

## Fat Wife 721

### Chapter 721 Home Installation

However, the girl that Xia Zhe was going to marry was Qiao Mei! If the bride was Qiao Yu or another girl, they would think that Xia Zhe's taste was quite normal. Although Qiao Yu was average-looking, her father was a village tyrant and Qiao Yu's second sister-in-law, Wang Qin, was an accountant who controlled the village's funds and work points. If a man married Qiao Yu, he would be able to gain a firm foothold in the village.

Over the years, there had been many families who proposed marriage to Qiao Yu, but it was Qiao Zhuang's plan to "sell" Qiao Yu for a good price.

Although he was old, he was not a muddle-headed person. With his status in the village, he would want to receive a lot of betrothal gifts when he married off his daughter. He became even more pompous, especially after seeing the betrothal gifts Xia Zhe gave Qiao Mei. He felt that Qiao Yu was better than that fatty Qiao Mei, which was why it led to that matter with the Guo family.

"This is a simple matter. I'll arrange it for you now. Not long ago, we added new pillars to our courtyard and we have a few spare ones. You can take them to set up the phone line, but you have to tell me how many pillars you want and how long the phone line is. I have to find someone to arrange it for you," Chen Hu said.

Currently, the only phone in the village was in the village office. Qiao Mei had already estimated that if she wanted to redirect one of the phone lines, she would need four pillars and a 200-meter phone line to reach her house.

"Uncle Hu, bring four pillars and a 200-meter phone line. That's about all I need. I don't have a phone yet, so I'll have to trouble Uncle Hu to help me buy one. I'll give you the money when we meet," Qiao Mei said.

She knew that these things would cost a lot of money. She did not want ordinary wood pillars, but the type that was coated with a layer of fireproof coating so that there was no risk of spontaneous combustion even if there was thunder or rain.

Only Chen Hu would be able to get his hands on such things. She knew that one piece would cost 80 dollars. This kind of pillar was thick and tall, and it was not easy to get fireproof coating, so that was why it was so expensive.

There were only pure wooden pillars in the village now, the kind that one could get by going up the mountain. She was not at home most of the time and would only come back a few times a year. If she wanted to do the installation, she had to do it in the safest manner.

"Why are you being so polite to me! Is it an issue of money? Leave this matter to me. Don't worry about anything else and just wait for my news at home." Chen Hu hung up after saying that.

Coincidentally, his wife had also instructed him to bring Qiao Mei a lot of things for pregnant women. He did not have the chance to send them over yet, but now he could do so this afternoon.

Qiao Mei looked helplessly at the phone speaker with a busy tone and smiled. This was how Chen Hu was. He did things for Qiao Mei without collecting money or asking for any returns. She could only find other ways to repay him.

There were still gloves at home that she had knitted for Xia Zhe. She decided to give them to Chen Hu first, then make a new pair for Xia Zhe. She would also give him some pickled vegetables and two to three pieces of cured meat.

"Mei Mei, are you going to install a phone line?" Wang Qin asked obsequiously.

Qiao Mei immediately had goosebumps all over her body. Wang Qin had never addressed that way before, or even called her "Mei Mei"! Why did it sound so disgusting coming from her mouth!

Wang Qin spoke like this because she wanted to take advantage of the situation. When Qiao Mei redirected the phone line, the line would pass by her house. If Qiao Mei could allow her to tap on it, she would be able to install a phone too.

The reasons why so many people in the village did not direct the phone lines to their houses were because firstly, the phone bill was really very expensive and secondly, the application procedures were very complicated.

Under normal circumstances, if one wanted to install a phone line, one had to go to the county city's Power Grid Bureau to apply for it. One had to fill in an application form and write down all the information about one's family. It was already difficult for most people at this step. They were mainly illiterate, and some people even replied that they did not know their exact addresses.

The Power Grid Bureau had staff to help them with these things, but if they themselves could not provide the information, how could the staff help them?

After the application was approved, there would be people coming to do field inspections, draw blueprints and design the routes. It would cost five dollars for the design fee and it would take more than a month for the designer to arrive.

After the design was done, the staff would tell the villagers how many pillars they needed and asked them to prepare it themselves. The pillars sold by the government were pillars with fireproof coating. Not only were they expensive, but they also took a long time to be installed.

Therefore, no one was willing to get a phone line. It was time-consuming and costly. They might as well buy more clothes and food with this amount of money!

No one was willing to spend money on these things that they could not see or touch. Anyway, their loved ones were all by their side and there was no need to contact them by phone.

Chapter 722 Wanting To Take Advantage

"What does it have to do with you? Don't tell me you want to tap on the line and take advantage of me?" Qiao Mei covered her mouth and said in surprise.

Wang Qin, having her intentions exposed, immediately blushed and said angrily, "What do you mean by taking advantage of you! The phone line will pass by my house during your installation process! So what if I want to tap on it! Even if I make an application myself, it's just a matter of tapping on the line!"

Qiao Mei had long guessed what Wang Qin would think. Wang Qin's house was not far from the village office. Wang Qin would reap the benefits of any house that wanted to get a phone line and install a phone. She just needed to tap it.

What she said was true.

However, Qiao Mei had long anticipated Wang Qin's intentions and she had already decided to take a detour to avoid Wang Qin's house. She would go around from the other side and use more pillars and a longer phone line. She did not lack this bit of money.

Not everyone could take advantage of her!

