

## **Fat Wife 1601**

### Chapter 1601 The Women in the Family Compound

"What's wrong? Did he make you angry? Tell me about it. When he comes back, I'll teach him a lesson and avenge you!" Qiao Mei said to Qian'e while hugging her arm.

"Eh, eh, eh~ Don't you dote on your husband the most? Back then, you even fought with me for him. Now, you're actually on my side. If Xia Zhe finds out, he might just kill me," Qian'e asked with a smile.

"Impossible! Don't worry, if Xia Zhe hits you, I definitely won't let him off! Tell me, has that young master from the Han family made things difficult for you recently?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Not really, but he's behaving a little abnormally. He often sends me flowers, buys me nice clothes and jewelry and even asks me out for dinner. When I ask him why, he says it's because of work. He's really a strange person. I really hate myself for signing a five-year contract with the Han Corporation on impulse," Qian'e said, feeling frustrated.

"Can it be that he has fallen for you?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Fallen for me? Stop teasing me. Everyone in the capital knows about my past. If he likes me, he must be crazy!" Qian'e said as she rolled her eyes.

Qiao Mei smiled and did not say anything. When it came to feelings, only the person involved knew best. Moreover, Qian'e was so beautiful now, so there must be many men interested in her.

Qiao Mei still intended to find a good family for Qian'e to marry into so that she could live the rest of her life in peace. However, from the looks of it, no one seemed to be worthy of a girl as good as Qian'e. It might be better to wait a little longer.

Qian'e had brought many new toys for the two children, as well as the most fashionable clothes in the capital. It seemed that Qiao Mei need not have brought anything herself and should have just moved in with the children. In any case, everyone who came to visit had brought a lot of things with them, and these were the things that Qiao Mei did not bring because she found it too much of a hassle.

"Don't buy things for the two of them next time. Kids grow up quickly and they won't be able to wear these clothes after a month. It's such a waste. Besides, I can't deal with so many things. If Xia Zhe needs to relocate, it will be difficult for me to organize the move! You might as well give me money!" Qiao Mei complained as she packed up the gifts.

"Give you money? Has the famous Director Qiao run short of money?" Qian'e looked at Qiao Mei teasingly.

"Don't tell anyone! Keep a low profile! The current factory directors of Osmanthus Food Factory are you and my mother. Don't tell anyone that the business is mine! Otherwise, it will be very difficult for me to survive here!" Qiao Mei reminded her.

"I know, I know! You have already said this so many times! Anyone with such an identity probably can't wait to let the entire world know, but you actually want to hide it. Aren't you afraid of being bullied by the women in this courtyard!" Qian'e said.

"Do you think I'll get bullied? Look at me! How can anyone bully me! You were defeated by me in the past too!" Qiao Mei said smugly.

"You think so? Hardly! In the past, you either lived in the village where most people are related to one another or a siheyuan courtyard house in the capital without anyone disturbing you. How can you have had any interactions with the type of women who live in a family compound? I grew up in a similar compound so I know best what they're like," Qian'e said with a hint of disdain.

"Then tell me more. I'll learn from your experiences!" Qiao Mei said as she looked at Qian'e earnestly.

Qian'e had previously lived in a compound and based on her experience, she felt that the women could be classified into a few types. There were the older women who liked to gossip behind other people's backs and go around asking about other people's affairs, as if they wanted to see the world in chaos. Such women were the most despicable. Even if you confronted them, they would not admit it and would use their age as a shield to create even more trouble.

Then there were the women who were very cold and did not care about anyone or anything. They showed no curiosity about anything and did not ask around for any information. Even if there were

people who wanted to be friends with them, they would be ignored. Such women were considered the nicer ones.

There were also the women who were very friendly and amiable and liked to act as mediators. They were familiar with all the neighbors and would greet everyone they saw. Some of these women were really warm-hearted, but there were also those who hid their treacherous intentions behind a smile.

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#### Chapter 1602 To Win People Over With Virtue

The rest were the minorities. These were the main few types of women living within a compound. They could kick up a lot of fuss every day! There were no peaceful days at all.

"I have never expected this..." Qiao Mei said in shock.

She already thought that relationships were complicated enough in Foshan Village, but she did not expect it to be even more chaotic here. Qiao Mei hated people who harm others imperceptibly the most. Such people were the most difficult to deal with, worse than the kind who would go head-on with her!

"That's not all! Some people are very easily jealous. If your family is doing well, she will find trouble with you for no reason until you suffer all kinds of hardships and end up worse off than her," Qian'e said with a frown.

"Sigh... But why... Don't they have anything else to do?" Qiao Mei said in puzzlement.

"Who knows? I guess they have a lot of free time to find out about other people's family affairs every day. It's such a pity that they don't work as special agents," Qian'e said.

"I'll take it slow since I just arrived and am not familiar with this place yet!" Qiao Mei said.

"You must take it seriously. Even with her temper, Xia He had also found herself in an disadvantaged position before and had to deal with these situations. It should be obvious that it's very difficult to live in

a compound. Your life can't be seen as being too good or too bad. Anyway, there are many things which will need your attention! However, you don't have to worry. If anyone bullies you, just tell me and I'll teach them a lesson!" Qian'e said as she patted her chest.

