

Fat Wife 61

Chapter 61: Fragrant Beef Sauce

Qiao Mei thought for a moment and continued, "Then when you come over tomorrow, send me a few baskets. I don't have enough baskets for this 1,000 catties of bean sprouts."

"Sure, no problem." He naturally agreed to such a small matter.

Now that the matter of the bean sprouts had been settled, she remembered another thing she needed. There was the matter of Xia Zhe's address.

She looked at Xiao Liu and asked, "Xiao Liu, help me ask Uncle Chen if I can find out the address of my man. I want to send something over!"

"Alright, I'll ask!" Xiao Liu nodded in agreement.

Qiao Qiang, who was standing at the side, was already dumbfounded. He quickly entered the house and picked up a pen and paper to do some calculations.

It was a total of 1,000 catties of green beans now, which meant that they could grow about 130 baskets of bean sprouts. One basket could sell for 15 dollars, which meant that it would be nearly 2,000 dollars, including the cost.

The net earnings worked out to about 1,700 to 1,800 dollars.

Moreover, this amount was the earnings per day and they would continue earning money every day.

Clack!

At this point, Qiao Qiang dropped the pen in his hand and his eyes almost popped out.

His granddaughter could actually earn nearly 2,000 dollars a day?

No one would believe this. In this era where a big family's living expenses were only 100 to 200 dollars a year, earning 2,000 dollars a day was really unimaginable.

After Xiao Liu left, Qiao Mei also did her sums.

She did not expect to be able to make a lot of money just like that. Moreover, the money came so quickly and it was really unexpected.

It was all thanks to Uncle Chen Hu's help.

...

The next day, Xiao Liu brought Xia Zhe's address with him.

Xia Zhe did not go on a mission this time. Instead, he had gone to an isolated environment for special training for a few months, so he could not come out.

But it was possible to send things to him.

Qiao Mei thought about it for a moment. Her jade pendant and children are all brought to her by Xia Zhe. He has given her a better life, so she naturally has to thank him properly.

Besides, feelings grow by the day.

Perhaps if she sends something to him and writes a letter or something, she can let him discover her other strong points.

Thinking of this, Qiao Mei asked Xiao Liu to bring some beef and bean paste for her tomorrow.

With Chen Hu's help, he managed to bring 20 catties of beef and a few catties of bean paste the next day.

Currently, cows were still the main productive force so they could not be slaughtered freely. Therefore, the beef available was all from old or disabled cows. It was really very good to be able to get 20 catties of beef.

She was busy in the kitchen for most of the day before she managed to make two jars of beef sauce.

During the cooking process, the fragrance floated above the entire village for a very long time.

The entire village smelled the fragrance of the beef and ate their rice with it as accompaniment. It was really too fragrant, but they did not have the guts to go and ask for this beef.

After all, Qiao Mei's food aggression temper had left a deep impression on the people.

All her strength was used to protect her food, so no one had any intention of coming to her place to ask for food.

But Qiao Zhuang's family was different.

Upon smelling this aroma, Qiao Zhuang, who was at the dining table, handed a porcelain bowl to Qiao Yu and spoke to her coldly.

"Go! Go get a bowl of that dish back!"

Qiao Yu looked distressed, but because of Qiao Zhuang's forceful manner, she had no choice but to stand up and walk towards the door.

She felt that Qiao Mei seemed to have become a different person. It was not easy to lie to her now and the success rate of getting some food back was not high.

But she still walked out under the family's watchful eyes.

Soon, she arrived at Qiao Mei's house. As she stood at the entrance of the courtyard, the smell was even stronger.

She took a deep breath and almost drooled.

She decided that getting a taste of the food would be worth being mocked, or even beaten up, by Qiao Mei.

"Elder sis Xiao Mei!"

Qiao Yu stood outside the courtyard and looked inside with a pitiful expression.

Chapter 62: Educating Qiao Yu

Qiao Mei and Qiao Qiang were sitting in the courtyard eating beef noodles.

After selling the bean sprouts these few days, she had some spare cash and got Xiao Liu to send a few bags of rice and noodles to her. Now, there will be an abundance of food at home.

They did not need to fear going hungry again.

When Qiao Mei heard Qiao Yu's voice, she immediately put down her chopsticks, picked up a thick wooden stick and headed towards Qiao Yu to hit her.

If Qiao Yu had not squatted down immediately, her face would have been injured.

"Didn't I tell you not to come to my house for nothing? You're not welcome at my house. If you come again, I'll break your legs!"

Qiao Mei had a ferocious look on her face when she said that.

Qiao Yu shook her head and put on a pitiful expression.

She looked at Qiao Mei and gave a wistful look at the beef sauce on the table in the courtyard.

The beef sauce was so fragrant!