"Then I'm really sorry to disappoint you. I have chosen to install the phone line by taking a detour. That route just so happens not to pass by your house. So sorry!" Qiao Mei said to Wang Qin with a smile.

It was obvious to everyone that Wang Qin's face had gone from blushing red to angry burgundy. Her expressions kept changing, as if she was performing a magic trick.

"Qiao Mei, let me send you back. It's such a long way." Zhao Liang quickly interrupted and sent Qiao Mei off. It would be bad if Wang Qin and Qiao Mei got into a fight later.

Zhao Liang had never seen anyone who could make Wang Qin so angry!

"Qiao Mei, don't come out too much these days. I've heard the rumors about Qiao Yu's disappearance in the village. If Qiao Zhuang and the others go looking for trouble with you, don't be afraid. Now that you're going to install the phone line, just call uncle at the office. Uncle will immediately go and help you," Zhao Liang said.

"Uncle Zhao, don't worry. They don't have any evidence and don't have the guts. I didn't inform you in advance about the matter of the phone line. You won't blame me, right?" Qiao Mei blinked her big eyes and looked at Zhao Liang.

Zhao Liang had wanted to reprimand Qiao Mei, but when he saw how cute she looked, he was not angry anymore and no longer had the mood to reprimand her.

"You, you, what can uncle say? Let's just leave it at that, but no more next time! Also, Wang Qin will definitely tell others about your family installing a phone. There will definitely be many people who want to take advantage of you. You have to think of a solution," Zhao Liang said worriedly.

"Don't worry, Uncle Zhao. I know what to do," Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Mei had already thought about it and came up with a countermeasure. She felt that other than Qiao Zhuang's shameless family, everyone else in the village took good care of her.

Other than Qiao Zhuang and his family, who else would come by?

Even if they came, she would ask them for an exchange with items or money. She would not let anyone make phone calls at her place for free. The main purpose for installing the phone was for her own convenience.

Chen Hu quickly sent over what Qiao Mei needed in a big truck, including the specialists. Many young soldiers jumped out of the truck, including Xiaobei. However, Chen Hu himself was absent even though he promised to come.

"Why isn't Uncle Hu here?" Qiao Mei looked in the direction of the vehicle and asked Xiaobei.

"Section Head Chen asks me to give you these from his wife. He says that if he comes personally, you will definitely give him money or something. He doesn't want it. He has already paid for all these things," Xiaobei said as he pointed at the things in his hand.

It was filled with Auntie's love for her.

Coincidentally, Qiao Qiang also came back from the mountain then. His journey today was very smooth and he quickly dug up a ginseng by relying on the markings he had made previously. He was not greedy and only dug one up. If he tried to dig up too many, he would only reach home late at night.

"Xiaobei is here! Where's Chen Hu? What are you doing here?" Qiao Qiang asked.

"We're here to set up the phone line. Erm... Uncle Qiao, I'm going to go and help out! Let's talk later! I'll put the things in the house!" Xiaobei ran into the house in a panic with the package.

For some reason, he was very afraid of Qiao Qiang. When he saw Qiao Qiang, he was like a little chick who saw an eagle. He was most scared of Qiao Qiang's eyes, which were sharp and fierce. Even under normal circumstances, there was an indescribable look of authority about them.

He would only show his gentle side in front of Qiao Mei. Other people felt that he made them feel stressed.

Chapter 723 Rude

"Grandfather, have you threatened Xiaobei before? Why does he run away whenever he sees you and find all kinds of reasons to stay away from you every time? Did you threaten him?" Qiao Mei looked at Qiao Qiang and asked curiously.

She felt that Qiao Qiang was a very kind and gentle old man, so why was Xiaobei so frightened that he kept running away? It must be because Qiao Qiang had threatened Xiaobei before, or because Qiao Qiang had something on Xiaobei.

In reality, only outsiders knew about Qiao Qiang's "other side". They just did not know what kind of expression he would have on his face when he looked at Qiao Mei's babies in the future. It was said that there was a closer bond between grandparents and grandchildren. So, if there were two generations in between, would that mean that the bond would be even closer and he would definitely dote on the children.

"I didn't threaten him. He's the deputy section head of the armed forces department and I'm just an ordinary citizen. How can I threaten him? You're such a joker. Didn't you tell me that you don't intend to install the phone line? Why have you decided to do it?" Qiao Qiang squinted his eyes and looked at the busy soldiers in the courtyard.

Now that he was old, his eyesight was no longer as good as before. It was difficult for him to see clearly and he had to squint for a long time before he could see things clearly.

"There are always calls from the capital. Also, Xia Zhe's unit has been very busy recently and he doesn't have time to write to me, so I thought it would be more convenient to install a phone. This way, you can

also call the grandpas from the neighboring village and ask them out to play chess," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Qiao Qiang pouted. He did not intend to call those old fellows!

The last time they played chess, one of them even cheated. The old man had clearly already placed down his chess piece, but when he saw that Qiao Qiang was about to win next, he quickly retracted their chess piece and said that he wanted to place it down again, that it was not set down properly because his hand had trembled.

He was so angry that he did not intend to go for the rest of the week.

"Grandfather, let's go back into the house. It'll take a long time for the soldiers to install the phone line. I'll go make some delicious food for them. Let's ask them to eat here tonight." Qiao Mei returned to the house happily and took out all the nice food in the house.

