

Fat Wife 1231

Chapter 1231 Adoptive Mother Has A Bigger Say

"I don't think you need to worry about this matter. Your husband likes you for who you are. Moreover, he is not the one who has any issue with your behavior. Why should you care about what others think?" Qiao Mei said.

Xia You suddenly looked enlightened. She clapped her hands and said, "You're so right! I shouldn't care about what others think! It's not like I'm in the wrong!"

Shao Yin stood at the side and watched as the women carried on with their conversation. She kept staring at Qiao Mei to size her up. At first, she thought that Qiao Mei was only a pretty face, meant to be put on show like a beautiful "flower vase", and that the Xia family allowed her to marry into the family so that it made them look good. Who would not like having a beautiful woman around?

However, from the looks of it, that did not seem to be the case at all. Qiao Mei was good with her hands, good cook and was even a natural beauty. She even gave birth to a son and a daughter for the Xia family. She was like a female lead in a television drama! This made Shao Yin so envious.

"I would also like to get closer to all of you," Shao Yin said suddenly.

One second earlier, everyone was still very lively, but in the next second, everyone fell silent. Liu Fen smiled awkwardly at Shao Yin and said, "Um... you can come round often after you marry Xia Xing. We'll be a family then."

"That's true! Besides, Xia Xing is coming to work in the capital! I'll also come over with him to live in the capital!" Shao Yin said innocently.

"What! Coming to the capital! Who told you that!" Xu Lan said in surprise.

"Xia Xing himself! He has already submitted his application. He should be able to start work here next month," Shao Yin said.

At this moment, the people at Xia Jun's place were also discussing the same matter. Everyone was sitting in the living room and the atmosphere was very somber. Xia Jun's long face was almost hitting the floor! He was already feeling vexed today, but these people still wanted to annoy him even more.

"Uncle Xia, you're the biological grandfather of these children and I've looked after them for a long time. Everything I do is for their benefit. I'm here today to discuss with you something related to Xia Xing," Zhou Luo said.

"Let me know what you have in mind. If Xia Xing needs any help from the family, we'll try our best to help," Xia Jun said.

"Our Xia Xing is currently preparing for his wedding and he wants to hold the ceremony in the capital. I wonder if you can help us out. Our Zhou family has always lived somewhere else, so we're naturally not as familiar with the capital as all of you. After all, you have lived here for a long time," Zhou Luo said tentatively. I think you should take a look at

Xia Jun said with a long face, "If he's getting married, then his partner should at least come and meet the family. Is he going to get married without letting us know anything?"

"That girl is also here today. Isn't this..." Zhou Luo looked around but did not see Shao Yin. She quickly turned to look at Xia Xing, but he also did not know where Shao Yin had gone.

Zhou Luo hurriedly got up and walked outside. She asked the chauffeurs who drove them here, but they all said that they had not seen Shao Yin. This made her so anxious that she almost wanted to rush out to look for Shao Yin!

"Miss Shao Yin is at the eldest young madam's house now. The chauffeur is already on the way to pick her up and will be soon," the helper said patiently.

Zhou Luo looked unhappy. She had wanted to use the two kids to force Xia Jun to give them what they wanted! Now that the girl was not around, she could not go too overboard with what she said. Otherwise, if Xia Jun rejected her right away, she would have a much lesser chance of getting what she wanted.

"It's good that the kid is safe. You can continue with what you want to say," Xia Jun said.

"It's good to know that Uncle Xia is so magnanimous and doesn't get offended by the antics of the younger generation. Let me just come right out and say what I think. Xiao Xing will be returning to work in the capital next month and that girl will also come along with him. They haven't found a place to stay yet. Do you think you can allow him and Shao Yin to stay at Xia Zhe's place?" Zhou Luo said bluntly.

"Stay at Xia Zhe's place? Why?" Xia Jun asked unhappily.

He could tell at a glance that the Zhou family was eyeing the old house again. Before Zhou Hua divorced Xia Guang, she always had this issue in mind. Zhou Luo was obviously thinking about the same thing now. It was obvious that Zhou Hua had told Zhou Luo something inappropriate and Zhou Luo was now here to fight for a share of the family assets for Xia Xing, Xia Lu and Xia Yan!

Xia Guang had a permanent posting in the border province, and now that he had divorced Zhou Hua, the couple did not seem to care about the future of the three children anymore. Zhou Luo wondered what would happen to them if she did not speak up for them?

By right, she did not have any say. After all, her surname was Zhou and she was not the children's biological mother. However, being the adoptive mother, she had an even greater say than even the biological mother. The Xia family would have to let her voice her opinion!

Chapter 1232 Stay Over For A Few Days

"Given that Xiao Xing is a new transferee into his workplace unit, they haven't discussed the matter of his accommodation with him yet. So he doesn't have a place to stay yet. Why not let him stay at Xia Zhe's place? Isn't Xia He also staying there?" Zhou Luo said.

Xia Jun snorted. These people were really well-informed. Although Zhou Luo did not live in the capital, she knew so much about matters related to the Xia family. It seemed that Zhou Luo might have an informant working for the family. However, it was also possible that the news was simply leaked out by people in the know. After all, it was not a secret that Xia He was staying at Qiao Mei's house. Anyone who was familiar with any of the Xia family members would know about this arrangement.

"Xia He only moved there so that she could take care of Qiao Mei. She didn't even go to the art troupe this month and just stayed by Qiao Mei's side all this while. It almost caused her to lose her job. Besides,

Xia He isn't staying there permanently. Now that Qiao Mei has given birth, she will move out soon. Do you want Xia Xing's life to revolve around Qiao Mei as well?" Xia Jun questioned.

