

Fat Wife 1681

Chapter 1681 Continue Studying

Xu Ju had already said that she would not allow Xu Man to continue with her studies. The reason was very simple. She said that it was a waste of money for Xu Man to go to school and that Xu Man might as well help her with housework at home or go out to work to earn money!

"Xu Jiao, how are your results? Capital University has very high standards. Even with the recommendation letter, it doesn't mean that nothing can go wrong. You also need to ensure that you don't fail any exams in school," Xia Wen said.

Xu Jiao stammered and did not dare to tell everyone about her results. She looked to Xu Ju for help and Xu Ju immediately said, "There's definitely no problem with her results! You don't have to worry about that!"

Qiao Mei looked at Xu Man, who was standing alone, and said, "Which year are you in?"

Xu Man threw Xu Ju a look of fear and then said cautiously to Qiao Mei, "Second year in high school..."

"Then how are your results? Are you going to university?" Qiao Mei continued to ask.

Xu Man did not dare to speak up. She and Xu Jiao were in the same high school, but in different years. She was one year behind Xu Jiao, but her results had always been top among her cohort without fail. She had even topped the second place by more than 20 points before!

Xu Jiao, on the other hand, was in last place in her cohort. Many people would use Xu Man's results to laugh at her. Every time someone mocked her, Xu Man would suffer for it.

After returning home from school, Xu Jiao would fabricate all kinds of lies to frame Xu Man and make her family members think that Xu Man had bullied her. Xu Ju would then give Xu Man a beating. Until now, there was not an unharmed spot on Xu Man's body. There were bruises all over her body from the beatings.

Out of the house, Xu Man was not allowed to tell anyone about her good results. She must appear to be inferior to Xu Jiao and could not overshadow Xu Jiao. Otherwise, she would get a beating again when she returned home.

"Not very good..." Xu Man whispered.

If not for the fact that the Xia family had already done a background check on Xu Jiao and Xu Man, they might have believed what Xu Ju said.

"Third daughter-in-law! Don't waste your efforts on that wretched girl. She's just a piece of trash! She's hopeless! Once she finishes school this year, I won't let her study anymore!" Xu Ju said disdainfully.

"She's still so young. It's better for her to continue with her studies. Is the family not doing well? Looking at how nicely Eldest Aunt is dressed, I thought that your family is rich. I didn't expect you not to have the money to send the children to school," Qiao Mei said as she looked at Xu Ju with pity.

"You! What nonsense are you talking about! My family is doing very well! This girl can't learn anything well. It's a waste of money to spend money on her studies! She might as well go out to work early!" Xu Ju said.

Qiao Mei looked at Xu Man like she was looking at the person who used to live in Qiao Zhuang's house. Xu Man was a smart person. If she was held back by such a family, her entire life would be ruined.

Xu Lan seemed to understand Qiao Mei's intentions and also started to persuade Xu Ju. "The child is still so young. Who wants to hire her? You should at least let her finish high school. If she manages to get into university, then she can earn money to pay for her own school fees. If she doesn't get into university, it's not too late for her to start work then."

"Eldest Aunt, if she stops going to school now, the neighbors will laugh at your family! Then it will be so embarrassing for you!" Xia He said quickly.

Xu Ju was stunned by what she heard. She had never considered these things. Her reputation in her neighborhood was already bad enough. If she did anything else to stand out, she would not be able to hang out in that area anymore. Those people could drown her with all their gossip!

This was especially so since Xu Man was an adopted daughter. In this era, if a child was disobedient and got beaten up or scolded at home, other people would pretend not to see it and no one would be a busybody. After all, the parents were just disciplining their biological children. As the saying went, even a monster would not hurt its own children!

However, if one beat up an adopted child, it would become a big deal! People from the community office and the neighborhood would come to investigate the issue. The parents might even be sent for reeducation or be criticized using posters!

"Fine, fine, fine! She can continue to study! I want to see how she will end up!" Xu Ju said.

Qiao Mei secretly smiled at Xu Man, who was in turn grateful to her.

"By the way, third daughter-in-law, I hear that you're from the countryside. Why don't you ask Xia Wen to get you a recommendation letter? This way, you can also go to Capital University!" Xu Ju said.

"My sister-in-law is preparing to take the college entrance examination. She doesn't intend to be admitted using her class background," Xia Wen said proudly.

Chapter 1682 I Will Take The College Entrance Examination

Xu Ju acted like she had heard the biggest joke in the world. Qiao Mei actually wanted to take the college entrance examination! A country bumpkin intended to take the college entrance examination!

"When you were in the countryside, did your family send you to school?" Xu Ju asked as she looked at Qiao Mei curiously.

Typically, families in the countryside would not let girls go to school. They would give such good opportunities only to the boys. After all, the school fees cost an amount of money which could feed the family for a month.

"My grandfather taught me for a while and I also went to school for a period of time," Qiao Mei replied factually.

She would take the two to three days she spent in elementary school as having gone to school. Besides, in her other life, she graduated with honors from a major university and had even received a doctorate in law! She would definitely be able to pass the examination if she put in more effort one month before the college entrance examination!

"You hardly learn anything in that sort of school. At most, you know a few more words than others. It's simply wishful thinking for someone like you to want to get into university. You'd better ask Xia Wen to get you a recommendation letter so that you can also go to Capital University! You won't get a chance next year! My Xu Jiao can also help you if you enter at the same time," Xu Ju said as she looked at Qiao Mei mockingly.

