

## **Fat Wife 921**

### Chapter 921: Moving House

Early the next morning, Li Gui brought the two children with her to deliver the 90 pounds of popcorn to Zhao Fei. As there was insufficient space on the vehicles to fit all the popcorn, she packed the excess in a sack and fixed it to a board at the back of one of the vehicles. She must find a way to transport everything. All these bags of popcorn equated to money!

Zhao Fei was again waiting there with his two younger brothers. Li Gui quickly rode in front of Zhao Fei and said happily, "Look! There's 90 pounds today! Do you think you can sell everything? If you can't sell them all, you can bring them back to me. It's alright to have some left."

"90 pounds! That's a lot! Auntie, you must have worked all day yesterday! Don't worry, I'll definitely be able to sell everything! Even if you give me 200 pounds, I'll still be able to sell everything! Just wait to collect the money tonight!" Zhao Fei said with a smile.

"No problem. Then go quickly. Don't get delayed!" Li Gui waved goodbye to Zhao Fei.

In the past two days, Zhao Fei and his band of brothers had been selling their goods at the entrances of shopping malls, entertainment venues and alleys near schools. This attracted the attention of many other peddlers and many people who did not know about Li Gui's popcorn went asking around about the source of the popcorn.

Many peddlers who knew Zhao Fei also came to ask him where he got his supply. The smell of the popcorn and the packaging were exactly the same as the popcorn Li Gui sold. Many of the peddlers had tried to work with Li Gui, but she had rejected all of them. No one managed to gain Li Gui's trust. Could it be that Zhao Fei knew how Li Gui made the popcorn!

"Xiao Fei! Erm, no! Brother Fei! Tell us, did you make this popcorn yourself?" one of the peddlers, Jin Shui, asked obsequiously.

"Why don't you make a guess?" Zhao Fei said mysteriously.

Jin Shui was almost the same age as Zhao Fei's father, yet he was willing to address Zhao Fei as brother just to find out more about the popcorn.

"Don't beat around the bush with me. Just tell me, did you make it yourself?" Jin Shui said.

"What has it got to do with you! Just go back to sell your own popcorn! I can see your customers coming, go back quickly!" Zhao Fei said disdainfully.

Jin Shui's expression instantly darkened and he said unhappily, "Xiao Fei, are you turning your back on us brothers just because you run a good business and have money now? You can't be so untrustworthy. If we didn't help you back then, you wouldn't have been able to survive in this place!"

Jin Shui's father had given him this name after consulting an old man who was a fortune teller. The old man did a divination and said that the child lacked the water element in his life. That was why he was named Jin Shui, the word "shui" meant water and was intended to make up for the missing element.

Yet this man turned out to be as toxic as contaminated water!

After Jin Shui calmed down a little, he coughed awkwardly before saying to Zhao Fei, "I don't mean it that way. We've known each other for so many years and you know me. I'm just too forthright, so don't take what I say to heart. It's not easy to do business nowadays. Why don't you give me some stock as a favor to me? I'll sell it for you if you give me five dollars a day?"

Five dollars? How dare he ask for this amount. Those young men only earned two dollars and fifty cents while running around outdoors, but Jin Shui asked for five dollars the moment he opened his mouth. Zhao Fei wondered if Jin Shui could even earn five dollars at his own stall within two to three days! This fellow was really too much.

"Brother Jin Shui, I know you're good to me, but I still have to run my own business! Look, there's so many people queuing up to buy your popcorn. I won't take up any of your time anymore!" Zhao Fei ran off after saying that.

Currently, there were only two types of popcorn being sold in the market, at 10 cents a pack and 50 cents a pack. As long as the more expensive popcorn continued to exist, peddlers who sold the ordinary popcorn would not have much business.

Jin Shui looked at Zhao Fei's departing back angrily and shouted, "Kid, just you wait! You can run but you can't hide! I'll catch you one day!"

He had to discuss this matter with the other peddlers. They could not let it go just like that and allow Zhao Fei to be the only one who was making money.

The popcorn was quickly sold out again today. Zhao Fei even saw many repeat customers! These were people who had bought from him yesterday and felt that it was delicious so they came back again today..

Chapter 922: We Are a Family

At this rate, even 200 pounds a day would not be enough. They would need even more popcorn. In that case, even the three vehicles would not have enough space. They would need a van or even buy a big truck to deliver the stock!

Zhao Fei's imagination was running wild. If he wanted a car, he had to get a driver's license first. However, even if he managed to get a driver's license, he could not afford a car yet. He had yet to buy a house or get married!

Zhao Fei quickly slapped his own head to get rid of all these fantasies in his mind. He decided to focus on the work at hand first and think about the future later.

The sky gradually darkened. Li Gui, Zhang Wei and Zhang Chao went back to collect the money and the vehicles.

Zhang Qin crouched on the ground and touched the floor. She kept feeling that the house seemed much colder than usual today. She had already fired up the stove, but it was still very cold. The stove was almost completely filled with coal, but the temperature in the room remained low. Zhang Miao was shivering from the cold in her own room!

When Xia He was at work today, she saw two beautiful floral dresses and bought them for these two younger sisters to try on. As soon as she entered the courtyard, she saw Zhang Qin crouching on the floor like a puppy and running her hands around.

