

## **Fat Wife 601**

### Chapter 601 Telephone Call From The Capital

Chen Hu happily got into Zhao Liang's vehicle with his things and gradually disappeared from Qiao Mei's sight. Zhang Wei was still doing his basic training in the courtyard.

"Xiao Wei, you can stop now. Go and rest," Qiao Mei said, feeling sorry for him.

"Elder sister, I'm fine. I can still go on for a little longer!" Zhang Wei said as he maintained a horse stance.

Zhang Wei could already do the horse stance steadily by now. In the beginning, his legs would tremble after standing for a while and it would be difficult for him to walk after that. His whole body would ache every day.

Qiao Qiang had been monitoring his training every day. Now, it seemed that his hard work had paid off. He had already mastered the horse stance and he could maintain it without wavering.

Qiao Mei looked at Zhang Wei, feeling comforted. She returned home and rummaged through the things that she did not need at home. Then, she handed them all to Zhang Chao.

When the Liang family returned to the county city, they did not go back to the guest house immediately. Instead, they went to the best restaurant to have a good meal!

The two adults and two children actually managed to finish all six plates of food, not even leaving any soup dregs. The boss looked on in shock.

The boss wondered if they were reincarnated hungry ghosts. He thought that they had ordered too much and he did not expect them to finish everything so cleanly.

"It's all Qiao Mei's fault! All because she didn't let us stay for dinner! We wouldn't have come out feeling so hungry! It's really hard on the children!" Liang Lan said fiercely.

"I wonder what she tells our father and what kind of bewitching potion she uses on him. Why does he listen to her?" Liang Guo said angrily.

In Liang Guo's eyes, a family should be controlled by the man. Everything should be decided by the man.

Now, Qiao Qiang was being controlled and deceived by Qiao Mei and he only listened to her. He even let her have control over something as important as the ginseng. If Qiao Mei sided with outsiders and gave the ginseng to the Xia family, then that was a huge loss to them!

Those belonged to the Liang family! Even if they did not dig it up personally, it was dug up by their biological father, Qiao Qiang. They had a share in it!

What was even more ridiculous was that Qiao Qiang wanted to give the house to Qiao Mei after he died!

What a joke! What a huge joke!

If news of this got out, he would be too ashamed to continue staying in the capital! His father did not leave his house to him, the son, but to the granddaughter!

"Alright, alright. Let's go. Don't talk about this here. Isn't it embarrassing enough!" Liang Lan said softly.

Liang Guo was worried that he would get hungry again tonight, so he bought another two orders of buns before they returned to the guest house. Along the way, the four of them looked very unhappy. Those who did not know better would think that someone had died in their family!

As soon as they entered the guest house, the receptionist at the entrance called out to Liang Guo.

"Hello! Are you from 202!" the receptionist said.

"Yes, it's me. What's the matter?" Liang Guo said politely.

The receptionist took out his notebook and flipped to a page with a phone number. "There was a telephone call for you. Do you recognize this number?"

Liang Guo walked to the phone while feeling puzzled. When he saw the number, he immediately understood everything. It was a call from the Liang family's house in the capital. His mother, Liang Xin, must be looking for him.

Liang Lan brought the two children back to the room first and settled them down before coming down to look for Liang Guo. It was definitely nothing good if Liang Xin was looking for them. She must be urging them to go back quickly.

Liang Guo made the call miserably and said, "Hello... Mother."

"You still know how to give me a call? If I don't know any better, I'd have thought that you died in that village with my grandson!" The voice on the other end of the phone sounded very arrogant, a reflection of Liang Xin's character.

"I have been busy and don't have time to call you to tell you that I'm safe," Liang Guo said guiltily.

"How's my grandson? Let me talk to my grandson!" Liang Xin said.

If Liang Xin found out that he and Liang Lan had starved the two children for an entire day, she would definitely break his legs when they returned home! She would not allow anyone to hurt her precious grandson!

"Liang Zu walked for a long time today and was so exhausted that he fell asleep once he came back. I'll get him to call you tomorrow morning if there's time," Liang Guo said.

She agreed that it was not good to wake the child up if he was already asleep. Otherwise, this little ancestor would definitely throw a tantrum at her. It was better to wait until tomorrow.

"How's it going with the matter you're tasked to do? Is he still unwilling to come back?" Liang Xin asked casually.

## Chapter 602 Good News

Liang Guo was silent for a long time before saying, "I'm still thinking of a way. If there's really no other way, we'll buy the ginseng from Qiao Mei and then go to ask He Ning for help."

Liang Xin snorted coldly. He Ning could not even protect himself now, so how could he have the time to care about ants like them? So what if they had ginseng? It was useless even if they had 100!

Some time ago, she had also thought of using He Ning to resolve the Liang family's current predicament. Everyone in the capital knew that He Ning was willing to pay a lot of money for ginseng. As long as the quality of the ginseng was good, he would agree to any request.

She sent someone to ask around and discovered a shocking secret.

He Mei actually caused Qiao Mei to lose her baby!

This news of this matter had been suppressed very well by the He and Xia families. If it was not because she knew someone from the hospital, she would not have received this piece of news.

She heard that the Xia family was currently pressuring the He family to explain themselves. The He family was like cats on a hot tin roof now and did not have the time to care about things like the Liang family's issue.

Now that Qiao Mei had lost her baby, the Xia family would not put their focus on Qiao Mei anymore. It was hard to say if she would be able to get pregnant in the future! If she lost Xia Zhe's love and the Xia family's trust, then she was just a useless thing.

