

Fat Wife 1491

Chapter 1491 Unique Taste

"I've arranged for two of our guys to keep an eye on him. There shouldn't be any issues. Anyway, it doesn't matter even if he really wants to create trouble. We'll have eyewitnesses," Zhao Wu said sternly.

Zhao Wu may look silly, but he was actually very smart! He was definitely not who he seemed to be. Otherwise, Xia Zhe would not have been friends with him for so long.

Sometimes, Xia Zhe secretly wondered about his own judgment of people. What made him become friends with Zhao Wu back then?

Just as Xia Zhe and Zhao Wu were thinking of ways to deal with Du Jun, the man came knocking on their door himself.

"Commander Xia, you're awake! It's so hard to get a chance to see you," Du Jun said agitatedly.

The corners of Xia Zhe's mouth twitched. Du Jun's tone of voice and his expression made it sound as if Xia Zhe had just woken up from a vegetative state.

"That's true! Ordinary people really can't get to meet Xia Zhe. He has so many things to do every day and everything requires his approval. I don't even get to see Xia Zhe often. Brother Du. it's good that you also know Xia Zhe works very hard!" Zhao Wu held onto Du Jun and talked to him like they were close friends.

"Oh, I don't know that Commander Xia has it so tough..." Du Jun said awkwardly.

"Yes, my subordinates told me that you came early in the morning. I had just finished patrolling the camp then and could not receive you properly. I'm really sorry about that," Xia Zhe said politely.

"Don't say that. We're all brothers. Your troops are like my troops. It's only right that I take good care of you," Du Jun said with a smile.

Zhao Wu and Xia Zhe looked at each other. It would appear that Du Jun was here to share the credit for Xia Zhe's first-class merit award. In the military, those who made major contributions would be rewarded with bonus awards and merit medals. The award recipient's troops would also receive bonuses or promotions. The cash bonus was at least 100 dollars per person!

Even if Du Jun was not here for himself, he was here for his troops. Only Du Jun could be so shameless as to freeload on other people to get a bonus.

The fact was that such a good opportunity was not easy to come by. This village was not exactly a small one. It was a key military town where troops would stop by to take a rest after their missions, so it was a very important place.

However, a village was still just a village. How could it be compared to the capital? Du Jun's dream was to be posted to the capital.

"Is that so?" Xia Zhe said, looking intrigued.

When Zhao Wu saw the look in Xia Zhe's eyes, he slipped out of the tent when Du Jun was distracted. After that, he asked the other squad leaders to go over to his tent for a meeting.

"Company Commander Zhao, why do you ask to see us so urgently? Is it because that Du guy is making things difficult for our Commander Xia!" Squad Leader Liu said.

"Something like that. That asshole actually said that all of you are also part of his troops. If Xia Zhe wasn't there, I would have rushed forward to beat that guy up!" Zhao Wu said disdainfully.

"What a joke! We're all Commander Xia's soldiers! Who does that guy think he is! How dare he speak like this in our territory!" Squad Leader Liu said angrily.

"In that case, let's teach him a lesson. We definitely can't let Du Jun get too comfortable here! Tell your subordinates to stay alert. If I find out that there are any slackers among us, I definitely won't let that person off! I won't let any of you off easily either!" Zhao Wu said.

Everyone looked at Zhao Wu firmly and said, "Noted!"

Zhao Wu waved his hand and dismissed them. He was doing this behind Xia Zhe's back and they must not let him find out about it. However, even if Xia Zhe found out, it was no big deal. Xia Zhe had always acquiesced in such matters. As long as the matter did not blow up too much, Xia Zhe would not reprimand them.

When it was mealtime, Xia Zhe led Du Jun to the canteen for dinner. The head chef beamed when he saw Xia Zhe and scooped a lot of braised pork onto the plate. This was Xia Zhe's favorite dish.

Du Jun and Xia Zhe ordered the same dishes. It was very clear what the head chef thought of Du Jun. There were only three pieces of meat in his serving of braised pork with a lot of sauce. Those who did not know better would think that Du Jun liked to drink braised pork sauce!

"Oh my! Brother Du, you have such unique taste. You like to eat soupy rice! I'll tell the head chef to cook more dishes with sauce in the future!" Zhao Wu said excitedly.

Chapter 1492 The Last Night

"No..." Du Jun wanted to explain further, but Zhao Wu had already run straight to the head chef in a nosy manner. Xia Zhe lowered his head and smiled. Zhao Wu was very good at doing such things which left people speechless.

"Don't mind him. He's a really warm-hearted person. Many soldiers receive help from Zhao Wu when their families back home run into trouble. He's just doing this because he wants you to eat well here. Don't take it to heart. If there's anything you need, you can tell him. He will definitely help you solve all your problems," Xia Zhe said with a stoic expression.

If Xia Zhe said that Zhao Wu was doing this out of kindness, then what else could Du Jun say? He could only grit his teeth and bear with it. Other than Du Jun, the rest of the soldiers who came with him were given the exact same food as Xia Zhe's subordinates. They only had a personal grudge against Du Jun and would not take it out on the other soldiers.

He Mei had behaved herself over the past few days. Xia Zhe had also asked around and found out a lot of information. He Mei did not just arrive recently but had been stationed here for a long time. Her time here was even longer than his mission period. Could it be that she had really relied on her own abilities to escape from that mountainous location where she was sent to?

Yao Nian had previously written to Xia Zhe to highlight that He Mei had already left the mountain area. However, at that time, he was only focused on Qiao Mei giving birth to the babies. By now, he already could not remember what Yao Nian had written in the letter.

