

Fat Wife 481

Chapter 481: It Is All My Fault

“How long has she been inside? Why isn’t there any news yet? Where’s your aunt? Where’s Xiao Fang? Isn’t she in this hospital too! Hurry up and go look for her! Go quickly!” Xu Lan grabbed Xia Zhe and wanted to go look for Xia Fang.

Xia Zhe quickly held Xu Lan’s hand and said, “Aunt is already inside and she’s already treating Qiao Mei. Mother, please sit down first.”

Xu Lan slowly sat on the chair and stared at the red light outside the operating theater. She only hoped that Qiao Mei could come out of this without any issues. It would be even better if she was able to hold on to her grandchildren.

“Sister-in-law, don’t be anxious. Qiao Mei will be out soon. Good people are blessed by the heavens. She’s lucky so she will definitely be fine,” Liu Fen said as she hugged the downcast Xu Lan.

Xu Lan sobbed softly and leaned weakly on Liu Fen’s shoulder. She still could not believe that what happened today was real.

“Why did I treat Qiao Mei so badly! I look down on her just because she’s a daughter-in-law who’s a villager! It’s really my fault. If anything happens to her, I’ll regret it for the rest of my life,” Xu Lan said sadly.

“Sister-in-law, you didn’t do it on purpose. Don’t worry, Qiao Mei will definitely be fine. Isn’t Xia Fang still inside? You have to believe in them,” Liu Fen said.

As Qiao Mei was from the countryside and she was Xia Zhe’s own choice for a wife, Xu Lan had always held a grudge against Qiao Mei for this matter. At that time, there were clearly better girls who could marry into the family, but Xia Zhe went off to get married on his own. Not only that, Qiao Mei was already pregnant when he announced it to the family. He simply just disrespected his mother with regard to this matter.

Therefore, she vented all her anger and frustration on Qiao Mei. Actually, she liked Qiao Mei very much. Qiao Mei was not only obedient and sensible and capable, she also did beautiful needlework. When Qiao Mei first came, Qiao Mei had given her a violet-colored dress. In order to make things difficult for Qiao Mei, she pretended that she did not like the dress and casually threw it to one side. Later on, it was Liu Fen who helped her put the dress away.

She also liked Qiao Mei's two babies very much. Sometimes, when Xia Mao did not come back at night, she would keep the light on and make clothes for the babies late into the night. During the day, she was afraid that others would see her doing it, so she only made them at night.

She had also gone to the department store to take a look at the tiny clothes sold there, but most of them were not made of pure cotton and did not look too good. She felt that it was better if she made these things herself. She had already prepared the clothes for the two children, as well as brand new shoes and bedding.

She had not even given all these things to Qiao Mei, so how could such a thing happen!

Could this be the heavens punishing her!

"Mother, don't worry. Qiao Mei will definitely be fine," Xia Zhe comforted her patiently.

Even though he knew that this was all part of Qiao Mei's plan, he was still worried as well. After everything was done, Kong Lu had called him up and told him all the details.

There was no such thing as a 100% success rate in the world. What would he do if anything happened to Qiao Mei?

Not long after, Xia Wen and Xia Mao also came by. Even Xia Jun came to the hospital personally to see how Qiao Mei was doing.

Xia Zhe went forward to support the aged Xia Jun. During this period of time, Xia Jun had caught a cold and was not feeling well.

Before Xia Zhe could get close, Xia Jun raised his walking stick and swung it at him. This blow almost broke his bones. Xia Wen hurriedly held on to Xia Zhe and checked him for injuries.

“Grandfather! What are you doing!” Xia Wen said.

“I’m beating up this good-for-nothing! He can’t even take care of his wife! How can you still have the cheek to stand here! How did Qiao Mei get injured! How can a living person just fall into the lake! Tell me, how did you take care of her!” Xia Jun pointed at Xia Zhe and scolded him.

“Grandfather, it’s all my fault. You can hit me.” Xia Zhe lowered his head and stood in front of Xia Jun.

“How am I supposed to answer Brother Qiao! This girl married you and got pregnant with your children! Now she’s lying in the operating theater of the hospital! Will Qiao Mei wake up if I hit you! Can hitting you make what happened today not happen again! Didn’t I tell you to take good care of Qiao Mei!” Xia Jun stomped his feet in anger.

He and Qiao Qiang were the best of brothers. Qiao Qiang had saved his life in the past. Now, his grandson did not protect Qiao Qiang’s granddaughter well and even put her life in danger. He felt so guilty towards Qiao Qiang.

Xia Zhe knelt on the ground with a “plop” sound. He was afraid that Xia Jun would faint from anger, so it was better for him to apologize first.

Chapter 482: Late

“Grandfather, it’s all my fault. You’re right to hit me. I didn’t take good care of Qiao Mei,” Xia Zhe said.

Although Xia Mao was also angry that Xia Zhe did not do a good job, he knew that people would talk if news of Xia Zhe kneeling on the floor in public spread around.

“Get up, don’t kneel on the floor.” Xia Mao helped Xia Jun to sit down and said, “Father, don’t be angry. Let’s wait for the doctors to come out and see what they say. It’s useless to blame Xia Zhe now.”

Xia Wen frowned and helped Xia Zhe up from the ground. He guessed that Xia Zhe's knees were probably bruised by now.

"Has the doctor come out yet?" Xia Wen whispered.

"Not yet. Aunt is already inside. I don't know how she is now," Xia Zhe said.

"What about you? Grandfather was so anxious just now that he couldn't control his emotions and reprimanded you. Don't blame him. He has always doted on you the most," Xia Wen explained.

"I know, elder brother. Grandfather is right. This is all my fault. If I had taken good care of Qiao Mei, this would not have happened." Xia Zhe looked towards the operating theater. He really hoped to hear the doctor tell him that Qiao Mei was not injured at all.

He did not want her to have even a small wound. The lake water was so cold and he did not know if Qiao Mei could take it.

At this moment, the light outside the operating theater went out with a loud sound. The Xia family members all stood up and looked at the door, anxiously waiting for the doctor to appear.

