

Fat Wife 291

Chapter 291: Forgetting the Important Thing

"I think that we should keep an eye on the Cao family. Although we had made an exchange for their part of the house, they definitely won't tell other people what we gave them for it. Anyway, we did not shortchange them by exchanging the ginseng for the house," Qiao Mei said as she looked at Xia Zhe with bright eyes.

"Right." Xia Zhe nodded in response.

"If they dig up something, then let's report them. In that way, I won't feel the pinch if the things get handed over to the government. They will also suffer the consequences of their actions," Qiao Mei said.

In fact, Xia Zhe had the same plan. If the two of them started digging up their courtyard, the Cao family could also file a report that the Xia family was hiding something. Even if they had no evidence, they would still suspect that there was really something hidden underground.

"So, let's just keep an eye on the Cao family over the next two days. Hurry up and eat. Otherwise, the food will get cold soon," Xia Zhe said.

Qiao Mei nodded obediently. All she could think about was how to pull the treasure boxes deeper into the ground. She decided to check again tonight if there were any other boxes buried under the house.

After they had eaten and showered, the two of them went out to the nearby park for a walk to aid digestion. When they returned, Xia Zhe went to the back wall to check on the Cao family's movements. There was no more sound, so there was unlikely to be any more digging tonight.

"How is it?" Qiao Mei asked softly.

"They've probably left. There's no sound from the Cao family side," Xia Zhe said.

"That's good, that's good," Qiao Mei said as she patted her chest.

As it was already late, the two of them lay down on the bed. Xia Zhe used the excuse of providing the baby with antenatal education to touch Qiao Mei everywhere.

“Don’t mess around,” Qiao Mei said as she slapped Xia Zhe’s hands away.

After a while, Xia Zhe’s hands started moving again. Qiao Mei closed her eyes and pretended to sleep. It was not as if Xia Zhe had not seen Qiao Mei sleeping before and he could tell if she was really sleeping.

Xia Zhe smiled affectionately and just hugged Qiao Mei as he rested. Qiao Mei gradually fell asleep and completely forgot about her earlier plans to move the treasure boxes.

The next day, Qiao Mei woke up before dawn. It could be that she was too tired yesterday and did not really sleep well.

“How muddleheaded of me, how could I have forgotten about this!” Qiao Mei said in frustration.

Qiao Mei quietly put on a thin coat and went to the same spot she was at yesterday. She first checked if there was anyone from the Cao family around. When she was sure there was no one around, she secretly sent energy to the vines.

Golden energy surrounded the vines. Before long, Qiao Mei’s consciousness was connected to the vines. After checking the location where she had placed the treasure boxes yesterday and making sure that they were still intact, she continued to pull the treasure boxes even deeper underground.

By now, the treasure boxes were already 30 meters underground. At such a depth, the Cao family would definitely not be able to discover them.

“Hmph, let’s see how you can find the treasure boxes,” Qiao Mei said, feeling pleased with herself.

After finishing what she needed to do, the sky was not even completely bright yet. Qiao Mei crept back to the bed to sleep for a while more.

The Cao family still had to go to work during the day and could only come back to dig at night. After digging for a while, they had to return everything to its original state. Otherwise, if any neighbors passing by saw them, they would think that their house was raided and this would invite gossip.

This affected the speed and efficiency of their digging and they would not be able to find the treasure boxes even if they dug until the day when they had to move out.

By the time the sun rose, Xia Zhe woke up. He turned around and saw that Qiao Mei was still sleeping soundly. He smiled and stroked her head before gently kissing her forehead.

“Time to get up. We still have to go to Aunt’s house today.” Xia Zhe woke Qiao Mei up gently.

After being back for so many days, Xia Zhe had yet to formally pay his aunt a visit at her house. Although he had already met with her, it was still more proper etiquette-wise to formally pay her a visit.

“Hmm... I don’t want to get up... Let me sleep for a while more...” Qiao Mei turned over and curled up against the wall.

“If you still don’t get up, we won’t be able to go to Aunt’s house,” Xia Zhe said to Qiao Mei threateningly.

However, they did not expect Xia He and Xia Fang to come in just as they were about to get ready and leave the house.

Chapter 292: Settling Scores with Her

“Elder sister and Aunt? Why are you here? We are just about to go and look for you,” Qiao Mei said in surprise.

At this moment, Xia He looked troubled. Xia Fang did not think much of it, but Xia He felt very apologetic towards both Qiao Mei and her aunt.

“Qiao Mei, I want to apologize to you,” Xia He said sincerely as she looked into Qiao Mei’s eyes.

“What’s wrong, elder sister?” Qiao Mei was puzzled to hear that.

Xia Zhe looked at Xia He. He knew that Xia He would not take the initiative to reach out unless it was something very important.

“Come, elder sister. Come in and talk.” Qiao Mei pulled Xia He into the house.

Xia Zhe looked at his aunt as they followed behind and asked, “What happened?”

Xia Fang shook her head helplessly and said, “It’s Xia He’s sister-in-law. She had caused some trouble.”

“You’ve both come over so early in the morning, have you had breakfast?” Xia Zhe asked.

