

Fat Wife 981

Chapter 981 Too Stubborn

Xu Lan and the others had already had breakfast. They did not know what time Qiao Mei would get up, so they kept the food warm for her. It was definitely not as delicious as when it was just cooked, but at least it was warm.

"Qiao Mei, are you... going back today?" Xu Lan said as she looked at Qiao Mei wistfully.

Qiao Mei slept fairly well last night, but she still preferred to go back to the courtyard house. She had many memories of Xia Zhe there and it made her feel more secure.

She still remembered that scene when Xia Zhe went home to look for her. Her heart was filled with anticipation and she just wanted to wait for Xia Zhe at home.

"There are still many things at home that I need to deal with. If you miss me, I'll come back and stay with you for a few days after I'm done," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"That's good! But... don't blame us two elders for being long-winded. Please reconsider the matter of staying at your aunt's hospital. We'll wait for your decision," Xu Lan said worriedly.

Qiao Mei nodded and then she suddenly thought of something. Only Xu Lan could help her with this matter.

"Mother, do you know any good helpers? It's good enough as long as the person knows how to cook and clean up the house. After the babies are born, we'll find another person who's good with taking care of children," Qiao Mei said.

Usually, if a family heard that their daughter-in-law wanted to hire two helpers at home, the mother-in-law would definitely be furious. The family had spent so much on betrothal gifts to get a daughter-in-law, not an ancestor they needed to place on a pedestal.

However, Xu Lan was not an ordinary mother-in-law. As long as it was something that Qiao Mei wanted, Xu Lan would get them for her, even if what she wanted was the stars in the sky. She would even be worried that Qiao Mei would get pricked by the pointy tips of the stars and would grind them down before handing them over to Qiao Mei.

"I can't help much with this matter. I'll have to leave it to your second aunt-in-law. She interacts with those people often and she knows the situation. Otherwise, our current helper can go over and take care of you and we'll find a new helper," Xu Lan said.

Liu Fen agreed to help without any hesitation and said enthusiastically, "Leave it to me! I'll definitely find you the best helper!"

The helper at home had worked for Xu Lan for more than 10 years now. She was more like a member of the family than the hired help. Sometimes, Xia Jun would even invite the helper's entire family over for dinner.

Qiao Mei thought that it would be too much to ask the helper to go over to her place just because she made a request.

"There's no hurry. We can take our time to look for one. The helper at home should stay here and take care of Mother," Qiao Mei said.

After breakfast, Xu Lan started to pack up the things for Qiao Mei to bring home. She had even already prepared diapers for the baby. She was concerned that the repeated use of the diapers would hurt the babies' skin, so she bought the best fabric to make the babies' diapers. She had prepared at least 60 pieces for now.

In the beginning, Xu Lan had thought about forking out 1,000 dollars to make enough diapers for them to be disposable. She wanted to use each piece only once so that there was no washing required. They would throw it away once it was soiled. Liu Fen rejected this idea after she heard it, saying that 1,000 dollars could be someone's entire savings. The fact that Xu Lan wanted to use that amount of money to make disposable diapers for her two grandchildren was really too extravagant.

The things that Xu Lan bought for the children were arranged in stacks all over the house. There was so much that it was even possible for them to rent a shop outside and open a maternity shop.

Many things were new products and even many women who had given birth had never used them before. Xu Lan was concerned that these things would cause discomfort to Qiao Mei, so she specially bought more and found other women to help her try the products.

"I have prepared all these for you. Take a look and see if there's anything else you need. If there's anything you don't like, I'll go and buy new ones," Xu Lan said.

"Mother, there's no need to treat the two children so delicately. Just treat them like other children and don't dote on them too much. Otherwise, they'll become too weak and fragile," Qiao Mei said.

"I just want the best for them. When my children were young, I didn't spend much time with them. Now that they're all grown up, they don't need me anymore. I actually don't have much experience raising children, so I want to give them the best things. Looks like I'm doing it the wrong way," Xu Lan said.

Qiao Mei went forward and held Xu Lan's hand as she said, "What are you talking about? Xia Zhe even told me before that you're the best mother! He also said that he would be filial to you and would call you more often. He's just too stubborn. He misses you, but he won't say it out loud."

Chapter 982 Just Being Jealous

Xu Lan knew that Qiao Mei was comforting her. After all, Xia Zhe had been brought up by Xia Xiu and Xia Fang since he was young. One month after giving birth to Xia Zhe, she went out to perform again. It was only when Xia Zhe was in junior high school that she gradually found time to accompany him. However, Xia Zhe had already grown up by then and was not close to her at all.

The first time he saw her, he even called her "Auntie"! At that time, Xu Lan had cried for a long time over this matter.

After packing up, Qiao Mei and Xia He took the car back to the courtyard house. At this moment, Xia Wen had already reached his own home. As soon as he pushed open the door, he could detect the smell of all kinds of alcohol.

He did not even know that Tan Jing was a drinker. Ever since they got married, he had never seen Tan Jing drinking. At this moment, Tan Jing was sleeping soundly on the carpet with a bottle in her arms, unaware that Xia Wen had already returned home.

