

Fat Wife 1691

Chapter 1691 I Have Evidence

"Well... I think this place looks good. Both the layout and fitout are quite nice, so I want to use your place as a reference. I'll get my staff to help me renovate my house in the same way," He Ning praised.

"Well, it's all thanks to you. It's because of you that we are able to renovate so extensively. Speaking of this, I really have to thank you!" Qiao Mei said coldly.

He Ning smiled awkwardly. If he had known that Qiao Mei's culinary skills were so good back then, he definitely would not have attacked the Xia family so blatantly. In Qiao Mei's eyes right now, there was nothing good about him at all.

He must quickly find ways to make Qiao Mei like him more. Otherwise, when He Mei's baby was born in a few months' time, Qiao Mei would definitely vent all her anger on him. At that time, he would not be able to get her to be his chef!

"I have ordered a pair of gold locks for your two children. Consider it my first-meeting gift to them," He Ning said as he took out two necklaces with gold lock pendants from his pocket.

"Then I'll thank you on their behalf." Qiao Mei quickly took the gold locks from He Ning. It would be a waste not to take something for free. Since He Ning was so stupid and rich, she would accept the gift.

He Ning sat quietly in the living room and looked at Qiao Mei. He did not speak or move and just sat there motionlessly.

"Don't you have something to say to me? You can start," Qiao Mei said.

"There's no hurry. Isn't it dinner time now? Let's have dinner together!" He Ning said with a smile.

"There's no dinner in our house tonight," Qiao Mei said.

"I've already come to your house to do you such a big favor. It's not too much for you to cook me a meal, is it?" He Ning said aggrievedly.

"I'm not the one who's begging you to tell me the information you have. If you don't want to tell me, then leave immediately. No one's stopping you," Qiao Mei said disdainfully.

He Ning was stunned. Someone had told him earlier that the Xia family's investigation was progressing very slowly. The reason why he took the initiative to help Qiao Mei was so that she would owe him a favor. Why did the current situation seem different from what he had imagined?

Could it be that the information he was given was wrong?

"That's not what I mean... But you still have to give me some benefits for what I'm going to tell you," He Ning said.

"How about I give you a bottle of medicinal wine?" Qiao Mei asked.

He Ning was not tempted by the medicinal wine at all. He still had three 100-year-old ginsengs in his possession! To him, a bottle of medicinal wine was no different from the ginsengs. What he wanted was for Qiao Mei to cook for him every day.

He had no idea that Qiao Mei had already managed to extract ginseng juice with a higher concentration. He was being too hasty in discounting the value.

He wondered when He Mei would finally give birth. Once she gave birth to Xia Zhe's child, he would be able to have his chef!

"How can one bottle be enough? How about this, you give me one bottle every month," He Ning said.

"Hmph, you wish. You should leave my house and stop bothering me," Qiao Mei said impatiently.

He Ning quickly said, "Fine, fine, fine. One bottle will do."

"If you have something to say, then say it quickly. If the information you give me is not worth this bottle of medicinal wine, I won't give it to you. Just spit it out!" Qiao Mei said sternly.

"I have evidence about Du Huai's crime and how he set up the kidnapping of your two children," He Ning said.

Qiao Mei looked at He Ning's face suspiciously. Xia Mao had found some clues related to Du Huai, but Du Huai was a very meticulous person. His style of doing things was similar to He Ning. The Xia family could only find out that this matter was related to the Du family and the biggest suspect was Du Miao, but there was nothing to suggest that Du Huai was involved.

"Are you telling the truth?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Of course I'm telling the truth. I can also let you take down Du Huai in one fell swoop and successfully eliminate Du Huai and his subordinates," He Ning said.

"How can I believe what you say is true?" Qiao Mei continued to ask.

"It's not difficult. Just hand over these documents to Xia Wen and tell him what I just said. I believe they will definitely know if I'm telling the truth," He Ning said.

Qiao Mei took the documents. The file was heavy and there seemed to be a lot of information inside! It must have taken a long time to gather all this evidence. Could it be that He Ning had already long set his sights on Du Huai?

While Qiao Mei was still thinking about the authenticity and credibility of the documents, He Ning was already thinking about what he wanted to ask Qiao Mei to cook for him tonight.

Chapter 1692 Waste Of Talent

If Qiao Mei knew what He Ning was thinking, she would have chased him out of the house with a big stick.

"How about it? Surely you don't think you have the shorter end of the stick?" He Ning asked.

"Who knows? For us to be able to pry such a good thing out of your mouth, we may have to pay a huge price in the future," Qiao Mei said mockingly.

"How can that be? When have I ever made huge demands from you? Instead, you're the one who has asked me for a lot time and time again," He Ning said.

You deserve it!

Qiao Mei had already scolded He Ning thousands of times in her heart. If He Ning had not started a fight and gone against the Xia family, her family would have had a lot less trouble and would have 30% less issues to deal with every year. The things she took from He Ning were all her entitlements and she did not take anything from the He family that she did not deserve.

She even felt that she had taken too little from him!

The next time I get some dirt on the He family, I must extort a good sum of money! I must not let He Ning carry on so comfortably!

"Fine, alright." Qiao Mei did not want to waste her breath on He Ning. She took out a bottle of medicinal wine from the bedroom and handed it to He Ning before saying, "Take it and go."

