

Fat Wife 1861

Chapter 1861: A Spot to Study Abroad

All schools resumed classes during the autumn. After a few quiet and peaceful days, Xia Wen suddenly came to Qiao Mei's house. He held up a document and walked over to her with a smile. "I have good news for you. Make a guess what it is."

"Is the economy fully open?" Qiao Mei asked.

Xia Wen shook his head and said, "Guess again."

"Don't tell me the country is giving me a new reward?" Qiao Mei asked again.

"There is indeed a reward for you, but I can't tell you about it yet. The details are still confidential. Those seeds of yours have already been harvested and have sold well, so we've made a lot of money from overseas. However, the accounts are not finalized yet. When that is done, you'll definitely get a reward. Don't be too anxious," Xia Wen said.

"Then... then can I choose my own reward?" Qiao Mei said excitedly.

"Let's see how it goes. I'll let you know after the decision is made. However,

I'm not here about this matter. I'm here about your education," Xia Wen said.

"My education? Isn't everything going well at school? Is there a problem?" Qiao Mei said.

"Remember you had asked me to look out for information about the quota of students who can go overseas to study? Now that the country is undergoing reform and the economy is opening up, the various universities are allowed to let their students go overseas on exchange programs. There's a limit

to the number of students each school can send. Since Capital University has many good students, it has more slots. Each faculty can send one student," Xia Wen said.

"Really? Which country are we going to?" Qiao Mei asked excitedly.

"There's no announcement on that yet. It probably depends on which foreign universities are taking part in the exchange programs. Students from different faculties will probably go to different countries. The competition for the slots to study abroad this time is quite tough though. Are you proficient in English?" Xia Wen asked worriedly.

Qiao Mei pointed at the English cassettes tapes and books on the bookshelf and said, "I'm all prepared. There's definitely no problem!"

"Alright, then I'll help you put in the application. I believe that they'll approve it soon. You just need to get ready." With that, Xia Wen left with Qiao Mei's identification documents.

What Xia Wen brought to Qiao Mei was insider news, when the official approval had not been issued yet. The schools were only notified after another week. Many students rushed to sign up. Everyone cherished this opportunity to be able to study abroad.

Xie Jing was very interested as well. He had always dreamed of studying abroad. An exchange student in such a program did not need to pay tuition fees and only needed to bear personal living expenses. Such an opportunity was rare. If he could study abroad, he would even be willing to sell his house!

"Xie Jing! Stop daydreaming! The slot in the agriculture faculty is already taken! You should just study hard and strive to stay in school to further your studies!" the classmate beside Xie Jing said.

"What did you say? Who has taken the slot? Isn't the news just released? How can the slot be gone so quickly?" Xie Jing asked as he looked at the person in disbelief.

"If you don't believe me, go and ask your mentor. This slot has long been given to Qiao Mei, a freshman! Stop daydreaming!" That person left after saying that but many people had overheard their conversation.

It was so rare to have a slot to study abroad and they had not even started working hard for it, so how could the slot be already gone? If the person who had taken the slot was a student in the third or fourth year, they would find it hard to object. After all, such a student had already amassed enough knowledge. However, Qiao Mei was just a freshman and had not even learned much! What right did she have to take the slot?

This was an opportunity to bring glory to the country. Would it not be embarrassing to send someone who knew nothing to study abroad? It would be so embarrassing for Capital University and the students.

“We can’t accept this!”

“Why can Qiao Mei study abroad! We should be able to go too!”

“How can the slot be just given away! We object!”

Very quickly, many students held up protest signs stating that they were against Qiao Mei being sent to study abroad and they held a demonstration in front of the principal’s office building. Now that the economy was developing rapidly and everyone was striving for fairness and justice, such an incident of giving something to a predetermined person definitely made the public feel angry.

Xie Jing led the students from the agriculture faculty to protest and asked the school for an explanation. The school found it really difficult to appease the sudden public anger, so they called up Xia Wen and asked him for help. Xia Wen asked helplessly, “Should we just tell everyone about your collaboration with the country? This way, they can’t object to you being chosen anymore. It’ll be obvious that you deserve the slot.”

“Forget it. I don’t want to be so showy. If we do that, everyone will hate me even more,” Qiao Mei said..

Chapter 1862: Compete for the Slot

“But how should we deal with this situation now? Are we going to let them continue to slander you?” Xia Wen said in annoyance.

“I have my ways. Eldest Brother, there’s no need to be angry. Just trust me,” Qiao Mei said confidently.

Xia Wen had no other solution for now. He could only trust Qiao Mei and believe that she would be able to handle this crisis well. He would go and deal with the situation behind the scenes within the government.

Qiao Mei went to the nearby department store to buy a loudspeaker. The next day, she went to the school’s noticeboard and held up a document as she gathered everyone from the agriculture faculty.

“Everyone, look over here! The policy documents for this overseas study trip have already been issued! Don’t you want to know the policy?” Qiao Mei shouted loudly.

Xie Jing slowly walked up to Qiao Mei and said, “What policy? Isn’t it just to make it easier for you to get in through the back door? They have already decided who’s going to get the slot, so why are you still talking so much here? Are you here to show off?”