First, Xia Wen carried Tan Jing out from the pile of trash and gently placed her on the bed. Then, he quietly made his way to the living room and opened the windows to ventilate the room. After that, he picked up the miscellaneous items and bottles from the floor and put them into the trash bag, intending to throw them away when he went downstairs later.

It was only when he got closer that he saw there was still some of Tan Jing's vomit on the carpet. She had probably tried to clean up, but she was not thorough enough.

Xia Wen did not have the patience to wash such a big carpet. The amount of money he needed to pay to get the carpet washed would be about the same as buying a new carpet. Without any hesitation, he rolled up the carpet so that he could throw it away.

It had only been a few days and Tan Jing had already tortured herself so much that she looked a mess. Even the school leader had made a phone call to Xia Wen and he had submitted Tan Jing's resignation to the school on her behalf. He just wanted her to rest at home for now and only go back to work after she was able to sort her thoughts out.

After Xia Wen tidied up the entire house, Tan Jing gradually woke up. She held her head in discomfort and had no memory of what she did last night. She only remembered that she slept very well the past night and felt an unprecedented sense of security. After drinking, she could forget many of her worries.

"You're awake," Xia Wen said to Tan Jing as he stood at the door.

Tan Jing struggled to get up. This was the first time she had ever been in such a sorry state in front of Xia Wen. Not only did she stink of alcohol, but her clothes were dirty and she looked like a crazy woman.

"Mmm... When did you come back? Why didn't you wake me up?" Tan Jing asked softly.

"Why did you drink so much this morning?" Xia Wen walked over and sat beside Tan Jing.

Tan Jing lowered her head like a child who had made a mistake. She did not dare to look into Xia Wen's eyes or face him. She was worried that Xia Wen would be completely disappointed in her and that this marriage would soon come to an end.

Xia Wen sighed helplessly and said, "If you have any issues, you have to tell me. I won't know what you're thinking if you don't tell me."

Tan Jing had also thought about this issue when she was drinking yesterday. What exactly did she want? To get Qiao Mei's house? Or to make Qiao Mei's children disappear from this world? Or to have her own child?

She thought about it for the entire night but still could not figure it out. Perhaps she was just jealous. She was jealous that Qiao Mei was gentler and more generous than her, jealous that Qiao Mei was more outstanding and capable than her, jealous that Qiao Mei could easily get everyone's favor and that all she got was endless insults from everyone.

"I don't know... I don't know what I want either..." Tan Jing said weakly.

"Mother told me something today. Father has two houses in the village in the western suburbs, enough for father-in-law, mother-in-law and your second brother's family to live in. Then they can give their current house to your sister. This way, they won't disrupt one another's lives and the issue with the house will also be resolved," Xia Wen said.

Tan Jing did not see it as Xu Lan being kind. Instead, she felt that Xu Lan had ulterior motives. Why did Xu Lan want to make her parents go to the countryside? The western suburbs were so far away that it would take two hours to drive there. It had not been easy for the old couple to come to the city from the countryside, so they would never move back there.

Xia Wen and Xu Lan were really doing everything they could to stop the Tan family from getting close to Qiao Mei. It was just short of Xia Wen divorcing her so that the Xia family could cut ties with the Tan family.

"What are you saying! Are you asking my parents and brothers to live in the countryside! Is that even a livable place? My nephew still has to go to school!" Tan Jing said angrily.

Chapter 983 - 983 What Exactly Do You Want

983 What Exactly Do You Want

Tan Jing's nephew was the son of her second brother, Tan Hu and his name was Tan Xue. The family gave him this name as Xue meant "to learn" and they wanted the child to be able to study well. None of the children in their family managed to get into a good school, so that was why Tan Hu gave the child such a name.

Thank you readers!

Although Tan Jing worked in the university, she was just a counselor who managed the students' dormitory and their daily issues in the university. She did not know anything about academic issues and only got this job by chance. The work was tiring and the salary was low, so no one was willing to take up the job.

In the past, Tan Hu had specially gone to look for Xia Wen to help Tan Xue out, and said things like "We can't let the child lose at the starting line". He wanted Xia Wen to help Tan Xue enter a good school.

Xia Wen was unable to reject Tan Hu. If his family did not render any help, Tan Hu would go home and complain to Tan Bo and then Tan Jing would be the one to suffer. No matter how Xia Wen did not feel like helping, he still had to do it. Xia Wen spent a lot of time and had to make use of his connections before he was finally able to get Tan Xue into the best elementary school in the capital. However, the outcome had turned out to be unsatisfactory.

As Tan Hu's family used to live in the countryside, the child had not gone to kindergarten and was illiterate. Initially, Xia Wen had suggested that the child should start from kindergarten in the capital and that it did not matter that the child would be older than his classmates. However, Tan Hu did not take the advice at all. Instead, he felt that Xia Wen had said all that because he did not want to help them. In the end, Xia Wen had no choice but to give Tan Hu what he wanted. When Tan Xue started elementary school, he could not understand any of his lessons at all and his results were always at the bottom.

Tan Hu felt that it was all Xia Wen's fault and asked Xia Wen to find a tutor and an extracurricular class teacher for the child. Moreover, he wanted Xia Wen to pay for it. Those who did not know better would think that this was Xia Wen and Tan Jing's son, instead of their nephew!

“It would be better for him to study in the countryside. Otherwise, he would always be ranked last here,” Xia Wen said.

