

Fat Wife 71

Chapter 71: Little Frowning Person

I am only 18 years old and I do not know anything. I do not know what to prepare or pay attention to. The aunties in the village are giving me all kinds of advice and I am not sure what to do!

What do you think we should do about our child? And what should we name our child?

Sigh, I have written so much nonsense. I hope it will not affect your mission over there.

Lastly, I will definitely protect our baby well and I will do my best to make sure that our baby can grow up smoothly. No matter what happens, I will wait for you to come back.

Your wife, Qiao Mei.

The letter ended here.

At the bottom of the letter, it was not a little smiling person this time, but a little worried person squatting at the door.

It felt pitiful and helpless.

...

Qiao Mei had spent a lot of effort on this letter. After all, a father's concern for his child had to be nurtured from when the child was young.

If he was already indifferent when the child was young, then what would happen in the future? It could not be that Qiao Mei had to take on both roles of being a father and a mother, right?

In the letter, she wanted to portray herself as being pitiful and helpless so as to fire up a man's innate sense of responsibility and protectiveness.

As long as a man felt a sense of responsibility, he would naturally start to pay attention to his children and would take their emotions to heart.

If he did not care at all, then how different would he be from a stranger?

In that case, he would naturally have no feelings for his children.

...

After Xia Zhe read the letter, he stood in a daze for a long time.

Qiao Mei was pregnant!

He was the father of the child. He had a child now!

Thinking of this, he felt excited. He would soon have a cuddly child lying on his lap, calling him daddy and trusting him wholeheartedly, and he would even have a warm home as well...

Thinking of this, his entire face turned red from excitement.

He would have another relative in this world.

A blood-related relative!

This also meant that he had a heavier burden now. There would be the child to take care of at home, as well as the child's mother.

He was now the head of the family.

Xia Zhe stood there and stroked the little person at the bottom of the letter. The frightened expression on the little person's face moved him and he felt tender and protective towards her.

Don't worry, you have me!

At this point, Xia Zhe picked up the phone on the table and made a call.

"Uncle, I need some good soft fabric, and also fur mattresses and cotton. I need all of these!" The other end of the phone heard Xia Zhe's excited voice.

When Qin Dong heard this, he was puzzled. "If you really need these things, you can put up a request to the higher-ups. If you want me to send them to you from here, it will take quite a few days for them to arrive!"

"And these things... What are you going to do with them?" Qin Dong asked curiously.

Then, he heard something that surprised him so much that he was completely speechless.

"It's for my wife. She's pregnant!"

Qin Dong was stunned and did not speak as the other party continued on.

"These things are all for my wife. It's cold over at her side and I'm afraid that the child will freeze in the middle of winter!"

Xia Zhe continued speaking down the line.

"This... Ah!" Qin Dong paused for a moment before continuing, "That's right, that's right. We must make sure my niece-in-law and the child she's carrying don't freeze in the cold. You're really not bad, kid. You got her pregnant after one night? Impressive!"

Xia Zhe fell silent. Even if he was not accurate the first time, after several times in one night, he would be able to hit the target at least once, right?

However, this was not something he could tell his uncle.

He continued saying, "Those maternity clothes and other stuff need to be made in a bigger size, and there's also the baby clothes and mattresses and stuff. Send them over to her when they're ready. I'm not sure if she knows how to make them."

Chapter 72: Let Her Be a Military Spouse

"The baby is due in January next year and it's probably going to be quite cold then. Make everything thicker so the baby doesn't freeze from the cold."

"Also, she doesn't have any female elders around her. Do get my aunt to write down all the things she needs to take note of when giving birth, as well as the things to note when taking care of the child too."

"And also... she likes to eat. Now that she's pregnant, she needs to eat more good food. Send more meat and fruits to her so that she will have enough to eat."

"Well... I think that's all. If I think of anything else, I'll make up for it later."

"Okay, okay, okay. I get it, Young Master Xia," Qin Dong teased with a smile. He had never seen Xia Zhe being so long-winded and giving instructions with such minute details..

He did not expect that a usually aloof person would behave so drastically differently when it came to his wife and children. What a rare sight.

He thought that the Xia family was a bunch of frigid people!

"I'm still being held up here and can't go back for the time being. I'll have to trouble you to help me take care of my wife. After I'm done here, I'll go back and take care of her."

“No problem!” Qin Dong agreed readily. “We’ll definitely pay more attention to your wife. So then you have to perform well in your competition!”

A sharp glint flashed across Xia Zhe’s eyes. He must get first place in this competition. This way, he would get promoted to a higher rank and he would be able to have Qiao Mei living with him as a military spouse.

Once she joined him as a military spouse, he would be able to see his children every day.

