

Fat Wife 1481

Chapter 1481 Get Married Tomorrow

While Deng Fan was busy in the workshop, Xia He stood outside and kept sneaking glances inside. This was the first time she had seen Deng Fan at work as an architect.

Back when he was in the art troupe, Deng Fan was neither eye-catching nor outstanding. It would not be too much to say that he was just mediocre and he did not have any strengths. If not for Xia He, he would have left the troupe long ago and would not have waited until now. Now that Deng Fan was working in his area of expertise, he shone with confidence, making one unable to take their eyes off him.

"How is it? Do you think Big Brother Deng is amazing? Do you find him especially handsome!" Qiao Mei asked with a smile.

"I've always felt that he's very capable!" Xia He said proudly.

Qiao Mei leaned over and whispered into Xia He's ear, "Since you're so satisfied, why don't you hurry up and get married to Big Brother Deng. There are many female workers in the factory and most of them are young girls. I heard from my mother that many girls have fallen for Big Brother Deng recently. There are even people who asked my mother about Big Brother Deng's family background. If you don't hurry up, you will allow other people to take advantage of the situation!"

"I... I'm not afraid! Deng Fan won't abandon me for another woman. Besides, are those women as beautiful as me? Are they more capable than me?" Xia He said with a guilty conscience.

"But they are young, all 18-year-old girls! All of them are beautiful and charming at this age. There's a saying that goes, 'A chaste woman is most afraid of a persistent man'. It's the same for a man. I'm just worried that if someone pesters Big Brother Deng every day, nasty rumors will start spreading. By then, it'll be difficult for anyone to prove their innocence!" Qiao Mei said.

Xia He thought about it carefully. What Qiao Mei said made sense. Back when Qian'e was still insensible, she had gone around spreading rumors about Xia Zhe and herself. There were people who believed her!

Earlier, Shao Yin had also wanted to use such a despicable method to deal with Xia Wen. If Qiao Mei had not seen through it in time, Xia Wen would probably be married to Shao Yin now.

She must speed up the pace and get the marriage registered. She should not wait any longer!

"Sorry to make you wait. Why are you free to come to the factory today? I thought the two of you never cared about these things?" Deng Fan teased.

Xia He was not listening to Deng Fan at all. She stared straight at him and said, "Let's go and register our marriage tomorrow!"

Qiao Mei and Deng Fan were stunned on the spot when they heard what Xia He said. Qiao Mei even wondered if she had heard wrongly just now. It sounded like Xia He was speaking impulsively after having too much to drink.

Even if their parents had already agreed to the marriage, they could not make such a rash decision about the date to register their marriage! Back then, when Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe registered their marriage, Qiao Qiang had specially asked the "old immortal" in the village to find a date that was compatible with both their birth dates!

"I... you... um... what did you say?" Deng Fan asked in a panic.

"I said! Let's register our marriage tomorrow! Register our marriage! Register our marriage!" Xia He said sternly.

"Elder Sister, aren't you being a little impulsive here?" Qiao Mei said as she looked at Xia He.

Xia He said firmly, "I'm not being impulsive. I want to register my marriage tomorrow. Even if an immortal comes, he won't be able to stop me from registering my marriage!"

Qiao Mei did not want to rain on Xia He's parade, but it was a fact that Xia He's wish could not be fulfilled. This was because it was the weekend tomorrow and the people in the community center did not need to go to work, so there was no one to process it for Xia He.

The sudden fighting spirit in Xia He dissipated. However, since she had already said it out loud, there was no reason for her to eat her words. Since she could not register her marriage during the weekend, she would do it on Monday. Moreover, she wanted to be the first one to get the marriage certificate on that day!

Deng Fan looked at Qiao Mei awkwardly. He did not know how to raise the issue with her.

"What's wrong, Big Brother Deng?" Qiao Mei asked.

"I..." Deng Fan was a little hesitant, but the look in Xia He's eyes was too serious and anxious. He clenched his teeth and said, "Qiao Mei... can I get an advance on the pay? I mean the payment for this project."

Qiao Mei had indeed not thought things through properly and did not discuss anything with Deng Fan in advance. The Four Big Things and betrothal gifts from the Deng family had not been delivered to Xia Mao and Xu Lan yet, so how could he go and register his marriage with Xia He now? If they did that, was it any different from eloping?

Chapter 1482 Failed Attempt to Invest

"Big Brother Deng, don't worry. I've already given your salary to Elder Sister," Qiao Mei said.

"Director Qiao is giving you a payment of 10,000 dollars and she has already deducted the cost of the house from it. I still have 2,000 dollars with me and I have left it at Qiao Mei's house for the time being. We'll go and get the money when you get off work," Xia He said.

Deng Fan seemed to have been turned into stone as he stood there in a daze. No matter how Xia He and Qiao Mei called out to him, he did not react. It was only when Xia He could not take it anymore and gave him a kick that he grabbed his ankle in pain and finally came back to his senses.

"10,000... 10,000 dollars... I've never even seen so much money in my life... Did you get the sum wrong? It should be 1,000 dollars, how can it be 10,000 dollars? If I accept this money, will the police come and arrest me!" Deng Fan muttered to himself.

