

Fat Wife 701

Chapter 701 1.28 Million

This woman was a lunatic!

However, there was nothing he could do. After all, he had to use money to buy his life now. There were very few 100-year-old ginsengs on the market. If he did not buy the few 100-year-old ginsengs that Qiao Mei had, he would have no other way out.

If not for the fact that he had no other choice, he would not have been restrained by this woman to this extent.

"Alright, I understand, but it might take some time. You also know that it's not easy to find those denominations," He Ning said.

Qiao Mei nodded indifferently. To her, it did not matter if she gave such 100-year-old ginsengs to everyone in the village for free, but she just did not want to let He Ning have it easy.

If she had a place to store so much money, she would definitely ask him to exchange it for that special money. She could indeed store everything in the 40-room courtyard house, but these things were made of paper and would fade over time. Moreover, if they were left unattended for a long time, they would get damaged.

If so, the value would also plummet. She could not possibly rent a bank vault just to store that money.

The annual storage fees would be cumulatively higher than the total value of her money.

"Write me an IOU. I'm not in a hurry to get this money. I'll ask you for it when I return to the capital," Qiao Mei said as she took out a pen and paper and handed it to He Ning.

He Ning was about to write when he paused. He also wanted the rest of the 100-year-old ginseng.

"How much do you want for the remaining two 100-year-old ginsengs?" He Ning asked as he recapped the pen.

Qiao Mei had not thought of the price yet, but she could not ask for those types of denominations anymore. She would just ask him for proper cash.

"There are still two left. Let's just be straightforward and settle the price quickly. 880,000 dollars. What do you think?" Qiao Mei said.

"You're not being straightforward. You sold the first one to me for 400,000 dollars, so why are you adding 80,000 dollars to these two?" He Ning said with a helpless smile.

"Don't you have to pay for manpower and storage? Besides, I'm not going to dig them out for you now. I have to wait until I go back to look for you. After all, it has already been growing for so long. Maybe it will be at its most effective by then? The medicinal effects are different at different timings. Do you really want to be calculative with me over this 80,000 dollars," Qiao Mei said.

He Ning had no choice but to grit his teeth and write down the IOU of 1.28 million dollars that he owed Qiao Mei, as well as the payment timeline. If he could revitalize the family business, this 1.28 million dollars was not a big issue.

It was worth it to use 1.28 million dollars to extend his lifespan by more than 30 years.

"Take this ginseng and leave quickly. I don't want to see you in this village again. You've brought too much trouble," Qiao Mei said.

He Ning had wanted to stay in the village for a few more days, but he did not expect to have to leave so soon. It seemed that he would not be able to freeload any more meals.

"Then can you cook me fish before I leave? And the chicken in the yard," He Ning said greedily.

Qiao Mei had earned more than 1 million dollars in one day and she was feeling happy about it. She would treat it as the last meal she made for He Ning. Otherwise, she would not feel good about having fleeced He Ning of so much money.

"Yes, but I'm not going to do any preparation work. You have to catch them yourselves," Qiao Mei said.

The corners of Huo Gao's mouth twitched. Was this a hint for him to do it? As if he could ask He Ning to do it. If that was the case, they would not be able to eat even by tomorrow night.

He silently left the house and went to the yard to catch the fish and chicken. He would just endure and persevere over the next few days. Everything would be over soon.

"It's not an easy life to be your attendant," Qiao Mei said as she looked out of the window at the busy Huo Gao.

"He's a money-grubber. It's fine. But it looks like you're about to give birth soon. When are you going back?" He Ning said as he looked at Qiao Mei's stomach.

Qiao Qiang had been listening to the radio on the brick bed, but he immediately opened his eyes and stared intently at He Ning. His gaze was like that of an eagle at the top of a mountain. As soon as He Ning dared to move, Qiao Qiang would tear him apart.

"You still concern yourself with such things. Don't tell me you're still targeting me?" Qiao Mei asked as she patted her stomach.

"Whatever happened back then was not my intent. My family members did those things on their own. It won't happen again. Don't worry, I just want to know when you're going back. I don't suppose you intend to give birth here," He Ning said.

What He Ning said was indeed what Qiao Mei was thinking. The standard of medical care in the county city was definitely not as advanced as in the capital, so she definitely had to go to the capital to give birth.

Chapter 702 Good Romance Luck

Li Gui gave birth to her on the horse carriage heading to the county city hospital. She gave birth to Qiao Mei before she even reached the hospital.

There were not many people in the village who gave birth in the hospital. At that time, there were still no doctors in the village clinic and everyone would ask the midwives from all over the eight villages to help deliver babies.

Some women could not manage to hire midwives and could only let their mothers deliver their babies. Those were mainly near-death experiences.

She wanted to go to the capital to let Xia Fang deliver her children. She would feel more at ease with Xia Fang around.

Factually, twins usually showed signs of being born prematurely, but she was told that there were two placentas. Xia Fang told her that she could wait until she was full term before giving birth.

Therefore, her due date was around January next year. She had to go to the capital to get ready by the end of this year. Based on that, He Ning actually did not have much time to prepare the money.

After dinner, He Ning did not delay any longer and went back with Huo Gao to Wang Qin's house to pack their things.

They were almost at Wang Qin's house when Qiao Yu suddenly jumped out of the cornfield at the side and knelt in front of He Ning with a plop.

