

## **Fat Wife 2001**

### Chapter 2001: A New Great-grandfather

“Grandfather, did you catch a glimpse of my office on your way here? The office building is much bigger than the one we have in Sky City!” Gao Ming said proudly.

“I read about it in the newspaper. The business is so big that you’re also well-known in Sky City. Gao Long wanted to come along on this trip, but he’s very busy at the office and can’t leave for the moment. He asked me to send his regards and to bring you gifts.” After saying that, Gao Lin took out two long brocade boxes from his bag.

The items in the two long brocade boxes were the same, both pearl necklaces. Such perfectly round pearls were really rare and it must have taken a lot of effort to find so many of them to string together. The value of these necklaces was immeasurable!

“One for you and one for Xia He,” Gao Lin said.

“Thank you, Old Master Gao,” Xia He said politely as she took the long brocade box.

“You can just address me as Granduncle like Qiao Mei. We’re all family,” Gao Lin said.

Xia He smiled and nodded. After thinking for a long time, Gao Ming finally made up his mind and asked, ‘Grandfather, can you stay here for a longer period of time? If you can’t stay, you can take a good 100K at my company and guide me along.’”

Gao Lin’s parents ran a small clothing company in Country M after they came here. At that time, they only made enough to provide for the family. By the time Gao Lin took over the business, he gradually scaled up enough for the Gao family to be able to afford a villa. It was only then that their lives saw a great improvement.

The most capable ones in the family were still Gao Yu and Gao Long. The two brothers expanded the Gao family’s business on a massive scale and they were quite well-known in the fashion industry. However, the Zhang family came after them and created obstacles at every turn, causing their company to collapse in the end.

As for Gao Ming, everything he tried to do failed because of Zhang Cheng's interference. The failures affected him a lot. He began to feel inferior and did not dare to invest in anything. This was something that had troubled him for a long time.

He had finally succeeded in something now! His company was the biggest in the small town! He had made a name for himself! However, what he hoped for the most was for Gao Lin to praise him.

"Your uncle is now holding the fort in Sky City. I'm already old and want to retire and live a quiet life. You've done very well. I have actually decided to move to this town," Gao Lin said.

"Really? That's great!" Gao Ming yelled out happily.

Now that Gao Ming's company was located in this small town, his focus would definitely be in the town in the foreseeable future. Gao Lin also wanted to spend more time with Qiao Mei and her family.

Xia Xing held Xia Fan's hand as the two of them slowly came down the stairs. Xia Xing stood in front of Gao Lin curiously and said, "Hello, old mister. My name is Xia Xing. Are you my mother's friend?"

Gao Lin looked at Xia Xing emotionally with tears in his eyes. Xia Xing really looked like his elder sister when she was young. Even the way she spoke was very similar. He felt as if he was looking at his elder sister again.

"I'm your mother's granduncle. I guess you should address me as great-grandpa," Gao Lin said gently.

"Great-grandpa... But I already have a great-grandpa at home," Xia Xing said as she looked at Qiao Mei.

Xia Xing was referring to Xia Jun. Qiao Mei picked Xia Xing up and explained, "He is your maternal great-granduncle. The correct form of address is very cumbersome. Why don't you just call him Great-grandpa Gao?"

"Alright! I have another great-grandpa now! That's great!" Xia Xing said as she clapped her hands happily.

Xia Fan blinked and clapped along with Xia Xing. Auntie Zhang went upstairs to carry Xia Yue down. It was time for the children to eat some solid food.

After Xia Fan and Xia Xing greeted everyone, they went to have their meal. Gao Lin stared for a long time even after the children had left and could not come back to his senses. He seemed to be able to see himself and Gao Tao when they were young. The two of them also used to go around hand-in-hand.

Gao Lin and Gao Ming were indeed from the same family. Within two days, Gao Lin had already bought a mansion in the town center. He also bought the house next door for Qiao Mei. It was very cold in the suburbs during winter, so it would be better for the children to live in the town center during that season.

Xia He looked at the map of the town in her hand and hesitated. She sighed and said, "Do you think I should buy the house next to yours? But we're leaving at the end of next year, so why would I need a house here? It will only be left vacant here!"

"You have bought so many houses in the capital and you won't be able to stay in all of them either, but didn't you still buy them? Besides, although we don't live here, we can still come for visits," Qiao Mei said..

Chapter 2002: Died in Prison

"That's true! The farm is still here! I've also invested in Gao Mings company! The property will also give me profits every year! I can't give up such a good chance to make money! I'll go and buy the house now!" Xia He said excitedly.

Xia He immediately bought the mansion next to Qiao Mei's mansion in the town center. This way, they would be neighbors no matter where they lived.

Time flew by and in the blink of an eye, Qiao Mei was about to graduate. During this year, Gao Ming had opened six subsidiary companies in other cities one after another. The Gao family's frozen dumplings

business was getting bigger and bigger and Gao Ming began to try making other types of frozen foodstuffs. Xia He also bought another three farms. All of them made a lot of money.

Xia Zhe was very busy with his business as well as his missions in Sky City.

Whenever he was free, he would come to the small town to spend a few days with Qiao Mei. The two of them still spent less time together than apart, but they did not find it a chore. After all, they could be together officially soon!

Auntie Wang and Auntie Zhang had already started to pack up for Qiao Mei and the others. They were going to bring the children back to the capital soon. The Xia family already knew about this and they had long made preparations for this day.

