

RTAMM 1151

Chapter 1151 Take Care a Little

Most probably, Qiao Nan would be able to revert to her pre-pregnancy figure without much effort after giving birth.

The auntie knew that young ladies nowadays liked to look pretty and wanted to slim down.

As such, the auntie had done some research before she prepared the nourishment food for Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan's tummy was almost six months old. She was easily tired and sleepy, and other pregnancy symptoms also followed.

It was most probably because she was carrying twins. Usually, other pregnant women would display symptoms of swollen legs after being pregnant for six months, especially from the eighth month onward.

There were still a few days left before Qiao Nan's tummy turned six months old but her legs had already begun to swell.

Fortunately, it was not too swollen. Otherwise, Qiao Nan would not be able to wear her shoes.

"Mom, Nan Nan seems to be falling asleep more easily." After helping Qiao Nan upstairs and lay on the bed, Zhai Hua asked worriedly when she came downstairs. "Is this really okay?"

"Of course it is fine. The more she sleeps, the faster the fetuses in her womb grow." Miao Jing was happily smiling. "However, Nan Nan is still very young. She's pregnant with two children at the same time. It's really tough on her." Unfortunately, when Nan Nan was painstakingly carrying the children, her son, the initiator, was not by Nan Nan's side to take care of her.

This was an extremely sad issue for a military wife.

The men of the Zhai family were always like that. They did not let down their country and the citizens. However, they always let their family, especially their wives, down.

“Nan Nan’s temper is good. She has never behaved like a spoiled child. It’s so tough but she has never derided Zhai Sheng before. It’s Zhai Sheng’s good fortune to have married Nan Nan.” Even when she was younger, she could not be as big-hearted as Nan Nan.

When she was just pregnant with Hua Hua, she suffered from severe morning sickness, yet Zhai Yaohui was not by her side. She had cried a few times because of this.

Zhai Hua smiled too. “Yes, Nan Nan is different from the typical young ladies. Ladies who do not have a temperament like that of Nan Nan really can’t be part of our Zhai family.”

Looking at Zhai Hua, who was feeling happy for Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan, Miao Jing’s mood changed and she glared at Zhai Hua unhappily. That glare made Zhai Hua feel baffled. “Mom, what’s wrong with you? Who has annoyed you?” Weren’t they chatting happily earlier? If other people had provoked her mother, the latter should vent her frustration on others. She was so aggrieved.

Miao Jing snorted twice. “Besides you, who else?”

“Me?” Zhai Hua pointed at her own nose in disbelief. “When did I anger you?” Even though she was her biological mother, she could not malign her either.

“I wish to be a maternal grandmother. I also wish to pamper you and treat you like a queen. When are you going to give me the chance to treat you like my ancestor?” Miao Jing slanted her eyes and looked at Zhai Hua.

Qiao Nan’s treatment at the Zhai family had been improving in a rectilinear way. Although Zhai Hua treated Qiao Nan better than she did everyone else, she would occasionally sound sour in front of Miao Jing on purpose.

Miao Jing remembered all those words.

After the phone call with Tian Dong’s mother today, Miao Jing might as well dig up past scores and demand an explanation from her daughter. “Dongzi and you have been dawdling for half a year. What do you mean by this? If it’s not possible between Dongzi and you, we can forget about the past six months. We should not waste another six months. Mom will arrange blind dates for you. If the two of you have feelings for each other, quickly express yourself clearly. Both of you are not young anymore. I don’t understand why you are always dawdling.”

When Miao Jing started to berate Zhai Hua, her tone was full of disdain.

Zhai Hua's face swelled in red after her mother gave her a scolding. "Mom, will anyone talk to their own daughter in this way? Isn't it quite good for me to maintain the status quo with Dongzi? I am not young anymore but I have to observe him too. Nan Nan has said that I cannot be anxious when it comes to marriage. Spending more time to observe is always better. It's better to make a late decision than to divorce quickly next time."

There was also another issue. All this while, Tian Dong had never made himself clear.

Zhai Hua had her own pride and dignity. If Tian Dong were to reveal some feelings, Zhai Hua would not dawdle so much either.

There was no hurry in getting married but they could date first.

Since Tian Dong did not say anything, Zhai Hua might as well play dumb.

If the day came whereby they could not continue acting foolish, Zhai Hua had the same thought as Miao Jing. If Tian Dong was gone, they could find another man.

Anyway, Qiao Nan had two children in her womb now. At most, she could treat her niece and nephew as daughter and son respectively, no?

At this moment, men only had one use to Zhai Hua, which was to have a child.

Zhai Hua had put away Wei De's matter in her heart. However, some repercussions were arising from the matter. Zhai Hua lost the kind of trust that she previously had for men.

Now, Tian Dong was quite good to her. He even fawned on her family for her sake.

However, who could guarantee that Tian Dong would remain like that forever? When a man changed, it was faster than flipping a book.

Anyway, Zhai Hua knew in her heart that she was no longer willing to focus all her feelings on a man. Only her family would not betray or give up on her.

After having such thoughts, both Zhai Hua and Tian Dong got along very naturally. Tian Dong did not speak about it. Zhai Hua was neither anxious nor angry. She really went along with Tian Dong in the 'game'.

Since it was hard to tell the eventual outcome, they would let nature take its course.

Looking at Zhai Hua, who did not seem to be bothered, Miao Jing did not have a way. Anyway, no matter what she said, her daughter would not listen. She was very sick of saying the same things repeatedly.

Qiao Nan, who was pregnant, was also quite curious about Tian Dong and Zhai Hua's relationship. She wanted to ask how much longer these two wished to dawdle.

However, Qiao Nan received a phone call before she could ask Zhai Hua. "Hello, Dad... Yes, it's me. Is there any matter? Oh, my child and I are doing quite well."

Qiao Dongliang, who was at the other end of the phone, sounded a little hesitant. "Nan Nan..."

"..."

At the sound of Qiao Dongliang's tone, Qiao Nan pursed her lips. After acquiescing once, she refused to speak further or ask Qiao Dongliang what he wanted to tell her.

"..."

Qiao Dongliang could not bring himself to say it, but Ding Jiayi, who was standing behind him and stretching her neck, tugged at Qiao Dongliang's clothes to urge him to continue.

Wouldn't a phone call to the capital cost money?

Furthermore, this was a trans-provincial call.

Qiao Dongliang's brows stiffened as he pushed Ding Jiayi away from him. "Isn't this the summer vacation period? Your sister wishes to go to the capital for a holiday. Your sister is not familiar with the people and places in the capital. Can you take care of her a little?"

"What do you mean by there is only Zijin? Our family of three is going!" Ding Jiayi was not pleased. She raised her voice, hoping Qiao Nan could hear her words directly.

Her daughter was considered to have 'married over' to the capital. By right, as the in-laws, they should not even need to make this call. The Zhai family did not even know such courtesy? Shouldn't they extend an invitation?

Chapter 1152 Apply Leave to Come Here for a Holiday

Not to mention the Zhai family, that wretched girl should have some self-awareness to invite them on her own initiative long ago. "Qiao Nan, your dad and I have not been to the capital, so our family of three wishes to go there together to have fun. You will welcome us, won't you? Also, remember to purchase the flight tickets for us. I heard that it's faster to take the plane there and the duration of travel is three to four hours. It will take a long time if we take the train. My waist has not been good recently. I won't be able to endure such a long train ride."

The younger daughter had been married to the capital and the family wanted to go to the capital for a holiday. Certainly, the younger daughter had to take care of their food, accommodation, and entertainment. She should also conveniently take care of their transport costs.

Anyway, she was not the one forking out the money. She was aware that taking the plane was fast and enjoyable. As expected, Ding Jiayi asked for the sky and requested Qiao Nan to pay for the airfare. She had to pay for all three of them.

Ding Jiayi had the shame to make the request but Qiao Nan would not listen to any of it. "Dad, you know my situation too. I'm almost six months pregnant. As my tummy is bigger, my mother-in-law won't even allow me to walk about. She's afraid that my tummy will bump into something. If I did not insist, my mother-in-law would rather that I stop school for one year and stay at home to rest until I give birth. Dad, given my situation, do you think I can still take care of Qiao Zijin?"

Take care?

They could forget about asking her to take any care of Qiao Zijin in this lifetime.

“Dad, I know. This is the first time that your daughter is married. You don’t have any prior experience. That’s fine. I will analyze the situation for you. In normal circumstances, when the daughter is pregnant, the biological mother will definitely come over and take care of her. Let’s not talk about other times. During the confinement period, most of the time, it is better for the biological mother rather than the mother-in-law to take care of the daughter. However, given my mom’s character, I would rather that she doesn’t come and take care of me. Even the auntie at home will take better care of me. Dad, I’m already six months pregnant. I can’t even see my toes when I look down at my feet. Given my situation, I don’t expect all of you to take care of me. You can’t do the reverse and expect me to take care of Qiao Zijin. Does this make sense?”

