

Fat Wife 871

Chapter 871 - 871 Borrowing Clothes

871 Borrowing Clothes

She had no desire to see Qiao Mei at all. Every time she looked at Qiao Mei's big belly, she would feel annoyed and wish that something would happen to Qiao Mei. It would be best if Qiao Mei could not give birth to the babies!

"Are you going or not!" Tan Jing said in exasperation.

"No. If your parents want to move out, then give me a call and I'll make the arrangements. Otherwise, there's no need to talk about this matter." After saying that, Xia Wen lay down and fell asleep.

Tan Jing already knew of the incident when Jiang Yi had gone to cause trouble for Qiao Mei. She even thought that Jiang Yi had done a good job this time. She heard that Qiao Mei was so angry that she almost had a fall.

Although Jiang Yi did not achieve anything after causing a scene the last time, it was still a good thing to make Qiao Mei angry.

If the matter regarding the house remained unresolved, the Tan family members would continue to call her every day to hound her. Moreover, Jiang Yi said that she only wanted to live in Qiao Mei's house. She did not want to live anywhere else.

After all, although renting any house could solve their problem, their family did not have any money at the moment. If they did not have money, how could they rent a house from someone else? Even if that person was willing to accept an IOU like Qiao Mei, the interest rate would definitely not be as cost-effective as Qiao Mei's.

Who knew if their family might become rich in the future! If they became rich in the future, they could even buy the house. It would be easier to discuss the issue if they lived in Qiao Mei's house. They were "family". Even if they did not pay rent to Qiao Mei, she would not be so heartless as to chase them all away. She would definitely still need to show them some respect.

The purpose of living in a relative's house was to ensure that they would not be chased away. They could also be late with the rent.

Moreover, Tan Jing was also up to no good. Even if Tan Bao, Tan Shi and Tan Yue all had their own rooms and Tan Bo and Jiang Yi occupied a room, there would still be a few rooms left in that house.

At that time, she and Xia Wen could also go there to live. The Tan family members were a very noisy bunch to live with, but she would endure it for the sake of a big house.

Initially, she thought that Xia Wen might be able to get a big house from the workplace unit after he was promoted this time, something similar to Xu Lan's house. However, she did not expect the higher-ups to say that Xia Wen still needed to work for 10 years first!

A period of 10 years! By then, she would be so old that she would not be able to walk properly! How could she wait for 10 years?

She had to make plans for her future. In order to live in a big house, she must work hard to convince Xia Wen that she must "rent" Qiao Mei's big courtyard house!

The next day, Qiao Yu went to work as usual. She did not sleep well last night and her mind was filled with thoughts of looking for Qiao Mei and Li Gui. Yesterday, she walked around in the snow a few times but still could not find Li Gui.

She still had to save some money to buy a new cotton jacket. When she came from Foshan Village, she did not bring anything with her. Actually, she never even had a cotton jacket before. During her rest day, she had gone to the mall to take a look. A cotton jacket would cost 20 dollars!

She did not have that much money now, but if she did not buy clothes for the winter, she would really freeze to death in the capital. Fortunately, they were required to wear their uniforms in the factory and it was warm enough.

Sister Li only took half a day off and came to work as usual the next day. When she saw Qiao Yu, she did not say a single word of greeting and also did not speak to the people around her. She just quietly went about her work.

Qiao Yu was still in a daze today. She did not do much the entire morning and her mind was filled with thoughts of clothes.

“Sister Wang, can you lend me your cotton jacket?” Qiao Yu whispered.

“Ah... alright, you can wear it,” Sister Wang said after a moment of hesitation.

During the lunch break, everyone gathered together to talk about this matter. Why was Qiao Yu borrowing a cotton jacket? Moreover, she only wanted to borrow clothes from Sister Wang. In the entire dormitory, only Sister Wang’s cotton jacket was new. It was a branded item that her daughter had bought from a big shopping mall.

Sister Wang herself could not even bear to wear it!

“Sister Wang, don’t you feel a sense of heartache from lending her your clothes just like that?” Sister Li said as she ate.

Sister Wang sighed resignedly. She did not have Sister Li’s guts. Qiao Yu had a powerful backer and could not be offended! Anyway, it was just a piece of clothing and she was only lending it out, not giving it away.

“What can I do? She’s not shy about asking. What else can I say?” Sister Wang said dejectedly.

“Did that rich niece of hers introduce a boyfriend to her? Otherwise, why does she go out after work every day?” Sister Li asked.

For the past few days, Qiao Yu had been coming back very late. Sometimes, she would even come back in the wee hours of the morning. She kept asking them to leave the door open for her, but no one knew what she was doing. Qiao Yu only said that she was going to visit her relatives.

Chapter 872 Cooperation

However, when Qiao Yu returned, she was always freezing. Sometimes, she was so cold that her teeth chattered. If her rich relatives cared about her, why would they let her come back on her own in such cold weather? They would have arranged for a car to send her back.

It seemed that Qiao Yu was not valued much and that the rich relatives did not really like her.

They reckoned that the boyfriend these relatives found for her would not be someone doing too well either. He might be just like them!

Many people in this factory were still unmarried in their 30s and had spent most of their lives working in this factory. Sister Wang and a few of the other women were around 28 years old and had never been married.

They were all jealous that Qiao Yu was good-looking and had suitors. They thought that if they secretly spread the news that Qiao Yu had rich relatives, other people would become scared of Qiao Yu.

