

Fat Wife 1731

Chapter 1731 Hurry Home To Cook

There were too many people around now, so it was not an appropriate time for Qiao Mei to pass her gifts to Liu Yun. She pulled Liu Yun aside and whispered, "Sister-in-law, I have brought back some peaches and apples. I'll bring some to you later."

"No, no! I didn't help much. These fruits are so expensive. Give them to Xia Fan and Xia Xing!" Liu Yun said.

"Sister-in-law, don't stand on ceremony with me. These are fruits which I planted myself, not bought from the store! Just eat them without any worries. Besides, the ones I grow are more nutritious than the ones sold outside! I'll show you later!" Qiao Mei said.

Liu Yun only agreed to accept the gifts after hearing that Qiao Mei had planted them herself. Fruits were very expensive now. She would only buy them during the new year and festive seasons!

Qiao Mei went home first to keep all her new things. Wang Nuo came to Liu Yun's side and said, "Qiao Mei is really capable. She's the most capable young wife I've ever seen. I'm not half as good as her. I have to learn from her in the future."

"Come on, your two boys are so obedient because you teach them well. Look at that brat in my house! I don't even know where he has gone today. You must tell me how to make my children as obedient as yours," Liu Yun said enviously.

"If you want to talk about being obedient, Qiao Mei's two babies are so obedient. I've never seen such well-behaved babies!" Zhang Cai said as she walked over.

"That's because she's a blessed person!" Liu Yun said.

As they chatted, Liu Yun noticed Miao Le, who had been standing at the side all this while. She was still standing at the door and did not leave even after all the goods had been unloaded. Liu Yun walked to Miao Le and said, "What time is it now, why are you still here watching the commotion?"

"I... I'm just taking a look. I'm just passing by," Miao Le said awkwardly.

"Then go back now. The child will starve if he still doesn't eat at this hour. You're an adult, but why don't you seem to know anything? No wonder Zhuang Zhuang is so skinny. You don't even feed him properly," Liu Yun said disdainfully.

"What does it have to do with you whether I go back or not! Why can't I stay here and look?" Miao Le said stubbornly.

"You're standing at my door and you're an eyesore to me. Why don't you go and take a hike! Don't bring bad luck to my door! Leave now!" Wang Nuo said as she waved her hand in disdain.

Miao Le ran home crying after being ostracized. Jin Yao was sitting opposite Miao Le's door and was waiting to see if there was any drama when Miao Le returned. She immediately said, "Oh, you didn't stay there for a meal this time!"

"It's none of your business!" Miao Le went in and slammed the door angrily. Jin Yao was not angry at all. The angrier Miao Le was, the more it proved that Qiao Mei did not ask her to stay for a meal.

Zhang Cai laughed as she looked at Wang Nuo and said, "Sister Wang, you're really good at mocking people. Look, you even made the child cry."

"As if she's still a child. If she's a sensible person, she should take good care of Zhuang Zhuang! I just find her annoying. She can ask her brother-in-law to come and look for me if she wants! My husband dotes on me the most and definitely won't let me be bullied!" Wang Nuo said proudly.

Wang Nuo's husband was Tian Jun's superior, which was why Wang Nuo dared to scold Miao Le, knowing that Miao Le would not dare to retaliate!

When it was time for lunch, everyone went home to cook. Miao Le had no choice but to take out two eggs from the egg basket to make steamed egg for Zhuang Zhuang. If Zhuang Zhuang's health did not improve, she would be sent back to her hometown!

Tian Jun already knew about the money she hid away. If anything should happen to Zhuang Zhuang, she would really have no way out!

After Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe finished their meal at home, she brought some fruits to Liu Yun's house. Liu Yun was the only one at home at noon, so she only had a simple meal of noodles.

"Sister-in-law, I'm here with fruits!" Qiao Mei handed the fruits to Liu Yun.

Liu Yun took one out from the bag. This was the first time she had seen such a big peach and it looked so fresh and delicious.

"You grow this yourself? It looks so good!" Liu Yun said in surprise.

"My husband's grandmother left us a house with a big courtyard. I have nothing to do at home, so I plant a few fruit trees. These are from the current harvest. Perhaps it's because the seeds are good varieties. The harvest this year is especially good!" Qiao Mei said happily.

Chapter 1732 I Want To Plant Trees Too

When Qiao Mei unloaded the things from her car, Liu Yun was watching from the side. She had seen Qiao Mei unload a lot of fruits with her own eyes. The quality of those fruits looked to be very good. It seemed that Qiao Mei was not lying to her and these were all homegrown.

"Is it easy to take care of fruit trees?" Liu Yun asked.

"Of course! I even bought many saplings before I came back this time! There are peaches, apples, cherries and a flower tree! I plan to plant all these in the backyard. It will be best if they can bear fruit. If they can't bear fruit, then these trees can provide shade for my children when they are older," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Qiao Mei intended to plant the flower tree in the front yard. She did not want to leave the front yard as empty as it was now. When she had time, she wanted to go to the county city and buy some bricks to lay over the ground and then put a swing in the front yard. If she could, she also wanted to build a pavilion in the front yard. Qiao Mei wanted to do all these so that the children would have a place to play in the future.

"Where did you buy these fruit trees? I also want to plant a few at home," Liu Yun continued to ask.

