

Fat Wife 651

Chapter 651 I Will Settle It

Looking at Old Madam Li's current state, she probably would not be able to tell them where the money was at the moment.

"Zhao Hong, do you know where your mother-in-law keeps her money?" Sun Jian asked.

"I don't know. She won't tell me this sort of thing," Zhao Hong said as she shook her head.

If she knew, her child would not be so sick! She would have stolen the money to treat the children long ago.

Sun Jian had no choice but to pinch his nose and endure the unpleasant smell as he approached Old Madam Li and asked, "Auntie! Where did you put the money!"

"Don't kill me... I'll give it all to you... Don't kill me... Save me... Don't kill me..." Old Madam Li curled up in the corner fearfully.

He did not know if she was pretending to be crazy or if she had really gone crazy.

Sun Jian looked at Li Gui helplessly and said, "Look at the state your mother is in. She probably won't be able to give you the money..."

Li Gui looked at Old Madam Li, feeling heartbroken. All these years, the kinship that she thought they had only existed in her imagination. To Old Madam Li, she was just a money-making tool.

As long as Old Madam Li could get the money, she did not care about what happened to Li Gui and her children.

Old Madam Li and Zhang Qian were the same kind of people!

"I still need the money to save my daughter... She tricked me into coming back and stole my money. If I don't have that money, my daughter won't be able to live either. I might as well die with her!" Li Gui said in despair.

"Sister, you can't think like that! You still have children! What will happen to your children if you die! Whatever happens to this old fart, she deserves it! But you're different! You can't die so easily!" Hai Hua tried to talk some sense into her.

Sun Jian also chimed in, "I'll help you deal with this matter. You can go back to your village first and wait for my news. I'll help you get this money back. Consider this part of my responsibility as the village chief."

Li Gui looked at Sun Jian suspiciously and asked, "Really? Will you keep your word? My child can't wait too long!"

"Just three days! Let Old Madam Li calm down first. If she's still as crazy as now in two days' time, I'll find the money for you even if I have to dig three feet into the ground. Is that alright?" Sun Jian said.

After considering it, Li Gui had no other choice but to agree with Sun Jian.

Sun Jian hurriedly found a horse carriage in the village and sent Li Gui back. As long as she did not cause trouble in the village, he would do anything!

"Tell me, aren't you being cheap! Why do you care about the Li family's matters! What has it got to do with you!" Hai Hua whispered.

"What can I do! If this matter isn't resolved, she'll still come to the village to cause trouble! Don't worry, I'll come and take a look at Old Madam Li's condition tomorrow. If she's really crazy, I'll bring people to dig up her courtyard. We'll definitely be able to find the money," Sun Jian said.

Hai Hua was happy when she thought of how the Li family house would look after being dug up and how crazy Old Madam Li looked! This was retribution!

"Leave this to me," Hai Hua said smugly.

With one look, Sun Jian knew that Hai Hua intended to use her position to take revenge and teach Old Madam Li a lesson. Back then, he had also almost failed to become the village chief because of Old Madam Li, so he did not care about what Hai Hua was going to do.

Actually, everyone wished that Old Madam Li would die quickly. Even if he did something overboard, everyone would just turn a blind eye to it.

It would actually command public support!

"Alright, just know your limits. There's still Zhao Hong and her children in the house. Don't hurt the innocent," Sun Jian instructed.

"Don't worry, I know my limits," Hai Hua said with a smile.

Li Gui sat expressionlessly in the horse carriage and looked into the distance numbly. She no longer had her mother or Qiao Mei. Her four children were now the only reason for her to keep going.

She wondered what the children ate after she left and if there would be thieves who would break in to bully her children.

There was nothing she could do even if she regretted her actions. If she had listened to Qiao Mei earlier, these things would not have happened and the children would not have to suffer.

Li Gui suddenly gave herself two hard slaps, causing both sides of her face to instantly become red and swollen. The coachman was so frightened that he did not even dare to breathe loudly. He had heard that this was a crazy woman. What if she became agitated again and killed him?

The coachman hurriedly cracked his whip and sped up, striving to send Li Gui back as soon as possible so that he could save his own life.

Chapter 652 - 652 Does Not Appreciate Art

652 Does Not Appreciate Art

The coachman only sent Li Gui to the entrance of Foshan Village. He was afraid that if he went to Li Gui's house, he would not be able to go home alive! Anyway, he was already paid. They only asked him to send her back to the village, but they did not say that he had to send her to her doorstep.

Li Gui got out of the carriage in a daze. The coachman quickly turned the carriage around and left without any delay.

It was the time when everyone was at work in the fields. Li Gui did not meet anyone along the way, so she did not have to hear any gossip. Everyone knew that Zhao Hong had taken Li Gui with her and was waiting for Li Gui to come back so that they could hear what had happened!

Zhang Wei was drawing on the ground with Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin in the courtyard. They drew out everything that they liked and even wrote on the ground. Anyway, they could modify it easily, so it did not matter how they wrote it!

"Brother! Look at what this looks like!" Zhang Qin asked as she pointed excitedly at the picture on the ground.

Zhang Wei thought for a long time and said awkwardly, "It's... a big tree?"

"What! This is clearly a crab! You don't appreciate art at all!" Zhang Qin said angrily as she pointed at Zhang Wei.

