

Fat Wife 831

Chapter 831 Rich And Willful

Qiao Qiang's schedule was packed every day. Qiao Mei could not get the chance to see him even if she wanted to.

"Your Grandpa Zhou isn't at home today, so I'm back," Qiao Qiang said sadly.

Qiao Mei pouted in dissatisfaction and said, "You still feel sad about it? I haven't talked to you in a long time. All you know is to go out and have fun. You don't even want your granddaughter anymore!"

Qiao Qiang could not bear to see Qiao Mei aggrieved and sad. He was so shocked that he quickly took out two pieces of candy from his pocket and said, "That's not true! Oh my, look, I have candy for you!"

Qiao Mei took the candy with satisfaction, unwrapped it and put it in her mouth. This was the most ordinary hard fruit candy sold on the market. Since she was young, whenever Qiao Qiang went out, he would definitely buy a few pieces of hard fruit candy and put them in his pocket.

He had not changed this habit throughout the years.

"Grandfather, do you think I should buy the other two houses?" Qiao Mei said with a muffled voice as she ate the candy.

Qiao Qiang pondered for a moment and said, "What do you think?"

Recently, the commotion caused by Qiao Mei buying the houses had become a little too big. Many people knew that the youngest daughter-in-law of the Xia family's eldest son had spent 30,000 dollars to buy two courtyard houses, one big and one small.

Initially, Qiao Mei did not take a fancy to the other two messy houses, but recently, one of the owners was willing to sell it to Qiao Mei for 10,000 dollars.

It would be a lie to say that she was not tempted. However, this house was also rather special. In the past, a rich family had lived in it. Later, this house was requisitioned by the country and rented to displaced people. After that, the house was reverted to private ownership, so the owner chased these people away.

The property rights were very clear, but the house was very messy.

"I actually feel like buying it," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

If that house could be bought for 10,000 dollars, it was simply a bargain! If she bought it for 10,000 dollars now, this house would be worth hundreds of millions after a few decades!

It would probably cost 7,000 to 8,000 dollars to repair it, but that was still worth it.

No matter what Qiao Mei wanted to do, Qiao Qiang would support her unconditionally. Although he did not understand why Qiao Mei wanted to buy so many properties, it was also a pity if she did not spend some of the money she had. As long as Qiao Mei was happy, it did not matter how she spent her money.

As long as one was rich, one could afford to be willful.

In the afternoon, Qiao Mei asked Xia He to go shopping with her. Xia He and Qiao Mei walked around the mall three to four times, but Qiao Mei still did not buy anything. Xia He was so tired that she almost could not even lift her legs.

"What do you want to buy? Isn't the house already fully renovated?" Xia He asked.

"I want to buy kitchen utensils. I'm just looking around," Qiao Mei said energetically.

Qiao Mei's current energy level made Xia He fall into deep thought. As a dancer, she had gone through a lot of physical training, yet her physical strength was actually inferior to that of a pregnant woman who was eight months pregnant and having twins!

"Can we rest here for a while..." Xia He begged.

Qiao Mei did not feel tired at all and could even walk like she was flying. She realized that soaking the bangle in the 100-year-old ginseng liquid would allow energy to seep into it. Although the bangle was not as dense and pure as before, the fact that it could continuously store new energy was good news.

After shopping for a long time, Qiao Mei finally decided on what she wanted to buy. She bought two frying pans, an oven and a large pile of corn.

The mall would deliver the goods to her so they could just go home directly.

"Why did you buy these? Don't you already have an oven at home?" Xia He asked.

"I'm buying this for my mother. My mother is almost out of seeds now, so I have to find something for her to do," Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Mei then brought Xia He to a pastry shop nearby. The pastries here were all very exquisite, but they were also very expensive.

Xia He looked at the price tags and felt as if her heart was being cut by a knife. A small piece of cake actually cost eight dollars. It was so small that she could eat it in one bite.

She knew that Qiao Mei knew how to make pastries, but it was something time-consuming and laborious. Moreover, she would have to throw away whatever she could not sell on the same day. The cost was too high.

Li Gui probably could not bear to start such a business.

"Do you intend to open a cake shop?" Xia He whispered.

"No, I don't. I'm just here to take a look," Qiao Mei said as she looked around.

When they walked into the third cake shop, Qiao Mei finally found what she was looking for.

Chapter 832 - 832 Popping Corn

832 Popping Corn

A piece of butter could cost 12 dollars here. Although cakes made with butter were sweet and delicious, the cost also increased greatly, so no one really used this ingredient much.

To Qiao Mei and those shops with good reputations, it was nothing to buy a piece of butter for 12 dollars. They could easily earn back the cost.

“Is this what you want to buy?” Xia He asked as she pointed at the piece of butter.

“That’s right, I’ll go home and make something delicious for you!” Qiao Mei said.

The moment she heard that there was something delicious to eat, Xia He immediately followed closely behind Qiao Mei. As long as there was good food, what was there to be afraid of? Even if she had to walk another three or four more rounds today, she would not have a problem!

“Then tell me, what kind of delicious food is it?” Xia He asked.

“Popcorn!” Qiao Mei said.