Qiao Mei had no expression but everyone else in the Xia family looked at Xu Ju angrily. Even Wan Wen glared fiercely at Xu Ju. What right did an illiterate person like Xu Ju have to lecture Qiao Mei in this manner!

Just as Xia He was about to stand up and speak up for Qiao Mei, Qiao Mei grabbed Xia He silently. Then, she gave Xu Ju a kindly look and said, "Thank you for your concern, Eldest Aunt. You don't have to worry about me taking the college entrance examination. However, Xu Jiao will need to put in some effort in the coming days. I hear that Capital University has an entrance test. If you can't pass the test, you have to keep taking it!"

This piece of information was true. Moreover, it was also Xia Wen who had suggested it to the principal of Capital University many years ago. Many people who did not finish elementary school could still find a way to go to high school and then source for a recommendation letter to enter Capital University by way of class background. This was very bad for the university's standards and also greatly increased the teaching staff's workload.

These were all university professors, but they had to teach the students elementary school subjects. It was really ridiculous.

After being reviewed by many different departments, Xia Wen's proposal was finally implemented two years ago. As it had only been implemented for a short period of time, very few people knew about it.

"What! I've never heard of it! Is this test very difficult?" Xu Jiao asked nervously.

"It's not difficult. It's probably the same level of difficulty as your final exam, but the requirements are quite strict. You have to pass all the subjects. I believe that with your outstanding results, you can definitely pass the test easily. There's no need for you to worry," Xia Wen said with a smile.

For Xu Jiao's course of study, Xia Wen had chosen physics. It was the most difficult course at Capital University to gain admission. Their entrance test was also the most difficult one in the entire university. He wanted to see if there was any truth to Xu Jiao's outstanding results.

"Why didn't anyone tell us anything about this? Why didn't we know earlier! Are you lying to us!" Xu Ju asked agitatedly.

"How can we lie about something like this? Of course it's true. It's just that it has only been implemented for a short period of time, so not many people know about it. You can't blame us for this," Xia He said.

"Eldest Aunt, don't worry. Those test questions are very simple. Isn't she one of the top students in her high school? She will definitely pass. Don't worry!" Xia Wen said.

Xu Jiao grabbed Xu Ju's arm out of fear. If she could not pass the test, did that mean she would have to keep taking it? That would make everyone laugh their heads off!

Xu Ju shook off Xu Jiao's hand angrily. She had really shot herself in the foot this time. If this wretched girl's results were as good as Xu Man's results, would she need to come and beg these people?

"Xia Wen, you used to be a professor at Capital University. You must know the examiners, right? Tell them to be more lax and just admit Xu Jiao. We're so familiar with one another, so why does it need to be so formal?" Xu Ju said as she looked at Xia Wen fawningly.

Xia Wen shook his head and said sternly, "Eldest Aunt, the Xia family has always been fair and just. I've already made it easy for you. The Xia family has already written a recommendation letter for Xu Jiao. The rest will have to depend on Xu Jiao herself. Otherwise, if word gets out, it will be bad for the Xia family's reputation! You have to see things from our side!"

Chapter 1683 Leave With Nothing

"How can you do this! This is different from what we agreed back then! Xu Lan! You have to give me an explanation today! Otherwise, I'll go home and tell Father! I'll let him know how you bullied our family!" Xu Ju said as she looked at Xu Lan.

Xu Lan's father would vent his anger on Xu Lan's mother whenever he was in a bad mood. Xu Lan's mother was still in their hands, so Xu Lan could not offend Xu Ju and the rest. In the past, the entire Xu family relied on Xu Lan's salary and the Xia family's help to survive. The good thing was that a few years ago, Xia Mao opened a small shop for them in the village and they no longer asked Xu Lan for money. However, the Xu family continued to create trouble outside.

It was Xu Lan's filial piety which caused her to be controlled by them. Xu Lan had no choice but to give them whatever they wanted.

However, the matter today was different. This matter concerned the reputation of her children and the Xia family's status in society. Xu Lan pondered for a long time and decided not to let the Xia family be dragged down by the Xu family. At most, she would just divorce Xia Mao and go back to the Xu family. She just needed to endure a little bit of suffering for the rest of her life!

Now that the children had all started their own families, she was no longer worried about them. She just could not bear to part with the two babies, Xia Fan and Xia Xing.

"Eldest Sister, our family has already done everything we can. If you continue to kick up a fuss, I'll have no choice but to leave the Xia family. When I go back to the Xu family, I'll have to rely on Eldest Sister and Eldest Brother-in-law to take care of me," Xu Lan said calmly to Xu Ju.

"What did you say? Go back where?" Xu Ju asked in puzzlement.

"I can't do what Eldest Sister wants me to do. The children have grown up and they won't listen to me now. I'm too ashamed to stay in the Xia family anymore. I'll divorce Xia Mao tomorrow. It's better for everyone this way," Xu Lan said, going all out.

Xia Wen, Xia He and Qiao Mei looked at Xu Lan in shock. They had expected Xu Lan to be joking, but she was speaking in all seriousness.

"What nonsense are you talking about! Do you children agree with her idea?" Xu Ju said agitatedly.

