

Fat Wife 951

Chapter 951 - 951 Rich and Powerful

951 Rich and Powerful

He Ning could not deny that what Qiao Mei said was true. Even if he bought thousands of ginsengs from other sellers, they could not compare to one ginseng from Qiao Mei.

Thank you readers!

That was how confident Qiao Mei was in herself. Moreover, He Ning could not find any loopholes or lapses in Qiao Mei's dealings at all. If this one million dollars was put into the bank, she could make tens of thousands of dollars every year. Qiao Mei would be able to survive on the bank interest alone for the rest of her life. He Ning would then become of no value to her in the future. To her, the earlier he died, the less harm he would do to the world.

Ginseng was different from other things. It took time to gather the essence of the sun and moon. The more aged it was, the more valuable it would be. He Ning could not possibly go to Foshan Village to grow ginseng himself just to spite Qiao Mei. By the time the ginseng matured, he would already be dead!

Right now, he must find at least one of Qiao Mei's weaknesses and grasp it tightly. Only then could he have a say over this and take control of Qiao Mei.

"Alright... You need to wait a while," He Ning said, swallowing his anger.

"We have to sign a new agreement for the next ginseng. Based on the way you return me the money, I'm really worried that you won't be able to pay me the rest. In the beginning, we agreed that you would give me 600,000 dollars first once I come to the capital, but look at the amount you've given me so far. It's definitely not 600,000 dollars," Qiao Mei said disdainfully.

He Ning just did not want to give all the money to Qiao Mei at one go. This way, he would not have the chance to come to Qiao Mei's house to ask for a meal. However, Qiao Mei seemed to have already seen through his intentions.

How could it be so difficult to freeload a meal! Could it be that he was being too obvious?

"I understand." He Ning looked at Qiao Mei expressionlessly, but he was still wondering if he would be able to stay for a meal later.

Everyone looked at one another for a long time. Finally, Xia He could not help but say, "Mr. He, is there anything else?"

"Nothing else," He Ning said.

"Then please go back, Mr. He. We won't send you off," Xia He held back her temper and said politely.

He Ning stared straight at Qiao Mei and asked, "Aren't you going to ask me to stay for a meal?"

The corners of Qiao Mei's mouth twitched slightly. This person was really way too direct and obvious nowadays. He used to be more subtle about what he wanted.

"There's no more food at home. We have so many mouths to feed and there's not enough food. How can there be any leftovers? You have come at the wrong time." Li Gui looked at He Ning in disdain, her eyes filled with contempt and scorn for him.

He was from such a successful family, so why would he always come to their house to ask for a meal? Was it their family asking the He family for help or the He family asking them for help? He acted as if Qiao Mei was the one who owed him something and he had no sense of propriety at all.

He Ning had no choice but to leave Qiao Mei's house dejectedly. The attendant had thought that he could take a nap in the car and did not expect He Ning to come out so quickly. He had such a shock that he quickly got out of the car and opened the car door.

"Sir, slow down..." the attendant said respectfully.

He Ning glared at his attendant, then turned around to look at Qiao Mei's main door before getting into the car glumly. The Xia family's spies, who were hiding nearby, noted down everything that happened and quickly went to send a report to Xia Mao.

No matter how much Li Gui liked money, she did not even look at the money case that He Ning had brought.

"Qiao Mei, how much money does he still owe you? If it's not a lot, let's just forget it. It's really dangerous to let such a person come to our house. Our family doesn't lack money," Li Gui said fearfully.

Qiao Mei raised one finger silently.

Li Gui laughed happily and said, "Is it 10,000 dollars! Then let's forget it! 10,000 dollars is not a lot of money. If I make more popcorn, you can get 10,000 dollars in half a year. If it's just 10,000 dollars... then let's forget about it."

Xia He looked at Li Gui with admiration in her eyes. That was an amount of 10,000 dollars that she was talking about. The previous Li Gui would split hair over every cent she spent, always concerned over whether the money was spent meaninglessly and worthlessly.

Compared to money, Qiao Mei's health was more important. At this critical moment, she could not afford to have any accidents. If He Ning came to say something nasty and cause Qiao Mei's emotions to fluctuate too much, she might even go into premature labor.

Money was just a worldly possession and one should not care too much about it.

Chapter 952 - 952 An Ulterior Motive

952 An Ulterior Motive

"No, it's one million dollars," Qiao Mei said casually.

Thank you readers!

Li Gui and Xia He stood rooted to the ground in shock and did not dare to move. Li Gui's happy smile gradually froze on her face.

"How much? One million... How much is one million... 100 times 10,000... Oh my goodness, he owes you so much money..." Li Gui was completely dumbfounded.

It was not just Li Gui who was flabbergasted. Xia He also could not believe what Qiao Mei just said. Even the Xia family would need to take a long time to save up 10,000 dollars. Their family expenses were very high and they spent a lot of money on their relatives and friends as well. They could not manage to save much money at all throughout the year.

Before the children got married, they handed over their salaries to Xu Lan for safekeeping. Now that they had their own families, it was no longer possible for them to hand over all their money to Xu Lan. It was not easy for Xu Lan and Xia Mao to maintain such a big house with just her retirement pension and his salary.