Xia He instantly lost her interest. Popcorn was not something rare. It was the kind of thing where one put some corn inside a huge iron jar and popped the corn under high pressure. There was nothing special about the taste, only a faint corn fragrance.

“I thought it is going to be something nice. I’ve eaten this before,” Xia He said.

Qiao Mei shook her head confidently and said, “Whatever I make is different from what you usually see. Mine is called sweet popcorn and it tastes much better than the ones on the market! Just wait and see!”

Soon, the things that they bought from the mall were delivered to the house. When they renovated Li Gui's house, they specially left a spot in the kitchen for the oven. Now, they just needed to ask the master to install it.

In the end, the corn became the problem that stumped Qiao Mei. She could not just throw the entire piece of corn into the pot. The corn kernels needed to be peeled off first. Given that Xia He was around, she could not use her energy to make the corn kernels fall off the corn by themselves. She could only peel them off manually.

"There's so much corn. When can we finish..." Xia He looked at the piles of corn in Li Gui's backyard and fell into deep thought.

Everyone worked together and sat in the backyard to pick corn kernels. Each person even figured out his or her own way to pick corn kernels quickly.

Although this process was cumbersome, they did it happily.

Li Gui still sold out all the seeds today. Not only did she have new customers, but there were also many repeat customers. Some people were even waiting at the place where Li Gui usually set up her stall just to buy seeds from her. They were worried that they would miss out if they were too late.

"Why did you buy so much corn?" Li Gui asked curiously.

"Mom! You're back! We also don't know what elder sister wants to do. She's making something delicious in the kitchen," Zhang Qin said.

Qiao Mei modified the frying pan that she had bought. She removed the top of the pan lid and replaced it with a stick so that she could easily stir the corn inside. This way, it would be more convenient and the corn would not just fly everywhere.

She heated the pot slightly on the stove and poured a portion of the corn in. Then she covered it and stirred it gently. When the water on the surface of the corn had evaporated, she cut off a small piece of butter and placed it in.

Now, she just had to slowly stir through the lid and wait for the corn in the pot to pop.

Not long after, the fragrance spread out. The entire courtyard was filled with a sweet smell. Many neighbors stopped to look into the courtyard when they passed by the door.

"It's done! Everyone, come and try it!" Qiao Mei said as she came out with a large basin of popcorn.

The children ran happily from the backyard, their small eyes wide open. They had never seen such delicious popcorn.

"Elder sister! Did you put white sugar in it? Why is it so delicious?" Zhang Miao asked curiously.

"I made it with butter. It's different from making it with white sugar! Isn't it delicious?" Qiao Mei said as she patted Zhang Miao's head.

Li Gui kept singing praises after eating it. Once the seeds were sold out, she could sell this popcorn! The seeds could only be harvested in those few months every year. Corn was available anytime.

However, Qiao Mei felt that this corn was still a little lacking. Perhaps it was because of the variety of the corn. It seemed that she should crossbreed a new variety herself.

Otherwise, the taste and texture would not be as attractive and would not make people as obsessed with it as with the seeds.

Chapter 833 Bargaining

She decided to leave it at that for the time being. After all, there was no one in the market who made popcorn like her so it could attract everyone's attention for a moment. When the people around them figured out this trick, it would no longer be so easy to sell it.

"Then how do we sell it? Do we use cups?" Li Gui asked, feeling puzzled.

She had seen the peddlers selling popcorn at the entrance of the cinema. Either the customers prepared their own bags or the peddlers used a plastic bag to hold the popcorn. There was no fixed way to sell them.

If they used cups, the cost would become higher. If they had to sell it at 80 cents a cup, people might not want to buy it. Over time, the popularity they gained from selling seeds would gradually be lost.

The most convenient way was to use plastic bags, but where could they order so many plastic bags?

"Use a small bag! The kind of plastic bag that is used to hold those exquisite sweets. The bags are quite colorful and nice-looking! I have a friend who's in this business," Xia He said.

"Can it be custom-made? As in we provide the specifications," Qiao Mei asked.

"It should be possible if we order a large quantity. After all, we're doing a long-term business. It should be negotiable," Xia He said in a straightforward manner.

Qiao Mei drew up a draft quickly and indicated that she wanted a totally transparent plastic bag which she could tie with a red string. It was better for such things to be as simple as possible. Otherwise, it would not be good if someone maliciously imitated their logo in the future.

"Then I'll leave it in your good hands~" Qiao Mei handed the draft to Xia He and said sweetly.

What Xia He could not stand the most was Qiao Mei acting so coquettishly. She finally understood why Xia Zhe doted on Qiao Mei so much. If even a woman like her could not stand Qiao Mei acting coquettishly, then what more a man. She was simply too cute!

With this plan taking shape, Qiao Mei had to start working on her own matters.

That was... to buy a house!

She wanted to hurry up and buy it while it was still cheap! Otherwise she would miss this chance!

Qiao Mei contacted the owner through Xia Wen and asked him to bring all his documents to sign the agreement at her house the next morning.

The next day, Xia Wen waited for the owner at the entrance of the alley at the agreed time. It was not until more than half an hour later that the owner rushed over. He was panting and looked in a sorry state.

