

## **Fat Wife 671**

### Chapter 671 Going Out Without A Brain

In the original owner of the body's memories, after she gave birth, the news reached Sun Ying and Li Xiong for some reason. These two heartless people even came back specially with the intention of taking the children to sell them!

How utterly heartless!

"Is my grandmother feeling fine? The day before yesterday, eldest aunt-in-law even came to ask my mother to go home quickly. She said that grandmother was dying and wanted my mother to bring money back to save her life. My mother even had to borrow the money from me. What happened? Are you here to inform us that she has recovered?" Qiao Mei asked with narrowed eyes.

When it came to acting, no one could do it better than Qiao Mei. Ever since Qiao Mei was born, she had never called Old Madam Li "grandmother". She found it disgusting to even say it!

If not for the fact that she wanted to lie to Sun Ying, she would feel nauseous if she said another word.

"What illness? Isn't the old lady driven mad by your mother!" Sun Ying said in confusion.

"Really? Then she wasn't sick earlier?" Qiao Mei asked.

Sun Ying did not hesitate at all and immediately shouted, "No! If not for Li Gui driving the old lady crazy! The old lady would not have needed someone to take care of her! She has always been in good health! Everyone in the surrounding villages knows that my mother-in-law is famous for being able to walk long distances on the mountain roads! How can she be sick!"

Qiao Mei looked at Sun Ying mockingly. This person had really forgotten to bring her brain along. She had given everything away so quickly.

Everyone knew about Zhao Hong coming by. If not for the fact that Zhao Hong was spotted by a villager at that time, she would have died by the roadside.

However, no one knew why Zhao Hong was here. They all thought that it was because she had nowhere to go and came here to seek refuge with Li Gui.

Later on, for some reason, Li Gui and Zhao Hong left the village overnight. After some speculation, everyone guessed that something had happened to Old Madam Li, so they had asked Li Gui to go back and take a look.

To hear that Old Madam Li was not sick and that she only felt sick after Li Gui went home to see her, then it meant that Old Madam Li was lying previously.

Sun Ying looked at the trace of suspicion in everyone's eyes when they looked at her and she finally realized that she had said something wrong. She explained in a panic, "But it's possible that she's sick! Li Xiong and I work away from home all year round. My mother-in-law is probably sick. Since she's old, it's inevitable that she has all kinds of illnesses. It's just that our family members are afraid that we would be worried and so they don't want to tell us."

Auntie Dong curled her lips and said, "All your glib words sound even better than singing. In the surrounding villages, who doesn't know that Li Xiong cut ties with Old Madam Li back then because of you? All these years, not only did you not come back to visit her, you didn't even give her a single cent as allowance. You still have the cheek to criticize others here. How shameless!"

"You're dressed so nicely. You must have bought these clothes at the last minute! Your suit is even one size too big!" Auntie Wang said mockingly.

Li Xiong tugged at his clothes awkwardly. He had clearly asked Sun Ying to alter the size before they left, so he did not understand how someone could still see that something was not right.

He glared fiercely at Sun Ying. Seeing that the situation was not right and that the people who were on their side earlier now believed what Qiao Mei said, he pointed at Qiao Mei and shouted, "All of you are making sarcastic remarks! Weren't you all scolding Li Gui just now! Why do you believe Qiao Mei now! You fence-sitters really follow the wind!"

"You're her granddaughter, yet you don't even know how to go back and take a look! You still want to criticize us here! Who do you think you are!" Li Xiong shouted at Qiao Mei.

As he spoke, he walked towards Qiao Mei and stood in front of her, looking at her angrily as if he wanted to fry her alive.

"She has never raised me or taken care of me, so why should I go back and see her? I'm already flattering her by lending her money for her treatment," Qiao Mei said coldly as she looked up.

"You think you make sense! I'll teach you a lesson today! I'll let you know what it means to respect your elders!" Li Xiong raised his hand to hit Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei dodged nimbly and turned around to give Li Xiong a slap instead. It caused him to fall to the ground. Li Xiong crouched over the ground and seemed dazed.

The people around them looked at what happened with surprised looks. Auntie Dong and Auntie Wang kept straight faces. They were already used to this.

Qiao Mei could easily lift with one hand the big bag of bean sprouts that the two of them could not even lift up an inch. She seemed to have the strength of a monster.

#### Chapter 672 Laughing My Head Off

Li Xiong looked at Qiao Mei in disbelief and then at the gazes of the people around him. He was a man and could not even win against a pregnant woman!

People would laugh their heads off if word got out!

"Ouch! Ouch! My leg is broken! Ouch! It hurts!!!" Li Xiong held his ankle and wailed.

He decided to make use of the injuries sustained from the fall at Li Juan's house this morning. Since they had already embarrassed themselves, they might as well go all out and blame everything on Qiao Mei.

Their original intention was to come and get some benefits from Qiao Mei. It did not matter to them what method they had to use.

Sun Ying immediately understood what Li Xiong was doing and hurriedly ran to his side. She said in a panic, "Hubby, where does it hurt! Quick, let me take a look! Ah! It's all swollen! Don't tell me the bone is broken!"

Seeing this, Li Xiong lay on the ground and wailed loudly, causing the birds in the forest to fly away in fright.

An old man in the crowd said disdainfully, "It's just a pretense! How strong can a young girl be! Now that his lie has been exposed, he's too embarrassed!"

