

Fat Wife 381

Chapter 381: Martial Arts Dream

"I know, I know. I'll tell you everything," Xia Zhe said with a nod.

"And you can't hit me! If you hit me! I'll run away from home with the children! I'll make sure you never..." As Qiao Mei faced Xia Zhe's increasingly fierce gaze, she did not manage to finish her sentence.

The moment she felt a sense of menace from Xia Zhe, she understood where the problem lay.

"I... I'm just joking. Don't be angry," Qiao Mei said coquettishly as she hugged Xia Zhe's arm.

"Don't say such things again!" Xia Zhe said sternly with a frown.

Qiao Mei nodded vigorously and said, "I definitely won't! But the premise is that you can't hit me!"

"I definitely won't hit you," Xia Zhe said as he looked at Qiao Mei's stomach.

I don't think I can beat her... Otherwise, how did these two children come about...

Qiao Mei followed Xia Zhe's gaze and looked at her stomach. She then looked up and smiled embarrassedly at Xia Zhe.

"Well, why don't you teach me martial arts? Then I can protect myself and the children if necessary," Qiao Mei said.

She had divine strength! It would be too wasteful if she only used it to move things.

In her other life, she had a dream of being a martial artist. Who did not want to be a heroine in the martial arts world! Back then, she had even enrolled in many classes, but in the end, she did not really learn anything. She did not think that those simple movements she learned counted for anything.

Now she had such a powerful “martial warrior” in front of her in this life! She must make him her master and learn from him!

Xia Zhe sighed deeply. If he taught Qiao Mei martial arts, he would really not be able to defeat her in the future.

“Let’s talk about it after you give birth. Not now,” Xia Zhe said.

There was nothing bad about learning martial arts. If even he could not defeat Qiao Mei, then there were not many people who could. This way, he did not have to worry about Qiao Mei’s safety. He need not be afraid even if He Ning came up with 10,000 bad ideas to deal with Qiao Mei.

With Qiao Mei’s smart little brain, if she added good martial arts skills to the mix, there was no need for him to worry about her all the time.

“That’s great! You agree to it!” Qiao Mei said excitedly.

Xia Zhe reached out and pinched Qiao Mei’s cheek as he said, “I must tell you I’m a very strict teacher. They all say that I’m a demon. Beware and don’t cry!”

“Hmph, I won’t cry! I’m going to be a mother! Who would cry! I’m not a child!” Qiao Mei said as she touched her stomach.

It did not take long for Xia He and Kong Lu to reach Xia Fang’s house. Before they entered, they could already hear the commotion in the house.

The volume of the television was turned up very high, but it still did not manage to cover the sound of Kong Li arguing with someone. The party quarreling with her were actually the children from the Sun family!

The four or five children clamored to fight with her for the television. The issue was that Kong Li wanted to watch television dramas while the children wanted to watch cartoons. They argued incessantly over it.

Suddenly, there was a loud bang in the house, followed by sounds of something cracking.

The house instantly fell very silent.

In the corridor, Kong Lu felt his heart tighten. He quickly walked forward and pushed open the door. A cracked television set was on the floor and there was also trash and debris all over.

“What’s wrong, what’s wrong? What caused such a big commotion?” an elderly female neighbor asked as she pushed open the door.

Not only did the neighbors next door hear it, but even the neighbors downstairs also came by.

Everyone could roughly guess what had happened. Those children from the Sun family must have gotten into trouble again and it seemed that they had offended Xia Fang, the person whom no one could afford to offend. They all wanted to see what would happen to the Sun family this time.

Ever since this unknown relative came to Xia Fang’s house, the entire corridor and passageway had become a mess. The children from the Sun family ran around all day long and no one could control them.

Kong Li even let these children into Xia Fang’s house every day to eat and drink. They ate whatever was delicious and expensive. Then, they would throw trash everywhere and leave everything in a mess. In the end, it was always Xia He who came back to clean up the mess.

Although Kong Li did not offend them, these children fought with her over the television every day, raising a ruckus in the house and making it impossible for the neighbors to have a good rest. It was good that it was finally completely quiet now.

Chapter 382: A Strong Backing

When Kong Li saw Kong Lu, she instantly straightened her back as if she had found her backbone.

“Elder brother! You’re here! They pushed the television to the floor!” Kong Li said as she pointed at the children from the Sun family.

The eldest boy immediately stood up and pointed at Kong Li as he shouted, “You’re lying! You were the one who pushed it down! We’re children, how can we be as strong as you!”

With that, the eldest boy gave all his brothers a look. The children ran out desperately and no one could not stop them even if they wanted to.

Kong Lu made way for the children and slowly walked into Xia Fang’s house. It was in a mess, like a battlefield after a war.

Although he had never been here before, he remembered Xia Fang as an elegant and gentle person who was tidy and meticulous. He was quite sure that this house definitely did not look like this originally.

“Did... did you do all this?” Kong Lu asked Kong Li in disbelief as he pointed at the trash on the floor.

It could not be Kong Li’s doing. Every time he went back home, the house was very clean. His younger sister even said that Xia He did not do any chores at home and that she and his mother were the ones who looked after the house.