If not for the fact that there was no one following him, Xia Wen would have thought that he was being chased by a dog.

"I'm so sorry! I was delayed on the way. I'm really sorry!" The owner clasped his hands together and apologized to Xia Wen.

Xia Wen did not kick up a fuss. He smiled and said, "It's fine. Let's go quickly."

The two of them rushed over. Qiao Mei had been waiting in the main hall for a long time and almost fell asleep while leaning against the table.

The owner had heard about Qiao Mei from others, that she was fair-skinned, beautiful, young and rich. Most importantly, she was kind and friendly to people and had a good relationship with her neighbors.

"This must be Qiao Mei. I didn't expect you to be so young," the owner said.

"Sir, you're too kind. Let's cut to the chase and settle the matter directly so that we make it easy for everyone," Qiao Mei said with a gentle smile.

When the owner saw that Qiao Mei was a straightforward person, he took out the title deed and the keys to all the doors. After he handed the things over and signed and stamped the document, this matter would be done.

"Then shall we sign the contract?" the owner asked eagerly.

Qiao Mei waved her hands and said, "There's no hurry. It looks to me that many people have lived in your house before. I would like to confirm that you're the sole owner."

The owner said firmly, "It's mine. It's written in the title deed! The area of the land is also stated. Back then, we answered the country's call to rent the house to the homeless people, but now that the country has agreed for us to take it back, it belongs to my family."

It was the truth. It seemed that his family was the actual owner, but Qiao Mei still wanted to push the price lower. After all, she wanted to spend as little money as possible.

"Then how much do you intend to sell this house to me?" Qiao Mei asked casually.

The owner looked at Xia Wen and then at Qiao Mei. They had already agreed that it would be nothing less than 10,000 dollars. Why was she asking him about this now?

"I've already spoken to this little brother about this. As long as you give me 10,000 dollars in cash, I'll sell this house," the owner said.

Chapter 834 - 834 Bargaining

834 Bargaining

Xia Wen did not know what Qiao Mei was up to and just looked at her silently.

Qiao Mei calmly tapped the piece of paper on the table and said, "As you know, there's another house that's exactly the same as yours. It's on the street next to yours. That house even has an extra storeroom compared with yours. The owner told me that she can sell it to me for 10,000 dollars."

The owner of the house immediately panicked. Why was the deal suddenly in jeopardy? His family was in urgent need of money!

"My house is definitely better than hers! The location and the surroundings are definitely good!" the owner said as he stood up agitatedly.

!!

Xia Wen stood at the side and held back his laughter. She was really a prolific actress. Where did this other house owner come from? This was clearly just a bluff.

“But I don’t intend to live in it. All these factors don’t matter if I’m just going to rent it out. Maybe you can reconsider the price. Otherwise I need more time to think about it.” Qiao Mei took up the backpack on the ground and gently pulled the zipper, revealing the money inside.

The owner would not be willing to reconsider so easily, but which person could reject so much money especially when it was being placed in front of them?

As Qiao Mei had expected, when the owner saw the money, he immediately corrected himself and said, “9,800 dollars! What do you think?”

Qiao Mei shook her head and said, “I don’t lack the 200 dollars. The amount of 200 dollars isn’t even enough for me to repair the main door.”

“Then... how about 9,500 dollars,” the owner said with a frown.

Qiao Mei still shook her head and sighed. “If this is how sincere you are, then I’ll look at the other house.”

“The lowest price is 9,000 dollars! No lower! This is my final price,” the owner said firmly to Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei’s face instantly lit up with a smile. She happily took out the red stamp pad and said, “Alright! It’s settled then!”

When they were signing the agreement, Xia Wen quietly gave Qiao Mei a thumbs up. He did not expect that Qiao Mei would really buy it. This house was not much smaller than Xia Zhe’s front part of the courtyard house. Although the house was old and dilapidated, it was still worth more than 9,000 dollars.

If not for the fact that the owner's family business was not doing well recently and was in urgent need of cash, he would not be selling the house.

Satisfied, Qiao Mei stamped her fingerprint and sent the owner off with a smile. Now that another property belonged to her, she felt that the days of her sitting in the house and counting money were not far off!

"You, you. Aren't you afraid that the landlord will insist on 10,000 dollars? What if you force him into a corner and he doesn't want to sell it to you?" Xia Wen said helplessly.

Qiao Mei did not believe that a person would not be tempted by so much money being placed in front of him.

She had already done a background check on that person. The owner's family business was a medium-sized one in the capital, but it had not been doing well in the past two years. In the beginning, the house was listed on the market at the sky-high price of 50,000 dollars and no one bought it even after a year. That was why they were forced to sell the house to her in the end.

After all, there were not many people who could afford to buy a house and pay fully in cash. In this era, workplace units allocated houses to their employees based on the number of years they were with the units. After a certain number of years, the employees would be able to own the houses they lived in.

Since everyone already had a house to live in, then what was the point of buying one?

"I'm not worried. At most, I'll give him 10,000 dollars. It's not like I'm not prepared. I just want to experience the joy of bargaining," Qiao Mei said.