She had lived here for so many years but had never thought about planting fruit trees. It was mainly because she had never even seen fruit trees before. In her village, there were mainly only bushes around. Even though she had seen trees on the mountain, there were no fruit trees there, so the idea of planting trees had never crossed her mind.

"I ordered all these saplings from the capital, but had gone to the county city two days ago and saw that there are also saplings sold there. The saplings are all the same no matter where you buy them from. They will all grow up to bear fruits," Qiao Mei said.

"Alright! When I have time, I'll go buy a few fruit trees too!" Liu Yun said happily.

Ever since Qiao Mei came, her horizons had broadened a lot. Qiao Mei had also given her family a lot of nice things, as well as things that they had never seen before. Every time Qiao Mei returned to her in-laws' house in the capital, she would bring Liu Yun a lot of good stuff. Liu Yun would always remember Qiao Mei's kindness and would definitely treat Qiao Mei wholeheartedly in the future!

In the afternoon, Xia Zhe planted trees in the courtyard while Qiao Mei sat under the big tree near the door and chatted with everyone. After thinking for a long time at home, Jin Yao decided to go and say some nice things to Qiao Mei and curry favor with her.

Jin Yao was not a nasty person, just a greedy one. She always ate up all the food at home and went to the county city to shop at least four days a week. In the entire military family compound, she was the one who went to the county city most often.

Jin Yao looked at the remaining foodstuff in the house. She could not bear to give anything nice to Qiao Mei, so she only picked out three small apples in the end. It was difficult for her to have to give them to

Qiao Mei! If not for the fact that she wanted to hitch a ride in Qiao Mei's car in the future, she would not go and make conversation with Qiao Mei.

From afar, Jin Yao could see Qiao Mei and the others chatting under the tree. She shouted loudly, "Hey! Why are you all talking here! What are you chatting about?"

Everyone looked at one another and did not say anything. All these years, they did not get on well with the people who lived at the apartment building and Jin Yao could be considered one of the people that everyone hated. The women living in the single-story houses were all from the countryside and were all fast workers. They were hardworking people, both at home and outside, and they earned praises for it.

However, the women from the apartment building were different. Many of them did not get along with the women from the single-story houses. It was common for them to quarrel and bicker. Sometimes, they even got into fights!

The women from the single-story house hated people like Jin Yao, who only knew how to eat, drink and have fun and did not know how to take care of her family.

"It's nothing. We're just chatting casually. Sister-in-law, why are you here?" Qiao Mei said.

"Oh, I don't have anything to do so I'm just here to have some fun. You people can keep talking, I'll just listen in." Jin Yao ignored everyone's objections and brought a stool over to sit down.

"Sister Jin Yao, you even bring a bag with you when you come out for a walk. It seems that you're afraid that you'll starve on the way. You really do eat wherever you go," Liu Yun said mockingly.

Jin Yao did not care at all. She had heard such words too often. As long as she could get Qiao Mei to give her rides to the county city, it was not a big deal to hear some nasty comments.

"Looking at these apples, I remember that when I was young and living in the village, my neighbor had a big apple tree. The few of us children went to their house to pick apples and eat them secretly! Because of this, we got beaten up a lot when we were young," Wang Nuo said.

"Then let's plant some trees too! I have asked Qiao Mei for advice and I'm thinking about buying a few fruit tree saplings!" Liu Yun said quickly.

Chapter 1733 Eating Apples

None of these women was a petty person. Usually, if anyone had any excess food, they would share it with everyone. It was naturally a good thing if everyone could plant trees together!

The truth was that Liu Yun had her own selfish motives. If her fruit trees and Qiao Mei's fruit trees bore fruit in the future, it was inevitable that there would be neighbors who wanted to try some. If all the neighbors came and ate the fruits, there would not be many left for her family. Her intention was to supplement her children's diet! Her family was not as rich as Qiao Mei's family who did not mind sharing the fruits with others.

If everyone planted fruit trees together and every family had fruits to eat, no one would covet the fruits from her trees.

"Sure! This is a good idea! But... can we grow fruit trees here? I don't have any experience," Wang Nuo said worriedly.

"It's fine, Sister-in-law. I've planted fruit trees before. My husband is planting the trees in the backyard right now. It's so much easier to take care of fruit trees as compared with crops," Qiao Mei said.

"How big can the fruits grow? What if the tree doesn't bear fruit?" Zhang Cai asked.

"Let me show you the fruits from my house." After saying that, Qiao Mei returned to the house and took out a few apples and peaches. As soon as she placed them on the table in the middle, Jin Yao quickly took two big red apples, one in each hand.

"Wow! This apple is so big!" Jin Yao hurriedly took a bite of the apple, her impatience stunning the rest of the women.

Qiao Mei was the one who brought out these fruits. Before she even said anything, Jin Yao had already taken two of them! How rude!

Qiao Mei distributed the fruits to everyone. After she was done, there were still some fruits left in the basket and everyone felt embarrassed to take more. Jin Yao simply ate up all the fruits. She ate messily and greedily, as if she was afraid that others would snatch them from her.

"You can't buy such fruits outside! These fruits are so beautiful! They taste delicious too!" Zhang Cai said excitedly.

"I've never eaten such delicious apples in my life!" Wang Nuo said right after her.

