

Fat Wife 1871

Chapter 1871: Done on Purpose

Qiao Mei took the strawberries and asked one of the teachers and two random classmates to supervise the process. They went to the canteen next door where she washed the soil off the strawberries and borrowed a plate from the canteen staff. Then she cut the five strawberries into halves and put them on the plate,

She returned to where everyone was gathered and said, "Professors, please try my strawberries."

The dean picked up half a strawberry doubtfully and ate it. The fragrance and sweetness of the strawberry instantly filled his mouth. He had never eaten such a delicious strawberry in his life. Furthermore, these strawberries were not fully ripe yet. When they were completely ripe, who knew how delicious they could be! They must taste thousands of times more delicious than this one!

"Delicious! It's so delicious!" the principal said excitedly.

Qiao Mei brought the strawberries to Xie Jing and Wang Wei and said, "Schoolmates, try it too."

Xie Jing and Wang Wei each picked up half a strawberry and ate it. After they had a taste, they knew that they had no chance of winning this competition and had lost completely.

"Do you still have anything else to say?" The principal looked at Xie Jing and the rest and questioned them.

All the students kept quiet. The principal nodded in satisfaction and said with a smile, "Since everyone agrees, I announce that for Capital University's agricultural faculty, the slot to study abroad belongs to Qiao Mei!"

“The announcement will be posted on the noticeboard this afternoon. Everyone, you can go off now! Go back to class!” The dean waved his arms to chase away the students who were still watching the commotion.

Qiao Mei shouted, “Wait a moment! I have something to say!”

Everyone turned to look at Qiao Mei. Could it be that Qiao Mei was too excited to get the slot to study abroad and wanted to give an acceptance speech? Or was she going to tell everyone how she would be dealing with the dog which had destroyed her strawberries?

“Professors, please hold on. When I was looking for the strawberries just now, I realized that there’s something wrong. This incident is not an accident, but done on purpose! Someone has destroyed my strawberry plants!” Qiao Mei said as she pointed at the plastic shed.

“Qiao Mei, why would you say that? Did you find something out of place?” the

dean asked.

“As crops grow, they will take root in the soil. The soil quality in our school is very good and there won’t be an issue of plants being unable to take root. But everyone, come and take a look at my strawberry plants.” Qiao Mei walked to the shed and showed everyone the roots of the strawberry plants. She pointed at the roots and said, “Most of the roots of the strawberry plants are already exposed! Someone must have pulled them out!”

After saying that, Qiao Mei went to the side, found a few weeds and pulled them out using a lot of effort. She brought them to the shed and compared them with the strawberry plants. She pointed at the shed and said, “Professors, you have all planted crops before. One bout of heavy rain definitely can’t make the roots of my strawberry plants so fragile. This must be done on purpose!”

A few teachers also went into the shed to take a closer look. Qiao Mei was indeed telling the truth and there was definitely something fishy about this matter.

“If everyone feels that we can’t compare weeds with my strawberry plants, we can go to Xie Jings shed to take a look. You will be able to do another comparison!” Qiao Mei said as she pointed at Xie Jings shed.

Xie Jing looked at Qiao Mei with a dark expression. He would never have imagined that when he begged the teacher to let him grow strawberries outside, he would end up giving Qiao Mei the evidence to prove her case.

Just as the teachers were studying the soil and strawberry plants, Qiao Niei suddenly pointed at a spot a distance away from the shed and said, “Everyone, look! What’s that red thing over there?”

The dean hurriedly went over and picked up the item. It was an amulet. This amulet looked quite old and must be an item that the perpetrator carried around with him.

“When you come by to help me keep an eye on things, have you ever seen anyone enter my shed?” Qiao Mei turned around and asked Wu Duo.

“Not at all! Both Li Xue from the medical faculty and I can testify! No one has ever gone near Qiao Mei’s shed!” Wu Duo said sternly.

“Did the few of you go near the shed?” Qiao Mei asked again.

“No, we followed your instructions. We only stood guard at the edge and did not take even half a step into the experimental field,” Wu Duo said.

“Professor, then we can basically confirm that the owner of this amulet is the person who destroyed my strawberry plants! As long as we can find the owner of this amulet, the truth will be revealed,” Qiao Mei said..

Chapter 1872: Lost Five Strawberry Plants

Everyone leaned forward to take a look. Someone in the crowd shouted, "This is Wang Wei's amulet! I've seen it before!"

"Who's talking? Come to the front!" the dean said as he pointed at the boy.

The boy strode to the front and said, "I'm Wang Wei's roommate. This amulet belongs to Wang Wei. His mother had gone to the temple to get it for him. The temple keeps record of the amulets they give out. You can go and check the records."

"Wang Wei, is what he said true?" the dean asked as he looked at Wang Wei.

Wang Wei clearly remembered that he had placed this amulet in the drawer of his desk in his room. Why was it here now? He usually wore this amulet on a string around his neck. Last night, the string had loosened a little, so Wang Wei had left it in the drawer. This thing could not have appeared here. It must be Xie Jing who did it!

The real reason for the amulet appearing in this area was because Qiao Mei had used the vines to sneak into Wang Wei's room late at night. She used the vines to steal the amulet and left it here so that it would become evidence later. Otherwise, in this era without surveillance cameras, how could they catch the real culprit! Qiao Mei was not wronging him by doing this.