"Please! Please save me!" Qiao Yu put her hands together and knelt in front of He Ning as she begged.

Huo Gao was shocked by the woman in front of him, but He Ning's expression did not change at all. He had seen too many people like this. In the past, everyone who came to ask him for help behaved like this.

If he pitied everyone and helped everyone, the He family would really become a charity organization.

"Who are you?" He Ning asked coldly.

"I... I'm Qiao Mei's relative! I'm also the younger sister of the family you're living with now! My name is Qiao Yu!" Qiao Yu said.

When He Ning first met Qiao Mei, he had already investigated all her ancestors. This person should be the woman who was going to marry into the Guo family at that time. When he first found out about this, he thought that Qiao Zhuang was an insatiable person. He simply treated this matter as a joke. He did not expect the main character to be kneeling in front of him now.

"Oh, I understand." He Ning was about to leave when Qiao Yu grabbed his trouser leg.

"Take me with you! I know you're going to the capital! I also know you're leaving soon! I beg you to take me with you!" Qiao Yu cried.

Huo Gao stood at the side as if he was watching a comedy skit. Every year, countless families would send women to He Ning's side. If any family's daughter became the third daughter-in-law of the He family, her family's status in the capital would directly rise to the top.

However, He Ning never liked these women and he felt disdainful to be with them. He had always used his own methods in business matters and looked down on people who used women to make marriage alliances.

Huo Gao did not expect that there would still be someone chasing after He Ning even in the countryside. It was really rare. Could it be that He Ning had such good romance luck with women?

"Why should I take you with me?" He Ning asked.

"It's Xia Zhe! He said that he would bring me to the capital! He even said that he would find me a job and buy me a house in the capital!" Qiao Yu said nervously.

The meaning was self-evident. She was trying to say that Xia Zhe wanted to keep her as a mistress in the capital.

He Ning was not interested in her at first, but now that she mentioned Xia Zhe, he did not mind helping Xia Zhe bring this "beauty" to the capital.

However, he could not be seen to be involved in this matter. It had not been easy for him to gain Qiao Mei's trust and he had even reached an agreement with her for the future. If he attacked the Xia family now, it would look too bad on him.

"I won't bring you there, but I can tell you where they are." He Ning took out a pen and paper from his pocket and wrote down the Xia family's address for Qiao Yu. The address was also the Xia family's main residence, which was Xia Jun's house.

"Keep this properly. It's the Xia family's address. When you go, just tell them who you're looking for. Don't say that I'm the one who told you, otherwise you know the consequences. It's not impossible for me to send you to that old man from the Guo family next door." He Ning held the piece of paper between his index and middle fingers and dangled it in front of Qiao Yu. It was up to her to decide whether to leave or stay.

Qiao Yu quickly grabbed the note, but she also realized another problem. She did not have the money to go to the capital.

Ever since she did not get married, all her money had been taken away and she could not even make her way to the county city.

Chapter 703 Break Your Legs

"Um... can you also give me some money? I don't have any money to go to the capital..." Qiao Yu said as she held on to the note with both hands.

Huo Gao took out 30 dollars from his pocket and threw it on the ground. Qiao Yu quickly crawled over to pick up the money.

"This amount of money is enough for you to go to the capital. When you get there, don't mention that I'm the one who told you where the Xia family is. If the Xia family comes to look for me, you should know the consequences. I'll wait for you 500 meters away from the village entrance tomorrow morning. I won't wait if you're late," He Ning said.

Qiao Yu quickly nodded. She promised that she would never reveal He Ning's name before He Ning and Huo Gao left.

"You should know that this woman is not a tough nut to crack. If the Xia family grabs hold of her and scares her, won't everything be exposed?" Huo Gao said worriedly.

"It's fine. She's more worried about going to the Guo family to serve that old man. I believe Xia Wen won't do anything outrageous. How can the Xia family not be able to tolerate a little girl?" He Ning said with a smile.

"But Qiao Mei..." Huo Gao said hesitantly.

"Then there's even less to worry about. This matter was originally between Qiao Mei and Qiao Yu. What has it got to do with us?" He Ning said casually.

After returning to Wang Qin's house, they paid for the rental today and told Wang Qin that they would leave tomorrow.

Wang Qin's expression changed immediately. She gripped the 100 dollars in her hand tightly and said, "Then... shouldn't you give me some money for tomorrow's meal?"

"You've only cooked twice in the past few days since we came here. Haven't we given you enough money?" Huo Gao said wearily.

Wang Qin did not dare to say anything else. She closed the door and returned to her family's room. She angrily threw the 100 dollars to the ground. She had wanted to rely on He Ning to get rich! They had only lived here for a few days! It was not even enough money to cover the cost of the meat!

Qiao Gui looked at Wang Qin in confusion. Why was she suddenly angry?

"What's wrong? Why are you angry with money?" Qiao Gui quickly picked up the money and blew the dust off it.

This 100 dollars was so fragrant. Even in his dreams, he dreamed of having 100 dollars a day. His wife was so capable that she was able to trick that rich man into staying at their house and earning this money so easily.

"What are you talking about! They're leaving tomorrow! There's no more money!" Wang Qin sat down on the brick bed angrily. She still did not know how to let Qiao Zhuang know about this.

