

## **Fat Wife 1571**

### Chapter 1571 Marry Me

"I see. Then can both of you show me your permit," Brother Sun said.

This Su Yang was really a weirdo. This was a woman whom his brother defiled but Su Yang did not mind and even wanted to marry her! If word got out, he would become a laughing stock among the neighbors again.

Su Yang quickly took out his permit from the pocket and said, "Brother Sun, I'm here to marry her. I'm originally from the capital! My household register is still in the capital! I can't be considered to have sneaked in."

Brother Sun checked it and found that there was indeed no problem. Even without it, Su Yang would not be arrested since he had a right to be in the capital. However, Qiao Yu was not from the capital and she did not produce her permit as requested. It was obvious that something was wrong.

"What about yours?" Brother Sun said.

"I... I came to the capital in a hurry, but my sister-in-law is the mother of Qiao Mei who lives in the house over there! You must all know who Qiao Mei is! My permit is with her!" Qiao Yu said agitatedly.

Brother Sun and Brother Zhao definitely knew who Qiao Mei was. Zou Ming had even specially instructed them to take good care of Qiao Mei's family. They did not expect this woman to be related to Qiao Mei.

"Then let's go take a look and see if the permit is there!" Brother Sun said.

Qiao Yu did not expect these two people to be so persistent. She had thought that Qiao Mei's reputation was her ticket out of trouble, but she did not expect it to be of no help!

She walked in front silently. She trusted that Qiao Mei would not put righteousness before family. She had been on her best behavior while staying at Qiao Mei's house and did all her chores without causing any trouble for Qiao Mei. On account of her being a relative, Qiao Mei might just save her.

However, the reality was completely different from what Qiao Yu imagined. Qiao Mei stood at the door with a wide smile and said, "I don't know anything about this. We don't have her permit with us. In that case, Brother Sun, just do whatever you need to do. You don't have to worry about us."

In this era, anyone who came into the capital without a permit was considered to be an illegal migrant! If an illegal migrant entered the capital and was discovered, the person would be sent back to the original location.

Just as Brother Sun and Brother Zhao were about to handcuff Qiao Yu and take her away, Qiao Yu suddenly said, "Su Yang and I are going to get married! If we get married, then I'm considered a capital resident! You won't be able to arrest me!"

She had already reached this point. If she failed, she would not have a chance to turn her life around. She must stay in the capital. Only by staying in the capital would she have a chance to complete the mission given by the Du family. After that, she would have a chance to go to another city to carve out a happy life for herself.

Marrying Su Yang was nothing! As long as she could stay in the capital, she was willing to do anything!

Qiao Mei did not expect Qiao Yu to be willing to go all out. When she first came here some time ago, she was adamant about not marrying Su Yang. It seemed that the mastermind had offered Qiao Yu a reward that was so generous that she could even sacrifice herself.

"Oh! That's great! Let's go and register our marriage now! Let's go now!" Su Yang said excitedly.

Brother Sun and Brother Zhao followed them all the way to the community center to get married. They only left after witnessing the staff at the community center affixing the official seal on the certificate.

Qiao Yu looked at the marriage certificate in her hand angrily. This was all Qiao Mei's fault! If not for Qiao Mei, Su Yang would not have been able to find her so quickly. After she married Su Yang, there was no way back for her!

Su Yang did not care so much. The most important thing to him now was his wedding night! However, the Su family's previous house had already been taken back by the factory and he did not have a place to live now. After searching for a while, Su Yang brought Qiao Yu to the house where the Su family used to live, the one which was currently Qiao Mei's corn courtyard house.

Ever since Qiao Mei's factory in the suburbs commenced operations, this house had been left vacant and no one had come to clean it. The locks were all old and rusty. There was nothing important in this house, so Qiao Mei could not be bothered to arrange for someone to guard it.

There was still some tattered bedding left in the house. These were those used by Sun Juan and the other women when they took turns sleeping during their shifts.

"Come! We'll stay here! From now on, this will be our home!" Su Yang said as he tugged at Qiao Yu.

Qiao Yu immediately said, "I still have something on! I have to go to my sister-in-law's house! You can stay here for now!"

As long as she remained chaste, she would still have a chance to marry someone else. However, how could Su Yang not know what Qiao Yu was thinking? No matter what, he would not let Qiao Yu leave. Tonight, he must make Qiao Yu his woman.

#### Chapter 1572 Exposed

As Qiao Mei hummed a tune at home, Xia He also felt happier. They did not know if this plan could stall Qiao Yu for a while, but they definitely felt much more relaxed without Qiao Yu watching them from the corner.

"Do you think we've gone too far?" Xia He asked.

"It's all of her own doing. We only gave Su Yang a boost. She could have chosen to be sent back, but she chose to stay for the sake of those benefits. She has chosen this path herself. It's not like we forced her to do it," Qiao Mei said.

"That's right. How big a reward do you think the mastermind is giving her? She's even willing to marry Su Yang!" Xia He lamented.

"It can only be money and something she wants. The only people who can offer such a reward are the He and Du families. I just don't know who the actual mastermind is," Qiao Mei said as she massaged the spot between her eyebrows.

"But why not the Song family?" Xia He asked curiously.

