

Fat Wife 541

Chapter 541 Hatred

“Xiao Zhao, you’re here! Thank you so much for your help in the past two days. Where’s your wife? Come into the house quickly. I’ve made chicken soup. Come in and have some food before you leave!” Qiao Qiang said warmly.

“No, Uncle Qiao. We still have some food at home. If we don’t go back and finish it, it’ll go bad soon. You and Xiao Wei can eat together,” Zhao Liang said.

“I’m old and my teeth aren’t good. I can’t really eat meat. Xiao Wei can’t eat so much meaty stuff on his own. Let him drink more soup for nourishment. Otherwise, this leftover chicken will go bad as well. Eat here together with your wife. Don’t say no to me.” Qiao Qiang turned around and yelled towards Zhang Wei, “Xiao Wei, go into the room and get chairs for your Uncle and Auntie Zhao so they can join us for dinner tonight!”

He was so hospitable that Zhao Liang and his wife had no choice but to stay behind. At the dining table, Zhang Wei appeared uneasy as he kept wondering how Zhang Miao was doing.

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“Xiao Wei, why aren’t you eating?” Qiao Qiang asked.

Zhang Wei put down his bowl and chopsticks and said, “Grandpa, I miss Zhang Miao. I wonder how Miao Miao is doing, and if Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin are doing alright.”

Zhao Liang had given Qiao Mei a call early in the morning to tell her that Zhang Wei was already awake. He had also asked about Zhang Miao. The situation was not very optimistic, but she was still alive and well.

“What exactly happened at that time? Do you know who took Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin away?” the auntie asked.

“It’s my father and my eldest brother. The two of them took Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin away for some reason. Before they left, they even said that they were bringing them away to raise them. Zhang Miao could not bear to let Zhang Qin go, so she went chasing after them. Then my father kicked her.” Zhang Wei looked down and told her what happened that day.

The other three people in the room all gasped. They did not expect Zhang Qian to be so ruthless to Zhang Miao.

Even a vicious tiger would not eat its own cubs. This man was simply inhumane!

“Alright child, don’t think too much. Your elder sister Qiao Mei will take care of the matter regarding your younger siblings. The most important thing for you now is to take care of yourself,” Zhao Liang said with a sigh.

These children had such a tough life! With such a heartless father, even a deity could not help them.

Now, he could only place his hopes on Qiao Mei and pray that the heavens would take pity on these children and let them be safe and sound.

Zhao Liang and his wife returned home after dinner and called Qiao Mei to tell her about what they heard.

After Qiao Mei hung up the phone, she sat in front of Zhang Miao’s bed with a dark expression. Even after a day, Zhang Miao still showed no signs of consciousness. One bottle after another of medicine was being injected into Zhang Miao’s body through an IV drip.

For such a young child to be injected with so much medicine every day, no one knew if her body could withstand it.

“Qiao Mei, take a break. I’ll take care of Zhang Miao for a while,” Li Gui said.

Qiao Mei looked at Li Gui coldly and did not say anything. She did not understand why Li Gui insisted on not getting a divorce. If she had agreed to the divorce back then, Zhang Miao would not have been

injured and sent to the hospital, and the other two children would not have been taken away and gone missing.

“Mei Mei? Why are you looking at me like that?” Li Gui asked Qiao Mei, feeling puzzled.

“Uncle Zhao called me just now to say that Zhang Wei is awake,” Qiao Mei said.

Li Gui was so agitated that she almost cried out. She quickly packed her things so that she could go home to see Zhang Wei, but then she remembered that Zhang Miao also needed someone to take care of her now. She silently put down the bag in her hand.

“It’s good that he’s fine. Is he at... Uncle Qiao’s place now?” Li Gui said embarrassedly.

She was really embarrassed to address Qiao Qiang as Uncle Qiao in front of Qiao Mei, but she was too ashamed to address him as father.

“Yes, grandfather is taking care of him. Uncle and Auntie Zhao will visit them often. There’s nothing much happening in the village now,” Qiao Mei said.

“That’s good, that’s good. Then... is there any news from Chen Hu about Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin?” Li Gui asked softly.

Qiao Mei fell silent again. At the thought of those two children, her heart ached as if it had been forcibly dug out of her chest, but she did not know who to blame.

Should she blame Li Gui for not getting a divorce earlier so that the children could live a stable life?

Or should she blame Zhang Qian for being a heartless bastard? He did not even let his own children off!

Or should she blame herself for being angry with Li Gui? If she did not go out that day, would the children still meet with such misfortune?

Chapter 542 Agree To Get A Divorce

"Do you know who abducted Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin? Do you know who injured Zhang Wei and Zhang Miao so badly?" Qiao Mei suppressed the anger in her heart and questioned Li Gui.

Li Gui shook her head at a loss. She had no clue about this matter at all.

She did not have any enemies in the village and everyone treated her well on account of Qiao Mei. If there was anyone in the village who held grudges against her, it would be Qiao Zhuang's family members.

"Can it be Qiao Zhuang's family! They took Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin away!" Li Gui said agitatedly as she held Qiao Mei's hand.

"It's Zhang Qian. Zhang Wei said that it was Zhang Qian who did it. Zhang Qian was also the one who injured Zhang Miao so badly. Can you hear me clearly?" Qiao Mei said mockingly.

Li Gui took two steps back. She could not believe that Zhang Qian was the one who did this.

