

Fat Wife 661

Chapter 661 Unconscious

"Weren't you asking me so happily just now? Why are you blushing now!" Qiao Qiang teased.

Qiao Mei turned around to look at the other things that Xu Lan had sent her and ignored what Qiao Qiang said. As for the story of how she and Xia Zhe fell in love... she decided to leave this matter to Xia Zhe to worry about!

Qiao Mei put the stuff like bird's nest and other items in the cabinet to store them properly. When she had time, she would open them up and savor them together with Qiao Qiang. She was more attracted to the wooden box.

She could feel a faint energy surging inside. Although it was not very pure, the sparkling yellow light made her feel exceptionally curious.

She opened the box slowly and saw a medium-grade yellow jade bangle inside. The color was very ordinary, but the transparency was not bad. However, it was indeed not as good as the bangle that Wu Min left for her.

It would appear that Xu Lan had spent a lot of money to buy it. She probably felt that Qiao Mei liked these sorts of things and wanted to buy them for her whenever she saw something nice. Xu Lan did not know anything about quality or transparency, and she simply bought whatever she thought looked nice.

There was nothing that Qiao Mei could not repair. In less than three days, the transparency and quality of this bangle would definitely be top-notch! Not only would this bangle make Qiao Mei feel comfortable, but it could also exchange energy with her.

"Grandfather, I suddenly feel that the things I sent to my mother-in-law are not very presentable," Qiao Mei said as she held up the wooden box and looked at Qiao Qiang aggrievedly.

She had sent Xu Lan a sweater that she knitted herself, some pickled vegetables that she made, and some local specialties from home. She had also made a beautiful navy blue dress for Xu Lan.

"No matter what you give, it comes from your heart. Whatever we buy here can't compare to the nice things in the capital. I believe Xu Lan can see your efforts. She won't think that the things you give are not nice," Qiao Qiang said.

She had already sent out everything. It was too late to regret it now.

She gave the cotton jacket a shake and saw that there were a few books inside. Judging from the handwriting in the books, they were from Xia Wen. It was really nice of him to be concerned about her studies.

Before she could finish packing up, Zhang Wei ran into the house in a state of panic and shouted, "Elder sister! Bad news! My mother has fainted!"

"What! What's going on! Tell me slowly," Qiao Mei said to Zhang Wei with a frown.

"Mom suddenly fainted without any warning. What should we do!" Zhang Wei was so anxious that his forehead was entirely covered in sweat. This was the first time he had encountered such a situation and he did not know how to deal with it.

Qiao Mei put down the things in her hand and grabbed Zhang Wei as she walked towards Li Gui's house. Qiao Qiang looked out of the window and sighed as he watched Qiao Mei leave.

She wondered if this mother-daughter pair would let bygones be bygones.

Li Gui was lying on the kitchen floor and panting heavily. Zhang Qin and Zhang Chao knelt beside her and wept. They were too weak to lift Li Gui at all.

"Don't cry, I'm here," Qiao Mei comforted them.

Qiao Mei checked Li Gui's pupils and tested the rhythm of her breathing. She shook Li Gui gently and said, "Wake up... can you hear me?"

Li Gui's eyes were blurry and she could not see who it was. She nodded with her last bit of consciousness and whispered, "Water... hungry... water... I want water..."

Qiao Mei easily pulled Li Gui up and slowly helped her back into the house. Li Gui's weight was probably not even 100 pounds now. She looked like she weighed about 80 pounds.

Li Gui had not eaten her fill for a long time and had low blood sugar. She usually recovered quickly after eating a piece of candy and some rice. However, looking at her condition now, she probably needed someone from the clinic to come and give her an infusion.

"Xiao Wei, take the bicycle and go to the clinic. Tell them that your mother has fainted due to low blood sugar. Ask them to send someone to come over and give her an injection or prescribe some medicine," Qiao Mei said calmly.

Zhang Wei had only just run out before he silently turned back and said, "Elder sister... there's no money at home... Even if I go to the clinic, I won't be able to get them to come..."

Qiao Mei smiled and said, "Don't be afraid. Go and look for grandfather. He will help you. Elder sister also doesn't have any money in my pocket now. Go."

Zhang Wei hurriedly ran out to do as he was instructed. Zhang Qin and Zhang Chao stayed by Li Gui's side for a moment and looked at her with tears in their eyes. However, the children were very sensible and did not cry audibly. They just silently wiped away their tears.

Qiao Mei sat on the brick bed and sighed helplessly. She did not know how to face Li Gui. It seemed that Li Gui did not want to look for her even if she starved to death. She was not even really angry, she was just worried about Li Gui's safety.

Chapter 662 Searching The House

Sun Jian gathered the militiamen from the village to go to Old Madam Li's house to search for Li Gui's money. Based on what Li Gui said, the amount was more than 50 dollars, so he just noted it as 50 dollars.

As long as Old Madam Li handed over 50 dollars, he would not pursue the matter further.

However, ever since Old Madam Li spouted nonsense after being spooked by Li Gui yesterday, she started to behave in a paranoid and crazy manner. Yet, Zhao Hong felt as if her life had become easier.

Now, Old Madam Li only knew how to sit on the brick bed in a daze. If she saw strangers, she would hide in fear and mutter statements asking people not to kill her.

Zhao Hong no longer had to work so hard every day or to burn the midnight oil.

However, Zhao Hong did not have any clues regarding Li Gui's money as well. She had searched everywhere she could think of, but there was no trace of that amount of money.

