

Fat Wife 1501

Chapter 1501 Children's Behavior

As the two of them chatted and laughed, they soon arrived at Xu Lan's house. As soon as they entered, Xia Zhe went around looking for the children. Xu Lan and Feng Hua carried the two children down from the room upstairs. When Xia Zhe saw them, he rushed over to get close to them.

"Hey! Go upstairs and take a shower first before coming down! Qiao Mei, you go too!" Xu Lan said to the two of them as she protected the children.

Xu Lan had bought a lot of books on parenting recently and Feng Hua had also taught her a lot of things. Now, Xu Lan attached great importance to the hygiene levels of the children. She even wished that she could ask the visitors who came to play with the children to take a shower and change their clothes first!

"Fine, fine, fine. I'll go now," Xia Zhe said as he shook his head helplessly.

The two of them held hands and returned to their room upstairs. As soon as they entered, Xia Zhe said, "Why don't... we take a shower together?"

"I just know that you'll be up to no good!" Qiao Mei said.

"It's all about saving time..." Xia Zhe said embarrassedly.

Qiao Mei pulled Xia Zhe into the bathroom. Originally, the two of them would only need an hour if they showered separately. Now, they were still not done even after two hours.

Xu Lan and Feng Hua did not rush them. They had all been through this before. What else could husband and wife do when they were together? After the shower, Qiao Mei put on her pajamas and flopped onto the bed. Xia Zhe helped to massage her sore waist.

"You're a beast..." Qiao Mei buried her head in the pillow and whispered.

Xia Zhe did not get angry when he heard that. He just took it that Qiao Mei was praising him again!

After the two of them rested for a bit, they went downstairs to look for the children. Qiao Mei was still a little worried that Xia Fan and Xia Xing would treat Xia Zhe coldly. The two children were usually wary of strangers. Not long after they were born, Xia Zhe had left home and returned to the army. The children would not have any memories of those days and they were also not familiar with Xia Zhe's smell. He was no different from a stranger to them.

Unexpectedly, the two children were especially happy to see Xia Zhe. They smiled at him and even stretched out their tiny arms for him to hug them!

"Mother, did the two children have a change of personality?" Qiao Mei asked as she walked next to Xu Lan.

"Back when Xia Zhe was born, Xia Mao was not at home and Xia Zhe did not even see him until he was six months old. However, when Xia Mao returned, Xia Zhe laughed happily and even drank more milk than usual. Perhaps this is the power of kinship," Xu Lan said.

Kinship was really a magical thing if it could lead to such a reaction.

Xia Zhe had not made any wooden toys for the children yet. However, he brought the little wooden bird and little wooden pig which Xia Mao had given him in the past and stuffed them into the hands of the two children.

"These are the small wooden toys which your grandfather made for me. I haven't finished making the ones I want to give you. You can play with these first," Xia Zhe said.

In the past, Xu Lan always thought that Xia Zhe did not have any feelings for her and Xia Mao. After all, he had grown up with Xia Jun and Wu Min by his side. After that, he went to boarding school, and then he stayed at Xia Fang's house when he went to university. However, it seemed that Xia Zhe still loved them despite everything.

It was not good for the children to be surrounded by so many people. Xu Lan and Feng Hua went to the kitchen to cook, leaving the young couple to take care of the children. Their little family also needed some time for a proper reunion.

"They still can't talk by now?" Xia Zhe asked, feeling confused.

"I don't think so... I remember people say that children will only start talking when they're about one year old?" Qiao Mei was also confused about such things and did not know how children were supposed to behave.

This was their first time being parents and they had both never taken care of any younger siblings, so they naturally did not know anything.

Just as they were discussing this, Xia Wen, Xia He and Deng Fan returned together. Xia Wen stood behind the two of them and said disdainfully, "Are you the children's biological parents or not?"

"Eldest Brother! Elder sister! Brother-in-law! You're all back!" Qiao Mei said happily.

Xia Zhe stood up and looked at Deng Fan. The two of them nodded at each other as a form of acknowledgement.

"Children are able to look up when they're three months old and they'll know how to flip themselves over when they're six months old. However, Xia Fan and Xia Xing seem to be smarter. They can flip themselves over at five months old," Xia Wen said.

"Eldest Brother, you know so much," Qiao Mei said.

When Qiao Mei was still expecting Xia Fan and Xia Xing, they had already absorbed the energy from her body. She already expected them to be smarter than other children. She was just scared that the two children would be too smart and attract unnecessary attention.

However, the children still did not know how to talk now so she could not tell yet.

Chapter 1502 Bring Out Her Dowry

As the group of adults surrounded the two children and looked at them, Xia Fan did not seem to mind as he was not scared of anyone he could recognize. However, Xia Xing was different. She had a fiery temper. True enough, she frowned not long after and looked like she was about to cry.

"Sister Feng! Quick! Carry Xia Xing to the room!" Qiao Mei suddenly shouted.

Feng Hua quickly wrapped Xia Xing in a blanket and brought her upstairs. Then, she came down and brought Xia Fan back to the room as well.

"Your reaction is really fast..." Xia He lamented.

"When you become a mother in the future, you'll also be able to tell what your children want." Qiao Mei gave Xia He a meaningful look.