"But they have not moved back yet, have they? They're still staying at Xu Lan's place! Then what's wrong with us staying over for a while? Aren't these youngsters all part of the same family?" Zhou Luo said.

Of course, it would not be a problem to allow someone to stay over for a while. After all, there would be times when one might really need help. Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe were not nasty people and they would definitely help if they could.

However, Zhou Luo clearly had ulterior motives. Today, it was Xia Xing who wanted to move in. What if Xia Yu also wanted to move in after a while? After that, were all of them going to occupy a room each?

Xia Jun wanted them to know that he was not old and senile yet! As long as he was still alive, he would not allow anyone to eye Xia Zhe's house! That was the last task Wu Min handed to him before she died. No matter who came to cajole him, he would not waver!

"There's plenty of space at my place. I actually feel quite bored living alone in such a big house. Xia Xing can come and stay with me," Xia Jun said.

Xia Xing's face instantly fell and he immediately said, "I don't want to!"

Zhou Luo glared at Xia Xing. He was already an adult, yet he still acted like a child and showed all his emotions clearly on his face. What an embarrassment!

Since the old house was left behind by Wu Min, all the children of the Xia family should get a share. Why should it be only given to Xia Zhe? Moreover, when Wu Min died, only Xia Mao and his family were by her side. She did not make a will and only conveyed her wishes verbally.

Who knew if that was really what Zhou Min said? What if Xia Mao and the others had made everything about her leaving the house to Xia Zhe? I think you should take a look at

She would never believe that those were Wu Min's last words. These children with her were also the Xia family's grandchildren and no one could snatch away whatever belonged to them!

"That won't do. Xia Xing will be coming with his girlfriend! It's not convenient for her to stay at your place," Zhou Luo said.

"This won't do and that won't do. Then you guys can find a solution yourself. Don't even think about going to Xia Zhe's place. If I find out that you guys secretly go to talk to Qiao Mei about this, I'll break your legs!" Xia Jun said sternly.

Xia Lu and Xia Yan trembled in fear and did not even dare to breathe loudly. This whole issue today had nothing to do with the two of them, but they still had to get lectured as well. They felt so aggrieved.

Xia Xing still wanted to continue persuading Xia Jun, but Zhou Luo stopped him with one look. Since this idea did not work, why not change to another one?

"We'll talk about the issue of the house another day. Our Zhou family can still afford to pay for his accommodation. However, you have to help with the matter of Xia Xing's wedding. We need to know where we can hold the ceremony. Xia Mao and Xu Lan must at least help us out with this," Zhou Luo said arrogantly.

After beating around the bush, Zhou Luo's real intention was to make use of Xia Mao and his family. If it was not about the money, it was about the house. At least she did not do what the Tan family did and tried to target the babies.

Xia Jun could not be bothered to talk to Zhou Luo anymore and just sat there and listened quietly. Zhou Luo even thought that Xia Jun was doing this out of a guilty conscience! She quickly started to present the rest of her idea. She would never let go of anything that she could take advantage of.

The helper could not stand it anymore and secretly went to the study to make a phone call to Xu Lan's house. She wanted to tell them about what was happening so that they could hurry over to help Xia Jun.

Xia Jun was already not in good health. He had only regained his strength after drinking Qiao Mei's medicinal wine. Now that Zhou Luo was irritating him, he seemed to look quite ill again. Xia Xing and his

two brothers just sat at the side silently. They did not have much feelings for Xia Jun and at most only felt a sense of responsibility towards the Xia family.

Chapter 1233 Tell The Truth

At Xu Lan's house, they were getting ready to send Shao Yin over to Xia Jun's place. When Xia He heard the phone ringing, she quickly ran over to answer it.

"Hello? What's the matter?" Xia He asked.

"Eldest Miss, it's me! One of you must come over quickly! They've been putting pressure on the Old Master Xia in the living room! I'm really worried about Old Master Xia's health and that's why I'm calling. I'm an outsider so it's really not appropriate for me to interrupt them," the helper said worriedly.

"Alright, alright, alright! Wait for us! We'll go over immediately!" Xia He said worriedly and hung up.

"What happened? What's the urgency?" Xu Lan asked.

Xia He quickly leaned over to Xu Lan's ear and whispered, "Auntie Zhou and my three younger cousins are having a meeting at Grandfather's place now! The helper auntie said that they're being so aggressive that Grandfather is not feeling well. She wants us to go over quickly."

None of them was suited to go over during such a situation. They must be discussing matters related to the youngsters at Xia Jun's house. Xia Jun would always be at a disadvantage when he met Zhou Luo. The attitude and manner of those two Zhou sisters could anger anyone to death!

They could only ask Xia Wen to go and help out. Xia He hurriedly went upstairs to tell Xia Wen. At the moment, Xia Wen was playing with Xia Xing and it was a heartwarming scene to see the two of them together. This was the first time Xia He had seen such a gentle side to Xia Wen. It seemed that he really liked children.

"Eldest Brother, something happened. You might be needed at Grandfather's side now," Xia He said to Xia Wen solemnly.

Xia Xing seemed to understand what was going on and sensed that Xia Wen was going to leave. She looked at Xia Wen and pursed her lips aggrievedly, as if she was going to cry at any moment.

Xia He hurriedly went forward to block Xia Wen's line of sight so that he would not see Xia Xing's pitiful appearance. Xia Jun was in urgent need of help! He must go over immediately!