Qiao Nan felt very disheartened.

True enough, once her father returned to the small courtyard of the Qiao family and lived together with Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin, he had reverted to his old self. He was muddleheaded and brainless now. He did not even have the basic ability to analyze the situation.

He would agree to whatever Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin said.

Her father was thinking that since she was already married, he would not be of any hindrance to her even if he were to listen fully to Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin. That was why her father simply adopted a laissez-faire attitude.

If the trio continued to stay in Ping Cheng, Qiao Nan did not care who they listened to.

However, she was already married, yet the trio had to come and create trouble for her. This made Qiao Nan feel very helpless. She could not accept this.

The maternal family was coming over to let a pregnant lady take care of them. If you were to ask the world, no one would do such a thing.

Ding Jiayi was very unhappy when she heard this. “If we ask you to take care of us, you have to. Zijin is your biological sister. Even if we don’t tell you, you should also take good care of Zijin. Why are you talking so much nonsense? Even if you are pampered and precious, you made it sound as if I have never been pregnant or have never given birth to children. Fine. If it is really not convenient for you, simply pay for someone to take care of your sister. Won’t that do? Moreover, it’s not just your sister who is going. Your dad and I are going too!”

Ding Jiayi, who had snatched over the phone, scolded into it. She sounded so bold and righteous.

“Stop messing around!” Qiao Dongliang’s face turned stiff. “Have you forgotten what you have promised me? If you do that again, don’t blame me for being unruly. The capital? If you have the capability, you can go on your own. If not, don’t give me such crap!”

One Zijin was enough to give Nan Nan trouble. Old Ding had truly gone crazy to want all the three of them to go there.

Qiao Dongliang placed the phone by his ear and said, “Nan Nan, don’t listen to your mom. The weather is too hot recently and your mom is suffering from heatstroke and thus spouted nonsense. She’s not clear of and doesn’t know what she is saying.” It was already too much to have one person going.

As the elder sister, Zijin had never taken care of Nan Nan. Now, the situation even had to be reversed such that Nan Nan had to take care of Zijin. They would become a laughingstock if words were to get out.

Qiao Dongliang was most concerned about Qiao Nan’s pregnancy.

When he first heard that Qiao Zijin wished to holiday in the capital, Qiao Dongliang objected to it.

Nan Nan disliked Zijin. Hence, she certainly did not wish to see Zijin. Wouldn’t Zijin be creating trouble for Nan Nan if she were to go to the capital?

Thereafter, Qiao Zijin was the one who analyzed the situation for him. She told him that a woman’s temperament would change during pregnancy.

Qiao Nan did not have any real next-of-kin in the capital. When she, the elder sister, went over, she would definitely console Qiao Nan properly lest Qiao Nan become too nervous.

As such, Qiao Zijin told Qiao Dongliang that she was going to the capital not only for a holiday but also to take care of the pregnant Qiao Nan.

Qiao Dongliang wanted to tell Qiao Nan that Qiao Zijin was new to the capital. Hence, he hoped that Qiao Nan could spend a little effort on Qiao Zijin.

If it was not convenient for Qiao Nan to do so personally, she could find someone to be a guide for Qiao Zijin.

Since Qiao Zijin could not stay at the house of the Zhai family, Qiao Zijin's safety would only be ensured if Qiao Nan could hire someone to make sure that Qiao Zijin returned to her hotel or place of accommodation every day.

Who would have known that once Ding Jiayi spoke, everything had changed? It completely deviated from the original discussion.

Ding Jiayi certainly wanted to follow Qiao Zijin to the capital for a holiday. Perhaps she had already set her mind to let Qiao Nan pay for everything so that they could enjoy themselves madly for once.

As long as she was not the one paying, she could spend more of Qiao Nan's money as more people were going.

As such, if the family of three were to go on a trip together, Ding Jiayi would not feel any pinch about the loss of income or expenses during this period of absence in Ping Cheng. She would do whatever she was happy with.

"Dad, I remember that both you and Mom are working, no? Mom said that all three of you want to come to the capital for a holiday, but for how long? What about your jobs?"

Qiao Nan's face was numb. When she heard the shrieking voice of Ding Jiayi, she already lost her ability to respond.

Certainly, the idea of the family of three going on a trip together did not come from Ding Jiayi spontaneously. Most likely, the trio had long discussed it.

When they spoke at the eleventh hour, her father wanted face and changed his words. He said that Qiao Zijin was the only one coming and did not mention about him and Ding Jiayi.

If it were others, the daughter would definitely invite her parents to come as well since Qiao Zijin was already coming.

Ding Jiayi knew her better than her father regarding this. She would definitely not open her mouth to invite them. Hence, Ding Jiayi could only request it personally.

“Zijin has two months of vacation. We’re not in a hurry to come back. As for our salaries, it doesn’t matter.” Ding Jiayi was afraid that Qiao Dongliang would relent and wreck Qiao Zijin’s and her great plans. When she heard Qiao Nan’s words, she replied directly and straightforwardly. She did not care whether Qiao Nan was implying something else. This straightforwardness made people furious.

Qiao Nan sneered continuously. “Dad, is the phone still with you?”

Chapter 1153 Take It That I Have Never Said This Before

“I’m here.” Upon hearing Qiao Nan’s voice, Qiao Dongliang suddenly felt guilty-conscious.

Qiao Nan tugged the corners of her lips, her eyes looking cold. “So, do you mean that both you and Mom are not going to work and earn money in these two months? You’re all coming to the capital for a ‘holiday’ and to spend money? Does the family have a sum of money that can cover the costs of this holiday? It’s not cheap to stay even for one night in the capital, not to mention the cost of other things. You’re coming to stay in the hotel for two months and then going home after having fun in a carefree manner. Dad, did you buy the lottery and strike three million yuan?”

“I...” Qiao Dongliang almost could not answer. “Don’t listen to your mom. Zijin is the only one who is going. Your mom and I are not going. It’s not as if you don’t know our family’s situation. How will we have so much money? I don’t have the habit of buying the lottery either. It won’t be my turn to strike it anyway. Your mom likes to talk nonsense. Don’t take her words for real or to heart.”

Qiao Dongliang did not know how to answer the question. If he did not do it in this way...

If he had a choice, Qiao Dongliang could not wait to hang up the phone immediately.

All the neighbors in the quad had seen the shrewish behavior of Ding Jiayi.

He was still a reasonable and civilized person. He would not be as thick-skinned and shameless as Ding Jiayi to do such embarrassing stuff.

“What? Don’t take my words to heart? She must take my word to heart!” Ding Jiayi could not help flaring up and kicking up a fuss.

As soon as Qiao Nan left Ping Cheng, Qiao Dongliang moved back to the small courtyard of the Qiao family and lived together with Ding Jiayi.

Despite that, two of them had not slept in the same room. They also did not do the most intimate thing between a couple.

The problem was that Ding Jiayi’s confidence came back after this period of six months.

When he heard that Qiao Dongliang dared not speak to Qiao Nan according to her wish, she was so furious that she snatched over the phone. “Qiao Nan, listen properly. Don’t think that I can’t control you anymore after you are married and went to the capital. Don’t forget that your dad and I gave birth to you. You have to support us financially in this whole lifetime and obey our words. I will give you a bank account number. Quickly transfer 10,000 yuan to it. You have married into a good family. Your dad and I are already so old. Shouldn’t you let us enjoy life? As a human, you need to have a conscience!”

“If you really have so much conscience, Mom, why haven’t I seen my maternal grandmother before? Your life in the past was not bad either. Why didn’t I see you fetching my maternal grandmother over and be filial to her? Mom, you’re also someone who has a mother. Why don’t you set an example for me first and I will follow accordingly?” Qiao Nan was both angry and amused by Ding Jiayi’s words.

Fortunately, Ding Jiayi had done things that were more absurd and cold-blooded. Since Ding Jiayi got married, she had severed interactions with her maternal family for more than twenty years.

Her mother did not even send a single cent back to the Ding family, let alone transfer 10,000 yuan to the maternal family for her parents to go on a holiday.

“Mom, a crooked stick will have a crooked shadow. With you as the crooked stick, don’t expect me, the shadow, to perform too well. This is not realistic. As a human, you should be more realistic.” Qiao Nan’s tone was neither hurried nor slow, yet she very firmly rejected all of Ding Jiayi’s requests.

