

RTAMM 1841

Chapter 1841: I Hate Them

That was to say, not only was he not a child with an unknown father but his uncle was his dad. However, was this possible?

Wasn't his mom his uncle's sister? If his mom was together with his uncle, what would that become?

Before Wei Wei could exclaim, someone had covered his mouth and pulled him away. When he was forced to return to his room, Wei Wei realized that the person who had pulled him back was none other than his mom, Wei Xiaomei. "Mom?" Was everything he heard just now true?

Wei Xiaomei touched her son's head. One had to know that Wei Xiaomei didn't dare to do this in the past as she knew that her son hated her and didn't like her touch. However, today was different. Her son knew about the grievances she had suffered all along. She believed that her son could understand her now. "How many years has it been, Xiao Wei? You're finally willing to be close to Mom again."

When she said this, Wei Xiaomei cried. She often pondered whether the decision she had made that year was correct or wrong. In the face of her precious son's look of hatred, how would a mother not feel heartache?

It was just that she didn't have a choice. In this lifetime, she didn't have much of a choice. She couldn't choose her birth or the family she was living in when she was young. Similarly, when she got married to Wei De, she didn't have a choice as she was raised by the Wei family since she was young and didn't have any chance to reject anything.

Thinking back of when she was young, she really didn't understand after knowing Zhai Hua's existence. She and Wei De had obviously held a banquet, and she had officially married him to be his wife. Why did she become that shameless woman who couldn't be seen in public and had to be Wei De's sister in name in the end?

Before Zhai Hua's appearance, her son was the most favored grandson in the Wei family. After Zhai Hua's appearance, although her son was still the Wei family's grandson, he became a 'fatherless' child. After coming over to Ping Cheng, he was often bullied by other children.

Upon thinking of her son's sufferings, Wei Xiaomei felt heartache for her son. As such, even if her son, who didn't know the truth and thought that she was indecent to give birth to a fatherless him, hated her, Wei Xiaomei was never calculative with him.

Finally, her son no longer rejected her touch. Wei Xiaomei felt happy in her heart. "Xiao Wei, you must remember not to think of anything now. Those matters, your uncle—no, your father and grandma will do them on your behalf. You would still be how you were like before. You're still young and don't have to know so much. Most importantly, you have to make yourself forget everything that happened today. You should also understand how serious the consequences would be if outsiders know about what you have found out today. We have worked hard for over ten years. We can't let everything go to waste now."

"Mom, is uncle really my dad?" He had a father. He was no longer a fatherless child. "You and my uncle?"

"Mom is a child adopted by the Wei family. I'm not related by blood with your father. You know what a child bride is, right? Mom is something like that. As I've grown up in the Wei family, the Zhai family didn't find anything unusual when they performed checks on me and thought that I was really your father's sister. Xiao Wei, we've hidden this from you for so many years. You should understand our painstaking efforts. We did this for your own good. Can you accept it?" Wei Xiaomei was filled with emotions as she held her son's hand.

She kept thinking when her son would finally know the truth and understand everything she had done for him. She had never done anything sorry to the Wei family, let alone embarrass the Wei family or smear the Wei family's reputation.

The Wei family had smeared their reputation themselves. She was the most pitiful. She didn't do anything wrong but was labeled a bad woman by everyone. Even until now, Wei Xiaomei didn't understand what wrong she had done to suffer so much since she was young. She didn't even know who her biological parents were. Now, her son was like her. He had a father but could only become a 'fatherless' child.

"Mom, why?" His mom wasn't his uncle's sister, and his uncle was actually his father. Their family's relationship was legal. On what basis did he become a fatherless child since young? Upon

thinking that Wei Jiajia and Zhai Hua had snatched away his father and the happiness that belonged to their family, Wei Wei was filled with hatred.

“Why?” Wei Xiaomei curled her lips and mocked herself. “I’m just an abandoned baby raised by the Wei family. If not for the poor conditions of the Wei family back then and that I’m a female whom they could get as a daughter-in-law for free in the future, would the Wei family have raised me up? Your mom is an abandoned baby and Zhai Hua is the old chief’s daughter. Given the Wei family’s background, if your dad didn’t become a soldier, he wouldn’t have the blessing to meet the old chief’s daughter. How would your dad not grab hold of this rare opportunity? As such, you became a fatherless child and I became an indecent woman.”

How good was it to have a chief as a father? All men would come knocking on their door. They wouldn’t even want their sons.