After killing three chickens, she took out the cured meat and pickled vegetables from the storeroom, as well as the vegetables that had been preserved for a long time. She wanted to cook a good meal for everyone tonight.

Not long after, the fragrance of food wafted from the chimney to the noses of the soldiers in the courtyard. This would be their first time trying Qiao Mei's cooking.

"Brother Xiaobei! This elder sister Qiao Mei is really virtuous. Smell the fragrance of the food. If my future wife is half as good as elder sister Qiao Mei, I'll be satisfied!" a soldier said with a grin.

"Isn't your elder sister Qiao Mei perfect!" Xiao Bei said with a sly smile.

"Of course! Elder sister Qiao Mei is perfect, so of course!"

Xiao Bei asked again, "Then is your elder sister Qiao Mei as beautiful as a fairy!"

"Definitely! Do you even need to ask! In the entire city, elder sister Qiao Mei is the most beautiful!"

Xiao Bei was so amused that he laughed loudly. He pointed at the soldier and said, "You shameless person! Back then, you were the one who said that she was fat and ugly and not as good as the pigs in your backyard! Didn't you say that!"

The soldier blushed. He did not remember saying such things. When had he ever said such things about Qiao Mei?

"Brother Xiaobei, you can't accuse me wrongly! When did I say such things! You're slandering a good person! You'll be punished with 500 push-ups!" the soldier shouted.

"I'm not spouting nonsense. Do you remember the young lady who came to deliver bean sprouts to the armed forces department?" Xiaobei said with a smile.

The soldier immediately realized that the fat girl from back then was elder sister Qiao Mei!

At that time, Qiao Mei had just gotten pregnant and had only lost a little weight. However, the amount of 50 pounds that she lost was a drop in the bucket for Qiao Mei, who was almost 300 pounds at that time.

The weight loss was not much at all. To people who knew Qiao Mei, she had indeed lost a lot of weight, but to people like these guys who saw Qiao Mei for the first time, she was still considered fat.

The soldier lowered his head in embarrassment. He deeply realized he had to pay a price for speaking without thinking and that it was his mistake. He should not have casually judged a person by their appearance.

That was an extremely humiliating and rude thing to say. He must apologize to Qiao Mei for this matter.

"Alright, alright. I'm just mentioning it. Everyone knows what kind of person you are. You were just careless back then. You just need to apologize. Everyone makes mistakes. Back then, I also looked down



on elder sister Qiao Mei for being fat, so we have to work hard to make it up to elder sister Qiao Mei!" Xiaobei shouted out to the group.

"That's right!" Everyone's morale was boosted and they worked even harder.

Chapter 724 Like A Little Ancestor

Qiao Qiang stood in the courtyard and smiled at the young men. He recalled the times when he was young and fought with his brothers-in-arms in the army. Those days were the most unforgettable days of his life.

Qiao Mei wiped her hands on her apron and looked at the soldiers working in the distance in puzzlement. "Grandfather, what were they shouting about just now? Why were they so loud, like they were shouting slogans? Could something have happened?"

"They're fine. How is it? Are you done cooking?" Qiao Qiang asked.

Qiao Mei nodded. Only the pumpkin porridge was not ready. She had to steam the pumpkin first and then press it into small pieces to stew with the millet. Only then would it taste most delicious.

The rest of the dishes were being kept warm in the pot. When the work was done, everyone would be able to come back and eat.

In order to prevent them from escaping, Qiao Mei even locked the door of the truck and put the keys in her pocket. Even if Chen Hu had ordered them not to eat at the house of the commoners, they had to stay behind today.

It was about time. Qiao Mei set up the chairs and placed the bowls in the courtyard. Soon, the soldiers returned. When they saw Qiao Mei busying herself in the courtyard, everyone felt even more apologetic.

"You're back! Quickly sit down to eat! Let me tell you, there's chicken tonight! There's enough for everyone! Don't tell me Uncle Hu won't let you eat here. I've already taken the car keys. Hurry up and come over to eat!" Qiao Mei shouted as she put down the chopsticks.

There was no response for a long time. Qiao Mei looked up in confusion and saw that everyone was lined up in the courtyard. They stood at attention as if they were being punished.

Qiao Mei laughed and said, "What are you doing? Is there a ceremony before dinner? Are you going to sing a military song?"

Xiao Bei looked at everyone. They all took the cue and saluted Qiao Mei in unison, shouting, "We're sorry! We were wrong! Elder sister Qiao Mei, please forgive us!"

Qiao Mei was shocked by this scene and so was Qiao Qiang, although he did not show it on his face. He just looked at them quietly from afar.

Qiao Qiang thought that they were going to apologize to Qiao Mei in private. He did not expect them to stand in a group and apologize in such a grand manner.

"Xiaobei, what's wrong? What are you doing?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Elder sister Qiao Mei, the first time we saw you was when you went to the unit to sell bean sprouts. At that time, we made nasty comments about you. It's our fault and we hereby apologize to you. We shouldn't have said those things. We hope you can forgive us," Xiaobei said sincerely.

Qiao Mei waved her hands and said, "I was wondering what was going on! Hurry up and sit down to eat! I forgive you!"

None of them just sat around and waited. They all did something, like going to the kitchen to help scoop the rice, bringing out the dishes and putting out the stools. Qiao Mei asked Xiaobei to get the three children from the Zhang family who had just finished school to come and eat with them.

Li Gui had to take care of Zhang Miao and could not leave the house. When Xiaobei went over, he brought some dishes and rice with him. Then he asked the other children to join in the fun.

