

RTAMM 1601

Chapter 1601: Don't Accuse My Mom

But Zhai Sheng's worry was indeed necessary. When Ding Jiayi rushed to the hospital with disheveled hair, the first thing on her mind was not to ask about Qiao Zijin's condition. Instead, she pounced on Qiao Nan fiercely. "You wretched girl! How can you be so evil? How can you be so cruel? No matter how wrong Zijin is, she's still your sister. How could you knock her down? Do you want her dead? I know you want her dead!"

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After hearing that Qiao Nan had knocked Qiao Zijin down, Ding Jiayi was ready to tear into Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan was already living such a good life. On the contrary, her elder daughter's life could not get any worse. Why was it that Qiao Nan could not let her elder daughter off? Why was it that her elder daughter had to die? She hit her with a car! A car!

How cruel did she have to be to do that! "Qiao Nan, I'm warning you. If anything happens to Qiao Zijin, I won't let you off. I'll sue you. I'll sue you until I die. You have to pay for her death with your life! You're a murderer! You evil b*tch!"

Qiao Dongliang, who just rushed over, happened to overhear Ding Jiayi scolding Qiao Nan. He did not have time to care about Qiao Zijin either and simply landed a tight slap on Ding Jiayi's face. "Who are you scolding?"

Thinking about how Ding Jiayi dared to scold Qiao Nan like this in front of his three grandchildren, Qiao Dongliang fumed. "I dare you to say another word!"

"You're heartless too! She knocked Zijin down! She wants to kill Zijin! Zijin is your daughter too. Qiao Nan is a murderer! How can you still help her at such a time? Zijin is going to die because of her! Don't you pity Zijin?" Ding Jiayi cried out in pain. Her poor Zijin! Why did she have to suffer so much? Her Zijin was a good daughter! Why couldn't the heavens see that and just let Zijin live a peaceful life? Why did Zijin have to go through trial after trial? When would everything end?

“Nonsense!” Qiao Dongliang was infuriated. “I’ve sat in Nan Nan’s car before. Nan Nan has been driving for so many years. She’s never sped, and she always drives carefully and slowly. Besides, I don’t believe that Nan Nan knocked Zijin down on purpose. Do you have a brain? How can you say such stupid things?”

Nan Nan had a perfect family with three obedient children. Her life could not get any better.

Would she give up on such a perfect life just to get revenge on someone she hated? Who would do such a foolish thing?

It was not that Qiao Dongliang wanted to belittle Qiao Zijin, but given the two sisters’ situation today, if Qiao Nan was a jade, then Qiao Zijin was, at most, a piece of rubble. Which piece of jade would try to touch a piece of rubble just to make the piece of rubble crumble? That would just be foolish. Moreover, Qiao Nan was a civil servant. She would never do anything illegal.

No matter how one looked at this, this was simply an accident, even if it was one that was hard to accept. How could it be so coincidental that the younger daughter’s car had knocked the elder daughter down?

Today, Da Bao had seen for himself how impressive his legendary ‘elder auntie’ was. Now, Da Bao had also seen how ‘amazing’ his maternal grandma was too. Da Bao was fuming with anger.

Da Bao took a step forward and stared menacingly at Ding Jiayi as though he was a tiger who had just come of age. “Don’t malign my mom! My mom didn’t knock her down. She rushed out suddenly and purposely threw herself in front of my mom’s car. My mom was only driving at thirty kilometers an hour. That’s not fast at all! Even the doctor said that her injuries were less severe than a normal victim of a car accident. But she didn’t want to live anymore and refused to let the doctors and nurses save her!”

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At the mention of this, Da Bao grew even angrier. “She herself wanted to die and hit my mom’s car on purpose. I think we all know in our hearts who the truly evil one is. I don’t think I’ve seen anything like this before! Trying to drag my mom down even in her death!”

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Who was the bad one? Who was the evil one?

He returned these words ad verbum to the woman who was lying in the emergency room.

He clearly remembered that woman saying that she had done it on purpose. She had purposely run in front of his mom's car so as to gross her out and become a nightmare that his mom would never be able to get rid of her entire life. She was tired of living!

“You little beast! That's your elder auntie! What kind of attitude are you showing me? You're even lying to accuse your auntie? I'll rip your mouth into shreds!” Ding Jiayi did not want to believe Da Bao's words. She was even more unwilling to admit that Qiao Zijin no longer wanted to live and had run in front of Qiao Nan's car on purpose.

On the way over, Ding Jiayi had asked a nurse about the condition of the female car accident victim. The nurse had clearly told her that the surgery was still in progress. But from the looks of it, her injuries had not been serious.

But there was nothing that was certain in medicine, and the nurse could not guarantee anything to Ding Jiayi, who was the patient's family. The only thing that she could say was that Qiao Zijin's injuries were less serious than a normal car accident victim's.

Once the nurse said that, Ding Jiayi understood that Qiao Zijin's injuries were not that serious. But she had still been hit by a car after all. The injuries could not be light. But as long as it was not a matter of life and death, that was enough for her. Thinking about Qiao Zijin's pathetic state, Ding Jiayi felt that this car accident could even be Qiao Zijin's chance to rise up from the ashes!

Since Qiao Nan was the one who knocked into Qiao Zijin, she would not be so shameless as to pursue all those things that Qiao Zijin had done in the past and send Qiao Zijin to jail after she recovered, right?

Qiao Nan was the one who had hit Qiao Zijin. Naturally, Qiao Nan had to be the one who forked out Qiao Zijin's medical bills. Since Qiao Nan was so rich, she could not skimp on all the expenses and compensation after Qiao Zijin was discharged. This meant that Qiao Zijin could even strike a huge fortune after she recovered!

Once she had money, Qiao Zijin's life in the future would be set.

Of course, she could even use this opportunity to make Qiao Nan agree to the two requests that Qiao Zijin had made earlier. Firstly, to give her a villa. Secondly, to give Qiao Zijin monthly living allowances.

If they could settle these matters, Ding Jiayi even felt that it was worth it for Qiao Zijin to have been hit by Qiao Nan.

While she was still downstairs, hundreds of thoughts raced through Ding Jiayi's mind. They were basically all about how Qiao Zijin would gain a fortune from this incident. But the moment she reached the door to the emergency room and felt the somber atmosphere, Ding Jiayi's emotions went through a hundred-and-eighty-degree change. All of a sudden, she flared up thinking about how Qiao Nan had hit Qiao Zijin.

So as to help Qiao Zijin gain more benefits after the incident, Ding Jiayi did not hesitate to blindly accuse Qiao Nan of deliberately hitting Qiao Zijin, maligning Qiao Nan of wanting Qiao Zijin dead.

Unfortunately, once Da Bao said his piece, Ding Jiayi's initial plan fell out of the window. If Qiao Zijin had purposely jumped out in front of Qiao Nan's car, to put it simply, Qiao Zijin bore a huge grudge against Qiao Nan. First, she had tried to ruin Qiao Nan's reputation in the media. And now, she had hit Qiao Nan's car on purpose.

Chapter 1602: Saving Her Life

In truth, even if the person who had been sent into the emergency room was Qiao Zijin, the real victim here was actually Qiao Nan! Qiao Nan was the one who needed compensation. It was Qiao Zijin who had brought this upon Qiao Nan!

Now that her plan was almost ruined, how could Ding Jiayi not be furious and want to tear apart Da Bao, who had just spoken the truth?

Ding Jiayi was different from Qiao Dongliang. Qiao Dongliang loved his grandchildren, while Ding Jiayi only liked her granddaughter, Zhou Ying. Ding Jiayi, who had favored males over females her

whole life, ironically did not care for her grandsons, Da Bao and Er Bao. Just like how she hated their mother, Qiao Nan, Ding Jiayi hated these two children.

Seeing Ding Jiayi's fierce attitude toward Da Bao, Qiao Nan sneered. It turned out that Ding Jiayi did not entirely favor males over females. She had heard that Ding Jiayi loved that daughter of Qiao Zijin. So, it was true that Ding Jiayi truly loved Qiao Zijin, even though it was also true that Ding Jiayi had instilled many incorrect world views in Qiao Zijin while she was still growing up.

