

Fat Wife 1091

Chapter 1091 Send Her Back To Her Maternal Home

"Go, remove that thing from her mouth and let her speak. I want to know what she wants to say," Xia Jun snorted and said coldly.

Xia Fang went in front of Tan Jing, grabbed a corner of the handkerchief and pulled it out forcefully. She was scared that if she got too close to Tan Jing's mouth, Tan Jing would bite her, so she had no choice but to treat Tan Jing so roughly.

"I... It's my fault... I'll go and apologize to Qiao Mei. It's a momentary lapse in judgment and I don't know what possesses me to do that! I didn't do it on purpose!" Tan Jing said aggrievedly.

"Are you still a child? You have to pay the price for your mistakes. Don't make a show of being pitiful here. I won't fall for that!" Xia Jun said furiously.

Everyone fell silent. There did not seem to be any appropriate way to punish Tan Jing. They could not possibly send Tan Jing to jail. Even if Xia Jun was willing to embarrass himself by doing that, Xia Wen would not agree to it.

Between these two men, one was the head of the family and the other one was the future head of the family. This matter did not concern the second and third sons' branches of the family, so it was better for them not to get involved in case it became a sore point in the future.

Just as everyone was caught in a deadlock, Qiao Mei pushed open the door and walked out. She smiled at Xia Jun and said, "Grandfather, there's nothing wrong with me, see? Don't get so angry. Your health is the most important thing."

"Grandfather is just worried about you. I'm already so old, what can happen to me? Why are you out here? Why isn't that little brat Xia He watching over you! Go back to your room," Xia Jun said with heartache.

"I'm here to share your burden. I don't think this is a serious matter. Why don't we just let Eldest Sister-in-law go back to her maternal home for a couple of days. In this way, we can also resolve those issues between the Tan family and our family. Won't this be having the best of both worlds?" Qiao Mei said.

It may appear as if they were not punishing Tan Jing at all. However, doing this was actually doling out the worst punishment to Tan Jing.

At this moment, everyone in the Tan family relied on Tan Jing to get money from the Xia family for their survival. If Tan Jing went back to stay with the Tan family for too long, she would definitely get scolded by Jiang Yi and her brothers. The Tan family never liked Tan Jing and used to make her do all kinds of tough and tiring chores. They also criticized her all the time.

Tan Jing hated the Tan family the most, but she could not get rid of them. She could only be trapped in the Tan family and be bullied for the rest of her life.

Furthermore, the act of chasing Tan Jing back to the Tan family was also a show of intimidation by the Xia family. It would serve to tell them not to think that it was easy to bully Xia family and that Tan Jing was not that important to the Xia family. If they continued to do anything unfavorable to the Xia family, the Xia family would simply return her to them!

It would be obvious whether it was the Tan family who needed the Xia family more or the Xia family who could not do without the Tan family.

"Is that really what you think?" Xia Jun was a smart person and naturally knew what Qiao Mei meant. Sometimes, mental torture was thousands of times more uncomfortable than physical torture.

However, Xia Jun felt that this punishment was still too mild. If Xia He had not been in the same room just now, they would be looking at Qiao Mei's corpse now!

That would have three lives lost at once! How vicious must Tan Jing be to do such a ruthless thing!

"Grandfather, we're all a family. Eldest Sister-in-law just lost her senses for a moment. She would feel better after going back to get some rest. She can come back after one month," Qiao Mei said.

After one month, she would have given birth. Even if Tan Jing wanted to harm her, she would not have the chance to do so. She was only being so merciful to Tan Jing because of how much she respected Xia Wen. This could be considered her way of returning all the favors she owed Xia Wen.

"If I listen to you and resolve it your way, your grandfather will skin me alive. I can't let her off just like that," Xia Jun said.

"Let me handle my grandfather! After all, Eldest Sister-in-law didn't manage to hurt me. Even if we go to the police station, won't it be dealt with in the same way? Grandfather, you don't have to take this matter too seriously. If my grandfather blames you, I'll back you up!" Qiao Mei said as she massaged Xia Jun's shoulders.

These words made Xia Jun laugh out loud and he said happily, "You little girl, you can even back me up now! Then tell your grandfather to give me the watch that he has treasured for many years. Let's see if he agrees!"

"For such things, you have to ask him yourself. I can't make such a decision for him!" Qiao Mei looked towards Tan Jing as she said, "Grandfather, do you think we can just do as I say?"

"Alright! If that's what you want, then let's do as you say. Xia Mao, get someone to send her back," Xia Jun said sternly.

Chapter 1092 An Infertile Hen

Xia Mao called Luo Yu over and asked him to arrange for two of his subordinates to escort Tan Jing back to the Tan family's house. Xia Mao did not instruct the guards to stay around and keep an eye on the Tan family's house. After all, Tan Jing did not have much money. Other than that small house she and Xia Wen lived in, there was nowhere else for her to go. As long as they kept a close eye on Xia Wen's house, Tan Jing would not be able to run away. It would be a waste of manpower to arrange for someone to spy on the Tan family's house.

After settling this matter, everyone dispersed. After staying over at Qiao Mei's house for so long, it was time for them to go home. Xia Guang also had to return to the army unit before the end of his home leave to deal with the divorce. The matter could not be delayed any longer.

