

Fat Wife 1791

Chapter 1791: Submit University Application

Many people told Xu Lan that it was such a pity Xia Zhe had married a wife who was from the countryside. With Xia Zhe's current status and ability, he could have easily married the daughter of a high-ranking executive and that would definitely help in his future promotion. Even up till now, there were still people who said such things in front of Xu Lan.

In the beginning, Xu Lan felt the same way, but from the looks of it now, their family was actually the one who benefited from Qiao Mei marrying into the family.

If not for Qiao Mei, their family would have been long gone. Qiao Mei had helped their family time and time again, pulling various family members back from the brink of death. It was truly all Qiao Mei's efforts.

Qiao Mei and Li Gui prepared a lot of vacuum-packed food for ease of transportation. After everything was ready, the big rescue team set off on their journey.

Qiao Mei and Xu Lan could only stay at home and wait for the news. It was difficult to walk in the snow. If Qiao Mei went, a fall could easily lead to miscarriage. She was already in the advanced stage of pregnancy and any accident could easily cause the deaths of both mother and child.

Qiao Mei stuck a small vine seed into the treads of each tire on the rescue truck. By the time the team reached the highlands, these seeds would have germinated and the vines would wrap around the tires, increasing the friction of the tires on the road and making it less slippery.

A few days passed, but there was still no news from Xia Wen. They did not know how Xia He was doing. Every day, Qiao Mei sat in the courtyard and stared at the main door, worried that she would miss out on any telegrams sent by Xia Wen.

"Mei Mei, I'll sit here and wait. Go to your room and rest," Li Gui said as she looked at Qiao Mei with heartache.

"I won't be able to sit still even if I go to the room. I might as well wait here in the courtyard," Qiao Mei said with a sigh.

Li Gui looked at the calendar and said, "Oh! You should change and go to school. Isn't today the day you submit the university application?"

Qiao Mei had been so anxious recently that she had forgotten about this matter. She asked the Xia family chauffeur to send her to school. She had lent her car to Xia Wen, as it was made safer for him to travel using a jeep on the mountain roads.

In the school, it was very noisy all along the corridor since everyone was

enthusiastically discussing which school they wanted to go to. The results of the college entrance examination would not be announced yet, only the students' rankings. If one's family had enough influence, could secretly find out how many points one had scored.

Therefore, regardless of whether they managed to make it or not, everyone had to come to school to submit the university application. Of course, at the end of the day, some people would go home happily while others would have to take the examination again next year.

As soon as Qiao Mei arrived at the school, she attracted everyone's attention. Many people went up to her and asked, "Qiao Mei, which school do you want to go to?"

"Capital University," Qiao Mei said without any hesitation.

No one was surprised. After all, with Qiao Mei's score, it would be strange if she did not choose either Capital University or Huatian University. Given that she was the best student in the city, it was ridiculous for her to go to a lousy university.

When Qiao Mei reached the classroom, she saw Xu Jiao and Xu Man. Xu Jiao did not look too good. Apparently, she had forgotten to write her name on the last paper. If so, she would have lost those points and her already precarious result would be even more dismal.

Xu Man, on the other hand, looked fresh and exuded confidence. Qiao Mei came to their side and asked, "Have you both decided?" "I want to go to Huatian University," Xu Man said.

"I... I don't know..." Xu Jiao said shakily.

Qiao Mei nodded in understanding. She went to Wu Duo and asked, "How is it? Have you decided where you want to go?"

"Capital University, of course!" Wu Duo winked at Qiao Mei as he spoke. His main goal in getting into university was to teach that indecent couple a lesson and take back everything that belonged to him. As if he would even consider going to some unknown lowly-rated university?

In the past, he would not even dare to think about it. Now, he could choose any school he wanted. It was all Qiao Mei's credit.

Among the four students whom Qiao Mei taught, three of them wanted to go to Capital University and one to Huatian University. These were the universities that were ranked first and second in the country, which further confirmed Qiao Mei's ability.

Wu Li brought the application forms and the list of supplementary rules and regulations to the classroom. The students would be completing the application forms without knowing their results. They would have to predict how they had scored. Then, they would have to guess the cutoff score for admission to each school. Today, everyone would only know their ranking in the capital.

Qiao Mei, Wu Duo and the other three were not worried at all. They were definitely within the top 10 in the capital. Even if Capital University was only taking in 10 students, they would definitely be on the list..

Chapter 1792: Celebration Party

By the time they completed the entire process, it was already the evening. Qiao Mei was in a hurry to go home and wait for news from Xia Wen but Wu Duo and the others blocked her way.

“Mentor Qiao Mei, we would like to treat you to a meal,” Wu Duo said embarrassedly.

Qiao Mei chuckled and asked, “You used to call me Qiao Mei. Why do you address me as your mentor now?”

“If not for you, the few of us would not have been able to get into a good university. We will remember your kindness forever! We want to treat you to a celebratory meal. Mentor, please come,” Wang Wei said.

Qiao Mei did not have the heart to reject their invitation, so she had no choice but to go for dinner with them. They had decided to be extravagant for once and brought Qiao Mei to the best restaurant in the entire capital. Among the few of them, only Wu Duo and Wang Wei came from middle-class backgrounds and had enough money to pay for their daily expenses.

The other two students’ families found it difficult to even eat meat once a month, but their parents said that even if they could not afford meat or fish for the next five years, they wanted to thank Qiao Mei for helping their children with their studies.