Xia He stood shyly beside Deng Fan. The two of them had just gotten married and had not discussed the topic of children yet. She had thought that Xu Lan, or more likely Jiang Shu, would be the first one to urge them to have children, or perhaps even Liu Fen. She did not expect Qiao Mei to be the first one to raise this topic!

"What nonsense are you talking about! Xia Zhe, can't you stop her!" Xia He said as she glared at Xia Zhe.

Xia Zhe immediately shook his head. It would be easier for him to stop the heavenly emperor than Qiao Mei!

"It's so rare for Xia Zhe to be back. Grandfather said that since the whole family is in town, he wants to organize a family gathering. The entire family can get together and catch up," Xia Wen said.

"Sure. I'm free any time. I have a long break this time round, so I can spend more time with all of you in the capital," Xia Zhe said.

It was Qiao Mei who had very little free time recently. She still had to meet a client in the next two days, but it was just a small deal and she did not really care about the few thousand dollars. She decided to ask Li Gui and Qian'e to go on her behalf, so that they could try it out and treat it as practice. Qiao Mei could not be the only one among them who could meet clients. Otherwise, what would happen when Qiao Mei could not be around in the future?

Furthermore, Qiao Mei really wanted to spend more time with Xia Zhe. Ever since the two of them got married, they had never been able to spend a long time together!

"I'm fine too. Grandfather can decide on the timing," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Xia Jun made the arrangements very quickly. The next day, he asked the second and third sons' families to come to Xu Lan's house for dinner. Xia Yao did not have time to come to the gathering. Everyone was already used to it. Xia Yao always had to go on business trips at work. Perhaps he was the one who was hard to meet up with.

Everyone from the second son's family brought gifts with them. Xia You had very generously bought the newest model of rocking cradle for Xia Fan and Xia Xing, one for each of them. This rocking cradle cost about 80 dollars each! Xia You did not even buy it for her own children.

Xia Wan also brought a lot of toys with her and they did not look cheap either. The materials used to make the toys were all of the best quality.

"I'm sorry to have made you spend so much money." Qiao Mei accepted these gifts while feeling embarrassed.

"Not really! You don't know about my mother. She even wants to bring out her dowry and give it to the children!" Xia You leaned towards Qiao Mei and whispered.

Although Liu Fen's maternal family was not considered rich, she grew up in a happy family. Her parents and siblings were all very nice to her. When she got married, her mother had given her two silver bangles meant for children.

She had originally wanted to keep it for her own children, but she did not expect to give birth to four children in total. There were not enough to go round, so she thought about giving the bangles to Qiao Mei.

"I never expected Second Aunt-in-law to be so generous this time!" Xia He lamented.

Everyone from the eldest and second sons' families were all here. Even the Old Master had arrived, but there was no one from the third son's family. Although the family had already split up, they were all still blood-related relatives after all. There was no need to take things too far.

The third son's family members only arrived when everyone was about to start eating. However, it was not Xia Guang and Xia Xing who came, but Zhou Luo with Xia Lu and Xia Yan in tow.

The living room, which had just been bustling with activities, immediately fell silent. Everyone looked towards the doorway. Zhou Luo did not care that everyone was looking at her and even walked smilingly to Xia Jun's side to make small talk with him. Xia Jun could only nod reluctantly.

"She's really shameless! It's our family gathering today. What has it got to do with her! I'd rather see Xia Xing here!" Xia You complained.

Lu Huai, who was sitting beside her, patted her hand and indicated that she should stop talking. If she quarreled with Zhou Luo now, the Old Master's expression would probably look even worse.

"Alright, let's sit down and eat," Xia Jun said after coughing twice.

Chapter 1503 Snatching Food

By right, it should be Xia Mao and Xu Lan sitting beside Xia Jun, followed by Liu Fen. In this family, they always took their seats according to their seniority. Zhou Luo did not care about that and just sat down next to Xia Jun. There were not many people who could be as thick-skinned as her.

Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe sat at the furthest end, not wanting to have anything to do with Zhou Luo. When Zhou Luo saw this, she said unhappily, "Why are Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe so far away? I almost can't see them."

"We're the younger generation and I'm the one who cooked all the dishes today. It's more convenient for me to serve the dishes from here." Qiao Mei found a random excuse to brush it off.

Qiao Mei made most of the dishes today. As usual, she also went to the state-owned restaurant outside to order the dishes that were harder to make.

Xia Jun even specially asked Xia Wen to go and get some special supply of seafood from the family's entitlement to celebrate Xia He and Deng Fan registering their marriage and Xia Zhe coming back for a break. He did not expect Zhou Luo to be able to get a taste of it.

During mealtimes in the Xia family, the rule was that the younger generation could not start eating if the elders had not picked up their chopsticks. However, as soon as the seafood dishes were served, Xia Lu and Xia Yan both picked up their chopsticks and took big pieces of the food to put on their plates. There was only one lobster, but Xia Yan actually took the whole thing for himself.

There was a hint of disdain in everyone's eyes. They did not know how Zhou Luo had taught these children all these years for them to end up with such rude behavior.

"Sister Zhou, is this how they usually behave at home?" Liu Fen said with a slight frown.

"Yes, is there a problem?" Zhou Luo said smugly, thinking that she was being praised for teaching them well!