“Dad, regardless of whether you can hear me, I will be frank in my words. First, I am already six months pregnant and my tummy is extremely big. Besides the necessary pregnancy exercises, my

mother-in-law is not willing to let me step out of the door. The air in the capital is not that good. Second, it is all of your business where you want to go on holiday and have fun. Whether one person or the whole family is setting out on this trip, you can decide it for yourself. I am just a poor student. All the money for my studies is given to me by my generous in-law family. I already need my in-law family's help to support me financially. I really don't have the shame to ask them to support my maternal family financially too."

Who would take leave from work to go on a two months' holiday?

This was such a 'heroic' move and they still needed to take money from her pocket?

It was ludicrous!

However, no matter what, regardless of what the Qiao family said, she would not agree. This was her attitude and it would not change.

"You!" As soon as Qiao Nan disagreed, Ding Jiayi was so enraged that she nearly jumped onto the roof to settle scores with Qiao Nan. "What kind of tone is this!"

"Shut up!" Qiao Dongliang pushed Ding Jiayi's face away with one slap. Upon hearing Qiao Nan's words, Qiao Dongliang felt so embarrassed that he could not wait to dig a hole and bury himself in it.

It was right that children had to be good to their parents. However, this situation could not be applied to Qiao Nan.

It was not because of other reasons. It was because Qiao Nan was just a student.

Qiao Nan had to rely on others to support her financially, yet Ding Jiayi had to ask for the sky. She greedily requested Qiao Nan to buy three flight tickets and even ordered her to transfer 10,000 yuan to sponsor their holiday.

When it was the beginning of 2000, traveling was not so costly. It was not as if the family was going to an overseas country.

Hence, Ding Jiayi was extremely unreasonable to have said that.

Qiao Dongliang was easily cajoled by others but he would not be cajoled to this extent.

Next, Qiao Nan could no longer hear any complete sentence. On the other side of the phone, Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi seemed to have different opinions. They started to argue before they even hung up the phone.

Qiao Nan held her forehead in agony. She really could not understand. Her father had already divorced his mother and climbed out of this huge pit, which was her mother. How badly could he not sort out his thoughts that he had to jump back into it?

Without her mother's influence, her father's worldviews and values were quite upright.

As long as no one had a conflict with her father's worldviews and values, her father seldom argued with people.

Was it because her father had led too much of a peaceful life during the past four years? Hence, he felt that there would be more passion and excitement if he were to live with her mother and argue and fight with her from time to time?

When they argued until the situation was unresolvable, Qiao Dongliang finally seemed to have realized that he had not hung up the phone. He pushed Ding Jiayi away and said to Qiao Nan while panting heavily, "Nan Nan, take it that I did not make this call today. Take care of yourself at home."

After saying that, he hung up the phone with a bang.

Qiao Nan placed the phone back and gave a huge sigh.

The person who would have such an idea was certainly not her father.

Ding Jiayi might not have the brains to think of this either.

After Brother Zhai found someone to cut Qiao Zijin's hair, Ding Jiayi had been quite abiding for a long time.

In that case, Qiao Zijin was the one who wanted to come to the capital for a holiday and even wanted to stay at the house of the Zhai family so that she could take care of her?

Qiao Nan rubbed her temple. She did not say a word. She also did not tell the Zhai family about this and quietly hid this matter.

Anyway, her father had already said it. She would take it that her father had never made this call.

“Tsk...” The child in her womb seemed to have been affected by Qiao Nan. It was so angry that it formed a little fist.

Rubbing the round and tiny bun that was bulging on her tummy, Qiao Nan smiled gently. “Baby, don’t be angry. Mom is not angry anymore.”

Chapter 1154 Glutton

“I just don’t know when your dad will be back and whether he will be able to rush back in time to see you at the moment of your births.”

After coming to the capital, Zhai Sheng was busier than when he was in Ping Cheng.

Besides the day that the pair collected their wedding certificate, Qiao Nan had not heard any further news of when Zhai Sheng would be coming back. She also did not receive many of Zhai Sheng’s phone calls.

When she called Zhai Sheng’s office nowadays, no one answered the calls.

Facing such a situation, Qiao Nan certainly had feelings of panic and worry.

Upon hearing their mother’s gentle voice, the babies who were kicking up a fuss in the womb quieted down very quickly. They were no longer kicking up a fuss, lest their mother become as upset as them.

The hearts of the mother and children were together. When looking at her tummy, Qiao Nan’s eyes were so gentle that tears were almost dripping.

The babies distracted her. Also, Qiao Nan did not wish to tell anyone about the phone call just now. Before half a day was over, she had completely forgotten about this matter.

However, although one would never go looking for trouble, trouble would come knocking on the door most of the time.

She had forgotten about the phone call, but some people would not change their minds so easily. They were so persistent that they thought of a solution to fulfill their wishes.

“This is the capital? It’s certainly different.” Looking at the capital, which was completely different from Ping Cheng, Qiao Zijin’s eyes were filled with vanity and envy.

This was such a great city. She, too, hoped that she could live, grow, settle down here, and become part of the population.

“Now is not the most beautiful time. When night time arrives, the red lights and green wine look even better. Of course, speaking of this, I’ll bring you to Mo Du to widen your horizons if there is an opportunity in the future. It’s even better over there.” In contrast to Qiao Zijin’s zealous reaction, Chen Jun was only mildly excited.

One had to know that he had completed four years of college studies in this city.

Unexpectedly, he came back again today although he had graduated.

People of the same family had similar personalities and temper.

Qiao Zijin had made up her mind to have a home of her own in the capital, and Chen Jun also had the same thought.

There was no place better than the capital in China.

If he and his father could become an official in the central government, it would mean that the ancestors of the Chen family had been blessing them.

In the past, Chen Jun dared not be so ambitious. However, Chen Jun felt that this target was not that far-fetched now.

As long as he could do two things, this was actually a very easy matter.

The capital, here I come!

After cheering for himself, Chen Jun smiled. “Zijin, do you still remember what I taught you in the past?”

“Re-remember.” Qiao Zijin’s expression changed. She bowed her head docilely as she softly replied.

At this moment, Qiao Zijin looked like an introverted, shy, and even a young lady who was a little timid. What arrogance, evil, heartless—all these were gone.

Chen Jun was very satisfied with Qiao Zijin’s change.

Chen Jun reached out his hands and touched Qiao Zijin’s hair. “Very good. You have to always remember this. Don’t be like your mom and become a shrew that no one likes. Girls have to be gentle and refined. It’s not good to be too competitive. If anyone bullies you, just cry. If you feel that your requests have not been met, or if you are not satisfied, just continue crying. Too much of a woman’s tears are not valuable. Nevertheless, it is fine as long as they are useful. When a woman cries, it looks much better than attacking people with her mouth. If you behave like your mom, who only knows how to make noise, that will be too ugly and unsightly. Understand?”

Qiao Zijin was not smart enough. She did not have Qiao Nan’s brains and achievements. Unfortunately, she was so full of herself and liked to act smart.

At this moment, Chen Jun would rather Qiao Zijin not speak and be a young lady who only knew how to cry.

Well, men. When they saw a young lady who was not bad-looking cry, their hearts would definitely go out to her regardless of the right or wrong of the matter.

As a man, Chen Jun was well aware of this.

Qiao Zijin's intelligence could not make it. As such, Qiao Zijin could only rely on acting in her life.

Qiao Zijin said 'okay' with a voice as soft as that of a mosquito. Thereafter, she did not dare to leave Chen Jun's side as she walked step-by-step with him. That obedient demeanor was as if she had autism and had just been discharged from the mental hospital.

Of course, if she were to change the purple dress on her to an all-white dress, the resemblance would be more striking.

"Nan Nan, have some fruits." In the house of the Zhai family, Zhai Hua brought the fruits that had been cut into bite-sized pieces by the auntie to Qiao Nan. "This is the toothpick. Use it to eat. It's more convenient, in case the fruit juice drips all over. By right, it's best to eat watermelons during this season. However, watermelons are too cooling. You are pregnant. It's fine. Let's not eat them. After you have given birth, I will buy them for you if you want, regardless of whether it's summertime."

Zhai Hua loved to eat watermelons during summer. At the thought of Qiao Nan's situation, she was not willing to let Qiao Nan eat the watermelons.

Qiao Nan could not eat them but she could. Zhai Hua could not help feeling a little guilty about it.

Qiao Nan did not know whether to laugh or cry. "I am pregnant. I have not become a child. If I can't eat watermelons this summer, so be it. Do you take me for a glutton?" She just had to avoid watermelons for a summer. That was not a big deal.