"I... but I didn't do it! I just brought the dog here to eat the strawberries! I didn't do anything else to Qiao Mei's strawberry plants! This must be Xie Jings doing! Xie Jing instigated me to do all these things! Xie Jing must have left my amulet here! This has nothing to do with me!" Wang Wei shouted.

"Tell me honestly, what does all this have to do with Xie Jing?" the dean asked.

"Xie Jings wife came to look for me some time ago. She told me that as long as I think of a way to destroy Qiao Mei's strawberries, I can get the chance to study abroad. She said that Xie Jing will give me the slot because he doesn't want to go overseas. He only participated in this competition to fight for validation," Wang Wei said frankly.

Xie Jing looked at the teachers innocently and said, “Professors, I didn’t do any of these things. I don’t know anything! Besides, the opportunity to study abroad is so rare. Why will I give it up to others so easily? What Wang Wei said is full of loopholes. I really didn’t do this.”

Xie Jing had many admirers and everyone believed what he said. Without concrete evidence to prove that Xie Jing was related to this matter, they would not believe that he had done something wrong.

In addition, Cui Hua liked Xie Jing so much and the two of them had already talked about this. If the matter was exposed, Cui Hua would take all the blame so that Xie Jing was not implicated at all. She would not let Xie Jing have a bad name.

Cui Hua was willing to give up everything for him.

“Professors! You have to believe what I say! I don’t lie! Xie Jing and his wife asked me to do this! It’s absolutely true!” Wang Wei shouted as he pointed at Xie Jing.

Xie Jing immediately retorted, “You must be taking revenge on me for what happened in the past! You’re slandering me!”

What happened in the past? Did something happen between him and Xie Jing in the past?

Last year, during practical lessons, Wang Wei and Xie Jing had fought over the spots in the experimental field and the glass greenhouse. In the end, after mediation, Xie Jing occupied Wang Wei’s spots. At that time, Wang Wei held a grudge against Xie Jing for a long time. Every time he walked past Xie Jing, he would curse at Xie Jing. Everyone could still remember this incident!

“Professor, you have to believe me! I really didn’t do it!” Wang Wei was so anxious that he almost wanted to kneel down to explain to his teacher.

At this moment, Qiao Mei pointed at the strawberry plants in the shed and said, “Professor! Somethings wrong! I planted a total of 30 strawberry plants here, but there are only 25 left now! I lost five strawberry plants!”

The principal hurriedly flipped open Qiao Mei's plant growth notebook. It was indeed recorded that there were 30 strawberry plants and also documented in the latest photo. Then where did the five missing strawberry plants go?

"Did you hide my strawberry plants?" Qiao Mei asked as she looked at Wang Wei.

"No! I definitely didn't!" Wang Wei immediately said.

"Even if the dog ate the strawberries, there's no reason for it to eat the entire plant. Someone must have stolen my strawberry plants," Qiao Mei said firmly.

Wang Wei immediately pointed at Xie Jing and shouted, "It's him! He must have done it! I really didn't steal your strawberry plants.. I just let the dog in and didn't do anything else! It must be him!"

Chapter 1873: Search

Xie Jing had indeed returned to this area at a later time to do a check. Perhaps at that time, he had unknowingly pulled up some of Qiao Mei's strawberry plants, but he really did not steal any of them. After he left, someone else must have come here as well. It seemed that there was a third person involved in this matter!

"Professor, this matter has nothing to do with me. Please investigate thoroughly and uphold justice for me!" Xie Jing said righteously.

Xie Jing's admirers were all touched by how righteous he looked. They shouted in unison, "Professor, please uphold justice for Xie Jing! Prove Xie Jing's innocence! "

The principal immediately said, "I will definitely find out the truth about this matter. The school will definitely investigate it thoroughly! Don't worry, everyone."

Qiao Mei and Wu Duo watched on as the tide seemed to turn and everyone's attention was diverted from the fact that Xie Jing was a suspect.

Wu Duo quickly shouted, "In that case, Xie Jing is still the most likely suspect now! I think we should search Xie Jings dormitory room and his house! It will be a good thing if we don't find anything. This way, it will also clear Xie Jing's name! Xie Jing will be absolved!"

Qiao Mei gave Wu Duo a look of admiration. This was a promising kid. Wu Duo had learned a lot in the past few days.

"Yes! Search their house! They must be hiding something in their house! Xie Jing must have hidden the strawberry plants. It must be him!" Wang Wei said agitatedly.

"You can search if you want! Xie Jing is an upright person and would not have a crooked shadow! Do you think he is afraid of you?" Sun Jia shouted at Qiao Mei and the others.

Xie Jing frowned slightly. Why was there such a fool beside him? However, he had been too careless and had forgotten that the school could order a search.

Xie Jing was the representative of the underprivileged students in the agriculture faculty. If anything was found in his house, it would not just be this matter at stake. It might lead to many other issues.

There was no such thing as privacy rights in this era. As long as a person was a suspect, they could be searched without the need to call the police. The village officials, the community officials, the education department and the government all had the right to carry out searches directly.

