

## RTAMM 1781

### Chapter 1781: Who Bought the House?

Initially, she had never thought of selling that house for her kidney transplant. Qiao Nan was quite useless, but with some effort, two hundred yuan was not that difficult to attain.

But no one had expected that Qiao Nan would be so heartless and run away secretly with all that money that was meant for Qiao Zijin's treatment, all the while knowing that Qiao Zijin was waiting for her to save her life! If Qiao Nan had not created this mess, she would never have had to act so pitiful in front of a camera. She did indeed have the money to treat her illness, but hadn't Qiao Nan taken all of that money away with her?

There was no way she would touch that house.

"Qiao Zijin, would you like to answer this question personally? After getting a divorce, is it really true that you have absolutely nothing and have no means of saving yourself now that you have uremia?" The reporter did not answer Qiao Zijin and instead relentlessly pursued an answer from Qiao Zijin.

"What are you doing? Don't you know that Zijin's sick? Is this how you treat a patient? I looked for you guys because we're truly out of options. I didn't look for you to get questioned like a suspect. My daughter is sick and frail. What if you scare her and her condition deteriorates even further? I-I'll get you to take responsibility!" Ding Jiayi was guilty and angry all at once.

It was not as though she was a complete fool. She had understood what the reporter meant. The Qiao family still had a house that they could sell, and the money from the sale would be sufficient to pay for Qiao Zijin's treatment. Since they had the means to do so, why had they painted such a pitiful portrait of themselves in front of the camera? The house was not cash indeed, but it was worth some money and could be changed into cash.

If they sold it, would they not have money for the treatment?

The problem was that Ding Jiayi could not possibly say that she did not want to sell the house because she would have nowhere to live after selling the house. Ding Jiayi knew that once she said that, everyone who got to know her through this television program would spit at her in the future whenever she left her house.

Was her family's money money but other people's money not money? Did other people's money grow on trees?

What made Ding Jiayi even guiltier was that it was true that the Qiao family did not own just one property. The Qiao family's small courtyard was actually a rather big plot of land. Although it could not be demolished to make way for a new house, it was still located in a good location and would sell for a good price. But Qiao Zijin's apartment was an entirely different case. Not only was it big, but it was also in a good location and had the best amenities around.

Actually, Qiao Nan had wanted to buy that house for herself at that time. But knowing that Qiao Nan had been saving money for herself and had even made the down-payment for a house, Ding Jiayi was infuriated by the fact that Qiao Nan had been hiding money from her! Ding Jiayi had put in a tremendous amount of effort in wiping Qiao Nan completely dry. From then on, the moment Qiao Nan received her salary, Ding Jiayi would make a trip down to check on how much Qiao Nan had earned. Then, she would take everything from Qiao Nan, leaving nothing to Qiao Nan.

Later, when Ding Jiayi had told Qiao Zijin about this matter, Qiao Zijin thought about how she had nothing except for a pregnant belly when she married into the Chen family. A thought came into her mind. Instead of saving the money that Ding Jiayi had gotten from Qiao Nan, they might as well purchase that apartment that Qiao Nan had her sights on. It was just as well since she had no dowry anyway.

Qiao Zijin had simply done it on a whim. She had never even considered the location of the apartment or the company that was constructing the building. It did not matter to her since she was not the one paying the down payment, and neither would she be the one paying the mortgage in the future. No matter where the house was located, there was no way she would be on the losing end since this house was free anyway.

Thus, Qiao Nan's earnings and the house that Qiao Nan had set her sights on all became Qiao Zijin's. As the property prices rose by the day, Qiao Zijin was gleeful about how she was the one who had benefited from Qiao Nan's foresight and earning power since the house was hers alone.

Qiao Nan was fated to lead a hard life and be a coolie for her so that she could enjoy the joys of life.

In front of the media, the Qiao family had subconsciously ignored the existence of this house. They had not even mentioned the Qiao family's small courtyard, let alone this house. Now that the reporter relentlessly asked about whether they truly had no other properties, whether they had no means of paying for Qiao Zijin's treatment, and whether they truly needed the donations, Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi could not help but panic.

Before today's incident, the staff from the television station had been very sympathetic toward their plight and had even joined them in calling Qiao Nan a heartless person. It was completely different from today's expressionless faces and cool tones used when talking to them. It was as though this was the calm before the storm.

Qiao Zijin's pupils quavered. "I'm sorry. I just underwent treatment today, so I'm not at my peak mentally or physically today. I'm feeling a little dizzy. Shall we continue this interview another day when I'm feeling better? I just want to rest for a while and have some time to myself."

Qiao Zijin clutched her head. Her tone had been normal just a while ago, but now, her voice was toned down as though she was truly feeling unwell.

Having been in this line for a long time, the reporter had seen many patients over the span of her career. However, she had never seen a 'patient' who confidently and spiritedly asked what the reporter meant one minute, and said that speaking was too exhausting for her in the next.

Qiao Zijin stuttered while speaking. Not only was she dishonest and cunning, but she also looked nothing like someone who would take bullying just like that. In that case, the younger sister, who had been lambasted by thousands, could very well be the one being bullied instead!

The elder sister had a property worth two million yuan in her possession but kept going on about how she had no money to treat her illness, and she had even called her younger sister out for taking all of her money away, leaving her elder sister to die. Drawing a connection to the evidence she had in her hands, the reporter sneered. "There's no hurry. We asked the doctor all about Miss Qiao's condition before coming here. Miss Qiao's condition is still the same as before. If Miss Qiao was able to give us an interview before, there's no reason why you aren't able to do so today."

"Miss Qiao, we're very curious. You only worked for a short period of time before getting married, and your salary wasn't that high either. After you got married, you immediately resigned from your job to be a full-time housewife. I have some information on hand that has been verified by my colleague. It says that Miss Qiao, you have a house that's worth two million yuan under your name. Can I ask why your family is acting poor and claiming to have no money for your treatment even though you guys clearly have two houses? And as someone who hasn't been in the workforce for such a long time, how did you manage to buy that house? Who gave you the money? Was it your ex-husband? But the strange thing is that when we checked on the mortgage on that house, it's always the Qiao family that has been repaying the mortgage, and the funds have always been transferred from your mother's account."

## Chapter 1782: Shameless

“Madam Ding, didn’t you say that you have never worked before? How did you get the hundreds of thousands of yuan to buy a house for Miss Qiao?”

Qiao Zijin basically never worked. For the old Qiao couple, one of them was paid a fixed salary while the other did housework at home without earning any salary. Where did the hundreds of thousands of yuan come from then? At this time, everyone couldn’t help but think of the younger Qiao sister, the one who so-called ran away with the life-saving money for her biological sister’s treatment.

Some things were not based just on Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin’s words alone. What they said wasn’t facts that everyone should believe right away. It wasn’t the truth at all. Of course, their words naturally couldn’t stand scrutiny.

Out of the Qiao family of three, two of them were full-time housewives and led an idle life. The pillar of the Qiao family was getting older and was paid only a fixed salary. Going by this, wasn’t the only person actually working in the Qiao family the younger Qiao sister who had ‘ran away with the life-saving money’?

The three from the Qiao family couldn’t earn much money. Qiao Zijin’s kidney transplant operation needed quite a sum of money. Here was the issue again. Where did the money the younger Qiao sister ‘ran away’ with come from? It couldn’t be that someone had donated to Qiao Zijin, right?

The only explanation was that this sum of money originated from the younger Qiao sister!

If Qiao Zijin really didn’t have any assets and could only rely on her biological sister to save her life, and her biological sister had left with her own money, then from the legal side of things, the younger Qiao sister didn’t have to bear any obligations. However, from the morals and kinship side of things, Miss Qiao was indeed to be blamed.

However, the relationship between Qiao Zijin and the younger Qiao sister wasn’t like that at all, alright?