"Everyone in the house, come out!" Hai Hua held up her shovel and shouted from the Li family's main door.

Zhao Hong walked out nervously and said, "Sister-in-law Hai, what's the matter?"

"We're here to look for the 50 dollars that Li Gui lost. If you have found it, hand it over quickly. Otherwise, we'll have to go in," Hai Hua said.

"Didn't you say that you would give us three days? This is only the first day. Sister-in-law Hai, please be considerate of my situation. My mother-in-law is afraid of outsiders now. Why don't you come back on the third day?" Zhao Hong suggested.

"No! Three days is the timeframe we gave Li Gui. Don't you need to give us time to send the money to Li Gui!" Hai Hua said.

Zhao Hong still wanted to say something, but she could not stop Hai Hua and the militiamen she brought along. They rushed into the courtyard and searched everywhere they could think of!

A few of them even started digging up the soil in the courtyard in various areas. They did not miss out on any spot at all.

Hai Hua even rushed into the house with four other people. Of course, her goal was not to enter the house to do a search, but to take a look at Old Madam Li's miserable state.

"Old Madam Li, do you know who I am?" Hai Hua said with a smile.

Old Madam Li shook her head nervously and said quickly, "I don't know anything... I don't know anything... Don't ask me..."

"Oh, you've really gone crazy. Where did you hide Li Gui's money! I'd advise you to tell me the truth! Otherwise, I'll get people to search your entire house!" Hai Hua said smugly.

Old Madam Li hid in a corner in fear and said with a trembling voice, "Don't kill me... Don't kill me... I'll give you everything... Don't kill me!"

Hai Hua leaned closer and took a closer look at Old Madam Li's pupils and body movements. She was sure that Old Madam Li was not pretending but had really gone crazy.

It seemed that evil people would get what they deserved. This time, she was really doomed.

"Everyone, search carefully. We must find the money today, otherwise we won't be able to explain ourselves when we go back," Hai Hua said disappointedly to the militiamen.

Hai Hua looked at Old Madam Li sternly. Old Madam Li buried her head between her knees nervously and covered her ears tightly with her hands while saying things like "let me go".

"You did all kinds of evil back then. Now that you're crazy, it's what you deserve! You'd better die soon! I'm still waiting to eat at your funeral banquet when you die!" Hai Hua said to Old Madam Li.

The few of them rummaged through the cabinet and even went through the pockets of all the clothes one by one. Even if it was just a small box, they would open it up to take a look.

After searching the entire house carefully, she did not find where Old Madam Li had hidden the money. Even the people outside did not find anything.

"Sister-in-law, we've already searched the area. There's nothing," one of the militiamen said.

At this moment, the militiamen outside the house also walked into the house and said, "Sister-in-law, there's nothing outside the house either. We've already dug up the ground, but we haven't found anything."

Hai Hua walked around the house and took a closer look. There was not even a single valuable item in the house. It was so empty that she could see everything at a glance. How could the money have flown away by itself?

Hai Hua looked at Zhao Hong in puzzlement and asked, "Is there any other place in your house? Where else can this Old Madam Li hide the money? Can it be hidden in the ceiling?"

Zhao Hong shook her head. If she knew, she would not need to lead such a hard life. No one knew where Old Madam Li hid her money, not even Li Dong.

Chapter 663 - 663 Contact

663 Contact

Hai Hua did not believe it. She took the ladder and decided to check the roof of the storeroom. Unexpectedly, she found the money there.

As soon as she climbed up, she realized that there was a dusty box on the beam. She held on to it carefully and brought it down, using an ax to break the small lock outside. When she opened it, she saw that it was filled with money.

There was more than 50 dollars inside. At a glance, it was definitely at least 100 dollars.

Hai Hua pursed her lips. She did not expect Old Madam Li to hide her money in such a special place. Ordinarily, no one would look up there.

It was only because she once found out that Sun Jian had hidden away some money in the ceiling. That was why she felt that Old Madam Li might have hidden the money in a similar spot.

Hai Hua took out 50 dollars, then put the remaining money back into the box and gave it to Zhao Hong.

“Take a look, this is 50 dollars. I haven’t touched the rest of the money and have put it back intact. Count it,” Hai Hua said in an upfront manner.

Zhao Hong had no idea how much money Old Madam Li had hidden in the box. Even if she counted the money, she would not know if there was any discrepancy. She believed in Hai Hua’s character. Although Hai Hua was unforgiving with her words, she was still a good person.

“Sister-in-law, I believe you. I’ll have to trouble you to pass the money to Li Gui for me. I still have to stay at home to take care of the two children and my crazy mother-in-law. I really can’t leave this place,” Zhao Hong said.

Hai Hua nodded. This was part of Sun Jian’s responsibility, so it was only right for them to do it.

When the time came, she would tell all the villagers that Sun Jian was the one who handled the matter with the Li family. This would let everyone know that Sun Jian was a magnanimous and helpful person who was willing to let bygones be bygones. That would have a positive effect on the election for the village chief next month.

“There’s one more thing, but I don’t know if you can help me with it...” Zhao Hong asked softly.

“What is it?” Hai Hua said.

“Sister-in-law, look at me. I don’t have any income, yet I have to support the whole family. I really can’t do it anymore. My husband and my two sons have also left this family because of my mother-in-law. I’m thinking of asking my mother-in-law’s second son to come back and visit my mother-in-law. I wonder if you will be able to contact him,” Zhao Hong pleaded.