“Mom, I hate them. I hate the Zhai family!” Wei Wei clenched his fists. It was the Zhai family who had robbed him of his happiness and a childhood without any worries.

Wei Xiaomei sighed. She was unwilling to leave and always stayed here as she was afraid her son would have this mindset. Wei Xiaomei pulled Wei Wei over and sat down. Both of them had a chat. “Xiao Wei, do you know why I shared so much with you? I was afraid you would have such irrational thoughts. You always thought that mom had done something bad in the past and caused you to be embarrassed. That was why you weren’t willing to be close to me. I don’t blame you for that as the Wei family had caused this to happen. However, I’m afraid every time I see you hanging out with your grandma so often. When you said such words, I knew that my worries were not unfounded. Your grandma has led you astray.”

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Her son was in high school and was about to reach adulthood. How would he have such irrational thoughts otherwise?

Wei Wei suppressed the anger in his heart. “Mom, what do you mean by those words? Don’t you hate the Zhai family? If not for the Zhai family, you would be my dad’s wife and I would be a child with a father.” He didn’t believe that his mother didn’t feel any resentment at all that Zhai Hua’s appearance caused her to become a woman who couldn’t be seen in public.

Wei Xiaomei smiled coldly. “How could that be? However, what can I do? If the Zhai family knew that I’m Wei De’s wife and gave birth to you... Do you think your dad is an immortal and the Zhai

family's daughter could only get married to him if she had no one else to marry? Didn't your grandma tell the Zhai family that I'm your father's sister to hide this matter?"

Chapter 1842: Confused by the Contradiction

"The Zhai family isn't aware of this matter. If they did, Zhai Hua wouldn't have married your father. Until now, the Zhai family still doesn't know about this."

Although Wei Xiaomei didn't want to say it, the meaning she expressed was very clear. Compared to her, the Zhai family was considered a victim too. The Zhai family didn't have to use power to snatch Wei De away as a son-in-law. Wei De wasn't that outstanding, and the Zhai family wasn't willing to do such immoral things.

Everything was based on Wei De's deception to the Zhai family. If the Zhai family knew that Wei De had a wife and a child, they would naturally ask him to get lost as far as possible.

"I saw your recent performance, and I know you have already understood how helpful having an aunt like Zhai Hua would be. If your father didn't marry Zhai Hua, the Wei family wouldn't have today and your father couldn't possibly become a company commander. All of these were the Zhai family's and Zhai Hua's blessings. Do you understand?"

The purpose and significance of Wei De marrying Zhai Hua lay in this.

"Mom, do you mean that the Zhai family is a victim as well and the party who has done wrong is our family? If you really think that way, why didn't you tell the Zhai family the truth and snatch your husband back?" As long as his mom said it, the Zhai family would definitely make his aunt leave his dad. Even if the Zhai family didn't talk about it, based on his aunt's temper, she might not be able to tolerate this matter anyway.

Wei Xiaomei clenched her fists. "Why? Why would I do that?" Toward the end, Wei Xiaomei's eyes turned red and her tone was full of resentment. "Heaven has never been fair to me and treated me kindly. I finally resigned to fate and wanted to lead a life with your father. However, heaven arranged for him to meet Zhai Hua, and both of them even became a couple. Since heaven never wants me to lead a good life, on what basis should I be a good person and tell the Zhai family everything? You should still have an impression of your childhood, right? The Wei family's conditions weren't good. If the Zhai family knew about your father's relationship with me, what meaning is there to snatch him back?"

Wei Wei became silent. Even though he couldn't remember it clearly, he more or less had some impression. The house in the countryside was in tatters. As they reared chickens, the muddy yard was always full of chicken shit.

When Wei Wei was young, his living environment had always been like this, so he didn't feel that anything was amiss. However, it was different now. Wei Wei lived in a high-rise building. His house was full of clean floor tiles and wooden boards, and the walls were white-washed. Upon recalling the living conditions in the countryside, Wei Wei shuddered, signaling that he couldn't accept it.

“If this matter is exposed, your father would no longer be a soldier and could only return to the countryside to farm. If I keep your father, my husband, I won't be able to live in a big house and lead a good life. Most importantly, it doesn't matter how much I've suffered, but Xiao Wei, you can't. I can't bear for you to suffer so much. Mom hopes that you can enjoy all the blessings I've never managed to enjoy. Even if Zhai Hua changes in the future, compared to the past, I feel that everything I did is worthwhile.”

