

## **Fat Wife 431**

### Chapter 431: Self-Defense

Initially, Jiang Shu did not care about the unreasonable behavior of a junior, but He Li had crossed the line with the mention of his parents.

Jiang Shu glared angrily at He Li and instantly went in front of him. He raised his leg fiercely and kicked He Li's left leg, causing He Li to kneel on the ground in pain.

It happened so quickly that even Xia Zhe did not even have time to react. He Li lay on the ground and held on to his leg as he screamed. He Guo and He Wei were stunned to the spot and did not have time to think.

"Ah!!! My leg!!!"

"This leg is for my father," Jiang Shu said as he looked at He Li coldly.

Jiang Shu raised his leg again and wanted to kick He Li's right leg in memory of his mother. Xia Zhe went forward and grabbed Jiang Shu.

"Don't be rash. If you hit him again, he'll faint. Who knows what the He family will do then," Xia Zhe whispered into Jiang Shu's ear.

Jiang Shu looked at Xia Zhe, then at He Li who was writhing in great pain on the ground. He brushed the dust off his clothes and walked to the side.

"You have to give me an explanation! My son can't have his leg broken for nothing! This is our family's eldest grandson! You're trying to ruin the He family's future by doing this!" He Wei shouted as he pointed at Xia Zhe and Jiang Shu.

"Back then, you people beat my grandfather to death. This boy insulted his elders, so I'm educating him on behalf of your He family," Jiang Shu said indifferently.

He Ning knew if they continued talking about this matter, no good would come out of it for them. Back then, the death of Old Master Jiang had always been an unspeakable matter. On the surface, it looked like an accident, but the fact was some of the people who went forward to beat him up back then had received money from the He family.

“That’s enough. Hurry up and bring He Li to the hospital,” He Ning said calmly.

“Youngest brother! This is your own nephew!” He Wei could not believe that He Ning would let Jiang Shu off just like that. His son had only attacked Jiang Shu because of He Ning!

“I said to send him to the hospital,” He Ning said sternly as he looked at He Wei.

He Wei lowered his head. He could not win against He Ning. If He Ning was not present today, the He family would be ruined. He could only swallow his anger today and wait for an opportunity to present itself in the future.

He Wei left the He family’s house with He Li to seek medical treatment.

“I didn’t expect your martial arts skills to have improved after these years. Who did you learn this from?” He Ning asked with a smile.

“It has nothing to do with you. You should care about yourself,” Jiang Shu said sulkily.

Qiao Mei was so engrossed in watching the drama from outside. She did not expect Jiang Shu, who looked so weak, to be so good at fighting. Everyone must have felt good from seeing him teaching this “stupid brute” from the He family a lesson.

He Li often used his status as the eldest grandson of the He family to do bad things. He fought at the gambling dens often and did all kinds of evil things, but He Ning always protected him.

Qiao Mei also heard some rumors that the real eldest grandson of the He family was actually the second grandson, He Han. In the past, the He family only had one granddaughter, He Mei. The He family could

not accept not having a male heir, so they adopted a child from one of their relatives and that child was He Li.

Later on, He Wei's wife became pregnant and then gave birth to He Han. After that, He Li felt that He Wei would threaten his position, so he kept bullying He Han. That was why He Han was unwilling to interact with others. As time passed, rumors spread that He Han was so dumb that he could not speak anymore.

Qiao Mei carefully looked at the He family members in the courtyard but did not manage to find He Han.

Qiao Mei looked around and finally found a man looking out through the gap of the window in the family room in the He family's house. This man was thin and tall. At times, he hunched his shoulders and did not dare to look up, then at times, he seemed curious about what was happening outside and secretly looked around.

This should be him.

It had been four hours since the start of the excavation works and nothing had been found after so long. It seemed that they might not be able to get what they wanted today. He Ning found himself thanking his lucky stars.

If the stuff was placed there by the Xia family, they definitely knew where it was. Could it be that they were putting on a show by not digging it out after so long?

But there was no need for that.

"I hope that Jiang Shu can give me an explanation for the matter with my nephew after today," He Ning said as he looked at Jiang Shu.

Jiang Shu looked at He Ning and asked, "What kind of explanation do you want?"

"That depends on the diagnosis from the hospital. You have to take responsibility for this," He Ning said.

“He was the one who rushed over and even spoke rudely and insulted my parents. I just taught him a lesson on behalf of your He family. I did it in self-defense,” Jiang Shu said.

“Our He family will naturally teach He Li a lesson ourselves, but did he touch you? I don’t think so. Then he didn’t attack you,” He Ning said with a smile.

What He Ning said was indeed the truth. He Li did not touch Jiang Shu just now.

#### Chapter 432: He Is Just a Child

Jiang Shu looked at He Ning and did not speak for a long time. He Ning had always been such a person. He was good at sophistry and never did anything that he was not confident in. What happened just now was indeed his own fault for being impulsive.

“He didn’t touch me because his skills were inferior and not because he didn’t attack me. Mr. He, please don’t get the two concepts mixed up,” Jiang Shu said.

“He’s just a child. Of course he’s not as skilled as you. How can you bear to hurt him and stoop to the level of a child?” He Ning said with a smile.

The people outside the door immediately became irritable. He Ning was trying to quibble his way out!

“Is a 20-year old still a child!” the people outside the door shouted.

“That’s right! Who are you trying to fool!”

“Is he a giant baby! Your He family has children! Do you think we don’t have any!”

“He Li has done many evil things outside! He often bullies his classmates! My children are victims!”

