

## **Fat Wife 891**

### Chapter 891 The Aspiration Is To Make Money

Zheng Peng observed that Qiao Mei was the complete opposite from how she was described in the rumors. He had thought that he would be able to avenge Zheng Yuan today, but he did not expect things to turn out like this.

After dinner, Zheng Peng brought the four children to the living room for a study session. The rest of them went to the side room for a chat. Qiao Mei pulled Xia Wen to one side and told him about what happened last night. She also gave Xia Wen her views on the matter.

"Let me think about this issue. They're still being locked up at the police station now. It'll be quieter for the next two days," Xia Wen said as he took a sip of tea.

"Eldest brother, what about the issue at the factory?" Qiao Mei asked.

When Li Gui was reported against, Qiao Mei had asked Xia Wen for help to talk to the people at the factory and get them to make Qiao Yu more busy. Two days ago, Xia He had found Qiao Yu appearing often near the cinema and she heard that there were also many rumors going around in the factory. The matter between Qiao Yu and Su Yang had caused an uproar and it was easy to find out the details after asking around.

"It's a simple matter and just a phone call away," Xia Wen said.

"Just let her go," Qiao Mei said expressionlessly.

Xia Wen understood what Qiao Mei meant. This matter was easy to handle and he would make the arrangements when he was back at work.

Zheng Peng did not immediately talk to the children about their studies. He wanted to find out more about each child's aspiration.

Zhang Wei was the first to raise his hand and answer. He said confidently, "I want to become a soldier! I want to become as capable as my brother-in-law!"

Zheng Peng watched as Zhang Wei fantasized about replacing Xia Zhe in the future. It was quite interesting. Although he did not like Xia Zhe, he had to admit that Xia Zhe was indeed very outstanding in the military. It was not too exaggerated for a child to aspire to be like him.

"What about you?" Zheng Peng turned his gaze to Zhang Chao, who had been hugging his book and did not speak.

"I want to build airplanes. I want to build many, many things in the future. My elder sister told me that people in this profession are called engineers! They can design all kinds of things and are very capable people," Zhang Chao said.

Zheng Peng nodded in satisfaction. The country was currently short of top-notch talents. When he came in, he had also taken a quick look at the kind of learning environment each child had. Zhang Chao had the most books in his room and many books were those that adults read.

"That's very impressive, I think you can definitely do it!" Zheng Peng turned to look at the two girls and asked, "Then what about the two of you? What about your views? Tell me about them."

Zhang Miao jumped up excitedly and said, "I want to become a pianist! I want to become the best pianist in the world!"

Zheng Peng was so amused by Zhang Miao's childish innocence that he laughed out loud. He patted Zhang Miao on the head and said, "Then do you know how big the world is?"

Zhang Miao thought for a long time. She had only heard the word "world" from Zhang Chao. Zhang Chao said that the world was full of a wide variety of things and there were many things that they had never seen before in the entire planet.

However, she did not know what a "planet" was or what a "world" was. However, according to Zhang Chao, it was something that was super duper big.

"I know! My second brother said that it's a place that can accommodate everyone! I want to become the most capable person among everyone!" Zhang Miao said.

"Then do you have any views?" Zheng Peng looked at Zhang Qin and asked gently.

Zhang Qin remained silent. There was nothing that she wanted. Previously, when she said that she wanted Xia He to teach her how to dance, it was only because she liked Xia He and so it extended to whatever Xia He liked. What she liked the most was to earn money and she liked anything that could earn money. However, Li Gui said that she was tacky and that she should study hard.

Zheng Peng looked at the changes in Zhang Qin's expression seriously. The other three children all had very wondrous dreams, but when it came to Zhang Qin, why did she hold back and not say anything? Could it be that it was a sore subject?

"It's fine if you don't want to tell me. Everyone has the right to choose. No matter what you do, I will support you as your teacher," Zheng Peng said.

"I... I want to earn money..." Zhang Qin whispered.

Zheng Peng was stunned for a moment when he heard this. Looking at the way these four children were dressed and their family's financial condition, they did not seem to be so poor that they could not afford to eat. Why would this child say that she only wanted to earn money?

"Why?" Zheng Peng asked patiently.

Zhang Qin did not know why either. She only knew that she was very happy doing it and that she would feel very joyful and satisfied. She did not know anything else.

Chapter 892 Respecting The Children's Views

"Then... then do you have any other wishes? Or why is it that you want to earn money?" Zheng Peng asked.

"Because having money makes me feel at ease," Zhang Qin said.

Zheng Peng could not believe that this was something a child could say. Children should be carefree at this age, should they not?

After Zheng Peng finished questioning the children, he let them go back to their rooms to rest. He even asked them to write an essay titled "My Dream" and told them that he would check it the next time he came.

Zheng Peng walked into the house and looked at Qiao Mei without saying anything. His eyes were filled with anger. He felt that the reason why children could have such thoughts was because of how they were educated by their elders at home.

"What's wrong?" Qiao Mei looked at Zheng Peng curiously.

"How do you educate your younger sister? Why does a child only care about the stench of money? She actually told me that she wants to earn money?" Zheng Peng questioned Qiao Mei without caring if it made her look bad.

