

RTAMM 1661

Chapter 1661: Lacking

That was true. This indeed seemed like something his mom was capable of. “Don’t worry. Your second brother may have gotten himself a girlfriend, but he’s still as trustworthy as before. Do you really think that we have it easy in our line of work?” Zhai Yi rubbed his forehead. “Our workload is much heavier than yours at Peking University, and Zhai Xin is quite unlucky that he has a young girl clinging on to him now.”

Zhai Xin was already suffering from being unable to get rid of that girl. How would he dare to touch even just a strand of that young lady’s hair? He would have to take responsibility for that. From then on, Er Bao would not get a chance to dump this young lady for his entire life! “Don’t worry. Zhai Xin takes this matter more seriously than we do. As long as there’s a chance for him to break up with her, he’ll do so immediately.”

Just the thought of Zhai Xin’s girlfriend made Zhai Yi’s head ache too.

Before that young lady had become Zhai Xin’s girlfriend, Zhai Yi had the impression that he had bumped into her in school before.

Zhai Xin was a conscientious student who had no interest in dating in university, so he never paid any attention to girls or anyone his age. Zhai Yi’s standard was even deeper than Zhai Xin’s. Zhai Yi, who had a brilliant memory, had one problem: he could never remember that young lady’s face.

He had only met a young lady a few days ago, but a few days later, Zhai Yi could no longer recognize her. Neither could he recall her name and identity to say hello. Thus, he settled for a slight nod of the head.

Under such circumstances, the fact that Zhai Yi had an impression of Zhai Xin’s young lady meant that Zhai Yi had seen Zhai Xin’s girlfriend quite often, so much so that he had a good impression of her face.

“Zhou Xing.” After hanging up the phone, Zhai Yi wrote down the name ‘Zhou Xing’ in his notebook. This name was not anyone else’s but that of Zhai Xin’s girlfriend.

But after writing down Zhou Xing's name, Zhai Yi quickly tossed Zhou Xing and Zhai Xin's matter aside and thought no more about it. Zhou Xing's name was rather common. Besides, Da Bao was busy working on his homework recently. He was busy enough as it was. How he wished there could be forty-eight hours in a day so that he would not spend all of his precious time on a stranger.

Speaking of the devil, Zhai Xin, who was making Zhai Yu feel extremely despondent at this very moment, was with his girlfriend, Zhou Xing. "Zhai Xin, did you say that your mom gave birth to three children at once? Your mom is amazing! Twins are already so rare, let alone triplets! And she got both sons and a daughter at once! She's so lucky!" How enviable!

Zhai Xin laughed awkwardly. "My mom is indeed lucky. Alright, it's not early anymore. I'll send you back. Otherwise, you won't be able to go back and will have to spend a night in the hotel. That kind of place is a little unsanitary after all. Try to avoid going to such places if you can."

The more Zhai Xin said, the more flushed his face got. There was nothing else he meant by that, and neither was he planning on taking advantage of Zhou Xing. He said this only out of concern for Zhou Xing. He was afraid that Zhou Xing would be unable to enter her dormitory if she were to return late. He was not even trying to hint at anything else.

"..." Zhou Xing blushed and looked at Zhai Xin bashfully. "I'm actually a little afraid to stay in a hotel alone. I've been timid ever since I was a child. If I really can't go back and have to stay in a hotel, will you stay with me, Zhai Xin? In such an unfamiliar environment, I'm afraid I won't be able to fall asleep without a familiar person who'll reassure me. But Zhai Xin, if you're by my side, I'm sure I'll be able to sleep well."

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Zhai Xin blushed but reminded Zhou Xing solemnly. "Zhou Xing, I'm not trying to crack wise, nor am I trying to exaggerate to alarm you. But remember. No matter who your boyfriend is in the future, never ever invite them to sleep in the same room as you. Men are rather impulsive creatures. Letting a young man stay in the same room as you... Uh, it's not very good for you."

Even if they did not do anything, in such a situation, everyone would think that Zhou Xing had committed some unspeakable acts with the guy whom she had slept in the same room as. This would be detrimental to a young lady's reputation.

But when Zhai Xin said this, he had done so from Zhou Xing's perspective without considering his own problems.

Zhou Xing blushed. "Zhai Xin, you're so nice to me. Your words show how gentlemanly you truly are. I know that you're teaching me this so that no one else will take advantage of me. But Zhai Xin, you're my boyfriend now. I trust you. Anyway, if anything were to happen, will you dislike me for being young and not having a good figure and compare me with other women? I trust you, and I'm willing too. I know you said that for my good, but did you say that also because you don't like me and don't want to be 'with me'?"

After all, Zhai Xin had told her to be careful with any men. Even Zhai Xin himself was no exception.

Zhou Xing had to wonder whether Zhai Xin did not want to be 'with her'. Otherwise, Zhai Xin should have excluded himself when he had said that earlier.

Er Bao's flushed face returned to normal, and his gaze became stern. "Zhou Xing, you're a girl. You shouldn't say such misleading things. I'm a man too, so I'm included in the scope of men I was talking about earlier. Even if you trust me, you should still be careful unless you're married. I won't talk about self-love. My mom always says that it's all too easy for girls to be taken advantage of."

Zhou Xing was even younger than San Bao, so he completely treated Zhou Xing as a younger sister. If it was not for Zhou Xing threatening to end her own life, Zhai Xin had not been prepared to end his first love. His original intention was to allow his first love to develop for a while more and only end it once he found a suitable candidate.

But who would have known that a younger sister like Zhou Xing would suddenly show up out of nowhere, ruining his plan? As such, he had no other choice but to end his plan ahead of schedule, even deviating from his life plan.

Zhai Xin took care of Zhou Xing and even took pity on her. But what was lacking was that love between a man and woman. Hearing Zhou Xing talk about 'sleeping', Zhai Xin lectured Zhou Xing in the manner that he would lecture Zhai Yu. Actually, Zhai Yu had always been an obedient child. As Zhai Yu's second brother, Zhai Xin had never had the chance to lecture Zhai Yu like he had just done to Zhou Xing.

Chapter 1662: Unable to Tell

“Zhou Xing, don’t think that you have the right to make mistakes just because you’re young. That idea is wrong and dangerous. A misstep now could have a great impact on your future. I think that your thinking is not matured enough because you’re still so young. When you date someone in the future, you’ll have to pay more attention to these sensitive topics. Don’t let someone else take advantage of you!”

Zhai Xin thought that Zhou Xing was lucky that the person she had met was him. Otherwise, with what Zhou Xing had said earlier, the majority of men in the world would immediately turn into wolves and gobble Zhou Xing up.

Sigh. Young ladies should be more alert. It was way too easy to get deceived and taken advantage of. “Alright, it’s not early anymore. I’ll send you back. Otherwise, it might really get too late and you won’t be able to go back.” He might not have been able to change Zhou Xing’s mindset in such a short while and make Zhou Xing do as he had said.

Thankfully, there was not much of a problem now since he was Zhou Xing’s boyfriend in name. As long as he was around, he would never do such a thing to hurt Zhou Xing, and neither would he allow any other guys to get close to Zhou Xing and commit such despicable acts toward Zhou Xing.

He was a good civic-minded young man who could not get any more righteous. He treated Zhou Xing as a younger sister and would definitely not let any other boys take advantage of Zhou Xing or bully her.

Without giving Zhou Xing the chance to refuse, Zhai Xin directly pulled Zhou Xing along and sent her back to her dormitory. The moment they reached the gate, Zhou Xing immediately stopped in her tracks. “Thank god the gate hasn’t been locked. Hurry and wash up and then go to bed. Remember not to come out of your room if there’s nothing urgent. Even if someone asks you to come out, don’t go out to play!”