Xia You pushed away her chopsticks in disdain and said unhappily, "I don't think the rest of us should eat. We should wait until our two younger cousins are full, then we can cook more dishes. Otherwise, we won't be able to even get a single bite!"

Xia You had always been domineering. If anyone made her unhappy, she would not be nice to them. The Xia family doted on girls the most. As long as they did not break the law or do anything outrageous or immoral, the girls in the family could slack off however they wanted.

Liu Fen had always wanted Xia Wan and Xia You to learn how to do housework and cook so that they could be self-reliant in the future and not starve to death when they were on their own. Her intentions were good, but her way of expressing herself was always unpleasant, so her two daughters had always felt a little offended.

Xia Jun had told Lu Huai to check on Xia You's behavior and not let her be too lawless. However, Lu Huai did not stop Xia You from saying all that, which meant that he silently agreed with her.

"How can it be! How can there not be enough food when there are so many dishes! If you don't want us to eat, then we won't eat anymore! I never expected that there would be so few dishes at a family banquet and not even enough for two to three people," Zhou Luo said.

Xia Wen wanted to speak up, but Xia Jun shook his head slightly. Since Xia Lu and Xia Yan liked the food, he would let them eat it all. The family had a share of this special supply of seafood and vegetables every year, so it was not as if the rest of them had not eaten it before.

This was probably the first time Xia Lu and Xia Yan had eaten these seafood, so he would let them have it.

Xia He glanced at Qiao Mei from afar and Qiao Mei immediately understood what the look meant. She quietly walked to the kitchen and told Xu Kang to serve the nice dishes last. The vegetable dishes should be served first.

After bringing out eight vegetable dishes, Xu Kang returned to the kitchen and did not serve any more dishes. The two boys thought that everything had been served and quickly picked up their chopsticks to start eating. Zhou Luo also ate along with them, completely ignoring the looks from the Xia family members.

After the two boys were full, Qiao Mei clapped her hands and asked Xu Kang to serve the remaining delicacies. There were a total of 22 other dishes!

"You! Why don't you want to let us eat the good stuff!" Xia Lu said angrily.

"How would I know that you guys eat so fast? Sister Xu didn't say that the dishes were all served. We're all also waiting," Qiao Mei said with a grin.

Xia You secretly gave Qiao Mei a thumbs up under the table. Qiao Mei was still the smartest!

"You're quibbling! You're the nasty woman who won't let us eat!" Xia Yan smacked the table and stood up to glare at Qiao Mei. Xia Zhe quickly stood up and shielded Qiao Mei by standing in front of her.

Chapter 1504 No Manners

With Xia Jun and Xia Mao around, Xia Lu and Xia Yan would not be able to harm Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe at all. However, by behaving this way, these two kids had probably completely alienated themselves from the Xia family.

"Hey, the kids are just insensible. Don't mind them!" It was rare for Zhou Luo to know that she should speak up in such a situation. She tried very hard to signal the two boys using her eyes. Xia Lu and Xia Yan suppressed their anger and sat back down.

"Even if the kids are insensible, don't tell me that you're insensible too..." Xia You muttered in disdain.

The good thing was that Zhou Luo did not hear her say this. Otherwise, Zhou Luo would have gone berserk again and would not be able to talk to everyone so calmly.

Qiao Mei was very curious as to why Zhou Luo, who had been glaring around angrily just a moment ago, suddenly became so well-mannered now. Could it be that she had a motive for being here today? Or could it be that all the vegetarian food she ate just now had caused her to find her conscience?

After all the dishes were served, Xia Jun picked up his chopsticks and everyone started eating. Zhou Luo and the two boys had eaten so much that their stomachs were already full. How could they still be able to eat the delicacies in front of them?

"Third Cousin-in-law, you're such a good cook. My third cousin is so lucky!" Xia You said happily as she waved her hands around.

Liu Fen hurriedly slapped Xia You's hands and said, "Have some manners! Don't move around while eating! Lu Huai, don't spoil Xia You. Otherwise, she'll behave worse than the livestock at home!"

Lu Huai quickly admitted that it was all his fault, worried that Xia You would get reprimanded again. Xia You sat up straight and ate properly. It was no wonder that Liu Fen lost her temper. She had just said that Zhou Luo did not know how to bring up the two boys. Zhou Luo would laugh at Liu Fen if she witnessed how Xia You behaved just now.

"Um... Qiao Mei, how's the business at your factory recently? It should be very good! I think the supermarket near my house sells Osmantus-branded popcorn and seeds!" Zhou Luo said as she looked at Qiao Mei, who was sitting at the far end of the dining table.

"Is that so? My mother is in charge at the factory. I'm not too sure about anything, but from what Auntie Zhou said, it seems that my mother is doing quite well," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Qiao Mei, stop joking. I've already heard! They all say that the director of the Osmanthus Food Factory works overtime at the factory every day and has been sleeping over at the factory for a few days already. Who else can it be but you!" Zhou Luo said.

Qiao Mei pursed her lips helplessly. She did not expect Zhou Luo to know so much and to have been asking around for information about the factory. It seemed that Zhou Luo had an ulterior motive for coming to dinner today. Qiao Mei originally thought that Zhou Luo was here to look for Xia Jun, but she did not expect to be the one whom Zhou Luo was interested in.

"I'm just there to help out. After all, I still have to take care of the children," Qiao Mei said.