Liu Yang and his two children slowly pushed Qiao Mei out of the operating theater. Xia Fang followed behind them next to the bed and everyone crowded around to take a look at Qiao Mei.

"Xiao Fang, tell sister-in-law the truth. Is Qiao Mei alright!" Xu Lan asked as she held Xia Fang's hand nervously.

"I'll tell all of you the details later. Let Qiao Mei go back to the ward and have a good rest first. I'll talk to you about the rest later," Xia Fang said.

"Alright, alright, alright. Hurry!" Xu Lan followed closely behind the bed and everyone else followed closely behind her.

Qiao Mei was staying in the VIP ward that the Xia family had prepared. She was the only one in this ward so that it would be a better environment for her to recuperate and easier for them to take care of her.

“Everyone, let’s stop here. There can’t be too many people entering the ward. Only one person can go in at a time. The rest of you can just watch from outside,” Xia Fang said as she stopped them.

“Xiao Fang, are we really not allowed to go in? Can we just go and take a look?” Xu Lan looked at Xia Fang pleadingly.

Xia Fang shook her head helplessly and said, “Her condition hasn’t improved yet. It’s better for her to rest well without too many people around. We can talk about other things later. I’ll go and get her medical report first before making further arrangements. I’ll pass you the results later.”

Xia Mao nodded and said, “Go ahead. We’ll just take a look from outside.”

After Xia Fang settled Qiao Mei down, she left the ward with Liu Yang, Liu Hua and Liu Wen. Xu Lan looked in through the glass window of the ward. Qiao Mei’s pale face was like a knife stabbing into her heart.

“My grandchildren... my Qiao Mei... What’s going on! Why did she fall into the lake!” Xu Lan said as she sank to the floor helplessly.

Liu Fen hurriedly went forward to help Xu Lan up. The two of them were the only ones who could take good care of Qiao Mei now. They must remain strong at this time.

Her words woke everyone up. Why did Qiao Mei go alone to such a dangerous place as the lake? When Xia Fang called to inform them, she said that Qiao Mei was drenched and there was blood on her clothes.

There was also an upside-down boat in the middle of the lake. How could the boat capsize if it was rowed properly?

“Where were you when Qiao Mei got into the accident?” Xia Mao asked as he looked at Xia Zhe.

Xia Zhe looked down and said, "I was resting at home. Qiao Mei went to Aunt's house last night."

"Yes, Xia He accompanied Qiao Mei there. Eh? Where did Xia He go? Why isn't she here?" Liu Fen looked around in confusion but did not see Xia He.

It was only now that everyone realized that Xia He had not rushed over during such a critical time.

"Where did this girl go!" Xu Lan said.

At this moment, Xia He and Kong Lu had also rushed to the hospital after changing their clothes. With the help of the nurses, they found Qiao Mei's ward.

"Grandfather! Father! Mother! How's Qiao Mei?" Xia He asked breathlessly.

Xu Lan was about to step forward and criticize Xia He when she saw Kong Lu standing behind. She temporarily suppressed the unhappiness she felt.

Chapter 483: Secret

"Take a look for yourself," Xu Lan said to Xia He sulkily as she pointed at the window of the ward.

Xia He felt nervous. She knew all of Qiao Mei's plans and Qiao Mei had even confidently told her that this plan was absolutely foolproof. Could it be that Qiao Mei really met with an accident?

She went to the window nervously. The pale face and pale lips that she saw almost made her lose her balance. She held onto the window and forced herself to stand up straight.

"Did Aunt say anything?" Xia He asked.

“No, she didn’t. She said that she would ask us to go over to her side later. The diagnosis and medical report are not out yet,” Xia Zhe said.

By now, Xia He could not support herself at all. She collapsed into a chair at the side and kept saying the word “impossible”.

Xia Zhe looked at Xu Lan intently. He had to think of a way to make Xu Lan and Liu Fen leave here so that he could tell everyone the truth.

“Mother, Qiao Mei doesn’t even have a change of clothes here. Besides, she’s so weak. Can I trouble Second Aunt-in-law to make some nourishing food for her?” Xia Zhe said worriedly.

Xu Lan immediately perked up. She would go home and take out all the best medicinal herbs in the house, as well as the ginseng and lingzhi that Qiao Mei had given her. She would stew them for Qiao Mei so that it would help nourish her body and allow her to recover faster.

As for her grandchildren, she would eventually get one in the future.

“Sure, sure, sure. Your second aunt-in-law and I will go back and do it now. We’ll come back later to take care of Qiao Mei.” Xu Lan quickly pulled Liu Fen along and they left the hospital together.

As he watched Xu Lan and Liu Fen leave, Xia Zhe slowly relaxed. He walked to Xia He’s side and patted her shoulder gently.

“She’s fine. Don’t worry,” Xia Zhe said.

Xia He looked at Xia Zhe expectantly and asked, “Really? Is she really safe and sound?”

“Yes, don’t worry,” Xia Zhe said with a smile.

Everyone else present felt confused. Anyone with a discerning eye could tell that something was wrong with Qiao Mei. What kind of riddle were the two of them talking about?

“Xiao Zhe, what are you talking about?” Xia Mao looked at Xia Zhe in puzzlement.

Xia Wen carefully observed the expressions on the faces of Xia Zhe and Xia He. Xu Lan and Xia Mao were usually very busy with work, so he was the one who brought up his younger siblings. He immediately knew that there was something else that they had not said.

Logically speaking, they still did not know whether Qiao Mei was well and whether the babies were healthy. Xia Zhe loved Qiao Mei so much, so how was he able to smile at a moment like this? Xia He was also not a weak person. When she heard about this matter, she did not even ask about what caused it and only just kept saying she could not believe it happened.

Then there was only one truth. There must be some unspeakable secret between the two of them.

“Is there... something that both of you haven’t told us?” Xia Wen crossed his arms and looked at the two of them sternly.

“Let Xia Zhe tell you about this.” Xia He lowered her head and did not dare to look Xia Wen in the eye.

