

## RTAMM 1081

### Chapter 1081 To Be Siblings If Not Husband and Wife

After grandfather had spoken, Brother Zhai reduced the quantity. However, he increased the quality too viciously and also the duration!!!

Fortunately, all thanks to Old Master Zhai's words, Qiao Nan's 'exercises' lessened by a lot. She had more time for sleeping then.

On the second day, it was rare that Qiao Nan, who was already used to the constant 'torture' by Zhai Sheng, could sleep for an additional two hours. She was thus feeling energized. Just as how Shi Qing would put it, she seemed to be shining all over.

"See no evil!" Shi Qing covered her eyes. "Qiao Nan, are you too immersed in happiness now? You're just short of writing 'happiness' on your face. You have to know. Your expression is causing a great amount of hurt to singles like us."

At the sight of Qiao Nan looking so happy, the boyish Shi Qing expressed jealously that she also hoped that she could find a man that she liked so that she could go on a romantic date.

"Put in more effort to part with singlehood then." Qiao Nan pursed her lips in an attempt to suppress the corners of her lips that could not help curling up. "What is happening between Zhu Baoguo and you?"

"Ah! What do you mean?" Shi Qing jumped and exclaimed.

Qiao Nan laughed madly. "Hahaha, I didn't even say anything. I am just asking... How is your relationship with Zhu Baoguo as classmates recently? Do you have to be so emotional? You're admitting to it yourself. Did I step on your tail?"

Qiao Nan was completely having a blind guess with these words.

After transferring to PLA National Defence University, Shi Qing and Qiao Nan had never stopped contacting each other. They would call each other at least once a week, not to mention that the two young ladies were 'trendsetters' who had cell phones in their possession.

On the contrary, Zhu Baoguo, who used to stick to Qiao Nan so badly in the past, seemed to have grown up. For six months, Qiao Nan did not receive any phone call or letter from Zhu Baoguo.

Fortunately, there was Shi Qing. Each time they had a phone conversation, six to seven out of Shi Qing's ten sentences were related to Zhu Baoguo.

Hence, although Zhu Baoguo had never contacted Qiao Nan, Qiao Nan was not unfamiliar with Zhu Baoguo's situation.

Unknowingly, a woman's topics of conversation were always revolving around another man.

If Qiao Nan, who had been through two lifetimes, did not realize anything, she should really be reborn again.

In particular, Shi Qing's current reaction made Qiao Nan more certain that something was happening between these two people. Otherwise, why would Shi Qing react so strongly?

Shi Qing touched her face. Her pair of eyes was looking all around but Qiao Nan's eyes. "Don't talk nonsense. Zhu Baoguo is such a weak shrimp. Will I fancy him?"

"Weak shrimp?" Qiao Nan raised her brows. "Why did I hear from others that you have been defeated by Zhu Baoguo? You even did various sneak attacks on him but did not succeed each time. He defeats you every time."

Qiao Nan felt that Zhu Baoguo was most probably the only one who could tolerate Shi Qing's temper.

Take Zhai Hua as an example. For these two ladies, Qiao Nan felt that their partners had to either use gentleness to counter their toughness or use extreme physical force to defeat them.

Zhu Baoguo was obviously in the second situation. At the thought that Zhai Hua was going to 'marry' Tian Dong and if the two were really together, Qiao Nan wondered whether Tian Dong would be in the first kind of situation.

It was only many years later that Qiao Nan understood one thing. As a man, they always liked to be the 'number two'. They were more willing to leave the 'number one' to women.

Shi Qing jumped in shock. "Heard? Where did you hear that from? Who said that?" If she were to find out who told Qiao Nan these things, she would peel the skin of the other party!

"Hahaha." Qiao Nan was overjoyed. "Why do you care who told me this? You just need to tell me. Is there a problem with my understanding? Is this the truth? That will do."

Shi Qing and Zhu Baoguo fought with each other when they first met each other. Now, they were still fighting with each other after a few years. Was this the momentum of loving and killing each other?

"I... I am not talking to you anymore. I can't clarify this." Shi Qing had never been Qiao Nan's match in arguments. Furthermore, Qiao Nan was speaking the truth. Shi Qing, who had been caught red-handed, had a knot in her brains. She wanted to weave a lie but her mind was blank and completely useless. She could only concede defeat and steer away from the topic.

Thereafter, Shi Qing calmed down and asked herself. Why did she have to avoid Qiao Nan's question? That attitude was as if there was really something going on between Zhu Baoguo and her. Why was she feeling so guilty-conscious?

The wedding preparations of Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan had been ongoing for about six months. Many things had already been settled.

Zhai Sheng would be marrying Qiao Nan on the eighth day of Lunar New Year. Zhu Chengqi felt that since there were only three days left to the date, Qiao Nan could stay at the house of the Zhu family.

In the past, Zhai Sheng had believed that Qiao Dongliang, his father-in-law, was the greatest obstruction to him marrying a wife. With Zhu Chengqi's appearance, he then knew that the vicious character appeared later on.

Qiao Dongliang had been focusing on Qiao Zijin. Of course, he did not continue to make things difficult for Zhai Sheng or feel that he was snatching his daughter away from him.

Qiao Dongliang did not feel that way but Zhu Chengqi did.

Qiao Nan was just a first-year college student. Each time Zhu Chengqi thought of this, he felt very uneasy. He felt that Zhai Sheng was shameless to have hit on Qiao Nan when she was so young.

One desperately wanted to bring his daughter home while the other wanted his wife to remain in his house. This pair of father and son-in-law was fighting head-on.

In the end, Old Master Zhai said that Zhu Chengqi could fetch Qiao Nan over to the house of the Zhu family on the night of the fourth day of Lunar New Year. Zhai Sheng was so furious that his face turned sullen instantly.

Old Master Zhai laughed. If he did not allow his granddaughter-in-law to go to the house of the Zhu family, his granddaughter-in-law would most likely continue to have panda eyes until the day of her wedding banquet.

His grandson was good in all ways but he was too young and full of stamina. He also lacked a little self-control.

Zhai Sheng did not know what Old Master Zhai was planning in his mind. Whether he was aware or not, the outcome was the same. His face was very sullen after he had been 'betrayed' by Old Master Zhai.

When Qiao Nan moved into the house of the Zhu family, she finally felt a little like a bride-to-be.

At the sight of the house of the Zhu family that she was familiar with, Qiao Nan looked around.

Zhu Chengqi noticed her action. "Are you looking for Baoguo?"

"Yes." Since she was engaged with Brother Zhai and made it clear to Zhu Baoguo, this young brat had been avoiding her for six months. She was now at the house of the Zhu family to stay over. Was Zhu Baoguo prepared to continue avoiding her?

Zhu Chengqi looked at Qiao Nan lovingly. “Baoguo has a childlike temper. Don’t need to bother about him. He hasn’t sorted out his thoughts yet.”

Zhu Baoguo, who was hiding in the dark, was so furious at his father’s words that his face turned crimson. His father really knew how to do him in. Childlike temper? Come on, he was older than Qiao Nan!

This was the first time that he had taken a liking to a woman and was even secretly in love with her for a few years. In the end, she was going to be married to someone else. Zhu Baoguo not only felt sadness but also pain. It was as if someone had been piercing his heart with a knife again and again.

#### Chapter 1082 It Turned Out That You Are Also a Fool

Zhu Baoguo regretted more than once why he was not enlightened earlier.

He heard that Zhai Sheng got to know Xiao Qiao before he did. The problem was that he was the one who spent more time with Xiao Qiao by her side!

Zhai Sheng only met Xiao Qiao a few times a year but he was classmates with Xiao Qiao. Furthermore, they were in the same class for a few years!

There was a saying that one would enjoy the benefits of a favorable position. In terms of physical distance, he was closer to Xiao Qiao. They also spent more time together, but in the end, Zhai Sheng, this old cow, still snatched her away. At the thought of this, Zhu Baoguo spurned his former self who was such a blockhead.

The pair was going to hold their wedding banquet soon and he could only watch on. Qiao Nan looked so happy and contented. As such, the domineering Zhu Baoguo dared not act according to his wishes and do anything that would wreck Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng’s wedding.