She already smelled it from afar. If she could get a taste, it did not matter even if she was beaten to death.

“Elder sis Qiao Mei, no one at home knows that I’m here. Because of what happened last time, I haven’t eaten for three days. I’m starving!”

Qiao Yu blinked as tears welled up in her eyes.

Her nose was red and she pursed her lips.

“What has it got to do with me that you haven’t eaten? Am I supposed to feed you?” Qiao Mei yelled, anger all over her face. “Besides, I haven’t even settled the score with you for what happened last time and yet you eagerly come looking for me. You really don’t know what’s good for you!”

At the mention of the dowry, Qiao Mei got really furious.

The matter of the dowry was originally the fault of Qiao Zhuang’s family. They punished Qiao Yu and now Qiao Yu was blaming her?

Qiao Mei shouted towards her surroundings, “I’ve already given Qiao Yu a bowl of beef sauce. If Second Grandpa doesn’t get to eat it, then you can’t blame me!”

Qiao Yu was scared to death when she heard that and quickly said, “No, no! I didn’t take it!”

She hurriedly looked around her and quickly got to her feet to slip away when she saw that there was no one around.

If her family heard that she took a bowl of beef sauce and did not see the sauce in their house, they would definitely beat her to death.

The thought of a scene like that made Qiao Yu run back quickly..

Soon, she disappeared from Qiao Mei's sight.

Qiao Yu carried an empty bowl and slowly walked home, preparing to sneak in through the door. Upon entering, she did not expect to see Qiao Zhuang and his sons sitting at the table, smoking and waiting for her.

She was so frightened that she took a few steps back.

A few days ago, it was these few brothers who beat her up until she cried her heart out. It was as if they were venting all their anger on her alone.

Even though she was Qiao Zhuang's youngest and only daughter that he kept with him.

But... Qiao Zhuang had never cared about her existence.

In fact, he treated his granddaughters better than her. Other than Qiao Zhuang's wife, no one cared about her.

"Where's the meat!"

Qiao Yu's eldest brother, Qiao Fu, widened his eyes as he watched Qiao Yu walk in with an empty bowl.

The rest of them did not have nice expressions on their faces either.

Qiao Zhuang took out the pipe from his mouth and forcefully blew out a mouthful of smoke while looking at Qiao Yu. "She won't give it to you?"

"Yes... She said that if I go over again, she'll break my legs." Qiao Yu stood at the door with the bowl in her hand and her legs trembling.

She had no idea what would await her next.

Qiao Zhuang's wife wiped her hands and walked over from the kitchen. Seeing her only daughter like this, she could not help but speak up for her. "Seeing that Qiao Mei came a few days ago, it's obvious that she's not an easy person to get along with."

"It's only to be expected that she won't give us food."

Qiao Zhuang stood up and glared at her. "You're just a woman, you have no right to speak. It's only right and proper for me to educate my children!"

With that, he continued to glare at Qiao Yu.

Chapter 63: Growing Bean Sprouts

"Didn't you used to hang out with that girl? Why can't you coax her now? Has she become smarter?"

There was a threatening tone in his voice, as if he would beat her up any second.

The sons of the Qiao family all glared angrily at Qiao Yu.

In the past, the two girls used to hang out together and it was also Qiao Yu who spread those rumors about Qiao Mei to give her a bad reputation. How did Qiao Mei become one of the few smart people in the village now?

Something was wrong!

This Qiao Yu must be hiding something from them.

At the thought of this, Qiao Fu strode over and raised his fist to smash Qiao Yu's face.

Qiao Yu got so scared that the color drained from her face and she dropped the bowl in her hand.

"Qiao Fu, come back!"

Qiao Zhuang sat on the stool and waited for Qiao Fu to go over before he started to speak softly. Qiao Fu stood at the door and glared at her indignantly before turning around and walking back.

Qiao Yu was still in a state of shock but the next moment, she heard Qiao Zhuang say, "I'll give you another chance. In the future, try your best to build a good relationship with Qiao Mei and get more information from her. Then bring more things home as our family still needs more food."

Qiao Yu could not help but nod vigorously. "Okay, okay, okay. I know, I know, father..."

Her back was covered in cold sweat and she felt cold when the wind blew at her.

...

Early the next morning, Qiao Mei instructed Xiao Liu's assistants to carry the bean sprouts onto the truck.

Huffing and puffing, they quickly loaded the truck with the goods.

Xiao Liu got into the truck, waved to Qiao Mei and drove off with all his assistants.

Seeing these people coming and going these few days, the villagers nearby had been itching to know what they were doing.

Auntie Dong happened to pass by with her basket.

She craned her neck to look at the departing truck with a puzzled expression on her face.