"What! Leaving! That won't do! Our storeroom is in a mess because they wanted to bathe! They want to leave now! Won't we have busied ourselves for nothing! It's all your fault! If you hadn't caused so much trouble, we wouldn't have lost so much!" Qiao Gui stood up and pointed in the direction of the storeroom outside as he shouted at Wang Qin.

At the mention of this, Wang Qin became even angrier. If not for Qiao Gui being a disappointment, she would not have to be so anxious to earn more money! If Qiao Gui had gone to the county city with her earlier to settle down, this would not have happened!

Whenever there was good news, they would praise her and say that she was a great contributor. When there was bad news, they would all just push the responsibility to her.

"You blame me for everything! I also get blamed for Qiao Yu not going to the Guo family! You even blame me for these people wanting to leave! Am I the sinner of your Qiao family! Back then, when I did all these, all of you agreed with me! Why is it that now that something has happened, it's all my fault! Your family better not go too far!" Wang Qin roared back angrily.

"What do you mean we all blame you! Didn't you say that it was foolproof back then! If not for you, would my father have been criticized! You've embarrassed our family! Back then, you told me that you could earn 3,000 dollars in a month! Now you've only earned 300 dollars! You're the one who tricked me!" Qiao Gui said.

Wang Qin sat on the brick bed and cried aggrievedly. She had done all this for this family and to make their lives better. She did not expect Qiao Gui to say that about her now.

I can't live like this anymore!

"If you can live like this, then you go ahead! I'll just bring our daughter to the city myself!" Wang Qin said.

When he heard that Wang Qin wanted to leave, Qiao Gui went up and gave her a slap, pressing her to the ground and saying, "How dare you leave! Let me tell you, you stupid woman, if you dare to take one step to leave Foshan Village! I'll break your legs! Just try!"

Wang Qin struggled with all her might. This was the first time Qiao Gui had hit her after they got married. She did not expect him to do it because of money.

Chapter 704 - 704 Running Away

704 Running Away

"You hit me! How dare you hit me! I've worked so hard in your Qiao family for so many years. Even if I don't have any achievements, I still deserve credit for my efforts! Are you sick of living anymore! Qiao Gui, do you think my entire maternal family is dead!" Wang Qin shouted at Qiao Gui.

Qiao Gui did not care about how many people there were in Wang Qin's maternal family. He only cared about how much money he had in his pocket. In the past, Wang Qin could bring in money and make him look good, so he was very loving towards her.

However, now this woman only knew how to waste the family's money and cause trouble for them. She even caused him to be reprimanded, beaten and scolded by Qiao Zhuang. He was already a grown man, but he was still beaten up by his father.

All of this was caused by Wang Qin. What was wrong with him slapping her now?

Qiao Zhuang had beaten up Shen Ge for his entire life, but he had never seen Shen Ge run away.

"When has your maternal family ever helped us! They only come for our money!" Qiao Gui said.

If she had known this would happen, she would not have married Qiao Gui. Back then, there were so many good families to choose from. If she had known that Qiao Gui would hit her, she would not have married him even if she had to die of poverty!

Wang Qin lay on the ground and wept helplessly. She wanted to get a divorce like Li Gui, but if she got a divorce, how could she continue to survive in this village?

This was especially since she had offended Auntie Dong. If Auntie Dong found out about this, she might say something behind her back that would be as unpleasant as it could get!

When Qiao Gui saw Wang Qin like this, he suddenly came back to his senses. He quickly pulled Wang Qin up from the ground and checked the wounds on her body.

“I didn’t do it on purpose...” Qiao Gui said softly.

Wang Qin ignored him and continued to cry. She kept rattling, “If you had worked hard, would I have to earn money like this! Whenever I have any money, I would have to give it to your father. We should have lived separately from him a long time ago. Why do I still have to give him my salary every month? You’re so disappointing. What right do you have to vent your anger on me? If you’re so capable, go look for your father!”

What Wang Qin said was the truth. Qiao Gui was a person who bullied the weak and feared the strong. Qiao Zhuang was an ultra control freak. After so many years, they still had to hand their salaries to Qiao Zhuang.

If he did not get married and still lived at home, and Qiao Zhuang paid for his daily living expenses, it would not be too much for him to have to give Qiao Zhuang money. However, they already had their own family for so many years and still did not have a single cent of savings.

All the money was with Qiao Zhuang.

“You know my father’s character... How would I dare to...” Qiao Gui said.

Wang Qin could not blame anyone but herself for being unlucky enough to marry such an asshole.

He Ning and Huo Gao did not pay much attention to the commotion as long as it did not disturb their rest. At dawn, they boarded the horse carriage and left the village.

They had wanted to go to Qiao Mei's house for breakfast, but Qiao Mei had probably thought of this as well. The door was closed early in the morning and no matter how they shouted, she did not open it.

Qiao Yu had also packed her things last night. In the morning, she used the excuse of going out to pick wild vegetables and collect firewood to leave the house. In order not to be discovered, she even went into the mountains and made a detour.

It was too dark last night and He Ning did not manage to see Qiao Yu clearly. He could only make out a rough outline of her figure.

"Big brother, I'm coming!" Qiao Yu quickly climbed up from behind the soil mound at the bottom of the slope.

He Ning looked at her in disdain and asked, "Who are you?"

"I'm Qiao Yu! Big brother, don't you recognize me?" Qiao Yu scratched her head in embarrassment.