Unexpectedly, not only was no one afraid, but a group of men even came to their workshop to ask about who Qiao Yu was. A few of them even openly wooed Qiao Yu!

For a moment, Qiao Yu became very popular.

Whenever Qiao Yu thought of the scene when she went to Su Yang's house yesterday, she would become afraid. If she married into the family and had a mother-in-law like Old Madam Fan, she would definitely not have a good life!

For all she knew, Old Madam Fan would vent her frustration on her whenever she was angry.

Pfft, pfft, pfft! No matter who she married, she would not marry Su Yang!

Qiao Yu did not want to marry such a person at all. In the future, she wanted to marry into a family like the Xia family, one that was rich and powerful.

If Qiao Mei could do it, she could do it too! She did not lack an arm or a leg, so why should she lose to Qiao Mei!

After work today, she still wanted to go to the cinema to look around. She must find out where Li Gui lived!

Li Gui used her newly modified vehicle to travel to the cinema to sell popcorn. The ambient temperature had gone up now and there was not much snow left after yesterday. She could still manage to drive her modified vehicle on the road.

In another half a month's time, when the temperature dropped and the snow became heavier, Li Gui would remove the wheels and leave only a board behind. At that time, it would be more convenient to push the cart and slide on the frozen road than to use the wheels!

In the winter, only half the usual crowd would come to watch movies. A few people even specially came to the entrance of the cinema to buy a few more bags of popcorn from Li Gui.

In the end, there was not much popcorn left in the big basket.

The peddler, Zhao Fei, approached Li Gui slowly. He wanted to do business with Li Gui and do more sales!

He was a seed seller. Now that he had sold most of the seeds, he did not have any other items to sell. Seeing that Li Gui's business was doing so well, he wanted to come and learn from her.

"Sister, I sell seeds over there. I just want to ask why you don't sell seeds anymore?" Zhao Fei asked with a chuckle.

Li Gui looked at Zhao Fei warily. Back then, many peddlers had come to surround her and even smashed her stall when they asked her about the seeds.

Zhao Fei also knew about what had happened previously. He quickly waved his hands and said, "Sister, don't be afraid! I'm not here to cause trouble! I just want to ask you where you bought the seeds. My

business is not going well. Sister, can you help me? Don't worry, I'll give you a share of the profits. I won't take them for free!"

Seeing that Zhao Fei was quite upfront and did not seem to be looking for trouble, Li Gui slowly relaxed.

"I'm from another city. I harvested those seeds in my village," Li Gui said softly.

"Then sister, why aren't you selling them anymore? I see that you've been selling popcorn recently," Zhao Fei asked curiously.

"I didn't bring that much with me when I came here. I already sold out everything I have," Li Gui said truthfully.

Zhao Fei pondered for a moment and said, "Sister, do you still intend to sell it next year? If you do, then count me in! I'll buy my supply from you! What do you think about 35 cents a pound!"

Li Gui felt like telling Zhao Fei the truth. In their village, they sold these seeds for one dollar a pound. She did not even want to give them to Zhao Fei at 50 cents a pound, let alone 35 cents a pound.

He had really underestimated the cost of the seeds. If she did business with him, she would definitely lose money.

No, no! She still had to do it herself!

"My daughter will already have children next year. I might not be able to return to the village to plant them. Besides, my house in the capital only has a small space and can only produce about 100 pounds. It's not even enough for me to sell. I really can't help you," Li Gui said awkwardly.

If the issue was not having enough land, then it was simple! Zhao Fei's supply of seeds was all planted by his relatives and he bought his supply from them. They could plant Li Gui's variety of seeds next year. Then, both Li Gui and him would have enough seeds to sell.

Chapter 873 - 873 Very Talented

873 Very Talented

“Sister! My relatives live in a village in the suburbs and they have a lot of land! You can plant them at my relatives’ place!” Zhao Fei said excitedly.

She could not make up her mind about this matter, so she decided to discuss it with Qiao Mei. What if Zhao Fei was here to sabotage her as she was from out of town?

“Let... let me think about it... I’ll go home and think about it...” Li Gui said hesitantly.

Good things were worth the wait. Anyway, it was winter now and the seeds could not be planted yet. Zhao Fei had no issue with waiting as long as Li Gui agreed to work with him next spring.

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“Sure!” Zhao Fei took out a card from his pocket with a string of numbers written on it. He handed it to Li Gui and said, “Sister, call me if you’ve decided. This is my phone number.”

Li Gui nodded and carefully put the card into her pocket. Then, she dragged the basket home. Along the way, she kept looking back, worried that Zhao Fei would follow her.

It was fine if she was in danger, but if her address was made known to everyone and people came looking for trouble while she was working during the day, those few children would be in trouble.

After Li Gui reached home safely, she quickly went to look for Qiao Mei to discuss this matter. She told Qiao Mei exactly what Zhao Fei had said.

Actually, Qiao Mei already had an intention to work with the farmers in the suburbs. After all, if she leased a piece of land herself, the cost would be very high and it would not be worth the effort. Furthermore, she would need to bid against others and then the costs would be raised even higher.

Besides, this was only an activity for Li Gui to do now. It was not certain if she would be able to do this seeds business in the future. She could not let Li Gui run around outdoors selling seeds for the rest of her life.