Qiao Mei was still at the door when Auntie Dong walked up and asked, "Mei Mei, I've seen this truck going in and out these past few days. What are they transporting?"

A few of the older women nearby also surrounded Qiao Mei.

"It's bean sprouts!" Qiao Mei said loudly and started to explain to the people around her. "My grandfather's comrades know that I can grow bean sprouts, so they have asked me to grow some for them. This will provide them with a different kind of vegetable."

Helping to grow bean sprouts!

If she was helping, it would mean that she was not being paid.

If the people in the village knew that she could earn one to two thousand dollars a day, wouldn't she be eaten alive?

She would no longer be able to enjoy a peaceful life in the village.

"Oh!" Realization dawned on everyone.

In the current day and age, vegetables were all collected from the various production brigades. There were not many varieties of vegetables, so it was normal for people to get tired of eating the same few types.

Given that it was sent to the city, that was normal too.

Hearing this, Auntie Dong asked coyly, "Mei Mei, auntie wants to ask if auntie can learn how to make bean sprouts from you?"

When the other women gathering around heard this, they also looked at Qiao Mei eagerly.

In this season, if one could use green beans to grow some bean sprouts, it would definitely make a nice dish at home.

Qiao Mei hesitated when she saw the expectant gazes of the women around her.

It was not that she was unwilling to teach them, but even if she taught them the method and went through the steps thoroughly with them, they did not have the energy to grow such good quality bean sprouts.

When that happened and if they misunderstood it as she was unwilling to teach them properly, the loss would outweigh the gains of her efforts.

But if she did not teach them, the situation would be even worse.

"Aunties, I don't know how to teach. If you don't mind me being unable to express myself well, then come in and take a look!"

Qiao Mei led them into the courtyard and spoke to them.

"Okay, okay!"

Auntie Dong felt an instant sense of happiness and could not help walking in. If Qiao Mei could teach her while actually doing it, she would definitely learn it quickly.

The other aunties looked happy as well.

Then, more people gathered outside the courtyard. These were all the women and their daughters-in-law from the village.

“Alright, come over here everyone!”

Qiao Mei spoke to the people outside the courtyard.

Chapter 64: No One Is Faster Than Qiao Mei

Everyone walked in and into the workshop behind the courtyard.

Xiao Liu had helped Qiao Mei build this workshop. It was very sturdy and spacious.

Currently, there were many baskets in the workshop. The way the baskets were stacked on top of one another made it look very spectacular.

“There are so many baskets!” Auntie Dong was the first to speak.

She stared at all the baskets in the courtyard. She had never seen so many before and furthermore, they were all the same size.

It was a grand sight to see the baskets stacked together.

With so many baskets of green beans, a day’s work here would not be any easier than working with the brigade.

“Let’s start now!”

With that, Qiao Mei rolled up her sleeves and started working.

As she began, she explained every step very clearly with the precautions to be taken for each step.

Anyone who was not a fool would be able to understand the instructions.

The women gathered around immediately changed their impression of Qiao Mei. Initially, they had heard that Qiao Mei had a bad temper, but right now it seemed that her personality and temper were both very good.

Qiao Mei soaked the portion of beans allotted for today and then watered the beans that were soaked a few days ago.

These were the steps of making bean sprouts. After soaking the beans, they would be put into the baskets based on the volume and then watered. As time passed, the bean sprouts would start growing.

There was also a technique for watering. One could not just water the beans casually. One had to ensure that each and every bean in the basket absorbed enough water for the beans to grow quickly.

She busied herself watering hundreds of baskets of beans.

After half a day of hard work, the women who came to learn how to grow bean sprouts could not even stand up straight any longer. They squatted on the ground and panted from exhaustion.

This job was not fit for humans at all.

As they rested, they sized up Qiao Mei and their impression of her changed even more. Before they came by, Qiao Mei was the only person watering so many baskets.

Wasn't this too tiring?

They wondered who had said that Qiao Mei was lazy. The way they saw it, there was probably no girl in the village who was more hardworking than Qiao Mei.

They had really misjudged her in the past.

...

After returning home, a few women started to grow their own bean sprouts. They followed Qiao Mei's instructions and managed to start growing some.

But whenever they were free, they still came over to help Qiao Mei.

They found it quite pitiful that she had to do so much work alone every day and did not have any help at all.

Besides, they could continue to learn things when they helped her.

However, Qiao Mei did not constantly work in the courtyard in the way she had taught them. Instead, she only watered the beans once a day and used energy to maintain the rest of it.

Otherwise, she would not be able to finish watering so many baskets by herself even if she worked herself to death.

However, she was also very happy when the women came by to help.

After all, given that she was now pregnant, she must build a good relationship with the villagers so that her children would not get bullied in the village in the future.

