

## RTAMM 1421

### Chapter 1421 On Television

“If Zhai Hua was married to someone else, when was Dongzi going to relent and have a grandchild for you to carry?”

Father Tian was very surprised that he actually had such a love-struck child. In addition, this child grew up in an open-minded and liberal western country. For twenty years, his son grew up in America, yet he was not led astray or adversely influenced. It was a miracle!

“Xiao Bao didn’t come back with Dongzi today. Are you really angry at Xiao Bao?” Knowing the soft spots of Mother Tian, Father Tian did not waste his energy either. He targeted Mother Tian’s soft spots and poked at it again and again.

True enough, Mother Tian’s expression changed vehemently. “Let me warn you. When Xiao Bao is back, don’t talk nonsense in front of him. How will I not like my Xiao Bao? I love Xiao Bao the most. I only acknowledge Xiao Bao as my grandchild. I don’t like other children. If you dare to spout nonsense to Xiao Bao and make him misunderstand me, I’ll kick up a ruckus with you!”

Mother Tian loved her grandson to the bones.

Upon hearing Father Tian’s words, Mother Tian only had to imagine a little before realizing that she would not be able to accept other children becoming her grandchild. Xiao Bao was so adorable and obedient. He was such a good child. She would not bother if it were other children.

Father Tian, who had taken a few hits from Mother Tian, was amused. “Aren’t you the one shunning this and that? You said it yourself. Xiao Bao is very smart. Zhai Hua is seldom at home but it seems that Xiao Bao’s relationship with his mother and maternal grandmother’s family won’t be too poor. Don’t cause Xiao Bao to become distant from the Zhai family because of your pettiness. Xiao Bao has such a maternal family... Wasn’t that the reason that both of us agreed to let Dongzi marry Zhai Hua in the first place?”

“That...” Mother Tian was speechless. Certainly, as her grandson was not around, she had nothing to do. Used to being busy, she was not accustomed to idling around. Hence, Mother Tian was too bored and started to let her thoughts go astray. As she thought of these family matters, she felt increasingly vexed and troubled. As such, she became dissatisfied with everything.

To put it bluntly, Mother Tian could not deny that the situation of her family was already very good.

Where else could she find in-laws like the Zhai family? There was nothing bad if Xiao Bao loved to be close to his maternal family. If Xiao Bao was unwilling to be close to them, she still had to teach him to do so. Qiao Nan was the daughter-in-law of the Zhai family. In the future, Zhai Sheng had to listen to Qiao Nan.

If Xiao Bao was on good terms with his auntie, no matter how they looked at it, it was to Xiao Bao's advantage in the future.

Mother Tian knew all these but there was a knot in her heart, and she had deliberately thought on the dark side of things. As she thought about it, she got angrier and angrier.

At the sight of Mother Tian's expression easing, Father Tian patted her shoulders. "Your son didn't keep it from us on how close he is to the Zhai family. We are all aware. It is not easy to come to the current situation. Don't spoil it in the fit of your anger. Especially in front of Qiao Nan, don't make things difficult for your son."

Although Qiao Nan only helped provide some suggestions, she had sharp foresight and a good sense of judgment. The company set up by Dongzi and Qiao Nan had conquered the maternal and infant care market in China. He heard that the revenues had been increasing month-on-month. If this were to continue, the maternal and infant care market could possibly become one of the core businesses of the Tian Corporation.

Father Tian was very certain of Qiao Nan's contribution to this. Without Qiao Nan, the Tian Corporation would not venture into this market so soon and become the market leader that occupied the sales. The Tian Corporation had already established their reputation in this market in China. One had to know that the Chinese still cared very much about brand names.

As long as they maintained the quality of its products, the Tian Corporation would become the flagship of this industry in the future.

At the thought of his family's business getting better and better, Father Tian seemed to have been injected with chicken blood. He was full of excitement. His wife must be having too much spare time to be able to let her thoughts run wild. It was seldom that he was in such a good mood. Father Tian switched off the lights and immediately pounced on his wife.

Mother Tian was pleasantly surprised. “Fortunately, Xiao Bao is not at home. If he sees us, how am I going to face anyone? You, this old ruffian... We’re already of this age...”

To begin with, Mother Tian was affirmative of the Zhai family’s capability and Qiao Nan’s contribution. After a round of ‘physical persuasion’ by Father Tian, on the next day, Mother Tian looked like a spring breeze. She even specially told Tian Dong, “We don’t have kids of similar age to play with Xiao Bao at home. It’s quite good that Xiao Bao often plays with the triplets of the Zhai family. Xiao Bao said that these three children take very good care of him. Since Xiao Bao likes it, we don’t need to rush to fetch him back today. Let Xiao Bao play at the Zhai family’s residence for a few more days.”

Anyway, Qiao Nan was not at home. Xiao Bao could only become closer to the triplets.

Without Qiao Nan, this ‘rival-in-love’, Mother Tian was not very insistent on having her grandson back to keep her company.

Tian Dong was taken aback. “Mom, if Xiao Bao knows, he will definitely love his grandma more.” He really could not tell that his father had such good skills. He not only appeased his mother to allow Xiao Bao to extend his stay with the Zhai family but also, most importantly, made his mother glow with happiness. The older ones were indeed wiser.

Precisely, with Father Tian helping coax Mother Tian, Tian Dong felt that he could focus on his company and expand his businesses.

Mother Tian had absolutely no idea about the ‘hidden pact’ between Father Tian and Tian Dong. Under the joint coaxing of the father-and-son pair, her only conduct was to happily enjoy her life. Although her grandson loved to stay with the Zhai family, she was no longer feeling as jealous as before.

The atmosphere at the Tian family was not bad. The situation at Qiao Nan’s end was even better.

After all, this was not Qiao Nan’s first time. Although she had the same experience in her home country earlier while she was overseas now, Qiao Nan was not mentally young and would not feel as nervous as typical youngsters at such events.

Qiao Nan could not help pondering. So, going through another lifetime would make one a little braver?

As she was following He Yi around, the chances of her facing the cameras and videos would only increase, although she was not a celebrity. As it occurred more frequently, Qiao Nan very quickly adapted to the lights and flashes.

Hence, Qiao Nan's little face, as fresh and tender as a flower, appeared on the state-owned television international news channel soon after.

“...”

“...”

“...”

Qiao Nan's former classmates, especially those from her college days, were able to recognize Qiao Nan very quickly. When Qiao Nan first appeared on the television screen, it was just a flash of a moment at lightning speed. However, despite this, those who had a deep impression of Qiao Nan could still recognize her.

Tang Jiayun bit her soup spoon, leaving a few teeth marks on it. This was the international news channel. Diplomat... After Qiao Nan graduated, she actually joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs! This was a place that Tang Jiayun dared not even think of in her entire life.

Chapter 1422 The Person on Television was My Classmate

Not only had Qiao Nan wished for it, she really joined the ministry.

Tang Jiayun could not help but throw the spoon back into the bowl, giving off a loud sound. True enough, her guess was correct. Perhaps the information on Qiao Nan's profile was false. She did not believe that Qiao Nan did not have any relatives who worked in the government.

“What's the matter with you? Tang Jiayun's boyfriend knitted his brows, feeling slightly displeased. “Didn't you see that the soup has splashed out?”

Tang Jiayun smiled guiltily. Among all her boyfriends, the current boyfriend had the worst looks, but he was rich. “Don't be angry. I was taken aback while watching the news. I didn't mean it.”

Tang Jiayun had an idea. Qiao Nan was cold and nonchalant; she would never give her classmates a helping hand.

Although Qiao Nan did not take the initiative to help her, she still had her way to stand to gain. She could make use of her name to get things to be in her favor.

“The news?” Tang Jiayun’s boyfriend took a look at the news. “I thought you hate watching this kind of news?” If he had not insisted, Tang Jiayun would have wanted to change channels to watch those useless dramas.