Xie Jing could not reject the school's request for a search. He looked at Qiao Mei and gritted his teeth as he said, "If you don't find anything this time round, you have to apologize to me publicly! And give me compensation!"

"Compensation... He still has the cheek to ask for compensation..." Wu Duo muttered angrily.

Qiao Mei smiled and said, "No problem. If we don't find anything, not only will I apologize publicly, but I will also give you the slot to study abroad." Xie Jings eyes lit up. Qiao Mei was definitely going to lose this time!

When the school staff was searching his dormitory room, he found a chance to inform Cui Hua to quickly hide all the things at home so that the school would not notice anything amiss.

The school staff did not manage to find anything related to the strawberry plants in the dormitory. Only a fool would leave such big plants lying around in the dormitory. The school staff proceeded to search Xie Jing's house. However, this time round, they did not allow the students to come along as they did not want to disturb the villagers and cause Xie Jing to have to face unnecessary rumors.

"I want to come too!" Wu Duo said agitatedly.

"Only Qiao Mei can come with us to carry out the search. You can't," the dean said.

Qiao Mei looked at Wu Duo and whispered, "You're a student from the engineering faculty. It's not appropriate for you to be too involved in this matter. Stay in the school and help me keep an eye out for any issues we might have missed."

"Alright, I understand. Then you have to be careful." After saying that, Wu Duo looked at Qiao Mei and the others and left.

Xie Jings house was not big and had three rooms. There was also a woodshed for firewood and a storeroom for tools. The courtyard was very small and could only accommodate three people at a time.

"What's going on?" Cui Hua asked as she walked out of the house in a panic.

Xie Jing hurriedly explained, "It's nothing. The teachers are just here to take a look at my living quarters. Don't be afraid."

The dean looked at Cui Hua's delicate appearance and echoed, "That's right, we're just here to take a look at Xie Jings living quarters. It's not a big deal."

Qiao Mei could not be bothered to watch Xie Jing put on an act. She carefully observed the structure of Xie Jings house and kept thinking of ways to find any flaws in it.

Xie Jing proactively led the teachers into the house to conduct a search. Qiao Mei did not follow them and went to the storeroom instead..

Chapter 1874: Framed

This place was as ordinary as it could get. There was nothing special inside. There was some old furniture, a few tools like hoes and brooms, and also a bicycle without wheels inside.

Qiao Mei found an item in the depths of the storeroom that was suitable for holding strawberry plants. It was a rectangular pot filled with soil. It looked like it was used by Xie Jing to grow things at home. After all, Xie Jing was an outstanding student in the agriculture faculty. He must also have studied plants at home.

When no one was paying attention, she threw five seeds into the flower pot. She kept infusing energy into them and the five strawberry plants grew quickly. After it was done, Qiao Mei stuck her head out and shouted towards the house, "Professor, I found it!"

A few teachers hurriedly ran out of the house when they heard that. They came to the storeroom and looked inside. There were indeed five green plants in the corner.

The dean was an impatient person. He rushed straight to the storeroom and took out the flower pot. There was no doubt that these plants were strawberry plants. As for whether it was really Qiao Mei's plants or not, the fact was not that important anymore. The number of plants matched the number which Qiao Mei had lost.

"Xie Jing, what else do you have to say for yourself?" the dean said as he pointed at the flower pot on the ground.

“This isn’t mine! I’ve never planted strawberries at home! She must have brought it in secretly! She must have done it!” Xie Jing said as he pointed at Qiao Mei agitatedly.

Qiao Mei rummaged through her pockets and said, “My pockets are only so big. Are you saying I put them inside my clothes and brought them in? The plants are so big and the teachers are with me all the way. How can I be the one who did this?”

“Xie Jing, please watch your attitude! Qiao Mei came with us and you didn’t notice anything wrong with her along the way! Isn’t it too much for you to accuse her now!” the dean said angrily.

Xie Jing also realized that he had gone overboard with his words and quickly said, “But what reason do I have to steal Qiao Mei’s strawberry plants? What do I need them for?”

“Of course it’s to pass off my strawberries as your own after destroying my plants. This way, you can surpass Wang Wei’s strawberries,” Qiao Mei said seriously.

Xie Jing actually had no way to refute what Qiao Mei said. Logically speaking, it was indeed possible for him to do such a thing. Now, all the clues indicated that not only did Xie Jing destroy Qiao Mei’s plants, but he had also stolen the five strawberry plants for himself. This was such evil behavior!

Cui Hua immediately started crying as she walked up to them and said, “Qiao Mei, even if there is a grudge between us, you can’t do this to my family! If you want to do anything, just come at me! Don’t target Xie Jing!”

Everyone looked at Qiao Mei and Cui Hua in surprise. How were the two of them involved with each other?

“You have a teacher-student relationship with Wu Duo from the engineering faculty. He’s your best student. There are some unresolved grudges between him and me. In order to avenge Wu Duo, you must have been waiting for an opportunity to take revenge on me and Xie Jing,” Cui Hua said aggrievedly.

When the villagers in the surrounding heard the commotion, they also stuck their heads in to take a look. During the years when Xie Jing was studying in the university, his father, Xie Kun, had been mocking the neighbors for a long time. Xie Kun had always felt that it was a very grand thing for his son to be studying at Capital University and that other families were not as good as his family.