No one knew if Zhou Hua would do anything else outrageous. When Xia Guang saw Tan Jing doing such a vicious thing to Qiao Mei today, he kept feeling uneasy. He was afraid that Zhou Hua would also harbor resentment towards Qiao Mei and do something bad to her like what Tan Jing did.

The house that was bustling with activities suddenly became empty and Qiao Mei could not immediately get used to it. Fortunately, there was Xia He to accompany her and make the days pass by quickly. The babies were about to be born and she did not know when Xia Zhe could come back. Speaking of him, it had been months since she last saw him and there was no letter from him at all during this period.

One week later, Tan Jing could not stand living with the Tan family anymore. Every day, apart from washing clothes and cooking, she had to give Jiang Yi massages as well. Every night, she also had to prepare water for Tan Bo to wash his feet. If she did anything that irritated the two of them, they would beat and scold her.

Tan Hu and Tan Bao were drunk most of the time. When they could not find Xu Xiang and Wang Meng, they would beat Tan Jing up. As long as they could vent their anger, they did not care who they beat up.

There were already many bruises on Tan Jing's back and arms and there was not a single unharmed spot. Every day, Jiang Yi would point at her and scold her for a few hours. The moment she saw Tan Jing, she must lash out to vent her frustration.

After that child came to the capital, he did not even make the trip to the Tan family's house. They immediately bought him a train ticket and sent him back. That infuriated their relative and he told Jiang Yi to compensate him. In the end, Jiang Yi had no choice but to compensate this relative's family using the last bit of money that Tan Jing had, together with the silver earrings that Xia Wen had given her. Only then was the matter settled.

"What have I done wrong in my past life! To have a daughter like you in this life! You go back on your word after making a promise! Where should I hide my face! They might still be cursing me right now!" Jiang Yi pointed at Tan Jing and said resentfully.

Tan Jing did not back down and retorted, "You're the one who hurriedly wanted to bring that child over, so why are you blaming me now! Aren't you the one who insisted that I take in that child?"

"You're such a money-losing good-for-nothing! You've been married for so many years and you can't get pregnant! Yet you think you can blame me! Isn't it you who came to beg me to find a child for you! You're the one who can't get pregnant, yet you're blaming me now! Let me tell you! There's nothing wrong with Xia Wen's health. You are the problem!" Jiang Yi said.

"How do you know that the problem is not with Xia Wen! As if I am the only party involved in the manner of having a child! What proof do you have that I am the problem!" Tan Jing immediately shouted at Jiang Yi, the tone of her voice much higher than usual. This issue had always been her sore point.

"Hmph, you still don't know! Xia Wen has an aunt who's a doctor! Don't you think that he will go for a checkup after so many years of not being able to have kids? You act as if it has nothing to do with you but his entire family already knows that there's something wrong with you! You're still feeling so smug here! Brainless fool! You're an embarrassment to our family!" Jiang Yi looked at Tan Jing mockingly.

It was Xu Lan who told her about this. Of course, it was not during a friendly chat between in-laws. This was something that happened many years ago. At that time, Tan Bao was getting married, but their family did not have any money to buy a house, so Jiang Yi went to the Xia family's house to kick up a fuss.

At that time, Xia Wen and Tan Jing had gone on a business trip to an overseas university for an academic exchange. Only Xu Lan and Xia Mao were in the capital. By then, the young couple had already been married for a long time. At that point, Jiang Yi felt that Xu Lan was being too stubborn, so she told Xu Lan that Xia Wen was the one who had problems with his health, in turn causing Tan Jing to be unable to have children. For this reason, the Xia family should compensate Tan Jing with some money.

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Chapter 1093 Hospitalized

Jiang Yi had originally thought that she would be able to use this fact to lord over Xu Lan, but she did not expect Xu Lan to produce Xia Wen's medical report and throw it at her face without any hesitation. No matter how uneducated she was, she could understand what was written on that piece of paper.

After that, Jiang Yi could only walk out of the Xia family house dejectedly with her head down. If there was nothing wrong with Xia Wen, then Tan Jing must be the problem! There was no reason for her to ask for any money, so what else could she do but to return home!

Even after Xia Wen and Tan Jing returned from overseas, she did not dare to go over and mention this matter. Later on, when she realized that the Xia family did not use this issue as a reason to bully Tan Jing, she shamelessly went to ask them for money again.

"You still refuse to admit it! Isn't it your fault that the two of you can't have children all these years! If it's not for the fact that you're the one who can't get pregnant, would I need to run out of the Xia family's house so embarrassedly! How is it that I gave birth to such a useless person like you! Why don't you just go out and get hit by a car!" Jiang Yi kept cursing, as if the person she was talking about was not her biological daughter.

"I want to die too, but aren't you the one who can't bear to part with me?" Tan Jing said.

Jiang Yi was so angry that she went forward and gave Tan Jing a slap. She said angrily, "Go and die then! Die now! Do you think I'm scared about you dying! If you want to die, you'd better die in the Xia family's house. This way, we can still extort a large sum of money from them. Even if you die, make yourself useful! You'll embarrass yourself if you die anywhere else! You can't even compare with those stray cats and dogs!"

Tan Jing was long used to Jiang Yi's behavior and lowered her head to ignore her. If she had a choice, she would not want to be part of such a family! If she could have a life like Xia He's... No! If she could have Qiao Mei's life, she would not have ended up like this!

