

Fat Wife 641

Chapter 641 Making Things Worse

Auntie Dong hurriedly ran forward to help. When she took a closer look, she realized that it was Li Gui's eldest sister-in-law! Zhao Hong's face was extremely pale at this moment. No matter how Auntie Dong shook her, there was no reaction and she did not even seem to be breathing. Auntie Dong was so frightened that she quickly took a few steps back.

Could it be that... this person is dead!

She did not do anything! This matter had nothing to do with her! How could she have encountered such a thing for no rhyme or reason!

She had only taken two steps away when she could not help herself from turning back to look at Zhao Hong. If she left Zhao Hong here alone and no one passed by, would the woman not become food for the wolves at night?

Auntie Dong walked back slowly and squatted in front of Zhao Hong nervously. She reached out with her finger to check if Zhao Hong was breathing.

The interval between each breath was longer than usual, but at least she could confirm that the woman was still alive.

She heaved a sigh of relief, but now she had a new problem. She could not move Zhao Hong on her own. Moreover, the clinic was very far from here. How could she send Zhao Hong for treatment?

"Um... wait for me here! I'll go get someone!" Auntie Dong patted the unconscious Zhao Hong nervously, as if trying to explain her actions. She looked extremely comical.

Auntie Dong ran all the way to the village office to look for Zhao Liang. Before Zhao Liang could open his mouth, she grabbed him and pulled him along.

"Where are you taking me!" Zhao Liang asked curiously as he ran next to her.

"To save someone! Li Gui's eldest sister-in-law has fainted at the village entrance! I can't do anything by myself!" Auntie Dong said in a panic.

Zhao Liang hurriedly called the villagers nearby to go with him to the village entrance to carry Zhao Hong to the clinic, while Auntie Dong went to Li Gui's house to inform her.

"Li Gui! Sister! Come out quickly! Your eldest sister-in-law is going to die!" Auntie Dong hurriedly ran to Li Gui's house and shouted.

Li Gui walked out of the house in confusion and asked, "What eldest sister-in-law? When did I have a eldest sister-in-law?"

"The one from your maternal family! Your eldest sister-in-law! Come with me quickly! Come with me to save her!" Auntie Dong said.

Li Gui did not even have time to instruct Zhang Wei to take care of his younger siblings. She threw down her apron and followed Auntie Dong.

It was only when she reached the clinic that she realized it was Zhao Hong. Why would Zhao Hong suddenly come here?

"Who's the patient's family members?" the doctor asked.

Li Gui quickly stood in front of the crowd and said, "Me. Doctor, how is she? Is it serious?"

"She has many bruises and old injuries on her body. The reason why she fainted is because she's weak and had not eaten or drank anything. She'll be fine after going home and taking a good rest, but she will need a long time to recover from her injuries," the doctor said expressionlessly.

Li Gui silently noted down what the doctor said and carried Zhao Hong back to her house with Zhao Liang's help. She already needed to take care of Zhang Miao. It was ridiculous that now there was another person she needed to look after.

This was simply making things worse!

Her life had become even more difficult!

"Mom, who is this auntie?" Zhang Qin asked as she pointed at the unconscious Zhao Hong.

Li Gui thought for a moment and said, "You should call her Eldest Aunt-in-law. This is Mom's elder brother's wife. Do you understand?"

Zhang Qin nodded as if she vaguely understood. Zhang Wei stood at the door silently and observed everything. He knew very well that this person was from his grandmother's house and definitely did not have any good intentions!

Everyone in that family was bad!

Zhang Wei hurriedly ran to inform Qiao Mei. However, when he reached Qiao Mei's house, he started to hesitate.

Qiao Mei was only his half-sister. It was not good for him to trouble her again and again over trivial matters at home.

Furthermore, his elder sister was pregnant. His brother-in-law had told him not to let his sister work too hard. As a man, he should take the initiative to bear the responsibility.

Zhang Wei stared blankly at the door for a long time. In the end, he decided not to tell Qiao Mei about this matter.

"Xiao Wei! Why are you standing at the door and not coming in!" Qiao Qiang shouted as he craned his neck.

Qiao Mei then realized that Zhang Wei was at the door. She walked to his side and asked, "What's wrong? Why don't you come in when you're already at the door?"

Zhang Wei instantly burst into tears. He did not want Qiao Mei to know about the struggle that was going on in his heart, so he looked down and tried to escape.

Qiao Mei quickly held Zhang Wei down. Her strength was like a huge rock pressing down on Zhang Wei's shoulder. Even Xia Zhe could not get away from Qiao Mei's ridiculous strength, let alone Zhang Wei.

"What's wrong? Why are you crying? Are you hungry?" Qiao Mei asked gently.

Chapter 642 Know Everything

Zhang Wei still refused to say what he was really thinking and only said aggrievedly to Qiao Mei, "Elder sister... you're hurting me..."

Qiao Mei quickly let go of Zhang Wei's shoulder. She did not use much strength, so how could it hurt?

Could it be that what she meant by not using much strength was different from what ordinary people meant?

"Oh, oh, oh! I forgot! I'm sorry, Xiao Wei. But why are you crying?" Qiao Mei asked as she massaged Zhang Wei's shoulder.

"I'm not crying... Uncle Chen Hu said that a man can bleed or sweat but not cry," Zhang Wei said with his head lowered.

"Our Xiao Wei is such a capable boy. Then what's that on your face? Is it your sweat?" Qiao Mei teased.

