

## RTAMM 1581

### Chapter 1581: Deliberately Biased

If she could, the first person Miao Jing wanted to create trouble for was those magazines press that reported the matter indiscriminately. News agencies who only knew how to make false reports without concrete evidence shouldn't even exist in the first place. They would only cause the good social atmosphere to become foul.

“Old Zhai, I really don't mean to chide anyone, but aren't there any regulations for this matter? You will just let them report this indiscriminately? The central government allows this?”

“How could that be?” Zhai Yaohui shook his head. It had been so many years. Miao Miao's character was still the same as when she was young. She had a fiery temper and was very anxious. “This matter created an opportunity for us to take a look at the structure now. Once the limelight is over, we will take care of those who should be taken care of and won't let anyone escape.”

Was it that easy to attack the people from the central government?

If there were any rumors about Qiao Nan, would she still be able to take on the position of the minister of foreign affairs back then? Did they really think that the people from the central government and the leaders didn't know anything about the situation below and dared to casually use and promote anyone?

It was impossible for the China leadership team to use someone who couldn't be used and malign someone just because of some rumors. It could only be said that those who wanted to create trouble didn't understand the central government fully.

“Don't be anxious about this matter. As a junior, Nan Nan isn't even anxious. Why are you so anxious instead?” Zhai Yaohui felt a bit helpless that Miao Jing wasn't as steady as Qiao Nan. He always felt that this mother and daughter-in-law relationship was quite different. “Haven't you seen it? Which influential media and news agency dared to report indiscriminately about this matter? When the time comes and Nan Nan has clarified the matter, these news agencies would spread the truth immediately and rectify Nan Nan's name. Have some patience, Miao Miao. Learn from Nan Nan. Be more steady.”

As the party concerned, in the face of so many sharp and untrue attacks, Qiao Nan, who was only in her thirties, stood firmly in place and didn't feel sad at all. Through this incident, Zhai Yaohui once again had a deeper understanding of Qiao Nan. He always believed that Qiao Nan could handle this matter well and wouldn't panic.

However, he didn't expect that Qiao Nan could be so calm that it was as if she was just a bystander in this matter.

Zhai Yaohui agreed once again that Zhai Sheng was simply lucky to have fancied Qiao Nan back when she was still young. At this age, he was still surprised by Qiao Nan's outstanding performance. Ten years ago, Qiao Nan was still childish. Zhai Sheng's foresight back then wasn't as sharp as now. It was purely out of appreciation for the opposite sex that Zhai Sheng would like Qiao Nan. He wasn't standing in the Zhai family's perspective to choose a suitable candidate to be the Zhai family's daughter-in-law.

It was precisely because of this that Zhai Yaohui understood that sometimes, luck was rarer than capabilities!

Both his son and daughter-in-law were so lucky that people would be jealous and envious of them. Zhai Yaohui felt at ease.

Miao Jing frowned. "Is that so? You're not just coaxing me? If that's the case, why hasn't there been any movement at all?" It wasn't just a day or two since this happened. Otherwise, she wouldn't have been so anxious. "I get angry when I think about it. What kind of person is she? To think she had the cheek to cry in front of the camera and tell everyone that they are biological sisters. I really don't understand why she didn't feel shameless when she said this!"

If they were biological sisters, why would Qiao Zijin dare to smear Nan Nan's reputation?

The triplets already knew what had happened to Qiao Nan when she was young. As such, the Zhai family paid a lot of attention not to let the triplets see the nonsensical words Qiao Zijin had said or

for them to get involved in this matter. The Zhai family was worried that the three children were still young and couldn't control their emotions well.

Even Miao Jing, an adult, couldn't be of help in this matter, let alone the triplets. Since they couldn't be of help, it was useless for them to know and let their mood for studying be affected. Thus, it was better not to let the three children know about this.

Zhai Yaohui poured a glass of water for Miao Jing. "See, you're still not listening. Do you only know what kind of person Qiao Zijin is for the first time today?" Of course, Zhai Yaohui was quite 'convinced' by Qiao Zijin. Money moved people's hearts. In order to lead a good life, Qiao Zijin was so shameless and thick-skinned to have done this completely without thinking. Did she still have any dignity left?

Miao Jing waved her hands in irritation. "Fine, I'm not going to mention it again. The more we chat, the angrier I am. Such a person would definitely not lead a good life in the future. Her parents had published a clarification note to break off all ties with her, yet she doesn't know how to reflect on this. Heh. Qiao Zijin must have completely inherited Ding Jiayi's cold temperament."

This mother-and-daughter pair shared the same character.

What made Miao Jing angry was that there was still a way to deal with Qiao Zijin. If they said no money was given, no money would be given. Even if Qiao Zijin kicked up a fuss and threw all her face, she didn't need to think about getting a single cent from Qiao Nan. However, Qiao Nan could ignore Qiao Zijin but not Ding Jiayi. Ding Jiayi had given birth to Qiao Nan. In terms of morality and human nature, it wasn't that good for Qiao Nan to completely ignore Ding Jiayi.

If Qiao Nan led an ordinary life now, the criticism Qiao Nan faced would be relatively less. However, Qiao Nan had a high status and received a lot of inheritance from Elder Lin. Miao Jing knew that there were a lot of unreasonable people in society who badmouthed others nowadays, and they were deliberately biased.

It was precisely because of this that even if they were unwilling to, due to their status in society, they had to go against their wishes and let Ding Jiayi lead a good life. Of course, they didn't lack this amount of money. It was just that it was infuriating to let a person like Ding Jiayi spend their money.

She would rather use this amount of money to build a school or subsidize poor students to study than to let Ding Jiayi gain from it. Thinking of middle-aged women who were of Ding Jiayi's age,

most of them were still working and supporting themselves. Who would be like Ding Jiayi, having worked for less than five years when she was already in her fifties?

To be honest, it was difficult to find people who could enjoy life similar to Ding Jiayi in this world.

Miao Jing didn't understand why a heartless person like Ding Jiayi was luckier than ordinary people and could enjoy the monthly allowance provided by Qiao Nan. There was no reason for this! It was better to treat Ding Jiayi like Qiao Zijin, leaving her to die on her own. Even if she wasn't left to die on her own, Ding Jiayi should at least be forced to support herself and not be dependent on others to survive.

1

Before Miao Jing married, she was a very independent woman. Her parents had died early as they were helping Old Master Zhai, causing her to become an orphan.

Chapter 1582: Fine for the Time Being

Even though she had no choice but to be fostered by her uncle, she had never shirked away from chores while staying at her uncle's house. While living in a large community, the chores that she did were comparable to an average male's.

Miao Jing would never understand women like Ding Jiayi who relied first on their husbands, then on their daughters, and never relied on their own efforts. She really wanted to teach annoying women like Ding Jiayi a lesson.

Just thinking about it made her blood boil, and she gulped down the glass of water that Zhai Yaohui had poured for her. "Yes, I'll have to do it. If I don't do it, I won't even need to have dinner tonight! I'll be full from my anger. I might even lose sleep tonight from being so angry." People like Ding Jiayi were too scary. She was even more vicious than Qiao Zijin.

"Mom, eat some fruits." Qiao Nan took some cut fruits from the auntie's hands and passed them to Miao Jing. "These fruits are delicious." Her mother-in-law had an even greater reaction to the mention of Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi than she herself did.