"Why would they arrest you? You earned the money through your own hard work. Why would the police arrest you?" Qiao Mei said.

Deng Fan still found it hard to believe and Qiao Mei and Xia He also did not continue to explain. When Xia He first heard what Qiao Mei said, her expression was no different from the one on Deng Fan's face now. It was better to let Deng Fan digest the news himself.

Qiao Mei brought Xia He to the factory's office building. The office building had six floors and Qiao Mei had not thought of what to do with the first floor, but there was a big room that was perfect to be a meeting room.

The second floor was her office and she occupied the entire floor. She was the one who decided where each office was located. In other factories, the factory director's office would be located on the topmost floor, which was meant to signify reaching the top. However, Qiao Mei did not do it the same way.

As for the reason... it was because she was too lazy. In this era without lifts, she really did not want to climb the stairs to work on the sixth floor every day. It was already a very painful thing to have to go to work and having to climb the stairs would only make it worse.

The third floor was the office for the production of seeds, the fourth floor was the office for the production of popcorn, and the fifth floor was the office for the production of braised meat. Qiao Mei planned to use the sixth floor as a database warehouse to store the ledgers and contracts.

"How is it? Isn't it very grand!" Qiao Mei said happily.

"It's indeed not bad, and there's even such a big lounge. Don't tell me you plan to live here?" Xia He asked suspiciously.

"Not necessarily. When it's busy at the factory, I'll have to work overtime here. In the near future, I'll come over to stay for a while after I tidy up my office. There's still a lot of work to do given that it's early days at the factory. I have to keep an eye on the workers as I'm worried that my mother and Qian'e won't be able to do it well," Qiao Mei said.

"Is Qian'e a shareholder now?" Xia He said with a hint of jealousy.

When Qiao Mei first asked Qian'e to help her with her business, she never intended to let Qian'e work as an employee. As for the shares, Qiao Mei planned to give Qian'e 10% as well as making her the decision maker for the popcorn production line.

After all, they had three production lines running at the same time. If each production line was equivalent to 30% of the business, it was already a lot for Qian'e to have 10% of the shares!

As for Li Gui... she would get 35%! Qiao Mei alone held 45% of the shares and the last 10% belonged to the country.

"It's fine. This is something I have already decided from the beginning," Qiao Mei said nonchalantly.

"How much does it cost to invest in this place?" Xia He asked curiously.

"Do you want to be a shareholder too?" Qiao Mei asked with a smile.

"I can try. Who doesn't want to do nothing and just wait for the dividends at the end of the year!" Xia He said.

The amount of 200,000 dollars which Qiao Mei received was only the down payments. If Xia He owned 1% of the shares, even if Qiao Mei only earned 200,000 dollars a year, she would still be able to get 2,000 dollars at the end of the year!

2,000 dollars was already equivalent to her annual salary!

"Say... 10,000 dollars! How about I give you 1%? I'll sell you my own shares," Qiao Mei said.

"Then you have to wait for me to save up," Xia He said dejectedly.

After hanging around Qiao Mei for so long, she had also started to dream big. How could she save 10,000 dollars on her salary of slightly more than 100 dollars a month? It was simply wishful thinking.

Even if she and Deng Fan saved up together, it would still take them a year. By then, the market value of Qiao Mei's factory would have increased and 1% of the shares would cost more than 10,000 dollars.

Chapter 1483 Building a Factory in a Distant Location

He Ning had mixed feelings when he found out that Qiao Mei had built a factory and purposely chose to do it in the western suburbs, which was very far away from him. The eastern suburbs where he lived now clearly had the most land. The land was also cheaper and closer to Qiao Mei's house than the western suburbs, but Qiao Mei still chose to go to the other side.

It would make sense if Qiao Mei was in the business of planting crops like fruits. The land in the eastern suburbs was not suitable for growing crops, and even the fruit trees sold in the nurseries were transported from the western suburbs. However, Qiao Mei did not have any special requirements for the land, so why did she not choose the cheaper land?

The truth was that Qiao Mei never had to consider this issue at all. Everything was done by Xia Wen, so it probably had something to do with his personal grudges. Anyway, Qiao Mei did not lack that few thousand dollars. To her, there was no difference between the eastern and western suburbs.

"Do you know which shopping malls are collaborating with Qiao Mei's food factory so far?" He Ning asked Huo Gao gloomily.

Huo Gao felt angry but did not dare to say anything. He was just a doctor! Why did he have to do the job of a private investigator all the time! Moreover, he had to work part-time as a nanny, bodyguard, as well as He Ning's underling and personal chauffeur. His monthly salary was only 130 dollars.

The money was so little but he had to do so much work! If not for the fact that He Ning always gave him a lot of Chinese herbs as well as bonuses, he would have quit long ago!

"Isn't this what Jia Zhong is supposed to do?" Huo Gao whispered.

He Ning pretended not to hear that. He did not care who handled the matter. He just needed to get the answer. Seeing the look in He Ning's eyes getting fiercer, Huo Gao put down what he was doing and went outside to contact Jia Zhong, asking him to quickly check on what He Ning wanted to know.