“Grandfather, do we want to go back and take a look too?” Gao Ming asked.

Gao Lin fell silent. Where could they go even if they went back? The Gao family’s house had long been sold off. If they went back now, they would not even have a place to stay. They did not even have any more relatives there.

However, he felt like going back to take a look at his hometown. More than anything, he wanted to visit Gao Tao’s grave and tell her about what had happened to the Gao family all these years.

“Since there’s nothing too urgent at the office, let’s go back and take a look,”

Gao Lin said.

“Alright! I’ll make the arrangements now!” Gao Ming said excitedly.

At night, Qiao Mei lay in bed and carefully studied the cufflink. She had not figured out the necklace’s ability yet, but she already found out about the ring.

It was similar to the energy she had and could help plants grow quickly.

However, the main difference was that this ring was able to store a large number of seeds. It was like a virtual storage space. Even if she wanted to secretly bring seeds back to her home country, it would not be discovered.

This cufflink was the most troublesome. It responded positively to Qiao Mei every day, but she was still unable to sever the connection between the cufflink and Zhang Cheng. It did not work even when she soaked it in highly concentrated 10,000-year-old ginseng juice like what she did with the luminous pearl she found at the back mountain behind the MO family's house.

Qiao Mei held up the cufflink and inspected it carefully. Suddenly, the cufflink started to heat up and then seemed to become dimmer after flashing a few times. Qiao Mei sat up in surprise and looked at the cufflink closely. She wondered why the cufflink had such a sudden reaction. At the same time, Qiao Mei realized that she seemed to be able to resonate better with it.

"Don't tell me that... something happened to Zhang Cheng?" Qiao Mei muttered to herself in shock.

That night, Qiao Mei fell asleep with all kinds of guesses in her mind. The next morning, she rushed downstairs to give Xia Zhe a call.

"Hey! Did something happen in Sky City!" Qiao Mei asked.

"How do you know? Zhang Cheng died in prison," Xia Zhe said.

She did not expect Zhang Cheng to really be dead... However, he was under strict supervision in prison. How could he have died? Before Qiao Mei could ask, Xia Zhe told her what had happened.

"I also thought that Zhang Cheng would not die in prison, but I didn't expect his enemy to deliberately commit a crime and go to jail with the goal of killing Zhang Cheng. Zhang Yao was also abused to death by those vagrants. The Zhang family's illegitimate children were all hunted down when they were on the run. There is no one left in the Zhang family," Xia Zhe said calmly.

The speaker volume was very loud and everyone in the living room could hear what Xia Zhe said. Gao Lin sat on the sofa and let out a long sigh. Zhang Cheng was finally dead and the many poor souls of the Gao family had finally been avenged.

Qiao Mei did not know how to comfort Gao Lin. He smiled faintly and said,

“Young girl, this is a good thing! We should celebrate!”

“That’s right! Let’s hold a big party tonight! We’ll ask all the neighbors to come! Consider it a send-off for us!” Qiao Mei said.

They served many dishes at the banquet and there were many types of cuisine,

Every family also brought their signature dishes and everyone had a good time singing and dancing..

Chapter 2003: Returning to the Capital

Once everything was ready, the family set off in an orderly manner and took a flight back to the capital. Along the way, the three children did not cry or make a fuss. They leaned against the window curiously and kept looking out. When they made the trip to Country M, they had slept all the way due to the time difference.

After disembarking, Qiao Mei saw the Xia family members standing in a neat row at the arrival gate. This time, even Xia You had come along to pick Qiao Mei up.

However, Qiao Mei also discovered an uninvited guest among the big group of people, Kong Lu was hiding in the crowd behind the Xia family members. Xia He only had eyes for Deng Fan and did not notice him at all.

Kong Lu did not seem to have any intention of coming forward to greet Xia He. Qiao Mei kept quiet and pretended not to see him. She would discuss countermeasures with Xia He when they had some time later.

“Mother and Mom! We’re back!” Qiao Mei ran over to Xu Lan and Li Gui and said sweetly.

The two older women had tears in their eyes. They had not seen Qiao Mei for two years. Xu Lan pretended to reprimand her and said, “You! When you left back then, you said that you would come back every summer and winter break. But look at you, you didn’t even come back even once in the past two years! You don’t know how much we miss you!”

Qiao Mei quickly wiped the tears off Xu Lan’s face and said, “I’m really too busy with work over there. I’m sorry~ Mother, don’t be angry with me.”

“What a rascal! How can I be angry with you!” Xu Lan said with a smile.

Xia Xing jumped down from Luo Yu’s arms. She skipped over to Xia Wen and shouted in a crisp voice, “Uncle, carry me!”

“Oh my~My little baby still remembers me” Xia Wen said happily. Back then, he liked Xia Xing the most and also doted on her the most. It looked like he did not dote on her for nothing.

“I remember. Uncle likes me the mostQ’ Xia Xing replied.

On the other hand, Xia Fan and Xia Yue appeared a little aloof, but it was not really their fault. These two brothers did not like to talk and were exactly like Xia Zhe. Xia Yue, in particular, was a boy of few words and would only make noise when he was hungry or needed to go to the bathroom.

Qiao Mei noticed the dejected expressions which Gao Lin and Gao Ming had on their faces. She quickly led the two men to Qiao Qiang and said, “Grandfather, this is Grandmother’s biological younger brother.”