Other than Song Dan, the only child of the Song family who showed promise, none of the other family members were capable of anything. It was already good enough if they did not cause trouble for Song Dan. In addition, Song Dan needed the Xia family's "divine medicine" now, so he would not force the Xia family into a corner. He also needed to take care of Old Master Song, so he did not have the time and energy to come up with such a scheme.

Moreover, Du Miao had previously done an investigation on Song Dan's background. All these years, Song Dan had to rely on Du Miao to gain a foothold in the capital. The Song family was actually just the Du family's lackey.

"Let's wait and see if she'll be back here tomorrow," Qiao Mei said.

Early the next morning, Qiao Yu came to Qiao Mei's house, looking disheveled. She rushed towards Qiao Mei's bedroom angrily and Xia He immediately blocked the door, saying, "What are you doing! Is this a place where you can come in! Get lost!"

Qiao Yu did not hear her at all. She glared at Qiao Mei with bloodshot eyes, wishing that she could kill Qiao Mei and avenge herself!

When Qiao Mei saw how Qiao Yu looked, she knew that Su Yang had succeeded last night. It seemed that Su Yang was quite a randy one. This happened much faster than Qiao Mei expected. She had thought that she would be able to stall Qiao Yu for at least a few days.

"What are you doing here?" Qiao Mei asked.

After Qiao Yu calmed down, she said, "You must be the one who asked Su Yang to come to the capital."

"It doesn't matter if it's me or not. If you still want to stay here, then go and sit there obediently. Otherwise, you can get out. Don't be an eyesore here," Qiao Mei said impatiently.

Qiao Yu held on to her anger and silently left the bedroom to squat in the corner of the courtyard. She still had a chance. There was still one week left before the deadline the Du family gave her. As long as she could succeed in her task within the week, she would be able to escape from here.

"We've really made her angry this time. She won't let us off now," Xia He said helplessly.

"It's alright. I'm more worried that she'll let us off. That won't be good for us. Let's go ahead with the original plan. The two of us will go out tomorrow. Please inform Luo Yu that we'll set the plan in motion tomorrow," Qiao Mei said firmly.

Li Gui really could not take it anymore and left the front yard with her luggage to return to her own house. As long as she did not see anything, she would not ruin Qiao Mei's plan. If she still stayed in the courtyard house, she would definitely stop them from carrying out the plan!

Qiao Mei instructed Feng Hua and Xu Kang to strictly follow her plan.

The next morning, Qiao Mei and Xia He spent a long time in the courtyard. From time to time, in front of Qiao Yu, they would deliberately drop hints about going out today.

At noon, Qiao Mei dismissed the guard team from the courtyard, leaving only Da Zhuang to keep watch in the dark and report to them. The rest of the guard team were stationed nearby.

Feng Hua pretended to have a stomachache and ran out of the children's room. At noon, Qiao Qiang would take a long nap and would not notice what was happening in the front yard.

Qiao Yu tiptoed to the two children's room. Outside the house, Qiao Mei watched Qiao Yu's every move vigilantly through the vines. If Qiao Yu tried to kill the children, she could immediately protect them.

Qiao Yu only took a look at the two children before going into Qiao Mei's room. Holding a backpack in her hands, she opened the drawers of Qiao Mei's dressing table and looked at the dazzling array of jewelry inside.

Some time ago, when she was inside the house, she happened to see Qiao Mei putting away some jewelry. In any case, she would definitely be hunted down by the Xia family after she succeeded in her task, so she might as well take some valuable items with her.

#### Chapter 1573 Taking The Children Away

Even without the money from the Du family, she could live well with just these items from Qiao Mei!

Qiao Yu was not satisfied after stuffing all the jewelry into her backpack. She still wanted to search for the place where Qiao Mei hid her money. At this moment, Xu Kang suddenly walked past the window, scaring Qiao Yu so much that she did not even dare to breathe loudly. She quickly squatted down to hide and only came out after Xu Kang left.

It was getting late and time to get down to business.

Qiao Yu went to the children's room again. Xia Xing was still sleeping. Xia Fan opened his eyes and looked at Qiao Yu curiously.

Since she was alone, it was impossible for her to grab both children at the same time. If she had to take one, she would definitely choose the boy! She wanted to get rid of the Xia family's male descendant!

As for the girl... Qiao Yu touched a hairpin casually. She wanted to leave a scar on Xia Xing's face. Looks were very important to a girl. Once a girl was disfigured, it meant that she would be gossiped about for the rest of her life and would not be able to marry into a good family!

When Qiao Mei saw this, her heart was in her throat. She was very scared that Qiao Yu would do something out of line and hurt the children. Qiao Yu hesitated for a long time but did not make any move in the end. It would be disastrous for her if Xia Xing cried loudly and attracted attention. It was better to just take Xia Fan and go.

Qiao Yu slowly picked Xia Fan up. Xia Fan did not cry or make a fuss and even reached out to hug Qiao Yu. Da Zhuang witnessed all this, but he held back because Qiao Mei had told him not to act rashly.

Qiao Yu was Qiao Mei's aunt and also the children's great-aunt. It was not a big deal for relatives to carry the children. Even if they reported her to the police, she would not be punished severely. However, if Qiao Yu wanted to bring either child out of the house, then they would have a reason to stop her immediately.