They sat down in the main dining hall of the restaurant and waited to order.

When they received the menu, they seemed hesitant. Their budget was limited and if they ordered too much, they might need to go and borrow money.

Seeing this, Qiao Mei said, “Why don’t I . . .”

Before Qiao Mei could finish speaking, Li Xue immediately said, “No! We must treat you to this meal! Mentor, you don’t have to worry about us. We have money! Don’t worry and just eat!”

“Alright, then I’ll go along with what you say. But don’t order too much and don’t waste any food. Make sure we can finish everything we order!” Qiao Mei reminded them.

“Yes, madam!” they said with a smile.

In the end, the five of them ordered four dishes, namely two meat dishes and two vegetable dishes. They made sure not to be too extravagant or wasteful. As they waited for the food, Qiao Mei chatted with them casually about what they wanted to do in the future.

Li Xue wanted to be like who Qiao Mei was to them, a teacher and educator. Wu Duo was very interested in machinery and Wang Wei was very passionate about medicine. The fourth person wanted to become a writer. They all knew what they wanted to do in life.

Qiao Mei looked at them and felt gratified. In the beginning, she only wanted to nurture a few young people so that she could have more help in the future. However, by the end of the journey, when she saw them working tirelessly and moving step by step towards success, she felt an indescribable feeling. This must be how teachers felt proud of what they did.

A group of people suddenly walked in from the door. Tan Jing and Huang Quan walked on each side of the group. Tan Jing was even wearing a red flower on her head and Huang Quan was wearing a smart suit. It looked like they were hosting a banquet. What a coincidence.

The economy had fully opened up this year, so everyone no longer felt constrained when it came to such activities. People were allowed to host banquets at restaurants and hotels. It was no longer a big deal to be a bit more extravagant.

Qiao Mei did not expect Tan Jing to really marry into the Huang family. After the couple accompanied their relatives and friends upstairs, they came back down and waited at the staircase to welcome more guests. Tan Jing was all smiles, but Huang Quan was not so happy. He wondered how he was supposed to be happy if he did not manage to marry the person he wanted to marry and had to marry a scheming woman who had already been married before.

Tan Jing's eyes reddened when she caught sight of Qiao Mei. She hated Qiao Mei so much that she even dreamed of killing Qiao Mei. Huang Quan had already agreed to buy that old house to be their matrimonial home. She had always wanted to live in an old house, just like Qiao Mei. Before Qiao Mei married into the Xia family, Xia Wen clearly had a chance to get that siheyuan courtyard house. Back then, her nightmare had started when Qiao Mei joined the family.

In the end, Huang Quan had perfunctorily bought an apartment for Tan Jing. The floor area of the apartment was only about 80 square meters. It was not even as big as two rooms in the old house!

He only needed a house to keep Tan Jing in. Tan Jing had said that she would allow him to see other women and that she could even help him get Qiao Mei. He could not ask for anything better! Therefore, he simply bought a place for Tan Jing to shut her up. The main thing was to get Qiao Mei. Qiao Mei walked up to the couple and said, "Congratulations."

"What a coincidence to meet you here. Come upstairs and have a drink," Huang Quan said excitedly.

"No need, my friends are over there," Qiao Mei said as she pointed at Wu Duo and the others.

Huang Quan asked ingratiatingly, "Isn't it the day to submit university applications today? Which university did you choose?"

"Capital University," Qiao Mei replied honestly. Even if she refused to answer, Huang Quan would be able to find out given his position. It was better for her to be upfront with the information..

Chapter 1793: Results Turning to Ashes

Tan Jing looked at Qiao Mei with even more hatred in her eyes. It was unbelievable that a girl from the countryside could get into Capital University within a year.

"I see that I'm late." There was a man's voice behind Qiao Mei.

Huang Quan immediately put on a respectful look and squeezed his fleshy face into a smile, "Oh, you're not late! Not late at all! You have come at the right time! It's an honor to have you attend my wedding banquet! If you told me earlier that you're coming, I would have gone and picked you up personally!"

Qiao Mei did not need to turn around to know that the person who came was He Ning. Other than He Ning, there was no one else who would make Huang Quan behave like this.

He Ning ignored what Huang Quan said and turned to look at Qiao Mei, saying, "What a coincidence to run into you here. Why have you come to attend the wedding banquet?"

Huang Quan was stunned when he saw this. He Ning actually knew Qiao Mei! Why was it that this fact did not come up in his investigation? The Xia family and the He family had an ongoing grudge, did they not? How could these two people know each other? He had never seen He Ning smile at anyone! Then did that mean that he was trying to snatch He Nings "woman"?

"It's really my misfortune to run into you. I'm not here to attend the wedding banquet. You can go up yourself. I'm here with my friends," Qiao Mei said in annoyance.

He Ning looked at Huang Quan t s gaze and then at Qiao Mei. He thought that Huang Quan would be satisfied enough with Tan Jing, but he did not expect this man to have his eyes on Qiao Mei.

How could Huang Quan even think about cracking the tough nut which He Ning did not manage to crack? He was really too full of himself.

"I've already asked my people to send the congratulatory gifts to your house. I'm just here to take a quick look. I wish you both joy and happiness and to have many children. I hope you have a child soon," He Ning said as he looked at Tan Jing.

Qiao Mei almost laughed. Was he really sending them good wishes?