Auntie Dong and Auntie Wang held back their laughter and did not dare to laugh out loudly. Qiao Mei held her forehead and said aggrievedly, "I don't know what's going on either. I only blocked him. Why did he fall? I was just trying to protect myself. I really didn't use any strength!"

"Who said you didn't use any strength! Look at my husband's face! There are already five fingerprints! And you still say you didn't use any force!" Sun Ying said as she pointed at Li Xiong's face.

In just a short while, one side of Li Xiong's face was already swollen like a pig's head and bruises were even starting to show.

Everyone pretended not to see anything and ignored Sun Ying and Li Xiong.

"Is there anything else? You don't have a pass and yet you come to our village to frame and beat up someone. Now, one of you is even pretending to be disabled. What else do you want? Quickly take your things and get lost from our village!" Auntie Dong shouted at the two of them grandly.

"We're Li Gui's second brother and second sister-in-law! Can't we come and visit her! It's not like we're spending the night! What right do you have to chase us away! You're all covering up for Qiao Mei! I'm going to the county city to report you!" Sun Ying said.

Unexpectedly, not only was everyone unafraid, but they even said in a relaxed manner, "You'd better go now. When the time comes, we'll say that you come here to cause trouble in the village. Let's see who gets the short end of the stick."

"You keep saying that Old Madam Li is your mother, then hand over the money. Your mother borrowed more than 200 dollars from your younger sister! This time, she even cheated Qiao Mei of 50 dollars by pretending to be sick. That's about 300 dollars in total. It's not too much for a son to pay his mother's debt," Auntie Wang said.

The moment Li Xiong heard her asking him for money, he immediately looked more lively. Suddenly, it was like his waist no longer ached and his legs no longer hurt. He quickly stood up and limped over to everyone as he said, "My mother isn't dead yet! I don't have to return this money! My mother can pay it back herself!"

"Weren't you just saying that Qiao Mei is unfilial? Why are you starting to draw lines with Old Madam Li now? Is it because you're in the wrong and can't defend yourself," Auntie Dong said.

"Back then, my mother forced me to marry into the Zhang family and I accepted it. She kept all the money meant for Qiao Mei for so many years and I accepted it as well. But this time, I definitely didn't snatch her money. She tricked me into going back. She forced me!" Li Gui said with tears in her eyes.

"Isn't it right for you to be filial to your mother!" Li Xiong said.

"Then what about you! Why can you cut ties with her! Why can't !! She even disregarded my daughter's life just to ask me for money! Why should I care about her!" Li Gui shouted.

Li Xiong had no retort to that and muttered softly, "I don't care! Now that you've beaten me up so badly, I have to go to the doctor!"

Qiao Mei could tell at a glance that Li Xiong's real intention was not to uphold justice for Old Madam Li at all, but to get money from her.

Those two were really biological mother and son. They had the same black hearts.

"Then how much do you want..." Qiao Mei asked in a pitiful manner.

Without any hesitation, Li Xiong spread out his hand and said, "500 dollars!"

"You can't win against a woman, and you still want to ask her for medical fees! How shameless! Pfft!" Auntie Dong said angrily.

At this moment, as long as he could get the money, Li Xiong would not take anything others said to heart. Anyway, after taking this money, he would return to the city with Sun Ying and never come back again.

An amount of 500 dollars was enough for their family to live for three to four years! They could buy whatever they wanted!

Chapter 673 A Bumpy Journey

"I really don't have 500 dollars. Why don't I bring you for treatment," Qiao Mei said.

Li Xiong refused to give up and shouted, "How can that be enough! How can I work when I'm injured? Don't we have to eat or drink at home! You have to pay for my loss of income, emotional damage, medical fees and food expenses."

Qiao Mei pursed her lips. This was a really comprehensive list of items. He was good enough to be a lawyer.

Compared to Old Madam Li, Li Xiong was more skillful.

"The way that you demand for things, you'll come and ask me to buy your coffin for you in the future!" Qiao Mei muttered softly.

"How can you say that! As if we offended you! Why are you cursing us like this!" Sun Ying said angrily.

"Then why are you here? For Old Madam Li? Don't you already know the truth? Why don't we take our issue to the armed forces department in the county city?" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

At the mention of going to the armed forces department, the women who were close to Qiao Mei all straightened their backs and glared at Li Xiong and his wife, as if they suddenly felt motivated.

At the same time, in the capital, He Ning and Huo Gao set off for Qiao Mei's house. Train journeys could be classified into good ones and bad ones. The more one paid for the ticket, the better the treatment. However, such special trains only traveled between popular cities.

Qiao Mei's tiny little hometown was not considered a rich city at all. It was already good enough that there was a train connecting it to the capital.

When they first left the capital, everything felt fine. However, as they gradually approached Qiao Mei's city, many pigs, dogs, chickens and ducks also boarded the train.

The smell in the entire carriage was extremely bad. Some pigs even excreted everywhere in the carriage. The ticket price for pigs was half that of humans. As long as one was willing to pay, one could bring anything on board, even if it was very dirty and smelly.

Everyone relied on trains to trade the livestock they raised in order to earn some money.

"Didn't you buy the expensive tickets?" He Ning pinched his nose and said disdainfully.

Huo Gao looked at the train carriage helplessly and said, "There's no other train that services the place you want to go. It's already good enough to be able to get on this train."

