

RTAMM 1761

Chapter 1761: Missing Daughter

That Miss Qiao had not told a single soul about her discharge. Not a single member of the Qiao family had known about it. That could only mean that Miss Qiao had her own plans, and she was deliberately avoiding the Qiao family.

The kind nurse had no idea about the specifics of Qiao Nan's plans, but since Qiao Nan was trying to avoid the Qiao family, the nurse would do all she could to help Qiao Nan buy some time so that the Qiao family would only find out about this as late as possible.

It was nothing more than a lunch box. It was no big deal. Although her colleague did not really understand her intentions, there were too many patients to take care of in the hospital. As such, within a minute, that nurse had already completely forgotten about this matter and had gone off to work.

The next morning, Qiao Dongliang came to deliver breakfast to Qiao Nan with a haggard expression. Obviously, the news that there was something wrong with Qiao Nan's health and that she might not be able to donate her kidney to Qiao Zijin in time had taken its toll on Qiao Dongliang, who was now worried sick. Qiao Dongliang had only had a few hours of sleep the previous night.

"Hello, I'm the family member of one of your patients. I've brought breakfast for her. Please give me the lunch box from yesterday." Because both his daughters had been hospitalized at the same time, the Qiao family had many thermal lunch boxes. They had prepared four lunch boxes so that they would be able to use them interchangeably. When delivering breakfast, Qiao Dongliang had to ensure that he took along the lunch boxes from the previous night. Otherwise, he would not be able to send lunch over.

"Oh, all right." The nurse was already familiar with Qiao Dongliang by now. Seeing that there was a familiar thermal flask on her work station, the nurse immediately picked it up to hand it over to Qiao Dongliang. But when the nurse picked up the thermal flask, she could feel that it felt different from usual. "Oh, there's still something inside. It seems that she didn't eat much."

"Let me take a look." After exchanging the lunch boxes with the nurse, Qiao Dongliang opened up the lunch box from the previous day. It was not that she had not eaten much. She had not even touched this at all! Qiao Dongliang's expression stiffened. "Is my daughter feeling unwell? Is that why she has a poor appetite and didn't eat?"

The nurse did not think much about it and laughed. “That might not be the case. If my memory serves me well, your daughter has been hospitalized for two months. You must know that our patients move around much less than an average person. Since they expend less energy, it’s only natural that their appetite is poorer than the average person’s. I’ve always been curious about how your daughter has such a great appetite, seeing that your family sends so much food at every mealtime. Some healthy people occasionally can’t digest well or are too bloated to eat the next meal after a heavy meal. If you’re really worried, maybe you can check on her or ask her doctor about how she’s doing.”

Perhaps even the heavens were on Qiao Nan’s side. Some nurses knew about Qiao Nan’s discharge, but it so happened that the nurse that Qiao Dongliang had met did not. She thought that Qiao Nan was still hospitalized. As such, she had delivered a reasonable answer very calmly.

Qiao Dongliang could not tell that the nurse had been lying, and even the nurse herself did not know that she had unwittingly told a lie. The patient, Qiao Nan, had already been discharged the previous afternoon and was no longer a patient in their hospital.

The nurse’s answer was well-founded. And because Qiao Dongliang was not entirely without a conscience, he still could not find it in himself to face Qiao Nan calmly, as should be the case for having asked Qiao Nan to donate her kidney even after she had gotten into an accident and provided money for Qiao Zijin’s treatment.

He only hoped that he would be able to decrease his contact with Qiao Nan before everything blew over. He was worried that he would not know how to react should Qiao Nan decide not to donate her kidney and even start crying in front of him.

Qiao Nan herself had to agree to the kidney donation. As long as Qiao Nan refused to sign the agreement, the doctor would not conduct the surgery even if he and Ding Jiayi signed it on her behalf. He was afraid that he would be unable to face a weeping Qiao Nan and that he would be softhearted and relent. Then, Qiao Nan would not donate her kidney, and his elder daughter would be in trouble. He was worried that he did not have such a glib tongue to convince Qiao Nan to sign that agreement.

Qiao Dongliang knew that Ding Jiayi had to be the one to handle such a complicated matter.

So when the nurse suggested that he visit Qiao Nan himself, Qiao Dongliang did not even think for a moment before shaking his head. “No, that won’t be necessary. I still have to rush off to work.

Your nurses and doctors are all extremely capable. I have no worries leaving both my daughters in your hands. Since that's normal, I don't think I'll go see my daughter. I'll come again at noontime."

"All right, goodbye." Only after Qiao Dongliang left did the nurse mumble under her breath. "This Qiao family is really weird. Since he cares so much about his daughter, why wouldn't he take just one more minute to go see her personally since he's already here?"

"Since their behaviors are so illogical, this can only mean that their concern toward the patient is fake. It's not genuine, so there's nothing to be confused by." The nurse who had helped Qiao Nan happened to hear her words, and she let out a sarcastic smile. "I was on the night shift last night. I'm completely exhausted. Can you take over? I have to go back and get some rest."

As for the breakfast that Qiao Dongliang had sent over, the kind nurse did not even bother taking a look at it.

"All right, you'd better hurry home to get some rest." If their concern was fake, then why were they still sending her three meals a day? Was this for real?

"Oh right, I'd better tell you about this. The younger daughter of the guy who sent the meal over just now was discharged yesterday." The kind nurse stripped off her nurse's uniform and put on her usual clothes. After packing up her belongings, she picked up her bag.

"Discharged? Then, why didn't you tell me about that when her family member was around? What should I do about this breakfast?"

"What do you mean? There's nothing to remind you about. His daughter has already been discharged for almost twenty-four hours, yet he still knows nothing about it. Do you think we're to be blamed, or is it their fault? Besides, our hospital is so big. There are so many patients coming through our doors every day. Who can remember whether his younger daughter is still being hospitalized in our hospital or whether she's already been discharged? In short, if even her dad doesn't know, it's only normal that we nurses forget about it since we're so busy."

Humph, was she really going to take the Qiao family seriously? The Qiao family was not worth their time.

"Oh, all right." What the kind nurse had said was the truth and the colleague did not argue with her over it. It was true that if a father did not know that his own daughter had been discharged, less so

nurses who had to take care of so many people in a day. They would not remember who had been discharged.

After handing over her work, the nurse who was supposed to knock off finally left.

Thus, it was only when Qiao Dongliang sent lunch over to Qiao Nan that he finally realized that Qiao Nan was no longer in the hospital. “Nurse, something’s not right. I went to my daughter’s ward, but she isn’t there.”

Chapter 1762: Life Will Be Beautiful

“Worse still, there’s someone else lying on my daughter’s bed! Nurse, where’s my daughter? Where has she been transferred to? She was complaining about being unwell previously. Did something serious happen?”

Could it be that she had been sent back into the treatment ward?

If that were the case, it would be a problem for Zijin’s kidney transplant. If Nan Nan could not donate her kidney, Zijin would have no choice but to wait until a suitable kidney appeared.

As he guessed whether that was really the case, Qiao Dongliang secretly breathed a sigh of relief. It felt as though the heavens were playing a trick on him. It was not that he wanted to help Nan Nan and thought that Zijin’s life was not as important as Nan Nan’s kidney. But there was nothing he could do if there were problems with Nan Nan’s kidney and she was thus unsuitable to be a donor.

If Zijin could not hold up and wait any longer, then he and Ding Jiayi would get themselves checked to see whose kidney would be more suitable for Zijin.

With that thought, Qiao Dongliang realized that he could keep calm when thinking about his daughter, Qiao Nan, unlike how he had been in the past when he had no guts to even see his daughter in the eye.

“Your daughter? May I know which ward your daughter was in? I’ll have to check before I’m able to answer you accurately.”

Hearing the nurse’s words, Qiao Dongliang immediately told her Qiao Nan’s ward number.

“Oh, this patient. Congratulations. Your daughter has completely recovered. She was discharged yesterday at noontime. Didn’t she return home after being discharged? Weren’t you guys the ones who picked her up yesterday?”

“...” Qiao Dongliang was stunned as though someone had hit him with a stick. “You’re saying that my daughter was discharged yesterday at noontime?”

“Yes, that’s what our hospital records show.”

