

## Fat Wife 91

### Chapter 91: Oh I See

“Do you think I know? Qiao Mei didn’t tell our Li family either and didn’t invite our family to the wedding banquet at all. We also only found out not long ago. Are you blaming me?”

Old Madam Li put on an imposing manner and glared at Li Gui when she spoke.

Oh I see...

Li Gui lowered her head again when she heard the explanation.

“So the thing now is that our Li family wants to move to Datian Village. Qiao Mei has already earned quite a bit of money recently. If her grandfather dies, there will be no one to take care of her and she will be quite pitiful.”

Li Gui looked at her mother and could not understand the underlying meaning behind the lines. She could only understand what she just said.

Old Madam Li naturally knew that and continued, “Go and tell Qiao Mei to let Qiao Qiang know that our Li family wants to move to Datian Village.”

However, Li Gui asked curiously, “Then why don’t you go and talk to her yourself? Given that you have been taking care of Qiao Mei all this time, her grandfather would listen to you, right?”

According to the information she received from her mother, Qiao Mei would beat up and scold Old Madam Li all the time. Qiao Qiang also got bullied by Qiao Mei as well. Both elderlies were having a hard time.

At the very least, they are both on the same side. What can’t they talk about?

Old Madam Li stomped her foot angrily. "What you don't know is that this Qiao Qiang doesn't know how to be grateful and he doesn't know how to be thankful for favors from others. He's always cursing about how little money you sent back."

"You have no idea how much I've been bullied by him..."

At this point, Li Gui finally understood what she was being told.

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However, she also felt very uncomfortable in her heart. Although she did not give much money, it was what she had painstakingly saved up. Yet now, Qiao Qiang was unhappy about the amount.

After she remarried into the Zhang family, the family members would punch and kick her all the time because she always gave money to Qiao Mei. Furthermore, every time her husband got drunk, he would hit her with a rod. Her children were also instigated by Old Madam Zhang not to be on her side.

Qiao Mei is the reason for all this...

Even so, the money still isn't enough for Qiao Qiang?

When Old Madam Li saw the strange expression on Li Gui's face, she quickly interrupted her thoughts. It would not do if her daughter ended up being unwilling to go over.

"Gui Gui, those things are in the past and we have to move on. Given that Qiao Mei is already a mother as well, it's about time that you visit her," Old Madam Li said.

When Li Gui heard this, she tried to look away.

When Qiao Mei was young, she had left Qiao Mei behind in the village to go and get married. She heard that if Qiao Qiang had not returned, Qiao Mei would have starved to death.

She had not dared to go and see Qiao Mei because of this.

She felt that she had let down her daughter!

“Don’t think about the past anymore. The future is most important. Now that your daughter is having a child, this is the time when she needs you the most,” Old Madam Li said. “This time round, she even told me to ask you to go back and see her. She misses you.”

At this point, she pretended to lament the fact.

Li Gui could not bear to see her mother like this. She had not seen Qiao Mei for so long and did not know if Qiao Mei was doing well.

What Li Gui did not know was that the entire story was a lie fabricated by Old Madam Li.

Old Madam Li felt that Qiao Mei definitely would not want to see Li Gui. If she made Li Gui go back now, it would definitely make Qiao Mei furious. It would be best if the two of them ended up quarreling and getting into a fight.

It would be even better if they got into a fight and the child was lost as a result.

Who asked Qiao Mei to be so insensible!

When Li Gui heard this, her thoughts wavered. It was indeed time to meet Qiao Mei.

This daughter of hers is grown up now.

She is having a child of her own as well.

Right now, she could use the marriage as an excuse to go and meet Qiao Mei. Otherwise, she did not know what reason she could use in the future.

“How’s her husband’s family?” Li Gui asked.

However, there was worry in her eyes. She heard that no one in the village was willing to marry her. Could she have... married a disabled person?

Chapter 92: What a Loss!

“She married very well. It was actually an arranged marriage between children. He’s a young man from the city and a soldier. I heard that he’s very handsome,” Old Madam Li said sulkily.

If she had known that Qiao Mei’s arranged marriage partner was from the city and a soldier with such a good family background, the Li family might have been willing to raise her.

If the Li family raised her...

Then wouldn’t her betrothal gifts, the bicycle in the courtyard and the sewing machine all belong to the Li family?

What a loss!

Hearing this, Li Gui happily heaved a sigh of relief. It was as if the turbid breath in her chest had finally been expelled and she felt much better.

Now that she knew Qiao Mei had married into a good family, she felt so much better.

“I’ll go tomorrow, I’ll go and see her tomorrow!”

Li Gui spoke up.

