

Fat Wife 1881

Chapter 1881: Staying in the Villa

Xia Wen did not tell Qiao Mei anything about having given Butler Xu an advance payment. The rent for the house and the car as well as the costs of some simple repairs to the property were all paid out of Butler Xu's own pocket. He even had to borrow part of the money.

Qiao Mei took out 1,500 dollars from her bag and handed it to Butler Xu. In addition to those expenses he had paid in advance, she gave him an additional 100 dollars as a tip. When in Rome, one had to do as the Romans do. Butler Xu had helped them out so much and was considerate enough to take care of all their needs. Qiao Mei still felt that the tip of 100 dollars was too little, but she could not afford more than that at this moment.

Xia He watched as Butler Xu put the money into his pocket. She did not know the customs and practices here, nor did she know the standard of living. There were so many people in their group and they had only brought 10,000 dollars in total. They had only just landed and had not done anything yet, but they had already spent one-fifth of the money. She did not know how they were going to survive the following days!

Qiao Mei sized up the house carefully. The fixtures and fittings were still relatively well-kept though the furniture was a little old. She felt that she only needed to get some new things for the children. The adults could still live with the status quo for a few months.

However, she had to hurry up and get the necessary stuff done. It was going to be winter soon. Winter in Country M was very cold and she must buy enough winter clothes for everyone.

"It's been hard on you to plan for us during this period of time. You've done very well. Thank you," Qiao Mei said with a gentle smile as she looked at Butler Xu.

Butler Xu was overwhelmed by her reaction and his impression of Qiao Mei changed. In all these years, very few of his fellow citizens had come to Country M. Most of those who made it here came as illegal immigrants. He himself had been bullied and deceived many times and it was rare to see someone who was as kind, generous and polite as Qiao Mei.

"This is what I should do," Butler Xu said.

“Where do you stay? Do you live here too?” Qiao Mei asked.

“I live not far from here, about 30 minutes away by foot. But I have a bicycle and it’s only a 10-minute ride for me,” Butler Xu reported.

Qiao Mei pointed at the helper’s room downstairs and said, “If you think that it’s too tiring to travel to and fro, you can stay in this room downstairs with Auntie Wang.”

“No need, no need! I still have two children at home. If I stay here, there’s no one to take care of them. I can ride here every day,” Butler Xu said quickly.

“Alright, but you can stay here anytime if you want.” After Qiao Mei allocated rooms to everyone, she looked at them and said, “Everyone, it’s been a tiring day. You can just do a quick cleanup and go take a rest. Everything else can wait until tomorrow.”

“No, we can’t. The children are still so young. They can’t stay in such a dusty environment. It can cause harm to the children’s lungs,” Auntie Wang said nervously.

Qiao Mei did not consider this point. Xia Wen had told her earlier that among these helpers, Auntie Wang and Auntie Zhang were better at taking care of children. Auntie Cui was better at housework and cooking. However, he was still not sure if these people would be loyal staff. He asked Qiao Mei to test them out and keep an eye on them.

“In that case, then let’s do some cleaning up. Thanks for the hard work, everyone. Auntie Wang, after we’re done, you can go home with Butler Xue. You haven’t been back for so many years. You should go back and visit your family,” Qiao Mei said.

Butler Xu looked at Qiao Mei with gratitude in his eyes. He had been meaning to talk to Qiao Mei about this, but he did not manage to find a chance.

“I’ll wait until it’s my day off. There’s no hurry to go back,” Auntie Wang said firmly.

Butler Xu tugged at the corner of Auntie Wang's shirt and whispered, "The children haven't seen you for so many years. Don't you want to go home to take a look?"

"I'm already here now, do those few days really make any difference? I'm here to work and I can't break the rules," Auntie Wang whispered to Butler Xu. After comforting him, she looked at Qiao Mei and said, "I'll go home on my off days."

The three women had discussed it before. They would take a break once every two weeks and take turns to rest during the first and third weeks of every month. They had to ensure there were at least two of them with Qiao Mei and the children on those rest days.

"Since you insist on staying here, you can go back during the weekend. It's only a few days away." Qiao Mei did not continue to persuade Auntie Wang to go home. If she continued to do that, the other two women would inevitably feel dissatisfied and jealous. It would then become difficult to manage the situation..

Chapter 1882: Spending Money So Fast

If these women came to think that Qiao Mei was an easy person to talk to, they would only make use of her kindness next time. If that happened, they would not listen to Qiao Mei's instructions in the future.

Qiao Mei was about to carry the children's things upstairs and do some cleaning up when Xia He and the three helpers surrounded her and snatched all the things from her hands.

"Just help us keep an eye on the three children and make sure they don't run around. Leave these things to me. You didn't sleep well on the plane. I'll clean up the rooms for you and the children first so that you can rest early," Xia He said excitedly.

"I rested for a while on the plane so I'm not that tired. You're the one who didn't sleep at all. Aren't you tired?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

Xia He muttered softly to Qiao Mei, "I'm still very excited now! This is Country M! We're now overseas! Whenever I think about it, I feel so happy that I can't sleep at all! Just let me go and clean up. I have to use up all my energy so that I can sleep better at night."