"Are you really not going to ask me to stay for a meal? Look at the time. There's no food for me at home when I go back," He Ning asked Qiao Mei pitifully.

He is the head of the He family. Who will believe that he would have no food at home waiting for him?

Qiao Mei looked at He Ning doubtfully and said, "Is there anything magical about the food at my house? Why are you so fixated? Can you live forever after eating it?"

"Erm... it's not to that extent yet... If you don't want me to stay, then I'll leave," He Ning said as he coughed out of embarrassment.

He stood up awkwardly and patted the dust off his clothes before leaving Qiao Mei's house with the medicinal wine. Before he left, he even accidentally tripped at the door and almost dropped the bottle of medicinal wine on the floor.

The fact was that Qiao Mei knew that the food she made was very delicious and that it made people healthier after eating it. He Ning had probably realized this as well, but she did not want to let him take advantage of it. She would rather feed the two puppies at home than give He Ning a bite!

Early the next morning, Qiao Mei asked to see Da Zhuang. All this while, she had felt a little guilty towards Da Zhuang and Xiao Zhuang. The rest of the team members were out working hard and making all kinds of contributions to the team, but these two young men had to stay at Qiao Mei's house to guard the house.

At first, there was a team of six people who were supposed to work on shifts. However, later on, Luo Yu felt that this setup could allow people with ulterior motives to plant spies in the house. If so, Qiao Mei's family would be caught in an even more dangerous situation. Therefore, he asked Da Zhuang and Xiao Zhuang to be fully in charge of keeping watch at Qiao Mei's house.

Although Qiao Mei paid them a salary every month, it did not change the fact that this would affect their career path.

"Da Zhuang, do you want to return to the guard team?" Qiao Mei asked.

Da Zhuang was so shocked that he quickly said, "Sister-in-law! Do you think I haven't done enough? I'll do better! I can improve!"

"No, no! You're both very good! I just feel that it's a waste of talent for the two of you to stay here and protect us," Qiao Mei said.

"That's not true! Sister-in-law, you don't know it but you've already helped Xiao Zhuang and me a lot," Da Zhuang said gratefully.

Da Zhuang and Xiao Zhuang were brothers and the two of them joined the guard team together. They left their mother and younger sister behind in their hometown. The two of them came to work in the capital and their younger sister stayed at home to take care of their mother. Their younger sister had long reached the age where she should get married, but their mother was seriously ill and bedridden, so no family wanted their sister as a daughter-in-law.

If Qiao Mei had not chosen them to protect her family in the courtyard house, they would not have received a salary that was several times higher than what they used to get. Moreover, Qiao Mei had even allocated them a place to stay. Although they had to pay rent, it still helped them a lot!

They had already brought their mother and younger sister to live in the capital and their family was finally reunited. Moreover, the doctors in the capital's hospital were highly skilled and their mother was feeling much better. Their younger sister had also found a partner recently. They heard that the young man came from a good family and the couple would be getting married soon.

If not for Qiao Mei, their family would still be in dire straits! It was all thanks to Qiao Mei that their family had what they had today!

Chapter 1693 Learn To Drive

"I'm so sorry. It's all my fault. I didn't ask more about your family situation. If I had known earlier, Auntie would have received better treatment and might have recovered earlier. Is Auntie doing well now?" Qiao Mei asked worriedly.

"Yes! She's doing very well! Previously, she could only lie in bed all day and my sister had to wait upon her hand and foot. Now, she can even go out for walks! She can basically take care of herself now. Everything's good!" Da Zhuang said happily.

"I still have some lingzhi here. It's very beneficial to your mother's health. I picked these in our village back then. Bring them back for Auntie to eat," Qiao Mei said as she took out some lingzhi from the cabinet.

"No! Sister-in-law! This won't do! This is against the rules!" Da Zhuang quickly said.

"We're all a family. Since you address me as sister-in-law, then you and Xiao Zhuang are like family to me. You always do your best to protect my grandfather, mother and my younger siblings, so I also have to protect your mother and younger sister," Qiao Mei said.

Da Zhuang was so touched that tears welled up in his eyes. He took the lingzhi from Qiao Mei's hand solemnly and said, "Thank you, Sister-in-law."

"Actually, I have something else to ask of you today." Before Qiao Mei could finish speaking, Da Zhuang immediately shouted, "Sister-in-law, just tell me what you want me to do! Anything you say! I'll definitely do it!"

"But I haven't said what it is yet? What if you have to go against the team?" Qiao Mei asked with a laugh.

Da Zhuang was in a dilemma for a moment. On one side was something he believed in and on the other side was his savior. After thinking about it, he finally looked at Qiao Mei firmly and said, "Then I'll leave the team first before helping you!"

"Stop it! It's not that serious. It's just that I got a car recently and I don't know how to drive, so I want you to teach me," Qiao Mei said.

"Huh! I thought it's something out of this world! So it's just to teach you how to drive!" After Da Zhuang finished speaking, he was dazed for a long time. He looked at Qiao Mei in shock and asked, "Sister-in-law... Did I hear wrongly? You want to drive?"

"That's right. I want to learn how to drive. Is it so strange? Why are all of you so surprised to hear it?" Qiao Mei said.

