

Fat Wife 1741

Chapter 1741 Something Major Happened

"Song Zhi's family is in a difficult situation. Coupled with the kind of husband she has, her life is really not easy. In the past, I used to ostracize her, but I don't say anything now. It's truly not easy for everyone nowadays," Liu Yun said.

"I know. I won't get angry with her. Sister-in-law, are you looking for me?" Qiao Mei asked.

Liu Yun took out a stack of money from her pocket, rolled it up and stuffed it into Qiao Mei's hand, hoping that Qiao Mei would accept it. Even without looking, Qiao Mei could tell what it was just by the feel of it.

"Sister-in-law! This is not a nice thing to do! And it's also against the rules!" Qiao Mei said seriously.

After coming to this place, Qiao Mei realized that the neighbors here did not trade with one another. It was completely different from when she was in Foshan Village. The villagers of Foshan Village would buy things from or exchange items with one another. However, in the military family compound, they only gave one another gifts without involving money.

"Our situation is different. If you take a green onion from me or I take a cucumber from you, those are just cheap things. I feel bad that you're giving me so many chickens, ducks and geese. There's even such a big fat pig! I definitely have to give you something in return but I don't have anything valuable to give you. After thinking about it, I can only give you money," Liu Yun said.

"It's hard on you to take care of these chickens and ducks. I can't accept money from you! Take it back!" Qiao Mei said agitatedly.

Liu Yun shoved the money into Qiao Mei's pocket and said, "You must accept it! If you don't accept it, my husband will blame me when he comes back and finds out about this. He values his reputation the most, so just treat it as doing me a favor. Besides, I'm not giving you a lot of money, which means I still profit from the transaction. Don't reject me."

When Qiao Mei heard what Liu Yun said, she accepted the money. Qiao Mei looked at Liu Yun and said, "I'll bring you delicious food when I come back! Don't worry."

"Sure! Then it's a deal! You must take good care of yourself! I'm waiting to attend your child's one-month-old celebration!" After saying that, Liu Yun went home. Qiao Mei slowly loaded her luggage into the car and took one last long look at the house before driving out of the military family compound.

Qiao Mei brought her things back to the courtyard house first. Xu Kang and Feng Hua unloaded everything out of the car together and separated the clothes that needed to be laundered and the things that needed to be put away.

At this hour, Qiao Qiang was not at home yet. After Qiao Mei finished unloading the things, she drove to Xu Lan's house with the children. Before she entered the house, she could already hear someone shouting, as if in an argument. It was not Xu Lan's voice, so there must be someone else at home.

Wan Wen was standing at the door. When she saw Qiao Mei, she quickly ran out to carry the children. She stopped Qiao Mei and said, "Third Young Madam, it's better if you don't go in. Someone is making a fuss at home and you may get offended."

"I'm fine. Bring the children inside and go upstairs. Other than me, no one else is allowed to go into their room," Qiao Mei said sternly.

"Alright, I understand." Wan Wen ran back into the house with the two children and headed upstairs without even greeting her properly.

Qiao Mei walked into the house slowly. As soon as she entered, she saw Xu Ju and Xu Jiao kicking up a fuss in the living room as if they had gone crazy. She could not be bothered to greet them and quietly changed her shoes at the door.

Xu Lan looked at Qiao Mei in surprise and said, "Why are you back today?"

"Why can't she come back today! What do you mean by that! Your family just doesn't welcome me! Qiao Mei, it's good that you're back! Ask Xia Wen to come back quickly! We have to get an explanation today! Otherwise, we won't leave!" Xu Ju said angrily.

Qiao Mei sat on the sofa and did not make a sound. She did not want to say anything to agitate Xu Ju into doing something even crazier. Almost everything in the house had been smashed up. Fortunately, Sister Wan Wen did not bring out the bone china tea set today. Otherwise, Xu Lan would definitely feel sad.

"Why are you sitting down? Your elders didn't say you can sit! What right do you have to sit! Stand up! You didn't answer when I spoke to you just now!" Xu Ju said as she pointed at Qiao Mei.

Since Qiao Mei could not avoid the problem, she looked at Xu Ju and said, "Eldest Aunt, let's sit down and take a rest. It's not time for my eldest brother to get off work yet. Won't he be back once he knocks off? It's useless for you to be anxious. You might as well sit down and have some tea and rest."

Chapter 1742 Invalid Proof

"Such a major thing has happened at home and your eldest brother is still at work? Tell him to come back immediately!" Xu Ju roared.

"There are also many things to do in government services. Compared to our family's issues, the country's issues are more important and need my eldest brother's attention more. Eldest Aunt, don't you think so?" Qiao Mei said to Xu Ju with a dark expression.

Any matter related to the country was definitely a big deal and Xu Ju was almost tricked by Qiao Mei. If Xu Ju really said anything bad about the country, she would be arrested and criticized.

She did not expect the third son's wife to be such a tricky person. She had to be careful when dealing with this woman. Before Qiao Mei came home, Wan Wen had already told Xia Wen about what was happening at home. Not long after, Xia Wen returned with his briefcase.

"You're finally back! Did you cheat my child! At the end of the day, you're still our relatives! Why are you doing this to our family!" Xu Ju said as she grabbed Xia Wen.

"What exactly happened?" Xia Wen asked Xu Ju, feeling confused.