“How could you let those children escape! I’m going to settle the score with them! I didn’t do it! All of you come back here!” Kong Li ran downstairs aggressively.

The hearts of the surrounding neighbors trembled alongside her movements.

“Hey, be gentler. You can’t torture this building like this!”

“Young lady, walk slowly!”

“This is an old building. What if you make it collapse?”

“That’s right, that’s right. Is she going to the Sun family to look for those children?”

“The Sun family won’t admit it’s their fault!”

Kong Lu could hear all the neighbors’ whispered discussions. Where did his usually gentle younger sister go? This did not seem like Kong Li’s usual behavior at all?

“Knock, knock, knock!” Kong Li pounded on the door of the Sun family’s house as if she wanted to force it open.

However, no one from the Sun family answered or opened the door.

“If you don’t open the door, I’ll smash it down! I know there’s someone at home! Hurry up and open the door!” Kong Li stood at the door and shouted loudly.

When the Sun family’s daughter-in-law heard that it was a woman, she let down her guard a little. She slowly opened the door and said, “Why are you shouting! Are you going to tear down our house! What’s the matter!”

“Those children of yours smashed the Xia family’s television! Hurry up and compensate for that!” Kong Li said as she pointed at the children behind the Sun family’s daughter-in-law.

The Sun family’s daughter-in-law did not think much of it and asked with a laugh, “It’s smashed by our family just because you said it’s smashed by our family? Who can testify for you? Everyone in this place knows that Xia Fang’s television is very big. Who doesn’t know how heavy her television is? How can it be my children who pushed it?”

The neighbors nodded when they heard this. When Xia Fang bought the television, the neighbors had all seen it. It was a big color television and she had bought the latest product in the market at that time. Everyone had wanted to go to her house to join in the fun, but Xia Fang was an unfriendly person and they did not dare to go to her house uninvited.

“That’s true. Even very few adults can lift the big color television at Xia Fang’s house. It’s indeed difficult for the children to do it.”

“That’s right. I don’t think it was done by those children from the Sun family.”

“Who knows?”

“Let’s see what happens.”

The neighbors all looked towards the staircase, waiting for the Sun family’s daughter-in-law to quarrel with Kong Li. It would be better if they got into a fight! They were all feeling bored these days as there was nothing fun to talk about.

“Your children did it!” Kong Li roared.

This was no small matter. If it was an issue like her eating up the food in the house, she was sure that Xia Fang would not be so calculative with her regarding food and drinks. If the house was in a mess, Xia He would help to clean it up. However, a television set was a big problem. Moreover, this was not any ordinary television, but a big color television!

It was said that big color televisions cost more than 1,000 dollars each! Also, one might not be able to buy one even if one had money. One needed coupons to be able to buy it. The limited number of color televisions available meant that it could only be offered to certain families. Even when she stayed at the Xia family’s big villa earlier, she did not see a big color television there!

Chapter 383: Don’t Look To Me for Anything

“Pfft! You’re so shameless! How can you blame my children for this!” The Sun family’s daughter-in-law stood at the door with her hands on her hips and argued with Kong Li.

“What did you say! Say that again!” Kong Li shouted as she pointed at the Sun family’s daughter-in-law.

“I have no problem saying it again! What’s wrong! My children said that you did it! You deliberately smashed it! You deliberately caused trouble for the Xia family and even made my children take the blame! You’re already an adult! Don’t you have any shame!” the Sun family’s daughter-in-law berated her.

Kong Li had never been bullied in her life. No matter what happened, she was always the one who bullied others. She behaved unscrupulously just because her brother, Kong Lu, was a soldier.

She was so used to bullying others that there was no way she could endure such grievances. Kong Li suddenly rushed forward and started fighting with the Sun family’s daughter-in-law.

As she hit the other woman, she scolded, “You still dare to say that! You’re the shameless one! It’s your children who did it and you still refuse to admit it! I’ll beat you to death today!”

The Sun family’s daughter-in-law was not an easy person to get along with. The neighbors nearby had all experienced her tantrums, but no matter how gutsy she usually was, she could not win a fight when she was being pressed down by someone of Kong Li’s size.

“Someone! Help! This is murder!!!” The Sun family’s daughter-in-law lay on the ground and struggled.

Kong Li slapped her and scolded angrily, “What are you shouting for! What a b*tch! How dare you scold me! Don’t even think about having an easy time after bullying me today! Hurry up and compensate me! Apologize!”

The other Sun family members were all stunned when they came out of their rooms. When the Sun family’s eldest son saw his wife being bullied, he immediately went up and kicked Kong Li away.

Kong Lu happened to come downstairs at this moment and witnessed this scene. He could not tolerate his younger sister being bullied.

“How dare you hit my sister! Who gave you the guts!” With that, Kong Lu rushed into the crowd.

When Kong Li saw Kong Lu, she immediately felt more confident and stood up to help Kong Lu fight the Sun family members.

“Elder brother! They’re the ones who bullied me! Help me beat them up!”

The house downstairs was not as big as Xia Fang’s house. With five or six people getting into a scuffle inside, everything in the house got broken in the process. The Sun family’s seven-inch mini black and white television also fell to the ground and shattered.