Qiao Zijin had already obtained a house from the younger Qiao sister. She still wanted to continue exploiting the younger Qiao sister and get her to fork out the money for her medical treatment. Even Ding Jiayi, the biological mother, didn’t treat Qiao Zijin this well. On what basis should Qiao Zijin ask her biological sister to fork out money and sacrifice for her in this way?

Qiao Zijin clearly took advantage of her biological sister.

The person who claimed to be miserable was, in fact, not miserable at all. Instead, the sister who was almost lambasted to be heartless was the real and only tragic character in the Qiao family.

“Miss Qiao, according to our investigations, when you were ill, your sister ran into a car accident. You said that your sister had taken away all your life-saving money. That was, in fact, the monetary compensation to her by the driver who had knocked her down. Is what we have found out true? Is the truth like this?”

Qiao Zijin regarded the monetary compensation from the car accident as her own and felt that it was wrong for the younger Qiao sister to take it away. Should the whole world belong to Qiao Zijin? How shameless.

The reporter today was twice as angry as compared to when she had first heard about this incident. What was different was that the reporter’s anger was initially directed at Qiao Nan. Now, it was directed at Qiao Zijin. Ever since working as a reporter, she had often seen shameless people, but not such shameless ones. Her lower limit was repeatedly refreshed by these shameless people.

“You...” Qiao Zijin’s face turned pale. This time, she wasn’t pretending. She was really frightened. “I’m not feeling well. I’m really not feeling well now. I’m not going to accept your interview. I want to rest. Please go out. Doctor. Doctor!” In the face of the camera, Qiao Zijin didn’t act as skillful and calm as before. She pulled up her blanket in embarrassment to cover her face.

Actually, this guilty action of Qiao Zijin had already answered the reporter’s question. Everything the reporter found out was the truth. The Qiao family wasn’t poor at all. In fact, their family conditions were pretty good. They had two houses with a total value of more than three million yuan.

Was such a person pitiful? Did she really need the donations?

Whoever donated was a fool. If the TV station wanted to continue helping Qiao Zijin, it would just be ruining its own reputation.

Qiao Zijin must have been extremely bold to fool the public and the media. She was courting her own death!

Everyone didn't understand why Qiao Zijin did such a thing when she was really sick. They couldn't figure out Qiao Zijin, who had pulled up the blanket to cover her face on TV. Qiao Nan expressed that she understood this. In her dreams, she had already seen such a similar scene once.

Indeed, as long as she didn't cooperate, Qiao Zijin would always put on a pitiful act, regardless if this was in her dreams or not. The reason why she dreamed about a similar situation might be because she had long guessed that Qiao Zijin bore such temper. Upon thinking of her dream where Qiao Zijin gave birth to a daughter and Zhou Xing became a celebrity eventually, Qiao Nan laughed coldly. Qiao Zijin had an innate desire to put up a performance, she supposed.

"Sorry for the long delay again. I'll check out these items for you." After watching the news, the lady boss realized that she had once again kept Qiao Nan, the customer, waiting. She didn't know why, but she seemed to see this customer often recently. It seemed like this customer didn't like to order takeaways and liked to cook for herself at home. She used up oil, salt, sauce, and vinegar faster than others.

Qiao Nan pointed to the items on the counter. "Yes, these items."

"Okay." The lady boss calculated the price quickly. "You've seen the news just now as well. I didn't expect that there would be such shameless people in this world. The family owns two houses. If she casually sold one away, she would still have a place to live in and would have plenty of money to spend on medical treatment. Now, she even wanted people to donate money for her operation. Isn't this a scam?"

The lady boss muttered and started to discuss Qiao Zijin's news with Qiao Nan. "Thankfully, I didn't donate. If those people who had donated suddenly realized that the recipient of their donation was much richer than themselves, I don't know how they would feel. Initially, I was still quite angry at that younger sister for being mean. Now, it looks like the younger sister is quite pitiful. Needless to say, that old couple wasn't the one who bought the house. It should be the younger sister who forked out the money."

The younger sister forked out the money for a house that became the older sister's. The older sister wasn't willing to sell the house when she was sick and expected the younger sister to fork out the money...

Upon thinking that the money claimed by Qiao Zijin to have been taken away by the younger sister was actually the monetary compensation received by the latter for the car accident, the lady boss became even more speechless. In this world, only Qiao Zijin treated her own life as important. The lives of others were not important at all.

“That mother is too overboard as well. Both are her daughters but she’s so biased. Do you think that younger daughter might have been adopted?” Otherwise, why was it that one was the money-making machine for the family while the other could just sit idly and enjoy the fruits of others’ work? Even the monetary compensation from the car accident belonged to her.

Qiao Nan laughed sarcastically. “Who knows? If that’s really the case, it might even be considered a blessing for that younger Qiao sister.”

#### Chapter 1783: Having an Ax to Grind

“That’s true. It’s not uncommon for an adoptive mother to treat her like this. If she was the biological mother... How heartbreaking.” The lady boss nodded repeatedly.

The boss became speechless. “Okay, stop delaying the customer’s time. You have already kept her waiting for so long. Now, you’re even dragging her to chat with you. Are you planning to give her a salary?”

“I’m not that Qiao Zijin. How is it that I couldn’t afford her salary?” The lady boss became unhappy. She was chatting happily with the customer. The customer didn’t seem to be unhappy either. Why did her husband comment as such? It was so irritating.

“Here’s the money. It’s exact, so there’s no need for any change. Bye.” Seeing that the couple was about to argue because of her, Qiao Nan took out the money, placed it in the lady boss’s hands, and hurriedly left with her items.

Qiao Nan had sent out the information that was received by the TV station. Qiao Nan knew that unless nobody from the TV station saw her message, someone from the TV station would definitely check on the information she provided regarding Qiao Zijin’s financial situation. Qiao Nan bought an off-plan house that was still under construction. Her rented house didn’t have a TV, thus it was inconvenient at times to watch the news and she had to make a few trips to the supermarket to use their TV instead.

Upon seeing a result that satisfied her and that the public’s kind donations were not wasted on a person like Qiao Zijin, Qiao Nan felt happy. This world could be cold to some and warm to some. However, warmth shouldn’t be extended to a cold person like Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Nan walked back to her rented house in a relaxed mood. At this time, Qiao Nan saw an extremely familiar car. In her dreams, she had sat in this car for a few years. However, wasn't that only a dream? Why did the car in her dreams actually exist in real life?

Qiao Nan couldn't recover herself for quite some time after seeing the car leaving her sight. Even the license plate was exactly the same as the one in her dream. This license plate had a special significance. Only people in the military and political circles would have it. If that was the case, could the owner of the car be the same as the one in her dream?

The confused Qiao Nan rubbed her face and collapsed on the bed. She felt that she was going crazy. She always wanted to distinguish the difference between reality and dream. Why did she keep encountering the same situation from her dream again and again in reality?

Feeling extremely complicated, Qiao Nan couldn't help it and went to see a psychiatrist. It was just that Qiao Nan wasn't satisfied with the result. The psychiatrist said that she was getting older and was living in poor conditions, thus she might have desired strongly in her heart a person who could pull herself out of the pit. She also had an assumption of this person in her heart, thus she had made a dream that projected this reality, causing the reality and dream not to be clearly distinguished.

She repeatedly encountered the same situation from her dream because the subject of her emotional projection had long received her subconscious attention. She had also subconsciously read information about this person and memorized it. As such, everything was reflected in her dream. It was just that she didn't notice this subconscious.

In short, her dreams reflected her thoughts in the day.

Qiao Nan fancied Zhai Sheng and thus got married to him in the dream and formed a family with him. In reality, Qiao Nan led an unsatisfactory life. She was getting old, but not only was she not married, but she also didn't have children. As such, in her dream, Qiao Nan was blessed to have given birth to triplets. All of this was a projection of Qiao Nan's mood.

The psychiatrist's explanation didn't make Qiao Nan's condition better. Instead, it made her feel more irritable, like a trapped beast. As she looked at the mirror in all directions, she couldn't figure out if she was in the mirror, or if the person the mirror reflected was her.

