

Fat Wife 1721

Chapter 1721 The Origin of the Brooch

"You people have used my medicine for free for so long. It's time you compensate me for it," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Haven't we already given you a brooch and a photo the last time?" Liang Lan said.

Qiao Mei nodded and continued, "True. That can be counted. I have brought two bottles of medicinal wine this time round. The brooch is part of a set. My condition is that I want to know where the rest of the jewelry is?"

As soon as Qiao Mei finished speaking, Liang Shu's face was filled with fear. She widened her eyes and looked at Qiao Mei, as if she was wondering how Qiao Mei knew that this brooch was part of a set.

Such a brooch was definitely not something that an ordinary family could afford. Prominent families were very particular about using things which came in pairs or in a set. From this, Qiao Mei deduced that there was actually a whole set of jewelry.

However, there was also another reason. When Qiao Mei tried to make use of the butterfly mark on her chest, she realized that she had hit a bottleneck. It was different from Wu Min's pendant. It appeared that she needed to look for some form of external aid to break through this bottleneck.

"It's the only piece! There's nothing else!" Liang Shu said in a panic.

"Is that so? It's such a pity that it's actually an isolated piece." Qiao Mei took out a photo and pointed at the person in the middle, asking "I'm guessing that you at least know this person."

Liang Shu shouted at Qiao Mei, "I don't know anything! Get out! I don't know anything!"

"What's the hurry? I just want to ask who this person is and I'm just curious about her identity. Don't tell me you know who this person is and deliberately don't want to tell me?" Qiao Mei questioned.

Liang Lan said anxiously, "Mother! If you know anything, just tell her!"

"I really... don't know her. Don't... don't ask me anymore!" Liang Shu said stubbornly.

Qiao Mei closed the box and said, "In that case, I'll take this medicine with me. You haven't said anything that interests me, so I won't give you what you want. Come and look for me when you've thought it through."

Liang Lan quickly stopped Qiao Mei and said, "No! That's not what my mother meant! She's just old and muddled. I'll ask her again. Don't be anxious!"

Liang Lan walked up to Liang Shu and grabbed her hand. "Mother, only Qiao Mei's medicine can save you. Do you want to be paralyzed in bed for the rest of your life? If you know who the person in the photo is, tell her!"

Liang Shu closed her eyes and pondered for a long time before saying, "I'll tell you... that's my senior in school. We used to study in the same school."

Qiao Mei nodded in satisfaction and asked, "Then what's her name?"

"Gao Tao," Liang Shu said through gritted teeth.

Gao Tao... That was not the name of Qiao Mei's grandmother. Qiao Mei only knew her grandmother from all the bits and pieces which Qiao Qiang told her. Her grandmother's name was Wen Ran and she was not known for her looks since a big part of her face was covered in scars. However, her grandmother was a learned person and had exchanged letters with her grandfather. Qiao Mei had seen those letters before. The handwriting was very beautiful, meaning she was definitely not a simple village woman.

"Which school?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Capital Women's College," Liang Lan replied hurriedly. These were things which she knew.

"Then where did this person go after that? Do you know?" Qiao Mei asked.

Liang Shu avoided making eye contact and said, "I'm not sure..."

"You'd better think carefully. If I don't get the information I want, I won't give you the medicine," Qiao Mei said seriously.

Liang Shu had no choice but to relate everything that happened back then.

Gao Tao was a transfer student. The moment she saw Gao Tao, she could tell that Gao Tao was not an ordinary person. Later on, she asked around and found out that Gao Tao was actually the daughter of a rich man in Sea City.

The Gao family had many sons and Gao Tao was the only daughter. Everyone doted on her very much and she enjoyed the best treatment and highest status.

Gao Tao used to study at a women's college in Sea City, but later on, her fiancé wanted to go to the capital to further his career. Gao Tao always did what her fiancé wanted and she set off for the capital with her fiancé regardless of what her family thought. NOVELHULK.COM

"You said the last time that this brooch belonged to your cousin. Why is Gao Tao wearing the brooch in this photo?" Qiao Mei questioned.

"Maybe... maybe I remembered wrongly..." Liang Shu said nervously.

"In that case, this brooch belongs to Gao Tao, right?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Yes, you're right..." Liang Shu said.

Chapter 1722 What Happened Back Then

Previously, Liang Shu had said that this brooch belonged to her cousin. Now that she said it was actually Gao Tao's item, was there any connection between this cousin and Gao Tao?

Qiao Mei stared at the photo for a long time before saying, "Why isn't your cousin in this photo? Are there any other photos of Gao Tao? Does your cousin know Gao Tao?"

Liang Shu turned her head away and remained silent. The matter back then was really too complicated. It had not been easy for her to save her own life. It would only lead to a disaster if she brought up the past.

Qiao Mei repeated resignedly, "I've already said that if I don't get the answer I want, I won't give you anything. I can also guarantee that you won't be able to get a single drop of medicine from anyone else. I mean what I say. Even if I don't have the ability to do this, I think the Xia family does."

This was the first time Qiao Mei had made use of the Xia family's name to bully someone. She had no choice. Today, she must find out what had happened to Gao Tao back then.

Liang Shu still looked like she would rather die than submit. Liang Lan was as anxious as a cat on a hot tin roof at the side. If Qiao Mei did not give them the "divine medicine", then she would have to continue to take care of Liang Shu. It would be a life of suffering for her! Xiao Jing was already very unhappy with the fact that she had been demoted at work. If he knew that she would have to go back and wait upon her mother in the future, she did not know what would happen!

