

Fat Wife 591

Chapter 591 Wishful Thinking

On account of Qiao Mei, Qiao Qiang did not want to argue with Chen Hu about these issues anymore. After all, Chen Hu had also been tricked by the Liang siblings.

When Qiao Mei saw that Qiao Qiang did not say anything, she knew that her grandfather had forgiven Chen Hu.

"Grandfather, why don't you go to the backyard and kill a big goose. I have a craving for goose," Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Qiang nodded and went to the backyard to get one. It used to be Qiao Mei doing these chores, but now that she was pregnant, she could not do such gory stuff.

The villagers had told Qiao Qiang that it would be too inauspicious, so Qiao Qiang had been doing this type of chores ever since.

"Let me do it!" Chen Hu volunteered.

Qiao Mei pressed Chen Hu down on the chair and said, "It's fine. Let my grandfather do it. We don't do much farming now and there's not much work to do. It's good for him to get some exercise."

When Chen Hu heard what Qiao Mei said, he did not argue with her about it and sat down obediently.

"You don't know the details about the matter with Qiao Yu yet, right? It was Xia Zhe who asked me to handle it," Chen Hu said.

"Xia Zhe? What has it got to do with him?" Qiao Mei asked in surprise.

"It's a long story. Qiao Yu seemed to have met Xia Zhe somewhere and asked him to take her with him. I won't tell you what she said, but if I don't know about the truth between the two of you, I would really

have believed her. However, don't worry, Xia Zhe didn't do anything that he shouldn't have done," Chen Hu said.

Qiao Mei narrowed her eyes. She had thought that Qiao Yu only dared to eye Xia Zhe secretly and that the most she dared to do was to find a chance to talk to Xia Zhe. She did not expect Qiao Yu to go and ask Xia Zhe to take her in.

She decided that she needed to find an opportunity to teach that girl a lesson and let her know who Xia Zhe was in a relationship with!

Her man was not someone that anyone could look at and think of!

"I trust him. He won't do such a thing," Qiao Mei said confidently.

Chen Hu slapped his thigh vigorously and said happily, "I know you won't misunderstand! I just want to make this clear to you. After all... ahem, after all, doesn't Xia Zhe have a special fetish? He doesn't like bamboo poles like Qiao Yu! Don't worry!"

Qiao Mei could understand what Chen Hu said just now, but now she could not.

What special fetish? Was there something else about Xia Zhe that she did not know?

At this moment, Xia Zhe had just arrived in the capital and sneezed twice. He thought to himself, "Have I caught a cold?"

"Ah... Then did you receive the letter I wrote to you? What did you arrange for Liu Ying?" Qiao Mei asked.

"She's in another city now and her daughter is also doing very well. Don't worry, I've made all the arrangements. I won't tell you this matter in detail, in case Qiao Zhuang's family finds out and comes looking for trouble with you," Chen Hu said.

"Uncle Hu is so thoughtful," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Chen Hu only knew that the Liang siblings had brought their children to visit Qiao Qiang, but he did not know what actually happened. All he knew was what Qiao Mei told him about the incidents in the capital.

"Mei Mei, tell me, what do those people from the Liang family want coming here?" Chen Hu purposely whispered when he spoke about the Liang family, afraid that Qiao Qiang would be unhappy again if he heard it.

"It's still the same thing. It's just that this time, they even make use of the children. Grandfather was originally still quite nice to the children, but the way those people had educated the two children is really indescribable. When grandfather saw that, he became even angrier," Qiao Mei said with a sigh.

Chen Hu could also understand how Qiao Qiang felt. Qiao Qiang had brought up those two children single-handedly. When the children were still in infancy, the two Liang siblings had left the children to Qiao Qiang and did not care about the three of them at all.

When Qiao Qiang lost his value to their family and had to return the children to them, it was a huge blow to Qiao Qiang at that time. Fortunately, he still had Qiao Mei. Otherwise, his life after returning to the village would have been very tough.

"It's all my fault. If I didn't trust them, I wouldn't have caused you both so much trouble," Chen Hu said self-reproachfully.

"They came again yesterday, but grandfather wasn't at home. I don't know if they'll come again in the future, but grandfather has already made it very clear that he won't have anything to do with them anymore," Qiao Mei said.

Chen Hu nodded. Back then, he just wanted Qiao Qiang to enjoy life in his old age and also to experience the joys of family life. He thought that it would be nice if Qiao Qiang could spend his days in the capital with his children and grandchildren by his side.

He did not expect the two siblings in the capital to be so heartless and that they actually only wanted Qiao Qiang to go back and help them solve their problem. Such wishful thinking on their part.

Chapter 592 Do You Not Understand

"Mei Mei, don't worry. I definitely won't let them come again in the future. As long as I find out that they're coming, I'll stop them! I definitely won't let them enter the village!" Chen Hu said firmly.

However, Qiao Mei felt that they would not give up for sure. If Qiao Qiang did not return to the capital, they would not be able to keep their positions. No matter the price, they would still do their best to ask Qiao Qiang to go back.

