

Fat Wife 301

Chapter 301: Being Sarcastic

By this time, Qiao Mei had changed her clothes. Based on what Xia He just said, she definitely should not wear pretty clothes today. She had to wear something mature and appropriate.

Qiao Mei wore a dark blue maternity dress, paired with a pair of black leather shoes. She tied up her hair simply, looking presentable and elegant.

“Elder sister, do you think I’ll pass if I wear this?” Qiao Mei asked.

“Sure, of course. You’re naturally beautiful so you look good no matter what you wear. You won’t go wrong wearing simple and elegant clothes like this, and there’s nothing they can say about you,” Xia He said.

“When you get home later, you must do some housework like washing the dishes and such. Otherwise, Second Aunt-in-law will definitely nag at you,” Xia He reminded her.

At this moment, Xia Zhe frowned and gave Xia He a reluctant look when he heard this.

Xia He also noticed her younger brother’s gaze and said resignedly, “Why are you looking at me like that? I don’t want Mei Mei to do this either, but it’s not like you don’t know Second Aunt-in-law. If she doesn’t do these things, Second Aunt-in-law will definitely criticize her.”

Xia Zhe also knew their Second Aunt-in-law’s temper. Among the children of the family, Second Aunt-in-law doted on Xia Zhe the most. Previously, he did not think that there was any issue with her personality, but now, it seemed that there were indeed many problems with her.

“Then, you just put your own bowl and cutlery in the kitchen later. You don’t have to worry about anything else,” Xia Zhe said.

“That won’t do! If Mei Mei doesn’t go into the kitchen, don’t you think Second Aunt-in-law will grab hold of her and keep saying these things to her? It’s not like you don’t know what Second Aunt-in-law can do

when she gets angry. Have you forgotten what our eldest sister-in-law had experienced?" Xia He said as she looked at Xia Zhe.

When Tan Jing first married into the family, Second Aunt-in-law had also asked Tan Jing to help out in the kitchen. Although Tan Jing did not come from a very prominent family, her family was well-to-do and she did not need to do housework at home.

When Tan Jing first joined the Xia family, she would sit on the sofa and chat with Xu Lan after dinner. Whenever Second Aunt-in-law saw that, she would grab Tan Jing into the kitchen and teach her how to wash the dishes, cook food, clean the kitchen, keep the crockery, respect her in-laws, and so on.

"Then I'll go and help out later. Otherwise, I'll just cook for them. I can cook very well!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"There's a helper at home, so you don't have to cook. Besides, you won't be able to cook for so many people. It'll be so tiring," Xia He said while feeling sorry for her.

Qiao Mei nodded and asked, "Then what kind of person is Third Aunt-in-law?"

At this point, Xia Zhe and Xia He looked at each other and lowered their heads while frowning.

It seemed that the two siblings did not like Third Aunt-in-law. She was hoping that Third Aunt-in-law would be a nice person, but it appeared that this person was even worse than Second Aunt-in-law.

"Third Aunt-in-law was fine a few years ago, but Third Uncle hasn't been doing well in his career in recent years and fared the worst among the brothers in the family. Third Aunt-in-law feels embarrassed by that fact, so she always speaks sarcastically," Xia He said.

"Then does Third Uncle just tolerate it?" Qiao Mei asked.

"She actually doesn't say anything bad about Third Uncle. She's just jealous and likes to compare with others. However, I suspect that she is not back this time to take a look at you. I think her intention is to beg our grandfather to help Third Uncle out," Xia He said.

Xia Zhe laughed and said, "Grandfather won't render this kind of help."

The Xia family's current status was partially based on the foundation that Xia Jun had built up. However, the rest of his sons and grandsons had relied on their own abilities to make a name for themselves. Xia Jun did not believe in pulling strings at all.

"If Third Aunt-in-law says anything bad about you or asks about your grandfather, don't take it to heart," Xia He said worriedly.

Qiao Mei smiled indifferently. She would not take the words of these relatives to heart at all. As long as Xia Zhe was on her side, it did not matter if everyone else gossiped about her. She had heard worse things in the village and things like that were small matters to her.

"Elder sister, don't worry. I definitely won't mind. I'll just pretend not to hear it," Qiao Mei said with a laugh

Chapter 302: You Are Indeed Lying to Me

Xia He felt relieved to hear what Qiao Mei said. She felt that she had to preempt Qiao Mei about these things, so that Qiao Mei would not feel that members of the Xia family were all very rude.

"By the way, elder sister, you haven't said what kind of person Eldest Aunt is?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Ah! Eldest Aunt! Eldest Aunt doesn't have much of a temper. She doesn't really like to talk but she's a very upright person," Xia He said with a smile.

It seemed that this eldest aunt was an easy person to get along with. Xia Jun had three sons and two daughters. Xia Fang was the youngest daughter and this eldest aunt was the second child of the family. Qiao Mei admired eldest aunt very much as she had heard that eldest aunt was not just in a civilian post in the army.

"That's great," Qiao Mei said.

"I always forget that I have two paternal aunts. Eldest Aunt is more manly than any man!" Xia He said.

Xia Zhe chuckled at the side.

"What are you laughing at? Am I wrong?" When Xia He saw Xia Zhe secretly laughing away, she turned to ask him with her hands on her hips.

"I see that you're not afraid that Eldest Aunt will hear you and punish you by making you do physical training again," Xia Zhe said.