Why did all of this become her fault? The heavens were really unfair.

Tan Jing only left the house after Jiang Yi finished scolding her. She went to the park again and sat in the same spot as that night. She suddenly looked forward to bumping into Cheng Gu.

She regretted not exchanging contact information with Cheng Gu. If only she knew where Cheng Gu was, she could have a chat with him and it would make her feel better. Other than Cheng Gu, there was no one else who could understand her current predicament.

"Elder sister, are you missing me?" Cheng Gu's voice suddenly came from behind Tan Jing.

Tan Jing turned around in surprise and looked at Cheng Gu. She could not hide the smile on her face as she said happily, "Cheng Gu! Why are you here?"

"Recently, an elder in my family has fallen ill, so I'm back to stay for two days. It's such a coincidence to run into you while I'm taking photos. Are you also back to visit your relatives?" Cheng Gu asked.

Tan Jing laughed bitterly. Could this be considered a visit to her parents? It should be. If the Xia family said so, then so be it. She did not have any choice at all.

"From the looks of it, elder sister... Did something happen to you? Is there anything I can help with?" Cheng Gu sat beside Tan Jing and asked gently.

Just as Tan Jing was about to say something to Cheng Gu, she felt a sharp pain in her abdomen. The pain felt like it was going to tear her apart. She held the right side of her abdomen and curled up, groaning softly.

"Elder sister? Elder sister, what's wrong! Don't scare me!" Cheng Gu grabbed Tan Jing's arm and asked anxiously.

At this moment, Tan Jing was in so much pain that she could not speak. Cheng Gu did not hesitate and immediately carried Tan Jing back to his car to drive her to the nearest hospital.

The doctor diagnosed Tan Jing with acute appendicitis and said that she must have her appendix removed. Otherwise, it would become even more serious in the future. If the appendix's condition festered and it became inflamed, the consequences would be unimaginable! At that time, she might even lose her life!

"Are you the patient's family member?" the doctor looked at Cheng Gu and asked.

Cheng Gu thought for a moment and said, "Yes, how is she now?"

"The patient needs surgery and we need her family members to sign off. The surgery is scheduled for tomorrow. Can you sign off for her?" the doctor asked.

"I have to discuss this with her. Can I come and look for you after she wakes up?" Cheng Gu said.

"Yes, but try to decide as soon as possible. I can only wait until tomorrow. With the patient's condition, we should not delay it any further." With that, the doctor went to do rounds at the other wards.

Cheng Gu went out to buy a lot of food and then sat quietly and motionlessly near Tan Jing's bed. He held on to Tan Jing's hands tightly, worried that he would not notice it when she woke up.

Chapter 1094 Surgery

After four or five hours, Tan Jing gradually woke up. Currently, she was only given anti-inflammatory medicine and painkillers to temporarily alleviate her pain. If she wanted to get well completely, she would need to undergo surgery.

"Where... where am I?" Tan Jing asked weakly.

"Elder sister, you're awake. We're in the hospital now. When we were talking, you suddenly fainted from pain. The doctor says that you have acute appendicitis and need surgery. I'm not your family member so I can't sign off for you. Do you want me to call your husband?" Cheng Gu asked tentatively.

Tan Jing closed her eyes slowly. The last thing she wanted was to deal with such a situation. She would rather that she had simply died in the park.

Right now, she did not have any money on her and could not even afford to pay for the treatment and hospitalization today. She felt too embarrassed to ask Xia Wen for money and she definitely could not count on that bunch of heartless people from the Tan family. She was alone and helpless now and did not have anyone who could help her.

"Elder sister, if you have any difficulties, just let me know. I can help you with anything!" Cheng Gu said firmly as he held Tan Jing's hands.

"Why are you treating me this way? This is only the second time we've met," Tan Jing asked.

"Because... because I like... I feel that elder sister gives me a sense of familiarity. It feels as if you're my own elder sister." Cheng Gu almost blurted out his true feelings.

Tan Jing was not an innocent young lady without any life experiences, so it was not as if she could not understand what Cheng Gu meant. Unfortunately, she was already a married woman and much older than Cheng Gu. Even if she was not married, the two of them were still not suitable for each other.

Cheng Gu could not explain why he liked Tan Jing. Perhaps it was because he worked in the arts field and was particularly obsessed with the pursuit of beauty. When he first saw Tan Jing, he felt that she epitomized his idea of a perfect image and looked indescribably beautiful. He really liked that sense of beauty coming from Tan Jing. Even if no one else saw it the same way, it did not change how he felt and it was as if he was intoxicated by it.

He was willing to do anything to protect this sense of beauty. It did not affect how he felt even when he knew that Tan Jing had a husband. He just wanted to be by her side and protect her silently.

Tan Jing did not share his feelings. Instead of giving Cheng Gu the wrong impression, she wanted to make it clear to him and make him give up that idea completely.

"You're younger than me, so you can be my younger brother. From now on, I'll treat you like my own younger brother," Tan Jing said gently.

Cheng Gu did not have much of a reaction to what she said. He avoided the topic and said, "Elder sister, I've already paid for the treatment and the surgery. When the time comes, I'll sign off for you. If anything happens, I'll take responsibility!"

"You want to sign off? How are you able to fool the doctor? Even if I treat you like my younger brother, we're not related by blood. The hospital won't allow you to sign off for me," Tan Jing said with a laugh.