This was because he knew that Qiao Nan would definitely feel very upset if he did that. The thing that he wanted most was to give Qiao Nan happiness.

He wanted to give her happiness but the happiness would not come from him. Zhu Baoguo felt so unfortunate to have actually encountered such a matter.

Most tragically, he had wanted to be the groom but eventually became the maternal family of the bride because of his own father!

When Zhai Sheng came to fetch the bride, he still had to stand in the way during the gatecrashing. At the thought of this, the fury in Zhu Baoguo's heart grew. He did not know how he could vent his frustration to make himself feel better.

Unfortunately, the person who caused this situation and did him in was that biological father of his. If it were someone else, he would make that person suffer badly.

The problem was that this matter was arranged by his one and only biological father. No matter how domineering Dictator Zhu was, he dared not beard the lion in his den or lay hands on his own father.

The aggrieved Zhu Baoguo simply hid and refused to appear before Qiao Nan. He was afraid that he would embarrass himself if he did not manage to restrain himself.

If they were not destined to be together, and Xiao Qiao was only destined to be his younger sister, he would have to protect Xiao Qiao's impression of him in her heart. He would not act up!

Qiao Nan did not know that Zhu Baoguo had been hiding. She did not see Zhu Baoguo in the house of the Zhu family but she saw Wang Yang.

Wang Yang looked different from the then bright and cheery teenager a few years ago. He had become taller but also thinner.

He was standing there quietly, looking especially gloomy and sinister. It was as if he was a poisonous snake, hiding in a dark corner and waiting for a chance to give a surprise strike. He made people have goose bumps all over.

Wang Yang walked out slowly. "I really didn't expect you to be so capable. Congratulations." In the past, he had underestimated Qiao Nan. He had thought that just one Chen Jun could deal with her.

Who would have known that Qiao Nan did not fancy Chen Jun at all? Qiao Nan was more ambitious than him. She actually targeted Zhai Sheng.

He did not even dare to have any ideas on Zhai Sheng, yet without a hitch, Qiao Nan was going to be married to Zhai Sheng very soon. Wang Yang hated Qiao Nan but he was also convinced of Qiao Nan's ability. "If I had known that you are so formidable, I would not have chosen to collaborate with that fool, Chen Jun, in the past."

An ordinary woman in the southern district of the quad was going to be married to Zhai Sheng, the most promising man in the northern district of the quad.

He and Qiao Nan were one of a kind.

If he had discovered this earlier, his relationship with Qiao Nan would not have been so sour. After so long, he did not get anything belonging to the Zhu family.

When she heard Wang Yang classify her in the same category as himself, Qiao Nan frowned but she did not wish to explain.

"You will become Cinderella after you are married to Zhai Sheng. How is it? Should we shake hands and bury the hatchet? We may have a chance to work together in the future." Wang Yang crossed his arms in front of his chest. His scheming eyes were looking at Qiao Nan.

At this moment, he would benefit much more by collaborating with Qiao Nan instead of plotting against her.

Wang Yang was a smart person. Hence, he could let unhappy bygones be bygones and suggest a collaboration. "Qiao Nan, you're a smart woman. You should understand how unreliable man is. Although a military marriage is protected by law, it is just a typical situation. The Zhai family is not the average people. Hence, typical situations do not apply to them. You don't have enough bargaining chips. You may marry gloriously now, but you may become multiple times more destitute in the future. You should buy yourself some insurance."

Qiao Nan picked up an apple and started peeling it. "If I tell you that the reason I am together with Brother Zhai is not as complicated as you think, you probably won't believe me. To me, it is not important whether you believe it or not. However, you have to know something. All this while, I don't like to dance with wolves or ask a tiger for his hide. I am very timid and am afraid of gambling."

If she were to collaborate with Wang Yang, she was fearful that she would be betrayed by him and even lose her life eventually.

“Also, one more thing. It is not necessary for me to collaborate with you even if my marriage with Brother Zhai is not as safe as a typical military marriage. To put it bluntly, if it reaches that stage, the one who requests for divorce may not necessarily be Brother Zhai.” To her, being alive was more important than anything else.

If there was truly an issue with the relationship between Brother Zhai and her and it was so serious, there might be certain things that Brother Zhai was willing to tolerate but she would certainly not.

This matter had happened to Chen Jun before. Qiao Nan had already experienced it once. As such, if it were Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan still would not change her attitude. She would still resolutely choose to divorce or break up.

Wang Yang narrowed his eyes. “You are also a woman who values love above everything else?” Alright, he had overestimated Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan was not as rational and smart as he had imagined her to be. “It turned out that you’re no different from other women.”

She had been chastised by Wang Yang but she was not angry. She looked at Wang Yang. “Yes, I am no different from other women. Since I am willing to marry someone, the only reason is that the other party is someone that I want. To me, the other additional conditions that you care about are, in fact, not that important.”

Qiao Nan did not find it surprising at all that Wang Yang would have such thoughts.

Out of a hundred people who heard about the situation of Brother Zhai and her, ninety-nine of them would certainly think that she was marrying Brother Zhai because of Brother Zhai’s good family background and promising future.

However, Qiao Nan knew in her heart that she was willing to get married at such a young age not because of all these conditions. It was purely because of Zhai Sheng as an individual and the Zhai family.

“Hahaha.” Wang Yang sneered continuously. “Take it that I didn’t come. Ignore what I said to you earlier.”

Damn, he had thought that Qiao Nan was a smart woman, and that was why she could receive the affirmation of the Zhai family and become Zhai Sheng’s wife.



Who would have known that she was an extremely foolish woman? Fortune favors the fools. Most likely, she could be married to Zhai Sheng because of this reason.

Wang Yang had never agreed with that sort of view of Qiao Nan. He only felt that this kind of mindset would only appear in books or mediocre people.

“Sure.” Qiao Nan did not explain anything. She allowed Wang Yang to look at her as if she was an idiot.

### Chapter 1083 Complement Each Other

As long as Wang Yang stopped thinking of ‘cooperating’ with her, Qiao Nan did not care how he thought of her.

After the incident with Wei De, she was fearful of the mention of the so-called ‘collaboration’.

Another person took Wang Yang’s empty seat as soon as he left.

Qiao Nan looked toward the person who sat in front of her. “You are finally here. I thought that you will be hiding from me until my wedding day.” Qiao Nan sighed. She did not know how to face the stubborn young man who sat opposite her and kept glaring at her.

“Why not me?” Zhu Baoguo asked stubbornly.

Initially, he had given up. However, he was unconvinced after he overheard the conversation between Qiao Nan and Wang Yang. “Why not me? I spent more time with you. I treated you very well and I defended and protected you. I am as good to you as Zhai Sheng is. Why did you choose him instead of me? If you are willing to wait for me, we will get married after you graduate from university and I promise the wedding will be as grand as what you have now.”

Zhai Sheng was the regiment commander. As long as he was willing to work hard, he believed he could do it as well.

“You are still young, and you did not choose Zhai Sheng because of those external conditions. Therefore, you should not be in a hurry to get married. Are you being forced into it?”

As the only grandson of the Zhu family, since a young age, many girls would express their interests in him. Among them, many were very pretty.

Even after Zhu Baoguo went to PLA National Defence University, many female students in the school liked him.

But Zhu Baoguo knew that most of them liked him because he was the only grandson of the Zhu family. They did not really like him for himself.

Now that he had known such an outstanding girl like Qiao Nan, he would never take a fancy to other girls who liked him for other selfish reasons.

“Yes, I am still young. In fact, I just went to university. I am young and I still have a lot of time. I have a lot of other choices.” Qiao Nan took a deep breath. “But the problem is Brother Zhai is five years older than me. He has his own responsibilities and has to be responsible for his family. I may have time but he doesn’t. I am not in a hurry, but Brother Zhai is. Brother Zhai is such a good man. I am afraid that if I don’t agree, I will lose him. What’s more, I have decided that I want to be with him. So it doesn’t make a difference if I get married earlier or later.”

