

Fat Wife 471

Chapter 471: Checking Out the Site

“Eldest Aunt doesn’t look like that kind of person to me. She looks quite good-natured,” Qiao Mei said.

Xia He looked at Qiao Mei in shock. “Since when could Xia Xiu be described as good-natured?” Eldest Aunt was very famous for her interrogation skills. When they were young, they dared to lie to Xia Jun and Xia Mao, but they would never dare to lie to Xia Xiu. The lies would be discovered by Xia Xiu in less than two sentences and they would get beaten up after that.

“Maybe Eldest Aunt likes you. She is definitely much stricter with us,” Xia He said.

The two of them arrived at the lake where Xia He and Kong Lu had quarreled previously and carefully sized up the surrounding environment.

“Elder sister, look at the shore over there. Isn’t it a lot more hidden?” Qiao Mei said as she pointed at the opposite bank.

The shore opposite was filled with reeds, but it was impossible to see how deep the water was or if there was any silt.

“It’s better not to go over there. It’s not very safe. The east side is not too bad. It’s connected to the area with reeds and there’s also an open area on the side. When it’s time, you can come out from there,” Xia He whispered.

“Then what about you, elder sister?” Qiao Mei asked.

They were now standing on the south side of the lake, where the boatmen anchored their boats. If they wanted to go onto the shore, they had to go to the west side.

“Have you forgotten? I came up from the west side once before. It’s very obscure over there. When the time comes, I’ll get Xiao Zhe to arrange for a car to pick me up and take me away. This place is very close to Aunt’s other house. The He family probably doesn’t know about that house,” Xia He said.

“That’s good. I wonder if Qian’e is a good swimmer,” Qiao Mei said.

“I’m the one who taught Qian’e how to swim. When she steers the boat close to the east side, I’ll pretend to be pushed into the water by her. With my ability, I’ll be able to reach the west side quickly. At that time, you can come out and lie down on the shore. We’ll arrange for two people to pretend to be passersby and also get Aunt’s ambulance to get here a little earlier. This way, you won’t have to suffer too long from the cold,” Xia He said after some thought.

Xia He had been worried about Qiao Mei’s health. Even if she pretended to be Qiao Mei and was the one to fall into the water, Qiao Mei still had to be totally drenched. Otherwise, she would not be able to convince all the onlookers. If it did not look real enough, the He family would know that she was just putting on an act once they investigated further.

She did not know if Qiao Mei would be able to take it if she needed to wear wet clothes for too long.

“I’m fine, elder sister. Don’t worry,” Qiao Mei said with a smile.

The “air conditioner” bangle she bought at the antique market the last time not only kept Qiao Mei cool in the heat, but it could also keep Qiao Mei’s body warm. However, when touched, it felt no different from a normal bangle. It just seemed to add a shield around Qiao Mei’s body to regulate her body temperature.

With such a thing in her possession, she was no longer afraid that any change in temperature would make her sick.

She just did not know how long this bangle could last. After all, the energy of the bangle was different from that of plants. No matter how good the quality of the jade, there was a limit to it. It was better not to use such a good thing unless it was absolutely necessary.

While jade stones were still cheap now, she wanted to go and look for more when she had time.

“Come, let’s go back and talk to Qian’e. We should do this as quickly as possible. Otherwise, if this drags on, I’m afraid the He family will just arrange for someone else to do it,” Xia He said.

Qiao Mei nodded and said, "Yes, let's go back."

The two of them calculated the time and returned to Xia Fang's house. As soon as they entered the main entrance of the apartment complex, they saw Qian'e waiting in the distance.

Qian'e immediately rushed up, pointed at Qiao Mei and scolded, "How dare you come here! How dare you enter this courtyard door!"

The neighbors around them were also attracted by the sound of Qian'e yelling at someone and they all surrounded Qiao Mei.

"Why can't I come! This is my aunt's house, why can't I come here!" Qiao Mei shouted back self-righteously.

Qian'e looked like she even wanted to go forward and hit Qiao Mei, but she was pulled back by the neighbors.

"This Qian'e is acting up again. Xia He, quickly bring your sister-in-law home!"

"That's right! Go quickly! Don't stay here!"

"Hurry up and go! Don't take it to heart. She's sick, so don't lower yourself to her level!"

"Don't leave! If you're so capable, don't run away!" Qian'e shouted.

With the neighbors' help in shielding them, Qiao Mei and Xia He managed to run home quickly. They then secretly leaned against the windowsill and looked downstairs. Qian'e was still arguing with the neighbors. It was not a problem for her to fight with 10 people at a time.

"This Qian'e is really amazing. You've got to admire her verbal skills," Xia He said.

“It’s probably well-honed from arguing with these people. They’ll disperse after a while,” Qiao Mei said.

Chapter 472: Talking Irresponsibly

Not long after, it became much quieter downstairs as the crowd gradually dispersed.

The moment Qian’e entered her house, she was slapped by Zhao Ni. She did not understand what was going on at first, but when she saw her uncle and auntie in the living room, she knew that Zhao Ni had no choice.

Zhao Ni’s eyes were filled with heartache, but she had no choice. If she wanted to continue living in the Qian family, Qian’e would have to suffer through this.

“Oh, you’re all here,” Qian’e said softly.

“We heard that you abused your grandmother yesterday, so we all came over to see what was going on. Sister-in-law, please give us an explanation,” said the Qian family’s second son.

Qian’e smiled disdainfully. It turned out that the old lady had called up her son to complain and they were all here to denounce her.