When Li Gui became older, she would need to rely on her children to support her. However, she was the kind of person who would never let such a thing happen. Therefore, Qiao Mei still had to think about if there were any other jobs that were suitable for Li Gui. It might be a good idea to set up a shop for Li Gui.

“What do you think about what Zhao Fei said?” Qiao Mei asked.

Li Gui hesitated for a moment and said, “... I don’t have any views, but I think the price he quoted is really too low. 35 cents a pound is so little.”

If they did the planting in their own courtyard, then Zhao Fei’s price of 35 cents a pound was indeed very low. However, if Zhao Fei could help them solve the issue of the land, then it would be a different story.

“We can work with him and we can also pay those farmers to lease the land, but we won’t sell him the seeds to plant. We’ll hire people to plant them and then we’ll sell the harvested seeds to Zhao Fei for 35 cents,” Qiao Mei said with a smile.

This way, it was a much better situation than just selling the seeds to Zhao Fei and letting him find a place to plant them himself. They could earn a lot of money just by selling the harvested seeds.

However, the prerequisite for a collaboration was to see how many people Zhao Fei could find to work with them. If only one or two families wanted to work with them, it would not be worth the effort. The small amount of seeds planted would not even be enough to make enough money to cover their travel expenses!

“Alright, I’ll talk to him when I meet him again,” Li Gui said.

Li Gui took out 1,000 dollars from her pocket and handed it to Qiao Mei. “I didn’t help much with the issue of the children going to school, but I have enough money for their books and tuition fees. See if it’s enough. If it’s not enough, I’ll raise more.”

Xia Wen had not settled the matter with Zheng Peng yet, so no one knew how much money they would need. If Zheng Peng could not take up the job, they would still have to think of another way.

“The matter of money is not that urgent. There’s no hurry. We can talk about it in detail when the teacher is here. What are your plans for Zhang Qin and Zhang Miao?” Qiao Mei asked.

Recently, Li Gui had also noticed that these two children had different interests. Zhang Qin was more inclined towards acting. Previously, Xia He had also said that Zhang Qin was quite talented in this area. Moreover, Zhang Qin had great interest in it herself. If her family’s financial situation allowed for it, she could consider learning dance.

Zhang Miao liked musical instruments more and could barely walk past an instrument shop without going in. Moreover, when Qian’e came to visit these children, she also said that Zhang Miao’s hands were very slender and suitable for playing the piano. If they started to nurture her now, she could definitely become very outstanding in the future.

However, there were so many children in the family. Other than Zhang Chao, if the rest of the children wanted to pursue their specialties, it would cost a lot of money. Li Gui was the only one earning money and she did not have enough for the four children to pursue their interests at the same time.

If they were to take turns, Zhang Qin and Zhang Miao might very well miss out on their golden period of development.

Chapter 874 - 874 Filing a Report

874 Filing a Report

“I’ll try my best... I shouldn’t delay the children’s development. They shouldn’t need to worry about money. I just want them to study hard,” Li Gui said.

Qiao Mei thought for a moment and took out the notebook which she kept in her storeroom in Foshan Village. “The children wrote this themselves when they took things from me previously. I can lend them the money and they can pay me back when they are able to. Anyway, I also have no use for so much money.”

This was indeed a good idea. Moreover, this was something that Qiao Mei and the children had agreed on before. If the children wanted to continue with this agreement, it was not impossible.

“Alright, let’s ask them when the time comes,” Li Gui said.

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Qiao Yu did not see Li Gui even after going to the cinema for two consecutive evenings and was becoming impatient. She took advantage of the one-day break every month to come out for the whole day and waited at the entrance of the cinema since the morning. Li Gui came later than usual, at a time when Qiao Yu was so cold that she had almost lost consciousness.

Today, Li Gui came to the cinema alone with a basket to sell popcorn. Even after shouting for a long time, no one came to buy anything from her. There were fewer movie screenings today and the business today was not as good as usual.

Many peddlers did not come out to set up their stalls because of the cold weather. The money they earned from their hard work in the first half of the year was enough for them to survive through this winter.

Qiao Yu watched quietly from the side and observed Li Gui selling her goods. If she could also sell these things, her life would not be as shabby as it was now.

Since she was not having a good time, Li Gui could also forget about having a good life.

Qiao Yu quickly walked to the duty room at the side of the movie theater. The place was filled with people who managed the movie theater, and a few of them were government officials who were on duty to supervise the nearby areas.

“Is anyone there?” Qiao Yu asked as she knocked on the door.

“What’s the matter?” the person in the room said lazily. At this moment, they were all preparing to play cards.

“I want to file a report! I want to report that the woman outside is doing private business and secretly selling her own personal items. This is called... being opportunistic!” Qiao Yu used all the words she knew in her life to describe Li Gui.

She was not very cultured and also never went to the black market in the county city to buy things, so she did not know the meaning of these words at all. However, she knew that these were the words that the women in the village were most afraid of. Every time someone mentioned these words, they would be very afraid.

Cao Gang looked at his colleagues beside him. They basically would not take the initiative to investigate such things and would only take action if they received a report. It would not be an exaggeration to say that they had the most free time among their colleagues.

After all, there were so many peddlers around. As long as there were no fights, they basically did not care too much about these things.

Occasionally, these peddlers would even give them a lot of benefits, so they would turn a blind eye to everything.

“Who are you talking about?” Cao Gang asked.