"Your drawing looks like a talisman! Who can tell what it is! Look at Zhang Chao! Look at the boat he drew! Then look at yours! As if it's a crab! I don't think you've ever seen crabs!" Zhang Wei said.

"I've seen it before! It's just that you can't appreciate my art! I won't show it to you anymore!" Zhang Qin squatted down and quietly finished drawing her crab.

Zhang Wei was not interested in drawings at all. He referred to his book and focused on practicing calligraphy on the ground. Chen Hu had told him before that even if he had very good physical fitness, it was useless if he was uncultured!

His brother-in-law was much more capable than Uncle Chen Hu, and was good in both his studies and physical fitness! Zhang Chao had heard that his brother-in-law was also an army warrior! When he grew up, he wanted to be like Xia Zhe and become an army warrior!

Li Gui stood quietly at the door and looked at the children for a long time. She did not know how to face them. At that time, she had left very suddenly with Zhao Hong because of Old Madam Li's illness and did not even make any arrangements for the children.

Although Sun Jian had promised her that he would find the money and return it to her, it would be hard to find what Old Madam Li wanted to hide away.

Zhang Wei looked up and saw Li Gui standing at the door but not entering. He had thought that she would be gone for half a month or so this time, and he did not expect her to return so quickly.

"Mom... you're back," Zhang Wei said stiffly.

The other two children looked up when they heard him. Zhang Qin ran happily towards Li Gui and threw herself into her arms. One night without her mother was probably the longest that she could bear.

"Yes... I'm back. Have you eaten?" Li Gui said awkwardly.

"Yes! We had nice food! Grandpa brought a big pot of meat over!" Zhang Qin said excitedly.

Most of the meat from the potato and kidney bean stew that night was given to these children. It was not an exaggeration to say that the dish was actually stir-fried pork with potato and kidney beans.

Li Gui felt even more ashamed. If Qiao Mei did not allow it, Qiao Qiang would not have brazenly brought the meat from home to give to these children.

She stared at the house opposite and sighed. "Let's go in first. It's getting late. I'll heat up some food for you."

After rummaging through the cabinets, she only found a small handful of rice and the leftovers from yesterday.

She had no money and no food at home, while the children were still waiting to eat. In the past, Qiao Mei would be there to help her at times like this. Now that she had no one to rely on, she finally understood how much she had gone overboard with Qiao Mei.

"Sigh..." Li Gui looked at the empty rice jar and sighed.

She had been busy with these terrible issues at home for the past two days and did not have time to work in the fields at all. Therefore, she also did not have enough work points to exchange for food. It was all her fault for being such a disappointment.

"Zhang Wei! Come and eat! Your elder sister made delicious food today! Come and eat quickly!" Qiao Qiang stood at the door and shouted with a smile.

Among the three children, only Zhang Qin was the happiest. The older children, Zhang Wei and Zhang Chao, did not move. Now that Li Gui was back, where did it leave her if they went to Qiao Mei's house for dinner?

Qiao Qiang looked at the children in puzzlement and asked, "Why? You don't like your elder sister's cooking? Everyone in the village says that your elder sister's cooking is nice! If you're tired of it, then maybe I should cook next time."

Li Gui walked out of the house uneasily. Qiao Qiang immediately understood the reason why the children did not speak. It was indeed not convenient for them to go over to his place now.

Chapter 653 Renovation

"Oh, you're at home. I thought you're not around, so I'm asking the children to come over for dinner," Qiao Qiang said.

"I just came back..." Li Gui whispered as she lowered her head in self-reproach.

Qiao Qiang did not blame Li Gui and said gently, "How's your mother? Has she recovered?"

At the mention of Old Madam Li, Li Gui felt even more ashamed and whispered, "She's fine..."

Qiao Qiang could tell that Li Gui was too embarrassed to tell the truth, so he waved his hand and went home. At this moment, Qiao Mei was still sitting on the brick bed and knitting.

It had gotten cold recently and she wanted to knit a sweater for her grandfather. When she was working as a lawyer in her other life, her favorite hobby was to do handicrafts and grow flowers and plants. Knitting was an easy thing for her to do.

However, what she had in her hands at the moment was not for Qiao Qiang but for her mother-in-law, Xu Lan. She had even knitted a scarf for Xia Fang and a pair of gloves for Xia He.

The postman would be coming to the village in a few days' time. She wanted to send these knitted items together with some pickled vegetables to the capital, as well as a letter to tell them that everything was fine with her.

"Grandfather, why did you come back alone? Where are Zhang Wei and the others?" Qiao Mei looked behind Qiao Qiang in confusion.

"Well... Li Gui is back. I can't just bring the children back when she's around," Qiao Qiang said with a sigh.

As Qiao Mei knitted, she said, "Then why don't you get Zhang Wei to come over and bring the food back? There's not even rice and noodles in that house. The children can't starve together with her."

"Never mind, so be it if they're hungry. Forget it, I'll set the table. Let's eat!" Qiao Qiang said.

The temperature had plummeted by a few degrees today and Qiao Mei felt a little cold. When she returned to the village, she did not bring the jade items she bought in the capital. Those things were too eye-catching and it would not be good if she became targeted.

