

Fat Wife 751

Chapter 751 - 751 Cancel the Marriage Plans

751 Cancel the Marriage Plans

“I see that everyone has been looking quite down recently. What’s the matter?” Qiao Mei sized up everyone and asked.

Auntie Wang sighed and said, “Sigh... Qiao Mei, you don’t have to earn work points in the village, so you don’t know how chaotic it has been for the past two days. We don’t know what’s wrong with Wang Qin. After she returned to the village, she said that she was sick and stayed at home every day. There is still a lot of work waiting for her in the village office. If this goes on, our family won’t have any food.”

“She is probably traumatized. In the middle of the night, Qiao Fu would kick up a fuss and say that he deserves to die. He even talks about begging the Great Immortal to spare his life. He would say all kinds of nonsense, making my dog bark along too,” Auntie Zhou said with dark circles under her eyes.

Everyone pointed at Auntie Zhou and laughed loudly. Auntie Zhou was actually younger than all the other women present. Her husband was 14 years older than her! Auntie Zhou paid a lot of attention to maintaining her health and she also looked very exquisite every day.

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She even did manicures! Of course, it was not the modern type of manicure. It was a method passed down from ancient times. This involved collecting the petals of the balsam flowers, mashing up the petals into a paste and then using leaves to wrap the paste on the nails. After a while, the nails would become dyed with color and it would last for a period of time, making them look especially beautiful.

Auntie Zhou was the only person in the entire village who could get her hands on balsam flowers. Every once in a while, she would go to the county city to buy some. It was something she was willing to splurge on.

“Qiao Mei, were you at the scene? Did you see how Qiao Fu got smashed?” Auntie Dong asked curiously.

She was such a curious person that she had naturally gone to the scene to take a look, but no matter how she looked around, it did not seem like it was a murder attempt that had been planned for a long time. It really looked like an accident. Could it be that Qiao Fu had really offended a Great Immortal in the mountains and that was how he got into such a situation?

“I didn’t see anything. I went down the mountain to get my things and when I got back, I saw that my grandfather was injured,” Qiao Mei said aggrievedly.

Everyone glared at Auntie Dong reproachfully. Qiao Mei had seemed quite happy initially, but Auntie Dong had to bring up that matter and affect Qiao Mei’s mood.

Originally, the most popular person in the village was Qiao Qiang, followed by Zhao Liang. The person whom everyone was afraid of was Qiao Zhuang. However, Qiao Mei was now the most popular person and no one else could get in line for that title.

She was a role model for all the girls in the village and the boys used her as a benchmark for their future wives. Every family liked Qiao Mei. In fact, comparatively, Qiao Qiang and Zhao Liang had never given any substantial benefits to everyone.

Not only did Qiao Mei help everyone to get rich, but she also voluntarily went to the canteen to cook during the autumn harvest so that everyone could keep up the strength to work. Every year, everyone would be so tired from the autumn harvest that it was like they had lost a layer of skin. This year, however, everyone had gained a lot of weight. This was all thanks to Qiao Mei.

Not only did she cook for everyone, but she also slaughtered three geese and shared them so that everyone had additional nourishment.

They definitely liked such a good girl. If anything should happen to Qiao Mei’s family, they would definitely do their best to help her.

As they chatted, the sky soon darkened and everyone went back to cook. Qiao Mei also got busy.

At Qiao Zhuang’s family, on the other hand, the mood was heavy. The entire family sat together but had nothing to say as they ate quietly.

“Qiao Liang, set aside your marriage plans for now. Your eldest brother is sick and our family has no money to help you get married,” Qiao Zhuang said.

Qiao Liang immediately threw down his chopsticks and became unhappy. Why should he bear the costs for Qiao Fu’s sins? He had already made an agreement with that family to marry the girl soon. If he changed his mind at the last minute, she definitely would not want to be with him anymore.

“No, I’ve already said that this matter can’t be changed,” Qiao Liang said stubbornly.

When Qiao Zhuang heard this, he was so angry that he threw his chopsticks at Qiao Liang and slapped him hard in the face. He said angrily, “Your eldest brother is already in such a state! You still want to get married! Which is more important, your eldest brother’s life or getting a wife! As if she can run away!”

All the family members were stubborn people. Qiao Liang stood up and shouted at Qiao Zhuang, “No! Back then, you were the one who insisted that eldest brother harm Uncle’s family. Now, you’ve gone for wool and come home shorn. Why should I bear the responsibility for your mistakes! If I don’t marry her now, what if she marries someone else!”

“So be it! You can marry any other woman! If you don’t want to listen to me, then you can get lost! We’re the ones paying for your betrothal gifts! How dare you shout at us!” Qiao Zhuang said angrily.

Chapter 753 Not Going To The City

"Keep a close eye on Qiao Mei's family and find a way to cause trouble for them. You must make them pay the price," Qiao Zhuang said through gritted teeth.