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It would probably take all of them more than 60 years to save up an amount of one million dollars. No matter how rich the He family was, it should not be impossible for them to repay so much money quickly. Not long ago, the Xia family had worked with Jiang Jin to reopen the old case and even caused the He family to lose a lot of money!

"Qiao Mei, did you remember wrongly? Are you sure it's not something like 100,000 dollars?" Xia He asked suspiciously.

"It's really one million dollars, and there's still another amount of tens of thousands that he hasn't returned to me. I can't even remember the exact amount. He agreed to buy three 100-year-old ginsengs from me and I've already dug them up for him. All that's left is for him to bring the money to collect the goods. I haven't even received the entire amount for the first one. I don't feel like selling him the other two," Qiao Mei said.

Li Gui and Xia He did not know what to say. They had rarely even seen 10,000 dollars in their lives and it was only because of Qiao Mei that they saw so much money.

Xia He felt that the truckload of money and food stamps which He Ning sent over back then was already a lot.

It was likely that even the people from the bank had never had to handle such a large sum of deposit at once. It took all the staff in the bank an entire morning to count all the funds.

Previously, when Qiao Mei went to the bank to rent a safe, Xia He had gone with her. The bank staff were all very shocked by how Qiao Mei had so much money. The main thing was not about the money, but the fact that she did not choose to deposit such a huge amount of money into the bank to get interest, but chose to put everything in the safe. It was really puzzling for them.

Xia He already felt that it was a huge expense for Qiao Mei to pay the bank 2,000 dollars a year to rent the safe. She did not expect that the bank would eventually have to pay Qiao Mei at least this amount in monthly interest in the future!

It was simply too infuriating.

“Then... then we must get the money...” Li Gui said.

“Don’t worry, he won’t do anything to me. Is’t his intent just to come over here and eat?” Qiao Mei said.

The He family was a successful family and could have anything they wanted. Why would he take a fancy to Qiao Mei’s cooking? His motive was probably not that simple.

Xia He looked out of the door meaningfully and recalled He Ning’s every move after he entered the house just now. Even when she and Li Gui questioned He Ning together, He Ning’s eyes remained fixed on Qiao Mei. Could it be that he had taken a fancy to Qiao Mei?

Everyone said that He Ning was a very eligible bachelor with both money and good looks. Most importantly, he did not have long to live. Once He Ning died, the He family’s assets would naturally fall into the hands of He Ning’s wife. Many young ladies from wealthy families tried their best to get a chance to marry He Ning. Some families had even arranged for 16-year-old girls to go on blind dates with He Ning, but they were all rejected by He Ning.

Later on, He Ning himself spread the news that he was unwell and did not want to get married. Gradually, most people stopped their wishful thinking, but not everyone knew when to stop. There was a person who did not believe it and insisted on taking care of He Ning, firmly believing that as long as she took care of He Ning day after day, He Ning would develop feelings for her over time.

In the end, He Ning suffered food poisoning from eating the food made by that young lady and was sent to the hospital. He was almost "murdered". If not for the fact that the young lady's father gave He Ning a lot of shares in his company, his precious daughter would probably have to spend the rest of her life in prison.

Xia He made up her mind to keep a close eye on Qiao Mei and not let any man get close to her. She must protect her sister-in-law well.

Other than Qiao Mei, she would not acknowledge anyone else as Xia Zhe's wife!

Chapter 953 Unreasonable

"It's better not to tell anyone else at home about this. It's enough for just the three of us to know. The more people who know, the more dangerous it will be for you. It might not be a good thing to have so much money," Xia He said cautiously.

aglesnovel`c,om "Alright, I'll do what you say," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Qiao Mei also understood what Xia He meant. There would not be any peace in the family, especially if Zhou Hua and Tan Jing found out about it. Tan Jing would only become more demanding and ask Xia Wen to come and ask Qiao Mei for things. She was only asking for the house now, but she might be asking for money in the future.

Those were the type of people who did not want anyone else to live a happier life than them. If your life was going well, they would only be crazily jealous of you and even want to drag you down and ruin your family. Only then would they feel happy.

They would continue to suck your blood under the pretext that relatives should help one another, until they completely drained you of everything that was of value to them.

Zhou Hua was a perfect example. She just could not bear to see Xia Zhe's whole family living better than hers. She could not understand why among Wu Min's children, only the eldest son's family benefited from the inheritance and no one else. That was why she made contact with He Ning and did something unfavorable to the Xia family.

As soon as the farce in the front yard ended, a commotion broke out in the backyard for some reason. The three people in the house were very puzzled to hear a sharp voice. There were only two girls in the backyard, Zhang Qin and Zhang Miao. How could there be a woman arguing with Zheng Peng? Who was it? Could it be that Old Madam Fan had come knocking on their door?

The three of them rushed to the backyard. Xia He held on to Qiao Mei, worried that she might get into an accident. When they reached the backyard and took a closer look, they realized that it was Qian'e!

"What right do you have to stop me from taking the child! It's not like I'm taking everyone away! Can't I just take Zhang Miao!" Qian'e raised her head strenuously and shouted at Zheng Peng.