"You still want to keep mum? I think you know your own illness best. Without my medicine, your recovery will be very slow and you might not even be able to make a full recovery. However, after drinking these two bottles of medicine, you will definitely make a complete recovery," Qiao Mei said seriously as she looked at Liang Shu.

Liang Lan hurriedly ran in front of Qiao Mei and said, "I'll talk! I'll talk! I only know one thing. I know where my eldest aunt lives! You can go and look for her! Or you can go to her hometown! Whatever you want!"

"Shut up!" Liang Shu roared angrily. Her voice was hoarse, like the cry of a crow in the night.

"Mother! If you don't say it now, then when! You're so sick that you can't get out of bed. Don't tell me you still want to protect Eldest Aunt and the others? Even if you protect them now! They won't be grateful to you!" Liang Lan said agitatedly.

Although Liang Lan did not know what was going on, based on Qiao Mei's persistent questioning and Liang Shu's evasive expression, she could roughly guess that this was a very serious matter. Even Liang Shu was afraid of the people involved.

"I don't have that much time to waste. Since you don't want to tell me, I won't force you." Qiao Mei picked up the box and was about to leave again when Liang Shu stopped her. "I'll tell you! I'll tell you whatever you want to know!"

Qiao Mei held the box and returned to her original position. She looked at Liang Shu quietly and Liang Shu sighed. She had no choice but to tell Qiao Mei everything that had happened back then.

Back then, Gao Tao and her fiancé, Zhou Hua, came to the capital together. In that era, only people from rich families were able to go to school. Zhou Hua was quite famous in Guang City, but his family was definitely not comparable to the Gao family, which was the richest family in Guang City.

The Zhou family's elders had saved the lives of the Gao family's elders in the past. At that time, the two families had made an agreement that in the future, the Gao family would fulfill one wish of the Zhou family at any time.

After a few years, the Zhou family ran out of funds. If they could not get their hands on more money, they would go bankrupt. At that time, Zhou Hua's father came to the Gao family and proposed a marriage alliance between the two families.

Due to the agreement made by the family elders, Gao Tao's father had no choice but to agree. Fortunately, Gao Tao did not dislike Zhou Hua and even fell in love with him little by little during their daily interactions.

The Zhou family and the Gao family also began to have business dealings from this point on, and the Zhou family gradually prospered. As the only son of the Zhou family, Zhou Hua bore the heavy responsibility of taking care of the family. However, he did not want to be under constant supervision of the Zhou family members. He had always wanted to leave this place.

Zhou Hua felt that the schools in Guang City were not as outstanding as those in the capital, so he discussed with Gao Tao about going to school in the capital. Gao Tao went home and told her father about the situation. Since she was the only daughter of the Gao family, she always got her way. Hence, the couple set off soon to study in the capital. The Gao family even bought a villa in the capital for the two of them so that life was easier for them.

Zhou Hua went to the Capital Men's College and Gao Tao naturally went to the Capital Women's College. This was how Gao Tao got to know Liang Shu's cousin, Liang Juan.

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Chapter 1723 Grandmother

Liang Juan and Gao Tao were in the same class. In the beginning, no one wanted to be friends with Gao Tao. She was a transfer student who was beautiful and came from a good family, so no one liked her.

It was precisely because of this that Liang Juan set her sights on Gao Tao. At that time, the Liang family had no status in the capital. If not for the fact that the family sent their children to school so as to maintain their reputation, she actually did not qualify to go to school.

Soon, Liang Juan and Gao Tao became good friends. During the school holidays, Gao Tao invited Liang Juan to her house. This was the first time Liang Juan met Zhou Hua. She and Zhou Hua fell in love at first sight. Not long after, the two of them secretly started a relationship behind Gao Tao's back and Gao Tao eventually found out about it.

Gao Tao wanted to return to Guang City immediately and tell her father about it. She wanted him to stop funding all the Zhou family's businesses and destroy the Zhou family.

If the Zhou family was destroyed, then Zhou Hua would just be a penniless kid who was worthless. One night, Zhou Hua and Liang Juan waited until Gao Tao was sleeping soundly and set fire to the house. As Gao Tao was locked inside her room, she was burned beyond recognition.

"What happened after that? Did she die?" Qiao Mei asked calmly.

Liang Shu shook her head and said, "I don't know. I only know that it was reported in the news that the fire was an accident. Zhou Hua was seen hugging a charred corpse and weeping bitterly over it. The Gao family was also extremely sad."

"What about your cousin? Where did they go after that?" Qiao Mei continued to ask.

"My cousin was afraid of the Gao family and what they could do to her. The Zhou family found a way to send Zhou Hua and my cousin into hiding overseas. Before they left, they gave me the brooch. I had originally asked them for a large sum of money, but they were unwilling to give me any. At that time, I thought that keeping the brooch was not too bad a deal," Liang Shu said.

Liang Juan and Zhou Hua had indeed fled overseas, but Liang Shu was telling Qiao Mei this on purpose. The situation with both local and foreign trade was unstable now and it would not be easy for anyone to travel overseas. Even the Xia family did not have the ability to make it happen. Liang Shu was sure that by this point of the story, it was enough for Qiao Mei to give her the medicine.