Xia Lu and Xia Yan were going to graduate soon. Before the Xia family split up, Xia Jun would send them an amount of money for their expenses every month. Xia Guang would also send money to Zhou Luo. Now that the family had split up, Xia Guang no longer cared about these two children and Xia Jun had also stopped sending money. Their family was having a hard time now!

These two children had it particularly tough. They were brought up in a pampered manner and were used to buying the best things. It was easy to go from frugal to extravagant, but difficult to go from extravagant to frugal! Their family had to borrow money to meet their current household expenses!

Zhou Luo had thought that so long as she paid for their studies, they would be able to find a good job after graduation. Unexpectedly, none of the workplaces wanted to hire the two of them. Their results were all fake! They had lied about doing well in school and they had cheated on all their examinations!

Now, she could only rely on the Xia family to find a good job for the two of them. She had heard that even the lowest-ranking employee in Qiao Mei's factory could earn about 100 dollars a month after including the performance pay!

This salary could even be higher than Xia He's monthly salary, which was something unheard of. Given that Xia Lu and Xia Yan were both Xia family members, Qiao Mei must definitely offer the two boys managerial positions if she hired them. Otherwise, how could she face Xia Guang?

"Your two younger cousins are about to graduate soon. They're both university students. Do you want to consider hiring them?" Zhou Luo probed.

"The factory has enough staff for now. We recently hired two fresh graduates from Capital University and their results are among the best in their year. My two younger cousins are too talented to be stuck at my factory," Qiao Mei said tactfully.

Chapter 1505 Good Position

Xia Lu and Xia Yan were not studying in a well-known university and they had even needed Xia Jun to help get them enrolled in the first place. They already had to struggle to graduate, so how could they compete with top students from Capital University?

"How can it be better to hire outsiders rather than family members? It would be much more reassuring to have your own family members helping you with the work," Zhou Luo said.

Xia Zhe frowned slightly. There were so many people in the family who were not happy at work but none of them had ever come to ask Qiao Mei for anything, yet this completely unrelated person had come asking Qiao Mei for help.

In the past, Zhou Luo had even looked down on Qiao Mei for having come from the countryside! She had said a lot of sarcastic things about Qiao Mei behind everyone's back. Now that Qiao Mei was doing well, all these people could not wait to come and curry favor with her. They were all really too stuck-up!

If not for the fact that they were now living in a law-abiding society, Xia Zhe would have given Xia Lu and Xia Yan a good beating. He would break their legs to ensure that they remembered the lesson. If they could not recover, they could simply just perform as street buskers to earn a living.

If anyone criticized him, he would simply say that he was doing his part to educate his juniors. No one could fault him for that.

"I hear that Xia He's husband is also working for you now and drawing quite a high salary! Also, Xia You's husband is going to work at your factory soon. Let's be frank here. Since you can help them, you can help these two in my family. There's no difference," Zhou Luo said shamelessly.

Deng Fan and Lu Huai were both capable people and had worked hard to be able to justify the salaries they were drawing. Qiao Mei was not a fool. If they did not have any strengths, why would she have idle people on her payroll?

Hiring them and hiring the two brothers were two completely different matters.

"Is that so? I do have two more positions at the factory. I'm just worried that my two younger cousins won't be able to cope," Qiao Mei covered her face and said with a smile.

Xia He looked at Qiao Mei's expression and could already guess what it was all about. She almost lost control and laughed out loudly in front of everyone. Deng Fan had been working in the factory for so long that he could naturally guess the positions Qiao Mei was talking about.

They had known Qiao Mei for so long. If they could not even tell what Qiao Mei was thinking, then she might as well cut ties with them!

"Everyone... what are you laughing at?" Zhou Luo asked curiously.

"Oh! We're just happy for you! Auntie Zhou, you don't know this, but the two positions Qiao Mei mentioned are especially well-paid. My friend's younger brother's brother-in-law's elder sister had even asked me to recommend her for the job! Qiao Mei already agreed earlier," Xia He said quickly.

"I can't take her in even if I had already agreed to it earlier. After all, these are our younger cousins. How can I take care of outsiders first?" Qiao Mei pretended to say regretfully.

"You're right! We're a family! Qiao Mei is really sensible! We can't let outsiders take advantage of us! Xia He, make a phone call to that family later! Tell them that Qiao Mei's factory doesn't have any position for them!" Zhou Luo said agitatedly.

Xia He immediately smiled and nodded. "Sure! I'll get it done in a while!"

"Do my younger cousins want to take up the jobs? If you want to work at my factory, when do you want to start?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Now! Right now! I'll get the two of them to report to you at the factory tomorrow! About the salary..." Zhou Luo emphasized the last word and waited for Qiao Mei's answer.

Qiao Mei chuckled and said, "Auntie Zhou, I'm just introducing two prospective workers to my mother. We still have to discuss this matter. I can't be the one making all the decisions, right? Don't worry, I won't shortchange my two younger cousins," Qiao Mei said.

"Alright! Since Qiao Mei says so! Then I'm relieved!" Zhou Luo raised her glass in satisfaction and finished the liquor in one gulp.

Xia Lu and Xia Yan just sat there unmovingly, as if this entire matter had nothing to do with the two of them at all. They did not even say a word of thanks.

Qiao Mei did not really care about this. She just hoped that they would not cause trouble after knowing what the jobs entailed.