It was at this moment that Qiao Nan suddenly realized that she did not really care for such a complicated and complex love from her mother. She would much rather go down her old path than be spoiled with maternal love from Ding Jiayi, who had taught Qiao Zijin all those warped ideas of the world.

All those skewed ideas that Qiao Zijin had were all because of Ding Jiayi. As compared to receiving maternal love, she much preferred to be a normal person. She was living a much better life than Qiao Zijin now.

Seeing Ding Jiayi reprimand Da Bao, Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng quickly shielded the triplets behind them, making it even more convenient for Qiao Dongliang. Qiao Dongliang was already rather strong. Now that he was raging, he lifted Ding Jiayi off the floor with just one arm. "Try saying just one more word! I'm telling you that the triplets are my life! If you even say one more word about them, much less touch them, just wait and see how I'll deal with you! Believe it or not, I'll let the doctors have more to do after they save Zijin. They'll have to save you too!"

Since this was a hospital, even if he punched Ding Jiayi aggressively, Ding Jiayi could immediately be sent in for an operation.

Ding Jiayi's face momentarily paled. The duo had known each other and been married for more than thirty years, but it was the first time that Qiao Dongliang had been so fierce toward her. How could Ding Jiayi not be afraid in the face of such a ferocious Qiao Dongliang?

"Can your family members please lower your voices? This is a hospital. There are still operations going on inside. If you continue with your shouting, it'll distract the doctors inside. If you don't stop this, we'll have to call for security to escort you out." The nurse from the operation theatre could no longer hold it in and came out of the operation theatre to warn these people outside.

With that said, the nurse returned to the operation theatre to continue with the ongoing surgery.

“Humph!” Qiao Dongliang snorted coldly while releasing Ding Jiayi’s collar from his hand. With a loud thud, Ding Jiayi fell straight to the ground with her buttocks taking a great hit. Ding Jiayi felt as though her buttocks had split into a million pieces and her tailbone hurt so badly that tears flowed down.

“Mom.” San Bao leaned closely on Qiao Nan. She had never expected to meet her grandmother for the first time under such circumstances, and neither had she expected her grandmother to be such a person. After hearing her grandmother use such vicious words against her mother, San Bao hated her grandmother. Just a few days ago, this old woman was nothing but an ordinary stranger to them.

But now that they had addressed this woman as their grandmother, they realized that not all elders were friendly and kind like their paternal grandparents, great-grandpa, or master grandpa. There was also another kind like their ‘grandmother’. The kind that evoked hatred.

“It’s all right.” Hugging her daughter’s body, Qiao Nan’s cold heart warmed up slightly. No wonder Brother Zhai refused to leave. It seemed like Brother Zhai had already anticipated that Ding Jiayi would throw a tantrum here. “Brother Zhai, why don’t you send the triplets home first?” Her father had already arrived. Even if Ding Jiayi wanted to make a scene, her father would have to grant Ding Jiayi permission to do so.

Although her father did not treat her as well as he treated the triplets, there was no doubt that her father would never allow Ding Jiayi to hit or scold her. He would have his eyes firmly on Ding Jiayi.

The couple had once been husband and wife, and they were of the same generation.

If Qiao Dongliang were really to get into a fight with Ding Jiayi, Qiao Nan, as their daughter, knew that she would not bother to advise Qiao Dongliang to save his strength or even to stop fighting. When faced with people like Ding Jiayi, Qiao Nan had nothing to say.

“I’ll come and accompany you in the hospital after I send the children home.” Now that Qiao Dongliang was here, Zhai Sheng could indeed leave for a short while with no worries. But Zhai Sheng would never agree to leaving Qiao Nan alone in the hospital. As for the children, there were still his parents at home. Besides, the triplets were already junior high school students. As long as there was food for them, the triplets could more or less take care of themselves without external help.

“Dad, just send Er Bao and San Bao home. I’ll stay here with Mom.” Da Bao was unwilling to leave. In the short span of a day, he had experienced for himself the power of his ‘grandmother’ and ‘aunt’. Da Bao could not bear to leave his mother with any of these two ‘powerful’ figures.

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His mother was truly unfortunate to have such a mother.

If his father had not been around earlier, and if his grandfather had not shielded his mother, there was nothing his mother could have done, other than hiding, when that old woman pounced on her. Unfortunately, his mother was a national cadre who represented the image of the country. No matter what, there was no reason for children to physically fight their elders.

Da Bao understood this, but he was still deeply resentful. The law was based on human relationships. Why did this not apply to his mother?

Now that he had seen Ding Jiayi’s sloppy side, how could Da Bao rest easy knowing that Qiao Nan would be with Ding Jiayi? Although Qiao Dongliang would still be around even if they were to leave, Da Bao was still uneasy.

“Be a good boy, Da Bao. Go home with your father. It’ll be fine here. I’ll be able to return soon too. You guys should just go first.” Feeling her son’s concern, Qiao Nan’s cool fingertips warmed up considerably. She had known for a long time what kind of people Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin were. There was really no need to be emotionally affected by these two people.

“It’s not suitable for you to stay here. Don’t worry. Mom will be fine with your grandpa here.” If her biological father was not around, even Qiao Nan herself would be unwilling to stay around Ding Jiayi at such a time.

Leaving aside how dangerous it was, just looking at Ding Jiayi made Qiao Nan’s eyes hurt, especially after hearing Qiao Zijin’s completely distorted logic. What kind of genius was Ding Jiayi to have been capable of teaching Qiao Zijin these things?

Chapter 1603: No Need for Anyone’s Companionship

Qiao Dongliang immediately chimed in. “That’s right, Da Bao. Just return home with your younger brother and sister. Grandpa will be here. I won’t let anyone bully your mom. Just hurry home. The hospital is not a good place to stay in. Besides, you are children and it is Sunday tomorrow. You’ll have to return to school in the afternoon.

“Let’s go.” Zhai Sheng commanded without giving Da Bao any chance to refuse. With that, the three children had no choice but to leave quietly with Zhai Sheng.

But when Da Bao got into the car, his expression was even more serious than Zhai Sheng’s. “Dad, are you really not worried? I feel uneasy.” It was especially because it was his grandfather that he was even more so worried.

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Was his grandpa never at home before his mother met his father? If his grandpa was around, how could those two women bully his mom and his father had to come to the rescue? Among everyone, his grandpa’s reputation was the worst and the most worrying.

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“Your grandpa may be a little confused at times, but he’s softhearted. Besides, it’s been so many years, and Nan Nan has treated him so well. No matter how muddled he is, he should know when to do the right thing. And his love for the three of you is genuine. So, it’s not just because Nan Nan is his daughter. It’s also because of you three that he will never let Nan Nan lose even a single strand of hair so that you guys will never have to worry about Nan Nan.”

Zhai Sheng was very sure of this.

Da Bao chewed on his lip, clearly thinking of how Qiao Dongliang had stood up for him when Ding Jiayi was scolding him. Before their holiday, they had been depressed to see Qiao Dongliang once again.

Their beloved grandpa had treated their most beloved mother so badly in the past. Should they forgive their grandpa and continue to be on good terms with him?

This time, the triplets were even more hesitant because they knew that their grandpa loved them dearly. After a long time, Da Bao said gloomily, “I haven’t entirely forgiven grandpa. He may be a

good grandpa, but he sure isn't a good father. I pity Mom." She seriously had rotten luck to have such a mother and sister, and even a father like this!

No wonder his mother was always smiling in his memories. That warm smile was just like the sun in winter that made people feel warm and blissful. Compared to her life in the past, his mom's life was indeed as good as it could get. That's why his mom tried very hard to convey happiness to the people around her as well.

Er Bao and San Bao remained silent, but that was about what they meant too. Er Bao rubbed his face impatiently. "Grandpa does treat us well, but why did he do that to Mom?" To say the truth, their mom treated their grandpa even better. The three of them could not really do anything and could not provide for their grandpa financially like their mom did.

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What was the reason that their grandpa would not like someone who treated him so well?

This unthinkable phenomenon not only happened to their grandpa but also those two women whom they met today. Bizarre. It was truly bizarre.

To think that their mom who had grown up in such a strange household was normal and not bizarre at all.

