

Fat Wife 1581

Chapter 1581 I Will Definitely Wake Up Early Tomorrow

Similarly, Xia Mao was such an outstanding man and Xu Lan was so artistic and talented in dance. The three Xia siblings had also inherited their strengths.

"Then what should we do about their education? Should we ask Eldest Brother about this?" Xia Zhe said, looking troubled.

Xia Wen had brought up both Xia He and Xia Zhe when they were young. Xia Wen must be very knowledgeable about the subject! It would be good if Xia Wen could come over to take a look and help to come up with a suitable education path for the children.

Qiao Mei did not want everyone to know about this! Xia Fan and Xia Xing did not inherit Qiao Mei's superpowers. They had only absorbed some of Qiao Mei's energy, which was why their mental development was faster than other children.

If other people found out that the two children were extraordinarily talented, everyone would think that Xia Fan and Xia Xing were weirdos and look at them differently.

"There's no need for now. I'll take my time to figure it out. After all, it's never a bad thing to gain more knowledge!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"You're right. Let's do it your way," Xia Zhe said.

After tidying up, the whole family fell asleep. The next morning, Xia Zhe headed to the apartment building to buy breakfast. He even prepared milk for the children and kept it warm in hot water so that Qiao Mei could feed the children once she woke up.

As usual, Qiao Mei slept until late in the morning. The two children just crouched next to her and looked at her without crying or making a fuss. This was what Xia Zhe told them before he left, that they should stay put obediently and not disturb their mother's sleep.

"Wow!" Xia Xing shouted a little unhappily.

She was already very hungry. If she did not wake Qiao Mei up soon, she and Xia Fan would starve to death! She apologized to her father in her heart. She had to wake her mother up now!

Qiao Mei rubbed her eyes. There was no clock in the new house and she did not know what time it was. However, judging from the position of the sun, it should be around noon.

"Babies, are you hungry? Mom will make you some food! Don't worry, I definitely won't sleep until so late tomorrow!" Qiao Mei said to the two children.

Xia Xing lay on her stomach and sighed, thinking to herself. I hope so too...

After the three of them had their fill, Qiao Mei thought about bringing the children out for a walk. It was not good for children to lack sunlight for too long. Some time ago, in order to avoid Qiao Yu, she had confined the children to their room. What if they did not manage to grow tall! Especially Xia Fan! He must grow up to be tall!

Qiao Mei put the children in the pram and walked out of the house with it. At this hour, most of the women were chatting outside and they immediately noticed Qiao Mei's children.

"Oh my! Are they your children! They're so good-looking!" Liu Yun said excitedly.

Liu Yun could be considered a good-looking woman, but her husband was not blessed with looks. Their children looked more like their father and Liu Yun always felt a little regretful about this. She was always happy whenever she saw someone else's beautiful children!

"Oh yes." Qiao Mei did not know how to answer Liu Yun. As if they could be someone else's children?

Xia Fan was wearing a blue outfit and Xia Xing a pink outfit, so Liu Yun was immediately clear about their gender. She could also tell that the children were about the same age.

"Heavens! They must be a pair of twins! This is the first time I've seen a pair of twins!" Liu Yun shouted.

This immediately attracted the attention of all the women nearby. Everyone gathered around the pram to look at the children and Qiao Mei stood rooted to the spot helplessly. Fortunately, Xia Fan and Xia Xing were very well-behaved and did not cry.

"The children are so good-looking, especially the girl! She looks so much like you! It's fortunate that she doesn't look like her father. Then again, your husband is also good-looking so it doesn't matter who she resembles! Not like that idiot in my family! He's so ugly that I don't know what to say!" Zhang Cai said disdainfully.

"As if you have the same kind of luck! This is a pair of twins! They are blessed babies! It's a blessing that many people can't get! Hey, Qiao Mei! Who is the older child?" Wang Nuo asked curiously.

"The boy. The boy is older. We call him Tuan Tuan and his younger sister is Yuan Yuan," Qiao Mei said in a gentle voice.

"Such nice names! Tuan Tuan Yuan Yuan means reunion! Oh my, I'm so envious just looking at them!" Liu Yun said.

"Sister Liu! If you like children so much, then have another one!" Zhang Cai teased.

Liu Yun was already in her 40s and would find it hard to have another child. She would have to wait until her children got married and gave her grandchildren.

Chapter 1582 Not Taking Sides

"Shoo, shoo, shoo! You can have one yourself!" Liu Yun said.

After knowing that Qiao Mei had just given birth to two children, the women no longer gossiped about her figure. A woman's bosom was very voluptuous when she was breastfeeding. This was something that could not be helped. They were all mothers and could understand it.

During lunchtime, they all had to go home to cook. Qiao Mei had nothing to do, so she decided to head to the apartment building to take a look. She was not familiar with that area yet. It would be nice if she could meet some nice people.

As she strolled, Qiao Mei saw a tall and slim woman wearing branded clothes and high heels walking on the steep mountain path. She looked very elegant.

"I don't think I've ever seen you before. Are you a newcomer?" the woman asked curiously as she sized Qiao Mei up.