“No, that’s impossible. None of us helped her with her discharge procedures. Could you have gotten her mixed up with someone else?” No, how could Nan Nan have been discharged? Nan Nan had not mentioned it to him when he had come to visit her just yesterday. “Besides, I delivered dinner to her last night, and I even brought breakfast over this morning. How could my daughter...”

Qiao Dongliang was so agitated that his entire face was flushed. Slanting his eyes, he looked at the thermal flask that he had delivered this morning. “Look. This was what I brought this morning. I...”

Wait a minute. Nan Nan had not eaten last night’s dinner?!

Seeing how agitated Qiao Dongliang was, the nurse was taken aback and handed the thermal flask over to Qiao Dongliang. “I’m sorry. It could be that there are too many patients in our hospital. Besides, our nurses work shifts as well. It could be that this was forgotten when we changed shifts. But isn’t it good news that the patient has recovered and has been discharged?”

His daughter, who had been sick, had finally recovered and could return home. But his reaction as a family member seemed a little out of the ordinary. “Did the patient return to her own home?” Looking at this old man, she was sure that his daughter was already married with her own children. Now that she had finally recovered, wasn’t it only natural for her to return to her own home?

But then again, Qiao Nan had been hospitalized for quite some time, yet she had never seen Qiao Nan’s in-laws.

Understanding what the nurse meant, Qiao Dongliang’s face paled. He was too embarrassed to tell the truth that Qiao Nan was still unmarried though she was nearing the age of forty.

Taking the thermal flask over from the nurse, Qiao Dongliang made his way toward Qiao Zijin's ward. But three steps later, he turned around and headed for the hospital's exit. He hesitated and went back and forth around five to six times. In the end, Qiao Dongliang was back to square one.

At that moment, Qiao Dongliang's heart was pounding so rapidly that he felt as flustered as a headless fly that had no sense of direction.

What should he do? What should he do now?

Nan Nan had been discharged, but he had not known about it at all! Old Ding had probably not known either, right? If Old Ding had known, she would definitely have told him. Did that mean that Nan Nan had gone through the discharge procedures herself?

Why had Nan Nan not told him or anyone else about getting discharged? Would Nan Nan? Probably not! He had not even discussed with Nan Nan about the matter of her kidney after she had woken up.

Besides, Nan Nan was such a good kid. She had sacrificed so much for this family and for her elder sister, Zijin. She had already come so far. Now that Zijin was at death's door, all they needed was one of Nan Nan's kidneys. They were not asking for Nan Nan's life! Based on Nan Nan's usual temper and habit, Nan Nan would definitely not refuse.

So there was no way Nan Nan would choose not to donate her kidney to Zijin or silently discharge herself without telling anyone else. Yes, that was right. Nan Nan was a good kid. He had known this fact all along.

Nan Nan was probably afraid to trouble him and knew that Old Ding had to stay by Zijin's side to take care of her. That was why that sensible child had chosen to go through the discharge procedures all by herself. Nan Nan felt sorry for Old Ding because she had to worry about Zijin's illness and other things. That was why Nan Nan had decided not to add to their worries.

Qiao Dongliang took a few deep breaths. When other people looked at him as though he was a lunatic, he finally relaxed his shoulders and left the hospital with the thermal flask in his arms. Nan Nan had been discharged, but he was sure that she would not return to the Qiao family's small courtyard.

There were only that many rooms in the Qiao family's house. Even when Zijin had not been divorced, they had to leave a room for Zijin so that she had a single room to herself whenever she

came home. From then on, Nan Nan had moved out of the Qiao family's small courtyard and had never spent a night there.

Now that Zijin had gotten a divorce and had moved back into her parents' home, even more so was it impossible for Nan Nan to return to the Qiao family's home to fight over a room with Zijin. In that case, Nan Nan must have returned to her small rental apartment upon her discharge.

That would not do. This time, he had to have a proper chat with Nan Nan. After experiencing such a catastrophe, Nan Nan should learn to lead a better life in the future. Even if she could not return to the Qiao family's small courtyard and wanted to rent her own apartment instead, she should at least rent a larger one.

In the future...

In the future, if Old Ding ever asked Nan Nan for money on Zijin's behalf, he would definitely rein Old Ding in and disallow Old Ding from doing so. Nan Nan was already all grown-up, but she did not have any savings for herself. That was no good at all.

To put it harshly, the house that Zijin had gotten as dowry had been bought entirely with Nan Nan's money! It was about time Nan Nan saved up to get herself a house. As long as Nan Nan donated her kidney to save Zijin's life, he was confident that he would be able to convince Old Ding to agree with his plan.

Everything was going well! His younger daughter had been discharged, and his elder daughter would be cured soon! In the future, Nan Nan would not need to sacrifice her whole life for Zijin any longer and could live her life well. That was how life should be, where everything was sailing smoothly. At this moment, Qiao Dongliang felt that life would only get more beautiful in the near future.

Chapter 1763: See It for Yourself

Qiao Dongliang had always known the address of Qiao Nan's rented apartment. He also knew that the apartment was rather small, but he had never visited it himself. As such, Qiao Dongliang had asked around for quite some time in order to find the apartment that Qiao Nan had rented.

"You're Qiao Nan's dad?" Seeing that Qiao Dongliang was pretending to be what he was not and looked as though he had quite thick skin, Qiao Nan's landlord sneered. So this was that bast*rd father of Qiao Nan. True enough, one should not judge a book by its cover. He looked rather honest

and kind, but who would have expected that he could be so ruthless and treat his own daughter so inhumanely?

“That right. Are you Nan Nan’s landlord? Thank you for taking such good care of Nan Nan. I’m here to see Nan Nan. Which apartment is she in?” Qiao Dongliang did not notice the landlord glaring at him. He had only said so because Qiao Nan had once mentioned to Qiao Dongliang that her landlord treated her well and that was why she was fine with living alone outside.

Now that he had this rare chance, Qiao Dongliang thought of his responsibility as a father and thus thanked the landlord

“Which apartment?” The landlord harrumphed and raised her voice. What a funny question! “Why don’t I bring you up to take a look?” If Qiao Nan herself was willing to rent such a small apartment for herself, there was no need for outsiders to feel bad for her.

“Oh, all right. I’m sorry to trouble you.” Qiao Dongliang was embarrassed that he did not know which apartment his daughter was living in, and he even needed her landlord to show him the way. At the same time, Qiao Dongliang truly believed that Qiao Nan’s landlord indeed took good care of her. Otherwise, the landlord would not be treating him so nicely so much so as to show him the way.

Following behind the landlord, Qiao Dongliang had initially intended to climb up the stairs. But the landlord turned, and instead of heading upstairs, she walked beside the staircase. Qiao Dongliang already had one foot on the stairs and was thus puzzled upon seeing the landlord’s actions. There were no apartments downstairs, so where was the landlord bringing him to?

Actually, the landlord was not headed anywhere. Because this building was situated in a good location, the ground floor had been converted into shop fronts after knocking down the walls. As for the upper floors, they were rented out as apartments. However, there was a small dead-end corner in such a prosperous location, and that was the space under the staircase that was situated outside the shop.

That small space housed one face of a wall and a door and had a small little window of its own. Sticking the key into the keyhole, the landlord opened the door. “This was the place where Qiao Nan used to live. Do you want to take a good look at it and experience it for yourself?”

The landlord was not the kind of person to forgo her conscience just to make money. Such a tiny place was still all right in winter but was sweltering hot in summer. Because the place was so narrow and small, the landlord had never intended to put up a wall under the stairs to create another room before meeting Qiao Nan.

But at that time, Qiao Nan had been in such dire straits. She did not have much money on her and had no means of renting an apartment. Coincidentally, because the landlord had been renovating the apartments, the space under the staircase had been piled up with a lot of things. Thus, a small space of six to seven square meters was created in the hallway.

When Qiao Nan had approached her to rent this space, the landlord herself had been taken aback. This was no room at all. It was too small for anyone to live in!

But Qiao Nan insisted on it. Seeing that Qiao Nan was in a difficult situation, she finally relented under Qiao Nan's persuasion. Before Qiao Nan moved in, the landlord had specially hired some people to move the mess away. If someone was really to stay there, she would at least build a sturdy and solid wall. That did not cost much money anyway.

She had not intended to use that small space anyway. Now that Qiao Nan was renting it, it would be an extra source of income for her nonetheless. As such, the landlord had tidied up the space before letting Qiao Nan move in.

