

Fat Wife 741

Chapter 741 - 741 The Only Family Member Left

741 The Only Family Member Left

Someone hurriedly went to Qiao Zhuang's house to inform them and the entire family rushed out. When Wang Qin and Jiang Ye arrived, they vomited when they saw the scene in front of them. They had never seen anyone injured so badly.

"My son! What happened to you!" Qiao Zhuang crouched over Qiao Fu and cried his heart out.

Their entire family knew that Qiao Fu had gone to ambush Qiao Qiang and Qiao Mei today. They had thought that the news coming from the village would be bad news about Qiao Mei, but they did not expect it to be about Qiao Fu.

"Uncle Qiao Zhuang, don't cry. The most pressing issue now is whether we should bring him to the county city hospital for treatment," Zhao Liang asked anxiously.

Zhao Liang was just a village official and could not make this decision for the family as it involved payment. Even then, money was the smaller issue. It was truly a matter of life and death. If Qiao Fu died on the way, and then Qiao Zhuang's family tried to extort money from the villager office, he would get into trouble even though he had been kind enough to help.

"Yes, yes, yes! Let's go!" Qiao Zhuang quickly agreed. If Qiao Fu died, there would be one less person in the family who could earn money. If they sent him for treatment, they could still ask Qiao Qiang's family for a sum of money! This matter definitely had something to do with them!

Zhao Liang made arrangements for two horse carriages, one for Qiao Fu and one for the family members. They all reached the county city hospital not long after.

By the time they reached the county city hospital, Qiao Qiang had already finished his checkup.

Qiao Qiang's injuries were not serious. After the doctor did a general review, the doctor said that he would be fine after recuperating at home for a period of time. Qiao Qiang had osteoporosis since he was already elderly and this time, there were no broken bones, only a few hairline fractures.

However, even if it was only a slight hairline fracture, it was not something minor. After all, at Qiao Qiang's age, if he continued to do tiring work and the injuries could not heal, it could drag on to a stage until it was beyond treatment. Qiao Mei even asked the doctor to give Qiao Qiang a referral for a gastric checkup, so that Qiao Qiang could get his old ailment looked at.

"Look, I told you I'm fine. You guys insist on bringing me to the hospital. I won't go for another checkup. Let's go home," Qiao Qiang muttered softly.

Qiao Mei had been holding back her anger all this while. This was the hospital and she could not make any loud noises in the corridor. She suppressed her annoyance and settled Qiao Qiang down in the lounge first.

"You still say you're fine! You're already old, yet you still think you're young! You're so infuriating!" Qiao Mei said as she stood opposite Qiao Qiang with her hands on her hips.

"I know my own body! What illness can I have! Stop making a fuss..." Qiao Qiang said impatiently.

Qiao Mei was so angry that her eyes were filled with tears. She had no other relatives in this world except Qiao Qiang and Li Gui. If anything happened to Qiao Qiang, how could she live?

"Even if you don't do it for yourself, you have to do it for us children. Zhang Wei and I can't lose you," Qiao Mei said as she sat at the side and wept in a fit of pique.

This time, Zhang Wei did not side with Qiao Qiang anymore. This time, he also supported Qiao Mei.

"Grandfather, elder sister is right. You have to listen to us!" Zhang Wei said stubbornly.

Qiao Qiang sighed. As one got older, one would become muddle-headed. Qiao Mei was pregnant and if anything happened to her because she got too worked up, he would feel even more guilty. The days

now were different from the past. Qiao Mei had made a lot of money and they would never be able to spend all that money in their lives. They should look after themselves better and live longer.

“I’ll listen to you. Let’s go and do the checkup,” Qiao Qiang said as he patted Qiao Mei’s hand.

Qiao Mei and Zhang Wei stood on either side of Qiao Qiang and slowly led him towards the room for his gastric checkup appointment. There were not many wheelchairs available in even the big hospitals in the capital, let alone in their small county city.

As soon as they left the lounge, they saw a group of doctors surrounding Qiao Fu, seemingly at a loss. They had never seen such serious injuries at the county city hospital. They had given Qiao Fu an infusion of drugs to keep him alive and asked the family to send him to the hospital in the provincial city for treatment. The doctors there should be able to treat him in time if they sped up.

Qiao Mei originally thought that Qiao Fu deserved to die, but when she saw him in such a miserable state, she could not bear it. While Qiao Zhuang’s family went to make payment, she dripped two drops of 100-year-old ginseng juice into Qiao Fu’s mouth to keep him alive.

Otherwise, with such a long journey ahead, Qiao Fu would die before he could make it to the provincial city.

After absorbing the 100-year-old ginseng juice, Qiao Fu’s face quickly showed signs of rosiness. Under normal circumstances, such concentrated ginseng juice could only be drunk by mixing it with water. However, Qiao Fu was already seriously injured and drinking it directly was not too much for him.

Chapter 742 - 742 Taking Care of Grandfather

742 Taking Care of Grandfather

“What are you doing here! Are you here to laugh at us!” When Qiao Zhuang returned and saw Qiao Mei standing beside Qiao Fu, he thought that she wanted to harm him.

Qiao Mei pursed her lips resignedly. In the eyes of Qiao Zhuang’s family, no matter what she did, she always had ulterior motives. They were the ones who had done all kinds of bad things, but yet they were also the ones blaming others.

Seeing that Qiao Mei remained silent, Qiao Zhuang became even more convinced that Qiao Mei was the cause of Qiao Fu's current state. He pointed at Qiao Mei and scolded, "You little asshole! You harmed my daughter and broke up my eldest son's family. Now, you still want to kill my eldest son!"