When the time came, Xia Zhe might even divorce her.

By then, she would not only be useless to the Liang family, but would become a burden!

"The He family won't care about such a small matter related to our family now! You should think about how to persuade Qiao Qiang to come back..." Liang Xin said.

"Now that Qiao Qiang won't even let us into the village, we really don't have any idea how to make him change his mind. We've tried all kinds of methods." Liang Guo was also worried about this matter.

"Didn't Qiao Mei have a miscarriage recently? Think of a way to send some tonics or something. Qiao Qiang will meet you for Qiao Mei's sake. Let him meet Liang Zu and Xiao Yu more often. As time passes, he will develop feelings for them. Give it some time and he won't be able to bear to part with the two children and will return to the capital with you," Liang Xin said.

Qiao Qiang only felt annoyed whenever he saw these two children now and he did not like them at all! As time passed, it would only intensify the conflict between them and Qiao Qiang!

Wait... who had a miscarriage? Qiao Mei?

"Mother, who did you say had a miscarriage?" Liang Guo asked in puzzlement. He even wondered if there was something wrong with his ears and he did not hear clearly.

"I said Qiao Mei. I got someone to ask around. Earlier, there was news from the Xia family that Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe went back to visit Qiao Qiang. Actually, Qiao Mei had a miscarriage and returned to the village to recuperate. I think it won't be so easy for Qiao Mei to return to the capital this time. You guys should think of a way to bring Qiao Qiang back. It's the safest way," Liang Xin said impatiently.

She had felt that their plan was about to succeed and did not expect something to happen to Qiao Mei at this juncture.

Now that her plans regarding the Xia family had been completely disrupted by Qiao Mei, and they could not rely on the He family, they could only quickly persuade Qiao Qiang to come back.

"Qiao Mei didn't have a miscarriage! We went to her place today. It's obvious that she's still pregnant!" Liang Guo said agitatedly.

Liang Xin was very shocked to hear this. What Liang Guo said had to be true. They had seen it with their own eyes, so how could they be wrong?

That meant that the problem was the news in the capital. Could it be that the news about Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe's return to the village to visit Qiao Qiang was fake news? In reality, it was to cover up the fact that Qiao Mei was still pregnant!

The Xia family was really scheming! What a move!

Not only did this move save the baby, but the He family would still have to pay a painful price for it. Coupled with the previous issue of being reported to the authorities, the current He family would not be able to win against the Xia family.

"The Xia family is really crafty. The He family definitely doesn't know about this. Do you need me to teach you what to do?" Liang Xin said.

Liang Guo laughed and said, "I understand. I'll do it now."

At this moment, Liang Lan had just walked down the stairs. Looking at Liang Guo's smug expression, she guessed that there must be some good news from the capital.

Could it be that the difficult situation at home had been resolved? Or could it be that there were new activities in the capital?

"Why are you so happy? Did something good happen?" Liang Lan asked.

Liang Guo said excitedly, "Mother told me a secret, a secret that will allow us to grab hold of Qiao Mei's weakness! Let's see how arrogant she can be now!"

"What secret? How can you make Qiao Mei submit to us? Stop joking. We don't have anything, not even money. How can we make Qiao Mei submit?" Liang Lan said dejectedly.

Liang Guo explained to Liang Lan in detail what Liang Xin had said over the phone. Liang Lan's eyes lit up. This was a godsend opportunity!

"Then what are we waiting for! Let's go now!" After saying that, Liang Lan prepared to rush back to Foshan Village.

Liang Guo stopped her and said, "Don't be anxious. Everyone is tired now. Let's go tomorrow."

Chapter 603 Crying And Begging For Mercy

Qiao Mei originally thought that the Liang family would back off after not being able to take advantage of her. She was in a good mood and slept until she woke up naturally. When she got up, Zhang Wei and the other children had already fed the chickens and ducks in the courtyard.

Her breakfast was being kept warm in the pot. Qiao Qiang had made it for her before he went out.

Today was the day that Qiao Qiang met up with the old gentleman from the neighboring village. They were going to play chess and chat at the old gentleman's village today. This was something that they did once a week.

In Qiao Qiang's words, this was called an exchange of chess skills!

When they were young, they had both fought on the battlefields. Now that they were old, they could only "conquer the world" on a small chess table.

She wondered if Xia Zhe had arrived at the army unit safely. He had been gone for so long and had not even given her a call. However, on the other hand, it was also understandable.

She did not have a phone at home now. If she wanted to make a call, she had to go to the brigade to queue in line. There was only one phone in the entire village.

Qiao Mei stood in the courtyard and started to think about installing a phone. She knew nothing about this and only knew the principles behind it. She did not even know how to go about doing it.

She decided to discuss it with Qiao Qiang when he returned. If they could install one, then they could also make telephone calls at home.

Just as Qiao Mei was thinking about the phone, Liang Lan and Liang Guo quietly walked into the courtyard. They looked as though they were walking into their own house, like the whole place was very familiar to them.

"You're home alone. Isn't my father at home?" Liang Lan said.

Qiao Mei could not be bothered with her and did not even look at her. She just nodded and made a sound.

Liang Lan felt annoyed when she saw the way Qiao Mei ignored her. After all, she was Qiao Mei's aunt. Although they had met so many times, Qiao Mei only pretended to chat warmly with her in front of the Xia family, and behaved like this the rest of the time.