"But now, everyone in the village likes to go to Qiao Mei's house to spend time. It's really not easy to do anything to them," Qiao Gui said awkwardly.

"Then you can go at night. Tell me what you think you can do or any good ideas that you have," Qiao Zhuang asked as he stared at Qiao Gui.

This could be considered as giving Qiao Gui a chance to redeem himself. He knew his son best. Qiao Gui would not do anything like killing and robbing people. At most, he would steal someone's chicken or take away their belongings. He would never dare to kill someone.

"How about... we put some laxatives in their well! Let them suffer for a few days," Qiao Gui said with a smug smile.

In his eyes, this was an unparalleled good idea. Not only would no one discover who had drugged them, but it would also make them suffer a little. It was killing two birds with one stone.

Qiao Zhuang rolled his eyes. This second son of his was completely hopeless. If not for the fact that all his other sons had left or were injured, he would not have needed a fool like Qiao Gui.

"Go and set fire to the firewood in their backyard when no one is looking. Then run away. Don't let anyone discover you. If you succeed in this matter, your eldest uncle's house will belong to you," Qiao Zhuang said in a nonchalant manner.

As the saying went, if one burned down the mountain, one would go to jail for a long time.

Their backyard was closely connected to the forest at the back of the mountain. It was already autumn and the cold wind was bone-chilling. If one really set fire to it, the entire mountain could be burned down.

This was something illegal, but the conditions were very tempting. Qiao Qiang's house had good feng shui and they always harvested whatever they planted. Moreover, they produced the best crops in the entire village. Back then, Qiao Zhuang's family had also secretly tried to grow bean sprouts, but the bean sprouts they produced were all very shriveled and did not meet the standard at all.

If they could get Qiao Qiang's house, they would not have to worry about the rest of their lives.

"Alright, but... what if third brother wants that house?" Qiao Gui looked at Qiao Zhuang and asked tentatively.

Qiao Fu was disabled and could only stay at home. Qiao Liang and Qiao Gang had also gone to the county city, leaving only him and Qiao Wang at home. Back then, his own family had occupied Li Gui's house. If they would also be getting Qiao Qiang's house, he wondered if Qiao Wang would feel unhappy about it.

It would not be good if there was a rift between brothers. If the family was in chaos, he would definitely be the one to suffer.

"Your younger brother definitely won't get into a conflict with you. Just do what you need to do," Qiao Zhuang said.

Qiao Gui believed what Qiao Zhuang said. On the way home, he started to think about how to harm Qiao Mei and Qiao Qiang. They raised many chickens and ducks in the backyard, as well as a few pigs. Those animals were even noisier than a dog.

These animals would make a lot of noise once there was any sign of trouble. Then the plan would completely fail.

"Why are you back so late? What did Father tell you?" Wang Qin asked hurriedly as soon as Qiao Gui entered.

"Nothing much. We just spoke about fourth brother leaving," Qiao Gui lied casually.

Wang Qin did not believe him at all. They had all witnessed Qiao Liang leaving. If the conversation was to discuss Qiao Liang's matter, why was Qiao Gui asked to stay behind and not Qiao Wang, who was the closest to Qiao Liang. There must be something fishy going on.

"I just tabulated the money we have at home. Let's pack up this week and tell Father that we also want to go to work in the county city," Wang Qin said.

Qiao Gui's expression suddenly changed. He was about to be the owner of two houses. It would be a huge loss for him to leave now. He definitely could not leave!

Qiao Liang and Qiao Gang were both in the city. If he also went to the city, then all three houses in the family would fall into Qiao Wang's hands. It was definitely not worth it!

"No! Don't mention it again! We'll stay in this village for the rest of our lives. We won't leave," Qiao Gui said.

Wang Qin frowned and said, "Didn't we have an agreement? My parents have already agreed and said to let the two children study in the city. They will pay for the tuition fees."

"No! I just won't go! It's useless no matter who wants to pay! I just want to stay in this village! Why do you want to go to the county city to live? Are you eyeing something in the county city?" Qiao Gui said impatiently.

Chapter 754 I Promise Not To Hit You

"What are you talking about! Didn't we agree on this when we got married back then! What do you mean by this now! I've worked so hard for your Qiao family for so many years! What kind of person do you think I am!" Wang Qin pointed at Qiao Gui and complained tearfully.

Qiao Gui was so sick of hearing about this. They had indeed agreed to eventually stay in the county city when they got married. However, after being married for so many years, they had never really discussed it. It was only this year that Wang Qin had a very strong desire to go to the county city.

Could it be that something had happened in the county city?

As the village accountant, Wang Qin often went to the county city with Zhao Liang to report her work and talk to the higher-ups about the yearly harvest. She would be gone for two days each time.

Could it be that... Wang Qin had a lover in the county city?

Qiao Gui's eyes widened and his breathing became much faster. The more he thought about it, the more he felt that this matter might be true. He held Wang Qin's wrist tightly and growled, "Are you seeing another man behind my back? You must have a lover in the county city! Otherwise, why are you in such a hurry to go to the county city?"

