

Fat Wife 771

Chapter 771 Hitting It Off Immediately

Qiao Mei did not know what to say. Most importantly, she came in a hurry and did not bring anything with her. She did not have any time to prepare before Chen Hu brought her home.

"Mei Mei, why are you standing there! Come into the house to wash your hands and come eat! These are all my signature dishes! It just so happens that your uncle has already intended to come home for lunch today. When I heard that you're coming along, I added a few dishes! I don't know if it's to your taste, come and try!" said Chen Hu's wife, Sheng Fei.

"Aunt, you're too polite. It's a lot of food!" Qiao Mei said with her mouth agape.

After washing her hands, Qiao Mei sat down obediently and ate. For the first time, she even ate two bowls of rice. It was not that Sheng Fei's cooking was delicious, but it was very difficult to reject her hospitality.

She had wanted to go home after having dinner and exchanging a few pleasantries, but she did not expect Sheng Fei to insist that she stay for a good chat. Sheng Fei liked Qiao Mei very much the moment she saw her.

"Can I call you Mei Mei? I only have a son and I dream of having a daughter. It's just that I'm not in good health, otherwise I would want to have another child," Sheng Fei said regretfully.

"Auntie, just treat me like family. I'll visit you often when I'm free!" Qiao Mei said.

Her voice was so sweet! The way she addressed Sheng Fei as auntie made Sheng Fei very happy.

Sheng Fei took out a package from the cabinet. When Qiao Mei opened it, she saw that it was filled with things for children. There were tiger-head shoes, tiger-head hats and undergarments!

"I don't know what kind of clothes you like, so I made clothes for the children. I heard that you're having twins, so I made two sets. My skills are not very good, so just take it as a token from me." Sheng Fei handed the package to Qiao Mei.

The workmanship was exquisite and there were even pearls and other decorative items on the items! It was obvious that Sheng Fei had put in a lot of effort. It seemed that she really liked Qiao Mei.

She was even willing to give Qiao Mei such nice stuff. The fabric was also the best type which she had asked someone to bring back from the provincial city because nothing in the county city caught her eye.

The things she made for Qiao Mei must be the best things that she could make within her capabilities!

"I like them very much! Auntie, you have such skillful hands. No wonder Uncle Hu dotes on you so much!" Qiao Mei teased with a smile.

"I say! It's already good enough if he doesn't make me angry! You don't know how careless he is. He Guang told me about how one day, Chen Hu was supposed to go and present a report to his superiors, but when he reached his destination, he realized that his presentation materials were still in the bedroom!" Sheng Fei said.

"I didn't expect Uncle Hu to do something like this!" Qiao Mei had thought that Chen Hu was a meticulous person, and she did not expect to hear about something so contrasting.

Since Sheng Fei had given her such nice things, Qiao Mei was also thinking about what to do for Sheng Fei. Before she went home later, she would go to the shop to buy some cotton and make a long cotton jacket that could withstand the cold winter.

Chen Hu had always said that Sheng Fei's health was not very good. Qiao Mei decided to give her ginseng as well! What she did not lack the most was ginseng! She could have as many as she wanted!

The two of them chatted happily until dusk. Chen Hu called to urge Sheng Fei to let Qiao Mei go home quickly. Otherwise, it would be difficult for her to walk back at night.

Only then did Sheng Fei bid farewell to Qiao Mei reluctantly. Before Qiao Mei left, she made Qiao Mei promise to come back to her house for dinner again.

It was still Xiaobei who was in charge of sending Qiao Mei back. As soon as Qiao Mei opened the car door, she could feel a sense of resentment coming from Xiaobei. It looked like he was tired after the punishment and was angry with Qiao Mei.

"Brother Xiaobei... are you angry with me?" Qiao Mei whispered.

Xiaobei remained silent and did not answer. He did not know what he was feeling. He was angry, but he did not feel very angry. Perhaps the reason why he was angry was because Chen Hu punished him, and the reason why he was not angry was because Qiao Mei had always been very nice to him.

"I'll bring you delicious food next time! I'll compensate you! What do you think! I'll get it for you once I get home later! I still have a lot of seeds at home! There's also a new batch of pickled vegetables. Take them all back to try!" Qiao Mei said.

"Hmph, I haven't done anything to deserve a reward. Don't try to bribe me. I won't fall for your tricks! If I get caught when I go back, Section Head Chen will punish me again," Xiaobei said helplessly.

Qiao Mei waved her hand and said casually, "What's so difficult about that? I'll get you a black cloth bag! No one will know what's inside! Don't tell anyone, just lock it in the cabinet!"

What she said was completely doable and Xiaobei's expression gradually softened.

Chapter 772 - 772 Preparing to Go to the Capital

772 Preparing to Go to the Capital

Seeing that Xiaobei's expression had softened, Qiao Mei smiled and said, "I hope you're not angry with me anymore?"

"You've already offered delicious food to bribe me. How can I be angry?" Xiao Bei sighed and said.

Soon, the two of them arrived at Qiao Mei's house. Qiao Mei took out the rest of the things from the storeroom and filled a bag with food for Xiaobei before letting him go back.

“Mei Mei, come and help me take a look. Is this radio broken?” Qiao Qiang frowned as he held it up.

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This radio was his favorite thing and he must listen to it every day. For some reason, there were constant interference sounds, as if there was something inside it.

“Coming! Let me take a look!” Qiao Mei quickly took the radio apart. In her other life, she liked to do such hands-on work the most. It did not take long for her to discover the problem.