He Ning accidentally saw a pig excreting and immediately started retching. Once he started vomiting, he could not stop.

He immediately got up and ran to the other carriages. He only sat down slowly when he found one that did not have any livestock. However, he still covered his mouth and nose with his handkerchief, afraid that he would catch a whiff of that disgusting smell once he removed it.

Huo Gao picked up the luggage and followed closely behind He Ning. If He Ning had not insisted on coming, they would not have needed to suffer like this.

He Ning chuckled for no reason when he saw the scenery outside the window, as if he was in a very good mood. A second ago, he was still vomiting uncontrollably, but now he was beaming with joy. It was a really strange sight.

"What did you see that made you so happy?" Huo Gao asked.

"I'm just thinking that it's really quite amazing for such a place to produce someone like Qiao Mei. I put in so much effort to nurture He Mei, but in the end, she found it difficult to achieve anything and was defeated by a young girl from the countryside. Now, there are still a bunch of people laughing at me! They say that He Ning lost to the young daughter-in-law of the Xia family," He Ning said self-deprecatingly.

"Maybe it has something to do with Qiao Qiang. After all, he was the one who brought up the child. Perhaps children from the countryside are better than what we imagine," Huo Gao said.

He Ning could not explain it either and he quietly waited for the train to reach the station. When he disembarked, the strong smell of mud and sand blowing into his face made him feel very uncomfortable. It was also much colder here than in the capital.

"Why don't I take out the jacket from the luggage and put it on for you?" Huo Gao asked worriedly.

"There's no need for the time being. It's getting late. Let's find a car and go straight to Qiao Mei's house," He Ning said.

Huo Gao hesitated. They had already been on the train for one day and one night. Would it not be better to find a guest house and rest first? Even if he was looking for ginseng, there was no need to be in such a hurry.

"Look, there's a guest house over there. Why don't we stay there for the night?" Huo Gao said cautiously.

He Ning rejected Huo Gao's idea without a second thought. If they went now, they would be able to make it in time for mealtime when Qiao Mei would be cooking. If she saw how pitiful they looked and allowed them to stay for a meal, that would be the best outcome.



"Let's go now!" He Ning said.

Chapter 674 Different

When He Ning saw the dilapidated horse carriage in front of him, he really felt like giving up.

He had seen horses and cars before, but this was the first time he had seen such a horse carriage. When he was born, the He family had already started to prosper. Even after Old Master He died, he had left behind enough assets for them to live well.

Other than having to drink Chinese medicine, He Ning had never suffered much.

"There's no car?" He Ning looked at Huo Gao in shock.

It was impossible to get a car to go from the city to Foshan Village. The village was very remote and driving at night was a test of the drivers' skills, so they felt that it was not worth the effort to drive there and back.

No matter how much money the drivers were offered, they were still unwilling to do it. Their lives were more important.

"Are you guys going or not? I'm in a hurry to go home! If it's not because it's on my way, I won't do this," the coachman said.

Huo Gao dragged He Ning into the carriage and he sat inside in disdain. The whole interior was covered in dust. Anytime he blew lightly, he could create a small pile of sand quickly.

"When we reach Qiao Mei's house, we must ask her to cook a good meal for us. She must at least make a fish dish. We can't let her off easy," He Ning said through gritted teeth.

Huo Gao laughed secretly at one side. He Ning's shamelessness had reached a new level. Last time, he only craved her cooking, but now he was brazenly ordering the dishes.

"What are you laughing at!" He Ning kicked Huo Gao angrily.

Huo Gao ignored him and took out the map that the He family's investigators had drawn for them previously. It clearly showed the exact location of Qiao Mei's house and the details of her family members.

Soon, they arrived at Qiao Mei's house. However, everyone was gathered at the house opposite her house, making He Ning very confused.

"What day is it today? Why are all of them there?" He Ning asked curiously.

"I don't know. Can it be Qiao Mei's mother celebrating her birthday? But it's stated in the information pack that her mother's birthday is in June, so what else can they be doing?" Huo Gao stood on tiptoe and tried his best to look inside, but he could not see what was happening in the courtyard at all.

He Ning was not a person who liked to check out any commotion, but if it was about Qiao Mei, he still wanted to go and take a look.

When He Ning reached the back of the crowd, he frowned. It was simply too crowded for him to enter at all. With his status, was he supposed to squeeze together with these villagers?

Just as He Ning and Huo Gao were at their wits' end, Wang Qin noticed these two people who were dressed like misfits.

The reason why she saw them as misfits was because He Ning and Huo Gao were dressed too elegantly. He Ning wore his custom-made suit and exquisite leather boots all year round. The cufflinks alone were made of top-notch jade.

Although the tiring journey had caused him to look less polished and the shoes that should have shone like mirrors were covered in a layer of dust, it was enough to show He Ning's identity.

Huo Gao's attire was much simpler than He Ning's. His black coat was embroidered with dark golden bamboo motifs. If he had a folding fan with him, his aura would not lose out to He Ning's.

However, he looked really pathetic with a big suitcase in one hand and a huge military backpack on his back.

"Look! Who are they!" Wang Qin hid behind the crowd and shouted.

Everyone's attention shifted to He Ning and Huo Gao, whose identities raised suspicion.

