

## Fat Wife 441

### Chapter 441: Planting Melon Seeds

Qiao Mei only knew how Zhou Hua was dealt with at that time, but she did not know what the final outcome was. She did not know if Zhou Hua was doing well at the moment or if she had been reprimanded by Third Uncle, Xia Guang.

“Is there any news about Third Aunt-in-law recently?” Qiao Mei asked.

Xia He recalled carefully and said, “No, I just heard from my mother that she received a call at home from Third Uncle saying that Third Aunt-in-law has been sent back. I don’t know anything else.”

“Alright then. What flowers do you want to buy? I still don’t know what you like!” Qiao Mei asked curiously.

“Me? I like sunflowers,” Xia He said.

“Sunflowers? Why? Is it because they always face the sun?” Qiao Mei said.

Xia He crouched down sneakily and whispered into Qiao Mei’s ear, “Because... because they can produce seeds!”

Qiao Mei really did not expect the reason to be because sunflowers were edible.

“You like to eat melon seeds?” Qiao Mei asked.

Xia He nodded excitedly. Ever since she was young, her favorite food was melon seeds. At that time, there were not many snacks available and melon seeds were something that everyone could afford. However, her family did not allow her to eat that.

Once Xia He joined the art troupe, Xu Lan strictly monitored her diet. She was not allowed to eat food like melon seeds and peanuts. At that time, she was still young and her teeth were still developing. If she

ate melon seeds all the time, it would affect the overall beauty of her teeth and she would be eliminated by the art troupe.

“The melon seeds that I grow in our village are top-notch and sell very well. I’ll plant some for you in the courtyard so that you get to eat it when you come back,” Qiao Mei said.

“Don’t just brag about it!” Xia He said.

Qiao Mei rolled up her sleeves and said, “Don’t doubt me! My melon seeds are the best. Even in the capital, they’ll definitely still rank as one of the best!”

Xia He laughed at Qiao Mei’s serious expression and said, “Alright, I believe you. But I don’t just want melon seeds. I also want to eat the pickled vegetables and beef sauce that you make.”

Qiao Mei looked at Xia He in puzzlement. How did Xia He know that she knew how to make all these? Could it be that Xia Zhe told her?

“Stop looking! Xia Zhe told me. He bragged to me for a long time about how delicious the meat sauce is and how your pickled radishes are irresistible. You can’t be biased. If my younger brother can eat it, I want to try it too!” Xia He said.

Xia He happened to see Xia Zhe sitting at the window and flipping through letters. When she asked him, she found out that the two of them had exchanged letters during the days when they could not see each other. Those pages were filled with the love between them.

Back then, she and Kong Lu were also so loving. However, things had changed. That love had been replaced by trivial matters and scenes of arguments.

Soon, the two of them arrived at the nursery. The old master she met during her previous visit was sitting in the rocking chair and sunbathing while listening to a song playing on the recorder.

“Old master, I’m here!” Qiao Mei said warmly.

The old master opened his eyes lazily and closed them again when he saw that Qiao Mei came empty-handed.

This little girl did not keep her word. He should not have given her those flowers back then. What a pity!

“Why are you ignoring me? How can I grow the flowers in such a short period of time? I’m not an immortal. Old master, don’t be angry. I’ll definitely bring you the flowers next time,” Qiao Mei said ingratiatingly.

The old master said sulkily, “What are you doing here again? I’m telling you, I don’t have any seeds for you this time!”

“I’m here to get some ordinary flowers and plants. You can go back to sleep, I know where it is. I’ll go by myself!” Qiao Mei grabbed Xia He and ran towards the glasshouse at the back to look at the flowers and plants.

“She behaves like she’s not an outsider. This little girl...” The old master smiled and sat up as he pointed at Qiao Mei, but there was nothing he could do about her.

It was Qiao Mei’s fault for being so beautiful and likable. The old master had been growing flowers and plants his entire life and he liked beautiful things the most, and beautiful people as well.

“Elder sister, take a look and see which one you like. We’ll get it,” Qiao Mei said.

Since He Ning had bought all the flowers they had at home, it was indeed time to buy more. Otherwise, the house would look empty, particularly since Xu Lan had no interest in these things.

Chapter 442: Astronomically Priced Flower Pot

“Let’s buy some cactus. Aren’t there three pots of cactus at the door? I’ll think that’s good enough. Mother doesn’t know how to take care of these things. It’s already good enough that she waters them once a week. Don’t buy flowers and plants, they’ll just be wasted,” Xia He said.

“Let me take a look.” Qiao Mei started choosing seriously.

She was actually looking for the orchid that she had killed back then. When she first heard that it was sent over by He Ning, she had absorbed all the energy from the orchid. However, ever since she knew that she could obtain plants' memories, she felt that the pot of flowers would be very useful.

If she could manage to find something on He Ning, then it would really be an effortless reward.

The old master also walked over leisurely. He was afraid that Qiao Mei would come and ask him for his rare and precious plants again. All the flowers in this yard were those that he had put in a lot of effort over the past few years. There was only one of each even after so many years and they were all meant to be ornamental plants.

"Old master, where's the flower I saw the last time I came to your place?" Qiao Mei asked.

"I won't sell that. I've nurtured it for many years. I won't sell it to anyone," the old master said stubbornly.