The sound of the television shattering made everyone stop in their tracks. The first person to react was the Sun family’s daughter-in-law.

The Sun family’s daughter-in-law hurriedly went forward and knelt on the ground to check the television. She hugged the television casing and said, “You have to compensate me for the television! There’s no justice! A soldier beating up commoners!”

The Sun family’s daughter-in-law sat on the ground and slapped her legs as she wept. This sound attracted more people to come and take a look. Xia He stood quietly on the stairs to watch the commotion.

“Shut up! You’re the one who broke it, yet you’re blaming us!” Kong Li wanted to go forward and beat up the Sun family’s daughter-in-law to stop her from spouting nonsense.

The Sun family’s eldest son was also not someone to be trifled with. He stood in front of his wife to stop Kong Li from getting close.

The Sun family’s daughter-in-law did not know these two people, but she knew Xia He who was standing near the door and watching the commotion. She quickly pointed at Xia He and shouted, “Xia He! Your

sister-in-law smashed our television! You have to be the judge! What do you think we should do! You have to compensate us!”

When Kong Li saw that this matter did not concern her anymore, she immediately shouted, “Their children smashed your aunt’s television! Go and ask them for compensation! I’m leaving!”

Everyone could go and look for Xia He! Anyway, she did not have any money and the matter could not be traced back to her! She did not care who compensated who!

Kong Li quickly ran upstairs. With her figure, no one dared to stop her.

“Hehe.” Xia He looked at Kong Lu mockingly and smiled. “This is your good sister.

Kong Lu watched Kong Li and felt in a daze. When he left home to become a soldier, Kong Li was only five years old. At that time, Kong Li was not so fat and was as thin as a weakling. She did not dare to speak and was not domineering at all. She was just a weak and pitiful girl then.

After he got married to Xia He, his mother said that she was not in good health and could not do farm work, so she came to his house with his sister. At that time, Kong Li was only 12 or 13 years old. She was not tall and looked like she was malnourished.

Chapter 384: Embarrassing

As she grew up, Kong Li became fatter and fatter and became not good-looking. However, in his heart, Kong Li was always that innocent child.

That younger sister who would leave him delicious food and wait for him at the village entrance.

“By the way, who are you?” the Sun family’s daughter-in-law asked Kong Lu.

She was not afraid of Kong Li running away. In fact, she was afraid that Kong Li would not leave... That girl was as strong as an ox and so fat that she could not win her in a fight. She only needed Xia He to be around.

However, who was this man? She did not seem to have seen him before.

The Zhao family's eldest son pointed at Kong Lu and said, "That fat girl called him elder brother!"

"Ah... This is Xia He's husband!"

"So he's the elder brother of that woman who looks like a bear."

"And he's a soldier? He looks like a soldier in those clothes."

"That's right, that's right. Xia He's husband is a soldier! There's no mistake!"

Everyone chatted about Kong Lu's identity and voiced their complaints about Kong Li's behavior over the past few days. Xia He was already used to being criticized and censured by her neighbors, but Kong Lu could not stand such a scene, let alone hear others talking about him.

"How do you discipline your sister! You let her go to other people's houses to eat and drink as if she's not an outsider! I hear that your sister eats more than half a bag of rice in a week!" the Sun family's daughter-in-law said as she pointed at Kong Lu.

The other neighbors also criticized Kong Lu.

"Your sister even asked Xia He to get five dishes for her every day! She wants three to four meals a day, and the dishes can't be repeated!"

"It must be dishes from a big restaurant outside! Otherwise, your sister won't eat it!"

“That’s right! Every day, Xia He has to prepare a day’s worth of food for her and put it there. Otherwise, she’ll cause a scene and disturb everyone.”

“Isn’t that so. Xia Fang can’t come back to her own house and has to stay in the hospital’s dormitory. Sigh, what kind of relative is your sister? She’s such an esteemed guest that she removed the owner of the house from her own house.”

The Sun family’s daughter-in-law looked at Kong Lu smugly. It was clear that she was not spouting nonsense. With so many neighbors criticizing Kong Li, it meant that everyone saw everything clearly.

Seeing that Kong Lu lowered his head and did not speak, the Sun family’s daughter-in-law became even more enthusiastic and continued, “I hear that your sister is like this at home. She must eat a meal in the middle of the night or she’ll get so hungry. Luckily Xia He’s salary is high, otherwise no one can afford to feed your sister! You really married a good wife who is so willing to spend money on your sister. If she’s my sister-in-law, I would have chased her out long ago!”

This was stuff that Kong Li had said to the children from the Sun family, showing off how good and comfortable her life was. She told them how she got all the things she wanted and how Xia He did whatever she said and treated her with respect.

The Sun family’s daughter-in-law did not say all this to stand up for Xia He. She just wanted to sow discord and put Kong Lu on the spot. She said in front of so many people that his wife earned more money than him and could support the family better. Which man could stand that fact?

Kong Lu lowered his head in shame and turned around to leave, but the Sun family’s daughter-in-law grabbed him.

“You want to leave? Aren’t you going to compensate for the things in my house? You’re a man, yet you want to leave just like that!” said the Sun family’s daughter-in-law.