Zhai Hua was not convinced. "That day, when it was half past ten at night, who was the one who kicked up a fuss, craving for stinky tofu, durians, and stuff? Who cried until the eyes were red when I returned a little later? My mom's heart ached for so long because of that. She kept blaming me for taking too much time just to buy a few things."

Zhai Hua was extremely sullen at the mention of this.

Qiao Nan's tummy was huge. Hence, when the family was giving her nourishment food, they paid careful attention to control Qiao Nan's appetite. Coupled with appropriate exercise that could aid in giving birth, they hoped that Qiao Nan would feel more relaxed on the day that she was giving birth.

They did not expect that Qiao Nan's change would be so great after getting pregnant.

Before pregnancy, anyone who had met Qiao Nan would say that Qiao Nan was truly a very good child.

However, after pregnancy, Qiao Nan had become very spoiled. She thought of one thing followed by another endlessly, especially in the area of food.

If Qiao Nan suddenly had a craving for a certain food, they had to get it. If they did not do so, Qiao Nan would change her clothes, put on her shoes, and run out to buy on her own.

If she were to help run the errands but returned home a little later, Qiao Nan would cry. She cried so miserably as if the whole family had abandoned her and her children.

Oh, my goodness. Zhai Hua felt that she was dying of torture.

It was no wonder that people said that a pregnant woman was the queen of the house. Damn, she was the slave by the side of her majesty!

Zhai Hua took a deep breath. She could not say all these. If she did, there would be tears.

Qiao Nan's face was full of embarrassment. She could not deny that she had done all these. "Sister Zhai Hua, I wish to say that I cried previously not because I wanted to. It was the babies who wanted to cry. Do you believe me?"

Chapter 1155 Change of Strategy

"I was not the one who wanted to eat those things. It's the babies who wanted to eat them. Do you believe me?"

"Hahaha." Zhai Hua smiled dryly. She glanced sideways at Qiao Nan and nearly engraved three words on her face: I don't believe you!

Qiao Nan felt wronged and aggrieved. "Before pregnancy, I don't eat those things. I dislike them for their strong taste." Stinky tofu and durians were all food with strong flavors and smell.

Durians were so costly. Before she was pregnant, she had neither eaten nor thought of eating such food in her two lifetimes.

Stinky tofu was cheap but she did not touch it when her father bought it home in the past.

“Have you forgotten? The doctor reminded you before that a woman’s taste will go through great changes after they become pregnant. I am very unfortunate. The babies in my womb are those who love food with strong flavors. They can’t take the food on their own, so they can only torture me.”

Qiao Nan’s eyes turned red and her tiny lips pouted. She felt extremely aggrieved.

To her, all those items were very smelly.

Before she was pregnant, she was not willing to take more glances at them.

She did not expect that the babies in her womb did not resemble her at all. They liked strong-flavored food.

Fortunately, she did not overeat. Otherwise, Qiao Nan would feel worried for her children and herself.

At the thought that she craved for these food because of the babies’ needs, Qiao Nan felt nervous again. “Sister Zhai Hua, after I give birth to the babies, when they grow up and can eat things on their own, will our house be filled with the smells of stinky tofu or durians?”

Zhai Hua was imagining a house that would be filled with ‘smells’ in the future. At the thought of it, she could not help shivering. “Will... will it that bad? Maybe the babies only like to eat them when they are in your womb. They will change after they are born.”

Zhai Hua and Qiao Nan glanced at each other and laughed helplessly.

“Hello?” The phone rang and broke the awkwardness between the two that arose due to this frightening imagination. “Yes, I am. Wait... Who did you say came? Who is here?”

After listening to the names clearly, Zhai Hua pulled a long face. She covered the phone receiver. “Nan Nan, there’s a man and a woman outside at the entrance. They said that they are your sister and brother-in-law. Are you going to see them?”

As for the two people’s names, Zhai Hua did not wish to mention them. She was afraid that it would hurt her mouth.

However, why did these two people come to the capital?

“...” Qiao Nan was silent.

Last time, she did not hear any ‘follow up’ after her father hung up the phone.

Unexpectedly, despite not receiving any more phone calls, Qiao Zijin actually appeared at her doorstep directly.

Looking at Qiao Nan’s reaction, Zhai Hua raised her eyebrows. “You already know about it?”

“My dad gave me a call on this but I rejected him. Given my situation, he still asked me to take care of her. Would I have agreed? My dad also told me to take it that he did not make that call. Who would have known that someone still came regardless.” Qiao Nan’s lips were pursed tightly. She was also trying to restrain her tone.

“Are you going to see them?”

“I don’t wish to.”

Zhai Hua sighed. She understood that Qiao Nan did not wish to see them but had to. “Fine. I’ll let them come in first.”

After a while, Qiao Zijin and Chen Jun had been led in by someone until they arrived at the front door of the Zhai family’s house.

The guards at the door were even stricter than the security guards of the quad in Ping Cheng. Seeing that the Zhai family was staying in a western-style bungalow instead of the quad now, Qiao Zijin's heart was filled with envy and jealousy. No one else could understand how she felt.

Qiao Nan was different now after this marriage. Qiao Nan was now living a life that she had been dreaming of.

This style... This display of splendor...

At the thought of Chen Jun, who was standing beside her, Qiao Zijin's heart felt so sour as if it was immersed in a sea of jealousy.

No matter how much she consoled herself that Chen Jun was a lot more outstanding than other men, she could not hide the fact that Chen Jun could not be compared to Zhai Sheng.

If she were to rely on Chen Jun, she dared not even hope for the day in her lifetime whereby she could live such a good life.

This was something unknown to her, yet Qiao Nan was already enjoying it so much. Qiao Zijin, who had been competitive since a young age and liked to subdue Qiao Nan, definitely could not accept such a gap.

"Cough..." Qiao Zijin's eyes and expression were looking increasingly odd. Chen Jun narrowed his eyes and reminded her by coughing twice.

Qiao Zijin's body turned stiff. She quickly restrained the emotions underneath her eyes and gave a hard blink to try to make her eyes watery. Thereafter, the expression on her face also became gentler.

"..." Qiao Nan was instantly speechless.

On the other hand, Zhai Hua seemed to have been struck by thunder upon seeing Qiao Zijin's blink. Was this considered casting sheep's eye or what? Was there a name for this?

Qiao Nan shook her head at Zhai Hua. Qiao Zijin had a new trick up her sleeves. Anyway, she had not seen this before.

Obviously, Chen Jun was also surprised that Qiao Zijin would be so stupid to come up with such a tactic eventually.

If she was not able to cry now, so be it. Nevertheless, it was fine as long as she did not distort that not-so-beautiful face of hers until it looked like that of a jealous old witch.

Would blinking her eyes hard evoke feelings of wanting to cry? Damn, who taught Qiao Zijin this?

Facing such a girlfriend like Qiao Zijin who would commit foolish acts from time to time, be easily jealous, and behave willfully, no one else could understand the misery in Chen Jun's heart.

It was true. If he had another path to take or managed to woo Qiu Chenxi successfully in the past, Qiao Zijin would not be involved today.

The biological sister had been married to and became the daughter-in-law of the Zhai family. She had a capable 'tummy' and was now pregnant with two children. However, Qiao Zijin did not bask this glory at all. Instead, her life seemed to be deteriorating.

How stupid could the Qiao family get to end up in such a ludicrous situation?

Unfortunately, there was no 'what if' in life.

After Qiu Chenxi went to Mo Du, Chen Jun heard some news about her. Qiu Chenxi was doing very well now.

A starving camel is still bigger than a horse. This was a saying that could withstand the test of time.

Regardless of how useless the Shi family was, they were still better than his own family who did not have any foundation.

Furthermore, Shi Peng was doing so well now. It was a matter of time before he would be deployed to the central government.

It was extremely hard for a typical person to enter the central government. If they did, it would be akin to great happiness befalling the family. On the other hand, someone like Shi Peng who was only in his early forties was already seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

Nothing was fair in this world.

If that was not the situation, he would not always need to make use of women. He just wanted the political path of his biological father to become smoother, longer, and farther.

However, he refused to bow to destiny.

The Chen family did not have any foundation. His father could become a small government official because he was capable.

If they were willing to work hard and engineer things, the Chen family would be the next prominent and influential family one day.

When Qiao Zijin felt that she had adjusted her mindset, she gave Qiao Nan a weak smile. “Nan Nan, Chen Jun and I happened to come to the capital for a holiday. I thus came to visit you. Please don’t take Mom’s previous words to heart. You should know Mom’s temper.”