Upon hearing the landlord's words, Qiao Dongliang was dumbfounded and stuttered. "You-you're kidding, right? This is nothing but a small walkway under the stairs. Isn't such a small space usually used to store your things? How can someone live here?"

This was Ping Cheng, not the capital or some other places where land was extraordinarily expensive and where a small basement could be rented out for two to three hundred yuan.

Even though Qiao Nan had always handed over most of her salary and had no money to buy her own apartment, Qiao Dongliang felt that there was no reason Qiao Nan would have to stay in such a wretched place given her earning power. To be honest, this was the first time Qiao Dongliang had visited Qiao Nan's apartment.

When anything happened in the family in the past, Qiao Nan would always return to the Qiao family's house. Otherwise, Ding Jiayi would take the initiative to find Qiao Dongliang. Qiao Dongliang thought that everything was fine and that his younger daughter was mild-tempered, good-natured, filial, and even handed all her income over to her family. As long as Qiao Nan had more interactions with Ding Jiayi, Ding Jiayi would eventually be moved by Qiao Nan.

But the problem was that the sight in front of Qiao Dongliang made him feel uneasy all over. It felt as though a cart of cooking condiments had been spilled in his heart and he was feeling all sorts of

different emotions all at once. What he was not, though, was happy. “Do you mean that Nan Nan has lived in this place for several years?”

Qiao Dongliang refused to give up and asked once again. Qiao Dongliang thought that he had it tough and could tolerate arduous conditions, but he would not be able to survive in this place for a year, let alone a few years! But his younger daughter had done so quietly for several years!

“Not just a few years. Nan Nan has been living here for almost ten years. You’re quite amazing as a father.” Seeing that Qiao Dongliang really had no idea about what was going on, the landlord did not soften her attitude toward him.

This was his own biological daughter they were talking about, not just some girl he picked up on the streets.

His unmarried daughter had been renting an apartment alone for ten years, but as a father, he had never once taken the initiative to check on his daughter or to take a look at her living conditions. How assured was he about his daughter? Or how indifferent was he toward his daughter that he was able to do such a thing? “Since Nan Nan isn’t here, don’t mind me asking. Is Nan Nan really your biological child? Was she adopted?”

How could they treat her like that if she was really their own child? Or even if she was simply adopted?

Qiao Dongliang’s whole face was flushed and did not know how to answer her. After a long while, he finally managed to say, “Has Old Ding visited this place?”

“Of course she has. Every time you guys need money, your wife comes over to kick up a huge fuss and take some money from Nan Nan.” The landlord was elated. If the Qiao family did not know the kind of place Qiao Nan was living in, she would not think badly of the Qiao family. Since Qiao Nan had already moved out, the Qiao family could just take it as though Qiao Nan was already dead and cut off all contact. If that were the case, she would have nothing to say.

Chapter 1764: Yes Or No

Qiao Dongliang huffed. “Nan Nan was discharged yesterday. Did she come back yesterday?” Qiao Dongliang did not want to talk about anything else. Or rather, he had nothing to say about this situation.

His explanations would be in vain and could not cover up the fact that Qiao Nan had been suffering alone for so many years. He really had no idea that Nan Nan had been living in such an exceptionally small place.

When he had occasionally asked about Qiao Nan, Old Ding would always tell him that the place that Nan Nan had rented was not bad and neither was it particularly small. Even if it was small, Nan Nan was staying alone, after all. Nan Nan was really leading a good life now that she had left the Qiao family's small courtyard and was renting her own place. But he had never expected that Nan Nan was 'enjoying life' in this manner!

At this moment, Qiao Dongliang had the urge to capture Ding Jiayi and throw her into this small space under the staircase to let Ding Jiayi 'enjoy' ten years of her life there. Then, he would see if Ding Jiayi would still dare to use such a cynical tone when describing the 'good life' that Qiao Nan was enjoying alone. He could let Ding Jiayi enjoy such a 'good life' too!

"Hehehe..." The landlord sneered. "Didn't you hear that this was where Nan Nan used to live in? Nan Nan did indeed return yesterday, but she ended her lease. I'm telling you that Nan Nan didn't tell me anything about where she's moving to. If you let your wife kick up a fuss here, don't blame me for being rude to your wife then. I may not have much here, but what I do have are people!"

She had been frustrated with Qiao Nan's mom long ago. If it had not been for the sake of leaving Qiao Nan some dignity, she would have dealt with that woman a long time ago when that woman had first come over.

Now, not only had Nan Nan moved away, but she did not even know where Nan Nan had moved to. This just went to show how deeply the Qiao family had hurt Qiao Nan. Such an obstinate and stubborn person had finally given in and decided to forge a path for herself. Qiao Nan's sudden realization did not mean that Qiao Nan had finally figured it out. It only proved that the Qiao family was exceptionally evil.

Since Qiao Nan was no longer around, there was no need to keep up any more pretenses. If such an unreasonable shrew like Qiao Nan's mom were to come again, she would not bother trying to reason things out. She much preferred to use her fists!

If she were to give that shameless old woman a taste of her power, there was no way Qiao Nan's mom would ever return to create any more trouble for her.

"She ended her lease and moved away? When was this?" Qiao Dongliang was in a frenzy. Everything had happened too suddenly all at once. It seemed as though everything had been

concentrated into a single day! These events that followed one after another caught Qiao Dongliang off guard. He had not even come to terms or even decided on how to resolve one matter before another trouble popped up.

His younger daughter had been wronged, but his elder daughter also needed a kidney for her kidney transplant urgently. Even if they had a kidney donor, they would still have to fork out a sum of money for her surgery. Now, his younger daughter had moved away. But where had she moved away to?

Whether it was the Qiao family or the Ding family, their family of four had no relatives. Once she left Ping Cheng, his younger daughter would not even have a friend to go to, let alone a relative. It was inevitable that he would worry about his younger daughter since she was so unfamiliar with her surroundings.

“Are you deaf? I just said that Nan Nan moved away yesterday. Yesterday. So if you want to look for your daughter in the future, don’t bother coming over here. Other than Qiao Nan, there’s not a single person in your family who has left a good impression on me. You’re all blood-sucking devils! Scram! Apart from Qiao Nan, none of you from the Qiao family are welcome. If any of you ever dare to step into my territory again, I’m not going to say anything more. I’ll simply call the police and report you for trespassing. Do you understand?”

The landlord’s patience had run dry. She had deliberately shown Qiao Dongliang the living conditions Qiao Nan had been living with for ten years in an attempt to provoke Qiao Dongliang. But very quickly, the landlord wondered if anyone in the Qiao family had any conscience at all. Without such a thing like conscience, was she really hoping that the Qiao family would suddenly realize their mistakes and pity Qiao Nan for everything she had suffered through or even treat Qiao Nan better in the future just because of her provocation?

What a joke!

But whatever she had just done had just been a waste of her time and effort. It would truly be a waste of her life if she were to exert any energy on trying to get the Qiao family to understand this fact.

After coming to that realization, the landlord could hardly bother to look at Qiao Dongliang and tried to chase Qiao Dongliang away. The person Qiao Dongliang was looking for was indeed not here. Even if Ding Jiayi herself were to come, she would not find even a single strand of Qiao Nan’s hair, let alone Qiao Dongliang.

In the end, Qiao Dongliang himself was not very sure about how he managed to leave. When he finally returned from his trance, he was directly confronted with an endless stream of vehicles along the main road. His eyes were in such a daze that he had no memory of where he was, where he was going next, and what he was supposed to do.

Qiao Dongliang could not figure it out and his eyes turned red and puffy. He was already a grandfather, but at that moment, he could not help but grab his hair while squatting down by the side of the road in anguish. Burying his head between his legs, he stayed in that position for a long while. Passersby could not help but stop to ask Qiao Dongliang whether he was all right.

When Qiao Dongliang finally lifted up his head, his eyes were much redder and puffier than before. Qiao Dongliang sniffled. His expression was gloomy and his mood was rotten. Each step he took toward the hospital was heavier than the previous one.

All these years, Qiao Dongliang had ignored many details. And now, Qiao Dongliang was finally willing to take some time to think about them once again. Qiao Nan had been earning quite a lot, so it was obvious that it was entirely Ding Jiayi's fault that Qiao Nan had to stay in such a horrible place despite her high salary.

