

## RTAMM 1501

### Chapter 1501: I Will Hand the Rest Over to You

Li Dawei got along very well with his seniors in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as though they had never rejected him.

Such a scheming scumbag used him as a stepping stone. Li Dawei would definitely receive retribution in the future.

Xu Xinming resented Li Dawei. If Li Dawei had reminded him while he worked hard himself and pulled him along, then he would not have been cast into such a corner now. It was bad enough that none of his colleagues was on speaking terms with him. Worse still, the only ones who even appeared were worms.

When summer came, the only ones appearing in his working area to add some life would be some flies and mosquitoes.

“Sister Qiao, this is what I’ve just completed. Please check through it and let me know directly if there are any problems. I’ll get it through myself.” Li Dawei was much more restrained in front of Qiao Nan now. In the past, he had called Qiao Nan directly by her name. Now, he switched to calling her ‘Sister Qiao’.

In the past, after asking Qiao Nan to look for his mistakes, he would still get her to correct them. Now, the difference was that the only thing he asked of Qiao Nan was for her to let him know if she found any problems with anything that he had done. As for the specifics and details of the problem and how it should be solved, Li Dawei no longer tested Qiao Nan’s limited patience and instead learned to complete it himself. “Sister Qiao, I hope you don’t think I’m being bothersome. This isn’t our mother tongue after all. But of course, I might not have mastered my mother tongue either.”

Was it not normal that his standard of foreign languages was a little poor given that he had not even mastered his own mother tongue?

Li Dawei’s words were much nicer than before, and his attitude had improved. Naturally, Qiao Nan could not continue to put him down by making things difficult for him. “There’s no serious problem, and the small ones aren’t very important. At most, the content is a little rough.”

But compared with his string of mistakes that he made repeatedly in the past, the way Li Dawei handled this document had already improved significantly.

“Thank you, Sister Qiao!” Li Dawei smiled in relief. Now that Qiao Nan had said that, he could finally rest assured. “By the way, this is for you, Sister Qiao.”

Seeing the envelope that Li Dawei put on her desk, Qiao Nan raised her eyebrow before picking it up. In broad daylight, Qiao Nan was not at all worried that there was anything valuable in the envelope. And by the looks of its thickness, it did not seem as though there was anything valuable in it. Li Dawei did not have that courage anyway. “It’s red. Is it a wedding invitation?” In old-fashioned terms, it was a ‘red bomb’.

“That’s right.” Li Dawei closed his mouth and smiled widely like a young lady. “I’m getting married.”

“1st January and New Year’s Day have all passed. What other good dates are there to get married?”

“None. My wedding date has been set for next year. It’s my first time being a groom and I’m very excited, so I’ve decided to prepare the wedding invitations for our department in advance. I was thinking that since I already prepared it, I might as well just give it out sooner rather than later in case everyone gets busy preparing for the new year and cannot take time out to attend it.”

Because he had given out the wedding invitations so early, everyone would be able to arrange their schedules ahead of time to attend his wedding.

“All right. I’ll congratulate you here in advance.” Qiao Nan received Li Dawei’s invitation. After Xu Xinming had been transferred out, Li Dawei was the only remaining one of the Xu-Li team. Perhaps because he needed two to clap, or because he was no longer under the influence of Xu Xinming, but Li Dawei had actually become normal.

No matter what, at least everyone in the department no longer held so much resentment and dissatisfaction toward Li Dawei as compared to when he had just entered the department. Like now, when he handed out the wedding invitations to his colleagues, some of them not only received the invitations nicely like Qiao Nan, but they also gave him kind words of blessings.

Seeing this situation, Li Dawei was not particularly disappointed. Based on his tense relationships with his colleagues in the past, he had expected worse situations. In comparison to what he had expected, this was much better.

Faced with such a result, Li Dawei quietly let out a breath of relief. He had finally finished something that his family had tasked him with. But unfortunately, it was quite certain that Qiao Nan was going to be in charge.

If he were to have a bad relationship with Qiao Nan, he believed that it would not be long before he would be sent to join Xu Xinming. Thinking about that dark and cold place where Xu Xinming was, and how he had been mocked and ignored by others after he had been transferred out, Li Dawei shivered in fear.

He would never let Xu Xinming be his best man. He had to find his place in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He had already changed for the better and would not go back to how he had been in the past when he used to be a smart aleck. He hoped that Qiao Nan would let him off and not make life difficult for him now that she saw that he was willing to change for the better.

There was no way for him not to humble himself knowing the situation he was in.

Xu Xinming's departure was a clear warning for Li Dawei and a constant reminder not to make the same mistakes that Xu Xinming had. Otherwise, he knew the dire consequences and how shameful it would be.

"Sister Qiao?" When He Yi heard how Li Dawei addressed Qiao Nan, he felt strangely fresh. "Oh, you're now an older sister? From what I remember, you're a year younger than Li Dawei. Is it all right for him to address you in that way?" If other people were to hear it, they might talk about her behind her back.

"No." Qiao Nan rolled her eyes. "I've said a hundred times not to call me older sister. It's probably more appropriate for me to call him elder brother, but he insists on calling me older sister. I can't do anything about it. The only thing I can do is to return it by calling him elder brother sometimes." And even so, Qiao Nan felt as though she suffered a great loss.

Why did she have to call him elder brother just because he voluntarily called her his sister?

She did not even want to call him elder brother!

He Yi laughed uncontrollably. “There, there. Don’t be angry. Since he’s older, it’s still fine for you to call him elder brother. I admit that he’s only older than you in age. In every other aspect, he’s less than you. The only problem is that this only advantage of Li Dawei is enough. As for the others, he doesn’t need them.”

Qiao Nan snorted but did not rebuke him. “Li Dawei is getting married on the 26th of February. Are you going?” There was still a month to go. If they wanted to, it was still possible to take some time out for it. Li Dawei had informed everyone early, so few people refused to attend his wedding.

“I’ll go.” He Yi did not have anything against Li Dawei. “At least in front of me, he’s changed for the better. When I retire and you take over, it’ll be on you to see what kind of performance he has.” That would be beyond his control.

#### Chapter 1502: I’m Twenty-Nine

This was an issue that always gave Qiao Nan headaches. “Are you sure that you want to hand the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to me? I’m a female, and female diplomats are rare. Why are you still acting like our master?” Female diplomats did exist. If she were the only one, other countries would call them out for sexism.

However, females were still not commonly seen.

Right now, master and her senior both wanted her to take charge, and Qiao Nan didn’t think that it was a great idea.

“Why not? It can be the norm in the future, and you will be the first one. I’m sure you’ve heard of female emperors in the past. We are not asking you to be the president. It’s just the minister. You are overthinking it.”

He Yi had to admit that it would be challenging to push Qiao Nan to that position.

However, anything was possible.

Everyone knew the capabilities of her. Although she didn’t have the confidence due to her gender, He Yi knew that the leaders had a good impression of her. When their master was still alive, he had paved the path for her.

She had nothing to worry about. In fact, she would step up with poise.

