

Fat Wife 1591

Chapter 1591 Give Us Some Milk

"After Cui Cui starts school, the two children will have something in common to talk about. They're still young! Children just like to play with children who are older than them," Liang Die said.

"I guess I'll have to wait and see. It's already so busy to take care of two children now. I can't cope if I have more," Guo Feng said with a laugh.

Qiao Mei did not have such worries. All this while, she did not have to take care of her children herself. She always had someone helping her. To her, it was not a daunting thought to have more children.

"You're younger than us, so we'll treat you like a younger sister! Did Lu Lin and her husband make things difficult for you yesterday?" Liang Die asked.

"No, it's just that my Tuan Tuan had a bump on the forehead and it looks a little red. Other than that, everything is alright," Qiao Mei said as she looked at Xia Fan who was in the pram.

"Small kids are very fragile! Stay away from that family in the future! They are all terrible people who like to bully others. Their son also bullies Cui Cui sometimes!" Liang Die said unhappily.

"My husband is his subordinate though. That's why I don't really bring Cui Cui here to play anymore," Guo Feng said resignedly.

Qiao Mei looked at Cui Cui, then at the children in the pram and said, "I'll definitely remember what both of you said. The next time I see her, I'll definitely run far far away!"

The few of them chatted happily as they shared some gossip. Qiao Mei learned about all the things happening within the family compound. During this time, Lu Lin walked over with a woman carrying a child.

After what happened yesterday, Lu Lin probably would not provoke Qiao Mei anymore. Qiao Mei was not afraid of them at all but her eyes were drawn to the child.

The child looked like a newborn and was very skinny. It looked as if the child was already not too healthy before birth. She wondered whether the family had taken care of the child's mother during the pregnancy period.

"Are these babies your children? They're so chubby, unlike my family's child who's so skinny," the woman said sadly.

"Maybe my children are able to absorb nutrients well. They eat simple things, nothing special. If you want, I can give you a list of the food they eat," Qiao Mei said.

This woman looked even younger than Qiao Mei, probably only about 15 years old. Could she be an underage mother? Heavens... no wonder the child was so skinny!

"That's Tian Jun's child. He lives upstairs. The child was born prematurely and his mother died after giving birth to him. This girl's name is Miao Le and she's the mother's younger sister. As the grandparents are weak and sickly and can't take care of the child, they ask her to come here to help," Guo Feng explained.

"What's this child's name?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Zhuang Zhuang. Since he's so skinny, we want him to have a name that means strong," Miao Le said as she wiped her tears.

At the side, Lu Lin said sarcastically, "Hmph, why are you crying? The child is fine! If you always cry like this, the child's luck will all be scared away! You bring bad luck!"

She had always disliked Miao Le. Since Qiao Mei and her two children were also here, she quickly found a random excuse to leave with her son.

Miao Le chatted casually with Qiao Mei. After understanding more about Qiao Mei's family background, she knelt in front of Qiao Mei with the child in her arms. As she cried, she begged for help. "Please save my nephew! Feed him some milk! Look at how pitiful Zhuang Zhuang is! Just give him milk four times a day! I'll send him over and pick him up at your convenience! It won't be too much trouble for you!"

Qiao Mei was thinking that this family was quite pitiful and was about to offer to help, but she did not expect Miao Le to come up with such an idea.

Liang Die and Guo Feng did not look too comfortable. This was not the first time Miao Le had done this. She would usually go around asking other people for what she lacked at home.

Seeing that Qiao Mei did not say anything, Miao Le immediately said, "I'm not asking you to help for free! Every day, I'll bring you some eggs to nourish your body and I can even help you with your chores! I'll do whatever you want! Zhuang Zhuang doesn't eat much, just give him some milk!"

"It's not a must for children to drink breast milk. You can also feed powdered milk," Qiao Mei said tactfully.

The men who lived in this compound all earned fairly high salaries. It should not be too much of a financial burden on the family to buy powdered milk to feed their children.

Chapter 1592 I Will Not Feed Him

"My... My family is not doing well! My brother-in-law is the only one working! My parents are weak and sickly! They need medicine all year round and my brother-in-law has already spent all his money to buy medicine for them! So we don't have any extra money to buy milk powder. Please give us some milk! I promise I won't let the child drink too much! I'll give you many eggs in return! I'll also help you with your chores!" Miao Le said.

Liang Die glared at Miao Le from one side. Ever since Miao Le came to the family compound, they had not had a peaceful day. Miao Le went around complaining to everyone every day and sometimes even acted pitiful and asked for things. She would go to this house for a meal today and then go to another house to get some meat tomorrow. She went to everyone's house. It was only out of respect for Tian Juan that everyone was not calculative with Miao Le.

The child was still so young but she carried him out for show so as to gain sympathy. It was no wonder that the child was so weak. All the women in this area who were still breastfeeding had fed Zhuang Zhuang before. If Qiao Mei fed him this round, it would be Liang Die's turn next!

Miao Le's brother-in-law, Tian Jun, was a sensible person though. If he found out that Miao Le had taken something from someone else's house, he would return it. He would even punish Miao Le by making her stand outside the door and not allow her to enter the house.