Qiao Zijin's house had been entirely paid for by Qiao Nan. This much Qiao Dongliang knew. But what he did not know was that Ding Jiayi had emptied Qiao Nan's pockets just to buy Qiao Zijin a house. He had always thought that Qiao Nan would have her own limits as to how much she would sacrifice for the family. He had always thought that she would at least have some money on hand so that she would not lead such a hard life.

Qiao Dongliang had not agreed to Qiao Nan moving out not because he felt that there were insufficient rooms at home, but because he understood that Qiao Nan would always be under Ding Jiayi's control if she were to stay at home. Even the simplest act of eating a mouthful of rice would all depend on Ding Jiayi's mood.

He had thought all along that Qiao Nan would be able to live her own life upon moving out. Then, Qiao Nan would never have to care about what Ding Jiayi thought and would be able to eat and drink freely. When she had free time, she would even be able to take good care of herself and enjoy her life.

Chapter 1765: Affected

He really thought that it would be better for Qiao Nan if she moved out. Who would have thought that after Qiao Nan moved out, Ding Jiayi's attention on Qiao Nan had never stopped? Ding Jiayi's

grasp of Qiao Nan was not weaker than when Qiao Nan had not moved out. In fact, it was stronger than before.

At home, if Ding Jiayi became overboard, he would say a few words and she would have to listen to them more or less. After Qiao Nan moved out, he wasn't aware of his younger daughter's matters. Who knew that it was precisely because of this that Ding Jiayi had the chance to redouble her efforts, causing his younger daughter to...

"Dad, you're here? You seemed to be a little later today. What did you talk to Nan Nan about?" Qiao Zijin was a little unhappy in her heart that Qiao Dongliang was a little later than usual when visiting her today. Qiao Nan was only hit by a car and was long out of critical condition. It was estimated that she would recover soon and be discharged in two days.

A slut had a hard life. Even in such a situation, Qiao Nan would be able to be discharged from the hospital before her.

However, if Qiao Nan was about to be discharged from the hospital soon, this meant that Qiao Nan could give her her kidney soon. With Qiao Nan's kidney, she could similarly be discharged from the hospital soon.

Upon thinking of the life she would be leading after being discharged from the hospital, Qiao Zijin didn't throw tantrums. In fact, she even smiled.

"Nan Nan was discharged from the hospital yesterday afternoon." After entering Qiao Zijin's ward, Qiao Dongliang, who didn't look too good, found a place to sit down. After finding out how his younger daughter had been living for the past ten years, Qiao Dongliang felt he was drained of all energy. Even if he was already sitting down now, Qiao Dongliang could feel that his legs were trembling nonstop.

"What? That wretched girl was discharged yesterday? Why didn't Zijin and I know that you had already helped her with her discharge procedures? Did you think you could hide from me and Zijin just because you are father-and-daughter?" Since she could be discharged from the hospital yesterday, then they could have long had a discussion with Zijin's doctor-in-charge to see when Zijin could undergo a kidney transplant. "This wretched girl. She's always doing things without any arrangement and just has to waste everyone's time. Get her to come to the hospital quickly and do the blood test. See if she can donate her kidney to Zijin. Let's not waste any more time. Zijin is her biological sister and she's waiting for her to save her life. If she dawdles one day, Zijin's danger would increase."

“Can’t find her!”

“Can’t find her?” Ding Jiayi, who had wanted to become ruthless and act arrogant, repeated these words. She looked at Qiao Dongliang in shock. “What do you mean you can’t find her? Where else could that wretched girl go? She must have returned to her house. Oh right, you haven’t been to her rented house before. Alright, I’ll give you her address now. Go and get that wretched girl to come to the hospital.”

Right. She should also look for the person who had knocked that wretched girl down so that they could receive monetary compensation soon.

After receiving half a million yuan, she was going to buy bird’s nest of superior quality to strengthen Zijin’s body. One had to know that after Zijin became the Chen family’s daughter-in-law, she had always been eating bird’s nest when she was pregnant.

Hah. It was just the Chen family. What was there to be happy about? Wasn’t it just bird’s nest? As the Chen family’s daughter-in-law, Zijin could eat bird’s nest. As the Qiao family’s daughter, Zijin could similarly eat bird’s nest.

“There’s no need to find her. She can’t be found. Nan Nan has moved away,” Qiao Dongliang said with a cold face. “I went to take a look at the place Nan Nan was living. She’s not there. She has ended her lease. Nobody knows where she has gone to now. Old Ding, didn’t you tell me before that although the rented house Nan Nan was living in wasn’t big, it was still more than enough for her since she was living alone?”

Once he thought of that rented house, Qiao Dongliang felt heartache. He thought again of how Ding Jiayi had previously used the term ‘bird nest’ to describe the house Qiao Nan was living in. This proved that Ding Jiayi actually knew in her heart that the place Qiao Nan was living in was an exceptionally small space, yet she said that the space was considered more than enough for her since Qiao Nan was living alone. It was all nonsense!

Ding Jiayi’s words were purely meant to coax him, the fool!

“It is enough. She doesn’t use the stove often. Even if she does, it’s outside. Isn’t it just nice that a bed could fit in that room? What’s the most important in a rented house? Sleep is!” Ding Jiayi said in a bold and righteous manner that she didn’t lie. A space of about four to five square meters was indeed enough for Qiao Nan.

“You have seen it in person as well. Then, you should know that a second bed could fit in that room as well. If she was smarter and found someone to share the space, she could even save half of the rent each month.” It was just right to place two beds and have a space to put clothes.

It was better for a person like Qiao Nan to live in squeezed conditions. She would feel warmer then.

Qiao Dongliang smiled grimly. “I’ve finally understood your words. Okay, go on! I’ll see how long you can maintain this!”

Until now, Ding Jiayi didn’t mend her own ways. She had obviously made Nan Nan suffer. However, she was still saying these words so righteously as if Nan Nan was really leading a good life outside in her rented house.

No wonder he was like a fool to have been fooled by Ding Jiayi all these years. It was only today when Nan Nan’s landlord told him what kind of place his younger daughter had been living in did he receive slaps on his face and returned to reality from the lies.

After saying these words, Qiao Dongliang glared fiercely at Ding Jiayi. Then, he looked at Qiao Zijin with a complicated and pained expression. After that, he heaved a long sigh and left. He left just like that, without giving any basic explanation. It was as if he left after being in a casual quarrel.

At this moment, Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin became anxious. “Mom, what exactly did Dad mean by those words? Where did Qiao Nan go? I really can’t wait any longer. If I continue waiting, I’ll lose my life. Mom, since Qiao Nan has been discharged from the hospital, call Qiao Nan quickly and ask her to come to the hospital. I really can’t wait any longer. Do you think it’s possible for the doctor to arrange for me to have the surgery tomorrow?”

Qiao Zijin felt that if she didn’t grab hold of Qiao Nan’s kidney now, that kidney would leave her forever the next day. How could this be? Qiao Nan’s kidney was related to whether she could continue living!

Ding Jiayi was dumbfounded. After being urged by Qiao Zijin, she dug out her mobile from the pocket of her trousers in a hurry. “Don’t-don’t be anxious. You know what kind of person that wretched girl is as well. She wouldn’t dare to not listen to my words. If I ask her to come over, even if she ran to the end of the world, she would also have to return. Don’t feel anxious. I’ll call her now. Zijin, you have to remain happy. The doctor mentioned that your mood would affect your medical condition.”

Chapter 1766: Strange

“Okay, stop being so long-winded. Call her now.” Qiao Dongliang’s words made Qiao Zijin feel uneasy. If she didn’t hear Qiao Nan’s voice and couldn’t confirm if Qiao Nan would come over to the hospital tomorrow to do the kidney transplant, Qiao Zijin couldn’t feel at ease at all.

“I’m calling now.” Ding Jiayi knew Qiao Nan’s phone number by heart. She was more familiar with her number compared to Qiao Zijin’s. “Don’t be anxious. You will see that in less than three seconds, this call will be connected and she will pick up the call.”

Upon hearing the dial tone from the other side of the phone, Ding Jiayi appeared to be calmer than Qiao Zijin. After waiting for three seconds, the call wasn’t picked up and Ding Jiayi frowned. “This wretched girl. She’s so thick-skinned. She really thought that she could afford to be slower just because she ran into a car accident and stayed in the hospital once.”