When they were young, they were most afraid of their eldest aunt coming home. Their eldest aunt always said that the children of the Xia family must be in the best physical condition regardless of their gender. When they were younger, their eldest aunt often brought them out for training.

"If all of you went through physical training in the past, then how did your elder brother become a professor?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"Elder brother fell ill when he was 16 years old. After that, he could not undergo high-intensity training anymore, so he studied hard and became a professor," Xia He explained.

"I see. No wonder the whole family is in the military and only your elder brother is a scholar," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Elder brother used to..."

Before he could finish speaking, he heard the door being kicked open with a bang. The door panel even bounced several times when it hit the wall.

"Xia He, you are indeed lying to me!" Kong Li said from the door.

Every morning, Xia He would use the excuse of needing to go out to buy food for Kong Li to get out of the house. Xia Fang's house had a gas stove, but Xia He was afraid that Kong Li would blow up the house at home by using the stove, so she went out to buy food every day.

It was the only time of the day that Xia He could come out to have some fresh air and take a walk.

Today, Xia He had told Kong Li that she was going out to deal with the matter of finding a marriage partner for Kong Li, and that she would take a longer time. Kong Li could not hold back her anxiousness after hearing that. Given that the matter was about finding a marriage partner for her, she definitely wanted to take a look as well.

She followed Xia He all the way to the main alley, but in the blink of an eye, Xia He turned into another small alley and disappeared. She did not have an easy time going from house to house, eavesdropping at the doors before she could hear where Xia He was.

"I knew that you must be lying to me! Pretending you're coming out to find me a marriage partner! Where's my marriage partner?" Kong Li shouted from the door.

When she saw Xia Zhe, Kong Li felt both happy and sad. Xia He had such a handsome younger brother, but she had hidden the fact from her sister-in-law. If Xia He had told her earlier, Qiao Mei would not have had any chance at all!

At the thought of this, Kong Li started to look at Qiao Mei fiercely.

"Why are you messing around here!" Xia He said while frowning.

"Who's messing around! You're the one lying to me!" Kong Li said as she pointed at Xia He.

Xia He took out 20 dollars from her pocket and gave it to Kong Li. "Go buy yourself some food with the money and then go back. We still have something on."

Kong Li took the money and stared fiercely at Xia He. "I heard everything. You're going back to the big house. I want to go too!"

“Why do you want to go? What right do you have to go there?” Xia He said in disgust.

“Why can’t I go! Since you’re my sister-in-law, I can go to your Xia family’s big house!” Kong Li said.

“Then let her go. Elder sister, bring her along then.” Qiao Mei said as she gave Xia He a look.

Xia He could understand what Qiao Mei meant. After thinking about it, she decided to let Kong Li follow her. There was no harm in having Kong Li following them. Since her relatives were all gathered today, she could let everyone see what kind of life she had been living all these years.

This way, everyone would be more understanding when she got a divorce. Thinking of this, Xia He’s originally tense brows relaxed.

“Alright, you can follow us then,” Xia He said.

Kong Li did not think too much about it. She even thought that Qiao Mei was speaking up for her because Qiao Mei was afraid of her, which meant that it would be even easier for her to snatch the bangle if she wanted

Chapter 303: Getting the Wrong Person

The four of them did not waste any time on the way and arrived at the Xia residence very quickly.

Xia Zhe knocked lightly on the door. He did not expect the helper to be the one opening the door. At this time, the helper should be cooking in the kitchen. Why could she come to open the door?

They noticed that the helper, Auntie Chen, kept blinking at Xia Zhe and even gestured for Qiao Mei to leave quickly.

Xia Zhe and the other two women immediately understood what Auntie Chen meant and frowned. Only Kong Li could not tell what was going on.

“Why are you blinking so hard? Is there something wrong with your eyes?” Kong Li asked.

Qiao Mei held her forehead helplessly. If she had known earlier, she would not have brought this woman here today.

The living room was separated from the main door by a wall. The people inside the house could not see the people outside.

“Auntie Chen, who’s here?” a woman asked from the house.

Qiao Mei thought that it did not sound like Xu Lan. In addition, Xia He had mentioned this morning that Second Aunt-in-law and Third Aunt-in-law’s personalities were not as tough as this, so the voice must belong to Eldest Aunt.

“It’s Miss Xia He’s sister-in-law. She might be here because of something urgent. Let me ask her.” Auntie Chen still wanted to cover it up.

Just as she was about to close the door, the eldest aunt shouted, “Since she’s here, then she’s our guest. You should ask her to come in and have a seat. Besides, if Xia He’s sister-in-law really has some urgent matter, what can you do to help?”

Auntie Chen had no choice but to open the door and let Xia Zhe and the others in.

“Eldest Aunt, I’m here with my younger brother and sister-in-law,” Xia He said with a smile as she entered.

After going past the wall between the house and the door, Qiao Mei realized that it was an ambush. She thought that there were only their relatives in the house, but she did not expect to see more than 10 people around.

Other than the relatives that she had never seen before, there were also a few “old acquaintances” from her village.

“Who are these people?” Xia He looked at the people around her in confusion. She had not heard that there were going to be so many people when she came in the morning. Xia He looked at Xia Fang with a puzzled expression.

“You don’t need to care about who they are. The three of you can go to one side. It has nothing to do with you,” said the eldest aunt, Xia Xiu.