"The recommendation letter you gave us is fake! The background proof is also fake! They don't want to accept our Xu Jiao anymore! Why did you do this to us!" Xu Ju asked angrily.

After Qiao Mei entered the house for so long, she finally knew the "major thing" that Xu Ju was talking about. She had thought that it was something very important, but it turned out that it was about the issue of Xu Jiao going to school.

"Didn't Eldest Aunt already verify whether the documents are real or not? I don't know why you're asking such a question," Xia Wen said.

"Then why don't they allow her to be enrolled!" Xu Ju questioned.

In the beginning, when Xu Jiao went to complete the admission procedures, they asked her to go home and wait patiently for a while. Unexpectedly, the school suddenly called up after a week and said that they were no longer doing admissions. They were not going to accept her this year.

Only then did Xu Ju know that the government had just issued a notice to resume the college entrance examination. Anyone could take the college entrance examination. As long as one could pass the political background checks, one could sign up to take the examination. There was no restriction on age or status!

As soon as this policy was introduced, the entry route of admission by class background was immediately removed. It was useless even if the prospective students had proof of class background. The college entrance examination was implemented for the entire country and there was no such thing as proof of class background in the future.

"This is also the first time I'm hearing about this," Xia Wen said.

"You have to think of a way for me! You must let my daughter go to university!" Xu Ju said as she pointed at Xu Jiao.

Xia Wen shook his head and said apologetically, "There's really nothing we can do about this. I also just know of it now. The Xia family has already done the best we can do. All you can do is to let Xu Jiao take the college entrance examination."

"The college entrance examination? I don't want to take the college entrance examination! I want to go to Capital University!" Xu Jiao sat on the ground and rolled around as if she wanted to die.

"Your Xia family is resourceful and knows so many people. How can there be no other way?" Xu Ju asked.

"Our Xia family always follows the procedures and never gets in through the back door. Your earlier situation is already an exception. Now that the policy has changed for the entire country, there's nothing we can do," Xia Wen explained.

"Alright! All of you are really capable! You're all bullying our family!" Xu Ju pointed at the Xia family members and said fiercely.

Qiao Mei picked up an apple and ate it as if nothing was going on. Xu Ju looked at Qiao Mei and said to Xia Wen, "You must have done this on purpose! If you don't know, why would she want to take the college entrance examination without using proof of class background? You must be lying!"

Qiao Mei frowned slightly. How could this woman criticize her about everything? She could even be implicated when the whole issue had nothing to do with her.

"It's my choice to take the college entrance examination and it has nothing to do with my eldest brother. Don't spout nonsense here. Our family has always done whatever you say and we give you whatever you want. Now that we're helped you, you don't want to listen and even blame us. There's no such logic in the world," Qiao Mei said.

"It's your choice? Stop bragging! You haven't even gone to school for a day! You're illiterate so how can you take the college entrance examination? How can you pass it?" Xu Ju said mockingly.

"I went to elementary school and did self-study for junior high school. Why can't I pass the examination?" Qiao Mei questioned.

"In that poor and remote place of yours, even if you go to school, you're still considered uneducated! My daughter is already in her third year of high school and still doesn't have the confidence to pass the college entrance examination. As if you can do it," Xu Ju said.

Chapter 1743 Bet

"Well, I just can pass the examination. I'm capable and competent, and I dare to swear that I learn better than Xu Jiao. I will go to university based on my own abilities, so I'm different from all the people in your family! Do you think everyone wants to get in through the back door! How can there be so many back doors in this world," Qiao Mei said disdainfully.

"You think you can compare with my Jiao Jiao! Wake up from your dream! Did our Jiao Jiao study for so many years for nothing? If you're so capable, go to the same school as Jiao Jiao and compete with her to see who's better! If you can beat our Jiao Jiao, I'll take your surname!" Xu Ju said as she pointed at Qiao Mei.

Xu Ju did not believe that Qiao Mei could do better than Xu Jiao. Qiao Mei was illiterate, so how could she be able to pass the college entrance examination in such a short period of time? She would never believe that the Xia family did not do anything behind everyone's back.

"Aunt has arranged for me to start school after a few days. At Sixth High. If you want a competition, then let Xu Jiao come to the same school," Qiao Mei said.

Sixth High was the best high school in the entire capital. It had very good teachers and the standards were high. Many students who graduated from Sixth High went on to succeed in life.

Xu Jiao's current school was not a well-known one. Xu Ju had just chosen a random school that was close to her house and where the school fees were cheap. Sixth High's school fees were very high, but in order to look good, Xu Ju decided to transfer Xu Jiao there immediately.

"So be it! Who's afraid of you!" Xu Ju said.

"Mom! I don't want to leave my school!" Xu Jiao looked at Xu Ju aggrievedly.

She already knew her classmates well. If she left the school, she would need to get to know new classmates. She did not want to be all alone in the new school.

"You have no right to speak! Shut up!" Xu Ju said as she looked at Xu Jiao angrily.

"I just don't want to change schools!" Xu Jiao said agitatedly.

Xu Ju went forward and gave Xu Jiao a slap. She said angrily, "This is not up to you! If you don't shut up, I'll beat you until you listen!"

Xia Wen really could not stand it anymore. He stopped Xu Ju and said, "She'll listen to you and won't cause trouble anymore. Eldest Aunt, don't hit her anymore."