Tang Jiayun was about to explain when the camera zoomed in on Qiao Nan. Tang Jiayun screamed in delight. “Look, it’s her, it’s her. She was my college classmate. We went to the same classroom for lessons in the four years in college. I did not expect that she would work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after graduation and become a diplomat!”

There was disbelief and amazement in Tang Jiayun’s voice. “Do you know that she used to stay in the same dormitory as me in my first year of college? We were roommates!” Tang Jiayun was really proud at the mention of her classmate, Qiao Nan. It was a rare opportunity to go on television. Not everyone would be able to achieve that.

Furthermore, Qiao Nan was a diplomat. Who would have such good fortune like her to be able to be classmates for four years with a future diplomat? They even stayed in the same dormitory in their first year of college.

“Really? Her boyfriend was somewhat skeptical. “How could you know her?” No matter how much money his family spent, they would not have the chance to know people like the diplomat.

“Are you saying that you don’t believe me? Wait a minute.” They did not eat out today. Instead, they had their meals in Tang Jiayun’s rental place. Tang Jiayun wanted to prove to her boyfriend that she was virtuous so that he would fall for her and he would put in good words for her in front of his parents. She hoped that they would accept her and they would get married as soon as possible.

Luckily, they had their meal in Tang Jiayun’s rental place. Otherwise, Tang Jiayun could not come up with the evidence to prove to her boyfriend that she was telling the truth. “Look, this is my graduation photo. Does this person look exactly the same as the person on television? She is very pretty. If she wasn’t cold and nonchalant at school and seldom stayed in school apart from lessons, given her looks, she would have been the school belle at Peking University.”

“Really?” Her boyfriend was surprised. “You mentioned that the two of you were roommates in your first year of college, but what about the remaining years?” He knew that his girlfriend was vain. But he could not tell that apart from being a student from Peking University, she even knew such a capable classmate.

There was a sparkle of light in Tang Jiayun’s eyes. “She is a diplomat now. She is very competent. It is impossible for her to share a dormitory with poor students like us. She wouldn’t want to be restricted by the rules and regulations. She wanted freedom, so she moved out to stay by herself not long after she started school. I heard that she had her own house in the capital...”

Tang Jiayun, who could not hold her head high in front of her boyfriend’s family, was able to sit up straight because of this news.

Qiao Nan and Tang Jiayun were not closely related. No matter how successful Qiao Nan was, it did not concern Tang Jiayun.

However, one was marked by the company one kept.

Since Tang Jiayun and Qiao Nan, the diplomat, had a close relationship, this indirectly implied that Tang Jiayun was just as outstanding. Tang Jiayun’s boyfriend came from a well-to-do family. They did not lack money. They only lacked an outstanding daughter-in-law who would make them look good.

Initially, they were glad that Tang Jiayun was a Peking University student and hence allowed their son to date Tang Jiayun. But they changed their mind a few weeks later.

It was common to have a Peking University student as a wife. Peking University might be established in the country, but it was a different situation when overseas. If they wanted to have a good daughter-in-law, they should be looking for students who came back from overseas study. They were too shortsighted to rejoice at finding a Peking University student as their future daughter-in-law.

In comparison, Tang Jiayun’s future in-laws felt that Tang Jiayun was not as good. They told their friends to introduce a female student who returned from overseas study to their son. Seeing that things were not in her favor, Tang Jiayun prepared soups and meals for her boyfriend, hoping to gain his affection. It was her dream to get married into a wealthy family and enjoy life as a young mistress.

Now that Qiao Nan appeared on television, coupled with the fact that she was Tang Jiayun's former classmate, the female student who returned from overseas study had no hopes of getting the man. Tang Jiayun got her wish and she was engaged to her boyfriend. They had decided to marry and collect the marriage certificate one year later.

Tang Jiayun had always been good at toadying for personal gain. Although she had the worst relationship with Qiao Nan in school, and she was the one who rallied everyone to ostracize Qiao Nan and to fall out with her, she did not feel ashamed when she made use of Qiao Nan to make herself look better. She sounded cheerful and joyous when she spoke of Qiao Nan. People who did not know their history would have the impression that Tang Jiayun had a good relationship with Qiao Nan in school.

They were classmates for four years in college. No matter what, Tang Jiayun would have a better relationship with Qiao Nan than other people. If needed, they would definitely help each other out in the future.

Compared to Tang Jiayun, Yu Xiaoxiao and Lü Yan were not as smart.

Lü Yan had finally completed her four years of college. To her, those four years seemed to be like a nightmare. She could not wait to forget them and take it that it never happened. It was impossible for her to talk about the four terrifying years of her life upon seeing Qiao Nan on the television.

"Yan Yan, what is wrong with you?" Mother Lü took some vegetables and placed them in her daughter's bowl, telling her to have her meal instead of watching the television. "You have been staring at the television for a long time, and you don't eat rice or vegetables. Don't they suit your taste? Should I fry some other dishes for you? Quit staring at the television. It's bad for the eyes."

"N-nothing. There is no need to fry more dishes. These dishes are tasty. Mom, the food you prepared is the best." Lü Yan felt ashamed at the love and concern that her parents had for her.

Chapter 1423 The Person on Television was My Classmate 2

Luckily, her mother and father had never been to the capital. They were unaware of her situation in the capital or what she had done in the capital.

Otherwise, after barely surviving the four painstaking years in Peking University, she might have to face a similar situation when she returned to her hometown.

“Yan Yan, why do I feel that the female diplomat looks very familiar?” Father Lü had presbyopia and astigmatism. He had to squint when he wanted to take a closer look at the images on the television. He squinted at the television and creases formed on his forehead.

“Familiar? How is it possible that you have seen such an outstanding girl before?” Mother Lü smiled. Her husband must be indulging in fantasy. It was impossible for the Lü family to be associated with people who would appear on television.

“I am serious. I have really seen her before. You’ve seen her before as well. Wait a minute.” Father Lü put down the wine bowl, and he took out his daughter’s university graduation album. It was not easy for people from the countryside to provide for a child to go to college, particularly when it was Peking University. Although it was just a very small graduation album, Father Lü cherished it very much and he kept it carefully, treating it as his treasure. He did not allow Lü Yan to leave it around the house. “Look, does this person look the same as the person on the television?”

“It seems... so.” Mother Lü widened her eyes. “Lü Yan, is the girl on the television your college classmate?” The more Mother Lü looked at it, the more she felt that they were the same person. “Yan Yan, you really are the most outstanding person in our village. Why didn’t you mention to us that you have such a capable classmate? Wow, the female diplomat on television is Yan Yan’s classmate. Why do I feel like I am dreaming?” Although she did not give birth to a son, since her daughter was classmates with such an outstanding young lady, it proved that her daughter was just as capable. She would not change her daughter for ten sons.

Mother Lü did not wait for Lü Yan’s reply. She smiled widely as she ran out with the graduation album to brag to other people, particularly her difficult mother-in-law who kept complaining that she did not give birth to a boy for the Lü family. “Mom, did you watch the news on the state-owned television channel? The female diplomat on the news used to be classmates with Yan Yan...”

Mother Lü shouted loudly. Not only had Father Lü’s elder brother heard the commotions but the neighboring families in the village also heard her and came out to take a look...

“Xiao Xiao, why did you change the channel? Don’t you like to watch the news on this channel?” Father Yu noticed that his daughter switched to other channels and he gave her a gentle reminder, lest she switch to the wrong channel.

Yu Xiaoxiao pursed her lips. “I watch the news on this channel every single day. I am tired of it. I feel like watching some other channel today. Dad, what do you and Mom like to watch? I will switch to that channel.”



The parents were glad that their daughter was being filial to them. “Haha, we have no preferences. We can watch any channels that you like.”

“Well, let’s look at this channel then.” Yu Xiaoxiao managed to switch the channel. But she kept quiet about seeing Qiao Nan on the television. She did not bring it up to her parents that she used to be classmates with the young lady on the television. They had the same age and they used to be from the same social class.