The look of disdain on He Ning's face became even more obvious. She was not at all good-looking and could not even be considered ordinary-looking. Not only was her face covered in freckles, but she also had big dark circles around her eyes. Due to the fact that she had not had enough to eat for a long time nor wore warm clothes, her face was thin and sunken. From afar, one would think that she was a drug addict.

"Alright... get in," He Ning said.

By the time Qiao Zhuang and the others realized that Qiao Yu had disappeared, it was already nighttime.

When she went out in the morning, everyone thought that it was quite a good thing. If there was one less mouth to feed at home, the others would be able to eat more. However, when she did not come back at nighttime, it was obvious that she had run away.

"Did any of you see where that b*tch went?" Qiao Zhuang asked as he suppressed his anger.

Everyone shook their heads. Wang Qin and Qiao Gui were even more afraid and hid far away, afraid that Qiao Yu's matter would implicate their family.

"Second son, did your guests leave today?" Qiao Zhuang asked.

Chapter 705 Time And Tide Wait For No Man

Wang Qin and Qiao Gui pushed each other, both unwilling to answer the question. In the end, it was Wang Qin who came forward to explain the situation to Qiao Zhuang.

"Father... Yes, they left today. They left early in the morning. We made the arrangements for a horse carriage to send them off," Wang Qin said.

This was strange. Those two men were people Qiao Mei knew in the capital. How could they be related to Qiao Yu? Everyone in this village knew that their family and Qiao Mei were irreconcilable enemies. Could it be that they would help their family?

However, Qiao Mei was closest to Qiao Yu back then. This might make Qiao Mei feel sorry for Qiao Yu and help her leave this place.

"Then do you know when Qiao Yu left home?" Qiao Zhuang asked his third daughter-in-law, Jiang Ye.

Jiang Ye was currently the one in charge of all the miscellaneous chores at home. She had to do all the dirty and tiring work. The only benefit was that she could eat and take everything at home for free, which saved them money.

"I remember she left early in the morning. At that time, all of us were not up yet. I had just gotten up to cook, but Qiao Yu left the courtyard as soon as I left my room. She was even carrying a bamboo basket on her back," Jiang Ye said truthfully.

He Ning and the others had also left early in the morning, so it was very likely that Qiao Yu had followed them. Qiao Zhuang pointed at Qiao Gui and Wang Qin and said, "Go and ask Qiao Mei for an explanation. How can we let her run away for nothing? You're the village accountant, ask the villagers if anyone has seen Qiao Yu. If we catch her, I'll break her legs!"

Qiao Gui wanted to refuse, but he did not dare to say anything after Qiao Zhuang gave him a look. After Qiao Zhuang went out, everyone in the family sighed. Only Shen Ge smiled the happiest. Qiao Yu would be free after leaving this house.

No matter which family she married into in the future, it would still be better than being here. As long as she had food to eat, there would always be a way out.

Wang Qin had a reluctant look on her face as she prepared to go home. If she stayed any longer, it would be too dark and she would not even be able to make her way home.

"Second Sister-in-law, can you go home later. The crockery and cutlery haven't been washed yet," Jiang Ye said as she sat on the brick bed.

"This is not something that I do. What's the use of telling me?" Wang Qin said disdainfully.

It seemed that anyone could go above her and give her instructions nowadays. In the past, they were all respectful to her, but now they even wanted her to do housework.

"It's just that there are three people missing at home all of a sudden. Eldest sister-in-law has left, and both Qiao Yu and Qiao Hua are not at home. Now, I'm the only one left to clean up such a big house. Ever since the issue with Qiao Yu getting married, mother has become a little senile. If you don't help me, then who will? We're all the Qiao family's daughters-in-law. You can't be an exception," Jiang Ye said.

Wang Qin ignored what Jiang Ye said and turned around to leave. She just would not do it, there was nothing they could do to her. As long as she was still the village accountant, this family had to treat her well. She was the one who earned the reputation and the money!

None of them could look down on her!

It was rare for Qiao Mei to have time to lie back on the rocking chair to rest. The evening breeze today felt especially gentle. Her stomach was getting much bigger than before.

Speaking of which, it was strange that while other women had morning sickness when they were pregnant, she did not feel anything and had an exceptionally good appetite. At this stage of pregnancy, others were starting to favor one type of food, but she could still eat everything.

The older generation often said that for pregnant women, a taste for sour food meant having a boy while a taste for spicy food meant having a girl. Qiao Mei ate everything, whether sour, sweet, bitter or spicy. If she did not know that she was pregnant with twins, people might think that she was having a weird child!

"Mei Mei, take a look at the hawthorns in the courtyard. Do you want to eat some?" Qiao Qiang asked as he pointed at the fruits on the tree.

"Grandfather, I don't want to eat anything sour. I've eaten so much over the past two days that my stomach feels sour. I have two babies here and I'm not particularly craving for anything. I might be having one boy and one girl!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

It did seem that what Qiao Mei said made sense. Qiao Qiang smiled even more happily. In the past, he did not like children and always felt that they were noisy. He used to like peace and quiet, but now that he was old, he was happy to have children surrounding him.

He did not expect to become a great-grandfather in the blink of an eye.

Time and tide really waited for no man. It was like yesterday when young Qiao Mei stood in front of him. Now, she was about to become a mother.

Chapter 706 Finding The Xia Family

Upon arrival at the county city, He Ning had other things to do. He did not intend to take the same train as Qiao Yu at all, as he found her to be an eyesore.