Four days later, Qiao Mei finally made a few friends, namely six aunties and two sisters-in-law..

This was also the day when their bean sprouts grew out.

Since they all still had green beans at home now, they took some out to try for themselves. It would be best if they succeeded in growing them. Otherwise, even if they fail, it would still be within expectations and they would not have lost much.

To everyone's surprise, there were a bunch of tender bean sprouts growing out in each basin. The sprouts looked especially pleasing to the eye and good enough to eat.

Qiao Mei was secretly happy when she saw these basins of bean sprouts.

These bean sprouts were naturally similar to hers. After all, she had personally taken care of these bean sprouts. Every time she passed by these women's houses, she would go in to take a look and do an exchange of energy. She could then ensure that the bean sprouts were exactly the same.

If not, some people might think that she was being selfish with her instructions.

Otherwise, why would they fail when she succeeded in every basket? It must be because she hid some information and did not teach them everything.

Therefore, she needed to personally 'take care' of them now. Whoever was growing bean sprouts at home, she would 'take care' of them whenever she passed by. For those who had no interest or were in a bad mood, then she would not care about them.

Chapter 65: The Package Has Arrived

In this way, no one could blame her if anything went wrong. They must have done something wrong themselves.

After these people harvested their bean sprouts, news immediately spread among the village and almost every family started growing their own bean sprouts.

Qiao Mei heard that there was a saying in the village that only a family with good values would be able to grow bean sprouts well. If a family had bad values, the bean sprouts would not turn out well.

In the end, within the entire village, only Qiao Zhuang's family did not manage to grow bean sprouts well. It was not just him, not a single one of his sons' families managed to do it properly as well.

All their bean sprouts had a bitter taste.

This was all Qiao Mei's doing. It was also through the current experiment that she realized that she could not only control how the energy was given, but could also absorb the energy without returning it.

That was why the bean sprouts from Qiao Zhuang's family were all thin and small.

When Qiao Mei found out about this ability, she was stunned. She could not believe that she was so powerful.

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The beef sauce that Qiao Mei made finally arrived at Xia Zhe's location after seven to eight days of transportation.

"Commander Xia, your package has arrived!" A soldier shouted from the door.

As soon as he said that, the entire room fell silent.

Xia Zhe looked up in confusion. "He had a package? Who would send him a package? No one at home had the habit of sending packages.

"What was sent?" Xia Zhe asked curiously.

When the soldier heard this, he subconsciously swallowed his saliva and said, "Food!"

He did not know what the jar contained, but it smelled very fragrant. It was so aromatic that just smelling it made one tempted to eat it.

Hearing that it was food, Xia Zhe found it even more odd.

His family had never sent him food before, so it was unlikely to be from his family. There was no one he knew who might send him food.

“Who sent it?” Xia Zhe asked curiously.

The soldier said loudly, “It’s from your wife!”

As soon as he said this, everyone’s eyes lit up in shock.

When did Xia Zhe get married?

“What?”

“Xia Zhe, you got a wife?”

“When was this?”

Three people asked their questions loudly and in shock.

Everyone was still single, so why was it that Xia Zhe was already married and now his wife was sending things over? It was really enviable!

Xia Zhe was stunned on the spot for a moment.

It was not that he did not remember that he had a wife, but he really did not expect her to send anything to him.

Her family was poor and she was so fat. There must not be enough food at home, right?

“Bring it in!”

Xia Zhe waved his hand and let the soldier in.

The soldier placed the package on the table and stood beside it, looking at Xia Zhe eagerly.

None of the other three men had left either.

“Just like before, we’ll share half of the food!” The tall and dark Zhao Wu said.

Next to him was Zhuang Hua, who looked more refined, and he also nodded and smiled in agreement.

Zhang Yong walked over and looked at the opened package on the table. He frowned when he saw the crooked words “To Xia Zhe” on the package. Was his wife’s handwriting so ugly?

Xia Zhe’s eyes lit up when he saw the words on it. He did not expect Qiao Mei to know how to write. Although the handwriting was crooked and did not look nice, at least she knew how to write and that was already very good.

Initially, he thought that Qiao Mei was illiterate. Her being able to read and write had already exceeded his expectations.

“Quick, take a look at what it is. It smells so good!”

Zhao Wu stretched out his hand and fanned the air with his hand, looking like he was enjoying himself.

When the four jars had been delivered earlier, they had been checked by a specific department in charge. Now that they had been opened, they could not be re-sealed and the fragrance wafted out.

Everyone could not help but gulp. This smell was simply too fragrant.

Xia Zhe also could not help taking a step forward to reach out and open the lid of the jar. In an instant, the rich fragrance from the jar filled the entire room, making everyone take a deep breath involuntarily..