This matter was not so easy to handle. Indeed, Li Xiong's household register was still in their village. As long as Sun Jian called the police station, the police would definitely be able to find out Li Xiong's contact information within a week.

However, Li Xiong had previously cut ties with Old Madam Li in front of the entire village. Why would Li Xiong want to come back now?

"It's not that I don't want to help you with this matter. You also know why Li Xiong cut off ties with your family back then. If you want me to ask him to come back now, aren't you getting me into trouble? Besides, why don't you ask your own husband to come back? What's the deal with looking for Li Xiong," Hai Hua said.

"Li Dong has gone to work in the county city and I don't know how to contact him. I know this is a difficult issue, but no matter what, my mother-in-law is still Li Xiong's biological mother. Sister-in-law Hai, please help me. Just contact him and ask him to come back quickly. You can leave the rest to me," Zhao Hong said.

Hai Hua nodded reluctantly in agreement. When she returned to the village office, she told Sun Jian everything that had happened at the Li family house. They saw no urgency to send the money yet. They still had a meeting in the village tomorrow, and would only have time to go and send the money the day after.

Sun Jian telephoned the county city police station and sent a telegram to Li Xiong, asking him to return to the village to visit Old Madam Li as soon as possible after receiving the news.

After Li Xiong left the village, he did not go far and just lived in the city nearby. He and his wife, Sun Ying, worked hard to support their only son.

"Wife, it's a message from the village saying that my mother is about to die. Should we go back?" Li Xiong said as he held the telegram.

Sun Ying said agitatedly, "What! Your mother is dead! Then we definitely have to go back! If you ask me, you shouldn't have acted on impulse back then and insisted on cutting ties with her. The house is so big and it has been monopolized by your eldest brother's family for so many years. It's such a huge loss to us."

“Isn’t that because she always bosses you around to do work? Back then, you were the one who said that you wanted to leave that house and cut ties with her. How did it become my fault now,” Li Xiong said unhappily.

At that time, Sun Ying told Li Xiong that her family had some money, and that her father said that as long as Li Xiong became the matrilocal son-in-law of the Sun family, he would find a job for Li Xiong in the city.

What kind of future did he have in the village? He could only go to the fields every day to earn work points and even then, he would not be able to earn much money in a year. It was different in the city. There was a possibility that he could earn at least 100 dollars a month!

Chapter 664 - 664 Returning to the Village

664 Returning to the Village

Li Xiong did not think too much about it and immediately cut off all ties with his family. Without looking back, he went to the city with Sun Ying to work and happily became the Sun family’s matrilocal son-in-law.

However, when Li Xiong arrived, he found out that Sun Ying’s father was not part of the cadre at all. He was just an old man who worked as a doorman at the recycling center. The job that he found for Li Xiong was nothing cushy either. He worked as a scavenger and collected recyclables to sell.

Even now, Sun Ying and Li Xiong were still living in the dingy part of the alley. Their family of three was squeezed into a house that was only 10 square meters big. They had to share the toilet and kitchen with other families.

The surrounding neighbors were not nice people. Every day, they would quarrel over trivial matters. It was either someone used too much toilet paper belonging to someone else or someone used salt which belonged to another person. The quarrels were endless.

“Let’s leave our child at my father’s place, then we’ll pack up and go back. Your surname is also Li, so half of that house definitely belongs to you!” Sun Ying said.

“On what basis do I fight with them for the house? My eldest brother and fourth sister are the ones taking care of my mother. If we go back and ask for a share of the house now, what will the villagers think of me! They all think that we left and became rich. If we go back now looking so dowdy, we’ll just be a joke!” Li Xiong complained.

“How are we a joke! We still earn more money now than in the village! No matter how bad it is, we can still make at least 30 dollars a month!” Sun Ying said.

Even an amount of 30 dollars was not enough for anything! Fortunately, Sun Ying’s household register was in the city and in turn, so was their son. The food stamps they received every month were enough for the three of them.

After being away for so many years, they had only managed to save 80 dollars. Seeing that their son was about to start school soon, they had a lot of expenses coming up.

The school fees in the village school was only three dollars a year, but the school fees in this city school was six dollars a month! It was simply daylight robbery! The school said that the fees were inclusive of the textbooks, meals, classes and practical lessons, which was why it added up to so much.

Other schools were even more expensive. This one was already the cheapest.

“Then let’s go back and not come back here!” Li Xiong said in a fit of pique.

“Why not! Can’t we just sell your mother’s house and then come back to buy a house in the city? Then Li Le can go to school well,” Sun Ying said.

“We don’t even have any nice clothes. What are we going to wear when we go back!” Li Xiong said.

Sun Ying flipped through their things under the bed and found an old suit. She had picked it up near the office building in the city center just this month. It was torn in some parts, but it was still wearable after patching those spots up.

“What do you think of this? Is it good enough for you?” Sun Ying said.

Li Xiong nodded in satisfaction. If he wore this set of clothes, people would believe him even if he said that he was a big boss.

“Let’s pack our things. We’ll leave tomorrow morning! Send Li Le to your father’s place tonight and ask him to take care of the boy for a few days,” Li Xiong said.

After the two of them were done with their work, they packed their bags and returned to the village. As soon as they entered the village, they attracted a lot of attention. Li Xiong was wearing a suit and holding an old leather suitcase, and his left hand was wrapped around Sun Ying’s waist. Sun Ying was wearing a bright red dress and red lipstick, looking very fashionable.

As the two of them had been away from their hometown for a long time, no one could recognize them. After they walked away, everyone started whispering.