“Aye, okay, okay, okay. When you go and visit her, remember to remind her to tell her grandfather to let our Li family move into your Datian Village.” Old Madam Li glanced at Li Gui and then reminded her.

“When you go over, don’t talk about the past anymore. Now that Qiao Mei has changed, don’t go asking for trouble. Otherwise, I’m worried she’ll be unhappy.”

Li Gui nodded repeatedly. “Yes, yes, yes!”

She felt that her mother was really very good to Qiao Mei, doing the best to think for the child in every way.

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It must be because my mother likes children, so she dotes on Qiao Mei very much. Although she did not treat me well, it is unquestionable that she really treats Qiao Mei very well. Surely only a biological grandmother can do that!

Old Madam Li was very happy. She placed her hands behind her back and walked away with a swagger.

Following Li Gui’s conversation with Old Madam Li.

Li Gui found the team leader of this production line and expressed her intention to take a day off tomorrow.

“Sister Wang, I have something on at home tomorrow. I’m wondering if I can take a day off as I really have something on and can’t come.”

Li Gui stammered her way through.

“Oh my, I wonder what issue can make a person who works as hard as an ox want to take leave. You’re the type who doesn’t even take a day’s leave in a year. If you take leave, your pay will be deducted. You know that, right?”

Wang Qiu glanced sideways at her and mocked loudly.

The people around them stopped what they were doing and looked at Li Gui in unison. Someone even laughed out loud.

Li Gui was from the countryside, unlike these people who were from the city. They all had a registered residence in the city and were not the same as these women from the countryside. Besides, they thought that Li Gui was as useless as an old ox.

"I... have to go back. My daughter has gotten married and she is pregnant now. I'm worried about her so I have to go back for a visit now," Li Gui continued to speak softly, but there was a hint of determination in her eyes.

But her statement made the people around her exclaim in surprise.

"Your daughter? Aren't your daughters still too young for school? One is six and the other is three. How can such a young child get married?" one of the women wearing patched clothing said.

"No, no, no..." Li Gui immediately explained, "It's not one of those two daughters. It's my other daughter from the village. She just became an adult this year and has gotten married and she is currently pregnant."

Everyone there knew that Li Gui had gotten married twice.

This was even one of the reasons why people around her looked down on her. They felt that she was a jinx to her husband and a bearer of bad luck.

"Oh? Which daughter are you talking about?" Team Leader Wang dragged her voice out in a strange tone and then pretended to ask her casually, "Then did she marry into the village again? What kind of family is she married into now?"

Before Li Gui could speak, the person beside her immediately jeered and said, "What kind of family can she marry into? She's just a country bumpkin, a villager from the countryside. Do you think she can like Cinderella?"

“That’s right, that’s right!”

“Oh right, Li Gui’s other family should be from the countryside, right? Who would be willing to marry a woman without her parents by her side? Did she marry a disabled person?”

Chapter 93: Prepared Dowry

“Hahaha, that’s how it should be.”

Everyone in this group of people looked down on Li Gui, her rural status, as well as the fact that she was married twice. The thing they despised the most about her was how hard she worked every day, like an ox.

Anyway, they just looked down on her!

Li Gui had wanted to tell everyone that her daughter had married into a good family, but she could not say it now in this situation, so she spoke again.

“Sister Wang, I still want to apply for leave!”

Li Gui spoke again.

Seeing that everyone was almost done with the discussion, Wang Qiu said, “Alright, given that your daughter is pregnant, you should go back for a visit. Don’t forget to bring back some wedding candy for us.”

Li Gui nodded and turned to leave immediately.

Behind her, the voices saying those mocking words were still going on and on. “Her daughter has just gotten married and is already pregnant, yet she is only going for a visit now. It’s so rare to hear of something like that.”

“Maybe the daughter doesn’t acknowledge her as the biological mother at all?”

“I think so too. She didn’t even invite her mother for an occasion as important as her wedding. It must be because she resented her mother for not going back for so long. If it’s me, I won’t acknowledge such a mother too!”

Although Old Madam Li often came to get money and other things from her, Li Gui would never tell any outsider about it. After all, it was her daughter who wanted to snatch her grandmother’s food and caused her grandmother to become so pitiful.

Therefore, outsiders all thought that she had a heart of stone and did not care about her child.

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Li Gui kept walking forward and soon could not hear anything behind her. Only then did she let out a long breath and walked towards the Zhang family house.

After she returned home, she washed all the dishes and cutlery used at lunch as well as the dirty clothes that had piled up. She then prepared dinner for her family.

Zhang Qian was the eldest son of the Zhang family and lived together with his parents and four children. The big basin was filled with used clothes on a daily basis.

After dinner, she cleaned up the table and then the house. After that, she continued doing other household chores and kept herself busy.