“Qiao Nan, do I need to remind you of our master’s final wish? Don’t let his efforts go to waste. Just think of it as completing our master’s unfulfilled dream. When he took me in, he said that he wanted his daughter to be the first female minister if he were to be married.”

In their master’s eyes, Qian Nan was more than just a disciple. She was like a daughter, maybe even a granddaughter.

It was evident that he had expected great things from her.

“Enough.” Qiao Nan felt her heart clench whenever their master was mentioned.

It’s been over two months, but Qiao Nan’s grief didn’t ease a bit. All she could do was control her emotions to a certain extent. When He Yi talked about him, Qiao Nan’s voice sank.

“Fine, I’ll stop talking about it.” He Yi gave in. Girls were more sentimental beings, after all. He was sad to hear about their master as well, but to cry like Qiao Nan was not something he could do. “Anyway, you have to think this through.”

He Yi felt that there wouldn’t be any rumors as long as she was capable.

Qiao Nan did what it took, so why would he give the opportunity away to others just because he was her senior? If he did, he would have to remind that person to take care of his little junior.

Just like their master, He Yi thought that it was best to have Qiao Nan take care of herself. This would avoid plenty of unnecessary problems in the future.

Qiao Nan sniffed. “I will consider it.”

“Mom.” Qiao Nan picked up the kids, who were waiting in line before the school gate. The moment Qiao Nan arrived, the teacher let the kids dash to their mother. San Bao grabbed onto Qiao Nan’s hand. “Mom, are your hands cold? Let me warm your hands.”

Qiao Nan pecked San Bao on her forehead. "I'm not cold. You should put on your gloves first. Da Bao, Er Bao, hop on. We are heading home."

On the way home, Qiao Nan drove cautiously. She wouldn't talk to the kids on the road, but she wouldn't stop the kids from chatting. "Kids, it seems like we have a guest today" Qiao Nan saw a Jeep parked in the garage.

"Guest? Who is it?" Er Bao was curious. His tiny legs shuffled into the room to reveal the answer. "Godmother!"

Er Bao's yell kept Qiao Nan informed. "Da Bao, San Bao, your godmother is here. She must have brought gifts for you. Quick, don't let Er Bao snatch everything."

Da Bao was not moved by Qiao Nan's words at all. He knew very well that Er Bao wouldn't dare to touch his portion of the gifts. San Bao was different. She loved to mess around with Er Bao, so she picked up the pace for the sake of quarreling with him.

Watching San Bao disappear, Qiao Nan was comforted by Da Bao's presence. After Old Master Zhai and Lin Yuankang left, Qiao Nan began to like Da Bao's similarities to his father. Whenever she looked at Da Bao, it was as if Zhai Sheng was right there with her. That gave her the confidence to overcome anything.

"Where did you find the time to visit me?" It was surprising to see Shi Qing at their home. "Aren't you guys addicted to military life?"

Qiao Nan had accepted her fate. Her husband, her sister-in-law, her childhood friend, and her best buddy were all the same. When a pal like Xu Shengnan finally came by, she ended up a workaholic.

It was fortunate for Xu Shengnan that her husband was a caring man who would spend more time on the family in her place. Since Xu Shengnan was so capable, he didn't have many complaints either. However, Qiao Nan always thought that Xu Shengnan should pay more attention to her family.

In the end, those around Qiao Nan were a bunch of hard workers. Was it true that birds of the same feathers flock together?

In comparison, Qiao Nan was the one who became the model mother.

“Don’t say that.” Shi Qing grinned with a blush. “My godsons are almost eight, and I am hitting twenty-nine.”

## Chapter 1503: Confidante Getting Married

“Your children are already in primary school, and I’m even a year older than you. Shouldn’t I hurry up and solve this personal problem of mine?”

“So, are you saying that you’re getting married to Zhu Baoguo?” Qiao Nan’s eyes widened and her tone was filled with surprise. “Oh, how did you two finally get through to it?” This was probably the only piece of news that made Qiao Nan rejoice after the passing of the two elders.

“What do you mean how we got through to it? Since we’re of that age now, we just decided to get married.” Shi Qing smirked proudly. “He asked for help from people in the army and proposed to me. He knelt down in the presence of so many people. How could I not agree? If I refused, he would not be able to lift up his head in the army anymore. I only agreed because he looked rather sincere.”

No matter how tough a woman appeared to be, there was always a soft and romantic heart within.

Before, Shi Qing had been waiting for Zhu Baoguo to make the move to propose. This time, when Zhu Baoguo had performed so well, how could Shi Qing not agree?

“Have the reports been completed?”

“Your husband approved them.”

“When?!”

“The 19th of February.”

“I’ll lend you my children to be flower boys!” This time, Qiao Nan was smiling out of true joy. A few years after the three children were born, Zhu Baoguo and Shi Qing had started dating. They had

survived even the seven-year itch but still made no mention of marriage. They were in no hurry, but that was not the case for all the old and young ‘eunuchs’ around them.

Now that these two young ones were finally going to get married, Qiao Nan knew how elated the Zhu family and the Shi family would be.

“That’s a must.” If Qiao Nan dared to disallow her children from being flower boys, she would force her to hand the children over.

“You’re already going to be a bride. What are you doing in my house? Shouldn’t you be making preparations? It’s been too easy for you two to come to this decision. Do your families have enough time to prepare?” From the decision to get married to the wedding itself, there was only about a month in between them. Was there really enough time?

She thought about Li Dawei, who was also going to get married in a month, but he had already been preparing for it for two to three months. Qiao Nan was truly worried for Shi Qing and Zhu Baoguo and whether they would be able to make sufficient preparations. After all, it would become their lifetime regret if they did not do this once-in-a-lifetime event well.

But Shi Qing was as calm as ever. “Don’t worry. I’m my parents’ only daughter. Besides, I am already engaged to Zhu Baoguo, so it’s not as if the two families haven’t been preparing for marriage. In fact, they’ve been preparing for it for more than a year. So what could we possibly be lacking? Our parents were so afraid that we wouldn’t make it in time that they’ve already finished preparing the wedding invitations for us! I’ll come again in a few days’ time to pass yours to you.”

“...” Okay, she had forgotten about that. “Are you sure that your dad and my godfather wrote the invitations because they were afraid you wouldn’t be able to make it? Or was it that they were annoyed that you two have been holding guns for too many years and have forgotten how to hold a pen? They may have been afraid that your illegible handwriting would cause their relatives to be mistaken that the standards of your two families are as low as your poor handwriting.”

“Hah, haha.” Shi Qing’s expression hardened. “Qiao Nan, your joke is really funny... Qiao Nan, you’re already a mom. Why can’t you show me some love and change that evil mouth of yours? Can you at least give me some respect as a godmother in front of the three children?”

While she was still studying, Shi Qing’s handwriting had been pretty good. But perhaps because she handled guns too often that she lost all chances of practicing her handwriting. When she registered for her marriage certificate with Zhu Baoguo, she had filled in the form herself and her handwriting had been so ugly that Shi Qing was unwilling to admit that she had written it.