They had already been away for a long time. If they stayed for a few more days, the situation in the capital would probably be quite chaotic.

Therefore, they would definitely come and try again within the next few days.

Xiao Yu's clear voice could suddenly be heard from outside the door. It seemed that the Liang siblings had come by with their children again.

"Grandfather! Are you home! I'm here!" Xiao Yu shouted happily.

Chen Hu was overjoyed when he heard this voice. He had originally wanted to go and look for them, to ask them to leave the county city quickly and return to the capital. He did not expect these people to come knocking! Then they could not blame him for being rude!

One may search high and low for something, only to find it when one least expected it!

Xiao Yu pushed open the door excitedly and realized that Qiao Mei was in the courtyard. Her pretty little face instantly fell.

"Where's my grandfather?" Xiao Yu asked impatiently, looking at Qiao Mei with disdain.

Liang Lan had told her that if it was not for Qiao Mei, her grandfather would definitely have left with them.

Why would her grandfather want to stay in this remote countryside? What was so good about this countryside? There was nothing in the supermarket at the village entrance and all the toys sold there were those she had seen two years ago.

She thought about those country bumpkins living nearby. When she gave them the toys she no longer wanted, they treated the toys like treasures! She found it really funny.

Chen Hu rolled up his sleeves angrily and was about to teach Xiao Yu a lesson when Qiao Mei patted his shoulder and shook her head with a smile.

"Uncle Hu, she's just a child. Why get angry with her?" Qiao Mei said.

"Look at her attitude towards you! You're her elder sister after all! How can she talk to you like this?" Chen Hu said disdainfully.

He did not expect that the children from the rich families in the capital were not as polite as the children in the countryside. The four children next door had a lousy father like Zhang Qian, but Qiao Mei had taught them well and they were all sensible and polite.

Xiao Yu and Liang Zu were really inferior to the children next door.

"I'm asking you a question! Where's my grandfather!" Xiao Yu pointed at Qiao Mei and shouted angrily.

This infuriated Chen Hu. He smacked the table and shouted, "She's your elder sister! How can you speak like that! Don't you know how to be polite when you enter someone's house! Haven't your mother taught you anything! Such bad upbringing! If you haven't learned anything properly, go back into your mother's stomach and get born again!"

Liang Lan happened to hear this when she was at the door. She still had a smile on her face, but she had already scolded Chen Hu 10,000 times in her heart.

She could not even bear to hit and scold her daughter, yet here her daughter was being bullied by others!

If not for the Liang family... for their positions, they would have long left this godforsaken place with Xiao Yu.

When Xiao Yu saw Chen Hu's big burly figure, she immediately thought of the baddies in the movies. She was so frightened that she turned around and ran into Liang Lan's arms.

"Boohoo! Mom! They're all bullying me!" Xiao Yu cried and shouted.

Not only did Liang Lan not back her up, but she even asked her to apologize. She could not believe her own ears!

Was this still the mother who doted on her? Ever since they came to the countryside to look for her grandfather, Liang Lan had not favored her. Instead, she doted on Liang Zu more.

Even this round, she had to be the one to put on an act! She was clearly Liang Lan's daughter, so why was Liang Zu the one receiving preferential treatment!

"Yu Yu, go and apologize to your elder sister and Uncle Chen Hu," Liang Lan said sternly.

"I'm not going! I didn't do anything wrong! I didn't do anything wrong, so why should I apologize!" Xiao Yu cried.

Liang Lan pulled Xiao Yu to stand in front of Chen Hu and said apologetically, "I'm really sorry, Brother Chen. My daughter didn't do it on purpose just now. Please don't take it to heart!"

Chen Hu did not even look at Liang Lan. He snorted coldly and turned his head away, ignoring them.

"Mei Mei, where's your grandfather? Why isn't he here?" Liang Lan asked after looking around.

"He's in the backyard. What do you need?" Qiao Mei said as she looked at them coldly.

"Actually... actually, it's nothing much. We're just here to visit your grandfather," Liang Lan said awkwardly.

Chapter 593 Stay In The Countryside

They originally thought that Qiao Mei would be polite enough to receive them as guests. Yet, Qiao Mei did not greet them, nor did she even offer them a glass of water.

This was simply just thumbing her nose at them.

However, it was not something they were not used to. In the capital, Qiao Mei was not nice to them as well. Now that they were in Qiao Mei's territory, she naturally did not worry about stepping on their toes.

"My grandfather said the last time that he doesn't want to see you or these two children. You should go back," Qiao Mei said.

Liang Lan pushed Xiao Yu forward and said, "The old master was in a fit of anger at that time. Such words don't count. Besides, I can't stop Xiao Yu from wanting to see her grandfather."

Qiao Mei smiled mockingly. If they could come up with such a reason, there was really nothing they could not do.

Chen Hu sat at the side and wanted to say something, but his status made it awkward for him to stand up for Qiao Mei, so he could only endure it silently.

