

Fat Wife 1651

Chapter 1651 Walk Slowly

An idea flashed across Qiao Mei's mind. If one could extract a big basin of 10,000-year-old ginseng juice and then nourish the white jade stones in the house with it, would the jade stones eventually become bloodstone?

However, this was just an idea. It was really too difficult to produce an entire basin of ginseng juice. One 10,000-year-old ginseng could only produce one to two drops of ginseng juice. It would take forever to get one basin of 10,000-year-old ginseng juice! It was not as if she was in the wholesale business of ginseng!

Although it was actually something that she could do...

"Qiao Mei! Come and eat!" Xia Zhe shouted as he walked out of the kitchen with a pot full of soup.

Qiao Mei put away all the seeds. She intended to specially sew a bag that could be hidden in her clothes so that she could use the seeds to replenish her energy in the event of an emergency.

After cleaning up, she quickly walked to the dining table. Everyone was already seated and waiting for her. She had lost track of time and spent the last two to three hours in the backyard. Everyone thought that Qiao Mei was looking at the scenery, so they did not disturb her and wanted to let her relax.

It was rare for the whole family to be around today. Even Xia Jun had come round for dinner. Qiao Mei did not know when Xia Jun arrived.

"Grandfather! You're here! I don't even know that you are here!" Qiao Mei said excitedly.

"Walk slowly! Don't rush!" Xu Lan said.

"Mei Mei, we have tiled flooring at home. If you're not careful, you might fall down. You have to walk slowly in the future. No matter how urgent the matter is, you can't run around. Do you understand? I came in the morning and went out to play chess with Old Man Zhang next door. I just got home not long ago," Xia Jun said with a smile.

"I'll definitely be careful in the future! So between Grandfather and Grandpa Zhang, who has better skills?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

Xia Jun patted his chest proudly and said, "Hmph! Needless to say! I'm definitely better! Let's not talk about this anymore. Start eating! Otherwise, the food will get cold!"

Everyone picked up their chopsticks. Xia Zhe whispered into Qiao Mei's ear, "Grandfather can never win Grandpa Zhang next door. He loses every time, but he goes back to compete with Grandpa Zhang again and again. Grandpa Zhang doesn't even want to play chess with him anymore! Grandfather has to send all kinds of gifts to Grandpa Zhang to entice him to play!"

"Why is it the same thing for Grandfather everywhere he goes? When he plays with my grandfather, he can't win either. I wonder if the two of them have reconciled yet," Qiao Mei whispered.

Xia Zhe had not heard of Xia Jun going to Qiao Qiang's courtyard recently. He guessed that the two men had not reconciled yet. In any case, there would come a day when they would be fine again. How could it be that a decades-long brotherhood would end over a game of chess?

Xia Zhe had been the one cooking at home recently. His culinary skills had been improving day by day and he would soon cook better than Wan Wen! When they returned to the military family compound in the future, Qiao Mei could feel at ease to let Xia Zhe do the cooking.

In another two months, the two children would reach the age where they could eat solid food. Qiao Mei wanted to buy more books and read up on this subject. There was a lot for her to learn!

Early the next morning, Xia Fang called to say that Li Gui had recovered very well. All her health indicators were normal and she could be discharged in the afternoon.

Qiao Mei entrusted the two children to Xu Lan's care. Xu Lan vowed not to take a single step out of the house and even asked Luo Yu to send someone to guard all the doors and windows. Not even a fly could enter the house.

Only then did the couple feel at ease to go out and visit Li Gui. It was not their fault for being overly vigilant. They would only be able to feel more relaxed after the Du family was brought to justice.

In the hospital, Li Gui sat on the hospital bed, dressed in a hospital gown, and chatted with Xia Fang. Her complexion was very rosy and she looked completely different from two days ago.

"Mei Mei! Xiao Zhe! You're here!" Xia Fang said with a smile.

"Aunt, it's been hard on you to take care of my mother during this period of time," Qiao Mei said apologetically.

"What are you saying! We're a family, so there's no need to stand on ceremony with me. I'll go out and take a look at the other patients first. The two of you can spend some time with Sister Li." With that, Xia Fang went out for her rounds.

Li Gui held Qiao Mei's hand tightly and said, "My child... It's all my fault. I made things difficult for you and put you in danger. I heard that the two children were kidnapped. How are they now?"

"Who told you about this? The two children are fine. Don't worry," Qiao Mei said.

"Sigh... It's all my fault for being careless this time round. Otherwise, you wouldn't have to work so hard to save me..." Li Gui lowered her head and said sadly.

Chapter 1652 Help Them

"It's those people who have ulterior motives! It has nothing to do with you. Besides, those people from the Zhao Family Village have already paid the price. This matter is over, so let's not think about it anymore," Qiao Mei said as she patted Li Gui's hand.

"Where's Zhao Fei? He's the one who saved me! How is he!" Li Gui asked.

Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe looked at each other. They did not know how to handle this matter. Li Gui was the person involved, so they wanted to hear her thoughts.

"Mom, he and his wife were kidnapped by those people after that. His wife's pregnancy is unstable at the moment. I've asked them to stay in the VIP ward to recuperate. We'll pay for all the expenses," Qiao Mei said.

"Yes! It's what we should do! I'll go and visit them now!" Li Gui flipped the blanket and wanted to get out of bed to go and look at Ding Xiang and Zhao Fei when Qiao Mei stopped her.

"Mom! Ding Xiang is not in a very good condition now. Other than the doctor and Zhao Fei who can go in to take care of her, no one else can go in. Otherwise, it's not good for the baby," Qiao Mei explained.

