

## **Fat Wife 1991**

### Chapter 1991: We Are Relatives

For the next few days, Qiao Mei stayed at home to do her homework. It took her a while to complete all her assignments for submission. She did not have many classes this semester and most of them were practical sessions. Qiao Mei was very confident when it came to practical sessions. She just needed to submit the results of her experimental crops by the deadline.

There had been a bloodbath in Sky City and there were major changes in the business world. Xia Zhe did not annex the Yang family's assets for himself, but when he returned to the office, he found out that Qiao Mei had given him an unexpected bonus gift. The Shen family's subsidiary company and the Yang family's property had both become his assets.

If he took advantage of this opportunity and took over all the Zhang family's assets as well, the title of "Sky City's richest businessman" would definitely fall into Xia Zhe's hands.

However, Xia Zhe did not do that. He handed over all the Zhang family's companies and businesses to the Gao family. Even though he spent a lot of money to acquire the Zhang family's villa, he also gave it to the Gao family unconditionally.

Gao Lin felt that Xia Zhe was like a mystery to him. He kept feeling that Xia Zhe was up to something, or perhaps Xia Zhe wanted to do them all these favors so that he could put pressure on Qiao Mei.

Gao Ming did not have any siblings. After he found out that Qiao Mei was his younger cousin and was the one who saved his life, he decided to treat her like his biological younger sister. Although he admired Xia Zhe a lot, he was also worried that Xia Zhe had ulterior motives when it came to Qiao Mei. If Xia Zhe wanted the Gao family to give him Qiao Mei in return for the reinstatement of the Gao family's past glory, the Gao family would not agree even if they had to go bankrupt.

"Mr. Fang, why do you help us so enthusiastically?" Gao Lin invited Xia Zhe to his house for a meal and posed this question to him.

Xia Zhe said without any hesitation, "You're Pu Nan's relative, so you're also my relative. There's no need for any special reason to help a relative out."

"But as far as I know, you have never proposed to our Pu Nan, nor did you make any concrete plans with her. You and Pu Nan aren't married yet, so we can't be considered relatives," Gao Lin said sternly.

"I have every intention to marry Pu Nan, but she doesn't seem to be ready yet. I'm doing all these for my own selfish reasons. I just want her to have a better impression of me," Xia Zhe said as he pretended to feel helpless.

Gao Lin did not believe what Xia Zhe said. He felt that everything Xia Zhe said to him were half-truths. However, since Xia Zhe was not an enemy, he would just let things be for now.

"Mr. Fang, there's one more thing that I want to know. How did you manage to persuade Zhang Cheng to sign the confession and willingly turn himself in to the police?" Gao Lin asked.

It was not as if Gao Lin did not torture Zhang Cheng. Even when he starved Zhang Cheng and locked him up in a small isolation room, Zhang Cheng did not give in. However, not long after Xia Zhe went into the basement, Zhang Cheng gave a full confession.

"Maybe it's because he wants to stay alive more than anything else in the world," Xia Zhe said.

After the Gao family captured Zhang Cheng for so many days but did not try to kill him, Zhang Cheng realized that the Gao family did not dare go down that path. Therefore, he felt that as long as he could hold on, he would be able to make it out one day.

However, Xia Zhe told him that the news of his capture had already been disseminated to all the triad bosses. Over the years, Zhang Cheng had unethically used money to suppress and bully others. As time passed, the Zhang family had more and more enemies.

As the news spread like wildfire, the Zhang family's enemies joined forces very quickly. The moment Zhang Cheng escaped into the open, he would be torn to pieces by his enemies. If he went to jail, he would only be locked up for a few years. What was most important was that he would be able to stay alive. As long as there was life, there was hope. He was very scared of dying.

Zhang Cheng's illegitimate children were all arrested and only Liang Jin and Liang Yao remained untouched. Qiao Mei told Xia Zhe that Liang Jin was also one of the main culprits behind Gao Tao's death and that she did not want Liang Jin to be able to get away.

Overnight, Liang Jin's corpse was found on the street. Her clothes were disheveled and there were many wounds on her body. Her head was also chopped off and hung high up in the air. This sparked a state of panic among everyone for a while.

Gao Lin was in awe of Xia Zhe's methods. There were really not many businessmen who were as calculative and ruthless as him.

After a few days, when Gao Ming felt much better, he prepared to go to the Gao family's office to settle some matters. However, the moment he opened the front door, a woman rushed into his arms. Gao Ming took a closer look and realized that the person in front of him was Zhang Yao.

"You... Why are you here?" Gao Ming helped Zhang Yao to stand up straight and asked with a frown.

"Brother Ming! Save me! I don't want to be homeless anymore! I don't have a home now and I have nowhere to go! Please save me!" Zhang Yao begged..

## Chapter 1992: Revenge

In the past, Zhang Yao was arrogant and rude. Whoever made her angry would not be able to live in peace for the rest of their lives. She always appeared in front of everyone in exquisite clothes and luxurious jewelry. Even Gao Ming used to dote on Zhang Yao and treat her like a princess.

However, the woman in front of him wore tattered clothes and had only one shoe on. As she had walked a long way on the mountain roads, her feet were bleeding and it did not take long for the carpet to become stained with blood.