Qiao Mei smiled and placed the tea bowl on the table. She had thought that it was something major.

She had already asked these children what they wanted to do in the future and Zhang Qin had also been frank with her. She could understand Zhang Qin's thoughts very well. Ever since Zhang Qin was young, she felt displaced and despised. She had lived a life under someone else's roof, so she yearned for a sense of security even more.

Zhang Qin was different from Zhang Miao. Zhang Qin was meticulous and attentive and could always sense the abnormalities in others, so she was especially sensitive to how others viewed her. Zhang Qin would probably have new hobbies and interests when she grew up, but it was not a big deal for her to want to be a merchant now.

"I guess you're talking about Zhang Qin. I don't think there's anything wrong with her liking to earn money. My mother has also spoken to me about this matter. I think it's not a bad thing that she likes to earn money," Qiao Mei said.

"Not a bad thing? Do you think it's good for a child to only have eyes for money! Merchants only care about profits. If you teach such things to such a young child, what will happen to her when she grows up in the future?" Zheng Peng said angrily.

"Is it bad to be a merchant?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Of course it's bad! If a girl runs a business on her own, she may get cheated. Aren't those people running businesses all very cunning?" Zheng Peng said.

"Zhang Qin is a very business-minded child. Mr. Zheng, you also know what our family does for a living. We're not like you, someone born into a wealthy family and probably with a golden spoon. When they were young, these four children suffered a lot and had to follow my mother around to sell vegetables and stuff to make a living. Among these children, only Zhang Qin is good at doing business. What's so bad about her wanting to make a living and being self-sufficient in the future," Qiao Mei said as she looked at Zheng Peng.

It was true that he did not know these children well enough, but he felt that if their family was doing better now, then the children should study hard so that they could at least have a marketable skill and be able to do well in society in the future.

It was not easy to be a merchant now and it was not so easy to earn money. Being a merchant meant that she would not be able to lead a stable life and she would have a much more tiring life than others. He just hoped that Zhang Qin could be a girl who could live a simple life.

"I know that Young Master Zheng is doing this for the good of my sister, but I think it would be a good thing if my sister goes into business in the future. After all, that's what she likes to do the most. I understand what you're saying, but I think it's also very important to let the children do what they like and are most interested in. Every trade has its master, right?" Qiao Mei asked.

Zheng Peng immediately came to a realization. His original intention of asking these children about their dreams and aspirations was to let them walk the path they liked and teach them according to what they wanted to do so that their lives could be improved.

However, he did not expect himself to be like most people, viewing this matter with his own entrenched way of thinking and subjectively concluding that the child's wish was not conducive to her growing up well.

In reality, whether an environment was good enough for a child to grow up, or if it was suitable for the child to develop, or whether the child could be successful in the future should be left up to the child. It was not right for outsiders to interfere casually.

"I'm sorry, I'm being too one-sided," Zheng Peng said.

"It's fine. After all, you're doing this for the good of the children," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Zheng Peng looked at Qiao Mei with some respect and admiration. Qiao Mei was not just a pretty face. She was someone with wisdom, great wisdom that exceeded her current level of education.

Chapter 893 Working Together To Get Rich

"Alright, it's time for us to go. I've taken note of what you told me. I'll go back and make the arrangements within the next two days," Xia Wen said.

"Sorry for the trouble, eldest brother," Qiao Mei said.

The entire family stood at the door and sent Zheng Peng and Xia Wen off. Xia He shouted after Xia Wen, "Remember to bring me delicious food the next time you come! Otherwise, I'll complain to Mother! I'll say that you don't buy delicious food for Qiao Mei!"

At the moment, as long as it was something related to Qiao Mei, Xu Lan would definitely take it seriously even if she had to go through hell and high water. Even if it was something that she could not do, she would still ask others for help.

The entire family only doted on Qiao Mei at the moment.

Xia Wen waved his hand and quickly got into the car. Xia He looked at the departing car and sighed. "Eldest brother is so stingy. His situation seems worse after being promoted. He's so busy every day."

"Aren't you happy about eldest brother's promotion? Hurry up and go into the house. It's snowing outside. Aren't you afraid of getting frozen?" Qiao Mei said as she patted Xia He's shoulder.

"Why are you nagging me? I should be the one saying this to you!" Xia He said.

The two of them bantered noisily as they went back into the house. Xia He still had to go to the art troupe in the afternoon to settle some matters and would only be back at night. Li Gui had nothing to do, so she came to discuss her future business plan with Qiao Mei. She looked at the pile of corn in the backyard and felt a little angry. She had only made money for a few days and now she could not do it anymore.

Li Gui had taken Qiao Mei's words to heart. She had decided to nurture these children's interests and hobbies, but the fact that she could not go out to earn money was the most difficult thing.

"Mei Mei, now that I can't go out and earn money, is there any other way to make money? If there's really no other way, I'll go to the restaurant at the entrance of the alley to wash the dishes. It's better to have some income, otherwise it's all just expenses," Li Gui said.

Qiao Mei had also thought about this matter. The situation was a little tense at the moment, so it was not convenient for Li Gui to go and set up the stall. There were too many pairs of eyes on her.

When the economy opened up some time later, she would rent a shop space for Li Gui to do business. This way, it would be much better than setting up a stall every day.

