

## **Fat Wife 2071**

### Chapter 2071: Flat Tire

“Hey Don’t you think those people look like kidnappers?” muttered the front desk staff while standing next to the service staff.

“It has nothing to do with us! Don’t look! If those people come to seek revenge, we’ll be in trouble!” the service staff looked down and whispered back.

They were only here to work. It was not worth it if they offended these gangsters at the workplace or if they lost their lives in this place. They all cherished their lives more than anything.

The scar-faced man’s underling parked a van at the entrance of the hotel. Qiao Mei took two steps back and said, “I’m not sitting in the back.”

“If you don’t sit in the back, then where do you want to sit? Do you want to be the driver instead?” the scar-faced man teased.

“I want to sit in the front passenger seat!” Qiao Mei said stubbornly.

They were currently in the city center of Hu City. It would take them at least two to three hours to drive to the suburbs. If Qiao Mei had to sit with this bunch of disgusting men for such a long time, she probably would not be able to resist getting rid of all of them halfway through the drive.

“Who’s the kidnapper here? Am I supposed to listen to the hostage? Then all my years of being a gangster would have been for nothing!” the scar-faced man said angrily.

“If you don’t let me sit in the front passenger seat, I’m going to call for help!” Qiao Mei threatened.

The scar-faced man quickly scanned the surroundings to see if there was anyone else around. Although there were usually very few guests in the high-class hotel, the hotel had security officers. The reason why they were able to escape was because Qiao Mei did not expose them for who they were.

One underling approached the scar-faced man and whispered, "Boss, let's just let her sit in the front passenger seat first. After we leave the city, we can deal with her however we want. There are too many people around now, so let's leave quickly."

"Alright! You can sit in the front passenger seat!" the scar-faced man said unwillingly.

After being a gangster for so many years, this was the first time he had been ordered around by a little girl. He would remember this debt. Once they left the city, he would definitely teach Qiao Mei a lesson!

When no one was paying attention to Qiao Mei, she took the chance to throw a handful of vine seeds to the ground. The seeds seemed to take on a life of their own and they clung tightly to the tires of the van.

After everyone got into the van, the scar-faced man tied Qiao Mei's hands together tightly and took the seat behind her. It was peak hour now and the roads in Hu City were not well-planned, so they remained stuck in a jam in the city.

"Why is it so congested today! What kind of lousy driver are you!" the scar-faced man shouted unhappily at the underling who was driving.

"I'm sorry, Boss! I don't know why this is happening either! We'll be able to leave the city soon! Give me another chance!" the underling said fearfully.

"Drive faster! If you still get stuck in a jam, I'll chop off your head and kick it like a ball!" the scar-faced man said.

Qiao Mei smiled very faintly. She did not expect this group of kidnapers to be so entertaining. Since they were so rowdy, it would be interesting to have an "accident"!

Qiao Mei used her hand to touch the metal plate on the car seat and slowly directed her energy towards the tires. A few vine seeds sprouted quickly and pierced into the tires like they were nails. The two tires on the right side of the car burst and in the next second, the vines turned to ashes and dissipated with the wind.

Fortunately, the underling's driving skills were quite good. The moment the tires burst, he reacted immediately and stopped the car by the roadside. However, the loud sound also attracted the attention of passersby.

The scar-faced man looked at the underling and shouted, "What's wrong now!"

The underling immediately got out of the car to check on the situation. He trembled as he looked through the car window and said to the scar-faced man, "Boss Boss, I don't know what's going on either. The tires have burst. I really don't know why! I was driving properly but for some reason, the tires had exploded! Boss, I really didn't do it on purpose!"

"Useless thing!" the scar-faced man said angrily.

They had stolen this van and it did not come with any spare tire. Even if there were, who would carry around two spare tires?

"You! Go and think of a solution!" said the scar-faced man as he pointed at another underling.

When everyone saw who he pointed at, all of them heaved a sigh of relief. This guy was the best lock picker among them and was known as the "King of Locks". He could find a way to open any lock in the world.

Qiao Mei looked at this group of people helplessly. She really could not imagine how such a group of misfits could manage to abduct Gao Lin.

Chapter 2072: Coffee

Not long after, the underling who was good with locks came back with a jeep. The jeep could not accommodate so many of them, so the scar-faced man decided to take along only a few of them first. The rest could think of a way to catch up with them.

“Let’s go! Get out of the car!” the scar-faced man said as he looked at Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei looked at her wrists and said, “You want me to get out of the car like this? If other people see me, make a guess if they will call the police?”

“You’d better not play any tricks!” the scar-faced man said through clenched teeth.

“Don’t worry, my granduncle is still in your hands. I dare not do anything,” Qiao Mei said.

The scar-faced man considered it for a moment and then untied the rope from Qiao Mei’s hands. Qiao Mei opened the passenger door and got out of the car, but she was in no hurry to get into the jeep. Instead, she stood still and did some stretches while admiring the surrounding scenery.

“Come over here! What are you waiting for!” the scar-faced man said in a low voice.

More and more people were starting to gather around. All they saw was a group of burly men surrounding a beautiful woman and the woman did not look happy. Anyone would be suspicious of such a group.

“I’m thirsty! I usually drink coffee at this time! Go to that shop and buy me a cup of coffee!” Qiao Mei said as she pointed at the coffee shop not far away.

“You still want coffee! There’s water in the car! You can just drink water!” the scar-faced man said impatiently.