Without the "mobile air conditioner", it was really inconvenient. She wondered if there was anything else that had the same effect as that bangle. It seemed that she still had to go to the antique market again when she returned to the capital.

In the capital, while there were people who were happy, there were also people who were worried. Nothing much was going on in the Xia family, except the addition of many pieces of furniture in the house.

Xu Lan decided to hack and build a circular arch in the wall between Xia Zhe's room on the second floor and the guest room beside it, as well as seal up the door of the guest room.

During this period of time, she had spoken often with Xia Zhe and told him that it did not matter that Qiao Mei had lost her babies this time. The two of them were still young and there would be many opportunities in the future. They would definitely have another child in the future.

If Qiao Mei wanted to give birth in the capital, then as the mother-in-law, she wanted to take care of Qiao Mei wholeheartedly and be prepared at all times. Therefore, she was now building a confinement room for Qiao Mei in the house. She had specially found the best master builder in the capital to do it.

If she really waited until Qiao Mei was pregnant to do the construction, then the entire house would smell of the renovation works and it would not be good for Qiao Mei's health. Anyway, she would have to renovate sooner or later, so she might as well start now.

She had heard from Xia He that Qiao Mei liked old-fashioned things with an antique charm. Therefore, she specially spent a lot of money to find a master craftsman to build a wooden bed that combined those factors with modern craftsmanship. If the bed was really made using the old standard measurements, it would not be able to fit in the house.

There was also a large built-in wardrobe and a huge bookcase to store Xia Zhe's old things. The windows had also been replaced with floor-to-ceiling windows, which increased the natural light in the room, and then she placed a desk in front of the window.

Liu Fen had not eaten or slept well for the past two days. Xu Lan would wake her up before dawn. Then they would both go out and shop for furniture. They would be out the whole day and Xu Lan would only be willing to go home after it got dark.

As long as it was something that could be made by hand, Xu Lan would not buy the ready-made products. Every design was hand drawn by the master and she would personally choose the designs before finalizing the construction period.

"Sister-in-law... Why don't we get the old master to go to our house to design for us? My legs are about to break from running around every day!" Liu Fen complained.

"No! Then there's no telling what time the master will come. My friends from the art troupe told me that if you don't take the initiative, those old masters won't hand in their work on time. They will definitely delay it for a few days," Xu Lan said firmly.

"But Qiao Mei isn't even pregnant yet. Even if she's really pregnant, she'll only be back when Xia Zhe is back during the holidays. Why are you in such a hurry now!" Liu Fen said.

Currently, Qiao Mei was still recuperating and Xia Zhe had just returned to the army unit. They would not be able to return for the time being. In that case, there were still at least two years to carry out the renovations!

Chapter 654 Returning To The Art Troupe

"How can I not be anxious! If I'm not satisfied with the renovations after it's done, I might have to redo it! Moreover, the room needs to be ventilated and aired out. It can't be lived in immediately. Right now, I feel uneasy every night. I have to get it done soon so that I can feel at ease," Xu Lan said.

At this moment, no one in the Xia family could control Xu Lan. Firstly, Xu Lan was doing this to benefit Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei, so everyone supported her. Secondly, Xu Lan was now a completely different person from when she first heard about Qiao Mei's miscarriage. Now, she was full of vigor every day, so everyone simply let her do whatever she wanted.

"Sigh... Why did eldest brother give me such a difficult task..." Among everyone, Liu Fang was probably the only one who most felt like crying.

Xia He had not been idle during this period of time. Today was the day she reported for work at the capital's art troupe.

"Alright! Everyone, stop what you're doing! I have something to announce!" said the art troupe chief as she clapped her hands.

Everyone stopped their practices and stretches and gathered in front of the chief. There was a very good performance item coming up soon and the female lead was still unconfirmed yet! They had heard that whoever got the role of the female lead would be the future principal performer!

"Chief! Are you gathering us so early to announce who the female lead is!" Zhou Ling said excitedly.

"It must be our Yang Xin! Is there anyone better than Yang Xin!" Zhou Shuang said.

Zhou Ling and Zhou Shuang were a pair of twins, but they did not look alike. One looked like their father and the other one looked like their mother.

Yang Xin raised her head arrogantly like a proud swan. However, it was hard to say if this swan was the real deal or not. The way the Zhou sisters flattered her, even an ordinary wild duck could be described as a phoenix.

"Alright, alright! The team is still discussing the matter of the female lead. I'm not the only one who can decide on this matter. It depends on the team's arrangements. Don't discuss it frivolously. If the higher-ups hear you, don't even think about keeping your job!" the chief scolded.

"Then why did you ask us to gather..." Zhou Ling said unhappily.

"We have a new member today. She's actually an old friend." The chief shouted towards the door, "Come on in!"

Xia He walked into the dance studio confidently, wearing her training tights. She was very familiar with this room. When she was young, she often followed Xu Lan here to practice her basic skills. Later on, even when she went to the dance school, she also practiced and performed here.

Yang Xin originally did not care about who the newcomer was. Everyone knew how capable she was and that she was outstanding. However, the most important thing was that the person in charge of the art troupe was her maternal uncle.

Who else could instigate anything against her with such a relationship? As soon as she asked, the female lead of any performance item had to be given to her first. If she did not like anyone, she could also ask that person to leave immediately!

This was the reason why no one dared to provoke Yang Xin.