Just as Qiao Nan was about to walk into a dead end, someone came knocking on the door. "Is anyone home?"

Qiao Nan tidied her hair so that she wouldn't look like a madwoman and scare her guest away. "I'm home. Hello, landlady? Is anything the matter?" When she saw that the person who came looking for her was her landlady, Qiao Nan was surprised. "Is there anything I can help with?" The rental was paid thrice. She was paying the utility bills herself. There shouldn't be a problem.

"Don't be nervous. It has nothing to do with the house." The landlady's smile contained a little flattery. Qiao Nan felt inexplicable.

In her dream, Qiao Nan had seen too much of such a smile. The problem was that this was reality. She was only a tenant. Why would the landlady try to please her?

"Oh, okay. Then, tell me. What's the matter?" Qiao Nan nodded. Perhaps the psychiatrist's words had caused her to be even more confused, and her eyes weren't working well as well. She could actually see the look of flattery and guilt from the landlady's face. Aside from the high-spirited self in her dream, she was a nobody.

The landlady took a deep breath. "If I didn't remember wrongly, you came over from Ping Cheng, right? You're a local from Ping Cheng?"

"Uh, yes." Doing a check?

"Oh, then that's great." The landlady smiled happily. Thankfully, she had indeed not remembered wrongly. Otherwise, she would be embarrassed. "I would like to ask you for a favor. Don't worry, it's not for nothing. You will receive some money. It could be said that you're helping me. It could also be said that I'm introducing a part-time job to you. Do you think that works?"

This would be mutually beneficial.

She observed that this tenant was not bad. She usually lived very quietly, had good hygiene, and cooked her meals at home. She was a woman who knew how to lead a life. As to why she was old but still single and didn't have a man by her side, the landlady didn't care so much, and it wasn't convenient for her to ask either.

Most importantly, she thought of this tenant immediately when she encountered this problem because the tenant was working, but she didn't know what jobs she was taking. She looked relaxed and stayed at home every day.

In this way, her time matched the job that she wanted to introduce to her.

Upon hearing that the landlady wanted to introduce a job to her, Qiao Nan could neither laugh nor cry. She wasn't unemployed and she didn't owe the landlady money. She didn't understand why she wanted to introduce a job to her. "Actually, I am employed." Not only was she employed, but she was also a part-time translator.

"I know. I don't mean anything else." The landlady hesitated on what to say. After all, she had an axe to grind for introducing this job to Qiao Nan. "I've said it before that my main purpose isn't to introduce a job to you." Where would she have the skill and time to care if the tenant had a job?

#### Chapter 1784: Starting Next Month

"Actually, I want to ask you for a favor. If you accept this job, you're considered helping me and I'll waive a year of rent for you. See if this works. If you want to continue staying at my place in the future, I promise not to increase your rent and I wouldn't want your deposit. We can sign another contract then as well. Do you think this is fine?"

Even though she said it was going to be mutually beneficial, the landlady knew that it was mainly her begging Qiao Nan. It didn't matter to Qiao Nan if she didn't have this job or salary. As such, she naturally had to give Qiao Nan some good conditions such that she would be moved and agree to it.

How much was the rental? Nothing was more important than her son's future.

Seeing that the landlady looked anxious, Qiao Nan was curious about what type of job could have such a huge impact on her. "If you don't mind, why don't you share with me what kind of job this is? For all you know, I might not be able to be of help." Waiver of a year's rent was pretty impressive. Anyway, she didn't know when she could receive her off-plan property. It was naturally a good thing if her rent wasn't increased.

"It's like this. My son's boss came back to Qingshui Town to recuperate from his illness. Perhaps his position is too high and his temper isn't particularly good. He doesn't scold or hit people, but he just doesn't like smiling and talking. After coming over to Qingshui Town, he had a poor appetite. This isn't good for his illness. My son thought that since his boss is from Ping Cheng, he could find an auntie from that area to take care of him. The salary wouldn't be low, and the workload wouldn't be too heavy."

Her son's boss had originally hired an auntie to take care of him. However, the dishes she made didn't suit him, so she quit. If he didn't eat properly, how could he recuperate well from his illness?

Her son cracked his brain. Although the boss's hometown was in Qingshui Town, he had grown up in Ping Cheng since he was young. Perhaps the taste and cooking habits were different in both places. He might as well find an auntie from Ping Cheng to take care of his boss.

If the boss was well taken care of, her son could claim merit in the future. If not, he might even receive demerits!

For this matter, the landlady was worried as a mother. When she heard her son mention this, she was slightly depressed. Where would she find an auntie from Ping Cheng to take care of her son's boss in such a short period of time?

Unless her son made a trip specially to Ping Cheng and brought over all the nannies from Ping Cheng to Qingshui Town and let his boss try them one by one. After that, the landlady was inspired. She vaguely remembered that she had a new tenant recently. It was a woman and she seemed to be from Ping Cheng!

When the landlady's son first heard about his mother's plan, he disagreed. His boss had a bad temper, and it wasn't that easy to get close to him. Was it really appropriate to approach their tenant for this? If something went wrong, it wouldn't be a beautiful sight.

The landlady was hesitant as well. However, when she saw how perplexed her son was, she said directly, "Let's not care if it's appropriate or not. Give it a try first. If this doesn't work, then we'll find another person. That woman surnamed Qiao looks good-tempered. The rented house is always kept clean and she never orders takeaways. She looks like someone who knows how to lead a good life. Such a person would know how to take care of others. Furthermore, haven't you said so yourself? Your boss isn't easy to get close to. However, he isn't bad-tempered. Let her try. At least, there's still someone taking care of your boss for now."

If her son really went to Ping Cheng to find a good nanny, it would take time too, right? During this period of time, it wasn't that big a problem to let that tenant take care of him.

When her son heard this, he felt that it made sense and agreed. Once her son nodded, the landlady immediately came to find Qiao Nan, hoping that she could help her. The landlady dared to say that they were helping each other. Qiao Nan might not be lacking this sum of money from this job, but she urgently needed a helping hand, namely Qiao Nan. "See if you can help me? Don't worry. Although the person you're taking care of looks cold, he isn't bad-tempered. Furthermore, you can give it a try and take care of him for a few days first. If it really doesn't work out, I won't force you. There's no choice then. What do you think?"

The landlady didn't say the specifics. She was afraid if she revealed the other party's identity, she would cause a lot of unnecessary trouble. However, if she said it too vaguely, she felt especially guilty as well. She obviously needed the other party for help but refused to speak clearly. That was considered making trouble.

"Just take care of him for a few days?" One could tell that the landlady was put in a difficult spot. Qiao Nan felt the same way too. Regardless of whether it was inside or outside of her dream, she didn't have the experience as a nanny.

"Yes, my son's already planning to make a trip to Ping Cheng to take a look. You just need to take care of him for a few days. Once you agree, my son will set off. Once he brings someone back, you can choose not to continue this job." The landlady also thought of herself for this job. However, it was obvious her son's boss wasn't comfortable with the people in Qingshui Town. Regardless of how good the nanny was, she ended up resigning.

After being a landlady for a good half of her life, she was really not used to serving others.

"Okay." The landlady's conditions were tempting, and she only had to take care of him for a few days. Qiao Nan agreed.

"That's great!" The landlady's eyes shone. "I promise to fulfill all the promises I made to you just now. If you don't believe it, I can prepare a contract now. If I increase rent in the future, you will definitely not be affected. I've also said to waive this year's rental for you. Let me know if you want to start calculating from this month or from the month you started renting. If it's the latter, I'll return you the money you've paid earlier."

"Let's start from next month."

"Alright. Do you want to make a trip with me now?" Her tenant was really easy to talk to.

Qiao Nan was slightly surprised. "So anxious?" She couldn't seem to wait for a day, let alone an hour.

