

RTAMM 1711

Chapter 1711: Grandson Taking Top Priority

Seeing how happy Zhou Zheng was, Huihui was elated too. “Dear, now that our son is born, don’t you think you should call your parents to tell them about this good news? We should tell them that they’ve become grandparents again at the very least. Dear, what do you think we should name our son?”

She had given birth to a son for the Zhou family. She was truly a great contributor to the Zhou family! She did not believe that the two old foggies would still stand on the side of that daughter from Qiao Zijin once they heard about the news of her giving birth to a son. She believed that they would just drop everything and run straight to the hospital. Once they arrived, just wait and see how she would deal with those two old foggies.

They should not think that she could be easily bullied just because she had not said or done anything in this one year. With this son, she would make a comeback in the Zhou family.

Huihui made up her mind that she had the final say in who got to hold her son in the future since she was the one who had given birth to him. If she was in a good mood, she would let Father and Mother Zhou carry their grandchild. If she was in a bad mood, Father and Mother Zhou should not even think of touching even the corner of her son’s clothes.

One had to reciprocate what was given to them. Now that she had given them a grandson, should they not do something for her as parents-in-law?

She thought about how female celebrities not only received rewards from their husbands for giving birth to sons after marrying into a rich family, but they would also receive rewards from their parents-in-law. She did not have extravagant requests. All she wanted was to stay in a big house. She had to have whatever Qiao Zijin had gotten when she had married into the Zhou family. But now that she had already given birth to her son, she had no intention of reorganizing another wedding. But all that money that should have been spent on that wedding should be handed over to her in cash.

She was already giving in by not asking for additional compensation.

Even though Father and Mother Zhou did not like Huihui as their daughter-in-law, they still loved their grandchildren, whether they were boys or girls.

Upon receiving their son's phone call, the elderly couple did indeed head down to the hospital happily to see their grandson. That day had not been a weekend, so Zhou Xing, who had not yet changed her name, was at school. It was just as well for Father and Mother Zhou to visit their grandson.

But in the end, Huihui gave the excuse that she had to feed her son and that her son was not feeling well and about to cry to prevent Father and Mother Zhou from coming into contact with her son. Father Zhou was upset with the situation, and Mother Zhou seemed to have gotten a clear picture of what was going on. She knew very well that this was Huihui trying to play a trick on them again.

Mother Zhou's expression hardened and she sneered. "All right. Your child is still young. It's best for him to rest and eat more. It's more important for him to stay by his mom's side. Anyway, I'm not very familiar with you, so I won't really be able to help you out. How about you ask your mom to help you out during your confinement period? You should be quite happy for your mom to help you out with your confinement period. When a person is happy, the body recovers faster. Your dad and I won't disturb your rest any longer. Remember to give us a call once you've decided on your child's name."

Zhou Xing's previous name, Zhou Ying, was given to her by Mother Zhou.

Today, she had not even been able to touch the hand of her grandson. Immediately, she understood that something like giving her grandson a name would never be her call to make.

Humph! Who liked thinking of a name anyway? It was such a chore. She could not care less about it. If they had the guts, they would not even give him the surname 'Zhou'!

With that, Mother Zhou left in a huff, pulling Father Zhou along.

Mother Zhou was not Huihui. When Huihui spoke, it was full of loopholes. If an intelligent person were to listen and pick apart her words, they would immediately be able to see through Huihui's dissatisfaction and grievance in between the lines. But Mother Zhou's every word had been for the good of Huihui and her son. Even if Huihui were to analyze Mother Zhou's words, she would never find anything to criticize.

Huihui had never in a million years expected such a response from Mother Zhou. Once the elderly couple left, Huihui stared wide-eyed in shock at Zhou Zheng and burst into tears. “Zhou Zheng, what do your parents mean by this? I’ve just given birth to a son for the Zhou family, but they didn’t even praise me. They even slapped me in the face! Zhou Zheng, are we still going to live together?”

1

Huihui had even wanted to raise her head high and puff her chest out in front of Father and Mother Zhou, but the elderly couple was having none of that! They treated her harshly in the past and were treating her even more harshly now. The elderly couple did not even care about the son that she had just given birth to.

Zhou Zheng looked at his sleeping son awkwardly and helplessly. “Who’s to be blamed here? Even I can tell that you’re throwing a tantrum at my parents and you’re deliberately not letting my parents carry their grandson. Haven’t I told you about my mom’s temper? There’s no one in this world that my mom will let bully her. By saying these things before she left, she was already leaving you some dignity on the account that I’m her son.”

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If he had been the one who had done that, his mom would have punched him in the face before leaving.

Because he knew all too well about Mother Zhou’s temper, Zhou Zheng understood that Mother Zhou had already been very restrained in her actions today and had left the young couple with some dignity. Mother Zhou was not only capable of doing more extreme things, but she had also done so in the past. “Huihui, didn’t you say that you would try to understand my parents and mend the relationship between you and them? My parents were already willing to come. But why did you not want to let them carry our son?”

Had she not seen that his parents had taken the initiative to visit them upon learning that they had given birth to a son? Zhou Zheng had been very encouraged by the fact that his parents had come to visit his son. Zhou Zheng had been depressed about his cold relationship with his parents. He could not help but think that his family of five was still able to live harmoniously together even with Qiao Zijin’s bad temper. But why was it that his family was turned upside down now that the good-natured Huihui was around?

Without his parents around, and even with Huihui around, Zhou Zheng always felt ill at ease. He did listen to Huihui's words, but every time he did what Huihui instructed him to do, he felt uneasy. The confidence that he got when listening to his parents was not there.

“Why should I let them carry my son? Are there grandparents like them? They already knew that I had just given birth to a son. Do you think it's appropriate for them to come and visit their daughter-in-law empty-handed? Let's forget about them neglecting their daughter-in-law. But isn't our son part of the Zhou family? Isn't he their grandson? I'm just feeling aggrieved on our son's behalf that they didn't prepare any gifts for our son!”

Huihui was upset. She had claimed such a huge victory for the Zhou family, giving birth to a son, the only successor of the Zhou family. But even then, her parents-in-law had been so petty and had not even made any effort to thank her. It was not just this time. In the future, she would still never agree to her parents-in-law carrying her son!

She had acted tough today, and there was still a long road ahead of her. She wanted to see whether her parents-in-law would be so obstinate in the face of their own grandson. Her son was her son, after all. She would have the final say about how to raise her son. In the future, her son would definitely listen to her and stand on her side.

Thus, Huihui decided to grasp Zhou Zheng tightly in her hands in an act of defiance.

Chapter 1712: Vicious

After Father and Mother Zhou abandoned Zhou Zheng, they had abandoned Zhou Zheng for good and truly could not care less about Zhou Zheng. Without the elderly couple's guidance, Zhou Zheng struggled like a fly without a head. Huihui immediately replaced Mother Zhou, becoming the Zhou Zheng's 'guiding light'.

After having his son, Zhou Zheng had completely forgotten about the existence of his daughter, Zhou Xing. Instead, he treated the stepdaughter that Huihui had brought along as his own biological daughter.

Knowing that the two elders in the Zhou family favored Zhou Xing, Huihui knew that there was nothing she could do to change the elderly couple's mind. As such, she simply turned her anger toward Zhou Xing and thought of her as a thorn in her eye. She tried all ways to boycott Zhou Xing and scheme against Zhou Xing, making so much of a fuss that Zhou Zheng treated Zhou Xing as though she were an enemy. Zhou Zheng even said to Zhou Xing, “You're your mom's biological daughter indeed. You're just here to ruin my life. Your mom cheated on me, making me look like a fool in front of everyone else. But you're more vicious than your mom. You have such an evil heart

at such a young age. Do you really think that everything in the Zhou family belongs to you now that my relationship with your grandparents has soured? You're still young and insensible. To your grandparents, I'm the closest kin they have. Don't blame me for ignoring you even if you die in the future since you're so heartless to your own father now!"

