

## Fat Wife 311

### Chapter 311: It Is Because He Is Too Charming

The question was why He Ning would do this. The Xia family and He family had always stayed in their own lanes. Why would He Ning suddenly plot against the Xia family?

“Has anyone offended the He family recently?” Xia Xiu asked with a frown.

Xia Wen smiled and looked at Xia Zhe as he said, “You probably have to ask Xia Zhe about this. He Mei has always liked Xia Zhe and He Guo has come to propose marriage several times, but the relationship between our family and the He family has never been good. Now that the political situation is so tense, we also can’t have a marriage alliance with the He family. Moreover, if Xia Zhe doesn’t want to marry her, it’s useless for anyone to say anything.”

“He Mei can be considered to be a pampered young lady from a wealthy family and she had been treated like a princess at home since young. Why is she doing this?” Xia Xiu asked bewilderedly.

“Aunt, this is because our Xia Zhe is too charming. If they had succeeded in this matter, He Mei can then become Xia Zhe’s new wife after he gets divorced. Xia Zhe is already the battalion commander at such a young age. Don’t you think they’re envious?” Xia Wen explained.

The way he said it made sense. No one had expected He Mei to be so infatuated and to have waited for Xia Zhe for so many years. Xia Xiu had spent all her time in the army and did not pay attention to such issues at home. The last time she saw He Mei was when Xia Zhe was in school, and she actually thought that He Mei had already gotten married after so many years.

If He Ning wanted to get this matter done, he would do whatever it took. With his character, there was nothing he could not get as long as he wanted it. He had the capability to do anything.

“He Ning’s health won’t be able to hold up for more than a few years, and the He family won’t be able to achieve much either.” Not long ago, Xia Mao had heard that He Ning had been recuperating at home and had not gone out for a long time. It seemed that he was seriously ill this time.

“I’ll go in and see if he has any other valuable information.” With that, Xia Xiu went in to interrogate Wang Yong.

The Xia family members outside the room continued to discuss how to launch a counterattack on the He family. They could not just ignore what had happened today..

After Wang Yong confessed and stamped his fingerprint on the statement document, both he and his mother were released. Everyone else left as well.

Xia Mao returned to the army to settle some matters while Xia Zhe and Xia Wen prepared to return to their grandfather’s house. After all, their wives were still waiting for them there!

The two of them stood at the door and waited for their ride. Xia Wen slowly leaned towards Xia Zhe and asked, “What made you take a fancy to Qiao Mei back then? Eldest Aunt said that Qiao Mei’s weight was a shockingly big number then .”

Xia Wen had seen the information that his eldest aunt had given him. Back then, Qiao Mei indeed weighed more than 200 pounds. Xia Wen believed that no matter how desperate his younger brother was, he would not have fallen in love with her at first sight and slept with her immediately after they met...

Xia Zhe glanced sideways at Xia Wen. What happened back then... He did not want to provide the details, but even if Xia Wen racked his brains, Xia Wen would not be able to imagine that it was Qiao Mei who was the one who ravished him back then.

Xia Zhe smiled and said, “She’s a very kind girl. She’s smart and capable, cooks well and does great needlework. She also treats me well. Usually, she’ll send me the pickled vegetables, dried meat and dried fruits that she made herself. She also...”

Xia Wen quickly interrupted Xia Zhe and said, “Stop, stop, stop! Take it that I know she’s very good. Stop talking. If I don’t interrupt you, I reckon you can talk until dawn tomorrow!”

Xia Zhe gave it some serious thought before replying, “There’s such a possibility.”

Xia Wen rolled his eyes resignedly. He thought that this must be the power of love. Xia Zhe, who had always had a cold expression and never smiled, would actually smile foolishly when he thought of his wife.

“You... I think you’ve been completely defeated by Qiao Mei,” Xia Wen said as he shook his head helplessly.

Their car arrived at this moment. Xia Zhe put his arm around Xia Wen’s shoulder and said playfully, “Alright, big brother, let’s go back quickly. I reckon my wife is still going through Second Aunt-in-law’s ideological education!”

“Hurry up and go back. I don’t want to hear stories about you and my sister-in-law here. I’m so jealous!” Xia Wen pushed Xia Zhe’s arm away and got into the car, with Xia Zhe following closely behind.

It did not take long for the two of them to reach home. The moment they entered, they could only hear Liu Fen and Zhou Hua chatting and laughing. Xia Zhe looked around but did not see Qiao Mei at all. Even his elder sister and aunt were not around.

Xia Zhe asked coldly with a dark expression, “Where did my wife go?”

## Chapter 312: Good News

Xia Zhe stared at Liu Fen. He thought that Liu Fen had said something to Qiao Mei and instructed her to do work.

Liu Fen’s expression immediately darkened as well. Zhou Hua laughed and said, “Your wife has been eaten up by your second aunt-in-law. Hahaha!” She was the only one in the room who laughed loudly, while everyone else did not look too happy.

“Your wife, Xia He and Xia Fang went to the hospital,” Liu Fang said sulkily.

“Hospital? What’s going on!” Xia Zhe and Xia Wen said in unison.

It was normal for Xia Zhe to have such a big reaction. After all, Qiao Mei was his wife. However, no one knew why Xia Wen was so worked up as well. Tan Jing glared at Xia Wen while trying to suppress her anger, but Xia Wen only paid attention to Liu Fang and what she was saying, and did not see Tan Jing's expression at all. Perhaps he did not even notice Tan Jing there when he entered.

Xia Zhe had no patience for Liu Fen's slow explanation. Striding big steps, he rushed to the door to head to the hospital. As he opened the door, he bumped into Qiao Mei and the others who had just returned.