Liang Die and Guo Feng were both waiting to see Qiao Mei's reaction. Although they had already seen Qiao Mei and Lu Lin arguing yesterday, they only watched from afar and did not dare to take a closer look. They did not know who won the argument in the end. This time round, they could see for themselves if Qiao Mei was an easy person to get along with.

"A child of this age should already be able to eat porridge. Don't you even have rice porridge at home to feed him?" Qiao Mei asked in disbelief.

Miao Le's expression changed drastically as she said, "What do you know! My brother-in-law supports the entire family alone! If you don't want to feed the child, just say so! Don't talk about anything else!"

"Oh..." Qiao Mei thought for a moment and then said, "I refuse to do it. You can go back now."

Guo Feng, Liang Die and Miao Le were all stunned to the spot and could not immediately react. Qiao Mei did not even sugarcoat her answer and simply rejected Miao Le so bluntly. This was the first time they had ever met such a person.

"If you don't want to feed him, why didn't you say so earlier! The child is so pitiful! How can he be exposed to the wind for so long! You just want to harm our Zhuang Zhuang! You must feed him today! Your chest is so big so why can't you feed the child! Your children are so well fed!" Miao Le shouted in an unreasonable manner.

Liang Die and Guo Feng just watched from the side without saying anything. Qiao Mei did not expect these two people to help her. After all, she only met them today and it would be strange for them to help her out.

If Miao Le had spoken to her nicely in the beginning, she might have helped Miao Le think of a solution. After all, she was also a mother. She felt terrible to see a child suffering, no matter whose child it was. Moreover, she could well afford to pay for a few tins of milk powder.

Qiao Mei could even afford to sponsor Zhuang Zhuang's milk powder for as long as he needed it. All the men here were Xia Zhe's comrades-in-arms and they were brothers who had gone through thick and thin together. They must have saved one another countless times, so it was not a big deal to spend some money to help one of them out.

Qiao Mei just could not stand hearing Miao Le talk about her like that. She actually had the audacity to pass comments on her figure. Such a person did not deserve sympathy at all.

"Do I have to give you something just because I don't need it? Do I have to save all the beggars sitting by the roadside? What does how I look have to do with you? I don't even breastfeed my own children! Why should I feed your child?" Qiao Mei said impatiently.

"Impossible! You're lying to me! Your children are so chubby, how can it be that they've never drank your milk!" Miao Le said as she pointed at the children in the pram.

"Come on, have some common sense. Children who drink powdered milk put on more weight than children who drink breast milk. Besides, I'm pregnant now and I have no more milk now. Even if I do, I can't feed it to the children. Go and ask a doctor and you'll know if I'm lying to you," Qiao Mei said.

At this moment, Guo Feng also stepped up and said, "What she says is true. A woman shouldn't breastfeed if she's pregnant. It's very harmful to the mother and can even lead to death. The fetus will also be affected. Miao Le, I'm a nurse. Don't you believe what I say?"

Miao Le felt a little helpless as she hugged Zhuang Zhuang. She had never gone to school and did not know anything about such things.

Occasionally missing content, please report errors in time.

Chapter 1593 Not Accepting Help

Moreover, Miao Le was only a 15-year-old girl! She had never been with a man, let alone know anything about being pregnant. It was really ridiculous for her family to send her over to take care of a child.

They actually asked one child to come and take care of another child.

"You're all in cahoots! You are ganging up! If anything should happen to my nephew! I won't let you off!" Miao Le said with bloodshot eyes.

At this moment, a furious yell suddenly came from outside the garden. "Miao Le! Are you causing trouble again!"

Qiao Mei looked over. Even if she did not know anyone here, she could tell that the person coming towards them was Tian Jun.

There was a shuttle bus that plied between the family compound and the army camp. The men worked on shift and those on duty would stay in the army dormitory. Those who were not on duty would take the shuttle bus home together, just like kids going to and from school.

Xia Zhe had wanted to give Qiao Mei a surprise today. He had brought back her favorite sweet and sour pork ribs from the canteen. Although he knew that it was not as delicious as her version, he still wanted her to try it.

He did not expect Qiao Mei to give him a surprise first.

"Brother-in-law! I'm not causing trouble! She's bullying me! I wanted to go home, but they won't let me go and make me stay here!" Miao Le said aggrievedly.

Qiao Mei rolled her eyes helplessly. How could it be that this girl behaved exactly like Qiao Yu?. She did not even do anything to Miao Le just now. She did not know where Miao Le got the courage to lie through her teeth without feeling any sense of guilt!

Tian Jun looked at Qiao Mei fiercely. He had never seen Qiao Mei before and he knew very well the temperament of the other two women. In that case, it could only be Qiao Mei who bullied Miao Le.

"Did you bully my younger sister?" Tian Jun glared at Qiao Mei and questioned her.

Qiao Mei did not want to answer him. She was feeling very frustrated at the moment and there was impatience written all over her face. She might really flare up at Tian Jun in the next moment. By now, Liang Die could not stand it anymore.