Zhou Zheng thought that Zhou Xing had been the cause of his parents being disappointed in him, and deciding to distance themselves from him so much so that they were not even willing to meet him. Of course, Huihui was the one who had made such an analysis for Zhou Zheng.

After being reprimanded so viciously by Zhou Zheng, Zhou Xing was almost at her wits' end. Without her mom, the only one she thought of was her father. It had not been easy for her to meet the father whom she had missed so badly. But instead of a touching reunion, it had only been heart-wrenching pain.

What had she done? What had she said to her grandparents?

It was always her grandma telling her about what was going on. She had no idea about what was going on with her dad and that woman. "What rights do you have to talk to me like that? You won't care even if I die? You're making it seem as though you ever cared for me after you got remarried!"

Zhou Xing had been pampered while growing up too, so her temper was not particularly good. Even a saint would get angry after being maligned by their own father like that, much less Zhou Xing.

"You're so young, but you're already so scheming! Do you really need me to care for you?" Zhou Zheng sneered. "I'm warning you not to go too far. It'll be too late for you to regret if you force others to take extreme measures in the future just because you're being so extreme now! Chengcheng is so young. What does he know? He's just a child, and he's your younger brother. If you dare to speak ill of Chengcheng to your grandparents, be careful that I might punch you the next time I see you."

At the mention of this, Zhou Zheng was infuriated. He could understand why his parents were angry at him and Huihui. But there was no reason for his parents to ignore Chengcheng and refuse Chengcheng visiting them. As such, there was no way for Chengcheng to get acquainted with them. Chengcheng was only five years old. He was a chubby, intelligent, and extremely adorable kid.

Neighbors always liked to carry him and play with him. How could they, as grandparents and parents, not like Chengcheng and refuse to see him?

All this could only be because of what this bad child, Zhou Xing, had done!

Huihui had been absolutely right. Zhou Xing was the spitting image of her biological mother and was nothing like the Zhou family. That was why she was so different from her father.

Zhou Xing's eyes were red. "So that's the reason why you've come to make trouble for me. Do you know why grandma and grandpa don't let Zhou Cheng visit us? I guess you probably don't know. That woman probably told you something. That's why you think that I'm the reason for this happening. But I'll tell you if you want to know. The moment grandma hears Zhou Cheng's name, she gets very excited and says that that woman is just dreaming. Zhou Cheng? It's a good name, but her dreams might not become reality. I'm also telling you that that woman really knows how to teach her son. Zhou Cheng came over to our house last weekend and searched through grandpa's drawers. He even pocketed two thousand yuan that grandpa was going to use to pay for our utility bills."

"He was caught red-handed by grandpa. When grandpa asked him to hand over the money, Zhou Cheng refused and even kicked grandpa, calling him an old foggie. He said that everything of the Zhou family was his. The Zhou family's money was also his. He was going to bring it back to his mom. He called grandma and grandpa old foggies. When they passed away, he would definitely not cry because they had treated his mom badly. They had treated him badly too. He would never pay his respects at his grandparents' death. He even told grandma and grandpa that he would never even address them as their grandparents in the future if they continued treating him badly!"

Zhou Xing had always understood why her grandparents disliked Zhou Cheng, but she had never expected that not only did her dad not understand the situation, but he had even put the blame entirely on her!

"Dad, do you think that that wife of yours really knows how to teach her son? Or do you mean that he speaks your mind too? Do you call grandma and grandpa old foggies in front of Zhou Cheng?"

"Nonsense!" Zhou Zheng's expression darkened and he could not hold his anger in. With one punch, he knocked Zhou Xing straight to the ground, causing a nosebleed. Zhou Zheng himself had not expected that his slap would be so harsh. Seeing Zhou Xing on the floor and bleeding, Zhou Zheng was a little frantic, and he immediately helped Zhou Xing up. "What are you looking at? I'm just disciplining my daughter! What has that got to do with you?"

"You don't need to hit a child to discipline her. What if you injure her? You shouldn't use force to discipline children nowadays." Other parents who had witnessed the scene expressed their

displeasure. That child was his, so it was his fault if he decided to hit his child out in public. What if that scared their children?

They had really never seen fathers who hit their children in front of so many other people. His child was already a teenager who would soon enter junior high school. At such an age, children were concerned about their dignities. They had heard everything. They knew that this man had remarried. No wonder he was so brutal to his child from his first marriage.

“Why did you hit Xingxing?” Mother Zhou, who had come to pick Zhou Xing up from school, had witnessed the scene. Seeing Zhou Xing’s nose bleeding made her heart ache, and she landed a hard slap on Zhou Zheng’s body. “What’s wrong? Your son wants me and your dad to die early so that we won’t stand in his way. Do you want to kill us too? Xingxing is still a child, and she is your daughter. How has she offended you? Why did you slap her so brutally? Do you think you’re fit to be a father?”

The moment she saw Zhou Zheng, Mother Zhou flared up.

Mother Zhou did like her grandson.

But Mother Zhou had never carried her grandson since he was young even if she liked him. Neither had she managed to hold her grandson’s hand more than a few times.

Chapter 1713: An Argument

It was not that she did not want to carry him. It was that Huihui did not even allow Mother Zhou to touch him. She was always waiting for Mother Zhou to admit her weakness and please her. But Mother Zhou could accept everything, except for someone else’s anger toward her.

She had been tough and strong her whole life. Would she let her daughter-in-law, Huihui, gain a hold of her? She was already of such an old age. She had raised her granddaughter, and she had also raised her own son. It was not as though she had never carried children. She was not losing out on anything.

She was not allowed to carry him? That was just as well. Not only did she save her own strength, but she had also saved herself some trouble.

If she had shared a closer relationship with her grandson, Mother and Father Zhou would definitely spend a significant sum of money on their grandson to give him the best. But their grandson’s mom

did not want their grandson to be close to them, so there was nothing they could do either. Apart from their grandson, they still had their granddaughter.

Their grandson had both his father and his mother. On the other hand, their granddaughter had lost her mom, and having a father like hers was as good as not having one at all. Thus, the responsibility of taking care of their granddaughter fell on them.

When her grandson had visited her that day, stole her money, and even called her an old foggy so viciously with that chubby face of his, Mother Zhou felt as though her whole world had collapsed. The child was still so young. What did he know? If no one had taught him anything, he would never have been able to call her by such a name.

There had to be someone calling those two elders by such names behind their backs while in the presence of their grandson.

Thinking about how her son had married someone like that, Mother Zhou did not even want to acknowledge her own son. Now, Mother Zhou decided to simply put all her effort and emotions into raising her granddaughter. Anyway, her son visited her once a month at the very most after getting remarried. He acted as though the elderly couple was already dead. Her son was nowhere as filial and considerate as her granddaughter.

Mother Zhou finally came to her senses and decided to ignore her son's family in the future. Huihui had already taught her five-year-old son to steal. She no longer wanted her son, less say her grandson. What did her grandson even mean to her? Mother Zhou simply told Zhou Zheng to never allow Zhou Cheng to visit her ever again. They were already advanced in age and could not help him raise children. Besides, Zhou Cheng was a troublemaker who would only cause them pain.

Mother Zhou wanted to protect her granddaughter, but her son had even come down to her granddaughter's school and even slapped her granddaughter! In that instant, Mother Zhou wanted nothing more than to return that slap that Zhou Zheng had given Zhou Xing. "What rights do you have to hit Xingxing? Just a few days ago, both your dad and I were sick and needed someone to take care of us. But where were you as our son? Xingxing's just a teenager, but she helped us boil water, fed us our medications, and even helped cook porridge for us. Yet, you have the guts to throw a tantrum at Xingxing! Why? Are you upset that Xingxing treats the both of us well and takes care of us when we're sick? Are you upset that she didn't let us die? You ingrate, you're just hoping that we die early!"

The initial agitation and anger that Mother Zhou had gotten when her grandson had first said those words was all vented out on Zhou Zheng.

