

Fat Wife 1171

Chapter 1171 Who Is The Zhong Family

However, for some reason, Zhong Wan only wanted to marry Xia Zhe and she kept the same thought even after so many years. She was just like that silly girl from the He family!

"What's wrong with being a stepmother! Is there anything wrong with being a stepmother? Father, you're too biased. Giving birth is such a painful experience! Look what happened to Mom..." Zhong Wan said the wrong thing in her hastiness and quickly ran over to hold Zhong Ye's hand. "I'm sorry, Dad... I don't mean that."

Zhong Ye looked at Zhong Wan with heartache and patted her head fondly as he said, "I know it's not on purpose. You're right. The process of giving birth is very dangerous. Furthermore, our Wan'er cares so much about her figure. How can she let her figure get out of shape from having children?"

"Dad, you know me best! The two kids are newborns and this is the best time for me to start taking care of them. I just need to find two nannies to take care of them attentively for now. When they start to retain memories, I'll take over their care myself. This way, they'll see me as their biological mother!" Zhong Wan said smugly.

"Our Wan'er is still the smartest! Come, let's go to the Xia family's house. If we don't go now, it'll get dark soon!" After saying that, Zhong Ye drove to the Xia family house with Zhong Wan.

There were still white lanterns hanging outside the Xia family residence. During this period of time, they had been so busy dealing with Cheng Gu that they did not have time to deal with such trivial matters. It was very likely that the Xia family had already forgotten about this matter.

Many people felt uneasy about the fact that the Xia family just lost a member of their family, so they only sent gifts to express their condolences. No one was willing to pay a personal visit.

However, in Zhong Wan's heart, the white lanterns represented her hopes and dreams

"Let's go. Follow behind me later and don't talk too much," Zhong Ye said seriously.

Zhong Wan clenched her fists nervously and followed behind Zhong Ye, not daring to make a wrong move. Zhong Ye pressed lightly on the doorbell and it was Luo Yu who came to open the door. He frowned when he saw Zhong Ye. This person was insatiably greedy and it was definitely not a good thing to see him at the Xia family residence at this time.

"Oh, it's Uncle Zhong. It's been a long time," Luo Yu said politely.

"Hmph, I see you're still the captain of a small guard team in the Xia family. You're still as useless as ever after so many years," Zhong Ye said mockingly. I think you should take a look at

"Yes, that's true. How can I compare with Uncle Zhong? May I know why you're here?" Luo Yu asked.

"I'm here to see my old friends. Just let me in," Zhong Ye said impatiently.

In the past, when Zhong Ye was not doing so well, his family lived in the same alley as Luo Yu's family. At that time, Zhong Ye already had a habit of looking down on others, especially the neighbors nearby. He felt that living in this small alley was a waste of a talent like him! It was an insult to him.

When Luo Yu was young, he often played with Zhong Ke. When Zhong Ye found out about it, he would scold Zhong Ke and say that Zhong Ke was not a motivated person. As time passed, none of the kids wanted to play with Zhong Ke anymore. It was only when Zhong Ye made it big and moved away that the neighbors lived a more peaceful life.

Luo Yu had always remembered the belittling look in Zhong Ye's eyes and his arrogant attitude of looking down on others.

"I have to go in and ask the family. Uncle Zhong, wait a moment." Luo Yu closed the door and went back into the house.

At this moment, Xu Lan and Xia He were sewing blankets for Qiao Mei's children. The blankets they had at home did not feel soft enough to the touch. Xu Lan specially asked her own younger sister to send

some fabric over from her hometown. Qiao Mei was coming back in a couple of days' time. They must provide the best things for the children!

"Auntie, there are members of the Zhong family at the door," Luo Yu said.

"The Zhong family? Who's the Zhong family? Why haven't I heard of them before?" Xu Lan asked curiously.

Liu Fen, on the other hand, knew of them and said disdainfully, "That's the person in charge of the transportation team in the army. I heard from Eldest Brother that day that he had stolen two bottles of medicinal wine from our family! During the delivery process, they stole the medicinal wine which Qiao Mei sent to Xia Zhe! How hateful."

Zhong Ye was in charge of keeping the lists of the items each family sent to their family members in the army. Who would know whether there were any discrepancies between the items in the list and in the package? Moreover, each family could not contact their family member directly. Unless it was a family like the Xia family who had connections in the army, ordinary families would not have the chance to do so.

Chapter 1172 Treasured Item

"Oh! I remember now. Xia Mao had told me about this too! How despicable. We haven't even gone to look for them yet, but here they are. Xiao Luo, you can let them come in," Xu Lan said as she continued sewing the blanket.

Luo Yu brought Zhong Ye and Zhong Wan into the living room. When Xu Lan saw Zhong Wan, she furrowed her brows. That pink gown looked especially eye-catching. To outsiders, their family was still in mourning! It was unheard of for anyone to wear such bright colors when paying a visit to a household that was still in mourning. Was this supposed to be a slap on their faces?

"Sister-in-law, long time no see," Zhong Ye said obsequiously.

Xu Lan nodded slightly and did not even stop sewing the blanket. She smiled at Zhong Ye and said, "Don't say that. I wonder why you're at my house today?"

"We heard that Brother Xia and Xia Zhe had personally captured your enemies, so we're here to congratulate you!" Zhong Ye held up the gifts in his hand. When Xu Lan took a quick glance from the corner of her eye, she could already tell that these things came from shady sources.