That was the children's biological father! How could he hurt the children!

"No! It can't be Zhang Qian! Even though he doesn't usually treat the children well, he won't be so ruthless to his children! Those are his sons and daughters!" Li Gui shouted at the top of her lungs.

Xia Zhe had just returned with some water when he heard the commotion in the room. It was not convenient for him to enter and disturb them at this moment, so he could only stand at the door and listen quietly.

"Do you believe what I say now? Zhang Qian is a mercenary person. Until now, the whereabouts of Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin are still unknown. Did he do his part as a father and raise these children? After he chased you out of the house, didn't he also ask the children to come out and earn money together with you? When did he ever care about these children?" Qiao Mei questioned.

Zhang Wei still had scars on his body from the beatings he received from Zhang Qian. During winter, Zhang Chao's legs would hurt so much that he could not even walk or stand. It was all because Old

Madam Zhang did not buy him thick pants in order to save money. In the dead of winter, she made Zhang Chao wear lightweight pants to school. Zhang Qin had frostbite on her hands. When Zhang Miao first came, she was as skinny as a tiny little chick.

All these showed that the Zhang family was prejudiced against the children and treated them with contempt.

It was all because of the fact that their household register was in the countryside and they received very little rations. As it was Li Gui's second marriage, she had always been the subject of criticism and Old Madam Zhang had always looked down on her.

"I... I don't know... I never expected Zhang Qian to be so vicious..." Li Gui said softly.

"It's true that he does not constantly hit and scold the children. You think that he only treats you like this, that as long as you endure the pain, you can let the children have a good life. The truth is that Zhang Qian has no intention of letting any of you off," Qiao Mei said.

Li Gui knelt on the ground and cried bitterly. She did not know how things had developed to this point.

She must find Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin. These children must return to her side. She would not allow a single one of them to go missing!

Even if she had to sell everything and borrow money from all the neighbors in the village, she must divorce Zhang Qian. Only then could her children grow up healthily.

However, what was the point of saying all this now? She was just a woman and did not have the ability to find the children. Zhang Miao's medical fees alone were already too much for her to afford.

"Do you still have no intention to divorce Zhang Qian?" Qiao Mei asked.

"I do! I want a divorce! But will Zhang Qian return the children to me before the divorce? Where can he have taken the children? Can I get the children back?" Li Gui asked.

Qiao Mei could not guarantee that she would be able to find Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin. She was certain that Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin had not left the county city since Chen Hu had already sealed all the entrances and exits. Even if the human trafficker had extraordinary abilities, he would not be able to fly out.

"I'll settle the matter of finding the children, but you have to promise me that you'll definitely get a divorce. Otherwise, I won't help you. Even if the children are found this time, they'll still be taken away by Zhang Qian and he can still bully them however he wants," Qiao Mei said.

Li Gui quickly nodded. She had completely figured out this matter. As long as she did not leave Zhang Qian, these children's lives would always be in danger. They had been taken away this time and their whereabouts were still unknown. If there was a next time, it was very likely that they would be skinned alive and have their internal organs removed.

She really did not dare to imagine how she could live without Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin in her life, and what Zhang Miao would do when she woke up and could not find Zhang Qin.

"I promise you! I will definitely get a divorce!" Li Gui said firmly.

Now, they were just short of finding the clues to save Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin so that their family could be reunited.

Chapter 543 I Am Your Mother

Sister Jiang and her husband brought Zhang Qin to the train station. They did not expect it to be so heavily guarded. Everyone entering and exiting the station were interrogated carefully before they were allowed to move on.

People like them who came from other regions and did not know anyone in the county city were usually prime targets for interrogation. Moreover, Zhang Qin was already too grown up for them to be able to fool people about her identity.

They did not drive here. If they did not take the train, there was no other way out. They could not leave their dim-witted son at home for too long.

Sister Jiang and her husband, Guo Tian, were relatives. Her own family thought that Guo Tian was a useless man. His family ran a huge business, but he did not know how to manage it. It started to decline after he took over. In order not to lose their family assets, they could only choose a girl from within their extended family.

At that time, Sister Jiang's family had taken a fancy to the Guo family's wealth and proceeded to separate Sister Jiang from the person she loved. Later on, Sister Jiang accepted the reality that was her life and decided to have Guo Tian's children. However, because of the fact that they were related by blood, the children she gave birth to were either deformed or stillborn. It was not easy for her to finally have a normal-looking child, but he ended up to be a dimwit in the end.

That was why they had no choice but to spend money to buy a girl to be their son's child bride.

Sister Jiang brought Zhang Qin to a hidden corner and said sternly, "When we get to the train station later, if anyone asks you, just say that I'm your mother. Do you understand!"

"You're not my mother! My mother's name is Li Gui and my sister's name is Qiao Mei. You're not my mother!" Zhang Qin struggled and replied.

Sister Jiang went forward to cover Zhang Qin's mouth and reached out to pinch Zhang Qin's body near the ribcage a few times with all her might.

"You little brat, you'd better shut up. Let me tell you, if I don't live well, you won't get to live well either! Your parents don't want you anymore! I'm your mother now! Do you understand!" Sister Jiang shouted.

Zhang Qin widened her eyes. Even when Sister Jiang pinched her, she did not make a sound. It was not true that she was unwanted!

