

RTAMM 1551

Chapter 1551: Not Going to Give It to You

Her father and grandma didn't like her in the first place. Now that she had a little brother they doted on, she didn't want to follow her father. Her mother only had her, and she treated her well. If she didn't follow her mother, her mother would have nothing. She liked her mother and wanted to follow her and her maternal grandparents.

Fang Ling Ling clearly expressed her wishes and the court naturally handed her over to Xu Shengnan. With added support from Fang Ling Ling, the court also increased the percentage of Xu Shengnan's ownership of the house from eighty-two to eighty-five.

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Also, before Fang Ling Ling reached the age of eighteen, Fang Shiyou had to give her a living allowance. However, Xu Shengnan had to bear the expenses herself if she enrolled Fang Ling Ling into additional and more expensive tuition classes. Fang Shiyou had to provide for Fang Ling Ling's normal schooling fees and monthly living allowance.

After the verdict of their divorce, the court gave Fang Shiyou a multiple-choice question. Number one, Fang Shiyou would give Xu Shengnan eighty-five percent of the house price so that the house belonged to him. Number two, if Fang Shiyou couldn't produce the money, Xu Shengnan would give him fifteen percent of the house price so that the house belonged to her. Number three, if both parties didn't have the money, they would sell the house and split the money accordingly.

Of course, Fang Shiyou couldn't choose the first option. He could only naturally choose between the second and the third. "I choose to sell the house!" Knowing that the house's price would increase in the future, Fang Shiyou was jealous. Even if the house couldn't belong to him, he would definitely not let Xu Shengnan have this advantage as well.

Xu Shengnan was a really ruthless woman. He had taught their daughter badly, causing him to be left with nothing. Even his only house had to be given up. If he had known that Xu Shengnan was such a woman, he wouldn't have married her back then. Perhaps he wouldn't be bullied so badly by Xu Shengnan today.

In the face of Fang Shiyou's accusations, Xu Shengnan naturally refused to acknowledge them. "Fang Shiyou, don't say your words so beautifully. Do you really think I don't know anything? You married me back then because I had a good job and a high salary. Most importantly, my family and I had just moved to the capital. Aside from my parents, I don't have any relatives. If any conflict happened between us, nobody would stand out for me. Do you think I don't know any of these?"

Fang Shiyou was just trying to bully her, seeing that she was a foreigner and had no foundation in the capital. After getting married, only Fang Shiyou could propose a divorce. It was generally impossible for her to do so.

It turned out that Fang Shiyou had harbored such bad ideas since the day they started to fall in love. She was too young back then and was deceived by Fang Shiyou's honest face. She definitely would not be tricked a second time if she met someone like Fang Shiyou again. "So be it. I'm okay. If I don't have the house, at least I have money."

Xu Shengnan really didn't want to be entangled with a man like Fang Shiyou anymore. It wasn't as if she didn't have a house. After selling the house for money, she could bring Ling Ling back to her parents' home. Coincidentally, her parents were lonely. They would definitely be happy if she brought Ling Ling home.

Seeing that Xu Shengnan didn't seem to have any attachment to their house and she couldn't wait to sell it quickly so that she could get some money, Fang Shiyou was so angry that his face turned green.

In order to prove that he didn't care more about their past than Xu Shengnan, after the court had made the ruling, Fang Shiyou took the real estate certificate and went to find an intermediary to sell the house without another word.

'Coincidentally', just as Fang Shiyou stepped into the intermediary company, an intermediary was on the phone. Someone was asking for a listing similar to Fang Shiyou's house. "Oh, okay. Boss, I've noted down your requests. It should be within the 3rd Ring Road and more than a hundred square meters. The house price should be below twenty million yuan. Okay, I'll let you know immediately once we have news of such a listing."

If he could really sell this house, the commission alone wouldn't be a small sum of money. He was going to be rich.

“Hello, sir. Do you want to buy a house or sell a house? Or perhaps, are you looking to rent a house?” Once the intermediary hung up the call and saw Fang Shiyou, he gave him a professional smile and asked him with politeness.

Fang Shiyou looked embarrassed. When the intermediary was repeating the housing conditions just now, he had listened to every word of it. Upon thinking about the real estate certificate on his hands, Fang Shiyou revealed a pained expression. It was afraid that this house couldn't be retained anymore and had to be sold.

“Why? Can't bear to sell the house? I've said it before. If you give me more than twelve million yuan or if I give you two million yuan, the house can still be retained. You refused both options, so let's do this simply. I don't want to continue keeping in touch with you. If it's possible, aside from Ling Ling, let's not meet in the future.” Xu Shengnan was expressionless. It was good if they sold the house. That way, she could completely abandon the past and lead a good life with Ling Ling.

Fang Shiyou snorted and laughed coldly. “Don't even think about it. Even if you could produce the money, I wouldn't leave this house to you and let you have an advantage. Sell!” Leave the house to Xu Shengnan and watch the house price increase? In her dreams!

“Let's go!” Xu Shengnan didn't hesitate. She only wanted a result as soon as possible and didn't think as much as Fang Shiyou for the other aspects.

There was a ready buyer. When Fang Shiyou first heard the call just now, he had a mistaken feeling that Xu Shengnan had found this intermediary and put on this act deliberately in front of him. However, Fang Shiyou couldn't be bothered with anything right now. He was completely agitated by Xu Shengnan, who couldn't wait to draw the lines clearly between them.

Xu Shengnan didn't find this intermediary. Fang Shiyou was very confident about this. Xu Shengnan couldn't wait to split ways with him. He wasn't willing to look at her face any longer as well. “Hello, we are here to sell our house. Here's some basic information about the house.”

“Oh, how coincidental. I received a buyer's call just now. Your house suits his requests.” The intermediary's eyes shone. He was still thinking of working hard to close this deal. Who knew that before he could find out more information about the house, a ready seller had come knocking on his door? “Are you sure you want to sell this house? If you are, I can help you contact the buyer now. What's the selling price you have in mind?”

“If everything goes well, we can settle all the necessary procedures for this house in a week.”

Upon thinking of closing a transaction worth tens of millions in a week, the intermediary’s face flushed a healthy red.

“Selling for eighteen million yuan!” Fang Shiyou gritted his teeth and quoted a price. If it was destined that he couldn’t retain this house, then the only thing he could do now was to try and sell this house at a higher price so that he would have more money on hand then.

Fang Shiyou had already made the calculations. Although his salary wasn’t as high as Xu Shengnan’s, he had good benefits and there was a central provident fund. If this house could be sold for eighteen million yuan, he could still get 2.7 million yuan for his share of fifteen percent. Moreover, he had been contributing to the central provident fund for over ten years now.

After putting the money together, he could still buy a small house within the 5th Ring Road. He had already given up buying a house within 3rd Ring Road. It wasn’t that he couldn’t afford the down payment. It was that the subsequent payments were too difficult to handle. His salary wasn’t as high as Xu Shengnan’s. Otherwise, he could have bought a house that was approximately ninety square meters within 3rd Ring Road.

Fang Shiyou wasn’t a hard-working person. Otherwise, Xu Shengnan wouldn’t have been the only one paying for this house’s mortgage. Instead of buying a house of ninety square meters within 3rd Ring Road and making his life tougher in the future, he would rather buy a house of a hundred square meters within 5th Ring Road.

Furthermore, the houses within 5th Ring Road weren’t cheap. Three or four million yuan could only pay for half of the house. He still had to take up a house loan of three million yuan. Once he thought of this figure, Fang Shiyou felt a headache. This meant that he could no longer spend money so casually like he used to. Once there were opportunities, his mother and his true love would have to go out and work as well.