"Don't worry, I definitely can!" Cheng Gu said confidently.

He had relatives working in this hospital and who could still help with such a small matter. Even if his relatives could not help, he still had his brothers and friends who could definitely settle the matter for him.

Early the next morning, Tan Jing was wheeled into the operating theater. The surgery went well and she would recover as long as she rested well.

Tan Jing only woke up after sleeping for the entire afternoon. By now, she had already left home for two days. If the Tan family realized that she was missing and reported it to the Xia family, Xia Wen would have appeared in her ward by now.

Given the Xia family's influence in the capital, they would easily find out that she was in the hospital. It only meant that the Tan family did not take her disappearance seriously at all.

Tan Jing could not help but feel a little disappointed. Even if she died outside now, no one would know about it. No one would care about her until her body rotted and stank and she was discovered by strangers.

"I..." Tan Jing looked at Cheng Gu and said hoarsely.

Cheng Gu quickly picked up the glass of water and let Tan Jing take sips. After that, he even made some rice gruel for Tan Jing to fill her stomach. After the surgery, she needed to regain her strength but she could only have a liquid diet.

It was only two days later that Tan Jing felt a little better. Her constitution was weak to begin with, so she recovered slower than most people after surgery. After Cheng Gu took care of her attentively during the past two days, she could already hold a conversation with him and even tell jokes occasionally!

Chapter 1095 People Are All The Same

"Cheng Gu, I want to eat something spicy. Can you get me some spicy boiled fish?" Tan Jing looked at Cheng Gu as she begged for a favor.

"No, you can't eat spicy food so soon after the surgery. Are you tired of living! It's not just spicy food that you can't eat, Anything that's sour, sweet or bitter is also not allowed! You can only eat porridge and some pickled vegetables. Nothing else!" Cheng Gu said sternly.

Tan Jing pouted aggrievedly. Cheng Gu was clearly younger than her, but he was restricting her freedom like he was her father. She could only eat porridge and pickled vegetables for three meals a day. It was really a meaningless way to live!

Cheng Gu looked at Tan Jing's aggrieved expression and felt a little sorry for her. However, Tan Jing was still unwell. Even if Tan Jing begged him, he could not agree to such a request easily. This was for her own good and she must bear with it!

"Fine, fine, fine. After you recover, I'll bring you to eat the best spicy boiled fish in the city, how about that?" Cheng Gu said resignedly.

"That's more like it! Then I won't stand on ceremony with you!" Tan Jing said happily.

Cheng Gu sat at the side and stared at Tan Jing with a gentle look in his eyes. As he looked at her in silence, he felt that his life was very good right now. How could this feeling be anything but affection?

"Say, you're not young anymore. What kind of girl do you like? My husband's younger sister works in the military art troupe. There are so many good-looking young ladies there, surely there's someone you'll like! Tell me about your ideal type and I can strategize for you," Tan Jing asked.

Cheng Gu looked at Tan Jing intently and thought for a long time before saying, "I like someone with long hair, big starry eyes with double eyelids and charming baby eyebags, and who has two dimples when she smiles. She's a very gentle and virtuous person and has a mole at the corner of her mouth."

Tan Jing could not stand to hear more. He was describing her! After she tried so hard to change the topic, he still wanted to talk about her!

"That's enough! Cheng Gu... you shouldn't spend so much time on me," Tan Jing said.

Cheng Gu smiled relaxedly and said happily, "Elder sister, what are you talking about? Isn't it my duty as a younger brother to take care of my elder sister? You're sick now, so how can I leave you alone?"

The two of them knew very well what was going on but they just did not want to expose the truth and make things difficult for everyone.

The older woman in the neighboring hospital bed grinned and said, "I'm so envious of you having such a younger brother! He's willing to take care of his elder sister when she's sick. My kid only knows how to eat, drink and make merry every day! I'm so envious of you!"

"It's my younger brother who's the sensible one. As his elder sister, I've only caused him trouble," Tan Jing said with a smile.

"I do it because my elder sister is nice to me. Otherwise, I won't put in so much effort to take such good care of my elder sister. It's mealtime. You should eat now." Cheng Gu put the food in front of Tan Jing and she ate obediently.

These wondrous and peaceful days passed quickly. Tan Jing could not stay in the hospital forever. If the Tan family called the Xia family to ask for money after a while, the fact that she did not stay put in the Tan family's house would soon be exposed.

Based on Tan Jing's current condition, as long as she took her medicine and changed her wound dressing on time every day, she would be able to recover quickly. This was something that she could do at home.

"Cheng Gu, please help me with the discharge procedures. I'm going home to recuperate," Tan Jing said.

After packing everything, Cheng Gu drove Tan Jing back to the Tan family's house. However, Tan Jing did not allow him to drive up to the house door. She asked him to stop at the main entrance to the village.

"You don't have to send me all the way in. It's too inconvenient. Thank you for taking care of me for the past few days. Give me your number and I'll pay you the medical fees when I recover," Tan Jing said politely.

"Sure." Cheng Gu took out a pen and paper to write down his phone number, completely unaware that the corners of Tan Jing's mouth twitched for a moment.

She was just trying to be polite to Cheng Gu. She had thought that he would not accept money from her and did not expect that people were all the same in the end, saying one thing but doing another. He said that he liked her, but he could not even bear to spend this bit of money on her.