“It must be you... You must have sneaked into my house last night and put these here! It must be you! Your family is very powerful, so it won’t be difficult for you to do such a thing!” Xie Jing defended himself.

“This is my first time at your house. I was at home last night and all my neighbors can vouch for me. Moreover, I don’t even know where you live. How can I come to your house to put things here?” Qiao Mei said.

“Just because you can’t come! It doesn’t mean that you can’t arrange for others to come!” Cui Hua shouted.

Qiao Mei looked at the villagers around them and said, “Did anyone see any strangers here last night? Did any of you see anyone?”

During this season, the air was very dry and things caught fire easily, so the men in the village proactively organized a patrol every night. There was only one entrance to the village. If anyone wanted to enter the village, these men would definitely know about it.

“There were no suspicious people,” said the village chief.

“Then did anything suspicious happen last night?” Qiao Mei asked..

Chapter 1875: Solid Evidence

“Oh, yes there is. Xie Jing suddenly came back last night, even though it was raining so heavily,” the village chief said.

“Xie Jing, explain to us why you didn’t stay in the dormitory last night and suddenly came home?” the dean questioned.

“My father fell sick last night! Cui Hua came to school to look for me! I came home to see my father!” Xie Jing explained.

Last night, after he went to the experimental field to take a look, he stayed out past the dormitory curfew. He had nowhere to go after that, so he went home. He did not expect Qiao Mei to be able to discover such details.

“In that case, tell me, what evidence do you have to prove that Qiao Mei sent these strawberry plants to your house late at night?” the principal asked.

Xie Jing and Cui Hua had nothing to say. They were already feeling guilty, so the more they tried to explain, the messier the situation became.

“In that case, let’s get the police to come! The matter has already reached such a serious stage. I think we can hand it over to the police and let them make a decision so that they can uphold justice for me!” Qiao Mei shouted.

Xie Jing had no intention to get the police involved. Back then, the way he entered university was not something that was aboveboard. If he was investigated, his life would be ruined and he might even go to jail!

The school also did not want to alert the police over such a small matter. It would not be good for the school’s reputation and it would attract unnecessary criticism and trouble.

The principal went over to Qiao Mei and said, “Qiao Mei, how about this? Let’s get the school’s security department to conduct an investigation first. If they can’t find any clues, then we’ll get the police to deal with it. Is that alright with you?”

In this era, there were security departments in every organization, not only in schools, but also in the government, in the community and even in the village! In some places, the security departments were even equipped with guns. In

Foshan Village, the security department could make a decision on most issues.

“Sure!” Qiao Mei said.

The investigation by the security department went very smoothly. For some reason, many students took the initiative to report Xie Jing to the security department, so there was no need for the security department to spend much effort.

Perhaps it was because the students were righteous people and all of them wanted to seek justice for Qiao Mei.

All the students from Capital University had their own student card. This student card allowed them to do many things. Not only could they use it in the canteen, but they could also use it to access the classroom and the main entrance. It was very convenient.

Cui Hua was not a student from Capital University. Every time she came to deliver food to Xie Jing, she had to fill in the entry and exit form at the main gate. Cui Hua usually delivered food at the same time every day, but last night, Cui Hua came out more than one hour later than usual.

No one knew where Cui Hua had gone during this additional hour and Wang Wei could not remember the exact time when Cui Hua came to look for him.

Many people testified that they saw Cui Hua walking towards the glass greenhouse. There were also some classmates who testified that Xie Jing was not in the dormitory last night and that Xie Jings shoes were muddy when he returned. All the roads in Capital University were very flat and made of stone, so Xie Jing must have gone inside the experimental field.

There was solid evidence with both witnesses and physical proof. Xie Jing could no longer escape. He looked at Cui Hua anxiously and whispered, “Cui Hua! You know the truth! We were together the whole time! Save me! Save me! Tell the principal the truth!”

This time round, Cui Hua was not as determined to save Xie Jing as before. This was because the principal had just told her that Xie Jing would be expelled for such actions.

Now that so many people had witnessed Xie Jing destroying Qiao Mei's spot in the field, there was already irrefutable evidence. Even if she took the blame for it, who would believe her? Qiao Mei's family background was so strong and she was on good terms with Wu Duo. They would definitely not let Xie Jing off this time. Xie Jing would not have a chance to make a comeback. In that case, why should she get involved in this mess?

It did not matter if Xie Jing was expelled. She still had a chance to get into university! She did not want to take the blame and be seen as Xie Jings accomplice and then lose her right to enter university in the future.

Cui Hua was not that stupid. At moments like this, people would choose to protect themselves and run far away in the face of disaster.

"Principal! I was forced by him! I had no other choice! If I don't listen to him...

he... he will come home and beat me up! I've already been chased out of the house by my parents! I have nowhere to go! If I don't listen to him, I'll be homeless! Principal, you must understand my situation!" Cui Hua said and sobbed as she grabbed the principal's hand..

