looked at Song Dan in despair. How could he have been so blind to want to be good friends with someone like Song Dan? If there was a hole in the ground now, he would immediately crawl into it as he was too ashamed to face anyone!

"Brother Xia, this is all a misunderstanding... a misunderstanding..." Du Miao said.

Xia Wen looked at Du Miao and Song Dan and said sternly, "I don't care about what you do on your own, but you'd better not have any ideas about my sister and my family. If I find out that you're still doing things behind my back after today, then don't blame me for taking action."

People like Du Miao and Song Dan definitely had secretly done a lot of things against the rules. He just needed to find one incident to ruin the reputation of both the Song and Du families.

The Xia family had always been aboveboard and never needed to be afraid of being threatened or targeted by anyone. As the saying went, an upright person would not have a crooked shadow. There was no way that Song Dan could do anything to the Xia family!

Before Du Miao and Song Dan could reply, Xia Wen left Song Dan's house. When he left, he even trampled all the roses in the courtyard.

"How dare he give such ugly flowers to my sister," Xia Wen said disdainfully.

Du Miao was so angry that he took the glass of water from the table and splashed it towards Song Dan. Only then did the groggy Song Dan finally wake up.

"Why are you splashing water on me! Are you drunk!" Song Dan looked at Du Miao and said agitatedly.

"I'm drunk? You're the drunk one! Do you even know what you said to Xia Wen just now! I'm really unlucky to be your friend! I must have done a lot of bad things in my past life to have to become your friend in this life!" Du Miao pointed at Song Dan and said in disbelief.

"Of course I remember! It's the truth! There are so many women who want to marry me. Xia He had already been married once, so how can she look down on me! How dare she! Any woman can dislike me but not Xia He! A previously married woman! Pfft!" Song Dan said angrily.

Du Miao took a glass from the coffee table and smashed it on the floor, even causing the tiles to crack.

"Are you done fooling around! If you have such thoughts, then don't even think about being with Xia He! Even if there are two of you available, you're still not worthy of Xia He!" Du Miao said.

The Xia family's ancestors could be considered one of the founding fathers of the country and were highly respected veterans. The Xia family had so many children and grandchildren who were outstanding in their respective fields. Even their granddaughter-in-law was exceptional. Just the "divine medicine" alone made many wealthy families in the capital want to curry favor with the Xia family.

Even if Xia He was already married once, there were still countless men who wanted to marry her. If Du Miao was still single, he would also want to marry Xia He!

Song Dan was so ugly and not even as tall as Xia He, nor did he earn as much as Xia He. Apart from Song Dan, the rest of the Song family members were useless. Song Dan's parents were both compulsive gamblers and neither of them were decent people. How could Song Dan have the cheek to say that Xia He was not good enough for him!

"Why are you flaring up at me! Are you my friend or not! Why are you speaking up for others!" Song Dan said.

"If I'm not your friend! I would have beaten you up by now! After what you said to Xia Wen just now, I'll take your surname if the Xia family can still accept you! You still want to force yourself on Xia He! Dream on! With those combat skills of yours, you won't be able to beat Xia He!" Du Miao said sarcastically.

"Do you think I'm stupid? I can always drug Xia He!" Song Dan said.

"And you're not afraid that the Xia family will cut you into a thousand pieces? I can't help you with this matter anymore. Do it yourself. If anything happens, don't drag me into it. I won't help you solve the problem." With that, Du Miao left Song Dan's house.

Du Miao would not put the entire Du family in danger for Song Dan. He still had his wife and daughter to think of!

Two days later, Qiao Mei's factory started operations as planned after receiving all the necessary approvals from the government as scheduled. Now, all that was left for them to do was to rake in the money!

They continued to work with many people to sell the goods via retail sales. However, they also prepared packaged goods to sell in shops. Qiao Mei had signed a one-year contract with a few well-known shops in the capital. During this one-year period, Qiao Mei would provide them with a constant supply of goods.

"Oh my goodness, this contract is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. Oh my goodness! Qiao Mei, am I dreaming!" Qian'e said excitedly as she looked at the document in front of her.

Chapter 1474 Open for Business

"You didn't see wrongly. Do you want to count how many zeros there are?" Qiao Mei asked with a smile.

