

Fat Wife 1271

Chapter 1271 Have A New Plan

"No wonder I've never seen these things before! So that's how it's done!" Qiao Mei said in realization.

Some days, Qiao Mei would see a few pig trotters for sale at the supply and marketing cooperative, but there were usually not many left, probably only one or two. It appeared that there were still a lot of things for her to learn!

"We can get someone to go and obtain it for you. The main thing is to see how you want to price your buns. Otherwise, we'll always be doing business at a loss," Xia Zhe said.

"Sigh... If only we are back in the village. In the city, we have to get up early to grab the things we want. If I'm in the village, I can ask Uncle Wang Wu for help and he will definitely put everything aside for me," Qiao Mei muttered aggrievedly.

Xia Zhe was lost for words for a moment. He wanted to bring Qiao Mei to the capital so that she could have a better life and live in a big house. However, this intention of his had caused Qiao Mei so much inconvenience that she was thinking about returning to the countryside. How could he allow that!

He must nip this idea in the bud! He would not let Qiao Mei return to where she came from.

pandasnovel.com This entire business idea was still a little risky and they should not rush it. They must think carefully about their plans for the future and should not do things in a moment of hotheadedness.

Qiao Mei actually still had many options to choose from. She could leave the popcorn business entirely to Zhao Fei. He had been taking care of business for the entire winter and knew very well where he could sell the most popcorn and where he would have the most sales.

It was almost spring soon and the seeds in the village were probably about ready for harvest. When the time came, she could take a portion of the stock meant for Director He and sell them in the capital herself.

"Oh right! You say that your comrades are all from different villages!" Qiao Mei widened her eyes and looked at Xia Zhe.

"Yes. They're all living in the villages now and just farming at home," Xia Zhe said.

Since these people all had their own land, Qiao Mei could sign an agreement with them to grow seeds! When the time came, she could then hire a few big trucks to go to the various villages to collect the seeds and bring them all to the capital to sell. That sounded like a win-win option!

However, if they collected seeds on such a large scale, production and packaging could not be done in their small courtyard anymore. The trucks would not be able to come into the alley anyway. It looked like Qiao Mei would need to go to the suburbs to buy a new house that was as big as the one He Ning had. I think you should take a look at pandasnovel.com

"Let's get Eldest Brother to help us buy another house!" Qiao Mei said happily.

"Have you forgotten what Eldest Brother said to you?" Xia Zhe said as he looked at Qiao Mei helplessly.

Not long ago, Xia Wen had instructed Qiao Mei not to even think about buying any more properties for the time being. It had only been a few days and Qiao Mei was about to break her promise. Furthermore, she still wanted to go and raise this issue with Xia Wen herself. Did she intend to anger Xia Wen to death?

"It's different! It's for business purposes! I want to buy a house in the suburbs! I want to buy big trucks too! I also need business partners!" Qiao Mei yelled out in good spirits.

Before Xia Zhe could react, Qiao Mei immediately got out of bed and went to the table to write down the plan she had in mind. She had too many things to do. If she took one more day to think about it, that meant she would delay her money-making venture by one more day. Every second counted!

It was not until after midnight that Qiao Mei was ready to go to bed. She planned to use this set of documents to impress Xia Wen tomorrow and convince him to help her look for a house. Such a meticulous plan would definitely satisfy Xia Wen!

Xia Zhe lay in bed and looked at Qiao Mei rushing around energetically. He felt that Qiao Mei was quite adorable at the moment. Back then, Qiao Mei's determination and perseverance was what made him fall for her. However, he would prefer it if Qiao Mei could rely on him more and not be so capable.

Qiao Mei only slept for four to five hours before getting up to prepare to meet with Xia Wen. She also dragged Xia Zhe up at the same time. Qiao Mei was scared that Xia Wen would get agitated and scold her, so she wanted to bring Xia Zhe along to brave the scolding together. With Xia Zhe around, Xia Wen definitely would not reprimand her. It was more likely that he would say that Xia Zhe was the problem.

"Let's go! Eldest Brother will have already left his accommodation by this time! Hurry up and come with me!" Qiao Mei pouted and said angrily.

"Coming, coming. What a little money-grubber!" Xia Zhe followed Qiao Mei resignedly and the two of them drove to Xia Wen's workplace.

Just like that, Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe stood at attention outside Xia Wen's office. There was still more than half an hour before Xia Wen was supposed to start work!

"Let's go straight to Eldest Brother's dormitory room to look for him. If we wait here, there's still a long time to go," Xia Zhe said as he looked at Qiao Mei with heartache.

Chapter 1272 Agreement

"It's not that long. Let's just continue to wait. We must show him that we have a good attitude! If not, Eldest Brother will criticize us again," Qiao Mei said sternly.

When Xia Wen saw the two of them, he even thought that he was hallucinating! He rubbed his eyes vigorously before confirming that they were really standing in front of him.

"You two... What are the two of you doing? Are you having a date at my office?" Xia Wen asked with a smile.

"Of course not! Eldest Brother! I have important documents to show you! This has to do with our family's livelihood! You must help me!" Qiao Mei looked at Xia Wen agitatedly.

Xia Wen was totally confused by what Qiao Mei said and quickly let the two of them enter his office. If they continued to stand in the corridor, they would attract the attention of his other colleagues.