"It was your younger sister who asked Qiao Mei to breastfeed Zhuang Zhuang. She even said that she wanted to go to Qiao Mei's house to do chores to repay the hardship of feeding him. She also said that she would give eggs in return," Liang Die said.

Tian Jun blushed when he heard that. He did not expect Miao Le to do such a shameless thing.

"She even wants to give eggs... She already can't even afford to feed the child... Egg soup can be a good meal for the child too. I really don't know what she's thinking," Liang Die muttered softly without holding back.

There was nothing wrong with anyone's ears! Everyone present could hear what Liang Die said and Tian Jun felt even more embarrassed. He grabbed Miao Le and dragged her home.

Xia Zhe stood behind Qiao Mei and patted her on the shoulder. "Shall we go home?"

Looking at the departing figures of Tian Jun and Miao Le, Qiao Mei felt a little sorry for them and asked, "Can you go and give them two tins of milk powder later? The child is innocent and I really can't bear to see him suffer."

Before Xia Zhe could agree, his comrade next to him said, "Sister-in-law, forget it. Tian Jun is like this. Back then, we raised a sum of money for him and he returned the entire sum to us. He won't take a single cent. Even if you give him something, he will return it to you."

Qiao Mei raised her head and looked at Xia Zhe. He nodded to confirm what his comrade had just said. He did not really know what transpired as he had only contributed money and did not ask about anything else. He was not curious about such things.

With the drama over, everyone went home. Xia Zhe pushed the pram and walked back slowly with Qiao Mei. Along the way, Qiao Mei remained silent. She was really angry that a person like Miao Le existed in the world.

She could not understand Tian Jun either. What he was doing was just blind devotion. He would rather give all his money to his family without keeping some aside to buy food for his child. When she was young, her family was poor. Li Gui was not in good health and was malnourished all year round, so she did not have any milk to feed Qiao Mei.

Qiao Yue would go to all the families who raised sheep and went from house to house to ask for some goat milk to feed Qiao Mei. Later on, when he could not get any more goat milk, he started making rice gruel for Qiao Mei. Even with such a diet, her growth was not affected and she was fair and chubby when she was at Zhuang Zhuang's age.

When Xia Zhe returned home, he did the chores, then he heated up the food and brought it out to the table. After he was all done, Qiao Mei was still sulking on the brick bed!

"Come and eat first before thinking about those matters!" Xia Zhe said with a smile.

Chapter 1594 Hardworking

Qiao Mei only calmed down after sitting at the dining table and venting all her frustration to Xia Zhe about what she had encountered today. She had never behaved like this in front of him before and wondered if he would like this side of her.

"Is this the first time you've seen me so angry?" Qiao Mei probed.

Xia Zhe recalled earnestly for a long time before he said, "I think so. I've never seen you lose your temper before, nor have I ever seen you complaining to me like this. You are very stubborn and don't seem to like to go with the flow. I have always wondered what you look like when you lose your temper. Now that I've witnessed it, I like it very much."

"You like it? Other men will say that this is the behavior of a resentful woman. None of them want to listen to their wives' complaints. Why would you like someone like this?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"Because it's you! You're such a fool! I like you no matter what you say. Besides, I don't think there's anything bad with this. Are you going to keep all these bad emotions to yourself? You're not the one in

the wrong, so don't get angry because of those people," Xia Zhe said as he scooped some soup for Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei was a little touched. She did not expect Xia Zhe to say that.

She had decided not to go near the apartment building for a while. Every time she went there, she would bump into strange people. She did not know if it was because of luck or feng shui, but she decided it would be better to take it slow and build a good relationship with the neighbors around her first.

The next day, Xia Zhe went to work on time as usual. After Qiao Mei woke up and blocked the brick bed with a barrier, she went to the plot outside to farm. It was not the rainy season yet and the land was very dry. She needed to water the plants manually every day.

When Liu Yun saw how hardworking Qiao Mei was, her attitude towards Qiao Mei changed totally! She did not expect Qiao Mei to really be from the countryside. Qiao Mei was efficient and hardworking and also knew how to farm. It was rare to see such a hardworking young wife! She was not even as hardworking as Qiao Mei.

"Qiao Mei, why are you up so early to work? You're pregnant! You're caring for two now and your body will be overworked if you do so much physical labor. Put everything down. Ask your husband to do it when he's back!" Liu Yun said with heartache.

"I'm fine. I'm very strong!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Qiao Mei knew her own limits. Things like farming, watering, sowing seeds were not difficult for her at all and she did not feel that it was tough or tiring. If it got to a point when it was too much for her physically, she would definitely take a break.

Pregnant women still needed to exercise appropriately. If one was like Liang Die and napped immediately after meals and did not exercise much, one would face a tough time when giving birth.

All the women busied themselves with the farm work in their respective courtyards. The men were not at home during the day. After lunch, everyone sat under the big tree opposite their houses for a chat.

"Qiao Mei, how many siblings do you have?" Liu Yun asked.

"There are five of us. I'm the eldest," Qiao Mei said happily.

She had not seen Zhang Wei for a long time, but the two of them would talk on the phone occasionally. Li Gui had previously told her that Zhang Wei was doing very well now!