When he was young, he used to stand at the door miserably every day to wait for his parents. He wanted his children to stay by his side all the time, unlike what he had to go through.

“Thank you, uncle. Please convey my thanks to my aunt too. Thank you for the efforts!” Xia Zhe said sincerely.

His aunt was an obstetrician. He would only be at ease if she wrote down the list of items to note.

Now, he had to work harder and win first place so that Qiao Mei could go to the capital to give birth. Only then would he feel more at ease. After all, the standard of medical care in the capital was much better than in the village or county.

After the call, Xia Zhe took out the letter and read it again.

Then he began to compose a reply.

When he saw the words ‘A cuddly little child must be very cute’, it struck a chord with him and he could not help but laugh.

...

There was a strange atmosphere in the village during the past few days. No matter what everyone talked about, the conversation always veered towards Qiao Mei.

There was a strange and excited look in people's eyes.

It was not Qiao Mei's pregnancy that made them excited, but Qiao Mei's bean sprouts. The 200 catties worth of bean sprouts sold by the supply and marketing cooperative.

After the 200 catties of bean sprouts were sold, those previous buyers were all full of praise and there had been people coming to ask about the bean sprouts over the past few days. When they heard that there were no more bean sprouts for sale, they blamed the supply and marketing cooperative for not doing its job.

The bean sprouts really attracted a lot of attention.

The queries not only came from the ordinary buyers, but even from a few operational departments. The supply and marketing cooperative could not withstand the pressure anymore and went to beg Chen Hu for help.

Chen Hu was not quite sure what to do about it, so he went to the village to ask Qiao Mei.

"I can't do heavy work now. I'm pregnant and can't do this business anymore." Qiao Mei sat on the bed, sewing children's clothes.

She had already prepared many pieces of clothing, but there were going to be two children, so she still felt that she had not made enough.

"Ah! This is really a good thing, it's really great." Chen Hu clapped his hands happily and looked at Qiao Qiang.

At the side, Qiao Qiang could not stop smiling. He was really very happy.

He was a man who already had one foot in the grave and he did not expect to be able to see his great-grandchild one day. It was such a great thing to happen and he felt wonderful every day.

“Alright, alright, alright. Let’s not do it if we don’t want to. The child is most important,” Chen Hu said with a big wide smile.

Growing bean sprouts was a tiring job.

It was not right to make her work hard for the benefit of the supply and marketing cooperative. Qiao Mei was still a child herself and had a lot of things to do. She must not tire herself out.

Look at how much weight Qiao Mei had lost in the past month.

Chapter 73: Win-win!

When Qiao Mei heard what he said, she suddenly thought of something that Auntie Dong had said to her. She pondered for a moment before saying, “If the supply and marketing cooperative really needs fresh bean sprouts, that can be done. There’s another way!”

“What?” Chen Hu exclaimed in surprise.

It did not matter to him. Without the bean sprouts, there were other types of food to replace it. It was not as if he must always have dishes cooked with these bean sprouts. However, his wife really liked these crispy bean sprouts very much and always urged him to get some.

Qiao Mei stopped sewing and looked up at Qiao Qiang. “Grandfather, please go and get Uncle Zhao. We need to discuss something with him.”

When Qiao Qiang heard this, he did not speak again.

He just stood up and walked out to look for the village officer, Zhao Liang.

Soon, Zhao Liang came in with Qiao Qiang.

Qiao Mei introduced the two men to each other.

However, Zhao Liang was still very puzzled. He was just a small team leader in charge of a small village and he did not know why he was being asked to meet a section head from the city. The difference in rank between them was not a small one.

Qiao Mei looked at Chen Hu. "I've already taught the villagers how to grow bean sprouts. You can buy bean sprouts from them directly."

"Are they able to grow the same bean sprouts as yours?" Chen Hu asked doubtfully.

Growing bean sprouts was not a simple task. Without any skills, the bean sprouts would turn out to be bitter and astringent and would not taste good at all.

Such bean sprouts would not pass the test.

"Most of the bean sprouts should turn out the same. We can set a standard for the bean sprouts, so that we can monitor the quality."

Qiao Mei turned to Qiao Qiang again and said, "Grandfather, go and ask Auntie Dong and Auntie Wang to bring their bean sprouts over."

"Okay!" Qiao Qiang went off again.

Soon, the two women came over with the bean sprouts.

Chen Hu picked one up and chewed on it. Then, he nodded and praised, "It's indeed not bad and tastes like your bean sprouts."

Seeing that he was satisfied, Qiao Mei continued talking, "Uncle Zhao, looking at the current situation, why don't we apply to set up a bean sprout factory in the village? This will be good for everyone and we can all earn some money in our free time."

