

Fat Wife 1611

Chapter 1611 It Is a Waste to Feed Him

"Hey, calm down. She's also just a child. How can we expect her to know how to take care of another child?" said the woman sitting beside the older woman.

"Is she still very young? She's already 15 years old! She'll be 16 next year! I was already married when I was 16 years old! At her age, she would have been able to get married in our village long ago! She's already old enough to be a mother and yet she still doesn't know how to take care of children. If you ask me, your elder sister is really unlucky to have a younger sister like you! If she knows that her child has turned out like this, she'll definitely hate you to death! How can you have the cheek to continue staying here!" the older woman said.

Miao Le was berated so badly that she could not speak and could only continue to cry. In the beginning, she still carried Zhuang Zhuang, but now, she placed him on the chair next to her. The older woman was so angry that she went to sit on the chair opposite Miao Le.

"Can such a young child sit in a seat by himself? You're an adult, yet you don't know you have to carry him! What if he falls down! Do you have a brain? What's the use of your brain! Carry him now!" The older woman pointed at Miao Le and scolded her angrily.

The auntie beside her immediately said, "Hey, don't say that. What if you make the other children cry later? You have to teach this child! Talk to her nicely!"

"What's the point of talking nicely! If you ask me, she's just going around to gain sympathy and doesn't care about the life and death of this child at all. She brought up so many nephews in her maternal family, so how can it be that she doesn't know how to take care of this child! She's clearly fooling us! Even if she doesn't know how to take care of the child, everyone has given her so much advice for so long, so why can't she learn! It's not like the family is too poor to eat! Can't she even give the child some egg broth!" the older woman roared angrily.

"Perhaps her sisters-in-law were also around when she took care of her nephews, so she didn't need to do too much." The other auntie was still trying to find an excuse for Miao Le.

The older woman said disdainfully, "What? How can not having real life experience be the issue? Even if her family is poor, her nephews must have eaten rice before. How can it be that she has not seen

children eat before? In the past, there was no milk powder! Mothers who did not have enough milk had to make rice gruel for their children! They still all grew up healthy!"

The older woman was one of those who did not produce much milk. In the beginning, her children had a hard time when they were growing up. Still, they grew up to be big and strong men!

Qiao Mei and Qian'e could not help but give this older woman a thumbs up. They did not expect there to be such an upright person here!

"Elder sister, are you from the family compound?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Yes, I'm from the apartment building. I live on the fourth floor of the third block and I'm Miao Le's neighbor. My name is Rong Xiao, you can call me Sister Rong," Rong Xiao said.

"I'm a newcomer at the single-story house side. I'm guessing that what happened two days ago has caused an uproar and you already know who I am," Qiao Mei said frankly.

"Of course, but you did the right thing. Now that Lu Lin's family has left, it's really much quieter for us. Thank you!" Rong Xiao said.

Miao Le hugged Zhuang Zhuang and did not dare to make a sound. Rong Xiao was not a heartless person. She sighed and looked at Miao Le patiently as she said, "If you really want to treat the child well, buy more eggs and feed him one a day. He will get better after a while."

"But he has diarrhea no matter what he eats now. It's a waste to feed him..." Miao Le said softly.

Qian'e was so angry that she wanted to go up and give Miao Le a beating. However, this child was not hers, so there was no point in beating her up. Zhuang Zhuang would still live in dire straits.

This was also a difficult problem. If the stomach and intestines did not develop well, the child would have diarrhea no matter what he ate. This would make his body very weak, and if his body was weak, all kinds of bacteria would enter his body and make him sick. At that time, the child's stomach and intestines would have even more serious problems.

There was no way to cure this child completely. If Qiao Mei gave this child some "divine medicine", he might still be saved. However, seeing the way Tian Jun behaved, Qiao Mei did not want to cause any more trouble. This was all they could do. How this child turned out in the future would depend on his fate.

Soon, they arrived at the county city. Qiao Mei and Qian'e still had to transfer to a train to return to the capital. Along the way, they met all kinds of people who praised Xia Fan and Xia Xing for being very cute. These two children were not afraid of strangers and smiled at everyone.

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Chapter 1612 Let Go of the Past Soon

When they reached the entrance of the Xia family's neighborhood, Qian'e stopped in her tracks. She looked inside for a long time and said, "I'll leave you here. Get the guard to ask the Xia family members to come down and pick you up. It's not very convenient for me to go in."

"Alright, then be careful on the way back." Qiao Mei did not force her.

Perhaps Qian'e still could not get over what happened with the Zheng family and she was still very afraid to see Zheng Peng.

Ever since Qian'e completely cut off all contact with Zheng Peng and did not even want to see him anymore, he seemed to have become a different person. He became the Zheng family's puppet and took a job arranged by his father, and even married a woman he did not like. It was Zhuang Hua who told Xia Zhe all these things.

Zheng Peng was also quite pitiful. Qiao Mei hoped that he could let go of the past soon and not torture himself or let down the people around him.

Qian'e headed back to the factory without stopping for a rest. She did not know what the situation was like after she was away for so many days. She hoped that after so many days, the people from the Zhao Family Village had already backed off.

At first, Xu Lan could not believe it when she received a call from the guard booth. It was not until she saw Qiao Mei with her own eyes that she was sure that Qiao Mei had really returned.