At this moment, Qiao Qiang walked out of the backyard with a knife in his left hand and a big goose in his right hand. He said, "Why are you here again? Didn't I ask you not to come to my house again? Do you not understand me?"

Liang Lan gave Xiao Yu a push and Xiao Yu immediately understood what she meant. She quickly ran to Qiao Qiang, but when she saw the bloody knife and the dead goose, she did not dare to go forward. However, for the sake of what Liang Lan had promised her, she tried her best to overcome her fear.

She made up her mind, closed her eyes and rushed to Qiao Qiang's side, hugging his leg and refusing to let go.

"Grandfather~ I'm the one who misses you! I want to come and see you! Grandfather, come back with me. I can't bear to leave you!" Xiao Yu said sweetly.

Qiao Qiang put his things down to avoid hurting her. He turned around and squatted down with a smile as he said, "It's fine if you miss grandfather. You can live with grandfather in this house and work together with me. If you think this place is not good, grandfather will get the village to build a new house for you. At that time, you can spend time with me every day! What do you think!"

"But there are also many fun things to do in the capital! Mom has also prepared a very nice house for grandfather. Besides, isn't it good that grandfather can see me every day?" Xiao Yu said.

"Grandfather doesn't want to go to the capital. Grandfather likes it here. Didn't you say that you miss me? Then you have to stay here," Qiao Qiang said.

Of course not! Who would want to live in this godforsaken place!

Why must grandfather go back? If grandfather did not go back, would their house disappear?

Then her grandfather was a bad person. If her grandfather did not exist in the first place, this matter would not have happened! It was enough that she had her grandmother who doted on her! Why did she still need her grandfather!

Xiao Yu pouted aggrievedly and stood unhappily in front of Qiao Qiang.

"Father, it's not just Xiao Yu. Everyone in the family misses you. Come back with us," Liang Lan added.

Liang Guo and Liang Zu stood quietly at the side. Before they came, they had already agreed on a plan. Xiao Yu was the main focus today. If they left this matter to Liang Zu, he would definitely mess it up.

Given Liang Zu's character, he would definitely offend Qiao Qiang if he said more than three and a half sentences. It was better to let him just stand there obediently.

"Hmph, who else do you have at home! If you want the best for me, then get lost quickly! Otherwise, you're just an eyesore in front of me! You make me annoyed!" Qiao Qiang roared angrily.

"Grandfather!" Xiao Yu shouted aggrievedly.

"You go back too! Don't come here and bother me!" Qiao Qiang said.

The grievances in Xiao Yu's heart completely erupted at this moment. No one had spoken to her like this since she was young. Although Qiao Qiang had raised her, she was only two years old when he left and she did not remember anything from before.

To Xiao Yu, Qiao Qiang was just a stranger.

Liang Lan said that Qiao Qiang liked her and Liang Zu. Then what was the reason for her grandfather being unwilling to leave with them?

It must be because Qiao Mei was in the countryside! If not for Qiao Mei, who would like the life here!

This woman not only seduced others! She even went out and showed her face in public all the time! How indecent!

Of course, these were not something that Xiao Yu could think of at her age. It was all because Liang Lan had once badmouthed Qiao Mei in front of the children. She did not care that there were young kids around, and Xiao Yu had secretly remembered everything that she said.

Chapter 594 Closer Bond Between Grandparents And Grandchildren

"It's all your fault! If not for you, grandfather would have left with us! Who would want to live in this place! I want to go back to the capital! I don't want to stay here anymore! I want to go back and look for my grandmother! I don't like grandfather at all! Grandfather is a bad person!" Xiao Yu shouted as she pointed at Qiao Mei.

Liang Lan went up anxiously and gave Xiao Yu a slap. Xiao Yu looked at Liang Lan in shock, her eyes filled with confusion and grievances.

Ever since she was young, her grandmother had never even bear to hit her. Now, Liang Lan actually hit her because of her grandfather!

"Shut your mouth! Why are you crying! Apologize to your grandfather and elder sister!" Liang Lan suppressed the sadness in her heart and scolded sternly.

When she hit Xiao Yu, it also hurt her heart!

Xiao Yu stood up silently and said to Qiao Qiang, "I'm sorry, grandfather..."

However, when it came to Qiao Mei, she just could not open her mouth and stood there stubbornly without saying anything.

"Liang Lan, you have really taught your daughter well. I'm already looking at you in a different light now. I definitely have to tell my wife about this when I get back and ask her to be wary at all times," Chen Hu said mockingly.

Chen Hu was a few years older than the Liang siblings and they used to hang out together when they were young. He did not expect them to have embarked on such a path.

Qiao Qiang could not be bothered with them. He picked up the big goose and walked back into the house silently. With Chen Hu by Qiao Mei's side, nothing would go wrong.

They would go back after being snubbed. It was useless to say anything now.

"Father! Father! Don't go!" Liang Guo said anxiously.