"Did the Tan family come to look for you after the previous incident?" Xia Wen asked.

Qiao Mei was silent for a long time before she smiled and said, "No, they didn't. Xia He must have told you about it. They never came again, so don't worry."

Xia Wen did not expect things to turn out like this. No matter how much he apologized, it would not help with the situation. He decided to help Qiao Mei even more diligently in the future to make it up to her.

“It’s all my fault. I’ll make things clear to the Tan family when I get back. I’ll definitely give you an explanation,” Xia Wen said sternly.

Before Xia Zhe left, Xia Zhe had asked him to take good care of Qiao Mei. In the end, not only did he not take good care of her, but he also caused her a lot of trouble.

If Xia Zhe came back and found out about this, he would definitely pick a fight.

“I know the situation well. Eldest brother, let’s leave this matter at that. Anyway, the Tan family hasn’t come by again. If they do, I have my ways to deal with them,” Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Chapter 835 - 835 Making Improvements to the Seeds

835 Making Improvements to the Seeds

It was true that the Tan family had not come to look for Qiao Mei recently. That day, after Jiang Yi ran away dejectedly, she had gone to look for Tan Jing.

Tan Jing was subjected to a scolding for no reason. Seeing that they did not manage to get anything from either the Xia family or Qiao Mei, they packed their things and prepared to leave. However, they did not intend to give up just like that. There was still a long way to go in the future and they could come back at any time to continue looking for trouble. As long as they did not achieve their goal, they would not give up.

“By the way, eldest brother, I heard that you’re not a teacher anymore?” Qiao Mei asked.

Xia Wen smiled and said, “You’re really very well-informed. I’ve indeed been transferred. I’m now working in the government sector, in charge of the revitalization of the market economy.”

“Then... what’s your position?” Qiao Mei’s eyes widened as she looked at Xia Wen expectantly.

She knew that Xia Wen being a professor in university was a temporary decision made by the Xia family. It was to let Xia Wen have enough time to recuperate and improve his health. Xia Wen would have to go into politics sooner or later, so she was not surprised at all.

However, she was curious about Xia Wen's current position. If his level was too low, she would not be able to ask him for help.

"Me? I guess I'm considered a section head," Xia Wen said nonchalantly as he noted the look in Qiao Mei's eyes.

This little fox must be scheming to see if she could make use of him!

Xia Zhe and his wife were each smarter than the other! He just hoped that this couple's children were not too smart. Otherwise, being the eldest uncle, he would be in trouble.

"Wow! That's very impressive! Then tell me about the recent developments. Just tell me a little," Qiao Mei said.

"We're going to strongly support the common people going into business and will no longer stop them from trading," Xia Wen said.

He could not tell Qiao Mei about the specific timing and implementation of the policies. These things were confidential and could not be divulged to outsiders. However, it was fine to give her a sense of the direction that things were headed since Qiao Mei would not go around telling others about these things.

When Qiao Mei heard what Xia Wen said, she felt relieved. She had always been worried that if Li Gui was captured by the Industrial and Commercial Bureau or bullied by other peddlers, they would not be able to save Li Gui. She did not want to trouble the Xia family because of her own family.

After all, Tan Jing was a good example. The Xia family would only hate having such in-laws.

"Good, good, good! Then I'm relieved!" Qiao Mei said excitedly.

After a simple chat about family matters, Xia Wen needed to go back to work. As he was newly appointed and about to make drastic changes to an organization upon taking charge, he could not be too lax. It would not be good if someone had any dirt on him.

Since Qiao Mei had a lot of time in the afternoon, she decided to do a study on the seeds. She took out the last two flower pots she had at home and went to the backyard to fill them with soil before returning to the empty side house. She planted both the most ordinary seeds on the market and the seeds that she had infused with her energy.

She wanted to try and see if this method of grafting would change the growth cycle of ordinary seeds.

Qiao Mei gently transferred energy to the two different types of seeds. After they grew taller, she grafted a part of the plant from the energy-infused seeds onto the plant that grew from the ordinary seeds. Then she continued to make them grow. Soon, she obtained a sunflower with a lot of seeds.

However, the size of the seeds produced by this sunflower was far inferior to those produced by the energy-infused seeds. Although they were bigger than ordinary melon seeds, they were still far inferior.

After Qiao Mei's constant tries and attempts at grafting, she finally obtained seeds that were similar to the energy-infused seeds.

"It's really not easy..." Qiao Mei sighed deeply.

Looking at the discarded sunflowers all over the ground, she started to worry about how to clean them up later. However, it was very simple. She just needed to extract all the energy from these discarded sunflowers and they would disintegrate into ashes with one touch. Then, she just needed to sweep them up.

Qiao Mei took one of the seeds and tasted it. Although there were some subtle differences, most people would not be able to notice it. She would wait until next year to find a piece of land in the capital to grow them and take a look at the results.

Next up was corn, but only her own family needed corn. When required, she just needed to give them some energy and there was no need to cultivate them in large quantities. She could simply plant them when Li Gui had almost used up all of them.