Just like that, she waited for everyone to rest before going to sleep.

Otherwise, she was bound to be picked on at home. She really did not want to hear those intolerable words.

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The next day, Zhang Qian was still sleeping soundly when she woke up.

Li Gui did not wake him up. Instead, she got up quietly and hesitated for a moment. In the end, she did not tell her husband that she was going to see Qiao Mei.

She went to a cotton coat in the corner of the closet and used scissors to cut the thread at the cuffs. From inside the coat, she took out 17 dollars and put it in her pocket.

She had saved this money for Qiao Mei over the years.

It was for her dowry.

Initially, she had wanted to save up a little more so that Qiao Mei would have some standing in front of her husband's family, and would not be looked down upon by them. However, over the years, she had expenses coming from everywhere, and her young children got sick from time to time and needed money for their medical fees.

Old Madam Li also came over from time to time to ask for money, so she did not manage to save much.

Li Gui looked at the 17 dollars in her hand and was silent for a while. She felt a little sad and could only sigh softly.

She had thought that she would have a few more years.

This is because every time Old Madam Li came over, she would tell stories about how Qiao Mei had eaten too much, who Qiao Mei had fought with again, and how Qiao Mei had broken other people's things. Therefore, Li Gui thought that Qiao Mei's path to getting married would not be smooth.

Given what she had heard, Qiao Mei definitely would not be able to get married too early.

At least... not this year.

However, Li Gui really did not expect Qiao Mei to get married so quickly and already be pregnant now. She even married a handsome soldier from the city. This was great news!

Her daughter was much luckier than her.

As she thought of this, Li Gui smiled happily. Under the morning sun, her smile actually looked very beautiful. Although her skin was aged, her facial features were quite flawless.

She must have been beautiful when she was younger.

Chapter 94: Being Mocked by Wang Qin

Li Gui got up and prepared breakfast. She put on her usual clothes and left without doing anything out of the ordinary.

She walked to the entrance of the train station in town.

After taking the train and walking for more than 10 kilometers upon reaching the station at her destination, she finally arrived at the entrance of Datian Village.

She stood in the village and looked at the familiar scene.

However, for a long while, she did not dare to walk in.

She had too many acquaintances in this village. The fact that she returned so suddenly might lead to a lot of gossip and mockery, or even worse situations than that.

When Li Gui remarried and left the village, she still looked relatively young. Given that she moved to the city after her remarriage, everyone thought that she would have a good life there. There were even people who envied her.

Yet her aged appearance now made her look like a completely different person from before. Nobody would have expected this.

Li Gui took a deep breath and quickly walked in.

Since she was already here, she definitely had to go in. It would be good to see her child. She could not be a mother who did not take care of anything, right?

Fortunately, there were not many people in the village at the moment. Everyone was busy with the farm work.

Li Gui quickly walked towards Qiao Zhuang's house and soon arrived at the doorstep. As this was where she and her ex-husband used to live, she thought that Qiao Mei was still staying here.

Every time Old Madam Li went to look for Li Gui, she would tell her how tired she was from taking care of Qiao Mei and what bad things Qiao Mei had done. In short, Old Madam Li liked to talk about how much she had suffered.

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However, she never mentioned any positive things related to Qiao Mei. She also did not talk about anything that had nothing to do with her.

For example... to her, this house was an unimportant matter.

"Who are you? Who are you looking for?" Wang Qin was the village accountant. She was usually not very busy and was resting at home at the moment.

Being Qiao Zhuang's second daughter-in-law, she was not very familiar with Li Gui. In the past, she also did not pay much attention to Li Gui.

After so long, Li Gui had aged a lot.

However, Li Gui immediately recognized Wang Qin. She walked forward and asked curiously, "You're Wang Qin? Are you here... Is Qiao Mei at home?"

Wang Qin froze.

She did not quite understand how someone could come here to look for Qiao Mei given that this was no longer where Qiao Mei lived. How strange.

"Who are you?"

"I... I'm Qiao Mei's mother. I'm Li Gui." Li Gui averted her eyes and did not dare to look at Wang Qin directly. She thought it was normal that Wang Qin did not recognize her given the way she looked now.

"What?"

Wang Qin was shocked. She checked out this woman in front of her, who looked like a wizened old lady, and really could not recognize her at all.

The skin on her face and hands, and almost everywhere else that was exposed, was wrinkled. Her skin tone was sallow and tawny and she looked like someone in her fifties.

A person like this... could she be the person who was previously known as the most beautiful girl from Datian Village?

Oh my goodness!

"Oh it's you... Hahahaha!" Wang Qin took a few looks and laughed as she pointed at Li Gui. However, she quickly covered her mouth and asked, "Why are you looking for Qiao Mei?"