Li Gui sighed and said, "Sigh... They're good kids, yet they have to suffer because of me! Qiao Mei, we must help them! We can't be people who don't repay kindness!"

"I know, but I don't know how to repay them for their kindness. Mom, how can we do that?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Sigh... Actually, I already have an idea. I heard that Zhao Fei doesn't have a proper job yet and he can't go into business in his condition now. I'm thinking of letting him work in the factory but I don't know if you will agree. We can just give him an unimportant position, one that is good enough for him to earn some money to support his family," Li Gui said.

No matter what, Zhao Fei had worked with her for a period of time. This kid was kind-hearted and a fast worker. It was his family members who were the problem. Even though Zhao Fei had completely cut ties with the Zhao family by now, blood was still thicker than water. If anything happened to the Zhao family one day, Zhao Fei would definitely go back to help.

Although they could not be business partners with Zhao Fei anymore, they could give him a stable job so that he could support his family and ensure that Ding Xiang and their child did not have to worry about their daily expenses.

"Sure. You can do whatever you want with regard to staffing in the factory. You don't have to come and ask me," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"That won't do! Qian'e said that you're the... the chairman! All the important matters need to be run through you before we can proceed," Li Gui said seriously.

Xia Zhe stood at the side and chuckled secretly. Seeing that Qiao Mei had become the boss, he felt quite good being the "lady boss"!

Xia Zhe went to the cashier to settle the hospital fees for Li Gui, Liu Fen and Ding Xiang for the past few days. Qiao Mei helped Li Gui pack up the things in the room. Before she left, she also went to take a look at Liu Fen, who was sleeping. It was a good thing that Liu Fen was asleep, otherwise Liu Fen also would not know how to face Qiao Mei and the rest.

"Mom, you guys go to the car first. I'll go and take a look at them from the door," Qiao Mei said as she pointed at Ding Xiang's ward.

Xia Zhe supported Li Gui as they slowly made their way downstairs. Qiao Mei quietly made her way to the door of Ding Xiang's ward. Ding Xiang seemed to look better, but her health was not good to begin with. Coupled with the fact that she had been exhausted during this period of time, Xia Fang had told Qiao Mei that she was concerned that Ding Xiang would not be able to hold on to the baby.

Qiao Mei looked at the small glass bottle in her hand. It was filled with ginseng juice that was blood-red in color. She thought it was a good idea to let Ding Xiang try out the medicinal properties of this ginseng juice. It was a right fit for a weak person like Ding Xiang.

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

"I'm here to take a look at her and to talk to you about something," Qiao Mei said sternly.

"Is it about Ding Xiang's condition? I've already heard from your aunt... I roughly know the condition of her health. I'm already mentally prepared and I've already come to an agreement with Doctor Xia. We

have decided not to keep this child... Keeping the child will threaten Ding Xiang's life. I can't risk her life," Zhao Fei said in a low voice.

Qiao Mei saw a trace of sadness on his face and even a hint of relief. Perhaps he was glad that Ding Xiang's life could still be saved.

"This is for you. Mix it with water and give it to Ding Xiang later. It's good for her health. Here's 500 dollars from my mother. It's to buy supplements for Ding Xiang to nourish her body," Qiao Mei said as she handed him the glass bottle and the money.

Chapter 1653 Job Offer

Zhao Fei immediately rejected Qiao Mei's well intentions, saying, "That can't do! This must be your family's priceless 'divine medicine'! You can't give it to me! You should keep it for Auntie Li Gui!"

"Don't worry, we still have more at home. We haven't thanked you for risking your life to save my mother. If not for you, my mother would have died of illness in the Zhao Family Village. These are a token of our appreciation. You have to accept them. For the sake of Ding Xiang and the child, you must accept them. Saving a life is more important," Qiao Mei said.

Zhao Fei looked at Ding Xiang inside the ward and sighed deeply. "Then I'll accept this medicine. I thank you on behalf of Ding Xiang and the child, but we can't accept the money."

"This is your salary, your future salary. Consider this an advance payment from us," Qiao Mei said.

"Salary? What salary?" Zhao Fei asked, feeling confused.

"My mother says that with Ding Xiang's current health, she can't go out to work and needs to rest at home. Moreover, she needs to have enough nourishment for two. Your current job is not very suitable for you so my mother wants to give you a new job at the factory," Qiao Mei said.

"No, no! Doesn't that go against the rules?" Zhao Fei said.

"Our factory is still recruiting! You fit our criteria very well. Don't worry, there's no hurry to go to work. Start work only when Ding Xiang is feeling better." After saying that, Qiao Mei left the ward. Zhao Fei held the glass bottle and the 500 dollars in his hands and stared in the direction which Qiao Mei had left.

He did not know how he managed to meet such a nice person. He had caused Qiao Mei and the others so much trouble, but not only did they not blame him, they even treated him especially well. He did not know how to repay their kindness.

Qiao Mei did not send Li Gui back to the courtyard house but drove straight to Xu Lan's house. Xu Lan had a table full of dishes ready to welcome Li Gui.

"In-law! Are you feeling better? Come in quickly!" Xu Lan said warmly.

Li Gui smiled and walked next to Xu Lan. Ever since Qiao Mei became a military spouse, Xu Lan found life to be very boring. She often went out shopping with Li Gui and sometimes even helped Li Gui buy matching clothes and jewelry. The two of them enjoyed a very good relationship now!

Qiao Mei patted Xia Zhe's shoulder and said, "Why aren't Xia He and the others back yet? Also, why isn't Eldest Brother around? We're having dinner with the Mo family tomorrow. Eldest Brother won't be caught off guard, right? Have you already told him about it?"