Xia Zhe still had his doubts about He Mei and would not let his guard down. He instructed Xiao Jian to keep an eye on the tent and that no one was allowed to enter or leave his tent without his permission.

Just as Qiao Mei had told him before, if any woman's undergarments were found in his tent or if a naked woman suddenly appeared from nowhere, he would never be able to explain himself out of it.

Qiao Mei was the one who told him about the possibility of such things. In the past, he could never imagine anyone being so vicious.

After treading cautiously through another week, Xia Zhe finally made it to the last night before he set off for the capital. He could finally go home and see his wife and children. Just thinking about it made him feel blissful.

He wondered how much the children had grown, whether they could talk yet, and whether they ate well. When he left, Xia Fan and Xia Xing's little faces were still wrinkly and not that cute, but they should look drastically different by now. He wondered if they would be able to recognize him.

Thinking of this, he could not help but smile. He was in a rush this time round and did not have time to buy anything for the children. Once he reached the capital, he would definitely buy them many toys and fill up the entire house!

Xia Zhe did not know that Xia Wen had already done all these things for him. Xia Zhe had even filled up one of the other empty houses with toys and also bought a lot of clothes for the children.

Qiao Mei was often worried that Xia Zhe's current mission would take too long. If Xia Zhe did not come back soon, the two children might even look at Xia Wen and call him Dad!

Du Jun specially organized a bonfire party to bid farewell to Xia Zhe and he invited everyone to attend. Xia Zhe was unable to decline the invitation, so he could only bite the bullet and attend the event.

No one knew if it was Du Jun's arrangement or He Mei's own idea, but He Mei sat right opposite Xia Zhe. Every time Xia Zhe looked up, he would definitely see He Mei.

"Commander Xia! Don't you think that the woman over there is good-looking! Do you want to be with her tonight?" Du Jun whispered into Xia Zhe's ear.

Xia Zhe frowned slightly. He did not expect Du Jun to be a person who would say such things. It looked like this was not the first time Du Jun had done such a thing. He wondered how many women Du Jun had already harmed previously.

"That's my friend's younger sister," Xia Zhe said.

Du Jun said in shock, "Oh! Is that so! Then forget it. I never expected her to be Commander Xia's old acquaintance. She's so beautiful though."

It was not that Xia Zhe wanted to protect He Mei, but there was no need for him to use such a method to take revenge on a woman. He would only do things that were aboveboard.

After three rounds of drinking, many people got drunk. Xia Zhe continued to sit there expressionlessly. Zhao Wu got drunk and went back to his tent.

Du Jun had prepared a lot of liquor. He had already asked around about Xia Zhe's capacity for alcohol and knew that he would not be able to beat Xia Zhe. Fortunately, he had brought a special weapon with him!

"Commander Xia, since you're heading back soon, we must have a good drinking session together. After all, I don't know when we'll meet again!" Du Jun said.

"If you want to see me, you can come to the capital to look for me anytime," Xia Zhe said.

Chapter 1493 Drugged

"Alright! If you say so!" Du Jun said excitedly.

Xia Zhe nodded slightly and said, "I'm going to the bathroom. Excuse me."

He made a huge detour to avoid Du Jun's subordinates. After confirming that no one was looking for him, he returned to his tent. Unexpectedly, not long after he sat down, Xiao Jian came to look for him urgently.

"What's wrong?" Xia Zhe asked.

"Commander Xia, Du Jun is looking for you everywhere! He's heading here soon! He's going to turn the entire camp inside out!" Xiao Jian said.

Xia Zhe sighed deeply and wondered why he had to encounter such an unreasonable person. Zhao Wu should not have drank so much that he could not be around to handle this! When they went back to their base, he must train up Zhao Wu's capacity for alcohol!

Xia Zhe went out from the back end of the tent and played hide and seek with Du Jun for a while before returning to the canteen. Du Jun held up a glass and said drunkenly, "Brother Xia, where did you go! I've been looking for you for such a long time! Come! Let's continue drinking!"

"We can't drink anymore. There are already too many guys drunk tonight. If an enemy launches an attack and all of us are drunk, won't that be a disaster?" Xia Zhe said.

Du Jun nodded in agreement. He picked up another glass of liquor and said, "Then just have one last drink with me!"

Xia Zhe took the glass. When he was about to drink it, he realized that the liquor was different from what they drank just now. This glass had a slight fishy smell. Du Jun was actually trying to drug him!

glass had a slight fishy smell. Du Jun was actually trying to drug him!

Even if he put down the glass now, he did not have any conclusive evidence to prove that it was Du Jun who did it. Du Jun would just find a scapegoat and then escape. Right now, he could only beat Du Jun at his own game and see what he had in mind.

Xia Zhe touched the pendant on the necklace around his neck. Qiao Mei had given it to him before he left and there was some golden liquid inside. From the smell, he could tell that it was the same "divine medicine" made by Qiao Mei, but the effect should be much better than the green liquid and could save his life at a critical moment. When he was on the mission in the mountain area, he had relied on Qiao Mei's normal medicinal wine to save many lives. It looked like Qiao Mei was going to save his life right now.

"Drink up! Look, I've finished mine!" Du Jun urged.

"Sure!" Xia Zhe downed the liquor in his glass in one gulp. At the same time, he drank Qiao Mei's "divine medicine" without allowing Du Jun to see what he did. After drinking the liquor, Xia Zhe could taste blood in his throat and also felt a little dizzy. Not long after, the taste in his mouth was replaced by the fragrance of ginseng. It appeared that the antidote had worked.