Xia He stood at the side with Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei with a puzzled look on her face. She did not even dare to breathe loudly. Xia Jun usually had the final say in family matters, but if it was regarding any critical issue, he would still wait for their eldest aunt, Xia Xiu, to come back before he made a decision. It seemed that what was happening today was no small matter.

“What did you say you were here for?” Xia Xiu asked.

The two people standing in the middle of the main living hall did not dare to answer. These two people were Qiao Mei’s “old acquaintances” from the village. She could no longer remember their names given that she last saw them a very long time ago.

Qiao Mei only remembered that everyone called this old woman the old widow and she was famous for being mean. As for her son, Qiao Mei really had no impression of him.

“Speak up! Weren’t you very eloquent just now!” Xia Xiu slammed the table and said sternly.

“I... I’m here to look for my wife!” Wang Yong was so frightened that he knelt on the ground.

Look for his wife? Why is he looking for his wife here?

Xia He was even more baffled and looked at Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe in confusion. She realized that the two of them were frowning, so it appeared that this matter must be related to Qiao Mei.

“This is everyone in our Xia family. Come and see who is your wife?” Xia Xiu asked.

This question made Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe feel their hearts skipped a beat.

They knew that these two people were up to no good by coming to their house today.

Wang Yong sized up the people in the room nervously. He did not expect the old widow to jump up and run straight towards Kong Li, who was standing next to the door.

Seeing that his mother had recognized her, Wang Yong followed closely behind. He pounced over and grabbed Kong Li's hand.

"Mei Mei, come back with us! I won't hit you anymore! In the future, I'll give you all the good food and drinks at home! Come with us!" the old widow cried out as she hugged Kong Li.

"Come back with us quickly! Every generation of our Wang family only has one child! Only one child per generation! You must come back and give birth. After that, you can go anywhere you want!" Wang Yong said as he held Kong Li's hand tightly.

Everyone in the house looked at one another. Only Xia Xiu stared fixedly at Wang Yong, seemingly deep in thought.

This was no small matter. Someone must be plotting against the Xia family and she had to get to the bottom of it.

Chapter 304: That Is My Child

Xia Zhe had actually informed Xia Xiu about his marriage a long time ago, but she had been busy with military affairs and did not have the time to come back for a visit. At that time, she had only called him to congratulate him and sent him a gift.

Now that she had some free time and heard that Xia Zhe and his new wife had returned home, she came back to take a look as well. She did not expect to run into this drama.

Xia Xiu was the first one to reach home, followed by Second Aunt-in-law and Third Aunt-in-law.

Xia Xiu hated Third Aunt-in-law the most. The daughters-in-law of the Xia family were usually either intellectual people or people in the military, but Third Aunt-in-law was different. Her family was in business and she did not study much.

If not for the fact that when the third son of the Xia family met with an accident in the past and Third Aunt-in-law happened to save his life, he would not have married her.

When the few of them reached home, they realized that someone also brought along these two strangers. When they questioned the strangers, they were told that Qiao Mei was actually in a relationship with someone else before she married Xia Zhe, and her baby's father was actually that person.

The two families were about to prepare for the wedding when Xia Zhe suddenly came for a visit. Qiao Mei and Qiao Qiang then decided to go with the flow and knocked Xia Zhe out, before pushing the responsibility to Xia Zhe.

After Wang Yong and his mother told Xia Xie this story, she firmly believed in what she heard.

This was because when she heard that Xia Zhe was getting married, she immediately sent someone to do a check on Qiao Mei. She was told that Qiao Mei was arrogant and despotic in the village and that she must have first pick of all the nice food and drinks in her house first. This was the reason why Qiao Qiang had been seriously ill for so many years.

Based on this point alone, it was obvious to Xia Xiu that Qiao Mei was an unfilial child. She would not let such a person stay in the Xia family!

Xia Xiu took one glance at Kong Li and turned away. Not only was she so fat, but she also looked very vicious. Xia Xiu had seen many women like her who were lacking in virtue and greedy for wealth.

The investigator that Xia Xiu sent to the village also interviewed Qiao Zhuang and his family. Other people might praise Qiao Mei, but not Qiao Zhuang and his family. As the saying went, there was nothing one could expect from a hog but a grunt.

Every member of Qiao Zhuang's family said that Qiao Mei was a greedy and lustful person who hooked up with men outside the village and gave in to all her sensual desires. They even said that she had a previous engagement, but broke it off. That was what led the investigator to Wang Yong and his mother.

Representatives from the He family had visited the mother and son and offered them compensation in return for their insistence that Qiao Mei was supposed to be their family's new daughter-in-law.

The moment the mother and son entered the Xia residence, they wanted to speak but Xia Xiu stopped them. Xia Xiu first told Xia Jun and Xia Zhe's parents the whole story about what she found out. After hearing what she said, they were agitated for a long time.

They had all met Qiao Mei before and thought that she looked quite demure. They did not think that Qiao Mei was such a heartless and seductive woman.

Just like that, the group of over 10 people sat quietly in the house. No one spoke as they waited for Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei to return home before they questioned Wang Yong and his mother.

Who knew that such a scene would happen after Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei were back?

Xia Jun stood up solemnly, walked next to Wang Yong and asked, "Are you sure this is your wife?"