“Alright, but you must take care. Don’t tire yourself out,” Qiao Mei said helplessly.

Everyone started to get busy. Luo Yu and Luo Hui took one of the rooms downstairs. Qiao Mei’s room was on the east side of the second floor. That room was bright and big. The children took the room next to Qiao Mei’s.

After a simple cleanup, everyone went to bed. It was not until the next afternoon that Qiao Mei managed to wake up. Auntie Wang and the others had already cleaned all the rooms and unpacked all the luggage. They did not want to disturb Qiao Mei while she was resting, so they put her things together at one side and waited for her to wake up before cleaning and unpacking for her.

Luo Yu and Luo Hui asked Xia He to stay at home and take care of Qiao Mei and the children for a while. The two of them walked around the area to check if there were any safety hazards or if there were any suspicious people around. They were allowed to carry guns here, but they did not have enough money at the moment. Butler Xu took out his precious gun and handed it to Luo Yu. He was willing to lend it to Qiao Mei for a while.

By now, the other exchange students had gone to the designated location to learn more about the local language and local culture. This was an arrangement made by the school and the lessons would last for a month. They would only receive the admission notice from the various schools after a month.

Qiao Mei scored full marks for both the oral and written examinations, so she was exempted from this training session. This also made things a lot easier for her. She could use the time to think about how to earn money here.

There was a very big shopping mall nearby that sold necessities as well as groceries. Qiao Mei and Xia He brought Auntie Cui and Luo Hui to do some shopping at the mall. Their main purpose was to buy necessities for the children and food for everyone. After shopping for an entire afternoon, they spent almost all the money they brought out with them.

In Qiao Mei’s room, Xia He held up the remaining 5,000 dollars and was on the brink of tears. She did not expect the prices here to be much higher than what she was used to in the capital. Then again, the average salary here was about 600 dollars a month while it was only about 80 dollars in the capital. It made sense that there was such a huge difference.

“What should we do? If we continue to spend money like this, we won’t be able to last for a month! Eldest Brother can’t possibly send us so much foreign currency at once. We still have to think of a way ourselves,” Xia He said aggrievedly.

“Let’s take our time to think of a way. Don’t be anxious. Don’t you believe in my ability to make money?” Qiao Mei asked with a smile.

With Qiao Mei around, Xia He definitely felt a lot more settled, but that still did not remove the anxiety in her heart. This was her first time overseas and she was also facing communication issues. Their expenses were also increasing exponentially. On the surface, she looked fine, but in reality, she was feeling extremely anxious.

Back home, she had a job that she was good at. The Xia family also had a certain amount of influence in the capital and Xia Wen helped out with all the issues at home. After she married Deng Fan, she did not have to worry about anything anymore.

This trip had a huge impact on her and was also a wakeup call. It made her realize that she could not live in her ivory tower forever.

“Look at the ulcers at the corners of my mouth. I originally thought that I would be able to come here to enjoy after earning so much money. I didn’t expect there to be so many troublesome matters and problems as soon as we landed. I wish Eldest Brother had come with us so that we have someone to help think of solutions whenever there are any issues,” Xia He said..

Chapter 1883: Visiting the School

In Country M, the Xia family did not have any influence and did not even have many friends here. Even if Xia Wen wanted to help Qiao Mei and the rest, there was also nothing much he could do.

“There’s nothing he can do even if he’s here. We must rely on ourselves! Didn’t you do very well in your business back in the capital? Why are you so full of doubts here,” Qiao Mei said.

“It’s not the same. Anyway, everything is so unfamiliar,” Xia He explained.

“Rest well and don’t think too much. You still have me. Let’s go and take a look at my school tomorrow. I still don’t know how to get there. We can also take a look at the shops nearby and see if there’s any business we can do around there,” Qiao Mei said as she patted Xia He’s shoulder to comfort her.

“Do you already have a good idea?” Xia He asked.

“I’m thinking about opening a restaurant and promoting the food from our country. My culinary skills should be able to attract a lot of customers,” Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Xia He did not doubt this at all. If someone said that Qiao Mei’s cooking did not taste good, that person must have lost all sense of taste!

“Sounds good! I can’t cook well, but I can prepare the ingredients for you!” Xia He said excitedly.

“I can teach you. Go to bed now. The two of us still have a lot of things to do tomorrow!” Qiao Mei gave Xia He a push and urged her to rest as soon as possible.

Xia He tossed and turned in bed the entire night and did not sleep well. She kept thinking about how to earn money. Qiao Mei, on the other hand, slept very soundly.

“You... look at the dark circles under your eyes. Are you cosplaying a panda?” Qiao Mei held back her laughter and asked.

“Stop talking about it! I’m feeling so frustrated! You don’t have to worry about me. Let’s go to your school now,” Xia He urged.

It took the two of them some effort to find a taxi to take them to Country M’s agricultural university. Country M had vast land and abundant natural resources, and the land was very suitable for growing vegetables, fruits and other crops. The agricultural university here was also more professional than back home.