However, he still needed to put on an act. He appeared dizzy and looked like he was going to fall on Du Jun. Du Jun quickly arranged for someone to carry Xia Zhe back to his tent and then he even chased Xiao Jian out. He said that he would personally take care of Xia Zhe's safety tonight.

Xiao Jian was ranked lower than Du Jun, so he had to follow Du Jun's orders.

"Hurry up and check if he's still breathing!" Du Jun said disdainfully.

The person beside Du Jun hurriedly went forward to check Xia Zhe's breathing and replied softly, "He's still breathing. He's not dead."

"Then hurry up and do what you need to do!" Du Jun turned around after saying that.

Xia Zhe lay motionlessly on the bed. He did not expect Du Jun to be able to hide things so well and even have an accomplice with him. He had already thoroughly investigated all the people whom Du Jun brought along. This person beside Du Jun must have snuck in today.

Just as that person was about to make his move, Xia Zhe jumped up. First, he went for Du Jun, who was turned away from the bed, and knocked him unconscious. Then, he grabbed the man who was trying to escape.

"Tell me! What exactly are you doing here!" Xia Zhe said fiercely.

"I'm sorry! I'm sorry! Please be magnanimous and let me go! I'm only here because they told me to do it. I'm being made use of. Please don't kill me!" the man said fearfully.

Xia Zhe checked the condition of the man's body and muscles and let go only after confirming that he was not a soldier or a professional assassin. This man was so weak that he would not be able to run too far even if he wanted to. He was not a threat to Xia Zhe at all.

"I won't kill you, but you have to tell me who you are," Xia Zhe said.

"My name is Cao Liang, I'm a doctor. I used to work at a small clinic in the capital. I'm forced to do this! I'm not the one who planned this!" Cao Liang said as he knelt on the ground out of fear.

<nulli>The capital? Forced to do this? It was unexpected to hear that this matter was related to the capital. If so, the purpose of Du Jun's visit this time round was definitely not as simple as seeking credit.

Chapter 1494 Intrauterine Conception

"What did they ask you to do? Why did you try to take off my pants just now? What's the drug that I was given?" Xia Zhe said sternly.

Xia Zhe had taken an antidote, but he did not know what the actual poison was. He still needed Cao Liang to give him the answers.

Cao Liang knelt on the ground and did not dare to make a sound. The questions which Xia Zhe asked him could cost him his life. If he really answered all the questions truthfully, he could forget about staying alive!

"Consider it carefully. If you tell me about what happened, I'll punish you lightly. At most, you'll go to jail for a few days. If you don't say anything at all, you should know the consequences," Xia Zhe said as he looked at Cao Liang seriously.

"You... you're just a battalion commander. Can you really guarantee my safety?" Cao Liang asked.

Xia Zhe raised his eyebrows slightly. <nulli>Could it be that Du Jun was not the one who asked this man to do this? If the mastermind was really so powerful, then who was the person whom even Du Jun was afraid of?

"I suppose you don't know my name. My name is Xia Zhe. My surname is Xia. I think you should know if there are many families in the capital with this surname," Xia Zhe whispered.

"Xia... you're from the Xia family! But whose child are you..." Cao Liang asked hesitantly as he looked at Xia Zhe.

The Xia family had already split up and the eldest son's family was the most favored one now. The second and third sons' families were not useful at all.

"My father is Xia Mao and my grandfather is Xia Jun. You can tell me whose child I am. My eldest brother works for the government. As long as you tell me the truth, I promise you that you'll be safe. whose child I am. My eldest brother works for the government. As long as you tell me the truth, I promise you that you'll be safe. However, if you want to lie and hide the truth from me, then you should take note of how powerful my family is. Even if those people let you off, I'll get you no matter where you go and make you wish that you were dead!" Xia Zhe threatened.

This was the first time he had used the Xia family's reputation to back him up. In the past, he had always been afraid that others would treat him differently when they knew that he was a member of the Xia family. Now that he said it out loud, it actually felt quite good, like he was lording over others. He decided to experience this feeling a few more times in the future.

Cao Liang hurriedly crawled forward a few steps and said agitatedly, "You're a member of the Xia family! Then you can definitely protect me! I'll talk! I'll tell you everything!"

Cao Liang did not know who the mastermind was, but he knew his task here. When Du Jun found him, Du Jun asked him to prepare an especially potent aphrodisiac. There was almost no way to counteract this kind of aphrodisiac. The person taking the drug would need to get sexual release, otherwise he could die from the pent-up urge.

"But how does one do it if one is drunk?" Xia Zhe asked curiously.

"Well... that medicine still works even if you're drunk..." Cao Liang said embarrassedly.

Xia Zhe nodded in understanding and gestured for Cao Liang to continue. Cao Liang knew some people from an exclusive institution who were currently doing some experiments. They were trying to make it possible for men and women to have children without needing to sleep together.

The technology in this era had yet to reach the stage of in-vitro fertilization or IVF. Some other countries had already successfully developed an insemination method to cause pregnancy. As long as the man's sperm was inseminated into the woman at the right time, there was a possibility of pregnancy even though the chances of success were still relatively low.

Xia Zhe had never heard of such things before. He was shocked to hear Cao Liang explain such a crude method to get a woman pregnant.

In the beginning, he thought that Du Jun wanted Cao Liang to perform a vasectomy on him so that he could no longer have children! He did not expect their scheme to be even more vicious and that they even wanted to break up his family!

"So what happens after you're done? What do they want you to do next?" Xia Zhe asked.