The wind around here was strong and there was often sand being blown around. Qiao Qiang always brought the radio out when he basked in the sun. A few small grains of sand had gotten into the radio, but it was not a big deal.

Qiao Qiang looked at Qiao Mei thoughtfully and said, “Let’s go to the capital. You’re more than seven months into your pregnancy now and it’ll be safer to be there. Old Xia can also protect you there.”

Qiao Mei had also been thinking about this matter for a long time but she did not mention it to Qiao Qiang. She was worried that Qiao Qiang would not be willing to stay in the capital and that it would be troublesome if they ran into the Liang family members. Moreover, she did not know if the progress of the renovation works in the house in the capital. She had heard from Xia Wen that it was already habitable.

Since Qiao Qiang had already decided, they could start preparing to move to the capital. They would go to the capital at the end of the month, after she settled the matter of the seeds first.

“Then aren’t you worried that the Liang family members will come looking for you?” Qiao Mei asked.

“Why should I be worried? They are the ones who should be nervous! I’m an upright person. If I keep my door closed, are they going to climb over the wall?” Qiao Qiang said disdainfully.

Liang Guo and Liang Lan probably did not have the ability to do that, nor would they cry and kick up a fuss at the door like Old Madam Li. They were people who cared about their reputation the most.

She felt excited just thinking about seeing their deflated looks!

After fixing the radio, Qiao Mei and Qiao Qiang went off to bed early. The next morning, she went to Li Gui's place to see how much seeds they had collected.

Qiao Mei thought that she had woken up early today, but she did not expect to see a long queue at Li Gui's house. Everyone was waiting at the door with their bags of seeds and went in one by one.

Li Gui did not have any communication facilities at home and did not know anything about the weather forecast. She had no choice but to empty out a room and the storeroom to store all the seeds.

Otherwise, if it rained, the villagers' efforts this month would be wasted. She would not be able to compensate them!

"Everyone is so early!" Qiao Mei said in surprise.

Auntie Dong stood at the front and helped Li Gui with the collection. While Li Gui did the weighing outside, Auntie Dong wrote down the weights on the bags and placed them neatly in the room.

"Mei Mei, I have such a good harvest of seeds! Thank you for selling the seeds to us. We also have to thank you for helping us find a way to sell them," a neighbor said.

Yesterday, when Auntie Dong went from house to house to inform them, she already told them that it was Qiao Mei who was helping them. If anyone was not satisfied with the price, they could talk to Auntie Dong and should not go and disturb Qiao Mei. Auntie Dong would then go and discuss it with Li Gui.

They were all people who knew how to repay kindness, so how could they really go and argue with Auntie Dong and Li Gui? As long as Qiao Mei named the price, they had no objections.

"You have all planted these yourselves. If everyone didn't believe me, there wouldn't be such a harvest. It's all thanks to everyone." Qiao Mei exchanged a few pleasantries and went into the house. It was the

weekend and the children were all at home. Even when it was their rest day, the three children were very sensible and helped out.

Zhang Qin was in charge of taking care of Zhang Miao. The two brothers, Zhang Wei and Zhang Chao, guided everyone into the house to put down their things and helped Li Gui check the quantities. They helped out a lot.

"Xiao Qin, Miao Miao, have the two of you eaten?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Not yet. They came before dawn. They said that they couldn't wait to earn money and couldn't sit still at home. Mom had no choice but to start collecting the seeds," Zhang Qin said.

Qiao Mei looked outside and had some new ideas. She would think about it after this batch of seeds was sold and when the next batch of seeds was ready.

Chapter 773 Net Earnings Of A Few Thousands

After Qiao Mei finished making food for the children, Li Gui was almost done with her work. By this moment, all the families had to go to work and people stopped coming by with seeds.

"Sigh... If not for Sister Dong coming to help me today, I don't think I can cope." Although Li Gui was tired, she was full of smiles and it looked as if she had done something interesting.

Otherwise, she rarely interacted with the people in the village. She was always worried that others would say bad things about her. She did not take the initiative to talk to others as she was afraid that no one liked her.

"Qiao Mei, what is the price you managed to negotiate yesterday?" Auntie Dong asked curiously.

Qiao Mei thought for a moment and said, "90 cents."

Auntie Dong was so happy that she kept clapping. She had thought that if the price was 30 cents, she would sell all 800 pounds. If the price was higher, she would save some for the children. The children were in for a treat this time.

If she sold 750 pounds, that would be 675 dollars! It was equivalent to two years of earnings for her family!

"You're really the big treasure of our village! Oh my goodness! I have to go home quickly to clean up. My children kick up a fuss every day and clamor for me to leave some seeds for them," Auntie Dong said happily.

"Auntie, stay and eat before leaving," Qiao Mei said.

Auntie Dong waved her hand and said, "No, no. I have to go home to take care of the children! You guys go ahead!"

As Li Gui watched Auntie Dong leave, she said carefully, "Is it really 90 cents a pound? Doesn't the supply and marketing cooperative buy goods at very low prices? Don't overstate the price. If the higher-ups find out about it, you'll be finished!"

"You're right, it's not 90 cents. It's one dollar a pound! I have found a food factory to sell them in nice gift packs. I won't be in the village by then. You can be the liaison person with the people in the county city. The extra 10 cents per pound is what we make for our family's hard work. Even if we pay for expenses like hiring a car out of this amount, we can still make some money," Qiao Mei said.

In the future, every family would be willing to grow seeds once they knew they could make money. The harvest would not be just a few hundred pounds per family like it was now. By then, the harvest would be by tons and would not even be able to fit into this courtyard.