"I'm sure! Of course I'm sure!" Wang Yong firmly and hurriedly replied in the affirmative.

Kong Li was about to speak when Xia Jun gave her a glare. The veteran army general had a sharp and murderous look in his eye. Kong Li was just a young lady and could not withstand such intimidation. She covered her mouth and did not dare to make a sound.

This question made the old widow suspicious. She raised her head to take another look and thought that Qiao Mei had become uglier after these few months, though her figure had not changed much.

However, there were only three women who came in together just now. One was Xia Zhe's elder sister and the other one was her sister-in-law. Both of them were very slender and their calves were even slimmer than Qiao Mei's arms. Neither of them could be Qiao Mei.

Although she had heard in the village that Qiao Mei had lost weight, it was not possible for her to have lost so much weight in just a few months.

Wang Yong was even more certain that the person in front of him was Qiao Mei and that there was no mistake.

"She's my wife. Although we didn't register our marriage, she's pregnant with my child!" Wang Yong said as he grabbed Kong Li.

Chapter 305: Talking Rubbish

Qiao Mei and Xia He had been trying to hold back their laughter as they stood at the side. They had originally brought Kong Li here so that when she caused a scene, the Xia family would know that Xia He was having a difficult time in the Kong family. This was so that Xia He would have an easier time when she wanted to get a divorce.

They could never have predicted that Kong Li would end up being a scapegoat and saving Qiao Mei from a disaster.

"Who knows if what you said is true or not? What evidence do you have to prove that she is your wife?" Xia Jun said as he held back his smile.

Wang Yong became anxious upon hearing this. He had only met Qiao Mei once back then and she even chased him out when he wanted to have a meal at her house. He did not know how he was supposed to prove that he was telling the truth.

At this moment, Wang Yong threw all caution to the wind and decided to take a chance. He went forth and lifted Kong Li's clothes to reveal her stomach.

“Ah!” Kong Li pulled down her clothes in fright.

“Look at the scar on her stomach!” Wang Yong took a quick look at Kong Li’s stomach and said as he pointed at the scar.

Kong Li blushed and tugged at her clothes. She had never been treated like this in her life.

“I used to touch this scar every day and I’m very familiar with it!” Wang Yong said confidently.

That scar was from Kong Li’s previous appendicitis surgery. Back then, Xia Fang had to ask someone for a favor for Kong Li to have the surgery.

At that time, the whole family was in an uproar because of this matter. Kong Li had said that she did not trust the small clinic in the countryside and wanted to go to a big hospital in the capital. Knowing that Xia Fang was a doctor, Kong Li insisted on asking her for help.

Even though Xia He explained that Xia Fang was a doctor in the gynecology and obstetrics department, Kong Li still refused to give up. In the end, Xia He had no choice but to beg Xia Fang to get help from her colleagues in the hospital.

Everyone in the family knew about this incident. When they heard what Wang Yong said, everyone’s expressions changed.

Xia He thought to herself that it would be great if this was true! Then, she would not need to find a marriage partner for Kong Li. This person was actually quite compatible with Kong Li.

Kong Li could not bear with the situation any longer and gave Wang Yong a kick on his waist as she said, “What a load of rubbish! When have I ever seen you! Do you even know me!”

Wang Yong knelt on the ground from the kick. As he listened carefully to her voice, he felt that something was wrong, but he did not have the time to think about it thoroughly. He had never been so aggrieved in his life!

He had been the only boy at home, so the old widow always gave in to him. In recent days, because of the money he received from the He family, many more matchmakers had come to visit him at home, eyeing the betrothal gifts that his family could afford to give.

Wang Yong had always been treated nicely within his village. He did not expect to end up being treated like this when he came to the capital to settle the scores with Qiao Mei.

Wang Yong stood up quickly in anger and gave Kong Li a slap.

“You damn woman! You’re pregnant with my child and you still want to run away! Do you think I care about you! After you give birth, you can go wherever you want! At that time, we won’t care even if you seduce eight or ten men!” Wang Yong said fiercely.

After saying that, Wang Yong pointed at Xia Zhe and glanced at him. However, when he saw Xia Zhe staring straight back at him, he felt a little guilty and retracted his hand timidly.

Not only did this slap not scare Kong Li, but it made her tremble in anger instead. She rushed towards Wang Yong and used her ample body to slam right into him, causing him to fly outwards.

“You money-losing good-for-nothing! You still want to...”

Before Wang Yong could finish speaking, Kong Li had already sat down on top of him. She weighed more than 200 pounds and he felt as if there was a huge rock pressing down on him, making him unable to breathe.

“What else do I want? I still want to beat you up! Today, I’ll let you know that I’m not someone to be trifled with!” After saying that, Kong Li gave Wang Yong a slap.

She then followed that up with punches and kicks that showed no mercy. In the end, the old widow hugged Kong Li’s thigh and begged her to stop hitting him. Kong Li only stopped because she was afraid that she would beat him to death.

“All of you split up! Go stand in the middle!” Xia Xiu roared angrily.

When the three of them saw Xia Xiu’s imposing manner, they did not dare to fight or cause trouble anymore. They all stood in an orderly manner in the middle of the living hall, afraid that they would be pulled out and beaten up by Xia Xiu if they were not careful.

Chapter 306: The Truth is Revealed

Xia Jun looked at them for a long time before he sighed and asked, “Where did you all find these people?”