Even though Xia Wen was telling the truth, it sounded to Tan Jing like Xia Wen was mocking her and her family. This made the situation even more unacceptable for Tan Jing.

“How can you treat my family like this! My nephew is just not smart and can’t keep up with the other children. Is it his fault? How can you say that about him!” Tan Jing looked at Xia Wen furiously.

“Will you cut it out already? Are you blaming me for this? Tan Jing, what else do you want from me! When your family says that they don’t have any money, my family will think of a way to give it to them. When your family says that they don’t have a house to live in, we try to think of a way to help them rent a house. Yet, they’re still not satisfied. Now that we want to let them live in our previous homes, it’s still not a satisfactory solution. What exactly do you want!” Xia Wen questioned her angrily.

This was the first time Tan Jing had seen Xia Wen behaving like this. There was no longer any trace of love in his eyes at all, only impatience. After being married for so many years, Xia Wen had never spoken harshly to her. This was the first time ever.

Tan Jing stood rooted to the ground and stammered for a long time without saying anything. She could not figure out what she wanted either. It was as if she could not control anything she did.

Did she want Xia Wen’s love? However, Xia Wen already loved her enough, to the extent that all the neighbors envied her for having such a good husband.

Did she want Xia Wen to take good care of her and be attentive of all her needs? However, Xia Wen had already been doing this for so many years. He did not need her to do any of the dirty chores at home and he basically handled everything.

Did she want Xia Wen to be biased towards her maternal family? However, ever since they got married, no matter how overboard the Tan family was or how unreasonable their requests were, Xia Wen would try his best to satisfy them. Xia Wen had always taken the Tan family’s requests to help with their work, living arrangements, school for the kids and money in his stride.

After her marriage, she never had to face the issue of domestic violence and she did not have to do the housework. Xia Wen was also a motivated person and he cared for his family well. He loved his wife very much and was the perfect husband in the eyes of other women. However, why was she still not satisfied?

It was because Tan Jing felt that she was a burden to Xia Wen. She always had this feeling when she faced Qiao Mei. It was only after Qiao Mei's appearance that her relationship with Xia Wen gradually deteriorated.

"I... I don't know..." Tan Jing said in a panic.

This time, Xia Wen did not intend to give in to Tan Jing anymore. If he continued to give in blindly, it would only make the Tan family even more demanding and become even more impudent. It was better to draw the line as ruthlessly and as soon as possible.

Chapter 984 Unable To Help You Anymore

"Tan Jing, your parents and brothers have their own families, and we also have our own family. Have you bought anything for my mother all these years? I even had to urgently borrow money to be able to give Qiao Mei a gift when we met her for the first time, because you gave all our money to the Tan family. I am aware of everything that happened, but I didn't say anything to you. I always think that it's fine as long as you're happy, but what are you doing now?" Xia Wen asked.

"Your family is so rich! Your mother won't like whatever I give her, so why should I make a fool of myself!" Tan Jing said.

Xia Wen questioned, "What about fruits? Have you ever bought anything whenever we went back? Even just once."

Tan Jing tried to recall carefully, but she really did not have any memories of doing this. For so many years, they had always gone to Xu Lan's house empty-handed and returned with a trunk full of things. Even then, Tan Jing still felt that Xu Lan owed her something.

As a mother-in-law, Xu Lan was already very nice. For so many years, Tan Jing did not have any children. Furthermore, Tan Jing always complained about Xu Lan. However, no matter how rude Tan Jing was to Xu Lan, Xu Lan never made things difficult for her.

For the sake of Xia Wen's family happiness, Xu Lan did not want to criticize Tan Jing and chose to turn a blind eye to everything. She felt it was better to pretend she did not know anything. Anyway, she really did not like whatever Tan Jing bought.

"But..." Tan Jing wanted to explain herself, but Xia Wen interrupted her coldly.

Xia Wen sighed and said, "We've been married for so many years. Do we have any savings? How much money do we have? The two of us can be considered to be in the middle to high-income level. Our meals and accommodation are all paid by the school, so where do we spend our money? Do you need me to continue?"

Tan Jing lowered her head and did not dare to look Xia Wen in the eye. Her monthly salary would be taken away by Jiang Yi for all kinds of reasons. If she refused, Jiang Yi would go to the school to cause trouble. In fact, she and Xia Wen only had 30 dollars a month for living expenses and the rest of their money was all given to the Tan family.

After so many years, she had given them more than 10,000 dollars, and that was not including the money that the Xia family had given to the Tan family. The amount of money could get her a courtyard house like what Qiao Mei had.

"Everyone has been very busy recently. I don't have any more time to waste on the matter regarding your family's house. They can either do as I say and live in our two houses in the countryside, or they can all continue to live together. If they decide to pool money to rent a house, I can help them find one. Don't even think about anything else. Tell your parents about this as soon as possible," Xia Wen said.

"Are you... leaving us in the lurch?" Tan Jing looked at Xia Wen in disbelief.

"It's not that I'm leaving you in the lurch, it's that I'm unable to help you anymore. Everyone knows what you really want. There's no need to hide it. I definitely won't do that so you should just give up the idea," Xia Wen said coldly.

