

Rebirth to a Military Marriage: Good Morning Chief

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Chapter 41: Refuse To Admit

Qiao Zijin, who was washing the dishes, paused for a while. Thereafter, her facial expression was awkward. "No, Nan Nan's fever had nothing to do with me."

"But Qiao Nan said?" Ding Jiayi heard what Qiao Nan said. She had definitely not done this, nor had Old Qiao. There were only four people in the house, so it must have been the elder daughter.

"Is what Nan Nan said certainly true? Mom, don't forget that Nan Nan's fever was so bad that day. She was sick and confused and mistook her dreams for reality. Nan Nan is paranoid, you mustn't become like her."

Qiao Zijin swiped her hands. "Mom, think about it, Dad just found out that we spent all the family savings so that I could study at The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. If he also knew about Grandpa Li, he would be even more furious. We should try our best not to let Dad get angry again. Just now, Dad did not mention Nan Nan's dream. You should not take it to heart, nor should you mention it to Dad anymore. There is no such thing, Nan Nan was talking about her dream, don't blindly believe and get involved. You think there aren't enough matters to provoke Dad?"

Only God knows that when Qiao Nan mentioned what happened on that rainy night, immediately, Qiao Zijin was so frightened that her heart was in her throat.

Fortunately, her father did not continue to pursue this matter. If not, she might let the cat out of the bag.

Qiao Zijin was afraid of Qiao Dongliang, but not Ding Jiayi.

After Qiao Zijin's coaxing, Ding Jiayi was no longer bothered about whether Qiao Nan's words were true.

There were enough troubles at home now, there would be no end if they pursued this matter again.

Qiao Dongliang heard Ding Jiayi shouting for dinner time. Initially, he was not willing to come out of the room. He was furious with Ding Jiayi.

But when he recalled that the doctor said the younger daughter was malnourished, Qiao Dongliang called Qiao Nan out. “Nan Nan, you’re at your puberty age, don’t be at odds with your body, the two of us – let’s go and have our meal.”

“Okay, Dad.”

Qiao Nan immediately agreed. Although she was at odds with someone, no matter what, she should not be at odds with herself.

The family of four were seated together. Qiao Dongliang did not cast a single look at his wife or elder daughter. He was only focused on filling Qiao Nan’s bowl with the good dishes, and repeatedly told her, “Nan Nan, eat more, you must eat your fill, you’re too skinny.”

“I know, Dad. You work so hard, eat more too, don’t shortchange yourself.”

Qiao Nan also helped herself and filled Qiao Dongliang’s bowl with all the meat and vegetables.

In the past, the same plate of meat could feed the family for two or three meals. Now, it was like one meal as Qiao Nan tried her best to eat as much as she could.

The whole family scrimped and saved, in the end, the money were all spent on Qiao Zijin. What a waste.

When she saw that the Dongpo meat, which she had specially prepared to celebrate her elder daughter’s return, was almost finished by the father and younger daughter – there were only three pieces left, Ding Jiayi felt the pinch. “Zijin, you eat too. You studied hard, and should eat more good stuff.”

As she said that, Ding Jiayi placed one piece of meat into Qiao Zijin’s bowl, added another, then placed the last piece in her own bowl.

When she looked at the two pieces of meat in her bowl, Qiao Zijin moved her mouth. She felt very unhappy.

It was such a big plate of meat. In the past, most of it would be for her. But today, it benefited Qiao Nan.

The matter that was argued about today, most of it had to do with Qiao Zijin. Qiao Zijin did not want to eat the meat.

Unexpectedly, her Dad was true to his word about not bothering about her anymore. He cared more about Qiao Nan and gave all the meat to her. If not for her Mom who gave her two pieces of the meat, this time, she might not even have any.

“That’s right, Nan Nan. You studied hard. Have better food when you are in school. Don’t shortchange yourself.” Qiao Dongliang took out five yuan from his pocket and passed to Qiao Nan. “Take this money and spend. Although we should not be extravagant, wasteful, or yearn for things that do not belong to us, but we also should not be harsh to or shortchange ourselves, understand?”

“Dad, don’t worry. I know.” Qiao Nan helped herself to the money and put it away in her pocket.

Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Nan were like a duet, Ding Jiayi’s face was red, Qiao Zijin was so embarrassed that she almost buried her face in the bowl.