Although his results were only average, his physical fitness was the best in the school and no one could surpass him. Moreover, the teachers took good care of him and his classmates liked him very much. He had a very carefree life at school.

As for Zhang Miao, she was not doing so well. In the beginning, she was very unwilling to be there and she would weep loudly every night, making the teachers very annoyed. Later on, after she adapted to the environment, she started to display her talent.

Zhang Miao's current teacher was Xia He's mentor. Xia He had specially instructed her mentor to help take care of the girl since she was still young and needed to be monitored at all times.

As for Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin, their results improved by leaps and bounds. No one had expected Zhang Chao to become such a fast learner and show so much promise. Zhang Qin's results also improved under the influence of her elder brother and she was well-liked by the neighbors.

"Oh my! So many of you! Since you're still so young, then your younger siblings must be very young! How can your parents cope?" Zhang Cai said with heartache.

"That's why I want to do some farming here so that I can make some money to support the family. My husband also feels sorry for me so he brought my grandfather, mother and younger siblings to live with my mother-in-law," Qiao Mei said.

"Does the entire family live together?" Liu Yun asked in shock.

Chapter 1595 Elopement

"No! They live separately, but they have a very good relationship. My grandfather and my husband's grandfather were brothers-in-arms who went through life and death situations together. My husband and I have been betrothed to be married since we were young," Qiao Mei said.

"Then your husband is not too bad! It's rare for men to allow their wives' family members to live near them! Whenever that idiot in my house sees my parents, it's like he has seen his enemy! After I get married, I rarely see my parents anymore!" Wang Nuo said unhappily.

"Isn't that the case for everyone! Sigh... There's nothing we can do about these things. We still have to worry about our children now! I haven't even started sowing the seeds yet. Seeing that you've all already started planting, I'd better hurry up," Zhang Cai said sadly.

"You don't have to worry, that plot of yours is so small! Sister, I think your farming skills are not bad. The vegetables have already sprouted in just a few days. You must remember to eat well though. Otherwise, won't it just be the baby who suffers?" Liu Yun said.

"Yes, I'll take your advice! I'll definitely take good care of myself! When the time comes, I'll give birth to a fair and chubby baby!" Qiao Mei said obediently.

"You have to be fair and chubby too! You can't give birth at the detriment of your own health. After all, you just gave birth to those two babies not long ago! I heard from the elders in my village that giving birth to twins causes a huge loss of essence and vitality. You have to get enough nourishment!" Liu Yun reminded her.

"Alright, I'll make some delicious food to nourish my body!" Qiao Mei said.

They chatted noisily about their own troubles at home. Only then did Qiao Mei realize that life was actually not easy for everyone. On the surface, everyone looked like they were coping well, but in reality, they all had their own difficulties.

Just as they were chatting enthusiastically, Song Zhi slowly walked over with her bamboo basket. Liu Yun's expression changed immediately and the other women also stopped talking and sat quietly eating seeds.

Song Zhi nodded slightly at Qiao Mei and walked into the forest. She was not good at growing vegetables and did not know how to make full use of the land, so she could only go up the mountain to dig up some wild vegetables to supplement her family's diet.

After she left, everyone started discussing fervently again.

"Ladies, why do all of you have that expression on your face when you see Song Zhi?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

Liu Yun said disdainfully, "Hmph, Sister, listen to me! She's a slutty woman! You still don't know the things about their family! I'd advise you to stay away from her too. That woman is unclean! If not for the fact that we're all neighbors, we won't talk to her!"

The women clamored to tell Qiao Mei everything about Song Zhi's past, but Qiao Mei had a feeling that something was amiss, as if the story was overly embellished.

Song Zhi had been to school for a few years in an era where very few women had the chance to study. She was also quite good-looking, so there were many people who were jealous of her.

Back when Song Zhi was in the village, she was treated as an anomaly and ostracized by everyone. However, many single men in the village liked her and she had a sweetheart whom she wanted to spend the rest of her life with. However, the Song family did not agree to let her marry this man.

Her family had already arranged for Song Zhi to marry her current husband. The two families had already agreed on the marriage when the children were young. Close to the wedding date, Song Zhi eloped with her sweetheart, running away at night. In the end, she was found by her family and forced to marry her current husband.

There were people who said that Song Zhi was no longer pure! They said she had already married the other man and had even been pregnant! Song Zhi's current husband did not treat her very well and often beat and scolded her.

These were all hearsay and people just went around spreading the rumors. Qiao Mei was already used to such things. In her other life, she had seen worse things, some even much worse than this.

Qiao Mei did not want to continue with this conversation. She decided to reserve her comments until she knew the truth about Song Zhi. She started to ask the women about other things, like what she should watch out for in the mountain forest area, if there were any interesting activities in the vicinity, and if there was anywhere she could travel by bus to buy nice stuff.

"Hey! Come to the fair with us tomorrow!" Liu Yun whispered.

"Fair? What's that?" Qiao Mei asked as she looked at them curiously.

"Erm, in your area, it might be known as the... black market! Aren't we able to buy and sell things in private now? That's like our marketplace," Zhang Cai explained.