“That’s right! Who knows if these documents are real! We don’t trust what you say!” Sun Jia quickly echoed.

“This document has a stamp on it! If you don’t believe me, I’ll put it up on the noticeboard later so that everyone can take a look! For this study trip, the school is not the one assigning the slot. The students will have to go through a few selection screenings before the school chooses the most outstanding person to study abroad!” Qiao Mei explained.

“Selection? How?” Xie Jing asked.

“The Education Department has decided that the assessment will be based on proficiency of foreign languages, professional standards, comprehensive quality, physical fitness, personal development ideas, among others. Only the person who meets all these standards and gets first place within the faculty can get the only slot to study abroad. This opportunity might not be mine,” Qiao Mei said.

“Of course it can’t be yours! Everyone knows Xie Jings standards! How can a freshman like you compare to the students in the third and fourth years!” Sun Jia said.

“This slot is not mine. Among everyone who participates in the competition, the slot will belong to whoever gets first place in the end,” Qiao Mei said.

“We can’t accept it! As if a freshman is better than us!”

“We’re all going to participate in the competition! We have to fight for the right to go overseas!”

Everyone shouted in unison and Xie Jing became even more confident. He studied English diligently and would read out loud when listening to the cassette player every morning. He was also very focused in class and he was confident in himself. He was determined to get the slot to go overseas this time.

Qiao Mei did not care about whatever they thought because she knew that she would definitely be the final winner. If it was something else, she might not be as confident, but when it came to agriculture and foreign languages, it was her comfort zone.

In her other life, in order to become an outstanding lawyer, she had learned six languages. Sometimes, she even had to go overseas to handle cases. This was the norm for her.

When the students from the agriculture faculty heard that they could compete for the slot to go overseas, most of them signed up immediately. Given that it was not the norm for first-year students to participate in such events, it was clear that they were all blatantly bullying Qiao Mei.

The first-year students mainly studied theory and did not have many technical classes. They were definitely not as experienced as that of the third-year and fourth-year students.

“They’re clearly declaring war on Qiao Mei! This is not fair at all! We’re only freshmen and there’s only so much that we’ve learned. How can we compete with them!” Wu Duo said unhappily.

“Have you forgotten that I’m from the countryside? I’ve been farming since I was young. In terms of being professional, I’ll say that they’re not half as professional as me!” Qiao Mei said proudly.

Wu Duo and the rest had been worried earlier but they instantly calmed down when they heard that. Most of the students in Capital University came from the city and a small group came from the mixed city-village areas. All of them had never really farmed before and did not know much about agricultural land. That was why they had to work hard to pick up the technical knowledge. Only then could they ensure that they would be able to grow high-quality fruits and not fail any of the university subjects.

Students from the countryside would never apply to the agriculture faculty. They had left the countryside to see the world and learn more. If they studied agriculture, that would be like going back to their original lives. It would be a waste of time going to the university!

“There’s also one slot in each of your faculty, right? Don’t you want to give it a try?” Qiao Mei asked curiously.

“Of course we want to fight for the chance to go overseas, but I really can’t do it. There are too many things to learn in class and I can’t even memorize them all. Even if I try to cram day and night now, I still won’t be able to memorize everything,” Li Xue said dejectedly..

Chapter 1863: Cheating Again

“It’s the same for me. I have so many textbooks that I can’t finish memorizing all the information. I don’t think I can compete with the others. It looks like I won’t be able to go this time either,” Wang Wei said regretfully.

They all turned to look at Wu Duo. He definitely had the skills needed to compete for the slot in the engineering faculty. Since he had been tagging along with his father since young, he must be even more skillful than those students in the third and fourth years. He actually had the best chance of being the chosen one in the engineering faculty.

“Don’t look at me. I’m not good at English. I can’t just speak it. I didn’t even do well in the exam,” Wu Duo said aggrievedly.

“There are still two more months. You can definitely study hard. Why don’t you give it a try in these two months? I think you’re quite talented in learning,” Qiao Mei said sincerely.

“I really can’t. Even if you give me two years to learn to speak English, I still won’t be able to do it. I think I should just forget it. Besides, my father doesn’t want me to be too far away from him. My parents aren’t in good health and I’m their only son. If I go away, who will take care of the two of them? I’ll just forget about it,” Wu Duo said.

“Alright then. When I go overseas, you can’t get too lazy! Even if I go to the ends of the earth, you’re still my students! You can’t embarrass me!” Qiao Mei said seriously as she looked at the three of them.

“Don’t worry, Mentor. We promise we will never embarrass you!” Wu Duo promised.

“I hear that there will be a quota to go overseas once every two years. We will definitely work hard to fight for the slot to go overseas the next time. We can go and look for you then!” Li Xue said happily.

“Then you have to work hard. There will be smart people entering the university every year. You must fight for first place,” Qiao Mei said.

“We promise to complete the mission!” Wang Wei shouted.

As the new week commenced, the competition for the overseas slot in the agriculture faculty officially began. The first test was on comprehensive quality. The instructors for each subject collectively came up with a set of test papers which covered all the relevant knowledge the students would learn during the four years of the course. Moreover, the questions were not listed in any kind of order and all kinds of subjects were tested, which greatly increased the difficulty of the test.