Qiao Yu gently covered Xia Fan's face with a blanket and then quickly ran out of Qiao Mei's house, heading west in the direction where Luo Yu had noticed Qiao Yu exchanging notes with someone.

Da Zhuang made a crowing sound twice in the courtyard. Everyone immediately understood the signal and went on alert mode. Xia He and Qiao Mei also rushed over in that direction.

There was now a couple at the entrance of the alley and they both looked very fierce. Once they saw Qiao Yu, they snatched the child from her arms. Qiao Yu did not stop them and just watched them leave.

"Hmph, Qiao Mei, such a day has come for you. Get a taste of what it's like to lose your child. Since my life is so tough, you can forget about about having it easy!" Qiao Yu muttered to herself at the entrance of the alley.

The couple ran for a long time with the child in their arms and then got into a van. Luo Yu immediately intercepted the van and rescued the child. Qiao Mei had instructed him to do this. Qiao Mei thought that she would be able to endure it until the real culprit was revealed, but she did not expect that when she saw Xia Fan being carried away, she felt like she was getting stabbed in the heart and wished that she could kill Qiao Yu.

It was inconvenient for Qiao Mei to take any action, so Xia He gave Qiao Yu a hard kick. Qiao Yu was sent flying by the strong kick and hit the wall. There were some traces of blood at the corner of her mouth.

"How dare you touch my child," Qiao Mei said fiercely.

"Haha, why not? You've ruined my life, so I'm going to ruin yours too! Your child will never come back! You can just cry every day while looking at his clothes!" Qiao Yu said manically.

"Since I can capture you, do you think I haven't discovered your plan?" Qiao Mei looked at Qiao Yu mockingly.

Qiao Yu was still feeling smug just now, but her expression changed drastically now. She looked at Qiao Mei in panic and said, "That's impossible! You must be lying to me! I clearly did it flawlessly! How could you have discovered it! You must be lying to me! You're just trying to make me confess! No way!"

Just as Qiao Yu finished speaking, Luo Yu ran over with the child in his arms. He handed Xia Fan to Qiao Mei, who quickly checked if there were any wounds on the boy.

When Xia Fan saw Qiao Mei, he smiled even more happily, as if nothing had happened just now. Luo Yu told Qiao Mei that Xia Fan did not even cry along the way.

"You fool, don't you know how to cry? Why don't you cry when you see strangers? Don't tell me you've really that stupid!" Qiao Mei looked at Xia Fan worriedly.

After all, when one had twins, it was very likely that one child would absorb more nutrition, leaving the other child to be less developed.

#### Chapter 1574 Prodigy

Xia Fan pouted unhappily. A moment ago, he was still all smiles, but now he was frowning. This child was only born a few months ago. Could he understand what the adults were saying?

Sister Feng had taken the time to teach Qiao Mei a lot of things about how to bring up a child and what parents should do at every stage of a child's life.

At this age, children could only recognize people they saw every day. They only knew when they were hungry and when they were sleepy. Sometimes, they did not even know that they were hungry. They only knew that they were not feeling well and would cry to express the discomfort.

"You... you allowed yourself to be taken away on purpose?" Qiao Mei asked as she stared at Xia Fan.

Xia Fan nodded happily. The look in his eyes seemed to be saying, "Praise me, Mom". Qiao Mei was completely dumbfounded. She did not expect this child to be a prodigy! In that case, Xia Xing probably could also understand what the adults were saying.

"If you can understand me, then nod your head," Qiao Mei said as she looked at Xia Fan expectantly.

Xia Fan nodded seriously. Only then could Qiao Mei confirm that these two children could understand what the adults said.

She had thought that since these two children absorbed some energy from her, they would turn out a little smarter than the other children. She did not expect them to mature so fast!

This also gave Qiao Mei a new perspective on the future development of the two children. Perhaps from now on, she should let them start learning the kindergarten curriculum and then find an elementary school teacher to teach the children at home. She must not delay their development.

When the children were 10 years old, they should be able to self-study calculus at home... Qiao Mei thought that it sounded a little crazy. She originally only wanted the two children to grow up healthy and happy and she had never thought of forcing them to study. However, in the face of the current situation, Qiao Mei was more worried that she would waste the children's talents and hold them back from their fullest potential.

"Sigh... you're really worrying. Let's go home." Qiao Mei carried Xia Fan and walked home, completely forgetting about Qiao Yu. She even forgot that there was someone else with her.

Xia He still felt angry and continued to give Qiao Yu a few more hard kicks. She only stopped when Qiao Yu could not straighten her back anymore and asked the guards to take her away and lock her up.

If it was any other ordinary family, they would have called the police at this point and asked them to deal with Qiao Yu and the two strangers. However, Xia Fan was a child of the Xia family. It was not a small matter for someone to kidnap a member of the Xia family.

If the culprit used the kidnapping to coerce the Xia family into stealing state secrets, it would be a huge loss to the country. The Xia family had done their best for the country, so the country must protect the safety of the Xia family members well.

Xia Mao brought all the people involved to the interrogation room and placed them under the military's close surveillance. When Xia Xiu heard about the incident, she immediately rushed back. She was one of the best interrogators in the country and she was worried about leaving this matter in the hands of others. She must interrogate them herself.