"Mother! What's wrong with you! What nonsense are you talking about!" Xia He grabbed Xu Lan's arm and questioned her.

Xia Wen also looked at Xu Lan without saying a word. Qiao Mei stopped to think for a moment and then said with a smile, "Mother, are you sure about getting a divorce? Alright! Let's ask Father to come back! Let's draft the divorce agreement!"

"Qiao Mei! Don't cause more trouble!" Xia He said angrily.

"I'm not causing trouble. Mother is an adult and not a child. She must have considered it carefully before she said anything. In that case, let's fulfill her wish. Since Eldest Aunt is also here, she can be the witness!" Qiao Mei said happily.

The Xu family could not afford to lose the support of the Xia family. Xu Ju had originally wanted to marry Xu Jiao off to one of the sons of the Xia family to ensure that the Xu family would be taken care of for a long time. However, none of the Xia family's boys liked Xu Jiao and did not want to discuss marriage at all, making her very troubled.

If Xu Lan and Xia Mao got a divorce, the Xu family would not be able to raise their heads for the rest of their lives in the village!

The Xu family bullied the rest of the villagers all the time and the two younger brothers of the Xu family even went around collecting protection fees! They had caused Xu Lan a lot of trouble all this while. If not

for the fact that everyone showed respect to the Xia family, they would have gone to jail long ago instead of just getting a warning!

"Qiao Mei is right. Since Eldest Sister is here too, I'll get someone to draft the divorce agreement today," Xu Lan said.

Xu Ju looked at the Xia family members in a state of panic. She looked at the silent Xia Wen and said, "You're the eldest son. Quick, advise your mother!"

"I respect my mother's decision," Xia Wen said.

"Eldest Brother! How can you do this too!" Xia He looked at Xia Wen in disbelief.

The more Qiao Mei thought about it, the more excited she became. She immediately said, "Oh my, there's still the issue of the assets! We have to work out everything clearly!"

"You wretched girl! How dare you eye your mother-in-law's assets!" Xu Ju pointed at Qiao Mei and shouted.

"That's the Xia family's money. I'm the third son's wife, so our family surely has a share of the Xia family's assets. I have to look out for my husband," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"I don't want a single cent. I will leave with nothing," Xu Lan said.

"You! You! All of you! You're all crazy! All of you are crazy!" Xu Ju said as she looked at them in fear.

Chapter 1684 Luxury Car

Xu Lan could not get a divorce! The Xu family still needed the Xia family!

The matter of the children going to school was a small issue. At most, Xu Jiao could just keep taking the test. She would eventually pass the entrance test one day. This was not something that was too difficult to achieve. However, if they lost the protection of the Xia family, they would not be able to survive for the rest of their lives!

"Cough, cough... Well... your family has helped us a lot, so I can't really ask for anything else. Xu Jiao can find a way to pass the test herself. Don't let this matter affect the harmony in your family," Xu Ju said to Xu Lan with a smile.

"Mom! What are you saying!" Xu Jiao said as she looked at Xu Ju anxiously.

"Shut up! There's no place for you to speak here! Get lost!" Xu Ju shouted sternly at Xu Jiao.

Xu Jiao had never seen Xu Ju so strict with her before. She sobbed and ran out of the door. Qiao Mei gave Luo Yu a look and he immediately followed behind Xu Jiao to protect her.

"Don't be so strict with the child. What did she do wrong?" Xu Lan said as she looked at Xu Ju.

If it was not the child's fault, then was it my fault? Xu Ju looked at Xu Lan even fiercer than before, but all she could do was to glare at Xu Lan.

As night fell, Xu Ju prepared to go home with her two children. Coincidentally, Qiao Mei wanted to head back to the courtyard house, so everyone went out together.

There was an imposing big jeep parked outside the Xia family's main door. There were very few people in the entire capital who owned this kind of car! One could not buy it easily even if one had money.

"Oh my, is this your family's car? You have a new car!" Xu Ju said enviously as she looked at the car.

"It's not our family's car. It belongs to Qiao Mei," Xia Wen explained.

Qiao Mei? Such a nice car actually belonged to Qiao Mei? How was this possible?

"Xia Zhe must have received an award for some sort of military achievements again and is letting her use it," Xu Ju said with a jealous look.

"No, it's Qiao Mei's car. Her grandfather recently gave a large amount of high-quality seeds to the country. In order to express our gratitude to Old Master Qiao, the country has specially allocated a jeep for the Qiao family's use. Old Master Qiao usually just hangs out around the alley and doesn't go out on long trips, so this jeep was handed over to Qiao Mei," Xia Wen said.

Qiao Mei did not even know about this. So this was the reward which Xia Wen mentioned. The car looked nice and seemed much more comfortable than the small sedan which the Xia family had arranged for them. Xia Wen must have put in a lot of effort to get this approved.

She and the children had to travel back and forth between the military family compound and their homes in the capital. It was a difficult drive up the mountain roads and it was not comfortable nor smooth to travel up the mountain in the Xia family's sedan. The journeys would be much more convenient with this jeep.

"Is this true? He must have made use of the Xia family as a back door," Xu Ju asked.

"If you don't believe me, you can go to our workplace unit to check on it. Everyone knows about this matter and it will be published in the newspaper soon. You can investigate however you want," Xia Wen said impatiently.