"Oh my! Mei Mei, you're back! Why didn't you tell me in advance! I would have asked Luo Yu to pick you up! You must be exhausted on such a hot day! Let's go home quickly!" Xu Lan said excitedly.

Xu Lan's hair was about to turn white from waiting at home. She even wished she could pack her luggage and join them in the army, but army rules stipulated that the men could not bring their mothers along.

Now that Qiao Mei was back, she wanted to be with Qiao Mei and the children all the time and to spend more time with the children. Otherwise, she did not know when she would see them again once they left.

"Mei Mei, do you still feel uncomfortable and want to throw up nowadays?" Xu Lan asked.

"I'm much better now. I can eat anything," Qiao Mei said.

"Then I'll make your favorite dishes tonight. I'll change to your favorite dishes!" Xu Lan hurriedly asked the helper to buy more vegetables and to go to the supply and marketing cooperative to apply for some special ingredients. She would make all of Qiao Mei's favorite foods!

"Mother, how have you and Father been recently?" Qiao Mei asked.

She had heard from Xia Zhe that Xu Lan had been feeling unwell recently and kept coughing at night. It should not be a big issue though. Xu Lan would go for a physical examination every year and was in good health.

"Xia Zhe must have told you something. I've already told Xia He not to tell the two of you these things, but she's so disobedient! Ever since she married Deng Fan, she has become more and more unruly. When she comes back later, I'll give her a good talking to," Xu Lan said.

"Is Elder Sister also coming back today?" Qiao Mei asked in surprise.

"That's right. We originally planned to visit you at the family compound tomorrow! Who knows that you have come back first!" Xu Lan said happily.

"During this period of time, we have given Xia Fan and Xia Xing their nicknames, Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan. From now on, we can call them by their nicknames!" Qiao Mei said.

"It's nice! That's a good name! You're so thoughtful. Let me tell you about our neighbors. Ever since you became a military spouse, they've been asking me about the children. They also miss Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan!" Xu Lan said.

The children of the residents in this neighborhood were all about the same age as Xia Zhe. The people who lived here were all old cadres. Most of their children were working hard elsewhere and did not come home often, so they did not get to see their grandchildren often.

They liked having Xia Fan and Xia Xing here and wanted to see them often. It was as if they were looking at their own children.

Speaking of which, it was strange. Although Xia Xing had a bad temper, she was much livelier than Xia Fan. Whenever she saw someone, she would reach out for a hug and would also babble some unintelligible words.

This child seemed to be able to tell who was nice to her and who was not. To put it bluntly, she could be considered a wily one.

"Then the three of us will stay here for a few more days!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Xia Wen won't be back for another three days. He'll probably be able to make it in time to see you. Some time ago, he even called home to complain about why the visit is not planned for a later date so that he can see these two children too," Xu Lan said.

Qiao Mei did not expect Xia Wen to be returning so early from his business trip. In that case, it would not be her fault for passing the factory issue to Xia Wen. She had thought that she would need to solve the problem on her own this time, but she did not expect that she would be able to slack off!

Chapter 1613 No Entry Or Exit

At night, Xia He and Deng Fan returned home in a happy mood. As soon as they entered the house, Xia He rushed to the children and kissed and hugged them, wishing that she never needed to be away from them again for the rest of her life. Behind her, Deng Fan carried many bags into the house.

"Oh~ Aunt misses you so much! Come and let Aunt see if you've lost weight! I hope your mother didn't torture you. You guys ate well, right? Are there any wounds on your bodies?" Xia He said with heartache.

"I'm their mother, not a human trafficker. What are you saying? Besides, why didn't you come over and take a look at me first? Why don't you care if I've lost weight?" Qiao Mei said with a twinge of jealousy.

"What's there to see? You're not as likable as our Xia Fan and Xia Xing~" Xia He said disdainfully.

However, as she spoke, she took out a gold bangle from her pocket and handed it over. Qiao Mei quickly took it.

"Alright then~ If you don't miss me, then don't miss me. It doesn't matter~ Xia Fan and Xia Xing! Have a good chat with Aunt~" Qiao Mei said as she looked at the gold bangle with a wide smile.

Even though Qiao Mei was very rich, she did not have much of a resistance to these materialistic things. No matter the era, no one could ignore the charm of gold.

Qiao Mei thought about buying and keeping more gold bars. In the future, the price of gold would be a few hundred dollars a gram and it would be very valuable! This could also be considered a type of investment.

Perhaps she should specially buy a house to keep all the gold. After thinking about it, Qiao Mei felt that it was still faster to make a fortune by running a company.

After admiring the gold bangle, Qiao Mei asked Deng Fan to go to one side and asked, "Are you still working at the factory? How did you manage to get out?"

"Qian'e doesn't allow me to go back. She told me to set aside all my work for now. The factory is in a difficult situation now and the goods can't be sent out at all. Moreover, we can't receive deliveries either. If this continues, the factory might have to close down," Deng Fan said with a frown.

It seemed that Qian'e did not tell her the full truth. It was probably because Qian'e did not want her to worry too much and was too embarrassed to tell her everything.

"Then how's the cash flow for now?" Qiao Mei asked.