At this moment, Liang Zu also started feeling anxious. When they came out, Liang Lan had said that if they failed, they would have to stay here until they managed to convince Qiao Qiang.

The older generation all said that there was always a closer bond between grandparents and grandchildren. Liang Lan was certain that Qiao Qiang would not be able to bear to part with these two children. As time passed, his heart would definitely soften and he would go back with them.

"It's all your fault! If not for you, why would grandfather be so angry!" Liang Zu pushed Xiao Yu angrily.

Qiao Mei sat leisurely on the stool and munched on melon seeds. She even gave Chen Hu a portion.

This was Qiao Qiang's family matter, so Chen Hu should actually leave quickly to keep a distance from it. However, the stewed goose that Qiao Mei made was not something that he could eat anytime. He did not want to miss out on such a good dinner for these few crooked people.

Ever since Auntie Dong said that Qiao Mei should not tire herself out now, Qiao Mei did not even need to personally prepare the ingredients for cooking. Usually, Qiao Qiang and Li Gui would get the ingredients ready, then they would ask Qiao Mei to do the stir-fry after they were done. Sometimes, Zhang Wei and Zhang Qin would come over to help out.

Qiao Qiang put the ingredients aside and arranged them neatly for Qiao Mei.

"Mei Mei! It's all done!" Qiao Qiang shouted towards the outside.

Qiao Mei patted the dust off her hands and washed her hands before going into the kitchen to cook.

The fragrance wafted out quickly. The two children had been rushing around all day and were so hungry that their stomachs were growling.

Xiao Yu and Liang Zu stood quietly at the door and drooled as they looked at the big goose in the pot. Liang Guo and Liang Lan also could not help but take a few glances.

If it was mealtime, Qiao Mei would not chase them away, right? That would be too unkind.

After adding the seasonings, she left it to simmer over a small fire. For food like this, the longer it was simmered, the more fragrant it would be.

"Mei Mei, what delicious dish are you making tonight?" Liang Lan was not shy at all and brought over a stool to sit opposite Qiao Mei and Chen Hu.

Qiao Mei laughed and said, "What has it got to do with you? Don't tell me you want to stay for dinner?"

"We all came from so far away. It's fine for us adults, but the children have had a long day and it may be too tough on them on the way back," Liang Lan said.

Qiao Mei pursed her lips. This was a really good reason.

At the moment, as long as she used the children as an excuse, anything unreasonable would sound righteous.

"You don't have food with you when you know you're traveling far? You must not usually be the one taking care of the children. Every time my wife brings the children out, she will bring a bag full of things, worried that the children will get hungry and thirsty," Chen Hu said to Liang Lan with a look of surprise.

His words made Liang Lan blush in embarrassment. On the contrary, Liang Guo did not have any reaction. He was usually busy with work and his wife was the one who took care of the children. When he returned home after work, he would tell Liang Zu bedtime stories and grade Liang Zu's homework. Although he did not have much time to accompany his son, he thought that what he did could be considered an alternate form of companionship.

Chapter 596 I Will Not Let You Get Away With It

Zhang Wei happily carried the dish home. Ever since Qiao Mei left, they had not eaten any meat or fish at all. It was rare for them to have some today, and he wondered if Zhang Chao would feel happier.

Xiao Yu looked at Zhang Wei reluctantly as he left. The fact was she could not bear to part with the goose meat in his hand. When she came back to her senses and turned to look at the pot again, she realized that there was not much meat left.

Xiao Yu pointed at the departing Zhang Wei and ordered Qiao Mei, "He took all the meat! Quickly chase after him!"

"He's my younger brother. So what if he took it? I gave it to him," Qiao Mei said.

"No! How can you give it to him when I haven't eaten yet! He's just a bastard! How can he be considered your younger brother! It's not like we're born from the same father! I'm your younger sister! Why aren't you on my side! I don't agree with him taking all the meat away!" Xiao Yu said unreasonably.

When she was at home in the capital, her family would give her all the good things. As long as Liang Zu was not at home, everything good would belong to her. Why did no one dote on her or like her in the countryside? Even without Liang Zu around, they still would not do things her way.

"Who taught you all this!" Qiao Mei said sharply.

How could such a young child know so much about their family? She even knew that Zhang Wei and the others were not related to Qiao Qiang by blood. Liang Lan must have accidentally said something that the child overheard.

Xiao Yu hid behind Liang Lan and trembled. She did not think before she spoke.

"It's just a child talking nonsense! Don't take it seriously!" Liang Lan said to Qiao Mei with a smile.

Qiao Mei ignored Liang Lan completely. Although everyone knew about these things, it was not nice to expose them.

She put the whistle back in her pocket and said to Chen Hu, "Uncle Hu, go back a little later today. Xiao Wei still has many questions for you."

Chen Hu nodded happily and said, "Sure!"

With such a motivated and studious disciple, he was more than willing to spend time teaching him. Although this child was not related to Qiao Qiang by blood, given how this child had taken such good care of Qiao Qiang and Qiao Mei, he might be more of a blood relative than a real blood relative.