The landlady laughed awkwardly. "Sister, you should know how to cook, right? It's like this. My son's boss came here to recuperate from his illness. However, since he arrived, his appetite had been poor. Why don't you make some authentic Ping Cheng dishes for him when you reach there?"

Anxious? Of course she was.

Her son mentioned that his boss ate very little every day. If this continued, he might suffer from gastric problems before recovering from his illness. She couldn't understand it. As a soldier, no matter how tough the environment was, he could persevere. Why was it that in the face of a good life, he was like a picky three-year-old?

Could it be that the older one got, the more bad-tempered one was?

“Okay. Let me change my clothes.” It didn't matter if she looked sloppy when she was alone at home. She was now going to take care of someone. Qiao Nan changed her clothes to show her politeness.

Chapter 1785: The Old House of the Zhai Family

“You can lead the way. I'll follow you.” Seeing that the landlady was walking quickly, Qiao Nan sped up as well.

When she saw the strange roads become more familiar as well as the surname Zhai, Qiao Nan's heart beat rapidly. “Landlady, you would like me to take care of this family?”

The landlady slapped her forehead. “Oh, right. I'm such a fool. You're from Ping Cheng. You should know what kind of big shots come from Ping Cheng. It's okay for you to know about this matter. Don't share this with others. Yes, it's that big shot from your Ping Cheng. As such, you must do me this favor. Nothing can go wrong. My son is a soldier under him.”

After getting an affirmative answer, Qiao Nan didn't know if she should laugh or cry. She was already trying her best to distinguish between dream and reality. She wanted to separate everything in her dream from reality so that she wouldn't be immersed in the dream world and get stuck.

Who knew that after coming over to Qingshui Town to start a new life, she would bump into that person in her dreams? This was really...

“Landlady, after I’m here today, your son will head to Ping Cheng to find another nanny to take care of him, right?” Qiao Nan took a deep breath. She was already at his door. She couldn’t say that she regretted her decision and wasn’t willing to take care of the other party. Thankfully, it was going to be just for a few days. A few days wouldn’t cause her to not distinguish between her reality and dream.

Furthermore, regardless of how good Zhai Sheng treated her in her dream, that was just a dream. In reality, she and Zhai Sheng were, at most, two parallel lines that would never intersect. This time was just an accident. After a few days, she and Zhai Sheng would return to being strangers.

The landlady nodded. “Don’t feel stressed. Yes, it’s just for a few days. Nothing will happen. Once my son brings over a nanny, you can return.”

The landlady’s face eased. It was no wonder she was overthinking. When Qiao Nan first came to rent a house, the landlady had asked about Qiao Nan’s basic information. She knew that Qiao Nan was unmarried. Zhai Sheng was a chief. His status was extraordinary. Actually, when she first went to look for Qiao Nan, she was also afraid of doing bad things with good intentions and would end up doing harm to her son instead.

A lot of women would want to get close to a big shot like Zhai Sheng. Who wouldn’t want to be the wife of the chief? What if Qiao Nan caused the chief to be unhappy and burdened her son? That would be awful.

When the landlady saw that Qiao Nan seemed unwilling to have too much contact with Zhai Sheng and only wanted to end the task of taking care of him earlier, she was very happy. This meant that when Qiao Nan saw Zhai Sheng, she wouldn’t do anything that was too rude or annoying.

That was right as well. He was the chief. He could have any woman he wanted. How would he fancy an unmarried old woman in her forties? One look at her tenant and she knew she was sensible. In the face of a big shot like Zhai Sheng, she should feel nervous too, right?

“Okay.” Qiao Nan took a deep breath and followed the landlady into the Zhai family’s ancestral house. The three generations of the Zhai family were chiefs who had made great contributions to safeguarding the country’s people and assets. In her dream, this house was built when Old Master Zhai was still alive.

Initially, the mayor of Qingshui Town wanted to fork out some money, but the Zhai family didn’t accept it. Prices in Qingshui Town weren’t high, and the standard of living was affordable. As such,

even if they really rebuilt the Zhai family's old house to be a courtyard full of ancient flavors, the Zhai family could still completely afford it.

This house was probably well taken care of. That was why it still looked pretty new as if it was built not too long ago.

“Mother, is it this auntie?” The landlady's son was in his twenties. He was tall and dark-skinned. Once he saw Qiao Nan, he stuttered a little. He wasn't sure if he should address Qiao Nan as sister or auntie. In the end, he called Qiao Nan auntie shyly for fear that she would be unhappy if he addressed her as someone younger.

The landlady slapped her son's body. “Do you know your manners? Call her sister.” In this world, which woman would like others addressing her as old? Auntie? She was only ten years older.

Qiao Nan smiled bitterly. “No need. It's quite appropriate to address me as auntie. Landlady, you address me as sister. If your son calls me sister as well, it would sound like a mess.” In front of this soldier, it was fine for him to address her as auntie.

“Haha...” The soldier smiled. No wonder his mother insisted on recommending this person. Indeed, she was pretty good at talking, and was someone one would feel comfortable with. “I'm sorry to trouble you. I'll make a trip to Ping Cheng for a few days and will be back soon. Also, don't think too much of our chief looking cold. Actually, he isn't bad-tempered. He doesn't scold others, let alone hit others. If the chief doesn't talk, you can just leave him alone. There's nothing else you should pay special attention to in other aspects. Just one point, though. The chief doesn't like to be disturbed.”

The soldier was really anxious. Ever since the chief came to Qingshui Town, he hadn't been eating well. Even if he ate his medicines, he always felt uneasy in his heart. The medical facilities in Qingshui Town weren't as good as Ping Cheng's. When he went to Ping Cheng this time around, not only was he going to hire a nanny to take care of the chief, but he was also going to get a doctor to give the chief a full health check.

The chief was extremely important to their motherland. In the event something happened to the chief when he was in his hands, he would become a huge sinner to the country in the future.

As soon as the soldier saw Qiao Nan, he approved of her. He really couldn't stay in Qingshui Town any longer. He couldn't wait for wings to grow on his body and fly to Ping Cheng so that he could settle all his worries.

“Okay.” Qiao Nan loosened her eyebrows. Indeed, a dream was a dream. Once she encountered the situation in reality, Qiao Nan could immediately distinguish between dream and reality. In her dream, although Zhai Sheng wasn’t a man who talked a lot, he was definitely not a quiet man. When the two of them were interacting alone, Zhai Sheng rarely kicked up a fuss.

As such, the Zhai Sheng in her dream was completely different in reality.

“You’re leaving just like that?” The landlady could understand the meaning in her son’s words. “It’s really that urgent?”

“It is. I’m so anxious. After reaching Ping Cheng, I have to get a doctor over to do a health check for the chief. The chief doesn’t like hospitals as he hates the smell. If I don’t invite a doctor over, I won’t know exactly how the chief is doing now. The chief must do regular health checks.”

“Okay, shall I drive you over to the car now?” The landlady took out her car keys. Nothing was more important than her son’s job.

#### Chapter 1786: Stutter

“No need. A car was sent to the chief. I’m the one who’s driving it usually. I’ll use the chief’s car to drive to Ping Cheng.” The soldier didn’t tell his biological mother that this car was different. If he drove the chief’s car to Ping Cheng, he could save a lot of trouble and pick up those people whom he should pick up earlier.

The landlady sighed. “Okay. Go ahead.” She wanted to send her son to the station so that she could spend some more time with him. It was rare for her son to return to his hometown, and he didn’t need to continue receiving long-term training in the army. The problem was that after her son returned to Qingshui Town, she wouldn’t have a chance to see her son if she didn’t come over to the Zhai family’s compound.

However, it was also good that her son was closer to her. She could take the initiative to come over to see him.

“Sister, go in. If you’re careful, you can’t go wrong. I shan’t enter.” After her son left, the landlady got Qiao Nan to enter the Zhai family compound. However, she didn’t do so. Obviously, she remembered that Zhai Sheng was a person who loved the quiet and needed quiet rest.