Qiao Zijin pulled her face and the uneasiness in her heart spread.

The dial tone kept ringing and the other party didn’t pick up the call. Ding Jiayi looked embarrassed. “That wretched girl must have stuffed her phone in a corner and didn’t hear it ringing or couldn’t find it. Don’t be anxious. I’ll call again. This time, it will be connected.”

As Ding Jiayi reassured Qiao Zijin, she called Qiao Nan’s number again. The issue was that this time, Ding Jiayi didn’t even get a chance to listen to the dial tone. There was only a mechanical recording that told Ding Jiayi that the owner of this phone number had already switched off his or her mobile and to try again later. “Switched... switched off?”

Qiao Zijin’s face turned pale. “Mom, Qiao Nan switched off her mobile at this moment. What do you think she means by this? She should have heard our conversation regarding the kidney transplant before she ran into a car accident. She knows that I’m waiting for her kidney to save my life. She chose to disappear at this time. Does she want me to die and not want to save me?”

Seeing Qiao Zijin turn pale, Ding Jiayi hurriedly walked over and half-hugged her. “No, she wouldn’t dare to. Zijin, don’t be scared. As long as I’m around, I’ll definitely protect you well and won’t let anything happen to you. It’s best if Qiao Nan donates her kidney to you. Otherwise, she has no choice but to do so as well. I’m her mother. I gave birth to her. She must listen to me. No matter what, wait for this kidney. I’ll definitely get one for you!” If Qiao Nan cooperated, everyone would be polite toward one another. If Qiao Nan didn’t cooperate, she would also have ways to get her hands on Qiao Nan’s kidney.

Who asked her to be Qiao Nan's mother? If she wanted Qiao Nan's life, Qiao Nan had to give it to her as well, let alone a kidney!

"Mom, you have to save me. You must save me. Now, you're the only person who can save me." Her father hadn't been particularly good to her all along. Sometimes, he was biased toward Qiao Nan. As such, her father definitely wouldn't go all out to help her get her hands on Qiao Nan's kidney. At this time, only her mother was willing to do so for her.

Ding Jiayi felt like a heroine as her beloved daughter was relying wholeheartedly on her. She patted her chest and assured her. "Don't worry. I've said before that I would definitely not let anything happen to you. Wait obediently for my good news in the hospital. I'll grab Qiao Nan back. Tomorrow. I'll let you undergo the kidney transplant tomorrow!"

Ding Jiayi didn't consider at all if Qiao Nan's body was suitable to undergo a kidney transplant even though she was able to be discharged from the hospital after the car accident. She only wanted Qiao Zijin to live. Ding Jiayi didn't care whose life was required for Qiao Zijin to continue living. As long as Qiao Zijin didn't die, anyone who loved to die could just die.

"Mom, I'll wait for you." At this time, apart from this sentence and believing Ding Jiayi, there was nothing else Qiao Zijin could do. She knew that if she made a move, Qiao Nan might not bother with her and be willing to donate her kidney. Her mom was all her hope.

After pacifying Qiao Zijin, Ding Jiayi was like a proud soldier as she first went to Qiao Nan's rented house to take a look.

Ding Jiayi knew that Qiao Nan's landlady had a good relationship with Qiao Nan. Every time she went over to Qiao Nan's to get her living allowance, that old woman would always say that she should count her blessings for having such a filial daughter like Qiao Nan and that she shouldn't know how to cry only when Qiao Nan was gone and there wasn't anyone else to take care of her when she was old.

What nonsense!

She had such a good daughter like Zijin. Why would she need Qiao Nan to provide for her? It was already considered a relief if as parents, they didn't have to worry about Qiao Nan if she encountered trouble in the future. She felt that it was more realistic to dream than to rely on Qiao Nan to provide for her.

Ding Jiayi, who belittled Qiao Nan that much, completely didn't think of why she always used the living allowance as an excuse to keep getting so much money from Qiao Nan and even used this sum of money to buy Qiao Zijin a house.

This sum of money was enough for both Ding Jiayi and Qiao Dongliang to live comfortably in their old age. On the contrary, it was the boastful Qiao Zijin who had never given her parents any money at all. She had been taking advantage of Qiao Nan all this while instead.

When she arrived at Qiao Nan's rented house again, Ding Jiayi puffed out her chest and moved her eyeballs, as if observing the situation. In Ding Jiayi's eyes, Qiao Nan's combat effectiveness was nothing. Qiao Nan's landlady was much more ruthless. Although Ding Jiayi could get the money she wanted from Qiao Nan smoothly each time, she would always be criticized as shameless by Qiao Nan's landlady.

It was precisely because of this that Ding Jiayi changed her habits after that. Unless absolutely necessary, she wouldn't ask for money at Qiao Nan's house. She would call Qiao Nan and get her to send the money over to the Qiao family's courtyard after she had prepared it. One had to know that she was Qiao Nan's mother. This should be how Qiao Nan gave her money. How could she let her lead a tough life by making her go over personally to collect the money? She didn't see Qiao Nan wrongly. She was such an unfilial child who wasn't likable!

Ding Jiayi shrank her neck when she didn't see Qiao Nan's landlady. She quickly came to Qiao Nan's small stairwell door and knocked. "Wretched girl, open the door quickly. Let me in." This was the only way to avoid the eyes of Qiao Nan's landlady. "Quick. I'm calling you, wretched girl. Do you really think you're dead? It's just two steps away. Aren't you lying on the bed? Open the door quickly. If you go any slower and make me embarrass myself in front of your landlady, I'll teach you a lesson later."

Even if Qiao Nan was already in her forties, if Ding Jiayi wasn't happy and Qiao Nan disagreed with her words, she usually pinched Qiao Nan's body hard such that she became bruised.

In the past, when Ding Jiayi said this, Qiao Nan would definitely be very obedient. If Ding Jiayi said one, Qiao Nan wouldn't dare to say two. If Ding Jiayi said to go to the east, Qiao Nan wouldn't head to the west. However, it was really strange today. It seemed like Qiao Nan had suddenly transformed into someone with temper.

Chapter 1767: Moved Away Long Ago

Ding Jiayi shrank her neck while looking all around as though she was a thief hiding from Qiao Nan's landlord. It had been a full minute, but there had not been a single peep from the small space under the staircase.

In the face of such a situation, Ding Jiayi could hardly resist the urge to kick the door down. If it was not for the landlady, she would have kicked the door down long ago and would probably have torn the whole apartment building down by now.

What was she up to? Did she really think she would not need to deal with everything that was going on as long as she continued to hide inside like a tortoise? Fat chance! Even if she continued staying in her shell, Ding Jiayi would stop at nothing to break Qiao Nan's tortoiseshell apart!

"Landlord, that 'amazing' mother of Miss Qiao is here again! Aren't you going to deal with her?" Ding Jiayi thought that she had restrained her voice and would not be easily discovered. In reality, everyone who had been at home had heard Ding Jiayi's voice crisp and clear. It was unrestrained and was just as noisy and piercing as usual.

Unlike the landlady who often fought for justice on Qiao Nan's behalf, when the other residents saw what Qiao Nan was going through, they were in no mood to help Qiao Nan. Neither did they have the means to help her even though they pitied her. They themselves rented apartments in Ping Cheng and worked hard to provide for themselves. They were incapable of earning a high salary, but Qiao Nan was. It was her own pliable nature that caused her to give up all her money to her mom and live in suffering alone.

Only fools would pity people like Qiao Nan, who was too weak to stand up for themselves.

In short, ordinary people like them should focus on getting their lives together before commenting on whether other people were facing some sort of injustice or unfair treatment.

That was simply what the renters thought. No one had any intentions of helping Qiao Nan, but they all respected the landlords' fighting spirit. Once, their landlady had gotten into an argument with Ding Jiayi just to train her voice, providing the tenants with good entertainment. Today, Ding Jiayi had already been causing trouble for more than five minutes, yet their landlady was nowhere to be seen. Many tenants were curious. Could it be that their landlady's heroic heart had finally been crushed by Qiao Nan's soft character?

The landlady fanned herself. "The autumn tiger's gone, but this autumn weather is still crazy. It's easy to get dehydrated with this weather. Won't I just be creating trouble for my liver if I were to

get angry at some shameless old lady? She can make as much noise as she wants to. But if she damages any of my things, she'll have to pay for it all the same."