“Well... I’ve already hit her. Let’s just forget about this matter. Kids are insensible, so let’s not take it to heart. It’s all my fault. I had something on last night and came back late, so I didn’t have time to cook,” Zhao Ni said ingratiatingly.

Even if she wanted to compromise, it would not end well. The Qian family did not care about Zhao Ni and Qian’e at all. In the past, they depended on her good reputation to make money, but now they only saw her as a puppet that could earn money.

“Don’t listen to their nonsense! They often starve me!” Old Madam Qian cried out.

When the Qian family's second son heard this, he stood up angrily and reached out to slap Qian'e. Zhao Ni stepped between them and let herself get slapped instead.

"Mother!" Qian'e quickly helped Zhao Ni up.

"You shameless woman, you still want to protect her. Get lost! You don't have the final say in this family!" said the Qian family's second son as he pointed at Zhao Ni.

Qian'e pointed at the Qian family's second son and said, "This is our house! If your heart aches so much for the old lady, then bring her back with you! Look at how fat your mother is! Then look at my mother and me! Who do you think is the one who's being mistreated! If you think we can't take care of her well, then bring her back! Who likes to take care of her!"

The Qian family's second son stood rooted to the spot, not knowing how to retort.

Old Madam Qian's usual hobbies were watching television, eating a lot of food, and occasionally listening to songs on the radio. Other than sleeping and going to the bathroom, she usually just sat cross-legged on the sofa and did not move, like a parasite growing on the sofa.

Moreover, she did not like to clean herself. Sometimes, she would not even wash her hair even when there were bugs in it. If her hands were dirty from eating, she would just wipe them on the sofa. The entire living room was filled with an awful stench.

In addition, she had not worked for so many years and did not have any retirement funds. She was just a parasite that they were feeding at home. This was the reason why her second son's family was unwilling to take care of her. His own son was already an idle and lazy person. If they added another troublesome old lady to the family, they would really have a difficult time!

Back then, Old Madam Qian kept making a fuss about how her sons were unfilial and even went to Qian Wang's workplace to lie down at the front door and act shamelessly. As her eldest son, Qian Wang had no choice but to bring her home and worship her like an ancestor. He himself was not at home all the time, so Qian'e and Zhao Ni bore the brunt of his action.

"You little girl, how dare you talk back to me!" the Qian family's second son said as he pointed at Qian'e.

Qian'e smiled mockingly and said, "Better don't beat me to death. If you beat me to death, then the old lady won't have anything to eat anymore. When that time comes, you guys will have to be responsible for her care. Don't blame me for not reminding you."

"Hey! What are you saying!" said the Qian family's second son.

Qian'e did not care about how they all looked at her. She helped Zhao Ni back into the room, locked the door and did not go out again. No matter how much they shouted outside, the two women ignored them.

"Xiao'e, it's been so hard on you..." Zhao Ni said with reddened eyes.

"If you had gotten a divorce back then, would your life still be so difficult?" Qian'e said to Zhao Ni expressionlessly.

Zhao Ni did not know how to tell her daughter about the "hardships" she had gone through in those days. Back then, she had also thought about getting a divorce, but Qian Wang was making a lot of money at work. At that time, Old Master Qian was still alive and the family was still quite well-to-do. Her daughter was also well-educated and was considered one of the most outstanding among her peers. At that time, Zhao Ni was the target of many people's envy.

No one knew about all her hardships behind this front. She could forget about the insults from her in-laws, but even Qian Wang was a heartless person. Every time he got drunk, he would come home and beat her up. Sometimes, he would even beat her until she was unable to get out of bed. Even so, she could not bear to get a divorce for the sake of her wealth and status. She did not expect her decision to end up hurting Qian'e.

Chapter 473: Unable to Distinguish Colors

"The commotion outside won't last long. They're just putting on a show for that old woman. They think that this house belongs to the old woman and they want to get a share of her assets after she dies," Qian'e said mockingly.

It was true that this house was registered under Old Master Qian's name, but after Old Master Qian passed away, he had left the house to Qian'e. This was because Qian'e was the only person who accompanied him during the last few months of his life. Qian'e was also his favorite grandchild and he felt that those were the happiest months of his life.

"Then you don't mind?" Zhao Ni asked.

"No. These things will pass quickly, won't they? We just need to endure it until she dies," Qian'e said.

Zhao Ni hid behind and sobbed uncontrollably. She did not understand how such an outstanding and sensible child from back then had become like this.

Perhaps everyone was at fault.

The commotion outside the door quickly quietened down. The Qian family's second son and his family left. Qian'e also returned to her room to prepare the things she needed for tomorrow.

On the other side, Qiao Mei and Xia He were still sitting at home mixing the colors to make fake blood plasma.

"Mei Mei, this is already the 12th time you're mixing the color. Why aren't you satisfied? Is there any difference between this color and the color of blood?" Xia He said as she looked at Qiao Mei helplessly.

"Blood is dark red in color. Yours is too bright and it's obvious that it's fake," Qiao Mei said.

"Aunt is a doctor in the hospital. Can't she just go and get some real blood? Why go through so much trouble?" Xia He said.

The current level of medical care was still lagging behind. Who knew if the blood would contain any germs or bacteria? If anyone should catch an incurable disease from it, the gains would not make up for the losses. It was better to be careful.

“No, I’ve already troubled Aunt enough. Besides, the blood bank keeps records of the amount of blood they have. What if it was traced back to Aunt?” Qiao Mei found a random reason to brush off the suggestion.