Qiao Mei knew that Zhang Wei must have come around because of Li Gui. She was in the courtyard in the afternoon and Auntie Dong's voice was almost as loud as someone using the loudspeakers in the village.

If she still could not hear it, she must be deaf.

"Let's go. Elder sister will go back with you. I'll go and see how Zhang Miao is doing," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Zhang Wei grabbed Qiao Mei and said, "Elder sister, today... Zhang Miao has already gone to bed today. Why don't you visit Zhang Miao when she's awake?"

Qiao Mei reached out and flicked Zhang Wei's head. "Alright, don't try to find an excuse for mom. Elder sister is not angry about this. I'll go and see how that person is."

After saying that, Qiao Mei strode towards Li Gui's house, leaving Zhang Wei standing there in a daze. By the time Zhang Wei reacted, Qiao Mei was already almost at the door of his house.

"Sigh... looks like I can't hide anything from elder sister." Zhang Wei sighed and quickly ran to Qiao Mei's side to go back with her.

Li Gui was washing the children's clothes in the courtyard. When she saw Qiao Mei, she immediately felt happy and thought that Qiao Mei had forgiven her.

"Mei Mei, you're here. Come and sit down!" Li Gui brought over the most comfortable stool in the house as if she was trying to curry favor with Qiao Mei. She was worried that the stool was dirty, so she even wiped it with her sleeve and placed a soft cushion on it for Qiao Mei. It could be said that she did everything meticulously.

Qiao Mei did not want to argue with Li Gui about right and wrong. She just wanted Li Gui to think more for herself and the four young children in this family. She did not want them to be weak and being bullied, to the extent that as long as others threatened her, she would give them everything.

However, Li Gui was not to blame for what happened to Zhao Hong today. Even if Zhao Hong was scheming, it was still a life at stake. If it were her, she would have saved Zhao Hong too.

Qiao Mei had interacted with Zhao Hong before and knew that she was a timid person. It was impossible for her to do anything earth-shattering. If she was really a scheming person, she would not have been bullied by Old Madam Li to this extent. She was just doing Old Madam Li's bidding.

"How's Zhao Hong?" Qiao Mei asked.

Li Gui looked at Qiao Mei uneasily and said, "Oh, you already know about this... The doctor said that she's fine. She fainted because she's been malnourished for a long time and also due to her injuries. After she wakes up, she'll feel better after eating something."

"Auntie Dong's voice is so loud that it's difficult for me not to know about it even if I don't want to. Have you paid the clinic?" Qiao Mei looked at Li Gui expressionlessly. Li Gui nodded in embarrassment, then shook her head.

Qiao Mei sighed and took out some money from her pocket to give to Zhang Wei. "Go and pay the medical fees at the village clinic and also buy Zhang Miao's medicine for next month. Go and get the bicycle from grandfather. Be careful."

Zhang Wei looked at Li Gui and then at the money in Qiao Mei's hand. He muttered softly, "Why is our family paying for this..."

"Alright, we'll talk about it when you come back. We can't let the villagers laugh at us and say that we owe money," Qiao Mei said.

Zhang Wei silently took the money from Qiao Mei and did as she instructed.

"Mei Mei, there's actually no need to..." Li Gui said.

"No? If we don't pay, then who will? Zhao Hong? Do you think Zhao Hong looks like she has money? If the villagers find out that we owe the clinic money, what will they think of us? What will they think of these children?" Qiao Mei said.

The more she thought about it, the more she could not understand what Li Gui was thinking. Even Zhang Wei knew that Zhao Hong was not a good person, so how could Li Gui not understand it?

At this moment, Zhao Hong had woken up. Looking at the unfamiliar scene in front of her, she did not know if she was still alive or already in the netherworld.

Chapter 643 Raising Money To Save Someone

Zhao Hong slapped herself a few times. She could still feel pain, which meant that she was still alive.

She started to feel dejected. How good would it be if she was dead...

When Qiao Mei and Li Gui heard the noise, they went into the house to Zhao Hong's side.

"Eldest sister-in-law, you're awake. Drink some warm water first." Li Gui handed a glass of water to Zhao Hong.

"Thank you. What happened to me?" Zhao Hong asked.

"The doctor said that you're malnourished. You were too tired from walking all the way here, so you fainted. You'll be fine after a few days of rest," Li Gui said.

Qiao Mei sat quietly at the side and did not say anything. She only looked at the bruises on Zhao Hong's body. These injuries looked like they were caused by being beaten with a stick and many of them were old injuries.

In the Li family, if it was not her husband Li Dong who hit her, then it would be Old Madam Li. Qiao Mei did not expect such an old person to still have so much strength.

When Zhao Hong heard that she had been sent to the clinic, the expression on her face changed instantly. She said nervously, "How much money did I spend at the clinic... I don't have any money to give you..."

"You don't have money? Then you can return it to me when you have money in the future. Since we're relatives, I'm not in any hurry. Just give me an IOU and a fingerprint," Qiao Mei said to Zhao Hong with a grin.

"I might not be able to repay it in the future as well..." Zhao Hong said as she lowered her head.

"It's probably just one or two dollars. Can't you earn it by selling some vegetables on the black market over a day or two? There's no hurry," Qiao Mei said.

There was indeed a private plot of land at home and Zhao Hong had also planted vegetables a few times. However, there were three adults and four children at home and that bit of vegetables was not even enough for them to eat. How could there be any extra vegetables for her to sell on the black market? The embroidery items she did at night could indeed be sold for a few dollars, but all the money would be snatched away by Old Madam Li and the old woman would not leave a single cent for her.