It was time for lunch again. On the table, there was chicken soup which the helper had stewed all night and the medicinal cuisine which Huo Gao had specially developed for He Ning.

"It's all these lousy things again! Can't you give me something tasty!" He Ning said angrily.

After He Ning ate the ginseng from Qiao Mei, his health had improved and he was no longer as sickly as before. He could even manage the family business now and was no different from a normal person. He just could not overexert himself. Otherwise, it would be useless no matter how much ginseng he ate.

"You need to maintain your health. You know what your body is like. How can you eat things that are oily and salty? This is very healthy food and it's good for you. Eat it," Huo Gao said earnestly.

He Ning knew that it was healthy. Anyone who ate all these plates of green dishes would become very healthy after eating it for a long time. However, people would also go crazy if they had to eat these tasteless dishes for a long time, especially when they had a helper who could not cook well.

This was no different from eating swill!

He gritted his teeth and ate the food on his plate. No human could live without food. If he did not eat, he would really starve to death. He had to build up his strength now. Only when he was healthy could he go and cause trouble for Xia Zhe. Some time ago, he had to spare the Xia family because he needed to take care of his own health. It was time to teach them a lesson soon.

Most of the shopping malls in the capital had some form of collaboration with Qiao Mei, and only a few did not. Qiao Mei did not intend to start her business with much fanfare and the collaborations were only for seeds and popcorn. Qiao Mei had not solved the problem of how to sell the braised meat yet.

If they sold it in sealed packaging like how it was done in her other life, it would taste different and the feedback would not be good. However, if they wanted to sell it at the canteens of other factories, there were procedures to go through and it was such a hassle.

Sealed bags were still not widely available at the moment and many things were hard to find. It was also difficult to train the workers. In the end, they would not only lose money, but also time and effort.

They were in the food industry. If the sealed bags were not good and something went wrong, they would not be able to continue with their business very soon. This was an industry which depended on reputation and credibility, was it not?

Qiao Mei was stumped by this problem and it was also not appropriate for Xia Wen to say anything. After all, he was in a sensitive position and it was already very conspicuous when he helped Qiao Mei get the support of the government. If he did anything more, his enemies would probably start thinking of ways to torture the Xia family.

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Chapter 1484 Solving The Problem

Li Gui, Qian'e and Qiao Mei wished they could just live in the factory. Qiao Mei had already sent the two babies to Xu Lan's place. Qiao Qiang was already old and he had been busy taking care of the four children in the backyard every day. How could he have the time to take care of the two troublemakers?

Zhang Wei and Zhang Miao had already been sent to boarding school and would only be able to come back once a month in the future. Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin only had each other for company every day. Ever since they went to school, Zhang Chao had become much more cheerful and also made many good friends. They heard from Qiao Qiang that he even brought them home to play together! When the other kids saw that they lived in such a big house and even had their own bedroom, they became even more envious.

At first, everyone was worried that those children would be unkind to Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin. It seemed that their worries were completely unwarranted.

"Mei Mei, go home and rest. There's still the two of us here. How many nights have you stayed up?" Li Gui looked at Qiao Mei with heartache.

"Mom, I'm fine. There are still some issues that are not settled yet. Once everything is done, I won't come again. By then, even if you and Qian'e beg me, I won't come!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Li Gui could only believe what Qiao Mei said. At the moment, she could not think of any solution and could only stare at Qiao Mei.

There were already dark circles under Qiao Mei's eyes and her complexion had worsened a lot. It was all because of all the work at the factory.

No one knew where Xia Fang got the news, but she made a call to Qiao Mei's office.

"Hello? Aunt! Why are you calling me?" Qiao Mei said in surprise.

"I heard from Xiao Wen that you're facing a problem in your factory. I'm here with a solution for you!" Xia Fang said.

"Aunt, do you have any good ideas? Quick, tell me! I've been feeling so anxious for the past two days!" Qiao Mei said sweetly to Xia Fang. I think you should take a look at

Xiang Jin's troops were in charge of logistics and did not need to go on dangerous missions. They were mainly responsible for sorting out the documents in the capital, or doing things like organizing meetings and repairing military machinery. They handled all the miscellaneous work. Occasionally, they would go on business trips to do record-taking.

Xiang Jin still had some say within the army. Xia Fang had asked around and found out that the soldiers had to work very hard and there were many of them. It was inevitable that they had to eat meat during mealtimes to replenish their strength. The canteen needed at least 100 pounds of meat a day!

If they bought normal meat, it would definitely cost a lot more than the pig offal which Qiao Mei sold. After discussing it with his leader, Xiang Jin decided that every Monday, Wednesday and Friday would be "braised meat day" and the soldiers would continue to get the usual meat for the rest of the week.

At first, the superiors did not agree with this suggestion. After all, it was not easy to process pig offal. What if it was not cleaned properly and the soldiers got sick after eating it? Besides, who knew if Qiao Mei's food was edible or not? If something really happened, they would not be able to explain themselves.

However, such a small matter was not a problem for Xia Fang at all. Xia Fang secretly bought a lot of pig offal made by Li Gui behind Qiao Mei's back. After that, Qian'e and her went to sell braised meat in the military family compound for three consecutive days, making sure that every family had eaten Qiao Mei's braised meat before they started to publicize where the meat came from.