Zhou Zheng was Mother Zhou's son, after all, so she was all too clear about what kind of person Zhou Zheng was. Her son had definitely not been the one to have taught her grandson those things. But wasn't her grandson her son's son? Did her son not care about him at all? Wasn't Huihui her son's wife? Did her son not know a single thing about what kind of person his lover was and how she was raising their son? Was he blind? His heart was truly too obscured.

As head of the house, Zhou Zheng was such a failure to not know anything about what was going on at home, so all fault lied in Zhou Zheng. Zhou Zheng deserved this beating.

"Of course not, Mom. H-How could I ever? Xingxing is lying and maligning Chengcheng. Chengcheng is such a good kid. He likes you guys so much. How could he possibly call you guys old foggies? It's Zhou Xing. She must have taught Chengcheng to say that behind your backs. It was Zhou Xing who brought Chengcheng astray. How can you put the blame on Chengcheng?"

Initially, Zhou Zheng was totally unable to accept that his son had called his parents old foggies. After getting beaten by Mother Zhou, Zhou Zhou Zheng suddenly realized that it might have been Zhou Xing who had taught Zhou Cheng all these things.

Zhou Cheng was still young, so he would definitely copy whatever other people taught him. The only person in the whole family who looked down on Zhou Cheng and wanted him to look bad in front of his parents was Zhou Xing. It had to be Zhou Xing who had taught him these things! Why had she turned out so wayward?

"Zhou Xing, were you the one who taught your brother those things? Chengcheng is your biological younger brother! How could you do such things to harm your younger brother? You'll have retribution for this in the future!"

"Retribution!" Mother Zhou's eyes were red. To her, her granddaughter was even closer to her than her son was. Whoever cursed her granddaughter in this manner was touching on one of Mother Zhou's taboos. "Retribution already fell on me and your dad when you married such a woman. She's made it as though we no longer have a son. Now, she's even given birth to a grandson just to collect debts from us. If we had known about this, we should never have let you decide on who to get remarried to. I know that that woman hates me and your dad! If I had known about just how poor her character is, I would have used my life to stop her from entering our Zhou family!"

Did she really think that she could be the empress of the Zhou family just because she held her son and grandson firmly in her hands? If so, she could continue daydreaming. She did not want her

grandson. Anyone who wanted her son was free to have him too. She did not believe that a woman like this could protect both men and make it big in the future.

That woman should not even dream of taking a single cent from her.

Zhou Zheng had embarrassed Zhou Xing in front of her school. As such, Mother Zhou was not at all worried about airing her family's dirty laundry out in public and embarrassing Zhou Zheng even further.

From the content of the quarrel between the mother and son, everyone had gotten the gist of what was going on. After Zhou Zheng had gotten remarried, not only did Zhou Xing get a stepmother, but her birth father had also turned into a stepfather! More importantly, even his biological parents had gotten a stepson. Zhou Zheng was entirely biased toward that second wife of his. He could not care less about his daughter or parents.

What a shameless and heartless thing to dare to hit his own child in front of her school!

Everyone looked at Zhou Zheng with disgust. He had both his parents and children to take care of, but Zhou Zheng had thrown aside both his parents and his child for the sake of a woman. This was something a person should not do as a father or a son. He had lost his most basic morality.

Zhou Zheng was embarrassed by the accusing stares of the bystanders. "Mom, I'm sure there's been some misunderstanding. Chengcheng is a good kid. You'll realize that one day. I'll find some other time to explain this to you."

Unable to withstand the stares, Zhou Zheng walked away covering his face.

Mother Zhou booed at Zhou Zheng before taking Zhou Xing to the hospital. Thankfully, that slap had only caused a nosebleed, and Zhou Xing had not sustained any other serious injuries.

Chapter 1714: Instigating

"Xingxing, why are you not saying anything? Have you been frightened by today's incident?" Only upon reaching home did Mother Zhou realize that Zhou Xing had not uttered a single word ever since Zhou Zheng left.

Zhou Xing's eyes were lost in a daze, resembling the eyes of a dead fish.

“Hey, come out quickly. Xingxing doesn’t look right. She seems to have been badly frightened by Zhou Zheng. Shall we hurry and send Xingxing to the hospital?”

“Let me take a look!” Upon hearing that, Father Zhou was frantic too. He immediately ran to Zhou Xing to check on her.

Looking at her anxious grandparents around her, Zhou Xing burst out in tears. “Grandpa, grandma, it’s aching. My heart’s aching...”

Just this simple sentence caused Mother Zhou to tear up uncontrollably. In that instant, Mother Zhou felt as though someone had stabbed her in the heart. No one understood Zhou Xing’s feelings more than Mother Zhou. Her heart ached because she had lost her son, while her granddaughter’s heart ached because she had lost her father.

Zhou Zheng was entirely bewitched by that woman and could not even listen to anyone else. What a scoundrel! She had wasted her efforts raising that son.

“Hubby, from today onward, remember to never open the door for anyone from that family. Even if Zhou Zheng himself comes, don’t ever open the door for him. We’ll just treat it as though we’ve never had a son like him. In the future, we’ll only have Xingxing as our granddaughter.” Qiao Zijin was really not outstanding at all. But even though Qiao Zijin had a hundred weaknesses, she still had two strengths.

Firstly, when Qiao Zijin was around, Zhou Zheng had never acted so crazily. Secondly, Qiao Zijin had left Zhou Xing to accompany her and her husband.

Mother Zhou could not imagine how her son thought only about his wife and not about his parents now that he had gotten remarried. That woman did not look like she was easy to deal with. If they did not have Zhou Xing around, that woman might very well have taken control of the entire Zhou family!

Having toiled so hard for decades with her husband to finally own whatever she did, Mother Zhou flared up thinking about how it would land up in the hands of such a scheming b*tch. But thankfully, that was just a supposition, not reality. Apart from her son, Zhou Zheng, she still had a granddaughter.

Even if her granddaughter were to get married in the future and would no longer have the surname Zhou, she would still much rather leave everything she owned to her granddaughter than let Zhou Zheng and Zhou Cheng have anything of hers.

It was at this point in time that Mother Zhou made a decision that she would find a lawyer and make a will with her husband. Zhou Zheng had gone behind their backs to find Zhou Xing and had even slapped Zhou Xing while they were still alive and well. If they were to pass away and no one was around to protect Zhou Xing, she could only imagine just how badly her granddaughter would be bullied.

“Don’t cry, don’t cry. Xingxing, don’t cry. Grandma and grandpa will always be by your side.” Father Zhou hugged his granddaughter and tried to coax her. He had a rough sense of what had happened. Father Zhou was angry about Zhou Cheng stealing from them too. In his whole life, he had never shortchanged anyone, even when he was running a business. The reason why he named his son Zhou Zheng was because he hoped that his son would be a righteous person.

But who would have expected that his grandson would turn out to be a thief! Taking an elder’s money without permission was also stealing!

The thought of having such a thief in the Zhou family made Father Zhou infuriated. When he had caught Zhou Cheng in the act the other day and had even been called an old foggy by Zhou Cheng, Father Zhou had wanted to deal with Zhou Cheng right then and there. Even though Zhou Cheng was only a five-year-old child, he had committed wrongdoing and should have been punished for it.

That was how he had taught his son and brought his son up. The saying ‘spare the rod, spoil the child’ may not entirely be true, but there was still some truth in it most of the time.

Unfortunately, even though Father Zhou was willing to be tough on Zhou Cheng, he was no match for that little rascal’s cleverness. Huihui had probably taught Zhou Cheng what to do in case Father and Mother Zhou did not like Zhou Cheng and wanted to beat him because of Zhou Xing instigating them.

Thus, just as Father Zhou was about to hit Zhou Cheng, Zhou Cheng instinctively kicked Father Zhou’s shin. Because the five-year-old Zhou Cheng was chubby, his kick was powerful and had hurt Father Zhou.

Taking advantage of Father Zhou doubling down in pain, Zhou Cheng escaped from Father Zhou’s grasp and rushed out of the Zhou family’s house. After escaping, Zhou Cheng took out the phone

hanging from his neck and made a call to his mom. “Mom, grandpa was being bad. He wanted to hit me, so I ran out. Mom, hurry and pick me up. I’m starving. I want to eat meat.”