Qiao Mei suddenly realized that there were many more withered orchids around the orchid plant in the corner. She walked over and asked, "Are you selling these?"

"These are flowers that other people don't want. What do you want it for?" The old master looked at Qiao Mei in puzzlement.

In the eyes of the old master, these flowers were not salvageable. Even an immortal could not save them.

"I... I've taken a fancy to these flower pots!" Qiao Mei said as she pointed at the flower pots.

"Young lady, you have good taste. These are not ordinary flower pots," the old master said with a smile.

Not ordinary? Are they not just the most ordinary clay flower pots? There are some patterns engraved on them, but they are not antiques. Are they worth a lot of money?

Seeing Qiao Mei's puzzled expression, the old master said disdainfully, "You don't even know which master made them and you want to buy them?"

"This... I just think that the flower pots are very beautiful. How much are they?" Qiao Mei asked.

"It's 10 dollars each," the old master said.

Selling them for 10 dollars each was still too low a price for him. This was the work of the famous master in this circle, Wei Guang. He rarely made such exquisite flower pots anymore. In the eyes of the people in this industry, these things were just getting rarer and rarer.

He really felt that it was a steal to get it at 10 dollars.

Xia He looked at the old master in shock and said, "10 dollars each! It's so expensive!"

"Young girl! What do you know! This is the work of a master. Go out and ask around and see if I'm scamming you by selling it for 10 dollars," the old master said angrily.

Qiao Mei was also a little surprised, but for the sake of He Ning's flowers, she did not care less.

"These, give me as many as you have. I want them all," Qiao Mei said as she pointed at the flowers in the corner.

"Six pots, 60 dollars. Not a single cent less," the old master said with his arms crossed.

Qiao Mei pointed at the cactus outside and asked, "Will those bloom?"

"Yes, but it's very difficult. Certain ones can bloom," the old master said.

Cactuses could indeed bloom if they were well taken care of. Buying them could count as buying flowers.

“And do you have any sword lilies here?” Qiao Mei asked as she looked at the surrounding flowers and plants.

“Yes. Cactus costs 30 cents each. Sword lilies are cheap, it’s 10 cents each.” The old master looked at Qiao Mei curiously. She used to ask about beautiful and expensive things. He wondered why she was asking about things that were easy to grow today.

“Give me three cactuses, six sword lilies and 10 ordinary clay flower pots with some simple patterns on them,” Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Xia He wanted to stop Qiao Mei from buying more, but then she remembered that Qiao Mei did not lack this money at all. What was the point of keeping so much money if she did not spend it? Money would not grow on its own.

“Mei Mei, there are still six pots here. If we just bring the pots back, what are we going to grow inside?” Xia He asked.

Qiao Mei had originally intended to save these orchids, but saying this in front of the old master would make her seem like she was boasting. After hesitating for a while, she said, “I haven’t planted all the flower seeds I bought from old master last time. I can plant those.”

“Young girl, don’t tell me those flowers you took from me had died and you’re looking for new ones that are easy to grow!” The old master widened his eyes and looked at Qiao Mei.

Chapter 443: Logistics Company

Qiao Mei laughed and said, “How can that be? It’s just that the flowers we have at home are a little too boring and I want to buy something that’s easy for my mother to take care of.”

When the old master heard that it was meant for her elder, he felt relieved. He could not bear to see flowers going to waste. If Qiao Mei did that, he would not sell them to her in the future!

Xia He made a move to throw away the soil in the pots. The soil had already hardened and it was obvious that it could not be used anymore.

“Hey! Don’t do this!” Qiao Mei hurriedly went forward to stop her.

Xia He looked at Qiao Mei in puzzlement and asked, “The flowers are already dead. This soil must not be fertile anymore. What do you need it for?”

“It’s fine, it’s fine. I have my ways. Don’t worry, Let’s take them back like this. I think it looks alright.” Qiao Mei hurriedly put the six pots of flowers together.

The old master looked behind Qiao Mei and saw that there was no man around nor a car outside to pick her up. He asked, “Young girl, how are you going to bring these six pots of flowers and so many other things with you?”

Qiao Mei thought for a moment and asked, “Can you... deliver?”

The old master snorted and said, “No.”

There was a vehicle in the backyard, but it was used to transport fruit trees. Usually, these flowers and plants were cultivated by the people who bought them and did not need to be transported, otherwise the buyers would come to pick up their things themselves.

“Alright, can I leave them here for now and get someone to come and pick them up later?” Qiao Mei asked.

The old master nodded. He did not want to make things difficult for two women, one of whom was pregnant. If word got out, he would become a joke. Given that this young girl was good-looking and knew her stuff, he did not want to be so calculative with her.

“Thank you so much, old master. I forgot to bring my flowers today. I’ll get someone to send the flowers to you next time,” Qiao Mei said with a smile.

“It’s not as if I like your flowers.” The old master slowly walked back to the rocking chair to lie down and continue basking in the sun.

Qiao Mei had thought of a new way to earn money. If she started a logistics company now, she would be able to make a killing! However, this was something that would take up a lot of manpower and resources, and it might not even be allowed. Such a business needed the government’s approval.

After Qiao Mei and Xia He left the nursery, they took the bus to the small park near the house to relax. If they went back now, Liu Fen would still be around and they would have to endure her lecture.