"It's still alright and we can maintain normal operations. However, in the longer term, we can only last for another month at most. After one month, we'll start losing money," Deng Fan said.

"I hear you. The urgent matter at hand is to get rid of all those people from the Zhao Family Village. We can't let them continue squatting at the entrance of the factory," Qiao Mei said sternly.

"But we don't have any reason to do that right now. They're people who can move around. Even if we chase them away today, they will still come back tomorrow. There are already many old people among them who have suffered from heatstroke, but they don't care at all. As long as they can force us to compromise, they will continue to be unscrupulous and even risk people's lives," Deng Fan said.

These people did not care about their lives at all now. All they wanted was money and for the factory to solve their urgent problems. Many families were being hounded by their creditors and did not have any money to repay their debts, so they had already sold everything in their houses.

If the houses were something movable, they would probably have even sold them and only had their land left. Even if they knew that they had brought this upon themselves, they still wanted to drag someone down with them. This person could only be Qiao Mei.

Even when the factory trucks drove right up to them, they remained indifferent. As long as they could get the money, they did not care about the price they had to pay.

"I have to think about it carefully. Let's leave it for now." After saying that, Qiao Mei went upstairs and made a call to Yao Nian.

Yao Nian already expected Qiao Mei to look for him. He asked someone to send the information to Qiao Mei overnight and then asked her not to disturb him for a period of time. He wanted to go on a trip to relax for a while.

Most of the people in the Zhao Family Village did not know anything about the law. Even if Qiao Mei went to sue them, it would not have any effect in the end and would only force these people to take even more drastic measures. By then, it would be hard to say what they might do.

If any of them died in front of Qiao Mei's factory, it would only make it even more difficult for her to do business in the capital in the future.

Qiao Mei was at a loss and did not know what to do. At this moment, it was just a matter of waiting to see who would be the party to lose their cool first. She waited patiently for the Zhao family to make a wrong move. However, she would never have dreamed that the cause of the misstep would turn out to be her mother.

Chapter 1614 Kidnapping

Early the next morning, Qiao Mei sat at the reading corner and drank milk while waiting for breakfast. Xia He had turned down all interviews and work to be with Qiao Mei. Now that she was a big star, there were people secretly taking photos of her wherever she went.

"Now that you're married, does that mean that the guy from the Song family doesn't come and look for you anymore?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Of course not. He wasn't after my beauty in the first place. Now that his plan has been exposed, why will he still look for me?" Xia He said disdainfully.

Song Dan had indeed stopped following Xia He but there were now other men wooing Xia He. These men would gather at the entrance of the art troupe building and wait for Xia He to get off work. Sometimes, Deng Fan would even get jealous!

"What about his grandfather? Is he alright?" Qiao Mei asked as she looked up at Xia He.

"I've asked around previously and he's not too bad now. I don't know what the Song family offered in exchange for half a ginseng from the He family. His grandfather is considered safe for now," Xia He said.

Old Master Song was an innocent party in this. Qiao Mei did not want such innocent people to get hurt in the dispute. After Qiao Mei became a military spouse, she had reminded Xia He to send medicinal wine to Liang Shu and to watch Liang Shu drink it with her own eyes.

Liang Shu's impression of Qiao Mei had become better and better. Every time Liang Lan saw Xia He, she would have a strange expression on her face. That expression left a deep impression on Xia He and she felt amused every time she thought about it.

Liang Shu did not have anyone to take care of her now and she lived alone in the old house. Some time ago, she seemed to have found her conscience for some reason and even sent some food to Qiao Qiang. In the end, Xu Kang threw everything into the trash can.

Xu Kang did not dare to let the family eat such things of unknown origin! However, she had done it secretly and did not dare to tell Qiao Qiang about it. She was scared that he would be angry, so she discussed this matter with Xia He.

Qiao Mei was not trying to help Liang Shu out of the kindness of her heart. She just did not want Qiao Qiang to feel any regrets over this matter a few years from now. The Liang family owed him a debt that they would never be able to repay in this lifetime, and Qiao Mei wanted to make sure that he did not owe the Liang family anything.

"Ring, ring, ring!!!"

The phone rang shrilly and Xia He hurried over to answer it. After listening for a while, her face instantly fell. Qiao Mei also noticed her expression and slowly walked to her side.

"What's wrong? What happened?" Qiao Mei asked.

Xia He hung up the phone and looked at Qiao Mei nervously. "You... if I tell you, you must keep your composure and not be rash..."

"Go ahead," Qiao Mei said as she looked at Xia He in confusion.

"It's Qian'e who called. She said... she said... she said that Auntie had been kidnapped by those people from the Zhao Family Village..." Xia He said in a trembling voice.

When Qiao Mei heard the news, she immediately rushed to the door. Xia He quickly held on to her and said, "Qiao Mei! Qiao Mei, calm down! You're pregnant! I'll go to the factory to take a look now! I'll go and take a look for you! Don't be anxious! Just wait for my news at home! Don't be agitated!"

Qiao Mei took a few deep breaths and touched her slightly bulging stomach. She must protect herself first. Only when she was safe and sound would she be able to save Li Gui.

Why did she not think of this! She clearly knew that Zhao Liu had been lusting about Li Gui for a long time, but she did not ask Li Gui to go home and stay there for now.