Qiao Yu pointed at Li Gui through the window and said, “It’s that woman!”

Cao Gang looked at Li Gui, who was standing outside, and did not know what to say. This was someone whom the higher-ups had asked them to take “special care” of. They usually watched over her carefully and would never dare to cause trouble for her.

It was not as if they did not want their jobs anymore?

What kind of grudge did this woman have with Li Gui? There were so many peddlers outside but she did not report any of them and only targeted Li Gui. Could it be that they knew each other?

"Then write down your name, address, contact information and workplace unit on this piece of paper. We'll contact you later," Cao Gang said as he took out a pen and paper from the drawer.

Qiao Yu was stunned for a moment and said, "Can't I make an anonymous report? Why do you need all these details?"

Other people were allowed to make an anonymous report, but not Qiao Yu. Li Gui was someone that the higher-ups had specifically asked them to "take care of". If anything happened, they had to tell their superiors who the troublemaker was. If the leaders were happy with their performances, it was possible for them to be promoted and get rich.

"There's no such thing as anonymous reports anymore! What if the leader asks us about the details and we can't tell them anything? We also won't be able to find you then," Cao Gang said.

Qiao Yu hurriedly ran out of the duty room and disappeared into the alley without looking back. She did not even wait for Li Gui to close her stall and go home, she was more worried that those people would detain her.

Cao Liang looked at his colleague beside him and said, "Who do you think Sister Li offended? This young lady is so young. Why is she looking for trouble with Sister Li?"

Chapter 875 Distant Uncle

Everyone had a good impression of Li Gui. She was a peddler who followed the rules. Even though she had protection from the higher-ups, she did not sell her goods in an aggressive manner in the vicinity. She would just quietly do her business at the entrance of the alley.

The foodstuff that Li Gui sold was also very delicious. They were still eating the popcorn and seeds that Li Gui sold. Qiao Mei had asked Li Gui to give it to them as gifts.

If one gave gifts to win people's hearts, the returns were usually very quick and obvious. They would send some food to the office every week so that the officers would find them familiar.

"I don't know, but she looks like she's from the countryside. She doesn't look like she's from this city," his colleague said.

This served as a reminder to Cao Gang. Li Gui also came from the countryside, so it was possible that the two women knew each other. Cao Gang quickly wrote down a description of Qiao Yu's general appearance and characteristics, worried that he would forget about these details after a while.

He decided to report this matter to Director Xu tomorrow morning. Director Xu was the one who had instructed them on this matter. If what he thought was true, he would be rewarded greatly!

The next day, Cao Gang went to the government office building to look for Director Xu and quietly told him about what happened last night. As expected, Director Xu praised him profusely and even wanted to treat him to a meal.

"Xiao Cao, you've done a good job on this matter. Continue to observe Li Gui's movements from now on. Tell me if there's any sign of trouble and don't let anything slip past your eyes. If anyone causes trouble for her, you must stop them quickly. You must ensure her safety," Director Xu said sternly.

Cao Gang patted his chest and said, "Director Xu, don't worry! Leave this matter to me!"

After Cao Gang submitted a simple report, he returned to his workplace. Director Xu and Xia Wen both worked in the same office building and would run into each other during lunch break.

Director Xu was actually Xia Wen's uncle as he was Xu Lan's distant cousin. It was not a close familial relationship. Director Xu was the one who took the initiative to look for Xia Wen, so Xia Wen did not say anything. He decided to just acknowledge this uncle for the time being.

"Director Xia! You're here to eat in the canteen too. Let's eat together!" Director Xu said enthusiastically to Xia Wen as he held his plate.

Xia Wen nodded and went to a remote corner to eat with Director Xu. Xia Wen ate in silence the entire time.

"Director Xia, so last night, someone went to file a report on the person you told me about. One of my buddies managed to stop it. This is a description of the person's characteristics. I don't know if it'd seem familiar to you." Chief Xu took out the piece of paper from his pocket and handed it to Xia Wen.

Xia Wen simply took a few glances and thought that the description of the person seemed familiar, but he could not remember who she was.

"Thank you. You've really been a great help," Xia Wen said gently.

"Then... shall we go out for dinner tonight?" Director Xu whispered.

Xia Wen smiled quietly at Director Xu. Ever since he asked Director Xu to help protect Li Gui in secret, Director Xu would ask him to go out for a meal every few days. Every time, it was Director Xu who paid the bill, but he would bring other officials along on most of the occasions and would always secretly hint to them about his relationship with Xia Wen.

This made Xia Wen feel very troubled. After all, even if he told Xu Lan about this relative, Xu Lan might not even know who he was.

"I still have to go and meet my sister and sister-in-law tonight. My brother has been at the front line all this while and doesn't have time to come home. Now that my sister-in-law is about to give birth, our focus is on her at all times, as we're worried about accidents," Xia Wen said.

"Oh! Congratulations! This is truly the most important thing. Let's meet again another day," Director Xu said agitatedly.

After a long silence, Director Xu said, "Then... Director Xia, what do you think about the day after tomorrow? It's our day off."

This reasoning made it hard for Xia Wen to turn down the invite. Who would need to deal with work on their day off? Besides, he did not have children yet and did not need to spend time with them.

"Alright, that day is fine," Xia Wen said resignedly.

Director Xu continued to push his luck and said, "Then do you think... should we ask some other people?"

