

Fat Wife 851

Chapter 851 - 851 For Meat

851 For Meat

“Who knows! She might have made a decision!” another older woman said.

Everyone roared with laughter. Qiao Yu also heard their laughter and turned around to look. One of the older women quickly waved at Qiao Yu and shouted, “Qiao Yu! Who are you waiting for! If you don’t get food soon, there won’t be any dishes left!”

Qiao Yu blushed immediately and said, “I’m not waiting for anyone! Don’t spout nonsense!”

The older woman looked at the other women around her and laughed as she said, “Look, she says that she’s not waiting for anyone!”

Qiao Yu continued to let others go in front of her to get food while she just kept queuing. She was indeed waiting for Su Yang so that she could have some meat for each meal. Sometimes, Su Yang would even pay for her food.

If she saved a few cents a day, she would be able to accumulate a lot by the end of the month! She would not miss out on such a good thing and felt that it was worth it to wait for a while.

As soon as Su Yang arrived at the canteen, he saw Qiao Yu. He knew that this tramp would still be queuing up! She just wanted him to spend his money on her. It was not impossible for him to do that, but he would not do it for nothing.

“Xiao Yu, you’re still waiting for me!” Su Yang shouted loudly from the door.

Qiao Yu turned around and looked at Su Yang reproachfully. “Su Yang, be mindful. This is a public place! Who’s waiting for you! I’m here to get food!”

“Yes, yes, yes. We can’t do this in public. Let’s talk about it in private,” Su Yang said with a wicked smile.

The people around all looked at Qiao Yu. Some of them even started blowing whistles at her!

“Not even privately! No!” Qiao Yu left the canteen in exasperation with the mess tin.

It did not matter if she ate one less meal, but it would not be good if her reputation was ruined. In the future, she would still have plenty of opportunities to get Su Yang to pay for her meals!

Su Yang did not get angry when he saw Qiao Yu running away. He chuckled and said to the people around him, “This young girl is so shy! Everyone, continue eating!”

Hmph, there was no way such a tramp from the countryside could cheat him of his money!

In their eyes, Qiao Yu did not have a good background and was the type of person who did not reject favors from others. After accepting the favors, she would even say that it was the person who took the initiative to give it to her and that it had nothing to do with her.

Everyone was actually curious about how Qiao Yu managed to get into the factory, so they did not dare to offend her easily. This was also the reason why Su Yang had not made his move yet.

The entire factory already knew that Qiao Yu was illiterate. The workers in this factory had to at least graduate from junior high school, but Qiao Yu did not even go to school for a day. It was even said that she was actually hired by the factory director.

When Qiao Yu first came, it was the factory director who went personally to the entrance to greet her. The director was in charge of the welfare benefits, accommodation, staff performance and salaries of the entire factory.

If not for the fact that the factory director was a married woman, everyone would have thought that there was something going on between the two of them. Judging from Qiao Yu’s surname, she should not be the director’s relative. Someone even went to ask the director and was told that they were not relatives.

Their factory could be considered one of the biggest and most reputable state-owned factories. No one knew what kind of relationship they had that resulted in the factory director making an exception to hire her and even went to greet her personally.

In the afternoon, everyone returned to the workshop to continue working. By the time they got off work, it was already dark. Qiao Yu repeated the same trick she used at noon. If she did it a few more times, she would succeed one way or another.

Although Su Yang did not force Qiao Yu to do anything, he would still try to hold her hands and hug her waist from time to time. Qiao Yu would occasionally reject him, but most of the time, she would tacitly allow it.

After all, she wanted Su Yang to spend money on her. It was only right for her to give him some benefits.

In the past, Qiao Yu could not even get a proper meal in the village and was as thin as a bamboo pole. Now that she could eat her fill at the factory, she had put on enough weight and actually looked quite presentable.

Although she was not as beautiful as Qiao Mei, she was still an 18-year-old innocent maiden. Su Yang was not picky, he just liked young girls.

Qiao Yu did not live so frugally to save up to get married. She just wanted to buy more cosmetics and clothes to doll herself up. In the future, once she had time, she wanted to go to the Xia family's house to pay them a visit.

Maybe she would run into Xia Zhe when he came back one day? Then she could even go up and greet him. It would be fine if she ran into Xia Wen as well! Xia Wen was also a member of the Xia family. She had no preference!

"Don't hold on to me! Comrade Su Yang, you have to be mindful of the distance! Everyone is watching!" Qiao Yu pouted and said.

Su Yang thought that Qiao Yu was acting coquettishly with him and even said with a cheeky smile, "Xiao Yu, I'm just looking at your hands. I'm not doing anything."

“You! No! You have to call me Qiao Yu! As if you can call me Xiao Yu!” Qiao Yu said.

“Fine, fine, fine! I won’t call you that anymore!” Su Yang said.

Chapter 852 - 852 Grandiose Aims but Puny Abilities

852 Grandiose Aims but Puny Abilities

In Qiao Yu’s eyes, she was doing this to protect her image and show everyone clearly that she was not a person with loose morals. However, in everyone’s eyes, this was just a flirtatious scene between a young couple. There was nothing unusual about it.

“I won’t be able to accompany you after work for a while. Don’t take it to heart. After this busy period is over, I’ll treat you to a movie!” Su Yang said with a smile.

Qiao Yu looked at Su Yang in disbelief. Su Yang’s workshop was the place with the least work in the entire factory and there was no need to work overtime at all. Many people wanted to go there, but that workshop only accepted male workers and female workers could not enter at all.

