

Fat Wife 221

Chapter 221: Enraged

What if it was really like what Zhao Ni said, that Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe's marriage was the result of a scam?

Qian'e could not help but feel happy when she thought of that. If this was true, she could expose Qiao Mei! Then, Qiao Mei would end up like her and Xia Zhe would fall in love with her.

It was true that Qiao Mei had tricked Xia Zhe into getting married back then, but now that Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe were open about the fact that they liked each other, Qiao Mei could pretend that the earlier part never happened.

Qiao Mei grinned at Qian'e and said, "Xia Zhe and I actually had an arranged marriage when we were children. My grandfather and Xia Zhe's grandfather made an agreement a long time ago regarding their grandchildren. If there's two boys, the boys will join the army together. If there's two girls, the girls will become sisters. If there's a boy and a girl, then the two children get married."

Everyone was not too familiar with Xia Zhe's family and did not know whether what Qiao Mei said was true. However, since she could even say such a thing, then Qiao Mei's grandfather was definitely not some small fry.

Then why did Qiao Mei's grandfather return to the countryside?

Everyone felt uncertain as they looked at Qiao Mei and Qian'e, waiting to see what happened next.

"Nonsense! Xia Zhe grew up in this compound. How can he know you!" Qian'e roared.

Qiao Mei smiled disapprovingly and said, "It was both our grandfathers who made the decision, not me. How would you know what our grandfathers talked about? If you don't believe me, you can ask Xia Zhe's grandfather yourself."

When the neighbors heard this, they felt that it made sense. With Old Master Xia's temper, if Qiao Mei really had wanted to trick Xia Zhe into getting married or if she had any ulterior motives towards Xia Zhe or the Xia family, she would have already been dealt with.

Moreover, everyone had seen the expression on Xia Fang's face when she brought Qiao Mei back. She looked even happier than if it was her own son bringing her daughter-in-law back. Qian'e must be overthinking the situation.

Everyone shifted their anger to Qian'e again. It was also impossible for Qian'e to really go to the Xia family to demand an answer.

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Zhao Ni made a move to drag Qian'e home. It was almost time for the hospital staff to get off work and the girl's father, Qian Wang, was about to knock off soon. Furthermore, Qian Wang had always known about the shenanigans that Zhao Ni and Qian'e got up to.

It was just that Qian Wang had a good temper. In the past, he would not have married Zhao Ni if not for the fact that she had insisted on marrying him, and caused a scene that made everyone know about it. Fortunately, Zhao Ni kept an even temper after her marriage and took care of her husband and taught her children well.

The good times did not last long. Ever since Qian'e fell for Xia Zhe, there had not been a day of peace and Qian Wang just turned a blind eye to it. In addition, he and Xia Fang were colleagues, so it was even more difficult for him to say anything.

Zhao Ni was not working at the moment and solely depended on Qian Wang to support her. Even if she went around throwing tantrums, she would be fine as long as she did not let Qian Wang catch her in action. She hoped that Qian Wang would not find out about this whole incident, otherwise she would have a difficult time for a while.

"Why are you dragging me! Don't make me go back! I want to take a good look at this vixen's face!" Qian'e scolded Zhao Ni as she was being pulled away.

Qiao Mei did not care about how badly Qian'e cursed at her and just quietly rubbed her stomach with a nonchalant expression. Her action made Qian'e even angrier.

Qian'e broke free from Zhao Ni and rushed towards Qiao Mei. Nobody could react in time, and it so happened that Xia Fang and Qian Wang saw this scene as they returned on the hospital shuttle bus.

As Qiao Mei turned her body sideways, Qian'e shot past her due to the momentum, crashing into a tree by the roadside.

"Qian'e! What are you doing!" Xia Fang shouted at Qian'e.

Everything in her hands dropped to the ground. She had wanted to come back and make chicken soup for Qiao Mei, but she did not expect to encounter such a thing.

Qian Wang was also stunned when he heard Xia Fang calling out his daughter's name. He turned around and saw Qian'e bent over the ground, moaning as she held onto her wrist.

"Oh my, Xiao'e! What happened to you!" Qian Wang rushed to Qian'e to see if she was hurt in any other way.

Xia Fang and Qian Wang focused their attention on each child from their families. Zhao Ni did not dare to say anything as she stood at the side. If Qian Wang found out about what happened, she would definitely have to go back to her family. If that happened, her own sisters-in-law would mock her again, and she just could not take the insults.

Her own brothers were all doing very well and they all thought that she had married well and was doing the best among them. However, after what happened in her family, everyone mocked her and looked down on her.

Chapter 222: This Is Not Over

"Mei Mei, are you hurt?" Xia Fang looked at Qiao Mei worriedly.

"I'm alright, Aunt. I'm fine and not injured at all." Qiao Mei looked at Xia Fang obediently.

After being assured that Qiao Mei was really feeling fine, Xia Fang heaved a sigh of relief, though her anger had not subsided.

"I told you to rest at home, but you insisted on going out. See how you've met a lunatic on your way," Xia Fang said sarcastically as she glanced sideways at Qian'e, who was on the ground.

"Aunt, I was at home... It's just that..." Qiao Mei said aggrievedly. Before she could finish speaking, Qian'e interrupted her.

"Who are you calling a lunatic!" Qian'e roared at Xia Fang.

"Then why did our Mei Mei come out and how did you meet her?" Xia Fang had heard Qiao Mei's reply. If Qiao Mei did not come out on her own accord, then Qian'e must have gone looking for her.