“I want coffee! I won’t leave if I don’t get my coffee! Go and buy coffee for me!” Qiao Mei shouted stubbornly.

The crowd around them dispersed after a while. It was just a spoiled woman throwing a tantrum and there was nothing interesting about that. Qiao Mei's voice gradually became louder and almost resounded throughout the entire street.

"I want coffee! Coffee! I won't leave if I don't get my coffee!" Qiao Mei shouted.

In any case, she did not shout for help or ask the crowd for assistance. The scar-faced man could not do anything to her and could only do as she asked.

The scar-faced man held his head and said resignedly, "Get someone to buy it for her! Why are you still standing here!"

After all, he had plundered so much money from Qiao Mei. He could well afford to buy her a cup of coffee. After they bought the coffee and passed the cup to her, she took one sniff and threw it on the ground without taking a sip.

"What kind of lousy coffee is this! Are you trying to trick me! What I want is hand-ground coffee! This is clearly made with inferior coffee grounds! It definitely won't taste good!" Qiao Mei said.

"Are you done yet! We buy you the coffee you want, but you refuse to drink it! What else do you want!" the scar-faced man said, unable to take it anymore.

If not for the fact that there were too many people around, the scar-faced man would have rushed forward and beaten Qiao Mei up. No one had ever dared to order him around like this in his life!

Qiao Mei pursed her lips and quickly ran to the front passenger seat of the jeep. Before she got in, she quietly scattered many vine seeds on the ground again.

This time round, the scar-faced man drove the jeep himself. He sped along the road in the suburbs but halfway through the journey, there was another loud bang. The tires had exploded again. They were very unlucky. The jeep steered into the nearby crop fields and could not be reversed out at all.

“Damn it! Why am I so unlucky!” the scar-faced man said angrily.

“Boss what should we do now?” an underling in the back seat asked fearfully.

“What can we do! Let’s walk!” the scar-faced man said.

“If you want to walk, you can do it yourself! I’m not going! How can you walk such a long distance!” Qiao Mei said agitatedly.

The scar-faced man narrowed his eyes and stared at Qiao Mei as he questioned her, “Tell me! Do you have anything to do with the flat tires! Why did the tires explode one after another after we met you!”

“How would I know! You’re the ones who are so unlucky! Why are you blaming me for everything!” Qiao Mei said.

“Hmph, this has better be the case. If I find out that you’re the one playing tricks! I’ll kill you now!” the scar-faced man threatened.

“You guys already tied me up.

Chapter 2073: Clues

Luo Yu then went to the Gao family’s ancestral home to check with the renovation workers. One of the workers said that he had seen Gao Lin. It seemed that someone had asked Gao Lin out to discuss some business, apparently about selling a house nearby to him. Recently, many people came to look for Gao Lin to talk about selling their houses. These workers were already used to it, so it did not occur to them that it would be the last time they saw him.

Yao Nian also gathered all the information very quickly at his end. Luo Yu returned to the hotel with a pile of documents but he could not find any trace of Qiao Mei even after searching the whole place. Then, he saw a cleaner in Gao Lin's room.

"Auntie, how did you get in?" Luo Yu asked curiously.

The cleaners would come round every day, but they could only enter the rooms if the guests agreed. Otherwise, the cleaners had no right to open the door and enter the room without permission.

"When I came, the door was wide open and the room was in a mess. I checked with the front desk and was told to come in and clean up. Our hotel has a rule that we can only skip cleaning a room for three days at most. It is already the fourth day for this room. If the boss finds out, my salary will be deducted. I hope you can understand," the cleaner said.

"What did you say? The room was in a mess?" Luo Yu asked nervously.

"That's right. There were clothes all over the ground and it was really very messy. Anyone who doesn't know better will think that there's been a thief! The guest in this room, Mr. Gao, is a very easy-going person. We're all familiar with him, which is why I dare to come in and clean up," the cleaner explained.

Before the cleaner finished speaking, Luo Yu had already run downstairs. When he turned the corner at the stairway, he suddenly stopped. Under the sunlight, he could see something shiny on the floor. There were also broken fragments from a jade bangle embedded in the crack in the floor.

Luo Yu knew very well that this was Qiao Mei's bangle. Recently, Qiao Mei had been wearing a bangle of this color. She would have to use a lot of strength to embed the fragments into the floor, which was enough to tell him that the situation was very critical at that time.

"Front desk! Have you seen Madam Qiao Mei from room V403!" Luo Yu asked in a panic.

The front desk staff stammered and did not dare to speak. Luo Yu immediately grabbed the staff member's hand and questioned, "Speak up! Did you see her! Do you know where she went!"

“Let go now! Otherwise, I’m going to call the police!” The service staff rushed over to the front desk staff and yelled at Luo Yu.

Luo Yu realized that he had lost his composure. He quickly let go of the front desk staff’s hand and said, “I’m sorry, I’m really feeling too anxious. Please tell me, have you seen her?”

The service staff and the front desk staff did not speak and only nodded subtly. Luo Yu knew that they were afraid of retaliation, so he did not continue asking. He quickly picked up the phone at the front desk and called Xia Wen.

“Hello? Who is this?” Xia Wen asked.

“Big Brother! Bad news! Qiao Mei has been kidnapped!” Luo Yu shouted agitatedly.