Kong Lu looked at Xia He helplessly. These trivial matters at home had always been handled by Xia He and he did not know how to handle them.

Xia He glanced at him and said, "You deal with it. I'm going to take a look at my aunt's house!" She turned around and ran upstairs.

She had only wanted to watch the commotion, but she did not expect Kong Lu to want her to deal with these things.

Seeing that Xia He had also left and there was no one to help him, Kong Lu said to the Sun family's daughter-in-law with a dark expression, "Then what about the television upstairs..."

"The television upstairs was not damaged by my children at all! Haven't you seen how big the television is? Even adults find it difficult to move it, let alone my children!"

The Sun family's daughter-in-law pointed at her youngest child and said, "Look at how young this child is. What can he do? Can he move the television himself?"

Kong Lu looked at these children. They were indeed still very young.

Chapter 385: I Acknowledge It

"Tell me, what can my sons do! On the other hand, your sister often instigated my sons to do bad things and asked them to deliberately mess up Xia Fang's house. At first, my children dared not do it, but she threatened to hit them if they didn't listen to her! Tell me, what kind of person is your sister!" said the Sun family's daughter-in-law.

"My sister is not such a person! Don't spout nonsense!" Kong Lu glared at the Sun family's daughter-in-law.

Even now, he was still unwilling to believe that the person they were talking about was his sister. To him, his sister was such an obedient and sensible person.

"What's the hurry! I'm telling the truth. If you don't believe me, you can ask all the neighbors here whether what I said is true," the Sun family's daughter-in-law said agitatedly as she pointed at the people around her.

Everyone nodded and said, "That's right, it's true."

"We can all testify!"

"This is an old building and the soundproofing is not very good. We can hear everything your sister says to the Sun family's children at home. Ever since she came, she has been throwing tantrums every day."

"Isn't that so! I live downstairs from Xia Fang's house and it's especially noisy at home every day. Your sister kicks up a fuss at home every day and orders Xia He to do things. I get so angry just listening to her!"

Based on everyone's reactions, the Sun family's daughter-in-law was really not lying this time. This was indeed how Kong Li behaved. After Xia He left, she would go and ask the Sun family's children to go upstairs to eat and then mess up the house.

When Xia He returned home, the house would be in a mess. The sofa covers and other surfaces would be all covered in oil and there would be food scraps all over the floor. If that was all, Xia He would consider it to be a good day and be thankful that nothing was done to the walls.

Kong Lu's face became so red that it looked like blood could burst out anytime. He could not believe what he heard, but so many people said that they had seen it with their own eyes. It was impossible that they colluded with one another in such a short period of time.

"Your family matters are none of our business. On account of Xia Fang, I won't pursue the matter of your sister hitting me, but you have to compensate us for our losses!" the Sun family's daughter-in-law said to Kong Lu with her hands on her hips.

"How much..." Kong Lu asked.

"Let me take a look... This television cost me 600 dollars. You definitely have to compensate me for it. Also, there's this table, the crockery, vases and stools. We must list everything down one by one. I'll go and get a notebook now." The Sun family's daughter-in-law did not lie about the prices. Whatever she quoted him was real, but she still profited from being able to get brand new items.

All the items in the Sun family's house were even older than the house.

The Sun family's daughter-in-law took a pen and paper and listed the items one by one. Even if an item was only slightly damaged, she would write it down.

After she did a round of messy calculations, she told him to give the Sun family 752 dollars.

"I... I don't have that much money," Kong Lu said.

The Sun family's daughter-in-law looked at Kong Lu mockingly and asked, "Who would believe that? You're a soldier, how can you not have money?"

Kong Lu indeed did not have much money on him. He gave all his salary to Old Madam Kong, who said she would help him save money if all the money was in her hands. She said that Xia He was a very extravagant person who did not take care of the family and would spend everything he earned.

"I really don't have so much money on me," Kong Lu said seriously.

The Sun family's daughter-in-law looked at Kong Lu to size him up and said, "First, tell me if you acknowledge this debt."

As everyone stared at him, Kong Lu nodded and said, "Yes I do."

"That's good. Everyone here is my witness. Now I'm not worried that you'll go back on your word later. Your wife, Xia He, has plenty of money. You have to give me the money within the next two days! Don't try to delay payment, otherwise how would we be able to find you!" said the Sun family's daughter-in-law.

Kong Lu nodded and walked upstairs with a dark expression. The moment he opened the door, he saw Xia He busy cleaning up the mess in the house.

Her actions were brisk and swift. It was obvious that she was someone who did cleaning chores often. However, Old Madam Kong and Kong Li both told him that Xia He did not do any chores at home and only knew how to enjoy life every day.

At this moment, it was his sister who was seated at the dining table and eating away.

When Xia He saw Kong Lu return, she smiled and asked, "How did you resolve it?"

Kong Lu remained silent. He did not dare to borrow money from Xia He, but the Sun family had only given him two days' time to settle this matter. If he did not borrow money from Xia He, he would not be able to do it.