Xia Wen was the one who attended the parent-teacher sessions at her school when she was young. She was most afraid of Xia Wen!

“Let’s talk in Aunt’s office. There are too many people here,” Xia Zhe said.

Xia He quickly added, “I’ll stay here and take care of Qiao Mei. When Mother and Second Aunt-in-law come back later, at least there’s someone here to accompany them. I won’t go with all of you.”

Kong Lu, who was next to her, naturally stayed behind to accompany her when she took care of Qiao Mei. Everyone treated him as if he was invisible and completely ignored him.

Xia Wen went forward and hooked his arm around Xia Zhe’s neck, dragging him into the office.

During this time, ordinary doctors sat in the same room together. Only attending physicians and doctors above that position could have their own office. Xia Fang was already the director of the obstetrics and gynecology department, so she had a particularly big office.

“Go over there! Stand by that wall!” Xia Wen said as he pointed at the wall.

Xia Zhe walked over obediently and stood in a military posture. The people in front of him were all army veterans. If he did not stand properly, there might be even more serious punishments.

“When we say something, you answer it. Do you understand?” Xia Wen said.

“Yes!” Xia Zhe answered loudly.

Xia Wen asked slowly, “Is Qiao Mei alright?”

Everyone looked at Xia Zhe. This was the thing they wanted to know the most.

“I’m not sure. It still depends on what Aunt says,” Xia Zhe said.

Chapter 484: I Heard That I Am Dead?

Not sure? How could he not be sure? Did that mean that the falling incident today was real?

“Then did Qiao Mei lose her footing and fall into the water today, or did someone set it up?” Xia Mao asked Xia Zhe sternly.

Xia Zhe took out the two written agreements from inside his pocket and handed them to Xia Wen. Xia Wen was shocked after he read them. He did not expect the He family to do such a thing.

“This is too much! Does the He family think that there’s no one left in our family!” Xia Wen slammed the agreements on the table.

Over the past few days, they had gone around trying to pull strings to cause He Ning to stay in jail for a couple more days. Not only did they encounter many obstacles, but there were even people who changed their minds and chose to help the He family.

However, there was nothing wrong with that. No one would reject that much money. The He family had already prepared everything and He Ning would probably be released tonight.

“We were negligent in this matter. We only paid attention to that old fox, He Ning, but we didn’t expect them to attack Qiao Mei.” Xia Jun shook his head and sighed.

He only hoped that Qiao Mei was safe and sound now. He did not even care about his eldest grandson. He just wanted Qiao Mei to be healthy and happy.

“I’ve already found out more about this matter. It was He Mei’s own idea. He Ning did not have the chance to send any news to the outside world while he was inside. His illness has been acting up for the past few days and he can’t even get any medicine sent in,” Xia Zhe said.

“But this is not a reason for you to let Qiao Mei take the risk! This whole matter is so dangerous! Even if we have this document in our hands, if something really happens, is this document more important than her? You’re too indulgent towards Qiao Mei. Have you forgotten all the discipline I instilled in you back then!” Xia Jun said in exasperation.

“Grandfather, it’s all my fault. I did not put too much thought into this matter and took it too lightly.” Xia Zhe realized how ridiculous it was for him to help Qiao Mei with this matter.

“Leave the agreements to me. I’ll go and make some arrangements. Take good care of Qiao Mei and don’t go anywhere for the time being. Get Aunt to take good care of Qiao Mei and leave the family matters to me,” Xia Wen said seriously.

With these agreements in hand, even if he could not completely defeat the He family, he would be able to negotiate terms with them.

While nothing major had happened to the Xia family, the He family was feeling overjoyed on their end.

As soon as the incident happened, He Mei immediately received the news from her spies. They saw Qiao Mei fall into the water with their own eyes and reported everything to He Mei.

He Mei even opened a bottle from her father's precious collection of red wine to celebrate. Ma San also came over to join in the fun and poured himself a glass.

"You even dare to touch my father's wine? Who do you think you are! But... I'm feeling happy today, so I won't fuss about this small thing. I'll let you have the wine," He Mei said with a laugh as she leaned against the sofa.

She looked tipsy and there was a thin layer of perspiration on her slender neck. It was most suitable to use the word flirtatious to describe He Mei's current expression.

Ma San could not help himself from reaching out to grab He Mei's hand that was holding the wine glass and said, "Then this glass of wine is not enough . You have to thank me properly!"

He Mei immediately threw the wine in the glass on Ma San's face and pulled her hand away from his grip. "You dare to want more than this? Are you even worthy! You're just our He family's dog! What right does an obedient dog have to ask its owner for things! Get lost!"

Ma San wiped his face with his sleeve angrily and said, "And what are you? You still think you can hide behind the He family name! Your He family is about to collapse, so why are you still full of pretenses! No matter how capable your little uncle is, it has already been so many days! Can his body take it! Maybe he has already died inside!"

"You! You're just a dog, how dare you curse my little uncle!" He Mei shouted as she pointed at Ma San.

At this moment, He Ning stood at the entranceway of the He family house and coughed lightly. "Cough, cough. I heard that I'm dead?"

He Mei looked towards the door in surprise and said excitedly, "Little Uncle, you're back! I miss you so much! You're finally back!"

However, for Ma San, this was no different from a call from hell. He now knew very well that it was not He Ning's death date that was coming, but his own.

He had never dreamed that He Ning would be able to come out alive. In the beginning, the Ma family had done their best to help the He family save He Ning. However, on second thought, they reckoned that if the He family collapsed, they would be able to annex the He family's assets. After all, all the men in the He family had been captured and the only one left was He Han who was a fool.

Chapter 485: Reckless Guts

In that case, would the He family's assets all belong to Ma San? Why would the He family's assets be left to a daughter who would eventually get married?

"Ma San, what's wrong? Aren't you happy that I'm back?" He Ning sat down on the sofa with Huo Gao's help and looked at Ma San quietly.

"I... um... of course I'm happy. How can I not be happy that Little Uncle is back! Congratulations on your safe return!" Ma San was so nervous that his legs trembled like he was no longer in control of them.

