

Fat Wife 1641

Chapter 1641 Pregnant Woman

"Come, let's just barge in," Qiao Mei said firmly.

"Are we going in just like that? Should we ask the others to come along? Or we can try to steal the children out first," Chi Ze said cautiously. There were only four of them here. Apart from Mao Hang, the other two were also Chi Ze's close buddies. He was worried that if he asked too many people to come along, they would gossip about it when they returned.

He also knew how strong Xia He was. Even with her, there were only five people in total and they still had to protect Qiao Mei. He did not know how skilled the people inside were, but judging from their physiques, they were probably all trained in martial arts.

If they really started fighting and if anything happened to them, the clues would be all gone. It did not matter if they died. The most important thing was to ensure the safety of Qiao Mei, Xia He and the two children.

"Don't worry, my eldest brother and the others are already on their way here. Don't be afraid. Let's negotiate with them first. We'll use force only if there's no other way," Qiao Mei said.

"Alright! We will definitely protect you well!" Chi Ze said seriously.

Qiao Mei swaggered into those people's territory with her group. The four people outside immediately rushed out to stop Qiao Mei and the others.

"Where does this beauty come from! Why are you here?" one of the men asked.

"I'm here to negotiate with your boss. I have an attractive business deal for him," Qiao Mei shouted loudly.

"We have rules in our world! It's not like you can do whatever you want! Besides, why should we want to do business with a woman? And a pregnant woman at that! Unless your business is regarding the baby inside you! Hahahahaha!" The four men laughed loudly while Qiao Mei looked very unhappy.

Qiao Mei took note of everything they said . She would make these people pay the price one by one and regret everything they said.

"How can you talk to our boss like that! Watch your mouth!" Chi Ze said as he stood in front of Qiao Mei.

"You're the one who's not following the rules! How else do you want us to talk! We're already showing respect by not killing you!" Ah Long roared.

Chi Ze still wanted to say something, but Qiao Mei patted his shoulder and asked him to step back. Qiao Mei took out a stack of money from her pocket and said, "How about this, is it enough to make up for my rudeness just now? I know I have appeared suddenly. It's my fault for not following the rules of your world and coming by to look for all you big brothers. Take this as my apology to all of you!"

With that, Qiao Mei threw the money on the ground opposite her. Their junior leader, Ah Long, sized Qiao Mei up carefully. She was a beautiful woman and very generous too. It seemed that she really had a big business deal to discuss.

"I have to ask Big Brother first! Wait here!" With that, Ah Long went into the house.

"Big Brother, a pregnant woman is looking for you and she even gave us a lot of money. She said it's money for us to buy drinks. Do you want to go out and take a look?" Ah Long asked respectfully.

"Is that so? Then I want to see who this person is." Brother Dao walked out of the house enthusiastically. When he saw Qiao Mei and Xia He, his eyes widened. He seldom saw such beautiful women! It was especially rare to come into contact with beautiful women in his line of work.

The group of people behind him brought out a stool from the house. Brother Dao sat on the stool leisurely and said, "I'm their boss. Tell me, why are you looking for me?"

"We're here to discuss a big business deal with Big Brother. I just don't know if Big Brother has the guts to do it," Qiao Mei said mysteriously.

Brother Dao and the others were stunned for a long time before he laughed loudly and said, "Hahahaha! Who do you think I am? I'm Brother Dao and I still have some status in our world. As long as the business is related to children, there's nothing that Brother Dao can't do!"

"Recently, there are many rich women who want to buy boys. Don't tell me you're worried that the unborn baby is a girl and you can't get your hands on your husband's wealth, so you want to buy a baby boy!" Ah Long teased.

"Haha! Young lady, what exactly are you here for?" Brother Dao asked with a laugh.

"Alright! I'll get straight to the point. I heard that Brother Dao recently kidnapped two beautiful babies. I wonder if that's true?" Qiao Mei asked.

Brother Dao's expression instantly turned solemn. The jolly expression completely disappeared as he carefully observed the characteristics of these people who just came.

Chapter 1642 Snatching Back The Children

This woman was definitely not an ordinary person and the people standing behind her were even more extraordinary. From the way they stood, they should be from the army. Why would these people come and look for him? He had not done anything to them.

"Why is it that I don't know about this? What are you talking about?" Brother Dao said.

"Brother Dao, all our time is very precious. I'll triple the amount that your buyer offers to pay!" Qiao Mei said generously.

Xia Yan only gave them a deposit of 1,000 dollars. They were told that someone else would give them 5,000 dollars after the deed was done. It was the only reason why they were willing to take on this job. Three times that amount would work out to 15,000 dollars.

"Really?" Brother Dao asked suspiciously.

"I mean what I say! Brother Dao, if you don't believe me, I can sign the contract in blood for you!" Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Mei did not know the rules in these people's world. Fortunately, she had read many novels in her other life and this was mentioned in those novels. She did not know if it was real or not.

"There's no need to sign in blood. We can trust you. For you to say such things, it means that you're not an ordinary woman. I like that!" Brother Dao said loudly.

"In that case, does that mean that Brother Dao agrees to this deal?" Qiao Mei asked.

"I didn't say that! Sister, you can only blame yourself for coming too late. We can't afford to offend the person who bought those two children. No matter how much money we can get, we won't dare to do it. If you want, I'll get you another pair of children, alright?" Brother Dao said.