"Of course I have! After you told me that day, I went to tell Eldest Brother immediately. I have to do whatever my wife asks me to do!" Xia Zhe said with a smile.

"You're so glib~ Don't say such things at home!" Qiao Mei pouted and said.

The Mo family had already received the invitation and was still considering whether they should go.

"Mo Zhu, come here," Mo Zhu's mother, Chen Shu, said gently.

Mo Zhu put down the book in her hand and walked over to Liu Shu. The Mo family's house was not as big as the Xia family's house. There was only one small courtyard and three rooms. One of the rooms was filled with books, many of them out of print originals. The Mo family was the only one who owned

these books and most of them were treasures that had been passed down within their family from generation to generation.

"Mother, what's the matter?" Mo Zhu asked.

"You must have seen the Xia family's invitation to us. It's been a long time since someone has so solemnly invited our entire family to dinner. It doesn't matter if we go or not. What's important is whether you want to go or not?" Liu Shu asked.

"I... I'm fine with anything," Mo Zhu said hesitantly.

"Silly child, why are you so hesitant? Just tell me the truth," Liu Shu asked.

"I want to go, but Father might find a family like the Xia family to be too complicated. I'm worried that he will be unhappy," Mo Zhu said softly.

"Hmph! You have me! Why are you afraid of that old man? As long as I agree, he has to go no matter how unwilling he is!" Liu Shu said.

"Is that so? Mother, do you like the Xia family? If you do, then let's go and take a look. Is that alright?" Mo Zhu asked as she looked at Liu Shu expectantly.

"The thing is that the purpose of this dinner might not really be to thank the Mo family, but for them to take a good look at you!" Liu Shu said.

"Mother, what nonsense are you talking about! The Xia family is not like that! It's just a simple dinner! Don't think too much!" Mo Zhu said shyly.

Chapter 1654 We Do Not Agree

The mother-and-daughter duo both knew very well in their hearts whether this was a matter of thinking too much. Why would a prominent family like the Xia family invite them for no reason? Furthermore, the invite was only sent to their family.

Mo Zhu had always been a child who knew her place. Her parents usually respected her opinions, but they were still the ones who made the decisions on key matters. This time round, she had actually forced her father, Mo Chou, to mobilize everyone he knew to help look for the Xia family's in-law.

Although the Mo family was not involved in the political, business and military fields, it did not discount the fact that they had taught many people who were in these fields. The Mo family's students could be found in all kinds of industries.

If the Xia family was just hosting a dinner to express their gratitude to the Mo family, they need not have made it such a grand event.

"Once we're there, we'll know whether I'm right or not. If that kid from the Xia family doesn't make things clear, then it'll never be possible between the two of you. I won't agree to it," Liu Shu said sternly.

Mo Zhu said nervously, "No, no! How can you be like this! Aren't you forcing him to make a choice then! We haven't reached that stage yet!"

Xia Wen and Mo Zhu were usually busy with work. Coupled with the fact that the two of them often went on separate business trips, their main form of communication was through writing letters to each other. Xia Wen would tell her a lot of interesting things that happened to him recently and she would also tell Xia Wen everything she had seen on her trips. The two of them already had an unspoken mutual understanding long ago.

"You still say that you don't feel that way for him! Don't worry, I'm not a vicious wolf and I won't eat him up. I just want to know if he's someone who is reliable. If there's any issue with his moral standards, then your father and I will not agree to it, no matter what. Even if the Xia family puts a knife to our throats, we won't agree!" Liu Shu said.

Mo Zhu leaned against Liu Shu's arms and said, "I just know that Mother is nicest to me~"

Xia Wen returned home on time after work. He had bought a lot of tonics and gifts to give to the Mo family tomorrow and also bought a lot of snacks that Mo Zhu liked to eat.

"Eldest Brother~ Something's wrong with you~ Who was the one who told me that you have no feelings for Mo Zhu! If you don't have any feelings at all, then how do you know what Mo Zhu likes to eat?" Xia He said as she looked at Xia Wen excitedly.

Xia Wen coughed out of embarrassment and said, "Cough, cough... These are just some random purchases! Don't you see that there are things you like to eat among these? Why are you so excitable! Go and help Mother clear the dishes. Don't sit here and stare at me!"

"Xia Zhe is already helping Mother! Xia Zhe is the one who cooks at home nowadays. While he's still at home, you should ask him to teach you how to make a few dishes so that you can make Mo Zhu happy in the future!" Xia He said.

"I already know how to cook. Otherwise, what do you think I eat every day! Dewdrops from the sky! I'm not an immortal! Why don't you just admit that you're the only one who doesn't know how to cook? Look at Qiao Mei, then look at Mo Zhu! They both know how to cook, but you don't know anything! Learning to cook is not to benefit other people, it's so that you can still survive when times are tough!" Xia Wen said disdainfully.

"I can accept it if you want to talk about Qiao Mei, but how do you know that Mo Zhu knows how to cook! Besides, why are you comparing Qiao Mei to Mo Zhu? Can it be that you've been thinking about her for a long time? You said before that you don't like her!" Xia He roared.

"Madam~ Please stop hassling me! Just go and do something else! Sister Wan Wen is preparing the crockery and cutlery and menu for tomorrow! Aren't you going over to help her!" Xia Wen said as he pointed at the storeroom.

Xia He curled her lips in disdain and walked away. Xia Wen sighed. He did not know how Deng Fan could tolerate Xia He. How could he stand such a "crazy woman"!