Xia Xiu looked at Xia Jun and said, “You have to ask my third brother’s wife about this.”

Everyone turned to look at Third Aunt-in-law at the same time. Third Aunt-in-law waved her hands in a panic and said quickly, “Everyone, it’s a misunderstanding. I met these two people at the entrance to the courtyard. They were asking all passerbys if anyone was from the Xia family and then they told me about these things. That’s why I brought them back.”

“You didn’t even do any checks before bringing these shady people home?” Xia Jun asked with a frown.

“I... I didn’t know what to do at that time. I was anxious and wanted to come back and ask all of you. I thought that if we can question the people involved and let them confront one another face to face, the matter could be resolved quickly. I didn’t think about the authenticity of this matter.” Third Aunt-in-law’s voice became softer and softer.

“How silly and brainless of you!” Xia Jun scolded softly.

Third Aunt-in-law wanted to retort but was pulled back by Second Aunt-in-law.

“Don’t say anymore. Don’t add fuel to the fire!” Second Aunt-in-law whispered.

Third Aunt-in-law flung the other woman's hand away angrily. She was usually the one who got bullied the most at home, but now even her sister-in-law was trying to control her actions.

"Xia Xiu, what are your thoughts on this matter?" Xia Jun asked as he looked at Xia Xiu.

"I think Xiao Zhe's marriage must be annulled! Such a woman can't marry into the Xia family!" Xia Xiu said as she pointed at Kong Li.

"Impossible!" Xia Zhe said immediately without a second thought.

Xia Zhe's reaction surprised Xia Xiu. In a normal scenario, if one knew that one's wife was pregnant with someone else's child and even lied about it, one would be heartbroken or furious. She did not understand why Xia Zhe was so calm.

"Don't tell me they have something on you?" Xia Xiu looked at Xia Zhe in disbelief.

He was the best kid in the Xia family. How could he have made a mistake in such a matter?

"They don't have anything on me," Xia Zhe said.

"Nothing? Then why can't you reject this ridiculous marriage?" Xia Xiu asked.

"Because Qiao Mei is pregnant with my child," Xia Zhe said with a smile.

This statement made Xia Xiu furious. She stood up and pointed at the three people in the middle of the living hall and asked Xia Zhe, "Didn't you hear it just now? This woman is pregnant with his bastard child, it's not your child!"

Seeing that things were getting out of hand, Xia He gently nudged Qiao Mei.

"If you don't go out soon, Eldest Aunt will probably tear down the house later," Xia He said laughingly.

Qiao Mei took the opportunity to walk to Xia Zhe's side. He held her hand and walked up to Xia Xiu.

"Eldest Aunt, this is my wife, Qiao Mei," Xia Zhe said gently.

"Hello, Eldest Aunt. I'm Xia Zhe's wife," Qiao Mei said with a sweet smile.

This shocked everyone who had never seen Qiao Mei before. They widened their eyes in disbelief to hear that it was the person in front of them that was Qiao Mei.

The old widow and Wang Yong were especially shocked. Back then in the village, Qiao Mei's figure was what they despised the most, yet this beautiful young lady turned out to be the "Black Bear Spirit" from before.

The old widow now regretted not being nicer to her back then.

Xia Xiu could not believe it either. The investigators who went to the village said that Qiao Mei weighed more than 200 pounds, but the person standing in front of her now weighed not more than 100 pounds.

"What exactly is going on? This person isn't Qiao Mei?" Third Aunt-in-law asked in disbelief as she looked at the scene unfolding in front of her.

It was clearly different from what they said at the door earlier. What did these two people want? Why is Qiao Mei a different person?

"Do you understand the meaning of the farce today?" Xia Jun looked at Xia Xiu meaningfully.

Xia Xiu nodded with coldness in her eyes and said, "I understand."

"Since you know what's going on, I'll leave this matter to you. I'm tired and will go back to my room to rest for a while." Xia Jun returned to his room after saying that.

He left behind a group of people looking at one another in the living hall.

Chapter 307: Interrogate Thoroughly

Xia Xiu sat on the sofa with a dark expression. She thought that Xia Zhe had been deceived, but she did not expect to be the one who had been deceived!

“Who exactly are the two of you!” Xia Xiu asked coldly. She had killed people on the battlefield before, so she exuded an aura that ordinary people could not withstand.

Her loud question frightened the old widow so much that she knelt on the ground. Wang Yong also stood rooted to the ground, not knowing what to do.

“Speak!” Xia Xiu said angrily as she slammed the table.

“We... we really are...” the old widow stammered.

Xia Xiu frowned deeply. She did not have the patience to listen to the two of them anymore.

“Men! Take the two of them back and I’ll interrogate them myself!” Xia Xiu shouted towards the door.

The guards standing outside the door immediately ran into the house and pulled the old widow and Wang Yong out.

Xia Xiu then stood up and walked to Qiao Mei and said, “Child, it’s my fault today. I misunderstood you. I will definitely interrogate them clearly and clear your name.”

“Eldest Aunt, you can do it. I believe you can do it!” Qiao Mei said to Xia Xiu with a sweet smile.

Xia Xiu was infected by the smile and smiled as well. She thought that Qiao Mei was really a sensible person. She had wronged Qiao Mei, but Qiao Mei did not blame her and could still smile at her.