When Xia Zhe heard about this, he also rushed back immediately overnight. When he reached home, he hugged the two children tightly and refused to let go. He had one child in each arm and did not even care when his arms were sore.

"Why... why are you back all of a sudden?" Qiao Mei asked guiltily as she sat opposite Xia Zhe.

Xia Zhe wanted to ignore Qiao Mei, but he also cared for her a lot. Since he was unable to speak harshly to her, he decided not to say anything and just glared at her from time to time.

Qiao Mei did not blame Xia Zhe. If the person who did this was Xia Zhe, Qiao Mei might even skin him alive by now! She might even ask for a divorce!

"Hey... don't be angry... I didn't do it on purpose. Besides, I took precautions to make sure that the children are safe. I definitely won't do this again! I promise that there won't be a next time!" Qiao Mei said firmly.

Xia Zhe did not believe Qiao Mei's nonsense. He definitely could not give in so quickly. He must let Qiao Mei learn her lesson so that she would not dare to do such crazy things in the future.

It was really too scary! She was simply lawless!

The interrogation yielded results very quickly. Qiao Yu was frightened by all the threats that she told them about everything that happened. However, she did not mention the Du family or anything related to the He family.

The Du family did everything flawlessly and meticulously. How could they let Qiao Yu see the Du family members? Even when Qiao Yu first arrived in the capital to meet them, the house she saw was a place they rented at the last minute.

"Are there any other clues?" Xia Mao asked with a frown as he looked at the interrogation records in front of him.

Chapter 1575 Please Do Not Ignore Me

"The couple hasn't been interrogated yet. I think we should be able to get something useful out of them," Xia Xiu said unhurriedly.

"Can they tell us who the mastermind is?" Xia Mao asked.

"Hmph, don't you trust my skills?" Xia Xiu said confidently.

Xia Mao smiled resignedly. When it came to interrogation, Xia Mao would never be able to reach Xia Xiu's level. He believed that Xia Xiu would be able to give him an answer.

However, both of them knew what to expect. Even if they could get all the clues from the couple, they had no hard evidence to nail the mastermind. Private investigators were actually part of an underground business and could not be exposed. If their enemies found out their real identities, their lives would be in danger.

They would have to be satisfied with just the clues. There was still a long way to go and they were not in a hurry to take revenge. However, the mastermind could forget about having a good life from now on!

Three days after Xia Zhe returned home, he still refused to speak to Qiao Mei. It made her so anxious that she kept pacing around the house. When he still ignored her, she sat in the courtyard and wept silently. Xu Lan, who had come for a visit, happened to see this scene when she arrived.

"Mei Mei! What's wrong with you! Did Xia Zhe bully you! Why are you crying! Xia Zhe! Come out! Did you make Qiao Mei angry!" Xu Lan said anxiously.

Although she was unhappy about what Qiao Mei did, the children were still Qiao Mei's children after all. As elders, they could not comment too much on the couple's issues. As long as Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei were happy, she had no opinions.

Qiao Mei just sat there crying and could not even say a word. When Xia Zhe heard the commotion, he ran out of the house. He originally only wanted to teach Qiao Mei a lesson, but he did not expect her to be so stressed.

"You idiotic brat! What exactly did you do! Quick, go and coax Qiao Mei!" Xu Lan said agitatedly.

"I... I... It's all my fault... Look at me, don't cry. I shouldn't have ignored you for so many days. I'm sorry, I know I'm in the wrong," Xia Zhe said in a panic.

"You only know how to bully me... I also know that it's not the best thing to do to the child! But what can I do! I'm doing this for the future! I have a flawless plan! Actually, I'm also very scared! You should at least talk to me. It's alright even if you berate me. But how can you not talk to me!" Qiao Mei said aggrievedly.

"I'm sorry, it's my fault. I definitely won't bottle everything inside next time. Don't cry..." Xia Zhe looked at Qiao Mei with heartache.

Qiao Mei was currently pregnant. If she was so agitated that it affected the baby or damaged Qiao Mei's health, Xia Zhe also did not want to live anymore.

He was really an idiot to argue with Qiao Mei at this time!

Qiao Mei could not control her emotions. She had already forgiven Xia Zhe in her heart, but she continued to weep aggrievedly. Perhaps it was because the fear and grievances she kept in her heart from a few days ago had finally erupted.

"Actually, I'm not piqued with you. I'm... I'm angry with myself. I also need to take responsibility for this matter. If I was able to discover the evil schemes of those people earlier, I would have been able to protect you well and not let you and the children go through this," Xia Zhe said.

"If people are gunning for us, there's no way to defend against them. Instead of overprotecting the children, it's better to let them experience some hardship," Qiao Mei said.

"You're right. I'll definitely protect you and the children better in the future. Nothing like this will happen again," Xia Zhe said firmly.

After this incident, Qiao Mei realized that she could not do without Xia Zhe anymore. They got married right after they met and they did not even spend half a year together after that. Moreover, Xia Zhe was very hostile towards Qiao Mei then. Now, as they spent more time together, they had long fallen in love with each other.