Someone they could not afford to offend? The only people anyone could not afford to offend in the capital were those in the political and military fields. They would not be afraid of people in the business world at all. However, solely based on this information, Qiao Mei would not be able to find out who the real mastermind was. This was because the Xia family had offended too many people due to the position they took.

"I only want this pair. Brother Dao, I'll pay five times the price! Give them to me!" Qiao Mei said as she stretched out all her fingers.

Brother Dao shook his head. He could not do it even if Qiao Mei talked until she was blue in the face. If he gave the children to someone else just because they offered a higher price, he would not be able to survive in his world anymore.

"Then 10 times!" Qiao Mei continued to shout.

Sister-in-law Dao immediately rushed out of the house and whispered into Brother Dao's ear, "That's 50,000 dollars! Coupled with the money we earned this time round, it's enough for everyone to live out the rest of their lives!"

Brother Dao also looked a little tempted. However, no matter how much money he was offered, he did not dare to offend the buyer of these two children.

"Sister, stop talking. I won't do this deal! Because you're so forthright, I'll let all of you leave without any harm. If there are any children you like in the future, then we can work together," Brother Dao said.

"Brother Dao, don't do this the hard way! 20 times! This is the maximum," Qiao Mei said as she pointed at Brother Dao.

Actually, Qiao Mei could afford to give him 100 times the amount, but she could not show off her wealth too much. In this era, it was already a big deal to be able to give a bounty of 100,000 dollars for two children.

"Little girl, I've already shown you a lot of respect! Why do you insist on getting those two children? Don't tell me you're related to them!" Brother Dao looked at Qiao Mei and the others and questioned them.

Xia He slowly approached Qiao Mei, ready to protect her at any time. Qiao Mei was also a little flustered and did not know what to do. If she admitted that it was true, Xia Fan and Xia Xing would be in an even more dangerous situation.

"Brother Dao, I'm just anxious to have a son. You should understand my feelings!" Qiao Mei said as she softened her attitude.

"Sister, no matter how much you want a son, you can't make things difficult for me! If you want, I'll just get another child for you. Why do you insist on wanting these two?" Brother Dao said warily.

Suddenly, they heard the sound of two children crying inside the house. Qiao Mei could not take it anymore and pointed at Brother Dao as she shouted, "Attack!"

Chi Ze rushed to the front and used his size to his advantage, pushing down Brother Dao and Ah Long and holding them down under him. The others rushed forward and pressed the rest of the people to the ground. Xia He also ran to the front and held on to Sister-in-law Dao fiercely.

Qiao Mei took this opportunity to rush into the house and pick up the two children before running away. She did not know where to go and her mind was blank as she kept running forward.

Chapter 1643 Why Are You Only Here Now

Chi Ze and the others were outnumbered and two of the traffickers started to chase after Qiao Mei. At this moment, Qiao Mei suddenly bumped into a familiar embrace. This was a smell she would never forget in her life.

"Xia Zhe?" Qiao Mei looked up in surprise.

"I'm sorry that I'm late," Xia Zhe said as he looked at Qiao Mei guiltily.

The people who came with Xia Zhe rushed forward and arrested the human traffickers. Qiao Mei looked up blankly at Xia Zhe for a long time before crying loudly and saying, "Why are you only here now! Why are you only here now... Huh! Why are you only here now!"

Xia Zhe hugged Qiao Mei and the two children tightly and said, "I'm sorry I'm late and caused you to be so scared and worried. I'm sorry..."

Xia Wen arrived later and was very relieved to see that the children were rescued and that Qiao Mei was fine. However, he was curious about how Qiao Mei found this place. It had taken him and Xia Zhe a long time to find the most minor clues. If not for Qiao Mei giving him a call, they probably would not be able to find the children's location until tomorrow!

After Qiao Mei calmed down, Xia Zhe held her hand and led her to the car to go home. Qiao Mei was so tired that she almost dozed off. Xia Zhe wanted to put a coat over her, but the moment he touched her, she immediately sat up and hugged the children tightly as she looked at him in fear. It was only when she saw who it was that she gradually relaxed.

Xia Zhe looked at Qiao Mei with heartache. It looked like Qiao Mei was going to live in a state of fear for a period of time. All of this was his fault. He had clearly promised her to protect her and let the children grow up healthy and happy, but Qiao Mei and the children were still put in danger time and time again.

"I'm sorry... I promise I won't let you go through this again..." Xia Zhe said self-reproachfully.

Qiao Mei had not recovered from what had just happened and she was unable to care about Xia Zhe's emotions at the moment. All she wanted to do now was to hug the two children and feel their breathing, heartbeats and body warmth to confirm that they were really right by her side.

After reaching Xu Lan's house, Qiao Mei rushed to the room upstairs with the two children in her arms. She placed them on the bed and carefully checked them for any injuries. The butterfly on her chest felt slightly hot as she touched the children and checked their insides. Fortunately, they were both fine.

"Tuan Tuan, is your throat swollen? It's all Mom's fault. I have let you suffer." Qiao Mei teared silently as she fed the child ginseng juice.

These two children were really sensible. Xia Fan had kept crying loudly in order to save Xia Xing. If they had found the children any later and their vocal cords became damaged, she would never be able to forgive herself for the rest of her life.