"Tell me, why are the two of you looking for me so early in the morning?" Xia Wen asked.

Qiao Mei directly handed the documents she had prepared to Xia Wen. When Xia Wen read that the first item on the list was to buy a house, he could feel his blood pressure suddenly rising. However, as he read on, he felt that there was a real viability to the proposal.

However, if they bought a house now, the family members of the Xia family's third son definitely would not let them off. Those people would become very envious for sure! If they had the money to expand their business, then how could they say they did not have the money to help the third son's family tide through their current difficulties. It would not make sense.

"Have you given her some advice?" Xia Wen said as he looked at Xia Zhe.

Xia Zhe shook his head helplessly. There was no way he could stop Qiao Mei from doing what she wanted to do. Even if Xia Wen did not agree to help her, she would still think of a way to get it done.

"Eldest Brother! Don't you think that this is a good idea?" Qiao Mei asked pitifully.

"It's viable, but the maturity period of the seeds is fixed. I don't think your stockpile is going to be enough. Based on Auntie's past experience, she used to sell at least 40 pounds a day. You have 18 salespeople now, right? Even if each person sells 20 pounds per day, you need 360 pounds per day. The amount that you buy from your village is not even enough for a month," Xia Wen said sternly. I think you should take a look at

"Eldest Brother, you even know how many salespeople I have. I'm not even sure about the exact number myself..." Qiao Mei said as she looked at Xia Wen in surprise.

Xia Wen held the documents in his hand and snorted coldly. Did she think that he only sat here to drink tea every day? He knew all the businesses that Qiao Mei's family was doing like the back of his hand. Ever since his subordinates found out that Qiao Mei was a member of the Xia family, they had been secretly reporting Qiao Mei's movements to him every week.

It was not as if he was purposely keeping tabs on Qiao Mei. It was only because those people wanted to look good in front of Xia Wen. As time passed, Xia Wen knew everything that was going on and even knew the background of those salespeople.

"Then what about your popcorn business? Or are you going to just focus on one business?" Xia Wen asked.

Initially, she wanted to just focus on only one business, but now it seemed that she should run the two businesses at the same time first. She should wait until seed planting started at the other villages before she focused on only selling seeds.

"There's one more thing you have to remember. If you get those villagers to help you grow seeds, you must sign an agreement with them and tell them that they can only supply the seeds to you. If we find the seeds being sold on the black market or at other supply and marketing cooperatives, they will have to compensate you handsomely," Xia Wen said.

The type of seeds Qiao Mei had were of superior quality. Even if other people did not know how to control the heat and fry the seeds well, the taste and size were already much better than other seeds on the market. To maintain her business reputation for a long time, she must eliminate the possibility of fake goods appearing in the market. Only uniqueness could last forever.

"Alright. Then... then about the house..." Qiao Mei asked softly.

"I'll help you find it! The two of you are really something! It's not like you're doing something bad so why should I stop you? Wait for news from me. I'll try my best to find you a big house. If it's not possible, we can rent a piece of land and build it ourselves. As long as this is something you want to do, there's no problem," Xia Wen said.

"That's great! Thank you, Eldest Brother! I just know that you will definitely help us!" Qiao Mei said excitedly.

"Don't be so happy so soon! If anything happens, I won't help you. Xia Zhe will have to settle the issue with Third Uncle's family. I won't clean up your mess for you!" Xia Wen complained.

Chapter 1273 Come Over Immediately

Xia Zhe hugged Qiao Mei and said, "No problem! We definitely won't cause trouble for Eldest Brother!"

"Go back home now! Don't stay here and bother me! I still have a lot of work to do!" Xia Wen waved his hand and said disdainfully.

Before leaving, Xia Zhe stood at the door and said, "Eldest Brother, remember to come home when you have time. Xia Xing is always thinking of you! I don't know that kids can already recognize people at such a young age."

Xia Wen could not help but smile. He said gently, "Alright, I understand."

Recently, he had been so busy that he had forgotten about going back to visit the two babies. He did not intend to get married and have children anymore. He was about to turn 40 years old and did not want to be bothered with matters of the heart again.

It would be enough for him to see Xia Zhe's two children grow up. It appeared Xia He and Deng Fan seemed ready to discuss marriage plans soon. He was satisfied as long as his family was happy.

Qiao Mei hurriedly went home with Xia Zhe and asked him to quickly contact those people he knew. It would be best if there were people who knew how to drive. Only people like He Ning, who did not need anything, could stand living in such a sparsely populated area like the suburbs.

Qiao Mei still hoped that these people could live in the capital. This way, they could bring Li Gui along with them when they went to the suburbs every morning. Li Gui was already getting on in years, so it was better that she did not learn how to drive. She was so timid and might get scared out of her wits if she got into an accident.

pandasnovel.com Xia Zhe thought of three people at first instance. Chi Ze used to drive when he was in the army and was a meticulous and considerate person. Mao Hang used to work in the cookhouse, so he definitely had no problem with cooking. Also, Huang Xu was not bad either. He was very hardworking and capable.

"Then make the calls quickly! Ask them all to come over! Come with their families!" Qiao Mei said eagerly.