When Zhai Xin said this, he had no self-awareness that he was Zhou Xing’s boyfriend.

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He had already sent Zhou Xing back to her dormitory. If anyone were to ask Zhou Xing out later in the night, it would most likely be a guy. If that were to happen, Zhou Xing would be betraying him by going out with another guy behind his back.

Zhou Xing looked helpless and merely waved at Zhai Xin. “Alright, I understand. Don’t worry. I’m a good girl too. It’s already so late. I should go to bed once I wash up. I practiced a lot of my basic skills and dances in the day, so I’m actually quite tired. I’ll find you if I’m free tomorrow?” She knew that it might be a matter of months or even years if she were to wait for Zhai Xin to find her on his own accord in his free time.

“I won’t be free tomorrow.” Zhai Xin immediately shook his head. “I’m actually quite busy lately. It wasn’t easy for me to set aside half a day today. I think it’s better for me to find you when I’m free. Otherwise, you might make a wasted trip when you come looking for me. I guess you’d feel bad if I have to put aside all my serious work just to go on a date with you when I’m already so busy. I think it’s safer for me to look for you instead. That way, it definitely will not be a wasted trip.” Zhai Xin added brightly and cheerfully.

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Zhou Xing nodded obediently. “Alright, I’ll wait for you to come.”

The dormitory auntie recognized Zhou Xing and Zhai Xin. Upon hearing Zhai Xin’s words, the auntie smiled. “Young lady, you are so lucky. Auntie has lived for so many decades and has seen every kind of person there is out there. That chap earlier is not only handsome, but more importantly, he has a good character. He refuses to take advantage of young girls. You have a good judgment to have found such a good boyfriend.”

All along, she had only seen men dawdling upon sending their girlfriends back, not wanting their girlfriends to enter the dormitory gates. More than once, she had even seen men sending their girlfriends back. But when they were merely ten meters away from the gate, they would drag their girlfriends into a bush by the side and hide there for a good half an hour before reappearing.

Since she had been there before, the auntie immediately knew at once what was going on upon seeing those young ladies’ slightly flushed and swollen lips that looked like they had just eaten chilies. For such a matter, as long as both parties were willing and those young ladies were even happy to be kissed, there was nothing an outsider like her could do. If she interfered and gave a few words of advice, they might even despise her for butting in.

That should be exactly how to find a boyfriend. A guy like this who would not cross the line was definitely one who had already decided to spend his entire life with that young lady.

Upon hearing the auntie's words, Zhou Xing let out a blissful smile. "Thanks, auntie. I know. My boyfriend is a very rare 'good' person. I like him very much, and I'll be sure to cherish his feelings. I won't let you worry about me."

With that, Zhou Xing turned around and headed upstairs.

However, once Zhou Xing reached the staircase, not only did her soft and gentle smile immediately disappear, but there also seemed to be a little coldness in her expression. To tell the truth, this was her first time dating as well. She was worried that she would become experienced in dating if she were to get into a relationship prior to this, and Zhai Xin would be able to tell. After all, with Zhai Xin's background, she had thought that Zhai Xin was sure to be an 'experienced soldier' and would be a veteran player who had played many games with no strings attached before.

But as it turned out, Zhai Xin was so pure and innocent.

With Zhai Xin even more 'innocent' than she was, Zhou Xing was a little hesitant. She wondered if her plan would be successful and whether Zhai Xin would take her bait. But whether or not he would, she had already worked hard for so many years and had finally become Zhai Xin's girlfriend. She had to stick to her guns and ride it until the end. Who knew? Perhaps, she would succeed.

At the thought of 'success', Zhou Xing's expression quickly reverted to her upbeat expression that she had when she had bid farewell to Zhai Xin, and she made her way upstairs.

"You're still reading?" After successfully concluding his date and safely sending Zhou Xing back to her dormitory, Zhai Xin was in a good mood. He saw that Zhai Yi was engrossed in his book and said, "I say, Zhai Yi, don't you think you're being too serious? Even if you're just obeying Mom by gathering more knowledge, don't overdo it. I think you're going to become a bookworm at this rate. You're still so young, but you're hugging a book every day. You're wasting your precious and beautiful youth. I think you should take more time to walk around and find an overwhelmingly passionate girl to date so that she'll melt this iceberg of yours."

Perhaps it was because Er Bao himself was dating and felt that the feeling of dating was not bad after all. That was why he spared no effort in trying to encourage Zhai Yi to find someone for himself so that they would all be dating together. That way, if the elders in their family found out about it and lectured him about it, at least, Zhai Yi could take the punishment alongside him. They could share the burden and punishment!

Zhai Yi raised his eyebrow and narrowed his eyes at Er Bao. "Looking at how carefree and relaxed you are, I really can't tell that you're being forced into this relationship and that you really have no feelings for that young lady. Why? Are you treating this as a real relationship now that you've dated and realized that it's nice to be dating?" If that was really the case, he would have to sound the alarm and pay closer attention to Zhai Xin in the future.

Chapter 1663: Quarreling

He could swear to San Bao that nothing would happen with Zhai Xin because Zhai Xin did not even take a fancy to this young lady named Zhou Xing. Zhai Xin only regarded Zhou Xing as a younger sister like Xu Lingling. With such a pure sibling relationship, if Zhai Xin were really to have any other ideas about Zhou Xing, he would be worse than a beast!

But with the appearance of Zhai Xin's tone today, Zhai Yi was now on his toes again. He even considered whether he should find something for Zhai Xin to get busy with so that he would not have any free time to meet Zhou Xing for a date in the near future. It had only been a few dates, but Zhai Xin had already undergone such a huge change! If he were to let the two of them meet a few more times, Zhai Yi thought that his mom's greatest fear might even become reality!

"What nonsense are you spouting? I think of Zhou Xing as my younger sister. Just having another person by your side to chat with and talk a stroll with, your mood will improve as well. I'm just afraid that you'll get bored. It's not a must for you to find a girlfriend, of course. As long as you're willing, you could just find someone to chat with you." Zhai Xin suddenly transformed into an understanding elder brother who placed great importance on Zhai Yi's mental health. "If you're not willing to find someone else to chat with, I'll sacrifice my personal time to chat with you more often. How's that?"

He had no other choice. He and Zhai Yi shared the same mother after all. If he did not care about Zhai Yi, then who would?

Naturally, once Zhai Yi found a girlfriend, he would hand this burden over entirely to Zhai Yi's girlfriend.

Zhai Yi looked at Zhai Xin seriously. After confirming that there was no other situation, he finally relaxed his raised brow. "Thank you for your concern. As for your suggestion, I don't need it at this moment. For me, my studies come first before anything else. I've just reached the age of twenty. I'll still have loads of time to find a girlfriend and discuss the matter of marriage in the future. But I'll

only have a few more years to focus on my studies. Since you've given me advice, I'll give you some advice too. Don't waste your most precious time on your 'younger sister'."

She was not even his girlfriend.

Younger sister? Neither was she his biological younger sister.

He already felt that spending time on a girlfriend was wasting his time and life. As for someone like Zhai Xin, who was spending all his time on a younger sister he had taken on, that was even more meaningless. "Zhai Xin, don't forget that your goal is to join the air force, not to become a psychiatrist and provide those 'younger sisters' with counseling and advice. I'll give you even more advice. Our family has more men than women, but I'm sure both you and I are clear about the tempers of those women at home. You may view Zhou Xing as your younger sister, but in other people's eyes, Zhou Xing is your girlfriend. With this girlfriend by your side, you might miss out on a young lady whom you really like!"

Anyway, if the women in the Zhai family found out about this, Zhai Xin would, more or less, be in a situation of falling out of love. Even if it was merely out of pity, he should not offer himself out of pity. That would only deepen the misunderstanding and dig himself a deeper grave.