After the family hurriedly finished their meal, they started to tidy up the house. They even made sure that all the corners were clear of dust. They were so meticulous that the angle at which the items were displayed had to be precise.

Qiao Mei was in charge of choosing the clothes and accessories for the family, as well as the crockery to use tomorrow. She was the one with the best aesthetics standards in the family and was the most suitable person for this job!

Xia Zhe and Xia Wen were assigned the manual work. They were in charge of sweeping and mopping the floor, changing and washing the bedsheets and rearranging the furniture in the various rooms, among other duties.

Xia He and Wan Wen stayed in the kitchen to finalize the menu, ingredients and count the utensils for tomorrow. These chores were left to the two of them.

Chapter 1655 Sapphire

As for Xu Lan... she was hiding in her room!

She was rummaging through her belongings in search of the dowry she brought along when she married Xia Mao. If the Mo family was agreeable to the idea of marriage tomorrow, she would give part of her dowry to Mo Zhu as a first-meeting gift from mother-in-law to daughter-in-law.

She also wanted to give Qiao Mei a belated gift. Back then, she was not pleased with Qiao Mei marrying into the family and did not give her a first-meeting gift. That bangle which Qiao Mei received was a gift which Xia Jun gave on behalf of Wu Min. This issue had ended up being a sore point for Xu Lan.

Xu Lan felt that she could not be entirely blamed for this matter. If there was anyone who should be blamed, it was Xia Zhe! It was simply too unbecoming of him to marry Qiao Mei in private without discussing it with his family first! At that time, she was too angry and could not help herself from making things difficult for Qiao Mei.

After picking and choosing for a long time, she still could not find anything that she was satisfied with. She had never met Mo Zhu before and did not know what Mo Zhu's personality was like. What kind of bangle would be more suitable for this girl?

Qiao Mei gently pushed open Xu Lan's door and said, "Mother, why are you in the room? Go to the living room and get some fresh air."

"Mei Mei! Can you help me take a look and see which of these three bangles is more suitable for Mo Zhu?" Xu Lan said anxiously.

Qiao Mei picked up the three bangles and examined them carefully. The transparency of the three bangles were similar and the only difference was the color. There was yellow jade, imperial green jade and a faint red jade.

"I think this yellow jade is more suitable for Mo Zhu. She's more of a gentle girl and this design is most suitable," Qiao Mei said.

"Good, good, good! I'll go with your choice!" Xu Lan was about to put the bangle into a gift box when she stopped and said nervously, "Isn't yellow not a good color! Doesn't yellow mean 'prepare to stop'! Then this matter won't succeed!"

This was the first time Qiao Mei had seen Xu Lan being so superstitious. She was usually as open-minded as could be and could be considered a very modern person in this era. It was strange that she would start to believe in such things now.

"It can't be! Mother, you have to believe in Eldest Brother and also the Mo family. If this matter really doesn't succeed, then it only means they're not suitable for each other. In that case, it won't succeed even if we pray to the gods and Buddha. Let's not think too much about it," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"That's right! Xia Wen should be the one to fight for it! What's the use of me being so anxious here?" Xu Lan carefully placed the bangle in an exquisite box. This was a box which Qiao Mei had previously chosen for Xu Lan!

Xu Lan then took out an old and scruffy box from the bottom of the dowry cabinet. This box looked very old, like it would break apart with a light touch.

"Qiao Mei... This is what my mother left for me. It's part of my dowry and I'm giving it to you now. When you first joined the family, I had wronged you. I want to apologize to you now," Xu Lan said in a low voice.

"Mother! What are you saying! I have never blamed you. We're already a family, so why should we be so calculative? The past is in the past. Mother, don't dwell on it," Qiao Mei said as she held Xu Lan's hand.

"Then you must accept this," Xu Lan said expectantly.

Qiao Mei took the box and opened the lid gently. There was a sapphire ring inside. The sapphire was as big as a quail egg!

"This... this is too beautiful!" Qiao Mei said as she looked at the ring in the box in surprise.

Such a ring could even be put up for auction. It was definitely worth a lot of money. She did not expect to be able to see such a flawless sapphire in her life.

"Keep it well. I'll go and talk to Xia Wen and give him a few more pointers." Xu Lan patted Qiao Mei's shoulder and left the room. She went to tell Xia Wen about her experiences when she and Xia Mao first met each other's parents.

Qiao Mei looked at the family members who were gathered downstairs and smiled. She hoped that Mo Zhu would be able to become her eldest sister-in-law without any issues. Then the family would be able to get along well and gather together for chats. The family would finally be united and there would no longer be any more of those troublesome issues.

After finishing the chores, Xia Wen came over to Qiao Mei and said, "The matter with the Du family has been resolved recently. The Du family's father and son have both been arrested, but we are not able to arrest Du Bo's other son who's living outside. There's no conclusive evidence to prove that he's related to this matter."

"I think this is the ending he wants to see," Qiao Mei lamented.

"That's true. Du Bo deserved all of this too. He never would have dreamed that he would die at the hands of his own son. What about the issue of the Zhao Family Village? How do you plan to deal with it?" Xia Wen asked.

Chapter 1656 Test Site For Crops

Qiao Mei felt a little embarrassed. Xia Wen was so busy with work, but he still had to help her deal with the aftermath of this matter. She already did not know how much she owed Xia Wen. She did not know how to repay this kindness, so she decided to let Xia Fan and Xia Xing pay the price for her by letting them play with Xia Wen more often.

"I haven't thought about it yet, but I definitely can't let those people from the Zhao family off too easily. I want to make them pay a thousand times the price for what they did to my mother!" Qiao Mei said fiercely.