"There's a refrigerator in the tent next door. They asked me to freeze the sample inside after I'm done. Then, it would eventually be put inside the body of a woman named He Mei," Cao Liang said.

<nulli>So that was how it was... No wonder He Mei was here. This was all part of He Ning's evil scheme! Xia Zhe did not expect He Ning to do such a crazy thing, both disregarding He Mei's future as well as the life of a yet unborn child's life!

He Ning had planned everything in detail. He was sure that once He Mei was pregnant, Qiao Mei would definitely be suspicious of Xia Zhe regardless of whether Xia Zhe admitted or not. After that, Qiao Mei would definitely divorce Xia Zhe and then he would be able to get hold of Qiao Mei for himself.

He did not believe that Qiao Mei would still want to maintain a loving relationship with Xia Zhe by then!

"Pretend that you don't know about me waking up. Do you hear me? You can't tell anyone about what happened today. Otherwise, I won't be able to protect you even if I want to!" Xia Zhe said.

Chapter 1495 Get Caught Climbing Over the Wall

"But then what about this... I won't be able to explain why I failed in my task!" Cao Liang said as he took out a test tube from his bag shakily.

Xia Zhe scratched his nose in embarrassment. He had no idea about what to do about this matter. Suddenly, he came up with an impromptu plan when he saw the unconscious Du Jun on the floor.

"Do you still have any more of that drug?" Xia Zhe asked excitedly.

"Yes! Yes! I brought a lot!" Cao Liang said quickly.

Xia Zhe took the drug and poured it into Du Jun's mouth. In order to prevent Du Jun from waking up, Xia Zhe knocked Du Jun out again. Cao Liang succeeded in his task very quickly. Xia Zhe held back his disgust and helped Du Jun to get dressed again. After that, he asked Xiao Jian to come over and carry Du Jun back to his tent to rest.

Cao Liang followed the original plan and put the test tube into the refrigerator. Everything was done neatly and no one would suspect anything.

By the time Du Jun woke up the next day, Xia Zhe was already on his way back to the capital. Du Jun secretly called Cao Liang over to check on why he ended up inside his own tent and also about what had happened last night.

Xia Zhe had already expected such a thing to happen. Last night, he had already drafted all the answers for Cao Liang.

"I came back with you! Don't tell me you drank so much until you don't remember. But then again, the liquor from yesterday was really stronger than usual," Cao Liang said cautiously.

"Perhaps..." Du Jun said hesitantly.

"Yesterday's task was completed successfully. I have already placed everything in the refrigerator," Cao Liang whispered.

"You have done well. Don't worry, your wife and daughter are fine. There will be a car to send you back to the capital later. Do I need to repeat the rest of the instructions?" Du Jun asked as he looked at Cao Liang.

Cao Liang immediately said, "I don't know anything! I don't remember anything! I'm only here to do a health checkup for you!"

"You're a smart man. You can go. Don't let me see you again," Du Jun said happily as he waved his hand.

Since Xia Zhe was no longer at the camp, Du Jun found no point in continuing to stay here. When no one was around, he walked to He Mei's side and made a gesture. He Mei immediately understood what he meant. That night, she packed her bags and took the He family's car to a private hospital for the medical procedure.

At first, she was unwilling to do it. He Mei wanted to sleep with Xia Zhe for real, but it had proven to be as difficult as trying to ascend to the heavens. She had bid her time for so many years without any success and there was no way that it was going to be easy for her to get it done now.

He Ning did not have the patience to wait for He Mei to succeed in her plan. As He Mei really wanted to marry Xia Zhe as soon as possible, she had no choice but to agree to go along with He Ning's plan. As long as she could get Xia Zhe, she was willing to do anything.

Perhaps the reason why she was doing all these now was not because of her love for him, but because she felt indignant and resentful. She should be the one with Xia Zhe, but it was another woman who got

the position. She felt that Qiao Mei had snatched away something which belonged to her and she wanted to get payback with interest.

By the time Xia Zhe reached home, it was already late at night. He quietly climbed up the wall of the courtyard house. As soon as he sat on top of the wall, he saw four people staring at him under the wall with shovels in their hands.

"Who are you!" Xia Zhe said in surprise.

"And who are you! What are you doing here!" the four guards said in unison.

"This is my house. Do I have to report to you when I come home?" Xia Zhe said helplessly.

"Then why don't you use the main door! Why do you have to climb over the wall! Isn't this your house? Don't you have a key!" one of the guards questioned.

Xia Zhe was speechless for a moment. He was just so used to climbing over the wall here that he had forgotten about the existence of the main door. Qiao Mei had previously already reminded him to always use the door.

"My name is Xia Zhe and I'm the male owner of this house. Why don't you make a phone call and verify the information?" Xia Zhe asked.

The few men looked at one another. They did not know the name of the male owner of this house, but they knew that Qiao Mei's husband had an elder brother named Xia Wen. The person on the wall looked quite similar to Xia Wen. Perhaps he was really the male owner of this house?

The guards asked a few more questions and Xia Zhe was able to answer everything easily. They only let Xia Zhe come down from the top of the wall when they finally believed that he was the owner of this house.

"Brother, use the main door next time! If you had used the door, we wouldn't have been suspicious of you at all. When we heard the noise just now, we thought there was a thief!" a guard said.

"Are you Luo Yu's men? Why haven't I seen any of you before?" Xia Zhe asked.

