

## **Fat Wife 781**

### Chapter 781 Being Careful

"Happy? What's there to be happy about? Your son is sending my son to jail! What's there to be happy about!" Wang Qin said without backing down.

"What are you talking about? How is my son sending your son to jail?" Qiao Fu asked curiously.

However, Qiao Feng was dismissive. He spread out his hands and said helplessly, "I didn't ask Qiao Tian to do this. He did it on his own."

Seeing that his eldest grandson had admitted to it, Qiao Zhuang focused and listened carefully to what they were saying.

"If you hadn't asked my son to bring Zhang Qin into the mountains, would she have gotten into an accident? My son said that you were the one who pushed Zhang Qin. Go to Qiao Mei's house tomorrow and make things clear. Don't let my son take the blame for you," Wang Qin said.

Qiao Feng was not afraid at all. He had planned this matter very well. It was Qiao Tian who brought Zhang Qin into the mountains and Qiao Feng did not show his face along the way at all. Moreover, when he pushed Zhang Qin, her back was facing him and it was impossible for her to see his face.

There was no witness or physical evidence. Who could say that he was the one who did it?

He originally wanted to do this on his own, but he was already 15 years old this year. In the countryside, a 15-year-old child was considered half an adult. If something happened, he may be sent to jail. However, Qiao Tian was different. He was only nine years old and still a child. Even if the authorities pursued the matter, he would at most get criticized and be reeducated, which was not really a punishment at all.

Initially, Qiao Feng even wanted to get Qiao Guang to do it, but Qiao Guang did not want to listen to him at all. Qiao Guang was only five years old and could not outrun Zhang Qin. If Zhang Qin managed to snatch her things back, the gains would not make up for the losses.

Therefore, only the silly Qiao Tian was the most suitable candidate.

After hearing them out, Qiao Zhuang roughly understood what was going on. He coughed twice and said, "This matter ends here. Qiao Fu will give you some money to repair the window later. There's no need to talk about anything else. At most, Qiao Tian will be criticized. If Qiao Tian was not willing to do this, would Qiao Feng be able to force him to do it?"

"Then my son..." Before Wang Qin could finish speaking, Qiao Zhuang glared at her fiercely.

Now that her husband was not around, if Qiao Zhuang chased her out, she would be in dire straits. Wang Qin could only leave aggrievedly. With regard to this matter, she could only suffer in silence.

"Qiao Feng, come here," Qiao Zhuang said calmly.

Qiao Feng walked to Qiao Zhuang's side and sat down. He grinned at Qiao Zhuang and said, "Grandpa, what is it?"

Qiao Zhuang did not waste his breath on Qiao Feng and simply gave him a slap. It was not a hard slap, but it was loud. Qiao Feng had never seen Qiao Zhuang ever being angry at him since he was born. He was so scared that he knelt on the brick bed and did not dare to raise his head.

"Do you know what's your mistake?" Qiao Zhuang asked.

Qiao Feng said fearfully, "Grandpa... I shouldn't have harmed others... I shouldn't have asked my younger brother to harm others..."

"No. Your mistake is that your plan is not thorough enough. No matter what, Qiao Tian is still your younger brother. You can't just protect yourself and not care about your younger brother. Even if Zhang Qin didn't see your face, what if Qiao Mei goes around to ask your classmates if you were in the classroom during that time? Won't the truth be exposed then?" Qiao Zhuang said earnestly.

Seeing that Qiao Zhuang did not blame him at all, Qiao Feng quickly looked up and asked eagerly, "Then what should I have done?"

"Get up. Don't kneel. Can't you think of a way to harm Zhang Qin when there's no one around?" Qiao Zhuang sat up and said to Qiao Feng.

Qiao Feng frowned and complained to Qiao Zhuang, "Grandpa! Of course I've thought about it! But those children are so close that they even go to the toilet together! They're never alone!"

"Then you wait. You have to wait until there's a chance. You have to learn how to bide your time, do you understand? You won't be able to do anything well if you're so impatient," Qiao Zhuang said.

Qiao Wang and Jiang Ye could not stand it anymore and asked their children to go back to the room first. They did not want to hear Qiao Zhuang talking about these crooked ideas. If the children received this type of education, they would go to jail sooner or later.

When Qiao Mei got home, she went to bed and slept soundly. She only woke up in the afternoon. Qiao Qiang also knew that Qiao Mei was exhausted and did not wake her up.

She slowly stretched out and then folded the blanket, preparing to go to Li Gui's place to take a look at Zhang Qin. Now that Li Gui had to take care of both Zhang Miao and Zhang Qin, Qiao Mei was worried that she would not be able to cope on her own.

#### Chapter 782 Bring Them Away

By now, the seeds collection was almost done and Auntie Dong had helped out a lot. They just needed to wait for He Guang to come to the village to pick up the stock. Zhang Qin looked like she had recovered a lot and ate more than usual.

"Is Zhang Qin feeling better?" Qiao Mei asked as she entered the house.

"Elder sister, you're here. I feel much better! I still feel a little dizzy but I'll be much better if I sleep a bit more," Zhang Qin said with a smile.

Zhang Miao could now sit up and eat by herself. Her body had recovered well and she could walk around slowly by holding on to the wall. She was as lively and cheerful as before.