Otherwise, if he was the only one paying the mortgage, even if his salary had increased, he would still have to pay the mortgage for at least ten years, right? If all his salary was used to pay for the mortgage, where would the living expenses for their family of four come from? Of course, he had to rely on his mother and his true love to earn some money so that they could continue leading their lives.

Once he thought of these money issues, Fang Shiyou had the urge to die.

Perhaps, he had been pampered by Xu Shengnan in the past. Xu Shengnan had paid for everything, including the mortgage, back then. Not only did she bear all the family's expenses, but she had also helped Fang Shiyou arrange everything properly. When Fang Shiyou was enjoying his blessings, he only remembered Xu Shengnan's domineering attitude and had completely forgotten how considerate she was to him.

After leaving Xu Shengnan, Fang Shiyou had to rely on himself to settle and arrange everything. Even at the moment of receiving the divorce certificate, Fang Shiyou didn't have any thoughts of regrets. Instead, when he thought of how he was going to pay the mortgage in the future and how tough his life was going to be, he started to look at Xu Shengnan differently. "Shengnan..."

Xu Shengnan was so frightened by Fang Shiyou's tone that she shivered. In the past, Fang Shiyou had addressed Xu Shengnan in such a manner before. Back then, Xu Shengnan felt that she was blessed to have a husband who understood her well. Others felt that she was too domineering and would make men feel inferior. However, Fang Shiyou didn't feel that way. Instead, he felt that it was good for her to be like this and would always call her name gently.

Now, Xu Shengnan knew that the happiness she once had was fake. After hearing Fang Shiyou addressing her in such a manner, Xu Shengnan had the urge to wash her ears. "Eighteen million yuan? Fang Shiyou, do you think that your house has particularly good Feng Shui that it has to be three million more expensive than others? Do you think that everyone's a fool?"

Upon hearing this price, it was clear that he wasn't sincere in selling. She had heard before that houses could be a few hundred thousand or one million yuan more expensive, but not three million yuan. Furthermore, the few hundred thousand or one million yuan was just part of the bargaining price range.

"Not bad..." The intermediary looked embarrassed. The couple came to sell their house together but their tones were harsh. It was clear that they were not on good terms. It was obvious this couple was divorced and was selling their house to split the money accordingly. It wasn't the first time that the intermediary had seen such an example. "I'm guessing this sir here is quoting eighteen million yuan

because he heard the contents of my phone conversation just now, right? The buyer wants a house that costs lower than twenty million yuan. However, no one is a fool. The house must be priced accordingly. At this moment, it's not cheap or expensive to quote your house at fifteen million yuan. However, it's too overboard to quote it at eighteen million yuan.”

The intermediary wanted to earn more commission as well. However, the problem was that transactions normally wouldn't be successful with such ridiculous prices quoted. Which buyer wouldn't want a more realistic price?

“If you insist on eighteen million yuan, I can only say that the buyer on the call just now isn't suitable for your house. You can't rush when selling a house. If you're not in a rush, you can leave your house's information with me first. Perhaps, there would be someone who particularly likes your house in the future and wouldn't mind forking out such a price to buy it.”

Although the intermediary had said these words, he was clear that there wasn't a high possibility to sell it out at this price, unless housing prices in the capital rose again within the next couple of months.

“We are in a hurry. We're not selling it at eighteen million yuan. Our asking price is fifteen million yuan. The buyer isn't allowed to bargain and quote a second price.” Xu Shengnan owned a higher percentage of the house. How would she let Fang Shiyou make the call? “Fang Shiyou, even if you're asking for thirty million yuan, you would, at most, obtain 450,000 yuan. However, if you want to buy a house, the latter wouldn't help you much either. I've said before that I don't want to contact you much again. It's rare that there's a ready buyer now. Let's split ways early then!”

Fang Shiyou's face darkened and he squeezed these words out. “Deal. Fifteen million yuan then. Please help us to make the contact.”

After the negotiations, the intermediary smiled. The price of fifteen million yuan was quite sincere. After contacting the buyer, the buyer immediately agreed and even asked the intermediary to keep the couple there as he was coming over with the money to buy the house now. The buyer said that he knew someone in the unit and had all the money ready. He could even obtain the property certificate today.

The more the intermediary listened, the happier he was. After being in the job for so long, he had never had a day as smooth as today. He spent only half a day for a transaction worth fifteen million yuan.

Chapter 1553: What a Realistic Young Lady

In less than two hours after the buyer appeared, a fifteen-million-yuan card indeed appeared in Xu Shengnan's hands. So, the property deed of this house naturally belonged to someone else.

Once she received the money, Xu Shengnan immediately transferred the amount that the court had ruled as Fang Shiyou's into his account without hesitation. "Fang Shiyou, from now on, there is nothing between us." With this, Xu Shengnan left without even turning back, leaving Fang Shiyou alone there in a daze.

With the divorce certificate and his bank card in his hands, Fang Shiyou questioned himself as to whether it had been right for him to go through with this divorce.

"You're back?" When Mother Fang saw that her son was listless, she knew that all procedures had been completed. From today, Xu Shengnan was no longer her daughter-in-law. "All right, now that things are the way they are, there's no use for us to keep thinking about it. You're free now, so you should be able to bring the one outside home, right? Don't forget that she has your son, my grandson, in her stomach!"

Other than not being able to give her a grandson, Mother Fang had to admit that Xu Shengnan was a rarely seen good daughter-in-law.

Xu Shengnan had paid for everything in their family. As for whatever her son earned, it was up to him how he wanted to spend it. Even so, Xu Shengnan had never looked down on her mother-in-law or her husband or bullied them just because she had spent so much on their family.

Unfortunately, whatever she said or did was useless as long as she did not produce a son.

Fang Shiyou entered the bathroom to freshen up. "I won't be able to bring her back for the time being. The rented house she's staying in is pretty good. I've already paid for the rent and the contract only expires in a month. Not only will she not move over here, but we'll have to move over there. The house is no longer ours, so we won't be able to stay here any longer."

Since this was no longer their house and they had to move out, there was no point in asking his girlfriend to move in and then move out. It would only be upsetting for everyone then.

“The total sum of what I’ve saved over these years and the money I got today, as well as my pension, doesn’t even add up to four million yuan. Tomorrow, I’ll go to the 4th Ring and 5th Ring to see if there are any suitable houses for us to purchase. Then, our family of four can move over together.”

“We’re not going to stay in the 3rd Ring neighborhood anymore? Won’t it be far from your workplace and difficult for you to travel back and forth?” Mother Fang did not think of much, but she was reluctant to let her son toil so hard after having enjoyed a good life for the first half of his life. “If you really buy a house, how will you pay for the mortgage? You have to marry that woman, but you aren’t as capable as Xu Shengnan to carry the entire burden of the mortgage.”

Fang Shiyou laughed bitterly. “Didn’t you say that everything was worth it as long as it was for my son? We can’t say anything now that this is what the court ruled. No matter how hard it is, I’ll have to bear that burden. Who else can I blame for wanting a son and you wanting a grandson? If we have to live further, then that’s what we’ll do. At least, Xu Shengnan wasn’t so bitter and the car is still mine. And she didn’t take a single cent of whatever savings I accumulated over these past few years.”

He had made his own calculations before giving his mistress an allowance. Fang Shiyou would never touch the savings that he had accumulated. When his salary was insufficient, he would either ask Mother Fang or Xu Shengnan for money.

At least, Fang Shiyou still had some money. Otherwise, at this point in time, there was nothing else Fang Shiyou and his mother could do but cry.