“Ours as well!”

“You must give us an explanation today!”

The people outside the door rushed in. Xia Wen pulled Xia Mao to a corner and had five guards stand in front of them to form a barrier to protect them.

Very quickly, someone targeted He Ning and prepared to take advantage of the chaos to deal with him. The person’s eyes were filled with hatred for him.

The attendant looked around nervously and helped He Ning up to go into the main room. Along the way, many people blocked their way.

Suddenly, someone in the crowd snatched a hoe from one of the workers and ran towards He Ning. As he ran, he shouted, “He Ning! Go to hell!”

The attendant rushed in front of He Ning to block the attack. The rest of the He family’s subordinates rushed forward to stop that person.

“You dogs of the He family! What benefits did the He family give you! You’re working so hard for him! He Ning, you crook! I’ll make you pay with your life today!” the person shouted loudly.

However, He Ning’s subordinates were all well-trained and these commoners were no match for them.

Section Chief Huang looked at the chaos in the courtyard and went to hide in a corner, afraid that he would get implicated. Xia Zhe picked up the hoe and swung it at the glass part of the door.

“Crash!”

The loud smashing sound made everyone in the courtyard quiet down and everyone turned to look at Xia Zhe in unison.

Section Chief Huang immediately came forward to smooth things over and said, "Um... Everyone, calm down. I know that everyone has many issues, but our mission today is to find the cultural relics in the He family's courtyard. If anyone still wants to stop us from carrying out our official duties, don't blame me for taking him away on account of disruption of official duties."

As soon as he said that, a group of people started to walk out of the courtyard out of fear. Yet, there were also some people who swore to make He Ning pay the price and refused to go out.

Section Chief Huang looked at Xia Zhe, not knowing what to do.

Unexpectedly, Jiang Shu walked forward and said to these people, "We'll settle your grudges in the future. I hope everyone will be magnanimous and let him off today. Only when my issue is settled will you have a chance to take revenge, right?"

That person clenched his fists and said fiercely, "Back then, I used to work for He Ning! He went back on his words and wanted me dead! Later on, my wife and children went on the run with me and they all died in the process! I think you had the same experience as me during that period of time! I only want to kill my enemy now. Don't block my way!"

Jiang Shu stood in front of He Ning and said, "I understand how you feel, but we have to take turns. When the Jiang family is done seeking redress, whatever you do in the future has nothing to do with me, but now..."

Jiang Shu turned around to take a glance at He Ning and then said to the man, "No!"

That person looked at the determined Jiang Shu and then at He Ning, who was still in a state of shock. He could not make up his mind. If he missed this opportunity, would he still be able to take revenge?

"Believe me, once our Jiang family has sought redress, He Ning's life is over. Don't you want to see such an ending? Or are you more confident in making He Ning pay a painful price?" Jiang Shu said patiently.

That person felt that what Jiang Shu said made sense and left with the rest of the people. Before they left, they even turned around to look at He Ning. They would definitely take revenge later!

He Ning heaved a sigh of relief as he watched them leave. He said with lingering fear, "I didn't expect you to protect me."

"I'm not protecting you. I just want to clear the Jiang family's name," Jiang Shu said.

#### Chapter 433: The Truth

Section Chief Huang instructed his subordinates to continue working. Not long after, there was a loud thud in the courtyard.

A muffled sound came from under the courtyard and the workers hurriedly shouted, "There's something!"

Everyone came over to help. It was a mahogany box that weighed 60 pounds and it did not look like something from recent years.

"This! This is the evidence I mentioned!" Jiang Shu said agitatedly as he looked at the familiar wooden box.

Jiang Shu pointed at He Ning agitatedly and said, "Back then, our Jiang family did sell these things overseas and received a sum of money. However, our Jiang family is not the only one who did this! Your He family is also involved!"

He Ning closed his eyes resignedly. He did not remember leaving these things behind back then. It seemed that He Guo had done it behind his back again. These incompetent and useless things!

"Our He family was forced by you!" He Guo retorted.

"Forced? Could it be also the Jiang family who forced you to do what you did in the past few years? We even found out that your He family is still doing business overseas." Xia Wen walked out and stood in front of He Guo as he asked.

“You... you’re talking nonsense! I... I didn’t!” He Guo avoided looking at Xia Wen.

Xia Wen took out the evidence of the He family conducting transactions with foreigners, as well as photos of He Guo shaking hands and chatting happily with foreigners, and photos of He Guo’s subordinates giving money to foreigners.

The Xia family had spent a lot of money hiring a private investigator to get the evidence.

They had initially wanted to check if the He family had hurt anyone else, so that they could gather all these people together to deal with the He family. They did not expect to discover the secret behind the He family’s source of endless funds.

They had also spent a lot of money to block out the news of this matter. Otherwise, it would have been impossible to catch the He family unaware.

“This is the evidence. Section Chief Huang, do you think you can help with this matter?” Xia Wen said.

Section Chief Huang took the photos respectfully and said, “Although I’m only in charge of excavating cultural relics, I can ask my colleagues from the other departments to handle it. Don’t worry, Professor Xia.”

“You! What right do you have to meddle in my affairs!” He Guo pointed at Xia Wen and Section Chief Huang and questioned them.

“Men, grab him! Anyone can meddle in the affairs of a ‘traitor’ like you!” Section Chief Huang said arrogantly.

A wise man must know how to submit to the circumstances. Anyone could tell that the He family was currently in a hopeless situation and that the best choice now was to rely on the Xia family.