“Who are those two? Why haven’t I seen them before? Are they someone’s rich relatives?” an auntie asked curiously.

“I find them quite familiar. I think he’s the second son of the Li family!” an old man said affirmatively.

“Impossible! The Li family’s second son hasn’t returned for so many years. Didn’t he cut ties with his mother? No way he’s back,” the auntie said disdainfully.

The old man approached everyone and whispered, “Didn’t you hear that Old Madam Li was driven crazy by her daughter using a kitchen knife?”

“Really! I didn’t hear about this!” the auntie said in surprise.

“It’s absolutely true! When I went to the clinic to get my medication, Hai Hua told me that there was a fight because Old Madam Li stole 50 dollars from Li Gui,” the old man said.

As everyone chattered about this matter, the story that went around became more and more ridiculous. Someone even said that Li Gui wanted to kill Old Madam Li to take revenge!

Chapter 665 - 665 Unable to Take Care of Oneself

665 Unable to Take Care of Oneself

Li Xiong and Sun Ying greeted everyone they knew and everybody looked at the couple enviously.

No one knew that the things they were wearing were all picked up from the trash.

“Mother! We’re back!” Li Xiong shouted as he walked into the courtyard.

Zhao Hong was washing Old Madam Li’s pants in the courtyard. Old Madam Li often became frightened inexplicably and then peed her pants, so Zhao Hong had to constantly help the old woman change her clothes and wipe her body.

She wondered if she owed the old woman a debt in their previous lives!

“Who are you...” Zhao Hong looked at Li Xiong and Sun Ying in puzzlement.

Sun Ying sashayed gracefully and walked up to Zhao Hong. “Eldest sister-in-law, don’t you remember me? I’m Sun Ying!”

Zhao Hong smiled awkwardly and said, “Ah... I remember now! It’s been a long time since we last met. You’ve become so beautiful that I don’t even recognize you.”

“That’s true. I’m unlike you, eldest sister-in-law. You’ve aged a lot after these few years. Look at your hands, they’re no different from mother’s hands,” Sun Ying said mockingly as she pointed at Zhao Hong’s hands.

Zhao Hong hid her hands behind her back and lowered her head as she said, “Yes... I have to do chores at home every day. My life is definitely not as comfortable as your life in the city.”

Sun Ying sized up the courtyard in disdain. Previously, when she first married into the family, it was not so dilapidated. Now, the house looked like it was almost unfit for habitation.

Even if they sold this house, it would not be worth much. At most, they would be able to buy a place like their current 10-square-meter dilapidated unit in the city.

“Isn’t mother going to die? Have you ordered the coffin yet?” Sun Ying asked.

Zhao Hong quickly said, “She’s not dying! She’s just crazy! She’s still in good health! She’s just traumatized...”

Sun Ying pursed her lips impatiently. They had only returned home because she thought that Old Madam Li was about to die. If the old woman was not dead yet, why were they asked to come back! That old woman was now so muddle-headed that she could not remember anything at all. Did she want them to come back and take care of her?

“Eldest sister-in-law, where’s my eldest brother?” Li Xiong asked.

“Your eldest brother... Your eldest brother went to the county city to work and rarely comes back,” Zhao Hong said with a forced smile.

She did not want Li Xiong to know that Li Dong did not return home at all. Otherwise, what if he took the opportunity to bully her and her two daughters?

Other than the Li family house, they had no other place to stay. Only by guarding this place could Zhao Hong have a roof over her head.

“Then who’s the one who asks me to come back, my eldest brother or you?” Li Xiong asked as he narrowed his eyes.

Zhao Hong stammered and could not speak. Sun Ying was unwilling to waste her time in the courtyard, so she decided to go into the house with Li Xiong to rest instead of waiting for Zhao Hong’s answer.

As soon as she pushed open the door, the stench of urine hit them in the face, causing Sun Ying and Li Xiong to hurriedly run to the side and vomit. Old Madam Li would pee her pants every once in a while.

Sometimes, Zhao Hong was unable to help her change her clothes immediately, so the smell had slowly seeped into every corner of the house.

This house was inhabitable now, not even the west room.

“What’s going on!” Sun Ying shouted angrily.

“Mother has lost control of her bowels and bladder now. I still have to go to the fields to work, so sometimes I’m so busy that I don’t have time to clean up after her. That’s why there’s a smell in the house,” Zhao Hong explained.

Li Xiong closed the door silently. Other than this house, they had nowhere else to stay. They were just pretending to be rich and did not actually have any money to go to the guest house in the county city.

Sun Ying pulled Li Xiong aside and said, “Don’t you have a younger sister living nearby? Let’s go to her place for a few days.”

Li Xiong said awkwardly, “You mean Li Gui. She even dared to kill her mother, let alone us. I dare not go to her place.”

“Then what do you think we should do! Do we really have to live in a house that smells like the toilet!” Sun Ying said angrily.

Other than Li Gui, he still had another younger sister, Li Juan. They used to get along quite well, but he did not know if she still acknowledged him as her older brother after so many years.

“Let’s go and look for my youngest sister. I really dare not go to Li Gui’s place...” Li Xiong whispered.

Sun Ying had no choice but to agree with Li Xiong. She picked up her luggage and prepared to leave the courtyard. This place was so dirty that she did not want to stay for another second!

As long as she endured through this period of time, her good days would come! By then, her father would be able to live a good life with her and she would no longer have to work as a scavenger.

Chapter 666 The Root Cause Of The Illness

"Where are you going? I'm preparing dinner!" Zhao Hong said.