Chapter 386: You're Not My Elder Brother

Xia He looked at the listless Kong Lu and knew that the Sun family's daughter-in-law from downstairs must have humiliated him. She did not care how much the compensation sum was. Kong Lu would have to think of a way to deal with this matter himself.

As Xia He cleaned up the debris from the shattered television screen on the floor, she asked, "Then tell me, do they intend to compensate for my aunt's television?"

Kong Lu's face darkened even more.

What could he tell Xia He? That he did not scold them for that incident, or that he had been insulted, or that he admitted that his sister was the one who broke the television?

Kong Lu turned his gaze to Kong Li and asked, "Li Li, are you the one who damaged this television?"

"No, elder brother! Why don't you believe me! I really didn't do it!" Kong Li said agitatedly. After thinking about it, she felt that the Sun family must have pushed the blame to her.

“I’m going to settle the score with them! It was their children who threw it down! I’m going to beat them up!” Kong Li rolled up her sleeves and threw the buns in her hand onto the floor that Xia He had just cleaned, preparing to rush downstairs.

“Enough!” Kong Lu stood on the spot and roared at her.

Xia He looked at the angry Kong Lu and found it funny. He could barely say a word outside, but he became so domineering once he returned home.

Kong Li was so frightened that she did not dare to move.

“Clean up the floor!” Kong Lu said as he pointed at the buns on the floor.

Unexpectedly, Kong Li turned around and pointed at Xia He as she shouted, “Hey! He’s talking to you! Why aren’t you moving! Clean the floor!”

Kong Lu clenched his fists in anger and said, “Kong Li, I’m talking to you!”

“Ah... I understand...” Kong Li dawdled to Xia He’s side and took the broom. She swept the ground in a disorderly manner and caused the bun crumbs to scatter all over the floor.

It was obvious that she did not do chores at home often and did not even know how to use a broom.

“Kong Li, who used to do the housework at home?” Kong Lu stood behind Kong Li and asked.

The cold voice seemed to pierce through Kong Li. She was so frightened that she did not dare to do anything else or answer the question.

Old Madam Kong often told him that only she and Kong Li did the housework at home, and that Xia He had the temper of a spoiled young lady and did not want to do anything.

She even said that she and Kong Li worked very hard and asked Kong Lu to teach Xia He a lesson. Kong Lu believed what Old Madam Kong said and never doubted her.

“Kong Li, I’ll ask again! Who exactly is it!” Kong Lu roared.

“The housework is done by our mother and me, of course!” Kong Li said as she held the broom.

Xia He sneered and said, “The dishes in the kitchen haven’t been washed yet. You can go wash them later.”

“Xia He, you shameless person, you’re rebelling! Why should I be the one to wash up!” Kong Li pointed at Xia He and blurted out.

Xia He turned to look at Kong Lu, who did not dare to look her in the eye. It was obvious who was lying.

“I... I’m not... Elder brother, listen to me. I never treated her badly,” Kong Li stammered.

Kong Lu no longer believed what she said and asked, “Then who cooks for you at home?”

Kong Li opened her mouth and said softly, “Sometimes, she’s too lazy to cook for me, so she buys steamed buns just to keep me quiet. Besides, she’s my sister-in-law. What’s wrong with her cooking for me!”

Kong Lu looked at Kong Li and found her to be like a total stranger. When Old Madam Kong told him that Xia He did not know how to cook, he believed her. Moreover, every time he went back during the holidays, Old Madam Kong would be the one busy at home and Xia He was not allowed to interfere at all.

“Then tell me what’s going on with those children downstairs? Who let them come in?” Kong Lu asked.

“It’s not me! Why do you keep talking about what the people downstairs said! You believe everything that the people downstairs say! Why don’t you believe your sister!” Kong Li said.

“You still want to quibble! All the neighbors said that this matter is true! Yet you still refuse to admit it!” Kong Lu said as he pointed at Kong Li.

Seeing that the situation was not right, Kong Li immediately started crying and wiping her tears and ran back into the room. “Boohoo, you’re not my elder brother! My elder brother won’t treat me like this!”

After Kong Li went to hide in the room, the whole house instantly fell silent.

Chapter 387: Compensate For Sure

Xia He suddenly asked, “This television. You don’t care about it?”

“There’ll be compensation for sure.” Kong Lu smiled and sat down beside Xia He. “Shall we compensate Aunt for this television ourselves?”

Xia He smiled. So he was waiting for her to do something.

“We? Why the word we? Isn’t it your sister who broke it? Why should we pay for it?” Xia He emphasized the word “we”.

Kong Lu pretended to be confused and said with a smile, “She’s still young and still a child. As her elder brother and sister-in-law, we should take good care of her. She’s not married yet and doesn’t have a source of income. We should be more magnanimous.”

Xia He looked ahead expressionlessly and said, “You’re you and I’m me. She’s your sister. It’s only right that you bear the responsibility for her getting into trouble, but I’m not anybody to her. Besides, we’ll be strangers soon. If you want to compensate, think of a way yourself.”

Seeing that Xia He did not seem that angry, Kong Lu thought that there was still hope and said happily, “Sure!”

Xia He turned to look at Kong Lu and asked, "Do you know how much this 16-inch color television costs?"