Earlier, she had left in a hurry and did not pay much attention when she passed by Qian'e at the courtyard door. She did not expect that Qian'e would take advantage of her absence to go to her house to bully Qiao Mei!

"I... I..." Qian'e stammered, unable to speak.

The elderly female neighbor at the side said, "Fang'er, she went to your house and knocked on the door. The noise she made summoned almost everyone in the building."

After Xia Fang understood what had happened, she looked at Qian Wang and said, "Chief Qian, let me know how you think we should handle this matter. Your daughter went to my house to drag Xia Zhe's wife out and deliberately hurt her. Our Mei Mei is currently pregnant! Tell me what you think we should do."

When Qian Wang heard this, he felt so ashamed that he did not dare to look up. When Qian'e saw how weak her father was, she shouted angrily at the crowd, "What proof do you have that I did it deliberately! So what if she's pregnant! As if no one else had been pregnant before!"

As soon as she said that, Qian Wang gave her a slap to stop her from talking. Qian'e looked at Qian Wang in shock, unable to believe that her father had just hit her.

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Even if Qian'e was divorced and had been pregnant, she should not say such shameless words in public. Qian Wang could not stand it anymore.

Qian Wang stood in front of Qian'e and blocked her from everyone's view as he said, "Chief Xia, I'm so sorry about this. I'll come to your house later and formally apologize to you. Look at Xiao'e, her hand might be fractured. Why don't I bring my child for treatment first, then when I'm back, I'll definitely come and apologize to you and Xia Zhe's wife. What do you think?"

They were both colleagues from the same hospital, and Xia Fang knew Qian Wang as someone that could be trusted. She nodded and did not say anything else.

Just as Qian Wang was about to leave with Qian'e, Qiao Mei said, "Let's pretend that this incident about the love letter never happened. Don't come looking for trouble. Who knows if you'll produce a letter in the future and say that Xia Zhe gave it to you. If I find you doing that, I'll sue you for slandering a soldier!"

Given that everyone had come down to watch the commotion, plus the people who had just gotten off work and were passing by, she decided to take the chance to address this matter directly. This would also prevent Qian'e from having any ulterior motive and causing trouble for Xia Zhe. Otherwise, it would be difficult to deal with the fallout from the issues in the future.

Qian'e glared at Qiao Mei and said fiercely, "Just you wait! We're not done yet!"

After she said that, Qian Wang dragged her off to the hospital to see a doctor. When Zhao Ni saw Qian Wang and Qian'e leave, she also quietly slipped away and disappeared into the crowd.

Seeing that the matter had been resolved, the crowd dispersed and everyone returned home. Xia Fang went home with Qiao Mei and looked at her silently with a serious expression.

Qiao Mei also knew that she was in the wrong. She lowered her head and stood in the room, not daring to move.

“Why are you standing, come here and sit down,” Xia Fang said sternly.

Qiao Mei slowly walked to the sofa and sat down, looking at Xia Fang obediently.

“Aunt, I was wrong. Please don’t be angry.” Faced with those big round eyes and sweet voice, Xia Fang could not bear to flare up at Qiao Mei even if she was angry.

“Then tell me, what did you do wrong and how were you wrong?” Xia Fang still looked at Qiao Mei with a serious expression.

She had to teach Qiao Mei a lesson for what happened today. Qiao Mei must understand that she could not go out casually or come into contact with Zhao Ni and Qian’e. It was really too dangerous.

Qiao Mei blinked her big eyes and mentally counted the number of things she had done wrong. Xia Fang looked at how serious Qiao Mei looked and almost did not have the heart to make her say it.

Chapter 223: Partner Was Stolen

“I... I shouldn’t have opened the door. I should have stayed at home. I shouldn’t have contradicted Qian’e and quarreled with her. I shouldn’t have angered her and made her attack me.” The more Qiao Mei spoke, the less confidence she had. She did not even dare to raise her head to look at Xia Fang.

When Xia Fang heard this, she wondered how it turned out that Qiao Mei was the one who made Qian’e so angry?

That a girl who looked so well-behaved could make Qian’e so angry.

“And you did it on purpose?” Xia Fang asked.

Qiao Mei quickly shook her head and said, "I didn't! It's because she slandered Xia Zhe and I got so angry that I spouted some nonsense which made her angry, then she just came at me..."

Xia Fang also knew what kind of person Qian'e was and did not blame Qiao Mei. She already heard from the neighbors that Qian'e had caused quite a commotion. Otherwise, Qiao Mei would not have opened the door.

"Give me your hand," Xia Fang said.

Qiao Mei reached out her hand in fear, not knowing what Xia Fang was going to do.

Xia Fang suddenly reached out and gently smacked Qiao Mei's palm. Qiao Mei was so shocked that she let out a cry.

"I'm teaching you a lesson. Let's see if you still dare to do it in the future!" Xia Fang said as she pretended to be angry.

Qiao Mei knew that Aunt was no longer angry. She smiled and leaned over to hug Xia Fang's arm, saying sweetly, "Yes I know, Aunt. I won't do it again. Don't be angry anymore! I know you're the best!"

Xia Fang was so tickled by Qiao Mei's flattery that she smiled and did not mention the incident again.

In the past, she had wanted to have a daughter, but she gave birth to a boy instead and was depressed for a long time because of that. She then waited a long time for someone in the Xia family to have a daughter. It turned out to be Xia Zhe's older sister, Xia He.