This matter was more difficult to handle. If this was in her other life, she could let the Zhao family members go to jail in a matter of minutes. She could get them convicted of dozens of crimes under the law.

However, in this era, she and the Zhao family had both secretly gone into business. If the news got out, the Zhao family could close the issue simply by confessing to their crimes. They had nothing to begin with and just needed to accept their punishment. However, Qiao Mei was different. Qiao Mei still needed to support a factory full of staff. If she was caught, the hundreds of workers in her factory would lose their jobs. She had to consider all her decisions carefully now.

"I know what you're worried about. Recently, the supply and marketing cooperative is undergoing some reforms. They intend to look for a few villages to use as test sites for planting crops. In the past, they used to buy produce from farmers. The quality of the produce differs greatly and the prices are also different. They want to try renting the land directly and then harvest crops at fixed timings. That would save them a lot of money," Xia Wen said.

"That's not a bad idea! The Zhao Family Village can be part of the trial!" Qiao Mei said with a laugh.

The people from the Zhao Family Village used to plant vegetables. Although the village supplied vegetables to the supply and marketing cooperative, the villagers could manipulate the harvest quantity.

When it came to the vegetables which they grew in their own courtyards, they would keep some of the harvest for their own use. They never got into trouble for that..

However, if the supply and marketing cooperative designated the Zhao Family Village as a test site for planting crops, all the land in the Zhao Family Village would be considered to be rented by the supply and marketing cooperative, even the private land inside the courtyards. All the crops planted on every inch of land would belong to the government and the villagers would not be able to touch any of it at all.

Furthermore, the rent paid for the land was also relatively low. It was only enough to maintain a family's household expenses. If the villagers were taught a lesson in this manner, they would naturally have to behave properly.

"I've already made the arrangements. You just need to sit back and watch the show," Xia Wen said.

As Zhao Liu did not receive treatment promptly, he was now in a vegetative state, having to live the rest of his life on the brick bed. Zhao Kai and Zhao Kun did not care about him at all. The entire house stank and the sores on his body had started to fester. He might be better off dead. In his current condition, he was just waiting for death to come. This was actually quite an appropriate ending for him.

Zhao Kai and Zhao Kun had already been arrested by Zou Ming. The two of them had committed all kinds of crimes, including kidnapping, robbery and gambling. Zhao Kai had even attempted to rape a woman. All the things they had done in the past had been dug up and there was no need to interrogate the two of them at all. There were sufficient witnesses and evidence present and they just needed to admit to their crimes.

Zou Ming even specially set it up in the prison such that the two of them would not be able to get too comfortable, especially Zhao Kai. He wanted to make sure that Zhao Kai received special treatment in the prison.

Xu Lan only allowed everyone to go and rest after confirming that the house was secured soundly. The next morning, Xia Mao went to pick up Xia Jun and brought him to the house. Xia Wen even instructed Luo Yu to arrange for a chauffeur to pick up the Mo family members to ensure their safety.

Along the way, Mo Chou had a worried expression on his face, as if he was about to be sent to the execution grounds. It was only when he arrived at the Xia family gate and saw the spirited faces of the Xia family members that his expression softened by a lot.

"Welcome to the Xia family residence. Come in and take a seat," Xu Lan said with a smile.

"There's no need to stand on such ceremony. Let's be more relaxed. We're all friends," Liu Shu said as she walked in.

Mo Zhu secretly came to Xia He's side. She did not want to sit with Mo Chou. It was supposed to be a happy day today, but Mo Chou insisted on making it look like there was a huge grudge involved. Anyone who did not know better would think that the Xia family had offended him in some way!

"Was it a tiring journey? This tea is made from tea leaves which my daughter-in-law planted herself. Try it and see if it suits your taste," Xu Lan said.

"I only drink Longjing tea," Mo Chou said disdainfully.

"Um... our family's old man has a weird temper. I'm so sorry! Just give him some water!" Liu Shu said awkwardly.

Qiao Mei had already expected such a situation. She immediately asked Wan Wen to serve Longjing tea and said, "I don't know what kind of tea Uncle likes, so I bought some of every kind. If Uncle is still not satisfied with this tea, we still have other types."

Chapter 1657 Making Things Difficult

Xia He stood at the side and secretly gave Qiao Mei a thumbs up. Mo Zhu almost wanted to clap and cheer for Qiao Mei. Before they left their house, Mo Chou had even promised her that he would definitely show respect to the Xia family later and that dinner would end happily. Who would have thought that Mo Chou would seem to have become a different person after reaching the Xia family residence.

"It's almost time for dinner. Everyone must be hungry. We've prepared food at home. Let's go and eat together," Xu Lan said.

"Is that so? But I'm not that hungry yet," Mo Chou said coldly.

The Xia family members, who had all stood up, now sat back down silently. Xia Jun sat at one side and shook his head quietly. Xia Wen's prospective father-in-law was not an easy man to deal with. Xia Wen would have to gain his trust and admiration before he would let Mo Zhu marry Xia Wen.

It was going to be difficult!

However, he believed that Xia Wen could solve this problem. Who would dare to look down on his grandchildren! They were all so outstanding among their peers! All of them were exceptional! They were all elites within their industries!

Liu Shu secretly pinched Mo Chou and whispered, "What exactly are you doing! Are you trying to embarrass me and our daughter!"

"Um... Xiao Wen, which school did you graduate from?" Mo Chou asked while enduring the pain.

"Uncle, I graduated from Capital University. Later on, I became a professor and taught at Capital University," Xia Wen told him honestly.