It was only after Shi Qing saw that Zhu Baoguo's handwriting was even 'wilder' and 'unrestrained' than hers did she gain some comfort.

Shi Qing had spent more time in the capital. The moment Zhu Baoguo and Shi Qing finished writing their names, they went to collect their certificates. The next moment, Shi Peng immediately received a multimedia message. He stared at it and his eyeballs almost popped out of their sockets. He could hardly believe that those scrawls were his own daughter's.

Then, he looked at his son-in-law's. His lips quivered.

To say the least, his daughter had been a merit scholar in the sciences while she was still studying. He had been a civil servant himself, but why had his daughter regressed as she grew up? And as for his son-in-law's scribbles, he really had to close both eyes.

Shi Peng worried that if he were to have a grandchild, the grandchild might inherit their genes and have ugly handwriting. It would be depressing to go to school with such ugly handwriting.

Because of this matter, Shi Peng berated Shi Qing for a long while. Even Feng Cheng did not try to step in to help Shi Qing.

After this bloody lesson, Shi Peng discussed it with Zhu Baoguo and decided that it would be best for the adults to write the wedding invites, even if it was going to be more troublesome. Otherwise, he would lose all dignity.

Zhu Chengqi was in the same state as Zhai Yaohui. He had toiled through the busiest period of his youth. At the age of a grandfather, he could finally rest easy. Now that he had free time, Zhu Chengqi was naturally unwilling to let Zhu Baoguo ruin the family name.

Wang Yang had gotten married early. Now, Zhu Baoguo was the only one in the family who had not gotten married. In his generation, Zhu Baoguo was probably going to be the last one to hold a wedding. How would Zhu Chengqi be willing to let Zhu Baoguo ruin the family name? So he agreed with Shi Peng.

This matter was too humiliating. The two parties involved, Zhu Baoguo and Shi Qing, refused to mention it to anyone and tried to hide it. On the other hand, Shi Peng and Zhu Chengqi felt that it was too embarrassing to talk about it outside of their families. No matter what, the two children

were already going to get married. Because of that, they could not let other people mock their children at such a crucial moment. As such, they decided to help the children hide the fact of the matter.

Unexpectedly, Shi Qing had not even mentioned it but the moment Qiao Nan opened her mouth, the game was over.

Qiao Nan laughed. “Come, Da Bao, Er Bao, San Bao, bring your exercise books over and let your godmother check through them. Let her check if there are any incorrect characters.”

The eyes of the three children sparkled. Even the most matured Da Bao pursed his lips and curled them into a smile. The three children were bright and completely understood the conversation between Qiao Nan and Shi Qing. They knew that Qiao Nan intended to compare their handwritings with Shi Qing’s.

The thought of their own handwriting being better than their godmother’s put them in a very good mood indeed.

There was a ruckus as the three children hurriedly placed their exercise books in front of Shi Qing. Afraid that Shi Qing’s eyesight was poor, Er Bao specially put his exercise book right in front of Shi Qing. “Godmother, help me take a look at it.”

#### Chapter 1504: A Born Soldier

“If I have any mistakes, please correct me. Please teach me if my handwriting is bad.”

The word ‘please’ sounded like Er Bao needed a good beating.

“Er Bao, are you asking for it?” Shi Qing grabbed Er Bao by the chest and lifted him as if she was about to toss him away. Instead of fear, all Er Bao had was excitement. “Godmother, higher, higher!” No would lift him after his dad left. Mom said that grandpa was old, so he should be the one playing with grandpa.

The game had its surprise continuation with godmother’s arrival, and that was a wonderful thing to Er Bao.

“Bad boy!” Shi Qing wanted to teach Er Bao a ‘lesson’ as she raised him higher and spun around. She figured she would at least get him dizzy. How dare this boy mock his godmother!

Qiao Nan shook her head. “Put Er Bao down. Shouldn’t you act your age instead of his? You guys must have the same mental age to be able to have such fun.” Er Bao was eight and weighed tens of kilograms.

Qiao Nan was afraid that things could end up unpleasant.

“Godmother, my turn!” San Bao protested. Why was Er Bao the only one in the air? She liked it too!

Shi Qing felt her arms go numb. She wanted to put Er Bao down as well, but whenever she lowered her hands, Er Bao grabbed onto her arms, asking her to carry on.

Er Bao was enough to tire her out, and San Bao would be a torture. Shi Qing had a sudden realization that having children might be harder than military training.

Qiao Nan knew her kids well. Before San Bao could ditch the image of a demure girl and climb onto Shi Qing, Qiao Nan grabbed San Bao to her side. “San Bao, what happened to my demure girl? Do you still want a new dress this year?”

“Yes!” San Bao quickly gave up on the flight. “I want a nice dress, not an ugly one. Mom, will you be making it?” The dresses that her mom made were way prettier than those sold.

“Be a good girl, and I will make one for you.” She sure was committed.

San Bao was satisfied and she tidied up her outfit. “Godmother, go ahead and play with Er Bao. I am a demure girl.”

“...” Shi Qing, who had finally put Er Bao down, was taken aback by the quick change in attitude. She never knew that one could handle a child like this. “Qiao Nan, are all kids so easy to perk up?” If it was true, it seemed like having kids wasn’t so difficult after all.

If a simple dress were enough to settle her goddaughter, she imagined it would be easy to deal with her future daughter.

“Everyone has a tender spot. As long as you can find it, there is nothing difficult.” The key point was to know the kids’ preferences.

Shi Qing’s eyes widened as she nodded. “I see! I got it!”

...

You got it?

Bullsh\*t!

She couldn’t spill any vulgarity before the kids, and neither could she embarrass the children’s godmother. Therefore, she kept her words to herself. “The invitation is coming in a few days, so why are you here today?” She was curious.

“I have told Auntie Miao that I’m staying here tonight. I’m not leaving.” Shi Qing’s chortling made Er Bao clench his fists. “Godmother, your laughter is making me uncomfortable.”

Although Er Bao had been spinning in the air for a while, he marched straight to Qiao Nan. Shi Qing ignored his words and asked monotonously, “Er Bao, aren’t you dizzy?” Even Shi Qing tumbled after putting Er Bao down.

It was a good choice to put Er Bao down, or she might fall with him in her hands. It was no wonder that Qiao Nan called her crazy. She was indeed wacky at times.

The question was, how could Er Bao not feel a thing when she was all light-headed?

Er Bao blinked his eyes in confusion as he spun a few rounds on the spot. “Dizzy? Why would I be dizzy? It’s only been a few rounds. Godmother, it seems like your condition is much worse than mine. Let’s spin another hundred rounds to see if I get dizzy.”

“Qiao Nan, Er Bao’s sense of balance seems to be exceptional.” Shi Qing scratched her chin. “Do you and Brother Zhai have any plans for the kids in the future?”

“What do you mean?” She wanted to let the children decide, but it seemed like Shi Qing had other plans.

