

Fat Wife 411

Chapter 411: Increase Weight to 200 Pounds

By doing this, He Ning would be able to reach his goal without violating the three-year agreement.

It was Qiao Mei who did not have a good upbringing. The Xia family only suffered embarrassment, but not any substantial damage. Was this considered an attack against the Xia family? Of course not.

As long as the Xia family chased Qiao Mei out, the family's reputation would still be preserved. This way, there would be no harm at all.

This was originally a flawless plan, but He Ning no longer planned to carry it out.

When he met Qiao Mei in the morning, his impression of her was that she was a very scheming person. Tonight, his impression changed when he saw how innocent and naive her revenge method was.

People from the countryside were just so lacking in knowledge and experience. If the young lady felt wronged and then hurt herself, where could he find such a good chef?

After tasting Qiao Mei's cooking, it was no longer possible to eat the food made by the helper at home. The food at home tasted like poison!

At the thought of this, He Ning felt a little frustrated. He did not know how long he would have to wait to be able to eat food made by Qiao Mei again.

He Mei came back after settling the matter and said, "Little Uncle, I've asked all the people outside to leave."

He Ning nodded, then he suddenly thought of something. He looked He Mei up and down.

"You should handle this matter yourself. There's no need to get someone else," He Ning said to He Mei.

He Mei looked at He Ning in confusion. She did not quite understand what He Ning was saying.

“Huh? Me?” He Mei asked.

He Ning nodded in satisfaction and said, “Yes, you. The safest thing is to attack Xia Zhe directly.”

He Mei still did not understand what He Ning meant. Previously, He Ning had said that if she targeted Xia Zhe directly, he was afraid that they would anger the Xia family and both families would suffer losses as a result. That was why they decided to target Qiao Mei in the end.

“I went to the Xia family’s house today and realized that Qiao Mei had a very high status in the Xia family. Just a few photos alone will not be able to affect her position in the hearts of the Xia family. Even if they see the photos, they will still choose to protect her,” He Ning said.

After all, the ginseng in Qiao Mei’s hands was a treasure to keep him in check. They would definitely not give up on this granddaughter-in-law, so it was better to make a move on Xia Zhe.

“Find a way to spend time with Xia Zhe. It’s best if you can get pregnant, then I’ll think of a way to make Xia Zhe take responsibility,” He Ning said.

He Mei blushed and muttered to herself, “I... Little Uncle, what are you talking about... Even if I take the initiative, Xia Zhe won’t take the bait...”

He Ning looked at He Mei in puzzlement and asked, “You have tried it before?”

He Mei stomped her feet. How could he ask a young lady like her to speak about something like this? However, if she wanted He Ning to help her solve this problem, she had to tell him.

“There was a time when he went to a mountain villa to settle some matters and I followed him there. When it suddenly rained, we ran into a pavilion to take shelter from the rain. I was drenched and wanted to get close to him for warmth, but he pushed me away. He even ran out alone in the rain to get away from me...” He Mei said embarrassedly.

There was nothing wrong with her doing that, but the main point was that she did not manage to succeed!

He Ning was even more puzzled. Although He Mei was not as beautiful as the current Qiao Mei, she was still slender and elegant. She had countless admirers in the capital and had received many marriage proposals all this while.

In the past, Qiao Mei used to weigh more than 200 pounds. Even if they met at night, was Xia Zhe blind? Even if he was blind, did he have no sense of touch? Was he unable to feel such a huge mass of flesh?

Could it be that... Xia Zhe had been drugged at that time?

However, the army trained soldiers to be able to know how to resist the effects of drugs and to have a certain level of tolerance for drugs.

What kind of drug could make a man be able to function normally even when he was unconscious? Or was it a drug that gave Xia Zhe hallucinations that made him unable to control himself?

He had never heard of such a drug before.

Or was it because Xia Zhe liked that kind of size in women? His taste was different from others? Yet, now that Qiao Mei had fair skin, was beautiful and had a delicate figure, Xia Zhe did not love her any less.

No one could work out how Qiao Mei had gotten her hands on Xia Zhe back then, not even the Xia family members.

He Ning looked at He Mei and said, "You should eat more and try to increase your weight to more than 200 pounds. You won't be able to succeed now."

He Mei looked at He Ning in shock. She wondered if her Little Uncle was joking with her. If she increased her weight to more than 200 pounds, even the other families would ignore her, not just Xia Zhe.

This was simply asking her to die!

Chapter 412: You Must Take the Initiative

He Ning paced around the room and He Mei did not dare to disturb him. She knew that her uncle was thinking of a solution.

“You didn’t manage to succeed because you weren’t bold enough! You have to be more proactive!” He Ning said to He Mei.

He Ning felt that Xia Zhe did not seem to have that kind of special taste in women. The reason why Qiao Mei could succeed was definitely because she was proactive enough. Xia Zhe did not look like a lecherous person at all.

Although Qiao Mei also did not look like she was a lusty woman, it was possible that the young lady, being inexperienced, knew no fear. She might have used some tricks that made Xia Zhe unable to resist her, which allowed her to succeed.

Yes, that must be it.

“I’ll find an opportunity to make Xia Zhe lose his mobility and be unable to fight back. When the time comes, you must take the initiative. Once the deed is done, this matter will be settled,” He Ning said.

Seeing that He Mei did not respond for a long time, He Ning asked, “You... you know what to do, right? The thing that can make you pregnant?”

He Mei’s face was so red that it looked as if it could drip blood and she nodded rapidly. She only wanted to quickly move on from this topic and stop talking about it.