Da Zhuang looked at Qiao Mei with a solemn expression and said, "Sister-in-law, the car outside is too big and you're pregnant. It's really not safe for you to drive. The mountain roads near the army base are long and bumpy. It's even more dangerous for you to drive in that area in your condition."

"Don't worry, I know what I'm doing," Qiao Mei said.

Since Qiao Mei had made the decision, he did not want to stop her. Da Zhuang brought Qiao Mei to a wide open space and began to carefully teach her how to drive.

"The most important thing about driving is your state of mind. You must be focused and keep your hands steady. Don't be nervous and don't panic when something happens. This way, you're halfway to being a good driver," Da Zhuang said.

Anyone who did not know better would think that Qiao Mei had joined some kind of multi-level marketing organization. They had not even started practical lessons and she was being told that she needed to adjust her mindset first. Qiao Mei held back her laughter as she listened to Da Zhuang's teachings.

"Step on the clutch, change gears, gently step on the accelerator, then slowly drive forward. This is how you start..." Da Zhuang rambled on for about two hours, teaching Qiao Mei almost all his knowledge and skills.

It was not so much teaching Qiao Mei how to drive as doing a demonstration for her, just like how he used to learn in the army.

"Can I give it a try?" Qiao Mei said.

"Do you already know how to do it?" Da Zhuang looked at Qiao Mei in disbelief.

"If we don't try, we'll never know. Just supervise me from the front passenger seat. Nothing will happen," Qiao Mei said.

Da Zhuang sat nervously in the front passenger seat and gripped the handbrake tightly. As soon as Qiao Mei did anything wrong, he would immediately pull the handbrake. At this moment, he felt as if he was going to face death bravely. It was like he was not holding the handbrake in his hand, but the fuse of a grenade that would explode if he loosened his grip.

"Don't be nervous." Qiao Mei looked at Da Zhuang and comforted him.

"I'm not nervous... For sure, I'm not nervous... Sister-in-law, go ahead and drive! Remember what I just said!" Da Zhuang said cautiously.

Qiao Mei started slowly at first and pretended not to know anything, then she made it look like she began to catch on. By the end, she could even drift!

"Sister-in-law, you're really too smart! It's such a pity that you're not a soldier!" Da Zhuang lamented.

Chapter 1694 Mad Dog

Qiao Mei's sense of coordination and intelligence level were out of many people's league. She was thousands of times better than some of the soldiers he knew. Then again, there were also benefits to not being a soldier.

After learning how to drive, Qiao Mei drove around to explore the capital. She even went to pick Xia He up from work!

"Xia He, why are you in such a hurry to leave? Are you going on a date with a man?" Li Hua said sarcastically.

Ever since Xia He got married, she looked rosy and radiant every day. It was as if she had reverted to being 18 years old. The rest had been colleagues with Deng Fan before and everyone knew what a nice person he was.

He was handsome, had a good family background, had a good personality and was also a gentleman. Most importantly, he was a very motivated person! This was the rare part!

In the past, Xia He looked very haggard every day and seemed to have aged a lot. Now, she looked like a completely different person!

Ever since that musical performance, Xia He had become famous overnight. Many people lined up at the entrance of the art troupe just to catch a glimpse of her.

For performers like them, their "flowering period" was very short, usually between the ages of 15 to 25. Once they became older, it would become difficult for them to gain fame. No one expected Xia He to be so well-liked even though she was in her 30s.

"Xia He, ignore her. She's just a mad dog! She goes around biting people and can't stand to see others doing well!" Bai Dian said to Xia He after glaring at Li Hua.

"Who are you calling a mad dog!" Li Hua shouted as she pointed at Bai Dian.

"I'm talking about whoever responds to me. It's really strange to be able to see a ghost in broad daylight. In the past, I've only seen people fishing for money, but I've never seen anyone trying to fish for a scolding! It's really an eye-opener for me today," Bai Dian said to everyone.

Everyone laughed and waited to see Li Hua make a fool of herself.

Li Hua stomped her feet in anger. Every time she spoke, Bai Dian would scold her. It was as if Bai Dian was her arch nemesis!

Soon, it was time to get off work. Everyone rushed to the door like a swarm of bees, wanting to see if Deng Fan had come to pick Xia He up today or if any of Xia He's suitors had come to confess their love for her.

"Wow, Xia He, which suitor is this! Driving such a nice car?" Li Hua shouted loudly. The people passing by heard her and stopped in their tracks, waiting to watch the commotion.

For a moment, Xia He did not know who this person was. She had never seen this car before.

Qiao Mei rolled down the window and whistled at Xia He before shouting, "Pretty girl! Do you want me to give you a lift!"

"Oh my goodness! Why are you here!" Xia He ran to Qiao Mei excitedly, ignoring her colleagues who were standing behind her in surprise.

"Who is this person?"

"It's a woman driving such a nice car! This is the first time I've seen a woman drive!"

"What exactly is their relationship? They look like sisters. The woman in the car is so beautiful, even more beautiful than Xia He."

"Look at that car. I hear from my relatives that there are only 10 such cars in the country! It's exactly the same as the country leader's car! She's probably not someone ordinary!"

Everyone discussed animatedly, all of them curious about Qiao Mei's identity. Some people said that Qiao Mei was the daughter of some prominent family in the capital, while others guessed that Qiao Mei was the wife of some official. There were many different opinions, but no conclusion.