Having been praised by her father-in-law earlier, Qiao Nan was actually rather embarrassed. It was not that she was not angry, but she had already been furious her entire life. Qiao Nan had always felt that even if she had not been knocked down by a car in her previous lifetime, she would have been driven to her death by anger because of her biological mother.

Since she already had experience being driven to her death by anger, this meant nothing to Qiao Nan today. She had fought greater battles. Thus, this was nothing much to Qiao Nan, and there was really no way that she was going to get agitated over this. She had faced even greater battles and even more shameful things, but she had always prevailed in the end. In the face of these bitter fruits, there was nothing Qiao Nan could do but swallow them reluctantly.

Just like in her previous lifetime, all the money that she had given eventually ended up in Qiao Zijin's pockets and became Qiao Zijin's dowry. There was nothing she could do. After taking the money, Ding Jiayi even asked for more living allowances. She had to take on even more part-time jobs just to satisfy Ding Jiayi.

Now, Ding Jiayi held on tightly to every single cent that Qiao Nan gave her, without giving Qiao Zijin anything. After getting divorced from Zhou Zheng, Qiao Zijin was even worse off than in her previous life. She had no status, much less a dowry or a house. Now that her money was no longer going to Qiao Zijin, Qiao Nan was rather happy. Her expectations were not that high after all.

After being coaxed by Qiao Nan, as well as persuaded by Zhai Yaohui, Miao Jing's anger dissipated and she smiled. "Fine, I'm already such an old person. I don't need you guys to coax me like you do the three children. I'm not angry. What's there to be angry over? You guys just have to remember not to let this kind of people take advantage of you. It's late. Let's eat. It won't be good to starve ourselves."

Now that there was a smile on Miao Jing's face, the Zhai family felt a sudden relief, and everyone could finally have their meals happily. Miao Jing had suffered a great deal while she was younger, and her health was not much better than Zhai Yaohui's. Old Lin and Old Master Zhai had 'left' on the same night. Since then, the Zhai family had paid more attention to the health of the elderly in their family. Thus, Miao Jing became the family's focus. Everyone tried to keep Miao Jing in a good mood so that her health would not be affected.

The Zhai family did not want to let the three children know about Qiao Zijin's situation for the time being. Unfortunately, while the matter had not made news nationally, it was still quite well-known within the capital. After the three children first heard about the situation of Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi, the three children had been rather sensitive about anything related to these two people.

Especially this time, Qiao Zijin had kicked up a big fuss in the capital and had even implicated their most beloved mother. It was almost impossible for the three children to not have heard anything about this matter. Not only had they heard about the whole story, but they had already flown into a rage because of it. They were even more infuriated than Miao Jing. The three children were so furious that they wanted to rush home from school to check for themselves and see if Qiao Nan was doing all right and whether she had been bullied into tears.

The three children wished very much to go home. Unfortunately, they were still studying, and in a boarding school of all places. No matter how upset they were, they had to wait until the weekend break to return home.

But the three children were shocked when they saw Zhai Sheng come to fetch them. “Dad, why are you the one fetching us? Where’s Mom?” Indeed, their mom was distraught. Otherwise, why would their dad come? Usually, their mom was the one who fetched them from school.

“I let your mom take a rest. Why? Are you disappointed that I’m here to pick you guys up?” Zhai Sheng raised his eyebrow as he questioned the children in a disgruntled tone.

Er Bao laughed. “Dad, how can that be? It’s not that we’re unhappy that you’re picking us up. It’s just that we’re used to Mom coming to pick us up. Since we didn’t see Mom today, we were just surprised. We didn’t mean anything else. Don’t accuse us falsely!”

San Bao coquettishly rubbed Zhai Sheng’s arm. “Dad, I’m famished! Let’s hurry home. I miss grandma’s cooking!” And she missed her mom too. She wanted to know whether her mom was doing all right. If her mom was unhappy, she would be her mom’s comforter.

“You three devils.” Zhai Sheng could see clearly the three children’s concern toward Qiao Nan. “Hurry and get in the car. We’ll talk about it when we get home. Your mom is much stronger than you think.” Nan Nan had survived through so many trials and tribulations throughout her life. Besides, Nan Nan would hardly take to heart this trouble created by that loser, Qiao Zijin.

San Bao stuck out her tongue before obediently climbing into the car.

Er Bao and San Bao sat behind, while Da Bao sat in the front passenger seat. “Dad, is Mom all right?” Da Bao did not wish to address that woman as his elder auntie. In his short life, he had never met anyone as malicious as Qiao Zijin. The one who had framed his mother was his own aunt! And the purpose of that was simply so that she would not have to work and let his mother support her unconditionally!

Da Bao seriously did not want to recognize her as his relative based on either emotions or rationality.

“All right.”

“If Mom is doing all right, then why didn’t she come to pick us up?” That was not their mom’s way of doing things.

Zhai Sheng sighed. “It’s not that Nan Nan didn’t want to come and pick you up. It’s just that it’s unsuitable for her to do so for the time being. This matter has blown up within the capital, and many eyes are on her now. If Nan Nan continues to fetch you as usual, you might get photographed and exposed! Then, it will no longer be so easy for you to return to school.”

Nan Nan did not wish for this matter to affect the lives of her children in school.

It was all right for her to just swallow this bitter pill for the time being because she knew that the tides would turn if she would just wait it out. But she was afraid that the three children were still young and immature. If they were to be affected by this matter, their grades might plunge, or they might even be emotionally scarred.

#### Chapter 1583: Relaxing With a Holiday

In the face of Qiao Zijin’s accusations, even Qiao Nan, who had been calm initially, would become enraged and have the urge to kill Qiao Zijin.

“We’re not afraid!” San Bao puffed up her chest. “We’re willing to go through thick and thin with Mom!” She hated the fact that she was still young and could not do anything to help her mom now that her mom had encountered such a huge problem. Thus, how could she hide far away for the sake of her own peace?

Er Bao did not say anything, but he chewed on his lip, showing that he had the same thoughts as San Bao.

Zhai Sheng smiled. These three children were indeed raised well. "I'm glad you think this way. But you're still young and don't understand how parents think. Your mom has always been strict toward you and has never spoiled you. That's because she's afraid that you three will become spoiled children and that it will be to your disadvantage. But in such a situation, Nan Nan would rather carry the burden alone and leave only the good things for you three."

In front of the three children, Qiao Nan was considered to be a strict mother.

There was no other choice. Other than Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng, all the elders spoiled these three children. The three children had all taken their turns to pluck Old Lin's hair and tug on Old Master Zhai's beard. Everyone else trembled in fear at the sight of these two old men, but in the face of these three rowdy children's antics, the two men were not only not angry, but they even laughed heartily. It was evident how much control the three children had over the elders!

Zhai Sheng was a truly stern father, but he spent too little time at home. If Qiao Nan were to be any less strict to these three children, there would really be no rules or boundaries for them. Qiao Nan was worried that her children would end up as the second, third, and fourth Qiao Zijin.

With Qiao Zijin as an example right before their eyes, there was no way for Qiao Nan to loosen her reins on her children. Sometimes, Qiao Nan even worried that the elders were being too kind to the children to the point of spoiling them. As a mother, she was, unfortunately, the strictest. And because of that, she worried that the children might grow up to hate her or resent her.

Today, the three children proved that not only did they not hate Qiao Nan, but they even loved her very much. She was their most beloved mother!