Xia Xiu found herself liking this niece-in-law who had a sweet smile. It was not bad for such a sensible and decent girl to enter the Xia family. Although she was from the countryside, it was still better than a scheming girl.

Xia Xiu left after giving Auntie Chen some instructions and did not even stay for dinner.

After the troublemakers left, the house became quiet and there was an awkward atmosphere when everyone did not speak.

“Can any of you tell me what’s going on?” Second Aunt-in-law asked curiously.

“I think someone is trying to frame our family,” Xia He said.

“Then have you seen these two people before, Qiao Mei?” asked Third Aunt-in-law.

Qiao Mei nodded and said, “We’ve indeed met before. They previously came by to propose marriage.”

There was really a marriage proposal!

“A marriage proposal? You mean such a thing really happened!” Second Aunt-in-law took two steps back in fear.

“No, they came with a matchmaker. After that, they were chased out by my family and we never had any contact again,” Qiao Mei explained.

Third Aunt-in-law thought for a moment and asked, “That’s not right. It doesn’t make sense. Since they’ve met you before, why can’t they recognize you?”

After hearing what Third Aunt-in-law said, Second Aunt-in-law also felt that it made sense and looked at Qiao Mei doubtfully.

“Because I was originally fatter than Kong Li and also weighed more than 200 pounds,” Qiao Mei said embarrassedly.

A fatty weighing more than 200 pounds! That means Qiao Mei was fat when Xia Zhe met her!

Xia He looked at Xia Zhe differently. Xia Zhe noticed his sister’s gaze and turned his head away awkwardly and coughed twice.

“Oh my goodness, then how did you lose weight?” Kong Li suddenly pounced in front of Qiao Mei and asked agitatedly.

If Qiao Mei could be so beautiful after losing weight, then she would be a knockout if she lost weight!

“I walked tens of kilometers a day and did a lot of farm work, and I only ate two bowls of rice a day. If you persist in doing that for a period of time, you will definitely lose weight,” Qiao Mei said as she thought back.

Kong Li shook her head repeatedly after hearing that. If she ate like this, she would definitely become malnourished. She saw no point in living if she could not eat meat, so it was better not to lose weight.

“I’ll go out and take a look. You stay here by yourself,” Xia Zhe said to Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei nodded. She knew what Xia Zhe was going to do and also understood that it was useless to stop him.

“Go ahead, don’t be too harsh,” Qiao Mei said gently.

“Yes, I know.” Xia Zhe patted Qiao Mei’s head and left reluctantly.

He had a murderous look in his eyes. His anger had dissipated a lot when he was in front of Qiao Mei, but now it was time to settle the score.

After Xia Zhe left, there was no longer any man in the living hall, so Second Aunt-in-law and Third Aunt-in-law felt more relaxed.

Second Aunt-in-law suddenly came forward enthusiastically and held Qiao Mei's hand as she said, "Look how Xia Zhe has such good taste. He found such a beautiful new wife."

Chapter 308: Belly Getting Bigger and Bigger

On the surface, she seemed to be praising Qiao Mei for her good looks, but by saying Xia Zhe had good taste, she was actually praising Xia Zhe.

"Look at how quick Xiao Zhe is. He just got married and he already has a child, unlike my two unfilial sons. It's as if we want to eat them up when we ask them to go on blind dates!" complained Second Aunt-in-law.

Xia He rolled her eyes when she heard this. It was not that the boys were afraid of being eaten, but that they knew if they got married and their new wives met a mother-in-law like Second Aunt-in-law, their wives would leave out of anger after two days.

Second Aunt-in-law had a total of four children, two girls and two boys. After her two daughters got married, one could count the number of times they returned to their parents' house with one hand.

Even when they returned home, they would leave after a short while. Otherwise, they would have to listen to Second Aunt-in-law nagging about what women should do at home.

"Qiao Mei, right?" Third Aunt-in-law sat on the sofa and asked haughtily.

"Yes, hello, Third Aunt-in-law. My name is Qiao Mei," Qiao Mei replied with a sweet smile.

"I see that your belly is quite big. How many months are you?" said Third Aunt-in-law with a smile as she looked at Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei gently stroked her belly. The way her clothes stretched over her belly made her look obviously pregnant. Xia Xiu had informed everyone that Qiao Mei was about three months pregnant, but Third Aunt-in-law wondered why her belly was so big?

Second Aunt-in-law and Third Aunt-in-law looked at Qiao Mei's stomach doubtfully. It was not that they were overly suspicious, but even though what happened just now had been proven to be fake, they could not help but feel wary.

Qiao Mei looked at their doubtful gazes and knew that it was time to reveal that she was pregnant with twins.

"Aunt, please help me take a look. I also feel that my belly has grown a lot bigger recently," Qiao Mei said as she touched her belly.

At first, Xia Fang was caught by surprise when she heard what the mother and son said. Although she did not think that Qiao Mei was such a person, she could not help but become suspicious when she heard what the other party said.

Now that the truth was out, she felt much more at ease and also felt a little guilty for suspecting Qiao Mei.

"Come, let me take a look." Xia Fang walked forward and gently touched Qiao Mei's belly.

"Aunt, what do you think?" Qiao Mei asked.

Xia Fang smiled and said, "Your belly is indeed much bigger than the last time I saw you, but everyone's physique is different. Some people's stomachs get very big, but some people's stomachs don't even show. It's all very normal."