"It must be some official's mistress! She's so good-looking, she must be a kept woman!" Li Hua said as she looked at Qiao Mei with a lot of jealousy.

"Do you use your brain before you talk? Why does every person look sleazy in your eyes? Open your useless eyes and take a good look! That person is Xia He's sister-in-law," Bai Dian explained resignedly.

"Sister-in-law! What does her sister-in-law do! She can actually drive such a nice car!" a woman behind Bai Dian said in surprise.

"Hmph. If you ask me, it must be her husband who's capable," Li Hua said with jealousy.

Bai Dian rolled her eyes at Li Hua and said, "Her sister-in-law is the director of the Osmanthus Food Factory. Recently, she collaborated with the country and accepted a large field for planting test crops. She is bringing glory to the country, but what about you? What have you done with your life?"

Li Hua was so angry that she did not say a word. Her husband was a good-for-nothing! It was already good enough that he did not use her salary to go and gamble! What could they have done!

Chapter 1695 Break His Legs

"I'm here to send you home. Isn't this such a nice surprise?" Qiao Mei looked at Xia He and said with a smile.

"When did you learn to drive? Xia Zhe is at ease with letting you drive such a big car alone? Where did you get this car? When did you come back, why didn't I know?" Xia He had many questions for Qiao Mei.

During this period of time, she had been busy with the art troupe's next performance. She also had to guide the newbies who just joined the art troupe. From time to time, Xia He also had to go to the factory to help Qian'e deal with all those messy matters at the factory. She was so busy that she did not have time to go back to Xu Lan's place, so she did not know much about Qiao Mei's recent news.

"Get in the car first. I'll tell you on the way," Qiao Mei said as she patted the front passenger seat.

Xia He got into the front passenger seat nervously and buckled her seatbelt properly. She gripped the part of the seatbelt in front of her chest tightly and did not even dare to breathe loudly.

"Go... go ahead and drive!" Xia He said cautiously.

Qiao Mei drove off skillfully. It took a long time before Xia He realized that Qiao Mei really knew how to drive and was not joking with her. She only managed to relax then.

"Tell me! When did you learn how to drive! Why don't I know that you know how to drive?" Xia He questioned.

"For a short period recently," Qiao Mei said.

An entire afternoon could probably be considered a short period...

On the way, Qiao Mei told Xia He about the things which happened recently. She also told Xia He about those things in the military family compound, especially about Miao Le and Zhuang Zhuang. Qiao Mei gave Xia He all the details and complained for a long time.

"This is too much! How dare she use such a young child to threaten you!" Xia He said angrily.

"What can I do? That child is so young and I'm also a mother. I really can't bear to see him go hungry like that. If this was in the past, I definitely wouldn't care!" Qiao Mei said firmly.

Perhaps after becoming a mother, she had developed compassion for everything in the world and her heart was not as hard as before.

"Why don't you stay at home for a while? Once everyone knows that you're not going back soon, she naturally won't go and look for you after a while," Xia He said.

"Then the vegetables in my courtyard will die! I can hide for a while, but I won't be able to hide for the rest of my life. Forget it... It's just cooking a bit more for the child to eat. It's not a big deal. I'll definitely think of a way to make them stop coming to my house. Don't worry," Qiao Mei said.

Xia He pondered for a moment and said, "Can it be that... she has taken a fancy to my younger brother?"

"You may be right. I've been observing her recently. She does secretly look at Xia Zhe for a long time, but Xia Zhe seems to despise her," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Even now, she could still remember Xia Zhe's sullen face. Whenever he saw Miao Le, he would look unhappy. He found her to be very annoying. Every time he went home with an intention to get intimate with Qiao Mei, Miao Le was always there, giving him no choice but to suppress his longing.

"My younger brother definitely won't do those messy things. If Xia Zhe really doesn't know what's good for him and does such a heartless thing, I'll break his legs! I'll make him stay in bed for the rest of his life! I'll chop him up! I'll make him a eunuch!" Xia He said fiercely.

Qiao Mei could instantly feel goosebumps rising on her arms. Xia He was really capable of doing such a thing.

It did not take long for them to reach Xu Lan's house. Qiao Mei skillfully reversed the car into the garage. The people at the guard post were dumbfounded. A few days ago, she still needed a chauffeur to drive her back, but she could actually drive herself around now. Furthermore, she was as skilled as those of them who had been driving for more than 10 years. It was unbelievable.

"Mei Mei! You're finally back! You don't know how worrisome Xia Fan is! He cries every night! I have no choice but to wrap him in your clothes so that he feels better," Xu Lan said wearily.

This was also the first time Qiao Mei had encountered such a problem. In the past, Xia Fan and Xia Xing were not very clingy. They had never pinned for Feng Hua during the time when Feng Hua took care of them. Could it be that it was because she had been taking care of the children on her own during this period of time, so the children had developed some form of dependency on her?

"It's been hard on you, Mother. I'll take a look at the children first." Qiao Mei first went to the bathroom to wash and disinfect her hands before going to the children's room.

Chapter 1696 The Children's Car Seats

Xia Xing did not cry or make a fuss and just played happily with her toys. Xia Fan was totally different. His eyes were all swollen from crying.

After Qiao Mei coaxed Xia Xing to sleep, she walked out of the room quietly. It seemed that she had to pay more attention to how much the children relied on her. Otherwise, Xia Fan would go blind from crying.