However, everyone's focus was on the light industry now. The people of Country M were not so keen on agriculture anymore. Since there was limited funding, Country M's agricultural university needed to self finance their purchase of experimental fields and professional equipment, so the school campus was not big for an agricultural university.

"It doesn't even look as nice as Capital University! It's not even half the size of Capital University," Xia He said unhappily.

"Size doesn't matter as long as the essentials are all there. They definitely have more strong points than us. Isn't it our task to learn all the strong points and then go back and improve the seeds we have? It doesn't matter how big the place is," Qiao Mei said.

"You're right. I just feel that this place is different from what I imagined," Xia He said.

"Let's go over there and walk around," Qiao Mei said as she pointed at the library.

Qiao Mei and Xia He were a pleasing sight as they walked around the school.

All the students who walked passed by them turned around to look at them. There were already more than 10 male students who wanted to get their contact details, but Qiao Mei rejected them tactfully.

"They're so expressive!" Xia He said as she patted her chest.

"Yes, this is the way they are. You'll get used to it after a while. You have to practice speaking the language more or you won't be able to communicate with them," Qiao Mei instructed.

"Alright! I'll learn when I'm free!" Xia He said.

It only took them two hours to finish walking around the entire school. When they were done, they went straight to the main street opposite the school. This was the main shopping area near the school.

There were all kinds of things sold here, though the majority of the shops were restaurants or cafeterias. Qiao Mei took a look around and saw two restaurants which were opened by fellow citizens. The food looked the same as what they used to eat in the capital.

“Let’s go and try it!” Xia He said excitedly as she pointed at one of the restaurants. However, when she thought about how they did not have much money now, she retracted her hand awkwardly.

“Let’s go and try. If we want to open a restaurant, we have to know the type of food the locals like.” Qiao Mei pulled Xia He and walked into the shop.

The shop space looked very big from the outside, but it was not as spacious as it looked when they entered. In order to seat more customers, the whole place was filled with tables and chairs. There were about 15 tables inside.

Qiao Mei and Xia He chose to sit near the window. From this position, they could observe which shops were more popular with the shoppers and when there was more human traffic in the area.

“You... should be from our country’s capital!” The lady boss came over hesitantly with the menu..

Chapter 1884: Taste Different

Xia He immediately said, “Are you from the capital too?”

“No, no, no. I’m from Lian City. It’s rare to see my fellow citizens here! What are you doing here?” the lady boss asked curiously.

“For school. I’m studying in the school down the road,” Qiao Mei said truthfully.

“That’s good! Since you’re studying there, you can come to our place for meals often! I’ll give you a discount!” the lady boss said.

“Thank you, Lady Boss!” Xia He said happily.

Qiao Mei ordered two of the signature dishes here, One was braised pork and the other was boiled cabbage. Just the two dishes already cost 110 dollars. With this amount of money, she could order a full banquet in the capital!

“Qiao Mei, this is so expensive!” Xia He whispered as she clutched her wallet with heartache.

Qiao Mei looked around and said in a low voice, “It’s fine. Just treat it as an experience. Keep your wallet safe. There are all types of people here. I heard from Eldest Brother that it’s not as safe here as in the capital. Be careful not to get robbed.”

“Hmph, if anyone wants to snatch my wallet! He needs to make sure he can keep his life first!” Xia He said confidently.

“It’s better to be more careful and not cause trouble,” Qiao Mei said.

“Noted.” Xia He quickly put her wallet into the inner pocket of her clothes. She silently sized up the customers in the restaurant. Most of them were students from the school and did not seem to be a threat.

The dishes were served very quickly and looked good. Xia He tasted the boiled cabbage first but did not dare to spit it out in front of the lady boss. After the lady boss left, Xia He secretly picked up the serviette and spat the cabbage inside before throwing it away.

“It’s better if you don’t eat it. I’ve never eaten anything so disgusting...” Xia He said with a frown.

“Is that so? Let me try.” Qiao Mei picked up a piece and tried it. She had the same pained expression as Xia He. In her other life, when she traveled to this country, the food she ate then did not taste so bad. She wondered what had gone wrong.

The boiled cabbage was oddly sweet , extremely sweet. It was so cloying that it made her throat hurt. As for the braised pork, it tasted the same. She was very sure that there were at least three spoonfuls of white sugar added to the dish.

Xia He looked at the menu repeatedly and then at the customers in the restaurant. It was mealtime and the restaurant was filled with people. There were other restaurants and cafeterias along the street, but there were not as many people there. This meant that this restaurant served food that catered to the masses.

“Don’t tell me... the people here like this taste? That’s impossible. Isn’t that lady boss from Lian City? If so, they definitely know how to make authentic hometown dishes,” Xia He said.

“I guess the people here can’t accept the taste from back home. Let’s try the food elsewhere,” Qiao Mei said.

They walked along the streets aimlessly. There were also many jewelry shops and boutiques on the streets. They did not have much of an appetite today to try any other food. As they walked further inwards, the area looked less prosperous from the area where they entered. It was very quiet and there were very few people walking around. The shops around here did not have much business. They realized that there was a specialty snack shop with the words “For rent” hanging on a sign.