If Su Yang did not have time to accompany her after work, how could she get free meals?

!!

If Su Yang was busy for a week, that meant she would not be able to eat meat for a week.

“Are you working overtime? Is it tiring?” Qiao Yu asked gently.

“It’s not a factory matter! Sigh... it’s my fourth brother. He got beaten up and had his bones broken. My mother wants me to go with her after work to demand an explanation from the attacker! I don’t want to go either, but I have no choice! It’ll be fine after we get the compensation,” Su Yang said helplessly.

He could care less about Su Liang! This was the time when he should be getting to know Qiao Yu better. If not for his mother saying that she could get more than 1,000 dollars as compensation, he would not do it at all!

Money was not as nice as Qiao Yu's small hands!

Qiao Yu's troubled mood turned into happiness. If they received a lot of compensation, Su Yang should be able to get a share of the money. She heard that Su Yang's mother doted on him the most and gave all the nice things to him.

When Su Yang came back with a lot of money, she would be able to have a good time!

"Oh, I see," Qiao Yu said, lowering her head to hide her glee.

Su Yang could not see Qiao Yu's face clearly and thought that she was feeling unhappy. His heart ached so much that he almost changed his mind and said that he would not go! However, his mother was not someone to be trifled with. It would not be good if she came to the factory and ruined the relationship between him and Qiao Yu.

Besides, these few days would not make any difference! At most, he would spend more time with Qiao Yu during lunch!

"Alright, alright! I've reached the dormitory. You can go back now." With that, Qiao Yu walked into the dormitory building.

Su Yang watched Qiao Yu enter the building and disappear through the glass door before he was willing to leave. Qiao Yu did not even look back once. Su Yang was just reading too much into the whole situation.

Although this building was called a dormitory for singles, it was actually just a place for unmarried employees to stay. There were more than 10 people living in each room, and there were even 20 people in some rooms!

In these rooms, there were only bunk beds and the only place for everyone to put their belongings was on the bed. There was not even a cabinet in the entire room. However, it was different for Qiao Yu. She lived in the south side and there were only 10 people in that room. Only cadres had such an entitlement!

Only the team leaders of every workshop's assembly line received such benefits. Therefore, no one would believe that Qiao Yu did not have a backer!

As soon as Qiao Yu pushed open the door, everyone looked at her. One of the older women even asked curiously, "Qiao Yu, did Su Yang send you back today? Su Yang is really nice to you!"

"Oh my, sister, don't talk nonsense! He insisted on sending me back," Qiao Yu whispered.

"Qiao Yu, you're so shy!" the older woman said with a smile as she pointed at Qiao Yu.

They were only joking around. After all, they could not figure out who Qiao Yu's backer was. The factory director was just a low-ranking official, so it must be someone higher up who arranged for Qiao Yu to be here. They did not know how capable these people were.

Qiao Yu was also tightlipped about this issue. No matter how hard they tried, they could not find out how she got into the factory. She actually wanted to tell everyone that she was related to the Xia family, but when Xia He arranged for her to work in the factory, Xia He already told her to keep her mouth shut. She was not allowed to say anything about how she got in or who she knew.

However, even though she was not allowed to say it, she did not stop others from asking her. When the time was right, she would quietly leak the information out. By then, everyone in the factory would respect her and would definitely no longer say that she was someone who had grandiose aims but puny abilities.

She was going to become a rich wife in the future! She was definitely different from these people! Just wait and see, she would definitely marry better than Qiao Mei. When the time came, she would return to Foshan Village to show off to Qiao Zhuang and her brothers and sisters-in-law.

Chapter 853 - 853 The Eldest Brother Who Was Like a Father

853 The Eldest Brother Who Was Like a Father

Qiao Yu had many small buns on her bed. These buns were snacks for the workers on the assembly line. Now that it was almost the end of the year, there was a lot of pressure at work and everyone had to work overtime. Some workshops had a lot of orders and had even started their workers on double shifts.

Qiao Yu had stolen all these buns. The boxes containing the buns were placed next to the main door and anyone who wanted to eat them could go and get some.

Everyone would rather eat proper meals than these buns since they all earned enough to support themselves. The main thing was that these small buns were really unpalatable.

The older employees would get a discount when they ate in the canteen. Moreover, they had eaten there for a long time and knew which chef cooked better and which chef served more rice. They were all wily and experienced enough to know how to save money after so many years.

!!

The current system was also different from the past. In the past, no matter how much work everyone did, the salary was the same. Now, it was calculated based on work done.

Whoever made more would earn more. For someone like Qiao Yu, who had just arrived and was not familiar with the process yet, she could only earn about 35 dollars a month. Sometimes, it may even drop to 28 dollars!

These older employees had worked for so many years. In a good month, they could earn up to 80 dollars! Their average monthly salary was about 60 dollars.

Qiao Yu had stolen so many buns to tide her through the period when Su Yang would not be around after work. Since she could not get any free meals, she would eat the buns to fill her stomach and save as much money as she could.

The next morning, everyone went off to work as usual.

Li Gui still maintained her habit of waking up very early. Xia Wen also came to Qiao Mei's place early in the morning to tell them about the results of yesterday's matter. Xia Wen was tactful enough to go straight to look for Li Gui without going to Qiao Mei's house.

Xia He had probably told him that Qiao Mei had a morning temper and that he should not look for her too early.

Li Gui was cooking in the kitchen. Now, she was in charge of everyone's three meals a day. Zhang Wei, Zhang Chao and Zhang Qin would occasionally come in and help out. As for Zhang Miao... Li Gui could not count on her at all.