No wonder Wang Qin had no interest in him at all for the past two years. She always said that she was too tired from work and did not want to sleep with Qiao Gui. She was clearly at the age when she should be like a cougar, but she always seemed cold and disinterested. Those who did not know better would think that he was not good in bed!

It turned out that she had been fooling around outside, so she naturally did not want to be close to him when she returned.

"What nonsense are you talking about! Are you drunk!" Wang Qin raised her hand to slap Qiao Gui, but Qiao Gui stopped her and then slapped her.

"B*tch, you still dare to say that I'm talking nonsense. Then let me ask you, why do you insist on going to the county city? What's so good about that county city that you insist on going there?" Qiao Gui said.

Wang Qin grabbed at Qiao Gui like a shrew. Whether she managed to hit him or not, she continued to scratch at him crazily and fought him fiercely.

"Damn you! You bastard! Back then, I only married you because you said you would bring me to live in the county city! Now you've changed your mind! You even ask me why I want to go to the county city! I've always wanted to ask you! Are you seeing another woman in this village! Is it that young widow at the east end of the village!" Wang Qin shouted.

Wang Qin had some basis for saying that. That young widow waited around for Qiao Gui to look at her every day and even insisted on working next to Qiao Gui. Wang Qin had warned the young widow before, but she did not take Wang Qin seriously at all.

Qiao Gui had never done anything with the young widow. According to Qiao Gui, it was all that woman's own wishful thinking and had nothing to do with him.

However, he still enjoyed the feeling of the young widow pestering him. Who would not like being pestered by a woman?

"What nonsense! B*tch, I'm going to beat you to death today!" Qiao Gui kept slapping Wang Qin's face and even started punching and kicking her.

"Ah! Qiao Gui! I'll fight you to the death! Help! Murder! Qiao Gui, do you think my entire maternal family is dead! I want a divorce!" Wang Qin struggled and shouted.

Qiao Gui covered Wang Qin's mouth tightly. No matter how hard she struggled, it was useless. Right now, he did not care about Wang Qin's maternal family or whether Wang Qin had another man in the county city.

As long as he could get Qiao Qiang's house, everything else did not matter.

That was right, he was already crazy. That house was worth a lot of money, and even Qiao Qiang's money would go to him. Qiao Mei was only a granddaughter who had already gotten married and had no right to inherit Qiao Qiang's assets.

He heard that Qiao Qiang's monthly retirement pension was 50 dollars. After so many years, Qiao Qiang should have saved more than 2,000 dollars. In addition, there were a few people from the capital who were filial to Qiao Qiang and would give him money.

Qiao Qiang definitely had a lot of money. He must succeed this time and get some benefits for himself.

He was not much inferior to Qiao Fu. In this family, he was the mainstay at the moment. Qiao Zhuang trusted him the most right now. After being oppressed for so many years, he could finally stand tall.

After Qiao Gui was done hitting Wang Qin, he put on a pitiful face and said to her, "I didn't do it on purpose... Please forgive me... Can you spare me for the sake of the children? I definitely won't hit you again in the future. I definitely won't do it again!"

Chapter 755 Hiding Something

Wang Qin got up from the ground shakily and did not say anything. She quietly went to the bed to sleep. She finally knew why Shen Ge had not fought back after being beaten up by Qiao Zhuang for so many years. The difference in physical strength between men and women was simply too great.

Qiao Mei went to the backyard early in the morning to feed the chickens and ducks. Recently, the three children were busy with school, so she had to clean up her own courtyard. If she did not clean it up soon, she would smell bad odors when she opened the window.

After sweeping up the poultry's excrement in the backyard, she started making breakfast. She made a pot of thick medicinal soup for Qiao Qiang and then took out the blankets from the house to air them in the sun. Then, she packed up the dusty things in the storeroom.

The morning passed quickly.

Qiao Mei realized that it had been a long time since she went to visit Zhang Miao. She wondered if they had finished using the ointment made from 100-year-old ginseng.

"Mom, what are you doing at home?" Qiao Mei entered the house and saw Li Gui standing in front of the kitchen cabinet and secretly hiding something.

Li Gui had such a fright that the bag of flour in her hand fell to the ground. Fortunately, the bag was tied up, otherwise the flour would have been wasted.

"You don't make any sound when you walk. You scared me to death!" Li Gui said as she patted her chest.

"What's wrong? Why are you suddenly putting the flour away?" Qiao Mei asked.

Li Gui sighed and then continued to hide the flour. Recently, Zhao Hong had found out that the three children were going to school. She had come to kneel outside Li Gui's door, begging for food for her two daughters who were about to starve to death.

Li Gui told Zhao Hong that she no longer cared about anything related to Old Madam Li's family. From now on, she would not give Old Madam Li any money for retirement or eye any bit of inheritance. She steeled her heart and returned to the house after saying that, leaving Zhao Hong at the door.