After returning to his room, Qiao Dongliang thought about it. It was true that his wife was very concerned about the elder daughter but the wife was not familiar with the situation at the school.

If the elder daughter had not mentioned anything before his wife, his wife would not possibly have had the idea of admitting her into The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China.

Most importantly, with his wife’s character, it was not possible that she had instantly made the decision to spend the family savings to let the elder daughter switch school.

If the wife was so decisive, she could entirely depend on her own ability, leave the Ding family and seek a life of her own.

Although the wife had a strong temper. If not for the matter that the Ding family wanted to sell her out, she would have remained in the Ding family and continued to be a slave to them.

At the thought of it, Qiao Dongliang understood. He assessed that his elder daughter had taken great efforts in this.

He did not blame the elder daughter for thinking of her own future.

He could not accept that they had not discussed the matter with him, the head of the family, first. Instead, they had done it without consulting him, and he had to wait until Nan Nan mentioned it before finding out.

Ding Jiayi wanted to let Qiao Nan quit school to work but Qiao Zijin did not try to dissuade her mother. Moreover, the root of the matter was because Qiao Zijin had spent the family savings for her studies. At this thought, Qiao Dongliang felt a little uneasy.

For the first time, he discovered that, for the sake of her own future, the elder daughter was scheming towards her family members.

After placing the pieces of the puzzle together, now, Qiao Dongliang looked at Qiao Zijin and felt extremely awkward and uneasy.

His earlier words were entirely for Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin to hear.

Qiao Zijin understood the meaning in Qiao Dongliang's words, she clenched her chopsticks. With her head down, she finished the bowl of rice. "Dad, can I talk to you?"

Coincidentally, Qiao Dongliang also finished his food at this time.

Qiao Dongliang put down his bowl. He was still angry and actually did not feel like talking to Qiao Zijin, but, in the end, he said, "Follow me to the study room."

As soon as father and daughter left, Qiao Nan immediately put down her bowl of rice and returned to her room.

From today onwards, she would not do any household chores if Qiao Zijin was not doing them too.

When she saw that all three of them were each more arrogant than the others, Ding Jiayi endured and dared not breathe a word. She could only clean up quietly.

After she returned to the room, Qiao Nan stared at a book for a long time. Unfortunately, she did not register a single word in her mind.

After while, Qiao Nan took a few deep breaths and told herself to stay calm.

As of now, her mother and Qiao Zijin had only committed "petty crimes". Qiao Zijin was a smart person. She knew that she could not offend Dad as he was the sole breadwinner in the family. She could not continue to disappoint him.

Whatever it was, even if her father was appeased by Qiao Zijin, she no longer needed to be nervous and afraid.

Chapter 42: Self Reflection

With so many things that had happened, Qiao Zijin could no longer enjoy the unique status that she had once held at home.

Qiao Nan did not expect much. She just hoped that she could continue with her studies.

As for Qiao Zijin, as long as she did not provoke her, she would not bother about Qiao Nan.

Of course, if her mother and Qiao Zijin still tried to bully her like before, then she would definitely retaliate against them as she had done today.

After she sorted out her thoughts, Qiao Nan was finally able to read her books.

In the study room, father and daughter sat facing each other. Once seated, Qiao Zijin's head dropped as tears rolled down her face pitifully.

Qiao Zijin cried so badly, Qiao Dongliang gave a long sigh. "Alright, don't cry. Tell me, what are you crying about?"

When she heard Qiao Dongliang open his mouth to speak, Qiao Zijin felt momentarily relieved. She wiped her tears and said, "Dad, I know I was wrong, I was jealous that Nan Nan's grades were better than mine. Dad, today's matter, it was not intentional. In fact, in fact I was so anxious today because of the matter regarding the passbook. I know Mom is good to me, she spent all the family savings to let me study at The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. I also want to study hard but there are no more books at home, and you discovered those indecent books. Dad, I'm anxious. I'm scared. I am afraid that the family paid so much for me to study but I can't repay you with anything. The more nervous I am, the more I can't study well. But Nan Nan... no matter how bad she does, her grades are better than mine. And Nan Nan is the Vice Class Monitor. She receives awards every year. I have nothing."

Qiao Zijin sounded so helpless, like a trapped animal, groaning in pain.

Although Qiao Zijin was not quite coherent, Qiao Dongliang understood her words.