"This is my phone number. Elder sister, call me if you need anything. You don't have to pay me back the money. We're family, so there's no need for this. Don't stand on ceremony with me," Cheng Gu said gently.

Tan Jing immediately perked up. She took the paper with Cheng Gu's phone number and got out of the car to go home. The walk which usually took her 10 minutes had become so difficult and it took her a full 40 minutes to reach the Tan family's main door.

Chapter 1096 Buying A House

As soon as Tan Jing pushed open the main door, Jiang Yi rushed over and gave her a tight slap. After that, Jiang Yi felt that one slap was not enough to vent her anger and slapped Tan Jing again. After getting hit twice, Tan Jing fell to the ground and almost could not get up.

"So you still know your way back! The entire family is about to starve to death! You jinx, where the hell did you go! You don't even bother to bring anything with you when you come back! What an ingrate! I really raised you for nothing!" Jiang Yi said furiously.

When Tan Jing was not at home, all the chores in the family fell on Jiang Yi again. This inevitably made her angry. In addition, Tan Hu ran out of money to gamble at the casino recently, so he often came back to beat and scold them. Jiang Yi was already very distraught by now.

Tan Jing did not dare to say anything. Once she said something, Jiang Yi would scold her for a while. She might as well keep quiet and let Jiang Yi vent her anger. Once Jiang Yi felt better after scolding her, she would be let off.

"When are you going back to the Xia family! Quickly go and apologize to the Xia family! Our creditors come to demand for money every day and all the valuable things in the house have already been taken away by them! If you don't go back to the Xia family soon, our family won't be able to survive anymore!" Jiang Yi complained.

"This... I'm not the one who owes money. Besides, the Xia family don't want me there now. Where's my place in that happy and harmonious family? Isn't it all your fault for what happened to me in the Xia family?" Tan Jing said helplessly.

"What has this got to do with us! You're the one who can't get pregnant! If only you can give the Xia family a big fat boy! Then see whether the Xia family will give you everything. It's not just cash, even if you want a mountain of gold and silver, the Xia family will also give it to you! Don't even try to blame us for everything! Don't even think about it!" Jiang Yi said overbearingly.

Tan Jing did not want to stay with the Tan family anymore. She felt that it would be better for her to go back to the house she shared with Xia Wen. She would not be able to recuperate well in the Tan family's house. If she continued to stay with them, her wounds would probably fester and rot sooner or later!

Tan Jing did not even enter the Tan family's house. She just took her luggage and went to the bus stop nearby to take a bus back to the house she shared with Xia Wen. As she stood outside the door, she kept thinking about what might happen after she opened the door and went through all the possibilities in her mind. Then, she mustered her courage and took out her keys to open the door.

It appeared that the house had been left vacant for a while. Even after she left, Xia Wen did not come back to stay here. She found out that when his workplace unit realized that he worked overtime every day, they specially found an unused apartment in the workplace unit's apartment block as a place for Xia Wen to rest. In the end, Xia Wen decided to use it as his living quarters!

When others asked Xia Wen about it, he would just say that he was too busy with work and that his own house was too far away, so he might as well stay in the workplace unit's apartment block.

With that, Tan Jing felt at ease enough to settle down in the house.

Qiao Mei had not been idle for the past few days. There was not much corn left, so when it was dark and there was no one around, Qiao Mei produced a lot of corn and filled up all the rooms in the house.

Earlier, she had asked Sun Juan and Zhou Shuang about the matter of where they wanted to live, but the two of them had not given her a reply yet.

The next day, Qiao Mei came to the corn courtyard house to discuss this matter with the two of them.

"Sister Sun! Sister Zhou! And Sister Feng, you're all here!" Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Yes we are! We've been waiting for so many days to start work! We're all just waiting for you to come and inform us to come back to work. After you came to tell me yesterday, I immediately went to inform everyone!" Feng Hong said happily.

How could anyone be disinterested in a money-making business! Only Sun Juan's sister, Sun Jiao, would not be able to come again. She and her husband had moved to another location as their prospects there were better than in the capital. Their expenses were also lower there, which allowed them to live an easier life in return.

"We're all on the same side, so I won't talk in circles. It's about the rooms which I mentioned to you previously. Sister Zhou and Sister Sun, have you given thought to this matter?" Qiao Mei asked.

Feng Hong already heard about this matter a while back. It was not like Qiao Mei was giving Sun Juan and Shou Zhuang the rooms. There was nothing for her to be jealous of. The two women had to pay for it with cash. If she had money, she would also beg Qiao Mei to sell her a room!

"We've already decided! Our decision is to buy! But not in this courtyard house of yours. We want to buy the rooms in the courtyard house two streets behind this house," Sun Juan said.

All the neighbors nearby knew very well the extent to which Qiao Mei had renovated the corn courtyard house. Also, there were still many former residents of this courtyard house living nearby.

Chapter 1097 - 1097 We Are Family

1097 We Are Family

If these people found out that Sun Juan and Zhou Shuang managed to buy two rooms in Qiao Mei's corn courtyard house, they would definitely come around and ask to buy rooms as well.

Who knew how much money they had for real! There may even be people who would be willing to sell everything they owned to come and live in this house which belonged to Qiao Mei. Anything was possible! How could Qiao Mei reject each and everyone of these people?