Nowadays, it would cost 50 dollars to hire a big truck for one trip. If Li Gui only made money from her own harvest, she would lose money and yet have to do more work than the other families.

In the future, they could expand the business so that Zhang Wei and Zhang Chao would have money to get married. The Foshan Seeds could even be sold in the capital in the future!

"How can you do that! Isn't this cheating everyone of their hard-earned money!" Li Gui said.

"Our family still has to gather everything and hire vehicles to deliver them. Later on, we also have to specially build a warehouse to store the seeds. Do you think 10 cents per pound is a lot of money? Moreover, I'm the one who does all the sourcing and negotiation. The price now is already several times more than the previous 20 cents per pound and it's also a much more convenient way for everyone to sell it. If they go and sell it at the black market, they may get arrested!" Qiao Mei said.

"Elder sister is right!" Zhang Qin said excitedly.

This girl was quick on her feet. Although she did not carry the seeds together with her two brothers, she had already roughly calculated the amount of seeds in the house. They were all in small bags, each bag weighing 50 pounds. There were already two tons in the house!

In this way, they had already made 400 dollars! Moreover, there were still others in the village who had not sent their seeds over. Once everyone was included, they would make at least 500 dollars!

"But... what if the uncles and aunties find out? Will they bully us?" Zhang Chao asked worriedly.

"No, they've already made money. Why would they still bully us? The seeds are only available from our house. If they want to plant the crops, they have to come to our house to buy the seeds. These seeds were germinated in a special way! It's not seeds that you can plant just by casually scattering them into the soil," Qiao Mei said mysteriously.

It was not true that the seeds were germinated in a special way. She had simply catalyzed the seeds with energy. After she reached the capital, she would make improvements to the seeds so that no one would suspect that there was anything strange. Otherwise, if the difference in quality with existing varieties was too great, she would not be able to continue with the business.

Now, it all depended on whether Li Gui had the guts. These crops could be grown and harvested three times a year. Based on the current net income of at least 500 dollars, it would be at least 1,500 dollars a year.

In that case, they did not need to work so hard in the fields and did not even have to grow vegetables at home. By then, they would not have to worry about the fees to send the children to university, and the children could even head to the capital!

Chapter 774 Mocking Each Other

"But I... What if I get something wrong... I don't really know much..." Li Gui said fearfully.

Qiao Mei looked at the children and asked, "Will you help out in our family business?"

The children nodded one after another. They could not just watch Li Gui be so busy. That would be too much.

"Look, the children will help you. You can also ask Auntie Dong to help out when necessary. Give her an extra 20 or 40 dollars in the months when you collect the seeds and she will definitely come and help," Qiao Mei said.

This job was not too tiring and it was even better than going to the village office to be an accountant. Moreover, she could make so much more money. Since the children said that she could do it, she would give it a try!

"Alright! I'll remember that! Don't worry, I'll definitely do it well!" Li Gui said confidently.

After the matter with the seeds were settled, it was time to pack up all the stuff at home. The marinated and pickled foodstuff could all be sent to the capital, but what about the live animals at home?

The chickens and ducks had all been poisoned to death by Qiao Gui, so that was one less thing to worry about. Now, there were only two pigs left. Qiao Mei had originally intended to slaughter these two pigs and eat meat this winter!

Now, she could only give them to Li Gui's family. There were also two big baskets of eggs at home. She decided to sell them all to the villagers, to whichever family that could afford to buy.

This time, she would not barter for stuff. Otherwise, there would be more physical items to deal with.

If she had any left, she would give them to Li Gui. Anything that she could not bring along, she would give them to Li Gui. The children would eventually have use for the things when they grew up.

"Grandfather, what do you want to bring to the capital? Is there anything you want to sell?" Qiao Mei asked.

Qiao Qiang thought for a long time and said earnestly, "I don't have anything to sell, but there's something I want to buy."

"What is it?" Qiao Mei had never seen Qiao Qiang taking the initiative to buy anything. Qiao Qiang lived a very frugal life and did not like to spend his money unnecessarily. Whenever he spent any money, it was to buy things for Qiao Mei. He had always been very stingy with himself.

"I have a favor to ask of you. I'm asking someone from the village to get me some fabric from the county city. Make me a nice set of clothes. I can't possibly let that old fellow laugh at me when I get to the capital! You don't know this, but Xia Jun likes to laugh at me!" Qiao Qiang said.

Qiao Mei was so amused that she laughed out loudly. It was not as if she had never made clothes for Qiao Qiang, but she had never made a complete set. It seemed that Qiao Qiang cared a lot about going to the capital to see Xia Jun.

"There's no need to buy anything. We have fabric at home. I'll sew the clothes for you. But haven't you known each other for so many years? Why are you still fussing over these things?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

This made Qiao Qiang recall the past.

At that time, Xia Jun and Qiao Qiang were both very young and had joined the army with a lot of passion. The two of them were on par with each other and were the best soldiers in the army, so they naturally wanted to fight it out and find out who was better.

There were many times when Qiao Qiang won by a narrow margin. Every time, Xia Jun would find all kinds of reasons to provoke Qiao Qiang. As long as Qiao Qiang was inferior to Xia Jun in any way, Xia Jun would mock Qiao Qiang.

The two of them quarreled non-stop every time they met and sometimes even got into fights.

Their relationship improved because of a strange twist of fate. At that time, Xia Jun was trapped during a mission and it was Qiao Qiang who risked his life to save him despite the orders from his superiors to stand down. Later on, the two of them were punished together. From then on, Xia Jun treated Qiao Qiang like his elder brother.