“Elder sister, if I want to buy and sell things now, do I have to go to the government for an audit ?” Qiao Mei asked curiously.

Xia He thought that Qiao Mei wanted to start a small business and said with a smile, “If you want to start a small business, you can apply for a shop space and then get all the necessary permits. That will do and it’s all very simple. But if you want to open a restaurant, then it won’t be easy. There are a lot of requirements to be met, like hygiene and safety.”

Qiao Mei shook her head and told Xia He about her idea to start a logistics company. Xia He frowned and said, “This is a good idea, but you won’t be able to do it now.”

Qiao Mei asked curiously, “Why?”

“Let’s not talk about whether this matter can be done first. Who are your clients? Who has the ability to buy so many things like our family? Just look at the things you bought today, you must have spent about 100 dollars. Which ordinary family can spend so much money to buy things,” Xia He said.

Qiao Mei nodded thoughtfully. What Xia He said did make sense.



“Also, it’s not possible for you to do something so formal. Nowadays, the companies that sell large electrical appliances have their own professionals to come and do the installation. Places like the nursery have their own specialized drivers to transport goods. Although your method is indeed something totally unheard of, I don’t think it’s very practical now,” Xia He said to Qiao Mei truthfully.

Qiao Mei did not expect Xia He to know all these things. Initially, Qiao Mei thought that this business still had some value to it, but now it seemed to be indeed very difficult.

Qiao Mei quickly gave up on this idea and decided to wait for a few more years.

Xia He raised her head and looked at the surrounding houses, saying to Qiao Mei after some hesitation, “Mei Mei, do you think I should buy a small house in the capital in the future?”

“Huh? Elder sister, why do you suddenly want to get a house?” Qiao Mei was a little shocked.

Qiao Mei had also thought about this issue before. She wanted Xia He and Xia Wen to buy a courtyard house in the capital to live in, but she did not have a chance to talk to them about it yet.

#### Chapter 444: Doing Business Together

Xia Zhe said that Xia Wen’s salary was not even enough to cover his own family’s daily expenses and that he had other difficulties at home. Although Xia He made a lot of money, it had all been spent on the Kong family.

Now that Xia He wanted to get a divorce and come out to live on her own, it would be a good thing to buy a house.

“I don’t like living in the workplace dormitory, but if I live at home, there’s always Second Aunt-in-law and the rest nagging me. It’s also not convenient to stay with Aunt. I think it’ll be nice to have my own home,” Xia He said.

“Then you can stay in my courtyard house. Or you can even be neighbors with me!” Qiao Mei said as she held Xia He’s hand.

Xia He reached out and gently knocked Qiao Mei's head as she said, "Do you think I'm like you, little rich woman? All my money has been taken by the Kong family and I don't have much money now. I can't even afford a small house and you still want me to buy a courtyard house!"

"Then do you still want to continue working in the art troupe? Or do you want to do some business?" Qiao Mei asked.

Qiao Mei wanted to get Xia He to go into business with her. Based on the way Xia He analyzed the issue of the logistics company just now, she would definitely be able to do well for herself! This way, everyone would be able to earn money and they might even be able to build a family business in the future!

"Me? I don't have that kind of brain. Besides, you need to face the fact that there will always be both profits and losses in business. I don't think I have the appropriate attitude to deal with that. I think I should just stay in the art troupe obediently. My salary is quite good there," Xia He said in satisfaction.

Qiao Mei did not continue to persuade her. These things could be discussed again in the future.

Kong Lu walked along the road dejectedly with a pile of papers in his hand. Those were telegrams from his colleagues back home.

The messages were all similar. They all said that they had their own difficulties at home and could not lend any money to him. A few even said that they still owed other people money and could not help him at all.

Kong Lu looked angrily at the telegrams in his hand. When these people were in trouble, Kong Lu had given them a lot of money as gifts. Now, he could not even get back a single cent. They were all heartless people!

"Do you think that's brother-in-law?" Qiao Mei asked as she pointed at Kong Lu in the distance.

"Hmph, from the looks of it, he definitely didn't manage to get any money," Xia He said mockingly.

Kong Lu frantically tore up all the papers in his hand. He originally wanted to throw the pieces into the air, but the people around him looked at him strangely, so he could only hold on to them awkwardly.

Xia He sneered. At this point in time, he still cared so much about his reputation. He could really control his emotions well. It was such a pity that he did not become an actor.

“Brother-in-law, where are you going?” Qiao Mei walked forward and stopped Kong Lu.

Kong Lu looked up in surprise. At this hour, it was usually the Xia family’s mealtime at home. He wondered why they were in the park.

“Ah... Why are you here?” Kong Lu asked with a smile.

“Elder sister and I just went to buy things we need at home, and we’re about to go back.” Qiao Mei looked at the post office behind Kong Lu and said, “Brother-in-law, did you just come back from the post office? You must have already gotten the 2,000 dollars.”

Kong Lu said with a troubled expression, “It will still take another three to five days...”

“Three to five days? That’s true. It takes time to send mail from another city to the capital,” Qiao Mei said with a smile.

What she said made Kong Lu even more afraid to look up. Xia He secretly gave Qiao Mei a look. She knew that Old Madam Kong would never give the money to Kong Lu. She had given him the ultimatum to return the money immediately so that he could see Old Madam Kong’s true colors for himself.