She had stepped in purely because she could not bear to see that old b*tch bullying Qiao Nan just because of her identity. Now that Qiao Nan was no longer around, that old b*tch would no longer be able to bully Qiao Nan. Or at least, she would not be able to witness it. Thus, the landlady was no longer as stubborn or passionate about some things.

Knowing that Ding Jiayi's tantrum would not have any outcome other than tiring herself out, the landlady was content to simply watch on from the sides without even moving a finger, just seeing Ding Jiayi getting upset.

In short, as long as Ding Jiayi did not damage anything of hers, she could not care less about how big a fuss Ding Jiayi kicked up. She would just treat it as though she was watching a drama. Of course, if Ding Jiayi dared to damage any of her things, that would be even better. Then, she would be willing to call out to Ding Jiayi and pluck a few feathers off that miser.

Sure enough, Ding Jiayi clamored for twenty minutes. As the minutes ticked by, Ding Jiayi's frustration only grew and her shouts only got louder. Ding Jiayi entirely ignored the existence of the landlady. Despite shouting until her throat hoarse, there was not a single response from within the space under the staircase.

Ding Jiayi could not hold it in any longer, and in the spur of a moment, she finally decided to kick the door down with her own foot. But the door did not budge. As such, Ding Jiayi decided to use something to smash the door open.

Immediately, the landlady stepped in. "What are you trying to do by damaging my property? Be careful before I report you to the police."

Upon seeing the landlady, Ding Jiayi's anger almost immediately dissipated. "I'm here to look for my daughter..." At the thought that Qiao Nan was simply renting and had not bought that tiny space under the staircase, Ding Jiayi said, "Don't worry. It's just a door. If I really damage it, I'll pay you a hundred yuan." In short, Qiao Nan should give up the thought that everything would eventually tide over as long as she hid away in her house. That was simply impossible!

She was more than willing to pay for a door just to drag Qiao Nan out.

There was no such thing as a free lunch. Whatever she spent on Qiao Nan today, she would demand several times of that from Qiao Nan one day. No matter what happened, she would never let herself be at a disadvantage and let that wretched girl, Qiao Nan, take advantage of her.

At the mention of needing to pay for any damages, Ding Jiayi, who had never let herself suffer because of Qiao Nan, did not back down. Instead, she brazenly smashed the door and did so with all her might.

The landlady laughed. “Our doors aren’t made from just any cheap material. We buy good quality and ready-made doors. You’re thinking of just paying me a hundred? This will cost at least two hundred!”

“All right. Two hundred it is, then.” Ding Jiayi was in a hurry to drag Qiao Nan to the hospital to retrieve her kidney. A mere two hundred yuan was no match for her daughter, Qiao Zijin’s, life. Without any hesitation, Ding Jiayi dug out two hundred yuan from her pocket and stuffed it into the landlady’s hands. Then, she pushed the landlady aside and demanded that she not get in the way.

After receiving the money, the landlady protested that this amount was insufficient. Ding Jiayi had gotten much more from Qiao Nan, after all. “All right, smash this door as much as you want. Anyway, I’ve had plans to demolish this small space under the staircase.” Not only would Ding Jiayi’s fuss allow her to recoup her losses from the damage to the door, but it would also save her the trouble and money from hiring someone to demolish the place.

This truly was no mean feat. Ever since knowing that there was such a ‘character’ in Ping Cheng that was Ding Jiayi, this was the first time Ding Jiayi was still rather pleasing to the eye. Even such a bad person did something ‘good’ once or twice, after all.

Ding Jiayi, who was entirely focused on smashing the door, was about to stop herself after hearing the landlady’s words. But just at that moment, she had not been able to stop in time and sprained her back instead. Ding Jiayi’s face was all scrunched up, but she did not care about her pain at all and turned to face the landlady in a panic. “Wait a minute. You said that you’re going to demolish this place? Why?” In such a big city like Ping Cheng, Qiao Nan wouldn’t be able to find and rent a place as cheap as this one once it was demolished. In that case, she would have to return to the Qiao family’s house.

Thinking about how Qiao Nan’s rent would increase and she would thus be able to get less money off of Qiao Nan, Ding Jiayi’s heart ached as though someone had cut off a piece of her flesh. “Don’t do that. Don’t you like Qiao Nan? She’s been renting this place for so many years. Don’t you guys have a good relationship with each other by now? Don’t demolish it. She’ll have nowhere to go.”

“Your family is really strange. A father doesn’t know where his daughter is living and what kind of conditions she’s living in. Your husband just came over a few hours ago, and now, it’s your turn. Why? Haven’t you met your husband? Didn’t he tell you that Qiao Nan’s already moved away and is no longer staying here?”

Chapter 1768: Bigger Issue

Who cared whether Ding Jiayi knew about that or not. Anyway, the two hundred yuan was already in her pocket. Ding Jiayi should not even dream about taking that money back since she had already damaged the door, after all. That was a fact.

All of a sudden, Ding Jiayi felt as though her hip began to hurt even more badly because of what the landlady had just said. “That wretched girl doesn’t stay here anymore? Are you lying to me? I’m not Old Qiao. I’m not so gullible. I don’t believe you. Open the door right now. That wretched girl must be inside.”

If Qiao Nan was really gone, where would she find Qiao Nan to get her money and kidney?

“You don’t believe me? Fine. I’ll open the door for you.” Her goal had already been achieved and she had had enough entertainment for the day. It was rare that the landlady had the opportunity to show Ding Jiayi some color. As such, she decided to open the door for Ding Jiayi to satisfy her curiosity. “Look carefully. I’ve already found someone to come and demolish this place. I don’t want anything in this apartment. If there’s anything you want, you can take it home.”

The landlady’s words made it seem as though Ding Jiayi was a rubbish collector.

“I don’t believe you! I don’t believe you!” Ding Jiayi could not believe that she had gone through all that trouble to smash the door, but it turned out that she had broken into an empty apartment and that Qiao Nan was truly not there at all! Actually, there was nothing much in the small space. Just a glance was sufficient to take everything in. But Ding Jiayi refused to believe what she had just heard and insisted on entering the apartment. Only when she had searched through the apartment did she ask the landlady, “Where did Qiao Nan go? Where did you hide Qiao Nan? I’m warning you that I was the one who gave birth to her. You’re breaking the law by hiding her away! I can sue you for that!”

“You can sue me if you want, but it’s still too early to say anything about that. Your daughter’s already reaching the age of forty. Do you think she’s four? How can I hide her away? I’m telling you again that all I’ve done is rent a place to her. Now that she’s thought it through for herself, she left so that you people will never be able to find her and she’ll finally be able to live a good life on

her own. The door's already open and I'm not planning on closing it. But I'm warning you that it's still my business even if I want to demolish the place. If you dare to continue making a din here, I'll make you pay for each item you damage. If you don't pay for them, that's fine too. I'll report you to the police!"

With that, the landlady felt as though she had gotten back at Ding Jiayi. Twisting her thick waist, she left joyfully.

For some unknown reason, Qiao Nan's old neighbor was standing along the second floor's corridor. "Don't bother. Qiao Nan really moved away yesterday. I watched Qiao Nan leave with her luggage at noontime yesterday after she came back. There's no point throwing a tantrum here. You're just wasting your energy."

Now that there was one more person like himself who had to rely on his own efforts to support himself, the worker felt that this was something to rejoice over.

Ding Jiayi's face paled. It was only then that she finally believed what Qiao Dongliang had told her back at the hospital. Initially, she had thought that Qiao Dongliang had been biased toward Qiao Nan. She had thought that Qiao Dongliang was trying to protect Qiao Nan because he felt that it was unfair for Qiao Nan to donate her kidney to Qiao Zijin after her car accident. That was why he had come up with a story of Qiao Nan moving away in front of her and Qiao Zijin, even saying that no one knew where Qiao Nan was or where she had moved to.

But now, Ding Jiayi came to a sudden realization that Qiao Dongliang had been speaking the truth. That wretched girl, Qiao Nan, was really missing! Humph! She did not believe that Qiao Nan would be able to escape from her grasp. No matter how big Ping Cheng was, Qiao Nan had no boyfriend, good friends, or good colleagues. Based on her lack of interpersonal relationships, there were not many places that Qiao Nan could go to even if she were to stop leasing this apartment.