"You! You're Xia He! Why are you back?" Zhou Ling looked at Xia He in surprise.

Yang Xin's nonchalant expression suddenly became serious. She thought Xia He had gone to another region back then? Why did she return to the art troupe here? Her uncle did not tell her about this!

"Almost everyone knows her, though the newer members might not. Her name is Xia He and she used to be the pillar of support for our troupe in the beginning. She's also one of the very few candidates vying for the position of principal performer. Everyone, please remember to get along well, You can go back to your training now." The chief left shortly after that.

Xia He smiled and said, "It's been a long time. I'm back now."

The older members of the troupe rushed forward and surrounded Xia He. They thought that they would never see Xia He again in their lives!

"Where did you go! I haven't heard from you for so many years!"

"That's right. Didn't you say that you went somewhere else with your husband? Now you've come to your senses and come back!"

"It's so good to have you back. We can dance together again!"

Everyone celebrated Xia He's return. Only Yang Xin and the sisters, Zhou Ling and Zhou Shuang, stood there silently, their faces filled with displeasure and mockery.

Back then, Xia He had left the art troupe in a dejected manner. Now, she still had the cheek to come back. What a joke!

Candidate vying for the position of principal performer? That was such long gone history. Now, the only person who could be the principal performer was her, Yang Xin! It had to be her!

Chapter 655 - 655 Holding a Grudge

655 Holding a Grudge

After a simple exchange of pleasantries with everyone, Xia He went alone to one side to do leg presses and some simple stretching. She was not familiar with the routine in the capital, so she had to slowly observe everyone's condition.

"I thought you would never come back," Yang Xin said as she slowly approached Xia He with the two Zhou sisters.

Xia He did not even look at them and just focused on her practice. When the others saw Yang Xin bullying Xia He, they were angry but did not dare to say anything. Although they had all received Xia He's care and guidance when they were still newbies, they were afraid that they would not have an easy time after offending Yang Xin.

"Yang Xin is talking to you! Didn't you hear her!" Zhou Ling shouted angrily.

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Xia He looked at them leisurely and said, "I wonder which family's dog is barking. It's so noisy."

“You! How dare you call me a dog!” Zhou Ling shouted as she pointed at Xia He.

Yang Xin frowned and looked at Xia He as she said, “Weren’t you focused on getting married back then? How can you still have the cheek to return to the capital now? Is it because your husband earns too little to support you and you have to come out and earn your keep?”

“Do you know me very well?” Xia He said with a smile.

At that time, Xia He was about to take on the position of principal performer of the art troupe. Yang Xin was only a minor supporting dancer and it was hard to say if she could even go on stage. What right did she have to strut around here now?

Everyone in the industry knew that the capital art troupe did not have any outstanding performances in the past few years and many people were unwilling to hire them. If it was not for their past glory, no one would be willing to use them.

“Isn’t your family living in the capital? I heard that you even applied to live in our art troupe’s dormitory. Is it because you can’t live with your husband anymore? But then again, it’s really strange that your husband can tolerate someone like you,” Yang Xin said.

“Yes, that’s right. Still, it can’t be compared to your situation. Your husband goes to the bar every day to get drunk and has so many women around him. I hear that no one cares about your daughter and she cries at home every night. How pitiful,” Xia He said.

Yang Xin’s house was located in the alley next to Xia Fang’s house. If one wanted to know any news about anyone living there, one just needed to sit at the entrance of the alley for a day. One would be able to dig up everything about that person, including ancestral history.

If Xia He was not at least prepared, how could she come back so calmly?

Yang Xin’s expression immediately darkened. Everyone knew about this matter, but no one dared to say it out loud. After all, this was a family scandal and no one dared to mention it.

“You! You didn’t even manage to have a child after so many years! Who knows if your husband abandons you because he’s disgusted that you can’t have children!” Yang Xin said in exasperation.

Xia He did not care about these things at all. She had already come to terms with things like reputation and money, which were all superficial. The most important and real thing was to get along well with her own family. As long as she led her life well, others could say whatever they wanted.

They did not have any real evidence and could only mouth off.

“Rather than be in the mood to gossip here, you might as well go and practice your basic skills. If the role of the female lead is snatched away by me, that would be really embarrassing. At that time, will you still have the cheek to stay in the troupe?” Xia He said mockingly.

All these years, although she had been in the art troupe in a small town, she had still done solo performances. It was already a dream that many dancers could not fulfill.

Who did Yang Xin think she was? She was just a paper tiger who did not amount to much. In this place, strength was always the deciding factor. As long as Xia He was outstanding, Yang Xin could not do anything to her no matter how much she gossiped.

If Yang Xin gossiped too much and the higher-ups noticed the commotion, she would not be able to bear the consequences!

Most people needed to think twice before bullying or slandering a member of the Xia family!

“Sister Yang... let’s not clash head on with her...” Zhou Ling said softly.

The Yang family might have the clout to fight with the Xia family, but the Zhou family was just an ordinary family. It would be terrible if they became implicated!

It had not been easy for them to come to the capital from their village. If they were chased out, how could they go home to face their fellow villagers? They were the ones at a disadvantage.

Yang Xin could only swallow her anger. She would settle the score with Xia He when she had the chance in the future! She would definitely make Xia He suffer all the humiliation and grievances she had previously suffered, and make Xia He kneel down and beg for forgiveness!