"I'm just kidding! Why are you so angry!" After saying that, Xu Ju looked at Xu Lan and said, "Since it's Qiao Mei's grandfather who handed over the seeds, why didn't you get a few cars for the Xia family as well?"

"What does the Qiao family have to do with our Xia family," Xu Lan said.

"If there's no Xia family! Where will her grandfather get the connections! Isn't it only right to get a few cars for the Xia family?" Xu Ju shouted loudly, as if she was afraid that Qiao Mei could not hear her.

Qiao Mei looked at Xu Ju teasingly and said, "Aunt, do you feel uncomfortable because your family doesn't get anything? Then why don't you go in and take a seat and get a feel of this car? After you're done, how about writing a review about your experience?"

"You! What nonsense are you talking about!" Xu Ju was so agitated by Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei did not care at all. She felt that shameless people like Xu Ju should get provoked a few more times. Otherwise, they would not know their place in this world!

"Aunt knows very well whether I'm spouting nonsense or not. If you can ask for a car right after getting the recommendation letter, will you be asking for the Xia family's house soon? My grandfather received this car through his own efforts and my father-in-law bought his house through his own hard work. Where do your family get your things from?" Qiao Mei questioned.

Chapter 1685 Car License Plate

Everything that the Xu family had was given to them by Xu Lan. Part of it could even be considered to be from the Xia family. The Xu family members did nothing to earn it.

None of Xu Lan's siblings were capable people and they only knew how to bully others. Their partners were also useless and it was good enough if they did not cause trouble for the Xu family.

Xu Ju was rendered totally speechless. She left angrily with Xu Jiao and Xu Man without looking back. Before they left, Xu Man turned around and gave Qiao Mei a look. She would never forget that Qiao Mei had helped her today. If there was a chance in the future, she would definitely repay Qiao Mei.

"Were all of you... acting just now?" Xia He stood behind them and asked.

"Are you only getting it now!" Xia Wen said helplessly.

"You're the only one who believes that Mother wants to get a divorce. We don't know how to hint to you. But then again, with you stopping her, it makes it more believable to Xu Ju that Mother really wants a divorce," Qiao Mei said.

Xia He looked at them in frustration. Fortunately, it turned out to be a good ending so she did not want to pursue the matter anymore.

"Give me a secret signal next time! You made me so worried for nothing!" Xia He said.

"Fine, fine, fine. I'll definitely give you a hand gesture next time!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Xu Lan looked in the direction where Xu Ju and the others had left with some melancholy. She did not know if they would make things difficult for her mother when they returned home. Although they were all siblings born from the same parents, everyone had a different attitude towards their mother.

Every child was born different, so there was nothing strange about them behaving like this. These people were probably evil by nature.

"You guys should hurry home. It's harder to travel around once it gets dark," Xu Lan said as she looked at Qiao Mei.

Xia Wen drove Qiao Mei back. On the way, Xia Wen thought carefully about Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe and their future plans, and whether there was any other collaborations he could do with Qiao Mei's factory in the future.

"I'll get the government to give you a chauffeur. This way, it's more convenient for you to travel around," Xia Wen said after thinking for a long time.

"There's no need, Eldest Brother! I plan to drive around myself! It's better for me to keep a low profile for now. Only people like Grandfather and Father should get a chauffeur. I haven't really made any contributions, so it's really too high-profile to have a chauffeur," Qiao Mei said immediately.

"You want to drive?" Xia Wen asked in surprise.

"What's wrong? Can't I drive? Eldest Brother doesn't believe in my driving skills?" Qiao Mei asked with a smile.

In her other life, Qiao Mei had a driving license and was even a slightly famous racing car driver. It was not a problem for her to drive the jeep, but she had to pretend not to know how to drive and go for lessons, otherwise it would arouse suspicion.

In this era, most drivers were men. Women mainly liked to be passengers so that they could admire the scenery. It was really rare to see a woman like Qiao Mei who wanted to drive.

"It's not impossible. Xia Zhe is a very good driver. You can ask him to teach you," Xia Wen said.

"Alright, when I return to the military family compound, I'll ask him to teach me. Otherwise, if I need to use the car, I'll still have to wait until he's back. It'll be a cold day in hell when he has some free time! It's still most convenient for me to drive myself around," Qiao Mei said.

"Alright, leave the car with me for a week. I'll go and apply for a license plate for your car," Xia Wen said.

"Can I choose my own license plate number?" Qiao Mei looked at Xia Wen excitedly.

Xia Wen was stunned for a moment before saying, "Of course. Why are you so excited though?"

In her other life, she had heard many people say that a nice license plate number was worth a lot of money! Moreover, the license plate number did not belong to a person forever. There was a certain time limit and after it expired, it would go up for bidding again.

"Then can I choose to have five eights?" Qiao Mei probed.

"Of course, but why do you like this number so much?" Xia Wen asked curiously.

"All business people want their business to be smooth and prosperous. Eight is a good number! It means fortune!" Qiao Mei said.

"Alright, then I'll get them to give you this license plate number," Xia Wen said.

"Can I get it on a permanent basis? I don't want to have to change the license plate again in a few years," Qiao Mei said.

"I'll try my best," Xia Wen said.