"Oh my, slow down. Where are you going in such a hurry?" Xia Fang reprimanded him.

Xia Zhe did not even hear what Xia Fang said. He grabbed hold of Qiao Mei and checked her carefully to see if she was injured. Before long, he realized that everyone was smiling and it did not look like something bad had happened.

"Your wife is pregnant!" Xia He looked at Xia Zhe excitedly.

Xia Zhe glared at her. How could he not know that his wife was pregnant? It was such an obvious thing.

"Twins! Twins! They're twins!" Xia He said, jumping up excitedly.

It took a while for Xia Zhe to register that.

Twins? What twins? Qiao Mei was pregnant with twins!!!

Xia Zhe looked at Qiao Mei, then at her belly, with an expression of pleasant surprise. He had only just been worried about whether Qiao Mei was safe and sound, but now his face was filled with shock and joy.

"Is it really a pair of twins?" Xia Wen had stood behind Xia Zhe all this while, and he turned towards Xia Fang to ask her.

Xia Fang nodded. Xia Wen excitedly hugged Xia Zhe's shoulder and said, "Younger brother! They're twins! That's so great!"

Xia Zhe also laughed happily. This was such a joyous occasion!

Liu Fen could hear a commotion at the door from the living hall, but she could not tell what was going on. She asked Auntie Chen to ask them to come in.

"Xiao Zhe! Xiao Wen! Hurry back into the house! Let the ladies come in! Why are you all standing outside on such a hot day!" Liu Fen said laughingly.

Although Liu Fen looked down on Qiao Mei, she appreciated the fact that Qiao Mei was giving the Xia family two children in one go! That was a great contribution to the family.

"I must be out of my mind. Hurry up and go into the house." Xia Wen let go of Xia Zhe and stood to the side, asking his aunt, younger sister and sister-in-law to enter the house quickly.

"I can hear you guys talking at the door just now. Did Mei Mei get the results?" Liu Fen looked at Xia Fang expectantly.

Xia Fang smiled and said, "We checked already. It's confirmed to be twins."

Liu Fen clapped her hands excitedly and looked at Qiao Mei with satisfaction. Among the children in the Xia family, she liked Xia Zhe the most and would think about Xiao Zhe whenever there were any nice things. Like what Xia He had said, she did not have any bad intentions. It was just that she favored boys over girls and she felt that womenfolk in the family should do all the housework so that men need not worry about such things. She was a traditionalist.

However, she definitely doted on these boys at home. Her only hope was that the men of the Xia family would prosper and she did not have any bad intentions at all.

“Qiao Mei, it’s a great achievement to have two children. Most people don’t have such good fortune! Come and sit down. Don’t tire yourself out.” Liu Fen quickly stood up and helped Qiao Mei to the chair she just vacated.

“Second Aunt-in-law, I’m fine. I’m in great health!” Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Zhou Hua looked at the way Liu Fen showered attention on Qiao Mei. She reckoned that people who did not know better would think that Qiao Mei was pregnant with her grandson!

“Sister-in-law, why are you so happy? Even my eldest sister-in-law is not as happy as you!” said Zhou Hua.

“Third Aunt-in-law, Second Aunt-in-law is just excited. She’s happy that there’s going to be a new generation in the family,” Xia Wen explained.

At this moment, Zhou Hua seemed to have thought of something. She was a person full of bad ideas. She looked back and forth at Xia Wen and Tan Jing.

Chapter 313: Just Joking

“What are you looking at, Third Aunt-in-law?” Xia Wen asked.

Zhou Hua smiled at Xia Wen and said, “I think you seem quite happy too. Actually, they can give one of the twins to you. Don’t you think that would be perfect?”

The moment she said this, the atmosphere in the room instantly turned icy. Liu Fen also stood at the side, not knowing what to say. The smiles on Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe’s faces disappeared at the same time while Xia Wen and Tan Jing threw dirty looks at Zhou Hua.

The angrier Xia Zhe looked, the happier Qiao Mei felt. There were many people in her village who gave away their children in exchange for money. There were also people who starved their daughters and married them off once they were of marriageable age.

She was relieved to see that Xia Zhe cared about the children. No matter what other people said, Xia Zhe had no intention of giving his children to others. With this, nothing else could faze her.

Seeing that everyone ignored her, Zhou Hua laughed awkwardly and said, "I was just joking. Why did everyone take it seriously?"

"Then Third Aunt-in-law should stop joking in the future. You don't seem to be very good at telling jokes," Xia Wen said coldly.

Seeing that he did not give her an out despite him being her junior, Zhou Hua said mockingly, "You're really taking my good intentions for granted. Who do you think I'm saying this for? I'm being kind but no one appreciates it. Second sister-in-law, let's go cook."

After Zhou Hua finished speaking, she did not forget to glare at Tan Jing. If not for this useless woman, she would not have been put on the spot today. Even a country girl could get pregnant with two children, yet Tan Jing did not have any contribution after marrying into the family for so many years.

"Ah, right, right, right. It's time to cook so let's go!" Liu Fen smiled and answered Zhou Hua, hurriedly pulling her into the kitchen.

When she reached the kitchen door, she turned back to look at the people in the living hall. Tan Jing did not say anything and quietly got up to go into the kitchen. Xia He also followed her. There were many juniors today, so Xia Fang did not have to help out.

Liu Fen glanced at Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe hurriedly blocked Liu Fen's line of sight by sitting beside Qiao Mei. He said happily, "How did you all go to the hospital? Was it a bumpy ride? Were there many people queuing? You should rest so that you don't tire my son out."