Although there were fewer fights and squabbles, Xia Jun still liked to be critical of Qiao Qiang.

"I'll definitely make you the most fashionable clothes! You won't be inferior to Grandpa Xia!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Alright!" Qiao Qiang said.

After deciding which items to bring to the capital, it was time to plan the actual day of the move. Everything was ready. She only needed to find out when the people in the capital had time to pick them up.

If Qiao Mei made the trip on her own, she would definitely be reprimanded by everyone for not taking good care of herself. This had already happened with Chen Hu once and she did not want to be reprimanded by more people.

The first thing she would do when she got back was to buy many chicks! She must settle the matter of the medicinal herb chickens! She must definitely make a lot of money from He Ning!

When Qiao Mei returned to her room, she started thinking about the designs for Qiao Qiang's clothes. She was not going to simply take some cloth and make some clothes. She even thought of embroidering patterns on them!

Chapter 775 - 775 Zhang Qin Is Missing

775 Zhang Qin Is Missing

The next day, Qiao Mei woke up, tidied up the house, cooked and ate. Her life was very relaxed and comfortable. She then fried the remaining seeds she had in the storeroom so that she could send everything to the capital. The ones she sent to Xia He the last time were still the old variety.

By the time she finished frying the seeds, it was already noon. Before she could clean up the kitchen, she heard a commotion outside. There were only two families near her house, Li Gui and Auntie Dong. Could it be that someone from Old Madam Li's family came again? Or was there a problem with Li Gui collecting the seeds?

Qiao Mei walked out of the house curiously and saw Zhang Wei running towards her anxiously.

"What happened? Shouldn't you be at school at this time? Why did you run back?" Qiao Mei asked.

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The school was tens of miles away from home, so it was impossible for Zhang Wei to walk back alone. He had only gone to school for a few hours, so why was he back alone? Where were the other children?

"Elder sister... Zhang Qin... Zhang Qin is missing!" Zhang Wei said while panting.

"What! Aren't you all at school? How can she go missing! Have you gone around the school to look for her?" Qiao Mei asked in shock.

Zhang Wei shook his head. In the morning, the three of them had set off for school together. As the three of them were of different grades, they were in different classes. They only gathered together to eat at noon and go home after school.

At noontime, he realized that Zhang Qin was not in the classroom. He could not find her no matter where he looked. The teacher also helped in the search, but there was no sign of her. That was why he had brought Zhang Chao home with him in a hurry, thinking that Zhang Qin might be at home.

"The teacher has already helped us to look around but we can't find her. We've already searched all the places that Zhang Qin might have gone..." Zhang Wei said fearfully.

He had already lost Zhang Qin once. He was afraid that Zhang Qin might be captured by those human traffickers again. It was all his fault as the eldest brother. If not for the fact that he did not take good care of Zhang Qin, she would not have suddenly disappeared.

Zhang Wei was trembling in fear. He was afraid that something would happen to Zhang Qin and whispered, "Elder sister... can it be that my father..."

"No, he's still in prison. Go to the places that Zhang Qin likes to go around the village. I'll call Uncle Zhao," Qiao Mei said calmly.

Now that such a big thing had happened, she had to remain calm. At this moment, Li Gui must be so flustered that she did not know what to do. If Qiao Mei was also unable to stay calm, they would waste even more time instead of focusing on finding Zhang Qin.

The most important thing now was to get more people to go and look for the child.

Qiao Mei quickly returned to the house and called the village office. Soon, Zhao Liang picked up the call.

"Uncle Zhao, bad news! My Zhang Qin is missing!" Qiao Mei said anxiously.

"The child is missing? Don't be anxious. I'll do a broadcast to inform all the villagers to gather now so that we can all go and look for the child together. Don't be anxious, I'll be at your house soon." After saying that, Zhao Liang went to make arrangements.

Qiao Mei was certain that this matter had nothing to do with Zhang Qian. Zhang Qian was still in jail and even if Zhang Cong wanted to avenge his father, he did not have the guts to do so.

Zhang Qin was the most obedient among the children. She definitely did not run off on her own accord.

Qiao Mei walked to the corner of the courtyard and gently touched the flowers and plants on the ground. She focused on the big tree outside Qiao Zhuang's house but she did not find any traces of Zhang Qin, nor did she see any memories of Zhang Qin walking past this big tree.

"Strange... Can I have wronged their family?" Qiao Mei muttered to herself.

After the broadcast, the villagers gathered at the door of Li Gui's house. Everyone was very worried about Zhang Qin's safety. Qiao Mei usually took good care of everyone, so it was only right for all of them to help out now.

Qiao Mei quickly walked to Li Gui's courtyard while supporting her stomach. Li Gui was already crying in the courtyard. Her eyes were so swollen that she could barely open them and her clothes were wet from the tears.

"My child! If anything happens to you... I won't be able to live!" Li Gui said as she wept.

"Mom, I'm here. Have you gone to all the places that Zhang Qin frequents?" Qiao Mei asked.

Li Gui sobbed and said, "Yes... we did... we searched the entire village. The villagers also kept a lookout on the way here but there's no trace of her anywhere. Tell me... Where else do you think this child can go..."

Chapter 776 - 776 Attempted Murder

776 Attempted Murder

"Mei Mei, don't mind Auntie's unpleasant words, but let's go to the river to take a look," Auntie Dong said with a serious expression.