Li Gui looked at her reaction and felt terrible.

But she continued, "Mei Mei got married, so I'm here to see her."

"Why are you only here now? She's already pregnant. What kind of mother are you..." Wang Qin continued to speak with her mouth covered.

"I... I just found out," Li Gui said honestly.

Wang Qin looked at her worn-out clothes and patched up shoes and asked, "How is it? Life in the city is good, right? Are you doing well?"

She asked about Li Gui.

Old Madam Li had never told anyone that her daughter was not doing well. Li Gui herself had also never returned to the village, so the villagers naturally did not know anything about her.

"When we first got married, we were in the city. These past few years, we've moved to the town and we've been working in the town's factory." Li Gui said truthfully.

Chapter 95: More Than Ten Years' Worth of Lies

Wang Qin curled the corners of her lips, crossed her arms and said, "Look at the kind of mother you are. Your child is already married and all grown up, yet you have never come back for a visit. How heartless of you."

In the past, Li Gui's relationship with Wang Qin was not too bad.

Wang Qin was eloquent and Li Gui did her work quickly. The two of them were relatives and did not have any conflicts. On the surface, they got along with each other.

But now...

Wang Qin put on an arrogant attitude to look at her and talk to her and she felt uncomfortable. Besides, it was not as if she did not care about Qiao Mei.

She had saved all the money she had at the risk of being beaten up by the Zhang family and given it all to Qiao Mei.

“Although I didn’t come over, I asked my mother to give Qiao Mei some money and stuff every month. I didn’t treat her badly!” At this point, Li Gui felt a little aggrieved.

Although her mother had told her not to tell outsiders about Qiao Mei’s past, Wang Qin was a fellow villager and not an outsider.

It was fine to talk about these things now.

After all, they were all from the same village and everyone knew Qiao Mei’s character.

Li Gui did not want everyone to misunderstand her either.

She was not a heartless mother but was very concerned about Qiao Mei instead, and she should not have to end up with such a reputation.

Wang Qin widened her eyes and looked at her in disbelief. She said in shock, “What did you say? You give Qiao Mei some money and stuff every month?”

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“Yes!” Li Gui said without hesitation. “I will give Qiao Mei some money every month. My mother said that she sent it to Qiao Mei’s house every month so that she won’t starve.”

My mother had been coming over to give Qiao Mei money and stuff all these years. Had Wang Qin never seen her before? Why did she look so surprised?

Wang Qin stood on the spot, took a deep breath and lowered her hands from her chest to stop herself from laughing.

I can't believe it!

It is unbelievable that such a thing had actually happened in the village. Hahahaha...

Wang Qin endured it for a while before saying, "Let me tell you, your mother has never come to our Datian Village once. We've never seen any of your money or stuff or whatever."

"It's been more than 10 years... and she hasn't been here once!"

This statement sent Li Gui into a state of shock and disbelief. She immediately retorted, "That's impossible, you're lying!"

"Oh right, she did come here. A few days ago, she came to Qiao Mei's house and was chased away. She then got her granddaughter-in-law to go to Qiao Mei's house every day to be a freeloader. Everyone in the village knows about it."

Wang Qin continued, "Go and ask around if you don't believe me! If anyone says that I have lied to you about this, I'll let you take over my position as the village accountant!"

After promising that, Wang Qin covered her mouth and laughed again.

Li Gui was completely petrified and rooted to the spot. Given that Wang Qin spoke so confidently, it was very likely the truth.

Wang Qin grabbed Li Gui's hand. "Come on, let's go. I'll take you to Qiao Mei's house and you can ask her yourself. Although that child has a bad temper, she's also honest and doesn't like to lie. You'll know everything once you ask her. Don't say that I lied to you!"

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At this moment, Qiao Mei was standing in the courtyard watering the vegetable field.

Now that the saplings at home had already borne fruits, they were about to die. Although it meant that she had a lot of fruits to eat, the growth cycle of her plants was very short.

She did not want a situation whereby the vegetables and saplings in her courtyard got all withered when the plants in other people's houses were still green and flourishing. It would look a little out of place.

After Qiao Mei tidied up the courtyard, she picked a sweet watermelon and placed it inside the big basin in the courtyard. The basin was filled with cold water from the well and it would definitely be very delicious when they eat it later.

She wiped her hands happily and was about to sit down to rest.

A voice that was filled with uncontrollable joy came from the courtyard door.

"Mei Mei, come and see who's back. Look!" Wang Qin's voice sounded at the door.

Chapter 96: Mom Is Back!

This incoming visitor's voice was very loud, as if she wanted everyone nearby to hear her.

Qiao Mei sighed and got up from the stool to take a look.