Xia Wen almost fainted. He quickly made a call to the criminal police department in Hu City and asked them to send out a team immediately to search for Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei was the third daughter-in-law of the Xia family’s eldest son. Xia Zhe was now at the peak of his career and might even eventually surpass Xia Jun’s achievements. Now that Xia Zhe’s wife had been kidnapped, there was every reason to mobilize the police force. At the same time, Xia Wen immediately set off for Hu City to help with the search.

Xia Wen had a phone call with Xia Zhe some time ago. The diplomatic relationship between their country and Country M was quite good and the citizens of both countries were traveling quite often between the two countries. Xia Zhe’s business in Country M was so successful that it was getting a little too eye-catching. If Xia Zhe bumped into someone he knew from his real life, he would be caught in a very dangerous situation. After Xia Mao had a serious discussion with the superiors, they decided to transfer Xia Zhe back.

The business there would be handed over to Gao Ming. Xia Zhe’s business mainly dealt with financial investment and returns. It was not a very difficult business to understand. Gao Ming studied finance and management in university and should be able to take over after getting some hands-on experience over the next month or two.



“Xia Zhe, I need to tell you something ” Xia Wen said after taking a deep breath.

“What is it?” Xia Zhe asked.

“Qiao Mei she has gone missing in Hu City ” Xia Wen said.

After a long silence, Xia Zhe said, “Who’s with her in Hu City? Does anyone have any more information?”

“There’s only Luo Yu with her there. I’ve already sent people to investigate. Yao Nian is also doing his best to search for clues about where Qiao Mei has gone. You you should hurry back,” Xia Wen said.

“I’ll go straight to Hu City now.” Xia Zhe hung up after saying that.

Chapter 2074: I Want Food

The Xia family was soon alerted about the news of Xia Wen mobilizing another city’s criminal police department to rescue Qiao Mei. When Xia Mao and Xia Jun learned that Qiao Mei had been kidnapped, Xia Jun immediately gave Xia Wen a call.

“What’s going on? Isn’t Qiao Mei doing fine in Shen City? Why did she go missing in Hu City!” Xia Jun said.

“Grandfather, I’ll explain this to you when I get back. I’m going to Hu City to help in the search for Qiao Mei now,” Xia Wen said anxiously.

“Go ahead. You must bring Qiao Mei back safely. If the kidnappers want money, just give it to them. We must keep them calm. Don’t let them hurt Qiao Mei! Qiao Mei’s safety must be our top priority!” Xia Jun instructed.

“Yes, I understand.” Xia Wen hung up the phone after saying that. There were many people rushing to Hu City at the same time. Luo Yu was already working very closely with the police in Hu City.

Qiao Mei, the scar-faced man and his guys kept walking along the main road. Along the way, Qiao Mei used the vines to leave markings behind. She believed that Luo Yu would definitely come with a team to rescue her. The group had walked for less than half an hour when Qiao Mei stopped and shouted, “I’m tired! I can’t walk anymore! Go and get a car!”

“Where can I find a car in the wilderness?” the scar-faced man said angrily.

“I don’t care! I need a ride! Think of a way to find a car! Do you want me to die of fatigue?” Qiao Mei said.

The scar-faced man looked at the underling behind him and said, “You! Carry her on your back!”

“No way! I don’t want to be carried! I need a ride! If you can’t find a car, I won’t leave this place!” Qiao Mei said angrily.

At this moment, they could see a big bus coming down the road from a distance. This was the only means of transportation on this road. Qiao Mei immediately pointed at the bus and said to the scar-faced man, “I want to get on that bus! It should be able to get us to where we’re going!”

The underlings took a look at the scar-faced man and went ahead to stop the bus. After that, the whole group boarded the bus in a rowdy manner, making the driver and the passengers so scared that they did not dare to move an inch.

“Drive off now! You’re not allowed to stop until I say so!” the scar-faced man shouted as he pointed a stick at the driver.

The driver drove shakily. The other passengers lowered their heads and did not dare to look at the scar-faced man. They had heard about carjackers being active in this area, but they thought these were just stories made up by the old folks. Those tales did not sound very credible at all. They certainly did not expect to bump into carjackers today!

Since the group of men had already boarded the bus, they did not want to leave empty-handed. The scar-faced man patted his underling's shoulder and said, "Go! Take all their money."

All the passengers were so scared that they handed over all their valuables in order to stay safe. Only one old man refused to hand over his bag. The underling pointed at the old man and said, "Hey! Hand over all your valuables! Don't force me to beat you up!"

"I I don't have any valuables!" the old man said fearfully.

"If you don't have any valuables, then why are you hugging your bag so tightly? Hand it over now!" the underling said.

The old man grabbed his bag tightly and said, "There's really nothing inside! It's just some clothes! And food!"

"Hey! I'm hungry and I need food! Give me the food!" Qiao Mei shouted at the old man.

"What nonsense are you spouting! You're always either thirsty or hungry along the way! Why are you so troublesome!" the scar-faced man said unhappily.

"Even if you're riding a donkey, you also need to feed it! I'm a human being! Why can't I eat and drink! If you starve me to death, you won't be able to get a single cent!" Qiao Mei said overbearingly.

"Fine! Quick! Hand over the food!" the scar-faced man said impatiently.

The old man seemed to have seen his lifesaver. He immediately took out two pancakes from his bag and looked at Qiao Mei gratefully. Qiao Mei smiled and nodded to him.

"Do you want some?" Qiao Mei asked the scar-faced man as she started to eat a pancake.