Tan Jing finally understood what Xia Wen meant. She sat on the bed for a long time and could not come back to her senses. Xia Wen continued to clean up the house. There was still a lot of trash and miscellaneous items to be cleared.

Looking out of the window, Tan Jing suddenly had a new plan in mind. She did not need to tell Tan Bai about Xia Wen's three options to know that Tan Bai would definitely not agree. If she went to tell them, she would only get scolded. After so many years, Tan Jing knew them very well.

She wanted to go straight to the root of the problem.

Qiao Yu waited from sunrise to sunset. Su Yang had not been here for three days. For the past three days, she had been eating steamed buns and cabbages every day. If she continued to eat like this, she would vomit. What was the difference between this and pig feed?

Just as Qiao Yu thought that she was going to die, there was suddenly the sound of the door opening. Qiao Yu turned around excitedly but soon realized that the person who entered was not Su Yang, but his brother, Su Liang.

"Su Liang! How... how do you know where I live?" Qiao Yu stood up in fear and backed away, looking for something sharp to use for self-defense.

"Why can't I come? This is a place rented by my younger brother. I'm his biological brother, so why can't I come?" Su Liang treated the place like his own house and swaggered into the room to sit on a stool. He casually picked up a steamed bun and started eating.

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Chapter 985 Is He Dead?

Qiao Yu looked like a timid person, but she had never been timid when it came to the matter of "eating".

When she was young, she did not get any food. She would rather snatch food from her brothers and get beaten up than have an empty stomach. To her, it was no big deal to be beaten up. The pain on her body felt thousands of times better than the discomfort she felt when she was hungry.

Qiao Yu had bought all these things using her money. She did not have any food stamps and it had taken her a lot of effort to buy them at a high price from someone else. She could not even bear to eat much herself, so why should she give them to Su Liang? This was very likely all the food she had for the next week. It would be too much of a loss to let Su Liang finish everything now.

"What right do you have to eat my steamed bun! Give me back my steamed bun!" Qiao Yu rushed forward to fight with Su Liang, completely forgetting how scary he was and also forgetting Su Yang's previous instructions to her.

During the struggle, Qiao Yu accidentally scratched Su Liang's hand with her nails. As if by reflex, Su Liang pushed Qiao Yu and made her fall. In his life, no one had ever dared to treat him like this.

Why did things keep going wrong? Earlier, he had been beaten up and his bones were broken, and now he had been scratched by Qiao Yu. How unlucky. Could it be that all women were femme fatales? Would he become unlucky whenever he got close to women?

However, Su Liang did not want to believe it. He must make this relatively beautiful woman in front of him his wife. It did not matter if she was Su Yang's woman or not! As long as he could get her, she would be his.

"B*tch, how dare you scratch me! Are you tired of living!" Su Liang glared at Qiao Yu and roared.

Qiao Yu fell to the floor and scraped her elbows and knees. The floor in the room was concrete flooring and a light knock against it would cause a bloody wound, what more when Qiao Yu scraped herself against the floor.

"Why did you eat my food! I haven't even eaten yet!" Qiao Yu said aggrievedly as tears flowed down her face.

Su Liang originally wanted to continue to scold her to vent his anger, but when he saw Qiao Yu's tear-stained face, he could not bear to yell at her anymore. It was just a lousy steamed bun. Was there a need to fight to the death with him?

Su Liang already had dinner before he came over. At first, he had wanted to go to a restaurant to drink and celebrate being newly rich. As he drank, he heard someone at the next table talking about Su Yang and where his girlfriend lived. That was what made Su Liang interested enough to come over and take a look at Qiao Yu.

If he had known that this would be the outcome, he would not have come.

"Alright, alright, get up quickly. I'll return you a steamed bun. I'll give you 10 cents!" Su Liang said unwillingly.

When Qiao Yu heard about money, she was completely revitalized. She quickly stood up and said, "How can 10 cents be enough! This is my dinner! What would I eat if you ate my dinner! You have to compensate more."

Su Liang frowned and asked, "How much do you want?"

"One dollar!" Qiao Yu mustered her courage and replied.

Originally, Qiao Yu had wanted to ask Su Liang for five dollars, but it was too ridiculous to ask someone to pay five dollars for a steamed bun. One dollar seemed more reasonable.

Su Liang looked at Qiao Yu in surprise. So it was true that only birds of a feather would flock together. The way she looked when she talked about money was exactly like Su Yang, except that she was even greedier than Su Yang.

"50 cents. Don't talk to me about useless issues. That's all I have. Take it or leave it!" Su Liang said as he forcefully took out 50 cents from his pocket and slammed it on the table.

Qiao Yu was a little afraid of the look in Su Liang's eyes and quickly went forward to take the 50 cents before retreating to one side. She kept looking at Su Liang warily. If Su Liang should make any move, she would immediately rush out of the door.

If something really happened, the landlord would definitely ignore it. The landlord probably even hoped that Su Liang would take her away! This way, the landlord would have no more dealings with the Su family and would not have to live on tenterhooks.

"Why are you so scared of me? Do you think I'll eat you up? I'm here to tell you that something has happened to Su Yang recently and that he won't be back for a long time. You should make new plans as soon as possible," Su Liang said gloatingly.