Chapter 1876: Prepare to Study Abroad

When Xie Jing saw her behaving like this, he gave up all hope. He knew all about Cui Hua's ways. There was no one who could act weak and pitiful like her. The principal would definitely believe Cui Hua and let her off. As for him, there was no way out.

Since Wang Wei had admitted to his mistakes and repented, as well as provided a lot of information about Xie Jings illegal activities, the school decided to only remove his assigned job after graduation. He would only get his university degree. All the benefits he was supposed to receive after graduation would be canceled.

Qiao Mei had pleaded with the school for this resolution. In the beginning, the school deemed Wang Wei as a student with bad character and wanted to expel him so as to send a signal to all the other students. However, Qiao Mei felt that Wang Wei had just been influenced by bad company. Since he had admitted his mistake very quickly after the incident, this gesture should be taken into consideration.

Xie Jing was not so lucky. The school announced that Xie Jing would be expelled immediately. In the end, all his years of planning and scheming had been in vain.

During this time, Xie Jing tried to look for Tan Jing, but she did not pick up his call at all. What right did a useless person have to call her? If the matter attracted Huang Quan's attention, she would be implicated again.

Qiao Mei received confirmation that she qualified to study abroad. She had to go through the documentation process and would soon be able to complete the relevant procedures to go to school overseas.

During the weekend, Qiao Mei asked Wu Duo and the others to come for a gathering at her house. She was leaving soon and they would not be able to get together for a long while.

"You've helped me a lot during this period of time, right?" Qiao Mei asked Wu Duo with a smile.

"I didn't do anything." Wu Duo scratched his head and pretended not to know anything.

"I know all the things you've done. Xie Jing has so many supporters. It's very impressive that you manage to encourage the other students to go to the security department and provide evidence against Xie Jing. I noted down everything you've done," Qiao Mei said.

"I just can't stand seeing Xie Jing like that. Moreover, our schoolmates are all people with a sense of justice and a conscience. I'm also very surprised that so many people went to report him," Wu Duo said honestly.

"You guys have done well this time. I feel at ease to leave you here," Qiao Mei said as she looked at everyone with a look of gratification.

“The quota to study abroad is not limited to this year only. Don’t worry, we will definitely work hard and strive to go overseas to join you next year or the year after!” Li Xue said excitedly.

“Then it’s a deal! If I don’t see you, I’ll punish you!” Qiao Mei threatened.

“Tell us first, what’s the punishment?” Li Xue asked.

“Well... if you can’t get the slot to study abroad, I’ll punish you to transcribe all the books! You have to transcribe all the textbooks you have to study over the years! And you have to finish it within a month!” Qiao Mei said.

“Ah! Isn’t this making things difficult for me! My textbooks are much thicker than their textbooks! This is so unfair!” Li Xue pouted and said.

“There’s nothing we can do! Why did you choose this major in the first place? We have a deal! No one is allowed to go back on their word! No one is allowed to break the agreement!” Qiao Mei said as she held out her last finger.

“It’s a deal!” The few of them hooked their fingers together with blissful smiles on their faces. Their future looked to be dazzling and filled with hope.

During this period of time, Qiao Mei stayed at home and focused on preparing for her studies abroad. She did not have to go to school for the time being. In order to celebrate for Qiao Mei and help her with packing, the rest of the family spent their days at the courtyard house and only returned home at night.

“Sigh...” Xu Lan hugged Xia Yue and sighed.

“Mother, why do you keep sighing for the past two days? Did my father make you unhappy?” Xia He asked curiously.

“I just don’t know how long Qiao Mei will be gone this time round. This child is still so young. How can he be away from his mother!” Xu Lan said anxiously.

“The children don’t drink breast milk. There are so many of us around and the children will grow up healthy. Besides, Qiao Mei is only going to school and will be back in a few years. She won’t stay there for the rest of her life,” Xia He persuaded.

Actually, Xu Lan was worried that once Qiao Mei saw the world and the opportunities it presented, she would abandon this family. They were all aware about how capable Qiao Mei was. Instead of saying that the Xia family had helped Qiao Mei to advance in life, it would be more accurate to say that without Qiao Mei, the Xia family would not have their current achievements. Everything they had was courtesy of Qiao Mei, even if other people did not

know that..

Chapter 1877: Go Abroad Together

Xia Wen came to the study to look for Qiao Mei after work. He took out her passport from his bag and said, “It’s ready. Keep it well. The school will make the arrangements for your travels soon.”

“Thank you, Eldest Brother,” Qiao Mei said with a smile.

“Are... are you doing this because of Xia Zhe?” Xia Wen asked tentatively.

After a long silence, Qiao Mei said, “I do have this idea in my head...”

“I know you’re worried about Xia Zhe’s safety, but his mission this time is a very dangerous one, Moreover, how are you going to find him in the vast sea of people?” Xia Wen asked.

“I just want to try my luck,” Qiao Mei said.

“When you’re there, don’t ask anyone about Xia Zhe. Don’t mention Xia Zhe to anyone and don’t deliberately ask around. Even if you’re lucky enough to meet him, you have to pretend not to know him. Otherwise... otherwise, his life will be in danger. For the sake of his safety, I hope you can promise me that,” Xia Wen said sternly.

“I understand, Eldest Brother. I’ll remember what you said,” Qiao Mei said.