Basically, Qiao Zijin knew that she had spent too much money for her high school studies, yet her grades were poor during the summer period.

In comparison to her own sister at home, the elder daughter was worried that she would make additional mistakes and cause her parents to dislike her.

"Dad, I really didn't mean it and I don't want to be like this. Nan Nan is my real sister, I am the elder sister, It's only right that I treat her well and take care of her. How can I be inferior because my grades are worse than her. I thought that if I went to The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China where the teachers are better, my grades would improve and I could be as good as Nan Nan. At that time, Dad, you would have two outstanding daughters, and you would be proud to visit Grandpa Li. Dad, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to."

At the sight of Qiao Zijin crying so miserably, Qiao Dongliang could not help but soften. "Alright, don't cry anymore, your eyes will be swollen if you continue."

"Dad, forgive me this time, I won't dare to do this again. In fact, for today's matter, I admit that I was trying to let you know that Nan Nan is also an ordinary person, and like

me, she will make mistakes. It is also because Nan Nan is my sister, and I am anxious about her. I don't want to see Nan Nan mix around with people whom she should not be mixing with and go astray. Dad, you have to believe me, on this point, I have good intentions for Nan Nan and don't mean to harm her. My only fault is that I was too anxious to jump to conclusions from insignificant evidence. I also did not give Nan Nan a chance to explain before I concluded that she was wrong. Dad, don't worry, I'll definitely not do this this anymore."

Qiao Zijin admitted her mistake with a good attitude. She even reflected on what she had done wrong. What could Qiao Dongliang say to her?

Qiao Dongliang gave a sigh. "Zijin, let me ask you, Nan Nan talked about another matter today, what do you think?"

Qiao Zijin's gently clenched the fists placed on her knee. Thereafter, her face was innocent and stunned. "Dad, which matter are you referring to?"

"Nan Nan's fever."

"Dad, Nan Nan's fever has nothing to do with me. I trust that Mom did not do it either!" Qiao Zijin denied on the spot immediately.

Even if this was before her mother, she would not admit to this matter.

"Do you mean that Nan Nan is lying?"

"I don't know who lied, what I know is that I didn't do it. Nan Nan and I are biological sisters, I may talk about Nan Nan, but I would never do this kind of thing."

Qiao Dongliang sighed another time. He also did not believe that the elder daughter would do such a thing.

Qiao Dongliang could remember his younger daughter's expression and words vividly. It was difficult for him to console himself that the younger daughter's matter was only her delusion and not what had really happened.

"Zijin, I'll say this again. Whatever happened in the past, I can not pursue or ask anymore. However, I don't want a similar thing to happen a second time. Do you understand what I mean?"

Qiao Zijin's fingernails had already created many dents on her hands.

Upon hearing this from Qiao Dongliang, Qiao Zijin knew that her father did not fully believe what she had just said.

“Dad, I know. You watch my behavior in future.” Qiao Zijin forced a smile and replied briefly, “Dad, then I shall return to my room to do my homework.”

“Go.”

While Qiao Zijin was returning to her room, she passed by Qiao Nan’s room. Before she open the door of her room, her eyes glared fiercely for a few seconds towards the entrance of Qiao Nan’s room.

Qiao Zijin locked the door of her room. Thereafter, she pulled out a notebook and repeatedly wrote a sentence with her pen “Qiao Nan the bitch, go and die!”

Qiao Zijin only felt a little better after she filled a large page of the notebook.

Qiao Zijin tore out this page, lit a match and burnt it to ashes. Thereafter, she then took out her homework to continue with it.

“Old, Old Qiao.” During night time, Ding Jiayi quietly went in to the bedroom, she stuttered as she called Qiao Dongliang.

“What’s the matter?” Qiao Dongliang asked coldly.

“Old Qiao, Zijin will be going to school the day after.” Ding Jiayi’s face stiffened. Having spent half her lifetime with Qiao Dongliang, this was the first time that she felt so awkward to ask him for money. “Even if Zijin’s matters will be solely taken care of by me alone, I also need time to find a job, right? But what about Zijin’s meal expenses?”

Qiao Dongliang looked at Ding Jiayi coldly. He took out six yuan from his pocket and passed to Ding Jiayi. “Take it.”

When she saw six yuan, Ding Jiayi pursed her lips. “Only six yuan?”