"Mei Mei, have you gone to look for your aunt after you come back?" Xu Lan asked.

"I haven't had time yet," Qiao Mei replied.

"You need to go for a checkup to take a look at the baby from time to time. This is what your aunt told me. You must remember to go!" Xu Lan said.

"Alright, I understand. I'll go when I'm free!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Xia Wen got off from work early today and even brought back two child car seats. Today, the chauffeur had to send Xia Mao to a meeting and did not have time to pick Xia Wen up. He took the bus back alone and was totally exhausted when he reached the bus stop because of all the bags he was carrying.

"I'm back... Is there anyone who can come and help me..." Xia Wen said while panting.

Xia He quickly helped Xia Wen carry all the things behind him into the house. Apart from the child car seats, Xia Wen's friend had also bought all kinds of new toys. These were all the most popular items now.

"Qiao Mei, you're here too! I can install the children's car seats later. Did you bring the car back?" Xia Wen asked.

"I drove it back. It's parked in the garage," Qiao Mei said as she handed the car keys to Xia Wen.

Xia Wen looked at the car keys and fell into deep thought. He looked outside and then at Qiao Mei before saying, "You drove the car back yourself?"

"Yes, I did," Qiao Mei said.

Xia Wen was about to berate Qiao Mei when Xia He grabbed Xia Wen's arm excitedly and said, "Eldest Brother, you don't know how good Qiao Mei's driving skills are! She's much more steady than you! I always get carsick when you drive, but I don't get carsick when she drives! I think there's a problem with your driving skills! In the past, you always said that it's because I'm too delicate!"

It was not only when Xia Wen drove. Even when Xia Zhe was the driver, Xia He would also feel carsick occasionally. It seemed like Xia He only felt fine when Qiao Mei drove.

Xia He pestered Xia Wen and praised Qiao Mei's driving skills for a very long time. She praised Qiao Mei so much that he did not have the patience to listen anymore. He picked up the child car seats and left the house.

"Look at him! He just can't accept criticism! I haven't even said enough!" Xia He pouted.

"If you talk any longer, Eldest Brother will go back to work overtime," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Hmph, I'm just telling him that there's something wrong with his driving! I want him to correct it quickly! Otherwise, I feel very uncomfortable every time I sit in his car. I don't even feel so uncomfortable when Deng Fan drives!" Xia He said unhappily.

After the family had their meal, Qiao Mei brought the two children back to the courtyard house. Early the next morning, she set off for the military family compound. Xia Zhe had already been gone for three or four days. If she had to take time out to go for the pregnancy checkup, she would miss Xia Zhe's arrival home. Anyway, she could drive now, so she could go for the pregnancy checkup anytime.

At the family compound, Qiao Mei got out from the driver's seat under everyone's watchful eyes. All the women looked at Qiao Mei in surprise. They definitely did not expect her to be able to drive after just a few days.

"Sister! You're too amazing! You even know how to drive such a big car!" Liu Yun said as she looked at Qiao Mei excitedly.

"I only just learned how to drive," Qiao Mei said as she scratched her head in embarrassment.

"No need to be so humble! You're so amazing! We all think so! Go back into the house! It's getting windy, don't let the children catch a cold!" Liu Yun said immediately.

Qiao Mei first placed Xia Fan and Xia Xing on the brick bed. Then, she carried the things she brought back from the capital into the house bit by bit, including the things she brought back for the neighbors.

After Qiao Mei entered the house, the other women gathered outside and talked about her.

"Since Qiao Mei can drive now, maybe she can give us a ride to the county city!"

"That's right! This way, I won't have to squeeze on that lousy shuttle bus every day!"

"That's great! I must get along well with Qiao Mei in the future. Then she can also bring me along!"

These women were usually not very nice to Qiao Mei, but now that they saw Qiao Mei doing well for herself, they all wanted to come and take advantage of her! Liu Yun was so angry that she threw a basin of dirty water at them.

Chapter 1697 She Is My Sister

"Hey! Liu Yun! What are you doing! Don't you have eyes! Can't you see that there are people here!" Lu Lin shouted at Liu Yun on behalf of the other women.

"People? What people! I only see a bunch of beasts! You're worse than pigs and dogs! Don't gossip outside my house! Get lost! You're such an eyesore!" Liu Yun said furiously.

These few women lived on the higher floors of the apartment building and did not like women like Liu Yun, who were from the countryside. They had been at loggerheads for a long time.

Wang Nuo and Zhang Cai ran out when they heard the commotion. Seeing that Liu Yun was being bullied, they also stood up for her.

"Why are all of you howling here! Do you think this is your territory and you can behave atrociously here!" Zhang Cai questioned.

"Why are you so arrogant! It's not like it's your family who has a car! We didn't say anything about you! What has it got to do with you!" Lu Lin roared.

"You're standing outside my door and what you say makes me feel disgusted! I just want to teach all you ignorant things a lesson!" Liu Yun said domineeringly.

"Qiao Mei is my sister! I won't allow you to say bad things about my sister! I remember that you even bullied Qiao Mei's two children! How can you still have the cheek to say that you want to take a ride in Qiao Mei's car now? How shameless! You bully her when she's not doing well, but when she's successful, you want to bask in her glory! Pfft!" Wang Nuo pointed at Lu Lin and scolded her angrily.

