

Fat Wife 941

Chapter 941 Value For Money

After saying that, the landlord was about to return to his room when Su Yang rushed forward and grabbed his collar tightly. The small and thin landlord could not resist Su Yang at all and he was almost lifted off the ground.

"I said change the bedding. Don't you understand?" Su Yang stared fiercely into the landlord's eyes and said each word slowly.

"Let go of me! I'll call the police! Help! Murder! Help!" The landlord shouted as he grabbed Su Yang's hand tightly.

Su Yang smiled mockingly. He was not afraid of the police at all. In the morning, he had just beaten some people up and caused them to be admitted to the hospital, but no one had come to arrest him yet. Now, he was just trying to intimidate this man. What could the police do to him?

As long as Old Madam Fan went to the police station to kick up a fuss for a few days, he would still be released in the end. This was just a simple neighborhood dispute and there was no serious harm done.

He had been locked up so many times, so he knew how far he could go and also how to explain himself to the police.

"Do you know who I am? My mother is Old Madam Fan. If you want to have a peaceful life here in the future, then obediently bring us what we want. Otherwise, don't even dream about staying here anymore," Su Yang said.

The people who lived in this place might not know much about Su Liang and Su Yang since they did not have daughters. After all, these two men only targeted families with daughters and did not really bother anyone else. Old Madam Fan, on the other hand, bullied people from every household. Whenever anyone provoked Old Madam Fan, their neighbors would not have a peaceful time as well. As time passed, everyone had heard of Old Madam Fan.

The landlord was so frightened that he kept nodding and said, "I'll change it for you now... Anything you want..."

Su Yang was no longer satisfied with bedding and blankets. He decided to get whatever he lacked from the landlord. In any case, the landlord was a salvager and kept all kinds of things that others threw out. He even had all sorts of clothes. Although these clothes were all damaged in some ways, one just needed to mend them and they would become wearable again.

He did not intend to spend the four dollars for nothing. He must get his money's worth! The landlord must provide everything that he did not have. In the future, the landlord would also have to pay for the electricity, water, gas and heating for the room. He did not intend to fork out any money.

The entire time, Qiao Yu leaned against the window and looked out silently. She did not find anything wrong with Su Yang's behavior at all. The things that Qiao Zhuang and her brothers had done previously were much worse than what Su Yang was doing. They had even attempted to commit murder and arson. A fight was only a small thing.

When Qiao Yu saw Su Yang slowly walking towards her, she quickly went to set the table and placed the dishes on the table one by one.

Su Yang looked at Qiao Yu in satisfaction. This was how a young wife should behave. After the room was cleaned up, it actually felt quite cozy and a little homely. If Qiao Yu could continue to behave like this and do whatever he said, then it would be fine even if she did not have the support of her relatives.

"Not bad. You even clean up the crockery and cutlery," Su Yang said with some consolation.

"It's not like I don't know anything at all! What did you say to him just now? Why were you arguing?" Qiao Yu asked. She did not show any trace of cowardice or fear and her eyes were filled with curiosity.

Su Yang looked at Qiao Yu in surprise and asked in a gentle manner, "Aren't you afraid of how I behaved just now?"

When they were at the factory, Su Yang always showed his best side to Qiao Yu, worried that he would scare her away. Previously, when Qiao Yu refused to budge even after he had been so nice to her, he almost revealed his true colors and wanted to beat her up. Fortunately, he had held back at that time.

"It's alright. It just seems like the two of you were quarreling about something. I don't think the landlord has a good attitude either. I'm just worried that something will happen to you and that you'll get bullied," Qiao Yu said quietly with her head lowered.

"I just want him to send what we need over to us. He also has a lot of clothes that you can wear. You should know how to do needlework, right? Just mend the clothes and make do with it first," Su Yang said happily.

Qiao Yu immediately became unhappy. Why was he giving her tattered stuff? Was she a salvager? Or did he think that she only deserved tattered clothes?

Chapter 942 - 942 Warded for Treatment

942 Warded for Treatment

The dishes that Su Yang bought today were all vegetarian dishes, and they were even the cheapest ones in the restaurant. Qiao Yu looked at the two dishes in front of her that did not even have any oil on them and promptly lost her appetite. Su Yang pretended not to see anything and focused on eating.

Which family could afford to eat meat for every meal? He still had to give Old Madam Fan a portion of his meat coupons every month! He did not have enough to give to Qiao Yu!

After eating and drinking his fill, Su Yang went to the landlord's house to take many things. Qiao Yu put them in the room one by one. Su Yang had stolen some coal and kept them in the room. As soon as the stove was lit, the entire room became very warm. To ensure that Qiao Yu would not run out of coal when he was not around, Su Yang packed a lot of coal inside cardboard boxes for Qiao Yu to keep aside.

"Not bad. It's much more comfortable now," Su Yang said as he looked at the room in satisfaction.

Qiao Yu also had a strange feeling in her heart. This was the first time in her life that she had a place to live alone and a shelter of her own. It was as if she finally understood what it felt like to have a home.

At night, Su Yang had to go back to his own home. He could not stay at Qiao Yu's place for too long, otherwise Old Madam Fan would become suspicious.