Xia Zhe even emphasized the word "son" loudly at the end. Liu Fen shook her head and smiled. This would be the family's eldest grandson, she had better not let Qiao Mei tire herself out. It was not as if there was no one else around to do these things. She would give Qiao Mei a break.

Qiao Mei stole a glance at the kitchen and whispered, "What if it's two daughters?"

Xia Zhe happily patted Qiao Mei's belly and said, "What's so bad about having daughters? They'll grow up to look as beautiful as you. Our eldest aunt is so capable. Then look at our youngest aunt, she's also an important staff member of the hospital. Then look at my sister, the mainstay of the culture troupe. My mother was previously the head of the military art troupe. Besides, you're so capable, so it's a good thing to have daughters."

Xia Wen smiled as he looked at Xia Zhe and his wife. In the past, Xia Zhe rarely came home and even requested to stay in the army to work during the holiday season. He was like an iceberg that had no warmth. Now, he looked as though he would do anything for Qiao Mei.

As Xia He washed the vegetables in the kitchen, she said, "Now that Xia Zhe is married, he's happy all the time."

"Isn't that so? The old Xia Zhe doesn't like to talk, but now he's just smiling every day." Liu Fen sighed as she looked at the loving couple through the kitchen glass door.

"Second Uncle was also like this when he married Second Aunt-in-law back then, right? If Second Uncle hadn't been so busy recently after his promotion, Second Uncle and Second Aunt-in-law would probably be the ones putting on a public display of affection!" Xia He looked at Liu Fen and teased her.

Liu Fen raised her hand and gently gave Xia He a push. She said embarrassedly, "You're making fun of me! I'm so old already! But your second uncle has indeed been very busy recently. I haven't seen him in a long time. It's a good thing that he's busy though. I'm thinking he will be back soon."

As Zhou Hua chopped vegetables at one side, she made loud sounds on the chopping board, causing the cabinet to shake from the impact. Third Uncle Xia Guang's career had not shown any signs of improvement recently. Not long ago, he had even been reprimanded by his superiors, and she had also been mocked by Xu Lan for that. Seeing Liu Fen showing off about how capable and reliable her husband was, Zhou Hua felt that all these people looked down on her!

#### Chapter 314: Naming the Children

Xia He and Liu Fen closed their mouths discomfitingly and did not say anything else. Tan Jing pretended not to hear anything.



“Don’t worry, it’s fine even if we have daughters,” Xia Zhe comforted Qiao Mei.

Liu Fen heard that from the kitchen. She hurriedly opened the kitchen door and came out raising a spatula at Xia Zhe, saying, “Hurry up and spit on that! What unlucky things are you saying! You will have sons!”

Qiao Mei looked at the agitated Liu Fen and said, “Yes, if Second Aunt-in-law says they’re boys, then it must be so!”

Liu Fen said proudly, “That’s true. I have four children and I’m very blessed to have both sons and daughters! Don’t spout nonsense, you’ll have sons!”

Zhou Hua shouted from the kitchen, “You should be more worried about your two sons getting married. They’re not even married yet, but you’re so anxious about Eldest Brother and Eldest Sister-in-law’s grandchildren!”

Liu Fen did not mind and pretended that she did not hear anything. She said thoughtfully, “What are these two children’s nicknames? Are they called Luck and Fortune? Or Wealth and Treasure!”

Xia Zhe lowered his head and held back his laughter. Qiao Mei looked at Liu Fen and said, “Second Aunt-in-law, I think Luck and Fortune are good. If they’re girls, then there’s no need for these nicknames.”

When Liu Fen heard Qiao Mei mention having girls again, she got so anxious that she stomped her feet. She quickly waved her hands and said, “Hurry up and spit on that! Don’t say such inauspicious things! It must be two boys!”

Qiao Mei was so ticked by Liu Fen’s reaction that she laughly loudly and said, “Alright, alright, alright. It will definitely be the Luck and Fortune that Second Aunt-in-law is looking forward to.”

Liu Fen gave Qiao Mei a look of satisfaction and went back to cook. As she walked back, she was still muttering the words luck and fortune, and could not stop smiling widely. The eldest grandson of the Xia family would be using a nickname that she had chosen. She would be proud to tell that story to outsiders.

She thought that Qiao Mei seemed like a nice person. Back when Qiao Mei first came to visit, Xu Lan had called up Liu Fen after that and kept complaining about Qiao Mei. She told Liu Fen how she thought Qiao Mei was such an ignorant village girl, as well as a lot of other nasty things..

Now, Liu Fen felt that Qiao Mei was in no way inferior to those young ladies from wealthy families in the capital! As if those young ladies could get pregnant with two children at once! Let's see who still dared to look down on Qiao Mei! She would definitely be the first to stand up and put a stop to it!

Xia Zhe pinched Qiao Mei's cheek and asked, "Didn't I give the children nicknames in my letters back then? Are you saying that my nicknames aren't as good as Luck and Fortune?"

Qiao Mei slapped Xia Zhe's hand away and looked at Xia Wen, saying, "Elder Brother is knowledgeable. Let's get Elder Brother to be the judge. He said in the letter that he wants to name the child Xia Zhuang!"

Xia Wen could not help but laugh when he heard this name.

"I also think that Luck and Fortune is much better than your Xia Zhuang." Xia Wen did not hide his disdain for the name Xia Zhe came up with.

Xia Wen thought for a moment and said, "If you trust me, I'll help you name the children."

Xia Zhe looked towards Qiao Mei to see what she thought. Qiao Mei nodded and said, "Elder Brother, please do. You're so cultured and the names you come up with will definitely be nice names."

When Xia Zhe heard the way Qiao Mei praised Xia Wen, he felt a little jealous. He had also studied in military school and he was in no way less cultured than his elder brother. He may be a military man, but it did not mean that he was uneducated.