Chapter 1156 Take Your Time to Leave. I Am Not Sending You Off

“Both Dad and I completely could not persuade Mom. Mom’s ‘monologue’ has caused you a lot of trouble again, right? Did she make you worried?”

There was a vague flash in Qiao Nan’s eyes. These words did not seem like the usual speaking style of Qiao Zijin. “Certainly, there is some trouble. You have also seen it yourself. I have to rely on others to take care of me now, yet Mom called me and insisted that I take care of you. However, Mom’s bias is not something new. You don’t need to persuade me. I have never taken Mom’s words to heart.”

Qiao Nan said this to let Qiao Zijin understand one situation. In the past, regardless of how much Qiao Zijin wanted to make use of Ding Jiayi to derive benefit from her, just like today, the outcome would always be the same—she would not get anything.

Listen to her mother’s words?

Sorry. She could not do that since six years ago.

Qiao Zijin's expression changed. "It's also good that you can sort out your thoughts. I won't persuade you then. If Mom's words are unreasonable, you can ignore them. Don't argue with her. It's meaningless. In this lifetime, Mom only has the two of us, her children. Actually, it's not easy for her too."

She could choose not to listen to her mother if the latter was wrong in her words. However, Qiao Nan had to listen to her mother if the latter was right!

No matter how stubborn Qiao Nan was, she could not change the fact that her mother gave birth to her.

How could it be so easy to have a clean break?

Chen Jun narrowed his eyes and gave Qiao Zijin a nudge.

He had just reminded Qiao Zijin a few minutes ago, yet Qiao Zijin had obviously turned defensive in front of Qiao Nan and Zhai Hua. It was true that one could not make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

Qiao Zijin was long used to having conflicts with Qiao Nan during their interactions. As soon as she heard Qiao Nan say something she was not pleased or satisfied with, she would let the cat out of the bag despite having put up a good pretense earlier on.

After receiving Chen Jun's reminder, tears welled up in Qiao Zijin's eyes. "Nan Nan, don't take my words to heart too. Mom is biased and good to me, so it is only right that I support and repay her. I always hope that Mom's life can be better and smoother. As such, my words most probably did not make more sense than those of Mom. Don't be angry. I apologize to you."

Qiao Zijin made it sound as if her unreasonable words resulted from her loss of temper out of filial piety for Ding Jiayi.

Although her words were not pleasing to the ears, there was a valid reason for it.

“Ha”. Qiao Nan laughed. “Thank you for coming to visit me.”

Chen Jun tightened his fist that was holding on to a present. After adjusting his mindset, he put down the present. “We only know that you are pregnant but don’t know the gender of your babies. Hence, we just bought a little children’s stuff.”

“Thank you.” Zhai Hua took a glance at those items. They were neither pricey nor extraordinarily costly, so it was not a problem to accept them.

Zhai Hua looked at Qiao Nan. Qiao Zijin wasn’t that smart but she had found herself a boyfriend that seemed capable. At the very least, he was much more intelligent than Qiao Zijin and seemed to be someone difficult to deal with.

She had Wei De as an example. Hence, when she saw Chen Jun’s behavior, Zhai Hua did not feel positive about Chen Jun just because of his good performance.

He had already come to this place. This boyfriend of Qiao Zijin was definitely aware of what kind of family Qiao Nan had married into.

Given this point alone, Zhai Hua had a reason to believe that this boyfriend of Qiao Zijin was willing to date a foolish thing like Qiao Zijin not because of love. It should be for the sake of his interest.

“Do you want a cup of tea?” Qiao Nan did not respond to Zhai Hua. Of course, she was aware of how smart Chen Jun was.

If he was not smart, how could he have cajoled her so well in her previous lifetime? After he gained something from Wang Yang successfully and completed his mission, he even two-timed her and made Qiao Zijin pregnant.

Qiao Nan knew in her heart that if she did not have a second chance, given that head of hers, she would not be able to see through Chen Jun’s true colors that were akin to a wolf in a sheep’s clothing.

“Sure...” Qiao Zijin wanted to agree. Didn’t Chen Jun ask her to come to the capital for a holiday because of Qiao Nan?

It was rare that Qiao Nan still had some shame. She knew that she could not lose all of her maternal family members. There was no reason for Qiao Zijin to decline. She bent her knee and wanted to land her bum on the seat so that she could bond with Qiao Nan and Zhai Hua.

Besides, didn't they say that the chief's wife was also at home?

Everyone was one family. They should get the chief's wife to come out and acknowledge them, lest the family members fail to recognize one another and a friendly fire occur in the future.

Qiao Zijin wanted to take a seat but Chen Jun swiftly grabbed Qiao Zijin's arms. As such, she could not sit down. She lost her footing but did not fall as Chen Jun was holding on to her. "No, thank you. Zijin and I will be in the capital for a few days. We just came to pay a short visit today. As for having tea, we can talk about it again when we have the chance."

As long as he retained the tea session, he and Qiao Zijin would have another opportunity to come again.

Most importantly, Chen Jun noticed that Qiao Nan had been yawning.

Qiao Nan was pregnant. Most probably, it was normal for her to feel sleepy.

In the Zhai family, Qiao Nan was the only one who was Qiao Zijin's sister. Qiao Zijin did not know Zhai Hua well. He was even less familiar with Zhai Hua.

They came to pay a visit and not to trouble others.

If they were to insist on holding on to Qiao Nan, this sleepy pregnant woman, for a chat, the gossip from others would drown him and Qiao Zijin.

On the contrary, he was willing to let Qiao Nan return to her room to rest. They did not seem to have any common topic of conversation with Zhai Hua anyway. They would only sit down and face each other awkwardly.

If that was truly the case, the so-called relatives' visit today would seem too imposing. It would make people feel unhappy.

Rome was not built in one day. In particular, Qiao Zijin and Qiao Nan's relationship was so poor. It was not easy to become relatives with the Zhai family. This could not be rushed and they had to take their time.

Chen Jun took a breath and revealed a polite smile to Qiao Nan and Zhai Hua. "Zijin and I will be leaving. Let's meet again another time when we have the chance."

"Take your time." Zhai Hua was very surprised. Once Chen Jun spoke, he had already fixed the subsequent date. He was quite a capable individual.

Ouch. Although Qiao Zijin was much lousier than her, the boyfriend that she found was also better than Wei De.

Could it be that she was too outstanding in all other aspects? Hence, her judgment of character was much worse than others?

"Why did we leave just like that? It's not easy to get in. I don't know how to meet up with Qiao Nan again." After leaving, at the sight of vehicles coming to and fro and the endless flow of traffic, Qiao Zijin was so furious that she felt like vomiting blood. "Haven't you already seen how bad Qiao Nan's temper is? It's stinky and stubborn. We can't always pin our hopes on next time. Instead, we should try our best to resolve the matter once and for all."

Next time? She very much doubted when Qiao Nan would be willing to bother about the Qiao family again. Would it happen only when one of her parents died?

Chapter 1157 Prepare to Go Home

Qiao Nan had become a Cinderella and her life was becoming better. Why would she be willing to bother about poor relatives like her? She would definitely avoid them as much as possible.

Of course, she would do that too if she was Qiao Nan. She would be fearful that her hopeless and incompetent maternal family would drag her down.

It was with much difficulty that they found this chance. She was not pleased that Chen Jun had wasted it.

“Do you still want to borrow Qiao Nan’s glory and receive help from the Zhai family? Qiao Nan is not so easy to talk to. Anything related to Qiao Nan, don’t expect to settle it ‘next time’. If this matter is not successful eventually, don’t blame it on me. I won’t take the blame.”

He wanted her to fake a cry in front of Qiao Nan, but she had never done such an embarrassing thing in her life.

Qiao Zijin did not perform well at all on the grounds today. She really could not bring herself to cry.

She was not an actress. How could she cry so easily? Chen Jun was making things difficult for her with this request.

Chen Jun took a deep breath. “We can’t rush in this matter. You should have heard the saying ‘more haste, less speed’ before. If it is so easy to appease Qiao Nan...” Would he and Qiao Zijin be in a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship today?

In the past, if his ploy of ‘the hero saving the beauty’ had succeeded according to plan, he would not need to work so hard now. Wang Yang would have asked the Wang family to make arrangements for his father. His father would not have been demoted and kicked to a small town. Until now, he could not return to Ping Cheng.

“Qiao Nan is not someone who will yield easily.”

His plan had failed in the past. Now, Qiao Nan definitely would not change her mind and bother about the Qiao family just because of a few words from Qiao Zijin.

The relationship between Qiao Nan and the Qiao family seemed to be coming to a standstill, one that could not be changed.

Previously, he allowed Qiao Zijin to be his girlfriend all because of Qiao Nan.