"You? How are you going to teach them a lesson? You don't know martial arts!" Qiao Mei said.

"Yes... Win people over with virtue! Why do we need to fight all the time! I'm not Xia He! We have to win people over with virtue! We must reason with them!" Qian'e said agitatedly.

"Wow!" Xia Xing suddenly raised the toy in her hand and shouted.

Qian'e was so amused that she laughed out loud. She quickly picked Xia Xing up and asked, "Do you also think that Godmother is right?"

"Wow! Wow!" Xia Xing shouted loudly.

"Look at this child. Even she supports me. Looks like I'm right!" Qian'e said happily.

"Be careful about what you say. These two children are very smart! They can understand everything. I've been teaching them mathematics recently. Eldest Brother even said that I'm making the children learn too many things and complained about me for a long time!" Qiao Mei said with a sigh.

"What? Teach them mathematics? I can't blame Brother Xia for criticizing you. Kids their age can't even read, yet you want them to learn mathematics. Are you crazy?" Qian'e said in shock.

Qiao Mei showed Qian'e exactly what they showed Xia Wen. Qian'e reacted differently from Xia Wen. She held Xia Xing's hands and scrutinize them carefully.

"What's wrong with her hands?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"These hands... are very suitable for playing the piano! Did you just say that they can recognize patterns? I'll teach them how to read music scores," Qian'e said seriously.

Qiao Mei pursed her lips, not knowing what expression to show Qian'e. The woman who had just said that she was too harsh was now crouching over the brick bed in all seriousness and teaching the children how to draw musical notes. She recalled that in her other life, children were taught simple songs like "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Stars" when they first started music lessons. Qian'e went straight to teaching the children about the concepts of a "canon".

She wondered who was the more ridiculous one between the two of them!

In any case, Qiao Mei already had plans to let the children develop their skills in all aspects. Since Qian'e wanted to teach them, she would let Qian'e do it. In that case, she need not teach the children today.

Qiao Mei took out some pork from the fridge. She wanted to celebrate Qian'e coming around for a visit and cook a few more nice dishes. Qiao Mei had previously asked around and found out that many families here owned refrigerators and even freezers. Qiao Mei planned to buy a freezer in the future so that she could store more things. If other people also owned one, it would not be considered ostentatious for her to have one.

Xia Zhe was feeling a little frustrated at work. He was on duty tonight and it would probably be midnight by the time he reached home. He wondered if Qiao Mei would have a proper meal tonight. If he was not at home, who would cook for her?

"Why are you staring into space?" Zhao Wu asked as he knocked on Xia Zhe's table.

"Don't bother me. Don't you have your own work to do?" Xia Zhe said disdainfully.

"I'm all done! I'm only working overtime to accompany you! Let me ask you, are you bringing me to see my godson and goddaughter! I'm so anxious! I've already bought the longevity locks!" Zhao Wu said as he took out two gold locks from his pocket.

#### Chapter 1603 Pick You Up After Work

Xia Zhe said teasingly, "The usually stingy Zhao Wu actually opened his wallet? Wow, never say never. Are you still the Zhao Wu I know? Did you get possessed or something? You only want to go to my house to see the children? No other intentions?"

"I can't say there isn't any... I want to get married! The last time, Sister-in-law said that she would introduce someone to me. There hasn't been any news for so long, so I want to remind her in person!" Zhao Wu said embarrassedly.

"Take a look at yourself! Let me call her and ask her when it's convenient," Xia Zhe said.

"You still have the cheek to criticize me! You have to ask Sister-in-law before you do anything now! You're just short of reporting to her when you go to the toilet! I don't even know you anymore!" Zhao Wu said disdainfully.

"You'll behave the same way when you have a wife," Xia Zhe said proudly.

Zhao Wu muttered softly, "Well, I need to have a wife first..."

Qian'e did not intend to leave on the same day she arrived. Although the family compound had strict rules, family members of the residents were allowed to come for a stay. There was a small guest house here. Although the facilities and overall environment were not as good as those outside, it was not too uncomfortable to stay for a night.

Qiao Mei sent Qian'e to the guest house, then went to the main gate and waited quietly at the side for Xia Zhe. The soldiers standing guard at the gate were curious about who her husband was and felt that this man was so lucky to have a wife who would come and pick him up.

When Xia Zhe saw Qiao Mei, he immediately got down from the bus. He looked at her with heartache and said, "It's already so late, why are you here to pick me up?"

"Qian'e is here for a visit and I just sent her to the guest house. Seeing that it's about time you get back, I come by to walk home with you," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Commander Xia, you're so lucky!" The soldiers standing guard at the door started cheering.

"That's right! I also think that I'm very lucky!" Xia Zhe shouted happily. The people around kept whistling and teasing Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei as they walked home hand in hand.

"Why are you so bold now? Back in the capital, you always kept your distance from me!" Qiao Mei asked.

"Everyone knows one another here and there won't be any gossip. Besides, they are even envious and jealous that the two of us are so loving!" Xia Zhe said proudly.

