

## **RTAMM 1811**

### Chapter 1811: Purposely

Wei De was full of rage, and so was Zhai Hua. Not a single person in her family had thought well of their marriage in the first place. She had always known that her parents would not support her relationship. But she had thought that her brother would understand her and support her for sure. After all, they had grown up together.

But how would she have known that upon knowing that Wei De was her partner, Zhai Sheng immediately criticized her and told her that Wei De was not a good man? If she were to marry Wei De, she would definitely regret her decision in the future.

Did she regret it?

All these years, Zhai Hua did regret it. It was just that her pride didn't allow her to ever express her regret in front of the Zhai family. Even if all her teeth fell off, she would swallow them whole with blood and water. She would never complain about it to the Zhai family.

Her marriage life with Wei De had not been as blissful as she had expected. Zhai Hua had transformed from a cool and decisive person to an ordinary woman who was full of resentment and grudges. Zhai Hua could not forget how she had had such a humble and pathetic wedding banquet when she had gotten married to Wei De. What's more, none of her relatives had congratulated her on her marriage.

The Zhai family had disagreed because Wei De's family background was poor and so was his character. Now, Zhai Sheng had found someone whose family background was not much better than Wei De's. But look how concerned her parents were. As elders, they did not even wait for that woman to visit them. Instead, they had taken the initiative to visit that woman.

In short, their son, Zhai Sheng, was still more important than their daughter. Otherwise, why was there such a stark difference in treatment?

At that time, she had even taken the initiative to bring Wei De to meet her parents. Without comparison, there had been no hurt. But now that she had a comparison, she could really tell that she was not worth much in her parents' eyes.

“When have we ever meant that?” Hearing the change in her daughter’s tone, Miao Jing’s eyes reddened. It was true that Wei De was not good. All these years, Hua Hua’s life had been worse than her life had been before she had gotten married!

“If you don’t want to fetch your mom and me, you don’t need to do it. Since you’re already here, stop speaking with such a tone. Yes, your mom and I had disagreed to you getting together with Wei De, but you still insisted on it and married Wei De in the end. If your mom and I had truly disagreed and refused to hand your household registration book over to you, you’d still be single up until today! You’re already living the life that you’ve always been dreaming of. Why is there so much resentment in your words? Are you not happy? Zhai Hua, do you remember the kind of person you were before you got married? Would you say such things?”

The sight of his daughter, Zhai Hua, angered Zhai Yaohui. It was true that he had less patience for Zhai Hua than he had for Zhai Sheng. His son refused to get married, but in many other aspects, his son was not the kind of person who allowed himself to be at a disadvantage or on the losing end.

He had disliked Qiu Chenxi but had married her nonetheless. When Qiu Chenxi had cheated on him, Zhai Sheng had not hesitated in getting a divorce from Qiu Chenxi and digging himself out of the grave. When she was younger, Zhai Hua had been full of vigor and energy. The old master used to say that he had two grandsons when he was still alive. He had always believed that he had two grandsons instead of a granddaughter and a grandson.

But it was only when something happened that Zhai Yaohui realized that he might have been wrong about his daughter. His son was his son, while his daughter was his daughter. His daughter was inevitably indecisive and hesitant when dealing with matters.

Even if she did not get a divorce from someone like Wei De, there was no point in having so much to say to Wei De since he could not stop complaining. Using force would settle it once and for all.

Wei De was truly not a capable person. He had only managed to become a company commander in the army ten years ago because of Zhai Sheng. Was a person who could not even be promoted without his wife’s help a talent? What a joke!

His daughter had truly been blind when she had said such a thing at that time. It would have been forgivable since he had not truly known the kind of person Wei De was. But he did not believe that Zhai Hua was still ignorant of the kind of person Wei De was now. But what had Zhai Hua done in response to that? She had refused to divorce Wei De and had instead chosen to swallow all of her grievances along with her daughter without fighting back.

He did want to help his daughter, but what could he do if his daughter was unwilling to receive it?

Debt. Children were all their parents' debts!

If he had known that this would happen, he would much rather have allowed Zhai Hua to remain single for her whole life instead of marrying such an incapable man like Wei De, who constantly blamed his in-laws for not helping him.

Zhai Hua's face darkened and she did not utter another word. No matter what she did, it was always wrong in her father's eyes. A divorce? Why would she get a divorce? Would that not be letting Wei De take advantage of her? As a company commander, there would definitely be young and pretty ladies in the literary troupe who would be willing to marry him as long as he wanted to get remarried.

Thinking about how Wei De had only managed to become a company commander because of the Zhai family, she realized that Wei De only had the qualifications to get remarried because of the Zhai family too. The Zhai family had helped Wei De through so much. Why should she let Wei De throw her aside after she had sacrificed everything for him and had turned old after staying with him? She would not allow Jiajia to have a stepmother. She would stay by Jiajia's side and raise her herself.

After her marriage to Wei De, Zhai Hua had initially remained in the military. After all, the couple had discussed this matter before their marriage, and Wei De had been willing to support Zhai Hua's career. Unfortunately, these beautiful memories were all in the past. Everything changed once Zhai Hua got married and pregnant.

Because of his promotion, Wei De had the ability to provide for his parents. As such, being the filial son he was, he brought not only his parents over but even his younger sister and nephew too. At that time, Zhai Hua had been supplementing the household income and she paid for quite a lot of the household expenses. Initially, Father and Mother Wei treated their daughter-in-law, Zhai Hua, quite well. But after Jiajia's birth, the Wei family's attitude changed.

Father Wei did not say much, but Mother Wei always nagged at Zhai Hua, saying that women should do their duty as women and that careers should be left to men. She was basically asking if Zhai Hua could return from the military to take care of Jiajia and be a good mother.

Thinking back about it, Zhai Hua felt that someone could have done so intentionally. There was not just one child in the family. There was also Wei De's nephew. Because of her parents-in-law's

negligence, Jiajia had fallen sick under their care. When Jiajia was sent to the hospital, she had already been in such a serious condition that they had nearly lost her.

It was because she had nearly lost her daughter that Zhai Hua had made the painful decision of giving up her passion for the military to return home and be a good wife and mother. What she hated most was that her parents had ignored her while growing. Now that she herself was grown up, she would not make the same mistake and be irresponsible toward her child.

#### Chapter 1812: Where To?

There was more than one child in the family, and Wei Wei had to go to school. Zhai Hua, who had no experience in taking care of children, truly thought that the family needed someone to help out with child-rearing at home. Without her, her parents-in-law and sister-in-law had been unable to manage the children. That was why Jiajia had gotten sick without anyone's knowledge.

But when Zhai Hua returned, she realized that that was simply not the case.

Since Wei Wei was already in school, apart from fetching him to and from school, the three adults were all free for the rest of the time while Wei Wei was in school. She alone was able to take good care of Jiajia, much less three people. There was no reason that not a single one out of the three adults had been able to detect Jiajia's illness while Wei Wei was not at home.

At that time, Zhai Hua had just been married to Wei De for a short period of time. As such, Wei De's attitude toward Zhai Hua had not yet been as intense. It was just that he no longer supported Zhai Hua as much as he had while they were still dating. Zhai Hua had her suspicions but dared not be too pessimistic over the matter. On the surface, her parents-in-law and sister-in-law treated her well. After all, they had never asked her to do any household chores.

Having lived such a normal life for more than ten years, Zhai Hua had changed her mind about several things no matter how innocent and naive she was. While in the military, she had seen the most cunning and sly of people, she had never once thought that such cunning and treacherous behavior would occur in her in-law's family. But it was all too late.

Zhai Hua had given up on her dream to become an ordinary housewife, and the Wei family behaved arrogantly as though they had flown to the sky on a dragon's tail.

The only thing that Zhai Hua could do for her daughter was to purchase a house so that she would no longer need to live with her in-laws. Zhai Hua had used her own money to purchase this

property. But when she had registered for the property deed, the Wei family insisted that both Wei Wei and Wei De's names should be on the property deed as well.