"I'm relieved to hear that you're fine. How is Miao Miao feeling today?" Qiao Mei said as she then looked at Zhang Miao.

"I'm much better. Mom's cooking today was especially delicious," Zhang Miao said.

Seeing that the entire family seemed to be doing quite well, Qiao Mei felt more at ease. After they chatted for a while, Qiao Mei went home to contact He Guang to find out about the sale of seeds.

"Grandfather, I want to talk to you about something," Qiao Mei stammered as she sat opposite Qiao Qiang.

"What's there that you find hard to tell me? Just say it," Qiao Qiang said.

Qiao Mei hesitated for a long time before she said softly, "I'm thinking about bringing my mother and the kids to the capital."

Qiao Mei had made a decision after she woke up early in the morning. Her original plan was to set off for the capital in half a month's time, but she did not expect Qiao Zhuang's family to attack Zhang Qin. It would be too dangerous to let the family stay behind in this village and it would be much better to have them by her side. Moreover, the education system in the capital was better and it would be beneficial for the children to go over.

"That's not a problem, but they can't stay at my place. It's not that I'm biased, but it's just that your mother's relationship with me makes it awkward," Qiao Qiang said.

Although Li Gui was originally Qiao Qiang's daughter-in-law, she had remarried and was not related to the Qiao family anymore. If they all lived together in the capital, people would gossip about them. Furthermore, that would not be good for the Xia family's reputation as well.

Even though the Xia family was an open-minded family, their neighbors might not be the same. If people found out that Qiao Mei had brought her mother and four half-siblings with her, it was hard to imagine what they would say about her.

It would be better to buy them another house.

Qiao Mei nodded in agreement. She did not lack money and could buy any kind of house. Since her grandfather had agreed to bring them to the capital, this matter would be much easier to handle.

"Thank you, grandfather," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"No need to thank me. I also think that it's been tough on those children. They're very nice to me and we should take care of them as much as we can. I've long treated these children as part of my own family," Qiao Qiang said.

She had originally planned to pass all the things in her house to Li Gui, but now it seemed that she had to find another family to take over. The most important thing was that the two pigs were not easy to sell. She planned to give one to Auntie Dong. After all, they would all not be in the village in the future and she would need Auntie Dong's help with all kinds of things.

She decided to give the other one to Uncle Zhao. She had lived here for so long and it had always been Uncle Zhao who helped her. If not for Uncle Zhao, they would have long been bullied badly by Qiao Zhuang's family.

However, she could not let anyone else know that she was gifting them. They must make it sound like she had sold the pigs to them. Otherwise, it would cause resentment among the villagers.

They would not understand why Auntie Dong and Zhao Liang had special treatment when everyone treated Qiao Mei equally well. If the villagers started forming cliques, it would not do anyone any good.

Qiao Mei secretly asked Auntie Dong to come over and said cautiously, "Auntie, can I discuss something with you?"

"What's the matter?" Auntie Dong said equally furtively.

"I want to sell you one of these pigs," Qiao Mei said as she pointed at the larger and fatter pig in the pigpen.

Auntie Dong was so shocked that she quickly waved her hands. Although her family was big, there was nothing she could help with if Qiao Mei wanted to sell the pigs. Back then, Qiao Mei had spent a lot of money on the piglets. Given that she had fattened them up so much, it must not be cheap.

"I can't! I don't have that much money! Qiao Mei, you should ask other families. If there's really no other way, you can ask your Uncle Wang Wu. He's a pig seller. Maybe he has other connections?" Auntie Dong said anxiously.

Qiao Mei was so amused that she laughed loudly and quickly said, "You haven't even asked me how much it is! How do you know it's very expensive?"

"What nonsense! Such a big pig will cost at least 120 dollars!" Auntie Dong said.

Chapter 783 - 783 Selling Pigs

783 Selling Pigs

Qiao Mei's pigs were even fatter than those sold in the market. Even if she based it on the lower end of the market price and sold it at 120 dollars, it would be a loss to her!

"I don't need that much money. Back then, this piglet was bought for 10 dollars. Just give me 10 dollars. Only you and I will know about this. If anyone asks you, you say it's 120 dollars. How about that?" Qiao Mei whispered.

Auntie Dong smiled honestly and said, "Then I'll be taking advantage of you. You've fed this pig for so long."

"Auntie, I know how much you've helped our family. I'm going to my mother-in-law's place to give birth soon. I still have to trouble you to help me take care of everything in my house," Qiao Mei said.

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Once a house in the countryside was not occupied, it would soon become inhabitable and collapse very easily. Someone had to go in to clean it from time to time and also to use the fireplace once in a while.

Otherwise, if Qiao Mei wanted to come back one day, the house would no longer be in a habitable condition.

It was very likely that she would not be able to return until the next elementary school graduation examination. If there was no one to take care of the house, it would be inhabitable, so she had to ask Auntie Dong for help.

“You don’t even have to ask me! Don’t worry, your house is my house. I’ll definitely look after it for you! However, I cannot take advantage of you. You know my family’s financial condition. I’ll buy this pig for 50 dollars. What do you think?” Auntie Dong said as she gritted her teeth.

The amount of 50 dollars was equivalent to half a year’s worth of rations for her family. Fortunately, Qiao Mei had managed to negotiate a good price for the seeds this time and her family had made a lot of money. An amount of 50 dollars was nothing to her family at the moment.