"Sure!" Qiao Mei said excitedly.

It had been a long time since she had gone to the black market to take a look. Previously, she had only gone once with Li Gui to sell some vegetables they planted at home. She wondered if there were any interesting things for sale at the black market here.

Chapter 1596 Shopping

The next morning, Qiao Mei dressed very simply, in a similar manner to the other women. She also wrapped a piece of cloth around her head. If she dressed too nicely, the sellers would be suspicious of her and it would be difficult for her to bargain!

Before she left the house, Xia Zhe even teased that she looked like a thief and that her outfit was really hilarious.

Qiao Mei ignored Xia Zhe and asked him to stay at home and take good care of the kids. She carried a small bamboo basket and went out. Each of the other women also carried a small basket, except for Zhang Cai, who had many woven sacks with her.

"Why do you have so many bags?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"You'll know once we get there!" Wang Nuo said helplessly.

They boarded the first bus of the day to go to the county city. After about an hour, they finally arrived. The marketplace had commenced business very early in the morning and many stalls were already almost sold out.

"Let's split up for two hours! We'll gather back here in two hours and go back together!" Liu Yun said.

"Alright!" Zhang Cai ran off after saying that, worried that the things she wanted to buy would be sold out before she got her hands on them.

Liu Yun did not have anything she wanted to buy. She came over to Qiao Mei and said, "I'll accompany you. It's not that safe for you to go alone, so it's better if there are two of us."

"Thank you!" Qiao Mei said happily.

The things sold in this marketplace were similar to those sold in the black market in Foshan Village. It was mainly only vegetables and fruits and there were no rare items. Qiao Mei decided to go to the local fabric shop to take a look. Different places weaved cloth differently and there could be patterns only available locally. Qiao Mei thought about buying some fabric to make clothes. She could even buy more to make some clothes for the neighbors.

When she arrived at the fabric shop, Qiao Mei started to look around. These fabrics were considered expensive and the styles sold were quite old-fashioned. She had also seen the same type in the capital.

It would be better to ask Xia He to buy some fabric in the capital and send it to her. There was no need to pay more for it here!

"You didn't see anything suitable?" Liu Yun asked curiously.

"I'm just looking around. There are things I've never seen before! The marketplace in my hometown is not as big as this one and there are also fewer items for sale," Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Mei just bought some random snacks like buns, steamed rolls and fried carrot balls that she could eat when she was hungry. After that, she was ready to go back. Among them, Zhang Cai had bought the most stuff! She could not even carry everything by herself and had to ask Wang Nuo for help. Qiao Mei also reached out to help, but Zhang Cai quickly stopped her.

"Sister! You can't! It's not good for you to carry heavy objects when you're pregnant! The few of us can manage! There's no need for you to chip in!" Zhang Cai said agitatedly.

"Eh! I'm not that delicate! When I was pregnant with my first two, I still continued to farm at home!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"No matter what, you have to be careful! It's not even three months yet, right? But your children are really sensible. They can actually stay at home by themselves at such a young age," Liu Yun said.

If Liu Yun did not remind her, she had already forgotten that she still had two children at home...

Xia Fan and Xia Xing were more sensible than ordinary children. Sometimes, Qiao Mei would even forget that the two of them were still children. Xia Zhe had already fed them in the morning, so they would not be hungry yet.

The children had all kinds of toys to play with and Qiao Mei would occasionally put books beside them. Although they could not read now, they could just look at the pictures and drawings.

"Ah... that's right! I find them very obedient too! When I was pregnant with them, I didn't feel any discomfort, unlike this one. In the beginning, I threw up at home every day!" Qiao Mei said as she looked down at her stomach.

They chatted happily as they returned to the family compound. Zhang Cai panted heavily as she carried everything down from the bus. After that, she was so tired that she sat down by the roadside and was unable to get up for a while.

"Oh my... I definitely won't buy so many things next time! I'm so tired!" Zhang Cai said wearily.

"You say that every time! When have you ever bought less things! I have to help you every time! If you still buy so much next time! You have to carry everything by yourself or we'll all take a cut!" Wang Nuo said.

"Alright, alright, alright! Then you have to keep an eye on me!" Zhang Cai waved her arms and said to everyone.

Chapter 1597 Being Bullied

Zhang Cai had many children and they needed a lot of food every day. The vegetables which she planted at home were not enough for her family to eat. When her husband was home, the two of them would go to the county city to buy groceries together. Otherwise, she could only rely on herself.

Lu Lin came to the bus stop, intending to bring her son to the county city. Zhang Cai and the women had put their things on the ground and there was no place to stand.

"How annoying. Remove your things quickly! We want to wait for the bus here!" Lu Lin said in a finicky manner.

"Why are you so picky! Is this road meant for your family's use only? We are not blocking the road! Why don't you just go over there and stand!" Zhang Cai said as she pointed at Lu Lin.

"Look at all your things! It's strewed all over the entire road! How can you still have the cheek to talk back! It's clearly your fault!" Lu Lin said agitatedly.

Qiao Mei looked up at Lu Lin's sickening face and then at the items on the ground. Zhang Cai's things were all packed in sacks and placed very neatly against the wall. There was enough room for Lu Lin and her son to walk and the road was not blocked at all.