It was Zhang Qian who took her and Zhang Chao away. Her mother and elder sister loved her and were looking for her now. She was not an unwanted child!

"My mother's name is Li Gui! My sister's name is Qiao Mei! You're not my mother! Let go of me!" Zhang Qin said as she struggled.

Sister Jiang was very exasperated. She went up and slapped Zhang Qin, pointed at her and said, "You'd better listen to me, or I'll throw you into the river!"

Sister Jiang's beating and scolding attracted the attention of passers-by. Guo Tian smiled and said to everyone, "The child is throwing a tantrum and insisting on buying toys. Her mother is educating her! Please disperse, disperse please!"

When the passers-by heard this, they walked away and stopped watching. Zhang Qin did not retort and stood there silently, glaring at Sister Jiang.

"At least you know what's good for you. Hurry up and follow me. If we miss the train, you'll have to sleep on the streets!" Sister Jiang pulled Zhang Qin and walked out of the alley.

Guo Tian patiently held Zhang Qin's hand and walked with her. Other than taking care of children, he did not know how to do anything else.

"Hey! Where are you from! Is this your child?" an inspector asked.

Sister Jiang walked forward openly and said, "This is my daughter. We're from Blue City."

Blue City? Blue City was at least 2,000 kilometers away from here. Who would come here for no rhyme or reason!

"Why are you here?" the inspector asked.

"We're in business. Our family business is expanding and we're thinking of coming to this area," Sister Jiang said with a smile.

It was understandable to travel here on business, but which family would bring a child along when out on a business trip, especially when it was so cold in the north. If a child came here and could not get acclimatized, the child might even catch a cold.

"Then why do you bring your child along? Does your child know how to do business?" the inspector was alert and asked as he looked at them.

"It's... it's rare for us to go on a long trip. Since the child has never been anywhere since young, we want to bring her out and broaden her horizons," Guo Tian said nervously.

Zhang Qin suddenly broke free from Guo Tian's grip and ran towards the inspector, shouting, "They're not my parents! Save me!"

Qiao Mei had once instructed her to go to the police station and look for the police officers if she ever got lost.

In the past, she had never been bought out, so she did not know what kind of clothes police officers wore. However, Qiao Mei had told her that police officers were the people who had stars and badges on their shoulders.

Chapter 544 Bribe

Sister Jiang wanted to go forward and grab Zhang Qin, but she was stopped by the inspectors. The people patrolling in the vicinity quickly surrounded them and Guo Tian was so frightened that he hid behind Sister Jiang.

Sister Jiang, on the other hand, looked calm and composed. She had been through all kinds of difficult situations in her life and knew that they did not have any evidence to show that she was involved in the trafficking of children.

"What are you doing? My train is leaving soon. If you continue on like this, our entire family won't be able to go back!" Sister Jiang said.

The inspectors immediately sent someone to get Chen Hu. They kept a close eye on the scene and would not let go of anyone they deemed suspicious.

"You're now our suspects. Please come with me," the inspector said politely.

Sister Jiang smiled and went forward to hold the inspector's arm. "Little brother, is it convenient for us to talk in private?"

The inspector looked around and did not see anyone who looked like an accomplice. This woman must have something to tell him since she asked him to step aside. Here was a good opportunity to catch them red-handed.

"Alright, come with me." The inspector took her to one side.

Sister Jiang sneakily took out a stack of money from her pocket and said, "Sir, please be kind and let us pass. We will remember your kindness today."

The inspector stared at the stack of money. It was at least 1,000 dollars. This was equivalent to his salary for five years. With this money, his children and wife need not have such a hard life.

Sister Jiang looked at the inspector mockingly. This county city was so poor that they could not even afford to repair the roads. To the people here, money was definitely very important. What she did not lack was money. What did it matter to her if she could use money to get someone off her back?

The inspector reached out to take her money. Before Sister Jiang could feel happy about it, he shouted at his colleague behind him, "She wants to bribe me! Come and arrest her!"

Sister Jiang looked at the inspector angrily. She did not expect him not to take the bribe. If he was unwilling to do it, then why did he still take her money!

"You! You were putting on an act for me!" Sister Jiang roared.

The inspector looked at her with a smile. Actually, it was not entirely an act. Anyone would be tempted by this huge bribe, but he did not want to ruin his career because of this money.

All his life, he did not know much. It was Chen Hu who gave him a job and it was also Chen Hu who taught him everything he knew. He knew that since the scale of this operation was so huge, it must be

something important to Chen Hu. Even if there were mountains of gold and silver in front of him, he would not bow down to it.

A few days ago, during the parent-teacher meeting at his son's school, his son had said in front of everyone that he was a good police officer, a good father and was his role model.

For the sake of that hero image in his son's heart, he could not do such a heartless thing.

"Bring them back!" The inspectors escorted them to the police station and Zhang Qin was brought to Chen Hu's office.

Chen Hu hurriedly came back from outside. When he entered the room, the first thing he did was to check if Zhang Qin had suffered any physical injuries.

Zhang Qin froze on the spot, not knowing who the person in front of her was. She stared at Chen Hu nervously.

"Child, don't be afraid. I'm the head of the armed forces department. My name is Chen Hu. Can you tell me your name?" Chen Hu asked gently.

Zhang Qin looked at Chen Hu warily and whispered, "My name is Zhang Qin..."