Chapter 656 - 656 Unqualified

656 Unqualified

Yang Xin left the dance studio angrily with the two Zhou sisters. Xia He remained calm. She had already expected this outcome and was not surprised by what happened today.

“My goodness, Xia He, you actually dissed Yang Xin! You won’t have an easy time in the future!” her colleague said.

“Why? Can she eat me up? I didn’t do anything. As if she can kick up a fuss,” Xia He was unfazed as she replied.

She actually had some knowledge of Yang Xin’s secrets and it was all thanks to Xia Wen. Otherwise, she would never know. It was not really Yang Xin’s secrets, but rather those of her husband, Bian Zhuo.

Bian Zhuo worked in administration and Xia Wen’s friend happened to be Bian Zhuo’s colleague. In the past few years, he found out that Bian Zhuo often played cheap tricks behind everyone’s back and told Xia Wen all about it.

As long as Xia He had this information in her hands, Yang Xin would not dare to bully her. Her stand was that she would not attack unless provoked. As long as Yang Xin knew her place, everyone would coexist just fine. Otherwise, she would make sure Yang Xin did not have an easy time!

“What have you been doing all these years? We all miss you very much, but we don’t dare to go to your house to look for you. Your mother is really too fierce!” the colleague said aggrievedly.

Although everyone respected Xu Lan very much, they were also afraid of Xu Lan’s training methods. She was really the devil!

In the past, they used to sympathize with Xia He for having suffered through Xu Lan's devilish torture since she was young. However, the training was indeed effective. Xia He's basic skills had always been better than any of them.

"My mother is just unsmiling. Actually, she's a very gentle person," Xia He said.

"Gentle! How is that possible! I've never seen Professor Xu smile!" her colleague said.

Xia He remained silent. She had gone home once recently and had seen Xi Lan beaming with joy. She was always smiling and even hummed a tune at times.

It was probably because she was in a good mood after doing all those things for Qiao Mei. It had nothing to do with her own children at all.

"You'll know in the future," Xia He said mysteriously.

Life in the art troupe could be described as simple and tiring at the same time. Every day, they would practice their basic skills, prepare for their performance items as well as audition for roles.

For the past few days, everyone had been practicing non-stop in order to compete for the female lead role. Xia He also seized every minute and every second, unwilling to waste any time at all.

Whether she was chosen or not was secondary. The key thing was that the main judge for the female lead audition this time round was her mother!

If she embarrassed Xu Lan, she would not be able to go home!

During this period of time, Qian'e had been living with a relative of the Xia family in a small house in the countryside. It was quiet and warm there and her days were carefree and happy.

Without Old Madam Qian's scoldings, Zhao Ni's weak pleas for mercy and Qian Wang's relentless accusations, everything was so beautiful.

However, she was about to leave this place soon. Xia Wen had sent someone to inform her that there was already an outcome regarding the matter with He Mei.

No one would be able to threaten her personal safety by now. At the thought of returning to the Qian family house, she wanted time to pass slower so that her happy days could last longer.

“Sigh... Why can’t such a good life continue...” Qian’e said, feeling distressed.

Auntie Xia laughed and said, “Don’t tell me you want to stay with me for the rest of your life! Well, my son is not married yet! Why don’t you just marry into our family!”

Qian’e lowered her head, feeling a sense of low self-esteem. Auntie Xia was a nice person and her son had also taken good care of Qian’e these past two days, but a person like her had no right to hold back someone’s future.

Putting aside the fact that these were relatives of the Xia family, she was a divorcee and she could not have children. How could she carry on the family line for Auntie Xia’s family? She could not even handle those annoying matters related to the Qian family, so how could she have the cheek to trouble Auntie Xia’s family.

She would just live like this for the rest of her life. She could not affect the future of such a good person.

“It’s alright if you want to take me in as your goddaughter! I dare not go beyond my social standing and marry your son. It will benefit you more to take me in as your daughter rather than taking me in as your daughter-in-law!” Qian’e said with a smile.

Auntie Xia already knew everything about Qian’e. Xia Wen had been very upfront with her. Otherwise, would they take in a stranger so casually?

They were supporters of the Xia family and had also received honors in the military in the past. However, they were all tired of living in the city and wanted to return to the countryside to farm and live and work in peace. That was why they settled down here.

Chapter 657 Goddaughter

At first, Auntie Xia did have her own impression and opinion about Qian'e. After all, what Qian'e had done in the past was not honorable. If not for the fact that they wanted to repay Xia Jun for his kindness to them, they would not have let Qian'e stay with them.

However, as time passed, she gradually realized that Qian'e was a diligent and capable child. No matter what she was tasked with, she did it fast and was also quick-witted.

She probably did what she did in the past because she was too young and insensitive then. It already caused her to regret it for the rest of her life. Everyone made mistakes during their youth. It was just that some people's mistakes were more serious than others, but everyone would eventually pay the price for their own actions. It was the same thing for Qian'e.

Actually, it did not matter to Auntie Xia whether she had grandchildren or not. As long as her son and daughter-in-law lived a happy life together, she would be fine with it even if they decided to go to the orphanage to adopt a child.