"No!" the scar-faced man said in a fit of pique.

“Remember what you say! You say you don’t want any, it’s not that I haven’t set aside any for you!” After saying that, Qiao Mei started eating the pancakes with great enjoyment, making the scar-faced man and his underlings feel very hungry. Anyone looking on would think that the pancakes in Qiao Mei’s hands must be very delicious!

However, one needed to have a sense of pride. The scar-faced man had already rejected Qiao Mei’s offer just now. It would be a slap on his own face if he asked the passengers in the bus for food now.

What else can I do! What tricks can I have!” Qiao Mei said.

The scar-faced man forcefully pulled Qiao Mei out from the front passenger seat and the group walked slowly along the suburban road. They were still four kilometers away from the abandoned warehouse and would definitely be able to reach it in an hour.

Luo Yu went to many places which Gao Lin had visited over the past few days. All the people at those places said that they had not seen Gao Lin for the past two days. Even the remaining Gao family’s relatives living in Hu City did not know where Gao Lin had gone.

## Chapter 2075: Two Groups

Soon, they arrived near the abandoned warehouse. The scar-faced man got down from the bus with Qiao Mei. The group walked for a long time, going deep into the forest and finally arrived at the place where Gao Lin was being held.

The scar-faced man asked his underling to open the door to the warehouse. The metal door was very fragile and seemed like it could be shattered with a light touch. After the door was opened, it was still very dark inside since the whole place was very poorly lit. Qiao Mei immediately saw Gao Lin tied up in the corner. She raised her voice and shouted, “Granduncle! Granduncle, how are you!”

Gao Lin had been left here the entire time. During this period of time, the kidnapers had only given him some water but no food. Fortunately, Gao Lin was quite fit and he could still hang on. Any other old man might have died by now.

The scar-faced man did not care about what Qiao Mei did. After all, there were so many of them. How could a woman be able to fight all of them?

Qiao Mei sprinted towards Gao Lin. His face was very pale and his breathing was very shallow, as if he was going to die in the next second. Qiao Mei took advantage of the fact that no one was paying any attention to her and tore open the hidden pocket in her sleeve. A small pill fell out and she quickly stuffed it into Gao Lin's mouth.

In less than a minute, Gao Lin's face looked more rosy. He opened his eyes groggily and said, "Qiao Mei? Why are you here? Leave now! Leave me here! Go now!"

"Granduncle, don't worry. These people won't hurt us. They're just after the money," Qiao Mei said.

"Enough! Stop playing catch-up!" the scar-faced man said disdainfully.

"You're really too much! How can you treat my granduncle this way! Don't tell me you can't even afford some food? This is abuse! If anything should happen to my granduncle! All of you will have to pay the price!" Qiao Mei shouted furiously.

The scar-faced man shrugged indifferently and said, "Why are you so anxious? Whatever happened to your granduncle here has nothing to do with me. My task is only to kidnap you and bring you here."

Qiao Mei looked at the scar-faced man in shock. Could it be that there were two groups of people involved? However, why would they do this?

The door on Qiao Mei's right side opened slowly and three men walked in. One of the men was tall and muscular and he reminded her of a bear as he stood in front of her.

"Brother Bin, my task is done. When are you going to pay us?" the scar-faced man asked with a smile.

"Here." Brother Bin took out a stack of money from his pocket and casually counted out a few notes before throwing them on the ground.

“Brother Bin, what do you mean by this?” the scar-faced man asked with an unhappy expression.

Brother Bin smiled mockingly and said, “You take so long to kidnap a woman. You’re only worth this amount! Giving you 500 dollars is already too much!”

“Damn it, how dare you treat me like a fool!” the scar-faced man roared at Brother Bin.

“Hahaha, so what if I’m toying with you? Don’t tell me you want to take me down? Don’t forget who helped you to get to your position today! How are you going to fight with me?” Brother Bin said.

The scar-faced man took a deep breath and looked at Brother Bin calmly as he said, “I’ll say it again. Give me 50,000 dollars, not a single cent less. Otherwise, don’t blame me for being rude!”

“Come on! I want to see how you want to be rude to us! Lao Mo!” Brother Bin shouted with a smile.

The tall and burly man took out a gun from his pocket and pointed it at the scar-faced man. There was no expression on his face, as if killing someone was something he did quite often.

“Brother Bin, since you don’t intend to keep your side of the bargain, I’m going to take this woman with me! Either I get the money or the hostage,” the scar-faced man said as he pointed at Qiao Mei.

“She’s already in my territory. Do you think I’ll let you take her away? Don’t you know your own capability? You still want to bargain with me now! Do you think you’re buying vegetables in the market! Get lost now! Don’t let me see you again! Otherwise, this date next year will be the day of your death anniversary,” Brother Bin said.

The scar-faced man hesitated. Although he loved money, he cherished his life more. It was really not worth it to lose his life here.

“I’ll give you 300,000 dollars! If you save the two of us! I’ll give you 300,000 dollars!” Qiao Mei shouted.

“300,000 dollars! Do you think I’m a beggar! Your ransom is five million dollars! And you only want to give me 300,000 dollars!” the scar-faced man said.

Chapter 2076: Wait for an Opportunity

“500,000 dollars max!” Qiao Mei said.

“One million dollars or no go!” the scar-faced man said loudly.

“Fine! One million then!” Qiao Mei said through gritted teeth.