"Let's not talk about grandpa. I'm feeling so depressed now. I don't want to hear that word." San Bao was much more emotional. Before she clearly understood the situation, there was no way for her to be as close to her grandpa as she had once been. Now, when she heard the word 'grandpa', it felt as though a fire was burning within her chest and her whole body was on fire.

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Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing knew that Qiao Nan had knocked Qiao Zijin down, and they had shouted at Zhai Sheng to pick the three children up.

The moment her grandchildren arrived home, Miao Jing immediately greeted them tenderly. "Are you alright? I hope you were not frightened." Miao Jing especially took great care of San Bao and hugged her tightly within her embrace. "You're a good girl, San Bao. If you can't fall asleep

tonight, come and find grandma. Grandma will accompany you tonight.” Miao Jing was afraid that San Bao would have nightmares tonight.

In fact, even an elder like Miao Jing had never seen such a bloody scene in her entire life. As a grandma, she had never even experienced it before, but the three children had experienced it today. How could Miao Jing not be upset or worried?

San Bao leaned against Miao Jing in her embrace and quietly grunted in agreement. Actually, San Bao wanted Qiao Nan to accompany her to sleep tonight. She would be much more at ease with her mother by her side. But with the situation in the hospital, San Bao knew that her mother might not even be able to come home to rest tonight.

She still had to return to school, and her mother, to work tomorrow. Her mother had it harder than her. She wanted her mother to have a good rest instead of worrying about her.

Since her grandma had said that she would accompany her, San Bao would definitely not reject it.

“Da Bao and Er Bao have each other’s company. Since you guys are brothers, why don’t you just put your beds together and sleep together tonight? How about your grandpa accompanies you guys tonight?” Now that she had dealt with her granddaughter, Miao Jing quickly came up with a solution for her grandsons.

Da Bao and Er Bao shared a knowing gaze before shaking their heads. “Grandma, don’t worry about Er Bao and me. We’re young men. Just comfort San Bao well.” It was pushing it a little far by asking them to sleep together like when they were still young children. And to have their grandpa sleep with them? Forget it. They could never do it.

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The grown-up Da Bao and Er Bao understood their grandpa’s obsession with their grandma.

The moment their grandma said that she would sleep with San Bao, their grandpa, who was usually expressionless, immediately raised his eyebrow. They were not their grandma. If their grandpa were to sleep with them, he was sure to be upset. It was being filial to their grandpa that they refused the offer.

“Are you sure?” Miao Jing asked uneasily. “Don’t be too stubborn. San Bao may be a young lady, but you two are still young as well. It’s okay to admit that you’re scared. We’re at home. There’s nothing embarrassing about it. Your health is the most important. Do you understand?” Miao Jing was worried that Da Bao and Er Bao were just putting up a facade and acting brave. When the time came at night when they were alone, they would not dare to sleep with no adults around.

As for Zhai Sheng, no one assigned any tasks to Zhai Sheng at this time, not even the task of spending time with his two sons. That was because everyone in the Zhai family knew that Zhai Sheng’s most important mission was to return to the hospital to accompany Qiao Nan. After he finished his meal, he still had to pack some food and bring it over to Qiao Nan.

Er Bao shook his head. “There’s really no need. Da Bao and I share a room. There’s nothing for us to fear.” Although he spoke little today, it was not out of fear. It was just that there had been so much to take in today that the normally extroverted Er Bao kept his feelings to himself and needed time to think.

To have heard about and to have experienced for themselves were two very different things. Now that the triplets had seen Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi for themselves, their pity for Qiao Nan only intensified.

Chapter 1604: You’re Weak, So You Have a Reason

At this moment in the hospital, Qiao Dongliang was around. As a result, Ding Jiayi hardly dared to throw her tantrum. But her gaze toward Qiao Nan remained cold with hatred. “If you still have a little bit of conscience, you’ll be good to Zijin and take good care of her after knocking her down this time. Remember that you owe Zijin!”

“Bullsh*t!” Qiao Dongliang answered on Qiao Nan’s behalf. “Are you dreaming? No wonder Da Bao said that Zijin was the one who ran out and knocked into Nan Nan’s car. Actually, you two have been planning this, right? You’re amazing. More than ten years ago, when Nan Nan wanted to attend the college entrance examination, she pushed you out so that you would get trapped under someone’s wheel. You were hospitalized for several months. Now, to take money from Nan Nan, you’re so vicious to push Zijin out again. Just for that sum of money, you two are willing to sacrifice even your lives!”

Qiao Dongliang’s face was as black as thunder. “There’s no need for Nan Nan to answer you. I’ll give you an answer directly. More than ten years ago, the two of you put up a good show together, causing Nan Nan to miss the college entrance examination. But in the end, Nan Nan still became

the top scorer in the college entrance examination. Now, ten years later, Zijin was the one who ran in front of the car to get knocked down. Let's be clear. What's Nan Nan's responsibility, she won't shirk it. But if you want Nan Nan to provide for Zijin for the rest of her life, don't even think about it!"

A person who was perfectly able-bodied refused to work and thought all day long about how to get someone else to support her instead. No matter how one saw it, it was Ding Jiayi who taught Zijin this wayward manner. Without Ding Jiayi's care and concern, Nan Nan had ironically become an outstanding person in her own right. She had even made extraordinary contributions to the community and state!

On the other hand, Zijin, who had grown up being pampered and spoiled by Ding Jiayi, was living the existence of a worm. It was not enough to have been supported while she was growing up. Now that she was all grown up, she was still looking forward to her sister supporting her! Idealistic! Too idealistic!

"Nonsense! That kid was lying to help Qiao Nan. He's so good at lying at such a young age. You always say that my education methods failed and that I failed Zijin, but the person who really raised her children badly is not me. It's her!" Ding Jiayi refused to admit or believe that that was the truth.

She felt that it was Qiao Zijin's good fortune to have been knocked down by Qiao Nan. And it just so happened that her injuries were not serious, and she would not die.

Now that everything was exposed, she had to take up the responsibility. What was wrong with asking Qiao Nan to provide for Zijin? Even if she could not provide for her, she was still going to take this opportunity to make some money off Qiao Nan. Whether it was a monthly payment or given in a lump sum, she and Zijin would be fine either way. She would not be picky about that. Whatever was convenient for Qiao Nan.

"Nan Nan?" Qiao Dongliang could no longer be bothered to retort Ding Jiayi. "Have you thought about how you're going to deal with this? Won't you lose out?" He believed that Da Bao would never lie just to help Qiao Nan. But this had happened so suddenly that he did not know if there would be any witnesses who could help prove Qiao Nan's innocence and prove that Qiao Zijin had purposely run in front of the car.

Without clear evidence, there was no way Nan Nan would be able to get herself out of this situation even if she was truly innocent.

Qiao Nan looked up and said calmly, “Don’t worry, Dad. Just like the last time, nothing will happen to me. There were many people around when this happened. Just now, there were already people who stood up for me to prove my innocence. They said that they personally saw Qiao Zijin run out and wait for my car. Qiao Zijin said that she didn’t want to live anymore. The doctors and nurses who were trying to save her can vouch for me that Qiao Zijin was trying to commit suicide by running in front of my car. It wasn’t me who knocked her down. Besides, when the incident happened, I looked around and saw that there were CCTVs around the area.”

With so much evidence that could prove her innocence, what was there to worry about?

Money?

She was only prepared to pay for Qiao Zijin’s hospital bills. As for anything else, even just an extra dollar, it would depend on her feelings. She would have to consider that further.

Qiao Dongliang’s shoulders relaxed. “Really? It’s great if that’s the case. I won’t have to worry about you anymore.” With so many witnesses and solid evidence, Qiao Dongliang knew that Qiao Nan was not trying to comfort herself. There was really no way that Qiao Zijin’s accident could be blamed on her. “Wait a minute. Did you say that Zijin said that she didn’t want to live anymore? Did she really say that?”

So it was not just for a scam. Zijin was tired of living and thus deliberately intended to die under Nan Nan’s wheel!

Why? Why did Zijin have to do that?

Zijin was doing all right, so why did she suddenly want to end her life?