On the other hand, these two blood relatives seemed to be totally unrelated to them. The boy was unsmiling and conceited, while the girl was unreasonable, shrewish and delicate.

"You haven't asked that person to bring the dish back!" Xiao Yu raised her fist and went forward to hit Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei did not pander to Xiao Yu at all and would not indulge her just because she was young. She reached out and gave her a tight slap.

"Slap!"

"Ah!!!"

This slap was crisp and loud. Xiao Yu was knocked to the ground by the slap from Qiao Mei and Liang Lan's heart went out to her. She immediately went forward to hug Xiao Yu and carefully checked her for any other injuries.

"Xiao Yu! Are you alright! Let mom take a look!" Liang Lan said worriedly.

"Mom! How dare she hit me! Boohoo! She bullied me!" Xiao Yu said with tears in her eyes.

"You were the one who wanted to rush over and hit me. What I did was self-defense. You said you're my younger sister, so what kind of younger sister are you? How are you related to me? Besides, who said you can stay for dinner?" Qiao Mei asked sternly.

If these people had made the effort to discuss these things properly with them in the beginning, perhaps as time passed and Qiao Qiang could not bear to part with these two children, there would still be some room for discussion.

Now that the grownups were impolite and the young ones were insensible, they could not blame her for not holding back.

A swollen handprint instantly appeared on Xiao Yu's face. When Liang Zu saw that, not only did he not go forward to speak up for Xiao Yu, but he even pointed at Xiao Yu and laughed loudly. This was the first time he had seen someone's head become a pig's head.

Liang Guo immediately covered Liang Zu's mouth to prevent him from embarrassing himself.

"Even if Xiao Yu said something wrong, you shouldn't hit her so hard," Liang Lan said aggrievedly as she hugged Xiao Yu.

Chen Hu stood angrily in front of Liang Lan and shielded Qiao Mei behind him. Why is your child so precious? Is Qiao Mei not equally as precious?

Chen Hu pointed at them and said, "You're the ones who are shameless enough to refuse to leave and insist on staying for a meal. Qiao Mei is pregnant and yet your daughter rushes over like this. What if Qiao Mei falls and loses the child? What can you do then? It's not just Uncle Qiao and I who will want to settle the score with you. Qiao Mei is pregnant with the Xia family's grandchild! What if the child is gone! Do you think the Xia family will let you off?"

These words immediately reminded Liang Lan and Liang Guo that there was nothing beneficial for them if they offended Qiao Mei now.

Chapter 597 Finding An Opportunity

"You have to believe that Xiao Yu really didn't do it on purpose! She's too young to know anything! Just forgive her!" Liang Lan said nervously.

Xiao Yu seemed to know that she had made a big mistake. She curled up in Liang Lan's arms and did not dare to make a sound.

"If a child doesn't know anything, then do the adults also know nothing? Just because you don't educate her well, can she hurt me at will without paying any price?" Qiao Mei asked as she pointed at Xiao Yu.

Of course not... But what could she do at this point...

Liang Zu looked at Xiao Yu resentfully. It seemed that he needed to do something. He did not want to stay in this lousy village for the rest of his life!

Liang Zu walked over pitifully and held Qiao Mei's sleeve as he said, "Elder sister, please let us stay for a meal. I haven't eaten for a day and I'm so hungry that I have no strength to walk."

Qiao Mei understood by now that they would definitely not leave without eating.

She had no choice but to let them stay for the meal. Chen Hu immediately looked unhappy. He did not expect the Liang siblings to be so shameless. Not only were they shameless, but they even made use of their two children.

After Qiao Qiang was done, he went into the kitchen to prepare the rice and set the table for dinner.

When the Liang siblings brought the children into the house, they realized that there were only three sets of cutlery on the table and there was no share for them at all.

Qiao Qiang remained silent and did not invite them to sit down. Qiao Mei and Chen Hu also did not say anything else and sat down to eat as if the Liang family was invisible.

Xiao Yu and Liang Zu did not dare to go forward and provoke Qiao Mei again. They stood quietly at the side and watched them eat. Perhaps Qiao Mei would be kind enough to let them eat later?

Liang Lan carefully sized up the goose in the bowl. She could tell at a glance that there were many medicinal herbs in the stewed goose dish, as well as a few ginseng roots.

She slowly sat on the brick bed and stared intently at the bowl of stewed goose, waiting for an opportunity to ask about the ginseng.

Chen Hu did not stand on ceremony with Qiao Mei and Qiao Qiang. The taste of the stewed goose was comparable to that of the ones served in restaurants. It might be even more delicious than that.

"Mei Mei, your culinary skills are really not bad. You're even better than the chefs in those restaurants! Why didn't I realize that you have such skills back then!" Chen Hu praised her.