Huo Gao also did not dare to raise his head as his ears turned red. Could it be that He Ning could not see that he was there? He had known He Ning for so many years, but he did not know that He Ning was so audacious. He could even bring up such a topic so casually, and it was even to his own niece.

However, if He Ning did not feel embarrassed, there was no use in others being embarrassed for him. Furthermore, He Ning thought that it was a very good plan and that it could be executed flawlessly as long as He Mei tried hard enough.

If He Mei could also manage to get pregnant, then the Xia family would definitely have to give up on Qiao Mei. One of them was a rich young lady whose family had the same status as the Xia family in the capital, and the other was just a girl from an unknown village.

Was it not obvious who was more suitable?

At most, he would just give Qiao Mei more compensation when that happened. Moreover, as long as this matter was resolved by the He family and Xia family in private, there would not be any problem. Xia Zhe would not be criticized for having a messy private life and it would not affect his career. He would still be able to contribute to the He family in the future.

As for Qiao Mei, her reputation would also not suffer any damage. After she gave birth and left her child with the Xia family, she could come to this house to be his chef.

This plan would kill two birds with one stone. It was such a good plan, so long as He Mei did not screw it up...

“You’d better don’t mess it up! Go and learn more about what to do! Go back and wait for my news,” He Ning said.

He Mei hurriedly agreed and ran out of He Ning’s house.

Huo Gao also finally got all the herbs ready and ran to the pharmacy to brew the medicine.

He Ning watched Huo Gao leave and then looked at the time. It was already two hours later than usual, but he did not feel any headaches or heart palpitations today. He felt much better than yesterday.

He Ning took out the piece of paper Qiao Mei had written from his pocket and looked at it carefully from beginning to end. The handwriting on the paper was neat but there were still some incongruities. Occasionally, a prominent stroke would ruin the overall beauty of the handwriting, but one could clearly see the style of the person who wrote it.

He Ning looked at the words on the paper and felt a little emotional. He heard that Qiao Mei had never gone to school, and that Qiao Qiang was also not very educated and only knew a few words. It seemed that this village girl had really put in a lot of efforts to improve herself. The reality was quite different from the results of his investigation.

He Ning called out to his attendant and instructed, "Prepare everything according to what's written here. It must be brand new banknotes in the original bundles. The food stamps also need to be brand new. And get some specially issued food stamps as well. Get as many as you can."

He Ning was afraid that his attendant would not be able to remember the instructions, so he wrote down Qiao Mei's verbal requests on the back of the piece of paper and handed it over.

His attendant was very efficient and completed the task in the time it took to brew the medicine. He came back in a large truck, with all the required items filling up the entire truck.

The attendant was not able to find many new banknotes in the original bundles, but he managed to find a lot of dimes which occupied a lot of space.

"Why is it so full?" He Ning asked as he looked at the truck parked at the door.

"I can't find many banknotes that can meet the requirements. The truck is full of dimes which take up a lot of space," the attendant said.

He Ning briefly looked at the different items and confirmed that whatever Qiao Mei wanted was there. He then asked his attendant to count the quantity again. He was somebody who could not allow any mistakes.

Chapter 413: Money in Exchange for Goods

“Third Master, come and drink your medicine,” Huo Gao shouted from the room while holding a bowl of medicine.

He Ning’s medicine had to be taken while it was still hot. Otherwise, the effect of the medicine would not work that well.

He Ning frowned as he looked at the medicine in Master Huo’s hands. The smell was pungent and bitter. It was worlds apart from the food he just ate tonight.

“Just bear with it.” Huo Gao handed the medicine to He Ning.

He Ning finished the medicine in one gulp and then sat in the rocking chair, thinking about everything that happened today. Although he had promised Qiao Mei that he would see her tomorrow, he could not wait that long. He had always liked to do things earlier than needed.

He could not stop thinking about the mysterious fragrance in the Xia family’s house. It was a scent that he had never encountered before. He must bring it home as soon as possible so that he could smell it every day.

“Men! Let’s go to the Xia residence now! Immediately!” He Ning put on a trench coat and called out to his subordinates to drive to the Xia family’s house that night.

The Xia family did not find it strange that He Ning had returned to their house so quickly. That was the kind of person he was and he never dragged things out. Whoever offended him would definitely face revenge on the spot. He did not leave things undone overnight.

There were only womenfolk in the Xia family’s house now. The men had all been called away by Xia Jun in a mysterious manner. Xia Zhe had guessed that He Ning would definitely return tonight and had instructed Qiao Mei to be careful before he left with Xia Wen.

Qiao Mei asked the rest of the women to help her count the money. She told them that it was enough to just count the number of bundles. If it had been possible, Qiao Mei would have wanted them to wear gloves to do the counting. After all, the future value of touched and untouched bundles were different.

However, doing so now was simply too unconventional. It would not be worth it if it aroused He Ning's suspicion.

Qiao Mei counted the food stamps patiently. They were worth 980 catties in total, no more no less.

Qiao Mei also took out Xia Zhe's food stamps worth 1,000 catties and handed them to He Ning. The attendant went forward to receive the things that Qiao Mei handed over.

"Did you manage to find the special food stamps for use on planes and trains?" Qiao Mei asked He Ning with a smile.

She was not shy about demanding things from He Ning. Not long ago, this person had tried to ruin her reputation and even got someone to dig up the foundation of her family house. He had even sat down uninvited at the table for dinner. She did not feel embarrassed at all about asking for a few food stamps. Moreover, what she asked for were useless stamps that were not worth much.

The attendant returned to the truck and brought back a large sack. When Qiao Mei saw the sack, her eyes immediately lit up.