Zhai Hua had not agreed to it. She could consider adding Wei De's name, but what right did Wei Wei have to treat the house that she had purchased with her own money as his own? It was then that Zhai Hua changed. Instead of putting her own name or Wei De's name down, she chose to put her daughter, Jiajia, as the sole owner of that property.

It was only right for all of her money and assets to go to her daughter. No one else should harbor any thoughts toward them, not even Wei De. Knowing that the house had been registered under Wei Jiajia's name, Mother Wei had flown into a rage and had gotten into an argument with Zhai Hua. But Mother Wei had no choice since Zhai Hua refused to alter a single thing.

The money was Zhai Hua's and the house had already been purchased. Since Zhai Hua knew so many people, Mother Wei would not be able to stop Zhai Hua even if Zhai Hua did not go down personally to register for her property deed. It was also because of this property that Mother Wei had severed all ties with Zhai Hua. Now, Zhai Hua and her daughter were nothing more than nuisances in her eyes.

She said that it might have been true that the Wei family had a booming family business, but they could not afford to have such a failure like Zhai Hua as their daughter-in-law. Property prices were rising by the day. Wei Jiajia was still a young child and would eventually get married to someone else once she grew up. Would it not be allowing someone to take advantage of their family to have that house under Jiajia's name? But Wei Wei was the Wei family's grandson. As such, all of the Wei family's money and assets should be left to Wei Wei alone. Zhai Hua was clearly trying to ruin their family.

Hearing her mother-in-law's argument, Zhai Hua had almost been rendered speechless. Her mother-in-law was amazing indeed. She used her own money to buy her daughter a house. Even if her daughter were to get married in the future, that was none of the Wei family's business. Since when had her money become the Wei family's and even Wei Wei's?

Just because their daughter's child had the surname 'Wei', they were prepared to give everything they had to Wei Wei instead of Jiajia? It was also from the Wei family that Zhai Hua truly felt for the first time how people valued men over women. Nonetheless, Zhai Hua had not thrown a tantrum at her parents-in-law. Instead, she simply distanced herself from them and moved away.

But in front of her own parents, Zhai Hua could hardly hold her anger in anymore and had let out a little steam. But Zhai Yaohui was known to have a strong temper all his life. He would never allow

his daughter to upset his wife. Zhai Yaohui had already guessed that it was most likely due to the Wei family that his daughter was in such a fury.

“If some people are really so capable, then they should go throw a tantrum at those who’ve upset them, not their family who cares about them. But I think some people know in their heart who treats them the best. That’s why they don’t dare to throw a tantrum in front of other people and have chosen to kick up a fuss in front of those who are concerned about her.”

Not only had Zhai Yaohui scolded Zhai Hua, but he had also given Zhai Hua a slap in the face with his straightforwardness.

Zhai Hua’s eyes reddened as she took a deep breath, but she did not retort him. It was true. She had been under too much stress because of the Zhai family. It was also true that she had not let it all out in front of the Wei family. But what Zhai Hua was unwilling to admit was that she was truly closer to her biological family.

Was her biological family any different from her in-laws? Anyway, she would always be someone who would never be valued and someone with poor judgment. She did not have good parents, and in the end, neither had she married a good husband. Now, she wanted nothing more than to protect Jijia well and to watch her grow up.

When Jijia grew older and had a boyfriend of her own, she would have to open her eyes to see through that guy. She would never let her precious daughter walk down the same path that she had. Perhaps it was true that Wei De was unsuitable for her. Wei De had undergone a one-hundred-and-eighty-degree change not long after marriage.

Zhai Hua took a deep breath. “Shall I send you to Qingshui Town directly, or do you want to have a rest at the Zhai family’s house?”

“The Zhai family’s house!” Miao Jing answered agitatedly.

Zhai Yaohui looked at Miao Jing curiously. On the way here, had Miao Miao not been talking about how she wanted to rush down to Qingshui Town at the earliest possible time to take a look at Zhai Sheng’s marriage partner? Why had Miao Miao suddenly changed her mind now that their daughter had asked them about it?

Miao Jing laughed awkwardly. She could not possibly say that she was a little nervous meeting her son’s marriage partner in front of her daughter. Besides, her son had finally changed his mind after

such a long time. It was almost certain that this woman would be her daughter-in-law. If they were to miss this chance, there might be no chance at all.

In short, they could only succeed. Failure was not an option.

As a future mother-in-law, Miao Jing felt that she had to make some preparations at the very least, whether it was cash or jewelry. She would not shortchange that woman out of courtesy and etiquette. If she were to head down to Qingshui Town now, she would have no chance to make any preparations. It did not seem too nice to meet someone in such plain clothes that she had not yet changed out of.

### Chapter 1813: Preparing a Gift for the Daughter-In-Law

The other party might misunderstand that they were dissatisfied with her, didn't value her, and had a different opinion from their son, what should they do if they break up?

Courtesy costs nothing.

It wasn't too late to go to Qingshui Town to see her daughter-in-law after returning to the Zhai family's house and thinking about the details of wedding gifts, dowry, and even the type of banquet to be held. In short, her performance had to be good. She must help her son marry this woman home.

Seeing that Miao Jing didn't want to explain, Zhai Yaohui naturally wouldn't put her in a difficult spot. "Sure. Listen to your mom. Return to the Zhai family's house first."

"Okay." Miao Jing was unwilling to share, and Zhai Hua was too lazy to ask. On the contrary, the more Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing wanted to rush down to Qingshui Town like anxious monkeys, the more uncomfortable Zhai Hua would feel in her heart. At this time, Zhai Hua felt better after knowing that Miao Jing decided to return to the Zhai family's house to rest.

This was right. They shouldn't have favored one over the other. Zhai Sheng's match didn't have good conditions. On what basis did her parents place more importance on that woman than Wei De back then? They said that Wei De wasn't good. However, they also hadn't seen that woman and weren't clear about what kind of person she was. Since that was the case, this meant that there was differential treatment between her and Zhai Sheng!

After arriving at the Zhai family's house, Zhai Hua helped carry the luggage.

Seeing that the Zhai family's house was like before, Miao Jing had a feeling of nostalgia. "Old Zhai, what do you think if we don't leave this time after we're back?" The capital was good, but it didn't give her the comfortable feeling Ping Cheng did.

"Let's talk about this again later." Zhai Yaohui glanced at Zhai Hua. He didn't agree immediately as he was afraid that Zhai Hua would make some comments. Zhai Sheng's job was still in the capital. Once Zhai Sheng recovered from his illness, he would definitely have to return to the capital. Once Zhai Sheng got married, and if he had a child, regardless of whether the child was a boy or a girl, he dared say that Miao Jing would definitely run back to the capital to take care of her grandson or granddaughter.

The child was now Miao Miao's obsession.

Miao Miao had spoken too soon. If she couldn't do it and returned to the capital again, Zhai Hua's misgivings toward them would become deeper. When the three of them met in the future, they couldn't possibly be like enemies and keep glaring at one another with hatred, right?

Miao Jing didn't think as deeply as Zhai Yaohui. However, she was used to not rebutting his words. "Hua Hua, when will you bring Jiajia over to see me and your dad?" In the past, Hua Hua always said that Jiajia had to attend school and participate in all kinds of tuition classes, so she didn't have time to go to the capital. The number of times she saw Jiajia, this granddaughter, in a year could be counted with just one hand.

Now that she was in Ping Cheng, the distance between them was shorter, and there were more chances to see Jiajia, right?

"Let's talk about this later." Zhai Hua used Zhai Yaohui's previous words. "Jiajia has a lot of homework. If she's free, I'll bring her to see you both." Zhai Hua also didn't understand why she didn't like her daughter to visit her parents. She just knew that she didn't like it. Thus, she asked her daughter to keep a distance from the Zhai family.

Perhaps her husband's family wasn't too good and her husband had changed too quickly. The only thing that made Zhai Hua feel comforted was that she had given birth to a good daughter. Jiajia was very caring and considerate of her hard work and helplessness. With such a sensible daughter by her side, it could make up for the negative emotions caused by the absurdity of her husband's family.