"Do you really want them to bring their entire family? They might bring many people with them!" Xia Zhe said. I think you should take a look at

After considering it, Qiao Mei felt that she could not be too generous for now. She must plan it out carefully. She should not let them live in her place for free. If they did not want to pay rent, then their salary would have to be lower. It was better to just put a price tag on it and charge them 15 dollars a month for rent. They could choose to rent multiple rooms or buy over the rooms, but this arrangement would only last until the end of this year for now.

If they wanted to buy the rooms, it was not up to them to say how many they wanted. They could only buy the number of rooms which tally with the number of children they had. The price definitely would not be the same as what Zhou Shuang and the rest paid. She would sell the rooms to them at market price so they could at least rest assured that they would not be making a loss.

"I think the rent for the first room should be 10 dollars a month. If their children want to have their own rooms, then the rent will be 15 dollars a month for each subsequent room. What do you think?" Xia Zhe said.

"I don't think that's a good idea! Aren't you just forcing all of them to live in the same room? Five dollars is enough for a family to eat for a week! Let's just fix it at 15 dollars per room. No matter how many people they squeeze inside it, it's still 15 dollars a room," Qiao Mei said.

Xia Zhe felt that what Qiao Mei said made sense, so he wrote all these things down and sent out three letters to the three men. He also left his contact information in the letters. Whether they agreed to the arrangement or not, they had to call him back.

A few days later, Xia Zhe received the first call. Chi Ze had a forthright personality and a loud voice. Just by hearing his voice over the phone, Xia Zhe could already tell how excited he was.

"Xiao Zhe! Is what you write in your letter true? My wife is so worried about this! That's why she asks me to call you quickly," Chi Ze shouted loudly.

"Yes, it's all true. We've already tidied up all the rooms. It all depends on whether you're willing to come and work with us. However, accommodation is not free. As I wrote in my letter, you can put it on credit for now and pay us back when you make money. If you can't manage to make any money, we won't ask you for a single cent," Xia Zhe said readily.

"Alright! Then wait for me! My wife and I will come to the capital to look for you immediately!" Chi Ze said happily.

The other two men had similar reactions to Chi Ze. Once they received the news, they immediately rushed to the capital from the countryside. They did not bring their children with them and left the children to their parents. After all, they did not know if they would be able to earn a lot of money. They could always bring the children and their parents over after they had settled down.

Chapter 1274 Fast Worker

They were all rushing over from various locations, so they would arrive in the capital at different times. Xia Zhe asked Luo Yu to arrange for them to stay together in the same courtyard house where Zhou Shuang was staying. He intended to hold a get-together session when everyone was present.

After another three to four days, the three families were all gathered in the courtyard house. They did not bring many things with them, only personal items which were easy to bring around. As for other items, they could always buy them in the capital after they earned money.

Everyone from these three families had nice personalities and good tempers. Furthermore, they were all from the army so they were all good at working cleanly and efficiently. On the day they arrived, Mao Hang and his wife had already cleaned up the entire courtyard and all the common areas. Initially, Zhou Shuang and Sun Juan were a little worried about these new neighbors, but now it seemed they need not have worried.

The guys all knew that Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe just celebrated the one-month milestone for their babies. The three of them could be considered these babies' uncles so they came to Qiao Mei's house with two bottles of good wine, four pig trotters, a box of fruits and two jars of imported powdered milk.

"Sister-in-law, the three of us are just rough men and don't know what the children might need. This is just a small token from us," Chi Ze said politely.

"Elder Brother Chi, what are you saying? You're all being very helpful to me by coming here to help us. Come in for a meal. Why aren't your wives here?" Qiao Mei said warmly.

The three of them had come over on their own today. They thought that bringing their wives along would make it seem like they wanted to take advantage of Xia Zhe's hospitality. That would not be not very nice, so they asked their wives to wait at home and not come along.

Qiao Mei hurriedly asked Xu Kang to go to that courtyard house to ask everyone to come over. She also invited Zhou Shuang and Sun Juan so that everyone could gather together. From now on, they were "one big family"!

After discussing the job scopes, they immediately started work the next day and went straight to the corn courtyard house to help Zhou Shuang clean up the storeroom. They cleaned up the entire courtyard very thoroughly. Everything was done even before Zhou Shuang and Sun Juan started work.

When Qiao Mei arrived, she was stunned at the sight. They must have started doing all these chores before dawn.

"Qiao Mei! If there's anything else you need us to do, just let us know!" Chi Ze said excitedly.

"Um... Elder Brother Chi, Sister Zhou and Sister Sun are in charge of these corn. If your wives want to do this job as well, they can come and help too. I'll pay them the same salary as Sister Zhou and the others. Your job is to fry the seeds and you will work in the backyard," Qiao Mei said. I think you should take a look at

Qiao Mei brought them in to clean up the backyard. Every part of the house had its own use. Today, their task was to buy a few big pots and bags to hold the seeds.

Nowadays, they could not just sell seeds at the entrance of the movie theater. They had to sell them at different venues. The most important thing right now was the packaging. It would be too inconvenient to use small cups to hold them. What if someone wanted to buy them to eat at home?