Xu Ju glared at Xia Wen. They were in the Xia family's territory now, so she had to give in to Xia Wen. Xu Ju turned around and sat down on the sofa. She looked at Qiao Mei and suddenly had an idea. This was the best time to set her plan in motion!

"How about this, let's have a bet! I bet that you definitely won't be able to do better than our Jiao Jiao in the college entrance examination. How about it? Do you dare to bet with me?" Xu Ju said confidently.

"Why not, but I wonder what Eldest Aunt wants from me? Is it my house or my money or my factory?" Qiao Mei looked at Xu Ju mockingly.

Xu Ju was a greedy person. She had mentioned to Xu Lan more than once that she wanted Qiao Mei to give up the courtyard house to the Xu family, so that the Xu family could settle down in the capital. Xu Lan had always rejected her request and kept it a secret from her family. She did not expect Xia Mao to find out about it at some point.

Xia Mao almost fell out with the Xu family over this. In the end, Xu Ju had to give up on the idea of moving into Qiao Mei's house. Qiao Mei and the others did not know about this matter at all.

However, it was not difficult to hear about this matter. Yao Nian had already told Qiao Mei all the details about the Xu family. Therefore, Qiao Mei knew what Xu Ju was thinking.

"What nonsense are you talking about! Little girl, be careful that I don't rip out your tongue!" After saying that, Xu Ju realized that the Xia family members did not look too happy by now. She continued, "It's also because you're Xia Zhe's wife. Otherwise, I would have hit you long ago."

The polite smiles that Xu Lan and Xia Wen had on their faces had already disappeared. They could accept Xu Ju scolding them, but they could not stand Xu Ju treating Qiao Mei like this.

"Enough. Tell me, how do you want to bet?" Qiao Mei asked.

"I already told you. If you don't score as high as my Jiao Jiao in the college entrance examination, then you have to give our family a house!" Xu Ju said proudly.

"Eldest Aunt, don't just state your conditions. You also have to say what your family will give me if I win, don't you? It can't be that you get a house if I lose, but if you lose, you just need to say that you're sorry and the matter is over," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Chapter 1744 I Want Your House

Xu Ju stood rooted to the spot in embarrassment. Qiao Mei had hit the nail on the head. She really wanted to gain something without risking anything.

"I... My family has a house! I'll use that house to bet with you!" Xu Ju said.

"Then it must be a house in your hometown. How can that house be comparable with a courtyard house in the capital?" Qiao Mei said disdainfully.

The Xu family really did not have much assets. They only had a dilapidated house in the countryside and it was also where their old parents lived now! Xu Ju's family was currently renting a house in the city and the Xia family was the one who paid the rent for them. She really did not have anything valuable to use to bet with Qiao Mei.

"I... I'll stake 30,000 dollars! If our Jiao Jiao doesn't do as well as you, our family will give you 30,000 dollars!" Xu Ju said determinedly.

"Are you giving the money in one go or in installments? Otherwise, what's the point if you give me 30,000 dollars over 10 years? I'm not short of money," Qiao Mei said.

"In one go!" Xu Ju said through gritted teeth.

Xu Ju did not have 30,000 dollars, but if she pooled the savings of all the Xu family members, she should be able to get 30,000 dollars. She was going all out for Qiao Mei's house! She was certain that Qiao Mei was illiterate and would not do as well as Xu Jiao in the examination.

Just as Qiao Mei was about to agree, Xia Wen quickly stopped her. "No, gambling is illegal. Qiao Mei, this can't be done."

The Xia family's house rules stipulated that no one was allowed to gamble, not even placing small bets at family gatherings. Even if they played mahjong, they were not allowed to use money. The Xia family members had to strictly abide by this rule and could not violate it. Otherwise, they would be punished.

Looking at Xia Wen's serious expression, Qiao Mei also realized the seriousness of this matter. She said to Xu Ju, "Then Eldest Aunt, please change the bet."

Xu Ju thought for a long time and said, "How about this! If our Jiao Jiao's score is higher than yours, you let us live in the big house in Lian City... for 50 years! If we still want to live there after that, we'll pay you rent! We will only return it to you when we don't want to live there anymore."

A house in Lian City? When did she buy a house in Lian City?

Qiao Mei looked at Xia Wen curiously and he nodded at her. This was a house that had just been approved to be a reward from the country to her. She nodded in understanding. She did not expect those seeds to be able to exchange for so many good things.

Lian City was located in the north and had a pleasant climate. It was not densely populated and was close to the sea. The house that the country had given Qiao Mei was a villa near the sea. Even the beach outside the house was Qiao Mei's private property. It was said that this house was once occupied by the former leader of the country.

As soon as this piece of news was announced, Xu Ju knew of it immediately. She had dreamed of living in a house like this since forever. She had been to Lian City when she was young and she liked that place very much. She did not know why Qiao Mei was so lucky to get a big villa at such a young age. She wondered if Qiao Mei had the luck to receive such a big house. Otherwise, such a huge present might end up jinxing her!

This bet was getting too big by now. Xu Lan held Qiao Mei's hand and said, "Mei Mei, why don't we just forget about it? Don't gamble. Gambling does not lead to good endings."

It was not that Xu Lan did not believe in Qiao Mei. She really believed that Qiao Mei could beat Xu Jiao, but she did not want Qiao Mei to have to work too hard. She just wanted Qiao Mei to be safe and sound.