"I have no problem, it just depends on... the supply and marketing cooperative in the city." Zhao Liang looked at Chen Hu and did not say anything else.

Chen Hu nodded affirmatively. "No problem!"

It had always been possible to set up a factory in the village, it was just that they had no reason to do so. Now that there was a reason, setting it up would definitely not be an issue.

Everyone agreed, but Auntie Dong and Auntie Wang did not look too good.

A few days ago, the older women in the village had asked her about the situation with the bean sprouts and whether it was easy to sell them. They also had the intention to find a place in the city to sell bean sprouts so that they could help out with the family expenses.

Although people were not allowed to sell things in the city, it was still possible to do it secretly.

They just needed to make sure that they did not get caught.

Now that the women had a way to sell it without sneaking into the city, what were they dissatisfied with?

Qiao Mei did not quite understand.

However, Qiao Qiang knew what they were thinking at a glance. He directly asked Chen Hu and Zhao Liang, "How do we split the earnings from the bean sprouts grown in this village? Do we split them according to the work point system? Or do we do it in another way?"

Currently, any factory set up in the village would be collectively-owned and the earnings were distributed in accordance with the work point system. All the villagers had a share in it.

People were paid according to the number of work points they earned.

This had always been how it was done under the current policy, but Auntie Dong and Auntie Wang were unwilling to agree.

After all, these bean sprouts were grown by them through their hard work from dawn till dusk. Now, if it went into the collective pool and they were paid in accordance to the evenly distributed work points, they would only get a small amount of money,

If they secretly went out to sell it, the money would be all theirs.

Why would they want to split the money with those people in the village who did not contribute to the work? Wasn't that stupid?

For a moment, a heavy silence fell upon the room.

Chapter 74: Successfully Setting up a Factory

Everyone understood that Auntie Dong and Auntie Wang were unhappy, but no one knew how to resolve the issue at the moment. Everyone fell silent.

The practice of distributing earnings according to work points had been in place for many years.

No one knew what could be done about it.

"Everyone, please listen to my opinion," Qiao Mei suddenly said.

They all looked at her. In that moment, she instantly became a very important person among them, or at least a key decision maker.

"It's not the slack season in farming now, so naturally there's no one who can be specifically assigned to grow bean sprouts, right? Also, we need a proper work area for bean sprouting. There's no such work area now and there's also no way we can clear a space big enough to grow bean sprouts, right?" Qiao Mei asked.

Everyone nodded upon hearing this.

Zhao Liang glanced around her workshop and frowned without saying anything.

Qiao Mei continued, "Given that I'm pregnant now, it's also not too appropriate for me to let you guys use my storeroom as a workshop. Do we have money to build a place now?"

Zhao Liang shook his head and said bitterly, "No."

It was still the peak farming season now and there was no excess funds in the village coffer. It was already good enough that there was money to feed the entire village. Wouldn't it be nonsensical to even think about building a new place?

Seeing that everyone was feeling listless, Qiao Mei continued, "I have a suggestion. Why don't we set up the factory by way of a workshop in every household and growing the bean sprouts by accumulating the effort from everyone? Whoever supplies more will get paid more, whoever supplies less will get paid less."

"Sure!"

"Let's do it this way!"

The faces of Auntie Dong and Auntie Wang lit up with happiness as they spoke.

This was how it had been in the past and was the real rule of trading.

Naturally, it was the fairest and most reasonable.

However, the village officer Zhao Liang was a little apprehensive. They were in a planned economy and everyone made a living by relying on the work points. Was there any other village which had set such a precedent?

Besides, the authorities were quick to clamp down on such activities during the past few years.

He did not quite dare to do it for fear that the higher-ups would investigate. If they got unhappy about it, he would not be able to bear the consequences.

“What’s wrong with this? Isn’t this how the pigs raised by farmers are acquired? Let’s just treat this as an acquisition of bean sprouts grown by farmers. This is a good way to let the common people eat more vegetables.”

Qiao Mei said calmly, “For the sake of the common people’s nutrition, our village should bravely take on this job.”

Everyone’s eyes lit up when they heard that.

The acquisition of pigs from farmers was indeed a practice of paying the common people according to the market price. This was something that the higher-ups had agreed on.

Then... if it was like selling pigs, it would definitely work.

“Xiao Mei is so clever!” Chen Hu could not help but give her a thumbs up.

Qiao Mei had a twinkle in her eye. “No, I just happened to think of it.”

The few of them then came up with the implementation methodology and rules and regulations of the factory to be set up. Qiao Mei casually said, “It’s best if we have a qualitative standard when it comes to the bean sprouts collected. Otherwise, if there are any low quality bean sprouts in the mix, not only will it affect the overall quality but it will also affect the reputation of our factory.”