"Let me think... If they're boys, shall we name them Xia Yun and Xia Xuan? If they're girls, then Xia Wei and Xia Shuang," Xia Wen said after careful consideration.

Qiao Mei also felt that these were nice names. When she looked up, she saw that Xia Zhe was still frowning.

Qiao Mei asked softly, "What's wrong? Are you unhappy with the names given by Elder Brother?"

Xia Zhe said in a fit of pique, "Xia Zhuang would have been a nice name for my son!"

It had been a long time since Xia Zhe threw a tantrum in front of Xia Wen and he had not seen his younger brother's childish side for a long time. He was so amused that he laughed out loudly and said, "If you're not convinced, then let grandfather and father be the judges and see which names are better. Perhaps the two of them won't like the names we came up with. They might already have their own ideas regarding the names."

"You're right. Grandfather has been looking forward to this for a long time. I think he might have already prepared names for our children. Let's ask grandfather to choose later." Xia Zhe thought about how his grandfather had always looked forward to him getting married and having children. He had asked Xia Zhe to get married when his grandmother was still around, but Xia Zhe did not meet anyone he liked. Therefore, Xia Zhe guessed that his grandfather might have already prepared names for his future grandchildren a long time ago.

#### Chapter 315: The Heavens Are Unfair

As Xia Wen excitedly joined in the discussion to name Xia Zhe's children, Tan Jing silently shed tears in the kitchen. All these years, the fact that the two of them did not manage to have a child had always been a wound in her heart.

Xia Wen had always comforted her and said that it did not matter if they had children or not. However, when she saw Xia Wen being so concerned about Qiao Mei's babies and even excitedly helping to name them, she could not help but feel upset.

Xia He observed quietly from the side. When Tan Jing first married into the family, Xia He liked her very much. She was cheerful, laughed a lot, and liked to sing and dance. Later on, after being married for many years and not having children, she completely changed into a different person and became silent and unwilling to communicate with anyone. She also looked unhappy all the time.

At first, Liu Fen kept nagging her about the matter. Later, Tan Jing felt so hounded and uncomfortable that she starved herself for a long time. After that, Liu Fen did not dare to mention it again and the entire family also avoided this topic. Xia Wen also secretly spoke to all the other family members and asked them not to make things difficult for Tan Jing.

However, now that Qiao Mei was pregnant, it was inevitable that everyone would feel happy and talk constantly about children, unintentionally hurting Tan Jing. In the beginning, Xia He and Tan Jing got along like biological sisters. Later on, it became harder and harder for Xia He to understand why Tan Jing cared so much about this matter. She had also gotten married herself, but she did not have children. Instead, she was very glad that she did not have that burden.

Now that she was in an unhappy situation, she need not maintain a painful marriage for the sake of children. She felt free and unrestrained, but Tan Jing kept getting herself stuck in a rut. As time passed, the two of them grew apart.

Zhou Hua glanced at Tan Jing from behind and laughed disdainfully. She had thought that with a daughter-in-law like Tan Jing, Eldest Brother and Eldest Sister-in-law would never have any grandchildren in their lives, meaning their bloodline would end with their sons. No one could have expected that Xia Zhe, who looked on track to becoming a monk, would actually get married and that his wife would be pregnant with twins.

The heavens were really unfair. All good things went to the eldest son of the family. Back when her mother-in-law was still alive, she was also biased towards her eldest son's family. After she died, she even gave her house to Xia Zhe. No one else could get their hands on it.

Zhou Hua only found out about this when Tan Jing accidentally let slip this matter while they were chatting. Otherwise, she would still be in the dark.

The Xia family had a total of three sons. The eldest son had two boys, the second son had two boys, but their family had given the Xia family three boys! She could not understand why the house did not go to Xia Guang.

Currently, Xia Mao's three children were all married and their eldest grandchild was about to be born. The second son, Xia Yao, lived a thriving and happy life with Liu Fen. Only Xia Guang's family was not doing well! She could not understand why they could not get any good things. Their sons were unable to find wives because they did not have their own house.

Zhou Hua's whole family was still living together into a 120-square-meter allocated property. Her eldest son was about to propose marriage to the girl he liked but she was unwilling to marry him because he did not have his own house.

She heard that Xia Zhe had managed to get back the part of the house occupied by the Cao family. There would only be five people living in such a big house, even if she included Qiao Mei's grandfather. It was such a waste for only five people to live in such a big house! They might as well give her family a few rooms. She did not ask for much and would be happy to have just one section out of the four sections of the house.

She had been thinking about this for a long time, but she was too embarrassed to broach this topic when Xia Jun was around. Given that there was no one in charge at home today, she started to put on airs.

"Auntie Chen, please set the table. We'll take a break." Liu Fen came out of the kitchen rubbing her shoulders.

Although Auntie Chen was the family's helper, she mostly just took care of Xia Jun and his meals. Xia Jun was an old man and he had a lighter diet, so his food needed to be made separately.

Everyone sat in the living hall and chatted.

"Xia Zhe is still the most capable among the kids of his generation," Zhou Hua said flatteringly.

"That's right. I also think Xiao Zhe is the most hardworking and capable!" Liu Fen did not know what Zhou Hua had in mind and simply agreed with what she said.

Xia Wen looked at Zhou Hua and smiled while Xia He did not reply as well. She knew that Third Aunt-in-law did not have a good heart and was a very nasty person. Qiao Mei also wondered why Zhou Hua's attitude seemed to have changed after she came back from the kitchen.