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However, Xia He was not gentle and quiet at all, and she even inherited the temper of Xia Zhe's father, Xia Mao. The eldest brother of the Xia family, Xia Wen, turned out to resemble Xia Zhe's mother, Xu Lan.

This also shattered Xia Fang's dream of raising a daughter. The Xia family either had boys or girls who behaved like boys. There was not a single gentle and quiet girl.

Now that she had Qiao Mei with her, Xia Fang was overjoyed. Even if Qiao Mei said that she wanted to eat all kinds of delicacies tomorrow, Xia Fang would find a way to get them for Qiao Mei.

Qian'e was taken to the hospital by Qian Wang and diagnosed with a broken wrist. After getting a cast on her arm, she followed Qian Wang home. Along the way, Qian'e kept thinking about how she could have her revenge. She would not let the matter today rest just like that.

These things had to be repaid one by one!

Back then, in order to marry Xia Zhe, she had waited bitterly. Now, Xia Zhe had married a beautiful wife and forgotten all about her.

If you think you want to have a peaceful life, hmph, no way!

Qian'e had already thought of how to proceed with her plan. First, she needed to look for a person, He Mei.

She hated this person to the core, but she had to get this person to help. She could not carry out the plan herself and must get someone to do it for her.

It was all thanks to He Mei that Qian'e ended up in her current state!

He Mei also liked Xia Zhe, but she had never said anything about it and kept it to herself. Qian'e treated He Mei as her best friend and told He Mei everything that was on her mind. This was how He Mei found something to use against her.

Back then, He Mei was the first person she told when she fell for Xia Zhe. It even made He Mei so curious about the person who made Qian'e so infatuated. When He Mei returned home with Qian'e after school and saw Xia Zhe, He Mei also fell in love at first sight and vowed to have Xia Zhe for herself.

He Mei often came up with ideas for Qian'e. She asked Qian'e to be more attentive to Xia Fang and to visit Xia Fang at home more often. She told Qian'e to draw attention to the matter so that once his parents found out about what was happening, they would definitely have to agree to the relationship. Then, Xia Zhe would be able to marry Qian'e.

Qian'e firmly believed in He Mei. In the end, the plan backfired and what she received was a warning from Xia Zhe's mother, Xu Lan.

Later, after Xia Zhe went to the army, Qian'e gave up on the idea of liking Xia Zhe and started dating Ma San before getting engaged to him.

Initially, Qian'e had refused to let Ma San touch her, so she told He Mei about the matter and asked her for help to think of a way to deal with it. She did not expect He Mei to say that since they were already engaged and would definitely get married, there were certain things that should be done. He Mei told her that there was no need to hide from him or reject his requests, otherwise she would seem very pretentious.

Qian'e believed what He Mei told her and went all the way with Ma San.

No one would have expected He Mei to then introduce her cousin to Ma San.

Her cousin even got pregnant!

Chapter 224: Back to the Original Workplace

Qian'e could not believe this piece of news. She had always thought that He Mei was her best friend and did not expect He Mei to plot against her.

He Mei forced Ma San to marry her cousin and asked Ma San to leave Qian'e.

In the end, Ma San was so blinded by the He family's power and wealth that he gave up Qian'e. Not long after, Qian'e also found out she was pregnant, but as it was an ectopic pregnancy, there was nothing she could do but to terminate it.

Ma San ignored Qian'e completely as he saw no value in her, so Qian'e went to meet He Mei when she was at her wits' end.

It was He Mei who came up with the idea for Qian'e to go to Ma San's house and cause a scene. She told Qian'e not to let go of the issue so quickly.

In the end, Ma San pushed her in a fit of desperate anger, causing her to have a miscarriage and ending up in the hospital. As she did not manage to seek timely treatment, she had to have her uterus removed.

Initially, only a few close colleagues knew about her pregnancy. It was not a good thing, so only her close relatives and friends knew about it. However, the fiasco made the matter known in the entire capital.

Ma San's family felt that Qian'e was to be blamed for making them deal with such an unlucky matter. Qian'e was only the daughter of a doctor in the hospital. The He family was one of the most powerful families in the capital and they could not fall out with the He family because of this matter.

From then on, Ma San also completely detested Qian'e and wanted to have nothing more to do with her.

After experiencing all this, Qian'e went to He Mei's house to vent her grievances. Before she left, she happened to catch a glimpse of He Mei's mocking face reflected on a glass surface. Only then did she realize that He Mei was the mastermind behind everything that happened.

She had been played like a fool by He Mei.

After returning home and thinking about all the events carefully, she realized that she had been deceived by He Mei all along. In fact, He Mei also liked Xia Zhe, and had done all of this on purpose.

Up till today, He Mei was probably still waiting for Xia Zhe to marry her. The reason why He Mei had not gotten married was because she was waiting for Xia Zhe to return.

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Now that Xia Zhe was married, Qian'e felt that she had to share the good news with He Mei. She did not want to be the only one to know about this. She decided to make use of the nasty He Mei to get her revenge and be able to take back everything that belonged to her!

Qian'e asked her father, Qian Wang, to go home first and she turned around to go and look for He Mei at her original workplace.

Qian'e hesitated for a moment at the entrance of the hospital, but she still braced herself and went inside. As soon as she entered, the nurses and doctors next to her looked a little awkward, but they were all busy with their work since it was still working hours.