"We'll stay at a relative's house for a while and will come back after a few days. You can stay at home and take care of mother." With that, Sun Ying briskly walked out of the Li family house with Li Xiong.

Along the way, she did not show Li Xiong any nice expression.

Sun Ying knew that someone had used that telegram to trick them into coming back so that they could help to take care of the old lady. Why would they want to support a disabled person who had incontinence!

Old Madam Li had done all kinds of evil! Her current condition was retribution for her past deeds!

There was a reason why Sun Ying hated her so much. It was winter when Sun Ying married into the family. It was said to be the coldest winter within those past 10 years. The snow fell heavily and covered the roads so thickly that even the bridal sedan that welcomed her could not be carried into the village.

Wearing her thin wedding dress, she had to trudge through the snow with the matchmaker and the rest of the bridal party to reach the Li family house. She did not expect that there was not even a red lantern hanging at the entrance of the Li family house or the word for "happiness" pasted on the door! There was no hint that the family was celebrating as joyous an occasion as a wedding at all!

Even at the wedding banquet, the number of people who attended was pitifully few. This was the first time she had seen a family holding a wedding like this.

She was even asked to kneel down outdoors to pay respects to the ancestors even when it was so cold. She had to bow again and again as they were named one by one. She was told that that this was the Li family's custom but it was all a lie.

What rubbish custom!

It was all just an excuse to torture her!

Later on, she had secretly asked Zhao Hong about it. When Zhao Hong married into the family, she did not hear of such customs!

She fell ill from that episode and suffered from the lingering effects from then on. When she gave birth to Li Le, she almost died in the delivery room. Until now, she could not touch cold water, otherwise she would have diarrhea and headaches. Was it too much for her to hate Old Madam Li?

A shrew like Old Madam Li deserved to die! Leaving such a scourge alive in the world would just cause even more people to suffer!

"Wife, when you get to Li Juan's place, don't give her any nasty attitude. Li Juan is a very particular person. If you treat her shabbily, she will remember it for the rest of her life!" Li Xiong said.

"I know! I know! I know that your youngest sister is capable! She married a rich man! I'll be more careful with my words!" Sun Ying said impatiently.

Li Juan did not have a happy marriage, but in the eyes of outsiders, she had married very well. This was also all thanks to Old Madam Li.

Li Juan was a beautiful girl, even more good-looking than Li Gui. Not only was she a good cook, but she also knew how to make shoes and clothes. She had a childhood sweetheart, a young man from the same village, and the two of them had made a pact to get married when they grew up. However, Old Madam Li looked down on that young man's family for being poor, and felt that it would be better for her daughter to marry someone rich.

Many matchmakers came to look for Old Madam Li to propose a match for her youngest daughter. In the end, Old Madam Li acted unconscionably and chose an older man who was 23 years older than Li Juan!

It was all because that person was willing to give their family a color television and a betrothal gift of 600 dollars, an offer which no one else could better. The whole fiasco made Li Juan seem like a commodity that was being auctioned off.

Whoever offered the highest price would get Li Juan.

In the first few years, Li Juan even wanted to commit suicide. Later on, she gradually came to terms with her situation.

Among Old Madam Li's children, only Li Dong had quite a good life and was never harmed by Old Madam Li. The betrothal gifts which the family received for marrying off Li Gui and Li Juan all went into Li Dong's pocket.

When Sun Ying married into the Li family, they only gave her family a betrothal gift of 100 dollars.

Old Madam Li had told Sun Ying to take it or leave it! She said that the Li family did not lack a daughter-in-law!

"Do you think your mother was really driven crazy by your third sister? Can she be pretending?" Sun Ying asked.

"It can't be an act. Look at the mess she made in the house. How can it be fake? If she's just pretending, she won't be able to stand having all that feces and urine on her." Li Xiong felt disgusted just thinking about what he saw.

Even though they did not enter the house to take a look at Old Madam Li, the smell had assaulted their senses. Old Madam Li was not dead yet, but they felt as if they were already dead from the stench!

"How long until we reach Li Juan's house? I'm so tired," Sun Ying said.

Li Xiong pointed at the door in front and said, "We're here. This is her in-law's house."

"Wow... It seems that the person your sister married is really rich. Look at these bricks. One look and you can tell that they're not cheap," Sun Ying said enviously.

In the countryside, most families had wooden fences and timber doors that looked like they could fall off at any moment. It was a symbol of wealth for someone to build a solid wall with bricks and install a metal door with patterns on it.

Chapter 667 Thanks To You

Li Xiong looked at Sun Ying smugly and said, "That's right! My younger sister is living such a good life! In the past, I got along the best with her! She will definitely help me!"

Sun Ying wanted to stay in such a nice house for the night. She obediently stood behind Li Xiong and waited, not even daring to breathe loudly. Later, she must make Li Xiong look good and not let Li Juan look down on them.

"Is anyone home! Is anyone there!" Li Xiong shouted as he banged on the door.

A knock on the metal door was so loud that everyone in the village could hear it. Li Juan ran out of the house in annoyance and scolded, "Who's so blind! Can't you see the doorbell! I'm not deaf, why are you knocking so loudly!"

Li Xiong looked around him but did not see anything that looked like a doorbell. Actually, he had never even seen a doorbell before!

Rich people were really fastidious. He was her biological brother but he could not just enter directly, and still had to ring the doorbell. She simply had no respect for him as an older brother.