Qiao Mei already expected this. She was very familiar with a few general

subjects, but she was less familiar with the technical subjects. However, this was not a problem for her. During this period of time, she had cultivated a type of vines that could understand human language. Not only could these vines move in line with a person’s instructions, but they could also remember things for a short period of time.

During the weekend, Qiao Mei brought home all the textbooks used in the agriculture faculty and let the vines study them carefully. She hid the vines in her sleeves during the test so that they could give her the correct answers.

This test might be a real one for the others, but for Qiao Mei, it was like an open-book test! There was no pressure at all.

The test results were out very quickly on the next day. Everyone went to the noticeboard to check their results. They were all looking forward to seeing Qiao Mei's ranking. No matter how capable Qiao Mei was, there was no way she could beat the more senior students. Otherwise, they would all have wasted their years of study.

Other than the first-year students who had taken the college entrance examination this year, the rest of the students had been admitted to university by way of class background. The outside world kept saying that they were trash and that they were not as good as those who took the college entrance examination. They were all looking forward to using this opportunity to surpass Qiao Mei and prove to the outside world that they could do better than the top scorer of the college entrance examination in the capital.

In the end, it was proven that they had all indeed wasted their time. Qiao Mei had scored 99 points, 13 points higher than the second place! She lost one point only because she had written a Wrong word out of nervousness. "This is impossible! How can this be? How can a freshman like her be better than us!"

"She must have cheated!"

"She did even better than Xie Jing. This is too unbelievable!"

"This is definitely cheating! If she didn't cheat, how could she get all the answers right! "

Wu Duo and the others looked at the crowd helplessly. Wu Duo pointed at the crowd and said, "Why do I get a sense of déjà vu?"

"I think they're going to start saying that Qiao Mei must have gotten in through the back door and already has all the answers!" Li Xue guessed softly.

As Li Xue expected, people in the crowd started to spread rumors about Qiao Mei's relationship with the school management. There were even people who said that she was the principal's relative as the rumors became more and more ridiculous.

These people would regret it one day. The three of them knew that they only managed to get their current achievements because they did not take part in

this kind of stuff in the past..

Chapter 1864: Punishment

More and more people gathered at the agriculture faculty's noticeboard and the doubts about Qiao Mei's results also became louder and louder. There were also an endless stream of people spreading all kinds of rumors. Qiao Mei and the others did not know whether to laugh or cry from what they were hearing. The four of them had already noted down the people who were the gang leaders spreading the rumors.

If there was a chance in the future, they would definitely settle this score with each of these people and mess up their lives!

The strange thing was that Xie Jing was not among the people who voiced out that Qiao Mei had cheated. Xie Jing just stood at the edge of the crowd and quietly watched all this unfolding. If he was not making use of such a good opportunity to take down Qiao Mei, what was he up to?

Not long after, the dean of the agriculture faculty rushed over. He stood on top of the steps and said to everyone, "All of you, be quiet! If you have anything to say, speak up one at a time! Don't gather here and cause trouble! Otherwise, you will be punished according to the school rules!"

Sun Jia went up to the dean agitatedly and shouted, "Professor! We're suspicious of Qiao Mei's results! Qiao Mei must have cheated!"

“What right do you have to say that she cheated? Do you have any proof?” the dean questioned.

“If she didn’t cheat, then how can she get 99 points! The students in the third and fourth don’t even manage to get such high scores. Even the most outstanding student, Xie Jing, doesn’t have such a high score! She must have cheated!” Sun Jia said firmly.

The students behind Sun Jia shouted, “That’s right! She must have cheated!

We all believe this!”

The dean was so angry with these foolish kids in front of him that he wanted to laugh. He looked at Sun Jia and the rest and asked, “Then tell me, how did Qiao Mei cheat?”

“She... she must have known the contents of the test paper in advance!” Sun Jia said.

“Nonsense! What a load of rubbish! All the teachers came up with the questions in the test paper together! The printing was done yesterday morning and no one is able to even see the test paper! You’re all spreading rumors and causing trouble here! You’re simply a disgrace to our agriculture faculty!” the dean berated them angrily.

“But... but how can she get such a high score!” Sun Jia still refused to believe that Qiao Mei did not cheat.

“All you senior students can’t even do as well as a freshman! You slander Qiao Mei because of your fragile self-esteem. Shouldn’t you be reflecting on why you performed worse than a freshman? Spend the time on your studies! Then you will definitely do better! Yet all you do is to gossip and spread rumors here! I think all of you deserve to be punished!” the dean roared as he pointed at the students below.

Everyone fell silent. The dean was right. They just could not believe that a freshman had done better than them, given that they were the seniors. They could not accept this fact.

From afar, Wu Duo gave the dean of the agriculture faculty a thumbs up and said in admiration, "The professors from your faculty are really amazing. They're much more serious than the professors from our faculty. He'll definitely be able to clear your name."

"Alright, alright, let's go and get some food. I've watched enough and I'm hungry!" Li Xue held her stomach and said aggrievedly.

The four of them left before the dean of the agriculture faculty finished talking. All the teachers in the agriculture faculty thought that this incident was a show of very bad behavior and could not be tolerated. The group of eight people led by Sun Jia were all punished. As Sun Jia behaved the worst, she was given a major demerit.