“Qiao Mei, look! What’s written on it? I can’t understand,” Xia He asked as she pointed at the sign.

“They want to rent out this shop. Let’s go in and ask,” Qiao Mei said.

“Forget it, Qiao Meie This shop is really too far in. It’s not suitable for us. We’ll definitely lose money here,” Xia He said hesitantly.

“Let’s just go and find out the market rate and understand the market. Otherwise, what if we get cheated in the future?” Qiao Mei said.

“Alright, what you say makes sense.” After saying that, Xia He walked towards the specialty snack shop with Qiao Mei.

The owner of the specialty snack shop was a woman. After chatting with her, Qiao Mei and Xia He found out that her name was Alice. In fact, she had wanted to sell the shop at first, but this was the shop that

she had opened with her husband. Her husband had passed away many years ago and this was the only thing that he left behind. Therefore, she could not bear to sell it.

She had only one son. After her son grew up, he worked very hard, had a job with a stable income and made quite a lot of money. She was old and did not want to continue working so hard. She wanted to travel and see the world, so she decided to rent out this shop..

Chapter 1885: Fight

Darlin You're not a local so you can't rent my shop. That's such a pity," Alice said regretfully.

"Why? What kind of procedures are there to rent or buy a shop? Can't we just go through the procedures?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"Darling, let's put it this way. First of all, you have to get the money ready. Secondly, you need to have a household register here. If you don't have a household register in Country M, you can't buy land here, you can't buy real estate, and you can't even rent any of these," Alice said.

It was absolutely impossible for them to change their household register. Qiao Mei was still thinking that she could take over a small shop here to slowly earn money, but these transaction rules had completely stumped her.

"Alice, can you make us some fries or fried chicken? I still have many questions to ask you. I think I may need to sit here the entire afternoon," Qiao Mei said apologetically.

"It's fine. You can sit here for as long as you want. I'm just a lonely old woman. My son works elsewhere and rarely comes back. There are also very few people who come to my shop. I'm very happy that you can accompany me," Alice said.

Alice was older and her movements were a little slow as she made the snacks. Qiao Mei and Xia He did not have anything else to do in the afternoon, so they were not in a hurry and they did not rush Alice.

“Both of you are so beautiful. When I was younger, I wanted to have a cute daughter, one who looks as pretty as you. That brat of mine is not good-looking at all,” Alice said.

“Then why didn’t you have another child?” Xia He asked curiously.

“Sigh... I’m not in good health. Moreover, at that time, we were not doing well. I even had to borrow powdered milk to feed my son. However, later on, my husband met a benefactor who helped us a lot. It’s all thanks to him that my son and I can have our current lives,” Alice said.

“Alice, if we want to buy a car, will we also be restricted by the issue of the household register?” Qiao Mei asked suddenly.

“No, you won’t, but you can only buy one car. If you want to buy more, you’ll have to register with the government. At that time, they will still ask you for your household register. It will then be very troublesome for you.” Alice frowned slightly, then she said in a low voice, “But as long as you have money, you can do anything. Here, money talks.”

Xia He lowered her head slightly. If they were in the capital now, she would definitely take out a large sum of money and happily show off to Alice. Now, she was just a pauper. She did not even have the money to eat three meals a day outside, let alone buy a car.

Qiao Mei was about to ask more questions when she suddenly heard screams and sounds of fighting coming from somewhere down the street. From the volume of the sounds, the fight seemed to be near them.

Xia He hurriedly pulled Qiao Mei to the wall and shielded Qiao Mei behind her. Alice quickly closed the window and used a table to block the door. She took out a gun from the drawer and said, “Both of you, hide! Don’t come out! It’s very dangerous!”

Qiao Mei and Xia He admired Alice even more by now. They did not expect Alice to know how to use a gun!

Soon, a group of people appeared on the street. Some of them were beating one another with baseball bats, while others even held beer bottles and knives in their hands. They fought to kill and blood

splattered on the glass window. It was a shocking sight, but Alice and Xia He remained calm. Qiao Mei just squatted in the corner obediently and did not make any sounds.

The fight did not last long, or rather, those people took the fight away from this alley very quickly. Alice only dared to open the window to check for damages when the staff at the opposite shop opened their window. She still had two billboards and a table and chairs outside!

“Oh... that’s so tragic. All my things are damaged,” Alice said angrily.

“Should you call the police? When the police arrest them, you can make them compensate you for your losses,” Xia He said.

“Young lady, the police are useless here. We can only admit defeat when faced with such a situation,” Alice said.

Xia He still did not understand the situation here. In Qiao Mei’s other life, she had handled a few criminal cases overseas and knew what the situation was like. She pulled Xia He to her side and said, “Talk less and observe more. It’s very dangerous here now..”

Chapter 1886: Saving a Person

“Ow... It hurts... Am I really going to die here...” A man’s weak voice could be heard from the small alley at the side. Ordinary people not able to hear such a weak voice. However, with Qiao Mei’s current ability, her ears and eyes were now much more sensitive than before. She immediately caught the sound of this man groaning in pain.