As soon as Li Juan opened the door, she recognized Li Xiong. She looked at him with disdain and said, "What are you doing here? Didn't you cut ties and said you'd never come back? You're not able to survive in the city anymore?"

"How can you talk to your brother like that! I just wanted to come back and see you!" Li Xiong said with a troubled expression.

"You will think of me? Weren't you and mother the ones who decided to sell me to this family to be the daughter-in-law back then? Why are you so hypocritically saying that you think of me now? You just want the money in my pocket, right?" Li Juan leaned against the door and said nonchalantly.

Sun Ying looked at Li Xiong in shock. This was not what he had told her on the way.

"Oh, look at my sister-in-law's bewildered expression. I was already married when you got married to my brother, so you probably don't know about this. My eldest sister-in-law was forced to marry into the Li family to repay a debt. My third sister originally married well, but her first husband died and my mother forced her to marry an abusive man. As for me, let's not talk about it," Li Juan said.

Sun Ying felt very emotional when she heard these words. She knew very well what kind of person Old Madam Li was, but she did not expect her to be so heartless.

"Second sister-in-law, I'd advise you to divorce my second brother quickly. Second brother, just don't ever come back for the rest of your life. Among the four of us, is there one who's better off? You should leave quickly. I will never forgive you for what happened back then." After saying that, Li Juan wanted to close the door.

Li Xiong stuck his foot in and pleaded, "Let us stay for one night, just one night. It's already so dark now, where do you want us to stay? I'm sorry for what happened back then, but I really doted on you the most when we were young. On account of that, can you let your sister-in-law and I stay for one night?"

Li Juan looked at Li Xiong helplessly, then at Sun Ying, and finally chose to let them in.

Of course, she did not let them go to the main house, but led them to the woodshed. Li Juan's woodshed was different from those belonging to ordinary families. Hers was really filled with firewood and coal and there was a lot of ash and dust. It was rarely tidied up.

"Xiao Juan, you want your sister-in-law and I to stay in such a place! Cough, cough... There's not even a place to sleep!" Li Xiong said as he covered his mouth and nose.

Li Juan pointed at the firewood and said, "Just pile up something and make do with it for the night. Beggars can't be choosers. Since you're here, you have to follow my family's rules. You're not allowed to come out. I'll send food to you later. You have to leave at dawn tomorrow morning!"

Without waiting for Li Xiong's reply, Li Juan closed the door with a loud bang. Right now, Li Juan was alone at home. The old man she married had found a new girlfriend in the county city and she had heard that the woman was only in her early 20s!

No one in the family could hold him back, so they just let him do whatever he wanted. All these years, Li Juan had been well-behaved and took care of him cautiously, which was why she still had a place in the family.

Although everything looked glorious on the surface, she lived a hard life too.

"Didn't you say that your sister will treat you well? Why did she lock us up in the woodshed the moment we arrived? This lousy shed is not even as good as our own place!" Sun Ying said angrily.

Li Xiong did not expect Li Juan to have such a bad temper. He could no longer remember what happened back then. Moreover, he was not the one who came up with the idea to get Li Juan married off. Back then, he only tipped her off and did not do anything else.

Chapter 668 - 668 Raising the Price

668 Raising the Price

"In my opinion, the reason for the current situation is that wonderful third sister of yours! It's all her fault!" Sun Ying said aggrievedly.

"You're the one who said that if the old lady dies, we can come back and get a share of the family assets! In this situation, you still want to blame others!" Li Xiong said.

"Why can't I blame her! If not for her, your mother won't have gone crazy! We won't have come back! When I passed by the village entrance today, I heard people saying that Li Gui snatched more than 100 dollars from mother! More than 100 dollars! How can that not drive your mother crazy! If you ask me, we should get the money back! Why should she be allowed to take this amount of money!" Sun Ying said.

Li Xiong only knew that Li Gui had driven Old Madam Li crazy. He did not know about the details.

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Based on what Sun Ying said, then he had a share in that amount of 100 dollars! No matter how much money Old Madam Li had saved up, it would be split among her children when she died!

Li Gui was really shameless! She actually did such a traitorous thing for money!

“We’ll go and look for her tomorrow! Ask her for the money!” Li Xiong said.

Sun Ying thought about it carefully and said, “I remember someone in our alley said that for such life-threatening matters, we must ask the guilty party to pay up. So, we must ask her for medical expenses, nutrition fees and compensation for emotional damage!”

“That’s right! But how much does it cost? Is 20 dollars enough?” Li Xiong said hesitantly.

“Didn’t her daughter marry a rich man! She must have a lot of money! Let’s ask for 80 dollars!” Sun Ying said excitedly.

“You good-for-nothing! If even our mother can save more than 100 dollars, it would be easy for them to take out 80 dollars! Ask them for 150 dollars!” Li Xiong thought that he had asked for a lot of money, but in reality, it was not even a fraction of what Old Madam Li had asked for.

The more the two of them chatted, the happier they became. In the end, they raised their demand to 500 dollars and even felt that 500 dollars was already an astronomical amount. They had worked as scavengers in the city for so long and had not even managed to save 100 dollars. Was it something that was possible in the countryside?

They roughly tidied up the woodshed and put two wooden planks onto the firewood pile. It was an uncomfortable night for them.

The next morning, Li Juan stood at the door of the woodshed with a gong. The loud clang frightened Li Xiong and Sun Ying so much that they both rolled off the firewood pile.

The two of them gritted their teeth and sat moaning on the ground. Li Juan was in an extremely good mood when she saw this scene. She just could not bear to see others living better than her. None of the people who harmed her back then could be allowed to have a good life!