This could be considered a very satisfying conclusion to the saga. No one questioned Qiao Mei's capability anymore and most students were filled with admiration for her.

The top 50 students from the comprehensive quality test could continue with the next tests. The next subject was English. The country was starting to make some progress in foreign trade. Previously, no one took foreign languages seriously and felt that it was not useful or difficult to learn any. This was a subject that one could not cram and learn at the last minute.

Qiao Mei recited the essay with a fluent American accent. All the teachers were full of praise for her. By now, those who were jealous of her were convinced. Her graceful enunciation sounded better than what they heard in the cassette tapes. How could she have cheated? She was indeed a capable person!

The top 20 students in the English test could continue to take the next practical test. This test was a very simple one. The students had to plant the strawberry seeds in front of them and grow them within 20 days..

Chapter 1865: Copycat

These were strawberry seeds which the country had modified. Although the end results of the modification did not turn out to be quite a success, these strawberry seeds had a shorter growth period

and also bore bigger fruits. It did not taste too good, but it still brought a lot of convenience and economic benefits to farmers.

The teachers in the agriculture faculty had been trying to get a breakthrough and modify these seeds into ones which could produce sweeter strawberries. Whoever could produce sweet strawberries in this test would qualify to study abroad.

“This assessment is to see who can grow big and sweet strawberries in 20 days. All of you have previously come into contact with this type of seed in class and you know it well. I won’t say anything else. The site for planting is our school’s experimental field. You can go and choose your own spot,” the dean said.

The school had provided the agricultural faculty with a large experimental field. There were both outdoor fields as well as glass greenhouses. Among the 20 students who advanced to this assessment, only Qiao Mei was a freshman. The rest were all in their third or fourth year. They had all taken practical lessons and knew these seeds very well.

All of them walked to the glass greenhouse at the same time. Xie Jing was no exception too. This was because this was how their teacher had taught them to grow plants. They were only following the instructions in their textbooks.

On the other hand, Qiao Mei felt that it would be more convenient to plant the seeds in the experimental field outside. It was autumn now and it was cold in the morning and at night, but quite warm at noon. If she grew them in the glass greenhouse, it would probably affect the taste of the fruits.

When growing strawberries, one must be most particular about temperature control and the effect of fertilization on the plant during the growing period. Planting them in the experimental field outside would allow one to monitor the condition of the strawberries at any time. If it got too cold at night, one could build a plastic shed so that the strawberries would not get frozen.

However, this was all just part of Qiao Mei’s smokescreen. The strawberries would grow as big and sweet as she wanted. She could grow strawberries even in water. The location did not matter at all.

As Qiao Mei busied herself outside, Xie Jing realized what she was trying to do. He was suddenly inspired and quickly said to the dean, “Professor! I want to grow strawberries outside too!”

“You want to do that too? Didn’t you choose to plant it in the glass greenhouse just now? Did you see Qiao Mei wanting to plant it outside and now you want to use her method?” the dean said as he looked at Xie Jing disdainfully.

Xie Jing blushed from the embarrassment, but he still insisted on going outside to grow his strawberries. This had an impact on whether he could study overseas. He was willing to be shameless enough to pester the teacher to let him go out to grow strawberries. As long as he could go overseas, these things would be forgotten as time passed. By then, would the teachers in the school still remember what he had done?

The dean and a few other teachers used to like Xie Jing very much and even wanted to keep him with them so that he could continue to do experiments in school and contribute to the country’s scientific research. However, at some point in time, Xie Jing dropped his disguise and started to scheme and plot, disregard his fellow classmates, spread rumors, lie and cheat, among other things.

The perfect image which Xie Jing built up had begun to collapse.

“Professor! We haven’t even started planting yet! I also have the right to choose to plant it outside! Please let me have your approval!” Xie Jing said.

According to the rules of the competition, the students could not change the method of planting once they had made their choice. However, just as Xie Jing had said, he had only just arrived at the glass greenhouse and had not started planting. He should still be able to change the method of planting.

The other students looked at Xie Jing. They did not know what Xie Jing wanted to do or if there was something wrong with him.

“It’s written in the textbooks that we should plant the seeds in a glass greenhouse. Did Xie Jing wake up on the wrong side of the bed?”

“Back then, Xie Jing had produced the best strawberries among all of us. He also planted them in the glass greenhouse then. Why does he want to go out now?”

“In any case, I won’t go out. I’ll just follow the method in the textbooks and I’ll definitely be able to grow them.”

“That’s right. The textbooks can’t be wrong. At least we will get results! It’s so cold outside now. The strawberries will definitely freeze there!”

Everyone discussed animatedly. They wanted to go out too, but they did not have the guts. If they went to the experimental field outside and the seeds became frozen, they would not even be able to grow anything and their dream of studying abroad would be shattered. At the very least, they were sure that they would be able to produce strawberries in the glass greenhouse..

Chapter 1866: The Strawberries Are Growing Well

“Alright, but you need to ask Qiao Mei for her opinion. If she says that she has no problem with it, then you can grow your strawberries outside,” the dean said as he looked at Xie Jing in disdain.