Qiao Mei was actually thinking about the same thing. During this season, if one fell into the river, there was an 80 to 90% chance that one would not survive. Moreover, there was a reservoir in the village where Zhang Qin went to school. Even an adult would die after falling into it, let alone a child as young as Zhang Qin.

"Have we really searched everywhere except by the river?" Qiao Mei asked with a gloomy expression.

Everyone looked at one another. That was indeed the case. As they set off from their homes, they had searched the vicinity as well. They had almost combed the entire village, but there was still no sign of Zhang Qin.

“Qiao Mei, we’ll go around and search again later. I’ll bring a few people along the riverbank to take a look. You can stay at home and accompany Li Gui. Don’t worry, we’ll definitely do our best to find her,” Zhao Liang said.

Everyone chimed in and agreed. There was something else that Qiao Mei wanted to do, so she did not decline the offer. However, she did not stay to take care of Li Gui and asked Auntie Dong to stay and help instead.

Qiao Mei hurriedly returned to her room and sent out all her energy. Using the roots of the plants, she began to search for Zhang Qin’s whereabouts. This consumed a lot of Qiao Mei’s stamina and energy. She even took out the treasured ginsengs at home and absorbed their energy without any hesitation.

Even if she had to give it her all, she had to find Zhang Qin.

Qiao Mei searched along the river and did not find any clothes, fabric or shoes. The plants by the river also did not have any memories of Zhang Qin.

Now that she had searched all the villagers’ homes, the riverside and all the nearby places, the only place left was the mountains.

There were many mountains around the village and Zhang Qin had climbed every one of them previously. Back then, in order to pick wild vegetables, she would go and take a look as long as there were vegetables to be found. Even if everyone in the village went up the mountains to look for her, they still would not be able to cover everywhere after three days and three nights.

Qiao Mei searched meticulously and finally found some clues in the bushes at the foot of the mountain near the school. Through the line of sight of the bushes, Qiao Mei found a piece of Zhang Qin’s clothes on the ground. It was not big, but it was enough for her to recognize it.

She was the one who bought everything that Zhang Qin wore. She knew very well the kind of fabric and the patterns. Those were all new fabrics that she had brought back from the capital and were not sold in the county city at all.

Following this mountain path and heading upwards, Qiao Mei found Zhang Qin lying unconscious at the bottom of a dangerous slope. Her clothes were torn and tattered, as if they had been scratched by tree branches.

Her beautiful face was also covered in blood and there were also many wounds of various sizes. Qiao Mei memorized the approximate location and hurriedly put on more clothes before running out.

It was going to be dark soon. If she delayed any longer, Zhang Qin would be in danger. There were many fierce beasts on the mountain. If she did not bring Zhang Qin back, even if the girl was still alive, she would get eaten up by the beasts.

“Mei Mei! Where are you going! I’m coming with you!” Qiao Qiang said as he put on his clothes.

Qiao Mei wanted Qiao Qiang to rest at home. The mountain path was steep and not easy to walk on. That mountain was the most dangerous mountain in this area, not because there were many ferocious beasts inside, but because the path was steep and dangerous. Most of the slopes were also dangerous and one could easily miss a step if one was not careful. No one was willing to go to that mountain to pick wild vegetables.

“Grandfather, I’m going up the mountains. It’s going to be dark soon, so it’s better if you don’t go. I’ll go and get Uncle Zhao and the others to accompany me,” Qiao Mei said.

“No, then the more I have to go with you. I’ll be even more worried if you go up the mountains alone,” Qiao Qiang said with a frown.

“How about this, grandfather? Go to the river and ask the villagers to come and look for me. I’ll go and scout the way first. Then later, it’ll be faster when we go into the mountains to search together,” Qiao Mei persuaded him patiently.

Qiao Qiang nodded. This was the only way. Saving the child was more important.

“You must be careful, do you understand?” Qiao Qiang instructed.

Qiao Mei immediately walked towards the house at the entrance of the village, to look for the family who had a horse carriage . Riding a bicycle was the fastest way, but now that she was more than seven months pregnant, she was also afraid that the bumpy road would have a negative impact on the babies.

Along the way, she kept thinking about how Zhang Qin got there and how she climbed to such a high place alone. This was not an accident at all. Someone had done this on purpose!

Chapter 777 - 777 Going Down the Slope to Save Someone

777 Going Down the Slope to Save Someone

“Old Mister Zhu! Are you home?” Qiao Mei shouted at the door.

Old Mister Zhu was the best coachman in the village. He and his son were both in this line of work. Anyone in the village who wanted to transport things would ask Old Mister Zhu for help. If Qiao Mei was the most popular person in the village, then Old Mister Zhu was probably the next most popular.

“Qiao Mei? Didn’t you go and look for Zhang Qin? My son also went to help. Did something happen to you?” Old Mister Zhu asked.

“Old Mister Zhu, can you bring me to the area around Zhang Qin’s school now? It doesn’t matter how much it costs!” Qiao Mei said.

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Without another word, Old Mister Zhu went straight to get his horse carriage ready and even padded it with soft cushions and put small stools inside. Ever since his son joined him in the business, he had rarely worked.

“No need to talk about money! Get in quickly!” Old Mister Zhu shouted.

“Thank you, Old Mister Zhu! Let’s go there first. My grandfather has gone to look for Uncle Zhao and the others! They’ll come along to look for us soon!” Qiao Mei said.

“Alright! Sit tight! We’ll leave now!” Old Mister Zhu whipped the horse and they set off.