After the two of them tried 23 times, they finally succeeded. Qiao Mei quickly made a large amount of fake blood plasma according to this ratio. The fake bloodstains in the park would definitely be cleaned up by their people. What she needed to do was to spread the fake blood on her legs to make it look more realistic.

“Elder sister, do you think this looks real?” Qiao Mei asked as she dripped a drop of fake blood onto her palm.

“I think it really looks alike. Can you stop torturing me?” Xia He said with a long face.

Xia He held up two glasses. This one was also red, and the other one was also red. What was so different about them?

She had never heard of those colors that Qiao Mei mentioned, like dark red, cinnabar red or rouge red.

“Elder sister, you must ensure your own safety tomorrow. Don’t get yourself hurt because of me,” Qiao Mei said worriedly.

Xia He looked at Qiao Mei steadfastly and said, “Don’t worry, I’m a strong swimmer. This depth won’t be a problem for me. Don’t worry.”

“Then will brother-in-law be there?” Qiao Mei asked.

Xia Zhe had informed Kong Lu about this matter. After all, Kong Lu was still his elder sister’s husband and it was better for him to be present at such a dangerous moment.

“I don’t know. What can he do when he’s here? Come to watch the fun? He might get scared when he sees me jumping into the water,” Xia He said.

Ever since that day when she and Qiao Mei were misunderstood by Qian'e on the street, she finally realized that Kong Lu was not a reliable person. It was useless even if she gave him endless chances.

Even Xia Zhe knew that he had to protect his wife and children and his family first. Kong Lu only knew to draw a clear line between them and was so worried that family matters would drag him down.

For a person who only cared about himself and not at all about his wife in times of danger, it was useless even if he seemed to have turned over a new leaf. Xia He had waited for him for many years in the past and she had no time for him now.

After Kong Lu went back, he asked around and managed to pool together 1,000 dollars. He took out some money for Kong Li and himself to pay for food and wrapped the rest of the money in a cloth bag. Although he had not managed to gather the amount that Xia He mentioned, he had at least done his best. He would hand over this amount of money to Xia He first and then he would try and pool together the rest of the money later.

Kong Lu arrived at Xia Fang's house nervously, but he hesitated outside the door for a long time. He did not know how to face Xia He. She must be very disappointed in him after what happened the last time. He was too embarrassed to let her know that he had not managed to raise the full amount of money.

Chapter 474: Can't Go Back

"Hey! Why are you standing at the door!" Xia Fang had just returned from work and stood on the stairs looking at Kong Lu in surprise.

"I... I'm here to deliver the money..." Kong Lu said with his head down.

Xia Fang sized up Kong Lu carefully, took out her key to open the door and brought him into the house.

"Oh, brother-in-law is here," Qiao Mei said.

As soon as Xia Fang entered, she saw red bottles all over the ground. Those who did not know better would have thought that it was fruit juice.

“Mei Mei, what are you doing?” Xia Fang looked at Qiao Mei in puzzlement.

“I’m studying how to make fake blood plasma. Aunt, come into the room with me and see if this color looks real enough. You can’t see it clearly outside.” Qiao Mei winked at Xia Fang.

Xia Fang immediately understood what Qiao Mei meant. She held Qiao Mei’s hand and entered the room, leaving the living room to Xia He and Kong Lu.

“What are you doing here? Did my younger brother say something to you?” Xia He asked casually.

“I’m here to deliver the money...” Kong Lu said as he gripped the cloth bag in his hand tightly.

Xia He looked at the thickness of the bag in his hands and knew that there was not enough money. If he had managed to prepare the full amount, he would have come looking for her arrogantly.

“Your mother is willing to fork out the money?” Xia He said deliberately.

Kong Lu choked when he heard the question and he did not know how to explain the situation. He stammered as he looked at Xia He and said, “I... I borrowed some money from a few friends, took the money that Kong Li had left, and added the subsidy I received when I came to the capital for field work. It’s a total of... just... just 1,000 dollars...”

His voice became softer and softer towards the end and Xia He almost could not hear him clearly.

“When are you going to give me the rest of the money?” Xia He asked.

“I’ll try my best to pay it back. Can you tell Aunt to give me more time? I’ll definitely pay it back as soon as possible!” Kong Lu said.

Xia He did not make things difficult for Kong Lu anymore. Even if she forced him, there was no way he could fork out the money.

“Give me whatever you have first. Think of a way to get the rest and give it to me within a month. No later than that. Aunt can’t wait that long. You can pay back the money you owe me within half a year. You can go and ask your younger brothers. Ask them to pay back the money they borrowed,” Xia He said.

Kong Lu nodded silently. He also knew that his younger brothers all had money. Actually, he also knew very well how much Xia He had sacrificed for this family over the years. It was just that he did not want to admit that he was a good-for-nothing and so he had ignored everything.

“Is there anything else?” Xia He looked at Kong Lu and asked.

“Your younger brother had told me about what happened to all of you recently. I’ll drive to the west side of the lake to pick you up tomorrow morning. Give me your change of clothes so that I can put them in the car. This way, it’ll be more convenient for you,” Kong Lu said earnestly.

Xia He did not expect Kong Lu to have such a thoughtful side. She was usually the one who had to take care of such things.

Xia He went into the room to get the clothes she had prepared and handed them to Kong Lu. “I’ll go to the lake first tomorrow. When the time comes, you just need to pick me up on the west side. Don’t worry about anything else. You just need to pick me up and leave. Do you understand?”