Qiao Yu looked at Su Liang in shock. Why would something happen to Su Yang? Was he dead...

"Is Su Yang... dead..." Qiao Yu asked hesitantly.

Su Liang looked at Qiao Yu's expression and decided to tease her. He said pitifully, "Yes, he got into a car accident two days ago and couldn't be saved."

Chapter 986 - 986 What Did You Eat Growing Up?

986 What Did You Eat Growing Up?

The textile factory was only two kilometers away from here. During the daytime when Su Yang went to work, there was no one on the roads at all. How could he have gotten into a car accident? If Su Yang really got into an accident, why was it that no one in the neighborhood had talked about such big news? She had even gone to look for Su Yang yesterday and she did not see any funeral items at the house. Su Liang must be lying to her.

"Don't lie to me. Su Yang is not dead. Don't tell me you forgot that I went to your house yesterday?" Qiao Yu said smugly.

"Oh, so you're not stupid. I have no problem telling you the truth. Su Yang got into a fight and went to jail! Instead of waiting for him here, you might as well find another way to make a living as soon as possible." Su Liang looked at Qiao Yu dubiously and said, "Perhaps you can marry me. It's the same no matter who you marry. I'm not any inferior to my younger brother."

Qiao Yu looked at Su Liang nervously and said, "In your dreams! If you still don't leave... I'm going to call for help!"

"I'm just kidding, Don't take it so seriously," Su Liang said with a smile.

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Before Su Liang left, he even placed some meat coupons and money on the table. It was not much and he had actually dug these out from Su Yang's pillow. Now that there was no one cooking at home and it was very expensive to go out to eat every day, he might as well get Qiao Yu to cook for him. Anyway, he was not spending his own money. He would just treat it as finding a young helper for free.

However, Qiao Yu did not know what Su Liang meant and thought that he was trying to compensate her for scaring her just now. She picked up the money and coupons from the table and felt overjoyed.

The next morning, Su Liang arrived at Qiao Yu's house on time. He did not care if Qiao Yu had woken up or not and just pounded crazily on the door, waking up the landlord in the room next door.

"Sigh... I finally got rid of Su Yang, but here comes Su Liang. What sins have I committed!" the landlord said with a deep sigh.

Qiao Yu woke up from her sleep in shock and quickly put on her clothes. She did not open the door immediately but looked through a small gap in the curtains to see who was standing outside.

When she saw Su Liang, Qiao Yu frowned. Why was this person still haunting her? Why did he keep pestering her? Was he deliberately causing trouble for her!

"B*tch! If you still don't open the door! I'll kick it open!" Su Liang shouted towards the room.

Qiao Yu was so frightened that she hurriedly unlocked the door and slowly pushed it open. She looked at Su Liang unwillingly and said, "What are you doing so early in the morning? I want to go back to sleep!"

"I want to have breakfast. Hurry up and go buy groceries and cook!" Su Liang said as he swaggered into the house and sat down.

Qiao Yu said impatiently, "Why should I cook for you! Besides, there's nothing in the kitchen and the coal is almost all used up. What can I do even if I buy groceries? You might as well go out and pay for a meal! Don't come here to eat!"

"Isn't that simple? How can you be so useless," Su Yang said disdainfully.

Su Liang's first reaction was to do the same thing as Su Yang. He went straight to look for the landlord. He knocked on the landlord's door the same way he did on Qiao Yu's door just now.

"I know there's someone in the room! Hurry up and open the door! Don't make me tear down your door!" Su Liang shouted.

The landlord hurriedly put on his shoes and went to open the door. He said to Su Liang obsequiously, "Oh, it's you. Why are you here so early?"

"Isn't your kitchen meant for cooking? Why isn't there anything inside! Also, don't you know how to put more coal in my room after it's all used up? Are you trying to freeze me to death in the middle of winter! Do you need me to personally remind you of such small issues? Are you bullying her because my brother hasn't been around these two days? Do you look down on our family?" Su Liang questioned.

However, what could he do even if he was being bullied? Old Madam Fan would have all kinds of ways to deal with him. Even if he went to the police station, she would get the issue mediated. Anyway, it was not a big issue and it did not cost him much money per month. He would let them continue to stay here for the time being and would think about it later when he really could not take it anymore.

Chapter 987 - 987 Finding a Place to Stay

987 Finding a Place to Stay

"I'll go get it for you now. It's just that... I have something to discuss with you. Can the rent next month be more than this month?" the landlord whispered.

Su Liang glared at the landlord. With that look, the landlord could almost see his own head falling to the ground.

“What did you say? Say that again? Did I hear wrongly just now?” Su Liang questioned.

The landlord’s back was instantly drenched in cold sweat. The look in Su Liang’s eyes made him feel like he had fallen into an ice cave and heard the whisper of the devil. If he said anything to make Su Liang unhappy, he would probably not be able to survive the day.

“Nothing! I didn’t say anything! I’ll replenish the things in the kitchen and bring you the coal!” the landlord said agitatedly.

Su Liang nodded in satisfaction and returned to Qiao Yu’s room. Qiao Yu had thought that Su Yang’s forceful methods were already very impressive, but she did not expect Su Liang to be able to deal with the landlord with just a few words. From now on, she could just take whatever she wanted and did not need to be bullied by the landlord anymore.

