

# Rebirth to a Military Marriage: Good Morning Chief

## Chapter 36: Saved A Life

At the mention of Uncle Lee's daughter, Qiao Dongliang did not know how he could console him.

Uncle Lee had three sons and a daughter. He doted very much on the only daughter.

Uncle Lee wanted his daughter to find someone she loved and lead a happy life. He had no thoughts of establishing connections through her marriage.

But Lee Shu was lucky. It was by coincidence that she fell in love with the son of the Zhu family. Their relationship was going smoothly and they tied the knot in around a year's time and she was pregnant in less than three months' time.

But what was heartbreaking was that Lee Shu did not live to see the child. When she went into the labor, everything went smoothly. She had the baby through natural delivery.

But no-one would have expected that after giving birth, she would have a hemorrhage.

Lee Shu's blood type was quite common, but it just so happened that the blood bank ran out of that particular blood type on that day.

Her mother stayed behind to take care of the daughter. But her blood type did not match and so she could not donate her blood to her.

When Elder Lee and his three sons arrived, they were not in time to donate their blood to Lee Shu.

And so, only a few hours after she brought the baby into this world, Lee Shu did not even get to take a glimpse of her child and she had passed away.

Lee Shu's death came as a blow to Lee family and Zhu family. Elder Lee even forbade everyone to speak of his pitiful daughter in front of him.

"Oh." Elder Lee let out a long sigh. "I am old, I am no longer as clear minded as before. Now I always make mistakes and do silly things."

Qiao Dongliang could not help but blush in embarrassment when he heard Elder Lee's words. He was not as old as Elder Lee. Yet he had done quite a lot of stupid things, in

particular, matters regarding his younger daughter. Forget it, he did not want to talk about them, he would only be more frustrated about it.

“Xiao Shu was gone. No matter how heartbroken we are, Xiao Shu will never come back. Xiao Shu left us with the only son Bao Guo. She risked her life to have him. If he is gone, I... I wouldn't be able to face Xiao Shu when I died.”

Elder Lee's eyes turned red.

“Has anything happened to Baoguo?” Qiao Dongliang realized something was wrong. “I remembered Baoguo is a year older than Nan Nan. He should be in secondary three now?”

“Yes, he is in secondary three now. He is in the same school as Nan Nan.”

“He is classmates with Nan Nan. They are all in the same class.” Qiao Dongliang was surprised. He never thought that the maternal grandchild of Uncle Lee would be in the same class as his younger daughter. “Nan Nan, has something happened to your classmate?”

“Zhu Baoguo, my classmate?” Qiao Nan was confused. Half a month had passed since school reopened. But she had no idea she had a classmate by the name of Zhu Baoguo.

Qiao Nan twitched her lips and did not know what to say. “Among all my classmates, there isn't someone by the name of Zhu Baoguo. But I haven't seen my desk mate since school reopened.”

She connected the dots and realized that her desk mate was the maternal grandchild of Elder Lee.

But what did this have to do with her. Before coming to their house, Elder Lee had no idea how she had fared in her exams. There was no way that he was here to ask that she coached his grandson in his studies.

“It's fate. It's all fate.”

Elder Lee was shocked as well. He never thought that his grandson would be “related” to Qiao Nan in so many ways. “Nan Nan, on behalf of Lee family and Zhu family, I sincerely thank you from the bottom of my heart for saving our Baoguo.”

The situation was different for Lee family, Elder Lee had three sons and two grandchildren.

But Zhu family only had one son, Zhu Chengqi. After Lee Shu passed away, Zhu Chengqi never remarried. He left his family and stayed in the army all day long.

Zhu Baoguo was the only grandson of the Zhu family.

If anything happened to Zhu Baoguo, unless Zhu Chengqi was willing to remarry, there would be no-one to continue Zhu's family line.

If something happened to Zhu Baoguo, Zhu family would be devastated!

"Save his life?" Ding Jiayi was confused.

It was rare that Elder Lee visited them, and Zhu family was involved as well. Ding Jiayi was dying to have connections with these two prominent families, but she had never had the chance.

Why would these two families have connections to their family? Why would Elder Lee come all the way to Qiao's house to thank them?

"Nan Nan, do you want to tell them what happened or should I tell them? But I guess it's better that you tell them, I might not have all the details."

"Elder Lee, I will do it." Qiao Nan was still confused. After pausing to think for a few moments, she asked, "Is Zhu Baoguo the person who was beaten up this Monday?"

After all, in her two lifetimes he was the only person that she had saved.

"You are really a good child." Elder Lee beamed and nodded.

Elder Lee was not surprised that Qiao Nan did not know Zhu Baoguo. His only grandson had been dwindling his days away. He knew that his grandson never went to school.