Their feelings for each other had grown deeper and deeper. After having children, Qiao Mei felt even more strongly about not being away from Xia Zhe. She wanted to be with Xia Zhe every day, live together and not be separated from him for even one day.

"Xia Zhe, bring Qiao Mei back to the room to rest. I'll take care of the children today," Xu Lan said.

Xia Zhe gently held Qiao Mei up and led her back to the bedroom. When it was time for dinner, Xu Kang sent the food to their bedroom. Although Qiao Mei's morning sickness had alleviated during this period of time, she still felt uncomfortable from time to time, so there was a need to take care of her health.

## Chapter 1576 Reunion

"I'm sorry..." Xia Zhe hugged Qiao Mei and apologized again.

"Enough... I'm not even blaming you for this matter. Why do you need to apologize to me so many times?" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"I just feel like I owe you too much," Xia Zhe lamented.

A relationship was a partnership, with both parties needing to put in the efforts and not being too picky about the returns. There was no such thing as one person owing the other more.

Qiao Mei pouted and said, "If you continue to say such things, I'm going to get angry! If I keep crying and Grandfather gets wind of it, you're going to get a beating! Everyone in the family will reprimand you then!"

"Then I won't say anything else. I'll listen to you!" Xia Zhe said gently.

It was strange but Qiao Mei felt much better after Xia Zhe returned. The two children also drank more milk than before. Xia Fan and Xia Xing wanted Xia Zhe to carry them whenever they saw him and even wanted to climb out of their room to play with him!

"Ah~ ah~" Xia Fan reached out and waved his little hands at Xia Zhe. He laughed so happily that saliva dripped from the corner of his mouth.

"Xia Fan is a little heavier compared to the last time I was home," Xia Zhe said as he observed carefully.

Now that the two children were getting bigger, their features had also become much clearer. Xia Xing looked very much like Qiao Mei, while Xia Fan looked exactly like Xia Zhe when he was young. It was as if they were carved from the same mold.

This was also the first time Xia Zhe felt that life was very blissful and beautiful. It even felt a little unreal, as if everything was just a dream.

"What nicknames should we give the two children?" Qiao Mei asked.

They had tried to give the children nicknames previously, but they both felt that the names suggested by the other person were not nice. In the end, they did not reach a conclusion. Fan Fan and Xing Xing did not sound very nice either. It was still better to give each of them an interesting nickname.

"What about Rocky and Pretty!" Xia Zhe said as he looked at Qiao Mei excitedly.

The corners of Qiao Mei's mouth twitched slightly. How could she have forgotten the names Xia Zhe came up with when he wrote back to her from the army? She definitely could not let Xia Zhe come up with the nicknames. Otherwise, her children would be mocked by their peers for the rest of their lives!

"Let me do it..." Qiao Mei pondered hard and finally said, "Xia Fan will be called Tuan Tuan, and Xia Xing will be called Yuan Yuan. The new baby will be Fu Fu!"

Xia Zhe felt that these were not nicknames for children, but sounded more like names for giant pandas!

Seeing that Xia Zhe did not voice his agreement for a long time, Qiao Mei asked unhappily, "Don't you like these names?"

"It's not that. These names are the best! Let's call them that from now on!" Xia Zhe said.

Qiao Mei carefully placed Xia Fan on the floor in the distance and the boy crawled quickly towards Xia Zhe. Xia Xing, who was in the cradle, also seemed anxious to play with her father.

As the family was enjoying the harmonious moment, Xia Xing suddenly sat on the floor and shouted, "Pow!"

Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe looked at Xia Xing in shock. What did Xia Xing just say? Was it one-off?

Seeing that his parents were motionless, Xia Xing picked up the toy on the floor and shook it before shouting, "Pow! Pow!"

"Are you trying to say the word play?" Qiao Mei said to Xia Xing, articulating clearly.

Xia Xing nodded excitedly and cried out "pow pow" a few more times, each time louder than the last, making Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei laugh loudly as well. Xia Fan then clapped his hands and laughed along.

"He's only a few months old and he can already speak so loudly!" Xia Zhe said in surprise.

Qiao Mei did not expect it either. Most children would speak around the age of one and a half to two years old. At around one year old, they could only babble vague-sounding words.

Xia Fan and Xia Xing were only six months old, but they were already able to make such clear sounds. In addition, they could understand what the adults were saying. As long as they were taught well in the future, they would definitely be fast learners!

After a few more days, there was finally some progress on Xia Xiu's end. The couple refused to say much and the stories they told were full of loopholes. Xia Xiu could only investigate each clue one by one and was finally able to take down their den. However, this was only a small part of the true picture. The mastermind was still a mystery. However, that was all they could do for now.

Qiao Yu did not succeed in abducting the child so it was not possible to convict her of any serious crime. However, she had tried to harm a child of the Xia family and this alone was enough for her to die 800 times over.

#### Chapter 1577 Officially Becoming a Military Spouse

Qiao Mei did not want Qiao Yu to die so easily. Death was too good an end for her. It was a much more difficult thing to continue living. She definitely wanted Qiao Yu to live a life worse than death.

After the military finished their investigation, they handed all the suspects to the police. After all, the military did not have the right to charge people for crimes. These things could only be done by the police. Zou Ming volunteered to be in charge of this case. He definitely would not let Qiao Yu off easily.