“It can’t be that long. I remember that sending money by post will take about two days. The Kong family does not stay far from the capital.” Xia He smiled at Kong Lu.

Kong Lu knew that he could not hide this matter. He looked up at Xia He and said, “Mother doesn’t want to lend it to me. She said that she doesn’t have any money anymore.”

Qiao Mei said in surprise, "Ah? How can she be broke? I thought elder sister paid for all the expenses in the family over the years?"

This made Kong Lu feel even more ashamed because Old Madam Kong had said she did not have a single cent due to the family expenses being too high.

"The last time, your brother said that there was a leak in his house and that the roof needed repairs. Your mother gave him 2,000 dollars without saying anything. I remember that Kong Li saw it and even bragged to me that your mother still has 5,000 dollars left," Xia He said.

Kong Lu looked at Xia He in disbelief. How was this possible! Was his illness not as important as his younger brother's house?

#### Chapter 445: Things Have Changed

Qiao Mei deliberately held on to Xia He and said in surprise, "Ah! So much money! What does brother-in-law's mother do? She's so rich."

"What else can she do? His mother just stays at home," Xia He said.

"Then how does she have so much money?" Qiao Mei asked.

Xia He looked at Kong Lu mockingly and said, "She has a good son. He hands over all the money he earns to his mother. I have never even seen his salary before. How can his mother not be rich?"

Kong Lu stood there awkwardly as he listened to Qiao Mei and Xia He taking turns to criticize him.

"Then what about the 2,000 dollars, brother-in-law? Aunt is still waiting to watch television," Qiao Mei asked Kong Lu.

“My mother’s money... just take it as what I have given her for her living expenses. As for the 2,000 dollars, don’t be anxious. I’ll borrow some money from friends in the next two days,” Kong Lu said with his head down.

“Alright, then I thank brother-in-law on behalf of Aunt. Otherwise, she would have to wait for a long time. Since brother-in-law is so straightforward, Aunt will definitely be very happy,” Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Kong Lu clenched his fists tightly. The papers in his hand were so crumpled that some of them even fell to the ground and got blown away by the wind.

Xia He pulled Qiao Mei along and prepared to leave, not wanting to waste her breath on him.

“Xia He, wait! I... I want to talk to you!” Kong Lu reached out to stop the two of them.

“What else do I have to say to you? I’ve said everything I need to say. There’s nothing more between us,” Xia He said as she looked at Kong Lu coldly.

Kong Lu walked forward anxiously and spread his arms to block Qiao Mei and Xia He. Before he could speak, he was interrupted by the person behind him.

“Oh, isn’t this Qiao Mei? Why are you seducing another man once Xia Zhe is not by your side? You’re really cheap! Why would Xia Zhe choose someone like you!” Qian’e stood behind Kong Lu and pointed at them.

“Who are you!” Xia He looked unhappily at the stranger in front of her.

Xia Zhe usually did not speak harshly to Qiao Mei, and his parents also never reprimanded Qiao Mei before. Where did this wild cat come from, and how dare she behave so atrociously in front of her?

Qian’e did not know that the person in front of her was Xia Zhe’s elder sister, Xia He. Although they had met before when they were young, it had been more than 10 years and they both looked different now

“None of your business! If you’re with someone like Qiao Mei, you must be like her too! When people say birds of a feather flock together, they’re talking about people like the both of you!” Qian’e put her hands on her hips and berated them.

Kong Lu looked at both parties, feeling at a loss. He did not do anything even though Xia He was being bullied.

“Didn’t you hear what this woman said about Qiao Mei and me?” Xia He looked at Kong Lu in disappointment.

Kong Lu did not know how to explain himself. He stammered, “Um... you’re all women... It’s... not good for me to bully a woman, right?”

Xia He stared at Kong Lu. How could she have been blind enough to fall for such a coward who bullied the weak and feared the strong, but yet always acted like a bully in private?

“Elder sister, let’s go. Don’t get caught up with her nonsense.” Qiao Mei pulled Xia He in the opposite direction.

Qian’e hurriedly rushed forward and shouted, “The adulterous couple still want to leave after I caught you! Don’t even think about going anywhere today! Let everyone see your true colors!”

The people around them were quickly attracted by this farce, and more and more onlookers gathered around.

“Everyone, come and take a look! This shameless woman is seducing another man while her husband is not around! Everyone, come and take a look!” Qian’e shouted with all her might.

While Qian’e was shouting, Xia He looked at Qiao Mei and whispered, “Who is this person? When did you provoke a lunatic?”

Qiao Mei said helplessly, “This is the person from Aunt’s complex. Her name is Qian’e.”

Qian'e? How could it be her?

Xia He looked at the weathered woman in front of her in disbelief. She looked to be in her 30s and people would even believe that she was around the same age as Aunt.

Although they had not seen each other for so many years, she had heard from Aunt about what happened to Qian'e. Aunt said that Qian'e became pregnant before getting married and the two families discussed the matter of marriage. Not long after, Qian'e found out that the man was having an affair. In the end, Qian'e had a miscarriage and even had to have her uterus removed. After that, the man broke off the engagement.

Things had really changed a lot. The Qian'e now was so different from the younger her.