Tan Jings expression darkened and Huang Quan began to feel a little puzzled.

He thought that Tan Jing had used some kind of benefit to exchange for He Ning to help her marry into the Huang family. Now, it seemed more like He

Ning had a hold over Tan Jinga

If that was the case, then why did He Ning want Tan Jing marry him? Could it be... could it be that He Ning wanted to get rid of the Huang family! In that case, He Ning could kill two birds with one stone and get everything he wanted effortlessly.

What a scheming person... What an underhanded tactic...

Huang Quan was so frightened that he broke out in cold sweat. He Ning did not care about any of this. The fact that Qiao Mei was there made it impossible for him to pay attention to anyone else. He stared at Qiao Mei and said, 'I have an important piece of information to tell you. I wonder if you want to know?'

Qiao Mei raised her eyebrows and looked at He Ning as she asked, "What type of information?"

"I'm afraid you won't be able to get into Capital University because your examination papers will be burned to ashes tonight," He Ning said.

"What do you mean!" Qiao Mei questioned loudly.

Qiao Mei's strange behavior attracted the attention of Wu Duo and the others. The four of them immediately rushed to Qiao Mei's side, pointed at He Ning and shouted, "Stay away from our teacher!"

They knew that they could not afford to offend this person in front of them, but if he was bullying Qiao Mei, they must protect her. Without Qiao Mei, they would not be where they were today. Today, even if the person in front of them could cause them to completely disappear from the capital, they would not back away.

"You have taught your students well. They're all loyal people," He Ning said as he clapped and looked at Wu Duo and the others.

"The people you taught are all heartless. We raise our own kind," Qiao Mei said mockingly.

He Ning pretended to look disappointed and said, "I come here with good intentions and want to deliver news to you, but you say such things about me.

It really makes me feel so bitterly disappointed.”

“Is what you said true? Why should I believe what you say? Are you the mastermind?” Qiao Mei questioned.

“Don’t you know very well the clout I have in the capital? I rely on you to stay alive. Will I be stupid enough to shoot myself in the foot? You know that I must have found sufficient evidence before I come and tell you,” He Ning said.

“What do you want?” Qiao Mei asked.

“Why don’t we eat while we talk?” He Ning said as he pointed at the private room upstairs.

Qiao Mei pointed at the dishes they had just ordered and said, “Bring these dishes over as well. You pay for the meal today.”

“Sure,” He Ning said with a resigned smile.

The few of them went to the big private room upstairs. Wu Duo and the others felt a little ill at ease and did not know what to say. They were all afraid that if they said anything wrong, they would lose their lives..

Chapter 1794: Thwarted

He Ning went ahead and ordered a few more dishes. Qiao Mei did not speak during this period of time. She knew that He Ning had a habit of waiting for all the dishes to be served before any discussion.

After the waiter placed all the dishes on the table, He Ning pointed at them and said, “Please help yourselves.”

Wu Duo and the others remained motionless and did not dare to pick up their chopsticks. Qiao Mei picked up her chopsticks and said, "You guys can go ahead and eat. There's no need to worry about him."

The few of them wolfed down the food without any care for their image. This was the first time they had seen such a sumptuous banquet. He Ning picked up his chopsticks, but then put them back down. He rarely ate food prepared outside and particularly did not eat anything that was already touched by others.

Qiao Mei knew his temper and could not be bothered with him. After eating and drinking her fill, she asked, "Tell me about how my results will disappear."

"I only managed to find out that someone wants to burn your examination papers tonight. It's not just yours, but all the papers for the entire school. All the candidates from your school will find their results gone," He Ning said.

The other people at the table widened their eyes to hear that. To them, this matter was actually not that serious. Their results were ranked at the top in the capital. As long as their teacher vouched for them and they took the examination again, they would still be able to successfully enter Capital University or Huatian University.

However, it was different for the rest of the students. They were not so outstanding or famous and they only wanted to get into an ordinary university. If their results were destroyed, they would have to wait to retake the examination next year.

However, no one knew what would happen next year! Who could say for sure what next year's policy would be and if there would be any changes. Why should people who already qualified for university this year be disqualified for nothing?

"Who is that person?"

"I've already told you enough. What can you give me in return? I can't just tell you everything I know," He Ning said.

“A bottle of medicinal wine!” Qiao Mei said.

“Deal!” He Ning agreed readily.

Qiao Mei looked at He Ning suspiciously. There was something fishy about the fact that He Ning did not even bargain with her this time. Could it be that there was something else going on? Perhaps He Ning had done something wrong against her or that he had set up a trap within this matter.

“Hey, hey, hey! You should not think so badly of others. Can’t it be that I just want to help you?” He Ning looked at Qiao Mei in disdain.

“Sure! Then tell me who the perpetrator is,” Qiao Mei asked expectantly.

“The person is so near yet so far. That’s all I can say. As for who it is, you can investigate it yourself,” He Ning said meaningfully.

“I’ll arrange for someone to send the medicinal wine to your house.” After saying that, Qiao Mei left the restaurant with Wu Duo and the others. Even if He Ning came right out and told her who the culprit was, Qiao Mei would not believe him. The things that He Ning said were 30% true and 70% false. Most of what he said could not be trusted.

Usually, when something like this happened in the family, she would look for

Xia Wen. However, now that the entire family was focused on looking for Xia He, she did not want to cause trouble for him at this time. Qiao Mei asked the chauffeur to send her back to the courtyard house. The only person who could help her now was Xia Jun.