Indeed, her son had led a different life from her. For her son, everything was worth it.

“The Zhai family didn't figure out what kind of person your father is and was conned by him. That has nothing to do with me. I was brought up by the Wei family. I can't betray the Wei family. I was stupid to be cheated by the Wei family and your father. I can't put the blame on others. Xiao Wei, you must remember that we aren't villains. However, we are not obliged to become extremely good people too. All these years, we have never suffered. As such, what we are enjoying now is what we deserve. Do you understand?”

There were gains only if there were sacrifices. She and her son had sacrificed and were wronged for over ten years. The life that they were leading now was what they deserved. She enjoyed it with peace of mind.

Wei Xiaomei might not have been highly educated, but she was used to the hard days since she was young. Some of her thoughts were still quite mature. She knew that the Zhai family couldn't be blamed for this, and all of these happened due to Wei De's greed and Mother Wei's instigation. As such, the mother-and-son pair and the Zhai family were cheated and hurt. Wei De and his mother really did a good job at deceiving everyone.

Even if everyone were victims, Wei Xiaomei didn't feel that she was obliged to fight alongside the Zhai family to get everything back. Wei De wasn't reliable as a husband. Instead, the benefits the Zhai family brought to Wei De were more reliable, rewarding all her sufferings.

After confirming this, Wei Xiaomei had never said a word for so many years as she tolerated her son's hostile look of hatred. Even after Wei De had fetched Wei Wei over to Ping Cheng and left her alone in the countryside, Wei Xiaomei had gritted her teeth and endured everything.

"Mom..." Wei Xiaomei's words sounded normal, and there weren't any words that were hard to understand. However, it was still a bit difficult for Wei Wei to understand the meaning of these words. "Mom?"

"You're still young, and the knowledge you've gained is from the textbooks. It's inevitable that your thoughts are simpler and you think that everything is either black or white. However, it's fine. You will understand in the future. Remember Mom's words. Don't hate the Zhai family and don't pick on Jiajia. However, you don't have to feel guilty toward the Zhai family as well. You lost a 'father' to enjoy everything today. The Zhai family didn't give you this for free. However, don't be so stupid like your grandma to scheme against others and even say that they are useless."

It was rare for her to have this opportunity. Wei Xiaomei shared all her ways of doing things with her son.

Wei Xiaomei said these words pretty coldly. Undeniably, her mentality was indeed the best for her and Wei Wei's life. If she guarded Wei De, she could only farm in the countryside. If she silently agreed to Wei De marrying Zhai Hua, she only had to tolerate hardship for a few more years. Look. Wasn't she living in a big house and wearing new clothes now? Her son was in high school as well.

She had already suffered for more than twenty years. How couldn't she tolerate the remaining few years? She had suffered for thirty years in total. However, thanks to the Zhai family, she managed to regain a good life for ten years.

Wei Xiaomei, who knew how to be calculative, knew that she had benefited regardless.

Wei Wei plucked a few strands of hair from his head. "Mom, let me take a break. I'm feeling confused. How should I think about this matter?" Indeed, Wei Wei was confused by what the textbooks had taught him about this world. He never knew that his mom had operated in this manner.

He faintly felt that his mom was right. However, he felt extremely uncomfortable in his heart. A lot of thoughts were contradictory now.

Chapter 1843: I Only Like You

“Okay, Mom shan’t disturb you anymore. I’ll leave you alone to think this through carefully. However, remember this. Even if you know that your uncle is your father, you must not express this in front of the Zhai family. Even if your father really becomes a regiment commander, if the Zhai family is unhappy, it’s very easy for them to pull your father down from that position and make us lead the lifestyle from the past, let alone that he’s just a company commander now. Remember Mom’s words. Don’t be as stupid as your grandma. We must never offend the Zhai family. Understand?”

In reality, seeing that a big shot like the Zhai family was deceived by Wei De and she was hiding the truth, Wei Xiaomei felt a contorted sense of satisfaction as she watched how the Zhai family made a fool of themselves. Even if she was a lowborn, she felt great that she had surpassed the Zhai family.

“I understand. I will definitely not bully Jiajia anymore in the future.” This time around, Wei Wei said his heartfelt words. He always felt imbalanced. Why did Jiajia have parents and such a formidable grandpa? If all of these were his, how good would that be?