Qiao Mei laughed and said, "The fruits from one fruit tree will be enough for you to eat. If you can't finish them all, you can send some to your maternal family or sell them at the market to supplement your family's income."

"You're right! My son keeps saying he wants to eat fruits. He's at the growing stage now. If I don't buy any for him, I'm worried that he won't be able to grow up well. What if it leads to other issues in the future? However, fruits are really too expensive and I can't bear to spend the money," Wang Nuo said with a sigh.

"You don't have to worry now. We can just plant trees ourselves!" Liu Yun said.

After Jin Yao wolfed down all the fruits, there was fruit juice all over her face. She looked at Qiao Mei eagerly and asked, "Do you still have any more fruits?"

"No, that's all I have. Everything is here," Qiao Mei said awkwardly.

Liu Yun knew that Qiao Mei was lying. There was no way that all the fruits she saw earlier were already all gone. Qiao Mei even gave her family a whole lot earlier. However, she would not betray Qiao Mei. She lowered her head and ate the apple in her hand silently.

After hearing from Qiao Mei that she did not have any fruits left, Jin Yao got up and went home without even saying "thank you" to Qiao Mei. She had even eaten all the three small apples that she brought with her. She was sure that since Qiao Mei's apples were so big and sweet, Qiao Mei definitely would not be interested in the small apples she had.

Although she did not manage to ask Qiao Mei to let her hitch a ride to the county city, it was not a loss for her since she got the chance to eat such delicious fruits.

"Mei Mei, she's too shameless! You can't even bear to eat such good fruits yourself! She ate them all!" Wang Nuo said as she looked at the empty basket with heartache.

"She's always like this! She simply doesn't treat herself as an outsider! The last time she went to someone's house, she ate up all the good stuff that they put aside for the new year! She's like a hungry ghost reincarnated!" Zhang Cai said angrily.

"Isn't that so! Her husband earns a lot, but it's still not enough for her to eat. This woman is such a spendthrift! She eats everything that's nice and eats so much that her family can't make ends meet. Her husband even borrowed money from my husband some time ago!" Liu Yun said.

"So serious?" Qiao Mei asked in shock.

Chapter 1734 Dangerous Mission

"That's right! There are many more serious incidents!" Liu Yun told Qiao Mei all the things which happened before she came. Everyone chipped in and Qiao Mei felt like a kid in a candy store. All the revelations were like candies in the store and there was so much that she could not "eat" them all.

The group only dispersed in the evening when everyone had to go home to cook. By then, Xia Zhe had also finished planting the fruit trees in the backyard in the way that Qiao Mei had instructed. Even the distance between the trees was done according to what Qiao Mei wanted.

"Not bad, Comrade Xia Zhe. Keep it up!" Qiao Mei praised him happily.

"Yes, Comrade Qiao Mei. If there's any other mission, just let me know!" Xia Zhe said.

"Indeed there is. The swing you made previously is too small. Make a bigger swing for the courtyard. Also, the ground outside is uneven and may cause a sprained ankle. Go and get some bricks tomorrow," Qiao Mei said as she pointed at the empty space in front of the small flower tree.

"Alright, I'll go and buy the materials tomorrow. I'll definitely complete the mission!" Xia Zhe said seriously.

The next morning, Xia Zhe asked his subordinates to come over to smooth down the ground in the courtyard and lay down anti-slip stone bricks. He even built a roof over the swing to shield it from the sun.

In return, Qiao Mei made a table full of food for the soldiers who came to help. All of them were very curious about the woman who made Xia Zhe rush home so wholeheartedly.

Actually, Xia Zhe's behavior was a little too much. In the past, he was always the last person in the troops to leave work. Nowadays, once work ended, he would immediately rush home. Sometimes, he even asked to hitch a ride home! There was also one time when they actually saw Xia Zhe asking the cookhouse squad leader how to make sweet and sour pork ribs. This was something that Xia Zhe would never do in the past.

"Commander, we can finally understand your behavior now. If my wife is as beautiful and capable as Sister-in-law, I will want to stay at home every day!" one of the soldiers said.

"Shoo, shoo, shoo! Just eat. You still have to go back to the army base after the meal!" Although Xia Zhe spoke very sternly, he had a wide smile on his face. He was more than happy to tell the world that he had such a good wife.

After everyone left, Xia Zhe washed the dishes outside while Qiao Mei sat quietly in the house. Today was the last day of his break and she had to find out why he had been acting so strangely over the past few days. If he still did not want to tell her, she would have to use some tricks to make him tell her.

When it was late at night, Qiao Mei sat opposite Xia Zhe and asked, "What exactly are you hiding from me?"

"I... I'm not," Xia Zhe said hesitantly.

"Are you trying to make me worried? If you don't tell me, I'll..." Before Qiao Mei could finish speaking, she held her chest as if she was in unbearable pain. Xia Zhe quickly held on to her and said anxiously, "What's wrong? Don't be anxious! I'll tell you! I'll tell you everything!"

Hearing that Xia Zhe was willing to tell the truth, Qiao Mei instantly recovered. There was nothing wrong with her at all. Only then did Xia Zhe know that Qiao Mei had tricked him just now. However, he was not angry and just looked at her dotingly. He was just glad that she was fine.