Zhou Luo was in a good mood today and kept drinking. She even asked the Xia family to help the Zhou family with other matters. She pestered Xia Wen to help arrange for her younger brother to work in government services, and also asked Xia Mao to help arrange for her younger sister to go to university. In short, she asked for everything she could think of.

Xia Wen and Xia Mao did not agree to any of her requests. After sending off the three members of the Zhou family, everyone in the house heaved a sigh of relief. Zhou Luo was simply like the god of plague!

Chapter 1506 Incapable Parents

1506 Incapable Parents

"Don't invite anyone from Third Uncle's family next time! Every time they come, they just make everyone unhappy. They only know how to cause trouble," Xia You said.

"Are you rebelling! How many times have you spoken so rudely today! Go home now! You're also not allowed to come next time!" For some reason, Liu Fen pointed at Xia You and scolded her angrily.

"Fine, I'll leave!" After Xia You bade a tearful farewell to Xia Jun, she left Xu Lan's house with Lu Huai.

Xu Lan looked at the departing Xia You and sighed. "Why are you doing this? It's so difficult to even get a chance to see the children, yet you still push them away."

Liu Fen also could not bear to send Xia You away, but she felt that Xia You had really gone too far. Xia You had said many things that she should not have said. If Liu Fen did not teach her a lesson, she would become too arrogant and forget the boundaries.

"I don't have any other choice. If I don't discipline this kid well, no one will be able to control her in the future," Liu Fen said resignedly.

The Xia family was no longer the same as before. If it was Xia He who said these words today, she would definitely not stop Xia He. After all, Xia He was already doing well for herself. In addition, she was the eldest son's only daughter. The eldest son's family was doing extremely well now and his children were the ones that the Old Master valued the most.

At the end of the day, she could only blame Xia Yao and herself for not being capable enough to give their children a better future. It was their fault that the children could not speak freely. Xia You was not at fault at all.

At night, Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe stayed over at Xu Lan's place. Xu Lan purposefully sent the children to Feng Hua's room for the night. It was rare for Xia Zhe to be able to come home, so as his mother, she must let her son accompany her daughter-in-law without any distractions!

Recently, she had also heard about what happened at Qiao Mei's factory. She definitely believed that Qiao Mei would not be unfaithful. It was all wishful thinking on the part of those men. However, Xia Zhe also needed to work harder!

It was another sleepless night for the couple and it was not until dawn that Xia Zhe was willing to let Qiao Mei off. She even needed Xia Zhe's help to wash up before bed. Qiao Mei was only able to get up in the afternoon. Everyone let her be and did not go and wake her up.

They were all married women, so how could they not know about such things?

"Eh! Why didn't you wake me up!" Qiao Mei sat on the bed angrily and threw a tantrum at Xia Zhe.

"Mother and Second Aunt-in-law ask me not to wake you up. They want you to sleep a little longer!" Xia Zhe said with a smile.

Although Qiao Mei was already married, she still felt a little shy when it came to such things. She was not as shameless as Xia Zhe!

After packing up their stuff, Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe returned to the factory. The children would still stay with Xu Lan for the time being. They would only bring them home after Qiao Mei was done with all the work at the factory.

As soon as they arrived at the factory, Qian'e rushed over to look for Qiao Mei as if something terrible had happened.

"Qiao Mei! Bad news! There's an issue with the seeds at the Zhao family's village!" Qian'e said anxiously.

"Drink some water and talk slowly," Qiao Mei said patiently.

The seeds at the Zhao family's village had been harvested. The price had already been agreed on at the beginning, but that price was based on the arrangement that the Zhao family members handle everything, from growing to harvesting. After Zhao Liu made Qiao Mei angry, she only allowed the Zhao family members to take care of the seedlings in the field. She sent her own staff to take care of everything else.

In that case, the price definitely needed to be renegotiated. Qiao Mei definitely would not make a loss-making deal.

"They refuse to hand over the seeds to us and even want to raise the price!" Qian'e said.

"I already know that this will happen. Since they want to raise the price, let them do it. It's not a big deal," Qiao Mei said nonchalantly. "Then what about us? We don't have a lot of seeds left in our stock!" Qian'e said with a frown.

Qiao Mei tapped her fingers lightly on the table. This was her habit when she was thinking. After a moment, Qiao Mei picked up the phone on the table and called Director He of Foshan Village. She told him that she had an emergency situation and asked him to lend her 10 tons of seeds.

Once those seeds arrived, the Zhao family members would know where they stood. Over the past few days, Qiao Mei had already walked around different areas and talked to many people. Other than Zhao Family Village, there were other farming villages in the capital. Everyone was very willing to work with Qiao Mei and the price they quoted was even much lower than that of Zhao Family Village.

Chapter 1507 Toy Boy

If the Zhao family members were honest in their business dealings with her, she would just let them make money. However, the Zhao family members were ungrateful and did not just stay in their lane. In that case, they could not blame her for turning her back on them. If she reported them, there might even be people who would be sent to jail.

How it eventually transpired would depend on Qiao Mei's mood that day.

"Why aren't you worried at all! I feel so uneasy!" Qian'e said anxiously.

"Calm down. After all, you're now the general manager of the factory. Why are you in such a panic? Have some tea and calm your mind. The show has not even started yet," Qiao Mei said with a smile as she picked up the teacup.