#### Chapter 446: Times Have Changed

When Qian'e was young, she would always hang around the entrance of the apartment complex to look at Xia Zhe. She was gentle and virtuous and was proficient in the arts. Her warm and cheerful appearance was especially likable.

At that time, Xia He had thought that if Xia Zhe was agreeable, she would become related to the Qian family, so she always jokingly called Qian'e her sister-in-law. She did not expect things to end up like this.

Xia He looked at her with sympathy and pity.

Qian'e also noticed Xia He's expression and stopped shouting. She questioned, "Why are you looking at me like that!"

"I'm Xia Zhe's elder sister, Xia He," Xia He said calmly.

Qian'e froze on the spot. She did not expect the woman with Qiao Mei to be Xia He!

Back then, everyone in the Xia family looked down on her and ignored her. Only Xia He was willing to talk to her and even told her that it did not matter what others think and that she should pursue Xia Zhe if she liked him.

Qian'e could not quite accept the surprise and pity in Xia He's eyes. She should not have behaved like this today, but it was too late and she could no longer care less.

"Since you're his elder sister, you should ask your younger brother to leave this vicious woman! How can you tolerate her seducing another man outside?" Qian'e pointed at Qiao Mei and said.

Xia He explained, "This is my husband, not some other man."

After she said that, she did not expect Qian'e to think differently from others and to actually think that Qiao Mei was trying to seduce her brother-in-law!

"Alright! I didn't expect you to be so cheap! You actually seduced your brother-in-law!" Qian'e said.

The people around them gasped. When Kong Lu heard that he was now involved, he hurriedly tried to explain to everyone that this matter had nothing to do with him.

"Elder sister, let's go. Let's not get entangled with this person." Qiao Mei was unwilling to waste her time on Qian'e.

Qian'e rushed forward and grabbed Qiao Mei's wrist to pull her back. Xia He felt that Qiao Mei was in danger and went up to kick Qian'e in the stomach.

Xia He held on to Qiao Mei tightly, afraid that she would get injured. She looked coldly at Qian'e, who was on the ground, and said, "Stay away from her."

Qiao Mei looked at Xia He with admiration. She did not expect that the person to protect her one day would be Xia He, who was also a woman. It seemed that she had to learn some martial arts from Xia Zhe.



Elder sister really looked too cool just now!!!

“Help! Someone hit me! Ouch! It hurts so much!” Qian’e lay on the ground and rolled around while holding her stomach.

“Let’s go, Mei Mei. Let’s ignore her,” Xia He said with a frown.

“Hey! How can you leave!” an onlooker said.

“That’s right. Look, she can’t even stand up after being beaten up by you. You can’t leave!”

“Apologize to the girl! Take her to the hospital!”

The commotion became more and more intense and seemed that it would soon reach an irreconcilable stage. Kong Lu took advantage of the fact that everyone was attacking Qiao Mei and Xia He to quietly slip away. This matter had nothing to do with him and he hoped that he would not be implicated.

At this moment, Qiao Mei slowly squatted on the ground and started crying loudly. No one in the surrounding knew why.

Xia He was also baffled by Qiao Mei’s actions.

“What she said is all not true! My husband and I are in love and she keeps slandering me. She likes my husband, but even though he rejected her, she refused to give up! She’s framing me!” Qiao Mei said as she wept.

Xia He’s heart ached as she held onto Qiao Mei. She thought that Qiao Mei was really aggrieved and almost went up to kick Qian’e again to vent her anger on behalf of Qiao Mei.

The more Qiao Mei spoke, the sadder she became. She leaned into Xia He’s arms and wept even louder. She secretly poked Xia He’s palm with her finger and Xia He immediately understood that this clever girl was pretending.

“You! You’re talking nonsense! You are the one who seduced your brother-in-law! Not only did you seduce your brother-in-law! You even seduced another man!” Qian’e was so angry that she sat up with difficulty and berated Qiao Mei.

“Everyone, don’t listen to her slandering me. She was engaged to someone else and got pregnant before she got married. In the end, she lost her child and the engagement was broken off. That’s why she’s so delirious. She’s just jealous that I married my husband and she really wants to slander me! Besides, my husband and I already had an arranged marriage when we were children. If you don’t believe me, you can ask my elder sister!” Qiao Mei said as she continued to weep.

Xia He said to the people around them, “It’s true. I’m her husband’s elder sister. It’s true.”

Everyone quickly changed their tune and spoke to Qian’e with disdain.

#### Chapter 447: Better Shut Up

“Say, this girl is young but she actually did such an immoral thing. How shameless.”

“That’s right. How can you be so jealous of another person?”

“Seriously, we’ve wronged this girl.”

When a pretty girl cried, she looked especially pitiful. With Xia He’s help, Qiao Mei slowly stood up and said to everyone, “She has been following me ever since I came! Now, she’s even openly slandering me. I really... I really don’t know what to do...”

Qian’e tried her best to explain herself to the people around her, but no one believed her anymore. Qiao Mei and Xia He took advantage of the situation and walked away from the crowd while everyone was criticizing Qian’e.

“Qiao Mei, I’ll remember this! I won’t let you off!” Qian’e shouted in the direction that Qiao Mei left in.

These words made everyone realize that it was Qian'e who was wishfully trying to frame someone else.

Xia He turned around and heaved a sigh of relief when she saw that they had gone very far away from the crowd.