The dean called Qiao Mei over and told her about Xie Jings issue. Qiao Mei did not mind and said with a smile, “I have no problem, but the spot where Xie Jing grows his strawberries must be far away from me.”

“No problem! The spot you chose is in the north, so I’ll plant it in the south! I definitely won’t cause you any problems!” Xie Jing said excitedly.

“Since Qiao Mei has said so, then you can go outside too,” the dean said.

Qiao Mei then went back to the spot she had chosen to plant the strawberries.

First, she set up the framework of the plastic shed. She had already asked Wu Duo and the others to go back to the factory to bring some essential materials for her. The timeframe of 20 days was very tight and she could not delay the planting by even one day. It was a race against time.

Once everything was ready, Qiao Mei stopped worrying about anything. Before she left, she infused some energy into the seeds. She believed that they would germinate soon.

“When you don’t have class, come over and take a look on my behalf. Keep an eye on my strawberries and don’t let anyone get close to them,” Qiao Mei said to Wu Duo and the others.

“We’ll come and stand guard here every day! We’ll make sure that your strawberries grow well!” Wu Duo said firmly.

“No, you shouldn’t go too close to my strawberries either. I’m worried that they’ll spread rumors again and claim that you’re helping me. Just stand around and look. You don’t have to care about what others do as long as they don’t get close to my strawberries,” Qiao Mei instructed.

“Alright! We’ll remember that!” Li Xue said.

As the days passed, Qiao Mei’s strawberries grew better and better. After one week, Qiao Mei’s plants had grown taller than those grown by the students in the glass greenhouse. Gradually, the other students gave up on this competition.

“Look at her seedlings, then look at ours! How can we still compete!”

“No, I’m not competing anymore. Let’s just give up! We should go back and study!”

“I don’t have any chance of getting the slot to go overseas anymore!”

In the end, there were only two other students left in the competition. One was Xie Jing, and the other was a fourth-year student named Wang Wei.

Wang Wei came from an average family and he was very dissatisfied with the job assigned to him which he was supposed to start at after graduation. He was sure that no one would be happy to work at the grassroots organization in the suburbs immediately after graduation. His classmates were going to work in the city’s laboratory or as government researchers. He was the only one who was sent to the grassroots organization in the suburbs.

Qiao Mei's plants grew better and better under everyone's watchful eyes and the results were starting to show. The teachers were also looking forward to Qiao Mei's results. They had a feeling that this was going to be a new breakthrough and that the strawberries planted by Qiao Mei this time round would definitely be very helpful towards their experiments.

Qiao Mei had not been idle during this period of time. The government had given her a new reward. As soon as the relevant departments signed the documents, Xia Wen brought them over.

The family gathered around the document and made wild guesses. After all, this matter concerned Qiao Mei and it was not appropriate for them to open the envelope without her. They decided to wait for Qiao Mei to return and reveal the answer.

"I'm guessing that it must be a house. Qiao Mei likes houses so much. If it's a house, she will definitely be happy!" MO Zhu said with a laugh.

"No, no, no! She already received a house the last time. I don't think it's that simple this time. It should be... money! It must be money! Can it be foreign currency! I've never seen foreign currency before!" Xia He said excitedly.

"I think it might be a reward for my grandchildren. Qiao Mei doesn't lack anything now. It's probably related to the children," Xu Lan said.

"Alright, alright! Stop making wild guesses. You're all wrong. Let's talk about it when Qiao Mei comes back," Xia Wen said as he looked at Xia He in disdain.

Xia He hurriedly ran to MO Zhu and said coquettishly, "Sister-in-law, look at him- My eldest brother is bullying me!"

"I'll definitely teach him a lesson! Don't worry! I'll make him sleep in the side room tonight!" MO Zhu said as she coaxed Xia He.

"Hmph! Thank you, Sister-in-law~ I just know that Sister-in-law treats me the best!" Xia He said as she looked at Xia Wen smugly.

Xia Wen shook his head helplessly. He really did not know if it was a good thing or a bad thing that his wife and younger sister were on such good terms. In the end, Xia Zhe was the one who would resonate with him the most in this family.

Qiao Mei rushed home. As soon as she entered, she asked, "Where are the documents?"

"On the table," Xia Wen said as he looked at Qiao Mei with some interest..

Chapter 1867: New Reward

Qiao Mei took a deep breath and opened the envelope. After reading the documents carefully many times, she pinched her face and screamed excitedly after confirming that this was not a dream. She looked at Xia Wen excitedly and asked, "Is this true? Eldest Brother, you're not lying to me, right! Is what's written here for real! I'm not seeing things, am I! Oh my goodness! I like this reward so much!"

"What? What's the reward! Tell us quickly!" Xia He asked anxiously.

Xia Wen had worked hard to fight for the reward for her this time. Actually, no one in the government could make up their minds about her reward this time, so they all came to ask for Xia Wen's opinion.

Qiao Mei did not lack money or house or job or medical care or educational qualifications. It could be said that she did not lack anything. This made everyone feel troubled.

The country was still improving steadily and working hard towards better development. They did not have the means to give Qiao Mei a reward that was too extravagant and could only give her something that was within their means.