During the autumn harvest period in the village, she really had no time to go to the fields because of Zhang Miao, so she asked Auntie Dong to help her with the harvesting. She then went to the village office to inform Zhao Liang.

She was only gone for a short while and she found that the flour at home had gone missing when she returned home. That was why she decided to hide all her things.

There were indeed thieves in the village, but thieves usually stole valuable things. They had never cared about rice and flour. Furthermore, there was still a child in the house. Also, everyone knew that she was Qiao Mei's mother, so no one would dare to steal from her house.

Zhao Hong must have taken advantage of the time when Li Gui was not around to enter the house and take the flour. Li Gui could only suffer in silence this time round and to make it a point not to let Zhao Hong enter the village again.

"I don't want to argue with her over a little bit of flour. Even if I take this matter to the village office, it won't be worth the time and effort," Li Gui said with a sigh.

She had already troubled Zhao Liang enough with regard to her children. There was no way she could go and ask Zhao Liang for help about losing some flour.

The crops that she planted at home were all growing well. She had secretly gone to the black market to sell them a few times and the family expenses were not an issue for her at the moment. The children had enough food to eat and they were also especially well-behaved. After school, they would go into the mountains to pick things like hazelnuts and chestnuts. They had even sold those for a grand total of six dollars!

"Let me talk to Uncle Zhao Liang about this," Qiao Mei said.

"Hey! Don't do it. Let's just forget about this matter. Let's not look for Zhao Liang. He has so many things to do every day," Li Gui said.

When she found out that there was a burglary at home, she had actually wanted to go and look for Zhao Liang while still in a fit of anger. Now that Wang Qin was not in the village office, Zhao Liang had to do everything, including all the calculations for work points. He was so busy that he almost had to sleep in the village office, so how could she ask him to waste his time on such a trivial matter?

"I'm not going to cause trouble for her. I have something else in mind. Don't worry." Qiao Mei patted Li Gui's shoulder to comfort her.

Suddenly, a new thought flashed across Qiao Mei's mind. Next year was the year when the village would re-select the village office accountant. If she kept Wang Qin from being elected...

"Mom, how's your mathematics?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"I often go to the black market to sell things, so my mathematics is not too bad. If I don't know how to do the sums, how do I do business?" Li Gui looked at Qiao Mei and said with a smile.

"Then... do you know how to write?" Qiao Mei asked.

"I know how to write my own name, but I don't know anything else," Li Gui said honestly.

There was still half a year before the next election. It would not be difficult to learn a few commonly used words and words in half a year and Zhang Wei would be able to teach Li Gui how to read. She just did not know if Li Gui had the guts to take that position.

She had to take care of four young children on her own. It was not enough to just rely on farm work.

Chapter 756 Animals That Understand Spoken Language

"Mom, do you want to be an accountant?" Qiao Mei asked.

Li Gui waved her hands nervously and said, "Do you know what you're talking about! I'm illiterate and you want me to be an accountant!"

"Since you're so good at calculations, why can't you be an accountant? If you can't read, you can learn. During the day, when you're free, I'll get my grandfather to teach you. At night, when Zhang Wei comes back, then he can teach you. You'll definitely be able to learn in half a year. Look at how many words Wang Qin knows. She had studied for a few years, but she doesn't really know much," Qiao Mei bluffed.

Wang Qin had graduated from junior high school. At that time, anyone with such a certificate was considered very capable. Li Gui had never gone to school at all and it would be difficult for her to catch up with Wang Qin in half a year.

However, nothing was impossible to a willing heart. As long as Li Gui was determined, she would definitely be able to become an accountant.

Although the position of director of women's affairs was still available, the person who took up this position needed to write a report every year. Li Gui was not qualified for this position, but she could stand a chance with the village accountant position.

"I... I'm stupid. I don't think I can do it," Li Gui said fearfully.

"Didn't you do similar work in the county city back then? What's so different?" Qiao Mei said.

Li Gui quickly corrected Qiao Mei and said earnestly, "Back then, I was a piece-counter. I just needed to count things and then write down the quantity in the book. It doesn't involve things like being able to read and write at all. I'm not that capable."

Seeing that Li Gui did not have such ambitions, Qiao Mei did not mention this matter anymore. In the future, if there were other suitable positions in the village, she would ask Li Gui to give it a try. When the village was able to produce better agricultural products, they would definitely be able to form a working relationship with the county's supply and marketing cooperative. When that time came, she could get Li Gui to do the liaison work.

Li Gui was definitely good at this! However, the prerequisite was still that she had to be literate. After all, Li Gui had to take down the amount of things that every family sent over and write down their names.

"Even so, you still have to learn how to read. It will definitely be useful in the future. You can only earn more money by studying and becoming literate. Otherwise, you can only make those few dollars every day," Qiao Mei said as she pointed at the vegetables in the courtyard.