However, it was fine. Even if Qiao Mei did not want to look at her properly now, she would have to kneel down and cry out for help later!

Liang Lan and Liang Guo sat down on the stone stools at the stone table in the courtyard as if it was a natural thing for them to do. They did not bring Liang Zu and Xiao Yu along this time round, and had locked them in the guest house, worried that they would disrupt today's plan.

Qiao Mei sat in Qiao Qiang's rocking chair and closed her eyes to rest. She did not care about any move they made. She treated them like they were invisible.

The two sides were in a deadlock just like that. None of them said a word, as if whoever spoke first would lose the edge.

In the end, Liang Lan was the one who could not hold back and she said, "Don't you need to cook today? What if your grandfather doesn't have food when he comes back later? Is this how you treat your grandfather?"

Qiao Mei chuckled and said, "My grandfather is not so old that he can't use his hands and legs. Besides, look at the time now. He won't be back so soon. Who am I supposed to cook for? You guys?"



Liang Lan's face immediately turned red. It was exactly what she was thinking. In order to catch the earliest train from the county city to the village, they had set off very early in the morning. When they reached the village entrance, no one was willing to give them a ride. They had to walk to Qiao Mei's house and their stomachs were already growling by now.

"If you're hungry, you can go inside and help yourselves. However, it's not for free. You have to pay us," Qiao Mei said.

The Liang siblings looked in the direction of the kitchen before looking away. They had an urgent matter to do today and did not want to waste time on eating.

"Qiao Mei, how many months are you? Are you going to give birth soon?" Liang Lan asked as she stared at Qiao Mei's stomach.

Qiao Mei slowly sat up from the rocking chair and stared intently at the Liang siblings. Why was this woman asking about her pregnancy for no reason?

If she wanted to know anything, she would have asked earlier given that she had come by so many times in the last few days. There was something strange about her suddenly visiting today just to ask about this!

"It's a few months away from the due date. Didn't you notice it a few days ago?" Qiao Mei asked.

"I just heard some gossip in the capital and came to check on your health," Liang Lan said with a smile.

It was one thing for the Liang siblings to have designs on her grandfather, but if they actually had designs on her children, then they could not blame her for not being able to tolerate their existences.

No one could scheme against her child!

"I'm in good health and so is my baby. Are you disappointed?" Qiao Mei questioned.

They did not expect Qiao Mei to be so calm and at ease. Why was she not begging them not to expose her since they had found out the truth about her?

Chapter 604 Not In The Wholesale Business

Why was the situation different from what they had expected?

Could this also be part of the Xia family's plan? Was this all part of their plan?

No! No! They could not panic. It was possible that Qiao Mei was tricking them to get information out of them!

Liang Lan looked towards Liang Guo anxiously. Liang Guo calmly patted Liang Lan's shoulder to calm her down.

"Let's not beat around the bush. Not many people know about this matter, right? The fact that you're back safe and sound. I suppose the He family doesn't know anything?" Liang Guo asked.

Qiao Mei smiled faintly. She had long known that this matter would not be kept a secret for long. Back then, the He family was able to find out details about her background in the village and even found someone to bring the old widow and her son to the capital to frame her. They definitely would have sent someone to check if she had really had a miscarriage.

It was just that He Ning was too busy with his own issues now, so their spies had not come by to investigate her. When He Ning came back to his senses, he definitely would not let her off.

She did not expect to have attracted these two "hungry wolves" from the Liang family even before the He family's people arrived.

"So what they know and so what if they don't? Then do you want the He family to know that my baby is still around? Or do you want them not to know?" Qiao Mei asked with a smile.

This question was a sore point for the Liang siblings. This was also something they had pondered over last night without being able to come to a decision.

If they told the He family about this matter, they would be able to negotiate terms with the He family. When the time came, it would not be difficult for them to ask for help to resolve their family's current predicament. However, they still needed ginseng to succeed. After all, it was not a difficult thing for the He family to find on their own that Qiao Mei was still pregnant.

Without having ginseng to push the process along, the He family definitely would not thank them, but would shoot the messenger instead. Then, not only would the He family ignore them, but they would also offend the Xia family.

In the end, it would be all for nothing.

However, if they helped the Xia family hide the secret from the He family, they would not be able to get a single cent out of it. Without even considering the fact of whether Qiao Mei would acknowledge them as relatives or not, the Xia family had always been prudent and did not band together with other families nor participate in any private deals. The Xia family would not help them solve their current problem at all. Moreover, the Xia family was the type of family that would not offend others unless they were attacked. If they offended the Xia family, they would definitely have to repay double the debt.

Qiao Mei and Qiao Qiang treated them with indifference now. It was even more hopeless to get Qiao Qiang to go back and help the Liang family solve the problem.

In the current situation, it was difficult to either advance or retreat.

In that case, he might as well take a risk and threaten Qiao Mei before making a deal with the He family. At least there would be hope.

Maybe Qiao Mei was young enough to be easily frightened and would give them everything they asked for?

"We should be the ones asking you this. Whether you want the He family to know or not," Liang Guo narrowed his eyes and said with a smile.

He looked like a wily fox waiting for Qiao Mei, this "little lamb", to fall into a trap!

"Of course I don't want them to know! If they find out about this, they won't let me off," Qiao Mei said, pretending to be afraid.

Liang Guo smiled even more smugly. If Qiao Mei was afraid, then there was still hope for them. He wanted Qiao Mei to pay the price for the humiliation they had suffered over the past few days!