The government staff gave Xia Wen two options in the end. One option was to choose five pieces of exquisite antiques from the items which the government had confiscated. They heard that Qiao Mei

liked antiques and were sure that there must be things which Qiao Mei would like among these items. The other option was to give her those few warehouses in the suburbs.

Qiao Mei had rented the place for half a year some time back and planted a lot of crops there. The government staff guessed that Qiao Mei might like the place and felt that the feng Shui there was good, so they were willing to buy that piece of land and give it to Qiao Mei. That piece of land had been left untouched for many years and it was very cheap. Moreover, given that it was expropriated by the country, the owner sold it very quickly.

Xia Wen had chosen the second option without any hesitation, resulting in this scene of Qiao Mei being so excited at the moment.

“It’s true. You didn’t see wrongly,” Xia Wen said.

After the excitement died down, Qiao Mei began to carefully study the regulations and contents of the document. She asked sternly, “There’s also a courtyard outside that warehouse. Do I only own the warehouse or do I own everything?”

“Everything is yours. The fields outside and all the warehouses are yours,” Xia Wen explained.

“Then can I use these places freely? Can I tear down the warehouses and rebuild them?” Qiao Mei asked cautiously.

“The demarcated area and items listed in the document are now your personal property. You can deal with them however you wish and you can do whatever you want. Even if you want to leave it there untouched, no one can say anything. We’ve already communicated with the local villagers and have marked out the site clearly for you. After a while, the land title deed will be handed over to you,” Xia Wen said seriously.

Qiao Mei was so happy that she could not even close her mouth. This was in the area of the three inner ring roads in the capital! In the future, a house here would cost 100,000 dollars per square meter! This big piece of land belonged to her now! Just thinking about it made her excited. She was filthy rich now! If she built a few buildings there later, she would be able to just sit at home every day and collect rent!

“Thank you, Eldest Brother. I really like this reward so much!” Qiao Mei said.

“I’m glad you like it,” Xia Wen said with satisfaction.

The entire family felt very happy for Qiao Mei. Tonight, Xu Kang had prepared a big table full of sumptuous dishes to celebrate. Everyone was all smiles and even the three children knew that there was a joyous occasion at home and kept running around in the courtyard.

The next day, Qiao Mei brought Da Zhuang and Xiao Zhuang to the warehouse. She planned to install a fence around the area, preferably one that was much taller than humans, so as to prevent the nearby villagers from stealing crops in the middle of the night.

The warehouses had been in disrepair for a long time. Given the exposure to the winds and the rain, anything inside was either damp or damaged. The location of these warehouses was not very good either, so they needed to be demolished and rebuilt.

After planning how she intended to use the site, Qiao Mei also marked out an area in the corner. This area could be used to build a two-story house. If Qiao Qiang wanted to come here to fish and relax in his later years, he would have a place to stay. This place was close to the mountains and rivers and was quite suitable for retirement. When Qiao Qiang had nothing to do, he could also help with the farming.

After packing up, Qiao Mei drove home. She did not intend to plant too many different types of seeds now. If anyone found out that this batch of crops grew differently from the ones in the village, it would arouse suspicion. She intended to just plant some old seeds on that piece of land..

Chapter 1868: The Strawberries Are Damaged

As the days passed, Qiao Mei’s strawberry plants had already bore perfect fruits. The strawberries looked very attractive. Everyone felt that the fruits must be delicious!

When Xie Jing saw Qiao Mei's strawberries, he felt very anxious. The fruits of his strawberry plants were still green! At the end of the specified timeframe, they definitely would not be as nice as the ones planted by Qiao Mei.

He went home that night and told Cui Hua about all these. Cui Hua gently stroked Xie Jings chest and said, "Don't be anxious~ I have a way to make her lose the opportunity to study abroad."

"Do you have any good ideas?" Xie Jing asked as he raised his eyebrows.

Cui Hua leaned over and whispered her plan into Xie Jings ear. Xie Jing smiled happily. At times like this, he really did not want to lose Cui Hua. It would be great if he could bring her along when he went abroad to study. After all, it was rare to meet such a silly woman who would come up with schemes for him so wholeheartedly.

However, Cui Hua could not become his wife. If he could go overseas to study, his future would be very bright. His partner must be worthy of him. Cui Hua was only good enough to be his tool to climb up the social ladder and could never become his partner.

Cui Hua sent food to Xie Jing as usual. However, this time, she did not go home directly. Instead, she went to look for Wang Wei inside the glass greenhouse. She only talked to him for a while before he fell head over heels for her.

There were many stray cats and dogs in the school. Everyone would occasionally bring some food to feed them. There was one particular dog who was very lively and could eat a lot. As long as there was delicious food, it would rush forward without regard for anything.

A few days later, when night fell, Wang Wei threw a few chicken bones into Qiao Mei's strawberry shed and then lured the dog over. Seeing the dog feasting on Qiao Mei's strawberries, Wang Wei felt completely at ease. In order to avoid being discovered, he quickly left the place and carefully covered up his footprints.

The weather was not good and it rained heavily. Not long after, there were many puddles of water on the ground. Xie Jing had already built a plastic shed for his strawberries to ensure that there were no accidents.