The petite Qian'e looked like a little kid in front of Zheng Peng. Zheng Peng did not know who this woman was, but she wanted to bring Zhang Miao into the room as soon as she entered the backyard. She did not stop to speak to him. Since he was the children's teacher, he must ensure the children's safety. He could not let a stranger bring the children out of his sight.

"I don't know who you are. You can't take the child away!" Zheng Peng said sternly.

Qian'e stomped her feet in anger. She had never seen such a dogged person before. She had already said many times that she was here to teach a class, that she was not a human trafficker and that she was Qiao Mei's good friend. Zheng Peng was simply extremely stubborn!

Qian'e only fell short of throwing her piano certificate and the award certificate she had received back then at Zheng Peng's face.

At this time of the day, Qiao Qiang had already gone to Zhou Sheng's house to play chess. He might not be able to go to the park, but he could still go to someone else's house. He felt that he was too old to waste his time in the house every day.

"I'm her piano teacher! She needs to attend my class now! Move aside! If you're not happy, go and check with Qiao Mei! I still have other classes to go to later!" Qian'e said.

Zheng Peng looked at Qian'e stubbornly and said, "I'm their teacher now. They can't go with you."

"Zhang Miao is only four years old! Why does she need physical training! There's no need to learn elementary school knowledge at kindergarten age! Kids should learn the right things for their age! Just teach the remaining children well! I don't want to waste time arguing with you! Quickly move aside and don't waste everyone's time!" Qian'e said with a frown.

Qiao Mei quickly went forward to stop the fight. Qian'e had not been here for almost half a month and she had forgotten about the fact that she signed Zhang Miao up for piano lessons. Xia He only taught Zhang Qin basic skills when she had some free time. Recently, Qiao Mei had not been feeling well and did not pay as much attention to the children as she used to.

"Alright, alright! Stop arguing! It's all my fault. I got the schedules mixed up. How about this, you bring Miao Miao to piano class and the rest of the children follow Professor Zheng for elementary school lessons?" Qiao Mei asked with a smile.

"No way! I'm so angry when I see this man!" Qian'e said angrily as she looked at Qiao Mei.

Qiao Mei quickly pulled Qian'e aside and said, "Just do it for me. I really forgot to tell anyone about this. I haven't been feeling well recently. Can you just take pity on me?"

Chapter 954 - 954 Mending Clothes

954 Mending Clothes

Qian'e turned around to look at Zheng Peng and then at Zhang Miao's cautious and timid expression. In the end, she decided to give in to Qiao Mei. After all, the child was innocent and she did not want her to have bad memories.

Thank you readers!

Zhang Miao had already experienced too many misfortunes in her childhood. Qian'e did not want her own childhood experiences to be repeated in the lives of other children.

"If you're not feeling well, then go back and lie down! Don't use your health to intimidate me! I'll give in to you! Go back into the house! Why do you still come out when you're not feeling well!" Qian'e said to Qiao Mei tensely.

Although her words were not very nice and her attitude was very agitated, Qian'e had good intentions. Her demeanor had already improved a lot compared to how she was before.

"Alright, alright, alright. You can bring Miao Miao into the room for her lesson first. I'll explain to Professor Zheng before going in," Qiao Mei said.

"After the lesson, you must explain to me what's going on. Why haven't I heard about this person before," Qian'e said unhappily.

Qiao Mei agreed with whatever Qian'e said. As long as it was something Qian'e wanted, Qiao Mei would try her best to satisfy her as long as she did not quarrel with Zheng Peng again.

After Qian'e brought Zhang Miao back to the room, Qiao Mei went over to Zheng Peng and said, "Professor Zheng, I'm so sorry. It's my fault. There are some things which I have forgotten to tell you. That was Zhang Miao's piano teacher, Professor Qian. Also, my elder sister, Xia He, is Zhang Qin's dance teacher. My elder sister will teach the child during her free time and there's no specific timing. Apart from these, the kids don't have any other classes."

Zheng Peng nodded in understanding. He did not mean to make things difficult for Qian'e, but it was just that this woman was really arrogant and despotic and did not respect him at all. She did not even look at him when she entered the house and even said that he abused children by making them go through such tiring physical training classes.

Even when he realized later that the children and Qian'e knew one another, he was unwilling to compromise. The situation had already reached a point where it would be embarrassing if he gave in first.

“Alright, I understand. You can go back and rest. Leave the children to me,” Zheng Peng said.

Li Gui returned to the small courtyard to make popcorn. Xia He helped Qiao Mei to make her way back slowly to the front yard. Too many things had happened today and she had to take a good rest.

Su Yang went to work on time early in the morning. Before he left, he even went over to Qiao Yu’s place to give her five dollars as her meal money for this week. It was rare for Qiao Yu to be able to sleep until late in the morning.

In the past, she always had to wake up before dawn. Even when she had a job in the capital, she still had to wake up early so that she could go to the canteen to be the first one to get food. If she went too late, she would not have anything to eat.

It was so good to be able to live unrestrainedly at home! Qiao Yu only got out of bed slowly when she was so hungry that her stomach growled. The coal fire in the stove had already extinguished and the room was a little cold.