Everyone finished their meal happily. Xiaobei took out the red phone and installed it for Qiao Mei. Under Xiaobei's instructions, Qiao Mei called Chen Hu's house to test if the phone was working.

"Hello?" Chen Hu said casually.

"Uncle Hu, why didn't you come to my house for dinner? You didn't keep your word," Qiao Mei said, pretending to be angry.

In this world, the only person who could call Chen Hu "Uncle Hu" was Qiao Mei. Chen Hu quickly said genially, "It's just that I have to go home to accompany your auntie. I'll definitely go next time!"

Qiao Mei did not believe his nonsense. Perhaps he had done something wrong and was afraid that Qiao Qiang would reprimand him, so he did not come by.

"Alright, then I'll get Xiaobei to bring some stuff back for you. You can't reject and you can't give Xiaobei a telling off, otherwise I'll ignore you forever," Qiao Mei said huffily.

Chen Hu quickly agreed. Qiao Mei was like his little ancestor and he could only dote on her. Even his wife had started to side with Qiao Mei after hearing his description of her.

She especially liked Qiao Mei because of her good culinary skills. In the past, she even quarreled with Chen Hu countless times because Chen Hu did not tell her that Qiao Qiang's granddaughter was so good, so she did not have a chance to rush over to propose marriage for her son.

Chapter 725 Angering Old Man Xia To Death

After Xiaobei and the others finished eating, Qiao Mei also gave them a jar of pickled cucumbers each. In any case, there were a lot of pickled cucumbers in the storeroom. She could just marinate a new batch later.

The soldiers were all very happy and clamored to hurry back to show off to their comrades in the other teams. Such delicious food was very rare and they would never share it with those who did not have it.

Let those guys crave for it!

After sending the soldiers off, Qiao Mei called home by dialing the number that Xia Zhe had given her. After two beeps, someone picked up the phone.

"Hello, this is the Xia family residence. What can I do for you?" the nanny, Auntie Xie, said politely.

"Auntie Xie! I'm Qiao Mei!" Qiao Mei said.

When she heard Auntie Xie's voice, she felt a sense of warmth. Back when she lived with Xu Lan, Auntie Xie was the one who interacted with her the most. Auntie Xie took care of the family's meals and daily necessities, and she had even learned many cooking techniques from Qiao Mei.

"Qiao Mei! Wait! I'll go look for Sister Xu now." Auntie Xie quickly ran upstairs to the dance studio to look for Xu Lan.

Although Xu Lan had already retired, Xia Mao had specially converted a room into a dance studio for Xu Lan when he was renovating the house.

Although he did not say anything, he silently did everything he wanted to do. This might be how Xia Mao expressed his love.

"Sister Xu! Qiao Mei called! Qiao Mei called!" Auntie Xie shouted.

Xu Lan quickly covered herself with a blanket and came out of the room. She did not even bother to change out of her dancing shoes. As long as something was related to Qiao Mei, it was a top priority.

"Hello, Mei Mei. Why are you calling me? Did you go to the village office to call me so late at night?" Xu Lan asked worriedly.

She did not know what it was like in the village. It was only when Xia Wen told Xu Lan everything that he had investigated that Xu Lan found out only the village office had a phone.

"I've set up a phone line and installed a phone. In the future, I'll be able to call you from home. I just need to make payment to the village office later. It's very convenient," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

When Xu Lan heard this news, she almost cheered happily. This meant that she could call Qiao Mei often. This was really a good thing.

If not for the fact that everyone at home had been busy recently, she would ask them to come back to celebrate!

"Mother, I want to ask you for the phone numbers to call grandfather and youngest aunt. I just set up the phone and I don't know their numbers," Qiao Mei said.

Ever since she came back, she had not written to Xia Fang yet. Xia Fang was the first person who treated her well when she went to the capital and she liked Xia Fang very much.

After taking down all the phone numbers, they started chatting about family matters and only hung up reluctantly late at night.

Qiao Qiang clicked his tongue a few times at the side and Qiao Mei heard everything clearly. She had not said a word to Qiao Qiang all night. It seemed that he was jealous.

"Grandfather, are you unhappy? Tell me about it and get it off your chest!" Qiao Mei said as she patted Qiao Qiang's leg.

"What can I be unhappy about? You've been busy with work all night and it's a long-distance business. How would I dare to disturb you?" Qiao Qiang said as he picked up the newspaper.

He was holding the newspaper upside down, yet he still pretended to be reading it!

"I was just informing my mother-in-law about the phone and we ended up talking until now," Qiao Mei said embarrassedly.

Qiao Qiang was still a little dissatisfied with Xu Lan. In those days, when Xia Mao and Xu Lan got married, he even attended their wedding. At that time, he felt that Xu Lan was arrogant and not an easy person to get along with.

At that time, it had nothing to do with him, so he did not care. However, after Qiao Mei married into their family, she even had to suffer when she first met Xu Lan. Qiao Mei had never suffered any grievances when she grew up under his care for so many years.

Xu Lan actually gave Qiao Mei a hard time just because she was from the countryside. Although Xu Lan had nothing to do with Qiao Mei's fake miscarriage, if Xu Lan had cared about Qiao Mei earlier, the He family would not have been able to take advantage of the situation!