“Xiao Qin, what are you doing? Why are you crouching there?” Xia He asked Zhang Qin in puzzlement.

“Elder sister Xia He, I feel that the house is so cold! It’s equally cold inside the rooms. Do you think I have damaged the stove...” Zhang Qin said in a pitiful manner.

In this weather that was around minus 10 degrees Celsius, it could really get freezing cold if there was no floor heating. Qiao Mei had felt unwell today and had gone back to her own house to rest. Otherwise, she would definitely catch a cold here.

Xia He first went to check if the coal in the stove was burning, then she went to check if the switches for the pipes were turned on and if the ventilation was working. After checking all the switches, she found that everything was operating normally, but the floor heating just could not bring the temperature up.

Since she could not find the reason for the malfunction, she could not just let the children wait here. She must move them to somewhere warm.

“Xiao Qin! Miao Miao! Pack up everything you need!” Xia He shouted.

“Alright!” Zhang Qin said obediently.

Other than Li Gui’s house, the other place that had floor heating was Qiao Mei’s house. However, they could not go and stay in Qiao Mei’s front part of the courtyard house. The rooms were all filled with all kinds of antiques, so there were not enough bedrooms.

Qiao Qiang’s back part of the courtyard house had just been renovated not long ago and many of the rooms were in move-in condition. In one of the bigger rooms, Qiao Qiang had even built a brick bed with a built-in stove. Once one heated up some coal, the entire room would feel warm and cozy and one would not even want to get down from the brick bed.

Qiao Qiang did not like soft beds. He had slept on a hard brick bed all his life and he was still not used to the sudden change in his lifestyle. Therefore, Qiao Mei simply let Qiao Qiang do whatever he wanted.

Xia He asked the two children to pack up while she went to look for Qiao Qiang on her own. Qiao Qiang was in the corridor listening to the radio and doing tai chi!

“Grandpa Qiao, can I discuss something with you?” Xia He said as she stood respectfully beside Qiao Qiang.

Qiao Qiang switched off the radio and patted the stool beside him. “There’s no need to stand on such ceremony with me. Sit down and talk.”

“Can I trouble you to take in the four children from Li Gui’s family for a few days? When I went over just now, there seemed to be a problem with their floor heating. I think we need to get someone to dismantle it for repairs. Qiao Mei’s place can’t accommodate all of them. Can you take them in for a few days? I’ll go and find someone to do the repairs now,” Xia He said with a smile. “No problem. Those kids are like my own grandchildren. Just tell them to come over. There’s no one using those few rooms here anyway. Ask them to come over quickly. It’s so boring to live alone in such a big house. They can stay for as long as they want,” Qiao Qiang said.

“That’s great. I feel embarrassed to have to come and talk to you about this. Qiao Mei is sleeping and I can’t discuss it with her, so I take the liberty to come and talk to you,” Xia He said.

“Our Xia family and the Qiao family are all one family. Xia Jun’s granddaughter is like my granddaughter. Just think of you as your grandfather. There’s no need to be so reserved,” Qiao Qiang said.

Qiao Qiang had seen how well Xia He treated Qiao Mei. As long as someone was nice to Qiao Mei, Qiao Qiang would dote on the person unconditionally.

Xia He did not continue to exchange useless pleasantries with Qiao Qiang. She turned around and went to heat up the stoves in the side rooms. Once the rooms were warmed up, the children could move in straight away when they came over later..

Chapter 923: Quarrel

By the time Li Gui and the children came back after collecting the vehicles, Zhang Qin and Zhang Miao had already packed all their things. Zhang Miao even wanted to move the piano over to Qiao Mei's house. Xia He was so shocked that she quickly stopped Zhang Miao and arranged for someone from the Xia family to buy an identical piano and deliver it to Qiao Mei's house.

Qiao Mei could keep the new piano for self entertainment in the future, or she could ask Xia Zhe to play a few romantic songs for her next time. The kids from the Xia family all knew how to play a musical instrument. This was something that Xu Lan had forced upon them.

Every day, on the way home, Zhang Wei would compete with Zhang Chao to see who could run home faster. Zhang Wei always won and it was no exception today.

As soon as Zhang Wei entered the house, he saw that Zhang Qin and Zhang Miao had piled up all their luggage in the courtyard. Zhang Qin had even gone into his room to remove the bedding.

"Xiao Qin, what are you doing?" Zhang Wei asked in a state of confusion.

"Eldest brother! All of you are back! We're going to stay at elder sister's house!" Zhang Qin said without explaining anything.

He thought that this house belonged to them? Why did they need to move? Zhang Wei did not understand what Zhang Qin was talking about.

When Li Gui entered, she was also shocked by the scene in front of her. There were so many bags of different sizes that it looked as they had been raided. When Xia He heard the commotion, she quickly ran over from Qiao Qiang's house to explain the whole story to Li Gui.

"Then... will we be disturbing the old master? The old master is very particular about peace and quiet back in the village," Li Gui said hesitantly.

"It's fine. I think Grandpa Qiao is feeling quite happy about it! Your room is in Qiao Mei's front part of the house and these children will live in the back part. Let's just make do with this arrangement for a while. You can move back once the repairs are done," Xia He said.