Whenever he was reminded of how outstanding his daughter was, and yet her son was such a good-for-nothing, he would feel sorry for his daughter and did not wish to see his grandson.

"Nan Nan, you mean you have saved someone's life before?" Qiao Dongliang was shocked.

"Dad, do you remember what happened just now?" Qiao Nan shot a glance at Qiao Zijin, hinting at the incident minutes ago where Qiao Zijin tried to smear her reputation.

"It has something to do with this?" Qiao Dongliang understood at once.

"I usually stick to my daily routine, there's no way to be in touch with those people. It was on this Monday after I was done with my class duty, I saw a person surrounded by a bunch of gangsters and they were throwing punches at him. He fell flat on the ground

from the beating. I went looking for the police. The police arrived and the gangsters ran off. The police then took the injured person to the hospital.”

Since then, she never meddled with these fights anymore.

But she never thought that she had unwittingly saved someone so close to her.

“Why, is there something else?” Elder Lee noticed that something was amiss from Qiao Nan’s tone and asked her to explain further.

“Nothing much, it’s just a small misunderstanding.” With that, Qiao Dongliang glared at Qiao Zijin secretly.

The truth was finally out. Nan Nan had no contact with those gangsters and was not led astray by them. In fact, Nan Nan had saved Zhu family’s son – Elder Lee’s biological maternal grandson!

“Misunderstanding?” Elder Lee did not probe further at Qiao Dongliang’s words. Since if there was anything wrong, he would be able to find out himself. “Xiao Qiao, all thanks to your Nan Nan, if not, I have no idea what would happened to my grandson.”

“Elder Lee, please do not stand on ceremony with us.” Qiao Dongliang who was unaware of the real situation thought that Elder Lee was being too polite. His younger daughter merely asked for help from others.

They were all a bunch of teenagers. It was common to be engaged in small fights.

“No, they were my heartfelt words. Do you know why I only waited till today to visit when it was on Monday that Nan Nan saved Baoguo?” Elder Lee’s eyes turned teary at the mention of the danger his grandson faced. “Those people were really ruthless. Two of Baoguo’s rib bones were broken. One rib bone almost pierced his lung. If not for Nan Nan, Baoguo might be beaten to death by them. Fortunately he was sent to the hospital in time, otherwise he might die or become invalid.”

Everyone was stunned when they heard of Zhu Baoguo’s condition. Those people were too ruthless!

## **Chapter 37: Self-Recommendation**

As Elder Lee spoke of his grandson’s condition, she found everything to be so familiar. Two of the rib bones were broken, one rib bone almost pierced the lung.

So in her previous lifetime, that person who was from the same quad, who became invalid from all those beatings, and died from the extreme pain as no-one went to his help, was actually Zhu Baoguo?

In her previous lifetime, Qiao Nan had already quit school and started working at this time. It was only when she came back then that she heard from others that someone from the quad was beaten to death.

Even though the injured person was still alive, knowing that they had gotten themselves into trouble, those gangsters just ran off without him.

A day has gone by the time he was discovered. His corpse had turned cold, and there was no chance of saving him.

Because of this, Ding Jiayi started sending Qiao Zijin to school from then onwards.

Qiao Nan had just reached home for barely a day before Ding Jiayi took all her pay and sent her off to work again. She did not even have time to ask about this matter in detail.

So after her rebirth, in this lifetime Qiao Nan had no memory of this incident. She did not know that the person who had died in her previous lifetime was actually Elder Lee's maternal grandson.

"Baoguo sustained serious injuries and had just passed the critical stage. He had woken up but is still in recovery. He is still young, he should be able to regain his health by taking more tonics and healthy food."

In the beginning, Zhu family and Lee family were devastated and worried when they knew of Zhu Baoguo's injuries.

They did not have the time and the mood to find out who saved Zhu Baoguo's life.

It was only yesterday that Zhu Baoguo woke up and was able to speak. The two families felt slightly at ease. It was then did they remembered that they should thank the person who saved his life.

Zhu family and Lee family found the two police officers who sent Zhu Baoguo to the hospital. They had wanted to thank them for saving Zhu Baoguo's life.

But like the soldiers, the police officers were honest and upright. They told the two families that it was a young lady from the quad who found Zhu Baoguo and asked them for their help to save Zhu Baoguo.

So the person that the two families had to be grateful for was in fact this young lady.

Zhu family and Lee family asked around and finally found out that the person who saved Zhu Baoguo was none other than Qiao Nan, Qiao Dongliang's daughter.

Elder Lee felt most comforted at this news.

Elder Lee had always felt sorry regarding Qiao Dongliang's discharge from the army. Nobody would have known that it was Qiao Dongliang's younger daughter who ended up saving his only grandson.