Qiao Mei actually had other thoughts in her mind.

The quality of the bean sprouts from the village was so good now because she was still around here. If she left one day, the quality of the bean sprouts would change.

It also meant that if she wanted to maintain the current quality, she would have to stay in the village all the time. This was not something she wanted to do. The coming future was going to be an exciting era and she had other more important things to do.

Therefore, she would reduce her interference with the bean sprouts in the future.

This way, even if she left one day and there was a drop in the quality and success rate of the bean sprouts, no one would cast any suspicions on her.

Chen Hu left with the bean sprouts brought by Auntie Dong and Auntie Wang and he brought the president of the city's supply and marketing cooperative to the village the next day. After a discussion, the few of them announced that the city's supply and marketing cooperative had formed an acquisition relationship with the village and formalized it by signing an agreement.

Chapter 75: Three Sacks of Things

Only then did Auntie Dong and Auntie Wang feel relieved.

Now, the supply and marketing cooperative could order bean sprouts from the village as long as the order quantity was not more than 2,000 catties. Every catty was worth 20 cents.

The bill would be settled once a month.

However, the village would have to arrange for the transportation of the bean sprouts to the city.

When the news of the agreement was released, the entire village was very happy. The other villages had all kinds of factories and the villagers had long been envious of others. They did not expect that their village would also have a factory now.

The entire village cheered about the news.

But only one family was immersed in silence.

That was Qiao Zhuang's family. Other families more or less managed to grow bean sprouts, but Qiao Zhuang's family had never successfully grown any. It was really infuriating and they did not know why that happened.

So strange!

Qiao Zhuang glanced at Qiao Yu, then picked up a branch beside him and whipped her. "Did I say you need not put in effort!"

"It must be because you're a money-losing good-for-nothing that we have no bean sprouts. Otherwise, how can it be that we can't grow bean sprouts? It's all your fault. I'm going to beat you to death today!"

...

Now that the entire village was making money from the venture, Qiao Mei was willing to start growing bean sprouts again.

After all, almost every household in the entire village could make money from it now, so no one would be jealous of her or report her to the authorities. Instead, everyone would protect this business.

If someone did something to lose their source of income, the entire village would not be happy.

Qiao Mei felt wonderful. When she had time, she stayed at home and made things like cloth diapers and mattresses for the children. After cutting the cloth and sewing them up, she hung the cloth diapers out to dry in the courtyard.

When the villagers saw the pieces of white cloth from afar, they thought that Qiao Qiang had passed away.

Only after asking around did they find out that these were actually items for children.

This was really too lavish. Even a child's items were made of such good fabric and cut in such big pieces. Could she even finish using them?

Besides, there would be plenty of other things to spend money on in the future.

How could she afford to mess around like that?

Auntie Dong could not stand it anymore. She went to Qiao Mei's courtyard, held her hand and said earnestly, "Mei Mei, don't blame me for being naggy. I'm doing this for your sake."

"For these kid's stuff, you don't have to prepare too much. I still have some children's things at home which my children have no use for now. Why don't I get them for you?"

"How can we not use things sparingly!"

Qiao Mei smiled and said softly, "Auntie is right. However, I have enough things here. I really don't want to waste your nice gesture."

Her smiley face was really infuriating.

Auntie Dong was so angry that she gritted her teeth. If she was her biological daughter, she would definitely teach her a lesson. This was really too wasteful. It would be enough to prepare just a few items, she really did not know how to live frugally.

Qiao Mei put down the needle in her hand and touched her stomach with a blissful smile. She was in fact having two babies. No matter how much she prepared, it would not be too much. Otherwise, she would end up being in a spin when the time comes.

Should she tell the father about the two children?

Qiao Mei thought for a moment and shook her head.

Forget it. Let's not talk about this for now. Just treat it as a gift for the children's father.

...

One day, Qiao Mei was sitting in the courtyard when she heard a car coming down the road outside and stopping at the door.

As soon as she went out, she heard the person at the door explain his presence.

There were three packages in the car that had been sent to her by others and he asked her where to place the packages. She asked him to put them in the courtyard and then send the person off.

However, these three large sacks still made Qiao Mei bewildered.

All these should be from Xia Zhe, right?

She wondered what Xia Zhe had sent her. He was in the army, so how could he send anything?

Although Qiao Mei was puzzled, she quickly went to work and started clearing the sacks. There were really a lot of things in these three big sacks.

Chapter 76: Snacks and Notebook

She was now feeling quite excited about opening the packages.