Their stop was the terminal stop of the entire bus journey, so there was no issue of delaying other passengers from getting on and off. Lu Lin was purely looking for trouble.

She did not know if this person was really very free every day and liked to quarrel with others, or if this was her personality.

"Are you waiting for the bus or not? If you want to wait for the bus, then go over there to wait. Don't blame us if you miss it later," Qiao Mei said impatiently.

"That's right! There are so many people waiting for the bus, but you're the only one who has so many issues! Furthermore, you have a child with you! An adult like you will only set a bad example for the child!" Wang Nuo said disdainfully.

Unexpectedly, when the child heard this, he rushed over to Wang Nuo and knocked her down while she was not paying attention. Wang Nuo's elbows and wrists were grazed from the fall.

Liu Yun immediately grabbed Qiao Mei and pulled her to the side, making sure that Qiao Mei leaned steadily against the wall. Fortunately, the one being bumped into was one of them. If he had bumped into Qiao Mei, she might even lose her baby!

"How dare you criticize me! B*tch! I'll kill you!" The child was full of obscenities as he pointed at Wang Nuo lying on the ground and scolded her.

Lu Lin looked at them smugly and said, "Hmph, you shouldn't have bullied me! I have my son to protect me! Who do you think you are! How dare you block my way! I'll tell my husband about this later! I'll say that you bully my son and then let's see if you still have a good life after that! Son! Let's go!"

Coincidentally, the bus arrived at this moment and Lu Lin and her son immediately boarded. Before they left, they even stomped on Zhang Cai's newly bought cabbages.

The cabbages were all flattened and they even kicked holes in a few sacks.

"Hey... We can't let them go!" Wang Nuo said.

"Why do you still care about them! Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere? We should go to the hospital!" Zhang Cai said worriedly.

Lu Lin's son was a plump kid who looked like a big meatball. Wang Nuo was very petite and thin. The road in the family compound was full of sand and stones, so a fall would definitely cause a bloody wound.

Qiao Mei looked at the departing bus and came to a decision. She definitely could not let Lu Lin continue like this.

"Is what she said true?" Qiao Mei asked.

"What did she say? Oh! Are you talking about what she said about the men? It's all true! My husband is always getting bullied and that honest man has never told me about these things! It's Sister Zhang Cai's husband who told me! Otherwise, I won't even know!" Wang Nuo said angrily.

"My husband only told me the truth after I forced it out of him. Sigh... There's nothing we can do about it. It's our luck that our husbands are only subordinates. There's nothing we can do even if they're bullied," Zhang Cai said helplessly.

Liu Yun's husband had a higher rank, but still not higher than Mao Wei. He was just bullied less, but there was really not much difference with the other two women's husbands.

"Let's go home first! Wait for me here! I'll go home and get the wagon!" Qiao Mei quickly walked home and brought out her wagon. With Zhang Cai's help, Wang Nuo slowly made her way home.

Qiao Mei then took some rubbing alcohol and cotton balls and went over to Wang Nuo's house. As soon as she entered, she saw Wang Nuo's family portrait. Although Wang Nuo often spoke disdainfully about her husband, they were actually very loving.

Chapter 1598 We Must Live With Dignity

"Sister, I'm here. How's your wound? This is a very good ointment from my hometown. You must try it!" Qiao Mei said as she entered the house.

At the moment, Zhang Cai and Liu Yun were trying to persuade Wang Nuo to take a rest. When they saw Qiao Mei, it was as if they had seen their savior. Liu Yun hurriedly pulled Qiao Mei into the living room.

"Come and help us think of a way to make Wang Nuo listen to us. She wants to get out of bed to cook for the children! Don't you think this is nonsense! She's already so badly injured, yet she still wants to do the chores. Her two children have gone out to play and will be back soon," Liu Yun said.

Liu Yun and the other women had their own families to take care of. Each of them had two or three children and they did not have the time to stay and help Wang Nuo. Qiao Mei was pregnant and also had to take care of two babies, while Wang Nuo's husband had to go to work. The children's school fees for the second half of the year still needed to be paid.

Even if they all took turns to help Wang Nuo take care of the children, it could only be a temporary measure. As the saying went, it would take 100 days for one to recover from a serious injury! There was no way that they could help out for such a long time.

"How old are the two children?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Oh my, let me try and recall... The older one is probably 16 years old and the younger one should be already 10 years old," Liu Yun said after some thought.

"That's old enough. Can't we just teach the two children how to cook?" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Is that even possible? My children are already 20 years old! Yet they don't even know how to cook! They can even burn the scrambled eggs!" Liu Yun said disdainfully.

"Yes, it's possible. My younger brothers are 13 and 11 years old. They both know how to cook. My seven-year-old sister can also cook. As long as the child can reach the stove, the child can learn how to cook," Qiao Mei said firmly.

"Won't it be a waste of food if they cook badly! The last time my son cooked, we had to throw everything away! My heart ached so much!" Liu Yun said as she looked at the various ingredients with heartache.