Clearly Old Qiao had given Qiao Nan five yuan. Five yuan for Qiao Nan for that week, but only six yuan for Zijin for two weeks?

Furthermore, Qiao Nan was a a junior high school student, and Zijin was in senior high school!

“In the past, you only gave Zijin money. Nan Nan did not get a cent from you. Has Nan Nan said anything? Because of you, Nan Nan can only use and wear the leftovers from Zijin. Did Nan Nan say anything? Six yuan is not much but it’s definitely enough for Zijin to have her meals. If you want to give Zijin more money, then find a job soon. With income, I will not interfere in how you manage Zijin.”

Similarly, Ding Jiayi should not interfere in any matter regarding Qiao Nan. Qiao Dongliang would manage everything.

Chapter 43: Qiao Zijin Wants To Borrow Money

Qiao Dongliang said that because he had made up his mind.

His wife's favoritism had not happened over one or two days, and it was very serious. If his wife continued to take care of both of them, the younger daughter would certainly be destroyed at the hands of his wife.

The reasons why Qiao Dongliang dared to hand Qiao Zijin over to Ding Jiayi were twofold. First, Ding Jiayi had always been biased towards Qiao Zijin. As such, Qiao Zijin would not be neglected if Ding Jiayi took care of her.

Qiao Dongliang was not concerned about Qiao Zijin being rebellious. After all, children would go through this stage during their puberty.

By nature, the elder daughter was still a good child and he need not worry that much.

Qiao Dongliang had put his words so bluntly, Ding Jiayi could not rebuke. She took the six yuan, and after consideration, she took out and added another two yuan from her own pocket, then passed the money to the elder daughter.

"Mom, shouldn't it be 10 yuan?" Qiao Zijin was a little unhappy when she saw the money. Compared to the previous time, the amount was small.

Ding Jiayi smiled. "Have you forgotten what your Dad said? Since I have not found a job yet, this family still depends on your Dad. You think eight yuan is little. Your Dad only gave me six and I added two yuan for you."

In the past, Ding Jiayi was also considered a responsible woman. However, she had been a full-time housewife for 15 years.

All of a sudden, she had to return to society to work. Ding Jiayi felt awkward and unhappy.

It was because of her elder daughter that she ended up in such a predicament.

Qiao Zijin could see that Ding Jiayi was burning with anger inside. She quickly smiled. "Mom, don't be angry. It's not that you don't know my grades. If I still do not work hard, how can I do better than Nan Nan? There's a lot of study materials for sale but they are not cheap. Given the situation at home, I don't mean to ask you for more money. I could gradually save up some of my meal expenses then buy them on my own. It's just that, all of a sudden, I was short of two yuan. My plan was disrupted and I probably have to buy the study materials later. Mom, don't be angry."

“Is it really for buying study materials?” Ding Jiayi questioned suspiciously.

The earlier matter regarding the novel had left a phobia on Ding Jiayi.

If her daughter wanted to buy study materials, Ding Jiayi would use all means to squeeze out the money for her elder daughter.

But not for buying those novels that were bad and time-wasting.

The lack of family savings had now become the fear of Ding Jiayi.

“Of course it’s for buying study materials.” Qiao Zijin nodded her head hard. “But don’t be anxious, Mom. I can save up a little gradually. But the living expenses cannot be reduced anymore, if not, I don’t think I will have enough to eat, neither will I eat well.”

Those who attended The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China were either high achievers or from rich families.

There were also quite a number who entered the school in the same way as Qiao Zijin. Most of them did not meet the entry criteria. Hence, the school simply arranged them to be in the same class, so that they do not affect the learning progress of the rest of the students.

If not, if her friends were having good food such as protein dishes, Qiao Zijin could not possibly have vegetarian meals.

Also, after attending the school, Qiao Zijin realized that there were many rich folk in this world. Her two weeks’ living allowance was not even the one day’s expenditure of the well-to-do students.

At the thought of this, Qiao Zijin’s lips pursed tightly, her eyes full of reluctance and jealousy.

If Qiao Nan went to work, she could also lead such a life. It was all Qiao Nan’s fault as she insisted on continuing her studies. She did not have any sisterly love for her, neither did she spare much thought for her.

She should think of the past – that year when her mother was pregnant with Qiao Nan, she had to take so much suffering and humiliation.