The hospital was a very busy place even when it was late at night. All the doctors and nurses had to be vigilant at all times. They needed to know each patient's condition like the back of their hands and observe the patients for any abnormalities at all times. If there were any abnormalities, they must act on saving the patients immediately.

Xia He asked someone to help her call all the hospitals to search for Sun Juan and Zhou Shuang. In the end, their names were found to be registered in the hospital that Xia Fang worked in.

Xia Fang happened to be on duty at the hospital tonight. When she saw Xia He, she thought that her eyes were playing tricks on her.

"Xiao He? Why are you here?" Xia Fang asked in puzzlement.

From the looks of it, Xia He did not seem to be sick. She looked good, her face was rosy and there was no sign of pain on her face. Could it be Qiao Mei

Xia Fang's eyes gradually filled with fear. Xia He grabbed Xia Fang's hand and quickly said, "I'm fine! Qiao Mei is fine too! Don't think too much! Everyone in the family is fine!"

"Oh Then why are you here at the hospital? Are you here to look for me?" Xia Fang asked.

"It's a long story. I'll go and settle this matter first. I'll tell you when I'm done," Xia He said.

As Xia He was not heading to the obstetrics and gynecology department and it was not appropriate for Xia Fang to go to another department's wards, she did not go with Xia He. She went to do her ward rounds first and told Xia He to wait for her in her office after she was done.

Xia He quickly found Sun Juan and Zhou Shuang by following the nurse's directions. Both women had similar injuries, but Zhou Shuang's injuries were more serious. The doctor said that there were slight fractures in her left ribs and she needed to rest in bed for a period of time. Sun Juan only suffered an

impact on her abdomen and her internal organs were fine. She could be discharged from the hospital soon.

Sun Juan and Zhou Shuang were not in the same ward, so Feng Hong had no choice but to go and take care of the more seriously injured Zhou Shuang. She would return to take care of Sun Juan after Zhou Shuang fell asleep.

“Sister Sun, don’t call me Boss Xia. Just call me Xiao He. Qiao Mei heard that both of you were unwell but it’s inconvenient for her to come, so she asked me to hurry down to visit both of you. Have you paid for your hospitalization fees?” Xia He asked as she sat on the stool meant for Sun Juan’s caregiver.

“Yes, we have. It’s not like in the past when we didn’t dare to come to the hospital for treatment. We can afford the fees now. And it’s all thanks to the both of you,” Sun Juan said gratefully.

“That’s good. In a while, I’ll arrange for you and Zhou Shuang to be reassigned to a double ward. This will also make it easier for Sister Feng to take care of both of you. Otherwise, if she has to go back and forth between the two wards, she’ll collapse from exhaustion when you recover,” Xia He said.

Sun Juan quickly rejected the idea and said, “The doctor says that I can be discharged very soon. I’m generally fine, but I still need one more day of observation tomorrow to see if there are any other symptoms regarding my head. Everything else is fine. Once I’m discharged, I can take turns with Feng Hong to take care of Zhou Shuang.”

Chapter 943 - 943 Render Help Wherever Possible

943 Render Help Wherever Possible

Xia He did not know Zhou Shuang’s family situation and whether she had anyone to accompany her or take care of her. However, based on what Sun Juan said, there was probably no one else at home.

Among the three women, Feng Hong was the only one who was doing quite well. However, Feng Hong’s husband often stayed out and did not go home. Zhou Shuang had even seen Feng Hong’s husband hugging another woman outside. Feng Hong was aware of all these. Every time Feng Hong’s husband came home, he would behave like he loved Feng Hong very much. He probably felt a sense of guilt towards Feng Hong.

Fortunately, her son was quite capable and his results had always been excellent. His teacher even said that he would be able to enter the university! For the sake of her son, she would endure everything and she did not want him to know about what was happening between her and her husband. It would not be too late to get a divorce only after her son went to university.

Everyone had their own problems when it came to their families. Every family had its own difficulties. That was why they always looked at Li Gui with awe. It was really rare for a woman to be brave enough to get a divorce in this era, especially since Li Gui still had to take care of four young children alone.

“What exactly happened? Why are the two of you so seriously injured? You were fine when you headed home yesterday,” Xia He asked curiously.

Sun Juan told Xia He everything that happened at Zhou Shuang’s house. Xia He looked at Sun Juan in shock and was rendered speechless. This was such an unexpected disaster!

Su Yang had beaten up other people randomly for his own selfish reasons and even robbed them! This was a very serious matter! He must be severely punished!

“Then have you made a police report?” Xia He asked with a frown.

Xia He did not know what to do at that moment. She still had to discuss the countermeasures with Qiao Mei. Any casual decision she made now could put Qiao Mei in a difficult position.

“Qiao Mei asked me to give you this as she can’t come and visit you. Here’s 100 dollars, 50 dollars each for you and Zhou Shuang. Take it as a token from her. It’s late and I should go back now. I’ll come and see you again tomorrow morning.” Xia He smiled and put the money in the drawer. She ignored Sun Juan’s refusal and ran out.