Now, it was time for her to take a good rest. Previously, when she was inducing the growth of ginseng, there was always a faint fragrance on her body. Now that she had induced the growth of sunflowers a few times, she felt a nice sense of warmth all over.

Chapter 836 In Pursuit

Li Gui continued to sell seeds today as usual, but she brought along some popcorn from yesterday. She thought of giving away some popcorn with every purchase of seeds today. This way, she could lay the groundwork for selling popcorn in the future. It might even attract people who want to eat the popcorn she sold.

Today, she brought Zhang Wei and Zhang Qin back to that same alley near the cinema to sell seeds. Many people were already waiting there with anxious expressions on their faces.

When one of the older men saw Li Gui, he pointed at her agitatedly as he shouted, "It's her! It's her!"

Li Gui froze on the spot and was so frightened that she wanted to grab the two children and run away.

Qiao Mei had asked her earlier if she had been bullied by the other peddlers and she had confidently said no. She did not expect to receive retribution so quickly!

"Don't run! We're here to buy seeds! Don't run!" the older men shouted as they chased after Li Gui.

Li Gui did not even hear what they were saying behind her back. She used all her strength to run forward and only stopped when Zhang Wei broke free from her grip.

"Mom! Those people want to buy seeds from us!" Zhang Wei shouted towards Li Gui's back.

Li Gui panted as she sat on the ground and wiped the sweat off her forehead. How could they be here to buy seeds? If they were here to buy seeds, why were they so agitated?

The older man also slowly caught up. He stood in front of Li Gui and asked, "You... sister, why did you run away?"

"I don't know that you are here to buy seeds. It feels like you're here to arrest me... since there are so many people with you..." Li Gui was so shaken that she did not even dare to breathe loudly.

These people who came to buy seeds had never had the experience of being chased down for street peddling, so they naturally did not know what Li Gui was afraid of. The few grown men found it quite embarrassing to have frightened a woman with two children to such an extent. Each of them bought two dollars' worth of seeds to express their apologies, and someone even bought five dollars' worth!

"Thank you! Thank you everyone!" Li Gui expressed her gratitude.

Zhang Qin took out some popcorn from her bag and said, "Uncles, try our new product. You can give us some feedback too!"

"Sure! We'll try it." The older men took the popcorn from Zhang Qin. After that, everyone was full of praise.

Everyone had eaten popcorn since they were young. There were peddlers who sold popcorn everywhere, but this was the first time they had eaten the type of sweet popcorn that Li Gui was selling.

"How do you make this! Why is it different from what we usually eat! How much are you selling this for!" the older men asked.

Speaking of which, it was quite strange. In the past, everyone only ate seeds for fun. Sometimes, when they brought their girlfriends to the movies, they bought seeds simply to show off. However, ever since they ate the seeds which Li Gui sold, they craved for the taste even after they returned home.

If not for the fact that a small cup cost 50 cents and they really could not afford to buy too much, they would have bought bags of it home!

They were unable to spend more than two dollars a month to buy the seeds that Li Gui sold. Ordinary folks could not afford to eat such expensive things too often.

Now that Li Gui had come up with a new product, they were worried that their wallets could not handle it.

"This is what we will sell in the future. In a few days, we will run out of seeds. If you like our popcorn, you can come over and buy it! The price is still 50 cents and it is definitely affordable! You won't get any less!" Li Gui said with a smile.

No one had seen the size of one portion of popcorn, so they did not dare to order in advance. However, they noted that the seeds were running out. They did not bring enough money with them today, so they would definitely bring more money tomorrow!

After the older men left with the seeds they bought, Li Gui returned to the alley to continue selling her goods. The other peddler secretly followed her. His business was not as good as before and sales were slow.

After so many decades of doing business, he had never been in such a miserable situation. However, he was also a person with some standards. He had occupied the best location at the entrance of the cinema and he had already made a lot of money after so many years. He just found it strange that given everyone sold the same type of seeds, why was it that the customers liked to buy such expensive seeds from Li Gui.

"How strange... Have I lost to a woman?" the peddler said in exasperation.

Li Gui's stall was surrounded by customers again. Everyone rushed over to buy the seeds and the peddler could not squeeze through at all.

Chapter 837 Distribution Problem

A customer saw the anxious peddler and asked, "Are you here to buy seeds too?"

The peddler was stunned for a moment and said, "Yes... that's right. I also want to buy a few cups!"

"Sigh... It's very difficult to buy their seeds. You should buy some soon!" After saying that, the customer left with his purchase.

Today, Li Gui also gave Zhang Qin and Zhang Wei some seeds to sell. Each of them had 10 pounds to sell. That was the only way they could manage the crowd.

It would be impossible for her to do it alone.

The peddler walked over to Zhang Wei's spot and bought two cups before going back. He just wanted to know the difference between the seeds he and Li Gui sold.

On the way back, the peddler took two out to try. The taste was simply top-notch!

It was no wonder that he could not beat her and he immediately admitted defeat. However, this was the first time he had seen such seeds. This must be a different variety from another country. It did not seem possible to propose to work together with her.

If he had a supply of such good seeds, he would definitely not share them with others. With this, it was equivalent to having an endless stream of income.