At some point, the superiors' family members would have bought the meat home to feed the family. Gradually, the brand name Osmanthus Braised Meat became well-known for selling delicious meat. Everyone expressed their intention to buy more, but Xia Fang's stall was not open for sale anymore and they had nowhere to buy it. Nowadays, the family members even forced the men at home to buy more food during lunchtime so that they could bring it home to eat.

"Oh my goodness, this is such a great help! I don't even know how to thank you," Qiao Mei said agitatedly.

If Xiang Jin's troops were receptive to the food, then other troops would also ask their superior for approval when they heard the news. If only one person wanted to eat it, then that person would have to think of a way to solve the problem personally. If all the soldiers wanted to eat the same thing, then the cookhouse staff would need to work hard!

Qiao Mei was very confident in things that she made. There was definitely no one in this world who could surpass her braised pig offal!

"It's not only that! Have you forgotten that my brother is the director of the hospital? My colleagues in the hospital all like to eat your braised meat. The canteen in our hospital also wants to order from you!" Xia Fang said happily.

Chapter 1485 Barging Into the Office

"How can I do that!" Qiao Mei said embarrassedly.

"What's there to be worried about! I've discussed it with Liu Yang and the delivery date is set on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday! This way, you'll have income every day apart from Sunday! Don't worry, once you build up your reputation, my brother's troops and Xia Wen's office will also order from you!" Xia Fang said.

"When I'm done, I must go to Uncle Liu's house to thank him," Qiao Mei said.

"Thank him? Liu Yang wishes that you're his real niece! That bit of ginseng root you gave him last time is enough for him to do anything for you. He's even willing to go through hell and high water for you. He's a 'medicine fanatic' who cares especially about medicinal herbs and treasures them very much," Xia He said.

Qiao Mei still had some good lingzhi at home. She would give a portion to Liu Yang, and also give Xia Fang a bit more, so that she could let Liu Yang feel happy for a period of time! Xia Fang could also use it to nourish her body and maintain her looks.

One pound of braised meat was usually sold at one dollar, but it would have to be cheaper when selling to government agencies. They could do it at 60 cents per pound, which meant they could earn 60 dollars a day. In addition, they had many customers who bought the pig offal in small portions. She believed that many canteens would come to her to talk business soon!

It looked like she would have to discuss the price with the owner of the pork factory soon. The previous price was a little high, but now she needed so much stock, he should be able to give her a discount. Perhaps Qiao Mei could consider buying up all the pig offal available and monopolize the market!

"Thank you, Aunt! I don't even know what to say to you! I'm really too excited!" Qiao Mei said.

"We're a family, so there's no need to stand on ceremony. I still have things to do, so I won't talk to you anymore. Someone will contact you on the contract but first, you have to go to Xia Wen's office to apply for a hygiene inspection or something like that. Otherwise, if you miss out on the procedures and get caught, you can get fined!" Xia Fang reminded her.

"Alright, I'll go and arrange it with Eldest Brother now." After saying that, Qiao Mei hung up. This was the most relaxed she had felt in a while.

Ever since Xia Wen found out that Qiao Mei was going to set up a food factory, he had completed all the relevant processes. He must definitely follow the proper procedures even if it took a longer time. He knew that Qiao Mei was someone who wanted to do great things. If she did not get things done properly, it would be very easy for others to get hold of something against her. It was such a simple matter and easily taken care of properly.

Throughout the night, Qiao Mei drafted the collaboration documents with the organizations which Xia Fang had mentioned. She had to consider all aspects carefully and could not be careless at all. She also needed to implement new requirements regarding the management of her staff and the production standards.

It was not just for her own brand, but also for the safety of the consumers. Qiao Mei had spent some time in the army with Xia Zhe before and knew how tough life was for the soldiers. She also knew how difficult it was if the soldiers had to eat food that was not tasty every day. She wanted to be able to help them. At the very least, she did not want them to get sick from eating her food.

It was not until dawn that Qiao Mei went to the lounge to take a nap. Early in the morning, she was woken up by knocks on the door. A few female workers rushed into Qiao Mei's office frantically. Wang Fang tried her best to stop them but to no avail.

"What's wrong?" Qiao Mei said unhappily. She was usually bad-tempered in the morning and also had not slept well last night, so she was very irritable now.

"Factory director, please be our judge! We are supposed to get a salary of 80 dollars a month, so why do you only give us 54 dollars!" a very muscular woman shouted at Qiao Mei.

After Qiao Mei gave birth, she became especially sensitive to sounds. All her family members spoke to her in soft voices. Even when they were angry, they would express their anger in a low voice. Qiao Mei was already starting to get impatient with this woman who was making such a big fuss.

She glanced at Wang Fang, who quickly ran over and whispered into Qiao Mei's ear, "These few women did many things wrong last month and caused a lot of spoilage. After a discussion, we decided to deduct their salaries."

"How much are the losses?" Qiao Mei asked directly.

"A lot, about 500 dollars. They made a mistake when they operated the machines, so the entire batch had to be thrown out," Wang Fang said.