“We haven’t eaten yet. Xiao He and I came out at dawn,” Xia Fang said.

“We haven’t eaten either. Let’s go out and buy some food and let the two of them talk.” After saying that, Xia Zhe and Xia Fang went out to buy breakfast from a nearby shop, and also to visit Zhou Sheng.

Inside the house, Qiao Mei brought Xia He into the main hall to talk and served her a cup of tea.

“Elder sister, don’t be anxious. Have some tea first. What happened?” Qiao Mei asked.

Xia He had not eaten or drunk anything yet since waking up very early in the morning. She quickly took a sip of tea and then took out 2,000 dollars from her pocket.

“Sister-in-law, I’m so sorry. I know that the set of jewelry you bought for Aunt costs 2,000 dollars,” Xia He said.

“Yes, it’s 2,000 dollars. But elder sister, what is the money for?” Qiao Mei looked at Xia He and felt at a loss.

“It’s like this. Kong Li has taken that set of jewelry and I’m unable to remove what she had already worn, so I have no choice. Take it that I have bought over this set of jewelry and I’m compensating you for it.” Xia He pushed the money towards Qiao Mei.

That night, Xia He had repeatedly reminded Xia Fang to lock all the drawers and cabinet doors in the house, but she was still a step too late.

The next morning, Xia He woke up to find Kong Li wearing Xia Fang’s jewelry and admiring herself in the bedroom. She could not take the jewelry off Kong Li no matter how hard she tried. Whenever she tried, Kong Li would kick up a big fuss. Even though both she and Xia Fang tried, the two of them could not win against Kong Li, so she had no choice but to come and apologize to Qiao Mei.

“She slapped you, didn’t she?” Qiao Mei asked with a frown.

Although the marks on Xia He’s face had mostly disappeared, it was still obvious that the left and right sides of her face looked different. It was obvious that she had been hit by someone.

Xia He gently touched her cheek and used her hand to block the marks.

“I’m fine. It’s almost fully recovered,” Xia He said.

Qiao Mei went to the kitchen to get a hardboiled egg for Xia He to use on her face.

“Take this money and buy another set of jewelry. You can give it to Aunt or do whatever you want with it. This whole matter is my fault,” Xia He said guiltily as she looked at Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei smiled indifferently. If the jewelry was broken, she could go and buy new ones. If she lost something, she could get a replacement. However, she felt that it was a little too much that elder sister had been beaten up for no reason and then still had to be the one to repay the money.

“I don’t want money, and you shouldn’t be the one paying for it.” Qiao Mei said as she pushed the money back.

“It’s alright, I’m willing to do it,” Xia He continued. “Just take the money. I’ll feel better this way.”

Qiao Mei did not refuse anymore. If this money was in Xia He’s hands, it would be taken away by the Kong family sooner or later. Moreover, Kong Li already knew that Xia He had come to find her to compensate her today. If she did not accept the money and Kong Li found out, then Kong Li would definitely find other reasons to ask Xia He for the money.

“Alright, then leave the money with me. But we can’t let this matter rest just like that. She definitely has to pay for the slap she gave you,” Qiao Mei said with resentment.

This gave Xia He a fright and she hurriedly said, “Mei Mei, you can’t go. You’re currently pregnant. What if she attacks you and something happens to you?”

Qiao Mei thought for a moment and said, “Don’t worry, I’ll have Xia Zhe with me. He won’t let anything happen to me.”

Chapter 293: Brother Xia ~

“Do I have a role to play in this?” Xia Zhe said as he came in from the door.

“Where did you go?” Qiao Mei asked.

“Both elder sister and Aunt haven’t eaten yet. Let’s eat first and talk about other things later.” Xia Zhe placed the soy milk and dough sticks on the dining table.

After putting down the things, he went to the kitchen to get some white sugar. The soy milk they usually drank was bland and tasteless, with only the taste of beans. Xia Zhe added a spoonful of sugar to Qiao Mei’s bowl so that the soy milk would become very sweet.

“Xiao Zhe, why are you so biased? Why didn’t you add a spoonful of sugar for Aunt and me as well?” Xia He teased with a laugh.

Xia Zhe stood there with a red face and said shyly, “It’s just that I don’t know what Aunt and elder sister likes.”

“Alright, alright. Stop teasing Xia Zhe and just eat,” Xia Fang said as she sat down.

After they finished their meal, they took a rest in the courtyard. Xia Fang had already told Xia Zhe the whole story along the way. Xia Zhe thought that it was not appropriate for him to say anything about this matter and he decided to go along with whatever Qiao Mei wanted to do.

“Let’s rest for a while and then go look for Kong Li,” Qiao Mei said as she lay on the rocking chair.

“Xia Zhe, please dissuade your wife.” Xia He looked at Xia Zhe with a pleading gaze.

“I’ll listen to Qiao Mei,” Xia Zhe said firmly.

When he said that, it was greeted with mixed feelings. Qiao Mei sat on the rocking chair and laughed happily. Xia He stood in the middle of the courtyard and pointed at Xia Zhe as she said, “How can you listen to your wife when she wants to go for a fight!”