Xia Fang still did not realize that Qiao Mei was pregnant with twins.

“Maybe you can try eating less recently. It’s possible that you’ve been eating too much and gained weight a little too quickly,” Xia He guessed.

“What are fetal movements supposed to be like? I keep feeling that I’m carrying two babies because sometimes the fetal movements are on the left, sometimes on the right, and sometimes on both sides at the same time,” Qiao Mei asked curiously.

“Two?” Second Aunt-in-law and Third Aunt-in-law looked at Qiao Mei in surprise.

Even Xia Fang was shocked when she heard this. Given that Qiao Mei was only three months pregnant, it would explain the size of her belly if she was pregnant with twins. If she was really having twins, it would be great news for the Xia family!

“Don’t move, let me take a look.” Xia Fang checked Qiao Mei’s belly closely.

Xia Fang gently covered Qiao Mei’s stomach with her hands. Not long after, she could feel the fetal movements. As Qiao Mei had described, it happened on the left side for a while and then the right side for a while. Sometimes, it happened together on both sides.

“Come on, let’s go to the hospital. Let’s go to the hospital now!” Xia Fang said excitedly.

“What’s wrong? Is the child abnormal? Is there a problem?” said Third Aunt-in-law, with an imperceptible gloating tone.

“No, no! Qiao Mei might really be pregnant with twins! I have to quickly bring her to the hospital for an ultrasound!” Xia Fang led Qiao Mei out excitedly.

Xia He took her bag and followed closely behind. Second Aunt-in-law and Third Aunt-in-law wanted to follow as well but were stopped by Xia Fang. She knew that these two chatty women only wanted to watch the fun.

The ultrasonic machines were still very rare during this time. Due to the fact that they were rare, most people would not choose to do an ultrasound scan and only wealthy families could afford to do so. Moreover, one had to make an appointment in advance to do an ultrasound scan.

Chapter 309: Unable to Have a Child

Second Aunt-in-law and Third Aunt-in-law, Liu Fen and Zhou Hua respectively, followed them all the way to the door. After watching the three of them leave the Xia residence, both women returned to the living hall and sat down to gossip.

The two of them were full-time housewives so they were unable to talk much about current affairs and only chatted about family matters. Not long after, Zhou Hua noticed the quiet Tan Jing next to her.

“Qiao Mei is currently pregnant with the eldest grandchild of the Xia family. If she is able to give birth to two boys, Xu Lan will be so happy,” said Zhou Hua as she looked at Tan Jing from time to time.

Tan Jing sat at the side with her head lowered, completely ignoring what Zhou Hua said.

Liu Fen’s biggest worry was that her four children would either not get married or that she would only have granddaughters without an eldest grandson.

“That’s so true. Xia Zhe is really lucky to have children right after he got married, and to have two at one go. Look at my children. All of them are so disappointing.” Liu Fen became sad when she thought of this and reached out to wipe the tears from the corners of her eyes.

“Second sister-in-law, don’t be anxious. Look at Eldest Brother and Eldest Sister-in-law. They only have grandchildren at such an old age. Even if you don’t have a grandson, at least you have a granddaughter and you can enjoy life now. It’s just that Eldest Sister-in-law finally has her wish granted.” Zhou Hua then turned around and smiled at Tan Jing as she said, “Don’t you think so, Xiao Jing?”

Tan Jing smiled awkwardly and said, “Third Aunt-in-law is right. My mother-in-law will be very happy.”

Tan Jing clenched her fists tightly, her nails digging into her palms. Compared to the pain in her palms, her heart hurt even more.

From the moment she returned to the Xia family, she had been feeling very agitated. It was not that she did not like Qiao Mei, it was just that she felt that Qiao Mei was really too lucky. Xia Zhe had been very gentle to Qiao Mei after she married into the family. Tan Jing could not understand why such a country girl could get such treatment while she was treated with disdain.

Tan Jing did not expect that not only was the entire matter today just a farce, the good news that everyone received ended up dealing her a heavy blow.

Ever since Tan Jing got married to Xia Wen, she had been trying her best to get pregnant. In the beginning, she made changes to her lifestyle and went to the hospital for physical examination regularly. As more time passed, she became a little anxious and went around asking for all kinds of folk prescriptions. She would try everything once but nothing worked. She even went to the Guanyin Temple to pray for children but it did not help.

She had worked hard for so many years, but in the end, she did not manage to have even one child. Qiao Mei had two children upon getting pregnant! How could anyone be so lucky! Why did she not have her own children!

“Of course she would be happy. Eldest Sister-in-law had wanted a grandson for so many years and now she finally got her wish.” The more Zhou Hua thought about it, the more amused she felt. She was happy to see Tan Jing suppressing her anger and still smiling respectfully at her.

Back when Zhou Hua married into the Xia family, they held a grand ceremony because they owed her a favor! If she had not saved Xia Guang, the third son of the Xia family, the Xia family would have lost a son! Her view was that if she stated the facts humbly, she was Xia Guang’s savior; if she stated the facts bluntly, she was the Xia family’s savior!

In the past, Xu Lan would always use Zhou Hua’s family background as an excuse to laugh at her. Later on, when Xia Guang’s career declined progressively, Xu Lan even got hold of some evidence against her. Every time Xu Lan saw her, Xu Lan would use this knowledge to mock her. Zhou Hua was adamant that if she did not have a good life, then no one else would have a good life! No one could look down on her!