Chapter 316: Getting Drunk

“You can eat now. Old Master Xia said that he won’t be coming down to eat. I’ll bring it up for him,” Auntie Chen said respectfully.

Qiao Mei lowered her head and whispered to Xia Zhe, “Is grandfather not feeling well?”

Xia Zhe patted Qiao Mei’s head and said, “Don’t worry. Grandfather probably feels that there are too many youngsters and women around and that his presence would make it difficult for us to talk and catch up. That’s why he’s not coming down. If you’re worried, we can go to the study room to chat with him after dinner.”

Qiao Mei nodded and followed Xia Zhe to the dining room. When everyone was seated, they started to eat in silence.

“So, let me say a few words. The Xia family has confirmed two kids of the next generation today and we’re all gathered together. Let’s have drinks and catch up!” Zhou Hua stood up and went to the liquor cabinet.

Xia Wen said faintly, “Third Aunt-in-law, don’t take out the wrong liquor. The cabinet is filled with grandfather’s treasures. Don’t drink his favorite liquor by accident.”

Zhou Hua faced the liquor cabinet and cursed Xia Wen in her heart. In the entire family, Xia Wen’s relationship with her was the worst. She did not know how she had offended Xia Wen, but he always argued with her. She felt that Xia Wen was not as nice as everyone said and was not the gentle and modest gentleman that people talked about! His smile hid how treacherous he actually was!

At the corner of the liquor cabinet, Zhou Hua found the bottle of liquor that she had given to Xia Jun. At that time, Xia Jun had asked Auntie Chen to put it away in the cabinet without even looking at it. The bottle was now covered with dust even though the rest of the bottles were clean. When the light shone on those bottles, they gleamed brightly. A few bottles had even been sealed with special methods to prevent their contents from evaporating.

Zhou Hua did not pay attention to what Xia Wen said. She had something more important to do today.

After taking out the bottle, Zhou Hua opened it and started pouring the liquor for everyone. The more everyone drank, the easier it would be for her to settle the matter. As long as Xia Zhe agreed, there was nothing that could not be done.

When she was about to pour the liquor for Qiao Mei, Xia Zhe reached out to cover Qiao Mei's glass and said, "Third Aunt-in-law, she's pregnant and can't drink."

Back then, his maternal aunt-in-law had given him a list of things that pregnant women should watch out for. In addition, his aunt had also told Xia Zhe about many things that pregnant women could and could not do, including not being able to drink alcohol. Xia Zhe would not forget anything that concerned Qiao Mei.

"It's fine to drink a bit! I drank when I was pregnant!"

Zhou Hua was about to pour the liquor when Xia Wen said, "If anything should happen to Qiao Mei's babies, what do you think my father and grandfather will do, Third Aunt-in-law?"

Zhou Hua's hands stopped in midair. She was not a doctor. If anything really happened, Xu Lan would definitely cut her into pieces.

Zhou Hua immediately turned her gaze to Tan Jing, who was sitting beside Qiao Mei. As she poured the liquor, she said gleefully, "Oh well, then Tan Jing can drink more. It doesn't matter how much Tan Jing drinks since she's not pregnant!"

Zhou Hua thought that there were some benefits to Tan Jing not having children. It helped her to resolve the awkwardness like this. Little did she know that Xia Wen's expression became even more thoughtful when he looked at her, while Xia Zhe stared at her as well. Zhou Hua was still forcing a smile, but her hands had already started to tremble.

"Well... let's eat, let's eat!" Liu Fen helped to smooth things over. She thought that if she did not interrupt now, all these people would start arguing again.

Only then did Zhou Hua sit down and heave a sigh of relief. Even if she ended up offending everyone at the dining table, she still had to continue to make them drink so that she could achieve her goal.

Xia Wen and Xia Zhe did not appreciate what Liu Fen did and just quietly ate and took food for their wives. Xia Wen also drank all the liquor in Tan Jing's glass in one go.

Tan Jing looked at Xia Wen with a slight smile. She knew that her husband loved her and had been protecting her in his own way all these years, but the pressure and stares from their relatives and neighbors made it difficult for her to breathe. It was her own anxiety that caused her to be in such a state now.

Zhou Hua continued talking and drinking by herself. She was completely fine with drinking by herself if the others did not want to drink. If she got drunk, she could then use that as an excuse if she happened to offend anyone. She would just say that it was the liquor that made her sprout nonsense and asked for everyone's forgiveness. This way, no one would be able to take what she said to heart. After she had a few glasses, she started to act up.

#### Chapter 317: Acting Crazy

Zhou Hua suddenly started crying bitterly, tears raining down her face. Liu Fen, who was sitting next to her, was shocked and wondered what was wrong with her.

"Third Aunt-in-law, what's wrong?" Xia He asked.

"I'm just happy. I'm happy that all of you are doing well!" Zhou Hua said as she wept.

Xia Wen shook the liquor glass in his hand and smiled at Zhou Hua. "Why are you crying when you're happy, Third Aunt-in-law? It's so inauspicious to cry on a joyous day."

Zhou Hua used a handkerchief to cover her face and wipe her tears. The expression behind the handkerchief was a very twisted and angry one, but after wiping her tears, she put on a pitiful look again. It was a waste that she did not become a performer.

"Look at what this kid is saying. Seeing all of you doing well makes me think of my Xia Xing. I don't even know when he'll be able to get married." After saying that, Zhou Hua started crying again.



“Didn’t Brother Xing say that he has a girlfriend and is getting engaged soon? Doesn’t that mean he’s getting married soon? Third Aunt-in-law should be happy about that,” Xia Wen asked.

Zhou Hua said with reddened eyes, “It’s just that although the girl wants to marry into our family, her parents say that we must provide a house. That’s why he hasn’t gotten married yet.”