Using the plants in the small alley, Qiao Mei could see the man’s appearance and the wounds on his body. The man was very seriously injured. His abdomen, thighs and ribs had all been slashed with a knife and his calf bone was fractured. If no one went forward to save him, he would bleed to death in less than 20 minutes.

“I think there’s an injured person near us,” Qiao Mei said.

“Really? But I didn’t hear anyone calling for help? Alice, did you hear anyone calling for help?” Xia He asked.

Alice quickly stopped them and said, “I don’t hear anything, but even if you do, don’t go! These people are all very dangerous and they are like wolves! They’re all ruthless and unscrupulous! If you save them, they won’t be grateful to you. They might even find you and kill you to silence you!”

When Xia He heard what Alice said, she quickly turned around to dissuade Qiao Mei, saying nervously, “Let’s ignore it. It’s more important to protect ourselves first.”

“Xia He, can you leave a person in the lurch? If we don’t save him, he’s going to die soon!” Qiao Mei asked.

Xia He fell silent. It was against the Xia family rules to leave someone in the lurch. Even if the person was evil beyond redemption, they could not leave him unsaved because of his crime. If he was guilty, they should send him to the police station to be punished. There would be professionals there to interrogate him. They had no right to decide whether that person lived or died.

“Alright, then let’s go and take a look. But if that person wants to do anything bad to you, I’ll definitely kill him!” Xia He said.

“Let’s go.” Qiao Mei and Xia He split up to look for the small alley along the street. The alleys here were intersected and complicated, and one could get lost if one was not careful. Even though Qiao Mei knew where that person was, it would still take a while for her to reach him. As Qiao Mei followed the direction of the voice, she found the man in the end. He looked the same as what she had seen using the plants, though his injuries looked even more serious in person.

The man looked at her warily. One look and she could tell that he was a ruthless person who had been living this life for a long time. He silently placed his hand behind his back and tightened his grip on his dagger.

“You don’t have to be so vigilant. You can put down what you’re holding. I’m here to save you,” Qiao Mei said as she stood outside the alley.

“Save me? Are you a doctor?” the man asked weakly.

“I guess you can say that,” Qiao Mei replied.

“What... what do you want from me?” the man asked again.

“I don’t want anything. I just don’t want to see anyone die in front of me,” Qiao Mei said resignedly.

The man looked at Qiao Mei and noted that she seemed very sincere. Furthermore, from the way she walked and the weight of her steps, she did not look like a martial arts practitioner. He whispered, “Take out everything from your pockets.”

“My pockets are just full of bandages and medical tape.” Qiao Mei took out everything from her pockets to show the man.

The man still felt that it was not safe enough and continued, “Take off your jacket and turn in a circle.”

The corners of Qiao Mei’s mouth twitched slightly. She did not expect this man to be so talkative and demanding even when he was about to die. However, in order to save him, Qiao Mei still did what he asked.

Seeing that Qiao Mei did not have any hidden weapons or pose any threat to him, the man nodded slightly and gestured for Qiao Mei to go over.

Qiao Mei slowly walked over and squatted opposite the man. She did not bring the bottle of 10,000-year-old ginseng juice today and only had the ordinary 100-year-old ginseng juice with her. It could stop his bleeding and heal the wound a little but it could not completely cure him.

When Xia He saw that Qiao Mei had disappeared from her sight, she ran over immediately. When the man heard Xia He’s footsteps, he quickly used all his remaining strength to put a knife at Qiao Mei’s throat.

“Stop! What are you doing!” Xia He said agitatedly.

“Don’t come over... Otherwise... cough cough cough... I’ll kill her!” the man said fiercely.

“It’s alright. She’s my friend and she’s not a threat to you. You can let go of me now. Your wound must be treated immediately, otherwise you’ll bleed to death,” Qiao Mei said calmly..

Chapter 1887: Find Another Way

The man took his eyes off Xia He. How could this woman in front of him remain so calm even when the knife was already on her neck? Could she be an unlicensed doctor? However, he had met all the unlicensed doctors in America and knew their backgrounds. He had no impression of this woman in front of him.

“I’ll just stand here and won’t get close to you. Put down the knife in your hand. We’re really here to save you. Don’t misunderstand,” Xia He said earnestly.

After asking a few more questions, the man confirmed that what Xia He said was true. Even if it was not true, he did not have the strength to kill Qiao Mei right now. Qiao Mei could easily kill him with a gentle push.

Before leaving the shop, Qiao Mei had asked Alice for a lot of bandages. She tore open the man’s clothes and sprinkled the 100-year-old ginseng juice on the wounds. The man thought that it would have the same effect as alcohol and was already prepared for intense pain. However, he only felt a faint heat coming from the wounds, as if they were slowly healing.

“What kind of medicine is this?” the man asked.

“It’s something that we have in my family. I’ve already bandaged your wounds.