As soon as he thought about this, Qiao Dongliang quickly remembered what Qiao Zijin had been up to recently. All right, she might not have been doing all right. Zijin had committed so many evil deeds against Nan Nan. Now, karma was biting back at Zijin. “Nan Nan, what do you plan to do about the previous incident?” Did Nan Nan really intend for Qiao Zijin to go to jail?

Qiao Dongliang knew that Qiao Zijin absolutely deserved to go to jail. But he was still the father of these two vastly different daughters after all. If any of them were bullied, Qiao Dongliang’s heart would still be uneasy.

“There’s nothing much.” Qiao Nan was used to Qiao Dongliang being softhearted to his daughters to the point of neglecting any moral obligations, so she was hardly affected emotionally seeing Qiao Dongliang act in this manner again. In fact, she was completely numb. “If Qiao Zijin ran in front of my car just for this matter, I can only say that Qiao Zijin is scaring herself. If I really meant to do anything, she would have received my lawyer’s letter long ago.”

Her method of ‘you’re weak, so you have a reason’ was truly too cruel and easy to use. Don’t belittle the power of moral kidnapping. Even a grown man would have to kneel before it!

She was a national cadre with a perfect family, a perfect life, and she was even rich.

Qiao Zijin was jobless, a vagrant, and a divorcee. Even though the court awarded her custody of her child, she sent her daughter back to her in-laws because she could not afford to raise her child.

Even if Qiao Zijin had been the cause of everything, and even if Qiao Zijin had been the only one in the wrong from the beginning, it was especially because of this contrast that she would be scolded and beaten up if she were to legally pursue Qiao Zijin and send Qiao Zijin to jail.

Qiao Nan did not want to ruin her reputation in such an unjustified manner just for Qiao Zijin.

The reason Qiao Nan could be promoted through what seemed to be a demotion was her ability to see the big picture, putting the reputation of the state before herself and being less concerned about her own personal feelings. With such a great performance, how could Qiao Nan’s superiors not acknowledge her efforts?

If Qiao Zijin had not taken the initiative today, she would never have bothered to deal with Qiao Zijin about this matter.

Chapter 1605: A Deep Impression

Even if her promotion this time had the slightest bit to do with Qiao Zijin.

But Qiao Nan always knew that if it was not for her preparations by recording that extreme conversation with Qiao Zijin, there was no way she would have been promoted. On the contrary,

she would very well have been dragged down from her position, and she would have let her master down.

It was not Qiao Zijin who had given her this opportunity. It was her own efforts that had turned these bad things into an opportunity for herself. Thus, her promotion really was not because of Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Zijin should already be thanking the heavens that she decided not to pursue the matter. But what Qiao Nan had never expected was for Qiao Zijin to 'return' her favor with such a big 'present'.

Qiao Dongliang's expression warmed. "So that's how it is." He should have known. Nan Nan was such a good kid. How could she bear to end Zijin like that? Even if they had no feelings for each other and were just strangers, there was no need to drive her into a corner. "Now, we'll just have to wait for the outcome of Zijin's surgery. Nan Nan, how long has Zijin been inside?"

"Probably just over an hour." Qiao Nan glanced at her watch.

Ding Jiayi moved her lips but did not say anything unpleasant. When Qiao Zijin had begged her for help earlier, Ding Jiayi had refused to help her out of fear that Qiao Nan would stop giving her a living allowance, or that the cost of living would increase. She even advised Qiao Zijin to beg Qiao Nan herself and to stop being at ends with Qiao Nan.

But who would have expected that both she and Zijin, who had been on the verge of breaking down, had just been thinking too much. Qiao Nan had never intended to throw Qiao Zijin into jail. It was because of their own guilty conscience that they thought that Qiao Zijin had committed a serious mistake and that Qiao Nan would never let Qiao Zijin off.

After all, Qiao Nan had never been softhearted toward Qiao Zijin before. But they had never expected that it was toward such an important and crucial matter that Qiao Nan suddenly acted out of the norm and displayed some sense of kinship toward Qiao Zijin.

Ding Jiayi pitied Qiao Zijin. If she had known that this was the case, Zijin would not have had to be pinned under Qiao Nan's wheel. No matter how one saw it, it was all Qiao Nan's fault. Who would not be afraid if they were in Qiao Zijin's place after causing such a huge uproar? Everyone had seen how even the most powerful magazine publishers had been shut down.

Since Qiao Nan did not intend to take action against them, why did she not say so earlier? If Zijin had not been so afraid, would she have taken such drastic measures and wanted to end her life? For ordinary people like them who lived ordinary lives, going to jail was scarier than death.

If she was in Zijin's place, she would do the same. She would much rather die than go to jail. Anyone who went to jail could not be any good. Staying in jail for a day was a hundred, or even a thousand times tougher than a day outside.

But no matter what, knowing that Qiao Nan was not planning to pursue the matter, Ding Jiayi felt relieved. "You two, don't think I'm deaf. Don't talk about Qiao Zijin like that in front of me. It's true that I got into an accident in the past, but that was purely an accident. Zijin had nothing to do with it. What has Qiao Nan taking the college entrance examination got to do with me? Would I have sacrificed my life just to stop her from taking the college entrance examination?"

Nothing was more precious than her own life. Giving her life just for Qiao Nan? Over her dead body. Not in a million years!

Qiao Dongliang laughed. "Wow, you really don't know anything? Do you really think that it was purely an accident that you were knocked down in front of Nan Nan's school gate the year she was supposed to take the college entrance examination? When I asked you why you appeared in front of the school gate at that very moment, you didn't answer me, but I already knew the answer. I thought that you'd already guessed what had happened. I never expected that you're still in the dark about this matter."

1

Qiao Dongliang did not know whether to laugh or cry.

Ding Jiayi had raised Qiao Zijin skewed, and Qiao Zijin had never let Ding Jiayi off easy either. More than ten years ago, Ding Jiayi had already gotten retribution for the way she had raised Qiao Zijin.

At that time, Ding Jiayi was in a much more serious condition than Qiao Zijin was today. If Ding Jiayi had arrived at the hospital just half an hour later, she would not even be sitting here, talking without a clue to him right now.

"No, that had nothing to do with Zijin. It was just an accident. Zijin is already lying there and you're still talking about her behind her back! Is Zijin still your daughter? What kind of father are

you? If Zijin finds out about this, she'll be heartbroken!" Ding Jiayi had only a moment's hesitation and doubt about that matter.

In the end, Qiao Zijin cajoled her and neither was Ding Jiayi willing to accept such a truth. As such, she intentionally ignored this matter and refused to think about the many impossibilities of that incident. Now that Qiao Dongliang had taken the initiative to bring this matter up, Ding Jiayi was even more adamant to pretend that she knew nothing about it.

"Dad, forget it." Qiao Nan returned with bottles of water. She passed one to Qiao Dongliang, took one for herself, and placed one on the bench. Ding Jiayi could take it if she wanted to. "You can't wake someone who's deliberately pretending to be asleep." It was obvious that Ding Jiayi had guessed about the truth of the matter but was in denial. Qiao Zijin was not only cut off from her father but was even vicious enough to do that to her mother.

Once Ding Jiayi admitted that that was the truth, then her life would indeed be a complete failure.

Her biological mother hated her and refused to acknowledge her. In the few decades after she first got married, Ding Jiayi had never had any contact with her family. Even after being husband and wife for more than ten years, Qiao Dongliang never forgave her. He even resented her for bringing Qiao Zijin up in such a skewed manner. After their divorce, he was even unwilling to remain in the same city and only wished that they would never meet ever again.

There was no need to talk about their daughters. Ding Jiayi had never placed her hopes in her.

Qiao Zijin was different. Qiao Zijin was Ding Jiayi's whole hope. She was the only light in Ding Jiayi's world. But in these darkest moments, the next one to jump in front of a car to end her life might just be Ding Jiayi!

In actuality, this incident was not Qiao Nan's worst nightmare. If Qiao Nan had not died from a car accident in her previous life, she would probably have been able to handle this incident even more calmly. Disgust. She had to be disgusted. Who wanted to knock anyone down with their car?

But the words that Qiao Zijin had said before being sent up onto the ambulance left a 'deep' impression on Qiao Nan. Seeing Ding Jiayi now, there was just a slight fear and gratefulness in Qiao Nan's eyes.