He Mei used to work at this hospital. She was not a doctor though, but an administrative staff member. The He family was a sponsor at this hospital and often funded its medical equipment.

Ever since the year when she was diagnosed with ectopic pregnancy and came here for surgery, Qian'e had not returned to the hospital again. In this era, getting pregnant out of wedlock was more humiliating than being caught red-handed in bed.

In Qiao Mei's case, the situation was not discovered and she had gotten married straight away. Otherwise, she would have a rough time as well.

Qian'e went straight to He Mei's office as if she did not sense everyone's attention on her.

He Mei was joking around with her colleagues in the corridor. Once she saw Qian'e, she had an awkward look on her face. Her colleagues were all new and did not know much about Qian'e. They were all curious about who Qian'e was to be able to make He Mei react so strongly.

"He Mei, who's this?" one of the colleagues asked.

He Mei smiled and said, "It's my friend. Please excuse me while I go talk to her."

He Mei excused herself politely and quickly walked towards Qian'e. She pulled Qian'e back to her office and locked the door.

"Why are you here?" He Mei clearly showed her impatience as soon as she entered the room.

"Hmph, am I still your friend now?" Qian'e asked mockingly.

"Don't forget our agreement!" He Mei roared.

Qian'e did not think much of it. They had made an agreement previously when Qian'e wanted to denounce He Mei and expose her crimes after discovering that she was the one who had done all those things.

However, He Mei already prepared a backup plan against Qian'e. She told Qian'e that if the matter was exposed, her parents and all her relatives and friends would be out of work.

Her father, brother and sister-in-law were all doctors who worked in this hospital. At that time, they did not hold very high positions. If they have to leave the hospital, it would be hard for them to find another place of employment.

He Mei even told Qian'e that if she did not go ahead with the denouncement, her family could get promoted or transferred to better positions.

Chapter 225: Hearing the News

Her father, Qian Wang, was the pillar of the entire family. If her father did not have a job, the entire family would lose its foundation. Although Qian Wang had a weak character, he still had a backbone. He told Qian'e not to give in and said that the whole family could go overseas in the worst case scenario.

However, her brother and sister-in-law did not share the same view. They had just settled down in the capital and finally found decent jobs, and had just been allocated a place to live. If they had to choose to leave now, it would be no different from killing them.

In the face of her brother and sister-in-law kneeling down to plead with her, Qian'e had no choice but to put aside her hatred for He Mei. She told herself that she would endure it and never forget it, and to always keep it in her heart.

"I didn't forget. I just came by to see you," Qian'e said as she sat on the sofa.

Now that Qian'e and her mother, Zhao Ni, were not working, and her brother and sister-in-law had stable jobs, she was no longer afraid of anything and behaved more impudently than before.

"To see me? You? Hmph, don't tell me you have a favor to ask of me," He Mei said as she looked at Qian'e mockingly.

He Mei had always looked down on Qian'e. In the beginning, she treated Qian'e as a friend because Qian'e was obedient and dumb, and liked to follow her around like a dog.

Of course, she was willing to be "friends" with her then. However, now that Qian'e was no longer of any use to her, there was no longer a need to put on a show of them having a close sisterly relationship.

"As if there's anything I can ask of you. I'm here to tell you some good news," Qian'e said.

"What kind of good news can you have? Are you pregnant again?" He Mei looked at Qian'e derisively and glanced at her stomach.

Qian'e was so angry that she wanted to go up and hit He Mei. She suppressed the fury in her heart and said, "I came to tell you that Xia Zhe is married and even has a child now."

He Mei was drinking water when she heard that, and got so shocked that she dropped the glass in her hand and it shattered on the ground.

"What! Xia Zhe is married! When did this happen? It's impossible that I don't know about it. How can I not know that Xia Zhe got married?" He Mei stood up and interrogated Qian'e.

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Qian'e watched He Mei's reaction with satisfaction. This was what she wanted and she had achieved her goal. She just knew that He Mei would not be able to accept the fact.

"How are you related to Xia Zhe, and why do you need to know? Who do you think you are?" Qian'e said as she looked at He Mei.

He Mei looked at Qian'e coldly. She wondered if Qian'e's was telling the truth, but she knew that there was no need for Qian'e to lie to her. She had always been very concerned about anything related to Xia Zhe, and had even gone around asking for news about Xia Zhe some time back.

A few months ago, someone had even tipped her off that there was a possibility that Xia Zhe would be promoted and he could then return to the capital for a vacation. She had been waiting for that day to come.

"Impossible. Maybe you're lying to me." He Mei looked at Qian'e calmly.

Qian'e laughed and said, "Me? Why would I lie to you, you're the only one who likes to tell lies."

He Mei sat back in her chair and thought carefully about what Qian'e said. She would need to find someone to investigate this matter and could not just listen to the one-sided story from Qian'e.

"You can doubt me, but his wife is already here and she's already three months pregnant. You can forget about marrying into the Xia family. She's at Xia Fang's house now. If you don't believe me, you can go and take a look," Qian'e said nonchalantly.

"Three months? How is that possible?" He Mei always had her informers in the army. Every once in a while, they would send news to He Mei and they also helped her to keep an eye on Xia Zhe. Three months ago, Xia Zhe did not even take any break, so how could he have a child!

This was impossible! It was definitely fake news!

“Where did you hear it from and is it true? Are you here just to scare me?” He Mei still did not believe Qian’e.