Qiao Nan tried hard to lower the shoulders that she had lifted. “Okay, I’ll enter now. Aside from what I’m supposed to do, I won’t do anything else and cause trouble to you.”

“Sister, don’t mind me.” The landlady loosened her eyebrows. “It’s simply because this big shot is too unique. Otherwise, I wouldn’t be so nervous. Actually, I don’t really understand. He’s such a formidable big shot. Even if he needs to recuperate in the capital, there would be a team of specialists taking care of him. Why did he have to return to Qingshui Town?” That gave her son a lot of work.

“It’s because he’s here at Qingshui Town that you have a chance to see your son.” Qiao Nan couldn’t help but speak up for Zhai Sheng. It was true that Zhai Sheng’s life and health was no longer just his own concern but the country’s. As such, if something happened to Zhai Sheng, there was a need to mobilize everyone.

Zhai Sheng had already minimized the big battle by coming over to Qingshui Town to recuperate. No matter when or under what circumstances, the men of the Zhai family weren’t arrogant to consider everybody and everything beneath them.

“That’s true.” The landlady let go of her unhappiness quickly. Without this incident, she wouldn’t have seen her son so many times this year. Furthermore, after receiving the task of taking care of the chief, her son had always been happy and excited. Her son was nervous because he was worried that he couldn’t take good care of the chief. He didn’t find any problems with the chief. “Our conversation has caused some delay again. Sister, hurry in now. Oh right, there are some ingredients in the refrigerator. Perhaps you could make something for the chief to eat?”

“All the ingredients are in the refrigerator. Aren’t there any fresh ingredients that were bought today?” Qiao Nan pressed her lips into a thin line. Unless fresh fruits and vegetables from the market couldn’t be bought due to seasonal reasons, she generally didn’t like cooking with ingredients in the refrigerator.

“There are,” the landlady said hurriedly. “The ingredients for the chief are delivered fresh every day. It’s just that the chief has a poor appetite and doesn’t eat much. The prepared ingredients weren’t used, so they could only be stored in the refrigerator. My son told me that the fresh ingredients today are all on the table.”

“Okay, I’ll take a look and prepare accordingly.” She had worried too much. Zhai Sheng was so important to the country and people. Even if he came over to Qingshui Town to recuperate and no matter how simple the trip was, the country wouldn’t ill-treat someone like Zhai Sheng.

Wait a minute. That was pretty strange. Zhai Sheng returned to the Zhai family's compound in Qingshui Town to recuperate. Then, what about her parents-in-law—no, Zhai Sheng's parents? Why didn't they accompany Zhai Sheng and take care of him?

Zhai Sheng was forty-five years old this year. His parents must be old, but they should still be around, right?

Upon thinking of Zhai Sheng's family situation, Qiao Nan couldn't help but slow down her steps. Actually, it was not only strange that Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing weren't by Zhai Sheng's side. Zhai Sheng's wife wasn't around either. Was that appropriate? Could it be that Zhai Sheng's wife let him return to the Zhai family's ancestral house to recuperate alone so that she could take care of the children?

“Did Xiao Xu get you here?” Qiao Nan suppressed the questions she had. Before she could understand them, she met Zhai Sheng on the way. Zhai Sheng wasn't standing but was seated in a wheelchair instead. He looked at Qiao Nan plainly. Even though Zhai Sheng was seated, Qiao Nan felt that she was looking up at Zhai Sheng.

Qiao Nan blushed. Her voice trembled a little and she stuttered. “Y-Yes.” The landlady's husband seemed to be surnamed Xu. As such, the Xiao Xu Zhai Sheng spoke of should be the landlady's son.

Zhai Sheng heard Xiao Xu mention this before. He saw Qiao Nan standing there quietly without asking any questions and felt comfortable looking at her, unlike the rest. As such, Zhai Sheng nodded. “Okay. I'll trouble you these few days. Also, can you prepare some food for me?”

After returning to Qingshui Town, Zhai Sheng wasn't sure if it was because of his mood or body, but he didn't consume as much food. Zhai Sheng knew that Xiao Xu was fretting every day. However, he couldn't help it that he didn't have any appetite. At this moment, he felt hungry. Zhai Sheng wouldn't ill-treat himself. Thus, he came out to get someone to cook for him.

“Oh, okay.” Qiao Nan nodded. She stepped forward and stood behind Zhai Sheng's wheelchair. She grabbed the handles and pushed Zhai Sheng, who wanted to return to the house, into the courtyard outside. “I'm not sure if you have any preference for food or if you feel like eating anything in particular today? The weather is pretty good today. Don't coop yourself in the house. You can go out to the courtyard and bask in the sun. Do you have chess in your study room? I'll bring it out. You can play chess with yourself.”

Zhai Sheng didn't actually do this. In her dream, Old Master Zhai liked to play chess with himself. Zhai Sheng had learned from Old Master Zhai his ability to play chess. Instead of doing nothing and sitting quietly in the courtyard to bask in the sun, he could play chess with himself to kill time.

Zhai Sheng was stunned. All along, he was the only one giving orders and asking others to obey them. In his impression, he couldn't remember how long it was, but nobody dared to go against his words and even make arrangements for him.

After listening to Qiao Nan's words, Zhai Sheng realized that he didn't feel irritated at Qiao Nan's arrangement. As such, he silently agreed to it. "From your accent, you don't seem to be a local from Qingshui Town."

"Yes, I'm from Ping Cheng. I grew up in Ping Cheng and only came to live in Qingshui Town this year." Qiao Nan stopped after pushing him to a position that she felt was most comfortable.

Chapter 1787: Pick It Up for Me

"I'll get you the chess." After saying this, Qiao Nan turned around and ran.

As he basked in the warm sun, Zhai Sheng felt that his mood seemed to be better again. He turned and looked at Qiao Nan's back view. He wanted to call Qiao Nan back. This was the first time Qiao Nan stepped foot into the Zhai family's compound. There were quite a lot of rooms. Even Xiao Xu would be confused at times which was his study room, let alone Qiao Nan, who only came to take care of himself today. How could Qiao Nan find it?

1

When Zhai Sheng saw Qiao Nan running straight to his study room without any hesitation, his eyes flashed and he frowned.

"You can play chess for a while. I saw that your study room has some books on chess, so I brought them over for you as well. If you don't mind, I'll just cook up a casual meal to fill your stomach first. As for the rest, we can discuss it again. Or perhaps I can check with Xiao Xu to see if he has any good suggestions after asking the doctor."

Qiao Nan didn't know anything about Zhai Sheng's illness or why he had to be in a wheelchair. She didn't dare to cook anything casual for Zhai Sheng either. It wouldn't be good if that further worsened Zhai Sheng's illness.

Upon thinking about that always-motivated and high-spirited Zhai Sheng in her dreams and looking at this Zhai Sheng in a wheelchair before her, Qiao Nan's eyes became slightly wet. Even if her dream was different from reality, there wasn't a need to have something wrong with Zhai Sheng's legs such that he couldn't stand up in reality, right?

"Oh, okay." Zhai Sheng became a little suspicious of Qiao Nan. However, upon seeing that Qiao Nan was looking at his legs with distressed eyes, Zhai Sheng couldn't help but exhale. It was obvious Qiao Nan was persistent. However, he didn't seem to be particularly willing to doubt this woman and think of her badly. "Oh right, what's your name? How should I address you in the future?"

"I'm... I'm surnamed Qiao. I'm Qiao Nan." They were children who belonged to the same quad once. Zhai Sheng was like his name, the most dazzling sun in the east. She? She was a mouse in the gutter at most. Zhai Sheng shouldn't remember that there was a neighbor like her.

"Qiao Nan?" Zhai Sheng said in a slightly strange tone. "When you were in Ping Cheng, did you live in the quad as well?"

"Yes."