“Grandfather! Grandfather, I have bad news! Something serious has happened!” Qiao Mei shouted as she hurriedly ran to the backyard house.

Both Xia Jun and Qiao Qiang came out of their rooms and said in unison, “Grandfather is here! What’s wrong?”

After saying that, the two of them looked at each other in disdain. Xia Jun said unhappily, "Mei Mei is calling me. Why did you come out?"

"What a joke! I'm her biological grandfather! How can you be her grandfather!" Qiao Qiang argued.

"Eh, let's talk about these things in the future! Grandfather, someone wants to burn my college entrance examination papers! Not only that, that person intends to burn all the examination papers from my school!" Qiao Mei said anxiously.

"What! How can this be! I'll get someone to investigate this matter now! Wait at home!" After saying that, Xia Jun told the chauffeur to send him to the military headquarters in the capital. He wanted to send a team out to guard all the examination papers. In the wee hours of the morning, Xia Jun's subordinates successfully caught the culprit red-handed and brought the person back to the military district to be detained for interrogation.

Qiao Mei also sent news to Yao Nian. The next morning, Qiao Mei received a message from Yao Nian via his carrier pigeon. However, when she looked at the message, she was dazed for a long time.

Qiao Qiang snatched the piece of paper from Qiao Mei's hand to read the message and then muttered, "Zhou Hua? How is that possible?"

Chapter 1795: Tied Up

No wonder He Ning had such a strange expression on his face at that time and even said those words when he spoke about the mastermind. As the saying went, it was really the hardest to guard against a thief from within the family.

But why would Zhou Hua do such a thing? Why was she seeking revenge on

Qiao Mei? Also, how did Zhou Hua have the ability to do something like this?

Ever since Zhou Hua divorced Xia Guang, she had been in a state of depression, but she was still able to carry on with her life. However, when she found out that Xia Xing's marriage was annulled and that people in the capital were saying that Xia Xing was impotent, she went berserk and blamed Qiao Mei for everything. For a period of time, she even wanted to hang herself.

After that, when she found out that Xia Lu and Xia Yan had been caught by Xia Mao and sent to prison, she went even more crazy. Her parents were really worried about her safety and were afraid that she would die at home, so they sent her to Xia Guang.

Although the couple was already divorced, they were still once husband and wife and had previously committed their devotion to each other. Therefore,

Xia Guang took on the task of taking care of Zhou Hua. Under his care, Zhou

Hua seemed to have gotten better, so no one expected such a thing to happen.

Xia Jun had already asked someone to bring the couple in. However, there was a difference in the way they were brought back. Xia Guang was invited in, while Zhou Hua was tied up and carried in. Their treatment was completely different.

"Father! Why are you doing this to Zhou Hua! What's happening! Can't we talk things out nicely?" Xia Guang asked anxiously.

Qiao Mei watched in shock as Xia Jun's subordinates carried Zhou Hua into the house. Even pigs going to the slaughterhouse were not tied up like this. Zhou Hua was trussed up with thick cotton cloth strips, so that her skin was not harmed at all. It would not be good if Zhou Hua accused the Xia family of hurting her. Xia Jun had learned all these little tricks from Xia Xiu.

"Let go of me! What right do you have to capture me for no reason! Can the Xia family do whatever you want in the capital! Is there no law in this country!" Zhou Hua knelt on the ground and struggled as she shouted.

Xia Jun said coldly, "You'd better explain yourself clearly after what you did. You better know why we captured you today."

"I... What am I supposed to know! I don't know! It's your Xia family who owes me a debt! How are you going to repay me! My two sons have already been sent to jail by you! What else do you want! Are you going to send me to jail as well!" Zhou Hua knelt on the ground and roared, her eyes bloodshot.

It was not that appropriate for outsiders to hear what they were going to talk about next. Xia Jun waved his hand and asked all his subordinates to leave. This matter was a disgrace to the Xia family and it would be really embarrassing for others to hear it.

"Father, let go of her! It's not easy for the two of us to get to where we are now. My three sons have either gone to jail or become ordinary people. Are you still going to separate the two of us?" Xia Guang said as he squatted beside

Zhou Hua.

Xia Jun stared at Xia Guang in disdain. How could his son be such a good-for-nothing? Xia Guang could not even tell that his partner was evil and villainous. In the past, he had really doted on Xia Guang too much. Otherwise, such a good son would not have turned out like this.

"Isn't it good to be an ordinary person? Do you want Xia Xing to be a criminal like his two younger brothers? Do you know what kind of marriage partner your wife found for Xia Xing! Do you know how much Qiao Mei has helped you! How much mess she cleaned up for your family! How dare you come here and question me! Question the Xia family! Question Qiao Mei!" Xia Jun pointed at Xia Guang and scolded him.

Xu Lan really could not take it anymore. She pointed at Xia Guang and reprimanded him, "Third Brother, let's not talk about how much your eldest brother has helped you in secret for so many years. Let's just talk about how your son's fiancée wants to drug my Xia Wen and sleep with him! This matter was prevented from happening only because of our Qiao Mei and she did not tell anyone about it. Don't we think that we have given your family enough respect?"

"Is... is this true? I don't even know about it! How can this be... This is completely different from what I was told!" Xia Guang said as he looked at Xu Lan in shock.