Qiao Mei pursed her lips and smiled. She did not expect Xia Zhe to have such a childish side. He was already in his 30s, yet he still went around talking about how beautiful his wife was. Only a young kid would do this!

However, if even the men were envious of the loving relationship between her and Xia Zhe, this meant that the women in the compound were likely to be jealous and might even say something behind their backs! However, Qiao Mei did not care. What did it have to do with her if other people were unhappy about their lives?

Xia Zhe told Qiao Mei what Zhao Wu said to him just now and also told her about the two gold locks. Zhao Wu wanted to use these two gold locks to fight for the right to be the children's godfather.

"It's not impossible. Why don't you ask him to come over tomorrow? Qian'e will be staying here for a while. What do you think about introducing the two of them to each other?" Qiao Mei said.

"You want to introduce Qian'e to Zhao Wu?" Xia Zhe said.

"Yes I do. I just don't know if Zhao Wu is willing though. Otherwise, I don't know so many women of marriageable age. It's going to be difficult for me if he keeps urging me to introduce someone to him," Qiao Mei said as she pouted.

"There's no hurry. Looking at the way he is now, no nice girl will be willing to marry him," Xia Zhe said disdainfully.

He did not tell Qiao Mei the truth. Actually, he was worried about Zhao Wu not being able to convince his parents. If that happened, it would only cause Qian'e to feel sad.

Although Zhao Wu's parents were open-minded people who were very honest and amiable, they only had one son. Similar to the Zheng family, they all looked forward to their son getting married soon and having an eldest grandson to continue the family line!

In this era, people were not so open-minded. They felt that the family must have a son to continue the family line. Qian'e could not and would not have any children in the future. This fact would make many families stop in their tracks. Even if Qian'e was a nice girl and came from a rich family, it would still be difficult for her to marry into a good family.

These good families were particular about being well-matched in social status. If they knew about Qian'e and her messy family background, they would not let Qian'e marry their son.

#### Chapter 1604 Damage the Flowers and Plants

When Xia Zhe returned home, he started to clean the house and tidy up whatever the children had dirtied and messed up during the day. He suddenly saw the piece of paper with the musical notes which the children had drawn and felt a little curious.

"Did Qian'e teach them this?" Xia Zhe asked as he held up the piece of paper.

"Yes. She even said that the bone structure of Xia Xing's hands is very suitable for playing the piano. She taught them the entire afternoon, but I don't know if they understand what she said," Qiao Mei said.

"This really sounds like something she would do..." Xia Zhe lamented.

After Xia Zhe played with the children for a long time, he coaxed them to sleep. Then, he and Qiao Mei also went to bed. The next morning, he left for work very early again. Qiao Mei was gradually getting used to this kind of life.

Qiao Mei still had to go to Wang Nuo's place to help out, so Qian'e took on the responsibility of taking care of the children. She pushed the pram around the family compound and went to the garden to rest for a while. Then, she pointed at the flowers on the ground and asked the children to look at them.



"Babies, take a closer look. Aren't these flowers very beautiful?" Qian'e asked patiently.

"Wow!" Xia Xing clapped her hands happily. She was very enthusiastic, but Xia Fan was not interested and had already fallen asleep in the pram.

"This is an edelweiss, that's a foxtail, and that big yellow flower is called a sunflower. It's always facing the sun, that's why it's known as a sunflower." Qian'e tried her best to introduce the children to all the flowers she knew. She wanted them to constantly absorb knowledge about the world.

There was a good saying about how it was better to travel ten thousand miles than to read ten thousand books. Everything one read in books still required imagination. Letting the children experience things in real life and remembering the moments might be more meaningful than just reading books.

The next time she came to Qiao Mei's place, she wanted to bring her a piano. It was meaningless to just ask the children to draw musical notes. They must listen and watch more. She did not want to delay Xia Xing's exposure to the piano. She wanted Xia Xing to start now and then teach Xia Xing how to play once she could walk. This girl was definitely going to be a piano prodigy in the future!

"Hey! Who are you? How can you pluck the flowers here?" Lu Lin walked over with her son and looked at Qian'e mockingly.

Qian'e ignored Lu Lin and continued to introduce Xia Xing to the flowers and plants. A normal person would not shout at others. She had met many people this morning and they were all more amiable than this woman.

The clothes she was wearing were all from the big brands in the capital. Even the bag she was carrying was an imported brand. Everything she had was expensive. Lu Lin was not a fool and could tell at one glance.

"Why are you ignoring me! I'm talking to you!" Lu Lin pointed at Qian'e and said furiously.

"Are you talking to me? Do I know you? Why are you talking to me?" Qian'e said disdainfully.

"This is my garden! You have plucked all the flowers and plants! If you damage things in the garden, you have to compensate me!" Lu Lin said unreasonably.

"Your garden? The gate isn't even locked. The sign also states that it's for public use. Besides, I didn't pluck any flowers at all. I just touched them and took a look. Don't slander me," Qian'e said.

"You're quibbling! I clearly saw you plucking flowers! You have to compensate me!" Lu Lin said as she pointed at the withered flowers on the ground.