Seeing that Qiao Yu had been staring at him, Su Liang asked, “Why are you looking at me? Do I have flowers on my face?”

“I’m not looking at you! I’m just staring into space! Who’s looking at you!” Qiao Yu said.

“What a shy young lady. Hurry up and go to the kitchen to cook! Cook something nice today!” Su Liang shouted at Qiao Yu.

Qiao Yu was woken up by Su Liang so early in the morning and had not gone to the market to buy groceries yet. Seeing that it was Su Liang who had paid for the food and helped her deal with the landlord, she did not want to be too calculative. As long as she had meat to eat, she did not care who gave it to her.

Qiao Yu took the landlord’s bamboo basket and went out. Although Su Liang was alone in the room, she was not worried about what he could do. There was nothing but junk and clothes in that room.

Everything valuable was with her. It did not matter even if he emptied out the entire room. Qiao Yu knew where Su Liang's house was. At most, she would force herself into their house.

Qiao Yu hummed a tune happily as she walked along the road. As she walked, she saw Li Gui coming from an intersection and riding the three-wheeled vehicle with great effort. This time, she really saw it clearly. It was indeed Li Gui and the back of the vehicle was filled with popcorn.

Qiao Yu followed Li Gui carefully all the way to the place where Li Gui and Zhao Fei often met up and witnessed the secretive transaction between them. Zhao Fei gave Li Gui a large sum of money and the two of them parted ways after a short conversation. Li Gui then rode home in a relaxed and happy manner.

Zhao Fei also had an improvised three-wheeled vehicle by now. He would meet up with Li Gui every morning to pick up the goods and they would exchange vehicles. They could then proceed to do their own things after that and there was no need to come back to meet up at night. It was a very convenient arrangement.

Recently, he had been thinking of ways to get a car and spend some money to get a driver's license. With a car, it would be even easier to deliver the goods. A car could carry a lot of things and was much faster. He just needed to be in charge of delivering the goods to his brothers. Even earning the differential between the cost price and the selling price was already a sizable income. This way, he would have a much easier time.

Qiao Yu completely forgot about buying groceries and she followed Li Gui to a big house. It was not until she saw with her own eyes that Li Gui went in for a long time and did not come out did she confirm that she had found Li Gui's residence. Seeing that there was no one around, Qiao Yu mustered her courage and went to Qiao Mei's main door to take a look. She could vaguely hear the laughter of the four children coming from inside.

Even if Qiao Yu had mistaken someone else for Li Gui, she definitely would not be mistaken about these four children's voices. She often saw these children playing at the entrance of the village. As time passed, the sound of their laughter had become deeply ingrained in her mind.

Qiao Yu walked one round outside the house. It was surrounded by high walls that were built with green bricks and it took her more than half an hour to walk one full round. It showed how big the courtyard house was. She wondered why Qiao Mei could live in such a nice house while she could only languish in that dilapidated room.

Qiao Yu stood outside the door and stared at it for a long time. She only left in a hurry when someone came out of the courtyard.

Xia He looked at the road intersection in confusion. Did something flash past just now? Was she seeing things?

Chapter 988 Seeing A Ghost

Qiao Yu was so scared that she only stopped running when she was a block away. She ran too fast and kept panting heavily. The cold air hurt her throat and she felt pain all over her body with every breath she took.

She had found Li Gui's residence but she still did not have any evidence of her selling things. She did not know if Li Gui did her trade at that alley every day. She had to continue to observe for a while longer and could not act rashly.

Qiao Yu carried the bamboo basket and made a detour to the supply and marketing cooperative to buy her groceries. She spent money freely and behaved completely different from when she came earlier. Those who did not know better would think that Qiao Yu had struck it rich.

Su Liang waited at home for an entire morning. When he saw Qiao Yu return home, the anger that he had accumulated for a long time completely erupted.

"Where the hell did you go! Why do you need an entire morning to buy groceries! Are you trying to starve me to death!" Su Liang roared.

Qiao Yu was so frightened that she dropped the bamboo basket on the ground and the vegetables and meat inside dropped out. Qiao Yu looked at Su Liang shakily. She wanted to squat down to pick up the groceries, but she was afraid that Su Liang would punch and kick her. If she did not pick them up, that was such a waste of such nice meat.

"Why are you looking at me! Pick it up!" Su Liang pointed at the ground and shouted.

Qiao Yu quickly picked up the groceries from the ground and ran to the kitchen to cook. As she washed the vegetables, she recalled how she was bullied by Qiao Zhuang and the others in Foshan Village. The situation now was no different from back then. Qiao Zhuang used to beat and scold her every day. She had enough of living a life like this.

Su Yang was still in prison and she did not know what was going on. Qiao Yu could not go against Su Liang's wishes for now as she still had to rely on Su Liang's money to survive.

She decided to make do with the situation and endure it for a few more days. As soon as she found conclusive evidence against Li Gui, she would be able to turn her life around. At that time, she would ask Su Liang to kneel down and wash her feet! She would make Su Liang drink the water she used to wash her feet! She would make everyone who bullied her bow down to her!

The more Qiao Yu thought about it, the happier she became. Her hand shook twice when she put the salt in. This dish was going to be very salty. Qiao Yu did not cook multiple dishes. She just threw all the pork, cabbages, vermicelli and potatoes into the pot. After she added a thick spoonful of lard, the fragrance instantly filled the entire courtyard.