“You don’t know? There are still many things you don’t know! That pair of sons of yours wanted to kill my grandson and granddaughter! Yet, Qiao Mei didn’t seek to take their lives and she’s kind enough to just send them to jail to reflect on their actions for a few years. What more do you want from Qiao Mei! How much more do you want our family to do! What exactly does the eldest son’s family owe you!” Xu Lan said as she cried..

Chapter 1796: Solid Evidence

“If my sons hadn’t been provoked by your family to a certain extent! Would they go and kidnap the children! They’re still so young! How can they have so many tricks up their sleeves! It’s all because of Qiao Mei! It’s Qiao Mei who made them clean pig intestines! Is that a job for humans? How can you insult people like that?” Zhou Hua raised her head and shouted.

“Are you talking like a human being? Then why don’t you find jobs for your own sons instead of asking Qiao Mei for help? The salary they wanted is twice as high as that of an ordinary worker. Do they feel aggrieved to have to clean pig intestines? If you ask me, they should go and empty the night soil! They should tough it out! Which one of our Xia family’s children and grandchildren is not better than the two of them! Why can’t the two of them endure some hard work!” Xia Jun questioned.

Qiao Mei helped Xu Lan to sit down at one side. Xu Lan wept and said, “Our family’s achievements and status were all obtained through the hard work of your eldest brother and your two nephews! Our Xia He also helped the country in her own way! Our Qiao Mei also donated supplies and seeds to the country! What about your family? What has your family done! What right do you have to come here and criticize us!”

“They’re all children of the Xia family! What right do you have to favor one over another! Why can’t you take better care of our family!” Zhou Hua shouted.

Xia Guang covered Zhou Hua’s mouth and said, “I’m sorry... This is all our family’s fault...”

“Hmph, at least you’re still reasonable and not muddle-headed enough to listen to this woman. Do you know what she’s going to do this time round? She wanted to burn Qiao Mei’s college entrance examination papers!” Xia Jun said angrily.

“What?” Xia Guang looked at Zhou Hua in disbelief.

“Nonsense! It’s not me! You’re accusing me wrongly!” Zhou Hua shouted.

She had paid someone to carry out the plan. There were so many people interspersed in the process, so how could they really find any trace of her action? Even if the arsonist did not succeed, she was not the one who started the fire. It was impossible for them to make her responsible for this matter even if they tried to get to the bottom of it.

“Do you think we won’t be able to find out anything about this? Third Uncle, why don’t you go home and take a look? See if there is 1,000 dollars missing from your savings,” Qiao Mei said calmly.

Some time ago, Xia Guang had indeed realized that there were a lot of things that went missing at home. He ate his meals in the army so he did not really use those food stamps and coupons and had accumulated a drawer full of them. However, the day before yesterday, he realized that everything in the drawer was gone. Zhou Hua had said that she had given everything to her maternal family to help them out.

“Of course she can’t have taken any money from Third Uncle’s pocket. She also doesn’t have that much money, meaning she’s not the only one involved in this plan. There’s also her good sister, Zhou Luo. If not for Zhou Luo being her spy in the capital, she wouldn’t have known so much about what’s going on in the capital,” Qiao Mei said.

“That’s nonsense! You don’t have any evidence at all! You have wronged me!” Zhou Hua said.

“I have wronged you? The perpetrators have already been brought to justice and your elder sister has also already given you up. You just have to go to jail obediently now. We originally wanted to be kind and save you a few years in jail. Now it seems that we are still too benevolent,” Qiao Mei said as she shook her head resignedly.

Zhou Luo had already been arrested some time back and she had told them everything from the beginning to the end. She even told them a lot about Zhou Hua's past. All those things which her ancestors had robbed from graves had also been found and retrieved.

"Impossible... Why would my elder sister betray me..." Zhou Hua said as she looked at Qiao Mei in shock.

"If you only want to burn my examination papers, I won't blame you. There's still room for discussion. But how can you burn the examination papers of those innocent parties? What does this have to do with them? Your heart is so rotten," Qiao Mei said.

"Hahahahaha! Don't pretend to be such a good person! If not for you! Why will they suffer! It's all your fault! Your fault! They're unlucky! Hahahahahaha! They deserve it!" Zhou Hua lay down on the ground and laughed crazily.

Xia Jun called his subordinates outside the door to come in and asked them to take Zhou Hua away. She would be punished accordingly and he would not let her off easily. He wanted to make an example out of her so that anyone who had such crooked ideas in the future would think twice before following the path that she had taken.

"Xia Guang, don't interact with the Zhou family anymore in the future," Xia Jun said sternly.

"Got it..." Xia Guang said dispiritedly..

Chapter 1797: Still Alive

Xia Jun brought Xia Guang to Qiao Mei's study. The father and son had a heated argument, but it was mainly Xia Jun scolding his son. Xia Guang did not dare to refute him. The fact that Qiao Mei could hear Xia Jun scolding someone even though he was inside a soundproof room was enough to show how angry he was about this matter.

“Grandfather has high blood pressure. Will he get so angry that it leads to a heart attack?” Qiao Mei looked at the study worriedly.

“No, he won’t. Your grandfather has weathered through all kinds of storms. At most, he’ll just get angry and vent his frustration on Third Brother,” Xu Lan said with a smile.