"Didn't Zhao Fei say not long ago that he wants to work with us? Let's sell the things to him," Qiao Mei said.

"Will Zhao Fei agree? At that time, he said that he wanted to sell seeds with us. How can we sell him popcorn instead?" Li Gui said awkwardly.

The popcorn was made from their family's unique recipe. If Zhao Fei learned how to do it, she would not be able to sell it in the future. Zhao Fei would snatch away many of her customers.

"We'll give him the finished product. He can decide if he wants to do this business," Qiao Mei said.

Zhao Fei had been running his stall for many years. If he said that he was the best peddler in the area, no one would dare to dispute that. He knew very well which product sold well in various places in the capital.

Qiao Mei needed such a person to work with them. Zhao Fei must have some kind of outstanding abilities to be able to set up a stall for so many years and not get caught. Such unique skills would not be taught to others.

The quality and taste of their popcorn and seeds were the best on the market and were also the most popular. Whoever sold the items would get rich. If Zhao Fei worked with them, it would definitely be a profitable business for him.

Zhao Fei had his own unique sales method and they had unique products. If the two parties worked together, they would definitely succeed.

Li Gui took out the piece of paper that Zhao Fei had given her previously. The handwriting on it was already a little smudged. Li Gui went to the public phone booth at the entrance of the alley to call him and she had to try a few times before she finally got the right number.

"Hello? Who is it?" Zhao Fei picked up the phone and asked impatiently.

"I'm Li Gui," Li Gui said softly.

Zhao Fei immediately perked up and said excitedly, "Oh my! Sister! Are you calling me with news?"

"I just want to talk to you about what we spoke before. Let's have lunch in the afternoon. I wonder if it's convenient for you?" Li Gui asked.

There was nothing inconvenient about earning big money. Zhao Fei agreed without a second thought and Li Gui arranged to meet him at the entrance of the cinema.

Not only was Zhao Fei half an hour earlier than the agreed time, but he also brought a glass bottle filled with hot water for Li Gui to warm her hands.



He was worried that the glass bottle would get cold so he even stuffed it into his clothes to keep it warm using his own body temperature.

#### Chapter 894 Extravagant

"Xiao Zhao! You must have waited for a long time! I'm really sorry!" Li Gui rushed over from afar in a hurry.

Zhao Fei handed the bottle to Li Gui first and said with a smile, "Sister, I only just arrived too. Let's go to the restaurant first. The weather is really too cold."

"This thing is still warm! Xiao Zhao, you're too considerate!" Li Gui said, feeling touched.

Although Zhao Fei said that he had just arrived, Li Gui was not a fool. There was already a thin layer of snow on his shoulders. She thought that he was quite a good kid.

Qiao Mei told Li Gui that if Zhao Fei paid for this meal, then there was room for discussion about the collaboration. It would be possible for them to do business together. If Zhao Fei did not pay for the meal, then there was no need to continue discussing the collaboration.

At first, Li Gui had a different opinion. They were the ones asking Zhao Fei for help with the sales at the moment, so they should be the ones paying for this meal.

Later on, Qiao Mei persuaded her in detail that this business was profitable for whoever worked with them. There would be many people rushing to ask their family to supply goods to them. Even if they did not supply to Zhao Fei, there would be others coming to buy it. There was no need for them to lower their status so much.

If Zhao Fei was not even willing to treat her to a meal, then his experience of more than 10 years in business would be for naught. If he did not even know the basics of the way of the world, then he would not be the best candidate for them to work with.

"Sister, this restaurant is a little small. Take a look and see if you want to eat here. If you don't like the food, we can go to another restaurant," Zhao Fei said as he pointed at the nearest restaurant.

"It's fine, it's fine! This one is good enough! Let's go in!" Li Gui said.

As soon as the two of them pushed open the door, they were stunned by the lively scene inside. Although the shop was relatively small, the food smelt authentic and there were no empty tables available. The boss had to add another table in the corner for Zhao Fei and Li Gui so that they could have a seat.

Zhao Fei handed the menu to Li Gui and said, "Sister, order whatever you like! It's on me today!"

Li Gui quickly declined and said, "I don't know how to order either. I'm not picky about food. It's better that you order."

Seeing Li Gui's expression, Zhao Fei did not decline further. He ordered all the nicest dishes on the menu. There were a total of eight dishes for the two of them, and five of them were meat dishes.

"Did we order too much? The two of us won't be able to finish everything," Li Gui asked.

"No! I still feel that we ordered too little! Sister, just eat as much as you want!" Zhao Fei said agitatedly.

The people around had already started to notice them. After all, everyone was traveling in small groups and would at most order three dishes. It was difficult not to attract attention when Zhao Fei was being so extravagant.

"I wonder what you think about the work that we discussed?" Li Gui asked tactfully.

Li Gui could not speak too bluntly. After all, what they were doing was not something lawful. If someone with ulterior motives overheard their conversation, they could get into trouble.

"As long as Sister is willing to help me, I'll definitely do my best! I definitely won't disappoint you!" Zhao Fei said with a grin.

As soon as Zhao Fei said that, the people around turned to look at him. They did not read too much into the situation. They guessed that this older woman was retiring and this young man was taking over her job.