“Yes, let me know if anything happens. You have to be careful since you’ll be on your own out there. The Xia family doesn’t have much of an influence overseas. If anything happens, you have to call me as soon as possible. If there are any issues that you can’t solve, just come back. Do you understand?” Xia Wen instructed.

“Eldest Brother, can you help me apply for passports for the three children? I want to bring them with me,” Qiao Mei said.

“What did you say?” Xia Wen’s eyes widened. He thought that he had heard wrongly.

Qiao Mei said again, “I want to bring the three children overseas with me.”

Xia Wen could not make a decision on this matter. He felt that they had to discuss it with the rest of the family. After dinner, everyone sat in the living room for a discussion.

After hearing what Xia Wen said, Xu Lan immediately said, “No! It’s going to be too tiring for you to take care of three children alone. Besides, you still have to go to school. How can you have time to keep an eye on the children all the time?”

Although she felt that Qiao Mei’s request was very unreasonable, she still felt very comforted. At least Qiao Mei did not abandon these three children and was not that heartless.

“Once I get there, I’ll find a helper to take care of the children,” Qiao Mei said.

This time, it was Li Gui who objected. She said worriedly, “I don’t think we can trust those people there. We don’t even know their backgrounds. What if they do something bad to the children?”

It would be unrealistic to bring Feng Hua and Xu Kang overseas with her. They still had their own families to take care of. How could they give up their homes in the country just to earn money?

Qiao Mei was also in a dilemma for a moment. However, she would not give in when it came to this issue. She must keep the children by her side. If anything happened to the children back home and she could not rush to them or sense their presence, she would definitely go crazy.

“Furthermore, your safety is already a huge problem. We don’t have any friends or trusted aides over there, so you can only rely on yourself. I heard that it’s not too safe over there, but I can only arrange for two bodyguards to accompany you at most,” Xia Wen said.

“Um... I want to say something!” Xia He raised her hand and continued, “I can go with Qiao Mei!”

“You? If you go, then what about Deng Fan?” Xu Lan questioned.

“Deng Fan is hard at work every day nowadays. Qiao Mei has bought so many houses, then there’s also the factory and the work from his other clients. He doesn’t have time to accompany me at all. Moreover, the two of us have already discussed it. We won’t have children for the next few years as we want to focus on our careers. I want to go overseas to take a look. Besides, Qiao Mei will only be an exchange student for two years and it’s not really a long time,” Xia He said earnestly.

Xia Wen stared at Xia He and asked, “Are you serious? Do you need to discuss it with Deng Fan?”

“Of course I’m serious! Deng Fan and I have already agreed on this,” Xia He said.

“Then I can get you a passport and send you overseas. I’ll definitely feel more at ease if you can be there with Qiao Mei and the children,” Xia Wen said.

“All of you... you’re just messing around!” Xu Lan said angrily.

“Mother! I’m still young! I want to go out and take a look! Besides, Qiao Mei and I can then take care of the children together. Once we get there, we’ll hire a helper. It’ll be safe since I’m there to keep an eye on them every day. Don’t you believe in my capability?” Xia He deliberately showed Xu Lan her biceps..

Chapter 1878: Study Hard

No one had any doubt about Xia He's capability. Since Deng Fan had no objections, this matter was settled. As for the matter of hiring a helper, they could look into it later.

Everything went according to plan. Xia Wen quickly settled the passports for Xia He and the three children. Qiao Mei also received all the information for her exchange program. Everything was in place and she would be able to leave the country in a week to study overseas.

Xia Wen brought a briefcase to Qiao Mei's study. He not only brought the necessary documents for her, but also 10,000 dollars in foreign currency.

"Take this money. It's a little difficult to get foreign currency now. Give me some time to find a way. When I manage to change more money, I'll transfer it to your account. This is the new bankcard I got for you. You can use this when you're there," Xia Wen said as he took out a bankcard.

In this era, anyone who went to the bank to change for foreign currency could only transact up to 50 dollars. Qiao Mei had asked someone she knew well to help her change some foreign currency, but the most she could get was 2,000 dollars. She could only imagine how much manpower and resources Xia Wen had to expend and how many favors he had to owe to change so much money for her.

"It's fine. When I get there, I'll still think of ways to earn money! Don't worry, by the time I come back, we might have already bought many properties there. In the future, we can all go there for a vacation together," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"I don't know what to say about you. You really think about earning money no matter where you go. You're going there to gain more knowledge this time. You have to learn all the advanced technology from overseas. You don't have to worry about money. I'll make the arrangements at my end! You have to remember what I say, do you hear me?" Xia Wen said.

"Eldest Brother, I remember everything," Qiao Mei said earnestly.

"I have found three helpers for you. Two of them will take care of the children and one will take care of you and Xia He. I'm actually quite worried about her going with you. She's not really a meticulous person. If she does anything inappropriate there, call me and I'll reprimand her," Xia Wen said.

“Xia He is not that unreliable,” Qiao Mei said.

“There are many times when she’s unreliable! Don’t worry, I’ll come over to your house and visit Auntie and Grandpa Qiao from time to time. Even if I

don’t have time, there’s always MO Zhu. Grandpa Qiao likes to play chess with MO Zhu. I’ll get her to come and accompany Grandpa Qiao whenever she’s free,” Xia Wen said.