Mo Chou suddenly liked Xia Wen a little more. He had thought that Xia Wen, who came from a military family, would not have paid much attention to his studies. He did not expect Xia Wen to have previously been a teacher.

"What do you teach?" Mo Chou asked.

"Economics. Occasionally, I also give lessons in architectural studies," Xia Wen said.

"That's not bad," Mo Chou said. If Xia Wen had taught physical education, then the bonus points from earlier would be deducted again.

"Do you still have a lot to say to Xia Wen? Let's talk while eating!" Liu Shu said quickly when she saw that Mo Chou was no longer in a bad mood.

"Yes, yes, yes. Let's talk over there!" Xu Lan said immediately.

Everyone headed to the dining room. Xia Wen did not know if he should sit beside Mo Zhu. Logically speaking, they were now considered a couple and there was nothing wrong with the two of them sitting together. However, Mo Chou did not seem very satisfied with him and he did not have the guts to provoke Mo Chou.

Qiao Mei quickly gave up her seat so that Xia Wen and Xia Zhe could sit together while she sat with Mo Zhu.

"Mei Mei, my father isn't usually like this. Don't mind him. He's not making things difficult for you on purpose," Mo Zhu said apologetically.

"I know. After all, it's a matter of him marrying off his daughter, so he will definitely want to test my eldest brother. This is normal and it doesn't matter. Furthermore, Uncle's behavior only shows how much he treasures you. In the past, my grandfather also gave Xia Zhe the same treatment. Back then, he asked Xia Zhe many difficult questions and Xia Zhe almost didn't manage to marry me!" Qiao Mei said.

Xia Zhe was reaching out for food at that moment and he paused when he heard that. He glanced sideways at Qiao Mei and smiled. This little girl could lie with such a straight face. Back then, Qiao Qiang liked Xia Zhe very much. If not for the fact that Qiao Mei was a girl and Qiao Qiang wanted Qiao Mei to be with Xia Zhe, Xia Zhe might be Qiao Qiang's god-grandson now.

If Qiao Qiang did not like Xia Zhe, then whatever happened that night would not have happened...

"Actually, I'm also very scared that Xia Wen's mother won't like me," Mo Zhu whispered.

Qiao Mei pointed in Xu Lan's direction and said, "Do you think she doesn't like you from the way she looks at you? She can't let you out of her sight."

Xu Lan had been staring fixedly at Mo Zhu. Mo Zhu was a beautiful girl, but there was something different about her beauty and Qiao Mei's beauty. There was a hint of elegance and dignity about Mo Zhu that made people feel comfortable just from looking at her and drew people to talk to her.

After three rounds of drinking, Mo Chou became a little tipsy. He was not a drinker and would usually get drunk after one glass.

"Brother Xia! You're a pillar of the country! A stabilizing force of the country!" Mo Chou said as he put his arm around Xia Mao's shoulder.

"Is... is this how your father behaves when he has too much to drink?" Qiao Mei looked at Mo Chou in disbelief.

The corners of Mo Zhu's mouth twitched as she said, "Maybe... I also don't expect my father to be such a person?"

"I really don't expect it, but I think your mother is very chatty and gets along very well with my mother-in-law!" Qiao Mei said.

"My mother is retired now and she's been designing clothes nowadays. Women always have endless topics on fashion to talk about. I just wonder if Uncle can handle my father," Mo Zhu said worriedly.

Chapter 1658 One Size Bigger

The men of the Xia family were very good drinkers, especially Xia Mao and Xia Wen. If they were not in a situation where they had to receive toasts from many people, they would not have any problems at all. They would not even feel dizzy.

Xia Zhe was the only exception. Perhaps it was because he did not touch alcohol from a young age, so he was not as good a drinker as Xia Wen and Xia Mao. Otherwise, how could he have gotten drunk after having a few drinks with Qiao Qiang?

Mo Chou had only downed five glasses and he was already spouting nonsense. Other than having to be patient with the drunk man, Xia Mao was feeling fine in all other aspects.

"Don't worry, it's fine. Xia Zhe is keeping an eye on them. Let's go upstairs and talk. It's so noisy here and they'll still be drinking for a long time." Qiao Mei brought Mo Zhu upstairs. Xia Fan and Xia Xing were lying in the cradle and looking at the scenery outside.

Qiao Mei had asked Feng Hua to come over and help take care of the children. Feng Hua was not young anymore and when she heard that the two children had gone missing, she suffered a sudden heart attack and almost had to be hospitalized. Now that the two children were safe and sound, she could not bear to leave them at all. She had gone through the entire process of Qiao Mei being pregnant and then giving birth to these two babies. She treated them like her own grandchildren and treasured them very much.

Xu Lan had asked someone to plant colorful flowers in the garden at the back. She had heard from other people that bright colors could stimulate the development of the children's brains. Although she did not know if there was any scientific basis for this, she still wanted to give it a try. There was definitely no harm in them looking at flowers and plants often.

Xia Fang was the one who had these flowers sent over. Each flower and plant had been carefully screened and tested, in case the two children were allergic to pollen or the flowers and plants were of the poisonous kind.

"So cute~" Mo Zhu looked at Xia Fan and Xia Xing dotingly.

Xia Fan was sleeping soundly as usual. He did not pay attention to anything and only liked to sleep. When the two children were just born, they were about the same size, so Qiao Mei did not pay attention to this. However, by now, Xia Fan was already one size bigger than Xia Xing!

This had made Qiao Mei very worried, but the results of the physical examination showed that he was very healthy. Therefore, Qiao Mei let Xia Fan do whatever he wanted and also stopped controlling the amount he ate.