The Gao family had already bought back all the things which they sold away in the past. They had also hired many helpers to take charge of the daily cleaning and cooking. All these helpers had experience working for the upper-class society and they knew more about the secrets of the wealthy people than anyone else. They were stunned to see Zhang Yao looking like this.

One of the helpers quickly pushed a wheelchair over and asked, "Young

Master, do you want us to treat this lady's wounds first?"

"There's no need. You can go. Throw away this carpet later and burn the suit I'm wearing too," Gao Ming said disdainfully.

Zhang Yao could not quite accept Gao Mings current attitude towards her. In the past, he treated her like a princess. As long as she asked him to do something for her, he would do it no matter what it took. However, the stony man in front of her was no longer the ignorant Gao Ming of the past.

"Brother Ming! How can you do this! Look at me! I'm Yao Yao! Your Yao Yao!

How can you forget about me?" Zhang Yao grabbed Gao Mings sleeve in a

"I will never forget you, nor will I forget what your grandparents did to my family or the look on your face when you tricked me into drinking the poison. Rather than coming here to look for me, why don't you go and look for that bum whom you love?" Gao Ming said mockingly.

It was not that Zhang Yao did not go and look for that bum, but he had disappeared without a trace. There was someone else living at his previous house. Zhang Yao could not find him at all.

A few days after that, the bum suddenly appeared in front of Zhang Yao. He said that he wanted to protect her and brought her to an unfamiliar place.

There were many men waiting inside that place. Some of them were Zhang Chengs enemies, while others were people whom Zhang Yao had offended before.

All these men had offered a high price and were all waiting for the bum to bring Zhang Yao to them so that they could humiliate her. Zhang Yao was going to have to pay for all her past sins in one go.

“Brother Ming, I really love you! You have to believe that I love you! I was bewitched at that time. I was bewitched! I didn’t do it on purpose!” Zhang Yao ignored the fact that the helper was still standing there and just kept taking off her clothes.

As long as she could get Gao Ming to protect her, she was willing to do anything. She did not have anything left and she could only take a gamble to see if Gao Ming still had any pity left for her.

Gao Ming immediately turned his face away and said to the helper, “Throw her out! Take her to the main street at the foot of the mountain and leave her there! ”

The helper hurriedly picked up Zhang Yao’s clothes and helped her put them back on. Then, the butler drove the helper and Zhang Yao to the city center and they dropped her off there. Not long after, they saw a group of beggars dragging her away and disappearing into the alley.

“Sigh... She was also such a pampered young lady back then. I never would have expected her to end up like this,” the butler said as he shook his head helplessly in the car.

“We’re working for the Gao family now and they are quite nice to us. Everyone knows what the Zhang family did to the Gao family back then. Don’t say anything wrong and anger our employer,” the helper said as a reminder to the butler.

The butler did not say anything else and they drove back to the Gao family’s house. Gao Ming returned to his room and changed into another suit. He composed himself and then set off for the office. The matter with the Zhang family could be considered to have been settled. Xia Zhe wrote a letter to Qiao Mei to keep her updated about the Zhang family’s ending.

In the study at home, Qiao Mei held up the letter and said to Xia He, “Now that revenge has been served, should I cook a nice meal to celebrate”

“Why do you only think about food! I want to talk to you about expanding the farm!” Xia He said helplessly.

"Aren't we doing well currently? Why do we need to expand?" Qiao Mei asked curiously..

### 1993 Family Reunion

"We have too many orders and our current supply can't meet the demand. The best solution is to buy the empty plot of land next door and expand into it," Xia He said as she held up the map of the town.

Qiao Mei studied it for a long time before saying, "The quality of the soil on that piece of land is not too bad. If we grow vegetables there, we will definitely get a good harvest. Let's buy it. I want to use it as a vegetable farm."

"Vegetable farm! Then what about my cows!" Xia He said agitatedly.

"Go and play some soothing music for the cows to make them relaxed! Keep them happy and then feed them the grass which I cultivated myself. Their milk production will definitely increase! Trust me!" Qiao Mei said.

This was the first time Xia He had heard the idea of playing music for cows. Was there any scientific basis for this? Then again, among all the people she knew, Qiao Mei knew the most about farming and agriculture. In addition, she was also a student in the agricultural faculty of a famous university. Perhaps these were some experimental methods she had learned at school, so Xia He decided to follow her instructions.

The children climbed around the living room every day. Auntie Wang asked Butler Xu to carpet the floor of the entire room so that it was easier for the children to crawl around.

Every month, Qiao Mei and Xia He could make more than 100,000 dollars from the farm. In the beginning, Auntie Wang and Auntie Zhang were paid a monthly salary that was around the same amount as the other household staff. By now, their salary had already increased to 2,000 dollars a month. Many people were clamoring to work as Qiao Mei's helper!

Qiao Mei had handed over all the household matters to Butler Xu, Auntie Wang and Auntie Zhang. They could spend freely as long as it was for the benefit of the entire household. They just had to submit the accounts to Xia He every month. Butler Xu hired two workers to come in and clean the carpet three times a week so that the children had a clean environment to play in.

At noon one day, Qiao Mei was taking a short rest in bed. She could vaguely hear the children making a lot of noise downstairs and even heard the children calling out "Papa".

Qiao Mei walked out of the room groggily. Then, she saw Xia Zhe standing in the living room and carrying one child in each arm. Xia Fan and Xia Xing were cradled safely in his arms. Xia Yue, who was still on the floor, had never met his father before. He had only seen photos of the person in front of him. Now that the person in the photo had appeared in real life, he did not know how to react.