“Sigh...” Seeing that Zhai Hua left after sending them back to the Zhai family’s house, Miao Jing felt sour in her heart. “Old Zhai, can our relationship with Hua Hua only be like this? It has been more than ten years, and Jiajia is already in junior high school. Why is Hua Hua still blaming us? Isn’t she clear what kind of person Wei De is and how the Wei family is like? As parents, we would always want the best for our children. Hua Hua is a mother now as well. Why does she still refuse to forgive us until now?”

It had been proven that their persistence and dissatisfaction toward Wei De back then was correct. They really wished that Hua Hua could lead a better life. Wei De wasn’t worthy of her, and that’s why they were resolute in their dissatisfaction.

“Don’t think too much. Our daughter is arrogant. Her self-esteem is especially stronger in front of those she cares about the most. The more we do things right, the more she is reluctant to admit it in front of us. She’s already a mother, but she’s still so stubborn. I hope she can figure things out soon.”

She was close to fifty years old. If his daughter could figure things out now, she would lead a happier life for the next twenty to thirty years at the very least. Men were unreliable. However, didn’t Hua Hua like her daughter, Jiajia, a lot?

The reason why he and Miao Miao were more worried about Zhai Sheng than Hua Hua was because they knew that once Zhai Hua figured things out and left Wei De, there was still Jiajia by her side. Zhai Sheng was different. Once both of them left, there wouldn’t be anyone by Zhai Sheng’s side whom he could talk to.

Aside from sighing, it was useless for Miao Jing to think too much. Who asked the two children to be so hard to talk to? “What do you think we should prepare for Zhai Sheng’s match?”

“It’s because of this?” Zhai Yaohui finally understood why Miao Jing wanted to stay at the Zhai family’s house for a night.

“Of course. It’s the first time we’re seeing our daughter-in-law. We can’t be unprepared. What if that woman misunderstands us for not valuing her or thinks that we are dissatisfied? She’s in that situation, while our family has such good conditions. I bet that woman must be feeling a lot of psychological pressure. If we don’t sound convincing, Zhai Sheng’s wife will leave. I don’t know if the two of us will still be alive to wait for Zhai Sheng to agree to getting married again then.”

Since they were still around, they could help push their son. They couldn't let him be rude in front of others.

When Miao Jing said these words, she had completely forgotten that Zhai Sheng was married once and this wasn't the first time she saw her daughter-in-law. What was different was that Qiu Chenxi was too close with the Zhai family back then. When she faced Qiu Chenxi, Miao Jing didn't feel nervous at all. It was Qiu Chenxi who thought of ways to marry Zhai Sheng and not the Zhai family who begged Qiu Chenxi to marry over. The mentality between the two was completely different. In front of Qiu Chenxi, Miao Jing wouldn't be nervous at all.

Furthermore, when Qiu Chenxi wronged Zhai Sheng and caused the Zhai family to be embarrassed, Miao Jing no longer treated Qiu Chenxi as her daughter-in-law. She had completely erased Qiu Chenxi from her own memory.

Initially, Zhai Yaohui didn't think it was necessary. They were just here to take a look at the person. Wouldn't it be fine if they simply acted as if they didn't know about that woman's existence? If they were afraid of being rude, they could just prepare a red packet easily. However, after listening to Miao Jing's words and seeing how nervous she was, Zhai Yaohui didn't object to it.

In the Zhai family's eyes, the woman who could make Zhai Sheng agree to marriage was no less than a hero. It was rare for this 'heroine' to appear. They had to keep her. Otherwise, even if they wanted to in the future, they might no longer have a chance to do so.

Chapter 1814: She Was Really Blessed

When Zhai Yaohui was young, he didn't accompany Miao Jing to shop. Who knew that when they were old, the couple would shop together to select a gift for their future daughter-in-law?

Miao Jing and Zhai Yaohui weren't experienced in this area. As such, they could only ask the shopping guide. "May I check what kind of jewelry women like nowadays?"

One look at the two and the shopping guide knew that they were rich. She became more passionate in her service. "Diamonds. Nowadays, they like diamonds. They look pretty. May I check how old the recipient is?"

"Oh, she's nearing forty. It's for my daughter-in-law." In order to choose something that was more appropriate for Qiao Nan, Miao Jing didn't hesitate to share the details.

The shopping guide's mouth formed an 'O'. Wow. A forty-year-old daughter-in-law. Did that mean she was married once or twice before? It wasn't her first wedding, but the parents-in-law still valued her so much. It was either there was something extraordinary about this woman or this old couple was exceptionally good parents-in-law.

After knowing the age of the recipient, the shopping guide asked carefully, "I've been in this industry for quite long. Some people like gold regardless of their age. Does your daughter-in-law show a special interest in gold jewelry?"

Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing looked at each other. They hadn't met her before. How would they know if Qiao Nan liked gold or not? If they knew her preferences, would they still have to ask the shopping guide what kind of jewelry people liked nowadays?

They had no choice. With Miao Jing urging him, Zhai Yaohui walked to a corner and called Zhai Sheng. "Hello? It's me."

"You're back in Ping Cheng?" Zhai Sheng was a little surprised. He had only made the call yesterday, but they were already in Ping Cheng today. Indeed, they were anxious to get him married. Even after listening to Qiao Nan's background, they were still so anxious. But Zhai Sheng didn't feel irritated. He felt that this was just as well. The attention of his parents should help him and Qiao Nan avoid the wrong path.

"Yes. Do you know what your match likes? Does she like gold jewelry?"

"Buying a present for her?" Qiu Chenxi didn't seem to have such treatment back then.

"Your mom feels that it's better to be polite. Otherwise, you might be at risk of staying single for life."

Zhai Sheng's tone improved a little. "Actually, for things like gifts, it's the thought that counts, not the value. You can just do as you see fit. She's not a particular person." His instinct told him that Qiao Nan wasn't a superficial person. Attitude was more important than gift.

"Are you sure?" If Miao Miao made random purchases and caused that woman to be unhappy, he shouldn't blame it on them when the time came. Zhai Yaohui was really more concerned about the two children now.

“I’m sure.”

“Okay. Your mom and I will do as we see fit then?”

“Okay. Just remember not to buy anything too extravagant. She’s a pretty good person and doesn’t have a vain personality. You might scare her instead if you assume too serious an attitude.” Zhai Sheng was only short of saying that Qiao Nan was a simple and unadorned woman.

Zhai Yaohui was a little surprised. “Really?” It was either he didn’t find, or once he did, he found a woman that they would like as well?

Back then, it was also after Qiu Chenxi married over that Zhai Yaohui realized that not only did she know how to lead a life, but she was also exceptionally extravagant and vain. However, she had already married over. As a father-in-law, what else could Zhai Yaohui say?

“I don’t think I need to say much about what kind of person she is. If there’s a chance, you can take a look at her yourself. I believe you will develop good feelings for her.” Upon talking about Qiao Nan, the gap between Zhai Sheng and Zhai Yaohui didn’t seem to be that huge anymore. They talked more to each other, and there were more fluctuations in emotions. It was unlike the past, where every additional word said would seem to cut out a part of Zhai Sheng’s flesh.

“Good. Good!” She could let his increasingly cold and indifferent son have such a huge change, making him seem more human. Based on this point alone, even if he hadn’t seen her yet, Zhai Yaohui had already given this future daughter-in-law a score of eighty.

One was marked by the company one kept. If that woman wasn’t someone good, Zhai Sheng’s attitude in front of them wouldn’t have improved. His son was influenced by a good role model. Zhai Yaohui was naturally happy. “Okay. As long as what you say is true, I have a better understanding of what to prepare for her.”

After hanging up the call, Zhai Yaohui walked toward Miao Jing. He made up his mind after seeing the items on the counter. “You should sell watches here, right?”

“Yes.” The shopping guide nodded. Although she felt regretful in her heart, she always had a smile on her face. “Take a look at that counter. There are Longines and Tissot. Our brands here are quite complete. You can take a look and choose a good one.”