"My name is Qiao Mei. Indeed, I just moved here yesterday," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Qiao Mei was dressed very simply today, but Xia He had bought all these clothes for her and they were all from the big brands. Qiao Mei did not usually pay much attention to these things, but that woman knew such things like the back of her hand.

"My name is Lu Man. You look like you're from the city. Which floor do you live on? We can take care of each other," Lu Man said with a smile.

"I don't live here. I live in a single-story house," Qiao Mei said honestly.

Lu Man's eyes were immediately filled with disdain. She looked at Qiao Mei arrogantly and said, "Why are you staying in a single-story house? Is it because your husband's rank is not high enough? If you're not used to living there, just let me know. I'll get my husband to help you transfer to the apartment building. My husband is very capable."

"I have two children with me here so it's not very convenient to live in an apartment, but thank you," Qiao Mei said.

"Alright then. Come and look for me if you need anything." With that, Lu Man swaggered back to the apartment building.

It was only at this moment that Qiao Mei realized why the people who lived in the apartment building and the people in the single-story houses were like fire and water. She did not know when it started, but there was an unspoken hierarchy among the residents. Xia Zhe did not mention any of this back then.

No wonder those women living in the single-story houses seemed so annoyed whenever they mentioned the people who lived in the apartment building. It turned out that the people who lived in the apartments looked down on the people who lived in the single-story houses.

However, Qiao Mei did not intend to take sides. She wanted to build good relationships with people from both sides. She could not let Xia Zhe worry about such trivial matters.

Qiao Mei took a stroll around with the children. There was a bus stop here, but very few buses. Every day, there were only two buses in the morning and two buses at night. If one missed the timings, then that was it. Apart from the buses, all other vehicles needed official documents to enter this place. Otherwise, they would not even be able to make it to the foot of the mountain.

There was a small garden nearby and there were a few women sitting inside. One of them was pregnant and looked like she was about to give birth. There were also two other women with their children. The two children were not that young and looked to be about six or seven years old.

"Who are you?" said the pregnant woman, Jin Yao.

Before Qiao Mei could speak, one of the women who was further away ran over and looked at Xia Fan and Xia Xing while saying, "I didn't expect you to have children even though you're so young! Sigh! Are you from the city! I've never seen this pram before!"

"Oh... My relative bought this pram for me," Qiao Mei said.

"Really! It looks really nice! Ask that relative of yours to buy one for me too! I'll pay you!" Lu Lin said excitedly.

This was the first time Qiao Mei had seen a person who was so out-of-line. Qiao Mei did not even know her, but she made demands as soon as they met and had such a bad attitude.

"My relative brought this back from somewhere else when he was on a business trip. I don't know where he bought it from. If you want to get one, you might have to wait for a long time. I don't know when he'll go on a business trip again," Qiao Mei said, rejecting the woman tactfully.

"Relative? Then ask him to specially make a trip there! I'll reimburse him!" Lu Lin said stubbornly.

Qiao Mei also did not understand why Lu Lin insisted on getting this pram. It was an old model, so why would anyone still want it!

"My relative is very busy and doesn't have the time to do this," Qiao Mei said coldly.

Chapter 1583 Wait for Me to Get Someone Here

In the beginning, Qiao Mei was still patient enough to respond with a smile, but now she just wanted to leave this place as soon as possible. Lu Lin's son slowly walked up to Xia Fan and grabbed the baby boy by the collar, lifting him up. He wanted to throw Xia Fan off the pram, but he was still a child himself and did not have the strength to pick up another child.

However, Xia Fan's head hit the sunshade part of the pram in the process. Qiao Mei was about to discipline the kid when Xia Fan raised his hand and gave the kid a loud slap. Xia Xing was so angry that she also leaned forward and bit Lu Lin's child. She bit his arm and refused to let go.

No one could bully her elder brother! She was the only one who could bully her elder brother!

"Ah!!! Mom, save me!!! She's biting me!!!" Lu Lin's son shouted in pain.

"Oh! My son! You wretched girl, let go now! How can you bite my son!" Lu Lin even wanted to raise her hand to hit Xia Xing on the head.

Qiao Mei immediately pushed Lu Lin to the side, squatted down and said patiently to Xia Xing, "Open your mouth."

Xia Xing opened her mouth obediently and let go of Lu Lin's child. Lu Lin quickly ran forward and hugged her son as she said, "Let Mom take a look! Mom will take a look at your wound! How can your child be so strong! And so bad-tempered!"

"Is that so? I didn't expect your child to be so strong either. My child's clothes are torn and there's a wound on his head." Qiao Mei slowly straightened Xia Fan's clothes. The boy had pulled off two buttons.

"That's because the quality of the clothes is not good! What has it got to do with my son! Besides, how can my son be compared with your child! My son is a genius! What if he's injured by the bite! How can you compensate me!" Lu Lin roared.

The corners of Qiao Mei's mouth twitched slightly. How could such a child be considered a genius? In that case, Xia Fan and Xia Xing were immortals! If one small bite could injure someone, then her children would be monsters that needed to be locked up.

"I was just walking and minding my own business. How did your son get bitten by my daughter? If he didn't get so close to us, could this have happened? My children are only slightly more than six months old. They are still babies who don't understand anything!" Qiao Mei said.