"Papa! You're finally back!" Xia Fan shouted excitedly.

"Papa! Papa! Do you miss us! Do you still remember us?" Xia Xing asked.

"Of course I remember you. I miss all of you and I miss your mother very much too," Xia Zhe replied happily.

"Oh Papa, this is my younger brother. His name is Xia Yue." Xia Fan took on the role of the eldest brother and pointed at Xia Yue who was crawling on the floor. He wanted to introduce Xia Yue to Xia Zhe.

Xia Zhe laughed and said, "Papa already knows that. Your mother has already told me. Do you blame me for taking so long to come home?"

"No! Mama said that Papa has something very important to do! We can't tell anyone! Papa is a great hero!" Xia Yue leaned on Xia Zhe's shoulder and whispered to him.

Xia Zhe's eyes reddened a little. He did not expect the children to be so sensible. Before he came, he was already prepared that the children would not recognize him. He did not expect to be welcomed with such a scene.

Qiao Mei came downstairs and picked up Xia Yue, saying, "Yue Yue, who is this? Is it Papa?"

Xia Yue blinked and widened his big eyes. He looked at the photo that Qiao Mei showed him and then raised his head to look at the person in front of him. After confirming that it was the same person, he stretched out his hands and kept trying to reach out to Xia Zhe, wanting Xia Zhe to carry him too.

Xia Zhe let Xia Xing sit on his shoulders and then carried the other two children in his arms. He made it look so effortless.

"Why didn't you tell me that you are coming back?" Qiao Mei asked as she looked at Xia Zhe.

"How can it be a surprise if you know about it?" Xia Zhe said.

The family of five enjoyed their time together. Based on the children's reactions, Auntie Wang and Auntie Zhang already knew who this man was. If this person was not the children's father, Luo Yu and Luo Hui would never have let him enter through the door.

This was a scene that Qiao Mei had been waiting for. The family was gathered together in a happy reunion. She did not want the children to grow up without their father around.

#### Chapter 1994: Valuable Items

Xia He was very efficient and bought that empty plot of land within a day. With their fake identities, it was much more convenient for them to do anything they wanted.

When she reached home and opened the door, she saw Auntie Wang and Auntie Zhang gathering everyone together to make dumplings. It was customary to eat dumplings during a reunion. Apart from making dumplings during the new year and festive seasons, people also made dumplings when family members came home from overseas. When she saw Xia Zhe, she was too surprised to react. She stood stunned at the door for a long time before she walked in slowly.

"Why are you still standing there? Put down your things and come have your meal!" Qiao Mei shouted.



“When... when did you arrive?” Xia He asked as she looked at Xia Zhe confusedly.

“This afternoon. I didn’t tell any of you in advance because it was a last-minute decision. I’m going back tomorrow,” Xia Zhe said.

“Tomorrow! So soon!” Qiao Mei said in surprise.

“There are still a lot of things to do at the office and I can’t stay away for too long,” Xia Zhe said resignedly. He also wanted to stay here and accompany

Qiao Mei and the children, but time was tight and he had a lot of work to do. He needed to expand into the market as soon as possible and gain more standing in Country M.

All the household staff in this house had come from the capital with Qiao Mei. After spending so much time together, all of them knew their livelihoods depended on her. She did not need to hide anything from them as they were very clear about their roles in this household. They would not question anything their employer did and would not see and hear things they should not.

After everyone ate the reunion dumplings, Xia Zhe brought Qiao Mei to the basement. He had already asked Luo Yu and Luo Hui to place the things he brought with him here. These things could not be seen in public, so it was better to have his own people handle it.

“Why are you being so mysterious?” Qiao Mei asked.

“I wrote you a letter some time ago about how the assets of the Zhang family were distributed. However, I realized that the list of assets of the Zhang family is very complicated and not as simple as it looks on the surface. I transferred whatever I could to the Gao family. The rest of the assets are all dirty money which came from dubious sources, so I didn’t hand these over to the Gao family,” Xia Zhe explained.

Qiao Mei also knew that since the Zhang family had a long history in Sky City, they definitely had a more complicated background than the Yang family. However, when she heard about the Zhang family’s hidden assets, it still gave her a big shock.

They operated almost 200 black markets across the entire Country M, both big and small. They also carried out all kinds of prohibited weapons transactions, drug deals and so on. They did business with all kinds of dangerous people, so it was no wonder that Zhang Cheng would rather turn himself in.

All these places were now in a mess and a few had already been taken over by their competitors. Xia Zhe had also tried his best to take over a few, but it was only like a drop in the ocean. Anyway, that was not his real goal.

“I found out something that is really strange. In the very beginning, the Zhang family made it big from buying lottery tickets. Every time they bought a lottery ticket, they would win a big prize and it was almost always the first prize,” Xia Zhe said confusedly.

Qiao Mei’s eyes lit up. Could it be that the function of that cufflink was to bring good luck to its owner? Once she was clear about its function, then it would not be difficult for her to sever its connection with Zhang Cheng.

“Then what’s this box?” Qiao Mei asked as she knocked on the box.

Xia Zhe opened the box and showed her all the jewelry and gemstones inside. When he saw all these in the Zhang family’s house, he had already decided to bring them back for Qiao Mei. She would definitely be very happy to see these.