No matter how smart the three children were, they were still adolescents. Thus, they naturally did not fully understand their mother's heart. But what they did understand was that their mother's love for them was completely sincere and genuine.

"Dad, are you not going to do anything now that Mom's name has been smeared like that? You seem like quite a failure." Er Bao was not willing to let it slide. Although they were still young and could not help, their father was already an adult, and even a chief! He was powerful! But why was it that he could not do anything when their mother faced such a problem?

Er Bao could not do anything himself, but he wanted to encourage Zhai Sheng to get revenge for Qiao Nan. This young man's brain was especially flexible and creative.



Thankfully, Zhai Sheng was driving. Otherwise, Zhai Sheng would definitely have knocked Er Bao on the head. He was already displaying such bad behavior at such a young age. “Don’t worry. This matter is still a little sensitive. I can’t do anything when the time is not yet right. Do you think I’ll let something bad happen to my own wife?” If he still needed the three children to teach him what to do in such a situation, he should just let the three children parent him instead.

Er Bao huffed. That was just a nice way of putting it. This matter had already gone on for a few days, but he had not yet seen anyone taking control of the situation. Instead, they had just allowed the matter to develop. His father said that he knew what to do, so why was he not taking action? What was the use of just talking with no action? If they just relied on words, he could hoist his mother up into heaven. His words were much sweeter than his father’s.

That’s right. Once he reached home, he would use his words to coax his mother to make her happy. At the very least, he would help lift his mother’s spirits. He was not going to let such a matter get his mother down.

With Zhai Sheng driving, he quickly reached home with the three children.

When they alighted from the car, the three children did not hesitate to abandon their father who had been their driver. They rushed toward Qiao Nan, each loudly shouting ‘mom’.

“Mom, I haven’t seen you in a week. I miss you so much! Mom, give me a hug!” San Bao was like a sparrow returning to its nest, rushing into Qiao Nan’s embrace with open arms and using her honey-sweet voice to butter up Qiao Nan. Fortunately, Qiao Nan did not suffer from diabetes. Otherwise, Qiao Nan would faint from just hearing San Bao’s sweet talk.

Holding her daughter’s lean and growing body, Qiao Nan smiled sweetly. “You’re being so sweet the moment you come home. Did you get into trouble in school? Or did you score badly in an exam? Are you trying to put me in a good mood so that you won’t be scolded?”

“Mom, you’re looking down on me. I did very well in my exams!” San Bao was disgruntled. She took out her report card, showing this month’s exam results for Qiao Nan to see. “See, Mom, I’m awesome, right? It’s the seven-day National Day holiday. Mom, will I get a reward for scoring so well this time? I don’t want Dad to bring me to play during this holiday. I want you to go with me.”

Leaving the capital for a few days and not having the news haunting her, her mom’s mood would definitely improve. And thus, she would no longer be so affected by this matter.

On the way back home, San Bao had thought long and hard and had finally thought of a solution. The three children and Qiao Nan would go on a holiday together to heal her heart.

“But don’t forget that you guys spent your birthdays in school this year. Don’t you want to make up for it?” The three children were now in junior high school. On the day of their birthday, they were in school. Yesterday, Qiao Nan was unable to go to school to celebrate the three children’s birthday. Now that the children were back, Qiao Nan wanted to make it up to them.

Er Bao blinked and innocently sat beside Qiao Nan. “Of course! Of course we’ll have to make up for it. This year, our wish is for you to go on a holiday and have fun with us during National Day! Mom, I want to go to Xi An. I’ve heard that there are many delicious snacks in Xi An, and I want to see the terracotta warriors!”

“Xi An? All right.” Da Bao nodded. He was rather interested in that place too. But to tell the truth, he was willing to travel anywhere he had never been to. In particular, he wanted to see the terracotta warriors and experience for himself what was described so vividly in his textbooks.

“That’s fine.” After the driver, Zhai Sheng, parked his car, he overheard this part of the conversation. “Nan Nan, it’s a good idea for you to go on a holiday with the three children.”

#### Chapter 1584: We Are Going Together

“I will join you. It’s been long since we went out as a family.”

Zhai Sheng knew that he was the reason that they didn’t get to travel together. He worked hard for many years to become the youngest chief in the country, and he finally had some free time after achieving his goals. This would be the perfect chance to view the magnificent sceneries of his beloved nation.

In a few years, the kids would have to focus on their academics, and there wouldn’t be much time to travel. Their work and marriage would follow soon after, and Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng might be too old to have fun when the children were finally free.

San Bao’s eyes lit up. “Dad, are you serious? Are you really joining us?” She had dreamed of this day since she was a child. The problem was that she could only meet her father a few times a year.

To her surprise, her childhood dream was about to be fulfilled, and she couldn't contain her excitement.

At this moment, San Bao was ready to cheer as long as Zhai Sheng nodded. This would be the best news that she'd heard in a few days.

Da Bao and Er Bao didn't say anything, but their curved lips reviewed their joy.

"Yes." Zhai Sheng didn't disappoint. He had seen the anticipation in Qiao Nan's eyes. He loved his wife, and he wouldn't leave her hanging.

Da Bao showed a bright smile for the first time today. "What about grandma and grandpa?" They were spending less time with their grandparents after starting school. If they were to travel during the holidays, grandma and grandpa would be lonely. "Dad, can we bring grandma and grandpa together with us?"

"That's right. We should do that!" Er Bao agreed. It would be fun to travel as a family. "We will have enough people to form a tour group if all seven of us travel together!"

Miao Jing was interested in the plan.

Things were a mess in the capital as Qiao Zijin framed Qiao Nan. However, Zhai Yaohui and Qiao Nan told her to stay calm, and all Miao Jing could do was to suppress her anger. When she saw the gloat in the neighbors' eyes, Miao Jing could feel her blood boil.

It was as if these neighbors wanted to watch the Zhai family fall. If Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan were demoted because of the scandal, someone would have to replace them.

In other words, Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan's failure would give others in the neighborhood a better shot at promotions. Although they pitied Qiao Nan for having a sister like Qiao Zijin, they were more than happy to watch the show. Most of them were secretly pushing their children to high positions.

Miao Jing really couldn't bring herself to like these selfish neighbors. When they were in Ping Cheng, the atmosphere was way friendlier than the capital.

That was why Miao Jing was interested in traveling with the family.

The children rarely spent their holidays at home. Before Qiao Nan became the minister, she would take time to bring the kids overseas when she traveled to work. After finishing the job, Qiao Nan would let the kids participate in local events and enrich their lives.

Miao Jing had not had the chance to travel other than business trips with Zhai Yaohui. "Let's go! Staying in the capital only makes my mood worse. We should free our minds." Miao Jing raised her hands in concurrence.

Seeing Miao Jing support whatever Da Bao said, Zhai Yaohui glared at her. "Go ahead. I'll pass." How could Miao Miao not bring him up when it was a family trip?

"Grandpa, join us!" San Bao knew that grandpa was the final target, and she wouldn't give up including the whole family. She shuffled to Zhai Yaohui's side and grabbed onto his arm. "Grandpa, come with us. If you don't join us, I won't get to see you for a week. What should I do if I miss you too much? Do you not love me anymore?"

Although Elder Lin and Old Master Zhai had passed, San Bao had never forgotten about them. She knew that this trick would always work on the two of them.

Grandpa was younger than the elders, but she figured that it would work the same.