She had thought that this child would be like the other children and had some talent in cooking, but this child seemed to be born to be at odds with the kitchen. The first time she helped, she smashed the bowls at home.

If it only happened once or twice, it could be because she was still young and could not hold things steadily. However, every time she helped, something would happen. She would either break something here or drop something there. Once, she even almost blew up the kitchen.

From then on, Li Gui did not allow Zhang Miao to enter the kitchen anymore. She was not even allowed to help to bring out the dishes, in case she blew up the kitchen again.

Their house now was different from their old place. Every brick and tile was made of limestone bricks and would not catch fire easily. However, Li Gui was still worried.

"Xiao Wen, you're here! Come in and take a seat. I only just started cooking! I can't serve you any food yet!" Li Gui said apologetically.

Xia Wen did not think much of it and even rolled up his sleeves to help Li Gui wash the vegetables. He smiled and said, "What are you talking about, Auntie? We're all family! Don't stand on ceremony with me. Let me help you with the chores."

By then, Xia He and Qiao Mei were almost done washing up. They casually put on two sets of warm clothes and went to Li Gui's place. The dishes were ready at this point.

Xia Wen walked out of the kitchen with the dishes and said, "You lazy bum. We let you stay here to take care of Qiao Mei. How can you sleep in? Look, Auntie has been busy since morning! Don't you know how to come and help!"

"It's fine, it's fine! I've been busy for most of my life! I don't know what to do if you let me rest! Xiao He, you don't have to listen to your brother! Auntie doesn't feel tired!" Li Gui said laughingly.

Xia He made a face at Xia Wen. He was like her father and nagged her about everything. He was clearly only six years older than her, but he was so old-fashioned. Those who knew him would say that he was her eldest brother, but those who did not know him would think that he was her disciplinarian father!

It was not Xia Wen's fault. After all, no one was there to care for Xia He after she was born. Xu Lan left her in Wu Min's care. After confinement, Xu Lan went on tour around the country. Wu Min had to work during the day, so the heavy responsibility of taking care of Xia He was left to the young Xia Wen. It could be said that Xia Wen was the one who raised Xia He.

Therefore, it was reasonable for Xia Wen to want to discipline Xia He. After so many years, he was already used to it.

"Auntie is willing to dote on me, so don't lecture me! Just eat your food!" Xia He said unhappily.

Chapter 854 The Table Almost Broke

Xia Wen shook his head resignedly. Xia He was hopeless!

Qiao Mei sat at the dining table in a daze. She had yet to wake up from her sleep and stared blankly at the dishes on the table.

Although the dishes today did not look as high-end and classy as the ones made by the state-owned restaurant, these dishes seemed to taste much nicer. Perhaps this was the taste of home. Even a simple stewed tofu with cabbage could have a different flavor. At the end of the meal, there was no soup left in the bowl at all.

"Auntie! The food you make is so delicious!" Xia He said as she wiped her mouth in satisfaction.

"If it's delicious, then eat more!" Li Gui said happily.

After everyone had eaten and drunk their fill, Qiao Mei gradually became more awake and she remembered the important things to deal with today.

"Eldest brother, how did the matters go?" Qiao Mei asked Xia Wen.

Xia Wen said sternly, "I've already settled what happened to Auntie the day before yesterday. Those people are repeat offenders from that street and they often bully the new peddlers. I've already made arrangements for them to be dealt with. They won't be able to cause trouble in the future."

Li Gui was so happy that she almost jumped up from the stool. She could go back to work again! She could earn money again! This was simply a great thing!

When so much seeds were wasted that time, her heart ached so much. There were not many seeds left at home now, so she had to make more popcorn to sell at night.

"Then what about Qiao Mei's matter?" Xia He asked anxiously.

"This matter is more troublesome. Su Liang's mother is really unreasonable. I hear from the local police that she's a repeat offender and there's nothing they can do. At that time, their family didn't say anything and I didn't have time to waste with them, so I left it to the police to handle it. I would think that before they could do anything, Su Liang's mother had already left," Xia Wen said resignedly.

For the past two days, Qiao Mei had not been idle. She had also asked the surrounding neighbors about Old Madam Fan. No one had a good impression of her and everyone said the nastiest things about her.

It seemed that everyone was bullied by Old Madam Fan all year round.

However, Qiao Mei still had some admiration for this Old Madam Fan. Her husband died early and left her with five children, and she had raised these children with her meager salary. The older ones had finally gotten married, but for some reason, her three older children seemed to have made some sort of pact not to return home except during the new year.

The neighbors had not seen them for a number of years. After they got married, they never came back to see Old Madam Fan again.

Old Madam Fan did not care about this at all. She was satisfied as long as Su Liang and Su Yang were by her side. She took special care of them when they were still young. As time passed, these two sons became useless bums.

"Can't our family think of another way?" Xia He said with a frown.

The situation now was that their enemy was in the shadows while they were in the light. The consequences would be unimaginable if Qiao Mei was suddenly pushed down or harmed by someone while walking on the street one day.

At best, the Xia family would lose two grandchildren. At worst, Qiao Mei may lose her life!

When Xia Zhe returned, he would probably turn the world upside down and kill Xia He and Xia Wen. She could not let this happen and must protect Qiao Mei well.

"You already broke his bones. They said that it was just a verbal conflict and he didn't hurt Qiao Mei, so there's no way to convict him," Xia Wen said.