Sit here for a while to rest and then go back on your own. I have to go now.” After saying that, Qiao Mei packed her things and quickly left the small alley with Xia He.

The man looked at the departing figures of Qiao Mei and Xia He and smiled. Not only was this little girl a beauty, but she also had an extraordinary temperament. She was actually unafraid in the face of his knife. She was quite a talent.

The people in the gang had kept asking him when he would give them a sister-in-law. Now, it seemed that he had found their prospective sister-in-law.

They did not return to Alice's shop. That person's companions might still be nearby. Alice still had to continue doing business there and they did not want to implicate her.

After the fight just now, all the shoppers in the vicinity had run away to hide and the shops ended up closing for the day. Qiao Mei and Xia He did not have a car, so they had no choice but to call home and ask Butler Xu to rent a car to come and pick them up. This round trip cost them another 200 dollars.

"Why does it cost money everywhere we go! Is this place made of gold?" Xia He said aggrievedly.

"Alright, alright. Go and take a shower and rest. You should stay at home for the next two days. Since we can't open a shop, I'll think of another way," Qiao Mei said with a sigh.

Auntie Wang suddenly realized that there was blood on Qiao Mei's sleeve and exclaimed, "Miss Qiao! What happened to you! Why is there blood on your sleeve! "

Luo Yu and Luo Hui quickly came up to Qiao Mei. Luo Yu asked worriedly,

"Qiao Mei, are you injured? Let us take a look. If there are any wounds, you have to go to the hospital for a checkup immediately."

"I'm fine! I just encountered a fight on the street just now. Don't worry," Qiao Mei said.

Auntie Wang led Qiao Mei back to her room to take a shower and to change out of her clothes. Xia He told the two men everything that had happened today. Luo Yu and Luo Hui broke out in cold sweat when they heard the story. If anything really happened to Qiao Mei and Xia He today, the Xia family would definitely skin the two of them alive.

Qiao Mei sat on a chair by the window and recalled what had happened today. Since they had no way to open a shop or set up a stall to sell goods, they could only think of another way out.

She stared at the small garden outside for a long time. Butler Xu heard from Xia Wen that she liked to grow vegetables, so he specially bought a lot of seeds and kept them in the storeroom. Now that there was no way to earn money, she decided to save money on food.

The vegetables she planted herself were actually more healthy and she could also distribute some to the neighbors. If one had more friends, then one would have more options in life. Perhaps these neighbors could bring her other opportunities.

Qiao Mei headed downstairs and intended to start planting vegetables. Luo Yu immediately asked, "Where are you going? I'll go with you."

"I'm just going to the garden to plant vegetables. Don't worry, I won't go out. You guys can go about your business," Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Mei took the necessary tools and went to the small garden. Luo Yu stood by the window and looked out quietly. He knew that Qiao Mei did not like overly close protection. In that case, he could only observe in secret.

First, Qiao Mei flipped the soil. The land had been left untouched for a long time and needed to be cleaned up properly. The rotten wood and weeds around also needed to be removed..

Chapter 1888: Get Rich

After cleaning up the place, Qiao Mei planted one seed first. She wanted to see what kind of vegetables could be grown in this soil and also to check out what the other neighbors were planting at their houses. It would not be a good thing to grow vegetables that did not suit the current season since that would attract unwanted attention.

The next-door neighbor grew cabbages and it seemed to be growing well. Most of the neighbors grew potatoes and some people grew carrots. The crops were all growing well! Eh? Wait... what was this?

The plant roots which Qiao Mei was controlling had hit an unknown object in the ground right under the storeroom in her house. The roots could only detect a rectangular object that looked like a box, but could not see what was inside,

This successfully piqued Qiao Mei's curiosity. Anything buried underground must be a treasure! Or some amazing big secret!

However, it was broad daylight now. If she really dug out a big box in the courtyard, it would inevitably alarm the people around them. She did not know the full backgrounds of all the helpers at home yet, so it would be difficult to guard against them if they had other intentions.

Qiao Mei planted the seeds which Butler Xu bought. She did everything in a normal manner and did not give these seeds too much energy. Although Auntie Wang and the others had lived in the capital for a long time, they had also lived in Country M for a long time. Qiao Mei had to keep a low profile in order to avoid arousing their suspicion. Once this batch of vegetables matured, she could lie and say that she had cultivated some new varieties of seeds.

At night, they had a very simple meal. There was no meat at all. This was the result of the discussion Qiao Mei had with the three helpers. Once they survived this difficult period, they could eat anything they wanted in the future!

After everyone fell asleep, Qiao Mei tiptoed to the storeroom. She threw some seeds into the ground and kept infusing energy into them to accelerate their growth. She wrapped the roots tightly around the box underground and slowly pulled it up.

Qiao Mei switched on the flashlight and carefully observed the box on the ground. This box looked quite old and it would not be an exaggeration to say that it was a product of the last century. What exactly was inside?

She was not that rash. After all, she was not sure what was inside. If it was something flammable or an explosive, the entire house would turn to ashes. Or if there was some kind of biochemical weapon inside, the entire city would fall into panic.