Xia He knew that if she had given the money to Sun Juan directly, Sun Juan definitely would not accept it. She had to do it in such a way that Sun Juan could not reject her. Although the women had earned some money in the past half a month, the medical fees would still be quite a heavy burden on them. Moreover, they had to pay for all three meals at the hospital every day, so it would be good to render help to them whenever possible.

She went to Zhou Shuang's ward and stood outside the door to take a look. Zhou Shuang was still lying unconscious on the bed and Feng Hong was wiping her down. Xia He did not go in and turned around to go and discuss with Xia Fang on whether she could be of any help in this matter.

"Aunt, are you still busy?" Xia He smiled as she pushed open the door.

Xia Fang lay on the sofa tiredly and said, "I'm not busy, but I have to go and check on the patients' vitals every once in a while. How's the thing you need to handle? Have you settled it?"

"No, I still have to discuss it in depth with Qiao Mei. There are too many issues involved," Xia He said with a sigh.

"By the way, do you know that Xia Wen has moved back to your mother's place alone?" Xia Fang said.

Xia He said in shock, "When did this happen! I don't know anything!"

Recently, they all had too many things to do and everyone was overwrought. Xia Wen faced pressure from his family, Xia He was troubled by the changes in her job, and Qiao Mei had to handle all these everyday issues. Everyone had their own problems, but they all looked out for one another and did not want to cause any more trouble than necessary.

"I think it's something recent. I also heard about this from your second aunt-in-law. Do you need my help with this matter you're facing at the hospital? The director of the orthopedics department is my husband's relative," Xia Fang asked.

Xia He shook her head and said, "There's probably no need for that for now. I still have to go back and talk to Qiao Mei. I can't make the decision on this matter."

"How's Qiao Mei's health recently? Does she feel any discomfort? After you go back, persuade her to come to the hospital for a checkup. She's almost due. Otherwise, we can get a VIP single room for her at the hospital," Xia Fang said worriedly.

Chapter 944 Tough Training

There were both single and double rooms in the VIP wards in this hospital. This year, they received another donation from a charity organization to build a new VIP maternity ward. The charges for these VIP wards were much higher than ordinary wards. Apart from high-ranking officials and dignitaries, ordinary people could not afford to stay in them at all.

The rooms were empty anyway. If Qiao Mei came to stay in the hospital, it would also generate income for the hospital. This could not be considered a waste of medical resources. Not only could they protect her safety, but the hospital could make money as well. It was like killing two birds with one stone.

"Based on my observations, she keeps going to the toilet at night and sleeps most of the time during the day. During this period of time, she hasn't been sleeping well. She eats normally and everything seems fine. It's just that she doesn't have proper sleep, which is quite worrying," Xia He said as she recalled what she had observed.

These were all normal symptoms of pregnancy and there was no need for special care. Everything would get better after she gave birth. There was nothing anyone could do to help her at the moment.

"It's good as long as she can still eat. The rest are normal symptoms of late stage pregnancy. It's better that you sleep in my lounge tonight. It's too late and I'm worried for your safety if you go back now," Xia Fang said.

"I'd better go back. Qiao Mei is still waiting for me at home. I'm worried that she'll look for me at night. Currently, there's only her mother and me staying with her in the front yard. I'll feel unsettled if I don't go back," Xia He said worriedly.

Xia Fang did not insist that Xia He stay behind and called the Xia family's chauffeur to come and pick her up. She would feel more at ease knowing that there was someone sending Xia He home.

The next day was not as quiet and peaceful as Xia He had imagined. The four children groaned endlessly in the courtyard, especially Zhang Miao, who was even louder than the big rooster next door. Those who did not know better would think that the people in the house were abusing the children!

"Stand properly! Put your hands together on the crease of your pants! Raise your head and puff out your chest! Look straight ahead!" Zheng Peng sternly held out the ruler to guide the children's movements.

As there were both boys and girls among the four children, it was inappropriate for Zheng Peng to use his hands to guide the two girls' movements given that he was a male teacher, so he needed to use a ruler.

Physical fitness was also an important subject in school. Zhang Wei's training was different from the other three children. As he had already built up a certain level of foundation in Foshan Village, he was asked to start with the horse stance while carrying weights and he trained alone.

"From now on, all of you will stand there for 30 minutes without moving! Zhang Wei will do the horse stance for one hour! If anyone moves or does not meet the standards, you will have to continue for an additional five minutes. Do you understand!" Zheng Peng said sternly.

"Understood!" the four children shouted softly.

Zheng Peng looked at them sharply as he said loudly, "What did you say! Louder! Are you still sleeping!"

"Understood!!!" the four children shouted with all their might.

Zheng Peng did not stay idle either. He stood in front of the children in a standard military posture to set an example for them. By doing this, he could also better supervise whether each child was maintaining a standard posture.

Qiao Qiang sat in the long corridor, drinking tea with relish and looking at the children. When he looked at Zheng Peng, it was as if he was looking at himself in the military camp back then. Those days were really unforgettable.