"Alright, I'll go now. Xia Xing just drank milk half an hour ago so don't feed her any more. Take note of the time. When Xia Zhe wakes up, tell him that I've left." Xia Wen hurriedly instructed Xia He and drove away from Xu Lan's house with Shao Yin in tow.

After Xia Wen left, Xia He turned around to look at Xia Xing. The aggrieved look on the baby's face had disappeared, as if Xia He was hallucinating just now. I think you should take a look at

"Little girl, are you bullying us? When your eldest uncle was around, you're like a little angel, so obedient and cute. Why do you cry and make a fuss when we carry you? Do you like your eldest uncle most?" Xia He asked.

Unexpectedly, Xia Xing just closed her eyes and fell asleep, completely ignoring Xia He. Then again, how could such a young child understand what the adults were saying? She only knew how to eat, drink and poop every day and to cry if anything went wrong.

Shao Yin sat in the back seat and kept looking around. Her eyes kept darting back and forth between Xia Wen and the rearview mirror. This was simply a chance given by the heavens! A chance for her to be alone with him!

However, she did not know what to say. She had already offended Xia Wen just now. If she said anything wrong again, Xia Wen's impression of her would become even worse.

"Brother Xia... where are we going?" After saying that, Shao Yin felt that her question was exceptionally stupid. Of course, he was sending her to look for Xia Xing! It was not as if Xia Wen was bringing her to a restaurant for a candlelight dinner!

"We're headed to Grandfather's place. Relax, I won't eat you up. Just call me Elder Brother Wen. That's what Xia Xing calls me too," Xia Wen said gently.

After all, Shao Yin seemed to be only three to four years older than Qiao Mei. She was still a kid. Why should he be so calculative with a kid?

Shao Yin thought for a long time before muttering softly, "Brother Wen..."

Xia Wen pretended that he did not hear anything and quickly found a new topic to talk about. He asked Shao Yin about her family and her work and how she met Xia Xing. A few questions later, Shao Yin had told him everything she knew. She even told Xia Wen all the secrets which Zhou Luo told her.

This was probably what it meant by being blinded by beauty. In the face of such a good-looking man, she did not have the time or energy to think about what she was doing.

Xia Wen drove quickly and steadily and arrived at Xia Jun's house not long after. He asked Shao Yin to go in first and he went to park the car. He did not expect Shao Yin to still be waiting for him at the door when he returned!

Chapter 1234 Even Biological Brothers Must Settle Accounts Clearly

"Why haven't you gone in?" Xia Wen asked.

"I... I don't know where to go... I don't know the way..." Shao Yin said shyly.

Xia Wen looked helplessly at the helper who was also standing beside Shao Yin. At this moment, the helper also looked very wretched. She had been working as Xia Jun's helper for many years. In fact, she had been serving the Xia family since Wu Min was still around. No guest had ever viewed her with any suspicions.

Even these grandchildren of the Xia family showed her respect whenever they saw her. Without her care, Xia Jun probably would not be enjoying such a good quality of life!

It was not as if she had any ulterior motives towards Xia Jun. She had already been married for a long time and had children of her own. Her grandchildren were about to have children!

She stayed on only because Wu Min had treated her very well back then and even asked Xia Jun to introduce the young and handsome men in the army to her. That was how she found her partner in life. Therefore, she was grateful to the Xia family for this gift of lifelong happiness.

When other people were concerned about having enough money for survival, she never had to worry about that. In fact, Wu Min bought her the house that she was still living in!

Everything she had was given to her by the Xia family, so she did her best to take care of Xia Jun in order to repay Wu Min for her kindness in the past.

"Let's go in. I'll go with you," Xia Wen said.

The two of them walked into the house side by side. As soon as they entered, Xia Wen could hear Zhou Luo talking loudly in the living room. She was talking about how many relatives and friends she wanted to invite to Xia Xing's wedding!

As he listened carefully, he heard mention of the Zheng family, the Zhuang family, the Gao family and even the He family! Zhou Luo wanted Xia Xing's wedding to be the grandest event in the capital! The Xia family did not even dare to invite these people to Xia Zhe's wedding. How would Xia Xing have the clout to invite them?

The Zheng family and the Zhuang family might accept the invite as a show of respect to Xia Mao, but the wayward Gao family? It was not even the wedding of Xia Zhe, the most favored child of the Xia family. These people would not give even a minute of their time to Xia Xing, especially since they probably did not even know who Xia Xing was.

"I see Auntie Zhou has many issues to discuss! It looks like I haven't chosen a good time to come!" Xia Wen said with a smile. He slowly walked to Xia Jun and gently patted his shoulder to reassure him. I think you should take a look at

Xia Jun smiled slightly, feeling both proud and consoled. He had not doted on Xia Wen for nothing all these years! Xia Wen knew to rush back to help him!

"No, no, no! You're here at the right time! I'm talking about your younger cousin's wedding. You can help me come up with some ideas!" Zhou Luo said excitedly.

"Auntie Zhou, go ahead. If there's anything I can do to help, I'll do my best," Xia Wen said politely.

Zhou Luo immediately said, "Xiao Wen is still the most sensible. Then I'll just speak my mind. Xia Xing and Shao Yin will be holding their wedding soon. When the time comes, we want to use your younger brother's house as the venue and the bridal chamber. We also want to book the best restaurant nearby. I hear that your younger brother has also bought the house in the backyard, so there should be enough space for our relatives and friends. There won't be a need to ask them to stay in a hotel!"