The military gave out a limited amount of abalones and even the Xia family, at their level, was not entitled to them. It was only recently after Xia Mao was promoted that they received one small box of abalones during the new year. Such a big box was definitely not from a legitimate source.

It was even more so for the other box. Deer antler wine was something that could not be obtained easily. One had to have special connections to get that!

Zhong Ye had brought along these things to show that he thought highly of the Xia family and had something to discuss with them. If Zhong Ye came alone, then Xu Lan could leave Xia Mao to handle him. She did not understand the way men beat around the bush when they spoke. However, given that Zhong Ye had brought Zhong Wan along, it was a different matter.

Everyone knew that Zhong Wan fancied Xia Zhe. Back then, when she found out that he had gotten married, she even threatened to hang herself! The whole issue had made Zhong Ye very unhappy.

"We can't accept such valuable items. You should bring them back," Xu Lan said.

"Sister-in-law, don't say that. I just want to give all the good things to your family. These are nothing impressive. Please accept them," Zhong Ye said politely.

Although he spoke in this manner, he actually looked down on Xu Lan. He thought that a woman who came from a small family was naturally very short-sighted. She did not even know how to accept such good things. In the past, when Zhong Ye was not at home and people came to curry favor with the Zhong family, Zhong Wan would accept the gifts on his behalf. If the items were not valuable, Zhong Wan would give them to the helpers without a look. If those were nice items, she would tell Zhong Ye to take good care of the gifters. I think you should take a look at

To those people, rather than asking Zhong Ye for help, it felt more like asking Zhong Wan for help. Furthermore, Zhong Wan was not interested in ordinary things!

"Oh, look at me. I'm so busy that I haven't offered you a seat. Come and sit down." Xu Lan quickly called out to Luo Yu and asked him to bring over two stools.

Zhong Ye and Zhong Wan were about to go over to the sofa to sit down and they froze on the spot to hear that. It appeared that she was treating them as outsiders. The sofa was so big but she did not want them to sit on it, choosing to sideline them instead. The meaning could not be more obvious.

"Are you sewing blankets for the babies? It's hard on you to have to make it yourself," Zhong Ye said awkwardly. Xu Lan ignored him. For Zhong Wan's sake, he had no choice but to try and start a conversation. How could a man like him find any topics in common with a bunch of women? It was really too difficult.

"That's right. A handmade item is definitely better than a store-bought one. I also feel more at ease if I make it myself. This must be your daughter. She looks so cute. I wonder if you know how to make this?" Xu Lan asked.

"Me? I don't know how to do these things. It's so tiring. Any helper can do it!" Zhong Wan said disdainfully.

Xu Lan frowned again. This child was just born pretty. If she sat there motionlessly, she still looked fairly nice, but the moment she spoke, her words were very unpleasant to hear.

"Is that so?" Xu Lan sneered.

No matter how stupid Zhong Wan was, she knew that she had said something wrong and quickly looked to Zhong Ye for help. He immediately tried to salvage the situation and said, "I have spoiled this child. She doesn't need to lift a finger at home and doesn't know how to do anything! However, my Wan'er is especially good at educating children. She had gone to university."

Xia He almost wanted to confront Zhong Ye. Xu Lan secretly patted Xia He's hand to calm her down. If they read between the lines of his last sentence, he was mocking Qiao Mei for being uncultured!

Chapter 1173 - 1173 Medicinal Wine

1173 Medicinal Wine

Although Qiao Mei had never officially gone to school, she had as much knowledge as people like them who had gone to school before. Some people did not even know as much as her! What right did Zhong Ye have to badmouth Qiao Mei!

“Is that so? I actually think it’s a good thing for a person to be hands-on.” Xu Lan continued with what she was doing, ignoring the expressions on the faces of the Zhong father-and-daughter duo.

Zhong Ye and Zhong Wan sat on the stools in silence. The Xia family members ignored them and they really could not come up with a conversational topic. Zhong Ye gave Zhong Wan a look. There were only female members of the Xia family in the room. How would a man like him know how to interact with these women?

Zhong Wan moved the stool forward and looked at the needlework in Xu Lan’s hand. “Auntie, this task is really very straining on the eyes. Why don’t you get a helper to do it? Our family’s helper is quite skilled with her hands. I’ll ask her to do it and then send it back to you when she’s done.”

“Our family can’t afford to use the Zhong family’s helper. It’s better for me to prepare the children’s things myself,” Xu Lan said disdainfully.

Zhong Wan was stunned for a moment. Then, she looked at Xia He and said, “Elder Sister must have learned this from Auntie. Your needlework looks similar to Auntie’s!”

Xia He ignored Zhong Wan. It was Old Madam Kong who forced her to learn needlework after she married into the Kong family! What did it have to do with Xu Lan? What a thing to rub someone’s nose in something so unrelated!

Liu Fen looked at Zhong Wan cautiously, worried that Zhong Wan would say something to her. Zhong Wan did not even want to bother with Liu Fen and just ignored her, making her feel both lucky and angry.

When it was almost time for dinner, Xia Wen made a rare appearance and came down from upstairs. When he saw Zhong Ye, he thought that they were here to return the medicinal wine! Other than this matter, was there anything else which required them to come personally?

“Oh, Xia Wen is here. I was just about to ask Sister-in-law where you are! Come down and take a seat,” Zhong Ye said agitatedly.