Xie Jing was worried about Wang Wei not completing the task well. He waited for the rain to subside before he went to Qiao Mei's strawberry shed to take a closer look. The strawberries had all been gnawed by the dog and there was not a single one left. The entire spot was muddy and the strawberry seedlings had fallen all over the place.

Xie Jing smiled with satisfaction. This time, Qiao Mei definitely had no chance of winning.

The next morning, Wu Duo came to the field to do a check as usual. He had arrived earlier than his usual timing as he felt a little uneasy given the heavy rain last night. However, he had seen with his own eyes that Qiao Mei's plastic shed was covered very tightly and that there was no problem so he did not come to do a check at night.

He was shocked when he saw the mess in the field and thought that his eyes were playing a trick on him. After rubbing his eyes to confirm that what he saw was real, he hurriedly ran to the agricultural faculty's office to look for the teacher.

The news about the tragic situation in the strawberry field quickly spread throughout the entire school. Everyone came to the experimental field to watch the commotion.

"What a pity about Qiao Mei's strawberries. I have been waiting to see the results!"

"If the harvest is good, I'm thinking of asking for a taste!"

"Look at the miserable state of the plastic shed. There must be nothing left!"

"We can only blame that stray dog! Why is it so greedy!"

"Qiao Mei deserves it for being so smug. Let's see how she can still be so smug now! Let's see how she can study abroad!"

While some people felt sorry about what happened to Qiao Mei's strawberries, others mocked her for not being able to study abroad anymore. There were many different opinions and everyone was just waiting to watch the drama.

The dean and the teachers from the agriculture faculty rushed to the experimental field together. Looking at the broken strawberry shed, the teachers' hearts shattered.

"These are the seedlings that are most similar to the experiments we have been doing! How can this be! Who did this!" the dean said agitatedly.

"Professor... it's this dog..." a student from the agricultural faculty said, finding it hard to speak.

"What did you say? A dog? Did a dog do all this?" the dean asked. "That's right. Yesterday, one of our classmates saw a dog heading in this direction and there are also dog footprints on the ground. Qiao Mei's strawberries were probably all eaten by the dog," the agricultural faculty student said.

Qiao Mei's house was located quite far away and she rushed over as soon as she received the news. Everyone waited for a long time but Qiao Mei did not look too surprised as they expected..

Chapter 1869 - 1869: Retain the Results

When Qiao Mei planted these strawberries, she also dropped many vine seeds nearby. These vines were all rooted in the ground and were barely visible on the surface, looking exactly like grass. These vines were her eyes and ears. They were constantly monitoring the strawberries in this area and she knew everything that was going on.

Therefore, Qiao Mei had already seen everything that happened last night and knew very well who was responsible for all of this. However, the actual scene looked much more tragic than what she saw last night.

"Qiao Mei... um... all the crops in your field have been eaten by this dog..." the dean said awkwardly as he stood rooted, his hand pressed down on the "canine criminal".

Qiao Mei nodded. She looked around but did not find any footprints. It seemed that Xie Jing had covered everything up very thoroughly. Even if there were footprints, it would be impossible to prove

who they belonged to. Too many people had rushed here this morning and the ground was still very soft after the rain. There were everyone's footprints around and some of the evidence had already been destroyed.

"I'm sorry... I was too impulsive this morning. When I saw that you weren't in school, I went to look for the teachers from your faculty. I completely forgot to ensure that the evidence is protected," Wu Duo said self-reproachedly as he stood beside Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei patted Wu Duo's shoulder and whispered, "This matter has nothing to do with you. You did the right thing by calling the teacher over. Even if you didn't ask the teacher to come over, someone would have made sure that there is no evidence left behind.'

"You're saying that they..." Wu Duo whispered as he looked at Xie Jing and Wang Wei, who were in the distance.

"Don't make a fuss yet. I have my ways." After saying that, Qiao Mei went to the dean and asked calmly, "Professor, how do you plan to deal with this matter?"

"Deal with it? How should we deal with it... Qiao Mei, you can bring this dog back... It's up to you what you want to do with it," the dean said softly. After saying that, he felt that it was very ridiculous of him to blame this incident on a dog.

"Professor, you've misunderstood me. I'm talking about my results. Now that the strawberries have been destroyed, what happens to my results? Or shall we restart the competition?" Qiao Mei asked as she looked at the dean.

It was definitely impossible for them to restart the competition. There was only one week left before they needed to decide on the student who would be getting the slot. Also, strawberries would not be able to mature within one week and could not be used as a reference at all.

Moreover, Qiao Mei and the rest had signed a guarantee before the competition. In the other faculties, the teachers were the ones who decided on the students who got the slot to go overseas. Everyone had heard about how the agriculture faculty wanted to make the decision and all the other faculties were just waiting to see the agricultural faculty become a joke! If this matter was not handled well, they would probably become the laughing stock of the entire campus.

‘Qiao Mei... No one expected this to happen. We don’t have enough time. You’re still a freshman and there will be many other opportunities in the future. Why don’t you just give up this time round...’ the dean said regretfully.

Qiao Mei could only blame her own bad luck for encountering such an unlucky thing. Otherm?se, the slot to study abroad would definitely be hers.

“Professor, as long as I can produce evidence to prove that my strawberries grow well, can I retain my results?” Qiao Mei asked.