"I'm so sorry, Yuan Yuan. Mom didn't protect you well. But it won't happen again. I'll definitely take good care of you. Can you forgive me..." Qiao Mei said sadly.

Xia Fan reached out to touch Qiao Mei's cheek and looked at her with teary eyes. He frowned and started crying again. It was impossible for the two children not to feel frightened. How could they not be afraid?

At that time, they were so scared that those people would do something bad to them. However, Xia Fan was the elder brother and his mother had told him that as the elder brother, he must protect his younger sister and not let her get hurt. No matter how tired he was, he must continue to cry loudly. Before his mother came, he had to protect his younger sister!

After comforting the children, Qiao Mei wiped her tears and walked out of the room. As soon as she went out, she saw Xia Zhe standing uneasily at the door. He behaved like he had done something wrong and stood at the door, not daring to go in.

"Why are you standing here?" Qiao Mei asked gently.

"I... I'm too ashamed to face all of you..." Xia Zhe said self-reproachfully.

Qiao Mei sighed and threw herself into Xia Zhe's arms. Xia Zhe also hugged Qiao Mei back tightly. Chi Ze had called just now and told Xia Zhe about the entire process of Qiao Mei negotiating with the human traffickers. If not for Qiao Mei helping to stall for time, they would not have been able to make it in time.

"This matter is not our fault. It's the fault of the people who kidnapped the children. The children are both asleep. Let's go downstairs to talk." Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe went downstairs hand in hand. Xia Wen, Xia He and Xu Lan were all there.

They all sat together with solemn expressions. Those who did not know better would think that there was a funeral at home! All of them looked so crestfallen.

Chapter 1644 Crippled

"Everyone, let's have a chat. Don't be so quiet. The children are back, aren't they? Let's be happy and don't look so dejected." Qiao Mei pretended to be relaxed and smiled at them.

"Qiao Mei, is it Xia Yan who gave you the address?" Xia Wen asked.

Before Qiao Mei could answer, Xia He immediately said, "Hmph, of course it's not from that deceitful hypocrite. He's so stubborn and still refuses to admit it even after Qiao Mei broke two or three of his ribs. It's Xia Lu who can't bear to see Xia Yan getting beaten up, so he wrote down the address for us."

Xu Lan smacked the table angrily and shouted, "Heartless things! Our family already helped them so much, so what else do they want! Now they even have designs on my grandchildren! Xia Wen, go and arrest them!"

"I've already sent someone over. Xia Lu has already been arrested. Xia Yan is seriously injured and needs to stay in the hospital for a period of time," Xia Wen said.

When he saw Xia Yan's medical report, he thought that it was Xia He who beat him up. There was not a single unharmed spot on Xia Yan's body and his internal organs were almost all damaged. When he reached home, he had wanted to warn Xia He that she would kill someone if she beat a person up like this, but he did not expect the person who hit Xia Yan to be Qiao Mei. He had thought that she was a dainty and delicate person.

If it was Qiao Mei who had done this, then it was understandable. Which mother in the world could still stay calm when her children were missing?

Xia Zhe was not surprised at all. Qiao Mei was so strong that she could kill a cow with a single punch. What Qiao Mei did was like nothing to her.

Even he could not defeat Qiao Mei!

"I want to interrogate Xia Yan personally," Qiao Mei said as she looked at Xia Wen seriously.

"Erm... that may not be possible..." Xia Wen said hesitantly.

Interrogation was usually done by the professionals. With Xia Xiu supervising the process, those being interrogated would definitely reveal who the real culprit was. There were very strict procedures to go through in order to enter the interrogation area. Even Xia Zhe would need to inform his superiors if he wanted to go, so it was not a place where anyone could enter at will.

Although Xia Yan was still in the hospital, there were a total of eight people guarding his ward, stationed both inside and outside. Xia Yan would not be able to escape even if he had wings. Other than the doctors and nurses, no one was allowed to visit him. Firstly, there was a worry that having visitors would agitate Xia Yan, impeding his recovery process. Secondly, if Xia Yan found out about what was happening outside, he might try to look for a way to escape.

None of them could force their way in to see Xia Yan even if they wanted. Anyone who tried to force their way in would be shot to death.

"Then forget it. We'll see how it goes after the investigation is completed. Zhou Luo will definitely come looking for us soon," Qiao Mei said wearily.

"Don't worry! I definitely won't let Zhou Luo come near our house! We've already instructed the guard team not to let anyone in," Xia He said.

"That's good. What about Second Aunt-in-law? How's Second Aunt-in-law?" Qiao Mei asked worriedly.

"I heard from Aunt that Second Aunt-in-law's condition is not so well, but the good thing is that it's not serious. She'll be fine after some rest. Xia Yan gave her too much sedative. Fortunately, she is found in time and her brain isn't affected," Xia Wen said.

"Eldest Brother, go to my house later to ask my grandfather for some medicinal wine and send it to Second Aunt-in-law. If she drinks it, she will recover soon," Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Qiang had not been in good health, but he had kept all the medicinal wine, ginseng and lingzhi which Qiao Mei gave him and did not consume them. He said that he wanted to save them for the children as family heirlooms. To Qiao Mei, she had plenty of such things, so what was the use of hoarding them!

Qiao Mei was so angry that she custom made a big 10L wine barrel for Qiao Qiang. Then, she filled it with ginseng wine and told Qiao Qiang to drink freely from it. Surely Qiao Qiang would not feel sorry about drinking it if he had so much. In addition, Qiao Mei had told Qiao Qiang that if he did not drink the wine, it would expire and spoil.