Qiao Mei put on some gloves and gently touched the exterior of the box. The butterfly mark on her chest burned slightly and she could clearly see what was inside,

There were colorful gems, shiny gold bars and countless jewels and diamonds!

“Oh my goodness... I’m rich...” Qiao Mei squatted on the spot and muttered to herself.

She did not expect happiness to appear so suddenly. The matter of money could finally be resolved! With these things, she could buy all the villas around here, let alone one shop!

Where should she keep so many treasures of unknown origin? For a moment, Qiao Mei did not know what to do. In the end, she decided to bring it back to the bedroom first. It was safest to keep it right under her nose!

Across the courtyard, there was an ancient tree that was probably about 300 years old. It was like the representative of this town. Qiao Mei went to the tree early the next morning. She gently stroked the ancient tree and whispered, “I’m sorry, I have to take a look at your memories.”

Qiao Mei kept searching through the memories of the ancient tree for information about the origin of this box. Finally, she found some clues. It turned out that the original occupants of this house were a wealthy couple in business who were in hiding. They were being pursued by their enemies and eventually came to live here incognito. It was inconvenient for them to bring out their treasures, so they buried everything underground. Later on, they died without any descendants, so this box remained buried.

Before Qiao Mei walked away, she infused some energy into the ancient tree to make it stronger. Since the treasures she dug out yesterday were legal and legit, she could use them without any worries.

Behaving in a mysterious manner, Qiao Mei brought Xia He to the jewelry trading center. Before they entered, Xia He quickly held Qiao Mei back and said, “Are you crazy! This is a jewelry center! Are you going in to buy jewelry?”

“Of course not. Aren’t we out of money? I’m here to encash some,” Qiao Mei said softly.

“No! Those jewelry of yours are all very expensive and you like them so much. Why are you selling them? Our family hasn’t reached the point where we can’t afford to survive! Let’s think of another way,” Xia He said..

Chapter 1889: Selling Jewelry

“Don’t worry, I’m not that impulsive. We’re just going in to take a look. Can’t we just take a look? It’s been a long time since I bought any jewelry. At the very least, I want to see what the jewelry in Country M looks like and how much they cost!” Qiao Mei said.

What she said did make sense. They had heard that Country M was a gold-producing country and that gold was not expensive here. Perhaps after they earned some money, they could come here to buy some gold before they went back.

Xia He believed what Qiao Mei said and reluctantly walked into the jewelry trading center. The service staff inside looked up excitedly. The staff first sized up Qiao Mei and Xia He by looking at their outfits and the value of the jewelry they were wearing. After confirming that these were two poor people, all of them simply kept quiet.

Xia He glared at these service staff angrily. These people were really stuck-up. If this was the capital, she would definitely buy half of the jewelry displayed inside the counter in a fit of pique and show it to them!

“Hello, Miss. Is there anything you need?” A sweet-looking service staff came over to Qiao Mei and Xia He.

Qiao Mei looked at the name tag of the service staff. Her name was Lisa. Qiao Mei said calmly, “Hello, Lisa. I want to sell some jewelry. Do you buy jewelry here?”

“Yes, but the price will depend on the quality of the jewelry you offer,” Lisa explained.

“Do you also accept loose diamonds and gold?” Qiao Mei asked again.

“Yes, but Miss, I have to let you know that we don’t buy jewelry here based on the selling price. We can only quote you a price after the appraiser takes a look at it,” Lisa reminded her thoughtfully. She was worried that Qiao Mei and Xia He did not have much experience since it was their first time here. She wanted to give them more information so that they could avoid unnecessary trouble.

“Alright, thank you. Please take me there,” Qiao Mei said as she dusted off the tattered cloth bag in her hands.

In order to avoid arousing suspicion, Qiao Mei did not pack up the jewelry nicely. If it looked too nice or too grand and then got stolen or snatched away on the street, her capital to make a comeback would be all gone!

She had taken precautions too. The jewelry in the bag was wrapped up tightly with vines. Even if she was robbed, the thief would not be able to pry open the vines unless it was set on fire. However, once the thief used fire, the value of these jewelry would be greatly reduced.

Lisa brought them to the appraisal center inside the building. This was the largest jewelry appraisal store in Country M. From the moment they entered, they were followed the entire time. This place also had a lot of bulletproof protection to guard against any incidents.

Qiao Mei was surprised to find that there were surveillance cameras here. These looked like the original types which were old and cumbersome. As expected of a developed country, their equipment was already advanced. “Miss, please wait here. We can only place the jewelry on this tray. We’re not allowed to enter from this point,” Lisa said as she pointed at the tray.

“That won’t do! How do we know who gets hold of this jewelry in the end? What if you steal and change out our jewelry!” Xia He said quickly.

“Don’t worry, it’s absolutely safe here. We will be able to see the jewelry being delivered to the appraiser with our own eyes. However, we can only stay on the other side of the glass wall. The jewelry will be delivered inside and our surveillance cameras will also record the entire process. Please don’t worry, Miss,” Lisa said in a gentle tone.