"What exactly have you been doing recently? What happened?" Qiao Mei asked with a slight frown.

"The higher-ups have arranged a mission for me. I'm leaving tomorrow..." Xia Zhe said softly.

"Is it very dangerous?" Qiao Mei asked worriedly.

Xia Zhe nodded and did not say anything. Qiao Mei could tell that Xia Zhe was holding back. This mission must be extremely dangerous, otherwise Xia Wen would not have been alerted.

"How long will you be away?" Qiao Mei asked again.

"At least a year or two," Xia Zhe said.

One to two years... and this was the minimum. If it took longer, would he still be able to come back in this lifetime? Qiao Mei looked at Xia Zhe in disbelief, but she also knew that he had no right to decide anything. Everything depended on the arrangements made by the higher-ups.

"Where exactly?" Qiao Mei asked.

"This... I can't tell you," Xia Zhe said.

"Not even roughly where?" Qiao Mei questioned.

"It's not within the country. It's in Country Y," Xia Zhe said.

In this era, the soldiers were not allowed to go to battlefields overseas. Xia Zhe's mission must be very dangerous and highly risky.

Qiao Mei said in despair, "How great of you. When you come back, you just have to return to your role of being a father."

"I'm sorry," Xia Zhe lowered his head and said sadly.

Chapter 1735 "Positioning" Seed

Qiao Mei sighed. She moved forward and hugged Xia Zhe as she said, "Those are just angry words. Don't worry and go on the mission. The children and I will be safe at home. After some time, I'll go back to our house in the capital and let the family take care of me. That way, you can feel more at ease and you don't have to worry about us."

Xia Zhe hugged Qiao Mei tightly and the two of them spent a tender and romantic night together. Qiao Mei woke up not long after falling asleep. She looked at Xia Zhe, who was still sleeping soundly, and tiptoed to the west room.

A long time ago, when Qiao Mei was extracting ginseng juice, she obtained a strange seed by accident. This seed looked like a clear and unblemished ruby. One day, Qiao Mei left this seed at home when she went to work in the factory. That day, she could actually sense the location and the state of the seed while she was at the factory office.

"My little darling, I'm depending on you this time." Qiao Mei found a flower pot and kept urging this seed to grow. After doing it more than 100 times, a bigger and clearer seed was produced. The

connection between Qiao Mei and this seed became even stronger. Unfortunately, the seed was one of a kind. No matter how hard Qiao Mei tried, she could not produce a second one.

Qiao Mei then extracted more 10,000-year-old ginseng juice and kept it in a small bottle. In addition, she also produced a few 100,000-year-old ginsengs and extracted their essence before condensing it into one small pill.

Xia Zhe woke up at dawn and Qiao Mei watched him pack his luggage. After he was done, she took out the seed and said, "This is an amulet I requested from the temple master. It's a very powerful amulet and you must carry it with you at all times. I had wanted to string it on a necklace, but there's no time now. You can bring it around in this state."

Qiao Mei knew that Xia Zhe would hide it in a very safe place. So long as Xia Zhe wanted to hide something, no one would be able to find it.

"Alright, I promise you," Xia Zhe said with a smile.

"Are you able to bring along some ginseng juice?" Qiao Mei asked.

"It's not too convenient. I might have to go through body searches this time. It will be more dangerous to bring it with me," Xia Zhe said after thinking for a moment.

It was a small matter if he was found to be carrying something with him. However, if someone found out about the magical ability of the ginseng juice, the entire Xia family would probably be in danger. Xia Zhe could not take that risk.

Qiao Mei had already expected this answer. She took out the 100,000-year-old ginseng pill which she had prepared earlier and said, "Eat this."

Xia Zhe ate it obediently and it melted in his mouth. In an instant, he felt a force barged through his body and his entire body began to heat up. Not long after, that feeling disappeared and it was followed by a wave of energy slowly gathering inside. He could feel his entire body filling with strength.

He knew that Qiao Mei was hiding something from him. Xia Wen had also hinted to him before, but he did not care. He only knew that the person in front of him was his wife, Qiao Mei, and that she was the mother of his children. He did not care about anything else.

"I... I'm going off," Xia Zhe said dully.

Qiao Mei sat on the brick bed with her back facing Xia Zhe and said in a choked voice, "Alright, be careful. We'll all wait for you to come back."

Xia Zhe went to take a look at Xia Fan and Xia Xing, who were still sleeping. Before he left, he looked at Qiao Mei's back reluctantly before leaving the house resolutely.

When Qiao Mei heard the sound of the main door closing, tears fell from her eyes. She did not know when they would meet again after this farewell. She could not help Xia Zhe with anything and could only hope that everything would go smoothly for him and that he could come back safe and sound.

Xia Zhe took his luggage and got into the car that the higher-ups had arranged for him. His eyes were then covered and he was sent to an unknown small village. He carried his bag and walked into a tiled house where there was a man and a woman sitting inside. The man looked to be in his 50s while the woman was only in her early 20s and looked very charming. However, Xia Zhe did not feel anything. After all, no other woman in the world was as beautiful as Qiao Mei.

"Hello, I'm your contact person, codenamed Vulture," the man said.

"Hello," Xia Zhe said as he put down his bag and shook hands with the man.