"Why are you talking so much! I'm talking to Qiao Mei! Why are you being a hindrance! It has nothing to do with you!" Xu Ju looked at Xu Lan unhappily.

Xu Lan wanted to argue with Xu Ju, but Qiao Mei stopped her and shook her head gently. "Mother, don't worry. I know what I'm doing."

"Hmph, do you see that! Your daughter-in-law is willing to bet with me! Don't be a busybody!" Xu Ju said proudly.

"I didn't expect you to know so much. I don't even know about this yet. However, 50 years is too long. Why don't you just say you want it for 100 years? After 100 years, I'll be dead. At most, I can lend it to you for 10 years," Qiao Mei said as she looked at Xu Ju.

"10 years is too short! Don't 10 years pass in the blink of an eye? Then 30 years! I think 30 years is very reasonable! How about 30 years!" Xu Ju said anxiously.

It did not matter to Qiao Mei to fix the period for 30 years. She then asked, "Then what can Eldest Aunt give me in exchange?"

Chapter 1745 Tian-Tsui Headdress

Xu Ju had no choice but to part with something valuable. She said with some heartache, "Our Xu family has an heirloom. It's a box with a big headdress inside. It's decorated with something called... tian-tsui on it! I heard from my father that it's worth a lot of money. That headdress is in my possession, so I'll use it to bet with you!"

Qiao Mei's eyes lit up when she heard the words "tian-tsui". A headdress like this was a very rare find. Such accessories were made by embedding a metal base with kingfisher feathers and slowly making it into a headdress or other accessory.

A headdress would require the feathers of at least 1,000 kingfishers! There were very few kingfishers in the world, so such tian-tsui items were very rare and would even be accepted by museums, albeit in 30 years' time.

"Alright! But I have to see the headdress first before deciding if it's worth it," Qiao Mei said excitedly.

"Are you afraid that I'll lie to you? I, Xu Ju, am not that kind of person! If you don't believe me, ask your mother-in-law! See if what I said is true!" Xu Ju said as she pointed at Xu Lan.

Xu Lan looked at Qiao Mei and nodded. "It's true that the Xu family has such a headdress. It's very gorgeous and elegant. The entire headdress is made of tian-tsui. I've seen it before and my parents indeed gave it to her."

This headdress was meant for a woman, so the men in the family did not have the right to get it. Furthermore, Xu Lan had married better than Xu Ju, so this family heirloom could not go to Xu Lan. In the end, it was Xu Ju who received the headdress gleefully.

However, this headdress could not be sold for money. Kingfishers were now protected animals in the country, and this headdress was made using the feathers of kingfishers. If they were not careful, they could be accused of torturing and killing protected animals. If so, the entire Xu family would have to go to jail!

After hearing what Xu Lan said, Qiao Mei became more determined to get the headdress. She looked at Xu Ju and said, "Then it's settled! You can't go back on your word. Don't regret it later!"

"Hmph, I won't regret it! I'm just afraid that you'll regret it! We have to sign an agreement! Otherwise, what if you go back on your word?" Xu Ju said warily.

"But it's illegal to document a bet. It's better not to do such things," Qiao Mei said.

"Are you stupid! Don't you know how to write that if you don't score higher than Xu Jiao in the college entrance examination, you'll lend that house in Lian City to Xu Jiao for 30 years?" Xu Ju looked at Qiao Mei in disdain, as if Qiao Mei was a fool.

Qiao Mei smiled resignedly. She did not expect Xu Ju to have thought so far. It seemed that whatever happened today had been planned for a long time. Xu Ju was determined to take her house in Lian City.

"Alright, you go ahead and write then. I'll put down my thumbprint," Qiao Mei said.

Xu Ju happily took out a pen and paper and started drafting the agreement. It did not take long for her to finish it. When Qiao Mei was in the military family compound, she had already perfected her calligraphy by practicing often. Even contemporary calligraphers would praise her handwriting.

When Qiao Mei signed the agreement, she deliberately wrote the words crookedly. When Xu Ju saw Qiao Mei's handwriting, she became even more convinced that Xu Jiao would definitely be able to beat Qiao Mei.

"Alright, I'll take one copy with me. I'll leave you to it. See you when school starts." Xu Ju happily pulled along Xu Jiao and left.

Xia Wen looked at Qiao Mei's signature and said, "You did it on purpose?"

"Of course it's on purpose, but I really want that headdress," Qiao Mei said relaxedly.

"Are you really going to school? Can you handle it in your current condition?" Xu Lan said worriedly.

"There's no problem. I've already planned everything. When this child is born during the new year next year, I'll be able to continue with my studies in April after the confinement period. The college entrance examination is in June! Don't worry, I'll definitely be able to pass!" Qiao Mei said confidently.

Xia Wen sighed and said, "We're not worried about your results and the bet. What we're all worried about is your health!"

When Xu Ju reached the entrance of the neighborhood, she suddenly felt that there was something missing. She hurriedly ran back to the Xia family residence and rushed into the house, saying, "No! We can't just sign it so easily!"

"Then what else does Eldest Aunt want?" Qiao Mei asked.

"You... you have to come with me to find someone to be the guarantor! To witness this matter!" Xu Ju said.

Chapter 1746 Consider Carefully

"Eldest Aunt, go ahead and choose someone. Who do you trust in the family?" Qiao Mei said.

After all, this was still a gambling bet and they could not let outsiders be the guarantor. It would not do them any good if the matter blew up. The only way to do it quietly was to get a family member whom Xu Ju trusted to be the middleman.