"We're your uncle and aunt. Of course we won't betray you and tell the He family that your child is still alive, but you have to give us some benefits," Liang Guo said.

"Benefits? What benefits do you want? I can't persuade grandfather to return to the capital with you," Qiao Mei said.

"You can exchange it for a 100-year-old ginseng. If you take out the 100-year-old ginseng, we won't tell the He family about this. We will also leave this village and return to the capital," Liang Guo said sternly.

This wishful thinking could not be more obvious!

If they could easily obtain a 100-year-old ginseng by hiding information about her from the He family, then did she have to give one to everyone who found out about this in the future?

She was not in the wholesale business!

Although she could indeed engage in wholesale production...

"This 100-year-old ginseng is rare and not easy to obtain. I don't have any with me now, so how do you expect me to give it to you," Qiao Mei said awkwardly.

"It's fine if it's not a 100-year-old one. Anything that's more than 50 years old is fine! Just take out what any ginseng you have," Liang Lan said anxiously.

Chapter 605 Persuading Her To Go Up The Mountain

"How about this? When grandfather comes back, I'll get him to bring you guys into the mountains to look for it. There's indeed no more ginseng at home. If the heavens favor you, you might be able to find it!" Qiao Mei said.

They did not want to wait for the old master to come back. If Qiao Qiang came back, he would only beat them up with a big stick and would not let them stay for so long.

Being at their wits' end, they did not believe that Qiao Mei really did not have any ginseng left.

"You also know how your grandfather treats us. He won't bring us along. What kind of ginseng do you have now?" Liang Lan probed.

"Didn't I just say that I don't have anything," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

The Liang siblings definitely did not believe her. They had even seen Qiao Qiang stewing a big goose with ginseng roots last night. Could it be that he had only dug up ginseng roots!

"Then can you persuade your grandfather to go into the mountains to look for ginseng? Or do you know how to dig for ginseng? Why don't you give it a try?" Liang Guo said anxiously.

They had the cheek to say such things in order to achieve their goal. Currently, Qiao Qiang wanted Qiao Mei to take good care during her pregnancy, so he did not even let Qiao Mei do any heavy duty and tiring work at home. Li Gui, Zhang Wei, Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin would all come and help her with the farm work.

If Qiao Mei wanted to go out, Zhao Liang would come and pick her up with his three-wheeled vehicle. Auntie Dong would also bring Qiao Mei nutritious food from her house and also pass Qiao Mei some of her children's old things to see if she could use them.

Other villagers brought her children's clothes that they had made themselves, and a few even made a patchwork quilt for her children.

Except for Qiao Zhuang's family, the entire village hoped that Qiao Mei would be healthy and well and to give birth to two healthy children. At a time like this, the Liang siblings actually wanted her to go into the mountains to dig for ginseng!

They even said that they were her biological uncle and aunt! Pfft! They were not half as considerate as the neighbors in the village!

"I don't know how. Only grandfather knows how to do it," Qiao Mei said.

"You know your grandfather's temper. If we can persuade him, he would have brought us into the mountains long ago. You're the one he likes the most. If you talk to him, he'll definitely agree," Liang Lan said.

"I can't persuade my grandfather either. Why don't you stay here for a few more days? If my grandfather is in a good mood and goes up the mountain one of these days, he might be able to dig up a few ginsengs," Qiao Mei said as she slowly touched her stomach.

In a few more days, their jobs in the capital would probably be gone! This matter could not wait anymore! They must get it today!

"Qiao Mei, don't blame aunt for being ruthless. Either you give us a 100-year-old ginseng and we leave now, or don't blame us for turning our backs on you," Liang Lan said fiercely.

Qiao Mei sighed slowly. They finally could not keep up with the act anymore. If they had done so earlier, they would not have needed to waste so much effort.

"So what if you do, so what if you don't? Is there any loss to me?" Qiao Mei said indifferently.

It would be great if they turned their backs on her! There would be a lot less trouble in the future! She would not have to keep worrying about the Liang family implicating the Xia family.

Looking at Qiao Mei's current state, Qiao Qiang probably did not know what had happened in the capital.

"You! I guess your grandfather doesn't know about what happened to you in the capital. If your grandfather finds out that the Xia family didn't protect you well, won't he be angry?" Liang Lan said.

"I'd advise you not to focus your scheme on my grandfather. Who do you think you are!" Qiao Mei said as she glared at Liang Lan viciously.

It seemed that they wanted to do it the hard way! Not only did they have designs on her children, but they also did not want to let her grandfather off.

"Although your grandfather's health has improved a lot, he is still quite weak. What if he gets agitated and faints?" Liang Lan said.

Qiao Mei was not afraid of Liang Lan's threat. She just did not want Qiao Qiang to hear these things from others, as she was worried that her grandfather would be angry with her and Xia Zhe.

Even if Qiao Qiang knew that the He family had tried to harm Qiao Mei's children, now that Qiao Mei was standing in front of him unharmed, any unpleasant thing that had happened was already in the past.

Just as Qiao Mei was thinking about how to resolve this matter, Qiao Qiang returned from outside.

"Father! Why are you back!" Liang Guo shouted as he looked at Qiao Qiang in shock.

At this moment, Liang Lan was so frightened that she almost fell on the ground. She did not know how much of what they said had been overheard by Qiao Qiang and when he returned.

Chapter 606 I Cannot Let Him Off

"Grandfather, why are you back?" Qiao Mei was also a little surprised.