Li Gui also found it unbelievable. Although the money would be paid to them in installments, the total sum was hundreds of thousands of dollars, and that was only for one contract. If they added up all the contract sums, the down payments alone were already more than 200,000 dollars!

"Qiao Mei, are we being too ostentatious? Will we cause trouble for Xiao Wen?" Li Gui said worriedly.

"Mom, don't worry. This is all legal now. Eldest Brother has already helped us sort out the approval documents. There seems to be some kind of trial... an assistance policy of some sort. I don't quite understand how it works, but if Eldest Brother says that it's alright, then it definitely isn't a problem. Don't worry," Qiao Mei said.

"Unbelievable. In the future, we can just sit in the office and count money!" Qian'e said.

"Yes! But not totally. This time round, I had to go to so many shops to negotiate the signing of the one-year contracts. During this coming year, I don't intend to start any new businesses. Both of you have to quickly learn about contracts and the like. I'll hand everything to you after this one-year period," Qiao Mei said.

This was not a difficult task for Qian'e. After all, she used to be a top student. Now, all she needed to do was to learn management skills and some knowledge of law very quickly and she would be able to cope well.

However, for Li Gui, this was more difficult than asking her to ascend to the heavens. She only knew how to do basic calculations now and she still could not work out complicated sums! For example, something which Qiao Mei said some time ago... about percentages... She did not understand words like that even if she had no issues doing simple additions, subtractions, multiplications and divisions.

"Mei Mei... I can't cope. Why don't you just let me go out and sell goods? I really can't manage such a big factory," Li Gui said fearfully.

"Mom, you have to trust me. I'm just going to do less but it's not like I really don't care about anything. How about I'll take charge of checking the contracts and you can be in charge of thinking of more ways to earn money?" Qiao Mei said after thinking for a moment.

"Then I'll give it a try. If I really can't do it, then you have to help me. You must check the accounts for the factory every month. I'm scared of making mistakes or missing out on something," Li Gui said.

"I'll do what you say," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

After all, Qian'e was an outsider and not Li Gui's daughter. No matter how good their relationship was, it was susceptible to falling apart one day if there were any disputes. No one knew if Qian'e would still remember Qiao Mei and Li Gui after she made it big! Although Li Gui treated Qian'e very well, she would not just leave everything to Qian'e.

Qiao Mei was her biological daughter. Even if she was betrayed by her own daughter, she would have no complaints. Besides, Qiao Mei was not that kind of person.

"Oh right! What's the name of our factory!" Qian'e said.

"It's called Osmanthus Food Factory," Qiao Mei said as she looked at Li Gui.

This was the name that they came up with when Li Gui started selling braised meat. Now, it was no longer a small food stall but a big factory!

"I've already found someone to design the logo, using the image of an osmanthus flower. I'll leave the matter to Deng Fan. We'll probably get something in two days," Qiao Mei said.

"What has Xia He been doing during this period of time? When is she getting married to that kid, Deng Fan? I want to buy her a gift," Li Gui said.

"I have been so busy that I forgot about Xia He's upcoming wedding. I have to buy a gift for Xia He too. Maybe... maybe I'll buy her a big sofa!" Qian'e said happily.

Qiao Mei covered her face and smiled. Those who did not know better would think that Qian'e was in charge of the betrothal gifts! Xia He did not lack anything, but the couple did need furniture for their new house. Deng Fan may even want to design the furniture himself. Anything they bought for the couple might not match the style Deng Fan had in mind!

"Then you might as well just give Xia He money," Qiao Mei teased.

"Money? That's two different things altogether. I'll still give money as a gift. If a sofa is not a good idea... then I can buy a big color television! There are only a few different models available so I can't go wrong with that!" Qian'e said.

No one knew how Xia He would react if she received a big color television from Qian'e. She would probably be very shocked. After all, Xia He would not expect Qian'e to put all their past behind her and attend the wedding ceremony.

Chapter 1475 Buying Antiques

Qiao Mei received the down payments one after another. She looked at all the money and felt a little worried. Although she had space to keep the money in her courtyard house, there were too many people coming and going at her place every day. If He Ning saw this, it would also give him a reason to make a fuss.