“Don’t worry, elder sister. I’m very strong,” Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Xia Zhe gave Qiao Mei a meaningful look. It still felt as if what happened that night had happened just yesterday. Qiao Mei was shockingly strong, and even he stood no chance against her strength.

“How can you just let her be, Xia Zhe! What if something happens!” Xia He stood in the middle of the courtyard and pointed at Xia Zhe as she questioned him.

Qiao Mei stood up and lifted the rocking chair with one hand. Although the rocking chair was not very heavy, it weighed at least 20 to 30 pounds. Yet, Qiao Mei could lift it with one hand without any effort.

She stunned Xia He and Xia Fang with this move.

“I just told you that I’m very strong. Come on, let’s go.” Qiao Mei held Xia Zhe’s hand and walked out of the house, leaving the two of them in the courtyard, looking at each other and still immersed in the unbelievable scene just now.

The four of them returned to Xia Fang’s house together. Before they entered, they could hear many children making noise in the house.

Xia He felt a little dizzy. She placed one hand on the railing and closed her eyes.

“Xiao He, are you alright?” Xia Fang held Xia He anxiously.

For the past few days, she had been worried about what Kong Li did. Not only did she not manage her own affairs well, but she even got her family into trouble. This made her feel very guilty and she did not sleep last night, thinking about how to apologize to Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei could tell what was going on. She knew that those children from the Sun family would not let the matter rest. They did not manage to bully Qiao Mei the last time and this time, they had their eyes on the newcomer, Kong Li.

Qiao Mei wanted to push the door open with all her might, but she did not expect the door to be unlocked. She almost fell over from the momentum but fortunately, Xia Zhe held on to her.

What she saw was a huge mess in the house. The tables and chairs were all in disarray and the cushions on the sofa had also been thrown onto the ground. Everything edible in the kitchen had been taken out and there were oil stains and food scraps everywhere.

Kong Li and the children were seated around the dining table, eating the cake that Qiao Mei had made for Aunt two days ago.

They were wolfing it down as if they had not eaten for five or six days.

The children of the Sun family had always been like this, but she could not understand why Kong Li also behaved in the same way when she had regular meals every day.

Kong Li was the first one to see Qiao Mei and the others returning. As she ate, she said with a grin, "Brother Xia, you're here to see me."

Qiao Mei could not help but roll her eyes.

Brother Xia? Brother Xia, your head! Are you allowed to call him Brother Xia!

This made Qiao Mei even more bad-tempered. She had to settle this score today, or it would never end!

Although the children were badly behaved, they paled in comparison with Kong Li.

Chapter 294: Failed Snatch

The children from the Sun family saw Qiao Mei and the others shortly after, and they quickly stuffed whatever they could into their pockets. These children's pockets were custom-made and could hold a lot of things. Before long, the table was emptied of everything on it.

The children took advantage of the fact that no one was paying attention to them and ran out of the house. They were so fast that no one could hold onto them. Even if it was possible to grab the children, Qiao Mei found it awkward to argue with the children and to ask them to take everything out from their pockets. After all, Kong Li was the main culprit today.

Without another word, Qiao Mei went forward and pulled off all the jewelry that Kong Li was wearing, including the earrings. Kong Li would have been fine if she did not struggle, but she put up a fight, causing her ears to bleed from the struggling.

“You’re all bullying me! How dare you treat me like this!” Kong Li said as she covered her ears.

“These things belong to me. I don’t want to lend them to you, so I’m taking them back,” Qiao Mei said as she put the jade jewelry into her pocket.

“Xia He, how can you ignore this! This is how your family treats me!” Kong Li pointed at Qiao Mei while she questioned Xia He.

“Those things belonged to someone else in the first place,” Xia He said coldly.

“You’re all in cahoots! I just borrowed it to wear for a couple of days! Why are you so petty!” Kong Li said as she looked at Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei laughed and said, “This is mine and I didn’t lend it to you. What right do you have to wear it?”

Of course Kong Li wanted to take it! She had heard Xia He asked Xia Fang yesterday and knew that this set of jewelry cost 2,000 dollars!

Qiao Mei crossed her arms and looked at Kong Li fiercely, accidentally exposing the two bangles that she was wearing. When Kong Li saw them, she went up to snatch them.

Kong Li behaved the same way when she was at home. If she took a fancy to something, she would snatch it away. She took advantage of the fact that no one could bully her because of her size. Once she managed to snatch something, no one could take it back.

This method did not work on Qiao Mei though, given that she was stronger than Kong Li and she had seen all kinds of unreasonable people in the village.

However, Qiao Mei did not expect her to be so vicious. Before she could react, Xia Zhe had already pulled her into his arms so that she managed to dodge Kong Li’s attack.

Xia He also knew that Kong Li would definitely use this move. Back when she was at home, Kong Li had done this to her many times. She rushed forward and used all her strength to push Kong Li away.

“What are you trying to do? How dare you think about snatching it! This is where the Xia family lives, not the Kong family. It’s not a place where you can throw your tantrum!” Xia He pointed at Kong Li and scolded her.