When Qiao Qiang was halfway to his destination, he remembered that today was the day he could go to the brigade to get his salary, so he thought about going to Zhao Liang's place to get it first before giving his good friend a call.

The moment he reached home, he saw these two heartless beasts threatening Qiao Mei. He had heard everything about the He family and did not miss a single word.

"The two of you are really fantastic. Get lost now! Get out of my house and the village! If you come again, I'll call the police to come and arrest you!" Qiao Qiang roared angrily.

This voice was like a thunderclap that shook them so much that they did not dare to move. It was also like the god of death whispering to them.

It was too late for them to regret anything now.

"Father, listen to our explanation!" Liang Guo said nervously.

Qiao Qiang used all his strength to give Liang Guo a kick in the stomach. Liang Guo collapsed to the ground and groaned in pain.

Qiao Mei almost applauded Qiao Qiang! This was the first time she had seen Qiao Qiang hit someone. No matter how much of a bastard any of Qiao Zhuang's family members was, he had never hit any of them.

It seemed that the Liang siblings had really infuriated Qiao Qiang.

"I don't want to hear what you have to say. What is the Wang family or Li family? Go back and tell the person who harmed Qiao Mei that if he wants to harm Qiao Mei, he has to step over me first! I want to see who dares to touch my granddaughter!" Qiao Qiang roared.

Liang Lan immediately helped Liang Guo up and left the courtyard. After this time, they would never come back again.

At this moment, Qiao Mei was quietly trying to sneak back into her room while sliding along the boundary wall when Qiao Qiang grabbed her.



"Where are you going?" Qiao Qiang said.

Qiao Mei smiled awkwardly and said, "Grandfather, you must be hungry. I'll go make you some food..."

"I'm not hungry. Tell me about those things they mentioned just now. Is there someone in the capital who wants to harm you?" Qiao Qiang said sternly.

Qiao Mei obediently sat back on the recliner and told him honestly about how the He family had tried to harm her and how she had retaliated. She did not dare to miss a single detail.

Qiao Qiang sat quietly opposite Qiao Mei and did not say a word. He was as steady as a stone statue.

"Grandfather... that's all... Look, I'm fine now. Don't be angry," Qiao Mei said guiltily.

"I'm not angry. You should have told me all these things. You shouldn't have hidden it from me," Qiao Qiang said with a sigh.

If she had told Qiao Qiang, he would definitely beat Xia Zhe to death...

For the sake of Xia Zhe's safety, she definitely could not tell him these things!

"What's the situation in the capital now? Do they still want to harm you?" Qiao Qiang asked.

"I don't think so. He Ning needs our family's ginseng. He won't attack me for now. The person who attacked me was his niece, not him. I don't think that's his intention," Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Qiang already had an idea about everything. He had a feeling that this person called He Ning would not let the matter rest and would definitely come looking for her.

Seeing that Qiao Qiang was engrossed in his thoughts, Qiao Mei tugged at his sleeve and said, "Grandfather, don't be angry with me. Don't blame Xia Zhe either. He didn't know about this beforehand. Besides, I'm all fine and in front of you now, so don't be angry. I won't dare to do it again!"

"Hmph, don't try to put in a good word for that kid! No matter how busy he is, how can he not care about you! When he comes back next time, I'll definitely teach him a lesson! Let him suffer a bit!" Qiao Qiang said.

Sigh, Xia Zhe could only pray for himself now.

"By the way, grandfather, I'm thinking about installing a telephone at home. Do you know how to do it?" Qiao Mei asked.

It was not an easy thing. They had to go to the brigade to apply for it. Moreover, there was no phone line in the entire village. What if everyone came to their house to make telephone calls after their family installed one?

It was very expensive to make phone calls now and even though they could afford it, they could not let others take advantage of them for nothing.

Now that Qiao Mei was in quite an advanced stage of pregnancy, it would affect her if too many people came by and disturbed her rest. He thought that they should think about this later.

"It's not easy to do it now. Let's do it next spring," Qiao Qiang said vaguely.

Qiao Mei considered it seriously. It was still unknown if they would still be staying here next year. By that time, she would probably be at the capital to prepare for delivery, and would bring Qiao Qiang along with her. It seemed quite useless to get a phone line now, so she decided to take Qiao Qiang's advice.

Chapter 607 Unwell

Ever since Qiao Mei left, it went all quiet in the capital. Xu Lan was immersed in the pain of losing her grandchildren and did not even go to the art troupe to help out.

She remained in a daze all day long, hugging the tiny clothes that she had made for her two grandchildren. Liu Fen tried to counsel her but it did not work. She was so immersed in her sadness that she could not be extricated.

She also did not have much of an appetite. Even with a full banquet in front of her, she did not feel like picking up her chopsticks. This made Liu Fen very worried and she was afraid that something bad would happen to her.

Today, while Xu Lan was taking an afternoon nap, she secretly gave Xia Fang a call.

"Hello? Is it Eldest sister-in-law?" Xia Fang asked as she worked on the medical records in front of her.

"It's me, I'm your second sister-in-law. I have something to ask your Xiang Jin. I wonder if you can help me contact him?" Liu Fen said embarrassedly.

"What's the matter?" Xia Fang put down her work and asked curiously.

Liu Fen rarely asked others for help. It had to be a really big issue before she would do that. Otherwise, she would simply grit her teeth and endure whatever difficulties she encountered and never tell anyone anything.