"I... I'll think of a way..." Zhao Hong said.

Li Gui asked tentatively, "Why are you here in our village?"

Zhao Hong looked at the sky outside and asked, "Oh yes! I have something to tell you! How long have I been asleep?"

"The villagers found you not long after you fainted and sent you to the clinic. You only slept for an hour or two before you woke up," Li Gui said.

Fortunately, the day was not over yet. If she only woke up the next day and Old Madam Li did not see her, the old woman would think that she had run away on her own.

"I came to tell you... Mother is sick and needs money for treatment now. She wants you to go back and see her as soon as possible..." Zhao Hong said.

Qiao Mei sneered. What a coincidence. That woman just returned home the day before yesterday and had fallen ill today. From the looks of the injuries on Zhao Hong's body, it did not seem as if all of them were from a long time ago. Her wrist was so red and swollen that it must be a new injury.

This must be a lie made up by Old Madam Li to cheat money. She did not even bother to look for any of her sons. Instead, she looked for her married daughter. Furthermore, this sickness came at a time after she failed to get any money from her daughter during her earlier visits.

"What illness? When I saw her the day before yesterday, she was still fine and energetic, kowtowing at the door of this courtyard. Everyone in the village saw it. Why did she fall sick after she returned? Could it be an infectious disease?" Qiao Mei said.

Zhao Hong avoided eye contact with Qiao Mei and Li Gui. She lowered her head and said, "No, it's just an old issue."

"Why don't I know that my mother has an old issue? Hasn't she always been in good health?" Although Li Gui had not taken the initiative to contact Old Madam Li all these years, Old Madam Li would basically look for Li Gui and ask her for money every month.

In the past, she used Qiao Mei as an excuse to cheat Li Gui of her money. Later on, she used Li Gui's two brothers' impending marriages as an excuse to ask for money for the betrothal gifts. Later on, she also asked for money on adhoc occasions.

Li Gui had never seen Old Madam Li sick before. Why did she suddenly fall ill?

"Maybe... maybe it's because the Zhang family has been coming to cause trouble recently... In addition, Li Dong brought his sons to the county city and doesn't want to come back. There's nothing to eat at home, so she must be so hungry that her illness is acting up... Look at me, I'm also unwell!" Zhao Hong said nervously.

"Then how's mother now?" Li Gui asked.

"Now... now she's lying at home and can't manage to eat anything. The doctor said that she might die if she doesn't get treatment, so she asked me to come and look for you to quickly raise the money to go back and save her," Zhao Hong said.

Chapter 644 No Way

Qiao Mei asked puzzledly, "Then where are her two sons? Shouldn't they be by her side at this time?"

Li Dong did not help out with anything at home and would not have any money to give to Old Madam Li. At most, he only did some chores at home and then go to the village to earn some work points. He could not be bothered to do anything else.

Old Madam Li did not dare to look for Li Xiong after so many years. She heard that Li Xiong had become rich, but when Li Xiong cut ties with her back then, it was all signed and stamped with witnesses present. So she felt too shameful to look for Li Xiong!

"They've all gone out to work. They don't have access to phones and we can't contact them. The only person she can count on now is you, Li Gui," Zhao Hong said as she held Li Gui's hand.

She had to think of a way to persuade Li Gui to go back with her today. To make Li Gui go back, she would say anything.

There were still two children waiting for her at home. If she could not persuade Li Gui by tomorrow night, these two children would not be able to survive the winter.

"Then what exactly is her illness? Didn't the doctor say?" Qiao Mei asked.

Zhao Hong stammered and could not say anything. She had made it all up, so how could she know what illness Old Madam Li had!

She said casually, "Mother doesn't have the money to go to the doctor. All the money at home has been taken by the Zhang family. We can't even afford to eat now, so how does she have the money to save herself? That's why she asked me to look for Li Gui."

"So she needs money because she's sick. But my younger sister is lying in bed and also needs money to treat her illness. We don't have any money left." Since they kept making themselves out to be so pitiful, Qiao Mei might as well start complaining about being poor too.

Zhao Hong turned around and looked at Zhang Miao. She had also heard about this matter, but she thought Qiao Mei had paid for Zhang Miao's medical fees when Zhang Miao was unconscious? Then Qiao Mei must still have money.

"Li Gui, go back and save mother. If you don't save her, she will really die!" Zhao Hong cried.

"Is whatever you said true?" Li Gui asked.

"Absolutely true! If it's a lie, why would I come all the way here to look for you!" Zhao Hong said.

Li Gui could not stand Zhao Hong's pleading, but she did not have any money left and could only ask Qiao Mei for help.

She pulled Qiao Mei out of the house and whispered, "Um... Mei Mei, can you lend me some money? Take it that I'm borrowing it! I'll definitely return it to you! I'll write you an IOU! I want to go back and see my mother."

Qiao Mei looked at Li Gui in disbelief and said, "Don't tell me you really think that Old Madam Li is sick! She's lying to you!"

Could anyone really be so stupid?

If she was really sick, how could she beat Zhao Hong up like that? If she had no food, she would definitely have fainted on the way like Zhao Hong. It would definitely not be the current situation.

There was no clarity on her illness and they only knew that she was about to die. This must be a lie!

"I don't think she's lying... You've also seen her condition when she brought the children over these past two days, so can you... can you lend me some money first? I'll definitely return it to you!" Li Gui begged.

Qiao Mei shook her head helplessly and looked at Li Gui in disappointment. "My money is not meant to be squandered like this. This is clearly a trap, so why do you still want to go?"