Just as she expected, Zhai Yaohui couldn't win against his cute granddaughter. "Alright, stop shaking my arm. Grandpa's bones are falling apart from this." He had been trying to remain reserved all these years.

Miao Jing knew that Zhai Yaohui wanted to go with them, but he needed the kids to appease him. 'How childish. Shouldn't he be the one coaxing the kids?'

Miao Jing didn't say her thoughts out loud; all she did was mocking her husband in her heart.

Chapter 1585: All Ready

"It's settled then. This time, we'll go on a holiday as a family of seven!" San Bao jumped around in joy. Well, bad things happened often, but there would always be something to be happy about. Her

mom was right. One could not always think negatively and had to look on the bright side of things too. “Mom, let’s hurry and get ready. Won’t we be leaving tomorrow? Should we book plane tickets?”

“I’ll book the plane tickets.” Zhai Sheng took over this task.

Miao Jing patted her thigh. “Great, you settle the tickets. I’ll pack our luggage with Nan Nan.” It was still rather warm in October, so other than a few sets of clothes, they had to pack a few more things for the three children, such as flu medicine, just in case.

Miao Jing and Qiao Nan had never thought of relying on the two men in the house to do something like packing their luggage. Thus, the responsibility of doing so fell on them.

While folding clothes to pack into their luggage, Qiao Nan hesitated for a moment. “My dad...” By that, she did not mean her father-in-law Zhai Yaohui, but her biological father, Qiao Dongliang.

Qiao Dongliang had been looking forward to the seven-day National Day holiday because the three children would be home, and he would finally be able to spend some time with his grandchildren.

In the past, even if Qiao Nan did not mention it, she had always counted Qiao Dongliang as part of their ‘family’ due to the three children’s filial piety. But they had recently found out from their paternal grandmother that such a good grandfather had made a horrible mistake in the past and treated their mother so badly. The three children had not had enough time to calm down and smooth out their thoughts and emotions. If they did not smooth it out, there would be resentment in their hearts forever.

Many children enter their teenage rebellion period after entering junior high school. The three children were just unable to handle their complex feelings in a mature manner and thus threw a small tantrum by ignoring their grandpa, Qiao Dongliang. In comparison to other children, the three children saved their parents a lot of worries.

But even if the three children refused to mention him, Qiao Nan could not do the same.

Miao Jing did not stop midway through what she was doing. She had already known that Qiao Nan was a softhearted child. Qiao Dongliang’s actions had not been as outrageous as Ding Jiayi’s or Qiao Zijin’s. Hence, she was not at all surprised that Nan Nan would mention Qiao Dongliang. “I’ve spoken to Zhai Sheng and asked him to purchase an extra ticket. Hurry and make a call to

your dad. Tell him to pack some clothes. He doesn't need to bring anything else. We'll have more than enough."

Well, due to Ding Jiayi's and Qiao Zijin's shameless actions, Miao Jing's feelings toward Qiao Dongliang, which had already been mixed to begin with, became even more complicated.

One was Qiao Dongliang's wife, and the other was his elder daughter.

These two heartless women had such a close relationship with Qiao Dongliang. As such, Qiao Dongliang had to take responsibility for their brazen and shameless actions. It was because Qiao Dongliang had not reined in his wife and child that Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin had grown into what they were today.

But they all lived in the same house under the same roof. Qiao Dongliang had not been influenced by these two people and taken part in taking down Qiao Nan. Instead, he clearly had his own limits. With such a contrast, Miao Jing's resentment toward Qiao Dongliang lessened.

There was no choice since there was no top-notch stuff in the Qiao family. Only one was relatively better!

Qiao Dongliang, who only looked good when comparing with the others of the Qiao family, was a coward. But at least, he was still useful. Miao Jing herself could not leave her grandchildren. She understood the importance of the three children to Qiao Dongliang, as well as how much he loved them. If they were all to go on a holiday but leave Qiao Dongliang out, he was sure to feel lonely.

But most importantly, Miao Jing had done her calculations.

There was really no saving Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin. But if the whole Zhai family were to go on a holiday and leave Qiao Dongliang behind alone, in these seven days, Qiao Zijin might find Qiao Dongliang and beg for mercy, even bringing Ding Jiayi along. Then, the three of them might band together even closer than before and conspire to take Nan Nan down. If that were to happen, Nan Nan would be too pitiful.

People's emotions were fragile, and so were people's hearts.

Anyway, she would never leave such an opportunity for Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi to take advantage of, so as to prevent them from pulling Qiao Dongliang over to their side again. For Nan Nan's sake,

she would rather just fork out more money and bring Qiao Dongliang along with them on their holiday. That would let Qiao Dongliang realize that the only one who was good to him in the Qiao family was Nan Nan alone.

She had to help Nan Nan hold on to their 'ally', Qiao Dongliang, firmly.

To give up small profits to make larger ones—Miao Jing understood this principle. She would not ruin her larger plan just because of a moment of anger. If one failed to contain their anger at this moment, they would ruin the overall plan in the long run.

"Thanks, Mom." Hearing Miao Jing's words made Qiao Nan sigh in relief. She had not expected that her mother-in-law had already thought about this and had even asked Zhai Sheng to prepare her father's ticket without her even having said a thing. "I'll call my dad now." Qiao Nan did not dawdle as she worried that Qiao Dongliang would have no time to get ready.

Qiao Dongliang had been rather surprised to receive this phone call. Seeing Qiao Zijin kicking up a fuss every day, he knew that Qiao Zijin was doing it just to harm Qiao Nan. But other than publicly declaring that he had disowned Qiao Zijin as his daughter, he had done nothing, mainly because he did not know what to do. Every time he saw a news report regarding Qiao Zijin, Qiao Dongliang felt deeply apologetic toward Qiao Nan. This guilt built up so much so that Qiao Dongliang was too ashamed to even take the initiative to contact Qiao Nan.

As much as Qiao Dongliang missed the three children, he dared not approach the Zhai family.

When he saw that the call was from Qiao Nan, Qiao Dongliang had been afraid that Qiao Nan was calling to scold him. But it turned out to be such a pleasant surprise! Qiao Dongliang almost suspected that he was hallucinating. "You're bringing me on a holiday? Me?"

"That's right. Brother Zhai has already purchased your plane ticket. It's for tomorrow. So hurry and pack a few sets of clothes. We'll prepare the rest. I'll get Brother Zhai to pick you up tomorrow morning, and we'll set off together from the Zhai family's house. Is that all right?"

"No, there's no need." Qiao Dongliang's voice was shaky, and his eyes expressed his surprise. "That'll be too troublesome. The capital is so busy, especially with so many cars around. I'll hail a cab myself and meet you at the Zhai family's house. There's no need to trouble Zhai Sheng to come over specially to pick me up. I'll go pack my clothes now."

Yesterday, he had still been sad about how he would not be able to see the three children over these seven days of the National Day holiday. But the next moment, Qiao Dongliang was being lifted from hell to heaven. He was as happy as a lark and could not wait to finish packing at the fastest possible speed.

“All right, go pack your clothes. We’re still not done. You should know that there are quite a lot of things to prepare when going on holiday with three children.” She could tell that Qiao Dongliang was overjoyed, but Qiao Nan did not have anything much to say.

#### Chapter 1586: A Wealthy Elder

“Right, the children have more to prepare, so don’t miss anything. I will take care of myself. Just look after the kids. Bye.” Qiao Dongliang dashed into his room and grabbed a few sets of clothes. He didn’t need a suitcase as he stuffed everything into a hiking bag.