Qiao Yu first restarted the fire in the stove and then rummaged through the old clothes that Su Yang had extorted from the landlord yesterday. She managed to find a cotton jacket in the pile, but a lot of cotton wool had fallen out and the fabric was also too dirty for it to be worn out.

If she wanted to go out, she had to try and assemble a proper-looking cotton jacket. Qiao Yu found a man’s jacket that was slightly too big for her, took out all the cotton wool from the other jacket and slowly sewed it all into this one. Soon, a thick cotton jacket was ready. It was even thicker than what she could buy outside!

This piece of clothing looked quite clean on the surface, but if one flipped it inside out, one could see that it was lined with colorful pieces of scrap fabric. Regardless, it was good enough for Qiao Yu to survive this winter.

Qiao Yu took the money and hummed a tune as she left the room. Before she left, she even locked the door carefully, worried that the landlord would take the chance to steal something from her room or retrieve the items that Su Yang had taken.

She was not Su Yang and did not have the strength to fight with the landlord. What if the landlord had ulterior motives? She decided that when she got back later, she would take the rags and sew them together to make curtains so as to prevent anyone from peeping at her in the middle of the night.

After walking around the supply and marketing cooperative, Qiao Yu realized that she could only buy some vegetables and could not buy meat at all. This was because Su Yang did not give her any meat coupons!

Every year, the pork which Qiao Zhuang's family ate came from the pigs that they reared themselves. Qiao Yu had never left the village and had no idea that one needed meat coupons to buy pork. Her family had never given her any money.

Chapter 955 - 955 Buying Meat

955 Buying Meat

Qiao Yu was not an official employee when she was working in the factory. Everyone received meat coupons and food stamps together with their salary at the end of every month. However, Qiao Yu only had a card.

Thank you readers!

Unlike the others who could use their food stamps and money to buy the food they wanted to eat, Qiao Yu needed to bring her card to the canteen and have it signed. At the end of the month, the food expenses would be deducted from her salary before she was paid.

This was something which Xia Wen had instructed Director Tan to do. His goal was to prevent Qiao Yu from saving money by not spending it on food. If she was able to save money, she would go looking for trouble with Qiao Mei once she had some spare cash.

No one expected Qiao Yu to be such a disappointment and that her weekly performance was the worst in the entire factory. Even if Director Tan wanted to take special care of her, she had nowhere to start. Qiao Yu made it difficult for herself to move up the ranks in the factory.

In the end, Qiao Yu bought two cabbages and some potatoes before going home. Along the way, she kept looking at the meat and eggs on display. As she already knew, every shop would only take meat coupons as payment.

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When she passed by the last butcher shop on the stretch, Qiao Yu stopped at the door and stared inside for a long time, almost drooling as she stood there. The meat in a butcher shop was sold by weight and the butcher would make sure that there was no more or no less. Therefore, there would usually be a lot of meat scraps in the butcher shop to make up the exact weight during weighing.

Sometimes, fatty meat or pig skins that were not cleaned properly would be sold at a low price. If one was lucky, one could even buy them using money.

The lady boss of the butcher shop had long noticed Qiao Yu loitering at the door of her shop, but she did not know what Qiao Yu was up to. It was so cold outside, yet Qiao Yu just stood there and stared fixedly at the meat at the counter. If not for the glass door, she reckoned Qiao Yu would have just rushed in and pounced on that piece of meat.

“Hubby! Look at the woman at the door. Is she the woman Su Yang brought back a few days ago?” The lady boss gestured in Qiao Yu’s direction with her eyes.

The boss was so busy with the work at the butcher shop every day that he did not have time to take notice of any women. The shrew he had at home was already enough for him to deal with, so there was no way he could get entangled with other shrews outside.

The boss did not even look up and replied impatiently, “Ah... I think so... I don’t know. I don’t know Su Yang well.”

The lady boss angrily pulled the boss’s ear and said, “You don’t even want to listen to me now? Help me take a look! I’m not sure!”

“It hurts! Let go! Yes, yes, yes! You didn’t see wrongly. That person is Su Yang’s girlfriend!” After the boss said that, the lady boss let go happily.

She noted that Qiao Yu did not dress nicely. The material of her clothes was not even comparable to the clothes worn by any ordinary person. Moreover, how could a woman be wearing a man's clothes? It was obvious that Qiao Yu was wearing clothes that she had picked up from the streets. It was likely that Qiao Yu was facing some financial difficulties.

Although Su Yang had a shrewish mother and a beastly brother, he had a job and was earning money. Not only did he work in the factory, but he also went out to work part-time when he had time. He always dressed flamboyantly and paid more attention to his clothes than some women did! Therefore, the clothes that Qiao Yu was wearing definitely did not belong to Su Yang.

Her son was the one who told her all this. Otherwise, she would really think that Su Yang's money came from illegitimate sources!

Their family did not have any conflicts with Old Madam Fan, but Su Yang always took advantage of them when he bought meat from them. He would either ask for an extra piece of meat or steal some fatty meat. Su Yang would never miss out on any chance to take advantage of others.

"Why would such a good girl fall for Su Yang? What a pity..." One second, the lady boss was still lamenting Qiao Yu's pitiful fate, but in the next second, her opinion had completely changed.