"I... But what if it's true! What if she's really sick?" Li Gui still did not believe that Zhao Hong would lie to her.

Her reasoning was that Old Madam Li did not use her own life as an excuse to ask her for money for so many years, so why would she say that now? This matter must be true. Even if it was not true, she still wanted to make sure that her mother could remain alive.

"I won't lend you this money. Think of another way. If Old Madam Li dies and needs to buy a coffin, you can come and tell me. I'll definitely fork out the money to get a beautiful coffin to send her on her way!" Qiao Mei shouted towards the house.

On one hand, she was saying it to Li Gui. On the other hand, she also wanted Zhao Hong to know that there was no way they could get money from her!

"Mei Mei! Please! Don't be like this! Can't you take it that I'm borrowing from you? Just treat it as you're helping me, okay? Just treat it as you're saving me!" Li Gui said.

"No! You'd better think of another way! I'll need money when I give birth! No matter what you encounter this time, I won't help you anymore! Find someone else!" Qiao Mei said angrily.

Chapter 645 Do Not Care Anymore

Zhang Wei returned happily with the medicine in one hand and the change in the other hand.

Actually, Zhang Miao had already run out of medicine two days ago. If they did not get more, Zhang Miao's condition would only get worse and worse. Recently, Li Gui had been getting up very early and going to the black market to sell vegetables in the wee hours of the morning. She had tried her best to earn money, but in the end, she still did not manage to make enough for the medical fees.

Now that Qiao Mei bought the medicine, it meant that Zhang Miao was saved!

The doctor had told him that as long as Zhang Miao took her medicine on time, she would definitely get better!

"Eh? Elder sister, why are you leaving?" Zhang Wei saw Qiao Mei coming out angrily. He handed the money in his hand to Qiao Mei and said, "Elder sister, this is the change. Here you go."

Qiao Mei took a cursory look and realized that this amount of money should be enough for Li Gui to treat Old Madam Li. She said to Zhang Wei sulkily, "Give it to your mother! I don't want this money anymore!"

Why was she angry all of a sudden? She was fine when she came over just now?

Zhang Wei looked at the worried-looking Li Gui in the courtyard and then at Qiao Mei who had left. Li Gui must have said something that made Qiao Mei unhappy again. He was already used to such situations.

Li Gui did not have time to go after Qiao Mei. She snatched the money from Zhang Wei's hand and counted it carefully. There was still more than 30 dollars left. She had 20 dollars from selling vegetables recently. An amount of 50 dollars would definitely be enough to see a doctor at the clinic!

That was all she had.

Li Gui put the money into her pocket and entered the house. She said to Zhao Hong, "Let's go! We'll go back now!"

"But there's no transport to go back now," Zhao Hong said awkwardly.

There was a horse carriage in the village that was specially used for transportation. As long as they were willing to pay the coachman more money, he would definitely be able to leave now. Saving a life was more important and she could not afford to waste even a minute!

"Come with me! I'll go look for the horse carriage!" The two of them ran out in a hurry. Li Gui did not even take another glance at Zhang Wei. She only had eyes for Old Madam Li now and completely ignored this family and Qiao Mei.

Perhaps she had already taken for granted that because Qiao Mei loved these children, as long as Qiao Mei was around, these children would not starve to death.

Li Gui did not realize that the children were starting to drift apart from her.

Zhang Qin walked up to Zhang Wei in a daze and asked, "Eldest brother, where did mom go? I'm hungry..."

Zhang Wei sat at the door. He was still young and could not support his younger siblings at all, and he was too embarrassed to face Qiao Mei.

He buried his head tightly between his knees. At this moment, he could no longer withstand the torment in his heart and wailed loudly. Zhang Qin looked at her sobbing brother and was caught off-guarded. Then, she started crying as well.

Qiao Qiang stood at the entrance of his courtyard and looked across anxiously. He had just opened the door and was about to go over to take a look at these children when he was reprimanded by Qiao Mei.

"Grandfather! If you go over, then it means you don't want me anymore!" Qiao Mei said angrily.

Qiao Qiang retracted his foot. In the end, he chose Qiao Mei. After all, Qiao Mei was his most precious granddaughter.

"Say, if you're angry with your mother, why is it affecting these children as well?" Qiao Qiang sighed and said.

"Do you think I want to be angry with her! It's because she insisted on walking into a trap! I won't care this time! I won't care about anyone else! She just knows that these children have become obedient and sensible and that we can help to take care of them, so now she's helping Old Madam Li even though she knows it makes me angry!" Qiao Mei said in exasperation.

Qiao Qiang could not say anything about this matter. In his eyes, they were both at fault.

Qiao Mei's fault was that she spoke too bluntly and could be too hurtful. Her unforgiving manner was indeed a little similar to him, but he could not blame Qiao Mei.

If Qiao Mei was like Li Gui, she would not have been able to last until he came back, and would have died in the snow when she was young.

"Mei Mei, you're pregnant so don't be so agitated. Let's not care about their lives, alright? Even if those children starve to death or die of illness, we don't care! Let them fend for themselves!" Qiao Qiang went along with Qiao Mei's wishes.

Yet Qiao Mei could not bear to hear this. As she listened to Zhang Wei and Zhang Qin crying louder and louder, she could not help but look over.

What if they really starved to death when Li Gui was not at home?

Those children did not know how to cook. What if they were so hungry that they ate raw and cold food?