Finally, here came a man he could converse with. Otherwise, he was about to suffocate to death. Who had so much time to chat with a bunch of women!

“Are you here to return the thing?” Xia Wen asked bluntly.

The thing? What was the thing? What did they need to return to the Xia family?

Zhong Ye and Zhong Wan looked at each other, not knowing what Xia Wen was talking about. Could it be that Xia Wen was asking them about the gifts they had brought on this visit? They did not expect the Xia family to be so snobbish and to behave completely different from the rumors.

“I brought abalone and deer antler wine! These are all really good stuff! Xia Wen, you have to drink more deer antler wine. That thing is very nutritious! Then your wife can give birth to a son for the Xia family soon! How can you have let your younger brother beat you to it!” Zhong Ye said with a laugh.

Xia Wen frowned slightly. Although his divorce with Tan Jing was already a foregone conclusion, they were not divorced yet! Husband and wife were supposed to be one and the same. This was like a slap in the face for him and Tan Jing.

“Is that so? Then do you find my younger brother’s two bottles of medicinal wine tasty? You’re such a seasoned drinker. I wonder if you have any insights?” Xia Wen said brashly.

Zhong Ye’s expression changed drastically. He pointed at Xia Wen with a dark expression and said, “Don’t slander me here! When did I take anything from your Xia family! You’re talking nonsense!”

“I’m just asking a question. Why are you so agitated? Can it be that you’re really the person who took the two bottles of medicinal wine which my brother lost?” Xia Wen asked.

Zhong Ye was shocked. He had been exposed! He did not expect Xia Wen to blow his cover. This man really knew how to hide his true colors. However, so what? The medicinal wine sent by the Xia family to Xia Zhe was an illegitimate item! Who knew if that thing was legit? What if it was poisonous!

What he did was simply going by the book and he was not afraid of the Xia family coming after him at all!

"The medicinal wine you mentioned was confiscated by one of my subordinates. The words on the label are simply nonsensical. How can there be such magical medicine in this world? My subordinates are just going by the book. If you want to have it back, I'll go and check for you. I'm not sure if it has already been sent out to be destroyed," Zhong Ye said.

"Is that so? Then let's check carefully where it is. It won't do for us to wrongly accuse your family and make it awkward for both families," Xia Wen said with narrowed eyes.

Chapter 1174 Suspecting The Background

"What do you mean by that! Don't tell me that you suspect me! What reason do I have to take something from your Xia family!" Zhong Ye pointed at Xia Wen and said furiously.

"Uncle Zhong, what are you saying? I'm just asking a question. I don't have any other intentions. I also don't know where the things that my family sent to my younger brother have gone. Aren't such matters under your care? I'm just asking for your help in private. I don't mean anything else," Xia Wen said politely.

Zhong Ye observed the "sincere" look in Xia Wen's eyes and started to believe that Xia Wen might really have mentioned this issue unintentionally. At that time, the act of hiding Xia Zhe's medicinal wine was done secretly in his office. How could anyone know about it?

Moreover, he was surrounded by only the people closest to him and whom he had been trained personally. Even if he was betrayed, it could not be any of those people who did it. They usually took a lot of benefits from him, so if any of them reported him, none of them would be able to get out unscathed.

Xia Wen was just suspecting the background. He must not panic and must hold steady regarding this matter.

"Then why didn't you say so earlier? There's no need to test me like this. It won't be good for our families to be so distant. But don't worry, I'll definitely find out for you who did it! I definitely won't let anyone bully your family like this!" Zhong Ye said as he patted his chest.

"That would be best. So why is Uncle Zhong here then?" Xia Wen asked.

Zhong Ye turned to look at Zhong Wan and said tactfully, "We hear that Xia Zhe is back, so I'm here to see him. I haven't seen him since he joined the army unit. I'm here today to catch up."

Xia Zhe probably did not even know who Zhong Ye was. In fact, he might not even remember who Zhong Wan was. Xia Zhe never took note of such stuff. He did not even have any memories of Qian'e who had pestered him so incessantly back then. It was Qiao Mei who had found out the truth bit by bit!

Xia Wen pursed his lips resignedly. Most of these things which happened at home were caused by Xia Zhe's rotten romantic luck. Why was it that he did not have so much rotten romantic luck in the past? It was probably because he was not handsome enough, or rather, not as handsome as Xia Zhe.

"My brother has been working on a case recently and doesn't even have time to come home. After that, he's returning to the army unit soon. It's such a pity that you probably won't get a chance to meet him," Xia Wen said regretfully.

Zhong Wan pouted unhappily and said, "Then can't you give him a call and ask him to come back?"

Xia He frowned and said, "The case that my brother is handling is very important. He doesn't even have time to eat, so how would he have time to come home?"

"Then... then we'll come back another day. I hope we can get to meet Xia Zhe next time," Zhong Ye said hurriedly when he saw that the Xia family members were getting a little angry.

"Alright, then we won't hold you back." After saying that, Xu Lan quickly called Luo Yu to come over and asked him to carry out the gifts which the Zhong father-and-daughter duo had brought with them. No one knew where the Zhong family got these items from.

"You can keep these things. There's no reason for us to take back what we have given away," Zhong Ye said.

"Is that so? Then I hope you can help me look for the things which our family hasn't given away," Xu Lan said with a faint smile.