"No matter what you say, your child bullied my son! I want to find someone to be the judge of this! Don't even think about leaving! You have to give my son an explanation today! You are too much! You have to pay for my son's medical expenses!" Lu Lin said stubbornly.

Qiao Mei looked at her children sitting in the pram. Fortunately, they both looked alright. There was only a red mark on Xia Fan's head and it did not affect him at all. On the other hand, Xia Xing pouted unhappily and kept wiping her mouth from time to time, as if to indicate that the boy she just bit was disgusting.

"Mom! It hurts! Mom, save me!" The boy rolled on the ground in pain.

This was the first time Qiao Mei had seen a child cry like this after getting bitten. Furthermore, it was a boy who was six or seven years old. Back when Zhang Miao had her ribs broken at four years old, she did not even make a fuss like this.

"Just you wait! I'll go and get someone now!" After saying that, Lu Lin ran to the phone booth at the side to make a call, ignoring her son who was on the ground. It was hard to tell if Lu Lin was really the child's biological mother.

Qiao Mei was curious to see who Lu Lin would ask to come around. She thought that she could live a quiet life here but trouble still managed to find her somehow.

Not long after, a car arrived at the entrance of the garden. Two men got out of the car, one of them being Xia Zhe. Qiao Mei was sitting in the shade under the tree and rocking the pram to coax the children to sleep, so she did not have a clear look at the two men.

"Hubby! Quick, seek justice for our child! Our child was bitten by someone else's child! This is very important!" Lu Lin wept as she tugged at the middle-aged man standing next to Xia Zhe.

The man's name was Mao Wei and he could be considered Xia Zhe's subordinate. He had given Xia Zhe a ride back today to get in Xia Zhe's good books.

Mao Wei was about to take part in a promotion exercise. Xia Zhe had the final say in this matter, so he wanted to build a good relationship with Xia Zhe. However, Xia Zhe was not interested and always kept a distance from him. If not for the fact that Xia Zhe was in a hurry to go home today, he might never get a chance to send Xia Zhe home.

Chapter 1584 Children Fooling Around

Ever since Mao Wei heard that Xia Zhe had recently moved to the family compound in the army base, he had felt excited for days. All this while, he was unable to give Xia Zhe any gifts at all. Even if he sent something over, the gifts would be returned to him immediately. Now that Xia Zhe's family had come over, he did not believe that they would also reject his gifts.

"Cry, cry, cry! You only know how to cry! Don't you see that I have a guest here? Hold it in!" Mao Wei said unhappily.

Xia Zhe did not care about this at all. He had no interest in other people's family matters. He just wanted to go home early and spend time with Qiao Mei. However, he thought that the pram in the distance looked familiar. It seemed to be the pram that Xia Wen had bought for the children. Furthermore, there were no other prams meant for twins in this compound.

Lu Lin did not care about all this. She thought that since Xia Zhe was so young, then he must be a newbie. He could not be ranked higher than her husband. The most important thing now was her son!

"Go and take a look at our son! Our son is rolling around on the ground from the pain of being bitten! Go and take a look now!" Lu Lin said.

"I'm really sorry. I have to go and settle some family matters first. It seems that my child has been bullied," Mao Wei said to Xia Zhe apologetically.

"I'll go and take a look too," Xia Zhe said.

Mao Wei thought that Xia Zhe wanted to back him up, so he instantly straightened his back and walked over.

He hurriedly ran to his son's side and said worriedly, "Dad is here! Tell me who bit you! I'll stand up for you!"

Qiao Mei raised her eyes to look at Xia Zhe and then at the family putting on a show next to her. "When can we go home? I'm hungry."

Before Xia Zhe could speak, Mao Wei immediately stood up and rushed to Qiao Mei, saying, "You still have the cheek to be hungry! It must be your child who bit my son! Don't even think about leaving! Give me money for my child's treatment! And then let my son bite your child back! Otherwise, don't even think about leaving today!"

"Company Commander Mao, isn't this a bit too much?" Xia Zhe said with a slight frown.

"Sir, look at my son! Her child has bitten my son so badly! What if the wound gets infected!" Mao Wei said angrily.

Xia Zhe walked forward and picked Xia Fan up. He looked at the baby boy closely and said, "Tell Dad the truth. Did you do it? If yes, just nod your head."

Mao Wei stood rooted to the spot and did not dare to make a sound. He did not expect the woman in front of him and the two children beside her to be Xia Zhe's wife and children! He was in big trouble this time!

At first, Xia Fan was like an indomitable soldier. However, once he saw Xia Zhe, he immediately looked aggrieved and started crying loudly. Xia Zhe also noticed the red mark on Xia Fan's forehead.

"What happened?" Xia Zhe frowned slightly and asked Qiao Mei.

"Their son took a fancy to our pram and tried to throw the baby out of the pram without even saying anything. Tuan Tuan's head hit the sidebar and when Yuan Yuan saw that her elder brother was being bullied, she bit the boy." Qiao Mei recounted the whole story factually.

Lu Lin immediately said, "You're lying! That's not what happened! You're talking nonsense!"

Mao Wei pulled Lu Lin behind him and then grinned at Xia Zhe as he said, "Sir, so these are your children. No wonder he's so good-looking! One look and I can tell that he looks like you!"