People who passed by stopped in their tracks to see this group of people make a fool of themselves. Everyone discussed the situation animatedly. Some people guessed that Qiao Mei was a mistress who broke up someone's family. Some people even said that this man had let Qiao Mei down and that Qiao Mei had come to seek revenge, and that the man deserved it.

Anyway, they said all kinds of things, no matter how unpleasant they sounded.

"Your son wants to kill me and my grandfather, snatch my grandfather's assets and kick me out of the house. Someone will come and tell you about this. You should save him now." Qiao Mei ignored Qiao Zhuang's cursing and prepared to help Qiao Qiang into the room for a checkup.

Qiao Zhuang grabbed onto Qiao Mei and shouted, "You can't leave! You have to give me money to treat my son! If you don't give me money, my son won't be able to see a doctor! Give me the money to save him!"

Qiao Qiang endured the pain in his abdomen and went up to give Qiao Zhuang a tight slap. The sound echoed throughout the entire corridor.

"Second brother, you should quickly bring Qiao Fu for treatment. Don't waste too much time. If anything happens, no one will be able to explain themselves," Qiao Qiang said viciously.

Qiao Zhuang covered his face and looked at Qiao Qiang angrily. He was already so old and yet he had been slapped in public. It was simply embarrassing!

"Eldest brother! Eldest brother, what's wrong!" Qiao Wang stood by Qiao Fu's bedside and shouted, not knowing what to do.

Qiao Fu's body had gradually turned cold and even the medicine in the IV bottle stopped infusing. Qiao Zhuang no longer had time to argue with Qiao Mei and quickly ran to the doctor for help. In the end, Qiao Fu was intubated and given oxygen, and the family rushed to the provincial city.

After Qiao Mei brought Qiao Qiang for the gastric checkup, they rushed back home. The doctor said that Qiao Qiang's health was actually not too bad and that the previous ulcers in his stomach and intestines had all healed. It was quite miraculous.

After hearing that, Qiao Qiang was in a good mood. His gastric problems had already been resolved, so that meant he could live longer. The doctor even promised him that as long as he took good care of his own body, he could live for as long as he wanted!

"Mei Mei, this matter is really strange. That tree has been fine for so many years. Even when there was a landslide, it did not collapse. Why did it fall down for no reason today? I took a closer look and it really wasn't chopped off. Do you think your grandmother is protecting me?" Qiao Qiang looked in the direction of the back mountain and sighed.

"I think so. That's why you have to take good care of yourself and not let grandmother worry about you," Qiao Mei said, conveniently making use of the topic.

Qiao Mei knew very well how that big tree fell. She just wanted Qiao Qiang to take better care of himself. After all, the tales of ghosts and deities were not substantiated. There were people who believed in them and people who did not. It was also a good thing to let Qiao Qiang believe that her grandmother was protecting him.

"Xiao Wei, you should hurry home as well. Tell your mother not to worry. Your elder sister and I are fine now." Qiao Qiang smiled and patted Zhang Wei's head.

Zhang Wei frowned and refused to leave. He turned to look at Qiao Mei and asked, "My mother says that Miao Miao is a girl, so I can't take care of Miao Miao. That means that since elder sister is a girl, elder sister can't take care of grandfather. Then can I take care of grandfather?"

Qiao Mei nodded and said, "Yes you can. You're quite quick-witted. But do you still have the energy to take care of grandfather at night after you go to school during the day?"

"I can do it!" Zhang Wei flexed his arms and showed Qiao Mei his biceps, exerting all his strength to squeeze out the muscles.

"Alright, alright. Come over when you're free. Go home now and tell mom about what happened. Come back tomorrow to stay with grandfather," Qiao Mei said.

Zhang Wei skipped out the door happily and ran home singing.

"It's not like I have a big problem and I don't need Xiao Wei to take care of me. Don't tire the child out. You can talk to him again tomorrow." Qiao Qiang looked in the direction where Zhang Wei had left with heartache.

Chapter 743 Amputation

"Xiao Wei must be trying to make up for something. At that time, Zhang Miao was seriously injured but Zhang Wei could not help at all. After all, Miao Miao is a girl. Now that you're sick, he wants to do his best to take care of you and show his filial piety. Besides, I'm here to help him," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

After helping Qiao Qiang to wipe down his body, the two of them quickly went to bed. The entire village was silent that day.

It was not easy for Qiao Zhuang and the rest to reach the big hospital in the provincial city. This hospital in the provincial city was indeed different from the one in the county city. It looked grander and was more than twice the size of the county city hospital!

Qiao Gui stood at the door and muttered to himself, "This is my first time in the provincial city. This place is really grand. It looks like it's going to be expensive. Do we have that much money?"

Wang Qin quickly covered Qiao Gui's mouth and pulled him to the side. "Don't mention money. Your father will definitely eye all our money! Didn't you go into the mountains with your eldest brother today? Did you see who harmed him?"

Qiao Gui did not go to the mountain with Qiao Fu at all. He had indeed accompanied Qiao Fu out of the house today, but after they went into the mountain, they split up. Qiao Gui was timid and scared, so he secretly went home using another route. He did not set out to harm Qiao Mei at all and did not even go up the mountain.

"I went home! I think my eldest brother is too extreme. We can't really cause Qiao Mei to have a miscarriage. There are two lives living inside Qiao Mei. Who knows, Qiao Mei might just die together with them. When the police come to investigate the case, my eldest brother and I will have to go to jail! I'm not clever, but I'm not stupid!" Qiao Gui whispered.

Wang Qin had wanted to say that Qiao Gui was a coward, but she looked at him differently now. What Qiao Gui said made sense. She also hated Qiao Mei, and she would dare to feed Qiao Mei some croton that would cause diarrhea, but she also did not have the guts to do anything that could cause Qiao Mei to die.