Li Gui nodded in a vague manner. Anyway, she agreed with whatever Qiao Mei said. It was a matter of learning to read! She would give it a try!

"Alright! I'll ask Xiao Wei to teach me. I'll definitely try my best, but I'm stupid. If I can't understand it, don't blame me," Li Gui said embarrassedly.

"You can definitely do it! It's settled then. I'll go back and get my school books for you. I'm already done with them. Take them and let Xiao Wei teach you," Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Mei brought Li Gui back to her own house and gave her many chicken eggs, duck eggs, two pieces of cured meat and a bag of rice.

If she did not give these things to Li Gui, they would rot in her house. Every month, the number of chicken eggs and duck eggs she had at home equated to the amount produced by the entire village in a year. They could not finish them at all!

The other families had given her rice in exchange for eggs for their children. Basically, everyone would barter using different things. Qiao Mei did not care about what other people gave her in exchange. It was more important for her to give away all the things in the house.

Recently, she went to Uncle Wang Wu's house at the entrance of the village and made an exchange for a crock. This crock was perfect for marinating duck eggs. If she marinated the eggs now, it would be ready when it was time for her to go to the capital.

In her other life, she also loved to marinate duck eggs the most. This was her specialty. The duck eggs that others marinated were salty and hard and not delicious at all. The duck eggs that she marinated were all filled with golden oil and smelled so fragrant!

When she was not at home, she could teach Li Gui this technique so that Li Gui could earn a few hundred dollars by marinating duck eggs.

Recently, there was also something else that had been bothering her. In the morning, the chickens at home would group together and make a lot of noise. Sometimes, they would wake her up before dawn. One morning, Qiao Mei yelled at the chickens and told them to stop making noise.

From then on, the chickens really did not make any noise again. Qiao Mei had been puzzled about this for a long time. Every day, she would sit in her room to observe the jade pendant on her neck. Could it be that it could also allow her to communicate with animals?

However, she had never heard what the animals were thinking, nor could she carry out any energy exchange with them. After repeated experiments, Qiao Mei confirmed that the animals in the house could really understand human language. It was such a magical thing.

Chapter 757 Teaching Someone To Fish

Qiao Mei kept observing and finally realized that it was because the chickens and ducks had eaten plants that she had catalyzed with energy. This was the reason why they could understand what she said and knew how to follow her instructions.

It would not be so effective if they ate ordinary things from the mountain. It seemed that this jade stone could only be used to exchange energy with plants at the moment.

Recently, Qiao Mei did not have much to do. She had been thinking about how to earn money and how to do it more easily.

In her other life, she had eaten a type of chicken that only ate medicinal herbs and could be sold for an astronomical price. It was said that eating this chicken could let one achieve a nourishing effect and that it had more nutritional value than ordinary chickens.

If she could let these chickens and ducks eat the plants that she had catalyzed and to set the daily timings for them to wake up, go for walks and eat medicinal herbs, then she would be able to replicate that business model.

It was a pity that she could not earn any money from this idea yet and would only stand to lose a lot of money.

What she needed to think about now was how to let Li Gui have a stable income as quickly as possible so that her family did not have to suffer or worry about food and clothing. She also had to think about how to solve the children's needs for school fees and medical treatment.

It was not that difficult to change the lives of the children, but it would still take them around 10 years to learn enough knowledge and go to university. In these 10 years, the difficulties that they needed to face could easily overwhelm them and cause them to give up.

Although she could sponsor the children, it was still not a long-term solution. She might become a military spouse in the future, and then she would not be able to watch over them all the time.

She had to find a practical solution now.

Qiao Mei felt that working with the supply and marketing cooperative was the most cost-effective plan at the moment. As long as there was a harvest, there would be money.

When the village had more money, they could build it up properly so that they could attract tourists in the future. This village was surrounded by mountains and there were many beautiful sceneries up on the mountains. Not only were there hot springs, but there were also waterfalls in the distance!

By that time, she would get Li Gui to operate a farmstay in the village for the tourists. It was just that it was not possible at the moment yet. That was something that would happen in the next 20 to 30 years. If she mentioned it now, everyone would just think that she was a lunatic.

"Sigh... It's so difficult... This is too difficult..." Qiao Mei sat back on the rocking chair and sighed.

"Is there anything that my granddaughter finds difficult? Tell me about it and see if I can help you solve your issues." Qiao Qiang slowly headed to Qiao Mei's side with his walking stick and sat down.

Qiao Mei had found a block of wood and made this walking stick so that Qiao Qiang could walk steadily and reduce the risk of him falling. He would not have to worry about falling down when walking on the mountain road and it could also be used as a self-defense weapon.

"Grandfather, will you believe me when I say that if our chickens grow up eating ginseng every day, they can be sold for tens of thousands of dollars each?" Qiao Mei asked as she looked at Qiao Qiang expectantly.

Qiao Qiang laughed out loud to hear what Qiao Mei said. Could a chicken eat ginseng?