"You're a smart little girl. Do you think you might catch a cold from sitting on the ground just now?" Xia He looked at Qiao Mei worriedly.

"I won't, elder sister. It's useless to reason with such a person. People always only care about what they see. As for the truth, only officials care about it. The common people just want to watch the fun," Qiao Mei said.

Old Madam Kong was no different from Qian'e today. She openly said groundless things and slandered others. People only wanted to watch the fun and did not care about who was right and who was wrong. They just wanted to watch the commotion.

"You're right. I never expected you to know so much at such a young age," Xia He said emotionally.

"Elder sister, haven't you heard of that saying? Give someone a taste of their own medicine. Although it's not something a nice person would do, I'm just treating her in the same way that she treats me. Elder sister, you're too soft-hearted. Many people in our village are unreasonable. Some people behave worse than Qian'e," Qiao Mei said.

"Yes, I'll remember that. But I really never expected Qian'e to become like this. I also don't expect Kong Lu to run away the moment something happens," Xia He said sadly.

Qiao Mei also did not expect Kong Lu to be so irresponsible. It seemed that not all men were as responsible as the men of the Xia family.

"Elder sister, are you going to drag this on? I don't think brother-in-law will be able to return the money anytime soon," Qiao Mei said with a sigh.

Xia He smiled and said, "As if I can make Aunt wait forever. I'll buy the television for Aunt first and she can pass me the money when he pays up. I'll just give Aunt a heads-up later."

The park was close to their place. Qiao Mei and Xia He slowly walked home and ran into the runaway Kong Lu at the entrance of the alley.

"How interesting. I thought he was scared out of his wits and had long disappeared," Xia He said as she rolled her eyes.

Qiao Mei understood what Xia He meant and asked with a smile, "Oh, brother-in-law, what are you waiting for? The post office managed to rush the delivery of the money for you? Or your mother agreed to give you the money for your treatment, or... is brother-in-law too tired from running away just now and is stopping here to take a rest?"

Kong Lu was so embarrassed that he wished he could find a hole to hide in. He braced himself and said to Xia He, "Xiao He, I didn't do it on purpose just now. I... I suddenly remembered that I had something on. Erm... I want to talk to you, is that alright?"

Xia He said mockingly, "You're looking for me? I know what you want to say, so you better shut up. About this matter, we have nothing to talk about. I would also advise you not to look for my aunt. I've already told her that she doesn't have to interfere in this matter."

There were still three days before the deadline. Kong Lu only had 300 dollars now, including the 100 dollars from Kong Li.

"Mei Mei, let's go." Xia He pulled Qiao Mei home.

Qiao Mei looked at Kong Lu's back and asked, "Will he look for mother? Or father?"

Xia He said confidently, "He wouldn't dare. He cares so much about his reputation, so how can he let my parents know? Even if he goes to look for Second Aunt-in-law, she won't give him any money."

"Why? I feel that Second Aunt-in-law likes him the most," Qiao Mei asked curiously.

Every time Kong Lu came, Second Aunt-in-law would treat him to good food and drinks, and just short of giving him the most precious things in the house.

#### Chapter 448: You Are a Real Eyesore

“But if he really tries to get money from Second Aunt-in-law, she won’t give it to him. She is famous for being stingy,” Xia He explained.

Qiao Mei nodded. From the looks of it, Kong Lu could only pray for himself.

When they got home, Xia Zhe was no longer at home. He heard that Xia Wen wanted to discuss the renovation of the courtyard house with him, and he would not be returning at night.

“Where did the two of you go? I was so worried. It’s already so dark outside. You can’t come back so late next time,” Liu Fen said sternly as she stood at the door with her hands on her hips.

Qiao Mei and Xia He looked at each other and smiled. Sometimes, Qiao Mei felt that Liu Fen was more like her mother-in-law from the way she cared and worried about her. However, based on Qiao Mei’s personality, Xu Lan still suited her better.

If Liu Fen was really Qiao Mei’s mother-in-law, Qiao Mei would probably have to listen to her talk about being obedient and virtuous every day. She would have to stay at home every day to take care of her children and do housework. Then, she would really have no freedom at all.

“We won’t dare to do it again!” Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Liu Fen quickly noticed the stains on Qiao Mei’s dress. The hem of her dress was covered in dirt from sitting on the street earlier.

“Did you go to work in the fields? Why are your clothes so dirty?” Liu Fen asked curiously.

“No, we ran into a lunatic on the way and I dirtied my clothes. It’s fine.” Qiao Mei casually patted the dust off her body and wanted to go back to the room to change.

Liu Fen suddenly grabbed Qiao Mei’s shoulder and asked nervously, “Lunatic! I just know I shouldn’t have let you go out! Did you fall down! Are you alright! What about the babies! Are the babies alright!”

Qiao Mei originally felt fine, but almost had a fright because of Liu Fen’s reaction.

Liu Fen immediately criticized Xia He and said, “How did you take care of Qiao Mei? You’re the elder sister, how can you let her be in such danger? Seriously, you can’t go out in the future! It’s really too dangerous!”

Xia He listened quietly to Liu Fen’s lecture. Liu Fen had never liked her since she was young and she was already used to it. This was because she was not as elegant and presentable as other girls, nor was she gentle and virtuous. She learned martial arts and had a bad temper.