"Let's pretend that you don't know anything about this. You didn't do anything. Don't even say that you didn't go, understand?" Wang Qin whispered into Qiao Gui's ear.

Qiao Gui nodded. He understood the stakes and would not take the blame for his eldest brother for no reason.

Less than five minutes after entering the operating theater, the doctor came out and asked, "Who's Qiao Fu's family member?"

Qiao Zhuang quickly walked forward and held the doctor's hand as he said, "Me! I'm his father! How's my son?"

"You have to make a quick decision now. The patient can't keep his legs. To save his life, we have to amputate them. We have no other choice," the doctor said regretfully.

It was not as if the doctor was not skillful. Even if an immortal came, Qiao Fu would still be unable to keep his legs.

"How can this be! Doctor, you have to save my son's legs! He can't be disabled! Please save him!" Qiao Zhuang cried.

"We've tried our best. I'll give you five minutes to consider. This is the best option," the doctor said.

"Alright! Amputate them..." After saying this, Qiao Zhuang collapsed to the ground as if all his strength had been sucked out of him.

"Alright, go and make payment." The doctor then returned to the operating theater.

None of Qiao Zhuang's surrounding sons and daughters-in-law went forward to help him up. When they heard about making payment, everyone's expressions changed. Not long ago, their families had just contributed the money for the fourth son's marriage. Now, they had to fork out the money to treat the eldest son's illness.

This surgery would cost at least a few hundred dollars. The subsequent treatments would also cost money.

Qiao Zhuang had no intention to pay for this. He turned to look at Zhao Liang. It was now the autumn harvest season and the money to buy seeds for next year should have already been transferred to the village. This money was an accumulation of contributions from everyone in order to buy seeds for next year. Any excess was set aside so that the villagers could borrow money from the village during emergencies.

"Xiao Liang, look at my Qiao Fu. Can you give us some money from the village fund for emergencies? We really don't have any money left," Qiao Zhuang stood up from the ground and said shamelessly.

Zhao Liang did not want to lend them the money at all. After they borrowed the money, they would never return it. When the time came, he would have to make up for it. Qiao Zhuang and the rest had already done this once a few years ago.

"This is the village's money and I can't lend it to you. Why don't you send a few people home to raise the money. I can send them all back in a horse carriage," Zhao Liang said with a smile.

Chapter 744 Shorten One's Lifespan

Seeing that Zhao Liang was so stubborn, Qiao Zhuang could only place all his hopes on his family. He glanced at his children and everyone avoided his gaze. Only Qiao Wang and Jiang Ye looked at Qiao Zhuang openly.

"Qiao Wang, go home and find some way to borrow some money for your eldest brother," Qiao Zhuang said.

"Father, I'm not very popular in the village. You might as well ask my second sister-in-law to go and borrow money. She knows so many people and there must be many people who are willing to lend it to her. Isn't my second sister-in-law in charge of the finances in our family?" Qiao Wang said slyly.

With just a few words, he tossed the hot potato to Wang Qin. Wang Qin looked at Qiao Wang with a dark expression. He was usually quiet at home, but he was quite good at pushing the responsibility at critical moments.

At the moment, Qiao Zhuang only had 100 dollars left in his pocket. It was probably not even enough to pay for half of the surgery fees.

Qiao Zhuang thought about it and finally said, "All of you go back with Zhao Liang and quickly go to Qiao Mei's house to ask for money. Tell your eldest uncle that this is his biological nephew. Ask him if he would leave his nephew in the lurch! Otherwise, if he really dies, we'll put him outside their door!"

Zhao Liang pursed his lips helplessly. He was an outsider and could not say anything about this matter. He had finally seen how shameless Qiao Zhuang's family was.

This matter had nothing to do with Qiao Mei and Qiao Qiang. The two of them were also victims and Qiao Mei had even taken care of Qiao Fu for a while. Such kind people were still bullied by Qiao Zhuang and the rest. It was really inhumane of this family.

After rushing back on the horse carriage for half a day, they finally reached the village. Qiao Wang did not intend to get involved in this matter at all and grabbed Jiang Ye to go home to rest. Qiao Gui was worried that he would get into trouble if Qiao Fu died, so he went straight to Qiao Mei's house to ask for money without returning home. Zhao Liang also followed him there.

As soon as they entered the house, Qiao Gui knelt on the ground and said without looking up, "Uncle! Please save my eldest brother! This matter started because of you! You can't leave my eldest big brother in the lurch!"

Qiao Mei and Qiao Qiang looked at Qiao Gui and laughed loudly. Qiao Qiang could not move his abdomen or he would hurt his ribs. It was painful for him to laugh.

This was because Qiao Gui was kneeling where Qiao Mei was standing.

"Second uncle, what are you doing? What's so urgent that you have to kneel down to me. I'm worried that this will shorten my lifespan. Second uncle, you should get up and talk," Qiao Mei said as she held back her laughter.

Qiao Qiang tried his best not to laugh. He felt really uncomfortable holding it back and held the blanket tightly to distract himself. His ribs hurt when he laughed.

When Qiao Gui looked up and saw that it was Qiao Mei, he stood up from the ground with a dark expression and said unhappily, "You have to be responsible for my eldest brother. Give me the money quickly. My eldest brother needs money to save his life."

Qiao Mei sat on the brick bed and said slowly, "You say that we're responsible for your eldest brother? Responsible for what? It was your eldest brother who beat up my grandfather so badly. We've already filed a report in the county city. The armed forces department will come to your house soon. If there's anything you want to say, you should say it to them."

Qiao Mei was not lying. She had indeed spoken to Chen Hu on the phone and he had already sent people to the mountain to investigate the scene. There would probably be news from him tomorrow morning.