“No, there is a difference. If I get married to Brother Zhai as early as possible, I will be able to spend more time with him and we will have more time as a married couple. Am I not in a hurry? No, I am in a hurry!”

Zhu Baoguo’s face turned green. He clenched his fists in anger. “Is he really so good to you? Will you not have any regrets?”

“Well, Brother Zhai is a good man. If I don’t agree to marry Brother Zhai now, I will definitely regret it in the future. Brother Zhai is the first person to be nice and kind to me since I was born. You might say that I have developed an attachment to him as he is the first person to be nice to me. Zhu Baoguo, there is something that I have never spoken to you about. But I feel like sharing my thoughts with you now. Think about it. Actually, you have similar feelings toward me.”

She had a high fever after she was through rebirth.

Her mother and sister were thinking of ways to delay her treatment so that she would miss her enrollment and would have to quit school to work.

At that time, it was Brother Zhai who brought her home and gave her medications for her fever. Thanks to him, she had a place to rest and to recover from her fever.

After that, whenever she encountered troubles and could not overcome it, Brother Zhai would lend her a helping hand. He helped her through difficulties time and again. He assisted her to realize her dreams in her two lifetimes and to take the path that she wanted.

The feelings that she had for Brother Zhai were not simply a sense of attachment.

“Zhu Baoguo, it is possible that you like me, but don’t you think that it is not love but family ties that you have for me? There is something known as Electra complex and there is also something known as the Oedipus complex.”

Qiao Nan’s demeanor changed toward the end.

She used to regard Zhu Baoguo as her son. She suspected that it was because of her attitude that Zhu Baoguo mistook her for his mother.

“Do you dare to deny that if I didn’t take extra care of you, you wouldn’t take a fancy to me and develop feelings for me? Zhu Baoguo, perhaps you haven’t figured out the feelings that you have for me.”

“Crap!” Zhu Baoguo’s face turned red. “How can I not tell what kind of feelings I have for you? I know that you are smart, but you should not treat other people as fools. Perhaps what you said is somewhat true, but it is certainly not entirely true.”

Zhu Baoguo was not as gullible as he used to be four years ago. He would not take everything that Qiao Nan said to be the truth.

Zhu Baoguo knew that right from the start. It was because Qiao Nan saved him and took care of him that he had a good impression of her. But his feelings for her had changed gradually.

Qiao Nan smiled bitterly. “The foolish son has grown up and is no longer as gullible as before.”

The feelings that one had for each other were complicated and could not be explained clearly. However, the foolish son had grown up and goading him no longer worked. He was able to analyze and rebut her.

Zhu Baoguo was angry at being called 'foolish son' by the girl that he liked. He felt like punching someone. "Qiao Nan, don't go overboard. I am a man. I am not your son. I..."

At this moment, Zhu Baoguo missed Shi Qing terribly.

If Shi Qing was standing right in front of him, he would fight with her without another word. At most, he would go lenient on her.

However, it was Qiao Nan who sat right in front of him, and he had already decided to protect her at all costs many years ago. No matter how angry he was, Zhu Baoguo would never lift a hand on Qiao Nan. Moreover, she was not physically strong at all.

"Alright, don't be angry. There are many good women in this world. Why are you so inflexible and stubborn and insist on being with me? Don't be disheartened. There are a lot of good ladies around you. You must grab hold of the chance and woo her. If you miss the chance again, you will regret it for the rest of your life."

Qiao Nan had a relaxed smile on her face. She was thinking of Shi Qing.

Shi Qing was a good girl. She was more suitable for Zhu Baoguo than she was.

Qiao Nan spent four years 'raising' Zhu Baoguo, her foolish son. She was sorry that his feelings were hurt.

However, Qiao Nan was glad that Shi Qing would make up for it. She no longer needed to worry for Zhu Baoguo.

Chapter 1084 'What If' Did Not Exist

Zhu Baoguo gritted his teeth and remained silent for a long time before he said, "If..." If Zhai Sheng was not in the picture, and Xiao Qiao had never known Zhai Sheng, would he be the man who would be marrying her two days later?

Qiao Nan had a blissful smile on her face as if she was bursting with happiness. "Zhu Baoguo, 'what if' does not exist."

No amount of words was as convincing as the happiness on Qiao Nan's face. Zhu Baoguo slumped his shoulders in defeat. "You're right. 'What if' does not exist."

If there was 'what if', what he wanted to say the most was not what would happen if Xiao Qiao did not know Zhai Sheng. Instead, it was for him to grow up and mature and to understand his feelings so that he could protect her and love her. In that case, Zhai Sheng would not be in the picture.

"It is getting late. You should rest. Ignore those senseless people." Zhu Baoguo walked off in despair. He seemed to be dealt a harsh blow.

After Zhu Baoguo left, Shi Qing came looking for her. She was Qiao Nan's bridesmaid. She would be staying at the Zhu family's residence these few days as well.

Actually, their houses were situated very near to each other. It was very convenient for Shi Qing to go to the Zhu family's residence.

However, she quarreled with her mother. Instead of staying at home and be at odds with her mother, she would rather go to the Zhu family's residence a few days earlier than the actual wedding day to accompany Qiao Nan and to keep a watch on the foolish Zhu Baoguo.

Shi Qing shared a room with Qiao Nan at the Zhu family's residence. "Have you seen Zhu Baoguo, that stupid fool? Did he try to snatch Brother Zhai's bride?"

If the stupid fool dared to do that, Brother Zhai would definitely teach him a lesson.

Zhu Baoguo could not even handle her. He would be in a worse state if he ended up in Zhai Sheng's hands. At this thought, Shi Qing could not help but break out in cold sweat, worrying for Zhu Baoguo.

He was daring but not as smart. It was tantamount to playing with fire.

“Nevertheless, I will not change my mind. You don’t have to worry.” Qiao Nan had a good laugh at the anxious look on Shi Qing’s face. “Are you worried that Zhu Baoguo will be taught a serious lesson by Brother Zhai?”

She knew that there must be something going on between Zhu Baoguo and Shi Qing.

One was her foolish son that she had ‘raised’, while the other was a young lady that she favored. Qiao Nan would be the first to agree if they ended up together.

“He is too pitiful. He has become physically stronger these past few years, but he is still not as smart. It is not surprising that I am not as strong as him. After puberty, women are not as strong as men. Zhu Baoguo has nothing to be proud of to be able to defeat me. But in terms of intelligence level, he is not my match. If he can’t even defeat me, how can he defeat Brother Zhai?”

Shi Qing sighed. Why did Zhu Baoguo have such a low IQ?

Zhu Baoguo was proud that he had defeated Shi Qing, but he had no idea that Shi Qing was very worried for him.

“People like him are all brawns and no brains. I am worried that he will be the cannon-fodder when he carries out missions in the future. It may seem peaceful but there are hidden dangers in the world that we live in. If Zhu Baoguo is assigned to a mission in places like Xinjiang, I wonder how he is going to carry out his mission.”

Although Shi Qing was speaking of the uncertain future that had yet to come, she had a look of worry on her face. She behaved as if it was for real, and that Zhu Baoguo would be sent to that place tomorrow.

“Have you come up with any solutions?” Qiao Nan propped her head with one hand, lying on her side as she stared at Shi Qing.

With Shi Qing around, there was no need for her to be worried for Zhu Baoguo. She could finally hand the burden of taking care of the foolish son to Shi Qing.

Shi Qing seemed to be in serious thoughts. "Everything will be fine in two days. Once you are married to Brother Zhai, there is no need for me to come up with solutions."

Once the wedding banquet was held, everything would be easily solved.

Qiao Nan arched her eyebrows. "What does it have to do with this?" Did it mean that if she did not get married, her foolish son would have to carry out missions in those dangerous places?

Who said so?

Shi Qing turned to face upward and placed her hands beneath her head, staring at the ceiling. "Don't you know that many people said that you are like Cinderella now that you are going to marry Brother Zhai? The stupid fool wants to graduate as soon as possible so that he can carry out missions to achieve military merits and to be promoted. He wants to catch up to Brother Zhai so that he could vie for your affection."