Xia Wen gave Xia Zhe a meaningful look. It seemed like her target was Xia Zhe.

“If Brother Xing works hard, won’t he be allocated a house soon?” Xia Wen said.

The Xia family’s ancestors were all soldiers, but when it came to Xia Zhe’s generation, they started working in other fields. For example, Xia Wen was a university professor, while Xia Xing worked in a government unit in the south. Everyone had heard that the benefits were not too bad. Although the salary was not high, he would be allocated a house. If a couple was both from that unit, they would be allocated a much bigger house.

Xia Xing’s girlfriend was a colleague from the same unit as him, and she also had a relative who was in a leadership position there, so their allocated house would definitely not be too small.

“The unit did allocate them a house, but I felt that it was too small, so I asked them not to take it.” Zhou Hua then continued, “Besides, how can a house in the poor and remote countryside be better than a house in the capital? I’m thinking of getting the two of them transferred to the capital so that everyone in the family can be reunited.”

It seemed that not only did she have designs on Xia Zhe, but she also wanted Xia Jun to help with Xia Xing’s transfer. Everyone in the neighborhood could hear her wishful thinking!

“Third Aunt-in-law, how big a house is good for you? That allocated house is almost 200 square meters. Why isn’t it big enough for Brother Xing to live in? That place is also flourishing at the moment, how is it worse than the capital? I even went there on a business trip previously,” Xia Wen said with a smile.

Zhou Hua pointed at Xia Wen and shouted, “What do you know! How can that place compare with the capital! Besides, if our Xiao Xing has children in the future, are they supposed to find their marriage

partners in that place? It's such a poor and remote place, don't tell me they have to marry country bumpkins! That's why I want them to be transferred back to the capital."

Qiao Mei almost choked on her water to hear that she had become part of the topic. She kept having a feeling that Zhou Hua had something to tell her, so there must be something else she had not said yet.

"I can't help with Brother Xing's work problem. I can only wish Third Aunt-in-law all the best." Xia Wen finished the liquor in his glass in one gulp.

Zhou Hua stood up unsteadily and put both her hands on the table while saying, "As if I don't know that you can't help! You could have gone to the army to take up a civilian position, but you insisted on being a teacher. Your monthly salary is so little and your house is so small! What were you thinking!"

Xia Wen did not refute and just nodded vigorously. Zhou Hua then turned to look at Xia Zhe and said, "Xia Zhe is still the best. Xia Zhe is so capable. His grandmother also dotes on this grandson and left him such a big house. There are 14 rooms! It's so big!"

"Sigh, I heard from Eldest Sister-in-law that Qiao Mei has taken back the part of the house that the Cao family occupied. She's really a capable wife. There are now 28 rooms in total. Even after your children are born, there will only be four of you. You won't have use for so many rooms," Zhou Hua said as she looked at Qiao Mei.

Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei did not reply. They lowered their heads and ignored what Zhou Hua said. They already knew that she was eyeing the house, but they did not expect her to broach this topic so quickly.

## Chapter 318: Unfilial Son

"Xiao Zhe, if the house remains empty, it will attract spirits easily! If no one lives in it for too long, everything in the house will break down! Why don't you let your Brother Xing move in with you when he's back? When you're not at home, he can help you take care of Qiao Mei!" Zhou Hua looked at Xia Zhe with a sad face.

Qiao Mei muttered in a low voice, "Hmph, you're faster than any spirits!"

Zhou Hua did not hear what Qiao Mei said since she was a distance away, but Xia Zhe heard it clearly since he was just next to her. Xia Zhe quietly reached out to hold Qiao Mei's hand and stroked it gently to reassure her.

Qiao Mei was feeling unhappy about it. She had used her own ginseng to exchange for that part of the house, so she did not see why she must agree to let Zhou Hua move in. She was extremely unwilling to do that.

At that time, many families lived together under one roof, just like what Qiao Zhuang's family did in the village. Although his five sons were married, other than the second son who snatched Li Gui's house and moved out with his own family, the rest of the brothers still lived in the old house. It was common for people to have to take in relatives.

Qiao Mei looked at Xia Zhe with a sad expression. He nodded to indicate that he understood what she meant.

Xia Zhe put down his chopsticks and sat up straight. He looked at Zhou Hua and said, "No."

He did not give her any reasons. No matter how many reasons he had, Zhou Hua would view them as excuses and she would rebut all of them. He decided to reject her in a direct manner so that she would not have any reason to pick on anything he said.

Zhou Hua did not expect Xia Zhe to reject her so bluntly. After all, she was Xia Zhe's third aunt-in-law and his elder. She had expected him to at least consider her request.

"Xiao Zhe, aren't you going to even consider it? Look at your Brother Xing..." Zhou Hua looked at Xia Zhe with reddened eyes.

Xia Zhe still said the same thing, "No."

"What a kid! Why! Why not!" Zhou Hua questioned him exasperatedly. Her tone made it sound like Xia Zhe's house belonged to her and that it was disrespectful of Xia Zhe to reject her request.

“Qiao Mei’s grandfather paid for the two sections of the house that the Cao family used to occupy, so that part doesn’t belong to me nor does it belong to the Xia family. I have no right to decide who can stay there. Besides, my parents can’t even stay at my house, let alone other people.” After Xia Zhe finished speaking, he glanced at Zhou Hua, indicating to her that she belonged to the group of “other people”.

Originally, Xu Lan wanted to move into that house because living under the same roof as Xia Zhe’s grandfather meant that she had to follow his rules. However, Xia Mao did not allow her to move there because they actually had their own house. Even if they left the patriarch’s house, they should move back into their own house. The area of their own house was only 100 square meters and it was not as luxurious as the small villa, so Xu Lan was unwilling to live there.