The way they dressed looked similar to how Li Xiong and Sun Ying were dressed. The villagers could not tell what was fashionable and what was not, but looking at the style of the clothes, they felt that it was very similar to what Li Xiong wore.

All the outfits looked like suits to the villagers. They could not tell the difference.

"Are you here to look for Li Xiong?" a villager asked.

"They look like they're from the city. Look at how much stuff that person has. Can it be that Li Xiong asked these people to come?" Auntie Wang whispered.

Auntie Zhou did not think so and said calmly, "Just watch. It's definitely not anything good."

Qiao Mei's pupils constricted slightly. After a moment of shock, she came back to her senses. She did not say whether she knew them or not. It was a stalemate and no one spoke.

Faced with the villagers' speculations, Li Xiong limped forward and boldly grabbed He Ning's hand. "Good brother, why are you here! Is the boss looking for me!"

Huo Gao stared at He Ning's hand in shock. He Ning looked at the overly ignorant man in front of him unhappily.

This was the second time someone was in such a hurry to die. The last person who had held his hand so indiscriminately, he had ordered that the hand be cut off and fed to the dogs.

## Chapter 675 Solving The Problem

Li Xiong leaned closer to He Ning and whispered, "Brother, do me a favor... I'll give you 100 dollars after this is done!"

He Ning looked at Li Xiong disdainfully and said mockingly, "Do I know you?"

"You! Hahaha! Have you forgotten about me!" Li Xiong patted He Ning's shoulder awkwardly in an attempt to cover it up.

Taking advantage of the fact that no one was paying attention, He Ning grabbed Li Xiong's hand and twisted it away. "I don't like others touching me. Also, I don't know you at all and I don't want your 100 dollars."

Qiao Mei laughed out loudly. This was the first time she had seen someone offering He Ning 100 dollars to hire him to act.

"You kept quiet for so long. Are you just waiting to laugh at me?" He Ning said as he looked at Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei did not deny that she knew He Ning. She sat on the stool and said, "I'm just wondering why you're here."

Sun Ying saw Li Xiong kneeling on the ground in pain and holding his wrist. Not only was his ankle injured, but his hand was now injured by this person.

Qiao Mei must have arranged all of this. If not for her, they would have taken the money and left long ago.

"At this point, I won't hide it from everyone anymore! You're the man having an affair with Qiao Mei!" Sun Ying shouted as she pointed at He Ning.

Auntie Dong and Auntie Wang, who knew Qiao Mei's character, did not believe what Sun Ying said at all. Qiao Mei was with them every day and Xia Zhe was also always with her in the capital. How could this man have any improper relationship with Qiao Mei?

"You need to have evidence to say something like that. Do you even know this man whom you're saying is having an affair with Qiao Mei? You've never seen Qiao Mei's husband, right? Who would believe what you say!" Auntie Dong said as she rolled her eyes.

Qiao Mei laughed loudly when she heard this. She did not even feel that the adulterous couple Sun Ying mentioned had anything to do with her at all.

Although Auntie Dong did not say it out explicitly, she was implying that He Ning could not compare with Xia Zhe. Without the 100-year-old ginseng, He Ning looked like he was at the end of his rope.

"They must have an improper relationship! Otherwise, why would this man come to look for Qiao Mei! He's even helping Qiao Mei for no rhyme or reason! There must be an adulterous relationship here!" Sun Ying said.

He Ning looked at Sun Ying unhappily and tightened his grip. There was a cracking sound, then Li Xiong let out a painful wail and fell unconscious to the ground.

Sun Ying was so frightened that she hurriedly ran over and knelt on the ground, shouting, "Li Xiong! Li Xiong! You killed my husband! You killed someone!"

He Ning frowned and said, "He just fainted from the pain of the fracture. He won't die. If you continue to make so much noise here, I'll break your arm too."

Sun Ying quickly shut her mouth out of fear. They only dared to bully Qiao Mei only because they were relatives, but it was obvious that He Ning was not someone to be trifled with. If they really made him angry, they might not be able to leave this village alive.

"Repeat what you said just now. Tell the truth," He Ning said coldly.

"I... I... I didn't say anything... I was just spouting nonsense..." Sun Ying said fearfully.

He Ning nodded in satisfaction and said, "Very good. Here's 200 dollars. Take the money and leave. Don't appear here again in the future. Go back and pick up the trash well. Otherwise, you won't even be able to survive in that city. I mean what I say."

Sun Ying did not even have time to think and quickly nodded in agreement. When she left, she even forgot to take her luggage. Qiao Mei did not remind her and just threw her luggage out of the courtyard.

The crowd gradually dispersed and only Auntie Dong and Auntie Wang stayed behind, staring fixedly at He Ning.

They had to protect Qiao Mei and not let this dangerous person hurt her.

"Why? Aren't you going to invite me in? I've already helped you so much," He Ning said mildly.

"You're not welcome here. Please leave," Qiao Mei said.

He Ning simply walked into the courtyard as if he knew Qiao Mei well and sat opposite her. "It's not easy for me to find this place and it's been a long day. Shouldn't you let me stay here for the night? I've helped you out. You should return the favor, right?" He Ning said with a smile.

"You're a grown man and you want to stay in a woman's house. If word gets out, how is Qiao Mei going to face others!" Auntie Dong said.