Very quickly, Li Gui and her two children sold out everything and the three of them went home happily.

"Mom! We sold a lot today!" Zhang Qin said as she skipped along beside Li Gui.

"That's right, it's all thanks to the two of you! I'll follow the old practice and give you 10 cents a pound. Although Zhang Chao and Zhang Miao didn't help with the sales, they're helping to pick out the corn kernels at home, so let's give them 5 cents, alright?" Li Gui said.

After all, she must ensure that she treated the four children fairly. Picking corn kernels was also a tiring job. Moreover, not only did Zhang Qin and Zhang Wei have to help pick the kernels, but they also had to go out to do the selling. It was only right for the two of them to get more.

The two children looked at each other as if they were telepathic. Zhang Wei nodded at Zhang Qin and turned to Li Gui. "We'll take it as we're helping our younger siblings to do the selling now. When the two of them feel better, they have to come and help with the selling too. We'll also be picking corn at home as well then, so they should get a share of what we sell."

Li Gui felt touched as she looked at them and asked softly, "Xiao Qin, do you feel the same way?"

"Yes I do. So in the future, is it alright if we give all the money we make to eldest brother and then we discuss how to split it among ourselves?" Zhang Qin said.

It was not as if this method was not feasible. After all, Zhang Wei had already grown up. Usually, when she was not at home, it was Zhang Wei who took care of the other three children. To the other three children, he was like a father figure.

However, what if the distribution was uneven and the children fought among themselves...

She could not make up her mind about this matter and decided to discuss this matter with Qiao Mei. It would not be good if this bit of money caused a conflict between these few siblings.

She had seen such things happen too many times and did not want the same thing to happen to her children.

"Can Mom go back and discuss with elder sister? After all, elder sister also has a share of the earnings," Li Gui said.

The two children had no objections. After Li Gui sent the two children home, she went to look for Qiao Mei to discuss this matter. She did not go in through the back door. It was already nighttime and she was worried that she would disturb Qiao Qiang's rest if she went in through the back door. Thus, she took a long detour to Qiao Mei's main door.

"Mei Mei, are you asleep yet?" Li Gui walked quietly to Qiao Mei's bedroom door and asked.

Although the lights in Qiao Mei's bedroom were still on, it was possible that she had fallen asleep. It was better to ask before she went in.

"No! What's wrong, Mom?" Qiao Mei said as she opened the door.

"I want to ask you something regarding the four children. I can't make up my mind," Li Gui said as she looked at Qiao Mei awkwardly.

Qiao Mei turned sideways to let Li Gui in first. She had just been looking at embroidery patterns for the baby clothes. Now that the babies were about to be born, even though she had already prepared enough things, she still wanted to be more prepared.

"What's the matter? Is it because sales are not good today?" Qiao Mei asked.

"No... It's just that we previously said we would give the children 10 cents per pound sold as pocket money. However, now that Zhang Chao and Zhang Miao are both sick and can't come out, I have thought of another way, but I'm worried..." Li Gui told Qiao Mei everything that had happened along the way.

Although Qiao Mei had never experienced such a thing before, she believed in the children's characters. Zhang Wei's character was different from that of Li Gui's eldest brother, Li Dong, so what happened to her back then would not happen to the children.

Chapter 838 Leaving It To The Children

"Mom, are you worried that these children will fight and complain about one another like other siblings in our village?" Qiao Mei said.

Li Gui sighed deeply. She had experienced such a thing before, so she did not want to see her children suffer in the same way.

Every child's temper and personality were different. Each of them would get along differently with a different person. If Zhang Wei was left to make the decision and something went wrong, it would not be worth it if the children quarreled over money.

"I think we should leave this matter to Zhang Wei. There are actually times when adults are biased too. Don't you also like Zhang Wei a little more?" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

This question stunned Li Gui. Among the four children, did she treat each and every one of them fairly and wholeheartedly?

Of course not...

She would usually give all the delicious food to Zhang Wei first before she gave the other children. She had to go out every day to earn money to support the family and she left it to Zhang Wei to worry about the things at home. He was like the "father" of the family.

Li Gui felt more sorry for Zhang Wei. He was so young and yet he had to take care of his younger siblings, so she took extra care of him. However... could this be considered a form of favoritism?

"I... I just want Zhang Wei to eat more. He still has to take care of his younger siblings. I think he's really too tired, so I want him to have more nourishment," Li Gui said.

"Actually, the person who does the most work at home is Zhang Qin. Boys are usually careless so most of the time, Zhang Qin is the one who takes care of their daily living. You don't know this yet, but Zhang Qin knows how to cook. That day, she stood on a small stool to fry vegetables. Sometimes, Zhang Wei is too busy with other chores at home, so Zhang Qin is the one who takes care of their basic needs," Qiao Mei said.

Li Gui lowered her head deeply. She did not know about these things and had never even heard of this. It was really hard for her to imagine how a young child like Zhang Qin knew how to fry vegetables in a wok.

It seemed that she was also an unfair mother who gave more care to Zhang Wei and ignored the other children. In fact, during the time she went out to earn money, all the children had a hard time. They all needed to help out and take care of one another.