If anyone from the government found out that Qiao Mei had made a bet using the house which the country awarded her, she would be criticized! If the news were published in the newspapers, Qiao Mei could even be drowned by all the gossip. This would also have a huge impact on the Xia family's reputation.

"Then... then let's look for your grandfather! Let's go and look for Xia Jun! He's the most upright person! Let's go and see him!" Xu Ju said firmly.

Qiao Mei nodded. She took her car keys to drive everyone to Xia Jun's house. As soon as they got into the car, Xu Ju felt extremely jealous. Why could Qiao Mei get such a good car? All she did was to donate some seeds. It was not something that no one else could do. Xu Ju was sure that it was only because the opportunity had fallen into the hands of the Xia family and then they gave it to Qiao Mei. Otherwise, anyone could also donate seeds.

"Qiao Mei, are you usually the one using this car?" Xu Ju probed.

"Yes, me. Why?" Qiao Mei asked as she drove.

"It's just that... Look, you're pregnant now and it's not convenient for you to drive. You should get the chauffeur to drive you around. Lend me this car. I know how to drive! My husband has to walk more than 20 kilometers to and from work every day! It's really very tiring. Lend us the car for a while and we'll return it to you later!" Xu Ju raised the issue with Qiao Mei in a gentle voice.

Xu Ju seemed to have the ability to change her face. When she begged someone for something, it was as if she had become a different person. Yet, when someone wanted to take advantage of her, she was someone who would make them pay a bloody price.

She had just been calling Qiao Mei "little girl" just now, but now she called Qiao Mei by name. It was really laughable.

"I don't lend my car to others. If there's an accident and they go after the car owner, then I'll be so wronged. I'm not the one driving, but I still have to take responsibility for it. Eldest Aunt, you should think of another way. If there's really no other way, then you should ask Eldest Uncle-in-law to get another job," Qiao Mei said.

"What is this child saying! How can you curse people!" Xu Ju said angrily.

"I'm just stating the facts. Eldest Aunt, don't be angry," Qiao Mei said.

After a long drive, Qiao Mei finally arrived at Xia Jun's house. At this moment, Xia Jun had just returned from playing chess at someone else's house. He did not win a single game during the entire day and was in a very bad mood. If Xu Ju still went in now, she was just going to make Xia Jun even more unhappy.

"Old man, are you at home? Open the door! I'm looking for you!" Xu Ju stood at the door and shouted rudely.

Xia Jun's helper opened the door and wanted to close and lock it when she saw Xu Ju. However, when she saw Qiao Mei behind Xu Ju, she opened the door again.

"Mei Mei, why are you here with her?" the helper asked.

"What are you saying! What do you mean by why is she here with me! Can't she come with me?" Xu Ju questioned.

Qiao Mei immediately replied, "I need to talk to Grandfather. I wonder if it's convenient for him."

"Old Master is in the living room. You can go in." After saying that, the helper made way for them to enter. Xia Jun was sitting on the sofa and drinking tea!

Xu Ju threw the signed agreement in front of Xia Jun and said, "Take a look. I made a bet with Qiao Mei. Bear witness for us."

Xia Jun looked at Xu Ju in disdain. If not for the fact that the Xia family and the Xu family were in-laws and Xu Lan had waited on him for so many years, he did not even want to look at Xu Ju! However, since the agreement had something to do with Qiao Mei, Xia Jun still picked it up to take a look.

After reading the agreement, he looked at Qiao Mei and asked, "Mei Mei, are you acting on impulse? The house in Lian City is really quite nice, even better than the one you're living in now. Are you sure you want to stake this house in the bet? Grandfather will suggest that you consider it carefully."

Hearing what Xia Jun said, Qiao Mei was overjoyed. If Xia Jun said that the house was nice, then the house must be extraordinary. In that case, she had struck the jackpot! In the future, she could bring the children and Xia Zhe there for a getaway during the hot summer days.

"Don't worry, Grandfather. I'll use it in the bet," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Chapter 1747 Going To Stay At Home

Seeing that Qiao Mei was determined to go ahead, Xia Jun signed the documents, then handed one copy to Xu Ju and one copy to Qiao Mei. After he was done, he looked at Xu Ju and said, "It's done. You can leave now."

Xu Ju walked to the door and turned around to see Qiao Mei still sitting obediently beside Xia Jun and drinking tea. She immediately said, "Let's go!"

"I'm staying here to accompany Grandfather. You and Xu Jiao can go back by yourselves," Qiao Mei said.

"How are we going back if you don't send us?" Xu Ju asked angrily.

"There's public transport outside! Do you need me to teach you how to use it?" Xia Jun said sternly.

Xu Ju did not want to have any direct conflict with Xia Jun. She still needed to rely on Xia Jun with regard to the Xu family's matters in the future. She could not provoke this "living ancestor" of the Xia family.

After Xu Ju left, Xia Jun looked at Qiao Mei and asked gently, "How is life in the military family compound recently? Is there anything you're not used to? I hear that Xia Zhe has gone on a mission. Don't go back there for the time being. It'll be good if you can stay here with me."

"That's what I plan to do too. I've also brought the two children with me. School is about to start and I'm getting ready to go to school!" Qiao Mei said.