Qiao Yu finally mustered her courage and strode into the shop, asking, "How much for the meat?"

"We take meat coupons for the meat. Let me know how much you want and I'll weigh it out," the boss said respectfully.

The boss turned around and glanced at the lady boss. He could not make the decision on this matter. The lady boss was the one who took care of the family's finances.

Their family had always helped the poor people in private and kept aside all the scraps for them. They just needed to make sure that they gathered enough meat coupons to submit to the government every month.

Chapter 956 - 956 Worse Than a Dog

956 Worse Than a Dog

They were allowed to report a certain amount of losses every time they replenish their stock. This was mainly due to meat that was already not fresh when it arrived, or having excessive stock when there was no demand for meat.

Thank you readers!

The boss and lady boss took advantage of this loophole to help people who did not have meat coupons and would sell the meat reported as losses at a low price to these people. At the same time, they could earn a bit more money. It was like killing two birds with one stone and everyone was happy about this.

However, they would not let the Su family benefit from such a good thing.

“We only take coupons when we sell meat. We can’t sell any without coupons. This is the rule and we can’t do anything about it,” the lady boss said mildly.

They did not want to have anything to do with the Su family! They could not let the Su family catch them making even just a small mistake. If it was found out that people could buy meat from them without using coupons, she and her husband would need to go to jail! They might even have to face a huge fine.

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Qiao Yu had already gone around to many places and did not want to continue walking on. This was already the last butcher shop in this area. If she could not succeed here, then she was out of choices.

Qiao Yu said agitatedly, “Please have mercy! I haven’t eaten meat for more than a month. Can you please give me some meat? Even a little bit is fine! I can pay for it! How much do you want? I have three dollars!”

“Sister, it’s not a matter of money. We’re running a business. Don’t make things difficult for us. You’re Su Yang’s girlfriend, right? Didn’t he give you any meat coupons?” the lady boss asked curiously.

A look of surprise flashed across Qiao Yu's eyes. She had been staying at the clinic during this period of time, so how did people know that she was Su Yang's girlfriend? Was Su Yang so famous that all the residents in this area knew him?

Could it be that he was the type of "good samaritan with a heart of gold"?

"He... he had to rush off to work today and didn't say anything to me. I just wanted to prepare a surprise for him," Qiao Mei said hesitantly.

The lady boss looked at Qiao Yu derisively. Just now, she said that she had not eaten meat for a long time, but now she said that she was buying meat for Su Yang. This little girl was simply full of lies.

"Then you'd better change the surprise. We really can't sell it to you," the lady boss said forcefully.

Qiao Yu pondered for a moment and pointed at the basin on the ground that was full of meat scraps. "Do you still want this basin of meat?"

"There's nothing in my shop that I don't want. Sister, if you don't have any meat coupons, then go home. We still have to run a business," the lady boss said impatiently.

There were still many customers waiting to buy meat. If this pointless conversation continued, their family's business would be affected!

Qiao Yu did not argue with the lady boss anymore and slowly walked out of the shop. Just as the lady boss thought that everything was fine, a loud wailing suddenly came from outside the door.

"I'm so pitiful! I can't live anymore! I'm about to starve to death, but they have a heart of stone and won't even give me some meat scraps! They won't even let me smell the meat scraps! They even say that they'll rather feed the meat scraps in the basin to the dogs than give it to me! My status is even worse than a dog! How outrageous! Do all of you have any conscience! Are you still patronizing a shop whose owners have no conscience!" Qiao Yu sat down at the door and wept and cried out loudly.

She immediately attracted the attention of many passersby. Many neighbors even opened their doors to come out and watch the commotion. The people here had an unspoken agreement with the shop to buy and sell meat scraps in private. The boss and the lady boss were very popular in the vicinity. The meat scraps were not only cheap, but also very fresh!

What Qiao Yu said was nonsense. No one who lived nearby would believe her. However, it did not matter whether they believed her or not. So long as the passersby believed her, then the effect of her lies would snowball after a while.

“You’re just bullying me! I must get meat today! If you don’t give me meat, I’ll die in front of you!” Qiao Yu shouted as she pointed at the lady boss.

The lady boss reached out with the knife and said, “Come on! I’m not afraid of you! Die if you can! I have a knife here. Show me how you want to die!”

Chapter 957 - 957 At Most, I Will Take a Break

957 At Most, I Will Take a Break

The lady boss was certain that Qiao Yu did not have the guts to put her neck under the knife. At the same time, Qiao Yu knew what the lady boss was thinking. As long as she was able to eat meat today, she would do anything! After all, she was Qiao Zhuang’s child and had been brought up in a shameless family.

Thank you readers!

Qiao Yu prepared herself mentally. She closed her eyes and suddenly threw herself at the lady boss’s knife, scaring the lady boss so much that she threw the knife behind her. If she had been any slower, Qiao Yu would really have died!

“Are you sick of living! This is a knife! Do you have to go so far just for that bit of meat!” the lady boss roared in exasperation.

Qiao Yu was actually feeling very scared. She could have died, but she must get meat today! She was not going to back off!