“You wretched girl! Are you crazy! Why do you hit the gong so early in the morning!” Sun Ying complained.

Li Xiong stood up with difficulty. His entire body ached from the fall and he seemed to have twisted his ankle. At this hour, even the rooster was not up yet! Li Juan must be taking revenge on them!

“Hurry up and leave. Do you think our house is a free hotel? I’m already being very merciful by taking you in. Leave immediately,” Li Juan said coldly.

As the saying went, to receive a favor was to sell one’s liberty. Moreover, Li Xiong still owed Li Juan. Sun Ying wanted to say more, but Li Xiong stopped her.

“Let’s go... let’s go somewhere else.” Li Xiong endured the pain in his ankle and left Li Juan’s house with Sun Ying.

The two of them stood at the door helplessly and looked around. They knew how to get here, but they did not know how to leave. They were not familiar with this village, so they could only leave in the direction they came from and see if they would luck out and bump into a horse carriage.

In the end, Li Xiong and his wife left Li Juan’s house and paid a sky-high price of five dollars to turn around and head towards Foshan Village. When they first entered their own village, the two of them looked very glamorous. Now that they had suffered over a day and a night, they were so tired that they looked like refugees.

As soon as they entered the village, they attracted Auntie Dong’s attention. How could Auntie Dong miss out on such a thing? Soon, the news spread throughout the entire village.

Li Gui had already recovered. Qiao Mei could not bear to let Li Gui go hungry again, so she secretly asked Zhang Wei to go to her place on time every day to get food. When he went home, he would tell Li Gui that the food was leftovers from Qiao Qiang's meal. This way, Li Gui would not reject the gesture and she would be able to get through the difficult issue at hand.

"Sigh... Why am I so unlucky to have married a good-for-nothing like you! Now, not only do I have nothing, but I even have to follow you around and be looked down upon by others! What sin have I committed to have to suffer this!" Sun Ying said.

Chapter 669 - 669 Recognizing the Wrong Person

669 Recognizing the Wrong Person

"I also don't know what sin I've committed! Do you think I don't regret marrying you!" Li Xiong said indignantly.

As they quarreled with each other, they soon arrived at Li Gui's previous residence, which was now the house that Wang Qin and Qiao Gui were living in.

"Li Gui, come out! You heartless thing! Come out quickly!" Li Xiong threw his luggage aside and stood at the door of Wang Qin's house with his hands on his hips. He scolded loudly, as if he was venting all the grievances he had suffered over the past few days.

Sun Ying also imitated Li Xiong and pointed at Wang Qin's house as she scolded, "You abused your old mother! You drove her crazy! You're simply out of your mind! It's not even too much to have you arrested! If you dare to do it, then admit it! Come out quickly!"

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Qiao Gui looked through the glass window and stared at the people outside, feeling puzzled. Then he turned to look at Wang Qin and said, "Who are they? Your relatives?"

"What a joke! Didn't you hear what he said... something about someone abusing the mother. My mother has been dead for more than 10 years. Where can I go to abuse her?" Wang Qin said with a laugh.

“Then who are they, having a tirade at our door. I’ve never seen anyone like this before,” Qiao Gui said as he looked at the door in confusion.

Wang Qin came over to take a look and said in surprise, “Isn’t this Li Gui’s second brother! How can you have forgotten! Didn’t you say that he went to the city to enjoy life? Why is he back?”

“But they can’t keep going on like this. Quickly think of a way to chase them away. Every injustice has its perpetrator. Why are they scolding us?” Qiao Gui said unhappily.

Wang Qin tidied her clothes and walked out of the door with a smile. “You must be Second Brother Li! It’s really been a long time! Is there a misunderstanding between us? Why are you here at my house, flaring up so early in the morning?”

Li Xiong was dumbfounded. Why was it not Li Gui coming out?

“Doesn’t this house belong to my younger sister! Why are you here! Where did my sister go!” Li Xiong said aggressively.

Wang Qin sighed and said pretentiously, “Second Brother Li, you also know that there are many people in my family. I managed to earn some money so I bought the house from your sister. At that time, I spent 500 dollars! Your sister is not here anymore. She lives in the big courtyard over there!”

When Li Xiong heard this, he became even angrier. Without another word, he led Sun Ying towards the direction that Wang Qin pointed out and found Li Gui’s house quickly.

He was completely irrational by now and his mind was filled with his prejudice against Li Gui. When he reached Li Gui’s house, he pushed the door open and entered. He was not as polite as when he was at Li Juan’s house.

“Li Gui, come out!” Li Xiong shouted arrogantly.

Zhang Wei quickly hid in the house with his younger siblings and held the door tightly shut. Li Xiong looked much more burly than Zhang Qian and Zhang Cong. This was the result of years of scavenging and manual labor.

“Second brother, long time no see... Come in and have a seat,” Li Gui said weakly.

“Don’t talk to me about anything else! Why did you go back and snatch money from our mother! Hurry up and hand over all her money!” Li Xiong said.

“Snatch money? When did I snatch money... You’re talking about the matter of me going home. I haven’t gotten the money back yet...” Before Li Gui could explain herself, Li Xiong went up and gave her a hard slap, causing her to fall to the ground.

In the house, Zhang Qin stood on a small stool and saw everything through the window. She cried and shouted in the room, “Mom! Mom!”

Zhang Wei quickly covered Zhang Qin’s mouth and said, “Don’t make a sound!”