Kong Lu said awkwardly, "I heard someone say it's 1,000 to 2,000 dollars. It seems to be this price."

He had asked the people around him about this matter. The neighbors also said that the television in Xia He's house was worth a lot of money.

"This television was the first batch being sold in those days. When we bought it, it cost more than 2,000 dollars. Since we've used it for so long, I'll give you a discounted price. Just 2,000 dollars will do," Xia He said.

Kong Lu nodded and looked at Xia He happily. He had sent his salary home for so many years, so he definitely had enough for the compensation.

"Whatever amount you say! It's up to you!" Kong Lu said excitedly.

"Kong Lu, don't tell me you want me to take out the money?" Xia He asked.

Kong Lu was stunned for a moment and said embarrassedly, "Um... I don't have any money on me. The money's all at home."

"Let me do the math for you. When we first got married, you didn't have a single cent on you. You didn't even give my family any betrothal gifts, right?" Xia He looked at Kong Lu mockingly.

Kong Lu's fragile self-esteem was once again shattered by Xia He. He thought that Xia He was mocking him for being poor and downtrodden back then.

"That's right! I didn't have money back then! But later on, didn't I give all my salary to my family!" Kong Lu roared.

Xia He nodded resignedly and said, "Then tell me, did you send your salary to me? You gave it all to your mother instead."

Kong Lu instantly thought of something and the anger on his face gradually turned into disbelief.

"That's right. In the first year after our marriage, your salary was only 45 dollars. You sent 30 dollars to your mother every month and kept the rest for your own expenses. You only gave me a total of 58 dollars that year, am I right?" Xia He said as she leaned against the sofa.

Kong Lu lowered his head and did not dare to look up at Xia He.

"Perhaps you don't remember any of this anymore, and I actually don't really care about these things, but I have a habit of keeping accounts. I like to record every income and expense. Even if it's just a small sum of money for a small bun, I will note it down. My account books are in the bedside drawer at home. You know that, right?" Xia He gave Kong Lu a dark look.

Kong Lu nodded stiffly and said, "Yes."

"But you've never looked at them before, right? You don't care about the accounts at home." Xia He got up and went into the room to take out a few brown paper-wrapped books from her bag.

"These are all the accounts from the past few years. After so many years of marriage, you only gave me about 500 dollars in total. My daily expenses for your mother and sister have been more than 500 dollars for so many years." Xia He placed the account books on the table and pushed them in front of Kong Lu.

"Also, your mother always says that your brothers are having a hard time and she has borrowed money and countless items from me. Guess how much it is? It's 2,682 dollars in cash and 4,080 dollars' worth of items," Xia He said as she looked at the account books.

Kong Lu subconsciously clenched his fists. He did not expect his family to have spent so much of Xia He's money over the years.

Xia He sighed and said, "Although I earn more money than ordinary people, there's a limit to it. To be honest, I only have tens of dollars left. You should know how much your sister has spent in the capital during this period of time."

Kong Lu did not know what to say and could only remain silent.

Chapter 388: Bring the Money

"It's not impossible for me to go back and live with you," Xia He said.

Hope ignited in Kong Lu's eyes. Just as he wanted to hug Xia He in a moment of excitement, his fantasy was shattered by what she said next.

"Return me all the money your family owes me first. I didn't give those cash and household appliances to your brothers for free. Back then, your mother had asked me to lend them the money. Even biological brothers have to settle accounts clearly. Since they have all gotten married, isn't it time for them to return the money?" Xia He said.

Seeing that Kong Lu did not speak, Xia He continued, "She even wrote me an IOU and I have more than one. Your mother wrote the first one when she first asked to borrow money from me. The rest of the IOUs were written by your brothers. After that, your mother did not mention anything about IOUs anymore. However, I thought that we're a family and they would not go back on their word, so I did not ask for it."

"It's been so many years. They should all have some spare cash now. Go and get all these things back." Xia He took out the IOUs from the account books and slapped them on the table in front of Kong Lu.

The crooked words on the papers were indeed written by his mother and brothers. The exact time and amounts were all clearly written and all signed off at the end.

Kong Lu looked at the account books and IOUs in front of him and did not say anything. He did not have the ability to repay so much money, which added up to about 10,000 dollars.

“That’s right. Your mother probably won’t acknowledge these debts now, but it doesn’t matter. Go home and ask around about how luxurious your brothers’ houses are. Go and ask them where they got their money and how they managed to build such nice houses,” Xia He said.

Kong Lu picked up the IOUs in front of him and counted them one by one. His hands trembled unconsciously.

Xia He suddenly remembered that she still did not know how the earlier matter was resolved with the Sun family downstairs and asked, “What did you say about what happened downstairs?”

“They want 752 dollars,” Kong Lu said as he slumped weakly on the sofa.

Xia He reached into all her pockets and flipped them out. “I don’t have this amount of money. As you can see, I only have tens of dollars left. I don’t even know if it’s enough to pay for your sister’s meal tomorrow.”

“Bang!”

Kong Li’s bedroom door suddenly burst open. Kong Li pointed at Xia He and scolded, “You’re lying! I clearly saw 2,000 dollars in your bag!”