It was not that easy to achieve military credits.

As the saying went, money came from danger, and heroes emerged in troubled times.

Zhu Baoguo had to carry out the most dangerous missions in order to catch up to Brother Zhai in the shortest time and to vie with him for Qiao Nan's affection.

But Qiao Nan would be marrying Brother Zhai in no time.

In that case, there was no need for Zhu Baoguo to risk his life.

Now that there was no need for him to achieve military credits in the shortest time, Zhu Baoguo could complete his studies and perform his duties one step at a time.

"Brother Zhai is indeed a genius. He is quick and accurate in deciding that you are the one for him. He is brilliant. He did not give any chance to others." Shi Qing was full of admiration for Zhai Sheng. It was similar to her adoration of him when they were still young. The adoration was evident in her eyes. "He is indeed my idol from young."

Qiao Nan curled the corners of her lips without saying anything. She was baffled by Shi Qing's attitude. "Aren't you angry at me? Don't you hate me? Do you still idolize Brother Zhai? Have you been dealt a serious blow? Are you running a fever?"

Qiao Nan could not figure out why Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin were so heartless and vicious. It seemed that Shi Qing was another unfathomable person. One could not predict her behavior.

Shi Qing stood up right away, flipping her short hair confidently. "Why should I hate you? It is not your fault that Zhu Baoguo likes you but not me. He is foolish and could not tell who is good for him. Brother Zhai has always been so outstanding and remarkable. There is no need to distance myself from him. Zhu Baoguo is a fool. I don't believe that I can't take him down!"

Shi Qing waved her fists and stated her stand when the door was kicked open.

Zhu Baoguo looked sullen and stared at Shi Qing angrily. "Hey, tomboy, how dare you say that I am a fool!!"

Zhu Baoguo did not eavesdrop on them intentionally. He was on the way back to his room when he passed by Qiao Nan's room. He did not hear a single word of what was being said previously. But he heard clearly that Shi Qing yelled that he was a fool.

However, after his ferocious growl, Zhu Baoguo was given a hard smack to his face with a pillow.

Chapter 1085 Which Family Was Marrying Off Their Daughter?

Zhu Baoguo reached out to catch the pillow. Shi Qing jumped out of the bed and punched Zhu Baoguo in the stomach. She then pushed him at his shoulder and slammed the door on him.

Shi Qing put her hand on her waist, looking like a big teapot. "Do you know your manners? How can you kick the door to a girl's bedroom? You are not only foolish but an idiot. It is not that you have a low IQ. You are simply not using your brains at all."

If Brother Zhai found out about what happened tonight, Zhu Baoguo would not be able to bear the consequences.

Furthermore, there were other people in the house apart from the Zhu family.



If this was known to others, how was Qiao Nan supposed to face others?

Public clamor could obscure the actual truth, and rumors could kill a person.

Those who spread the gossip would definitely not be telling the truth. They would not say that she was in the room. They might spread tales that Qiao Nan had a rendezvous with her high school classmate on her wedding's eve. In that case, Qiao Nan would be unable to clear her name.

Zhu Chengqi, who heard the commotion, saw that there was a pillow on his son's head and he was pushed out of the room by a young lady. He stopped himself from helping his son and said calmly, "Foolish."

Zhu Chengqi directed his gaze toward Wang Yang.

Wang Yang stiffened. He was reminded that the Wang family had been going downhill recently. He took a deep breath and smiled at Zhu Chengqi. He then went back to his room and shut the door.

Wang Yang eased slightly after escaping from Zhu Chengqi's piercing gaze.

Wang Yang knew very well from his uncle's piercing gaze that if whatever happened tonight was known to other people and Qiao Nan's reputation was ruined, the Wang family would not escape unscathed.

Zhu Chengqi did not care if Wang Yang spread the rumor or not, and neither would he investigate the matter. Nevertheless, the Wang family would have to bear all the responsibilities.

In this way, Wang Yang could not spread the rumor and make use of this gossip such that the Wang family and he could benefit from it. He had to make sure that nobody spoke of what happened tonight.

If someone found out about the incident, Wang Yang must shut the person up right away.

Otherwise, if Qiao Nan's reputation was affected, it would be at the expense of Wang Yang's prospects.

After knowing Wang Yang's personality, even if his sister was married to the Wang family and was their daughter-in-law, Zhu Chengqi no longer treated the Wang family like how he used to in the past. He would not help his brother-in-law either.

Now that the Wang family was without Zhu Chengqi's protection, they had a more difficult path ahead of them.

If Zhu Chengqi did anything right now, it would be aggravating their situation.

Since Zhu Chengqi knew Wang Yang's weakness, he was able to have him under his thumb. There was no need for him to say anything. A glance from him and Wang Yang stopped thinking of ways to scheme against Qiao Nan. He pretended as if nothing happened today.

Since he had no way to defeat Zhu Chengqi, he had no other choice but to submit to him.

After giving Wang Yang a warning look, Zhu Chengqi turned to look at Zhu Baoguo. "It's late. Why aren't you sleeping? Since you are so energized, wake up at five in the morning to run a few more laps."

Seeing that Zhu Baoguo was easily sent out of the room by a young lady, Zhu Chengqi was not worried that his son would not be able to find a wife and start a family. Instead, he was worried that his son would be bullied by his wife.

It was good if his future daughter-in-law was capable and would be able to keep his son in check. But the problem was that his son was such a fool. He might be subdued by his wife.

All of them scolded him for being a fool. Zhu Baoguo punched the pillow in anger and returned to his room.

Shi Qing breathed a sigh of relief after knowing that Zhu Baoguo had left. "Why is Wang Yang still at the Zhu family's residence?" It was the Lunar New Year. Shouldn't he stay at his house? Why was he at his maternal grandpa's house?

Shi Qing knew Wang Yang's temperament. Seeing that he was at the Zhu family's residence, Shi Qing had no choice but to be anxious and punched Zhu Baoguo, sending him out of the room.

“No idea.” Qiao Nan yawned. Like Shi Qing, Qiao Nan was startled that Zhu Baoguo kicked the door open.

However, Qiao Nan keenly observed that Zhu Baoguo’s attention was only on Shi Qing when he kicked the door open. It was as if she did not exist. Zhu Baoguo did not even look at her.

Furthermore, even though Qiao Nan was lying on the bed, her pajamas covered her from head to toe, and she had a thick blanket on her. Qiao Nan was certain that Zhu Baoguo could not see anything.

Besides, Shi Qing sent Zhu Baoguo out of the room in the blink of an eye. Qiao Nan felt the least worried about his sudden appearance.

By the time Shi Qing returned to the bed and laid by her side, Qiao Nan was so sleepy that she could barely keep her eyes open.

Qiao Nan was not worried that Shi Qing idolized Brother Zhai.

Even if Zhu Baoguo seemed to be at loggerheads with Shi Qing, his behavior said otherwise. Apparently, the two parties had an interest in each other.

It would not be long before things turned out well for those two who were at loggerheads.

Shi Qing had high IQ and EQ, whereas Zhu Baoguo was working to improve his critical thinking skills. Qiao Nan knew that she could get married with a peace of mind.

Shi Qing wanted to keep chatting with Qiao Nan. However, she noticed from Qiao Nan’s even breathing that she was already sleeping soundly.

Shi Qing was amused. “I have been anxious for nothing. I am more anxious than her. What a heartless little girl.”

Lying down beside Qiao Nan, Shi Qing felt reassured and was at ease. Seconds ago, she scolded Qiao Nan for being heartless, but seconds later, she fell into a deep and was sound asleep.

Everyone in the quad knew that Qiao Nan was getting married to Zhai Sheng. Many of them were discussing their marriage.

When they were engaged half a year earlier, all of them said that it was Qiao Nan's fortune to be liked by the Zhai family.

Half a year had passed and they were holding the wedding banquet and getting married. It finally sunk in that Qiao Nan was getting married to Zhai Sheng and she was the most independent child in the quad who worked her way to success through hard work. Apart from Zhai Sheng, she was the other child who had good prospects in the quad.