In the end, Qiao Mei put all the money at Xu Lan's house, which meant that Xia Mao and Xu Lan had to guard a pile of money at home every day. Even though the two of them had been through all kinds of experiences in life, they also could not help but feel a little afraid.

"Qiao Mei... are you sure you want to keep so much money at home?" Xia Mao asked as he pointed at the study.

"I'll just leave it here for the time being. If we deposit everything into the bank, I'm worried that it will attract the attention of the higher-ups. There are still procedures at the bank that have yet to be approved," Qiao Mei said resignedly.

"Sigh... Mei Mei, you don't know this, but your father seems a little crazy these past few days. In the middle of the night, he keeps checking to see if the money is still there. Sometimes, he even sits down to count the money. I'm so worried that he'll go mad," Xu Lan pulled Qiao Mei aside and whispered.

After thinking about it, Qiao Mei felt that it was not a good idea to just leave it around like this. She should spend the money, but how was she supposed to spend 200,000 dollars? Furthermore, it was not only the 200,000 dollars in the house. Not long ago, He Ning also suddenly decided to return all the money he owed her.

Qiao Mei had tabulated that after excluding the coins in her collection, the remaining cash added up to a total of 1.1 million dollars!

"I should buy something and spend all this money!" Qiao Mei said.

"Are you thinking of buying a house again?" Xia Wen asked as he stared at Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei scratched the back of her head in embarrassment and said, "Heh, I indeed want to buy a house."

The amount of 1.1 million dollars was enough for her to buy an entire building, not just a house. They had never seen so much money in their lives and did not even know how to spend it.

Hearing that Qiao Mei wanted to buy a house again, everyone in the Xia family lowered their heads helplessly and sighed. This was the first time in Xia Mao's life that he needed to be worried about having too much money. When he was young, his family had even been troubled for a few months because they did not have the money to pay his tuition fees!

"Actually, I want to buy some antiques, calligraphy and paintings, or things like porcelain and jade. The more the better," Qiao Mei said. I think you should take a look at

"Why do you want to buy these things?" Xu Lan asked curiously.

"I feel that once the turbulent times are behind us and everyone starts to live and work in peace, people will work very hard to earn money. After that, they will start to have intellectual pursuits and these things will become more and more valuable," Qiao Mei said earnestly.

Xia Mao had exactly the same thoughts as Qiao Mei. He definitely knew the benefits of such items. Otherwise, Wu Min would not have risked her life to hide so many things under the old residence back then. He had also hidden away a lot of things himself! He had never told anyone about this, not even Xu Lan.

"That's a very good idea, but you have so much money that you can even afford to buy the entire antique market! If someone decides to investigate further, they will find out that it's our family buying these things and you will still have to be screened," Xu Lan said.

"That's not difficult. Many of my friends like such items and they will usually go around to buy these things too. We can just pass them the money and ask them to buy the items for us," Xia Mao said.

"Really! Father, can you really do it!" Qiao Mei said excitedly.

Xia Mao could clearly feel Qiao Mei's eyes sparkling like two bright bulbs. He nodded confidently and said, "I can still get such a small thing done."

"Then I'll make a list later and the uncles can just buy the items on the list! If there's anything nice, you can give it to the uncles as a thank-you gift from our family! Oh right... it's best to buy antiques without an owner. Otherwise, it can be very troublesome in the future," Qiao Mei said seriously.

It was very likely that antiques with living owners would find their way back to their owners in the future. In another few years, those antiques, calligraphy and paintings which were confiscated would be returned to the original owners. However, some people in the government would make use of their positions to sell those things before that happened. Once the truth was exposed, the items would have to be returned to the owners and the buyers would have to suffer a loss.

Xia Mao and Xia Wen looked at each other and smiled. Qiao Mei was not just a money-grubber, but a knowledgeable money-grubber. In order to protect her treasures, she had all kinds of ideas!

"Alright, don't worry. Leave this matter to me. I have already asked Luo Yu to arrange for 10 people from the guard team to stay near your place to protect you," Xia Mao said.

Chapter 1476 Like Women

A total of 10 people! She had never expected to live like one of those protagonists in television dramas. In the future, she would become the kind of person who was surrounded by bodyguards when she went out!

She did not have to worry about her own safety anymore! She also did not have to worry about the children's safety. Everyone in the family would be assigned a personal bodyguard.