Other than the solution that Xia He had mentioned, no one had any other better ideas. They moved their things over to Qiao Mei's place quickly and then locked up this house. It appeared that Li Gui would need to shift the popcorn production to another location.

Tan Jing had already been resting at home for a week. The school had given her a warning that if she did not return to work soon, they would fire her. However, Tan Jing did not care about this at all. Her focus was all on Xia Wen now.

For the past week, other than going home to sleep every day, Xia Wen spent the rest of the time either returning work calls or being busy with Qiao Mei's family matters.

Even when Qiao Mei wanted to buy a pager, it was Xia Wen who had to help. What would be the next request? Would the next request be to repair the sewer pipes at her house? Would she ask Xia Wen to buy groceries for her family when they ran out of food?

In the end, it was almost as Tan Jing had expected. At that moment, Xia Wen was on the phone with Xia He who was asking him to contact the floor heating company to send workers down to do the repairs. During this era, floor heating was still not very commonplace and there were not many people who knew how to do the repairs. It was Xia Wen who had found the contractor to install the floor heating at Li Gui's house. Now that it was out of order, they had to get the same company to do the repairs. This matter would be resolved faster if Xia Wen handled it himself.

Xia Wen stood in front of the window and held the phone receiver as he said, "Yes, I understand. I'll call them tomorrow and ask them to go and do the repairs. It's already so late now. Even if I call, I won't be able to contact anyone. How have you and Qiao Mei been recently? Do you need Aunt to go over..." Before Xia Wen could finish speaking, Tan Jing walked over angrily and cut off the call, leaving only a busy tone on the other end of the phone.

Xia Wen turned around and frowned as he stared at Tan Jing. He had noticed Tan Jing's abnormal behavior in the past week and also knew the reason for it, but he still did not understand why it had to come to this.

"Is it Qiao Mei's family matters again?" Tan Jing questioned.

“Yes, there’s a problem with the floor heating at their house. Xiao He called and asked me to get someone to go over and take a look,” Xia Wen said nonchalantly.

“Why is it about Qiao Mei’s family matters again? Do they need your help with everything? If something is broken, can’t they find a solution themselves! Why must they come and look for you! What is so urgent about her family matters that you have to be the one to deal with it!” Tan Jing shouted angrily at Xia Wen.

Xia Wen did not want to quarrel with Tan Jing and turned to leave. However, Tan Jing Wanted to stop him and gave him a push, causing him to hit his waist against the windowsill so hard that he almost cried out in pain..

Chapter 924: No More Secrets

Tan Jing did not seem to have seen what happened and continued to throw a tantrum.

“Xia Wen, do I mean anything to your family? Have you long forgotten that we have our own family! Do you think your presence in this house is not needed!” Tan Jing said.

Xia Wen continued to keep quiet and it made Tan Jing furious. She had never lost her cool or acted so crazy before.

“Say something!” Tan Jing roared.

Xia Wen endured the pain from the impact and said, “What do you want me to say... What’s wrong with me helping my sister and sister-in-law?”

“Don’t they know how to solve their own problems? We’re all adults. Can’t they even do such a simple thing!” Tan Jing looked at Xia Wen and questioned him. It would not matter to Xia Wen if someone else said these words. However, when these words came out of Tan Jing’s mouth, he wanted to laugh.

During the many years that they were married, the Tan family would ask Tan Jing for a lot of money every month. Every time, they would give all kinds of strange reasons. It was either because the eldest son’s family was in trouble or something had happened to the second son’s family. Every month, there would be an unlucky member of the Tan family who got into trouble. Xia Wen was already used to this.



The Xia family had found jobs for Tan Jing's older brothers. The Tan family took advantage of the Xia family in every way possible, but yet they still always slandered the Xia family and said that the Xia family was biased and did not treat Tan Jing well.

Qiao Mei had only just arrived in the capital and was not familiar with anything. Xia Zhe had also reiterated the favor he asked of Xia Wen to take good care of Qiao Mei in his absence. As for Xia He, Xia Wen had not seen her for a long time until she finally came back to the capital to live her own life well.

His younger siblings rarely came to trouble him for anything. Although he had to manage the Xia family's social circle and handle some political matters, this was not something that kept him busy all year round. On the other hand, the Tan family's greed was boundless and they never seemed to be satisfied. "Then why can't your second brother handle his own matters?" Xia Wen said resignedly.

Tan Jing was stunned to the spot. What had her second brother done? She did not know anything at all. Could it be that her second brother had privately gone to look for Xia Wen?

"My second brother... My second brother must have run into some difficulties but did not want to look for me, so he went to look for you..." Tan Jing spoke vaguely.

Xia Wen smiled mockingly. It would have been better if her second brother had gone to look for him! The truth was something much more embarrassing!

"He went to look for my father and said that he was in a very difficult position. He said that if we did not help him, he'd be a dead man. He owed a huge gambling debt of about 3,000 dollars. He said that if the Xia family refused to give him this amount of money, he would die at the Xia family's door and let everyone know that the Xia family had forced their in-law to his death. He wanted to make the Xia family so embarrassed that we could no longer walk with our heads held high." Xia Wen looked at Tan Jing and repeated exactly what Xia Mao had told him word for word.

Tan Jing did not know about these things.