He Ning turned around and glared fiercely at Auntie Dong. Auntie Dong was so frightened that her legs went weak. He Ning had harmed countless people all his life, and could ruin a person's life with a snap of his fingers. Auntie Dong had only seen scoundrels before, but never such a ruthless person.

Chapter 676 Collection Album

"I'd advise you not to interfere in my issues with Qiao Mei. You should go home," He Ning said fiercely in the gentlest of tone.

Qiao Mei gave Auntie Dong a look. Auntie Dong was still worried, but in order to save her own life, she still left Li Gui's house with Auntie Wang.

"It must be really hard on you to find your way to my house," Qiao Mei said.

He Ning did not say anything. Instead, he looked at Qiao Mei's stomach and laughed self-deprecatingly. He understood that He Mei did not make the decision on her own regarding the matter this time, but that it was Qiao Mei plotting against him.

Qiao Mei touched her stomach nervously. She had let down her guard after returning recently and did not expect He Ning to come looking for her personally.

"I originally came to offer my condolences, but I didn't expect my visit to be unnecessary," He Ning said with a smile.

Now that he had already seen her, there was no need to hide anything. He Mei had already received the punishment she deserved. At most, they could just recall He Mei back.

"Since you've already seen it, then you can leave now," Qiao Mei said, deciding to stand her ground and go all out.

"I think there's a misunderstanding. I'm not here to talk to you about this. He Mei can't win you and she only has herself to blame for what happened to her. I am here to visit you, and your grandfather as well. The things in that luggage bag are all gifts from me to him. He can take it as a token of appreciation from a junior," He Ning said nicely.

Huo Gao opened the luggage. It was filled with interesting items from overseas, such as binoculars and magnifying glasses among others. Qiao Qiang had been interested in such things when he was in the army, so He Ning definitely knew how to tailor the solution to the problem.

He Ning's intent could not be more obvious. If Qiao Mei accepted his gift, surely she would ask him to stay for a meal? Otherwise, it would be very rude of her.

He Ning was going to be disappointed. Qiao Mei was really that "rude".

"Then I'll accept the gift. Mr. He, is there anything else? If there's nothing else, you can go back now. Don't you have enough things to do in the capital?" Qiao Mei said.

The corners of He Ning's mouth twitched twice. This was really an unexpected ending.

Huo Gao watched happily from the side. He had thought that He Ning's shamelessness was most invincible, but now it seemed that Qiao Mei was still one up on him. It appeared that one could only defeat the enemy by using the enemy's method.

"You... you're not asking me to stay for dinner?" He Ning said.

"Dinner? When? Our family doesn't eat dinner," Qiao Mei said innocently.

He Ning said good-naturedly, "Then can I stay here for the night? I can eat in the morning."

"Everyone in my family doesn't eat. They don't eat rice or noodles or drink water. Why don't you go back to the capital to eat," Qiao Mei said.

Seeing that Qiao Mei was determined to chase him away, He Ning asked Huo Gao to take out the small box from his bag. It contained all the coins which were ever circulated in the market, from ancient times to the present. He had collected one piece each of all the denominations, and this was only a portion of what he had.

When he went to buy the ginseng the last time, he had realized that Qiao Mei was very interested in these sorts of things. He originally thought that Qiao Mei was deliberately playing a trick on him, but after he sent someone to ask around, he found out that she really liked the stuff and even spent a few thousand dollars to rent a safe in the bank to store the money he gave her.

"I hear that you like these, so I gathered everything for you to look at. I'm not sure if there's anything you like among them. It took me a long time to find everything. This is only a portion. The rest are all in the capital. If you like them, I'll give them to you," He Ning said.



Li Gui looked at He Ning warily from the side. Xia Zhe was not around at the moment and this man was trying so hard to please Qiao Mei. It was obvious that he had ulterior motives.

Qiao Mei flipped through the money booklet in her hand briefly. She liked all of them, as they would be worth a lot of money in the future and some of them would even be worth as much as a house. However, she was not interested.

Who knew what He Ning was up to! What if he intended to harm her!

There were antique coins inside. If He Ning went to report her, the loss would outweigh the gains. Besides, it was not difficult for her to collect these things herself.

It was just tedious and needed a lot of time and effort. It was not as if the Xia family could not do it, so there was no need to take the He family's things for free.

"I don't really like these. Mr. He, you should take them back," Qiao Mei said as she returned the booklet to He Ning.

"What a pity..." He Ning hugged the booklet and muttered to himself.

Chapter 677 Helpful

"Is there anything else? If not, you can go back," Qiao Mei said.

He Ning did not beat around the bush anymore and directly said to Qiao Mei, "I have another reason for coming here. I want to buy the ginseng that you have."

Qiao Mei already knew that He Ning was here for the ginseng, but if it looked as if she had too many, it would only make He Ning suspicious. It was not as if 100-year-old ginsengs could be cultivated in the greenhouse?

How could there be so many of them all over the mountain area? Even the villagers heard about it, no one would believe it.

"If you're talking about ginseng that's five to six years old, I still have that. I don't have 100-year-old ginseng," Qiao Mei said.

Huo Gao pursed his lips. A ginseng that was only five or six years old was no different from a little carrot to a dying person like He Ning. Even eating one whole ginseng in one bite could not make up for his depleted vitality.

"That's not what you told me the last time. Didn't you say that you still have a few 100-year-old ginsengs?" He Ning said.