Chapter 1686 Married Well

After they reached the courtyard house, Xia Wen played with the two children for a while before returning to work. Recently, they were busy with the foreign trade matters and his entire team had to keep working overtime. As the head of the team, he could not be too relaxed.

Mo Zhu was also busy at work recently. He also wanted to send Mo Zhu home at night!

After Qiao Mei chatted with Qiao Qiang for a while, she returned to the front yard. After thinking about it, she felt that there was no point for her to stay in the capital. The next morning, she asked the Xia family's chauffeur to send her and the two children back to the military family compound. Now that she had a car, it was easier for her to come and go. She did not need to wait for the bus if she wanted to go back to the capital.

"Oh my! What an imposing car! Whose car is it?" Liu Yun stood in front of the car and asked excitedly. As she spoke, she kept touching it. She liked it so much.

"I saw Qiao Mei come back in this car just now! It probably belongs to their family!" Zhang Cai said.

"Her husband is so capable! This is the first time I've seen such a nice car! If only that useless thing in my family can give me a car! I don't even need such a car, just an old sedan will do! It'll save me from having to take the bus every time I want to go to the county city. The bus is so crowded!" Liu Yun said with annoyance.

"That's so true! We're not lucky and the men we married are so disappointing. Look at Qiao Mei's husband! Sigh... When my husband comes back, I must nag him! Ask him to learn from Qiao Mei's husband!" Zhang Cai said.

After Qiao Mei settled the children down, she went to the courtyard. She had thought that it was too dusty on the mountain road so she wanted to wipe down the car properly. She did not expect a group of people to have gathered in front of the car in the blink of an eye.

"Ladies, what's wrong?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

Liu Yun immediately said excitedly, "Qiao Mei! Your husband is so capable! You married really well. He made enough money to buy such a nice car for you!"

"No, this is not my husband's car. This is my grandfather's car," Qiao Mei explained with a smile.

Qiao Mei's grandfather?

Everyone looked at one another. They thought Qiao Mei was a girl from the countryside? If so, her grandfather must also be from the countryside. How could he have such a good car?

Although they were not very learned, they all knew that there were not many such cars in the country. Such a car needed to be allocated by the country! The country leaders drove such cars! They knew it from the photos in the newspapers!

"What has your grandfather done to receive this car?" Liu Yun asked.

"My grandfather is actually a retired soldier. He usually likes to fiddle with flowers and plants and also does some research on seeds. Some time ago, he donated a large batch of seeds to the country, about 100,000 pounds, to be used as the first business deal in foreign trade. That's why the country gave my grandfather this car," Qiao Mei said briefly.

If she explained it in too much detail, it would only arouse suspicion and make it seem like she was showing off. She just wanted to say something to dispel everyone's doubts.

Fortunately, Qiao Mei had gotten along quite well with everyone and they all believed what she said. In addition, she had helped Wang Nuo's family for so long, so Liu Yun and the others had long accepted Qiao Mei to be one of them.

"I never expected your grandfather to be so capable! How impressive!" Liu Yun said.

"How good are those seeds? Can they grow towering trees out of them? How did he get the country to give him a car?" Zhang Cai questioned.

"Hey! What do you mean by that! Don't you believe Qiao Mei!" Liu Yun glared at Zhang Cai unhappily.

Zhang Cai scratched her head in embarrassment and said, "That's not what I mean! I'm just thinking maybe I can do something and get the country to send me a car too!"

"Do you think it's so easy to get a car! Don't you know your own capability? We haven't even gone to school much, so we don't have that kind of skills! We should just stay at home and take care of our children!" Liu Yun said.

Qiao Mei immediately stopped them and said, "Ladies, don't argue. I'm just riding on my grandfather's coattail. He's already so old and can't drive. That's why he gave it to me. I have actually given you those seeds previously. You can go home and try planting them yourself!"

Actually, the seeds which Qiao Mei gave them were the same seeds she gave to the Zhao Family Village back then. As long as Liu Yun and the others planted the seeds and she provided the saplings with some energy every day, the taste would naturally be the same as the seeds planted in the fields.

Chapter 1687 Steamed Egg

"Is that so! Oh my! I must be too blind to see! I'll go home and do farming now!" Zhang Cai quickly ran back home to plow the land and sow the seeds.

When Qiao Mei first gave them the seeds, they were all quite skeptical. After all, every inch of land at home was very precious to them. The crops were meant to supplement their families' needs. If the

seeds Qiao Mei gave them turned out to be lousy seeds, then they would not have any additional food for the year!

Their families would starve if they just depended on the men's salary! Each of them had at least two children, and some families even had four to five children!

Having girls was not that bad as they did not eat much. A family with many boys had it tough! The boys could finish one big pot of rice in one meal and they might not even be full yet! The only way out was to grow more food at home.

Now that they knew that these seeds were the same batch as those being sent out for foreign trade, they would still plant them even if the seeds were lousy! It would still sound good when word got out!

Those seeds must now be kept under lock and key by the country and not available in the market now. Qiao Mei had given them bragging rights by giving them those seeds. When they went out to visit their relatives, no one would dare to say anything bad about them!

After dealing with these women, Qiao Mei was about to heave a sigh of relief when she turned around and saw Miao Le standing at the side with Zhuang Zhuang in her arms and looking at Qiao Mei eagerly. Qiao Mei pretended not to see them and was about to leave with the bucket when Miao Le blocked her way.