After all, people were allowed to take over jobs at the factories. Typically, parents would let their children take over their positions and continue working. Some people would also hand over their job to others as long as they received more benefits.

For people who had worked their entire lives in the factories, the factories would still give them this bit of leeway. It did not matter who took the job, as long as someone did it. The factory was not picky about this.

Therefore, everyone was used to such things and now understood why Zhao Fei had ordered so many dishes. After all, a good job would mean a lifetime of wealth and glory. If this older woman was more capable and able to give this young man an easy and well paying job, he would not have to worry about his finances for the rest of his life.

The bill for this meal was nothing compared to that. If it were any of them, they would also order as many dishes. Some people would probably even add on a bottle of good wine!

"There's no issue as long as you don't mind," Li Gui said.

Zhao Fei quickly poured a drink for Li Gui and said, "Why would I mind? Sister, you're sincerely treating me well by handing it to me. I can't be happier. As long as Sister trusts me, I definitely won't let you down."

Chapter 895 - 895 Ostentatious and Wasteful

895 Ostentatious and Wasteful

Seeing how Zhao Fei took care of Li Gui so eagerly, everyone felt that this young man's character was not too bad. It was no wonder that Li Gui would give the job to Zhao Fei.

There were some things that were not convenient for them to discuss at the venue. Li Gui ate a bit and then gestured for them to go out for a chat. Neither of them had a big appetite and there were many dishes on the table that they did not really touch.

When the service staff came to clear the table, she muttered to herself, "What a waste. Even if you have money, you can't waste it like this! How extravagant!"

The others around did not think that there was anything wrong with it. They thought that if he ordered too little, he would not have succeeded in this matter!

Li Gui brought Zhao Fei to the house nearby that Qiao Mei bought. Qiao Mei did not intend to let Zhao Fei know where they lived. After all, Zhao Fei was only a business partner and their current business was not something that was lawful yet. If Zhao Fei betrayed them, it could cause them a lot of trouble.

"Xiao Zhao, it's better that you call me Auntie. You're about the same age as my daughter!" Li Gui said.

Zhao Fei did not seem to hear what Li Gui said. All he could think about was how Li Gui could have the key to such a big courtyard house. Moreover, there was no one in the house, so she was definitely not a tenant here.

"Xiao Zhao?" Li Gui had already walked to the center of the courtyard, but Zhao Fei was still in a daze at the door.

"Oh! Coming!" Zhao Fei then asked cautiously, "Sister... Auntie, is this your house?"

Li Gui did not hide anything and said to Zhao Fei directly, "It belongs to my daughter."

Goodness! It turned out that Li Gui did not lack money at all! To be able to own such a house in the capital and yet not live in it, she must be from a rich family.

If Li Gui was so rich, then why did she have to come out to set up a stall to earn money?

"Auntie, why do you need to come out and earn money even though you have such a big house? Isn't it better to enjoy life at home?" Zhao Fei asked.

He remembered that in the early days, there used to be a beautiful pregnant girl beside Li Gui. That person should be Li Gui's daughter and she did not look like she was an unfilial person.

Zhao Fei was born in a slum in the capital. That area was extremely chaotic and home was a simple shed that was erected randomly. Later on, Zhao Fei's father made a living selling junk and managed to leave that place with his wife and children after buying a small house in the village.

However, Zhao Fei would never forget the days when he lived in the slum. He had also picked up his business skills there.

"It's not easy for my daughter either. I still have four other children. I'll take a break after I raise these four children," Li Gui said happily.

Zhao Fei suddenly felt a sense of admiration for Li Gui. There were not many people like Li Gui who still came out to work even though they had rich children. Many parents would blatantly ask their children for exorbitant sums of money.

"Xiao Zhao, you also know my current situation. Those people come looking for trouble with me every day and I really can't run the business anymore. If you are really interested, I'll let you sell the popcorn," Li Gui said.

"No problem! I promise I'll do my best!" Zhao Fei said as he patted his chest.

Zhao Fei had also heard about what had happened in the past two days. Recently, he had also seen many people sneaking around the cinema. They were probably there to look for Li Gui.

Li Gui was such a nice person. How did she offend so many people? She did not seem like someone who would cause trouble.

"Auntie, who exactly are those people?" Zhao Fei asked curiously.

"My eldest son, second son and third daughter were all beaten up by them. We fought back instinctively and their family member was also injured, so they started looking for trouble with us. In the very

beginning, it was their eldest son who went to push my pregnant daughter. That was what led to the conflict," Li Gui said.

When he heard about Qiao Mei being pushed, Zhao Fei quickly asked, "Is your daughter alright!"

"She's fine, she's alright. It's just that their family's son broke his arm and leg," Li Gui said.

So it was all personal grudges. Zhao Fei had also noticed that Li Gui was very familiar with the director of the cinema, Cao Gang. On the day of the incident, Cao Gang was very protective of Li Gui. From the day Li Gui appeared, someone had already reminded him not to have any disputes with this woman and that she had a powerful backer.

He had worked for a long time in that area before he got to know Cao Gang. He knew that as long as he hung on tightly to Li Gui, who was like a "big tree", he would not have to worry about his future.