She was her classmate and her roommate. Like Senior Xu, she could have settled down in the capital and become part of the working force with Qiao Nan’s help. She could have her own house in the capital and she could bring her parents to stay with her.

If she had known...

Why was she so stupid and innocent in her first year of college to believe in Tang Jiayun who was only good with words but no actions? Why was she fooled by her to think that she was the most capable person in the dormitory and that she would be able to help her? If not for this, she would not have such a bad relationship with Qiao Nan. She could only go back to her hometown in defeat after graduation, coming up with the excuse that she had graduated and she wanted to contribute to her hometown and helped her hometown develop and prosper. She could only use some high-sounding excuses to make it look good for herself.

Yu Xiaoxiao did not wish to dwell on the foolish acts that she did in the past.

Nothing could be changed. Since that was the case, she would simply not think about it so that she would not be upset and she would not aggrieve those near her and gladden the enemy.

Yu Xiaoxiao switched the channel, hoping that she would feel slightly better. Her parents had looked through her graduation album umpteen times. She did not want them to recognize Qiao Nan from the television.

Qiao Nan might not be the official school belle in Peking University, but everyone was saying that if she was not cold and nonchalant and she did not stay away from the school activities, or when she did participate, she did not insist on working backstage, she would have become the school belle. Her ‘Cups’ song back then was the most perfect song that was sung in school.

Although the position of the school belle was given to someone else in the end, everyone knew that there was only one school belle, and it was Qiao Nan. To this end, everyone in Peking University hailed Qiao Nan as the moon goddess. She was the hidden school belle of Peking University.

When they were in school, Qiao Nan had fewer stage appearances than her, but right now, Qiao Nan was so dazzling that she could not open her eyes. Yu Xiaoxiao felt gloomy and upset. “Dad, Mom, I’m sleepy. I won’t watch television anymore. The two of you can watch the shows. I have set the alarm clock in my room. I’ll wake up by myself for work tomorrow. Mom, Dad, you don’t have to worry about me. You can have more sleep.”

With that, Yu Xiaoxiao stood up and went back to the room without another word.

Her parents did not notice that their daughter was behaving strangely. They continued to watch the channel that their daughter had switched to.

Other than Qiao Nan’s college classmates, Qiao Nan’s high school classmates were the ones who were most excited when they knew that Qiao Nan became one of the few female diplomats in the country. Those young ladies who shared the same dormitory with Qiao Nan for three years in high school were particularly exhilarated. “Dad, Mom, look, it’s Nan Nan! It’s Nan Nan!”

“I am not too sure whether it’s Nan Nan, but it does look like her.” They had not seen her for four years. They could not really remember how Qiao Nan looked like, but she looked similar to the young lady on the television.

“Yes, this is definitely Qiao Nan. I shared the same room with her for three years. I can recognize her even if she turns into ashes. Wow! This woman has made it big. What happened to her after she went to college? Female diplomat? My high school classmate is a female diplomat. If this gets out, it will be so cool and awesome!”

Tang Mengran screamed about in her house. She shrieked and jumped like a kangaroo. She seemed to have forgotten how to walk.

Tang Mengran made such a huge commotion that her neighbors could hear the screams as well.

Chapter 1424 The Pride of the Northern Quad

Looking at the way their daughter behaved, Father Tang and Mother Tang felt glad and proud of Qiao Nan's accomplishments as well. They were happy that their daughter had such an outstanding classmate.

They smiled sweetly at the thought that their daughter had a close relationship with Qiao Nan in high school. Actually, they also felt that the female diplomat who was in the limelight must have been Qiao Nan. But on the other hand, they were worried that their daughter who was thrilled with the news might brag about her classmate before making sure that it was her. It would be awkward if she found out later that she had made a mistake.

Fang Fang watched the news and was in awe. "Mom, Dad, I have been classmates with Qiao Nan for three years. Why does it seem like a dream to me?" Fang Fang knew that her parents played an important role as to what she was today. Her parents made the necessary arrangements for her to receive a good education. She was one step quicker than other people in her learning progress.

But even so, she still had to rely on Qiao Nan to spot the questions before the college entrance examination. It was with her help that she was admitted to a top tier key university. For that alone, her entire family was very grateful to Qiao Nan.

In the blink of an eye, Qiao Nan had reached such heights in the past four years. She remembered that when they were in high school, Qiao Nan had a troublesome mother and a scheming elder sister who would not hesitate to smear her younger sister's reputation. At that time, Fang Fang felt particularly sympathetic toward Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan had such a miserable life.

Back then, she might be sympathetic toward Qiao Nan, but Qiao Nan never needed her help. Instead, it was Qiao Nan who rendered her help. And right now, Qiao Nan had become a female diplomat!

Fang Fang, who had strong support from her family, would never dare to dream of becoming a female diplomat!

Father Fang looked at his daughter lovingly and he gave a satisfied glance at Gao Yan who had been silently guarding his daughter. "We always know that Nan Nan is an outstanding child. It is not easy for her to come this far."

Even so, the moment they saw Qiao Nan on television, Father Fang and Mother Fang still could not help but be surprised by the fact that Qiao Nan could get to such heights.

With such a mother and a sister, most people could not imagine the hardships that Qiao Nan had and how she went through them. Although they knew that Qiao Nan's father, Qiao Dongliang, was much better than his wife and his elder daughter, his father was softhearted and would be easily confused and influenced by other people.

Father Fang and Mother Fang were proud of Qiao Nan's achievements, but their hearts also ached for the hardship that she had to go through. Hard work made a great success. Qiao Nan worked hard for what she had today.

"Fang Fang, eat this. It is especially fresh." Gao Yan did not have any comments regarding Qiao Nan. He had known long ago that Qiao Nan would have great accomplishments. Gao Yan knew that Qiao Nan had many unreliable relatives. But she was lucky to know many powerful and influential people.

As long as Qiao Nan was willing, she could have even greater accomplishments, and she could have achieved success many years earlier.

Everything was favorable to her, but she chose to take things one step at a time, and she waited until she graduated to shine and soar to new heights. In Gao Yan's opinions, he was considered as a patient hunter and businessman and this was a rare quality in his industry. But he paled in comparison to Qiao Nan. He was full of admiration for her patience.

Qiao Nan was even more patient than him and he seldom saw people who bade her time patiently like her.

Qiao Nan could be high profile, but she insisted on keeping a low profile. Gao Yan would not play the bad guy to publicize her information. It was not that he did not want to flatter the Fang family so that Fang Fang would acknowledge him as her boyfriend as soon as possible and to please his in-laws. Instead, it was because he knew that Qiao Nan was too formidable.

After Fang Fang fell out of love, Gao Yan heeded Qiao Nan's advice and made a Herculean effort, spending nearly two years to gain Fang Fang's trust and becoming her boyfriend on probation. Given Fang Fang and Qiao Nan's deep friendship and Fang Fang's trust in Qiao Nan, if he told them everything about Qiao Nan, Fang Fang might 'betray' him and relay everything to Qiao Nan.

If Qiao Nan was angry...

Gao Yan could not help but have goosebumps all over his body at the thought of the outcome.

In order to gain Fang Fang's affection, Gao Yan believed that the first thing he had to do to marry Fang Fang was to please Fang Fang and Qiao Nan. The next in line would be to please his in-laws.

Therefore, Gao Yan did not dare to offend Qiao Nan. Even if Fang Fang was angry with him, he was sure that it would not cost him his relationship with her. However, if Qiao Nan was angry, Gao Yan knew that things would get serious! He felt a chill at the thought of that!

As a result, Gao Yan was particularly silent on all topics regarding Qiao Nan. He would only pay attention to getting food for Fang Fang. If Qiao Nan had anything that she wanted to tell Fang Fang, she would do so by herself. There was no need for Gao Yan to interfere.

The Fang family of three was having a good time chatting. They did not realize that Gao Yan, who had a good reputation in the industry and was a seasoned and experienced businessman, would turn absolutely silent at the mention of Qiao Nan.