Qiao Qiang drank one glass every day nowadays and his health was much better than before.

"Alright, I'll definitely go later," Xia Wen said.

"Will Chi Ze and the others be alright? They are only there to help me," Qiao Mei asked. Although Chi Ze and the others were retired soldiers, they were just ordinary citizens now. It was not right for ordinary citizens to gang up and beat up those people, even if they were criminals.

"They're fine. Father and I have put up an application to give them a meritorious award. We've indicated that they're warm-hearted passersby and they'll even get certificates of commendation!" Xia Wen said laughingly.

"Certificates of commendation? Then I'll give them monetary bonuses too!" Qiao Mei said excitedly.

Chapter 1645 Who Is The Mastermind

After everyone felt better, life went back to normal. Only Xia Zhe knew that Qiao Mei had not recovered fully. She still lived in fear and would wake up startled in the middle of the night. The first thing she did whenever she woke up was to see if the children were around.

If this continued, Qiao Mei's health would definitely be greatly affected and the baby would also not develop well.

"Don't be afraid, I'll protect all of you," Xia Zhe comforted her softly.

"I'm fine. I'm just... just a little uneasy. I can't feel settled so long as the mastermind is not caught. I wonder how Eldest Aunt's interrogation is going," Qiao Mei said worriedly.

During this period of time, Xia Xiu had sent a letter to Xia Zhe. She wrote that those human traffickers would not tell her who their buyer was even if they had to die. They had their own rules to abide with. Since they had already been paid, they would not betray the buyer.

Xia Lu was not as stubborn as them. Before Xia Xiu said anything, he confessed everything, including how much money the Du family had given him and where the money was placed.

"It's the Du family," Xia Zhe said.

"The Du family? It's them again!" Qiao Mei said as she sat up furiously.

"Why? Do you already know that it's the Du family?" Xia Zhe asked.

"Not really. I have my suspicions. The Du family came to ask us for the medicinal wine, but I didn't give it to them back then. I guess that this matter made them bear a grudge against us. It's probably also the Du family who instigated those seed buyers to blow up the matter and ended up getting my mother kidnapped. I don't have any proof even now, but they finally give themselves away this time round," Qiao Mei said.

"That's true. Father has already reported the situation to the higher-ups. The Du family is completely disgraced and they will never be able to make a comeback. You don't know how funny Father's written report is. I found it unbelievable when I read it," Xia Zhe said with a laugh.

"Huh? What did Father write?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

Xia Mao was so angry that he was not even able to write in his usual nice and steady handwriting. Every sentence he wrote was a condemnation of the Du family's crimes. He begged his superiors to punish the Du family severely and give the Xia family justice. He even played the emotional card at the end. Xia Mao wrote that the children involved were Xia Jun's great-grandchildren and that the kidnapping of Xia Jun's great-grandchildren was a truly serious crime. He hoped that his superiors would deal with the matter sternly.

"Putting up the request in his own name is good enough to get this matter settled. Who would have thought that he would even bring up Grandfather? Of course the higher-ups have to respect Grandfather and investigate the Du family thoroughly. It's not just the matters related to us. All the wrongdoings done by the Du family have been investigated and their family is completely disgraced," Xia Zhe said.

Qiao Mei leaned against Xia Zhe's chest and said, "Hmph, they brought this on upon themselves. They deserve it."

"Don't worry, those people who harm us won't end up well," Xia Zhe said.

"Do you know the name of the person who went to look for Xia Yan?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

Xia Zhe recalled carefully and said, "They said his name is Du Miao and that he's Du Bo's son."

Qiao Mei was a little surprised. The Du Miao that she remembered did not seem like such a person. Du Bo would usually ask his subordinates to do this kind of thing, so why would he ask Du Miao to do it? Although Du Bo always said that Du Miao was useless, he doted on Du Miao very much and would not let Du Miao do anything dangerous.

"What's wrong?" Xia Zhe asked.

"Does the Du family have any other children?" Qiao Mei asked.

"I've never heard of any other Du family member. Du Bo's wife, Feng Niao, is not in good health. I heard from my mother that after Feng Niao gave birth to Du Miao, she became very weak and could no longer have children, so the Du family only has one son," Xia Zhe said.

"No... It's definitely not right... How can it be Du Miao?" Qiao Mei muttered to herself.

"You suspect that Du Miao did not do this?" Xia Zhe asked.

Qiao Mei could not pinpoint what was wrong, but she just felt that Du Miao was definitely not the person who engineered this matter. He was not interested in harming people this way. Moreover, he had a daughter himself, so he would definitely not hurt other people's children.

"Call it a woman's intuition. I have a feeling that it's someone else who did this. Get Yao Nian to dig into the Du family's past and see if there are any other clues," Qiao Mei said seriously.

"Alright, I'll definitely go and investigate tomorrow. Go to bed now. It'll be dawn soon," Xia Zhe said with a smile.

Chapter 1646 Another Kidnapping

Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe fell asleep in each other's arms. In the latter half of the night, Qiao Mei slept very well and peacefully. She had never slept so soundly before. With Xia Zhe around, it was as if all the other problems would disappear.