Qiao Mei rubbed her eyes in dissatisfaction and went to the backyard. After hearing Zheng Peng's yells, she had goosebumps all over her body. She recalled those days of military training in university in her other life. She had to run five kilometers every day and needed to take part in marathons at times. It was simply hellish torture.

"Grandfather, isn't this training not so good for the children..." Qiao Mei slowly walked to Qiao Qiang's side and asked softly.

"Huh? Which part do you think is not good?" Qiao Qiang asked.

"Among these children, only Zhang Wei will be going to the military academy. It must be very tiring to go through such physical training." Qiao Mei looked at the other three children with heartache.

However, Qiao Qiang had a different opinion from Qiao Mei. He looked at the children and said, "We're not in the village now. It's been a long time since they went out to run around. Do you still remember what they used to do? It's not good for their physical development if they're kept inside the house like this. Besides, we're relatives with the Xia family. If these children's standards are too far off compared with the Xia family's children, how do you expect them to get along with people from the Xia family in the future?"

Everything that Qiao Qiang said made sense. She really did not think of this part. Although Li Gui and the children had their own house and social activities, they would inevitably have to interact with the Xia family in the future. They would also have to interact with people in the same social circle as the Xia family, so it was better not to have too much of a gap with them.

Chapter 945 - 945 Honing Mental Strength

945 Honing Mental Strength

Thank you readers!

Qiao Mei also hoped that these children would be able to choose the path they liked in the future. Any path was fine as long as they chose it themselves and did not regret it.

However, she could not help but be like most parents who wanted their children to develop well and take a better path. Every family wanted to pave a smooth path for their children. Everyone hoped that their children would have a smooth journey without any obstacles.

"Then do the two girls need to be trained in the same way as the boys?" Qiao Mei asked.

“Look at Xia He. She trained under Xia Xiu when she was young. See how capable she is now?” Qiao Qiang said.

There were no weak children in the Xia family. Given that there were merits to this method of education, it was better to leave it at that for now.

Xia He was also woken up by the sounds of the training session. As she woke up in shock, she thought that she had returned to the days when she was young and still in the military academy. She almost stood up to shout out her attendance. At that time, she had to get up for training before dawn and did not even have time to eat breakfast. She never wanted a repeat of those miserable days.

“Elder sister, you’re up too.” When Qiao Mei heard a noise behind her, she turned around to greet Xia He.

“That’s right. I woke up in fright when I heard the words ‘puff out your chest and raise your head’. Those memories are really unforgettable. The memories from when I was young have all come back to me,” Xia He said in pain.

When she was young, she had been reprimanded by many teachers about how her back was hunched. She often had to stand against the wall as punishment. Sometimes, she had to stand there for an entire day and her entire back would ache.

However, she had never regretted the experience. Instead, she was very grateful to those teachers for their strictness back then. If not for the tough training back then, she would not be able to have her current achievements.

“Elder sister, do you think it’s good for them to do this? I still think it’s better to let them choose their own path,” Qiao Mei said awkwardly.

Xia He had never brought up children before and did not know how to educate them. However, her own experience when she was young had taught her that only through hardship could one rise above others. If one lived a luxurious life from a young age and did not have to worry about anything, one would not have the tenacious willpower to overcome difficulties when something really happened.

“I think they’re still young and need us to guide them. This isn’t a bad thing and we can let the children learn how to protect themselves. They’ve been bullied so much since they were young. If we can’t protect them one day, don’t they need to be able to protect themselves too?” Xia He looked at the children and said meaningfully.

The Xia family had been kept in the loop about Qiao Mei’s family matters and knew very well that the children had been trafficked previously. As the saying went, flowers and plants that were carefully taken care of would always be weaker than wildflowers that had endured the wind and rain in nature and still stood strong. Only with constant training could one bring out the best in oneself.

Qiao Mei was convinced by Xia He’s point of view. Her initial heartache for the children gradually faded.

“I think Zhang Miao will cry in another 10 minutes. Let’s go and cook something delicious for them as a reward. Otherwise, they won’t be able to make it to the afternoon session,” Qiao Mei said.

It was a rare sunny day today. Qiao Mei put on the anti-slip shoes that Xu Lan had bought for her and put on many layers of warm clothes before going out to buy groceries with Xia He. She had been staying at home for the past two days and was feeling suffocated from the boredom.

By now, Li Gui had also learned to ride the three-wheeled vehicle skillfully. Qiao Qiang modified the other two three-wheeled vehicles at home and attached them to Li Gui’s vehicle. This way, Li Gui could set off alone to deliver the goods herself.

The combined vehicle was much heavier than her usual single vehicle. This time, Zhao Fei arrived before she did. When he saw Li Gui struggling, he quickly went forward to help.

“Auntie, you have modified the vehicles! You’re really knowledgeable! How did you ride it over when it’s so heavy? This path is uphill,” Zhao Fei asked with a smile.

Li Gui panted heavily and said, “Sigh! I didn’t expect this either. My family member modified the vehicle for me. It looks good, but my stamina can’t keep up! By the way! My daughter wants me to give you a present.”