"As long as it's not totally inedible, they can still eat it. If they have to eat food that's not tasty, they will find ways to improve. Isn't this how we all learn to cook in the beginning?" Qiao Mei said.

"You're right! Then let's do that! When the children are back, I'll teach them how to cook rice and then we'll each teach them one dish! This can definitely help their family tide through this period. We can also all cook a bit more and share with their family," Liu Yun said.

After their discussion, they told Wang Nuo about their proposed solution. Wang Nuo looked at them gratefully and said, "I've really troubled all of you this time round. You've all been so helpful to me, especially Qiao Mei. We've only just met and I'm so embarrassed to have to trouble you."

"What are you saying? You're also very nice to me. Everyone treats me very well. Neighbors should help one another!" Qiao Mei said.

"But what about the money for her treatment? Are we going to let that b*tch get away with it? Also, they trampled my cabbages! We can't just let it go like this!" Zhang Cai said furiously.

"That's right. We have to teach that b*tch Lu Lin a lesson! Otherwise, she'll think that we're easy to bully!" Liu Yun said angrily.

Wang Nuo sat at the side and sighed. "Forget it. We can't afford to offend them at all. Even if we confront them, we don't have any evidence to prove that they did it."

Qiao Mei thought for a moment and said, "Everything she stepped on definitely has her shoe prints on them. Moreover, so many people saw the child pushing you. As long as we can find the witnesses, I believe it won't be difficult to deal with this matter."

"Those people over there all sing the same tune. They all look down on us, so why will anyone speak up for us?" Zhang Cai said dejectedly.

"Let's ask them one by one! There will definitely be someone who's willing to help us!" Qiao Mei said.

"Then let's give it a try! If it really doesn't work out, we'll go to the police! If the army doesn't want to care about these things, then let's blow this matter up! We must live with dignity! Since they're so shameless, then what are we afraid of!" Liu Yun said agitatedly.

After treating Wang Nuo's wound, they sat down and thought about what to do next before they headed home.

Qiao Mei went home to prepare dinner. Tonight, she wanted to make a nice meal for Xia Zhe. She would make him the most sumptuous meal!

Chapter 1599 Will You Still Marry Me?

Halfway through making dinner, Qiao Mei had to solve all kinds of problems that suddenly cropped up. Xia Fan accidentally dropped all the building blocks on the floor and Xia Xing found the jam jar, opened it and covered herself with jam. There were also many other weird things that happened at the same time. All these incidents happened so suddenly that she found it hard to deal with everything.

Although Xia Fan and Xia Xing were more intelligent than other children, they were still babies who were only a few months old. They were curious about things and constantly exploring around. Even if they wanted to help, they might end up causing trouble because they were not big or strong enough. Most of the time, they ended up creating a mess rather than helping.

In the beginning, Qiao Mei had planned to take a hands-off approach in bringing up the children and let them do whatever they wanted as long as they did not injure themselves. However, the reality was completely different from what she had imagined.

If she did not pick up the toys on the ground, it could end up tripping someone. Toys left on the brick bed might also cause the children to trip and fall. The children's skulls were still growing now. If they hit their heads, it could ruin their lives.

If she did not wipe all the jam off Xia Xing's body, it could get smeared everywhere around the house. What if the children happened to eat such dirty and dusty food later and fall sick?

There was no hospital in the family compound, only a clinic. It could easily handle small issues like headaches and fevers, but not serious illnesses. The county city was far and it was difficult to get there. If there was any delay in the children's treatment, their condition could become more serious and difficult to resolve.

When all kinds of issues cropped up at the same time, Qiao Mei suddenly felt that it was better to return to the capital. At her house, there was Xu Kang to prepare the entire family's meals and Feng Hua to take care of all the trivial matters related to the children. She only needed to be responsible for the more troublesome matters at the factory.

When Xia Zhe returned home and saw the mess, he instantly knew that Qiao Mei must have had a difficult day.

"Mei Mei... are... are you alright?" Xia Zhe looked at Qiao Mei and asked with heartache.

"I'm fine, but I don't think the house is fine," Qiao Mei said aggrievedly.

She was very familiar with running a business, interpersonal relationships, communication, expressing herself, handicraft, plants, and so on. These were all good practices honed from her other life.

However, she had never taken care of children before and did not even have any idea of how to nurture and bring them up. Looking at these two "prodigious children", she was not confident that she could educate them well.

For a moment, she was at a loss. She began to wonder if she could be a good mother and if her children would be able to grow up healthily and happily and find their place in the world.

"I'll do the cleaning up. There's a lot of delicious food in the canteen today so I brought back a lot. The two of us are in for a treat! There's even your favorite sweet and sour pork ribs! I even asked the cookhouse staff for the recipe so that I can make it for you on my off days."

"You know, that Zhao Wu kept making a fuss today about paying us a visit and that he wants to see Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan. I think he's really too talkative. We don't really have the time to receive guests now, unless it's on my off days. Let's discuss and see if we want to let him come over to our house."

"I'll continue cooking on your behalf. Don't blame me if the food doesn't taste good!"

"..."