Brother Bin suddenly started laughing loudly. He looked at Qiao Mei and said with a smile, “Although one million dollars can save you, this bit of money can’t buy our lives.”

“The three of us are on the wanted list and the bounty on our heads adds up to 10 million dollars. You should ask for more, otherwise it’s quite meaningless,” said the man who had been standing beside Brother Bin.

“Ah Kun, don’t say that. They’re not even worth 500 dollars! Don’t hurt their fragile egos,” Brother Bin said mockingly.

The scar-faced man yelled a command and his underlings charged forward fearlessly from behind him. Lao Mo shot one of the underlings in the leg twice and all of them stopped in their paths.

Brother Bin slowly took out a gun from his back pocket and pointed it at the scar-faced man. “You can think about it while I count to three. Either you and your guys get lost immediately or you become target practice for us. We can have some fun here.”

The scar-faced man went forward and carried his wounded underling on his back. The group of men left the abandoned warehouse without looking back. Qiao Mei shook her head resignedly. Fists were never a match for guns.

“Brother Bin, it’s not a good idea for us to let them off. What if they go to the police?” Ah Kun asked.

“Do you think they have the guts to do that? If they really go to the police, they’ll get my respect!” Brother Bin said.

After leaving the warehouse, the scar-faced man and his team did not go far. They hid nearby and quietly observed the situation in the warehouse. The few underlings who did not get into the jeep earlier had also arrived. A few of them brought the injured man to get treatment, while the rest stayed behind and waited for an opportunity to surface.

The ransom of five million dollars was still on the way and they wanted to find a chance to steal the money. Pride was not as important as money. So long as this matter had not ended, it was still uncertain who would eventually end up with the money!

After getting rid of the scar-faced man, it was time to deal with Qiao Mei and Gao Lin. Brother Bin and the other two men sized up Qiao Mei. They had been in this line of work for so many years and had seen all kinds of people, but a beautiful woman like Qiao Mei was really rare to come by. It was no wonder that their boss was so obsessed with her.

“Let her go. As long as you let her go, you can do whatever you want to me! You can get as much money as you want!” Gao Lin said as he shielded Qiao Mei behind him.

“Why will we want the life of an old man like you? It’s better to get the beauty! At least the three of us can have a good time!” Ah Kun said disdainfully.

“Well, it’s not impossible if you can give us 10 million dollars,” Brother Bin said expectantly.

“No problem!” Qiao Mei said definitively.



Brother Bin looked at Qiao Mei in shock. He knew that Qiao Mei and Gao Lin were very rich, but he did not know that they were able to fork out so much money at once.

“Then go and get the money,” Brother Bin said.

“How am I supposed to pass so much money to you?” Qiao Mei said.

“You’re a big boss, don’t you have a secretary? Even if you don’t have a secretary, you must have a helper. Ask them to send the money over,” Brother Bin said.

“At this hour, the bank is already closed. Moreover, it will take three days to withdraw such a large sum of money,” Qiao Mei said.

Suddenly, there was a burst of laughter outside the door. Qiao Mei immediately recognized the owner of the voice. She looked towards the door and said, “Long time no see, Huang Quan.”

“I certainly don’t expect the famous Boss Qiao to still remember me. What a pleasant surprise,” Huang Quan said through gritted teeth.

No wonder these people kept asking her for five million dollars. The goods which Huang Quan lost and all the losses incurred by the factory added up to nearly five million dollars. Huang Quan was actually hoping to recover this amount of money from Qiao Mei.

“How have you been recently?” Qiao Mei asked with a smile.

“You still have the cheek to ask me this question! It’s all thanks to you that my life is a mess! I owe so many debts because of you! You must pay the price for this!” Huang Quan said.

The Huang family had gone bankrupt. He had gone to ask He Ning for help, but when He Ning heard that it was Qiao Mei who did all this, He Ning immediately sided with Qiao Mei.

He Ning did not want to be on the opposing side of Qiao Mei again. Besides, the Huang family was one of the sacrifices he had already intended to make in his game of tug-of-war with Qiao Mei, so there was no need to save them.

In Lian City, the Huang family's reputation had suffered a great blow. They could no longer afford to send the second and third sons to school. In addition, their relatives came to block their main door every day to stop them from leaving the house.

Huang Quan had no other choice. The Huang family's relatives had given them an ultimatum. If they did not pay back all the money by the end of this month, their relatives would go to the police station to demand that Huang Quan be arrested for fraud. The sum of money involved was so huge that Huang Quan might even get the death penalty if found guilty!

Tan Jing was the one who came up with the idea for him to kidnap Qiao Mei! This plan would allow him to get both Qiao Mei and the money at the same time, killing two birds with one stone! Tan Jing had at least proven her worth to him at the end.

Qiao Mei did not panic but felt very much at ease instead. This was because she could sense that Xia Zhe was nearby, probably about 60 kilometers away. He was already on his way to her.

Xia Zhe remembered what Qiao Mei said to him and had kept the seed well hidden on his body. Qiao Mei could not sense the seed if it was very far away from her. Even if they were both in the same country, so long as Qiao Mei did not search for the seed, it would not take the initiative to send a signal to her.

However, when the distance between them fell below 200 kilometers, the seed would start to search for its owner and Qiao Mei would be able to automatically detect its location.