Qiao Mei knew that Xu Lan had not been able to sleep well all night recently and had been waiting for news about Xia He. With the addition of this current matter, she looked exhausted. Qiao Mei poured some medicinal wine into a glass of water and brought it over to her.

“Mother, drink this,” Qiao Mei said firmly.

In order to reassure Qiao Mei, Xu Lan drank all the water in one go. She looked more radiant immediately.

Just as everyone was about to head in for a rest, there was suddenly the roar of a car outside the door and a familiar voice could be heard outside. Everyone thought that it was just an illusion.

“I’m back! Grandfather! Mother! Qiao Mei! Are you at home?” Xia He shouted loudly.

Xia Wen had sent Xia He and Deng Fan back to Xu Lan’s place to report that they were safe. They did not expect to hear that something had happened at Qiao Mei’s house the moment they reached the entrance of the neighborhood, so he quickly drove over to Qiao Mei’s place.

Qiao Mei pounced over excitedly. Xia He quickly held on to Qiao Mei and said,

“Wait, wait! You’re pregnant! Slow down!”

“You still know how to come back! I thought you were going to settle down there and not come back!” Qiao Mei complained.

“It’s my fault. It’s all my fault. I’ll go and see Mother first. Let’s catch up later.” After saying that, Xia He walked to Xu Lan’s side. Qiao Mei asked Xu Kang to prepare a big bucket of bath water and to pour more medicinal wine into it to remove the chill from Xia He’s body.

Xia He was dirty all over and her clothes were in tatters, as if she had been wandering outside for many years. There were also some scratches on her face, but she was already very lucky to be able to come back alive.

Xia Wen and Deng Fan had big dark circles under their eyes. Those who did not know better would think that two giant pandas had entered Qiao Mei’s house! Everyone was going to be very busy tonight. They must let these people take a good warm bath to get rid of the chill in their bodies.

The bus which Xia He and the troupe was in was stranded on the road and the entire bus was covered in snow. There were more than 20 people in the bus and they were all alive. When Xia Wen and Deng Fan found Xia He, she was already on her last breath.

She could have relied on Qiao Mei’s medicinal wine to survive the ordeal, but she was a compassionate person and could not bear to see the lives of the people around her in danger. Therefore, she distributed what little medicinal wine she had to everyone. However, that little bit of medicinal wine was not enough to save so many people. By the time she saved the third person, she had run out of it.

In the end, Xia He lay down inside the bus and waited quietly for death to come. She had wanted to give the Deng family a grandchild, but it seemed that this wish would not be able to come true. By the time Deng Fan found her, she was already in and out of consciousness and he had to feed her a full bottle of medicinal wine to save her.

“No matter what, I’m a daughter of the Xia family after all. I have to save the rest. Otherwise, I’ll be letting down our family,” Xia He said proudly.

Xu Lan was furious when she heard the story related by Xia Wen. She raised her hand and slapped Xia He. The slap was not enough to vent her anger and she even kicked Xia He a few times.

Everyone in the room was stunned by her actions. Only Qiao Mei knew how Xu Lan felt at this moment. Being mothers, they only selfishly wanted their children to be well. In a life-and-death situation, they did

not care about so many things. As long as their children were safe and sound, they were willing to give up everything.

“Mother is just angry that you gave the medicinal wine to other people. She’s just concerned about you,” Qiao Mei explained.

Tears welled up in Xia He’s eyes. After Xu Lan finished hitting her, she suddenly threw herself into Xu Lan’s arms and wept loudly. On the way back, she did not cry or even feel afraid. However, the moment she saw Xu Lan, she could clearly feel a great sense of fear.

If Xia Wen and Deng Fan did not manage to find her, if they were one step too late, or if she could not make it to the moment she was rescued, then would she be dead and buried in the snow by now?

Thank goodness... Thank goodness everyone was still alive... Thank goodness

she was still alive...

Chapter 1798: Coming to Propose Marriage

“Alright, alright. You’re already such a grown girl, yet you’re still crying like a baby. If Deng Fan sees that, he won’t want you anymore! You won’t look good if you cry too much.” Xu Lan comforted her with a smile.

“He won’t dare to...” Xia He said shyly.

“I have asked Sister Xu to prepare bath water for all of you. Go and take a bath. Whatever it is, we can talk about it tomorrow. There’s no hurry to catch up now,” Qiao Mei said.

When Xia He passed by the study, she heard Xia Jun scolding someone inside. She held Qiao Mei's hand and asked softly, "What is Grandfather doing? Who is he so angry with on the phone? Don't tell me it's because of my issue!"

"No, it's related to Third Uncle's family. Third Uncle is in the room. Don't worry about these things. Go and take a medicinal bath! If you get sick, Mother will be so worried!" Qiao Mei urged.

Everyone returned to their own rooms to freshen up and have a good night's sleep. Xia He and the others did not wake up even by the next evening. Xu Lan paced around the courtyard worriedly.

"Will it hurt their brains to sleep for so long?" Xu Lan asked.

"No, it won't. They're just in a state of recovery. Mother, don't worry. Each of them has drunk a lot of medicinal wine and won't fall sick. The scars on Xia He's face have also been treated with medicinal wine, so there won't be any scars," Qiao Mei said.

Xu Lan looked at Qiao Mei, not knowing how to thank her. In such a dangerous situation, if it was not for Qiao Mei's medicinal wine, no one would have been able to make it back to the capital. Perhaps she would have lost a

daughter by now.