"Sister-in-law! Where are you going?" Miao Le asked.

Qiao Mei looked at Miao Le, a little lost for words, and said, "I'm standing in front of my main door. When can I go except into my own house?"

"Sister-in-law, I've been listening in for a long time. Is this car really yours?" Miao Le asked.

"If you've been listening for so long, how can you not know that this car is mine?" Qiao Mei did not want to waste her breath on Miao Le and wanted to open the door to enter the house, but Miao Le continued to block the way and refused to let Qiao Mei go in.

Qiao Mei took a few steps back and asked, "What are you doing?"

"Um... I have brought Zhuang Zhuang here to play with your Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan. I wonder if it's convenient for you?" Miao Le said shamelessly.

They were all neighbors and the men from each family were also colleagues. It would not look good if they did not get along. Qiao Mei did not want to be so calculative with Miao Le, so she let Miao Le into the house so that the children could play together.

Qiao Mei kept her eyes on Xia Fan and Xia Xing. If Miao Le crossed the line, she would immediately put a stop to it .

However, after observing for a long time, it seemed that Miao Le had really brought the child here to play. She was also very patient with Xia Fan and Xia Xing, but the two children did not seem to appreciate her kindness.

Xia Fan and Xia Xing were more curious about Zhuang Zhuang. They had not seen many children around the same age as them. Occasionally, Zhuang Zhuang would also babble a few words and the three children seemed to be testing one another. No one could understand what they were saying. Perhaps only the three of them could understand what they were saying.

When it was time for lunch, Qiao Mei was not very hungry. However, the two children needed to eat. Since Qiao Mei did not want to seem stingy, she had no choice but to make an extra portion for Zhuang Zhuang. The two children were still not old enough to be completely weaned from powdered milk, so she made some steamed egg.

As for Zhuang Zhuang... he was older and should be able to eat a bowl of steamed egg on his own. Qiao Mei also made some mushy vegetables for him, wanting him to eat more.

"Feed this to the child." Qiao Mei handed the steamed egg and mushy vegetables to Miao Le.

Xia Fan and Xia Xing could eat on their own without help from the adults. Although they would end up getting food all over themselves, Qiao Mei was not too fussy about it. It was just a matter of washing clothes. She thought that it was better to start training the children early.

Miao Le was so excited that she almost cried. She slowly fed the mushy vegetables to Zhuang Zhuang, who ate everything up enthusiastically. This was the first time Miao Le had seen him eat so happily.

After he finished the mushy vegetables, Miao Le started eating the steamed egg herself. Qiao Mei was dumbfounded by what she saw through the glass pane. She finally knew why Zhuang Zhuang was still so skinny despite his age.

With such an aunt, even an immortal would not be able to help Zhuang Zhuang gain weight.

"You ate the steamed egg?" Qiao Mei could not help but ask.

"Huh... Isn't it for me?" Miao Le asked as she held the bowl.

"Never mind..." Qiao Mei did not want to say anything else. Zhuang Zhuang was not her child and had nothing to do with her. He could stay hungry.

Chapter 1688 Freeload A Meal

The sky gradually darkened, but Miao Le still refused to leave Qiao Mei's house. She still wanted to freeload another meal!

Qiao Mei was not a fool. She knew what Miao Le was up to. Miao Le was still not as scheming as Qiao Yu! She did not know how Miao Le managed to go through life like this. Did her family not teach her anything?

As it got later and later, Miao Le finally could not sit still anymore. If she waited any longer, her brother-in-law would probably come looking for her. If so, she would never be able to come to Qiao Mei's house to freeload again.

There was still a long time ahead. She could not throw away all those future delicious meals for this meal!

"Sister-in-law, it's getting late. I'll go off with the child first!" Miao Le said reluctantly.

"Alright, goodbye," Qiao Mei said coldly.

As soon as Miao Le stepped out of Qiao Mei's courtyard, Qiao Mei immediately put the meat she had prepared in advance into the pot. The fragrance of meat immediately wafted out from the kitchen and everyone could smell the fragrance of the food from her kitchen.

Miao Le craved it so much that she could not even walk. She stood at the door and stared straight at Qiao Mei's kitchen.

The two of them were clearly about the same age, so how could Qiao Mei be so lucky to be able to marry such a good man?

Miao Le had insisted on staying in the military family compound for so long because she wanted to find a husband here. If she could do that, she would be able to move into the military family compound openly and no longer have to live under someone else's watchful eyes.

She had to take good care of Zhuang Zhuang so that she could continue to stay here. If anything should happen to Zhuang Zhuang, she would be sent back to her hometown. At that time, her family would just sell her off to a random man. They might as well just kill her!

Xia Zhe knew that Qiao Mei had come back today, so he ran home as soon as he got off the bus. As he ran, he hummed a happy tune. There was nothing happier than being able to see his wife.

He did not even care that there was someone standing at the door and rushed into the courtyard and then into the house. He hugged Qiao Mei and said, "Why did you come back suddenly without telling me! I miss you so much!"

Qiao Mei shyly broke free from Xia Zhe's arms and said, "There's still someone outside! Be mindful of your image!"

"Someone? Who is she? It feels as if she's been standing at our door for a long time," Xia Zhe asked curiously.