When Auntie Xia saw that Qian'e insisted on being her goddaughter, she shook her head resignedly. It seemed that this girl was not fated to be with her son.

"Alright, I'll take you in as my goddaughter then. From now on, come and visit often when you're free. This will always be your home," Auntie Xia said with a smile.

Qian'e had tears in her eyes as she choked up and said, "I will definitely come back to see you."

This was the first time a kind-hearted person had been willing to treat her well after the scandal.

"Don't cry anymore. Pack up your things quickly. Xia Wen will come and pick you up in a while," Auntie Xia said.

Qian'e did not bring much with her when she came and she quickly packed up all her clothes and shoes. The car sent to pick her up arrived soon. When it was time to leave, Auntie Xia reluctantly sent her all the way to the village entrance as if she was sending off her own daughter.

Qian'e looked at the bag in her hand in puzzlement. She had clearly pulled the zipper closed when she left, but for some reason, the bag zipper was half open now.

As soon as she opened the bag, the contents spilled out. There was a pink sweater, a letter and something wrapped in a handkerchief.

There were tattered notes amounting to five dollars in the handkerchief. The auntie and her son had set aside this amount of money out of their meager salaries.

Auntie Xia wrote in her letter that this was her gift to her goddaughter. She did not have much savings and she had enclosed the five dollars for Qian'e to go shopping and buy a nice-looking silk scarf for herself. She wanted Qian'e to have a gift from her.

She did not have much to give Qian'e. She just hoped that Qian'e would take good care of herself, so that her kindness to Qian'e would not be in vain.

She had knitted the sweater during her rest time at night. She had long wanted Qian'e to be part of her family. Although Qian'e did not want to be her daughter-in-law, it was good enough to have Qian'e as her daughter!

Qian'e hugged the sweater tightly in her arms. No one had ever treated her so nicely in her life. Even Zhao Ni had never made clothes for her personally. When she was young, she had always envied other children who wore clothes made by their mothers. She was the only one whose clothes were all bought from the stores.

Many children even deliberately showed off their items in front of her.

The reason that Zhao Ni gave her was that people who made these things themselves were all very poor. Only poor people could not bear to buy clothes, so they had to make their own clothes. Their family was doing well and wealthy, so they did not need to do such things themselves. If Qian'e really wanted it, they could get a tailor to tailor a set of clothes for her.

Qian'e rejected Zhao Ni's suggestion. She knew that Zhao Ni was just trying to brush her off because Zhao Ni wanted to enjoy the life of a rich wife and was unwilling to take care of her family.

Qian'e did not return home directly. Instead, she went to Qiao Mei's courtyard house where Xia Wen and Xia He were waiting for her.

Originally, Xia Wen wanted to meet Qian'e alone, but no matter how Xia He thought about it, she felt that it was too weird. However, if Tan Jing went with Xia Wen, then the fact about Qiao Mei's fake miscarriage would definitely be exposed. In order to avoid suspicion, it was better for her to accompany Xia Wen.

"Elder brother, why isn't Qian'e here yet? Did they not manage to pick her up?" Xia He said out of boredom.

"It's probably because Auntie Xia doesn't want Qian'e to leave. I heard that Auntie Xia likes Qian'e very much and wants her to be her daughter-in-law!" Xia Wen said.

"Auntie Xia has such a sharp eye, yet she likes Qian'e. This means that I have really misunderstood the girl previously. Then let's wait a little longer. She might be here soon." Xia He ran to the door and looked around. She immediately saw Qian'e walking towards her with her luggage.

Chapter 658 Crazy

Xia He smiled and went forward to welcome her. She helped with the luggage and said, "Why didn't you put your luggage in the car? I remember that my brother sent a car to pick you up."

"I... I'm too embarrassed to make them wait for me at the intersection for so long, so I asked them to leave first," Qian'e said embarrassedly.

Xia He brought her to see Xia Wen. Xia Wen was different from He Ning. Although they were both equally scheming, He Ning gave people the feeling that he was like a cold poisonous snake that would take their lives at any moment. Xia Wen was different. He was gentle and reserved, like a nice gentleman, and it made people let down their guards.

"How is it? Have you rested well recently?" Xia Wen asked gently.

Qian'e nodded. If not for Xia Wen taking precautions back then, she probably would have already died at the hands of the He family.

However, everything was fine now. He Mei was the one who was going to die.

"Why are you looking for me?" Xia Wen asked.

Qian'e paused for a while and then said, "I want to go and send He Mei off. Is that alright?"

"It's not that you can't, but I heard that He Mei is not in a good state of mind and has been acting crazy. Although the people escorting He Mei to the mountain area are our guys, we can't be 100% sure that you'll be safe," Xia Wen said awkwardly.

"It's alright. I just want to see the miserable state He Mei is in. The fact that she harmed me back then has always been a thorn in my heart. Now that she has ended up like this, I want to go and take a look. Don't worry, I won't get close to her," Qian'e said firmly.

After much consideration, Xia Wen finally agreed to her request. However, she would have to send He Mei off tonight. He Mei had suggested the timing. She was unwilling to leave this place in the daytime as she was afraid of running into someone she knew. If that happened, she would be completely embarrassed.

In reality, she did not have to be too concerned about her reputation. Everyone already knew about what happened to her.