“You’re Wen Ran’s relatives! I always thought that Wen Ran was alone in this world. Good, it’s good that you’re back. Our family can be considered to be reunited now,” Qiao Qiang lamented.

Gao Ming wanted to correct Qiao Qiang that the name of the person he was talking about was Gao Tao and not Wen Ran. Gao Lin quickly stopped Gao

Ming. This matter was complicated and they should not talk about it in public. It was better to wait until they got home before asking more.

The big group made their way to the parking lot in a grand manner. At first, Gao Lin and Gao Ming thought that Qiao Mei’s family was just a typical wealthy family who lived in the villa area in the capital. They were already mentally prepared for it.

However, as they passed by several sentry posts and finally stopped in front of the courtyard house, Gao Lin and Gao Ming were completely stunned. They did not expect Qiao Mei’s family to be this wealthy and powerful. For a moment, the two men were at a loss.

“Hey, you haven’t told me what’s going on with those two people. Why haven’t I heard you talk about them before?” Xia Wen stood beside Qiao Mei and asked curiously.

Many of Xia Zhe’s assets and goods had to be transported back with Xia Wen’s help, so Xia Wen was kept updated on part of what was happening overseas. He already knew that Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe had reunited in Country M, but they had an unspoken mutual understanding and did not talk about this.

“It’s scary stuff. Once I start, I can talk for a day and a night. However, I can tell you that they’re my relatives and they’re not imposters,” Qiao Mei said firmly.

Since Qiao Mei had already given Xia Wen a guarantee, he did not continue to ask questions.

“Where’s Sister-in-law? Why isn’t she here today?” Qiao Mei asked.



“She’s pregnant and is resting at home now. It hasn’t been three months and the pregnancy isn’t stable yet. Mother is too worried to let her come out and walk around, so she’s not here today. She has asked me to send her apologies,” Xia Wen explained.

“Really? She’s pregnant! That means my three naughty monkeys will have a playmate soon,” Qiao Mei said happily..

#### Chapter 2004: Followed From the Airport

“Those three children of yours are so sensible. In addition, they have inherited good looks and the smarts from the two of you. In the beginning, I’m still looking forward to seeing what the child will look like. Later on, I feel that it doesn’t matter since I will love the child anyway,” Xia Wen said with a smile.

Xia Wen did not have any children of his own despite being married for so many years in the past. Now that MO Zhu was pregnant, Wen Jing was furious. The rumors about Xia Wen being infertile had been proven untrue. Everyone was just waiting to see the Huang family make a fool of themselves!

Feng Hua and Xu Kang had already prepared a table full of dishes at home, all of which were the favorite dishes of Qiao Mei and Xia He. The two of them had also made many types of food for the young children. They had not seen all of them for two years and did not know if the children’s tastes had changed. It was always good to prepare more.

“Sister Feng! Sister Xu! I’m back!” Qiao Mei shouted happily as she stepped into the courtyard.

Feng Hua went forward excitedly and hugged Qiao Mei. “You’re finally back! I miss you so much! Xu Kang and I have made you a lot of clothes and shoes.

We’ve put aside a lot of things over the past two years!”

“Then I have to give them all a try later!” Qiao Mei said happily.

Xia Fan and Xia Xing ran to Feng Hua and Xu Kang and shouted in their childish voices, “Grandma Feng! Grandma Xu! I miss Do you miss me et

“Of course! How can I not! You’re the ones I miss the most!” Feng Hua said as she carried the children.

After not seeing one another for two years, they could see that the children had changed a lot, especially Xia Fan. He had grown taller and spoke more clearly than when he left. Xia Yue also looked different now.

Everyone gathered together and happily sat through a reunion meal. Gao Lin and Gao Ming settled down in Qiao Mei’s backyard while the rest went home. Qiao Mei asked Xia He to stay behind.

As soon as they entered the study, Xia He asked, “Why are you being so mysterious? What happened? Did Eldest Brother say something to you! Did Deng Fan cheat on me?”

“No! What are you thinking? Did you see a particular person at the airport today?” Qiao Mei asked.

“A particular person? No, I only had eyes for my husband. I don’t have time to look at anyone else. Besides, there’s no one else there who concerns me. Father and Mother brought so many bodyguards this time and I didn’t need to worry about our safety. so I wasn’t vigilant at all.” Xia He said honestly.

“I saw Kong Lu at the airport,” Qiao Mei said.

“Him? Maybe he has work there. It’s just a coincidence,” Xia He said nonchalantly.

“No, I’m sure he was there for you. He never took his eyes off you. He even followed us for quite a long way after we left the airport,” Qiao Mei said sternly.

By now, Xia He had realized the severity of the matter. She stopped being so unbothered and looked at Qiao Mei earnestly. “Why is he doing this? Can it be that he has been bribed to come and steal something from the Xia family?”

Qiao Mei held her forehead helplessly. This was the first time she felt that Xia He’s thoughts were a little wild and out of touch with reality. She said, “Can it be that he wants to get back with you? Maybe he still has feelings for you.”

“Too little too late. What’s there for him to think about? It’s not like I will get back together with him. My life now is so fulfilling. There’s no need for me to go down that path again,” Xia He said.

“I’m just worried that he may do something. Remember to explain this matter clearly to Deng Fan. There should not be any secrets between husband and wife,” Qiao Mei reminded her.