Xia He was afraid that Kong Lu might cause their plan to fail and make all their efforts wasted.

Kong Lu nodded. Xia Zhe had told him everything in detail and he had memorized every single bit.

However, he was not used to seeing the indifferent Xia He in front of him. In the past, Xia He would be in high spirits whenever she saw him and she always wanted to give him all the good things in the house. Now, she only looked impatient when she saw him.

“Xiao He, can’t we go back to the way we were?” Kong Lu asked Xia He sadly.

“There’s no turning back after so many things have happened. You’re unable to restrain your mother and sister from behaving badly, so don’t blame me for not returning to the Kong family. All these years, I’ve done everything I can for your family. Please be merciful and let me off. I don’t want to go back to such a life anymore. I’ve already applied to be transferred back to the capital to work,” Xia He said calmly.

Kong Lu did not dare to continue asking. He already understood that it was impossible for them to go back to the way they were.

“Then... then I’ll go back now. You must be careful tomorrow. Don’t push yourself too hard,” Kong Lu said.

“I know. Thank you.” Xia He turned around and stopped looking at Kong Lu.

Kong Lu placed the cloth bag containing the money on the coffee table disappointedly and left with the things that Xia He had given him.

Everyone had prepared what they needed for tomorrow. Xia Zhe also did what Qiao Mei asked and found people he could trust to protect Qiao Mei. He also asked them to bring their female relatives to come along and help out just in case.

Everything was ready and they were all just waiting to put on a big show tomorrow.

Chapter 475: The Show Begins

Qiao Mei and Xia He woke up before dawn to wash up. The two of them put on the same clothes and shoes and even combed their hair the same way.

“Qiao Mei, it’s not that I want to say something disheartening, but look at my figure. Is there any part that’s similar to yours?” Xia He looked at herself in the mirror with a feeling of inferiority.

As Xia He had been a dancer for a long time, she was especially strict with her diet. She rarely ate a lot. Although she was as slender as Qiao Mei, there was not a part of her body that was curvy or shapely as was common on women.

Xia He looked at her own chest indignantly. Initially, she did not think that there was anything bad about it, but now that she compared herself with Qiao Mei, she found her skinny figure unbearable to look at.

Qiao Mei also felt a little helpless about this matter. Ever since she got pregnant, her chest had become bigger and bigger and she always felt very embarrassed when she walked around with her bouncy bosom.

“Why don’t... why don’t I wrap it with a piece of cloth?” Qiao Mei looked at Xia He sincerely.

Xia He quickly shook her head and said, “Let me boost mine so that it looks bigger. Don’t make yours smaller. What if my nephew runs out of milk, hahahaha!”

Qiao Mei’s face flushed red. Xia Zhe had said a few naughty things to her last night and he had also teased her like this.

“Oh my, you’re so embarrassed! Hurry up and help me. Also, help me put on that fake stomach so that it looks more realistic,” Xia He said.

They only just made that fake stomach last night. It was just a cloth bag with some cotton inside. There was nothing very special about it.

“Isn’t it too difficult to swim when you have all these on you? These will be very heavy once they get soaked in water,” Qiao Mei said with a frown.

“It’s fine. This bit of weight is nothing. Back then, we used to practice with sandbags. Even diving is not a problem for me. Don’t worry about me,” Xia He said.

Seeing how confident Xia He was, Qiao Mei did not hesitate anymore. Once she was ready, she went out first. She and Qian’e had agreed to meet downstairs at 6 a.m.

“Elder sister, I’m leaving now. You be careful,” Qiao Mei whispered.

Xia He nodded and sent Qiao Mei out of the door before secretly observing her from the windowsill.

Qiao Mei slowly made her way downstairs. As soon as she went out, she saw the cold-faced Qian’e.

“Qiao Mei, let’s have a chat,” Qian’e said.

“I have nothing to say to you. I still have to go to the market now. Don’t block the way.” Qiao Mei turned to leave after saying that.

Qian’e took a big stride forward and blocked Qiao Mei’s path. She pointed at Qiao Mei and said, “Today, let’s talk about all our past grudges and settle this score properly.”

When the neighbors going to the market saw this, they whispered among themselves. Could it be that Qian’e had a change of character today? She could actually speak normally for once.

“Xia Zhe’s wife, don’t listen to her. Everything she says is fake!”

“That’s right, Xia Zhe’s wife. Come back quickly. Do you really believe what she said?”

“Listen to auntie and go home quickly. Don’t go with her.” Everyone was trying to persuade Qiao Mei to go home quickly.

Qian’e glared fiercely at the neighbors around her and shouted, “You nosy old fogies! You should take care of yourselves first! Figure out your own family matters first before you stick your noses in mine!”

“Hey! How can you say that!” An elderly woman was exasperated and wanted to go forward to argue with Qian’e.

Qiao Mei quickly stopped the elderly woman and said, "Auntie, don't be angry. She just wants to talk to me and won't hurt me."

"I just want to clarify everything with you today. I want you to resolve everything that you owe me. Your Xia family is a big family and doesn't lack money, right? You all played a part in me becoming like this. We have to settle these things properly," Qian'e said.

At the mention of money, everyone understood what was going on. Everyone knew that the Qian family was short of money. In order to earn money, Qian'e worked very hard. Yet, in the end, Old Madam Qian still did not like her and she still had to suffer humiliation at home.

"Alright, then I'll settle this score with you today. I, Qiao Mei, won't owe you anything," Qiao Mei said.

"Let's talk as we walk. There are so many nosy people in this place. I'm afraid that they'll say that I'm bullying you." Qian'e glared at the people around her.