When Qiao Mei went to the capital to give birth in the near future, he would have to follow her there. At that time, he would settle the score with Old Man Xia. His precious granddaughter had gotten into such a big mess under Xia Jun's hands, so that old brother of his must give him an explanation.

Otherwise, he would take Xia Jun's eldest great-grandson away and raise the boy in the village! He would anger that old man to death!

He wanted to see if he still dared to treat Qiao Mei badly and let her suffer in the capital!

Chapter 726 Realizing Dreams

"Alright, I'm fine now. Don't be angry about this, grandfather. I'll go into the mountains with you tomorrow," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

They needed to go into the mountains to do the last round of picking. It was now the end of the autumn harvest season. Although there were no more wild vegetables, nuts like pine nuts, hazelnuts and chestnuts were everywhere and all ready for harvest.

If they could pick a lot, they could sell them for 50 cents a catty.

"Why do you want to go into the mountains? Just stay at home and rest. I can still be in charge of picking these things. Wasn't I in charge of it in the past? Don't worry," Qiao Qiang said stubbornly.

In the past, Qiao Mei was greedy and lazy. Whatever she could ask Qiao Qiang to do for her, she would not do it herself. She even needed Qiao Qiang to help her put on a coat when she went out.

She behaved like his living ancestor.

Qiao Qiang was already old. Although he drank ginseng water from time to time now, his foundation was still weak. After walking on the mountain roads for the past two days, his knees were starting to feel a little uncomfortable.

Qiao Mei could also tell that Qiao Qiang's walking posture today was slightly different from before. She did not ask Qiao Qiang directly but quietly put two drops of 100-year-old ginseng juice into his drinking water.

"Grandfather, drink some water," Qiao Mei said as she held the glass of water.

After Qiao Qiang finished drinking, he looked at Qiao Mei in surprise and said, "Where did you get the water from! There's a pinewood fragrance in the water. It tastes much better than before. We didn't have that in the past."

"This... this is from the well. There are probably a lot of medicinal herbs on the mountain recently. It's harvest season now and maybe that causes the water in the mountain to get better. If it's delicious, then grandfather should drink more," Qiao Mei said as she simply came up with an excuse.

Qiao Qiang was skeptical and just silently drank the entire glass of water. He did not want to argue with Qiao Mei now. It would not be good if he made Qiao Mei angry and affected her pregnancy.

After tidying up, Qiao Mei started to miss Xia Zhe a little. He had been gone for almost a month. The next time they met would probably be when the children were born. She wondered if Xia Zhe would even have time to come back and visit her and the children then.

The books that the principal had given her were stacked on her desk. When Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe got married, she had drawn a design for the old carpenter in the village. She wanted a long desk with big drawers and a small cabinet beside the desk.

The old carpenter had never seen such a table before. In order to accommodate the height of the table, Qiao Mei even increased the height of the sewing machine so that they were on the same level.

At first, Qiao Mei had not intended to leave the village. She had planned to do some design work at home. In the future, she would be able to earn a lot of money just by selling design drafts. Besides, this was also her dream in her other life.

She had accidentally become a lawyer back then. However, in the beginning, her dream was to be a designer and build up her own brand. This was also the reason why she did handicrafts.

Since the heavens had given her a new life, she must work hard to realize her dream and make up for the regrets in her other life.

She must cherish the time she had.

Perhaps she could write some literary works now and become a rising star in the literary world in the next 30 years!

Qiao Mei gradually fell asleep with her beautiful dreams.

Somewhere else, the Kong family was in an uproar. Ever since Kong Lu returned home, Old Madam Kong had not been idle for a single day. She sat next to Kong Lu every day and chattered non-stop.

If it was not bad things about Xia He, then it was about the Xia family being heartless, or that it had not been easy for her to raise a child like Kong Lu. Now that Kong Lu had grown up, not only was he not filial to her, he even wanted to anger her to death.

The neighbors could not get a good night's sleep. Even Kong Lu had serious dark circles under his eyes.

Early in the morning, Old Madam Kong started complaining again.

"Son! Bring Xia He back! It's been so many days. What else does she want? Is she really not coming back?" Old Madam Kong said.



"That's right! When I was in the capital, my sister-in-law didn't treat me well!" Kong Li wanted to add fuel to the fire, but Kong Lu glared at her.

Did he have to list down all the embarrassing things that Kong Li had done in the capital? If not for Kong Li causing trouble every day, he would not have to compensate the Xia family so much money in his capacity as her elder brother.

He had been trying to raise the money for half a month and had only gathered 1,800 dollars so far. He was still short of 200 dollars and could not manage to borrow that amount at all.

#### Chapter 727 Going To The Capital To Ask For An Explanation

His friends were all afraid of him coming to ask them for a loan. As for the money he had lent to others previously, those people either said that they really had no money, or told him to take their lives instead.

Kong Lu was timid and afraid of trouble. If he really forced someone to death for this little bit of money, he would not be able to live in peace for the rest of his life.

Although everyone had only borrowed about 10 dollars from him, the total amount was more than 300 dollars. He had lent out even more initially. It was Xia He who could not take it anymore and went from house to house to ask for repayment.

Kong Lu even had a big fight with Xia He because of this matter. He felt that she embarrassed him and made him unable to hold his head high in front of his colleagues. He felt too ashamed to face anyone at work.

Later on, he found out that Xia He only asked for money from people who had been transferred out from his current workplace unit. She did not ask any of his current colleagues at the workplace and only went to visit them to express her sympathy and said that it did not matter about how long it took for them to return the money.