It was just that based on her spending habits, she could not bear to spend so much money at once. She felt a sense of heartache to have to fork out 50 dollars at one go.

“Sure, you can give me whatever amount you want. I’m fine with anything. Just bring this pig home. When I’m not at home, don’t let anyone steal my house away!” Qiao Mei said.

“I’ll pass you the money after the seeds are sold. I’ll ask my husband to come and pick up this pig tomorrow! We still have to set up the pigpen at home,” Auntie Dong said with a smile.

Qiao Mei also gave Auntie Dong a lot of fruits from the storeroom. These were all fragile items that could not be transported, so she might as well give them all away.

After settling the matter with Auntie Dong, it was time to look for Zhao Liang.

Qiao Mei slowly made her way to the village office. Currently, Zhao Liang was the only one working in the office and Wang Qin was nowhere to be seen. It seemed inappropriate for Zhao Liang to urge her to come to work at this time, so he could only take on all the work silently.

“Uncle Zhao, why are you so busy? You don’t even rest for a day,” Qiao Mei said.

Zhao Liang sighed resignedly. He did not want to be so busy and tired either. If not for the fact that there was no one in the village who could take over Wang Qin’s job, he would not be so tired.

“Qiao Mei, do you need something from me?” Zhao Liang asked.

“There’s indeed something I need. I want to sell my pig to you. What do you think?” Qiao Mei said playfully.

Zhao Liang had the same reaction as Auntie Dong and thought that Qiao Mei was joking. An ordinary family could not afford such a big pig at all. It may be affordable if three or four families agreed to share the cost. Under the current economic conditions, no one could really afford meat.

In particular, Zhao Liang had been busy running around for the sake of the villagers and did not have any free time at all. His wife was the one who tended to the land at home and it was already good enough that there was enough food for the entire family. He never had any spare cash all year round.

The entire family relied on his meager salary to make a living, so how could they have any spare cash? Not long ago, his wife had planted some of the seeds she took from Qiao Mei. They did not plant much, but they had made quite a lot of money and it was enough to last them for a long time.

“Mei Mei, if you want to sell your pig, I can help you ask around. We can afford it if we pool money together. If you want my family to buy it on our own, I’m afraid I don’t have the ability,” Zhao Liang said awkwardly.

“Uncle, I’m only selling it for 10 dollars. You can afford it after Auntie sells the seeds!” Qiao Mei said.

Zhao Liang still felt that Qiao Mei was joking and insisted on helping Qiao Mei find a few more families to share the cost of the pig. As the village chief, he had to set an example and not let anyone have something on him.



“Qiao Mei, I know what you mean. Thank you, but I’m afraid it’s too eye-catching for such a big pig to suddenly appear in my family. Pass me the pig and I’ll help you think of a way,” Zhao Liang said.

Chapter 784 - 784 Ungrateful Little Ingrate

784 Ungrateful Little Ingrate

Qiao Mei did not argue with Zhao Liang. It did not matter what he did as long as he would take over the pig.

Seeing that Zhao Liang was busy with the matters in the village, Qiao Mei did not want to disturb him. After dealing with all house matters, it was time to make arrangements for the matters in the capital. When she reached home, Qiao Mei quickly gave Xia Fang a phone call.

Even if she did not make the call, Xia Fang was anxiously going to call her soon. It was fast approaching her delivery due date. If she did not go to the capital soon, once it snowed, the snowy road would make the journey to the capital even more arduous.

“Aunt, did you miss me~” Qiao Mei said sweetly.

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Xia Fang snorted coldly. Qiao Mei had been away from the capital for so long and had only written her a letter and sent her some gifts. This was the first time she had called!

After all, she doted on Qiao Mei the most. This heartless girl only thought about calling her now.

“So you still know you have to call me. Those I don’t know better, I’d think that you’re a very busy person! It’s as if you don’t want to come back to see me again,” Xia Fang complained.

“Aunt, don’t be angry. See, I’m calling you now. I’ll be returning to the capital in a while. By then, you can scold me however you want!” Qiao Mei said.

“When are you coming back?” Xia Fang asked.

“Aunt, you just said that you don’t care about me. Why are you asking me when I’m going back now? You still care about me, right! I just know that you’re the best!” Qiao Mei said shamelessly.

Xia Fang really could not do anything about Qiao Mei. She had met Qiao Qiang many times and wondered how someone with Qiao Qiang’s personality could have brought up a sneaky girl like Qiao Mei.

“I don’t care about you! I’m just hoping that you’ll come back quickly so that I can teach you a lesson in person,” Xia Fang explained.

Qiao Mei did not believe what Xia Fang said at all. Previously, Xia He had told her during their phone calls that in the past few months, Xia Fang had repeatedly gone through the case studies of surgeries regarding delivery of twins both domestically and overseas. She had studied all kinds of major and minor emergencies very seriously and read all the materials until late at night every day, worried that she would not be able to cope with any emergencies when the time came.

She had always been dealing with singly born children and rarely delivered multiple children at one go. Recently, she had even consulted her own professor and picked up a lot of new knowledge.

“Alright, then just wait for me to go back! I won’t talk to you anymore, Aunt. I have to call eldest brother and ask him for help,” Qiao Mei said.