Just as he expected, Qiao Mei picked up the jewelry joyously. These were all rare treasures! She did not expect Zhang Cheng to have such good taste. The craftsmanship of these jewelry was very exquisite. Perhaps Zhang Cheng was actually trying to find other jewelry which had the same ability as his cufflink.

Then why was Dr. Julie, the one who worked with Bella, also in possession of the energy? Could it be that she also owned a piece of Gao Tao’s jewelry? If so, it would be very difficult for Qiao Mei to get the jewelry back from Dr. Julie. If she insisted on taking it back, there may be many lives lost in the process.

However, Qiao Mei really wanted to gather all of Gao Tao’s jewelry from back then. For a moment, she was at a loss, but then she decided to leave the issue aside for now. She would think about this again when the time was right. Now was not the right time.

That night, Xia Zhe slept in the room with the children and he left the small town early the next morning. He promised Qiao Mei that he would come again when he had some free time.

The weather in the town had been quite good so Qiao Mei rolled up her sleeves and started to work on the new plot of land which Xia He bought. There was no need for anyone to plow the land manually here. Everything was done using machines..

Chapter 1995: Visiting My Younger Sister

Novel Fire - [novelfire.net](http://novelfire.net)

Qiao Mei looked at the machines and fell into deep thought. If she was able to bring these machines back to her home country, she would not need to hire so many people. However, now was still not the right time to do so.

At the moment, most people in their home country were employed in manual work. If they brought such machines back, a large number of people would be laid off and that would in turn affect many families. It was better to find out more about how the machines work and develop their own version after returning home. This way, they could save costs and at the same time, create jobs for those researchers.

The land was plowed very quickly and Qiao Mei planted the seeds slowly. She especially liked doing this. Whenever she was in the field, she always felt an unprecedented sense of relaxation and joy.

The three children also ran over to the field to help Qiao Mei. They seemed to be very familiar with this chore and they copied what Qiao Mei did. Xia Fan dug small holes and Xia Xing threw the seeds into the holes. As for Xia Yue, he followed behind his older siblings and covered the holes with soil.

Qiao Mei would occasionally turn around to take a look at what the children were doing. It did not matter if they got their clothes dirty and messy. Children could not be too pampered, otherwise they would grow up to be like flowers in a greenhouse, i.e. easily destroyed by bad weather.

There were suddenly the sounds of an argument coming from afar. Qiao Mei stood up and looked towards the direction of the farm's main gate. It sounded like Luo Yu had gotten into an argument with someone.

"Sister Wang! Sister Zhang! Bring the children into the house! I'll go and see what's going on!" Qiao Mei said into the walkie-talkie.

To make it easier for everyone to communicate at the farm, Qiao Mei bought

walkie-talkies for everyone. She set up all the channels clearly so that everyone could communicate with one another at any time and deal with any emergencies as soon as possible.

Once Auntie Wang and Auntie Zhang brought the children into the house, Qiao Mei walked briskly to the main entrance of the farm.

"Let me in! This is my younger sister's farm! Why can't I go in!" Gao Ming said furiously as he tried to drag his luggage in.

Luo Yu had never heard that Qiao Mei had an elder brother. The Xia family had previously investigated Qiao Mei's background very thoroughly. Moreover, Luo Yu had been working closely with her for nearly two years and he knew everything that was going on. The person in front of him could not even get Qiao Mei's name correct.

"Did you get the wrong person? Or the wrong address?" Luo Yu asked with a frown.

"Rubbish! It's not the wrong address! My younger sister gave me this address! Look at the address written here! How can it be wrong!" Gao Ming said as he pointed at the address on the card that he was holding.

Qiao Mei rushed over to Luo Yu and said, "He's indeed my elder brother. I'll tell you more about this later. Let him in first."

Luo Yu nodded and opened the main gate. Gao Ming dragged his luggage in and glared at Luo Yu before following Qiao Mei to the villa. When Gao Ming entered and saw the three children, he thought he was seeing things, especially since Xia Xing looked like she was carved from the exact same mold as Qiao Mei.

“You... Me... These children...” Gao Ming said incoherently.

“Erm...” Qiao Mei was still thinking about how to explain it to him. Should she tell Gao Ming that the children’s father was already “dead”? However, it would sound like she was cursing Xia Zhe, so she decided not to say that.

“Hello, uncle.” Xia Fan and Xia Xing stood up and greeted Gao Ming. This was something which Qiao Mei had instilled in them. She told them that young children must be polite and should take the initiative to bow and greet their elders.

“Hello, children.” Gao Ming tried to search among his things for any presents that he could give to these children, but he could not find anything suitable.

“Big Brother, they’re indeed my children. I’ll explain these things to you later. You can go to your room and freshen up first,” Qiao Mei said.

“I have come to talk to you about Fang Chen, but I never expected to see this. This has really... caught me by surprise,” Gao Ming said.

Qiao Mei brought Gao Ming to the guest room and settled him down first. She needed some time to think about how to make up a story that would sound credible.

When Xia He reached home and saw Gao Ming, she acknowledged him politely. Then, she quickly went over to Qiao Mei and asked softly, “Why is he here?”

“I’m not too sure either. I will have to improvise as I go along. I haven’t thought about how to explain the situation regarding the children. Wait for my cue,” Qiao Mei said in a low voice..