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Chapter 1486 Take the Money and Get Lost

"Then is there still enough time to deliver the goods?" Qiao Mei asked unhappily with a frown.

"It was discovered in the nick of time. We've already worked overtime to make up for it. We can deliver the goods at the time agreed with our partners, and there's no problem with the quality," Wang Fang said calmly.

Qiao Mei nodded in satisfaction. She realized that Wang Fang was even more detailed than Chi Ze and was very meticulous in all aspects. Moreover, she was a very responsible person. It seemed to be a waste of her talent to ask her to supervise the workers. When she had time later, she would promote Wang Fang and let her do more management work.

"What are you whispering about! Quickly give us an explanation! Otherwise, I'll call the police!" The woman continued to shout, completely ignoring Qiao Mei's unhappy expression.

Qiao Mei tapped her fingers on the table impatiently. After thinking for a moment, she said, "Tell me what your request is."

"We just want a full month's salary, so you have to make up for the amount we lost!" the woman said. The other two nodded in agreement. That was what they wanted too.

"Only your salary?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Yes! We want our salary! We don't want anything else!" the woman said.

"Give them the deducted amounts then," Qiao Mei said.

"Then what about our losses?" Wang Fang said with heartache.

"If they want their salary, then we'll satisfy their request. However, we also need someone to bear the losses. Ask the finance department to calculate how much each person should pay and get them to compensate us down to the cent. Then fire them." After saying that, Qiao Mei wanted to go back to the

lounge to sleep for a while more. The woman was very displeased to hear Qiao Mei's solution and quickly blocked Qiao Mei's way.

"What are you saying! You want us to compensate you and then you want to fire us! What right do you have to do this!" the woman shouted.

Qiao Mei turned around and looked at Wang Fang. Wang Fang immediately understood what she meant and said, "Her name is Zhang Zhi."

After saying that, Wang Fang also pressed the phone button on Qiao Mei's table. That was the fastest way to get the security officers downstairs to come up and protect Qiao Mei.

The security officers in the factory were all recruited by Luo Yu through proper interviews. Every one of them was strong and knew martial arts. They were definitely good at their job.

"Sister Zhang, if you have any grievances, talk to your superior and ask your superior to come and look for me instead of shouting at me here. Don't try to deal with me by using the same tactics you used in your previous workplace. I won't stand for it," Qiao Mei said sternly.

"Why can't I come and look for you! Aren't you in charge of all the matters in this factory! How do I know who my superior is! I just want to come and look for you! You don't do anything every day and only know how to drink tea in the office! How do you know how difficult it is for us! Who knows if the people working for you are fair and just!" Zhang Zhi said relentlessly.

"Yes, what you say makes sense, but I believe in the people who work for me. If you're not convinced, then take your salary and get lost! If you don't want this job, there are plenty of people who want it!" Qiao Mei shouted fiercely. Wang Fang, who was standing behind her, was shocked. This was the first time Wang Fang had seen Qiao Mei when she was angry.

"You! You're unreasonable!" Zhang Zhi said as she pointed at Qiao Mei.

"Go and reason with the police. Security officer! Ask her to leave!" Qiao Mei said.

The two security officers who had been standing at the door immediately rushed into the room to drag Zhang Zhi away. The other two women had only come along because Zhang Zhi wanted to kick up a fuss. They did not expect to be fired as well. None of them was spared.

Qiao Mei took two steps back and slumped into her chair. She had not eaten last night or this morning and her blood sugar was a little low. She felt a little dizzy after shouting just now.

"Qiao Mei, are you alright?" Wang Fang looked at Qiao Mei nervously.

"I'm fine. Sister-in-law, can you help me go to the canteen to buy some porridge and a salted duck egg? I'm feeling a little dizzy," Qiao Mei said weakly.

Wang Fang did not dare to leave just like that. What if something happened to Qiao Mei while she was away? She quickly picked up the phone and called Li Gui, asking her to come to Qiao Mei's office to take care of Qiao Mei. She only felt at ease to go and get food for Qiao Mei after Li Gui arrived.

"Mei Mei, you should go home and rest for a couple of days," Li Gui said.

Chapter 1487 Cannot Provide Any Help

"It's fine. It's just low blood sugar caused by not eating. It's not a serious problem. Sister-in-law was being too anxious when she called you. Don't get so worked up," Qiao Mei said weakly.

"Why can't you just listen? Don't tell me you don't even want to listen to me now?" Li Gui said sternly.

This was the first time Li Gui had lost her temper with Qiao Mei and spoke to her so sternly. However, Qiao Mei was a very stubborn person. The more she did this, the more Qiao Mei did not want to go home.

In Qiao Mei's other life, she had no problem working overtime every day. She had only worked overtime for a week so far and it was not a big deal. Moreover, she could take ginseng to boost her energy. If she did not sort out the problems in the factory now, she would definitely face an even bigger crisis in the future.

"I hear you. I'll consider it," Qiao Mei said tiredly.

Li Gui did not dare to force Qiao Mei to do anything. At the moment, no one in the family could control Qiao Mei. Other than Qiao Qiang, Qiao Mei would not listen to anyone else.