"Do you have their overseas address?" Qiao Mei asked sternly.

"I... I don't know..." Liang Shu said nervously.

Qiao Mei turned to look at Liang Lan, who quickly said, "I know! But I don't know if they have moved away."

"It's alright, just tell me," Qiao Mei said.

Liang Lan wrote down the address she knew on a piece of paper and handed it to Qiao Mei. Qiao Mei smiled with satisfaction. At least she did not come here for nothing today. Also, this meant that she did not have to come around again from now on.

She got up and walked towards Liang Shu. She poured an entire bottle of medicine into Liang Shu's mouth and stuffed the other bottle into Liang Shu's lap. "This bottle will let you gain the ability to walk again, but you won't recover fully yet. Drink this other bottle in a month's time and you'll definitely make a full recovery. Don't come looking for me again."

Liang Shu looked at Qiao Mei for a long time before asking, "Wait! What... What's your relationship with Gao Tao?"

"I might be her granddaughter," Qiao Mei said as she stood by the bed.

"No wonder... No wonder you look so much like Sister Tao. No wonder you keep asking me about what happened to Sister Tao back then," Liang Shu muttered to herself.

"Do you still have the photos of your cousin and Zhou Hua?" Qiao Mei asked.

Without needing Liang Shu to answer, Liang Lan brought over all the photo albums. She picked out a photo of Liang Juan and Zhou Hua and said, "This is a photo of my eldest aunt and uncle-in-law. They sent this photo to us when they got married."

"I'm taking this photo. I've already given you the medicine. Don't come looking for me again from now on." Qiao Mei left the Liang family house with an empty box. Actually, she could feed Liang Shu two bottles right away, but Qiao Mei did not want to make it so easy for her.

The remaining bottle of medicinal wine was enough to cause chaos in the entire Liang family for a while. Qiao Mei only wanted to go home and watch the drama unfold. This could be considered her way of taking revenge on them.

Qiao Mei did not drive on the way back. She sat in the front passenger seat and looked out of the window quietly. She remembered that Qiao Qiang had described her grandmother to her before. When Qiao Qiang met Gao Tao, she was covered in scars and could not speak. Her vocal cords were damaged and she never recovered her voice for the rest of her life. Many people in the village bullied her grandmother because of that.

Back then, her grandmother had the tenacity to escape such a big fire and did her best to survive. Gao Tao, who had led such a privileged life, became Wen Ran, who then died in the countryside with a scarred face. Thinking of this, Qiao Mei's heart ached for her.

Chapter 1724 The Most Outstanding Student

"What happened? Can you tell me?" Xia Zhe asked softly.

Xia Zhe was not an outsider. In fact, if Gao Tao was still alive, Xia Zhe would have to address her as Grandmother. Qiao Mei told Xia Zhe everything that had happened between "Wen Ran" and Qiao Qiang, as well as the story she heard at the Liang family house.

"Perhaps we can go and look for a teacher who used to work in the Capital Men's College. Grandpa Zhou used to teach there," Xia Zhe said after hearing that.

"Grandpa Zhou used to be a teacher?" Qiao Mei asked Xia Zhe in surprise. She had no idea about this at all. After knowing Zhou Sheng for so long, she actually did not even know anything about Zhou Sheng's past.

"Yes, let's go back and ask Grandpa Zhou. Perhaps he will know something about this. If Grandpa Zhou doesn't know, then we can ask Eldest Brother to ask around. Eldest Brother used to be a teacher at Capital University and must know many seniors in the teaching profession. There will definitely be people who know your grandmother," Xia Zhe said.

The two of them drove to Zhou Sheng's house. Coincidentally, they saw Zhou Sheng walking out with a birdcage. Xia Zhe quickly got out of the car and blocked Zhou Sheng's way.

"Grandpa Zhou, long time no see. We have something to ask you. Is it convenient for you now?" Xia Zhe asked with a smile.

"Kid, it's rare for you to come and look for me. Come in and talk," Zhou Sheng said.

Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei helped Zhou Sheng back into the house. The last time Qiao Mei came, she did not remember seeing so many birds. This time round, as soon as she entered, she realized that the ceiling was filled with cages and the birds were all very beautiful.

"I'm old and don't have many hobbies. I just like to raise birds. The chirping makes this house more lively." Zhou Sheng sat on the chair and looked at Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei before continuing, "Why are you looking for me?"

Xia Zhe glanced at Qiao Mei. She took out the photos of Liang Juan and Zhou Hua and of Gao Tao and handed them to Zhou Sheng. "Grandpa Zhou, do you have any impression of these people?"

Zhou Sheng put on his reading glasses and looked at the photos for a long time before saying, "I know this man! He used to be my student! And this girl, she's my most outstanding disciple."

"Then can you tell me more about them?" Qiao Mei said excitedly.

After Zhou Sheng took off his reading glasses, he slowly started to talk about the past.

That was his first time taking charge of a class. He was inexperienced and yet, he had encountered a class full of disobedient students. It took him a lot of effort to manage the class. However, even then, it was inevitable that a few students remained disobedient. In that class, Zhou Hua was the most disobedient student.

Zhou Hua always left school before class ended. As the Capital Men's College had received some financial support from the Zhou family, the principal turned a blind eye to Zhou Hua ending class early and also told Zhou Sheng to let it be and not take it too seriously.