“He Ning, you won’t be able to get away today either.” Jiang Shu smiled at He Ning and reached out to open the mahogany box that had been dug out. He continued, “Back then, it was the He family who



bought a large amount of armaments from us. We were not the ones who transacted directly with foreigners.”

Back then, Old Master He had studied overseas and kept some ties with people there. In the beginning, the He family and the Jiang family did honest business domestically. However, there was a lot of manpower and resources involved and the He family realized that they could not make much money after deducting the costs. In addition, they had to split the money equally with the Jiang family, so there was really not much left.

Old Master He then conspired with He Ning’s father, He Cai, to export goods out of the country. Coincidentally, the Jiang family had experts who could make military equipment, so the two of them joined forces to deceive Old Master Jiang and tricked the Jiang family.

“Actually, in the end, our Jiang family only made a deal with your He family. The one who sold the stuff was actually your He family. However, later on, when my grandfather discovered your scheme, you came up with a plan to frame my family. Our family was raided that same day and we didn’t even have a chance to defend ourselves,” Jiang Shu said.

He Ning pointed at the box and asked, “You want to convict me with just this box? Everything inside is my elder brother’s doing. He’s the one running these things. What has it got to do with me?”

He Guo could not believe that He Ning was saying this and betraying his own elder brother in order to protect himself. He Guo was He Ning’s biological elder brother!

“You!” He Guo looked at He Ning in disbelief.

He Ning mouthed, “I’ll save you. Don’t worry.”

He Guo lowered his head in disappointment and left it to fate.

“I already know that you would say that. Back then, there were two exquisite jars among the things that were taken in the raid. There are originally four jars, and when they are lined up together, it makes for a whole set of chrysanthemums. At that time, your family was given two of them. I think they should still be inside the house now,” Jiang Shu said with a smile.

Xia Wen glanced at Section Chief Huang, who understood what he had to do. He immediately rushed into the house with his men and shouted, "Search! Bring out anything that resembles the chrysanthemum jars!"

#### Chapter 434: Failed Seduction

These kinds of jars were not rare items. Most people used them as storage jars in their rooms or used them to keep marinated food items.

The people in the family room fled in all directions. He Han was so frightened that he hid in a corner and did not dare to move. He had always been the least favored person in his family and no one thought of protecting him now.

Xia Zhe walked into the house and patted He Han's head gently as he said, "Don't be afraid. They're not here to hurt you. Come outside with me."

After some hesitation, He Han decided to follow Xia Zhe to the courtyard.

At this moment, He Mei had just rushed over from He Guo's house in the suburbs after receiving the news. Initially, they did not intend to tell He Mei about this matter. The He family's secret agent had heard the news from the political department before dawn. He Guo and He Wei immediately brought their men to the old house to stand off with the Jiang family before getting someone to inform He Ning.

He Guo had originally wanted He Mei to stay at home obediently, but when He Mei heard that the Xia family was also involved and that Xia Zhe would definitely be there, she naturally wanted to go and take a look.

When He Mei came, she was wearing a silk dress with spaghetti straps and beautiful lace embroidered on the sides with a small white gauze jacket over it, making her look curvaceous and flirtatious.

If not for the fact that the He family was famous and everyone knew that she was the eldest granddaughter of the He family, they would have thought that she was someone from the brothel.

When He Mei entered and saw Xia Zhe, she immediately rushed over and said coquettishly, “Xia Zhe~ Look at how they smashed my house~ I’m so scared!”

Xia Zhe turned sideways and dodged He Mei’s embrace, causing her to crash into the arms of Section Chief Huang who was behind him. Her bosom smacked right into Section Chief Huang’s chest and he said with a lustful expression, “Miss He, I... I’ll feel embarrassed if you behave like this.”

He Mei screamed and escaped from Section Chief Huang’s arms. She looked at Xia Zhe with tears in her eyes and said, “Why did you dodge...”

All the men in the courtyard widened their eyes when they saw He Mei. They all found her shapely figure really attractive.

He Mei noticed the gazes on her and quickly covered her chest. She even tried to stand beside Xia Zhe.

“Miss He, please show some respect. I already have a wife and it’s not convenient for me,” Xia Zhe said coldly without even looking at He Mei.

He Mei looked at the lecherous gazes of the men around her and then at Xia Zhe’s cold attitude. She was too ashamed to stay here and ran into the house to wear a coat before coming back out and standing beside He Ning.

Using the pine tree outside the door, Qiao Mei saw Xia Zhe’s actions clearly. She did not expect this person to still have designs on Xia Zhe.

However, it made sense. Xia Zhe was so outstanding while the two grandsons of the He family did not have the capability to inherit the family business at all. They could only find a son-in-law to manage the He family’s businesses and Xia Zhe was their top choice.

Qiao Mei took a closer look at He Mei and realized that she was tall and had a curvaceous figure. Unfortunately for her, Xia Zhe did not have any interest at all.

He Ning looked at He Mei reproachfully. Was this how she intended to seduce Xia Zhe as he instructed? It was like child's play!

However, now was not the time to think about this matter. The most important thing now was to deal with the Jiang family.

Soon, Section Chief Huang's men found the two other jars and other relevant cultural relics inside the family room. There was also a box of foreign currency in the study.

"Mr. He, how do you explain this?" Section Chief Huang asked as he pointed at the evidence in the courtyard.

"I have nothing to say," He Ning said as he looked at Section Chief Huang.