“Shiyou, do you think this will work? Why don’t we forget about buying a house and just rent a house in the 3rd Ring?” It would be easier that way.

“No.” Fang Shiyou shook his head in refusal. “In those days, you and Dad worked so hard just to buy a house. Dad had overworked himself while he was still young and that was why he left us so early. There’s no reason for me to live like we did in the past and only rent a house instead of living in our own house, especially after how hard Dad had worked just to buy a house to settle down in the capital. Moreover, even if it’s just a small house, without a house of more than ninety square meters, your grandson’s mother may not be willing to marry into our family. Then, your grandson may not even be able to enter this world.”

Mother Fang’s expression soured. “Young ladies nowadays are so realistic. They don’t look at a person’s character but at his money? While you were with Xu Shengnan, our house was not big either. It was even smaller than the one that Xu Shengnan was living in. Xu Shengnan didn’t even

despise us even after moving from a big house to a small one. We were the ones who requested to sell that small house to move into a bigger one.”

Now that she compared this young lady to Xu Shengnan in the past, she was seriously much worse.

Fang Shiyou did not know if he should laugh at himself or his mother. Instead, he only said monotonously, “Xu Shengnan is good at everything but giving birth to a son. That’s her only weakness. That’s enough to wipe out all her good points. That woman may have a thousand shortcomings, but she’s able to give you a grandson, and that’s enough to cover all her shortcomings. Mom, this is what you normally tell me.”

“...” Mother Fang was stunned for a moment and could not answer him. “I-it’s not that I don’t want to, but a house this big like ours already costs more than ten million yuan. If we give it to Ling Ling, won’t it be letting someone else stand to gain from it? If we have a grandson, that’s different. I just want our Fang family’s assets to be left to the Fang family’s children. Isn’t that only right after all?”

A house worth ten million yuan—she had toiled her entire life with her husband but could not even afford a fraction of that. Mother Fang was extremely reluctant for such a huge fortune to be transferred to someone else the moment Ling Ling got married.

Now, Fang Shiyou would no longer be mystified by such words.

It no longer mattered whether their family had a son or daughter because that highly valued property was no longer the Fang family’s.

At this time, the news that Mother Fang had set the timer for suddenly popped up. It was just as well. Mother Fang felt as though Fang Shiyou was blaming her for everything that had happened, so she decided to turn her attention to the TV to avoid eye contact with Fang Shiyou.

But when Mother Fang saw that beautiful face on the TV, she was taken aback. Mother Fang rubbed her eyes, took a closer look at the face shown on the TV, and then rubbed her eyes again. Her eyesight was fine. “Shiyou, who is this young lady? Why is she on the TV? I remember I set the TV for CCTV.”

“This is the new minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who has only been in office for a few years. She’s really impressive. She’s not only beautiful but also capable. Very few women have the

ability to become the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.” Talking about this, Fang Shiyou thought of Xu Shengnan.

Compared to ordinary women, Xu Shengnan had done what most others could not.

Chapter 1554: Don't Watch the News

Now that he thought about it rationally, capable women were really quite attractive despite giving off a suppressive air. Forget it. It did not matter what he thought now. Not only had he divorced Xu Shengnan, but the house had also been sold. The buyer had requested that he move out of the house within three days.

“You... wait a minute.” Mother Fang’s expression changed drastically and she rushed into what used to be Fang Ling Ling’s room. Then, she took out a photo from the room and passed it over to Fang Shiyou. “Shiyou, look at this. This young lady is the spitting image of that female minister on TV that you talked about. Don’t they look like identical twins?”

Fang Shiyou frowned and took the photo over from his mother. “What do you mean by identical twins? This is that female minister. Wait, that’s not right. Why do you have her photo? And why did Ling Ling take a photo with this female minister? When did this happen? Why don’t I know about this?”

Suddenly seeing his daughter standing with a central committee cadre to take a photo almost shocked Fang Shiyou out of his wits. “Ling Ling has quite the luck to be able to meet a national cadre in tuition class!”

At this moment, Mother Fang could not even force a smile out. “Ling Ling indeed has better luck than what you said. Ling Ling didn’t meet this female cadre by chance. Ling Ling meets this female cadre a few times a year and has quite a good relationship with her. Otherwise, we definitely would not have such a photo at home. Most importantly, I know that all the photos in the phone that Xu Shengnan bought for Ling Ling are of her and this female cadre!”

Oh, my goodness! What kind of treasure had the Fang family given up?

If they had known about this earlier, there was no way she would have allowed her son to get divorced from Xu Shengnan and even let her granddaughter follow Xu Shengnan. Since Ling Ling

had such a good relationship with this female cadre, she definitely would have a good career progression in the future. She might even follow in this female cadre's footsteps and join the central committee. She wouldn't exchange such a granddaughter for even ten grandsons!

A grandson could carry on the family line, but Ling Ling would be able to bring the Fang family to even greater heights!

"Ling Ling meets this female cadre a few times a year and her phone is full of photos with this female cadre? How is that possible? Mom, what's going on? Do you know what you're saying?" Fang Shiyou's face paled. He suddenly realized that he knew so little about Xu Shengnan and Fang Ling Ling.

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Otherwise, why had he never heard about anything his mother was saying? If he had known that his daughter had such a good relationship with such an important figure, he would never have let his relationship with Xu Shengnan deteriorate to today's state so much so that he had even lost the house.

Mother Fang let out a smile that was worse than crying. "Doesn't Xu Shengnan have a junior whom she's very close to in the capital? I heard our ex-in-laws talk about it before. The reason why Xu Shengnan was able to secure such a good job was all thanks to her junior. Every holiday, Xu Shengnan will bring Ling Ling to visit that junior. This young lady in the photo is Xu Shengnan's junior and Ling Ling calls her Auntie Qiao."

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She had known that Xu Shengnan's junior had recommended her into the job. Otherwise, there was no way Mother Fang could have stayed silent without scolding Xu Shengnan every time Xu Shengnan visited her junior with her hands full of gifts. There were not many relatives, let alone juniors, who would be able to recommend others such a job.

But Mother Fang had never expected that the junior not only had the ability to help Xu Shengnan enter such a good company but was even a national cadre living on government salary herself! She was a high-ranking important figure!

“She... she’s Xu Shengnan’s junior?” Fang Shiyou heard a buzz and felt as though his head was about to explode. As someone who had slept beside Xu Shengnan for years, Fang Shiyou was all too clear about how close Xu Shengnan was to that junior of hers.

That was because the first time Xu Shengnan mentioned her junior, her tone was filled with gratitude. Other than that, Xu Shengnan had never described in detail what her junior did, who her family was, or what her background was like. After a while, Fang Shiyou simply assumed that Xu Shengnan had a close friendship with this junior during her university days.

But who knew that the truth would be so surprising and sad at the same time.

“I guess so.” Mother Fang was reluctant to accept the truth too. “I just know that there are many photos of this lady in Ling Ling’s phone.” The first time she saw this photo, she was shocked that Xu Shengnan had such a beautiful junior. No matter how she looked at it, these two did not match each other. They did not seem to have much in common.

Fang Shiyou was almost speechless. “Mom, why didn’t you tell me about this earlier?”

He knew that Xu Shengnan was very grateful to this junior. Although they had graduated almost ten years ago, they had always kept in contact. As such, one could only imagine how close Xu Shengnan was with this Minister Qiao. This was really...

Mother Fang was aggrieved. “I only knew that she was Xu Shengnan’s junior. I didn’t know that this young lady was so impressive!” If she had known about it, would she have nagged at her son daily to get a divorce from Xu Shengnan and to have a grandson?”