He knew that what Qiao Yu had told him were all lies. How could Xia Zhe like such an ugly woman? Everyone said that he had a special fetish.

Xia Zhe would definitely not fancy a woman as skinny as Qiao Yu.

However, as long as Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe got a divorce, it did not matter what the reason was. It was a good thing if this stupid woman took over Qiao Mei's position.

In any case, they were relatives. If the marriage was repayment for Qiao Qiang saving Xia Jun's life back then, Xia Zhe could marry anyone from the Qiao family. This way, Xia Zhe could repay the favor, and He Ning could hire a good cook.

This would be a win-win situation!

"I'm leaving you here. When you get to the capital, you can look for what you want yourself. I'll get someone to give you a certificate later. Remember, no matter what happens, you can't say that I'm the one who asked you to go. Otherwise, you know the consequences," He Ning instructed again.

Qiao Yu quickly nodded and left with the train ticket that Huo Gao bought. This was her first time taking the train and she was curious about everything. The seat looked strange, and so did the small table and the scenery outside the window.

As the train passed through the cave, the loud bangs she heard were so novel and she was so excited that she wanted to scream.

The outside world was so wonderful. It was so much better than the small mountain village. If she could find Xia Zhe's house, she would not have to worry about the rest of her life.

Qiao Yu had hypnotized herself for a long time. Even though Xia Zhe had barely spoken to her and did not even look her in the eye once, Qiao Yu felt that Xia Zhe cared about her. Otherwise, he would not have spoken to her at all.

Back then, he had said that he would bring her away from the village. Later on, he left her at the armed forces department because of an urgent matter. These were not proof that Xia Zhe had abandoned her.

It was just that Xia Zhe was too busy.

Qiao Yu tightly gripped the piece of paper with the Xia family's address written on it, afraid that she would never be able to find it again if she lost it.

The moment she disembarked, she was deeply attracted by the scenes of prosperity in front of her. She did not expect the capital to be so prosperous. Everyone was dressed in nice clean clothes. Her clothes were torn and there was even a hole in her shoes.

Feeling in a sorry state, Qiao Yu used the bamboo basket to try and cover her tattered clothes. She quickly ran to one side and worked out how to travel around. After asking for directions and feeling her way around, she finally arrived at the military compound.

The high-rise buildings here were even more imposing than those in the county city. They all looked like they were inlaid with gold. She did not know what a villa was or what design meant. She only knew that this place looked very luxurious. It would be great if she could live here.

They were both from Foshan Village, so why should Qiao Mei be allowed to live here while she could not?

"You! Who are you!" the guard shouted at Qiao Yu while holding a gun.

Qiao Yu trembled as she took out the note with the address and the certificate that someone had passed to her on the way. If not for the fact that He Ning was too cold and did not look like someone to be trifled with, she would have preferred to leave with him.

The stamp on the certificate was real. The guard sized her up again. He had never seen such a relative from the Xia family. The backgrounds of the people living in this military compound had been thoroughly investigated and there was nothing that they did not know.

"Who are you to the Xia family?" the guard asked.

"I'm Xia Zhe's wife's youngest aunt. My name is Qiao Yu," Qiao Yu told him honestly.

The guard looked at her suspiciously. There were not many families living in the military compound, and the guards all had an especially good impression of Qiao Mei. The Xia family also treated them well and would even send them dumplings during the new year and festive season. Qiao Mei had also made them a lot of delicious food previously.

How could such a beautiful person have such an ugly relative? It was impossible to tell that they were related.

"Um... I'll go and call them. Wait here." After saying that, the guard went to the phone booth to call the Xia family.

It was the weekend and it was a rare time when most of the family members were around. Every weekend, when they had time, they would come to Xia Jun's place for a visit. Even if the old master was not at home, they would still come back.

It could also be considered their way of adding some liveliness to the house. Usually, it was only the women who came back. The men were usually busy with their own business outside.

Xia Wen did not have class today, so he brought Tan Jing back with him. Xia He, Xu Lan and Liu Fen were all there. Xia Fang was not there because she needed to be the chief surgeon for a surgery in the hospital.

Chapter 707 New Creation

The entire family sat in front of the sofa and helped with the knitting. They had thrown away all the things they bought for Qiao Mei earlier and now they had to prepare everything from scratch. Xu Lan did not find it troublesome and was even happy about it.

Liu Fen and Tan Jing still did not know about the truth of the matter and only went along with it to make Xu Lan happy.

"I bought all the best yarn! The children will definitely feel warm wearing them. I even asked someone to buy a lot of pure cotton fabric and found the best tailor in the capital to make clothes for them. There will be enough clothes to last them until they're one year old!" Xu Lan said happily.

"Mother, this is too much. Back then, I used to wear my eldest brother's clothes. Why are all these brand new?" Xia He said out of jealousy as she held the child's clothes.

"How can you be unhappy when you're the aunt. Consider our family's situation back then, then look at us now. Now we can afford it. Say, you don't know how to knit or sew clothes, yet you're still being so picky here." Xu Lan grabbed the clothes from Xia He's hands in disdain.

Xia He knew that Xia Wen had told Xu Lan that Qiao Mei's children were safe and sound. Initially, she thought that it was a good thing, but now it seemed that Xu Lan's efforts were getting a little too out of hand.