"Xiao Qiao, don't blame Uncle Lee for taking such a long time to visit. Your daughter Nan Nan has saved Baoguo, Lee family and Zhu family owed your family a big favor," Elder Lee said earnestly.

Back then he helped and guided Qiao Dongliang purely on account of his friendship with his father. But it was different now. Qiao Nan saved Zhu Baoguo's life. He owed Qiao's family a huge debt of gratitude.

From now on, Qiao Dongliang no longer owed Lee family anything. Rather, as Elder Lee said, it was Lee family and Zhu family who owed Qiao family.

"Uncle Lee, we are one big family. If it wasn't for you I wouldn't be what I am today. Nan Nan just did what she had to do. Regardless of whether its Baoguo or not, when faced with such situation, Nan Nan would not turn a blind eye to it. Uncle Lee, you do not have to worry about it."

Qiao Dongliang stood straight and looked at Qiao Nan with pride and joy.

"Okay." Elder Lee smiled. Xiao Qiao was never a person to request that someone return the favors. "Xiao Qiao, you have taught your daughter well. It was all worth it!"

Qiao Dongliang discharged from the army due to Qiao Nan. Elder Lee could not get over it for a long time. But he understood now and was fully supportive of his decisions.

If Qiao Dongliang did not have a second child and had still served in the army, no matter how successful he was, there would have been no-one to save his grandson.

Elder Lee was just like everyone, hoping for the best for his family. He would naturally prefer the current situation now.

"Uncle Lee, I find it all worthwhile as well." Qiao Dongliang said firmly.

Qiao Zijin was all flustered. Elder Lee was all praises for Qiao Nan, and from the way he looked at Qiao Nan, it was as if she was his real granddaughter.

Qiao Nan merely asked for help. It was not her who took Zhu Baoguo to the hospital. She did not deserve such credit.

Qiao Zijin kept her thoughts to herself. She dared not speak of it in front of everyone else. With a look of worry on her face, Qiao Zijin asked, "Grandpa Lee, how is Brother Baoguo now?"

"We think it would be better for him to rest in the hospital for another half a month. He needs at least three months for the injuries to the bones and tendons to recover. Right now my biggest worry is Baoguo's studies." Elder Lee was worried but at the same time angry at his grandson.

After the near death experience, Elder Lee knew that he had to face up to his pain inside and to take the matter of Zhu Baoguo seriously.

But Zhu Baoguo did not put his effort into studying. He did not do well in the first two years of junior high school.

If he had not played truant and messed with those gangsters, he would not have suffered such injuries.

By the time he was discharged from the hospital, a quarter of the four-month long semester would have passed. He could not just watch on helplessly while his grandson wasted his time away in junior high school, be content with a junior high certificate and joined society, uneducated and without a proper degree.

When his daughter was still around, she was very intelligent and quick to pick up new knowledge. She always did very well in her studies.

Why would such an outstanding daughter give birth to a grandson who was such a good for nothing?

At the thought of that, Elder Lee gathered that it must be due to Zhu family. After all, Lee family had good genes.

Qiao Zijin had a bright idea and said, "Grandpa Lee, I just graduated from junior high school. Why don't I coach Baoguo in his studies during my free time?"

Lee family and Zhu family were prominent and established families. If she was on friendly terms with Zhu Baoguo, Lee family and Zhu family would help her along, there was no need for her to worry about her future.

It would only take them a mere lift of the finger to arrange a good job for her. She did not need to have good results in order to have a bright future. This was only meant for people who came from poor background and who had no connections with the prominent people.

If she had the connections, even if she was illiterate, she would still have a good job.

“I am of similar age to Baoguo, we would definitely get along.”

Qiao Nan stared at Qiao Zijin incredulously. Where did her confidence come from? Wasn't she worried that she might be doing Baoguo more harm than good?

Ding Jiayi found nothing wrong with Qiao Zijin's words. She thought it was a good idea. “Uncle Lee, our daughter Zijin is very patient and good with children. Baoguo would love it to have an elder sister to take care of him. After all Zijin is in high school now, she would find it easy to teach junior high syllabus.”

Elder Lee looked at Ding Jiayi and smiled at Qiao Dongliang, Xiao Qiao, this is a good idea, but it's just that I thought Nan Nan is in the same class as Baoguo. Furthermore they are deskmates. Can we ask Nan Nan to help Baoguo instead?”

## **Chapter 38: Find a Job**

Elder Lee might not be able to tell Qiao Zijin and Qiao Nan apart, after all, he had not watched them grow up.

But he still could tell the difference from the names.

He remembered two months ago Ding Jiayi asked him for a favor. It seemed to concern Qiao Zijin. Elder Lee shook his head while smiling. It was not difficult for Lee family and Zhu family to find someone to coach Baoguo in his studies. They had no problem at all hiring an accomplished teacher for him.