If Qiao Nan, this target, could not be achieved forever, was there still a need for him to continue his relationship with Qiao Zijin?

Undoubtedly, without Qiao Nan, this layer of glow, given Qiao Zijin's personal qualities and capability, he would not pay special attention to her. He would also not request his parents to agree to let him marry Qiao Zijin.

Chen Jun was also worried that he would gain nothing eventually. After marrying Qiao Zijin, he might not derive any benefit. On the other hand, Qiao Zijin might attract trouble for the Chen family because of her family background and incapability.

Chen Jun really could not help looking down on Qiao Zijin.

If he had a younger sister like Qiao Nan, he dared to guarantee that his relationship with Qiao Nan would definitely be so good such that Qiao Nan would try all ways and means to give him many benefits and ensure his bright future. This was even so if he did not open his mouth to ask for it.

Others were troubled that they did not have the resources. However, Qiao Zijin wasted the best resources.

Qiao Zijin would never be able to understand the pain and distress in Chen Jun's heart.

"There is no rush?" Qiao Zijin looked at Chen Jun. "Are you really sure that you are not anxious?" If Chen Jun was not anxious, she was even less anxious than him.

If it was possible, she was not willing to bow to Qiao Nan.

Regarding the words that Qiao Nan had just told her, sorry, she did not believe any of them.

There was also another thing. Qiao Nan did not say that she would not support her parents financially in the future.

Qiao Nan was still willing to support her parents financially. As such, the money that Qiao Nan gave her parents would eventually end up in her pockets. She could spend and use them as she wished.

No matter what, Qiao Nan had married well. As her sister, she would definitely benefit from it and bask in some of the glory.

“You say that there’s no hurry at Qiao Nan’s end. Since we are already in the capital, we shouldn’t waste the flight and accommodation. Let’s have fun together. You have studied for four years in college here. It shouldn’t be difficult for you to be my tour guide.” Qiao Zijin had other plans too. She knew that she did not have to act pitiful and fawn on Qiao Nan anymore. Hence, she hoped to tour the capital happily.

Chen Jun was angry and sullen. “Sure.” Although he said that there was no rush, he did not say that they could completely cast this matter aside or ignore it for the time being.

Chen Jun was again apprehensive about whether Qiao Zijin was his best option.

If the Chen family could become associated with the Zhai family, undoubtedly, they would be in great luck.

It would be troublesome if there was no hope in becoming related to the Zhai family, yet he married such a brainless and penniless woman without a good family background like Qiao Zijin. He would suffer a huge loss then.

Chen Jun had never given up his plan to make the Chen family progress and become better.

If Chen Jun could give up on the Zhai family that he could no longer pine any hopes on, Qiao Zijin would lose all her usefulness then.

A waste material that was worthless. If he did not dump it now, was he going to wait until the Lunar New Year?

When he was keeping Qiao Zijin company in touring the capital, Chen Jun started to quietly retreat from the existence of this girlfriend, Qiao Zijin.

The two of them were only dating now, yet Qiao Zijin had no reservation about spending the money of the Chen family at all. The cost of living in the capital was high. Not to mention other things, just food and entertainment alone were enough to cost Chen Jun a bomb.

Between Chen Jun and Qiao Zijin, only one party was giving but not receiving anything.

Gradually, Chen Jun's attitude toward Qiao Zijin became distant. They had only been in the capital for five days and Chen Jun expressed that he had to return to Ping Cheng. "My dad called me today and asked me to go back. Prepare to go home."

This was an investment that had only cost and no return. He did not wish to continue with it anymore. This was the same concept as buying shares and having your capital being locked up.

When you are trapped with plunging stocks and could not get rid of them, you would only die.

Qiao Zijin was a stock that had potential at this point. Hence, he could still get rid of it.

"What? We're going back? We've only enjoyed ourselves for four days. I've not had enough fun. We have not gone to many nice places yet." Qiao Zijin was reluctant.

The capital lived up to its name. It was truly different.

There were many beautiful things in the capital but they were too expensive.

When she had money next time, she would definitely buy, buy, and buy. Even if she could not buy all of the items that she fancied, she would buy at least one or two of them. She would not tempt her heart by just looking at them.

"It's fine if you don't want to go back now. I will go back first. You can stay here to have fun. Take your time." Chen Jun's attitude toward the Zhai family had changed. Naturally, his attitude toward Qiao Zijin also followed suit.

If Qiao Zijin knew what she was doing and joined forces with him to help him fulfill his wish to pull the Chen family uphill, it was fine if she was a little stupid and foolish. He could still persist and continue to guide Qiao Zijin.

However, now, Chen Jun realized that besides being stupid and foolish, Qiao Zijin was also very scheming. The worst thing was that she was not clear-minded and could not figure out the current situation.

He could tell that Qiao Zijin was quite obedient in front of him. She had never retorted his words and would definitely nod and listen to him.

The funny thing was that Qiao Zijin would change greatly and turn into a 'master' once she faced Qiao Nan. She felt that Qiao Nan was beneath her, that Qiao Nan was the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, who could not escape from Wuzhi Hill of Gautama Buddha.

Chapter 1158 Going Home or No

He dared not even be so confident in front of Qiao Nan. Where did Qiao Zijin's confidence come from?

Could he pine his hopes on that couple of the Qiao family to have Qiao Nan eating out of their hands?

Ludicrous!

It was true that like parents, like daughter. Qiao Nan was the odd one out and the only exotic one in the Qiao family.

"How am I going to have fun after you leave?" Qiao Zijin wanted to agree but her reaction was also quick. She could not have fun just because she wanted to. She needed money.

Chen Jun was the one who paid for all the expenses in the past four days. Qiao Zijin came 'naked'.

Once Chen Jun left, what could Qiao Zijin use to have fun?

It would be different if Chen Jun could leave her some money before he left.

Qiao Zijin did not know how much money Chen Jun brought with him on this trip. She was very curious.

If Chen Jun was willing to give her the money, and with one headcount down, perhaps she could save up Chen Jun's share of costs and buy a few pieces of new and beautiful dresses for herself to wear.

Chen Jun knew what Qiao Zijin was up to but he played dumb. “You can continue having fun the same way that we did previously. You can have fun as you wish. You don’t need me to teach you. I have already purchased the train ticket for tomorrow. As for the accommodation, I am only paying until tonight. You just have to check out and return the access card to the hotel before noon tomorrow.”

Chen Jun would not be deceived. He was better at Mathematics than anyone.

God’s plans supersede our own.

With Chen Jun letting go today, the Chen family would suffer a huge loss on Qiao Zijin.

“Chen Jun, what do you mean? You’re going to leave me behind?” Qiao Zijin panicked. If he was only paying for the accommodation until tonight, where was she going to sleep tomorrow then?

“Don’t tell me you are making use of this opportunity to make me stay in the Zhai family’s house?” Qiao Zijin’s eyes swirled, thinking that Chen Jun had some other tricks up his sleeves. “However, Qiao Nan’s temper is very bad. It is a problem whether I can stay in the Zhai family’s house. It is a greater problem whether I will be able to gain the favor of the Zhai family and Qiao Nan after I move in. The tempers of the Zhai family members are not quite good either.”

A few years ago, she had wanted to curry favor with the chief’s wife. However, the chief’s wife had never given her any face.

People of the same family had similar personalities and temper.

It was no wonder the chief’s wife was so blind to accept Qiao Nan. That was because their tempers were alike and eccentric.

There was a spurious smile on Chen Jun’s face as he looked at Qiao Zijin. “You... you’re so smart.” So smart that he did not know how to respond to her.

Previously, he felt the pinch when he decided to give up on Qiao Zijin.

For his sake, his family had spent a lot of money on Qiao Zijin. They did not take back or gain any single cent. They could not tread on this path anymore despite having dumped in so much money. He had to possess the determination of a brave man who cut off a venom-poisoned hand to save his own life.

However, at this moment, Chen Jun's heart did not ache anymore. He was only glad.

Everyone in the quad in Ping Cheng knew the terrible relationship between Qiao Zijin and Qiao Nan.

Ding Jiayi was biased. However, Ding Jiayi's favoritism was due to Qiao Zijin's influence.

If Qiao Zijin and Qiao Nan were on good terms and the only issue was the unfair treatment of the mother, Ding Jiayi, Qiao Zijin could just casually put in some good words for Qiao Nan. Ding Jiayi would restrain greatly then and Qiao Nan would not have suffered so much.

Ding Jiayi stole Qiao Nan's money for Qiao Zijin's sake, maligned Qiao Nan, and smeared her name because she wanted Qiao Nan to take the blame for the troubles created by Qiao Zijin.