“Alright, I’ll take your advice. Deng Fan and I will think of a way to deal with this matter together. Don’t worry, rest early. We had flown for one whole day!” After saying that, Xia He went home with Deng Fan. Seeing that her siblings all had their own children, Xia He was feeling a little anxious.

Kong Lu returned to his house in the capital dejectedly. He was indeed here on official business this time. During the past few years, he had performed well in his job and was transferred back to the capital from the border post. His workplace unit had also allocated him a house. Old Madam Kong and Kong Li had also come to the capital to enjoy life.

He had thought that he would be able to see Xia He again. He did not expect to hear that Xia He had gotten married a long time ago and had even gone overseas to further her studies.

After Xia He left him, she became even more beautiful and attractive. She looked like a young girl in her early 20s and her dressing had become much more elegant and luxurious. When Deng Fan and Xia He stood together, they really looked like a perfect match..

#### Chapter 2005: You Can Get a Divorce Even if You Are Married

“Why do you look so dejected? Didn’t I ask you to go and look for Xia He today? How did it go?” Old Madam Kong asked unhappily.

“I didn’t get to see her,” Kong Lu replied softly. He only wanted to return to his room to have some peace and quiet and did not want to answer any of Old Madam Kongs questions.

“You didn’t get to see her? Why not! I made use of so many connections before finding out that Xia He is flying back today! Do you know how much money I spent! You useless thing! Now that you have missed this chance, you won’t get another one!” Old Madam Kong shouted agitatedly.

“She’s already married! What can I do!” Kong Lu said.

“So what if she’s married? Can’t she get a divorce even if she is married? She was so fond of you back then that she even left her family for you! As long as you admit your mistake in a proper manner, she will definitely come back to you!” Old Madam Kong said.

Kong Lu smiled mockingly and said, “Back when the two of us got a divorce, was it because of me or you?”

“How can you talk to me like that! I’m your mother! Wasn’t I just trying to teach her how to be a good wife back then? What did I do wrong! Can’t a mother-in-law teach her daughter-in-law a lesson? What kind of logic is this! You’re so disappointing! If not for you, Xia He wouldn’t have left!” Old Madam Kong said angrily.

Kong Lu did not reply. He also needed to take responsibility for what happened back then and could not just blame it all on his mother and younger sister. If he had not ignored everything that was going on and did not empathize with Xia He, why would the two of them get a divorce?

Ever since Old Madam Kong heard that Xia He had become a famous musical actress, she had been thinking about how to win Xia He back. However, it was not easy to get an appointment with Xia He. Old Madam Kong had come to the capital many times to look for her but to no avail.

The other Kong brothers were useless and incompetent and had already spent all of Kong Lu’s money. Now, their families did not even have enough money to buy food. They had to sell all the electrical appliances at home to pool together the money to repay Xia He then.

“At the end of the day, you’re just too proud! I’ll go and look for Xia He myself tomorrow! I don’t believe that I can’t get her to come back!” Old Madam Kong said stubbornly.

“Don’t cause trouble here. If the higher-ups hear about it, my superiors will remove me from my position,” Kong Lu said with a frown.

“It’s not a big deal even if you get fired. As long as you win Xia He’s heart, we won’t need to work anymore. Do you know how much assets Xia He has now?

Her annual income is close to a million dollars!”

“And she has foreign currency too! It’s just that Xia He can’t have children. Look, she’s been married for two years and doesn’t have any children, but it doesn’t matter. The two of you can adopt a child from your brothers! This is a small matter!” Old Madam Kong said with bright eyes.

Kong Lu knew that he could not dissuade Old Madam Kong. He returned to his room and locked the door, leaving Old Madam Kong alone in the living room talking to herself. When it came to the Xia family, he did not want to think about anything. He knew that he was no longer worthy of Xia He.

The next day, Kong Lu walked past Xia He’s house on his way to work. He had asked his colleagues to find out the Xia family members’ current addresses. He just wanted to steal a look at Xia He and did not expect any response from her.

The Xia family’s secret guard came into Xia He’s living room from the back door and whispered, “Miss Xia He, there’s a man sneaking around outside the door. He’s wearing the uniform of Unit 1783 and it looks like he’s from the military.”

Xia He immediately knew that the person outside was Kong Lu. She did not expect him to really come around.

“If he doesn’t take the initiative to come to the door, then don’t worry about it. Let him be,” Xia He said.

“Sure.” After saying that, the Xia family’s secret guard returned to his original position to keep an eye on the surroundings.

Kong Lu looked at the time. It was almost time for work. He looked at the door reluctantly for a long time before leaving. Deng Fan was well aware of this.

Before Qiao Mei left, she put the Xia family in touch with Yao Nian. If they wanted to know anything, they could ask Yao Nian to work on it. Qiao Mei would settle the payment with him once a month.

Deng Fan did not know much about Kong Lu, but he had full confidence in Xia He. He knew that Xia He was not the kind of woman who was fickle-minded. Since she had cut off all contact with Kong Lu, then she must have cut off all ties with him.

“Do you have time? I want to talk to you about some recent events,” Xia He said as she looked at Deng Fan.

Deng Fan pulled Xia He into his arms and said tenderly, “I know what you want to say. I don’t care about anything. I only care about you. You can do whatever you want. I’ll always support you..”

#### Chapter 2006: A Happy Life

“Really? I didn’t take the time to tell you about my past. It’s my fault. I’ve been looking for an opportunity to talk to you,” Xia He said as she looked at Deng Fan guiltily.