Qiao Gui was instantly afraid. Although he was not the one who hurt Qiao Qiang, he had also participated that day. According to the law, this could be considered an attempted murder.

"My eldest brother... I didn't see anything... I don't know how my eldest brother got injured. Maybe he bumped into something supernatural and the big tree smashed into him. But my eldest brother is also Uncle's biological nephew. Uncle, you can't just leave him in the lurch!" Qiao Gui said in a panic.

Out of humanitarian reasons, Qiao Mei wanted to give Qiao Fu some money. After all, while the others did not know the truth of the matter, she was indeed the one who brought down the big tree. Her

original intention was only to break Qiao Fu's bones, but she did not expect that both his legs had to be amputated.

"How much?" Qiao Mei asked.

Qiao Gui asked for an exorbitant amount of 500 dollars.

Zhao Liang looked at Qiao Gui in shock. The doctor clearly said that 260 dollars was enough, but Qiao Zhuang's entire family really behaved in the same way. They were all scumbags.

He could not afford to offend Qiao Zhuang's family. If not for the fact that he was afraid of them all these years, he would not have been bullied by them. However, he did not want to lie to Qiao Mei. Qiao Qiang and Qiao Mei treated him very well.

Zhao Liang could only madly wave two fingers at Qiao Mei and blink continuously to let her know how much it really cost.

Chapter 745 Do Not Press A Desperate Foe Too Hard

Qiao Mei nodded, took out 100 dollars from her pocket and threw it on the ground. "Take it. I know you took money from the He family. You have plenty of money to treat Qiao Fu's illness. If you don't want me to expose you, then just take the money to treat your eldest brother. Otherwise, you won't be able to get even this 100 dollars."

Qiao Gui reluctantly picked up the 100 dollars from the ground and left without saying anything.

Zhao Liang looked outside worriedly and said, "You shouldn't force him to the edge like this. When one's in a desperate situation, one will decide to resist. If you force his family to a dead end, that woman Wang Qin is not an easy one to deal with too."

Qiao Qiang also agreed with Zhao Liang's point of view. In battle, there was a military strategy called "when you surround an army, leave an outlet free". What it meant was to leave an escape route for the enemy at all times and not forcing the enemy to the stage of desperation, so as to lower their defenses and make them less determined to fight to the death.

There was no need to be afraid of how powerful the enemy was. No matter how powerful an enemy was, there would always be weaknesses. However, when a weak enemy disregarded life and death and was prepared to fight to the death, then this was truly the most terrifying enemy of all.

"No worries. They don't have that kind of guts. They've already injured my grandfather so badly, yet they still dare to cause trouble for me. They must be tired of living!" Qiao Mei said as she looked at Zhao Liang with a murderous glint in her eyes.

Zhao Liang did not berate Qiao Mei for being extreme, but laughed out loud instead. He pointed at Qiao Mei and said, "Uncle Qiao, look at your granddaughter. This is truly the child you raised. The way she speaks is exactly the same as you. She's just like you when you were young!"

When he was young, he was good friends with Qiao Mei's father, Qiao Yue. Every time he saw Qiao Qiang, his heart would be filled with admiration. This was the reason why he wanted to become a soldier. He had always felt that Qiao Qiang was a great hero and he also wanted to become someone like Qiao Qiang.

"Hahahaha, that's right. If my Mei Mei is a boy, she will definitely be a top army warrior! She won't lose to my grandson-in-law, Xia Zhe, at all! It's hard to say who will emerge the winner between the two of them!" Qiao Qiang said with a laugh.

Qiao Mei said confidently, "Hmph, no matter if I'm a man or a woman, he will lose to me!"

"That's right, that's right. Xia Zhe has already lost to you for the rest of his life," Qiao Qiang said.

"Qiao Mei, I still want to give you a reminder. Be careful of them and don't let them hurt you. During this period of time, I'll investigate this matter carefully. You and your grandfather should recuperate well," Zhao Liang said.

Qiao Mei understood Zhao Liang's concern. After sending Zhao Liang off, she felt unhappy and suddenly had the thought of going to the capital immediately. If she had managed to persuade her grandfather to go to the capital earlier, they might not have run into such trouble.

However, if they went to the capital, the people from the Liang family were still lurking around and it would still be annoying at some point in time. They would not have any peace and quiet even if they went to the capital. If they stayed in the village, they might get murdered.

It was a difficult situation of being stuck being a rock and a hard place.

"Mei Mei! Come here!" Qiao Qiang shouted towards the outside of the house.

Qiao Mei carried the ginseng tea into the house and placed the teacup beside Qiao Qiang. She looked at Qiao Qiang quietly and waited for him to lecture her.

She knew that the way she gave Qiao Gui the money just now was like dismissing a beggar and that he would definitely hate her for it, but she just could not take it lying down.

"Stay away from their house for the time being, understand? Also, tell Xiao Wei and the other children to be careful and not to get into conflict with the children from Qiao Zhuang's family. I heard from Zhang Wei that Qiao Gui's eldest son always bullies Zhang Wei because he's older," Qiao Qiang said worriedly.

Bullying? Why had Zhang Wei never mentioned this to her?

Qiao Mei had never taken the children's small fights seriously. It was normal for children to quarrel with each other, especially boys. After they quarreled, they usually became closer.

However, a fight with violent tendencies was bullying. How could Zhang Wei be a match for those people? This silly child was really being way too sensible if he did not even tell them about such things.

"I understand. I'll talk to him. When Uncle Hu finds the evidence, we can send Qiao Fu to jail!" Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Qiang nodded. He was not a person who was kind to a fault. At that time, he had saved Qiao Fu because Qiao Fu did not deserve to die yet. The key was to let Qiao Fu go to prison and learn how to behave. He did not intend to let anyone involved with this matter go scot-free.