Chen Hu was clear-headed. The name matched and it was a girl. She should be Qiao Mei's younger sister.

"Then who else is there in your family?" Chen Hu asked.

Zhang Qin did not continue to answer his question. She could not casually tell outsiders details about her family. Chen Hu had a fierce look on his face. If not for his military uniform, he looked like a bad guy.

"Child, don't be afraid. My name is Chen Hu and I'm your elder sister, Qiao Mei's uncle. You can also call me Uncle Hu. It's your elder sister who arranged for me to look for you. Don't be afraid," Chen Hu said.

Upon hearing that Chen Hu knew Qiao Mei, Zhang Qin quickly said, "You know my elder sister! Is my elder sister looking for me! Is my elder sister really looking for me! She won't abandon me, right!"

Chen Hu nodded and told Zhang Qin in an affirmative tone, "Your elder sister has been looking for you. She often calls me to ask if I've found you or not. Your mother is also trying her best to look for you. Who said that they don't want you? Uncle Hu will break that person's legs! However, you have to give me some detailed information about yourself before I can be sure that you're the person I'm looking for."

Chapter 545 Finding Clues

"Then I'll tell you. My mother's name is Li Gui, my elder sister's name is Qiao Mei. I also have a grandfather and his name is Qiao Qiang. My family lives in Foshan Village and I have two older brothers and a younger sister," Zhang Qin said obediently.

Chen Hu laughed happily. He had finally found one of the children.

"That's right, that's right, I have found the right person! It's you! Stay here with me first. Once your sister gets the news, she'll come and pick you up," Chen Hu said.

Zhang Qin looked around and asked cautiously, "Where's my brother, Zhang Chao? Why isn't he here?"

Chen Hu looked at Zhang Qin, a little lost for words. Zhang Chao had not been found yet. He guessed that those people who took him must have received the news and did not dare to show their faces now.

Now that they had found Zhang Qin, they would soon be able to find out more about this matter. It would not be easy to capture the people who took Zhang Chao away.

"We're still looking for your brother. Trust me, I'll be able to find him soon," Chen Hu comforted her.

Zhang Qin nodded. Since Chen Hu could find her, then he would definitely be able to find her brother.

"I'll ask you a few questions according to the procedures. Can you tell me everything truthfully?" Chen Hu said.

"Yes, Uncle. Go ahead and ask," Zhang Qin said.

"Who took you from your house? How were you taken away? Just tell me what you know." Chen Hu sat at his desk and prepared to take notes.

"My father and eldest brother took me away and we went to a house in the county city. I don't know whose house it was. There was a beautiful auntie and many other people in the house. Then my brother was taken away. After that, I was taken away too." Zhang Qin recalled carefully but there was only so much that she could remember.

Chen Hu did not expect someone else to be involved in this matter. Previously, there were rumors of children being bought and sold in the county city, but it was all hearsay. They also had a few suspects previously and had been secretly observing these people. Unfortunately, no one came to report any case, and they did not have conclusive evidence to arrest anyone.

He took out the photos of a few women from the drawer and asked Zhang Qian, "Is there anyone you know in here?"

Zhang Qin recognized Chu Xin immediately. She would never forget this face for the rest of her life. She immediately took the photo and shouted, "It's her, it's her! She sold my brother and me!"

Chen Hu looked at the person in the photo and thought that he seemed to have some impression of her. She used to roam around everywhere and many police officers were looking for her. She was famous for being a habitual child abductor.

"I get it. I'll call your elder sister now. They'll come and take you home in a while. Stay here and play for a while!" Chen Hu gave Zhang Qin a few toys to play with while he went into the conference room next door for a meeting.

There were already many people sitting inside waiting for him to decide on the next steps of the plan. Now that they found Zhang Qin, it was equivalent to finding new leads.

It would become easier to find Zhang Chao by following the clues.

"I want to pay special tribute to our inspectors for the achievement today. They successfully seized 1,560 dollars from the criminals. This money will go to the overtime pay for everyone's additional workload recently. Share it among everyone later. I won't be reporting this," Chen Hu said.

Everyone cheered when they heard the news. There were a total of 50 of them who participated in the patrol, which meant that each of them would get about 30 dollars! That was half a month's salary!

"Thank you, boss!" everyone shouted.

Chen Hu laughed and knocked on the table. The entire room fell silent immediately.

"We have discovered something new. The child just told me that the woman in this photo kidnapped them and conducted the transactions. Who's the one secretly investigating this matter previously?" Chen Hu asked.

"It's me, boss. This woman doesn't have a name and she's an orphan who called herself Big Red. She has always sold children for a living, but she only does things that are mutually consensual, the type where no one will call the police when the child disappears. That's why she has never been arrested. I'm not too sure about anything else because I haven't paid any attention to her for a long time," the soldier said.

Chen Hu waved his hand and gestured for him to sit down. The most important thing now was to get a hold of the Zhang family and get some clues from them. Then, he would narrow down the areas where they could go to search for suspicious people.

The most important thing now was the child's safety. The rest could be discussed later.

Chapter 546 Coming to Arrest Someone

"Your team will set off with me immediately to look for the Zhang family members and bring them back. The rest of you continue to patrol in shifts. I don't believe that those people will fly out of the city with the child! Get Xiaobei's men to investigate in secret and see if any neighbors have reported anything," Chen Hu said.

Everyone shouted, "Yes!"