The moment Xia Zhe got off the plane, he started searching for Qiao Mei. As he drove around the city, he saw the damaged van. He could tell that the van had been in an accident and he did not dare to go forward and look inside. He was afraid that he would see blood and be informed that Qiao Mei had died.

The police at the scene told him that they had already done an investigation and there were no bloodstains in the van or any signs of a fight. Qiao Mei was still safe for the time being. The staff in the nearby shops remembered the incident of Qiao Mei wanting to buy coffee and related the story to the police.

Xia Zhe got into his car and continued to chase after the kidnappers. When he reached the area with the fields, he found the markings Qiao Mei left along the way. He knew that she was still safe and sound when she was in this area, since she was even in the leisurely mood to draw small flowers for him.

This was a secret code between Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe. If Qiao Mei was not caught in a dangerous situation, she would draw a small flower to tell Xia Zhe not to worry.

“Stop dilly-dallying and give me the money. You must have gone to Shen City this time to get all the money. The money is definitely not in the bank yet,” Huang Quan said.

“It’s true that the money is not in the bank, but I’ve already invested all the money in the factory there. Didn’t you hear that I spent 10 million dollars to buy a plot of land?” Qiao Mei asked with a laugh.

“B\*tch! You use my money to buy land! Do you still have a conscience!” Huang Quan said agitatedly.

“That’s originally my money. Don’t forget how you get all those machines. But if you want to get your base capital back, I can consider giving it to you,” Qiao Mei said.

“I don’t care how you do it! Give me two million first! I can give you one more day to prepare the remaining three million!” Huang Quan said anxiously.

The deadline which the Huang family’s relatives had given him was coming up. He must come up with some money to appease them so that they would give him more time to raise the funds.

“Fine, you can ask your subordinates to go and get it,” Qiao Mei said.

“You don’t have to worry about how we want to pick up the money. Get your people to prepare the money first. I have the final say on how the deal is set up later,” Huang Quan said cautiously.

Brother Bin and the other two men were the Huang family’s trusted aides. When these three people were involved in something, it would mean that the Huang family was definitely involved as well. If the Xia family found out about this, the entire Huang family would be finished.

This was also why he needed to hire another group of men to kidnap Qiao Mei. It was just that he did not expect the scar-faced man to be so lousy and wasted so much time on the way.

Qiao Mei shrugged nonchalantly and said, “Alright, whatever you say, but I’m hungry now. Get me something to eat. I don’t think you want me to starve to death before the money arrives.”

“Where can I get food for you in the wilderness?” Huang Quan said.

“I can cook,” Qiao Mei said.

Huang Quan looked at Qiao Mei in surprise and said, “Really? I’m surprised you’d offer to cook. Are you able to make whatever I want to eat?”

“Of course not.” As soon as Qiao Mei said that, Huang Quan looked very embarrassed. She then continued, “There can’t be many ingredients here, so we have to make do with whatever we have.”

Chapter 2078: Not Blissful

Huang Quan immediately looked much better. Not long after that, Luo Yu made a call to them. Huang Quan and Brother Bin informed Luo Yu of the location to drop the money. Brother Bin went with Lao Mo to get the money while Huang Quan and Ah Kun stayed behind in the warehouse.

“Let’s go. The kitchen is at the back,” Huang Quan said as he pointed to a room in the corner.

They had been eating very plain meals here for the past few days. All these men did not know how to cook, so it was already good enough that they could make food that was edible.

Brother Bin and the other two men were often involved in such illegal activities. It was inevitable that they would go hungry when they were on a job. The three of them were very used to such a tough life. If all they had was a live rat when they were hungry, they could eat it without batting an eyelid.

Huang Quan, on the other hand, had lived a life of luxury since he was young and he was definitely not used to this. At home, he would refuse his meals if the ingredients were not fresh enough. However, in order to survive here, he forced himself to eat and drink whatever was put in front of him every day.

Qiao Mei took a look in the kitchen. She could see some basic seasonings, but there were not many ingredients, only cabbages and potatoes. She was not picky though. No matter how ordinary the ingredients were, she could make them into very tasty food.

Looking at Qiao Mei busying herself in front of him, Huang Quan had indecent thoughts again. Qiao Mei had already given birth to three children but she was still so shapely and looked so much better than Tan Jing! Tan Jing looked so haggard and was definitely not comparable to Qiao Mei.

He stared at Qiao Mei lecherously and said, "In my opinion, you might as well be with me. Your husband is not back from the mission even after so many years. It's hard to say if he's alive or dead! Besides, it must have been a long time since you've slept with a man? Why don't you divorce him and marry me! I'll definitely treat you well!"

Qiao Mei said disdainfully, "You should wake up. How can you compare yourself to Xia Zhe? Are you more handsome than him? Do you have a better family background than him? Are you more capable than him? You're a person who can even go bankrupt doing business with a few moves from me. I'll starve if I choose you! Only a tramp like Tan Jing would be willing to be with you."

Ah Kun was standing by the door and he chuckled when he heard what Qiao Mei said. He also felt that Qiao Mei was right. If not for the fact that the Huang family had done Brother Bin a favor in the past and he had in turn pledged his life to Brother Bin, why would he want to help the Huang family?

"You! Don't be so ungrateful!" Huang Quan said agitatedly.

“Oh, actually that’s not true. After all, Tan Jing’s first husband was Xia Wen. You can’t even compare with Xia Wen’s toenails. Tan Jing only picked you because she had no choice. You’re actually a good-for-nothing,” Qiao Mei said.