946 Bargaining Again

Zhao Fei looked at Li Gui expectantly. He had never received any gift in his entire life. He wondered what Li Gui wanted to give him. Could it be clothes? Or shoes? Or gloves or something like that.

Thank you readers!

Li Gui took out a pager from the vehicle and handed it to Zhao Fei. The young man held the pager for a long time and could not come back to his senses. When he confirmed that it was really a pager, he almost flew up in joy.

He had seen this thing in the shop windows of the stores selling electronic products, but he had never touched the actual thing! It must cost a few thousand dollars! It was too valuable a gift to accept!

“Auntie, this is too expensive a gift. I definitely can’t accept it. Keep it for yourself. I have a phone at home! Take it back. You can’t give it to me!” Zhao Fei said in a panic.

“Take it! If I say it’s for you, then it’s yours. This is our... partnership gift. Take it as my red packet to you for the new year! You have to accept it! What if you’re not at home when I need to look for you urgently? It’s more convenient to have this thing with you. My child has written a manual with instructions. I think you young people definitely learn things quickly, so take it back and study it yourself. I’m leaving! Quick, go sell the goods!” After saying that, Li Gui turned around and walked back.

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Zhao Fei held the pager in his hand and had very complex feelings. He really did not know how to express his gratitude to Li Gui and her daughter.

Right now, he was earning more money than before and his life was getting much better. This was all thanks to Li Gui and her family. If not for Li Gui, he would not even be able to earn so much money in a month!

Not only were Li Gui and her family all kind-hearted people, but they were also generous and treated him like one of their own. He had not felt the warmth of a family for a long time. If there was ever a chance, he would definitely want to acknowledge Li Gui as his godmother! He just did not know if Li Gui and her daughter would mind.

This also made him more determined to sell the goods well. Not only did he want to become rich himself, but he also wanted to make more money for Li Gui and her family so that they could all have better lives together!

On the other side, Xia He and Qiao Mei walked slowly along the road and looked around at their surroundings. From time to time, they would greet the neighbors.

“How about we buy a chicken? Ask Auntie to make chicken soup for us tonight. I feel like drinking the chicken soup she makes!” Xia He said.

“No problem. Let’s buy the biggest one and we can also buy other types of meat.” Qiao Mei wanted to buy everything she saw. She had not been out for a long time and wanted to take this opportunity to shop more!

Soon, Xia He had more and more things in her hands. In the end, she was so tired that she could not even straighten her back. She looked up and saw that Qiao Mei had bought another big watermelon that was actually out of season. Qiao Mei had bought another one because she thought that one was not enough!

“Qiao Mei! Are you trying to kill me! Stop buying! If you buy any more things, we won’t be able to go home!” Xia He said with her back hunched and her hands almost reaching her knees.

Qiao Mei looked around and immediately saw a very big three-wheeled vehicle parked next to the vegetable stall in front of them. Qiao Mei shouted enthusiastically at the peddlers, “Do you give rides on this three-wheeled vehicle! I want to get a ride!”

“How much are you offering?” the stall owner asked.

It was the peak timing to sell vegetables. There were many people and business was booming. If Qiao Mei could not give them a reasonable fee, they would not do it.

“Tell me how much you want to charge! I don’t know the market price either!” Qiao Mei said humbly.

The stall owner and his wife looked at each other and finally decided to give a lift to Qiao Mei for two dollars. Their three-wheeled vehicle was very big and could seat six adults at one time. It would be easy to send Qiao Mei and Xia He home with all their groceries.

“That’s too expensive! How about one dollar!” Qiao Mei bargained.

Qiao Mei agreed readily without a second thought. Xia He stood rooted to the ground and watched in a daze as Qiao Mei bargained with the stall owner. This girl could buy 2,000 dollars worth of jewelry with a wave of her hand, but she actually wanted to bargain down a two-dollar fare.

What a strange person. Xia He did not expect her to have such a concept when it came to spending money.

Chapter 947 - 947 To Be Strict With Oneself

947 To Be Strict With Oneself

Thank you readers!

Xia He’s expression now was the same as the one on Xia Wen’s face when he saw Qiao Mei bargaining with the owner on the price when buying the house. They both found her to be unbelievable.

“Let’s go, elder sister! Get in!” Qiao Mei said happily.

The stall owner and Xia He quickly moved all the groceries onto the vehicle. The back of this vehicle was the same as any other three-wheeled vehicle. The difference was that he had welded two platforms on both sides so that people could sit down on them.

Xia He did not allow Qiao Mei to sit on the platform. She was worried that Qiao Mei would fall over when the stall owner braked. It was simply too dangerous. The stall owner placed a small stool in the back of the vehicle with two layers of cushions on it so that Qiao Mei could have a comfortable seat on the way home.

“Boss, are you a local?” While they were on the way, Qiao Mei asked in a familiar manner.

“Yes, I’m a local. I’m just a peddler, not a big boss. My surname is Wang. I see that you’re quite young, so you can call me Uncle Wang!” the stall owner said.

Qiao Mei quickly replied, “Oh my, how can I call you Uncle Wang. I don’t think you’re that old. I should call you Brother Wang! Brother Wang, you have such a big stall so why can’t you be considered a boss? Your business will only get bigger in the future, Brother Wang!”