If the animals at home could eat so well, then what would the humans eat? Eat the chickens that Qiao Mei said grew up eating ginseng? He had never heard of such a thing!

"Mei Mei, are you awake yet? Putting aside how much this chicken is worth, it's hard to say if this chicken will die if it eats ginseng. If one eats too much ginseng, one will get heaty and even bleed from all seven orifices. If you let such a small chicken eat ginseng, can it still stay alive?" Qiao Qiang asked.

Qiao Mei had indeed never thought about this. In her other life, she had only come into contact with chickens that ate cheap herbs, but she had never encountered chickens that grew up eating ginseng.

Now that she thought about it, what she just said was indeed funny. If the chicken could not be sold for tens of thousands of dollars, it was not worth the effort to raise it.

"But... but there might be a buyer in the capital," Qiao Qiang said meaningfully.

Qiao Mei widened her eyes and asked curiously, "Grandfather, you know someone! Who is it? I'll raise one and sell it to him! 5,000 dollars will do!"

"Hahahaha! You've fallen into the money trap! I'm not talking about someone I know, but someone you know," Qiao Qiang said with a laugh.

Someone she knew... from the capital... and who would spend a lot of money on chickens that ate ginseng...

"How is that possible? I only know people from the Xia family. Who would be a fool to spend so much money to buy..." Before she could finish speaking, Qiao Mei suddenly remembered that there was indeed such a fool and quickly went into the house to call him.

After three rings, the call was picked up.

Chapter 758 Chickens That Eat Herbs

"Hello?" the person on the other end said nonchalantly.

Qiao Mei cleared her throat and replied with a happy voice, "He Ning? I have great news for you! It depends on whether you want it or not!"

He Ning looked at the phone in his hand and then at the time on the clock. It did not make sense that Qiao Mei would call him and say that she had good news.

How could he be first in line for her good news? Should she not be looking for the Xia family members first?

Women were really strange.

"Where are you calling from? Tell me why you're looking for me," He Ning said.

"I had a phone installed. I want to ask you, do you want to buy chickens?" Qiao Mei asked very sincerely.

He Ning felt humiliated. Chickens were sold everywhere and he even had to drink chicken soup every day. The housekeeper at home would go to the market every day to buy the best chickens.

"Are chickens very rare? There are chickens everywhere in the capital. Why should I buy one from you?" He Ning asked.

"Of course it's because this chicken of mine is different from ordinary chickens. This chicken of mine grew up eating herbs. You can specify what type of herbs this chicken eats. Over time, it will accumulate in the chicken's body. This is much better than eating herbs directly," Qiao Mei said.

He had never heard of such a thing before. What Qiao Mei said piqued his interest. He decided to ask Huo Gao about this.

"Wait. I have to ask about this," He Ning said.

Qiao Mei gave He Ning her direct phone number and then hung up. He Ning could come back and talk to her about it after he had considered it. The long-distance phone bill was very expensive. Even if her family had money, they could not squander it like this.

One should know when to save and when to spend, depending on the circumstances.

She did not feel any heartache about buying furniture that cost tens of thousands of dollars, but she found it wasteful to spend the extra few dollars on the phone bill.

"Grandfather! What you say makes so much sense! I'll go catch a few chickens to study them!" Qiao Mei ran out of the house happily.

Coincidentally, the Dendrobium they picked up did not have much of a market yet. She could use this herb to feed the chickens!

As soon as Qiao Mei reached the backyard, she vaguely saw a figure flash past outside the fence at an extremely fast speed and disappear into the forest.

Qiao Mei rubbed her eyes vigorously and looked around for a while.

"What's going on... Did I see wrongly?" Qiao Mei muttered to herself.

Perhaps it was because she had used a lot of energy to extract the ginseng juice during this period of time. It seemed that she must do things step by step and not be in such a hurry.

She lured three chickens to a corner and erected another wooden pen to feed them separately. It would probably take effect in a month. If she succeeded, she could raise more chickens in the courtyard house in the capital and sell them all to He Ning and make him go bankrupt!

She was not intentionally harming anyone. All she was doing was to give He Ning something related to medicinal herbs for him to nourish himself with. When all He Ning's money were in her hands, the Xia family would gradually grow stronger. By then, He Ning would no longer have the capability to fight with the Xia family.

What she was doing could be considered a roundabout way of saving the country.

He Ning was feeling completely confused on his end. He did not understand why Qiao Mei was doing this at all, but the one thing he forgot to ask Qiao Mei was how much such a chicken would cost. If he allowed the young lady to quote a price on the spot, he would definitely suffer a huge loss.

"Huo Gao, Qiao Mei just called me and said that she wants to sell chickens to me. Something about chickens that grow up eating medicinal herbs? Do you think that's something reliable?" He Ning said with a dumbfounded expression.

Huo Gao had previously read about such a method. It was feasible and indeed valuable.