Was Xia Zhe as excited as her when he received the parcel she sent him?

I must send him more things in the future.

There were three cloth bags in the three big sacks. The cloth bags were in good condition and there were no signs of any dirt or damage to them. It was obvious that they were carefully protected during the delivery process.

Qiao Mei smiled and opened one of the cloth bags.

Inside the bag, she found things like clothing and household items made of cotton, kids clothing, as well as bedding for adults. It was a complete set of useful items.

Qiao Mei was pleasantly surprised and beamed with joy.

She had only asked a question to try and sound out how he felt, but she did not expect Xia Zhe to really prepare all the necessities for her. Furthermore, there was nothing cursory about his efforts, he had gone all out to prepare all the items.

Her original intention was to check if Xia Zhe would, in the face of all her complaints, console her verbally or ignore her. However, she did not expect him to just directly send her everything she needed.

That's nice. It means that he's reliable.

He is not the kind of person who would only give a perfunctory response, but a responsible man who would find a way to deal with any issues.

She opened the second bag and found clothes that fitted her. There were two large cotton jackets and a black coat made of fur which looked very comfortable and warm.

She tried it on and it felt as if she was lying under warm sunlight.

It was indeed nice and warm.

"What kind of fur is this?" Qiao Mei happily reached out to touch it and found it to be silk smooth and such a pleasing feeling.

In her other life, even though she was a top lawyer, she had neither the interest nor the money to obtain such a luxurious coat. Although it was very nice and warm, the price was too astronomical.

Besides, the future generations advocated environmental and animal protection.

With the availability of warm down jackets, who would still want to wear a fur coat? How inconvenient was that?

Furthermore, it was not easy to maintain.

“It must be mink.” Qiao Qiang walked forward to take a look and laughed out loudly, feeling much more satisfied.

This fur coat was indeed made of good material.

In the past, he also owned a few of these in the capital, but he did not bring them with him when he returned to the village.

Qiao Mei was also very happy and touched the fur coat in her hand in delight. If sending that bag of bedding was Xia Zhe’s way of fulfilling his role as a father, then this fur coat was Xia Zhe’s way of expressing his feelings for her.

It was really good that he knew how to care for her.

Hehe...

Qiao Mei giggled for a while and made a few turns wearing the fur coat before walking towards the last bag of things in the courtyard.

Now there was only one bag left.

She did not know what she would find in the last bag. Although she had money now and did not lack anything, she would definitely feel more at ease if she could be more well-prepared.

The moment she opened it, she saw sealed packets of snacks.

These snacks included crispy fried fish, packets of melon seeds and dried sweet potatoes, as well as a few bags of fruits, a few boxes of sweets, and packaged specialty snacks from Beijing.

This current time period was not like the future when one could easily buy snacks online.

These things were too rare.

Not only would it have been difficult to gather so many different types of snacks within the city, it would probably still require some effort to get it done in the capital. She could appreciate the thoughtfulness that went into the preparation of this bag.

Digging into the bag, there was also a tightly wrapped leather bag about the size of a small watermelon and bulging with things inside.

Qiao Mei was dumbfounded when she opened it.

She did not expect to find a large stack of coupons inside. In this era, if one did not have all kinds of coupons, it would be impossible to buy what one wanted.

For example, if one wanted to eat pork, one had to have meat coupons.

If one wanted to buy oil, one had to have oil coupons.

Therefore, when Qiao Mei needed supplies now, what she lacked the most was not money but different kinds of coupons.

Chapter 77: Informing the Family

She did not expect him to have taken this into consideration. These coupons really solved the urgent problem at hand.

“That’s so great!” Qiao Qiang laughed and tapped his walking stick. He was really happy to get these coupons as it meant that he could now buy more supplies, although Chen Hu also gave him a few coupons from time to time.

The fact was he was unwilling to trouble others. It was never good to owe someone a favor.

Now, with all these food stamps, he could finally feel at ease. He would not have to worry about food in the future.

Qiao Mei put away the bag of food stamps and then took out a notebook from the bag. The notebook was not thick, just an ordinary notebook with about 20 to 30 pages.

She opened it to see pages of clear handwriting.

There were notes on precautions to be taken by pregnant women throughout the entire pregnancy, and even some clear pointers on the dos and don’ts after giving birth.

These things were basically similar to what she knew in her other life.

At the end of the notebook, there was a message to let her know who the author was.

“I am Xia Zhe’s aunt. You rest well and take good care during the pregnancy. If you need anything else, you can send a telegram to this address.”

This sentence at the end made her aware that this was also Xia Zhe’s gift to her.

There were no other frivolous words, but from the handwritten and detailed list of items, she could tell that Xia Zhe's aunt was someone worth knowing.