Zhao Fei did not want to get involved for now. He had finally seen everything clearly. None of the Zhao family members were decent people and they were all just scheming against him and Qiao Mei. The

more he got involved in this mess, the more Qiao Mei would feel that he was a part of it. It was better for him to not care about anything and just be a slacker. He did not want to be wronged for nothing.

"You're really useless! There's so much money to be made, but you insist on siding with a woman. The seeds are in our hands now. We'll only sell to her if we feel like it. If not, we'll do the business ourselves. No big deal. You're such a wuss!" Zhao Kai said as he looked at Zhao Fei, who was lying on the brick bed and doing nothing.

"Since you're so capable, I wish early success for all of you. You're definitely better off without me," Zhao Fei said leisurely.

"Xiao Fei, take my advice. It's better to hold the money in your own hands. When we make a lot of money, can't you get any woman you want? Even that woman, Li Gui! She will be mine!" Zhao Liu said drunkenly as he sat at the dining table.

"Dad! Why do you waste your breath on him! He's just a toy boy! He depends on that woman to give him money! Let's ignore him!" Zhao Kai said with a look of contempt.

Zhao Fei looked at the father and son in disdain. He did not expect Zhao Liu to still be thinking about Li Gui. He did not know what sins Li Gui had committed in her past life for her to have to go through so much in this life, and also to encounter such a beast now!

Qiao Mei had already sent her staff to Zhao Family Village several times to discuss the price of the seeds, but the Zhao family members refused to budge. They even quoted a sky-high price of two dollars a pound!

"Are they sincere about it or not! If we don't get the seeds within three days, we won't be able to deliver the next batch of goods to the Han family," Qian'e said dejectedly.

"Which family?" Qiao Mei asked.

"The Han family! I don't know what's up with them recently, but they suddenly doubled their order. It was so... so tempting that I agreed." Qian'e spoke more and more softly as she continued, not even daring to look Qiao Mei in the eye.

"It's fine. It's also their fault for increasing the order at the last minute. Both sides are at fault, so we cancel each other out. You don't have to take it to heart. I'll settle this matter. Go back and get some sleep. Your eyes are going to go blind from crying," Qiao Mei said as she looked at Qian'e with heartache.

After sending Qian'e off, Qiao Mei sat on the chair with a solemn expression. She actually did not have full confidence that she would be able to make it in time for the delivery this time round. Although she said that the Han family was in the wrong, it was just a lie to make Qian'e feel better. If they could not deliver on time, then it could only be their fault. If they could not fulfill the order, how could they agree to the Han family's request?

Once they agreed, it could only be their problem.

"Talk to me. Perhaps I can solve your problem?" Xia Zhe stood behind Qiao Mei and asked as he massaged her shoulders.

"I do need your help with this matter," Qiao Mei said with a sigh.

"Tell me," Xia Zhe said happily.

Qiao Mei finally had a favor to ask of him. It was rare for Qiao Mei to be willing to ask him for help. No matter what she asked for, he would do his best to help her.

"Can you help me contact Lu Huai? I want to talk to him," Qiao Mei said as she looked at Xia Zhe earnestly.

Xia Zhe stood rooted to the spot for a long time. It took a long time before he asked, "That's all? That's all you want?"

"That's right. What else do you think it is? How can a woman like me go and talk to Lu Huai out of the blue? It will attract a lot of gossip! It's more suitable to send you!" Qiao Mei said.

"Alright..." Xia Zhe looked at Qiao Mei resignedly.

After Lu Huai received Xia Zhe's message, he rushed to Qiao Mei's place and arrived within two hours.

Chapter 1508 Work For Me

"Cousin-in-law, you're here so soon. I thought you would only come tomorrow!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Third Cousin was so anxious on the phone just now. How can I still dilly-dally? I wonder why Third Cousin and Third Cousin-in-law are so anxiously looking for me?" Lu Huai asked.

"My intention is to speak to you in detail at a later time, but I have a dicey situation now and need your help. I don't know if you and your buddies have time now, but the price is negotiable," Qiao Mei said.

Lu Huai had been resting at home recently. He had just finished a round of delivery and was feeling a little tired, so he wanted to take a break and spend more time with Xia You. If everything went well, they might be able to add a new member to their family soon.

When he saw Xia Fan and Xia Xing this time round, he had a warm feeling inside. The image of Xia Zhe's family of four having a harmonious time together stayed in his mind. He also wanted to have a child with Xia You.

However, there was no hurry. It was more important to earn money. Who would mind having more money?

"Tell me what's going on first," Lu Huai said seriously.

"I have some goods in a village about 400 kilometers away and I would like you to lead a team to transport the goods back. I just don't know if you're willing to do it," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Third Cousin-in-law, you might not understand how we do business in our industry. We don't look at the distance, we only look at the deadline. No matter how short the distance is, if there is not enough time and we can't make it back, how can there be a deal?" Lu Huai said cautiously.

Qiao Mei appreciated the fact that Lu Huai was straight with her. Other people would have agreed to Qiao Mei's request for the sake of having her owe them a favor. Lu Huai was a scrupulous person who separated work and personal interests. It was expected of someone that Xia You had taken a fancy to.