παΠδαςNovel.com Qiao Mei found that person who was related to Qian'e and asked her to make many packaging bags of various sizes for them to use. Each bag was marked with a price tag. She used the volume of the cup as the default size and the bags were made in different sizes to hold multiples of that default volume. They then priced it accordingly by applying the multiplier. In short, the unit price did not change.

At the moment, she had not decided on the brand name, but she did not let that delay the production process. She intended to keep thinking while they worked. She wanted to first try out and see if the packaged seeds would sell well.

After their discussion, the three men divided up their tasks and went their separate ways. They set up the stoves and pots within the same day. They also bought all the ingredients and were just waiting to learn how to stir-fry the seeds.

"Oh my goodness... You guys move so fast... I thought that it would take a week to complete all the tasks," Qiao Mei said as she looked at the backyard in shock.

She could not believe that everything was done in one day. Back then, it had taken her one whole day to set up one stove with Li Gui!

"I used to be a cookhouse staff! When we go on missions, we have to build our own stoves. As time passes, we get used to it. No matter what kind of stove you want, I know how to build it!" Mao Hang said confidently.

"We're all in a hurry to start earning money! When are we going to start learning how to stir-fry the seeds!" Huang Xu said as he looked at Qiao Mei expectantly.

"Let's do it tomorrow. My mother has the final say in these business matters. Later on, you can just look for my mother. We haven't started selling anything yet, but I can't let you work for free. Your salary will be one dollar a day for now. After we start to stir-fry the seeds, we'll tabulate by the pound. Whoever

stir-fries more seeds will earn more. The more you work, the more you earn," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

Chapter 1275 Cooking New Dishes

Even if they just helped Qiao Mei with these odd jobs every day, they would still get a salary of 30 dollars a month. It was money that they could not even earn in three months! It seemed that Xia Zhe had not lied to them. It was not a dream to earn more than 100 dollars a month!

"Thank you, sister-in-law!" the three of them said in unison.

Qiao Mei suddenly seemed to have thought of something. She called Huang Xu over and asked, "Elder Brother Huang, I understand that you know how to slaughter pigs?"

"Yes, I have done that in our village for a while," Huang Xu said honestly.

"I want to get some pig offal or something similar. Elder Brother Huang, do you think you can help me get some? There are farmers raising pigs near the suburbs, but I don't know how to go about doing this," Qiao Mei said with a troubled expression.

"No problem. Tell me what you need and I'll do it for you," Huang Xu said as he patted his chest.

Qiao Mei wrote down everything she wanted on a piece of paper. She would be glad if he could just help her get a few things on the list. After all, Huang Xu was still unfamiliar with the capital and it would be very difficult for him to get his hands on everything she wanted.

The next afternoon, Huang Xu brought his "spoils of war" to Qiao Mei's house. He got her everything she had listed down on that piece of paper, including pork liver, pig's head, pig's large and small intestines and pig's heart.

"Elder Brother Huang, how did you do it?" Qiao Mei said as she looked at the pig offal in the courtyard in shock.

People who slaughtered pigs knew the base price for these things and how to obtain them. As long as they went to the village to ask if there were any families who knew how to slaughter pigs, it was basically easy to solve the problem. The three of them had to go to four villages before they managed to collect everything, so it was not solely Huang Xu's efforts alone.

"Come into the house to take a rest! Elder Brother Huang, you must be exhausted!" Qiao Mei said.

"I'm fine, but sister-in-law, why do you need these things?" Huang Xu asked curiously.

Xia Zhe was from a prominent family so they should be able to afford meat. These pig offal were usually kept aside for those families who could not afford meat. What was Qiao Mei doing not using the good cuts of meat, but asking for such meat that was hard to handle?

"I just want to try making some new dishes!" Qiao Mei said embarrassedly.

So she wanted to cook delicious food for Brother Xia! This fellow Xia Zhe was really lucky. He married such a beautiful wife who not only knew how to do business, but she was also diligent and thrifty. She was really a rare find! I think you should take a look at

However, their own wives were also not too bad. Each of them had her own merits!

When Li Gui heard voices in the front yard, she came over to take a look. When she saw the pig offal, she was also a little shocked. However, Qiao Mei surely had her reasons for wanting these things, so she did not ask further.

Qiao Mei looked at both the large and small intestines in the basin and started to feel worried. In her other life, the large and small intestines she bought were ready-to-use ingredients which had already been cleaned up and processed. She had never seen the large and small intestines in their original state and still with feces in them. For a moment, she did not know how to start.

What if the intestines burst open when she cut them on both ends... then the entire courtyard would be ruined...

Li Gui smiled happily when she saw Qiao Mei rooted to the spot. She had yet to see anything that Qiao Mei did not know how to handle! She did not expect Qiao Mei, who seemed to know everything, to be worried over something.

"Let me handle these things. You can go and deal with the rest," Li Gui said.

"These things are very dirty. Mom, do you know how to do it? If there's really no other way, let's find someone to come and do it," Qiao Mei said with a frown.

"Don't worry, I know how to do this," Li Gui said.

In the village, whenever pigs were slaughtered, all these parts of the pigs were like treasures. Basically, all the women in the village knew how to handle these pig offal. It was a piece of cake to them.

Qiao Mei looked at the remaining parts and continued to feel worried. It was really difficult to clean them. Qiao Mei decided to ask Mao Hang for help and he did not take long to clean up everything.