Zhong Ye immediately pulled a long face and left the Xia family residence without looking back. Zhong Wan's movements were hampered by her heavy gown, but no matter how she called out to Zhong Ye, it was to no avail. She could only lift the hem of her dress herself and walked slowly to the Zhong family's car before leaving dejectedly.

Xu Lan and Luo Yu looked at the departing Zhong Ye and laughed mockingly. They then turned around and returned into the house. These people really could not withstand any provocation at all. The Zhong family could not sit still the moment they mentioned this matter.

However, judging from Zhong Ye's reaction, he probably did not touch the two bottles of medicinal wine and only put them at home like treasure items.

The next thing for them was to wait and see how the Zhong family intended to move these two bottles of medicinal wine. Once the Zhong family took action, it would be the end for them.

Two to three days later, the Xia family announced that Qiao Mei was safe and sound. As Qiao Mei had undergone a C-section, she could not be discharged from the hospital yet. She could only go home when she was almost fully recovered.

"Sister Feng~ I want to go home~" Qiao Mei said aggrievedly.

"Just wait a little longer. It's not time yet! You already have such difficulty getting off the bed onto the floor, so how can you go home? At least there are doctors in the hospital who can monitor your condition. If you go home, the doctors can't come with you," Feng Hua said.

Chapter 1175 - 1175 Naming the Children

1175 Naming the Children

“But it’s so uncomfortable here. I eat the same tasteless food every day. I want to eat spicy food! I want to eat something with strong flavors! I don’t want to eat such bland food anymore! If I eat any more of this, I’m going to turn into a rabbit!” Qiao Mei complained.

“If you eat whatever you want, the surgical wound on your stomach will feel uncomfortable. Don’t cry out in pain next time. Also, you won’t look good if it leaves a scar,” Feng Hua said, trying to scare her.

Although Qiao Mei could take her time to apply the medicinal wine on herself when she got home, just like how she treated Zhang Miao’s wound back then, she could not tell Feng Hua about this. Even if she did, Feng Hua would not believe her.

Ever since Qiao Mei got into an accident right under Feng Hua’s nose, Feng Hua had been fully focused every day. She took care of Qiao Mei wholeheartedly and did not leave Qiao Mei’s side at all. Even when Qiao Mei went to the toilet, she would stand beside Qiao Mei with her back facing Qiao Mei to make sure that Qiao Mei was safe.

Even when Qiao Mei was sleeping, Feng Hua would keep an eye on her and did not dare to relax at all. During this period of time, Qiao Mei’s complexion had become much more rosy after giving birth, but Feng Hua had lost a lot of weight.

“Sister Feng, you’re really too worried about me. It’s been a long time since you returned home, right? Get my grandfather’s helper to come and take care of me for a couple of days. You should go home and rest. Otherwise, if you keep working so hard, I’m afraid that you’ll collapse from fatigue,” Qiao Mei said with heartache.

Feng Hua firmly objected to what Qiao Mei said. Even after Qiao Mei was discharged and they all returned to Qiao Mei’s house, she would stay by Qiao Mei’s side and not let any villain do anything bad again. She must protect Qiao Mei and the two children well.

“I’m fine... Have you thought about the children’s names? The two children don’t have names yet!” Feng Hua said.

For the past two days, they had been addressing the children as “elder brother” and “younger sister”. The children did not even have nicknames and they were simply being addressed by their birth order.

“That’s right! I haven’t asked my grandfathers yet! I wonder if the two of them are up already,” Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Qiang and Xia Jun had been thinking about the children’s names. What Qiao Qiang wanted was for Xia Jun to name the boy and for himself to name the girl. The two of them would then ask for each other’s opinion.

That was the crux of the problem! They both did not like any name the other person came up with.

“I want to name the boy Xia Guo! Why don’t you agree! What’s wrong with this name!” Xia Jun said unhappily.

“Can’t you come up with a better name? What kind of lousy idea is this! Think again!” Qiao Qiang roared.

Xia Jun could not hold back his bad temper anymore. He smacked the table and shouted, “Do you think the name you come up with is any good! What kind of names are Xia Juan and Xia Yan! Those are the names of those old women who live in the alley! They’re not even half as good as what I come up with!”

“You didn’t even go to school and you still have the cheek to criticize me! At least I went to a private school!” Qiao Qiang roared.

“That private school of yours is nothing! The names you come up with are not even as nice as the names of the trash collectors on the streets! Think again! Don’t say so much useless stuff!” Xia Jun waved his hand and said impatiently.

When Feng Hua saw that there was an argument next door again, she quickly came back to report to Qiao Mei and told her everything in detail. After Qiao Mei heard the names, her first thought was that the names the two old men came up with were not even half as good as what Xia Zhe had in mind previously!

Sigh... She should think of a way on her own.

After thinking for a long time, Qiao Mei muttered to herself, "Xia Fan... Xia Xing..."

"What?" Feng Hua looked at Qiao Mei in confusion.

"Yes! Let's name them Xia Fan and Xia Xing! Sister Feng, what do you think of these two names?" Qiao Mei looked at Feng Hua expectantly.

Feng Hua was not educated, but she knew that these two names sounded cultured. They were different from the names she had come across in the village and seemed to be nice names.

"Not bad, not bad. But what does it mean?" Feng Hua asked.

Qiao Mei looked out of the window and said, "I hope these two children will be as dazzling as the stars in the sky. I also hope that the two of them will always support each other."