Qiao Mei gave a relieved smile. Now, she just did not know what her future in-laws were like and whether they were easy to get along with.

She had already sent two letters to bond with him. The next time, she could talk more about the Xia family so that she could feel more confident about her future life.

At this moment, she was very satisfied with Xia Zhe's response. The father of her children was really quite a nice person and was someone who could be entrusted.

She had to think carefully...

Next time, what gift should I send?

...

A distance away, Xia Zhe was sitting at the desk in his room, writing a letter with a fountain pen.

His handwriting was bold and powerful and very nice to look at.

Now that Qiao Mei was pregnant, this matter could not be kept a secret anymore. He had to inform his family as Qiao Mei would have to go back with him in the future.

He put pen to paper and wrote a letter to his grandfather.

The letter explained the entire matter and he asked his grandfather to inform his parents about it.

He just did not tell the entire truth about what happened that night.

He did not mention the part about how he was tricked that night. He only wrote that Qiao Qiang was in poor health and was worried about his granddaughter since he did not have much time left in this world. He also wrote that he felt Qiao Mei was quite a nice person.

That was why Xia Zhe took the initiative to propose that he and Qiao Mei get married to fulfill Qiao Qiang's wish.

The two of them had already held a wedding banquet and registered their marriage. He was now writing a letter to inform his elders as Qiao Mei had gotten pregnant.

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When Xia Jun received the letter, he almost spat out the tea in his mouth and he then slammed the teacup on the table.

He shouted towards the door, "Xiao Zhang! Xiao Zhang, come in quickly."

Xiao Zhang was Xia Jun's guard. When he heard the voice of his old chief, he walked over frantically, thinking that something urgent had happened.

"Xiao Zhang, quickly take a look at what's written in this letter. I can't read it clearly."

"Yes! I'm coming!"

Xiao Zhang stood behind Xia Jun and craned his neck to read it word by word. When he finished reading it, he was stunned and could not speak for a long time.

How bizarre!

What an unexpected thing to have happened.

“Then those few people you asked to come over for dinner, do you still want them to come?” Xiao Zhang hesitated and asked softly.

Xia Jun slammed the letter on the table and shouted, “I’m not hosting them anymore. Go call them and say that I’m not feeling well. Tell them I can’t invite them to dinner today, so don’t come over.”

“Oh... okay!”

Xiao Zhang nodded repeatedly and hurriedly ran out.

They had already started making preparations in the kitchen. Xia Zhe’s parents and a girl were actually invited to dinner tonight.

Chapter 78: Something’s Up With Xia Zhe

Apparently Xia Zhe’s mother liked this girl very much. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the wedding between the two young people.

If Xia Jun was agreeable to the idea, then the wedding plans would be settled. The marriage could be registered without the need for Xia Zhe to come back. As for the actual relationship, the couple could nurture it slowly in the future.

As Xiao Zhang reached the door, Xia Jun added, “When you call, just tell the truth. Don’t lie. Tell them that Xia Zhe is already married and when the time comes, they will be invited to the baby’s one-month celebrations.”

If he did not make it clear from the start, this matter would be difficult to handle.

If Xu Lan still had other ideas and forcefully tried to set things up for two unavailable people, then her good intentions could only bring about bad results.

It would not be good for Xia Zhe’s wife either.

“Yes. I understand, Chief.” Xiao Zhang nodded and walked to another room to make a call to convey the message.

...

Right at the same moment, Xu Lan was holding Yao Li’s hand and warmly reminding her not to be afraid when she saw Grandpa Xia Jun later. The old man may look fierce, but he was actually a very nice man and he liked youngsters like her very much.

However, when Xu Lan said this, she was actually feeling a little apprehensive inside.

She had been married to Xia Zhe’s father for 30 years and had never seen Old Master Xia treat any of his daughters-in-law with kindness. It was not easy to see a smile on his face, even for his grandchildren.

He only had a smiling face for Xia Zhe.

Yao Li happily held Xu Lan’s hand and said understandingly, “Thank you for your comfort, Auntie Xu. The old patriarch in my house is the same. I know that they may look very cold, but they actually have very warm personalities.”

.....

“Yes, yes, yes, that’s it. Everyone in the family is nice, so you don’t have to be afraid.” Xu Lan was overjoyed.

She especially liked this Yao Li at the moment. Not only was she good-looking, but she also had a good personality. One look and she could tell that she was a virtuous girl. Her son should like this type too, right?

He would definitely like her!

After all, she was the one who had recommended the girl.

“Let’s go. It’s time to go over there now.” Xia Mao slowly walked down the stairs with a long face.