Chapter 1496 Vacant

"My name is Da Zhuang. That's my younger brother. You can just call him Xiao Zhuang. We're Brother Luo's new recruits, hired to guard Sister Qiao's house!" Da Zhuang said with a grin.

Xia Zhe looked around and realized that there was no one else in the front yard apart from the four men. <nulli>Where had Qiao Mei and the others gone?

"Brother-in-law, you don't have to look around. Sister Qiao isn't at home. She hasn't been back for a few days," Da Zhuang said.

"She hasn't been at home for a few days? Then where is she?" Xia Zhe asked in puzzlement.

"We're not too sure either. We only know that Sister Qiao has gotten really rich recently and built a factory in the suburbs. She has even sent her children to her mother-in-law's house. Oh right! To your mother's place! We don't know anything else," Da Zhuang said honestly.

Xia Zhe shook his head helplessly. He did not expect so many things to have happened while he was away. Qiao Mei was still the same as before and could not stay idle for even a moment. Her favorite thing to do was to earn money.

It was inconvenient for him to go and look for Qiao Mei or the children at this hour. It was better for him to wait until tomorrow morning to go and look for Qiao Mei and give her a surprise!

"Everyone, you can go and rest now," Xia Zhe said as he patted Da Zhuang's shoulder.

Xia Zhe took a walk around the house and noted that there were not many changes. The only difference was that the children's things had really piled up. It looked like it was someone in the family who had bought all these things for the children. He had originally wanted to take a look and see what the children lacked, but he did not expect them to already have everything they needed. There was nothing left for him to buy for them.

He was quite good with his hands. Therefore, he decided to make a small wooden toy each for the two children to play with. When he and his siblings were young, Xia Mao would make small wooden toys for them. It was now Xia Zhe's turn to make toys for his children. Time had really flown by...

When he entered the study, he realized that there was now a bird inside the room. However, this bird looked really familiar...

"You... Don't tell me that you're Yao Nian's bird..." Xia Zhe said after staring at the bird cage for a long time.

"Coo, coo..." The pigeon cooed as it stood pitifully at the edge of the cage.

"Hahahaha! You're really pitiful to fall into Qiao Mei's hands. However, looking at how chubby you are, your life here should be better than previously. Just stay here obediently," Xia Zhe said teasingly.

It was a pigeon with ambitions! How could it be confused with those unambitious pigeons! It still yearned to soar freely in the sky! It definitely did not want to be a bird waiting to die in a cage.

However, the food provided by Qiao Mei was indeed very delicious. It had never eaten such good food in its life! It was so unlike in the past when it lived with Yao Nian and it had never been able to eat its full.

After Xia Zhe had enough of exploring the house, he returned to the bedroom to rest. There was not much of Qiao Mei's smell left on the bed. It seemed that she really had not been home for a long time. He must discuss the situation with Qiao Mei tomorrow and see if he could help her with her work. He did not want her to work so hard.

Early the next morning, Xia Zhe went to the backyard part of the house. When Qiao Qiang saw Xia Zhe, he thought that he had seen a ghost. He kept rubbing his eyes to see if it was real.

"Xiao Zhe? Xiao Zhe, you're back!" Qiao Qiang said happily.

"That's right, Grandfather. I'm back. Do you miss me?" Xia Zhe said warmly.

"Yes! Of course I miss you! But when did you come back? You didn't tell any of us in advance. Qiao Mei is still busy at the factory!" Qiao Qiang said.

"I came back last night. After the mission ended, I rushed back without stopping, so I didn't have time to tell anyone. See, I'm now here to ask you for a free meal?" Xia Zhe said.

"Come, come, come. You're in luck! I just made braised pork! Don't you think it's such a coincidence!" Qiao Qiang said as he pointed at the braised pork on the dining table.

"This proves that Grandfather and I are in sync with each other. It's all because Grandfather misses me," Xia Zhe said.

Ever since he married Qiao Mei, Xia Zhe spoke in a more personable way. In the past, he would never say such mushy things.

After the two of them finished their meal, they took a walk nearby. Many people were envious of Qiao Qiang's good fortune. Even a biological grandson might not be as nice as this grandson-in-law of his. They also envied Qiao Mei for marrying such a responsible man.

"Old Man Zhou! Come out to see who's back!" Qiao Qiang brought Xia Zhe to Zhou Sheng's main door.

Zhou Sheng had not been in good health recently and it was the housekeeper who came to open the door. When she saw Old Master Qiao and Xia Zhe, she was overjoyed and quickly shouted towards the house, "Zhou Sheng! Look who's here! Xiao Zhe is back!"

Chapter 1497 Watch Over

Zhou Sheng sat in his wheelchair and slowly peeped out from the bedroom door. When he saw Xia Zhe, tears welled up in his eyes. His health had been very poor recently and he almost could not make it through the last winter. If not for Qiao Mei coming to visit him from time to time, he would probably be long gone by now.

"Xiao Zhe! Come here!" Zhou Sheng shouted weakly.

"Grandpa Zhou, what happened to you?" Xia Zhe asked Zhou Sheng with a slight frown.

"It's nothing... I'm just getting old. Everyone has to go through this eventually. It's fine," Zhou Sheng said.

"Grandpa Zhou, you still have to play with my children. Don't you want to see Xia Fan and Xia Xing grow up?" Xia Zhe said as he held back the tears in his eyes.

Zhou Sheng looked at the courtyard as if he was imagining Xia Fan and Xia Xing playing there. He did not know if his body could hold on until then.