"So many people live near me? Why haven't I noticed any of them?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"They must have been arranged to stay at various locations in the alley. From now on, they will be in charge of the safety of your family," Xia Mao said.

Recently, Qiao Mei either locked herself in a room to study flowers and trees or stayed at home to make clothes and shoes. She had helpers to take care of the household chores and she did not need to go out at all.

No wonder Feng Hua told her that she had seen many new faces in the alley recently. It turned out that they were all people posted there by Xia Mao!

"How about this! I'll pay for their rent! If there's really no other way, I can even buy the houses they stay in!" Qiao Mei said generously.

When Xia Wen and Xia Mao heard this, they did not know whether to laugh or cry. Since Qiao Mei did not lack money, they would not fight with her on this. She was a really stubborn person and her main wish was to buy up all the houses in the alley. Her dream was to buy more houses and become a landlady as soon as possible, so that she just needed to sit back and collect rent.

"Mei Mei, come with me for a while," Xu Lan looked at Qiao Mei and said mysteriously.

"Alright," Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Mei obediently followed Xu Lan to the bedroom upstairs. As soon as she entered, Xu Lan pulled Qiao Mei to the bed and sat her down. She looked at Qiao Mei curiously and asked, "Do you have any information about the latest situation with your eldest brother recently!"

"Situation? What's going on? Did he get another promotion and a raise?" Qiao Mei said.

"No! It's about... his love life. Is there a beautiful girl who likes him, or someone whom he has a good impression of? Xia He came back to tell me about this! But we were in a hurry and didn't talk about it in detail. Tell me what's going on!" Xu Lan said anxiously.

It was not that Xu Lan wanted to be a busybody, but Xia Wen was really bad at this aspect of his life.

Xia Wen was very capable, but he did not have good taste in women. When he was in school, Xia Wen had already started dating! He had an ambiguous relationship with a girl from the neighboring class, and his homeroom teacher had even asked to meet Xu Lan to find out more about the situation.

If that girl was a nice and honest person, Xu Lan would not stop Xia Wen from going ahead. However, that girl was an indecent person whose relatives were all local hooligans! How could Xia Wen date such a person? In the end, Xu Lan forced Xia Wen to study hard and skip a grade so that he could graduate earlier and stay away from that girl. As time passed, Xia Wen forgot about this matter.

Unexpectedly, Tan Jing appeared after that. Therefore, this time round, Xu Lan wanted to be very careful about this matter. She could not be muddle-headed again and allow a nasty woman to enter the Xia family!

"Huh... If Xia He told you about it, then it must be Xia He who has taken a fancy to this girl," Qiao Mei said helplessly.

"What! How can Xia He!" Xu Lan looked at Qiao Mei in shock and jumped up. Qiao Mei could clearly feel that Xu Lan was all tensed up like an angry lion.

"No, no! Oh my... That day, Xia He went to Eldest Brother's office to look for him and she happened to run into that girl. Xia He got along very well with that girl and brought her back to my place for dinner. The gist of the story is that Xia He wants to matchmake the two of them. So it's Xia He who has taken a fancy to this girl and wants the girl to become her sister-in-law!" Qiao Mei quickly explained.

It was only then that Xu Lan could relax. When she first heard that Xia Wen had found someone he liked, she felt very happy. Now that she knew it was only a misunderstanding, she felt a little sad.

"I wonder if there is any girl who is willing to be with Xia Wen," Xu Lan said sadly.

When Xia He got a divorce, Xu Lan was not very affected. Back then, it was Xia He who was bent on marrying into the Kong family and it was only a matter of time before she got a divorce. Xu Lan always thought that Xia He was asking for trouble by getting married to that man. However, she did not expect Xia Wen to also get a divorce not long after. After that, she began to reflect on whether it was because she had not taught her children well.

Chapter 1477 Treasure

Currently, Xia Zhe was the only child left in the Xia family who was in a happy marriage. However, Xia Zhe was always out on missions in the army and was rarely at home. If someone took a fancy to Qiao Mei at this time and took advantage of the situation, or if Qiao Mei became disheartened and did not want to wait for Xia Zhe in the capital, Xu Lan might lose such a good daughter-in-law to someone else.

She had long wanted to give something to Qiao Mei but never had the chance to do so. The current moment seemed like the right time.