"It's none of your business whether I want to take a ride in her car or not! Qiao Mei didn't even say anything! Why are you arguing with me here!" Lu Lin said indignantly.

Qiao Mei walked out of the house and said with a smile, "The fact is that you're not welcome to take my car."

"What did you say!" Lu Lin said as she widened her eyes and looked at Qiao Mei.

"I said, you're not welcome in my car. This is my car. If you want a ride, it's 100 dollars per person per trip! In the future, if anyone wants a ride, this is the price you have to pay!" Qiao Mei said.

Lu Lin looked at Liu Yun and the others and said, "See! See! You're still standing up for her here! She doesn't even want you to give you a ride too! It's 100 dollars per person. You should just go and be a robber!"

"We have no intention of taking advantage of Qiao Mei! Get lost! Otherwise, I'll beat you up with a big stick!" Zhang Cai raised her broom and glared at Lu Lin and the other women with her.

Lu Lin and her group were so frightened that they hurriedly ran home. As they ran, they continued to scold Liu Yun and the others. Lu Lin even tripped and fell and looked extremely comical with her face covered in dust.

After those people left, Qiao Mei brought out the fabric she had bought from the shop in the capital and said, "Ladies, don't be angry with them. Come and take a look at the fabric I brought back. Each of you has a share. Take a look and see which one you want. You can bring it home to make some new clothes for your family."

The material was so much better than the ones sold in the county city! The style was beautiful too. They had never seen such beautiful designs!

"I didn't expect you to keep us in mind even when you go home! This fabric is really beautiful!" Wang Nuo said embarrassedly.

"I know that all of you are very nice to me," Qiao Mei said seriously.

"You're younger than us and we're all neighbors. It's only right that we take good care of you!" Liu Yun said happily.

"Ladies, come and pick the one you want. Sister-in-law Liu, look at this blue fabric. It's suitable to make clothes for your child! Sister-in-law Wang, look at this military green color. It's just right for your second son! I remember that Sister-in-law Zhang's daughter likes pink the most. This fabric is so nice!" Qiao Mei said.

The women chattered away and began to discuss the style and style of the clothes. There was no end to the discussion. Since they were people who came from poor backgrounds, they knew how to make clothes, but only knew basic sewing and mending. They did not know how to make clothes that looked good.

"Sigh... My daughter doesn't like me making clothes for her! She says that the clothes I make are too ugly," Zhang Cai said dejectedly as she held up the fabric.

"Fortunately, I have a son who's not very picky about such things," Liu Yun said.

"He hasn't reached that age yet! My eldest son cares very much about his image now! He even tells me what he wants me to buy... something called a Breton top! I don't even know what that is!" Wang Nuo said helplessly.

"Oh my! I heard my daughter mention it once! It's very expensive! One top costs more than 100 dollars!" Zhang Cai said.

"Is that so! It's so expensive! What kind of clothing costs so much! I can't buy it for them!" Wang Nuo said quickly.

Chapter 1698 Life Is Unpredictable

Qiao Mei had heard of that before. When Zhang Wei returned home, he had mentioned it to Li Gui a few times. Li Gui had bought one piece each for all the four children and it was indeed not cheap. Ordinary families would not be able to afford it.

She was one of those who could afford it. If everyone continued to get along well with her in the future, it was not too difficult a matter for her to give their sons one piece each.

"Sister, don't take what those b*tches said to heart. Nothing nice comes out of their mouths! They're ignorant people who just want to bully us! Don't lower yourself to their level," Wang Nuo said.

"I know. Ladies, don't be angry as well. What I said just now was just to make them angry. Don't take it to heart. I know you have my best interests at heart," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Qiao Mei could not wait for Lu Lin to go around and publicize everything she said today. This way, she would not have to worry about others trying to hitch a ride with her since they would think that she was a money-grubber.

"We know it of course! We remember your kindness to us! In our hearts, you're already one of us. We're all family!" Liu Yun said agitatedly.

"That's right!" Wang Nuo and Zhang Cai echoed.

Qiao Mei did not expect that the three people who looked down on her the most in the beginning would be the ones who were so nice to her now. Life was really unpredictable!

Liu Yun and the other women were just suffering from the aftereffects of being bullied by the people living in the apartment building. They subconsciously had a bad impression of people from the city. However, after witnessing how capable Qiao Mei was, they all admired her very much.

It suddenly struck her that she had not seen Song Zhi for a long time. She wondered how Song Zhi was doing now and if Song Zhi's husband still bullied her.

"Ladies, have you seen Sister Song Zhi recently?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"Why do you want to bring up that unlucky woman!" Liu Yun said disdainfully.

"We haven't seen her for a few days. We don't even see her husband and we don't know what her entire family is doing. I heard from my husband that Song Zhi washed her husband's letters together with the laundry. Her husband flew into a rage and hit her!" Wang Nuo whispered.

Zhang Cai also continued softly, "That's right! I also heard the screams. Sigh... She's actually quite a poor thing, but then again, she asked for it. We don't know the details either. It looks like their family is about to move away, so don't ask too many questions. Just pretend that you don't know anything."

Qiao Mei nodded. She was just asking about it casually and did not expect so many things to have happened while she was away. Life was really unpredictable.