Now, he knew that Wei Jiajia’s father was his father. However, the Zhai family’s blood flowed in Wei Jiajia but not him. If he dared to bully Wei Jiajia, the Zhai family would definitely not have a good impression of him. As such, his father might even be implicated by him then and wouldn’t be accepted by the Zhai family.

The Zhai family was their Wei family’s backing. They must not offend the Zhai family. “Mom, don’t worry. As long as I’m around, I’ll persuade grandma. She listens to me the most.”

“It’s good that you understand.” Seeing that her son was enlightened, Wei Xiaomei felt that the day she had been waiting for was finally here. The clouds dispersed and she could see the sun. It was fine as long as her son knew about her hardship and persistence. When she turned old and her son became successful in life in the future, her real good days would certainly come!

As such, as humans, one should always set their sights further. What meaning was there to fight for a man like Wei De, who only knew how to climb up by pulling his wife’s skirt? Raising a lovable and promising son was more useful than finding a hundred men like Wei De!

Wei De and Mother Wei didn’t know that not only did Wei Wei find out about his relationship with Wei De, but Wei Xiaomei had also shared such shocking words with Wei Wei.

After all, they had some disagreement previously. The next day, when he went to Qingshui Town to see Zhai Yaohui and the rest, Wei De regretted that he didn't bring Wei Wei along. He thought that if there was a chance next year, he might be able to do so.

“Uncle, aunt, Jijia, have fun. Don't be in a rush to come back. Jijia, don't be angry with me. I wasn't willing to agree in the past that girls are more mature than boys. Now, it seems like I wasn't like an older brother at all. After you return from Qingshui Town, I'll apologize to you and treat you to a meal. How's that?”

Before the family left for Qingshui Town, Wei Wei happily came over to send the family of three off. He even helped Jijia carry the suitcases and put them in the trunk of the car. Wei Wei's hardworking attitude scared Jijia. She had known since young that she had an older brother. However, this was the first time she encountered something like this. “Wei Wei, did you take the wrong medicine?”

This brother-and-sister pair was considered to be in a harmonious relationship if they didn't confront each other with daggers all day. For them to love, protect, and rely on each other like how other brother-and-sister pairs were, that was something that would definitely not happen to Wei Wei and Wei Jijia.

Wei Jijia couldn't help but size up Wei Wei's face. “If you aren't feeling well, go back to rest and remember to see a doctor.” Was Wei Wei running a fever, causing him to burn his brains?

“Thanks for your concern, Jijia. I am pretty good and feeling great. Nothing's wrong with me. Uncle, remember to drive carefully on the roads. Slow down and don't hurry. Actually, Jijia has a bit of motion sickness. If you drive and stop, stop and drive, it would be easy for Jijia to feel uncomfortable. Uncle, you must pay more attention to her.”

Wei Wei had a total change of attitude toward Jijia. Wei De was pleasantly surprised, let alone Jijia, who couldn't adapt to it. “Okay. Indeed, you're a man who's about to be a year older. You know how to take care of your sister and not to throw tantrums anymore. Uncle is really happy that you're sensible. Don't worry. Jijia is uncle's only precious daughter. How could I not take good care of her? Have a good time with your grandma and your mom at home. If you want to eat anything, just get your grandma to prepare them.”

If the relationship between Xiao Wei and Jijia could be improved so that they were like biological siblings, he could worry a lot less in the future. If he wanted to bring Xiao Wei over to the Zhai family, it would become more justifiable.

He didn't believe that Zhai Hua would reject his request. However, Zhai Hua would reject her daughter's request if Jiajia wanted to bring Xiao Wei along. "Hua Hua, take a look. I've said it before that Xiao Wei was young and ignorant in the past and was probably not suited to be an older brother then. Now, he's enlightened. Look how well he's treating Jiajia. I believe that their relationship will keep getting better in the future. Jiajia, as an older brother, Xiao Wei has already lowered his head to you. Don't go too overboard and bully him. It's about time you check on your temper too."

Upon thinking of how they used to be at loggerheads with each other, Wei De immediately warned Jiajia to not go overboard. In short, if Wei Wei was willing to lower his head, Jiajia had to accept with pleasure and not throw tantrums. All the decision rights were with Wei Wei, and Jiajia had no right to refuse.

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There was something Wei Wei was right about. In this aspect, girls really matured earlier than boys.

Her biological father handed all the decision rights to Wei Wei. She was like a puppet in Wei Wei's hands and could only react in response to Wei Wei's actions. As such, Jiajia felt very irritated. On what basis?!