After Kong Lu calmed down these few days, he realized that Xia He had been a good wife to him during their years of marriage. Although in everyone's eyes, she was a person who was not good at cooking and doing housework, it was already very nice of her to treat Old Madam Kong and Kong Li respectfully even when his mother made things so difficult for her.

He was not a good husband.

"Say something! When is your wife coming home! Is she coming back to this house!" Old Madam Kong said fiercely.

Kong Lu could not take it anymore and shouted at Old Madam Kong, "She won't be coming back! Are you satisfied! You only know how to ask! What were you thinking back then! What were you thinking when you bullied her! Now that she wants to divorce me, you're here asking me for her!"

Old Madam Kong had never seen Kong Lu so angry with her. Could it be that Xia He was serious this time?

No, this must not happen. How could Kong Lu's salary be enough to support her? She must go to the capital to look for Xia He!

For an ordinary family, 10 dollars a month could get them a luxurious life in the countryside. Not only did Old Madam Kong ask Kong Lu for 100 dollars a month, but she also asked Xia He for 120 dollars. Sometimes, she even asked for more.

In order to avoid unnecessary trouble, Xia He gave her money on time every month and treated it as using money to avoid trouble. Anyway, she earned enough to do that, although this in turn meant that she did not manage to have any savings.

Seeing that the time limit given by Xia He had already been exceeded, Kong Lu rushed into Kong Li's room to look for her savings. The last time she went to the capital, she took so much money. She must still have some money left.

"Elder brother! What are you doing! That's my money! What right do you have to touch my money! That's my last bit of money! Return it to me!" Kong Li rushed forward to fight with Kong Lu.

Although Kong Lu was a soldier, he could not withstand the force of Kong Li charging at him with her 200-pound body. He was knocked a few meters away by Kong Li on the spot.

"What do you mean by your money! If not for you, would I need to compensate Xia He an amount of 2,000 dollars? Would Xia He divorce me?" After saying that, Kong Lu took the money he had gathered and went to the bank to do a transfer.

Kong Li hugged the few dollars scattered on the ground and wept loudly. These were all the money she had hidden away. No one knew how much money she had, not even Old Madam Kong. It was the money she had been saving up for her marriage.

Although she was usually extravagant, she still managed to save more than 200 dollars in secret. She had heard from her neighbor that someone as fat as her would not be able to buy a nice wedding dress off the shelf, but she might be able to get a custom-made one if she was willing to splurge.

After asking around about the cost, she managed to save more than 200 dollars by holding herself back from buying food.

However, Kong Lu had taken everything away. How could she get married in the future!

"Mom! What should I do? I can't get married anymore! What should I do? I don't have money for my clothes!" Kong Li cried.

Old Madam Kong did not even think about why Kong Li had so much money. She was now focused on the fact that Xia He wanted to abandon this family. Not only did she want to divorce her son, but she also wanted them to fork out a large sum of money.

She had not even gotten a divorce but she did not want to come home anymore. She was simply disrespectful to her in-laws. Old Madam Kong wanted to go to the capital to demand an explanation. The Xia family was simply too much!

"Don't cry! Let's go! Let's go to the capital and talk to Xia He! We can't let her bully us like this. It's not up to her to make any decision in this family! As long as she's not divorced, she's still my daughter-in-law! She has to listen to me!" With that, Old Madam Kong returned to her room to pack her luggage.

Chapter 728 Asking For Living Expenses

Early in the morning, Qiao Mei stopped Qiao Qiang from going picking in the mountains and asked him to go shopping in the county city to buy something to ward off the cold. There was also no meat left at home, so she asked him to go to the county city to buy more.

In short, there was nothing left at home. She asked him to go to the county city to do a good round of shopping and also bring back a few pieces of good fabric for her to make clothes for the babies.

Xia He was on leave today and went home to help with the renovations. When she had some free time, she gave Qiao Mei a call.

"Young girl, can't you even write a letter to your elder sister to inform her that you're back safe and sound?" Xia He pouted and leaned against the cabinet as she said unhappily.

"I'm just busy settling all kinds of things at home. Sigh, it's a long story," Qiao Mei said with a sigh.

Qiao Mei told Xia He the main points about what happened after she returned to the village. The main thing she talked about was about how her younger siblings had gone missing. Those who did not know Qiao Mei's family situation would think that she was talking about a plot from a television drama.

"Alright, let's stop talking about me. Has Kong Lu returned the money? What are your plans for the time being?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"You just finished talking about your tragic incident and you're questioning me again. I'm only doing better at work. Although there are a few 'flies' in the unit, they're still easy to deal with. At least it's much better than what happened at your house. It's nothing compared to what happened to you," Xia He said.

As she spoke, the door was pushed open with a bang and bounced against the wall twice. Xia He was so shocked that she gripped the phone tightly. When she turned around and saw that it was Old Madam Kong and Kong Li, she instantly felt a surge of anger.

In order to hide from the Kong family, she had chosen to return to her maternal home to take refuge. She could not be bothered to argue with them, yet she could not even hide from them. How could she live like this!

"What's wrong? What happened? Did someone enter the house?" Qiao Mei asked nervously.

By right, the Xia family residence was heavily guarded and people who entered had to be checked thoroughly. They would not let anyone in casually. If it was a highly skilled thief, why would he enter the house so openly and cause such a big commotion?