The Zhai family's residence and the Zhu family's residence were bustling with activities these past few days. The neighbors were envious of their good fortune.

They could not help but talk about it. "Old Qiao, you are marrying off your daughter. You are blessed to have it so easy."

"That's right. The Qiao family has the easiest time ever in marrying off their daughter."

"Old Qiao and his family have such good fortune."

No matter how the neighbors put it across, what they wanted to say was that Qiao Nan was getting married, but her parents had an easy time, unlike other parents. It was as if they were not marrying off their daughter. Instead, it seemed as if the Zhu family was marrying off their daughter.

Chapter 1086 Who Is Less Sensible?

They just wanted to know whether Qiao Nan had severed ties with the Qiao family and whether the Qiao family did not intend to acknowledge her as their daughter.

Otherwise, why would Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi not help out at all although their daughter was getting married? They behaved like the rest of the neighbors, watching by the side as the Zhai family and the Zhu family prepared for the wedding. It was too odd.

No family would be proud that they married off their daughter in this particular way. It was a shame to the family.

The daughter had married well, but it seemed as if the Qiao family had nothing to do with it.

Everyone seemed to be laughing at the Qiao family, and at the same time, they were baffled by their behavior.

In the past, they knew that Ding Jiayi was unreliable while Qiao Dongliang was a good father. But judging from the current situation, it seemed as if Qiao Dongliang had been led astray by Ding Jiayi. He was behaving strangely as well.

Ding Jiayi did not care that she was being mocked by the neighbors. In fact, she wanted to tell everyone that Qiao Nan refused to acknowledge them as her parents. She even stayed at the Zhu family's residence days before her marriage.

Ding Jiayi might not feel embarrassed, but Qiao Dongliang felt it unbearable.

Qiao Dongliang knew that Zhu Chengqi liked Qiao Nan very much. He always wanted to take Qiao Nan as his goddaughter. This was why he could accept that Zhu Chengqi helped out with his daughter's wedding.

Since he was poor, he had no other choice but to accept help from others.

Qiao Nan never demanded any dowry from him and Zhu Chengqi offered to provide the dowry. Therefore, Qiao Dongliang did not read too much into it and accepted his help.

But after being mocked by the neighbors, it dawned on Qiao Dongliang that something was wrong with this arrangement. It was up to Zhu Chengqi to provide dowries for Qiao Nan, but he should not be so shameless to accept them.

Actually, Qiao Dongliang wanted to help out since his daughter was getting married.

But the problem was that it was not that easy to enter the Zhu family's residence. He would need approval to enter their house.

Even if Qiao Dongliang was willing to make a few more trips to the Zhu family's residence to help out and the Zhu family did not find it a bother, Qiao Dongliang felt that he seemed to be troubling them instead of helping out.

Besides, during his trip to the Zhu family's residence, Qiao Dongliang noticed that Zhu Chengqi had everything arranged and settled properly. There was nothing that he could help out with.

The Zhu family worked together to prepare for Qiao Nan's wedding while he stood by the side in a daze, not knowing what to do. He felt as if he was not needed.

Qiao Dongliang had no other choice but to leave the Zhu family's residence and to watch by the side with Ding Jiayi as they prepared for the wedding.

As more and more people wondered aloud about the absence of Qiao Nan's parents in the preparation of the wedding, Qiao Dongliang felt unsettled and began to question himself. Was he marrying off his daughter?

His daughter was getting married, but it seemed as if someone else's daughter was getting married.

Nan Nan was getting married, but he did not have the chance to have a good chat with her or see how she was doing.

When he first learned that the younger daughter was in a relationship with Zhai Sheng, he treated Zhai Sheng as a bad guy and tried to stop Zhai Sheng from spending too much time with Qiao Nan.

But now that they were getting married, it seemed as if he had washed his hands off them. There was something very odd about it.

"Dad, Qiao Nan is getting married. We are her family. Don't we need to send her off?" Under Chen Jun's persistent urging, Qiao Zijin decided to find ways to mend the relationship with Qiao Nan.

But it was not easy to get into the Zhu family's residence.

Qiao Nan was getting married. She must be proud that the entire quad was busy with her wedding preparations. Qiao Zijin decided that when she married Chen Jun, her wedding had to be grander than Qiao Nan's wedding and she had to have a more lavish wedding than Qiao Nan.

"Dad, I heard that you have prepared a lot of dowry for Qiao Nan. What have you prepared for Qiao Nan? Tell me about it." Qiao Zijin was envious that one would have so many dowries when one was getting married.

Qiao Dongliang had been very good to Qiao Nan these past few years to the point he even disregarded her. Qiao Zijin was jealous of Qiao Nan.

Could it be that her father spent all his savings in the past few years to prepare dowries for Qiao Nan?

She was her father's daughter as well. Since her father prepared so many dowries for Qiao Nan, he had to prepare even more dowries for her when she married Chen Jun!

Qiao Dongliang waved his hand and smiled bitterly. "Nan Nan still has to go to university. Even if she works very hard and is exempted from paying the tuition and miscellaneous fees, we still have a lot of other expenses. I did not have much savings these past few years. How can I be capable of preparing dowry for Nan Nan?"

"Do you mean that you did not fork out a single cent in Nan Nan's wedding?" Qiao Zijin was surprised and glad. "Zhai Sheng is marrying Qiao Nan. Though you didn't prepare any dowry, he should have prepared the bride price, right?"

Zhai Sheng was getting married. The Zhai family would not be stingy with the bride price. "Dad, have you kept all the money?"

She might be able to come up with a way for her father to buy a house for her using that sum of money.

Qiao Zijin was tired of staying in the quad.

Everyone in the quad knew about her situation as well as what was going on in the Qiao family.

To Qiao Zijin, Chen Jun was a good match for her. But when compared to Zhai Sheng, every man would pale in comparison.

She had to leave the quad and stay somewhere else so that people would not compare her to Qiao Nan.

Qiao Zijin had done the calculations. She did not want any other dowry other than a house.

After Qiao Nan went to the capital for her college studies, Qiao Zijin had done a check. She knew that the price of housing in the capital was astoundingly high.

The pricing of houses in Ping Cheng had been increasing over the years. Qiao Zijin could tell that a house would not depreciate and was worth a lot of money.

Qiao Zijin might not be good in her studies, but she was very smart in this matter.

Buying a house would be an investment.

In her two lifetimes, when given the chance, Qiao Zijin would make use of the opportunity to buy a house.

Qiao Dongliang did not know about Qiao Zijin's plan. He was honest with her. "No, I don't have any money. I couldn't prepare any dowry for Nan Nan. It is the Zhai family who arranged such a grand wedding for her. I wouldn't be so shameless to accept the bride price from the Zhai family. My relationship with the Zhai family is not based on money."

This was the first time that Qiao Dongliang married off his daughter. He only thought of the dowry days before the wedding. How could he possibly be so shameless to ask for the bride price from the Zhai family?

Since the two families never discussed the bride price, Qiao Dongliang did not feel as bad that he was unable to prepare any dowry for Qiao Nan. He was able to watch quietly by the side as the Zhu family busied themselves with Qiao Nan's wedding preparations.

Chapter 1087 Take the Bride Price to Buy a House



Even if he did not accept any money from the Zhai family and he could not prepare a dowry for Qiao Nan, Qiao Nan was a top student at Peking University.

With this in mind, Qiao Dongliang felt that he should not be inferior in front of the Zhai family.

Speaking of which, it was the Zhai family who stood to gain.

“Dad, you are so foolish. You have gone through so much hardship to raise Qiao Nan until she is twenty-one years old. Now that she is getting married, how can you not take the bride price? You can’t marry her off for nothing!”

Qiao Zijin could not accept this arrangement. “This won’t do. Dad, let’s find a time before they hold the wedding banquet to discuss the bride price with the Zhai family. We have to get the bride price and ask for a significant amount of money. It is unreasonable that you marry off a daughter for nothing. It is going too easy on them!”