Kong Li immediately rushed into Xia He’s room to look for the money in Xia He’s purse. The money bag was still there, but the money inside was indeed gone.

Kong Li did not believe it and she went through the cabinet, drawers, bags and clothes in the bedroom.

“As you can see, this is how your sister rummages through my things. I did bring 2,000 dollars with me when I came, but after I got here, I lost 300 dollars,” Xia He said as she looked at Kong Li in the room.

Kong Li suddenly stopped rummaging when she heard that. Kong Lu felt that he had lost all his dignity.

“This is my aunt’s house. If your sister can rummage through everything here like this, then tell me, what do you think she does at home?” Xia He said.

“Get out here!” Kong Lu shouted towards the room.

“But I haven’t found the money yet! What if she hides the money and doesn’t give it to you! That’s our family’s money!” Kong Li said anxiously as she held on to Xia He’s bag.

Xia He sat at the side and did not speak. She just looked at the siblings quietly.

During this era, no man would think that it was something glorious for his wife to earn more money than him. Instead, it was something that could not be revealed to outsiders as it was very embarrassing! There were also not many men who would say that the money their wife earned belonged to him.

“Come out here!” Kong Lu said as he pointed at the living room floor.

Kong Li walked out of the room unwillingly and threw Xia He’s bag aside.

“Don’t think about my 2,000 dollars anymore. Previously, you snatched my sister-in-law’s jewelry and I compensated her for it. After my brother got married, I also spent some money to buy some things for him. I don’t have much money now,” Xia He said.

“Didn’t I give her the jewelry in the end! Hurry up and get it back!” Kong Li shouted anxiously.

Kong Li showed no respect for Xia He at all. Every time she opened her mouth, she would either be barking orders or shouting at Xia He.

Kong Lu had never seen Kong Li like this before.

Chapter 389: Huge Amount of Pocket Money

There was a reason why Kong Lu had never seen her like this before. In the past, every time before Kong Lu returned home, Old Madam Kong would hold Kong Li's ear and tell her 800 times about what she should and should not do, so that she would not expose her true nature in front of Kong Lu.

Today, after Kong Li had gotten into trouble and without Old Madam Kong around to give her advice, she had long forgotten about these reminders and simply treated Xia He in her usual manner.

"She didn't take the initiative to return the jewelry. Qiao Mei came to the house and personally removed it from her body. I don't intend to take back the money anymore. I'm treating it as a first-meeting gift for my sister-in-law," Xia He said as she looked at Kong Lu.

When Kong Li heard that such a big sum of money would be given to Qiao Mei, she immediately became anxious. She pointed at Xia He and scolded, "Pfft! Why! That's our family's money! A first-meeting gift of 2,000 dollars! Isn't your gift a little too big! How can she be so shameless as to take our family's money!"

"So what if it's 2,000 dollars? I've already spent more than 7,000 dollars on your brothers. What's wrong with me giving my younger brother 2,000 dollars!" Xia He shouted back loudly. "That's money I earned myself! I can spend it however I want!"

"You! Wait for me to go back and tell my mother. I'll see how she deals with you! Besides, didn't you lend all that money to my brothers! It's not like you gave it to them for free. When the time comes, they'll return it to you!" Kong Li stomped her feet in anger. It was 2,000 dollars they were talking about.

Xia He nodded happily and said, "That's right. They have to return it to me."

Kong Li was still immersed in the matter of Qiao Mei being given 2,000 dollars for free and did not notice what she had just said.

"When you go and get the 7,000 dollars back from your brothers, I'll go and get the 2,000 dollars back from my brother," Xia He said to Kong Lu.

She knew that Kong Lu would not be able to do it. Old Madam Kong would not even take out 70 dollars from her pocket, let alone 7,000 dollars. Kong Lu also knew this very well.

“Xia He! Have you prepared the money your family owes me! I still have to go to work!” There was suddenly a knock on the door.

Kong Lu looked at the door in shock. That woman had agreed to give him until tomorrow at the latest! Why was she here to ask for money now!

Xia He gave Kong Lu a meaningful look.

If there was a hole in the floor in the house now, Kong Lu would crawl into it.

“I... I don't have any money left,” Kong Lu whispered to Xia He.

Xia He spread her hands and said, “I don't have any money. What I showed you just now is all the money I have left.”

Kong Lu froze on the spot and did not move. For the first time, he felt that the knocking on the door was like the sound of his doomsday and it made him panic.

“But I can tell you that your sister definitely has more than 700 dollars in her bag,” Xia He said.

Both Kong Lu and Kong Li were shocked.

“Xia He, you're talking nonsense! I don't! Don't talk nonsense!” Kong Li shouted in a state of panic and hurriedly rushed back into the room and locked the door.

Xia He sneered and pointed at the door. “Look at your good sister.”

Kong Lu felt a little embarrassed. Kong Li did not have a job, so where did she get so much money?

Even if Kong Li had money, it could only be pocket money given by Old Madam Kong. It was impossible for Kong Li to have so much money herself. An ordinary family might not even have 700 dollars, and he also had not even given Xia He that much money after being married for so many years...

Kong Lu slowly walked to the bedroom door and kicked it open.