"I'll invite Wang Yue and Zhou Chang to come along," Xia Wen said.

These two people were both young masters from prominent families which were on par with the Xia family. Director Xu had been following Xia Wen around so that he could interact more with people at their level. When the time came, his meteoric rise would be just around the corner!

Chapter 876 - 876 Might As Well Raise a Dog

876 Might As Well Raise a Dog

"Good, good, good! You must come!" Director Xu said with a smile.

Xia Wen quickly finished his meal and returned to his office with the piece of paper from Director Xu. Time passed quickly when dealing with official matters. After work, he asked the chauffeur to drive to Li Gui's house.

Coincidentally, Li Gui was about to go out to sell her goods and Xia Wen quickly stopped her.

"Auntie, don't go to work today. I have something to tell you," Xia Wen said with a serious expression.

Li Gui put down the basket in a daze and led Xia Wen back to the living room. Nowadays, Qiao Mei and Xia He would come to her house every day after they woke up. They would have their meals and then stay here to watch over the four children.

Xia He was also highly educated. She could still tutor these children when it came to the simple elementary school curriculum. Once the home tutor was able to start work, she would be completely liberated.

"Eldest brother? Why are you free to come here?" Xia He looked in surprise at Xia Wen, who had followed Li Gui into the house.

Xia Wen shook the piece of paper in his hand and said, "I'm not here to see you. I have something important to tell Auntie."

Xia Wen handed the paper to Qiao Mei. It was stated that the girl was about 18 years old, had dark skin, an obvious accent, wore her hair in two braids, had rough hands and was dressed in very old-fashioned clothes. She was about 155 centimeters tall.

With all these characteristics, even if Xia Wen did not say anything, Qiao Mei already knew who the person was.

“What’s this? Why is it with eldest brother?” Qiao Mei asked curiously.

“I had previously arranged for some people to take care of Auntie at the cinema. This is a note from the person in charge there. He said that someone went to file a report against Auntie last night and said some very serious things. That person did not know who it was, so he wrote down a description of the person’s appearance and handed it to me. I’m just here to ask you if there’s anyone you suspect,” Xia Wen said.

Ever since Qiao Mei came to the capital, she had completely forgotten about Qiao Yu. It was not that she had let the girl off, but she really did not remember that such a person existed.

She had thought that as long as Qiao Yu did not cause trouble, they could all just live and let live and give her a chance of survival. Whether Qiao Yu lived or died would depend on her own luck. She did not expect Qiao Yu to still not know her own place.

“Then will this matter affect you, Xia Wen?” Li Gui asked worriedly.

She was not worried that anything would happen to her. At most, she would be arrested and locked up for a few days or fined a lot of money. She would not be in much danger.

However, it was different for Xia Wen. He was now an important staff in the government service. If others found out that he had played favorites, he would lose his job! At that time, he would not even have a job and this matter might even implicate the Xia family.

This must not happen!

If there was really no other way, she could bring these children back to Foshan Village. At most, she would just tolerate Qiao Zhuang's family. No matter what, they would not dare to kill anyone.

If she returned to the village, she would still be able to earn money and would not cause trouble for Qiao Mei or the Xia family. Coming here this time, she had seen clearly for herself the kind of people the Xia family members were. They all liked Qiao Mei very much, so even if she was not in the capital to take care of Qiao Mei, she would still feel at ease.

"I'm fine. Those people are very tight-lipped and this person was scared away. There's no issue," Xia Wen said with a smile.

"We can think about this matter later. It's not a good thing to rashly go and look for Qiao Yu now. It won't be good if she retaliates," Qiao Mei said.

Li Gui also chimed in, "I'll just set up shop earlier these few days and come back early. I'll try my best not to go to the cinema. As long as I don't go too often, she won't have anything on me!"

The more Xia He thought about it, the angrier she became. Not only did this woman want to destroy Qiao Mei's family and seduce her younger brother, but she had even coveted her eldest brother as well. They had found a job for her out of kindness, but she still refused to live honestly.

Even if she raised a dog, it would still be thousands of times better than Qiao Yu!

"Why is this woman so cheap? She's really like a lingering spirit. Isn't the work in the factory tiring enough!" Xia He said with a pout.

Xia Wen gave Xia He a fierce glare. How could a girl say such things every day? She was getting more and more impudent after getting a divorce.

Xia He quickly lowered her head. In her life, she was most afraid of three people.

Chapter 877 - 877 Changing the Doors

877 Changing the Doors

Her impartial eldest aunt Xia Xiu, her strict mother Xu Lan, and this eldest brother who restrained her words and actions.

When she was young, she thought that Xia Xiu was a demon-like existence because Xia Xiu trained her using the same standards as the boys. She did not expect that when she trained under Xu Lan later, Xu Lan controlled her diet every day and constantly made her practice her basic skills in the training room. As long as Xu Lan was even the slightest bit dissatisfied, she would need to start all over again.

As she was surrounded by boys when she was young, she was also brought up like a boy. She spoke and talked like a boy and did not behave like a lady at all. According to what Xia Wen said back then, she looked like a human only if she did not talk.

Ever since then, Xia Wen watched over her all the time. As long as she did anything out of line, he would look at her with the sharpest glare.

“There’s one more thing. I already had a discussion with Zheng Peng, but he’s a person with a strange temper. He’s not interested in money or anything like that. He’s alright with whatever amount of money that we want to pay him. He only has one request and that is he wants to check out the children’s aptitudes,” Xia Wen said.