Was it really that many or was it her imagination... Could it really be the food stamps that she had dreamed of!

He placed the sack on the ground and opened it up. It was filled with special food stamps for use on trains, ships and planes. These were things from more than 10 years ago and had not been in use for a long time.

He Ning looked at the excited Qiao Mei and felt very puzzled. These things were not like the national food stamps that could still be used anywhere. It was just a pile of waste paper.

"You... Do you know that these stamps are useless? They can't be used. You know that, right?" He Ning reminded her in a kind manner.

Qiao Mei nodded and said, "I know. I'm going to use them as burning materials. Why?"

He Ning looked at Qiao Mei in silence. He did not believe her at all. There was something strange about this matter and he decided to pay more attention to it in the future. This young lady was really strange. She was indeed different from others.

It was like the issue of the money for the payment. She insisted on getting the amount in small change, although others would have been overjoyed to see the banknotes that he originally prepared. She had been so excited to see the pile of dimes but had turned up her nose at the earlier money bag containing 100,000 dollars

Could it be that she was once a fatty and so she liked everything that was big?

Looking at the strange look in He Ning's eyes, Qiao Mei knew that he was up to no good. She picked out a few pots of flowers for him to take away, without even asking him which pot he was most interested in.

Qiao Mei looked at He Ning and said, "What you wanted earlier are these 10 pots of flowers on the ground floor. I'll give them all to you. The flowers upstairs are not included though."

He Ning sniffed carefully. The smell was very faint, so it definitely could not be coming from the second floor.

"No need to include those upstairs," He Ning said.

"Then do a check on these 10 pots of flowers to make sure they're the ones you want. Just to be very clear that we haven't swapped them out." Qiao Mei pointed at the flowers and checked with him.

He Ning took a glance at Qiao Mei. This young lady was really quite meticulous.

"That's right, these are the ones." He had already checked these pots of flowers carefully and confirmed that they had not been swapped.

“Good. In that case, since you’ve confirmed it, then we’re square now. Money in exchange for goods. We’ve also counted the money. There’s 50,000 dollars here,” Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Chapter 414: Stay for a Meal

The other womenfolk of the Xia family were also in the house. Her mother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt-in-law and Xia Zhe’s elder sister were all there. He did not expect that she, the youngest among them, would be the one to negotiate with him.

He could see that Xu Lan and Liu Fen both wanted to say something, but could not find a way to take part in the conversation. Qiao Mei handled this matter in a manner that was neither servile nor overbearing, and with a sense of propriety. They could not find any fault with how she handled him and their help was not needed at all.

This was what a daughter-in-law of an aristocratic family should be like. Even He Mei had not learned the tiniest bit from him after learning from him for a few years.

He Ning was now even more determined to break the couple up. If Qiao Mei stayed in the Xia family, the family would go from strength to strength very soon and there would be no place for the He family in the future.

After everything was settled, He Ning left. Actually, He Ning did not want to leave. He could smell something cooking in the kitchen. The Xia family must be making supper.

“What are you having for supper?” He Ning asked.

His words stunned everyone in the room. Qiao Mei had never seen such a thick-skinned person.

“Whatever we’re eating tonight has nothing to do with Mr. He. This is our private matter.” Qiao Mei pointed at the door and said, “Take care, Mr. He. It’s not convenient for us, so we won’t be sending you off.”

In her other life, Qiao Mei was quite a charming woman and there were many men who tried to woo her. Therefore, she was very skilled at rejecting people. If the other party had the cheek to ask for something, she also had the cheek to reject him heartlessly.

He Ning was also stunned. This was the first time in decades that someone did not give in to his whims.

“Alright then. Goodbye.” He Ning left the Xia family regretfully.

The other party had already rejected him forcefully. It would be too shameless for him to insist on staying. Moreover, there were only women in the house and it would not be good if word got out.

“Wait a minute! Mr. He!” Qiao Mei shouted as she looked at his retreating back.

He Ning thought that Qiao Mei had felt that her words were too harsh and that she had offended him, and so she wanted to ask him to join them for supper.

“Are you still eating fish tonight? Or did you make a new dish?” He Ning immediately turned around and looked at Qiao Mei with a wide smile.

The speed at which he changed his expression even stunned his attendant.

“No... I just want to say that I’ll give you all the flowers upstairs as well,” Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Mei did feel a little sorry, but not about rejecting his request for supper. Instead, she felt uneasy about exchanging so many food stamps for only 10 pots of ordinary flowers and plants.

Furthermore, if He Ning returned home and then concluded that the smell he wanted did not come from the flowers on the first floor, he might return to ask for the flowers and plants on the second floor. She might as well give him all the flowers now, rather than run the risk of that happening.

He Ning looked at Qiao Mei in disappointment and asked his attendant to deal with the flowers while he returned to the car. He did not expect Qiao Mei to really reject him.

Qiao Mei asked He Ning's attendant to wait downstairs while she and Xia He went to the second floor to bring down the flowers and plants.

Xia He was already starting to be full of admiration for Qiao Mei. Due to He Ning's reputation, she did not really dare to deal with him. Although they were around the same age, she could not deal with He Ning the way that Xia Wen did.

She felt as if they were not on the same level. If He Ning had told her that he wanted to stay for supper, she would not have dared to refuse. She did not expect Qiao Mei to be so unrelenting.

There were only three pots of flowers upstairs which were similar to the flowers downstairs. There were some peonies and jasmine and there was nothing special about them.

Qiao Mei had not taken any "special care" of these flowers in the Xia family's house. Perhaps the energy that Qiao Mei unintentionally emitted had been absorbed by these flowers and plants, so they bloomed well. However, they only looked a little better than flowers everywhere else and did not have any special powers.