But it was just that Baoguo was very stubborn. Even if there were good teachers to teach him, he might not be willing to learn.

Since Qiao Nan was desk mates with Baoguo, she could check on him and look after him while they were in school. Besides, how could Qiao Zijin's results be comparable to Qiao Nan's results?

No matter what, Qiao Nan was the best candidate.

“Of course, that's not a problem at all.” Qiao Dongliang patted his thigh and agreed readily. “It just so happens that Nan Nan has been revising her secondary one and two knowledge. She would have no trouble coaching Baoguo. The two of them can even supervise each other and help each other along the way.”

It was such a rare opportunity for Qiao Dongliang. Not only could he mend his relationship with Elder Lee, he could also repay his debt of gratitude.



“Then it’s settled. Xiao Qiao, if any problem arises in the future, you can still come to me for help. If it is beyond my limits, Zhu family will also try to come up with a way to help.” Elder Lee patted Qiao Dongliang on his shoulders.

Actually, the Zhu family should be the ones to visit Qiao family.

There were two reasons why Elder Lee came instead. Firstly, Elder Lee was acquaintances with Qiao family. Besides, Elder Lee was the one who guided Qiao Dongliang.

Secondly, the Zhu family was still in shock. They had been keeping vigil by Zhu Baoguo’s side. Hence they would have to trouble Elder Lee to make the trip.

Qiao Dongliang had a puzzled look on his face. What did Uncle Lee mean when he said that he could still go to Elder Lee if he ran into troubles? He had never asked for his help in the past.

Qiao Dongliang was not the ungrateful sort. He was thankful for Elder Lee’s guidance and mentoring. He did not dream of asking favors from him. He always obeyed Elder Lee’s words. He could not possibly have asked him for help.

“Alright, it’s late, I better head back.” Looking at Qiao Dongliang’s puzzled look, Elder had an “as expected” look on his face.

Just as he expected, Xiao Qiao was so honest, there was no way that he could have asked him to do such a thing.

Qiao Dongliang did not understand. But Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin knew it instantly.

Ding Jiayi remembered that Qiao Dongliang had just blown his top over the passbook. If he was to know that not only had she spent all the savings on the elder daughter, she had also sought Elder Lee’s help to get Qiao Zijin into The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, he would be furious. Ding Jiayi shivered in fright at the thought of that.

Fortunately Elder Lee did not mention anything about helping Qiao Zijin to enrol in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. Ding Jiayi finally breathed a sigh of relief when he indicated that he was leaving.

“Uncle Lee, let me take you out.” Qiao Dongliang stood up and walked Elder Lee to the door before returning to the house. “Ding, what did Uncle Lee mean when he said that we could still ask him for help in future?”

Ding Jiayi raised her voice. “What... What other meaning other than the literal meaning? Uncle... Uncle Lee has forgiven us. He wants both of our families to keep in touch. We

can also seek his help in the future. Nan Nan has saved his only grandson, he would definitely be thankful towards us.”

“Is that so?” Qiao Dongliang arched his eyebrows in suspicion. He still found it weird.

“If not, what could be the case?” Not wanting Qiao Dongliang to probe further, Ding Jiayi quickly changed the topic. “Old Qiao, is Qiao Nan really going to coach Zhu Baoguo? She is still in junior high school. You saw her results this time round. All her teachers said that she needs to work on her basic knowledge. If she was to tutor Zhu Baoguo, will she still have time for revision? Even if it was to repay Uncle Lee, you shouldn’t ask her to give up on her revision just to help Uncle Lee’s grandson.”

Qiao Zijin’s eyes brightened at her mother’s words.

“What do you want then?” Qiao Dongliang dropped his voice, anger in his eyes.

Ding Jiayi was way too happy to notice that. “I think the suggestion just now was pretty good. Zijin can do the coaching!”

It was such a good opportunity. How could she waste such a chance on Qiao Nan? Zijin would naturally be the best choice!

If Zijin was on close terms with Zhu Baoguo and he acknowledged her as his sister, Zijin did not need to worry about her future anymore!

As expected, her beloved daughter had lady luck smiling on her!

“Nan Nan scored full marks for her English and she was not capable of teaching Zhu Baoguo. Yet Zijin who paid money to get into The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China could teach Zhu Baoguo?” Qiao Dongliang snorted. He did not mean to look down on his elder daughter. Ding Jiayi had let her imagination run wild. “You heard Uncle Lee’s words just now, even if Zijin is willing to teach, Uncle Lee would not allow it. That’s it, stop messing around. You should consider Zijin’s feelings as well.”

Qiao Dongliang was reminded of Elder Lee’s immediate rejection of Qiao Zijin’s suggestion just now. He shook his head and said, “Zijin, don’t follow after your Mom.”