"Don't be nervous. I'm just asking. There's no need for such politeness between us. Please take a seat," He Ning said gently.

He Mei did not hide the joy she felt. She knew that the Xia family had always been against them. Now that she had gotten rid of Qiao Mei, her little uncle would definitely praise her when he found out about it! When the time came, he would definitely give her anything she wanted!

"I'll go brew some medicine for you. Are you alright by yourself?" Huo Gao asked in a soft voice.

He Ning nodded lightly. The past few days inside had been the most difficult days that he ever had to endure. The bed was especially hard and there were a lot of mosquitoes and bugs. If not for the fact that he was lucky, he would probably have died inside without being able to come out again, like what Ma San said.

“Little Uncle! How do you feel now! Are you feeling well?” He Mei asked softly.

He Ning shook his head and said, “If I can’t make it, do you think I’ll still be sitting in front of you?”

He Mei smiled awkwardly and stood at one side, not knowing what to say. Now that her little uncle was already out, then her father He Guo, should be back soon too.

“Weren’t you very happy when I entered just now? Why are you so unhappy now? Don’t you want me to come back?” He Ning asked.

He Mei quickly denied it. “No, no! Little Uncle, you’ve misunderstood me! Why would I! Of course I’m very happy! I’m just thinking... wondering when my father will be back...”

He Ning avoided eye contact with her. He managed to make his way out this time not just with the help of outsiders, but because of himself as well. Based on what happened with the Jiang family back then, it was not enough to convict him. However, private possession of firearms was a serious crime, so he had pushed the responsibility of the entire matter squarely to He Guo. Since He Guo had been the one selling these things to begin with, it was not wrong to push all the blame to him now.

Moreover, He Guo could only be saved if He Ning could come out. If they were all locked up, it would be difficult for any one of them to come out even if they wanted to. He was also thinking about the bigger picture.

“I’ll think of a way for your father. Don’t worry,” He Ning said.

“I just know that Little Uncle will have a way! As long as Little Uncle is here, there will definitely be no problem! I believe in Little Uncle!” He Mei said as she looked at He Ning naively.

Ma San knew how He Ning managed to make his way out, but he did not expect him to be able to come out so quickly.

However, it was not surprising that a selfish person like He Ning would never do anything that would harm his own interests.

“What have you been doing recently?” He Ning asked He Mei.

At this point, He Mei could not suppress the joy in her heart and said in high spirits, “Little Uncle! I did something big! You won’t be able to imagine it!”

He Ning looked at He Mei curiously and asked, “Oh? What kind of thing! Did you succeed in seducing Xia Zhe?”

He Mei blushed and said shyly, “Little Uncle, there’s someone else here!”

“Alright, alright, alright. Then quickly tell me what you did?” He Ning picked up the ginseng tea from the table. However, before he even managed to take a sip, he was flabbergasted by what He Mei said next.

“I killed the baby that Qiao Mei was carrying! It’s a pity that Qiao Mei didn’t die too. If Qian’e had been more ruthless, Qiao Mei might have died in the lake as well. Little Uncle, I guess this also counts as completing the mission you gave me!” He Mei said happily.

He Ning looked at He Mei in shock and threw the cup in his hand at He Mei’s feet. The shards of the broken cup flew up and caused bloody scratches on her calf.

“Ah! Little Uncle... what are you...” He Mei cried out in pain.

“You’re simply messing around! Who gave you the reckless guts to hurt Qiao Mei! Didn’t I tell you to go for Xia Zhe! Who asked you to lay your hands on Qiao Mei!” He Ning pointed at He Mei and berated her.

Chapter 486: Faint From Anger

Even Ma San, who was standing at the side, was stunned. He had never seen He Ning so angry with He Mei before. It was quite an eye-opener for him today.

However, this was even better. If he could not chastise He Mei, there was naturally someone else who could.

“Little Uncle... That Xia Zhe really won’t fall for it. I have no choice but to come up with this last resort...” He Mei said pitifully.

“Was it a last resort? I think you did it on purpose! You must have wanted to get rid of Qiao Mei for a long time! Didn’t you meet her sometime back? Don’t tell me you already planned to attack her since that time? He Mei, you’re really my eldest brother’s good daughter! One secretly does business behind my back and the other secretly kills people behind my back! All of you are really getting more and more capable!” He Ning roared.

He Mei cried out in a panic, “No, Little Uncle! I didn’t think that way! Besides... Besides, we didn’t do this! It was Qian’e! She did it! As long as we push everything to her, the He family won’t be implicated!”

He Ning was so angry that his chest felt stuffy and he could not even breathe properly. He collapsed weakly on the sofa and called out to Huo Gao.

“Someone... Huo Gao! Cough, cough, cough...” He Ning said in agony.

“Little Uncle! Little Uncle, what’s wrong! Uncle Huo! Help!” He Mei hurriedly went forward and grabbed He Ning’s hand. She did not know what was wrong with He Ning. She had never imagined that things would turn out like this.

When Huo Gao heard the cry for help, he quickly ran over and chopped the ginseng root into powder to mix it into a drink for He Ning. He then placed a small pillow on the sofa for He Ning to lie down and perform acupuncture on him.

He Ning quickly fell asleep. During this period of time, he had not eaten or slept well and had exhausted too much energy. His body could not take it anymore.

After he heard the grievous news about Qiao Mei, coupled with the fact that He Mei was the one who did it, he fainted from anger.

Huo Gao sighed and said, "He's fine now, but don't make him angry anymore. He can't have too many emotional fluctuations for now. He hasn't taken any medicine or rested well for the past few days and his body's essence and vitality are running on empty."

He Mei asked in a panic, "Then what should I do now? Will Little Uncle be fine? Uncle Huo, you have to save him. Our He family can't survive without him."

At the thought of this, He Mei sat on the ground and started crying. For now, there was nothing she knew how to do except cry.

Ma San stood at the side and looked at them with a disdainful smile. He Ning did not have much time left, so the He family might as well give him all their assets. If they did that, at least they would not fall from grace without anything left.