Section Chief Huang took out a piece of paper and walked up to He Ning. "These things are exactly the same as what you used to testify against the Jiang family. This is the list of things that were handed over by the Jiang family during the raid back then. Third Master He, do you want to take another look?"

"There's no need," He Ning said.

Section Chief Huang asked his subordinates to seal up everything in the courtyard and check them one by one so that the He family would not claim that anything was missing in the future.

"Now that the evidence is conclusive, please come with us, Third Master He," Section Chief Huang said with a smile.

He Ning stood up with some difficulty. The anger he felt at being schemed against troubled him much more than the pain that his body brought him.

This was the first time He Mei had seen such a big scene. This time, not only was her little uncle going to be taken away, but even her father would be taken away to be dealt with. What could she do now that the backbone of the family was gone?

## Chapter 435: Please Make a Trip

“Little Uncle...” He Mei went forward and held He Ning’s hand as she looked at the people around her in fear .

“It’s fine. Stay at home for the next few days and don’t go out. My attendant will be with you. I’m just going to attend to some matters,” He Ning comforted her.

He Mei nodded. At this point, there was nothing else she could do.

“It’s not just Third Master He. He Guo broke the law by privately selling weapons and goods to an enemy country without the permission of the country, so He Guo also has to make a trip with us,” Section Chief Huang said.

He Guo struggled and said, “I’m being accused wrongly! You can’t take me away just like that! You’re nothing! You have no right to take me away!”

These words made Section Chief Huang completely infuriated. Before Section Chief Chu got into trouble, Section Chief Huang was just an inconspicuous team member. At that time, the He family had bullied him and did not treat him like a human being. They treated him like an object that could be thrown away at will.

Now that he had something on the He family, it was up to him to decide how to deal with the He family!

The discovery today was that the He family not only colluded with the enemy and committed treason, but they had also wrongly accused the Jiang family in the past. In addition, they were also the ones who resold goods privately. Each piece of evidence was enough to doom the He family for eternity. This time, he wanted to see if the He family had the ability to come back from the dead.

“Take them away!” Section Chief Huang said angrily.

He Ning walked to the door and turned to look at Jiang Shu as he said, “Good plan.” Then he turned to look at Xia Wen and said, “Good methods.”

“This is called giving someone a taste of their own medicine. This is retribution, He Ning,” Jiang Shu said.

Qiao Mei felt a little emotional for a moment. She wondered if Jiang Shu felt relieved now? Did he feel any better after taking revenge for the Jiang family?

As He Ning and He Guo passed by the alley where Qiao Mei was, He Ning looked at Qiao Mei indifferently and said with a smile, “See you next time.”

Qiao Mei was caught by surprise. He had been caught committing such serious crimes and yet he still greeted her so nonchalantly. Was this He Ning’s usual behavior or did he have other plans up his sleeves?

“Continue digging! We must turn the He family upside down!” Section Chief Huang shouted from the courtyard.

Section Chief Huang’s current subordinates were the same people who had followed Section Chief Chu to dig up the Xia family’s house back then. If not for the Xia family protecting them and only holding Section Chief Chu responsible for what happened, they would all be unemployed now.

In order to repay the Xia family for letting bygones be bygones, they worked even harder. Today, they must leave the He family’s house in a worse state than the Xia family’s house.

Now that the main backbone of the He family was gone, only He Mei and He Han were left.

By now, He Mei was crying her eyes out. She went forward and grabbed Xia Zhe’s sleeve as she said, “Xia Zhe... Please help my little uncle... I... I can’t live without my father and little uncle... Please save them...”

Xia Zhe shook He Mei off fiercely and said, “This is a political matter and I can’t help them. Miss He, please find another way out.”

Xia Wen snickered at the side. This He Mei was really brainless. Even that silly He Li could tell that the Xia family had contributed to half of today's setup, yet He Mei still wanted their help.

It would be more like helping He Ning to get locked up for a few more years!

"Now that everything is done, let's go back," Xia Mao said to Xia Wen.

"Father and Xiao Zhe, you go back first. Leave the matters here to me. I'm afraid of things going wrong later. Let me keep an eye on them until the end," Xia Wen said.

"Elder brother, why not I do it," Xia Zhe said to Xia Wen.

Xia Wen smiled and did not say anything. He patted Xia Zhe's shoulder lightly and raised his eyes towards He Mei's location. Xia Zhe immediately understood what he meant.

"Go back with sister-in-law," Xia Wen said.

When Xia Mao left, he left the five guards in the courtyard with Xia Wen just in case. The two of them made their way through the crowd to look for Qiao Mei and then to go home.

He Mei stared fiercely at Xia Zhe. She had waited for Xia Zhe for so many years, but all she got in return was her family's lack of understanding and Xia Zhe's cold shoulder. He even treated her family like this. She must make Xia Zhe pay the price for this!

Qiao Mei sat weakly under the tree. She had expended too much energy in moving the He family's treasures as well as spying on the He family. Now, her face was very pale.

When Xia Zhe saw her, he thought that Qiao Mei was overly tired. He hurriedly went forward and asked, "Why do you look so pale?"

Chapter 436: Using Qiao Mei as the Standard

“Me? Is that so?” Qiao Mei asked as she touched her own face.

“Let’s go home. Elder brother will handle the matters at the He family’s house. Let’s go home.” Xia Zhe picked Qiao Mei up and carried her as he walked towards the car.

Qiao Mei was so shocked that she wanted to jump off and she said nervously, “Are you crazy? We are out in the open! What if someone sees us! Father is also here!”