"That's a very good meaning! Do you want me to go and tell the old masters now?" Feng Hua said excitedly.

"Pass this message to them. 'Gather like a ball of fire, scatter like a sky full of stars'. Just say it like this," Qiao Mei said with a faint smile. She felt that Qiao Qiang would understand what she meant.

"Sure, sure, sure! I'll go tell them the good news now and make them happy!" With that, Feng Hua ran to the ward next door.

Chapter 1176 - 1176 Good Names

1176 Good Names

When Feng Hua reached Qiao Qiang's ward, the two men were still arguing over how the other party had come up with lousy names! They kept squabbling and it was so noisy that it made one's head hurt.

"How long have they been arguing like this? Why hasn't it ended yet?" Feng Hua stood in the living room with Jiang Deng, Xia Jun's helper.

“These two old masters are like two overgrown children. They argue non-stop over the names they came up with for the two children. They might as well go to the streets to look for a fortune teller to do it for them! The fortune teller will come up with names that have good hidden meanings. My family had asked a fortune teller to pick names for the children based on their birth characters,” Jiang Deng said with a deep sigh.

“Qiao Mei has actually thought of two names and she asks me to come over and tell them. Do you think I should go in now? They look like they’re going to argue into the night.” Feng Hua could not make up her mind, but she could not just watch the two old men continue arguing like this.

Yesterday, the doctor and nurse even came to reprimand Qiao Qiang and Xia Jun. Between the two old men, one had heart issues while the other had high blood pressure. Due to them arguing for the past two days, their underlying medical conditions had flared up again.

Furthermore, Qiao Qiang and Xia Jun were people who ignored any advice they were given. Even though the doctors and nurses tried to be stern, it was to no avail. As time passed, the medical staff realized that it was useless to talk to them, so they could only give the two men medicine to control their blood pressure to prevent them from fainting if they got too agitated.

“Let’s go in. It’s already time for dinner anyway. Let’s go in together.” Jiang Deng went in with Feng Hua, bringing along the thermal lunch box she had brought from home.

When Qiao Qiang and Xia Jun saw Feng Hua enter, the two of them instantly stopped arguing. One of them picked up the newspaper to read while the other casually grabbed a cup and inspected it. The two of them put on an act to try to fool Feng Hua.

The two of them had come to an agreement that as long as someone from Qiao Mei’s side came to visit them, they would put on an act together and pretend to get along. They did not want to let Qiao Mei know about their quarrel as they could not bear to see her getting worked up!

“Master Qiao, Master Xia, Qiao Mei asked me to come and pass a message to you. She says that she has thought of two nice names. Do the two of you want to hear what the names are?” Feng Hua said with a smile.

“Tell us about it,” Qiao Qiang said.

“Qiao Mei says that the boy’s name is Xia Fan and the girl’s name is Xia Xing. Put the names together and they refer to the dazzling stars in the sky. Qiao Mei also asks me to tell you a phrase. She says that you will definitely understand the meaning behind it.” Feng Hua took a deep breath and said solemnly, “Gather like a ball of fire, scatter like a sky full of stars.”

Qiao Qiang and Xia Jun were stunned for a moment before they suddenly looked at each other and laughed. The way they quarreled with each other just now seemed to be an illusion.

This phrase was what Qiao Qiang had said to his comrades in the past and it also later became a secret code among them.

At that time, they were all under a lot of pressure. Everyone had a different fate. Some people chose to continue to rise through the ranks, just like Xia Jun, who worked hard in the army until he was old. However, there were also some people like Qiao Qiang who were discharged from the army once they were able to do so and live the lives of ordinary people.

Although Qiao Qiang had been framed and forced to leave the army in those days, he shared the feelings of everyone else who were discharged normally. It was the same sense of sadness and reluctance. He only had endless nostalgia and sentiments for life in the army.

Therefore, under those circumstances, Qiao Qiang had said this phrase to all his comrades. He hoped that when they were gathered together, they would be as hot-blooded as a raging ball of flames. Even when they were separated, they would be like the stars in the sky, each shining brightly and dazzlingly.

“What good names, such good names! As expected of my granddaughter!” Qiao Qiang said proudly.

“Alright! Let’s use these two names from Qiao Mei! Fan Fan and Xing Xing!” Xia Jun said.

“Do you think these two children will be a hundred times stronger than us in the future!” Qiao Qiang asked Xia Jun with a smile.

Xia Jun did not really want these two children to join the military. Qiao Mei had a good aptitude for business. If these two children study well, it would not be a bad idea for them to help Qiao Mei with her

business in the future. Life in the army was really tough. Back then, he only stayed because he wanted to make a name for himself and create a better future for his family.

Chapter 1177 - 1177 Who Took the First Glance

1177 Who Took the First Glance

Only he knew the price he had to pay for this path and how difficult the path was. Xia Wen was already a living example, was it not?

Although Xia Wen's health had been poor since he was young, it was still not as bad as now. He did not look any different from any other ordinary person outwardly, but his entire body would ache when it rained, to the extent that he could not even walk. It was as if he had been beaten up badly for an entire day.

This was all because Xia Wen had to be submerged in water for three days when he was on a mission. Moreover, he was drenched in the rain every day and even had to sleep on the wet ground at night. This was the root cause of his illness.

"For me... I just want them to be well. I'm already very satisfied by what the Xia family has achieved till date," Xia Jun said.