He had to think of a way to make He Mei his. Then when the time came, the Shen, He and Ma families would all have to listen to him!

What was He Mei so high and mighty about? She was just a whore who pretended to be chaste! When the time came, he would make He Mei obey him! He would like to see if she still dared to be arrogant!

By now, Huo Gao could understand why He Ning had such a personality. It was a miracle that he could hold on for so long given that the entire family had always been scheming against him and using him. If it had been anyone else, that person would have left the family long ago.

"Both of you, come out with me and let him have a good rest. Tell me if Qiao Mei is dead or sick," Huo Gao asked as he walked out with them.

Huo Gao was usually the one who handled the He family matters when He Ning was resting. During such moments, his words were equivalent to He Ning's instructions.

"She has probably lost the baby but she's definitely not dead. The spies are still out there, so we don't know what exactly is going on now," He Mei whispered.

“Then who else knows about this?” Huo Gao asked He Mei sternly.

“It’s just Ma San and me. No one else knows about it. The spies are all people who have been with us a long time, so they should be fine,” He Mei said.

“Then... what about Qian’e? Just now, you said that this person did it. Then where is she?” Huo Gao asked.

He could vaguely hear what was being said in the living room when he was in the pharmacy just now, but he was just not sure if this Qian’e was on their side.

“She... she didn’t get arrested. At that time, no one on the shore saw Qian’e pushing Qiao Mei. She’s probably at home now,” He Mei said hesitantly.

“Quickly get Qian’e under your control now. Call her and ask her to come to the house. Don’t worry about anything else,” Huo Gao said.

He Mei quickly nodded and went to do what Huo Gao had instructed her.

She was also filled with regret by now. She did not expect that not only did she not manage to kill Qiao Mei, but she also almost caused her little uncle to die from anger. However, why did He Ning care so much about Qiao Mei? Could it be that there was something else going on with Qiao Mei?

He Mei suddenly had a bold thought. Could it be that He Ning had taken a fancy to Qiao Mei’s beauty!

Chapter 487: Cheating

No, no! He Ning would never fall for someone like Qiao Mei!

He Mei shook her head and threw all these unrealistic thoughts out of her mind. The most important thing now was to let He Ning recuperate well and then get Qian'e under their control so that they could pin the crime on her. Only then would the He family be free of any suspicions.

Qian'e had already expected He Mei to do this. She took photos of the agreements and had the prints developed. If she brought the original agreements with her and they managed to tear them up because they outnumbered her, she would have to spend the rest of her life in jail.

"Mother, make a trip with me to the He family's house," Qian'e said seriously.

"Me? Why would I go to the He family's house? I'm not going to a place like that," Zhao Ni said.

"I have promised He Mei to do something. After it's done, they will give me a large sum of money as a reward. I can't carry all the money myself, so I would like you to accompany me," Qian'e said.

Zhao Ni's eyes widened when she heard that there was a reward involved. She held Qian'e by the hand excitedly and asked, "Reward! Is it money! The He family is so rich, maybe they can give you one or two thousand dollars!"

Qian'e looked at Zhao Ni resignedly and said, "100,000 dollars."

"100,000!" Zhao Ni gasped.

An amount of 100,000 dollars! She would not be able to earn 100,000 dollars in her entire lifetime. What did Qian'e do for them to be paid so much money?

Zhao Ni just heard today that the Xia family's young daughter-in-law had an accident and lost her baby. Could this matter have something to do with them?

"Why would the He family give you so much money? Did you help them with something? Although we lack money, we can't offend people like the He family. This will get us killed!" Zhao Ni said nervously.

“We’ll also offend the He family if we don’t do it. We might as well choose the option that will get us paid. Don’t worry, I’ve already made all the preparations. When the time comes, this amount of money will be enough for us to buy a house away from here and live somewhere else for the rest of our lives. You can also finally leave Qian Wang,” Qian’e said.

Zhao Ni was initially happy when she heard the news, but she did not want to leave Qian Wang. In this era, divorced women were looked down upon. So what if they had a lot of money? They would not have a man at home to help them.

All the issues that Qian’e encountered in the past had already caused her a great deal of embarrassment. She had spent most of her life serving others at home. If she got a divorce now, where else could she go to live? By then, maybe even her workplace would think that she had a bad reputation and no longer wanted her.

“I still don’t think it’s a good idea. I actually don’t want to divorce your father. I’m doing alright now! I’m very satisfied!” Zhao Ni said with her head down.

“You’re satisfied? Do you like Old Madam Qian beating and scolding you every day? Or do you like Qian Wang having another woman outside and not taking care of this family?” Qian’e roared.

Another woman? What woman? Zhao Ni looked at Qian’e in puzzlement.

“What did you say? What woman?” Zhao Ni grabbed on to Qian’e and asked in a panicky manner.

“Yes, he has another woman outside. She’s from their hospital. I heard about this from He Mei.” Qian’e shook off Zhao Ni.

It was time to let Zhao Ni face reality. She had also only just found out about this matter. He Mei had deliberately called her to let her know about this so as to annoy her further.

The reason why Qian Wang had not gone home recently was because he was having a good time with the woman from the hospital. She was a divorcee and had her child with her. The child was still young and did not know who his biological father was, so he firmly believed that Qian Wang was his father. That woman did not ask for anything and just wanted to live with Qian Wang.

Over the past few years, the amount of money he gave to Qian'e and Zhao Ni had gradually decreased. If not for the fact that the He family had found them high-paying jobs to make it up to them for what happened back then, they would not have been able to survive until now.

"You must be lying! Your father won't do that! He's just busy with work! Why would he cheat on me? What if He Mei is lying to you? Hasn't she always lied to you? Don't believe what she says. I know your father. He definitely isn't cheating on me!" Zhao Ni retorted.

"After so many years, you should know very well in your heart whether he's cheating on you or not. I won't say anything else. You can decide on this matter yourself. Since you don't want to go to the He family's house, I'll go by myself," Qian'e said disappointedly.