“Alright, go and do what you need to do! I’ll deal with you when you come back!” After saying that, Xia Fang hung up and continued to study the materials.

Qiao Mei put a tick next to Xia Fang’s name listed on her notebook. She had many phone calls to make today and there were also many things to do. The phone bill was probably going to go off the charts as they were all long-distance calls.

After flipping through the phone book, Qiao Mei realized that she had forgotten where she put Xia Wen’s phone number. At that time, she had clearly recorded down everyone’s phone numbers. How could she have missed out on Xia Wen?

After searching for a long time, she finally found a note with Xia Wen's number written on it in a box that was used to keep needles and thread.

The phone rang for a long time before someone picked up. The person who picked up the phone was not Xia Wen, but Tan Jing.

"Hello," Tan Jing said politely.

"Sister-in-law! It's me! Is eldest brother at home? I have something to discuss with him," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Tan Jing glanced at Xia Wen, who was reading in the bedroom, and said to Qiao Mei, "He's not. You can just tell me."

"I'll be home in a few days. I just want to ask him if the courtyard house is ready. I also want to buy another courtyard house and wonder if he has any good recommendations. Somewhere near my courtyard house is fine," Qiao Mei said.

Tan Jing paid no attention and turned a deaf ear to everything, completely ignoring what Qiao Mei was saying. Whatever Qiao Mei said, she would reply affirmatively and say that she had noted it down. In reality, she did not take note of anything at all.

"Sister-in-law, I'll have to trouble you and eldest brother," Qiao Mei said.

"It's fine! This is just a small matter. Don't worry. If there's nothing else, I'm hanging up." Tan Jing hung up the phone in satisfaction. When she turned around, she saw Xia Wen standing quietly behind her.

"Who's on the phone just now? What matters are you handling?" Xia Wen asked in confusion.

#### Chapter 785 Unaccountably Solicitous

Tan Jing looked very calm on the surface and did not look like she was telling a lie. She said calmly, "It's Xiao Mo from the workplace. She asked me to accompany her to buy clothes when I'm free. She's going on a blind date."

Xia Wen did not suspect anything and returned to the bedroom to continue reading. Tan Jing's expression was solemn. She would never let Xia Wen know about this. Xia Wen was her husband, so why should he run around on Qiao Mei's behalf? He had already spent too much time and energy repairing the courtyard house some time ago.

Now that he finally had the time to accompany her, Qiao Mei still wanted to take away this little bit of time. She definitely would not allow this to happen.

The only person in the capital that Qiao Mei had not contacted was He Ning. He still owed her 1.28 million dollars! He Ning definitely would not be able to take out so much money within a short period of time.

However, since He Ning had promised her, he would definitely do it. The IOU was still in her hands. In this era, anyone who had 10,000 dollars was already a rich person. She wondered how much money He Ning had to be able to agree to such an unreasonable request from her.

Qiao Mei made a call to the He family and asked happily, "He Ning, have you prepared the 1.28 million dollars?"

He Ning was stunned for a moment before saying, "You're coming back to the capital? Do you need me to pick you up?"

After saying that, He Ning also wondered if he really said that out loud. He was surprised about his concern for Qiao Mei. He had never cared about anyone else before. Even Huo Gao, who had been by his side for so long, rarely received any words of concern from He Ning.

Qiao Mei did not find it strange. She held the key to He Ning's lifespan in her hands at the moment. If He Ning wanted to live a few more years, he would have to rely on her ginseng, so it was only right for him to please her.

"There's naturally people coming from the Xia family to pick me up. It's best if you don't show your face in front of the Xia family. Otherwise, if my father and eldest brother want to beat you up, I won't be able to stop them," Qiao Mei said with a laugh.

Thinking of Xia Wen's fake and insincere smiling face, He Ning felt uncomfortable. It was better if they did not see one another.

"1.28 million is a big amount. I haven't managed to prepare that much money yet," He Ning said honestly.

Currently, he could only fork out at most 800,000 dollars in cash. The rest of the money had been given to He Wei to do business. The Xia family had caused them to have to turn over all their valuable things to the authorities and there was nothing left for them to sell.

Even if he sold the house, he could not get so much money in such a short period of time. The maximum he could get was 800,000 dollars.

"Then give me 300,000 dollars first. You can give me the rest at your convenience, but you have to pay interest in the meantime. Let's make it 200 dollars a month. I'm not a loan shark. The interest of 200 dollars a month for more than 900,000 dollars is a bargain for you," Qiao Mei said.

She had to do this as it would be strange if she did not charge him interest. However, she had already cheated He Ning of a lot of money. If she asked for more interest, even if He Ning could afford it, she would not be able to live with her conscience.

It was better to know when to stop. An interest of 200 dollars was not bad.

"Alright, then I guess I must thank you. But why do you need so much money? If there's anything you want, just tell me. I can make things happen," He Ning said confidently.

Qiao Mei laughed and said, "My Xia family is also a prominent family and we can also get whatever we want. I won't need to trouble you. You just need to prepare the money quickly and send it to me. There's no need for any specific denomination for this amount of 300,000 dollars. Just send the money over."

"Alright, I'll contact you when you get to the capital," He Ning said.

After hanging up, He Ning still had a smile on his face. He did not even realize that he was smiling.

"What are you so happy about? You're smiling so widely." Huo Gao looked at He Ning's expression in disdain.