"Then... did you give my second brother the money?" Tan Jing asked carefully. "If we didn't give it to him, do you think life would be so peaceful? Your family has been clamoring to move house, but isn't it

your second brother who wants that? You must have received many phone calls this week, right?" Xia Wen said.

Tan Jing lowered her head out of shame. She did not know what to say to Xia Wen. She had never expected the Tan family to go overboard like this. She thought that them asking her for money was already the most shameless thing they could do, but she did not expect that they could do even more outrageous things.

Since they were on this topic today, Xia Wen did not intend to cover up for the Tan family anymore. He originally wanted to keep these things a secret forever and let Tan Jing feel less stressed. The Xia family could afford to use money and connections to help others and it did not affect them at all. However, he did not expect Tan Jing to use this as a reason to attack the Xia family's integrity.

"Your mother even brought your family members to look for Qiao Mei. She cried and made a fuss at Qiao Mei's door and asked Qiao Mei to give the house to your family, otherwise she would hang herself at Qiao Mei's door. Qiao Mei is more than eight months pregnant and my brother is currently out on a mission. He had asked me to take care of his family before he went off. Is there a problem with me helping my brother's wife?"

"Qiao Mei rarely takes the initiative to contact me. It's my younger sister who comes to tell me about these things. Qiao Mei is so busy with her own things now, so she doesn't have time to bother about anything else.. Has my younger sister ever troubled us during those years when she was married? Is there anything wrong with her contacting me frequently now?"

Chapter 925: The Heart of the Issue

"Your second brother isn't the only one in your family who has taken money from my father. Your parents and your eldest brother have also taken a lot of money. I've already paid my father back. I just didn't tell you anything."

There were many other things that Xia Wen did not want to mention. It would not be good to expose everything. There were so many such incidents that he might not even remember all of them.

Tan Jing sat down limply next to the bed. She actually did not intend to quarrel with Xia Wen. This was the first time in her many years of marriage that she had kicked up a fuss like this and it was all because of Qiao Mei.

Rather than blaming it on Qiao Mei, it would be more accurate to say that it was her own jealousy at work. She was jealous that everyone in the Xia family doted on Qiao Mei after Qiao Mei married into the family. She was jealous that Qiao Mei got pregnant so quickly and was even having a pair of twins! She felt that if Qiao Mei gave birth to two boys, then her status in the Xia family would become even lower.

“That money... my family will pay it back! They will return the money to us!” Tan Jing stammered.

Even as Tan Jing spoke, she did not believe what she was saying. In the years since she had been married, the Tan family had taken more than 10,000 dollars from her and the Xia family. Her family members were either jobless or had jobs but could barely pay for their own families. How could they have any extra money to pay back what they took?

Xia Wen actually did not care even if all the money was a lost cause. He looked at Tan Jing earnestly and said, “If your parents and brothers still need a house, I can make the arrangements for them. They just need to pay the rent every month. However, Qiao Mei’s house is out of the question.”

Tan Jing still could not understand why Xia Wen would not allow the Tan family to stay at Qiao Mei’s place. It was not as if they did not want to pay rent. Qiao Mei was not using that house at the moment, so why was he making things so difficult for them? Moreover, they were all relatives. It would be good to stay close to each other. Liu Fen always stayed over at Xu Lan’s house and did not go back to her own house. If Xu Lan could specially set aside a room for Liu Fen, then why was it that Qiao Mei could not do something similar?

“Why can’t we stay at Qiao Mei’s house? She has so many houses, does it even matter to her? I thought we’re supposed to help one another? Why is it that you need to help Qiao Mei, but Qiao Mei can’t help our family! What kind of logic is this!” Tan Jing shouted.

Xia Wen smiled mockingly and said, “How is Qiao Mei related to the Tan family? Besides, if your family really intends to pay the rent on time, do you think Qiao Mei will reject you? Also, is that really what you think?”

Xia Wen immediately guessed what Tan Jing was thinking. In the past, she had indeed thought of taking Qiao Mei’s courtyard house for herself, but that was because she did not understand why Xia Zhe should be the one to get their grandmother’s house. Xia Wen was the eldest grandson of the Xia family, so why should the youngest Xia Zhe get it? She just could not accept it.

It would be fairer for everyone to get one room and for all of them to live in the courtyard house together. She did not even know if she would ever see the day when Xia Wen became successful in life!

Previously, before Xia Zhe married Qiao Mei, Tan Jing had instigated Xu Lan to redistribute the ownership of the courtyard house that Wu Min left behind. Actually, she could tell that Xu Lan was also tempted to move into that big courtyard house herself, but Xia Fang guarded the house zealously. No matter how hard Tan Jing tried, Xia Fang would not budge an inch at all and she only cared about keeping the courtyard house for Xia Zhe.

She even hired two guards to watch over Xia Zhe's house, worried that Xu Lan would be persuaded by Tan Jing to take an ax and break the lock. Fortunately, Xu Lan was not stupid enough to listen to Tan Jing.

"What... what else can I think! My parents call me every day to rush me and I'm so annoyed! What can I do if they only want to stay at Qiao Mei's place? I just want to solve this issue quickly!" Tan Jing said irritably.

"There's no room for discussion on this matter. I've already given you a solution. You can settle the rest of the issue yourself. The Xia family won't be helping the Tan family so freely anymore. Tell your parents to come and look for us if they need anything. Don't go and look for the rest of my family members," Xia Wen said coldly.