"I can only give you three days. You might need to travel through the days and nights, but the price is negotiable. Just name your price," Qiao Mei said readily.

"I'm willing to accept this business, but I'm not sure about the rest of the guys. I can help you ask around. As for how many people will come, I can't be sure," Lu Huai said.

"Alright, then I'll wait for your good news." Qiao Mei gave Lu Huai an initial deposit of 2,000 dollars to go and look for helpers. She still needed to take care of other things at the factory.

Early the next morning, Lu Huai arrived at Qiao Mei's office with 11 guys. He had spent the entire night asking around and these people had turned up because they trusted Lu Huai.

Qiao Mei was shocked when she saw so many burly men. Those who did not know better would think that Lu Huai had brought people here to seek revenge!

"You must have waited for a long time! Come in, everyone. Have you eaten breakfast? Let me ask the canteen to send some food over!" Qiao Mei said.

"It's alright. We've all eaten. Since Third Cousin-in-law has such an urgent matter for us to do, I can't be the one to drop the ball!" Lu Huai said with a laugh.

Lu Huai introduced Qiao Mei to each of the guys one by one, giving her their full names, the size of their trucks and the number of years of experience they had. He was so detailed that he almost listed down their ancestry as well.

"I've noted everything down. The thing is I don't just want to talk about this order today. There's also something else I want to discuss with you. I know that everyone here works freelance. You might get one order today, but none tomorrow. It's really tough not to have a steady income. I would like all of you to come and work for me. I'll pay you a monthly salary so that you can settle down properly," Qiao Mei said.

"No! We don't want to work for you! We only trust Brother Lu!" shouted a person surnamed Huang in the team. As he was the oldest among them, everyone called him Old Man Huang.

"That's not what I mean. Your leader is still Lu Huai. This is something that won't change. I just want everyone to have a more stable job. Which one of you doesn't want to have more time to spend with your wife and children in the capital?" Qiao Mei said.

This concept was particularly attractive to Lu Huai. He recalled that Qiao Mei had told Xia You that she wanted his help with something. It looked like this was what she was talking about.

Everyone looked at Lu Huai but he could not make up his mind. If he was the only one involved, he would definitely agree to Qiao Mei's proposal. However, since this concerned everyone else's livelihood, he must be very careful. Even if they were relatives, he could not make a decision carelessly.

"Third Cousin-in-law, let's get this current order done first. We can talk about the rest after this," Lu Huai said.

Chapter 1509 Unspoken Rules of the Fleet Team

Perhaps in the future, Lu Huai would be a talent who could lead a company. It seemed that everyone had good judgment and they all believed that Lu Huai was the right choice.

With Qiao Mei's memories of her other life, she knew very well how promising the future prospects of the logistics industry were. If she wanted to expand her business, she definitely needed to set up a logistics company. However, she did not have any experience in this area and was a novice who knew nothing.

Lu Huai was a responsible man and knew everything related to cars. Moreover, he was also a member of the Xia family. It was like the heavens had sent a candidate for general manager to Qiao Mei!

If one wanted to achieve something, one had to do it at the right time, in the right place and with the right people. The timing and the place were already right! All that was missing was the right person! Qiao Mei wanted Lu Huai to become the general manager of her logistics company no matter what she had to offer him.

"There's no hurry to discuss our future collaboration. Let's talk about this current order. I don't know the rules of your industry and I don't know how the fees are calculated. Since you're working with me, I'll tell you what I think. The company will bear the travel and fuel costs. In addition, we'll give each of you 10 dollars for meals for the next three days. When you come back, each of you will get a salary of 200 dollars. What do you think?" Qiao Mei said.

After hearing what Qiao Mei said, some people were happy, but not all.

They each had their own way of doing delivery. Generally speaking, they would hand over the bill to the client for reimbursement after the trip. The staff at the gas stations also knew these unspoken rules. Every time they pumped 50 dollars' worth of petrol, the receipt would show 80 dollars. The drivers would give the gas station staff five dollars as hush money.

These people did not just rely on the payment for the delivery, but also faked expenses claims to reap some benefits. However, Qiao Mei's situation was different this time. Normal clients were not as generous as her, so they all felt that it was still worth it to take on this order.

"200 dollars! That's a lot of money! Don't tell me you want us to transport something illegal..." Old Man Huang said as he looked at Lu Huai fearfully.

"I'm running a proper business so why would I get so many people to transport dangerous goods? Won't that just be asking for trouble? Don't worry, it's just seeds and nothing else. However, if I find out that you're also accepting orders from other people at the same time and intend to tag on other deliveries to make money, I won't stand for it," Qiao Mei said sternly.

There were very few people in this line of work. When they went out for delivery, they would spread the news about their route. If anyone wanted to tag on and send items to relatives and friends, they just needed to pay to get it done. Sending things this way was definitely faster than sending by post!

For Qiao Mei, this delivery was urgent. If it was any other time, she could turn a blind eye to it, but right now, she must focus on the factory's business first.

"That's fine. I'll do it! I'll sign the agreement in a while. Brothers, if you want to join me, then sign the agreement with me. I won't force you. It's fine if you don't want to take the job. It's all up to you," Lu Huai said.

In the end, the 11 people who came all signed the agreement. These people all had big trucks, meaning the seeds would definitely reach the capital successfully.