There was no such thing as one of them doing more than the other. When everyone was in a bad mood, Zhang Miao would even liven up the atmosphere! Zhang Chao would also solve problems that Zhang Qin and Zhang Wei did not understand.

They took care of one another.

"I understand now..." Li Gui said.

"Just let them be. Some brothers get along better after they fight. Besides, are you still worried about Zhang Wei's character? What you're worried about won't happen," Qiao Mei said relaxedly.

She did not understand what it was like to fight with siblings. She was the sole daughter of Li Gui and Qiao Yue and she did not meet any other children when she was young. She and her grandfather only had each other to rely on, so she had never experienced these things and did not understand them.

However, the four children would definitely not quarrel over money. In this family, they did not lack money at all. Moreover, they had all worked hard to earn their pocket money.

They knew very well how difficult it was to earn money. Moreover, they were much richer than ordinary children, and perhaps even richer than adults, so they would not plunder other people's money out of greed.

Li Gui also knew that this was her own sore point and had nothing to do with the children. If Qiao Mei had siblings, she would be equally worried about Qiao Mei.

So be it. Whether this matter was good or bad, it all depended on how the children resolved it themselves.

Li Gui turned around and saw the half-finished product that Qiao Mei was sewing. She had prepared a set of clothes for the children and Xu Lan had prepared even more. She wondered why Qiao Mei was still making clothes.

"Why are you still making clothes for the children? The kids will grow up very fast in two to three months. The things we have prepared are already enough for these two children to wear every day," Li Gui said.

Qiao Mei picked up the tiny clothes and said, "I don't feel at ease and I keep feeling that I should be more prepared. Anyway, I don't have anything to do at home. Now, those people are all keeping an eye on me and not letting me go out."

Qiao Mei's courtyard house was surrounded by the Xia family's spies. There were even spies from the He family. They all had their own concerns about Qiao Mei getting into trouble.

Chapter 839 Red Ribbon

The Xia family was concerned that Qiao Mei would have an emergency and that they would not be able to protect her in time. The He family was just as worried as the Xia family, but their concern was that if anything happened to Qiao Mei, their ginseng supplier would be gone.

This was a huge matter for them. Without the ginsengs, He Ning would not be able to live for long.

Li Gui told Qiao Mei about the tricks and techniques which she used during labor, but she did not elaborate on the difficulties she encountered during labor. Since ancient times, women going through labor were tantamount to having a close shave with death.

Qiao Mei actually knew that these two babies would be born successfully and that she would be well and alive. However, she was still afraid of things that she had not experienced before. The more she thought about it, the more panicked she became, especially since Xia Zhe was not by her side. She had not been in contact with Xia Zhe for a long time and he was always on her mind.

After they chatted, Li Gui also returned to her house. Qiao Mei put away all the things she had made for the babies and fell asleep.

At dawn, Li Gui started to clean up the courtyard again. She was someone who could not stay idle. Even if she was living a good life now, she still maintained all her old habits.

Xia He kept her promise and brought over Qiao Mei's custom-made popcorn bags. She tactfully parked the car in front of Li Gui's house so that she did not wake Qiao Mei up.

She did not want to get scolded! The last time she went to look for Qiao Mei early in the morning, she was almost frightened to death by Qiao Mei's dark expression.

It was enough for her to experience this kind of thing once. She did not want to experience it a second time.

"Auntie! Why are you up so early?" Xia He smiled as she walked into the courtyard.

Li Gui was so happy that she immediately put down the broom in her hand and went over with a smile. "I'm used to waking up so early for most of my life. Why did you come and look for me first today?"

"I'm just scared that Qiao Mei will scold me. Auntie, look, these are the bags you wanted. There are also red ribbons which are also made by their factory! These ribbons are a gift from them as it's a new product. They want to know if it's easy to use, so I ask them to give us some to try," Xia He said.

Li Gui's original idea was to use a red string and simply tie it tightly. However, this would waste a lot of time. The time needed to tie a red string would be enough to fill up two bags of popcorn.

Xia He had also considered this point. During this period of time, she had gone around to look at ribbons. Beautiful ready-made ribbons were very expensive. Given that they had kept their cost low at the moment, it would not be worth it if the packaging increased their cost. panda-nove.com

Now that she managed to get hold of a batch of ready-to-use red ribbons and resolved Li Gui's pressing need, she could slowly set about discussing a collaboration with the factory in the future.

"It looks so good. This is the first time I've seen such a convenient thing! Thank you so much. You must eat here today! I'll go and cook now!" Li Gui said excitedly as she held Xia He's hand.

panda-nove.com She had specially put aside a big fish today to make some soup for Qiao Mei. Since Xia He was here, she would make a dish of braised fish instead and buy a bigger and better one for Qiao Mei tomorrow.

"Sure! I like Auntie's cooking! Let me help you!" Xia He said.

Li Gui did not reject the offer. She really needed help. Not only did she have to cook for the four children, but also Qiao Mei and her grandfather. There was also Xia He today.

There were four adults and four children to feed. She could not handle making a table full of dishes by herself.

"Sure!" Li Gui said happily.