Brother Wang was so amused by Qiao Mei that he laughed out loud and said, “You’re such a sweet-talker! This was originally my parent’s business. I guess you can say that I inherited the family business! I don’t know what else I can do.”

Xia He sat at the side and watched Qiao Mei chatting with Brother Wang. By the time they reached home, Qiao Mei had already asked Brother Wang about the number of people there were in his family, his parents’ health, where he lived and where his children went to school. She was just short of asking Brother Wang about all his ancestors.

“Brother Wang! Thank you so much! I’ll go to your stall to buy vegetables next time! Let’s keep in touch!” Qiao Mei waved goodbye to Brother Wang happily.

Xia He slowly moved all the groceries into the kitchen. This morning, she had learned something new. No wonder even Xia Wen said that he could not deal with Qiao Mei. Being someone who could deal with the entire He family alone, Qiao Mei was definitely not as obedient and nice as she looked.

That young brat, Xia Zhe, was really lucky to have married such a good wife.

Qiao Mei also wanted to help Xia He in some way, but every time she tried, Xia He would reprimand her. Later on, Qiao Mei accepted the fact that she was supposed to be “living a pampered life” and did not do anything to make Xia He angry.

The children’s first round of training in the backyard had already ended. As expected, all the children were lying motionlessly on the ground. Zheng Peng simply let them do whatever they wanted. They would get up once they felt that the ground was too cold. It was not as if they were fools. Otherwise, should he provide a bed for each of them?

He disliked spoiled brats the most. When Zheng Peng was young, his father had once asked him to run outside half-naked on a snowy day. His father said that it was to train his character, but in reality, it was to punish him for stealing and eating Zheng Yuan’s pastries.

Qiao Mei did not meddle with Zheng Peng’s training methods and sat down with Qiao Qiang to drink tea and watch what was going on.

“Everyone, get up and stand at attention! Follow the same formation as before!” Zheng Peng shouted sternly.

The children moved very quickly and immediately lined up in a row according to their sizes. Their postures were already much better than before.

“I’ll give you 10 minutes to go back to your rooms and tidy up your bedding and messy clothes. If you don’t come out within 10 minutes, you will be punished by having to stand in a military posture for 30 minutes after dinner! Are you ready!” Zheng Peng shouted as he looked at the watch on his wrist.

The children straightened their backs and shouted, “Ready!”

“Go!” Zheng Peng gave the order and the four children rushed into the rooms like arrows released from a bow.

Zheng Peng did not wander around. Instead, he stood in a military posture and maintained the standard of a teacher at all times. Since he was their role model, he must also be strict with himself and set an

example for them. What right did he have to ask the children to do things that even he himself could not do?

Qiao Mei's opinion of Zheng Peng had also changed a little. He was completely different from her original stereotypical impression of him. She had thought that people in the art world were more free-spirited, but she did not expect there to be an artist who would be so strict with himself.

Chapter 948 - 948 Nothing Good Will Come of It

948 Nothing Good Will Come of It

"Grandfather, why didn't you train me like this when I was young?" Qiao Mei asked as she looked at Qiao Qiang curiously.

Thank you readers!

Qiao Qiang became lost in his thoughts for a long time. Even now, he could still remember the first time he saw Qiao Mei when he returned to the village. She was such a thin and tiny child with sunken collarbone and ribs. It was as if he could break Qiao Mei's fragile bones using just a little bit of force. She was like a skinny kitten who was lying in the pigsty on her last breath.

At that time, Qiao Mei had already suffered too much. Furthermore, she was Qiao Yue's only daughter. He could not bear to let Qiao Mei go through such physical training.

Later on, however, he often wondered if he had spoiled Qiao Mei too much. Her massive size and vengeful temper made many villagers come to complain to him. Qiao Qiang would just smile and forget about it. Sometimes, when the villagers went a little too far with their comments, Qiao Qiang would even quarrel with them.

"You don't need to join the army, so why should I train you? Besides, in the entire village, who can bully you? What should I be worried about?" Qiao Qiang said matter-of-factly.

"That does make sense." Qiao Mei laughed awkwardly. The original owner of the body was famous for her violent temper.

While Qiao Mei and Qiao Qiang chatted, 10 minutes passed quickly.

“Everyone, come and stand in the courtyard! 10 minutes is up!” Zheng Peng shouted loudly.

The children had no choice but to put down everything in their hands and walk out quickly. Zhang Wei wanted things to look perfect so he packed up the things on the table before he left, thus causing some delay.

“Zhang Wei! Step forward!” Zheng Peng shouted as he looked at Zhang Wei sternly.

Zhang Wei stepped out with fear and lowered his head, not daring to look into Zheng Peng’s eyes. It was as if one look from Zheng Peng could condemn him to eternal damnation. Those eagle-like eyes would definitely become a source of trauma for the children in the future.

“Do you know why I asked you to come out? If you answer correctly, you won’t be punished,” Zheng Peng said.

“Report! I continued to clean up the room after the time was up! I violated the rule!” Zhang Wei said softly.