This matter was no one else's fault. It was all because of the wicked people from the Zhao family who caught them off guard!

"Where's Qian'e?" Qiao Mei asked calmly.

Seeing that Qiao Mei had calmed down, Xia He slowly let go of Qiao Mei's hand and said, "The villagers at the entrance of the factory have all dispersed. When Zou Ming rushed to the scene, he only caught a few of the old and weak ones who did not manage to escape in time, but those people don't know where Zhao Liu has gone. Qian'e is rushing to our place now."

"Then let's wait for Qian'e at home first. We can all discuss what to do." Qiao Mei walked stiffly to the sofa and sat down. She had to remain calm and face this matter soberly.

The villagers of the Zhao family village must have kidnapped Li Gui to use her as a bargaining chip to threaten Qiao Mei. Since Li Gui was the bargaining chip, they definitely would not let Zhao Liu get close to her and do anything to hurt her. As long as Li Gui was safe and sound, Qiao Mei would not hesitate to give up everything.

Chapter 1615 Dog Hole

Xu Lan and Xia He stayed at Qiao Mei's side without stepping away for even a moment. Qiao Mei sat in the living room the entire time. She just wanted to see Qian'e as soon as possible and find out all the details about what happened.

An hour later, Qian'e arrived at the entrance of the Xia family residence. She was covered in dirt and there seemed to be wounds on her body. Blood was also seeping out of her knees. She probably had a fall on her way out.

"How did you get injured like this?" Xia He said in shock.

When Qiao Mei saw how seriously Qian'e was injured, her newly calm heart started to panic again. She was at a loss and felt very unsettled.

"I'm fine... Go and save Auntie! Go and save Auntie now!" Qian'e said as she grabbed Xia He's arm tightly.

"Don't be anxious. We're all thinking of a way. We've already asked all our people to investigate this matter. Sit down and tell us what happened first." Xia He slowly helped Qian'e to the sofa and sat her down.

Qian'e looked down and did not dare to look at Qiao Mei directly. She felt that she had let Qiao Mei down. Qiao Mei was so nice to her and trusted her so much, but she did not protect Li Gui well.

"Other than these superficial wounds, do you feel uncomfortable anywhere else?" Qiao Mei asked gently.

Qian'e burst into tears and said as she wept, "I'm sorry... Qiao Mei, I'm sorry... I didn't protect Auntie well. I'm so sorry!"

"Come, this is something that we can't predict. You're not the one in the wrong. Don't cry. Let's think of a way to save my mother first," Qiao Mei said.

Qian'e nodded and told Qiao Mei in detail about what happened during the night.

The goods in the factory could not be transported out, nor could the raw materials outside be transported in. The workers did not have any work to do and their livelihood would be affected after a while. Qian'e told them to go back to the dormitory to rest and not to move around casually unless there were special circumstances. She told them that she would think of a way to deal with the other issues.

The good thing was that they were in the food business and did not lack food at all. Even if the canteen had no ingredients to make meals any more, they could open up their own products to eat and would not starve.

However, there were a few disobedient workers who dug a dog hole in the corner of the wall in the middle of the night and sneaked out to have fun. No one noticed what they did even after a few days, so they let their guard down and did not cover the dog hole when they went out at night.

It did not take long for the people from the Zhao Family Village to discover this dog hole. They immediately decided to enter the factory through the hole and steal whatever they could from the factory to pay for their debts. They would take away anything valuable that they could carry with them.

In the beginning, when Mao Hang, Chi Ze and the others saw that everyone from the Zhao Family Village had left, they thought that these people finally could not take it anymore. They would never have imagined that these people had already entered the factory and only realized that something was wrong when they heard screams inside.

At that time, Qian'e was still dealing with Han Chen at the Han Corporation, trying to ask him to give her a few more days' grace to deliver the goods. She did not expect to receive a call from the factory's security officer even before the meeting ended.

By the time Qian'e arrived, Li Gui had already been abducted by the people from the Zhao Family Village. Fortunately, Mao Hang and a few of them were smart enough not to fight with the people from the Zhao Family Village and allowed themselves to be captured together with Li Gui. They were all retired soldiers and nothing bad would happen to them. Perhaps they could even save Li Gui!

"So is my mother taken by the villagers or Zhao Liu?" Qiao Mei asked seriously.

"The villagers. I'm sure that it's the villagers. Zhao Liu was not among those people. He's a scaredy cat and doesn't dare to come to take part in such an event. It's usually his son who represents him at the main gate," Qian'e said.

"So far, have the people from the Zhao Family Village said anything?" Qiao Mei asked.

"They have. They want you to go to the village alone to negotiate with them," Qian'e whispered.

Without a second thought, Qiao Mei got up to go to the village to look for Li Gui. Xu Lan, Xia He and Qian'e hurriedly stopped Qiao Mei. If anything should happen to Qiao Mei, it would be two lives lost!

"You can't go! If anything, I should be the one to go! We can keep in touch by phone. I'll relay their requests to you. This can also be considered a negotiation," Xia He said agitatedly.

"Yes! Xia He can go on your behalf! She knows martial arts! She can protect herself!" Xu Lan said immediately.

