

Fat Wife 1811

Chapter 1811: Eldest Brother Is Unable to Have Children

Qiao Mei suddenly thought of something. Back then, she would send a bottle of medicinal wine to each of her family members every month. Xia Wen was in good health, so he naturally did not need to drink it often. In that case, his portion of the medicinal wine must have been either consumed by the Tan family members or Tan Jing. Perhaps Tan Jings infertility was cured by Qiao Mei's medicinal wine?

"Um... I think I'm the cause of the trouble..." Qiao Mei said as she raised her hand embarrassedly.

"Huh? What does this matter have to do with you?" Xia He asked curiously.

Qiao Mei told them about how much medicinal wine she had given Xia Wen over time and that it was probably Tan Jing who consumed the wine. Xia Fang did not blame Qiao Mei at all. She just felt a little affected. If Xia Wen had delayed finalizing the divorce by one month, Tan Jings position in the Xia family would definitely have been different.

"It's alright. Let's think about this matter at length later. I still have other patients to see, so I don't have the time to care about them." After saying that, Xia Fang continued to do her rounds. Following what happened today, Qiao Mei and Xia He were no longer in the mood for a prenatal checkup. They would come back when Xia Fang was not so busy.

Tan Jing was also having mixed feelings now. She had only gone to the hospital for a checkup because she felt unwell and definitely did not expect to receive news of the pregnancy from the hospital a few days later. She was shocked and quickly told Huang Quan about it. None of the Huang family members was happy to hear this piece of news. All they felt was panic and anger.

They were only willing to accept Tan Jing into the Huang family because she was infertile. If Tan Jing gave birth to a boy, what would happen to Huang Quan's two children? A woman like Tan Jing was the kind who would definitely ill-treat the children.

It was so difficult for Tan Jing to become pregnant with her first child, so why would she listen to the Huang family and get an abortion? She would now have to weigh between being a member of the rich Huang family on one hand and her own flesh and blood on the other hand. It would be a difficult choice for her.

Qiao Mei and Xia He told Xu Lan about what happened. Xu Lan felt pleased as she said, "Fortunately, the divorce was finalized quickly and she never became pregnant with our Xia Wen's child. Otherwise, who knows how she will bring up the child! With a child, it will be even harder for Xia Wen to divorce her!" "Mother! The main thing now is that everyone is saying that Eldest Brother is inadequate in that aspect! Add that to what happened with Xia Xing previously, many people say they suspect that the men of our family are all infertile. There are even rumors that Xia Zhe's children are not his. They...

they say that Qiao Mei cheated on him..." Xia He whispered.

"Nonsense! Which b*tch is saying all these! If I find out, I'll break her legs!" Xu Lan said angrily.

"Everyone has the freedom to say what they want. We can't control what other people say. Let's just live our own lives well. The truth will naturally prevail after Eldest Brother and MO Zhu get married and have their own children," Qiao Mei said.

"Will this matter make the MO family prejudiced against our Xia Wen? After all, this is quite an embarrassing matter. Given that the rumors are flying around about how Eldest Brother is infertile, if MO Zhu still gets married to him, her reputation will definitely be affected," Xia He said worriedly.

Everyone fell silent. This matter was indeed a little hard to handle. Just because other people's opinions were not important did not mean that they could ignore the MO family's opinions.

When Xia Wen heard the news, it did not affect him. He felt the same way as Qiao Mei. Wise people would not believe in rumors. His time was already so precious. It would be a waste of his life if he had to solve all these trivial matters!

MO Zhu also expressed that she did not mind. She was not marrying Xia Wen for the sake of having children. She did not care even if Xia Wen was really infertile. She only wanted to marry Xia Wen, not for the Xia family nor for a child.

The rumors only lasted for a little more than a month before it was forgotten. Soon, it was the end of the year again and every family was busy with putting up the decorations at home, as well as cleaning the house and preparing food for the festive season.

It was the first new year celebrations for the Xia family after they split up. None of them knew if they should ask Xia Guang to come back for the gathering. Xia Yao's family would definitely be back. Liu Fen had already returned early to help Xu Lan with the preparations and also to gossip about Zhou Hua and the others.

Apart from the married daughters who had to spend the new year at their in-laws' house, everyone from the families of the eldest and second sons had all returned. Qian'e stayed at Qiao Mei's house as she wanted to spend the new year with Li Gui and Qiao Qiang..

Chapter 1812: Welcoming the New Year

It was a rare occasion that Xia Fangs entire family was gathered together this year. Xiang Chen had already made a name for himself in Qiao Mei's factory. Qian'e was full of praises for Xiang Chen for doing a good job!

"Mei Mei, does Xiang Chen cause you any trouble? He's a careless person and is not a good accountant at all. If you hadn't hired him, other companies definitely wouldn't even want to look at him!" Xiang Jin said with some annoyance.

"It's nothing like that. Uncle-in-law, ever since Xiang Chen started work at my place, our accounts are finally in order. I'm thinking about giving Xiang Chen a raise! I want him to continue working at my place," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"You always want to put me down. You should be able to believe what my cousin-in-law says! I'm a rare talent! They can't do without me! Don't keep thinking that I'm useless!" Xiang Chen said smugly.

Xiang Jin always felt that it was a pity Xiang Chen did not go into the same line as him or Xia Fang. In his eyes, so long as one did not join the military or the government services, it was not a good job and was a waste of one's youth.