Xu Lan took out an exquisite box from the cabinet. When she opened the box, there were many layers of cloth and paper inside. The cloth and paper were very old and had already started to turn yellow.

"Mother, what is this? It's wrapped up so tightly," Qiao Mei asked.

"This is the bangle that my mother gave me when I got married. I heard from my mother that she had received it from her mother. Now, I'm giving this bangle to you. I hope you can take good care of it," Xu Lan said as she placed the gold bangle in Qiao Mei's hands.

This was a bangle that the Xu family had passed down to the family's daughter for generations. She was only a daughter-in-law, so how could she accept such a valuable item!

"No! No! Mother, you can't give me such a valuable thing. You can... you can give it to Elder Sister. Elder Sister is getting married soon, so isn't it the right timing to give it to her?" Qiao Mei said in a panic.

"Don't you know Xia He well? If I give this to her, she'll lose it within a few days!" Xu Lan said.

"This does sound like something she will do," Qiao Mei said helplessly.

"Alright, so I'll leave this with you. Keep it well," Xu Lan said.

Qiao Mei looked at the bangle in her hand for a long time before putting it back into the box and storing it properly. She looked at Xu Lan gratefully and said, "Thank you, Mother."

After dinner, Qiao Mei asked Xia Mao for news about Xia Zhe's latest mission. They were not allowed to contact anyone yet, but Xia Zhe should be able to come home soon. Xia Mao told Qiao Mei not to be anxious and to wait for news at home.

Qiao Mei decided not to think about the matter regarding Xia Zhe anymore and just focused on the factory. There was still some time to go before the seeds ripened. By then, she would have a big business deal to close!

Xia Mao was very efficient and it did not take long for him to help Qiao Mei obtain a lot of treasures. There were many types of jewelry. He thought that girls usually preferred things like pearls and jade stones. He had seen Xu Lan buy such things often and he felt that Qiao Mei would probably like them too.

One week later, when Qiao Mei came to visit again, there was a feast for the eyes waiting for her. As soon as she entered, she saw a mountain of jewelry in big boxes that filled the entire living room and even the corridor upstairs.

"There's so much! I like them a lot! Thank you, Father!" Qiao Mei wished she could pour out all the things in the box and lie down on them now. This was the first time she could actually have a sense of what it felt like to be rich.

Every treasured item here would be worth hundreds of thousands or even millions in the future. Anyone would be tempted by it. If she told Xia Mao and the others the future value of these things, they would probably faint!

"How... how can I move everything out! I'll move them out tonight! Yes! Let's do it this way! If I move them slowly, I'll be able to complete the move eventually!" Qiao Mei said incoherently. She was so happy that she felt dizzy.

"Look at this child. Don't worry, I've already made arrangements for the transport. The vehicle is already outside the door. Later on, there will be specialists coming to move these things to your house. They will definitely be very careful and won't leak any news to outsiders," Xia Mao said with a smile.

"Really? I just know that Father is the best!" Qiao Mei said excitedly.

Qiao Mei looked through the boxes for a long time. In the end, she chose two old-fashioned pocket watches for Xia Mao and Xia Wen and a set of red agate jewelry for Xu Lan. The red agate stone on that necklace was even bigger than a quail egg! Qiao Mei also picked out a set of imperial green jade jewelry for Xia He. The sisters from the second son's family would get a ring each. She did not intend to give anything to the third son's family, in case it caused someone to start eyeing her things.

She had only spent around 200,000 dollars on these things, which was really too little. She still had so much money to spend! She wanted to buy some raw stones. In the future, it would be a pity if she designed beautiful jewelry but did not have any precious stones to work with. She had to buy more while these things were still cheap!

She decided to set aside 100,000 dollars for the purchase. Very soon, she will need money for the factory, so she decided to park the remaining money there.

Chapter 1478 Agree to Buy the House

When she got home, she saw Deng Fan's motorcycle parked outside the door. It was rare for these two people to come to her house together.

"What brings the conscientious Young Master Deng here!" Qiao Mei walked into the main hall and saw the couple sitting together and holding hands.

"Here to exploit you, of course!" Deng Fan said with a smile.

"Tell me about it. I want to know how you plan to exploit me," Qiao Mei said as she sat in the rocking chair and looked at them.