“Thank you.” After seeing the counter and brands, Zhai Yaohui pulled Miao Jing along to buy a Tissot watch. It looked like it cost around four to five thousand yuan.

Miao Jing looked at the watch hesitantly. “Is this too light? Isn’t there a Longines next to it? I saw one that cost around twenty-three thousand yuan. It looks good and is suitable for ladies.”

Compared to Qiu Chenxi, who used to casually spend twenty to thirty thousand yuan on a bag, it was more worth it to spend the same amount of money on a watch that could be worn a lifetime. After seeing how Qiu Chenxi squandered money, Miao Jing’s shopping awareness level had been greatly increased.

“Believe me. It’s enough.” Zhai Yaohui patted Miao Jing’s shoulders so that she wouldn’t feel so uneasy. “Furthermore, I didn’t say that we’ll be done with just one gift.” After buying the watch, Zhai Yaohui pulled Miao Jing to the counter just now. “Wrap this bracelet up. I want it.”

The shopping guide just now became shocked. “Haven’t you already bought a watch?” The cheapest Tissot would have cost at least thousands of yuan. It wasn’t too bad as a first-time gift. Furthermore, the bracelet that the other party wanted to be wrapped cost a hundred thousand yuan...

“A watch is a watch. Our family wants this bracelet as well. You can just ring up our order and wrap them up.” Zhai Yaohui had been thrifty all his life. He only made an exception this once. As long as the other party was as good as Zhai Sheng claimed to be, Zhai Yaohui felt that the money spent today was worthwhile.

The shopping guide could earn quite a bit of commission for closing such a big deal. She felt that happiness came too suddenly. After seeing the couple go to buy a watch, the shopping guide was prepared for her wasted effort. Who knew that there would be such a big surprise afterward?

Upon seeing that Zhai Yaohui had really paid the bill, the shopping guide couldn’t help but say, “She’s really blessed to have you value her so much. Both of you will definitely be blessed as well.”

Chapter 1815: Prospect

If she was that woman, she would probably faint out of happiness. Not everyone would be willing to purchase a hundred-thousand-yuan bracelet!

When she had gotten married, her parents-in-law had sent her away with only a five-piece gold ornament set that was worth a little more than ten thousand yuan. Thinking about how a forty-year-old woman who was getting remarried could receive such a gift while she had only gotten simple gold ornaments when she had gotten married at a young age, the shopping guide lady could not help but wonder why there was such a stark difference in their lives.

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The day after making their purchase, the couple called a taxi and headed for the Zhai family's old villa in Qingshui Town. "The environment here is really great. It's no wonder Zhai Sheng was willing to return here. Old Zhai, we should spend some time here too."

Having been abused by the air in the capital for a long time, Miao Jing was really happy seeing such beautiful scenery in Qingshui Town. She had asked Zhai Hua to bring her granddaughter, Wei Jiajia, to visit her yesterday, but up until the moment she left today, she had yet to meet her granddaughter. Zhai Hua had called, saying that her granddaughter was busy with some kind of English enrichment class.

"As long as you're happy." Zhai Yaohui, who was old and could no longer run around, felt that it was not important where he lived. What was important was who he lived with. "This rascal. When has he ever put himself at a disadvantage apart from that incident? When the old master was still alive, his heart and mind were always on this house. I guess he probably feels the same way about this house since he was close to the old master."

Zhai Yaohui did not have much feelings for the old villa. By the time he was old enough to recognize his surroundings, he had already been living in the quad in Ping Cheng. He had only heard about how this had been the place where his parents had gotten to know each other and thus had a special place in the old master's heart. His parents' ashes had always been buried together here in Qingshui Town. "We have to go pay our respects to the old master and my mom now that we're back."

"Don't worry. I took care of those things before we left yesterday. We can visit your parents today if you'd like." As a daughter-in-law, Miao Jing had always had such an intention.

Zhai Yaohui had always been at ease letting Miao Jing handle these things. "When we pay our respects to my parents, it might not just be the three of us this time. We might have an extra person tagging along." Zhai Sheng had not said anything. All he had done was mention that he had a

prospect in mind. But he had not said anything about how he got along with that woman or how far they had progressed. As such, he knew nothing as well.

To be honest, Zhai Yaohui felt that the hundred-thousand-yuan bracelet was just a backup. After all, they could prepare these things in advance. They could not express their support if their son had not progressed to that stage.

“Do you think that lady will be at home?” Miao Jing wished to see the lady whom her son had his eyes on, yet she did not want to be seen. If she was there, that would mean that the two of them shared a good relationship. After her experience with Qiu Chenxi, she preferred someone who would be more reserved even if she had never been married.

“Old-old chief!” Xiao Xu was scared stiff by the sight of Zhai Yaohui. The old chief was something of legends in the military now. Xiao Xu had always known that this old chief was his current chief’s father but had never met him up until today. “I-I’ll let the chief know.”

My goodness! The old chief had come to visit the chief!

Upon hearing Xiao Xu’s voice, Xiao Zhao had actually been rather curious and had wanted to take a look outside. It was just that she had Xiao Xu’s words in mind. Unless he called her, she had better not go up to others. Otherwise, not only would they dock her pay but they might fire her as well!

On the account of the good salary, Xiao Zhao dared not go against Zhai Sheng’s rules. Even though she was curious about the guests who had just arrived, she simply did her job by making tea and cutting fruits in the kitchen. She would then let Xiao Xu bring them out later.

The moment Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing returned to the old villa, a pair of eyes had already started to observe silently.

There was nothing special about the Zhai family’s old villa, and it was very simple. It seemed as though no one had taken the effort to spruce the place up. As for anything belonging to women, Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing had not seen any of such things.

A while later, Xiao Xu walked out of the kitchen with Xiao Zhao, holding freshly-cut fruits and freshly-brewed tea. The moment Xiao Zhao walked out, Miao Jing’s eyes lit up and she looked questioningly at Zhai Yaohui. Was this the lady?

Zhai Yaohui patted Miao Jing's hands, asking her to calm down. How would he know if this was the lady? Zhai Sheng would give them the answer very soon.

As the only other woman present, Xiao Zhao was being carefully observed. After all, Xiao Zhao was Zhai Yaohui's and Miao Jing's only suspect. Knowing that the chief's parents were here, and knowing how the chief's father had been more outstanding than him, Xiao Zhao did not feel flattered by the elderly couple's keen observation. In fact, she was rather frightened.

She could not help but look down at her own clothes. They were rather normal and were not unsuitable. Why were the chief's parents looking at her as though she had done something wrong?

Of course, Zhai Sheng knew what Zhai Yaohui's and Miao Jing's gazes meant and thus answered straightforwardly, "No, she's not here."

"Oh, she's not here." Miao Jing breathed a sigh of relief. "She's not taking care of you?" If that were really the case, she was not a good lady.

Thinking about the phone call from a couple of days earlier, Zhai Yaohui asked, "Is it the lady who picked up the call the other day?" Zhai Sheng did not like using such products, but he cared very much about his own privacy. That was why there was a reason to suspect someone who had answered Zhai Sheng's phone on his behalf.

"Yes."

"Where's she?" Since he already had someone in mind, why was there another woman in the house?

"Back at home." He had not reached that stage with Qiao Nan yet. In fact, Qiao Nan did not even know that he had an intention of marrying her, so how could Qiao Nan be living in the Zhai family's old villa?

Zhai Yaohui did not nitpick. "Is she a local?" That would mean she was from the same hometown as the old master.

"No, she's like us. She's from Ping Cheng. She used to live in the same quad as us. Her surname is Qiao." He would have to come clean about Qiao Nan's identity sooner or later. Zhai Sheng did not think that there was anything wrong with Qiao Nan's past. The problem lay with the Qiao family,



not Qiao Nan, who was simply being made use of. As such, Zhai Sheng did not try to hide anything about Qiao Nan's background.

Xiao Xu blinked in confusion. A Qiao? Was the chief talking about Sister Qiao? Amongst the people he knew, there was only one person who had the surname 'Qiao', was from Ping Cheng, and knew the chief. That was Sister Qiao! No wonder he had heard Sister Qiao address the chief as 'Brother Zhai' when he had returned with the doctor and Sister Zhao the other day. He had initially thought that he had heard it wrong or that Sister Qiao had had a slip of the tongue.