Qian’e did not seem to mind He Mei’s attitude and recounted everything that had happened today. He Mei listened to the whole story and thought that Qian’e did not seem to be lying. He Mei thought that the story seemed to be true, but she wondered how the woman in the story managed to hook up with Xia Zhe. The timing was off, so could it be that her informers in the army were lying when they sent her the message?

It was not a matter that could be easily resolved. Qian’e had only mentioned Xia Zhe’s new wife, but not Xia Zhe, which meant that this woman had come to the capital by herself. In that case, she had to take advantage of that to investigate the matter properly during this period of time.

Chapter 226: Currying Favor With the He Family

“You can just continue to wait! She’s an 18-year-old sweet young woman and she’s really beautiful. Look at you, you’re already an overaged girl that nobody wants!” Qian’e said as she smiled and walked out.

Her main purpose was to bring the news to He Mei. As for what would happen next, she believed that He Mei would not be able to sit still. He Mei had been waiting for Xia Zhe for so many years, and now that Xia Zhe had suddenly gotten married, she definitely could not accept it.

Over the years, while waiting for Xia Zhe to return, He Mei had done many heartless things. She kept herself in the know of everything that was related to Xia Zhe, and whenever there were women who liked Xia Zhe, she eliminated them one by one.

There was a time when Xu Lan took a liking to the Ma family’s daughter, who was also Ma San’s younger sister. After He Mei found out about it, she plotted for Ma San to be with her cousin. This way, she could ensure that not only Qian’e could not be with Xia Zhe, but the Xia family would also no longer consider the Ma family’s daughter out of concern over the Ma family’s reputation.

He Mei thought that she would have a chance once there were no more families of equal status to the Xia family in the entire capital. The main issue was that there were some grudges between the He family

and the Xia family. Otherwise, He Mei would have long gotten her family to propose marriage to the Xia family.

He Mei hurriedly called her mother.

“Hello! Ma! Ask someone quickly! Find out whether Xia Zhe is married!” He Mei said anxiously.

“Married? I didn’t hear anything about it. The Xia family is a rich and influential family. If he is married, they definitely won’t be able to hide the fact.” He Mei’s mother did not take He Mei seriously. After so many years, she was already used to her daughter behaving like this whenever she heard news about Xia Zhe.

“Hey, it’s true! Quickly ask around! His wife has already come to the capital!” He Mei said anxiously to her mother.

Hearing her daughter’s anxiety, He Mei’s mother quickly said, “Oh, alright, alright. Hang on and I’ll go and ask around.”

After He Mei ended the call, she slammed the phone onto the table angrily. She looked at the window and wondered how she should start investigating the matter.

“Oh my. Mrs. He, did something happen at home?” Mrs. Zheng asked.

He Mei’s mother was called Li Xiu. Her family was in business and could be considered to be quite well-off. Nowadays, she went around dining and entertaining every day and did not care about family matters. Within the circle of rich wives, she was one of those that the rest of the women envied.

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“He Mei called me in a rush and said something about the Xia family.” Li Xiu looked lost and did not know what to say as she turned to Mrs. Zheng.

“Xia family? What happened with the Xia family?” Mrs. Zheng asked.

Mrs. Zheng was Zheng Yuan’s mother. During this period of time, Zheng Yuan had gotten into some trouble. Although she had not been punished yet, Mrs. Zheng had lost her prestige in the eyes of these people she hung out with.

“I don’t know. Have you heard anything recently?” Li Xiu asked.

“No, but let me call my Zheng Yuan and ask her,” Mrs. Zheng said.

“Alright, then I’ll have to trouble you, Mrs. Zheng,” Li Xiu said with a polite smile.

Mrs. Zheng looked at Li Xiu obsequiously and said, “Oh my, it’s not a big deal. Just hang on for a bit.”

The Zheng family and the Xia family always had a very good relationship, so everyone respected Mrs. Zheng. Zheng Yuan was also very close to Xia Zhe, so everyone used to think that the Zheng family had the greatest chance of having a marriage alliance with the Xia family. However, they did not expect Zheng Yuan to get into trouble in the army recently. Therefore, they all thought that the Xia family probably would not consider the Zheng family anymore.

All these made He Mei happy for a while. However, now that a new problem had appeared and He Mei had started to investigate it, it made the He family uneasy as well.

Everyone did not think highly of Mrs. Zheng recently and she was not treated as well as before, so she could only curry favor with the He family.

She quietly went out to make a call to Zheng Yuan. Nowadays, Zheng Yuan was living in the small house in the capital that she bought herself and did not stay with her parents. She was afraid that her father would be angry when he saw her, so she did not return home.

“Hello, Yuan Yuan, it’s mom,” Zheng Yuan said with a smile.

“What’s wrong, mom? Did something happen at home?” Zheng Yuan asked.

“No, I just heard someone say that Xia Zhe is married, so I wanted to ask you. You were previously in the same army unit as Xia Zhe so I thought it best to check with you,” Zheng Yuan’s mother asked carefully.

After such a long time, Zheng Yuan had already gotten over her issues and did not feel awkward at all.

Chapter 227: Going Home Early

“Ah, Xia Zhe, he’s married. Xia Zhe’s wife is already expecting. Don’t tell me you still want to persuade me to be with him,” Zheng Yuan said.

“No, it’s just that I heard Mrs. He talking about it just now and I was curious, so I came to ask you,” Mrs. Zheng said.

Zheng Yuan knew that her mother had always been hanging out with the circle of rich wives in the capital.