Qiao Qiang and Zhou Sheng chatted inside the house. Xia Zhe went home and rummaged through the remaining bottles of medicinal wine in Qiao Mei's study. Back then, Qiao Mei had left him three bottles of golden medicinal wine. He had used one bottle and still had two bottles left, but the medicinal effect of the golden liquid was very strong. Qiao Mei had once told him not to use it unless absolutely necessary.

It was a good thing to eat ginseng often, but if one overdosed on it, it could turn out to be fatal!

Xia Zhe finally found a small bottle of green medicinal wine in Qiao Mei's small cabinet. Xia Zhe opened it up and tasted it to make sure that it was the right type. After considering it for a while, he decided to give it to Zhou Sheng. However, he did not hand it to Zhou Sheng directly but passed it to Zhou Sheng's housekeeper.

"Grandma, I know that you're really good to Grandpa Zhou. I also know that you've worked hard to take care of Grandpa Zhou all these years. This is my family's medicinal wine. I'd have to trouble you to put some into Grandpa Zhou's water every day. This is good for his health," Xia Zhe said.

The housekeeper's surname was Lan and she had accompanied Zhou Sheng for most of his life. She had held a torch for Zhou Sheng for a long time and he was aware of it, but he still had Wu Min in his heart, so he did not want to let her down. Grandma Lan knew about his feelings, but she still chose to accompany him her whole life.

She was willing to do it out of love. Just like how Zhou Sheng had waited for Wu Min his entire life, she also waited for Zhou Sheng throughout her entire life. However, she was more fortunate than Zhou

Sheng. At the very least, she could be with the person she liked every day. Zhou Sheng would never have that chance again.

"We can't accept such a valuable gift," Grandma Lan said.

Grandma Lan knew about Qiao Mei's "divine medicine". Qiao Mei had also given some to Zhou Sheng previously. After he finished it, they were too embarrassed to ask Qiao Mei for more. Qiao Mei was a very busy person and it had probably already slipped her mind. Furthermore, whenever Qiao Mei came by, Zhou Sheng did not want to let her in because he did not want her to see how weak he was now.

"Take it. I'll get someone to send some over regularly. Grandpa Zhou is like my grandfather. I'm not around in the capital often, so just take it as me doing my best to be filial to him," Xia Zhe said seriously.

Grandma Lan nodded and accepted the medicine which Xia Zhe brought. After Zhou Sheng saw Xia Zhe, he seemed much better and his complexion also looked more rosy. Xia Zhe and Qiao Qiang had lunch with Zhou Sheng before leaving.

In the afternoon, Xia Zhe went to Qiao Mei's factory with a gift for her. When he was in the mountain area, the troops had found a very beautiful stone. His comrades told him that it was a piece of beautiful jade which would definitely turn out to be very beautiful once polished by a craftsman.

Xia Zhe knew that Qiao Mei liked such things, so he shamelessly asked his comrades to let him have it. The price was to treat his comrades to all their meals for an entire week.

When Xia Zhe pushed open the door to Qiao Mei's office, his expression turned dour. It was obvious that the flowers inside had been sent by someone else. This was because he knew that Qiao Mei liked sunflowers and all these colorful flowers in front of him were nothing that she liked.

"Xia Zhe!!!" Qiao Mei jumped up from the chair excitedly and ran into Xia Zhe's arms. Xia Zhe caught her steadily.

"Little girl, are you attracting unwanted attention again?" Xia Zhe said as he pretended to be angry.

Qiao Mei said smugly, "Why? You're allowed to have so many rotten romantic encounters outside, yet other men can't woo me?"

Xia Zhe reached out and slapped Qiao Mei's backside forcefully. As she tried to dodge him, she kept rubbing against his body. He had been celibate after she became pregnant, so it was hard for him to stay calm as she did that.

Chapter 1498 Red Hearts

"Behave yourself! We're outside!" Xia Zhe said sternly.

"Then why aren't you putting me down? Can it be that you want to do something naughty in broad daylight? Oh! I don't expect you to be such a person!" Qiao Mei teased him with a smile.

Xia Zhe almost could not control himself from ravishing her there and then, but he still could not ignore those traditional values he held true in his heart. He was not like a certain little girl! She did not differentiate between day and night! She was totally shameless!

"Then tell me which one of your lovers sent these flowers," Xia Zhe teased.

"Look, the yellow ones are from Brother Zhang, the pink ones from Brother Li, and the white ones from Brother Tian. There are so many of them!" Qiao Mei pointed at the flowers and started spouting nonsense.

Xia Zhe hugged Qiao Mei as he listened to all her lies. When the two of them were done teasing each other, Xia Zhe put Qiao Mei down on the sofa. He did not believe that these flowers were from so many men. He truly believed that Qiao Mei would never do anything to betray him.

"Do you think I'm stupid? These are all from Han Chen," Xia Zhe said.

"Why ask me when you already know!" Qiao Mei said.

"I'm just testing you to see if there's anyone else, so that I can get them all in one fell swoop! I'd rather kill 100 people by mistake than let one go!" Xia Zhe said steadfastly.

"Then how do you plan to kill Han Chen?" Qiao Mei leaned on Xia Zhe and asked curiously.

Xia Zhe had not made up his mind yet. He was on a long break this time round and definitely had enough time to clean up all such rubbish. There was a lot of time for him to slowly settle scores with those men who dared to fantasize about Qiao Mei. Now was not the time yet.

"We'll talk about it when the time comes. First, take a look at the treasure I have brought back for you," Xia Zhe said as he held on to the bag tightly.

Qiao Mei looked at it closely and even touched it, but she still could not figure out what it was.

"Money?"

"Gems?"