Satisfied, she went to the kitchen to mix a special sauce. Currently, the only seasonings that could be bought in the market were salt, peppercorn and star anise. She still needed to go to the Chinese medicine shop to buy the rest of what she needed.

Qiao Mei did not buy too much. She still did not know if she would succeed in making it! She could only try the combinations one by one and let everyone judge which sauce was the most delicious.

At night, more than 10 dishes appeared on the dining table. There were stir-fried pig intestines in sauce, stir-fried pig intestines with capers, pig's heart soup, and so on. Every dish was made from pig offal.

Chapter 1276 A Table Full Of Braised Intestines

"Mei Mei, this entire table of meat dishes is really too greasy. I don't think my body can take it," Qiao Qiang said with a troubled expression.

"I have already prepared a plate of vegetables for you! You can just try a bit of each dish and give me your feedback," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

During this period of time, Qiao Mei was busy with all these things at home and the two babies had also moved back to her house with her. Xia Zhe was the one who stayed at home every day to take care of the children, not Qiao Mei.

When the neighbors saw this, they were all locked in a heated discussion. They had not heard of the woman going out to work while the man took care of the children at home. However, Qiao Mei did not care about the opinions of these people at all. They could say whatever they wanted. It was none of her business as long as they did not stop her from making money.

Xia Wen came to Qiao Mei's place as soon as he got off work. He even brought along many toys for the two children. From the moment the children were born until now, the toys which Xia Wen had bought for them could already fill up every inch of the two children's rooms! He had almost brought back every item available in the toy shop!

"I can already smell the fragrance from the door. What is it that smells so good?" Xia Wen asked.

παΠdαsNovel.com "Eldest Brother, you're here at the right time. Come and take a look at my new dish! Braised intestines!" Qiao Mei said confidently.

"I never expected you to like things with such strong taste... Don't tell me you only made braised intestines?" Xia Wen looked at Qiao Mei fearfully.

Qiao Mei never expected that Xia Wen did not like to eat such things and said with a troubled expression, "You can eat vegetables with my grandfather then! There's a lot of stir-fried vegetables in the kitchen!"

After everyone finished eating Qiao Mei's dishes, they were full of praise for her. Qiao Mei numbered all the flavors and asked everyone to vote for the one they liked the most. She would solely focus on that flavor from now on!

"I thought you're going to sell seeds? Why are you doing this as well?" Xia Wen asked.

"The more the merrier! Will anyone think that having more money is a bothersome thing?" Qiao Mei said.

"Eldest Brother, it's not like you don't know that my wife is a little money-grubber. As long as it's something related to earning money, she's always the first one there," Xia Zhe said laughingly. I think you should take a look at

Xia Zhe had only recently discovered that Qiao Mei was like a little god of wealth. As long as it was something related to earning money, Qiao Mei could always seize the business opportunity promptly.

Xia Wen gave Qiao Mei a brief update about the search for the factory. Qiao Qiang was not interested in such things and brought the four children out for a walk in the park.

The rest of the group were looking forward to having this matter settled as soon as possible. Although they had already rented the factory, the fixtures and fittings were really too old and could no longer be used. They still had to find professionals to do some repairs.

Since she was going into the food business, she must pay particular attention to the hygiene aspect. People in this era did not have an awareness of such things at the moment, but in the future, this would be a major issue. For the sake of their future, Qiao Mei intended to have strict requirements right from the beginning.

Otherwise, it would be too late when someone reported her to the authorities!

Many enterprises failed due to the issue of food safety, so Qiao Mei could not afford to be careless at all.

After many days, the day finally came for Qian'e to be discharged from the hospital. Ever since Zheng Peng fainted, there had been no news of him at all. Luo Yu brought her straight to the courtyard house where Zhou Shuang and the rest lived. Qiao Mei was already waiting for her there.

"I know you don't want to return to the place you used to stay. This is my house. The people living in the front yard are all my friends. They're all nice people and won't hurt you. I know you're not used to living

with so many people, so I've arranged for your room to be in the backyard. You're the only one living in the backyard," Qiao Mei said.

Qian'e held Qiao Mei's hand and said slowly, "You... don't have to do this for me..."

"When I met with the accident back then, if you hadn't stayed at my house to take care of my grandfather and my mother, they probably could not cope. You've helped me so much, so why don't you let me help you? Aren't we good friends for life? Or are you still eyeing Xia Zhe?" Qiao Mei said jokingly.

"Thank you," Qian'e said.

"Why are you thanking me? If you really want to thank me, then come and help me! I have so many businesses but no one to help me! Aren't you already thinking of getting a new job?" Qiao Mei said.

Chapter 1277 Doing Business Together

Qian'e had not thought about this matter yet. She really needed money now, but she did not know if she could help Qiao Mei solve the problem at hand.

"Come and take a look at your room first. I've already furnished it simply for you but I'm not sure if you'd like it." Qiao Mei brought Qian'e to the largest room in the backyard.

There was a huge white wardrobe, a single bed and a beautiful dressing table inside. Of course Qiao Mei did not forget her favorite piano. Qiao Mei had specially gotten someone to move it over from her previous place.