Qiao Dongliang would not budge. “No, I don’t agree. If I really ask for the bride price, Nan Nan will not be able to hold her head high at the Zhai family’s residence. I am marrying off my daughter. I am not selling her. It is just nice that no dowry and bride price are involved.”

Qiao Dongliang knew that if they took the bride price from the Zhai family, he would not be able to hold his head high in front of the Zhai family in the quad thereafter.

His stand was firm. He agreed for Nan Nan to marry Zhai Sheng because he treated her well. It was not due to his family background.

He would marry off his daughter, but he would not sell his daughter.

“Dad, you know nothing!” Qiao Zijin’s eyes swirled with thoughts. “If you allow Qiao Nan to marry Zhai Sheng without asking anything from the Zhai family, they may feel that Qiao Nan is worthless and will look down on her. We have to ask for a large amount of bride price so that the Zhai family will understand that Nan Nan is a good lady and they have to treat her well once she joined their family.”

“They will only cherish her if they pay a price for her. Dad, this is for the interests of Nan Nan. You must not be soft-hearted and feel that what you are doing is for Nan Nan’s sake. In the end, it will only do her harm.”

With the money that the Zhai family gave them, she might even be able to settle down in the capital, let alone Ping Cheng.

Qiao Zijin knew that Chen Jun had the capital in mind.

She wanted to have a better life than Qiao Nan. Therefore, she had to settle down with Chen Jun in the capital.

Her first and foremost concern right now would be to have a house.

With the money given by the Zhai family, it would not be a problem to buy a house. In the future, the Chen family would regard her with respect as she was capable of having a house in the capital.

Qiao Zijin heard that after getting married, the conflicts between the daughter-in-law and the mother-in-law would be a source of trouble.

Qiao Zijin refused to be mistreated or bullied by her in-laws.

If they really settled down in the capital, and the Chen family stayed in her house, they would not dare to bully her. She would also have the right to send them out of her house then.

If her father managed to get the money, she must buy a house as soon as possible. She must not allow the money and the house to become Chen Jun and her marital property.

“No.” Qiao Zijin could plan for all she wanted, but Qiao Dongliang’s stance was firm. “What you said makes some sense, but I will respect Nan Nan’s decision.”

Since Nan Nan did not bring up the topic of the bride price, Qiao Dongliang had no wish to go into a discussion about it.

Qiao Dongliang was used to adopting this attitude in life. He might have noticed that this would be an issue, but as long as the party concerned had no objections, he would not do anything about it. All of them could live a peaceful life and maintain a cordial relationship.

If Qiao Nan had other thoughts and felt that the Zhai family had to provide the bride price to show that they valued her, Qiao Dongliang would not hesitate to demand it from the Zhai family.

Thankfully, Qiao Nan never brought this up.

Since Qiao Dongliang did not provide the dowry, he would not be so brazen and shameless to demand bride price from the Zhai family.

Qiao Zijin knitted her brows. "Dad, how about I go to the Zhu family's residence with you? Nan Nan is young. She does not know that this is unsuitable. We will explain it clearly to her and ask her views on this. Perhaps Nan Nan has no idea of the importance of the bride price. If this is the case, it will not be good to do without the bride price."

"Well..." Qiao Dongliang felt that it was too troublesome, but Qiao Zijin's words made sense. He did not want Qiao Nan to blame him in the future. "Alright, I will bring you with me to the Zhu family's residence and talk to Nan Nan about this."

"Wait a minute. Dad, I am just a kid. I do not know all the details. Why don't we bring Mom along? She will definitely know all the information."

Qiao Zijin would do everything that she could in order to buy her house. She was worried that she might not be able to get Qiao Nan to change her mind. Therefore, she wanted to ask Ding Jiayi along.

Fortunately, Qiao Dongliang was not a fool either. He rejected her suggestion. "No, I know your mom too well. When it's about money, your mom will make sure that Nan Nan agrees to it even if it is against her wishes. Nan Nan may not feel the need for the bride price, but your mom will insist on it. Back when I divorced your mom, we have already agreed that I will be responsible for Nan Nan. Your mom has no right to say anything. Even if Nan Nan feels that we should get the bride price, I will never let your mom have a single cent of the bride price."

Since Qiao Dongliang had said so, Qiao Zijin had no other choice but to give up and went to the Zhu family's residence with him.

Qiao Nan, who was trying on new clothes and checking herself in the mirror, halted when Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Zijin broached the topic of the bride price.

Through the reflection of the mirror, Qiao Nan could tell that Qiao Zijin, who stood behind her, was staring jealously at her.

There was a ferocious glint in Qiao Zijin's eyes. If this was not the Zhu family's residence but the Qiao family's residence, Qiao Zijin might have pounced on her, pulling the clothes off her so that she could put it on herself.

Qiao Zijin liked to doll herself up. She loved exquisite jewelry and pretty dresses like the dress that Qiao Nan was wearing.

Qiao Nan tried to agitate Qiao Zijin further by standing upright and showing off the beauty of the dress.

Miao Jing ordered people to custom-make the dress for Qiao Nan. One could not get it elsewhere.

This was why the dress was designed according to Qiao Nan's figure.

Qiao Nan would look good in any clothes. She was slender and had long legs. She had the curves in the right places. Simple and ordinary clothes would look good on her, let alone custom-made clothes. It highlighted Qiao Nan's figure and contours.

Qiao Nan had long legs. The waistline of the dress was higher than normal. It accentuated her long and slender legs.

## Chapter 1088 Flaunt Her Wealth

The glittering crystal beads that were sewn by hand on the clothes were clear and bright, making Qiao Nan sparkle and glitter.

Qiao Zijin's first thought at seeing such a beautiful dress was it must have cost a lot. Her second thought was that she would have looked even better than Qiao Nan in that dress!

Qiao Zijin, who fixed her gaze on the dress that Qiao Nan wore, almost forgot the reason why she went to great lengths to enter the Zhu family's residence.

Qiao Zijin might have forgotten, but Qiao Nan still remembered their reason for making the trip. "Dad, we both know very well about our family's situation. The Zhai family did not look down on me. In fact, all of these clothes and jewelry are prepared by my mother-in-law. Whether the Zhai family values me or not should not be judged based on the bride price. I am more concerned about how they treat me. My mother-in-law treats me like her own daughter. She will give me whatever that Sister Zhai Hua has. Sister Zhai Hua might not have whatever that I have."

Bride price?

The bride price that the Zhai family provided would definitely end up with Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Nan knew about the customs of receiving bride price from the groom's family. But like the topic of the dowry, she did not bring it up at all.

"You're right. Madam Zhai indeed treats you very well." Qiao Dongliang nodded earnestly. In the past half a year since Qiao Nan was engaged to Zhai Sheng, Miao Jing had already treated Qiao Nan as part of the Zhai family. She could not wait to take care of her and to provide her with all the nutritious food and nice clothes.

It was because of Miao Jing's attitude toward Qiao Nan that Qiao Dongliang agreed readily to holding the wedding banquet soon after the Lunar New Year.

Qiao Dongliang could tell that the Zhai family loved and cared for Qiao Nan.

The Zhai family had shown their love for her through actions.

"Dad, let's not talk about the bride price. I will marry Brother Zhai tomorrow. It is not good to bring this up now as well. It will not look good for both families. As for me, you don't have to worry. I really don't care about the bride price. I believe that Brother Zhai is true to me."

After all, Qiao Dongliang said that it was for Qiao Nan's interests that he broached the subject of the bride price. She could not say harsh words to reject Qiao Dongliang's suggestion.

Even if her father was muddleheaded, she believed that he was really thinking of her interests when he brought up the topic of bride price.

Unfortunately, there were Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin with her father.

With these two women around, the bride price would fall into their hands and she would not stand to benefit at all.

“Nan Nan, you can’t say this. You are being carried away by love. You are irrational and confused. That’s why you feel that it’s alright to marry Zhai Sheng without any bride price. The bride price is the Zhai family’s respect and recognition for you. It shows that they value you. Nan Nan, you have to listen to Dad. We will not harm you. We want the best for you.”

Qiao Zijin smiled widely, going crazy over the dress that Qiao Nan would be wearing to the toasting ceremony. She walked forward, reaching her hands toward the dress.