At this moment, the quad in Ping Cheng was extremely lively as well.

"Hey, did you watch the news on the state-owned television channel? I saw Qiao Nan on the news!"

"Yes. I saw her too. I thought I had made a mistake and that I am suffering from presbyopia."

"Of course not. I saw it too!"

"Is Qiao Nan a female diplomat?"

"Nan Nan is indeed the most promising child in the quad. It's good that there is someone so outstanding in the quad."

Several families chatted within themselves while they walked toward the Qiao family's residence.

"Old Ding, are you at home? Did you and Zijin watch the news on the state-owned television channel tonight? Nan Nan is indeed the most promising child in the quad. She is amazing. She has become a diplomat and she is on television. Old Ding, you have good fortune. How did you manage to have such a good girl?"

“That’s right. I wonder what Nan Nan usually eats. Can you give us some recommendations?”  
There was no way that their daughters and sons could match up to Qiao Nan. But they could put their hopes on their grandchildren. It would be just as good if their grandchildren could look up to Qiao Nan.

A large group of people sang the praises of Qiao Nan. Instead of feeling happy, Ding Jiayi, who liked to keep up appearances, looked upset.

How to raise a child?

Ding Jiayi would never forget the glances and stares that the neighbors in the quad gave her when Qiao Nan got married to Zhai Sheng four years ago. If Qiao Nan did well, it would only look bad on Ding Jiayi. Qiao Nan had finally gotten married and studied at a college in the capital. It had been four years since Ding Jiayi was ridiculed and put in a difficult position.

Chapter 1425 The In-Laws were Different from One’s Parents

But everything was disrupted today.

The daughter that she disliked the most became a diplomat and went on the state-owned television channel. For a moment, Ding Jiayi felt a mixture of emotions. She could not really tell how she felt toward this daughter. She could not deny that Qiao Nan was outstanding. She could not insist that the elder daughter would be more promising than the younger daughter. She could not bring herself to say such foolish words.

It was impossible that Zijin could find better in-laws than the wretched girl. In terms of capability, the wretched girl was from Peking University, while Zijin was a diploma studies graduate. The wretched girl was one of the few female diplomats while Zijin had to rely on the Zhai family to get a decent job for her.

No matter how she looked at it, it was impossible for Zijin to be better than the wretched girl in this life.

Qiao Nan might be outstanding, but she was not the child that she favored. Everyone in the quad knew that she had a bad relationship with Qiao Nan. Although people asked this question in the past purely to ridicule her, today, they were serious about knowing the answer. But Ding Jiayi did not wish to answer them.

What food did Qiao Nan have?

Qiao Nan would have the same food as her. In fact, Qiao Zijin had better food than Qiao Nan!

If one could become a diplomat through the food one ate, Zijin should have gotten a job in the government.

Forget it. She did not wish to think about these questions. She would be in a bad mood if she thought about them.

“Alright, although it is summer, and eight or nine o’clock is still considered as early, we have the habit of retiring early for the night. If there’s nothing else, please go back. By the way, you have asked a funny question. What food could I possibly give her? She had the usual food that you used to have. She did not have any special food. Alright, go back now. We’re going to sleep.” Ding Jiayi really did not wish to hear Qiao Nan’s name again.

Qiao Zijin, who trailed behind Ding Jiayi, was silent all the while. She felt like blending into the background.

Since Ding Jiayi was in a hurry to send them away, the neighbors would not be so obtuse to insist on staying. Although they knew that Ding Jiayi did not get along well with Qiao Nan, they were mother and daughter after all. If Qiao Nan turned softhearted, she might be filial to Ding Jiayi. They would be asking for trouble if they offended Ding Jiayi.

They did not care if the mother and daughter would patch up, it was better not to offend other people.

Since Ding Jiayi could not wait for them to leave, the neighbors who were there to congratulate Ding Jiayi left abidingly. They also asked if Ding Jiayi was free tomorrow, saying that they would have a chat with her tomorrow. If there was a chance, they would prefer to get to know Qiao Nan. If their grandchildren could learn from Qiao Nan, it would be the best arrangement.

Everyone in the quad knew that when Qiao Nan was in high school, she used to hold tuition classes in the quad near Ping Cheng High School. Every student who had been to the classes either went to a good high school or a good college. After Qiao Nan left, those students who went to a good high school also managed to get into decent colleges.

That was why many people hoped that Qiao Nan could continue to give tuition in Ping Cheng after she graduated from college. Qiao Nan had a good reputation of helping her students excel. If she decided to become a tutor, many people would spend lots of money to send their children to Qiao Nan's tuition classes.

The money would be well-spent.

Unfortunately, Qiao Nan did not want to be a big boss. Instead, she chose to be a female diplomat which was even more awesome. The people in the quad felt extremely proud of Qiao Nan, and some of them were so excited at her accomplishments that it took them a long while to calm down. Qiao Nan was from the northern quad. Finally, there was a child from the northern quad who was more outstanding than the children from the southern quad.

As children and residents from the northern quad, they could finally hold their heads high when they saw the people from the southern quad.

Everyone from the northern quad felt proud of Qiao Nan's achievements. They could not describe the emotions that they felt.

The people from the northern quad had finally left. Ding Jiayi felt disheartened and weary after sending them away. She closed the door and called for Qiao Zijin. "Zijin, it's late. Do you want to watch television, or do you want to wash and sleep?" She was exhausted. She felt like slumping down on the bed.

Qiao Zijin trailed after Ding Jiayi, staring blankly at the black screen of the television which had been switched off. All she could think of was the images of Qiao Nan with her delicate and fine features on the television. She and Qiao Nan had the same parents. She was her elder sister and they grew up together.

Since they had the same parents, why was it that she and Qiao Nan were worlds apart?

"What's the matter? Why did you remain silent? If you want to watch television, you should at least turn it on. Right, have you and Xiao Zhou come to a decision regarding the wedding? You should be realistic. Don't think too much. Let's not talk about your relationship with Qiao Nan. As the younger sister, it will certainly be nice of her if she is willing to help you prepare your dowry. If not, there's nothing you can do either. It's already August. You will be holding your wedding banquet in



two months. I understand that you want a grand wedding. But it will be worse if you end up with nothing.”

Zijin’s situation was different from Qiao Nan’s. Zhai Sheng really loved Qiao Nan. He did not mind that Qiao Nan had nothing with her. Zijin’s boyfriend agreed to marry Zijin on account of the Zhai family.

The Zhai family accepted Qiao Nan as their daughter-in-law unconditionally. If Zijin did not handle the situation well, and something went wrong during the wedding banquet, the other party might not be forgiving toward Zijin. “I might sound harsh, but loyal advice jars on the ears. I have your best interests. I will say no more. You should consider carefully.”

No matter what she said, it was up to Zijin to decide what she wanted to do in the end.

She had no hopes that Qiao Nan would fork out a large sum of money to prepare Qiao Zijin’s dowry. It was considered good enough if Qiao Nan bought a big color television for Zijin.

Ding Jiayi knew that when Qiao Nan got married, Zijin did not prepare any monetary gifts or dowry for her. Qiao Nan got married to Zhai Sheng without taking anything from the Qiao family.

Qiao Nan did not take a penny from the Qiao family, but she was asked to keep on contributing to the Qiao family. No one would blame Qiao Nan if she refused to do so.

One had to have a willing heart to be treated unfairly but continue to be dedicated wholeheartedly!

Ding Jiayi knew that Qiao Nan was unwilling to help Qiao Zijin. Ding Jiayi could not help but be worried for her. “Xiao Zhou knows about our family’s situation. There is no need for us to puff oneself up at one’s own cost. In the end, one would suffer further embarrassment.”

“So, are you telling me to marry into the Zhou family with my tail between my legs, looking like a disowned dog?”