Shi Qing giggled. “You should give in on this matter. Like father like son, like mother like daughter. You know about Brother Zhai and Sister Zhai Hua better than anyone. I think that more than one of your kids will join the army. Er Bao seems like a perfect airman. It would be cool to fly a plane!”

Speaking of which, there was no airman in the family. She figured that Er Bao had the potential to be the first.

Qiao Nan caught a glimpse of the sparks in Er Bao’s eyes as she knocked Shi Qing in the head. “There is no hurry. Let’s think about that at a later time.” If possible, she wished that none of her children would be a soldier. Brother Zhai was enough. If her entire family were in the army, how was she going to live the rest of her life? They should at least leave her some company!

From the day Qiao Nan met Zhai Sheng, she was ready to be a soldier’s wife. However, when the days actually came, it was harsh to accept.

But there was no regret involved. To this day, Qiao Nan still felt that marrying Zhai Sheng was the best thing that happened to her.

Chapter 1505: Who Does Zhu Baoguo Like?

After she became a mother, her focus in life changed. Without her husband by her side, she just wished that her children would stay with her.

If all the kids were made to join the army, Qiao Nan would be genuinely lonely.

Er Bao pouted. “Mom, don’t you want me to be a hero like Dad?”

“That’s not what I meant.” Qiao Nan shook her head. “I just think that you are still young, and I don’t want the adults to influence you. Although your godmother said that you would be a great airman, you should still make the decision when you are older. If you persist or have any other ideas, you can tell me then.”

Er Bao pondered and thought that it was a great idea. “Yes.”

Shi Qing stuck her tongue out. She didn't expect Qiao Nan to take her words so seriously, and neither did she think that Qiao Nan would discuss with Er Bao. "Qiao Nan, is it troublesome to look after the kids? How does it compare to the college entrance examination? You have to be honest with me." She was uncertain again.

Qiao Nan's lips twitched. She finally got a grasp of Shi Qing's real intention. "What's wrong? Are you hiding here because you are afraid of marrying Zhu Baoguo in a month?" That was something Shi Qing did back in the days as well.

Shi Qing snorted. She didn't admit it, but neither did she deny it.

There were things that she didn't want to say before the children. After passing Qiao Nan a signal to continue the conversation at night, she dashed to the kitchen to help Miao Jing out. "Auntie Miao, I'm here to help. Wah! These dishes smell great! I'm starving."

Miao Jing was glad to hear that. "Right? These are the kids' favorites, and I made them all." With the grandchildren and Shi Qing praising her, she couldn't hide her smile.

After the kids started school, Miao Jing had more free time during the day. Compared to last time, she had an open mind now. Knowing that her cooking skills were worse than Qiao Nan's, she decided to join a cooking class.

During the day, Miao Jing would attend the class, and the dish that she had learned would appear promptly on the dinner table. When the kids loved a new recipe, Miao Jing would be overjoyed. The satisfaction of watching the children gobble down her food was not something she could receive from Zhai Yaohui.

Therefore, Miao Jing had discovered her new hobby. Just as Zhai Yaohui thought that it was time for Miao Jing to put all her attention on him, he was defeated by the kitchen. He failed again.

That was why Shi Qing's words hit the right spot.

Miao Jing had let go of her enmity toward Shi Qing since Shi Qing dated Zhu Baoguo. Thanks to Shi Qing's sweet words, she had become a third daughter in Miao Jing's eyes. "Qing Qing, your training and mission in the army must be tough. You have to eat well at home. Being too slim at the cost of your health is not a good thing for you." Miao Jing kept putting food on Shi Qing's plate.

“Thanks, Auntie Miao. Don’t mind me if I eat too much.” Shi Qing had always seen Qiao Nan as her own anyway. Miao Jing’s reassurance let her out of the cage. After the meal, she immediately got into Qiao Nan’s room and took a shower. Then, she put on Qiao Nan’s clothes, got into Qiao Nan’s bed, and waited for Qiao Nan’s ‘visit.’

When Qiao Nan came back after putting the kids to sleep, she was dumbfounded by what she saw. “What are you trying to do?” It should be Zhu Baoguo to ‘visit’ Shi Qing, not her. She didn’t have the tool needed for the job.

Walking to the bed, Qiao Nan covered Shi Qing’s exposed legs with her flipped dress and tossed the thick blanket onto her. Done!

“Why!” She took a while to get into a position to seduce Qiao Nan, who ruined the atmosphere. How lame. “Don’t you think that I was alluring?”

“That depends on your target.” Qiao Nan rolled her eyes and got under the blanket. “Don’t you know the temperature right now? What if you catch a cold?”

“There is a heater, and I’m feeling hot. There is no way I would catch a cold.” Shi Qing argued. “To be honest, what do you think of my pose just now? Was it seductive?”

Qiao Nan got a headache. “You guys really love to come to me with all your doubts. Fine, I’ll let it slide since you are going to be a bride soon.” It was a typical pre-wedding jitter. “Should we start with the reason for doing this?” Qiao Nan pointed at her thighs and did a flipping action. “You should still remember that I’m a girl, right? If I weren’t, would you have the guts to sneak into my bed?”

She was confused by Shi Qing’s intention.

Shi Qing blushed. “Qiao Nan, Zhu Baoguo has proposed to me. However, would the one he loves be you or me?” Most girls would be fighting over such topics.

However, Shi Qing had no hatred toward Qiao Nan while discussing the woman in her man’s heart. Shi Qing knew very well that Qiao Nan’s kids were already eight. Even as students, Qiao Nan only saw Zhu Baoguo as a child, and there was no room for any misunderstanding between them.

There was nothing else that Qiao Nan could do.

If Zhu Baoguo did have other thoughts, the fault would lie in Zhu Baoguo, and not Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan was touched by Shi Qing's conscience. "Don't be foolish. Zhu Baoguo is marrying you, not me. There was nothing to begin with between Zhu Baoguo and me."

"Not all guys marry the woman they love."

"Zhu Baoguo is one that does."

"Why?" Shi Qing raised her doubt.

Qiao Nan leaned back. "Don't forget one thing; I watched Zhu Baoguo grow up. How can I not understand him?"

Chapter 1506: I Raised Zhu Baoguo

"I can assure you that if the young lady that he likes was not you, he definitely would not have delayed this for so many years and even signed the papers with you. Even though it is true that he might have gotten engaged with you just to let Old Zhu leave peacefully, you should have a little confidence in yourself. Zhu Baoguo really likes you. Only you."

"Then..." Shi Qing's voice faltered. Unlike her typical straightforward way of speaking, she murmured something intelligible. It was so soft that Qiao Nan frowned, tilted, and leaned over to try to hear her. "What did you say?"

"Then..."

"..." Now that she had clearly heard what Shi Qing had to say, Qiao Nan was thoroughly speechless. "Just for this? My goodness. Don't you know that there are responsible men in this world? They will never cross that line before it becomes official."