Qiao Nan owed her and it was only right for her to quit school and support her!

“As long as you are sensible, Mom is happy. Don’t worry, Mom will find a job as soon as possible. When Mom has a job, you will definitely be given 10 yuan. But Zijin, you still have to save a little, some of your school supplies can still be used, don’t dump it all on Qiao Nan like you did before. The family’s savings are gone, and Mom has to find a way

to save some money. Otherwise, we won't have money to seek medical treatment if any of us fall sick in future."

Now that there was famine in the family, there was a limit to how much Ding Jiayi could dote on Qiao Zijin now.

"I know, Mom." Qiao Zijin bit her lips and replied with a forced smile.

After Ding Jiayi left, Qiao Zijin threw a tantrum and started hitting her own bed.

National Day would be in half a month's time. Her class had thought of having a performance. She had to dance but she was short of a costume now.

Qiao Zijin was the lead dancer and she could not be dressed like everyone else. She had her eye on a dance dress which was selling for 10 yuan.

Qiao Zijin had really been saving money recently. However, it was not for the revision materials, it was for the dress for the National Day performance.

Unless, when Qiao Zijin went to school this time, she missed her meals for two weeks to save up the 10 yuan. If not, she would either have to give up the performance or the lead dancer role.

After some consideration, Qiao Zijin stood up and went to knock on the door of Qiao Nan's bedroom. "Nan Nan, are you in, can I come in?"

Upon hearing Qiao Zijin's voice, Qiao Nan put away her books properly. "Come in."

After Qiao Zijin pushed opened the door and went in. She did not look good.

In the entire Qiao family, Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi's bedroom was of course the biggest. Qiao Nan's room was originally Qiao Dongliang's study room. It was slightly bigger than Qiao Zijin's room, and the lighting in this room was particularly good.

Initially, Qiao Zijin wanted to stay in this room but Ding Jiayi would not allow it.

Ding Jiayi's initial arrangement was, of course, to let the couple have the biggest room. This room with good lighting was for the son, and Qiao Zijin's current bedroom was supposed to be the study room.

Of course, the room where Qiao Nan lived before was not arranged by Ding Jiayi for Qiao Zijin.

Just because Ding Jiayi had given birth to Qiao Nan and not a son, Qiao Zijin now had the third-class room, and Qiao Nan the fourth-class room.

But who would expect that, at the year that Qiao Nan was 15 years old, although she was obviously not the son, she now lived in the room that Ding Jiayi had once prepared for the son.

Qiao Zijin revealed this matter. “Nan Nan, do you know, Mom originally prepared this room for her son. She would not allow me to do so when I wanted to stay here.”

“So?” Qiao Nan was not affected.

Qiao Zijin was stunned. Unexpectedly, Qiao Nan’s reaction was too cold. Shouldn’t Qiao Nan feel as indignant as her and be dissatisfied with her Mom’s biased behavior?

“Any matter?”

“There is something.” Qiao Zijin recalled her motive. “Nan Nan, I would like to ask you for a favor. I remembered that you have some money. Can you lend it to me? I will return it to you in future?”

Qiao Nan twisted her eyebrows. “Borrow money? I don’t have any!”

Chapter 44: Your Plot, My Strategy

There was saying that talking about money hurts relationships, and talking about relationships hurt money.

What sort of feelings would she have for Qiao Zijin? In this life, for any money that belonged to her, she would not give a single cent to Qiao Zijin.

“Why not, if you don’t have money, how did you buy the old books? Nan Nan, we are biological sisters, you would rather let the money rot in your hands than to lend it to me, are you so heartless?” Upon thinking, Qiao Zijin softened her tone. “Nan Nan, I need it urgently this time, really! I am only borrowing from you. I will definitely return it to you.”

“I have said, I don’t have money. I have spent all my money.” Qiao Nan insisted that she had no money. “Also, what do you need the money for, why are you so hard up? If you need it for a decent purpose, our parents will not shortchange you.”

Towards the end of the conversation, Qiao Nan’s eyes flashed a look of sarcasm.

Qiao Zijin was the family’s elder daughter. From a young age, she was obedient and well-behaved. She also had a sweet tongue.

Qiao Nan knew that her Dad had always thought highly of Qiao Zijin. As they did not have a son, her Dad had even toyed the idea of taking in a son-in-law that would bear the Qiao family's surname for Qiao Zijin in future.