Chapter 896 Making A Deal

"So Auntie, what about the price?" Zhao Fei asked.

"My daughter thinks that it should be four dollars a pound. However, I feel that you and I are already old acquaintances and you're a young man who often takes care of me, so I discussed with my daughter about giving it to you at three dollars and fifty cents. What do you think?" Li Gui asked in a gentle manner.

Qiao Mei had taught her to say it in this way. Qiao Mei knew that Zhao Fei was an experienced merchant and would definitely bargain with Li Gui. If they lowered the price on their end first, Zhao Fei would feel too embarrassed to bargain with Li Gui anymore.

It happened exactly as Qiao Mei had expected. Zhao Fei was quite happy that Li Gui thought so highly of him, but three dollars and fifty cents a pound was still a little too much. If he accepted it, he would not be able to earn much money.

"Sister, can you go back and discuss it again or I won't be able to earn much each time. It's really not easy to do business in winter. Can you go back and discuss it with young sister again?" Zhao Fei said awkwardly.

Zhao Fei was so anxious that he even made a mistake in their seniority. He was already unable to differentiate whether the women were his peers, his seniors or his juniors.

"Our popcorn tastes different from what other people sell. It's definitely unique. You should know this," Li Gui said confidently.

Li Gui was indeed telling the truth. Actually, Zhao Fei had also gone home and secretly attempted to make the popcorn many times. He tried all kinds of methods and even tried different brands of sugar, but he still could not produce the same taste as what Li Gui sold. If not for this, he would not have agreed to work with Li Gui.

"Then how do you make it? Can you tell me?" Zhao Fei looked at Li Gui expectantly.

"Xiao Zhao! I'm relying on this skill to support my family. If I tell you, how am I going to survive? The corn and production methods are all our own, so no one else knows. My daughter says that if you're willing to work with us, she'll make you our exclusive agent," Li Gui said slowly. She had worked very hard to memorize all these, especially the phrase "exclusive agent". She had repeated the words several times at home, worried that she would say it wrongly and show how fearful she actually was.

"Auntie, what do you mean by 'exclusive agent'?" Zhao Fei was uneducated and did not understand such technical terms.

Li Gui carefully recalled what Qiao Mei had told her and said slowly, "It means... you're the only one who gets to sell our products. No one else will be able to do it."

When Zhao Fei heard this news, he reacted as if he was on steroids. He knew that many peddlers outside were also eyeing Li Gui's products covetously. There were even people who wanted to band together to get the stocks from Li Gui. If he was the only person who could sell it, he would definitely make more money than before!

"Our popcorn business is only temporary. When spring comes, we still have to grow and harvest the seeds. It's actually not so convenient to sell popcorn as I need to make trips back and forth. I still have to support so many children in the family. This price is already the best. If we're not selling to you, my daughter would want to sell it for four dollars a pound!" Li Gui said exaggeratedly.

Only then did Zhao Fei understand that the popcorn was just a test for him. The real thing they wanted to sell to him were the seeds. If they worked together now, there would be many more opportunities for him to earn money in the future.

"Seeds are good! Seeds are good! Seeds also won't take up too much space! I'll take the popcorn for three dollars and fifty cents a pound! But how do I take delivery of the goods?" Zhao Fei asked.

What Qiao Mei wanted to do was for them to prepare the popcorn at home and then bring the goods to a designated place. Zhao Fei could then pick them up from that spot and it would be more convenient for everyone.

"Auntie, how much can you produce every day?" Zhao Fei asked.

Li Gui hesitated for a moment and said, "Probably about 60 pounds."

Zhao Fei widened his eyes and looked at Li Gui. An amount of 60 pounds was too little. In this way, he could only make a few dollars a day. He could not earn much from selling it like this.

"Auntie, can't you make more?" Zhao Fei said.

"Our family is facing a special situation right now. My daughter is about to give birth and we can't handle all the chores at home for now. Would it be alright if we make more for you after this period?" Li Gui said.

Zhao Fei could only agree with Li Gui. The two of them agreed on the location and time before Li Gui went home.

As 60 pounds of goods a day was actually not that small an amount, Zhao Fei also needed to go home and see if he had enough money to pay Li Gui. If he really could not afford to do that, he would have to sell first and pay up later, settling the bill at the end of each day.

Chapter 897 Buying A Pager

Once he made more money in the future, he would be able to pay for the goods upfront. It would always take time to build up a business.



Qiao Mei already knew that they would definitely close this deal, so she had already bought two bigger pots and modified them so that it would be easier for Li Gui to use. If Li Gui had to use the original small pot to prepare 60 pounds of popcorn, she would have to sit in front of the pot the entire day without rest.

"I'm back!" Li Gui shouted happily.

"Auntie, why are you so happy? Have you closed the big business deal!" Xia He asked as she stood outside the door of Zhang Qin's room.

Li Gui was so happy that she almost danced with joy. She would be able to earn 210 dollars a day! In a month, that would be... Oh my goodness! More than 6,300 dollars!

The cost price of the corn was only a few cents, so it was not a big deal at all. In less than two months, she would be able to buy this house from Qiao Mei! She would be able to have a house of her own in the capital!

However, what she was thinking of was the most ideal situation. After all, if it was raining with strong winds, Zhao Fei would not be able to set up his stall, which meant that he would sell much less than usual.