“Then when is your family going to have a grandson?” Tan Jing asked Zhou Hua with a smile.

Tan Jing was usually quiet and soft-spoken, and she never got angry even when Liu Fen nagged her every day that as a woman, her responsibility was to have children and raise the next generation for the Xia family. Now that she dared to talk back, Zhou Hua thought that she had really underestimated Tan Jing.

Zhou Hua did not get angry when she heard this. She was much younger than Xu Lan. She could afford to wait, but Xu Lan could not. Her son had only been married for a year and was not in a hurry to have children. Her daughter-in-law had a civilian post in the army and was a hundred times better than Tan Jing who did nothing at home!

“I’m not in a hurry since my son and daughter-in-law just got married. My daughter-in-law is in line for a promotion! It’s too rushed for them to have a child now. We can talk about that after she gets her promotion.” It was like Zhou Hua was almost putting her daughter-in-law on a pedestal.

“Oh my, you still have to watch over them closely. They must still have a child,” Liu Fen said.

“Yes, they definitely will. I still want to rest for a few more years too. It’s tiring to take care of a child,” Zhou Hua pretended to say in disdain.

Chapter 310: Interrogation

While there was a heated conversation going on at home, it was also full of activities outside. Xia Xiu brought Wang Yong and the old widow to a place equipped for interrogation. If this matter had been done by a family member, then it would be a family matter. However, it was obvious that someone had deliberately set this thing up, so they could not simply let these two people off.

Xia Xiu had never been afraid of anyone. She wanted to let the forces behind these two people know that the Xia family was not any pushover that could be manipulated by them.

As soon as Wang Yong entered the interrogation room, he confessed everything even before Xia Xiu opened her mouth.

He talked about how in the past, he had never thought of going on a blind date with Qiao Mei. It was his mother who said that Qiao Mei's family was rich and did not lack anything and that if she married him, he could do whatever he wanted with the money. He left out the incident when he went to look for her and she gave him a beating and chased him out. After that, they did not contact each other anymore. As time passed, he had long forgotten about everything.

However, not long ago, two people who dressed quite well, and looked like rich people, came to the village. In the beginning, they went from house to house, trying to find out about Wang Yong and Qiao Mei's relationship. Later on, they found Wang Yong's family and gave them a sum of money to tell an exaggerated story and to say that Qiao Mei was carrying Wang Yong's child. They made up an entire story for him to memorize.

They told him that if he completed the task successfully, they would buy a house for his mother and him in the county city so that they need not live in the village anymore. They would also be given another large sum of money. Wang Yong was so enticed by the rewards that he agreed and he was then sent to the Xia residence.

"Then do you know who hired you?" Xia Xiu asked.

Wang Yong recalled carefully and said, "Those two people didn't say where they came from, and I didn't dare to ask. They don't look like people to be trifled with."

Xia Xiu stood up and slowly went to stand opposite Wang Yong. She placed her hands on the table and said patiently, "Think about it carefully again. Were there any special signs or symbols, or whether they said anything that seemed strange."

Looking at Xia Xiu's cold eyes, Wang Yong panicked and said, "Let... Let me think..."

"You have to think about it carefully. If you lie, don't even think about leaving this place. What you did today was slandering a soldier. We can send you to the police station and have you convicted!" Xia Xiu stood up quietly and looked at Wang Yong.

Xia Xiu held up three fingers and said, "I'll give you another three minutes. When I come in later, I hope that you can tell me something I haven't heard before. Do you understand?"

After Xia Xiu finished speaking, she walked out of the interrogation room. The people sitting outside were all from the Xia family. Xia Mao, Xia Wen and Xia Zhe were all there. They could see what was going on inside the interrogation room through the two-way mirror, and they could hear everything that was said inside clearly, but Wang Yong could not see what was going on outside.

“Eldest Aunt’s ability to interrogate people is still as formidable as ever,” Xia Wen teased.

“Well, this is how I make a living. So, do you guys have any ideas yet?” Xia Xiu asked.

Xia Mao lowered his head in silence. Wang Yong did not say anything useful at all and they could only make guesses.

“There are too many people that we can suspect. In the past few years, our Xia family has done well and has been a thorn in their sides. I wonder who did this,” Xia Wen said.

“Could it be the Zheng family? I heard that the girl from the Zheng family has been demoted recently because of you,” Xia Xiu said as she looked at Xia Zhe.

Xia Zhe knew Zheng Yuan’s character and also knew that Zheng Yuan’s father had always treated him like his own son. They would definitely not take the opportunity to take revenge.

“Uncle Zheng is my mentor and he won’t do that. However, not long ago, Qiao Mei seemed to have an altercation with He Mei from the He family,” Xia Zhe said.

He only heard the story that night when Qiao Mei talked about all his romantic debts, and it took him a long time to coax her and to explain the relationship he had with each woman. It also made him realize how Qiao Mei had a difficult time when she first came to the capital.

“The He family? Then only He Ning would be able to do such a sinister thing!” Xia Xiu immediately chimed in.

When Xia Mao heard this, he also felt that it was most likely to be the He family. He nodded and said, "The only person in the entire capital who can do this without any loopholes, and yet be able to distance himself from it, would be He Ning. No other person can be so meticulous."