Qiao Mei did not feel any pinch in giving them away. If Xu Lan wanted to grow flowers, she would go and buy a few pots of nice ones for her.

After the flowers were given away, the Xia family's house quieted down. Everyone was tired after a long day. It was all because she would rather have dimes than banknotes. There were so many that the truck almost could not hold all the coins.

Could it be that Qiao Mei wanted to use the dimes to buy candy and ice cream?

Then there were also so many food stamps. Although they would have a little advantage by exchanging local food stamps for national food stamps, was the Xia family lacking these food stamps worth a few hundred catties?

Could it be that she really planned to use the bags of food stamps as burning materials!

Qiao Mei was unable to explain these things to them and just moved everything into her room. She stood at the door and looked at the room that was filled with sacks of food stamps and money. These things would be worth hundreds of millions of dollars in the future.

Just thinking about it made her very happy.

Let's eat braised pork tonight! It's a reward for everyone!

Chapter 415: Sending Gifts

He Ning and his attendant did not go far. Instead, they stood just outside the wall of the Xia family's house. Not long after, they could smell a nice fragrance coming from the kitchen.

The attendant secretly swallowed his saliva. Now he understood why He Ning was unwilling to leave the Xia family's house. However, did He Ning intend to just stand outside the wall and smell the fragrance?

Of course, He Ning did not just want to smell it. He was waiting for the men of the Xia family to return home and then follow them in to eat with them. The men would be too embarrassed to reject him, right?

However, by the time the sky was completely dark and they could hear the sound of dishes being washed inside the house, the men of the Xia family still had not returned.

After being in He Ning's employment for so many years, this was the first time that the attendant felt that He Ning was behaving illogically. The situation was so awkward that he did not know what to say. The night air was chilly and it would be disastrous if He Ning fell sick.

"Sir... they probably have something on and won't be coming back tonight. Or perhaps they're just ganging up to bully you! Why don't we go back?" the attendant said mindfully.

He Ning shook his head and said, "Forget it, let's go."

The two of them silently got into the car parked at the corner and went home.

He Ning left in a state of exasperation.

The first thing he did when he reached home was to smell the 13 pots of flowers one by one to see which one contained the smell he wanted.

However, even after he checked them carefully a few times, none of them had what he wanted.

“As expected...” He Ning looked at the flowers and smiled.

He knew that Qiao Mei would not be so compliant as to hand over what he wanted. She must have hidden the pot of special flowers. No wonder she was so meticulous when he was about to leave.

However, she did say that she had already given him all the flowers in the house. Could it be that the smell was not from flowers but from spices?

Qiao Mei must have known where the smell he wanted came from and how important it was to him. Yet, she deliberately asked for food stamps in exchange for the flowers so as to distract and mislead him.

This young lady was really scheming and he found that interesting.

After drinking his medicine, He Ning prepared to go to bed. He already felt much better after taking the ginseng. As for the 13 pots of flowers, they actually smelled quite good and he decided to leave them around. They looked better than his original flowers anyway.

Xia Zhe only managed to rush home in the middle of the night. After quietly washing up downstairs, he returned to his room and carefully crawled into bed.

Qiao Mei woke up immediately and sat up to ask, "Hurry up and give me a report. Where did you go and what did you do?"

As she sniffed carefully, she could detect the smell of soil and muttered softly, "Did the three generations of you go digging a tunnel?"

When Xia Zhe heard this, he was so amused that he laughed. He pulled Qiao Mei into his arms and said, "Are you a puppy? Why is your nose so sensitive?"

"You really went to dig a tunnel! Did you guys go to shift everything under the house?" Qiao Mei asked as she looked at Xia Zhe in shock.

"No, those people won't be able to come by anymore. It's all our own people at the house now," Xia Zhe said.

Recently, many people had gone digging at the courtyard house at night. After digging for a few days without finding anything, many of them had left. They were also afraid of causing the front yard to collapse or that they would dig out the groundwater again.

Now, there were only their own people at the house. They had sent people in disguise to hide among the crowd.

"Then where did you guys go?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

Xia Zhe smiled proudly and said, "We went to dig under the He family's house!"

Qiao Mei did not know how to express her feelings for a moment. So it turned out that Xia Zhe's grandfather had asked them out in such a hurry to dig under the He family's house while He Ning was not at home?

"So it's a diversion tactic. Then what did you dig up?" Qiao Mei looked at Xia Zhe with bright shiny eyes.

If the Xia family had so many hidden treasures, then the He family must have a lot more.

However, Qiao Mei got it wrong this time. They did not dig up He Ning's house. Instead, they had gone to the He family's ancestral home, where they knew they would be able to find interesting things.

There were many hidden guards looking after He Ning's house and it was very difficult for people to enter. He Guo had long moved into his own house and no longer stayed in the ancestral home. The He family's ancestral home was vacant at the moment.

"There's nothing in He Ning's own courtyard. We went to their ancestral home," Xia Zhe said.

Qiao Mei asked, "Then did you manage to dig something out?"

"No, we put something inside," Xia Zhe said.

Qiao Mei was even more shocked when she heard this. It made sense to her though. If they really had gone digging around, they would definitely not be able to find anything valuable within such a short period of time.

Xia Zhe's hand wandered all over Qiao Mei's body. During this period of time, Qiao Mei's figure had filled out more and more. Xia Zhe enjoyed the feel of her smooth skin, gentle curves, as well as her voluptuous bosom.

Xia Zhe leaned against Qiao Mei's neck and sniffed greedily at the scent that only belonged to Qiao Mei.