"Local specialties?"

"... What exactly is it!" Qiao Mei pouted and said unhappily.

Xia Zhe took out a big stone from the bag. Any normal woman would feel unhappy at this moment as men would usually give romantic gifts. Who would give a big stone as a gift!

However, Qiao Mei was not an ordinary woman. When she reached out to take the stone, the butterfly mark on her chest turned a little warm and she could immediately see through the surface of the stone and spot the rare red jade inside.

"Wow! This is great stuff! How did you get it!" Qiao Mei said excitedly.

"I just know that you'll be able to recognize it for what it is. This is a stone that one of my comrade-in-arms found when we were on the mission. He's quite an expert on this and keeps telling me about how great this stone is, so I snatched it from him," Xia Zhe said proudly.

"I never expected you to behave like a bandit. That's quite rare," Qiao Mei lamented.

"Who's a bandit! I paid a lot for it! I paid for his meals for an entire week and he's so heartless! He spent all my bonuses on food! But it doesn't matter, I must get my hands on whatever my wife likes!" Xia Zhe said.

Qiao Mei rewarded Xia Zhe with a kiss. Before he could react, she turned around and focused on the stone. What should she do with this stone? Should she make it into a necklace or an ornament?

Or perhaps she could make pendants for the two children! After thinking hard about it, Qiao Mei was still undecided about what to do with this stone. Since it was red jade... she would get it carved into a heart shape and put it in the office! Then she would be able to see it day and night and be reminded of Xia Zhe's love for her.

Although it was a very old-fashioned thing to do, Qiao Mei liked the idea very much.

Qiao Mei still did not know how to activate her X-ray vision. At the moment, she had to touch objects to look inside them. Occasionally, she could also see through things which were further away, but she did not know how to control this power. She had to study it properly when she had time.

"I heard from Grandfather that you haven't been home for a long time. Do you have a lot of work to do? Can I offer my help?" Xia Zhe asked.

"Sure, you came at the right time. Help me review some documents. There's a pile of documents that I need to check over there. Just help me look through them and then sign them if everything looks fine," Qiao Mei said.

"What if I get something wrong?" Xia Zhe asked.

"What's there to be afraid of! Your wife has plenty of money! You can squander it as you please! At most, I'll just build another factory!" Qiao Mei patted her chest and said generously.

Chapter 1499 Reliance

"In that case, I'll get on with it." After Xia Zhe covered Qiao Mei with a blanket, he sat at the desk and concentrated on the documents.

Qiao Mei lay on the sofa and stared at Xia Zhe without moving. It had been a long time since she last saw Xia Zhe looking so serious. Her husband was so handsome! He looked handsome from all angles!

"Go to sleep! If I find out that you're still staring at me, I won't let you have an easy time tonight!" Xia Zhe said without looking up from the documents.

"How do you know? Don't tell me you have eyes on the top of your head!" Qiao Mei said indignantly.

"You don't know it but I have paranormal perception! Just go to sleep! Otherwise, I'll really teach you a lesson!" Xia Zhe threatened.

Qiao Mei dived under the blanket and fell asleep not long after. She was so tired as she did not sleep well at all recently. Now that Xia Zhe was around, she felt more at ease than ever.

It was not until dinnertime that Xia Zhe woke Qiao Mei up. They were in the suburbs where there were no restaurants or supermarkets around. If they missed the meal served at the canteen, Qiao Mei would probably have to starve through the night.

"Lazy bum, get up and eat!" Xia Zhe said tenderly.

Qiao Mei slowly opened her eyes and hung on to Xia Zhe, refusing to get up. She turned around with a grunt and went back to sleep. Xia Zhe had no choice but to go to the canteen to pack dinner for her, so that she could eat later when she woke up.

Along the way, Xia Zhe attracted a lot of attention. Who would not take a few more glances at such a handsome man? There were even people who took the initiative to approach him.

"Hey handsome, are you Director Qiao's guest?" a woman asked.

"Hello, I'm her husband," Xia Zhe replied politely.

"Oh! I'm sorry, I just assume that you are our client! So you're our brother-in-law!" After saying that, the woman left shyly. The news that Qiao Mei had a handsome husband quickly spread around immediately.

Han Chen also got wind of it very quickly. He knew that Xia Zhe was an outstanding man, but he did not think that he was any worse than Xia Zhe. As long as he kept trying, Qiao Mei would definitely become his woman one day.

"Young Master, do we still need to arrange for someone to keep an eye on Miss Qiao?" the secretary asked.

"Of course. Tomorrow, I want to go there personally to take a look at the man who made Qiao Mei fall head over heels for him and see what kind of man he is," Han Chen said unhappily.

After Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe finished dinner, Qiao Mei still felt very sleepy. Xia Zhe carried Qiao Mei back to the lounge to rest. He still had a lot of documents to deal with. If he did not finish the work well, these tasks would fall on Qiao Mei again. For now, it was better to let Qiao Mei have a good night's sleep. He could already see the dark circles under Qiao Mei's eyes.

The sooner he completed the work, the sooner Qiao Mei could go home. Once the factory's business was on track, he and Qiao Mei would be able to spend time together all day every day.

In the past, Qiao Mei would look for him before she went to bed and pester him to tell her some stories before she could fall asleep. Now, Qiao Mei was so tired that she even snored immediately once her head touched the pillow. This was the result of her working overtime for a long time.

"Sigh... little money-grubber..." Xia Zhe said with a sigh.