He should just cut it off cleanly at this time. Otherwise, Zhai Xin would eventually get a taste of shooting himself in the foot. He could only hope that Zhai Xin could still smile and remain bright and cheery like he was now if that situation were to really occur.

Zhai Xin paused for a moment. "You're just exaggerating. If I really have someone that I like, I believe that that young lady would understand why I did such a thing. If she can't understand that, then all I can say is that we're not of the same species and we won't last long together. Only someone who can understand me will be my true soulmate."

He was just doing a good deed and had no feelings for Zhou Xing. If she was going to get jealous over this and was going to be so petty without trying to understand him, he could never like a girl like that.

"Hehehe..." Zhai Yi laughed but did not say anything more. Anyway, he had already done his due diligence in reminding his brother. He had never imagined that Zhai Xin would have such an idealistic side to him and such unrealistic ideas. One could not simply control the matters of the heart just because they wanted to.

If Zhai Xin really liked someone but felt that she did not think in the same way as him and was thus not his soul mate, would he really be able to give up on her just like that? Innocent and childish! He would wait for that day when Zhai Xin would be slapped in the face by his own words.

At the same time, Zhai Yi confirmed something else. 'Dating' Zhou Xing could have given Zhai Xin some new feelings and stimulation. But up until now, Zhai Xin had not been truly moved by Zhou Xing. Otherwise, Zhai Xin could not be speaking so openly about the possibility of meeting a girl that he truly liked in the future.

"Zhai Xin, I hope that when that day really comes, you'll be able to hold on to that. And you stink with sweat! Go take a shower!" Under their mom's influence, both Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin placed great importance on their personal hygiene whenever it was possible.

In other boys' dormitories, they might accumulate a whole week's worth of dirty socks and clothes and dump them into the washing machine all at once. But Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin did not have such a bad habit. The moment they undressed, they would wash their clothes right then and there. Because they had always been thrown into the military for training by Zhai Sheng, both Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin were adept at washing their clothes and even did it much faster and cleaner than normal young ladies!

In this way, Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin's room was always the cleanest.

After this date, Zhai Xin said that he was busy and had asked Zhou Xing not to find him. As such, Zhou Xing held back and stopped herself from visiting Zhai Xin for an entire week. What Zhai Yi was pleased about was that in the week that Zhou Xing had not appeared, neither had Zhai Xin mentioned anything related to Zhou Xing. As her boyfriend, he had never talked about Zhou Xing and much less shown that he was even thinking of Zhou Xing.

Seeing Zhai Xin's reaction, Zhai Yi was pleased yet worried. He was pleased because he was right after all. There were truly no feelings between Zhai Xin and Zhou Xing. But what worried Zhai Yi was that Zhai Xin was already of this age, but why was he still thinking like a child in this aspect? He was not at all enlightened in this area.

Earlier on, they had been worried that Zhai Xin would do things that adults did too early, resulting in an additional person in Zhou Xing's stomach. But based on Zhai Xin's behavior, Zhai Yi felt that they could put this worry aside and worry about it five years later. In five years' time, if Zhai Xin were to get any woman pregnant, it would be much easier to resolve the problem then. They would just have to make Zhai Xin marry that girl.

“Zhou Xing, where’s that handsome boyfriend of yours? I feel like he hasn’t come to visit you in a long while. Did you two quarrel with each other and break up?”

Chapter 1664: Quitting

If that were the case, one should not allow benefits created by one’s own work to accrue to others. Instead of letting someone benefit from this, she should let her own roommates benefit from it!

Hearing her roommates gloat at her misfortune, Zhou Xing brushed her own hair and laughed. “My relationship with Zhai Xin is stable. You guys know as well that my boyfriend is a student of the PLA National Defense University and is usually packed with a heavy workload and training. He’s not as free as other university boys who even have time to go to hotels with their girlfriends. It’s only wise for men to put their careers first at any point in time.”

Could they stop comparing Zhai Xin with those indecent men? She could not even bother to spare a look at those men who could spend a whole day with their girlfriends and were so clingy to them. Those men could not even match up to a strand of Zhai Xin’s hair!

Upon hearing that, her roommate got upset since her boyfriend was exactly as how Zhou Xing had described. “Oh, I see you understand your boyfriend very well. If I were in your place, I wouldn’t be able to do it. I have only one requirement for my boyfriend, and that is to always put me as his priority. He has to take good care of me and love me. If he places greater importance on anything else, I’ll definitely break up with him!”

Zhou Xing smiled. “I guess we think differently. I think that my married life will definitely be better if Zhai Xin focuses on his studies now and never lets me feel wronged in the future. Of course, if you’re a romantic person, I rather envy you for thinking of life so simply!”

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That was a lie!

Just dating? Did she really think that Zhou Xing had not seen the new phone in her hands? If her boyfriend did not have a job, would he have money to spend on her? Once that man finished spending all his money and could not fork out any more money to spend on her, Zhou Xing wondered how long more her roommate could last before changing her boyfriend.

Zhou Xing had been so realistic that her roommate was almost unable to retort her. After a long time, she finally said, “Zhou Xing, we’re still in university. Our relationships now are still the innocent and simple ones. I think you’re being too realistic to have so many considerations when finding a boyfriend. Do you really have any true feelings for Zhai Xin? I don’t think as much as you do. If I like the guy, I’ll just get together with him. If you have so many considerations, surely that can’t be true love!” She was a helpless romantic who would jump into a relationship with no hesitation at all.

Zhou Xing burst out in laughter. “Is that so? Then, why did you break up with that boyfriend from high school? That guy did well academically and goes to a much better university than your current boyfriend. He is even handsome and has a good physique. Didn’t you say that he was the most popular guy in high school? So did you choose your current boyfriend because he’s uglier than your ex?”

“...”

It was not only Zhou Xing who was laughing. Even the other young ladies in their room started laughing as well. They knew all too well that she had broken up with that most popular guy because his family was poor. The only reason he could attend university was that he had earned a scholarship based on his excellent academic results.

It was not easy for that popular guy to support himself and finish four years of university in the capital, let alone support his girlfriend’s materialistic wants.

Because that popular ex-boyfriend of hers was poor, the moment she had a chance and met a guy with a better background, she could not care less about whether that guy was uglier than her ex and was willing to sweetly call him her husband and honey. True love? She was truly in love!

“But Zhou Xing, your boyfriend is really quite outstanding. The PLA National Defense University! The students from that university are all destined to become officials in the future. Although there are few females in the PLA National Defense University, it’s not that there are absolutely none. Zhou Xing, aren’t you afraid that someone will come between you and your boyfriend if you guys don’t meet for a long period of time? If I were in your place with such a brilliant boyfriend, I would definitely have a close eye on him. If a mistress comes into the picture and snatches him away from you, won’t you regret it for the rest of your life? Will you be able to find such a good boyfriend in the future if you lose this one?”

Zhou Xing smiled as she rubbed hand cream on her hands. "I have no confidence in other men, but I'm rather confident in my boyfriend. My boyfriend is quite dimwitted. Unless he breaks up with me, I won't be afraid of another woman, or even ten other women. He won't change his mind about me." He had heard that the Zhais were all obstinate.

But she was different. Zhai Xin had personally admitted that she was his girlfriend. She had not been the one to declare herself as Zhai Xin's girlfriend without his consent.

As such, unless she broke up with Zhai Xin, there was no way other women could snatch Zhai Xin away from her.

Hearing Zhou Xing's certainty, her roommates were all taken aback. "You guys haven't even been dating for a long time. Why does it feel as though you understand your boyfriend very well? Have you had a crush on your boyfriend since a long time ago? Is it true? Hurry and fess up!" Zhou Xing was only sixteen years old now. If she had been crushing on Zhai Xin, she would only have been thirteen or fourteen years old at that time! At such a young age, Zhou Xing had already set her eyes on this handsome guy!