Chapter 416: A Masterpiece

"We didn't go there to investigate. Instead, we thought of a way to give him something," Xia Zhe said.

Qiao Mei slapped away the hand that was wandering all over her body. Her heart ached at the thought that they might have given away some treasure that would be priceless in the future. Xia Zhe and the

others did not understand how things would develop in the future and would not know the value of the things they sent. What a pity.

“Is whatever you sent very valuable? Is it something from our house? Which master’s calligraphy and painting is it, or is it antique porcelain ware? Tell me quickly, I’m getting so anxious,” Qiao Mei said with heartache.

Even if these things were dug up, He Ning would definitely do a careful check on whether the soil on the surfaces had been touched by anyone else. If the soil on the items was not old soil, then this matter would be exposed.

Even if He Ning did not manage to investigate this matter in time, the items would still be kept away. Yet, items that seemed worthless now might be worth millions or even tens of millions of dollars in the future.

In a few years’ time, everything that was seized would be registered. If the items managed to survive those few years, they would be returned to their rightful owners when they were found later. With the He family’s ability, it would be easy for them to be able to retain their things. At that time, He Ning would be sitting on a windfall.

Qiao Mei tossed and turned in bed. She had just ripped off a large sum of money from He Ning, but in the blink of an eye, Xia Zhe and the others had gone off to send money back to He Ning.

“What’s wrong? Who made our Mei Mei so angry?” Xia Zhe reached out and gently tapped Qiao Mei’s nose.

Xia Zhe reached out and hugged Qiao Mei gently. He took a deep breath to calm his restless heart and said slowly, “Are you thinking about what we sent?”

“Yes. What if the things you sent turned out to be quite valuable?” Qiao Mei pouted and said.

Previously, when Qiao Mei was actively buying up antiques, Xia Zhe had asked her about it once. Most of the antiques for sale on the market were officially registered and approved for sale and purchase.

Even if such things were kept at home, as long as the owners had receipts, it was not a big deal and no one would report it.

Xia Zhe had wondered why Qiao Mei seemed to think that all those worthless things were treasures. Could it be that she bought them and took them home just because they looked pretty?

Qiao Mei patiently explained to him what it meant for things to appreciate in value over time and what it meant by value being driven up by scarcity. Xia Zhe listened but did not quite understand the concept. After all, he thought that there was nothing good about old things. Was it not a fact that people only like new things? However, he thought that whatever Qiao Mei said was always right.

“Don’t worry, we’re only sending a few old items that He Ning is familiar with. The things are not from our family,” Xia Zhe said.

A long time ago, the Jiang and He families were both in the military, just like the Xia family. At that time, the three families got on very well. However, as Old Master Jiang and Old Master He had grown up together, they were particularly close to each other. Later on, during the tumultuous times, the He family had found it hard to retain their official status, so they decided to retire and start some business.

The Jiang family was also weak and had no backing, so they retired as well to work together with the He family. Later on, the relationship between the two families became better and better. They enlisted together again later and donated their assets together.

Unexpectedly, He Ning’s father suddenly passed away one day, and the harmonious days came to an end. After having his son die earlier than him, Old Master He also passed away not long after.

At that time, out of the three children in the He family, the eldest child was still in school and the youngest was still learning how to talk. There were very few people in the He family, and they did not have many relatives as well.

Old Master Jiang could not bear to see the children being without their parents, so he helped them out in every way possible. However, he could only solve the problems in their daily lives. As the days passed and the children were about to start working, an argument broke out.

“Why would there be conflicts? Don’t we all rely on our own abilities? Besides, if I’m helping you out of goodwill, I don’t owe your family anything,” Qiao Mei asked curiously.

Xia Zhe stroked Qiao Mei’s head and explained, “At that time, the Jiang family was not a prominent family. They just had a bit more money than others. The Jiang family only had that much resources, and the children and grandchildren from both families were about the same age, so the Jiang family must have made arrangements for their own children first.”

The children of the Jiang family were not close to the children of the He family. As Old Master Jiang doted on the He family too much, the children and grandchildren of the Jiang family were jealous and unwilling to befriend them.

Chapter 417: Past Events Are Like Smoke

“The Jiang family rendered help for so many years. Even if they didn’t achieve much, they still deserved credit for their efforts. Don’t tell me the He family turned on them because of work issues? Are the He family members all ingrates?” Qiao Mei scolded indignantly.

“People die in pursuit of wealth, like how birds die in pursuit of food. People always want to get the share they think they deserve. Moreover, the He family kept feeling that there was something strange about the death of He Ning’s father,” Xia Zhe said.

“Didn’t they say he died of illness?” Qiao Mei asked Xia Zhe in surprise.

Xia Zhe did not understand everything that happened either. At that time, he was still young. However, Xia Wen had told him before that He Ning’s father did not pass away at home, but that he had an accident on a business trip. Old Master Jiang was originally supposed to be the one going on this business trip.

“We don’t know what exactly happened. At that time, the news was very strictly suppressed. Even my grandfather doesn’t know the exact details. Probably only the Jiang family and the He family know how He Ning’s father died. All we know is that something suddenly happened to the Jiang family after that and their family was broken up overnight. Old Master Jiang was also beaten up until he was on his last breath. Later on, he passed away as he was too badly injured to be saved. The rest of his descendants also suffered serious injuries and they later fled to different places,” Xia Zhe said.

At that time, Xia Zhe and Xia Wen were at the scene in person and saw with their own eyes the realities of human nature.

Qiao Mei was stunned. She could not believe that Old Master Jiang had been beaten to death. Was there no law and order in place?