"It's indeed beneficial, but won't work fast. It will slowly take effect over time. This is no different from the medicinal cuisine you eat every day. It's just that it's more nutritious," Huo Gao said.

"Just tell me how many more years I can live," He Ning asked bluntly.

In the past, every doctor had told him that medicinal cuisine was useful although the effect was slow. He also wanted to accumulate the effects over time, but his body could not afford to wait any longer.

"I haven't tried it before, but it shouldn't be a problem to lengthen your lifespan by three to four years. Besides, you'll feel much better after eating it and it'll help with your discomfort," Huo Gao said.

A period of three to four years was long enough. As long as it was a fair price, he could afford it.

Recently, he had managed to rescue He Wei and He Li, and the family business was slowly improving. They had also put an end to all the shady businesses from before.

Chapter 759 - 759 Shadow

759 Shadow

At night, the entire village was quiet. There were always sounds coming from the houses of families who raised chickens and ducks in the village. The animals were easily scared by the sounds of nature.

However, the animals in Qiao Mei's house were acting abnormally tonight. All the chickens and ducks kept looking in the direction of the back mountain. At first, they just looked, but later on, all the chickens and ducks started making noise.

Usually, even the sound of thunder would not wake Qiao Mei up. She would not even wake up if she was thrown out of the door. However, she was woken up by the noise made by the chickens and ducks at home tonight.

The cries of her family's chickens and ducks echoed throughout the entire village. Qiao Mei pushed open the curtains and looked out. She saw a figure walking through the grass at the back of the mountain. This time, she was not mistaken.

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It seemed that this was the same person who came to their backyard during the day. Even the location was the same.

Nowadays, there were also many people who took advantage of the fact that no one was at home during the day to steal the chickens and ducks that people left at home. People who did not have the money to buy meat would definitely think about stealing from others. Otherwise, they would not be able to survive.

Qiao Qiang was also woken up by the commotion in the backyard. Qiao Mei whispered towards the window, "Don't make any noise!"

The backyard instantly fell silent. All the chickens and ducks shut their mouths and obediently returned to their cages.

"Mei Mei, what's going on in the backyard? Don't tell me there's a weasel here to steal chickens. I'll go out and take a look." Qiao Qiang put on a shirt and prepared to go out with a flashlight.

It was common for animals from the mountains to come down the mountain to steal food. There were wolves, tigers and even wild boars in the mountains. Some villagers farmed the land on the back mountain and on autumn nights, wild boars would steal sweet potatoes from the ground.

Even five people would not be able to subdue a wild boar. Moreover, wild boar meat was not tasty. Even if they managed to kill one, there would be another wild boar coming to wreak havoc on the land.

Later on, most people chose to raise a dog and tie it up near the back of the mountain. At the slightest movement, the dog would bark loudly and scare the wild boars away. This method was very useful.

“Grandfather, don’t go out so late at night. Why don’t we wait until tomorrow morning to go and count them? What if it’s a wolf? Let’s talk about it tomorrow morning.” Qiao Mei helped Qiao Qiang back into the room to rest. Zhang Wei was still sleeping soundly on the brick bed, snoring loudly.

“Look at Xiao Wei. Kids can sleep so well. He’s not disturbed even though there’s so much noise outside,” Qiao Qiang said with a smile as he pointed at Zhang Wei.

“Xiao Wei goes to school every day and has to take care of his younger siblings. He also has to do all the chores at home. I’m worried that he’ll get too stressed.” Qiao Mei looked at Zhang Wei worriedly.

Zhang Wei was only 12 years old. There were so many things weighing on his young shoulders. If he could not take it one day, the consequences could be dire.

“Don’t worry, Xiao Wei won’t. Go back to sleep quickly.” Qiao Qiang lay back on the brick bed and urged Qiao Mei to leave quickly.

Qiao Mei took the flashlight and returned to her room. No matter how she thought about it, she could not think of anyone in the village whose figure fitted that shadow. She had not made any enemies recently, and her only enemy was Qiao Zhuang’s family. All his sons were either away or injured, yet he still had the time to mess with her?

She decided to wait and see. If something was going to happen, it would happen in due course. There was nothing she could do at the moment.

She did the same things every day, including making breakfast, cleaning up the house, drying the blankets, going to the storeroom to check if there was any food that was going to spoil and feeding the chickens and ducks.

After she finished her work that day, an uninvited guest came to the courtyard. Wang Qin stood at the entrance of Qiao Mei's courtyard with a basket and did not say a word. Wang Qin had not been seen for so many days and she had lost a lot of weight.

There were bruises around her eyes and also faded marks on her neck. She looked much more haggard. Although her hair was tied up, it was still a mess.

"Are you... here to look for me?" Qiao Mei asked as she walked forward hesitantly.

Wang Qin nodded. She had thought about it for a long time and decided to look for Qiao Mei.