Chapter 646 Broken Chopping Board

Qiao Mei felt vexed when she heard the children crying. She returned to the house and started cooking dinner. The chopping sounds she made were much louder than usual, as if she was venting her frustration.

She stewed a big pot full of potato and kidney beans with a lot of pork inside. The moment she opened the lid, the fragrance wafted out.

After she finished cooking, the chopping board had also completed its life mission. There were already many cracks on it. If it was picked up, it would definitely break into pieces.

Qiao Mei silently brought the dishes out, set the table and filled the bowls with rice, waiting for Qiao Qiang to enter the house to eat.

There were two identical pots of food on the small table. One of the pots had a lot more meat.

"Are you eating separately from grandfather?" Qiao Qiang said with a smile.

Qiao Mei buried her head in her food and whispered, "I've cooked too much. If grandfather doesn't want to eat, you can deal with it as you see fit. You can throw it out to feed the chickens and ducks."

Qiao Qiang knew that Qiao Mei was being stubborn but soft-hearted. He deliberately went to take the pot in front of Qiao Mei, which had less meat in it, to test her reaction.

"Take that one," Qiao Mei said as she held on to the pot in front of her.

"Say, why do you do that and then sulk by yourself!" After saying that, Qiao Qiang carried the pot with more meat in it and went to look for the children.

As soon as he entered the house, Zhang Qin could smell the fragrance of food. She hurriedly ran to the door and shouted, "Grandfather! Grandfather, you're here to save us! Elder brothers! We have food!"

Zhang Wei stood rooted to the spot uneasily. Even when Qiao Qiang placed the food on the table, he still stood at the side in a daze.

"What's wrong, Xiao Wei? Come and eat!" Qiao Qiang scooped rice for the children and prepared a bowl of warm rice for Zhang Miao so that he could feed her later.

"Grandfather... Is elder sister angry? Is it what my mother did that made elder sister unhappy? I think elder sister was especially angry when she went back... Will elder sister abandon us?" Zhang Wei asked nervously.

Qiao Qiang thought for a moment and said, "Come over and have dinner and I'll tell you."

Zhang Wei was still young and was easily coaxed into eating obediently. Qiao Qiang smiled as he watched the children wolf down their food, as if they had not eaten for a few days.

"Is it delicious?" Qiao Qiang asked with a smile.

The children nodded hurriedly. Their mouths were full of food and they had no time to talk to Qiao Qiang.

"Your elder sister made all these. Do you still think your elder sister is angry, Xiao Wei?" Qiao Qiang said.

Zhang Wei looked at the food in his hands in a daze. He knew that Qiao Mei would not abandon them, but there was nothing they could do to stop what Li Gui was doing, nor could they make it up to Qiao Mei.

"Why is elder sister so good to us? We've always been a burden to her and you, grandfather. We've caused so much trouble, so why are you still willing to help us?" Zhang Wei asked with a sob.

Qiao Qiang thought about it but could not come up with an exact answer. However, he knew that these children were good-natured and were good kids.

"Your mother is just muddle-headed for a moment. Everyone makes mistakes, including grandfather and elder sister. You children don't have to worry about adults' issues. As long as you grow up well and study hard, your elder sister and I will be at ease. Do you understand?" Qiao Qiang reached out and patted Zhang Wei's head.

Zhang Wei remembered Qiao Qiang's words well. When he grew up, he would definitely repay them both.

"Alright, grandfather won't stay here anymore. I still have to go back and look after your elder sister! Remember to take care of your youngest sister after you're done eating, understand?" Qiao Qiang instructed.

Zhang Wei nodded in understanding.

Li Gui and Zhao Hong hired the horse carriage for four dollars and rushed back to the Li family house without stopping. Old Madam Li was lying on the brick bed leisurely, listening to the radio and humming along!

"Mother! Mother, I'm back!" Li Gui started shouting as soon as she entered.

Old Madam Li was so shocked that she hurriedly turned off the radio and lay down on the brick bed. She kept moaning as if she was terminally ill.

"Aw ~ It hurts ~ It hurts ~" Old Madam Li muttered to herself.

When Li Gui entered the house and saw this scene, tears flowed down her face. She knelt by the brick bed and said, "Mother... I'm back. Let's go to the clinic now! Hang on! I'll get someone to come and treat you now!"

When Old Madam Li heard this, she immediately grabbed Li Gui's hand and said, "My illness... the clinic can't treat it... Don't go... Stay with me..."

Zhao Hong chimed in, "That's right. The clinic is closed now. Let's talk about it tomorrow."

Chapter 647 Save The Child

If she had not even gone to see a doctor yet, why did she say that the clinic could not treat her illness?

Could it be some incurable illness!

When she just married Qiao Yue, she heard that someone in the village had an incurable illness! It seemed to be called... cancer or something! Anyway, that person died not long after!

Could it be that Old Madam Li had also contracted such a fatal illness!

By this time, Li Gui was even more nervous. She held Old Madam Li's hand tightly and asked, "Then should we go to the hospital. If the small clinic in our village can't help you, let's go to a big hospital! Let's go to the county city now!"

Old Madam Li quickly said, "No, no! It's already so late, let's not waste time and effort. Just have a good rest. Perhaps I'll feel better now that you're back!"

Zhao Hong also nodded. Li Gui looked at the two of them doubtfully and finally agreed with them.

"Then... then let's go and get you checked out tomorrow. We can go to bed for now." Li Gui covered Old Madam Li with the blanket and took out her old bedding from the cabinet. She decided to sleep next to Old Madam Li tonight.