"Don't say such useless things. Since we can't reach a consensus on this matter, let's ask our superior to be the judge. I don't want you to be wrongly accused or blamed for something that's not your fault," Xia Zhe said coldly. His gaze was like a knife stabbing into Mao Wei.

"No, no, no! There's no need! This is just a misunderstanding! We're all neighbors. It's normal for children to fight!" Mao Wei said with a smile.

Xia Zhe looked at Mao Wei sternly and said, "My child is only six months old and can't withstand such a fight. Besides, I'm also very curious about how a six-month-old child can provoke your child who's already six or seven years old."

"It's all my fault! Everything's my fault! It's my son who hurt him in a moment of excitement!" Mao Wei was so frightened that he quickly corrected himself.

Qiao Mei hugged Xia Xing and watched the commotion leisurely. She wanted Xia Xing to see how capable and handsome her father was and how heroic he looked when he protected them.

"Then your son..." Xia Zhe looked at the child whom Lu Lin was hugging. Mao Wei quickly said, "He's fine! A boy has tough skin! It's no big deal!"

Chapter 1585 Retire From the Army if Needed

"That's good. Then this matter ends here. If you have any other issues, you can come and look for me anytime. I'm going to bring my son to the hospital for a checkup. If there's anything wrong with him, you'll have to bear the consequences!" After Xia Zhe said that, he walked out of the garden with Xia Fan in his arms. Qiao Mei pushed the pram and followed closely behind him.

Lu Lin watched them leave with a resentful look. She thought Mao Wei had come back to help her, but she did not expect him to be such a coward! A pet dog would be more useful than him!

"Why aren't you stopping them! Look at how your son has been bullied! Why aren't you helping us!" Lu Lin said aggrievedly.

Mao Wei raised his hand and slapped Lu Lin so hard that she fell to the ground and could not move for a long time. Their son hurriedly held Lu Lin's hand and cried out, "Mom! Mom, are you alright!"

"You have offended someone we can't afford to offend! Do you know who that woman is! She's my superior's wife! How can you offend them! How can I have an easy time at work in the future! You idiot! Whether I can get promoted or not can be decided with one word from him! You stupid woman! How did I marry an idiot like you!" Mao Wei said furiously.

"How would I know who he is! You don't even dare to stand up for your son and wife who have been bullied! Why are you blaming us! You're the one who's such a disappointment and yet you're blaming us! What kind of man are you!" Lu Lin roared at Mao Wei as she cried.

Mao Wei kept punching and kicking Lu Lin, even hitting his son occasionally. Qiao Mei looked towards the garden from afar and then turned around to catch up with Xia Zhe. Lu Lin had chosen this ending herself, so Qiao Mei felt that there was no need for her to pity the woman.

"I'll tell my superiors that I need to borrow a car. We'll go to the hospital tonight to take a look. No! Let's go back to the hospital in the capital and ask Aunt to check if Tuan Tuan is alright. At the same time, we'll also get Yuan Yuan checked out! You should do a checkup too. What if you are also affected by what happened just now?" Xia Zhe said in a panic.

Qiao Mei placed Xia Fan and Xia Xing on the brick bed and let them play by themselves for a while. She held Xia Zhe's hand and said, "Calm down. Aren't the children still active and playing? I've already checked just now. The bump on Xia Fan's head is not a big deal. Xia Xing just needs to rinse her mouth. Don't worry too much."

Xia Zhe took a deep breath and then said, "I'm sorry... It's all my fault... I said that I would protect you well, but you've met with danger again."

Xia Zhe no longer had any idea where the safest place was. He thought that he had maintained cordial relationships with everyone. In fact, everyone in the Xia family was mild-mannered. Then why did the Xia family still have so many enemies?

They had never meddled in the rights and interests of others, nor harm other people, nor slandered or insulted anyone. Why did all those people keep trying to harm the Xia family even without any provocation?

His wife and children were also not safe. If there was really no other way out, Xia Zhe would retire from the army and go home to focus on taking care of Qiao Mei and the children. As long as the children grew up to be safe and healthy, it was not a big deal even if Xia Zhe had to give up his career. In any case, the family could do well enough on their own.

"Delete all those thoughts in your head. This matter has nothing to do with you. Don't blame it all on yourself," Qiao Mei said earnestly.

"But..." Before Xia Zhe could finish speaking, Qiao Mei continued, "No buts. The children and I can protect ourselves. Look at how amazing Xia Xing is. She can even bite other people. I really didn't expect that. Also, you didn't see the way Xia Fan slapped that child!" Qiao Mei said proudly.

Although Qiao Mei knew that this was not proper behavior, her children did not attack until they were provoked. If they were being bullied, how could they get beaten up without fighting back?

The matter today was considered done and dusted. In the future, Qiao Mei would definitely find a chance to educate the two children that it was never a good thing to get into a fight.

"They are indeed very impressive," Xia Zhe said with a smile as he looked at the two children.

"Don't put so much pressure on yourself. We can all protect ourselves well. Then again, we need your protection too. If you hadn't come back in time, that man would not have allowed us to leave!" Qiao Mei said as she leaned closely against Xia Zhe's chest.

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Chapter 1586 I Like This Place

Xia Zhe was also very glad that he had accepted a lift from Mao Wei this evening. Otherwise, he would have missed out on this drama!