"This is your partner, codenamed Rose. Her current name is Su Rui. Your codename is Dark Night. Your current name is Fang Chen. I'll give you the details of your new identities in a while. I'll only say it once. Both of you must remember it well," Vulture said sternly.

Chapter 1736 Stealing

Xia Zhe silently noted down what Vulture said. Vulture then confiscated the luggage which Xia Zhe and Su Rui brought and gave them new bags containing their new clothes and information about their new identities.

Su Rui was the daughter of a rich family and her father was an important member of the government. His colleagues had accused him of committing a crime and her entire family was captured to be imprisoned. She was the only one who managed to escape via the secret passage in the house and managed to survive until now. Since then, she worked as a barmaid and there were always customers who tried to molest her. In a fit of anger, Su Rui killed one of the customers and had been in hiding until now. She was seeking a way to go to Country Y to have a fresh start.

Fang Chen was the child of parents who were academics. Due to domestic policies, his entire family was persecuted, He lost his family and became an orphan. He had no one to rely on and lived on the streets. He wanted to take this opportunity to sneak into Country Y for career development and take revenge on the country to avenge his parents.

Since both Xia Zhe and Su Rui had good family backgrounds in real life, they did not have to try too hard to pretend to be rich children. They already looked like people who were knowledgeable and had extraordinary backgrounds. It would be easier for them to attract the attention of their targets, who were in the upper echelons, and these people would protect them to a certain extent.

After memorizing the details of their identities, Xia Zhe and Su Rui burned the information sheets and headed south with their luggage. They had to reach the area near the docks before dark so as to ensure that they could sneak into Country Y in the night. The smugglers' boat did not operate every day.

At home, Qiao Mei tried hard to sense the distance between her and Xia Zhe. She completely lost contact when he was 500 kilometers away from her. After that, she could no longer feel his presence. Only then did it strike her that Xia Zhe had really left the country.

During the days after Xia Zhe left, she continued to live in the military family compound. There were still signs of his presence here and she could not bear to leave. However, she was also a little unaccustomed to the fact that he was not around. Every morning, she would go to the apartment building alone to buy breakfast and then slowly walk home along the path that he usually took to get home.

Qiao Mei sat quietly on the swing near the door. She wanted to relax, but an uninvited guest came to the house.

"Why are you at my house again? What's the matter today?" Qiao Mei looked at Miao Le and asked with a frown.

"I have nothing to do, so I'm here to visit Sister-in-law," Miao Le said shamelessly.

Qiao Mei had taken all her money, so she must come to Qiao Mei's house every day to freeload on food! Even if Qiao Mei was unhappy, she would still turn up. If she ate here every day, she would be able to get back her money's worth one day.

"I'm not cooking today and not eating either. You can go back," Qiao Mei said impatiently.

"Then I'll cook for you! You have to eat. Even if you don't eat, don't the two children at home have to eat?" Miao Le said.

Qiao Mei really did not have the energy to argue with Miao Le, so she let Miao Le do whatever she wanted. The chickens and ducks which Qiao Mei bought were already laying eggs and they were very productive. The chickens laid eggs every day, so Qiao Mei already had a whole box of eggs at home which she could not finish eating.

Miao Le took 10 eggs, broke them all together in a bowl and whisked. She had never eaten such delicious scrambled eggs before! Every family would only eat eggs during the festive seasons. Even if they made scrambled eggs, they would mix the eggs with water to fluff up the amount. No one ever ate such pure scrambled eggs.

After Miao Le was done cooking, she brought the dish to the table in the house. When she entered, she saw all kinds of jewelry on Qiao Mei's dressing table. There were gold, silver and jade items. This was probably the kind of dressing table that all women dreamed of having.

"Hmph, how dare you take my money. You should compensate me with these things! It's my right to take them! How dare you bully me! How dare you marry so well! You don't deserve to use these things! These things should belong to me!" Miao Le said self-righteously.

She looked out of the window and saw that Qiao Mei was not paying attention to her. She immediately took a bunch of the jewelry on the dressing table and stuffed as many as she could into her pocket. Xia Fan and Xia Xing just sat on the brick bed and watched as Miao Le committed theft. The two of them did not say anything and just watched quietly.

Miao Le was a little bothered at first, but on second thought, what would the two babies know? They did not even know how to speak. Even if they babbled, Qiao Mei would not be able to understand them.

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Chapter 1737 Come To Do A Search

If Qiao Mei asked her about the jewelry, she would say that she did not know. Perhaps Xia Zhe had a gambling habit and he could be the one who had stolen them to pay off his gambling debts!

After Miao Le took whatever she could stash away, she shouted towards the outside, "Sister-in-law! Come in and eat!"

When Qiao Mei saw the food which Miao Le cooked, the corners of her mouth twitched slightly. No wonder Zhuang Zhuang was so skinny. Even dogs would not want to eat such disgusting food, let alone adults and children.

Qiao Mei did not eat anything which Miao Le cooked and made some solid food for Xia Fan and Xia Xing. Miao Le finished all the food by herself and left Qiao Mei's house without even helping to clean up.

When Qiao Mei fed Xia Xing, Xia Xing kept pointing at the dressing table and babbling to express her unhappiness. Qiao Mei looked in the direction which Xia Xing was pointing and saw that there were indeed many items missing from the dressing table.