When Su Yang could not find Qiao Yu, he went asking around and finally managed to get the news from Brother Sun and Brother Zhao.

"Brother Sun, can you help me look for my wife! My wife is missing!" Su Yang said anxiously.

"Oh, you still don't know!" Brother Sun said as he looked at Su Yang in shock.

Looking lost, Su Yang asked, "Know what? Brother Sun, tell me more. Do you know where my wife is!"

"Your wife has offended the Xia family! I don't think she'll be able to go home! I hear that she's extremely bold. Not only did she steal all the jewelry from Madam Qiao, but she also kidnapped that lady's son! Do you think they will let your wife off?" Brother Sun said.

"Then where is she now? Has she been arrested?" Su Yang asked fearfully.

"Of course she was arrested. She was caught on the day itself. You don't have to wait for her. Just prepare for her funeral. This time, she has offended someone she shouldn't have," Brother Zhao lamented.

"What! How can this be!" Su Yang said in shock.

Su Yang would believe it if they said that Qiao Yu committed a crime out of greed, but she did not even dare to slaughter a chicken, so how could she have kidnapped Qiao Mei's child? This was his new wife! How could she be gone just like that now? They told him to prepare for her funeral! He did not even have the money to settle his own funeral!

Su Yang had no way to save Qiao Yu. He was currently penniless and did not even have money for food. If he had not run out of money, he would not have come looking for Qiao Yu. If Qiao Yu had committed such a big crime, the Xia family definitely would not let him off too. What if they came for him!

Overnight, Su Yang packed his things and bought a train ticket to leave the capital. Qiao Yu had told him before that back in the village, Qiao Mei had sent Qiao Yu's elder brother to jail. Su Yang's brother had already gotten into trouble, so he was scared that Qiao Mei would come after him too. If he did not take the chance to run away now, he might have to spend the rest of his life in jail!

After everything was settled, Xia Zhe prepared to bring Qiao Mei and the two children to live at the army base. Before the trip, he even specially brought Qiao Mei to see Xia Fang for a checkup. Everything was fine and there was nothing unusual. Only then did everyone feel at ease to let Qiao Mei leave with Xia Zhe.

Along the way, Qiao Mei bought a lot of nice things, mainly useful items. She did not bring along too many of the children's things, only their favorite toys and the books which Xia Wen had prepared for them.

Even the pram she brought along was an old one. It was better not to flaunt their wealth outside. What if people gossiped about her and it caused trouble for Xia Zhe? She did not want to give the impression that she was very rich.

Fortunately, she did not make an appearance in the publicity materials for the factory. The He family had also spent money to remove all traces of the news related to the scandal. Very few people knew that she was the director of Osmanthus Food Factory.

During the period when Qiao Mei had to stay at home, Xia Zhe had already moved to the single-story house. The place was clean and tidy and it surprised Qiao Mei as she thought that she would have to clean up when she arrived!

"Wow, it's so clean and it's already furnished! Did you do all this yourself?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"Yes, we usually have three hours to spend outside the base, so I use the time to go out and buy things we need. If there's anything I missed out, you can get someone to go out and buy for you," Xia Zhe said thoughtfully.

"My husband is the best! You have been gone from work for so long. Shouldn't you go and check on things? Go quickly. I can take charge here!" Qiao Mei said as she patted her chest.

Xia Zhe hugged Qiao Mei for a while before leaving reluctantly to go to work. If he went in too late, he might have to leave work late. Then, he would wake the children and Qiao Mei if they were already sleeping.

#### Chapter 1578 Allocation of Land

Qiao Mei looked at the two children crawling around on the brick bed and said seriously, "Xia Fan! Xia Xing! Sit properly!"

Xia Fan and Xia Xing looked at Qiao Mei curiously and stopped what they were doing. The two of them sat down obediently and looked at Qiao Mei. Xia Xing could not sit properly yet and had to prop herself up by leaning against Xia Fan unsteadily. Their seating stances were acceptable to Qiao Mei.

"Mom is going outside to do some cleaning. I'll be in the courtyard. The two of you play on the brick bed obediently, do you understand? If you do, then nod your heads!" Qiao Mei said slowly, enunciating each word clearly.

Xia Fan nodded with his might. Xia Xing let out a loud "wow" sound in agreement.

"Then it's a deal! If you fall down and hurt yourself, Mom won't care about you! Do you understand! Ring the bell if you need anything, do you understand?" Qiao Mei decided to scare them a little.

Xia He had bought the bell as a toy for the children. Qiao Mei did not expect it to come in useful.

Xia Fan and Xia Xing nodded obediently. After listening to Qiao Mei's instructions, the two of them sat on the brick bed and continued playing. Qiao Mei was still a little worried about their safety and decided to put up a barrier. With the barrier, there was less chance of the children falling over.

The vegetables in the courtyard had already been harvested by the other women and there were only a few roots left behind. Qiao Mei did not know if she should remove them now and then inform them about what she did when she saw them again.

The size and layout of each house was different. Some had backyards while others did not. The single-storey house that Qiao Mei lived in had its own backyard. Once she filled the yard with plants and crops, people would definitely talk and become jealous.