“You and I have our future ahead of us. Why do I need to know about your past? It’s not as if I need to go back in time with you? The person I like is you, the one who is here and the person you are now. Don’t think too much. Just do whatever makes you happy and I’ll take care of the rest,” Deng Fan said.

“Alright, it’s a deal. You can’t leave this world before me!” Xia He said with a smile.

“I promise you that I will accompany you until we grow old,” Deng Fan said blissfully.

At night, when Kong Lu got off work, he passed by Xia He's house again. This time, he stood in front of Xia He's house for a long time. Just as he was about to leave, he bumped into Xia He, who had just returned from having dinner at Qiao Mei's house.

The two of them just stood facing each other and neither one took the initiative to speak. Xia He shook her head and sighed resignedly before she said, "You need something?"

"No... I just... just passed by here after work," Kong Lu whispered.

"I know what you have been doing over the past few days. I think we should talk. From the looks of it, you probably haven't had your meal yet. Let's go to the small restaurant nearby to have a chat," Xia He said.

Kong Lu laughed self-deprecatingly. How could he have forgotten the Xia family's reach? He had actually thought that he would not attract any attention if he just came by to take a look for a few days. He was just fooling himself.

The owner of the small restaurant knew Qiao Mei and the rest of the family quite well and he immediately recognized Xia He. He came over to the table enthusiastically and said, "Oh my! You haven't been here for a long time! What would you like to eat today?"

"Give me one portion of steamed pork and cabbage buns, braised pork ribs and scrambled eggs with tomatoes," Xia He said.

"Alright! Give me a moment!" After saying that, the owner went into the kitchen to submit the order.

"I didn't expect you to still remember what I like to eat," Kong Lu said happily

as he looked at Xia He.

"I'm used to it after so many years. How have you been recently?" Xia He asked.

Kong Lu did not know how he was doing. He only knew that after Xia He left him, his life had become devoid of colors. Every day, his life was only about work and those trivial matters at home. He regretted paying back the debt he owed Xia He so quickly back then. He had completely lost contact with her since that day.

“I’ve been transferred back to the capital recently. Everything is going well,” Kong Lu said.

“I see. I’m doing well too. When I got married, we didn’t hold any ceremony and we just had dinner with our parents. That’s why you didn’t get an invite. I hope you don’t mind.” Xia He deliberately talked about her wedding.

“What is he like?” Kong Lu asked.

“He’s very nice. He cares for me a lot and pays a lot of attention to my feelings. He also gets along well with my family. His parents are also from scholarly families, so our families get along very well,” Xia He said.

These were the things which Kong Lu could not give Xia He back then, and also the reason why their marriage ended up a failure.

“It’s good that you’re doing well,” Kong Lu said with some difficulty.

He had thought that if Xia He was unhappy in her current situation, then he would try his best to ask her to return to his side. However, looking at Xia He now, it was as if she had become a completely different person. He was too embarrassed to even raise the topic.

“Yes, you too,” Xia He said.

Kong Lu was very quiet during the meal. The two of them sat opposite each other and did not talk. When Kong Lu was done with his meal, they said goodbye to each other and went back to their own homes.



Xia He walked home slowly. She tried to recall those things in the past, but she realized that all she could remember was how nice Deng Fan was to her and those happy moments she shared with Deng Fan. She could no longer remember much of those nasty things that happened in the Kong family back then.

Under the moonlight, Xia He spotted Deng Fan standing at the main door of the house, waiting for her to get home. She did not even realize that she had started running and she rushed into Deng Fan's arms. Deng Fan reached out and swooped her up in a bridal carry.

"Why are you acting like a child? What if you trip and fall?" Deng Fan asked as he looked at Xia He dotingly.

"You're here, aren't you? With you around, how will I get injured?" Xia He said.

"My goodness you. Come, let's go home!" With that, Deng Fan carried Xia He into the house..

#### Chapter 2007: Refuse to Meet

Kong Lu would still occasionally pass by Xia He's house to take a look on his way to or from work. However, he did not do anything except stare at the house. The road outside did not belong to the Xia family and did not have Xia He's name on it. So long as Kong Lu did not do anything drastic, Xia He just let him do whatever he wanted. As long as it did not affect Deng Fan, she could tolerate anything.

However, her blissful days did not last long. One day, Old Madam Kong and Kong Li tailed Kong Lu to find out where Xia He lived. The two of them thought that Kong Lu had been going to the military compound district to look for Xia He, but they did not expect him to take a very different route. Xia He had moved to a new house!

"Look at that! What a big house! I wonder how much she paid for it!" Kong Li said excitedly as she touched the outer wall of Xia He's house.

"I remember that Xia He's younger brother and sister-in-law also lived in a big house like this! It's big enough to accommodate our entire family!" Old Madam Kong said as she looked greedily at the main door.

It was all her fault for being so blind. She did not expect Xia He to be so capable. If she had known that Xia He was so rich, she would not have allowed Xia He and Kong Lu to get a divorce even if she had to be Xia He's slave for a period of time!

"Mom, how can we get in? My elder brother isn't around, so it's probably not nice for us to barge in," Kong Li said.

"Why are you exactly like that good-for-nothing brother of yours! What a useless thing! Your brother didn't bother to listen to me at all. He can't bring himself to beg Xia He to come back to him. I'll go and do what he doesn't dare to do!" Old Madam Kong rushed to the main door of Xia He's house without another word.