The horse carriage went very fast. This was the first time Qiao Mei felt like she was riding a tractor while sitting in a horse carriage. She had only sat in the carriage driven by Old Mister Zhu’s son, and it was very stable and the speed was much slower. It seemed that Old Mister Zhu’s son had not learnt the essence of driving a horse carriage from Old Mister Zhu.

On the way, Qiao Mei ran into Uncle Wang Wu and a few other young men from the village. They also got on the horse carriage and accompanied her to the mountain together. By the time they reached the foot of the mountain, the sky was already a little dark.

“Mei Mei, you think that Zhang Qin has gone up the mountain?” Wang Wu asked suspiciously.

“Uncle, let’s give it a try. We should give it a shot. I just have a feeling that Zhang Qin is here.” After saying that, Qiao Mei took the route that she remembered from her memories and walked up the mountain. Old Mister Zhu was old, so he waited for them at the foot of the mountain.

After walking for more than an hour, they finally reached the area where Zhang Qin had fallen. Everyone shouted for Zhang Qin at the top of their lungs and dispersed to look for her.

Qiao Mei crouched down at the top of the slope to observe the surrounding terrain. She saw Zhang Qin immediately. The girl was still in the same position as before and was still unconscious. However, seeing it with her own eyes and seeing it from a plant’s perspective felt completely different. All she wanted to do now was to rush down and hug Zhang Qin tightly.

“Found her! Found her!” Qiao Mei shouted loudly.

She was about to go down when Wang Wu pulled her back.

“You’re crazy! It’s such a steep slope! If you slip, you won’t be able to survive!” Wang Wu shouted angrily.

“But Zhang Qin is down there! Uncle! Let me go down! She’s down there!” Qiao Mei said.

Everyone looked at Qiao Mei's anxious expression and felt a little touched. She was so close to her half-sister who had only lived with her for a few months. They were even closer than biological sisters.

Qiao Mei was beautiful and kind-hearted. There were too few of such people around..

"Stay up here and don't move. We'll go down and save Zhang Qin. Don't worry, nothing will happen," Wang Wu said firmly.

"Uncle, let me go. What if something happens to you," Qiao Mei said worriedly.

Wang Wu was so amused that he laughed out loud. Could it be that the few of them could not compare with a pregnant woman?

"I've lived for so long and I've walked on this mountain path countless times. I've seen all kinds of mountains. Just wait for us here. There's no need to argue about it anymore. The most important thing now is to save the child." Wang Wu could not be bothered to speak further with Qiao Mei. He tied the rope he had brought around his waist and slowly slid down the side.

He had only been to this mountain once. When he was young, he would go hunting with his father and uncles. Later on, his family handed over all their firearms to the authorities and stopped being hunters. Instead, he became a pig farmer and butcher and ran his own business.

It took a long time to go down the slope. Wang Wu finally reached the foot of the slope and slowly squatted down, carefully approaching Zhang Qin step by step.

Zhang Qin was located on a sloped area. If he was not careful, he could cause her to be injured a second time. He had to ensure that he had a foolproof plan and could get her out in one go.

"Zhang Qin... I'm your Uncle Wang Wu... Wake up!" Wang Wu gently patted Zhang Qin's shoulder to see if she would show signs of consciousness.

No matter how Wang Wu shouted, Zhang Qin still lay there motionlessly. Her face was already pale from the cold and her lips were turning purple. If they had not found her tonight, she probably would not be able to survive.

Chapter 778 - 778 Treatment

778 Treatment

“Uncle Wang Wu! How’s Zhang Qin!” Qiao Mei looked down the dangerous slope worriedly, not even daring to breathe loudly.

Wang Wu felt the same way. He could feel that Zhang Qin’s position was not very stable. If he was not careful, she might fall down further. Wang Wu sat on the slope and took a few deep breaths.

“Throw me the rope!” Wang Wu shouted.

Everyone hurriedly fixed a rope to the big tree and threw the other end to Wang Wu. He picked up the rope and tied a firm knot before slowly putting it around Zhang Qin’s body. After making sure that it was secure, he slowly tied Zhang Qin to himself and climbed up bit by bit.

!!

With every step Wang Wu took, everyone felt as if their hearts were being squeezed by a pair of hands. Qiao Mei could have used the vines to send Zhang Qin up, but there were too many people with her. If she exposed her abilities, everyone would probably think that she was a demon.

Then they would think that her babies were the descendants of a demon. It would be fine if everyone was willing to let her off, but if she was captured as a demon and dissected, she would lose her life.

Now, all their hopes were placed on Wang Wu. Everyone silently cheered for him but were worried for him at the same time.

It was not until Wang Wu reached the top steadily that everyone rushed forward to pull him up. Qiao Mei went forward to carry Zhang Qin and checked her body carefully. She seemed to have some broken bones in her hands but everything else seemed to be external injuries.

“Zhang Qin! Look at elder sister! Zhang Qin! Look at me! Wake up!” No matter how Qiao Mei shouted, Zhang Qin did not seem to hear her.

Qiao Mei took out a bottle of dark green liquid from her pocket and poured some into Zhang Qin’s mouth. This was the 500-year-old ginseng juice that she had just extracted not long ago. Zhang Qin coughed a few times and gradually regained consciousness.

“Elder sister...” Zhang Qin called out weakly.

“Good, good, good! Don’t talk! We’re going to the hospital now! Hang in there! I’ll bring you there now!” Qiao Mei said agitatedly.

The journey down the mountain was much more difficult than the journey up. After Wang Wu saved Zhang Qin, he had almost used up all his strength. Now, it was a young man who carried Zhang Qin down the mountain and Qiao Mei followed carefully behind.