He Ning was not angry at all. Instead, he smiled even more happily. It was naturally a great thing that he could go to Qiao Mei's house to freeload again. He did not have to eat the tasteless medicinal cuisine made by the helper anymore. This was such good news for him.

He could even hang two strings of firecrackers at the door to celebrate.

"It's nothing. Is this the new prescription? Why does it smell so bad," He Ning said with a frown.

Huo Gao had no choice. After their trip, they had sent people to secretly pick a few ginsengs from the mountain where Qiao Mei's village was located. Those ginsengs were not very good, but he did not want to waste them and could only use other medicines to complement them.

#### Chapter 786 Lower Quality Ginseng

Speaking of this matter, it was really strange. They had found many people to go and pick ginseng from the mountains near Qiao Mei's village and these people had picked many ginsengs of various sizes, the oldest being about 10 years old, but the medicinal effects were very ordinary.

The ginsengs all looked very shriveled and were very different from the ginseng that Qiao Mei had given them. The ginsengs that they sent people to pick were no different from what they could buy in the market.

This way, they did not have any other option except to buy ginseng from Qiao Mei. There was no other way.

The small ginsengs they picked were actually previously scattered around by Qiao Mei. She gave them some energy and let them grow freely. The quality was definitely not as good as those that Qiao Mei nurtured.

"Just drink it. Do you think you can drink your 1.28 million dollars worth of ginseng every day? Qiao Mei will be bringing two ginsengs with her this time. When the time comes, you can drink whatever you want," Huo Gao said unhappily.

The attendant walked in with a box and said softly, "Sir, this is ginseng from Foshan Village. A villager dug it up. I saw that it was different from the ones we picked ourselves, so I bought it."

He Ning looked up at Huo Gao, who immediately understood what he meant. The moment he opened the box, a delicate fragrance wafted over. This was the kind of ginseng that Qiao Mei had given them!

Huo Gao's eyes immediately lit up, but it was a pity that it was dug up by someone who did not know how to dig for ginseng. There were not many intact roots left and the main body was full of bumpy marks. The value was instantly lower than what Qiao Mei had sold them.

"How much did you pay?" Huo Gao asked, his heart aching.

"That person doesn't seem to know his stuff. He sold it to me for 500 dollars," the attendant said.

Even after knowing the price, Huo Gao's heart still ached. This was a 60-year-old ginseng that was rare on the market. It was such a pity that it was destroyed just like that.

Although 500 dollars was an appropriate amount to pay, he was still unhappy.

It seemed that Qiao Mei was right. Her grandfather was the only person in the entire village who knew how to pick ginseng. She did not know how to do it either. It looked like they could only work with Qiao Mei in the future.

Ginseng was different from other things. Once it was damaged, it would dry up faster than good quality ginseng. By that time, there would probably be no value in preserving it.

Ordinary families would not need the quantity that He Ning needed. Therefore, there were very few people who would choose to buy ginseng at a high price.

"What a waste of such good ginseng," Huo Gao said with a sigh.

He Ning heaved a sigh of relief. He had been wondering if Qiao Mei had used some kind of fertilizer or unique skill, as well as why she was the only one who could get good ginseng while the people he sent could not find anything.

It seemed that he was overthinking things. It was Qiao Mei's grandfather who had extraordinary skills. This was indeed a skill that ordinary people did not have, and He Ning's doubts about Qiao Mei gradually dissipated.

The ginseng that had been picked up by someone else was the one which Qiao Mei had missed out on. There were supposed to be two more ginsengs on the mountain. If not for Qiao Fu's sneak attack on them, no one would have been able to get their hands on even one ginseng and be able to extort a large sum of money from He Ning!

"I'll just eat this ginseng that's of a lower quality. Don't use the rest first. We can also throw away those small and useless ginsengs or sell them to the nearby Chinese medicine shops at a low price. These things are useless to me," He Ning said disdainfully.

With He Ning's current body condition, eating the small ginsengs was like eating carrots. The nutrition inside them could not help his body at all. He could only rely on good quality ginseng to keep himself alive.

After dealing with the matters in the capital, it was time to deal with the remaining matters in the village. Qiao Mei started to get a headache when she thought of the amount of seeds in Li Gui's house. By now, they had already collected a total of five tons.

This would amount to 10,000 dollars. She wondered if He Guang could take all the goods off her hands.

Qiao Mei called He Guang using the phone number that Chen Hu had given her.

"Hello, I'm Qiao Mei. I'm looking for Director He," Qiao Mei said.



He Guang immediately became agitated and said excitedly, "Qiao Mei! You finally call! For the past two days, your Uncle Hu has been so busy that he doesn't have a chance to give me your phone number. I'm so anxious about not being able to contact you! It's so good that you call me!"

Chapter 787 Joint Petition

"I'm just concerned about not giving you enough time, so I haven't contacted you. Does that mean that the seeds are selling well?" Qiao Mei said confidently.

He Guang had produced 100 packs of Foshan Seeds in the past two days and sold them as part of a trial. He left the seeds in the hands of some old customers and let them try selling them.

The cost of packaging and labor was only 50 cents apiece. The seeds were bought for one dollar. If he packed them nicely and sold them in various gift shops, he could sell them for six dollars per pack! That was four times the cost price!