The next morning, Qiao Mei woke up feeling refreshed but then she realized that Xia Zhe was not around. The other side of the bed even looked neat and tidy. In a state of panic, she ran to the office barefooted, scared that everything which happened yesterday afternoon was just a dream.

After she gave birth, she became particularly emotional. It was fine when Xia Zhe was not at home, but so long as Xia Zhe was by her side, she just wanted to rely on him. If she could, she would even want him to feed her.

When Qiao Mei saw Xia Zhe crouched over the table and sleeping soundly, she heaved a sigh of relief. He woke up once he heard her coming in. When he saw that she was not wearing any shoes, he immediately picked her up.

"Why are you in such a hurry that you didn't even put on your shoes? Did you have a nightmare?" Xia Zhe said tenderly.

"No..." Qiao Mei said unhappily.

"Then tell me why and about what made you so unhappy. I'll help you deal with it," Xia Zhe said.

Qiao Mei kept poking at Xia Zhe's chest with her finger as she said, "It's you! Whenever you're at home, you must be in my line of sight! Just now, I thought that your homecoming was just a dream..."

Chapter 1500 Lips Bleeding

As Qiao Mei spoke, she felt sadder and sadder and she almost started crying. She usually looked carefree and seemed like she did not care about anything, but when she was with Xia Zhe, she just wanted him to take care of her.

"Alright, I promise you. Are you still sleepy? Do you want to sleep a little longer?" Xia Zhe said as he gently stroked Qiao Mei's back.

Qiao Mei shook her head. The sense of dread that she felt just now had completely woken her up, so she did not feel sleepy at all.

It was seven in the morning now and the staff had not started work yet. Qiao Mei had fixed the working hours of the factory to be from eight in the morning to five in the evening, with one hour's rest time in the middle of the day. If anyone worked overtime voluntarily, they would be paid three dollars an hour.

In the past month, Qiao Mei had realized that the performance of each and every employee was very different. Some employees were lazy and liked to skive, while there were others who worked hard and were very conscientious. There was still no system to calculate salary based on performance, so what Qiao Mei did now was to reward each employee with outstanding contributions with 10 dollars. From this month onwards, the base salary would become 60 dollars and staff would then get additional performance-based pay calculated based on their production volume every month.

There would definitely be people who would be dissatisfied with the change in the base salary from the original 70 dollars to the current 60 dollars. Qiao Mei had already thought of this issue. Therefore, she came up with a minimum standard performance. If the staff's performance was not up to standard, 10 dollars would be deducted. Otherwise, as long as the standard was met, the staff would still get a salary of 70 dollars.

All the staff here at Qiao Mei's factory could also experience the joy of having two days off a week. However, the overall economic environment did not allow for a two-day break during the weekend. Qiao Mei had implemented a roster for the staff so that they could continue to maintain the efficiency of the factory while everyone could still enjoy their days off. She managed to achieve two objectives with one move.

"There are still so many documents to check. I have to see how much work there is left." Qiao Mei put on her shoes and went to her desk. Xia Zhe had completed all her work for the next few days in one night and everything was done perfectly.

"Quick, praise me," Xia Zhe sat on the sofa and said to Qiao Mei with a smile.

"How did you do it! Don't tell me you didn't sleep all night!" Qiao Mei said as she held up the documents and looked at Xia Zhe in shock.

"I have a secret weapon and I can't tell you about it. You just need to praise me," Xia Zhe said proudly.

Qiao Mei ran over to plant a kiss on Xia Zhe's lips, but she moved so fast and the two of them knocked into each other. Xia Zhe's lips started bleeding from hitting Qiao Mei's teeth.

"Ah..." Xia Zhe cried out in pain.

Qiao Mei quickly took a tissue to wipe the blood from the corner of Xia Zhe's mouth. She did not expect such a thing to happen.

"Good grief... Are you trying to murder your own husband?" Xia Zhe said, caught between laughter and tears.

"I didn't do it on purpose..." When Qiao Mei recalled what happened, she thought that the scene was just too funny. In the end, the two of them hugged each other and laughed loudly for a long time.

After they were done, Qiao Mei and Xia Zhe rested for a while in the lounge. They had decided to head back to Xu Lan's place to see the children today. Xia Zhe had not seen the children for a long time. Their family reunion was more important than the work in the factory.

Just as their car drove out of the factory's main gate, they saw Han Chen waiting at the gate with a bouquet of flowers. Xia Zhe and Qiao Mei lowered their heads in synchrony, each worried about being spotted by Han Chen.

"Why are you lowering your head?" Qiao Mei asked Xia Zhe curiously.

"What if he spots me and wants to talk to me? Won't he see you then? You're still asking me! Then why are you lowering your head?" Xia Zhe asked.

"I don't want to talk to him today. Besides, he's definitely not here to talk about work," Qiao Mei said with a pout.

It was not until Han Chen was totally out of sight that the two of them sat up straight to talk. Qiao Mei had already done all the work related to the factory's collaboration with the Han Corporation. It was only out of respect for Han Chen that Qiao Mei agreed to all the additional requests which Han Chen asked for.

After all, Qiao Mei did not want Han Chen to be her only big client. She needed to show her sincere attitude to others in the market so that she could attract more big clients like the Han Corporation.

It had only been a few months since Xia Zhe left the capital, but there had been a lot of changes. There were many new shops along the streets.

"Now that everyone knows about the economy opening up, many people have applied for approval to do business, like me. The lives of the common people are going to get better and better," Qiao Mei said as she smiled and looked out of the window.

"But they're different from you. None of them goes around buying a piece of land to build a factory," Xia Zhe said.