The wind was particularly cold at night and it was the Xia family who made arrangements for the car and driver. When He Mei reached her destination, there would be someone specially sent to pick her up. Under normal circumstances, she should have taken the bus with the other people who were going to rebuild the village.

However, they were afraid that she would escape halfway or that the He family would secretly intercept and rescue her on the way. If that happened, the Xia family would have worked so hard for nothing.

The safest way was for the Xia family to arrange for their own people to send He Mei there personally. They hoped that she would obediently stay there and improve herself and stop causing trouble.

He Mei did not bring much luggage with her. Huo Gao had arranged for her to bring similar items as the other people who were going to rebuild the village. It was definitely not He Mei's usual style. Huo Gao did this to show the Xia family their sincerity.

"Where's my Little Uncle? Why isn't anyone sending me off? Where are they? Did you hide my Little Uncle! Or did you lie to him and send him somewhere else! My Little Uncle won't let me go without coming to send me off! You're all liars!" He Mei shouted.

The soldiers around her were unmoved. It had been more than just a day or two since He Mei behaved in this crazy manner. Ever since He Mei found out that her face was scratched and scarred, her mental state had been a little off. In addition, she felt that she had been sabotaged by the Xia family to go and rebuild the village while her father was also suffering in prison.

She seemed to have become a different person. She was crazy at times and sober at times.

The soldiers did not leave with He Mei immediately. Instead, they held her in place as if they were waiting for someone. He Mei's smile gradually became more impudent and her words became more arrogant.

"Are you waiting for my Little Uncle! Hahahaha! As expected, you're a bunch of dogs. So what if you're the Xia family's dogs? Don't you still have to wait for my Little Uncle to come before we can go? A bunch of useless people! When my Little Uncle comes later, let me go back or none of you will have an easy time!" He Mei said arrogantly.

Applause suddenly sounded from afar. He Mei looked into the distance in confusion. It was too dark and the street lamps were very dim, so she could not see who it was.

"You're still counting on He Ning to come and save you now? Don't you know who arranged for you to go and rebuild the village?" Qian'e walked to He Mei's side with a smile.

He Mei said disdainfully, "I was wondering who it is. So it's you, just another dog. Haven't you learned your lesson after so many years? You dare to scheme against me this time, but when I come back, I'll definitely make you pay the price in blood. You'll also taste all the hardships I've suffered!"

Chapter 659 Farewell

"Let's talk about it when you make it back. There's no need to wait anymore. He Ning won't come. I'm the one they've been waiting for. I'm here to send you off," Qian'e said.

He Mei looked behind Qian'e in panic. There were not even any passers-by, let alone the He Ning she was looking forward to seeing.

"Impossible! Little Uncle will definitely come and save me! You're lying to me! I'm not leaving, I'll wait for him here! He will definitely come and save me!" He Mei roared.

Qian'e smiled cheerily. She did not expect the high and mighty He Mei to end up like this. She still remembered the smug look on He Mei's face when conspiring with Ma San to make her suffer a miscarriage.

At this moment, she looked at He Mei with the same expression. After He Mei reached the village, it would take her at least five years to get a chance to come back. Five years later, He Mei would already be an old spinster. At that time, she would be too old and haggard, as well as disfigured. No one would want her by then.

He Mei was just reaping what she sowed. It was her fault for doing all kinds of bad things!

"Alright, thank you to all of you for sending her there. I've said what I wanted to say to her. Mr Xia said that you can set off now," Qian'e said politely to the soldiers escorting He Mei.

"I curse you! You will never find your good destiny in this life! You will live in pain for the rest of your life! Qian'e! You will die a horrible death!" As He Mei was escorted into the truck by the soldiers, she kept struggling to break free from the soldiers' restraints and glared fiercely at Qian'e.

Qian'e smiled faintly and watched He Mei leave. Now that she saw He Mei's ending, she did not know why she did not feel happy at all.

Back then, it was He Mei who caused her to lose her child and her future. However, she could not bring herself to hate He Mei now. Instead, she felt that He Mei was very pitiful.

In the past, she was the beloved eldest daughter of the He family. Given that she was now a prisoner and her beautiful face was gone, the He family would no longer favor her as much as before.

Now that she was an abandoned pawn, He Ning did not feel any pity at all. Instead, he was glad that He Mei had left and saved him a lot of trouble.

The next day, when the sun was high in the sky, the postman rode his green three-wheeled vehicle on the village road. The sound of the vehicle's bell was like a happy knock on the door of every house he reached.

"Qiao Mei! Your parcel!" the postman shouted as he held up the heavy package at the door of Qiao Mei's house.

Usually, the postman only needed to ride his bicycle to work. The reason why he drove this three-wheeled vehicle today was entirely because Qiao Mei's parcel was too heavy.

It would be too extravagant to send a car to deliver this package, so he could only work harder by riding the three-wheeled vehicle to the village.

"My parcel? From where?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

Xia Zhe had just gone back to the army unit and there were so many things he needed to do that he could not even rest well. Moreover, Xia Zhe had just called her not long ago to update her about his situation.

"It's... from the capital!" the postman said.

"Wait a moment! I also have a parcel that I need to send!" Qiao Mei hurriedly ran to the storeroom and pulled out a big package that was no smaller than the one brought by the postman.