Zhou Hua would skip class every afternoon. In the beginning, Zhou Sheng had gone to Zhou Hua's house with the intention of speaking to his parents about this matter. He did not expect to find a girl at home when he went.

After chatting with Gao Tao for a while, he realized that she was a very talented youngster. If she was nurtured well, she would definitely have outstanding results in the future. From then on, whenever he had time, he would take the time to teach her different things.

There were fewer subjects taught in the women's college. Although the women's college termed itself as a school, in reality, it only served to nurture the temperament and mindset of these rich young ladies and to teach them more artistic subjects to make them more cultured.

Gao Tao was different from these girls. She really wanted to learn more useful knowledge so that she would be able to contribute to the country. Perhaps Gao Tao was ostracized by everyone in school because her way of thinking was incompatible with the other girls.

However, Gao Tao did not give up. Every weekend, she would go to Zhou Sheng's house to clarify everything she did not understand and she also read many books about machinery. Gao Tao could remember whatever Zhou Sheng taught her after hearing it once. This was a quality that many people did not have.

"Gao Tao is my most outstanding student. Unfortunately... that fire caused me to lose such a good student," Zhou Sheng said regretfully.

"Then Grandpa Zhou, do you know where Zhou Hua went?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Yes I do. Later on, he went overseas and had even written me a few letters. I'll give you his address." After saying that, Zhou Sheng returned to his room to look for the letters from back then. After a long time, he finally found a letter from Zhou Hua.

Chapter 1725 Body Checkup

Qiao Mei compared this address with the one Liang Lan had written down for her. It was almost exactly the same! The only difference was the house number. The two addresses were located next to each other.

"That's all I know," Zhou Sheng said.

"Thank you, Grandpa Zhou. Then we won't disturb you anymore. We'll come and visit you another time," Qiao Mei said.

The two of them drove home. As soon as they entered the courtyard, Qiao Mei rushed to the study to make a call to Yao Nian.

"Hello? Yao Nian, can you come to my house immediately?" Qiao Mei said anxiously.

"I'm on vacation now. Can we talk after my vacation?" Yao Nian said impatiently.

Every time he was on vacation, there would always be someone looking for him. It was either Qiao Mei asking him to investigate something or Xia Zhe asking him to do some intelligence investigation that was very dangerous.

"Three times! Three times the price!" Qiao Mei said.

"Even if you give me 10 times the price, I still want to take a break!" Yao Nian said.

"20 times!" Qiao Mei shouted into the phone.

"Deal," Yao Nian said and hung up. Who would reject money in this day and age?

Yao Nian did not know what had happened to make Qiao Mei so anxious that she would pay 20 times the original price. Feeling resigned, Yao Nian changed and set off for the courtyard house to look for her. If he drove faster, he might be able to make it in time for dinner at her house!

Qiao Mei waited patiently for Yao Nian to arrive. She suddenly regretted asking Yao Nian to come over. After all, this matter involved an overseas location and it was almost impossible for anyone to go overseas now. Even if Yao Nian wanted to, he might not be able to find out anything about Zhou Hua and Liang Juan.

"I'm here. Tell me about your issue," Yao Nian said as he walked into the study.

"Can you investigate something overseas?" Qiao Mei asked dejectedly.

The corners of Yao Nian's mouth twitched a few times before he asked, "Do you want to take my life? Of course I can't. Even my pigeons can't fly out of this country, let alone a person! If I have that kind of clout, I won't still be an information broker."

Qiao Mei sighed and said, "I guess as much. Forget it, let's not worry about this matter for now. Since you're already here, have a meal before you go off."

"I just know you'll ask me to stay for a meal! You're not that nasty! So who will reimburse me for the transport this time?" Yao Nian asked as he held out his hand.

Qiao Mei gave him 50 dollars and said, "Come out and have dinner."

After dinner, Qiao Mei headed to the study and looked at the photos for a long time. She really wanted to know what had happened back then. Or rather, she wanted to take revenge for her grandmother. She could not let Zhou Hua and Liang Juan continue to have such a carefree life overseas.

Qiao Mei closed her eyes and took a deep breath. There was still a long way to go and the time was not ripe yet. It would not be too late to take revenge in the future when the chance presented itself.

Early the next morning, there was a visitor at the house. After Qiao Mei returned to the capital, she did not have a day of peace. Many people came and looked for her every day.

"Aunt? Why are you here?" Qiao Mei asked in surprise.

"If I don't come here, you won't go and look for me! I'm here to urge you to go to the hospital for a checkup! You've already postponed your checkup several times. If you don't go this time, I'm going to bring all the machines to your house to do a checkup for you!" Xia Fang said as she pretended to be angry.

Qiao Mei immediately hugged Xia Fang's arm and said, "Do you know I already made plans to go and look for you today? It's just a coincidence that you're here too. We are so in sync with each other!"

"Then change your clothes and come with me now. The car is waiting. I have asked my eldest brother to lend me the car," Xia Fang said seriously.

"Um... can we go later? I want to eat first," Qiao Mei stammered.

"No, we might need to draw your blood later. If you eat before that, the test results won't be accurate. Come with me now!" Xia Fang grabbed Qiao Mei and turned to walk out.

Qiao Mei had no choice but to go along. She returned to her room to change her clothes and left with Xia Fang. Before they left, Xia Zhe went to send them off at the door. At that moment, Qiao Mei saw a smug smile on Xia Zhe's face. She was sure that it was Xia Zhe who had asked Xia Fang to come!