“I’ll have to trouble Eldest Brother and Eldest Sister-in-law with this matter,” Qiao Mei said guiltily.

It was easy for her to just pack and go, but there were still many things to take care of in the capital. Not only was there no one to take care of Qiao Qiang, she was also leaving behind the factory and Li Gui and the others. Xia Wen had to shoulder all the responsibilities for her.

“There’s no need to be so polite. We’re a family. Study hard there and see if you can come back early. Remember that your family is still waiting for you here,” Xia Wen said reluctantly.

He could not bear to part with the children the most. He liked Xia Fan, Xia Xing and Xia Yue very much. The children would be gone for so long and he wondered what they would look like when he next saw them. Children grew up very quickly. By the time Qiao Mei returned, they would be almost three years old.

If people who received overseas education did not return to the country in time, they would likely develop different ideologies from those people who stayed in the country. Therefore, the Xia family did not want their children to stay overseas for too long.

Qiao Mei also promised the family that she would only go overseas to study and that she would return immediately once she completed her studies and would not settle down overseas. Only then did Xia Jun feel at ease enough to let them go.

The bodyguards accompanying them were Luo Yu and an unfamiliar face. The stranger was a new joiner to the guard team and was actually Luo Yu’s younger brother, Luo Hui. The two brothers were both not married yet, so by sending them out together, they could take care of each other.

“All the people going with you are all people we can trust. When the time is right, I’ll send a few more bodyguards over,” Xia Wen said.

“I think it’s enough to just have them around. It’s already very showy for such a big group to travel together. I don’t want others to think that I’m getting special treatment. There’s also Xia He around to protect me! Eldest Brother, don’t worry too much,” Qiao Mei said, trying to comfort him.

“Alright, be careful along the way,” Xia Wen said sternly.

On the day of Qiao Mei’s departure, the entire family came to the airport. The other exchange students were at the airport on their own with one suitcase each. They were stunned when they saw the large group of people with Qiao Mei..

Chapter 1879: Leaving

“I already say we are too high-profile this time... Look at the people around us and the way they look at us. I don’t know what they’ll say after we leave,” Qiao Mei said softly.

“This is already very low-key! Eldest Brother has already gone for the simplest setup! You don’t even know what a terrifying setup he came up with earlier. When MO Zhu saw it, she came and showed it to me! He had wanted to send more than 10 bodyguards and five helpers with you! He even wanted to send personal tutors for the two children!” Xia He leaned on Qiao Mei’s shoulder and whispered into her ear.

Qiao Mei smiled resignedly. Fortunately, the original plan was not approved. Otherwise, the airport would be full of people related to the Xia family. If the government was overly suspicious, they might think that the entire Xia family was leaving the country!

“So who’s the one who rejected this plan?” Qiao Mei asked curiously.

“Who else! It can only be Eldest Sister-in-law! Eldest Brother only listens to her now,” Xia He said proudly.

“It feels quite good. There’s finally someone whom Eldest Brother is afraid of,” Qiao Mei said in a gratified manner.

Today was a rare occasion when Qiao Qiang wore his incomparably precious Zhongshan suit. He stood at the edge of the big group with reddened eyes as he looked at Qiao Mei. That was the girl he had painstakingly taken care of and brought up. Now that she was going to spread her wings and soar into the sky, he should be happy. However, his heart only felt empty.

Xia Jun patted Qiao Qiangs shoulder and said, “Why are you standing so far away? Aren’t you going to the front to talk to Qiao Mei?”

“What’s there to say? It’s not as if she won’t be coming back,” Qiao Qiang said as if he did not care.

“You’re just stubborn! If you don’t say it now, then you can only say it after two years! Just go and talk to the kid! Don’t make her anxious!” Xia Jun gave Qiao Qiang a hard push.

Qiao Qiang stumbled over to Qiao Mei and stood rooted to the spot, feeling at a loss. After mentally preparing himself, he stared at her face for a long time and sighed. He looked at her with a smile and said, “Don’t worry about things at home. I’m in good health. When the economy is fully open, I’ll go and visit all of you. You have to study hard while you’re there.”

Qiao Mei held Qiao Qiangs hand and said earnestly, “Remember to drink one bottle of medicinal wine every month. You can’t stop drinking secretly. I’ll get Eldest Sister-in-law to check for me! Don’t hide it away secretly. You must drink it regularly.”

“Yes! I’ll definitely drink it! I’ll keep my word this time!” Qiao Qiang said firmly.

“If Grandpa Qiao doesn’t want to drink it, I’ll secretly put it in his drinking water and food! I’ll definitely think of a way to make him drink it!” MO Zhu promised.

“Great! If my grandfather is disobedient, you can lecture him!” Qiao Mei said.

After the grandfather and granddaughter finished speaking, Xu Lan and Li Gui walked forward. The two of them still could not bear to see Qiao Mei leave.

Xu Lan held Qiao Mei's hand and said, "Don't be too frugal when you're there! Come back and visit us during your holidays!"