Furthermore, when it was windy or rainy, there would be a problem for them to keep in touch and communicate with one another. Qiao Mei did not have a phone in the house, and it was not as easy to install a phone line like what she did in the village. The city was too big and it was impossible for every household to pay to install a phone line. It would also be a lot of trouble.

Qiao Mei vaguely remembered that pagers were already available in this era, the kind which one could use to receive messages from others. She could buy one for Li Gui to try out.

She would also buy one for Zhao Fei so that the two of them could contact each other at any time. This could also be considered her small gift for Zhao Fei. After all, the amount of money they could earn in a month depended on how much Zhao Fei could sell.

"Elder sister! Can you come over for a while!" Qiao Mei stood at the door and shouted towards Zhang Qin's room.

When Xia He heard this, she came out to look for Qiao Mei. She put her hands on her hips and asked smugly, "Why? Do you still need my help!"

Qiao Mei pouted and said, "Then I don't need you... I won't look for you then! I'm really so pitiful. My elder sister isn't even willing to help me..."

Xia He could not bear to see Qiao Mei looking so aggrieved. When such a beautiful person looked so aggrieved, it made her uncomfortable and anxious. If Xia Zhe was the one who pretended to be aggrieved and tried to look pitiful in front of Xia He, she would have slapped him at the first instance and not indulged his antics at all.

"Oh my! Tell me! I'll help you! I'm really scared of you!" Xia He said helplessly.

"Elder sister, can you get me four pagers? No, no, no, I want... eight!" Qiao Mei said.

Xia He looked at Qiao Mei in shock and said, "What did you say? Say that again?"

"I want eight pagers!" Qiao Mei repeated.

"Qiao Mei! Are you crazy! Do you know how much eight pagers cost!" Xia He suddenly remembered that Qiao Mei did not lack money at all, so she added, "Even if you have money, where can we find a place that sells so many pagers?"

During this time, not everyone could have a pager. Xia Mao had only been issued with one this year, and the army only issued it to him so that it would be easier for them to contact him.

Even Xia Jun did not receive such treatment. It was very difficult to buy this item. Even if one went to the shop to get it, one had to order it in advance and would only receive it after a month!

Furthermore, the cost of one pager was about 2,000 dollars. Ordinary people would not be able to afford it. It was rare even for people who already had a phone at home.

Eight pagers would cost more than 16,000 dollars! Was Qiao Mei crazy! Where could she get so many!

"Who are you buying these for? Why do you need so many?" Xia He looked at Qiao Mei in puzzlement.

Qiao Mei did not intend to tell Xia He what she wanted them for. It was almost the new year and she wanted to give everyone in the family a new year gift. It was better to keep this matter a secret.

"I'm not telling you! I've changed my mind. I want 10 pagers. The sooner the better," Qiao Mei said.

"Let me ask around and I'll try to get them for you as soon as possible. I'll ask people to find the goods for you. I don't think there are even 10 pagers in the entire capital. You're really crazy!" Xia He complained as she walked out of the house to find a supplier for Qiao Mei.

In this era, cell phones were already available but they were really too expensive. One cell phone would cost around 20,000 dollars! Although He Ning still owed her more than a million dollars, it would be very dangerous if someone with ulterior motives filed a report against her.

Chapter 898 Xia Zhe Having An Affair

The original bulky handphone also became useless after a while. After a few years, the smaller portable mobile phones would become available. At that time, she could buy one for everyone.

They could make do with pagers first. It would be more convenient for everyone.

Xia Wen did not stay idle. He asked the chauffeur to help him buy two bottles of liquor and two cartons of cigarettes. After work, he went to the factory director, Director Tan's house to pay a visit and settle the matter that Qiao Mei mentioned.

As soon as Xia Wen entered the neighborhood, he became the focus of everyone's attention. Someone who had a chauffeur was definitely not a nobody.

"Whose son is this? I don't seem to have any impression of him. He looks so presentable," an elderly female neighbor said.

"Look at the cigarettes and liquor that he's holding. That's all good stuff! My son-in-law brought us a bottle before. It's very expensive!" another older female neighbor said as she pointed at the things in Xia Wen's hand.

Although she seemed to be talking about Xia Wen, she was actually telling everyone that their family also received this kind of liquor before and that their status was not any inferior to this young man.

The people who lived in this neighborhood usually sat around and chatted about these things, about which family had visitors or had received something good or had done something disgraceful. Otherwise, what else could retired people like them do every day?

Xia Wen headed towards Director Tan's house in a familiar manner and knocked lightly on the door.

When Director Tan opened the door and saw that it was Xia Wen, she welcomed him warmly into the house and even took a look behind him.

"Why are you here! I haven't prepared anything at home! Isn't Xiao Jing here with you?" Director Tan asked.

Director Tan was Tan Jing's aunt and her name was Tan Juan. She was the only person in the Tan family who was cultured and also the only clear-headed person. A large part of the reason why Tan Jing could go to school was because of Tan Juan's support. Without Tan Juan, Tan Jing would not be able to be where she was now.

It was also Tan Juan who helped Qiao Yu to get into the factory. Otherwise, this task would have needed a lot more effort.