Huang Quan raised his hand angrily to hit Qiao Mei, so she quickly knocked on the pot and said, “Do you still want to eat or not!”

The fragrance of the food was starting to whiff out and Huang Quan went from being agitated to feeling happy. It had been a long time since he had eaten delicious food. This smelled even better than the food cooked by the Huang family’s helper!

He turned to Qiao Mei with a much gentler look in his eyes. How could anyone not fall for such a capable and beautiful woman? He had thought that Qiao Mei’s words were very caustic just now, but now, it was as if he was looking at a different person.

When the food was ready, Qiao Mei scooped out a bowl each for Huang Quan and Ah Kun. She was not in any hurry to eat. Instead, she took another bowl of food and went over to Gao Lin, feeding him slowly.

If Qiao Mei had not arrived in time, Gao Lin might have died tonight! However, he also blamed himself a lot because of this. He would rather die than cause Qiao Mei to be in danger.

“I’m sorry. It’s all my fault. If I didn’t trust people so easily, you wouldn’t have been implicated,” Gao Lin said apologetically.

“Granduncle, we’re a family. In this world, your family is Grandfather’s only relative apart from me. No matter how difficult the problem is, I’ll still save you,” Qiao Mei said with a smile.

“You’re a good kid such a good kid!” Gao Lin said with tears in his eyes.

Huang Quan looked at this touching scene with some envy and disdain. Although he had never lacked food and clothing since he was young, his parents had never paid any attention to him and even felt ashamed of him. His parents only favored their second and third sons. When he was young, he worked

very hard to have outstanding results so that his parents would like him. However, no matter how hard he worked, they did not pay any attention to him.

Even when he got first place in his cohort during the examinations, he received less praise than his younger brothers for saying things like, "Dad, Mom, I love you."

#### Chapter 2079: Unconscious

"Can you remove the ropes from my granduncle's hands and feet! They're too tight! His wrists and ankles have already turned purple!" Qiao Mei said unhappily.

Huang Quan looked at the weak Gao Lin and then at Qiao Mei. It was already very difficult for Gao Lin to even stand up, let alone escape with Qiao Mei. Surely an old man and a weak woman would not be able to escape from two grown men?

"Hey! Go! Untie him!" Huang Quan said, looking at Ah Kun and pointing at Gao Lin.

Ah Kun did not even look up when Huang Quan spoke. He did not even want to look at Huang Quan. He would only take instructions from Brother Bin. Other than Brother Bin, no one else could order him around.

Huang Quan said in annoyance, "Didn't you hear what I said to you?"

"Don't waste your time. He won't die from being tied up. I'm busy eating!" Ah Kun said sulkily.

Qiao Mei could tell that Ah Kun and Huang Quan did not get on well with each other. Moreover, Ah Kun was very diligent. When she was cooking just now, she took the chance to observe Ah Kun. At that time, he kept playing with the gun in his hand. He looked like he was doing it mindlessly, but in fact, the gun was aimed at Qiao Mei and Huang Quan the whole time. If either of them made any wrong move, Ah Kun would shoot without hesitation and kill them in one shot.

Huang Quan could not bring himself to go and untie the ropes from Gao Lin's hands and feet. He was the boss! How could a boss do such chores!

Qiao Mei sighed resignedly and said, "Since neither of you wants to help me, I'll untie the knots myself!"

The knots were very professionally done and were tied in a complicated way. Qiao Mei had learned a lot from Xia Zhe when she was in Sky City. In those two years, she had a lot of free time anyway. Not only did she learn combat fighting, but she also learned how to shoot with both guns and arrows, ride a horse and fly a helicopter, among other things. It was Xia Zhe who taught her all these.

She had a talent for all these skills. Although she could not beat Xia Zhe, she could spar with Xia He for at least a hundred blows. As for shooting skills, she was also on par with Xia He.

However, she had to appear obtuse in front of these men. She took a total of 40 minutes to untie the two knots. By the end, Ah Kun and Huang Quan were no longer so guarded against her.

Gao Lin looked at Qiao Mei and whispered, "Mei Mei, when they fall asleep in the later half of the night, find an opportunity to escape. Don't worry about me."

"Granduncle, you should never give up. We've even survived the Zhang family. Do we need to be afraid of something like this?" Qiao Mei said.

Seeing how determined Qiao Mei was, Gao Lin did not try to dissuade her anymore. He decided to think about how he could leave with Qiao Mei. The most important thing for him to do now was to conserve energy.

Qiao Mei helped Gao Lin straighten his clothes, but her gaze was fixed on the crack in the wall behind Gao Lin.

Xia Zhe was looking tenderly at Qiao Mei from behind that wall. He had been waiting here for a long while. When Qiao Mei started cooking, he had already reached the spot behind the wall. He had wanted to launch an attack a few times before he realized that Ah Kun was well trained in martial arts. If he rushed out too rashly, he would cause Qiao Mei and Gao Lin to get hurt.



Qiao Mei had also already sensed Xia Zhe's presence. Otherwise, she would not have kept finding ways to irritate Huang Quan while she was cooking. Their eyes met and Qiao Mei nodded slightly. Xia Zhe walked around the wall to a spot near the main door while Qiao Mei went to the kitchen to get a bowl of soup for Gao Lin.

"You should drink some. Don't just take care of me," Gao Lin said.