"I did say that, but my grandfather is the one who safekeeps the ginseng. How can I remember how many there are? Not long ago, when I was not around, my grandfather ate it all. There's nothing I can do about it," Qiao Mei said helplessly.

Regardless of whether Qiao Qiang ate it all or not, there was no more ginseng.

If He Ning returned to the capital now, there would really be no cure for him. Only Qiao Mei's ginseng could save him. Nothing else could help.

"Qiao Mei, name your conditions. I'll give you any amount of money. How about 300,000 dollars?" He Ning said.

"300,000!" Li Gui widened her eyes and looked at He Ning in shock.

For her, 100 dollars was already a very big denomination and 1,000 dollars was considered a huge sum of money.

This was an amount of 300,000 dollars! Such an amount of money could probably fill an entire house!

"Does Auntie know where the 100-year-old ginseng is?" He Ning asked.

Li Gui quickly shook her head. Putting aside the fact that she did not know anything at the moment, even if she did, she would not betray Qiao Mei. Since Qiao Mei said that she would not give it to him, there was naturally a reason for it.

"Let me think about it," Qiao Mei said.

He Ning felt relieved when he saw that there was still hope regarding this matter, but the new problem was his accommodation for the night. If they wanted to return to the county city now, they would have to wait until tomorrow morning. Even if they wanted to stay in the village, Qiao Mei would not take them in.

He wondered what he could do...

"Alright, then I'll wait for news from you." He Ning remained on the stool after saying that.

Qiao Mei looked at He Ning in confusion and asked, "Is there anything else?"

"Can I stay with your grandfather tonight? We can't go back now and we don't have a place to stay while we're here," He Ning said.

"No, it's not right for you to stay at my place. Don't you have money? Money makes the world go round. You can use money to solve the problem. I'm tired and I'm going back to rest. Go out and settle your own matters," Qiao Mei said.

He Ning sighed. It was his fault for offending Qiao Mei back then and he deserved to end up like this.

In the end, He Ning left Li Gui's house with Huo Gao. When they left, Huo Gao only carried one bag. The rest he brought along were all gifts for Qiao Mei and Qiao Qiang.

"Why do you want to go through this? Are you here just to spend money and send gifts? I really don't understand what you're trying to do," Huo Gao said.

"I'm happy doing it!" He Ning said in annoyance.

Now that he was under someone else's roof, he had no choice but to lower his status. If he could not coax Qiao Mei well, he would lose his life. As long as he could get the ginseng from Qiao Mei, he would still be able to live for a period of time.

He would make future plans in the future, but right now, he had to think of a way to stay in the village. Otherwise, he would need to waste a lot of time on the road if he needed to keep traveling between the county city and the village.

Wang Qin suddenly appeared from behind the firewood pile at the side and said, "Why don't you come and stay at my house! I have space there, but I don't know if you will mind."

He Ning did not agree immediately. He remembered this person. When the investigator came to the village to find out more about Qiao Mei's background and what grudges she had with other people in the village, it was this woman who gave some information.

She was the one who told the investigator many stories. It seemed that this woman hated Qiao Mei very much. Otherwise, she would not have waited here for him to appear.

"Do you know me? Why would you bring a stranger to your house?" He Ning asked.

"I don't know you, but if you know Qiao Mei, then it's as if we know each other too! I'm Qiao Mei's second aunt-in-law. I'm also the accountant of this village, so you can take it as I'm helping to solve an issue for a villager's friend!" Wang Qin said.

Chapter 678 Expensive Rent

Interesting.

He Ning and Huo Gao looked at each other. He Ning nodded slightly as an indication to agree with Wang Qin's proposal.

"Then lead the way. We'll have to trouble you tonight," Huo Gao said politely.

Wang Qin did not lead the way immediately. She reached out her hand and said, "Um... as for the rent..."

He Ning casually took out 100 dollars from his pocket and said, "Is it enough?"

Wang Qin's eyes widened as she stared fixedly at the money in He Ning's hand. Her gaze followed the money wherever it went, as if it was her lifeblood.

"No problem! No problem! I'll bring you to my house now!" Wang Qin snatched the money from He Ning, and even took Huo Gao's heavy bag.

Wang Qin struggled to carry the bag on her back and said happily, "Come, come, come! I have gotten everything ready at home! I'm just waiting for you to come! I've just sunned the blanket and patted the pillows many times. I've also tidied up the main room so that you can stay there by yourselves!"

Wang Qin's family was not very big. Other than her and Qiao Fu, there were only two children. The elder son was 17 years old and the younger daughter was not even 10 years old. The four of them could make do and squeeze into the small room together.

It was such a good deal to be able to earn 100 dollars a day! Wang Qin had to work hard in the village for a year to get a salary of 100 dollars. Taking He Ning in for a day was equivalent to her working for the entire year!

Huo Gao looked at Wang Qin in shock. Her small body was quite strong. The bag was filled to the brim. Even when he carried it, his shoulder hurt after a while.

Could this be the power of money?

The charm of 100 dollars was so great that it could make a skinny woman carry such a heavy bag easily.

"Is it 100 dollars a day or..." Wang Qin asked hesitantly.

He Ning said disdainfully, "If you take care of everything for us, then it can be 100 dollars a day."

Wang Qin looked like a gossip woman, so it would definitely be very troublesome to bargain with her. For He Ning, 100 dollars was nothing. He would not even mind if he lost that amount of money. Besides, he and Huo Gao were two people, so 50 dollars each was not considered too expensive.