This pair of father and son always argued and insisted on comparing whose life had more value between them. Everyone just let them be. Were there any father and son who did not argue?

“Back then, Xia Wen also always argued with Xia Mao like this. After he left the military, he insisted on becoming a teacher. Xia Mao even punished him and made him stand at the door for one day and one night. Xia Wen was in poor health then, so he fainted and had to be sent to the hospital after standing for so long. I was so angry that I made Xia Mao stand at the door for one day and one night, so that he could experience how his son felt,” Xu Lan said.

“Hahaha! What a thing to happen! Then did my father really do what you say?” Xia He asked excitedly.

“Of course! If your father doesn’t do as I say! I’ll make sure he can never enter this door again!” Xu Lan said proudly.

“All the men in the Xia family dote on their wives. It’s the same for your second uncle. Some time ago, I quarreled with the children for some reason. Anyway, he scolded my son for being a good-for-nothing, making the kid unmotivated to do anything. In the end, I punished him by not allowing him to go home. Only then did father and son reconcile,” Liu Fen said.

Everyone started talking about those embarrassing incidents in the past and Qiao Mei and Xia He listened to the stories gleefully. Suddenly, there was a series of quick knocks on the door.

“Why is there someone knocking on the door during the new year? Can it be...” Xia He turned and whispered to Qiao Mei, “Can it be that Third Uncle’s family is here?”

Just as Xia He had guessed, Xia Guang and Xia Xing were standing at the door and bearing gifts. The two of them stood awkwardly at the door and said, “Eldest Brother... We’re just here to visit Father and wish him well for the new year. If that’s awkward for everyone, we can leave now...”

Xia Mao stared at them for a while before he sighed and said, “It’s alright. Father has been waiting for you. Come in.”

Although Xia Jun said that he did not care if Xia Guang and the rest came home, he kept walking past the main door, looking out from time to time to see if there was anyone passing by.

“Father... Happy New Year...” Xia Guang stood in front of Xia Jun and said nervously.

“Mmm... Happy New Year. Everyone is waiting for the two of you. Take a seat. Let’s eat,” Xia Jun said kindly.

“Aye! Sure!” Xia Guang looked at Xia Jun emotionally.

Everyone sat down at their usual seats. Xia Jun stood up with a glass of wine and said, “Our Xia family has experienced many things in the past year. We’ve gone through thick and thin and faced adversity together. I’m very happy to see that and I hope that in the future, the Xia family members can be united and stop undermining one another. I also hope that next year will be smooth sailing for our family!”

Everyone raised their glasses and shouted in unison, “Niay everything go well!”

Qiao Mei looked at all the family members present with tears in her eyes. Last year, Xia Zhe had even given her a gift for the new year. This year, she was on her own at the family’s new year gathering. She felt a little empty inside. She must study hard and strive to have a chance to go overseas so that she could reunite with Xia Zhe earlier.

“Come on! It’s time for Grandfather to give out red packets! I’ll go first!” Xia He hurriedly ran in front of Xia Jun and knelt down. She yelled out happily, “I wish Grandfather all the best next year and to have a healthy and long life!”

Xia Jun took out a stack of red packets from his pocket and handed one to Xia

He.. “Good, good, good! You can get up now!”

Chapter 1813: Live to a Ripe Old Age

The other grandchildren came over to Xia Jun one by one to kowtow and say their well wishes as they received their red packets. Qiao Mei was the last one and brought Xia Fan and Xia Xing over to Xia Jun, saying, “Babies, greet Great-grandfather~”

‘Great-grandfather!’ Xia Xing shouted out with a crisp voice. Although she could not articulate the words clearly, it was enough for everyone to know who she was addressing.

“Good, good, good! My darling baby! Great-grandfather has prepared a big gift for you! I don’t know if you like it?” Xia Jun happily took out a box from his pocket. Inside was one of Wu Min’s belongings, a gold hairpin with jade inlay.

“Grandfather, this is really too valuable. She’s still so young and can’t accept such a valuable gift. You can give it to her when she’s older,” Qiao Mei said in a panic.

“I don’t even know if I’ll still be around when she’s older! If I don’t give it to her now, I might not have the chance! I think it is a good time to give it to her! This is my gift to her for the new year!” Xia Jun said.

“Pfft, pfft, pfft! What nonsense is Grandfather saying! Gosh, pfft, pfft! Grandfather still has to stick around and see Xia Fan and Xia Xing grow up!” Qiao Mei said anxiously.

“I have indeed said something wrong just now. I’ll punish myself with a drink!” Xia Jun picked up his glass and downed it in one gulp. He took out Xia Fan’s gift from his other pocket. It was his first merit medal from his younger days. Even Xia Mao had never seen it before, which was enough to show how much Xia Jun cherished and doted on Xia Fan.

“Thank you, Grandfather,” Qiao Mei said happily.

Just as the family was enjoying themselves, there was another knock on the door. Could it be that there were other members of the Xia family coming back for the new year gathering?

Qiao Mei looked in the direction of the noise and realized that the entire Shao family was here. Moreover, Shao Yin was carrying a baby in her arms.

“It’s been a long time. How are you, in-law? It’s the new year and we’re here so that you can have a family reunion,” Shao Zhuang said as he looked at Xia Guang.