Now that Qiao Fu's legs were going to be amputated, it was hard to say if he would be able to come out alive after going to jail.

Chapter 746 Something Not Worth Talking About

The next day, just after dawn, Qiao Mei boiled a big pot full of water. The weather was gradually getting colder. In addition to having to light the fire every day for warmth, she also had to boil a lot of hot water.

She suddenly missed the water heater at Xia Fang's house. It would be nice to have an automatic device. It was such a strenuous process now and one could freeze to death while taking a bath! The water would turn cold not long after it was put into the bathtub. Now that she was pregnant, she did not dare to touch the cold water at all. Every time she took a bath, she had to ask Li Gui for help.

There would be two big pots of hot water boiling outside. Once the bathwater turned cold, Li Gui would quickly hand her more hot water. It was already good enough that she could take a bath once a week.

They did not dare to install any sewerage pipes in the house. If rats entered the house through the pipes, their toes could get bitten off!

Auntie Wang was the one who told them about this when everyone gathered together for a casual chat. Although they did not know if it was true, the big rats in the countryside were really daring enough to bite humans.

Not long after, Chen Hu and Xiao Bei stopped the car in front of Qiao Qiang's house and got out with a dark expression. They had gone up the mountain to collect evidence but found nothing, so they could not be sure that it was Qiao Fu who did it.

"Uncle Hu, Xiaobei, you're here. Grandfather is in the house," Qiao Mei said.

"I'm really sorry. I didn't expect anyone to want to kill you in my territory. It's my fault," Chen Hu said with a solemn expression.

No one could predict the future. No one expected Qiao Fu to want to harm any of them. In her other life, Qiao Mei had come into contact with such cases often and knew all about such crimes like the back of her hand.

"Let's talk inside, Uncle Hu. My grandfather is still in the house." Qiao Mei led Chen Hu and Xiaobei into the house.

Qiao Qiang lay quietly on the bed. There was a thick round of bandage wrapped around his head and his waist was strapped between wooden planks to prevent him from moving around in his sleep.

When Chen Hu saw Qiao Qiang like this, he almost knelt down. It was not his fault for misunderstanding the situation. Qiao Mei had never had to deal with such a serious injury before. She went a little overboard with the bandages around his head and the splint also looked quite scary.

"Oh, Chen Hu is here. Sit down and talk. I'm fine. It's Qiao Mei who's making a mountain out of a molehill," Qiao Qiang said nonchalantly.

"Uncle Hu, did you manage to find any clues?" Qiao Mei asked as she sat on the stool.

Chen Hu looked at Qiao Mei, then at Qiao Qiang and shook his head helplessly.

Qiao Mei already knew that this would be the outcome. In her other life, she had handled countless criminal cases and many of them were similar to what she was going through now. Moreover, the person lying in the hospital now was Qiao Fu. Even if Qiao Fu had wanted to kill Qiao Qiang, it was only considered an attempted murder. There were no witnesses and no accomplices. Even if they arrested Qiao Fu and sent him to jail, it would only take a few days before he was released.

"It's alright, Uncle Hu. I'm making new arrangements for this matter. It's been hard on you and Xiaobei to need to go to the mountains to look for clues." Qiao Mei took out all the remaining foodstuffs from the storeroom and loaded them up for Chen Hu to bring back.

After Chen Hu put down the tonics and supplements he brought, he left Qiao Mei's house. He reminded her repeatedly to call him no matter what happened in the future.

Qiao Mei was lying when she said that she had an idea about what to do. She had taken Zhao Liang's words to heart. Qiao Fu had already paid a tragic price by losing his legs. If he dared to have any ill intentions again, she would have to teach Qiao Zhuang and his entire family a lesson.

"Why don't you let Chen Hu take Qiao Fu away? Weren't you bent on letting Qiao Fu spend the rest of his life in jail yesterday?" Qiao Qiang lay on the bed and said with a smile.

"I'm trying to accumulate merit! Although Qiao Fu wants to take our lives, we can't really take his life in return. If we can't afford to offend him, we can hide. If there's really no other way, we can go to the capital immediately," Qiao Mei said as she touched her stomach.

Qiao Qiang had thought about this matter for the entire night. He also felt like going to the capital immediately. He was not afraid of others calling him a coward or and saying that he left Foshan Village because he was scared of Qiao Zhuang's family.

If he lost his life, what reputation would there be to care about? Now that Qiao Zhuang's family wanted to take his life because of his house, who knew what other shocking things they could do in the future.

He did not have much assets at all. He only had a house, a thatched storeroom, his family's private plot of land and a few mu of land in the village. As he and Qiao Mei could not farm, he had leased out all the land and collected rent every year. The rent was only two dollars a year.

For Qiao Qiang and Qiao Mei, these assets were too miniscule to even mention.

Chapter 747 Learning To Cook

It was better to wait until there was a chance in the future to slowly deal with Qiao Zhuang's family. They probably would not have too many chances to do that in this life. Soon, they would leave Foshan Village for good.

They might even want to bring Li Gui and the children to the capital in the future. The educational system there was better. Also, these children were all smart. Zhang Wei could go with Xia Xiu to join the army, Zhang Chao could learn from Xia Wen and eventually enter the university, Zhang Qin could learn dance from Xia He, and Zhang Miao would likely recover faster if she went to the capital to recuperate.

With Zhang Wei's help, Qiao Mei became even more proficient in taking care of Qiao Qiang. After a few days, Qiao Qiang could sleep soundly without needing the splint.