Chapter 1426 Gave Up on Making Things Difficult for Her

Qiao Zijin had bloodshot eyes. She was angry that Ding Jiayi spelled everything out. She felt a heavy burden on her shoulder that she could no longer stand straight.

Compared to Qiao Nan, who had a glorious life, she could only be the rats in the sewer.

They were biological sisters. How could Qiao Nan be so heartless toward her? She did not do heinous deeds to her or try to take her life. She had a good life, but why could she not help her?

Qiao Zijin could not help but cry as she thought about it. “Mom, why is Qiao Nan so cruel to me? I’m her sister. Why doesn’t she want me to do well in life? She refused to help her family but she was willing to help other people. What did she mean by that? If I do not marry well and other people ask her about it, it will not look good on her as well. I have never seen anyone who is more unfeeling than her. Did she forget that I am her elder sister? If I were her, I would not be so heartless and coldhearted like her. She does not even care that we are one family.”

Qiao Nan only regarded those outsiders as her siblings, but she had no regard for her!

“Mom, you have to help me. You are the only person who can help me now.” She refused to resign to fate. She was unconvinced that she and Qiao Nan were worlds apart and that she could never be compared to her. A woman would marry once in her life. This was an important event for her. She wanted to be a white swan instead of an ugly duckling.

Ding Jiayi waved her hand. “Qiao Nan wouldn’t listen to me when she had yet to marry. Now that she is part of the Zhai family, how will I be able to help you? Zijin, you have to sort out your thoughts. Alright, you can continue to watch television. I am tired. I will go to sleep.”

She knew that Qiao Zijin was going to push everything to her. Ding Jiayi had changed. She was no longer the Ding Jiayi from before. She would no longer do everything for Qiao Zijin. Instead, she would skirt the issue Qiao Zijin raised. Qiao Zijin had to depend on herself.

Qiao Nan was like a dragon in the sky, while she was only a fish in the water. A flying dragon would never listen to an old fish.

Ding Jiayi knew that Qiao Nan would ignore her if she went looking for her. She was no longer young. It was tiring on her to create a din and end up not achieving anything.

Qiao Dongliang seemed to be leading a good life. It took Ding Jiayi very long to understand, but she had decided to learn from Qiao Dongliang. She would wash her hands off Qiao Zijin. It was up to the children to settle their own problems. It was useless for the adults to meddle in their affairs.

With that, Ding Jiayi fled to her room, closed the door, and avoided Qiao Zijin’s unrelenting gaze.

Ding Jiayi had just closed the door when a glass cup was being smashed to the floor. It made a loud sound as it crashed to the floor.

Ding Jiayi thought for a while before letting go of the door handle. She switched on the electric fan in the room, lay on the bed, and closed her eyes, getting ready to sleep.

She had made her stand. She would not be involved in matters regarding Qiao Nan. There was nothing that she could do.

Qiao Zijin was not a fool. She could sense that Ding Jiayi's attitude had changed since a long time ago. Moreover, they had a bad quarrel when they came back from the capital the previous time. She would never forget that her father moved out of the house and never came back for months because of what she said.

Since she and her mother never mentioned the incident again, as time passed, she tried to deceive herself that the incident never happened at all. Anyway, her mother treated her in the same manner as before.

But when it came to serious issues, Qiao Zijin could tell that there was still a difference. "It is so nice to get married to a good husband."

Before Qiao Nan was married to Zhai Sheng, her mother would always side with her, disregarding the fact that Qiao Nan was her daughter. Right now, although her mother disliked Qiao Nan, she would no longer make unreasonable requests of Qiao Nan or make things difficult for Qiao Nan in order to help her.

Qiao Zijin knew what Ding Jiayi was up to.

Ding Jiayi was no longer young and she needed her children to take care of her. Now that Qiao Nan married well, it was up to her to decide the amount of money that she would give Ding Jiayi every month. After all, Qiao Nan had the final say over her own money. Ding Jiayi stopped creating trouble for Qiao Nan, hoping that Qiao Nan would give her more money monthly.

If she made trouble for Qiao Nan, not only would it be useless, but it would also affect her relationship with Qiao Nan. Since that was the case, Ding Jiayi decided to give up on going against Qiao Nan. She would behave herself so that Qiao Nan would continue to provide for her.

Money, money, money!

Her mother would do anything for money. She did not have any principles. She did not care about her daughter. Her daughter could not be more important than herself. Her mother had two children, but she did not have their best interests. She did not intend to nurture them to become successful. Instead, her only hope was that her children would give her lots of money when they grew up so that she could lead a good life.

She was too selfish.

Qiao Zijin's eyes turned red as she thought about her situation. The whites of her eyes turned reddish and bloodshot. In the end, Qiao Zijin returned to her room to make a call to her boyfriend. "Yes, this is the situation. Will you shun me because of this? I will try my best in this regard, but I hope that your family will not have too high expectations of me. You know about my family's situation. My sister would like to prepare a bigger dowry for me, but I feel that it is inappropriate of me to accept this from her."

"I was still in school when my sister married Zhai Sheng. I didn't buy a pretty dress for her, let alone prepare a dowry for her. I will feel bad to accept so many things from her now. After marrying you, I will become part of your family. I won't be able to return this favor by myself. I don't want to add to your burden."

Although she would not have luxurious dowry or a grand wedding like Qiao Nan did, Qiao Zijin had to put it nicely. Her in-laws must not think that Qiao Nan refused to prepare a dowry for her as she had a bad relationship with her. Instead, it was because she refused to accept her kindness.

One would reciprocate the favors that one had.

If she married into the family and she brought dowry with her, her in-laws would have to return the favor to the Zhai family.

Everything that she did was for the sake of her in-laws. Therefore, she must make sure that her in-laws understand that she was sensible and considerate of them.

She no longer had any expectations of her parental family.

If Qiao Zijin wanted to have good days ahead, she must make sure that she had a good relationship with her in-laws. Her parental family did not seem like a family at all. They did not have her best interests.

She had lived with her parents for more than twenty years, but she would have to spend the rest of her life with her in-laws.

#### Chapter 1427 To Marry Her or No

Therefore, her mother-in-law must have a good impression of her so that she would have good days ahead of her. As for the troubles at her parental family, Qiao Zijin could no longer be bothered with it.

Her mother had better be healthy and well. If anything happened, Qiao Nan had better take care of her mother. Her mother could give up the thought of getting a single cent from her. Since her mother refused to help her at all, there was no way that she would provide for her mother.

Qiao Zijin had always been narrow-minded. Moreover, recently, Ding Jiayi refused to fight for her interests and she would keep her money with herself, refusing to spend any money on Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Zijin was merely learning from her. Since her mother valued money more than her and was unwilling to spend them on her children, she would be calculative as well. The only difference was that when she married, she would have children of her own. She had to take care of her own expenses as well as raise her children. She would not have extra money to provide for her mother.

Qiao Zijin had totally forgotten about Qiao Dongliang. In her opinion, Qiao Nan had to be responsible for him. He was Qiao Nan's father. Her father left her and her mother to live with Qiao Nan during her crucial years in high school. From then onward, she told herself that she no longer had a father.

Since she did not have a father, there was no need for her to provide for him.

Zhou Zheng felt uneasy after receiving Qiao Zijin's call. He hesitated for a long while before he called his parents and told them everything that Qiao Zijin told him. "Dad, Mom, do you think Qiao Zijin is trustworthy? Why do I feel insecure?"

After dating Qiao Zijin for a year, Zhou Zheng was well aware of the shortcomings that she had. Like his name, Zhou Zheng was straightforward, rigid, and inflexible.

It was because of the Zhai family that Zhou Zheng dated Qiao Zijin. The Zhou family had always wanted to be related to the Zhai family. To their surprise, it was a dream-come-true for them.

Zhou Zheng knew the kind of person that Qiao Zijin was before they started dating. Zhai Sheng would not use Qiao Zijin to deceive others. Marriage was between two parties. Both had to be willing parties. It would not be right if there was any deception involved.