Xia Wen and Xia Xing were still smiling just now, but their expressions had darkened by now. Since the Shao family had come at this time, it must be about that matter. They thought they had already settled that matter clearly.

This child's father could not be either of them. Xia Xing had even fanned the rumor about him being infertile, but it looked like this Shao family just would not give up.

"Uncle Shao, what are you talking about? Why is it that we don't understand what you're saying? I wonder who among you is our family member?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Of course it's this child! Who else can it be?" Shao Zhuang questioned.

"Impossible! This is definitely not my child!" Xia Xing said agitatedly as he pointed at the child in Shao Yin's arms.

"This child was conceived during that period when we lived together. This is your son! If you don't believe me, come and see if he looks like you when you were young!" Shao Yin said.

Xia Guang had been in the army for most of his life and did not care about his family matters at all. Among the people present, only Xu Lan and Liu Fang had seen Xia Xing when he was young.

"Let me take a look," Xu Lan said.

She walked over and carried the child. This child really resembled Xia Xing when he was young and looked like he was carved from the same mold.

However, she knew she could not confirm that this was Xia Xing's child.

"I can't tell. It's been too long. I can't remember what he looked like when he was young," Xu Lan said with a guilty conscience.

Qiao Mei looked at Xu Lan's expression and knew what was going on. She looked at Shao Yin and said, "It's been so long, but you only come over during the new year. What are you trying to do? If this is Xia Xing's child, why didn't you come and look for us the moment he was born but only come now?"

“The child was very weak after he was born! We have to ensure that the child is safe and sound first! Otherwise, how can we forgive ourselves if the child dies!” Shao Yin said.

“But we all saw with our own eyes what happened with you and your cousin when all of you were at my house. Who knows who the father of this child is?” Qiao Mei questioned.

For a moment, there was a deadlock. Xia Jun did not want to deal with these trivial family issues on such a festive occasion. He said impatiently, “The Xia family has already split up. Since this is my third son’s family matter, Xia Guang can handle it himself. Go back to your own house and settle your own issue. Don’t cause trouble for me here.’

The family members of the Xia family’s eldest and second sons went back to their seats obediently. They quietly waited for Xia Guang and Xia Xing to leave

with the Shao family..

Chapter 1814: Keeping the Child but Not the Mother

The Shao family obviously did not want this kind of resolution. They had come to become in-laws of the Xia family. Xia Guang and Xia Xing were nothing if they left the Xia family. The Shao family’s efforts would be in vain if there were no riches waiting for them at the end of this ruckus.

“No way! Your family has to give our family an explanation today! No one can take a step out of this door! Where are you trying to send us! We will still talk to you nicely here, but if we go out, there’s no telling what we might say!’ Shao Zhuang pointed at Xia Jun and shouted agitatedly.

Xia He immediately stood up and scolded him loudly, “Show some respect to my grandfather! Otherwise, I’ll get the guards to chase all of you out! Our Xia family has already split up! This is my family’s territory! Don’t even try to threaten us!”

“Father! You can’t leave me to my own devices! I’m also your son! How can you give up on me?” Xia Guang asked sadly.

“Why do I have to clean up the mess caused by your son? Just because you’re a useless father, do you intend to drag down my other sons? Will you only stop when you drag down my other grandchildren?” Xia Jun said as he looked at Xia Guang angrily.

“Father! You can’t be so heartless! I’m your biological son! For my mother’s sake! Please save me! My mother definitely won’t want to see me like this!” Xia Guang shouted agitatedly.

Xia Jun choked up when he heard the mention of Wu Min. If Wu Min saw Xia Guang now, he wondered if she would blame him for not taking good care of their son.

Xia Mao and Xia Yao looked at Xia Guang furiously. How could he have the cheek to mention their mother? Back then, Wu Min doted on Xia Guang the most. It was also because of Xia Guang that Wu Niin fell sick and passed away so early.

“Alright... I’ll help you, but this will be the last time. From now on, you’ll have nothing to do with the Xia family and don’t come back during the festive seasons,” Xia Jun said resignedly. He turned to look at Shao Zhuang and asked, “Just tell us what your family wants. Don’t beat around the bush with

LIS! „

“What we want is very simple. Buy a matrimonial home for our Shao Yin and let the two children get married with a lavish banquet!” Shao Zhuang said.

Qiao Mei looked at Shao Zhuang in surprise. She did not expect the Shao family to have so few requests this time. It seemed that they also felt guilty and knew that there was an issue with this child.

The Shao family was smart enough this time round. As long as Shao Yin got married to Xia Xing, she was set for life. After that, what could Xia Xing deny her in the future? The Shao family was just the second Tan family.

“Is that all you want?” Qiao Mei questioned.

“That’s right, that’s all. We want the entire city to know that Shao Yin has married Xia Xing!” Shao Zhuang said through gritted teeth.

Qiao Mei nodded in understanding. She turned to look at Xia Xing and asked,

“What do you think? After all, it’s your marriage. You can voice your opinion.” Xia Xing looked at the other Xia family members helplessly and then at the child in Shao Yin’s arms. The confused look in his eyes gradually cleared up and he said firmly, “I don’t want to marry you! I will never marry you! Your family can give up on this thought!”