Xia He smacked the table angrily and said, "Nonsense! He was the one who attacked first! If Qiao Mei had not dodged in time, she would have been the one injured! There were so many people around at that time! How could no one have seen it!"

Qiao Mei patted Xia He's shoulder and said, "Calm down. You almost broke the table."

Fortunately, it was a stone table. If it was a wooden table, it would not have been able to withstand Xia He's smack. It seemed that all their furniture would have to be custom-made from stone from now on...

"From now on, I won't leave your side and I'll keep a close eye on you! Let's see who dares to attack you!" Xia He said angrily.

"You're not going to go to work anymore?" Qiao Mei asked.

"It's fine even if I don't go to that job! I'll get Mother to apply for a leave of absence for me from the art troupe! I'll guard you closely for the next two months! Our mother will even praise me for it!" Xia He said smugly.

What she said was true. If Xu Lan heard about this matter, she would definitely want Xia He to keep a close eye on Qiao Mei.

Chapter 855 Giving A Ticket As A Gift

Xu Lan might even ask Xia Mao's guards to come over and surround Qiao Mei's courtyard house. They would be given instructions that no living thing that could threaten Qiao Mei's life was allowed to enter! Not even a bird in the sky!

"It's better not to tell mother about this. It's fine as long as the few of us know about it. Let's leave this matter at that. I don't think there'd be any more trouble," Qiao Mei said.

After discussing the countermeasures, everyone went home. Qiao Mei went home to take another nap since she had tossed and turned in bed the entire night. Xia He stayed behind to help Li Gui pack the popcorn.

The business got better and better. After Li Gui returned the three-wheeled vehicle they borrowed from the small shop at the entrance of the alley near the cinema, she bought two new three-wheeled vehicles. She rode one herself. The other one was relatively smaller so that Zhang Wei and the other children could use it.

After all, these children always went with her to set up the stall. They took up a lot of space in the back so it was more convenient to get another vehicle for them. In this way, they could load more goods as well.

Besides, Zhang Wei was already at the age where he needed to do things on his own. When he was in the village, he used to ride his bicycle everywhere. Although there were many cars and people in the city and it was not as spacious as the village, he still had to try to do everything. A boy could not be scared of hardships and challenges.

She was scared by the sight of how Su Liang and Su Yang were raised by Old Madam Fan. It also made her worried that Zhang Wei and Zhang Chao would grow up not manly enough.

It was fine for girls to be pampered and grow up a little spoiled. Their family's financial condition was much better now than before. They could buy whatever they wanted and the children did not lack anything. However, boys had to be raised to be able to handle challenges. Otherwise, after they grew up, they would not have their own opinions and would not be able to be the head of the family and bear the heavy burden.

At night, Li Gui loaded up the two three-wheeled vehicles and set off with the children to sell popcorn.

Qiao Yu went about doing the same job she did everyday. It was a long day so she could not wait to get off work and have a good rest, but as soon as she stepped out, Su Yang blocked her way.

"Qiao Yu! I'm here!" Su Yang shouted as he waved his hands.

Qiao Yu looked at the reactions of the people around her and ran over quickly. "Lower your voice! What are you doing!"

"I bought movie tickets for tonight. Do you want to watch it?" Su Yang asked expectantly.

"I'm not going. I don't like it." Although Qiao Yu said that out loud, she actually looked forward to going to the cinema. She had not gone out to have fun since the day she came to the capital!

"I've already bought the tickets! Why don't... why don't you go and watch it yourself? I'll give it to you!" Su Yang took out a movie ticket from his pocket and stuffed it into Qiao Yu's hands. Before Qiao Yu could say anything, he ran away.

Qiao Yu looked at the movie ticket in her hand and thought for a long time. In the end, she decided to go and watch the movie. She was not that stupid. How could Su Yang have only bought one movie ticket? The other ticket must be with Su Yang!

She would go, and she would decide later whether to get a refund on the ticket. Otherwise, she could exchange the ticket with someone or she could go to the ticketing booth to ask about that. If not, she could even get a refund on the ticket! The cost of this ticket would be enough for her meals for two days!

The news that Su Yang had invited Qiao Yu to watch a movie quickly spread around. Before Qiao Yu entered the dormitory, she could already hear the gossiping inside.

"Do you know! I saw Su Yang giving Qiao Yu a movie ticket! The title of the movie seems to be 'Lovers' or something..."

"It's called 'My Darling Lover'! Don't you know!"

"As if you know best! Have you watched a movie before! You still have the cheek to criticize me!"

"Even if I've never eaten pork, it's not like I've never seen a pig run! I've heard it from others! Those are movies that only young couples like to watch!"

"Darling. Hahaha!"

Qiao Yu could not stand listening at the door anymore and kicked it open. Everyone was stunned on the spot and did not speak as they went about their own business.

When Qiao Yu returned to her bed, she pulled the curtain closed and secretly cried on the bed. Why was everyone laughing at her! They were even gossiping behind her back!

It seemed that they were all hoping that Qiao Yu would go and watch this movie! Qiao Yu decided to go along with their wishes. It would be a waste not to watch it!

"Sister, I'm coming back late tonight. Can you leave the door open for me?" Qiao Yu whispered to the older woman sleeping on the lower bunk below her.

The older woman looked at Qiao Yu with a gossipy expression and asked, "Are you still coming back tonight?"

She spoke as if Qiao Yu would sleep with Su Yang after watching the movie.

Chapter 856 Running Into An Acquaintance

"I'm going to visit my relative. She's about to give birth. I'm going to take a look," Qiao Yu said casually.