Tsk. Zhou Xing had matured too early! How could she have set her sights on Zhai Xin so early on and even succeeded in getting Zhai Xin as her boyfriend?

Zhou Xing only smiled while putting on light makeup. "Thank you for your concern. Although I'm confident in my boyfriend, the problem is that I'm his girlfriend and I haven't seen him for a whole week. I'm going to the PLA National Defense University to visit him in case those besotted girls think that Zhai Xin is still single and available. I'll have to go show my ownership over him and chase those thick-skinned girls away."

It was true that she had to keep a watchful eye on a boyfriend as outstanding as Zhai Xin. She had succeeded, but what if someone followed in her footsteps?

"You're such an enviable woman! How nice would it be to have such a handsome and faithful boyfriend! Zhou Xing, why don't you help us find out if your boyfriend has any brothers? I guess his brothers can't be that far off since they're a family." Since Zhai Xin was out of the question, other candidates would be good too.

Zhou Xing's expression changed slightly. "I'm dating Zhai Xin, not his family. How am I supposed to know whether he has any brothers? If I ask Zhai Xin, he might misunderstand that I'm two-timing him!"

Chapter 1665: Time for a Change

“It’s not convenient for me to find out about that on your behalf unless Zhai Xin takes the initiative to introduce his family to me. When that time comes and such an opportunity arises, I could keep a lookout for you.”

With that, Zhou Xing left the dormitory and headed to PLA National Defense University to look for Zhai Xin.

“...” After receiving Zhou Xing’s phone call, Zhai Yi’s expression was still neutral. “Zhai Xin is rather busy these days. He might not have time to meet with you. He is not in the dormitory at the moment.”

Upon hearing Zhai Yi’s voice that was as deep as a cello, Zhou Xing could not help but blush. “Elder brother, can you tell me what Zhai Xin has been busy with lately? I’ve not seen him for an entire week! Have any other girls gone to find Zhai Xin in this week?”

“No.” Zhai Yi frowned. Was Zhou Xing planning on making him her spy? “Do you have anything else? Otherwise, I’m going to hang up. I still have a class in the afternoon.”

Zhou Xing moved her lips. She did have something else, but she knew that Zhai Yi would not bother with her even if she were to say it out loud. “No, elder brother. I won’t bother you anymore. By the way, I quite like cooking. When I get the chance, I’ll boil some soup for you and Zhai Xin. If it’s not good, please be more understanding. Please feel free to give me your feedback too. I think that there’s still room for improvement for my cooking skills.”

If she wanted to hold on to a man’s heart, she would have to first grasp his stomach. She did not believe that her dishes would taste that awful that Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin would find fault with her since she had learned to cook for such a long time.

Zhou Xing’s so-called feedback was just her being modest. She was actually quite confident in her culinary skills. While other girls were still in elementary school, she had already started her culinary journey in the kitchen. Thankfully, her efforts had all been worth it thus far.

The culinary skills that she had gained through much effort were finally being put to good use.

Zhai Yi frowned. "I think you should just call me comrade. It's still too early for you to be addressing me as elder brother. Also, it's good enough as long as Zhai Xin is satisfied with your soup. There's no need to count me in. Alright, goodbye." This Zhou Xing was indeed just as sociable as she was in his memory.

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The thought of Zhou Xing affectionately addressing him as elder brother disgusted Zhai Yi.

As a good elder brother, even if Zhai Yi could not get friendly with Zhou Xing, that was his own business. He would not try to come in between Zhai Xin and Zhou Xing. It was true that Zhai Xin was not in his room and was busy with other matters now. But he was sure to return later. Thus, before heading off for his class, Zhai Yi left a note for Zhai Xin, explaining the situation.

When Zhai Xin first saw the note that Zhai Yi had left for him, his first response was one of happiness. He had never expected that he would meet an 'outsider' who cared for him just like his family did so early on in his life. This was proof that his personality was charming!

Even if the two of them had not shared the best start, and he had even been a little reluctant, his girlfriend, Zhou Xing, was really quite a good girlfriend. He had to reciprocate his girlfriend's good intentions. Even if he still did not have much time to go on a date with his girlfriend, he would definitely express his gratefulness toward his girlfriend for her kind intentions.

And so, the moment Zhai Xin returned to his room, he immediately made a call to Zhou Xing. But what he had not expected was that Zhou Xing's line was busy! After two unsuccessful tries, Zhai Xin hung up the phone.

Who could Zhou Xing be calling at this time? And by the looks of it, this call had been going on for quite a while. But Zhai Xin did not feel troubled about his phone call not getting through. When he was busy, Zhou Xing could not get hold of him either. He had to consider Zhou Xing's perspective too. Zhai Xin felt that it was normal for Zhou Xing to be busy and have someone else she needed to contact. There was no need to harp on it.

Zhai Xin thought no more of this matter, but not Zhou Xing.

“Grandma, yes, I’m doing pretty well. No one is bullying me. Grandma, I have a boyfriend now. His name is Zhai Xin. Yes, Zhai Xin, Qiao Nan’s second son.” Zhou Xing’s tone was gloomy and especially strange at the mention of Qiao Nan’s name.

“...” Upon hearing her granddaughter’s words, she paused. “Xingxing, forget it. This matter... It has been so many years. Grandma isn’t expecting anything. I just want you to be happy. There’s nothing more important than your happiness. Your mom is no longer around. I just hope that you’ll be able to live happily for your mother’s sake too. You should hurry and break up with Zhai Xin. The two of you can’t be together. The Zhai family isn’t as simple as you think.”

“I know it’s not simple. If the Zhai family was that simple, would I humble myself to be with Zhai Xin? Although they look almost similar, Zhai Yi is the Zhai family’s eldest son after all. In the future, Zhai Yi will surely be the one who’ll take over Zhai Sheng’s place. I’ve heard that Zhai Yi does have that ability too, and he’s even more outstanding than Zhai Sheng was at this age.” Zhai Yi was her first choice, but there had been no results even after all her efforts.

If she had not become Zhai Xin’s girlfriend, Zhai Yi might not even know that a person like her existed up until now!

How nice would it have been if the person who had taken her bait was Zhai Yi. Then, Zhai Yi would be her boyfriend instead. Once Qiao Nan found out who she was, the truth would hit Qiao Nan even harder and she would get even greater revenge!

“Xingxing!” Her grandmother seemed to be angry. She could not understand how Zhou Xing had suddenly grown up to have such a distorted mindset. “Didn’t you say that you want to be a celebrity? If you offend the Zhai family, you’ll never be able to be a celebrity in this lifetime! Don’t forget why you’re called Zhou Xing.” Her grandma clearly wanted Zhou Xing to remember her dream so that she would leave Zhai Xin and work hard to fulfill her own dream.

“The Zhai family is powerful, and Qiao Nan is both powerful and rich. If I become Qiao Nan’s daughter-in-law, I’ll have access to the Zhai family’s power and money. I could be a celebrity any time if I want. I’m only sixteen now. If I rely on my own efforts, even when I reach twenty-six, I might not become a famous celebrity! Besides, I think it’ll be more fulfilling to be pushed up into fame by my enemy’s money and power.”

Qiao Nan had three children by her side, and Zhai Xin was now her boyfriend. If Zhai Xin were to listen to her one day instead of listening to Qiao Nan and even help her say things that would hurt Qiao Nan, just imagine how hurt Qiao Nan would be.

There was no way the heavens would allow a person to lead such a blissful life all the time. On behalf of the heavens, she would have to let Qiao Nan know that life could not always be so perfect. She had already enjoyed the splendor of the world when she was younger.