However, any words of gratitude felt a little shallow. Qiao Mei had pulled Xia Mao back from the brink of death previously and now she had saved Xia He from the avalanche. Xu Lan wished that she could build a monument for Qiao Mei so that the descendants of the Xia family could worship Qiao Mei for generations.

"Mother? Why are you looking at me like that?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"Sigh... I just don't know how to thank you," Xu Lan said embarrassedly.

"There's nothing to thank me for. I'm the Xia family's daughter-in-law, so I'm also a member of the Xia family. This is what I should do," Qiao Mei said.

"I will always remember your kindness. I just feel that when I first met you, I really shouldn't have treated you like that..." Xu Lan said repentantly.

"Isn't that only because we don't know each other then? Mother, don't feel so burdened," Qiao Mei said.

Xu Lan nodded. She decided to put in her will to give all her assets to Qiao Mei in the future. No matter what other people told her, she must treat Qiao Mei well.

"Knock, knock, knock!"

"Is anyone home?"

There was a knock on the door. Xu Kang came to the door and asked, "Who are you looking for?"

"We're here to look for Xia He and Xu Lan! I know they're all inside! Let us in!" the person at the door shouted impatiently.

"No! You can't just come in! You haven't said why you're here! Why should I let you in!" Xu Kang shouted angrily.

"Hey! How can you be so ungrateful! Do you know who I am! Do you know what I'm here for! You're wearing an apron... so you must be the helper! How dare a helper talk to me in this manner! Do you believe that I'll get your employer to fire you!" The person at the door pointed at Xu Kang and scolded her.

Qiao Mei asked Xu Lan to take a seat in the main hall first. She wanted to see who the nasty person at the door was.

"What's the matter? Why is it so noisy," Qiao Mei said as she walked over in disdain.

“They’re the ones who are unreasonable...” Xu Kang whispered aggrievedly.

“I wonder who’s at the door?” Qiao Mei asked.

“You don’t even know us? We’re the Cao family from Hu City!” Cao Kuan said proudly.

Qiao Mei did not know much about Hu City, but she had heard of the Cao family. They could be considered one of the richer families in Hu City. They had only just started being active within the upper-class society of Hu City this year and could at most be considered nouveau riche.

“So it’s the Cao family. I wonder why you’re here?” Qiao Mei asked politely.

“I’m here to propose marriage! My younger brother and your family’s Xia He are getting married. Quickly set a date for us to bring her back to Hu City,” Cao Kuan said bluntly.

“What? Get married? But Xia He is already married? How can she marry your younger brother? Besides, what kind of relationship does our Xia He have with your brother?” Qiao Mei asked Cao Kuan, totally at a loss..

Chapter 1799: One Wide and One Narrow

“She’s married? Then how can she cheat my brother of his feelings! She clearly said that she wanted to marry my brother! She said she wanted to be with him forever! How can she lie to us!” Cao Kuan roared.

When did this happen? Could this person be one of Xia He’s crazy fans? Qiao Mei would never believe that Xia He cheated on her husband. Xia He was not that kind of person.

The neighbors all stuck their heads out of their houses. Even passers-by stopped a distance away, waiting to see what was going on at Qiao Mei’s house.

“Did you get it wrong? Are you sure it’s our family?” Qiao Mei asked.

“Is there a Xia He from another Xia family? That big star from the art troupe! Isn’t she from your family? It can’t be wrong! I’ve already asked around! It’s definitely your family! Don’t even think about denying it!” Cao Kuan said firmly.

Xia Wen patted Qiao Mei’s shoulder as he came up from behind her. He said to Cao Kuan in a gentle tone, “Is your younger brother also in the bus that was caught in the avalanche on the highlands?”

“Yes! How do you know? My brother’s name is Cao Zhai! Ask Xia He to come out! We should clarify it face to face!” Cao Kuan said.

Qiao Mei pursed her lips in disdain. These two brothers had weird names. Kuan meant wide and Zhai meant narrow. Cao Kuan’s figure was quite round, which suited his name. She wondered what this Cao Zhai looked like and if he looked like how he was named.

Xia Wen remembered seeing Cao Zhai’s name on the rescue list, but everything happened too quickly at that time and he did not notice anything else. He was only focused on saving Xia He and could not remember what that person looked like.

Ever since Xia He became famous, Cao Zhai gave up his comfortable life in Hu City, took all his money and came to the capital alone. He did not miss any of her performances and even spent a lot of money to give her many gifts. In order to woo her, he even specially bought a big house in the neighborhood opposite the art troupe’s studio.

He was originally worried that if Xia He was not from a good family, his parents would object to them getting married. He definitely did not expect Xia He to have come from a prominent family and to be such a good match for the Cao family. When he found out, he was so excited that he almost asked the Cao family to get the wedding venue ready for him.

When he heard that Xia He was going to the highlands for a community performance, he signed up to be a volunteer. None of them would have expected to encounter an avalanche on the way there and that everyone would be trapped in the bus. Cao Zhai felt that this was their divine fate. Although they were not born on the same day, they could die on the exact same day!

At some point in time, Cao Zhai was about to lose consciousness. Xia He, who was next to him, called out his name and found a thick layer of clothes to cover him while encouraging him to hang on. Whatever she said then was probably the cause of the misunderstanding.

“Come in first. My younger sister is still sleeping. We can talk after she wakes up,” Xia Wen said.