As Xia Zhe did the chores, he told Qiao Mei about all the interesting things that had happened today. Qiao Mei hugged the children and listened quietly. All her frustrations seemed to disappear gradually.

It was as if with Xia Zhe around, all these problems were not a big deal and they could all be easily solved.

"Why are you so wonderful? What if I can't deal with all these problems?" Qiao Mei said aggrievedly.

"It's alright, I'm here. You've done very well in many areas, and I've also done quite well in some areas. Everyone has their own strengths and weaknesses. You just have to be yourself. If there are any difficult problems, we can solve them together. Now that I'm by your side, you don't have to do this alone," Xia Zhe said patiently.

"But don't you think it's all very cumbersome or very tiring?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

Xia Zhe pondered for a moment and said, "I think I will, but it doesn't matter. We can solve everything together. If I'm not the top army warrior, would you have married me?"

Chapter 1600 Good Kid

"Of course..." Qiao Mei deliberately dragged out her sentence and did not answer Xia Zhe immediately. Xia Zhe looked at Qiao Mei eagerly, hoping that she would give him the answer he wanted to hear.

"Of course I'll marry you! When I first met you, I didn't even know that you are the top army warrior! You are just you," Qiao Mei said happily.

Xia Zhe stroked her head dotingly and said, "So, as long as we're together, we don't have to be afraid of any difficulties!"

"That's not what you said when you first married me..." Qiao Mei pouted and muttered softly.

"Huh? What did I say back then?" Xia Zhe asked.

"Ahem..." Qiao Mei cleared her throat and said in all seriousness, "In the future! I'll hand over all my salary to you! I'll also go to my superiors and put up an application to get married! But I don't have that much vacation leave! I might not be able to go home often! You just have to do your duty as my wife!"

Before Qiao Mei could finish speaking, Xia Zhe quickly covered her mouth and said, "I must have been out of my mind at that time! Maybe even drunk! What I said doesn't count!"

"Then I'll pretend I didn't hear anything!" Qiao Mei said happily as she sunk into Xia Zhe's arms.

Xia Fan and Xia Xing crawled to the corner to play with their toys. They did not want to see Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei being so loving! It was so sweet that it made them feel sick!

The next morning, Qiao Mei woke up early to buy breakfast for Wang Nuo's family and also to check on Wang Nuo's injuries. When she entered the house, she saw the older kid holding the pig swill scoop to scoop vegetables from the pot. The younger kid was at the side, holding on to a bowl of rice.

"Wait a minute! What exactly are you using?" Qiao Mei said hurriedly.

"Who are you? Oh! You're the auntie who just moved here! Hello, auntie," the younger kid said obediently.

"Do you know what this is? How can you use this to scoop the vegetables?" Qiao Mei asked.

The two kids shook their heads in unison. They had no idea how to cook. Wang Nuo had been so overprotective that they did not even know what utensil to use to scoop food.

"I just feel that since this is bigger, it can scoop more food. That's why I'm using it," the older kid said indifferently.

"This is used for pig feed. There's a lot of bacteria on it and it's not safe for humans. We have to use a kitchen ladle to scoop our food," Qiao Mei reminded him.

She brought the breakfast to Wang Nuo and let the three of them eat their fill first. Then, she spent the entire morning teaching the two children how to use the various utensils in the kitchen. Qiao Mei put away some of the dangerous items in a box since the children would not need them anyway.

When it was almost noon, Qiao Mei suddenly heard a familiar voice outside the door. She walked out and looked around. She actually saw Qian'e! Why was she here?

"Qiao Mei... come and help me... there are so many things and it's so heavy..." Qian'e said as she dragged a heavy box.

"Coming, coming!" Qiao Mei was about to reach out when Qian'e stopped her.

"Where's Xia Zhe? Ask him to come and carry it! How can you do such heavy work when you're pregnant? Don't keep bending down! Xia Zhe should be the one to bend down to pick things up. Where is he!" Qian'e said unhappily.

"He's at work! He's not home at this hour. How about I go and get a cart?" Qiao Mei said helplessly.

When Wang Nuo's eldest kid saw that Qiao Mei was facing some issues outside, the two kids quickly brought out a small cart. Without saying anything, they loaded everything into the cart. Before Qiao Mei could praise them, the two of them quickly ran home.

"Whose children are they? They're so sensible?" Qian'e asked curiously.

"They're my neighbor's children." Qiao Mei smiled faintly and looked in the direction of Wang Nuo's house. She did not expect these two children to be so adorable. Wang Nuo had taught them well. She would have to learn from Wang Nuo in the future.

"Let's go home first. I have brought all the things you asked Xia He to buy for you. She has to perform recently, so she can't come. I have nothing to do, so I thought I might as well come on her behalf! I didn't expect the security here to be so tight that I can't drive up here in my car. I even had to ask the guys at the main entrance to help me transport everything up in their vehicle!" Qian'e said.

"The next time you come, you should give me a call first. Or you can contact Xia Zhe directly and ask him to get you a permit. Then you can drive in yourself," Qiao Mei said.

"Forget it, forget it. I'll tell you in advance next time. I can't be bothered to talk to him," Qian'e said disdainfully.