She threw herself onto the steps and shouted, "Oh my! Xia He is really heartless! I was her mother-in-law and she forgot about me so quickly! How can you do that to my son!"

When the neighbors heard the commotion, they opened their doors and windows to take a look. They did not want to miss out on any of the Xia family's dramas. Xia He was very annoyed by the noise Old Madam Kong was making outside. Luo Yu went into the living room and asked, "She's shouting so loudly outside. Do you want to let her in?"

"No!" Xia He said angrily.

Luo Yu went to the door and said to Old Madam Kong, "You should go. I won't let you in."

"There's no justice in this world! How can this woman be so vicious! You actually reject entry to your mother-in-law! Is this something a human can do?" Old Madam Kong shouted.

When Qiao Mei heard the news, she rushed over. She was also a little surprised to see Old Madam Kong kicking up a big fuss at the main door, but then again, this was definitely something that the old woman was capable of.

She ignored Old Madam Kong and wanted to sidestep her and enter the house to look for Xia He. Old Madam Kong immediately grabbed Qiao Mei's ankle and said, "You can't go in! Get Xia He to come and see me! Get her to come and see me!"

Qiao Mei gently broke free from Old Madam Kong's grip and Old Madam Kong fell backward and tumbled onto the road. Anyone would think that Qiao Mei had used a lot of strength to get away from the old woman!

"Murder! The Xia family wants to commit murder! You're trying to kill an old woman! Everyone, come and take a look! Please be the judge of this! The Xia family is the one who's unreasonable and yet they want to kill me!" Old Madam Kong said as she lay on the road.

Seeing this, Kong Li hurried over to Old Madam Kong's side and said, "I'm going to tell all the reporters! Petition to put your name on a poster! I'm going to tell them that you bully the common people!"

Xia He rolled up her sleeves and was about to rush out from the living room to argue with Old Madam Kong. Qiao Mei gave Xia He a look and indicated that Xia He should turn back. She turned around and looked at Old Madam Kong, saying, "Stop yelling and come in with me."

Old Madam Kong immediately got up and patted the dirt off herself. She and Kong Li followed closely behind Qiao Mei. As soon as they entered, they were stunned by the design of the house. They had never seen such a nice house before.

"Look at how grand this house is. Your second brother can take this room, your third brother can take that room, and I'll take this one! You can take that one!" Old Madam Kong grabbed Kong Li's hand and muttered excitedly.

"Sure!" Kong Li said.

Qiao Mei and Xia He sat in the master seats in the living room. The two of them looked impatiently at the two people standing in the middle of the living room. Old Madam Kong tried to take the opportunity to kneel on the ground as she said aggrievedly, "Xia He! It's all my fault! What happened between you and Kong Lu was all a misunderstanding. The biggest problem here is me. I caused the two of you to split up! I'm so sorry!"

Luo Yu reacted quickly and pulled Old Madam Kong up. Old Madam Kong had never intended to kneel for long. She just wanted to put on a show for Xia He..

#### Chapter 2008: Kneel Down to Plead for Mercy

“You’re an elder. If you kneel to us, you’ll take years off our lives. If you have something to say, you can say it while standing,” Qiao Mei said to Old Madam Kong.

Even if they did not allow Old Madam Kong to kneel, they had no reason to stop Kong Li. She was the same age as the two of them and they could not apply this logic to her. Old Madam Kong quickly gave Kong Li a look and Kong Li knelt down unwilling

Qiao Mei and Xia He were both a little shocked to see Kong Li do this. Back then, Kong Li had walked into Xia Fangs house so arrogantly and could not even accept the slightest inconveniences. If she was willing to kneel down right now, it meant that Old Madam Kong had indeed put her mind to get what she wanted this time round.

However, Kong Li was not doing this for anyone else! She was doing it for herself! She had already reached marriageable age. Recently, Old Madam Kong had been thinking about marrying her off and wanted to find her a man who could give the family a lot of betrothal gifts. It did not matter to Old Madam Kong the kind of job he had, what he looked like or even if he was an old man. Old Madam Kong would agree to the marriage so long as he could give them a lot of betrothal gifts.

Kong Li’s life had been smooth- sailing for a long time. After living such a comfortable life for so long, she did not want to suffer after marriage. She also wanted to be like Qiao Mei and marry into a wealthy family to become a rich wife!

As long as Xia He changed her mind and returned to their family, Xia He’s money would belong to them. If so, she would have an even better life than before! She would also be able to live in a house as big as Xia He’s house! For the sake of her future happiness, the sacrifices she made now were all worth it.

“Sister-in-law, it’s all my fault back then. Please forgive me!” Kong Li said through gritted teeth.

“These issues are in the past. Don’t mention the past anymore. I’m already married now and have my own life. I hope you won’t come and disturb me anymore,” Xia He said.

“You must have been forced into this marriage! I’m sure you still miss my Kong Lu! The two of you were so happy together back then! How can you let go of the relationship so easily? You must be lying!” Old Madam Kong said agitatedly.

Back then, Xia He had fallen head over heels for Kong Lu. The two of them spent all their time together and many people said that they were a match made in heaven. Back then, Xia He had also sworn in front of her family that she would not marry anyone other than Kong Lu. Whenever Xia He thought about this part of her past, she would feel extremely disgusted!