Qian'e walked in front and Qiao Mei followed closely behind her.

Chapter 476: Switching Places

After leaving the courtyard, the two of them did not dare to relax and kept walking into the distance. They did not know where the He family members might have eyes.

Xia He watched as the crowd downstairs gradually dispersed. She went back into the room, put on a trench coat and went out. Qiao Mei had specially made this trench coat, which was as long as a dress. She had never seen this style of clothing before and did not even know what it was called. It seemed that Qiao Mei should consider opening a clothing shop in the future.

With such dressmaking skills, Qiao Mei could even make her performance costumes for her!

As soon as she went downstairs, a neighbor passing by asked, "Oh, Xiao He, what are you wearing? I've never seen something like this before!"

“Oh this. It’s something that my sister-in-law made for me. Our Qiao Mei is really skillful and knows how to make everything!” Xia He said proudly.

“Then where are you going?” the neighbor said.

“I’m going to buy some breakfast. I’m too lazy to cook in the morning. You must be done shopping,” Xia He said with a smile.

“That’s right. My children kept asking for buns, so I went out to buy them. However, I heard from others just now that Qian’e took Qiao Mei somewhere. I hope there’s nothing wrong?” the neighbor said worriedly.

Xia He pretended to look at the neighbor in surprise and said, “What! Then I’ll quickly get someone to look for her! Thank you!”

With that, Xia He ran towards the main entrance. She and Qiao Mei had agreed to swap identities in the public toilet in the park. No one would notice that it was two different people going in and coming out.

Qian’e stood at the door of the public toilet and looked at the clock on the wall impatiently. Qiao Mei had already been in there for half an hour, but Xia He was not here yet. She hoped nothing had gone wrong.

Xia He quietly walked to the bushes and looked around. Then, she lowered her head and walked past Qian’e, bumping forcefully into her.

Qian’e held on to her shoulder in pain and shouted, “Can’t you see me standing here! Are you blind!”

“I’m sorry, I’m sorry. I’m really in a hurry. I’m sorry!” Xia He hurriedly apologized and ran into the public toilet.

“How unlucky!” Qian’e grimaced and rubbed her shoulder. She already knew that the person just now was Xia He, but she did not dare to make it too obvious because there might be people from the He family watching her.

Qiao Mei pinched her nose and squatted inside the toilet cubicle in the corner. The stench was unbearable. The current technology was not so advanced yet. The public toilets outside were all dry toilets with holes dug in the ground. There would be people who would go and dig out the feces at fixed timings.

Fortunately, Qiao Mei's bangle could help her block out most of the stench, but she could still smell it.

"Mei Mei! Ugh... Mei Mei... Where are you?" Xia He pinched her nose and whispered.

The moment she entered, she felt like throwing up. She did not know how long Qiao Mei had been waiting here.

"I'm here! Elder sister, you're finally here!" Qiao Mei said animatedly.

"I think it's a wrong decision to meet in the toilet. This smell is really really unbearable." Xia He looked at her surroundings in disdain.

"It can't be helped. Xia Zhe told me before that most of the He family's subordinates are men. They won't be able to go into the female toilet to monitor us. This place is the best choice," Qiao Mei said firmly.

"That's good, but this smell..." Xia He looked at Qiao Mei with some heartache. She knew that Qiao Mei was different from ordinary pregnant women. It seemed that her pregnancy symptoms were not that obvious, but it was still no small feat for her to wait here for so long.

Xia He took off her trench coat and put it on for Qiao Mei. She instructed, "You have to be careful, understand? Don't be rash and remember to take good care of yourself."

Qiao Mei nodded obediently and said, "I understand, elder sister. Don't worry."

"Are you done yet! You've been in there for so long. Are you eating sh*t! Come out quickly, it's not like I'm going to kill you!" Qian'e shouted impatiently with her hands on her hips.

Xia He took a long look at Qiao Mei before turning around to leave.

“Why are you rushing me! You’re the one who eats sh*t! Aren’t I out now?” Xia He said as she came out holding her stomach.

“Alright, let’s go quickly. What a hassle,” Qian’e said impatiently.

Xia He bent down slightly and held her stomach as she followed behind Qian’e. She tried her best to lower her face so that no one could see her clearly.

Qian’e also walked much slower than usual, afraid that Xia He would accidentally fall and give herself away.

Chapter 477: I Want You to Be Buried With the Dead

“Wait for me here. I’ll go buy two tickets,” Qian’e said to Xia He.

Xia He nodded and slowly sat down on the stool by the big tree. She had acted in many stage plays and knew the kind of angles that would make it difficult for others to see her face clearly. Even professionals would not be able to see her face clearly unless they leaned in to take a closer look.

There were not many people who came to row in the morning. Qian’e quickly bought the tickets and the two of them chose a boat to row to the center of the lake.

“We can finally talk now,” Xia He said with a sigh.

“We can’t act too normal. Otherwise, the people ashore will become suspicious when they look at us. Do you think they are using binoculars?” Qian’e asked curiously.

“If you didn’t tell them we’re going on the lake, I don’t think they would bring such a thing out. People wouldn’t expect us to be here,” Xia He said.

"I didn't tell them about my plan. I just told He Mei that her wish would come true and I didn't mention it again. When I came out this morning, I was so nervous. I used to hate Qiao Mei and could come up with loads of things to scold her. Now, I have to think about what to say when I scold her," Qian'e said helplessly.

No one would have thought that she would become good friends with Qiao Mei.