Chapter 66: Are You Waiting For Me?

“I’m taking this!”

When Zhao Wu heard this, he took one of the jars and rushed out of the room nimbly, disappearing in the blink of an eye.

Even Zhuang Hua, who looked so decorous, had already taken a jar and rushed out the door. Only the soldier, Zhang Yong and Xia Zhe were left in the room.

Xia Zhe wrapped his arms around the jars, glared at the two of them and said loudly, “I have already given half of what I have. If the two of you want any, don’t even think about taking it from me.”

The soldier and Zhang Yong exchanged a look and saw the same intention in each other’s eyes. The two of them instantly turned around and went after Zhao Wu and Zhuang Hua.

It was easier to take something from those two than to snatch it from Xia Zhe.

After everyone around him had left, Xia Zhe carefully opened one of the jars that he was holding. In an instant, there was a rich chili fragrance in the air, making his stomach growl.

Xia Zhe stood where he was and smiled.

This gift... he loved it!

He stood still for a moment to take a long sniff, then covered the jars and locked it in the cupboard behind him.

Then he picked up a letter from the package.

The words in the letter were not particularly well written but were surprisingly neat. There were no circles nor ink smears. It looked particularly comforting and made one want to read it.

The words were all very neat and of the same size.

They say words resemble the people who write them.

These words were just like her. Xia Zhe suddenly recalled that night. Although Qiao Mei was not a traditional beauty and also not too good-looking, she was special in her own way...

Especially that night, it was not as if he did not take any initiative.

Thinking of this, Xia Zhe felt so shy that his face turned red. He shook his head and forced himself not to think about it anymore. Whatever happened that night was in the past.

He turned his attention back to the letter.

The letter read:

How are you, Brother Xia?

I don't know if you have received the four jars of chili sauce. I made all four jars myself, does it smell good?

Not knowing what you like, I made both spicy and non-spicy ones, you can try and see which one you like. Or if there's anything else you want to eat, you can write and let me know.

I'll definitely make it for you when I'm free.

Also, I've received everything you asked people to send over. Thank you so much for your kindness, Brother Xia!

Thank you so much.

At the end, the letter was signed: I am your wife, Qiao Xiaomei.

At the bottom of the letter was a drawing of a little smiling person.

The little person looked to be standing in the doorway, waiting for an old friend to return. The drawing was extremely cute.

Xia Zhe finished reading the letter very quickly, but his eyes were wide with disbelief as he stared at the paper.

This letter... Can it be written like that?

In such a cute manner?

He suddenly remembered the touch of her skin that night, the body that was faintly discernible in the moonlight as well as the involuntary delicate gasps and continuous moans...

No, I can't think about it!

Xia Zhe shook his head to clear it of the memories. He did not want to remember that night again, but his mind could not help but whisper the words in the letter in that lovely voice...

He was unaware that his lips had slowly curled into a smile.

Qiao Mei... was actually quite cute.

Although Qiao Qiang had schemed against him and forced him to spend the night with Qiao Mei, Qiao Mei was innocent. In the end, she even changed her mind about the whole thing and did not lie to him.

In the letter, she even thanked him for his kindness.

Qiao Mei was a grateful and lovely girl with a kind heart and good culinary skills.

Finally he thought of the drawing at the bottom of the letter, the little person standing in the doorway.

Is the little person waiting for him?

At the thought of this, Xia Zhe could no longer help but smile. Even the look in his eyes turned warm and gentle, without the usual coldness.

Chapter 67: Introducing Sister-In-Law

When Xia Zhe passed by the door carrying the beef sauce, Zhang Yong happened to see Xia Zhe's smile. He could not help but walk into the room with a frown.

He asked, "Is it the He family or the Ma family? Which family is the girl from?"

Whichever girl had actually captured Xia Zhe's heart and melted him was really amazing.

"Neither!"

The smile on Xia Zhe's face disappeared as he looked at Zhang Yong and answered.

“Neither?” Zhang Yong was very surprised. Which girl from another family could escape the attention of the He and Ma families and successfully capture Xia Zhe’s heart?

This was simply unbelievable. His own Zhang family did not manage to succeed.

He had wanted to get his sister to come over and meet Xia Zhe to see if they could get along.

He had not expected this to happen.

Has he been intercepted?

Xia Zhe’s eyes were cold as he looked at Zhang Yong. “She’s just a girl from an ordinary family. She has nothing to do with those families in the capital.”

This cold gaze made Zhang Yong feel a sense of pressure.

“Got it.” Wanting to maintain his own dignity, Zhang Yong pretended to turn around as if nothing had happened and walked towards his own room.

Unexpectedly, Zhao Wu came over just as Zhang Yong left.