Unfortunately, Qiao Zijin snatched Chen Jun from her. Given Chen Jun's family background, it was impossible for him to be taken in as a son-in-law.

Qiao Zijin was even pregnant with Chen Jun's child. Her mother kicked up a big fuss. Her father had no choice but to allow Chen Jun to marry Qiao Zijin.

Because of that, her father had once shifted this thought to Qiao Nan.

Her mother would not be willing to give all of what the Qiao family had to her. If she had to give it away, she would rather leave it for Qiao Zijin's children.

Knowing her father's thoughts, Ding Jiayi had been watching Qiao Nan and forbidding her to talk about boyfriend and marriage.

Similar to now, Qiao Zijin clearly did so many wrong things and schemed against her umpteen times. But her father still forgave Qiao Zijin. The family's treatment to Qiao Zijin would not change much.

Qiao Nan sighed. Forget it, she did not want to think of this. Anyway, she just wanted to continue with her studies and protect her own interests.

As for the other matters, she would let her mother and Qiao Zijin be.

"Why are you like this, obviously I came to you because it's not convenient to ask Dad and Mom. If I could ask them, would I still need to borrow from you?" All this while, Qiao Nan had acceded to all of Qiao Zijin's requests. Qiao Zijin had asked her to lend the money but Qiao Nan was as tight-lipped as the shell of a clam – she would not open her mouth. Qiao Zijin's anger rose again.

Qiao Nan laughed coldly. "You can say whatever you like. Two words – No Money."

Having said that, she continued to read her book and do her homework. She could not be bothered with Qiao Zijin.

"If you don't give me the money, don't expect to lead a good life!" Qiao Zijin rudely snatched the book from Qiao Nan's hands.

Qiao Nan looked at Qiao Zijin coldly. "Do you want me to call Dad in?"

"Call if you are capable of it!"

"Dad!"

Qiao Zijin's face turned pale the moment that she saw Qiao Nan calling for her father. Yet, she continued to sit in Qiao Nan's room, seemingly self-assured.

"Why?" When the younger daughter called, Qiao Dongliang looked quite happy when he came over. But he was surprised when he saw that the elder daughter was also present.

"Dad, nothing much. Nan Nan is still angry with me. I wanted to apologize to Nan Nan but she is not pleased that I disturbed her while she is reading." Qiao Zijin's was a smooth talker and she made it sound like it was all Qiao Nan's fault.

"Nan Nan?" Qiao Dongliang was going to reprimand the younger daughter for being so petty. They could not possibly continue their disagreements with each other. But Qiao Dongliang quickly held back.

"Dad, I can only say that I did not!" Qiao Nan was also angered by Qiao Zijin's shameless behavior.

Qiao Zijin was only 17 years old and she knew how to tell lies without blinking an eye.

No wonder. Before her death in her previous life, Qiao Zijin committed adultery and Chen Jun divorced her without giving any marital compensation. But, in the end, she could blame all this on Qiao Nan.

"Nan Nan, don't be angry anymore. Actually I am truly concerned about you. I apologize to you, can you forgive me please?" Qiao Zijin played the act as she spoke.

Qiao Nan lifted her chin, both amused and angry. "Sure, Sister. Isn't this just a misunderstanding, real sisters do not have enmity overnight. I forgive you. Come, to show that I have really forgiven you, let us have a hug!"

Qiao Nan came from the 21st century. There was nothing that she had not seen.

In the 1990s, Generation Z were more introverted and would never say words such as "I love you". Neither would they display any physical affection for each other.

Without waiting for Qiao Zijin to respond, Qiao Nan opened her arms and gave Qiao Zijin a passionate hug. "Sister, I have really forgiven you. We are on such good terms."

Qiao Zijin was totally stunned by this sudden action by Qiao Nan. She stood there feeling stiff and did not know what to do.

Without waiting for Qiao Zijin to react, Qiao Nan had already let go of her hands and returned to her place.

Look who was more thick-skinned and better in acting!

Seeing that the two daughters have reconciled, especially that the younger daughter used such an affectionate way to prove it, Qiao Dongliang smiled. "Zijin is more like an elder sister now. Nan Nan is also good, not petty, I am not worried now seeing that the two of you have reconciled."

"Dad, I'm going to do my homework. Why don't Sister and you leave the room?" The play was over, it was time to go.