Qiao Mei sat up in disbelief and looked at Xia Zhe as she asked, "Doesn't anyone care that this happened? And they just let these people do whatever they want."

Xia Zhe shook his head. Too many people had rushed in then and no one knew who was involved. In addition, everyone felt that the Jiang family deserved their fate and was unwilling to testify, so there was no investigation done on the matter.

"Someone reported that the Jiang family colluded with the enemy and committed treason in the past, and that they even engaged in opportunistic speculation. Each one of these accusations is a serious crime on its own," Xia Zhe said. Opportunistic speculation meant the act of buying and selling items in private, which was not allowed in that era.

The ancestors of the Jiang family were all former soldiers. Many of these ancestors worked in the armory and some of them even knew how to make weapons and had a unique love for firearms, so they also collected a lot of weapons in private. However, as the Jiang family became smaller and the family members went on deployments all year round, they lost the skills of making firearms and only continued to collect them as part of their hobby.

Most of the firearms in their collection were unique to other countries. This later became the key evidence of the Jiang family being in collusion with the enemy and committing treason. The opportunistic speculation part was that the Jiang family bought and sold weapons and handed weapons over to enemy states in exchange for money. There were even people who surmised that the Jiang family was making prototypes of weapons used by the nation's army for enemy states to carry out research.

As news spread, the truth of the matter became more and more bewildering, and the Jiang family was accused of more and more crimes.

Although there was no proof behind the initial slander, there was indeed a box full of an enemy state's country-specific ordnance dug up from under the Jiang family's house. If it was not bought from someone, where did it come from? Could it be that the Jiang family had made the same ordnance used by the enemy state out of thin air?

No one would buy the story.

At that time, there were a number of extremely paranoid people who rushed in indiscriminately and said that they wanted to beat the "traitors" to death. They said that the Jiang family members were sinners and should be arrested and executed to serve as an example to others. In their eyes, the truth was not important. What was important was that as long as these things appeared in someone's house, that person would be the "enemy" and they would have to eliminate the "enemy".

Old Master Jiang was already old then and not in good health. There were many assailants and they attacked quickly and ruthlessly. As if they were targeting him, he was directly pressed to the ground and made immovable. Then he was punched, kicked and verbally abused.

Just like that, he was surrounded by a big group of people. By the time the other Jiang family members rushed in to save Old Master Jiang, he was already on the ground and on his last breath. He did not even have the strength to explain himself, so the entire matter was hastily concluded on the spot.

In the end, they did not even manage to send him to the hospital in time. Before they even reached the door, Old Master Jiang had already died with his grievance unsolved.

The Jiang family was helpless in this matter. In order to protect themselves, they pushed all the blame to Old Master Jiang and only then did they manage to protect the descendants of the Jiang family. After all, as long as there was life, there was hope. It was much better than having their entire family die. As long as the descendants of the Jiang family were still alive, the truth would be revealed one day.

A few of the other members of the Jiang family were taken away and locked up while others were sent to the labor camps for rehabilitation. A few luckier ones escaped from the capital and their whereabouts were still unknown till date.

This matter had long been forgotten by people over time, and even the Xia family only remembered the Jiang family now that there was a "need".

Chapter 418: Destroyed Marriage

Qiao Mei pondered over the details. What happened to the Jiang family was exactly the same as what happened at their courtyard house not long ago. They were both cases of wrongful accusations.

“This matter... was done by He Ning?” Qiao Mei asked hesitantly.

Xia Zhe nodded and said, “That’s right. He was the one who reported it. At that time, everyone was looking for the person who reported the Jiang family. By right, if the Jiang family was doing something like that, they would have covered up their tracks very well. Furthermore, they did not have any enemies. Who would be willing to offend someone like that for no reason? Later on, it was He Ning himself who came forward and admitted that he was the one who did it.”

“The Jiang family raised them for so many years and yet they’ve turned around to bite the hand that feeds them and return kindness with ingratitude. Aren’t they afraid that the neighbors will gossip behind their backs? How dare he admit to it?” Qiao Mei said.

“Compared to being criticized, he’s more willing to do whatever it takes to achieve his goals,” Xia Zhe said with a sneer.

“That’s true.” Qiao Mei could see He Ning’s character more clearly now.

“At that time, he described in detail what he saw at the Jiang family’s house. He even said that the Jiang family gave him a sum of money to keep quiet about this matter, and that he reported them out of a guilty conscience,” Xia Zhe said.

As if he could have a guilty conscience?

He Ning would probably think that he had executed the move well and even felt smug about it.

“So you’re going to do the same thing now? Let He Ning suffer the consequences of his actions?” Qiao Mei asked.

She felt that such a plan was a little inappropriate and too crude. A meticulous person like He Ning would not fall for it. Besides, this was He Ning's usual trick and no one was more familiar with it than him.

"We're not the ones doing it. We're just helping to make the arrangements," Xia Zhe said with a smile.

"I'm guessing that you must have made an anonymous report, but will He Ning let someone into their house? Elder brother told me before that He Ning was involved in politics when he was still in good health. He still has a lot of connections." Qiao Mei was a little worried.

"We found the descendants of the Jiang family from back then," Xia Zhe said.

"Who is it? Isn't everyone from the Jiang family in hiding? How did you find them? This must be something you've been plotting for a very long time!" Qiao Mei looked at Xia Zhe in surprise. It seemed that they had long made preparations to counterattack the He family.

"Back then, the Jiang family also helped us a lot. We've always wanted to help them secretly, but they've managed to hide themselves very well. There was no news from them at all and we only found them recently," Xia Zhe said.