## Chapter 1996: Dumplings

Xia He nodded in understanding. That night, Auntie Wang cooked many dishes, including dumplings. Gao Ming had grown up in Country M, but there was a period of time when he returned to Hu City for two or three years. Ever since then, he could no longer get used to the food in Country M and had a craving for food from his hometown. When Gao Ming took his first bite of the dumplings, tears welled up in his eyes. It had been a long time since he had the taste of home.

“This is so delicious!” Gao Ming said excitedly.

“If it’s delicious, then eat more. This is Sister Wang’s signature dish! The dumplings she makes are especially delicious and have the taste of our hometown. The last time she made this, the other employees at the farm ate some as well and they all said it was nice,” Qiao Mei said.

In Sky City, Gao Ming had always been in the food and beverage business. He really wanted to open a restaurant serving traditional food from his hometown. He felt that it would meet the needs of his fellow countrymen and also be acceptable to the people of Country M.

“Are all the farm employees from our home country?” Gao Ming asked perceptively.

“No, most of them are locals,” Xia He replied.

Gao Ming thought for a long time and said, “Is there any special method to make these dumplings? Or any secret recipe?”

“I’ve been doing it the same way all these years. Perhaps the proportion of my ingredients is different from what other people do,” Auntie Wang said after thinking for a long time.

“I don’t mean to be rude, but I run a restaurant and I’m curious about such things. Have your neighbors ever tried the food which you usually eat?” Gao Ming asked.

“Yes, they have. Some of them can’t get used to it. Dumplings are the only food which they unanimously find acceptable,” Xia He said.

The main reason why the neighbors liked the dumplings was because they were made using the vegetables planted by Qiao Mei. Even if they were served only the raw vegetables, they would still find it extremely delicious. However, Xia He did not intend to tell Gao Ming the secret behind it.

After the meal, Gao Ming stood by the floor-to-ceiling window and looked into the distance in a daze. If he could market these dumplings well, it might be a very good business opportunity. However, there was still not enough market research done on this. If only a small number of people liked to eat these dumplings, his investment might fail.

In the letter which Xia Zhe wrote to Qiao Mei, he mentioned that Gao Ming had different business ideas from the Gao family. He had always wanted to break free from the Gao family’s restraints and do his own business, but he never managed to do it.

“Big Brother, what are you thinking about alone?” Qiao Mei asked as she walked over to Gao Ming.

“It’s nothing. For me, it has been a visit full of surprises. I originally wanted to come and see if you are doing well and to talk to you about Fang Chen. The ruthless way he dealt with the Zhang family makes me a little worried about your situation,” Gao Ming said.

Qiao Mei felt a sense of warmth. She did not expect Gao Ming to come to the small town to look for her because he was concerned about her happiness. She smiled and said, “Big Brother, he’s very nice to me. Don’t worry, he’s a trustworthy person.”

“As long as you like him,” Gao Ming said.

“I can see that Big Brother has some ideas about Auntie Wangs dumplings. Big Brother, do you want to try selling them in Sky City?” Qiao Mei asked.

“I guess you can say that. Business hasn’t been very good recently. If these dumplings end up being popular with the locals, it can only be a good thing.

When the time comes, we can create our own brand and market it widely," Gao Ming said excitedly.

"Why don't we give it a try in this small town first?" Qiao Mei said.

"It's not that easy to open a shop selling food. There is a long process and it takes a long time. This is not something that can be done quickly," Gao Ming said with a sigh.

"I have a friend who runs a snack shop. Why don't we give it a try at her place? If it works out, we can think about how we want to expand the business in the future. If not, then it doesn't matter," Qiao Mei said.

"Really? That's great! Then we'll have to trouble Sister Wang to teach us how to make dumplings," Gao Ming said.

"We'll do it tomorrow," Qiao Mei said.

The next day, Butler Xu and Luo Yu went to the town center to buy a lot of flour, oil and seasonings, as well as some huge cooking pots. These were all essential items if they wanted to run a business. Qiao Mei drove Gao Ming to Alice's shop. Alice had already returned from her vacation. She was currently running the shop together with her child.

"Hi! Long time no see!" Alice greeted Qiao Mei happily. [Novel Fire - novelfire.net](http://Novel Fire - novelfire.net)

"Alice, how was your trip? Didn't you say you wanted to take a good break? Why are you back so soon?" Qiao Mei asked..

## Chapter 1997 Make Use of the Shop

"Thanks to you, our family is doing very well financially now. I want to bring my kid out for a holiday, so we're going on a family trip! This is the first time I've seen this gentleman. Is he your relative? The two of you share some resemblance," Alice said as she sized up Gao Ming curiously.



Qiao Mei was a little surprised. This was the first time someone had said that she and Gao Ming looked alive! Qiao Mei had always been very curious about whether she and Gao Ming shared any similar features, but she had never been able to tell. It seemed that the onlookers would always have a clearer view of things.

"Indeed, he's my cousin. Alice, I have come by today because I have something to discuss with you," Qiao Mei said.

"Do you have some new ideas? Or do you already have a new product?" Alice asked expectantly.

"We do have a new product, but we want to test the market first. Do you think I can sell it in your shop?" Qiao Mei asked.

Alice was a little hesitant. After all, they had already planned for the family trip. If they delayed it because of Qiao Mei's suggestion, they would miss out on the best season to travel. Then they would have to wait until next year.