Qiao Mei looked at Xia Mao nervously. Xia Mao immediately looked around and pretended not to see anything.

These two were really biological father and son...

“Then why don’t you faint? This way, they won’t say anything,” Xia Zhe said with a smile.

Qiao Mei closed her eyes and leaned against Xia Zhe’s shoulder without moving. Xia Zhe was overjoyed by what she did.

After the Xia family members left, there was nothing left to watch and the people outside the door gradually dispersed.

“Let’s leave since we’re done digging. We’ll contact you again if there’s anything, Section Chief Huang,” Xia Wen said and left the He family’s house.

After returning to the Xia family’s house, Qiao Mei rushed to the second floor and promptly fell asleep.

Xia He looked at Xia Zhe in puzzlement and asked, “What did you do so early in the morning? Why is she in such a hurry?”

“We went to deal with something. She must be tired and wants to go in and rest,” Xia Zhe explained.



“Then what about you? You probably haven’t had breakfast. Come and eat,” Xia He said as she pointed at the dining table.

Xia Zhe shook his head and said, “Father is behind us. He hasn’t eaten either. I’ll go upstairs to take a look at Qiao Mei. Don’t worry about us.”

After a tiring morning, Xia Zhe could not bear to torment Qiao Mei, so he simply hugged her and gradually fell asleep as well. When Qiao Mei woke up in the afternoon, Xia Zhe was no longer by her side. She guessed he had probably been called away for a meeting.

Qiao Mei stretched and got up to wash up. She felt refreshed after resolving the matter with the He family. To a certain extent, she had also taken revenge on He Ning for bullying her previously.

As she slowly walked down the stairs, she saw Xia He looking at her with a long face and saying, “Where did you go so early in the morning? You haven’t even eaten anything! Don’t you care about your own health!”

Qiao Mei knew that Xia He was concerned about her health. She walked to Xia He’s side and said sweetly, “Elder sister~ What’s wrong with my good elder sister~ Don’t be unhappy!”

“So you know that I’m unhappy!” Xia He said.

Qiao Mei smiled and said, “I know that elder sister is doing this for my own good. I promise there won’t be a next time!”

“This is because Xiao Zhe indulges you too much! He brought you there so early in the morning! Putting aside how dangerous that place is, you already didn’t sleep much last night as you were waiting for Xiao Zhe. Now you even know how to stay up late! You’re still pregnant, mind you. Aunt always says that staying up late is harmful to our health. If you don’t eat breakfast also, then can your body take the torment!” Xia He said sternly as she held Qiao Mei’s hand.

“Elder sister, I won’t dare to do it again! I swear! Don’t be angry! Your little nephews and I are hungry now...” Qiao Mei looked at Xia He aggrievedly.

When she heard what Qiao Mei said, Xia He's heart softened. She pointed at the dining table and said, "Second Aunt-in-law has already made food for you. Hurry up and go. I'll teach you a lesson after you're done eating!"

Qiao Mei said happily, "I just know elder sister dotes on me the most!"

Liu Fen brought out the last dish and said, "Try to at least have a bite. What I make is definitely not as delicious as what you make. If you don't like it, then just eat some plain porridge and pickled vegetables. There's some chicken and a big carp over there and I've already cleaned them up for you to use. I bought them this morning. They're so fresh!"

For two consecutive days, Liu Fen had observed Qiao Mei and realized that she liked to eat fish very much. Today, she woke up especially early to go to the market to buy the freshest live fish so that Qiao Mei could get some nourishment.

"Thank you, Second Aunt-in-law. Come sit down and eat too!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Liu Fen shook her head and said, "I've already eaten. I'm going out for a while. The walnuts I asked someone to buy for you have arrived. You have to take more nourishment. Those are all wild walnuts from my house and they're much better than those being sold in the capital! Eat your meal slowly!"

Qiao Mei looked at Liu Fen's departing figure in surprise and asked Xia He in a daze, "What's up with Second Aunt-in-law? Why is she suddenly so nice to me?"

"Second Aunt-in-law is just like that. She's not a bad person. She just favors boys over girls," Xia He said.

After Qiao Mei had eaten, Xia He pulled her to one side and asked curiously, "What exactly happened this morning?"

Qiao Mei thought carefully about what happened this morning and picked out the main points to tell Xia He.

Xia He asked, "Is Jiang Shu the only one from the Jiang family here?"

“Yes, he said that he’s the only one left in the Jiang family. The others have all passed away...” Qiao Mei said.

#### Chapter 437: Definitely Must Divorce

“Sigh. In the past, he got on best with He Ning. At that time, our family and the He family could be considered family friends. Later on, there was an estrangement due to different ideals. In addition, these children from the He family were all crooks so we stopped interacting with them,” Xia He said regretfully.

No wonder Jiang Shu had looked at He Ning with mixed emotions. Perhaps he still could not understand why the big brother who protected and doted on him back then would kill his entire family.

“When Xia Zhe comes back, I’ll definitely teach him a lesson. I have to get Aunt to come back and scold him as well. He’s really too indulgent with you!” Xia He said as she frowned at Qiao Mei.

“I’m the one who went overboard. Elder sister, don’t scold Xia Zhe anymore,” Qiao Mei said softly.

Xia He felt jealous when she saw the way Qiao Mei defended Xia Zhe. They were really a couple in love and did not allow others to say anything about each other.

“Elder sister, how about I make you braised fish and roasted chicken tonight?” Qiao Mei said.

“Sure!” Xia He’s eyes lit up.