Just because Shi Qing was willing to have a married life before marriage, she became suspicious that Zhu Baoguo disliked her because she had given her all, but Zhu Baoguo was not even moved. He refused to even touch a strand of her hair, and like a gentleman, he even used a blanket to cover the semi-exposed Shi Qing.



Upon hearing such a suspicion, the only thing that Qiao Nan could say was that Shi Qing had indeed only dated her first love, Zhu Baoguo. She had no knowledge of men. "I'm telling you that to men, there is no need for an emotional basis to do that thing in bed. Otherwise, will there even be prostitutes in this world?" Between the prostitute and her client, they would probably only have a second of eye contact. What kind of emotions would there be?

"But the problem is exactly that it doesn't need an emotional basis. Zhu Baoguo didn't even touch me. Doesn't that prove that Zhu Baoguo doesn't even feel what a normal man would feel when seeing a woman when he sees me?" Shi Qing's pre-marriage fears and hesitance was rather serious. It had reached the stage that she was scaring herself.

"Do you want to test whether Zhu Baoguo is really being a gentleman, or whether he doesn't have any feelings toward you?" Yes, based on the situation Shi Qing was in, Qiao Nan knew that no matter how much she tried to talk sense into Shi Qing or persuade her, it would just be wasting her efforts and time. If that was the case, she might as well let Shi Qing see for herself so that she could sleep well and be sure.

Shi Qing's eyes twinkled. "How do we do that?" She knew that she had not made a mistake to find Qiao Nan at such a time.

Actually, Shi Qing had just mentioned this on the spur of the moment as a joke. They had been in discussions about marriage for a few years and had already been engaged for a year or two. But when she heard the soldiers in her troop discussing whether Shi Qing would suddenly be pregnant when she got married, Shi Qing became upset. How could she become pregnant? She was still a virgin.

Other than holding her hand and pecking her on the face, that fool Zhu Baoguo had never dared to do anything more. How could she get pregnant?

Shi Qing was not so naive to the point that she did not know how women became pregnant.

After making a little fuss, Shi Qing suddenly realized that even if she was willing to tell others, no one would believe that she was still a virgin after having been in a relationship for such a long time. Since no one would believe it, she might as well make it happen.

But who would have expected Zhu Baoguo to have such a response even after Shi Qing was willing to put down her pride to tease Zhu Baoguo.

It was rare for Shi Qing to make the first move. But not only had Zhu Baoguo not taken the bait, he had even wrapped Shi Qing up with the blanket. Following that, Shi Qing was infuriated. Thankfully, she was thinking rationally. Otherwise, on the day that they had gone to sign the papers, Shi Qing would have given up on Zhu Baoguo and refused to sign those papers.

But Zhu Baoguo seemed to have sensed that Shi Qing was upset. On the day that they signed the papers, Zhu Baoguo rushed to the Shi family's house early in the morning and half-dragged Shi Qing into his car. That was how they managed to sign the papers.

If it was not for Zhu Baoguo's tough attitude on that day, the stubborn Shi Qing might have stuck to her guns. Just based on Zhu Baoguo's performance at that time, it was enough for Shi Qing, whose self-esteem as a woman had been hit hard, to say goodbye to him.

Seeing that Shi Qing was no longer as troubled as before, Qiao Nan let out a yawn. "Hand your phone over now and call Zhu Baoguo. Just say that you think getting married in February is too soon and that you haven't made up your mind. Since the wedding invites haven't been sent out yet, tell him that you want to delay it until May."

"What's the point of saying this?" Shi Qing was confused.

"Just do it."

"Oh." Shi Qing followed Qiao Nan's instructions and called Zhu Baoguo. "Hello, you fool, it's me. I want to discuss something with you. I think we're rushing our wedding a little too much. I think the 1st of May is a good date too. Shall we change the date of our wedding?"

The mobile phone was not close to Qiao Nan and she was so sleepy that she narrowed her eyes, almost falling asleep. After roughly hearing what Shi Qing said, she heard a deep angry breath from the phone. When the other party was speaking, his voice was not only loud but also anxious. He was speeding through his words and was basically in a state of rage.

"Oh, oh... Okay." Shi Qing's face grew increasingly red. Not even a minute ago, she had just said that she wanted to postpone her wedding to the 1st of May. She had even been as fierce as a tiger when saying that. But in a blink of an eye, her reply was soft and gentle, as though she was tickling someone gently with a feather.

It was even more teasing than when Shi Qing had lifted up her skirt to show off her pale thighs before.

“Qiao Nan, Zhu Baoguo berated me and insisted that we have to get married in February. We can push it forward, but not back. So what’s the result of your test?” After Shi Qing hung up, her attitude softened. She was no longer uneasy and short-tempered.

Qiao Nan forced her eyes open. “Don’t you know what I’m testing? Are you kidding? Why don’t you continue to stay angry at Zhu Baoguo and continue doubting whether he truly likes you?”

“Qiao Nan...” Shi Qing pushed Qiao Nan angrily, yet coquettishly. “You know that I’m not good with these things. Don’t tease me anymore. Can’t you just be straightforward with what you want to say?”

Now that a tomboy was acting coquettish, Qiao Nan felt goose bumps all over.

Qiao Nan shivered. “Zhu Baoguo insisted that your wedding can only be pushed forward, but not backward. This means that he can’t wait to become your husband officially. Then, you two can do whatever you want. You know this subconsciously. That’s why you’re happy. Zhu Baoguo’s stubbornness about the timing of the wedding also proves that what I said earlier isn’t wrong. Zhu Baoguo hopes to have a married life with you after the wedding.”

Afraid that Shi Qing was still in confusion, Qiao Nan added. “Do you believe that even if you wrap yourself up like a dumpling on your wedding night, Zhu Baoguo will rip them all off?” Zhu Baoguo was a child that she had ‘raised’ herself.

Chapter 1507: ‘Caught’ In the ‘Act’

She could swear on her life that Zhu Baoguo was a fine and handsome man, the kind that was about to go extinct in the 21st century.

How could Shi Qing be suspicious of the child that she had ‘raised’?

Shi Qing became even shyer, twisting her body and lying on Qiao Nan. Moving close to Qiao Nan’s ear, she said softly, “You mean that Zhu Baoguo really means to do that with me after we have our wedding?”

“What else do you expect?”

The moment Qiao Nan finished speaking, there was a series of rapid poundings on the door, frightening Qiao Nan and Shi Qing, who had been lying on the bed, especially Qiao Nan, who had been shocked out of her sleep. She bounced up from the bed and looked at the door in bewilderment. Seeing that familiar tall figure, Qiao Nan asked cautiously, “Brother Zhai, you’re already back at this time?” It was in the middle of the night.

Zhai Sheng stared down at Shi Qing so much so that her face paled and she shrank her neck toward her shoulders like a quail. Her hands quickly threw aside the blanket as she sensibly crawled down from the bed and wore her shoes. “C-can I go to Sister Zhai Hua’s room to sleep?”

“Otherwise?” Zhai Sheng’s expression was dark, and his tone was even worse. “Are you expecting to continue staying in my room and sleeping on my bed?” And all that while hugging his wife?