That was not what Zheng Peng said originally. Xia Wen had to beg him for a long time before he even agreed to come and take a look. He hated such troublesome things the most. If the children were unteachable, he would not do it even if Xia Wen wanted to pay him 1,000 dollars for a lesson!

He did not want to do such a laborious job!

“Then when will the teacher be willing to come by?” Qiao Mei asked.

“Anytime. If the children are free tomorrow, I’ll ask Zheng Peng to come here tomorrow,” Xia Wen said.

Qiao Mei nodded and said, “Let’s do it the day after tomorrow. I’ll get the children to do some revision tomorrow. Do you need them to prepare anything? Do they need to show off any talents?”

In her other life, Qiao Mei understood that some elementary school entrance examinations not only placed importance on the results, but also tested the children on their talents, speech, thinking process and socializing skills.

The cultural class was just the simplest stage. The interview after that was more important. She did not know whether she needed to prepare anything, given that there was still the parent interview stage!

She often heard complaints from her friends who were married and had children. Nowadays, going to school was not only a test for the children, but it also required the parents to put in a lot of work. Some schools even asked parents whether they could provide a bilingual learning environment for their children, and if they would have enough time to accompany their children as they grew up.

At one point, it made her very anxious and she did not want to get married and have children at all.

“There’s no need. It’s not like it’s a competition. Just let the children handle it in a relaxed manner,” Xia Wen said.

Qiao Mei slowly heaved a sigh of relief. She was very confident in these children.

She was really facing too many problems at the moment. Recently, Old Madam Fan had been coming to Li Gui’s house frequently to smash on the doors and she would do it for the entire morning. The main doors of Li Gui’s house had been in disrepair for a long time, so Qiao Mei had changed it to a big metal door with beautiful patterns on it. She had spent a lot of money on it!

Unexpectedly, Old Madam Fan came to smash the door day and night. None of the neighbors within a radius of 100 miles were spared and it was so noisy that no one could rest. It was still alright for the younger people who went off to work during the day, but most of the people living nearby were old people and they all had issues with their hearts and other parts of their bodies. Things could not go on like this.

Qiao Mei really could not be bothered to go head-to-head with Old Madam Fan. Therefore, she asked someone to change the main door to a solid wooden one overnight and installed an electronic doorbell outside. The doorbell would only be switched on when it was in use. It was very convenient.

As long as Old Madam Fan did not mind hurting her own hand, she could continue to knock hard. The sounds she made on the solid wooden door were much softer than on the original metal door.

If there was really no other way, Qiao Mei would bring these children to stay in the house a few streets away for a few days. Anyway, she had many houses. She did not believe that Old Madam Fan could accurately locate all her properties.

"The police still haven't dealt with the Su family's issues?" Xia Wen asked.

"We want to settle, but Old Madam Fan doesn't agree. She comes to cause trouble every day now. Let her be. Just treat it as if she's providing some entertainment for me," Qiao Mei said calmly.

Xia Wen looked at Qiao Mei's stomach and said, "If there's really no other way, you can go back to Mother's place to stay for a while. Her place has already been tidied up and the renovations are almost done. We originally want you to stay there after you give birth so that it would be easier for the doctor and confinement nanny to take care of you at home. It makes no difference if you want to go now."

Chapter 878 Good Stuff

This was also what Xu Lan wanted to say to Qiao Mei. With her status, it would not be appropriate for her to move into Qiao Mei's courtyard house to take care of Qiao Mei. Once she moved in, her husband's second and third brothers' families would definitely have an issue with it. Tan Jing was also not an easy person to deal with.

Tan Jing had been eyeing the courtyard house for many years and had always urged Xu Lan to move in so that her own family could also come over to live there and enjoy life.

"Let's wait a little longer. Eldest brother, I'm fine. Don't worry. Besides, I still have elder sister by my side! She can protect me too." Qiao Mei held Xia He's hand and smiled at Xia Wen.

Xia He raised her head smugly and showed Xia Wen the muscles on her arm. She said confidently, "Don't worry!"

Xia Wen thought to himself, "Qiao Mei is fine because she's lucky. It has nothing to do with Xia He. If anything really happens, it's already good enough if Xia He doesn't cause trouble for Qiao Mei."

"I can really protect Qiao Mei!" Xia He said anxiously as she looked at Xia Wen's doubtful gaze.

"Fine, fine, fine. I'll trust you," Xia Wen said resignedly.

Li Gui brought out a lot of popcorn and seeds from the house and stuffed them all into Xia Wen's hands. During this season, there were no vegetables growing at home, so she only had these few things to give away.

"Xiao Wen, bring it back to eat with Tan Jing. There's a new flavor!" Li Gui said with a smile.

Li Gui had recently come up with a new flavor. By now, not only was her popcorn selling well near the cinema, it was also selling well at the train station.

People who passed by could not resist buying a bag of popcorn from her. Some people even bought them in big bags! There were also many people who came to buy up all her stock at one shot.

Li Gui did not deliberately market her popcorn as a specialty item of the capital. Qiao Mei said that this method of making popcorn was not unique to them. Once others found out how to do it and everyone started making popcorn in the same way as her family did, they would no longer be making anything special.

Furthermore, the world was so big. What if there were identical items already being sold elsewhere?