She had been so arrogant in the past because she knew that the Xu family did not have many friends or family in the capital. If anything happened and they caused a ruckus, the Fang family would not be at a disadvantage. Had she known that Xu Shengnan had such powerful friends, she would have treated Xu Shengnan like a god.

“You didn’t know?” Fang Shiyou really wanted to bow to his mother. What kind of monster was his mother? “Although she has only been the minister of foreign affairs for a short while, she’s been in the news quite frequently! She’s even been on international news a couple of times! She’s not a new face at all!”

“I didn’t use to like watching the news in the past! I’ve never even watched any of those international channels...” Why would she watch a bunch of people speaking in a language she did not understand?

The truth was often so unexpected, even causing the desire for death. Fang Shiyou said with a wry smile, “No wonder. I was wondering why Xu Shengnan was initially reluctant to get a divorce and even tried to salvage our marriage. But after she took a trip to the capital, she changed her mind and declared that we had to get a divorce. After that, she even produced so much evidence of me cheating on her. She had such a powerful person backing her up! I’m just a commoner. How could I win against Xu Shengnan? No wonder...”

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Chapter 1555: Rising in Value

No wonder Xu Shengnan’s lawyer always looked at him as though he was looking at a fool. If anyone else were to marry a wife with such influential people backing her, they would definitely serve her obediently. Would they even dare to start an affair and get divorced?

Thinking about it now, Fang Shiyou realized belatedly that his divorce from Xu Shengnan had proceeded very smoothly. It was as though someone had worked behind the scenes to push everything forward. Even the last step of selling the house went on as planned as though it had been rehearsed a hundred times over.

He regretted it. In this moment, Fang Shiyou really regretted everything. If he had known... Unfortunately, he had not.

“Junior Qiao, I can’t be more grateful toward you for what you’ve done this time!” After the divorce, Xu Shengnan felt as though she had finally relieved herself of a huge burden and felt much more relieved. “I was really too foolish in the past. I thought that Fang Shiyou was honest and not like other people from the capital who looked down on me and would treat me well. But after I got married and before I had Ling Ling, I already adopted a ‘son’. At that time, I told myself that it would be fine even if he could not give me a luxurious lifestyle because he did not despise me for being a Beijing drifter. Since we were already married, it wouldn’t matter if I had greater responsibility for the family...”

It was only when she saw Fang Shiyou be gentle and caring toward another woman did Xu Shengnan realize in devastation that her husband actually could take care of others. It depended only on whether he wanted to do so or not. “Thankfully, from today onward, I’ll only have to raise my daughter, and not another ‘son’. I’ll let his mistress take care of that giant baby.”

She could not do it anymore. Fang Shiyou had been taken care of by her for so long. Even though Fang Shiyou was willing to coax his mistress, he was still incompetent in so many aspects. Would that mistress be able to help Fang Shiyou arrange everything like she had done?

She was sure that in no time, with Fang Shiyou’s character, the Fang family would be in a mess!

“Congratulations.” When she heard Xu Shengnan say that, Qiao Nan was relieved. “Actually, it’s good to raise a child. There’s always something to worry about. Besides, you didn’t even give birth to that ‘son’, but it took the most effort. I think you probably didn’t even spend so much effort on Ling Ling in comparison.”

Xu Shengnan laughed at herself. She did not even want to continue talking about this any longer. So what if she treated Fang Shiyou better than her own daughter? Fang Shiyou had still found himself another woman and started an affair, even getting that mistress pregnant. Thinking about how the mother-in-law that she had been filial to for almost ten years unhesitatingly abandoned her because of that mistress’ baby, Xu Shengnan was speechless. “Thankfully, I have parents too. I don’t expect other people’s parents to love me. I have my own parents, and that’s enough.”

It was only her mother-in-law after all. How could she compare to her own parents?

In the two to three months staying in her parents’ home, it had been heaven on earth for Xu Shengnan. She had not needed to do anything. Her parents had thought of everything and had prepared everything for her. She had not needed to worry about anything.

What assured but depressed Xu Shengnan the most was that she felt that her daughter, Ling Ling, was getting increasingly happier as the days went by at her parents’ home, and her daughter was smiling more often too. She was normally a quiet little girl, but now that she was staying with her paternal grandmother, when she came home from school, she would sometimes be like San Bao and skip around like a bunny.

Thinking of her daughter's behavior with the Fang family, it was only now that Xu Shengnan realized that her young daughter had been so suppressed in the past few years living with the Fang family. Her daughter had been afraid to even express a normal child's behaviors.

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This was clearly her daughter's home, but her daughter treaded as carefully as she would on ice. Xu Shengnan could not help but think carefully about it. While she was not around, she did not know how Fang Shiyou and his mother treated her daughter. No matter what, her daughter was also part of the Fang family, the Fang family's granddaughter.

Did this mother-son pair really have no heart at all? How could they bear to treat such a pure and kindhearted child like that?

Seeing the change in Ling Ling made Xu Shengnan realize that ending this marriage was not just a relief for her but also a relief for her daughter.

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"For you." Seeing Xu Shengnan in a better condition than before her divorce, Qiao Nan had nothing to worry about anymore. Qiao Nan passed the property deed over to Xu Shengnan. "Remember to return me the money."

"The one who bought the house that day was you?" It was only when Xu Shengnan saw the property deed did she shockingly realize that Qiao Nan had quietly helped her.

Qiao Nan laughed. "The property prices in the capital have been increasing like crazy. This house is in the 3rd Ring still has the potential to increase even further. It would be such a waste to just sell it like that. Just leave it be. When Ling Ling gets married in the future, she'll need dowry, won't she?" He was a bast*rd, but the house was still a good one.

Xu Shengnan sniffled. "Junior Qiao, you might think I'm quite unlucky to have met a person like Fang Shiyou, but I've never thought that way. God is fair. Everything happens for a reason. My luck wasn't good with Fang Shiyou. That was because all my luck was used on meeting a person like you! If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't have bitten the bullet and gotten a divorce from Fang Shiyou."

It was all right for her to suffer, but she could not bear for Ling Ling to suffer as well. It was not just for herself. If she had known that Ling Ling would be much happier after leaving the Fang family, she would never have continued living with Fang Shiyou.

Now, her daughter was her everything.

“We all have ups and downs in life. There’s nothing more important than being open-minded and grateful for what you have. I’ve said that you have to return the money to me. Don’t think that you won’t need to pay me back after shedding these tears.” Qiao Nan was not as emotional as Xu Shengnan. To Qiao Nan, she had not done much.

They were both women. Seeing Xu Shengnan go through what she had in the past, Qiao Nan was not going to let Xu Shengnan lose out, whether it was because Qiao Nan was trying to make up for her regrets, or whether she just wanted to help Xu Shengnan. “Since you’ve already gotten a divorce, have a good life in the future. As long as you think you can live a good life, I don’t care if you remarry.”

“Thank you, Junior Qiao! Thank you so much!” Xu Shengnan sniffled loudly and did not refuse Qiao Nan’s kindness.

1

Chapter 1556: Self-Taught

Xu Shengnan accepted the property deed and passed the card containing twelve million yuan that she had just received over to Qiao Nan. “I’ll return you the remaining two million yuan over a period of time. I assure you that I’ll pay you back within three years.”

“Don’t.” Qiao Nan refused. “Now that Ling Ling is studying, you’ll spend a lot of money on her. I don’t need that money. You can return it to me in ten or twenty years. It can even be Ling Ling who returns me the money. It doesn’t matter to me.”