Xia Wen and Xia Jun looked at each other. With one glance, Xia Wen understood what Xia Jun was thinking and also knew how to deal with Zhou Luo. This was the tacit understanding which grandfather and grandson always had.

"Auntie Zhou, that's not right. That house doesn't belong to my younger brother. It belongs to my younger sister-in-law. Both the houses in the front and back courtyards belong to my sister-in-law, so we don't have any say in this matter," Xia Wen said.

"Why are you drawing the line so clearly? Shouldn't your sister-in-law's assets also belong to your younger brother? We're all family, so why draw lines?" Zhou Luo said with a smile.

"No, that's not possible! Even when I sold my house, I didn't move into my younger brother's house! Even biological brothers have to settle accounts clearly. Therefore, there's no exception for you as well," Xia Wen said.

At this point, Zhou Luo finally knew why Xia Wen was here. He was sent here as reinforcements! No wonder Shao Yin was sent here so quickly.

"Then what do you think we should do about this matter? Are you really not going to help Xia Xing even though he's holding his wedding in the capital? Xia Xing is like a younger brother to you!" Zhou Luo said unhappily.

"Auntie Zhou is right. Xia Xing is also my younger brother, so our family will definitely help. However, can you tell me how much is your budget for the wedding?" Xia Wen asked.

"What... do you mean?" Zhou Luo asked as she looked at Xia Wen in confusion. Why was he asking her about money?

Chapter 1235 We Are A Family

"Why? Is Auntie Zhou's intention for our family to take care of everything?" Xia Wen asked.

That was exactly Zhou Luo's intentions. Since the Xia family's eldest son and his own family had received so many things from Xia Jun and Wu Min, what was wrong with asking them to fork out some money?

Furthermore, she had helped to bring up three grandsons of the Xia family. Xia Lu and Xia Yan were two very promising young men. They might even be able to come out with inventions for the country. When that time came, they would be more capable than anyone else in the Xia family!

How could the Xia family not thank her for her efforts? If Xia Mao's family did not even want to help them with something as minor as wedding expenses, then when Xia Jun died, this eldest son's family would end up taking over everything in the Xia family!

Zhou Luo definitely could not let this happen. She must fight for the three children!

There was a reason why she insisted on bringing up these three children all this while and refused to hand them back to the Xia family. They were her "hostages"! Only then would the Xia family be respectful to the Zhou family and nothing bad would ever happen to them. She naturally must hold on to something so useful.

Although Zhou Luo did take good care of the children wholeheartedly, her intentions were not pure at all.

"There's only the banquet to pay for. How much money can it cost? We're all family and it's so tacky to talk about money. Xiao Wen, what you just said is so hurtful to everyone," Zhou Luo said as she looked at Xia Wen sadly.

"You are talking about two different matters. Our family can indeed help Xia Xing and my future cousin-in-law to find a suitable restaurant in the capital, or we can also find someone to organize the ceremony. After all, Xia Xing is still the child of Third Uncle and Third Aunt-in-law, so it's up to them to decide," Xia Wen said tactfully.

The meaning between the lines was that Zhou Luo was being a busybody. Since Xia Xing's parents were still around, it was not her place to come to the Xia family to make demands.

Sitting opposite Xia Wen, Zhou Luo was almost bursting with anger. However, given that she was the one asking for help, she had to control her emotions and not let Xia Wen succeed in his plan.

Xia Jun relaxed when he saw that Xia Wen was able to subdue Zhou Luo. After that, he began to observe Shao Yin. This girl was a little strange. It was not because of her looks and personality, but because her eyes had never left Xia Wen the entire time she was here. He wondered if Xia Wen had noticed this. I think you should take a look at

"My younger sister is busy, so she has asked me to handle these things for her. The Xia family is rich and powerful. Are you really going to quibble about this bit of money? At most, all of you are exempted from giving Xia Xing red packets when he gets married," Zhou Luo said righteously, as if Xia Wen and the others had taken advantage of her.

Did she mean that the Xia family's eldest son had to pay for the booking of the hotel and the reception for the wedding, as well as for everything else? That would cost more than 5,000 dollars!

It was an amount of money that would take an ordinary person more than a year to save up!

Comparatively, how much money would they need to fork out for the red packets? Zhou Luo was really scheming. She wanted to collect the wedding gifts for free while the Xia family's eldest son paid for all the expenses.

Xia Mao's family was not made up of fools! They did not owe Xia Guang's family anything. Instead, it was Xia Guang's family who owed a favor to Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei, and a huge favor at that!

"Our family is not that capable. At most, we can help Xia Xing with the hotel booking. You guys will have to handle the rest yourselves," Xia Wen said firmly.

"Xiao Wen, you're really too humble. Aren't you a high-ranking official now? Isn't there anyone who wants to curry favor with you?" Zhou Luo asked.

"Auntie Zhou, you flatter me. I'm nobody there, just an employee. There's only so much our family can do. We really can't help with anything else. We still have to take care of two newborn babies! We really don't have any excess money," Xia Wen said.

"We can hold the wedding at your sister-in-law's house. Firstly, it will save money and secondly, it will be much more convenient. What do you think?" Zhou Luo repeated her request. Xia Jun had disagreed with this idea earlier, but it was Xia Wen negotiating now. If Xia Wen agreed, Xia Jun would not be able to reject the idea.

"That's not possible. My sister-in-law's house is definitely out of the question, even if the couple agree. They have two young children at home now. They're the future of our Xia family. Auntie Zhou, will you take responsibility if anything happens to them?" Xia Wen said.