Zheng Peng had no intention of reprimanding Zhang Wei. He turned and went to inspect the other children’s rooms. The bedding in every room was not up to standard and the neatness did not even meet the most basic standard. The blankets that they folded were all crooked.

However, Zheng Peng did not reprimand them like before. Instead, he asked the three children to wash their hands and get ready to have their meals. Then, he brought Zhang Wei into the room.

“Do you know what you did wrong?” Zheng Peng asked.

Zhang Wei thought carefully for a moment and said, “I didn’t complete the mission that you gave me. I even violated the rules.”

Zheng Peng shook his head and said to Zhang Wei in all seriousness, "My original intention of giving you this mission is to improve your speed and daily habits. It's not embarrassing to be unable to finish. I hope that you will strictly abide by the rules and continue to work hard to do better in the future. As long as you train again and again, there will come a time when you will meet the standard. Do you understand?"

"I understand. I'll train hard," Zhang Wei said with a smile.

Zheng Peng gave Zhang Wei a hard pat on the shoulder and asked him to join his younger siblings. It would put a serious strain on the children's bodies if he trained them before they had dinner, so it was better to wait for a while.

"Qiao Mei, come with me to look for Aunt when you're free. Yesterday, I ran into Aunt when I went to the hospital to visit Sun Juan. She's quite worried about your health," Xia He said.

Qiao Mei rejected the request without a second thought. She knew that other women would only go to the hospital when they were about to give birth. She was still a long time away from her due date. She would not have the same kind of freedom she had at home if she went to the hospital. Her diet would be fixed by someone else and there would be a lot of restrictions. She could only walk around in the small ward twice a day. Living such a life was simply a fate worse than death.

"I don't want to go. I'll go when I'm due," Qiao Mei said with a pout.

"Even if you don't want to stay there, you should at least get a checkup done. If you're disobedient, I'll have to tell Xia Zhe. Then he'll deal with you when he comes back! Nothing good will come out of it!" Xia He said smugly.

Chapter 949 - 949 The "ATM" Is Here

949 The "ATM" Is Here

"Have Father or eldest brother received any news about Xia Zhe recently? Or letters from Xia Zhe or something," Qiao Mei asked.

Thank you readers!

Ever since Xia Zhe made the phone call to mediate the relationship between Qiao Mei and Xu Lan, Qiao Mei had not received any more news about Xia Zhe. Xia Mao only told her that Xia Zhe was on a mission and it was not convenient for him to reveal any details. The only thing he could tell her was that Xia Zhe was very safe at the moment.

Earlier, she had asked Xia Mao to help her send the liquid made from the 1000-year-old ginseng to Xia Zhe and he had already received it. Otherwise, Qiao Mei would be more worried about Xia Zhe's safety than now. With the 1,000-year-old ginseng liquid, Xia Zhe would have a much higher chance of survival if he was ever in danger.

Although Xia He had previously been married for so many years, she had never experienced what Qiao Mei was going through. Kong Lu's job was not as dangerous as Xia Zhe's. It was considered one of the easier jobs in the army. He could call her every day and did not get sent on secret missions. During his vacation leave period, he could always go home.

Although they were both wives of military men, things were very different. It was really tough for Qiao Mei to be pregnant and on her own for 10 months. It was very likely that Xia Zhe would still be on a mission when Qiao Mei gave birth and he could not come back on time.

However, Qiao Mei understood Xia Zhe's situation very well and did not resent him for it. Xia Zhe was protecting the people of the entire country, so she would play her part to protect their own little family. She saw it as a good division of labor.

"He hasn't said anything to us, but based on previous experiences, no news is good news," Xia He said.

"What about eldest brother? Xia Zhe did not contact eldest brother too?" Qiao Mei continued to ask.

Xia Wen had so much stuff to handle that he did not have the energy to think about Xia Zhe's issues now. Although he was not facing any setbacks in his career, the trivialities in his life were more than a handful for him.

"No, he didn't. Yesterday, Aunt told me that eldest brother is injured and is now staying at Mother's place. This whole matter is quite strange. Eldest brother didn't explain how he got injured. In the past, eldest brother wouldn't go home to seek help from our parents no matter how difficult the situation

was. He's a very stubborn person. I don't know what happened, but he's acting abnormally," Xia He said in puzzlement.

"Let eldest brother handle his own matters. We can't interfere even if we want to," Qiao Mei said as she continued to embroider the clothes. There was a high chance that it had something to do with the Tan family. Since Xia Wen did not say anything, it was not convenient for them to get involved in the conflict between the couple.

As she spoke, there was a knock on the main door. Xia He thought that Li Gui had forgotten her keys, so she quickly ran to the door and opened it with a smile. "Auntie, you're back! There's still food in the pot! You... Why are you here? Is our house a place you can visit? Get lost!"

When Xia He saw that the person standing outside the door was He Ning, her expression changed drastically. The incident of the He family causing Qiao Mei to have a "miscarriage" was still vivid in her mind, yet this man still dared to take the initiative to come looking for Qiao Mei. This was simply the highest level of shamelessness!