Upon hearing that, Huihui was frantic. Without hesitation, she rushed down to pick her son up. When they reached home and Huihui finally came to her senses, she asked her son why her father-in-law wanted to hit her son. Was her mother-in-law not standing by his side? Was it Zhou Xing who had instigated them?

For some unknown reason, Zhou Cheng did not tell her the truth and did not say that his grandpa wanted to hit him because he had been caught in the act taking his grandpa’s money just like his mom had instructed him to do. When he heard his mom put the blame on Zhou Xing, Zhou Cheng’s eyes sparkled and he nodded immediately.

Zhou Cheng knew that he had two elder sisters. One of his elder sisters lived with him. That was his biological elder sister. He had a good relationship with his biological elder sister. The one that stayed with his grandparents was a bad elder sister. He could not get along with that bad elder sister.

So he could not be wrong in putting the blame on that bad elder sister. Once Zhou Cheng nodded, Huihui unhesitatingly placed the blame of her son almost getting hit on Zhou Xing. When Zhou Zheng returned home and received a call from Father Zhou to say that Zhou Cheng was no longer welcome in their house, Huihui was even more convinced that Zhou Xing had been instigating them.

Not only had Zhou Xing caused her son to almost suffer a beating from her father-in-law, but she had even encouraged her parents-in-law to stop seeing her son. Did they take her for a fool? Her parents-in-law did like their grandson. But if they were to meet him less often, their relationship with Zhou Xing would only get better, while their relationship with her son would only fade.

In that case, who could tell how much those two old foggies would leave to Zhou Xing.

She had never expected that Zhou Xing would be even more scheming than her even though she was just an elementary school student. If she did not come up with a plan, everything that was supposed to be her son’s would be taken away by Zhou Xing.

That was why Huihui tried to influence Zhou Zheng, asking him to frighten and warn Zhou Xing to stop instigating Father and Mother Zhou.

Zhou Zheng still bore hopes of reconciling with his parents and living harmoniously together again. A few years had passed, and his son was already five years old, but his parents were showing no sign of backing down.

Zhou Xing was even instigating them! As such, without doing any investigations of his own, Zhou Zheng let out all his pent-up anger on Zhou Xing.

Chapter 1715: Capable of Confrontation

From then on, no matter how hard Zhou Zheng tried to contact Father and Mother Zhou, they never answered him. He tried to call them, but his call would never get through. When he visited them, they would never open the door. Were they playing the waiting game? Father and Mother Zhou were trying to publicize what Zhou Cheng had done without any hesitation.

Were they trying to say that the incident was fake and that Zhou Xing had not led Zhou Cheng astray? They even said that Zhou Cheng had been raised up wayward by that woman. If they were capable of doing so, they should just call everyone out so that they could confront each other. Zhou Cheng was just a five-year-old child. There was no problem with telling one or two lies, but there was no way Zhou Cheng could cover up everything so well.

He really wanted to see who had led Zhou Cheng astray.

Zhou Zheng wanted a confrontation so as to prove both his son's and his own innocence. But when he told Huihui about the matter, Huihui's expression was strange.

Other people might not have known, but could Huihui be unclear about what she herself had said? She had indeed called her parents-in-law old foggies in front of her son and had also told her son that everything of the Zhou family belonged to her son. Even her parents-in-law's money was her son's. She was her son's mother. Once her son became rich in the future, he had to remember to be filial to her.

When she first learned that her son was almost beaten, Huihui had been too angry and had immediately put the blame on Zhou Xing. She felt that anything bad had to be Zhou Xing's fault. Zhou Xing had bullied Zhou Cheng simply because he was young and could not speak well. But afterward, Huihui could not help but ask her son about what had happened again.

In front of his mom, Zhou Cheng quickly broke down and told her the truth. It was then that Huihui learned that Zhou Xing indeed had nothing to do with this matter at all. But it could not be too bad

if this could further sour the relationship between Zhou Xing and Zhou Zheng. The only thing she worried about was how long her parents-in-law would stay angry at Zhou Cheng for.

The angrier her son made her parents-in-law, the more Zhou Xing would benefit from it and gain more advantages from her parents-in-law.

Right from the start, Huihui had never once imagined that Father and Mother Zhou would hand over their whole lives' efforts to their granddaughter, Zhou Xing, and leave only a little bit to their son, Zhou Zheng. As for Zhou Cheng, whom she thought should have been the apple of Father and Mother Zhou's eyes, did not even get a single cent from the Zhou family.

At first, she had thought that there was no way Father and Mother Zhou would stay angry at their grandson and be so petty with a child since Zhou Cheng was their only grandson. Could they really give up their grandson? She did not believe that they would do such a thing. If she let her son stay away from her parents-in-law for a month or two, perhaps her parents-in-law might not only stop being angry but also miss her son!

In the future, her parents-in-law would never make trouble for her son over money, let alone a mere two thousand yuan. As long as her son was happy, there was nothing wrong with him taking it.

But that day had not yet come before she heard Zhou Zheng say that he would bring his son to confront his parents and clear the air. They would get to the bottom of the matter about who had taught Zhou Cheng to call his grandparents old foggies and to steal money.

Huihui could no longer keep up her pretenses. She was clear that no matter how well she trained her son at home, her son was only five years old, after all. He would not be able to hold up against a few rounds of questionings. Then, he would let out everything that should never be known to outsiders.

When that time came, her five-year-old son could claim that he was just an insensible child who had been led astray by adults. But she was already a grown-up. She would lose all dignity and her reputation would be ruined if it were to be made known that she had said such things about her parents-in-law in front of her child. She would be the epitome of a bad daughter-in-law.

After muttering on the phone for a long while, she refused to take Zhou Cheng to Father and Mother Zhou for a confrontation. Zhou Zheng had gotten annoyed now that the conversation had stretched on for half an hour. "Didn't you say that Chengcheng was led astray by that wretched girl? Even Zhou Xing is not afraid. Why are you still hesitating? Hurry and bring Chengcheng over. If you don't come over now, all of my parents' neighbors who've heard about this will think that it

was not Zhou Xing who led Chengcheng astray. They'll think that we're afraid of bringing our son over because of our own guilty conscience. They'll say that you were the one who said these things and taught Chengcheng to say them too..."

"Wait a minute. Don't tell me it was really you?"

It was only then that Zhou Zheng finally came to his senses.

If his wife had not done such a thing and was truly innocent, his wife would be more agitated than anyone else. There was no way she would refuse to come over. Suddenly faced with the truth, Zhou Zheng was shocked. "Did you really call my parents old foggies in front of Chengcheng?"

The thought of his wife disrespecting his parents caused Zhou Zheng to be so emotional that his voice broke.

"I... I was just too angry! Chengcheng is already five years old, but your parents have never carried Chengcheng. Neither have they ever given Chengcheng anything good. Take a look at Zhou Xing. She's gotten so many good things from your parents. Think about how much money your parents have spent on Zhou Xing. All of that money should be Chengcheng's. I just felt that your parents are being too foolish, giving Chengcheng's things to other people!"

If they had not spent her son's precious money on someone else, would she have lost all control and said such things in front of her son? Would her son get to learn such things from her?

"Even so, there's no need to say such things about them! They're my parents! And I was still hoping that you would be acknowledged by my parents so that everything would return to what it was before our marriage. That was what you promised me. But look at what you've done!" Zhou Zheng had always asked Huihui to teach Chengcheng well so that Chengcheng could help ease the tension between him and his parents. On the account of their grandchild, they might just forgive him for stubbornly choosing to marry his first love.

But who would have known that not only had his son not managed to ease the tension between him and his parents, but his son had even worsened their relationship!

"Let me ask you. Did Zhou Xing tell Chengcheng to take that two thousand yuan? Or do you have something to do with that?" Since Zhou Xing had not taught Chengcheng to call his parents old foggies, it was only natural that Zhou Zheng suspected that Zhou Cheng had not been under Zhou Xing's influence when he took the two thousand yuan.