Qiao Mei nodded in satisfaction. It seemed that Xia Xing was not totally hopeless yet. Xia Jun also saw Xia Xing in a different light. He had originally wanted to make the decision to let Shao Yin marry Xia Xing. Anyway, Xia Guang’s family was already in a mess, so he might as well throw one more thing into the chaos and let his disappointing son suffer a bit more.

However, the person getting married was Xia Xing, not Xia Guang. He still could not bear to lay his hands on this grandson of his. He did not expect Xia Xing to have the backbone to stand up to the Shao family.

“What did you say! This is your son! You don’t want your son?” Shao Yin looked at Xia Xing in disbelief.

Xia Xing retorted, “I just don’t want to marry you, but I’m not saying that I don’t want this child. Marrying you and wanting this child are two different things.”

“What do you mean? You want to keep the child but not the mother? How do you expect my daughter to face the world in the future! My daughter was an innocent girl when she met you. How do you expect her to get married now!” Shao Zhuang roared furiously.

“That’s something for your family to think about. Either you leave the child behind and we won’t see each other again, or you go back to where you came from! Don’t go around saying that you are related to my family in the future!”

Xia Xing said firmly..

Chapter 1815: Give Us Two Days

The Shao family was completely flustered by now. They had never imagined that Xia Xing would suddenly become so responsible and firm. Shao Yin had always told her family that Xia Xing was submissive and easy to control, which was why they dared to come to the Xia family to demand an explanation.

In fact, Xia Xing was really fond of Shao Yin back then and the two of them got along very well. He had thought that they would be able to live happily ever after, but he did not expect that Shao Yin did not like him at all. She was only doing everything for the benefits.

He was not a fool. He knew that he had Xia Wen and Qiao Mei to thank for his current job and house. If not for the two of them, he would probably be begging by the roadside now. It was only because of their help that Xia Xing was able to see through the Shao family's scheme. No matter how much of an asshole Xia Xing was, he would not forget the help that Xia Wen and Qiao Mei had given him.

If he really married Shao Yin, how was he supposed to face Xia Wen? How could that not make Xia Wen feel embarrassed? It would also mean that all Qiao Mei's planning and efforts had all gone down the drain.

"Stop all your pretenses! Let me tell you! You must acknowledge this child! You must also marry my daughter in a grand manner! If you don't acknowledge the child, we have plenty of ways to make you do it! The Xia family doesn't own the entire capital! There is definitely a way for us to seek justice!" Shao Zhuang said agitatedly.

Qiao Mei shook her head helplessly. There was no way to do a paternity test in the country at the moment. Those supposed tests from ancient times using drops of blood in water were useless. In this era, there was no way to prove that this was not Xia Xing's child. It was not as if they could go overseas to find a professional organization to verify this matter.

There was already no evidence left behind from the incident back then. The glass tainted with drugs and the other evidence had all been destroyed. Who would have thought that the Shao family would make a

comeback? Qiao Mei and Xia Wen knew that they had been too careless. They should have made the family sign an agreement back then so that these people would not be able to cause any more trouble.

It seemed that they had no way of rejecting this matter.

“How about this? You must be tired after coming all the way here. I’ll arrange for someone to send you to the guest house for the night. You have to give Xia Xing some time to digest all this information. Two days. Our family will definitely give you an answer within two days,” Xia Wen said.

“Hmph! Are you sure you can speak for the family!” Shao Zhuang questioned.

“I’m sure I can speak for the family. Give us some time and rest assure that we won’t shortchange you. If we lie, you can go and look for Xia Xing! We definitely won’t stop you! At that time, you can decide what you want to do with him,” Xia Jun said sulkily.

“Alright! We believe what you say! Don’t go back on your word!”

Xia Wen asked Luo Yu to arrange for transport to send the Shao family to the guest house. After they left, the house was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop.

The Xia family had never encountered such a situation in all these years. Although there were some minor conflicts in the past, it had never led to such an unhappy situation.

Just as everyone was hesitating about whether to have their meal, Xia Xing picked up her spoon and said in a crisp voice, “Great-grandfather! Rice! Eat!”

Xia Jun’s gloomy face instantly lit up with a smile. He looked at Xia Xing tenderly and said, “Great-grandfather’s darling great-grandchild!

Great-grandfather will eat now! Everyone, let’s eat. Don’t be angry anymore.

No human can survive without food. How can we handle problems if we don’t eat?”

“Everyone, come on!” Xu Lan called out.

Xia Jun looked at Xia Guang and Xia Xing and said resignedly, “This is all I can do to help you. You can think about the rest yourselves. You are both not kids anymore. Take responsibility for what you’ve done and don’t bother me anymore. No matter what decision you make, I will support it.”

“I understand, Grandfather...” Xia Xing said.

Xia Guang remained silent as he sat down and ate. Xia Jun could not be bothered with him and everyone put on a cheerful face to finish the meal. After dinner, Xia Guang left with Xia Xing while the rest stayed at Xu Lan’s house to countdown to the new year.

News of such a thing happening to the Xia family during the new year spread through the streets and alleys very quickly. The rumors regarding Xia Wen and Xia Xing from some time ago were brought up again, so Qiao Mei quickly brought Xia Jun to stay at the courtyard house. It was quieter there and there were less gossipy people around. She did not want these people to make Xia Jun so angry that he got stricken by his old ailments again.

For the next two days, everyone waited to see what Xia Xing would choose to do, whether he would marry Shao Yin or chase the entire Shao family away..