"Let's go!"

Chen Hu led a group of people to the Zhang family's neighborhood and headed straight for their house.

The people in the house were not doing anything dangerous, so they could not just break in. Chen Hu knocked on the door patiently and shouted, "Open the door. I'm the head of the armed forces department. My name is Chen Hu!"

At this moment, all the Zhang family members were at home. Zhang Cong hugged Sun Yan and stayed in the room nervously, not daring to move. Old Madam Zhang hid under the dining table and did not dare to make a sound. Zhang Qian even squatted by the balcony, ready to jump down and escape at any moment. Only Old Master Zhang sat steadily on the sofa and drank his tea slowly.

"You lousy old man, you're still in the mood to drink tea! A disaster is imminent, quickly think of a way out!" Old Madam Zhang shouted.

Old Master Zhang smiled and said, "From the beginning to the end, it was the few of you who did this. It has nothing to do with me. I'm an upright person and I'm not afraid of them."

In today's society, it was not like in the past when if a person committed a crime, his entire family was punished as well. Now, whoever was at fault would bear the full responsibility. Old Master Zhang was naturally not afraid.

"You! That's your biological son! Think of a way quickly!" Old Madam Zhang picked up the chopsticks on the table and threw them at Old Master Zhang.

Old Master Zhang looked around this shabby house. He actually doted on his grandson very much. No matter how poor the family was, these people should never have done anything sneaky and dishonest.

Now, he must stand up for the two children who had been sold!

He stood up silently and walked towards the doorway. He opened the door slowly and said to Chen Hu, "Please come in."

Chen Hu and his team barged into the house. Before anyone could react, they grabbed hold of Zhang Qian and Zhang Cong. The team then went into the rooms to search for other clues.

"Save me! Dad! I didn't do this! It has nothing to do with me! Let go of me! Grandma, save me! It's not me!" Zhang Cong shouted at the top of his lungs.

Sun Yan knelt on the ground and begged Chen Hu, "This has nothing to do with my husband! My husband didn't know what he was asked to do! He was deceived by his father! Please investigate clearly! My husband is really not a criminal!"

Chen Hu turned to look at Zhang Qian. Along the way, he had already gathered a lot of information. He knew very clearly that Zhang Qian was definitely the mastermind, but he did not know whether Zhang Cong was involved as well.

"I didn't do this! It was Zhang Cong! He was blinded by greed! He wanted to sell his younger siblings to subsidize the family's expenses! It wasn't me! It really wasn't me! Mother, say something! Quick, be my witness! It really wasn't me!" Zhang Qian shouted helplessly.

Old Madam Zhang looked at her biological son and then at Zhang Cong. In the end, she chose Zhang Qian.

"This matter has nothing to do with my son! Zhang Cong, just plead guilty! Don't implicate the entire family!" Old Madam Zhang said as she turned her back on him.

Sun Yan crawled in front of Old Madam Zhang angrily and pulled her out from under the table fiercely. "Grandma! Don't be a liar! I'm carrying Zhang Cong's child, your great-grandchild! The flesh and blood of the Zhang family! If Zhang Cong goes to jail, this child will be finished! He won't be able to raise his head for the rest of his life! Grandma, tell the truth!"

Old Madam Zhang was stunned. Even if she cared about her son, the descendants of the Zhang family were the most important. Zhang Qian was already old and he did not even have a job now. He was just a useless person at home.

If Zhang Cong got a divorce and then married a widow like his father, the family would have to spend even more money.

Sun Yan was an obedient child. Her family was capable and she was even pregnant now. Sun Yan did not have any siblings, so when the time came, her maternal family would definitely give her whatever she wanted.

Protecting Zhang Cong was the most cost-effective move. However, Zhang Qian was her biological son! He was her flesh and blood!

"Grandma! Say something! Why would Zhang Cong sell his younger siblings! What does he get out of selling them!" Seeing that Old Madam Zhang remained silent, Sun Yan knelt down to beg Chen Hu again.

Chapter 547 Taken Away And Locked Up

Old Madam Zhang started to wail. She really did not know how to choose between the Zhang family's lineage and her own son.

Zhang Cong shouted agitatedly at Old Madam Zhang, "Grandma! I'm still young! I'm also doing well at work! You will be able to play with your great-grandchild soon. By then, you just need to stay at home and enjoy life! Grandma, I can take care of you until you die! Grandma, think about it carefully!"

These words completely woke Old Madam Zhang up. At her current age, it was not an exaggeration to say that she was already more or less in the grave. She had suffered her entire life. Would it be too much to want to enjoy life before she died?

Old Madam Zhang stood up and pointed at Zhang Qian with a trembling finger. "Son, just admit your guilt. This matter has nothing to do with any of us!"

Zhang Qian looked at Old Madam Zhang in shock. He never thought that Old Madam Zhang would be so merciless to him.

"I didn't! Chen Hu! I didn't do this! It was my mother! My mother said that these children eat and use everything we have at home. We might as well sell them to get some money! She was the one who instructed me to do this! It has nothing to do with me! She also chose the two children! I'm also a victim!" Zhang Qian shouted.

Chen Hu quietly watched the scene of the Zhang family trying to sabotage each other. Even television dramas were not as exciting as this.

Old Madam Zhang was definitely the reason for the fact that Zhang Qian was still such a scoundrel even as a grown man. Since both of them were pushing the blame to each other, he would bring them back for a proper interrogation.