He only had the clout to talk to Qiao Mei now after many of his old customers had come to say that they wanted to order another batch of seeds.

"I want as much as you have! As long as you sell it! I'll take all of it! In the future, if the seeds in your village still meet the same standard, I promise to buy from your village in the future. Just tell me the price!" He Guang said boldly.

"I have five tons of melon seeds in my hands now. The rest will have to wait until next year. What do you think?" Qiao Mei said.

The amount of five tons was actually too low for He Guang, but the rarer something was, the more valuable it would be. He could market the seeds as being really rare and then increased the price as well.

"No problem! I'll send the trucks to do a pickup tomorrow! I'll settle the payment as well! That's 10,000 dollars, right?" He Guang said.

"Yes, but I'll need a lot of loose change. I don't want it all to be in large denominations. Otherwise, I won't be able to distribute it to the neighbors in the village, alright?" Qiao Mei said embarrassedly.

She could not go door-to-door and ask them to prepare their own change. It would easily cause a lot of confusion. If there were any mistakes, she would have to pay for it out of her own pocket!

"No problem, you're so thoughtful. I'll ask my finance people to make preparations now. Just wait to receive the money!" After saying that, He Guang hung up and went to make preparations.

After Qiao Mei settled the matter of the seeds, the last thing she needed to do was concerning the matter between Zhang Qin, Qiao Feng and Qiao Tian. After selling this batch of seeds, Li Gui should have enough money to live in the capital for a while. At a later time, she could find a job for Li Gui or let Li Gui run a business with her.

Things would work out eventually. There would always be a solution.

Qiao Mei sat in the courtyard and waited for an entire day, but no one from Qiao Zhuang's family came to give her an explanation. She did not want her family to be bullied for nothing.

At this moment, she was not in the mood to fight to the death with Qiao Zhuang's family. Besides, Qiao Tian was still young. Even if he was taken away by the police, he would at most get criticized and reeducated.

Since the punishment would be so light, she did not want to go and look for Chen Hu. She wanted to spend some money and get a few people to go to the village where the school was located to check if there were any witnesses. She wanted to publicize widely in the villages about how dangerous Qiao Feng and Qiao Tian were, and that they were narrow-minded and vicious people.

This would make everyone isolate them. It would be a very good lesson for such young children.

Although Qiao Mei did not get a visit from Qiao Zhuang's family members, the principal of the school came to see her. The principal even brought two cans of canned food with him. Canned food was not cheap at this time. If not for the fact that he wanted to apologize properly, he would not have spent so much money.

"Principal, why are you here?" Qiao Mei said in surprise.

The principal placed the canned food on the stone table in the courtyard in embarrassment. Parents trusted him and handed their children over to him. He had never experienced losing a child under his care before so it was not something he had ever thought about. Now that a child had gotten lost during school time and had suffered such serious injuries, he must give the parents an explanation.

"I'm sorry, is Zhang Qin alright now? Can I see her?" the principal said apologetically.

"Zhang Qin is fine. She just has some superficial wounds and isn't too badly hurt. Principal, you don't have to be too hard on yourself. It's not your fault. It's Qiao Tian who hurt my younger sister," Qiao Mei said.

"I'm their teacher, so I have to bear part of the responsibility. I'm here to offer my apologies." The principal took out two pieces of papers from his pocket. On them were signatures and thumbprints from the parents of the other students.

Many parents had written a joint petition to ask the school to expel the children from Qiao Zhuang's family and disallow them from ever returning to the school again. No one wanted their children to be classmates with a child who was capable of murder.

#### Chapter 788 Visiting The Child

"I didn't expect the parents to act so quickly..." Qiao Mei looked at the joint petition in shock. Other than her family and Qiao Zhuang's family, everyone else had signed it.

When Qiao Mei was looking for Zhang Qin, the matter had been made known very widely. The entire village was mobilized and even the people in the neighboring villages knew the whole story.

Most of the students were from that village where the school was located and there were not many children from the neighboring villages. The people in that village were initially not agreeable to let children from other villages study in their village. Given that human traffickers were so rampant, what if someone disguised themselves as parents and entered the village to kidnap the children?

They did not expect that the real problem would be a child. An underage child actually dared to kill someone!

They would never allow such a child to be classmates with their own children. The principal also agreed with these parents and he invited many eyewitnesses to issue a statement together with him. This was also because he was worried that Qiao Mei would take the school to task for the issue.

All the people in the nearby villages knew how capable Qiao Mei was. Previously, she was famous because she was Qiao Qiang's granddaughter. Now, she was famous because she was virtuous and capable and she had received a betrothal gift of 2,000 dollars. She even received the 'three turns and one sound'. It was the type of betrothal gifts that had not been seen in their remote villages for more than 10 years.

Under Qiao Mei's leadership, there were also obvious changes in Foshan Village. Everyone had seen these changes. If only they could manage to curry favor with Qiao Mei and get a share of the pie, they would not have to worry about their livelihoods for the rest of their lives.

Therefore, whenever they heard that it concerned Qiao Mei's family, everyone took the initiative to help out.

"Our school won't accept any of that family's children as a student here. You can all study at our school in peace," the principal said.

Qiao Mei put down the joint petition and thought for a moment before saying, "I thank everyone for their kindness. Thanks to you too, principal, and it also benefits everyone. I've already made plans to bring my younger siblings to the capital, so we might not go to school here in the future."