If He Ning could make up a story back then, then so could the Jiang family. They just needed to reverse the roles of the characters in the story.

Qiao Mei's eyes lit up. "Then are they willing to come out and testify? After hiding for so many years, they should be living a peaceful life now. Why would they give up their current peace and quiet to fight the He family for us?"

"If they don't come out to testify, then their descendants will all have to continue to live their lives hiding like rats in the gutter. The Jiang family will come forward for the sake of their descendants," Xia Zhe said.

It made more sense for the Jiang family to make the accusation and submit the report. Every injustice had its own perpetrator.

“Then who’s the one coming forward this time?” Qiao Mei asked curiously.

This person must be a heavyweight.

“It’s the son of Jiang Yan, the eldest son of the Jiang family. His name is Jiang Shu. Eldest Aunt was the one who made the arrangements. They all just returned yesterday and he’s probably already in the courtyard of the He family’s old house.” Xia Zhe seemed a little emotional when he said this.

The reason why Xia Xiu remained single was also related to this matter. Xia Xiu joined the army when she was very young. One year, she met the second son of the Jiang family, Jiang Jin.

The two of them helped each other out on the battlefield and subsequently developed feelings for each other. At that time, Xia Xiu was already very outstanding and decisive at work and did not behave like a 19-year-old girl at all. She would only lower her guard and reveal her innocent side when she was with Jiang Jin.

“Then did Eldest Aunt end up with him?” Qiao Mei asked.

“No, Eldest Aunt also had no choice at that time,” Xia Zhe said regretfully.

Later on, Jiang Jin’s family arranged for him to go home and inherit the family business and the two young people could only correspond via letters. Xia Xiu had only just managed to receive the blessing from Xia Jun and Wu Min to get married when that disastrous event happened to the Jiang family not long after.

At that time, the Xia family was still a family of nobodies and did not have the ability to help the Jiang family. Moreover, the entire issue was so serious that no one could fully protect them.

Xia Xiu had no choice but to give up on this marriage and she remained single for the rest of her life. Over the years, she continued to secretly investigate Jiang Jin’s whereabouts.

The Novel will be updated first on this website. Come back and continue reading tomorrow, everyone!😊

Chapter 419: Use Both Hard and Soft Tactics

If it was not Xia Xiu who had gone to look for them, the Jiang family would not have dared to make an appearance so easily. The crimes that they were accused of were very serious ones. With such charges hanging over the Jiang family, they would be looked down upon for the rest of their lives. The foundation and reputation that their ancestors had built up over the years had been destroyed in one day.

Not only did this matter affect the reputation of their ancestors, even the descendants of the Jiang family were affected. They would never be able to join the military or enter politics, and could only do odd jobs to support their families.

In exchange for their reappearance this time, the Xia family had offered to do their best to ensure the safety of the Jiang family members and give them the chance to tell the truth about what happened back then and to seek redress. Even if that could not be done, the Xia family would ensure that the Jiang family members could escape unscathed and start their lives afresh elsewhere with new identities.

Part of the reason why the Jiang family was willing to testify was also because of Xia Xiu. Back then, they were the ones who had let Xia Xiu down. For the sake of being with Jiang Jin, Xia Xiu even almost had a falling out with the Xia family. She even asked Xia Jun to remove her from their family tree so that she was no longer a member of the Xia family. Xia Mao was so angry that he knocked Xia Xiu out on the same day of the Jiang family's incident, marking the end of her marriage plans.

It was hard to say if it would have been a good marriage, but to the rest of the Xia family, it was an ill-fated relationship.

In order to make it up to the Jiang family, Xia Mao and Xia Jun had gone around asking for information about them but both of them gave up in the end as they could not find anything. Only Xia Xiu persisted over the years.

This time, the Jiang family had brought along some strong evidence from back then.

The things that were currently buried in the He family's courtyard were from the same batch as what was dug up from the Jiang family's house back then. In those years, the Jiang family had kept their things in many places and only one place had been dug up.

This time, when the Xia family went to look for the Jiang family to discuss countermeasures, they had brought out another thing to "return" to He Ning.

Qiao Mei finally figured out the ins and outs of this matter. He Ning really deserved what he got. She had thought that He Ning was only ruthless but not to the extent of killing people. She did not expect him to be worse than she imagined.

In accordance with the plans of the Jiang and Xia families, there were already people at the He family's old house, getting ready to start digging.

Qiao Mei ran barefoot to the wardrobe to find a set of thicker clothes to wear. It was still early in the morning and the dew was heavy, so it was still a little cold.

Xia Zhe frowned and lifted Qiao Mei in his arms. He said sternly, "You're not wearing shoes! What if you catch a cold like this! It's the middle of the night, why are you looking for clothes instead of going to sleep?"

Of course it was to join in the fun!

Qiao Mei put her arms around Xia Zhe's neck obediently and said, "I... I want to go and watch... watch the sunrise! Yes! To watch the sunrise!"

Xia Zhe carried Qiao Mei back to the bed helplessly. What sunrise was she talking about? She clearly wanted to go and catch the show!

Qiao Mei suddenly remembered that the Xia family had just made a three-year agreement with He Ning earlier today. Were they going back on their word by doing this?

Moreover, if they turned up before the news spread about the He family, He Ning would definitely deduce that this matter had something to do with the Xia family. In the future, He Ning would definitely use this matter as a basis to take revenge on the Xia family. He would even use the fact that there was a three-year agreement to talk about the Xia family being treacherous people.

However, she really wanted to see He Ning's expression when he encountered such a situation. He was usually the one who plotted against others. She wondered how he would feel to be the one plotted against.