Li Gui immediately ran home to look for Qiao Qiang and told him about what happened. She did not expect Qiao Qiang not to be concerned about Qiao Mei's health at all and did not even show any reaction. He only nodded and told Li Gui to leave without any intention of visiting Qiao Mei.

"Father! Don't you feel sorry for Qiao Mei?" Li Gui questioned.

It was not that Qiao Qiang did not care about Qiao Mei anymore. Even if he went, what could he do? Firstly, he could not help Qiao Mei solve the current problem, and secondly, he could not provide any support to Qiao Mei. He could only force Qiao Mei to go home and sleep. It was better to let Qiao Mei finish her work in one go and then reason with her later.

"What can I do if I go? Can you help her finish her work? Or can an old man like me help her with the business? If it's any other issue, I can still put aside my pride and ask others for help, but who else can solve the problem that Qiao Mei is facing now other than herself?" Qiao Qiang asked.

Li Gui was speechless. After a long silence, she turned around and left. When she returned to the factory, she tried to buck up and learn more. She just wanted to help Qiao Mei share more of the workload so that Qiao Mei could do less.

As the days passed, the factory started doing well. Many companies wanted to work with Qiao Mei, including the famous manufacturer in the capital, the Han Corporation.

"Qiao Mei, there's a man surnamed Han waiting for you in the meeting room on the first floor. He says that he wants to talk to you about a collaboration," Qian'e said as she came to Qiao Mei's office. I think you should take a look at

"Alright, I understand." Qiao Mei nodded.

Why would the people from the Han Corporation come looking for her? They were in completely unrelated businesses, so there was no way they could work together.

The Han Corporation mainly made vehicles and some electronic products. The company was considered a rising star in the capital and they were almost as rich as the He family. They were not locals and only moved to the capital much later, so many established companies in the capital ostracized them and were unwilling to work with them.

No one knew what this eldest young master of the Han Corporation did to make a name for himself in the capital within such a short period of time and even managed to force those established companies to give in to him.

"Hello, I'm the director of the Osmanthus Food Factory. My name is Qiao Mei. It's a pleasure to meet you," Qiao Mei said confidently as she pushed open the door to the meeting room with a smile.

That man sat right opposite the main door. He was very handsome and could even be described as being "vampy". This was the first time Qiao Mei had seen such a beautiful man.

Xia Zhe was handsome and suave, completely different from this man. This man was more... exquisite? For a moment, Qiao Mei did not know how to describe this man's good looks.

"Nice to meet you. My name is Han Chen, and I'm the... chairman of the Han Corporation." Han Chen looked a little shy after saying that. This was the first time he had introduced himself so formally.

"I wonder what kind of collaboration Mr. Han is here to discuss with me. Based on what I know, there's nothing in Mr. Han's business that I can help with," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Most people would make polite small talk for a long time when they met Han Chen, but Qiao Mei was different. Qiao Mei went straight to the point about what he was here for. She did not beat around the bush at all, which surprised Han Chen. He had thought that he was going to waste a lot of time again.

"Mr. Han?" Qiao Mei whispered when she saw Han Chen standing rooted to the spot without saying anything.

Chapter 1488 Still a Long Way to Go

Han Chen came back to his senses and said apologetically, "Oh! I'm sorry, I was distracted just now. I have come to talk to you about the popcorn and seeds."

"What can I do for you?" Qiao Mei asked politely.

Recently, Han Chen had concluded a big business deal that dealt with mainly overseas exports. However, he did not just want to concentrate on overseas business. The domestic market was also important to him. He wanted to send some unique items from the capital together with the goods, but he found other items too ordinary. Coincidentally, at Qiao Mei's factory, the quality of food was good and the packaging was exquisite, and everything seemed to meet his requirements.

Under normal circumstances, Han Chen's general manager would be the one to come and discuss these things with Qiao Mei. This time round, he had come personally to see for himself the woman who could run a successful factory in just three months. It was indeed breathtaking to see her in person.

Qiao Mei did not think too much about it and directly briefed Han Chen about the type of products she currently had and the prices. In just half an hour, Han Chen already knew all the products available and even knew the type and style. Qiao Mei did not intend to change the price as everyone was treated equally. She decisively told Han Chen about the low price.

Han Chen was a little surprised, but he liked such efficiency very much.

"Miss Qiao is really... amazing..." Han Chen clapped his hands and praised her.

"Mr. Han, you flatter me. If you're interested, I can bring you around our workshop or show you the samples. If there's anything you're not satisfied with, we can make adjustments," Qiao Mei said.

"There's nothing that I'm dissatisfied with, but I want to ask... Miss Qiao, are you seeing anyone?" Han Chen said.

Qiao Mei was stunned for a moment before saying, "Mr. Han, I'm already married with two children."

Han Chen was a little shocked. Qiao Mei looked very young, so he did not expect her to be married with children. He wondered which man was so lucky to have married a woman like Qiao Mei.

If he had known Qiao Mei earlier and been the one to marry her, then the Han Corporation's business would definitely be an unparalleled existence in the entire capital.

Anyway... it was still not too late now. Even if she was married, she could get a divorce. As for the children, it was fine. It would even save him the time to have children. If these two children were smart, he could let them inherit the Han Corporation's business. Han Chen did not care about bloodlines at all.