"I don't want to hear you pointing fingers at one another here. Come back to the police station with me and explain yourself clearly." Chen Hu frustratedly pushed open the Zhang family's door.

His team escorted the Zhang family members and lined them up to walk to the car. People who passed by all stopped to watch.

"I never expect the Zhang family to have such a day!"

"Evil people do get what they deserve! Old Madam Zhang used to keep showing off in front of me, but now she's being sent to the police station because of her son!"

"That's right! Doesn't she keep saying that her son is the most filial! This is how he shows his filial piety."

"Stay locked up for the rest of your life!"

"Hahahahahaha"

The Zhang family did a lot of evil things and usually treated their neighbors very harshly. Old Madam Zhang liked to kick people when they were down. When others had trouble at home, she would always pass sarcastic remarks. Now that the Zhang family was in trouble, it was not unexpected for other people to want to come and gloat.

This was retribution!

Zhang Qian glared fiercely at the people who mocked him. The police did not have any evidence to prove that he was the one who sold the children. He had only done something wrong because he was deceived by Chu Xin. He was also an innocent party.

At the end of the day, Chu Xin was the main culprit and they should settle the score with her! It had nothing to do with him! Chu Xin had even cheated him of his money and feelings. If not for Chu Xin telling him all these things every day, he would not have been so obsessed.

That was right! This was what he would tell Chen Hu later!

Of course, Chen Hu knew what the Zhang family members were like. He had already sent his team to secretly conduct an investigation earlier. Qiao Mei told him that she still had some other use for Zhang Qian and that she would make a decision later.

When they arrived at the armed forces department, Zhang Qian immediately saw Zhang Qin kicking shuttlecocks in the courtyard with some people. He thought she should be at someone else's house now? Why was she here!

"You! Why did you run out on your own! No! You're not Zhang Qin! You're in disguise! You're here to lie to me so that I will confess!" Zhang Qian said crazily.

Zhang Qin hid behind a soldier in fear, afraid that Zhang Qian would go crazy and take her away again.

Chen Hu went forward and gave Zhang Qian a kick. How dare this guy cause a scene in his territory without any respect for him! After entering this courtyard, everyone had to listen to him.

"Go in quickly! What are you shouting about! What right do you have to face your children now? Get in!" Chen Hu shouted.

The men locked Zhang Qian up in the cell next to Sister Jiang and her husband. Sister Jiang recognized him as Chu Xin's lover at one glance and rushed over angrily to glare at Zhang Qian, wishing that she could skin him alive.

"You deserve a thousand cuts! I'm glad you're caught! What kind of background does your family have? Are the children even yours! How did you manage to provoke people from the armed forces department!" Sister Jiang shouted angrily.

Zhang Qian sneered and said, "How would I know who I've provoked? Besides, you willingly accepted the deal and now you're blaming me. How dare you have the cheek to criticize me?"

Chapter 548 Need Quiet Rest

"I thought we had a deal! You gave this child to me voluntarily, and it's not a child you stole from another family. How can so many things happen now!" Sister Jiang said.

Back then, Chu Xin had hyped everything up and even used her own life as a guarantee that nothing would go wrong.

There were also many rich families around her who went to buy other people's children. They were all safe and sound and nothing happened to them. This girl was just a village girl from the countryside. How could the entire armed forces be mobilized to search the entire county city for her?

Yesterday, she heard a junior soldier saying the family had offered a large reward in order to find the other boy, and he was wondering why the family had gone to the extent of selling the children if they were able to fork out so much money.

Zhang Qian was about to say something when the soldiers quickly interrupted them and shouted, "Shut up! Who says you can talk! Stay here quietly and don't talk!"

Chen Hu returned to the office and gave Qiao Mei a call.

"Mei Mei, we've already captured the Zhang family members. Now that we have a lead on Zhang Chao, we should be able to bring the child back tonight. How's Zhang Miao?" Chen Hu asked.

Qiao Mei looked at Zhang Miao, who was lying on the bed. She was not awake yet. The doctor said that it would likely take another week to see some improvements. It would not be easy for Zhang Miao to recover from her current condition.

Qiao Mei sighed deeply and said, "The doctor said that there's nothing serious now. The only thing we can do now is to let her recuperate quietly. Uncle Hu, I'll go over to your place now. There are some things I have to make clear to Zhang Qian."

"Alright, Xiaobei will come and pick you up," Chen Hu said.

After Qiao Mei thanked Chen Hu, she packed her things and prepared to set off. This time, she must get Li Gui to cut off ties with the Zhang family, so that they would have nothing to do with each other anymore.

Xia Zhe stayed behind to take care of Zhang Miao while Li Gui followed behind Qiao Mei nervously. She had already decided to divorce Zhang Qian, but because Zhang Qian had hit and insulted her over a long period of time, she would feel fear from the bottom of her heart whenever she saw him.

They arrived at the armed forces department very quickly. Xiaobei enthusiastically brought them to look for Chen Hu.

Everyone in the troops knew that Chen Hu had a beautiful niece. When Qiao Mei first visited, they were all not around. They would hear Chen Hu's assistant, Xiao Liu, praising Qiao Mei every day, so much so that they felt that they had calluses in their ears!

All of them put down what they were doing and ran out to take a look for themselves.