Qian'e did not want to get into an argument with such a person. Xia Fan was already woken up by Lu Lin's loud voice. Xia Xing's happy little face from earlier had a frown on it now. It was not good for the children if she became entangled with such a person in such hot weather. It was better to send her off with some money.

"How much? Where do I pay?" Qian'e asked impatiently.

"These flowers and plants... you need to pay 300 dollars!" Lu Lin casually came up with a number.

Qian'e took out a stack of money from her wallet. Lu Lin's eyes widened when she saw it. There must be 2,000 dollars in that stack! This amount of money was equivalent to her family's entire savings. She did not expect this woman to have so much money.

"Tell me where I should pay and I'll go there myself," Qian'e said.

"No need, no need! This is my garden! Just give it to me! I thought about it just now and 300 dollars is not enough! You have to give me 1,000 dollars! These plants are all rare species! It's very difficult to buy them on the market!" Lu Lin said as she held out her palm.

Qian'e looked at Lu Lin's hand and felt like giving her a good beating. If not for the fact that she wanted to set a good example in front of the children, she would already have started a fight with Lu Lin.

Qian'e put the money in her waist bag and pushed the children's pram to leave. When Lu Lin saw that, she immediately blocked their way. Even Lu Lin's son pointed at Qian'e and said, "You can't leave! Give us the money!"

"Don't tell me you want to rob me openly because you can't get the money from me? I'll go to the designated department to pay the fine, but I definitely won't give it to you," Qian'e said.

"We have a share of this garden too. What's wrong with you giving it to us?" Lu Lin demanded.

Guo Feng stood at the door with Cui Cui and watched the entire scene unfold. She hid in a corner and did not dare to make a sound, even telling Cui Cui not to speak as well.

"I'll say it one last time. Move aside," Qian'e said angrily.

Lu Lin's son ignored Qian'e. He went straight for her waist bag and grabbed all the money inside. She immediately reached out to snatch the money back. An adult was definitely stronger than a child. As they tugged back and forth, the money scattered all over the ground and he fell down on the lawn.

"Ah!" Lu Lin's son screamed.

"Son! My son! What happened to you! Did you hurt yourself from the fall! Let me take a look!" Lu Lin went forward to hold her son and said with heartache.

Qian'e looked at the money scattered all over the ground and felt a little angry. She had happily brought the children out to play and definitely did not expect to run into such a shrew. Now that things had turned out like this, she wondered if she had caused trouble for Qiao Mei's family.

She pushed Xia Fan and Xia Xing to a shaded area under the trees. After settling the two children, she squatted down to pick up all the money. She had originally brought this money so that she could bring Qiao Mei to the county city to do some shopping. What an utterly unlucky day.

"You still want to pick up the money! You pushed my son and you still want to leave! This money is not even enough to compensate my son! You have to give us 5,000 dollars! You also have to bring us to see a doctor!" Lu Lin said as she made a scene.

More and more people gathered around them. Everyone was here to watch the commotion as no one wanted to miss out on such a good show.

Qian'e did not give in to Lu Lin. She sat on a bench at the side and said, "Either call the police or get the relevant department in this place to come and deal with it. I won't run away and I'll just wait here. I note that your son is hurt. If it's because of me, I'll bear the responsibility. If it's not, then you can't pin it on me."

"You! You! The facts are right in front of us! Why should we call the police! Just give us the money!" Lu Lin said.

Qian'e stood up and shouted towards the crowd, "I'm from that side. If any of you know Qiao Mei, help me tell her to come and bring the children home first. Don't let the children get heatstroke on such a hot day! I'll stay here and I won't run away!"

Liu Yun immediately replied, "I'll go now! Wait for a while!"

Liu Yun hurriedly ran to Wang Nuo's house and shouted anxiously, "Bad news! Bad news! Qiao Mei, your friend has gotten into an argument with Lu Lin!"

"Huh? Is she injured?" Qiao Mei said calmly.

"Why aren't you anxious at all! It's a mess over there!" Liu Yun said agitatedly.

"She's definitely not the one who started it. Moreover, the mess must be on Lu Lin's side," Qiao Mei said as she cleared away Wang Nuo's bowl and chopsticks.

"Why do you know so much even though you aren't at the scene?" Liu Yun asked.

"Because I know her well. For such disputes, do we usually go to the police or call the people from the army? I'm new here and don't know about this. Do any of you know?" Qiao Mei said.

"We can't go to the police about our disputes. Even if we go to the police station, they'll tell us to come back and let our mediation department handle it. So you can just call the department directly," Wang Nuo said.

After Qiao Mei made the call, she also called Xia Zhe and asked him to meet the two of them there. After doing this, she slowly made her way to the garden with Liu Yun.

"Are you here to watch a good show too? I've already been watching for a long time," Qian'e said with a smile from her seat on the bench.

"Is that so? Let me see what kind of show it is." Qiao Mei sat beside Qian'e and handed the children to Liu Yun. She asked Liu Yun to push the pram to Wang Nuo's house and asked the two kids there to help take care of her children for now.

"You two! You actually gang up to bully me! There's really no justice in this world! My son!" Lu Lin sat on the ground and wailed.