It was too costly to raise a child, more so when Xu Shengnan was so dedicated to raising her daughter, Fang Ling Ling. Fang Shiyou had complained because Xu Shengnan had spent too much money on their daughter. He would rather keep his money in his pocket and spend it all on his mistress.

“Fine.” Xu Shengnan did not refuse and immediately agreed. She wrote down the terms of the loan on a piece of paper and finally signed her name on it. “Junior Qiao, I won’t say about anything else, but as long as you need my help in the future, just ask. I will always remember what you’ve done for me.”

She did not want to bother her junior anymore. Who knew that after being married for so many years, she had started to ask for more favors from Qiao Nan, owing Qiao Nan even more. Xu Shengnan felt that she would never be able to repay Qiao Nan’s kindness in her entire lifetime.

But that was all right. If she was unable to do so in this lifetime, there was still her next lifetime and the following one. She would return it until she fully repaid her debts.

Only when the Xu parents saw the property deed that Xu Shengnan brought home did they realize that Qiao Nan had done so much for their daughter behind the scenes. They knew that Qiao Nan had a high position and was usually very busy. Otherwise, the Xu parents would have visited personally to thank Qiao Nan for her help.

The three children were all especially concerned about Xu Shengnan’s situation. They had heard from Qiao Nan that Xu Shengnan had not only gotten a divorce from Fang Shiyou but had also taken custody of Fang Ling Ling. As such, the three children were elated.

Er Bao’s beady eyes turned. “Mom, that Fang guy is going to have a son soon. I think it’s such a loss for Ling Ling to still have Fang as a surname now that she’s with Auntie Xu. Maybe Ling Ling should just change her surname to Xu since she has a better relationship with Auntie Xu.”

1

“That’s right.” San Bao nodded in agreement. If it were her, with such an annoying father, she would not want to have the same surname as him. But she was different from Ling Ling. Her father was the best father in the world who was even more attached to their mother than they were. Cheating would never happen in their parents’ relationship.

Da Bao, who was holding a book, lifted up his head and agreed with Er Bao and San Bao’s capricious suggestion. “Didn’t you say that that woman is not a good person? Since that Fang guy doesn’t even have a house now, nor does he have much money left, it’s still a question whether that son will be born, right? It’s quite good for Ling Ling to change her surname to Xu.”

“...” Upon hearing the thoughts of the three children, creases appeared on Qiao Nan’s forehead. “Is this something that you three children should be discussing? You three understand only a little. There’s no need for you to put it all out there and analyze it like that.” The three children were too mature, so much so that it scared Qiao Nan.

In the face of their playmate’s father’s infidelity, and then a divorce, the three children had taken it in their stride too calmly. “Mom, have you been watching too many drama serials?” While spending time with their paternal grandma, they had watched too many of these dramas. That was why they knew so much. That was also why their words were so scary.

The three children were indignant. “Mom, don’t look down on us. Do you think we need to watch those drama serials to know about these things? We’ve seen all these things happen in school a long time ago. There was once someone came with her husband’s mistress and fought at our school. We only found out later on that the child of that mistress was already in primary school. The day the mistress sent her child to school, she had been caught by the original wife, and they became embroiled in a fight!”

The mention of that day’s events made San Bao’s eyes sparkle. Live events were much more interesting than watching the TV.

“...” If other people were fighting, shouldn’t they, as children, find somewhere safe to hide instead? Did San Bao really think that it was interesting to watch other people fight? Qiao Nan massaged her temple. “My goodness, you three are really like your father. You’re completely different from me when I was a child!”

Was it because of the Zhai family’s dominant genes? Even though San Bao was the only girl among the three children, she was bolder and braver than other boys. When other people fought, she could even stand by the side to watch on in fascination. After hearing the whole story, Qiao Nan had to say that her daughter was indeed brave.

“Mom, don’t be angry. Wasn’t I just trying to find out the truth of the matter? I was afraid that they would spread rumors that weren’t the truth. In the spirit of boldly verifying the truth, I had to watch the events unfold.” After that incident, the mistress’ child became well-known in their school.

Within a month, that child transferred out of their school. He could not stand the way others were viewing him.

Er Bao ran behind Qiao Nan and massaged Qiao Nan's shoulder. "Mom, don't be angry. We already knew that there's such a dark side in society. It's good that we know, so we won't get cheated by others in the future. Especially San Bao, it's good for her to know about how bad some men can be so that she'll choose her husband well in the future. If she makes a mistake and chooses the wrong guy, San Bao can learn from Auntie Xu and find a way out of that rut." His mother was open-minded, so he knew that his mother would support them wanting to learn about the truth of society.

"Nonsense!" The strength her son exerted on her shoulders was just right, and Qiao Nan felt rather comfortable. Seeing as to how Er Bao was already used to this, Qiao Nan guessed that Er Bao probably used this method to coax his grandma often. "Er Bao, who did you learn this from?"

If Da Bao resembled Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan could not see whom Er Bao resembled. From a young age, Er Bao had been unique. When he grew up, he grew even stranger. His mouth was so sweet that he could coax anyone.

In modern terms, Er Bao would score full marks in terms of flirting with girls.

She did not have a sweet mouth. As for Zhai Sheng, he believed more in action than talk. So, Er Bao resembled neither Qiao Nan nor Zhai Sheng. Qiao Nan could not think of anyone whom Er Bao resembled.

Er Bao arrogantly snorted. "Mom, you're looking down on me. Do I need to learn such simple things like that? I'm self-taught. I'm naturally gifted!"

Chapter 1557: A Good Man Was Their Relative

Miao Jing nodded indifferently. "How good it is for Er Bao to be like this. He knows how to please the girls. You don't have to worry about not having a daughter-in-law in the future." She was unlike

her. If Zhai Sheng wasn't too rigid, wasn't sweet with words, and didn't know to please girls in the past, given how she hated Qi Minlan, how would she have let her son marry Qi Minlan's daughter?

It was all because her son was serious in speech and manner and didn't have any girls by his side. It was rare for Qiu Chenxi to be willing to give up her everything, abandon her reservations as a girl, and take the initiative to contact Zhai Sheng. In the end, Miao Jing had no choice but to recognize Qiu Chenxi as her daughter-in-law.

She couldn't possibly let her son miss out on what was highly his only chance to get married in this lifetime because of her personal likes and dislikes.

"I think Er Bao's pretty good like this. He's much better than his father. If he's sweet with words, he can coax girls easily. I believe the boys from our Zhai family are good. Er Bao's wife would be blessed in the future." In the end, Miao Jing even added in these words. Upon hearing them, Qiao Nan had the urge to vomit blood.

1

Qiao Nan drank a sip of water to suppress her nerves. "Although I mentioned before that I'm not particularly insistent or opposed to you falling in love at an early age, there must be a degree for everything. Furthermore, you're only junior high school students now. It's too early for you to be falling in love. I don't specify how much you have to score in exams every time, but as long as you're still studying and there's an obvious deterioration of scores, don't blame me for teaching you why flowers are red. Understand?"

1

Even if she couldn't bear to, she would definitely insist on using a feather duster to teach these three children a lesson.

"Mom, what are you saying?" San Bao blushed in embarrassment. Since she was in fourth grade, she would receive a lot of love letters every day. It was just that Da Bao and Er Bao had helped her handle those love letters well. She didn't care about this matter, let alone tell her mother about it.

1

Today, Qiao Nan suddenly talked about falling in love at an early age. As a girl who had received a lot of love letters, when San Bao looked at Qiao Nan again, she would, more or less, feel a little guilty.