Chapter 1606: Necessary Prevention

She was grateful for Ding Jiayi's dislike for her during her childhood, sparing her from this misery.

She could not imagine how her life would turn out if the one that Ding Jiayi had favored then was her, and if she had been the one brought up in this manner by Ding Jiayi.

Killing a child by supporting him—was Ding Jiayi going to go to the ends of the world to prove this?

Perhaps, between Zijin and her, the truly unfortunate one was not her, but Zijin. “Dad, I’m suddenly not bitter anymore. I’m not bitter at all. I was the one who was favored. If Qiao Zijin wakes up and can truly differentiate right from wrong, I think that this is quite a cruel thing to do to Qiao Zijin. She’s much more pitiful than me.”

Qiao Nan could not even stand the thought of being in Qiao Zijin's place. Would she be able to live Qiao Zijin's life? Moreover, Qiao Zijin was the one who was truly living such a life.

Perhaps, meeting Ding Jiayi was the greatest tragedy in both of their lives.

As she thought about it, Qiao Nan sighed. Now, there was no hatred or resentment, or even disgust toward Qiao Zijin. She truly pitied Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Dongliang was stunned. He had never expected Qiao Nan to say such things at such a moment. She even said that she pitied Qiao Zijin! “Nan Nan, what's the matter with you? Why are you suddenly saying these things?”

If Nan Nan was really no longer resentful of Zijin, did not want to pursue the previous matter with Zijin, and was even willing to help Zijin until she was discharged, Qiao Dongliang would really have to thank the heavens. Nan Nan was a kind soul after all. But now that Qiao Nan no longer hated Qiao Zijin, and even softened her attitude toward Qiao Zijin, Qiao Dongliang was not especially happy. On the contrary, he was scared by such a reaction.

He could not understand how Qiao Nan could not get angry even after Qiao Zijin had done so many heinous acts. Favored? Between Qiao Nan and Qiao Zijin, there was no way Qiao Nan was the favored child.

Even if Qiao Dongliang was not touching his heart and swearing against it, he still could not bring himself to tell such a lie.

“Nothing much.” Seeing that Qiao Dongliang was unable to understand the meaning behind her words, Qiao Nan did not want to explain it either. Now that Qiao Nan had forgiven Qiao Zijin, and even pitied Qiao Zijin, her gaze toward Ding Jiayi changed from one of calmness to one filled with indifference. As long as both Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin were alive, the struggle between the two of them would never cease. They would simply continue to hurt each other while facing retribution for it until they died.

Fortunately, she had removed herself from this bizarre circle a long time ago. Now, she had a happy life of her own.

“Are you the patient’s family members?”

At this moment, a nurse who had been trying to save Qiao Zijin emerged from the operating theatre with bloodied hands. “If you are, please hurry along with me to get your blood tested. We don’t have a sufficient stock of the patient’s blood type in our hospital, but our surgery is still ongoing. If we can’t do a blood transfusion for the patient, I’m afraid...”

“I’m her dad.”

“I’m... I’m her...” Did they not say that she was in no danger?

Qiao Nan stood forward. “The three of us can go get our blood tested. Can you tell us if the situation is serious? The doctor told me earlier that her condition was stable.”

The nurse gasped and led the way. “All right, then come with me. We’ve never had such an uncooperative patient. Since she got into a car accident, there are signs of minor fractures in various parts of her body. Normally, such patients would be in such great pain that they wouldn’t have any energy to fool around. But your family member is really strange. She still has the energy to fight back against us. She refuses to let the surgeons operate on her and insists on dying instead.”

This was the biggest news of the year.

Qiao Nan frowned and saw that Ding Jiayi's expression had changed because of the nurse's words. "Shouldn't she be put under general anesthesia to go for surgery?" Qiao Zijin had been in a car accident. She would definitely have sustained multiple injuries all over her body. If she was not under general anesthesia, there was probably no way they could carry on with a surgery anyway.

At the mention of this, the nurse became even angrier. "Is your family member immune to anesthesia?" Even after the entire dosage of anesthesia had been administered, the patient still retained movement in her limbs. If it was not for this reason, this surgery would not have dragged on for so long such that there was an insufficient stock of blood!

The patient had no will to survive, but as doctors, they could not possibly abandon their patient on the operation table and leave her to die. A routine operation had become the most arduous task of the entire year! As such, the atmosphere in the operation theatre was terrible. It was even more somber than that of surgeries that were several times harder.

After the blood tests were conducted, both Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Nan were approved to donate their blood. Ding Jiayi was not.

With a life at stake, Qiao Nan put aside her grudges and lifted up her sleeve to allow the nurse to draw three hundred milliliters of her blood. Qiao Dongliang was a man and stronger than Qiao Nan, so he let the nurse draw four hundred milliliters at once.

After the blood donation, both Qiao Nan and Qiao Dongliang's expressions changed slightly.

"Dad, drink more water for now. Once Zhai Sheng comes, there should be food for us." After donating her blood, Qiao Nan always felt that her mouth was extremely parched and she could hardly open her mouth. She gulped down the remaining half bottle of water from earlier.

"Okay." Qiao Dongliang had a similar feeling. He did not even wait for Qiao Nan to instruct him and simply took his bottle for a drink.

Ding Jiayi hung her head and passed her half-empty bottle of water to Qiao Dongliang. "I still have some. Do you want it?"

Qiao Dongliang eyed Ding Jiayi coldly. “Nan Nan, do you still want some water? Shall I go get two bottles of water?” Would he really drink from the bottle that Ding Jiayi had touched? The biggest mistake in his entire life was allowing Ding Jiayi to raise his two daughters. For something as small as drinking water, he would much rather go thirsty than drink from the same bottle as Ding Jiayi.

Moreover, this was no desert. If he wanted to drink some water, there would definitely be another way. He would even go to the toilet to drink water from the tap rather than take anything from Ding Jiayi.

“I’ll go instead.” Qiao Nan shook her head. She no longer felt hate or resentment, but it was impossible for her to get along with Ding Jiayi or Qiao Zijin. She had put it behind her, but these two definitely had not. Even if she did not provoke them, they would take the initiative and attack her.

It was just a matter of a few steps. Qiao Nan would rather Qiao Dongliang stay behind than face Ding Jiayi alone.

Even though Ding Jiayi looked rather earnest now, who knew what she would say to Qiao Nan once Qiao Dongliang left? She might even do something to Qiao Nan! But Qiao Nan was too tired to even guess what she might do.

Chapter 1607: It Seems a Little Dangerous

“I’ll go too!” Ding Jiayi stood up. “I didn’t donate blood. I can accompany Qiao Nan there. In case Qiao Nan gets giddy from donating blood, I can help support her.” Ding Jiayi, who was plotting something, could not give up the opportunity to be alone with Qiao Nan and wanted to go along too.

1

Qiao Dongliang’s expression darkened as he yanked Ding Jiayi away. At that moment, Qiao Nan increased her pace and took a turn. With that, Ding Jiayi lost sight of Qiao Nan.

“What are you doing?” No, he should have asked what she wanted to do this time around.

Ding Jiayi, who had not succeeded in her attempt, pouted. “Nothing.” She wanted to, but she had not succeeded, right?

“Ha.” Qiao Dongliang sneered, understanding what Ding Jiayi truly meant. What she meant was that she had indeed planned on doing something but had not been successful.

After a while, Qiao Nan returned, but she was not alone. After sending the three children home, he returned with two food containers. “Dad, I’ve brought some food. Come and have one.” Naturally, the other was for Qiao Nan.

Ding Jiayi’s eyes twinkled as she craned her neck, and she gulped down her saliva. She was clearly hungry as well and wanted to have a meal.

Seeing Ding Jiayi act in this manner, Qiao Dongliang really had an impulse to smash his meal on her face. Zijin was still fighting for her life, but Ding Jiayi was in the mood for a meal. It was truly Ding Jiayi’s fault that Zijin was in this state. But Ding Jiayi had no intention to reflect on her own actions, and she was even trying to push the blame to everyone else, wanting others to take up the responsibility!