The so-called circle of rich wives referred to a group of full-time wives from the rich and influential local families, who had nothing to do at home and would gather together for a meal and have tea, or to go shopping, doing floral arrangements and going for beauty treatments.

It was just like how a few women in the village would sit down and chat together. The nature of it was similar, but the slight difference was that these women could find out quickly what was happening with the other influential families. The information they garnered could be quite helpful for their own families, be it for families who were business partners connected through marriages or families who needed topics for their casual chats at home.

The Zheng family had always been indifferent to the affairs of the other families, even matters related to the Xia family whom they were very close to. However, Mrs. Zheng had always wanted to gain a foothold among these full-time wives and make the others envious of her, as she was blinded by her own vanity.

“Don’t go around saying these things. It’s better that you don’t get involved in other people’s family matters,” Zheng Yuan said helplessly.

“I know, I know. I’m just curious, so I came to ask you. I won’t tell others. Alright, I’m hanging up now.” Mrs. Zheng hung up the phone in a hurry, checked her appearance, and walked back into the house.

When everyone saw Mrs. Zheng came back, they looked at her curiously. One of the women could hardly wait and she asked, “Mrs. Zheng, I wonder if you managed to find out anything.”

Mrs. Zheng was not in a hurry to say anything. Everyone was waiting for her to speak, and given that it was rare for these women to ask her for a favor, she wanted to put on some airs.

“I say, Mrs. Zheng, don’t keep us in suspense. We’re all so anxious to know,” Li Xiu said.

“Ahem, I found out just now. Xia Zhe is indeed married and his wife is pregnant.” After Mrs. Zheng finished speaking, everyone was shocked.

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“Sigh! This Xia Zhe doesn’t seem like such a person. He got married without saying anything!” one of the women said.

“In my opinion, this matter isn’t that simple. But I’m curious about whose daughter married into the Xia family?” another woman said.

Everyone started discussing among themselves but Li Xiu just listened quietly. It had been a long time since her daughter, He Mei, had set her heart on marrying Xia Zhe.

In the past, many good families had proposed marriage to He Mei, but she never agreed to any of them. She even wanted to run away from home because she was so intent on marrying Xia Zhe. Now that Xia Zhe had gotten married quietly, there was going to be a huge commotion when He Mei heard about it.

“Hey, Mrs. Zheng, I’m curious how your Zheng Yuan knew about this. Has she met Xia Zhe’s wife?” one of the women asked curiously.

“Our Yuan Yuan didn’t tell me anything about that, but the entire matter is true,” Mrs. Zheng put a mask on her face and said with her eyes closed.

Li Xiu was unable to just sit around here and do nothing. She hid her anxiety and said, “Everyone, I still have something on at home tonight, so I won’t be staying here with you any longer. I will cover all the expenses today. I’m really sorry to have to go.”

“Oh my, Mrs. He, what are you saying!”

“Then go back quickly. Be careful on the road!”

“Let’s meet another day, Mrs. He!”

Li Xiu hurriedly got into her car and asked the driver to drive home quickly. Looking at the time, He Mei would be home from work soon, so she had to go back and talk to her about this.

When she reached home, Li Xiu asked her helper to prepare dinner first. She went upstairs and called her good friends one by one to try and find out more information.

In the end, she received confirmation that this matter was true.

Xia Zhe was really married!

He Mei ran home as soon as she got off work. The moment she entered the house, she shouted, “Mom! Are you back!”

“Hey! Don’t shout. If your father sees it, he’ll say that you have no manners,” Li Xiu said sternly.

He Mei was so anxious that she did not care about that. She asked anxiously, "Is Xia Zhe really married?"

Li Xiu knew that she could not hide it from He Mei. Even if she did not say it now, He Mei would still find out later.

Chapter 228: The News Is True

"Yes, I called up many people just now and they all said that this matter is true. Xia Fang's neighbors all saw Xia Zhe's wife," Li Xiu said.

When He Mei heard this, she suddenly seemed to lose her strength and collapsed on the sofa.

"Xiao Mei! What's wrong!" Li Xiu rushed forward to help He Mei when she saw that He Mei almost fainted.

She had waited for Xia Zhe for so many years! How could Xia Zhe have gotten married!

Who exactly was this new wife of his! What kind of extraordinary abilities did she have for Xia Zhe to take a fancy to her!

He Mei was so angry that she felt dizzy and she had no idea how to deal with this matter. When Xia Zhe was still single, even if he took a fancy to some girl, the relationship could not progress as long as the He family put a little pressure on him.

However, now that Xia Zhe was already married, it was impossible to make Xia Zhe marry her.

Unless... unless Xia Zhe got a divorce! Yes! A divorce!

"Mom, who did you hear this from? Is it true? Did you find out who that woman is and what her identity is?" He Mei held Li Xiu's hand tightly.

Li Xiu felt bad seeing her daughter like this, and kept trying to comfort He Mei to prevent her from doing anything stupid.

He Mei's father, He Guo, happened to return home at this moment. When He Mei saw her father, her tears began to fall uncontrollably.

"What's going on? Who bullied our Xiao Mei?" He Guo asked.

"Dad, quickly call up Uncle Xia and ask him if Xia Zhe got married?" He Mei said tearfully.

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He Guo laughed and said, "Xiao Mei, did you have a nightmare? If Xia Zhe is getting married, how can he not inform the people in the capital? Aren't you thinking too much?"

Li Xiu looked at He Guo earnestly and said, "It's true. Zheng Yuan from the Zheng family said that it's true."