Xia Xing watched Qiao Mei's movements and quickly crawled over. She tilted her head and leaned against Qiao Mei, just like how Qiao Mei leaned against Xia Zhe.

"Look at your daughter!" Qiao Mei said without moving.

Xia Fan also rushed over to join in the fun. He chose to crouch on Xia Xing's belly and the whole family leaned against one another on the brick bed happily. Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe could feel their hearts melting.

"I brought back some food from the army canteen tonight. Let's just have a simple meal," Xia Zhe said.

"Sure!" Qiao Mei picked Xia Xing up. She went to the kitchen to get crockery and cutlery to plate the food while Xia Zhe went to prepare the children's powdered milk.

The night passed uneventfully. The next morning, Qiao Mei woke up early and did not sleep until noon. However, the two children seemed to have been traumatized yesterday and were still fast asleep in bed.

She wanted to sow the seeds in the courtyard today. The two children should start to eat some solid food by next spring. They would not get enough nutrition from only drinking powdered milk and it was not good for their physical development.

Qiao Mei planned to plant vegetables in the front yard and a few fruit trees in the backyard. This way, she could make fresh fruit juice for the children. It was always safer to eat homemade food.

Liu Yun had always been the first one up among the residents here. She did not expect Qiao Mei to be already farming when she went out. Her impression of Qiao Mei improved even more. Although Qiao Mei looked like a girl from the city, she was a very diligent person and good at all these chores. It was obvious that she had come from the countryside.

"Qiao Mei! What are those seeds which you gave me last time!" Wang Nuo stood outside the fence and asked curiously.

"There's a bit of everything! Carrots, kidney beans, corn, and so on! Just sort them by their shapes and then grow them!" Qiao Mei said with a laugh.

"But what is the variant? How is it that I have never seen this type before?" Wang Nuo asked curiously.

These were actually the same type of seeds which Wang Nuo and the others used, just that Qiao Mei had infused some energy into them to improve the quality of the final product. These seeds were not the best kind she had though. If every family ate vegetables that contained energy, she would be exhausted! She also could not bear to give them the really good seeds.

"These are seeds from my hometown. I didn't have much of a chance to do planting in the capital, so I brought them here to try! Don't worry! It's definitely a good variant!" Qiao Mei said.

"Alright! I'll believe you this time!" After saying that, Wang Nuo went home to farm.

Today was the children's last day of school before the summer break! The army base's family compound was very far from the school, so all the children boarded there. They could only come back once a month during the school term.

By evening time, all the children had returned home and the surroundings became very lively. Qiao Mei liked this kind of environment very much. It was nice to be surrounded by bustling activities!

She actually preferred to live here. Life in the capital was really a little boring. The high courtyard walls separated the neighbors from one another. Every day, she either spent her time fiddling in the courtyard or went to the factory to help out. It was really very boring and not as interesting as this place.

Furthermore, Qiao Mei had gone to take a look at the mountain area behind them. The soil quality was excellent and it was very suitable for growing ginseng! Once she was familiar with the surroundings, she would start her "ginseng factory" again.

"Why are you doing farm work again? Didn't I tell you to just rest at home?" Xia Zhe said when he returned home. He quickly took the shovel from Qiao Mei.

"It's such a waste to leave this plot of land empty so why not plant something? I'm not that weak!" Qiao Mei said shyly.

Liu Yun leaned against the wall and said, "Oh my, I'm so envious of you young people! Your husband really dotes on you! He's not like that one in my house! When he gets home, he only knows how to sleep and does nothing!"

"It's not that. I'm pregnant again so he's worried that I'll get hurt..." Qiao Mei explained softly.

"What! You're pregnant again! I can't tell at all!" Liu Yun said as she looked at Qiao Mei in shock.

However, it was not such a big thing for Qiao Mei to be pregnant. Every family here had many children as the women here were very productive. It had already been half a year since Qiao Mei gave birth, so it was quite normal for her to get pregnant again.

Chapter 1587 Careful Nurturing

When everyone heard what Liu Yun said, they all stuck their heads out to look at Qiao Mei. Even after interacting with Qiao Mei often for the past few days, none of them realized that Qiao Mei was pregnant. Qiao Mei maintained her figure very well!

Qiao Mei hurriedly pulled Xia Zhe into the house. She had already cleaned the pots and pans during the day and was all ready to cook a table full of delicious dishes for Xia Zhe tonight!

"Hello! Is there anyone in the house!" Xia Wen shouted outside the main door of Xia Zhe's house.

"Eh? Do you hear Eldest Brother's voice? Go outside and see who's here?" Qiao Mei said as she looked at Xia Zhe curiously.

Qiao Mei was chopping up the pork ribs and had no time to go and see who was outside. Xia Zhe put down the firewood and went out of the house. He immediately saw Xia Wen standing at the door with bags of things, looking very disheveled.

"Don't tell me you gave up politics and joined the army so that you can come and live with me? How did you manage to carry so many things here?" Xia Zhe said as he looked at Xia Wen in shock.

"You brat, come over here to help! Don't just stand there and talk! There's still more in the car behind me!" Xia Wen said as he pointed at the off-road vehicle behind him.