She had thought that Zhao Ni would go and reason with Qian Wang and it would also strengthen Zhao Ni's resolve to get a divorce. It seemed that she was overthinking it. Zhao Ni valued her reputation more than her own well-being.

Qian'e left without looking back. She had to go to the He family's house today to demand an explanation. She must go and reason with the He family before they report the case to the authorities.

"Knock, knock, knock!" There was a knock on the He family's heavy door.

Huo Gao hurriedly ran out to open the door. Although He Ning was still around and holding the He family together, the housemaids had all been dismissed and he was the only one left to take care of He Ning.

"Who are you?" Huo Gao looked at Qian'e in puzzlement.

Before this, he had only heard He Mei mention her name and had never seen her in person.

"Hello, I'm Qian'e. I'm here to look for He Ning. Is he at home?" Qian'e said politely.

Huo Gao was a little shocked. His impression of Qian'e was that she was a timid person. To everyone at home, He Mei had described Qian'e as being young but with the looks of a woman in her 40s, and that she had resentment written all over her face, as if everyone owed her something.

The woman in front of him had a slender figure and looked to be in her 30s. It was not as exaggerated as He Mei had described. He also knew that Qian'e had gone through a hard time because of Ma San, and that she had lost her baby and even had her uterus removed.

"He Ning is still sleeping and will only wake up in a while. Do you have time to wait for him?" Huo Gao said.

Qian'e nodded and said, "Sure."

Time was the one thing she did not lack. As long as her current urgent problems could be solved, she was willing to wait for as long as required.

As soon as Qian'e entered the house behind Huo Gao, she saw He Ning resting on the sofa. The originally arrogant "Living King of Hell" looked like a sick kitten now. She felt that she probably did not even need to use much strength to easily crush He Ning at the moment.

"Let's go to the living room first. It's not convenient for Miss Qian to wait here." Huo Gao not only brought her to the living room, but also prepared tea and snacks for her.

This was the first time Qian'e felt that there were humane people in the He family.

"Thank you. I have thought that everyone in the He family is like He Mei," Qian'e said.

"Why do you say that? I think the He family members are quite nice." Huo Gao smiled at Qian'e. This young girl actually dared to speak so freely. The people who came to see the He family were usually well-behaved and did not dare to speak more than necessary.

"Quite nice? That's really a surprise," Qian'e said mockingly.

It was all thanks to the He family that she had fallen into such dire straits. How dare he tell her that the He family members were all quite nice?

“Miss Qian, you’re here today for the Xia family matter, right?” Huo Gao asked.

Qian’e sized up Huo Gao. How did he know about this? Would He Ning let his servants know about this matter? Could this man be one of He Ning’s two brothers?

“I still don’t know who you are? You have asked me many questions, but you haven’t introduced yourself. Isn’t that a little rude?” Qian’e said with a frown.

“I’m really sorry. I’m Huo Gao, the He family’s private doctor. In other words, I’m He Ning’s only doctor,” Huo Gao said with a laugh.

No wonder he knew everything about the He family. It looked like He Ning was very close to him. She decided not to tell him everything, in case it gave He Ning the chance to hold something over her.

“Don’t be nervous. I’m not trying to find out anything from you. I know all these things, but this is the He family’s family matter, so it’s not convenient for me to interfere. I’m just curious and asking questions for myself,” Huo Gao explained.

“It’s fine, I don’t mind either. When will He Ning wake up? Do I have to wait for a long time?” Qian’e asked.

“How about this, I’ll call Miss He and Mr. Ma and ask them to come back. This way, everyone can talk together and it’s less troublesome.” After saying that, Huo Gao went out to call He Mei and Ma San to ask them to return to the house.

He Mei could not believe her ears and even thought that she had misheard what Huo Gao said. She had not even had the chance to go and look for Qian’e yet, but Qian’e had come looking for her at this moment!

He Mei drove back in a hurry and walked into the house angrily. She kicked the door open with a loud bang, startling He Ning who was still sleeping soundly in the living room.

“What an idiot! Who dares to behave so atrociously in my house!” He Ning roared.

He Mei stood at the door like a child who had done something wrong and did not dare to move. She had forgotten that He Ning was still resting at home and had kicked the door open on impulse.

He Ning frowned and looked at He Mei, wishing that he could cut her into pieces.

489 Tempting Offer

“You’re such an incompetent thing, everything you touch turns to dust! What has my eldest brother taught you! Is this how you’ve been brought up!” He Ning said sternly.

He Mei stood at the door and trembled, not daring to approach. Even Ma San, who was behind her, was implicated and did not dare to take another step forward.

“Alright, don’t be so angry. Qian’e is waiting in the living room. All of you should go in,” Huo Gao said nicely.

He often played the role of the “peacemaker” at home. With him around and provided that He Ning was willing to listen to him, the quarrels at home usually did not last too long.

As soon as He Ning pushed open the door, he saw Qian’e nodding off. It was rare for someone to dare to behave like this in the He family’s house.

“Wake up,” He Ning said as he sat opposite Qian’e.

Qian’e opened her eyes in a daze and saw the pale He Ning, the ashen-faced He Mei and Ma San, who had joined in like an extra.

The He Ning in front of her looked like a completely different person from the one she saw deep in sleep just now. There was now an air of hostility between He Ning's brows and a very vicious look in his eyes. Qian'e did not even dare to look directly into He Ning's eyes.

"Why are you here today?" He Ning asked calmly.

Qian'e exhaled and said calmly, "I'm here to ask for my remuneration."

"Remuneration? What remuneration?" He Ning looked at Qian'e with a look of confusion.

"Earlier, He Mei had told me to get rid of Qiao Mei and said that she would pay me when the deed is done. This is the agreement that He Mei wrote herself," Qian'e said as she took out two photos from her bag and handed them to He Ning.

He Ning had originally thought that Qian'e only had brute strength and no brains. He did not expect her to have grown so much smarter after not seeing her for a few years.

"These are the photos I took. I have hidden the original agreements. I'll give them to you after I get paid," Qian'e said.