Chapter 1666: Car Accident

It was time for Qiao Nan to suffer a little and know what hardship was!

She was going to be the one to end Qiao Nan's happiness!

"What if the Zhai family finds out about your identity? Don't forget that marriage isn't easy. If you really get to that stage with Zhai Xin, they would definitely find out about your background before you get married. Furthermore, if you get married to Zhai Xin, aren't you afraid..." Based on the relationship between the two, it was obviously impossible for them to get married.

"What's there to be afraid of?" Zhou Xing was fearless. "Let them investigate then. Anyway, they wouldn't be able to detect any issues from my ID card and family register. Grandma, as long as you don't tell anyone and betray me, my plan will definitely succeed. Grandma, you won't do that, right?" No one from the Zhou family knew what she was doing. Grandma was the only one who knew.

Zhou Xing was confident that if her grandmother didn't betray her, she would definitely be able to smile while watching Qiao Nan cry in a few years' time!

The other party felt a headache. "I've already said that it's not as simple as you think. Qiao Nan is extremely blessed. Let's not talk about whether Zhai Xin could do as what you've described, helping his wife, and not his mother. Zhai Sheng would be the first not to tolerate his son being disrespectful to Qiao Nan and making her angry. Based on how much Zhai Sheng values Qiao Nan, if Zhai Xin dares to make Qiao Nan angry, he would dare to kick Zhai Xin out of the Zhai family. Once he loses his identity as someone from the Zhai family, Zhai Xin would be of no value to you. Lastly, never belittle the men from the Zhai family. Zhai Sheng dotes on Qiao Nan a lot. I feel that Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin are the same. Perhaps the image you have imagined would never appear."

If Zhai Xin's heart was always biased toward Qiao Nan, his birth mother, no matter how hard Xingxing tried, they would all be in vain.

When the time comes, Zhai Xin could break up with Xingxing in the blink of an eye if she disrespected Qiao Nan. At this time, she herself wasn't sure how her granddaughter thought of Zhai Xin.

At the mention of Zhai Xin, she could tell that her granddaughter's tone carried traces of happiness. However, at the mention of Zhai Yi, her granddaughter seemed conflicted and reluctant to part from him. She felt really troubled. "Xingxing, I've told you before. Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin could be considered as your brothers. Xingxing, stop this nonsense, alright?"

It wasn't for anything else, but if the Zhai family really found out about what her granddaughter had done and wanted to deal with her out of rage, she couldn't stop them at all. One had to know that all the grudges were from the previous generation. If Xingxing took the initiative to acknowledge Qiao Nan, she might even take care of her and help her fulfill her dream of being a celebrity.

The problem was that if Xingxing insisted on taking revenge on Qiao Nan, her relationship with the Zhai family could be as bad as her mother's relationship with them when she was still alive. "If we make our identities known now, Xingxing, you might be able to become a celebrity and sing and act now. It isn't your ultimate goal to be a military performer. You have already met both of Qiao Nan's sons. Let's take a better path for you, alright?"

"No!" Zhou Xing rejected without thinking. "It's Qiao Nan, this wretched woman, who had caused me to lose my mother since I was young. You know how bad and ruthless that woman from the Zhou family was. I nearly lost my father as well. However, there's no difference whether I have a father or not now. He only has that woman in his eyes and the son whom she had given birth to in his heart. He even treats the child that that woman had from her preceding marriage as his precious. Out of the three children in the family, it's as if I was adopted. My parents don't love me. If my birth mother was still alive, do I have to be bullied so pitifully by that woman in my house?"

She wasn't willing to take this lying down!

When she was young, she had led such a tough life. Her mother didn't take care of her and she couldn't even get to see her father. This was all thanks to that woman named Qiao Nan. Since Qiao Nan dared to harm her, why couldn't she take revenge?

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Qiao Nan made her a child without her mother's love and protection. She wouldn't let Qiao Nan lead a good life. Qiao Nan and her three children had been leading a happy life until now. She would wait for the day when Zhai Xin no longer had Qiao Nan in his heart and always sang a different tune to her, angering her to her death. At that time, she wanted to see how Qiao Nan could smile happily when she was crying.

“Xingxing, not all men are like your father. Your grandparents have treated you really well and left everything at home to you. If you rely on the things they left for you, you can lead a good life in this lifetime.” Her grandmother felt heartache for Zhou Xing’s unfortunate encounters when she was young.

She always thought that even though her elder daughter was gone, she was still around. More importantly, aside from Zhou Xing’s father, who was a fool to be fascinated by that vixen, Zhou Xing’s grandparents doted on Zhou Xing the most. In their hearts, even the grandson who was born later couldn’t compare to her.

It was a pity that her granddaughter’s life was similar to her daughter’s. Both of them didn’t lead a good life. Her granddaughter didn’t have a mother to dote on her and a father to protect her. She only had her grandparents and her by her side. Who would have expected Father Zhou and Mother Zhou to get into a car accident on their way back from a trip three years ago? They died on the spot before the ambulance could arrive.

After Father Zhou and Mother Zhou passed away, both of them left behind a huge inheritance. Zhou Xing’s father thought that since he was an only child, his parents’ inheritance would undoubtedly be inherited by him alone.

At that time, Zhou Xing felt extremely desperate. Her father didn’t like her, let alone treated her well. She was already thirteen years old, but during the years after her mother passed away, she had never lived with her father for more than a week. If not for her grandparents protecting her, she might not even get a chance to study in school, let alone have a house to live in or pretty clothes to wear. It would be as if her parents were gone.

With a stepmother, she would also have a stepfather.

If all of the money landed in her father’s hand, she didn’t need to think about spending a single cent in the future. It wouldn’t be like when her grandparents were still alive, where the amount they spent on her alone was twice the amount spent on her stepmother and the two children.

Zhou Xing was afraid that the huge inheritance her grandparents left behind would have nothing to do with her and she would have to lead a bitter life from then on. Unexpectedly, Father Zhou and Mother Zhou actually left behind a will when they were alive.

The will stated that the house their son was currently living in now would belong to him. Apart from that, all the assets under their names would belong to their granddaughter, Zhou Xing.

Chapter 1667: Pitiful

Zhou Xing's legal guardian would be her maternal grandmother. The things that were left to her would naturally be handed over to her maternal grandmother for safekeeping.

After she turned twenty, her maternal grandmother would have to return everything to their granddaughter and she would manage them on her own.

What a great turning point this was. Zhou Xing's stepmother was laughing for only a few days. The appearance of this will made Zhou Xing's stepmother's face darken.

She always knew that her parents-in-law didn't like her. Both of them were in their second marriage. When the two of them held a banquet, they didn't spend a single cent on them. Even the red packet that they gave to her, their daughter-in-law, only contained five hundred yuan. Who were they trying to put to shame?!

She knew that her parents-in-law were quite wealthy. Her husband had a cradle-to-grave job and was paid a fixed salary. However, her father-in-law was a businessman who did quite a big business and earned a lot of money.

Although she obviously knew that her parents-in-law didn't want to see her and were unwilling for her to be married into the Zhou family, after knowing that her treatment couldn't be compared to her husband's first wife at all and she was being looked down on by the Zhou family, Zhou Xing's stepmother gritted her teeth and not only married into the Zhou family but also gave birth to a grandson for the Zhou family in the second year.

Zhou Xing's stepmother was confident that since the Zhou family only had Zhou Xing as a granddaughter, she would be considered a great hero in the Zhou family for giving birth to a son, and her parents-in-law would treat her well. Who knew that her status and treatment in her parents-in-law's hearts didn't improve because of this grandson?

After taking a look at her son, carrying him, and giving two red packets to him, those two old people still regarded Zhou Xing as their precious and didn't like to bother themselves with her son. She was just a money-losing daughter but her parents-in-law still brought her over so that they could eat and live together.