When Qiao Mei was making preparations to move here, she had instructed Xia Zhe to keep a low profile and not to bring too many things. In the end, Xia Wen had gone to buy all the things he felt that they lacked and sent them over.

"Oh my, look there. Why are there so many things outside Qiao Mei's house! I've never seen some of these things before!" Zhang Cai said from a distance away.

"I heard Xia Zhe address that man as eldest brother. The two of them are probably biological brothers and they seem to be really close. I am not close to my siblings at all," Wang Nuo said enviously.

"I wonder what his eldest brother does for a living. He's rich if he can buy so many things at one go," Zhang Cai said with a sigh.

"Alright, let's go home to do our chores! We still have to cook dinner!" After saying that, Liu Yun returned to her house to cook for her children.

After Xia Zhe and Xia Wen moved everything into the house, Xia Wen quickly washed his hands and went to carry Xia Fan and Xia Xing. He missed them so much during this period of time!

He probably would not have his own children in this lifetime. It was not bad to be able to treat Xia Fan and Xia Xing as his children. He had thought that life would be quite tough here, but he did not expect Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe to have done up the place quite nicely.

"Qiao Mei, those books in the bag are the ones you ask me to buy. Take a look and see if they're the right ones. Why are you suddenly so hardworking? However, those are elementary school books. I thought you had already studied those?" Xia Wen asked.

"Oh! It's not for me! It's for the children!" Qiao Mei replied as she continued cooking.

"What! Getting your children to read elementary school books? Are you crazy? Even if you're looking forward to your children becoming successful, you can't be in that much of a hurry!" Xia Wen said with a slight frown.

Xia Zhe looked at the children a little helplessly. Who said they were looking forward to their children becoming successful? It was his children who were too serious about their studies and they even looked down on fairy tales.

"Let me show you." Xia Zhe took out the pile of small wooden sticks and the mathematics book and placed them in front of the two children.

He flipped to the same question regarding the sum of one plus one. Xia Fan picked up two wooden sticks effortlessly, but Xia Xing seemed a little annoyed and it took her some time to pick out two wooden sticks as well.

Perhaps this question was too simple for them and they did not want to answer it anymore.

"See, I'm not lying, am I?" Xia Zhe said.

Xia Wen found it unbelievable and randomly flipped through the pages, stopping at a question regarding the sum of two plus two. He did not expect them to give the right answer again. This was definitely not just a coincidence!

"This... Isn't this a little strange... How can this be?" Xia Wen muttered to himself in a daze.

He wondered if he had educated Xia He and Xia Zhe using the wrong method back then, and that the approach that Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe were taking was actually the correct one.

Which other six-month-old child knew how to do sums! They could even understand what adults said! In that case, were they considered prodigies?

"Eldest Brother, no need to doubt it. It's exactly what you see," Xia Zhe said.

"When did you find out about this?" Xia Wen asked.

"It was when Qiao Yu tried to abduct the kid. Qiao Mei realized that the two children seemed to be very talented in mathematics, so she wanted to try and see if she could nurture them properly," Xia Zhe explained.

Chapter 1588 Free Trade

"It's not impossible... but don't tire the children out. They're still so young and it's enough for them to just learn a little every day. They don't even know how to stand up yet..." Xia Wen said with heartache.

"Don't worry, Eldest Brother. If the children have interest, I'll let them learn more. If they don't, we won't force them. Come and try my braised pork! It's been a long time since you tasted my cooking!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

The children living in the vicinity had never smelled such delicious food before. Even the food in the restaurants was not half as delicious as what Qiao Mei made. Most people had lived here for a long time and they knew very well which family was cooking from the smells coming from the houses. The children gathered at Qiao Mei's main door and looked inside.

However, they all had a sense of propriety. Their parents had instructed them not to eat at other people's houses for no reason. After looking in for a while, they rushed back to their own homes to ask their mothers to cook delicious food for them.

Qiao Mei took a deep breath in relief. If the neighbors around here were like those in the apartment building, then they might as well return to the capital! That kind of living environment was not good for the two children's growth and development.

From the looks of it, everyone in this area was quite nice. In the future, she should try and get along better with these neighbors. The next time she made pickled vegetables, she would go and share some with everyone.

"Eldest Brother, where are you going on your next business trip?" Qiao Mei asked.

"I'm going to the south on a research trip and probably won't be back for half a month. That's why I have come by to see the children before I leave. I'll bring you guys something nice when I come back!" Xia Wen said happily.

Ever since Xia Wen divorced Tan Jing, he smiled a lot more. He was happiest when he spent time with the two children.

"Is free trade going to start in the south soon?" Qiao Mei asked mildly.

"How... how do you know?" Xia Wen said after being stunned for a long while. These documents were all confidential and they were only conducting a test run in the south now. It was not made known to the public yet. How did Qiao Mei know about this?

Qiao Mei did not know how to explain it to Xia Wen. Was she supposed to explain that she had come from the future?

"It's just a guess. Free trade is the next big thing. Otherwise, I wouldn't have started a factory at this time," Qiao Mei said as she lowered her head to eat the braised pork.

"Impressive!" Xia Wen looked at Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe proudly.

The Xia family was really lucky to have a daughter-in-law like Qiao Mei. Although she had grown up in the countryside and did not really go to school, she was still very knowledgeable. It was obvious that Qiao Qiang must have nurtured her carefully for so many years.