"You still have to continue scolding. Let them see that we're quarreling. Why not just let out all the frustration you've had all these years," Xia He said.

"I don't know how long I'll need to do that. I wonder if Qiao Mei is ready at her end." From time to time, Qian'e would look towards the shore in the east to see if there was anyone coming.

"It's been more than 20 minutes since we came out and came to the center of the lake. I think they're ready. It's time for us to take action," Xia He said.

Qian'e lowered her head and pondered for a long time. She recalled the past scenes of Ma San ruthlessly beating and scolding her, the cold metal bed in the hospital, the scoldings from her family all these years, and all the ridicule from her neighbors. All of these scenes were deeply engraved in her mind and she could not get them out.

She suddenly stood up, pointed at Xia He and scolded, "It's all because of you that I ended up like this! It's all because of you! If not for you, I wouldn't have been mocked! If not for you, I wouldn't have been deceived!"

"Do you know how much I want you to die! As long as you die, Xia Zhe will fall in love with me! At that time, the position of Mrs. Xia will be mine!"

"I've waited for him bitterly for so many years! How can a girl from nowhere like you snatch him away! Who do you think you are! Why don't you look at yourself in the mirror!"

Qian'e grabbed Xia He's hair agitatedly and pulled it towards the surface of the lake, causing the entire boat to rock violently.

“Look at you. You have a pretty face, don’t you! You’re a b*tch! You must have gotten pregnant to threaten Xia Zhe!”

Xia He tried her best to break free from the grip Qian’e had on her and held on tightly to the boat with both her hands. She did not expect Qian’e to be so agitated. She guessed that Qian’e must have suffered a lot over the years.

Qian’e stared at Xia He indignantly and said, “During that period of time, I was scolded every day! I was called a whore and a jinx every day. I only have myself to blame and I can’t blame anyone else, but I can’t accept it! I clearly have no intention of harming anyone! They are the ones who harm me! Why do I have to bear all of this!”

“I didn’t know you suffered so much back then.” Xia He looked up at Qian’e with a trace of pity in her eyes.

“What kind of look is this! I don’t want you to pity me! There’s nothing pitiful about me! If not for you, would I be living such a miserable life!” Qian’e said as she avoided Xia He’s gaze.

There was now a red cloth strip on a branch on the west bank. This was the signal that Kong Lu and Xia He agreed on.

Xia He slowly stood up and said, “You clearly brought this on yourself! You’re the one who did all kinds of evil and ended up like this! Who can you blame!”

Qian’e stared fixedly at Xia He and said with a strange smile, “In that case, if my child can’t be born, how can your child live in this world? Then you and your child can be buried with my child! This way, my child won’t be alone!”

“What are you doing! Don’t come over!” Xia He said nervously as she held her stomach.

“I want you to die!” Qian’e seized the opportunity and pounced on Xia He, causing the two of them to fall into the water together.

Chapter 478: Hurry Up With the Rescue

Xia He splashed and shouted in the middle of the lake. Soon, she fell silent and Qian'e slowly swam towards the shore.

At this time of the day, no one took walks or played by the lake. When the He family's subordinates saw "Qiao Mei" fall into the water, they went back to report it.

It did not take long for the lake to return to its original stillness. Xia He also slowly sneaked her way westward. As everything on her body was thoroughly soaked, her movements were much slower than usual.

When she finally reached the shore, she no longer had the strength to speak. Kong Lu quickly ran over and carried Xia He back to the car to get warm. They could not stay around for too long.

"Quickly... inform Aunt... Don't worry about me for now. Hurry up and go tell Aunt," Xia He said weakly.

Kong Lu had already informed Xia Fang the moment the two women jumped into the water. Aunt and her team were probably on their way here by now.

"Don't worry. Xia Zhe has already instructed me on these things. I'll bring you to Aunt's other house first. Don't talk anymore, just save your strength." After saying that, Kong Lu drove away from the lake.

Xia He covered herself with the blanket she had prepared in advance and fell asleep.

Qiao Mei had been hiding near the shore the entire time. From where she was, she could only hear bits and pieces of the conversation. However, the entire scene still looked very dangerous. In the end, when they tussled with each other, it had caused the boat to overturn.

"I didn't expect these two to try so hard. This is even more exciting and thrilling than what's shown in television dramas," Qiao Mei muttered softly as she hid behind a tree.

When she heard a loud splash, she hurriedly jumped into the water as well.

Qiao Mei squatted in the lake and held her breath. The lake water in the morning was still very cold. Fortunately, she had a bangle that could maintain her body temperature and it formed a small circle of light around her.

From time to time, she would poke her head out to take a breather. The original owner of the body did not have a watch and Qiao Qiang had taught her how to look at the sun to tell time. Qiao Mei raised her head and looked briefly at the position of the sun before looking at the shadows on the shore. It was time for her to climb ashore.

Qiao Mei crawled to the shore with a lot of difficulty, digging her fingers deep into the soil. She hurriedly opened the pack of fake blood plasma and poured it on her legs, then threw the rest into the lake to create an illusion. Just now, in order for it to look more real, she had even held her breath in the water for a long time, making her look pale enough to resemble a drowning person.

“Help... help me...” Qiao Mei shouted weakly towards people she saw.

As she shifted her body bit by bit, the fake blood on her legs slowly seeped into her clothes, making it look especially scary.

Xia Zhe’s people also arrived as scheduled and quickly found Qiao Mei’s location.

“Do you think that’s a person?” Sister Zhu pointed at the shore.