After Xia He returned home, she discussed with Deng Fan for a long time and they finally decided to buy the house which Qiao Mei had set aside for Xia He. Their only condition was to buy it at the same price which Qiao Mei had bought it plus the renovation costs. They would not pay anything less than that.

They were already lucky to be able to buy such a good house. If Qiao Mei needed to lower the price to help them out, she would incur a huge loss and they did not want to see that happen. Although they knew that Qiao Mei did not lack money at all, she could not waste money like this no matter how rich she was.

"We've thought about it for a long time and finally decided to buy the house you mentioned. However, we want to take a look at your original purchase agreement and also the contract with the renovation contractor," Xia He said sternly.

"Why! Are you worried that I'll cheat you!" Qiao Mei said.

"Of course not!" Deng Fan said quickly.

"I won't tease you anymore. I know what you're trying to do. Since you really want to give me money, I'll fulfill your wish. I spent 7,000 dollars on the house and 500 dollars on the renovation. If I include the costs of modification for the plumbing and electrical works, and all the other miscellaneous expenses, the total is about 8,000 dollars," Qiao Mei said after doing a rough calculation.

This price was within the couple's budget and they could afford it. However, Qiao Mei felt a little unhappy. She only wanted to sell this house to Xia He so that it remained as part of Xia He's premarital assets!

It was not as if Qiao Mei was cursing Xia He's marriage to end in a divorce again, but who could tell what would happen in the future? One must definitely leave oneself a way out. If the Deng family paid for a share of the house, then half of the house would go to the Deng family in the event of a divorce. This was completely different from Qiao Mei's original intention.

"Who will sign the agreement?" Qiao Mei asked.

Before Xia He could speak, Deng Fan immediately said, "It will be in Xia He's name."

"Didn't we agree to buy it in your name?" Xia He whispered as she tugged at the corner of Deng Fan's shirt.

Qiao Mei's hearing and eyesight were extraordinarily sharp. She could hear even the tiniest sound clearly.

"You won't regret it?" Qiao Mei continued to ask.

"Yes! This is what my family agreed on. It will be Xia He's name on the title deed," Deng Fan said to Qiao Mei with a smile.

Qiao Mei sized up Deng Fan for a while. After a long silence, she said, "Alright. There's no urgency to give me the money. When I have time, I'll draw up an agreement and sign it with my elder sister."

After having a simple discussion on the details, Deng Fan made to leave. There was still some work to be done at the factory and he still needed to go there to deal with it.

"Elder Sister, stay behind. I want to talk to you," Qiao Mei said as she grabbed Xia He's arm.

Xia He nodded. After sending Deng Fan off, she returned to the house dejectedly. What happened today was completely different from what she had imagined. That was not what Deng Fan had told her in the beginning.

"Don't tell me you're spending the entire 5,000 dollars on this house," Qiao Mei said.

"No, although that's what I wanted to do at first," Xia He muttered softly.

After Xia He and Deng Fan discussed the issue, Deng Fan secretly went home to talk to Deng Rui and Jiang Shu about it. Qiao Mei was paying Deng Fan 5,000 dollars for the work done at the factory. He already had a total of 1,200 dollars in savings, while Deng Rui and Jiang Shu also had around 2,000 dollars in savings. In total, they managed to pool together 9,300 dollars.

It was enough for them to buy the house as well as the Four Big Things. However, they had an issue with the betrothal gifts. They knew that when Xia Zhe married Qiao Mei, he had given her 2,000 dollars. If they only gave Xia He 500 dollars, would that not seem like a slap on Xia He's face?

Even if they had to sell everything they owned, they must show Xia He enough respect. They must let Xia He marry into their family in a grand manner. Any hardships would only last for a while. After some time, they would have a comfortable life again.

It was Deng Rui and Jiang Shu who wanted to put Xia He's name in the title deed of the house. They had seriously mandated Deng Fan to do it. Otherwise, the couple had to buy another house.

After Xia He finished explaining the cause and effect, Qiao Mei nodded in satisfaction. It seemed that the Deng family was truly nice to Xia He. In that case, Qiao Mei finally felt at ease. She could just pay Deng Fan more. After all, she had the final say in this matter!