It was rare for Zhao Hong to be able to take a good rest tonight. With Li Gui around, Old Madam Li's attention was no longer on her.

She had not seen the two children for a day and was feeling very anxious. The first thing she did when she returned to the room was to take a look at the children's feet. The side room was dark and damp and was not conducive to the children's recovery at all.

The two children did not dare to leave the room either. If Old Madam Li saw them, she would definitely make them do all kinds of chores. They would not be allowed to have any free time.

"Your feet seem better, do the wounds still hurt?" Zhao Hong asked softly.

Her third child shook her head. She only had some blisters and they had healed quickly. On the other hand, the situation with the fourth child's feet was more serious and she was even running a low fever today.

Zhao Hong looked at her fourth child with heartache. She could only ask Li Gui for help by now. Old Madam Li was not sick at all! However, her two children were really feeling unwell.

Earlier, Li Gui was able to fork out money to save her while she was unconscious. If she saw the children like this, Li Gui would probably help out as well...

Zhao Hong fetched water from the well to wipe down her fourth child's body. Soon, the low grade fever subsided. Zhao Hong was so tired that she fell asleep by the brick bed and only woke up at dawn.

Before dawn, Li Gui had already started to clean up the courtyard and prepare breakfast. She had always been the earliest one to wake up at home and she had already gotten used to it.

"Why are you doing these chores? Let me do it," Zhao Hong said embarrassedly.

Li Gui smiled and said, "It's fine. I'm also a part of this family. I've been doing these chores since I was young. Eldest sister-in-law, you can take a rest."

Zhao Hong did not stand on ceremony with Li Gui. She took a small stool and sat beside Li Gui to help with the vegetables. As she plucked the vegetables, she secretly observed Li Gui.

Li Gui also noticed Zhao Hong's abnormal behavior and asked softly, "Eldest sister-in-law, do you have something to tell me?"

"I do have a private matter that I want to talk to you about..." Zhao Hong looked around and noted that Old Madam Li was not awake yet. She then felt safe enough to say to Li Gui, "I want to... to borrow some money from you... Don't misunderstand! I'll definitely pay you back! My child hurt her feet when she followed mother to your place two days ago. She's starting to run a fever and there's not a single uninjured spot on her feet... I have no choice but to beg you..."

Li Gui looked at Zhao Hong awkwardly. All she had was the money needed for Old Madam Li's treatment. If she gave Zhao Hong a portion of it, what if the money was not enough for Old Madam Li to treat her illness?

She was unable to contact Li Dong and Li Xiong now and could only rely on herself.

Qiao Mei already did not want to talk to her anymore. No one in the village would lend her money. She was a woman with four young children, as well as such a capable older daughter.

Qiao Mei was the richest person in the village. If Li Gui's own daughter was unwilling to lend her money, who else could give her money?

"Sigh... Eldest sister-in-law, it's not that I don't want to help you. I don't even know what illness my mother is suffering from now. What if there's not enough to treat her illness? I don't have any extra money. Do you know how to contact my eldest brother? If you really cannot cope, then ask him to come back," Li Gui said.

Zhao Hong did not know where Li Dong had gone with their two sons. If she knew, she would definitely have followed him there. She would not have to stay here and look after this broken home!

Chapter 648 - 648 The Money Is Lost

648 The Money Is Lost

“Please save my child! As long as you can save her, I’m willing to do anything! My child really can’t wait another day!” Zhao Hong cried.

Li Gui’s heart softened. She put down the things in her hand and said, “Let’s go and see the child first.”

When Zhao Hong saw that Li Gui had relented, she hurriedly pulled Li Gui and secretly ran back into the room. The two children were still sleeping, Li Gui could smell something moldy as soon as she entered the room, mixed with a rotten stench.

It had been a long time since this room was tidied up and the two children also had not bathed for a long time. The smell in the room could not dissipate at all, not even if the windows were left opened to ventilate the entire room.

!!

The smell was something that seemed to have seeped into everything.

“Please don’t mind it... I have no choice. This room has always been like this. I’m really not lying to you. Just look at my fourth child’s feet. If the child is not treated soon, there’ll be no hope!” Zhao Hong said helplessly.

The wounds were a shocking sight. There were only small and red swellings in the beginning, but most of them had already festered by now. No wonder the child was running a fever.

In such a dank environment, it was impossible to recuperate properly. Even if the wounds were disinfected, it would not make things better.

“Why is it so serious...” Li Gui covered her mouth and exclaimed.

Zhao Hong sat on the brick bed and said, “Ever since they came back that day, the child has been like this. I begged the clinic to take pity on me and they gave me a bottle of rubbing alcohol, but it’s useless to only disinfect the wounds. I have to get a doctor to treat her. Please! Save my child!”

“Then when mother goes to the clinic later, bring the child along too,” Li Gui said.

“No! We must not let mother see this!” Zhao Hong said as she grabbed Li Gui’s hand.

This time, Old Madam Li had tricked Li Gui into coming back to cheat her of her money. Old Madam Li still did not know how much money Li Gui had brought with her, so it was not a big deal for Zhao Hong to borrow some money from Li Gui. She could not let Old Madam Li find out that she and her daughters had spent Li Gui’s money.

Otherwise, she would get beaten up! No matter what, Old Madam Li must not know about this!

Li Gui also understood what Zhao Hong meant and was prepared to take out 10 dollars to save these two children. An amount of 10 dollars should be sufficient for their treatment at the clinic.