Qiao Dongliang thought to himself, if he was his elder daughter, upon hearing what Uncle Lee said, he would be so ashamed of himself.

He had to admit, Qiao Zijin truly followed after him.

When Uncle Lee said that he would like Qiao Nan to coach his grandson instead, he saw Qiao Zijin’s face turn red with embarrassment.

But the benefits that came with tutoring Zhu Baoguo were too good to be missed. Even if she had been rejected once by Uncle Lee, Qiao Zijin still hoped that she would be able to take on this tutoring work, and Qiao Nan would not stand to gain at all.

On account of the fact that she saved Zhu Baoguo's life, the Lee family and Zhu family would definitely help Qiao Nan if she needed help in future.

They were siblings, this time she should give up the chance for her. Qiao Nan should not be the one to have the upper hand at all times.

"Nan Nan, it was such a serious matter. You should have told us earlier and we would not have had the misunderstanding. If you had told us earlier, I would not have believed the rumors." Qiao Zijin said cynically.

Qiao Nan laughed.

Let Qiao Zijin know everything beforehand?

If she told her beforehand, Qiao Zijin might have pretended to be her and taken all the credit.

Besides, as she had said, she did not know the identity of the person she saved.

"Dad, now that we no longer have any savings, why not?" Qiao Nan walked up to Qiao Dongliang's side and asked worriedly.

Qiao Nan did not want to create trouble. But Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin kept on messing with her. In this lifetime Qiao Nan was no longer the good-tempered girl that she used to be.

"No need!" Qiao Dongliang grew mad at the mention of that. "If there isn't enough money at home, it would not be your turn to earn money. Old Ding, our two daughters are in school now. They rarely spend time at home. From tomorrow onwards, you should look for a job. Regardless of how much you earn, you should make a monthly contribution as well."

"You... You are asking me to work at such an age?" Ding Jiayi was stunned.

"Such an age? How old are you? I am much older than you and I am still working. Unless you are able to cover the loss, you have to find a job."

## **Chapter 39: Dare Not Want It**

With these words, Qiao Dongliang went straight back to his room without bothering about Ding Jiayi's reaction.

Ding Jiayi's eyes welled up, tearing, she shouted at Qiao Nan, "This is all your fault, are you satisfied now? You're a jinx, there's no peace at home everyday because of you, did I somehow earn this in my previous life?"

Qiao Dongliang had insisted to see the passbook and found out about the matter because of Qiao Nan's words. At the thought of this, Ding Jiayi vented all her frustration on Qiao Nan.

"Nan Nan, this time you are really too much, this is our biological Mom, how can you harm her like that?" Qiao Zijin was still jealous that Qiao Nan had the opportunity to get close to Zhu Baoguo and did her utmost to malign Qiao Nan.

"I am not sure if she is my biological mother, but I am certain that she is yours. Your grades are bad, she spent all the savings at home to let you continue your studies. My grades are never bad, yet she insisted that I quit school and work. Who is the one being owed to in the previous life, who is the one paying the debts?"

Qiao Nan could not tolerate this any further. She questioned Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin.

Even if she really owed Ding Jiayi, she had repaid her enough in her previous life. She was eventually driven to the grave by her own mother – she had even given her life to Ding Jiayi.

"Mom, you often say that I'm not good. Let me ask you, Sister is older than me, I do all the household chores at home, what does Sister do? After all, I am the servant waiting on others while Sister is the rich family's daughter, so you picked me up from the roads, right? Though I didn't say a word, it doesn't mean that I do not know. You are biased towards Sister and spent all the money on her, yet you wanted to cajole me to work so that I can help you to mend this hole. Mom, in doing this, don't you feel guilty?"

"You..." Ding Jiayi was filled with guilt. "You, what nonsense are you talking about? I, I asked you to work, it's really for your own good. Even if you do well in your studies, you may not be successful or be able to earn money in future."

"Doing well in school may not give you a successful future, so we might as well join the workforce earlier. Mom, then with Sister's average grades that are neither here nor there, aren't you afraid that she will not be able to earn any money in future. Moreover, you dumped such a huge sum of money just to allow her to continue with these useless studies. Mom, I'm fifteen, not five, do you think I believe what you said?"

Qiao Nan was furious yet amused by Ding Jiayi's words. Ding Jiayi actually said them – she was treating her like a three-year-old kid.

“Believe? Do I care if you believe me?” With Qiao Nan’s repeated pressurizing, Ding Jiayi was in a rage and simply spoke from her heart, “Let me tell you, you owe our family. If not for you, your Dad would still be in the army, holding the position of a Battalion Commander. I didn’t even mention myself; before I gave birth to you, I had a cradle-to-grave job. All these – aren’t they all your fault? Without you, would our Qiao family have turned out like this? This is all because of you – a jinx. It is because of you that I am unable to lift my head up before others. Tell me, you caused so much harm, you’re useless and only know how to waste the family’s money. If I don’t favor your Sister, then should I favor a jinx like you?”