Qiao Mei took out a loose diamond that was the size of a pigeon egg from her bag and placed it on the tray. Lisa's expression did not change, but Xia He's eyes almost popped out. She clearly remembered that Qiao Mei did not bring much jewelry when she came to Country M, not even the bangle that Grandmother had given her. Where did this thing come from? And how did she get past security checks? Search new novel on Google

Xia He knew very well that she could not ask these questions here. With a head full of questions, she accompanied Qiao Mei to the next stage of the process. They sat quietly in front of the glass window and watched the appraisers working inside the room.

This was the first time the appraisers in the room had seen such a perfect loose diamond with such purity and cut. Even the auction house would accept a loose diamond of this quality.

The rules of their profession did not allow them to buy the jewelry in the shop they worked at. This was to prevent them from deliberately lowering the price, among other things. Otherwise, the appraisers here would definitely want to keep this loose diamond for themselves.

After some discussion, they solemnly came up with an offer.

They quoted 120,000 dollars..

Chapter 1890: Arrogant

"Miss, are you satisfied with this price?" Lisa came to Qiao Mei with the quotation and asked her.

"Yes," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

The truth was that Qiao Mei only expected this diamond to be worth about 70,000 to 80,000 dollars. She did not expect the price to be so good. Qiao Mei then took out the rest of the diamonds, gems and gold from her bag and asked the attendant to send them in for appraisal.

The appraisal process took even longer this time. The attendant even went out to buy some snacks and coffee for Qiao Mei and Xia He. After waiting for an hour, the attendant brought her the quotation. It added up to a total of 730,000 dollars.

“I’ve taken a look at the prices of these items. Why is the price of the ruby so low? Moreover, the clarity index of my sapphire should be very high. I don’t think your price is fair enough,” Qiao Mei said with a slight frown as she looked at the quotation.

“Alright, Miss. I’ll give the appraisers your questions.” Lisa wrote down Qiao Mei’s doubts in a notebook and sent the piece of paper into the room.

The appraisers in the room discussed Qiao Mei’s queries about the unfair pricing. They wrote down the flaws of the jewelry and the reason for the prices they quoted. Lisa brought the piece of paper over and handed it to Qiao Mei.

“Our appraisers feel that 730,000 dollars is a reasonable amount. You can look at their reasons,” Lisa said.

It was written on the piece of paper that although the cut of the ruby was perfect, there was a chip in the corner. The chip was almost invisible to the naked eye, but when they looked at it under the machine, the ruby’s defect was completely exposed. It was the same issue with the sapphire.

Qiao Mei shook her head regretfully. It was probably because the original owners of these jewelry did not wrap them up properly and simply stuffed them all into the box in order to escape quickly. It was inevitable that the jewelry would get damaged.

“Alright, I accept the price. How will you pay me this sum of money?” Qiao Mei asked.

“Our internal department can write you a check and you can use this check to go to the bank to encash the money. Otherwise, you can give us an account number. We can transfer all the money into this account so that you can withdraw the money whenever you want,” Lisa said thoughtfully.

“Alright, I need 10,000 dollars in cash now. You can transfer the rest of the money to the account as you suggested,” Qiao Mei said in satisfaction.

Based on the rules, there was an appraisal fee of 100 dollars for each piece of jewelry. Qiao Mei had brought a total of 14 pieces of jewelry and had to pay 1,400 dollars. Lisa's service fee was 0.1% of the total price of the jewelry, which was 730 dollars.

This place did not see many customers every month. After all, rich businessmen liked to buy, rather than sell, jewelry. The staff here drew a monthly salary of only 400 dollars. Based on their performance, they could earn about 800 dollars a month. It was already considered a relatively high-paying job, but they may not be able to make a sale every month.

Some rich businessmen liked to look for the service staff they were familiar with. The reason why those other service staff looked down on Qiao Mei was because they had enough regular clients to make a living. Moreover, Qiao Mei did not look like she would become a regular customer, so none of them was willing to waste time on her.

Lisa was a new staff member. She had to work hard to serve every client, new or old, and she took everyone seriously.

Qiao Mei took out 1,000 dollars from her bag and handed it to Lisa in front of all the other service staff. "This is your reward," she said.

"Miss, this is really too much. I can't accept it. I just need to get the stated amount," Lisa said in a panic.

"It's alright, I think you've earned this amount." Qiao Mei stuffed the money into Lisa's hand and left the jewelry trading center with Xia He.

Qiao Mei and Xia He took a slow walk home. When Xia He walked to the main street earlier, she looked dejected and did not have any self-confidence. As she walked down the main street now, her back was straight and she strode forward with big steps. She even wanted to visit all the shops on the street and buy everything she liked!

After they reached home, Xia He did not rush to ask Qiao Mei about the jewelry. In the dead of the night, Xia He quietly entered Qiao Mei's bedroom. She came to Qiao Mei's bed and said, "You should tell me the truth now! What was that during the day!"

“Lower your voice. Someone outside might hear you,” Qiao Mei whispered.

“What do you mean? Do you suspect that any of those women are not loyal?”

Xia He asked..