When she reached into her pocket, she realized that the money was gone. In the past, Zhang Qian used to snatch her money away all year round, and Old Madam Zhang would search around for all her savings.

From then on, she had a habit of sewing a pocket at the chest area in all her clothes so that no one could find out where she hid her money.

She had never lost anything during all these years. Why did the money disappear today?

Li Gui rummaged through all her pockets nervously and could not find even a single cent.

“Where’s my money! Where’s my money! My money is gone!” Li Gui said in a panic.

This also gave Zhao Hong a fright. Before they left, she had seen Li Gui holding the money. Why was it gone after she reached home?

“Look carefully again! Did you drop it!” Zhao Hong said.

“No, I put it in this pocket! How can it be gone!” Li Gui said anxiously.

“Then do you remember where you put it?” Zhao Hong asked.

Li Gui pointed at the small pocket on the inside of her coat and said, “It’s right here. I remember it clearly!”

At that time, she was in a hurry to head out, so she stuffed it into the small pocket of her coat. Given that the weather was cold, she did not have the chance to take off her coat at all. How could she lose the money!

Li Gui kept rummaging through her pockets. At this moment, Zhao Hong seemed to have thought of something and fell back dejectedly on the brick bed for a long time before laughing coldly.

“What’s wrong with you?” Li Gui looked at Zhao Hong in confusion.

Zhao Hong said mockingly, “You must have taken off your coat when you went to bed last night.”

“That’s right... How can I sleep with my coat on?” After saying that, Li Gui understood what Zhao Hong meant.

Only her immediate family members knew that she would sew a pocket in her clothes. The only other person who knew was Old Madam Li.

Back then, she always went to ask Li Gui for money and found out about Li Gui’s secret during a struggle. Therefore, it was not surprising that she knew where Li Gui kept her money.

After it all became clear to Li Gui, she ran back to the main room angrily to ask Old Madam Li for an explanation. At this moment, Old Madam Li was eating steamed buns and listening to the radio!

Li Gui took two steps back in shock. The person who was lying on the brick bed and unable to move yesterday was now eating steamed buns with a rosy face and listening to songs!

Could it be that this was all a lie!

Chapter 649 - 649 Murder

649 Murder

“You! Why aren’t you sick!” Li Gui said in disbelief.

“You heartless person! Is it a good thing that I’m sick!” Old Madam Li said.

Li Gui instantly understood everything. It was all a lie to trick her into coming back!

Old Madam Li used such a method to get money from her! What a good plan! Qiao Mei was right, this was a trick!

Zhao Hong slowly walked over from outside the door. She had no say in what Old Madam Li did. All she could do was to be obedient and keep her mouth shut.

“You... Do you also know that she’s not sick? You’re lying to me too, right?” Li Gui asked as she pointed at Zhao Hong.

Zhao Hong lowered her head in guilt. In the end, she admitted that she had tricked Li Gui into coming back.

“How can you treat me like this! I’m your biological daughter! Give me the money! I borrowed all that money! It’s the money for Zhang Miao’s treatment! Return it to me!” Li Gui shouted at Old Madam Li.

Old Madam Li remained unmoved. She even turned up the volume of the radio and continued eating steamed buns and listening to the songs.

Li Gui did not even have enough rice at her own house and the family could only eat potatoes and sweet potatoes to fill their stomachs. Sometimes, they did not even have these. When they cooked porridge, they would fill the pot to the brim with water. Each bowl of porridge was just rice soup with a thin layer of rice at the bottom.

Even though her own family was in dire straits, she still chose to come back and save Old Madam Li. She cared about the kinship between mother and daughter, but what about Old Madam Li? She only had eyes for Li Gui's money.

"What right do you have to treat me like this! Take out the money quickly! Otherwise, I'll..."

Before Li Gui could finish speaking, Old Madam Li smiled and said, "You will? What can you do? Can you snatch it back?"

Back then, even though Li Gui was bullied by Zhang Qian until her whole body was covered in wounds, she still stayed with him obediently. Old Madam Li remembered that when Li Gui just gave birth to Zhang Chao and was still in confinement, Zhang Qian ignored Li Gui's condition and insisted on sleeping with her. In the end, before she could even recover from the recent childbirth, she became pregnant with her third child.

If not for Qiao Mei helping her get rid of Zhang Qian, she would not have the guts to stand up to him!

"You're just a coward. It's only about 50 dollars. The Zhang family stole more than 100 dollars from me! You still owe me money! Return all my losses to me! Otherwise, don't even think about having an easy time!" Old Madam Li said.

"What about the money you borrowed from me and the money I sent to Qiao Mei go! Where did that go? Give me back all that money! When did I owe you anything! Give me back the money quickly!" Li Gui roared.

Old Madam Li picked up her walking stick and said, "What a joke. Isn't it only right for a daughter to be filial to her mother! Now you're even asking me for money. How lawless! I'll say this clearly today! I won't give you a single cent!"

Too many things had happened in the past month. First, Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin were abducted, then Zhang Miao and Zhang Wei were injured. Even Qiao Mei, who had always helped her, now held a grudge against her.

In this world, she had no one to rely on and no one to take care of her children. She must get her money back today. Otherwise, if she could not afford to buy Zhang Miao's medicine next month, Zhang Miao would die!

Li Gui walked briskly to the kitchen like a lunatic and took a kitchen knife. She ran back and pointed it at Old Madam Li as she said, "Either you give me all my money today! Or I'll hack you to death!"

Old Madam Li did not believe that Li Gui would hurt her. She even found it strenuous to kill a chicken, so how could she even kill someone. What a joke!