"Auntie, why are the children in our family more obedient than others? Auntie, how did you educate them?" Xia He asked out of curiosity.

She had come across many children of relatives, neighbors and friends. Every child would cry and throw a tantrum. Even the more obedient ones would do surprising things from time to time. However, Li Gui's four children were very sensible. She did not know how they were brought up so well.

"These children were also little rascals in the eyes of others in the beginning. You don't know this, right? Zhang Wei and Zhang Chao didn't even acknowledge me as their mother in the past! This was all instigated by my then husband and mother-in-law," Li Gui said helplessly.

Xia He really did not know that the matter was so serious in the past. She said worriedly, "Oh, I've said something wrong. Auntie, don't be sad..."

Li Gui shook her head indifferently. She would not be sad about the past. She just felt emotional as she did not expect the children to change so much, and her life to also change so drastically.

She had to thank Qiao Mei for all this. It was Qiao Mei who gave her a chance of survival.

Chapter 840 - 840 Uncomfortable

840 Uncomfortable

"I'm fine. The children are doing quite well now. I feel quite content!" Li Gui said in relief.

Xia He looked around. She really felt like living in this courtyard. She did not even mind staying at Qiao Mei's place to accompany her until she gave birth.

During this period of time, she had been treated quite inhumanely at home. Xu Lan's priority now was to take good care of Qiao Mei and ensure that she delivered the babies smoothly. However, Qiao Mei was living in the courtyard house now and Xu Lan could not go there to visit Qiao Mei every day. Therefore, she set her sights on Xia He.

Xia He was already in her 30s this year. Although she was much older than the younger girls in their 20s, her figure and looks were definitely not inferior. When everyone found out about Xia He's divorce, there were people who had come to propose marriage.

!!

Xu Lan even brought a prospective suitor to the house and sprung a surprise on Xia He, forcing her to meet the man. After this incident, Xia He felt worried whenever she returned home every day. She would first check if there were any unfamiliar cars nearby, and then check if there were any strangers' shoes at the door, before she dared to enter the house.

She would definitely have more freedom if she lived alone and she could then do whatever she wanted. However, she could not afford to buy a house with the amount of savings she had now and she did not want to live on credit. It was better to take it slow.

With Xia He's help, the food was quickly ready. Li Gui naturally took on the responsibility of waking Qiao Mei up. She first went to wake Qiao Qiang up, then went to Qiao Mei's bedroom door.

Li Gui held her breath and gently pushed open the door. She realized that Qiao Mei was still fast asleep on the bed and did not even sense her presence.

She tiptoed to Qiao Mei's bed, worried that she would make a sound. Then, she gently patted Qiao Mei's shoulder and said, "Wake up~ Qiao Mei~ Wake up~"

Qiao Mei frowned and scratched the spot where Li Gui had touched her. She turned to the other side with much difficulty and went back to sleep. Now that her stomach was much bigger, it was very difficult for her to turn over in her sleep. If she slept for too long, her body would feel numb, so she would always wake up at night. She also had to go to the toilet more often, especially since she was pregnant with twins.

It was already very difficult for her to fall asleep, so it was inevitable that she would get angry when she got woken up in the morning.

“Qiao Mei~ Get up and eat. The food is ready.” Li Gui patted Qiao Mei’s shoulder again.

This time round, Qiao Mei woke up. She slowly opened her eyes and only relaxed when she saw that it was Li Gui.

Li Gui’s tense nerves relaxed. Fortunately, she was the one who came to wake Qiao Mei up today. If Xia He had been the one, it would probably be another story.

She might go in standing up and come out lying down.

Qiao Mei sat quietly for a few minutes and gradually woke up. After washing up, she went to Li Gui’s house. Before she entered, she was already deeply attracted by the fragrance of food.

“Why are you here too?” Qiao Mei asked in surprise.

That made Xia He feel a little speechless. Qiao Mei was the one who set the time and asked her to deliver the popcorn bags today, so why was she asking her this question now?

“Did you lose your memory? You are the one who asked me to come over the other day,” Xia He said.

Qiao Mei thought about it carefully. It did seem like she had said that. She could not sleep well every day and the dark circles under her eyes had become more serious.

"I forgot..." Qiao Mei said embarrassedly.

These physical changes could not be resolved by energy. Energy could change her body temperature, but it could not help with the various changes to her body due to the pregnancy.

After having breakfast in a hurry, Qiao Mei still wanted to go back to sleep, but she gave up on the idea after a light yawn. After all, she still had to watch over the popcorn production.

"You don't look very comfortable," Xia He asked worriedly.

Qiao Mei sighed. She did not feel so uncomfortable some time ago, and even felt smug that as long as she had the necklace from Wu Min, she would not feel too uncomfortable.

She did not expect to feel very uncomfortable during this last stage. She finally understood how difficult it was to be a mother.

"I can't sleep well at night. I think I'll feel much better after giving birth. It's fine," Qiao Mei said resignedly.

"Why don't I come over and accompany you? I'm still worried about you living there alone," Xia He said.

Qiao Mei was not worried that Xia He would covet the house at all. If Tan Jing was the one saying such things to her, she would become suspicious and wonder about her ulterior motives.