In a few days, she would have to leave to go and apply for approval to return to the art troupe in the capital. While she was still here, she would enjoy Qiao Mei’s cooking as much as she could.

“Mei Mei, why don’t you not become a military spouse and just stay in the capital permanently. I’ll be going back to apply to return to the capital to work. Then in the future, I can go to your house every day to freeload my meals,” Xia He said.

Qiao Mei put on her apron and said, "Even if I want to, you have to ask Xia Zhe if he agrees to it."

Xia He smacked the table angrily and stood up. "How dare he disagree! I'll skin him alive! This kid can't even escape today's beating! Let's not talk about it anymore. The more we talk about him, the angrier I am. Let me help you with the cooking."

In the kitchen, the onions, ginger and garlic had all been cut and placed aside. Even the most difficult fish to handle had been cleaned up well by Liu Fen and every ingredient needed was placed on the table.

"Don't tell me Second Aunt-in-law has been bought over by your good culinary skills..." Xia He looked at the scene in front of her in shock. In the past, she and Tan Jing would have to do all these chores and Liu Fen would not have cleaned and prepared the ingredients.

"Maybe." Qiao Mei was also a little uncertain.

Not only did Liu Fen find Qiao Mei more and more pleasing to the eye, but she even said that her standards for her future daughter-in-law would now be based on Qiao Mei. Not only did the girl have to be beautiful, good at cooking, capable of doing hard work and earning money, but she also had to be able to grow fruits and vegetables and know how to make clothes.

If this was the case, her sons would probably not be able to find their wives for a while. She would have to wait a few more years.

"To be honest, Mei Mei, do you really plan to become a military spouse and follow Xiao Zhe around in the future?" Xia He probed.

She had discussed this matter with Qiao Mei before, but Qiao Mei did not give a clear answer at that time. Looking at how the two of them behaved like two lovebirds stuck together, Xia He was really afraid that Qiao Mei would be impulsive and insist on staying with Xia Zhe.

After all, she was about to give birth soon. Xia He still hoped that she would stay in the capital so that the Xia family could help her. The standard of medical care in the capital was also much better than that in Foshan Village. It would be safer to have Aunt deliver the babies.

"I think I might need a few years. After you spoke to me the last time, I had thought about it. I know I should think for the children, but I also intend to go back and spend some time with my grandfather and see if he's willing to come over," Qiao Mei said as she cooked.

Xia He stood at the side and nodded in relief. It seemed that Qiao Mei had taken her words to heart.

"What about you, elder sister? What do you plan to do?" Qiao Mei asked.

Xia He did not know what else she could do. Right now, she only wanted to get her job settled and there was nothing more important than that.

"I plan to stay in the capital," Xia He said.

"That's good! This way, when it's time for me to give birth, I won't be alone and will have you as my companion," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

However, Xia He still had a frown on her face. Even if she settled things on the job front, her family matters were not over yet. She only hoped that Kong Lu could quickly return her the money so that she could get out of the Kong family as soon as possible.

"You have no idea how much trouble Kong Li has caused Aunt!" Xia He told Qiao Mei everything that had happened in the past few days, including the matter of Kong Li and the Sun family's children breaking the television set, Kong Li bringing the children around to cause trouble, Kong Lu coming to take Kong Li away, and so on. She complained to Qiao Mei about everything that happened.

Chapter 438: Biased

In the past, she felt that people should not wash their dirty linen in public. She would never tell her family about these things even if she was beaten to death. This was also the reason why the Xia family had never realized that Xia He was unhappy.

However, she felt differently with Qiao Mei. When they met, it was as if she was looking at her own sister and she felt especially close to Qiao Mei. Moreover, Qiao Mei was very ingenious and was able to come up with many clever ideas to solve her problems. Qiao Mei also did not go around telling others about her issues nor nagged at her to be a good wife and mother.

From Qiao Mei, she had learned that people must be true to themselves.

“Then how did you handle this matter? Do you intend to leave it?” Qiao Mei said angrily.

She did not expect Kong Li to have done so many things. If Xia He had told her earlier, she would have gone to teach Kong Li a lesson.

“Kong Lu is prepared to pay compensation. And also to return the money for the items I bought, as well as the money I lent to his brothers in the past,” Xia He said.

Qiao Mei was a little surprised. Kong Lu agreed so readily?

“Does he have money?” Qiao Mei looked at Xia He in puzzlement.

“He gave all his salary to his mother. There must be some money after so many years, but I don’t think his mother will give it to him,” Xia He said confidently.

“Why? This is his own money. Why wouldn’t his mother give it to him?” Qiao Mei asked.

Xia He did not know how to explain it, but she felt that Old Madam Kong treated Kong Lu differently from his other brothers. Every time the old lady saw Kong Lu, she would either ask him for money or send him to do chores. Xia He had heard that when Kong Lu was young, he was especially hardworking in his studies, but for the sake of his younger siblings, he had to give up school and come out to work.

At that time, Old Madam Kong did not even leave him any money for food. He ate steamed buns and pickled vegetables every day. When his brothers grew up, he still had to help them out. Otherwise, Old Madam Kong would cause a scene in front of all the neighbors.

As long as something did not go her way, she would go to the neighbors and make a scene until Xia He and Kong Lu agreed to all her requests. If not for the fact that the couple were both very concerned with their reputations, they would not have been manipulated so much by Old Madam Kong.

“Every time his mother sees his two younger brothers, she smiles so widely that it’s like the corners of her mouth reach the tips of her ears, but every time she sees Kong Lu, she looks at him like he owes her money. She will give his younger brother whatever he wants, but when Kong Lu got married, she was so stingy. When his younger brother got married, she came and took money and stuff from me,” Xia He said.