"I'm sorry, my dear. We might not be able to stay and help you with this," Alice said awkwardly.

Qiao Mei immediately said, "We have sufficient manpower and we think our product is good. It's just that it's too cumbersome to apply for a food license, so I want to make use of your shop and try selling it for a period of time. You can name your price!"

"Oh I see! We're good friends, so there's no need to talk about money! You can use my shop to do whatever you want! You can use it for as long as you want!" Alice said generously.

"That's great! Alice, you're really my lady luck!" Qiao Mei said excitedly as she went forward to hug Alice.

"You're the real lady luck of my family. This is the key to the shop. You can start whenever you want. We're setting off today. I'm looking forward to seeing what the shop looks like when I get back," Alice said.

"I'll definitely give you a surprise!" Qiao Mei said. The latest stories will be updated at [n\(o\)veln\(e\)xt.com](http://n(o)veln(e)xt.com)

Although Alice said that Qiao Mei could sell the dumplings at her shop rent-free, Qiao Mei could not bring herself to do that. In the end, they signed a simple agreement. During the period when Alice was away, they would give Alice 5% of the profits from the sale of the dumplings.

After returning home, Qiao Mei gathered everyone to make dumplings together. As she needed to keep the recipe a secret, she could ask the people living in the house to help and they could not hire people from outside.

Early the next morning, they brought all the raw ingredients to the shop to make the dumplings there. After two hours, everyone was sore in the back and the waist, especially Auntie Wang and the other women. They could not even lift their arms anymore.

"This is really too tiring..." Xia He looked at Qiao Mei pitifully.

"Just hold on a little longer!" Qiao Mei said.

By 10 in the morning, they had made 6,000 dumplings. Qiao Mei started to cook the dumplings in the pot and the fragrance quickly spread outside. Many people began to search for the source of the delicious smell.

"Eh? What are you selling now? I remember that this used to be a snack shop? Are you the new owner?" a woman stood outside the door and asked curiously.

"Hello! We're selling dumplings! Are you interested in trying some?" Qiao Mei greeted the woman warmly.

These dumplings were the most basic type made with cabbage and pork filling. The cabbages and pork came from their own farm, so the cost was relatively low.

Soon, the entrance of the shop was chock full of people. Most shops served dine-in customers, but Qiao Mei did not intend to do that. Alice's shop could only accommodate a limited number of customers. It was better for them to do takeaways rather than dine-in. She operated it like a fast food kiosk, where everyone could eat standing up or bring the food home.

Time passed quickly and all the dumplings in the shop were sold out very quickly. Even though there was still a long queue, Qiao Mei did not intend to make more. She wanted to engage in hunger marketing so that these people would look forward to coming again tomorrow.

The family returned home exhausted. Xia Fan and Xia Xing seemed to know that everyone was very busy with work. The two of them took care of Xia Yue and played with him. The three children were very obedient in the house. The new helper said that she had never seen such obedient children.

"I really can't take it anymore... I just want to lie down on the bed and rest..." Xia He said as she massaged her shoulders.

#### Chapter 1998: Limited Supply

"Me too... I never expected this job to be so tough. My arms feel like they're going to break after just one day," Gao Ming said wearily.

Qiao Mei held up the money box and said, "Aren't you curious about how much money we made?"

"Let me do it!" At the mention of money, Xia He immediately perked up. She took the box and counted the money carefully.

Everyone's eyes were on Xia He. After two minutes, Xia He said in shock, "Oh my goodness! We made 8,000 dollars!"

"What! How can it be so much!" Auntie Wang said excitedly.

After deducting the cost of ingredients and Alice's commission, as well as labor fees, they had made a net profit of at least 7,000 dollars today. Moreover, they were sold out by the afternoon. This meant that they could make at least 210,000 dollars a month!

Gao Ming could not believe his ears. This was an astonishing amount of money. He had never even made so much money from his business in Sky City. It was already good enough if he did not lose money.

"We can open chain stores after a while! We're going to be rich!" Gao Ming said.

"But we can't let others know our secret recipe!" Xia He said with a troubled expression.

"We don't need to run a chain, we should just sell the finished products! If we sell frozen dumplings, wouldn't it be more convenient for everyone if they can just buy them to cook at home?" Qiao Mei suggested. Novel Fire - novelfire.net

None of them had ever imagined that dumplings could be sold like this. At the current moment, the only fast food available were hamburgers and sandwiches. Frozen food was a completely new thing. Qiao Mei had long been eyeing this business opportunity, but she did not have any ideas about how to start. Now that Gao Ming had joined her, she would be able to get double the results with half the effort.

"This is a good idea! In the future, our products can be sold all over the world! Moreover, we'll be able to keep our recipe a secret! I know where to find machines so that we don't need so much manpower, but the raw ingredients..."

that might be a problem." Gao Ming looked at Qiao Mei hesitantly.

Gao Ming had already gone around to take a look at Qiao Mei's farm. The crops and animals in the farm were only enough to meet the needs of the small town's residents. If they wanted to expand to the entire Country M, they would need more farms.

It was best if they could make money together. Qiao Mei would supply the ingredients while he would be in charge of production and export. It was such a wonderful idea! This could even become a family business!

"I don't intend to stay here for long, but I can leave the seeds behind. At that time, I'll hire people to manage the farm and just come to take a look every year," Qiao Mei said.