Back then, in the early days of her marriage to Xia Yao, he had just joined the army and his salary was very low. She looked after her two daughters alone and they did not even have any food at home. Even when she could not afford to eat, she did not tell anyone. She saved her own rations for the children and endured the situation for half a year.

Even if she was usually a little naggy, everyone knew that her intentions were good. Therefore, everyone was tolerant and not calculative with her.

"It's about Eldest Sister-in-law. Ever since Qiao Mei left, Eldest Sister-in-law's mental state has been especially bad. I want to contact Xia Zhe, but Xia Zhe and your second brother are not from the same unit. I just want to ask if your Xiang Jin can contact Xia Zhe and ask him to come back and take a look," Liu Fen said with a sigh.

Xia Fang knew a little about this matter. Not long ago, her eldest brother had told her to visit Xu Lan when she was free and to get her checked out.

When she went back that day and saw Xu Lan, she was shocked. In just a few days, Xu Lan had lost more than eight pounds and she did not look well. She almost wanted to tell Xu Lan the truth there and then.

However, before Qiao Mei left, she had instructed Xia Fang to wait until Xia Wen settled everything on his end before letting Xu Lan know. It was not the time yet.

"Let me ask around. Oh right, Second Sister-in-law. Please ask Eldest Sister-in-law to come and look for me when she's free. I'll give her a checkup," Xia Fang said.

"Fine, fine, fine. I'll have to trouble you with this matter! Your eldest sister-in-law is coming down, so I won't talk to you anymore. I have to go..." Liu Fen hurriedly hung up.

Xu Lan stared at Liu Fen agitatedly and asked, "Who called? Is it Qiao Mei! Is it Xia Zhe! Did they call me?"

"I called my son to ask him about how he's been recently," Liu Fen said with some difficulty.

She did not want to see Xu Lan's disappointed expression, but she could not lie to her and make her happy for nothing.

Xu Lan did not suspect anything. She quietly walked to the sofa downstairs and sat down in a daze.

Nowadays, they had a full-time housekeeper at home and Liu Fen did not need to do the cooking anymore. Xia Mao had specially instructed Liu Fen to keep an eye on Xu Lan so that she did not do anything silly.

As soon as Xu Lan woke up, she would hug her grandchildren's clothes sadly. If this continued, even a normal person would become abnormal.

"Eldest sister-in-law! You can't be like this! Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei will have another child!" Liu Fen said.

"But even if they have another child, it won't be my two eldest grandchildren! My eldest grandson was killed and Qiao Mei's health is severely affected. I don't know how she's recuperating now, and there's been no news from her. Do you think Qiao Mei hates me? Don't they know the phone number at home? Why don't they call me?" Xu Lan said sadly.

"Qiao Mei is not that kind of child! Perhaps there are no phones in the village! The situation in the village is not like here. How can every family have a phone under those conditions? Perhaps Qiao Mei can't find a way to contact you," Liu Fen guessed.

Actually, when Qiao Mei left the capital, she had memorized the Xia family's address and phone number. The issue was that it would take a long time for Qiao Mei to send things over, and it was also difficult to make phone calls, so she had not gotten a chance to contact anyone from the capital.

#### Chapter 608 Debt

There were three ways to send things out of the village.

The first way was to tag it with the postman when he came to do a delivery. If the postman happened to come to the village to deliver mail, the villagers would ask the postman to help them bring out the things they wanted to send.

The second way was to wait for the end of the month if there were no deliveries for anyone throughout the month. At the end of every month, the postman would go around the village to see if anyone wanted to send anything.

The third way was to go personally to the post office in town.

However, it was inconvenient for Qiao Mei to move around now, so she could only wait for the postman to come by.

Unfortunately, it was a quiet month and no one in the village received any parcels. Qiao Mei could only wait until the end of the month to be able to send out her parcel and keep in touch with the people in the capital.

"Xia Zhe has been unwilling to stay in touch with us since he was young. It's also my fault for not caring much about him back then. It's only right that he doesn't care about me now. I only have myself to blame for what's happening now. If I had treated Qiao Mei better back then, nothing would have happened to her and she wouldn't have thought of returning to the village to recuperate. It's all my fault!" As she spoke, Xu Lan could not help but cover her face and cry.

If only all of this had never happened.

"You can't be blamed for this. Sigh, back then, you and Eldest Brother were too busy with your careers to take care of Xia Zhe. Now that Xia Zhe has grown up, he probably understands your painstaking efforts," Liu Fen said with a sigh.

"Actually, it's just that I don't want to stay at home and take care of your eldest brother's children. I don't want to be a housewife. I want to stand on the stage and be the principal performer, but I lost my child in return. I regret it now!" Xu Lan said sadly.

"Let bygones be bygones. Eldest sister-in-law, don't think about these things anymore," Liu Fen persuaded.

At this moment, Xia Zhe was still on his way to the army unit. He did a transfer in the capital to get on the transport to go to the army unit, so he did not stay long in the capital.

He was already used to such a life. Whenever he passed by the capital and there was nothing urgent going on at home, he would not make a trip home. Even if he did, Xia Mao and Xu Lan were never there.

Although his youngest aunt liked him very much and treated him like her own son, she was not his mother after all. In the end, he still did not feel at home in her house. His youngest aunt's son might return home at any time, so he was also unwilling to stay there any longer.

When he reached the capital, Xia Wen had given him a call and told him that the repair works on the courtyard house were almost done. Xia He had furnished the house based on her memories of what it used to look like.

There were still many empty spaces for Qiao Mei to go back and decorate herself, so they did not make any decisions on that.