"Why is your memory so bad? Isn't that Tian Jun's sister-in-law! At that time, you were still feeling indignant for me, but now you can't even remember," Qiao Mei said disdainfully.

"Why should I remember other women? I do know her brother-in-law though. Tian Jun is a very awkward person. I don't really like going on missions with him," Xia Zhe whispered.

"You have a choice when you go on missions? Don't you have to do whatever the higher-ups arrange?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"That's right! That's why I don't like it! Don't tell me she's here to freeload a meal?" Xia Zhe said.

Qiao Mei immediately gave Xia Zhe a thumbs up and said, "Not bad! You've made great progress. You can even tell what's going on!"

"Then just let her keep looking. Go into the room and take a rest. Let me show you what I can do!" Xia Zhe said proudly.

Qiao Mei did not stop Xia Zhe. She must give him some opportunities to practice.

When Miao Le saw how loving Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe were, she could not help but feel jealous. In the future, she must definitely find a man as good as Xia Zhe! She wondered if Xia Zhe had any brothers. If he did, maybe his brother could marry her.

She fantasized about marrying into the Xia family as she walked away from Qiao Mei's house. During dinner that night, Qiao Mei told Xia Zhe about the jeep parked at the door.

"Eldest Brother is really amazing to be able to apply for a car!" Xia Zhe said in shock.

When Xia Zhe was in the army base, his family members would not call him as and when they liked. As long as it was not a matter of life and death, they would not make calls to him.

Qiao Mei told Xia Zhe all the gossip she heard so far and he had fun listening to her. The two of them chatted and laughed as they finished their dinner.

"Teach me how to drive!" Qiao Mei said excitedly.

"Drive? You're sure?" Xia Zhe said with a slight frown.

"Yes, I'm sure. Will you teach me or not~" Qiao Mei tugged at Xia Zhe's sleeve and said coquettishly.

Xia Zhe had no choice but to agree. He actually did not want Qiao Mei to drive, or rather, he did not want her to drive such a big jeep. It was really too dangerous.

Chapter 1689 Child Car Seat

Furthermore, Qiao Mei was pregnant! However, since Xia Zhe had promised Qiao Mei, he would have to teach her. He could not casually impose his own thinking on Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei happily carried the two children and put them in the backseat. After thinking for a long time, she said, "If I'm going to drive, I'll have to get child car seats for the two children."

"Yes, we need to do that. I'll give Eldest Brother a call later and ask him to buy it," Xia Zhe said.

Child car seats were rare in this era, but they could still be bought. However, it would take some effort and connections to buy them. Sometimes, one might have to wait for up to half a month!

"How can we trouble Eldest Brother over such a small thing?" Qiao Mei said, feeling a little embarrassed.

It was one thing to trouble Eldest Brother in the capital, but now she even had to trouble him to buy the child car seats for her. Did she have to ask him for help with everything in the future?

Xia He was like her diplomatic officer in the capital, and Xia Wen was like her family's assistant who stayed in the capital to handle all kinds of matters.

"It can't be helped. He has so many friends! By the way, how far has it progressed for Eldest Brother and the Mo family?" Xia Zhe said with a smile.

The two brothers had a very good relationship and would not be calculative over such a matter. Xia Wen was also a person who was willing to render help. Sometimes, he would even get angry if they did not ask him for help!

"It's progressing quite well. Based on what Mother says, she will let Mo Zhu decide on when she wants to get married. Moreover, Eldest Brother says he will hold a banquet this time so as to show respect for the Mo family," Qiao Mei said.

"Yes, he should. When the time comes, we have to give Eldest Brother a big red packet," Xia Zhe said seriously.

"Actually, I want to give Eldest Brother a house with a courtyard, like the one Xia He has. What do you think?" Qiao Mei asked.

Without even thinking, Xia Zhe immediately said, "No, Eldest Brother won't accept it. If you give him money, he might still take it. If you buy him a house, he definitely won't accept it."

Qiao Mei had no choice but to give up on this idea. In any case, there would be many opportunities in the future and she had many houses in her possession. She would wait for a suitable opportunity to buy a siheyuan courtyard house for Xia Wen's family.

Xia Zhe guided Qiao Mei to drive around the army base. Qiao Mei picked up most of the skills she needed and could be considered to have learned well. Late at night, Xia Zhe packed his luggage and returned to the army camp to go on a mission. This time round, he would stay in the mountains for a week with the new recruits. He would not be back for one week.

The next day, at the crack of dawn, Qiao Mei asked a soldier from the guard station at the base of the mountain to come over. Xia Zhe had previously given her a pass with which she could ask for assistance from the guard station. All the soldiers there used to be in his team, so as long as it was something that Qiao Mei wanted to do, they would help her.

"How should I address you?" Qiao Mei asked with a smile.

"Sister-in-law, you can just call me Zhu Zi. That's what everyone calls me," Zhu Zi said shyly.

This was the first time Zhu Zi had seen Qiao Mei. Previously, he had only heard that Xia Zhe's wife was very beautiful, but he did not expect her to be this good-looking. To him, she looked like a fairy.

"Zhu Zi, can you drive me and the children back to the capital?" Qiao Mei asked.

"No problem!" Zhu Zi said.

They were all soldiers who had undergone strict training. They could even operate tanks and fly planes, let alone drive a car!