“Sure, I’ll go in and wait! I want to see if you’re lying!” After saying that, Cao Kuan walked in with his subordinates. He also wanted to see if the Xia family was as influential as other people’s exaggerated descriptions and if they were really a good match for his family.

“This house is not too bad. Is this where your entire Xia family lives?” Cao Kuan looked around and asked.

“This is my sister-in-law’s house. It has nothing to do with the Xia family,” Xia Wen said factually.

Cao Kuan’s eyes widened as he questioned, “Isn’t this the Xia family’s old residence? How did it become your sister-in-law’s house? Even if it’s your sister-in-law’s house, you can’t say that it has nothing to do with the Xia family.”

“The Cao family is so resourceful. Didn’t you investigate these things clearly?” Xia Wen questioned.

Cao Kuan stood there awkwardly, not knowing what to say. Indeed, he had not investigated this matter properly. He only wanted to stand up for his younger brother and help him get married quickly. Everything he knew about the Xia family was from what Cao Zhai told him and he did not do a thorough investigation.

“Don’t just stand at the door. Let’s go in and talk,” Qiao Mei said as she pointed at the main hall.

The big group entered the main hall in a grand manner. Cao Kuan did not seem to see Xu Lan and swaggered towards the master seat next to her without even greeting her.

“Ask your younger sister to come out now. Let’s discuss this matter properly. We can’t just waste time like this. Our Cao family is very busy and has many things to deal with!” Cao Kuan said arrogantly..

Chapter 1800: Emerald Necklace

The Xia family members all looked very unhappy by now. They did not know where this group of riffraff came from and how this person could be so rude in their home. If this was in the past, they would have already chased him out. However, at the moment, they did not know what had happened in the highlands. What if they made a wrong move? It was better to wait for Xia He to wake up before dealing with this matter.

Qiao Mei called Xu Kang over and whispered in her ear, "Go and ask Xia He to come over and tell her to dress up very nicely. Get Qian'e to give Deng Fan a call and make up an urgent reason to call him away. Ask him to leave through the back door, don't let him come to the front yard."

"Alright," Xu Kang said softly.

Half an hour later, Xia He came to the main hall wearing Qiao Mei's dark blue dress with the gold embroidered phoenix. She also wore huge pearl earrings and looked very graceful and regal.

When she pushed open the door and saw Cao Kuan, she was slightly stunned. Cao Kuan looked exactly like Cao Zhai, except that one was fatter and the other was thinner.

"You must be Cao Zhai's elder brother. I'm Xia He," Xia He said openly.

"You're finally here. Why did you lie to my brother! Why did you say that you want to marry him! You're already married, so why did you accept my brother's gift!" Cao Kuan scolded her angrily.

"Marry him? When did I ever say that I want to marry Cao Zhai? Where did this news come from? When did I receive any gift from him?" Xia He asked in shock.

“You didn’t say that? Then why would my younger brother say that both of you had already gotten engaged secretly and that he won’t marry anyone but you? He even gave you a bangle which is our family heirloom! And you’ve already accepted it!” Cao Kuan said.

Xia He stood rooted to the spot confusedly. She did not know what was going on. She had never received any gifts from Cao Zhai and did not even know him at all. If not for the fact that they were in the same bus and it was an issue of life and death at that time, she would not even pay any attention to him.

“You’re full of nonsense! My brother sold his assets and bought you so much expensive jewelry! Go and ask your colleagues! They must all know about it!

Especially that emerald necklace! It used to belong to my late grandmother! My brother even gave it to you!” Cao Kuan said.

“Wait... what did you say? The emerald and pearl necklace is from your younger brother?” Xia He asked.

“Hmph, so you really took something from my brother,” Cao Kuan said mockingly.

Xia He had never accepted any gifts from her fans. She would accept flowers but reject other gifts. This was a rule that she had set for herself. She always returned gifts from her fans. Everyone had witnessed it for themselves.

However, Xia He had indeed seen this particular necklace before and she had a deep impression of it. However, she did not see this necklace on her table, but on Li Hua’s neck.

There was one time when Li Hua managed to get the second female lead role. She was very smug then and even laughed at Bai Dian and Huang Li for a long time, almost to the extent of lording over them! If not for the fact that Bai Dian was bad-tempered enough to scold her back on the spot, they would have suffered a lot more!

“Are you sure your younger brother personally gave me this necklace you mentioned?” Xia He asked.

“Isn’t that so?” Cao Kuan asked.

“I don’t accept gifts from anyone after my performances. You can go and ask around. I always send back the gifts from my fans. I only accept flowers but not gifts. However, I have an impression of this necklace you mentioned. I’ve seen it around my colleague’s neck,” Xia He said sternly.

“Are you making up an excuse? Anyone would desire to own such a nice thing. If you already took it, just say so. Don’t pretend to be so ethical and honorable,” Cao Kuan said.

“I’ve always been open and aboveboard in all my dealings. The Xia family is also one of the prominent families in the capital. Is there a need for me to tell lies just for that little piece of jewelry? Look at all the ornaments in this house and the things my family members are wearing. Even our helper wears expensive jewelry. Why should I take a fancy to your things?” Xia He said pompously.

Qiao Mei hid at one side and laughed discreetly. No wonder Xia He gave Xu Kang a ruby ring that was the size of a pigeon egg before she came out.. So this was her intention!