“Mom, there wouldn’t be such a day,” Da Bao said indifferently. Even if Er Bao and San Bao had such thoughts, he would definitely appear in time and completely remove these silly thoughts of theirs. “I’ll help you keep an eye on them. With me around, they wouldn’t dare to do anything.”

San Bao made a face to Da Bao. However, she didn’t deny Da Bao’s words. After all, what he said was the truth. When she had received her first love letter and was hesitating if she should hand it over to her mother, Da Bao had found out about it and took it away without a word.

1

San Bao didn’t know how Da Bao had handled this matter. San Bao knew that ever since that day, she didn’t receive a second love letter during the remaining two months of the semester. Even the owner of the first love letter didn’t appear before her.

San Bao initially didn’t understand the reason for this and thought that someone was joking with her. Otherwise, why was it that there was only a letter and no follow-up?

It was only when Er Bao encountered a similar situation to her own that San Bao realized how much Da Bao had done for her and Er Bao.

For some time afterward, San Bao kept observing Da Bao.

They were triplets and looked similar. Among the three of them, Da Bao was the tallest and with the best results. It didn’t make sense that she and Er Bao had received love letters but Da Bao didn’t. As such, San Bao thought of a way to secretly observe Da Bao as she wanted to see if his situation was more overboard than hers and Er Bao’s.

However, before San Bao could find out the truth, she was already discovered by Da Bao.

Even if Da Bao had found out about it and she didn’t manage to continue observing him, San Bao believed that based on the fact that they were born to the same mother at the same time, Da Bao’s popularity in the market wouldn’t be worse than hers and Er Bao’s. In fact, Da Bao might even have received more love letters and confessions than her and Er Bao.

Otherwise, how would they be considered as triplets?

San Bao had taken the initiative to forget about this matter. However, Er Bao had taken the initiative to bring this up. San Bao was both angry and curious. She was curious as to why Da Bao chose to respond at this time. Wasn't he afraid that their mother would sense that something was amiss?

"Okay, help me keep an eye on them. Da Bao, it's not that I don't believe in you. I just feel that all of you are still too young. Da Bao, you have to take note as well. You're too similar to your father. When your father was young, there were a lot of girls circling around him." If Brother Zhai was that popular in the market back then, Da Bao would definitely only outperform him now.

1

Da Bao blushed and felt embarrassed. "Yes." He was like his father. If there was a chance in the future, he wanted to find a wife who was like his mother.

Er Bao and San Bao noticed that Qiao Nan's attitude to Da Bao was different from them. They snorted unhappily and squeezed to Miao Jing's side. "Grandma, Mom only likes Da Bao. She doesn't like Er Bao anymore. Er Bao wants to be nice to grandma. Grandma, you have to comfort me."

1

"Grandma, I'm hurt by Mom's attitude. I have been obedient all along. However, Mom actually doesn't believe me. Grandma, I'm so sad that I want to cry. Grandma, Mom doesn't love me anymore. I'm a child that no one dotes on and loves. Boohoo." Toward the end, San Bao even faked a cry.

Miao Jing hugged Er Bao and San Bao in her arms. She said in comfort, "Be obedient. You are grandma's precious grandchildren. How could your mother not dote on you or believe you? Also, you have to believe that grandma dotes on you. In this world, I only trust and dote on the three of you the most," Miao Jing said happily as she touched Er Bao's and San Bao's faces.

"Cough..." Da Bao, Er Bao, and San Bao had become the most important in Miao Jing's heart. Zhai Yaohui, who didn't know which position he was pushed to, was unhappy. He had to remind Miao Jing that he was still around and she had to have him in her heart.

The three children stared at him. Those looks of confusion were the same as Qiao Nan's. Indeed, they were related by blood.

The triplets sniffed and went into Qiao Nan's arms. Snort. Their dad stuck close to their mom and grandpa loved grandma. Even great-grandpa had chased after great-grandma and was no longer around. All the men in the Zhai family were like this.

After Da Bao and Er Bao married their wives, they would most likely behave in the same way. As she thought about this, San Bao felt sour in her heart.

Chapter 1558: Don't Be Mischievous

After she grew up, would she be able to meet a man as good as the men in the Zhai family? Once she thought of great-grandpa, San Bao couldn't help but think about master grandpa.

Every year, when San Bao thought about these two elders, she could only rely on photos to remember them.

"What's wrong?" Qiao Nan laughed lightly as she touched San Bao's black hair. "Haven't you always said that you're no longer a child and have grown up? If the younger brothers see this, they would laugh at you." San Bao especially liked to be the boss in front of the younger children. As there were a number of children born later than her and Fang Ling Ling was a younger sister, San Bao was completely satisfied with the role of a 'big sister'.

San Bao rubbed her face in her mother's arms and said, "I don't want to grow up today. I just want to become smaller. Mom, although I've already graduated from primary school, I haven't entered junior high school yet. Strictly speaking, I'm still a primary school student. What am I if not a child?"

San Bao had completely neglected the fact that they had already gone through the registration process yesterday. San Bao said that unless she was already in a junior high school class, she wasn't considered a junior high school student. She wanted to be a primary school student for the last time today.

In the face of her daughter's coquettish behavior, Qiao Nan hugged San Bao and didn't push her aside. In the blink of an eye, the three of them were going to study in junior high school. Qiao Nan couldn't carry the three children up as early as seven to eight years ago. Seeing that she still had the opportunity to hug them, she was going to hug them more.

"Grandpa, are you here to send us to school as well?" On the day that the triplets were formally in junior high school, Qiao Dongliang had rushed to the Zhai family's house early in the morning to send them to school. After coming to the capital, Qiao Dongliang had placed all his focus on the three children.

When Elder Lin and Old Master Zhai were alive, they had taken away a lot of the triplets' attention. Qiao Dongliang was even jealous over this. However, when the both of them were gone, Qiao Dongliang was especially sad. It was difficult for him to get through that sad period, and he became a more competent grandfather.

For instance, Qiao Dongliang wanted to send the triplets to school now. Ding Jiayi, who had been in the capital for a while now and had been receiving living expenses from Qiao Nan monthly, was nonchalant. In the three to four months she was in the capital, she had never once appeared in front of the three children.

As such, the triplets liked Qiao Dongliang, their maternal grandfather. However, they didn't have much impression of Ding Jiayi, their maternal grandmother.

"Yes, today's an important day for the three of you, who are going to junior high school. Grandpa must be here." Qiao Dongliang nodded. "Let's go. Grandpa and your mother will send you to school." He wasn't a good father, thus he wanted to be a better grandfather.

After the two elders had passed on, he was more approachable than the retired Chief Zhai and had more time to spend on the three children. As such, compared to Zhai Yaohui, their paternal grandfather, Qiao Dongliang was better liked by the children and was closer to them.

Seeing Qiao Dongliang's excited look, Qiao Nan shook her head helplessly. "Dad, are you really coming along? There are a lot of cars sending their children to school now. It's very cramped. Even if I send them earlier now, there might not be space in front of the school's entrance."

“I’ll go. Why not? I know you’re sending them early. Didn’t I arrive early as well? Let’s stop talking and hurry up. Otherwise, you yourself might be late for work after sending the children to school.” Qiao Dongliang was not only supportive of the triplets’ studies but also of Qiao Nan’s career.

His daughter had become the minister of foreign affairs. People generally couldn’t imagine how proud Qiao Dongliang was in his heart, even if Qiao Nan’s achievements today had nothing to do with him. From the start to the end, not only was he not of help to Qiao Nan, but he also hindered her as the stupid wife he had married and his badly-taught eldest daughter had caused her trouble from time to time.

Thankfully, the end result was good.