"Come on! It'll be better if you kill me! I'll go to the netherworld to look for your father! I'll let him know how crazy his daughter is! She can actually kill her own mother!" Old Madam Li laughed mockingly, the sight of her smile hurting Li Gui's eyes.

Li Gui picked up the kitchen knife and ran towards Old Madam Li. Zhao Hong was so frightened that she hurriedly ran out to ask the other villagers for help. If Old Madam Li got killed, then she would also be a suspect. If that happened, she would not be able to explain herself!

Only then did Old Madam Li start to feel afraid. She picked up her walking stick and used it to block the attack, then she ran to a corner of the room while shouting, "Are you crazy! I'm your mother! How dare you kill me!"

"Why not! Hand over the money now!" Li Gui held up the kitchen knife and threatened.

Old Madam Li's legs trembled. She was now sure that Li Gui had really gone crazy. It was not easy for her to get that money, so how could she give it back just like that! If she returned it to Li Gui, how was she going to survive the days ahead!

Chapter 650 Seeking Help

Zhao Hong went to the village office to look for the village chief and bumped into Hai Hua, who had come to have breakfast with the village chief. The village chief, Sun Jian, was her husband.

"I was wondering who it is? Isn't this the eldest daughter-in-law of the Li family? Have you come to look for my husband after failing to deceive the young lady from our clinic?" Hai Hua said mockingly.

"!! Anyway! Brother Sun, quickly go to my house to take a look! Li Gui wants to kill my mother-in-law!" Zhao Hong said anxiously.

The couple's reactions were completely different.

"What! How dare she kill someone!" Sun Jian looked at Zhao Hong in surprise.

"Oh my goodness! That's such a good thing!" Hai Hua was so happy that she almost jumped up to celebrate.

Back then, Old Madam Li had made her so embarrassed in the village. Now that the old woman was getting killed by her daughter, it could be considered retribution! This was a great thing!

"What are you saying! If someone in the village gets killed, do you think I can continue to be the village chief!" Sun Jian pushed Hai Hua angrily.

Hai Hua immediately understood what he meant. It was not as if there had never been any deaths in the village, but no one had ever died from murder. Generally, there were militiamen in the village and no one dared to do anything illegal.

If Old Madam Li really died, then Hai Hua would not be the wife of the village chief for long.

"Then go quickly! What are you waiting for! Hurry up and go!" Hai Hua said quickly.

Sun Jian got on his bicycle and sped towards the Li family house. Hai Hua and Zhao Hong ran behind him with all their might, afraid that Old Madam Li would lose her life if they were any slower!

"Are you really not going to return the money to me?" Li Gui said viciously.

Old Madam Li was so frightened that she could not stand up straight. She leaned closely against the wall and said, "I... I'll give it to you now... Don't do anything..."

"Quickly! Hurry up and return it to me!" Li Gui roared.

Old Madam Li had hidden all the money under the floor tiles outside the house. Even if she wanted to go now, she was unable to. Li Gui had blocked the door. Furthermore, her legs had long gone weak and she could not even take a single step.

"You still don't want to give me the money?" Li Gui said.

Old Madam Li was so frightened that she fell onto the brick bed and quickly flung her hands. "It's not that! Listen to me! I'm not doing this on purpose! My legs are feeling weak now and I can't move! Can you let me take a moment!"

"Excuses! It's all excuses! You just don't want to give me the money! Since you're unwilling to give me the money, let's die together!" As Li Gui spoke, she held up the kitchen knife and rushed towards Old Madam Li.

Old Madam Li was so frightened that she closed her eyes and screamed, "Ah!!! Help!!!"

Sun Jian rushed into the house and pounced on Li Gui in a flash. The kitchen knife in Li Gui's hand was knocked to one side.

"Let go of me! I'm going to kill her! Let go of me!" Li Gui struggled and roared.

"Calm down! Don't be rash! Take a good look at who I am!" Seeing that Li Gui was still immersed in her crazy thoughts, Sun Jian raised his hand and slapped her.

This slap managed to make Li Gui calm down completely.

Old Madam Li sat stiffly on the brick bed, her hands trembling uncontrollably in front of her chest. There was also a pungent smell coming from some liquid under her butt.

"Don't kill me... Don't kill me..." Old Madam Li muttered to herself.

At this moment, Hai Hua and Zhao Hong had also rushed in. When they saw the scene in front of them, they did not know whether they should feel happy first or save the people first.

"Li Gui!" Zhao Hong hurriedly went forward to help Li Gui up from the floor.

Hai Hua also went to help Sun Jian, who was on the ground. Although she did not see what happened at the scene, she could tell from the kitchen knife on the floor and Old Madam Li's expression that Li Gui had probably made up her mind.

"Li Gui, what do you think you're doing!" Sun Jian said.

"I just want my money back! My child is paralyzed in bed and still needs treatment! She actually cheated me of all my money! I just want to get back the money in order to save my child!" Li Gui leaned against Zhao Hong and cried bitterly.

The money was gone and Qiao Mei no longer trusted her. The four children would not be able to live well either. They would either starve to death or die of illness.

Why should she continue to live such a life? She might as well die!

"Pfft! Old Madam Li is really a sinner! She can even cheat money for this purpose! How shameless!" Hai Hua scolded.

Sun Jian glared at Hai Hua. It was not their place to care about other people's family matters. All they could do was to stop Li Gui from committing murder. As for mediation, it depended on whether the affected parties were willing to accept it.