Chapter 1479 Astronomical Salary

At dawn the next day, Qiao Mei dragged Xia He to the study to sign the agreement. Actually, she had drafted two sets of agreements long ago and was just waiting for Xia He and Xia Wen to sign them. She had waited for this day for too long.

"Sign it quickly!" Qiao Mei said excitedly as she slammed the agreement on the table.

Xia He looked at Qiao Mei's anxious expression and laughed out loud. She had never seen a seller who looked even happier than the buyer!

"Little ancestor, do you know what time it is? The rooster in Grandpa Qiao's backyard hasn't even started crowing yet, but you actually drag me here to sign the agreement! Moreover, the paper looks a little yellowish. You must have been waiting for this day for a long time," Xia He said helplessly as she picked up the document.

"Yes! If you don't sign it, I'm going to take it back!" Qiao Mei threatened.

Qiao Mei was worried that Xia He would go back on her word or that something would happen. She even regretted not signing the agreement immediately yesterday. This way, Xia He would never be able to back out!

Xia He signed the agreement without even reading it. Qiao Mei happily held it up and asked, "You didn't even look at it. Aren't you afraid that I'll cheat you?"

"What's there to be afraid of? If you lie to me, then I'll just stay at your house for the rest of my life. I won't get married either! What can you do! Besides, the helpers and children are here, as well as Grandpa Qiao and Auntie Li who like me. I'm more than happy to cling to you!" Xia He said shamelessly.

"How dare you not get married! Big Brother Deng may even come and chop me up with a kitchen knife. You should quickly marry him!" Qiao Mei said disdainfully.

At the mention of marriage, Xia He still felt a little uneasy. Actually, it was just a matter of going to the community center to get the documents stamped. When she got married to Kong Lu, she was not so afraid. However, when it came to Deng Fan, she was actually a little afraid of getting married.

"You... you're not afraid, are you?" Qiao Mei asked as she looked into Xia He's eyes.

"Nonsense! Is there anything I'm afraid of!" Xia He said stubbornly.

"I still have a lot of antiques, calligraphy and paintings. When you go to the Deng family to visit Uncle and Auntie, you can bring a few with you. They like these things very much, don't they? I'm guessing that they won't like those gold, silver or jade artifacts. These calligraphy and paintings should be more to their liking," Qiao Mei said.

Xia He knew nothing about such things. She suddenly felt that Qiao Mei was like her savior. In the future, if she did not have any suitable gifts for Deng Rui and Jiang Shu, she could just come to Qiao Mei's place to look for something. Qiao Mei definitely would have something that they would like.

Qiao Mei seemed to know what Xia He was thinking and quickly added, "Hey! I only have that many things. Don't keep giving them away!" I think you should take a look at

At this moment, an ancient painting might only cost a few dollars and not worth much at all, but in the future, it would be a priceless treasure. The things that Xia He wanted to give away were worth millions!

Qiao Mei found it acceptable to give away less than 10 items. If she had to give away everything in her house, then she would go and weep at the Deng family's main door!

"I know! I can't possibly move all your assets over there!" Xia He said helplessly.

"Who knows if you can do such a thing..." Qiao Mei muttered softly.

Xia He knocked on the table and asked, "I signed the agreement without paying. If I don't pay you, what can you do?"

"What's there to be afraid of! Deng Fan's pay is still with me and I haven't given it to him yet!" Qiao Mei said as she patted her chest.

"That's not a lot of money. How can it compare to the price of the house," Xia He said.

Qiao Mei raised one finger in front of Xia He. Xia He thought for a moment and said, "1,000 dollars?"

Qiao Mei shook her head.

Xia He was stunned for a moment before she suddenly stood up and yelled out in shock, "10,000! Qiao Mei, are you crazy!"

"What? This is the pay which Big Brother Deng deserves. Why are you so shocked?" Qiao Mei covered her ears and said innocently.

"The most that Deng Fan was paid was only 800 dollars and it was for half a year's work. You actually want to pay him 10,000 dollars. Are you crazy!" Xia He said.

Perhaps Qiao Mei was really too rich and had forgotten that in this era, one could buy a sausage and a loaf of bread for 20 cents. One could even buy one pound of meat with 20 cents!