However, the news spread like wildfire among the customers. The popcorn became known as a specialty product from the capital and anyone who passed by had to buy a packet and bring it home.

Many peddlers were extremely envious when they saw how well Li Gui was doing, but they did not have her ability and could only feel envious.

One day, when Li Gui was selling popcorn, a fashionably dressed woman came to the stall with a child.

The child was very good-looking and looked different from other children. She thought that the child seemed to be mixed-race. The child was holding onto a huge piece of chocolate.

"How much is the popcorn?" the woman asked.

Li Gui hesitated for a long time before replying, "Oh! It's 50 cents a bag!"

The woman nodded in satisfaction and took out two dollars from her pocket to buy four bags. However, Li Gui did not reach out for the money for a long time and kept staring at the child. The woman quickly hugged her child tightly.

"What do you want! Why do you keep looking at my child!" the woman said angrily.

Li Gui quickly apologized and said, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry! I'm not looking at your child! I'm looking at the thing in his hand! I also have four children. It's just that I see your child enjoying it so much and I'm thinking about letting my children try it. I don't have any ill intentions!"

The older woman who manned the stall next to Li Gui also testified for her, "She really has four children!"

The woman gradually let down her guard and took out a brand new box of chocolates from her bag. "I bought this for my son. His father brought it back from overseas. I can give it to you."

"How can I accept that! Then... then I'll give you these four bags of popcorn! No, no, no! Six bags! You can take them all! There's no need to pay!" Li Gui said excitedly.

The woman did not stand on ceremony with Li Gui and left with the six bags of popcorn. Li Gui carefully placed the chocolates into her breast pocket, worried that she would lose them in her bag. Then, she brought them home while feeling satisfied with herself.

The first thing she did when she got home was not to give it to the four children, but to look for Qiao Mei. She was sure that Qiao Mei had definitely never eaten such an interesting thing before!

"Mei Mei! I brought you some good stuff! Guess what it is!" Li Gui held her chest tightly and smiled so widely that the corners of her mouth almost reached her ears.

Chapter 879 Sending Money

Qiao Mei asked curiously, "Is it gold?"

"No, no! Guess again!" Li Gui said excitedly.

Qiao Mei thought really hard about it but really could not figure out what Li Gui was up to. Seeing that Qiao Mei was at a loss, Li Gui quickly took out the chocolate from her breast pocket.

However, the chocolate was in a completely different state from when she received it. It was soft to the touch and black liquid kept flowing out from the gaps in the corners. Li Gui was sure that she saw an entire piece of chocolate earlier!

"What! What's going on! That woman lied to me!" Li Gui was so anxious that she almost cried.

Qiao Mei quickly went to the kitchen to get a bowl and put the melted chocolate in it. Li Gui would definitely feel very sad if she just threw it away.

"It's fine, it's fine. The chocolate melted. It'll be fine after we refreeze it," Qiao Mei said comfortingly.

"It was still in good condition when I got it! Oh my, what a pity!" Li Gui said sadly as she looked at the chocolate in the bowl.

Qiao Mei took the chocolate to the kitchen and poured it into the pot to make popcorn. Soon, a pot of fragrant chocolate cream popcorn was ready.

The entire courtyard was filled with the strong smell of chocolate. Qiao Mei called out to the children to try out the new product she had developed.

"Elder sister! What's this! I've never eaten it before!" Zhang Miao asked curiously as she looked at the black popcorn in her hand.

"This is chocolate. Mom brought it back for all of you. This is something that's especially difficult to get!" Qiao Mei said.

Li Gui was still brooding over this matter. If not for the fact that she was so clueless, the children would have been able to taste chocolate. Qiao Mei could tell that Li Gui was feeling down and brought a big basin of chocolate popcorn to her.

"Mom, look, it's chocolate-flavored!" Qiao Mei smiled and put a piece of popcorn in Li Gui's mouth.

Li Gui smiled and ate it. It was her first time eating chocolate and she felt that the taste was really strange. It tasted different from the sweets she usually ate.

"Delicious! This is really delicious!" Li Gui said.

"This thing can't withstand heat as it's very delicate. But we can still taste the chocolate now," Qiao Mei said.

The chocolate sold on the market were all from overseas and even then, it was rare to see imported chocolate. The quality of the soil in their country was unable to support the cultivation of such raw materials, so the price of chocolate was more expensive than other foodstuffs.

However, for a family like the Xia family, nothing was a problem.

The next day, it was not Old Madam Fan who came to cause trouble for Qiao Mei. Instead, the person who came was the one she least wanted to see.

It had been almost half a month since Qiao Mei came to the capital. In this half a month, He Ning could not find a suitable reason to visit Qiao Mei.

"Say, do you think Qiao Mei needs money now?" He Ning looked at Huo Gao and asked.

Huo Gao lowered his head helplessly. Instead of saying that Qiao Mei was short of money, it would be more appropriate to say that it was He Ning who had a craving. He must be thinking about going to Qiao Mei's place to freeload a meal again.

"Didn't we give her a lot of money the last time? How much can a woman spend?" Huo Gao said.

He Ning shook his head. He did not think so. Recently, his spies near Qiao Mei's house had returned and told him a lot of things, including the dispute between Qiao Mei and Old Madam Fan and the fact that Qiao Mei had bought many properties.