"My baby is so amazing. You even know how to help Mom guard her things! Don't worry, Mom will get all her things back," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

She was not in a hurry to ask the police to arrest Miao Le because she had deliberately placed the pieces of jewelry there so that Miao Le would see them. She was taking a gamble on whether Miao Le was a person with a conscience and whether she would go down the path of crime. If Miao Le did not do anything illegal, Qiao Mei would have given her some eggs before she left so that Zhuang Zhuang could have more food to eat. Reality proved that Qiao Mei had thought too highly of Miao Le.

After the children finished eating, Qiao Mei immediately called the guard post and asked the guards to search Miao Le's house. She told them that she wanted to report Miao Le for stealing from her house.

The guard on duty today was one of Zhao Wu's subordinates. As he was the sixth son in his family, everyone called him Six.

Six knew Qiao Mei since he had come to her house to help plant trees and lay bricks the other day. Before Xia Zhe left, he had specially asked Zhao Wu to take good care of Qiao Mei. As Zhao Wu's subordinate, Six wanted to do his best to complete the mission given by his superior.

Six led a team of people and ran aggressively to Tian Jun's house. He did not wait for Tian Jun to open the door but kicked it open.

"What are you doing!" Tian Jun jumped up from the sofa and shouted at them.

"I'm sorry, Brother Tian. We are just following orders. Someone reported that your younger sister, Miao Le, had stolen something. We're doing a routine check and we hope you can understand," Six said sarcastically as he looked at Tian Jun.

To Tian Jun, this was simply a great humiliation! He had never taken a single thing from anyone in his life. No matter how difficult his financial situation was, he refused to accept charity from others. His good reputation for so many years was now ruined by Miao Le.

Miao Le was so afraid that she hid in the cabinet and did not dare to come out. When she heard that someone had come to arrest her, she wished she could jump out of the window and escape. However, her family lived on the fifth floor. If she really jumped down, she would not even have a future.

"Are you mistaken? My sister is young and immature, but she hasn't gone to the extent of stealing things. May I ask which family she stole from?" Tian Jun asked.

"From Commander Xia's house," Six said truthfully.

"Who called the police?" Tian Jun asked again.

"Of course it's Sister-in-law who called the police. Otherwise, who else can it be? Can it be those two children? Brother Tian, please let us do a search and cooperate with us. If we don't find anything after we're done, won't that also clear your sister's name?" Six said impatiently.

Tian Jun immediately said, "My younger sister definitely didn't do it. It's Qiao Mei who's framing her. Some time ago, my sister offended her and now she's setting us up!"

Regardless of whether Miao Le had stolen anything today, once he allowed Six to search his house, he would never be able to raise his head out of shame for the rest of his life. Tian Jun was unwilling to admit that Miao Le had stolen anything even if he had to die. He could not afford to lose his reputation! If this matter was true, he did not want to stay alive anymore!

"Whether your sister did this or not, we'll talk about it after we're done searching. How can it be up to you to say whether she stole or not? If Sister-in-law Qiao Mei really framed your family, I'll get her to come and apologize to your family, alright?" Six said.

Six believed that Qiao Mei would not report Miao Le to them for no reason. She must have solid evidence before she troubled them to take action.

Chapter 1738 Solid Evidence

The neighbors all opened their doors and came out to watch the commotion. Jin Yao sat at the door with loads of snacks to watch the drama unfold. She was just short of buying some seeds to share with everyone! Miao Le had not been nice to her all this while. She wanted everyone to laugh at their family!

"Hey! Come and take a look! What's happening to their family!" Jin Yao shouted loudly.

"I always say that Miao Le is not a good person! None of you believe me. Look, she's been reported now!"

"How embarrassing! How can Tian Jun have such a family? It's so pitiful for Zhuang Zhuang to have such an aunt."

"Which family doesn't have problems? Everyone has many poor relatives in the family. Which family doesn't face any difficulties? How can they think that only their family is pitiful? No matter how difficult it has been for our family, nothing like this has ever happened to us!"

"You're right!"

"Look at what's going on! We must close our doors and windows properly, lest Miao Le enters our house to steal our things in the future!"

"Which family did she steal from? How much did she steal?"

"I don't know! Continue watching!"

Everyone started talking at once. There were all kinds of comments and speculations, but most of them were willing to believe that Miao Le had stolen Qiao Mei's things. Who did not like to watch drama?

Qiao Mei was the wife of the future chief, so everyone wanted to be nice to her and flatter her. All the men always reminded their wives not to offend Qiao Mei. They did not expect that there would be someone who did not listen to this advice.

Tian Jun still did not allow Six and the others to start the search. Six really had no choice but to point at the bedroom door and said, "How about this, can you ask her to come out and talk to us? We have to get our job done. Otherwise, Brother Zhao Wu will definitely beat me up when we get back."

Tian Jun had no choice but to nod. He went into the room and asked Miao Le to come out. Miao Le gripped the waistband of her pants tightly and refused to go out. In the end, Tian Jun had to drag her out.

"Sister, don't be nervous. We just want to ask a few questions. After that, we'll leave. You just have to answer truthfully. If you lie, you'll have to go to the small black room," Six said.