Zhou Zheng knew Qiao Zijin's personality. If he was willing to start a relationship with her, although he would not strike it big, the Zhou family could be assured that they would have better days in Ping Cheng. For instance, Zhou Zheng used to work as a contract worker in the government sector. Right now, he was converted to a permanent worker. Father Zhou's business did not expand, but he made more money now.

The Zhou family and Zhou Zheng led better lives as Zhou Zheng was willing to be with Qiao Zijin and marry her despite knowing about her flaws.

Although it was not anything substantial, it was practical and would be a great help to their lives. The Zhou family was glad that they had so many benefits even before marrying Qiao Zijin. If they became relatives with the Zhai family, they would be given even more benefits.

Father Zhou finished the remaining cigarette in one single puff. He let out a painful breath, choking on the smoke.

“Don't you know that you are no longer young? Why did you smoke so many cigarettes like when you were young? Aren't you worried about your lungs? Are you courting death? Let me warn you. After Zhou Zheng marries Qiao Zijin and we have a grandchild, I forbid you from smoking in the house. What if the grandchild chokes on your smoke and falls sick?” Mother Zhou was indirectly telling Father Zhou and Zhou Zheng that regardless of what kind of girl Qiao Zijin was, or how strange the situation was, they would hold the wedding banquet in more than a month's time.

The in-laws were different from the parental family. After Qiao Zijin married into their family, she would discipline and take her in. She would not allow Qiao Zijin to affect her husband's business or her son's job.

A daughter-in-law was supposed to fulfill two purposes: to bear the Zhou family a child and to bring benefits to the Zhou family.

Qiao Zijin was so much better than other ladies in these aspects. There was no way that her son's previous girlfriend could be compared to Qiao Zijin.

The previous girlfriend had the same temper as Qiao Zijin, but she was a spendthrift. She spent a lot of the Zhou family's money on herself. Although she had given her son a lot of money, he would come asking them for money in no time.

One would only know the truth upon a comparison. Compared to her son's previous girlfriend, Mother Zhou preferred Qiao Zijin.

Father Zhou understood the rationale as well. "Didn't you say that Qiao Zijin and the daughter-in-law of the Zhai family do not have a good relationship? I don't understand. Why will the two daughters of the Qiao family not get along well with each other?" If his future daughter-in-law had a close relationship with the daughter-in-law of the Zhai family, the Zhou family would be lucky!

Zhou Zheng's face sank, apparently agreeing with his father.

Zhou Zheng had differing opinions from his mother. Although his previous girlfriend was a spendthrift, they had been together for a long time and he liked her very much. If he was successful and earned lots of money, it was alright that the woman that he liked spent his money. He spent the money so that his girlfriend would be well-dressed and it would look good on him when they went out on dates.

Zhou Zheng's ex-girlfriend had nothing special except that she was good-looking.

After being introduced to Zhou Zheng's girlfriend, his friends would sing her praises, saying that his girlfriend was prettier than the female celebrities on television.

Qiao Zijin was not as pretty as Qiao Nan, and she could not match up to Zhou Zheng's ex-girlfriend. In general, she had regular features. Although she was not considered as pretty, she was not ugly either. Her fair complexion made her look refreshing.

However, Qiao Zijin's boyfriend was Zhou Zheng. His ex-girlfriend was very beautiful. When one was used to having meat and fish and was keen on having more of the good food, one would naturally feel upset that one was forced to eat vegetables and tofu. Since he used to have such a pretty girlfriend, he would naturally make a comparison and would not be in a good mood when he was with Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Zijin knew the reason why Zhou Zheng was willing to start a relationship with her. She knew that the Zhou family benefited from their relationship and the Zhai family would give them a helping hand. Therefore, Qiao Zijin did not curb her temper when she was with Zhou Zheng.

If Zhou Zheng was polite to her, Qiao Zijin would rein in her temper and be gentle toward him. But if Zhou Zheng sounded as if he shunned her and that he preferred his ex-girlfriend, Qiao Zijin would not allow herself to be mistreated since the Zhou family had stood to gain from their relationship. She would tell him outright that if he was displeased with her and despised her, they could break up right away.

#### Chapter 1428: A Brilliant Mother

It was easy to get a divorce now. One only needed to sign on the papers to get a divorce. It was even easier to get a breakup. The two of them could end a relationship and never to see each other again.

After getting to know Zhou Zheng, Qiao Zijin was certain of one thing.

Because of Qiao Nan, the Zhai family disliked the fact that she was their relative. However, she was lucky that she was Qiao Nan's sister. Qiao Nan could never be rid of her in this life.

Unless she had her own means and ways, the Zhai family would definitely not recommend other families who were better than the Zhou family to her. Similarly, as long as she was able to accept families like the Zhou family, if she and Zhou Zheng broke up, the Zhai family was willing to recommend a few other families that had a similar background as the Zhou family.

Since Qiao Zijin was certain of this, she was fearless in front of Zhou Zheng. "After breaking up with each other, let's not meet or contact each other so that it will not be awkward for both of us. I want to have a home, a home that belongs to me. After we break up, if you see me with my new boyfriend, pretend not to know me."

Zhou Zheng dated her as he was after the benefits that the Zhai family gave him. She did not shun him for not being sincere toward her. Instead, he should be ashamed of himself for being pretentious in front of her. The Zhai family helped him convert from a contract worker to a permanent worker all because of her.



With that, Qiao Zijin took out her cell phone and deleted Zhou Zheng's phone number. She also told Zhou Zheng to delete her phone number. After deleting his phone number, Qiao Zijin turned to walk away without the slightest hesitation.

She knew that Zhou Zheng minded that she was not as beautiful as his ex-girlfriend. But how dared he do that! She did not even mind that his family background, looks, and intelligence were not as good as Chen Jun.

Seeing that Qiao Zijin became unyielding, Zhou Zheng panicked. Although he minded that she was not as beautiful, he did not dare to break up with her.

Qiao Zijin had barely left and Zhou Zheng hurried forward to stop her. He grabbed her hand and begged her to appease her anger. Qiao Zijin was being very direct and straightforward. "In the past, I was afraid that I would hurt your pride and self-esteem. Right now, I think I am being too softhearted with you. I have been thinking too much. Your ex-girlfriend only has one advantage over me, and that is she is prettier than me. Let me tell you about my ex-boyfriend. He is so much better than you. You should know who Chen Jun is. His father used to be a deputy police commissioner in the city and he is doing just as well now. Chen Jun is handsome, highly educated, and his father is very capable. If I wasn't foolish in the past and could not sort out my thoughts, you might not be the person who stands next to me discussing marriage plans with me today."

Qiao Zijin was really full of regrets now.

She finally managed to do what Chen Jun requested her to do, but it was a pity he had broken up with her and she had no idea where he was now or whether he had another girlfriend now. Since the breakup, they had not seen each other at all.

"Since you feel that your ex-girlfriend is better, fine, let's have an easy way out. We have not been together for a long time. Even if your girlfriend has another man after breaking up with you, you can still get her back. By then, you should bring more money with you, and I am sure you will win her affection. As for me, since I am smarter than before, I might have a chance of getting back together with Chen Jun."

Qiao Zijin sounded very serious when she said she was getting back with Chen Jun.

Previously, she did not harbor such intentions. After being agitated by Zhou Zheng, she felt that it was foolish of her to let go of Chen Jun, while she shortchanged herself to be with Zhou Zheng. He benefited from the relationship but he kept giving her the cold shoulder.

Was it worthwhile?

Seeing that Qiao Zijin was emboldened and serious about breaking up, Zhou Zheng had no choice but to beg for mercy. “I was wrong, okay? I was merely making a comment. I didn’t mean anything. Why did you flare up? We’re already discussing getting married. Why did you mention a breakup? Please don’t be angry. Let’s shop for clothes, shall we?”