“Then is then and now is now. Don’t mix it all up. On account that we are acquaintances, I won’t hold it against you for coming to my house and disturbing my peace. However, if you do it again, I will call the police,” Xia He said sternly.

“If you don’t miss my son! Then why did you meet him two days ago? You even ordered his favorite dishes for him!” Old Madam Kong said indignantly.

Old Madam Kong took out a stack of letters from her pocket. No one was more familiar with these things than Xia He. These were the letters that Xia He had sent to Kong Lu when the two of them were dating. Those letters were full of sweet nothings.

“Look at these! These are the things you gave my son! Ever since you left, my son takes them out to read them every day. He really misses you! You don’t have any children with your current husband, right? As long as you get a divorce, my son will definitely be loyal to you and we also won’t cause any trouble for you!” Old Madam Kong said.

Qiao Mei did not say anything during this entire exchange. After all, this was Xia He’s personal issue. It was already a little weird and awkward for her to be sitting here now. However, she had to stay here and keep an eye on Xia He. She must ensure that Xia He did not get provoked by Old Madam Kong and prevent Xia He from doing anything rash.

Xia He shook her head helplessly. She did not know what was wrong with Old Madam Kong. Why was she refusing to let go of this issue?

Seeing that Xia He was indifferent to everything they said, Kong Li quickly bent down and kowtowed, knocking her head on the floor loudly. As she kowtowed, she shouted, "It's all my fault! Sister-in-law, it's all my fault! You can vent all your frustrations on me! So long as you're willing to divorce this man! And get back together with my brother! I'm willing to be your slave!"

"I'm just an ordinary person. I don't need anyone to be my slave. Just stay in your own lanes!" Xia He said in exasperation.

Qiao Mei suddenly heard the sound of a car coming down the street outside.

She was very sensitive to sounds and could immediately tell that it was her car. During the period when she went to study overseas, she had left the car with Xia Wen. She wondered why Xia Wen had chosen to come to Xia He's house at this hour..

Chapter 2009: Family Reunion

B?XN?VEL.C?M

Xia He hurriedly got up to help Kong Li up. She had forgotten that she had made arrangements to have a meal with Deng Fan's parents today. His parents already knew that Xia He had returned from overseas, but because she had a reunion session with the Xia family on the first day, they did not ask her to go home to visit them.

Ever since Xia He returned, she had been plagued by a lot of trivial matters.

Deng Fan and her were worried that Kong Lu would find his way to the Deng family's house, so Deng Fan had personally gone to fetch his parents to their house today.

Deng Fan would usually use one of the cars from Qiao Mei's factory. However, Chi Ze and the others needed the cars today and there was no spare car which Deng Fan could borrow, so Deng Fan had gone to ask Xia Wen for help.

Old Madam Kong realized that there must be important guests coming. She immediately lay down on the floor and refused to leave. Kong Li also hugged Xia He's thigh and refused to let go. The two of them wept as they tried to persuade Xia He to go back to their family. It was such a dramatic scene.

Jiang Shu held on to Deng Rui's arm and the two of them stood at the door for a long time without entering the house. Deng Fan quickly brought his parents to the study. Inside the study, there were a few calligraphy and paintings which he bought recently, as well as the gifts which Xia He bought for his parents from Country M. This was a good chance to show all these things to them.

"Can the two of you shut up! You're making me dizzy!" Qiao Mei said angrily to Old Madam Kong.

"Who do you think you are! I'm talking to Xia He! What right do you have to order me around!" Old Madam Kong shouted back loudly.

By now, Xia He could not take it anymore. These two could say anything about any of the Xia family members except for Qiao Mei. This was an unwritten rule in the Xia family. Qiao Mei was the person they cherished the most. None

of the family members could bear to say harsh words to her, so how could they let others insult her as they pleased?

"Luo Yu! Drag the two of them out! They're not welcome in my house!" Xia He stared at Old Madam Kong and continued, "If you continue to be so relentless, I'll call the police and get them to arrest you. Also, Kong Lu has a pending promotion coming up at work. You have to be more careful. Otherwise, your entire family will have to go back and do farming!"

The moment Old Madam Kong heard that Kong Lu might lose his job, she quickly stopped fooling around and left dejectedly with Kong Li. This promotion was a rare opportunity for Kong Lu. If he did well, he would have a bright future!

Even if Xia He did not get back with Kong Lu in the end, they could still suck his "blood". However, if he lost his job, the entire family would suffer.

After making sure that Old Madam Kong and Kong Li had left, Xia Wen sat down in the living room and said, "Do you need me to get someone to do something about Kong Lu's job?"

"Let's wait and see. I don't really want to force them into a corner. It's not easy for Kong Lu as well. I heard that he had really fought hard for the opportunity this time. If the mother-and-daughter duo still comes around to cause trouble again, then I will ask you to help me settle this matter," Xia He said with a sigh.

"Alright, I hear you," Xia Wen said in understanding.

Qiao Mei frowned and looked at Xia Wen as she asked, "Eldest Brother, you clearly know that someone is causing trouble in the house. Why did you still bring Deng Fan's parents in?"

As the saying went, one should not wash dirty linen in public. Given that Xia He had stayed in Country M for two years and left Deng Fan alone in the capital, her current parents-in-law were probably not very happy with her. Now that they witnessed her ex-mother-in-law coming to cause trouble, they probably had an even worse impression of Xia He.