"I'm fine, Granduncle. You have to get back your strength. When we get out of here, we'll have to travel a long distance and I won't be able to carry you the whole way," Qiao Mei said.

Both Huang Quan and Ah Kun overheard her saying that and the two of them immediately became wary. Brother Bin had not received the money yet, so how could Qiao Mei be able to get out of here?

However, whatever Qiao Mei said also made sense. After all, the Xia family was now the richest and most powerful family in the capital. They could not underestimate the Xia family's capability. It was possible that the Xia family might even find them and rescue Qiao Mei before they received the money. Ah Kun picked up his gun and decided to do a patrol around the warehouse. He wanted to ensure that the surrounding area was safe.

Qiao Mei held the soup bowl tightly in her hand. When Ah Kun reached the door, Xia Zhe made a move immediately and knocked Ah Kun out. Before Huang Quan could even react, Qiao Mei raised the porcelain bowl and rushed towards him, smashing it forcefully on his head. Huang Quan collapsed on the spot and bled profusely from his head.

Gao Lin was stunned to the spot. Everything had happened too fast and he could not even tell how Huang Quan and Ah Kun had fallen unconscious.

Chapter 2080: Commit Suicide

Qiao Mei rushed into Xia Zhe's arms and yelled out, "When did you come back? Why didn't you tell me in advance!"

"I originally wanted to give you a surprise, but I didn't expect you to give me such a big surprise instead. What did you promise me before you returned home?" Xia Zhe said, feeling a little angry.

"It's not my fault! If anything, it's all your fault!" Qiao Mei said as she stood in front of Xia Zhe with her hands on her hips.

"My fault? How can it be my fault?" Xia Zhe asked in puzzlement.

"Of course it's your fault! If I'm still in the village now, I won't have to encounter such dangerous situations! All these people are targeting the Xia family. My children are also Xia family members. If I had married any other man in the village, I wouldn't have to go through so much! In the end, it's all your fault!" Qiao Mei quibbled.

Xia Zhe's expression changed slightly and he said unhappily, "You want to marry another man? Don't even think about it! You're my wife and I won't allow you to leave my side. However, I promise you that I won't let you encounter so much danger in the future. I'll do my best to solve these problems."

"That's more like it!" Qiao Mei said happily.

The lighting in the warehouse was very dim, but Gao Lin could still make out from the silhouette that the person standing opposite Qiao Mei was Fang Chen. This man could even come to this place for Qiao Mei! It seemed that Fang Chen was really devoted to Qiao Mei, but Qiao Mei already had a family in the capital, did she not? In that case, the relationship between her and Fang Chen how was she going to explain herself when she returned to the capital?

If Fang Chen knew that Qiao Mei already had a family in the capital, based on the way Fang Chen dealt with Zhang Cheng in Country M, Qiao Mei definitely would not be able to escape his clutches!

Gao Lin looked at Qiao Mei worriedly and she noticed that Gao Lin was staring at her. She grabbed Xia Zhe's hand and hesitated for a moment. Should she tell Gao Lin about Xia Zhe and his mission? However, Xia Zhe's mission had not ended yet. It was better to explain it to Gao Lin when everything was done and dusted.

"So how do we leave this place?" Gao Lin asked, pretending to be nonchalant.

“My men have already gone after the other two kidnappers. Let’s wait until they get here,” Xia Zhe said calmly.

It was as if they had an unspoken mutual understanding not to talk about the issue of the alternate identities. Gao Lin lay down weakly on a patch of grass at the side. He had been on tenterhooks for a long time and could finally relax now. Not long after, he fell asleep. Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe let him rest and did not disturb him.

“Huang Quan has lost so much blood. He won’t die, right ” Qiao Mei said as she looked at Huang Quan, who was lying in a pool of blood.

“He should be fine. If he dies, then he deserves it,” Xia Zhe said.

“It’s too good an ending for him if he dies! He should suffer more! I was really too anxious just now and I didn’t hold back my strength. I’ll be more careful in the future,” Qiao Mei said embarrassedly.

“It’s fine. The most important thing for you is to protect yourself and not let yourself get hurt. Leave everything else to me,” Xia Zhe said tenderly.

Xia Zhe tied up Ah Kun and Huang Quan and threw them to one side. He went to the kitchen to get a basin of cold water and splashed it on the two of them. Huang Quan did not wake up, perhaps because of the serious injuries on his head. Ah Kun opened his eyes groggily and then looked at Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe furiously.

“Hmph, you guys still manage to succeed in the end,” Ah Kun said self-deprecatingly.

“Answer my questions. Apart from the three of you, do you have any other accomplices?” Xia Zhe questioned.

Ah Kun smiled disdainfully and said, “Since you’re so resourceful, why do you need to ask me? Can’t you just investigate it yourselves?”

“Let’s hand him over to the police and let them interrogate him properly. The three of them have always worked for the Huang family, so they must know a lot of the Huang family’s secrets. We can use him to crush the Huang family in one fell swoop,” Qiao Mei said.

Hearing this, Ah Kun said mockingly, “Do you think I’m stupid! You want me to betray Brother Bin! You can dream on! I won’t let you get what you want!” Then, he bit on the poison pill which he had hidden in his mouth and died almost instantly.

If people like them fell into the hands of the police, it was the end of them. They would have to face a situation that was more painful than death. There was no difference whether they died earlier or later. It was better for them to end their own lives so that they could at least save their families’ lives.