"Lu Huai, you've really been a great help this time. When you're back, I'll definitely treat you to drinks at my house!" Qiao Mei pulled Lu Huai aside and whispered to him.

"Third Cousin-in-law, this is what I should do. Besides, you give such a high salary and it's so lucrative. I'd be a fool not to do it!" Lu Huai said with a smile.

"Then help me keep an eye out and see which of these people are more honest and reliable. I intend to have a fleet of vehicles in charge of transporting the goods from the factory and I want you to head this department. What do you think?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Third Cousin-in-law... I... I'm just a truck driver. I don't know how to manage people," Lu Huai said fearfully.

He had always been an ordinary person and there was nothing outstanding about him. Every time he took an exam, he would definitely be last on the list. Back then, the Lu family was given a position to work at the auto repair shop and Lu Huai's father had given it to his eldest son. Unexpectedly, the eldest son fell head over heels for a woman after one week and then ran away from home!

The job ended up being given to Lu Huai. Instead of saying that he was ordinary, it would be more accurate to say that he was an extremely lucky person who was able to emerge triumphant from adverse situations every time.

Chapter 1510 Have Drinks to Relax

The Lu family members worked as car mechanics for generations but they only became well-known because of Lu Huai's father. His father not only knew how to repair cars, but also manufacture parts and design improvements for cars. Everyone addressed his father as "Master Lu".

In the capital, if his father claimed to be the second-best mechanic, no one would dare to take the top spot. Everyone thought that Lu Huai's father would have clever and outstanding children, but Lu Huai's elder brother turned out to be a simple-minded person who did not like to study. As for Lu Huai, he was very rebellious since he was young and always went against his father's wishes.

Things changed during the year when Lu Huai's father lost his life in an accident. At that time, Lu Huai was only 16 years old and his elder brother had run away from home. As the only man left in the family, he had to buck up and be strong.

From then on, Lu Huai stopped being wilful and began to earnestly learn how to repair cars and drive trucks. The only thing in his mind was to earn money to support his family and give his mother a good life. As for getting married and having children, he did not even dare to think about it. He felt that whichever girl who married him would only have a tough life.

As he went through life feeling overwhelmed, Xia You entered his world and changed his fate. Xia You was like a small sun that illuminated the darkness of his life and made him understand the purpose of hard work and the value of life.

Liu Fen was not a fool. Even if the Xia family's second son was only mediocre, there was no need for his daughter to marry a mechanic and suffer for the rest of her life. Liu Fen set many difficult conditions for Lu Huai to fulfill, but he worked hard to meet all Liu Fen's requirements in the end. Only then did he receive their approval to marry Xia You.

However, his work took him away from home a lot and he did not have much time to accompany Xia You. He wanted to change jobs but was worried that he would not be able to support his family. This was why the situation stayed the same until now.

Now that he had a chance to stay by Xia You's side every day, he definitely wanted to grasp it tightly. However, he was afraid that he was not capable enough. For a moment, Lu Huai was in a dilemma.

"I have to go home and discuss this matter with Xia You. I can't decide on my own. Our Xia You has the final say," Lu Huai said to Qiao Mei with a goofy smile.

Qiao Mei nodded in relief. It looked like Xia You was a very good judge of character. When she had more free time, she must ask Xia You to come to her house and tell the story of how she wooed Lu Huai during those years and finally married into the Lu family.

She still had some factory matters to deal with in the coming days. She had a discussion with Xia Zhe and they decided that Xia Zhe would go home and fetch the children to stay with Grandpa Xia for a while.

After the seeds reached the capital and everything was settled, Qiao Mei would go home to accompany Xia Zhe.

Xia Zhe had never spent time with the children before. He found it to be a good idea as it could bring them closer together, so he agreed to Qiao Mei's suggestion.

Three days passed very quickly. After Xia Zhe returned to the capital, Han Chen stopped sending flowers to Qiao Mei. However, Qian'e was not so lucky. Li Gui was now in charge of supplying braised meat to their various customers and was extremely busy every day. Therefore, Qian'e needed to handle the business for both seeds and popcorn.

Since Han Chen could not annoy Qiao Mei for the time being, he started to torment Qian'e. He frequently asked Qian'e to send documents or samples to him and also nitpicked at all kinds of issues. He insisted that the packaging design was extremely ugly and requested a new design.

"I've really had enough! Is there something wrong with this person! Does he feel uncomfortable if he doesn't find fault with us for one day! I only let him off because he gave our factory a large sum of money and a five-year contract. Otherwise, I would have thrown those samples at his face long ago!" Qian'e said furiously in Qiao Mei's office, throwing a tantrum after drinking some wine.

It was after office hours now. The two of them had been under too much pressure recently so they decided to have some drinks to relax.

"I also think that there's something wrong with him. Fortunately, I'm not allergic to pollen. My office was like a garden some time ago! I even asked Xia He to move the flowers to her house," Qiao Mei said after taking a sip of wine.

"That's right! He's really crazy! Once the five-year contract is up, let's cut him off! I don't care how much money he wants to give us! Do you know what the people in his company say about him in private?" Qian'e said.

"What?" Qiao Mei looked at Qian'e curiously.

"They say that Han Chen is handsome and suave. They also say... um... that there are very few pretty men like him in the world..." Qian'e rattled off as she recalled what those people said.