## Chapter 1816: Selling the House

Besides, the two of them were old acquaintances. Why had Sister Qiao never mentioned it?

"From the quad in Ping Cheng?" That could only be fate! The surname 'Qiao'... Zhai Yaohui thought about it carefully for a while. There had indeed been such a family. "Your mom and I got here yesterday and happened to chance upon this news..."

"Yes, that's the family. Qiao Nan is their younger daughter." Zhai Sheng was clear about the Qiao family's news. Now that technology was so advanced, Zhai Sheng could simply do a quick search on the internet to find out about the latest news in Ping Cheng. As such, Zhai Sheng knew the gist of the latest happenings regarding the Qiao family because he wanted to understand Qiao Nan better.

Qiao Zijin was indeed sick and had contracted uremia. If she did not undergo a kidney transplant, she would die sooner or later. As for what the Qiao family said about their younger daughter taking all of the family's money and running away, that was the truth too. But what was different was that the reporter's in-depth investigation had revealed that the younger daughter had gotten into a car accident herself and had not fully recovered from it.

Their two daughters had been hospitalized at the same time. Their elder daughter had never been left alone, but not a single person had gone to take care of their younger daughter even when she was toeing the line between life and death! Even when their younger daughter finally awoke from her coma, the Qiao family's concern toward her was simply preparing three meals a day for her. And that had been because they thought that the food provided by the hospital was too expensive and was not worth their money. They had only prepared her meals to save money.

In fact, the money that their younger daughter had ‘stolen’ was her own money! She had not earned it through working but had almost exchanged her life for it. It was the compensation she had gotten from the car accident. The funniest thing was that not only had Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin taken this sum of money as their own, but they had even wanted one of Qiao Nan’s kidneys!

Through an ‘anonymous interview’, an insider had revealed that the Qiao couple had forced their younger daughter to donate a kidney to their elder daughter in order to save their elder daughter. They had not cared about the health of the younger daughter, who had not even fully recovered from her car accident.

In front of Qiao Zijin, Ding Jiayi and Qiao Dongliang were undoubtedly perfect parents, who, like all other parents, sacrificed all they had in order for their children to lead better lives. But when Qiao Nan’s situation was exposed, Ding Jiayi’s and Qiao Dongliang’s praise-worthy performance were now being denounced.

Their younger daughter was nothing more than a money-making tool and an organ-storage device for their elder daughter. If their elder daughter got sick and needed a repair, they would simply get it from their younger daughter. In the past, it had been said that once the cloning technology matured, everyone could own their own clones. That way, they would have backups in case any of their organs were to fail.

But the Qiao family had been even more brutal. Instead of getting a clone, they had simply given birth to a second child in case anything went wrong with their elder daughter. Their second child led such a pitiful life!

Knowing that there were too many things going on in the Qiao family that their viewers would never be able to accept, the television went through a tremendous amount of effort to return all the donations to each and every donor. After learning about the truth, all those donors felt as though they had been taken for a ride by the Qiao family and were incensed.

Some felt that it was right that their money was being returned to them, while others expressed their desire to donate their money nonetheless. But instead of donating to help Qiao Zijin, they would like to donate to help Qiao Zijin’s sister, Qiao Nan.

The Qiao family’s small courtyard had been sold once to fund Qiao Zijin’s education, but Qiao Nan had worked hard and earned enough to purchase it again. Thereafter, Qiao Zijin’s house had been entirely paid for by Qiao Nan too.

The family had two properties under their names, but Qiao Nan had been forced to live in a rental apartment, with nothing to her name up until now. In fact, whatever she had now was nothing more than the compensation that she had nearly given her life for. It was ridiculous not to donate to someone like that.

These people were still willing to donate their money, but the television station was unwilling to receive their donations. They had had countless interactions with the other three people from the Qiao family, but they had never interacted with Qiao Nan, who had been scolded the most harshly in the beginning. Because of their own mistake, Qiao Nan had been maligned for a good few days. The thought of Qiao Nan made the staff from the television station feel guilty.

Besides, now that Qiao Nan had left, the television station's staff had no idea where Qiao Nan was now, how to get in contact with her, or how to hand the money over to her. If they were really to accept the donations but had no way of handing the money over to Qiao Nan, they might very well get themselves into trouble and even be accused of misappropriating the funds.

Because of the twists and turns in this piece of news, it had been particularly sensationalized and had received a tremendous amount of attention. The Qiao family's story was more interesting than a soap opera! There seemed to be no end to it!

Even people who could just return to Ping Cheng, like Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing, had found out about the Qiao family by switching the television on. One could only imagine how 'hot' the Qiao family was in Ping Cheng now.

Someone had recognized Qiao Dongliang as Qiao Zijin's father as he was doing his grocery shopping and had said, "Oh, here comes the cheater. I'm sorry. We're just a small business. We don't have that much money for you to scam. Besides, we've worked hard for this money. Will you spare us and go scam someone else?"

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Such mockery utterly humiliated Qiao Dongliang. He had never intended to scam anyone. Qiao Dongliang had never agreed to having others donate for his daughter's medical bills. It was true that their family was not rich, but they did have a house that they could sell for cash.

In short, the Qiao family was not so hard up that they needed someone to donate to them. Qiao Zijin could still keep her house if they sold the Qiao family's small courtyard again. There would even be leftover money if they were to sell the house and use the money for Qiao Zijin's treatment.

That was what Qiao Dongliang thought, but Ding Jiayi did not think in the same way. Although the Qiao family's small courtyard had already been sold once because of Qiao Zijin, it had been an entirely different situation in the past. At that time, Qiao Zijin would never have been able to continue her studies or graduate from university if they had not sold the house. This time, even if they did not sell the house, they would still have enough money to treat Qiao Zijin with donations. In fact, they might even have money to spare!

With such a huge premise, why was there a need to sell the house?

Ding Jiayi had initially owned a key to Qiao Zijin's house, but Qiao Zijin eventually changed the locks. That meant that unless Qiao Zijin handed over the keys to Ding Jiayi, Ding Jiayi and Qiao Dongliang would have no roof over their heads if they were really to sell the Qiao family's small courtyard. If they did not want to live on the streets, they would be left with no choice but to rent an apartment like Qiao Nan had done in the past.

#### Chapter 1817: Unable to Hide

Besides, Qiao Nan had been away for such a long time. The news had been going on for just as long. Ding Jiayi did not believe that Qiao Nan had no way of watching the news or that she knew nothing about the Qiao family's situation. Even after learning of their situation, Qiao Nan had not appeared. Neither had she called them, nor wired money over to them. It was obvious that their daughter had heartlessly left the elderly couple for dead.

Ding Jiayi knew that she would never be able to repurchase the Qiao family's small courtyard if they were to sell it now that they were without Qiao Nan's help. They were old and were naturally not as open-minded as they had been in the past.

Ding Jiayi wanted a house and a place she could assuredly return to. Thus, she would never agree to sell the Qiao family's small courtyard.

Since Ding Jiayi insisted on her way, Qiao Dongliang could not do anything to stop her. Qiao Dongliang might have been unable to stop Ding Jiayi, but he had not been so vicious as to spill the entire Qiao family's situation to the television crew, asking them not to conduct a donation drive.

He had initially thought that this matter would not blow up. The donors would donate within their means, and they would not force anyone to donate to them. Besides, apart from the fact that they

had not mentioned their house, everything the television station had broadcasted about the Qiao family was a hundred percent true!

As such, Qiao Dongliang chose to turn a blind eye to Ding Jiayi's and Qiao Zijin's nonsense. But Qiao Dongliang had never expected that his one moment of indulgence would turn him into a street mouse despised by everyone. Now, he had to endure mockery and criticism even while doing a grocery run.

Qiao Dongliang dared say that he had lived an upright life his whole life. But now that he was old, he was labeled as a scammer! As a grown man in his sixties, Qiao Dongliang was humiliated and ridiculed in front of so many people! He almost had the urge to hide his head within his own trousers!