Chapter 1816: Trouble Comes Knocking

Not long after, Qiao Mei received a wedding invitation from Xia Xing. The bride’s name was listed as “Shao Yin”. Qiao Mei held the invitation card and shook her head resignedly. She had thought that Xia Xing would be more of a man this time round, but it seemed that she had overestimated him. Anyway, that was someone else’s life and had nothing to do with her.

Xia He gave Qiao Mei a call and said, “Will you go to Xia Xings wedding!”

“Of course not. But why did Xia Xing change his mind so quickly? Are his hands tied by something? Does Eldest Brother know the reason behind this?” Qiao Mei asked curiously.

“I’m not too sure either, but I heard from Eldest Brother that Xia Xing has acknowledged the child because the timing seems to be in place. Moreover, the child’s blood type is correct. Anyway, Xia Xing has already acknowledged him, so why should we care so much?” Xia He said.

“Yes, let’s just forget about this matter. I can’t be bothered to talk about it again,” Qiao Mei said.

All the family members of the Xia family’s eldest son declined to attend the wedding banquet. As for the second son’s family, only Liu Fen went by herself. Her only reason for going was to deliver the wedding gifts on behalf of everyone. At the critical moment, Xia Guang actually chose to push all his responsibility and problems to Xia Jun. He even used the name of the deceased Wu Min to coerce Xia Jun into helping him. Xia Mao and Xia Yao really could not agree with his actions.

From that moment on, they had decided to go their separate ways from him. As long as it was not a matter of life and death, they did not want to have anything to do with him anymore. To Xia Mao and Xia Yao, they no longer had any brotherly relationship with Xia Guangz

However, in order to put on a front for outsiders, they did not skimp on the wedding gifts. Qiao Mei also generously gave 200 dollars as a gift, which was already a larger amount than the betrothal gifts for most families.

Qiao Mei originally thought that she could avoid any further troublesome matters by doing so. She did not expect trouble to come looking for her!

Shao Yin stood at the main door with the child swaddled in her arms and called out to Qiao Mei loudly. She looked to have walked a long way here. The child was only about one month old. At such a young age, he would fall sick after being out in the snowy weather for so long. Qiao Mei really did not know what kind of mother Shao Yin was.

“Cousin-in-law! Cousin-in-law, we’re here to visit you!” Shao Yin shouted.

Qiao Mei asked Xu Kang to bring Shao Yin to the main hall. Xu Kang took the child from Shao Yin's arms and brought him to the stove to warm him up. Qiao Mei said with some annoyance, "Shouldn't you be at the wedding banquet at this time? Why do you have the time to bring the child to my place? It's such a cold day and you don't even know to bundle him up properly. What if he gets sick?"

"I realized that you didn't turn up today, so I specially came to see if you're feeling unwell. This is my first time being a mother and I don't know how to take care of a child, so I specially came to ask you for advice," Shao Yin said shamelessly.

As expected, Shao Yin had a motive for coming over. Qiao Mei had been feeling bored during this period of time. Since Shao Yin had come looking for trouble, she was going to give it to this woman.

"I don't have much experience. Ever since the babies were born, it's my helper who has been taking care of them. If you pay double her current salary to hire her, she might be able to teach you. She's the one who takes care of my babies," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Sigh... How can we compare with you, cousin-in-law? Even our house is a rental. Where do we have spare money to hire a helper? Even our house is way too cold," Shao Yin said with a deep sigh.

"Then you should install underfloor heating or a stove. It won't take long to heat up such a small house," Qiao Mei said impatiently.

"Our house is rented so the landlord definitely won't let us do any renovations to the house. Cousin-in-law, I have come around to ask if you can offer us a small space in this house. Once the child is grown up, we'll move out! We definitely won't fight with you for the family's property!" Shao Yin said.

"Family's property? This house is no longer the Xia family's old residence but my private property. Grandfather and I have already gone to have the agreement notarized. No one can eye this house of mine. Besides, every room in my house has its own use. There's no place for you and Xia Xing. You should discuss the matter of the house with Third Uncle," Qiao Mei said.

"Cousin-in-law, you're joking with me again. There are so many empty rooms, why do you say you have none?" Shao Yin said as she pointed at the room opposite them..

Chapter 1817: Do Not Claim to Be Relatives

“It’s true to say that there are empty rooms, but it’s a fact that there’s no room for you. I’d rather let the dogs live inside the rooms than let you move in. You can give up that thought,” Qiao Mei said to Shao Yin with a mocking look.

Shao Yin said agitatedly, “Cousin-in-law! How can you say that! We’re in-laws after all! Our child and your children will be close playmates. Our husbands are like brothers, so how can you say that about us? How can we be worse off than your dogs?”

“To put it bluntly, my children don’t need any playmates. I’m currently pregnant with their sibling! Now that the Xia family has split up, what does the third son’s family have to do with my family? You can just call me by my name. Don’t try to claim to be my relative here. I will never lend you the use of my house and I will never let your child come into contact with my children,” Qiao Mei said firmly.

Who knew what kind of child Shao Yin would bring up? What if her child led Xia Fan and Xia Xing astray? It was better to stay as far away from them as possible. After Qiao Mei gave birth to her third child, her three children would definitely grow up happily together. The three of them had one another and definitely would not lack playmates.