Zhu Zi was a steady driver and they reached the capital very quickly. When Qiao Mei carried Xia Fan and Xia Xing into Xu Lan's house, Xu Lan widened her eyes and thought that she was imagining things.

"Why are you back? Didn't you just go over there? Did Xia Zhe bully you?" Xu Lan asked.

"No! It's just that I want to ask Eldest Brother for help with something," Qiao Mei said as she looked at Xia Wen, who was sitting at the side.

Xia Wen said in a knowing manner, "Is it about child car seats?"

"Eldest Brother, how do you know?" Qiao Mei asked Xia Wen in shock.

"I've already thought about this issue. It's just that I didn't expect you to want to drive. Still, no matter what, the children will definitely have to sit in the car at some point. So when I went on a business trip last month, I had already asked my friend to help me buy two child car seats and told him to bring them back with him on his flight," Xia Wen said.

"Eldest Brother is so thoughtful! I didn't even think about these things," Qiao Mei said.

"Stay in the capital for a few days. The child car seats will be here the day after tomorrow. You can go back after the license plate and the car seats are installed," Xia Wen instructed.

Chapter 1690 Uninvited Guest

"Um... Eldest Brother, I have something else to trouble you," Qiao Mei said embarrassedly.

"There's no need to stand on ceremony with me. Just say it," Xia Wen said.

"Since I still have to stay in the capital for a few more days and have nothing to do, can you find someone to teach me how to drive? I want to learn how to drive as soon as possible," Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Mei needed an excuse and a way to cover up the fact that she already knew how to drive. Besides, she really wanted to be able to drive around as soon as possible. That would be so convenient. It would not be like now, when she would have to find all kinds of reasons to get help if she wanted to go out.

"Sure, but can't you just ask Chi Ze or one of the guys? Didn't they used to be drivers in the army? He may even have been the team leader!" Xia Wen said.

Qiao Mei slapped her thigh and said, "That's right! How could I have forgotten about this!"

It seemed to be true that women developed brain fog after pregnancy. Back then, Xia Zhe had asked Chi Ze to come to the capital to work because Chi Ze knew how to drive. Even without Chi Ze, both Da Zhuang and Xiao Zhuang stationed at her house were members of the guard team. All the members of the guard team knew how to drive. She could just ask any one of them to teach her!

After having a meal with Xu Lan and the others, Qiao Mei handed the children over to Xu Lan. She wanted to learn how to drive as soon as possible in the next few days and she could not bring them along. Now that Xu Lan was the only one at home and Luo Yu was around to stand guard, there should not be any problems.

Qiao Mei went home by car and saw an uninvited guest standing at the door.

"Why are you standing outside my house? Did you make a wrong turn?" Qiao Mei said bluntly.

"In this alley, I only know your family. How can I be at the wrong place?" He Ning said to Qiao Mei with a grin.

It looked like there was a spy from the He family among the people around Qiao Mei. Otherwise, how could the He family know where she was? She had returned to the capital on a whim today and did not inform the family in advance. It would seem that this spy was either stationed in the guard booth at the entrance of Xu Lan's neighborhood or the military family compound.

"Why are you here?" Qiao Mei asked coldly.

"Is this how you treat me? I'm a guest after all," He Ning said unhappily.

"Only a person who is invited to my house is considered a guest. Firstly, you didn't tell me in advance and secondly, I didn't give you permission to come. So what kind of guest are you? Take care on your way out. I won't send you off!" After saying that, Qiao Mei walked into the courtyard. If Miao Le had said that she wanted to visit her, she might still be able to agree reluctantly. If the person who wanted to visit was He Ning, she definitely would not let him into her house.

He Ning blocked her way and said, "What if I say that I have information about the real mastermind behind the kidnapping of your two children?"

Qiao Mei laughed coldly. She was already showing respect to He Ning by not seeking him out about this matter. She did not expect He Ning to take the initiative to come looking for her now.

She did not believe that He Ning was not involved at all in this matter, but He Ning had indeed done it flawlessly. Xia Mao and Xia Xiu had investigated very thoroughly, but in the end, everything led them to the Du family and there was nothing that pointed to the He family.

However, this modus operandi seemed to fit He Ning's style. He Ning had been active in the capital for so many years and it was not for nothing. Sooner or later, Xia Mao and Xia Xiu would find the evidence to bring He Ning to justice.

"Oh? Don't tell me you know?" Qiao Mei asked.

"I do. I have come here today especially to tell you," He Ning said firmly.

"Then tell me, who is the real mastermind?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"I can't tell you here. Let me in and I'll tell you," He Ning said.

Qiao Mei noted the way He Ning kept her in suspense and decided not to argue with him. She would let him take a seat inside.

As soon as He Ning entered, he was attracted by the plants, furnishings and antique calligraphy and paintings in the house. Back then, when he arranged for someone to investigate the secret stash of items underneath this house, the courtyard still looked a little rundown. He did not expect Qiao Mei to have done it up so nicely.

"Where did you get all these things?" He Ning asked.

"They're all from Antique City. If you don't believe me, I can show you all the receipts. Everything is stamped! It's all written in black and white and there's no hanky panky!" Qiao Mei emphasized.

Qiao Mei had not forgotten how He Ning had caused her house to need extensive repairs!