Now that her family had some money, people came visiting one after another. These people never came by in the past, but now they all came by due to the whiff of money .

Money really made the world go round.

She walked over and saw someone right in front of her. However, she could not recognize the person, and really could not find this person in her memories.



Based on her only memory of her mother, she was a beautiful woman. Although she was not very eloquent, she was very gentle.

She was famous not only in the village, but also in the county.

When Qiao Mei's father managed to marry Li Gui, the fact broke the hearts of countless men. However, no one would be able to recognize Li Gui from her current appearance.'Search NewNovel \* on google'

She looked like... Old Madam Li's sister or someone.

Li Gui was stunned when she saw Qiao Mei. The fair-skinned girl in front of her was completely different from the Qiao Mei she had imagined.

Isn't she supposed to be a dark and fat bear?

With a body that is so full of fats that it can be used to make fried lard bits. And that she has a fierce expression on her face and fights with people all the time.

But the person in front of me has such fair skin and exquisite eyes. She looks like me when I was young but even more good-looking.

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Every move she makes is indescribably classy.

Just like the city people I have seen in the past.

No!

She is classier than those city people I have seen before.

Wang Qin stood outside the door and was also stunned when she saw Qiao Mei. Her eyes darted around furtively.

Recently, a few older women in the village had been saying that Qiao Mei had become prettier and fairer and looked completely different from before. She did not believe it and thought that they were just trying to curry favor with Qiao Mei.

Now it seemed that they were telling the truth!

“Haven’t I said it before? No one from Second Master Qiao’s family is allowed to come to my house again!”

Qiao Mei had been busy with her pregnancy recently. Coupled with the fact that she was having a good income, she was naturally in a mood to be nice and did not put on an aloof face like before.

Now, with her cute voice and fair little face, she did not exude an imposing aura at all.

Instead, people tended to find her adorable.

Wang Qin did not say anything else and pushed Li Gui towards the door so that Qiao Mei could see Li Gui’s face clearly. “Qiao Mei, do you see who’s back?”

Li Gui fidgeted with her hands and lowered her head to look at the ground.

Qiao Mei took a closer look and asked in surprise, “Mom! You’re back?”

When Li Gui heard that Qiao Mei recognized her and was willing to acknowledge her, there were tears at the corners of her eyes and she sniffled.

Wang Qin did not get the reaction she had expected and pursed her lips. She thought it was amazing for Qiao Mei to be able to recognize Li Gui when she looked like this now. "She said she came to see you."

"Your mother is really too much. You've been married for so long and already gotten pregnant, but she only came to see you now. Don't you think your mother was sent by your grandmother to persuade you and that her main purpose is to get you to help the Li family!"

It was very normal for the Li family to want to move to the village.

At the moment, there were also many outsiders who wanted to move to Datian Village. It was only due to the resistance of the village officer, Zhao Liang, that there was not a large-scale movement of new residents.

The Li family wanted to come over, but Qiao Qiang did not allow it, so they took the path of asking Li Gui to persuade Qiao Mei.

Wang Qin felt unhappy looking at the exceptionally calm Qiao Mei and pursed her lips. She looked at her and continued, "You don't know how ruthless your grandmother is. She takes money and things from your mother every month, saying that they are for you. Now that more than 10 years have passed, have you received anything?"

Qiao Mei was stunned. This was far beyond what she had expected.

In the memories of the original owner of the body, her mother had abandoned her so as to have a good life. Other than Qiao Qiang, no one cared about her anymore. The original owner of the body still hated her mother, Li Gui, very much.

Qiao Mei walked up to Li Gui and looked at her seriously. "I didn't receive anything, including money."

#### Chapter 97: The Black-Hearted Old Madam Li

Li Gui stood on the spot with a complicated expression on her face. She looked sad as she grabbed the sides of her pants with both hands.

It had been so many years!

Every month... her mother would use Qiao Mei as a reason to come to her place to get money and other things. Due to the fact that this happened so many times, the Zhang family did not treat her well at all. They even said that she was a heartless person who helped others while they provided for her.

This even became the reason for Li Gui being beaten up countless times.

Was this the truth?

Her mother had lied to her and Qiao Mei had never received anything!

“How much money did she take from you? Is it all because of me?” Qiao Mei looked at the poor woman in front of her and sighed in her heart.

She had seen her fair share of pitiful people.

However, it was rare to see someone who had been scammed by her own mother for more than 10 years.

“Every month, it was about two or three dollars... Sometimes if something happened, I’d have to give more...”

Memories flashed across Li Gui’s empty eyes.

She had to turn in her salary every month. In addition to her salary, she might get some loose change and could manage to save up a few dollars.