Hence, in the Qiao family, Ding Jiayi was not the only one who was on bad terms with Qiao Nan. Most likely, Qiao Zijin, this biological sister, was on the worst terms with Qiao Nan.

After Qiao Nan was pregnant, she was the precious golden goose that could not be touched.

The Zhai family would rather pay money to let Qiao Zijin stay in the hotel. They would never allow Qiao Zijin to step into their compound.

Wouldn't they be afraid that Qiao Zijin would suddenly go crazy and insist on being at odds with Qiao Nan? That she would bump into Qiao Nan and cause a miscarriage?

Only a true 'genius' would come up with such a plan.

Qiao Zijin did not manage to make an inference from Chen Jun's words. She really believed that she had guessed it right. "Don't worry. I know what I should do. I definitely won't disappoint you."

As long as she did not need to act pitiful and fake a cry before Qiao Nan, she would definitely act according to Chen Jun's other plans and would not put him in a difficult position anymore.

"However, Chen Jun, when Qiao Nan is heartless, it's hard to say what will happen. Why don't we do this? Give me some money so that I will have something to fall back on. If Qiao Nan is really so hard-hearted to stop the Zhai family from helping me, I can't possibly sleep in the streets, right?"

It was a good thing that the capital was prosperous.

The problem was that it was much easier for a penniless person to run into problems in such a prosperous place.

Furthermore, Qiao Zijin was a young lady. Hence, she had more worries than others.

"Give you money?" Chen Jun had already finished packing his clothes. "Sorry, I don't have money for you. If you really lack money, simply call your parents and ask them to send you some." He had already suffered a huge loss due to Qiao Zijin. If he were to continue throwing away his money, wouldn't he be more stupid than Qiao Zijin?

Regardless of how much his heart ached for the money spent previously, Chen Jun gritted his teeth and abandoned Qiao Zijin. He was no longer willing to waste any more cents on her.

After packing his belongings, Chen Jun was calmer. "It's late. I will be catching the seven o'clock train in the morning tomorrow. I need to sleep early today and wake up early tomorrow. You should go back to your room and rest too. It's up to you whether you want to stay or leave. If you're not leaving and you don't have money, ask your parents for help."

"D-don't." Qiao Zijin was nervous that Chen Jun wanted to push her away now. She held on to Chen Jun's arms and refused to let go. "Are you angry? Why did you get angry without an apparent reason? Wasn't everything fine when we were having fun during the day? Can you make yourself clear? If I am in the wrong, I will change. Won't that do?"

If she did not receive any money, she would certainly not let Chen Jun leave her behind alone in the capital.

Her mother was right. Qiao Nan was a heartless wretched girl. She could not place all the stakes of her safety on that wretched girl.

Chen Jun stood by his guns. He did not wriggle his arm out of Qiao Zijin's clutch either.

The two had been dating for over a year. The truth was that, at most, Chen Jun only kissed her a few times and did not take a huge advantage of her. Until now, Qiao Zijin was still a chaste woman.

His arm was in Qiao Zijin's arms now. Although Qiao Zijin's boobs were not big, they were also soft and better than nothing.

This kind of advantage was free anyway. Furthermore, it was not entirely free for him. He had already paid for it.

The money that he spent on Qiao Zijin could allow him to sleep with many top-grade beautiful ladies.

After Chen Jun pushed Qiao Zijin to the bedroom door, he took out the other train ticket in his pocket.

Chapter 1159 Get More Money

"I am the one who brought you to the capital after all. I'm doing things with conscience and have already purchased your train ticket. You can decide for yourself whether you want to go back. If you don't wish to go home, you can still return the ticket and get a refund."

This train ticket was the only thing left that he could give Qiao Zijin.

After throwing the ticket on Qiao Zijin's face, Chen Jun did not speak any further. He closed the door with a bang.

Qiao Zijin was scared out of her wits when she heard that. In a daze, she picked up the train ticket and walked back to her room like a lost soul.

Qiao Zijin shivered. She felt that Chen Jun's attitude was very strange. She quickly ran downstairs, found a public phone, made a call home, and told Ding Jiayi everything that happened. "Mom, help me think of an idea. What did Chen Jun mean by this? What should I do? I am scared. I am thinking..."

She was thinking that it might be better if she were to leave for Ping Cheng together with Chen Jun.

She was new and unfamiliar to the capital. Over here, she was not on good terms with the only person that she knew, Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan was also someone that would not care about her life and death.

Ping Cheng was her home. To her, Ping Cheng definitely gave her a greater sense of security.

“Don’t come back. Go and find Qiao Nan.” Ding Jiayi laughed. This was such a good opportunity. “Chen Jun is gone and you’re the only one left. Qiao Nan can’t possibly leave you in the lurch, right? Isn’t she afraid of being scolded by other people? You just need to block the entrance of the Zhai family’s house and force them to take you in.” Zijin could then stay with the Zhai family and enjoy life until the summer vacation ended.

“Zijin, don’t be afraid. Listen to Mom. The status of the Zhai family is different now. They have returned to the central government. It’s fine if the Zhai family doesn’t help you. All those people who visit the Zhai family are not ordinary figures. You will benefit if you get to know a few of them. Besides, Chen Jun dares to treat you in this way because we gave him too much face. It’s just nice. Dump him. When you meet someone better at the Zhai family, don’t let the chance slip.”

The Zhai family had just arrived in the capital. Most probably, their status was not considered high even though they were in the central government.

Nevertheless, the Zhai family’s guests were different. If Zijin could really find someone, perhaps she would be able to marry into a better family than that wretched girl.

“Mom, what are you joking about? Will someone with such qualities take a liking to me?” Break up?

As soon as Ding Jiayi asked Qiao Zijin to dump Chen Jun, Qiao Zijin came to her senses and realized that given his attitude today, Chen Jun seemed to have the intent to dump her.

“Mom, upon hearing what you have said, I have the feeling that Chen Jun doesn’t want me anymore. Even someone like Chen Jun doesn’t want me. Tell me. Do you think those people will fancy me?”

“It’s different.” Ding Jiayi snorted proudly. “Why was Chen Jun willing to spend money on you and be your boyfriend? Wasn’t it all because of that wretched girl? Those who visited the Zhai family know that you are that wretched girl’s biological sister and Zhai Sheng’s sister-in-law. They will be happy to see you too. Zijin, you need to have more confidence in yourself. You’re much more outstanding than that wretched girl. Mom has always believed that you will marry into a better family than that wretched girl.”

Ding Jiayi berated Qiao Zijin harshly with her words. However, she still did not realize that the only reason that the so-called outstanding Qiao Zijin would be fancied by those people was the existence of Qiao Nan, someone whom she shunned very much. Qiao Nan was the reason that Qiao Zijin could feel assured.

What was Qiao Zijin without Qiao Nan, this sister!

“Mom, can you send me some money?” Qiao Zijin dared not completely believe in Ding Jiayi’s words. It was not as if Qiao Nan had not made her suffer before.

She would not be assured just because she had a sister like Qiao Nan. She must have money in her pocket. She would be more daring then!

Ding Jiayi kitted her brows and sounded very reluctant. “Zijin, you should know how much your dad and I earn. There are so many expenses needed for the family. How could I have money? If I did, I would have gone traveling to the capital with you. Without money, although I very much wanted to go, I can only coop at home and go to work abidingly. I can’t even rest when the weather is hot.”

Perhaps it was due to age that Ding Jiayi felt less secure at heart now. There had been some changes in Ding Jiayi’s attitude toward Qiao Zijin.

When one was old, it was inevitable that they would suffer from some body ailments and pain. She would have to visit the hospital for ‘repairs’ from time to time.

Qiao Nan’s resolute behavior in the past had left a deep impression on Ding Jiayi. She dared not put all her eggs into one basket and rely solely on Qiao Nan.

Although she behaved as if she would have Qiao Nan eating out of her hands in front of Chen Jun, how would Chen Jun know how guilty-conscious she felt in her heart?

Similarly, when Qiao Nan was in junior high school, Ding Jiayi was almost imprisoned for the first time in her life because of this daughter, Qiao Nan. When she was older, sick, and could no longer earn money, Ding Jiayi no longer dared to believe firmly that Qiao Nan would be willing to come back to take care of her or give her money to see a doctor.

If Ding Jiayi could not count on Qiao Nan, did she dare to count on Qiao Zijin?

No!

From Ding Jiayi's mouth, Qiao Zijin was the best daughter in the world. However, she dared not bet all the stakes of her golden age on Qiao Zijin's filial piety.