He Mei was so angry that her entire body was trembling. He Ning was already unhappy with what she had done, and now Qian'e had come to ask for money and was even using the written agreements to threaten them!

"You cheap thing! How dare you come up with such a trick to cheat our family of money!" He Mei pointed at Qian'e and scolded her.

"Mr. He, please tell your niece not to speak. I'm afraid that this conversation can't continue otherwise. If I send the agreements to the Xia family in a fit of anger, this matter might not be so easy to resolve anymore," Qian'e said to He Mei with a smile.

Interesting, this was really too interesting. He did not expect a small fry like Qian'e to be able to negotiate terms with him. It seemed that he was really down and out for now.

“What do you want? Tell me,” He Ning said as he threw the photos on the table.

He did not even need to verify the authenticity of these photos. He Mei’s reaction just now was enough to prove everything.

“I want the 100,000 dollars that He Mei promised me and also what Ma San promised me,” Qian’e said.

“Impossible! Let me tell you, Qian’e! Don’t even think about getting a single cent from me! How dare you threaten me!” He Mei said in exasperation.

He Ning raised his eyes to look at He Mei and said, “You’re really well-behaved these few days when I’m not around. Do you think I’m dead?”

He Mei’s arrogance disappeared in an instant. This was how she usually behaved. She just pretended to be a well-bred young lady whenever she saw He Ning. Otherwise, He Ning would have been even stricter with her.

“I’m sorry, Little Uncle! I didn’t do it on purpose!” He Mei said softly.

He Ning tapped the tabletop with his index finger and considered the pros and cons carefully. It was not that he could not meet the conditions that Qian’e asked for, but the matter of Ma San and Shen Na getting a divorce was more complicated. Once the couple got a divorce, the relationship between the Shen family and the He family would become very awkward.

“I know that you and your mother haven’t been doing well all these years. How about I give you 200,000 dollars, plus a house near your workplace? No, no, no! I’ll get your superior at the workplace to give you a raise and a promotion. What do you think?” He Ning said.

This offer was really tempting, but she did not want to be swayed. The humiliation that she suffered at the hands of Ma San and He Mei in the past must be repaid today. She would rather die otherwise. It would be better to die in the He family than to go back and live a life worse than death. Dying would be a form of relief for her.

“No, I can even forgo the money, but Ma San must divorce Shen Na and go to the wilderness to undergo reformatory training,” Qian’e said.

Ma San rushed over and grabbed Qian’e by the collar, pulling her up as he asked, “You little whore, aren’t you so full of yourself! You still want me to get rid of me! Let me tell you, that’s impossible! I won’t divorce Shen Na! You can give up that thought!”

“It’s none of your business whether I die or not. But you, Ma San, let me tell you. If I don’t have a good life, don’t even think about having a good one either. One of us must die. I’m not afraid of death! Today, I must let you experience what I went through!” Qian’e smiled in a strange way. She did not care about her own life at the moment. As long as she could take revenge, she was willing to do anything.

“You crazy woman! I think you’re mentally ill! I’d better send you to the hospital for treatment! What’s the point of dealing with me! He Mei did all these things! What’s the use of going after me!” Ma San said through gritted teeth.

“You’re right. This entire matter was indeed done by He Mei, but how could she do it if you didn’t agree? Could she force you to leave me? Don’t make things sound so dignified. None of you can escape. Let’s take our time,” Qian’e said.

Ma San raised his fist to hit Qian’e, but He Ning stopped him with a shout.

“How dare you! Do the two of you think nothing of me! Do you think the two of you are in charge of the He family now!” He Ning roared.

Ma San lowered his fist in embarrassment and pushed Qian’e aside forcefully. He then quietly returned to stand next to He Ning.

Qian’e fell to the floor clumsily, but she did not care. She smiled at He Ning and said, “Mr. He, do you think you can agree to my condition?”

He Ning narrowed his eyes at Qian’e and said, “The last person who negotiated terms with me was Qiao Mei. But we made an equal deal that time. Do you feel you have the same right?”

"I don't know if I have the right or not! Anyway, I have gone all out! Just tell me if you agree or not!" Qian'e said.

"I can kill you as easily as I crush an ant. Do you think you can walk through this door alive if you threaten me?" He Ning said as he pointed at the door behind him.

At this moment, Qian'e lay down on the floor and laughed loudly. Her back hurt after she fell just now, and she guessed that her bones were probably injured. However, she did not care anymore.

"I never expect to be able to leave here alive. I've already told my mother that if I don't get back by 8 p.m., she should send the original agreements to the Xia family. My family lives in the same compound as the Xia family. It's probably already 5 p.m. now. What do you think will happen if we delay any longer?" Qian'e said.

"Little Uncle, she must be talking nonsense. Don't believe what she says!" He Mei said from the side.

He Ning was angry whenever he looked at her now. Why was the next generation of the He family all such trash! He had spent so much effort nurturing them, but all of them turned out useless in the end. It was not easy for them to get the two boys in the family, but one was addicted to drinking and bullying others, and the other was a fool who could not even speak in proper sentences.

He had nurtured He Mei diligently but in the end, she was still a brainless person. She was completely immersed in her relationship issues, and the things she did were all full of loopholes.

None of them were useful!

"You still have the cheek to talk to me after doing such a stupid thing? Even if I feed your brains to a dog, the dog won't eat it!" He Ning picked up the photos from the table and threw them at He Mei's face.

He Mei was so frightened that she fell to the floor and covered her face, not daring to make a sound. She knew that He Ning would not forgive her easily no matter what she said now.

“Call Shen Na now, and then ask your mother and her younger sister to come over as well. The two of them must be present when Ma San divorces her,” He Ning said as he lowered his head and rubbed his temples.

He did not want things to end up like this either. However, Qian’e had made it very clear that she would not give up until she achieved her goal. Besides, the Shen family was nothing to be afraid of. Even without the support of the Shen family and the Ma family, the He family would not be affected. It would only make things a little more difficult at the moment.

However, a starving camel was still bigger than a horse. The most important thing now was not to go head-on with the Xia family.