Qiao Mei asked Zhang Wei to apply a hot towel to Qiao Qiang's ribs every day. The towel was soaked with water that was mixed with a large amount of 100-year-old ginseng juice. She believed that Qiao Qiang's body would recover very quickly after absorbing it for a few more days.

At this moment, it was an important period of the autumn harvest. Everyone was focused on working in the fields and every family was busy. Qiao Mei did not intend to idle at home. She brought the excess vegetables from her house to the kitchen of the village canteen.

This village canteen only opened during the spring and autumn harvest seasons. In the beginning, free food was provided here. The higher-ups would distribute food and the villagers would eat whatever was given. However, the amount of food they grew could not meet the requirements of the higher-ups at all. Later on, in order to reduce losses, they continued to distribute food, but asked everyone to use food stamps to pay for the food. After that, fewer people came.

The people who did manual work needed to eat a lot of food every day. Auntie Dong said that her husband could eat six big steamed buns in one meal. When he was full, he could work more nimbly.

The food here was not delicious at all. No one liked to go to the canteen to eat. If this continued, the village canteen would close soon.

"Mei Mei, you're here! Are you eating at the canteen because you didn't cook today?" Auntie Dong said warmly.

Back then, Auntie Dong did not manage to become the director of women's affairs, but she became a manager in the village canteen and she seemed smug every day. As the saying went, food was the most important thing for the people. She might be just a manager but she was in charge of the most important thing!

However, the "most important thing" that she cooked was really unpalatable. Many villagers had to brace themselves when they came to the village canteen to eat.

"I'm here to help. I think you're all so tired. I have nothing to do at home now. Since I'm pregnant, I should do some appropriate physical activities." After saying that, Qiao Mei picked up the kitchen knife and started cutting vegetables. It was going to be mealtime soon.

Many people did not come to the canteen immediately when it was time to eat. They would always consider it for a long time.

"Huh? Why does the food taste different today?" Uncle Dong asked as he looked at Auntie Dong.

Auntie Dong smiled so widely that the corners of her mouth almost reached her ears. She said happily, "You're really lucky to be here today. Qiao Mei is here to cook in our canteen! You have to eat more today."

Soon, the news that Qiao Mei was helping out in the canteen spread around. People who did not usually go to the village canteen to eat arrived at the canteen on time every day, afraid that there would be no more food if they were late.

Qiao Mei continued to help out here for more than half a month. By then, everyone's favorable impression of her could no longer be described as fondness. It was more like admiration.

Those who had daughters in the family used Qiao Mei as an example and asked them to learn from her and try their best to be "the second Qiao Mei in the village".

This was so that when it was time they got married in the future, they would not be left on the shelves.

In the past two days, there were even people who brought their 10-year-old daughters to the village canteen to follow Qiao Mei around and learn culinary skills from her. They wanted to know how she could cook so well.

As time passed, Qiao Mei could not stand the fact that there were so many children following behind her every day. It was as if she was a hen with a bunch of chicks behind her every day.

"Aunties, let the kids go home. There are so many kids crowding around here that there's no room to do actual work," Qiao Mei said.

"My child is already 16 years old and doesn't know how to cook! I'm so anxious! She's at the age to get married, but why doesn't she worry about it?" Auntie Zhang, who worked in the canteen, said anxiously.

"I only started cooking after I got married. Don't you know what I used to be like?" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Auntie Zhang sighed. How could her children compare to Qiao Mei? They were stupid and were not good at anything.

Chapter 748 - 748 Awake

748 Awake

Now that Qiao Mei was becoming more and more famous in the village, many people said that Qiao Mei was like the leader of the village. As long as Qiao Mei had any issue, the entire village would help her without any hesitation.

There was a bumper harvest this autumn. In the past, the yield was not as high as this year, so everyone was much more tired from work than in the past. In the past few years, after the autumn harvest, they all looked like they had peeled off a layer of skin. This year, however, they all looked radiant after finishing their work. Everyone looked more energetic than usual.

This was all thanks to Qiao Mei. Who would not be motivated to work hard if there was delicious food to eat every day?

"The autumn harvest is over. Don't go to the canteen anymore. Rest at home." Qiao Qiang looked at Qiao Mei with heartache.

After working so hard during this period of time, Qiao Mei had lost a lot of weight. If this continued, she would be malnourished after giving birth.

"Alright, I'll listen to grandfather. I won't go tomorrow." Qiao Mei carefully removed the bandage on Qiao Qiang's head. The wound had already started to heal. He would be able to go to the clinic to remove the stitches after another week.

However, there would always be a scar as long as a finger on Qiao Qiang's head. This scar would serve as a reminder to Qiao Mei that Qiao Zhuang's family had harmed them.

Qiao Qiang snapped his fingers and interrupted Qiao Mei's thoughts. He said calmly, "Cool down and don't think too much. Qiao Zhuang won't let the matter rest. Let's just wait quietly."

Qiao Mei nodded. In fact, she had not let down her guard for more than half a month and had been keeping an eye on Qiao Zhuang's family. She heard that Qiao Zhuang had brought Qiao Gui into the mountains many times and would stay at that tree for a long time every time.

Qiao Zhuang was indeed thinking the same thing as Qiao Mei. He still wanted to blame Qiao Qiang's family for what happened to Qiao Fu, but no matter how hard he investigated, he could not find any clues.

On Qiao Fu's third day in the hospital, he gradually woke up. His eyes were dull and he looked as if his soul had been sucked out of him. He looked as if he had been possessed.

In reality, Qiao Fu also thought that he had been possessed. The people in the northeast believed in such things and that there were animals in the mountains which had absorbed the essence of the world after living for a long time and became spirits.

They would call such an animal the "Great Immortal". Ordinary people would not be able to see a Great Immortal, and only those who were fated would meet one. Legends had it that as long as one saw a Great Immortal appear and help one to survive a calamity and reach enlightenment, the Great Immortal would protect one for the rest of one's life.