He walked through the door in a careless manner with a big spoon in his hand. His eyes scanned the room and finally stopped at the cabinet behind Xia Zhe.

“Big brother, can you introduce us to our sister-in-law?”

In the next second, he rushed into the house and towards the cabinet. Unexpectedly, there was a gust of wind from the side and a kick almost sent him flying.

It was Zhuang Hua.

He retracted his foot and stood there with his arms crossed. Then he glanced sideways at Zhao Wu with his lips curled and said disdainfully, "Zhao Wu, you're really shameless. You're two years older than brother Xia Zhe, yet you still call him big brother? How embarrassing!"

Zhao Wu chuckled and put his spoon away. "I lost to big brother yesterday, so of course I have to call him big brother. It's more embarrassing to be like you and pretend you didn't lose, isn't it?"

However, he knew very well in his heart that what made him shameless was this delicious chili sauce that he had never tasted before. Otherwise, he had never thought of calling Xia Zhe big brother.

In the end, Zhao Wu's eyes flashed with mischief. He looked at Xia Zhe and said loudly, "Big brother, he didn't address you properly. He didn't keep his word. If we have anything delicious in the future, don't share it with him."

This statement made Zhuang Hua drop his defenses!

That chili sauce was really more delicious than anything that he had ever tasted. It would be a pity if he could only smell it in the future and not be able to taste it again.

He immediately stammered and whispered, "Big... big brother!"

"Hahahaha!"

The way he looked made Zhao Wu grinned and laughed loudly.

"What are you laughing at? Let's listen to big brother tell us about sister-in-law." Zhuang Hua gave Zhao Wu a firm kick.

The smile in Xia Zhe's eyes disappeared as he stood there without speaking.

I can't talk about us.

...

On the other side, Qiao Mei received a piece of bad news.

Her bean sprout business would have to shrink now.

Given that the half a month of militia training was over and the big bosses were moving away, it meant that the bean sprout business in the armed forces department was no longer required. They did not need the big supply of bean sprouts anymore.

On its own, the armed forces department definitely could not consume so much bean sprouts.

Hence, Qiao Mei only needed to supply a small amount of bean sprouts to the supply and marketing cooperative. They would need only about 200 catties as they would not be able to deal with any more than that.

Xiao Liu handed the last sum of money to Qiao Mei. There was a total of 1,587 dollars in his hand.

“Our Section Head Chen said that the supply and marketing cooperative can still take in your bean sprouts now, but we can only take 200 catties this first round. We dare not take more than that as we need to test the level of demand first.”

These 200 catties were just meant for the consumption of the staff at the supply and marketing cooperative.

“Don’t worry, there’s a big lumberyard on the east side of our county. If there’s no issue from their side, we can still take in a few hundred catties of bean sprouts in the future. It’s just that their factory director hasn’t returned yet.”

Xiao Liu wanted to comfort her.

Chapter 68: Skinnier and Fairer

There were not many enterprises in this small county city, so there were very few places that needed bean sprouts. Those city departments did not like to have regular deliveries of vegetables and preferred to buy them personally at the store, so there was also no need for a large stockpile of bean sprouts.

These realistic situations made Qiao Mei realize that her plans were a little idealistic.

In reality, things would not always happen as she had planned.

However, Qiao Mei did not feel disheartened.

This was because her daily income from selling bean sprouts was now more than 1,000 dollars. This amount of money was really way too much for this time period. If others found out and became jealous, she would not be able to bear the consequences.

Now it was time to take a break.

It was also time to announce that she was pregnant.

...

Qiao Mei found some time to go out and have a chat with the older women, but then she suddenly started retching.

The women all looked at one another.

Everyone asked Qiao Mei when she had her last period and about any recent changes in her body. In the end, everyone concluded something:

Qiao Mei was pregnant!

“You’re pregnant! You’re with child!” Auntie Dong clapped her hands happily, her eyes filled with excitement. “You’re pregnant in one shot!”

As soon as she said this, the people standing around looked away awkwardly.

Qiao Mei’s pregnancy was too much of a coincidence. She got pregnant after one night? If it was really so easy to get pregnant, Second Sister-in-law Wang living near the entrance of the village would not have needed to go to all the old traditional Chinese doctors in the vicinity in the past three years.

Qiao Mei had no choice but to smooth things over with regard to their suspicious looks.

She looked at the younger married women seriously and said, “For that night, if I calculate based on how you ladies taught me, it would be no less than four or five times. My legs were so sore that night...”

“Oh my goodness!” all the women exclaimed.

They looked at Qiao Mei in disbelief and blushed.

Heavens!

What kind of man was this?

Why did he fall for Qiao Mei and insist on marrying her?

Qiao Mei was really extraordinarily lucky. Although it was an arranged marriage between children, it was rare to have such a ‘powerful’ partner.