1

“This is for you.” Zhai Sheng treated Ding Jiayi as he would a stranger. Zhai Sheng did not care about how ‘amazing; Ding Jiayi was. He had brought quite a lot of things, including two boxes of food and a pot of soup.

Zhai Sheng could not possibly let Ding Jiayi stay hungry and watch them eat. So, on the way to the hospital, he stopped over and bought a pack of food for Ding Jiayi.

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One was home-cooked, while the other was just something casually bought along the streets. It was very obvious who was part of the family and who was just a stranger.

Ding Jiayi was too hungry to care about how fragrant and enticing Qiao Nan and Qiao Dongliang’s food smelled. She could only concentrate on her own food. She could only stay by Zijin and take good care of Zijin after her surgery if she fed herself well.

Zhai Sheng did not treat Ding Jiayi badly either. In Ding Jiayi's lunch box, there was an assortment of meat and vegetables. It was a nutritionally balanced meal.

"She's still not out yet?" Zhai Sheng asked while pouring soup for Qiao Nan. "It's been almost two hours. Is the situation dangerous?" Hadn't Nan Nan said in the first call that the doctor had said that Qiao Zijin's condition was not serious?

Qiao Nan ate until she was half-full before she held out her cup and finished her slightly warm soup. Now that her stomach was filled, Qiao Nan felt alive again. "I went to draw some blood with Dad earlier, and the nurse said that Qiao Zijin refuses to be saved and is being uncooperative in the surgery. The doctor tried to administer general anesthesia, but it doesn't seem to be working. Qiao Zijin isn't cooperating, so it's proceeding at a very slow pace." Qiao Zijin was definitely the most uncooperative car accident victim in history.

"..." Zhai Sheng took the empty bowl from Qiao Nan and covered it. "I'll stay here tonight. You should go home and rest." If that was really the case, it's uncertain how long more this surgery would drag on for.

"No!" Ding Jiayi threw her empty lunch box over. Her voice was shrill and definite. "She was the one who knocked Zijin down. Everyone else can leave, but she has to stay until Zijin is out of danger." When facing Qiao Nan, Ding Jiayi still had a little bit of confidence. She was Qiao Nan's mother after all. Qiao Nan would not dare to do anything to her.

What was different was that Zhai Sheng was her son-in-law. Ding Jiayi could not muster up her confidence in front of Zhai Sheng. If the person who stayed was Zhai Sheng, Ding Jiayi would not dare to request for anything. But if the person who stayed was Qiao Nan, Ding Jiayi could say anything as she pleased.

She did not expect Qiao Nan to agree to all her conditions, but she would definitely find a way to make Qiao Nan agree to at least one or two of them. As long as Zijin's life was taken care of, Zijin would no longer wish to die. Instead, she would live her life well to watch Ying Ying grow up and get married.

Up until now, Ding Jiayi still did not believe that Qiao Zijin not wanting to live anymore had anything to do with her and that she had to take any responsibility. What she knew was that she wanted Qiao Zijin to stay alive and lead a good life. If Qiao Zijin could not survive anymore, then she would strive to create livable conditions for Qiao Zijin, and Qiao Nan would play a key role in that.

Qiao Dongliang glared at Ding Jiayi. “Zhai Sheng, it’s all right. I’ll be here. Even if you leave Nan Nan here, nothing will happen. It’ll be better for Nan Nan to stay than to leave now.”

Qiao Dongliang did not mean to make it difficult for Qiao Nan, but Qiao Zijin had gotten into an accident and Qiao Nan had unfortunately been involved. Even before the previous storm completely subsided, there might be someone who had their eyes on Qiao Nan and Qiao Zijin. To improve Qiao Nan’s image, it would be better for Qiao Nan to stay and repay all their evil deeds with kindness.

“There’s no need for that.” Zhai Sheng refused. He did not want Nan Nan to have to work so hard, much less for Qiao Zijin. She could forgo such an image.

Qiao Dongliang sighed and looked at Qiao Nan. In front of Nan Nan, Zhai Sheng’s words often only expressed his personal opinion, not the entire Zhai family’s. Qiao Dongliang could only hope that Qiao Nan herself could calm down and think rationally instead of being emotional like Zhai Sheng.

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Qiao Nan grabbed her own hair and said somewhat helplessly, “Brother Zhai, why don’t you stay here with me? When I’m tired, I can lean on your shoulder.” She did not resent Qiao Zijin. She even pitied Qiao Zijin. But it was quite uncomfortable indeed to put in so much effort for Qiao Zijin.

She was clearly the victim here!

A deceiving moral kidnapping! A bunch of conniving keyboard warriors!

This time, Zhai Sheng did not refuse. Seeing that Zhai Sheng did not intend to leave, Ding Jiayi’s lips moved as though she wanted to say something to Zhai Sheng to force him to leave. In the end, the moment Ding Jiayi saw Zhai Sheng’s dark gaze, her courage to speak up disappeared immediately. All she could do was to squat by the side and stay there as though she did not exist.

As the minutes ticked by, none of the people waiting outside had relaxed expressions on their faces. Their whole bodies were tense. As more time passed, it only meant that Qiao Zijin’s surgery was getting trickier and the risks were only increasing.

Chapter 1608: Scram

As a result, there was no way the people waiting outside could not be anxious.

“It’s been three hours.” Qiao Dongliang’s voice quivered. “Nan Nan, could something have happened to Zijin?”

“I don’t know. You’ll have to ask the doctor about that.” Qiao Nan took a deep breath. “If not, we’ll ask a nurse if a nurse happens to come out.” Now, even Qiao Nan was a little worried. She was worried that Qiao Zijin would be uncooperative and this routine surgery would end with a death.

Finally, the light of the operating theatre was switched off and the door was opened. The doctor walked out with fatigue written all over his face, his gaze filled with anger and somberness. “I’m extremely sorry. We’ve tried our best. In a time like this, the patient’s will to live is crucial...”

The doctor had the urge to curse and swear after going through such a three-hour-long surgery. The patient had been alive and kicking but had turned a regular routine surgery into such a disaster!

During the surgery, the doctor had asked the nurse to exit the operation theatre and bring the patient’s family in so as to arouse the patient’s will to live. But no one had expected that the patient, who had not entirely lost consciousness, suddenly became more agitated at the mention of her family. Her waves of emotion intensified the bleeding from her wounds.

One could only imagine how much the main surgeon was on the verge of falling apart in the face of such an abnormal surgery. This was just like a person who was about to jump off a building, with one foot in the air. Bystanders would say, “Don’t jump! I’ll get your family here. Have you forgotten? You still have a family?” No one would expect that the mention of family would cause the person to lift up her other foot and immediately jump off the building without hesitation. And with a thud, her life would end.

In the moment, the main surgeon wanted to curse and swear.

The doctor expressed that he would definitely die an early death if he were to do a few more of such surgeries.

The doctor was too tired to speak, and the nurse explained the situation inside the operation theatre to the patient’s family members. “It’s unfortunate that it turned out this way. We were unable to save the patient in the end. But before the patient took her last breath, she said something. Ding Jiayi

won't be allowed at her funeral. You guys should know who Ding Jiayi is, right? This is the patient's last wish. The family members should ultimately decide on what to do."

How deep her hatred must have been for her to say such a thing in her last moments. Besides, she made no mention of her loved ones. The nurse wondered if Ding Jiayi was the woman who snatched the patient's husband. Otherwise, how could she hold such a grudge against her?

"..."

"..."

Those who knew whom Ding Jiayi was fell into silence and turned their gazes toward Ding Jiayi. Qiao Nan could not help but think about how the last name that Qiao Zijin mentioned before her death and how her last act of rejection had not been toward herself! Did that mean that at the time of Qiao Zijin's death, the one she bore the greatest grudge against was not herself but Ding Jiayi?

Ding Jiayi blew her nose and her eyes were bloodshot. "That's impossible. Zijin was still fine when she called me. How can you say that she's gone just like that? I don't believe you. Zijin is still alive. I don't believe that Zijin is gone. Are you guys lying to me? Are you trying to kidnap my daughter from me?"