The next day, Xu Lan kept hugging the children and refused to let go. Even when she was tired, she did not want to let go of them. Xia Zhe could not dissuade her, so he let her do whatever she wanted. If there was really no other way, he would just do as Qiao Mei said and make her drink some medicinal wine.

"Qiao Mei, that group of people from the Zhao Family Village has been clamoring for you to pay for the medical fees," Xia He said disdainfully.

"If you haven't mentioned it, I have already forgotten about this group of people. Now that we've gotten the hostage back, they don't have any bargaining chips to negotiate with us," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Two days ago, Zhao Fei woke up and insisted on going home to see his wife. In the end, he found out that those beasts from the Zhao Family Village had abducted his wife. I hear that that woman is currently pregnant with Zhao Fei's child and still in the very early stages. When Zhao Fei returned to the Zhao Family Village to reason with them, he was also captured," Xia He said angrily.

It would have been less worrisome if they had only kidnapped Zhao Fei. They would not really do anything to Zhao Fei. However, now that Zhao Fei's wife and child were also involved, the Xia family could not leave him in the lurch. After all, Zhao Fei was Li Gui's savior.

As the saying went, a cornered dog would even jump over a wall. Who knew what those people from the Zhao Family Village might do.

Qiao Mei turned around and looked at the children. She really could not bear to leave them now. In the past, she used to think that as long as there was someone by their side, they would be safe. However, it was now proven that even if there was someone accompanying them, the bad guys were still pervasive and unscrupulous enough to do all kinds of things in order to achieve their goals. Liu Fen still lying in the hospital was proof of that.

"Xia Zhe, can you stay at home and take good care of the children?" Qiao Mei looked at Xia Zhe and pleaded.

"Don't worry, I'll definitely protect them well," Xia Zhe promised.

Qiao Mei hugged the children and kissed them on their cheeks. "Mom's going out to run an errand. Dad will stay with you! Don't be afraid! Mom will be back soon."

After saying that, she left the house reluctantly. The safest she ever felt was when the children were still inside her. She looked at her slightly bulging stomach and swore to herself that she must eradicate all these people. What Tuan Yuan and Yuan Yuan had experienced could not happen to this child.

The road at the entrance of the Zhao Family Village was scattered with nails to prevent cars from driving in. Qiao Mei and Xia He had no choice but to walk to Zhao Kai's house.

Zhao Fei and Ding Xiang were tied to the pillars in the courtyard. Those people had even spread thatch under the couple's feet. So long as there was a slightest fire spark, the couple would be burned to ashes.

"You guys are really crazy," Qiao Mei said disdainfully.

"Qiao Mei? Why are you here! Go back quickly!" Zhao Fei said agitatedly.

"We're crazy? How about you're a vicious woman! If not for you! We won't be living such a miserable life! Stop all your pretenses! Hurry up and give me money to treat my father's illness! Otherwise, I'll burn them to death!" Zhao Kai said angrily.

"If you set them on fire, don't even think about leaving here alive," Xia He said with a slight frown.

"Hmph, do I still care about those things? We don't even have food! It's already a problem for us to survive! Why do we care about the rules of society! It's even better if I die. One of me for three of them. I still make a profit! It's such a good deal to have someone accompanying me on the road to the underworld!" Zhao Kai said.

Qiao Mei looked at Ding Xiang. She had lost so much weight that she was only skin and bones and her wrists were bleeding from being tied with hemp rope. There was no color on her face at all. Zhao Fei was no better than her.

"Name your price," Qiao Mei said calmly.

"You... you have to pay 100,000 dollars for my father's medical fees! And you have to give us the planting seeds!" Zhao Kai said.

"You're really too demanding. How dare you even say that!" Xia He gritted her teeth in anger. How could there be such a shameless person?

Qiao Mei felt that it made sense for Zhao Kai to say that. After all, when she came to collect the seeds from the Zhao Family Village the last time, she had paid them about 150,000 dollars. Zhao Kai would be able to deduce that she was rich, which was why he dared to say what he said. It looked like he had some brains, but not much.

Chapter 1647 Give You Money For The People

"I can give you money, but not the seeds," Qiao Mei said.

"That won't do! You have to give us the seeds! Oh right! You also have to get your mother to marry my father! Even if my father recovers, he will still be paralyzed! Your mother must wait upon him! Your mother can't beat someone up and not pay the price!" Zhao Kai said unreasonably.

Zhao Kai was not satisfied with just 100,000 dollars as it would not last him long. He had tasted the profits that could be made from the seeds and did not want to let it go so easily. Moreover, it was hard to say if Zhao Liu would live or die in the near future. He did not want to wait upon that dirty old man!

"You're talking nonsense! I'm the one who hit Zhao Liu! It has nothing to do with them. If you want to kill or torture someone, come at me!" Zhao Fei said agitatedly.

"Shoo, shoo, shoo! Who would believe what you say! I don't care, it was Li Gui who hit him! She has to be responsible for my father!" Zhao Kai said.

If they let Zhao Kai continue, he would probably become more and more fearless and think that they were easy to bully. In a while, even the factory would be part of his demands!

"Let's go. You people enjoy yourselves and have fun." Qiao Mei grabbed Xia He and turned to leave. Zhao Kai hurriedly stopped her.

"What are you doing? Who says you can leave! Come back!" Zhao Kai roared.