“How did you feel that night?” Big Sister-in-law Liu asked curiously.

Qiao Mei thought for a moment and replied seriously, “Just one word, tired!”

Everyone again laughed so hard until they were breathless.

However, as Big Sister-in-law Liu looked at Qiao Mei, she suddenly pointed at Qiao Mei in surprise and asked a spontaneous question.

“Look, did any of you notice, I feel that Qiao Mei has lost a lot of weight!”

Everyone turned to look at Qiao Mei and realized that she had indeed lost weight. Her originally tight-fitting clothes now looked loose on her. Her usually big plump face now looked much more pleasing to the eye.

Her thighs, which were as thick as buckets, now showed some curves.

This change was not considered a small one.

Qiao Mei looked at her own figure and nodded with a smile. Her current body size had already met her initial expectations. After more than a month of hard work, she had successfully lost more than 50 pounds.

From the back, she looked like an average person.

“Look, Qiao Mei seems to have become fairer.”

Big Auntie Dong looked at Qiao Mei’s face and said in surprise.

In the past, Qiao Mei’s entire face was squashed like a pancake due to her obesity. Her facial features were squeezed together by her fleshy face that they were almost invisible.

Now that her weight loss showed on her face, her facial features could be seen clearly.

Her skin color had also turned a shade fairer.

“Look at Mei Mei. Isn’t this a standard oval face?”

“These eyes are also quite big!”

“The nose bridge is not bad either. It’s very high.”

“This little mouth is red and looks very lustrous. It’s really cute.”

There was a flurry of astonished praises as everyone looked over Qiao Mei. They had never observed her carefully before. Perhaps she was too fat for her features to be seen clearly.

In short, they seemed to have only found out about Qiao Mei’s good looks now.

The general consensus was that Qiao Mei was much prettier than before. Her facial features looked exceptionally pleasing to the eyes and she had a tranquil temperament. If she lost a bit more weight, she might look even more beautiful.

Chapter 69: Letter In Reply

“Mei Mei, you have to control your mouth and don’t return to your previous size. See how good you look now that you’ve lost weight. If you get fat again, it will also be difficult to give birth!”

Big Auntie Dong held Qiao Mei’s hand and said earnestly.

Qiao Mei nodded. “Yes I know. Thank you, Auntie Dong.”

Her voice was clear and sweet.

Everyone smiled and nodded. This voice matched her current look very well. In the past, when she was dark and fat and spoke with this voice, they had found it simply cringey.

“And do less work at home. You just got pregnant, so you have to be careful.”

“Yes, that’s right. Fortunately, you don’t have to grow bean sprouts now and it’s not so busy anymore. You have to be more careful,” the auntie beside her advised.

Qiao Mei smiled and said, “Yes, I don’t have to be busy growing bean sprouts now. I just need to stay home and wait to raise the children.”

She had originally received an order of 200 catties of bean sprouts from the supply and marketing cooperative, but she did not take the order now that she did not want to work anymore. She wanted to focus on being at home.

Although the supply and marketing cooperative still wanted another batch of bean sprouts, Qiao Mei was determined not to grow bean sprouts anymore. She would not do it even if the price increased.

That was because the supply and marketing cooperative had already increased its order to 1,000 catties. In the future, the order size would likely continue to increase. If these orders kept coming, the income would no longer be able to be kept hidden.

A thousand catties a day can make her a few hundred dollars!

This amount of money could definitely not be kept a secret in her small village. If someone reported her, she would be finished.

This was not an era of economic freedom.

Besides, she was pregnant.

“Mei Mei, which day did your man come over?” Auntie Dong asked.

“April 21st.” Qiao Mei gave a clear-cut answer.

She had transmigrated at that moment and naturally knew the date very well. It had already been more than a month since then.

At this point, a few of the older women stood together, immersed in calculating the due date for Qiao Mei's delivery. They discussed it noisily and finally came up with the date.

The due date would be at the beginning of January next year.

Qiao Mei nodded. The date she calculated was also around that time, but since she was pregnant with twins, she might deliver prematurely. The date was only a tentative one.

In her past life, she gave birth to a pair of pitiful twins who were so small and skinny.

This time, she would also take good care of her body and strive to provide the children with a healthy body to nurture them so that the children could be born healthy.

Qiao Mei chatted with the women for a while more before she went home happily. The first thing she did when she got home was to write another letter to Xia Zhe.

She quickly finished writing and was about to go and send the letter when she heard the sound of a bicycle outside the house. She was the only person in the entire village with a bicycle, so who was the person outside the house?

Qiao Mei turned around and saw the postman in dark green clothes stop at the door of her house. He said, "This is Qiao Mei's house, right? There's a letter for you here."