The He family was on high alert and there was no news about them at all. No one knew what they were plotting, but this time, they must pay the price for their wrongdoings.

He felt very at ease leaving the matters in the capital to Xia Wen. After hanging up the phone, he rushed back to the army unit.

As soon as Xia Zhe arrived at the army unit, he was informed that his superior was looking for him and had asked him to return his call.

Before he could even catch his breath, Xia Zhe hurriedly ran to the phone booth and called his superior. "Report! This is Xia Zhe! What instructions do the superiors have!"

"Hahaha, there's no need to be so serious. I'm your uncle. I called you this time for no other reason than to see if you've returned safely," Xiang Jin said laughingly.

"Uncle, I'm already in the army unit now. The trip was very smooth this time," Xia Zhe said.

"Then... have you called your mother? She misses you very much," Xiang Jin said hesitantly.

Xia Zhe was silent for a long time before he asked, "Did my mother ask you to look for me?"

"No, it's your second aunt-in-law who called your youngest aunt and asked her to look for me. Your mother hasn't been in a good state recently. I heard that it's because of Qiao Mei. How's Qiao Mei's health now? Uncle isn't with you either. Is there anything I can do?" Xiang Jin asked worriedly.

Qiao Mei was in excellent health and could eat an entire chicken all by herself! She was completely fine!

He could not say these words to anyone before the He family paid the price, not even Xiang Jin.

"She's feeling better. Qiao Mei is currently recuperating at her grandfather's place back in the village. The scenery there is beautiful and it's a very suitable place for her to relax," Xia Zhe said.

"If you need anything, just let me and your aunt know. If we can help, just let us know. Give your mother a call when you have time. Your aunt said that your mother is really not in a good state. Otherwise, your second aunt-in-law would not have contacted me through her," Xiang Jin said.

Chapter 609 - 609 Troubled

609 Troubled

If Xiang Jin came to tell him all this, then something must have really happened at home. However, when he called Xia Wen in the capital previously, Xia Wen did not mention anything about it. Could it be that Xia Wen also had not gone home recently as well?

Xia Zhe said sincerely, "I'll call her now. Bye, Uncle."

The two of them exchanged a few pleasantries before hanging up.

Xia Zhe did not choose to call Xu Lan immediately. He walked aimlessly on the training ground alone. This was the first time he had been troubled by family matters.

In his childhood, he only had memories of his aunt Xia Fang taking care of him meticulously, his grandfather Xia Jun doting on him, his eldest aunt Xia Xiu's strict training, and his uncle Xiang Jin's gentle teachings.

During his childhood, his parental love came from Xia Fang and Xiang Jin. He did not have any relevant memories of Xia Mao and Xu Lan. Xia Mao always stayed in the army unit and rarely went home, while Xu Lan often went on performance tours outside. The entire house was always vacant and spiritless.

He also did not know what a home was. When he was young, he was envious of other children whose parents sent them to school. During the parent-teacher meeting at school, he was also envious of other kids whose parents attended the meeting. He was the only one who went with his youngest aunt, Xia Fang. There was even once when he fell sick at home and did not go to school the next day. It was not until the teacher looked for Xia Fang before they found out that he was already unconscious.



He did not know how to interact with his parents or communicate with them.

For a moment, he wished he was not a grownup. At the very least, he would not need to interact with them and there would not be such troublesome issues.

“Sigh.” Xia Zhe sighed deeply.

At this moment, Zhuang Hua quietly followed behind Xia Zhe. Just as he was about to scare Xia Zhe, Xia Zhe discovered him.

“I saw you a long time ago. You still have to practice your camouflage skills. Your footsteps are too loud,” Xia Zhe complained.

Zhuang Hua pursed his lips resignedly. How could he be compared to the “top army warrior”? If he did not get discovered by Xia Zhe, then he would be the “top army warrior” instead of Xia Zhe!

“Why are you frowning the moment you’re back? Don’t tell me you did not have a good time during your wedding vacation? Haven’t you tasted any sweetness yet? Sister-in-law is pregnant now, so you can’t attack her even if you want to,” Zhuang Hua said as he looked at Xia Zhe with a gossipy expression.

Xia Zhe blushed and punched Zhuang Hua on the shoulder. “What the heck! Am I such a beast!”

Actually, it was not as if he did not touch her at all. If Xia Fang had not repeatedly reminded him that Qiao Mei was unable to do any vigorous exercise for the time being, he would not have been able to endure it until now.

“Then why are you troubled?” Zhuang Hua asked curiously.

Xia Zhe told Zhuang Hua everything that had happened in the capital recently. Zhuang Hua’s family could also be considered quite prominent in the capital. Even if Xia Zhe did not say anything, Zhuang Hua would eventually know about it.

"Is sister-in-law alright! I'll go chop up that bastard He Ning now!" Zhuang Hua stood up and said indignantly.

Xia Zhe quickly pacified him and said, "She's fine. The He family's evil plan didn't succeed. It seems that He Mei was the one who made the decision on her own accord. He Ning didn't know anything beforehand. Anyway, my brother is handling all the specifics now."

"If you ask me, you really have a lot of romantic debts. So many women are willing to risk their lives for you," Zhuang Hua said melancholically.

Earlier, Zheng Yuan had destroyed her career path because of Xia Zhe. Then, Qian'e had ruined her own life. After that, there was still a He Mei who was a lunatic who harmed others and herself.