“Eldest brother... please save mom! Mom is being beaten up!” Zhang Qin cried.

Zhang Wei could not stop crying either. However, he was still too young. He could only ensure that his younger siblings did not get hurt.

“What do you mean by you haven’t gotten the money back! Do you know that mother is so traumatized now! She doesn’t even recognize anyone anymore! The entire house smells of feces and urine! You still have the cheek to tell me here that you didn’t do it! Pfft!” Li Xiong pointed at Li Gui and shouted.

At this moment, Auntie Dong had rushed over with the other villagers. She hurriedly ran forward to help Li Gui up and said, “Sister! Are you alright!”

There was blood at the corners of Li Gui’s mouth from the beating. Her already weak body looked even more fragile now.

“Who are you! Why did you enter our village to hit someone!” Auntie Dong shouted angrily.

“Who do you think you are! How dare you talk to me like that! I’m her brother! She drove my mother crazy using a knife! How can it be wrong for me to hit her!” Li Xiong said.

“Second brother, I didn’t... I didn’t snatch our mother’s money. That’s not what happened,” Li Gui said.

Chapter 670 - 670 Let Me Listen Too

670 Let Me Listen Too

Good news did not travel far, but bad news spread far and wide.

This matter quickly caused an uproar. Everyone knew that Li Gui had used a knife to drive Old Madam Li crazy. Some people even said that Li Gui had killed Old Madam Li!

Seeing that more people started gathering around, Sun Ying pointed at Li Gui and shouted towards the crowd, “Everyone, come and be the judge! My mother-in-law was almost killed by this woman! How can a daughter behave like this! She actually used a knife to threaten our mother and even snatched our mother’s money! The old lady is so traumatized that she can’t even control her bodily functions now! What should we do!”

The neighbors had all seen Old Madam Li before. They had more or less heard about her. Although she was a bad person, she did not do anything to deserve getting killed.

Gradually, everyone believed what Sun Ying said and started criticizing Li Gui for being heartless. No matter how badly Old Madam Li treated Li Gui, she was still the one who gave Li Gui life. How could Li Gui point a knife at her?

“Now that we want to take back our mother’s money, she won’t give it to us. Our mother is already so sick and doesn’t even have any money to pay for treatment! This woman is still acting like a tyrant here. When she hears us asking her for money, she pretends to be weak and lies to us that she doesn’t have money,” Sun Ying said angrily.

Wang Qin shouted from the back of the crowd, "That's right! How can a daughter be like this! When her mother doesn't have money, she can still use a knife to threaten her mother. Does that mean that the day when her mother can't fork out any money, she will kill her mother!"

When everyone heard this, they became even angrier. This was simply too inhumane!

"Li Gui, just take out that money and give it to your brother and sister-in-law. Do you feel comfortable spending such black-hearted money!" the neighbor said.

"Quickly hand it over! Otherwise, we'll get the village chief to deal with you!" another villager said.

Li Gui leaned weakly in Auntie Dong's arms. Not so long ago, these people were still very polite to her and even said that they wanted to help her redo the beams and columns of her house

Yet, at the current moment, everyone was simply criticizing and scolding her indiscriminately.

"Oh, everyone's here. You seem to be having a good time scolding her. Should I join in?" Qiao Mei slowly walked over.

Wang Qin quietly hid at the side of the crowd to avoid being discovered by Qiao Mei. It was not easy for her to find an opportunity to teach Li Gui a lesson, but she did not expect Qiao Mei to still come and back Li Gui up.

She thought everyone said that Qiao Mei had cut ties with Li Gui? Why were they still hand in glove now?

Sun Ying sized up the newcomer from head to toe. She had seen Qiao Mei a few times when she was young, but she did not have much of an impression left. Later on, she had only heard from Old Madam Li that Qiao Mei had grown up to be a fatty who weighed almost 300 pounds, and that she did not inherit Li Gui's beauty or Qiao Yue's heroic spiritedness at all. She was like a bear spirit with a very unruly and domineering temper.

The young lady in front of her did not look like a villager. Although she was pregnant, it was not difficult to tell that she was a great beauty before that. Now that she was pregnant, she had another kind of charm about her.

“Who are you? Why are you interfering in our family’s matters! Furthermore, you’re pregnant. Don’t blame our family later if something happens!” Sun Ying said warily.

Qiao Mei grinned at Sun Ying and said, “But I’m Qiao Mei. Based on seniority, I have to call you second aunt-in-law!”

Sun Ying widened her eyes and looked at Qiao Mei in shock. Even Li Xiong could not believe that the person in front of him was Qiao Mei. She looked like a completely different person!

Even if she had cut off all that flesh on her body, it was impossible to become so beautiful.

Sun Ying was not in a hurry to speak. She immediately saw the bangle that Qiao Mei had hidden behind her sleeve. Only rich people would wear things like bangles. Ordinary people would not even own such good things, let alone people in a remote village.

It seemed that what she heard was true. Qiao Mei really had money now. It seemed that they were going to be rich today!

“Qiao Mei! You’re all grown up! I can’t recognize you at all. I must be blind. Since you’re pregnant, just go back. Don’t get affected by the matter between your mother and your grandmother. Let us deal with it,” Sun Ying said obsequiously.

It was really different when one was rich. Back then, when Qiao Mei went to their house to ask for a meal, she would be scolded for being a stinky beggar. They would put her food on a dog’s plate and let her eat with the dogs.

They did not remember these things anymore, but Qiao Mei remembered everything and would never forget it for the rest of her life.