Even if Qian'e gave up everything, she would not give up this piano. She had worked hard to move this piano from her parents' house! It had accompanied her for many years.

"I don't think you have everything you need yet. When you've rested enough, let's go shopping together with my elder sister," Qiao Mei said happily.

"What... do you need me to do?" Qian'e asked hesitantly.

At the moment, Qiao Mei was the only person she could communicate with. However, she needed to speak very slowly. If she spoke too fast, she would get nervous and might even choke on her own saliva.

"It's very simple. My mother already cannot cope on her end. She needs someone to help her make the popcorn. You won't have to interact with too many people. You just need to make the popcorn and let it cool before bagging everything up. The thing is you're the only one doing everything yourself," Qiao Mei said.

"Do you need... a lot of... popcorn?" Qian'e asked.

"No need. We will just sell whatever amount you make. I'll pay you for the work done," Qiao Mei said.

Since it was so simple, Qian'e decided to give it a try. As long as she did not have to interact with people, she should be able to complete the task. Qiao Mei had previously already told her how much money she could earn in a month. She needed to work hard to earn money to pay Qiao Mei back for the medical expenses and also to buy this room.

"Can I ask you... for a favor?" Qian'e said embarrassedly.

"Tell me. As long as it's something I can do, I'm willing to try," Qiao Mei said patiently.

"Can you help me sell my old place? I don't want to live there anymore," Qian'e said disheartenedly. I think you should take a look at

Qiao Mei thought about it and said, "I think you should consider renting out that place. It can only be sold for a few hundred dollars at most, not a particularly high price. But if you rent it out, you'll receive money every month. Won't that be additional income for you?"

Qian'e knew that Qiao Mei was trying to help her, but she did not have the courage to return to that place. It was not appropriate for her to trouble Qiao Mei with such a complicated matter. After all, she was the legal owner. If she really wanted to rent it out, she must be the one to handle all these matters.

"Let's just sell it..." Qian'e said firmly.

"Alright, then I'll get my eldest brother for help. You don't have to worry about this matter. Have a good rest first. There's no hurry to go to work. You can start whenever you're ready," Qiao Mei said as she patted Qian'e on the shoulder.

During this period of time, Qiao Mei kept asking Huang Xu to obtain pig offal from all the villages and she tried his best to come up with different flavors. She only stopped the experiments when she had decided on three types. She packed each type into separate bags and planned to get Zhao Fei and his team of guys to try selling them tomorrow to see if it was a viable business .

They already sold popcorn and seeds. Was it any different to sell braised meat? As long as it was a lucrative job, Zhao Fei and his team would be willing to do it.

It did not matter how much they earned. What was important was that they have a guaranteed job with Qiao Mei and she definitely would not let them suffer any losses.

"Mom, how much money have we made recently?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

Li Gui quietly pulled Qiao Mei into the room and took down a metal box from the beam. She said mysteriously, "Guess how much money I have here?"

"3,000 dollars?" Qiao Mei guessed.

Li Gui shook her head smugly. She suddenly opened the box and the money inside bounced out like there was a spring underneath.

"This is 8,000 dollars! I made a lot of money this month! I planned to use this money to buy goods, so I didn't put it in the bank," Li Gui said with a smile.

"I never expected you to be so forward thinking. You're quite something! It seems that I have actually inherited my business acumen from you!" Qiao Mei said.

Chapter 1278 Cannot Have Both

"What are you talking about! I'm not that capable. You... might have taken after your father. I picked up all these skills from you!" Li Gui said embarrassedly.

"You can keep this money. I still have enough money. When the time comes, we can use this as our initial capital. Otherwise, it'll be difficult to settle the accounts," Qiao Mei said with a smile.

"How can we do that! I keep all the money while the capital comes from you. Then aren't you making a loss?" Li Gui said.

"Look at it this way, our business is getting bigger and bigger now. I'm the person in charge of all these businesses. In the hierarchy, I'm the boss! You're my deputy! The money I'm providing this time is all we have for now. In the future, we have to do the accounts every day!" Qiao Mei's vivid description made Li Gui laugh. She made it sound as if they were operating in a bandits' nest.

Ever since Li Gui was determined to make a name for herself, she had started attending classes with the children. She had learned many different things and now knew how to settle accounts and write. She also knew how to write down the details related to business matters. She might not be good with other things, but it was enough for now.

"I'll take note of it. I'll also do the accounts well. That'll make it easier for you to check later," Li Gui said with a smile.

She took out all the small change from the box and put the money back properly before returning the box to its original place. The small change would come in useful when they needed to give change to customers.

It was rare for Qiao Mei to come and sit in Li Gui's room for a while. In the past, she did not even have time to observe the interior properly. She did not know that Li Gui had printed out their family photo and hung it on the wall. There were also many other photos of some of their most unforgettable moments.

"Mom, when did you do all this?" Qiao Mei asked curiously.

"When I found out that Xia Fan and Xia Xing were born. I passed by a photo studio and they told me what I need to prepare for them to print the photos. Isn't it nice?" Li Gui asked.

"Yes, I have already forgotten that we have previously taken so many photos," Qiao Mei said, feeling touched.

Xia Wen had a camera that he specially brought along to take photos at family gatherings. They would take many photos each time. However, Xia Wen was usually very busy and everyone had their own things to do, so no one went to get the photos developed.