Qiao Nan was antagonized and she laughed. “Don’t make it sound so nice. Did I beg you to give birth to a second child? Did you willingly give up all that you mentioned earlier for the sake of me – your daughter? It is for your son. You can only blame your disappointing womb. After you gave up everything that you were proud of, in the end, you still gave birth to a money-losing daughter. Right?”

Ding Jiayi not only often called Qiao Nan wretched girl, but also money-losing daughter.

“Mom, don’t think that I don’t know anything. When you pestered Dad to have a second child and persuaded him to leave the army, you said you were willing to do so for the sake of your son. You gave up everything for a son but finally gave birth to me – can you blame me for this? I can’t neither choose my gender nor my Mom – it’s the same reasoning!”

If there was a choice, she would not wish to be Ding Jiayi’s daughter, especially the younger daughter.

“You... How can you say that?” Ding Jiayi raised her hand and slapped Qiao Nan hard, until blood was dripping from the corner of Qiao Nan’s mouth.

Ding Jiayi was always thinking how good things would have been if only she had not given birth to Qiao Nan.

However, when she heard that the daughter whom she disliked also felt the same way, Ding Jiayi was furious and humiliated.

“Old Ding, are you mad?” Qiao Dongliang, who was feeling sullen in the bedroom, heard the argument between Ding Jiayi and Qiao Nan getting worse, and he came out of the room. The first thing that he saw was Ding Jiayi slapping Qiao Nan.

Qiao Dongliang pulled Qiao Nan to his side. “Didn’t you give birth to Qiao Nan, how can you beat your own daughter like that?”

“Did you not hear what she said earlier, she said I do not treat her as my daughter, does she treat me as her Mom? She doesn’t want me to be her Mom!” Ding Jiayi yelled, her neck straight.

“You have to reflect on your behavior first. Nan Nan was not wrong in what she just said. Me leaving the army and your resignation – can we blame her for that? Blame yourself, blame me! But Nan Nan, what you just said was also too much. No matter what, she is your mother. How can you say such things to hurt your Mom? Your Mom has a strong temper, her words are as sharp as a knife, but she actually loves and dotes on you.”

After Qiao Dongliang disciplined Ding Jiayi, he also reprimanded Qiao Nan. Both were biological mother and daughter but they argued as if they were enemies.

“Dotes on me, Dad, is there a mother that will dote on me so much?” Qiao Nan laughed. Earlier, her Dad was angry, but he still harbored hopes of harmony and prosperity in the family.

In this lifetime, she knew how to fight for herself and was not willing to give in. But her dad always wanted to be the good guy, and play the middleman to the situation.

However, between her and her mother, there was an inseparable knot in their hearts. It was no longer possible for them to get along with each other for a single day in this entire lifetime.

“Dad, I had a fever before school started, do you know what I heard when I was lying on the bed in the bedroom? I heard Mom telling Sister that I have a wretched life, cheap and tough, I won’t die with a fever. As long as I was delayed in enrolling for school, they would cajole me into finding a job. Dad, you should know by now why Mom insisted that I find a job. If I work and earn money, will Mom allow me to save a cent? It is not enough to dump all the family savings on my sister, she still wants me to work and support my sister’s studies? Both are her daughters, why, is this how she dotes on me?”

Qiao Nan cried as she lamented. Her crying was more miserable than Ding Jiayi. “That day, my fever was so bad that I could not even get up. But my mother was so good, she bought a watermelon, Sister was hugging half of the watermelon and eating it with a spoon, all by herself. Sure, my mother really doted on me! I was sick and lying in bed, she threw away the medicine and refused to let me take it. I was so thirsty that I could not talk but there was no-one at home that would give me a single mouthful of water. Dad, can you tell me why Mom dotes on me so much. Such a doting Mom, who dares to want, who has the life to do so?”

## **Chapter 40: Did You Do It**

Initially, although Ding Jiayi was not right, Qiao Dongliang felt that Qiao Nan’s words about hoping that she was not Ding Jiayi’s daughter were too harsh and heartless.

However, after hearing what Qiao Nan said, Qiao Dongliang's lips were as though they sealed with glue. He could not open his mouth to defend Ding Jiayi.

The matter regarding Qiao Nan's fever happened not more than two months ago.

Qiao Dongliang could still remember how Qiao Nan retrieved the fever medicine, that had not expired, from the waste bin.

That day, his wife insisted that she had given the younger daughter the fever medicine. But thereafter, she said the medicine was gone, expired and thrown away.

Did his wife really give the younger daughter the fever medicine?