"She's really a fairy! Looks like Brother Liu didn't lie to us!"

"She's so beautiful, but she's already married. What a pity!"

"Hahahaha, don't let your wife hear this! Otherwise, you won't be able to come here standing upright tomorrow!"

Everyone roared with laughter, causing Qiao Mei to glance sideways and smile at them. They finally understood what it meant for a woman to be described as mesmerizing and alluring and as pretty as a fairy.

"Mei Mei, you're here! We haven't seen each other for a long time. You're even prettier than before!" Chen Hu said with a smile.

"Uncle Hu, you're such a joker. I'm already a few months pregnant and gained so much weight. Stop teasing me." Qiao Mei put down the bag of fruits she was holding. She had bought them on the way here.

She asked Xiaobei to distribute the fruits among the soldiers. After all, everyone had worked hard and she had nothing else with which to thank them for.

Chen Hu kept chatting with Qiao Mei and ignored Li Gui, who was behind her.

Even though they had not seen each other for more than 10 years, he could still recognize Li Gui. He could indeed tell that Li Gui had suffered a lot over the years, but if not for her, Qiao Mei would not have been raised as an orphan from a young age.

Qiao Mei silently held Li Gui's hand and said, "Uncle Hu, I'm actually here to discuss something important with you."

"Tell me what it is and I promise to do it for you," Chen Hu said.

"I want Zhang Qian and my mother to get a divorce before you deal with this case. Let me know if it is alright," Qiao Mei asked.

If Zhang Qian was brought to justice now, these children would not be able to work in the government and military services in the future. The fact that their father was a criminal who had abducted children would be an issue that would affect them for the rest of their lives.

It would be different if the couple got a divorce now. Then, these children would have nothing to do with him. They were all victims and they would not be affected in the future.

Chen Hu glanced at Li Gui and said earnestly to Qiao Mei, "Is this your idea or hers?"

Li Gui hurriedly said, "It's me! It's my idea!"

Chapter 549 I Am Their Father

"You have to think about the children's future. If you have to take care of four children on your own, can you provide for them well?" Chen Hu said.

Li Gui said seriously, "I've thought it through. I can support these children on my own. Zhang Wei is already a big boy and they can take care of one another. The money I make from selling vegetables and doing other work can cover the children's expenses."

"If you can raise four children on your own, then why didn't you raise Qiao Mei yourself back then?" Chen Hu said mockingly.

Li Gui was rendered speechless. Although she had her own difficulties back then, she should not have left Qiao Mei with the heartless Qiao Zhuang's family. Even if she had left the young girl at the door of any other family, Qiao Mei's life would still turn out much better than being left at Qiao Zhuang's house.

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"That's all in the past. Let's not talk about it anymore. Uncle Hu, please bring me to see Zhang Qian," Qiao Mei said.

On Qiao Mei's account, Chen Hu did not continue talking about what happened back then. He walked in front angrily and ignored both Qiao Mei and Li Gui.

Qiao Mei smiled and said, "Mom, don't take it to heart. I don't blame you for what happened back then. I have turned out fine too, right? Don't take Uncle Hu's words to heart."

Li Gui nodded. She was in the wrong in this matter. In the future, she would definitely make it up to Qiao Mei twice as much and treat her well, making sure that she need not suffer anymore.

She would get the four children to treat Qiao Mei well and repay her kindness when they grew up.

As soon as the three of them entered the guarded area, Sister Jiang instantly perked up and crawled towards the cell door with all her might, shouting, "Big brother! Big brother, let me out! I really didn't do this! Big brother, please be kind!"

Chen Hu asked someone to bring a chair for Qiao Mei. He stood behind Qiao Mei to back her up.

"Sit there obediently! Shut your mouth!" Chen Hu shouted.

Sister Jiang was so frightened that she sat on the ground obediently. Guo Tian quickly helped Sister Jiang to sit on a stone stool at the side and lowered his head in silence.

The moment Zhang Qian saw Qiao Mei, he understood everything. With Qiao Qiang's influence, it would be easy for him to contact the head of the armed forces department. No wonder the movement of people in the entire county city came under control within such a short period of time.

Zhang Qian propped himself up using the stone stool and said, "I just know it's you who blocked my way! If not for you, I would have a new family long ago! My Chu Xin would not have left me! It's all your fault!"

Chen Hu could not help himself from laughing aloud. He did not expect Zhang Qian to be a person who believed in love. No wonder he could be deceived by Chu Xin.

"Your Chu Xin's name is actually Big Red. She's a fugitive who specializes in trafficking children and is under police surveillance in various areas. Do you still think that it's love between the two of you? In fact, you're just her money-making tool," Chen Hu said laughingly.

Zhang Qian rushed to the metal door and roared at Chen Hu, "Bastard! You must be lying! She loves me! You're talking nonsense! She said that she would marry me! She doesn't want anything, she loves me wholeheartedly! You're all lying to me!"

Qiao Mei felt that the current Zhang Qian seemed more like a human. At least he was arguing with others for the sake of the person he loved and was not doing some sneaky stuff.

"Whether you believe it or not, you helped her sell Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin. What you did is a crime," Qiao Mei said calmly.

"Those are my own children! Why can't I decide where they go! I'm their father and I can sell whoever I want to anyone! What right do you have to arrest me!" Zhang Qian said angrily.