To a man, traveling is as simple as that!

Although the trip was a last-minute call, Qiao Nan and Miao Jing were quick to pack, gathering the essentials within an hour. In the remaining time, they thought about every possible situation to avoid missing out on anything important.

“What? Did Zhai Sheng order tickets to Xi An? How many of them?” The news dumbfounded Peng Yu. Qiao Nan was in trouble, but Zhai Sheng still had the mood to travel with the entire family. What the hell was going on?

He didn’t believe that Zhai Sheng had given up on Qiao Nan. Zhai Sheng would never do that.

“Eight of them.”

“Eight?” Peng Yu did his maths. “Old Master Zhai is gone, so shouldn’t there be seven of them? Are they taking Qiao Dongliang with them?”

After Ding Jiayi arrived in the capital, Qiao Nan would only meet her every month to pass her an allowance. She had never met the Zhai family, and the three kids had no idea that they had a grandma living in the capital. Therefore, the extra ticket wouldn’t be for Ding Jiayi.



If Ding Jiayi couldn't join the fun, there was no way that Qiao Zijin would be invited. The only one left that could have such privilege was Qiao Dongliang. "How generous of him. Wasn't he supposed to protect Qiao Nan from her family? Why is he so nice to Qiao Dongliang?"

Shouldn't he hate the man who allowed Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin to gang up on Qiao Nan?

Shouldn't he hold onto his principles?

If the Zhai family distanced themselves from everyone in the Qiao family, it would have added fuel to the flame. Qiao Nan would be in a worse situation as a result.

Peng Yu was disappointed that Qiao Dongliang wasn't on the side of his wife and older daughter, for it would be a great help to his master plan. Why did Qiao Dongliang have to be the special one?

Now that Qiao Dongliang was traveling with the Zhai family, Qiao Zijin wouldn't have the support from her father for sure. When Peng Yu thought about Ding Jiayi, his head ached in annoyance. That woman was not only nasty to Qiao Nan, but she also treated others just the same. She had the guts to ask for a fortune from everyone. Maybe she was wittier than Qiao Zijin by a little, but her stupidity was immeasurable.

Did she think that money was something so easily obtained?

Peng Yu's thoughts couldn't stop the Zhai family from their travel plans. The next morning, Qiao Dongliang took a taxi to the Zhai family enthusiastically. Miao Jing had told the kids that he was coming, so the children weren't surprised to see him.

They would be delighted to see Qiao Dongliang in the past. Now, their smiles to him were a little forced.

Qiao Dongliang didn't overthink it. He figured that the kids were simply sleep-deprived due to the early flight.

Despite the children's awkward expressions, Qiao Dongliang had his spirits high. Alongside the one-sided excitement from Qiao Dongliang, the eight of them headed for the airport.

“What? My dad is traveling with the Zhai family?” When Qiao Zijin received the news, Qiao Dongliang was already on his flight to Xi An. “Why didn’t you inform me earlier? If I knew it, they wouldn’t dream of getting on the plane. It would be the perfect chance to show everyone that Qiao Nan is biased against my mom and me!”

Qiao Zijin’s eyes were crimson red. She didn’t expect that Qiao Nan turned out to be doing fine. She had caused such chaos, but Qiao Nan didn’t even give her a call.

The begging for forgiveness that Qiao Zijin imagined from Qiao Nan never happened. In fact, Qiao Nan didn’t even bother threatening her. All the harsh replies that Qiao Zijin had prepared had no place to be used.

When she was married to Zhou Zheng, she would receive a monthly allowance from him. However, that money was barely enough for her to buy clothes. Things like traveling were too costly for her, so she could only tag along when the Zhou family was to travel.

After giving birth to Zhou Ying, the elders put all their attention on the baby girl, and they wouldn’t leave her side. Since Zhou Zheng’s mother didn’t want to leave her granddaughter, traveling became impossible for Qiao Zijin, who had no earning.

She knew that Qiao Nan was only traveling to another city, but she was still envious that Qiao Nan had such good in-laws. The Zhai family must be rich to bring her father along.

If the Zhai family didn’t mind spending on the Qiao family, was it that big of a deal to give her a house to stay and issue her some allowance? Why did they have to be so stingy? She had also heard that Qiao Nan had loads of money that she inherited from Elder Lin.

Qiao Zijin only found out recently that the master of Qiao Nan years ago helped Qiao Nan make a living and raised her status. Most importantly, that old man was a mogul with tons of money.

#### Chapter 1587: Fighting Back

A person like this who was childless had willed everything to Qiao Nan before his death.

What she was spending was not Qiao Nan’s hard-earned money. Whatever Qiao Nan gave her was that dead old man’s money. Even so, Qiao Nan refused. She was so stingy!

“Even if you had known earlier, you wouldn’t have been able to do anything.”

Qiao Zijin did not believe it and grabbed onto the phone in her hand ever tighter. “How would you know I can’t do it when I haven’t even tried? Even if I can’t, there will definitely be someone who can. Those people you lent me aren’t good-for-nothings. Aren’t they good at writing? As long as you give them a photo, they will be able to come up with a great story. Thinking about it now, the articles that they come up with should be even more exciting and interesting than those that they have written in the past. Don’t you think so? You and I are both clear about what kind of status Qiao Nan’s father-in-law holds. If we bring the Zhai family into the picture, this piece of news will be explosive and will attract even more attention so that Qiao Nan will have no choice but to bow to public pressure and beg me for mercy.”

Up until now, Qiao Zijin still had no idea who was silently helping her. After all, they had always communicated with each other through phone calls. She had already asked to meet this person face-to-face several times, but every time, the other party would refuse. Even though Qiao Zijin expressed that she was willing to hand over a portion of whatever she gained from Qiao Nan through this once this plan was successful, the other party was adamant about not meeting her.

Qiao Zijin could not understand that. Were there really people who thought that they had too much money? How could the other party not be moved in the face of such a huge benefit? Even if she stood to gain from this, Qiao Zijin felt that there was something off about this.

“Hehe.” The voice on the other end of the call sneered. “Invisibility is frightening. It’s good to have brains. You should have some yourself. You know well what kind of status that Zhai guy has and you still have such a naive thought? With the Zhai family’s contributions to the country, unless the men in the Zhai family really betray the party or the country, or commit treason, there’s no way the country will give a hoot about these small family disputes even if you air them publicly. Do you really want to seek your own death by singling out one of the country’s chief and a former chief?”

Whoever dared to use Qiao Nan’s matter to drag Zhai Yaohui and Zhai Sheng down was plain foolish.

In China, things can be eaten carelessly, but words cannot be spoken carelessly. Even though citizens had the right to the freedom of speech, every adult and legal citizen had to take responsibility for whatever they said. If something went wrong and she accidentally maligned a leader of the country, she could be charged and would be sent to jail for the rest of her life.

“I-is it that serious?” Death? Qiao Zijin’s voice faltered. “Are you deliberately trying to scare me? I didn’t kill anyone, and neither did I rob or blackmail anyone.” At the very most, she had said some things about them. Was it really that serious?

“It is that serious.” If Qiao Zijin had not been the one to direct this entire show, Peng Yu would not even bother with this fool that was Qiao Zijin. No wonder they were sisters. Qiao Nan had already become the minister of foreign affairs, but Qiao Zijin could only reach her hand out to ask for money. Qiao Zijin’s fatal error was playing the game too early. Was that not a waste of his painstaking efforts to arrange everything and all the money he had thrown in?