Immediately, He Guo stopped smiling and looked at Li Xiu and He Mei sternly. The news might be fake if they heard it from anyone else, but Zheng Yuan and Xia Zhe were in the same army unit and Zheng Yuan herself was bent on marrying Xia Zhe. If she said it was true, then it was probably true.

"Don't panic, Xiao Mei. I'll call your Uncle Xia and ask him." After saying that, He Guo went to the phone and dialed the Xia family's number.

"Hello." The Xia family's helper picked up the phone.

"Hello, I'm He Guo. I would like to speak to Xia Mao," He Guo said patiently.

"Alright, please hold on. I'll go look for him."

Not long after, Xia Mao picked up the phone.

“Hello, Lao He, you really haven’t called me in a long time. What’s the matter?” Xia Mao asked.

“Brother Xia, you’ve been too nonchalant about Xia Zhe’s marriage. You didn’t tell us and I had to hear it from others,” He Guo said in a teasing manner.

When Xia Mao heard that it was because of this matter, he thought that it was unfair to say he hid it from everyone. He was actually the one who had been kept in the dark!

Xia Mao laughed and said, “It’s not that we didn’t tell anyone. It’s because Xia Zhe is still in the army and hasn’t come back on leave, so the wedding ceremony has been delayed. When Xia Zhe is back, I’ll get him to send you the wedding wine. It’s a rather special period now, so we won’t be hosting a banquet. Besides, it’s inconvenient for our Xia Zhe’s wife.”

Inconvenient? How is it inconvenient?

He Guo was baffled by what he heard and asked in confusion, “What’s wrong, is Xia Zhe’s wife sick?”

“No, no, no. Xia Zhe’s wife is pregnant. The weather is hot now and it’ll be tough to host a big banquet. So we won’t be doing that part, but we’ll definitely send you the wedding wine when Xia Zhe comes back.”

“That’s really double happiness for your family. My congratulations, I’ll be waiting for the wine. Brother Xia, I’ll hang up first. Let’s meet another day when there’s a chance,” He Guo said.

“Alright. Go ahead.” Xia Mao hung up after saying that.

Sitting in the living room, He Mei and Li Xiu looked at He Guo and waited for him to tell them the truth.

He Guo was also feeling very angry about this. He had hinted to Xia Mao countless times about the matter of their two families becoming in-laws. Every time, Xia Mao would either tactfully reject him or change the topic, adamant about not discussing the marriage of their two children.

Chapter 229: Secret Investigation

Yet now, Xia Zhe had secretly gotten married and even had a child, and no one had any inkling about it.

What else is this except looking down on the He family!

The He family could be considered one of the richest families in the capital. Although they were not in the military and he only had one daughter, He Mei, he had worked hard to build a successful business.

Unless it was because Xia Mao felt that the He family had no successor with only one daughter!

“Dad, is it true?” He Mei looked at He Guo anxiously.

He Guo nodded and said, “Married and already having a child. You should just give up on the idea of marrying Xia Zhe.”

When He Mei heard this, she cried uncontrollably. Li Xiu’s heart ached when she saw He Mei like this and she cried along.

“Cry, cry, cry! What are you crying for! Must our He family definitely marry into the Xia family!” He Guo pointed at He Mei and scolded her.

He quickly instructed someone to do a detailed check on the background of Xia Zhe’s wife, so that he could find out more about this woman who made the He family suffer a loss that they could not talk about. He must take revenge!

Not long after, a set of documents was sent to the He family house.

He Guo went through all the information and threw the documents on the coffee table in disdain after he finished.

“A village girl whose father died a long time ago and her mother even remarried. She grew up with her grandfather who is terminally ill and a retired soldier. She can be said to be a girl with completely no background,” He Guo said.

He Mei picked up the documents on the coffee table and read them carefully.

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“Dad, her grandfather’s name is Qiao Qiang. I think I heard my grandfather mention this person before.” He Mei looked at He Guo in confusion.

It had been a long time, so He Guo was unable to recall any details immediately, but he thought that this probably explained why the Xia family found such a girl suitable to be Xia Zhe’s wife.

Even so, Qiao Qiang was suffering from a terminal illness and was an old thing who did not have long to live. There was nothing he could do or achieve anymore.

“What do you think?” He Guo asked He Mei as he looked at her.

He Mei remained silent. For a moment, she had no idea what to do.

“Dad, I still want to marry Xia Zhe,” He Mei said.

“He’s already married! He even has a child! What nonsense are you talking about! Our He family doesn’t need such a person!” He Guo said angrily.

He Mei said nonchalantly, “So what if he’s married. It can still end in a divorce.”

“You good-for-nothing! Those who get married and then divorced have a stain on their reputation. What use would he have! What good will that do for our He family!” He Guo said with a frown.

“A divorce is not always a man’s fault. If he’s a victim of deception, then he doesn’t have to bear the consequences!” He Mei said as she looked at He Guo.

When He Guo heard this, he knew that his daughter already had an idea on how to deal with the situation. His daughter always had many tricks up her sleeve, and tricks really did come in handy in some situations.

“You have an idea?” He Guo asked.

“Three months ago, I had asked people in the troops for an update about Xia Zhe. During that time, Xia Zhe was always in the army and did not put up any request to go on leave. How could this woman get pregnant during that period of time?” He Mei said.