"Right, you study hard." Nothing was more important than the child's studies. Qiao Dongliang looked at Zijin. "Zijin, we will leave. Nan Nan needs to do her homework."

Qiao Zijin ground her teeth, to hell with it.

In the past, Qiao Nan was obedient and plain spoken. When did she become as slippery as an eel, such that she could not even catch her?

"Dad, I have homework too. Can I do it together with Nan Nan?" Qiao Zijin took a breath. Anyway, there was no way that she would be getting any money from Qiao Nan today. She might as well disturb Nan Nan these two days.

Qiao Zijin was not only shameless, but also wanted to play rogue. Fine, since she wanted to kick up a fuss, so be it!

"Dad, it's rare that the three of us, father and daughters, are together. Dad, why don't you also take a book to sit here and read, I will do homework with Sister. In case we have any questions, we can also discuss with you. Dad, do you think this works?"

"Sure."

All the while, Qiao Dongliang was not close to his daughters. He wished to be a responsible and steady father who quietly supported his children with a lot of fatherly love.

It was rare that the three, father and daughters, could enjoy family time together. Qiao Dongliang did not have any reason to decline. He took a book from the study room and came back to have a seat.

Qiao Zijin clenched her fists and secretly glared at Qiao Nan.

If Dad was with them, she would not have any opportunity to ask Qiao Nan for money.

Qiao Zijin had a plot, Qiao Nan also had her strategy.

As a reborn "old woman" who was already more than 30 years old, she would have wasted her life if she could not even win the struggle with a 17 year-old girl.

Although being reborn would not give a person more intelligence, it would give the person more life experience and knowledge, especially improvements in the way and attitude that they dealt with problems.

Chapter 45: Plotted Against Again

Since the words were already said, even though Qiao Zijin was unhappy, she could only do her homework obediently.

With the matter of money unresolved, Qiao Zijin, who already did not have an enthusiastic learning attitude, could not concentrate on her homework. After dawdling for a long time, she had only finished a page while Qiao Nan had almost completed hers.

Qiao Dongliang, who was reading a book and silently observing, quietly furrowed his brow.

True enough, the elder daughter was probably not cut out for studies.

Nan Nan was very focused on completing her homework, she was effective and not distracted at all. But Zijin completely could not do so.

Fortunately, Zijin was the elder daughter. When she was older, he could take in a son-in-law that would bear the bride's family name and move into his house. Under his wife and his watch, Zijin would not be bullied even if her grades were not good.

Qiao Dongliang glanced at Qiao Nan again and his eyes shone brightly.

Nan Nan was very outstanding and would be promising in future.

Qiao Dongliang was aware that whoever was willing to be take the Qiao family's surname might have lesser qualities, but he could also be an honest and down-to-earth chap.

If Qiao Nan found an outstanding man, this man would also certainly not allow his child to take the Qiao surname.

At the thought of this, Qiao Dongliang felt that this was quite a good arrangement. Then he continued to read his book.

Such a heartwarming atmosphere continued until around nine that evening. Qiao Nan had completed her homework as planned. She closed her books and stretched.

“It’s quite late now, both of you should turn in early.” Once Qiao Nan made a slight movement, Qiao Dongliang started to perk up.

Qiao Nan breathed a sigh of relief, she stretched, washed up and went to sleep.

Just when Qiao Nan thought that she had been released from this predicament, she saw Qiao Zijin wearing her pyjamas and standing at the entrance of her bedroom. She was hugging a pillow with her hands.

Qiao Nan frowned “What is the meaning of this?”

“Tonight, I am sleeping with you.” Qiao Zijin smiled. Anyway, she had two days. She did not believe that she could not find a way to get the money from Qiao Nan.

Earlier, she told Qiao Nan that she was borrowing from her. If Qiao Nan had obligingly lent to her, she might really pay back the money when she had it.

But after she kicked up such a fuss, Qiao Zijin made up her mind that she would never return the money to Qiao Nan once she received it. It was Qiao Nan’s fault for not agreeing at the beginning.

“I remembered that you do not like to sleep with anyone.” At the very least, Qiao Zijin never slept with her before.

“You are my biological sister, how could you be considered as others. Nan Nan, you see, it’s late, let’s sleep.” Qiao Zijin, affectionately pulled Qiao Nan’s hands to return to the room.