The postman looked at Qiao Mei in shock. It seemed that he had made the right choice to ride the three-wheeled vehicle here. Otherwise, he would not be able to cycle back with a parcel of the same size!

"The gifts you send are all quite big..." the postman said as he gulped in shock.

Qiao Mei scratched her head in embarrassment and said, "Um... are you able to accept the parcel? Mine is very heavy."

The postman patted his chest confidently and said, "Don't underestimate me! I'll definitely send it out for you! Don't worry!"

The two of them exchanged packages and did not exchange any more pleasantries because both packages were really too heavy!

Qiao Mei watched the postman as he left. She easily lifted the package with one hand and carried it into the house. Qiao Qiang looked up and then lowered his head calmly.

He was already used to Qiao Mei having this "divine strength".

"Did that kid Xia Zhe send you this? He must have sent all the army tents over," Qiao Qiang said with a laugh.

"This is from my mother-in-law. I wonder what's inside." Qiao Mei opened the package out of curiosity and the contents instantly burst out of the packaging and fell all over the floor.

Chapter 660 Heavy Parcel

"Did your mother-in-law send you all your things from her house? Is she throwing you out of the house!" Qiao Qiang pointed at the things on the floor and said angrily.

It was no wonder that Qiao Qiang was so edgy. Not only were there many pieces of clothing on the floor, but there were also two cotton jackets, a wooden box, a bag of food, two boxes of bird's nest and jars of nutritional supplements of various sizes.

"I think... these are things she just bought for me." Qiao Mei picked up the things from the floor one by one and placed them on the brick bed.

Qiao Qiang picked up a gray sweater and a light blue sweater. They did not look like they were store bought, but looked like they were made by Xu Lan herself.

"When did Xu Lan learn how to do this? When she married Xia Mao, I didn't hear that she was a good wife and mother," Qiao Qiang said disdainfully.

Back then, Xia Mao had taken a fancy to Xu Lan's cold and arrogant attitude and charming figure. Instead of saying that Xia Mao wooed Xu Lan, it might be more appropriate to say that he was infatuated with her.

At that time, it was the new year and no one in the army could go home. The people from the art troupe had come to the army unit to celebrate with them. One of the goals was also to let this group of single soldiers interact more with the beautiful young ladies from outside. If any couple was fated to meet, they could end up together!

Xia Mao took a fancy to Xu Lan with only one glance and then he took leave to go home and ask around for news about Xu Lan. At that time, Wu Min was still alive and she firmly objected to Xu Lan marrying into the family for a very simple reason. This was a young lady who neither did any household chores nor knew how to take care of her in-laws and children.

Xia Mao had numerous arguments with his family over this matter. In the end, Wu Min felt sorry for her son and reluctantly agreed to let Xu Lan marry into the Xia family.

"I'm guessing that Second Aunt-in-law made them. Grandfather, is that gray one for you!" Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Qiang took the gray sweater and held it against his body. It did indeed seem to fit him. He could not possibly be wearing the light blue one!

It would be too embarrassing for him to wear that out!

"It's rare that your mother-in-law still remembers me. How thoughtful of her." Qiao Qiang nodded in satisfaction.

She even prepared two sets of cotton jackets. Again, one was gray and the other was light blue. Among the items, there were also tea leaves for Qiao Qiang. Judging from the packaging, it must be Xia Jun's gift for Qiao Qiang.

Xia Jun knew that Qiao Qiang liked to drink tea and that he liked Pu'er the most. The tea that Xia Jun sent over was all the good stuff.

"That old man Xia Jun is really interesting. He put a note in the tea leaves and told me to savor it carefully. Hahahaha! It's rare for him to be so generous and give me so much," Qiao Qiang said with a smile.

"Is Grandpa Xia very stingy? I feel that he's very generous to me," Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Qiang said disdainfully, "He's the most stingy among us old comrades! Back then, whenever we went to buy food in the canteen after we received our salary, he would only buy one steamed bun and then he would eat all our dishes. He said that it was because he wanted to get married as soon as possible. But true enough, he was really the first among us to get married."

Xia Jun and Wu Min were childhood sweethearts and had made a marriage pact a long time ago. However, the Wu family was not an ordinary family. At that time, Xia Jun was only a kid from a poor family and did not have the capability to marry Wu Min.

Having an opponent like Zhou Sheng, who also liked Wu Min, he had no chance of winning at all. Fortunately, Wu Min only loved Xia Jun and they went on to get married. During the early days of their marriage, it was quite tough on him. However, as Wu Min took good care of the household, his life got better and better.

"I didn't expect Grandpa Xia to be such a person. Then how did you and grandmother meet?" Qiao Mei asked curiously as she moved closer to Qiao Qiang.

Qiao Mei was asking about Qiao Qiang's first wife and Qiao Yue's biological mother. Actually, the reason why they ended up together was a very simple one. They were introduced to each other by someone

from the same village who felt that they were of equal status and were very compatible. After that, they got married. There was no exciting backstory at all.

"Why does a kid need to know so much! You should worry about yourself! Are you going to tell your children in the future how you and Xia Zhe ended up together?" Qiao Qiang said with a meaningful look.

Qiao Mei instantly blushed. She had never thought about this issue before. Would she have to tell the children that she had forced herself on Xia Zhe and forced him to do those shameful things, and that was why she became pregnant?