"I can't fork out the amount of money you want and I won't give you the seeds. As for my mother, don't even think about it. If you like to kidnap people so much, then continue with it. Whether you die or not has nothing to do with me. Whether they die or not also has nothing to do with me. My mother is sitting at home all fine now. Go ahead and burn them. I want to see what else you can use to threaten me." Qiao Mei left after saying that.

"Hey! Don't go! How can you leave just like that! There are three lives at stake here!" Zhao Kai said in a panic.

"So what if it's three lives? It doesn't matter even if it's 10 lives. If you're so capable, then go and kidnap my mother again and I'll see if you can get out of it alive! I'll go to the police after I leave this place and they will definitely come and look into it. It's none of my business. It's not like I'm a police officer." With that, Qiao Mei continued walking. Zhao Kai totally panicked. He did not expect this woman to be so ruthless.

Seeing that the money they wanted was going to be gone, Zhao Kun immediately ran up to Qiao Mei and blocked her way. "Elder Sister! Don't leave! My brother said those things just now in a fit of anger. It doesn't count!"

"Who's your elder sister? Use proper terms. Do you have any say in this family?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"Yes! Of course I have a say! We don't want much, just 10,000 dollars! As long as we can cure our father's illness! We don't want anything else!" Zhao Kai said ingratiatingly.

"I know about your father's injury. I'll give you 6,000 dollars, which is more than enough for your father's medical and nutrition expenses for a year. That's all I can give, not a single cent more. If you still want more, then go to the hospital to get a fee quote. I promise you won't even get 3,000 dollars," Qiao Mei said seriously.

If it was 6,000 dollars, then so be it! It was much better than not having a single cent! At most, he would take this money and move out with Zhao Liu! He would let Zhao Kai live alone in this dilapidated village!

"Alright! I'll go and release them now! You have to give me the money now! How about that!" Zhao Kun said agitatedly.

Qiao Mei sized up Zhao Kun carefully. She did not expect this kid to be so bold. She had misjudged him back then.

"If you can make the decision, then I'll give you the money. However, we have to sign an agreement and also get your village chief to be our witness. We can't give you the money so casually," Qiao Mei said warily.

"Wait a while! I'll go and look for the village chief to do up the agreement now! I'll be right back! Wait for me!" Zhao Kun ran towards Zhao Kuo's house. They did not have pen and paper now, only clothes and charcoal. They found a big piece of cloth and wrote the agreement on it. Qiao Mei did not mind as long as it could be read clearly.

After signing the agreement, Qiao Mei took out 6,000 dollars and said, "Let them go. They must come with me and I'll leave the money here for you. If you can't let them follow me, then don't even think about getting this money."

"You haven't paid the ransom yet!" Zhao Kai said stubbornly.

Zhao Kun quickly covered Zhao Kai's mouth and said, "You still have the cheek to say such things. If she reports this matter to the police station, none of us will be able to get away!"

Chapter 1648 Protect The Baby

Zhao Kun released Zhao Fei and Ding Xiang. Qiao Mei and Xia He helped Zhao Fei and the unconscious Ding Xiang out of the Zhao Family Village. The people from the Zhao Family Village likely would not find trouble with them anymore.

Along the way, Zhao Fei took care of Ding Xiang. Qiao Mei took them straight to Xia Fang's hospital and asked the doctor to give Ding Xiang a thorough checkup. They found out that the baby was quite weak and she had been bleeding. For a period of time, she must stay in bed and recuperate and must not tire herself out.

"Both of you should just stay in the hospital. I'll pay for all the expenses and you can use my VIP ward. You can accompany my mother and Second Aunt-in-law. We must protect the baby," Qiao Mei said.

"How can we! We definitely can't accept this money!" Zhao Fei said in surprise.

"You're my mother's savior. It's worth it no matter how much money I have to spend. Let's save her first. Saving her is more important!" Qiao Mei said.

Zhao Fei did not say anything else. Without Qiao Mei's help, he probably would not be able to save Ding Xiang and the child. He also would not be able to explain himself to his mentor. He would just have to work hard to repay Qiao Mei in the future.

Qiao Mei returned home and slumped on the sofa without any grace and decorum. Now that everything was settled, she could finally relax.

Xia He did the same as Qiao Mei and slumped on the sofa. In less than a minute, when Xu Lan came down from upstairs and saw it, she said, "Xia He! What kind of posture is this! Are you even sitting properly! Is this how I taught you?"

Xia He pouted and sat upright obediently. Qiao Mei also checked herself and sat beside Xia He obediently.

"Oh Qiao Mei, you don't have to feel so restrained. Xia He is a dancer and has to pay attention to her image and posture at all times. You don't have to do that. You can do whatever you want!" Xu Lan said dotingly.

"Mother! You're not fair at all! I'm also your daughter!" Xia He said with jealousy.

"You can change your job, then I won't care about you anymore! Otherwise, ask Deng Fan to come and talk to me. I'll tell him to bring you home! From now on, I won't ask about you anymore. Let's see if he dares to do it!" Xu Lan said.

Of course Deng Fan would not dare to do that. Xu Lan was their teacher. Back then, Xu Lan was very angry when Deng Fan left the art troupe so that he could marry Xia He. Whenever Deng Fan saw Xu Lan nowadays, he acted like a mouse seeing a cat. He definitely would not dare to back Xia He up.