At this moment, Zhai Sheng felt as though he could kill Shi Qing.

After Shi Qing joined the army, she had always kept her hair short. After all that training, Shi Qing’s shoulders were that much broader than an average girl’s. Zhai Sheng had planned on giving Qiao Nan a surprise by returning in the middle of the night, and on such a freezing cold winter night like this, he wanted to hug his wife to sleep. Of course, it would be even better to do something that was beneficial to his mental and physical health before sleeping.

But who knew that the moment he opened the door, the one who was surprised was not Qiao Nan but himself.

Sadly, there was only shock and no joy. Which man would not be mistaken when he came home to see a feminine man lying in his own bed, sleeping where he should be, and lying on his side to speak to his wife?

Thankfully, Zhai Sheng was rational for the most part.

Such a ridiculous thought only briefly passed through Zhai Sheng’s mind for a second. No matter what, this was the Zhai family’s house. Other than the three children, there were still his parents. Which married woman would have an affair in her husband’s house, much less with her parents-in-law around?

Zhai Sheng knew that his parents were not fools. Most importantly, he believed that Qiao Nan would never betray him.

Once he calmed down, Zhai Sheng looked closely at the person occupying his position on the bed. He realized that the person looked rather familiar. After confirming that it was someone he knew, Zhai Sheng's expression remained dark even though he knew that it was a woman.

Zhai Sheng had never really been fond of Shi Qing. Zhu Baoguo was a man. Even if Zhu Baoguo had such thoughts before, Zhu Baoguo was smart enough to know to avoid it between men and women. But Shi Qing was so annoying. Just because she was a female, she fearlessly came to snatch his wife from him.

Sometimes, Zhai Sheng felt as though Shi Qing was a greater threat to him than Zhu Baoguo was.

After he chased Shi Qing out of his room with his gaze, he looked toward where Shi Qing had been lying down. His expression revealed his disgust. "Do we have any other quilt covers at home?"

"Yes..." Qiao Nan smiled forcefully. "Do you have to exaggerate so much?" When Shi Qing came, she had not been uneasy about lying down on the bed where Brother Zhai and Qiao Nan had done their private things.

Zhai Sheng snorted scornfully. "How can she compare with me? Her muscles are too thick to be a woman's. Anyway, she's already getting married to Zhu Baoguo. What's she still doing here?" If she had any problems, didn't she know to go to find Zhu Baoguo for help? If Zhu Baoguo couldn't help her, then what kind of man was Shi Qing marrying?

In essence, now that Zhai Sheng had finished ranting about Shi Qing, he turned his attention to Zhu Baoguo. The only reason why he had granted the marriage report of these two so decisively was that he hoped that once the two of them got together, they would no longer come over to the Zhai family's house whenever they had problems.

But he had never expected that Shi Qing would still come over to his house, sleep on his bed, and hug his wife even though she was already going to get married!

Zhai Sheng's hands itched. When he returned the army the next time, he would have to find Shi Qing and teach her a lesson on etiquette. As a woman, was it right for her to snatch someone else's wife? Was she that shameless?

Zhai Sheng was someone who relied on actions, not words. After saying that he felt uneasy and wanted to change, he dug out a clean four-piece set of bedding, and without hesitation or even Qiao Nan's help, he changed everything on the bed quickly. In all, he spent no more than ten minutes doing so.

When Qiao Nan lay back down, she felt as though the temperature where she had laid previously had not decreased sufficiently. Qiao Nan was still lost in her thoughts when Zhai Sheng, who had taken a bath, lay down naked and embraced Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan did not try to avoid him. "It seems like you haven't been away for long before coming back this year." Brother Zhai was back only after two months. This had never happened before.

"You prefer Shi Qing to spend time with you and the children rather than me?" Zhai Sheng bit Qiao Nan on the neck and expressed his dissatisfaction with his query.

Qiao Nan burrowed deeper into Zhai Sheng's embrace in an attempt to pacify him. "You know that's not what I meant. I'm just concerned about you. Don't get jealous so easily. If you're going to be like that, I'm going to be so stressed out. Shi Qing is a woman!" Forgetting about how he disliked Zhu Baoguo in the past, Qiao Nan could not wrap her head around why Zhai Sheng was even more hostile to Shi Qing than Zhu Baoguo, even though Shi Qing was clearly female.

She and Shi Qing were not lesbians. Shi Qing was even thinking about how to seduce Zhu Baoguo to go to bed with her. She did not have that kind of relationship with Shi Qing. What was Brother Zhai worried about?

Zhai Sheng pinched Qiao Nan unhappily. "Sometimes, women are scarier than men. You're already married, but she still dares to lie next to you with no self-awareness. I'm warning you. No one else other than me and you can lie on this bed, even if they are women."

When the three children were younger, they slept on the couple's bed too. But Zhai Sheng could not say anything. After all, these were his children whom Qiao Nan had given birth to.

Now that the three children had finally grown old enough to have their own rooms, they all had their own beds.

Chapter 1508: Pot Calling the Kettle Black

Zhai Sheng refused to allow someone else to continue occupying his bed. “My stubbornness about the bed is still better than your stubbornness about toothbrushes. I won’t back down on this matter.”

...

Now that he compared his bed to toothbrushes, Qiao Nan really had nothing else to say. “Fine. I understand.” Indeed, she would never let anyone touch a toothbrush that she had used. Once someone so much as touched it, she would refuse to use it after. “Okay, it’s already late. You’re tired too. Let’s sleep.”

Lying within Zhai Sheng’s embrace, the sleepy bug that had been chased away once again came back to find Qiao Nan. After yawning, Qiao Nan hugged Zhai Sheng’s arm as she rubbed her face against the pillow. She was ready to go to bed.

But who knew that what Zhai Sheng meant by ‘sleep’ did not mean the same thing that Qiao Nan was thinking about.

When Qiao Nan was sleepy again, a hot and thick hand filled with calluses started to lift up her clothes and found their way in.

“...”

Qiao Nan stared at Zhai Sheng in disbelief when she realized that Zhai Sheng had not stopped his movements but were increasing in intensity instead. Qiao Nan wondered in frustration if she was going to be able to ‘sleep’.

The next day, Qiao Nan was aching all over and her limbs were as limp as noodles. When she saw Zhai Sheng standing up tall under the sunlight after changing his clothes, Qiao Nan gritted her teeth in anger. “I see you’re in a good mood.” He had returned in the middle of the night. Instead of being tired, Brother Zhai had dragged her into several rounds of ‘exercise’.

The thought of this made Qiao Nan clench her jaw even harder. “How am I supposed to send the children to school today? And am I still supposed to go to work today? We’ve been married for eight years!” It was clearly something that they did on a usual basis as a seasoned couple. But during last night’s activity, Brother Zhai acted as though he had not eaten meat and almost finished her up while she was still alive.