"What a pity, but it doesn't matter. We still have a long way to go. It's getting late. Let's talk about the contract another day," Han Chen said.

Qiao Mei did not quite understand what Han Chen was saying. When he said there was a long way to go, was he referring to their future collaboration or was he referring to the two of them? After sending Han Chen off, the more Qiao Mei thought about it, the more she felt that something was wrong. However, she had a lot of work to do, so she did not want to dwell on the small business from Han Chen. She had to continue to earn more money!

From that day, there would be a bouquet of flowers sent to Qiao Mei's office every day. The flowers were different every day and Qiao Mei's office soon ran out of space.

Xia He had been in a good mood recently. She had finally gotten married to Deng Fan and the renovation of the new house was coming to an end. She was even the one who personally chose all the furniture. After the musical ended, the art troupe had given her a week's leave so that she could have a good rest.

As the weather was good, Xia He and Deng Fan drove to Qiao Mei's factory to take a look. The moment they entered Qiao Mei's office, Xia He was dumbfounded. Was this place some kind of garden?

"Oh my goodness! Why are there so many flowers! Aren't you sick of the smell!" Xia He said as she looked at all the flowers in disdain. Some of the flowers had already started to wither and rot.

Qiao Mei looked up tiredly from her desk and said, "I don't want them either... Who would have thought that I would encounter such a thing? I'm just running a business."

After Han Chen left, he sent her all kinds of flowers every day. In the beginning, Qiao Mei asked her staff to throw them away, but for some reason, Han Chen found out about it. Han Chen even specially made a phone call to Qiao Mei to ask her not to throw the flowers away. He said that if she kept them in the office and looked at them every day, she would feel much better at work.

"Does this man want something from you?" Xia He asked.

Qiao Mei felt the same way, but what was he after? She was already married and even the mother of two children.

Chapter 1489 Want To Get A Wife

Anyone could easily find who Qiao Mei's husband was and how powerful her in-laws were. She did not know what Han Chen was thinking to have the guts to woo her so openly.

However, he actually did not say that he was wooing her. He only sent flowers to let Qiao Mei feel more relaxed at work so that it could better facilitate their collaboration. Since he explained it this way, what reason did Qiao Mei have to reject it?

"This person is really as cunning as his looks! When I first saw him, I thought he looked very much like a fox! Cunning and beautiful and a dangerous character!" Xia He muttered agitatedly.

"You've met him before? When?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"A few months ago, at his sister's birthday banquet. She invited Eldest Brother and me. Eldest Brother didn't have time, so he left the social activity to me. I saw him from afar once," Xia He said.

Many of the aristocratic families in the capital knew one another but very superficially. The Xia family liked to be left alone and was not particularly close to any other family, but they would still go through

the motions. Before Xia He got married, she was usually the one who went to such events. Anyway, it was just dinner. There was no loss in going. If Xia He was not in the capital, then Xia Wen would attend.

"Let's wait and see. Anyway, he hasn't done anything out of line. The Han Corporation and I still have business together and it's a five-year contract! I don't know why, but Han Chen initially said one year and then suddenly changed his mind and wanted to sign a five-year contract. I really can't turn away from all that money," Qiao Mei said aggrievedly.

Xia He was never worried that Qiao Mei would do anything to let Xia Zhe down, but she still felt worried for Xia Zhe. She did not know when Xia Zhe would be back. If her silly brother still did not come back soon, his wife would get snatched away by someone else!

During this period of time, Xia Zhe was also burning with anxiety. He had just finished his mission and wanted to immediately apply to return to the capital to reunite with Qiao Mei. However, there were many injured soldiers there and his superior could not handle the situation by himself. He still needed Xia Zhe's help to come up with ideas to take care of the injured soldiers.

This time, Xia Zhe had made a huge contribution. Their mission this time was to capture a major drug lord who was hiding around the country. This was an opportunity for the soldiers to make a name for themselves! Based on the plan, they only needed to kill the drug lord. However, Xia Zhe had captured him alive, which was a first-class merit! After returning to the capital, Xia Zhe would get promoted again. I think you should take a look at

The troops followed the instructions of their superiors and arrived at a village to rest. There was a military hospital here that specialized in treating injured soldiers. Xia Zhe helped to carry the injured soldiers into the medical center. When he looked up, he saw He Mei busy inside. Xia Zhe thought that his eyes were playing tricks on him! After looking a few times, he confirmed that he was not mistaken. It was really He Mei.

He Mei had also seen Xia Zhe. She suppressed the excitement in her heart and focused on helping the injured. He Ning had told her that she must pretend to be unaffected when she saw Xia Zhe. After all, Xia Zhe would only stay here for a short period of time. In order to plan for the long term, she had to be calm and steady.

Zhang Yong was in charge of bringing another team to the neighboring village to rest. Only Zhao Wu accompanied Xia Zhe here. No matter what, He Mei was the daughter of a rich family in the capital. In a

crowd, her bearing was obvious and she immediately attracted the attention of many soldiers, including Zhao Wu.