Later on, Third Aunt-in-law also kept saying that she wanted to stay at the old house. Xia Fang always stopped her from doing so and did not let anyone else enter the house. Xia Zhe originally did not mind and was not concerned about who stayed there. At that time, he was focused on his job in the army and only wanted to do better in his career. However, now that he knew about the things his grandmother kept underground, he also understood the deeper meaning behind what she did.

Other than his grandfather, no one else could go back to stay in the house!

“You!” Zhou Hua pointed at Xia Zhe angrily and glared at him, but she could not say anything. If even his own mother could not move in, she had no right to demand anything as his aunt-in-law.

“Why is it so noisy? What’s happening?” Xu Lan asked curiously.

Earlier in the afternoon, she went to help out at the military art troupe because they were having some issues. She did not expect to hear something about someone’s parents not being allowed to do something the moment she returned home. Zhou Hua was even pointing at her son, so that woman must be up to something again.

“Eldest Sister-in-law, your son is really filial! He says that he won’t let you and Eldest Brother stay in his house in the future!” Zhou Hua complained to Xu Lan while pointing at Xia Zhe.

Xu Lan looked at Zhou Hua while keeping a straight face. Xia Zhe was not that kind of child. She knew best as she was the one who gave birth to him. Xia Zhe was a greatly loyal and righteous person, just like his grandfather. Xia Zhe definitely did not say something like that.

Xia Wen looked at Xu Lan and said, "Mother, Third Aunt-in-law said just now that she wanted to move her whole family into the house that grandmother gave to Xiao Zhe. She even said that Brother Xing is unable to get married because I'm not capable enough and because Xiao Zhe didn't prepare a house for Brother Xing."

As he expected, Xu Lan's expression darkened. She looked at Zhou Hua with even more hatred in her eyes. She had long known that Zhou Hua had been eyeing the house for a long time, but she did not expect her to broach this subject again today. Zhou Hua must be jealous after knowing that they had managed to take back the part of the house that the Cao family occupied.

#### Chapter 319: I Will Give You the Money if You Do Not Have Any

Xu Lan walked behind Xia Fang and reached out to put her hand on Xia Fang's shoulder as if she was grumbling. "Regarding this matter, you're not the only one. Your eldest brother and I had wanted to go and stay in that house for a couple of days as we thought that it's not good for the house to remain empty. We thought we could bring some warmth to the house with some human activity, but Xiao Fang came up with all sorts of reasons to stop us from going there."

Xia Fang smiled and took a sip of liquor. She did not want to get involved in this matter and only wanted to watch her Third Sister-in-law and Eldest Sister-in-law fight it out.

"It's not that I don't want to allow Eldest Sister-in-law to live there. It's just that it was my mother's last wish to leave the house to Xia Zhe. Even if my father's here, he will agree that it's a fact that no one can change," Xia Fang said.

Zhou Hua glared at Xia Fang. The old lady was already dead. How could her words be equivalent to an imperial edict? Xia Fang was just trying to play the fool. It was not as if a dead person could know who eventually ended up with the house.

"Let's not talk about who she intended the house for. If Xia Zhe has the keys to the house, then it belongs to him now. In that case, he can give it to whoever he wants. Whatever his grandmother said

belongs in the past. If this house must always belong to him, then what will happen if Xia Zhe dies one day? Who will get this house? The government?" Zhou Hua tried to reason with Xu Lan.

Qiao Mei was furious when she heard this. This woman had just cursed Xia Zhe to die quickly!

Qiao Mei was about to refute Zhou Hua when Xia Zhe calmed her down. Xia Zhe turned to Zhou Hua and said, "Third Aunt-in-law also said that the house is mine now, so I have the final say. As for whether I die or not, you can talk about it after I die. Qiao Mei and I are living in that house now. The backyard part that the Cao family used to occupy was bought by Qiao Mei's grandfather. It has nothing to do with our Xia family whether he lives there or not. Even if he wants to leave it empty, it is entirely up to him."

At this moment, Zhou Hua looked at Qiao Mei. Since Xia Zhe put it across like that, it would be possible for them to live in the part of the house that the Cao family returned as long as Qiao Mei agreed to it.

Qiao Mei knew what Zhou Hua was planning and rejected her directly, saying, "Third Aunt-in-law, my grandfather has the final say in that part of the house, not me. I still have four siblings at home, as well as my mother and grandfather. If my grandfather is kind enough to bring the entire big family over, it's also not something I can control. What I say doesn't count. How about you go and ask my grandfather?"

Qiao Mei looked at Zhou Hua with a wide grin. Zhou Hua was so angry that she did not know what to say. How was she supposed to ask Qiao Mei's grandfather? Was she supposed to go to the countryside to look for him?

Furthermore, her own nephew did not allow her to stay in his house, so why would Qiao Mei's grandfather help her? It would be embarrassing for her to go asking him for a house when they were not even remotely related.

"Young girl, I really don't expect you to have such a sharp tongue!!" Zhou Hua said as she glared at Qiao Mei.

"I think my daughter-in-law is very demure. Why would you say that she has a sharp tongue? I think she's too kind-hearted. Otherwise, she wouldn't be getting bullied," Xu Lan said to Zhou Hua.

Although she did not like Qiao Mei, she could not let others say bad things about her daughter-in-law. As Qiao Mei's mother-in-law, she had not made any remark on this matter, so it was out of line for anyone else to say anything. She thought that Zhou Hua was being too disrespectful to her.