He Ning did not care about Xia He's scolding at all. She always made a great show of strength, but she did not use her brains well. She was not even as capable as one of Xia Wen's fingers. She only had brute strength and good looks, but nothing else.

"I'm here to return money to Qiao Mei. May I trouble you to go and ask her if she wants the money?" He Ning said with a gentle smile.

Xia He closed the main door reluctantly and slowly walked back into the house. "There's a short-lived person outside who's here to return you money."

Short-lived and returning money? That meant that her "ATM", He Ning, was here! Coincidentally, she was a little short of money recently, so He Ning had come at the right time.

"Elder sister, let him in. They won't be able to do anything in broad daylight," Qiao Mei said.

Xia He was still unwilling to let He Ning inside. She crossed her arms and leaned against the door frame as she said, "Don't forget what the He family did to you back then. It all happened in broad daylight.

There's nothing that those heartless people from the He family dare not do. As long as they can achieve their goal, they will work hard to achieve it no matter the price."

"He Ning's life is in our hands now. He won't do anything to me. Besides, don't I still have you by my side? If he makes any rash moves, just whack him!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Chapter 950 - 950 Rather Believe in Ghosts

950 Rather Believe in Ghosts

"What are you doing here! Are you here to hurt my daughter again!" Li Gui rushed to the main door and shouted as she spread out her arms to block the door.

Thank you readers!

The passers-by looked at He Ning suspiciously. He Ning did not know how to explain himself. Why did the Xia and Qiao families think that he was here to harm Qiao Mei? Was this how the Xia and Qiao families treated their guests?

Previously, when they were in the village, Li Gui did not know who He Ning was and even cooked many nice dishes for him. However, after Qiao Mei told her that his name was He Ning, her attitude took a 180-degree turn. He Ning sometimes wondered if there was something wrong with his name for him to be hated by so many people. Perhaps he needed to consider changing his name.

Huo Gao looked at He Ning helplessly every time something like this happened. How could he really not know why everyone despised him!

"I'm here to deliver money to Qiao Mei, not to harm her," He Ning explained resignedly.

Li Gui still had a doubtful look on her face. Which bad guy would admit that he was a bad guy! He Ning was a scheming person and could lie about anything!

She would rather believe that there were ghosts in this world than believe what He Ning said!

“Who knows if you’re telling the truth! Since you’re here to deliver money, then just put it down! We’ll amend the IOU! Then you can leave quickly!” Li Gui said.

He Ning had a whole new level of respect for Li Gui. He did not expect Li Gui to be so knowledgeable. The process she rattled off was clear and correct and she was completely different from the illiterate woman he met previously. Worldly exposure could really bring about a huge change to people.

“The person I owe money to is Qiao Mei. I won’t return the money until I see Qiao Mei in person,” He Ning said.

Li Gui did not hesitate at all and said, “Then you can go back. We don’t lack that bit of money!”

He Ning did not say a word. Why did they behave like rich people now? Did money no longer hold any attraction? Why were the members of this family all so strange?

Xia He quickly walked to Li Gui’s side and said, “Qiao Mei says you can come in with the money. The rest should wait outside the door.”

He Ning readily agreed to Qiao Mei’s request and was even self-aware enough to empty out his pocket and leave his things with his attendant. He did not bring anything else with him.

“Are we going to let him in just like that? No! We can’t let him get close to Qiao Mei!” Li Gui said worriedly.

Xia He held Li Gui back and whispered, “It’s fine. There’s no problem if he’s on his own. Qiao Mei tells us not to worry, so we should choose to believe her.”

Li Gui had no choice but to take a step back to let He Ning in. From the moment He Ning stepped in, Li Gui stared at him the entire time. She held a stick tightly in her hand and did not even dare to blink, worried that Qiao Mei would be harmed if she let her guard down for even one second.

Hence, the scene that Qiao Mei saw was one of He Ning walking at the front righteously while Xia He and Li Gui supervised He Ning from both sides and walked with all kinds of strange postures. Even

though they wanted to keep an eye on He Ning in case he wanted to harm her, Li Gui and Xia He were far more eye-catching now!

“How much did you bring?” Qiao Mei asked with a smile.

“Not much. Business is only so-so recently. Here’s 50,000 dollars,” He Ning said as he patted the case.

“I’ll accept this 50,000 dollars. Give me another 100,000 dollars within half a month. Otherwise, I won’t give you another ginseng. I can do business with anyone anyway. If you’re not interested, there are plenty of high-ranking officials and dignitaries in the capital who want my ginseng,” Qiao Mei said confidently.

“There are indeed many people who want your ginseng. However, not everyone can fork out as much money as me. Furthermore, once someone reports you for making a private transaction, what do you think will happen to you?” He Ning narrowed his eyes and said as he looked at Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei was not worried about these things at all. She had so many ginsengs that they were like plain water to her. As long as she gave others a certain amount of benefits, they would help her out whenever she needed.

People’s hearts were driven by benefits. One could only tell if someone was a true friend after going through thick and thin together.

“You don’t have to worry about whether anything will happen to me. However, if you don’t have my ginseng, I’m afraid something will really happen to you,” Qiao Mei said.