"Why should I take responsibility? Besides, it's just two children. What can happen to them?" Zhou Luo said nonchalantly. She did not understand why these two children were so precious and warranted such care.

Chapter 1236 - 1236 Please Help Me

1236 Please Help Me

Hearing Zhou Luo speak about the two children in this manner, Xia Jun and Xia Wen did not look too happy, especially Xia Jun. His expression was simply murderous!

He would not allow anyone to endanger his precious eldest grandson!

"Don't say another word, otherwise you can get lost! It's not up to you to decide on our Xia family's issues! Don't even get any ideas about Qiao Mei's house!" Xia Jun roared angrily.

"Why not! Are there treasures in the house and you're afraid we will find them!" Zhou Luo questioned.

Xia Wen and Xia Jun did not reply. Both of them fell silent.

Zhou Luo sneered. It was exactly like what Zhou Hua said. There must be many treasures in that house. The Zhou family had been in their line of work for generations. As long as Xia Xing could move into the house, she would definitely be able to find the location of these treasures in less than a month. By then, it did not matter even if the Xia family did not want to give Xia Xing and the other children a share of the old house.

Once they could obtain those valuable treasures, the house would be useless.

"I just know it! You're biased towards your oldest son. Not only do you treat him well, but you even want to give everything to his children! Then what about these other children! Aren't they also your Xia family's grandchildren?" Zhou Luo said.

Xia Jun actually did feel a sense of guilt to the three children. He became so worked up that he suddenly felt dizzy and fell backwards subconsciously. Xia Wen got a shock and quickly held on to Xia Jun.

"Grandfather! Grandfather, are you alright!" Xia Wen quickly went to retrieve Xia Jun's emergency medication and fed it to him. Then, he asked the helper to help Xia Jun back to his bedroom.

Xia Xing, Xia Lu and Xia Yan remained expressionless even when Xia Jun collapsed. They did not even pretend to show any concern. Xia Wen felt his blood run cold when he saw their behavior.

"Why are you sending the Old Master away! This is all part of your scheme!" Zhou Luo said.

"If you insist that there are contraband items in Qiao Mei's house, go and make a report! Show us your evidence! Otherwise, don't try to slander us. You say that my grandfather is biased towards my family, then tell me which of us three siblings ask our grandfather for help when we get married? Xia Zhe did not even hold a wedding ceremony in order to avoid being extravagant and wasteful. Does Xia Xing really need to go to the extent of troubling my grandfather?" Xia Wen questioned.

Zhou Luo was rendered speechless by Xia Wen's questions. Everything Xia Wen said was the truth and he was not worried even if Zhou Luo went to make a report against them. Even the He family could not find anything in the house. As if Zhou Luo was more capable?

“The three of us found jobs on our own and never let our family worry about us. My job requires me to pass a yearly examination. If you think there is anything fishy in the way I get my job, then report me and check whether I qualify for it all on my own!” Xia Wen said.

Xia Wen used to be a university professor, so there were definitely no issues with his qualifications and credentials. He had actually felt that the government examination was quite easy and did not require much effort on his part.

Zhou Luo also knew that Xia Wen had relied on his own hard work to advance in his career step by step. She stomped her feet in anger and pushed Xia Xing forcefully as she whispered, “Are you mute! Am I the one getting married! Say something!”

Xia Xing did not know what to say. He actually liked his relatives from this branch of the Xia family, but Zhou Luo always told him that these Xia family members were biased and looked down on them. Xia Lu and Xia Yan had been educated this way since they were young and had long viewed the Xia family as their enemy. However, he was different. He knew the truth of the matter.

He would always be a pawn in these people’s power struggles. He was not allowed to decide on his career path. He also had to listen to these people’s arrangements as to where he could live. In fact, it was up to the elders in his family to decide who he could marry in the future.

The truth was that Xia Xing did not like Shao Yin at all. Shao Yin had not even received proper education and she was currently just doing odd jobs in his workplace unit, helping to serve tea and print documents. There was no way that she was on par with his ex-girlfriend.

This time round, the job he was taking up in the capital was nothing good. It was a clerical position at the police station, in charge of keeping file records of reported cases. If he compared himself to Xia Wen, they were worlds apart. He would only be embarrassing himself by coming back to the capital! He might as well continue in his current job out of town! At the very least, the workplace unit would eventually allocate a small house to him. As long as he worked hard, he could look forward to a good future.

“Elder Brother... Please help me. I really don’t know what to do,” Xia Xing said.

Chapter 1237 - 1237 Beggars Who Want to Be Choosers

1237 Beggars Who Want to Be Choosers

Xia Wen was not moved at all. It was useless to act pitiful in front of him. Xia Xing's current predicament was the result of his own choices and it had nothing to do with anyone else.

Xia Xing was no longer a child who needed to consult his family on every issue. He was already an adult but he did not seem to act like one. He always needed others to solve his problems for him. If everything could be resolved so easily, then Xia Wen would like to ask others to solve his problems too! Why did he have to live such a tough life?

"Xia Wen, you can't treat us this way! You kept quiet when your ex-wife took so much money from the Xia family. Why is it so difficult for Xia Xing to get help from the Xia family now? No matter what, Xia Xing is still the Xia family's grandson! How can your ex-wife have a closer relationship to the Xia family than him!" Zhou Luo questioned.

This question completely overstepped Xia Wen's boundary. Xia Xing suddenly felt a rapid change in the atmosphere around Xia Wen, as if the oxygen in the vicinity had started to deplete. All of them started to breathe faster and everyone felt extremely nervous, worried that Xia Wen would suddenly go berserk.