Just as Qiao Mei was thinking about this, those few women happened to walk past Qiao Mei's main door. Liu Yun was the first to greet Qiao Mei and said, "Oh! You have officially moved in!"

"That's right, Sister Liu. Today is my first day here. Have you ladies harvested everything from this courtyard? I don't want to accidentally remove anything of yours," Qiao Mei said with a grin.

"There's nothing left. We've already harvested all the vegetables. If you want to do some planting, you can till the soil and start sowing," Liu Yun said indifferently.

"You ladies had allocated the land among yourselves earlier. Is it really alright for me to use this piece of land?" Qiao Mei said.

Liu Yun and the other two women looked at Qiao Mei approvingly. At least she was socially adept enough to know that she had to abide by the rules here if she wanted to get along well with them.

"In that case, we'll do a reallocation. All the single-story houses are occupied now so the land would belong to those living there. Let's use the land of the dilapidated vacant house next door. We can let Zhang Cai have it since there's no backyard in her house, and Song Zhi can use the backyard part of that house," Liu Yun said.

It looked like Liu Yun was not a person who was greedy for small gains. Even though she was prejudiced against Song Zhi, she still took Song Zhi's needs into consideration and did not treat Song Zhi badly in such a situation. Liu Yun probably just did not like seeing others having a better life than her.

"Thank you, Sister Liu. So I'll proceed to farm on the land here!" Qiao Mei said.

"Sure." Liu Yun agreed casually and walked back to her house. The rest of them also returned to their own homes to do their chores.

Qiao Mei removed all the leftover plants in the courtyard and turned the soil over. She would sow some seeds tomorrow once she had time. She would also give some of these seeds to the other women as a show of gratitude to them for reallocating the land.

She would not give them much, probably less than a hundred seeds each. Although it was not a lot, these seeds were all high quality ones which Qiao Mei had carefully nurtured.

Although the seeds which those women used were also not bad, what they had were definitely not as good as the seeds that Qiao Mei brought with her. Qiao Mei did not care if these people used her seeds or not. If they trusted her, they would naturally benefit from it.

Liu Yun and Zhang Cai did not even look at the seeds. They just put it aside and mumbled a few words of thanks. Wang Nuo was more polite and even gave Qiao Mei many potatoes to bring home. Song Zhi reacted most differently from the others. She still remembered that Qiao Mei had spoken up for her that day.

"Thank you. I don't have much good stuff at home. My best skill is doing needlework. I'll make two pairs of shoes for your children and send them over once it's ready. Take it as my gift to say thanks," Song Zhi said softly.

"You don't have to be so polite," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Chapter 1579 Buy Half a Pig

"It's alright, I'm not that busy. I'll definitely pass you the shoes soon. Thank you for giving me the seeds," Song Zhi said happily.

Qiao Mei happily returned to her own house. After visiting the four women, she had a rough understanding of the family situation and income of each family. They were not nasty by nature. As long as she found the right way to get along well with them, life here would be more harmonious in the future.

She just did not know if the army superiors' family members were easy to get along with. Now that she was in the army base, she could not ask Yao Nian to investigate all these things for her. If Yao Nian was discovered, it would be a disaster for him. She could only rely on herself.

Xia Zhe rushed home before dark with a lot of pork and pork ribs in his hands, making countless people envious of him. However, Xia Zhe did not think that he had gone overboard.

In this era, even the soldiers did not get many chances to eat meat. They would get meat coupons but these were used up very quickly if they chose to have all their meals at the canteen. For Xia Zhe, he usually did not have any time to eat and would always make do with some snacks on the go. Even if he went to the canteen, he was usually the last one there. By that time, there would not be any meat dishes left, so he naturally had a whole bunch of meat coupons left.

"Oh my goodness! Did you buy half a pig?" Qiao Mei said in shock as she looked at all the meat in Xia Zhe's hands.

"I'm just worried that you won't have enough to eat. Besides, these things won't spoil if we keep them in the fridge. It's inconvenient for you to go down the mountain. What if you hurt yourself? I'll bring food for you whenever I come home. This way, you won't have to move around too much," Xia Zhe explained.

"You must have attracted a lot of attention when you came back just now," Qiao Mei said helplessly.

Xia Zhe tried to recall, but he really could not remember if any passer-by looked at him. He was fully focused on getting home and he did not care about what other people thought of him.

With his current status and rank, no one here would dare to bully Qiao Mei at all. However, it was only limited to those men. They were comrades-in-arms so the men all knew who Xia Zhe was, but the women were not aware of all these.

This was what the military required of them. They could not reveal too much information to the outside world, otherwise it could invite a lot of trouble.

After Xia Zhe reached home, he started taking care of the children. First, he disinfected the brick bed and cleaned it thoroughly. Then, he changed their clothes and then he took out the trash. After that, he prepared the powdered milk and fed the children before burping them.

After he did all that, it was time for dinner. Qiao Mei did not cook today. She was still not very familiar with the house since she just arrived. She would cook once she got used to the environment.

"It's been a long time since I tasted your cooking. I remember Sister Feng saying that you'll feel uncomfortable whenever you smell oil and smoke. I'll cook tomorrow. If I can't make it back in time, I'll get food from the canteen and we can eat together," Xia Zhe said seriously.