Miao Le nodded in a panic. She looked askance at Six and did not dare to look at Tian Jun. She trembled uncontrollably and the jewelry in her pocket made soft clinking sounds. Six was a scout and his ears were very sharp, but he did not expose Miao Le yet. He was a man and could not reach into a woman's pocket to search it. It would be disastrous if Miao Le reported him for taking liberties with her.

"Where did you go today?" Six asked.

"I... I... I..." Miao Le repeated the word "I" several times like a tape player that was stuck. She could not say anything else.

"Say it!" Tian Jun said agitatedly.

"I went to Qiao Mei's house for a visit today," Miao Le said fearfully.

"Why did you go there! Didn't I say that you're not allowed to go to their house again? Why did you go!" Tian Jun looked at Miao Le in disbelief.

Miao Le was so frightened that she fell to the floor and all the things in her pocket dropped out. These jewelry were definitely not things that the women from the military family compound could afford. Only Qiao Mei was rich enough to buy such things.

Jin Yao immediately stood up and looked into the house. She pointed at the jewelry on the ground and shouted, "Oh my! So many pieces of jewelry! She must have stolen them! Miao Le is a thief!"

"Oh my goodness, it's really her!"

"A person of such bad character doesn't deserve to stay in our military family compound!"

"I had lost something at home before. Do you think it was Miao Le who took it?"

"That's hard to say! We should all go home today to see if anything has gone missing!"

Everyone talked loudly outside and Six did not stop them. He was here today to help Qiao Mei with her grievance and also to act on behalf of everyone.

Six had disliked Tian Jun for a long time. It was one thing for Tian Jun to repeatedly reject everyone's good intentions with a cold expression and not appreciate their kindness. The thing was that since Tian Jun felt that everyone only helped him out of charity and pity for him, he also gave everyone a bad attitude. Whoever helped him was like an enemy who had killed his father and would definitely get cold treatment from him.

"Brother Tian, the evidence is all here. There's nothing else for us to ask. We have to take the things and bring your sister with us," Six said.

Chapter 1739 Change The Caregiver

"Wait! Six, my sister is young and insensible. She must have been muddle-headed for a moment. Take the things and return them to Qiao Mei. We'll go and apologize to her later. I still have two bottles of good liquor at home. I don't drink, so you can take them as well. Can you not blow this matter up?" Tian Jun pulled Six to one side and whispered.

Six was not going to let him do this! He must send Miao Le to jail today! He must shame Tian Jun! This was the task that Zhao Wu had given him. No matter how ignorant he was, he knew that he could not offend Zhao Wu.

"Brother Tian, it's not that I don't want to help you, but your sister has really done something very serious this time. Tell me, how can I protect her? I must report it to my superiors. Don't make things difficult for me." After saying that, Six walked towards Miao Le.

Miao Le continued to lie on the ground and did not speak. Six asked, "Are you going to take out the things yourself, or should I get someone to search you?"

Before Six could finish speaking, Miao Le went still and pretended to be unconscious. She knew that Six had only brought men with him and they definitely could not touch her!

However, her plan did not work. Six walked to the door and shouted towards the crowd in the corridor, "Are there any female comrades outside? Can you come forward and take out everything from Miao Le's pocket! My team consists of men, so it's not convenient!"

Everyone hesitated about whether they should go forward to help. After all, their husbands and Tian Jun were considered colleagues. Some of them were even ranked lower as Tian Jun! No one wanted to offend him.

Jin Yao rushed into the house impulsively and said, "I'll do it! I'll help you!"

"Thank you, Sister-in-law, but is it convenient for you since you're pregnant?" Six asked worriedly.

"Don't worry! I'm fine!" Jin Yao said confidently.

The two men next to Six went forward to hold Miao Le up. Jin Yao reached into Miao Le's pockets and took out everything. After that, even Jin Yao was shocked by what she saw.

She did not expect Qiao Mei to have so many pieces of jewelry. Moreover, those gems were especially big and the gold bangles were very thick, even thicker than the handcuffs worn in prison! It was a real eye-opener for her.

"Alright, this matter is over. Thank you, Sister-in-law. We'll be leaving now." Six walked in front with the jewelry in a tray and Miao Le followed slowly behind.

Before Miao Le stepped out, she suddenly seemed to wake up from her daze and turned around to shout at Tian Jun, "Brother-in-law, save me! I don't want to go to jail! Brother-in-law, save me!"

Tian Jun could not do anything about this matter. Their family was in need of money to begin with. He could not possibly sell the house just to bail out Miao Le!

However, Miao Le was Miao Ting's only younger sister and he could not make the decision on this matter. He still had to tell the Miao family about what happened to Miao Le. That very night, the Miao family arranged for another young girl to go to the military family compound to help Tian Jun take care of his son. This young girl was Miao Ting's distant cousin and was 16 years old this year. She was good at taking care of people.

The Miao family did not care about Miao Le at all. To them, she was just a useless girl and a money-losing good-for-nothing. They only wanted to protect Tian Jun, their money tree! As long as Tian Jun was still around, their future was secure and Tian Jun would continue to send money to the family.

The new girl's name was Zou Ping. After she arrived, Zhuang Zhuang gradually gained a lot of weight and looked much better. The house was also neat and tidy and everyone had a good impression of Zou Ping. Tian Jun completely forgot about Miao Le and left her in prison.