After Xu Lan said that, everyone standing behind her laughed. Even Li Gui, who was beside her, could not help but laugh. Xu Lan looked at everyone confusedly and said, "What are you laughing at! Did I say something wrong?"

"Mother, when have you ever seen Qiao Mei being frugal?" Xia He asked with a smile.

"Oh my, look at me and my brain." Xu Lan smiled and slapped her forehead. She would become forgetful when she got anxious. Qiao Mei would never be too frugal. She would find means and ways to earn more money.

As they spoke to one another, there was a broadcast announcement. The plane to Country M was about to take off. Qiao Mei led the traveling group onto the plane. They were really leaving now.

Qiao Mei was so tired that she leaned back against the seat to rest. Xia He leaned against the window excitedly and looked at the scenery outside. This was her first time taking a plane! She did not expect the experience to be so magical! Along the way, Xia He kept talking to Qiao Mei, but Qiao Mei was so tired that she could not be bothered with Xia He.

"Look! We're above the clouds! Qiao Mei, look!" Xia He said excitedly as she grabbed Qiao Mei's arm.

"I see it..." Qiao Mei said weakly.

"It's really beautiful! Do you think I can see the sun? What do you think the sun looks like? I've never seen the sun so close before!" Xia He said..

Chapter 1880: Arriving in Country M

"I don't know either. Elder Sister, I want to sleep now. Please let me off..." Qiao Mei said.

"Fine, fine, fine. I won't talk anymore. Sleep well!" After saying that, Xia He leaned against the window and looked out.

The plane was filled with exchange students going to Country M. After they saw the scene at the airport just now, their attitudes towards Qiao Mei also changed.

Some people wanted to curry favor with Qiao Mei and think of ways to get close to her. They were not stupid. If they could get close to Qiao Mei, they might be able to achieve meteoric success like Wu Duo and the others! Everyone in the capital knew that Qiao Mei had produced four outstanding university students.

Some people were very disdainful of Qiao Mei's behavior and thought that she was throwing her weight around and doing this to show off in front of them! These people talked about Qiao Mei even more loudly and it made Xia He wanted to argue with them, but Qiao Mei stopped her.

Qiao Mei did not care about these things at all and was not looking to become friends with anyone here. Her purpose in going overseas was not to study at all. She just wanted to find Xia Zhe as soon as possible and make sure that he was safe and sound.

When the plane landed, it was early in the morning in Country M and the sky was still dark. This was everyone's first time overseas and no one knew what to do next. Xia Wen had arranged for a butler to pick Qiao Mei up from the airport arrival hall and bring her to the house that he had prepared.

"Hello, Miss Qiao. I'm your butler here. You can call me Butler Xu," Butler Xu lowered his head and said respectfully.

"Old Xu! It's actually you! Is it really you? Am I dreaming!" Auntie Wang looked at the butler excitedly.

“Why are you here with them! I thought I would never see you again!” Butler Xu immediately rushed to Auntie Wang’s side and hugged her happily.

Auntie Wang, Auntie Cui and Auntie Zhang were the three helpers whom Xia Wen had hired for Qiao Mei. In fact, they had all been to Country M before and their families were also here.

They had relocated with their husbands a long time ago, but their parents were already old and could not travel such a long distance to live with them. Therefore, Auntie Wang and the rest would fly home to visit their parents from time to time. They did not expect to be stuck back home after their last trip there.

“Eldest Brother is really considerate to have made such an arrangement,” Xia He said as she looked at them.

Not only would this make these people feel grateful, but it would also restrain them and make them want to take care of the Xia family members wholeheartedly.

After Qiao Mei disembarked, the first thing she did was to sense if Xia Zhe was nearby. There was no response from the seed and she could not sense his presence. She looked at the darkness in front of her and sighed. She knew that this matter was not going to be that simple. She would take it one step at a time.

“Butler Xu, where do we go now?” Qiao Mei asked.

“I’m so excited that I have forgotten about this matter. I’m really sorry, Miss Qiao. Mr. Xia Wen has already rented a house here. Let’s get in the van and make our way there,” Butler Xu said.

Qiao Mei and her entourage got into the van and arrived at a villa outside the suburbs. It was a small two-story bungalow that was not even as big as Xu Lan’s house.

“Wow! This place is too beautiful! I’ve never seen such a beautiful house!” Xia He said excitedly as she stood at the entrance of the courtyard.

Auntie Wang and the others remained as calm as Qiao Mei. After all, they had lived in this country for a long time and knew that the house in front of them was just a very ordinary villa here. Even the interior design was simply a mish-mash of styles.

“Butler Xu, how much is the monthly rent for such a house?” Qiao Mei asked softly.

“300 dollars a month,” Butler Xu replied in a low voice.

“Then how many months have we paid already?” Qiao Mei asked again.

“Three months,” Butler Xu said.

Qiao Mei nodded in understanding. Within the next few days, they needed to buy necessities and furniture, food and clothing for everyone, as well as items that the children needed. These were all things that needed to be purchased urgently.

Butler Xu had rented the van they took just now. He spent 200 dollars on the rental and even gave the chauffeur a tip of 5 dollars. There were very few taxis in this country. Since they lived in the suburbs, they would need to buy their own car. This was another huge expense and the 10,000 dollars would not last them long..