Chapter 1616 Even Dying Eight Times Is Not Enough

"You definitely can't go! This is a trap! If they kidnap you too, then our backbone will be gone! We still need you to make the decisions on many things! If they use you to threaten us and the Xia family, then we will really have to hand everything over to them. They are deliberately luring you there!" Qian'e said.

Qiao Mei understood this logic too, but she was worried about Li Gui. Now that Li Gui was in their hands, every minute that passed meant that she was in more danger. Time was of the essence.

However, Qiao Mei must also be responsible for her baby, for Qiao Qiang and for the Xia family. She could not risk the lives of so many people just to save Li Gui. What she had to do now was to calm down and think of a countermeasure.

"Yes... I can't be rash... I have to think about it carefully..." Qiao Mei said as she slowly sat on the sofa.

"I'll call Xia Mao now and ask him to send someone to the Zhao Family Village and punish those people on the spot! They actually kidnapped and robbed people in broad daylight! Is this still a lawful society!" Xu Lan said furiously.

Qiao Mei immediately stopped Xu Lan and said, "No, don't. They only dare to rob us because they know that we won't dare to call the police. Someone behind the scenes must have given them this idea. These villagers are not people who are exposed to the outside world and they would never have been able to come up with this."

Zou Ming was their friend. During this period of time, Zou Ming wore civilian clothes whenever he went down to the factory. He was not helping Qiao Mei and the Xia family in the capacity of a police officer.

Everyone felt that what Qiao Mei said made sense, but who was the person who came up with this plan for the villagers? Qiao Mei was unable to tell who it could be.

Yao Nian was already on a trip around the world and no one could help her investigate this quickly. She could only solve this problem herself.

Qiao Mei thought about the amount of money she made from selling popcorn and seeds before she started the factory. This crime was enough for her to get the death penalty many times over. Even if she died eight times, it would probably still not be enough.

The person behind this was really conniving and scheming!

"Elder Sister, arrange for Qian'e to take a shower first and get treatment for all the wounds on her body. Also, get Elder Brother-in-law to go to the factory to take a look at how much things have been lost and take inventory," Qiao Mei said calmly.

"Alright, I will," Xia He said.

"What they want is nothing more than money and seeds. We'll just give it to them. As long as we give them what they want, they'll let my mother go. These are not big issues," Qiao Mei said.

At the same time, Qiao Mei thought of another person.

Zhao Fei had found a job carrying bricks at the construction site. He did the most amount of work every day and was also the most diligent one. Soon, the woodworking master at the construction site saw his potential and took him in as a disciple. The old master even introduced his own daughter to Zhao Fei. The young couple was in love and got along well. His life had finally gotten better.

When Qiao Mei went to look for Zhao Fei, he was a little surprised. He had thought that he would never have any contact again with Qiao Mei and the others in this life.

"Elder Sister, why are you here to look for me?" Zhao Fei said uneasily as he wiped the sweat off his face.

"I'm here to ask you for a favor, a very troublesome one," Qiao Mei said sternly.

"Tell me. As long as it's something I can do, I'll help you," Zhao Fei said immediately.

Qiao Mei brought him to a restaurant next to the construction site for a meal and ordered three dishes. After Zhao Fei finished eating, Qiao Mei slowly said, "The people from the Zhao Family Village had teamed up to kidnap my mother and my husband's buddies. They're all currently being locked up in the village. I'm here to ask you to help me by going back there secretly to see how my mother is and if she's still alive."

The chopsticks in Zhao Fei's hand fell to the floor. He was stunned to the spot and did not know what to say. He did not expect the people from the Zhao Family Village to be so crazy as to do such an outrageous thing.

"No way... Are all of them involved?" Zhao Fei asked in disbelief.

"Yes, all of them." Seeing that Zhao Fei did not respond for a long time, Qiao Mei continued, "If you think it's too difficult for you, then forget it. I'm just here to try my luck."

"I'm willing! I'm willing to go back and take a look! If possible, I'll save Auntie too," Zhao Fei said firmly.

Chapter 1617 Sneaking into the Zhao Family Village

The truth was that Zhao Fei regretted knowing Qiao Mei and also regretted returning to the Zhao Family Village with Zhao Liu.

If he was still selling seeds at the entrance of the movie theater and living in that dilapidated alley, he might have been able to have a peaceful and happy life.

Instead, he had brought harm to so many people and caused Qiao Mei to encounter so many nasty things. He was also the catalyst for making the people of the Zhao Family Village so greedy and murderous and ending up not having a peaceful life. Everything was his fault.

Zhao Fei packed his things and handed over all the money he had earned recently to his girlfriend, Ding Xiang.

"I might not make it after heading back. If I don't come back, don't wait for me. This money is all I have. Take this money and go. Find a better man to spend the rest of your life with," Zhao Fei said.

"Asshole! What nonsense are you talking about! I still have to wait for you to come back and marry me! You have to come back!" Ding Xiang said with reddened eyes.

"I'll try my best, but I also have to be responsible for you. What if..." Before Zhao Fei could finish speaking, Ding Xiang immediately said, "There's no such thing as what if! You'll definitely come back and marry me! If you don't come back, I'll get my father to beat you up!"

"Fine, fine, fine. I'll listen to you. I'm leaving now. Take good care of yourself." After saying that, Zhao Fei left the house and quietly returned to the Zhao Family Village. It was late at night and all the families were resting in their houses.