Although Xia Wen had only been in the army for a short period of time of three years, he won the title of "top army warrior" three times and also participated in all kinds of dangerous missions. He also received countless merit medals. In addition he was Xia Jun's grandson. How weak could he be?

"The money I use is from my parents. Only my parents are entitled to have an opinion about my family. What has it got to do with you? My grandfather has never needed to worry about me. If you want to make demands on behalf of the Zhou family, then you should go and look for my Third Uncle. Why are you coming to us?" Xia Wen said mockingly.

While asking their family to contribute money and effort, these people also criticized them for being inhumane at the same time. Only the Zhou family could do such a thing. How could beggars be choosers! They should take a good look at themselves first!

"This... Do you dare to make an oath! That you didn't take any of your grandfather's money! Or ask him to help you!" Zhou Luo said with a guilty conscience.

Xia Wen stood up readily and put his three fingers together while pointing them towards the sky. He looked at Zhou Luo sternly and said, "I, Xia Wen, swear to the heavens that I have never asked my grandfather to help me with anything. Otherwise, I'll get struck by lightning and die a horrible death."

When Zhou Luo saw Xia Wen making a cursed oath, she could not think of any other countermeasure to argue with Xia Wen. There was no other way out now.

At this moment, Shao Yin suddenly stood up and said, "Brother Wen! Don't say that. We believe in you! There's no need to make such a vicious oath."

Her anxious expression made her look very pitiful. Anyone who did not know better would think that Shao Yin was Xia Wen's lover!

Zhou Luo lowered her head to look at Xia Xing. Even though his girlfriend had taken a fancy to another man, Xia Xing did not even frown. It was as if Shao Yin had nothing to do with him.

Zhou Luo thought to herself, "What a good-for-nothing! What a vixen! Neither of them can achieve anything! I don't care about this matter anymore! He's not my biological child, nor did I bring him up from a young age. As long as Xia Lu and Xia Yan don't do all these stupid things like Xia Xing, there's still hope for me."

Just as Zhou Luo was about to give up, Xia Wen pressed on and questioned her, "Auntie Zhou, do you dare to swear to the heavens that you have no selfish motives towards our family, my younger brother's family and my grandfather? Are you doing this wholeheartedly for Xia Xing? Do you dare!"

Of course, Zhou Luo did not dare to do so. If it was about Xia Lu or Xia Yan, she might be able to say so confidently, but when it came to Xia Xing... she really could not say so.

"In that case, Auntie Zhou and my cousins, please go back and think about what to do. Don't mess up the auspicious day and miss out on such a great marriage. If you invite us to attend, we will definitely go, but if you want us to plan it for you, then no way!" Xia Wen said angrily.

“Xiao Wen, that’s not what we mean...” Zhou Luo immediately said.

“From the looks of it, Grandfather won’t be able to host you anymore. I’ll find a guest house for all of you to stay in. You can go now.” After saying that, Xia Wen left the living room without looking back and walked towards the study upstairs. After making a call to instruct his secretary, he walked straight towards Xia Jun’s bedroom.

The five people downstairs sat in the living room in a daze. Zhou Luo continued to berate Xia Xing! Xia Lu and Xia Yan started to look at Xia Xing mockingly. They felt embarrassed to have such an older brother!

Chapter 1238 - 1238 No Privacy

1238 No Privacy

When Xia Jun heard footsteps outside the door, he quickly put down the pork trotters in his hand and pretended to look weak as he lay on the bed. Even when Xia Wen walked to the edge of the bed, he did not move.

“Grandfather, wake up. The oil on your mouth is so shiny that it’s reflecting the light. Yet you’re still trying to pretend!” Xia Wen said as he held back his laughter.

When Xia Jun realized that he had failed in his attempt, he stopped putting on an act. He had forgotten that Xia Wen had a background in investigation. It would be extremely difficult to hide anything from Xia Wen! It was probably not such a good thing to have nurtured a family of elite professionals.

Whenever he faced Xia Xiu, he would always subconsciously tell the truth. If he accidentally lied to her, she would question him as if he was being interrogated. However, this was an occupational hazard for her and it would be hard for her to change.

When he faced Xia Fang, he felt like he was facing a scanner. It was as if she could detect the slightest symptom of any illness. She could keenly sense if there was something wrong with his health, even if the only clue was that his voice was more hoarse than usual.

Therefore, there was no difference between him being in this house and going to the battlefield. Even his helper could tell from his expression whether the food each day was to his liking.

"Has the matter downstairs been resolved?" Xia Jun asked.

"I guess so. I wonder what will happen in the future," Xia Wen said with a deep sigh.

Xia Wen did not really know how to deal with this matter. Whatever he said just now was a little too harsh. It was like putting the relationship between the families of the Xia family's first and third sons over a burner. The already fragile relationship was now in critical danger.

He was not worried about Xia Guang. He was just worried that his younger cousins would drift further and further away from the Xia family.

"You don't have to think too much. You're not the cause of this matter. What have you done wrong? You handled it very well. I heard everything that was said outside just now. It's not your fault at all," Xia Jun said.

Xia Wen's earlier melancholy was immediately swept away. So Xia Jun could hear them! That meant the fainting spell was just a pretense!

"Grandfather, you did it on purpose! Tell me, did you deliberately leave me to settle this matter so that you can come back here to eat pork trotters!" Xia Wen said angrily.