“It’s not elder sister’s fault. It was all an accident...” Qiao Mei said.

Liu Fen said to Qiao Mei with heartache, “Hurry up and go change your clothes! Check for injuries!”

Xia He winked at Qiao Mei to ask her to be at ease and go ahead boldly. She would just turn a deaf ear to these words and did not care about it at all.

Qiao Mei made her way upstairs quietly. She quickly washed up and changed into a clean set of clothes before grabbing her gift for Xia He. She then hurriedly went downstairs to save Xia He, who was still being reprimanded.

“What’s that smell, Second Aunt-in-law! Are you cooking something?” Qiao Mei asked as she pointed at the kitchen.

Liu Fen stood on the spot and thought for a moment. She suddenly slapped her thigh and said, “Oh! My chicken soup!” She quickly ran into the kitchen to prepare dinner.

Qiao Mei hid Xia He's gift behind her back so that Xia He would not notice it.

Xia He slumped on the sofa and said weakly, "She's too eloquent."

Qiao Mei went forward and hugged Xia He's arm as she said, "Elder sister, look at what this is!"

What Xia He saw was a simple cloth bag. However, since it was a gift from Qiao Mei, she would like it no matter what it was.

"What is it?" Xia He asked.

"Elder sister, open it and take a look." Qiao Mei looked at Xia He expectantly. This was the first time she was giving Xia He a gift and she wondered if Xia He would like it.

She slowly opened the cloth bag. There were two beautiful dresses and a nice-looking shirt inside.

"Ah! They're so beautiful!" Xia He said in pleasant surprise.

There was a bright red dress. When Qiao Mei wore something similar the other day, she saw Xia He looking at her a few times and knew that Xia He must like it. There was also a long blue dress embroidered with lotuses. The collar of the shirt was also embroidered with lotuses.

Xia He carefully touched the lotuses on the clothes. Putting aside the material and style of the clothes, there was a lot of effort put into the embroidery.

The lotuses looked so real. Coupled with the blue dress, it looked like she was wearing a pond on her when she walked under the sun. It was really lifelike and ingenious.

Even the embroiderers in the capital had far inferior skills when compared with Qiao Mei.

Chapter 449: Death Is Near

“Elder sister, are you stunned?” Qiao Mei smiled at Xia He.

Xia He said agitatedly, “Yes, I’ve never received such a thoughtful gift! I really like it so much. Your embroidery is so good that I can’t bear to wear it.”

“When I made it, I didn’t know what you liked, so I embroidered lotuses to match your name. Don’t worry and wear them boldly. I’ll make clothes for you every year!” Qiao Mei said.

Xia He folded the clothes one by one and carefully put them away. These were all her treasures. She would only wear these handmade clothes from Qiao Mei at formal occasions.

“Knock, knock, knock!”

They heard loud knocks on the door.

Xia He stood up and said, “I’ll open the door. Is Xiao Zhe back? Didn’t you say that he won’t be back tonight?”

Qiao Mei did not fight with Xia He to open the door. She sat obediently on the sofa and thought about clothes that she could make for Xia He next time.

In the entire Xia family, Xia He was the person she liked the most, followed by Aunt. These two people treated her extremely well and thought of her first whenever they had nice clothes and delicious food, making her feel the warmth of having a family and siblings.

In her other life, she was a loner and did not even have a good friend. Her parents did not get along and always quarreled over trivial matters, so she had always yearned for a happy family and a brother to take care of her.

In this life, she must be nice to the people who treated her well and not leave any regrets!



There was suddenly a commotion at the door. No one knew who Xia He was arguing with, but it sounded like a woman.

Qiao Mei walked towards the door curiously and saw the disheveled Qian'e glaring at Xia He with her hands on her hips.

"What's wrong, elder sister?" Qiao Mei walked forward and asked.

"This woman said that she's looking for you. How shameless of her to make her way to our house," Xia He said as she rolled her eyes.

When Qian'e saw Qiao Mei coming out, she calmed down. She did not come here to cause trouble, but rather, she had something to tell Qiao Mei. Earlier on the streets, she had only slandered Qiao Mei because she failed to suppress her feelings.

Qiao Mei sized up Qian'e for a while and asked, "What's the matter?"

"It's about the He family." Qian'e looked at Qiao Mei calmly.

Qiao Mei turned sideways and said to Qian'e, "Come in and talk. There are too many people outside."

Qian'e nodded. When she walked in, she deliberately avoided Xia He. The kick that Xia He gave her just now was still hurting.

Xia He grabbed Qiao Mei anxiously and whispered, "Are you crazy! Do you know that you're inviting a wolf into your house? How are you going to explain it if she causes trouble at home? It's fine if nothing happens to you, but if anything happens, father will definitely blame me. What if I can't subdue her!"

Of course, Xia Mao would not bear to teach Qiao Mei a lesson. He would only punish Xia He.

Qiao Mei smiled and said, "Don't worry, I'll bear the responsibility if anything happens. Besides, elder sister is so powerful and you're a heroine! How is it possible that you can't subdue her? I trust elder sister!" Qiao Mei smiled innocently and spoke sweetly, as if her mouth was laced with honey.

Xia He blushed and said, "Alright, alright, alright. I can't win an argument with you. Let's go in. I'm guessing she won't dare to play any tricks."