"You can still get these things done in time when the time comes. First you renovate, then you make clothes. How much money have you spent?" Xia He asked.

Xu Lan had not tabulated it yet. She did a rough estimate and said, "The renovation works cost more than 2,000 dollars, and these clothes cost more than 1,000 dollars. I also found a local master to make a lot of furniture! Those are all good stuff made of solid wood and I haven't paid yet. All in all, it should be about 4,000 dollars."

Tan Jing paused her knitting. The amount of 4,000 dollars was not a small sum. Xu Lan did not seem to feel any heartache at all and even felt that these things were far from enough.

This was even more luxurious than when Qiao Mei married into the family. Tan Jing also did not even get such treatment when she married into the family.

Xia Wen also chimed in, "Do you think this is all Mother wants? She even asks me to find 100 families who have both a son and a daughter, and to ask them for a piece of cloth each to make a patchwork quilt for Qiao Mei! Moreover, these people must be from families with good backgrounds and have good moral standing."

The so-called patchwork quilt was a quilt sewed with cloth from a hundred families. It was actually not difficult to make, but it was very difficult to find people with both a son and a daughter. There were not many people in the city now and everyone was worried that they would not be able to support so many children.

The reason why there were so many children in the countryside was because every child would be allocated land as well. Whoever had a bigger family would get more land, and naturally be better off than people with a smaller family.

However, it was not that easy to find people with both a son and a daughter in the city, let alone someone with a good family background and a good character.

"Aren't you just making things difficult for my eldest brother? Where can he find them all?" Xia He complained.

"Nothing is unachievable in this world! Your brother has so many students in his school. Can't he even gather 100 people?" Xu Lan said.

The fact was that Xia Wen had really succeeded in doing this task. He took out the 100 pieces of cloth from his bag and said, "Sigh, how can we not do what our mother asked us to do?"

Tan Jing and Xia Wen were working in the same school, but she did not hear anything about such an ostentatious thing that Xia Wen did. It seemed that the family had hidden this issue from her.

"I also made a few sets of maternity clothes for Qiao Mei and a cotton jacket suitable for a pregnant woman. Xia Wen, send them to your sister-in-law when you leave later. Otherwise, it's too inconvenient for me to bring them home," Xu Lan instructed.

Xia Wen agreed with a smile. Suddenly, the phone rang. Xia Wen walked over and picked it up. "Hello? Who is this?"

"Hello, there's someone at the gate who says that she's a relative of yours. She says that she's Qiao Mei's youngest aunt," the guard said.

For a moment, Xia Wen did not know where this Qiao Mei's youngest aunt came from, but since she was already here, he had to take a look. He gave a simple reply and hung up.

"What's wrong? Why do you look so serious?" Xia He looked at Xia Wen in confusion.

"Qiao Mei's youngest aunt is here. Does she have a youngest aunt? Why don't I remember such a person," Xia Wen said thoughtfully.

They had already found out everything about everyone in Qiao Mei's family much earlier. There was no mention of a youngest aunt. Even if there was, why would she come to their house?

"Let's go take a look first. I'll go with you." Xia He held on to Xia Wen and left with him. She was curious about what this youngest aunt looked like as she had never heard Qiao Mei mention this person before.

Chapter 708 Skeleton

Xia Wen and Xia He slowly walked out of the military compound. Qiao Yu took a fancy to Xia Wen at a glance. This gentlemanly young master was really good-looking. He was even better looking than Xia Zhe.

Xia Zhe had the tough appearance of a soldier and a very cold temper. The handsome man in front of her was different. He had a softer face, curved lips and very nice eyes.

"Hello, comrade. This is the person who is looking for you." The guard brought Qiao Yu to Xia Wen and Xia He.

Qiao Yu did not say anything and just looked at Xia Wen in a daze, almost drooling.

Xia He looked at Qiao Yu in disdain. She thought that Qiao Mei's relatives would be beauties as well. This was really surprising.

No one would disagree if she said that this was a walking skeleton.

"Hey, hey, hey! If you keep staring, your eyeballs will pop out!" Xia He said impatiently.

Xia Wen also felt disdainful of this person who called herself Qiao Mei's youngest aunt, but it was his habit not to express his thoughts.

"What... what's your name? Where are you from? What's your relationship with Qiao Mei?" Xia Wen asked warily.

Qiao Yu did not panic at all and answered honestly.

Xia Wen went to the guard office to sign off and then brought Qiao Yu back to the Xia family residence. After all, it would arouse suspicion if they kept standing outside. The matter between them and the He family had not ended yet, so it would not be good if the He family found something to use against them.

"Eldest brother... are we really going to bring her back? Mother and the others are all in the house. It doesn't seem appropriate," Xia He said worriedly.

What if this person was another one coming here to slander Qiao Mei? They had not forgotten what happened with Wang Yong and the old widow back then. Now a so-called youngest aunt has come along and she wanted to be careful.

"It's fine. She's so skinny, it's not as if she can assassinate someone. She's probably just here to cause trouble. We can just send her away after asking everything clearly," Xia Wen said.

He thought that this was a good thing. It would be a good opportunity to see Xu Lan's attitude towards this woman. Back then, Xu Lan hated Qiao Mei very much over the matter with Wang Yong. He was curious about how Xu Lan would react now.

He was bringing this person back to the Xia family residence purely to satisfy his own curiosity.

"Mother, we're back," Xia Wen shouted as he entered the house.