"You should talk to Xia Wen. He works all day long. I went to his house to take a look yesterday. It looks like a pigsty! He doesn't clean up the place at all!" Xu Lan said angrily.

Xia He secretly whispered into Qiao Mei's ear, "Eldest Brother is obsessed with cleanliness so he can't be that sloppy. Mother just feels that everyone is untidy. The last time she went to my house, she even wanted to help me clean up the house. In the end, it did not look like she did anything!"

Xu Lan had lived a pampered life for a long time. At home, the helper took care of everything in the house. She did not know how to do household chores at all and did not even know how to cook. She was only looking for a random reason to urge Xia Wen to get married quickly.

"Do the two of you hear what I say!" Xu Lan questioned.

"Yes, yes! Mother, let's find a partner for Eldest Brother! He has been divorced for so long, it's time for him to consider getting married!" Qiao Mei said immediately.

Xia He immediately echoed, "Yes, yes, yes! We should find Eldest Brother a smart and capable woman! Then Elder Brother's life will be in order! Mother, you also want Eldest Brother to find a nice woman, don't you?"

Xu Lan immediately looked much better. Ever since Xia Wen and Tan Jing divorced, she had been looking for a girl who was suitable for Xia Wen. A girl from an ordinary family was fine too. Her requirements were very simple. The girl should have an upright character, be dignified and dependable and be able to keep her family's affairs in order.

"Sigh... Do you think there are any suitable girls?" Xu Lan asked happily.

"Um... wasn't Second Aunt-in-law looking for a partner for Xia Yuan some time ago? She looked at so many girls! All of them are beautiful and have good family backgrounds and seem to be nice too. Don't you like any of them?" Xia He asked.

"Shoo, shoo, shoo! Those are girls whom Xia Yuan rejected. Why should our Xia Wen pick from leftovers!" Xu Lan said unhappily.

Chapter 1649 A Family Of Boors

"Xia Yuan rejected all of them without even taking a look. The problem doesn't lie with those girls. Why don't you take a look at them?" Xia He persuaded.

"If your second aunt-in-law doesn't want any of them, then how can we! Won't that be a slap to your second aunt-in-law's face? Don't cause trouble for me! Qiao Mei, think about whether there's anyone else!" Xu Lan asked expectantly.

Qiao Mei and Xia He looked at each other and smiled. They already had a candidate for the position of their eldest sister-in-law, but they did not know if Xia Wen was willing to marry her.

"There's a Mo family from the western suburbs. They have a daughter called Mo Zhu. Do you know them, Mother?" Qiao Mei asked.

"The Mo family? The Mo family seems to be a scholarly family, similar to the Deng family. They're very cultured," Xu Lan said as she recalled carefully.

"Their family situation is much better than the Deng family. The Deng family only became educators in this generation. The Mo family has been teachers for generations and they have students everywhere! Moreover, Mo Zhu is a hardworking person and she is Eldest Brother's subordinate. She put in a lot of effort to help when Auntie and the children were kidnapped!" Xia He said.

"Really? What a nice girl!" Xu Lan said agitatedly.

"She seems to be quite interested in Eldest Brother. I think the way she looks at Eldest Brother is quite different. At that time, I even secretly asked Mo Zhu if she wanted to date Eldest Brother. She did not say no, but she did not say yes either," Xia He said.

"Oh! That means there's hope!" Xu Lan said excitedly.

"Shouldn't we thank her properly? She helped us so much. We should ask her to come to our house for a nice meal!" Qiao Mei said.

Xu Lan's eyes lit up as she paced around the house happily. As she walked, she kept talking about how to invite the Mo family to dinner.

"This weekend! Let's invite the Mo family to dinner this weekend! There are still four days for us to get things done! Let's ask Mo Zhu's parents to come to our house as our guests! To express our gratitude!"

"Yes, yes, yes... We should serve the good liquor we have at home! We can't let down our guests!"

"I'll ask Xia Zhe to put in a request for some special ingredients in the next two days. We have to get all the nice stuff! Oh... Did we already eat the big lobster during the new year celebrations? That won't do. We only get one big lobster a year. I'll ask the Sun family next door if they can give me their big lobster for this year and I'll return it to them next year!"

"Wan Wen! Go and buy groceries now! Get busy! We have to do something grand! The cutlery set doesn't look so nice. Go to the mall and buy the painted porcelain ones!"

"..."

Xia He and Qiao Mei sat on the sofa with one child each in their arms and watched Xu Lan get busy. Two days ago, she had said that she always felt unwell during the rainy season. At the moment, she seemed to have turned into a different person and she had a glow to her.

After Xia Zhe finished his work, he slowly walked down the stairs. He also found it unbelievable when he saw Xu Lan like this.

"Has our mother... gone crazy?" Xia Zhe looked at Xia He and asked suspiciously.

"Yes... probably. Doesn't it look as if our family is going to hold a state banquet this weekend? Our mother is just short of hiring a chef," Xia He said with a sigh.

As soon as she finished speaking, Xu Lan shouted towards the living room from the kitchen, "Xia He! Give the state-owned restaurant a call later! See if you can get the chef to come and cook for us! It doesn't matter how much it costs!"

"Alright! I understand!" After yelling her reply, Xia He turned around and said helplessly to Xia Zhe, "See how right I am. It wasn't even such a grand occasion when I got married."