"It's fine as long as the children are well. I'm just here to visit Zhang Qin. Is it convenient for me to see her?" the principal asked.

"Of course it is. Come with me." Qiao Mei brought the principal to Li Gui's house.

At this moment, Zhang Miao was reading and Zhang Qin was keeping her company. Zhang Qin was the one who came back to teach Zhang Miao so that she could catch up on her homework, so Zhang Qin could be considered the young teacher in this family.

Li Gui was cooking in the kitchen. She did not know the principal as Qiao Mei was the one who took care of all the school matters.

"Mom, this is the school principal and also the children's teacher. He's here to visit Zhang Qin," Qiao Mei introduced.

Li Gui quickly wiped her hands with her apron and stretched out her hand to the principal. "Hello! I'm Zhang Qin's mother! Come in, come in!"

The principal shook Li Gui's hand politely. Qiao Mei was a little surprised. Even when she saw He Guang, she did not shake his hand so politely. She did not know where Li Gui learned it from.

Zhang Qin smiled happily when she saw the principal and said warmly, "Hello, Teacher!"

Zhang Miao also followed suit.

"Hello, Zhang Qin. Hello, Zhang Miao. I'm here to visit you. I don't know what you like to eat, so I bought two cans of yellow peaches. I hope you don't mind," the principal said.

"Principal, what are you talking about? This canned food is not easily available. This is too expensive!" Li Gui said.

"I'm just here to take a look at Zhang Qin's condition and see if Zhang Miao is better. I'm relieved to see the two children so energetic," the principal said in relief.

After a short chat and giving the girls some pointers on homework that they did not understand, the principal left. Qiao Mei also took this opportunity to tell Li Gui about her plan.

After all, the matter of going to the capital was not entirely up to her. It also depended on what Li Gui and the children wanted. If the children did not want to go, she could not force them.

"Mom, I'm going to the capital in two days," Qiao Mei said.

Zhang Qin and Zhang Miao stared intently at Qiao Mei. The last time Qiao Mei left, they were bullied and almost starved to death. They heard from Zhang Wei that this time round, Qiao Mei would not come back after she left.

Chapter 789 Worried About Being An Embarrassment

"Isn't this already decided long ago? It's good to go to the capital. Otherwise, the weather will turn too cold, and that will make the trip more difficult," Li Gui said calmly.

"I don't intend to just leave on my own. I want to bring all of you to the capital," Qiao Mei said firmly.

Li Gui quickly refused. This was not something to joke about.

"Mei Mei, I know what you're thinking, but how can you bring your mother-in-law to stay with you when you've just gotten married? Wouldn't that be a joke? I heard that Xia Zhe has many siblings. It's better not to let others gossip," Li Gui said.

"Isn't this my first time giving birth? I'll be scared if you're not by my side. I've never given birth before and my grandfather can't take care of everything for me. There has to be someone by my side." Qiao Mei wheedled at Li Gui.

This actually made sense to Li Gui. When Li Gui gave birth to Qiao Mei back then, she begged Old Madam Li to come and help her. Old Madam Li did not even want to look at her. Qiao Yue's mother had died early and there was no one around her who knew anything about giving birth. At that time, she was terrified.

She could still remember the fear she felt at that time. It was etched in her heart forever. She did not want Qiao Mei to experience what she had suffered.

"But... don't you have Xia Zhe's mother with you? She can take care of you too, right?" Li Gui still tried to refuse.

"She's a leader in the art troupe, so she's very busy and not usually at home. Also, she's not my biological mother. You're my biological mother, so I only trust you~ Mom~ Come along~ I'm scared if you're not by my side~" Qiao Mei tugged at the corner of Li Gui's clothes and said in a sweet voice.

Li Gui had no reason not to go. After all, she owed Qiao Mei too much. If she was not around for such a big event in Qiao Mei's life, she would regret it for the rest of her life.

At that time, Old Madam Li had made her feel so dejected. She could not let Qiao Mei feel the same way, but what about the four children at home?

Li Gui turned to look at Zhang Qin and Zhang Miao. The two children immediately understood the meaning of this look. They had seen this look countless times when they were living with the Zhang family.

Every time the Zhang family members wanted to abandon them, they would look at them in this way. Zhang Qin and Zhang Miao instantly teared up. They did not dare to cry out loud and could only wipe their tears secretly.

"Why are you crying? I want to bring you too. Didn't I say it before? You're my darlings. Mom also won't abandon you, do you understand?" Qiao Mei reached out and patted her two younger sisters on their heads.

The two children's hearts were so fragile and sensitive that it might take a lifetime to allay their fears. They had suffered too much when they were living with the Zhang family.

"Mei Mei, I think this whole matter is still inappropriate. We're all villagers. Villagers are not allowed to enter the city even if we have passes. Don't cause trouble for the Xia family," Li Gui said.

In those days, in order to stabilize production in the countryside, the authorities indeed did not allow people from the countryside to enter the city casually. However, that was something from many years ago. If Qiao Yu could sneak into the capital, there was no reason why they could not.

"Don't worry, you will definitely be able to go! It's not as difficult as you think, and there's even no need for the Xia family to step in." Qiao Mei patted Li Gui's shoulder.