Before Qiao Mei could say anything, Liang Lan took the opportunity and immediately said, "That's right. When I smelled it outside, I felt that it was even more fragrant than the usual dish. I wonder how Qiao Mei makes it. Can you tell me about it? I'll make some for Xiao Yu to try when we get back."

"Nothing. It's just ordinary goose and mushrooms," Qiao Mei replied indifferently.

"I think there's something else inside! This is wolfberries... that's mushroom... Hey! Is that a ginseng root!" Liang Lan probed.

Qiao Mei curled her lips and smiled without saying anything. So Liang Lan was waiting for this! No wonder she did not leave after so many days. She wanted to find out about the ginseng.

They were really able to endure it and could wait so long before they revealed their motives. The atmosphere suddenly became strange.

"Your eyesight is really good. I'm worried that my family would get sick during the change in season, so I added some nourishment. You can even tell," Qiao Mei said.

"Ginseng is a good thing! I heard that my father dug up this ginseng! I didn't expect my father to have such skills!" Liang Lan praised.

"You didn't spend much time by my side. Of course you don't know what I know," Qiao Qiang said sulkily.

Liang Lan had heard from the Cao family that the ginseng Qiao Mei gave to them was dug up personally by her grandfather in the mountain, and that she specially bought the house for him.

"Father, is there a lot of ginseng on this mountain?" Liang Lan probed.

Qiao Qiang frowned and said impatiently, "Yes, it's everywhere in the mountain."

This made the Liang siblings extremely excited. If they had ginseng, even if Qiao Qiang did not go back, their family would still be saved!

The Liang family's predicament was actually not much different from that of the Cao family. The Cao family was fired because they did not do a good job. What happened with the Liang family was that they were affected by the retrenchment exercise.

The Liang siblings tried their best to stay in their positions. If they lost their jobs, the Liang family would be completely ruined.

Since the Cao family could use the 100-year-old ginseng to exchange for the stability of the entire Cao family, why not them?

Chapter 598 Borrowing Ginseng

"Then... Father, do we have any ginseng at home?" Liang Lan asked.

Qiao Qiang did not lie. He nodded and said, "Yes."

"Then, how about you give us two if you don't need them?" Liang Lan asked expectantly.

Qiao Mei suddenly laughed out loud. She had thought that the Liang siblings were just stupid, but she did not expect them to be incurable.

Back then, their family chased Qiao Qiang out of the house after making use of him. Now that they felt that Qiao Qiang was useful to their family again, they wanted to take him back and expected him to give them everything he had.

What kind of logic was this? Even bandits would not do such a thing.

"These things are decided by Mei Mei. It's not my concern," Qiao Qiang said.

The grandfather and granddaughter had a tacit understanding. Qiao Mei immediately said, "It's not impossible if you want ginseng, but nothing in this world comes for free. What can you give me in exchange?"

"We're family! There's no need to be so calculative as a family!" Liang Lan said shamelessly.

"Then why do you need ginseng?" Qiao Mei asked.

Liang Lan said hesitantly, "My... My mother-in-law is sick! I need ginseng to nourish her body!"

She really did not even think twice before she lied. She could even curse her own family members. It took a special kind of person to do this.

Although Liang Lan said that she wanted to give it to her mother-in-law, she was probably trying to curry favor with the He family. Previously, when Qiao Mei was in the capital, she had heard from Xia Zhe that the Liang family had become very close to the He family recently. It was no longer a secret that He Ning needed the ginseng that Qiao Mei had.

"You also know the importance of this thing. Otherwise, you won't have asked me for it. Isn't it a little too late to tell me that we're a family? Moreover, even biological brothers have to settle accounts clearly. I don't know what kind of ginseng you want from me. The price of ginseng varies depending on its age. Even for those of the same age, the price will also vary based on how it looks," Qiao Mei said.

Liang Lan stammered and could not speak. When she was in the capital, she had heard that the cheapest ginseng Qiao Mei had was worth 100,000 dollars. She could not afford it even if she sold everything she owned.

"Don't say that. How about this, can you lend it to me? Lend it to us and I'll return it to you later," Liang Lan said with a smile.

Qiao Mei once again refreshed her impression of Liang Lan.

As the saying went, when one lent something, one would not know how it would be returned. If she let them borrow the ginseng, there will probably only be an empty box left at the end!

"No. Either you exchange something with me or you give me money. 100,000 dollars for 10-year-old ginseng, 200,000 dollars for 20-year-old ginseng... and so on," Qiao Mei said as she turned her head.

Putting aside the price of ginseng that was 10 or 20 years old, such a thing would not catch He Ning's attention at all. Given his status and illness, he needed ginseng that was 50 years old or more.

However, they did not have a house as big as the Cao family's house. Even if they sold all those small houses they owned, they would not be able to get 500,000 dollars. This was simply impossible.

"You don't lack a house or money. Not long ago, you even exchanged a 100-year-old ginseng for a house in the capital. Even if there are any nice things now, I'm afraid they won't catch your eye," Liang Lan said as she pretended to be in a difficult position.