Xu Lan acknowledged his comment and took Yao Li’s hand. She smiled and said, “Let’s go. All the men in our family are like this.”

When she said that, Yao Li winked at her in response.

The two of them had a very good relationship, like good friends. They held hands and prepared to walk towards the door together.

“Ring!”

However, the phone on the coffee table rang. Xu Lan smiled and picked up the phone. After listening to a few words, her expression suddenly darkened. It was obvious that something had happened.

“What happened?” Xia Mao took the phone from her hand and asked, “What happened to my father? Is there something wrong with his health?”

Xia Jun had a history of high blood pressure and had been going to the hospital for regular checkups in recent years, so Xia Mao got nervous when he heard the voice over the phone.

On the other side, Xia Jun also went to stand next to Xiao Zhang.

He laughed heartily and said, “I’m fine. I’m in good health. It’s just that something’s up with your son, Xia Zhe.”

Xia Jun was not really a stern person. He just liked to keep a straight face in front of his daughters-in-law and did not smile often.

Xiao Zhang added on with a hint of helplessness in his voice, "It's like this. Comrade Xia Zhe just sent a letter. He's already married and has gotten his marriage certificate. Now that his wife is pregnant, he wants to tell everyone about this joyous news."

"What did you say?" Xia Mao was afraid that he had heard wrongly and continued to ask, "Which nephew of mine are you talking about? Is it Xia An or Xia Liang?"

His two nephews were of marriageable age and still single, so it would be a reasonable thing for them to be reporting some good news now.

Chapter 79: The Grandson Is Almost Here

Xiao Zhang gulped and took a deep breath before saying loudly, "It's not Xia An and Xia Liang but Xia Zhe, your son. He's already married and his wife is already pregnant. You're about to hold your grandson soon."

As soon as he said this, the few people near the phone heard it.

Xia Mao was stunned for a moment, not knowing what to say. This was all too sudden.

Yao Li stood rooted to the ground, her face pale.

When Xia Mao saw her expression, he could not help but scold loudly, "This idiotic boy, why did he only tell us elders now? He made such a big decision himself and even has a child now. What a scoundrel! When is he bringing his wife back?"

"He didn't mention that in the letter, but you can send him a telegram or call and ask him. The old chief wants you to come back for dinner to celebrate Xia Zhe's marriage. Goodbye!"

After rattling off a string of sentences, Xiao Zhang hung up the phone.

He did not want to get in trouble for nothing when Xia Mao was angry. It was more important to protect himself.

Xia Mao hung up the phone. When he turned around, he realized that both Xu Lan and Yao Li, who were rooted to their spots, did not look good. In particular, Yao Li was very pale and her eyes were red.

He had previously said Xu Lan had acted with undue haste with regard to this matter. Given that they were still uncertain whether his son liked Yao Li or not, it was too risky to raise it for discussion so quickly.

Sigh, things would get difficult now.

“Let’s go. Old Master is waiting for us to go over for dinner.” Xia Mao walked up to Xu Lan and took a few glances at Yao Li.

Yao Li straightened herself in a panic and said in a trembling voice, “Uncle and Auntie, I have something on at home. I have to go first. You guys go ahead.”

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With that, she ran towards the door, crying audibly as she went off.

She looked extremely pitiful.

“Sigh, look at what happened. You can’t be so muddled in the future. You didn’t even check properly before you made a decision on your own.” Xia Mao gave an unhappy glare.

Xu Lan got annoyed and glowered at him. “You’re blaming me now that something has happened? I had discussed with you earlier and you agreed, but you’re blaming me now that something has happened? Isn’t it your son who did such a thing?”

“Listen to what you’re saying.” Xia Mao was exasperated and it showed on his face. “What are you talking about? What do you mean by my son? Isn’t he also your son? Besides, it’s only right for my son to get married and have children. If you hadn’t been busy chasing your own tail, how would things end up like this?”

In his opinion, his son had done nothing wrong.

“That matter’s indeed my fault, but he didn’t even tell his parents that he was getting married. Is that right? Then are we still his parents?” Xu Lan continued to glare at him.

It was indeed wrong for a son not to inform his parents about his marriage. However, Xia Mao did not want to argue with her anymore so he turned around and prepared to leave, but not before saying the last word.

“Our son is also in the wrong, but he is not at home now. If you are angry, call him and teach him a lesson.”

Xu Lan was even more furious as she followed him out.

She wanted to go to the old man’s house to understand the situation and know more about this daughter-in-law who appeared from nowhere. She wanted to know what magical power this person had over her son to make him suddenly so anxious to get married.

Moreover, he did not even discuss it with his parents.