"Isn't it totally different? It's a rare thing if Eldest Brother can marry a woman he likes. Furthermore, she's from a family which has been outstanding for generations. For them, it's not about money or power, but culture. We have to get ourselves all cleaned up," Qiao Mei said with a laugh.

"In the past, Mother always lamented about why we don't have any educators in our family and that we're just a bunch of boors. Later on, after Eldest Brother started to teach, she said that Eldest Brother is just a boor who will not be able to teach his students well. She was troubled by all these things every day. You had not joined the family yet then. It was a very interesting time!" Xia He said laughingly.

Qiao Mei looked at Xia Zhe and he smiled and nodded. "It's true. During that period of time, Eldest Brother even doubted himself and felt that he had made a wrong decision to become a teacher."

"Hahaha, then it must have been hard on Eldest Brother!" Qiao Mei said as she laughed happily.

Chapter 1650 Not Interested In Xia Wen

Xia He and Xia Zhe told many embarrassing stories of Xia Wen when he was young, all of which happened before he married Tan Jing. After Xia Wen married Tan Jing, there were very few things that made him happy. He was either busy with work or needed to deal with the Tan family who often came to look for trouble. He aged a lot then.

"It's a good thing that Eldest Brother got a divorce. Otherwise, his life will only get harder! But... what if the Mo family isn't interested in our family?" Xia He said worriedly.

"Our family is the Xia family, a famous prominent family in the capital. The eldest young master is an important member of the government, the second young lady is a popular celebrity and the second young lady's husband is a famous architect. The third young master has an outstanding military record and the third young master's wife is a successful business owner. Why won't they be interested in such a family?" Qiao Mei teased.

This was how it was always portrayed in the novels and television dramas which Qiao Mei had read and watched in her other life. As long as no one in the Xia family was muddle-headed enough to do any cruel and inhumane things, the Xia family would prosper for generations to come!

"Shoo, shoo, shoo! Although what you say is the truth... we have to open our eyes to reality! Our family is doing too well now and there are so many pairs of eyes on us! People are just waiting for something to happen to our family. The Mo family has been teachers and educators for generations, so they hate such troublesome matters the most. This has nothing to do with family background! Our family may look glorious from the outside, but what we have are a bunch of problems!" Xia He said with a slight frown.

Qiao Mei had never thought about all these. To her, Xia Wen was such a good person that she would not feel surprised even if a fairy descended to the mortal world to marry him.

However, what Xia He said was also the truth. Qiao Mei did not know anything about the Xia family in the past, but ever since she married into the family, there had been countless attacks on them, both open and covert. If Qiao Mei was just an ordinary person and did not have her ability, she and her children would have died many times over!

If the Mo family really rejected the Xia family's marriage proposal because of these issues, it could only mean that Xia Wen and Mo Zhu were not fated to be together. There was no one to blame for this. There were so many nice girls in the world and there would definitely be someone who would treat Xia Wen sincerely.

"Alright. Eldest Brother is not even worried, so what are we so concerned about? There will definitely be someone who's willing to go through thick and thin with him. Let's just wait and see!" Qiao Mei said relaxedly.

Xia Zhe thought for a moment and said, "We've been saying so much here... but does Eldest Brother know about this?"

Qiao Mei and Xia He looked at each other. Xia Wen... Xia Wen might not know that the entire Mo family was coming to their house for dinner...

"There are advantages to not knowing anything... We'll just inform him when the time comes!" Xia He said.

"No! You should go and tell Eldest Brother! Otherwise, it will be so awkward if Mo Zhu sees Xia Wen at work and mentions this event! If that happens, Mo Zhu will think that our family doesn't respect them," Qiao Mei said as she patted Xia Zhe.

"Alright, I'll talk to Eldest Brother when he's back from work," Xia Zhe said as he looked at Qiao Mei dotingly.

Xia He could feel goosebumps all over her body. She and Deng Fan had never been so clingy. It seemed that she should let Deng Fan come and learn a few things from Xia Zhe. Deng Fan was such a blockhead! He was so boring!

After those human traffickers were dealt with, there were no more incidents of people coming round to harm Qiao Mei and the children. However, Qiao Mei's nightmares seemed to have worsened and she felt listless every day.

"Let's go and see a doctor. If this goes on, you will get tired out," Xia Zhe said worriedly with a frown.

"Cough, cough... It's fine. I know my own health well. I'm just traumatized by what happened and I'll get better after a while. Just ask Sister Wan Wen to make more soup for me using calming herbs," Qiao Mei said.

Xia Zhe went out to buy a lot of books on food ingredients and sat downstairs to read them day and night. He wanted to find recipes which could help Qiao Mei relieve her fatigue.

Qiao Mei slowly walked to the small garden in the backyard and took out a potted plant. Fortunately, when she planted these flowers back then, she had left a small ginseng seed here. After a few rounds of energy exchange, Qiao Mei's entire body glowed with a faint golden light and she had also obtained many more 10,000-year-old ginseng seeds.

She realized that the ginseng juice refined from 1,000-year-old ginseng was golden in color, but the ginseng juice refined from 10,000-year-old ginseng had a tinge of blood-red color similar to human blood.

Qiao Mei had yet to have a chance to try out the effects of the 10,000-year-old ginseng juice. This was not something that could be drunk casually. For healthy people like them, it would be too nourishing and might even cause their hair to turn white overnight!