Shi Qing narrowed her eyes and slapped Qiao Zijin’s hands away. “This is new. It was tailored not long ago. The fabric might be expensive but it is still within our means. The problem is that the tailor is prized for his skills. All the beads on the dress might not be made from diamonds, but they are pure natural crystal beads. Each bead costs a few dozen yuan. If you touch them and the beads fall off, it would not be easy to find someone to sew them on.”

“How could each bead cost a few dozen yuan?” Qiao Zijin sucked in her breath. “That dress is so expensive!”

A few dozen yuan?

The clothes that she bought cost a few dozen yuan only!

A dress of hers cost as much as a bead on Qiao Nan’s dress. Qiao Zijin felt as if she had been stabbed several times in her heart.

This was not simply a dress. Qiao Nan was draped in silver and gold.

“You know nothing. This is not the most expensive dress. The beads are not of an average price.” Shi Qing rolled her eyes. “Regardless, don’t touch the dress.”

What if she spoiled the dress?

The Qiao family would not be able to pay for it.

At the thought that Qiao Dongliang did not prepare any dowry for Qiao Nan, Shi Qing could not help but dislike the sight of him.

He was a father, yet he did nothing for his daughter. Shi Qing had nothing more to say. Qiao Nan was just plain unlucky.

Qiao Dongliang sensed the unwelcome stare from Shi Qing. He braced himself and pulled Qiao Zijin. “Zijin, stop messing with Nan Nan.”

Qiao Dongliang was a man. But he was just as startled at the price of Qiao Nan’s dress.

“Dad, is there anything else? Tomorrow is the wedding banquet. Brother Zhai will be here to fetch me. I have tried on all the dresses. I want to rest early today as I have to wake up early in the morning.”

Jealousy was biting at Qiao Zijin’s every vital. Qiao Nan felt that it was time to put a stop to her childish antics of flaunting her wealth.

Too far is as bad as not enough.

She only wanted to upset Qiao Zijin and for her to know of the existence of such luxurious goods.

Now that Qiao Zijin knew about all these expensive dresses, she would definitely demand even more from the Chen family when she married Chen Jun.

Qiao Dongliang had no wish to stay any longer. “That’s all. It’s good that you have sorted out your thoughts regarding the bride price. No matter what your decision is, you can rest assured. I will support you.”

All of them stayed in the same quad and it only took about more than ten minutes for Qiao Dongliang to go to the Zhai family's residence. That was why it would be possible for Qiao Dongliang to ask for the bride price on the day before the wedding. If not, they would not be in time to ask for a bride price at the last minute.

Similarly, if they did not bring up the subject of the bride price, by the time they held the wedding banquet tomorrow, Qiao Dongliang had better not bring up the issue of the bride price in front of the Zhai family ever again.

It would only embarrass both families.

Compared to Qiao Dongliang, who was unable to provide any dowry, it would not look as bad on the Zhai family.

Marriage was between two people and both families should be helping with the wedding preparations. But the Qiao family did not help out at all.

On the day of the wedding, the relatives of the groom and bride would attend the wedding banquet held at the groom's place. The groom's family was responsible for the entire wedding.

On the other hand, the bride's relatives could have an easy time and were able to enjoy food like any other guests.

The bride's family had it so easy. Everyone would wish to be in such a position.

Qiao Nan understood Qiao Dongliang's words. She turned to smile at him. "Sure. Dad, you should rest early as well."

"No. Dad, Nan Nan is insensible. You can't allow her to mess around..." Qiao Zijin refused to give up. "Nan Nan, you will be getting married tomorrow. You must need a bridesmaid. I am your sister. I can be your bridesmaid. You should have prepared the bridesmaid dress, haven't you?"

Chapter 1089 Knew What Was Going On



Qiao Nan was dressed in such a beautiful dress. Qiao Zijin felt that the dress that the bridesmaid wore would be beautiful as well.

Since it was a bridesmaid's dress, Qiao Nan could not possibly take it back after the ceremony. In that case, she would have another beautiful dress.

Qiao Zijin was not only after the bride price, but she was also coveting the red packet that bridesmaid would have.

Since she was Qiao Nan's sister, the money should go to her.

"Thank you for your concern. Regarding this issue, my godfather has arranged it for me. Dad, be sure to enjoy the food tomorrow. You don't have to worry about anything." Qiao Nan gave a polite and distant smile.

Bridesmaid?

She would ask anyone but Qiao Zijin to be her bridesmaid. She would not want any 'surprises' during her wedding or for her wedding to be ruined.

Besides, she had Shi Qing with her. She would definitely choose Shi Qing over Qiao Zijin.

She must be kidding!

Qiao Dongliang felt as if he was stabbed in his heart by Qiao Nan's distant smile. "Alright, I will leave with Zijin. Nan Nan, you must be happy."

"Dad, I will. I will definitely be happy. Brother Zhai will be very good to me. In the future, you don't have to worry about me anymore." After she married Brother Zhai, her father could do as he pleased and take care of Qiao Zijin, and to ensure that she would be happily married.

Qiao Nan did not finish her sentence, but her gaze rested on Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Nan had made it very obvious. Qiao Dongliang felt embarrassed. He could not deny that he indeed was more concerned and worried for his elder daughter, Qiao Zijin. He could only avoid her steady gaze and leave the Zhu family's residence as quickly as possible.

"Dad, what are you doing? Why don't you let me finish my sentence?"

As soon as they came out from the Zhu family's residence, Qiao Dongliang released his grip on Qiao Zijin and she broke free from him. "You should not pamper your daughter to this extent. Nan Nan is young. She is still insensible. We are her family. We have to make things clear to her and for her to see the truth. Do you know what you are doing is harming her?"

It was not easy for them to raise Qiao Nan until she was twenty-one years old.

They had to provide for her daily expenses as well as her school fees. The Qiao family had spent a lot of money and effort on her.

Nothing comes free in this world. The Zhai family was too shameless. They refused to pay the bride price but wanted to marry a university student!

Qiao Dongliang shot cold stares at Qiao Zijin. "Nan Nan said no, so be it. Now that she did not ask for the bride price, whether she has a good life or not at the Zhai family is totally her business. It has nothing to do with us. As I have said, I respect Nan Nan's decision. She will have to bear responsibility for her decision. There is no need for you to be worried for her. Also, let me remind you. Don't think of entering the Zhu family's residence without me."

Qiao Zijin gritted her teeth. "Dad, what do you mean by this? Now that Nan Nan is getting married, does it mean that she is no longer your daughter or my sister?"

"Yes, you can put it that way." Qiao Dongliang put his hands on his waist and walked slowly back to the Qiao family's residence.

The person whom Qiao Nan married was Zhai Sheng. Even if the Zhai family bullied Nan Nan, given his ability, he would not be able to seek justice for her.

Since he could not help Nan Nan, he must make sure that the Qiao family did not make things difficult for Nan Nan and she would not have a hard time at the Zhai family's residence.

Qiao Dongliang had made a choice. Qiao Nan was not the only one who was being put aside in his decision.

“Dad, sure enough, you loved Qiao Nan the most.” It was rare that Qiao Zijin could read between the lines.

Qiao Zijin’s countenance changed. Her father might be willing to stay at the Qiao family’s residence in the quad and to meet the Chen family, but she did not expect that whatever he did was all for Qiao Nan’s sake.

Based on what happened recently, there were several times where Qiao Zijin could not help but smile, thinking that she was the winner and her father doted and loved her the most.

Qiao Nan was getting married to Zhai Sheng and she would become Zhai Sheng’s sister-in-law tomorrow. She would be able to make use of the relationship that she had with the Zhai family to strike it rich.

To her surprise, what her father said today had cut off her path to success.

Qiao Dongliang had destroyed her hopes of living in luxury in the future. Qiao Zijin was fuming mad at the near success that she could have.

“Dad, are you crazy? Are you confused? We have raised Qiao Nan for twenty-one years. Did we have it easy? Now is the time for Qiao Nan to repay us. Why must we cut off all ties with Qiao Nan and not to contact her anymore? Why?!”