Qiao Yu tiptoed in behind Xia Wen. When Xia Wen entered the house, she still held on to the corner of his shirt and refused to let go. Xia He glared at Qiao Yu, but it was useless. Tan Jing stood up in anger when she saw that.

She had just sent Qiao Mei away, so why was there a woman pestering Xia Wen now? Could it be that this woman was sent by Qiao Mei to seduce Xia Wen!

Qiao Yu looked around. The things in this house looked much more valuable than anything outside. She did not expect Qiao Mei to live in such a place.

"Is this the woman they mentioned on the phone?" Xu Lan put away the yarn in her hand and looked at Qiao Yu with a solemn expression, looking very much like a matriarch.

Xia Wen quietly shook off Qiao Yu's hand that was holding the corner of his shirt. Everyone sat on the sofa in the living room, leaving Qiao Yu standing alone in the middle, waiting for everyone to interrogate her.

"Where are you from? How old are you? What does your family do? How many people are there in your family? Who do you live with? What's your relationship with Qiao Mei? Are you married? What do you do?" Xu Lan asked sternly.

Xia He looked at Xu Lan in surprise. She did not expect Xu Lan to know how to ask such things. Her tone and attitude were comparable to that of her eldest aunt, Xia Xiu. They seemed to have underestimated Xu Lan.

Xia Wen was not surprised at all. Back then when Xia Mao traveled around, Xu Lan followed him as a military spouse. Xu Lan knew how to handle such things.

Qiao Yu was so nervous that her legs kept trembling, but she was not an imposter and could answer all these questions.

Seeing that Qiao Yu did not falter on anything, Xu Lan's expression darkened even more. By right, a sensible child like Qiao Mei would not ask her relatives to come and seek refuge with their family.

It was not as if Qiao Mei did not know about their family's unique situation. Not everyone could enter through their door. Could it be that Qiao Mei had something urgent to do? However, she did not receive any calls from Qiao Mei these few days. Even the letter Qiao Mei sent not long ago did not mention that she was in any difficulties.

"What are you here for?" Xu Lan asked.

Qiao Yu knelt on the ground with a plop and tears streamed down her face uncontrollably. She said aggrievedly, "Xia Zhe told me to come and look for you..."

Chapter 709 Confirmation About The Special Fetish

As soon as Qiao Yu said this, Xu Lan immediately stood up. Xia He was also shocked. Qiao Yu's expression and demeanor looked as if Xia Zhe had taken advantage of her.

Xia Zhe was not that kind of person. Xu Lan knew her son best. This woman in front of her must be lying.

Xia Wen just sat where he was and did not even look up. Xia Zhe did not like women who had no chest and no butt. Xia Zhe liked women who were fat.

Xia Zhe would not even look at such a shriveled figure.

It seemed that news of Xia Zhe's special fetish had already spread among the social circle in the capital. Not only did his biological brother think so, but even the He family, his uncle Qin Dong and Chen Hu from the county city also felt the same way.

This misunderstanding could never be cleared up.

"Tell me clearly why my son asked you to look for us." Xu Lan pretended to be calm and sat back in her original seat.

"My family wanted to marry me to someone older than my father. Their family had offered a lot of betrothal gifts, so my father sold me off. I didn't want to live like this for the rest of my life, so I ran away. It was Xia Zhe who told me to come to the capital to look for you," Qiao Yu said.

Xu Lan did not believe what Qiao Yu said at all. Even if she was really Qiao Mei's youngest aunt, they could not just believe what she said. Now that Xia Zhe was back in the army, it was not convenient for him to answer the phone, so they could only call Qiao Mei to check on it.

"Xiao Wen, go and call your sister-in-law and ask her if that's true," Xu Lan said.

Qiao Yu hurriedly went to stop Xia Wen and cried, "No! You can't make a call to Qiao Mei!"

If Qiao Mei found out that she was at the Xia family residence, Qiao Zhuang and the others would definitely come looking for her. Qiao Mei would not let her off so easily as well. Qiao Mei must not know about this at all.

"Why can't we make a call to Qiao Mei?" Xu Lan asked.

Qiao Yu stammered and could not give an answer. Xia He realized that Qiao Yu might spill the beans that Qiao Mei's babies were still around, so she went up and slapped Qiao Yu without any explanation.

"I don't believe that my younger brother would say such things to you. You'd better watch your mouth. I'll send you back right away. Aren't you just afraid that your father will make you marry into that family? I'll get someone to tell your father that it's illegal to do this and your father won't dare to do it anymore," Xia He said.

They were really from the same family. Xia He had the same thoughts as Xia Zhe. It was just that no one in their small mountain village would treat this matter as a crime. Everyone was already numb to such things.

"I beg you! Give me a way out! Please save me! Don't send me back! Please!" Qiao Yu knelt on the ground in agony.

The shrill voice gave Xu Lan a headache. Liu Fen shouted at Qiao Yu, "Shut up! It's so noisy!"

Although Tan Jing frowned, she was actually in a good mood. Qiao Mei was unlucky enough to have such a relative. If this woman really had some kind of relationship with Xia Zhe, she would help this woman and push Qiao Mei out of the picture.

This way, her position in the Xia family would be even more stable. If Xia Wen had the chance to take over Xia Mao's position, she would be the mistress of the Xia family and no one would look down on her in the future.