This was the first time Qiao Yu had revealed anything about her relatives to them. Everyone pricked up their ears to listen to the conversation between Qiao Yu and the older woman. The woman also knew what everyone was thinking.

"Your relative? Where is your relative staying?" the older woman asked curiously.

Qiao Yu mentioned the name of Xia Zhe's neighborhood to the older woman and everyone gasped. The people who lived in that neighborhood were not ordinary people. That was something which was beyond them in their lives.

"Oh heavens! You have relatives who live there!" an older woman on another bed stuck her head out and said in surprise.

Qiao Yu behaved as if she was used to it. She nodded calmly and said confidently, "Yes, my niece lives there."

They did not expect Qiao Yu to be an elder at such a young age! No wonder her relatives would help her find a job and give her all kinds of benefits. So there was an existence of such a relationship. They had all underestimated her.

"Then is your niece also from the countryside? I didn't expect her to be so rich." The older woman in the lower bunk still did not believe what Qiao Yu said and probed carefully.

These prestigious families in the capital were most particular about being of equal social status. How could a powerful family allow a villager to marry into their family? It would not sound good if word got out.

"Sigh, she's just lucky. Her grandfather and my father are biological brothers. Her grandfather was in the army and he saved one of his comrades. They agreed on an arranged marriage between their grandchildren, which is why my niece married into their family." Qiao Yu did not hide the envy that she felt.

It was useless even if she tried to hide it. If she tried to hide her feelings too much, it would make people feel that she was hypocritical. Who would not be envious of such luck? Even people like them, who had their household registers in the city and had lived in the capital all their lives, would be envious of such an experience.

It seemed that Qiao Yu was telling the truth. In the future, they all had to treat Qiao Yu well and not provoke her for no reason. It seemed that she could become part of a wealthy family.

However, her niece was also quite a nice person. Even though she had succeeded in life, she did not forget to help her aunt from the village. From this, they could tell that this person was a kind girl. In the future, if they were in trouble, this girl might be able to help them too!

"Then go ahead. I'll leave the door open for you!" the older woman in the lower bunk said obsequiously.

After knowing Qiao Yu's background, everyone's attitude towards her changed a lot. When the news started to spread throughout the factory tomorrow, even more people would probably become polite to her!

"Thank you, sister!" Qiao Yu said happily.

Before she left, she even brought along her meal coupons. The canteen provided mess tins, so she could just use the tins there.

Did she have to eat in the canteen by herself before going to her relative's place? It seemed that they were not very close. However, it was understandable. After all, she was of no value to her niece. Her niece was only helping out because they were relatives.

If Qiao Yu pushed her luck, her niece might not be willing to help her anymore!

Qiao Yu looked at the dishes in the canteen and could not bear to order any. She bought a portion of rice and took some free soup and made that a meal.

To call the liquid in the bowl a soup would be an insult to an actual dish of soup. When one scooped out a portion with a soup ladle, one would not even see any sign of oil in it. There were only a few vegetable pieces floating around and the rest was just water. It would not be an exaggeration to say that it was simply water used to wash vegetables and then heated up.

Qiao Yu happily went to the cinema with the movie ticket. She could not bear to pay for a ride and could only walk to the cinema. It cost 20 cents per ride!

That amount of money was enough to eat meat and vegetables! She was already used to walking on the mountain road. Anyway, it was still early, so it did not matter if she took a walk.

When she approached the cinema, she was deeply attracted by a rich milky fragrance. After being in the capital for so long, this was the first time she had encountered such a sweet smell!

She slowly followed the direction of the fragrance and saw a popcorn stall that was surrounded by people. Li Gui and Zhang Wei were shouting among the crowd. At first, Qiao Yu still did not realize that it was her old acquaintances. She queued up with the crowd, but the closer she got to the front, the more she felt that something was wrong.

Is that Li Gui! Why is she in the capital!

Qiao Yu was so shocked that she fled to a corner to peep at them. After observing carefully, she realized that it was really Li Gui and the children. She did not expect them to have come to the capital.

Chapter 857 Lunatic

She had to make a Herculean effort to escape to the capital. It was not easy for her to find a job here, but Li Gui could come here easily and even started a business.

The popcorn stall's business was booming. During the time that Qiao Yu peeped at them, Li Gui and her children had already sold a cartload of popcorn. The remaining cartload seemed as if it would also get sold out very quickly.

Qiao Yu counted earnestly. There were a total of 120 bags in the two carts and all sold out. In that case, they made 60 dollars in less than an hour!

She could only earn about 30 dollars a month!

They were both from Foshan Village, but why was the difference so big! She worked so hard and only earned about 30 dollars a month, but Li Gui had earned two months' worth of her salary in an hour!

Why was Li Gui so lucky!

After the popcorn was sold out, Li Gui and the children packed up their things and left in their vehicles. Qiao Yu followed closely behind them but lost track of them after a while. After all, one party had vehicles and the other party walked.

Just as Qiao Yu was about to give up on herself, she realized that Li Gui and the children had returned with two full carts. This time, they packed even more than before and even carried two big bags on their backs!

Unlike seeds, popcorn was light and took up a lot of space. They could only sell more by going back and forth. Actually, it was just Li Gui being greedy. As long as she could sell more and make more money, she was not afraid of hard work.

Fortunately, these children could endure hardships as well and were willing to help her sell the stuff.

They could at most do two rounds per night. If they did another round, they would not be able to make it before the screening of the last movie at the cinema. By that time, no one would be on the way to watch movies and there would be fewer customers.