Xia Zhe hugged Qiao Mei and then looked at his elder sister who was behaving like a shrew. His heart ached for her. In his memory, Xia He was that happy and warm elder sister who was always full of smiles. He did not expect the Kong family to make her such a wreck.

At the end of the day, it was all Kong Lu’s fault! He had to settle all these scores properly after this! He must make Kong Lu pay for all the grievances his sister had suffered!

“You’re my sister-in-law and she’s your sister-in-law, so she’s also my sister-in-law! Since she’s my sister-in-law, why can’t she give me something since I’m younger!” Kong Li shouted at Xia He.

“Don’t flatter yourself here! Who’s your sister-in-law? Is she willing to be your sister-in-law!” Xia He said.

“Is that how you talk to me! When I get back, I’ll definitely tell my brother and let him give you a telling off!” Kong Li said angrily.

“Then you better tell him everything that happened today so that he can teach me a lesson. We’re not done with this yet!” Xia He had thought it through. She did not want to be bullied by the Kong family anymore.

She was fine if she was the only one bullied, but her younger brother, sister-in-law, and even her aunt, were being bullied now. She was definitely getting a divorce!

Seeing that it was many against one, Kong Li stopped arguing. She sat down at the dining table and decided to finish all the cake before calling up Kong Lu to complain to him.

Qiao Mei walked to the bedroom and put away all the valuable things, including the calligraphy painting in the study. These things would be worth a lot of money in the future and she could not let Kong Li ruin them. As for the flower pots, she decided to forget about them as she did not know where to hide them. She only wished that the flowers in the attic were not discovered.

Xia Zhe and Xia He tidied up the mess in the house. Xia Fang sat in the bedroom, not knowing what to do. Kong Li was like a scoundrel and an eyesore who could not be chased away.

Chapter 295: The Reason for Not Growing

The few of them sat around in the study room and looked at one another in silence.

“How can we send her away?” Xia He said as she looked at Xia Zhe helplessly.

“We can’t really find an officer for her to marry, right? When you first came back, didn’t you say that you can only bring her home when you find someone to marry her?” Xia Fang said.

“Ask Kong Lu to come and take her away,” Xia Zhe said expressionlessly.

“It’s not enough to just ask him to come. He must pay for all the damages done to this house before taking her away,” Qiao Mei said.

From her quick cleanup session just now, she found out that two stools in the living room had been damaged and could not be used anymore. There were also a few glasses and bowls on the coffee table that had been shattered.

In addition, if there was any damage to that set of jewelry, she also wanted them to compensate for it.

“It would be best if he would come,” Xia He said with a sigh.

She had already forgotten when she last saw Kong Lu. It was probably more than half a year ago.

“Aunt, put all your valuable things at my house first. I’ll help you to replace whatever you need after Kong Li leaves,” Qiao Mei said to Xia Fang.

Xia Fang nodded, then she turned to look at Xia He and said, “During this period of time, come with me to live in the house in the neighboring apartment complex. The military had allocated that house to your uncle for his family to live in.”

“But she can’t be allowed to live in this house alone. Who knows what else she might do,” Xia He said with a frown.

“Why don’t you all come to my house? It’s not far from the hospital where Aunt worked and it’s also easy for you to go to work from there,” Qiao Mei said.

“Never mind, let Aunt stay with you. I should watch over her in this house. Otherwise, it would be disastrous if she really did something nasty,” Xia He said as she shook her head.

“I’m going to stay in the house allocated to your uncle. You don’t have to worry about me. That house is also not far from the hospital,” Xia Fang said.

Hearing what Xia He said, Qiao Mei had no choice but to ask her to take good care of herself.

Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei only managed to reach home late at night. As soon as they entered their courtyard, they could hear the Cao family next door starting to dig again. The sounds were very faint, but could still be heard clearly.

“I’m amazed that they don’t find it tiring at all. They have to go to work during the day and then come over to dig up the house at night. Then, they have to return it to its original state in the morning. The way they do it, they won’t be able to do much even if they dig till the cows come home,” Qiao Mei said mockingly.

“I couldn’t care less about them. Let’s eat first,” Xia Zhe said.

“Eat? What are we eating?” Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"I'll cook today. You can just take a rest," Xia Zhe said.

Seeing how enthusiastic Xia Zhe was, Qiao Mei did not want to discourage him. However, when she thought about how he had turned the potatoes into small potato chunks the other day, she felt that the meal today was fraught with grim possibilities.

"Alright, go ahead then. I'll just wait to eat," Qiao Mei said.

After Xia Zhe left, Qiao Mei stood under the cherry tree and looked around.

Although this cherry tree was still alive, it was not growing well nor in a good condition. Qiao Mei felt that it would definitely be able to grow better if she exchanged some energy with it. Furthermore, if she helped to spread its roots underneath the entire house, it would also make it easier for her to investigate the matter of the treasure.

Otherwise, if too many vines started appearing out of thin air in the entire courtyard, it would also arouse suspicion.

By now, Qiao Mei could already communicate with plants silently. She could achieve her desired goal just by communicating through her consciousness without making any physical contact.

The only difference was that when Qiao Mei communicated with the plants using her consciousness, the plants' speed of growth might only be around double the original speed. If she touched them, the speed of growth could reach up to ten or even twenty times the original speed.