“You can make a little trouble at the very most because you are her elder sister. But in the Zhai family, you can’t afford to offend Zhai Yaohui and Zhai Sheng in your entire life. Don’t create trouble for yourself. If you get on the wrong side of the men of the Zhai family, I’ll have to apologize because even I won’t be able to help you.” So, be smart.

Qiao Zijin was so frightened that her throat was hoarse. “Oh... You won’t leave me in the lurch, right? I’ve done everything because of Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan is the Zhai family’s daughter-in-law, so offending Qiao Nan is no different from offending the Zhai family. Are you here to help me or to harm me?” She did not know that offending the Zhai family would bring about such dire consequences.

They lived in a civil society. She had not committed any crimes. Why would the Zhai family be so harsh toward her and force her toward death?

“...” Peng Yu rolled his eyes rapidly. Had Qiao Zijin left her IQ in her mother’s stomach when she was born? Had she not heard what he said? Zhai Yaohui and Zhai Sheng were talents that the state viewed highly. As chiefs, this pair of father and son held superior positions within the country. They were core leaders of the nation. If it was really true, it would be quite difficult to handle it. Not to mention how Qiao Zijin talked about Qiao Nan being the person she was targeting.

What Qiao Nan did at most was being unfilial and immoral, but it was nothing that was restricted by the law. She could only use discussion and public opinions to suppress Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan had not broken the law, and much less Zhai Yaohui and Zhai Sheng.

Spilling dirt on national leaders and ruining their images in the people’s minds was undermining the status of the nation’s leaders. It was a great crime that sought to destabilize the country!

Qiao Zijin was truly lion-hearted and dauntless to be digging out dirt on these important figures. If it were him, he would never do that. Going anonymous gave a person courage, but it did not mean that he would be innocent no matter what he did.

“If you continue speaking like this, I think that there’s no need for us to continue working with each other. You have to remember that you have nothing to do with Zhai Yaohui and Zhai Sheng. They are important military figures. Do you think that it’s not serious to falsely accuse these important military figures?”

“I...” Qiao Zijin’s face paled and beads of cold sweat started forming on her forehead. “But I’m their relative! Zhai Sheng has seen me before and he even addressed me as his elder sister! I’m his sister-in-law!”

“You’re only the Zhai family’s relative and Zhai Sheng’s sister-in-law if they acknowledge you. But the question is do they actually acknowledge you as a relative? Do you think you can just call yourself their relative because you want to? If it was that simple, did you still have to do all these things? Don’t say such silly things. Your behavior will just make me think that I’m stupid for helping you!”

Peng Yu took a deep breath. Perhaps, working with Qiao Zijin was the worst decision he had ever made. With such a collaborator, he was afraid that Qiao Zijin would not even succeed in bringing Qiao Nan down. Worse still, he might even get so angry at Qiao Zijin that he might get sent to the hospital.

If one did not have a strong physique, it was best not to interact with Qiao Zijin at all. Otherwise, one was sure to be sent to the hospital after talking to her.

“Then, what shall I do?” The dazed Qiao Zijin asked another stupid question.

“There’s nothing much to do. You haven’t dragged the Zhai family in anyway. Just attack Qiao Nan alone. Based on your kinship with Qiao Nan, and as long as you don’t implicate anyone else, especially the Zhai family, you can rest assured. Whatever I said earlier won’t happen to you if you follow what I say.”

Chapter 1588: Still a Fool

“Now you understand how much fate there was for the stars to have aligned to have the right time and place for you and Qiao Nan to have been born to the same mother.”

Initially, Peng Yu had thought that he would become the right person who would help Qiao Zijin defeat Qiao Nan. In that way, Qiao Zijin would have all three aspects: the right place, time, and person. Then, he could only say that Qiao Nan was unlucky. But after what had just happened, Peng Yu no longer had such naive thoughts. Perhaps he could be Qiao Zijin’s right person, but conversely, Qiao Zijin would definitely not be of much help to him.

After hanging up the phone, Peng Yu knocked his forehead. “You haven’t settled this nicely this time. Before doing anything, I should have gained a good understanding of how Qiao Zijin is as a person and what kind of temper she has. If it was anyone else, or if we used a different method to expose this, the effect could have been much better.”

Peng Yu had a vague premonition that it would not be a flaw in his plans that would lead to the failure of his plans to not be able to bring down Zhai Sheng’s wife, Qiao Nan. The greatest mistake he had made was to pick Qiao Zijin as his collaborator.

To have Peng Yu have such thoughts toward Qiao Zijin, one could only imagine how foolish Qiao Zijin had been in front of Peng Yu.

Chen Jun had been far away in Ping Cheng but had always been paying close attention to what was going on in the capital. After learning of these events, he felt thankful on more than one occasion that he had not gotten back together with Qiao Zijin after all. The only reason why he had reconciled with Qiao Zijin was that he had wasted so much of his money on her while he was younger but had never gained anything from it. As such, he deliberately played along with Qiao Zijin. He had never expected that it was such a good decision not to get back together with her.

Over ten years ago, Qiao Zijin had been a fool. Ten years later, Qiao Zijin had grown crow’s eyes and wrinkles, but her intelligence had not grown. In fact, her IQ had probably regressed too. If he had married a woman like Qiao Zijin, he would probably die early from needing to worry about a wife like that.

Fortunately, he had gotten rid of this burden long ago. More than ten years ago, in fact. Now, Chen Jun no longer felt sorry for his unrequited investment on Qiao Zijin. He was only thankful that he was decisive. Abandoning her was probably the best thing he had done.

Qiao Nan and her family practically spent the entire seven days of the National Day holiday outside. Only on the night of the sixth did the Zhai family and Qiao Dongliang return to the capital with tiredness and joy.

“It’s already so late. I’ll get auntie to make up the guest room. In-law, why don’t you rest here for the night and go home tomorrow?” It was already nine o’clock in the night by the time they reached home. Miao Jing rubbed her shoulders. She had indeed grown old. When she had flown around all the time in the past, she had never felt sore. But she could not do that anymore.

It was always difficult to get tickets for all kinds of transportation during the National Day holidays, just like during the Lunar New Year. Just thinking about it made Miao Jing tired. Perhaps, the biggest mistake they made this time was not that they had continued to play at their advanced age, but rather, going on a holiday during the National Day period. There were so many Chinese!

Qiao Dongliang put down the things of the three children and smiled politely. “That won’t be necessary. It’s only nine. It won’t even be ten by the time I get home. I’ll take my leave first. I won’t bother you any further.” Qiao Dongliang knew that the Zhai family did not really accept him as their in-law. It was not that he did not know the reason. It was because he felt too ashamed to recall the past.

As such, other than standing in front of the three children as their grandfather, Qiao Dongliang was too ashamed to face the Zhai family. He was afraid that others would mock him for being too shameless.

“Dad, auntie has already made up the room. Even if you’re not used to it, why don’t you just stay the night? I won’t stop you from leaving tomorrow.” Qiao Nan shook her head. After a few days of being away, she guessed that the house would be all dusty. The blankets had not been aired either. It would be uncomfortable to sleep with a damp blanket. If her father slept over at the Zhai family’s house for a night and returned home the next day, he could then air the blankets and clean up the house during the day so that he could sleep comfortably at night.