After chatting for a while, everyone went back home happily with the fabric. Qiao Mei also went home happily to cook for Xia Zhe.

Today was the day that Xia Zhe would return from his mission. She must make a table full of dishes to welcome him back!

However, Xia Zhe did not return even after midnight. The other people with him also did not come back. Qiao Mei really could not wait any longer and made a call to Zhao Wu.

"Hello, I'm Qiao Mei, Comrade Xia Zhe's wife. Is it alright if I want to talk to Comrade Zhao Wu?" Qiao Mei said.

Family members living in the military family compound were allowed to make phone calls to the army camp. This was a right granted to them, but only a few families received the approval to install telephones in their homes so that they could contact the army base directly in case of emergencies.

"Hello, comrade. I'm the operator. I'll get someone to call Comrade Zhao Wu to come to the phone. Wait a moment." After saying that, the operator made arrangements for someone to go and look for Zhao Wu. Not long after, Zhao Wu ran over.

He picked up the phone while still panting and said, "Hello? Sister-in-law? Why are you looking for me?"

"I just want to ask if Xia Zhe is back? I remember that today is the day he comes home. Why isn't he back yet?" Qiao Mei asked worriedly.

In the past, whatever information Xia Zhe gave Qiao Mei was usually accurate and did not deviate too much. This was the first time something like today had happened.

"They're not back yet. Sister-in-law, you should go and take a rest first. I talked to them on the phone yesterday. Xia Zhe is fine. Perhaps the mountain road is not easy to walk at night, so they need more time. Don't worry. If he doesn't make it back tonight, we will definitely get some news tomorrow!" Zhao Wu said.

"Alright, I'll wait a little longer." Qiao Mei hung up after saying that.

Chapter 1699 Injured

For some reason, Qiao Mei suddenly felt a little flustered. She had never felt this way before. She quickly called Xu Lan, Xia He, Qiao Qiang, Li Gui and Qian'e to confirm that they were all fine before she felt more at ease.

She thought that perhaps she was just overthinking...

Qiao Mei tried to console herself. After finishing her meal alone, she put the food into the fridge and hugged the two children to sleep.

When it was almost dawn, Qiao Mei suddenly caught a whiff of a strong scent of blood. She looked up and saw Xia Zhe quietly opening the door and entering the house.

"Did I open the door too loudly? I didn't expect to wake you up," Xia Zhe said as he scratched his head in embarrassment.

"Are you injured?" Qiao Mei asked with a frown.

"I'm not. I'm covered in the blood of my comrades," Xia Zhe said vaguely.

Qiao Mei did not believe what Xia Zhe said. She got up and ripped open Xia Zhe's clothes. Xia Zhe's body was wrapped in bandages and his blood had already soaked through the bandages and stained his clothes.

"You're talking nonsense! What exactly is going on!" Qiao Mei said in a low voice, her heart aching for him. She was worried that if she spoke too loudly, she would wake the children.

"It's just some minor injuries. It's not a big deal. This time, the team was full of new recruits. When we were in the mountains, we suddenly encountered a group of criminals. We had to fight them to capture them alive," Xia Zhe said casually.

Qiao Mei hurriedly helped Xia Zhe to the side and lit a candle. Using the faint light, Qiao Mei could finally see the wounds under the bandage.

It could only be described as "gruesome". This was the first time Qiao Mei had seen Xia Zhe with such serious injuries. She hurriedly ran to the cabinet and took out the box of medicinal wine. It was filled with 1,000-year-old ginseng and bottles of ginseng juice of various colors. If someone stole the box, that person could make a fortune from it!

Without thinking, Qiao Mei quickly took out a big bottle of golden 10,000-year-old ginseng juice. In fact, the green 100-year-old ginseng juice would be enough to treat Xia Zhe's wounds. At the moment, she was too worried to think straight.

"Bear with it for a while. It might hurt a lot. Let me take a look at your injuries first." Qiao Mei took off Xia Zhe's clothes and gently unwrapped the bandages around his body. Xia Zhe's wounds were finally all completely exposed to Qiao Mei.

There were knife wounds, gunshot wounds and even some bite wounds. He was probably bitten by those people who were trying to escape during the fight to subdue the bad guys.

The gunshot wound on Xia Zhe's back was from a shotgun and it was extremely difficult to deal with. There was very little they could do in the mountain area, so it was already very good that Xia Zhe had received treatment to such an extent.

Qiao Mei sat behind Xia Zhe and gently wiped the wound with alcohol. She added a drop of ginseng juice to the alcohol so that Xia Zhe would not feel too much pain.

She reached out to touch Xia Zhe's wound and the butterfly mark on her chest warmed slightly. Qiao Mei could see inside Xia Zhe's body. Xia Zhe was in combat often and had many old injuries in his body.

There was still a lot of shrapnel left in his body. During those critical moments, the field doctors could only stop the bleeding first and try their best to remove as much shrapnel as they could. By the time he returned from the mission, his wounds were all almost healed. Taking out the remaining shrapnel would mean cutting open his flesh again. He did not want to have to go through it, so he just kept the shrapnel inside his body.

Qiao Mei gently ground a vine seed with her fingers and quietly urged it to grow, letting the vine burrow into Xia Zhe's body through the wound and get closer to the shrapnel.

"Hiss..." Xia Zhe gasped in pain.