Sometimes, Li Gui would feel sorry for the children and ask them to go back and rest without making the second trip. However, the children did not want to rest.

"Elder sister already told me! She would give us five cents per bag of popcorn! I can sell many, many bags every night!" Zhang Qin said happily.

The children were always thinking of ways to earn money, worried that they would sell too little. Qiao Mei had set a new rule for them. They would earn 10 cents per pound for stripping the corn kernels and they would not be paid for packing the popcorn. However, if they sold one bag, they would be paid five cents. If they sold two bags, they would earn 10 cents! This was much more profitable than selling seeds.

They could only earn 10 cents for selling five cups of seeds which was about a pound's worth. Compared to seeds, they preferred to sell popcorn. Sometimes, they could even secretly eat a few. Anyway, these things were cheap. A pound of corn kernels only cost a few cents but could produce a lot of popcorn.

They could not bear to eat the seeds previously, because what they ate was money that they could earn!

After Li Gui found out that the children wanted to earn money, she stopped nagging at them. In any case, Qiao Mei had already said that she would ask Xia Wen to hire a teacher to tutor them at home in a couple of days' time so that they would be able to catch up on all the schoolwork that they had missed out. By then, they would not have any spare time to sell popcorn anymore.

Qiao Yu silently watched Li Gui and the children from the side. Jealousy had made her face look all twisted. She wished she could rush out now and chase away all the customers in front of Li Gui's stall!

Why was she the only one suffering? Li Gui had abandoned Qiao Mei back then! Yet Qiao Mei was still willing to help such a mother!

Qiao Yu could not be bothered to go to the movies anymore. Just as the cinema was about to close, she hurriedly went to return the movie ticket.

"I'm here to get a refund on the ticket," Qiao Yu said fiercely.

The ticket seller did not even look at Qiao Yu. She held up the ticket and took a look before saying, "This movie is over and you can't return it."

"I said I want a refund! Do you know what a refund is? Give me the money!" Qiao Yu screamed at the ticket seller like she had gone crazy.

The ticket seller had never seen such a crazy woman before. She was so frightened that she took out 20 cents from the drawer. She did not even dare to hand it to Qiao Yu and just quickly threw it out of the small window.

Qiao Yu hurriedly picked up the money from the ground and left. The ticket seller could only blame her bad luck and report this matter to her superiors to see how she should deal with it.

This was the first time she had seen such a lunatic. This woman had probably just broken up with her boyfriend...

Qiao Yu still wanted to return to Li Gui's stall to look for them. She wanted to follow them and see where they lived. She would feel better if they did not live in a nice place.

Unexpectedly, Li Gui and the others had long disappeared during the 10 minutes that she was gone. They had packed up and gone home.

Qiao Yu was so angry that she stomped her feet on the spot. Anyway, she had plenty of time. She would come over whenever she was free in the future. Sooner or later, she would find out where Li Gui and the children lived!

Chapter 858 - 858 Becoming Tough

858 Becoming Tough

After Qian'e found out that Qiao Mei had returned, she visited once and never went around again. Recently, Qiao Mei had asked her for help to choose a piano. As she was in a rare good mood today, she came to Qiao Mei's place after class.

"Your courtyard house is so big. Why don't you just give me a room here so that I won't have to be so tired going back and forth!" Qian'e said as she pointed at one of Qiao Mei's side rooms.

"Sure! You can stay here if you want. I'm more than happy for you to stay at our house!" Qiao Mei said with a laugh.

Qian'e gave Qiao Mei a disdainful look and said to Xia He, "How do you put up with her? Also, I hear that you get bullied. Why is it that you're so forceful when you get bullied by me, but you chicken out when others bully you?"

"How would I dare to discipline her? It's not like you don't know her temper. Just come and stay here. Use that room!" Xia He said as she pointed to the room next to her own.

Qian'e had no intention of staying here. She was making her own money now. Every month, she would send 30 dollars to her family and she could use the rest of the money at her own discretion.

Although the house she rented was a little small, it was still her own little nest. No one nagged at her or scolded her anymore and she led a carefree life.

"I won't let Qiao Mei off so easily! If I really stay at her house, won't she get a piano teacher for free? I won't let her get her way," Qian'e said proudly.

Qiao Mei was so amused that she laughed out loud. She did not expect Qian'e to have seen through her intentions. She did not even intend to charge Qian'e any rent. She just wanted Qian'e to teach the piano for free and be ready to give lessons anytime.

Compared to the rent, it was definitely more worthwhile to have free piano lessons!

“Why don’t you stay at my house tonight? Your house is too far from here and it’s not safe after it gets dark,” Qiao Mei said.

Qian’e did not reject the offer. She could not be happier about staying in such a nice big house for nothing!

Li Gui and the children had earned 130 dollars today! The cost was less than 2 dollars, so she saw great hope for the future. Not only did she not have to worry about the children’s school fees, but she could soon afford to buy her own place in the capital.

Li Gui never ever dreamed that she would ever be able to buy her own place. Everything felt like a dream.

“What do you want to eat tomorrow?” Li Gui asked.

“Mom! I want to eat fish!” Zhang Qin said excitedly.

“Yes, yes, yes! Mom’s fish dish is the best!” Zhang Wei said as he skipped around.

Now that the family was doing well, they could eat whatever they wanted. There was no need to worry about not being able to afford anything. The children had no issues even if they had to pay for it themselves.

When they reached the entrance of the alley leading to their house, someone came out to block their way. It was too dark to see who the people were, but they could vaguely make out that it was a man and a woman.