She would give two to three dollars to Old Madam Li and another portion of the money to the children that her husband had with his ex-wife. She would then only have a few cents left for her biological children. All her money was spent cleanly and clearly.

“You gave her so much money?”

Wang Qin was shocked. She was an accountant, so she naturally could work out the sums quickly. Based on two to three dollars a month, that worked out to three to four hundred dollars over the years.

In the current day and age, three to four hundred dollars might be the entire monetary assets of a family in the countryside.

This Old Madam Li was really black-hearted!

Wang Qin took a look at Li Gui and could tell that she had scrimped and saved all these years just to save up this money. She probably did not even have many pieces of clothing, right?

The money had all gone into Old Madam Li’s pocket.

How pitiful and pathetic!

“Li Gui, are you even your mother’s biological daughter? All these years, she took money from you like a vampire sucking blood. In the end, the money all ended up in her pocket and not a single cent went to Qiao Mei. It’s really rare to see such a mother!”

Although Wang Qin currently felt that Li Gui was very pitiful, she would not pity her, nor would she stop mocking her. She would only be happy when she saw Qiao Mei and Li Gui feeling uncomfortable!

Li Gui knew that Wang Qin had said that on purpose.

However, she could not help but feel sad. She believed what Qiao Mei said about not having received any money or stuff.

This was because Qiao Mei was standing right in front of her, looking so fair and beautiful and classy. How could anyone still believe what Old Madam Li said?

Li Gui felt that she had been deceived by the entire world and got very depressed.

Wang Qin took a look and realized that Li Gui was really sad. She felt a little happier and continued, “Mei Mei, you have to take back the money your mother gave your grandmother. That was your mother’s hard-earned money. Look at how tired your mother is now, she looks as if she has aged 10 years.”

Qiao Mei looked at her without any expression and said, “This is my business. You can leave now. Remember my words and don’t come over again.”

With that, she pulled Li Gui into the house and closed the courtyard door with a bang.

There was still a big wooden stick at the door. If she dared to come in again, she would not be polite.

Wang Qin shook her head in disappointment and left.

She felt that not being able to see the mother and daughter in a fight was her loss and that she had made a wasted trip.

After Li Gui entered through the door, Qiao Mei led her into the house.

Li Gui saw Qiao Qiang the moment she entered the house.

She was a little afraid now. After all, she was the one who got remarried and did not take good care of Qiao Mei.

“Take a seat. Tell me what happened all these years? What did my grandmother tell you?” Qiao Mei asked her to sit down and poured her a glass of water before pushing the plate of fruits on the table in front of her.

## Chapter 98: Getting the Money Back

The grapes on the plate had a glistening appearance from the water droplets on them and looked especially tempting. There was also a pile of blueberries that smelt very fragrant.

“Try some of the fruits from our courtyard!”

Qiao Mei took a few grapes and handed them to Li Gui. She was afraid that Li Gui would feel uncomfortable and wanted her to open up more.

Li Gui tasted a grape and was immediately captivated by how sweet it was. Her eyes lit up, it was as if she had not eaten such delicious fruits in a long time.

She slowly relaxed as well.

“It’s like this. Not long after I got married, your grandmother came to look for me and said that you were going hungry...” Li Gui said, her eyes looking like they were filled with memories.

Even after she went to the city, Old Madam Li would come and look for her every few months to ask for money and other things.

The round-trip train fare was not cheap, but Old Madam Li would evade the fare and steal a ride. When she saw the ticket inspector, she would find a place to hide, then she would find a seat again after the inspector left. Anyway, the long distance did nothing to dissuade Old Madam Li from looking for Li Gui.

In any case, in the past decade or so, she had never stopped giving Old Madam Li money and other things.

As Li Gui told her story, she looked at Qiao Mei and asked again with an indignant expression, “She... really didn’t come over even once? She didn’t give you money even once?”

There was a tremor in her voice.

“Yes, the entire village can be my witness. She didn’t come over even once, and I didn’t take anything from her,” Qiao Mei said firmly.

Li Gui felt terrible. She lowered her head in silence and placed her hands together helplessly.

Qiao Mei did not say anything and just looked at her.

The original owner of the body was particularly disgruntled about the fact that Li Gui got remarried, left her alone in the village when she was still young and caused her to almost starve to death. She was very fixated on this matter and even hated Li Gui very much.

The original owner of the body had previously told Qiao Yu that she wished she could fight with her mother.

However, Qiao Mei was not the original owner of the body. She had transmigrated here and naturally did not share the same emotions, so she did not hate Li Gui. In fact, from Li Gui's standpoint, she could understand some of the actions taken.

She had almost starved to death when she was young not because her mother was unwilling to support her, but because her mother was not smart enough.

To put it in another way...