Qiao Mei gently touched the tree trunk, causing its roots to grow rapidly. Over the past few days, Qiao Mei had taken a long rest and recovered her energy.

The cherry tree's roots grew quickly. Before long, they bumped into a box underground. It was a big box that was buried directly under its main trunk.

Qiao Mei immediately understood why this cherry tree had not grown properly for so many years.

Chapter 296: Asking Elder Brother for Help

This box had seriously hindered the growth of the cherry tree's roots into the earth.

Qiao Mei quietly wrapped the box with the tree roots and moved its position so that the cherry tree could grow healthily.

Qiao Mei increased her energy again and the roots of the cherry tree quickly grew all over the courtyard. As the roots spread, she found more boxes.

Qiao Mei smiled whenever she sensed something that the roots touched. She counted a total of three boxes under the courtyard, two big ones and a small one. In addition to one big box and one small box at the Cao family's side, there were a total of five boxes.

Qiao Mei knew that Xia Zhe's grandmother would not put all the eggs in the same basket and would have packed them separately.

However, Qiao Mei was really curious about what was contained in these boxes.

Qiao Mei slowly moved the small box towards the well. The well had not been used for a long time and had long dried up.

She thought about just retrieving the small box to take a look at it before burying it back. That way, no one would discover anything.

She was sure that Xia Zhe would agree to it. If he was the kind of person who strictly abided by the rules, he would have done his best to dig out the things underground and handed them over to the authorities, instead of letting them stay hidden.

Qiao Mei stared blankly at the well. It had been sealed for a long time and there was a thick stone slab over it which was already covered in moss.

Xia Zhe had just come out of the kitchen. He only made two dishes tonight, potatoes stewed with kidney beans and scrambled egg.

Xia Zhe learnt how to make these by asking his aunt. These were the two simplest dishes for beginners to make. Unfortunately, the eggs were a little scorched and he did not know how they would taste.

When Xia Zhe came out with the dishes, he saw Qiao Mei crouched at the mouth of the well, looking around as if she was plotting something. If it was any other ordinary woman, he would not be worried because no ordinary woman would be able to lift up such a piece of heavy stone. However, Qiao Mei was different.

“Mei Mei, what are you doing next to that well?” Xia Zhe asked nervously.

“Oh, you’re done cooking! Hurry up and put down the food, then come over,” Qiao Mei said.

Xia Zhe did not have time to go to the dining room at all. He was so nervous when he saw Qiao Mei in such a dangerous place that he turned around and put the dishes back into the kitchen before running over to her.

“What are you doing?” Xia Zhe asked.

“My darling brother, can you help me open up this well?” Qiao Mei asked sweetly.

When Xia Zhe heard this form of address, he was stunned to the spot and said to Qiao Mei with a red face, “How can you call me that now? Do that only at night. Stop fooling around.”

Qiao Mei pouted and said, “Why can other people call you brother but I can’t?”

“Listen to me. Also, no one else calls me that,” Xia Zhe said.

“Then what do you want me to call you?” Qiao Mei said.

“Call me by my name when there’s someone around. You can call me that only when there’s no one around,” Xia Zhe said seriously.

When there is no one around?

“My darling brother~ Just help me~” Qiao Mei tugged at Xia Zhe’s sleeve and said sweetly.

Xia Zhe’s gaze instantly darkened. This little vixen was really annoying.

Xia Zhe did not speak and just stared at her quietly. This made Qiao Mei feel an immense sense of pressure as she felt like she was being targeted by a wolf.

“Why... why is this well sealed up?” Qiao Mei quickly changed the topic.

Xia Zhe still did not speak and continued to stare at her. This young girl was getting more and more lawless. Should he teach her a lesson?

When Qiao Mei saw Xia Zhe not moving, she thought to herself that it was useless to rely on men. It appeared that if she needed anything done, she had to do it herself.

Qiao Mei rolled up her sleeves and pushed lightly, causing the stone slab to fall to one side. Then she stood up and dusted off her hands as she looked at Xia Zhe smugly.

“Since you’re not going to help, I’ll just do it myself!” Qiao Mei said.

Xia Zhe sighed resignedly. He really did not know what to say about Qiao Mei.

“This well is very deep. Don’t lean in too much. Just look from afar.” Xia Zhe said as he went forward to stop Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei stuck her head out to take a look. The well looked to be about five to six meters deep. It had already dried up and there was only mud inside. She was aware that the box was located directly underneath the mud.

Chapter 297: Going Down the Well to Find the Treasure

“This well became contaminated for some reason. In the past, my father fell sick after drinking the water from this well, so my grandmother sealed it up,” Xia Zhe said.

His father fell sick? This matched the timing that Grandpa Zhou mentioned! It seemed that the well was used to hide something.

“Then why don’t we clean up this well and use it again!” Qiao Mei said.

“No! This well is so deep. Besides, you’re pregnant now and drawing water from the well is such a tedious and heavy chore,” Xia Zhe said with a frown.

“If I can push away the stone slab on top of the well, why would it be difficult for me to draw water?” Qiao Mei looked at Xia Zhe in puzzlement.