"Do you have the right to call yourself their father! Have you taken care of them for even a day? I won't argue with you about this. Since you say that you're their father, then you should be responsible for Zhang Miao," Qiao Mei said.

Zhang Qian looked at Qiao Mei in confusion. What did this have to do with Zhang Miao? The one he abducted was Zhang Qin.

"What's wrong with Zhang Miao?" Zhang Qian asked, feeling puzzled.

Qiao Mei took out the test results from her bag and showed them to Zhang Qian. She said slowly, "This is a summary of Zhang Miao's expenses from staying in the hospital during this period of time. She has broken ribs on both sides from that kick you gave her and is still in a coma. She will need to recuperate for at least half a year. Tell me, don't you think you have to bear this expense?"

In the neighboring cell, Zhang Cong's heart skipped a beat when he heard that Zhang Miao had been hospitalized. He had been thinking about Zhang Miao's injuries and did not expect it to be so serious.

Chapter 550 You Have to Give Me Money

Zhang Qian immediately remembered how Zhang Wei held Zhang Miao and wailed behind them. He originally thought that it was just a superficial wound and did not take it to heart. He had given Zhang

Wei and Li Gui even more severe beatings previously and nothing had happened to them over the years. How could Zhang Miao be so seriously injured?

“You’re lying to me, right? I only kicked her once, how can it be so serious? You just want to cheat me of my money,” Zhang Qian said with a guilty conscience.

“You’ll know whether it’s fake or not when you go to the hospital with me. Otherwise, you can bring Zhang Miao to the big city for treatment. I won’t stop you,” Qiao Mei said.

“I don’t have any money! That woman cheated me of all my money! I don’t even have a job now! I... I have no money, you can take my life if you want!” Zhang Qian said.

Qiao Mei summed up the amounts on the receipts. The total was 374 dollars. They would still need to incur nutrition fees and costs for various follow-up checks later. These would all require money.

Back then, Zhang Qian had said that he would divorce Li Gui if they gave him 500 dollars. Now, they could just offset the medical fees and nutrition fees from this amount of money he wanted.

“Isn’t all your money with Old Madam Zhang? It’s alright if she wants to pay for you.” Qiao Mei turned to look at Old Madam Zhang.

Old Madam Zhang quickly curled up in the corner and muttered to herself, “I don’t have money... I don’t have money... Don’t look at me... I don’t have a single cent on me...”

“It’s fine if you don’t pay me. I have an agreement here. As long as you sign it, you don’t have to pay me,” Qiao Mei said as she placed the agreement in front of Zhang Qian.

Zhang Qian reached out to take the agreement. The word “divorce” was like a knife stabbing into his eyes.

For so many years, only he could bring up the topic of divorce to Li Gui. He would never allow Li Gui to go against him.

“Well done! You’re really your mother’s good daughter! You’re forcing your mother to divorce me! Aren’t you afraid that others will point fingers at you and scold you if word gets out! I won’t agree to a divorce! You can just give up!” Zhang Qian said as he threw the divorce agreement on the floor.

“If you don’t want a divorce, then give me the money. You’ll be able to come out when you’ve paid me back in full. I estimate that Zhang Miao’s treatment will cost about 600 dollars in total. It’s hard to say if there will be any aftereffects from the injuries. If she becomes semi-paralyzed or worsens into a vegetative state, the medical costs will be even higher,” Qiao Mei said casually.

An estimate of 600 dollars was on the low side. Given Zhang Miao’s current situation, if she did not wake up soon, it was very likely that she might not wake up for the rest of her life.

She was already kind enough not to ask Zhang Qian to pay with his life!

She wished that she could cut Zhang Qian into pieces and ripped his ribs out while he was alive, and cooked it to provide nourishment for Zhang Miao!

Zhang Qian did not feel like agreeing to the divorce. He did not have a job now and Chu Xin had even run away. He has lost everything now. If Li Gui also left him now, then he was really left with nothing.

With Li Gui around, he could still survive by going to her house every month to ask for some money. However, if he did not agree to the divorce, he would have to spend the rest of his life in jail.

Zhang Cong also looked at Zhang Qian nervously. He hoped that Zhang Qian would reject Qiao Mei’s request.

“You! Let me think about it!” Zhang Qian said.

“I can’t give you too much time. If you’ve decided, then sign it quickly. Otherwise, you can stay here forever,” Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Even if Zhang Qian agreed to the divorce, the criminal act of selling Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin was enough to send him to jail for the rest of his life. Whether he signed the agreement or not, the outcome would be the same for him.

Zhang Qian had already made a decision. These children were still his. Even if he agreed to the divorce, they would still have to support him when he was old. Otherwise, he would sue them for being unfilial!

Qiao Mei had already guessed what Zhang Qian was thinking and added, "Let me add that after you sign the divorce papers, you won't have anything to do with my mother and the four children anymore. You can't come and look for them and ask them for anything in the future."

"You're too much! It's my blood flowing inside them!" Zhang Qian roared.

"Are you signing it or not?" Qiao Mei asked.

Zhang Qian pointed at Qiao Mei and said, "If you want me to sign it, you have to compensate me! I want 400 dollars! You have to give me money!"

He had not even given them the money for Zhang Miao's treatment and now he still had the cheek to ask for 400 dollars. What a joke!

She had seen shameless people before, but she had never seen such a shameless person!