Since she was a child, Qiao Zijin knew no restraint when spending Ding Jiayi's money and she didn't care about whether Ding Jiayi was suffering. Could Ding Jiayi count on Qiao Zijin to support her and take care of her?

Far-fetched!

As such, Ding Jiayi could only try to earn and save more money when she and Qiao Dongliang could still work.

In the past, when Qiao Dongliang had a car accident, all the family's savings had already been used for Qiao Zijin's studies. Qiao Dongliang nearly could not undergo surgery because of that. Ding Jiayi had always remembered this matter. It left a deep impression on her!

Ding Jiayi was one who managed the money. Hence, she definitely could not let what happened to Qiao Dongliang in the past happen to her. She couldn't lie on the bed and wait to die just because she did not have money for the surgery.

Similarly, Ding Jiayi's behavior was also formed due to what happened in the past.

The tuition fees for Qiao Zijin's studies were paid by Chen Jun. Ding Jiayi only needed to fork out the living expenses.

Initially, Ding Jiayi was used to telling Qiao Zijin that she was hard up and had spent all her money. When she saw that Qiao Zijin accepted this explanation, she gradually increased her savings.

Thereafter, Qiao Nan got engaged with and married Zhai Sheng. The Chen family took care of almost all of Qiao Zijin's expenses then.

In the past, Ding Jiayi did not have a choice as she was used to spending all her money on Qiao Zijin. Now, she was used to saving all her money to prepare for retirement. When Qiao Zijin opened her mouth and asked for money, she could not bear to part with them. "Zijin, listen to me. Chen Jun is still in the capital now, right? Both of you are going to break up. You're a grown-up lady and will be disadvantaged. Remember to request compensation from him. Kick up a fuss until he is willing to give it to you. Also, don't let Qiao Nan benefit. Go to the Zhai family. You're the junior. The Zhai family should give you a red packet."

Given the status of the Zhai family, the red pocket that they gave Zijin would definitely not be a small sum.

"After taking the red packet from the Zhai family, don't spend it. Bring them all back. You still have two more years of studies to complete."

Chapter 1160 Turned Bad

Ding Jiayi knew that if Qiao Zijin were to really break up with Chen Jun and requested for compensation, the Chen family would not pay for the remaining two years of tuition fees.

Since the Chen family was not willing to fork out money anymore, Ding Jiayi started to 'hit on' Qiao Nan and make Qiao Nan support Qiao Zijin financially until the latter graduated and found a job.

With the Zhai family around, Ding Jiayi was not at all worried about Qiao Zijin's job after graduation.

She made Qiao Nan do so many things but did not take action against Qiao Nan. Hence, she did not believe that Qiao Nan could take revenge on Qiao Zijin.

Could Qiao Nan do the reverse and get Qiao Zijin to help her find a job?

“Mom, after talking for so long, what you mean is that you won’t be giving me any money, right?” Qiao Zijin was not stupid. Of course, she understood what her mother was implying. Her face turned red. “Mom, when did you become so petty? The Chen family paid for all my tuition fees and living expenses this and last year. I did not take a single cent from you. You have no money? Mom, are you treating me like you treat Qiao Nan?”

When did her mother become so stingy toward her?

Ding Jiayi’s stinginess was like a warning bell for Qiao Zijin. It jolted Qiao Zijin awake with much shock.

Could it be that now that Qiao Nan was married to Zhai Sheng, her mother felt that her future life would definitely be worse than Qiao Nan’s? Hence, she no longer treated her as well as before?

All of a sudden, Qiao Zijin discovered that she had more than one crisis around her.

Chen Jun’s attitude took a sudden turn for the worse. The once selfish yet unconditional mother’s love had now become so cheap and ludicrous.

The biggest problem that she had was not with Qiao Nan but Ping Cheng!

After making this phone call, Qiao Zijin secretly made up her mind.

The next day, Chen Jun checked out of the hotel. He did not even bother to look into Qiao Zijin’s room. He was only concerned about checking out from his room.

It was only until he got onto the train that he discovered that someone was already on the seat next to him.

Looking at the bare and pale face of Qiao Zijin, Chen Jun was quite surprised. “Didn’t you say that you haven’t had enough fun and wanted to remain in the capital?” When they came, Qiao Zijin said that traveling via a train took too much time. She had to take a flight.

Since train tickets were cheap, Chen Jun bought two of them.

He had thought that given Qiao Zijin's character, she would most likely return the ticket and get a refund. She would then ask Qiao Nan for money and continue to have fun in the capital for some time.

If that was really the case, he would be freed from the ordeal then. He would have nothing to do with Qiao Zijin in the future.

He had been used to Qiao Zijin being muddleheaded. Once they were back in Ping Cheng, he would consider them to have broken up amicably. When he saw Qiao Zijin, one could imagine how shocked Chen Jun was.

"You're already going back. Why would I still remain in the capital? We came here together. Of course, we should go back together." Qiao Zijin smiled at Chen Jun, looking extremely gentle. There was no tinge of willfulness at all. "Chen Jun, are you still angry with me?"

Chen Jun put away the luggage in the overhead compartment and sat beside Qiao Zijin. "Angry? Why should I be angry with you? Last night, didn't we already make ourselves clear?" They had already broken up. What was there to be angry about?

Would Qiao Zijin return him all the money that he spent on her previously if she knew that he was angry?

If that could happen, he was willing to tell Qiao Zijin that he was angry, extremely angry.

Damn. Who could endure the anger after doing such a money-losing business?

The lost money was not considered a big deal. What Chen Jun cared about most was the two to three years that he had wasted on Qiao Zijin!

"Chen Jun..." Qiao Zijin panicked. Chen Jun really wanted to break up with her. No, she would not agree to it. She would definitely not break up with him and let him be with another woman.

Ding Jiayi had imagined Qiao Zijin's future to be so wonderful. This was on the pretext that Qiao Zijin could really find a young lad who was better than Zhai Sheng while she was at the Zhai family.

Without Qiao Nan, this layer of glow, it was as difficult as reaching the sky for Qiao Zijin to find someone better than Chen Jun, let alone a partner better than Zhai Sheng.

Since Chen Jun was the 'best' one that she could have, naturally, Qiao Zijin did not have a choice. She could only devote herself to retain this 'best' one to become her husband.

The moment the train started to move, Qiao Nan received news of their departure. "Fortunately, they have left. It is strange. When did Qiao Zijin become so easy to talk to?" She initially thought that Qiao Zijin would definitely employ all ways and means to stay behind and give her a headache for a long time.

Zhai Hua was playing with the game console in her hands. "Isn't it good that she is willing to leave? Even if she is reluctant, Chen Jun is bent on leaving. Fortunately, Qiao Zijin's brains have not deteriorated completely. As soon as she knew that Chen Jun was leaving, she left too."

Chen Jun was Qiao Zijin's mobile ATM.

Chen Jun was not cooperating with her now. Unless Qiao Zijin wanted to be a beggar, she would have to follow Chen Jun back to Ping Cheng. Did she have another choice?

"Right, I heard some news recently. Isn't your mom very good to Qiao Zijin? This time, your mom refused when Qiao Zijin requested her to send some money over. What is happening? Your mom doesn't have a lot of money but it doesn't seem like she couldn't fork out a single cent. Did she work for nothing for the past two years?"

Ding Jiayi had refused to give Qiao Zijin money. This was something that Zhai Hua was most surprised with. She could not figure out the reason as this did not resemble Ding Jiayi's character.

Qiao Nan was having some fruits. "Qiao Zijin called my mom. How did you know so clearly about the content of their conversation?" It was as if Zhai Hua was listening by the side when Qiao Zijin was on the call with Ding Jiayi.

"Don't look at me." Zhai Hua shook her head. "I don't know what Tian Dong learned in America. He is very strong in this area. Unless it's something that I don't wish to know, he will be able to find out everything else."

She even suspected whether America had invented a new technology product or Tian Dong had installed 'transcendental' vision and ears on Qiao Zijin.

Otherwise, how did Tian Dong know what Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi chatted about so clearly?

After eating half a plate of fruits, Qiao Nan wiped her mouth with a tissue. "It's a waste of talent to get Tian Dong to help me check on this. My mom, this person... I also can't figure out why she is suddenly so stingy to Qiao Zijin now. In the past, my mom was the type who would definitely spend ten yuan to help Qiao Zijin buy new clothes although there were only ten yuan left in the house. Qiao Zijin would become the only one in our family of four who had new clothes to wear."

Her mother was willing to give everything to Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Zijin contracted uremia and needed a kidney.

In the face of such a major surgery, her mother could also control the fear in her heart and was willing to give her kidney to Qiao Zijin. Now, Qiao Zijin only wanted to take a little sum of money from her mother.