Did they really finish the fever medicine?

Or had the fever medicine expired?

No, not at all.

The more his wife tried to cover up, the matter regarding the passbook – the wife insisted that the younger daughter quit school to work. Was she really doing this for the sake of the younger daughter or did she have an ulterior motive, would Qiao Dongliang not know?

The more Qiao Nan said, the more awkward Qiao Dongliang's face looked. He breathed and snorted heavily.

"Dad, there is one matter that I have been keeping from you. I thought that was my hallucination, I too hoped that I was too sick to remember it correctly. The night that I was having fever, wasn't it raining heavily? I remembered that I had clearly closed the windows to prevent the rain from coming into the room, I clearly recalled that I was covered with my blanket when I slept. In the middle of the night, I vaguely felt that someone entered my room and walked to the windows. When I awoke in the morning, I had a fever, half the blanket was not only at the end of the bed, but also on the floor. Even the windows were opened. Dad, Mom really dotes on me!"

Qiao Dongliang was shaken and his whole body shivered. He looked at his younger daughter with disbelief. "Nan Nan, you, is what you said all true?"

"You're talking nonsense!" Ding Jiayi's eyes were red, and her face was even redder. She was angered by Qiao Nan. "You're a heartless thing, when did I enter your room and open your windows?"

Apparently after she woke up that day, Zijin told her that Qiao Nan's condition did not seem right – her face was flushed and she looked uncomfortable. She only knew that

Qiao Nan was having a fever after she entered Qiao Nan's room and touched her forehead.

"You, how can you malign me, I, I, I am your real mother!"

"Old Qiao, we lived in the same room, you think about it. Did I wake up in the middle of the night that day?" Ding Jiayi was afraid that Qiao Dongliang would believe Qiao Nan's "lies". She quickly asked Qiao Dongliang to search his memory.

This had happened almost two months ago. Qiao Dongliang could not remember so clearly.

Qiao Dongliang was in the army and a light sleeper. Usually, when Ding Jiayi woke at night to use the restroom or do other things, Qiao Dongliang would certainly be aware. But this happened too long ago, so Qiao Dongliang did not have much recollection.

As Qiao Dongliang looked like he was wracking his brains to recollect this, Ding Jiayi nearly fainted with anger. "I didn't do it, I didn't do it. Your health is poor but you think that I opened the windows at night. That room of yours, am I happy to go in? Furthermore, I have to wake up in the middle of the night to do so? If I had really planned for this, I would not have left only half a tablet of fever medicine at home – to let you find it?"

Ding Jiayi's inappropriate words made everyone embarrassed and speechless. Qiao Dongliang did not know how to react.

The wife's words had indirectly admitted that she had intentionally discarded the medicine, and the purpose was to let the younger daughter recover slowly so that she would miss the enrollment deadline.

Regardless of whether the window was opened by his wife, the plot of quitting school and working was certainly her wife's doing.

She had spent all the family savings for the elder daughter, yet she wanted the younger one to make up for this wrongdoing.

Facing this, Qiao Dongliang was too ashamed to tell Qiao Nan that Ding Jiayi, her mother, could not possibly not love her.

As for what Qiao Nan had said, this type of maternal love – who dares to want it?

"Mom, Mom, forget it. Didn't Nan Nan say, she probably remembered wrongly. Perhaps Nan Nan was already feverish at that time and mistook her dreams for real. No matter what, Nan Nan was sick at that time. You you, you try to put yourself in her shoes." Qiao Zijin, who saw the anger of Ding Jiayi rising, held on to Ding Jiayi and did not want her to continue arguing with Qiao Nan.



When Qiao Zijin said this, Qiao Nan opened her eyes and stared at Qiao Zijin.

At this time, Qiao Zijin appeared to be sincere in persuading Ding Jiayi to stop making trouble – was that not strange?

Qiao Zijin was never kind to her.

After being pushed to the edge by Qiao Nan, Qiao Zijin guiltily turned sideways and hid behind Ding Jiayi.

After which Qiao Zijin realized that the action would betray her. Lifting her waist, she stood out with a stiff face. “Nan Nan, why are you looking at me like this?”

“What do you think?” Qiao Nan laughed, then she took a long breath.

Till now, she had actually thought too lightly of Qiao Zijin.

In the previous life, after Qiao Zijin committed adultery, she blamed her divorce entirely on Qiao Nan. When she knew she had uremia and needed a kidney, she wanted Qiao Nan’s.

Such a heartless woman, she had actually revealed her fox’s tail at this time.

That night, it was true that someone had entered her room. Not only had the person opened her windows, but they had also pulled away her blanket.

However, that someone was not Ding Jiayi, it was Qiao Zijin!