"It's fine. The Kong family members have come to visit. I just finished mocking you about how exciting your life is. Now, my life is going to be exciting too," Xia He said helplessly.

"Don't hang up. I'll listen too. Be careful," Qiao Mei said.

Xia He slowly set down the phone and leaned against the wall without moving. She felt very disgusted to even look at the Kong family members. If not for the fact that Kong Lu had not returned the money, she would have gotten a divorce long ago.

"Haven't you seen me! Don't you know how to serve me tea! Is this how you behave as my daughter-in-law?" Old Madam Kong said loudly.

In the past, she used this move so that all the neighbors would hear her. After all, the apartment unit had been in disrepair for a long time and the soundproofing was not very good. Anyone could hear what anyone said clearly.

The Xia family's house had its own courtyard. Even if one shouted until one's throat was hoarse, no one would not be able to hear it from next door. Old Madam Kong's actions were just a waste of her voice and nothing else.

"Where's your family! Where's the helper! Hurry up and get me some water! Make some food for me. I'm hungry!" Seeing that Xia He was the only one around, Kong Li immediately started to act mighty.

She had lived with the Xia family for so long that she already knew who was in charge. Xia He's parents were usually not at home and the helper did not come often. The only person who could be considered to be in charge was Xia He's brother, Xia Wen.

Xia Wen was not around at the moment, so the Kong family mother and daughter could do whatever they wanted in the Xia family's house now.

"Are you deaf? Didn't you hear what your sister said? Hurry up and pour some water!" Old Madam Kong sat comfortably on the sofa and ordered Xia He around.

Qiao Mei could hear that Old Madam Kong's tone of voice was comparable to Old Madam Li. She just did not know how it compared with what Qian'e faced. Qian'e said that her grandmother was even scarier than a monster!

"Does Kong Lu know that you're here?" Xia He said, suppressing the anger in her heart.

"Do I have to tell my son that I'm here to see my daughter-in-law? You're not divorced yet! I'm still your mother! Why didn't you give me this month's living expenses! As long as you're not divorced, you have to support me! Go and get the money!" Old Madam Kong pestered.

Kong Li acted as if she was at home and went straight to the kitchen to open the fridge to eat and drink. She ate and drank all the delicacies inside. This was so much more comfortable than when she was at home.

Chapter 729 Bad Upbringing

"You!" Xia He wanted to say something to Old Madam Kong.

Qiao Mei quickly said, "Calm down, talk about the money."

Xia He held back her curses and said calmly, "Your son still owes me money. Bring me the money he owes first and we'll talk about other things later."

At the mention of money, Kong Li's reaction was even greater than Old Madam Kong's.

Kong Lu had taken almost 1,000 dollars from her. All her money had been taken away and she only had a few dollars left in her pocket. How could she get married?

"My brother took all the money I have! Now I can't find a boyfriend to get married to! Find me a boyfriend! I don't care! You have to be responsible for my marriage!" Kong Li said as she cried.

Qiao Mei could not help but laugh out loud on the other end of the phone. When it came to Kong Li, even setting aside her figure, with such a family and her temper, how many men would want to marry her?

At that time, she still asked Xia Zhe to help her keep an eye out and insisted that she wanted to find someone from the army. Kong Lu had been in the army for so many years and did not manage to find a suitable person for Kong Li, so how could Xia Zhe and the others help?

"Is it because of money that you can't find a boyfriend..." Xia He muttered softly.

Just as Kong Li was about to flare up, Xu Lan and Liu Fen arrived home with a lot of groceries. As soon as they entered, they saw that the glass window at the door had shattered. The glass in their house was blast-proof, so even if it shattered, it would not drop all over the floor.

"What... what's going on?" Liu Fen looked at the glass in disbelief.

Xu Lan was also at a loss. This was the first time she had encountered such a thing. She threw down the vegetables in her hand and prepared to grab Liu Fen and run away. When Xia He heard the commotion, she quickly ran to the door and shouted, "Mother! Where are you going?"

"Why are you at home! Did a thief enter the house? Are you alright? Did the He family members come to seek revenge? Quick, follow me to your grandfather's house!" Xu Lan pulled Xia He along and wanted to run out together.

Xia He smiled resignedly and said, "My mother-in-law and sister-in-law are here. They're kicking up a fuss in the house."

Regarding the fact that Xia He insisted on a divorce, Liu Fen had kept advising Xia He to be sensible. There were no mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law in the world who did not quarrel. However, looking at the situation today, it appeared that Xia He had really suffered a lot for so many years.

This mother-in-law was too aggressive. This door cost 400 dollars. It was the best anti-explosive door on the market, but she could even break it. Her combat strength was indeed extraordinary.

"In-law, you're back. Hurry up and come in for a chat," Old Madam Kong shouted towards the door.

"Those who don't know better would think that this is the Kong family's house..." Liu Fen muttered disdainfully.

Xu Lan looked at the Kong family's mother and daughter with a cold expression and said impatiently, "Go and get Xiao Wei from the security department. I'll ask him if we simply let anyone in at will now."

"What are you saying! We're your in-laws! What do you mean by anyone? Can't I come to my sister-in-law's house?" Kong Li said arrogantly to Xu Lan, taking advantage of the fact that Old Madam Kong was also there.

"Is this how the Kong family raise their kids? How dare a junior talk to me like this? Your family's upbringing is really not bad!" Xu Lan said mockingly.