Xia Jun chuckled and did not admit to anything, but keeping quiet was also a form of tacit agreement. If he did not pretend to faint, Xia Wen would not be able to put on such a domineering face at all! No matter if it was an act or not, he was just cultivating Xia Wen's ability to handle situations. How could it be said that he had ulterior motives!

However, he still felt a little sad. When he fainted, none of the children from the third son's family cared about him. They even looked like they looked forward to it. From the expression on Xia Yan's face, it was obvious that he hoped that Xia Jun would die soon!

This was not the child's fault. It was the type of education he received from a young age that caused him to develop such a way of thinking. That was why the children hated the Xia family and distanced themselves from the Xia family. Everything was instigated by Zhou Luo.

“Grandfather... why didn’t you bring Xia Lu and Xia Yan back then?” Xia Wen asked curiously.

When these two children were born, the Xia family was already doing quite well. It was definitely more than possible to support the two children. During Xia Wen’s growing up years, he had even lived with another family and went around being fed by the neighbors! He still managed to grow up well, so why did Xia Jun not bring these two grandsons back? Did he face some other difficulties then?

“It’s a long story...” Xia Jun said helplessly.

At that time, Xia Guang was still a small platoon commander in an outpost while Xia Mao and Xia Yao were promoted to higher ranks year by year. At that time, Xia Wen was still in the army. That was his last year in the army and he had already taken on the position of deputy company commander. His rank was much higher than Xia Guang, which meant that Xia Guang had to salute to Xia Wen if they met each other.

Xia Jun’s initial goal was for all the Xia family’s children to start from the bottom so that they would become even stronger. This was what Xia Mao, Xia Yao and Xia Wen had to go through. Even Xia Zhe had to make progress based on his own merits.

However, for some reason, Xia Guang turned out this way. Later on, Zhou Hua started to travel around and did not care about her children at all. During this time, Zhou Luo held on to the children tightly and refused to let go no matter what the Xia family offered her.

It was not as if the Xia family had never thought of taking the children back by force, but Zhou Hua had threatened to kill herself so as to force the Xia family to give up. In the face of that, Xia Jun could only give up the idea. Later on, he asked Xia Guang for his opinion, but there was nothing Xia Guang could do about it. In the end, these two children were brought up to be like this.

Chapter 1239 - 1239 Not Buying Houses For Now

1239 Not Buying Houses For Now

“Let’s take it one step at a time. It’s useless to say anything more for now. If Auntie Zhou knows her place, she won’t come looking for trouble with us after today. At most, we’ll help out when Xia Xing gets married,” Xia Wen said.

Xia Jun nodded and the two of them chatted briefly about some upcoming issues before Xia Wen went home to give everyone an update. Xu Lan and the others were still waiting for news from him at home!

If he stayed over at Xia Jun's place tonight, Xia He would probably drive over to look for him. Xia Wen had no control over the actions of this younger sister of his.

For this journey, he did not drive the car himself. Instead, he asked Chen Mu to personally send him back to Xu Lan's place. He did not feel very well at the moment and was not in the condition to drive.

Every time Tan Jing's name was mentioned, he would lose his cool. Even though he no longer had anything to do with Tan Jing, he still thought of her from time to time and wondered if she was doing well in the Tan family.

Chen Mu had gone to check on her and came back to report that everything seemed well. He said that Tan Jing did farm work every day, just like before she got married. The Tan family did not starve her and she was fine. Xia Wen felt a lot more at ease after receiving this information.

In reality, that was not the case. Tan Jing was living in inhumane conditions now. Whenever Tan Jing suffered from withdrawal symptoms, Jiang Yi thought that she was going crazy and concluded that she was having a mental breakdown. Therefore, Jiang Yi locked Tan Jing in the woodshed to prevent anyone from getting close to her, hoping to starve her to death.

The good thing was that Tan Bao was still a person with a conscience. He gave Tan Jing a share of his family's food so that she could have enough to survive. Being in isolation meant that Tan Jing could be cured of her addiction since she could not have any contact with the outside world and would not have any chance to come in contact with drugs.

Chen Mu obviously knew what was going on. It was Xia Mao who instructed him not to reveal the truth, otherwise he would lose his job!

As soon as Xia Wen returned to Xu Lan's place, Xia He immediately blocked his way. She had thousands of questions to ask Xia Wen. In fact, she wished that she could rip open Xia Wen's head and view his memories directly. This would save her so much time.

"Elder Sister, you have to let Eldest Brother come into the house for a drink before he updates us. He's been busy the whole day," Qiao Mei said with a laugh.

Xia He hurried over to the coffee table and poured a full glass of water for Xia Wen. She handed it to him and said, "Drink it quickly! Then tell us what's going on once you're done!"

Xia Wen drank the water in one gulp resignedly and sat on the sofa. "Don't worry, the matter has been resolved. Grandfather is fine."

"Is it really completely resolved?" Xia Zhe asked suspiciously. In his memories, Zhou Luo was not someone who would give up easily. This person liked to bear grudges. Even if it was just a small matter, she must take revenge ruthlessly. Otherwise, she would not feel satisfied.

"No, it's just temporary. She even wants to use your house as a venue to hold Xia Xing's wedding ceremony! Look at you going around and buying properties so ostentatiously! You'd better stop doing that!" Xia Wen said as he looked at Qiao Mei in disdain.

"Eldest Brother, you're being unreasonable right now! What has this got to do with me buying properties? They're clearly greedy people who want to take advantage of me. If they know their place, they wouldn't eye my house at all," Qiao Mei said innocently as she pouted.