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It appeared that the old patriarch, Xia Jun, had already accepted this news. He sat at the table and looked at the letter in his hand with his reading glasses on.

Now that the couple was going to have a child, it meant that he was about to have a great-grandson.

How nice!

Just thinking about it made him excited. His grandson was growing up by the day and he felt blissful.

Xia Mao and Xu Lan arrived very quickly. When they walked in, they saw the old man sitting at the table and laughing to himself.

“Old Master, what exactly happened?” Xia Mao could not help but ask.

He also wanted to know how his son got married.

“Here, read it!”

The old man handed them the letter in his hand.

Chapter 80: Married a Country Bumpkin

Xia Mao and his wife huddled together and began to read the letter. The more they read, the more surprised they became.

In the end, Xu Lan could not help but yell out, “What? Married a girl from the countryside?”

“What’s wrong with the countryside?” Xia Jun was unhappy to hear her comment. “I’m also a country bumpkin. Back in the past, Xia Mao had also planted rice seedlings in the field before. Which family didn’t have ancestors from rural backgrounds?”

Xu Lan immediately moved back in fear.

The old man would always get triggered by certain issues. She felt really guilty telling others that the old man had a good temper.

“Besides, take a good look at whose granddaughter she is. She’s Qiao Qiang’s granddaughter.” Xia Jun continued with a long face, “If he hadn’t taken the initiative to leave the capital back then, I wouldn’t be able to match up to his position. You still want to look down upon his granddaughter?”

Xu Lan curled her lips. What was the point of saying all this now? At the end of the day, he had gone back to the countryside and became a country bumpkin. Now, he was just an old farmer who had no status.

However... Qiao Qiang's two children had done quite well for themselves. It was just that the Ye family was having a hard time now and no one knew if they would be able to persevere through their current difficulties.

Xu Lan suddenly thought of Qiao Qiang's family and asked, without rhyme or reason, "This girl is related to Qiao Qiang's first wife, right?"

"That's for sure," Xia Jun said with certainty. "If she wasn't from that side, she wouldn't have to suffer in the countryside."

The Ye family was also not the kind-hearted type.

"I heard that the Ye family is trying to persuade Qiao Qiang to return," Xia Mao thought for a while before saying casually.

The old man snorted coldly and curled his lips in disdain. "After being like strangers for so many years, they now want him to go back and tide through the difficulties with them. Do they expect him to suffer with them?"

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Xu Lan pulled a long face and could not stop herself from asking, "What? The Ye family has also run into big trouble? Then all the more we shouldn't become related to them. What if our family gets implicated?"

Xia Jun just glared at this ignorant daughter-in-law who almost rendered him speechless and decided to reprimand her. "We didn't become related to the Ye family. Ye Xian and Qiao Qiang have long been divorced and her two children have also cut ties with Qiao Qiang. Now, Xia Zhe's wife is the daughter of the son Qiao Qiang had with his first wife and has nothing to do with the Ye family!"

"I understand, I understand." Xu Lan gulped and nodded repeatedly.

Xiao Zhang had quickly brought out all the dishes and placed them on the big table, then he called out to them, "Old Chief, dinner is ready!"

The few of them went over to the table. Xia Jun was very happy and brought out a bottle of vintage liquor. He filled up the glasses and started drinking.

After a few drinks, the old man got a little tipsy.

At the dining table, he said drunkenly, "Xia Zhe's wife must be very beautiful. Otherwise, Xia Zhe wouldn't have done it that night and even got her pregnant so quickly."

"Father, father! Stop it." Xia Mao hurriedly patted his back and tried to stop him from talking. "You're drunk. Be careful with your words!"

Fortunately, there were no outsiders around now.

Otherwise, it would have been so embarrassing. How could he even say these things, particularly since the matter concerned the younger members of the family.

However, Xia Jun still continued, "This Qiao Mei is really not bad, she managed to get pregnant immediately after that night. That's really, really good. She should bear more children for the Xia family. The more children, the better the blessing."

At that moment, two people who had just walked through the main door paused in their steps.

Tan Jing felt a sense of bitterness and wondered if she should still continue to make her way in.

She was Xia Zhe's sister-in-law who was married to his eldest brother. They did not have any children despite being married for seven to eight years. When she went for a checkup at the hospital, it was

discovered that the problem lay with her. Since then, she had felt ashamed in front of the entire Xia family.

Now, the Xia family was finally going to have another generation of descendants.

Yet... she did not know why, but there was a twinge at her heart and she felt terrible.

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Meanwhile, back in the village, Qiao Mei was busy tidying up her vegetable field.

It was already early summer now. The vegetables and fruits that she planted earlier were already ripe, like the tomatoes which were now hanging off the branches in their bright red glory.