The lady boss was so angry and gnashed her teeth so hard that they almost shattered. As the old saying went, only birds of a feather would flock together. Qiao Yu's shameless and shrewish behavior was simply a combination of how Su Yang and Old Madam Fan behaved! She was even more terrible than the two of them! No wonder Su Yang was interested in her.

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Business owners like them were most afraid of running into two types of people. One type was unreasonable and shameless people, and the other type was people who were not afraid of death.

The neighbors quickly ran out to advise the lady boss, saying, "Sister, just give her some meat. Take it as you're feeding the dogs. It's useless for you to reason with such a person! How are you going to explain yourself if she really dies in front of your shop?"

"I don't care how she explains herself! It's not like I'm the one who killed her! What can I do if she wants to die at my door! Do I have to die with her!" the lady boss said angrily.

The neighbors quickly pulled the lady boss away and said, "Calm down! Don't we all just want good things to happen? It'll be so unlucky if she dies. Just treat it as you're feeding the dogs. Let's take it as doing good deeds and accumulating good karma! Even if the police come, it's not helpful to you. They might even close down the shop and do a thorough investigation! The authorities are very strict about such things now!"

The lady boss thought about it and felt that what the neighbors said made sense. However, what if Qiao Yu saw this as her weakness and came to make demands every day in the future? Would she then need to satisfy Qiao Yu's demands every time? It was not as if there were meat scraps every day. It was considered good enough if there was even a little bit every half a month!

"No, dogs know how to be loyal if I feed them. But if I give in to her now, she will come here every day to 'cry in mourning'. Not only is there no benefit, but I will be at the losing end! I really won't be able to explain myself then!" the lady boss said.

The lady boss looked at her shop and then at Qiao Yu, who was sitting at the door. She picked up the butcher knife from the ground and entered the shop, shouting loudly to the customers, "This is the last

batch of meat today! After we sell everything, we'll close the shop and take a break! If you want to buy it, then hurry up! If you buy more, we'll give discounts! It's the last day!"

After all the customers left after buying meat, the lady boss did not even look at Qiao Yu. She closed the curtains and locked the main door before turning around and returning to the backyard to rest.

Who could fault her if she stopped doing business for a while? She did not believe that Qiao Yu would be able to hold on until she reopened the shop. At most, she would stop doing business for the rest of the week and take a good break.

If Qiao Yu really sat at the door of her shop and froze to death, then it would have nothing to do with her. It was Qiao Yu who refused to leave, and she did not force Qiao Yu to sit there. Did she have to take responsibility for anyone who died on the street outside the shop door?

The people standing around gradually dispersed when nothing exciting happened. Qiao Yu could not achieve anything at the door alone. She got up dejectedly and returned home. After sitting on the snow for a long time, her pants were all wet. This was the only pair of cotton pants she found among the pile of tattered clothes.

"How petty! What's the big deal about giving me some meat! Black-hearted woman! You're willing to feed the dogs, but you're not willing to give it to me! It's not like I don't intend to pay! I'm giving you respect but you don't want it! Who do you think you are! Do you really think I think highly of the meat you sell!" Qiao Yu muttered as she dried her pants by the stove.

In the past, such a method was usually quite useful. She always saw her brothers and sisters-in-law using this method, especially Wang Qin. As long as she wailed in the village, she could have whatever she wanted. Why was it that this method did not work in the capital? Was she not vicious enough with her words? She would scold more fiercely next time. She was sure that she could succeed after trying it a few more times.

Chapter 958 - 958 Not a Mother Yet!

958 Not a Mother Yet!

In the evening, Li Gui went to collect the vehicles and money from Zhao Fei while Xia He busied herself in the kitchen. The children's lesson was also almost coming to an end.

Thank you readers!

Nowadays, Qiao Mei would feel uncomfortable whenever she caught a whiff of cooking smells. Fortunately, the bangle she usually wore could block out most of these icky smells. Recently, Qiao Mei also realized that as long as she dripped ginseng liquid on the bangle, there would be a nice fragrance of plants around her and she would feel refreshed by the smell. She did not expect this bangle to have so many uses.

At night, everyone had a sumptuous meal. Xia He not only had to prepare food for a family of eight, but an extra portion was needed for the two teachers today. She usually helped Li Gui with cooking the rice and washing and cutting the ingredients. Once Li Gui returned, she could go straight into cooking.

The food that Xia He made could only be described as “appalling”. When one ate the food, one had to decide whether one should call for an ambulance. If one was not careful, one could die.

Perhaps Xia He really did not have any talent in cooking. After learning from Li Gui for so long, she had not improved at all. The only improvement was that she knew how to cook rice now. At the very least, she would not starve to death if she was alone at home. She would be able to eat rice with pickled vegetables for a few days.

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Qiao Mei looked towards the kitchen thoughtfully. It was time to find a helper. Otherwise, Li Gui would not be able to cope alone. Although Qiao Qiang was healthy and strong now, it was Qiao Mei’s wish that Qiao Qiang could spend his time on his interests and not continue to take care of her for the rest of his life.

Her requirements for a helper might be much stricter than the average person. In fact, one helper might not even be enough. She wanted a live-in helper to take charge of cooking, washing up, cleaning up the kitchen and clearing the fallen leaves and weeds in the courtyard.