"You're the... younger one?" Zhai Sheng had an impression of Qiao Nan's name due to 'The Three Kingdoms'. In that book, there was a pair of renowned sisters, Da Qiao and Xiao Qiao. Coincidentally, there was also a family surnamed Qiao in the Ping Cheng quad. There were two daughters, and they were called Da Qiao and Xiao Qiao as well.

The Qiao family was quite 'active' in the quad, even if there were some bad rumors. As someone who had lived in the quad in Ping Cheng for a long time, Zhai Sheng still had a little memory of the Qiao family.

Qiao Nan revealed a smile that was uglier than a cry. "Yes, I'm the younger one." This wasn't in a dream. In the quad, who didn't know that Qiao Dongliang's eldest daughter was pretty, sweet with words, and had high educational qualifications? Even if she was already divorced, she had married a husband with good qualifications before the divorce.

As for the younger daughter of the Qiao family, she was the complete opposite of her biological sister. She went to work at a young age without graduating from junior high school. Over the years, who had remembered that when Qiao Nan was still studying, her results were actually much better than Qiao Zijin's?

As time passed, everyone only remembered that Qiao Nan started working when she hadn't graduated from junior high school. Only those with poor grades would do that. Unlike Qiao Nan, Qiao Zijin attended junior high school, senior high school, and university.

When Zhai Sheng asked if she was the younger daughter from the Qiao family, Qiao Nan had the urge to cry. In reality, she was unlike her dream. She wasn't the top student in the high school entrance examination, and neither was she the top student in the college entrance examination. Her reputation was too bad. She didn't know if Zhai Sheng would still want her to continue taking care of him after knowing who she was.

Unlike Qiao Nan's worries, not only did Zhai Sheng not look at Qiao Nan with disdain, but he even said meaningfully, "That was tough on you."

Qiao Nan couldn't recover herself after a long time. She dared not believe that Zhai Sheng had said such words to her. When Qiao Nan brought the egg porridge she cooked to Zhai Sheng and saw him eating three bowls of it, the expression on her face was still as confused as before.

Zhai Sheng knew that the internet was developing rapidly and there were a lot of internet terms. In the past, he couldn't understand the description of dazed and cute. In the face of dazed individuals, he would always feel anxious and calmly kicked the other party out of his team. One had to know that a distracted moment could very likely affect the success of a mission or threaten the safety of comrades, let alone being in a daze.

However, when he saw Qiao Nan like this, Zhai Sheng realized that someone being in a daze might not be so irritating, after all.

"I'm done. You can clear the bowl." Zhai Sheng reminded Qiao Nan kindly. Qiao Nan replied with an 'oh' like a robot. When her hand touched the cool water to wash the dishes, her mood changed.

Ring! Ring! Ring! The mobile Zhai Sheng placed on the table rang. Upon hearing this ringtone, Qiao Nan revealed an expression of wanting to faint. No one had helped Zhai Sheng change his mobile's ringtone. As long as Zhai Sheng bought a mobile, he would only recognize this old ringtone.

Qiao Nan picked up the mobile and saw Zhai Yaohui's name from the caller ID. Her hand trembled, and she nearly dropped the mobile to the ground. Qiao Nan wasn't sure why she had such a reaction as well. It was as if she had a guilty conscience. Qiao Nan wiped her hands dry and ran toward Zhai Sheng with the mobile in her hands. "Ch-Chief Zhai... Your call."

Zhai Sheng caught a glimpse of his biological father's name. He could guess without answering the call what his father wanted to talk to him about. "There's no need to call me Chief Zhai. We are considered to have grown up together in the same quad. I'm older than you by a few years. You can just call me Brother Zhai."

"Brother... Brother Zhai?" Qiao Nan reminisced about these simple words for a long time. The more she reminisced, the more complicated she felt. Brother Zhai again?

1

"I'm reading the chess book now. Help me pick up the call." After responding to Qiao Nan addressing him as Brother Zhai, Zhai Sheng didn't reach out for his mobile. He only expressed that he was holding a book with one hand and the chess piece with the other, and didn't have a third hand for the mobile.

"Oh, okay." Qiao Nan didn't hesitate. After pressing the answer button, Qiao Nan's body froze. As she addressed him by Brother Zhai, she felt like she had returned to her dream and almost regarded herself as Zhai Sheng's wife. As such, she felt it was right and proper to pick up this call. However, it wasn't appropriate to pick up this call on behalf of Zhai Sheng!

Chapter 1788: Impossible

But since she had already picked up the phone, Qiao Nan could not do anything else but put the phone up to her ear and answer in a soft voice. "Hello."

"..." Zhai Yaohui, who had wanted to lecture that unfilial son of his, suddenly stiffened up. "Hello, I'm looking for my son. May I ask who you are?" What relationship did she have with his son? His son was still as single as an iron tree that never blossomed. He had never gotten into a second relationship, so how could there be a woman by his side?

Or could it be that his son had lost his mobile phone and that it had been picked up by a woman? Or could it be that a woman had stolen Zhai Sheng's phone from him?

"I'm the nanny who's been hired at the last minute to take care of your son over the next few days. Brother Zhai is beside me. I'll hand the phone over to him. You can speak to him directly." Qiao Nan had hardly had any time to distinguish between her dream and reality before all these people, whom she had once been close to in her dream, appeared before her one by one. With such a sudden change, Qiao Nan was caught unprepared and had no idea how to react.

At this time, Qiao Nan had absolutely no ability to think for herself. She was simply running on her instincts. It was as though there was a blank screen in her mind.

Qiao Nan quickly handed the phone over to Zhai Sheng. Zhai Sheng glanced at Qiao Nan, indicating to her that he had no free hands to receive his phone and thus asked Qiao Nan to hold the phone up to his ear. Everything happened so quickly that Qiao Nan had not realized that this action might have been too intimate. All she could do was to follow Zhai Sheng's order to hold the phone up to his ear.

1

Once she did so, Qiao Nan finally felt all sorts of unease. Except for Chen Jun, Qiao Nan had never been so physically close to any other men. Besides, that had been more than a decade ago. Qiao Nan had already completely forgotten how that felt.

"Hello, it's me. Just speak your mind. And remember that I'm at home to recuperate." There was no point in asking about the things that were simply impossible. Otherwise, the one who would get angry would only be the person on the other end of the line.

Zhai Yaohui raised his eyebrows. "You're recuperating? Then, what about your mom's and my heart disease? You should help treat it too. It may be a new era now, and traditions may no longer be as important. But think about your mom's and my age. You may not have the filial piety to let your mom and I have a grandchild while we're still alive, but at the very least, your mom and I shouldn't have to worry about whether you'll have someone by your side up until our deaths! Do you really intend to spend the rest of your life with your rifle?"

Facing his son, Zhai Sheng, Zhai Yaohui actually felt rather guilty. If it had not been his and Miao Jing's insistence, Zhai Sheng would never have had such a failed marriage. Everyone had to bear some responsibility for this failed marriage, but Zhai Yaohui knew that the biggest problem was actually him and Miao Jing.

Zhai Yaohui was not even willing to call that woman his ex-daughter-in-law. She was simply unworthy of that title. Thinking about how that woman still wanted to turn back and reconcile with Zhai Sheng, Zhai Yaohui was utterly disgusted.

“After grandma passed away, didn’t grandpa spend his whole life alone too?” There was nothing wrong with spending the rest of his life with his rifle. After all, all the men in the Zhai family loved their rifles. Their love for their rifles far surpassed their love for their wives.

“...” Zhai Yaohui wished that he was five years younger and had a better physique. That way, he could pull on Zhai Sheng’s collar and give Zhai Sheng a good beating until Zhai Sheng was willing to listen to him. When his son was younger, he had been extremely obedient and had always been that typical ‘other family’s kid’. Neither he nor Miao Miao had ever needed to worry about him.

But who would have known that rebellion would eventually come?

His son had never worried him as a child and performed outstandingly as part of a respected family. But who would have known that his son would be unmarried and childless in his fifties while his parents were already in their old age!