Another important reason was that it was very expensive. It cost 50 cents to develop one photo. An amount of 50 cents could buy two pounds of pork! Who would spend 50 cents on a photo for no reason? I think you should take a look at

The owner of the photo studio must be overjoyed to see Li Gui. It was definitely not a small transaction since Li Gui developed so many photos.

αΠδαςNovel.com After putting away the things, Li Gui looked at Qiao Mei and asked, "Mei Mei, have you thought about what you want Qian'e to do here?"

"I'm thinking about giving her the popcorn business. It's up to her to decide on the quantity she wants to make. However, we can't just give it to her for free. Let's split it 40-60. After all, we're the ones providing the raw materials and recipe," Qiao Mei said after thinking carefully.

Li Gui also agreed with this plan. The popcorn business was still doing very well now, but it was almost the Spring Festival soon and every family would start to buy new year goodies. Popcorn would definitely not be as profitable as seeds at that time.

One always had to give up something to gain something else. One could not have one's cake and eat it too. Li Gui decided to choose whatever was more important to her. This way, it would not take up too much of her energy.

Li Gui now had a lot of money every month. She was no longer the person who had to spend every cent carefully. She did not even hesitate when she had to buy things that cost 100 to 200 dollars.

However, she still adhered to the principle of being frugal. Even if her family was rich now, they could not be extravagant. She provided the children with the best when it came to material items, but when it came to their daily living expenses, she still maintained the same principle as when they were poor in the past.

She could live frugally, but she could not be frugal with the children's knowledge. Li Gui was very willing to spend money on things related to the children's education. She just hoped that these children would be successful in the future.

"No problem. I'll take your lead on these matters," Li Gui said.

"In the future, you'll have to take care of the braised meat, seeds and popcorn businesses! I have to focus on taking care of Xia Fan and Xia Xing," Qiao Mei said as she held Li Gui's hand.

"That's a lot. I can't handle them all by myself. I can't be the one making decisions!" Li Gui said worriedly.

Chapter 1279 All Business People Are Profiteers

Although Li Gui had bought her current small house from Qiao Mei, she was always afraid that someone would set them up behind their backs and it would then implicate the Xia family. It had not been easy for Qiao Mei to build up their current family business. What if she messed it up?

"At most we'll just lose some money. But look at our family business, does it look like we will lose money? Don't worry and just go ahead and do it. As for the salaries for Xia Zhe's three friends and how you and Qian'e want to split the profits in the future, I'm not going to care anymore! I'm going to be a hands-off boss!" Qiao Mei said happily.

"Sure, sure, sure! I'll earn more money to buy toys for Xia Fan and Xia Xing!" Li Gui said.

Qiao Mei wanted to work harder before the Spring Festival so that everyone could make more money and spend more freely during the new year. After the new year period, they could also take a break and need not be so busy every day.

While Chi Ze and Li Gui looked into the matter of the seeds, Mao Hang and Huang Xu became very familiar with the matter of handling the pig offal. During this period of time, both of them helped to collect and buy these things.

Many slaughterhouses actually had a lot of leftover pig offal. One could get hold of it by making use of connections. Then where did such connections come from? Naturally, one could slowly build them up with time and effort.

Very quickly, Qiao Mei managed to make contact with a large slaughterhouse in the suburbs. The boss's surname was also Qiao so she was in luck.

She went there early in the morning with Xia Zhe to visit Director Qiao. They hung around at the main entrance, waiting for the employees to start work so that they could go in and take a look.

Many slaughterhouses were not up to standard when it came to hygiene. If they happened to buy spoiled pig offal and something bad happened to the people who ate Qiao Mei's food, they would not be able to bear the responsibility.

"Is your boss around?" Xia Zhe asked as he knocked on the glass panel of the guardhouse.

Unexpectedly, the other party did not want to be bothered with him at all. The guard opened the window impatiently and asked, "Do you have an appointment?"

Xia Zhe looked at the guard in shock. Did he need to make an appointment to meet the factory director of the slaughterhouse? Was it going to be as difficult as meeting the leader of a country?

"No, we're here to pay him a visit," Xia Zhe said.

"Our factory director is very busy. If you don't have an appointment slot, our factory director won't see you. You should go back and fix an appointment before coming back." After saying that, the guard closed the window and went back to playing poker. I think you should take a look at

Xia Zhe returned to the car with a resigned expression. He suddenly realized that without the halo effect of being part of the Xia family, he was nothing. He could not even enter this place's main door.

"What's wrong? What did they say to you?" Qiao Mei asked.

"They say that we don't have an appointment slot. We need to make an appointment with Director Qiao before coming to the factory to look for him," Xia Zhe said.

Qiao Mei looked at the main door and suddenly had an idea. She quickly hopped out from the car and went to the guardhouse. With just a few words, she settled the matter and they even politely invited Qiao Mei in.

Qiao Mei secretly made a victory sign at Xia Zhe. On the way in, Xia Zhe asked curiously, "What did you say to them? Why did they agree so quickly?"

"I said that I'm Director Qiao's niece. Do I still need to make an appointment to see my uncle?" Qiao Mei said smugly.