Ding Jiayi had not even completed her sentence when Qiao Zijin was wheeled out on a stretcher with a white sheet covering her body. The nurse did not take issue with what Ding Jiayi said. After all, she had just lost a daughter and had to send her own child off. "Go take one last look at her." In the future, she would no longer have a chance to see her in person. Photographs would be all she would have.

"Zijin? Zijin!" Ding Jiayi's hand trembled badly, and she hesitated for a long while before pulling the white cloth down a little to reveal Qiao Zijin's ghostly pale face. "Zijin, don't scare your mom! Hurry and get up! No matter what you want in the future, Mom will definitely be on your side to help you! The big villa that you want and the money that you want, Mom will help you get it. Qiao Nan has agreed to it. Hurry and get up! If you don't believe it, you can ask Qiao Nan yourself. Isn't that so, Qiao Nan?"

"..."

"Zijin, mom was wrong. You're mom's most beloved little girl. How am I supposed to live without you now? You're really breaking my heart! Why don't you just bring me along with you? Without

you around, what's the point of me staying alive? Zijin, don't leave your mom behind! Mom has a lot of money. How about I give everything to you? Zijin, hurry and open your eyes and look at me..."

As Ding Jiayi rambled on, she began to weep pitifully. Upon hearing that tragic wail, the nurse almost shed tears herself.

"Take care of yourselves." Other than this, the nurse did not know what to say to comfort the family members.

Seeing Ding Jiayi kneel by Qiao Zijin's body, crying her heart out, Qiao Nan thought that it was rather ironic. Qiao Zijin's last words probably meant that she would never want to meet her again in this life. Only now that Qiao Zijin was already dead was Ding Jiayi willing to fork out her money to satisfy Qiao Zijin. That's right. What a noble maternal love.

Qiao Dongliang could not help but turn around and use his sleeve to wipe the corners of his eyes. No matter how unfilial this daughter of theirs was, this was the heart of a parent. She was still his first child after all, and so, Qiao Dongliang had deep feelings for Qiao Zijin. How could someone who had been alive and well pass away just like that? Especially when her injuries were not very serious. Now that everything had ended in this manner, Qiao Dongliang did not know how to react to this.

Then, he thought of what the nurse had said about Qiao Zijin's last words. It was then that Qiao Dongliang came to his senses. It was because Zijin had a mother like Ding Jiayi that she lost the will to live. Thinking about how Ding Jiayi had not only brought her own daughter up in a wayward manner but had even forced her to the point where she had lost all will to live and had instead chosen to die, Qiao Dongliang grabbed Ding Jiayi's hair and pulled her away from Qiao Zijin's body. Then, he landed a tight slap on Ding Jiayi's face. "It's your fault. It's all your fault. You were the one who forced Zijin to go down this path and forced her to lose the will to live! You were the one who killed Zijin! Why? Why do you have to harm both my daughters?"

"Did I owe you something in my previous life that I have to repay you in this life? Are you here to chase me for payment? Why did you have to touch my daughter? You'd better scram, and scram far away. Don't ever appear in front of me ever again. Otherwise, it won't just be a slap. Zijin already said that she doesn't want to see you!"

With that said, Qiao Dongliang aggressively kicked Ding Jiayi.

If he had known that such a day would come, he would much rather not have had these two daughters than marry a woman like Ding Jiayi.

Zhai Sheng had been protecting Qiao Nan, in fear that Qiao Nan would be dragged into the equation when Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi started fighting. But who would have expected Qiao Dongliang to stop and directly ask Ding Jiayi to scram after just a few powerful slaps that caused Ding Jiayi's face to swell up?

Chapter 1609: Dead

Seeing Qiao Dongliang's eyes turn red and him panting, Zhai Sheng understood immediately why Qiao Dongliang would ask Ding Jiayi to get lost.

That was because Qiao Dongliang was afraid that if he looked at Ding Jiayi any longer, he would really lose control and kill Ding Jiayi to take revenge for Qiao Zijin and himself.

"What are you doing? This is a hospital..." The medical personnel was stunned. The couple had lost their daughter. Why was it that the husband was still hitting his wife and taking it out on her as if she was the one who had caused their daughter her death?

"Ding Jiayi, get lost!"

When Qiao Dongliang shouted Ding Jiayi's name, the nurse who had helped convey Qiao Zijin's last words on behalf of her looked shocked. "The Ding Jiayi whom the daughter shouted before her death not to let her attend her funeral was her birth mother?"

"..."

The people who came over to watch the fun became speechless when they heard the nurse's words. Before the daughter died, the last person she wanted to see was her birth mother. Everyone understood why the birth father would hit his wife after their daughter's death. There was a very high chance that this woman lost her life at such a young age due to this mother. Who would not feel hatred having to send one's own child off?

"No, it's not like this!" Ding Jiayi, who had lost two teeth after being beaten, refuted after spitting out a mouthful of blood. "It's not because Zijin hated me that she didn't want to see me. She knew that the person I loved most in this lifetime was her. She's worried that I would be too upset if I see her corpse. Zijin said this so that I wouldn't be sad! Silly child. No matter whether I can see you or

not, I would feel such great heartache that I couldn't wait to leave together with you if you're gone."

Yes. This was the case.

When she saw Zijin's lifeless face, she couldn't wait to leave together with her. Zijin understood that she had the loving heart of a mother. Zijin only told the nurse because she didn't want her to feel too upset. In this world, only Zijin knew her the best.

"..."

Everyone else looked at one another. It was the same result, but different reasons. One reason was that she hated her mother too much. The other reason seemed to be that she loved her mother too much. Thus, was it hatred or love?

A number of people looked at the nurse, wanting to get a response from her. The nurse smiled and didn't reveal the patient's privacy. As to whether it was love or hatred, the nurse dared to say with certainty that before this woman died, she heard her gritting her teeth at the mention of Ding Jiayi's name.

Love? Would one grit their teeth because of love?

Hatred. One would only grit their teeth because of hatred!

"Zijin, how would I lead my life in the future after you have abandoned me? Zijin, take me away with you. Otherwise, your father would misunderstand your words, think that I was the one who caused you your death, and couldn't wait for me to die. Zijin, why didn't you say your words clearly, causing your mother to be misunderstood by your father?" She loved Zijin so much and had given her most of her feelings in this lifetime. Zijin wouldn't hate her. The person Zijin loved most in this lifetime was her, the mother!

Qiao Dongliang couldn't tolerate it any longer and pushed Ding Jiayi away. "If you don't want to die, get lost now. Zijin said that she didn't want to see you again. Don't come to the funeral I'll be planning for Zijin. Even if you come over, I'll not let you kowtow to Zijin."

He was so foolish this lifetime. He didn't take care of his younger daughter well, and neither did he take care of his elder daughter well. Zijin only had this one small wish before she died. No matter what, he couldn't let Ding Jiayi bother Zijin again.

After pushing Ding Jiayi away, Qiao Dongliang retrieved Qiao Zijin's body alone and left. He was certain that Qiao Nan's forgiveness of Qiao Zijin was limited. Qiao Zijin sought death by choosing to collide with Qiao Nan's car out of so many other cars. Qiao Dongliang couldn't go against his conscience and say that Qiao Zijin didn't do this deliberately to pick on Qiao Nan.

As such, no matter if it was to take care of Qiao Nan's emotions or to preserve what was left of Qiao Zijin's dignity, Qiao Dongliang didn't ask Qiao Nan to manage Qiao Zijin's funeral. Qiao Zijin had parents. Naturally, they would be the hosts of the funeral instead of her sister, Qiao Nan, who was already married.

"It's not early anymore. Let's head back." Zhai Sheng hugged Qiao Nan and let her place most of her weight on him. The soles of Qiao Nan's shoes didn't touch the ground much. She was practically being carried away by Zhai Sheng.

In a confused state, Qiao Nan asked in disbelief after sitting on the passenger seat, "Qiao Zijin is gone just like that?" Did their family have a grudge against cars? All four of them had been in car accidents and sent to the hospital. She and Qiao Zijin had even died in the hospital because of this relationship.

Upon thinking that the one who had passed away in the previous lifetime was her and Qiao Zijin was the one who had passed away now, Qiao Nan didn't know why, but she felt uncomfortable in her heart. She had always thought that Qiao Zijin would marry Zhou Zheng in this lifetime instead of Chen Jun. However, she still betrayed Zhou Zheng to be together with Chen Jun, thus ending up in a divorce.