"Oh, that's great! Come, come, come, we'll be there in two more steps! Don't be anxious!" Wang Qin said happily.

After Qiao Mei settled Li Gui down, she returned to her own house. Qiao Qiang was also suspicious to see two big boxes suddenly appear in the house. He knew what was inside as he had already opened them to take a look. They were all things that he liked. It seemed that these people had come prepared.

When Qiao Qiang saw Qiao Mei return, he said, "Has everything been settled? You haven't had a good rest at home for these past few days. You might as well stay in the capital and not come back!"

Qiao Mei did not find it tiring at all. In the capital, she was all alone. Although Xia Fang and Xia He treated her very well, she still did not feel as comfortable as being by her grandfather's side.

"I just miss grandfather. Did you open it? These are all gifts from He Ning," Qiao Mei said.

"Yes, I did. Ask him to take them all back tomorrow. We don't want this little bastard's things! He must be the one who harmed you and your babies." Qiao Qiang's eyes revealed a trace of murderous intent.

Qiao Qiang did not remember who Qiao Mei had talked about previously, but now that he recalled it carefully, he could remember some details. He had even met He Ning before. At that time, He Ning was only in his teens. Old Man He was more savvy than Qiao Qiang. Otherwise, he would not have left the army to go into business.

He Ning's father was also a good man and had inherited Old Man He's assets. When it reached He Ning's generation, the family started to decline. None of his older brothers could take on the burden of the He family. At that time, He Ning was still young and in poor health. Qiao Qiang had thought that he would not live past the age of 20.

He did not expect the boy to still be alive and even harmed his granddaughter and great-grandchildren. He would definitely ask He Ning for an explanation for this.

"He has a favor to ask of us. It would be a waste not to take all these good things. If you don't want them, I'll give them all to Zhang Chao. That child likes stuff like this the most," Qiao Mei said as she pointed at the things He Ning had sent over.

At the mention of Zhang Chao, Qiao Qiang also looked a little proud. If Zhang Chao had a little bit of Zhang Wei's lively personality, then Zhang Chao would be exactly the same as Qiao Qiang when he was young. If this child studied these machines carefully, he would definitely have great achievements in the future.

"The He family is asking a favor of us? What do we have that is worth it for them to come all the way here," Qiao Qiang said.

Chapter 679 Receiving The Parcel

"Ginseng. Previously, He Ning bought the 100-year-old ginseng I brought along. And for a very high price!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"That won't do. We can't give it to such a person who doesn't know what's good for him! No matter how much money he can pay!" Qiao Qiang said angrily.

He could not let go of anyone who harmed his granddaughter so easily! They had to pay the price.

So what if He Ning died without ginseng? If Qiao Mei had lost her children at that time, it might have been two lives lost! No, three lives!

"We can't give him the ones we have at home. Even if he comes again, don't give them to him," Qiao Qiang said.

"Yes, yes, yes. I definitely won't give it to him. Don't worry." Qiao Mei agreed with Qiao Qiang.

Xia Wen had just received news that He Ning had left the capital. As soon as class ended, he went to Xia Jun's house to discuss countermeasures. Even Xia Mao, who was having a meeting in the army, was recalled back.

"You all know about this matter, right? He Ning actually dared to go and look for Qiao Mei directly this time. We don't have any reliable people there. We should think of a solution," Xia Jun said sternly.

"Grandfather, I think we should send someone to investigate He Ning's motive first. It's fine if it's just for the ginseng, then we can still wait and see," Xia Wen said with a frown.

Xia Mao did not agree. In the beginning, he was still worried about Qiao Mei's situation, but now that he thought about it carefully, he felt that there was no danger at all. Xia Wen and Xia Jun were just being too concerned.

"Father! Why aren't you saying anything? I'd better ask Xia Zhe to go back quickly. Doesn't he still have a lot of leave? He can probably still take another month's leave," Xia Wen said anxiously.

Xia Mao waved his hand and said, "Is the army run by our family? As if Xia Zhe can come and go as he pleases. You're just too anxious about this matter. He Ning won't do anything to Qiao Mei, so don't worry."

"Won't do anything? Why? There's nothing that He Ning can't do," Xia Jun said.

The He family was currently facing internal and external enemies. Without He Ning in the family, there was no one in charge. He Guo was the only one who had been convicted. The matter with He Wei and He Li had yet to come to a conclusion, and the Xia family did not intend to pursue the matter with the two of them.

However, He Ning seemed to want them to stay inside for another month so that they could hone their temperament.

Although the Xia family did not have anyone they could rely on in Foshan Village, they heard that Chen Hu in the county city and Qiao Qiang had a very good relationship. Even a strong dragon could not defeat a local snake, so He Ning would not choose to harm Qiao Mei at this time.



"Besides, Qiao Mei still has the ginseng that He Ning needs the most. Do you think He Ning will harm Qiao Mei?" Xia Mao said.

Hearing this, they all felt relieved. They had always been busy with work and did not know anything about household matters. Even Xu Lan was being taken care of by Liu Fen as Xia Mao did not have the time or energy to take care of Xu Lan.

Xu Lan sat at the door every day and peered around, hoping that Qiao Mei would write back and send her something.

"Eldest sister-in-law, if you continue to sit like this, you will hurt your waist," Liu Fen said worriedly.