He would consider Qiao Mei a genius. It was no wonder that the two children were so smart.

If Qiao Mei had been born in the Xia family or one of the wealthy families in the capital, she would definitely have achieved even more than this. Then again, Qiao Mei was only 18 years old and it was not too late yet.

"In that case, you have to bring me some rare items. We still won't be able to buy them here anytime soon!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Sure! No problem!" Xia Wen continued, "Qiao Mei, do you still want to continue with your studies? I heard your conversation with Father the other day and it seems to me that you have some plans in mind."

"I definitely want to go to university. It's just that the children are still young now and it's not the right time. We can talk about this next year," Qiao Mei said.

The two children would be able to walk next year. By then, she could leave them to play by themselves or with the helper. She would not have to keep an eye on them all the time.

The college entrance examination was going to resume next year. She must become one of the first batch of students to take the college entrance examination and go to university! It would be such a great loss not to go to school in this era.

Xia Wen worked in government services currently and he was previously a teacher, so he paid special attention to these things. However, everything was still under discussion and it was not clear to him if the government would reinstate the college entrance examination. He decided to discuss it with Qiao Mei in detail only after he received confirmation.

"Among the stack of books, there are also some from junior and senior high school. Read them whenever you're free. If there's anything you don't understand, you can ask Xia Zhe. If there's really no other way, circle out those that you don't understand and I'll teach you when I'm back," Xia Wen said.

"Come on. I entered the military academy as the top student of my year. How can there be things I don't understand!" Xia Zhe said unhappily.

"I was the overall top student for 10 years and no one has beaten my record yet," Xia Wen said breezily.

"Wow... top student! Eldest Brother, you're amazing!" Qiao Mei said excitedly.

Chapter 1589 Qiao Yu Is Missing

Xia Zhe scratched his head awkwardly. His eldest brother was indeed the most outstanding person he ever knew, excelling in everything he did. In fact, Xia Zhe admired Xia Wen very much. He would say that Xia Wen was his role model in life.

Back then, Xia Mao rarely had time to go home. Xia Zhe only heard of Xia Mao's great achievements, but he had never seen the hard work that went behind it. Everything felt very far away and he only thought of Xia Mao as a hero.

Xia Wen, on the other hand, was always by his side. He could see all the hard work that Xia Wen put in. He always competed with Xia Wen, but yet he never managed to surpass Xia Wen.

"Eldest Brother is amazing in many ways. Anyway... I am not too far off from Eldest Brother!" Xia Zhe said.

"That's right, you're the eternal second place winner!" Xia Wen teased.

"I'll surpass you one day!" Xia Zhe said.

After dinner, it was time to get down to business. Xia Wen had some bad news for the couple.

"Qiao Yu has gone missing and we still haven't found her yet," Xia Wen said with a cold expression.

The verdict of the case was out and Qiao Yu was sentenced to life imprisonment. The news was like a bolt from the blue for her. She was not even 20 years old and would now have to spend the rest of her life in prison.

Qiao Yu was supposed to be transferred from the detention center in the city to the prison in the mountain area. However, during the journey, a group of people intercepted the police vehicle and took all the prisoners with them. It was obvious that they had planned this for a long time and it was not something done on the spur of the moment or by accident.

Xia Mao and the team had already issued an arrest warrant, but there were no surveillance cameras in this era. Even camera photos were blurry. They could only depend on the public to spot the criminals somewhere. There was very little hope of finding her.

"Who are the other prisoners with her?" Qiao Mei asked.

"There are three men and one woman. They're a team. Zou Ming told me that those people specialize in abducting women and children and they are particularly interested in young girls. That woman is an escape artist. It had taken the police a lot of effort to capture them in the first place," Xia Wen said.

"I don't know if it's a blessing or a curse for Qiao Yu to have gone with them. Forget it, let's not bother about this matter and just let the police look for her. Let's not waste any more of our manpower and resources," Qiao Mei said with a sigh.

"But that means we won't be able to avenge Xia Fan?" Xia Wen said with a slight frown.

"Our real enemy is not Qiao Yu. She's just their weapon. Now that Qiao Yu is an unregistered resident, she won't have an easy time no matter where she goes. She has already suffered a lot. We just need to find the real mastermind behind the scenes," Qiao Mei said.

"Alright, then I'll go back and tell our parents that we'll end this for now and discuss it later if necessary," Xia Wen said.

After sending Xia Wen off, Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe stood at the doorway for a while. Qiao Mei looked at the empty courtyard and said, "Make me a swing when you're free. The children and I want one!"

"Why don't you just say that you want one? Why do you need to drag the children in?" Xia Zhe said as he looked at Qiao Mei dotingly.

"But it's the children who want to sit on it! I want to plant a lot of flowers in the courtyard so that they can play at home!" Qiao Mei told Xia Zhe in detail about her future plans for the courtyard. Xia Zhe noted down everything she said.

His job here was not that busy and he had a lot of rest time. In the coming days, he wanted to spend more time taking care of Qiao Mei so that she would not feel down.

"Should we treat the neighbors to a meal? We haven't officially met the neighbors since we moved here," Qiao Mei said.