#### Chapter 1606 Use Together

Qiao Mei looked towards the crowd and shouted, "Madam Lu, your son isn't dead yet! Why are you weeping like you're at a funeral? The people from the mediation department will be here in a while. You can tell them your story once they get here. Save your strength first, otherwise you won't be able to talk later."

"What? You contacted the mediation department!" Lu Lin said in shock.

"That's right. I heard from everyone that it's useless to ask the police to come here. In the end, they'll still ask the mediation department to handle this matter, so I gave them a call directly. I even informed my husband, as well as your husband, to go over together later. Don't worry, I'll definitely clear your name," Qiao Mei said seriously.

The crowd began to get restless. It had been a long time since they had seen someone from the mediation department.

This family compound appeared to be set up to reassure the military men and allow them to live with their families. In fact, it was also a test for the men. Everything that happened within the compound was reported to the higher-ups and would also be taken into consideration when it was time for the men's promotion assessment.

If a person did not treat his family and neighbors well, he definitely could not be a good officer.

Most of the issues in the courtyard happened due to the women bickering with one another. They did nothing more than jibe at one another as none of them really wanted to have a bad reputation. Otherwise, their husbands would be mocked within the army.

However, now that Qiao Mei had highlighted the issue so blatantly, Lu Lin's days were probably going to become worse in the future.

"Lu Lin is already beaten up by her husband every day. In the future, he will definitely hit her even more!"

"Look at the look in her son's eyes. He looks like he wants to skin the other woman alive! If such a young child doesn't learn the right things, his future is doomed!"

"Lu Lin deserves it! Have you all forgotten how she bullies us all the time?"

"What's the background of Qiao Mei's husband?"

Everyone voiced their own opinions and brought up everything regarding Lu Lin's past. Seeing that the situation was no longer advantageous for her, Lu Lin hugged her son and wanted to leave. Qian'e immediately stopped Lu Lin and said, "You want to leave? It's too late for that! Wait for the people from the department to come and mediate!"

"I need to send my son to the hospital! If you cause any delay in my son's treatment, are you going to take care of him for the rest of his life?" Lu Lin threatened.

Lu Lin's son had leaves and grass all over his body. Using these leaves, Qiao Mei could see that there were only some abrasions on the surface of his body. The butterfly mark on Qiao Mei's chest burned slightly. She wanted to try and see if she could use plants as a medium to touch another person and use both her powers at the same time.

Qiao Mei could see all the bones inside Lu Lin's son. The imagery was not very clear, but it was enough for her to see that there was nothing wrong with his bones and no abnormalities inside his body. Only then did Qiao Mei feel at ease.

"It's just a fall. Even a little girl isn't so precious and pampered. What's it to a boy?" Qian'e whispered disdainfully.

Soon, a military vehicle stopped in front of them. A team of people alighted from it and everyone made way for them. The person leading the team was Zhao Wu.

"Sister-in-law? Why are you here?" Zhao Wu asked curiously.

"Aren't you in charge of the army vehicles? Why are you working in the mediation department now?" Qiao Mei asked.

"It's a long story. I'll tell you about it in the future. Please move aside first. I have a job to do," Zhao Wu said seriously.

Qiao Mei said embarrassedly, "I'm one of the people you need to round up as part of the job."

Zhao Wu was stunned to the spot. No wonder Xia Zhe gave him a look before he left. So that was what Xia Zhe meant...

"Um... all of you come with me! Get into the vehicle! We'll talk there!" Zhao Wu said evasively.

He knew better than to bring in personal feelings when he was doing his job. If he knew that Qiao Mei was involved in this issue, he would not come even if threatened with death! He decided to let Qiao Mei sit in the front passenger seat. It was safer and not so bumpy when they traveled on the mountain roads. He wanted Qiao Mei to feel more comfortable.

Along the way, Qiao Mei did not talk to Zhao Wu. She would not deliberately make things difficult for him. After all, this was official business.

When they reached the army camp, Qiao Mei saw both Xia Zhe and Mao Wei waiting at the door. However, their expressions were completely different. One of them looked happy while the other looked aggrieved.

When Lu Lin saw Mao Wei, she immediately felt a sense of guilt. She hugged her son and walked shakily over to Mao Hang, not daring to make a sound. Mao Wei said fiercely in a low voice, "I'll teach you a lesson when we get back!"

Chapter 1607 It Does Not Matter Even if You Get Into Trouble

"Let's go. We'll talk inside!" Zhao Wu said sternly.

Qiao Mei was not the party involved in this matter, so she need not go into the small dark room to be interrogated. She and Xia Zhe sat in Zhao Wu's office and the three of them chatted.

"Sister-in-law, what's going on? If I know that you're there, I would have sent a nicer vehicle to pick you up!" Zhao Wu said in frustration.

"Do you mean you want to drive a tank in the mountains?" Qiao Mei teased.

"If you like it, it's not impossible for me to put up an application for it! As long as you let me become godfather to Xia Fan and Xia Xing, it's not a problem for me to fly a fighter jet!" Zhao Wu said excitedly.

"Look at him! If you really do this, I'll complain to your father immediately! I'll ask him to teach you a lesson!" Xia Zhe said.