The sky gradually darkened and it became more and more difficult to walk on the mountain path. It took them more than an hour to go up the mountain and almost three hours to go down. Everyone had to take every step steadily so that no one got hurt.

When they reached the foot of the mountain, Zhao Liang was waiting with a group of people. After it got dark, Old Mister Zhu did not allow them to go up the mountain and asked them to wait for Qiao Mei and the others to return. They have brought many blankets with them and laid them in the horse carriage so that Zhang Qin would feel more comfortable and be cushioned from the bumps on the road.

“How’s the child?” Zhao Liang asked.

“There are many injuries on her body, both big and small. Let’s quickly go back and get her checked out. We should go to the clinic first,” Qiao Mei said anxiously.

They went back quickly on separate horse carriages. Zhang Qin did not dare to close her eyes as she was afraid that she would never see Qiao Mei again. Along the way, she held Qiao Mei’s hand tightly and refused to let go.

“Don’t be scared... Elder sister is here. Elder sister won’t leave you. Don’t worry.” At some point, Qiao Mei’s eyes were filled with tears.

In the past, she was not a person who cried easily. Now that she saw Zhang Qin getting bullied, she just felt very uncomfortable.

“Elder sister... it doesn’t hurt... I’m fine...” Zhang Qin said with great effort.

“Don’t talk. We’re going home soon. Just bear with it,” Qiao Mei said as she held back her tears.

The village clinic was all ready for Zhang Qin. As soon as she entered the building, she was sent in for a checkup. Qiao Mei waited anxiously outside. Li Gui, Zhang Wei and Qiao Qiang were already waiting at the clinic.

“Mei Mei, how are you? You should go home and rest. You don’t look too good,” Li Gui said as she looked at Qiao Mei with heartache.

There was nothing wrong with her body. She had just used too much energy when she was looking for Zhang Qin and felt a little tired now. She would be fine after going home and taking a nap.

“I’m fine. I can wait until Zhang Qin is done.” Qiao Mei turned to look at Zhang Wei and asked, “Let me ask you, who else in our village is studying at your school?”

Zhang Wei blurted out, “Dong Tian, Wang Fan and Qiao Feng and his two brothers.”

“Then who’s in Zhang Qin’s class?” Qiao Mei asked.

“Qiao Tian,” Zhang Wei said.

Chapter 779 Give Us An Explanation

Qiao Mei already had an idea about what transpired. She took the hoe from the clinic and wanted to go to Qiao Gui's house to demand an explanation on whether Qiao Tian had anything to do with this matter.

"Mei Mei! Come back!" Qiao Qiang said sternly.

Being anxious made one panic. There was no evidence to prove that it was Qiao Tian from Qiao Gui's family who did it. They would not be able to gain anything even if they went. Moreover, Wang Qin was an unreasonable person and would probably make things even more difficult for them in the future.

Qiao Mei looked into Qiao Qiang's eyes and knew that she should not have been so distraught at the mention of Qiao Zhuang's family. At this moment, she should wait for Zhang Qin's checkup results and wait for her to tell them what had happened.

The doctor pushed open the door and took off his mask. "The child only has superficial injuries. Her bones are fine, but she seems to have sprained her ankle. She'll be fine after resting at home for three to four days. This is alcohol and cotton balls. You just need to go back and disinfect her wounds."

Everyone heaved a sigh of relief when they heard this. Qiao Mei entered the room and sat beside Zhang Qin. She asked, "Zhang Qin, tell elder sister why you went up that mountain?"

"I didn't want to go... but Qiao Tian took my school bag... That school bag is the one you embroidered for me... so I chased after him. Later on, when I reached the slope, someone suddenly pushed me and I fell down," Zhang Qin said.

Everyone present gasped. This was an attempt at murder. Qiao Tian was really too much. It was fine if he just fooled around like he usually did, but now he wanted to kill someone!

He was so young and yet he learned all the bad things!

"Mom, bring Zhang Qin home with Xiao Wei first. I'll go and ask Wang Qin for an explanation," Qiao Mei said with a dark expression.

The villagers chimed in, "We'll go too! Let's go!"

Together, they made their way to Qiao Gui's house. If Qiao Zhuang's family dared to stop them, they would beat Qiao Zhuang up again and scare this family off so that no one else would be bullied by them in the future.

"Wang Qin, hand over Qiao Tian!" Qiao Mei shouted towards the house.

Wang Qin walked out impatiently. Qiao Gui had indeed done something wrong to Qiao Mei, but Qiao Gui had already been sent to prison. It was not an easy time for the remaining family members, so what had they done to offend Qiao Mei now?

"Why do you want Qiao Tian! What has my son done to you? You put my husband in jail and you still want to take my son away?" Wang Qin shouted as she pointed at Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei did not waste her breath on Wang Qin and simply smashed the glass window of Qiao Gui's house. Qiao Tian was on the brick bed and she could see wounds on his legs.

"Your son pushed my sister down the mountain! My sister is lying in the clinic now! Go and ask your son! How did he get the wounds on his legs!" Qiao Mei roared at Wang Qin.

Wang Qin was stunned by the question. When Qiao Tian came back, he told her that he had a fall while playing around with his classmates. He did not mention anything about Zhang Qin.

"My... my son was injured when playing with a classmate! What evidence do you have to say that it was my son who did it!" Wang Qin shouted, not to be outdone.