Xia Zhe was instantly struck speechless. After thinking for a while, he said, “After our child is born, what if the child falls into the well? It’s too dangerous.”

“I’ll just close it with the stone slab after they’re born. It’s not like I can’t lift it. Otherwise, we can install a pump so that I don’t have to draw water up,” Qiao Mei said.

“That won’t do either. My father fell sick after drinking the water from this well back then. What if there are still remnants of bacteria inside?” Xia Zhe said sternly.

However, his father’s illness back then was not real!

Qiao Mei looked at Xia Zhe helplessly. He was trying his best not to let her use this well.

After thinking about it, Xia Zhe was still worried. When he returned to the army, if Qiao Mei took advantage of the fact that he was not around to clean up the well and use it, he would not be able to come back and stop her.

No! He must fill up this well quickly!

Xia Zhe looked around for the shovel so that he could fill up the well now. He did not want to wait for even another second.

Qiao Mei also could tell what Xia Zhe wanted to do and hurriedly went to the side to pick up the shovel and hugged it.

“If you dare to fill up this well, I’ll fight it out with you!” Qiao Mei said huffily to Xia Zhe.

Xia Zhe looked at Qiao Mei, who was hugging the shovel and looking like an angry puffer fish, and did not know whether to laugh or cry.

“Alright, alright, alright. I won’t fill it in,” Xia Zhe said resignedly.

Qiao Mei also knew that Xia Zhe was doing this for the good of their children and her. It was not a bad thing that Xia Zhe liked his children enough to plan ahead for them.

“If we clean up this well and restore it, we can use it later to water the vegetable garden and the fruit trees. We can save so much money in this manner!” Qiao Mei said in a serious tone.

Xia Zhe rolled his eyes at Qiao Mei, thinking that she was spouting nonsense. He wondered out loud about not knowing who had spent 30 dollars on three flower pots at the antique market. The money spent on those flower pots was enough to pay for three to four years of running water.

“What do you know? You have to save when you should save and spend when you should spend!” Qiao Mei stood with her hands on her hips and holding the shovel next to her.

Xia Zhe shook his head resignedly. It seemed like Qiao Mei was determined to make use of this well.

“We can eventually put a lid over the well and lock it every time after use. Otherwise, we can use something that pumps water and just install a pipe. It’ll be very safe then,” Qiao Mei said.

“You can tell my elder brother about this when it’s time. He’s a professor and he knows people in this field. Let them look into what you want to do,” Xia Zhe said.

Qiao Mei pulled Xia Zhe over to the well and pointed to the bottom as she said, “Come and see if you can tell what this is?”

Qiao Mei had already quietly maneuvered the roots of the cherry tree to push the treasure box up. At this moment, a corner of the treasure box was already revealed.

Xia Zhe pulled Qiao Mei behind him and lowered his head to see what was in the well. He caught a glimpse of something golden.

“Do you think that’s some sort of treasure?” Qiao Mei whispered.

“Didn’t we agree to pretend not to see anything even if we did?” Xia Zhe said as he looked at Qiao Mei.

“But we can’t just leave it there. Since it’s already exposed, let’s quickly take it out and bury it somewhere else!” Qiao Mei asserted eloquently.

“You’re just a little money-grubber,” Xia Zhe said with a laugh.

Qiao Mei smiled sweetly and said, “Isn’t it only because I want to protect what grandmother left behind? Since it’s already exposed, let’s quickly take it out and hide it somewhere else!”

What Qiao Mei said made sense, so Xia Zhe went to retrieve the soft rope ladder from the storeroom and picked up the shovel from the side. After tying the rope, he went down the well.

“Stay up there and keep watch. Don’t come down. It’s dangerous, so just stay up there,” Xia Zhe said.

“Alright, then you be careful,” Qiao Mei said as she held onto the soft rope ladder by the well.

When Xia Zhe reached the bottom of the well, he only needed to dig a few times before being able to retrieve a wooden box with its four corners wrapped in brass. In the past, it would have been regarded as a high-grade box.

Xia Zhe gently shook the soft rope ladder and Qiao Mei threw down a rope. Xia Zhe tied one end of the rope to the handle of the box and pulled the rope to send a signal to Qiao Mei.

Upon receiving the signal, Qiao Mei pulled the box up forcefully. Her eyes lit up when she saw the box.

Xia Zhe slowly climbed up and packed up his tools. Then, he walked in front of the box and wiped the top.

“Stand behind me, and stay further away in case there’s any bugs inside that may give you a fright,” Xia Zhe said.

Qiao Mei nodded and stood gingerly behind Xia Zhe, staring at the box. After all, this box had been placed underground for a long time and there might be bugs that had used it as a nest.

Xia Zhe opened the box gently, and what appeared in front of them was a box full of gold bars and silver dollars.

“Wow!” Qiao Mei exclaimed with her eyes wide open.

Xia Zhe also found it unbelievable. He did not know that his grandmother really had such assets.

This was the first time in Qiao Mei's life that she had seen a box full of gold bars. This was all real money!