Qiao Qiang did not know about this, but he did not show any reaction. These things belonged to Qiao Mei to begin with and it was up to her to decide how she wanted to use them. He had no right to interfere.

Chen Hu was so surprised that he dropped his chopsticks on the table. He knew that there were good things on the mountain around where Qiao Mei lived. Previously, when he bought supplements for Qiao Qiang, he was surprised to find ginseng slices in his water and had asked about it.

He also understood that this kind of thing was very valuable, but he did not expect it to be that valuable.

"What house? Mei Mei, you're amazing. You even have a house in the capital!" Chen Hu exclaimed.

"It's just the house that's part of the backyard of Xia Zhe's house. It's nothing much," Qiao Mei said.

Liang Lan put on an envious look and said, "It's more than that! That's Xia Zhe's grandmother's house! It's a standard courtyard house with more than 20 rooms in that part of the backyard! Qiao Mei is now famous in the capital! Everyone knows about it!"

"If you have such a big house, I can also give you 100-year-old ginseng in exchange for it," Qiao Mei said.

Hearing what Qiao Mei said, Liang Lan started to think about it. Qiao Mei must still have more 100-year-old ginseng in her hands. The Liang family could be saved!

However, how could she trick Qiao Mei into giving her the ginseng?

Chapter 599 Do Not Implicate The Xia Family

If she wanted to resolve this matter, she had to start with Qiao Qiang. There was no reason for the granddaughter not to give her grandfather what he wanted!

"Then is this house in your name or father's name? Isn't the ginseng dug out by my father?" Liang Lan asked.

Qiao Qiang snorted coldly and said, "Even if it's in my name, it will belong to Qiao Mei in the future. Don't even think about it. Everything I have now will belong to Qiao Mei when I die!"

Qiao Mei hurriedly smacked the table three times and said, "Pfft, pfft, pfft! Grandfather will live to a ripe old age! What nonsense! You still have to help me take care of my kids!"

At the mention of the Qiao Mei's babies, Qiao Qiang became happy. These two children would be born in a few months' time. He had to find that old carpenter at the village entrance to build two cribs and a pram for the babies.

The handmade stuff was definitely sturdier than the ones bought outside. Moreover, it was a token of his love for them.

"Fine, fine, fine. Let's not talk about it anymore." Qiao Qiang smiled kindly.

However, Liang Zu was a little unhappy. Liang Guo had once told him that he was the eldest grandson of the Liang family and the only boy in the family, so everything in the Liang family would belong to him in the future.

Since Qiao Qiang was Liang Guo's father and he addressed Qiao Qiang as his grandfather, then Qiao Qiang's things should also belong to him!

"Why does it all belong to elder sister! I'm the eldest grandson of the Liang family. Shouldn't it all belong to me?" Liang Zu said unhappily.

"You're not my grandson. I don't acknowledge your parents, so I won't acknowledge you as my grandson either. We have had nothing to do with each other since a long time ago, so don't even eye anything that belongs to me!" Qiao Qiang said.

The sky outside gradually darkened. After a while, Chen Hu told Qiao Qiang that he would go next door to look for Zhang Wei.

"You guys can go back. If you want the ginseng, bring money or valuable items. Otherwise, I won't give you the ginseng for free." After saying that, Qiao Mei pointed towards the door, indicating to the visitors to leave.

In the end, the Liang family members did not even get to taste the soup before they returned to the guest house in the county city in a sorry state. However, they would not leave until they had thought of a way to save the Liang family.

"Mei Mei, come here. Tell me about what happened in the capital?" Qiao Qiang asked.

"There are so many things! Let me tell you about the house first. Grandfather, what do you think about living in the capital with me? Xia Zhe's courtyard house was given to him by his grandmother. I made an exchange for the part of the house in the backyard and that part is now considered my house. I want to bring you there to stay," Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Qiang actually did not care if he went to the capital or not. He only cared about his granddaughter, Qiao Mei. He would go wherever Qiao Mei went.

If Qiao Mei really decided to return to the capital to live, he would be able to see Xia Jun and the two of them would be able to get together for a chat again.

"I'll think about it and tell you later. Did you get bullied over there? Did your mother-in-law like you after seeing you?" Qiao Qiang asked.

Qiao Mei shook her head and said truthfully, "She didn't like me at first, but she likes me very much now. When I came back, she still cried and refused to let me go! Many of the things that Xia Zhe and I brought back were either handmade or bought personally by my mother-in-law."

Qiao Qiang was relieved. After all, as long as the Xia family liked Qiao Mei, with the Xia family's standing, they would definitely be able to protect Qiao Mei from the Liang family.

The Liang siblings were not people who would resort to violence. They were timid people and the tricks they used were all petty and shifty. However, their mother was not an ordinary person. She was ruthless and dared to do anything, and he was afraid that she would go and cause trouble for Qiao Mei.