"Isn't Xia Zhe coming with me?" Qiao Mei asked through gritted teeth as she looked at Xia Zhe through the car window.

"I hear that he needs to go to the army base in the capital to report on work today, so he won't be able to accompany you. It's enough to have me around," Xia Fang said.

Chapter 1726 Pregnancy Encyclopedia

Qiao Mei had no choice but to give up the struggle and follow Xia Fang to the hospital for a full-body checkup. After a long and busy day, the results of all Qiao Mei's physical examinations showed that there were no issues and that she was very healthy.

"Aunt, can you tell if there's one baby or two? Boy or girl?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

Xia Fang looked at Qiao Mei suspiciously and asked, "Why are you asking this?"

Based on her own work ethics, she did not discuss this aspect of the baby with pregnant women and their families. In this era, sons were favored over daughters. Most families would decide on an abortion once they found out that the baby was a girl. There were times when they even refused to listen to her advice and both the mother and child ended up dead. This happened so many times that Xia Fang was greatly affected by it.

"I just want to know if I'm pregnant with twins again. I want to know the type of clothes to sew and whether I should prepare things for a boy or a girl. I've already given away everything that Xia Fan and Xia Xing used, so I want to get a new set for this child," Qiao Mei said calmly.

Seeing that Qiao Mei was not thinking of getting an abortion, Xia Fang said honestly, "This time, it's only one baby, a boy and he looks to be very healthy. It's just that he's already a little too big. Don't eat anything too nourishing for the time being. I'm worried that it'll be too tough for you during childbirth if he gets too big."

"Does that mean I can only eat light dishes?" Qiao Mei asked nervously.

The baby had probably absorbed too much energy from Qiao Mei's body, causing him to be slightly bigger than a normal baby at this stage. Qiao Mei had no way of controlling this.

"Just eat normally, but don't pick favorites and then keep on eating it. That way, you'll easily cause harm to your own health. Eat a combination of meat and vegetables," Xia Fang said.

"Alright, I understand," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Xia Fang was still worried about Qiao Mei and wrote down a list of things for her to take note of. She only stopped after writing three full pages. It clearly stated what Qiao Mei should do every few months. She wrote down everything that Qiao Mei could and could not eat. She was just short of detailing the exact grams of food that Qiao Mei needed for every meal.

"Aunt, if we combine the information in these sheets of paper and the letter you wrote to Xia Zhe the last time, we can probably publish a pregnancy encyclopedia," Qiao Mei said to Xia Fang as she looked at everything written on the papers.

"That's true! Why didn't I think of this!" Xia Fang said in surprise.

At this moment, there were not many books on pregnancy knowledge and the care of pregnant women. Some of the books were not even up to standard. If she could author a pregnancy encyclopedia, it would allow pregnant women and their families to better understand what they should and should not do during the pregnancy. This way, there would be fewer patients coming to the hospital.

"Aunt, I think that you can definitely do it," Qiao Mei said.

"Thank you for your kind words, but before that, you still have to read everything I wrote and strictly abide by it," Xia Fang said sternly.

"Alright! I'll definitely take note of everything Aunt says!" Qiao Mei said.

"Also, don't stay in the military family compound once you get to the eighth month. It's too far from the capital. If anything happens, we won't be able to come to your side immediately," Xia Fang said worriedly.

"Alright, I'll consider coming home to rest during that time," Qiao Mei said.

Xia Fang brought Qiao Mei to her office. Some time ago, the high school principal had come to look for her to ask if Qiao Mei was going back to school. The college entrance examination was going to resume next year. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and Qiao Mei must not miss it.

"Do you want to go back to school?" Xia Fang asked.

"Yes! Of course! I'll go when school starts this semester!" Qiao Mei said excitedly.

With Qiao Mei's capability, she actually did not need to go to school to get into the best university. However, that would look too phony and it would not be good if someone went to run an investigation on her. She would not be able to explain why she had amassed so much knowledge.

Furthermore, Xu Ju's family had been eyeing her. There was also Shi Rui now. Xu Jiao had studied for so long and might not even be able to pass the college entrance examination. No one would believe that Qiao Mei, an "illiterate person", could get into the best school in one try.

In order not to let anyone get something on her, Qiao Mei could only return to the capital to study earnestly. It was actually not a bad thing to return to school. She could experience the joys of school days again.

"It'll be tough for you since you're also pregnant. If it's too difficult, you can actually take the exam the year after," Xia Fang said.

Chapter 1727 - 1727 Not Fulfilling Duty

1727 Not Fulfilling Duty

"Aunt, I'm fine. Don't worry. Looking at the schedule, I can go and take the exam after giving birth and completing the confinement period," Qiao Mei said after thinking about it carefully.

“Our family can also hire a tutor. We can get a teacher to teach you at home,” Xia Fang said.

“It’s better for me to go to school. I don’t want to stand out too much. We’ll see about this later. It’s still a long time before school starts. There’s no hurry to make a decision now, but I definitely want to take the college entrance examination next year!” Qiao Mei said firmly.

“Alright. If that’s what you want, I won’t stop you.” After saying that, Xia Fang went downstairs with Qiao Mei and drove her back to the courtyard house. Xia Zhe was already waiting at the door.