Xia He had thought that Xu Lan would side with the Kong family. She did not expect her to start scolding the Kong family's mother and daughter as soon as she entered the house. It was really satisfying to see.

After Qiao Mei's fake miscarriage, Xu Lan seemed to have become a different person. The specific change was that the unreachable fairy-like mother had become warmer.

After understanding what motherly love felt like, Xu Lan began to change her mindset from focusing on her career and herself to caring more for her family.

"It's none of your business what kind of upbringing our family has, but how did you educate Xia He? We have come all the way here and don't even get a glass of water. Is this the upbringing of the Xia family?" Old Madam Kong said, not to be outdone.



This matter was indeed a lack of etiquette on their part. After all, the Kong family was still their in-laws now. Xu Lan gently patted Xia He's hand and said, "Go, this is what we should do."

Xia He sighed and took out the glasses that had not been used for a long time. She cleaned them half-heartedly and used them to serve Old Madam Kong and Kong Li. Later on, she would not feel any heartache even if she had to throw them away.

She must get rid of all the things that the Kong family members had used. To her, the things were too dirty! It would be best if she never had anything to do with the Kong family again!

Chapter 730 Hurry Up And Pay Back The Money

Xia He filled the two glasses with water from the tap. She stared at the glasses for a long time before choosing to pour the water out and replace it with boiled water.

It was not that she cared for Old Madam Kong and Kong Li! She was just worried that if they had diarrhea, she would have to pay for their medical fees. The gains would not make up for the losses.

Xia He placed the water in front of Old Madam Kong and Kong Li with a look of annoyance. Kong Li looked at Xia He smugly. It felt much better to order Xia He around at the Xia family's house than in the Kong family's house.

Xu Lan did not waste her breath on Old Madam Kong. Xia He had told her all the details a long time ago. At that time, she had even advised Xia He to take even better care of the family and bear with it.

However, when she looked at the Kong family's mother and daughter and their behavior, she did not intend to let Xia He continue to stay in that wolf den.

"Why are you here this time?" Xu Lan asked sternly.

Old Madam Kong took a sip of water happily and said, "In-law, don't be so serious. I'm just here to see why my daughter-in-law doesn't want to go home and has been staying at her parents' house. I think your place is really nice. It's so impressive. No wonder Xia He doesn't want to come back."

Xia He pursed her lips. Clearly Old Madam Kong wanted to find a way to stay here and was trying to find an excuse. She silently returned to the phone. She knew that Qiao Mei was still there and had not hung up yet.

"Talk about the door," Qiao Mei said.

Xia He immediately understood what she meant and said, "This house is built with the best materials. This door is military grade. You broke the door, so you have to pay for it."

At the mention of money, Old Madam Kong quickly put on a sad face and did not talk about compensation at all. She said, "In-law, look at her. I have to come over this time because she leaves me with no choice. She insists that my son gives her money. It's an amount of nearly 10,000 dollars. We don't have that much money."

"Where's the money that Kong Lu and I gave you all these years? Anyway, you wrote me an IOU in black and white. Are you saying that you won't pay me back?" Xia He took out the account book from the drawer.

There were many promissory notes inside. A few were written by Old Madam Kong and the rest were written by Kong Lu's two younger brothers. This was only a part of it. Sometimes, Old Madam Kong would ask her for money every two to three days, saying that it was for emergency purposes. There were no promissory notes for these incidents.

"You! Who knows if your account books are correct!" Old Madam Kong said with a guilty conscience.

"The amounts that are listed in the account book, I'll treat it as a gift to you out of filial piety. Your thumbprint is on the IOU you gave me. If you don't want to return the money to me, let's go to the police station," Xia He said.

Xu Lan remained silent and tacitly agreed with what Xia He said. Although their family did not lack this amount of 10,000 to 20,000 dollars, they could not suffer humiliation for nothing. Earlier, Xia He kept saying that it was Qiao Mei's idea for her to wait for Kong Lu to return the money before getting a divorce. In that case, Xu Lan wanted them to spit out all the money now.

"Are you trying to send me to prison! I'm already so old. If I go in, I'll die inside. Anyway, I don't have any money! You can take my life! If you do this, aren't you afraid that my son will come looking for you!" Old Madam Kong pointed at Xia He and shouted shakily.

Xia He spread out her hands and shrugged. In any case, she did not want to live with Kong Lu anymore. Once she got a divorce, the Kong family's matters would have nothing to do with her anymore.

"It's only right and proper to pay back money that you owe. If you can't afford to pay, then ask your sons and daughter to pay." Xu Lan looked at Kong Li. She had heard that this sister-in-law played a big part in bullying Xia He.

She even snatched Qiao Mei's jewelry and had an argument with Qiao Mei. This was something that Xia Fang had unintentionally mentioned to Xu Lan. Of course, Xia Fang did not say that Kong Li was powerless against Qiao Mei and only mentioned the cause of the matter.

"I don't have any money! I've already given the money for the television to my brother." Kong Li quickly waved her hands and declined.

"We're all family. What's wrong with helping one another? Why are you so calculative?" Old Madam Kong said shamelessly.

That was indeed the case. Relatives should help one another out, but there had to be reciprocity. The Kong family was like a blood-sucking bug raised by the Xia family for so many years.

After the Xia family paid for their living expenses, they still scolded the Xia family behind the Xia family's back. They said the Xia family treated them like beggars, looked down on their family and felt that they were useless. They even influenced Kong Lu into hating the Xia family as well.