As He Guo thought about it, he felt that what He Mei said made sense. He did not hear about Xia Zhe going on leave as well. With Xia Zhe’s character, he would not go against the rules and go out on his own without permission.

He Mei looked at Qiao Mei’s photo on the document and subconsciously clenched her fists, crinkling the paper in her hand.

It was impossible for Xia Zhe to be attracted to such a village woman. Even if Qiao Mei managed to get one chance with him, it would not be possible for her to get pregnant after just one try.

It was not as if He Mei had not tried to seduce Xia Zhe before. Once, when it was raining and she was drenched, she tried to lean closely on Xia Zhe. However, Xia Zhe did not even offer to help her and just asked someone else to take over. He then left heartlessly and did not even look at her.

She would never believe that Xia Zhe would be tempted by this woman and sleep with her after only meeting her once.

He Guo felt that He Mei made sense. Taking the He family as an example, he was one of three brothers but there were still very few people in their family. His eldest brother changed two wives before he had his first child, and his third brother had not married yet as he was unwell and no one knew if he would survive his illness.

Therefore, he did not believe that Xia Zhe could make Qiao Mei pregnant with only one try.

Chapter 230: Investigating the "Truth"

He Guo looked at He Mei quietly and tried to think of a countermeasure. Li Xiu, who was at the side, did not say a word. She never had any say in these matters.

"Dad, do you know this woman Qiao Mei's grandfather? I think I really heard my grandfather mention his name before." He Mei asked as she pointed at the name on the paper.

He Guo leaned back on the sofa and tried very hard to recall this person. He suddenly thought of something and said excitedly, "I remember now! Your grandfather really seemed to have mentioned it before."

In the early days, the He family was also part of the military. They were originally not in business but when it got to He Guo's generation, all the children were all physically weak, so they were not able to enlist in the army as they wished. This resulted in most of them going into business.

"This Qiao Mei's grandfather, Qiao Qiang, has some form of relationship with the Xia family. In the past, Qiao Qiang had saved the life of Xia Zhe's grandfather, Xia Jun. Look at the timing. It's likely that Xia Jun asked Xia Zhe to visit Qiao Qiang on his birthday," He Guo said.

"Even if he went there during that period of time, how can everything happen after just one visit? If we count back the dates, she got pregnant around that time, didn't she?" He Mei said as she looked at the dates..

"I'm guessing that Qiao Mei did something shameful and Qiao Qiang was in a hurry to find Qiao Mei a husband. Xia Zhe just happened to be there," He Guo said after some thought.

When He Mei heard this, her eyes lit up and she said agitatedly, "That's right! Xia Zhe might not even know about it! Or maybe Xia Zhe knew about it but had no choice but to agree because he wanted to repay the debt of gratitude!"

Yes! Xia Zhe must have been deceived. The truth of this matter must be made public!

"That must be it. Otherwise, why would Xia Zhe only send his new wife back and not come back himself," Li Xiu echoed.

It was rare that He Guo only ignored her this time and did not reprimand her for talking.

"Leave this matter to me. I'll get my subordinates to go to that village to gather information and bring that man back," He Guo said.

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Since the Xia family was still useful to him, he would give them another big gift.

Qiao Mei could not help herself from sneezing twice. She frowned and rubbed her nose.

"Who's scolding me behind my back..." Qiao Mei muttered to herself.

After a good night's sleep, Qiao Mei and Xia Fang decided to take a walk around the surrounding area. It was the weekend and Xia Fang wanted to accompany Qiao Mei to go out and have some fun.

After breakfast, the two of them went straight to the largest department store in the capital. It was the most well-stocked store with the widest range of products.

Qiao Mei only had eyes for the fabric department and ignored everything else.

There were all kinds of fabrics and materials of good quality, and Qiao Mei was dazzled by the selection.

“Aunt, choose a few fabrics that you like. I’ll make clothes for you!” Qiao Mei said.

“What? You want to make clothes for me?” Xia Fang was a little surprised. Even when she was young, only her grandmother would make new clothes for her. The rest of her clothes were all store-bought. There were very few people who could make their own clothes nowadays.

She had seen the clothes that Qiao Mei made and indeed liked them very much.

Today, Qiao Mei was wearing one of the maternity dresses that Xia Fang bought for her. It was a bright red dress that Xia Fang had bought for the joyful color. It looked especially stunning on Qiao Mei.

“I can’t wear the type of clothes that you young people like,” Xia Fang said.

Qiao Mei’s clothes were either maternity wear or slim-fit dresses. Xia Fang was already in her 40s and if she wore the same kind of clothes, people would point fingers at her.

It was not Qiao Mei’s fault. She had a good figure and so long as she altered her clothes a little and took it in at the waist, it would make her look curvy and eye-catching.

Qiao Mei originally did not want to dress so conspicuously. The Xia family was considered a reputable family in the capital. If she met someone who knew them and caught their eyes, she might get criticized and it would not be good if Xia Zhe’s mother, Xu Lan, got to hear about it.

Although Qiao Mei was not afraid of Xu Lan, she was still Xia Zhe’s mother after all. Qiao Mei wanted to make sure that she did everything right, and not put herself in a position where she could get reproached by others.

Before leaving the house, she had wanted to change back into something more muted, but Xia Fang told her to wear red while she was still a newly wedded woman, otherwise there may be very few chances to do that in the future. It would also make up for the fact that she did not get to wear a nice wedding gown when she got married.

What Xia Fang said really resonated with Qiao Mei, so she went along with it and wore bright red clothes most of the time.