“Do you think it’s possible that his mother wants to train his mind? To make him stronger mentally. After all, his father passed away very early on. The eldest brother is like a father in such a situation, so she wants to train him more,” Qiao Mei asked.

“Who knows, but it doesn’t matter what his mother does. I’m definitely getting a divorce!” Xia He said firmly.

At this moment, Kong Lu was at the post office, making a call to Old Madam Kong..

Recently, Kong Li had not dared to leave the guest house. She stayed by his side obediently and did not go to make trouble for the Xia family. She ate whatever was available and was no longer picky.

Very quickly, someone picked up the phone on the other end.

“Who is it?” Old Madam Kong asked nicely.

“Eh! Mother, it’s me, Kong Lu,” Kong Lu said agitatedly.

When Old Madam Kong heard that it was Kong Lu, she could not stop smiling and said happily, “Oh my, did you get your salary? How much money are you giving me this time? You have to give me more this time. Your brother has not been doing well recently and he needs money urgently.”

“I... Mother, actually I’m calling to ask you for money,” Kong Lu said embarrassedly.

When Old Madam Kong heard that he wanted to ask her for money, she immediately became unhappy and her face drooped.

“Why do you need money?” Old Madam Kong asked.

“I... I’m sick and I need money for medical treatment. The money I have on me got stolen and I don’t have a single cent now,” Kong Lu said nervously.

“Who are you trying to bluff! You’re in the capital now, your sister has already told me. If you’re sick, why are you looking for me instead of your wife! I don’t have money! Go look for the Xia family!” Old Madam Kong said angrily.

“But... what about the money I send back every month? Mother, what about that money? Can you take it out and help me with my emergency first?” Kong Lu said.

“Money? How much do you give me a month? Don’t I need to spend money at home? Money, money, money, all you know is to ask me for money!” Old Madam Kong scolded.

#### Chapter 439: Sneaking Out

Kong Lu asked uneasily, “But I’m sick. What can I do?”

Old Madam Kong scolded, “Hasn’t that vixen in the capital send you for treatment? What’s the point of her having so much money? I already know that she’s not a good person! You’re sick and she still doesn’t render help! Tell me, what kind of scourge did you marry!”

“Does that mean you aren’t giving me the money even though I’m sick?” Kong Lu asked in disbelief.

Very quickly, the person on the other end put down the phone without a word. Kong Lu looked at the phone receiver in his hand and smiled bitterly. Initially, he only thought that his mother was overly concerned about his younger siblings because they were all young and needed someone to take care of



them. As the eldest brother, he should help them more. He had never felt that Old Madam Kong was biased.

From the looks of it now, even if he died of illness in the capital, she would not come over to take a look.

Kong Lu walked down the street in a daze. He knew that if he asked for money to compensate the Xia family for the television set, Old Madam Kong would definitely not give it to him. However, he did not expect Old Madam Kong to ignore his request even though it concerned his life.

When Kong Lu was young, his younger brother could get anything he wanted. Old Madam Kong was even able to get her hands on things that cost an astronomical sum. However, Kong Lu could only use those things when his younger siblings were done with them.

He thought that they were all Old Madam Kong's children and all her own flesh and blood. Could it be that only his younger brother was her biological son and he was not...

After hanging up, the more Old Madam Kong thought about it, the more she felt that something was wrong. Kong Lu had always been the most obedient child. Why would he ask her for money when he fell sick in the capital? Was the Xia family really that heartless?

That vixen must have instigated her son to cheat her of her money! That must be it!

"This heartless little brat! When you leave my sight, you get influenced by that little b\*tch! You soft-hearted thing! You still want to cheat me of my money! Pfft!" Old Madam Kong said in exasperation.

She hurriedly ran downstairs to the neighbors' resting area to start "singing opera".

Xia He valued her reputation very much. The old lady knew that as long as she went out to cause a ruckus, Xia He would compromise and agree to all her requests obediently. She could get anything she wanted and it worked every time.

"Oh my heavens! Why is my life so hard!" Old Madam Kong cried out as she got closer to the crowd.

“What’s wrong with you?” a neighbor asked.

“That son of mine! He’s so pitiful! He went to the capital on a business trip and fell sick there! My heartless daughter-in-law actually ignored him! Just now, my son even called me to ask for money for treatment!” Old Madam Kong wept and complained tearfully.

Old Madam Kong sobbed and told her story as if it was the truth. Everyone scolded Xia He for being heartless and not being a good wife and even comforted Old Madam Kong, asking her to relax and not argue with an insensible junior.

Qiao Mei finished cooking very quickly. Liu Fen and Xia Zhe returned home just as she brought out the dishes.

“Xia Zhe! You still have the cheek to come back! Stand there!” Xia He pointed at Xia Zhe and scolded him angrily.

Xia Zhe was not afraid at all but Liu Fen, who was beside him, got so frightened that she dropped everything in her hands.

“Xiao He, what’s wrong with you? Why can’t you talk to Xiao Zhe nicely? You’re a girl and should not have such a bad temper. When you go back to the Kong family, your mother-in-law will nag at you,” Liu Fen said.

“Second Aunt-in-law, do you know that Xia Zhe actually brought Qiao Mei to the He family’s house this morning!” Xia He said.

Liu Fen was also shocked when she heard this. She had only heard a little about it, something about the He family committing some huge crime and that it had been a very dangerous situation at that time. He Li’s leg had been broken by Jiang Shu in the process.