Wei Jiajia couldn't help but ask, "Dad, actually, you're the same as grandma. You like sons and not daughters, right?"

"Why would you say that?" Wei De felt a little guilty. Of course, daughters couldn't be compared to sons. "Your mom and I only have you as a child. Regardless of whether you are a daughter or a son, I will dote on you the most."

"Is that so?" Jiajia didn't believe it. "Why don't I feel that? I feel that you treat Wei Wei better than me." Otherwise, why did her father never ask Wei Wei to take care of her more and not to bully her? Instead, he always asked her to understand Wei Wei and said that it wasn't easy for Wei Wei.

Her mom said that when she was young, Wei Wei had secretly pinched her behind everyone's back until she cried. She wouldn't think of such a thing and wouldn't bother herself to do it. However, Wei Wei had done so.

In her opinion, her father liked the fatherless Wei Wei more than her, the only daughter. In her father's heart, it was obvious that a son was more valuable than a daughter.

Chapter 1844: Entering the Zhai Family's House

No matter how valuable Wei Wei was, he was not her dad's son anyway. What was the point of her dad placing so much importance on Wei Wei? Instead of paying attention to someone else's son, he might as well treat his own daughter well. Wei Jiajia could not understand her father's mindset.

"Nonsense! The one I love most apart from your mom is you! If you don't believe me, you can ask your mom!" There was no way Wei De would admit to placing more emphasis on Wei Wei. Zhai Hua had more than once complained to him about this matter, and she had complained so much that she saw no point in doing so anymore.

But in front of their child, Wei De believed that Zhai Hua would be on his side and would help him. Even if it was just to coax their daughter, she would not let her daughter get upset over such a trivial matter during the new year period.

This time, however, Zhai Hua refused to cooperate with him. "Why are you asking me about this? Jiajia is all grown up and has the ability to judge for herself. Even if she doesn't understand some things now, she'll eventually understand whatever I teach her. It's best for Jiajia to think about all that when she grows older." Besides, she felt that what Jiajia had said was the truth.

Agreeing to celebrate the new year with her family was the first step Zhai Hua was taking to correct her mistake of getting together with Wei De. People said that the first step was almost the hardest. With Wei De's help, Zhai Hua managed to take the first step. That meant that everything else that followed would be a breeze.

She was not an orphan. Besides her daughter, Jiajia, she had her father, her mother, and her younger brother, Zhai Sheng. How had she managed to live all these years and get herself into such a terrible state? If someone had told her that her life would be in such ruins ten years ago, she would never have believed that person and might very well have beaten that person up.

Because her mother had not taken her father's bait to lie to her, Wei Jiajia was elated at being respected. She held Zhai Hua's hand and asked, "Mom, how are grandma's and grandpa's tempers? Should I take note of anything?"

Both she and her mom had led rather comfortable lives in the Wei family because of this impressive family that her mom had. As such, she had to form a strong bond with her grandma's family. She knew that Wei Wei had wanted to tag along to go to Qingshui Town. Her grandma had even wanted her father to bring only Wei Wei, and not her!

She understood her grandma's intentions without even using her brain.

Her mom had said that only she was the Zhai family's grandchild. Wei Wei had nothing to do with the Zhai family. Why would her grandparents favor a child who had nothing to do with their family instead of her? No matter how brilliant Wei Wei was, the Zhai family would not be so foolish and ignorant as to not know who was an outsider. Besides, Wei Wei had never been an outstanding child.

Caressing her daughter's hair, Zhai Hua laughed. "You don't need to do anything special or watch out for anything. Your grandparents will love you all the same." Zhai Hua was confident about that.

"Mom, grandma and grandpa are great!" They were much better than her paternal grandma.

"Yes," Zhai Hua answered sourly. Had it not been for her tantrum at that time and Wei De coaxing her, her family should have met with her daughter long ago. In that case, even if Jiajia could not get the favor and love of her paternal grandparents, she would at least bring joy to her maternal grandparents.

The situation would be unlike how it was now, and the Zhai family was clearly fond of Jiajia. But Jiajia was uneasy because she had never met the Zhai family. "If you like it, you can always go over to stay with your grandma in the future. I'll send you over. Your grandma loves young ladies like you. When I was younger, I was a tomboy and did not like to wear dresses or put on makeup. I refused to wear any of those pretty clothes that your grandma bought for me. With a little princess like you, your grandma will have a lot of work to do in the future."