There was no way he was going to buy groceries in peace!

Without a moment of hesitation, Qiao Dongliang ran away with his face covered.

Those people scolding him were all saying, "Oh, how did your family manage to do that? How did you guys buy a house without any money? We're peasants who have a little money but no house. How much are you going to donate to us?"

After being bombarded by such questions, Qiao Dongliang once again regretted his decision to compromise and give in to Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin. Now, not only had they not been able to receive a single cent of donations, but they had also gotten themselves into deep trouble. Their family was out of money and could no longer afford to let Qiao Zijin remain in the hospital.

So they did not want to sell the house? That was fine! Then, Zijin would just have to come home from the hospital and wait for her death.

Qiao Dongliang was infuriated at his daughter, Qiao Zijin. He felt that Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi had completely ruined his reputation. They had never listened to his advice. In fact, after creating such a huge mess, they had no way of cleaning it up and were counting on him to clean up after them!

He had not even been capable of doing so when he was younger, so it went without saying that he had no such ability at this age. Since Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin wanted to kick up such a huge fuss, he would not care about them in the future. They could do as they pleased.

Not only had he heard such comments while purchasing groceries but he had also heard them in the quad when he ran into his neighbors or acquaintances. In the short span of just a few days, Qiao Dongliang's image had transformed from an honest and loyal man to that of a scammer whom everyone was scolding. Qiao Dongliang was utterly humiliated.

There was no other choice. Thus, Qiao Dongliang packed up his belongings and moved out of the Qiao family's small courtyard. When he moved out, he brought the property deed along with him. In the past, Qiao Nan had constantly made sacrifices for the family but had never felt sorry for herself. As such, there was no reason for Qiao Dongliang to feel sorry for Qiao Nan either.

Now that Qiao Nan had finally started to think about herself a little more, he had no way of touching that house under Qiao Zijin's name. After all, Qiao Zijin was a single woman who had gotten divorced. If he did not leave even this house to Qiao Zijin, he would really be pushing her into a corner.

Qiao Dongliang felt that the only thing he could do for Qiao Nan was to hand the Qiao family's small courtyard over to Qiao Nan. As for the fact that the Qiao family's small courtyard had been repurchased with Qiao Nan's money, Qiao Dongliang conveniently chose to ignore it.

They had bought the house using Qiao Nan's money, but he was now saying that he was seeking justice for Qiao Nan by returning her the house that had been bought with her own money. The Qiao family was probably the only people who could have such an idea.

Knowing that his son had fallen for such a lady, Zhai Yaohui was conflicted. From the news, he could tell that Qiao Nan had given her all for the Qiao family up until the day she left. As a child, she had treated her family so well and had been oppressed by her own family for such a long time before she had finally decided to fight back and leave with everything. From that, Zhai Yaohui was sure that Qiao Nan was not a bad person. In fact, she was probably the kind of person who was too softhearted and would simply silently endure bullying.

He would not have to worry about his new daughter-in-law treating his son poorly or that she did not care enough about his son. But he had to worry about the Qiao family creating trouble for Zhai Sheng if he were to marry Qiao Nan.

No matter how he looked at it, the Qiao family did not seem to know their limits. In fact, what the Qiao family was best at was taking advantage of others. His son would have never-ending problems if he were to have anything to do with such people. "Are you sure that you won't change your mind even now that you know about Qiao Nan's situation?"

Life was never perfect.

“Yes.” Zhai Sheng looked at Zhai Yaohui. “I know what you’re worried about. But from my interactions with Qiao Nan, I don’t think she’s someone who doesn’t know how to say no or someone who will foolishly sacrifice for others. Whatever the news mentioned... I guess she was just young and insensible and thus did not know better to think more about herself. But everyone grows up eventually. I think Qiao Nan is now grown up and could finally think it through.”

If Qiao Nan had not grown up, she would never have left with all the money without uttering a single word to her family, causing the Qiao family to use such an extreme method of going on television to find her. “Dad, don’t you think it’s weird that the news had been so skewed earlier on? But all of a sudden, they came out with a piece of news that exposed all of the Qiao family’s assets. The television crew had been able to investigate so clearly in such a short period of time. Do you think this was accidental, or did someone do this on purpose?”

Zhai Sheng had nothing but time now. Some things could deceive ordinary people, but they could never deceive Zhai Sheng if he put his mind to it.

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## Chapter 1818: A Love Rival

“Do you mean that the media had suddenly found out about the Qiao family’s assets because of Qiao Nan’s whistleblowing?” If that were really the case, his earlier worry could be reduced by half. “Where’s she?” Zhai Yaohui had still not seen the main character whom the father and son had been discussing.

Zhai Yaohui felt that he would be able to get a good grasp of the kind of person Qiao Nan was if he had the chance to meet her personally.

“I’ve already said that she’s at home. She’s in her own home. It seems like she’s truly been hurt by the Qiao family and intends on settling down in Qingshui Town. She used her money to purchase a house and has been renting an apartment from Xiao Xu for the time being.” He had already answered the question before. It seemed that his dad was indeed getting forgetful now as he aged.

Xiao Xu, who had been called on with no preparations, was stunned. He did not say anything and could only stand there, nodding foolishly, agreeing with whatever the chief had just said. He understood the last part of the chief's words, but why couldn't he understand anything about what the chief had been talking to the old chief about?

The moment the old chief arrived, he had been constantly asking about Sister Qiao. He was sure that Sister Qiao and the chief were old acquaintances. But what he had heard next seemed a little mysterious. If he had not heard wrong, the chief viewed Sister Qiao as a marriage partner, and the old chief had made a trip down to take a look at his future daughter-in-law, Sister Qiao.

That could not be right. He must have been thinking too much, just like he had a few days earlier when the chief had made a special trip down to look for Sister Qiao. He was thinking too much.

Xiao Xu could not resist the urge to pinch himself on the thigh. It hurt so badly that Xiao Xu's eyes were now brimming with tears. He was so harsh to himself! But because that pinch brought him to tears, Xiao Xu was sure that he was not overthinking this. This had been exactly what the old chief and the chief had been talking about.

In mere three days, Sister Qiao had turned from a temporary caretaker of the chief that his mom had hired into the future wife of the chief! That was crazy!

Zhai Yaohui and Zhai Sheng were deep in conversation. Because the father and son had not interacted at length like that in a long time, Miao Jing chose to remain silent and allow the father and son to continue their conversation. Anyway, Zhai Yaohui knew exactly what she was curious about and would pose her questions on her behalf. All she had to do was perk her ears up to listen carefully.

From Zhai Sheng's words, Miao Jing had gotten a rough sense of the kind of person Qiao Nan was. But Miao Jing felt that there was nothing better than seeing her for herself. That would be the only way for her to make a judgment call. Up until now, she had only heard about how Qiao Nan was as a person. What she really wanted to do was to 'see' for herself. "Zhai Sheng, we've been talking for such a long time. You should at least let us see her."

The bracelet was still in her possession. She wanted very much to give it away.

"That won't be possible for now." Zhai Sheng refused.

"Why?"



“Why!” Compared to the calm and collected Zhai Yaohui, Miao Jing was much more agitated. “Do you mean that she doesn’t want to get married?” That could not be the case. She was almost forty years old. Since they were both women, Miao Jing knew that it was impossible for Qiao Nan not to yearn for a family of her own or to have children at such an age.

Perhaps, once Zhai Sheng married Qiao Nan, they would not even have to do anything before Qiao Nan would find a way to catch the last bus and have a child while she was still fertile.

Even though Miao Jing did not know how long more she could look after children for, she now had hope of having a grandson at the very least.

It was still his father who knew Zhai Sheng best. Thinking about Zhai Sheng’s ambiguous answer, Zhai Yaohui asked, “Are you already together with Qiao Nan?” Zhai Sheng had given him a heads-up, meaning that he intended on getting married.