“It could have been me...” She had never expected her son to be so daring. Just because she had once said that everything of the Zhou family belonged to him, her son had really taken her father-in-law’s two thousand yuan just because he had seen it. It would have been all right if he had just taken it, but he had been caught red-handed by her father-in-law...

Zhou Zheng immediately hung up the phone. What else could he do if he did not hang up the phone? He had never imagined that all these bad behaviors had nothing to do with Zhou Xing at all. His son had behaved in this manner only because his own mother had influenced him.

But the word had already gone out, saying that Zhou Zheng had a clear conscience and that he was willing to bring his son and wife down for a face-to-face confrontation.

Chapter 1716: No Need to Appear

It had not even been an hour since it had been announced. Now, Zhou Zheng was being slapped in the face by reality. Zhou Zheng had no idea how he was going to clean up this mess.

Making a huge detour, Zhou Zheng successfully avoided other people and finally found Zhou Xing. “Xingxing, come over. Dad has something to tell you.”

Zhou Xing pouted and took small steps toward Zhou Zheng. She looked at Zhou Zheng straight in the eye as though she was asking Zhou Zheng what he had to say.

Obviously, Zhou Zheng had not forgotten that he had been sure that Zhou Xing had led Zhou Cheng astray, and he had even slapped Zhou Xing just some time ago. Zhou Zheng rubbed his nose awkwardly. “Xingxing, you’re a good kid, a good daughter, and a good sister, right? I know that I was the one who got it wrong about the last time. Chengcheng is still young and insensible. He committed a folly, but it had nothing to do with you. But Xingxing, you’re all grown up. You’re going into junior high school very soon. Chengcheng is still so young. He doesn’t know what he’s saying. Xingxing, you’ll protect your brother with me, right?”

After thinking about it, if he wanted to protect his beloved wife and son, the only solution was for Zhou Xing to admit that she had said those things and that she had been the one to lead Zhou Cheng astray. As for the reasons for that, it was because she did not want her younger brother to compete for her grandparents’ love.

“Don’t worry. Dad will treat you well in the future. I’ll never be angry at you, and I’ll never beat you in the future. How’s that? I’ll bring you over to stay with me once your younger brother’s

matter is resolved.” That was just as well. If Zhou Xing spent less time with his parents, his parents would probably not treat Chengcheng differently from Zhou Xing.

As long as Zhou Xing lived with him, his parents would never know the truth if he were to say that Zhou Xing refused to visit his parents. After a while, his parents would believe that Zhou Xing was an ingrate. When that time came and faced with their adorable grandson, his parents would naturally forget about Zhou Xing and turn their attention to Chengcheng.

In that case, Huihui would no longer have to waste her efforts on teaching Chengcheng all these bad things.

“How do you want me to help Zhou Cheng?” Zhou Xing finally spoke up after a long while.

“Uh...” The awkwardness on Zhou Zheng’s face intensified. “Xingxing, you’re all grown up. Since you’re so smart, I’m sure you’ve already thought of a plan, right?” Thoughts were just thoughts. Zhou Zheng knew that Zhou Xing was not young anymore and should be quite aware.

If he were really to talk about his plan... He really was not so shameless to say it with his own mouth. In other words, he would try to avoid saying it himself, but instead, he would try to guide Zhou Xing into thinking of that plan herself. “Xingxing, I believe that you’ll definitely have a plan to help your younger brother as long as you try. Look. Your brother is still so young. He doesn’t know anything. Your brother must have scolded your grandparents only because he heard someone doing so and followed after them. Don’t you think so?”

“Then, who taught Zhou Cheng to say those things?” Zhou Xing asked.

“...” Zhou Zheng was getting impatient. “When that incident happened that day, there were only those few people who were by Chengcheng’s side. Think carefully about who’s always by Chengcheng’s side. Who do you think would say such a thing? Xingxing, don’t worry. Dad will help you no matter what happens. I’ll treat you even better than your grandma and grandpa do. If your grandma or grandpa get angry at you, I’ll help you.”

He should have made it clear with his words, right?

Hearing this, Zhou Xing smiled, turned around, and ran toward Father and Mother Zhou. Seeing this, Zhou Zheng felt a little uneasy yet expectant. Did this mean that Zhou Xing had understood what he had meant to say? Was that why she was going to ‘come clean’ to Father and Mother Zhou?

Zhou Zheng heaved a sigh of relief. There was no better way of resolving this matter than having Zhou Xing take the blame.

But Zhou Zheng's sigh of relief had come too early. Before long, Zhou Xing's crisp and clear voice found its way into Zhou Zheng's ears. "Grandma, grandpa, Dad wanted me to tell you that I was the one who taught Zhou Cheng to say those things. He wanted me to tell you that I was the one who told Zhou Cheng to steal your money. Dad even said that he would help me in case you guys got angry at me. He also said that he would bring me back to stay with him in the future. Grandma, grandpa, I don't want to leave you guys. I want to stay with you guys, not Dad. Can we go?"

In the face of his parents' angry stares, Zhou Zheng was infuriated. "What do you mean by I told you to say these things? You were the one who did these bad things!" This wretched child! She was indeed not at all close to him since he had not raised her. Even his stepchild from Huihui knew to help him remove his shoes and bring him his slippers when he returned home from work.

"If you're capable, don't threaten Xingxing like that. Didn't you say that Xingxing was the one who did those things and that it has nothing to do with your wife and son? Didn't you even want to have a face-to-face confrontation? It's been almost an hour. Since when has your house become so far from ours? It's been an hour but your wife still hasn't brought your son down to clear the air."

Mother Zhou protected Zhou Xing and looked at Zhou Zheng coldly. This son of hers was getting promising by the day. In the past, she had wondered if Zhou Zheng really had no idea how that woman raised Zhou Cheng. But now, she knew for sure the moment Zhou Zheng had asked Zhou Xing to take the blame for Chengcheng that Zhou Zheng definitely knew that Zhou Cheng had indeed done those things.

To Zhou Zheng, his daughter was nowhere near as important to him as his son was. Now that the matter had become known to the neighbors, was he trying to sacrifice Xingxing to protect Zhou Cheng? Ha. That would depend on whether they agreed to it.

"Mom, it's a misunderstanding. It's all a misunderstanding. Huihui feels that Chengcheng might get frightened because there are so many people around and he's still young. All this really has got nothing to do with Chengcheng. Chengcheng's a good boy." What else could Zhou Zheng do but beg for mercy from Mother Zhou, constantly hinting through his gaze that Zhou Cheng was the Zhou family's only grandson and his only son, after all?

They should just let this matter go by letting Zhou Xing take the blame. Otherwise, Zhou Cheng's reputation would be ruined once people knew that he had called his grandparents old foggies and

had even stolen his grandpa's money at just five years of age. He could not let a mistake made at such a young age impact his son's development in the future.

Mothers knew best. Mother Zhou knew exactly what Zhou Zheng meant, but she was not going to let Zhou Zheng have his way and let Zhou Xing take the blame. "Don't make excuses. That's not what you said just now. Since your wife is scared that your son will be frightened because he's too timid, and not at all worried that this matter will affect Zhou Cheng in the future, there's no need for me as his grandma to worry about it either. Since we can't clear the air, let's forget about it. I'll say it again. Your dad and I still want to live a long life, so don't come looking for us even if anything happens. When your dad and I fell sick, it was Xingxing who took care of us. You didn't even show up. It's better if your family of four never shows up again."

Chapter 1717: Don't Know

"Mom, no matter how angry you get, you shouldn't use such words against me. When were you and did even sick? How was I supposed to know about it if you didn't tell me? You know very well what kind of job I have. I'm quite busy." He really had no idea when his parents had fallen sick. If he had known, would he really have not come to visit them and take care of them?

He felt very wronged.