"How about this, I'll bring you to the guest house outside. You can stay there for a while and we'll look for you after we investigate the matter," Xia Wen said gently.

Qiao Yu quickly nodded in agreement with Xia Wen's suggestion. This man was still the best. He even spoke so gently.

There was also a different kind of emotion in the way she looked at Xia Wen. Tan Jing stared at Qiao Yu and did not say anything. She had already made up her mind.

Xia He volunteered to arrange for Qiao Yu's accommodation. She brought Qiao Yu to the guest house that was very far from their house, and it was not a cheap place.

Of course, Qiao Yu would have to pay for it herself. The Xia family would not fork out a single cent.

"You can stay here. I'd advise you to spend less money. If you eat steamed buns every day, you can still stay here for three to four days." After saying that, Xia He prepared to leave.

Qiao Yu said fearfully, "How... how can I contact you?"

She had already handed the note with the Xia family's address to the guard. She did not take note of the location. If she was left alone here, she would never be able to find the Xia family residence again.

Chapter 710 Phone Call From The Capital

"You don't have to be anxious. We'll come and look for you when we're done with the investigation." With that, Xia He left the guest house.

Xia Wen and the others did not stay idle at home and he quickly made a phone call to Qiao Mei. Of course, they had to communicate with Qiao Mei about such matters. They could not simply believe everything an outsider said.

However, he was still very satisfied with Xu Lan's behavior just now. She did not directly suspect Qiao Mei like what she did in the past. Instead, she chose to trust Qiao Mei. The two of them had completely reconciled their relationship.

"Hello, this is Foshan Village. Who are you looking for?" Zhao Liang asked when he picked up the phone.

"Hello, I'm from the capital. My name is Xia Wen and I'm the eldest brother of Qiao Mei's husband. I'm looking for Qiao Mei due to some family matters. I wonder if it's convenient to get her to answer the call?" Xia Wen asked politely.

"Yes! Yes! Wait a moment while I take down your number. I'll get her to call you back later," Zhao Liang said warmly.

There were many mountain forests behind their village. Every year, many people would call him and arrogantly order him to patrol the forests. Some people even scolded him for not managing the situation well.

None of the people who called him had such a good attitude like Xia Wen. No wonder Xia Zhe was so calm and polite. This was all because of his good family upbringing.

Zhao Liang rode his three-wheeled vehicle and went to Qiao Mei's house again.

"Qiao Mei! There's a call for you from the capital!" Zhao Liang stood at the door and shouted.

Qiao Mei hurriedly ran out of the house. Usually, it was Xia Zhe who would call her from the army unit and Zhao Liang knew him as well. Why would there be a call from the capital?

Could it be that something had happened to someone at home!

"Uncle Zhao, what's wrong! What happened!" Qiao Mei asked as she held Zhao Liang's arm anxiously.

That grip almost broke Zhao Liang's arm. If Zhao Liang had not shouted out in time, Qiao Mei would probably have broken his arm.

"Be gentle, be gentle! Ouch! Nothing happened at home, but something has happened to your Uncle Zhao," Zhao Liang said as he rubbed his arm in pain.

Seeing that Zhao Liang could still joke around, it should not be anything urgent. Qiao Mei sat in the back of the vehicle and followed Zhao Liang back to the village office to call Xia Wen.

"Hello, eldest brother, what's wrong?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Someone came to our house. I want to ask if you know anything about this," Xia Wen said softly.

The phone in the village was the oldest type. Even when the phone was placed on the table, the entire room could hear everything coming from the speaker.

Wang Qin was working at one side just now and she immediately put down her work when she heard that someone had gone to Qiao Mei's house in the capital. She guessed that the person was Qiao Yu!

"Who is it? Is Third Aunt-in-law back?" Qiao Mei asked.

Back then, Zhou Hua had run away with the money and there was still no trace of it at all. She refused to speak about it no matter what and it was useless even when Xia Guang came back.

Xia Guang's profession was quite special and he could not stay at home for too long. Before he could find out where Zhou Hua had hidden the money, he had to leave. After all, if he lost his job, he would not be able to pay back the money on her behalf.

"No. Is it convenient for you to speak? Will someone else hear us?" Xia Wen asked warily.

Qiao Mei was about to say that there was no one around when she turned around and saw Wang Qin craning her neck to eavesdrop.

"Wait a moment, I'll get them all to leave," Qiao Mei whispered.

She pulled Zhao Liang aside and told him that her conversation with Xia Wen was something confidential. It was a government matter and it was not convenient for him and Wang Qin to be in the room, so she wanted him to bring Wang Qin out for a while.

No matter what Xia Wen told her later, she could just make up a story.

Zhao Liang also understood what Qiao Mei meant. Without another word, he brought Wang Qin to stand outside the door in the courtyard.

Only then did Qiao Mei feel at ease to pick up the phone and said, "Eldest brother, there's no one else in the room now. What exactly do you want to tell me that's so mysterious."

"Is there someone called Qiao Yu in your village? She's here with us now," Xia Wen said.

"Yes there is. I didn't expect her to go to your place. She's been gone for a day and a half and her family even came to question me," Qiao Mei said calmly.

Xia Wen told her everything that Qiao Yu had told them, including the part where she slandered Xia Zhe. Xia Wen even told Qiao Mei not to think too much about it. This matter must have been made up by Qiao Yu as Xia Zhe would not be so muddle-headed.