The entire village was in a dilapidated state. Zhao Fei had never imagined that the Zhao Family Village would become like this. A large part of the fence had collapsed and there were broken pieces of furniture everywhere. Some houses had even collapsed and straw huts had been burned down. It was a very miserable sight.

He went to Zhao Kuo's house first and did not expect that even the village chief was unable to avert the disaster. The originally beautiful and clean small house was also in a dilapidated state. Taking advantage of the darkness in the dead of the night, he quietly looked around for clues related to Li Gui.

Mao Hang, Chi Ze and the rest of the men were locked up in a cellar by the people from the Zhao Family Village. The air circulation here was poor and with five burly men squeezed inside the small cellar, there was not enough air for all of them.

"Hey! Can you find another place to imprison us! We can't breathe!" Mao Hang shouted upwards.

The villagers paid no attention to what they said and even closed the small door to the cellar. They were only in charge of guarding the place and were not responsible for the lives of these people. If these people died, they would be buried in the back of the mountain and no one would find out.

Mao Hang whispered, "Brothers, hold on a little longer. When they fall asleep, we'll go out and look for Auntie Li."

They started to take only small breaths. They had survived in even worse places than this previously. A mere cellar was not a problem for them at all. Moreover, they were just pretending to have been captured by these villagers. It was not a big deal for them to force their way out. The most important thing now was to confirm Li Gui's location without alerting the enemy.

Later into the night, the men in the cellar untied the ropes which bound them and slipped out to look for Li Gui while the villagers were sleeping. It had been a tiring day and the villagers must be sleeping soundly at this time. No one would notice that they had escaped.

Zhao Fei sneaked into Zhao Liu's backyard and leaned against the wall to listen carefully for any movements in the house.

"Father, do you think it's safe to lock up that woman at Second Uncle's place?" Zhao Kai asked worriedly.

"What's so unsafe about it? Your second uncle's cellar is the largest, most spacious and most remote place in the entire village. Don't tell me you want to hide her in our cellar? We don't even have such a thing!" Zhao Liu said.

"I'm just worried that Second Uncle and his family won't do their best to stand guard. What if that woman escapes?" Zhao Kai said.

This statement immediately woke Zhao Liu up. Since Li Gui was at risk of running away at any time, it should not be a problem for him to go and take a look!

Zhao Liu brought the last of the food left in the house and walked towards Zhao Ming's house. Wang Meng and Zhao Ming were in the cellar, staring fixedly at Li Gui! The three of them stared at one another and did not speak until Zhao Liu arrived.

"Second Brother, Sister-in-law, you must be exhausted. I'm here to visit you and to give her something to eat," Zhao Liu said with a smile.

Wang Meng looked at the meat in Zhao Liu's hand and said unhappily, "Oh my, you must really like her a lot. You don't even have much meat to eat at home, yet you're still willing to give this b*tch some meat. How generous of you."

Chapter 1618 The Unconscious Rat

"Sister-in-law, what are you saying! She's our cash cow. If she dies, we'll be in big trouble. At that time, we won't even have any capital to make a comeback. I'm doing this for everyone's sake," Zhao Liu said.

What Zhao Liu said made sense. Wang Meng felt that she had been in the cellar for too long and wanted to go up and take a breather.

"Then don't take too much time! The village chief doesn't allow you to come and see Li Gui. We're doing you a favor now. Hurry up." With that, Wang Meng left the cellar.

Seeing Wang Meng leave, Zhao Liu immediately said to Zhao Ming, "Second Brother, you should go up and take a breather too. I'll just watch her finish the meal, then take the bowl and go back."

Zhao Ming looked at Li Gui and then at Zhao Liu before following behind Wang Meng. After that, there was only Zhao Liu and Li Gui left in the cellar. Zhao Liu even pulled the cellar door halfway shut, worried that he would be seen.

"You must be starving. Eat something!" Zhao Liu placed the food in front of Li Gui.

Li Gui did not need to take a look to know that the food came from her factory. She could recognize it from the smell. These people were really scheming. After robbing the factory, they were giving her the factory's stuff as if it was their own.

"Pfft!" Li Gui spat in disdain and kicked the bowl that Zhao Liu pushed over.

Zhao Liu almost dropped all pretenses of being good-tempered. However, for the sake of his happiness in the future, he decided to endure it a little longer. He picked up the steamed buns and braised meat from the ground and placed them in front of Li Gui again.

"This is the last bit of food in the village. Every family has nothing to eat now. If you don't eat this meal, there won't be another one," Zhao Liu said in a threatening manner.

If it was any other villager who came to deliver food, Li Gui might have eaten it. However, since the person who came to deliver food was from the Zhao family, she could not trust him! Even if she starved to death, she would not eat any food or water brought by any of the Zhao family members.

"Listen to me and just eat it. We don't have any intention of hurting you. Even if you don't trust them, don't you trust me? You know that I like you and I will definitely save you. How can I bear to see you die?" Zhao Liu said seriously.

In the past, Li Gui might have believed Zhao Liu's nonsense. However, ever since her experiences with Zhang Qian, she had long known that most of what men said were lies and nothing much that came out from their mouths was true!

If Zhao Liu really liked Li Gui so much, he would not have let the people from the Zhao Family Village kidnap her. He would definitely have done his best to protect her. Clearly, he did not do that at all.