Sun Juan and Shou Shuang did not want Qiao Mei to have to face such a situation. It was better to give more thought to whatever they did.

Qiao Mei had not thought of this point either. She always felt that she could just reject those people. However, she would be busy with her children in the coming months and would not be able to handle all the matters related to the house. Sun Juan and Zhou Shuang were truly more thoughtful and thorough in their considerations.

Furthermore, if Sun Juan and Zhou Shuang lived in the corn courtyard house, it would become inconvenient for her to go there to produce corn. It was a better idea to let them stay in the courtyard house located behind.

“Sure thing. I didn’t do much renovations on that house and there are less fixtures and fittings compared with this place. For sure, the price is definitely not as expensive as here. I just hope you don’t mind,” Qiao Mei said.

“Of course we don’t mind! It’s already good enough to have a place to stay. Tell us the price. We will pay whatever amount you say!” Sun Juan said generously.

Qiao Mei’s beautiful eyes darted around for a while and she said, “5,000 dollars per room!”

“Qiao Mei, you’re so naughty! Are you teasing us! 5,000 dollars is enough to buy half that house!” Zhou Shuang said.

“That’s not it. The thing is the house has good feng shui. After moving in, Sister Sun will be able to find her other half to spend the rest of her life with. Sister Zhou’s two sons will also grow up healthy and excel in their studies. In the future, they will be very filial to you!” Qiao Mei said.

Sun Juan was so happy that she grinned widely. She held Qiao Mei's hand as she said, "Look at this mouth of hers. She can speak so well! Tell me, is there anything in this world that she can't do!"

"If what you say is true, then it shouldn't be called a house. It should be called a 'divine temple'. Everyone will want to buy a room there so that everything will become smooth sailing for them!" Zhou Shuang said laughingly.

"Alright, alright, I won't tease you anymore. Under normal circumstances, I'm planning to sell each room at 1,000 dollars over there. For that house, I've only scraped and painted the walls and changed all the furniture. Everything else remained the same. We're all on the same side, so I'll offer you my lowest price. It's 800 dollars per room," Qiao Mei said sternly.

The house which Qiao Mei was talking about was not the big courtyard house that she had bought for more than 10,000 dollars. She intended to keep that courtyard house for Xia He. Qiao Mei was talking about the house next to it.

After receiving the money from He Ning, she bought another house. It had three less rooms compared with the house which cost more than 10,000 dollars, but she had bought it for 8,000 dollars so it was still worth it.

"Then... can I buy three rooms? My two sons will get married in the future and I have to make preparations for them in advance," she said embarrassedly.

"Sister Zhou! You're not being nice! Qiao Mei is selling it to you at a loss! If you buy three rooms in one go, you're not letting Qiao Mei earn money!" Feng Hong said.

Severing one's source of income was like killing one's parents! One could not do such a thing that harmed others for one's own benefit.

They were still counting on Qiao Mei to help them get rich! If Qiao Mei was upset over this matter and she became unhappy and disgruntled with Zhou Shuang, the losses would outweigh the gains. Feng Hong was also doing this for Zhou Shuang's sake.

"I! I'll buy the other two rooms at the price of 1,000 dollars per room! Is that alright?" Zhou Shuang said hurriedly.

"There's still a long way to go for my son! The family has already prepared a place for him! I'm not in any hurry," Feng Hong said.

Even if Feng Hong wanted to buy one, she did not have that much money! Old Madam Fan had given Sun Juan and Zhou Shuang a large sum of money, but she did not get anything.

It was better to work for Qiao Mei for a few years and save more money for the future betrothal gifts first. If they could not afford the betrothal money, it would be useless to buy a room! Her son still would not be able to get married!

Besides, her son would go to work and earn money in the future. He should be the one to earn the money needed for his own wedding. Feng Hong was just preparing a backup plan for him. If she helped her child with everything, he would not be able to achieve much in his own future.

Chapter 1098 Patchwork Quilt

"It's fine. My plan is to rent out the rooms in that house, but as long as you're the ones who want to buy it, I'll sell it to you at the lowest price," Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Mei did not just invest in these few houses. As long as someone in the vicinity wanted to sell their house, Qiao Mei would buy it if the price was reasonable. Some time ago, there was someone who wanted to sell his house. When he knew that Qiao Mei wanted to buy it, he immediately asked for 30,000 dollars. Qiao Mei simply ignored him after that.

Later on, no matter how much money this person offered to sell the house to Qiao Mei, she would not even take a look. Even if he wanted to sell it to her for 5,000 dollars, she was not interested. Who knew how much trouble there would be after buying it? Qiao Mei would never be nice to such a greedy person.

The three women were all very grateful to Qiao Mei. Without Qiao Mei, their lives would not be so good now! It was because they met Qiao Mei that they could have better lives and their children could get whatever they wanted.

"Qiao Mei, looking at your stomach, I think you should be giving birth soon?" Sun Juan asked with a smile.

Qiao Mei instinctively touched her stomach and said, "Yes, it will happen sometime within the next month. It's my first pregnancy and I don't know what it's like to give birth. I'm actually a little scared."

Actually, Qiao Mei still had the memories of the original owner of the body giving birth, but memories were still memories after all. The actual physical pain was still something unknown to her. The current medical technology was far inferior to what she was used to in her other life. She did not know whether the hospital would be able to give her anesthesia or an epidural.