It was almost autumn and there was no heating in the house here. When the house was built, there was no wall and floor heating included. If Qiao Mei and the children spent winter here, they would probably freeze to death. Qiao Mei began to think about returning to the capital.

The vegetables in the field were all ready for harvest and easy to deal with, but the livestock at home was her main headache. She needed someone to take care of them.

Early in the morning, she went to Liu Yun's house. She did not bother to exchange pleasantries with Liu Yun, but just smiled and asked, "Sister-in-law, I'm leaving soon and might only be back in the spring or maybe even after that. I'm wondering if you can help me take care of the livestock at my house."

"No problem! There's no need to stand on ceremony with me! Don't worry, I'll definitely raise them well and fatten them up! You can come back and take a look during the new year!" Liu Yun said with a smile.

Chapter 1740 Sell Things In Secret

"Thank you, Sister-in-law. I can't let you help me for nothing. Let's share ownership of the livestock at my house evenly! Take it as a gift from me," Qiao Mei said readily.

She did not care about these possessions at all, but was more concerned about the house being left vacant. She could not possibly hire a helper to look after the house. That would be too extravagant. In a tiled house like this, the brick bed needed to be heated up every few days to bring some energy into the house. Otherwise, when she returned in spring, the house would be unlivable.

"What are you doing! Those chickens and ducks are so expensive! It doesn't take much effort for me to help you take care of them! If you do this, you make it seem like I'm only after your things!" Liu Yun said unhappily.

"Sister-in-law, that's not what I mean. I'm giving you these things willingly. Otherwise, I also won't be able to finish them myself. I want you to take all the eggs too, otherwise they'll be wasted when I'm not here," Qiao Mei said.

Liu Yun thought for a moment and said, "That's doable! But you have to come back once a month to bring some eggs home to eat. These eggs are from your own chickens and ducks. They're definitely more delicious and nutritious than the ones you buy outside. Treat them as nourishment for yourself!"

"Alright, I'll do what you say," Qiao Mei said in relief.

After saying that, Qiao Mei went home to pack her luggage to move back to the capital. After a while, news spread that Qiao Mei was going to give some livestock to Liu Yun. Everyone was very envious of Liu Yun, but there was nothing they could do about it. After all, the two women were on good terms!

After Song Zhi found out about this, she quickly went to look for Qiao Mei. She also wanted to get a share of the pie.

"Knock, knock, knock!"

Qiao Mei put down what she was holding and went to the door. When she saw Song Zhi, she was shocked. Other than seeing Song Zhi a few times when she first came to the military family compound, she had not seen her ever since.

"Sister Song Zhi, why do you have time to come and look for me?" Qiao Mei asked with a smile.

"I... I hear that you're leaving, so I'm here to visit you," Song Zhi said.

"Oh, do you want to come in and have a seat?" Qiao Mei asked awkwardly.

"No need! I'm just here to ask if you can lend me the greenhouse in your backyard?" Song Zhi looked at Qiao Mei expectantly.

If the person who came was Liu Yun, Qiao Mei could still consider it, but it was a no-go for Song Zhi. She still had watermelons growing in her greenhouse! This was so that the children could have watermelons to eat in winter. The varieties of crops she planted in the greenhouse were all very outstanding. Those were seeds that Qiao Mei spent a lot of time cultivating and she could not let others have them.

"No, I still have vegetables inside. I still want to eat those," Qiao Mei said.

"I can help you harvest the vegetables. Can you let me use the place after that?" Song Zhi continued to press on without any respect for boundaries.

Qiao Mei frowned slightly and said, "It'll only take me a day or two to do it myself. I can still come back here. Sister Song Zhi, why don't you go and ask someone else?"

Song Zhi still wanted to continue speaking, but Liu Yun had come behind Song Zhi and said, "She hasn't even left yet and you already want to take advantage of her! You're too shameless!"

Liu Yun's voice was especially loud, so when she shouted, everyone opened their doors and came out to take a look. Seeing this, Song Zhi ran away embarrassedly. Qiao Mei sighed helplessly. When she first arrived, she thought that Song Zhi was a nice person. It was really true that one could not judge a book by its cover.

The other women were also jealous of Qiao Mei and Liu Yun, but the seeds which Qiao Mei gave them when she first came were indeed quite good. The harvest was much more delicious than anything they

had planted before, and the volume and sizes were also better than before. Qiao Mei also gave them a lot of things from time to time, so no one was too bothered about it.

"Don't lower yourself to her level and don't be nice to her. She's such a person. Her family is facing some difficulties, so she's looking for ways to plant more crops so that she can sell them to make money," Liu Yun said to Qiao Mei.

"Sell for money? How? I don't usually see her going out," Qiao Mei said in puzzlement.

"You won't know this, but she cycles out in the wee hours of the morning every day with all kinds of things strapped down behind her. She only comes back in the afternoon. It's the same every day. I can tell at a glance that she goes out to sell things," Liu Yun said softly.

"This is not allowed in the army, right..." Qiao Mei said.

The economy was not fully opened up yet and trading was only allowed in some areas on a trial basis. Song Zhi's actions were still considered opportunistic behavior! She would be arrested and criticized! Song Zhi's husband would also be punished! This was a very serious matter.