"They believe it just like that? No way?" Xia Zhe looked at Qiao Mei in disbelief.

"Of course not. They asked me to provide evidence, so I briefly described Director Qiao's appearance and then they believed that I was telling the truth. They were even very respectful to me after that," Qiao Mei said.

Before Qiao Mei came, she had done her homework. It was not difficult for her to find out what Director Qiao looked like. She had arranged for someone to wait here for a few days and finally managed to take a photo of Director Qiao.

Qiao Mei had never fought a battle which she had no confidence to win. If she did not make any preparations at all, did that not mean that everything would have to rely entirely on luck alone? In such a case, the chances of success were too low.

Xia Zhe handled everything else very well, but when it came to the wily ways of the world, Xia Zhe was not well-versed in it. This was somewhat related to the Xia family's values. Most of the Xia family members were in the military and it was in their blood to be upright and brave. They would never lie to others to gain achievements.

However, it was different for Qiao Mei. She was a businesswoman and there was a common saying about how "all business people are profiteers". Cunningness was the essential quality of a good business person.

Xia Zhe looked at Qiao Mei with loads of admiration. The two of them really complement each other!

Chapter 1280 She Is My Niece

At this moment, Director Qiao was playing with his parrot in his office! He did not have any other hobbies except drinking tea, admiring flowers and playing with birds.

During this era, the slaughterhouse business was booming as the supply simply could not meet the demand. As farmers were not allowed to raise pigs in bulk on their own, they needed to specially set up an area to raise pigs and then bring them to the slaughterhouses to be killed. Everything was very scarce.

People begged him to share some meat with them every day. He did not need to show respect to anyone at all. Instead, others had to be very respectful to him! He did not need to entertain anyone either. He just needed to do his job every day and then take a bigger portion of the profit. That would be enough for him to live out the rest of his life.

Along the way, Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe were not by themselves. There were also two security officers escorting them to Director Qiao's office. They were still suspicious of the couple's identities. If Qiao Mei was not Director Qiao's relative, they could immediately atone for their mistake and chase Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe out.

"When we go in later, just keep nodding your head vigorously, do you understand?" Qiao Mei stood at the door of Director Qiao's office and whispered to Xia Zhe.

Xia Zhe nodded obediently with the two gift boxes in his hand. This had a direct impact on Qiao Mei's future business so he had to be fully focused. He must complete it as if it was a mission!

They had chosen the gifts based on Director Qiao's preferences. One of the gift boxes contained a superior 12-item tea set in the style used by the noble class during the Song dynasty. This was a rare treasure and also an antique. It was something that ordinary people would not be able to get their hands on!

Qiao Mei had obtained this tea set by chance. Initially, she wanted to give it to Qiao Qiang, but Qiao Qiang already had a black-glazed teacup that he cherished very much. Besides, Qiao Qiang did not care for such things, so she decided to give it to Director Qiao instead.

The other gift was superior Pu'er tea. These were rare treasures that many people could not get their hands on!

Qiao Mei took a deep breath and put on a bright smile on her face. She knocked politely on the door and pushed it open.

"Uncle Qiao, long time no see! Do you still remember me? I miss you so much!" Qiao Mei said warmly as she walked to Director Qiao's side.

pandasnovel.com Director Qiao looked at Qiao Mei in puzzlement. Why did he not remember having such a niece? During festive seasons, even the most distant relatives would send gifts to his family. No matter what festival it was, they would come to gather around whenever they had the chance. I think you should take a look at

However, Director Qiao really had no impression of Qiao Mei at all. It was not all that surprising to him. He did not know all his relatives, and he could not even remember what his own sister's son looked like.

"You..." Director Qiao said hesitantly.

"It's me! Uncle Qiao! Don't you remember me? I'm Qiao Mei!" Qiao Mei said excitedly.

Director Qiao was originally from the countryside and there were many people in the village whose names were Mei, Juan, Yan and Jun. It would not be surprising if this person really turned out to be his relative. Furthermore, he was too embarrassed to reject Qiao Mei in front of everyone.

If Qiao Mei was really his relative, he would be so embarrassed if people heard that he could not even recognize his own niece. If word got out, they would say that he was too arrogant! He was going to retire in a few years and he could not afford to make any mistakes at this juncture!

"Ah... I remember, I remember! You're from that family! How can I not remember! This must be your husband," Director Qiao asked as he looked at Xia Zhe.

"Yes! I just know that Uncle Qiao will definitely remember me! You remember everything the moment I mention it. They even said that I was lying just now! If I hadn't insisted that you are my uncle, they would have left me outside the main door!" Qiao Mei said aggrievedly.

"It's fine, it's fine. I'll reprimand them later! What are you waiting for! Get out! Don't hold me back from catching up with my niece and niece-in-law!" Director Qiao said as he pretended to be angry.

The two security officers were so frightened that they quickly closed the door and left the office. If Director Qiao flew into a rage, the two of them might not even be able to keep their jobs! Director Qiao had the most terrifying temper!

After the outsiders left, Director Qiao sized Qiao Mei up carefully. She was quite beautiful and did not look like a woman who had grown up in the countryside. Moreover, this man had a dignified and imposing bearing. At one glance, he looked like a soldier. The two of them definitely had some sort of backing and were not just commoners.