The most infuriating thing was that the only person who had used his energy last night was Zhai Sheng. He had been in such good spirits. On the other hand, although she had been the one lying below, she no longer had any energy left to even get up today.

“I can send the three children to school. As for whether to go to work, do you want to apply for leave?” Even under Qiao Nan’s intense gaze, Zhai Sheng did not feel the slightest bit shameful. His expression was so bright that Qiao Nan really wanted to punch him. “If you want to apply for leave, I’ll make a call for you. Just have a good rest.”

“No!” They had been married for eight years. If other people knew that she had applied for leave for such a matter, she might as well tender her resignation. Even after several years of working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qiao Nan had never taken leave before. If she were to break her own record for something like that, it would be a lifetime regret for Qiao Nan. “It’s almost time. Hurry and send the three children to school. I’ll see to going to work myself.” If Brother Zhai intervened, it would only get more embarrassing.

Knowing that his wife was raging, Zhai Sheng rubbed his nose and stopped bothering Qiao Nan. He obediently went downstairs and sent the three children to school. The three children were already used to their father coming back only occasionally for short periods of time each time. But every time their father returned, their mother would suddenly become very tired. All along, their mother had the good habit of waking up early. But when he was back, she would change this habit and sleep in.

The three children said that they had grown up and were old enough to take care of themselves. They did not need their mother to spend all her time with them. Since their mother was so tired, they would let her have a good rest. Other than sleeping in for half an hour, their mother still had to go to work, just like how they went to school. It was truly difficult for her.

As to why their mother seemed to have a hard time and could never wake up on time to send them to school whenever their father returned, the three children had never thought too much about that. After all, they would never guess the reason at their age.

When Zhai Sheng returned from sending the three children to school, Qiao Nan was no longer at home and had insisted on going to work. Zhai Sheng frowned but did not say anything.

Upon seeing that Zhai Sheng had returned, Zhai Yaohui, who had been reading the newspaper, gave a knowing look to the auntie. The auntie placed a cup of hot tea down before sensibly picking up her bags, saying that she was going on a grocery run. With Miao Jing away at her interest class, only Zhai Yaohui and Zhai Sheng were left at home.



Only after the scene was cleared did Zhai Yaohui start to talk to Zhai Sheng. “Zhai Sheng, as a soldier, you’re supposed to be disciplined. You should have self-control and self-discipline. Where has your restraint gone? Have you returned everything that your old man taught you? Are you being filial?”

Thinking of how his daughter-in-law had woken up late and how her legs had been wobbly when she came down for breakfast, Zhai Yaohui’s gaze turned hostile. Zhai Yaohui had been there before, so he knew all too well why Qiao Nan was behaving like that. He knew of Qiao Nan’s dedication to her work, and how she left early and returned late because of that.

Her wonderful performance had almost been ruined by his own son. How could Zhai Yaohui not be angry? He could not understand how his son could be more affectionate than his wife, and how he could be so possessive. When Qiao Nan came downstairs earlier on, he was too embarrassed to even look her in the eye as a father-in-law.

After all, the one who had tortured her was his own son.

After clearing the house of other people, the deeply dissatisfied Zhai Yaohui really wanted to teach Zhai Sheng a good lesson and ensure that he would correct his mistake. “Don’t do that next time. Qiao Nan has quite a bad temper. If you ruffle her feathers, you’ll have a harder time in the future.”

Once women lost their tempers, they could be much fiercer than men.

That one sentence of ‘go sleep in the study room’ was enough to change the expressions of all men.

Zhai Yaohui calmly took a sip of the tea that the auntie had just made. Then, as though he did not take any of his father’s words to heart, he said, “Dad, this is like the pot calling the kettle black. Do you really think that I’ve forgotten about all that happened between you and Mom? Unlike you, I don’t have such a good life. Nan Nan will never have her world revolve around me, like how Mom’s does around you. She won’t stay with me in the army, so I haven’t even applied for a larger room. I’ve been bunking with others.”

Initially, when Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan got married and became a couple legally, with Zhai Sheng’s position in the army, it would have been a breeze for Zhai Sheng to apply for a position for Qiao Nan to follow him.

## Chapter 1509: My Child Is the Best

If Zhai Sheng did apply, it would definitely be permitted since Qiao Nan had the necessary qualifications.

Unfortunately, Qiao Nan had no time to follow the troops.

Among the soldiers' wives, a woman as successful and busy as Qiao Nan was hard to come by. She had no time to think about her husband all day.

Qiao Nan was the most independent wife among all.

Knowing that Qiao Nan had her plans and lifestyle, Zhai Sheng didn't want to restrain her. As long as Qiao Nan was happy, he gave her all the freedom she needed. However, this resulted in him spending less time with Qiao Nan.

When he saw his soldiers getting married and bringing their wives and children to the camp, Zhai Sheng was envious as well. He knew very well that this day would not come soon between Qiao Nan and him.

Qiao Nan couldn't live in the camp, so the only times they met was when Zhai Sheng came home.

The last time Zhai Sheng was back, Old Master Zhai said some strange things. When he visited Elder Lin, he found out that the latter had gastric cancer, which was in its late stage, and that he didn't have much time left.

The two elders were like two mountains pressing against Zhai Sheng's heart. In other words, although Zhai Sheng stayed at home for a long time, he didn't get to spend it with Qiao Nan. After all, worry turned into sorrow when the elders passed, and they didn't have the mood to do anything else.

When it was time for Zhai Sheng to return to the camp, he didn't even get to lay a finger on Qiao Nan. As an energetic and healthy man, it was a torture to be away from his wife for half a year.

If he didn't do anything last night, Zhai Sheng felt that he would have been burned alive by lust. If it weren't for the old master's teachings, it would have been wilder.

Zhai Sheng didn't think that he did anything wrong.

"..." Zhai Sheng's expression was as if he had toned down a notch, and Zhai Yaohui found his shamelessness absurd. What's there to be proud of? When he was young, he was way better than him!

However, Zhai Yaohui's expression soon froze, and a hint of grief was written on it. "It's good that they are reunited." Otherwise, Old Master Zhai would have been alone with no one around.

Recalling his mother that passed away long ago, Zhai Yaohui could still feel the pain. The day would come eventually for him as well, and Zhai Yaohui realized how hilarious it was to be quarreling with his son. It was no wonder that Miao Jing thought he was more childish than Da Bao.

Time treats everyone equally, and that includes Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin, who lived in Ping Cheng. "Look, Zijin, is the woman on the news Qiao Nan?" Ding Jiayi was watching the news on TV, and she hurriedly called Qiao Zijin over.

"What is it? Why do you have to wake me up? Don't you know that I have to go out later?" Her body was exposed under a thin nightdress. Qiao Zijin yawned as her eyes followed Ding Jiayi's finger. Her face turned pale for a moment, but she soon came back to her sense. "Yes, it's Qiao Nan."

How many years had it been?

Qiao Zijin realized that she couldn't recall the last time she had met her. When she was a child, she wished every day that Qiao Nan would disappear, and Qiao Zijin would be the only child. When the day finally came, Qiao Nan wasn't the only one missing. Qiao Dongliang left with her as well.