“This... Xiao Zhe, you’re too much. How can you bring Qiao Mei to such a dangerous place! But Xiao He, don’t be so fierce and scold your younger brother. Your younger brother might not have done it on purpose,” Liu Fen said.

Xia He looked at Liu Fen helplessly. Even if it was Xia Zhe's fault, Liu Fen would still be able to blame it on her in the end. In Liu Fen's eyes at the moment, she was a bad wife with a bad temper.

"It's not elder sister's fault! It's not Xia Zhe's fault either! I was the one who insisted on going! Everyone, come and eat. I cooked fish today!" Qiao Mei went forward and pulled Liu Fen to the dining table to sit down while winking at Xia He.

"Alright, your wife already told me not to scold you. Come and eat." Xia He asked Xia Zhe to come over for dinner.

#### Chapter 440: Interaction Between a Couple

Liu Fen took two bites and was full of praise for the braised fish in front of her.

"Qiao Mei, I've also watched you cook this dish before. Why isn't it so delicious when I make it myself? It's really strange. Do you have any secret recipe that you can teach me?" Liu Fen asked as she wolfed down the food.

"Hahaha, I don't have any secret recipes. It must be because Second Aunt-in-law had bought really fresh fish. It's all thanks to Second Aunt-in-law," Qiao Mei said.

"Look at that, it's like your mouth is laced with honey! How likable! Xia He, you should learn from her. If you're as capable as Qiao Mei, how can your mother-in-law not like you?" Liu Fen looked at Xia He and criticized her.

"Me? I'm not going back." Xia He looked at Liu Fen expressionlessly.

When Liu Fen heard this, she immediately put down her chopsticks and looked at Xia He. "Do you think that's appropriate? How can a woman not stay at home? Do you really want to live your life alone?"

Sometimes, Liu Fen was really nice and sometimes, she really made people speechless. Qiao Mei quickly grabbed Xia He and prepared to escape from this hellish scene. Otherwise, with Xia He's temper, the two of them would definitely start a quarrel.

“Second Aunt-in-law, I’m going out for a walk with elder sister. Take your time and eat!” After saying that to Liu Fen, Qiao Mei looked at Xia Zhe and said, “Don’t follow us. It’s my ‘couple time’ with elder sister today. You can stay at home and clean up the house!”

Xia Zhe looked at Qiao Mei dotingly and said, “Then don’t go too far.”

“Xiao Zhe! Are you going to let them go out just like that! Qiao Mei is pregnant. It’s so dangerous to walk around like this!” Liu Fen stood up and wanted to chase after them.

Xia He turned around and shouted, “Second Aunt-in-law! Many of my colleagues are coming to our house tomorrow. Please tidy up the house!”

“You take good care of Qiao Mei!” Liu Fen stood at the door and shouted.

To her, it was a bigger deal that there were going to be visitors tomorrow. What if her future daughter-in-law was among these visitors? She must find a nice girl who was similar to Qiao Mei, or better still if the girl was more capable than Qiao Mei.

Liu Fen looked at Xia Zhe and berated him, “Seriously, how can you dote on Qiao Mei so much? You’ve spoiled her too much.”

Xia Zhe smiled awkwardly and could only listen quietly as Liu Fen reprimanded him. His elder sister and wife had both gone out to have fun, leaving him alone at home to face the lecture.

“I’m guessing that Xia Zhe will definitely get a scolding after we leave. Hahahaha,” Xia He said happily.

“There’s nothing I can do about it. I don’t want to listen to Second Aunt-in-law’s lecture either, so I can only trouble him. Come, let’s go to the nursery,” Qiao Mei said.

Xia He looked at Qiao Mei in surprise and said, “Oh my, little girl, you’ve learned how to lie. I can’t bring you somewhere so far away. If anything happens, Xia Zhe will skin me alive.”

“Elder sister is highly skilled in martial arts, how will others be able to bully me? Besides, it’s not as if I sneak out. I still have you with me,” Qiao Mei said as she held Xia He’s arm.

“Then... it’s not impossible. Let’s go.” Xia He straightened her back and strode forward.

It was rare to hear anyone praise her for her martial arts skills. Her brothers were either the former top army warrior or the current top army warrior. There was no place for her on top.

If not for the fact that she did not like to study and did not want to go to suffer in the army, she would not have been arranged to work in the art troupe.

Along the way, Xia He told Qiao Mei a lot of things that Xia Zhe had said about her. At that time, she was very envious of how loving Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei were every day, so she went to ask him how to be such a loving couple.

She did not expect not to learn anything at all. Throughout the whole time, it was only Xia Zhe showing off his affection for Qiao Mei instead. During the session, she rolled her eyes until she was so tired.

However, Qiao Mei had indeed changed a lot for Xia Zhe. Not only did she successfully lose weight, but she also learned to do many things and was also able to help Xia Zhe in his work. Moreover, she was willing to risk her life for Xia Zhe. These were things that Xia He could not bring herself to do.

“If you go back to the village, I will find it hard to get through days in the capital alone,” Xia He said with a frown.

“I think I’ll have to wait until the courtyard house is done up before leaving. When the time comes, you can stay with me for a few days. This way, you won’t have to listen to Second Aunt-in-law’s nagging,” Qiao Mei said.

“That won’t do. If I move in with you, Third Aunt-in-law and everyone else in the family will covet your house. Don’t underestimate Third Aunt-in-law, she won’t give up!” Xia He said.