“Let me see... Oh my! It’s really a person! Hurry up and save her!” Sister Qin hurriedly grabbed Sister Zhu and rushed over.

“Miss! Oh my! It’s a person!”

“It’s a pregnant woman! Hurry up and save her! Save her quickly!”

The two women hurriedly ran over. Sister Zhu took off her coat and wrapped it around Qiao Mei while Sister Qin knelt on the ground and pulled Qiao Mei into her arms.

“Save me... please save me... save my children... please...” Qiao Mei said weakly as she looked at Sister Qin.

Sister Qin grabbed Qiao Mei’s hand and said, “We’ll definitely save you. Don’t worry! Sister, quickly go and get help!”

“Aye, aye! Alright! I’ll go now! You... you take good care of her. I’ll go and get help!” Sister Zhu scrambled towards the park to get help.

Although the two of them were also family members of soldiers, they did not know what it was like to fight a war. The most bloody scene they had ever seen was a pig being slaughtered in the village.

This was the first time they had seen someone’s life in danger. Even if it was fake, the “blood” on her legs and her pale face still made them tremble in fear.

“You... You hang in there... Don’t scare me... Sister has gone to call for help. Little sister, you have to hang in there.” Sister Qin hugged Qiao Mei tightly and did not let go. She was really worried about what would happen if the accident turned out to be real.

Qiao Mei secretly held Sister Qin’s hand tightly to reassure her.

When Sister Zhu went looking for help, she even fell down and scraped her knees. Her knees kept bleeding and the blood soaked through her pants.

“Help! Help save her! Someone! Help!” Sister Zhu shouted in the park and quickly attracted the attention of many people.

Chapter 479: Timely Rescue

“What’s wrong? What happened?” a passerby stopped Sister Zhu and asked.

“Over there! Someone fell into the lake! On the shore! Pregnant woman! Save her! Quickly save her!” Sister Zhu gestured as she spoke. It had all happened too suddenly and she had run too fast. She could not even speak properly by now and could only pick the important points to say.

When everyone heard this, they all ran to the lake to help. Soon, the ambulance arrived at the shore. Xia Fang jumped down and rushed to Qiao Mei’s side and looked at her nervously. She did a simple check to see if there were any external injuries.

“How are you? Are you feeling alright?” Xia Fang asked nervously.

“I... I still feel alright...” Qiao Mei said weakly.

“Stretcher! Stretcher! Someone get the stretcher!” Xia Fang shouted towards the ambulance.

The people inside used a stretcher and emergency supplies to move Qiao Mei into the ambulance and they quickly set off for the hospital.

Xia Fang held Qiao Mei’s hand tightly and said, “Everyone in this vehicle is our own people. How are you? Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere? Do you want me to do a simple checkup for you now? Are you cold? Do you need to change out of your clothes?”

Qiao Mei did not know which question to reply after listening to Xia Fang’s long list. She laughed and held Xia Fang’s hand tightly as she said, “I’m fine, Aunt. There’s no need for me to change my clothes now. It won’t make much difference. What if He Mei has spies at the hospital? I’m feeling very well. Don’t worry.”

“Then all this blood is fake, right? Are you sure?” Xia Fang asked worriedly.

Qiao Mei nodded. She did not feel any pain at all and her body felt very warm under the protection of the bangle. If there was anything uncomfortable, it was probably the fact that all her clothes were stuck to her body.

“It’s fake. Aunt, don’t worry. We’ll reach the hospital soon. You’ll know when you do more detailed checks,” Qiao Mei said with a smile.

“After we get out of the vehicle, close your eyes and don’t speak. Don’t make a sound no matter who calls out to you. Don’t worry, I’ll be around. Your Uncle Liu Yang is already waiting in the operating theater,” Xia Fang whispered.

Qiao Mei understood what she meant. She closed her eyes quietly and waited to get off the vehicle.

The lake in the park was located not too far from the hospital and they soon arrived at the entrance of the emergency department. Everyone hurriedly carried Qiao Mei down and placed her on the hospital bed. It did not take long for them to enter Operating Theater 2.

This operating theater was usually used by people in emergency situations. Ordinary surgeries were usually carried out in Operating Theater 1 and Operating Theater 3. Only if there were simply too many people and the queue was too long could they use Operating Theater 2 and Operating Theater 4 for normal surgeries.

After entering the operating theater, everyone could finally relax.

“Mei Mei, you can get up now. We’re all on the same side,” Liu Yang said with a laugh.

Qiao Mei opened her eyes tentatively. She not only saw Liu Yang, but also two young people in front of her. They should be the doctors who had pushed her in.

“Hello, I’m his son. My name is Liu Hua and this is my younger sister, Liu Wen. She’s quiet and doesn’t like to talk much,” Liu Hua said as he took off his mask.

The girl beside him also took off her mask. If not for the fact that they were of different genders, the two of them would have looked exactly the same. It was just that Liu Hua looked much more masculine, while Liu Wen was more gentle and reserved.

“Hello, I’m... you should call me sister-in-law. I’m Xia Zhe’s wife,” Qiao Mei said embarrassedly.

The two people in front of her were obviously much older than her. She was simply taking advantage of Xia Zhe’s seniority in the family if she made them call her sister-in-law.

“Yo, yo, yo, little girl, you still know how to be shy. Your aunt has prepared a set of clothes for you. Hurry up and change first. We’ll go out now.” Liu Yang and Liu Hua excused themselves to go out to check out the situation first and also to give her some space.