That was different from her childhood dream.

"Is... is she?" Ding Jiayi couldn't even get her mind straight. "Did she become a politician? Did she really make it into the executives? Impossible! No way!" Qiao Dongliang was so successful, but he couldn't even become a battalion commander. How could someone like Qiao Nan find her way to the seat of a government executive?

“Mom, can you even read? Are you deaf? She’s just a minister of foreign affairs! What’s so amazing about that?” Qiao Zijin spoke against her heart. “Also, she’s just lucky to marry into a good family. Her husband was already a regiment commander, and he would probably be taking over his father soon. Qiao Nan can get anything she wants with such a background.”

Qiao Zijin was saying that Qiao Nan’s achievements were all thanks to marrying into the Zhai family.

Ding Jiayi wasn’t stupid. “This is not an easy position to get. The news said that Qiao Nan is the first female minister in our country. She’s the first!” Even if she couldn’t understand the rest, she knew what the word ‘first’ meant. She knew about the female emperor in the past, and she figured Qiao Nan would be something like that.

“Is Qiao Nan stepping up now? I saw nothing in her when she was young. She was all scrawny and quiet. How could a kid like that turn out successful?!” She could never imagine the status of an executive of the central government.

The highest expectation for Qiao Dongliang she had was only a battalion commander. Qiao Dongliang couldn’t reach that goal in the end, but Qiao Nan became the kind of person that she dreamed of. That was something that she would never have imagined.

If it were in the past, it would be like sending the butcher’s child to the emperor’s office.

When she realized that a child of such status was her daughter, she couldn’t hide her laughter. “Hahaha! Those women in the Ding family always mocked me for not having a son. They said that I would have no one to send me off. What now! Who else can give birth to a child as successful as mine?”

Chapter 1510: What Reason Do You Have?

“I am the best in the Ding family. The Ding family will have to depend on me to live well. Me! Ding Jiayi!”

Who else could raise a child to be as successful as hers? It didn’t matter if it was a boy or a girl. The only thing that matters was that her child was the better one. Who else could find a job in the capital? Who else could become a politician?

Who?

Who?

Ding Jiayi was the only one! Her belly was the most worthy of all!

“Mom, what’s wrong with you!” Qiao Zijin grabbed Ding Jiayi’s sleeves. “It’s been so long. People might think that you are crazy if you keep acting like this. Also, don’t forget about our relationship with Qiao Nan. Would she even admit that you are her mother? What does her success have to do with you?”

“Why would she not admit it? She has no reason not to admit it. She is a governor now, and the whole country has got eyes on her. I raised her, and no one would forgive her if she doesn’t admit it. If she dares to do that, I will create a scene and bring her down with me!”

Against Qiao Nan, Ding Jiayi would never go easy. If she were a normal mother, she would never threaten Qiao Nan’s job despite her anger. However, Ding Jiayi had no such worries. If she couldn’t enjoy Qiao Nan’s success, why would she allow Qiao Nan to hold such a high status?

She gave Qiao Nan her life, so what’s wrong with making Qiao Nan repay her? How could Qiao Nan reach that position without her?

Although Qiao Nan’s hard work was important, she was the one that gave birth to Qiao Nan, and she was the one that allowed Qiao Nan to do anything in the first place.

Ding Jiayi felt that there was nothing wrong with Qiao Nan repaying her, and she definitely didn’t feel bad. “I’m moving out of Ping Cheng, I’m going to live in the capital. I will never be a loser again. Hahaha!!”

No one was as lucky as her, and she had the best child.

She always knew that she was an extraordinary woman. The Ding family was ignorant, for they disliked her and sold her to an old and ugly man in exchange for her brother’s wedding gift. Everything was the Ding family’s fault, and she did nothing wrong!

“Zijin, I hate to say this, but how can you behave like this as a university graduate? Staying up through the night and sleeping during the day, what have you turned yourself into? Also, how long

has it been since you visited your daughter? Do you still care about your marriage? Don't stay with me all the time. Go back to your husband!"

She wanted to leave for the capital, and the house here would be empty. If no one took care of Zijin, Zijin would live like a pig. This house carried Ding Jiayi's memories, and she didn't want Qiao Zijin to turn it into ruins. The best solution was for Qiao Zijin to go back to her in-laws.

"No!" Qiao Zijin's expression changed. "The reason for me being here is that Zhou Zheng slapped in the face. I've never even been beaten by you. How could Zhou Zheng have the guts to slap me?" Her parents never laid a finger on her before, so Zhou Zheng had no reason to beat her.

Why would she need a man like that?

He wouldn't compare to a fraction of Zhai Sheng, and Zhai Sheng would never beat a woman. These thoughts elevated Qiao Zijin's burning anger. She wanted to divorce and make the Zhou family return everything they had received from her.

Didn't she have a mirror? Why was she acting like the victim when she was the one cheating? How shameless!

Ding Jiayi frowned. "How can you blame Zhou Zheng for this? I think it was your fault. I have divorced with your father for so many years, but have I ever disgraced myself? Your father is still the only man in my life. You, on the other hand, are already messing around with other men while being married. As long as Zhou Zheng is a man, he would never forgive you for this."

Ding Jiayi found her embarrassing.

Qiao Zijin had given birth to a daughter after two years into the Zhou family. Thankfully, the Zhou family didn't discriminate against her. The elders cherished their granddaughter, and they didn't even need Qiao Zijin to take care of her.

Not only the elders, but Zhou Zheng loved his daughter as well.

For that, Ding Jiayi was satisfied with the Zhou family. She had the right to discriminate against her daughter, but she wouldn't allow others to judge her granddaughter. Nothing meant more than that to Ding Jiayi.

Who would have known that Qiao Zijin would start making a scene just a few years in.

She was caught in another man's bed by Zhou Zheng. Instead of apologizing, Qiao Zijin went rampant. Zhou Zheng, enraged, gave Qiao Zijin a slap across her cheek. Qiao Zijin then returned to her mother's place in a fit of anger. It's been two months ever since, and Qiao Zijin hadn't gone back to her in-laws.

Qiao Zijin demanded Zhou Zheng's apology, or she would never return to the Zhou family. Why did he have to hit her? As long as Zhou Zheng raised his hand, he was the one at fault. There was no other way around this!

At home, Ding Jiayi took care of Qiao Zijin just like before. Other than the fact that Qiao Zijin had to pay for her expenses, it was the same as the old days. Of course, Qiao Zijin had forgotten about returning to the Zhou family after she got comfortable at home.

When Ding Jiayi wanted to go to the capital, Qiao Zijin couldn't control her temper. Ding Jiayi's scolding made her mood even worse. "Mom, are you my mother or Zhou Zheng's mother? How can you turn against your daughter? Aren't you angry that Zhou Zheng hit me? He doesn't have the right to hit me no matter what the reason is!"

Ding Jiayi snorted as she packed her clothes. "Did Zhou Zheng not have a reason to hit you?"