Since they were both at such an age, as long as they were serious about the relationship, marriage was a very natural step. Zhai Sheng was an extremely decisive person and would probably be even more decisive in marrying Qiao Nan than he had been when marrying Miao Miao at that time. It was just like how the Zhai family and the Qiu family had only found out about Zhai Sheng’s divorce from Qiu Chenxi after the couple’s marriage certificate had been changed into a divorce certificate.

So the only explanation for Zhai Sheng refusing to let Miao Miao and him meet Qiao Nan was that he had not even been able to get a hold of that lady whom he had taken a fancy to.

“How could that be? The chief has only known Sister Qiao for three days! No, they’ve only met three times!” Xiao Xu, who had been silent all this while, could no longer hold it in. He leaped in to elaborate on Qiao Nan’s and Zhai Sheng’s situation. He was sure that the chief and Sister Qiao had not been on close terms before his mom had asked Sister Qiao to take care of the chief.

Even in the three days that followed, the relationship between the chief and Sister Qiao had not progressed to that stage either. How could they have talked about marriage in that case? What a joke!

Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing were flabbergasted. It was already strange enough that their son had finally changed his mind. Even though their son had finally agreed to remarry, they had simply treated it as though their son had finally found someone pleasing to his eyes and someone he felt he

would be able to live with. Neither Zhai Yaohui nor Miao Jing had ever thought about things like love.

It had initially been enough that their son was finally willing to get married. Love was just an extravagant and unnecessary thing. As such, this was an even greater surprise to them.

A woman whom their son had only met three times had been able to change his mind about marriage. So it was impossible that their son simply thought of that person as tolerable. Zhai Yaohui thought that his son certainly had some feelings for that woman.

Upon confirming that Zhai Sheng had truly changed his mind about marriage this time and that it had been because of love, Zhai Yaohui was now at ease and was no longer in a hurry. “All right. Thankfully, your mom and I are not in a hurry and can stay in Qingshui Town for the time being. You should work quickly. You may think that it’s all the same without children, but women may not share your opinion. If you work any slower, this might become a lifetime regret. During this period of time, your mom and I will spend more time with your grandma and grandpa. Anyway, you’ve only hurt your leg. You’re not disabled. Be careful that she might be snatched away if you’re not fast enough.”

In this kind of matter, he who strikes first prevails, while he who strikes late fails.

Even though the woman whom Zhai Sheng had taken a liking to was already forty years old and single, she could not be too bad if Zhai Sheng had fallen for her. Considering she had met Zhai Sheng, wouldn’t others have discovered her as well? After all, precious things would always be discovered. Zhai Sheng might not be the only one. If he worked slowly, she might very well be snatched away from him right under his nose. At that time, he would be in despair, and Zhai Sheng would never get remarried.

Sometimes, one’s worst fears came true.

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Zhai Yaohui reminded Zhai Sheng that Qiao Nan was a good lady. Even though she was already forty, he might not be her only suitor. He could be bold and daring in pursuing her.

Chapter 1819: Fresh Start

Just as they had said, a rival suitor had indeed shown up in Qingshui Town just two days after the Zhai couple had arrived, and he had headed straight for Qiao Nan's rented apartment.

Given the Qiao family's abilities, they would never have been able to find out where Qiao Nan had moved to. But as for certain people, especially government officials, they definitely had the means of doing so if they really wanted to.

Standing in front of Qiao Nan's door, Chen Jun was a little hesitant. He was unsure of how Qiao Nan would react upon seeing him. After the two had broken up, his ex-girlfriend had become his sister-in-law. All these years, Chen Jun had never forgotten about Qiao Nan and had always been concerned about Qiao Nan's situation.

Qiao Nan had always thought that Ding Jiayi had never wanted Qiao Nan to get married, in case she had her own children after getting married. That would mean that whatever money she earned would go into raising her children and that Ding Jiayi would never be able to get any money from Qiao Nan to support Qiao Zijin. As such, she had ruined Qiao Nan's blind dates one after the other. Every time she found a prospect, Ding Jiayi would always scare the other party away. She even scolded the matchmakers so harshly that they no longer dared to help Qiao Nan out.

In fact, Ding Jiayi had considered Chen Jun's encouragement and bewitchment.

Chen Jun had gotten married to Qiao Zijin and even had a son with her, namely Chen Feng, but Chen Jun still led a colorful life outside and had gotten to know many other women. But out of all these women, the only one Chen Jun had not been able to let go of was Qiao Nan alone.

Men were all like that, especially men like Chen Jun, who was simply even worse by nature. He had countless affairs and fanned the flames to encourage his mother-in-law to prevent his sister-in-law from getting married. Although Qiao Nan was already forty, she was still as single as the day she had broken up with him and had never had any contact with other men. Qiao Nan had a special place in Chen Jun's heart.

Now, the reputation of all three members of the Qiao family had been ruined. Thankfully, Qiao Zijin had not dragged the Chen family into this matter and made him a joke in front of the public. This was something the Chen family felt rather grateful for.

Following that, Mother Chen had asked Chen Jun what kind of woman he would look for. After all, Chen Feng was still young. Chen Jun might be a grown man, but he also needed someone to take

care of him. So Chen Jun had to find a second wife. But he had better not find another troublemaker like Qiao Zijin.

If Chen Jun had anyone in mind, they would take their time to observe that person carefully. There was no way they were going to fall into another pit now that they had finally climbed out of one called Qiao Zijin. It did not matter how evil or cunning those women Chen Jun played with were. Given Chen Jun's capabilities and status, he could afford to do so. But a woman he wanted to marry had to be someone who would lead a simple and honest life. That was Mother Chen's only requirement.

Hearing that his mom was asking him to get remarried, the image of Qiao Nan in Chen Jun's mind only got clearer as time went by. After some time, he could no longer resist it and simply asked for his parents' opinion about getting remarried to Qiao Nan.

Mother and Father Chen's disapproval resounded loudly. Why? It was not that Qiao Nan was not good enough. In fact, Qiao Nan was an excellent choice for marriage. The problem was that Qiao Nan was Qiao Zijin's younger sister! At that time, Chen Jun had only gotten to know Qiao Zijin because of Qiao Nan, and he had married Qiao Zijin only because he had gotten her pregnant.

None of them had forgotten about what had happened at that time, so was it possible for Qiao Nan to have forgotten about it? Even if the Chen family was not afraid of being mocked about how Chen Jun's first marriage had been to the elder sister while his second marriage was to the younger sister, they did not think that Qiao Nan would be able to gladly accept Chen Jun's proposal and marry into the Chen family because of what had happened in the past.

The elderly couple felt that it was simply impossible.

Yes, it was true that the Chen family had a good background. Chen Jun had inherited his father's position, was handsome and dashing, and was at his peak now. The problem was that they had felt Qiao Nan's sadness when Qiao Zijin had forced Qiao Nan to back off because of her pregnancy at that time, but Qiao Nan had never tried to cling to Chen Jun.

After Chen Jun got married to Qiao Zijin, Qiao Nan had never visited the Chen family. When Chen Jun visited the Qiao family from time to time, not only would Qiao Nan never take the initiative to approach Chen Jun, but she would not even glance at Chen Jun. It was as though Chen Jun was invisible. Unless Ding Jiayi assigned any chores to her, Qiao Nan would be wherever everyone else was.

Father Chen knew that his son had probably gone to meet Qiao Nan alone while he was gone. Now that his son was grown up, Father Chen did not have much say in his son's actions. Besides, his son was quite intelligent. As such, Father Chen had full confidence that his son would be able to resolve any differences between Qiao Zijin and Qiao Nan if he were to get together with Qiao Nan.

Moreover, Qiao Nan was extremely mild-tempered. Even if she were truly to get together with Chen Jun, she would never fight with Qiao Zijin like other mistresses did, relying on their children to gain affection from their husbands or making a fuss to gain attention.

But he had never expected that Qiao Nan could be so stubborn if she really wanted to, even though she had always been so softhearted toward the Qiao family. In front of the Qiao family, Qiao Nan was so foolish that it was pitiful. But in front of Chen Jun, Qiao Nan was not at all muddleheaded. Qiao Nan chose to stick to the crowd at all times, giving Chen Jun no chance to speak to her alone or to confess to her.