She expected these things to be unavailable and that she would have to grit her teeth and endure the pain. Just thinking about it made her feel afraid.

"Don't be scared. When the time comes, you have to listen carefully to what the doctor says and follow her rhythm. This way, things will go much smoother for you. When I gave birth to my daughter, I was so nervous and caused a lot of trouble for the doctor!" Sun Juan said embarrassedly.

"Look at your stomach. Your two children are definitely obedient and well-behaved," Zhou Shuang said as she looked at the shape of Qiao Mei's stomach.

Qiao Mei lowered her head curiously to look at her own stomach. This was the first time she had heard such a thing! It appeared that one could judge a child's temper just by looking at the shape of the mother's stomach.

"How do you gauge that? Elder sister, teach me," Qiao Mei said.

"I heard it from others when I was pregnant. At that time, the shape of my stomach was more sharp and they told me that it must be a boy. Furthermore, the fetal position was quite high. When I was pregnant

with my eldest son, I didn't feel much discomfort, but when I was pregnant with my second son, it was really torturous." Thinking about it now, Zhou Shuang still felt uncomfortable!

"So there's such a thing! It's so interesting. I'm having twins, so perhaps the babies care about me and just keep quiet. They don't torture me much and I don't really throw up! My appetite is also not bad," Qiao Mei said.

"Eat more simple food for now. If the food is too oily, it's not good for your health," Sun Juan said worriedly.

The four of them chatted about the topic of children. Sun Juan suddenly thought of something and quickly went into the room to take out a big package. It was a gift that the three of them had prepared for Qiao Mei.

"Sister, your family is so rich and powerful, so you must have already prepared all the children's things. It's also not so appropriate for us to give the children any personal items. We have made a patchwork quilt for the children. Treat it as our blessing for them!" Sun Juan said with a smile.

The three of them had made the quilt together. They went from house to house to get pieces of cloth and sewed them together one by one. These pieces of cloth had their own history! They all came from happy families with children and have educated family members. They had to collect a total of 100 pieces!

Back then, Qiao Mei had also wanted to make such a quilt for the babies. As she was familiar with everyone in the village, it was not difficult for her to collect pieces of cloth. However, the three women only knew a limited number of people in the capital. It was really not easy for them to collect the cloth piece by piece. Sometimes, they would even get chased out of the house they visited.

"Thanks for your hard work, elder sisters. How am I deserving of this," Qiao Mei said, feeling touched.

Sun Juan held Qiao Mei's hand and said, "Sister, I don't have my daughter anymore and I'm also divorced. I didn't touch this quilt at all when it was being made! I just helped Zhou Shuang and Feng Hong by going around to ask for pieces of cloth. I hope you don't mind!"

Chapter 1099 Study Together

In Sun Juan's opinion, her experiences were inauspicious. She hoped that her bad luck would not get transferred to Qiao Mei. Otherwise, she would regret it forever!

"What are you talking about! Why would I despise you! You are the nicest person in the world! I'm the lucky one to be able to get to know you! Don't say such things! Otherwise, I'll be angry," Qiao Mei said with a pout.

Sun Juan quickly said, "Fine, fine, fine! I won't say that again!"

"Sister Zhou, how are your children?" Qiao Mei asked.

Ever since the mother and son duo of the Su family left the capital, Qiao Mei had been busy with her own family matters and did not pay much attention to Zhou Shuang and Sun Juan. She did not know if the two children had experienced any psychological trauma. This type of bad experience from childhood was the hardest to eliminate. She only hoped that the children would grow up healthy.

In the past, before she became a mother, she always felt that her own life was tough. She was not concerned when she saw other kids who went through the same thing. It was something that everyone had to go through, was it not? However, when she saw injured, sad or aggrieved children now, she always felt worried and wanted to help out as much as she could.

There was always the possibility that Qiao Mei's unintentional actions would light up a certain child's life.

"The children are all doing quite well! My second son is still young and probably won't remember all these things. Only my elder son may have issues as he's not that young anymore. The older folks always say that even dogs find kids who are seven or eight years old annoying, but this child of mine doesn't make any fuss and is especially sensible. I'm always worried that there's something wrong with him," Zhou Shuang said worriedly.

She was a woman who was raising her two sons alone. Her husband worked in another location away from the capital and did not make much money. Now that she was also working, her elder son had to

take care of his younger brother when he was not at school. However, he was also a seven-year-old child himself, and yet he had to take care of another younger child. Every time she thought of this, she felt sad.

However, she could not give up her current job. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Earning more money meant that it would bring better opportunities and conditions to these two children.

By now, Zhou Shuang could already afford to buy three rooms. If she continued to work hard, she might even be able to enroll the two children into the best school in the capital! Every time she went to Qiao Mei's house, she would feel so envious of the four children who were proficient in the arts. If only her children could receive such an education too.

"When you go to work during the day, you can leave your children at my house. The four children in my house are about the same age as your two children. They can take care of one another. Our family has also hired a few teachers, so the children can also learn from the teachers at my house," Qiao Mei said.

Teaching was teaching, no matter if it was one student or a group of students. Zheng Peng should not mind. Money was not the problem. Zheng Peng did not care about money at all. He was only concerned about the temperament and character of the children he taught. He did not care to teach children who were pampered and spoiled. He would send them away without even looking at them.

In fact, Qiao Mei did not know what Zheng Peng was in it for. Perhaps he had nothing better to do.