After Xia Wen put down the gifts, he said, "She's been busy recently and is now sick from exhaustion. She's resting at home and can't come. I'm thinking that it's been a long time since I last came by to see you, so I have brought you a small gift. I don't know if you like it."

It was actually not wrong to say that Tan Jing was sick. During this period of time, she had been sulky and depressed after Qiao Mei came back. In addition, the Tan family kept urging Tan Jing to hurry up and settle the issue with the house, but Xia Wen ignored this matter and did not help her at all. Instead, he took Qiao Mei's side and spoke up for her.

Tan Jing fell sick from all the anxiety and stress. If she could not work out the issues on her own, she would probably continue to feel sick. The angst would end up being harmful to her health.

"Don't say that! Of course I like it! There's no need to bring anything next time. What's the point of spending all that money? My place should be like a home to you as well, don't stand on ceremony with me. I'll call your uncle now and ask him to buy some groceries," Tan Juan said.

Xia Wen sat on the sofa and said, "I'll eat whatever you're eating tonight. We're family, so there's no need to do too much."

Even if he said that, the food she had at home was all the leftovers from breakfast. It would not look presentable to serve that.

The current Xia Wen was no longer the ordinary university professor from back then. He was now a high-ranking official who was in charge of the economic development of the entire capital! To put it bluntly, he was the God of Fortune for anyone who was in business. If anyone had any problems, they would definitely go and ask Xia Wen for help.

It seemed that the Xia family was finally letting Xia Wen develop his career in politics. Tan Juan must build a good relationship with Xia Wen and not cause trouble for him with trivial matters, like those other people from the Tan family.

"Aunt, how's the person whom I ask you to take care of?" Xia Wen asked.

Of course Tan Juan remembered who he was talking about. Tan Jing had previously told her that the person was Xia Zhe's mistress and also Qiao Mei's aunt! She had been so shocked when she heard that.

These were not things that one should speak about casually. Tan Jing was also too muddle-headed. If such a thing happened to her own family, she would never say a word about it even if she was beaten to

death. However, Tan Jing had told her a lot of the Xia family's scandals that day. In reality, all this information was just figments of Tan Jing's own imagination!

Tan Juan knew that the Xia family was one she could not afford to offend. She kept her mouth shut and did not say anything. She only said that this person was Qiao Mei's relatives and pretended not to know anything else.

#### Chapter 899 Keeping A Close Eye

After making the arrangements for Qiao Yu to work in the factory, she did not continue to follow up about this matter and she guessed that Qiao Yu probably also did not make any big mistakes. Furthermore, because she was the one who brought Qiao Yu into the factory, the workshop supervisor also took care of Qiao Yu on her account.

"Oh, her. She's doing quite well. She can support herself with her salary," Tan Juan said.

"Nowadays, consumers' expectations for knitted products are getting higher and higher. It seems that our factory is not doing too well either. Those useless employees are really a burden to the factory," Xia Wen said meaningfully as he looked into Tan Juan's eyes.

Even a fool would know what Xia Wen meant, but she thought that Qiao Yu's relationship with Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei was an unusual one? If they let her go, would it affect the Xia family's reputation?

If Qiao Yu ended up going to the Xia family to do something despicable, she did not want to be the one getting blamed for it.

"Aunt, do you have any other concerns?" Xia Wen asked.

"Doesn't this person and your younger brother have... If you chase her out like this, won't it be disadvantageous to you?" Tan Juan said vaguely.

Xia Wen frowned. He remembered that only the people present that day knew what Qiao Yu had said at the Xia family's house. Moreover, they all knew that Qiao Yu was lying and that Xia Zhe would never do such a thing. Qiao Mei also knew the truth behind this matter and they had long cleared up any misunderstanding.

There was only one possibility for this matter to reach Tan Juan's ears. It must be Tan Jing who told her.

Tan Juan thought that her words had triggered Xia Wen, so she quickly explained, "Xiao Wen, it's really just out of concern for all of you. We're all family, so let's be frank. This Qiao Yu is not an easy person to deal with. If she really goes out to slander your family, how will you deal with this matter?"

"Aunt, I know you're doing this out of concern for us, but you've really misunderstood. This matter has nothing to do with my younger brother. This woman lied to us when she came to the capital. She's indeed Qiao Mei's relative, but her family treated Qiao Mei very badly when Qiao Mei was young. We didn't know about these things then and we were also deceived," Xia Wen explained.

After hearing this, Tan Juan completely understood why Xia Wen wanted her to deal with Qiao Yu. She did not ask for any further details since it was the Xia family's private affairs. However, Xia Wen did not look too happy just now and she did not know how Xia Wen would treat Tan Jing when he returned home.

Tan Juan made a few simple dishes and Xia Wen left Tan Juan's house after dinner.

"Director Tan! Who's here to give you such valuable gifts!" the neighbor from next door asked through the opening in the door.

Although Tan Juan was not a government official, she held a high post in the state-run factory and was in charge of the factory's finances.

Ordinary commoners did not expect any of their family members to become a government official. They all just wanted to find a cradle-to-grave job at the state-run factory so that they would not have to worry about their livelihoods for the rest of their lives. However, no matter what they sent to Tan Juan's house, she would definitely send it back the next day. She did not want to render help to anyone.