Could that wretched girl, Qiao Nan, have returned to the Qiao family's small courtyard? Was she intending to snatch Zijin's room from her?

That would not do. She had to return home to check on the situation. No. She should make a trip down to that wretched girl's workplace to take a look. If she remembered correctly, that wretched girl still had one month's worth of salary that she had not claimed. It was just as well that she made a trip down now so that she could claim Qiao Nan's salary on her behalf. She would settle the rest of the accounts with Qiao Nan later on.

To Ding Jiayi, money had always been the top priority. Without a second thought, she decided to forgo looking for Qiao Nan for the time being. She would instead take all of Qiao Nan's salary before deciding on her next step. Ding Jiayi thought that there was no way Qiao Nan could run away. The kidney that Qiao Zijin wanted was still safe and sound.

Since the kidney was not a problem, the only thing she needed to focus her efforts on was to get more money on hand so as to make a plan for Qiao Zijin's future life.

Ding Jiayi had always accurately predicted Qiao Nan's every action and had Qiao Nan firmly within the grasp of her palms. But this time, Ding Jiayi had made wasted trips at every single location. After busying herself for an entire afternoon, not only had Ding Jiayi not gotten a single cent, but she had even been mocked and ridiculed by others. In the end, they all said the same thing: Qiao Nan had already settled all her wages and had resigned before leaving.

From now on, Qiao Nan would no longer be their employee. As such, unless Ding Jiayi had any business dealings with them, they would no longer welcome Ding Jiayi to their workplace, and neither would Ding Jiayi be able to enter their premises if she was coming to visit as a family member of an employee only to kick up a fuss about Qiao Nan's wages.

Ding Jiayi had searched through several places and had gone to almost everywhere that Qiao Nan frequented or could at least be contacted at. But it was all for naught. Not only had Ding Jiayi not been able to find Qiao Nan, but she had even learned from Qiao Nan's colleagues and superiors that Qiao Nan had officially resigned the previous day at noontime and had taken with her all of her wages.

Thus, when Ding Jiayi asked them for money as Qiao Nan's mom, they could only apologize and express that Qiao Nan was their employee, and they had already given their employee her wages. There was none left for Ding Jiayi.

After running about for almost a whole day, Ding Jiayi, who had gained nothing, had fatigue written all over her face. Afraid that Zijin would be able to guess that something was amiss if she were to go to the hospital now, Ding Jiayi had no choice but to return to the Qiao family's small courtyard.

The moment she returned home and saw Qiao Dongliang, Ding Jiayi broke out in a loud and anguished wail. "Didn't I tell you early on that that wretched girl has no conscience? She knows that Zijin is waiting for her kidney to save her life, but she ran away secretly! How could that wretched girl be so heartless? Does she really want to see Zijin die? Do you know what's worse? I made several trips to her workplaces today and she didn't even tell us about ending her lease or where she's moving to. She quit all her jobs and even took with her all of her wages. She didn't

even leave a single cent for us. She wants us to starve to death! Zijin still has to undergo surgery. Such a huge sum of money...”

At the mention of money, Ding Jiayi’s tears dried up and she suddenly remembered the bigger issue at hand. “That’s not right. That driver who knocked her down still owes us a few hundred thousand yuan. Do you think that wretched girl resolved the issue on her own?” That was a much larger sum of money!

Chapter 1769: How Harsh

Earlier, Ding Jiayi had not been able to get in contact with that driver. Of course, she had gotten angry over it, but she had not been in the least bit worried. She knew that her demand of five hundred thousand yuan was indeed on the high side. Thus, it was only natural for the other party to be upset and try to avoid her because of the fuss she was making.

But that driver should not expect to live a comfortable life as long as they did not go down to the police station to sign an agreement. Before long, he would ruffle the feathers of their family so much so that she would directly send the driver to jail. There was no way there would be anyone who would willingly go to jail.

But now, Ding Jiayi was truly starting to get afraid. After considering the situation thoroughly, she thought of a solution. “I just remembered that I couldn’t get in contact with that driver after Qiao Nan awoke from her coma. Could that wretched girl really have... No, that won’t do. That’s the money Zijin needs to save her life. If I had known that that wretched girl would be so heartless, I would have just thrown her away after I gave birth to her even if it was illegal. Does she really want to see Zijin die? No wonder Zijin said that it’s entirely Qiao Nan’s fault that she had to get a divorce from Chen Jun. That wretched girl must have interfered in it!”

With a loud sound, Qiao Dongliang’s slap landed hard on Ding Jiayi’s face after he heard Ding Jiayi’s response. “Are you awake now? Whose fault did you say it is that Zijin got divorced? Whose fault did she say it is?”

Qiao Dongliang’s gaze cooled. Could she simply push the responsibility of something that everyone knew about to anyone just like that? At the thought of all the things that Qiao Zijin had done, Qiao Dongliang was no longer like before. He no longer pitied his elder daughter for having gotten divorced and becoming single at this age, and he retorted impatiently. “Was it Nan Nan who asked Zijin to get into an affair and ask her to get caught red-handed by the Chen family? Did Nan Nan force Zijin to sleep with another man? Did Nan Nan threaten to kill Zijin if Zijin didn’t sleep with another man? Tell me again whose fault it is that Chen Jun wanted to get a divorce from Zijin. Whose fault is it?”

The slap stunned Ding Jiayi for a moment, but upon seeing Qiao Dongliang, she retracted her cocky attitude and covered her face and started sobbing. “It’s her fault. It’s her fault. It’s true that Zijin was confused for a moment and committed a folly. But husbands and wives should always resolve their differences after a quarrel. If it was not for that wretched girl, Chen Jun would definitely have given Zijin a second chance even after her mistake given their years of close relationship they shared with each other. They would never have gotten a divorce.”

“He...” Qiao Dongliang laughed. “You might be a woman, but don’t say something like that so easily. What do all men hate the most? Being cheated on! Do you really not know what kind of family background the Chen family has? Or what kind of temper your son-in-law has? I would find it even stranger if Chen Jun tolerated this. Do you really think that I wouldn’t know about what happened that year because I didn’t ask about it? Chen Jun was snatched over from Nan Nan by Zijin. Nan Nan was already being very generous by not blaming Zijin. Now that she’s done something wrong and gotten a divorce, she’s still trying to pin the blame on Nan Nan? She’s already a mother. Does she even think about that? As a grandmother, where’s your dignity? Have you fed it to the dogs?”

Qiao Dongliang took a deep breath. “You’ve gone around for a whole day but look where you’ve gotten. It seems that Nan Nan’s really left. It’s good that she’s left. She’s finally come to her senses and is leaving after so many years. In the future, Nan Nan will never contact us, so don’t bother Nan Nan either. Nan Nan’s almost forty years old. How she chooses to lead her life in the future has nothing to do with you and you shouldn’t try to interfere either. Stop spouting all that nonsense. Do you really think she’s unfilial? Ever since she started working, all her income has gone into your pockets to fund Zijin!”

“She’s my daughter. I was the one who gave birth to her and raised her. It’s only right for her to give me her salary.” That was what Qiao Nan should do. Otherwise, Qiao Nan would be in the wrong. How was Qiao Nan any good? On what basis should she stop contacting Qiao Nan? Every single cent of Qiao Nan’s earnings was hers!

“You gave birth to Zijin and raised her too. But why don’t I see you asking her for money? Instead, you’re always giving her money. Do you mean that Zijin is filial, but Nan Nan is not? How can you have the cheek to say such a thing when you’re using Nan Nan’s money? You’re so ungrateful! You’re a mother and Nan Nan’s your daughter. But everything seems topsy-turvy when it comes to you and Nan Nan. Don’t you think it’s embarrassing at all? In the future, let your filial daughter support you. I want to see how filial that filial daughter of yours will be once Nan Nan’s out of the picture.”

Qiao Dongliang was truly incensed by what he had seen today.

He had been confused and had even pretended to be clueless, but he indeed had no idea about the actual situation. Based on Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin's relationship, Qiao Dongliang knew that Qiao Zijin definitely knew about Qiao Nan's living conditions.