Qiao Mei went forward excitedly to take a look. These gold bars were very well-preserved. Only the box had rotted slightly after being kept under the well for a long time. There was a little mud inside, but it was not a big problem as the contents were waterproof.

"These are all good stuff! There's nothing special about these gold bars, but look, these silver dollars are all priceless," Qiao Mei said excitedly as she picked up a few silver dollars from the box.

Xia Zhe did not know much about these things and did not know what they were worth, but seeing how excited Qiao Mei was, they must be worth a lot of money.

"Mei Mei, you can take out these silver dollars and have fun with them. Then we'll bury the rest back. What do you think?" Xia Zhe said.

He did not know if anyone had seen him digging just now, nor did he know if he made any loud noises. If someone passed by and discovered what he did, it would become a big deal. It would be better to bury the box back quickly.

Qiao Mei was also a little worried when she heard what Xia Zhe said, but she liked the way that Xia Zhe discussed the matter with her. It made her feel that he valued her opinion very much.

"We should bury these together too. Let's just pretend that we didn't open it and we'll dig it out again during a more peaceful time in the future," Qiao Mei said as she put the silver dollars back.

She would be heartbroken if she lost these things after taking them out. Besides, she would also feel more at ease if they remained buried in the soil. Furthermore, these things would oxidize once they were taken out and they would lose their value.

Xia Zhe knew that Qiao Mei was a sensible person at the end of the day. Although she was a little obsessed with money, she still knew how to look at the big picture.

The two of them quickly hid the things back where they found it. By the time they were done, it was already past midnight.

Xia Zhe went to heat up the food.

“Try it. I learned this from Aunt.” Xia Zhe stood in front of Qiao Mei, wearing a pink apron, and spoke to her while pretending to be calm.

“You learned this from Aunt? We’re always together, so how do you have the time to learn from Aunt?” Qiao Mei looked at Xia Zhe in puzzlement.

“When I walked with Aunt, I asked her about the easiest dishes to cook and she told me about these two. Then I went to look up the recipes,” Xia Zhe said.

When Xia Zhe went out to buy breakfast in the morning, he had already planned to make a nice meal for Qiao Mei. He had bought a few food magazines from the roadside stall and followed the recipes while cooking.

Doubtful about what he said, Qiao Mei picked up some of the scrambled eggs and put it in her mouth to try. It was not unpalatable and tasted quite alright. It was just that he had fried it over too high heat. However, for someone who was cooking for the first time, it was already a very good attempt.

Chapter 299: Sudden Visit

“It’s very delicious. Looks like you have a talent for this!” Qiao Mei praised him with a smile.

Xia Zhe was relieved to see Qiao Mei eating the food heartily.

After dinner, they cleaned up the house and then went to bed.

For a few days, no one came to look for them. All their relatives and friends seemed to have left.

“What other fun places are there in the capital?” Qiao Mei asked Xia Zhe as she ate grapes.

“There’s nothing really fun to do in the capital. Do you feel bored at home?” Xia Zhe said as he looked at Qiao Mei.

“Not really. I just want to walk around more and look around,” Qiao Mei said.

“If you really want to go somewhere, we can take the bus. When you see someplace where you like the scenery, we can get off the bus and walk around,” Xia Zhe said.

She thought that this was a good idea. Most of the sightseeing venues were already reachable by public buses. One could just get off at any station one wanted.

“That’s a good idea. Let’s go after a couple of days when the weather is good,” Qiao Mei said.

For the past few days, Grandpa Zhou had gone off to a friend’s house, leaving only Xia Zhe and her at home. On most days, they would go out for a walk and then return to cook at home. It was a boring life.

The strange thing was that the Cao family had become much more well-behaved recently. There were no more knocking sounds at night for about two to three days.

“Why do you think the Cao family has been quiet recently?” Qiao Mei asked curiously.

“I’m guessing they might be busy with work recently and don’t have time to come over. Besides, maybe there’s really nothing over there?” Xia Zhe said.

“Let’s wait a little longer. There’s still some time before they need to hand over the house to us. Let’s see what else they can do during this period of time.” Qiao Mei felt very excited just thinking about it.

Just when she said that no one had visited them recently, someone came knocking on the door.

“Knock, knock, knock!”

“Who is it?” Qiao Mei asked.

“Sister-in-law, it’s me,” Xia He said.

Qiao Mei hurriedly gestured for Xia Zhe to open the door. Xia Zhe opened the door gently and saw Xia He standing at the door with a pile of things. Other than fruits suitable for pregnant women to eat, there were also many children’s stuff.

“I just came back from the mall and saw a store selling baby products. I thought that your baby would be born soon, so I bought some things. I’m not sure if you’re able to use them,” Xia He said.

“Elder sister, it’s been only slightly more than three months. There are still six months to go before I give birth,” Qiao Mei said laughingly.

“Six months will be over in just a blink of an eye. I don’t know if you’re having a boy or a girl, so I bought one set each. When the time comes, you can use whatever you want,” Xia He said as she placed the things in the house.

Qiao Mei was very moved by this gesture. Only she herself knew that she was pregnant with a pair of twins, so Xia He had really made the right choice in buying baby products for both boy and girl.