"It's good to study, but you have to take care of your health and not overwork yourself. Have you gone to look for Xiao Fang? Did she do a checkup for you?" Xia Jun asked.

"Aunt has already done a checkup for me. Everything is going well. I hear from Aunt that it's going to be a boy and that I'm pregnant with only one this time," Qiao Mei told him honestly.

"It doesn't matter if it's a boy or a girl. It's good that it's one baby. It will be easier than when you gave birth to Xia Fan and Xia Xing. However, you still have to take care of your health. You can't be careless just because you've given birth before. Make sure it's not too tough on you," Xia Jun said, seemingly consoled.

Qiao Mei looked at Xia Jun sitting alone in such a big house. The entire space really looked a bit empty. Xia Wen was usually the one who came to accompany Xia Jun. However, now that Xia Wen was busy with work, he did not have time to go home to take care of Xia Jun. Most of the time, Xia Jun was left alone at home.

"Grandfather, why don't you go and be my grandfather's companion? The two of you should live in the same house. The children are there too," Qiao Mei said tentatively.

The truth was that Xia Jun already had this intention for a long time, but he was too embarrassed to raise it. He was worried that Qiao Qiang would despise him. This old buddy of his cared about reputation the most. If he suddenly went to stay in Qiao Qiang's house, Qiao Qiang would make things difficult for him.

"Does your grandfather agree to this arrangement?" Xia Jun asked.

"Let me handle my grandfather. Two days ago, my grandfather even made a call to Eldest Brother! He called to ask about your situation. He has a sharp tongue but a soft heart. He's not really angry with you. Just say that you want to be with the children every day. I'm going to school soon and the children need company," Qiao Mei said.

"Alright! I'll go!" Xia Jun said happily.

The helper went to pack Xia Jun's luggage. She had to follow him to Qiao Mei's house. It just so happened that Qiao Mei also needed a helper to take care of the backyard part of the courtyard house and Li Gui's house, so this would save Qiao Mei the trouble of finding one.

"I still don't know Auntie's name?" Qiao Mei looked at the nanny and asked her.

"My name is Peanut. I'm an orphan and everyone calls me that. I'm used to it," Peanut said with a smile.

Peanut was from a small village and lived a happy, simple and blissful life when she was young. However, there was a flash flood which destroyed the entire village. By the time Xia Jun and his troops arrived to help, it was already too late. They only managed to save a few children and adults who were lucky enough to escape. Peanut was sent to the orphanage and she grew up there.

After she grew up, she kept thinking about how to repay Xia Jun for saving her life. It was only when the Xia family looked for a new helper for Xia Jun that Peanut had a chance to repay Xia Jun.

"Alright, then I'll call you Auntie Peanut," Qiao Mei said.

After packing their things, Xia Jun and Auntie Peanut sat in the backseat of Qiao Mei's car. This was the first time Xia Jun sat in Qiao Mei's car and he could not help but feel a little nervous.

"Mei Mei, drive slowly. I have the tendency to get carsick," Xia Jun said. Auntie Peanut smiled but did not say anything.

Xia Jun had driven a tank, a train and even a fighter jet in his life! How could he get carsick in a car? This was just to trick Qiao Mei into driving slower. He was worried that Qiao Mei's driving skills were not good enough and that she might get into an accident. It was definitely safer to drive slowly.

Chapter 1748 Improvement In Chess

Qiao Mei sped down the road all the way, scaring Xia Jun so much that he gripped his seatbelt tightly and did not let go. Xia Jun, who had never been afraid of going onto the battlefields and killing enemies in his entire life, was now afraid of Qiao Mei's driving. Fortunately, Qiao Mei was a steady driver who had a tendency to drive too fast. After knowing how good a driver Qiao Mei was, Xia Jun was no longer scared.

"Mei Mei, remember to drive slower next time. It's safer to drive slowly," Xia Jun reminded her.

"Yes, Grandfather. I'll definitely be more careful next time! Both of you can go in first. I'll go and park the car and I'll be back soon." Qiao Mei drove to the courtyard house at the side. She had modified the house into a parking space that could accommodate three cars. Although it was a pity to do so, it was

otherwise impossible to park such a big car in the alley. It was already very good to be able to fit even one bicycle outside.

Qiao Qiang was playing chess in the backyard. When he heard noises, he thought that Qiao Mei had returned. He shouted happily in the direction of the sound, "Oh my! Mei Mei, come and play chess with me! That kid Zhang Wei is really not good at chess. You're the one who can play at least a few rounds with me!"

"How dare you mock others with your chess skills? Even kids are better at chess than you!" Xia Jun stood beside Qiao Qiang and said with a smile.

"Why is it you, old thing? Why are you at my house? Where is Mei Mei? Who asks you to come to my house?" Qiao Qiang said with a frown.

"Why can't I come? I'm here to see my great-grandchildren, not to see you. I just come and take a look at you because it's on the way," Xia Jun said as he sat opposite Qiao Qiang.

Qiao Qiang quickly covered the chessboard and said, "Who says you can sit opposite me? Shoo, shoo, shoo! If you want to see the children, then don't come and disturb me! You still say it's on the way! This place is only so big. You must be here to disturb me on purpose. You should go home. You're not welcome at my house!"

"You're so unreasonable. Didn't you just say that you need someone to play chess with you? That's why I'm here to play with you for a while even though I'm reluctant to do so. Who likes playing chess with you? I'm not that willing to play with a lousy chess player like you!" Xia Jun said disdainfully.