With such a huge premise, Qiao Zijin had not only snatched Qiao Nan's boyfriend away from her but had also failed to cherish her days as part of the Chen family and had done such a shameful thing instead. Then, Qiao Zijin had even made use of her mother, Ding Jiayi, to suck Qiao Nan's blood, leaving Qiao Nan with no space to breathe at all. Qiao Dongliang was heartbroken at the thought of that.

He could not wrap his mind around this situation. They were a family, after all. And all these years, Qiao Nan had treated them so well and had sacrificed so much for the family. How could Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin be so heartless toward her? Even if one's heart were made of stone, Qiao Nan's persistence and actions would have probably warmed and melted that stone heart by now.

All these proved that Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin were the truly heartless ones.

"There are some things I don't wish to talk to you about anymore because you've done more than enough for me to understand everything. You're always scolding Nan Nan, calling her a wretched girl and saying that you should have killed her the moment you gave birth to her. Since that's the case, just treat it as though Nan Nan's dead from today onward. In the future, we'll only have one daughter—Zijin. You don't have a second daughter anymore, so it's only right that Nan Nan's money has nothing to do with you. Don't only remember that Nan Nan's your daughter when you want her money. Anyway, I'm exhausted. I'm going to bed. Do whatever you want."

Even if Qiao Dongliang did not ask about the matter, he had already guessed that Qiao Nan had probably resolved the matter with the driver personally behind the family's back.

As for the compensation, it went without saying that Qiao Nan would have taken all of that herself.

Unlike Ding Jiayi, Qiao Dongliang did not hate Qiao Nan to the core for doing that. But he did feel slightly uneasy because he was clear that without Qiao Nan's help, he and Ding Jiayi would never be able to afford the two hundred thousand yuan needed for Qiao Zijin's surgery even if they were willing to wait for a kidney donor.

Chapter 1770: Guilty Conscience

Indeed, two hundred thousand yuan was Qiao Zijin's life-saving money.

However, Qiao Nan had sacrificed too much for this family and Qiao Zijin in the past. With the money Qiao Nan earned over the years falling into Qiao Zijin's pockets, it was enough for Qiao Zijin to change several kidneys, let alone just one.

With this thought, Qiao Dongliang's heart became calm. It wasn't that easy to get the money from the car accident. His younger daughter had lost half her life! To put it bluntly, this was the money of his younger daughter's life.

His younger daughter had already contributed her earnings from the past twenty years to the family. Could they still get her to leave behind all her life's money to Qiao Zijin, her sister? There was no such reason.

"I knew it. You're biased toward Qiao Nan and you don't like Zijin. To think that Zijin always remembered you as her father in the past. Whenever there was something good in the Chen family, she would think about you and leave it to you. You don't have any conscience. Qiao Nan's just like you in this aspect. Don't you know what situation Zijin is in? When Qiao Nan leaves, Zijin would neither have a kidney nor money. Do you want Zijin to die?!"

Ding Jiayi didn't retaliate when Qiao Dongliang gave her a slap. Now that she heard Qiao Dongliang saying that she was not to go and find Qiao Nan in the future and take her money as it was right for Qiao Nan to take away all her earnings and compensation without leaving a single cent for the family, Ding Jiayi patted Qiao Dongliang's back angrily and accused him of not caring about Qiao Zijin's life and death.

Qiao Dongliang was someone who often worked. Even if he was already a grandfather, his strength would still surpass Ding Jiayi.

Qiao Dongliang didn't get angry at Ding Jiayi and was holding back his temper as he knew that it wasn't easy for Ding Jiayi to take care of Qiao Zijin during this period of time as well.

Now that Ding Jiayi was attacking him, Qiao Dongliang could no longer control himself and threw her to the ground. "Ding Jiayi, don't go too overboard and force me to settle old scores with you. I've already seen what kind of place Nan Nan was living in for the past ten years. I didn't mention it to save you some face. If you continue making trouble... Ding Jiayi, have you really forgotten my temper when I was young?"

She had let Nan Nan live in a place like that and even told him daily that even though the place was small, the entire house was only occupied by Nan Nan alone. No matter how small it was, it was still considered big to Nan Nan. Nan Nan was really leading an enjoyable life outside by having a whole house to herself.

It was precisely because of Ding Jiayi's words that Qiao Dongliang was misled. He had always thought that although Qiao Nan's rented house was small, it was still complete with a bedroom and a bathroom.

Qiao Dongliang didn't dare to see what kind of environment Qiao Nan lived in as he felt guilty.

There were two daughters in the family. When they were young, Ding Jiayi's and his plan was to introduce a son-in-law who would bear their family name to their elder daughter. The younger daughter would be married away sooner or later. As such, the difference between the two made Qiao Dongliang spend more time and effort on Qiao Zijin.

After the incident with Chen Jun, Qiao Dongliang felt unhappy in his heart. Based on the status disparity between the Chen family and the Qiao family, would Chen Jun be willing to be a son-in-law who bore the Qiao family name?

After Qiao Zijin got married to Chen Jun, Qiao Dongliang made up his mind. His elder daughter wouldn't be able to bring in a son-in-law who bore the Qiao family name. Perhaps he should change his target to his younger daughter?

Who knew that at this time, Ding Jiayi said that whoever was willing to be a son-in-law who bore the bride's family name was usually a good-for-nothing? If one was capable, he would be like Chen Jun. What was the use of bringing in a useless son-in-law?

Moreover, she wasn't going to let Qiao Nan continue living at home and wanted her to move out. Firstly, Qiao Nan had already grown up and was of age to get married. It was good for Qiao Nan to have her own independent space. Secondly, the relationship between Qiao Nan and Chen Jun, the older son-in-law, was too sensitive.

After Qiao Zijin got married, she would have to often bring Chen Jun back to the Qiao family as a guest, right?

No matter the reason, even if it was only to avoid unnecessary misunderstandings and troubles, it was best for Qiao Nan and Chen Jun not to meet each other whenever possible. If Qiao Zijin

brought Chen Jun back to the Qiao family, Qiao Nan couldn't stay at home as it would be awkward. It wouldn't be good if the brother-in-law got too close with the sister-in-law because tongues would wag.

In short, Qiao Nan and Chen Jun must avoid suspicion. Chen Jun was already a married man. He shouldn't get too close with an unmarried woman like Qiao Nan. Even if Qiao Nan and Qiao Zijin were biological sisters, the relationship had to be clarified clearly without the slightest ambiguity.

Qiao Dongliang felt that Ding Jiayi's words were not completely without reason. Qiao Dongliang was a man. He understood Chen Jun's heart better than Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin did.

Qiao Dongliang didn't know exactly how Chen Jun got together with Qiao Zijin and made her pregnant behind Qiao Nan's back, but he could guess a little. Between the two, Qiao Dongliang believed that Qiao Zijin had unethically snatched away his younger daughter's boyfriend and took the initiative to be with Chen Jun.

Men, especially young ones like Chen Jun, were weak in their abilities to hold themselves back. Anyway, he had foolishly got together with his elder daughter and even made her pregnant.

If not for his elder daughter being pregnant with Chen Jun's child, in his opinion, Chen Jun clearly had deeper feelings for his younger daughter. It was estimated that Chen Jun had reached the age of wanting a child. The child in his elder daughter's stomach led her to win against her biological sister.

Knowing that Chen Jun's thoughts were still on Qiao Nan and that his feelings for her were true, what else could Qiao Dongliang do? He could only continue to be biased toward Qiao Zijin, agree to Ding Jiayi's request, and let Qiao Nan move out.

After all, no matter how immoral his elder daughter was, she was already married and pregnant. One should destroy ten temples rather than ruin a marriage. For his elder daughter's happiness in marriage, the small sacrifice his younger daughter had to make by moving out was worth it. To be honest, it wasn't that big a deal to move out.

It was just right. After Nan Nan moved out, she would be free of Ding Jiayi's control and gain more freedom.

The Qiao family's courtyard wasn't small. The house was big and complete with a living room, a kitchen, and a bathroom. However, even though the Qiao family had married a daughter off and the huge courtyard was left with only him and Ding Jiayi, Qiao Nan had moved away as well.

Qiao Dongliang kept comforting himself in his heart that this was to keep Qiao Zijin's marriage safe. To let Qiao Nan move out was something small, and everything would be worth it.

However, in reality, Qiao Dongliang felt guilty when he had to face Qiao Nan. He felt that he wasn't worthy of Qiao Nan to address him as her father.