Shao Yin was about to say something when Qiao Mei quickly stood up and said, “I’ll tell Xia Xing and Third Uncle about everything that happened today.

If you continue to pester me, I’ll have to ask Third Uncle for an explanation. It’s a joke that his new daughter-in-law wants me to give up a room in my house after she marries his son.’

“No, no, no! Don’t tell them!” Shao Yin said agitatedly.

“Then get lost. Don’t let me see you at my house again!” Qiao Mei looked out and shouted, “Sister Xu! Send the guests off!”

Shao Yin left Qiao Mei's house dejectedly. She had never imagined that Qiao Mei's attitude would be so unyielding. Back then, Qiao Mei had agreed to all her requests and even allowed her to hold a banquet at the courtyard house. Now, Qiao Mei only made things difficult for her. She had originally thought that she could still gain a foothold in the Xia family using her child, but now it seemed that she had totally miscalculated.

After Qiao Mei asked Xu Kang to get rid of all these scumbags, she felt very happy. In the days that followed, she would occasionally find an excuse to go gallivanting with Xia He. Sometimes, she would even play chess with Xia Jun. It was soon the start of the school term and she specially sewed a new school bag for herself. She embroidered her name on it and put one of Xia Zhe's handkerchiefs inside.

Since Xia Zhe could not be by her side all the time, she would use his handkerchief as a substitute. She only hoped that he could come back soon to reunite with them.

In the beginning, the Xia family was very supportive of Qiao Mei taking the college entrance examination. However, now that the school term was starting, everyone was against her going to school. Even Xia He, who had always been sided with Qiao Mei, did not want her to go to school.

"Mei Mei, you're about to give birth. It's safer for you to stay at home now. What if you get pushed or bumped by someone when you're at school?" Xia He said worriedly.

"It's fine. Isn't there still more than a month before the due date? Don't be so nervous, I've already given birth once. It won't be a problem this time since I already have experience!" Qiao Mei said confidently.

Even if that was the truth, none of them sided with Qiao Mei. Although she was only having one baby this time, her stomach was not that much smaller than when she was having twins and she seemed more tired than most pregnant women. Everyone was worried that she would have a dangerous delivery this time round. Even Xia Fang was concerned.

"Will your school allow you to have a companion!" Xia He asked.

"I think they allow it... I'm not too sure either..." Qiao Mei said hesitantly.

Xia He hurriedly made a call to Xia Wen and asked him to help ask the teachers at Capital University if she could apply to be Qiao Mei's companion. She would only tag along with Qiao Mei until Qiao Mei gave birth.

Xia Wen settled this matter very quickly. As this year's top scorer to enter Capital University, Qiao Mei naturally had some kind of preferential treatment. Considering Qiao Mei's identity and her current situation, Capital University approved the Xia family's application.

However, the approval came with conditions. Xia He could only accompany Qiao Mei around the campus, but she was not allowed to enter the classrooms for lessons. After all, she was not a student at Capital University.. If everyone knew that the companions of students at Capital University could attend classes as well, there would be many people who would want to take advantage of the situation!

Chapter 1818: Buy Another House

Qiao Mei brought along her admission letter and other necessary documents and drove Xia He to the neighborhood which was right next to Capital

University. Qiao Mei had bought a house here earlier. It had been a while so Deng Fan should have already been done with the renovation works.

The two of them went around the neighborhood a few times but could not find the exact location of the house. Qiao Mei knew that it was definitely somewhere around here. It was all her fault for not coming around to this area often. She owned so many houses that the addresses were all a blur to her and she could not remember their exact locations.

"You even bought a house here?" Xia He looked at Qiao Mei in disbelief.

"I bought it for fun. If I have long days at school in the future, I can't possibly still drive such a long way home. It's really too dangerous. Also, the dormitory rooms at Capital University are too small and there are too many people squeezed into one place. I'd also rather spend my lunch break here. In the future, Xia Zhe can also come here to accompany me when he is on leave," Qiao Mei explained.

Xia He accepted Qiao Mei's reasons. However, why was it that Deng Fan did not tell her that he was in charge of the renovations here? Then again, it made sense. Qiao Mei had so many houses which needed renovation and Deng Fan was so busy every day. He would not have the time to tell her in detail which house he was working on.

"You should find another designer and give Deng Fan a few days off. Ever since he started doing renovations for you, he hasn't had a single day off! He's either renovating the houses or redesigning the factory or coming up with designs for Xia You and Lu Huai for their company. He doesn't have time for me at all," Xia He said resignedly.

"The design fee for a small house of around 200 square meters, like this one, is 2,000 dollars. As for those courtyard houses, the fees are more than 10,000 dollars each. Do you think I forced Deng Fan to do it or that he jumped at the chance?" Qiao Mei asked with a smile.

"The fees you pay are indeed tempting. I'll also do it for you if I can. As many houses as you need! You don't have to be too nice to Deng Fan! Just give him more work! But then again, how many houses did you buy? If Eldest Brother finds out, you'll get reprimanded again!" Xia He said.

"Not many. I only bought slightly more than 10 houses behind his back," Qiao Mei said casually.

"More than 10! You're really something. Other women like to buy bags and jewelry, but you only like to look at houses. Furthermore, every house is renovated in a different style. No wonder Deng Fan asked Eldest Brother for help a couple of days ago, to find him a way to attend lessons at the architecture department of Capital University. So it's all because of you!" Xia He said.