After they went in the room, Qiao Nan yawned. She knew that Qiao Zijin was set on hounding her until she get the money.

Go ahead and hound. Who would be afraid?

“Are we sleeping or not?”

“Sleeping.” Qiao Zijin placed her pillow beside that of Qiao Nan, covered herself with a blanket and proceeded to sleep.

However, once Qiao Nan lied down and closed her eyes, Qiao Zijin started talking again. “Nan Nan, I’m a little restless, can we lie down and chat with each other?”

“Sure, what do you want to chat about?”

“That Zhu Baoguo – is he really your deskmate?”

“I didn’t know who my deskmate was, but now I think it is him.” Anyway, she could not recall who her deskmates were in secondary one and two.

“How did you know that Zhu Baoguo would encounter danger, and it was so coincidental that you happen to be at the scene?” Qiao Zijin’s eyes flashed with doubt; that was the part that she could not understand the most.

The place that Zhu Baoguo was attacked was definitely not a place that most people would pass by. If not, he would not have suffered such a serious injury and needed to wait for Qiao Nan to call for help.

Qiao Nan had her small secret and this was found out by Qiao Zijin long ago.

Till today, her mother and her had not been able to find where Qiao Nan hid her books.

Qiao Zijin already noticed that, in the recent month when Qiao Nan was studying at home, she had been reading the content of the four volumes of the past two years.

So, it was true when Qiao Nan said she had forgotten most of what she had learnt in the past two years.

If she could think of a way to get rid of this set of textbooks, Qiao Nan would not be able to revise. With the loss of four volumes’ contents, she do not believe that Qiao Nan would do better than her in the exams.

When the time came, Qiao Nan had no choice but to work.

At the faint thought of this, Qiao Zijin was full of energy.

“It was a coincidence that I passed by that road.” Qiao Nan turned her head and saw Qiao Zijin with her eyes lit up. She wondered what ideas Qiao Zijin was hatching again.

“Happened to pass by, which path was so coincidental?”

Qiao Nan pursed her lips. “The quad had only a few paths. Which path can it be? Think yourself.”

“Nan Nan, Dad has allowed you to continue your studies. Mom could not have a say in this, you can keep those books at home now. Furthermore, Mom did not do it intentionally last time, she was careless and sold your books together with mine. This kind of mistake, she will not repeat for a second time. If you put them somewhere else, it’s kind of troublesome to retrieve it as and when you need it.”

“Not troublesome.”

“Are you still angry with Mom, she gave birth to and raised us. How hard it was. Nan Nan you can’t be so petty, especially when you keep losing temper with Mom. That year, in order to give birth to you, Mom suffered a lot. You have never met the Ding family. I have seen them before, because Mom gave birth to you, you don’t know how the Ding family laughed and made Mom so angry. She cried. Our grandmother laughed at Mom and said she had sinned in her previous life, that she did not do good in this life, so she could not bear a son and made the Qiao family lose the family line. For this matter, after Mom gave birth to you, she did not even have a proper confinement. Nan Nan, you have to be sensible and do more for Mom. She suffered so much for you.”

“Not angry.” There was nothing to be angry about since she had already been driven to the grave by her Mom once.

“That’s right. Don’t be angry. In future, listen more to Mom at home. Just listen to whatever Mom tells you and don’t be stubborn. Mom will be finding a job soon and it will be hard for her. The household chores at home, do as much as you can and lessen Mom’s worries. A family that gets along with one another, that’s the best. Right?”

Qiao Nan rolled her eyes. Her mother was going to work to support Qiao Zijin, and to support Qiao Zijin’s studies.

There was no reason that Qiao Zijin should enjoy all the benefit, while she had to take on the responsibility of all the household chores. Wishful thinking!

“Nan Nan, are you asleep?” Qiao Zijin did not hear Nan Nan’s response. She smiled. “You’re like a child. Cover yourself properly with the blanket. Don’t kick. If you catch a cold this time, don’t blame it on others again.”

Qiao Zijin thought that Qiao Nan was asleep. Qiao Nan allowed Qiao Zijin to misunderstand, so that she could really sleep.

Qiao Nan, who was really falling asleep, did not know that she had fallen for Qiao Zijin’s ploy.

At this moment, Ding Jiayi and Qiao Dongliang were awkwardly pressing their ears to the door of the room.