Su Liang's anxious mood also eased. It was indeed not bad to have a woman serving him at home. She seemed to cook better than Old Madam Fan.

Not long after, Qiao Yu brought the food into the room. Unexpectedly, Su Liang did not reprimand her and just ate quietly. He was used to salty food, so he did not notice Qiao Yu's mistake and even praised her culinary skills.

Su Liang's desire to make Qiao Yu his became even stronger and he silently praised Qiao Yu in his heart. After eating and drinking to his heart's content, Su Liang put on his jacket and went out to gamble with his scoundrel friends. Qiao Yu finally had time to rest. Su Liang placed some money, food stamps and meat coupons on the table. She reckoned that it was probably the money for tomorrow's meal.

"Just you wait... One day, I'll make you address me respectfully! Pfft! What kind of nice man will bully a woman!" Qiao Yu muttered as she held the money in her hand.

Even by the afternoon, Xia He still could not figure out where she was headed early in the morning. Could it be that she had really bumped into a ghost?

Qiao Mei looked at Xia He's distracted expression and said, "What's wrong with you? You're like a walking corpse. Why are you in a daze in the middle of the day?"

"Qiao Mei... I think I bumped into a ghost... Really... I'm not joking with you! It was a black shadow. It was at the door just now and disappeared with a whoosh! I really saw it!" Xia He said to Qiao Mei nervously as she gestured wildly.

Qiao Mei never believed in such things. These were all feudal superstitions and had no scientific basis at all. However, just because she did not believe it did not mean that she did not have respect for such beliefs. She just felt that one should not think about it.

"Is it because you did not sleep well yesterday? Do you want to go somewhere else and take a break for the next two days? I'll get Mother to quickly find me a helper. If this continues, you'll become too exhausted," Qiao Mei said worriedly.

Xia He jumped up agitatedly and said, "It's not that! I really saw it! I still can't remember what I want to do. I'm not usually like this. I hold a record for having a super memory and no one has broken that record till date!"

Chapter 989 - 989 Paying a Visit

989 Paying a Visit

How could one hold such a record? Was there an instrument that could measure the extent of a person's memory? Would a value appear on the machine as soon as it did a test?

Qiao Mei looked at Xia He carefully and sized her up from head to toe. Could it be that Xia He was really possessed? Why had she started to spout nonsense? Xia He was not usually like this.

"Why are you looking at me like that! I really hold a record. No one has broken it in our school until now. If you don't believe me, you can ask Xia Wen! Xia Zhe must know about it too. They both graduated from the same school as me," Xia He said proudly.

“Then how do you get such a record? Does someone have to grade you?” Qiao Mei asked curiously.

“We have to memorize the value of pi. You’re given two hours to memorize as much as you can. Then, you have to recite it or write it down from memory. Whoever can memorize the most number of decimal places will be the winner,” Xia He said.

“Then how many decimal points did you memorize?” Qiao Mei asked with a grin.

Xia He patted her chest and looked at Qiao Mei smugly as she said, “Hmph! It’s not that I want to brag! At that time, I memorized 512 decimal places! The second place was only in the 260s! At that time, I couldn’t say so many numbers in one breath. If I paused, I would forget everything, so I wrote it down. The piece of paper which I wrote on is probably still in school!”

This was indeed quite convincing. The value of pi had no pattern at all and could only be memorized by heart. Anyone who could memorize more than 500 decimal points in two hours was indeed not an ordinary person.

“I don’t think you bumped into anything supernatural. It could be a kitten or some other animal. It probably moved too fast for you to see it clearly,” Qiao Mei said as she comforted her.

Xia He did not believe what Qiao Mei said at all. How could there be such a big kitten? Unless it was an animal spirit! She decided not to think about it anymore. Even if she could know what really happened, there was nothing she could do. It was better not to pursue this matter.

After lunch, Qiao Mei planned to go out for a walk, but an uninvited guest came unexpectedly.

Tan Jing stood at the door of Qiao Mei’s house primly. She had stood at the same spot for a long time as she did not know what reason and excuse she could use for her visit. As she was still hesitating, she did not expect Qiao Mei and Xia He to suddenly open the door. The three of them stared at one another and stood rooted to the ground. They all stared blankly and no one knew what to say.

In the end, it was Xia He who broke this awkward silence.

“What... are you doing here?” Xia He questioned.

Most people’s impression of Tan Jing seemed to be that she was just an incompetent person who usually kept quiet but looked like a nice person. That was why everyone just let her be. In reality, only Xia He knew what Tan Jing was up to. Someone who grew up in an environment surrounded by people like the Tan family would not have a good character.

Tan Jing was not nice to Qiao Mei previously so they did not know what she was up to now.

“I... I’m just here to visit Qiao Mei and to see if she’s doing well,” Tan Jing said self-consciously.

Xia He snorted mockingly. She did not take the initiative to come here for such a long time, but suddenly came so diligently today. As the saying went, when the fox preached, one should take care of one’s geese. She was definitely up to no good!

Previously, Jiang Yi had threatened to hang herself outside Qiao Mei’s house. Even after such a big fuss, Tan Jing did not even come to take a look or apologize. What was she trying to do now?