Xia Zhe smiled faintly and reached out to pat Qiao Mei's head. This little girl had even learned how to talk back. He knew that Qiao Mei had bought many properties, but it was not because he kept tabs on her movements. His spies had come across the information by chance when they were gathering intel about the other issues for him recently.

Even if he did not find out about this during the investigation process, Qiao Mei would still eventually update him about what she had been doing at home. It was just that there had been too many issues to handle recently and they also had to take care of the two babies, so they had not had a chance to talk to each other properly yet!

However, it was still beyond his expectation that Qiao Mei did not just buy a few houses, but almost all the houses in their area. Although she was a little showy during the entire process, the properties were purchased through proper means. They need not be afraid even if someone wanted to check on the transactions.

"You're right. That's indeed the logic, but you should know the principle of how 'winds will howl around the highest peaks'! Stop your purchases! Behave yourself!" Xia Wen said.

"Alright... then I won't buy any more for the time being," Qiao Mei said regretfully.

Xia Wen and Xia Zhe looked at each other and shook their heads helplessly. There was nothing the two of them could do about Qiao Mei. Probably no one in this family would be able to manage her.

The halt on buying properties was only for the time being! This meant that Qiao Mei still intended to buy more houses in the future.

Chapter 1240 - 1240 What Sort of Present to Give

1240 What Sort of Present to Give

"You have to control this money-grubbing wife of yours! If anything happens again, I'm not going to clean up your mess for you! When the time comes, you guys can deal with it yourselves!" Xia Wen said threateningly.

"Don't say that, Eldest Brother. If you don't care about us, then who else will? I won't buy anymore! No more! I'll listen to your advice," Qiao Mei said with a grin.

What Xia Wen said was for their own good. If Qiao Mei was so poor now that she and Xia Zhe could only afford to live in a tiny house, perhaps the Zhou family would still give Qiao Mei some money out of pity for her! They would not be eyeing her assets covetously.

"If they come and act pitiful to you about being poor, don't sing a different tune from me. I've already stated our family's stand boldly and clearly just now. We won't lend them anything no matter what, be it manpower, material items or financial resources. You can't say yes to them no matter what they say," Xia Wen said seriously.

"I promise to complete the mission! I definitely won't embarrass you!" Qiao Mei saluted Xia Wen briskly. Her hand gesture was not up to standard at all and her posture was like that of a primary school student. Perhaps a primary school student might be able to salute better than Qiao Mei.

With a playful person like Qiao Mei around, their lives would only become more interesting in the future. Xu Lan hired two more helpers, Wan Wen and Xu Kang. Wan Wen was introduced by Xu Lan's friend while Xu Kang was Xu Lan's relative and a loyal and honest person.

She planned to let Xu Kang take care of Qiao Mei at the same monthly salary which Wei Hao used to get. The salary need not be a lot since Xu Kang was only expected to do the cleaning up in the house. It was still Feng Hua's job to take care of Qiao Mei and everything else.

Most importantly, Xu Kang was a relative, so Xu Lan did not have to worry about the trivialities. Moreover, Xu Kang's family was quite well-to-do. She was only working as a helper just to pass time and she was willing to take on this job.

No one knew what Xia He was busy with for the past two days, but she seemed uneasy every day. She kept opening her purse to count the money inside and she also kept staring at the television. She did not change the channels for an entire day and would just watch the programs from the start to the end. From time to time, she would flip the newspaper to read the latest news. In the past, Xia He had never cared about these things.

"What have you been so busy with recently? Why do you seem so uneasy every day?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"Qiao Mei... if you want to buy a gift for Xia Zhe, what will you choose?" Xia He asked shyly.

"What will I choose... I'll probably buy shoes or a watch or a belt, something like that. I'll probably look at such things. Besides, the two of us have already been married for a long time. We buy gifts more for practical reasons and less about being romantic," Qiao Mei said.

Qiao Mei was not really a romantic person at heart. In Qiao Mei's eyes, making clothes for Xia Zhe personally was probably the most romantic thing she could do. When she looked at Xia Zhe wearing her handmade clothes from head to toe, she would feel a great sense of accomplishment!

Xia He immediately looked worried. She did not have Qiao Mei's handicraft skills and would fail at anything she tried to make. If she bought a belt, she wondered if she might be seen as being too ambiguous, like she was trying too hard.

"Why are you asking me this question?" Qiao Mei asked.

"Oh! It's... it's Deng Fan's birthday soon. I don't know what to get for him," Xia He whispered.

“Aren’t both of you dancers? Just give him dance shoes!” Qiao Mei said.

Xia He immediately rejected the idea and said, “Absolutely not! For us, our dance shoes are custom-made according to the shape and size of our feet. We can’t give them as gifts too flippantly as it may cause injuries.”

This was the first time Qiao Mei had heard such a thing. After all, in her other life, she did not know much about dancing, so it was normal for her not to understand anything about it.

Qiao Mei felt unsure for a moment. It was easy to buy a gift for a girl. A beautiful dress could make a girl happy for a long time. Perhaps Xia Zhe would know what would be an appropriate gift for a boy.

“Qiao Mei, can you go shopping with me today?” Xia He asked as she looked at Qiao Mei expectantly.

Given that the families of the Xia family’s second and third sons were all gathered in the capital recently, everyone left the house early and returned late every day. Even though they lived in the capital, their house was located in the outskirts. They rarely traveled to the city center, so whenever they had a chance to do so, they would definitely take their time to walk around.