"You don't intend to stay here? Are you going back?" Gao Ming asked.

"Yes, I'll go back once I graduate," Qiao Mei replied to him frankly.

Her real home was in the capital. She had only come here because of Xia Zhe. Once everything was over, they would eventually have to return to their hometown. They could not stay in Country M for the rest of their lives.

Gao Ming remained silent. He was born in Country M and did not have the same kind of feelings for Hu City. However, he completely understood where Qiao Mei was coming from. At the end of the day, everyone would want to return to where they came from.

"How about this! When we make money, we'll split it 30-70! I'll take 30% and you take 70%! We can discuss the details later!" Gao Ming said.

Qiao Mei had thought that Gao Ming would suggest splitting the profits

50-50. She did not expect him to be so willing to give them such a big cut. Qiao Mei did not really care about this income stream. She had already handed the farm over to Xia He. The two of them could finalize the details themselves. However, the 30-70 split which Gao Ming had mentioned was definitely not the way to go.

After discussing what they needed to replenish tomorrow, everyone went to their rooms to rest. Qiao Mei had agreed to give Auntie Wang and the rest a cut of the profits. They would make 10 cents for each dumpling they made, which meant 100 dumplings were worth 10 dollars! Auntie Wang made them so fast that she could produce 2,000 dumplings a day and earn an additional 200 dollars a day! Everyone was inspired to work even harder!

The next day, even before the shop opened, there was already a long queue at the door. Everyone had woken up early to get in line.

“Everyone, you’re really too early! We only open at 10! How about this, I’ll give out number tags to everyone. We’re only selling 600 portions a day! You can come and collect your order using the number tag!” Qiao Mei shouted.

“That’s really too little! Can you sell more! Your dumplings are really too delicious!” someone in the queue shouted.

“We have limited manpower and we can’t make so many! I’m really sorry!

Tomorrow! We’ll sell another 100 portions tomorrow!” Qiao Mei shouted..

#### Chapter 1999: The Gao Family’s Frozen Dumplings

Within less than an hour after the dumplings were cooked, all 600 portions were sold out. Many people clamored to pay in advance for a portion tomorrow, even if it meant paying a higher price.

Gao Ming looked at the enthusiastic customers outside and smiled so widely that he could barely close his mouth. This was the first time he had encountered such a thing in his many years in the food business.

After they returned home that day, Gao Ming immediately decided to ask Gao Lin for 300,000 dollars to build a factory in the small town. There was a limit to the amount of money they could make from making dumplings by hand. If he could produce them using machines, he would be able to make a lot of money in less than a year and could even surpass Xia Zhe in achievements!

“Are you really going to stay and do business here? Don’t you plan to return to Sky City?” Qiao Mei asked.

“Yes, the town already has a fixed customer base. Now is a good time to build on this foundation. Soon, the news of our delicious dumplings will spread to every family. By then, we only need to sell 500 portions in the shop every day. Once the factory is up and running, we can launch our frozen dumplings for sale!” Gao Ming said.

Seeing the determination in Gao Ming's eyes, Qiao Mei decided to let him do whatever he wanted. Within two days, Gao Ming had already chosen a location for the factory. It was very close to Qiao Mei's farm so that it would be easier for them to transport the raw ingredients.

Gao Ming even offered Auntie Wang a high salary to work as a technical consultant for him, mainly to guide the factory workers on how to make the dumplings. As only the family insiders knew the secret recipe, Auntie Wang needed to keep an eye on the proportion of the ingredients used in the machines every day.

Auntie Wang looked at Qiao Mei with a troubled expression and said, "Miss Qiao... if I go to work at Young Master Gao's place, I might not be able to take care of the children anymore. Why don't I just write down the list of ingredients and give it to Young Master Gao so that he can find someone else to take care of this! It's not that difficult to make dumplings! I just want to take care of the children wholeheartedly."

Gao Ming had offered her a salary of 5,000 dollars a month with additional bonuses at the end of the year. The annual income was five times what she could make working for Qiao Mei. Anyone would be tempted by the amount of money.

However, Auntie Wang was different. If not for Qiao Mei, she would not have been able to come to Country M to reunite with her family. Qiao Mei was very nice to her family and was also the one who solved the issue of her children not being able to go to school. Everything she had now would be impossible without Qiao Mei's help. She could not just put all these aside. No matter how much money she was offered, it would not outweigh her relationship with Qiao Mei.

"Sister Wang, you don't have to worry about me. You can go and do whatever you want. The children are slowly growing up. I'll just find someone else to take care of them," Qiao Mei said.

"No! I want to personally watch the children grow up! You don't have to dissuade me! I'll go and talk to Young Master Gao now!" Auntie Wang left Qiao Mei's house after saying that.

In the end, the two of them came to an agreement. Auntie Wang would take some time off to go to Gao Ming's factory three times a month to check on the quality of the dumplings. This way, not only could he ensure that the taste remained consistent, but she could also earn more money.

For the next month, Qiao Mei did not see Gao Ming around at all. The Gao family's frozen dumplings were soon officially launched for sale in the small town! In the beginning, everyone looked at the frozen dumplings suspiciously. Would it taste the same as what they bought at the shop even if they cooked it at home themselves?