"You also have to watch your words and actions when you're in the Xia family. Don't let the Liang family go to Xia Mao and Xia Zhe and use your name to get them to help the Liang family. This is a private matter for our family. Don't involve the Xia family, understand?" Qiao Qiang advised earnestly.

Qiao Mei understood all these things. Xia Wen had also tested her before and the Xia family already knew that Qiao Mei was on their side.

"Grandfather, I know. I definitely won't let them use me to cause trouble for the Xia family," Qiao Mei said.

"How's Xia Jun? Is his health good? Do his old injuries still flare up often?" Qiao Qiang asked.

Qiao Mei had no impression of any of this. She did not know if Xia Jun had any injuries, but he usually looked quite energetic.

Chapter 600 Thinking About It

"I don't get to see him usually. He often goes out for exercises and walks. He looks quite good and should be in good health," Qiao Mei said as she racked her memories.

"Is this all you have encountered in the capital? Don't you have anything else to tell me?" Qiao Qiang stared at Qiao Mei and asked seriously.

It seemed that she could not hide anything from her grandfather. He could see right through her immediately.

Qiao Mei told Qiao Qiang everything that had happened and all the people she had met in the capital, but she did not mention the matter about the He family wanting to harm her children. She was afraid that her grandfather would be worried if he found out. After all, she was fine now, so there was no need to tell him about this.

Qiao Qiang had expected those difficult issues that happened between relatives, but he just felt a little emotional to hear that Xia Jun's grandchildren were all grown up now. The person who left the deepest impression on him was Xia Wen. This child was handsome and was cut out to be a soldier. It was a pity that he fell sick later, which cut his army career short. However, based on what Qiao Mei said, he seemed to be doing well as a university professor now.

"Go and pack the things you want to give your Uncle Hu. I have prepared a chicken, it's in the backyard. Pack it up too. Don't tell him it's from me." After saying that, Qiao Qiang lay on the brick bed with his back facing Qiao Mei and listened to the news on the radio.

The old master's bark was worse than his bite! He was still full of concern for Chen Hu.

Chen Hu and Qiao Yue were both his men in the army when they were young. The two of them were like twins who were inseparable. Chen Hu was like half a son to him.

Qiao Mei took a bag and filled it with a few jars of cucumbers and pickles from the storeroom, then some jam and raisins. Finally, she placed the chicken on top. After she was done, she carried the bag to Li Gui's house.

At this moment, Chen Hu was training Zhang Wei in the courtyard. Zhang Chao hid at the side and watched silently. He was not as passionate about being a soldier as Zhang Wei. He preferred to create things.

Recently, Qiao Mei had realized that when Zhang Chao did not want to talk to anyone, he would hide in a corner of the storeroom to make things. He made many novel things, most of which were made out of waste materials at home.

If she nurtured him well, he might become a builder or scientist in the future!

"Steady your horse stance! Be in the right posture! You have to train your core strength!" Chen Hu gently corrected Zhang Wei's mistakes using a bamboo stick.

Zhang Wei was so tired that he was sweating profusely, but he did not dare to relax for even a moment. It was rare for Chen Hu to come by, so he must perform well and not disappoint Chen Hu.

"Uncle Hu, all of you should take a rest. Look at my brother, he's so tired that his clothes are drenched. I already called Xiaobei just now and he'll probably be here to pick you up in a while," Qiao Mei said.

Chen Hu looked at his watch and was shocked.

"Oh my! It's already so late! If I don't go back soon, your auntie will scold me!" Chen Hu said in frustration.

"Will my auntie really scold you! She's so gentle, I don't think she will..." After saying that, Qiao Mei walked forward and handed the bag in her hand to Chen Hu.

Chen Hu immediately saw the chicken. The chickens sold outside were all thin and not meaty at all. No one was willing to feed the chickens too much food.

The chicken in the bag was fresh and plump, and it was obvious that it was well-fed. How could he accept such a valuable gift?

"Mei Mei, what is this! Just give me a few jars of pickled vegetables! Forget about this!" Chen Hu said as he pushed it back.

Qiao Mei smiled and said, "I'm not the one giving it to you..."

"If it's not you, then what else can it be..." Chen Hu suddenly froze on the spot.

If not Qiao Mei... If it was not Qiao Mei, who else could it be?

It must be Qiao Qiang!

It seemed that Qiao Qiang still cared about him and did not bear a grudge against him because of the issue with the Liang family.

"Qiao Mei! Qiao Mei!"

Zhao Liang's shout came from the door. It was Qiao Mei who had asked him to come and help. She did not want Xiaobei to drive into the village. All their vehicles were military vehicles and it would cause a commotion if the villagers saw them. Therefore, she asked Zhao Liang to come and send Chen Hu to the entrance of the village where Xiaobei was waiting with the vehicle to send him back.

"Uncle Hu, I'll go to the county city to look for you when I'm free!" Qiao Mei said.

"Go back! When you're free, come over and I'll get your auntie to cook delicious food for you! You must try your auntie's cooking!" Chen Hu said as he waved at Qiao Mei.