Tan Jing looked at Xia Wen in disbelief. In the past, no matter how unreasonable the Tan family's requests were, Xia Wen would think of a way to help. Now, he was simply ignoring them.

What did this mean... Could it be that Xia Wen wanted a divorce?

"You... but aren't we a family?" Tan Jing said as she looked at Xia Wen in fear..

Chapter 926: Going Home to Spend Time With Mother

Xia Wen held onto the cabinet and stood up with some difficulty. He began to pack up his daily necessities, his work documents and a few sets of formal suits. He was actually very busy recently. He

had just taken office and there was going to be a big reorganization at work happening at the end of the year. There were many things that he had to check and redo.

Staying at home and looking at Tan Jing made him feel annoyed. He thought that it would be better for him to go back to Xu Lan's place to stay for a couple of days. It was also closer to his workplace and would be more convenient for him to go to work. At the same time, he could also spend more time with Xu Lan.

"What are you doing!" Tan Jing rushed forward and shouted as she grabbed Xia Wen's hands.

"I'm going back to Mother's place to stay for a few days. I'm very busy at work these days. You stay at home and rest well." Xia Wen ignored Tan Jing and continued to pack his things.

Xia Wen did not have many items and it did not take him long to pack. He did not say a word to Tan Jing before he left the house. Tan Jing sat alone in the empty house and started to feel afraid. She began to reflect on whether she had really done something wrong. Could it be that Xia Wen had decided to divorce her?

Back in the early days when she did not manage to get pregnant, although the Xia family did not outrightly blame her, she had a feeling that the Xia family members must have spoken to Xia Wen in private about the matter. Back then, Xu Lan had even asked her indirectly if she needed Xia Fang to help her improve her health. All of them seemed to think that the problem lay with Tan Jing.

At that time, Xia Wen had told her that he would definitely not consider a divorce and that apart from death, there was nothing that could separate the two of them. Was he going to go back on his word now?

Tan Jing lay on the bed and wailed loudly, causing the neighbors to open their doors one after another and look towards her house curiously. Usually, the occupants of this house were the most harmonious and quiet people. Why did they have such a huge fight today?

"What happened? Why is she crying like this?" a neighbor, an older woman, asked curiously as she looked at another neighbor.

“We don’t know either. This is the first time I’ve heard them arguing!” the woman next door said.

All of them slowly approached Tan Jing’s door and listened carefully to what was going on inside. The wails stopped after a while. They thought that she must be tired from crying and had fallen asleep.

“Do you think it has got to do with the issue of kids? I heard that they’ve been married for almost 10 years and still don’t have any children,” the woman next door said.

The older woman replied agitatedly, “It’s possible! I’ve lived here for so long and can confirm that they don’t have kids! This man is really a nice person. He can accept the fact about not having children. I heard that he’s from a rich family!”

The neighbors gossiped for a while before going home.

For the past two days, Old Madam Fan had been sick. Su Yang had to go to work at the factory during the day and take care of Qiao Yu at the clinic at night, so he did not have the time to go and cause trouble for Li Gui. Her family enjoyed peace and quiet for the past two days.

Xia He came back happily with a huge bag in her hand and it looked very heavy. Li Gui quickly put down the corn in her hand and took it from Xia He. “Xiao He, what did you buy? Why is it so heavy!” Li Gui and Xia He laboriously carried the bag into the house.

Xia He said resignedly, “You have to ask your daughter! She’s the one who asked me to buy these! I’m so tired from the journey. My brother’s driver refused to send me back!”

Qiao Mei walked out of her room slowly. She was almost due to deliver and she needed to go to the toilet frequently every day. She found it tiring to roll over in bed. With a belly bigger than a watermelon, she felt tired after walking for even a short while.

In the beginning, these two babies did not make things so difficult for her. Also, even though she could manipulate energy, it could not save her from the painful process of being pregnant.

“What good stuff is this? Is this what you went out to get? When did I ask you to buy something?” Qiao Mei asked in puzzlement.

Xia He stood in front of Qiao Mei with her hands on her hips and said angrily, “Pagers! There are 10 pagers here! Do you know how difficult it is for my brother and I to get you these 10 pagers? Everyone is asking my brother if his family is going to open a shop selling digital products, why else would he need so many otherwise.”

Qiao Mei was so amused that she laughed out loud. She also knew that she had bought too many, but it was ridiculous for these people to say that they were opening a shop. Even if they had the money to open a shop, they would not dare to do so. It was considered a serious crime during this time..

Chapter 927 - 927 “Pa-ger”

927 “Pa-ger”

“Pa-ger? Is it a type of food? Is it a type of chicken? Does it lay eggs? Is it the capital’s local specialty?” Li Gui asked as she looked at Xia He happily.

Xia He took out a machine and switched it on to show Li Gui. As she used it, she said, “Auntie! It’s not food or chicken! This is a machine that’s like a phone, but it can’t be used to make calls. It can receive messages so it makes it easier to find someone.”

Li Gui had thought that it was the name of a type of chicken! Many places would give the chickens and ducks they reared a special name that was unique to their hometown. For example, the chickens they reared in their village were called Foshan chickens. The chickens tasted completely different from those reared in other places and their sizes were also different.