Qiao Qiang understood what Xia Jun meant. It was better to let the children decide their own fate after they grew up.

After informing Qiao Qiang and Xia Jun about the names, Feng Hua could go back and report that she had completed her task.

Early the next morning, everyone from the Xia family rushed to the hospital. They no longer had to sneak around like before to visit Qiao Mei. The two babies could also be brought out of the nursery and returned to Qiao Mei's side so that she could take care of them herself.

When the two children were first born, no one had any time to take care of them, so the family asked the nurse to send them to the nursery to be taken care of. They all knew there was an old folk saying which stated that a newborn baby would resemble the first person whom the baby saw after the baby's eyes opened.

The Xia family was skeptical about such a saying, but regardless of that, they could not allow that first person to be an outsider. It must be one of the Xia family members! They would just take it as having some fun among themselves.

Xia He and Xia Zhe waited anxiously at the door. The two of them wanted to rush forward immediately as soon as the nurses carried the babies in.

“They’re my son and daughter! Why are you crowding around!” Xia Zhe said as he looked at Xia He unhappily.

“So what? As if you are that good-looking!” Xia He said indignantly.

“My looks are what you call handsome. What’s the use of a grown man like me being good-looking? When the nurse comes in later, tell her to cover my daughter’s eyes. The first person she sees must be Qiao Mei. Qiao Mei is the most beautiful!” Xia Zhe said proudly.

Xia He did not refute him. After all, Qiao Mei was indeed the most beautiful person she had ever seen. Qiao Mei had a good figure and such fair skin. Moreover, Qiao Mei’s facial features were the nicest that she had ever seen. It was not too bad for Qiao Mei to be the first person whom Xia Xing saw.

“Then Xia Fan must look at me first!” Xia He said stubbornly.

“Xia Fan is a boy! What’s the use of him looking at you! He has to look at me!” Xia Zhe said furiously.

“So what! If I had made the choice to become a soldier back then, do you even think you have any chance! The title of top army warrior would definitely be mine!” Xia He said indignantly.

“I’m the children’s biological father! Why are you fighting with me!” Xia Zhe said in exasperation.

“Well... well, I’m the children’s aunt! I’m the one who’s been keeping an eye on these two children all this while! I don’t care, let’s rely on our own capabilities! Let’s see who Xia Fan is more willing to look at! How about that!” Xia He said as she pointed at Xia Zhe.

"So be it! Do you think I'll lose to you!" Xia Zhe said in a fit of pique.

The other members of the Xia family were caught between laughter and tears as they sat around the room. They did not know why these two people were competing. One was the children's biological father and the other was the children's biological aunt. It did not matter if Xia He was the first person whom Xia Fan saw. That was just a folk saying.

"Xia Wen, your two younger siblings are like kids who haven't grown up yet. Why aren't you joining in the fun?" Liu Fen asked with a smile.

Xia Wen said slyly, "Hmph, I've already seen the children and the children have also seen me. So what even if they try so hard?"

Good grief! The person who cared most about this matter was this one!

"What did you say! The first person the children saw was you!" Xia He rushed back into the room agitatedly and questioned him.

"Yes, it's me. At that time, I felt guilty and secretly came to the hospital to visit the children once. I even had to beg Aunt to let me go in and see them. If you don't believe me, you can ask Aunt. She's my witness," Xia Wen said.

Xia He turned around sadly to look at Xia Fang, hoping to hear a negative answer. It was obvious that what Xia Wen said was true. The children had indeed seen Xia Wen first.

Chapter 1178 Getting Another Nanny

"Xia Wen, you deserve a thousand cuts! I want to kill you!" Xia He ran towards Xia Wen noisily. The two of them played like kids, making everyone laugh loudly.

Qiao Mei, in particular, laughed the happiest. She was not laughing at Xia Wen and Xia He, but at Xia Zhe who was behind them. He was still standing at the door expectantly, waiting for the two children to arrive!

However, Xia Zhe was not looking forward to being the first person the children would see. Instead, he was looking forward to knowing what the two babies looked like. He had not met them yet!

Xia Zhe also did not know how to carry a baby or if there was a need for a special posture for it. He stood there and tried to mimic different positions of carrying a baby, worried that if he did not carry the children properly, they would be affected adversely in some way.

Xia Zhe rubbed his hands one moment and paced back and forth the next. He was so nervous that he even did high knees on the spot. It had been a long time since he was so nervous. In his younger days, whenever he was nervous, he would do high knees to relax. He did not expect that there were still situations that would make him nervous.

"Xiao Zhe, stop loitering at the door. The children will only be sent over later! Come in and take a seat!" Xu Lan said.

Xia Zhe turned a deaf ear to everything, as if he was immersed in his own world. He ignored everyone who called out to him.

"Mother, just let him be. He's very excited now! He probably can't even hear what I say," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"Let's not care about him. Let's talk about you. How do you feel? Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere? If the wound itches, don't scratch it! If the skin breaks, it will leave a scar and become something more serious. It'll be bad if the wound gets infected," Xu Lan instructed.

Back when she gave birth to Xia Zhe, she also had to undergo a C-section. Both Xia Wen and Xia He did not give her as hard a time. Perhaps it was because the Xia family was already doing very well when she was pregnant with Xia Zhe, so she ate and drank whatever she wanted every day, causing Xia Zhe to weigh more than the other two children. She was unable to give birth naturally, so she had to undergo a C-section.