Qiao Mei noticed that Xia Zhe did not look worried at all and asked curiously, "Why are you able to grin so widely when her husband has such a long face? I've caused you trouble!"

"I can't wait for you to cause trouble for me! Otherwise, you always solve everything on your own and there's no way for me to show off my capability," Xia Zhe said as he patted Qiao Mei's head dotingly.

Zhao Wu looked at Xia Zhe in disdain. This did not sound like something Xia Zhe would say at all! How disgusting! Were all married men like this?

"Then why didn't you say the same thing when I made a mistake?" Zhao Wu asked.

"Why don't you go take a hike! How can you compare yourself to my wife!" Xia Zhe said disdainfully.

Qiao Mei was so amused that she laughed out loud. She knew better than to ask about job postings in the army, so she did not ask Zhao Wu about why he was here and also did not ask about the whereabouts of Zhang Yong and Zhuang Hua.

While the few of them were chatting, the interrogation downstairs came to an end. Lu Lin lied throughout the entire session. She even made up a story about how Qian'e had attacked her son first.

Qian'e sat there quietly and looked at Lu Lin quibbling in a dramatic manner. Her temper was now much better than before. It had probably been honed from doing business with the Han Corporation. Compared to Lu Lin, Han Chen was even more tedious to handle.

"Zhao Wu, what should we do next? How do you people resolve a situation like this?" Qiao Mei asked.

"We'll continue with the investigation and see what the rest of the people say. We'll gather evidence before making a decision. However, I think the outcome is very clear and there's no need for us to continue investigating," Zhao Wu said as he looked at the written statements.

"You should investigate it! You must investigate it!" Qiao Mei said firmly.

"Why?" Zhao Wu asked.

"She has done many terrible and outrageous things before. It's not just this matter. As long as you continue to investigate, everyone will tell you everything," Qiao Mei whispered.

Zhao Wu nodded, noting what she said. Before the investigation was completed, Lu Lin and Qian'e would have to stay within the army camp and be kept under supervision. Mao Wei was allowed to leave with the child first and get him settled.

Qiao Mei was actually quite worried about Qian'e being alone at the army camp. She also applied to stay there and Xia Zhe brought her to his room. Before the investigation was completed, Qiao Mei's activities were restricted to the army camp.

Mao Wei sent his son back to his parents' place for two days. Zhao Wu investigated the matter very quickly and found out everything about what Lu Lin did in the past. The moment one person took the initiative to tell the truth, the rest of the people also followed. Liu Yun and the other women also told the truth of how they suffered at Lu Lin's hands previously.

After Zhao Wu sorted out the information, he submitted the report to the superiors. The superiors decided to disqualify Mao Wei from this promotion assessment and to transfer him to the border to serve as an ordinary soldier. They felt that he would come back better after a few years of suffering.

After so many tortuous days, it was time for Qian'e to go back.

"My intention is to come here to relax, but I didn't expect to cause you so much trouble!" Qian'e said in frustration.

"What are you saying! You even helped me get rid of a dangerous person! When we first moved in, her son injured Xia Fan. If not for the fact that my baby was not seriously injured, I would have dealt with them long ago!" Qiao Mei said.

"What? Xia Fan was injured? If I had known earlier, I would have given her a good beating to vent my anger!" Qian'e said angrily.

After some observation during this period of time, Zhao Wu began to have a good impression of Qian'e. He quietly went over to Xia Zhe and asked, "Is this person married? Is she dating anyone?"

Chapter 1608 I Want to Woo You

"Not married and still single, but she's about my age so it means she's a few years older than you," Xia Zhe replied honestly.

"What! She's the same age as you! She looks like she's the same age as Sister-in-law. How can she be around your age?" Zhao Wu said in shock.

Xia Zhe tapped Zhao Wu's head fiercely and said, "Are you saying that I'm old? Let me tell you, she's the director of a factory in the capital and is very proficient in the arts. If you want to woo her, you'd better take a good look at yourself first and then think twice! You only know how to muddle along in the army!"

"That doesn't matter. I like her personality. I haven't even tried wooing her, so how do you know that I can't succeed? I just don't want to listen to my father. If I work hard, I can also make a name for myself!" Zhao Wu said confidently.

Sometimes, Xia Zhe really admired Zhao Wu's confidence. He did not know where Zhao Wu could have this level of confidence. While he was still lost in his thoughts, Zhao Wu rushed up to Qian'e.

"Hello comrade, my name is Zhao Wu!" Zhao Wu extended his hand and said in a straightforward manner.

Qian'e shook hands with Zhao Wu politely and said, "Hello, my name is Qian'e. I'm Qiao Mei's friend."

"Are you seeing anyone? I want to date you!" Zhao Wu shouted loudly.

Qiao Mei was so shocked and opened her eyes so wide that her eyeballs almost fell out. On the other hand, Qian'e did not think that Zhao Wu was being rude. Instead, she felt that he was very cute and straightforward.

She hated people who beat around the bush the most, no matter if it was men or women. She did not like people like Han Chen, who treaded carefully and was full of lies.

"I'm not seeing anyone and I don't intend to. I don't want to get married either. You don't even know me well, so why do you want to date me?" Qian'e asked with a smile.