"Yes, you're really busy. Let's forget about you not being able to visit us. But you're so busy that you don't even have time to give your dad and me a call. You said that you didn't know that your dad and I fell sick. I won't talk about anything else, but I did call you about this matter. I guess you were in a meeting at that time, so I couldn't get through to your phone. Afterward, I called your wife, and your wife did pick up the call. But in the end, Xingxing had to apply for three days of sick leave to stay at home to take care of our meals and feed us our medications."

It was also because of this incident that Father and Mother Zhou completely gave up on their son, feeling that their son was not even as filial as their granddaughter.

When that incident with Zhou Cheng happened, Father and Mother Zhou completely lost hope in the grandson. Since they could not count on their son or grandson, they would not do so. As long as their granddaughter was good to them, that was good enough for them.

"If you don't believe me, our medical bills and prescriptions are still with the hospital. And I'm sure Xingxing's teacher still has a record of her applying for sick leave. As for whether or not I did make a call to your home, it'll be even easier to trace that. You can go to the telecommunications bureau or the mobile carrier to check on it yourself. All right. Just leave. Don't come back."

Mother Zhou shooed Zhou Zheng away wearily. Now, the sight of her son no longer brought her joy. Instead, it only angered her, so much so that her stomach hurt.

Knowing that so many people had heard about him being unfilial, Zhou Zheng's face flushed in embarrassment. His head was so heavy that he could not even lift his head up and could only leave with his head down.

Since Zhou Cheng had not turned up, there was no way of proving the truth. But there was no one who did not understand that Zhou Cheng was indeed a bad kid. Otherwise, there was no way he would not come to prove his own innocence no matter how scared he was. As a male, even if he was only five years old, how was he going to be a man when he grew up if he did not even have the slightest sense of responsibility?

It was obviously true that he had been led astray. But to be led astray by Zhou Xing? That was utter nonsense!

Zhou Zheng had no way of explaining this matter, and he had not even responded to the news of Father and Mother Zhou's illness. Zhou Zheng had even more so no way of explaining that matter. The neighbors did know a little about Father and Mother Zhou's illness. In those few days, they had not seen the elderly couple get out of the house to buy necessities. It had been the young Zhou Xing who had done so alone.

At that time, they had found it strange. The school term was still ongoing, so why was Zhou Xing always at home? It turned out that she had been staying at home to take care of her sick grandparents. How could such a good child ever teach Zhou Cheng to say such unfilial things?

Zhou Zheng had lost all dignity and had no choice but to head home. The moment he returned home, Zhou Zheng called his wife into the room. Before long, the two children outside could hear their parents arguing loudly.

In their memories, their father had always treated their mother well and had always listened to their mother. Their mother always had the final say. Their father had never spoken to their mother with his voice raised, let alone argued with her.

Zhou Cheng was still young and did not understand what was going on. But Zhou Mengmeng, who was a year or two older than Zhou Cheng, understood much more than Zhou Cheng. She knew that their family's situation was because her mom was good at taming her husband. If it was not for her mom's skills, would it be possible that her stepfather had not even seen his own parents twenty times in five years?

In front of her mom, her stepfather was like a little bunny. That was what made Zhou Mengmeng even more curious about what had happened that the stepfather who had always been a meek and mild bunny had suddenly transformed into a huge and ferocious tiger. She even heard her mom crying and apologizing.

“Sister, why are Dad and Mom fighting? Dad is scaring Mom. Dad is a bad person.” Zhou Cheng stood beside Zhou Mengmeng uneasily, pulling on Zhou Mengmeng’s clothes.

In this family, he was used to his dad listening to his mom, and his mom favoring him. That was why he was the little emperor in the family. Hearing his mom cry after being scolded by his father, Zhou Cheng was frightened.

Zhou Mengmeng patted Zhou Cheng on the shoulder. “Don’t worry. It’s normal for parents to argue in other families. Everything will be fine once they’ve finished arguing.” As long as her younger brother, Zhou Cheng, was around, this family would never fall apart, and she would not need to be a child without a father. Although he was a stepfather, as long as she listened to her mom, her mom would not make her life in this family difficult. It would still be better than Zhou Xing’s at the very least.

Zhou Mengmeng would rather be satisfied with that.

With Zhai Hua’s help, it had not been difficult for Zhai Yu to find out about Zhou Xing’s past. The vivid descriptions in the material that Zhai Yu had gotten hold of gave Zhai Yu the feeling that she was vicariously living in that situation.

Initially, Zhai Yu had hated Zhou Xing because Zhou Xing was Qiao Zijin’s daughter, and she was even so thick-skinned as to seek revenge for her mother by dating Zhai Xin. But after learning about Zhou Xing’s past, added on with the fact that Zhou Xing was repentant and willing to change her ways and not disturb the Zhai family in the future, Zhai Yu could not bring herself to hate Zhou Xing anymore.

It was true that despicable people were sure to have pitiable backstories.

“Mom, it’s really been quite hard on her. She lost her mom, and her dad was just as good as gone. Sigh. If she did not have her grandparents, I think Zhou Xing might not have survived with a stepmother like that.” No matter how unreliable her elder aunt was, she would definitely have treated her biological daughter well.

As long as her elder aunt was around, would her elder aunt allow other women to bully her daughter like that? Even if Zhou Zheng showed up, she was sure that her elder aunt would be able to make so much trouble for Zhou Zheng that he would kneel down in surrender because of her temper.

“Mom, since Zhou Xing has already learned her lesson and apologized to Zhai Xin, shall we just put this matter to rest?” Zhai Yu truly pitied Zhou Xing and felt that Zhou Xing was different from her elder aunt. Zhou Xing was still rational and had morals. Her worldviews were not too corrupted.

Qiao Nan answered Zhai Yu, saying, “When has our family ever taken the initiative to provoke other people?” Even when Qiao Zijin had wronged her, she had never thought of getting revenge on Qiao Zijin’s daughter, Zhou Xing, just because of what she had experienced at Qiao Zijin’s hands.

If Zhou Xing had not come for them and hurt her child in this way to get revenge on her, she could not care less about how Qiao Zijin’s daughter was doing at the moment.

Chapter 1718: Impulsive

Zhai Yu stuck out her tongue, feeling that she might have said it in a wrong tone. “Don’t get angry, Mom. I didn’t mean it that way. You know very well that I’ve been too emotional lately, so I may not think through my words before saying them. I’m sorry. Don’t hold it against me. It’s Zhou Xing’s business whatever she does.”

Zhou Xing’s childhood was indeed miserable, but their family had not caused it. She had heard that it was because of her elder aunt’s affair that the couple had gotten a divorce. After they got divorced, it was expected that Zhou Zheng would find a second wife.

So even if her elder aunt was still around, there was no way Zhou Xing’s father would have a close relationship with Zhou Xing after getting remarried to her stepmother. Her previous thoughts were almost similar to that of Zhou Xing! Things could not be taken at the surface level just like that.

Qiao Nan gently knocked her daughter on her head. Thankfully, she did not have a bad temper. Otherwise, San Bao would be getting a good beating from her. What did she mean by letting the matter go and letting Zhou Xing off? The correct way of saying it was Zhou Xing letting their family off. She had not been the one to cause trouble for Zhou Xing. She could not be happier that Zhou Xing had finally come to her senses and had decided to stop clinging to Zhai Xin.

If she were to do anything to Zhou Xing, the relationship between Zhou Xing and Zhai Xin would only get even more complicated, and it would be harder for the two of them to separate. She would never do such a foolish thing.

Qiao Nan was not asking for much. She just hoped that Zhou Xing truly understood everything that had happened and would no longer disturb their family. In the future, she would put everything that had happened between her and Qiao Zijin in the past and mind her own business. She would not hurt Qiao Zijin's child, and Qiao Zijin's child should also live her own life. How nice would it be for them to live their own separate lives.

After this incident with Zhou Xing, Qiao Nan realized a problem. The triplets were all grown up and about to enter their third year of university. Their four years in university was going to pass by in just a blink of an eye. It was Zhou Xing this time. But who knew what kind of star it would be the next time? The children were all grown up. There was no running away from relationship problems in the future.