It was also after that time that Xu Lan decided never to give birth again. She really could not forget the pain she felt at that time. I think you should take a look at

"Sister Feng watches me all the time! She won't let me do anything and will carefully screen everything I eat, worried that there will be any issues. She's much more meticulous than me! With her around, you can rest assured," Qiao Mei said.

"That's true. I'm not worried about you with Feng Hua handling everything. With her around, you'll recover faster. However, is one nanny enough? Do you want me to find another nanny to do the cooking?" Xu Lan asked.

The Xia family was very upset about what happened to Wei Hao. They had already compensated Wei Hao's family for their loss, but the gesture could not bring back the dead. The pain caused to Wei Hao's family was indelible. Fortunately, Wei Hao's family was very understanding and knew that the real culprit was not the Xia family. It was Cheng Gu who killed Wei Hao. One must put the saddle on the right horse and they did not resent the Xia family.

The Xia family decided to bear all the education expenses for Wei Hao's children until they were able to find their own jobs.

"That's good too. Sister Feng is so busy on her own. When we get home, there are still more children to take care of!" Qiao Mei said.

"Don't worry about Xiao Wei and the rest. Those naughty monkeys are fine. Xiao Qin even learned how to cook! It's just that after drinking the porridge she made, the other children all vomited it out," Li Gui said.

"It's fine. That's quite common in the beginning. She just needs to take her time. As time passes, she'll get better at it," Qiao Mei said.

There was no hurry to find another nanny. She would think about it at length and it would not be too late to look for one only after she reached home.

Finally, the nurse brought the two children to Qiao Mei's ward. The nurse did not allow Xia Zhe to carry them immediately. Xia Fang first gave Xia Zhe a briefing on the correct way to carry babies. She only allowed him to do it after confirming that he did not make any mistakes.

As the tiny child lay in Xia Zhe's arms, his heart turned to mush at the moment. This was the first time he had looked so closely at a little baby. Babies were much more fragile than he had imagined, as if they would shatter if he exerted too much strength. This made Xia Zhe cherish these two children even more.

Chapter 1179 - 1179 Strange Genes

1179 Strange Genes

Unknowingly, Xia Zhe had started crying. He did not even know when his tears flowed out, but he was inexplicably touched and a part of his heart became extremely fragile. Looking at Xia Fan sleeping sweetly in his arms, he had the most indescribable feeling.

"Oh my, oh my. How can a grown man cry! Tell me why are you crying! Look at how useless you look!" Xia He said disdainfully.

"I just... Sigh... I don't know either." Xia Zhe could not explain it clearly.

Xu Lan laughed and said, "It must be the genes of the Xia family's men. When I gave birth to the three of you, your father bawled at the entrance of the hospital. Particularly when he saw Xia He, he cried so hard that the ground almost shook. Those who didn't know better would think that he was the one who gave birth to the three of you."

"How can there be such a thing! Mother! Tell us the details! Why don't we know anything about this!" Xia He looked at Xu Lan and asked with a gossipy look.

Xia Mao coughed lightly and said, "Don't embarrass me... There's no need to tell the children everything..."

During the three times that Xu Lan gave birth, Xia Mao was not by her side each time. It was always Wu Min who took care of her. Every time after she gave birth, Xia Mao would report to his superiors and receive special approval to return and visit her for a few days.

Xia Mao had always wanted to have a daughter. When he heard that Xu Lan had given birth to Xia He, he wailed loudly at the door of the hospital ward. When he held Xia He, his hands could not stop trembling. Later on, the nurse was really worried that Xia Mao would accidentally drop the baby so she snatched the tiny Xia He away from Xia Mao's arms.

Xia Mao was not the only one. Xia Jun wept even harder than Xia Mao! Xu Lan had heard from Wu Min that when Xia Xiu was born, Xia Jun was so excited. After the doctor came out of the delivery room and announced that it was a girl, Xia Jun actually hugged the doctor and cheered as he walked a few rounds outside the delivery room door.

In fact, Xia Jun even bought many meat buns and distributed them from house to house. At that time, meat buns were very expensive. Ordinary families would not even be able to afford one during the new year. Xia Jun happily bought them for every family.

When Wu Min found out about this matter, she scolded Xia Jun for more than an hour! However, she actually felt very happy inside. After that, they went on to have more children and the custom of giving out meat buns continued until Xia Fang came along.

"Fine, fine, fine. I won't say anything, but I can't help you hide it for long. These children are all very smart!" Xu Lan said proudly.

The ward was filled with laughter, but when there was joy, there was also sorrow. After He Mei was sent to the small town by He Ning, she had kept waiting for news about Xia Zhe. However, when Xia Zhe's army unit arrived, there was no sign of Xia Zhe at all. After asking around, He Mei found out that Xia Zhe had returned to the capital to look for Qiao Mei!

Xia Zhe had two children now! It turned out that Qian'e and Qiao Mei had colluded back then! They had played a trick on her! She had suffered all the hardships for so long in vain!

"Little Uncle! What exactly is going on!" He Mei said anxiously.

"What are you talking about? What is it?" She made He Ning confused the moment he picked up the phone.

"The matter of Qiao Mei giving birth! Qiao Mei is still alive! The two children are still alive! Didn't they say that Qiao Mei had a miscarriage! What is this!" He Mei shouted.