Qiao Mei smiled disdainfully and said, "That mountain is a long way from the school. Do you really think that no one saw your son and my sister along the way? Are you so sure! You'd better ask your son to tell the truth, otherwise I'll go from house to house tomorrow to ask about this! Let's see if your son can still get away with it!"

Wang Qin took a few steps back in fear and bumped into the door frame behind her. Qiao Mei looked through the hole in the window and said to Qiao Tian, "You know very well what you did to my sister. If you admit it now, we'll settle this matter in private. If you don't say anything, you can just wait for your punishment."

Qiao Tian was so afraid that he hid in a corner and did not say a word. By now, everyone already knew who was the culprit. It was really a case of a crooked stick having a crooked shadow.

Qiao Zhuang was not a good person. None of his sons were good people, and now even his grandson dared to harm others. They were all simply lawless!

Qiao Mei pulled down the window of Qiao Gui's house angrily. These days, the windows in the countryside were all made of wood and they all opened outwards. They fell off easily with a light tug, but Qiao Mei's actions still served to make a big impact in front of everyone.

"I'll give you another day. If you don't come to our house to give us an explanation by then, I'll investigate it myself and let your son go and accompany your husband!" With that, Qiao Mei left Qiao Gui's house with everyone.

Chapter 780 Asking For An Explanation

Wang Qin leaned against the door frame for a long time before she regained her senses. Could it be that Qiao Tian really did this?

Wang Qin entered the house and questioned Qiao Tian, "Tell me, what exactly is going on? Did you fight with others, or did you do what Qiao Mei said? That you bullied her sister!"

Qiao Tian sat at the edge of the brick bed and did not dare to make a sound. He did not expect Qiao Mei to have such a bad temper, nor did he expect this matter to be discovered.

Wang Qin only had one son and a very young daughter who still needed to be taken care of. If her son was really sent to jail by Qiao Mei, she would have no hope for the rest of her life.

She must hang on for now. Wang Qin took out two woven bags from the storeroom and used them to cover the hole left by the broken window. Halfway through, she started crying. She missed Qiao Gui and having him around.

If Qiao Gui was at home, he would definitely not let them suffer like this. Now that there was no man at home, there was no one to fix the window. Wang Qin squatted on the ground and cried aggrievedly.

When Qiao Tian heard Wang Qin crying, he put on his pants and walked out of the house. He said timidly, "Mom... it's eldest uncle's Qiao Feng who asked me to do this..."

Qiao Zhuang did not have many grandchildren. The eldest son, Qiao Fu, first had a daughter and then a son. Qiao Feng had grown up by Qiao Zhuang's side and his temper and personality were very similar to Qiao Zhuang.

The boy often ordered Liu Ying around. Liu Ying did not like this son of hers very much and she gradually stopped caring about him.

Qiao Gui also had a son and a daughter, but his son was the older of the two children and was named Qiao Tian.

"Go back inside. It's so cold outside. I'll come in and deal with you later!" Wang Qin said.

After covering up the window, Wang Qin took a few blankets and went into the other room. Although it was a little damp, it was still habitable.

When she had settled everything, Wang Qin held back her temper and looked at Qiao Tian as she asked, "Tell me the truth, are you the one who did this?"

Qiao Tian confessed everything. He often bullied others in school. Now that Qiao Gui was in prison, the other children called him the son of a murderer and said that he was a scourge. He was very angry and wanted to teach these children a lesson.

During that time, Qiao Feng came looking for him. Qiao Feng hated Qiao Mei for causing Qiao Fu's legs to be amputated. Now that his elder sister was gone and his father was disabled, he only had his grandfather left.

Instead of being bullied by others, it was better to teach them a lesson. Therefore, Qiao Feng targeted Zhang Qin and convinced Qiao Tian to hurt her. Originally, Qiao Tian just wanted to teach her a lesson and did not intend to endanger her life. What he did not know was that Qiao Feng had been lying in ambush at that place and came out to push Zhang Qin down the slope.

At that time, Qiao Tian was terribly frightened when he saw Zhang Qin motionless. He thought that she was dead and he quickly returned to school. He was jittery for the rest of the day until he could make it home from school.

"It's fine. You just brought Zhang Qin into the mountain. You're not the one who did it. Don't be afraid." Wang Qin hugged Qiao Tian and comforted him.

She did not expect Qiao Feng to be like Qiao Fu, going around bewitching others to do bad things. Back then, Qiao Fu had bewitched Qiao Gui into going along to harm Qiao Mei. Now, it was Qiao Feng's turn to harm her son.

"Stay at home. I'll go and ask them for an explanation. You stay at home and keep an eye on your sister," Wang Qin said.

Qiao Tian lay in bed obediently and watched Wang Qin leave the house to look for Qiao Zhuang. At this moment, Qiao Zhuang and the others were still eating and listening to the radio, not realizing that something had happened to their family.

When Qiao Zhuang heard that Zhang Qin had met with an accident, he even specially opened a bottle of liquor. He thought that it was retribution from the heavens that caused Qiao Mei's family to face trouble and he was overjoyed.

"Are you eating in the house?" Wang Qin said sarcastically as she entered the house.

Qiao Zhuang did not even look at Wang Qin and continued eating. Jiang Ye said politely, "Second sister-in-law, you're here. Come and sit down to eat."

Jiang Ye stood up to get the cutlery but was stopped by Wang Qin.

"I'm not here to eat. I'm here to ask Qiao Feng what he said to my son and what he asked my son to do," Wang Qin said.

Qiao Fu immediately flew into a rage. He pointed at Wang Qin and roared, "What's wrong with you again! Father is quite happy today and you insist on coming here to find trouble!"