When Qiao Mei saw Xia Zhe, she said unhappily, “Did you do this on purpose!”

Xia Zhe smiled and did not say anything. Xia Fang did not want to watch the young couple acting lovingly with each other and drove off. Before she left, she even glared at Xia Zhe, indicating that he should not do anything rash.

The two of them returned to the house in each other’s arms. Qiao Mei sized up Xia Zhe confusedly. It was really too abnormal for Xia Zhe to be so clingy. Did Xia Zhe really intend to keep quiet and not tell her why Xia Wen was looking for him?

“Why did you go to the army base in the capital today? Aren’t you on medical leave? Why do you still have to report to work?” Qiao Mei asked.

“Oh... It’s just that the higher-ups want to do a briefing and also give me some instructions. It’s not a big deal. It’s the same as the previous times when I came back,” Xia Zhe said casually.

Qiao Mei sat on the bed huffily and glared at Xia Zhe. She would definitely find another chance to make him tell her about what had happened.

Xia Zhe sat down beside Qiao Mei as if nothing had happened and said, “Let’s go shopping tomorrow. We haven’t gone shopping together for a long time. We can buy something for the two children.”

“Alright.” After saying that, Qiao Mei lay down at one side and ignored Xia Zhe. He did not force her to talk to him but went to make dinner and then brought it over for her.

Qiao Mei got up and took a look. It was obvious that Xia Zhe was the one who made these dishes. Sister Xu could not be so bad! On account of Xia Zhe doing the cooking, Qiao Mei decided not brood over his behavior tonight. The two of them went to bed after dinner. Xia Zhe quietly hugged Qiao Mei and had a good night’s sleep.

Early the next morning, Qiao Mei changed into a beautiful navy blue dress and went out with Xia Zhe. The two of them went to the mall and the fruit orchard, exploring the capital together.

Xia Zhe looked at Qiao Mei and suddenly felt a little guilty. They had been married for so long and this was their first proper date. He had never gone out with Qiao Mei to do anything fun before.

On the other hand, Qiao Mei had been taking care of his family and supporting her entire family. She had even started to manage the Xia family’s assets to give the family an even more glorious future. It was only because of Qiao Mei’s arrival that the Xia family was able to have a place in the business world. It was also because of Qiao Mei’s arrival that his grandmother’s courtyard house could be returned to their family intact.

Not only had Qiao Mei saved him many times, but she had also saved Xia Mao when he was on the verge of death. She had also saved Xia He from that terrible marriage and helped Xia Wen to completely cut away the tumor that was the Tan family. Xu Lan was also getting along well with Qiao Mei.

As for him? He did not seem to have fulfilled his duty as a husband. Back then, he even wanted to abandon the pregnant Qiao Mei in Foshan Village. From the time Qiao Mei was pregnant to the time she gave birth, he was never by her side. He originally thought that he would be able to take good care of Qiao Mei wholeheartedly this time round, but he did not expect to have to let Qiao Mei give birth alone and take care of the entire family on her own again.

“Why do you keep staring at me?” Qiao Mei asked as she drove.

“Because you’re good-looking,” Xia Zhe said glibly.

“I also know that I’m good-looking,” Qiao Mei said confidently.

Unknowingly, the two of them had arrived at the He family’s orchard. They wanted to drive away, but at this moment, Qiao Mei spotted a woman in the distance who looked familiar.

Qiao Mei parked the car a distance away and pointed at the woman, saying, “Do you think that looks like Tan Jing?”

Tan Jing was wearing a blue floral dress and white sandals that made her skin look very fair and delicate. Qiao Mei realized that Tan Jing had even put on lipstick today. In the past, Tan Jing never wore makeup.

That’s right, it’s her.” With Xia Zhe’s outstanding investigative skills, he could immediately determine that the woman in the distance was Tan Jing.

Chapter 1728 Xia Wen’s Ex-wife

This was strange. For a long time, Qiao Mei had asked Yao Nian to collect information on people related to the Xia family as well as gossip about the prominent families in the capital. Tan Jing was on her list.

After Xia Wen and Tan Jing divorced, Jiang Yi kept insisting that Tan Jing get married again. Tan Jing also had the same intention. After all, she was only in her early 30s and did not want to stay single for the rest of her life. With her ability, there was no way she could support herself. She had to find someone to support her.

Jiang Yi did not care about the kind of person her future son-in-law was. It was good for her as long as he could give them money. It would be best if he could give her a betrothal gift of a few thousand dollars!

However, Tan Jing could not accept it. She had already enjoyed the glorious experience of being Mrs. Xia for so many years. How could she be willing to marry into an unknown and down-and-out family? Even if she had to remarry, she must marry someone with status in the capital! She could not let the Xia family look down on her!

There were not many wealthy men in the capital who were in their 30s and still single. Moreover, Tan Jing had already been married before. Which rich family would be willing to let her marry into the family? In addition, Tan Jing had not taken good care of herself over the years. If Xu Lan stood next to her, people would say that she was Xu Lan's elder sister!

"What do you think she's doing at the He residence?" Qiao Mei muttered to herself as she stared at Tan Jing.

"Likely doing something to target our family. Wait for me in the car. I'll go down and take a look. If anyone from the He family comes over, you should drive home immediately. I'll go back on my own." Xia Zhe quietly got out of the car and slowly went near the He family's nursery. When no one was paying attention, he sneaked into He Ning's property.