He Ning simply hung up the phone. He Mei was such a good-for-nothing. He was originally in a good mood, but after He Mei kicked up a fuss, she had completely ruined his mood.

He made a phone call to ask Jia Zhong to come over. Recently, he had not been in good health and had not paid attention to the Xia family's matters. Jia Zhong related everything that happened to He Ning, who smiled with some interest. This whole thing was really interesting. The Xia family was really good at keeping their composure.

"Go and prepare a generous gift for me. I want to go and visit Qiao Mei myself," He Ning instructed.

Jia Zhong immediately went out to buy gifts. Huo Gao looked at He Ning in puzzlement and asked, "Are you sure you want to go?"

"Why not? Xia Wen still owes me money! Most importantly, he still owes me ginseng. Of course I have to seize such a good opportunity," He Ning said with a smile.

If he did not go and extort a sum of money now, then when would he be able to do it! He did not want to miss this chance!

Chapter 1180 I Only Want The Divine Medicine

In the afternoon, He Ning brought along two boxes of gifts to the hospital together with Huo Gao. One of the boxes contained donkey-hide gelatin that he had specially sent someone to buy. It was said that to be the best thing to nourish the essence and vitality of women who had just given birth.

It was also a good opportunity to let Huo Gao take Qiao Mei's pulse and see how she was doing, and to check if she needed to eat medicinal cuisine to nourish her body. He heard that after giving birth, a woman's health would not be as good as before. He must take good care of Qiao Mei's health.

After all, He Ning had not gotten rid of Xia Zhe yet and Qiao Mei was still the "chef" that he had not employed yet! It would be a huge loss if Qiao Mei lost a few years of her life because of giving birth!

"What are you doing here!" Xia He was about to go out to get some hot water for Qiao Mei when she saw He Ning walking towards the ward. She stared at him warily as she spoke.

"Of course I'm here to congratulate Qiao Mei. How can I not come to attend such a big joyous occasion?" He Ning said casually.

Xia He sized up He Ning and then took a closer look at what He Ning had brought. Then, she turned sideways to let them into the ward.

"Everyone is here! It seems that I've come at the right time," He Ning said with a smile.

None of the Xia family members responded to him, but He Ning did not feel awkward at all. He put down his things and casually pulled up a stool to sit opposite Qiao Mei's bed.

Qiao Mei admired He Ning's thick skin the most. She did not know how he managed to train himself to be so shameless. No ordinary person would be able to do this.

"It's indeed a coincidence that you're here just as I'm feeling a little better. But what are you doing here? Don't tell me you're here to visit me?" Qiao Mei asked with a smile.

"Something like that. If you don't mind, Huo Gao can take a look at you," He Ning said.

Xia Zhe hurriedly handed the baby to Xia Fang and stood in front of Qiao Mei, blocking He Ning's view as he said, "You don't have to worry about anything."

"That's quite true. I'm here to collect on the debt. I wonder when Xia Wen will return the 500,000 dollars he owes me. It should be... about 800,000 dollars now," He Ning said as he counted with his fingers.

This was really a case of a weasel paying a visit to a chicken! He was up to no good!

An amount of 800,000 dollars! Xia Wen looked at He Ning in shock, but after that, he felt that it made sense. At that time, he was in a hurry to borrow money and did not wait to reach an agreement on many conditions. This gave He Ning a chance to take advantage of the situation.

Qiao Mei patted Xia Zhe's hand to indicate that he need not be so nervous. Since He Ning had come to look for her, it meant that what He Ning wanted was not money at all. In He Ning's eyes, money was just paper that was not worth his time.

"Tell me, what do you want from me?" Qiao Mei asked.

He Ning clapped his hands in appreciation and said, "I really like to talk to smart people. Didn't you ask me to take the blame for the 'divine medicine' the last time? Your family seems to be having a peaceful time now. Do you know how many people have been harassing my family? I'm not asking for much. 500,000 dollars and a bottle of 'divine medicine'. Once it's done, this debt between us will be written off."

Qiao Mei shook her head to reject He Ning's suggestion. It was not because she could not bear to part with the "divine medicine", but because she was very dissatisfied with He Ning's conditions.

The "divine medicine" was a treasure item that could not be bought even with money. How could it be only worth 300,000 dollars of interest? Was it that He Ning did not know how to do the math or did He Ning think that she was stupid?

A 100-year-old ginseng was already worth 600,000 dollars! This was "divine medicine" brewed from a 1,000-year-old ginseng. It was not too much to say that it was worth at least a million dollars!

"Don't ask for too much. One glass of 'divine medicine' and we're even," Qiao Mei said sternly.

Xia Wen quickly said to her, "Qiao Mei, I know you have good intentions, but I'm the one who borrowed the money. I'll bear the consequences myself. Don't worry about me."

It was not that Qiao Mei wanted to meddle in Xia Wen's affairs, but He Ning's original goal all this while was the "divine medicine" that Qiao Mei had. Anything he mentioned about money, objects or other people was just an excuse.

"It's fine, Eldest Brother. We're a family," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"One glass? That's too little," He Ning said.

"You know very well what kind of effect this medicine has. It's even more precious than three or four 100-year-old ginsengs. If not for the fact that you had helped us, I wouldn't even give you this glass of 'divine medicine'. It's not as if our family can't afford to pay back the 800,000 dollars. You still owe me so much money," Qiao Mei said.