"That won't do! My two children are mischievous. It's not good to let your grandfather and mother worry about them!" Zhou Shuang said.

"It's fine. I have helpers at home and they do the cooking. My grandfather and mother are usually not at home, so my younger brother, Zhang Wei, will take care of the younger siblings," Qiao Mei said.

Zhou Shuang clenched her fists nervously. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. She heard that the teacher at Qiao Mei's house had returned from overseas! He was highly educated and knowledgeable. Even the best schools did not manage to hire this teacher.

Furthermore, Zhang Wei would be going to that military school once it was springtime. If she could also let her eldest son study with that teacher, that would be a good start for the child's future endeavors!

"Sister... how much does that teacher charge per month?" she asked cautiously.

Qiao Mei laughed and said, "This teacher has a very strange temper and doesn't really care about the fees. He's only concerned with the child's temper and personality. To put it bluntly, it all depends on fate."

"Sister, then forget it. My younger son is still too young. Let's wait until the children are older!" Zhou Shuang said.

Chapter 1100 Pay A Visit

If her elder son went to study at Qiao Mei's house, then there would be no one to take care of her younger son at home. She had no choice as her life was such. She was unable to give her child a good life and could only do her best.

Since Zhou Shuang had put it across like that, Qiao Mei did not want to make things difficult for her. She decided to let Zhou Shuang have her own way.

Just like that, another two days passed peacefully. Cheng Gu was really worried about Tan Jing and quietly made his way to her house door to try and get a chance to see her. However, after he waited for a long time, he did not see her at all and began to get a little worried.

"Hello? Is this Tan Jing's house?" Cheng Gu knocked on the door and asked politely.

Jiang Yi raised her head and carefully sized up the person in front of her. He was dressed quite simply, but Jiang Yi was a person who had seen much of life. She could tell at a glance that the watch on Cheng Gu's hand was worth a lot of money. It was definitely not something that ordinary people could afford. He must be a rich man!

"Yes it is! Why are you looking for my daughter?" Jiang Yi asked with a wide smile.

"I'm just here to visit her. Is she not at home? If she's not at home, I'll come again another day," Cheng Gu said.

Jiang Yi quickly grabbed Cheng Gu and said, "Um... she has gone out! To do some shopping! She'll be back soon! Come in and wait!"

Just like that, Cheng Gu was forced to enter the Tan family's house. As soon as he entered, he was surrounded by Tan Jing's younger brothers. Tan Hu and Tan Bao started asking all kinds of questions, almost wanting to find out information on all of Cheng Gu's ancestors!

The good thing was that Cheng Gu was an amiable person and he answered all the questions one by one.

Jiang Yi took the opportunity to rush to the village entrance to borrow the phone and call Tan Jing.

"Tan Jing, you wretched girl, come back quickly! An esteemed guest is here to look for you!" Jiang Yi said agitatedly.

An esteemed guest? What kind of esteemed guest could the Tan family have? Could it be that the child was here again? However, ever since Jiang Yi compensated that family, she had not been nice to them. If that child was here, Jiang Yi would beat him up with a big stick. Why would she make such an agitated phone call to Tan Jing?

"What esteemed guest? Why don't I know anything about an esteemed guest?" Tan Jing asked curiously.

"Just come back when I tell you to! Don't talk so much! Hurry up! He'll leave in a while!" After saying that, Jiang Yi hung up. It was very expensive to make a phone call!

Jiang Yi did not even look at the boss and turned to leave. The boss hurriedly shouted, "Tan family's daughter-in-law! You haven't paid yet!"

"The phone call isn't even 10 seconds long! What right do you have to charge me! I only said two sentences! You still want to charge me for this! How can you earn such illicit money! How do you feel at ease after earning such money!" Jiang Yi said.

"Hey! How can you say that! You have to pay me when you use my phone! You already used the same argument the last two times, but how can you do this every time! If you don't pay me today, I'll go to the police station to file a report!" the boss said furiously.

Jiang Yi was not afraid at all. She could not wait for the boss to go to the police station! The police chief and Xia Wen were good friends. In the past, whenever their family members got into trouble and had to go to the police station, they would at most get a slap on the wrist. Even if they had to go to the police station, they would always be able to come back unscathed.

The boss would be the one to suffer a bigger loss. For a phone bill of a few cents, he would have to close his shop and go to the police station with Jiang Yi to get the issue mediated. Jiang Yi was an idle person who did not have a job and did not need to go to work. The winning party would be the one who could afford to waste time.

"Go! I'm not afraid of you! If you're so capable, then ask the police to come and arrest me! You're so black-hearted!" Jiang Yi cursed and argued for a while before returning home. She still had an important guest at home! She did not have the time to argue with the boss in this place.

By the time Jiang Yi returned home, Cheng Gu's mouth was already dry from all the talking. When Tan Hu and Tan Bao found out that he was a photographer, their expressions changed. In their eyes, if he was not an official, then he was not anyone useful. In that case, there was no difference between him and them. What was the use of treating such a person to good food and wine!

"Oh my! Sorry to keep you waiting! Xiao Jing will be back soon. Wait a little longer!" Jiang Yi said with a smile.

"Auntie, I'm not in a hurry as long as she's coming back. I'm just here to pay her a visit today. There's nothing else," Cheng Gu said politely.