The postman parked the bicycle and walked over quickly, handing the letter to Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei was so happy her eyes disappeared with her smile.

Xia Zhe had written back to her?

It was just that she had never thought that he would reply to her. It was great that he would do that now.

She opened the letter in her hand and saw the beautiful handwriting on it.

A trace of joy flashed across Qiao Mei's eyes. She suddenly recalled that night, thinking of his strong arms and bold eyebrows. He had flipped her over with one move and was very strong...

Qiao Mei covered her mouth and laughed. The postman was used to things like that and was about to leave when Qiao Mei stopped him.

"I have something to send too. Wait a minute."

Very quickly, Qiao Mei brought out four jars. The four jars were filled with the pickled vegetables she had made. They were tender, crunchy and very refreshing and made a very good side dish for rice.

After all, she still had to give Xia Zhe some surprises.

Chapter 70: She's Pregnant!

She could not send the same thing every time. She wanted to come up with different things to send over in order to express her feelings for Xia Zhe through the contents of the jars. In this way, he would also not get tired of her gestures.

Also, she could not always send meat products as it may attract unnecessary attention.

After she sent off her parcel, she took out the letter. The handwriting on it was very nice.

Hello, comrade Qiao Mei.

I have received all four jars of sauce. It is very delicious and I prefer the spicy one.

I hope you won't send me such expensive things in the future. Save the money to buy nice food for Grandpa. Everything is fine here.

In the future, I will send all my salary to you. Make sure to collect it every month.

Xia Zhe.

...

There was nothing extraordinary about the letter and it was very concise, but she smiled happily like a kitten that had stolen a fish.

She was glad that he had replied.

Moreover, he even said that he would send his salary to her and did not stop her from spending the money. How nice of him!

...

A few days later, in the training camp.

"Commander Xia, your parcel is here," the soldier shouted from the door.

In an instant, three black figures appeared at Xia Zhe's door, waiting for the parcel to be opened.

Xia Zhe opened the door and took the parcel with a glance at them.

The three of them stopped their actions and looked on eagerly.

"Big brother, we'll share half of what we see!" Zhuang Hua said.

Zhao Wu, on the other hand, was unhappy and tried suggesting, “Big brother, this parcel looks similar to the previous one. There will probably be four jars. Why don’t we just take one each instead of splitting in half? It’s so troublesome to fight over it.”

They had been eating the sauce for a few days. It was so delicious that the three men had fallen completely under its spell.

“Do you think I want to share with you?”

Xia Zhe glared at them sideways.

He also did not expect the sauce made by Qiao Mei to be so delicious. If he had a meal without the sauce, it felt as if something was missing.

“Big brother, don’t be petty. We’ll only be sharing the sauce with you for a short while. But you’ll be spending the rest of your life with sister-in-law and eating it for the rest of your life. You can’t draw that kind of line with us!” Zhuang Hua said.

Xia Zhe was taken aback by what he said. It did make sense.

He continued to share two jars with the three of them.

After the three of them took the two jars, they went into the room together to split the loot. However, they felt a little disappointed when they opened the jars and realized that it was not the same sauce from the last time.

But when they leaned over to take a sniff, they realized that it was still something very fragrant.

The three of them picked up their chopsticks for a taste and found out that it was indeed very delicious. They started fighting for food again, this time over the pickled vegetables.

...

Xia Zhe returned to his room and placed the jars in the cabinet as usual.

Then, he carefully took out the letter from the parcel. The words were as neat as before, but the handwriting looked much better than before.

There's improvement!

Xia Zhe curled his lips in a smile of relief and turned his attention back to the contents of the letter. Then, he read something that caused him to freeze on the spot.

Brother Xia Zhe, I'm having our baby.

These words caused Xia Zhe to be rooted to the ground. He rubbed his eyes and looked at the letter in disbelief.

Hello, brother Xia Zhe.

Recently, I've had a poor appetite. Sometimes, I feel like throwing up when I smell certain dishes and I also lost a lot of weight. The aunties in the village all say that I am pregnant.

I am not sure if you will be as glad as me, but I am very happy that I am going to have a baby. I do not know if the baby will turn out to be more like me or more like you.

A cuddly little child must be very cute.

If we have a boy, he would definitely be as handsome as you. If we have a girl, she would definitely be her mother's little sweetheart. I am so looking forward to it.

I do not mind having either a boy or a girl, but I am not sure if you would mind having a girl. Do you prefer boys over girls?

I'm a little worried about that. Boohoo.

I do not know anything about giving birth and taking care of a child. The aunties in the village have worked out for me that the due date is likely to be sometime in January next year. By then, the weather will be so cold and I do not know how our baby will be able to take it. I am so scared!