Qiao Mei was not at all worried that Xia Zhe would get discovered by the He family. With Xia Zhe's ability, it was definitely impossible for such a thing to happen. She quietly threw a vine seed into the soil and slowly urged it to grow underneath He Ning's house. She maneuvered the vine to a corner of the house to observe the He Ning family's every move.

Tan Jing strode confidently towards the backyard of the nursery. Two guards suddenly came out and blocked her way.

"Stop! Our backyard is not open to outsiders. This is private property. If you want to buy fruit trees, you should go back around and take a look," a guard said politely to Tan Jing.

"I'm not here to buy fruit trees. I'm He Ning's friend. I have something urgent to talk to him about," Tan Jing said calmly.

The guards sized Tan Jing up. They had never seen this woman before when they had been working here for more than three years. As the He family's guards, the first thing they had to do was to remember the photos and names of all the prominent people in the capital. Tan Jing was not among these people.

Furthermore, Tan Jing was dressed too shabbily. The people who came to look for He Ning were usually rich or of noble status. They were either wealthy businessmen from the capital or people in high positions in the government. They were all dressed very well. After standing guard at the door of He Ning's house for so long and having met so many people, the guards were able to read situations better than ordinary people. They could tell at a glance what a person's status was.

"Sir is not at home today. Please leave," the guard said.

"I know that He Ning is at home. I specially asked around before I came. I have something important to tell He Ning. Go in and inform him that... Xia Wen's ex-wife is here," Tan Jing said awkwardly.

Xia Wen from the Xia family? The two guards looked at each other. They knew this person. The He family and the Xia family had been on bad terms for a long time. If the ex-Mrs. Xia was looking for He Ning at this time, perhaps it was for something important? After considering for a long time, they decided to give Tan Jing access. Tan Jing never dreamed that she would have to use the Xia family's name in order to see He Ning.

"Wait here for a moment. I'll go in and check." The guard ran towards He Ning after saying that.

He Ning lay lazily on the sofa and enjoyed his rest time. All the recent stormy incidents had died down. It was rare that he did not have anything to do and could have a good rest. Tan Jing's arrival was going to ruin his beautiful day.

"Sir, there's a person outside the door who claims to be Xia Wen's ex-wife. She says that she has important information for you," the guard said respectfully.

"Huh? Let her in," He Ning said with a resigned sigh.

He got up and asked the helper to bring him a blanket to cover his legs. He leaned back comfortably on the sofa and waited for Tan Jing to enter.

Chapter 1729 I Want to Marry You

"I guess I should call you Miss Tan now. Why are you here today?" He Ning asked.

Tan Jing had seen He Ning before. He used to be a very skinny man who went around in a wheelchair and looked like a walking corpse. Now that He Ning's health was gradually improving and he looked radiant, this was the first time she felt that he actually looked elegant and handsome.

"Miss Tan, are you listening to me?" He Ning raised his voice at Tan Jing impatiently.

"Oh! I... I'm here to make a deal with you," Tan Jing said shyly.

He Ning could feel goosebumps all over his body. This was the first time he had seen Tan Jing like this. He was used to seeing beautiful women. It was rare for him to see someone like Tan Jing, who was at the age when she had wrinkles all over her face and yet she still deliberately applied so much makeup on her face. Tan Jing's face was so white that it looked as if it was painted on. When he saw Tan Jing's seductive smile just now, he felt like getting a washcloth to wipe away all her makeup.

"A deal? What kind of deal do you plan to make with me? You must know that I'm not interested in business that loses money," He Ning said cautiously.

He had just gone to do Qiao Mei a favor and Tan Jing had now come knocking on his door to cause trouble. He could not afford to make Qiao Mei angry at this juncture. Once He Mei's child was born, Qiao Mei would definitely vent her anger on him. For now, he wanted to avoid as much trouble as possible.

"This... There are too many people in this room. I can only say it when we're alone," Tan Jing looked around and said warily.

Tan Jing was just a woman and he was sure that she would not dare to cause trouble in the He family's house. She did not have the strength to assassinate He Ning or do anything to perish together with him.

He Ning asked Huo Gao to lead everyone out of the room, leaving the two of them alone in the living hall. Tan Jing went to sit down next to He Ning, almost making him jump up in fright. However, he was a seasoned man, so he just coughed lightly and pretended to be calm.

"There's no one in the room already. You can say it now," He Ning said awkwardly.

"I... I want you to marry me!" Tan Jing said.

He Ning looked at Tan Jing with his mouth agape. He even thought that he had heard wrongly and asked in shock, "What did you say?"

"I said that I want you to marry me. It just so happens that you don't have a wife now and I'm also not married. I think we can be together. If I join the He family, I won't restrict your movements..." Before

Tan Jing could finish talking about her plans for the future, He Ning quickly interrupted her and said, "Why should I marry you?"

"I... I know the Xia family's secrets! Just marry me! I'll tell you all these things!" Tan Jing said confidently.

He Ning only wanted to get hold of Xia Zhe and then Qiao Mei. Why would he want to force the Xia family to a dead end? What good would it do him?

If the Xia family was destroyed, then Xia Zhe would be worthless. By then, it would be useless even if he got hold of Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei would also hate him greatly. He Ning was not a fool and would not do such a thing.