When Zhao Liu saw how stubborn Li Gui was, he became a little anxious. He wanted Li Gui to eat it so that he could do what he wanted to do. It was at this moment that Wang Meng called out to rush him.

"Elder Brother, hurry up! If other people see you, the two of us will be in trouble!" Wang Meng shouted towards the cellar.

Seeing that he could not get what he wanted tonight, Zhao Liu could only leave dejectedly. As he left, he kept looking back in the direction of the cellar reluctantly.

After Zhao Liu left, Wang Meng suddenly pointed towards the cellar and said, "Hubby! Come and take a look at what's inside!"

All the food in the village had already been snatched away by the buyers of the seeds. When the rats could not find anything to eat, they also started to come out to look for food. Just now, the rats had eaten what Zhao Liu brought and they dropped to the ground after taking a few steps. Zhao Ming hurriedly went to the cellar to check if the rats were still alive. He touched them and could feel that their hearts were still beating.

"They just fainted. They're fine," Zhao Ming shouted towards the upper level.

"Throw the food away! Don't let that b*tch die! If that happens, the two of us won't be able to face the others!" Wang Meng shouted.

Zhao Ming cleared the food and put them aside like it was rat poison. After he checked that Li Gui was still tightly bound with the rope, he went up. The couple had planned to sleep at the cellar door tonight. Anyway, it was summer now and they would not freeze if they slept there.

"Don't tell me he wanted to do something to Li Gui just now?" Wang Meng said in shock.

"Lower your voice! Fortunately, you were smart enough to yell at him to come out just now. Otherwise, the two of us and the children would be doomed for the rest of our lives!" Zhao Ming lamented.

However, Wang Meng kept feeling like there was something wrong. If Zhao Liu had succeeded just now, would the outcome be even better than now?

Chapter 1619 I Killed Someone

After all, Li Gui was not a member of the Zhao Family Village now. However, if Zhao Liu had succeeded just now and destroyed Li Gui's reputation, Li Gui would definitely have to marry Zhao Liu. In that case, Qiao Mei would have to give them whatever they wanted in the future.

Furthermore, they had already asked around. Qiao Mei's surname was Qiao, but those four children's surnames were Zhang. They were not really a family at all. Qiao Mei was definitely closer to her mother than those children. This was also the reason why they chose to kidnap Li Gui.

"Forget it, forget it, let's not think about it anymore! The next time Elder Brother comes over, the two of us should say that we're thirsty and go get some water and take a rest. Let him do whatever he wants," Wang Meng said as she lay down.

"Alright! Let's do what you say!" Zhao Ming said.

Wang Meng did not expect that after marrying into the Zhao family for so many years and bearing children for Zhao Ming, she would end up like this. Back then, she should have married the butcher from the neighboring village! At least she would always have meat to eat!

As Wang Meng was drifting off to sleep, Zhao Ming said, "The two of us should take turns to keep watch tonight. You sleep first. I'll wake you up when it's time for your turn."

Wang Meng nodded and fell asleep. As Zhao Ming listened to the chirping of the cicadas and Wang Meng's snores, his eyelids felt heavy. In the end, he could not take it anymore and closed his eyes.

Zhao Fei waited for a while. After Wang Meng and Zhao Ming fell asleep, he sneaked into the cellar. When Li Gui saw that the person who came was Zhao Fei, she thought that he was also involved in the kidnapping! Li Gui looked at Zhao Fei warily.

Zhao Fei came to Li Gui's side and explained softly, "Auntie, Sister Qiao Mei asked me to come and save you. I'll carry you out later. If anyone comes after us, run as fast as you can and don't look back, do you understand?"

Li Gui looked at Zhao Fei doubtfully. At this moment, she did not believe anyone. Back then, Zhao Fei had promised them many times that he would settle the matter at the Zhao Family Village, but he had gone back on his word in the end. She did not know if what Zhao Fei just said was true.

"I'm telling the truth! Auntie, you have to believe me!" Zhao Fei said firmly.

Li Gui did not have any other choice at the moment. She could only take a gamble. If she won, she would be able to return to Qiao Mei's side. If she lost, she reckoned that she would not die. At most, she would get a beating and be thrown into the cellar again.

She and Zhao Fei tiptoed out of the cellar quietly and ran towards the village entrance. They were very careful along the way and did not see any villagers.

Zhao Liu would not give up so easily. Even if he did not manage to sedate Li Gui just now, he still had other plans. He would just knock Li Gui out with a punch. As long as she was not dead, he could deal with her however he wanted!

At the corner of the village entrance, the three people looked at one another. Li Gui was so frightened that she almost cried out, thinking that she had seen a ghost!

Zhao Liu pointed at Zhao Fei and shouted, "Help! Someone has escaped!"

Zhao Fei randomly picked up a big rock from the ground and threw it at Zhao Liu's head. Zhao Liu immediately fell silent and fell limply to the ground.

Fortunately, they were at the entrance of the village and there were very few people around. In order to avoid the buyers, everyone had moved deeper into the village. The families who used to live at the entrance of the village had also moved inside.

Zhao Fei squatted down shakily and reached out to touch Zhao Liu's head. His entire hand felt very warm. He had beaten someone to death... His hand was covered in blood... He had killed someone!