1

Even though men’s fertility lasted much longer than women’s, if this continued for any longer, the Zhai family’s line might very well end here. He and Miao Miao could not possibly just leave Zhai Sheng alone to spend his days with his rifle, right?

If they had known that this was going to happen, they would never have agreed to the marriage, much less have any contact with that family at all.

“You might not want it, but the problem is that someone else does. I’m sure you know what kind of person Qiu Chenxi is after being her husband for a few years. She’s probably had enough fun and wants to settle down now. A few days ago, she came to look for your mom and me. She kept calling us her parents-in-law and begged for our forgiveness. If you don’t find someone suitable, she’ll definitely continue pestering you. She might even think that you’ve not gotten remarried all these years because of her. If she continues to pester you, once you really find someone you fancy, that girl might just be frightened away by Qiu Chenxi!”

Qiao Nan, who had rather sharp ears, heard Qiu Chenxi's name, and her expression darkened significantly. Zhai Sheng had indeed married Qiu Chenxi!

As for the other news that was revealed in the call, saying that Qiu Chenxi had already been divorced from Zhai Sheng for several years, Qiao Nan could not be bothered to think about it. Now that she had her answer, Qiao Nan felt as though an age-old bottle of vinegar had toppled in her heart. Her heart was raging with jealousy.

But Qiao Nan could not tell whether this jealousy was because of the Zhai Sheng in her dream, or whether it was because of the Zhai Sheng who was in front of her.

The person who felt worse than Qiao Nan was Zhai Sheng, who hated Qiu Chenxi to the guts. "Why? Has she been so hardworking in visiting the hospital lately that her illness has already been cured?"

"Illness? What illness?" Zhai Yaohui was confused. Why did he know nothing about Qiu Chenxi being sick and needing to visit the hospital? Why did Zhai Sheng know about it? Did that mean that Zhai Sheng still had feelings for Qiu Chenxi? If that was really the case, they would never have gotten divorced in the first place.

He believed that as long as Zhai Sheng was willing to do so, Zhai Sheng would definitely have the ability to control Qiu Chenxi, even if Qiu Chenxi enjoyed living a colorful life filled with debauchery. It was obvious that Zhai Sheng had not only refused to control Qiu Chenxi, but he had even allowed Qiu Chenxi free rein to do as she pleased.

If Zhai Sheng had no feelings toward Qiu Chenxi anymore, then why did he still care so much about Qiu Chenxi and know about Qiu Chenxi's condition?

1

"When I went for my checkup in the hospital the last time, I happened to see and hear about it," Zhai Sheng said monotonously. "I think she's played around too much and had too many abortions. Her uterine wall is too thin, so she's prone to miscarriages now. Besides, even while her body was not clean yet, her life had been so messy that she contracted transmittable diseases."

1

Even if it was not as serious as syphilis or AIDS, anyone who got close to Qiu Chenxi should still be prepared to be admitted to the hospital for a year.

Qiu Chenxi was probably a frequent visitor at the hospital. From what Zhai Sheng heard, this was not the first time that Qiu Chenxi was visiting the hospital for such an illness.

#### Chapter 1789: Flare-Up

The doctor responsible for Qiu Chenxi's treatment lost his temper. This was not the first that the doctor had warned Qiu Chenxi to pay attention to this aspect. But his patient had not taken the advice to heart and had instead run amok, contracting all sorts of illnesses in the meantime. Then, she even blamed the doctor for being incompetent and unable to treat her. Even a saint would be infuriated by this, let alone a doctor.

Qiu Chenxi's attending doctor was the most famous gynecologist in the whole area. There was no wonder that Qiu Chenxi would look for him.

"..." After hearing his son's explanation, Zhai Yaohui's whole face darkened. "I'm warning you not to make the same mistake again. Your mom and I won't care about you this time, but making the same mistake twice is really foolish. Whether or not she pesters you like she did in the past and repents, your mom and I will disown you if you soften your heart toward her!"

Thinking of how he had arranged a marriage with such a woman for his son, Zhai Yaohui was downright disgusted.

To put it bluntly, he would much rather his son spend the rest of his life with his rifle and remain childless and unmarried than stay together with a shameless and unscrupulous woman like Qiu Chenxi. Since it was already a given that his son would never have children, he would rather his son remain single than reconcile with Qiu Chenxi.

"It's good that you and Mom understand. I will never have that problem. I was just repaying your kindness in my first marriage. Now that it's my second time, I'll never let you make that decision for me no matter who my partner may be. Don't forget what you just said if Mom ever softens her heart and cries." He had never loved Qiu Chenxi in the first place.

He would never have had anything to do with Qiu Chenxi had it not been for his father saying, "If you don't have any feelings for Qiu Chenxi, who do you have feelings for? You're already thirty years old. Are you not going to get married?"

“Are there really children who speak to their parents in this manner? Forget it. I’ll just treat it as though I owe it to you. I’m going to hang up.” Zhai Yaohui was worried that if he did not hand up the phone, he would be too angry and his old illness would flare up again.

Zhai Yaohui had finally wanted to hang up, so Zhai Sheng was not going to stop him from doing so. “Qiao Nan, put the phone back.” Because of this phone call today, his ears would be able to have a rest for a period of time.

He had not intended to tell his parents about Qiu Chenxi to provoke them, but he was truly frustrated with his parents keeping a watch on him simply because they were too free. He had no intention of ever getting remarried. Without any other choice, Zhai Sheng could only bring up Qiu Chenxi’s matter in hopes that the elderly couple would be more restrained in the future.

In his younger days, they had hardly cared about him, but they had interfered in the matter of his first marriage. Now that he was older, they even wanted to interfere in his second marriage. They were already advanced in age. Was it not enough that they had controlled him the first time? It was time for the elderly couple to take a step back and live their own lives comfortably.

“Oh, okay.” Hearing Zhai Yaohui urging Zhai Sheng to get remarried and Zhai Sheng’s thoughts about that, Qiao Nan got a better idea of Zhai Sheng’s current situation. After putting the phone back in its place, Qiao Nan looked at Zhai Sheng, who was playing chess alone under the sun. At that moment, she felt rather conflicted. “Your leg?” Brother Zhai had already gotten divorced from Qiu Chenxi, but she had heard Old Chief Zhai talk about children. Did that mean that Brother Zhai had a child with Qiu Chenxi?

“My leg? It’s all right. I got injured when I was younger. It’s just been a little painful recently.” Zhai Sheng mindlessly patted his leg. There was nothing wrong with his leg, but the doctor had advised him to recuperate for now. While he was younger, he had been shot in the leg during a mission. Because the bullet had pierced through quite a complicated position, he had been advised to pay more attention to his recuperation.

Qiao Nan sighed in relief. “That’s good.” It seemed like Brother Zhai was more fervent about the army than he had been in her dream. It would have been such a pity if Brother Zhai had had to leave the army because of his leg.

She thought about how Zhai Sheng had been full of anguish when telling her about how Sun Guohong had left the army due to his personal reasons in her dream. If this happened to Brother Zhai, he would be even more regretful. It might even become his lifetime regret.

After that, Qiao Nan did not chat with Zhai Sheng anymore, and the duo simply sat there in silence. Zhai Sheng played chess alone while Qiao Nan prepared food for Zhai Sheng, poured drinks for him, and replaced Zhai Sheng's chess books. The duo did not have much interaction with each other, but if someone were to observe the duo at this very moment, they would realize that the atmosphere between Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng was brilliant.

No matter what Zhai Sheng needed, Qiao Nan seemed to know right away. Zhai Sheng's glance was enough to tell Qiao Nan what he needed and wanted, and Zhai Sheng was extremely pleased with everything that Qiao Nan did. There seemed to be an unspeakable bond between the two of them, leading to a harmonious atmosphere.

When evening came, Zhai Sheng saw Qiao Nan packing up and his eyes were fixed on Qiao Nan. Up until Qiao Nan left, he only said a single thing. "Be careful on your way home. Are you staying very far from here?" Little Xu's mom had probably sent her here earlier.