On the contrary, the precious son she gave birth to could only go to his grandparents' house once a week to have a good meal.

Zhou Xing's stepmother thought of how her son had asked her, "Mom, why is it that sister could live with grandpa and grandma but I can't? Their house is big and beautiful. I've seen sister's room as well. It's bigger than mine and there are a lot of pretty dolls. Mom, I like robots and toy cars. Aren't grandpa and grandma going to buy them for me? There's a lot of delicious food at their house. I want to stay with them as well. I want to have good meals."

Every time she thought of her son's words, Zhou Xing's stepmother hated Zhou Xing's presence to death. She also hated her parents-in-law for being biased. They already had a grandson but were still treating a lousy granddaughter as their precious. How could there be such confused elders in this world?

Initially, when Zhou Xing's stepmother heard that her parents-in-law got into a car accident and had passed away, she was still quite happy. The two mountains that were suppressing her all along were gone. Once they were dead, the big house that they lived in previously would definitely be theirs.

She could bring her daughter and son over and live there. She could finally let her son live in the house that was known as big and beautiful to him. After the money that the two of them left behind was in her hands, she was going to buy her son a house full of toys so that he could play with them and throw them away at will.

Who knew that the appearance of the will was like a bolt of lightning that stunned Zhou Xing's stepmother and she couldn't recover herself for a long time? This will made it clear that the Zhou family's inheritance had nothing to do with her and her son at all. The two elders had made it clear that after their death, Zhou Xing's maternal grandmother would become Zhou Xing's caregiver and guardian. Even if her husband wanted to help Zhou Xing keep safe the Zhou family's inheritance using his identity of her father, this reason was useless.

Her parents-in-law were dead. Before their death, they still kept such a hand, blocking all her escape routes. Father Zhou and Mother Zhou immediately became the two most hated people in Zhou Xing's stepmother's life.

Zhou Xing's stepmother hated them to death, but Zhou Xing was happy. Aside from the fact that she had lost the two elders who doted on her, at least, there were no changes to her material lifestyle at all. The house she lived in was completely hers. The house that her father was living with her stepmother was broken and old and wasn't as big as the one she was living in now.

Her grandpa and grandma were willing to leave that small house to her father. She had no opinions on that and wouldn't snatch it from him.

She had already lived with her maternal grandmother for three years. In these three years, Zhou Xing was dissatisfied with everything except for her material lifestyle. After leading a life that was too comfortable and easy, she naturally started to let her thoughts wander.

Although the Zhou family didn't have a lot of money, that child from the preceding marriage and her brother had parents by their side. However, even if she had a lot of money in her hands, she only had an old grandmother by her side. Upon thinking about this, Zhou Xing felt hatred. She didn't understand why she was so special and that she didn't have a parent to take care of her at all. She was more pitiful than children of single-parent families as she was considered the same as 'kinless'.

Who had caused her all these pains? It was Qiao Nan!

Qiao Nan was her enemy. Could she just let this go? No, she wanted to take revenge!

When she thought of how she had been living for the past three years, Zhou Xing's eyes were full of hatred. "At this time, I don't know if I should thank my heartless father. If he didn't listen to that vixen's words, saw me as displeasing to the eye, and kicked me out from their family register, grandpa and grandma wouldn't have created a new one for me and I would still be known as the daughter of Zhou Zheng and Qiao Zijin. Now that I 'have neither no kin nor relatives', how would the Zhai family be able to find out about me?"

In Ping Cheng, she had no relatives or good friends. It wouldn't be simple for the Zhai family to check on her. "I'm called Zhou Xing now, not Zhou Ying. My mother has been dead for ten years. Seeing how Qiao Nan is living so happily now, I bet she has long forgotten that she was the cause of my mother's death. She probably doesn't remember that there's a young girl named Zhou Ying in this world, even if I'm her only niece."

Qiao Nan was a murderer. She had knocked her mother down, causing her death. Why was it that she didn't have to bear any legal responsibility and could lead a carefree and happy life while she, a pitiful victim who had lost her mother because of Qiao Nan, had an irresponsible father who had been completely charmed by a vixen and didn't want his daughter after having a lover?

Chapter 1668: Retribution

Why was it that others could lead a good life, but she only had the share of watching others lead a good life?

This was unfair. She was unwilling to accept this! Heaven didn't help her but let her enemies lead a life so happy that they didn't remember her mother's existence instead. That was fine. She could take action personally and seek justice for both her and her mother.

Zhou Xing believed that she was no longer related to anyone from the Zhou family. Her father had treated her as dead, and they hadn't been together to celebrate the Lunar New Year in ages, especially since her grandpa's and grandma's deaths. When the Zhou family's inheritance was in her hands, the way her father looked at her was as if she was the one who had killed his parents. She had even changed her name.

Traces of Zhou Ying's existence were wiped clean. The one who was alive now was Zhou Xing. As such, how would Qiao Nan have guessed that Zhou Xing was Zhou Ying and that it was Qiao Zijin's daughter who had returned to seek revenge?!

Ding Jiayi felt a headache. She didn't know why, but listening to Zhou Xing's words, she seemed to have seen Qiao Zijin's shadow from that year faintly on Zhou Xing now. "That year, your mother... It was really an accident. Your mother... Xingxing, listen to me. If your mother was willing to open her mind that year, the things that followed wouldn't have happened. I really don't wish to see you follow your mother's old road. Grandma only has you as my kin now."

Ten years ago, she had to send her own child off and she nearly didn't survive.

Her only obsession in life now was Zhou Xing, her granddaughter. If something happened to Zhou Xing, she would really lose all courage to live. She could lead a good life in Ping Cheng and help Zhou Xing keep safe everything from the Zhou family only if Zhou Xing was well. This was because all the work belonged to Zhou Xing alone.

"Grandma, I've chatted with you for a long time now. I'll stop now. The sky is turning dark soon. Goodbye, grandma. I'll call you again. I'll return to the bedroom first." Zhou Xing hated listening to Ding Jiayi's words of asking her to give up on revenge.

Give up on revenge? On what basis?

Qiao Nan was the one who did something sorry to her. It wasn't the other way around.

If Qiao Nan had shown a little guilt and tried to compensate her in the ten years her mother had died, she wouldn't have hated Qiao Nan so much. Since Qiao Nan could cause her mother her death and ignore her existence, then no matter what she did to Qiao Nan, it was just the retribution she deserved. She would give up on revenge only if Qiao Nan died first!

Zhou Xing knew that it wouldn't be an easy task to take revenge on Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan was already part of the central government while she was still an underage girl who hadn't stepped into society. The money she had in her hands was only enough for her father and stepmother to be jealous of. However, based on Qiao Nan's wealth, she wouldn't have taken into account that little money she had seriously.

Zhou Xing thought about it. She was still young, so there were very few ways to take revenge on Qiao Nan. Finally, Zhou Xing focused her attention on Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin.

There was no other reason. Zhou Xing remembered that when her grandparents were still alive a few years ago, her grandmother had felt uncomfortable about how that vixen was treating her badly and had complained about her to her father. Her father didn't rebut but sided with that vixen wholeheartedly. Her grandmother was so angry that her face turned green.

She remembered very clearly that her grandmother was exceptionally angry then and had said, "Forgetting one's mother after having a wife." After a few years, Zhou Xing had a deeper understanding of what this sentence meant.

Thus, she was prepared to take on the path of her stepmother and be Qiao Nan's daughter-in-law. As long as she had Qiao Nan's son's heart in her hands, she could make Zhai Xin do things that could anger Qiao Nan to her death. This would be better than her angering Qiao Nan directly. The latter would feel more agitated easily and pained this way.

Wasn't there a saying that only those one cared about would be able to hurt one the most?