Xia Xing stared at Mo Zhu with her eyes wide open. This was the first time she had ever seen Mo Zhu and it all felt a little unfamiliar to her. However, she seemed to like the smell on Mo Zhu's body and even wanted Mo Zhu to carry her!

"As expected of Eldest Brother's favorite child. She even knows who her future eldest aunt-in-law is!" Xia He stood at the side and whispered to Qiao Mei.

"That's true~ My Xia Xing is very clever! Eldest Brother really didn't dote on her for nothing. If this whole matter succeeds, Eldest Brother must also note Xia Xing's contribution!" Qiao Mei said proudly.

Mo Chou was really too drunk and had to stay in the Xia family's guest room tonight. Mo Zhu, Xia He and Qiao Mei decided to sleep in the same room tonight and Xia Zhe was chased away by Qiao Mei to Xia Wen's room.

Xu Lan and Liu Shu chatted happily. The two of them were like old friends who had not seen each other for many years and had endless things to talk about. Mo Zhu had thought that things would be stormy today, but she did not expect everything to go so smoothly.

"Mo Zhu, are you really that fond of my eldest brother?" Xia He asked curiously.

Mo Zhu blushed and said, "How can you ask me that..."

"Come on, come on! Anyway, there's no one else here! It's just the three of us!" Xia He said excitedly.

Qiao Mei was also very curious about what Mo Zhu liked about Xia Wen. Xia Wen was indeed a rare good man, but Mo Zhu was in the prime of her life and should be able to find a young and promising man to spend the rest of her life with. Furthermore, there was a big gap between Xia Wen's age and hers, and Xia Wen had already been married before. By right, a girl with an outstanding family background like Mo Zhu would not have progressed further with him.

"Actually, it's nothing much... I think he's very humorous and he's also a very calm person. Whenever he encounters a problem, he will immediately take proactive action to resolve it. He's also very good at dealing with my emotions. He's polite and he's also very gentlemanly! Also..." Mo Zhu talked non-stop about many things which happened between her and Xia Wen.

Xia Wen had never told them about these things before. In fact, the Xia Wen they knew was not at all like the person whom Mo Zhu had described. It seemed that Xia Wen had many sides to him that they did not know about.

"No wonder you're so attracted to my eldest brother..." Xia He said with a sigh.

"It's still early days! Don't spout nonsense!" Mo Zhu said with a red face.

Chapter 1659 Some Progress

"I'm not spouting nonsense! It all depends on whether your family agrees to this match. My mother likes you very much! Our entire family likes you very much," Xia He said seriously.

Mo Zhu could feel the Xia family's sincerity and enthusiasm, but she did not have any say in these matters. Liu Shu and Mo Chou still had the final say. It was not up to her to decide on the matter of her marriage.

Xia He told Mo Zhu a lot of stories about Xia Wen when he was young, particularly the embarrassing ones. She even told Mo Zhu that if Xia Wen bullied her, she could tell other people all these stories and make him embarrassed!

Mo Zhu also told them a lot about her childhood. Qiao Mei just sat there and listened quietly. She had nothing to contribute. Her childhood in her other life was filled with painful memories and in this life, she had been bullied throughout her childhood. There was nothing happy she could talk about.

Xia He knew about Qiao Mei's background. When Qiao Mei first married into the Xia family, the Xia family had sent people to investigate her thoroughly. After knowing about Qiao Mei's past, all of them felt very sad for her and could not get over it for a long time.

"Alright, alright. Let's go to bed. They'll definitely wake us up early tomorrow morning!" Xia He said.

Early the next morning, everyone sat together for a meal. As they had drunk a lot the night before, breakfast was porridge so that they could have something light.

Mo Chou apologized for his discomposure yesterday and his attitude towards Xia Wen had already softened a lot. Liu Shu and Xu Lan were both very happy to see that, although no one voiced anything explicitly. After all, the current occasion was a thank-you banquet and not an engagement banquet. The children's issue could be discussed later.

Given that there was finally some progress, everyone felt much more at ease.

Just as they were about to send the Mo family off, Zhou Luo suddenly rushed in from outside the door. With her disheveled appearance, she looked like a lunatic.

"Qiao Mei! You black-hearted vicious woman! You caused so much harm to my two sons! I want you to pay for it with your life!" Zhou Luo pointed at Qiao Mei and shouted crazily. She even wanted to go forward to scratch Qiao Mei, but Luo Yu immediately stopped her. Xia Wen retreated towards the inner part of the house with the rest of the family while Xia He left through the back door with the Mo family.

"Child, what about your mother and the others? We can't just run away like this!" Liu Shu asked as she held Xia He's hand nervously.

Mo Chou also looked at Xia He with a frown. Yesterday, he and Xia Mao had a long talk about their respective family situations. He had told Xia Mao about the Mo family's current difficulties, and Xia Mao also told him the truth about the kind of dangerous situation the Xia family was in now.

"You should come with us. Tell the young girl and her two children to come with us too. She's pregnant!" Mo Chou said.

"It's fine, Uncle and Auntie. We have many guard team members at home. We all know how to fight and won't be bullied. Don't worry, we'll send you home first. After this matter is over, we'll go to your house and apologize formally," Xia He said apologetically.

Xia He asked Xiaobei to bring along two other guards and escort the Mo family back home. She only returned to the Xia family residence when the car disappeared from her sight.

Xia Lu and Xia Yan were currently in a very bad situation. Qiao Mei had given Song Dan a small bottle of 100-year-old ginseng juice to keep Old Master Song alive and in return, Song Dan had arranged for someone to dig up all the crimes which Xia Yan and Xia Lu had committed and had them sentenced with the most severe punishments.