Qian'e stood in the middle of the living room without moving. In her current state, she was not in the mood to discuss anything.

"Where's the bathroom?" Qian'e asked bluntly.

Qiao Mei pointed at the room at the end of the first floor and said, "That's the one. Go and clean up."

Qian'e swaggered off to the bathroom as if she was at her own house.

When Liu Fen heard the commotion, she also came out of the kitchen. She held on to the kitchen knife and asked warily, "What happened... Did someone come in!"

Xia He and Qiao Mei were stunned to the spot when they saw Liu Fen's stance. Although Liu Fen was timid, she was still protective of the kids at home.

The two of them laughed loudly, making Liu Fen very confused.

"It's fine, Second Aunt-in-law. It's an acquaintance of mine who has some matters to settle and is here to talk. It's not some bad guy," Qiao Mei said as she wiped the tears from the corners of her eyes.

When Liu Fen heard that there was no danger, she returned to the kitchen, feeling very confused as she continued cooking.

Qian'e was washing her hair in the bathroom when she heard the laughter outside the door. She smiled mockingly at her reflection in the mirror.

“You can still laugh when death is near. How bold,” Qian’e muttered to herself slowly.

#### Chapter 450: Coming to Make a Deal

When she saw Qian’e walk out of the bathroom, Xia He became more vigilant and stood in front of Qiao Mei to prevent Qian’e from getting close to her.

Qian’e felt a little sad when she saw the way Xia He protected Qiao Mei. When they were young, Xia He had also protected her like this once, but now it was someone else.

Qian’e laughed self-deprecatingly and said, “Elder sister Xia He, there’s no need to be so guarded against me. I’m here to talk about something, not to fight.”

Xia He looked at Qian’e doubtfully. However, Qian’e did indeed look much better than earlier.

“Sit down and talk,” Qiao Mei said.

Qian’e sat opposite Qiao Mei and crossed her legs as she looked at her surroundings. The house was very clean and there was the fragrance of food coming from the kitchen.

If Qiao Mei had not appeared, then all these might have been hers.

“No, you’re thinking too much.” Qiao Mei looked at Qian’e coldly.

Qian’e was stunned for a moment before she laughed loudly and said, “You can actually read my mind? How interesting. As expected of someone who defeated the He family.”

Seeing that Qian’e seemed about to go crazy again, Xia He became nervous again. Now that she was the only one in the family who could protect Qiao Mei, she had to be vigilant at all times.

“Don’t tell me you come here just to take a look,” Qiao Mei asked.

Qian’e shook her head and said, “Of course not. It’s because He Mei told me something that I thought would interest you.”

She did hate Qiao Mei for marrying Xia Zhe and becoming a member of the Xia family, but in comparison, she hated He Mei even more. If not for He Mei setting her up and making her suffer every step of the way, she would not have ended up in this sorry state.

It was all thanks to He Mei that she became like this today!

Now that the He family had fallen from grace, she felt extremely happy and just short of buying fireworks to celebrate.

“What does the He family’s issues have to do with our Xia family?” Qiao Mei asked Qian’e casually.

Xia He could not help but cover her face and laugh. Qiao Mei’s attitude was becoming more and more like that of a member of the Xia family. She was almost on par with Xia Wen.

“What if I tell you that He Mei wants to harm you?” Qian’e said.

“Harm me? Do I have any enmity with her? What reason does she have to harm me?” Qiao Mei asked curiously.

“Just the fact that you’re Xia Zhe’s wife is enough to make He Mei want to kill you. Now that the He family’s status is unstable, if she can have some form of relationship with Xia Zhe, won’t it be easy for the He family to rise from the dead? After all, the Xia family would not want their daughter-in-law’s family to be guilty of a crime,” Qian’e said.

Xia He slammed the table angrily and scolded, “The He family is really a nest of snakes and rats. I never expected He Mei to have such an idea!”

Qiao Mei was not that shocked. After all, the He family had been targeting her for a long time. Even if He Ning went to jail, as long as they still had people outside, they would continue to cause trouble for the Xia family.

Qiao Mei picked up the teacup from the coffee table and took a sip. "So? What do you want me to do?"

Qian'e was a little surprised. She did not expect Qiao Mei to really be able to read her mind. She had thought that this was just a country bumpkin who relied on Xia Zhe and some luck to bring down the He family. She did not expect Qiao Mei to be such a shrewd person.

"...I hope you can help me get rid of He Mei so that the He family won't have a chance to make a comeback!" Qian'e said.

Qiao Mei only knew what Qian'e had experienced, but she did not know what kind of grudge Qian'e had with He Mei. She had no reason to trust a person who spoke like a lunatic.

"What's your relationship with He Mei?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"We were classmates," Qian'e said frankly.

Many people knew about this and she had no intention of hiding it.

"I don't believe you. You were at loggerheads with me not long ago. I don't believe that you want to join forces with me now. Besides, you've known He Mei for so long. What if you're the person He Mei sent to harm me?" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Xia He stared fixedly at Qian'e, not daring to look away even an inch. It seemed that she must give Xia Zhe a good scolding when he returned! He had incurred so many romantic debts! He even caused Qiao Mei to have to deal with these matters!

She must also tell her grandfather and father about it so that they could teach Xia Zhe a lesson!