“Please don’t mind. I don’t want you to feel that you are being shortchanged.” Qiao Zijin was merely throwing tantrums. Now that Zhou Zheng gave in, she was not as angry. “My looks are ordinary. Won’t you find it displeasing to see me every day? You can look for a beautiful woman, while I look for a handsome guy. Won’t that be great?”

“Nonsense. You don’t look ordinary at all. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. You are beautiful.” If he put his mind to it, Zhou Zheng, who had been in a relationship, was better at coaxing ladies than Chen Jun.

Although the two of them had a few small quarrels, they still agreed to hold the wedding this October.

Now that he brought up this topic, Zhou Zheng felt uncertain. “Mom, are you sure it will be good for our family if I marry Qiao Zijin?”

Mother Zhou knew what her son was thinking about. “Isn’t it good? If so, you will still be a contract worker. Of course, it’s okay if you feel that it’s alright to be a contract worker. You can quit your job. It is difficult to get a permanent job in the government sector. It’s normal that we all want to lead better lives. If you are happy with a contract job, I won’t stop you. You can do anything as long as you are happy.”

Zhou Zheng was at a loss for words at what his mother said. Contract workers had a much lower pay than permanent workers. They did not have the same benefits as well. Zhou Qing knew how it felt to be converted to a permanent worker. He had no wish to work as a contract worker anymore.

“Speechless? Since you know that it’s good to have a permanent job, why did you ask me whether it will be good for our family if you marry Qiao Zijin? Qiao Zijin is foolish in how she deals with her younger sister, but she is smart in other aspects. You should have known whether she is a pushover or not. If you shun her, she may not be willing to shortchange herself to be with you. No matter what thoughts or opinions you have in mind, you should make a decision as soon as possible. You

will need to send the wedding invitation in another half a month. It will be embarrassing if you back out by then.”

Her son understood the rationale, but it was human nature to have insatiable desires.

Mother Zhou did not bother to persuade her son. She knew that the more she persuaded him, the more he would go against her. If he did not feel like marrying Qiao Zijin, there was no way that she could force him. It was unnecessary to do that.

“Zhou Zheng, you are my son. I will always stand on your side. The Zhai family is not so small-minded. Even if things don’t work out between Qiao Zijin and you, your job will not be affected. Of course, if you have any plans for your future, you will have to rely on your own efforts to achieve them. As for our family business, it will be the way it used to be after the two of you break up. We have been leading a fairly good life back then. If the two of you break up, it will not be a problem. Therefore, it’s okay if you want a breakup.”

“Mom, do you really allow me to break up with her?”

Mother Zhou did not bother to persuade her son to stay with his girlfriend. She told him seriously that it would not have a drastic impact on the Zhou family if he broke up with his girlfriend. At most, it would be more difficult for them to make any improvements and Zhou Zheng might have to put in extra effort to get what he wanted.

Chapter 1429: Attend Wedding Banquet

Zhou Zheng panicked. Should he really break up with Qiao Zijin?

Both Qiao Zijin and his mother said so. Zhou Zheng was like headless flies without any sense of direction, out of his wits. He could only pace about. He did not know what to do.

Father Zhou was quick to react. “Your mom is right. You should think about it. Your mom and I are no longer young. Given our family background, the three of us can lead a good life in the future. As long as you are satisfied with your life now, you can choose not to marry her if you don’t feel like it. You should marry someone whom you like and one who is willing to join our family.”

After saying this, Father Zhou and Mother Zhou went back to their room to sleep.

Who was the one who was so happy that he was getting married and that he converted from a contract worker to a permanent worker, that he treated them to good food? If Zhou Zheng married Qiao Zijin, the Zhou family might have a better life. If he did not marry Qiao Zijin, the Zhou family would lead a good life as well. It would not make a huge difference. Therefore, they would leave the decision to their son.

Zhou Zheng watched as his parents walked away. He was dumbfounded. “Dad, Mom, aren’t you going to give me any advice?”

Mother Zhou turned back, feeling slightly displeased. “You are at the age to get married and have children. You should be able to decide for yourself. When you sort out your thoughts and figure out what it is that you want, we will support you no matter what decision you make. Also, if you really like your ex-girlfriend, fine, you can get her back. I will approve of your marriage. Anyway, we have more than one house. We can move to another house and the two of you can have the entire house to yourself.”

If the Zhou family business could not maintain its current income, given that the ex-girlfriend was a spendthrift, their son’s pay would not be able to pay for her huge spending. Even if they gave money to their son, it might not be enough to cover the lady’s spending.

The skincare products that the lady used cost several hundred yuan. Her clothes and bags cost several hundreds or even thousands of yuan. Mother Zhou wondered whether the products and accessories were made of gold. Why were they more expensive than gold?

Nevertheless, fools would rush in to buy them, and her son was the rich boyfriend, one of the fools.

Mother Zhou was getting advanced in years. She felt weary. It was alright if her children did not treat her well, but she had no wish to worry over her son and daughter-in-law.

If they got along well, it would be livelier to stay under the same roof. She could play with her grandchild as well. If they did not get along well, they might as well stay apart. At the very least, she and her husband could take care of themselves. If not, they could always hire a caretaker.

Her son was willing to spend a bomb on such a woman in the first place. They had worked hard all their lives, so how could they be miserly on themselves and refuse to spend the money on a caretaker?

What a joke!

If so, her son would spend the money that she and her husband earned while they were young on the foolish hussy. If she allowed this to happen, she was even more stupid than those fools!

The reason why Zhai Sheng introduced Qiao Zijin to the Zhou family was not that Zhou Zheng was a suitable brother-in-law. Instead, it was due to Zhou Zheng's parents, in particular Mother Zhou, who was a brilliant woman.

Zhou Zheng had a similar temperament as his father. But Father Zhou was slightly better than his son. Moreover, Father Zhou would listen to his wife. If his parents had the same opinions, Zhou Zheng would not be able to stir any troubles. Compared to going to the trouble of getting a smart husband who could control Qiao Zijin, Zhai Sheng felt that it was better to get a smart mother-in-law for Qiao Zijin.

Given Mother Zhou's temperament, if they did not get along well staying under the same roof, she would move out with her husband. In that case, there was no one that Qiao Zijin could create trouble for. She could not possibly orchestrate a full-scale drama by herself when there was no audience.

Regardless of what Zhou Zheng was thinking about, the Zhou family's relatives received Zhou Zheng's wedding invitation by mid-September. The Zhai family who resided far away in the capital received the wedding invitation as well. After all, the Qiao family did not have many relatives. If Qiao Zijin did not invite them, she would have no relatives to invite and she might as well save the time and effort in sending out invitations.

"Getting married?" Qiao Nan ended up spending five days going abroad for work, two of which were spent on transport. Luckily, when she returned home, Zhai Sheng still had two days of leave before he had to report back to camp. Otherwise, Zhai Sheng's subordinates would be down on their luck. If men could not satisfy their desires, they would behave in a terrifying manner. Not long after Zhai Sheng left, Qiao Nan received the wedding invitation from Qiao Zijin.

"Well, it's a national day wedding." Miao Jing was not surprised at the date as she had already heard that they would hold the wedding during the National Day period. It would take several days for the invitation to be sent from Ping Cheng to the capital. It was indeed lucky that the small invitation card did not get misplaced during the journey. "Will you be going?"

Qiao Nan put the invitation away. "Yes. The Qiao family does not have many relatives. It will not look good if I don't go. I reckon I'll have to take the three kids with me. My dad misses them."

Qiao Nan had zero contact with her parental family, but she hoped that her three children would keep in contact with their grandpa. Qiao Nan wondered if the three children would still recognize their grandpa despite not seeing him for such a long time.

"Shall I go with you?" Miao Jing felt worried that the three children would be going as well. "Of course, I won't be attending Qiao Zijin's wedding banquet. If it is inconvenient for you to bring the triplets with you to the wedding banquet, I can stay at home to look after them."

Miao Jing did not like Qiao Zijin. She would not give her face by attending her wedding banquet.