"Come in and talk." Qiao Mei opened the courtyard door and let Wang Qin in. Qiao Qiang had gone to the village entrance to take a walk and was not at home. Otherwise, he would definitely take a stick and chase Wang Qin out of the house.

"I'm here to tell you that Qiao Gui wants to harm you," Wang Qin said with her head lowered.

"Why are you so kind as to tell me this? Won't you be happier if something happens to me? Why are you being so kind as to remind me?" Qiao Mei said mockingly.

Chapter 760 - 760 Tipoff

760 Tipoff

Wang Qin herself was also in a dilemma. In the past, she was the one who caused trouble for Qiao Mei and did everything she could to torture Qiao Mei. When she married into the family, Qiao Mei was four years old and looked very cute and adorable. However, she was made to sleep in the pigsty and live with the pigs.

At first, she thought that Qiao Zhuang was inhumane. Later on, she gradually got used to living with such a family and subtly became a person like Qiao Zhuang.

Qiao Mei had experienced all kinds of things when she was young. She only had torn clothing and a pair of long pants all year round. Winter and summer were the two most difficult seasons for her.

When she was young, she had nothing to eat. When she was really hungry, she would snatch food from the pigs. Sometimes, she would even go out to eat raw vegetable leaves.

Those days were really unbearable. Wang Qin did not help Qiao Mei at all and turned a blind eye to it instead. Sometimes, she even bullied Qiao Mei together with Qiao Zhuang.

However, she had never thought of harming anyone's life. Seeing Qiao Fu's miserable state, she did not want Qiao Gui to meet the same fate.

"Be careful these few days," Wang Qin said suddenly.

This confirmed Qiao Mei's thoughts last night. It seemed that the person in the backyard recently was really a member of Qiao Zhuang's family.

"Why are you telling me this? Your family members are the people in this village who want to harm me. Even if you don't tell me, I'll still be wary of you," Qiao Mei said.

"That's not what I mean. Recently, Qiao Zhuang has been whispering to Qiao Gui very often. He probably has made some new plans. You just be careful," Wang Qin whispered.

"Don't you want to see me dead? Why are you telling me this?" Qiao Mei asked Wang Qin.

Wang Qin sighed and looked at Qiao Mei's stomach. If Qiao Mei was not pregnant, she might have pretended not to know anything. As long as she did not participate in this matter, she would not feel any guilt. After all, Qiao Mei had always been at odds with her and made her suffer a lot in silence.

However, Qiao Mei was currently pregnant and her babies were innocent. If anything happened, it was three lives at stake! This would attract retribution! Qiao Fu was the best example! She was afraid that one day, the heavens would punish her for her evil deeds.

“Anyway, be careful. I’m going back.” Wang Qin stood up and was about to leave when Qiao Mei stopped her and stuffed a small box into her hand.

This was the 10-year-old ginseng juice that Qiao Mei had extracted recently. She decided to give it to Wang Qin as a thank-you gift.

“Go back and use the water in the box to wipe your wounds,” Qiao Mei said.

Wang Qin stared at the box in her hand for a long time. In the end, she left Qiao Mei’s house without saying anything.

After Qiao Qiang returned, Qiao Mei told him in detail about Wang Qin’s visit earlier today, as well as about seeing the shadow in the backyard yesterday.

“Don’t let Zhang Wei come tonight. Tell him not to come over the next few days. It’s better not to let the child encounter such a thing,” Qiao Qiang said gruffly.

Qiao Mei nodded, but they did not know when Qiao Gui was going to make his move. They did not know the exact time and the method he would use.

“Grandfather, what do you think Qiao Zhuang will do?” Qiao Mei asked.

“He’s been wandering around the backyard, which means that there’s something he wants in the backyard. There’s only the firewood and the well. I can’t think of any other method,” Qiao Qiang said.

If these people poisoned the well, the entire village would be affected! The water in the upper and lower half of the village were from two tributaries. Qiao Mei’s family lived in the upper half of the village while Qiao Zhuang’s family lived in the lower half. The water in the well was connected to the water from other wells. If the well in Qiao Mei’s house was poisoned, all the villagers in the upper half of the village would be affected.

“He’s really vicious. He wants us dead,” Qiao Mei said with a dark expression.

“We’ll have to see what Qiao Gui does. Let’s take precautions first.” Qiao Qiang methodically led Qiao Mei around to set up defenses.

First, they moved the big water vat in the courtyard to a corner of the house and filled it with water. In this way, even if there was a fire, they would be able to run out of the house and buy themselves some time. Then, he put a wooden lid on the well so that there would be a sound when the perpetrator tried to take it off and they could catch the perpetrator.

The hoes and shovels in the storeroom were all brought into the house. If necessary, these could be used as weapons for self-defense!

Qiao Qiang quietly assembled a small package containing the ginseng slices and lingzhi that Qiao Mei had given him. He did not put his secret savings into the bag.

“Grandfather, why do you put these things inside and not money?” Qiao Mei asked curiously.