"I'm just anxious. Tell me, why hasn't Qiao Mei sent me a letter yet? Did my things get confiscated? It's been quite a while." Xu Lan stood up and paced back and forth anxiously at the door.

Liu Fen was very worried that the ground at the door would collapse if Xu Lan walked like this for another two days.

"Is anyone there! There's a delivery for the Xia family! Is anyone home!" the postman shouted from outside the door.

Xu Lan hurriedly ran out of the door and shouted, "There's someone here, there's someone here!"

Liu Fen stayed in the house and did not go out. How big could a letter be? Did she need to go out and carry it too?

"Liu Fen! Come and help me! Liu Fen, do you hear me!" Xu Lan shouted happily towards the house.

Liu Fen put on her shoes and walked out slowly. She was shocked by the scene in front of her. The parcel was almost taller than her and Xu Lan could not move it at all.

Xu Lan sat down on the ground and pointed at the parcel as she shouted happily, "Look! Look! Qiao Mei sent me something! There's so much! Look! Hahaha! She's still thinking about me! Look!"

Liu Fen looked at Xu Lan laughing. This was the first time she had seen Xu Lan lose her composure outside, not concerned about her image at all and only thinking about the things that her precious Qiao Mei had sent her.

Chapter 680 Joyful

"Alright, alright. Let's open it up quickly, then bring them in one by one. Otherwise, do we leave it outside?" After saying that, Liu Fen went in to get the scissors. Xu Lan guarded the parcel without moving an inch and did not allow anyone to get close.

When the neighbors came out and saw Xu Lan sitting on the ground, they wanted to go forward and help her. They said worriedly, "Oh my! What's wrong with you? The ground is so cold. Why are you sitting on the ground? I saw you from afar."

Xu Lan smiled and said, "Look, these are the things that my daughter-in-law sent me. I can't carry them in myself so I'm just waiting here. Look at my daughter-in-law. I told her not to get too much stuff, but she doesn't listen and insists on sending me so many things. Sigh, really."

Liu Fen held back her laughter as she walked out of the house. She worked with the helper to slowly carry all the items in the parcel into the house. At this moment, Xu Lan was still talking about how filial Qiao Mei was, making the neighbors impatient.

"Your daughter-in-law is really nice. I won't talk to you anymore. I still have something urgent to do!" The neighbors hurriedly fled. Xu Lan did not think that she had gone overboard just now. Instead, she felt that she had not said enough good things about Qiao Mei.

She hummed a tune as she went back into the house. Her eyes were filled with joy as if she had won the lottery.

"Aren't you beautiful? It's as if you have the words 'my daughter-in-law, Qiao Mei, is the best' on your forehead! Didn't you see that the neighbor just now was almost scared to death by you," Liu Fen said with a smile.

Xu Lan hummed a tune happily and said, "Is that so? I still think I haven't said enough! How can just a few words describe how good my Qiao Mei is."

Liu Fen held up the dark blue dress and said to Xu Lan, "Then look at the dress your precious Qiao Mei made for you. Are you satisfied?"

Xu Lan hurried forward and held the dress that Qiao Mei had made. The fabric was from the capital and it was Xu Lan's favorite style.

"It's so nice! Look at these stitches! They're even better than mine! It's so beautiful! Let me tell you, when you find a daughter-in-law for your son in the future, look for someone like my Mei Mei! However, it'll be very difficult. After all, there's only one Mei Mei!" Xu Lan looked as if she had been possessed. Ever since she received this parcel, she had not stopped smiling yet.

Liu Fen placed the things from the parcel on the coffee table. As she put them down, she whispered to the helper, "Look at her. This is only a package from Qiao Mei. I wonder how happy she will be when Qiao Mei comes back!"

The helper also smiled as she looked at Xu Lan. She had worked in this family for most of her life. Ever since Xu Lan married into the family, she had been a helper in this house. This was the first time she had seen Xu Lan so happy.

In the parcel from Qiao Mei, there were not only Xu Lan's gifts. Qiao Mei had also prepared different presents for everyone else.

Xu Lan returned to her room and changed into the dress. She ran downstairs excitedly and asked, "Look! Do I look good like this! Take a look!"

Xu Lan pulled up the hem of her dress and walked around the room a few times. This dress was a little big on her because she had not been eating or sleeping well recently and had lost weight. Now that she received this dress as a gift, she would probably gain weight in a few days.

"It's beautiful! Look at this scarf and this pair of gloves. They're really well made," Liu Fen said admiringly.

Xu Lan opened the letter that Qiao Mei had written and took out the yarn vest from the other side before reluctantly handing it to Liu Fen.

"Mei Mei made this for you. Try it," Xu Lan said.

"There's even something for me! Let me try it! I like this color the most!" Liu Fen quickly put on the yellow vest. It was just the right size and fitted well.

"Sigh, I'm really envious of you for having such a good daughter-in-law. When do you think my two sons will get married! How worrying! Look at you, your daughter-in-law is like your daughter and is even more considerate than your biological daughter!" Liu Fen said enviously.

The rest of the things that Qiao Mei sent were put aside for the people they were meant for. They would call them tomorrow and ask them to come back. Xu Lan planned to send Xia Jun's present to him personally.

Xu Lan held the letter and read it over and over again. No matter how many times she read it, she did not feel tired.