However, if one accidentally offended the Great Immortal, one's life would be over.

"Hurry up and tell us what happened! You're making us so anxious! Did Qiao Qiang harm you? I'll go and confront their family now!" Qiao Zhuang said.

Qiao Fu stared blankly at the ceiling and said, "No... I was possessed... That big tree just smashed straight at me... Do you think Qiao Qiang had something on him? Or maybe the place I was at was a little too particular and I offended the Great Immortal."

As soon as he said this, all the family members could not help but have goosebumps. They heard from the elders in the village that if one offended the Great Immortal, one's family could forget about living.

Everyone was afraid that what Qiao Fu said was true.

"Nonsense! This is all nonsense that the village says to fool people! Have you ever seen anyone who has really met such a thing? They're just talking rubbish. Don't scare people with such things." Qiao Zhuang pointed at Qiao Fu and scolded him.

"But... isn't the Guo family a perfect example? Back then, their family was so poor that they couldn't even afford to eat and they didn't even have a house. Later on, after Old Guo's father went to the mountains, he came back and became rich. Look at how well the Guo family is doing now," Wang Qin said softly.

Everyone knew about this matter. It was impossible that Old Guo had found gold in the mountain. Qiao Zhuang also did not know how to explain this matter.

After the Guo family became rich, many people went to that mountain to search around, but no one found anything. Later on, the Guo family even built a small temple on that mountain to burn incense and worship there.

Qiao Zhuang decided to leave Qiao Fu in the hospital and all of them went home. It would cause a delay in their work if they accompanied Qiao Fu every day. If they delayed it for a few more days, the work points from the autumn harvest would not be allocated to any of them.

Initially, the doctor had suggested that Qiao Fu be discharged after two months but Qiao Zhuang insisted on bringing him home before he completed his treatments. The family really did not have the money for him to continue with his treatments in the provincial city hospital. If this continued, they would have to sell their house.

They sent him to stay for two days at the clinic after he got home. It would not cost them anything for him to stay there. They reckoned that getting an IV drip would be good enough to keep him alive.

Chapter 749 - 749 A Woman's Thoughts Are Impossible to Fathom

749 A Woman's Thoughts Are Impossible to Fathom

Qiao Zhuang originally wanted to go back to the village to cause trouble for Qiao Qiang. On his way back, he passed by the village entrance and heard someone say that Qiao Qiang, who never believed in ghosts and evil spirits, had bought more than 100 dollars worth of paper money and gold and silver offerings. He had loaded a truck full of the offerings and went to the back mountain, kowtowing while burning them. He looked extremely pious while doing that.

Qiao Qiang had relied on his own strength to fight on the battlefield for so many years. It was surprising that he believed in such things when he became old.

Coupled with what Qiao Fu had said to them, could it be that Qiao Fu had really offended something supernatural...

Qiao Zhuang shook his head forcefully. These were stories that people told to scare children. How could he believe what these people in the village said? That would be simply crazy!

!!

Wang Qin had been staying at home during this period of time and did not go to work in the village at all. Although she said that she had been too tired from taking care of Qiao Fu recently and wanted to rest at home, she actually just wanted to lie low.

Everyone knew that she and Qiao Mei had always been at odds, and now Qiao Fu had failed to harm Qiao Qiang and ended up crippled instead. Qiao Gui had already told her everything in detail after he came back from getting money at Qiao Mei's house. Qiao Mei had already gone to Chen Hu from the armed forces department and asked him to gather evidence, but these people had not come to look for them after more than half a month.

There were only two possibilities. The first possibility was that Qiao Mei did not manage to find any evidence. This matter was exactly as Qiao Fu had said, and it was caused by supernatural beings. The second possibility was that Qiao Mei had found evidence but did not want to expose it and was waiting for an opportunity to wipe out their entire family.

The latter was more like Qiao Mei's style.

“What has your father asked you to do recently?” Wang Qin asked.

Qiao Gui looked at Wang Qin impatiently. Wang Qin could ask this question 800 times a day. Every time, Qiao Gui had to give a precise answer, the kind that had to be verbatim.

It was as if she had gone crazy and was possessed.

“What exactly are you doing? You ask me so many times every day. It’s so annoying! My father didn’t tell me anything today! He just went to see eldest brother!” Qiao Gui said with a frown.

Wang Qin patted her chest and felt relieved. Fortunately, she did not ask Qiao Gui to take revenge on Qiao Mei’s family. She must quickly raise the money and find a way to live in the county city.

Originally, she thought that although Qiao Zhuang’s family was the village tyrant, they never did anything outrageous. She was also a person who liked to take advantage of others. With such in-laws backing her up, her life had been smooth-sailing over the past few years.

However, she never dreamed that Qiao Zhuang would ask Qiao Fu and Qiao Gui to kill someone! They could go to jail!

She was a woman and did not understand anything, but she knew one thing. A life for a life!

If Qiao Gui went to jail, she would not be able to survive with the children in this wolf den of a house. That would be like killing her. Now that everyone in the family was leaving one by one, she had to make plans early.

“Let’s bring the children to the county city,” Wang Qin suddenly said to Qiao Gui as she lay on the brick bed.

Qiao Gui looked at Wang Qin in confusion, not knowing what was wrong with her again. She was still wide awake in the middle of the night. Now, not only was Qiao Zhuang torturing her in this house, but even Wang Qin was acting crazy.

“Where can we go? We don’t even know anyone in the county city, so why are we going to that unfamiliar place? Besides, we don’t have any money and our household register is in the village. I heard from others that Li Gui didn’t get any food stamps in the city when she was there. How are we going to survive?” Qiao Gui said.