She would likely need another helper, more like a confinement nanny, who could take care of her and her two children. After she gave birth, she needed to have nutritious meals. The confinement nanny also had to help with feeding the babies and coaxing them to sleep until Qiao Mei recovered her strength.

Li Gui just needed to be in charge of earning money to support the family. She could leave the trivial chores to the hired help.

Just as Qiao Mei was thinking about all these, Qian'e quietly came to Qiao Mei's side. She crossed her arms and stood angrily at the side, looking at Qiao Mei

Qiao Mei turned around and got a shock when she saw Qian'e. She patted her chest and said, "Why didn't you make any sound! When did you come over? You scared me to death..."

"I came in openly through the door! You are the one who keeps staring at the kitchen in a daze. I'm curious to know why you are so engrossed in your thoughts," Qian'e said as she pursed her lips.

"What else can I think about at home? Let's not talk about me first. What's wrong with you today? Why did you argue with Professor Zheng? Did he do something outrageous to bully you? Tell me and I'll stand up for you. I definitely won't let you suffer any grievances," Qiao Mei said jokingly.

Qian'e became angry at the mention of this matter. At that time, Zheng Peng looked at her as if he was mocking her, or perhaps he was sizing her up and being suspicious of her. Anyway, that look of his made her furious and reminded her of many things from the past. In the end, under Zheng Peng's constant suspicions and questioning, she completely blew up.

Actually, it was just a misunderstanding. The two of them were like children, unwilling to admit defeat but continue to bicker with each other.

"It's fine. I'm a magnanimous person and won't argue with him. However, when did you find a teacher for the children? Instead of letting the children enjoy their vacation, you get them to do physical training at home. Is this the Xia family's tradition?" Qian'e asked with a laugh.

"My eldest brother found this teacher for me. Children should be developed comprehensively in terms of morals, intelligence, physical fitness and hard work, not just in their school subjects! Besides, these children did not do well in their studies when they were in the village. The standard of education in the capital is worlds apart from that in the village. What will happen to them if they don't work harder at this time?" Qiao Mei said with a sigh.

This action made Qian'e laugh so loudly until she almost teared.

"You're too funny! You're not even 20 years old yet! Why are you behaving like your mother and actually thinking about how these children's futures? You're not even a mother yet, your babies are not even born yet, and yet you already know what a mother's responsibility is?" Qian'e said.

Chapter 959 - 959 Emotional

959 Emotional

Qiao Mei was so embarrassed that she almost picked up the tea bowl on the table and threw it at Qian'e. This woman only knew how to spout nonsense all day long. Even when they were just having a chat, Qian'e had to say provocative things to agitate her. Perhaps it was a habit that Qian'e had developed over the years.

Thank you readers!

"In my opinion, there's no need to put so much pressure on the children. You're not short of money. Do you think these children won't have a way out in the future? Look at your mother's popcorn business. It has almost taken over half the market. I can even buy it near my house. In the future, even if the children just help your mother with her business, they'll still be notches above everyone else. They don't necessarily have to study to have a bright future," Qian'e said in a serious manner.

Qiao Mei did not expect Qian'e to have such foresight. People of this era only wanted their children to study more. They thought that studying was the only way to achieve success and only incapable people would need to go into business.

What Qian'e said did make sense, but if the children wanted to expand the business and make it big, they still needed to have a strong foundation in theoretical knowledge. If they did not have a good foundation, even if the business was handed over to them in the future, they would not be able to achieve much.

Qiao Mei had become a little confused. Qian'e did not live nearby and Li Gui had not gone out to sell goods during this period of time. It was Zhao Fei who had been helping out. How did Qian'e know that Li Gui's popcorn was still being sold in the market?

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“How do you know it’s my mother’s popcorn?” Qiao Mei asked curiously.

“Hmph, although the person selling near my house is an unfamiliar face, the taste is so obvious. In the entire capital, your popcorn is the most delicious. Moreover, the people in my neighborhood will specially wait at the main door to buy popcorn!” Qian’e said.

From the looks of it, they were going to become even more famous. After Qiao Mei gave birth, she should put some thought into opening a shop with Li Gui. Sun Juan and all the other women seemed to be quite decent people. If she got along well with them, she could tell them the formula and get them to join in the production.

“Whether I have money or not has got nothing to do with the children. The Xia family is so rich, but the siblings still had to go through training. Having money is different from having an education,” Qiao Mei said.

Qian’e still had the opposite opinion as Qiao Mei, but she knew that there would definitely be gains from putting in hard work. It was not as if these children were too stupid to be taught. When she was young, she put in a lot of effort to practice the piano. Even when other children went out to play, she would stay at home to practice.

Even when she was in high school, she still carried on practicing the piano. After so many years of consistency, her devotion to the piano was no less than the devotion Xia Zhe and the others gave to their training.

“Because of you, I didn’t manage to go to my other classes tonight. You have to make it up to me!” Qian’e said with a pout.

“Sure, sure, sure. I’ll give you whatever you want!” Qiao Mei said.

Qian’e did not stand on ceremony with Qiao Mei. She stood up and took a look around the room, but there was nothing much to see. Unlike Qiao Mei, she was not interested in antiques, calligraphy and paintings at all and did not care about their value.