Qiao Mei sighed and patted Xia He’s hand, telling her not to become as prickly as an angry hedgehog whenever she was agitated. She was clearly the elder sister and was so much older than them, but she still had a child’s bad temper.

As soon as Tan Jing entered the courtyard, she started looking around. This was the first time she had come to the old residence. In the past, whenever she wanted to accompany Xu Lan here, Xia Fang would always stop her using all kinds of reasons. Even when she got married, she did not hold a ceremony at the old residence. She only came by to pay her respects and left after that.

These flower pots and paintings were probably antiques. These were all left behind by the ancestors and Qiao Mei had gotten them for nothing. She had really benefited too much!

Tan Jing had no idea that Qiao Mei had bought everything in the house herself. When she took over, it was an empty house and the only valuable item that came with the house was the bed in her bedroom.

Chapter 990 - 990 Revealing Her Intent

990 Revealing Her Intent

Qiao Mei had to cough twice to pull Tan Jing back from her thoughts.

“Um... how have you been recently? How’s your health? Do you feel any discomfort?” Tan Jing asked politely.

These consecutive questions were all just pleasantries. Even Qiao Mei’s neighbors would not ask such questions. The person you were asking about was sitting right in front of you. If she was not feeling well, would she still welcome you into the house?

The more Xia He looked at Tan Jing, the more annoyed she became. She also did not know why. In the past, she used to feel that Tan Jing was pitiful and so she always tolerated Tan Jing. Even when Tan Jing was greedy for small gains or caused trouble for Xia Wen, Xia He would turn a blind eye. She felt that Tan Jing had a hard life and so she would help whenever she could.

Ever since Xu Lan told everyone about the Tan family’s various demands over the years, it was out of respect for Tan Jing that Xia He did not go to the Tan family’s house to cause a scene. However, Tan Jing still managed to find her own way here to make Xia He feel disgusted.

Then Tan Jing should not blame her for being rude!

“Qiao Mei is not well! She’s not well at all! She needs more tonics now. Eldest Sister-in-law, I see that you have come empty-handed today. Didn’t you say that you are here to visit Qiao Mei? Why do you come without any gift, and why haven’t my eldest brother come with you. Has my eldest brother forgotten to remind you about such etiquette? Or did your mother forget to teach you such etiquette,” Xia He asked with a smile.

Qiao Mei looked at Xia He reproachfully. Xia He was speaking too viciously. She was openly and covertly saying that Tan Jing had a bad upbringing and that Tan Jing did not even know basic etiquette.

Tan Jing immediately blushed. The thought of getting a gift had never crossed her mind. She was here to ask for the house. Qiao Mei did not deserve to get so many good things. Was such superficial etiquette still needed within a family?

"I... I came out in a hurry and didn't have time to bring anything. Next time! I'll definitely bring them next time!" Tan Jing said.

Xia He leaned back in her chair in dissatisfaction and stared at Tan Jing without saying anything. She knew that if she continued to argue, Qiao Mei would reprimand her and there would be no dinner for her.

"Sister-in-law, elder sister bumped into a ghost this morning and she's not in a good mood. Please cut her some slack. I'm in good health and I'm fine. Thank you for still thinking about me," Qiao Mei said.

Xia He secretly glared at Qiao Mei. This little girl had said this morning that Xia He was mistaken, and now she was saying that Xia He had bumped into a ghost. Qiao Mei was just taking advantage of the fact that Xia He cared for her a lot. Otherwise, with Xia He's temper, she would have lost her temper long ago.

Tan Jing used to have a good relationship with Xia He, so she could tell how much Xia He liked Qiao Mei. Xia He liked Qiao Mei more than she liked Tan Jing back then.

Not only did Qiao Mei snatch away Xia Wen's attention, but she also snatched away Xu Lan's care, Xia He's bias and the love and affection of all their relatives. All these originally belonged to Tan Jing, so how could she not be jealous? It was Qiao Mei's appearance that took away everything that belonged to her. As long as Qiao Mei disappeared...

"Eldest Sister-in-law? Eldest Sister-in-law, what are you thinking about? Why are you so engrossed? We've been speaking for a long time," Qiao Mei reminded her.

Only then did Tan Jing wake up from her daze. She suddenly remembered why she was here today and said softly, "Qiao Mei, I have come to speak to you about something. Your eldest brother was supposed to come and talk to you, but he's been really too busy recently, so he asked me to come over myself. Do you still intend to rent out your house? Do you think you can rent it to my family?"

This was the real reason why she was here today. She could finally not hide her fox tail anymore.

“Oh it’s about this matter. Elder Sister-in-law, what do you have in mind?” Qiao Mei asked calmly.

When Tan Jing saw that Qiao Mei seemed receptive, she quickly said, “Don’t you have six rooms in that house? My parents, second brother’s family, youngest sister’s family, and my second brother’s eldest son will like to live there. How much is the monthly rent? We’ll pay for it.”

Qiao Mei was not agitated at all. She smiled and said, “Your father came to talk to me about this before. They were not very satisfied with the rent I quoted, so they left. I didn’t expect Eldest Sister-in-law to bring this up again today, so I’ll tell you what I think.”