"It's not that I don't know you well! It's just that I don't have the opportunity yet! I hope you can give me a chance to get to know you better! I believe that with such an opportunity! I'll definitely be able to grasp it firmly!" Zhao Wu said as he straightened his back.

Zhao Wu spoke as if he was reporting to his superiors about his ambitions for the future. Qiao Mei and Qian'e looked at each other. Qian'e still did not dare to open up to anyone. Perhaps Zhao Wu was just young and feeling curious about her. She still could not trust others easily.

"You should think carefully before you speak. I'm not as good as you think." Qian'e was not angry. She just replied calmly and then pulled Qiao Mei away.

Zhao Wu looked at the departing Qian'e and shouted, "I'll persevere! Wait for me! I'll go and look for you!"

Xia Zhe quietly gave Zhao Wu a thumbs up. Such courage was truly uncommon. Qiao Mei was still immersed in the shock from just now. She could definitely imagine Zhao Wu doing such a shocking thing, but it was still too sudden.

"What are you thinking about?" Qian'e asked.

"I'm just wondering if Zhao Wu woke up on the wrong side of the bed and why he would say such things," Qiao Mei said.

"But he does look quite cute. I don't really hate people who are so brave and forthright," Qian'e said with a smile.

Qiao Mei asked excitedly, "Do you like him?"

"I don't like him. I've only seen him a few times, so how can I like him? I just feel that he's different from the people I've met in the past. He's quite interesting," Qian'e said honestly.

"When you first came here, I had thought about matchmaking the two of you. I didn't expect this kid to come knocking on the door himself. It's really quite amazing. Do you want to give it some thought?" Qiao Mei asked tentatively.

"Didn't he say that he would persevere? Then let's talk about it in the future. I still have a lot of work to do! I don't have time to think about love!" Qian'e said.

On the way back, Qian'e told Qiao Mei many novel and interesting things as well as her future plans for the factory. They chatted until the two of them reached home and went to pick up the children from Wang Nuo's house.

"Thank you so much for helping me take care of the children for a few days," Qiao Mei said.

"There's no need to stand on ceremony with me. I still have to thank you for taking care of my children when I was injured! We're all neighbors, so there's no need to be so polite. Go home quickly," Wang Nuo said with a smile.

#### Chapter 1609 Hollow Seeds

After the two of them reached home, Qian'e held Qiao Mei's hand and said, "I didn't tell you the most important issue in the car just now! I've been here for so many days that I have forgotten about this!"

"What is it?" Qiao Mei asked.

Something big had happened at the Zhao Family Village. After the first batch of seeds matured, Qiao Mei no longer continued working with the people from Zhao Family Village and terminated the business relationship. They had signed a written agreement on this.

However, the people from the Zhao Family Village breached the contract and secretly kept some of the seeds. After that, they planted the seeds and harvested a second batch. As Qiao Mei had expected, they

immediately reaped the consequences of their actions. Now, everyone who bought the seeds from the Zhao Family Village had come to settle the score with them and asked them for an explanation. Although this latest batch of seeds looked normal on the surface, they were actually hollow inside! There was no kernel inside!

"How exactly did you do it? Those seeds are empty inside! This is the first time I've encountered such a thing! Tell me!" Qian'e asked curiously.

"These seeds are experimental seeds to begin with. It's inevitable that something will go wrong. Moreover, I already know that they would do something like this. They asked for it!" Qiao Mei said.

"But now that they've all come to our factory to cause trouble and they want us to give them an explanation. I couldn't be bothered to meet them, so I called Zou Ming and asked him to come and arrest them. After that, they stopped causing trouble and changed their tactic to sitting at the main gate to prevent the people from the factory from going out," Qian'e said helplessly.

"Why do they do that? They already took so much money from us. Even if those people came to ask for compensation, they should be able to pay up," Qiao Mei said.

Back then, Qiao Mei had given more than 100,000 dollars to the entire village. Each family would have at least received a few hundred dollars, so how could they not be able to pay the compensation?

"Don't you know them! They're all black-hearted people! They've long squandered all the money! Some people bought apartments in the city, some people went to gamble, and some people even ran away with the money and left their wives and children behind in the village. There are countless such incidents!" Qian'e said.

In the beginning, Qiao Mei only wanted to let the villagers make money alongside her. Since she could make money, she also wanted the hardworking villagers to make money. She did not expect such a thing to happen.

However, this was not Qiao Mei's fault at all. It was their own greed and their fault for being unable to control themselves in the face of temptation. Such people would get into trouble sooner or later.

"Then is our factory alright? What about the workers?" Qiao Mei asked sternly.

"I have hired many security officers to stand guard at the door. They definitely won't let anyone from the Zhao Family Village in. I have also given the workers money to compensate them. I'm guessing that those people from the Zhao Family Village won't dare to cause any trouble. All the things they did are illegal and they don't dare to go against us," Qian'e said.

"You have handled it very well. I'll pack up and go back to see what they want!" Qiao Mei said.

"I'm just telling you about this issue. Don't go back. You're pregnant! What if those people do something bad to you? I'm still able to handle this matter. Don't worry, those people are just trying their luck! As time passes, they'll back off," Qian'e said with a frown.