With Liu Wen’s help, Xia Fang helped Qiao Mei change her clothes and did a checkup at the same time, cleaning up the fake blood plasma on Qiao Mei. She only felt relieved after confirming that all the various indicators showed normal readings.

“Just this one time. I definitely won’t let you wreck havoc a second time. I almost fainted from fright when I saw you lying on the ground,” Xia Fang said as she held her chest.

“Aunt, I also won’t dare to do it again. Is there anything wrong with me when you check on me just now?” Qiao Mei asked nervously. She was actually very afraid that she would get an infection or that the children would get hurt.

Xia Fang looked at Qiao Mei and frowned. She raised her head to look at the equipment and sighed silently. Actually, there was nothing wrong with Qiao Mei. She just wanted Qiao Mei to know that she could not treat the children’s lives and her own life so lightly.

“Aunt... so is... is everything alright!” Qiao Mei sat up nervously and looked at Xia Fang.

“Lie down properly. I’ll take a look at the fetuses again,” Xia Fang said seriously.

Chapter 480: Everything Is Normal

Xia Fang used the equipment and examined Qiao Mei's stomach. Both fetuses were very healthy and Qiao Mei's body did not seem to have been affected much. Everything was normal.

"Aunt, tell me quickly. Is there anything wrong with the children?" Qiao Mei grabbed the corner of her shirt tightly and did not dare to move, afraid that it would affect Xia Fang's diagnosis.

Xia Fang still did not speak and only frowned as she stared at the electronic equipment and sighed. Qiao Mei did not know what had happened, whether it was something wrong with the children or something wrong with her.

"Liu Wen, come and take a look at this," Xia Fang said as she pointed at some data on the screen.

At first, Liu Wen thought that there was really a problem. She was the one in charge of Qiao Mei's basic checkup and she had already done a thorough check on her.

"Professor Xia, this..." Liu Wen looked at Xia Fang in confusion.

"Remember to take note of the data here and record it properly," Xia Fang said as she tapped the screen.

Liu Wen still did not quite understand Xia Fang's intentions. All the data had to be recorded. This was something that the professors had taught them in school, so why did she have to specially emphasize it?

"Alright, get up and put on your clothes. I'll send you to the ward," Xia Fang said as she packed up the equipment.

Qiao Mei slowly put on her clothes and secretly observed Xia Fang's expression. She was not afraid if doctors said there was something wrong with her that was difficult to treat, but she was afraid when doctors frowned and sighed upon seeing her medical report, and even asked another doctor to come and take a look.

Could it be that her children had some incurable illness!

Pfft, pfft, pfft! She could not let her imagination run wild. Maybe it was just a small problem.

“Aunt, do I have some very serious illness?” Qiao Mei lowered her head and touched her stomach uneasily.

“Alright, alright, I’m just teasing you. You’re fine. The children are very healthy and your health is also very good. I was just scaring you just now,” Xia Fang said quickly.

She was afraid that if she left it any later, Qiao Mei would cry and Xia Zhe would come and settle the score with her.

“Oh my, Aunt. You lied to me!” Qiao Mei said as she widened her eyes and looked at Xia Fang.

“If I don’t scare you, do you know how serious this entire shenanigan is? Babies are very fragile. No matter how good your physical fitness is, you can’t mess around. The water is so cold. What if you fall ill from sitting around in it?” Xia Fang said anxiously.

“I know I’m in the wrong... Aunt, don’t be angry. I promise there won’t be a next time!” Qiao Mei raised three fingers and made a promise.

Xia Fang grabbed Qiao Mei’s three fingers and shook them. She held back her laughter and said, “You! I definitely won’t let you off easily next time! At that time, it would be useless to ask Uncle Liu Yang for help. Think of a way for yourself.”

“I just know that Aunt dotes on me the most!” Qiao Mei said.

“Alright, lie down quickly. When it’s time, I’ll push you into the ward.” Xia Fang patted the bed and gestured for Qiao Mei to lie down.

Qiao Mei lay down obediently on the hospital bed and even took out some makeup foundation from her pocket to make her face look even more pale.

“You have quite a lot of tricks up your sleeve, little girl.” Xia Fang carefully covered Qiao Mei with the blanket.

“This is called being careful! Which patient has rosy cheeks! This would be too fake! Elder sister gave this to me.” Qiao Mei stuck out her tongue playfully.

Liu Wen put away the data she had recorded and went out to ask Liu Yang and Liu Hua to come in.

“Mei Mei, when we go out later, don’t open your eyes no matter what you hear. Just stay motionless,” Liu Yang instructed.

“Why?” Qiao Mei looked at Liu Yang in confusion.

While Qiao Mei was doing her checkup, Xia Zhe had informed everyone in the family about this matter. Xu Lan hurriedly rushed over from the art troupe, dropping the ongoing rehearsals without a care.

“How is Qiao Mei!” Xu Lan rushed to Xia Zhe and grabbed his arm as she asked him.

Xia Zhe was also shocked by his mother’s lack of decorum. He had never seen Xu Lan so agitated before. Even when his elder brother was sick when they were still children, Xu Lan had never behaved in such a flustered manner.

“Say something! What’s wrong with Qiao Mei! Answer me quickly!” Xu Lan shook Xia Zhe agitatedly. Liu Fen was next to Xu Lan and held on to her, afraid that she would collapse to the ground.

“Mother, she’s still inside. The doctors haven’t come out yet and we’re all still waiting for news. Sit down first and don’t be so anxious,” Xia Zhe said as he held on to Xu Lan.