"It's all right." Qiao Nan picked up her belongings. "The landlady told me on the way here that there are public buses nearby. I'll be able to reach home by taking bus number 71. It's quite convenient." Her landlady had asked for her help, after all, so it was only natural that her landlady had already thought of all these details.

Qiao Nan had come in her landlady's car, but she could not possibly always rely on her landlady to send her here. But her landlady had already thought this through. Only after some observation had she told Qiao Nan about this route.

Thankfully, because Qiao Nan had intended on purchasing a house and moving her household registration to Qingshui Town, she had been able to get a public transportation card. As such, she needed to pay only one yuan to take the bus. A return trip would cost her no more than two yuan. That was not a hefty cost to Qiao Nan. "I've kept some lean pork and century egg congee in the rice cooker. If you get hungry at night, do you think you'll be able to get some for yourself?"

Of course, Qiao Nan felt that she had quite a good grasp of Zhai Sheng's appetite. She had only made two meals for Zhai Sheng today. At the very most, Zhai Sheng would not be hungry, but neither would he be full. In that case, Zhai Sheng would surely start feeling hungry again at around eight or nine o'clock at night.

Qiao Nan had no means of preparing anything more complex, but she could at least make some congee and keep it warm in the rice cooker. "You're still recuperating, so you shouldn't be eating too richly. You should eat more bland food for the time being. When you get better, you can tell me what you want to eat, and I can make it for you."

Since she had already considered his supper, Zhai Sheng had nothing to nitpick at. “All right. Hurry home and remember to watch out and stay safe.”

## Chapter 1790: Cut Off

Zhai Sheng’s leg was not entirely all right, but neither was he entirely crippled. He would simply have to walk about less in the meantime. Besides, his hand was still in perfect condition. Qiao Nan’s congee was all ready for Zhai Sheng. He was still able to scoop some out for himself.

“All right. See you tomorrow.” No matter what, today’s experience had brightened up Qiao Nan’s bad mood. Today had been the happiest and most relaxing day she had ever had since she had woken up from her dream.

It was said that people should enjoy themselves at that given moment. Even if she was confused between her dream world and reality, as long as her ‘foolishness’ did not cause any harm or confusion to others, there was nothing wrong with remaining foolish. At least, she was happy. Perhaps she might even be able to accept this reality even better if she were to face it with such an open mind.

She had already been through so much and had come so far. All these small challenges would not faze her.

Zhai Sheng was observant and noticed that Qiao Nan had walked away with light and quick steps, proving that Qiao Nan was in a good mood.

“Don’t send me off. I’ll lock the door behind me. But the landlady’s son has gone back to Ping Cheng, and I’m going home now too. Will you be fine spending the night alone?” Qiao Nan was about to shut the door when she realized that Zhai Sheng had followed behind her in a wheelchair.

“Of course.” Zhai Sheng answered loudly and a little sensitively without even caring about what the premise of her words was. Once a woman brought up the topic of whether ‘it was all right’, very few men could keep their calm. At least at that moment, Zhai Sheng expressed how much men minded that topic when Qiao Nan mentioned it.

Once Zhai Sheng returned from his trance, he naturally realized that Qiao Nan had no other meaning to her words and that he had been overly sensitive. Zhai Sheng awkwardly patted his waist. “Do you think I’ll have any problems with this accompanying me?” Robbers would probably not be so unscrupulous as to strike and rob the Zhai family’s house now that he was still injured.

“All right, then. I’ll take my leave.” Thinking about how Zhai Sheng had a gun and his superb shooting skills, Qiao Nan felt that her question had indeed been rather unnecessary. If Zhai Sheng was unsafe alone, how had she survived all these years after having moved out of the Qiao family’s house?

After Qiao Nan left, Zhai Sheng, who had only returned to the Zhai family’s old villa to recuperate, suddenly felt a little weird. He realized that he had gotten used to having someone around him, even if the other party did not really speak to him. After that person left, the atmosphere changed, and he was now unused to it. It seemed as though the peace and quiet he had been after were too quiet for his liking.

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He was a grown man who did not have the habit of reminiscing, so what was this weird feeling that he had all of a sudden? A confused Zhai Sheng wheeled his wheelchair back to his room to get some rest.

In order to recuperate, Zhai Sheng, who hardly had any time to rest, had started to sleep even earlier than elderly people!

Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan had finally regained their own peace, but there was still unrest in the Zhai family in Ping Cheng. Miao Jing looked at Zhai Yaohui in surprise. “Do you mean that the person who picked up was a woman and not Zhai Sheng? Are you joking around? Are you sure you didn’t hear wrongly?”

Zhai Yaohui sighed. “Don’t get your hopes up. I’m just afraid that the higher your expectations, the greater the fall. Do you not know about Zhai Sheng’s temper? So what if it was a woman? Weren’t there quite a few nurses and female doctors who had been interested in him? They had interacted with Zhai Sheng and had taken care of him the entire time he was ill, but was there anyone he had any reaction to?”

Zhai Sheng himself did not mind it, but his personal problem had become a huge headache for his parents.

“What do you mean?” Miao Jing was confused.

“I suspect that this woman is no different from those nurses and doctors from before. She’s only staying by Zhai Sheng’s side to take care of him for a certain reason. Zhai Sheng has absolutely no feelings for that woman.” That was the person who had been hired to take care of Zhai Sheng.

“That may not be the case.” Miao Jing was excited. “Think about it. It was exactly because of those female nurses and doctors that Zhai Sheng eventually found a male doctor and no longer had much interaction with those nurses. This time, he insisted on returning to the Zhai family’s old villa to recuperate and brought only one soldier with him! He brought no females at all!” No matter how they looked at it, that woman could not be just any ordinary woman to be able to stay by Zhai Sheng’s side to take care of him!

Perhaps there really was some hope!

There was nothing Zhai Yaohui could say about his wife’s wild imagination. Both of them knew very well about their son’s temper. He truly did not believe that such a thing would happen to Zhai Sheng.

If just anyone could get close to Zhai Sheng, stay by his side, and get remarried to him, did he and Miao Miao really need to worry so much about how Zhai Sheng would remain single once they were gone?

But what Zhai Yaohui, who completely disagreed with Miao Jing, did not know was that a woman’s sixth sense could be scarily accurate at times. There were no absolute impossibilities in the world. Once the impossible became possible, Zhai Yaohui’s expression would only be more interesting than Miao Jing’s feelings at this moment.

Of course, Zhai Yaohui had no idea that such a future would come. At this point in time, he was more concerned about Qiu Chenxi. “You’ve never liked Qiu Chenxi and neither has Zhai Sheng ever had any feelings for Qiu Chenxi. If Qiu Chenxi ever comes knocking on our door in the future, don’t let her in. She has nothing to do with our family anymore.”

Before today’s call, Zhai Yaohui had already been infuriated at Qiu Chenxi for cheating on his son. But Zhai Sheng had refused to get into another relationship after his divorce from Qiu Chenxi. Even if there was only a millionth of a chance, Zhai Yaohui could not cut Qiu Chenxi off.

What if Zhai Sheng really could not come to terms with it and would not be satisfied with simply being in love with Qiu Chenxi and insisted on getting married to Qiu Chenxi even if he had no feelings for her because he felt that it was his neglect that caused her to have an affair? What would happen then?

If that was really the case, at least he and Miao Miao could rest assured that Zhai Sheng would have someone by his side once they were gone, even if the couple did not have any children in the end.

But now, things were different. Zhai Sheng had told him about Qiu Chenxi's situation so calmly. This was proof that Zhai Sheng would much rather remain single his whole life than have anything to do with Qiu Chenxi ever again.

Zhai Yaohui himself had entirely cut himself off from Qiu Chenxi. From now on, Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing should follow suit and cut her off too. It was apt to say that the two families would simply sever all ties.