Even in the dark night, Xia Zhe could see the sparkle in Qiao Mei's eyes, making him yearn for her. He could not help himself from leaning down to kiss her gently, behaving like he was her most devout follower.

During such a romantic moment, Qiao Mei's mind was preoccupied with the drama that she wanted to watch and she did not care about what Xia Zhe was doing.

Xia Zhe looked at the non-responsive Qiao Mei and pursed his lips. "Young girl, what are you thinking about? Hurry up and go to sleep. It's almost dawn. I'll go over to the He family's house after you fall asleep."

Qiao Mei leaned forward and planted a kiss on Xia Zhe's face and said fawningly, "Big brother~ Just bring me along~ I'll think of a random reason to explain why I'm there. Just say that I lost my way! Or that I want to take a walk! Otherwise, how about I just watch from afar?"

Xia Zhe remained silent. Things would get very serious later and he might not be able to watch out for Qiao Mei. The Xia family members needed to be there to lend support to the Jiang family.

"Please~ Just bring me along~" Qiao Mei held Xia Zhe's arm and rocked it gently.

This was the first time Xia Zhe had seen Qiao Mei acting so coquettishly with him, but this was not a reason to give in to her request. What if something unexpected happened? However, he could not bear to reject her coldly.

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Chapter 420: I Don't Want to Be a Helpless Woman

“Believe me, I can definitely take good care of myself. I won't go in and I won't even stand at the door. I'll just stand a distance away or even at the door of the He family's next-door neighbor! What do you think~” Qiao Mei looked at Xia Zhe eagerly. As long as she was in the area near the He family's house, she would be able to see what was going on inside.

Even after He Ning moved away, the He family still maintained the habit of growing flowers and plants at the house. Every year during the new year period, He Ning would come back for a gathering with his two eldest brothers. For the sake of He Ning's health, they had always maintained the house based on what He Ning needed. They were worried that any changes might cause He Ning to fall ill if he suddenly came for a visit.

Qiao Mei had found out that she could now use plants to see things within a six-kilometer radius. However, if she wanted to see clearly, she had to do it within a range of 500 meters. Otherwise, she would not be able to see or hear clearly as there would be very serious noise interference.

Xia Zhe said gently, “What if what's going to happen today turns out exactly the same as what happened to the Jiang family 10 years ago? Be good and stay at home. I'll be back to accompany you soon.”

“I'm not that weak! I wasn't even afraid when the earthquake happened back then! This is such a small matter!” Qiao Mei said.

Xia Zhe frowned and said, “This is different from what happened that time. The last time, it was an unavoidable natural disaster and there were very few people around. I was also by your side. This time round, if there are many people fighting in the He family's house, how can I protect you? What if you get pushed around and fall down? What if He Ning holds you hostage?”

Xia Zhe could already imagine countless scenarios where Qiao Mei could get injured and did not dare to think further. He would not bring Qiao Mei along so that she would not get hurt at all.

“But if I don’t face these things, how can I protect our children?” Qiao Mei said as she looked at Xia Zhe with a serious expression.

“Second Aunt-in-law and Third Aunt-in-law just take care of their children by staying at home. Even my mother never cares about such things. They’re all doing fine! We’ve all grown up well!” Xia Zhe felt so anxious that he stood up.

Qiao Mei looked at Xia Zhe and felt a little shaken. She was not a helpless woman who could only stay at home to take care of the family.

Xia Zhe also realized that he had spoken too harshly and quickly explained, “That’s not what I mean... I’m just worried about you...”

Qiao Mei also understood that Xia Zhe had said those words in a moment of anxiety. She held Xia Zhe’s hand and said, “You can’t protect me all the time. Besides, He Ning is eyeing us covetously now. You know very well what he wants to do, so I must develop the ability to protect myself and our children. Only then can you feel at ease.”

He would be returning to the army in half a month’s time. Given Qiao Mei’s current condition, she would not be able to join him as a military spouse yet. When she eventually returned to Foshan Village to look for her grandfather, there would also be no one around to protect her.

“Alright, I’ll bring you there.” Xia Zhe gave it some consideration and finally decided to bring Qiao Mei with him.

Qiao Mei immediately jumped up and hung on to Xia Zhe like a koala bear. Xia Zhe could lift Qiao Mei with just one hand.

“That’s great! My husband is the best!” Qiao Mei smiled happily.

“Lower your voice. No one else is awake yet. If Second Aunt-in-law wakes up, you won’t be able to go,” Xia Zhe said.

Qiao Mei immediately covered her mouth with one hand and said, “Yes, yes, yes. We can’t be too loud.”

“Let’s make a pact first. You can only be next to me and must not leave my side at all. Do you understand?” Xia Zhe sat on the bed and allowed Qiao Mei to sit down while straddling him.

Qiao Mei wrapped her arms around Xia Zhe’s neck and said sweetly, “I understand! My beloved husband!”

Qiao Mei was still worried about the three-year agreement. Although this matter would not be discussed publicly, He Ning would definitely take revenge.

“Then what about our three-year agreement with He Ning?” Qiao Mei asked.

“The three-year agreement? The He family never has any intention of letting us off. Besides, who can prove that the Xia family did this? He Ning still needs to rely on the ginseng to extend his lifespan, so he won’t act rashly. Don’t worry,” Xia Zhe said cunningly.

Qiao Mei realized now that the type of conflicts and games of the upper-class society far exceeded her expectations. In her other life, she was a criminal lawyer and had seen many types of grudges held by people, but those paled in comparison with the current situation she was in.