Although He Ning did not know why Qiao Mei wanted to buy so many houses, his intuition told him that Qiao Mei would definitely be renovating these houses soon. The money he sent over was only enough for Qiao Mei to buy so many houses. If she wanted to renovate them, she definitely did not have enough money.

"I don't think she has enough money. Go and get 100,000 dollars out of our company's account and we'll go to Qiao Mei's house to pay her," He Ning said.

"100,000! I'm not going! If you want it, go on your own!" Huo Gao said angrily.

Currently, the He family's businesses were all managed by He Wei and his son, He Li. Although it was not as prosperous as when He Guo was around, it was still profitable.

The He family had only just resolved the family's crisis when He Ning took 150,000 dollars, and now he wanted to go and take another 100,000 dollars. There was not much money left in the company's account. If he went to look for He Wei again, he was afraid that He Wei would use a big stick to beat him out the door.

Chapter 880 Finding A Reason To Visit

"Are you going or not?" He Ning threatened.

"No, I'm not. There's no money in the company. Your second brother and nephew are not the nicest people. I'm afraid of getting beaten up. I'm not going," Huo Gao said fearfully.

"Didn't you tell me that we have prepared 600,000 dollars? Where did all that money go?" He Ning asked as he looked at Huo Gao suspiciously.

Huo Gao was so angry that he flailed his hands on the spot and almost yelled at He Ning.

"Do you think the company can buy goods without using money! Eldest young master, how long has it been since you dealt with the company's matters! Anyway, I'm just not going. If you want, you can go and talk to He Wei yourself. It took me a lot of effort to get 150,000 dollars from him the last time," Huo Gao said.

He Ning sighed resignedly. So there was no way he could send money to Qiao Mei. Then what excuse could he use to visit her?

Perhaps he could send some supplements and tonics to Qiao Mei? However, the Xia family did not lack anything. The Xia family might not allow Qiao Mei to eat the tonics he sent. It would be a waste to buy those.

Then what about sending Qiao Mei something for the children? However, if he really sent something, Xia Zhe would probably come back from the army unit immediately and question him about his intentions.

He had heard that Xu Lan valued these two grandchildren very much. Whatever he bought would probably be thrown away before they could reach Qiao Mei.

If he gave any other presents, it would seem too deliberate and make him look like he had ulterior motives. He really did not want to face Xia Wen's dark expression. Every time he saw it, he would get a headache.

If this cannot be done and that is not possible, then how can I go to Qiao Mei's place to freeload... ah no... how can I go to Qiao Mei's place to visit her.

"Do you need a reason to do things? Can't you just go there directly?" Huo Gao muttered softly.

He Ning immediately looked at Huo Gao with admiration. That was true! When did he, He Ning, need a reason to do things! He decided to arrange for a car to go to Qiao Mei's place now!

"Let's go! Go and get those dead flowers from our house and we'll send them to Qiao Mei," He Ning said.

Even if He Ning could not fork out a large sum of money for now, he could still afford the cultivation fees for these few pots of flowers. At least now he had a reason to look for her.

Huo Gao asked He Ning's attendant to come over and tell him about He Ning's arrangements in detail. After that, Huo Gao rushed back to his own home. It was such an embarrassing thing to go to Qiao Mei's house to freeload. It was enough for him to do it once or twice. How could he go along every time!

He Ning could go ahead and not care about his own reputation, but Huo Gao still cared about his own!

He Ning did not care about who went with him as long as he could go. They reached Qiao Mei's house very quickly, but no one answered the door even after a long time.

"Mr. He, there's no one in the house," the attendant said softly.

He Ning turned around and asked the chauffeur to drive the car to Li Gui's house. If Qiao Mei was not at her own house, there was a high chance that she was at Li Gui's house.

After getting out of the car, He Ning stood at the door and waited for his attendant to knock on the door. The man called out for a long time but no one answered. By now, He Ning gradually frowned.

Zhang Qin stood in the courtyard and stared vigilantly at the main door. After listening for a long time, she entered the house to look for Qiao Mei and said, "Elder sister! There's a man outside the door! It doesn't seem to be that old grandma!"

"A man? Did he say anything?" Qiao Mei asked.

"He said something about He or something? I can't hear him clearly," Zhang Qin said.

One would never visit unless one needed something. It must not be anything good if He Ning had time to come by.

"Don't open the door. No matter how they yell out, don't open the door," Qiao Mei said.

Zhang Qin ran out to share the information with her other siblings and they all returned to their rooms to study. Not long after, the knocking on the door stopped.

The attendant could tell that He Ning was not in a good mood. He came forward cautiously and said, "Mr. He, no one is answering the door."

Old Madam Fan stood in the distance and observed He Ning for a long time. Although this person was dressed very plainly, she could still recognize the brand of the car. It was very expensive! She had always heard her next-door neighbor talking about the son's luxury car that was worth tens of thousands of dollars! She could not remember the name of the brand, but she remembered that there was a shiny snake logo on it.

These people must be Qiao Mei's enemies too! Otherwise, why would she not answer the door after these people shouted for so long!

As the saying went, the enemy of an enemy was a friend! If the two of them joined forces, they could definitely defeat Qiao Mei! At that time, Qiao Mei would have to give her family as much money as they wanted!

She would not write off the medical fees she had spent on her two sons' injuries! She must let everyone know something. On this street! In this alley! No one could provoke her, Old Madam Fan!