"Bear with it for a while. I'm disinfecting the wound and it will hurt. You still have a lot of loose bullet particles that haven't been cleaned up," Qiao Mei said.

Xia Zhe casually grabbed a piece of clothing from the side and bit onto it, enduring the intense pain. The pain caused by Qiao Mei's treatment was still far less painful than what he suffered on the battlefield. He could endure it.

Qiao Mei finally touched the first piece of shrapnel. She slowly pulled it out while trying to keep it as painless for Xia Zhe as possible.

First it was one piece, then two pieces. By the time the third piece was taken out, both Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei were already sweating profusely. There were still two pieces of shrapnel located very far away. If she forcefully pulled them out, it would hurt Xia Zhe's internal organs. It was better to wait for another chance.

Qiao Mei cleaned up the shotgun particles on Xia Zhe's back and squeezed out the pus from the wounds that had not healed properly. After she was done, she poured ginseng juice over all the wounds in one go. In the blink of an eye, Xia Zhe's wounds had completely healed and looked no different from an old injury.

Chapter 1700 Taking Advantage

Qiao Mei looked at Xia Zhe's back blankly for a while before she stammered, "Um... I think I went a little overboard. The wounds have all healed. How can you explain it to the military doctors tomorrow?"

"It's fine. I'll just ask the military doctors to give me the medicine. I'll say that you can change my dressing every day as I don't want to travel back and forth. This way, there won't be any issue and they won't know about this," Xia Zhe said with a smile.

Qiao Mei touched the scars on Xia Zhe's body gently with her fingertips. Some were shallow while others were deep. These scars were all Xia Zhe's merit medals and each scar represented the battles he had fought in the past.

For a moment, Qiao Mei felt a little anxious and worried. Could she save Xia Zhe like this for the rest of her life? It was just like the last time when she faced Xia Mao.

At that time, Xia Mao was lucky that they could get to his side during the critical period for treatment. If Xia Zhe faced a life-and-death situation in the future, would she still be able to appear by his side when needed?

Every time she thought about this, she felt as if a huge rock was pressing down on her heart, making her unable to breathe. If she had all this energy inside her body, but was unable to protect the people she cherished, then she might as well not have the ability.

"What are you thinking about? You silly thing," Xia Zhe noticed Qiao Mei's emotions and asked softly as he hugged her dotingly.

"It's nothing. I'm just wondering why you're so silly and have so many scars on your body," Qiao Mei said gloomily.

"These are nothing. Aren't I standing fine and well right in front of you? Don't think too much," Xia Zhe said.

Of course, Qiao Mei knew that it was useless to think too much, yet she could not help but think about it. There was always a voice echoing in her head.

What if? What if something really happened to Xia Zhe?

After thinking for a long time, she still could not come up with a suitable solution. She decided to feed Xia Zhe first.

Qiao Mei went to the kitchen to make a light meal for Xia Zhe. He must be exhausted from traveling day and night during this period of time. What Xia Zhe needed the most now was to have a good rest.

She made a bowl of noodles for Xia Zhe with two eggs and some vegetables inside. It looked very sumptuous and Xia Zhe wolfed down the noodles quickly. There was not even any soup left when he was done.

There was limited food in the mountains. What they ate the most was hardtack. If they ran out of hardtack, they would catch rats and grasshoppers from the mountain to give them the protein and fats that they needed.

In their eyes, these were enough to keep them alive. They did not care if they had to eat bugs.

Qiao Mei still had a lot of other work to do today. She wanted to raise some livestock here. Although she was able to buy pork and chicken around here, the meat did not taste as delicious as those she raised herself. Moreover, her plan to raise "herbal chickens and ducks" had yet to come to fruition!

When Qiao Mei saw that Xia Zhe was fast asleep, she cooked for the two babies and ensured that they ate their fill. Only then did she feel at ease enough to go out to buy the bricks and fencing she needed to build a pigsty.

Miao Le did not manage to wake up early this morning. By the time she rushed over to Qiao Mei's house with Zhuang Zhuang in her arms, she saw Qiao Mei driving away in the car.

Liu Yun was washing the dishes in her courtyard. She looked at Miao Le's dejected stance and said, "Miao Le, why are you here so early in the day?"

"I'm just here to visit Sister Qiao Mei... Who would have thought that she would go out so early to avoid me," Miao Le complained unhappily.

Liu Yun did not reply. She was definitely on Qiao Mei's side. Qiao Mei was really pitiful. She had not even been here long but she had already met so many people who wanted to suck her blood dry. The worst thing was that she could not even chase them away!

"If I'm Qiao Mei, I will go out early every morning too! Otherwise, who knows who will come to her house every day even though it's not the festive season or any special occasion like a birthday. Such people might be more hardworking than mourners at a funeral! When these people come for a visit, they don't even bring a gift with them. Those who don't know better would think that these people are here to take advantage of her! Don't you think so, Sister Miao Le," Wang Nuo looked at Miao Le and said sarcastically.

"I don't come over every day..." Miao Le whispered awkwardly.

"Miao Le, don't take it to heart. She's just passing a casual remark. She's not talking about you!" Liu Yun smiled and chimed in.

"That's right. I'm just rattling off. I'm just like this. I say whatever I think of. Don't read too much into it!" Wang Nuo said.