There was bound to be a handsome young man who would marry her daughter and two gentle and beautiful young ladies who would marry Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin. Qiao Nan only hoped that her three children's relationships would be as smooth-sailing as her own had been. She hoped that there would be less pain and hurt and more happiness.

Seeing it that way, the incident between Zhou Xing and Zhai Xin was no big deal at all. After all, Zhai Xin had never fallen for Zhou Xing and had only treated Zhou Xing as his younger sister. When Zhai Xin really took a fancy to a young lady and there were troubles in their relationship, that would be when Qiao Nan would truly need to feel worried and uneasy.

"That's the disadvantage of giving birth to a son." When Fang Fang came over to visit the Qiao family, she had heard about the incident regarding Zhou Xing and had chatted with Qiao Nan about it. "Think about how hard it was for me to teach our Gao Feng to walk, talk, and even cook. There's a popular saying nowadays. It takes a mother five years to teach her son to wear his pants but only a minute for his wife to pull it off."

1

In front of their wives, their mother was nothing.

“Have you been spending too much time with Gao Yan recently? You’re running your mouth. Besides, Gao Feng is not like Da Bao or Er Bao. Isn’t it too early for you to be discussing this topic?” She thought about Fang Fang’s son. Qiao Nan remembered that Gao Feng was still in high school. He was still young!

As for worrying about a daughter-in-law, Fang Fang could think about it in a few years’ time.

“Don’t even talk about it!” Fang Fang’s face was flushed and she slapped the sofa in anger. “I’m in the education sector. I’ve raised other people’s children so well. The children in my class are so obedient. None of them have gotten into an early relationship. But my own son has just entered high school, and he’s already got himself a ‘wife’! I didn’t even know about it! Actually, Gao Feng had already been together with the pretty girls in his class since elementary school! When I found out about it, I got so mad that my blood pressure shot up!”

He was only in high school. What wife? Did he even know what a wife was?

To Fang Fang, her son was a hooligan. Even she had only started dating upon entering university. Gao Yan had only gotten a girlfriend after she had given her permission. She had not gotten into an early relationship with Gao Yan, so why had her son matured so quickly?

Fang Fang felt that Gao Feng was not mentally matured. The problem was that he was physiologically matured. He could do anything that he was supposed to do. What would she do if her son got into an accident with a young lady and went out of line?

At the thought of such a situation, Fang Fang very much wanted to resign from her job as a teacher. She could not even teach her own son well. It would be best if she did not get other people’s children into trouble in the future. If she brought other people’s obedient children up to be like Gao Feng, she would really have to be blamed.

Qiao Nan patted Fang Fang on the shoulder. “It’s not as serious as you think. You should have faith in Gao Feng. Don’t you know that some men have glib tongues? Gao Yan’s a businessman, so being a smooth talker and having a high EQ is crucial. Gao Feng’s your son, so it’s not at all strange that he inherited Gao Yan’s high EQ.”

Fang Fang felt that Gao Yan had started dating late in life. But the way Qiao Nan saw it, that was not the case at all.

Who could have become enlightened and started dating earlier than Gao Yan? Gao Yan had not started dating late in life. It was that Gao Yan had fallen in love way too early. He had identified Fang Fang as his lover at an extremely young age. That was why there were no other girls who attracted Gao Yan, and neither was Gao Yan prepared to gain useless experience with girls apart from Fang Fang.

Had she not seen Gao Yan surpass uncle and auntie and make a life plan for Fang Fang? It was because Fang Fang had been stubborn and bore a grudge because of always being compared with Gao Yan. That was why she kicked up a huge fuss and insisted on studying at Ping Cheng High School. Otherwise, even though the two of them were not of the same age, they would have still been schoolmates.

Fang Fang had been living right under Gao Yan's nose, and Gao Yan was able to find out about Fang Fang's movements and resolve those 'problems' right away.

In that way, Gao Feng was definitely Gao Yan's son. Both father and son were enlightened early on in life, and their characters were the spitting image of each other. Compared to Gao Yan who had identified Fang Fang as his own wife, there was no big deal now that Gao Feng was just calling someone his wife.

"Don't you know that young people nowadays are impulsive and have poor self-control? But I must say that this has never happened to my students."

Chapter 1719: Rich Second-Generation Heirs

"But I heard that students from other schools... They're going to hospitals to get abortions at such a young age. It's really... Won't the parents of these girls be heartbroken?" So how could she possibly not worry?

She was afraid that her son would become one of those irresponsible bast*rds.

The more Fang Fang said, the more worried she got. She could not help but want to personally see to Gao Feng going to school and having Gao Feng get her approval before interacting with any girls.

“Drink some water to calm yourself.” Qiao Nan handed a glass of water over to Fang Fang to ease her anxiety. “Fang Fang, how long have you had the habit of overthinking things?” She felt that Fang Fang was probably entering menopause. She was slightly more irritable, and her temper was worse than before. Moreover, she was more prone to overthinking things now.

“Probably half a year.” Fang Fang blushed but did not hide the truth from Qiao Nan and answered honestly.

Qiao Nan nodded. “It’s all right. That’s normal for a woman. It’ll be fine as long as you try to remain calm.” It was nothing special. There was nothing more common than a woman entering menopause. It was not just during menopause, but there was also nothing strange about a woman having mood swings once a month when on her period.

Fang Fang took a few sips of water and sighed. “Nan Nan, do you really think it’s normal for me to be like that? I’ve not had a good night’s sleep for three days just because of Gao Feng’s ‘wife’! I just feel uneasy in my heart. It feels like there’s a bunny jumping around in my heart.” How could she sleep with such a flustered heart?

Once Gao Yan pestered her, she only flared up even further.

It was all Gao Yan’s fault. Their son had surely picked up all his bad habits from Gao Yan. More importantly, why had he given her a son instead of a daughter? If Gao Feng had been a daughter, it would have been much easier for her to have a heart-to-heart talk with Gao Feng and tell her to protect herself. But because Gao Feng was a son and not a daughter, she was embarrassed to say such things as a mother.

“Don’t worry. Gao Yan will help you settle this problem.” The mouth was the gate of misfortune and evil, after all. Gao Feng had been obedient as a child. But why was it that he had grown up to have such a greasy mouth and dared to say just about anything? Fang Fang had heard everything.

Qiao Nan sighed. Gao Feng probably felt that he was truly unlucky.

All he had done was call a girl his wife, and he had done so quite late in life. While he was still in elementary school, he had already heard his classmates calling each other husband and wife. It was only when he reached high school that he started dating and went along with the trend of calling his girlfriend his wife. Who would have expected that his mom would catch him right in the act?

Because he had upset his mom, his dad was infuriated.

Thinking about his wallet that had grown much thinner lately, Gao Feng was on the verge of tears. If this went on, his source of cash for his relationship would be cut off. How would he continue inviting his girlfriend out for dinner or bring her out to play?

Mom, shall we not throw a tantrum like this? Calling someone your wife won't cost you your life. His girlfriend did not even mind it and even called him her husband. Mom, can't you just act as if you don't know anything and not interfere?

“Are you speaking ill of your mom in your heart again?” Gao Yan eyed Gao Feng coldly.

Gao Feng begged for mercy. “Dad, my dear dad. You're not that old-fashioned, are you? I'm a grown-up with an identity card. Can't I get into a relationship? Is there a need for such a huge reaction? Dad, are you going to disagree to it and force me to break up with my girlfriend like Mom?”

His dad's relationship with his mom was too good, so much so that he was being shown public affection every day. It had not been easy for him to wait until he came of age before getting a girlfriend, but even this was not allowed. Gao Feng felt that he was the most miserable kid on earth. “Dad, please don't cut off my living allowance. You're my birth father, and I'm your biological son. Mom's not on my side, but you have to be on my side!”

Whatever he spent on his relationship came from the money that his dad gave him every month.