“I am the person who raised Nan Nan for twenty-one years!” Qiao Dongliang bellowed. “How long has your mother been working? All of the money that she earned has been used to pay for your tuition and living expenses. Nan Nan is twenty-one years old, but your mom has never spent a single cent on her, not to mention you. I am the one who provides for Nan Nan and sends her to school. I don’t mind that the Zhai family does not provide bride price and I also have no wish to seek help from the Zhai family. How dare your mom and you bask in Nan Nan’s glory and seek opportunities for outsiders?”

Qiao Dongliang was not foolish. He was only simple-minded in certain aspects and circumstances.

As soon as they reached the Qiao family's residence, the Chen family requested that everyone from the two families must be present to have a meal together.

Who was the Chen family trying to be acquainted with?

It had to be Qiao Nan, who was about to become the Zhai family's daughter-in-law.

Now that they did not meet Qiao Nan, they suggested going to the Shi family's residence to meet Shi Peng to discuss where to place Qiao Nan's dowry. But it was not appropriate at all. The Chen family had no right to interfere.

If not for the elder daughter, Qiao Dongliang would not play the fool and be led all the way to look for Shi Peng.

Qiao Dongliang did not expect that it would be Feng Cheng who opened the door for him and she would be so impolite toward him.

He knew that the Chen family wanted to make use of his relationship with Shi Peng to get to know him and to leave a good impression.

They had been neighbors for more than three years. Qiao Dongliang knew very well that Shi Peng was upright and would not go along with the Chen family.

Therefore, Qiao Dongliang was not worried that Shi Peng would help the Chen family because of his friendship with Qiao Dongliang.

Of course, Qiao Dongliang did not expect that he would not get to see Shi Peng and Shi Qing would not come out to ease the atmosphere.

It did not occur to Qiao Dongliang at all that it was because of his daughter that Shi Peng was on good terms with him.

Chapter 1090 She Owed Me In The First Place

Qiao Zijin turned green at how calculative Qiao Dongliang was. “Dad, we are one family. The three of us are Nan Nan’s only relatives in this world. What’s wrong if our family of four help each other to lead a good life? Didn’t you say in the past that Nan Nan and I must help each other? If I do better in life and Nan Nan is bullied in the Zhai family, I will be able to stand up for her.”

“It’s really rare that you are so reasonable and sensible.” Qiao Dongliang sighed. “I have taught you for the past twenty-three years, but you won’t listen to me. Chen Jun is more capable than me. The two of you have been together for less than a year and you have learned to say these words. Perhaps the two of you are meant for each other.”

Qiao Dongliang had no idea and did not wish to know whether Qiao Zijin really meant what she said.

Qiao Dongliang must hand it to Chen Jun to teach someone who was blunt and would not hide her ambitions to become someone who was skilled at masking her emotions and to act sensibly.

All these years, it was impossible for Qiao Dongliang not to have known how his elder daughter was like.

Qiao Zijin was indeed Ding Jiayi’s daughter. In the past, Ding Jiayi would stand up for her, so there was no need for Qiao Zijin to fight for her rights. It gave people the impression that Ding Jiayi was unreasonable while Qiao Zijin was a good and well-behaved child.

Without Ding Jiayi around to stand up for her and fight for her interests, one could easily tell what was going on in Qiao Zijin’s mind.

Qiao Zijin blushed. “Dad, what nonsense are you talking about? I-I didn’t...”

Qiao Dongliang spoke as he walked on the way home. “You should know very well whether you are guilty of these character faults. If not for the fact that you insist on being with Chen Jun, I would never agree to it. Silly girl, everyone in the Chen family is scheming and not that easy to deal with. You will definitely suffer in the future.”

Qiao Zijin refused to admit defeat. “Dad, don’t you want me to do well in life?”

Zhai Sheng and the Zhai family treated Qiao Nan very well, particularly Madam Zhai. She treated Qiao Nan like her own daughter.

Why was it that Qiao Nan could have such a blessed life but she couldn't?

“It is alright that you said these spiteful words to me. I am your dad. I won't stay angry with you for long. But the most important thing is don't lie to yourself. Do I not wish the best for you or is it that the path that you have taken is destined to be a difficult road? You should give it a serious thought. Why is Chen Jun willing to be with you? I believe you know the reason as well. If the Chen family does not get what they are after, what will happen to you then? Shouldn't you give it a serious thought?”

In the past, Qiao Dongliang would be fuming mad at Qiao Zijin's insensible words.

Now, perhaps due to Qiao Nan's influence, he could no longer be bothered to stay angry with Qiao Zijin.

Nan Nan was angry at him because of Zijin and had resorted to ignoring her father.

If he lost his younger daughter's love and the elder daughter insisted on her stubborn ways, he would have failed terribly as a person in this life.

To prove that what he had been doing was right, even if he knew that it was not easy to take Qiao Zijin in hand, Qiao Dongliang had no other choice but to continue on this muddy and thorn-filled path.

Qiao Zijin was silent. “Will Qiao Nan really not help me if Chen Jun bullies me? I am her only sister.”

Qiao Zijin knew that Chen Jun had a hidden agenda. However, Qiao Zijin was after his good looks, his family background, and the fact that he graduated from a well-known university. Both of them did not have the purest intentions.

Chen Jun might have the upper hand, but she was not without any good cards. Qiao Nan was her sister and Zhai Sheng was her brother-in-law!

Qiao Dongliang hunched his back at Qiao Zijin's words. “Zijin, you didn't treat Nan Nan as your family when you bullied her. You treated her worse than an outsider. It is only when you want her to

help you will you remember that she is your family and that she should not leave you in the lurch. Zijin, Nan Nan is not your mom or your dad. She will not tolerate your unreasonable behavior. She does not have any obligation toward you.”

Qiao Dongliang wanted to tell Qiao Zijin that there would not be such a good deal in this world.

Qiao Zijin gritted her teeth. “Other people may not have this obligation, but Qiao Nan has. She owes me!”

“What do you mean? Why do you say that?” This was the first time that Qiao Zijin said this. “Why do you feel that Qiao Nan has to help you after you bullied her? When did she owe you? What did she owe you?”

Since this was the first time that Qiao Zijin brought this up, Qiao Dongliang wanted to find out what was on her mind.

Qiao Zijin twitched the corners of her lips, a cold and ironic smile on her face. “You and Mom might not have any memory of this. When she was pregnant with Qiao Nan, I was only three years old. Who would have thought that a three-year-old child could remember what happened so clearly? At that time, you and Mom thought that the second child must be a boy. When you were not at home, Mom nagged at me every day, saying that when my brother was born, I must be good to him. I must protect him so that he would not be bullied by others. When I grew up, I had to start work as early as possible to earn money so that he could go to school. I must marry a good man so that I could help my brother...”

Her mother used to nag at her to help Qiao Nan. She had to make sure that Qiao Nan did what her mother used to tell her!

Fortunately, the child was not a boy but a girl.

Qiao Zijin also had no idea how a young kid like her managed to remember what happened back then.

She did not have any memories of her childhood except for the sight of her mother touching her bulging stomach with love and affection. She sat near the door under the sun, talking to herself. However, Qiao Zijin heard everything and remembered it for the rest of her life!

She had to quit school and work once Qiao Nan was born?

Fine, she would make sure that it was Qiao Nan who quit school and worked to provide for her school fees!

“Dad, you may not have known. The ten months that Mom was pregnant with Qiao Nan was the hardest period of my life. Mom had a piece of cloth that she intended to use to make a dress for me. In the end, she said that she would use it as Nan Nan’s diapers. Mom forbade me from touching her and she pushed me such that I fell onto the floor and scraped my palm. Five years ago, you felt sorry that Mom did not provide good food for Qiao Nan, causing her to be malnourished. But do you know that when I was three years old, I never had a full meal and I used to starve like Qiao Nan?”

Toward the end, Qiao Zijin stared at Qiao Dongliang, who had turned around to face her. “Dad, I do not owe Qiao Nan. It is Qiao Nan who owes me.”