"Mom, does grandma like you more than my uncle?" With Wei Wei's presence, Wei Jiajia understood that grandsons were different from granddaughters. Moreover, having been in school for a long time, she knew that this was the case in many of her classmates' families as well.

"Yes." Zhai Hua's eyes reddened and her voice nearly choked. "It's not just your grandpa and grandma. Actually, your great-grandpa loved me more than your uncle too." Even though the men in the Zhai family were not expressive with their words, they were naturally gentler and more caring toward the females in the family. It was just that she had been too young at that time and had

simply believed what a certain someone had 'said' and thus had never thought about what her family had done for her.

Upon receiving confirmation from her mother, Wei Jiajia was even more excited to meet her grandma.

Wei De, who had been listening to the conversation between the mother and daughter, felt bitter in his heart. He had always felt that Zhai Hua shared a special bond with Jiajia and was always excluding him. He felt as though he was no more than a hired chauffeur.

"We're here." Seeing an unfamiliar structure in a familiar environment, Zhai Hua had almost failed to recognize her old home where Old Master Zhai had raised Zhai Sheng and her.

Wei Jiajia alighted from the car to take a look. "Wow, this place is huge. I guess this must be the courtyard." How interesting.

"Yes, the courtyard. Your mom grew up here in the courtyard." It was only when she got married to Wei De that she bid farewell to the courtyard. Seeing the place where she had gotten sick and tired of as a child, Zhai Hua found herself reminiscing about the good old days.

Seeing the closed door, Zhai Hua took a few steps forward with her daughter and hesitated for a moment. She was filled with mixed emotions now that she was standing at the door. Zhai Hua could not help but feel timid and feel the urge to leave.

"What's wrong, Mom?" Wei Jiajia looked at Zhai Hua in confusion, not understanding why her mom was not knocking on the door or calling her grandma to the door.

"I..." Zhai Hua wanted to suggest looking for somewhere else to stay in Qingshui Town for the night before returning the next day. But right at that moment, the door opened.

Of course, it was not that that person was omniscient and had come to open the door specially for Zhai Hua's family. It was just that Qiao Nan had been so frightened by the whole Zhai family's strange attitudes that she had goose bumps all over. Even Xiao Zhao was especially hospitable toward her. With nowhere else to go, Qiao Nan had decided to leave with the excuse that she was heading out to buy some things so that she would have a moment to herself.

What Qiao Nan had not expected was that she would bump into another ‘old acquaintance’ at the door—her sister-in-law, who was also her best friend, Zhai Hua. “Sister Zhai Hua, you’re here?! Why didn’t you make a call before coming? No one knows that you’re here! Hurry on in. I heard that it’s going to snow soon. If you left any later, I guess you wouldn’t even have made it here.”

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“Isn’t... I... You...”

Zhai Hua, who was being pulled into the house by Qiao Nan, was utterly confused. Was this not the Zhai family’s house?

Chapter 1845: Happy New Year

Although the house was newly constructed, she had clearly seen the Zhai family’s name on the gate. She was not illiterate and could still recognize her surname.

The problem was that she did not remember having such a person in her family. And that person even addressed her affectionately as ‘Sister Zhai Hua’! Zhai Hua might have retired from the military, but her martial arts skills were not so poor to the point that she was unable to get out of Qiao Nan’s grip. It was just that Zhai Hua did not feel that the other party harbored any ill intentions. Her warm welcome was genuine and sincere, so there was no need to try to get away.

There was suddenly someone in the Zhai family whom she had never met in her life yet was being so friendly toward her. Did this not mean that her parents still cared very much about her as a daughter, and Zhai Sheng about his sister? That was why the hired help in the family recognized her!

“Mom, auntie, wait for me!” Wei Jiajia smiled. Her mom was right! Her grandma’s family was indeed nice and welcoming toward her mom. It was a pity that her grandma’s family did not recognize her. Otherwise, they would treat her no differently.

“Mom?” Qiao Nan was momentarily stunned. She stopped in her tracks and looked back at the young lady who bore some resemblance to the rest of the Zhai family. “Is that Jiajia?”

“Yes, auntie. I’m Jiajia. Hello, happy new year.” Jiajia smiled. She had yet to introduce herself, but the auntie already knew her name! Her grandma’s family was truly amazing!