Gao Yan looked at his son in disdain. “You're taking my money to get girls? I don't care if you want to treat your girlfriend well, take her out for good meals, or take her out to play. It's only right for men to treat the woman they like well. But you should rely on your own efforts to provide the woman that you like with happiness. What you're spending now is my money. That means that whatever happiness you're giving your girlfriend because of your money is ultimately from me. Do you understand the difference?”

“...” Gao Feng's face was all scrunched up.

So that was to say that his dad was still on his mom's side and that his living allowance was going to be cut. That meant that he was not going to be able to continue with his relationship and give his girlfriend happiness, right?

Thinking about how this was how it was going to end, Gao Feng felt slightly annoyed.

At this time, Gao Yan had given his son a very brutal and realistic first lesson in life. There was no one you could rely on but yourself. Whatever Gao Feng wanted, he first had to create it for himself. There was no use riding on his parents' laurels.

Gao Feng grabbed his hair. "Dad, do you have no faith in me like Mom? I've always kept a safe distance from my girlfriend, and I've never gone beyond the line. What you guys are worried about will never happen! Dad, you should trust me!"

Gao Yan was already a sly old fox who had experienced countless battles. It was no big deal now that he was facing off with a little fox that he had given birth to. "Why are you so impetuous? How did I teach you in the past? The most important thing is to remain calm no matter the situation. Your mom is just reducing your monthly allowance. She's not forcing you to break up with your girlfriend while you're still in high school. She's not mandating that you have to wait until you enter university to start dating, so what's there to be upset over?"

"I..." Gao Feng was rendered speechless.

"You guys are still young. What's important should be your feelings, not money. If your mom really forces you to break up with your girlfriend, maybe you can come and look for me for help, then. If that time comes, I might really have a solution for you. If your relationship is not based on feelings and is not that simple, then the amount of money in your pocket will determine how long this relationship will last."

"No, no. We're not that kind of people." Gao Feng refused to admit that he had lost.

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Gao Feng was never a spendthrift as a child, even though the Gao family was rich and Gao Yan had started a company that earned lots of money. Gao Feng was truly a rich second-generation heir.

Chapter 1720: It'll Be Too Late If You Don't Date Now

In the past, Gao Feng often did not finish spending the money that his elders had given him and could even save some of it. But ever since he started dating, Gao Feng no longer had any excess from whatever allowance his elders gave him. In fact, whatever he had saved up in the past was also almost all gone!

If Gao Feng had not been in a tight spot and had directly asked Fang Fang for money, Fang Fang would never have found out that her son had already started dating.

Gao Feng was never a spendthrift who splurged on materialistic goods. It was truly rare for her son to have not enough money to spend and even had to ask for money from her. Initially, Fang Fang only thought that this was a fresh and rare situation.

All the money that Gao Yan earned had always been managed by Fang Fang, so Fang Fang was the finance minister of the Gao family. When her son said that he had not enough money, Fang Fang handed five thousand yuan over to Gao Feng without hesitation.

After flattering Fang Fang with a few praises, Gao Feng went back to his room.

After Gao Feng left, Fang Fang finally came to her senses. Her son was no spendthrift. Neither did anyone around him lack money. So why was he was short on money and even had to ask for money from her? If she remembered correctly, the piggy bank in her son's room was almost filled to the brim. Gao Feng was not the kind of child to ask his elders for money if he still had money on hand.

Could it be that Gao Feng had spent all of that money in his piggy bank?

Fang Fang felt that something was amiss and wanted to talk to her son. But the moment she opened the door, she saw her son lying on his bed with his phone in one hand, calling someone his 'wife'. At the sound of this word, Fang Fang was so angry she nearly fainted from anger.

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It turned out that her son had started dating. That was why he had started spending more and even needed to ask her for money!

Fang Fang was not as cunning as Gao Yan. After learning about the situation, Gao Yan had many more considerations than Fang Fang. Fang Fang purely felt that her son was still young and full of vigor and vitality. There was bound to be situations where the two young people would not be able

to resist the temptations when they were together. It would be a disaster if her son hurt some other family's daughter.

But it seemed a little too serious to let her son pay such a heavy price throughout the rest of his life just because he had done something while he was still young and immature. For her son's sake, Fang Fang was worried sick.

But Gao Yan thought more deeply than Fang Fang. He had never gotten angry at his son. When other children went to high school, their allowances were slightly more than a thousand yuan at most, and that allowance included money for their meals. What they gave to Gao Yan was around two thousand yuan.

In addition to that piggy bank in Gao Feng's room that was almost filled to the brim, Gao Yan made some calculations before arriving at the conclusion that his son had spent close to twenty thousand yuan in such a short span of time ever since he had started dating.

He was just a high school student. What kind of relationship was this that he had managed to spend twenty thousand yuan? They had not even been together for a long time. Not even an entire semester. Based on his calculations, his son would have to spend at least fifty to sixty thousand a year just to maintain his relationship!

The Gao family was not in need of this small sum of money. The problem was that Gao Yan could not accept other girls treating his son as a foolish rich boyfriend. This girl was still so young, yet she was already so materialistic and her spending habits were not far off from adults'. Gao Yan laughed while thinking about how 'promising' this girl would be once she grew up since this relationship could only be maintained by spending almost a hundred thousand yuan a year!

A hundred thousand yuan worth of relationship funds was nothing in the grand scheme of things in the Gao family. But Gao Yan could not accept how his son had found such a money-loving girlfriend.

Gao Yan knew just the way to deal with teenagers. Besides, his son had originally been a strong character. With such intelligence himself, he did not believe that his son could be too foolish. As a father, he could already sense that there was something wrong with the girlfriend that his son had found. As the party concerned, could his son really not feel anything?

"Gao Feng, have you ever told anyone in school that you're Gao Yan's son?" Gao Yan brought this question up at that moment.

Gao Feng's face was flushed. "Of course not!" How could he do that? When he was younger, he knew that his father was a nouveau riche in the IT industry. Now, he had 'old money'. Gao Feng did not want to become famous because of Gao Yan. That was why Gao Feng had never been a spendthrift ever since he was a child.

Gao Feng knew that everyone's attitude toward him would change once he told them that his father was Gao Yan, the CEO of Gao's Technology Capital. He could not care less about that.

When his father was younger, he had been able to go from nothing to being able to provide his mom with such a good life. When he entered society himself, he would be able to do so too. There was no reason that he would be that different from his father.

"That's good." As long as that young lady did not know about the Gao family's background, he and Fang Fang would not need to interfere. This matter would resolve itself very quickly without their help anyway. If Gao Feng had less pocket money and was not able to spend like he did before, that young lady would not find it entirely unacceptable to continue staying by Gao Feng's side, even though it was true that she was slightly materialistic.

But of course, if the results were the opposite, that would be even better. If that young lady could not bear with such conditions and wanted to break up with their son, could their son really blame them for giving him a low living allowance? Gao Feng lived a comfortable and easy life. It was because he had a father like that and a mother like Fang Fang that his foundations were strong.

If he had other people as his parents, there would only be the same result when Gao Feng encountered such relationship problems.

"All right, let's do it like that. It's actually not too early for you to get into a relationship. If you still don't get into a relationship now, it really might get too late. I don't care about anything else. But if your results take a toll because of your relationship, and you upset your mom, you'd better watch out." Gao Yan patted Gao Feng on his shoulders, indicating the end of their conversation.

Gao Feng heaved a sigh of relief. "Dad, Mom's already upset. Are you really not forcing me to break up with my girlfriend?" He had thought that his protective dad would do all he could to stop anything that upset his mom. He would not even blink an eye when killing his own son.

Of course, Gao Yan knew what Gao Feng was thinking and smiled meaningfully. “Your mom is my wife, but you’re my only son. If you really have someone you like and are happy about it, I’ll be happy for you too. Your mom has me. Her mood will improve in a few days’ time.”

It was just as well that he would use this opportunity to let Fang Fang understand that no matter how much she loved her son and thought that he was the best child in the world, there would eventually come a day when her son would become someone else’s husband and treat that woman well. When that time came, his mom would eventually be placed behind that woman.