"What are you saying? I've improved a lot! Do you think you can always win! Back in the army, I was better than you in everything! Now, I'll definitely surpass you in chess! Let's play one round! Don't cry if you lose!" Qiao Qiang said as he looked at Xia Jun stubbornly.

"So be it! I'm not afraid of you! Whoever loses is a puppy!" After saying that, Xia Jun started to arrange the pieces on the chessboard. Auntie Peanut stood at the side and watched quietly. This was her first time at Qiao Mei's house and she did not know which room Qiao Mei had prepared for Xia Jun.

An hour passed and there was only one last move left before Qiao Qiang lost the game. Xia Jun looked at Qiao Qiang's expression and decided to give him an advantage. Qiao Qiang took the opportunity to go for checkmate! In the end, Qiao Qiang won this game of chess and it was also the only time he had won in so many years.

"Look! Isn't my chess skills much better!" Qiao Qiang said proudly.

"You've indeed improved!" Xia Jun coaxed Qiao Qiang.

"Come, let's play another round. I want to beat you a few more times! If I win, give me five dollars!" Qiao Qiang said.

"Then if you lose, will you give me five dollars?" Xia Jun asked.

Qiao Qiang immediately replied, "No, I won't. At most, I'll cook for you. If you lose, I'll cook you one dish. I do the cooking and you buy the ingredients."

"Sure, sure, sure. Whatever you say!" Xia Jun said with a smile.

Qiao Mei asked Xu Kang to go and look for Auntie Peanut. They cleared out the room next to Qiao Qiang to be used as Xia Jun's room in the future. Xia Jun could stay here whenever he came over. Auntie Peanut would take the room next to Xia Jun's room so that it would be easier for her to take care of the two elders.

At night, Qiao Mei called Auntie Peanut over and said, "Auntie Peanut, we're a family, so I'll be frank with you. This house is big and there are definitely more chores here than at Grandfather's house. Sister Xu Kang does the cooking and Sister Feng Hua takes care of the children. I wonder if you can help me clean up the house in the backyard and do laundry for the two elders."

"Of course. This is what I do at your grandfather's house. I'm very familiar with these things. In the next few days, I'll try my best to learn from Sister Xu Kang about Old Mr. Qiao Qiang's habits and preferences. I'll definitely take care of Old Mr. Qiao Qiang like I do with Old Mr. Xia Jun!" Auntie Peanut said.

Chapter 1749 Late

Nowadays, it was very difficult to find a helper who was as considerate as Auntie Peanut. Qiao Mei had interacted with many helpers before and she knew that it was a blessing to be able to find a helper whose temper and character matched that of the family!

"I'll double your salary during this period of time because my house is big and there are many occupants, so it will definitely be more troublesome. If you have any requests, just tell Sister Feng Hua. She is in charge of the expenses and she's the one who buys stuff and pays the salary. If you feel that there's any household appliances which are lacking, you can also tell Sister Feng Hua and she will go and buy it," Qiao Mei said.

"There's no need to double my salary! This job is similar to what I do at your grandfather's house. You don't have to pay me more. Your grandfather already pays me a high salary. This is what I should do," Auntie Peanut said immediately.

"Then I'll give you a bonus! Just go along with me regarding this matter. I'll have to trouble you to take good care of the two 'overgrown children' in my house during this period of time," Qiao Mei said.

Auntie Peanut smiled and nodded. Qiao Mei asked Xu Kang to bring Auntie Peanut around to familiarize her with the different rooms at home and to brief her on Qiao Qiang's usual routine. Auntie Peanut also told Xu Kang about Xia Jun's habits so that neither of them would annoy the two old men.

The house was lively again and it was soon time for the start of the school term. The day before school started, Qiao Mei went to the mall to buy clothes which students liked to wear. She had wanted to make a few pieces of clothing herself, but time was limited and it was more convenient to go and buy them.

She mainly wanted clothes which were loose, comfortable and plain-looking. If she wore clothes that were too nice, it would inevitably attract attention. Qiao Mei also bought a new school bag and a lot of pens and writing materials.

"Ring, ring, ring~"

The phone in the study rang. Qiao Mei quickly went in to answer the call and said, "Hello, this is the Xia family residence."

"Mei Mei, it's Aunt. I hear from your mother-in-law that you're attending classes at Sixth High starting tomorrow. There's no canteen at Sixth High. During this period of time at school, you can go to my house during your lunch break," Xia Fang said.

"This is too much trouble for you, Aunt," Qiao Mei said embarrassedly.

"What's there to be worried about? When Xia Zhe was still schooling, he stayed at my house for a few years! When you first came, you also stayed in Xia Zhe's room. Even now, Xia Zhe's things are still inside! It's really tiring for you to travel back and forth while pregnant. It would be good if you only go back to your own home during the weekend break," Xia Fang said.

Qiao Mei thought about it and felt that the offer was indeed very tempting. She said happily, "Thank you, Aunt! You should also come home at noon. I'll cook a big meal for you!"

"Why do you need to cook! You have to study well and not work too hard. I should be the one cooking to reward you. It's a deal! Come to my place for lunch break in the future!" Xia Fang hung up after saying that.

Qiao Mei packed all the things she needed for school and only went to sleep after confirming that she did not miss out on anything.