Then, a few years later, Qiao Zijin should have realized that she had uremia and needed a change of kidney, just like in her previous lifetime. Some trajectories should have been the same and not changed. In her previous lifetime, she refused to donate her kidney. It was definitely not possible in this lifetime as well. When the time came, she would take out money to send Qiao Zijin off. At this time, it was considered a blessing to have used money to send Qiao Zijin off.

Unexpectedly, before Qiao Zijin reached the age of getting uremia, she had first rushed out and collided with her car. This collision had caused her to lose her life.

Wasn't this world too incredible?

Knowing that Qiao Nan was feeling uneasy, Zhai Sheng held her hand. With a touch of his fingertips, Zhai Sheng felt that Qiao Nan's hands were cold and didn't have any temperature at all. She was no better than a dead person. "Frightened? You should have understood matters of birth, death, illness, and old age when Old Master Zhai and Elder Lin were gone." At the very most, Qiao Zijin's death was more abrupt.

Qiao Nan shook her head, feeling complicated. This wasn't the real knot in her heart. It was a pity that Qiao Nan couldn't say out loud these concerns for Zhai Sheng to understand.

That night, Zhai Sheng slept while wrapping around Qiao Nan tightly as he realized that after Qiao Zijin's death, Qiao Nan was cold all over. If he didn't wrap around Qiao Nan to warm her up, Zhai Sheng was worried that he would really have to bring Qiao Nan to the hospital for an examination.

He had never seen Qiao Nan like this, not even when they had to send Old Master Zhai and Elder Lin off back then. Qiao Nan didn't have a close relationship with Qiao Zijin. Zhai Sheng didn't feel that Qiao Nan's reaction was because of the agitation suffered from Qiao Zijin's death.

Chapter 1610: Funeral

The next morning, everyone in the Zhai family found out that Zijin had passed away. There was always a face of disbelief no matter who heard the news. Miao Jing asked directly, "Nan Nan has never driven quickly. Didn't they say that Qiao Zijin's injuries were not serious?" If they had been serious, even an emergency surgery would be able to save her. Why were they not able to save Qiao Zijin, whose injuries were not serious in the first place?

Miao Jing frowned. "It's true that Qiao Zijin was knocked down by Nan Nan's car after all. Now that Qiao Zijin is dead, will Nan Nan be in trouble?" This Qiao Zijin. Even in her death, she was making people... Never mind. They had to respect the dead. It was better not to talk about any of those evil deeds that Qiao Zijin had committed.

"Mom, don't worry about me. There were many people around who saw that it was Qiao Zijin who ran out in front of my car. Besides, there were many surveillance cameras in the vicinity. When I was at the hospital yesterday, I described the situation very clearly to the police officers. Now, the police officers should already have a copy of the surveillance footage with them at the police station." Qiao Nan asked Miao Jing to relax. There was no way Qiao Zijin's death could be blamed on her.

Initially, Qiao Nan would naturally have footed all of Qiao Zijin's medical bills, even if she had not been in the wrong. Now, what she needed to bear was the cost of Qiao Zijin's funeral.

If her father and Ding Jiayi had any needs, she would naturally fork out even more money to pay for their living allowances.

When the police found out that the victim, Qiao Zijin, was Qiao Nan's biological sister, they realized that the victim and the car owner were a family. As such, the police chose not to interfere and instead let Qiao Nan resolve the matter within her family. If that did not work out, they could ask the public officials to interfere. Then, her parents could even bring their younger daughter to court.

The police officers had explained all options to Ding Jiayi and Qiao Dongliang clearly, completing their duty before leaving. After all, there was still a chance of saving Qiao Zijin's life at that time. Besides, the doctor had also said that Qiao Zijin's injuries were less severe than other patients'. The way the police officers saw it, it would naturally be best if Qiao Zijin could be saved. In that case, the Qiao family would have to resolve the matter themselves.

Qiao Nan had said that there were surveillance cameras along that stretch of road. When the police officers investigated, the surveillance cameras had indeed captured the whole scene that had taken place that day.

The surveillance footage proved that Qiao Zijin had waited along the roadside for a considerable amount of time even as cars continued to drive past her. It was only when Qiao Nan's car appeared that Qiao Zijin clearly saw her opportunity and ran in front of Qiao Nan's car.

With the surveillance footage as evidence, the experts casually tried to find out Qiao Nan's speed at the time of the accident. Almost immediately, they realized that Qiao Nan's speed had always been at the lowest end of the limit. If Qiao Nan had driven any slower, she would have violated the traffic regulations for having driven too slowly.

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It was rare to see drivers who abided so strictly by the law. No matter how they looked at it, Qiao Nan was innocent. She was just unlucky to have been preyed on by Qiao Zijin. That was why she knocked into Qiao Zijin.

The huge storm that Qiao Zijin had created earlier had not even entirely subsided yet. From the start, the police officers were surprised for having to deal with such a case: to get revenge on her younger sister, the elder sister wanted to die at her younger sister's hands.

But when the police officers found out the identities of these two people, they started to realize that there was nothing too strange about this situation anymore. They once again realized that this former female foreign minister had led a tough life indeed.

A month ago, this elder sister had been acting as though she was in a soap opera, trying to smear her younger sister's reputation and pull her younger sister down from her position. Thankfully, there was an audio recording that eventually proved the female foreign minister's innocence. Since that plan did not work, she came up with another. But this plan seemed a little too vicious. She even sacrificed her own life for it.

The police officers could not help but wonder how this pair of sisters lived in their hometown before coming to the capital to have such an acrimonious relationship with each other. Could it be that this female foreign minister had once committed a heinous act to frame her elder sister?

Thinking about his only encounter with this former foreign minister, the police officer instinctively shook his head. Even though he had only had a single encounter with her, he could feel that this former foreign minister had a good temper. She spoke softly and gently and had a set of beautiful eyes that were as gentle and warm as the spring rain.

A person with such a set of eyes could not possibly be a villain.

But no matter how curious this police officer was, Qiao Zijin was already dead. When the police officer continued his investigations, he interrogated the main surgeon and nurse who had conducted the surgery on Qiao Zijin. The doctor and nurse agreed unanimously that Qiao Zijin had lost all will to live and was uncooperative throughout the entire duration of the surgery. Qiao Zijin had sent herself to death on the operating table. One needed immense courage to die in this manner.

At the same time, this also proved that Qiao Zijin really wanted to die. Her death had nothing to do with anyone else, and no one had killed her.

With the statements from the doctor and nurse, it was much easier for the police officers to investigate the case. Qiao Zijin did not have the will to live, and even the doctor was unable to save her. In that case, it would be maligning an innocent if they were to blame Qiao Zijin's death on that former foreign minister!

The police officers avoided visiting the family during the period of Qiao Zijin's funeral. After the funeral, they planned on asking the parents of these two people what they were planning to do and whether there was anything they needed the former foreign minister to do.

There was no problem with the police officers. After the incident occurred, Qiao Nan immediately handed all relevant materials and evidence to her superiors for them to understand the situation. It could be said that Qiao Nan had taken a two-pronged approach to tackle Qiao Zijin's death so that she could be investigated and reviewed at the same time.

Thankfully, there was solid evidence and the facts of the matter had been established early on. Thus, her superiors from the central committee had great trust in Qiao Nan. Other than punishment from Ding Jiayi and Qiao Dongliang, Qiao Nan did not face any repercussions due to the death of Qiao Zijin, except for the revocation of her driving license. However, she was still allowed to reapply for it.

After Qiao Nan cleared herself of this mess, she finally found time to visit Qiao Dongliang to see how Qiao Zijin's funeral was being arranged. "Are you all right, Dad?" Qiao Zijin did not want Ding Jiayi to appear at her funeral, so Qiao Dongliang had decisively deprived Ding Jiayi of all rights to do so and banned Ding Jiayi from showing up.

"Of course. The guy you found is very reliable. He's made the arrangements well and timely in every aspect. Zijin left so suddenly. If it was not for you as her younger sister, Zijin might not even have a niche for her urn in the capital."