“Oh... it’s not a chicken. I have misunderstood,” Li Gui said, feeling embarrassed.

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She had embarrassed herself in front of Xia He due to her ignorance. In the future, she should not speak about things that she did not understand. If she said something wrong, it would be too embarrassing!

“I have also never heard of this thing before. I only found out when elder sister told me. This is my first time seeing it! Let me take a look!” Qiao Mei gave Xia He a look and pretended to be excited as she went forward to look at the pager, her eyes filled with curiosity.

Xia He immediately understood what Qiao Mei was thinking and said, “That’s right, Auntie. I also only found out about how to use this thing after talking to my brother. At first, I also thought it was a kind of chicken! My brother explained the functions to me for a long time but I still can’t really understand it.”

After hearing what Xia He and Qiao Mei said, Li Gui gradually stopped being so worried. They also did not know anything about this, so she was not that ignorant after all.

Qiao Mei observed the buttons on the pager closely. She had heard of such a thing in her other life, but this was the first time she was looking at the actual item. It was small and the workmanship was exquisite. In the past, she had seen pagers being used in television dramas. Everyone would attach a small pouch on their belts to hold the pagers and they all looked quite cool. Owing this item made it easier for others to contact them.

“Mom, this is for you. Give one to Zhao Fei as well. The two of you can communicate using this. Then you don’t have to wait around for each other,” Qiao Mei said with a smile.

“No, no! I don’t even know how to read. How do I use this machine? You should keep it for yourself,” Li Gui quickly declined. It was obvious that this thing was not cheap. Furthermore, she did not know how to use such a high-tech thing.

Qiao Mei simply stuffed the machine into Li Gui’s hand and said to her, “Do you still want to earn big money or not? Do you still want to become a boss? This is what all the businessmen are using! You have to use it too! Otherwise, how are you going to contact those big bosses?”

Li Gui looked at Qiao Mei doubtfully. Li Gui only knew the other peddlers and she had never seen any of them use such a thing. Even the owner of the shop at the entrance of the alley did not seem to have a pager.

“Elder sister! Don’t you think so?” Qiao Mei turned around and shouted.



Xia He quickly said, "That's right! Auntie! This is really something that every businessman uses. It's very convenient! Let me teach you!"

Since Xia He also said that it was true, Li Gui did not reject the idea again. Xia He brought Li Gui to one side to take a look at the instruction manual. The instruction manual was written in a foreign language. It had been many years since Xia He graduated and she found that her language skills were a little rusty. She asked Li Gui to do other chores first and she would explain to Li Gui after she translated the instructions.

Qiao Mei did a check on the remaining machines. Each one was in good working condition. She planned to give away all of them as gifts.

Firstly, Qiao Qiang and Li Gui would each get one, as well as her business partner, Zhao Fei. Then, Xia Wen, Xia He, Xu Lan and Xia Fang would each get one too. Qiao Mei would keep one for herself.

Qiao Mei also wanted to give one to Zhang Wei. She heard that there was only one phone in the school that he was going to attend and everyone had to queue up to make phone calls. It must be so tiring to queue up to make a phone call after a full day of training. Qiao Mei could not bear to let Zhang Wei suffer! With this thing, Zhang Wei could easily send them messages and could then rest early.

The school probably would not care about such matters. As long as Zhang Wei kept a low profile, he would not be reprimanded.

The last one was for Xia Zhe. This way, Xia Zhe would be able to receive news from Qiao Mei whenever he went on a mission. However, the reality was going to be very different from what Qiao Mei imagined. There were likely no communication signals at the places where he went on missions. In addition, the army did not allow the soldiers to bring personal electronic equipment with them..

Chapter 928: First Time Meeting

then After Xia He figured out the instructions, she asked the four children and Li Gui to gather in the living room so that she could teach them. In the future, if Li Gui was too busy and did not have time to reply after receiving messages, the children would be able to help her. It was very important that Zhang

Wei learned how to use it. He was going to be on his own in school in the future, so he must be well-versed in it.

Qiao Mei could read and understand the manual herself, so she did not sit through the session conducted by “Professor Xia”.

After all this while, she had not personally gone to the place where corn kernels were produced to take a look. It was always Xia He who went to do the weighing and pay the women, and Li Gui who rode the three-wheeled vehicle to pick up the corn kernels. She did not know if these people were doing their job well, but it was better for her to take time out to go and take a look for herself.

By the time it was dusk, everyone gradually worked slower. After a busy day, they were all a little weary, and their hands were especially tired and sore. This job was not as easy as they had imagined, but the advantage was that they could make a lot of money.

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“Sigh... How long more before we are done? My hands are so sore. I feel so tired thinking about the fact that I still have to wash the children’s clothes when I get home,” Sun Jiao said as she looked at her slightly red and swollen hands.

Sun Juan also took a look at her hands. After doing farm work all year round, there was already a thick layer of calluses on her hands and she did not feel any pain at all. She was already used to such hard work.

In the past, when her daughter was still alive, her considerate daughter would always give her a hand massage. Now, there was no one around to do that for her and she could only hold on to these memories.

Qiao Mei made her way to the courtyard quietly and was very shocked to see the piles of corn at the side. She did not expect them to work so quickly. Even if Li Gui used 60 to 70 pounds of corn kernels a day, they were able to produce that amount for her.