“However, Nan Nan, are you really going to let the three children live in the school hostel so early?” Qiao Dongliang asked blankly when he was in the car.

“Yes,” Qiao Nan, who was focused on driving, replied. “If they don’t stay when they should in junior high school, they would have to do so in high school as well. Since they have to stay sooner or later, let them start from junior high school. It’s good to train them early.”

“Why would they need training? You have sent the three children to the army every summer and winter vacation for their father to train them. Isn’t that enough? I didn’t want to say this about you, but it was still alright to do so for Da Bao and Er Bao as they were boys. However, San Bao’s a girl. See? Every time they come back from the army, they would become darker. Thankfully, she’s fair-skinned like you. Otherwise, what would you do if she’s tanned? Our triplets are so good-looking, but they have been burdened by this tanned skin.”

When it came to his grandchildren, Qiao Dongliang was no longer as passionate about the army as compared to when he was young. He felt that the three children were still young, and it was too tiring and tough for them to be in the army at such a young age. This wasn’t beneficial to their growth.

At this time, the fair-skinned San Bao was naturally the focus of Qiao Dongliang’s care.

Er Bao, who had become tanner, grinned, revealing his white teeth. A stark contrast was formed, and this sight pierced Qiao Dongliang’s eyes. Qiao Dongliang, who doted on his grandchildren, couldn’t bear to take a second look.

“Don’t be mischievous!” Da Bao patted Er Bao. It was obvious their maternal grandfather wasn’t happy, yet Er Bao was still being mischievous. “If you continue to be like this, I’ll tell Dad so that he can teach you a lesson when he’s back. Don’t forget who was the one who refused to come back from the army every time!”

Er Bao smiled at Da Bao, trying to please him. “Don’t be so serious. I’m just joking and wanted to tease grandpa. Don’t tell Dad anything. He’s a wife-protector. Every time Mom treats me better, he would feel jealous. If you tell Dad that I bullied Mom, wouldn’t he play me to my death?” Once he thought of how protective his father was of his wife, Er Bao was so frightened that he shivered.

1

“Be more honest if you’re afraid.” When Da Bao was chatting with Er Bao, they had both kept their voices low. No matter how foolish he was, Er Bao was still his birth brother. Da Bao had to take care of him, didn’t he?

Da Bao had really unleashed his power. Er Bao shrank his neck and said, “Honest? Aren’t I honest enough? Can I be even more honest?”

“Hahaha...” San Bao, who witnessed the whole scene, hugged her stomach as she laughed. “I think nothing’s happier than watching Er Bao play the fool.” Er Bao was ridiculous. No wonder Mom always said that Er Bao was cheeky. It would be best for him to enter the entertainment industry.

Chapter 1559: Say So If There’s Something Wrong

“Be truthful.” Qiao Nan sipped a mouthful of her drink. It had always been a rule to not play while Qiao Nan was driving. In her previous life, Qiao Nan had been knocked down by another car while she was outside. That was what led to her death. In this lifetime, Qiao Nan was thankfully sitting within the car, so she had to be even more responsible for the safety of herself and those sitting in her car.

This time, Qiao Dongliang did not try to defend the three children, only eying them comfortingly. “You really have to pay attention while driving. Don’t play around while your mother is driving. You’ll affect her. Do you understand?”

“Yes!”

The three children answered in unison, especially San Bao, who stuck her tongue out, because she knew she had violated her mom’s rule.

“All right, we’re here.” After driving into the school, Qiao Nan let the three children out. “I’ll come to pick you three up on Saturday. As to the things that you need in the bedroom, I’ve prepared everything. Do you still remember everything that I taught you?”

It was the first time the children were staying in a hostel, so Qiao Nan was no less worried or anxious than Qiao Dongliang.

Da Bao walked over to Qiao Nan’s side and comforted Qiao Nan. “Mom, don’t worry. When we lived in the army, we used to do everything ourselves. We’re already used to it.”

1

Fathers were indeed more ruthless than mothers. When the three of them first went into the army, their father had been so strict. The elder brothers had wanted to help these three young ones out, but in the end, they had been punished by their father to run ten rounds. After that incident, no one was willing to help them anymore.

Thinking about those times, Da Bao felt that that was truly a tough life.

“That’s right, Mom! Don’t look down on your children. We know to dust our quilts when it’s sunny and to wash our clothes after we change out of them. Mom! Do you think we’re three-year-old children that you have to teach us even that?” Even if they needed someone to teach them that, it was already seven or eight years late. When they were only five, they had entered the army. Whatever they could do, their father forbade anyone from helping them.

1

They felt that their mother’s care was like the gentle spring breeze, whereas their father’s strictness was like the brutal winter wind. Er Bao sighed. Children with mothers were blessed.

1

At this moment, San Bao said, “Don’t worry, Mom! The three of us will definitely be fine. I’ll go to the bedroom first. Mom, you’d better hurry off to work too. As the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, won’t you be embarrassed if you are late?” San Bao knew that there were some people in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who despised her mom and were always trying to pick out her faults.

Now that San Bao herself already took the lead and headed to the bedroom, Da Bao and Er Bao wanted to go to the bedroom to place their things there too, immediately spoiling the atmosphere of reluctance. Qiao Nan and Qiao Dongliang were still reluctant to part with them, but the three children did not even turn back once.

Qiao Nan’s lips twitched and she could not speak for quite a while. “Dad, it’s about time. If we don’t leave now, I’ll be stuck in the jam at the school gate. Get in the car. I’ll send you back.”

After getting in the car, Qiao Dongliang said, “The three children are right. It’s quite late now. It’s more important for you to get to work. Once we get out of the school, just drop me off at the bus stop. I’ll take a slow ride back on the public bus to get familiar with the route around here. Next time when you’re busy and I have to pick the children up, we can take the public bus.”

Qiao Nan did not refuse. “All right, let’s go.”

After alighting Qiao Dongliang at the public bus stop, Qiao Nan no longer stopped so as to arrive at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as early as possible. Thankfully, the moment Qiao Nan arrived at the door of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was time for work.

Every time she sent the three children to school, this situation was bound to happen. Once it happened too frequently, it would be awkward for Qiao Nan herself. It was as though she was unwilling to waste just a minute more in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs now that she had become the director.

Indeed, as soon as Qiao Nan arrived, someone said sarcastically, “Minister Qiao, you’re really ‘on time’. How did you prepare to do that? You’ll have to teach us!” Li Dawei’s tone was weird, and he was obviously being sarcastic.

As a veteran of the workplace, Qiao Nan was not affected by a sarcastic remark from Li Dawei. “Comrade Li, you’ve been in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for quite a few years, right? But you can’t even compete with newbies who’ve been in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for only three

years. How do you do it? But I guess our department doesn't need to know about your experience. It's best that no one learns from your attitude."

1

One learned, and the other did not. It was immediately obvious who was superior.

Qiao Nan was the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Other than Li Dawei, who coveted the position of the minister, when other people were faced with such a situation, there was no hesitation as to which side they would help.

Many people's taunting gazes fell on Li Dawei. They all felt that Li Dawei did not know his place. Even a few of the newbies in the department thought that Li Dawei was insane. Normally, the one who sucked up to Minister Qiao the most was Li Dawei. But every time Li Dawei failed, he never gave up.

Logically, within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Li Dawei should be Minister Qiao's lackey. But in reality, it was the contrary. In the entire department, only Li Dawei shot back at Minister Qiao!

It was such an ironic contradiction that people sometimes felt confused when seeing Li Dawei's behavior. They could not understand how Li Dawei could continue in his self-contradictory actions.