“That’s right, grandpa. It’s already so late. Don’t leave. I’m tired.” San Bao yawned. Because of this trip, San Bao was starting to treat her grandfather, Qiao Dongliang, just like she did before. It was totally unlike her behavior just a week earlier, when her expression had been cold upon seeing Qiao Dongliang. “If you don’t agree to it, I won’t be able to sleep in peace.”

“Grandpa, just stay the night.” Da Bao’s words carried more weight than San Bao’s. Once Da Bao said that, Qiao Dongliang could not help but nod his head while looking at that face which bore an

uncanny resemblance to his son-in-law. It was as though Qiao Dongliang was still in the army and had just met his officer. He had no choice but to follow his superior's orders.

The moment Qiao Dongliang agreed, San Bao smiled. "Grandpa, I'll go wash up first. I'm really sleepy and tired. Goodnight, grandpa."

"Goodnight, grandpa."

"Goodnight, grandpa." The three children were too sleepy, and one by one, they all yawned and stretched while walking back to their own rooms. Before the three children graduated from primary school, while they were still in grade five, Qian Nan had arranged for the three children to sleep in separate rooms.

So right now, San Bao slept in a room, while Er Bao and Da Bao shared a room. Initially, San Bao had not been used to having a room to herself and had thrown a small tantrum. Thankfully, with Qiao Nan comforting her, she slowly got used to it in under a week's time.

"Dad, although it's already nine o'clock, I think it's better for us to eat something before we sleep." The moment Qiao Nan landed in the capital, she made a call home and asked the auntie to prepare an easily digestible supper, something like nutritious porridge.

At such a late hour, the auntie could not cook a complicated porridge, but she was still capable of cooking an easier dish like porridge with lean pork and century eggs. By now, the porridge had been cooked such that the grains were soft and mushy. Even if one drank an entire bowl of porridge, there would probably be nothing left in their stomach once they went to the bathroom.

"Fine." It was his first time staying over at the Zhai family's house and Qiao Dongliang was not used to it. Therefore, whatever Qiao Nan told him to do, he would do it so as to not create any trouble for Qiao Nan. After quickly drinking his porridge and finding out where his room was, Qiao Dongliang carried his backpack into the room, washed up, and went to bed.

In reality, Qiao Dongliang himself was deadbeat. Qiao Nan's decision to let him stay over had made it much easier on Qiao Dongliang. Qiao Dongliang suspected that if he were to return home, he might have fallen asleep once he got on the car. When he arrived home, the cost of the ride would really depend on the conscience of the driver.



Zhai Sheng allowed Qiao Nan to take her bath first. When he stepped out after his bath, he saw Qiao Nan sitting in front of her desk writing something, with her hair still dripping wet. “Why don’t you dry your hair?” The water dripping down from her hair was about to soak through her clothes.

#### Chapter 1589: Father-In-Law’s Move

“The weather is not cold yet, but it’s still bad for your body to sleep without drying your hair,” Zhai Sheng said as he picked up a dry towel and helped Qiao Nan dry her hair.

Qiao Nan did not even raise her head. She could not care less. “Even though my hair is long, it dries quite quickly. Just let it drip for a while longer. In less than half an hour, the ends of my hair will definitely be dry. I’ll be able to sleep then. I know what I’m doing.”

“What are you writing?” Zhai Sheng did not argue with Qiao Nan. Since he was at home today, he could help Qiao Nan dry her hair. Normally, Qiao Nan would not even shower so late at night, and neither would she be so tired that she would want to lie down on the bed immediately after her bath to sleep for twelve hours. Today was an exceptional situation.

“Nothing much. I’m just recording how much we spent on this trip.” Qiao Nan closed the accounts book. This had been a habit from her previous lifetime that she had brought over into this one. Even if she no longer counted every single cent carefully and pinched pennies to get by like in her previous lifetime, Qiao Nan felt that it was necessary to have an accounts book like this to keep track of her monthly expenses.

“All right, since you’ve finished recording it, let’s go to sleep.” Seeing Qiao Nan close the book, Zhai Sheng did not hesitate to carry Qiao Nan onto the bed. “It’s already very late. Hurry and go to sleep.” Zhai Sheng kissed Qiao Nan on the eyes and hugged her within his embrace.

Qiao Nan hugged Zhai Sheng’s slender waist. “You’re being so obedient today.” Was he not going to bother her?

Zhai Sheng inhaled sharply and gave a hard slap on Qiao Nan’s buttocks. “Since you know the situation I’m in, don’t provoke me. Even though you don’t need to go to work tomorrow, we’ve had a long day after coming back from our holiday. Rest well. We still have all the time in the world.”

Although Qiao Nan had just taken a slap on her buttocks, she was not angry. Instead, she chuckled stiffly. With a father like Qiao Dongliang, Qiao Nan had never experienced the most common love a daughter received from her father, let alone being treated like a princess. After being together with Chen Jun, Qiao Nan slowly understood how it felt like to be taken care of and loved by someone.

But after getting married to Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan finally understood how it felt to be treated like a princess. If her hair was dripping wet, there would be someone to dry it for her. If she got hurt and bled, Zhai Sheng would be even more concerned than her. Just like now, although Zhai Sheng clearly wanted it, he knew that her physique was not the best and that the trip had drained her completely of all her energy. As such, he knew that she would need a good rest.

Zhai Sheng, who was always ferocious and domineering in bed, controlled his urges so as to let her sleep well. It felt so good to be pampered like a princess.

Qiao Nan smiled, and the next moment, she was already asleep.

Feeling that delicate body in his arms that was not only soft but also fragrant and attractive, Zhai Sheng laughed bitterly before hugging Qiao Nan even closer. After reciting the military code of conduct in his heart, he finally fell asleep.

That night, everyone had gone to bed early and woken up late the next morning. Thus, everyone was full of energy. Even Qiao Dongliang had forgotten that he was in the Zhai family's house instead of his own, and had slept so comfortably that he only got up at eight o'clock the next day.

Seeing that Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing had already finished their breakfasts, Qiao Dongliang was extremely embarrassed.

Zhai Yaohui waved Qiao Dongliang over. "Hurry over and have your breakfast. You have enough rest, but your stomach is probably growling."

"Okay, chief." In front of Zhai Yaohui, Qiao Dongliang was not only stiff but also nervous. While he was still a soldier, the chief whom he had never had the fate to meet turned out to be his in-law! Now, they were even sitting at the same table to have a meal together! This was like a dream come true for Qiao Dongliang.

However, when Qiao Dongliang thought about how this honor was all due to his younger daughter, but his younger daughter had never relied on him after getting married, Qiao Dongliang's mood sank again.

Zhai Yaohui pushed the soymilk in front of Qiao Dongliang. “Let bygones be bygones. It’s not that the past isn’t important, but if you feel apologetic toward Nan Nan, then even more so, you should seize the present and future to protect your daughter. It’s never too late as long as you’re still alive.”

Instead of sitting here and sighing with a guilty expression, he might as well do something more practical to protect his child. Zhai Yaohui was used to the iron-blooded military style of handling things. There was no use just ‘thinking’. One had to ‘do’ it. Qiao Dongliang was just wasting his time and life by wallowing in shame and misery.

Zhai Yaohui’s lips twitched. No wonder Qiao Dongliang had left the army so easily after having a second child. If Qiao Dongliang had been a good soldier, his superior would never have agreed to it. His superior would even have persuaded him to stay, or given him a solution to this problem.