“You’re all hard at work!” Qiao Mei said with a smile as she walked into the house.

“You are...” Sun Juan stood up and looked at Qiao Mei in puzzlement. Before this, they only knew that the owner of this house was a pregnant woman, and that she was not on good terms with Su Liang. However, they had only heard about these things from others. In fact, apart from Qiao Mei’s immediate neighbors, no one else had seen her before.

Ever since the day Su Liang came to cause trouble, Qiao Mei had stayed at home and did not leave the house at all. She focused on resting and taking care of her pregnancy. Although Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe had gone around to deliver candy when they first moved in, it was a long time ago and no one remembered it anymore.

Xia He had always been in charge of the business here. Qiao Mei only came to fill the entire house with corn when no one was around and she never took the initiative to show her face.

“I’m Qiao Mei. I don’t know if anyone still remembers me. I’m here today to pay everyone’s salary,” Qiao Mei said as she patted her bulging pockets.

Upon hearing Qiao Mei’s name, everyone immediately perked up. Firstly, it was because Qiao Mei was their big boss. If they did not take good care of their big boss and left a bad impression on her, they could lose their job at any time. Secondly, it was because they all had grudges against Old Madam Fan but could not find any suitable opportunity or reason to deal with Old Madam Fan for many years. However, after Qiao Mei came, not only did she manage to deal with Old Madam Fan, but she even dealt with her wayward sons as well. They were all filled with admiration and gratitude for Qiao Mei.

She had gotten rid of evil for the common people! Not only did she help them with their financial situation, but she also solved that difficult problem in their lives. Qiao Mei was their lucky star!

“Oh! Why are you here personally? Your stomach is already so big, you have to be careful. You’re about to give birth,” Sun Juan said worriedly as she looked at Qiao Mei’s stomach.

“Yes, but since I’m almost due now, I can’t just lie at home all the time. I have to move around more. The doctor said that if I don’t exercise appropriately, I won’t be able to give birth easily,” Qiao Mei said.

They did not understand these terms and theories. The women present had all given birth before, but their family situations did not even allow them to rest after they gave birth. They had to take care of

their families without the luxury of having a confinement period. Although they had never heard about what Qiao Mei was saying, they could understand the logic.

Qiao Mei did not stand around to catch up with them. Instead, she asked them to pack up the corn kernels for today and to do the weighing one by one in front of her before she handed them their salaries for the day.

Not only did they have to pack up the corn kernels properly, but they also had to pack up the corn cobs..

Chapter 929: Take a Break

Qiao Mei took a portion of the corn cobs home for Qiao Qiang to burn in the stove. She gave the remainder away to whoever needed some. After all, Qiao Mei's family was not the only one who needed fuel for the stove. Gas tanks were really expensive in the city now, so everyone would set up a small stove in the courtyard for daily use.

"I've come here today not just to distribute the salary. I also have a few things to say to everyone," Qiao Mei said as she slowly sat down on the stool.

Everyone stood attentively in front of Qiao Mei and looked at her earnestly, making sure they did not miss out on whatever she was going to say.

Perhaps Qiao Mei wanted to increase their salary!

Qiao Mei cleared her throat and said, "Everyone knows that I'm keeping this place a secret from others. We have enough people working here for now. If everyone keeps introducing new people to come and work here, then we'll be overstaffed and that would in turn affect everyone's salary level. Therefore, we won't be hiring anymore. If the business does well in the future, there'll be a corresponding increase in your salary."

Sun Jiao frowned. She was introduced by Sun Juan to work here. Was Qiao Mei beating around the bush and talking about her?

Qiao Mei did not notice Sun Jiao's strange expression and moved on to give everyone a red packet. If nothing extraordinary happened, Qiao Mei would not be coming here again until after she gave birth. It

was almost the new year and she wanted to give everyone a red packet to express her gratitude for their help.

“I’m giving everyone a red packet for the new year. It’s not a lot, just 20 dollars per person. Please take it as a token of my appreciation for all your hard work,” Qiao Mei said in a gentle manner.

Zhou Shuang could not even wait for another minute and hurriedly turned around to open the red packet. It was indeed 20 dollars. This was the first time in her life that she had met such a generous boss. Even when she worked in the factory, she did not get such benefits. This amount of 20 dollars was enough to buy nicer food for the children and a bottle of good liquor for her husband!

“Thank you, Qiao Mei. We’re just doing what we need to do. Don’t worry, we’ll definitely do our best and treat this place as our own home! We definitely won’t slack off!” Sun Juan said.

Zhou Shuang hurriedly added, “Yes, yes! Don’t worry! We’re not here to work. We’re here to chit chat! This is called... helping out! We’re all neighbors! Helping one another!”

Qiao Mei looked down and smiled. This woman was quite quick-witted. She was like those people in Qiao Mei’s other life who were experts at currying favor! If only this woman was there, she would have definitely been highly valued by the company leaders. In Qiao Mei’s other life, the company leaders in her workplace liked people who knew how to curry favor.

She finally understood the joy of being a leader now.

“You have all worked hard recently. You can all rest at home next week. I’m getting someone to come and renovate this house. Otherwise, it will be too cold for you to work here,” Qiao Mei said.