It was an old house and all the locks had been in disrepair for a long time. In front of Kong Lu, it was no different from a decorative item.

Kong Lu slowly walked up to Kong Li and saw her holding a small pink bag tightly.

Kong Lu snatched the bag from her arms.

“Elder brother! This is mine! This is all the money I have! I’ve saved up for a few years! Also! Also, our mother gave me money to buy some specialties from the capital!” Kong Li said in a panic as she tugged at the corner of the cloth bag.

“When did our mother become so generous?” Kong Lu asked.

He said that because he received almost no pocket money since he was young. During his entire childhood, his pocket money added up to less than 50 cents.

Later on, when he started working and gave all his salary to Old Madam Kong, she did not even give Kong Lu some money. It was not possible that she would give Kong Li so much pocket money and even wanted to spend a few hundred dollars to buy specialties.

Old Madam Kong was a person who knew how to manage her finances. He did not believe that Old Madam Kong would feel at ease giving Kong Li a few hundred dollars.

Chapter 390: The Last Asset

Kong Lu snatched the cloth bag with all his might and counted the stack of money he took out from it.

There was more than 900 dollars.

Kong Lu thought for a moment and took 750 dollars before returning the rest to Kong Li.

Kong Li did not even imagine that she would have any money left. She quickly took her bag and counted the money to see how much she had left.

Kong Lu walked out without daring to look at Xia He. He opened the door to see his pushy creditor, the Sun family's daughter-in-law.

"This is 752 dollars. Here you go," Kong Lu said.

"Hey, hey, hey! Let me count!" The eyes of the Sun family's daughter-in-law lit up when she saw so much money.

There were many people in their family and many mouths to feed. The salary of the Sun family's eldest son was not even enough to feed everyone in the family. She had never seen so much money.

The Sun family's daughter-in-law rubbed her hands excitedly and took the money from Kong Lu. She carefully flipped through a few dollar notes, spat on her hands and started counting the money.

When Kong Lu saw that the Sun family's daughter-in-law was almost done counting, he snatched the money back.

"Hey! What are you doing!" The Sun family's daughter-in-law shouted as she pointed at the money.

"You have to give me a receipt," Kong Lu said as he held up the money in his hand.

The Sun family's daughter-in-law thought that Kong Lu had gone back on his word at the last minute. So he just wanted a receipt. She immediately ran downstairs and went home to write one and returned in less than two minutes.

“Take a look and see if this receipt is acceptable? Besides, all the neighbors can be witnesses, so there won’t be any problem. Don’t worry, you and your sister messed up my house today but compensated us with 752 dollars. This matter is considered over!” said the Sun family’s daughter-in-law with a grin.

Kong Lu glanced at all the neighbors in the corridor who were watching the commotion and handed the money to the Sun family’s daughter-in-law with a grimace.

The Sun family’s daughter-in-law held up the money and counted the notes loudly.

“One! Two!... Eleven!... Thirty! None missing! I hope everyone can bear witness to this!” shouted the Sun family’s daughter-in-law.

Nothing must go wrong with this. This was a big issue and there was no room for mistakes. Besides, they were very lucky to be able to wash their hands off the matter regarding Xia Fang’s color television today.

Although she had denied that it was the children from her family who did it, no one knew what exactly happened at that time. What those children said might not be the truth. Anyway, this matter had nothing to do with her family now!

She could even replace her family’s lousy television with a new one now. It was a lucky day for her today.

The Sun family’s daughter-in-law walked home smugly. Everyone in the corridor looked at Kong Lu like they were looking at a fool.

Kong Lu slammed the door shut and entered the house. He sat opposite Xia He and said, “I’ll return all the money we owe you.”

“What money are you talking about? Is it this 752 dollars, or the money your family owes me, or the money for my sister-in-law’s jewelry set?” Xia He asked.

Kong Lu paused for a moment before saying, “Everything.”

Xia He was a little surprised. She curled her lips and said, "Alright, that's 9,514 dollars. How about this, let's just take it as 9,500 dollars," Xia He said.

Kong Lu gritted his teeth and nodded. "Alright, I understand."

After saying that, Xia He ignored him and went to clean up the house. There were still many parts of the house that she had not cleaned up yet. She reckoned that news of this matter would soon reach the hospital and her aunt would definitely be back tonight.

She wanted to restore the cleanliness of the house and return the furnishings to their original state before Xia Fang returned. Otherwise, she would feel very embarrassed.

She would not be able to hide what happened to the television today, but Xia Fang would definitely forgive her and would not laugh at her after knowing the reason.

Kong Lu eagerly snatched the broom from Xia He's hand and started to do the cleaning up.

Xia He did not fight with him for it. This was what he should do.

Xia He looked at the things around her and went back into her room. The pillow contained the last of her assets, an amount of 3,600 dollars.

As if she would let Kong Li discover all the spots where she kept her money? As if she would not have any money left at all and would put herself in a helpless position if trouble came knocking?

After getting a divorce, she would not have a home anymore. She would first need to find a place to stay. The local art troupe in the small town was not like the one in the capital where the principal performer would be allocated a house. The local art troupe did not even have that many performances, let alone having a principal performer.