“Wow, Jiajia! You’re all grown up. You’re just as beautiful as your mom! I’m sorry for not recognizing you earlier. I didn’t even dare to call you earlier because you’re as beautiful as a flower!” Seeing Zhai Hua’s daughter, Jiajia, who should have been a son, Xiao Bao, Qiao Nan was in a frenzy and her words showed.

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She had never met Jiajia, and neither did she have much understanding of Jiajia. But her words had created a pleasant misunderstanding with Zhai Hua and Jiajia.

Wei Jiajia had only interacted with her relatives from her paternal side, but she had few relatives on that side, and even then, they favored Wei Wei. Only Wei Wei would be treated in this manner. Today, Wei Jiajia was overjoyed that she was finally being treated in this manner. “Auntie, you’re joking with me. You’re the beautiful one.”

Why hadn’t her mom told her that there was such a beautiful auntie in her grandma’s house? Right, who was she?

In the face of her daughter’s curious gaze, Zhai Hua felt exceptionally awkward. She could not possibly tell her daughter that she had never had much contact with her family all these years. As such, she had no answer as to who this woman who gave off a good feeling was and what relationship she had with the Zhai family.

“Brother Zhai, Sister Zhai Hua has come with Jiajia!” The sight of Zhai Hua had truly excited Qiao Nan so much so that she had forgotten that she had wanted to leave, and instead, shouted at Zhai Sheng to come out.

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Qiao Nan had indeed never met Jiajia, but she had heard Zhai Sheng mention that Zhai Hua had a daughter named Jiajia.

Upon hearing that Zhai Hua and Jiajia had arrived, Zhai Sheng’s reaction was rather normal, but Miao Jing was exceptionally excited. She left her husband behind and rushed straight out of the

door. “Where’s grandma’s Jiajia?” Seeing the young lady standing by her daughter’s side, Miao Jing burst into tears. “Jiajia, you’re really Jiajia. You look so much prettier than you are in the photos!”

Miao Jing could not resist hugging Jiajia in her arms. Seeing that Jiajia was almost as tall as she was, Miao Jing’s tears fell uncontrollably. “You’re all grown up...” She had not even gotten the chance to carry Jiajia when she was young and had yet to learn to walk. Now that she had finally met Jiajia, she did not have the strength to carry Jiajia anymore.

Zhai Hua saw the regret in Miao Jing’s eyes clearly. At this moment, Zhai Hua could not help but blame herself. Wei De had been afraid that Jiajia would have deep feelings for the Zhai couple if she were to grow up under their watch and that she might reject Wei Wei. That was why she had listened to him when he coaxed her by saying that Jiajia was still young and would only be a burden to her parents.

At that time, she should not have stubbornly held a grudge against her parents because of their disapproval of her marriage to Wei De. She should never have stopped her parents from visiting Jiajia or letting them hold her. She had been too selfish.

“Grandma.” Feeling that Miao Jing’s feelings toward her were completely different from those of her paternal grandma, Jiajia could feel tears welling up in her eyes. “Grandma, grandma.”

“Jiajia, grandma’s precious Jiajia. You must spend more time with grandma this time. I’ve missed you all these years. Of course, now that you’re all grown up, I won’t be able to carry you even if I want to. Jiajia, do you resent me for never having carried you?”

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“Grandma, I like you very much.” She had grown up with her paternal grandma. She had always seen her grandma carry Wei Wei, but her grandma had never once carried her.

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Even though both of them had never hugged her, Jiajia knew that her maternal grandma was different from her paternal grandma. Her maternal grandma had simply been unwilling to carry her. On the other hand, her maternal grandma had wanted to do so but had never had the chance. Jiajia knew that it was her paternal grandma who had prevented her from getting close to her maternal grandma. Her paternal grandma would always ask her parents to bring Wei Wei along to meet her maternal grandma’s family instead of bringing her along.

As such, Jijia did not blame her maternal grandma's family at all. She knew that her paternal grandma was the one who was to be blamed.

"Old Zhai, come take a look at how well our Jijia has grown up. She's grown up better than her mom!" Miao Jing was elated that she had finally met her granddaughter, but she had not forgotten about Zhai Yaohui's existence.

What else could Zhai Yaohui, who had been abandoned, say? At least, Miao Miao had not entirely forgotten about him. "Are you Jijia? You've grown up well indeed. You look like a sensible girl. Better than your mom."

She was a sensible girl because she had suffered throughout her life.