However, when she saw the tiger-head shoes that Qiao Mei made for the two babies, she still felt a little bitterness in her heart. She also yearned very much to have a child of her own. If not for her wanton behavior when she was young, she would not be in such a state today.

However, one had to pay the price for one's actions. She had brought this on herself.

"What are you thinking about?" Qiao Mei asked gently as she stood behind Qian'e.

"Sigh... Why don't you make me a cute tiger head pillow. I quite like it," Qian'e said emotionally.

Qiao Mei hesitated for a moment and asked, "Why don't I make you a big and comfortable pillow so that you can use it properly."

"Forget it, you should just give me money. Have we discussed the fees for each lesson?" Qian'e turned around and asked.

It could not be said that Qian'e was greedy for money since she came to teach the children even before negotiating the fees. However, it also could not be said that Qian'e was not greedy because she still knew how to bargain for a deal with Qiao Mei.

"How much do you usually charge for a lesson?" Qiao Mei asked.

"It goes by the hour. It's 10 dollars an hour for a lesson conducted at the student's house," Qian'e said.

Chapter 960 - 960 A Quarrelsome Couple

960 A Quarrelsome Couple

Qiao Mei did not even blink and simply said generously, "I'll give you 15 dollars an hour! Meals provided as well. It's not a problem even if you want to stay here!"

Thank you readers!

“This isn’t like you at all. Shouldn’t you bargain with me? You’re making me feel a little guilty. You provide food and accommodation and even give me so much money. Should I be giving the lessons for free?” Qian’e asked suspiciously.

Qiao Mei smiled and said, “This is my sincerity! As for your sincerity, it depends on whether you’re shameless or not~”

If not for the fact that Qiao Mei was pregnant now, Qian’e would definitely want to fight it out with Qiao Mei. This woman was really too cunning! How could there be such a cunning person!

“Eight dollars an hour! That’s the lowest I can go! If Zhang Miao passes the examination or wins a competition, you have to give me a bonus!” Qian’e said.

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“No problem, you can’t go back on your word!” Qiao Mei smiled smugly.

Qian’e gritted her teeth and said, “I won’t go back on my word! Alright!”

The lesson in the backyard had also ended. Zheng Peng brought the children to the front yard to have dinner. Xia He quickly walked out of the kitchen and instructed Zhang Qin to go to the railing in the corridor to do leg presses. She must do the basic training every day.

Nowadays, the children had many lessons and were under a lot of pressure. Zhang Qin could only have dance lessons during the fragmented free time she had. To do so, she had to put in a lot of effort. Without patience and perseverance, she would not be able to keep going. Xia He was also using the chance to test Zhang Qin’s willpower.

“Professor Zheng, stay for dinner now that the class is over. The food will be ready soon,” Qiao Mei said as she looked at Zheng Peng warmly.

Zheng Peng wanted to accept Qiao Mei's invitation, but once he saw Qian'e, he immediately changed his mind. He did not want to eat at the same table with this woman.

"Never mind, I won't stay for dinner. I'm about the same age as Xia Wen. From now on, you can call me Brother Zheng and I'll call you sister-in-law," Zheng Peng said politely.

Qian'e leaned against the door and said disdainfully, "Don't tell me you can't eat when you see my face? Am I that ugly?"

Zheng Peng frowned and said, "You're thinking too much. Not everyone is interested in you."

"You! Be more polite! Did I offend you! What right do you have to talk to me like that!" Qian'e widened her eyes and said angrily to Zheng Peng.

Zheng Peng did not want to quarrel with Qian'e. This woman was simply unreasonable. She was the one who picked a fight with him first, so why was it all his fault now? She really liked to play the blame game.

When he saw how serious Qian'e looked when she was teaching Zhang Miao and witnessed her skills during the class, his impression of Qian'e had improved a lot. He did not dwell on what had happened earlier. He just felt a little awkward and was too embarrassed to apologize.

"Alright, alright! Stop arguing! What's the big deal? Let's not be so calculative about the previous misunderstanding and get to know each other again." Qiao Mei grabbed Qian'e by the hand and said, "Come, introduce yourself. Don't be so angry."

Qian'e slowly calmed down and reached out with her hand reluctantly. "My name is Qian'e. I'm Zhang Miao's piano teacher."

"Zheng Peng." Zheng Peng reached out and politely shook her hand. The two of them stood on the spot and looked at each other awkwardly, neither of them willing to say another word.

Qiao Mei sighed silently. Perhaps the relationship between these two people would improve in the future. She returned to her room to look for some fabric to make a pillow for Qian'e, as well as the embroidery patterns which she had previously designed.

Smoke rose from the chimneys of every house and the fragrance of food filled the alley. Su Yang could not wait to return to the home that belonged to him and Qiao Yu. He did not know if Qiao Yu would have prepared dinner for him or if she was waiting for him to deliver food to her. At the thought of this, the sense of anticipation in his heart lessened by a big deal.

Coincidentally, Qiao Yu had finished cooking in the kitchen and was bringing the food into the room. She did not manage to buy any meat, so there was only cabbages stewed with potatoes tonight. She did not even have any oil and she secretly took some of the landlord's lard. The dish would taste much better with the lard in it.