"Isn't this a good thing? By the time Deng Fan is older, he'll be a famous architect and a very capable one. What I'm doing is buying a few more houses for him to practice on. I'm sure you agree with me," Qiao Mei said.

"I can't be bothered with you! Come on, find the house! You can't even find your own house!" Xia He said disdainfully.

In the end, Qiao Mei finally remembered the design which Deng Fan had shown her. They arrived at a small single-story house. It was done up in an opulent style and was worlds apart from the other houses

next to it. Even though Qiao Mei told Deng Fan to keep a low profile, it was all in vain. He did not listen to her at all.

“Aren’t... aren’t you worried that such a design will attract thieves?” Xia He asked as she pointed at all the items in the courtyard.

“Then we can just hire a few guards. I can get Da Zhuang and Xiao Zhuang to come over and help me keep an eye on this place. At the same time, I can buy another place nearby to use as the dormitory for the guards. All my valuable items are all in the courtyard house, not here. There are too many people around this area and it will be difficult to investigate if someone has any ill intentions,” Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Mei took out her key and opened the door. She had already asked Xu Kang to send her things over and Xu Kang had already cleaned and tidied up the place. Qiao Mei went to the study and took out a camera and many rows of film from the cabinet.

“What are you going to do with these? Are you going to take photos later to keep as mementos?” Xia He asked as she took the things from Qiao Mei.

“It’s such a meaningful moment, so I definitely must take photos! The reason why I buy so much film is so that I can take as many photos as I want! You’re my photographer today!” Qiao Mei said excitedly.

This was the first enrollment exercise after the college entrance examination resumed. Everyone who could enter the capital’s universities were those who were outstanding among their peers. Furthermore, Qiao MEi was the top scorer of the capital’s college entrance examination this round. She must definitely keep some photos of this precious moment to show the children in the future and let them know how capable their mother was!

These photos could turn out to be part of a historical moment! In the future, when anyone mentioned this matter, she could proudly show the photos to everyone so that they would always remember it..

Chapter 1819: Take Photos at the Main Gate

Wu Duo, Li Xue and Wang Wei were already standing at the main gate, waiting for Qiao Mei to arrive. The moment they saw her, their faces lit up with big smiles.

“You guys are quite early! Why are all of you standing here? Don’t tell me there’s an initiation ceremony for me?” Qiao Mei asked with a laugh.

“Welcome to school, Mentor Qiao Mei!” Li Xue shouted loudly.

Qiao Mei hurriedly went forward and covered Li Xue’s mouth, saying, “Keep a low profile! Don’t let anyone know who I am!”

Qiao Mei was now very famous, especially among students and teachers in the capital. Anyone who claimed to be Qiao Mei’s student would easily be idolized.

“We almost gave up waiting for you and were about to head in. We thought you’re not coming,” Wang Wei said.

Qiao Mei’s stomach was now big and round. In addition, Xu Lan and the others made her wear many layers of clothing and made sure that she was wrapped up tightly, so it was very obvious to onlookers that Qiao Mei was a pregnant woman.

“It’s not an easy task for me to get into Capital University! How can I not turn up!” Qiao Mei said.

“What do you mean it’s not easy for you! More like it’s not easy for the three of us! You didn’t need to put in any effort!” Li Xue said with a chuckle.

Actually, Qiao Mei had worked hard for decades and studied very hard for a long time before she finally had some achievements in life. However, these were things that happened in her other life. In this life, she did not have to work very hard and only took one year to become the top scorer of the college entrance examination in the capital. If word got out, it would definitely arouse suspicion.

“Alright, alright! Stop talking about all this! Let’s take a few photos! We must not forget to record such a rare occasion!” Xia He said as she held up the camera.

The few of them stood together and took many photos. Each of them even took a few photos individually. In this era, photo-taking was a very extravagant thing to do. People would only head to the photo studio when there was a major event in their lives. It was rare to see someone who had their own camera like Qiao Mei. In addition, camera film was very expensive.

Many students and parents in the surroundings looked at Qiao Mei's group and wanted to ask if Xia He could help take photos for them. However, they did not have much money and also did not know what was an appropriate amount to pay.

"Hello, I'd like to ask if you can take a photo for us? Just quote your price! I know that the film is very expensive. I won't ask to take a photo for free. I'll pay for it!" a cute girl said to them.

"Are you a new student?" Qiao Mei asked with a smile.

"Yes, I'm Chen Pian, studying agriculture," Chen Pian said.

"What a coincidence. I'm also studying agriculture. My name is Qiao Mei," Qiao Mei said.

"Oh my goodness! You're the top scholar in the capital! I can't believe I bump into you! I have been so excited since I found out that you and I are majoring in the same subject!" Chen Pian said excitedly.

"This is my elder sister. She can take your photo for five dollars each. We'll give it to you later after the photos are developed. Can you accept this price?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Of course!" Chen Pian said.

Now that the price was fixed, everyone started to gather around Xia He and clamored to take photos. They first wrote down their personal details such as their major, contact details, name, phone number and so on. After that, they would make payment to Xia He before she took photos for them.

Li Xue and Wang Wei stayed behind to help Xia He. Wu Duo took over Xia He's task of staying by Qiao Mei's side and ensuring her safety.

When they reached the university courtyard, Qiao Mei looked at Wu Duo and asked, "Are you still bent on carrying out your previous plan?"