As time passed, everyone gradually accepted the Gao family's frozen dumplings. These frozen dumplings could be found in all the major supermarkets. Gao Ming even set up counters in supermarkets and bought shops on streets with high traffic, specializing in selling the Gao family's frozen dumplings so that everyone could have access to them at any time.

Xia He looked at the data report in her hand and lamented, "Are all your family members so good at doing business? Look at your cousin's statement of accounts for this month. It looks so much better than the first month's statement of accounts for our farm! If this continues, your cousin is going to make more money than us."

Qiao Mei laughed and said, "Doesn't Xia Zhe run a very big business too? And he's your biological younger brother!"

"He only started to do this after he met you. Sigh... I have to work hard to earn money. When I have enough money, I want to travel around the world! I want to go with Deng Fan!" Xia He said agitatedly.

"How's everything at home recently? Do you call them often?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Not really, but I stay in touch with Deng Fan every day. Your factory is now one of the country's key partners! Eldest Brother and Qian'e have already signed a collaboration agreement. Deng Fan says that Grandpa Qiao is in good health. Also, a man has been wooing your mother recently, but your mother is not interested," Xia He said after a long pause..

Chapter 2000: Spot Check

"What? There's such a thing? Why is it that no one told me about it when I called back?" Qiao Mei asked as she looked at Xia He in shock.



“It’s probably because Auntie doesn’t want you to worry. Our families stay so near one another and Deng Fan goes to your place to freeload on dinner nowadays. He also plays chess with Grandpa Qiao, so don’t worry,” Xia He said.

All the courtyard houses which the Xia family members bought had already been renovated. All the Xia family members had moved into their own courtyard houses and they were all only a few steps away. They gathered together often and would have a meetup every weekend where everyone would make the effort to turn up. Xu Lan had even acknowledged Qian’e as her goddaughter!

The man who was wooing Li Gui was one of the factory’s business partners. For a period of time, Qian’e was in charge of expanding their business in the south and had gone away on a business trip. Li Gui had to handle all the matters in the factory then. It was during this time that they met each other and it was said that he fell for her at first sight.

Qiao Mei did not care about any of this as long as this man treated Li Gui well. What was important was that Li Gui must like the man too. She was an independent adult and had the right to decide on her own marriage.

Recently, Qiao Mei had been busy with her schoolwork and was very focused on her studies. Her results were not very outstanding in school and she made sure that she simply finished all her assignments without doing any extra work. She was worried that if her results were too outstanding, the agricultural university in Country M would not let her leave. She had no interest in doing academic research.

One quiet afternoon, the phone in Qiao Mei’s house suddenly rang. Auntie Zhang picked up the phone and said, “Hello, this is the Qiao family.” “The Qiao family? Isn’t this the Pu family’s phone number?” Gao Lin asked.

“I’m sorry, this is the Qiao family’s house. I’m not sure who the Pu family is,” Auntie Zhang said.

“But this is the phone number I have. Is this the family who runs a farm in the small town? My grandson has even set up a company there,” Gao Lin said.

“Oh, you’re Young Master Gaffs relative. What can I do for you?” Auntie Zhang said.

"I'm already at the small town's airport but I don't know your exact address. Can you send someone to pick me up?" Gao Lin said.

"Alright, I'll discuss it with our young lady. Please stay where you are and don't move." After saying that, Auntie Zhang went upstairs to look for Qiao Mei and told her what just happened.

Qiao Mei was stunned. She had forgotten to explain the matter of her name to Gao Lin. She had yet to explain the matter of the children and now she had to explain the matter of her different names. There was no end to it. First, she asked Butler Xu to go to the airport to pick up Gao Lin. Then, she called Xia He and Gao Ming and asked them to come home to welcome him.

When Gao Lin reached the farm, he had the same reaction as Gao Ming. Along the way, he kept praising Qiao Mei for being smart and capable. Gao Ming had written a letter to him to tell him about everything that had happened during this period of time. Otherwise, he would not have gone through so much trouble to come to the small town.

"Granduncle, why didn't you tell me in advance that you are coming here so that I can arrange for someone to pick you up," Qiao Mei said warmly.

"Little girl, are you hiding something from me?" Gao Lin asked as he looked at Qiao Mei dotingly.

Qiao Mei scratched her head in embarrassment and said, "There are indeed some things that I have hidden from Granduncle, but I have no choice. My real name is Qiao Mei and Pu Nan is just an alias I used when I went to Sky City. At that time, I went to the casino secretly and had a run in with the young master of the Yang family. I was worried about him looking into my background, so I made up a name."

"I see. Then what about the children?" Gao Lin then asked.

She did not expect Gao Ming to have told Gao Lin about this. Qiao Mei said hesitantly, "The children... the children are indeed mine. As for their father..." As Qiao Mei spoke, she wiped the corners of her eyes and said sadly, "I feel sad every time this issue is mentioned."

Seeing this, Gao Lin quickly said, "It's fine, it's fine! Granduncle won't ask about it anymore! Let's not cry on such a good day! Let's just live well in the future!"

Qiao Mei apologized to Xia Zhe a hundred times in her heart. She did not want to do this, but in order to hide Xia Zhe's true identity and his mission, she had no choice.

At night, everyone gathered together. Gao Lin knew that Qiao Mei had many secrets and he did not want to pry into her private matters. When Qiao Mei was ready to tell him the truth, she would naturally do so. Most importantly, Qiao Mei was his elder sister's flesh and blood and was a member of his family..