Li Gui was simply too unlucky to have such a top quality mother.

Qiao Mei originally had no feelings for Li Gui, but after hearing what Li Gui said, she gave a long sigh.

She pitied her a little and wanted to help her.

"Let's get grandmother to take out the money," Qiao Mei said.

Li Gui shook her head repeatedly and kept saying no.



Qiao Mei found it strange and questioned her back, "Are you still concerned about the kinship between the two of you? She had lied to you so terribly!"

A person can be stupid, but not foolishly filial.

Otherwise, even if she wants to help, there is nothing she can do.

"No, no, no, that's not what I meant," Li Gui shook her head again and said. "No, you... you can't beat her. She's very shrewish."

Her mother was very shrewd and vicious when it came to the things she cared about. Qiao Mei was still young and was unlikely to be a match for Old Madam Li. Moreover, Qiao Mei was currently pregnant.

It would not be worth it if anything should happen to her while dealing with Old Madam Li.

After saying that, she looked at Qiao Mei's stomach with concern.

Qiao Mei felt her gaze and instantly understood what she meant. She smiled immediately.

Not bad, it would be worth helping her.

"Besides, I'm afraid there's not much left of that money. By now, it would be almost all spent. When her eldest grandson got married, they spent a lot of money."

Li Gui could not help but sigh.

The betrothal gift alone cost 60 dollars for that wedding and it was considered a high price for that time. She had wondered why her family still had so much money and also why her mother had not asked her to subsidize part of the costs.

It turned out that... she was the one who had actually paid for everything.

Qiao Mei smiled again and sized up Li Gui's face. Suddenly, she had a little bit of affection for this instant mother of hers.

"Well, then how is your life now? Is Zhang Qian good to you? Do you have any new children?"

Li Gui looked at Qiao Qiang uneasily.

Chapter 99: Need a Lot of Money!

Talking about her new family in front of Qiao Qiang always made her feel a little awkward and weirded out.

Qiao Qiang immediately stood up and said as he walked away, "Mei Mei, let's prepare a good meal later. It's not easy for your mother to come all the way here. I'll go to bed and rest for a bit. I'm feeling tired."

"Alright," Qiao Mei replied.

In the past, Qiao Qiang did not even want to look at Li Gui at all. He thought it was really too cold-blooded of her to remarry when her child was still so young.

However, after hearing about what happened, he thought differently now.

He no longer harbored any prejudice against Li Gui. Instead, he could be more objective about the situation with his daughter-in-law.

When Li Gui heard what he said, she put her head down on the table and sobbed.

She did not make any sound, but anyone could feel how agitated she felt.

Qiao Mei sighed. It seemed that she was not doing well.

“Tell me about it. How are you doing? Is your life alright?” Qiao Mei asked and patted her back.

Li Gui looked up and wiped her tears.

She saw Qiao Mei’s curious gaze which had no trace of resentment. Instead, Qiao Mei was like a kitten, strangely likable.

“Hmm... should be the same as everyone else.” Li Gui stammered her answer after thinking for a moment.

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Qiao Mei continued to ask, “So does the same as everyone else mean good or bad? Does he hit you?”

Li Gui answered, “Only when he’s drunk. If he doesn’t drink, then it’s less likely to get beaten up by him.”

She seemed to think that this was normal.

On the other hand, Qiao Mei was shocked. She looked at Li Gui and could not help but continued, “He actually hit you. What a scumbag.”

Qiao Mei had only asked what she thought was a casual question, but she did not expect Zhang Qian to have the worst trait that a husband could have. A man who hit others was definitely not a good man.

Li Gui just replied naturally, “It’s normal for people to get beaten up. Whether in the city or the village, isn’t it the norm for men to hit women?”

There were very few men who did not hit women!

It was hard to imagine which woman would be lucky enough to meet such a man. Perhaps only those cultured and knowledgeable men would not hit women.

Qiao Mei did not argue with her about this given that their value systems were different.

“And did you have any more children?” she continued.

Li Gui sighed. She did not expect that Qiao Mei did not even know about the existence of her younger siblings. Her mother really did not convey these details at all...

Then, she continued, “I have two boys and two girls. The two boys are the eldest and second brother, Zhang Wei and Zhang Chao. The younger sisters are Zhang Qin and Zhang Miao.”

She answered every question Qiao Mei asked.

However, there was none of the familiar feeling between family members. Instead, the two of them were like strangers who had just met. The whole situation actually made Li Gui quite happy.

At least it was much better than I had expected.

My daughter did not hate me!

In the end, Qiao Mei looked at her and asked softly, “Do you want to earn more money and save more money?”

When she said that, Li Gui could not help but look at her.