Early the next morning, Qiao Mei was woken up by Xu Kang. This was the first time she woke up so early. The rooster at home had not even crow yet. In the past, she did not think that going to school was so tiring, but she had changed her mind by now.

With heavy steps, Qiao Mei changed her clothes, took her school bag and drove to the entrance of Sixth High. When she reached the school gate, she realized that her car was really too ostentatious and quickly drove the car to Xia Fang's house. She decided to park her car here before going to school. It took her less than five minutes to reach the entrance of Sixth High on foot.

Qiao Mei arrived late today and many students were already seated. As soon as Qiao Mei entered, all the students in the class gasped. They had seen beautiful women before, but only on television. They did not expect to see someone in real life who was even prettier than the beautiful women on television!

Qiao Mei did not want to attract too much attention, so she quickly walked to the window seat in the first row and sat down. The seat beside her was still empty. When she entered the classroom, Qiao Mei saw Xu Jiao sitting in the last row of the class with a male classmate beside her. This male classmate had been chatting animatedly with her, but when Qiao Mei arrived, everyone's attention was focused on Qiao Mei.

"Who do you think this person is? She's so beautiful!"

"I didn't expect to be able to see such a beautiful woman in school. In the future, I'll be the first to come to the classroom every day!"

"Hmph, what's so great about being beautiful? The most important thing is to have good results!"

Chapter 1750 Special Class

"Look at the way she's dressed. I can tell at a glance that she's an attention seeker!"

"But you can't say that right away. Let's wait and see. What if she's a down-to-earth person?"

Everyone whispered among themselves. Qiao Mei had very good hearing and could hear everything they said. There were both nice and nasty comments and there were even people who slandered her. However, Qiao Mei could not be bothered with these people. They could gossip all they wanted. As the saying went, an upright person would not have a crooked shadow! As long as they were not an eyesore in front of her, Qiao Mei did not intend to deal with this group of people.

The next person to step into the classroom was a male student called Wu Duo. Like Qiao Mei, he attracted the attention of most of the female students the moment he stepped into the classroom. He was more than 1.9 meters tall, muscular and handsome. Many girls could not help but like him when they saw him.

However, Qiao Mei was not interested in Wu Duo. Xia Zhe was 10,000 times more handsome than any of these people. If she had to make a comparison, it would be like comparing between a toad on the ground and a swan in the lake. To her, Wu Duo was at most a little frog.

He immediately saw Qiao Mei, who was sitting by the window. He quickly ran over and sat in the seat beside Qiao Mei. As he moved too fast, he bumped into the stool and the loud sound startled all his classmates.

"Hi... um... hello, my name is Wu Duo. I'm a student in our class," Wu Duo said shyly as he scratched his head.

"Hello, my name is Qiao Mei," Qiao Mei said mildly.

The female student in front of Xu Jiao was called Bian Chi. She and Wu Duo had grown up in the same neighborhood and were like childhood sweethearts. Her family did not want her to go to school and forced her to go to work before she even graduated from high school. As for Wu Duo, he carried bricks at a nearby construction site after he finished high school. Due to his hard work, he was even promoted to be the supervisor after some time.

Just like that, Bian Chi quietly accompanied Wu Duo. When she found out that Wu Duo wanted to take the college entrance examination, she managed to beg her family to let her continue with her studies.

Bian Chi was also a beautiful girl, but only before Qiao Mei arrived. Many male classmates wanted to sit beside Bian Chi, but she rejected them all. She had been looking forward to Wu Duo's arrival and felt that only Wu Duo could sit beside her and no one else. However, she did not expect that Wu Duo did not even look at her and only kept staring at Qiao Mei.

Xu Jiao saw the tears in Bian Chi's eyes. She patted Bian Chi and asked, "What's wrong? Are you alright?"

"I... I'm fine." Although Bian Chi was talking to Xu Jiao, she could not help but look in Wu Duo's direction.

"Do you know that guy? The person sitting next to him is my cousin-in-law," Xu Jiao said.

"Cousin-in-law? Is she already married?" Bian Chi asked Xu Jiao in surprise.

Xu Jiao pretended to be innocent and said, "Yes, she's been married for a long time. Is that guy your relative?"

Bian Chi blushed and said, "No... no, that's just my neighbor."

"Oh~ Then you have to be careful. My cousin-in-law is very beautiful! Many men have fallen for her," Xu Jiao said in a weird tone.

Bian Chi looked at Qiao Mei with a dark expression. She felt that Qiao Mei must have done something to make Wu Duo sit down beside her. It was definitely not Wu Duo who took the initiative!

Qiao Mei did not pay attention to all this. She was not interested in interacting with these people at all and did not want to have anything to do with them. What she hoped for the most was for this year to pass peacefully.

"Bang! Bang! Bang!"

There were a few violent knocks on the door. A chubby man slowly walked to the middle of the podium with a stack of test papers. After tidying up the test papers, he coughed lightly.

"Cough, cough... I'm your homeroom teacher. My name is Wu Li. I know it sounds like the term for 'Physics', but no! My surname is Wu! I hope that everyone won't joke around with my name in the future. I don't think it's funny!" Wu Li took a deep breath and continued, "Our class is quite special. We have students of all ages. I hope that you can get along harmoniously and not cause trouble among your classmates!"

This class which Qiao Mei was attending was specially set up for this year's college entrance examination. There were people from all walks of life in the class, including housewives and underage students. There was even an 80-year-old elderly man.