“Little Uncle! I don’t want to divorce Shen Na! Please save me, Little Uncle! I beg you not to agree to her request! She’s just a scoundrel!” Ma San said on the brink of tears.

If he lost the He family’s help, how was he going to pay off his gambling debts in the future! Even selling off all the Ma family’s assets was not enough!

Chapter 488: Seeking an Explanation

Qian’e left without looking back. She had to go to the He family’s house today to demand an explanation. She must go and reason with the He family before they report the case to the authorities.

“Knock, knock, knock!” There was a knock on the He family’s heavy door.

Huo Gao hurriedly ran out to open the door. Although He Ning was still around and holding the He family together, the housemaids had all been dismissed and he was the only one left to take care of He Ning.

“Who are you?” Huo Gao looked at Qian’e in puzzlement.

Before this, he had only heard He Mei mention her name and had never seen her in person.

“Hello, I’m Qian’e. I’m here to look for He Ning. Is he at home?” Qian’e said politely.

Huo Gao was a little shocked. His impression of Qian'e was that she was a timid person. To everyone at home, He Mei had described Qian'e as being young but with the looks of a woman in her 40s, and that she had resentment written all over her face, as if everyone owed her something.

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"He Ning is still sleeping and will only wake up in a while. Do you have time to wait for him?" Huo Gao said.

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Time was the one thing she did not lack. As long as her current urgent problems could be solved, she was willing to wait for as long as required.

As soon as Qian'e entered the house behind Huo Gao, she saw He Ning resting on the sofa. The originally arrogant "Living King of Hell" looked like a sick kitten now. She felt that she probably did not even need to use much strength to easily crush He Ning at the moment.

"Let's go to the living room first. It's not convenient for Miss Qian to wait here." Huo Gao not only brought her to the living room, but also prepared tea and snacks for her.

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"Thank you. I have thought that everyone in the He family is like He Mei," Qian'e said.

"Why do you say that? I think the He family members are quite nice." Huo Gao smiled at Qian'e. This young girl actually dared to speak so freely. The people who came to see the He family were usually well-behaved and did not dare to speak more than necessary.

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Qian’e sized up Huo Gao. How did he know about this? Would He Ning let his servants know about this matter? Could this man be one of He Ning’s two brothers?

“I still don’t know who you are? You have asked me many questions, but you haven’t introduced yourself. Isn’t that a little rude?” Qian’e said with a frown.

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“Don’t be nervous. I’m not trying to find out anything from you. I know all these things, but this is the He family’s family matter, so it’s not convenient for me to interfere. I’m just curious and asking questions for myself,” Huo Gao explained.

“It’s fine, I don’t mind either. When will He Ning wake up? Do I have to wait for a long time?” Qian’e asked.

“How about this, I’ll call Miss He and Mr. Ma and ask them to come back. This way, everyone can talk together and it’s less troublesome.” After saying that, Huo Gao went out to call He Mei and Ma San to ask them to return to the house.

He Mei could not believe her ears and even thought that she had misheard what Huo Gao said. She had not even had the chance to go and look for Qian’e yet, but Qian’e had come looking for her at this moment!

He Mei drove back in a hurry and walked into the house angrily. She kicked the door open with a loud bang, startling He Ning who was still sleeping soundly in the living room.

“What an idiot! Who dares to behave so atrociously in my house!” He Ning roared.

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He Ning frowned and looked at He Mei, wishing that he could cut her into pieces.

Chapter 489 - 489 Tempting Offer

489 Tempting Offer

“You’re such an incompetent thing, everything you touch turns to dust! What has my eldest brother taught you! Is this how you’ve been brought up!” He Ning said sternly.

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“Wake up,” He Ning said as he sat opposite Qian’e.

Qian’e opened her eyes in a daze and saw the pale He Ning, the ashen-faced He Mei and Ma San, who had joined in like an extra.

The He Ning in front of her looked like a completely different person from the one she saw deep in sleep just now. There was now an air of hostility between He Ning's brows and a very vicious look in his eyes. Qian'e did not even dare to look directly into He Ning's eyes.

"Why are you here today?" He Ning asked calmly.

Qian'e exhaled and said calmly, "I'm here to ask for my remuneration."

"Remuneration? What remuneration?" He Ning looked at Qian'e with a look of confusion.

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Chapter 490 - 490 Disregarding Life and Death

490 Disregarding Life and Death

Ma San rushed over and grabbed Qian’e by the collar, pulling her up as he asked, “You little whore, aren’t you so full of yourself! You still want me to get rid of me! Let me tell you, that’s impossible! I won’t divorce Shen Na! You can give up that thought!”

“It’s none of your business whether I die or not. But you, Ma San, let me tell you. If I don’t have a good life, don’t even think about having a good one either. One of us must die. I’m not afraid of death! Today, I must let you experience what I went through!” Qian’e smiled in a strange way. She did not care about her own life at the moment. As long as she could take revenge, she was willing to do anything.

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"You still have the cheek to talk to me after doing such a stupid thing? Even if I feed your brains to a dog, the dog won't eat it!" He Ning picked up the photos from the table and threw them at He Mei's face.

He Mei was so frightened that she fell to the floor and covered her face, not daring to make a sound. She knew that He Ning would not forgive her easily no matter what she said now.

“Call Shen Na now, and then ask your mother and her younger sister to come over as well. The two of them must be present when Ma San divorces her,” He Ning said as he lowered his head and rubbed his temples.

He did not want things to end up like this either. However, Qian’e had made it very clear that she would not give up until she achieved her goal. Besides, the Shen family was nothing to be afraid of. Even without the support of the Shen family and the Ma family, the He family would not be affected. It would only make things a little more difficult at the moment.

However, a starving camel was still bigger than a horse. The most important thing now was not to go head-on with the Xia family.

“Little Uncle! I don’t want to divorce Shen Na! Please save me, Little Uncle! I beg you not to agree to her request! She’s just a scoundrel!” Ma San said on the brink of tears.

If he lost the He family’s help, how was he going to pay off his gambling debts in the future! Even selling off all the Ma family’s assets was not enough!