A salary of 10,000 dollars was indeed an astronomical figure. Some people would not even be able to save up 10,000 dollars in their entire lives. If Qiao Mei was always so generous and other people found out about this, how would she be able to ask for help in the future? People would definitely raise the price when it came to her.

Chapter 1480 A Favor Done At Little Cost

"I think Big Brother Deng is worth this price! That's the maximum I will pay him. Don't worry," Qiao Mei said seriously.

Xia He still felt that Qiao Mei was paying too much. However, no matter how much she tried to persuade Qiao Mei, it would not change the outcome. Instead, it might even agitate Qiao Mei and make her rebellious. She might even give Deng Fan 20,000 dollars later!

Qiao Mei just did not want the Deng family to "go bankrupt" in order to marry Xia He. She also did not want Xia He to live a tough life. She was willing to give all this money to Xia He for free. Ever since she married into the Xia family, Xia He had spent a lot of money and put in a lot of effort on her and her children. Even if she had to give one-third of her family's money to Xia He, she would have no regrets.

Since she could see how sincere the Deng family was, it was good enough for her. She decided to be the one to fork out the money. She had originally already wanted to give Xia He a house. If she did it this way, it would look good for everyone.

The two of them chatted noisily for a long time. Suddenly, Xia He requested to go to Qiao Mei's factory to take a look. She still did not know the location of the factory! She also wanted to see with her own eyes what Deng Fan had achieved after working so hard for so long.

Qiao Mei asked the chauffeur to drive the two of them to the factory and also brought along some bedding and account books. Deng Fan's work had already completely ended. Qiao Mei had requested for a separate lounge to be built in her office. She thought that she could go there to clean up and deck out the lounge today.

Recently, she had also been thinking about something else. Not only did Deng Fan know how to design buildings, but he also knew how to repair machinery and also manage the factory. Why not hire Deng Fan to work in her factory?

Deng Fan was only working freelance for now. He could take on a big project today, which would make enough money for him to pay for three months' worth of expenses. The next time, he might only take on a small project, only enough to cover a few days' expenses. If he did not have any projects, he would have to sit around and dig into his savings. There was no job security at all, so how could he provide Xia He with a comfortable life?

She could not possibly let Deng Fan return to work in the art troupe. He did not have much talent in the arts, but he worked especially hard when it came to designing buildings and repairing machinery. She could not let such a "genius" waste away.

After more than half an hour, they finally arrived at the main entrance of the factory. Qiao Mei asked the chauffeur to send the things to her office while the two of them got out of the car to take a walk around. Even Qiao Mei herself had never properly admired the factory!

"Wow! The main entrance is so grand!" Xia He lamented.

"You should praise your husband. Everything was designed by him. I didn't even look at the design and just asked him to build it," Qiao Mei said as she looked at the main door. I think you should take a look at

Qiao Mei was actually too lazy to look at it. A factory was just a factory, how fancy could it look? However, she did not expect Deng Fan to really be able to do it.

This factory was like a mini city. Not only did it accommodate everyone's needs, but there were also recreational spots like a small garden and a pond.

Deng Fan did not want to design it like this either. It was just that Qiao Mei had given him too much money. Even if he bought everything using the best specifications, there would still be a lot of money left, so he had no choice but to be bold in his design.

Xia He secretly gave Qiao Mei a thumbs up. Qiao Mei was probably the only person who would spend more than 100,000 dollars to build a factory without even checking the drawings.

The two of them walked around the factory in a blur. Qiao Mei still did not know what each workshop was for. It took her a long time to find out the use of each workshop.

"Qiao Mei, is this your factory or not? Why do I feel that the workers here are more familiar with it than you?" Xia He said with a smile.

"It's my mother and Qian'e who are in charge of the factory. I only front it. I'll become familiar with it after some time. There's no rush," Qiao Mei said with a grin.

After searching for a long time, they finally saw the busy Deng Fan. This was the first time Xia He had seen Deng Fan covered in machine oil. Usually, Deng Fan would only dare to come and look for Xia He after dressing up nicely. He felt a little embarrassed to look so disheveled in front of them.

"Why are you here? Quick, get out. It's very dangerous. Wait for me outside," Deng Fan said very sternly.

Qiao Mei and Xia He obediently stood outside the workshop and waited for Deng Fan to finish his work.