"If Deng Fan's parents decide to make things difficult for Xia He just because of this, then she should really think about whether she should get out of this relationship," Xia Wen said.

"That makes sense," Qiao Mei said after some thought.

The three of them had a very brief chat before Xia Wen and Qiao Mei went back to their own homes. Qiao Mei asked Xu Kang to go to Xia He's place to help out with the dinner. Since it was a reunion dinner, there was probably more work involved.

Xia He wanted to find an opportunity to explain the situation today to Deng Fan's parents, but everyone in the Deng family seemed to have an unspoken mutual understanding not to mention the incident at all. They told Xia He that they really liked the gifts she brought back from Country M.

Jiang Shu took Xia He's hands and stroked them as she said, "Xiao He, look at your hands. They're a little rough. Did you have it tough in Country M?"



Xia He had to keep an eye on the farm every day. Sometimes, when it got too busy, she would also help to prepare the feed for the livestock. Occasionally, she would get scratched in the process, but it did not really bother her.

"I'm fine. Everything is fine over there. I even learned a lot of new things!" Xia He said with a smile.

"That's good. Your father and I are so worried that you won't be able to eat or sleep well over there. Your father even bought a lot of books about Country M to brush up on his knowledge so that he can ask Deng Fan to pass useful advice to you," Jiang Shu said..

## Chapter 2010: A Quarrel Between Neighbors

B?XN?VEL.C?M

Xia He had thought that Deng Fan's parents would be unhappy with her over what she did in the past two years. She did not expect that their only concern was for her well-being. Xia He immediately grabbed Jiang Shu's hands and said, "Thank you, Mother and Father. Now that I'm back, I don't intend to go back there for extended periods again. The business there is already on track. When the weather is warmer, I'll bring you there for a holiday."

"Sure! I want to see the scenery over there too," Jiang Shu said.

The Deng family had a happy reunion meal, but it was not so harmonious at the Kong family's house. After Old Madam Kong reached home, she started to smash everything she could get her hands on. She even wished she could tear down the entire house!

How dare Xia He get someone to chase her out! This was so humiliating! She was the mother-in-law but she had been bullied by her daughter-in-law. If news of this got back to the village, how could she still face anyone! How could she still hold her head up high in the future?

No! She must go and smooth things over with Xia He tomorrow. She must bring Kong Lu along so that they could talk about everything clearly. Perhaps Xia He would agree to divorce her husband on account of Kong Lu!

She made so much noise that one of her neighbors came over and shouted, "What are you doing in the middle of the night! Are you trying to demolish the house! How can we sleep with this racket going on!"

"Why do you care what I do in my house? Get lost! Stop being an eyesore

here!" Old Madam Kong roared.

"Hey! How can your family be so unreasonable! There's a baby who's only a few months old in our house! The baby is crying at home now because of you! If anything should happen to the kid! You lowly b\*tch, can you afford to compensate me for it?" the neighbor said angrily.

"I'm still wondering which dog is making so much noise in the corridor. So it's you! Who are you calling a lowly b\*tch? See if I don't rip out your tongue!" Old Madam Kong rushed to the door and started fighting with the neighbor. Kong Li pretended not to see anything and slowly walked into her room and switched on the radio.

This neighbor's name was Sun Fei and she lived in the unit below Old Madam Kong's house. Ever since Old Madam Kong moved in, there had not been a day of peace and quiet in their house. This was an old building and it was inevitable that the soundproofing was not too good. Everyone here tried their best to be mindful of making noise at home so that they did not disturb others.

When Kong Lu came home, he saw many neighbors standing in the corridor watching the commotion at his house. He hurriedly went forward to pull Old Madam Kong away from the neighbor and said, "What exactly is going on? Why are you hitting my mother?"

"So this is the good son! You're finally back! This is a military compound! The way your mother struts around every day, anyone who doesn't know better would think that you are in a high position! Exactly how high is your rank! Even my husband isn't as flashy as you!" the neighbor said.

Sun Fei's husband was the highest-ranked personnel in this entire block and also the longest-serving one. Sun Fei was an easy-going person and her husband was also a down-to-earth and hardworking man. The two of them always did their best to help anyone who was in trouble, so their family was quite well-liked by the others.

Sun Fei's daughter-in-law had given birth recently and moved in with them some time ago. Everyone living in the same block had sent them congratulatory gifts, except Kong Lu's family. Sun Fei had taken this affront to heart.

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry. It's our fault. I apologize to you on behalf of my mother! I'm really sorry," Kong Lu said apologetically.

"Why are you apologizing! I didn't do anything wrong! She scolded me first! She came over to our house to insult me! I'm the victim here! I'm going to call the police!" Old Madam Kong shouted agitatedly.

"Call the police if you want! Do you think I'm afraid of you?" Sun Fei said.

"Sister! Let's not call the police! I'll talk to my mother now. Don't worry, this won't happen again!" Kong Lu promised.

"Alright! I'll believe you this time. If you scare the baby in my house with such loud noises again, I won't let you off!" After saying that, Sun Fei returned to her own house. When the other neighbors saw that the matter had been resolved, they all went home too.

Kong Lu pushed Old Madam Kong into the house wearily and slammed the door shut. He knew that it was definitely Old Madam Kong's fault. It was very clear to him from all the mess on the floor, but he could not do anything to control Old Madam Kong and could only let her be..