The children hid beside Li Gui in fear and grabbed the corners of her clothes tightly.

“Brother, sister, can you let us through please? We have multiple vehicles and there are a few of us so it’s a little tight. Why don’t you go first and we’ll go in later,” Li Gui said politely.

Unexpectedly, the woman stepped forward and kicked the three-wheeled vehicle. The loud sound echoed in the alley and woke up the neighbors nearby.

“Don’t you know who I am! I’m Su Liang’s mother! Your daughter broke my son’s bones. You have to compensate me!” Old Madam Fan shouted.

The moment she spoke, Li Gui understood everything. This was the family who bullied Qiao Mei. It was clearly her son who bullied Qiao Mei and now she still dared to accuse others of wrongdoings.

Li Gui said firmly, “Nonsense! It was your son who pushed my daughter! All the neighbors saw this! If you don’t believe me, go and ask around and see if it’s true!”

After Li Gui said that, she herself found it unbelievable. She was not like this in the past. When Zhang Qian abused her, she did not even dare to raise her head. Usually, when she was bullied outside, she did not even dare to make a sound.

She did not expect herself to be so tough today and to be able to shout back at others.

“My son pushed your daughter? Can these neighbors be trusted? Maybe all of you are in cahoots!” Old Madam Fan said.

Su Yang stood at the side nonchalantly and listened to them fight. He originally did not want to come along tonight. If not for Old Madam Fan threatening him with his future betrothal money, he would have gone to watch a movie with Qiao Yu!

It was such a waste of his time and effort. They did not manage to get what they wanted and he did not manage to watch the movie. He did not know if Qiao Yu would still pay attention to him tomorrow.

How unlucky! Why did he have to handle his fourth brother’s issue!

Chapter 859 - 859 Kicking and Punching

859 Kicking and Punching

Old Madam Fan could not be bothered to waste her breath on Li Gui and gave Su Yang a look. However, Su Yang was not looking at Old Madam Fan and just kept staring out of the alley.

He was just waiting for Old Madam Fan and Li Gui to start quarreling so that he could slip out in the midst of it. He did not think that a man should get involved in such a situation where women bickered and pulled each other's hair.

When Old Madam Fan saw no reaction from Su Yang, she kicked him angrily.

"Your brother was bullied. You should think of something!" Old Madam Fan muttered softly.

!!

Su Yang reluctantly walked over to Li Gui and looked at the children. Among them, only the little girl was quite good-looking. He reached out and dragged Zhang Qin out from behind Li Gui.

"Mom!" Zhang Qin shouted in fear.

Li Gui hurriedly went forward to stop him but Old Madam Fan knocked her to the ground. Seeing that Li Gui was being bullied, Zhang Chao and Zhang Wei also went forward to help. Zhang Wei went to hit Su Yang while Zhang Chao went to hit Old Madam Fan.

Su Yang grabbed Zhang Wei off him impatiently. Beating up this brat would be a waste of his time!

Unexpectedly, Zhang Wei bit Su Yang out of exasperation and refused to let go no matter how hard he was being hit. Su Yang was so angry that he kicked Zhang Wei away. The kick was so strong that Zhang Wei hit his head on the wall and blood instantly gushed out.

Zhang Qin took advantage of the short span of time when Su Yang was checking the wound on his arm and ran all the way home. As she ran, she shouted, "Help! Elder sister! Help!"

The three people who were chatting and laughing in the courtyard hurriedly opened the door and saw Zhang Qin panting as she entered.

“What’s wrong?” Qiao Mei asked.

“Mom! Mom and my brothers are getting beaten up! At the entrance of the alley!” Zhang Qin said as she pointed into the distance.

Qiao Mei’s house was only one street away from Li Gui’s house. It would only take five to six minutes for them to get there now. Qiao Mei did not even bother to put on her coat and wanted to rush out.

Xia He quickly stopped Qiao Mei.

“You go back first. I’ll go with Qian’e. Anyway, you can’t run in your current condition. You should just wait at home,” Xia He said with a frown.

Qian’e also persuaded Qiao Mei to go back quickly. Even if it was a matter of life and death, she still could not disregard her own safety.

It was true that she could not run with the size of her pregnant stomach now. Otherwise, once Qiao Mei got there, Li Gui and the others would be in danger. It would be better to let Xia He and the others go.

“Thanks for your help then,” Qiao Mei said.

Xia He and Qian’e did not say anything else. With Zhang Qin leading the way, they soon arrived at the place where Li Gui and the others got into trouble. Li Gui was hugging the unconscious Zhang Wei and crying bitterly.

Zhang Chao was only hit a few times and there were some bruises on his body, as well as a few scratches caused by fingernails. He did not have any serious wounds. As for Zhang Wei, he hit his head against the wall and was still bleeding non-stop. He probably needed to be sent to the hospital for treatment quickly.

Zhang Wei had almost bitten off a piece of flesh from Su Yang's arm. Su Yang could not do anything to Zhang Wei now that he was in Li Gui's arms, so Su Yang felt that he was entitled to beat up Zhang Chao to vent his anger!

Just as he was about to kick Zhang Chao, Xia He hurriedly rushed forward and threw Su Yang over her shoulder, smashing him to the ground. Xia He even gave Su Yang a hard kick in the stomach. Su Yang's entire face was pressed against the ground and he was sent flying half a meter away. It would take a while for these injuries to recover.

"Ah!"

As Su Yang lay on the ground motionlessly, Old Madam Fan looked at him fearfully and shouted, "My son! You want to kill my son! My son!"