In Foshan Village, a new family would host a housewarming banquet. Everyone in the village would come to the newcomer's house to have a night of fun. Every family would contribute some of their own vegetables and the atmosphere was very lively.

"Better not. If we only invite the neighbors from the single-story houses, the people from the apartment building will have issues with it. If we invite everyone, there will definitely be other people making an issue out of the gesture. When the others moved in, they did not hold any housewarming banquet, so let's not do it. If you want one, then we'll do it at home ourselves. Our family of four will celebrate together," Xia Zhe said.

"True! It's better to keep a low profile! Let's have a good time by ourselves! Go and make more toys for the children! We don't have enough teaching materials!" Qiao Mei said as she pouted.

The two of them began to draw sketches of educational toys for the children. They wanted to personally design and make the toys themselves. At this moment, Xia Zhe was so immersed in his role as a doting father that even Qiao Mei was caught up in it.

Chapter 1590 We Meet Again

Qiao Mei sat in the courtyard and looked towards the apartment building. Although Lu Lin, the woman she met that day, was not a nice person, she still wanted to get to know the other people in the apartment building. It could not be that the entire building was filled with people like Lu Lin.

After tidying up the house, she went to the garden again. The people who lived in the apartments did not go near the single-story houses. They felt that the environment was not so nice and the women who lived there were rude and blunt.

Qiao Mei pushed the pram to bring Xia Fan and Xia Xing for a walk around the garden. They bumped into the same pregnant woman as well as the other woman with a little girl.

"Oh, we meet again!" said the pregnant woman.

"Hello, my name is Qiao Mei," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"My name is Liang Die and this is Guo Feng. The little girl is her daughter. Her name is Cui Cui!" Liang Die said warmly.

"Liang Die has already said everything for me. Come and sit down." Guo Feng made some space for Qiao Mei to sit.

Qiao Mei did not stand on ceremony and sat down beside Guo Feng. Cui Cui immediately ran over and crouched over the pram to look at Xia Fan and Xia Xing with her eyes wide open. Qiao Mei tilted her head and looked at Cui Cui without saying anything. From the looks of it, Cui Cui should be a well-educated and sensible girl.

"Elder Sister, what are their names?" Cui Cui spoke in a cute voice. She was so adorable that Qiao Mei wanted to lean over and hug her.

"Cui Cui, you have to call me Auntie. These two babies are my children. The boy's name is Tuan Tuan and the girl's name is Yuan Yuan," Qiao Mei said in a gentle voice.

"Oh... but Elder Sister is so good-looking, why do I have to call her Auntie?" Cui Cui asked her mother while looking confused.

Guo Feng was also stumped by this question. Cui Cui was five years old this year and Qiao Mei was not even 20 years old yet. It actually made sense for her to address Qiao Mei as elder sister. Cui Cui usually knew how to identify older women and to address them appropriately.

"Your mother and I are friends, so you have to call me Auntie. Do you understand?" Qiao Mei explained.

"Oh! I understand now! Then beautiful Auntie, can I be good friends with Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan?" Cui Cui asked happily.

"Of course you can! It's just that Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan don't know how to talk yet. When they're a little older, they will address you as elder sister," Qiao Mei said.

Look at this obedient and sensible child! Not every family's children turned out like Lu Lin's son.

Xia Fan seemed to like Cui Cui very much, but Xia Xing's reaction was a little unexpected. Qiao Mei realized that Xia Xing had a very bad temper. She was much more petulant than Xia Fan. So long as there was anything that did not go her way or if she met someone she did not like, Xia Xing would frown or pout to express her dissatisfaction.

Fortunately, Xia Xing did not know how to talk yet. Otherwise, who knew what earth-shattering things she could say!

"Your children are so good-looking, so fair and chubby. One look and you can tell that they're very healthy. I wonder what my baby will look like?" Liang Die said.

"It must be a chubby kid! When I was pregnant with Cui Cui, I couldn't manage to eat anything. Look at how much you can eat now. Your appetite is so much better than mine back then!" Guo Feng said.

"That's not true!" Liang Die said embarrassedly.

Liang Die was indeed a little plump and it was not just because of her pregnancy. Even when Qiao Mei was pregnant with twins, she did not lose her figure like Liang Die.

Actually, it was not Liang Die's fault. She was very slender before she got pregnant and could be considered one of the pretty women here. After she became pregnant, her appetite increased by a lot. She would ask her husband to make food for her even at two or three in the morning. If there was nothing to eat in her house, she would ask her husband to get some from the neighbors. As time passed, everyone knew that she had a big appetite.

"It's also a blessing to have a good appetite. I had morning sickness some time ago and kept throwing up. I couldn't eat anything and felt terrible. My elder sister was so scared that she almost brought me to the hospital," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Really! I thought that you're naturally so thin! Are you pregnant again at the moment?" Guo Feng said in surprise.

"Yes, still in the early stage now," Qiao Mei said as she gently stroked her stomach.

"Sigh, I'm so envious. You're so beautiful even when you're pregnant. I have thought about giving Cui Cui a younger brother or sister so that she can have someone to play with her. Her elder brother has already gone to school and they don't have many common topics due to the age difference. He's not willing to play with her," Guo Feng said regretfully.