"Mother, we're going home. Otherwise, it will be too inconvenient when it gets late," Xia Zhe informed Xu Lan as he prepared to leave with Qiao Mei.

"I'll walk with you. Your sister-in-law and I are going back too." Xia Wen took his jacket and followed them with Tan Jing.

"Mother, we're leaving too. We'll come back another day." Tan Jing bowed gently and followed Xia Wen.

In the blink of an eye, everyone left. Xu Lan sat down for a rest in the chair that Xia Zhe just vacated.

"Eldest Sister-in-law, we just want to stay at Xia Zhe's house for a couple of days as a temporary measure. We don't mean to stay there forever. It's all a misunderstanding, Eldest Sister-in-law," Zhou Hua said.

"If you need a place to stay for a couple of days, you can just find a guest house. Or could it be that Third Brother has been short of money recently? If that's the case, you should have said so earlier. I'll get Xia Mao to send some money to your Xia Guang. Then when he comes back, he'll have a place to stay. What do you think?" Xu Lan said with a smile.

Zhou Hua knew that it was an insinuation that she was poor and had no money! She felt angry and aggrieved. Her intention was to move into the old house, but she did not expect to be scolded by everyone in the eldest brother's family. What right did they have to treat her like this!

## Chapter 320: Plan Failed

After Xu Lan finished speaking, she was no longer interested in the conversation and went back to her room to rest. Xia He and Xia Fang also went home, leaving Liu Fen and Auntie Chen to clean up the house and wash the dishes.

Seeing that no one wanted to pay any attention to her, Zhou Hua complained to Liu Fen, "Why do you think the old lady was so biased back then? She gave such a big house to only Xia Zhe. Aren't all these children and grandchildren her own? Now, Xia Zhe is living in a house with 28 rooms at such a young age and also has a house allocated by the military. Our two families have nothing!"

"My two sons don't have girlfriends yet, and they're still too young to get married. Besides, my children are all soldiers. When the time comes for them to get married, they'll be allocated their own house too," Liu Fen said contentedly.

"Your two sons are afraid that you'll bully their wives, so they won't bring anyone to come and see you! How can you still feel happy!" Zhou Hua said harshly.

"My own daughters don't even like me, what more my daughters-in-law. I can't stop nagging so it's normal for them not to want to live with me." Liu Fen took the last of the dishes into the kitchen and did not come back out.

Although Liu Fen was a person without any ulterior motives, she was not stupid. Initially, Liu Fen had thought that Zhou Hua was quite a nice person, but then she realized that Zhou Hua had gotten more and more overboard over the years and even took to blaming her for causing Tan Jing's bad mood. It was Zhou Hua who always bullied Tan Jing and passed comments about her not having children, but Zhou Hua would put the blame on Liu Fen, causing everyone to misunderstand Liu Fen.

Zhou Hua always wished that the Xia family brothers would quarrel among themselves, so that she could watch the drama. However, she felt that the matter about the house was really biased. Putting her personal concerns aside, she felt that everyone in the family should have a share in the house. In the end, only Xia Zhe got everything and the others did not benefit. She believed that the rest of the granddaughters-in-law would not get the bangles that Tan Jing and Qiao Mei received.

"All of them are so unkind to me!" Zhou Hua sat at the dining table alone and wept silently. It was all the fault of her disappointing husband and sons. Otherwise, she would not have been bullied by the eldest brother's family like this.

Qiao Mei was extremely happy to return home and see the huge courtyard. She sat comfortably on the rocking chair under the cherry tree. She did not need any relatives to come warm up the house or stay temporarily! Such quiet days were the best!



Fortunately, Xia Zhe did not even allow his parents to come over to live with them. If she had to live with Xu Lan and face her every day, she would go crazy very quickly. Xu Lan did not like her to begin with, and if they lived together, they would definitely end up hating each other.

Xia Zhe went into the kitchen to make some food for Qiao Mei as he had observed that she did not eat much just now at the dining table. He did not expect Qiao Mei to share his thoughts. She had also intended to cook for Xia Zhe.

“What do you want to eat?” Xia Zhe asked.

“Let me do it. How about you go and rest?” Qiao Mei said to Xia Zhe with a grin.

“I’ll do it. You’ll have plenty of opportunities to show off in the future. Give me a chance to show off now.” Xia Zhe looked at the young girl in front of him as his heart ached.

In the past, he did not think that there was anything bad about his family. However, when he saw how Second Aunt-in-law asked the juniors in the family to do the housework and the way Third Aunt-in-law sowed discord and dripped sarcasm, he realized that it had not been easy for his elder sister-in-law all these years. Not only did she have to do all the housework, but she also had to endure Third Aunt-in-law’s ridicule and Second Aunt-in-law’s teachings.

When he returned to the army after the holidays, he was worried that Qiao Mei would suffer in the capital on her own. He wanted to do as much for her as he could while he was still by her side.

“Then you go ahead. I’ll go make clothes for Elder Sister,” Qiao Mei said.

“Alright, don’t tire yourself out.” Xia Zhe watched Qiao Mei enter the house before returning to the kitchen.

Qiao Mei went through all the fabric she had at home and felt that the color orange suited Xia He’s personality. The vibrant color felt warm and energetic. Although Qiao Mei did not know Xia He’s size, she was quite familiar with her figure. She just had to make it a little loose so that it would be easier to alter it if required. It would be difficult to alter if it was too small.

It did not take long for Qiao Mei to finish drawing the pattern. She even drew a sunflower on the orange dress, as she felt that the wearer was as beautiful as this flower.

Xia Zhe's actions in the kitchen were already much smoother than the last time. His movements were swift and his thoughts were clear. This time, he definitely would not make a mess in the kitchen.