"I'm not that weak. I suspect that their goal is not that simple. It's better for me to go back and take a look. This child is very tough!" Qiao Mei said as she smacked her stomach.

Qian'e quickly grabbed Qiao Mei's hand and said angrily, "Even if you're in good health, you can't treat the child and your own body like this! Don't always take things so lightly and ignore what we say. It's better to be safe than sorry. If anything happens, even if I have 100 heads, it won't be enough to atone for my sins!"

When Qiao Mei saw how nervous Qian'e was, she said cautiously, "I'm sorry... I'll definitely be more careful in the future. But I've already made up my mind to return to the capital this time. I still have to keep an eye on the seeds business for the next quarter!"

"Alright then. Remember to make it clear to Xia Zhe. Don't quarrel over this later," Qian'e said.

At night, when Xia Zhe returned from work, Qiao Mei repeated what Qian'e had told her during the day. Xia Zhe could not bear to see Qiao Mei leave.

## Chapter 1610 On the Bus

Xia Wen was away on a business trip at the moment while Xia He was busy with performances at the theater recently. Xia Mao had many meetings to attend and was especially busy at this time, so it was

very likely that he would not be able to take care of Qiao Mei. Other than Xu Lan, Xia Zhe did not know who else could take good care of Qiao Mei.

"I'll go back with you," Xia Zhe said.

"Why do you want to go back with me? Nothing will happen to me. Just stay here and go to work," Qiao Mei said.

"But I'm a little worried about you bringing the children back alone," Xia Zhe said with a frown.

"Don't I still have Qian'e with me? Besides, you can always take leave to go home. There aren't any urgent matters at home. I just want to go back and take a look at the situation. Don't worry," Qiao Mei said patiently.

"Then I'll talk to Eldest Brother and ask him when he can go back," Xia Zhe said.

"It's just a small matter in our own family. There's no need to trouble Eldest Brother every time. It's really not a big deal," Qiao Mei said.

Xia Zhe could not help but feel worried. He was very afraid that Qiao Mei would be in danger after going back this time and he kept feeling anxious. This was the first time he had such a feeling.

However, since Qiao Mei had already made up her mind, there was nothing he could do to persuade her. He could only silently help her pack up the necessities for the two children. There was not much to pack and she could buy whatever she needed when she returned to the capital.

The next morning, Qiao Mei and Qian'e took the earliest bus to head back to the capital. However, Qiao Mei did not expect to run into Miao Le and Zhuang Zhuang on the bus. They were clearly not there when she got on just now and she did not know which stop they boarded from. Perhaps there were just too many people and Qiao Mei did not notice them.

Qiao Mei tried to look down to avoid being spotted by Miao Le but it did not work.



"Madam Qiao, where are you going?" Miao Le asked curiously.

"I'm going back to my in-laws' house. There's something I need to do," Qiao Mei said perfunctorily. Qiao Mei could tell that there was something strange about Qiao Mei's attitude towards the girl and her expression turned solemn.

"Sigh... I'm just going to the county city to buy some milk powder for Zhuang Zhuang. He has been having diarrhea, so I thought it would be good to give him some." As Miao Le spoke, she looked like she was about to cry.

Qiao Mei could not help but roll her eyes. No one had asked Miao Le where she was going, so why did she have to mutter to herself. It was so annoying.

She really could not bear to see Zhuang Zhuang continue to suffer though. The child seemed to have become even thinner. Qiao Mei said earnestly, "A child of Zhuang Zhuang's age can already eat adult food. Just stew vegetables until it becomes very soft and then mix in an egg. Feed him that and he will eventually get better."

Women who were mothers were usually more soft-hearted. Before Qiao Mei had children, she would not have cared about such things at all. In any case, the child was not her child nor her relative. Even if the child froze to death or starved to death, it had nothing to do with her. She could not even support herself, so how could she take care of strangers' children?

However, now that her life was better and her children were gradually growing up, Qiao Mei became more and more soft-hearted. The current Zhuang Zhuang was not even as stout as Xia Fan. They were actually half a year apart!

"But our family really doesn't have any money... I have no choice... If Madam Qiao is willing to give my child some milk, he will definitely get better!" Miao Le covered her face and sobbed loudly.

Everyone ignored Miao Le. They had seen her doing this many times before. She would threaten others like this every time. If it was just once or twice, they might still be soft-hearted and help her. However, she was still the same after so long, so they just ignored her.

An older woman in the front row became annoyed by Miao Le's weeping and shouted at her, "Why are you crying! If you had really taken the effort to take care of the child, he would have gained weight long ago! How many times have I told you to feed the child some eggs or something similar! What did you do! Did you feed him? Did you listen? You still want to buy milk powder! If you have the money to buy milk powder, then you have enough money to feed the child eggs for two months!"

"This child has a poor digestive system. He can't eat adult food and can only drink milk. I have no choice..." Miao Le said.

"He can only drink milk? Then what are you currently feeding him every day! Is it milk? It's watery porridge! Even a normal person would fall sick if they only eat watery porridge every day! Let alone a baby!" the older woman said angrily.