It did not seem to be a good thing to be handsome. People said that beautiful women were all femme fatales. In Zhuang Hua's opinion, handsome men were nothing less!

"Then what are you worried about now? Don't tell me it's because you miss sister-in-law," Zhuang Hua said as he looked at Xia Zhe in disdain.

"I haven't told my mother that Qiao Mei is still pregnant because I'm worried that she would leak the news and we won't be able to nab He Ning. Just now, my uncle called me and said that my mother is now in a very bad state and crying every day. I don't know what to do now," Xia Zhe said helplessly.

Zhuang Hua felt that this matter was very simple and not so complicated at all. It all depended on Xia Zhe's determination.

"I think it's good to let your mother cry for a bit. Your mother has never cared about the three of you since you were young. Now that she has experienced this matter with Qiao Mei, it's good if she learns how to cherish things because of it," Zhuang Hua said.

That was indeed the case, but he was just afraid that Xu Lan's body would not be able to hold on until the day she came to realize the truth.

Chapter 610 Fix A Time

Xia Zhe sighed deeply and said, "Actually, I don't hate her at all. I just don't know how to get along with them."

"That's very normal. After all, you didn't grow up by their side, so it's inevitable that you feel unfamiliar with them. Even though I grew up by my parents' side, it's not like I know how to get along with them. It's not your fault, so you don't have to blame yourself," Zhuang Hua comforted him.

"What do you think I should do?" Xia Zhe asked.

For a moment, Zhuang Hua did not have any good ideas as well. His relationship with his family was not as tense as what Xia Zhe had.

Zhuang Hua pondered for a moment and said, "Then... how about you tell sister-in-law? See if sister-in-law has any good ideas? Women know women better. How can a rough man like you know anything about their unhappiness?"

Zhuang Hua's cousin was the one who told him these things. A woman's thoughts were unfathomable. It was entirely possible that she would be sad for a whole day just because she did not have any nice shoes to match her clothes.

Since Xia Zhe did not know what to do, the person who started something must be the one to end it. After all, Xu Lan was sad because she was worried about Qiao Mei. The final outcome of this matter still depended on what Qiao Mei did. Otherwise, Xu Lan would always feel worried about Qiao Mei.

He just did not know if Qiao Mei was willing to reconcile with Xu Lan. Even though Xu Lan suddenly came to her senses before Qiao Mei left, she had ignored Qiao Mei most of the time during this period of time when they were in the capital and had looked down on her daughter-in-law.

"I'll try." After saying that, Xia Zhe returned to the phone booth and dialed the number of the village phone after some hesitation.

"Hello, this is Foshan Village. Who are you looking for?" Zhao Liang asked.

"Uncle Zhao, I'm Xia Zhe," Xia Zhe said.

Zhao Liang's eyes lit up. He had been thinking about Xia Zhe for the past few days!

When Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe first got married, he had mentioned Xia Zhe to his wife when they were chatting casually. At that time, they had never met Xia Zhe and knew nothing about him at all. They both felt that Xia Zhe was an unreliable person who let the pregnant Qiao Mei manage so many things alone and even made her go to the capital to look for him on her own.

It was only after meeting Xia Zhe this time that his opinion changed completely.

Zhao Liang had hurt his waist from doing farm work recently, but there were still so many things at home that he had to do. There were also many things in the village that he needed to deal with. It had been difficult for him to cope.

When Xia Zhe found out about it, he volunteered to help Zhao Liang with the farm work at home. It only took him a day to finish Zhao Liang's one week worth of work. Zhao Liang was older and his stamina could not keep up, so he was not as strong as the young man who could work much faster.

Xia Zhe did this to repay Zhao Liang for taking care of Qiao Mei and Qiao Qiang all this while, and also for taking care of Zhang Wei during this period of time.

Zhao Liang's impression of Xia Zhe also soared. He felt that he should not have been so prejudiced against the young man previously.

"Xia Zhe, are you at the army unit yet? Did you have a smooth journey? Your auntie and I are both thinking about you! However, we don't know how to contact you. I have been thinking of asking Qiao Mei tomorrow," Zhao Liang said happily.

"Uncle Zhao, I've reached the army unit. There were no issues along the way and everything went smoothly. I'm calling this time because I have something to discuss with Qiao Mei. I wonder if it's convenient for Uncle Zhao to get Qiao Mei to answer my call?" Xia Zhe said awkwardly.

Zhao Liang readily agreed to Xia Zhe's request. Xia Zhe could not tell anyone his phone number so they agreed that Xia Zhe would call Zhao Liang again after half an hour.

As soon as he hung up, Zhao Liang rushed out to look for Qiao Mei. Just as he was about to leave, he bumped into Wang Qin, who had just returned from a trip outside.

"Oh my, Brother Zhao, what's the rush? You're in such a hurry that you don't even look where you're going," Wang Qin complained as she rubbed her shoulder that was hurting from the impact.

"I'm really sorry. I'm in a hurry to go out and do something. I'll apologize to you when I come back!" Zhao Liang drove off on his three-wheeled vehicle before he even finished speaking.

Wang Qin looked in the direction that Zhao Liang had left in puzzlement and muttered, "How strange. There's nothing serious going on today. Where's he going in such a hurry?"

She did not think too much about it and went into the office to work on the work points and accounts for this week.

"Qiao Mei! Are you at home! I have something to tell you! Are you at home!" Zhao Liang rushed into the courtyard to look for Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei walked out of the house and said, "What's wrong, Uncle Zhao? What's the matter?"