But Qiao Dongliang leaving with such ease said a lot about his mediocre performance within the army. On the account of their relationship, no one had said anything while he was still in the army. But they were probably over the moon when Qiao Dongliang decided to leave the army on his own accord.

In this way, Qiao Dongliang was neither a good soldier nor a good father. So up until today, what was the only thing that Qiao Dongliang had done well?

“Yes, old chief, you’re right.” Qiao Dongliang sat upright, just like a young child being disciplined by his teacher. “Don’t worry, old chief. I’ll try my best to help Nan Nan in this situation. Zijin cannot be saved, but I will never let Zijin ruin Nan Nan.”

As for how he was going to do it, Qiao Dongliang was going to have to think carefully about it once he returned home. He had to find a way to win with just one move so that all these news reports could no longer develop, and Qiao Zijin could no longer continue with her antics.

This matter had been going on for almost half a month. Qiao Dongliang felt that it was time to put an end to it.

Qiao Dongliang had yet to think of a good solution. The moment Zhai Yaohui returned home, he received a piece of news and immediately told Qiao Nan that the time had come. It was said that the public was foolish and easy influenced and cheated. The truth was usually unexpected.

As such, even though they held the real truth in their hands, Zhai Yaohui had not asked Qiao Nan to prove her innocence right away. If she did so, someone might take that opportunity to accuse her of having a guilty conscience. Otherwise, if she were truly innocent, Qiao Nan would not even need to come out and try to clear her name.

After the matter had gone on for a while, many people had already released their pent-up emotions and were relatively calmer. They would naturally follow when Qiao Nan released the truth of the matter.

#### Chapter 1590: Can't Afford To Have Such Relatives

After hearing Zhai Yaohui's words, Qiao Nan did not do anything else. All she did was to upload a recording on the platform on which she had been lambasted.

Half a month ago, people in the capital may not have recognized the voices of the two women in the recording. But now, once they opened the file, the majority of the public immediately recognized that arrogant voice. It belonged to the sister of a certain minister who had been splashed all over the headlines recently: Qiao Zijin.

After listening to the contents of the recording, anyone with a brain could guess that the other one with a crisp and clear voice belonged to the main person embroiled in this scandal, that minister herself!

After identifying the two main characters in the recording, everyone who discovered this uploaded recording and clicked on it to listen could not help but hold their breaths, reduce the ambient noises, and perk up their ears to listen.

Once they finished listening to the recording in its entirety, many people were stunned. Was that really the truth of the matter?

It could not be denied that the 21st century was the era of the internet. After this other truth surfaced, many people started to regret, worry, and even hesitate. With two truths, which one was the real truth?

And so, there quickly emerged a whole range of keyboard warriors and 'analysts' who tried to determine the veracity of this recording. Very quickly, professionals determined that the recording

was indeed complete. He could not tell if anyone had edited the start and end of the recording out, but he could confirm that the entire recording had not been pieced together or edited otherwise. This was because the voice tones of the two people had been the same throughout the whole recording. This showed that the voices had not been altered.

As for the analysts, they based their analysis solely on the content of the recording, as well as whatever Qiao Zijin had publicly announced to the media in this past month.

The analysts expressed that Qiao Zijin did not look her age. As for Qiao Nan, she was not only of age but also had the ability to work, and was even far from the age of retirement. Which abled adults with no fixed source of income would not want to find a stable job to support themselves? Would they really accuse their own sister of ignoring them now that their sister had become rich?

If Qiao Zijin was not looking to glean anything off her sister's fame, why would it be a problem for Qiao Zijin if her sister looked down on someone else? Sometimes, it was better if one was not too proud. After all, there would always be a difference between people. The younger sister was a minister, but no one had ever mentioned what the elder sister was. With such a difference in their social statuses, was it bad for the younger sister to be a little proud?

Moreover, up until now, there was no evidence to prove that that certain minister's haughty behavior toward Qiao Zijin was due to her disdain for Qiao Zijin. Could it really be that their relationship was poor solely because of the difference in their statuses? No, such discords between relatives were usually due to money.

That certain minister had married well and had a good job. Even if she needed money, she would never have asked for money from Qiao Zijin. Conversely, Qiao Zijin, who had been making a fuss for the past half a month, did not look like she was at the age of retirement, yet she was not working. From this, it was easy to tell that Qiao Zijin was the one who needed money.

The results of this analysis were hugely supported by the recording.

Anyone who had ears to listen could tell that Qiao Zijin's tone in the recording was not only haughty, but she had even shamelessly opened her mouth and made ridiculous demands of her own biological younger sister. Not only had she asked for her sister to provide a living space for her free of charge, but it even had to be a large one, hinting at wanting to live in a villa.

Hahaha!

Where was this? This was the capital! Even renting a basement apartment cost a few hundred yuan a month! She wanted to live on other's expenses, and she even wanted a large space that was quiet, best if it was a villa. How could she be so shameless?

They were only sisters, not mother and daughter. Even if they were really mother and daughter, children had no right to make such unreasonable demands toward their parents and force their parents to satisfy them. Similarly, parents should not make such ridiculous and inhumane demands toward their children either.

If everyone did so, the world would be in chaos. How many people in the world were like Qiao Zijin and had relatives who were able to fulfill such requests? One had to be all sorts of rich to dare to even call Qiao Zijin their sister. Was Qiao Zijin made of gold? Or would they be able to live longer if they were to acknowledge Qiao Zijin as their sister?

Otherwise, why did the elder sister not need to take care of the younger sister? Quite the contrary, it was the younger sister who had to support the elder sister and fulfill her demands?

They really wanted to curse and swear. One must have accumulated bad luck over ten lifetimes to have such an elder sister.

It was enough that she had hinted at wanting to live in a villa, but Qiao Zijin had still been so casual and gave off an air that said 'it's only because I think highly of you that I'm taking your money'. It was as though Qiao Zijin thought that giving her four or five thousand yuan a month was giving her sister a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bless her. 'I'm not taking more from you because I'm not greedy as an elder sister. I'm not taking more because I'm the best sister in the world.'

The analyst wanted to laugh out loud. It was true that four or five thousand yuan was not a large sum in the capital. But the problem was that looking at one's salary alone, four or five thousand was not considered small either. But, and this was the biggest but. She wanted it for free! Free!

As an elder sister, she was taking money from her younger sister with an attitude as though she deserved it. Was this really a thing?

If this was considered normal, and that certain minister did not refuse such a ridiculous request, everyone with siblings did not even need to think about living anymore.

What? Did you say that the minister was rich and the ordinary person was not, so it would be all right for the minister to spare them some? After all, no matter how ridiculous Qiao Zijin's demands were, this was just a small change to that minister.

Hahaha!

Even if that minister had chanced upon a windfall, it was normal for her to support her parents. But was it really her duty to support her sister and her niece? If Qiao Zijin was paraplegic, blind, or bedridden, and had no way of providing for herself, then perhaps you could say that.

But even if one had too much money, they should never spend it on someone who was able-bodied and was not disabled in any way, and was even lazing around at home. If you were in her place, would you agree to it? Then, that would be good news for all the elder siblings out there. They did not need to study or work anymore. They did not need to worry about their future because there would be someone who would provide for them!

It would be all right even if there was no villa. They could just squeeze together under the same roof.