“Thank you, elder sister. By the way, has Kong Li caused any trouble recently?” Qiao Mei asked.

When Xia He heard this question, her face fell immediately. Ever since the incident the last time, Kong Li had indeed behaved herself for a day. However, she immediately asked those children over for dinner the next day.

Those children were very hard to deal with as all of them were very quick-witted. They did not really cause trouble, they were just greedy. In actual fact, the children were more discerning than Kong Li.

“Kong Li keeps asking those children to come over to the house. I can’t handle it and can only let them come by to eat,” Xia He said helplessly.

“So that means these few children have eaten a lot these few days?” Qiao Mei asked.

Xia He nodded. The children were all boys going through puberty and they could eat a lot. In addition, Kong Li could eat a lot too. She must eat two roast ducks every day.

“What can I do, except to spend money to buy some peace and quiet.” Xia He sat at the side in a daze.

“When is Kong Lu coming?” Xia Zhe asked with a frown.

“I gave him a call yesterday, but he just hung up. He didn’t even call me back. I don’t think he will come to the capital,” Xia He said.

Chapter 300: Preferring Sons Over Daughters

During this period of time, Xia Zhe kept thinking about what Xia He was going through. The earlier his sister could get a divorce, the earlier she would be able to escape from her misery.

“I’ll make a call to get him to come to the capital quickly. I’ll say there’s something he needs to do,” Xia Zhe said.

“Do you think he’ll believe what you say?” Qiao Mei asked.

“I’m considered his superior, so he should believe me. I’ll get my soldiers to call him and won’t do it myself. Otherwise, he’ll be suspicious.” After saying that, Xia Zhe went into the house and picked up the phone to make arrangements.

Xia He looked at Xia Zhe’s figure while he was on the phone and sighed silently as she said, “Mei Mei, when Kong Lu comes, how do you think I should face him?”

“Do you still like him?” Qiao Mei asked.

“Of course not. In the past, we were indeed together because of our feelings for each other. But ever since we got married and his attitude towards me changed, I no longer like him anymore,” Xia He said firmly.

“Then just treat this as a favor that you’re doing for yourself. After this matter is settled, you can start a new life again,” Qiao Mei comforted.

Xia He sat quietly and looked into the distance. She really could not remember what she was like before she got married. That day, Xia Zhe even said that she was no longer the smiley sister he remembered. What was she like originally?

“You don’t have to worry too much about it. The main thing you have to figure out is whether you will regret doing this,” Qiao Mei said as she held Xia He’s hand.

“I won’t regret it. I must get a divorce!” Xia He said firmly after thinking about it.

Xia Zhe walked out of the house and said, “It has been arranged. He’ll be here in two days.”

“Alright.” Xia He suddenly thought of something and said, “I’m here today with an actual task, not for these other things.”

“What task?” Qiao Mei asked curiously.

“Our Second Aunt-in-law, Third Aunt-in-law, Second Uncle, Third Uncle and Eldest Aunt are coming back. They’re coming here specially to take a look at you,” Xia He said to Qiao Mei.

“Look at me?” Qiao Mei said in shock.

She had heard Xia Zhe mention other relatives in the family, but he had said that Second Uncle, Third Uncle and Eldest Aunt were all in the military. They were usually so busy that they rarely went home and would only be back during the new year and the holiday period.

Given that it was not the new year or the holiday period, were they making a trip especially to see her?

“That’s right! Xia Zhe getting married is such a big matter, they must all come back to see what his new wife is like,” Xia He said.

“Then do I need to prepare anything? What do they like? Is it too late for me to go and buy now?” Qiao Mei stood up in a flurry, not knowing what to do first.

“I’ve already prepared the gifts for you. You don’t have to worry about that. I know that it’s too sudden and you won’t have time to prepare,” Xia He said with a smile.

Qiao Mei’s eyes widened when she heard this. With starry eyes, she went forward and hugged Xia He’s arm as she said, “My elder sister is the best~”

“Alright, alright, stop acting like a child with me. Hurry up and change, then pack up and we can go,” Xia He said as she gave Qiao Mei a gentle pat.

Qiao Mei pulled Xia He into the room and asked her a few questions as she got dressed.

“Elder sister, can you tell me what they are like?” Qiao Mei asked nervously.

“Second Uncle, Third Uncle and Eldest Aunt are all people with similar personalities to grandfather. The only people you may need to interact with often are Second Aunt-in-law and Third Aunt-in-law,” Xia He said.

“Then what are Second Aunt-in-law and Third Aunt-in-law like?” Qiao Mei asked.

It was hard to say. These two aunts each had their own good and bad points, but no matter what they did, it was generally for the good of the Xia family and they did not bear any ill intentions.

“Second Aunt-in-law is a good person, but... she’s just a little picky and prefers sons over daughters,” Xia He said with a sigh.

Second Aunt-in-law was more traditional in her thinking. She felt that women should stay at home and only men should go out to work, and that women should be in charge of all family matters and men should not interfere.

If she thought that any woman in the family did not do anything properly, she would specially go and educate that person. She might even go to that person’s house to educate her! She had to make sure that that person fully understood that women must take care of everything at home before she would let the person off.