Xia He did not think that she had gone overboard at all. When Su Liang bullied Qiao Mei that day, she was so focused on Qiao Mei's safety that she did not even manage to kick Su Liang to vent her anger. Since the Su family had come looking for trouble, then they could not blame her for doing what she did.

Her actions would be considered self-defense. If she did not stop Su Yang from doing what he wanted to do just now, Zhang Chao would definitely need to be hospitalized! She could tell how much strength Su Yang was putting into that kick.

Qian'e did not say anything else and quickly called the police. She would not let Old Madam Fan and Su Yang escape.

"Xiao He! Xiao He, let's go to the hospital quickly! Zhang Wei's head is bleeding!" Li Gui hugged Zhang Wei and screamed in fear.

She could already clearly feel that Zhang Wei's breathing was not as strong as usual. The bleeding from his head was not stopping!

"Auntie, don't be anxious! We've already called someone to come over. Xiao Wei will be fine!" Xia He said.

"It's already one thing for you to break my son's bones, but you even beat up my other son! Are you bullying us because you think we're easy to bully!" Old Madam Fan shouted.

Chapter 860 Making Enemies

"If you don't know how to speak properly, then shut your mouth. Why are you shouting nonsense? It's the middle of the night and you don't even care that you're disturbing the peace," Xia He said unhappily as she tapped her ears.

She had already heard this woman shouting at the police station for the entire afternoon the previous time and it made her ears feel uncomfortable for a long time. Now, as long as she heard someone screaming, she would feel uncomfortable all over.

"You say that I'm shouting nonsense! You're a junior, how can you talk to your elders like this! Don't you have any manners! You not only hit us, but you also scold us!" Old Madam Fan shouted as she pointed at Xia He.

Qian'e frowned and looked fiercely at Old Madam Fan. She had seen many people like this. This woman was bullying others just because she was fat and had a loud voice.

She had thought that the person who bullied Qiao Mei must be quite impressive. She did not expect it to be someone like this.

"The police will be here soon. You should see how your son is doing. He's been lying motionless on the ground for a while," Qian'e said faintly.

Old Madam Fan had never seen this girl before. She seemed to be an easy person to talk to.

Old Madam Fan held on to Su Yang and pretended to be pitiful as she said, "Miss! You have to uphold justice for our family!"

"Uphold justice? I can't do that, but I can already see the issue just now," Qian'e said gently.

Old Madam Fan hurriedly asked, "What did you see! Tell me quickly!"

"I saw your son trying to kick that little boy. This young lady hit your son to protect her younger brother," Qian'e said.

"Hey! How can you talk nonsense! When did my son hit this child! It's clearly this child who hit us!" Old Madam Fan shouted as she pointed at Zhang Chao.

Zhang Chao hid in Xia He's arms and shook his head repeatedly. He did not do anything. If these two people had not hit Li Gui first, they would not have retaliated.

"My younger brother said he didn't hit you," Xia He said.

"He's lying! You were the ones who attacked us first!" Old Madam Fan said agitatedly.

Qian'e pointed at Zhang Chao and said, "He's just a child. Why would a child lie? Why don't you ask the neighbors around here? They must have all seen what happened just now."

After Qian'e said this, Old Madam Fan looked towards the dark alley. Many people retracted their heads and closed the doors. They just wanted to watch the commotion and did not want to get involved.

The police rushed over in their car. It was the same two police officers from the other day. When they saw Old Madam Fan, they almost wanted to drive back.

"You bunch of good-for-nothings! You don't even dare to tell the truth! You're all a bunch of assholes! You're all in cahoots!" Old Madam Fan shouted towards the alley.

Someone from one of the families immediately kicked open the door upon hearing this. Sun Juan, the neighbor, said, "I saw it! You were the ones who blocked the way of the children and that sister and even kicked their vehicles. In the afternoon, I saw you sneaking around outside their house! You were the ones who attacked first!"

"Stupid bitch, shut up! You can't believe what she says! She has a grudge against me! Everything she says is not true!" Old Madam Fan shouted.

"Hey, hey, hey! Stop arguing! Let's talk when we get back!" the police officer said.

Xia He greeted the police officers, then pointed at Zhang Wei and said, "Officers, please bring my younger brother to the hospital first."

The police officer brought everyone to the hospital first. Sun Juan stayed at home and would wait until tomorrow morning to go to the police station to record her statement.

Regarding the grudge between Sun Juan and Old Madam Fan, it was not an ordinary one. This was because Su Liang had caused the death of Sun Juan's daughter.

Back when Su Liang stole things, there was a period of time when he only stole underwear from Sun Juan's daughter. He did not care whether it was clean or worn, he would simply take everything. Everyone living here had to use a public bathhouse and they all had to line up to take a shower.

The bricks and tiles were not laid close enough. One could see what was going on inside by secretly lifting the bricks. However, since they were all neighbors, everyone still had a conscience and would not do such immoral things.

However, when Sun Juan's daughter was taking a shower, she realized that Su Liang was crouching at the wall and peeping at her. After she discovered him, he even winked at her. After that, he often approached her and insulted her with vulgar language.

As time passed, Sun Juan's daughter could not take it anymore and jumped into the well to commit suicide. The family did not have any direct evidence to prove that Su Liang was the culprit, so they could not pursue the matter.

Actually, Sun Juan had gone to look for Old Madam Fan to ask for an explanation. However, not only did Old Madam Fan refuse to admit it, but Old Madam Fan even scolded her and said that her daughter was a whore who deserved to jump into the well.