Therefore, they kept a close eye on Tan Juan's house and monitored who went in and out of the house. As long as someone brought something to her house, they would come over and question her. If Tan Juan took any gift from anyone, they would file a report against her overnight. They just could not bear to see others doing well!

If Tan Juan did not want to help them with their livelihoods, they would not let Tan Juan have an easy time either!

"Don't you remember! He's our Xiao Jing's husband! He's here to visit me," Tan Juan said with a fake smile.

They all knew Tan Jing. There were not too many promising people in the Tan family. In the past, Tan Jing loved to go to Tan Juan's house and everyone who lived around the area knew her. However, ever since Tan Jing got married, they had not seen her visiting Tan Juan's house. This was the first time they had seen Tan Jing's husband come over after so many years.

"Oh my! So he's your relative! Xiao Jing really married into a good family. It's really nice that he came to see you with such expensive gifts. We haven't heard any good news regarding Xiao Jing yet. Tell her to hurry up! If she doesn't have a child soon, no matter how good a family is, they won't want her anymore," the neighbor leaned against the door and said mockingly.

These people just could not bear to see others living well and always like to poke at other people's sore spots. However, Tan Juan was also not someone who would take things lying down.

Chapter 900 - 900 Being Dismissed

900 Being Dismissed

"You don't have to worry about this matter. Your son still doesn't have a job yet, right? He should quickly find a job. Otherwise, no nice girl will be willing to marry him and he'll have to stay single for the rest of his life!" Tan Juan said.

The neighbor slammed the door out of exasperation and went home. Tan Juan hummed a tune and slowly closed the door.

Today was another day of victory for her.

The next day, after Tan Juan arrived at the factory, she called for a meeting with all the team leaders of the workshops. Everyone went to the factory director's office with feelings of trepidation.



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It was almost the end of the year. During this period in the factory, it was the time to review the performance of the various workshops. Workshops with good performances would receive a bonus. Everyone would get money based on the amount of work they did. Some people could even get an additional 15 dollars!

That was equivalent to one-third of their salary! This was what everyone worked so hard for.

The team leader of each workshop sat respectfully opposite Tan Juan. Each of them had a small notebook and they waited for Tan Juan to speak.

“I called all of you here today to discuss the future development of our factory. We’re now at the end of the year and everyone has worked hard. Go back and take a look at the performance of every employee in your workshop and write a report for me. The sooner the better. Can you give it to me this afternoon at the latest?” Tan Jing asked with a smile.

The performance reports were checked every month and the team leader of each workshop would do a tally once a week. It was easy for them to prepare such a report.

“No problem.” With that, everyone went back to make preparations.

It did not take long for everyone to finish up and hand the reports to Tan Juan. As Tan Juan had expected, Qiao Yu was the worst performer in her workshop. She did not even do half the amount of work done by the second last person!

If not for the fact that Qiao Yu was someone that she had introduced, Qiao Yu would have been asked to leave a long time ago.

Soon, Tan Juan issued an official notice and sent someone to put it up on the noticeboard in the factory. During the lunch break, everyone crowded around the area.

“Sister Li! Come over quickly! There’s a notice! Come and see if your name is on it! Will you be the best performer again this year!” Sister Wang shouted towards Sister Li.

“How can that be! If it’s me every year, the factory would already have promoted me,” Sister Li said humbly.

Everyone thought that it was the announcement of the year-end bonus, but when they looked at it, they realized that it was clearly a list of layoffs!

Qiao Yu’s name was clearly written at the first position. Sister Li hurriedly rubbed her eyes, thinking that her eyes were playing tricks on her.

“Help me take a look! Is that Qiao Yu’s name? Am I seeing things? Why do I see Qiao Yu on the list?” Sister Li asked as she grabbed hold of Sister Wang.

Sister Wang leaned forward with all her might and said in shock, “It’s really her! Doesn’t she have a backer!”

“Hmph, I guess it’s not that useful after all. I heard that this list was tabulated by the factory director. Wasn’t she originally brought in by the factory director?” Sister Li said mockingly.

Everyone gathered at the noticeboard and discussed among themselves. Qiao Yu had also heard the news and came over to take a look. As soon as she reached the area, there was an uproar. Sister Li stood in front of Qiao Yu and said, “Isn’t this Qiao Yu! Come and look at the notice too. I’m getting old and can’t see clearly. Is your name the first one on the list?”

Qiao Yu thought that she had been nominated for a reward and squeezed into the crowd excitedly. When she stood in front of the noticeboard, she realized that it was actually a list of layoffs!

Tan Juan was not that ruthless given that the place was a state-owned factory. The number of employees each workshop could have was approved by the higher-ups. It was not possible to have one more or one less person. The number of positions could not be changed at will.

She could not fire someone for no reason, but she could make people resign on their own accord!

Tan Juan transferred the last placed performer in each workshop to the most tiring workshop. This way, they could not slack off and they all had to finish their work before they could knock off.

As for Qiao Yu, she was not an official employee and everyone knew very well how she got in. Tan Juan used this as a reason to dismiss her. She was the only person who lost her job in the entire factory.

If not for Qiao Yu's matter, those other lazy people might not have been discovered!