"Of course! I must find them and vent my anger!" Wu Duo said as he clenched his fists.

"I'd advise you to be more rational. It's a rare chance for you to get into Capital University. You're different from them. We are students who have gone through the college entrance examination. In the future, your path will be even more glorious. If you get into fights or altercations with others and the school finds out about it, you'll be given a major demerit. You may get expelled and won't be able to take the examination again. You should consider your next moves carefully," Qiao Mei reminded him.

Wu Duo had never thought about all this before. He only had revenge on his mind, but it did not occur to him that revenge came with a price.

"I'll remember what you said. I'll try to let it go. It's a little hard for me to let go of my hatred of them immediately," Wu Duo said reluctantly.

"Everyone has to walk their own path. It's good that you will consider it carefully. Don't let all my hard work go to waste! It isn't easy for me to produce four university students!" Qiao Mei said as she patted Wu Duo on the shoulder.

"I definitely won't embarrass you," Wu Duo said..

Chapter 1820: Meeting an Old Friend

When the two of them were about to reach the library, Wu Duo suddenly froze.

It was as if he had seen something. Qiao Mei followed his line of sight and saw a girl holding a lunchbox in the distance. The girl was delicate-looking and dressed very elegantly. She could be considered quite a beauty. Could it be that this girl was the one who betrayed Wu Duo back then?

“Hey! Come back to your senses! Is that the woman you told me about?” Qiao Mei asked.

“It’s her...” Wu Duo said with a little anger.

Back when Cui Hua was dating him, she did not know how to do anything. Wu Duo did not even let her do the housework. He only wanted to let her live a pampered life at home and was more than willing to take over all the manual and tiring work. He would always be the first one at Cui Hua’s house whenever something happened. Yet, looking at the situation in front of him, it seemed that Cui Hua had even learned how to cook.

Wu Duo had never seen such an expectant look on her face before. It appeared that the guy she was with was really... lucky.

“Let’s go, let’s take another route,” Wu Duo said softly.

Just as they were about to turn around and leave, Cui Hua suddenly called out loudly to Wu Duo. “Wu Duo! Is that you?”

Wu Duo stood rooted to the spot, not knowing what to do. He was not ready to face Cui Hua now and he did not know what to say to her.

Qiao Mei stood at the side to watch the drama. She was very curious about how Wu Duo would face this woman. If Wu Duo did not say anything, just took it lightly and chose to ignore what happened back then, Qiao Mei would give up on him and would not work with him in the future.

She did not need a man who had no guts. Such a person would never be able to do anything outstanding.

“Wu Duo... it’s really you! You really got into Capital University...” Cui Hua ran over and looked at Wu Duo with tears in her eyes. She looked so delicate, as if she would shatter with a light touch.

Qiao Mei’s eyes widened. She did not expect Cui Hua to be such a person. She

was so teary and looked so pitiful that even Qiao Mei could not bear to berate her. This was really good acting. She must pick up this skill and try it on Xia Zhe!

Wu Duo was still standing rooted in a daze. Qiao Mei smiled and asked, "Wu Duo, why aren't you doing an introduction for us? Is this someone you know?"

Only then did Wu Duo come back to his senses and said calmly, "Her name is

Cui Hua and she's my neighbor."

Cui Hua suddenly looked at Qiao Mei with joy in her eyes. However, Qiao Mei could clearly tell that Cui Hua was only pretending. There was actually a look of disgust in Cui Hua's eyes.

"This must be Sister-in-law! You're so beautiful! Wu Duo, I see that you're going to be a father soon! Congratulations. I didn't expect you to be the first one to become a father among our friends," Cui Hua said.

"No, no, no! This is not my wife! This is my mentor! You've misunderstood!" Wu Duo hurriedly explained.

He did not want to provoke the Xia family. If the Xia family found out about this, he would definitely be skinned alive! It was true that in the past, he was fond of Qiao Mei and wanted to get to know her better. However, after seeing her big house and secretly asking around about the Xia family's reputation in the capital, he did not have the guts to do anything else!

Cui Hua looked at Wu Duo anxiously trying to explain the situation and smiled happily. However, she purposely smiled in such a way that it was not obvious. Cui Hua knew that Wu Duo knew her very well and always paid a lot of attention to her, so he would definitely catch a glimpse of the faint smile.

By now, Qiao Mei even felt like getting to know Cui Hua and learn from her! Cui Hua acted so naturally that there were no flaws at all. This was a real expert at work!

“Oh, so she’s your mentor. I’m so sorry to make a mistake. Brother Wu Duo, congratulations. Now that you’ve entered Capital University, everyone in the village must be so proud of you. I’m also happy for you,” Cui Hua said with a smile.

Wu Duo scratched his head in embarrassment and said, “Really? Thank you.”

Qiao Mei looked at Wu Duo and rolled her eyes. Was this man really that stupid? Why did he become like this the moment he met Cui Hua? It was no wonder that he was such an easy target back then.

“Cui Hua, are you waiting for someone?” Qiao Mei asked as she pointed at the lunchbox that Cui Hua was holding.

Wu Duo, who was still in a daze just now, instantly sobered up. He frowned slightly and said, “Did Xie Jing ask you to wait here? Where is he? Why hasn’t he come to look for you?”

“He... he’s in class. I just got here,” Cui Hua whispered..