Wang Qin fell into deep thought. She had only thought about going to the city to earn money, but she had not thought about the issue with food stamps. She did not know about many things, but she knew that if she continued to stay here, something bad would happen sooner or later.

They were dead either way. Wang Qin covered her face and cried. For the first time in her life, she felt afraid that she would lose her husband and her children would get killed by Qiao Zhuang. Her daughter would end up like Qiao Yu, or even worse.

“What can we do... I don’t want to be here anymore...” Wang Qin cried aggrievedly.

Qiao Gui quickly pulled Wang Qin into his arms and asked her to lower her voice so that she would not wake the children up. He did not understand what Wang Qin was worried about at all. He did not do anything and Qiao Zhuang did not say anything. Why was she crying like this?

A woman’s thoughts were impossible to fathom! He could not figure it out at all.

“Alright, alright, don’t cry. I’m not dead and I won’t be disabled like my eldest brother. Why are you crying? What’s there to cry about, go to sleep quickly,” Qiao Gui said as he patted Wang Qin’s head.

Chapter 750 - 750 The Injury Has Almost Fully Recovered

750 The Injury Has Almost Fully Recovered

In the end, Wang Qin became tired from crying and fell asleep in Qiao Gui’s arms. Qiao Gui also slowly fell asleep.

A few more peaceful days passed. Today was a rare day when everyone went to Qiao Mei’s place for a gathering. Some of Qiao Mei’s new sunflowers were ready for harvest so she had invited everyone to go and try the seeds!

“Qiao Mei, my sunflowers don’t grow as fast as yours, but they’re also almost ready. These seeds are indeed big,” Auntie Dong said as she grabbed a handful of seeds and placed them in her palm.

Qiao Mei had actually secretly forced the seeds to ripen last night! Recently, she had been idle and always felt like eating something. If she gave in to her cravings, then when it was mealtime, she could not eat anything.

Hence, Qiao Mei snacked on seeds whenever she had cravings. It was also a good opportunity for everyone to see how good this new variety of seeds was. Once the news got out, everyone would be able to earn money.

“I’m really envious of you. I should have listened to Qiao Mei back then and planted them when I bought them. I’m one week behind you and the difference is not just a little bit. I just hope that it snows later this year, otherwise I won’t get any seeds!” Auntie Wang said with heartache.

“It’s your fault for not believing in Qiao Mei! You just had to wait for us to plant before you started planting!” Auntie Dong said.

Auntie Wang rolled her eyes at Auntie Dong. This was called being cautious! Who would dare to plant a new variety just like that? Even Qiao Mei had never planted it before, so of course she had to wait and see.

“I definitely won’t hesitate next time! I’ll grow whatever you grow! Qiao Mei, do you have any other new varieties?” Auntie Wang looked at Qiao Mei expectantly.

Qiao Mei took some apples from the storeroom and distributed one to each of them. “I haven’t found anything yet! When I have something good, I’ll definitely let you know!”

Everyone believed in Qiao Mei’s character. She would share whatever good things she had with them and would definitely not treat them badly.

“Qiao Mei, did you hear that Qiao Zhuang’s family is back?” Auntie Wang whispered.

"I don't know. I've been busy recently. What happened?" Qiao Mei asked.

Auntie Dong patted Auntie Wang's thigh. She was the one who should be reporting such juicy gossip. She knew a lot of things that others did not.

"Come, let me tell you! That day, I saw Qiao Zhuang and his family coming back looking very depressed, and they had Qiao Fu in a carriage with a blanket over his head! Those who didn't know better would think that it's a funeral. The whole family had such dark expressions and didn't say anything. It was so scary!" Auntie Dong said vividly.

Everyone chimed in. A few of them had gathered at the village entrance to chit chat that day and they had seen the expressions on Qiao Zhuang's family members. It was not an exaggeration for Auntie Dong to describe that it was like a funeral! They were just short of tying up a big white flower and crying out a few times!

"I heard that Qiao Fu's legs were amputated and he almost got castrated! This is really karma for evil people. Now, he lies at home every day and his mother, Shen Ge, takes care of him. Now that Qiao Fu's wife is gone and his daughter ran away in anger, he's left alone," Auntie Dong said.

Qiao Mei did not say anything about Liu Ying working in the county armed forces department, nor did she ask Chen Hu to tell Liu Ying about this matter. Telling Liu Ying about Qiao Fu would just be hurting her. With Qiao Fu's current state, he would definitely need someone to take care of him for the rest of his life. Liu Ying had already been abused by that family for half her life. Did she have to continue to suffer for the rest of her life?

As for Qiao Hua, both Qiao Mei and Liu Ying could not manage to contact her anymore. She would have to walk her own path.

"Qiao Mei, how's your grandfather? My husband came home and told me that your grandfather was also seriously injured," Wang Wu's wife said worriedly.

"He's fine. The stitches on his head can be removed tomorrow. The wound is almost healed," Qiao Mei said lightly.

As the saying went, it would take 100 days for one to recover from a serious injury. Qiao Qiang was almost fully recovered after a month and it really shocked everyone. It seemed that it was true to say that there was a Great Immortal in the mountains protecting Qiao Qiang.

“It’s good to hear that your grandfather is fine. We are all so worried,” Wang Wu’s wife said.

Although Qiao Qiang had killed countless people in the army when he was young, it was to protect his country and the people. It was something that benefited the world and he was a great hero.

Such a hero would definitely get help from the Great Immortals in the mountains if he got into trouble. Their village relied on Qiao Qiang’s reputation to get things done outside. Other villages did not have such a hero, and only their village did.

Usually, the county city would also give priority to their village when there were any benefits.