Wang Wei said in a panic, “All your things have all been destroyed! How are you going to prove it!”

Qiao Mei looked at Xie Jing and Wang Wei and smiled mockingly. She took out a folder from her school bag and handed it to the teacher. “Here are my notes on the growth of the plants during this period of time. I hope you can take a look. ”

The dean opened Qiao Mei’s plant growth notebook. It clearly stated how much water the plants were given every day, the fertilization situation, the trend of the growth and the lighting conditions. There were also recordings of the dates when the strawberries germinated, the date when the strawberries bloomed, the date the first fruit was spotted and its location, among other details.

If that was all, it might not be enough to act as a basis to retain Qiao Mei’s results. After all, these records were also in the faculty’s planting notes. However, Qiao Mei attached three photos to every daily record. These photos were taken at different times each day, in the morning, afternoon and evening. Furthermore, these were color photos so the growth process was documented clearly.

During this period of time, everyone had witnessed the growth of Qiao Mei’s strawberry plants. The photos in the notebook were the same as what everyone remembered. Everyone present could testify for Qiao Mei.

“In that case, Qiao Mei’s results can be retained,” the dean said in satisfaction..

The principal also took Qiao Mei's plant growth notebook and flipped through it. He said in satisfaction, "This notebook is done quite well. It's exactly the same as what I usually see when I pass by on the way to work. Moreover, this notebook can also be a reference for all of us in the future. Qiao Mei has really put in a lot of effort."

"That's true. This is even more detailed and well-kept than our teachers' notebooks. I wonder if Qiao Mei is willing to let the faculty keep this notebook so that it can be used as a reference for everyone?" the dean asked.

"Of course you can," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

The methods which Qiao Mei used were all the most basic ones. However, she would adjust the amount of sunlight, water and fertilizer based on her experience. She would definitely be able to grow strawberries that were even more delicious than the ones in the market now. However, what set her strawberries apart from others was the energy she infused into them.

The other students who had competed with Qiao Mei earlier also went forward to take a look at her notebook. After everyone took a look, they could not help but give Qiao Mei a thumbs up.

The photo studios would charge five dollars each for color photos like these!

Qiao Mei took three photos a day and had intended to do that for 20 days! They were definitely unable to do the same. At most, they would take one photo at the end of the process for record. People without a good family background would not be able to spend money like Qiao Mei.

"When did you take these photos? Why didn't I know that you came back?" Wu Duo asked in surprise.

"Of course I have to put in some effort for my own strawberries! Can they grow well by themselves? I still have to come back and water the plants!" Qiao Mei said.

Wu Duo and the others strictly followed Qiao Mei's instructions and only stood outside the experimental field to stand guard. When Qiao Mei came back to take a look at the strawberries, she would find a time when there were less people around or when everyone was in class. She did not let anyone see her taking photos either. This was to guard against what was happening right now.

After all, Xie Jing and Cui Hua had kept causing trouble for her previously, so she wanted to be careful. She did not expect these photos to really come in handy.

"Since everyone has seen what's going on, I'll announce the results of this competition now!"

Just as the dean held Qiao Mei's plant growth notebook and was about to announce the results, Wang Wei quickly came forward and said, "Wait! I don't agree!"

"You don't agree? I remember that you're one of the students graduating this year. The evidence is here. What else are you disagreeing with?" the dean questioned.

Wang Wei was so frightened that he did not know what to say. He stammered for a long time and did not manage to say what he wanted to say. Wang Wei had always been an honest and obedient person. He did not even dare to speak loudly usually and was always bullied. However, after being bullied for so long, he had an urge to act on his impulses. Cui Hua had taken advantage of Wang Wei's thoughts and used him to destroy Qiao Mei's experiment.

"Professor, what Senior Wang Wei is saying is that the rules of the competition have nothing to do with the plant growth notebook submitted by Qiao Mei. This time round, we're competing to see who can grow fruits which are more delicious, not the speed of growth. This notebook can only prove that Qiao Mei's plants grew quickly and the color of the fruits looks good, but it can't prove that the fruits taste good," Xie Jing said.

"Nonsense! How can such beautiful fruits taste worse than those from your small seedlings?" Wu Duo said angrily.

"Schoolmate, you're from the engineering faculty and don't know much about our agriculture faculty. Although Senior and I have strawberry seedlings which grow more slowly, the fruits taste sweet and will definitely sell well in the future. Qiao Mei's strawberries grow fast and big, but they don't taste good, so no one will buy them. Professors, don't you think I'm right?" Xie Jing said with a sinister smile.

All the fruits from Qiao Mei's plants had long been ruined. Given how trampled they were, there was definitely not a single fruit left. He already checked last night and he could not have made any mistake. Qiao Mei no longer had any way to prove how delicious her fruits were. She was definitely going to lose this time!

The principal and the teachers also felt that what Xie Jing said made sense.

Qiao Mei immediately said, "Wait! Who says that there's not one single fruit left?"

Qiao Mei walked to the edge of her strawberry shed and reached out to rummage through the soil. She found five strawberries buried deep in the ground. These strawberries were of different sizes, but the colors were a little pale and they looked very sour..