Li Gui quickly nodded and said, “Of course I want to, but this is not something I can think about!”

She was from the countryside, so she could at best work as a temporary worker at the factory as the others were unwilling to let her be an official employee. This was the limitation of the household register system in this era.

“Then come back! Come to our village and grow bean sprouts. You can earn at least two to three hundred dollars a month. It’s better than working yourself to death in town,” Qiao Mei said.

Hearing this, Li Gui immediately became interested.

She fixed her eyes on Qiao Mei and kept thinking about the feasibility of what Qiao Mei said.

She really needed money!

She still had four children at home. In the future, the educational and living expenses would make it harder and harder for her to live with the money she had.

In accordance with the current policy, the children had to follow their mother’s household register. As she was a villager but did not participate in the labor in the village, the four children could not eat the food provided by the city and they had to pay for their own food.

That was all money wasted for nothing!

Chapter 100: Deciding to Return to the Village

The money she earned as a temporary worker was not enough to buy food for the children all year round. She had to rely on the Zhang family to support her, so her status in the family was exceptionally low.

Now that there is a chance to earn money... Why not give it a try?

Won’t it be better than sitting around at home and being under someone’s watchful eyes?

At the thought of this, Li Gui looked up at Qiao Mei and asked carefully, "Am I able to come back to our village?"

"Why not? Your registered residence and household register is still in Datian Village, so you're naturally a Datian Village resident," Qiao Mei said. "The most important thing is whether you want to come back. If you do, we just need my grandfather to tell Uncle Zhao. There's nothing difficult about it."

Li Gui felt a little embarrassed though.

Having to ask her former father-in-law for a favor because she wanted to return to the village to earn money was something she never expected to happen.

But at the same time, she really wanted to come back.

"Can you really earn so much in a month by growing bean sprouts?" Li Gui looked at Qiao Mei and asked again.

Isn't two to three hundred a bit too much money to make in a month?

She could not even earn 300 dollars a year. It was a huge sum of money to her and she found it difficult to even earn that amount in town.

"We can't be sure yet," Qiao Mei replied. "We haven't completed the first month's sale, so we don't have an accurate tabulation of the earnings yet."

The villagers had only been selling bean sprouts for slightly more than half a month and the money from the sale had not been given to them yet, so they were not sure how much they could make.

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However, this was actually under Qiao Mei's control. She was able to regulate the production level of each family, so whichever family she wanted to produce more would be able to produce more. However, in this era, the average annual income was not very high.

Therefore, she could not let everyone earn too much at once.

If other people got envious and reported it, she would get caught in a very dangerous situation, being the initiator of the business.

Qiao Mei's intention was to let the villagers earn around 50 to 60 dollars a month in the future as that would be safer.

Li Gui was a little worried and she hesitated after hearing what Qiao Mei said.

Seeing her like this, Qiao Mei stood up and said, "Come and take a look with me."

Li Gui followed Qiao Mei to the storeroom. As soon as she entered, she was shocked by the small mountain of food in the storeroom. There were grapes drying on the shelves and messy piles of potatoes and pumpkins on the ground, as well as bags of dried vegetables.

Heavens!

When would they be able to finish so much food? That would be a lot to eat.

It suddenly occurred to Li Gui that there were benefits to being in the countryside. People had their own vegetable fields and could grow whatever they wanted to eat. The harvest all depended on their planting skills.

These foods would be enough reason for her to come back and live here.

This was because she did not want to have to starve anymore. In the past, she would go hungry often as there was no guarantee of regular meals. She felt hungry so often that she was scared of that feeling.

She looked at Qiao Mei and asked, "Will you be able to earn 20 dollars this month?"

This was because her salary was 20 dollars.

As long as she could earn more money in the countryside than working as a temporary worker, it would be worth it for her to come back. She still had a large piece of land in her courtyard.

"I can definitely make 20 dollars from the sale." Qiao Mei nodded. Even if the city's supply and marketing cooperative did not take in their bean sprouts and the village sold the bean sprouts on its own, the villagers would still be able to sell them for this price on average.

Li Gui nodded but there was still hesitation flashing across her eyes.

"Come back. There's land here as well as the bean sprout business. It's got to be a better situation than what you're going through and you can even bring some food to your children. It's much better than you being a temporary worker," Qiao Mei said.

"Yes." Li Gui nodded, but she was still feeling unsure.

Seeing that she was still hesitating, Qiao Mei asked, "What other concerns do you have?"

Li Gui asked directly, "Is there still a place for me to stay in our village?"

She couldn't possibly stay with Qiao Mei when she came back, right?

Now that she had remarried and Qiao Mei was living with her grandfather, it did not seem right for her to come and live here!

However, if she had nowhere to live, it would be a very difficult situation.