Compared to a daughter-in-law who had emerged halfway, a disobedient son would be the biggest blow and the cruelest torment to Qiao Nan. Like what she told Ding Jiayi, she initially had her eyes on Zhai Yi, not Zhai Xin. Zhai Yi was Zhai Sheng's eldest son and was more valued by the Zhai family. She also heard that Zhai Yi was more outstanding than Zhai Sheng when he was young, and he had a more promising future.

If Zhai Yi became her boyfriend, the entire Zhai family would be hers. At that time, it would be really easy for her to deal with Qiao Nan.

It was a pity that either Zhou Xing was too young or that Zhai Yi was completely uninterested in girls like Zhou Xing. After Zhou Xing had her eyes on Zhai Yi, she tried her best to create many encounters with him. However, after trying for a month, she still hadn't gotten Zhai Yi to remember her face.

Only when she changed her target to Zhai Xin did Zhai Yi start to have an impression of her. Forget it. As long as she could achieve her goal, take revenge on Qiao Nan, and anger her to death, Zhai Xin would do. At the very most, he wouldn't have as great an effect as compared to Zhai Yi.

With Ding Jiayi around, it wasn't difficult for Zhou Xing to understand the Zhai family's situation and how their temperaments were. Thus, she knew that as long as she was recognized by Zhai Xin, even if she was young or if there were countless girls who were older and prettier than her around, Zhai Xin would definitely not be seduced by these women. He was completely different from her father, who had completely forgotten her mother's existence and treated her like an enemy just because her stepmother was a little prettier than her birth mother.

Thankfully, a good man like Zhai Xin would be hers soon.

Zhou Xing was completely unwilling to listen to Ding Jiayi, who disallowed her from doing so. Aside from taking revenge, Zhai Xin was good-looking and had a strong background. In the face of such an outstanding man, it would be a waste not to get him as her husband. She couldn't bear to leave such a good man to someone else.

As to whether close relatives could get married or not, Zhou Xing sneered coldly.

Anyway, not a lot of people in this world would know that she was Qiao Zijin's daughter. In other words, she and Zhai Xin were relatives and she should rightfully call him cousin if she saw him. If there was really a day she got married to Zhai Xin and was pregnant with his child, it would be their blessing if the child was born healthy. If the child was born abnormally, she wasn't to be blamed either. It was all because the child's grandmother had done too many evil deeds and the child had to suffer the retribution now.

No matter what method she used, she would make Qiao Nan receive her retribution!

Hearing Zhou Xing hang up the call and listening to the beeping sound on the phone, the silver-haired Ding Jiayi suddenly squatted down and started sobbing after putting the phone back.

Chapter 1669: Guilty Conscience

She was afraid. She was really afraid. She felt that the Zhou Xing now was exactly the same as Qiao Zijin back then, who seemed to have been demonized.

She had already lost a daughter. God couldn't let her lose this granddaughter as well. She had the intention to stop her granddaughter from taking this so-called revenge. However, she didn't know what she should do to stop her. It was just like back when her daughter was pushed into the operating theatre. They had clearly said that the injuries Zijin suffered were not the worst in car accidents and they should be able to save her. However, when her elder daughter was pushed out of the operating theatre again, her face was covered with a white cloth and she was pronounced dead.

"If Xingxing continues this nonsense, she would get into trouble sooner or later. If that happens, what should I do?" Ding Jiayi didn't want to betray her granddaughter. However, she felt that her granddaughter's plan would definitely fail. Zhai Xin was her granddaughter's cousin. Even if Ding Jiayi didn't have much common sense, she knew that if these two really got together, their child born in the future would most likely have issues.

She didn't dare imagine what would happen if the Zhai family knew in advance that Zhou Xing was Zhou Ying, Qiao Zijin and Zhou Zheng's daughter back then. If the Zhai family became furious, it was unknown how they would deal with her granddaughter in the future. Just thinking about this alone made Ding Jiayi shudder in fear on behalf of Zhou Xing.

"No, I have to think of something. I must think of something. I can't watch Xingxing walk into a dead end. Regardless of the Zhai family or Qiao Nan, none of them are to be messed with. If it was really so easy to deal with Qiao Nan, why would Zijin choose to die under Qiao Nan's wheels back then? Qiao Nan has already ruined my Zijin. She can't ruin Xingxing as well."

Thankfully, Qiao Zijin's death that year still acted as a bit of a wake-up call for Ding Jiayi. Even though Ding Jiayi didn't completely come to her senses because of Qiao Zijin's death, she was not as muddleheaded as ten years ago. She knew that it was impossible for Zhou Xing's plan to succeed. The Zhai family was so powerful that she had given up the thought of taking revenge.

Now, the only thing she could help Zhou Xing with was to tell the truth to Qiao Nan and let the Zhai family stop Zhou Xing. She believed that Qiao Nan was ruthless and would no longer regard anyone from the Qiao family as her family. However, as long as the bottom line was kept and things weren't too overboard, Qiao Nan wouldn't be so ruthless as to destroy someone completely by all means.

Picking up the familiar yet foreign phone number, Ding Jiayi gritted her teeth and dialed it.

Qiao Nan was extremely surprised to receive Ding Jiayi's call. It had been many years since she received Ding Jiayi's call or had any contact with her. The one thing she did the most was to transfer Ding Jiayi's living allowance to her on time.

Qiao Zijin was no longer around. As such, there wouldn't be someone like Qiao Zijin who was endlessly greedy and wanted to empty Ding Jiayi's pockets to benefit herself.

The first year after Ding Jiayi returned to Ping Cheng, Qiao Nan had transferred Ding Jiayi's living allowance on a monthly basis. From the second year onward, she simply transferred the living allowance on a yearly basis so that it was less troublesome. As such, when she received Ding Jiayi's call, Qiao Nan felt that a lifetime had passed. "Is anything the matter? Are you feeling unwell? Do you need money for hospitalization?"

Upon thinking about Ding Jiayi's age, this was the only answer Qiao Nan could think of. "How much do you need for hospitalization? Let me know. I'll transfer you the money after work." Seeing that Ding Jiayi hadn't disturbed her for more than ten years, Qiao Nan was too lazy to investigate if Ding Jiayi was really sick or if she purely wanted to cheat a little more money from her own hands.

Qiao Nan always believed in reciprocity. Ding Jiayi gave her a peaceful life for more than ten years. It was only now that she gave Ding Jiayi a little more money. This money was considered well-spent.

"No, this has nothing to do with money. I haven't finished spending the money you have transferred to me over the years. If there's really a need to see a doctor, the money you have provided me before is sufficient." Until now, Ding Jiayi still didn't feel that Qiao Nan was a good daughter. However, she had to admit that regardless of how cold Qiao Nan was toward her, she had never shortchanged her in terms of money. "I'm calling you today to talk about something else. Zhai Xin is dating someone in school. Have you heard about this matter?"

Ding Jiayi was asking in a careful tone as she was testing the waters. If Qiao Nan didn't know about this, her call would be equivalent to that of a reminder. She would find some way to change the

topic, hang up the call, and never contact Qiao Nan again. However, if Qiao Nan already knew about this matter and had some thoughts about it, Ding Jiayi could only tell Qiao Nan Zhou Xing's situation, hoping that she would let her off.

After all, what Zhou Xing had in mind wasn't good. However, if the big mistake hadn't been committed yet, there was still room for recovery. On account that Zhou Xing was still young and ignorant, had lost her mother at a young age, and was no different from being fatherless, Qiao Nan shouldn't be too calculative toward Zhou Xing and fight over the smallest trifles with her.

It was a pity Qiao Nan didn't let Ding Jiayi take any chances. "Of course I know that my son is dating. The other party is quite young, so I don't want to talk about it. However, it isn't strange for me, the mother, to know that my son is dating. How did you know about this?" For the past ten years, Ding Jiayi didn't disturb her or anyone from the Zhai family.