It was enough to be seen as a joke by the seniors in the department. After all, they were his seniors and it was normal to be mocked by people who had more experience than him. Li Dawei's face paled. He felt that Qiao Nan was crushing his dignity by mocking him in front of so many people.

How could someone as unqualified as Qiao Nan become the minister? He did not believe that he would not be able to find a way to pull Qiao Nan down from her position. When he took over Qiao Nan's position, he would see what these people who mocked him today would have to say.

Qiao Nan did not miss Li Dawei's angry and indignant gaze.

Qiao Nan laughed coldly. Acting like this in the workplace was really just an expression of how foolish Li Dawei was. Did Li Dawei really think that everything would be fine as long as he tried to flatter Qiao Nan at the last minute just before his annual appraisal?

If that was the case, Qiao Nan could only say that Li Dawei was so naive that it was frightening.

“Hello, it’s me.” Ding Jiayi called Qiao Nan.

Upon receiving Ding Jiayi’s phone call, Qiao Nan was calm as usual and her expression remained unchanged. “What’s the matter? Speak!”

Chapter 1560: A Divorce For Real

“I called your dad, but he didn’t pick up.” Ding Jiayi’s tone was full of grievance. In the first few months after arriving in the capital, Ding Jiayi had been quite happy. Who had such luck like her to turn from being a Ping Cheng resident to a resident of the capital? But after staying in the capital for a while longer, Ding Jiayi realized that she did not know anyone.

Ding Jiayi wanted to get acquainted with her neighbors, but unfortunately, she realized that these neighbors in the apartments were not as easy-going as those in the courtyard back in Ping Cheng. Usually, she would take a stroll in the park in the mornings and evenings and sit there for a while so as to try to integrate herself into the community. But knowing that she was not from the capital, they were prejudiced against her.

As such, Ding Jiayi specially mentioned her daughter Qiao Nan so as to gain some recognition. Thankfully, even though Ding Jiayi said that, her neighbors were unwilling to believe what she had said. The capital was only so big, but there were so many people. As long as one got out of their house, they were bound to meet someone with a special status. It was nothing out of the ordinary.

But to brag that the Minister of Foreign Affairs was her daughter, that was pushing it a bit too much.

If that was indeed the case, why hadn’t they seen the minister visit her? Why didn’t she visit the minister during the holidays? Or why didn’t she invite her daughter over for a meal?

Ding Jiayi wanted to prove that Qiao Nan was really her daughter. Adding to the fact that their mother-daughter relationship was not good to begin with, Qiao Nan was truly busy. After taking on the position of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, she had taken on many more responsibilities, and there were many more things she had to handle. Besides, she had to travel often to attend international events. Qiao Nan had almost become the past Zhai Yaohui, flying all the time.

Ding Jiayi was free. She did not need to take care of her grandchildren, and neither did she need to go to work. She lazed around at home the whole day and needed only to reach out her hand to receive a living allowance from Qiao Nan. On the other hand, Qiao Nan not only had to work, but she also had to take care of her three children. If everyone was like Ding Jiayi and bored to their wits, there would be chaos in the world.

As such, Ding Jiayi's wish of proving her point by asking Qiao Nan to make a trip down was not realistic at all.

After a while, everyone thought that Ding Jiayi was just bragging. Thus, it became even more difficult for Ding Jiayi to settle down into her new life. Since she was unable to make new friends, Ding Jiayi could only look in the direction of her 'old friends'. Ding Jiayi was not so bold as to find people from the Zhai family. She would not even dare to look for them even with her status as their in-law.

Apart from the Zhai family, Ding Jiayi was left only with Qiao Dongliang. Ding Jiayi thought that Qiao Dongliang's situation could not be much better than her own.

When two familiar people meet in an unfamiliar city, their relationship should be better than before. So, if she were to get in touch with Qiao Dongliang now, Qiao Dongliang would probably not reject her. Ding Jiayi was being too idealistic.

The moment Qiao Dongliang received the call, he asked who was on the line. Once Ding Jiayi made just a little sound and was recognized by Qiao Dongliang, Qiao Dongliang did not even give Ding Jiayi a chance to speak and immediately hung up. When Ding Jiayi tried to call him again, she could not get through at all.

Now that Ding Jiayi had no other choice, she could only beg Qiao Nan for help.

"Dad won't pick up your call, not me. There's no use calling me." Qiao Nan massaged her temples.

"You have a good relationship with your dad. Help me convince him. We've been married for so many years. Don't you think it's weird that our family lives our lives as two separate families? It's said that spouses are the ones who accompany you in your old age. Your dad and I are no longer young. Qiao Nan, don't be so selfish. You can't expect your dad and me to stay lonely at our age, right?"

Ding Jiayi had not finished expressing her opinion when she heard a familiar tone coming from her phone. Qiao Nan had hung up.

Ding Jiayi always had her temper. She was clearly trying to ask Qiao Nan for a favor, but the moment she spoke, she would start accusing Qiao Nan and try to force Qiao Nan to take up the responsibility to fulfill her own wishes.

In short, she was shameless.

Knowing that Ding Jiayi was not feeling unwell or in any serious trouble, Qiao Nan ignored every single one of the three calls Ding Jiayi made following that.

Seeing that she could not get through to Qiao Nan, Ding Jiayi was so angry that her eyes turned red. “You’re abandoning your biological mother now that you’ve become the minister? If you bump into me one day, we’ll see how you beg me then!”

She did not believe that Qiao Nan would lead a worry-free life and stay in a high position forever. There would eventually come a day when she would need Ding Jiayi’s help!

Ding Jiayi was about to toss her phone aside when her ringtone chimed. Ding Jiayi smiled with glee. She thought that the call was from Qiao Nan, until she picked up and realized that the caller was indeed a Qiao, and was also her daughter. But instead of her younger daughter, it was her elder daughter. “Zijin, what’s going on?”

Qiao Zijin’s voice was severely hoarse. She had clearly been crying for a long time. “Mom, Zhou Zheng wants to get a divorce.”

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“You’re really getting a divorce? Have you gotten an official divorce?”

“Yes.”

“...” Ding Jiayi was mad. They were all finding trouble. “What about that child? Did the Zhou family get custody of Ying Ying? You’re still young. As long as... Since you were able to find a man like Zhou Zheng in the past, you’d definitely be able to find another man with similar qualities

as Zhou Zheng. It's okay. Getting married and divorced is not uncommon nowadays. You'll live like you used to and even better in the future."

Ding Jiayi's words were vague, but she was clearly hinting at finding Qiao Nan for help.

Zhou Zheng had really treated Qiao Zijin well. Qiao Zijin had never needed to worry about money, and she had everything she wanted. Like how Qiao Nan had helped Qiao Zijin find a man like Zhou Zheng, she would just do it again and find Qiao Zijin a second Zhou Zheng.

On the other end of the call, Qiao Zijin looked at the child by her side, and her voice grew hoarser. "I got custody of Ying Ying."

"..." Why? Now that she had a child, would Zijin still be able to get married to a good man with equal qualities as Zhou Zheng? "Are you a fool?" Was Zijin not intending to remarry after getting divorced from Zhou Zheng? If Zijin was so deeply in love with Zhou Zheng, she would never have gotten into an affair in the first place.

"This matter is too complicated. I can't explain it clearly over the phone. Mom, can I bring Ying Ying over to visit you? The environment in the capital is better. I want Ying Ying to grow up in an entirely new environment where there are better teaching resources."

"..." Ding Jiayi hit her own chest. "Since you have such great plans for Ying Ying, I will definitely support you as her grandma. Even if you decide to send Ying Ying abroad instead of just coming to the capital, I will agree wholeheartedly!"