When Qiao Mei was at home, she had taken a look at the accounts ledger for this place. There were still more than 600 pounds of corn kernels in the side rooms, so there would not be any issue even if the work here stopped for a week. Qiao Mei intended to only fit the main living room and the two attached side rooms with floor heating. The rest of the rooms would continue to be used as storerooms.

Back then, Xia Wen had gotten someone to simply replaster the walls and fix the broken doors and windows in this house. There were originally no heating facilities in this place and the people who used to live here had to endure the cold winter without any heat.

Sun Juan and the rest would usually put braziers next to themselves while they worked, but there were many safety issues with such braziers. The house was mainly made of wood and a fire could easily happen if they were not careful. It would be disastrous if the fire then spread to the neighboring houses. It would be much safer to install floor heating.

Everyone packed up their things and went home. Once they had all left, Qiao Mei quietly walked to the backyard to check on the amount of corn left in the storeroom. The originally huge pile had dwindled and there was only a small pile of corn left.

“Sigh... It looks like we need more storerooms,” Qiao Mei sighed.

It would be a pity to tear down this house and use this place as a corn warehouse. In the future, the value of this house would be much more valuable than these corn. If Li Gui really wanted to expand the business, then they would have to go to the suburbs to find an empty space to build a factory. It was not safe to work out of a small factory in the city..

Chapter 930 - 930 To Receive a Favor Is to Sell One's Liberty

930 To Receive a Favor Is to Sell One's Liberty

Qiao Mei spent a lot of effort digging a small hole in the ground. Now that her stomach was so big, it blocked her sight and she could not see what was under her feet. The speed at which she grew corn was also much slower than before.

Then again, she still had a lot of time. There was no hurry and she could do it slowly.

He was not rich and did not have that much money to spend on Qiao Yu. He was just putting up a front for Qiao Yu.

“You're back!” Qiao Yu smiled at Su Yang.

Yesterday, Qiao Yu suddenly realized that she still had 10 dollars hidden in her bra. It was money that she had stolen from Qiao Zhuang back then. After spending such a long time in the capital, she had forgotten about this matter. This amount of money was something that could save her life at the critical moment and she must not touch it for now.

During these two days when she was warded for observation, Su Yang had done his best to take care of her. He was worried that Qiao Yu would go hungry at lunchtime, so he specially made a trip from the factory to deliver food to her!

“How are you today? Are you feeling better?” Su Yang asked with concern.

Qiao Yu quickly lay back down under the blanket and hid her excited expression from earlier. She looked at Su Yang weakly and said, “I’m alright I even went to the doorway to get some sun today. It’s just that my head still hurts occasionally.”

After saying that, she even coughed twice symbolically and looked very weak. Actually, Su Yang knew what Qiao Yu was thinking. In this place, the nurses came to clean up the room every day and also change the bedsheets and bedding at regular intervals. This small clinic did not get many patients every day and the only other person living here was the auntie in the opposite bed.

Qiao Yu did not need to fork out any money as Su Yang was the one paying for everything. She was living such a good life that she naturally wanted to stay for a few more days.

Su Yang thought to himself, “This Qiao Yu is really greedy. Does she really think that the money she spent for the past two days is all for free? She has to return it bit by bit in the future!”

“So did the doctor say that you can return home today?” Su Yang opened the food container and asked casually.

Qiao Yu slowly raised her head to look at Su Yang and said, “I still don’t feel too well. I keep feeling dizzy and nauseous. I think I’ll have to stay here for another day or two”

“I see that you don’t have an IV today. Do you still need to stay here? Just get some medicine and go home,” Su Yang said.

“But I haven’t recovered yet. What if I fall sick again after I leave?” Qiao Yu rebutted anxiously.

Su Yang looked towards the doctor, who was at the side, and said, “Is that so? Let me ask the doctor and see what he says.”

For a moment, Qiao Yu did not know what to say to Su Yang. The doctor had actually already told Qiao Yu yesterday that she could be discharged. It was Qiao Yu who kept this a secret from Su Yang.

She had nowhere to go once she was discharged. It was not proper for her to stay at Su Yang’s house.

“Don’t! My My relative has been busy at home with the new year preparations recently and can’t take care of me. I don’t have anywhere else to go” Qiao Yu said as she looked at Su Yang pitifully.

This was simply a heaven-sent opportunity. If she had nowhere to go, then she could go to his house. Once he could take advantage of her, then she would definitely have to marry him. In the future, she would have to do whatever he said. However, there was no extra bedroom in his house. He did not know how he should handle this. It was not as if he could ask Qiao Yu to sleep with him in his bed.

Su Yang knew that there was a small room nearby that was up for rent. Previously, it was occupied by an old man who worked as a salvager and the rent was four dollars a month. His plan could still work if Qiao Yu was willing to stay there. That would be a much better situation than bringing Qiao Yu home. With Su Liang in the house and eyeing Qiao Yu all the time, he would be worried about her when he went to work during the day.

“I still have another place to stay. If you don’t mind, you can come with me to take a look,” Su Yang said.

“Huh? Do you live there with your family?” Qiao Yu asked.

“No, it’s my own place.” Su Yang handed the food container to Qiao Yu. Once Qiao Yu saw the food, she could not think about anything else. After all, to receive a favor was to sell one’s liberty. It was good enough so long as she had a place to stay.