"I'm feeling alright now and I don't feel as uncomfortable as before. How long has it been since you last cooked? Are you sure the food you make is edible? I'm afraid you'll poison me to death!" Qiao Mei teased.

"My culinary skills are top-notch! Even Grandfather praises me! Don't look down on me!" Xia Zhe said.

Qiao Qiang was not picky about food at all. Even if it was just a simple dish of boiled cabbage, Qiao Qiang would eat it very happily, so what he said had no value at all!

Qiao Mei did not want to affect Xia Zhe's confidence. Since he wanted to cook, she would let him do it. Anyway, she was not in much of a mood to eat. She could steam plain buns or meat buns if necessary. If Xia Zhe failed to make anything, they could just have meat buns for dinner.

"What time do you need to go out tomorrow?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"About five or six in the morning. You won't be up yet at that time. In the morning, there's a small food cart selling breakfast at the apartment building. I'll buy some food for you before I go so you don't have to cook," Xia Zhe said.

"Why are you so familiar with all these?" Qiao Mei asked.

During the time of the earthquake, Qiao Mei had also lived with Xia Zhe in the army camp for a period of time. Xia Zhe had never been the kind of person who paid attention to all these things happening around him.

Chapter 1580 Teach

Xia Zhe was a very thrifty person. He only ate in the canteen and only used army-issued items. He had no desire to buy anything.

"I went to check on all these in advance. I'm worried that you can't get used to life here, so I want to make sure that I do everything to make your life here more comfortable," Xia Zhe said.

"I'm not that delicate! But you can wash the dishes after we're done~" Qiao Mei set the empty bowls aside and said to Xia Zhe with a smile.

"I'll do all these chores in the future!" Xia Zhe agreed with a smile.

The two children kept climbing around on the brick bed. Qiao Mei picked up a book and sat down beside them. "Xia Fan! Xia Xing! Come and sit here! Mom wants to talk to you!"

Xia Fan came in front of Qiao Mei first and sat down properly. The reason why he could sit down so steadily could be due to the fact that he ate a lot and had grown much bigger than his younger sister. Up till now, Xia Xing could not sit up straight and even faced quite taxing at times.

"From today onwards, Mom will read to you every night! Do you agree!" Qiao Mei said.

"Wow!" Xia Xing shouted loudly. Xia Fan also babbled something unintelligibly.

"Then I'll take it that you've agreed. I'll start reading now." Qiao Mei took out a book of fairy tales. She did not want to make things too hard for the children. She only wanted the children to start learning the meaning of different words. This would also help them understand better what the adults were saying.

Xia Zhe leaned against the door frame and watched quietly as Qiao Mei taught the children how to read. This was his first time being a parent and he had never seen how other people take care of their children. He was also the youngest in the family so he had zero experience at all. He did not know if Qiao Mei was doing the right thing.

When he was in the capital, Feng Hua had told him that it was normal for children of this age to fall asleep immediately after eating. However, when he looked at Xia Fan and Xia Xing, they did not seem to behave in the way that Feng Hua described.

Qiao Mei kept reading the wondrous fairy tale. Xia Fan and Xia Xing had long become impatient but they did not know how to tell Qiao Mei that they were not interested. They could only crawl to Qiao Mei and pull down the book.

"You don't like this book? Or you don't like Mom to read to you?" Qiao Mei asked with a slight frown.

Xia Xing immediately shouted, "Wow!" Qiao Mei did not quite understand what Xia Xing meant. Was that a yes or a no?

"If you don't want Mom to read this book, then shake your heads," Qiao Mei said patiently.

Xia Fan and Xia Xing shook their heads at the same time. This scene stunned Xia Zhe. Although this was his first time being a father, the reactions from Xia Fan and Xia Xing just now did not seem to be something that kids their age could do...

"Then do you want me to get another book?" Qiao Mei asked as she pointed at the books.

This time, the two siblings nodded in unison. They felt that fairy tales were really childish. Who were all those princes and princesses? Why did they want to live happily ever after? They could not understand why those people wanted to do that.

Qiao Mei brought over a book on mathematics and started to teach the children basic sums from the kindergarten syllabus. This time round, Xia Fan and Xia Xing looked very interested. They were still fooling around a moment ago, but now they were focused on the book.

Xia Zhe took this opportunity to go to the firewood room to make many small smooth wooden sticks to use as teaching materials. Qiao Mei placed the wooden sticks in a pile in front of the children and pointed to a drawing of two wooden sticks in the book. "Look here, how many wooden sticks do you see? Can you show Mom?"

Xia Fan was the first to make a move. He took out two wooden sticks from the pile and placed them in front of her. Xia Xing's reaction was a little slower and she seemed to find the wooden sticks too ugly. She quickly crawled to the other side and took two toys before struggling to crawl towards Qiao Mei.

"They... can understand what you say?" Xia Zhe looked at the two children in shock.

"I also only found out recently... that our children are actually so smart," Qiao Mei said as she scratched her head in embarrassment.

To Xia Zhe, it was totally plausible. Qiao Mei was so smart and capable and his genes were not bad either. It was reasonable for Xia Fan and Xia Xing to turn out so smart.