“Dad, I can only say that I am certain that someone came into my room that night. If all of you think that I am dreaming, then continue to do so. Anyway, I didn’t even have water to drink when I was feverish. My mother and sister were happily eating watermelon. They even treated fever medicine as expired ones by discarding them, insisting that I had eaten them. With this, you said my Mom loves me, it’s not surprising that I have that kind of dreams.”

Qiao Nan let out a huge sigh, she was badly shaken.

Having said this, Qiao Nan did not wish to say anything else. She returned silently to her bedroom.

The weekend that students always looked forward to had just begun, but Qiao Nan felt that she could not live through it.

Was she really a child of the Qiao family?

How she wished she could choose not to be!

Qiao Nan words were more formidable than 100 slaps, it stunned the rest of the three people on the spot simultaneously and set them thinking.

“Fight, fight, fight. Argue from day till night. Are you happy now, Nan Nan has become like that, is your heart at ease? I told Nan Nan that you love her, when I think of it now, I feel my face flushed with embarrassment. You have wasted all our family savings and tarnished the relationship with Nan Nan, are you satisfied now? I have said, from now onwards, you take care of Zijin’s matters and I’ll take care of Nan Nan’s. If you dare to treat Nan Nan like this again, always shouting and threatening her to find a job to tidy up your mess, let me tell you, we won’t have a life anymore!”

After numerous shocks and provocations, Qiao Dongliang could not smile even when he looked at Qiao Zijin who had been quite obedient and sensible all this while.

He knew. Was the elder daughter not the source of all these matters?

“Zijin, let me ask you. Was it yours and Mom’s idea to study in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China?”

Qiao Zijin did not expect that she would leave such a big loophole. That night, before she opened the windows, she had clearly called Nan Nan a few times and even pushed Nan Nan’s shoulders to ensure that Nan Nan was sleeping like a log. She then daringly opened the windows and removed the blanket from Qiao Nan’s body.

She had not expected that Qiao Nan was actually pretending to be asleep.

“I...” Suddenly being questioned by Qiao Dongliang, Qiao Zijin was scared out of her wits. She stuttered for a long while and did not manage to respond to the question.

“Why are you shouting, didn’t you just say, I will take care of Zijin’s matters and you will take care of Qiao Nan’s. This matter, you don’t need to ask anymore.” Ding Jiayi’s face was serious. “But I don’t want you to misunderstand Zijin. This matter was decided by me.”

But the elder daughter mentioned it first.

The elder daughter said that if she could get into a better high school, it would be easier to be admitted to a good university.

“Fine.” Qiao Dongliang laughed. But this laugh gave Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin’s goose pimples. “Except for the school fees which we can negotiate, from now onwards, you take care of Zijin’s living expenses alone. Anyway, the savings in the family have all been spent, whether you want to find a job, that’s up to you. You spent 5000 yuan because of Zijin, both are my daughters, it’s not fair to let Nan Nan suffer because of this. So, my money, other than giving it to Nan Nan for living expenses, I will be saving it for her too.”

After he finished, Qiao Dongliang went back to his room again. He shut the door loudly with a slam.

Ding Jiayi sadly slapped her thighs. "It has come to this, how is she going to live?"

If Old Qiao really was not going to care for Zijin anymore, if Ding Jiayi was going to find a job, how was Zijin going to survive?

Ding Jiayi knew that Qiao Dongliang was serious this time. Even if he still cared about Qiao Zijin, he would not treat Qiao Zijin the same as before.

The elder daughter was raised by her, Ding Jiayi knew that Qiao Zijin would not be able to endure this type of life. For the sake of her elder daughter, she must find a job.

Ding Jiayi did not expect that after fighting for a few months, finally, not only did Qiao Nan not quit school, but also Ding Jiayi, who had been a housewife for 15 years, had to return to society and take a nine to five job. There would not be a moment of leisure.

The Qiao family had such a bad fight, all four family members were in terrible moods.

Ding Jiayi was washing the dishes at the same time and crying. She was not in the mood to eat, but Qiao Dongliang had to go to work tomorrow, so regardless of whether Qiao Dongliang would eat, she had to prepare the food.

"I really owe it to that pair of father and daughter in my previous life."

The two of them argued with her till they were red in the face and treated her like enemy, but she still had to wait on and feed the two of them. She must have sinned a lot.

"Mom, I'll help you." Qiao Zijin, who never did housework, for the first time, did not pay lip service. She rolled up her sleeves and started helping. "Mom, is Dad really going to care only about Nan Nan, and not bother about me anymore?" Having said that, Qiao Zijin's eyes were red.

She was clearly supposed to be her parent's favorite child.

When she saw that her elder daughter had come, Ding Jiayi sniffed and wiped the corner of her eyes with her sleeves. "You don't need to worry about this matter. But Zijin, regarding Qiao Nan's fever, did you do it?"