"Auntie... I killed someone... I killed him... I'm a murderer..." Zhao Fei looked at his hands in fear and muttered.

Li Gui immediately said, "No! We're just defending ourselves. Don't be afraid! Let's leave immediately. As long as we're safe, we can discuss the issue together later!"

"No! I want to turn myself in... I killed someone... I can't go home and marry her... I..." Before Zhao Fei could finish speaking, Li Gui covered Zhao Fei's mouth and nose, making him lose his breath for a few seconds before letting go of him.

Zhao Fei took a deep breath and his chaotic thoughts gradually cleared up. He hurriedly left the Zhao Family Village with Li Gui. The Xia family was resourceful and would definitely be able to save him. He had killed Zhao Liu to protect Li Gui. The Xia family would definitely save him. They would not sit back and do nothing!

The two of them ran from the dead of the night until dawn, but they still had not reached the city center of the capital. Li Gui had not eaten or drunk for a long time and had to stay in the same place as the rats. She could feel her body starting to get hot.

Chapter 1620 Missing

Zhao Fei kept running in front and waving at the cars passing by. He wanted to stop a kind-hearted person and hitch a ride into the city. However, their clothes were tattered and they did not have anything valuable on them, nor did they have anything that could prove their identities. No one would help them.

Although it was not tumultuous times now, people from other areas who entered the capital without permission were illegal migrants! If one brought illegal migrants into the capital, one would also be punished! No one dared to take the risk.

Li Gui felt very uncomfortable and walked to a big tree by the roadside to rest for a while. However, her body temperature kept rising and she was starting to feel dizzy from the fever.

"Auntie! Auntie, what's wrong? Talk to me, don't scare me!" Zhao Fei quickly ran back and looked at Li Gui worriedly.

Li Gui was in a daze by now and could not hear what Zhao Fei was saying at all. Some time ago, she did not sleep or rest well because of the issue at the factory. After that, she had been locked up in that cold cellar for a few days and had not even eaten anything. No matter how healthy a person was, they would not be able to hold up.

Zhao Fei had no other choice now. He could only find a clinic and entrust Li Gui to the doctor first, then returned to the city alone to seek help. As the saying went, saving a life was more meritorious than building a seven-story pagoda. Those doctors probably would not leave her in the lurch.

Chi Ze and the other men searched the entire night but did not manage to find any traces of Li Gui or anything suspicious. It was almost dawn, so they had no choice but to return to the cellar first and go out again to search at night.

There were no longer any chickens or dogs in the entire village. Everyone woke up on their own accord and would only wake up when they had slept enough. Wang Meng got up from the wooden board in a daze. Her back was sore and she felt uncomfortable all over.

"Hey! Why are you asleep too!" Wang Meng looked at Zhao Ming in panic. Then, she hurriedly got up and went to the cellar to check if Li Gui was still there. Other than rats, there was nothing else in the cellar.

"Ah!!! Zhao Ming! Bad news! Something major has happened!" Wang Meng fell to the ground and said fearfully.

"Damn woman, why are you shouting!" Zhao Ming said impatiently.

"Li Gui... Li Gui escaped!" Wang Meng said.

"So what if she escaped. Why are you making such a fuss? You've interrupted my beautiful dream..." Zhao Ming said groggily. As he spoke, he smacked his lips and recalled his beautiful dream. It was not until she repeated it for the third time that he completely woke up.

He immediately squatted at the entrance of the cellar and looked inside carefully. After confirming that Li Gui had really escaped, he was completely dumbfounded.

"Oh no... How are we going to explain this to the villagers... Didn't I ask you to keep an eye on her! Why did you let her escape! You useless thing! You're worse than a dog!" Zhao Ming pointed at Wang Meng and said furiously.

However, Wang Meng could not remember if Zhao Ming had woken her up for her turn. Last night, they had clearly agreed that the two of them would take turns. Neither of them expected themselves to sleep until dawn.

The two of them hesitated, not knowing if they should tell Zhao Kuo about this. However, even if they wanted to hide it from the villagers, they could not do it for long.

After thinking about it, the two of them decided to tell Zhao Kuo about the situation as soon as possible. Zhao Ming scrambled to Zhao Kuo's house and said, "Uncle! You must save me! Something bad has happened! Li Gui escaped during the night!"

"What did you say! How could you let her escape!" Zhao Kuo held his chest and said agitatedly.

Zhao Ming knelt on the ground with a plop and hurriedly explained, "We had guarded her well all this while and never made any mistake. But... but my elder brother came over last night and even gave Li Gui a lot of meat and steamed buns. We couldn't even bear to eat them ourselves! He actually gave them all to that woman! I think this matter must be related to my elder brother!"

He definitely could not say that it was the two of them who was careless enough to let Li Gui escape. Right now, the entire village was counting on Li Gui to make a fortune. What they had done was tantamount to cutting off the entire village's source of income. Cutting off one's source of income was like killing one's parents! It was better to push such a vicious thing to Zhao Liu.

Zhao Kuo walked out with his walking stick and gathered many smart and capable young men from the village to go to Zhao Liu's house. Even though he was Zhao Liu's relative, he could not cover things up for them anymore. He had to give his fellow villagers an explanation.