At night, Zhao Wu and Xia Zhe had dinner together. Zhao Wu secretly observed He Mei as she moved around and kept staring at her.

"Brother, don't you think that the nurse is very good-looking!" Zhao Wu asked as he secretly pointed at He Mei.

"Just eat your food!" Xia Zhe said as he tapped on Zhao Wu's bowl impatiently.

"Sigh! You're really boring! I'm just asking. I'm really envious that you have such a good wife like my sister-in-law. I also want to get married. I think that girl is not bad. Help me take a look!" Zhao Wu said.

"You can look at any other woman, but not that one," Xia Zhe said sternly.

Seeing that Xia Zhe did not look like he was joking, Zhao Wu asked curiously, "Why? Have you taken a fancy to this person? Don't tell me you're going to betray my sister-in-law!"

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Chapter 1490 Pretending to Be Asleep

"If you sprout any more nonsense, I'll rip out your tongue! Do you still want to eat pickled cucumbers! Next time I bring pickled cucumbers, don't come crying and asking me for them!" Xia Zhe threatened.

Finding a wife was not as important as eating Qiao Mei's pickled cucumbers. He did not even know when he would find a wife! However, if he wanted to eat pickled cucumbers, he could always ask Xia Zhe to bring some over.

"Then tell me why! I'm just curious!" Zhao Wu said.

"Her name is He Mei and she's not a local. She's from the capital and she has some... enmity with my family. Back then, she almost caused your sister-in-law to suffer from a miscarriage. I won't tell you in detail what happened, but do you still think she's a good person?" Xia Zhe whispered.

"What the hell! This woman is so vicious! How dare she harm my sister-in-law! I must teach her a lesson!" Zhao Wu rolled up his sleeves and wanted to go and teach He Mei a lesson when Xia Zhe quickly stopped him.

"Are you stupid? That's a long time ago. Besides, do you think I didn't do anything then? This issue is over. If you want to find a wife, ask your sister-in-law to look out for you in the capital. Don't fall for just anyone on the street," Xia Zhe said disdainfully.

Zhao Wu lowered his head happily and ate his meal. Just thinking about it made him happy, so he went to take another big bowl of rice.

When the local troops heard that Xia Zhe's team had arrived, they immediately arranged for their military doctors to come over and help treat the injured and sick soldiers. Their leader's name was Du Jun. This person was very crafty and treated everyone differently. He was a very unpredictable person.

It was said that Du Jun liked to take credit for things and was always willing to do everything he could to get some benefits. He belonged to the category of people who were opportunists.

Even though Du Jun came over personally, Xia Zhe did not take the initiative to go and welcome him. He had never cared about such things. In the past, when Zhang Yong and Zhuang Hua were around, they were the ones who made these types of arrangements. Now that the two of them were not with Xia Zhe and Zhao Wu was a simple person, no one greeted Du Jun.

"Um... where's your battalion commander?" Du Jun asked awkwardly.

"He's probably resting in the camp at the back. We're not too sure either," a young soldier said.

Xia Zhe had kept watch last night and stayed with the injured soldiers until dawn. He had just returned to the tent to rest, but was woken up by Du Jun's arrival not long after.

"Is your Commander Xia inside? I want to meet him," Du Jun said politely.

The soldier guarding the door was Xia Zhe's trusted aide. Everyone called him Xiao Jian and he was a new joiner this year who had been personally promoted by Xia Zhe.

"Yes, but he just finished his work and is taking a rest. It's not convenient for him to see you now," Xiao Jian said in a manner that was neither servile nor overbearing.

"Not convenient? We're all men. What's so inconvenient about it? I'll go in and take a look." Du Jun ignored the explanation and wanted to barge into Xia Zhe's tent.

At this moment, Xia Zhe had already woken up, but he did not intend to open his eyes. Instead, he continued to lie on the bed and pretended to snore. Xiao Jian knew that Xia Zhe was very quiet when he slept and he did not snore. He stood at the side and secretly pursed his lips and smiled.

Du Jun walked to Xia Zhe's bed and looked him up and down for a long time, but he did not know how to wake him up. In that case, he would let Xia Zhe sleep. He would interrogate Xia Zhe when he woke up later and ask him for a proper apology.

Xiao Jian led Du Jun out of the tent and Xia Zhe went back to sleep comfortably without any worries.

It was only at night that Xia Zhe received the news that Du Jun had taken the liberty to stay in their camp, saying that he intended to stay with them until Xia Zhe left. He was determined to share the hardships with the soldiers in the field.

"Do you think he's stupid? Why must he make things difficult for us?" Zhao Wu said in exasperation.

"Then what can you do? Are you going to find a few people to carry him in the middle of the night and throw him out?" Xia Zhe said impatiently.

Zhao Wu's eyes lit up. <nulli>That was such a good idea!

"I'll arrange for a few people to come over now! I'll definitely do this beautifully and flawlessly!" Zhao Wu said confidently.

"I think you're a little sick in the head too! Do you think he sleepwalks in the middle of the night! How can you do it flawlessly? Just let him stay here. At this juncture, I can't be bothered to argue with him. I want to return to the capital as soon as possible," Xia Zhe said helplessly.