They were about 20 years old now, but they would have to spend the next 15 years in prison. Furthermore, Xia Yan had a longer jail sentence than Xia Lu. He was sentenced to 18 years because he was involved in hurting the children and almost killed them.

By the time they were released from prison, they would be almost 40 years old. They would have spent most of their lives in prison by then. In addition, Xia Yan's injuries had not healed yet! He was on the verge of death but yet it was not serious enough for him to die. Qiao Mei did not want to bother with him. Xia Yan deserved what he got today. If not for him, Xia Fan and Xia Xing would not have gotten into such a dangerous situation.

"Eldest Brother, send her to the police station too. It's a crime to break into someone's house. Since she wants to reunite with her 'sons' so badly, let's help her," Qiao Mei said as she looked at Zhou Luo coldly.

"Sure," Xia Wen said.

"You want to chase me away! No way! I've already called Xia Guang. He'll be back soon! I want to see how your family faces Xia Guang! You actually harm all his three sons!" Zhou Luo said mockingly.

Chapter 1660 Special Status

"It's good for Xia Guang to be back! He should give our family an explanation! So many lives were endangered and there was so much trouble caused by his three sons! You'd better have asked him to come back! See how I'll teach him a lesson when he comes back!" Xia Mao said furiously.

As the eldest brother, he was allowed to discipline his younger brothers. Although Xia Guang did not cause any trouble for Xia Mao's family, his three sons were all very disappointing. Xia Xing's partner

almost forced Xia Wen to marry her and now these two remaining beastly creatures even wanted to harm his grandchildren. If he let Xia Guang off, he would be letting down his own family members!

They knew better than anyone else how dangerous it was for Xia Fan and Xia Xing that day. If Qiao Mei had not recognized that the handkerchief belonged to Xia Yan, the two children would probably be nowhere to be found by now. No one would know if they were dead or alive!

"How... how can all of you be so cold-blooded!" Zhou Luo said.

"We're cold-blooded?" Qiao Mei let Zhou Luo look at her for a long time before continuing, "If I'm cold-blooded, you won't even be able to see Xia Yan and Xia Lu alive now. All you see will be their corpses!"

"You! Dirty whore! I'll kill you! I'm going to kill you!" Zhou Luo looked crazy as she took out a fruit knife from her pocket and rushed towards Qiao Mei. Luo Yu could not stop her in time, so he pounced on her instead. As they struggled with each other, she slashed his arm with the knife.

Xia Zhe and Xia Wen quickly went forward to hold Zhou Luo down. Xia He immediately went to make a call to Zou Ming. Not long after, Zhou Luo was taken away by the police.

The wound on Luo Yu's arm was not deep and looked like a surface scratch. Xia Mao gave him a week's leave to go home and have a good rest. No matter how minor the injury was, he must take good care of it and could not be too careless. No one knew whether her knife was tainted. Xu Lan even instructed Luo Yu to go to the hospital for a tetanus shot and to take good care.

"She should be sent to a mental hospital! She's crazy!" Xia He said angrily.

Qiao Mei shook her head and said, "Better to send her to Zou Ming. Let him deal with it in accordance with the law and lock her up."

How could she be allowed to go to such a relaxing place like the mental hospital to enjoy life? She must pay the price for all her evil deeds. It would be best if she was locked away for the rest of her life.

Mo Zhu was not able to sit still in the car. Even after she got home, she was still very worried about the safety of the Xia family members. She wondered if that crazy woman would hurt them.

The Xia family's status was quite special. If that crazy woman hurt anyone in the Xia family, the Xia family could only subdue her, but they could not fight back. Otherwise, someone might make an issue out of it and make it sound like they were out to hurt commoners. They had made too many enemies because of the position they took on many matters, so they had to tread carefully all the time.

"Mo Zhu, you've been pacing in front of me for half an hour. Please sit down and calm yourself down," Liu Shu said.

"I can't... I can't calm down. I'm worried that something will happen to them. Qiao Mei is pregnant, what if she's traumatized by it? I heard from Xia He that Qiao Mei's current pregnancy has been a difficult one. Nothing must happen to Qiao Mei," Mo Zhu said nervously.

Liu Shu, on the other hand, did not think that the girl named Qiao Mei would be affected by any negative emotions. That kid had a determined character and was definitely not the kind of delicate woman who needed protection.

"I'll give the Xia family a call later so that you can feel more assured," Liu Shu said.

"No! Call them now! Call the Xia family now!" Mo Zhu said agitatedly as she grabbed Liu Shu's hands.

Mo Chou frowned slightly and said, "Xiao Zhu, let go of your mother. You've caused her hands to turn red. Have you forgotten about what I taught you?"

Mo Zhu quickly let go of Liu Shu's hands. She was taught to remain calm no matter what problem she encountered. It was always a mistake to react when feeling panicked. That would only make the situation worse.

"I understand, Father. Let's call them tomorrow. The Xia family is probably still dealing with those matters now," Mo Zhu lowered her head and said dejectedly.

Early the next morning, before Mo Zhu could even make a call to the Xia family, Xia Wen, Xia He and Qiao Mei came for a visit.

"Ding-Dong!"

Mo Chou walked towards the door, wearing an apron and wiping his hands as he said, "Coming, coming! Who is it!"

"Uncle Mo, it's Xia Wen!" Xia Wen shouted.

Mo Chou opened the door and everyone was a little surprised. He had given them the impression that he was the refined and learned type who was engrossed with literary works, so they did not expect him to be the one who did the cooking at home.