Seeing that He Ning did not speak, Tan Jing thought that he was happy with her proposal. She continued, "I just need to be Mrs. He. I don't care if you have another woman or children outside. Just give me a sum of money every month and I'll stay at home obediently and not go anywhere. Don't worry, I won't do anything to hurt you!"

"I have indeed thought about getting married, but definitely not with you. I don't need to know the Xia family's secrets. You should go and look for someone else," He Ning said.

Tan Jing lowered her head in disappointment. She got up to leave to look for another family. There would always be people who would be interested in the Xia family's secrets.

Just as Tan Jing was about to leave the He family's house, He Ning stopped her and said, "Although I can't marry you, I can introduce you to someone."

"Who?" Tan Jing asked.

"The current chief of the capital's police department, Huang Quan. His wife just died and he's looking for a new wife. He's about five years older than you and is a perfect match for you. He's my subordinate. As long as I say the word, he will definitely marry you," He Ning said.

Tan Jing was overjoyed. She had never dreamed that she would be able to be the wife of the police chief in her life! She quickly agreed to this matter and left the He family residence feeling satisfied.

Chapter 1730 You Reap What You Sow

He Ning was not a fool. He was not going to let Tan Jing be the wife of the police chief for nothing. Huang Quan was indeed his subordinate, but this man was also a two-faced person. At work, he earned praises for being capable, but at home, he was like a demon. It was not without reason that all his wives died young.

Huang Quan was a violent man and took pleasure in torturing his wives. All his previous wives had either committed suicide or died from the torture. Tan Jing's end would only be as tragic as theirs, or maybe even worse.

He Ning felt that since he had helped the Xia family settle such a big troublemaker, Qiao Mei would definitely feel thankful towards him! He decided to go to Qiao Mei's house soon and tell her the good news. Everything he was doing now was to ensure that when He Mei gave birth to Xia Zhe's child, Qiao Mei would be willing to come to his house to be his chef.

"Listen up. From today onwards, this woman is not allowed to step foot in here again. If I find her barging in again, your heads will roll," He Ning said sternly to his subordinates.

"Yes!" his men shouted in unison.

Qiao Mei silently retracted the vines. She had seen and heard everything. She had never dreamt that Tan Jing would use the Xia family's secrets to defect to the Xia family's enemies. She did not have any strong feelings about it and only felt a sense of pity for Xia Wen. Tan Jing had never felt Xia Wen's deep affection and all the efforts he had put in for her.

However, it was also a good thing. Now that Tan Jing had left the Xia family and Xia Wen was about to get married to Mo Zhu, Xia Wen's future could only get better and brighter. In the future, there was Mo Zhu to take care of Xia Wen and support him.

Xia Zhe returned with a dark expression. He sat in the front passenger seat and said to Qiao Mei in a low voice, "Let's drive off."

Qiao Mei drove for a long time and only stopped when they were far away from the He family's territory. She looked at Xia Zhe and asked, "What did you hear?"

"She wants to marry He Ning, but He Ning doesn't agree," Xia Zhe said in disgust.

Qiao Mei pretended not to know anything. She looked at Xia Zhe in shock and said, "What! Why would she do this? Anyway, based on all my dealings with He Ning, he won't do anything that doesn't benefit him."

"That's why she wants to use the Xia family's secrets to exchange for wealth and glory with He Ning," Xia Zhe continued.

"Secrets? Does she really know any?" Qiao Mei asked.

Even Qiao Mei did not know anything about the Xia family's secrets. Could it be that Tan Jing was more capable than her?

Xia Zhe had always told Qiao Mei everything he knew. Qiao Mei was not particularly interested in the Xia family's secrets, so she did not ask Xia Zhe about these things.

"Eldest Brother knows his limits. He definitely won't tell Tan Jing about the family's issues. I think Tan Jing is just bluffing He Ning. However, her good days are coming to an end. She's going to marry Huang Quan," Xia Zhe said.

Qiao Mei had been paying attention to the movements of the various major factions in the capital and naturally knew about Huang Quan's background. This Huang Quan was one of He Ning's lackeys, but He Ning was about to drop him. Huang Quan acted ostentatiously and always used the He family's name to do things that harmed other people. He Ning had been aware of it for a long time, but it was just not the right time to get rid of him yet.

"It's none of our business. She has chosen this path herself. There's nothing we can do to save her. Besides, when she wants to use our family's benefits to exchange for her future, she should have known that it will not end well," Qiao Mei said calmly.

Xia Zhe nodded. The two of them went to the mall and bought many new clothes for the two children. Then, they also bought a new sewing machine and a solid wooden cabinet, as well as the latest freezer. They would move all these things to the military family compound when they returned.

They had already spent quite a long time in the capital. Qiao Mei knew that Xia Zhe was hiding something from her, so she decided to return to the military family compound two days before the original planned date. All the things she bought previously had already been delivered. Before she left, she had even ordered a few fruit trees from the nursery and these had been all delivered too. Xia Zhe had help from the guards from the main gate to carry everything into the house. Everyone came out to watch the commotion, including Miao Le.

"Sister, didn't you say you'd be gone for 10 days? Why are you back so early?" Liu Yun asked curiously.

During the past few days, it was Liu Yun who had been helping Qiao Mei take care of the vegetables and fruits in the courtyard. The livestock and pigs in the backyard were well fed and the pigsty was very clean. It was obvious that Liu Yun had put in a lot of effort during this period of time.