Of course, it was not entirely impossible for Chen Jun to get back together with Qiao Nan behind the Qiao family's backs.

Based on this whole incident, Father Chen did not think that Qiao Nan would be willing to reconcile with her ex, Chen Jun. But if the two were really to get back together, there would be an advantage to that. He would never need to worry about his grandson, Chen Feng, being abused or neglected by his stepmother. No matter whose child Chen Feng was, or whether he was Qiao Zijin's son, Qiao Nan would never be so heartless.

Because of his parents' analysis, Chen Jun could only hold in his own thoughts.

But things quickly took a turn. The Chen family had always been living in Ping Cheng and had risen to the top ranks in Ping Cheng. If they wanted to further their careers, they would have to move out of Ping Cheng. Coincidentally, there had been such an opportunity! Wang Yang had remembered the top figure, Chen Jun, and had decided to give Chen Jun this chance.

With Chen Jun's promotion, he could very well leave Ping Cheng with his whole family to a new city. At this time, Chen Jun once again thought about getting back with Qiao Nan. In the past, Father and Mother Chen had disagreed with this idea because they thought that it was well-known that Qiao Nan was Qiao Zijin's younger sister and had once been Chen Jun's sister-in-law.

It would not reflect well on the Chen family if word were to spread about Chen Jun marrying Qiao Nan after having gotten a divorce from Qiao Zijin.

But if the Chen family were to move to an entirely new location and Chen Jun were to become an official in a brand-new city, no one would be any wiser about the situation between him and Qiao Nan. That could be a fresh start for him!

## Chapter 1820: I'm Not Against It

After going to an unfamiliar city, who would know what had happened between Qiao Nan and Chen Jun, let alone say anything bad?

In the face of this situation, Father Chen and Mother Chen remained silent this time around and didn't say anything against it. In private, Mother Chen went to ask Chen Feng how he would feel if Chen Jun married Qiao Nan.

What surprised Mother Chen was that even Chen Feng, the son, didn't help Qiao Zijin. He was like his biological father. He felt that Qiao Nan, his young aunt, was much better than his biological mother. "Sure, I've always thought that young aunt is pretty good. She's prettier and more good-tempered than my mom. She treats me pretty good too. However, grandma, after young aunt marries my dad, should I call her mom instead? After young aunt becomes my mom, will she be like my biological mom and treat me badly?"

Qiao Zijin liked to enjoy life. She was impatient and bad-tempered as well. When Chen Feng was just born, he didn't know how to speak and would cry whenever he felt unwell. Ding Jiayi had pampered Qiao Zijin since she was young. How would she be willing to wash Chen Feng's little buttocks which were full of shit? That was impossible. Even if it was her biological son, Qiao Zijin treated him with disdain as she found him to be dirty and smelly.

As such, Mother Chen had brought Chen Feng up in his infancy days. But when Qiao Zijin returned to her family, she would bring Chen Feng with her. Once she reached home, she would ask Qiao Nan to take care of Chen Feng. She felt that she had relied on Chen Feng to snatch Chen Jun away from Qiao Nan. Now, if Qiao Nan had to take care of Chen Feng, she must be feeling very sad in her heart.

Every time like this, Qiao Zijin would have a contorted sense of satisfaction. This led to a strange phenomenon. When Qiao Zijin returned home, she might not bring along Chen Jun, but she would definitely bring along her son, Chen Feng. After reaching home, Qiao Zijin would throw Chen Jun to Qiao Nan. She even told her son that he must not leave Qiao Nan and look for her if there's anything. Qiao Nan had to serve her son well.

As such, Chen Feng spent more time interacting with Qiao Nan, his young aunt, than his biological mother. Qiao Nan was soft-hearted to begin with. Even if she hated Qiao Zijin and knew that all the money Ding Jiayi asked from her went to supporting Qiao Zijin, Qiao Nan would still produce the money every time Ding Jiayi put on a pitiful act.

The matters of adults had nothing to do with children. In Qiao Nan's eyes, Chen Feng was innocent. Qiao Nan only felt a little complicated in her heart during the year when Chen Feng was still a baby who knew nothing. After that, she adjusted her mood very quickly and regarded Chen Jun as her brother-in-law and Chen Feng as her nephew.

As such, when Chen Feng started to remember things, he only remembered that his young aunt treated him especially well and had a gentle voice. She would ask him if something was delicious or fun. If he did something wrong, his young aunt would teach him, unlike his mom, who would push him to his grandma every time something happened.

Chen Feng wasn't close to Qiao Zijin. This didn't mean that a child didn't long for maternal love. In the Chen family, there was Mother Chen to bring him up. In the Qiao family, Qiao Zijin left Chen Feng to Qiao Nan. Qiao Zijin didn't realize that every time she did this, it was nothing that Qiao Nan didn't refuse. However, every time Chen Feng left his biological mother's side, there wasn't any bit of reluctance. He even ran to Qiao Nan's side and played with her. This was where she failed as a mother.

Chen Feng, who usually didn't express his opinion, amazed the world with a single brilliant feat today. Chen Feng was already a few years old and a primary school child. It wasn't true that children at this age didn't know anything.

Chen Feng's words shocked the Chen family.

Mother Chen stood in front of her grandson and looked into his eyes. "Feng Feng, tell grandma. Who taught you those words just now? Was it grandpa or young aunt?"

When did the Qiao family instill such thoughts into Feng Feng? Why were they unaware of this?

"No, these are my original thoughts." Chen Feng shook his head. "I really think that young aunt is nice and treats me well. Young aunt will buy food for me and care about my homework. When I was in first grade, I scored badly in the first semester, and all of you were unhappy. Mom even threw a temper at me. After that, young aunt was the one who gave me lessons and helped me with

my homework. Young aunt is really smart. After listening to young aunt, I even became the top five in my class.”

In Chen Feng’s eyes, there was nothing his young aunt didn’t know or was bad at.

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“...” The Chen family was once again surprised. They cared about Chen Feng’s homework as well, but not to Qiao Nan’s extent. When Chen Feng didn’t score well, they didn’t care much. When Chen Feng’s grades improved, they thought that it was the teachers who had taught him well and that their lecturing words, which were due to his previous bad grades, had worked on him.

They didn’t expect it was Qiao Nan who had taught Chen Feng how to master his homework.

Chen Jun said in a nostalgic tone, “I remember that Qiao Nan’s grades were exceptionally good when she was studying. Before dropping out, she was always ranked top three in her grade.”

Chen Jun’s studies were good as well. When Chen Feng scored badly in the first semester, Chen Jun suspected that Qiao Zijin’s genes must have affected Chen Feng adversely. When he was studying, he didn’t score so badly before. It must be because he had Qiao Zijin as a mother that his grades were so bad.

Later, when his son’s results became better, Chen Jun simply thought that his natural genes had taken effect. He completely didn’t expect Chen Feng’s progress to be man-made.

Mother Chen felt complicated in her heart. “Why didn’t you tell us that your young aunt treats you so well?” Every time they went over to the Qiao family, as long as Qiao Nan was around, they saw that Chen Feng was pretty cold to her.

Even if they occasionally mentioned Qiao Nan at home, Chen Feng, who was listening to their words as he was playing, had no reaction at all. It was as if he hadn’t heard their words at all. Based on Chen Feng’s performance, the Chen family didn’t expect Chen Feng to have such a good impression of Qiao Nan and that he actually liked her very much.

“Young aunt taught me to do so. Aside from her, I can’t show that I like her a lot in front of anyone else. If I do, she wouldn’t have the chance to play with me again in the future. She also said that no matter who I hear talking about her, I should treat that I’m young and couldn’t understand anything.



After listening to their words, I should forget them quickly and not tell her anything. Grandpa, grandma, Dad, I really feel that young aunt is great.”

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Chen Feng didn't understand Qiao Nan's words fully. However, as time passed, Chen Feng transformed from an ignorant child who only knew to listen to Qiao Nan to a child with his own thinking ability.