However, the entire family could not just stay at Qiao Mei's house. The money Li Gui had made from selling seeds was probably only enough for the five of them to stay in the capital for half a month. Furthermore, she had never been so far away before.

What she was most afraid of was that she might cause trouble for Qiao Mei and let others gossip about her. If Qiao Mei was originally doing well but their presence ended up creating trouble for Qiao Mei, then they might as well just stay in the village.

"But... we can't live with you either. That would be outrageous. Even if the in-laws don't mind, the neighbors will gossip," Li Gui said.

She had experienced such things when she was in the county city previously. She did not really care about such things and could simply live her life behind closed doors and let others say whatever they wanted. However, Xia Zhe's family seemed to be quite reputable. If their reputation was affected because of her, would that not be embarrassing for Qiao Mei?

By then, Qiao Mei would not be able to hold her head up high at her in-laws' house and she would not feel good either. It would be difficult for her to do anything.

"You still remember that my grandfather knows how to dig for ginseng, right? Not long ago, he sold one ginseng and earned 200,000 dollars! I've asked Xia Zhe's older brother to buy a house near my house for all of you. So don't worry," Qiao Mei said.

Chapter 790 - 790 Going to the Capital Together

790 Going to the Capital Together

An amount of 200,000!

Li Gui was so shocked that she jumped up from the brick bed. She thought that 800 dollars from selling seeds was already a huge sum of money. The amount of 200,000 dollars was so many times more than 800 dollars!

Even in her dreams, she had never seen so much money. A ginseng was worth 200,000 dollars? Was Qiao Mei doing something illegal...



“You... did you... did you cheat the person of the money? We shouldn’t do anything that’s wrong. If you cheated, quickly return the money to him,” Li Gui stammered.

Qiao Mei smiled. No one knew what the value of ginseng was. After all, no one had ever found ginseng on the mountain before she did. Even if people happened to see a ginseng, most of them did not know what it was.

“I don’t do such dishonorable things. Don’t worry, he paid for it voluntarily. When the time comes, you just need to live in the house I bought. You don’t have to worry about anything else,” Qiao Mei said.

Since it was Qiao Mei’s house, then it would be fine for them to stay there. She would pay Qiao Mei rent every month and also find a job in the capital so that she could support the children. She could not simply expect Qiao Mei to support such a large family alone.

Otherwise, as time passed, the Xia family would have objections. They must still be self-sufficient.

Qiao Mei also knew what Li Gui was thinking. As long as she was willing to go to the capital, everything else was a small matter.

“Then should we wait for a few more days? We haven’t finished packing these seeds.” Li Gui pointed at the seeds in the other room.

“They’ll come and collect it tomorrow. After that, we’ll leave on the train at night,” Qiao Mei said.

“Are we in such a hurry?” Li Gui looked at Qiao Mei in shock.

“Yes, I’m worried that Qiao Zhuang’s family will do something again. Let’s just leave quickly,” Qiao Mei said as she looked at Zhang Qin and Zhang Miao.

At this point, Li Gui also became worried. Qiao Zhuang had caused them a lot of trouble both openly and covertly. Li Gui was also concerned that the Zhang family would come and harm her children again. What Qiao Mei said made sense. It was better to leave as soon as possible.

She just felt a sense of pity at leaving this house that had just been built a few months ago. Every brick, tile, blade of grass and tree here was the result of the hard work that she and the children put in. She was quite reluctant to have to leave so suddenly.

However, it did not matter. As long as the whole family could be together, no difficulty was too great.

“Pack up quickly. We’ll leave after we split the money with the villagers tomorrow. I’ve already made arrangements for the transport.” After saying that, Qiao Mei went home to pack up for Qiao Qiang and herself.

Li Gui and the children did not have much, only a few pieces of clothing. Qiao Mei told her not to bring anything extra. Everything was available in the capital. If they needed something, they could buy it anytime. She asked them to bring only their clothes and medicine and to leave everything else in the house.

If they had time in the future, they should come back to take a look. It was still unknown if they would return in the future.

“Mom, is elder sister really bringing us to the capital?” Zhang Qin asked suspiciously.

“That’s right. Our entire family is going. Elder sister even says that you can study in the capital. Are you happy about that?” Li Gui asked with a smile.

Zhang Qin thought for a long time. Seeing Li Gui’s serious expression, she finally believed that they were really going to the capital! That was a place that she only read about in her textbooks! She did not expect to have the chance to go there!

The two children hugged each other and cheered. Li Gui only knew that they were very happy, but she did not know if they were happy because they could go to the capital or because she did not abandon them this time.

The family ate together happily. Li Gui was so happy that she made two more dishes. The leftovers they had at home could be shared with the neighbors tomorrow. She would not need them in the future.

Qiao Mei suddenly remembered that she had not dug up the remaining ginseng she promised He Ning. Just as she was about to go to the secret cave on the mountain to get one, she realized that Qiao Qiang had returned with a bamboo basket on his back. It looked like he had gone up the mountain.

“Grandfather, did you go up the mountain to dig for ginseng?” Qiao Mei asked as she pointed at the bamboo basket on Qiao Qiang’s back.

“That’s right. Didn’t you promise that idiot three ginsengs? I only found one. It’s really strange. I found two the previous time. I even left indicator marks. But one was already dug out. Otherwise, I could have brought both back,” Qiao Qiang said.