Ding Jiayi was far away in Ping Cheng, and Er Bao was still studying in the capital. As such, how could Ding Jiayi know that Er Bao was in love? "Who told you this?"

She thought that Ding Jiayi had changed for the better. Was that to say that although Ding Jiayi was in Ping Cheng, her eyes were still on the capital and the rest of the family? What was Ding Jiayi's motive for spending such great efforts? "You're calling me today and you even know about Er Bao dating. Tell me. What do you want?"

Ding Jiayi blushed. "Don't look at me as if it's through a crack in the door. I have no malicious intent toward you or the Zhai family. The good intentions of my call today are naturally not directed at you or the Zhai family. I'm concerned about someone else."

Her relationship with Qiao Nan was really bad. Ding Jiayi couldn't be bothered to act as if they were a deeply affectionate pair. "You know that Zhai Xin is dating someone. Then, do you know who the girl he is dating is?" Indeed, Qiao Nan already knew about it when Xingxing and Zhai Xin had just confirmed their relationship less than a month ago. From Qiao Nan's tone, she should have known about this even earlier.

"A girl named Zhou Xing," Qiao Nan answered.

Chapter 1670: Guessed It

"Wait, that girl is surnamed Zhou and she is sixteen this year. You're giving me a call for the first time today. I remember Qiao Zijin's husband was called Zhou Zheng back then. The daughter they gave birth to would be sixteen this year as well. However, isn't that girl called Zhou Ying?"

Qiao Nan was a sensitive person, especially since Ding Jiayi was the kind of person who wouldn't go to her unless there was something to ask from her. It was already Qiao Nan's instinct to automatically translate Ding Jiayi into a conspiracy theory once she received her call.

How were there so many coincidences in this world? Both of them were surnamed Zhou and were sixteen this year. Ding Jiayi didn't contact her for a long time but did so when Er Bao was dating this sixteen-year-old girl surnamed Zhou. She even asked her bluntly if she knew who this girl Er Bao was dating was.

After linking everything together, Qiao Nan thought of a most unlikely answer. Conan Doyle said before: After eliminating all the impossibilities, what is left must be the truth despite how incredible it might sound.

It was also because of this that Qiao Nan would make a bold assumption that this girl named Zhou Xing was somehow related to Zhou Ying.

Qiao Nan immediately heard clearly the sound of a glass item in Ding Jiayi's hands being shattered to the ground due to shock.

Upon hearing this crisp sound, it was no longer necessary for Ding Jiayi to answer as Qiao Nan already had one in mind. "So Zhou Xing is Zhou Ying? How absurd! If Zhou Xing was really Zhou Ying, she would be cousins with my Er Bao. That's within three generations! She shouldn't be serious about Er Bao if that was the case. She's dating Er Bao to take revenge on me? She's insane. Indeed, she's Qiao Zijin's daughter. When she goes crazy, she's just like Qiao Zijin. How could she use such a matter to seek revenge? Has water entered her brains?!"

Qiao Nan couldn't help but feel exasperated. To be honest, among the people she had met in her two lifetimes, Zhou Xing was the craziest. When Qiao Zijin became ruthless, it didn't even compare to Zhou Xing's behavior now. Was Zhou Xing prepared to throw herself into a fire pit as well? Didn't that mean something was wrong with her brains?

"No, Xingxing is not a scheming girl. Don't misunderstand her or be angry. Xingxing is a good child and a pitiful one. You also know that after Zijin's death, Xingxing lost her mother and was only left with her father, Zhou Zheng. It was a pity that Zhou Zheng remarried his first lover and the two of them even gave birth to a son after that. Zhou Zheng treated the child she brought over from her preceding marriage better than Xingxing, the birth daughter. If not for the old couple in the Zhou family who treated Xingxing well, she wouldn't have been able to survive in the Zhou family."

Ding Jiayi felt panicked. She didn't expect Qiao Nan to have guessed the truth of the matter when she had just made a call and hadn't even said anything yet. She even guessed that Zhou Ying had changed her name to Zhou Xing. She knew it. It wouldn't be as easy as what Xingxing had said. How could the Zhai family not have guessed whose daughter Xingxing belonged to?

She knew it. She knew it!

“In this lifetime, only the old couple from the Zhou family treated Xingxing well. However, when Xingxing was thirteen, the old couple from the Zhou family met a car accident and lost their lives. Xingxing's heartless father immediately rushed over to the house Xingxing was staying and wanted to chase her out. Thankfully, when the old couple from the Zhou family was alive, they had left a will to leave everything from the Zhou family, except the house that Zhou Zheng is currently living in, to Xingxing. Otherwise, how would a thirteen-year-old child like Xingxing be able to survive with a father like that?”

She wasn't young anymore. Back then, she couldn't even provide for her daughter, Zijin, let alone a granddaughter now.

Thankfully, the old couple from the Zhou family had left behind quite a huge sum of money. It was sufficient for Xingxing to complete her studies and take away as dowry when she married someone in the future. As long as Xingxing didn't squander everything that was left behind by the old couple from the Zhou family, she could lead a good life without having to go out and work.

At this time, Ding Jiayi was extremely thankful for the love and care the old couple from the Zhou family had provided Zhou Xing. It was because of their bias to Zhou Xing that she could still live on after their death.

It was also at this time that Ding Jiayi similarly couldn't help but agree that Qiao Nan had really put in effort to help Qiao Zijin find a partner back then. Regardless of whether Zhou Zheng was a good man, the old couple from the Zhou family was good. Even if Zhou Zheng wasn't capable, at least, the old couple was.

It was also at this critical moment that Ding Jiayi understood that to her daughter and grandchildren, an understanding and reasonable in-law family was much more important than a reliable son-in-law.

Zhou Zheng couldn't let Zijin and Xingxing lead a good life. Once Zijin was gone, Zhou Zheng would remarry sooner or later. If it wasn't to his first lover, it would have been to another woman.

With a stepmother, even if Zhou Zheng was any more reliable as a birth father, he would become a stepfather sooner or later.

However, the old couple from the Zhou family was reliable and the situation was very different. She thought of how she herself liked sons and grandsons. However, when the old couple from the Zhou family had a grandson, they still always showered all their love to Zhou Xing. Only Ding Jiayi knew it in her heart how grateful she was to this old couple.

Based on this point alone, she had to acknowledge that Qiao Nan wasn't all that ruthless to her own family. If it wasn't for Zijin who had given up leading a good life and ended up having an affair with a man outside, Zhou Zheng would have been managed by the old couple from the Zhou family well and wouldn't have done anything sorry to Zijin.

She knew that it was Zijin who had betrayed Zhou Zheng first and that Zhou Zheng reconciled with his first love after that. Even when Zhou Zheng's heart wasn't on Zijin, he had made sure he was loyal during their marriage. However, Zijin herself didn't do this. Upon thinking about Qiao Zijin's death, Ding Jiayi really couldn't say anything else, especially badmouthing Qiao Nan.

“She's pitiful? She wants others to be as pitiful as her just because she's pitiful? Did I cause her to be pitiful? She didn't know how Qiao Zijin died but you should know. How did you tell Zhou Xing about Qiao Zijin's matter? Qiao Zijin first positioned herself under my car, then refused to see you and wanted to seek death by rejecting the doctor's treatment. How is that related to me? On what basis should she seek revenge on my son? If I really want to be calculative, you and Qiao Zijin were the ones who did something wrong to me but I still made arrangements to provide you a prosperous life. Comrade Ding, we have to talk about our conscience as humans. Aren't both of you too overboard?”

Everyone had a soft spot. Qiao Nan's soft spot was naturally her three children.