The reason being Qiao Zijin had the audacity to ask Qiao Nan for dowry. Although it was Ding Jiayi who brought up the topic, if Qiao Zijin did not feel this way, Ding Jiayi would not dare to make this request of Qiao Nan.

If she did not ask for a dowry, given that they were in-laws, the Zhai family was willing to prepare some dowry for Qiao Zijin. Miao Jing felt that it would look good on Qiao Nan if they helped Qiao Zijin prepare dowry. Otherwise, she would never think of preparing dowry for Qiao Zijin. To her, she would rather donate the money.

Although Miao Jing intended to prepare some dowry for Qiao Zijin, now that Qiao Zijin took the initiative to ask for a dowry, the stubborn Miao Jing refused to give her a single cent.

Qiao Nan felt that Miao Jing had made a good suggestion. "Mom, I will have to trouble you to take care of them." Qiao Zijin was someone who, when given an inch, would take a yard. If one was nice to her, she would take things for granted.

It would look good on Qiao Zijin if the wife of the chief attended Qiao Zijin's wedding. Although it was small-minded of her, Qiao Nan had no wish for her mother-in-law to attend her sister's wedding.

After coming to a decision, Qiao Nan informed He Yi and applied for leave. After making sure that she did not have any tasks during the National Day period, she and her mother-in-law brought the triplets with them and flew to Ping Cheng on the twenty-ninth of September.

On the thirtieth of September, Qiao Dongliang visited the Zhai family's residence in the southern quad in Ping Cheng to see his three grandchildren.

## Chapter 1430: Who Does He Take After?

“My three grandchildren have grown up so much. When will you be going to school?” The three children were clever and adorable. Qiao Dongliang, who had been living simply, found meaning in his life once again at the sight of them. It was as if he was basking in the sunlight.

His younger daughter and three grandchildren were in the capital. He had cut off all ties with Ding Jiayi and did not see her for one whole year. He could not even stand the idea of talking to her.

At the thought that Ding Jiayi instilled hideous thoughts to Qiao Zijin since a young age, sowing discord between him and his daughter, Qiao Dongliang had the impulse of killing Ding Jiayi. It was no wonder Ding Jiayi had no place in her family. His mother-in-law even showed up at his house with her grandchild for the first time simply to scold Ding Jiayi.

Although Ding Jiayi’s mother had a part to play that her relationship with Ding Jiayi turned sour and she no longer wanted to live there, Ding Jiayi was a real piece of work as well. He should not agree to Uncle Lee’s introduction right away without taking some time to find out what kind of person Ding Jiayi was. If so, Ding Jiayi would not have the chance to harm his two daughters.

“We are already in school.” San Bao looked adorable. “San Bao goes to the toddler class. The teacher teaches us to sing, recite poetry, and dance. There are many slides in the school. There are many children as well. All of them are crybabies. They are so noisy!”

“That’ right. They kept crying.” Er Bao agreed with San Bao. He never imagined that there would be so many crybabies in the world. “Xiao Bao is much better-behaved than them. Xiao Bao seldom cries.” Now that there were comparisons, the triplets realized that Xiao Bao was well-behaved and adorable. He was much more obedient than the children in school.

1

They would rather play with Xiao Bao than with the crybabies in school. “They are full of tears and snot. They are so dirty.”

Er Bao frowned, looking very disgusted. His expression was more vivid and exaggerated than the young actors who performed in skits on the televisions. He was funnier than them. “Are these children so dirty and such crybabies? It must be hard on all of you to study with them.”

1

“Dad...” Qiao Nan did not know whether to cry or laugh. “The children are sent to school by their parents. They are not accustomed to leaving their parents, so it is normal to cry. Er Bao, San Bao, have you forgotten what I told you? They will no longer cry when they get accustomed to it.” On the first day of school, she took a day off to accompany the three children throughout the day.

When she sent the children to school the next day, they pouted and were unhappy when she was about to leave.

But unlike the other children who ended up bawling, at the very least, the triplets stopped themselves from crying.

Da Bao snorted. “They took such a long time to adapt to it.” It had been almost a month, but some of the children would still cry.

1

Qiao Nan hugged Da Bao and gave him a kiss. “That is because all of you are much stronger and obedient than the other children. Everyone is different. You may be capable and outstanding, but you cannot ask that the other children are as good as you. Da Bao, don’t you think so?”

Among the triplets, Da Bao was the eldest. The two of them would always take Da Bao as their guide. If Da Bao listened to her, Qiao Nan believed that under Da Bao’s leadership, Er Bao and San Bao would be able to get along with the rest of the children.

Da Bao thought for a while before he nodded. “That’s right. Da Bao, Er Bao, and San Bao are the most obedient and well-behaved children. All the other children cannot compare to us. I’m asking too much of them. Er Bao, San Bao, we have to change our attitude. We must not behave in this manner in the future.”

1



Er Bao and San Bao nodded. They did not rebut and agreed with Da Bao.

“Hahaha...” Qiao Dongliang broke out into laughter. “The three radishes are only toddlers, but they behave in such an interesting manner. You are too mature for your age. What do you mean by ‘I’m asking too much of them’. Da Bao, who taught you that?” He was seldom in contact with children, but he had never seen such a smart and bright child like Da Bao.

1

Qiao Nan sounded exasperated. “Nobody teaches them at all. These three children are very crafty and cunning. At times, one can be so frustrated that one is at a loss for words. If we are to teach them, one will be driven to nuts by them. Dad, was I like this when I was young? I used to think that they inherited this trait from their father, but my mother-in-law told me that Brother Zhai did not behave like them when he was young.”

She had no recollection of how she was like when she was three years old. But she did not think that she had such behavior.

“You are very obedient since a young age. Very quiet as well, totally unlike the triplets.” Back when he disliked her behavior, he would feel that she was introverted and clumsy at speech. Now that he knew better, Qiao Dongliang knew that this was being gentle and refined. On the contrary, Qiao Zijin had a sweet tongue after she learned how to talk.

Qiao Dongliang did not bring up Qiao Zijin. Although he was obviously reminded of Qiao Zijin, he did not say a single word. After all, Qiao Zijin had a sweet tongue and was good at coaxing people, while Da Bao was sly and artful and would drive people mad with what he said. Da Bao was completely different from Qiao Zijin. Qiao Dongliang would not be so foolish to compare Da Bao to Qiao Zijin, who was unfilial and radical.

“Then, who do they take after?” Since she was not artful and sly when she was a child, Qiao Nan felt all the more perplexed. If the triplets did not take after her and Brother Zhai, then who could it be?

Miao Jing, who sat by the side and smiled secretly, finally decided to solve Qiao Nan’s doubts.

“Didn’t you ask me this question not long ago? Back then, I told you that Zhai Sheng and Hua Hua had a different temperament when they were young. Later, the old master told me secretly that when Old Zhai was young, he...” The old master said that Da Bao did not take after Zhai Sheng. Instead,

his temperament resembled Old Zhai's temperament when he was young. Zhai Sheng also took after his father, but Da Bao had a very similar temperament to Old Zhai.

"..." Qiao Nan finally cleared her doubts. It turned out that Da Bao inherited his sly and cocky temperament from his grandfather.

Qiao Nan was surprised while Qiao Dongliang seemed quite happy about it. "It's good that Da Bao is like the in-law. When Da Bao grows up in the future, you must be a chief like him. How about that?"

"No, must be like Dad!" Er Bao shook his head. "One should use guns like Dad to take down the bad guys. Tatata..." His grandpa would always sit at home while his father would go out to take down the bad guys. He wanted to be like his father. He did not want to be like his grandpa who sat around at home. He would rather go to school and watch other children cry.

1

Da Bao twitched his nose and fixed his grape-like eyes on Er Bao. He seemed to be shunning him. Finally, Da Bao replied, "I will take care of you in the future."

Er Bao knew nothing. His grandpa was much more capable than his father. His father still had to listen to his grandpa. Other than his father, many people had to listen to his grandpa as well.