Zhai Hua had been spoiled and pampered from a young age and had never suffered as much. That was why she had been insensible and willful even after growing up. In the end, not only had she suffered from that, but she had also dragged Jijia down with her.

"..." Her parents were always putting her down and comparing her daughter to her while praising her daughter. Zhai Hua wondered if she should be happy because her daughter was being praised, or whether she should be upset because she was being criticized. "Dad, Mom, shouldn't you at least try to paint a good picture of me in front of Jijia?"

Zhai Yaohui harrumphed and remained silent, but his stance was clear. One had to earn and deserve his own dignity. It was not simply given. When Zhai Hua was younger, he had never thought that he had a son and a daughter. Instead, he had always thought that he had two sons.

It was only when Zhai Hua got together with Wei De that he realized the difference between his son and his daughter. At least, Zhai Hua had not performed up to his expectations in this matter regarding Wei De. Someone like that had managed to charm Zhai Hua so much so that he had suspected that Zhai Hua had been possessed.

"Grandma, grandpa, happy new year." Wei Jijia was a witty child. Upon seeing Zhai Yaohui upset, she hurried over to Zhai Yaohui's side and tried to cajole him.

Chapter 1846: Don't Call Me Mom

“Grandpa, you haven’t introduced this auntie to me.” She was unaware of the existence of such a person in her grandma’s family.

It was just that this auntie had been so warm and welcoming toward them, and she had even addressed her mom as ‘Sister Zhai Hua’ as though she recognized her mom. Besides, this auntie had been the one to open the door for them earlier, and she had walked out of her grandma’s house. That meant that this auntie had to be part of the family.

“Didn’t you already call her auntie?” Zhai Sheng cut in before Zhai Yaohui could say anything.

“...” Wei Jijia was not an elementary school student and would not be deceived so easily. There was no way this auntie was nothing more than an auntie. Other than a caretaker, who would allow such a ‘stranger’ in their house? From her looks, this auntie did not seem like a caretaker either.

Zhai Hua eyed Miao Jing, similarly asking about Qiao Nan’s identity. Since when had they had such a person in their family? Why had she not been informed about this?

Wait a minute. Her parents had come to Qingshui Town because of Zhai Sheng’s partner. Did that mean that this woman was the woman who had caught Zhai Sheng’s eye?

Miao Jing nodded at her daughter secretly, indicating that it was exactly what she thought it was. This lady could very well become Zhai Hua’s future sister-in-law. Both she and Old Zhai were old. Hua Hua had not married well and would have to depend on Zhai Sheng in the future. As such, it was crucial for Hua Hua to get on Qiao Nan’s good side.

Upon confirming that Qiao Nan was indeed the lady that her brother liked, Zhai Hua smiled. “Hello, I’m Zhai Hua. I’m Zhai Sheng’s sister. Oh right, do you know me?” Zhai Hua shook Qiao Nan’s hand while assessing her.

Zhai Sheng was her younger brother, after all. While Zhai Hua was happy that Zhai Sheng had finally met someone new, she also hoped to be able to help Zhai Sheng take a closer look so that they would be able to avoid another shameless woman like Qiu Chenxi. The first impression she had gotten from this woman was a very comfortable and warm one. Her eyes were clear, unlike those of someone harboring evil intentions. For the time being, she would score her an eighty out of a hundred.

“Of course she does. She used to be our neighbor in the past and she lived in the quad in Ping Cheng. Her name is Qiao Nan.” Miao Jing introduced Qiao Nan warmly to Zhai Hua, hoping to

bring Zhai Hua closer to Qiao Nan. Both her son and daughter were important to her and she would not leave any of them behind.

Wei De, who had just entered after parking the car, frowned and expressed his dissatisfaction toward Qiao Nan. “Do you mean the Qiao family that has been making waves in the news back in Ping Cheng?” Someone as ‘important’ as the Wei family should not have known about such trivial news. It was because this matter had blown up that even Wei De had heard about it.

Thinking about the family that he had seen on television, Wei De’s first impression of Qiao Nan was as bad as it could get. This was a woman who would bring shame to them. She was old and poor, and she even had a bunch of troublemakers as relatives. How could such a person show up at the Zhai family’s house? “Dad, Mom, is this the new auntie that you’ve just hired?”

The way he saw it, if she was really the auntie who had been hired to take care of his brother-in-law, it would be best to fire her and send her back immediately. It was not as though the Zhai family had any financial issues. It was easy to hire someone better. There was no need to bring a troublemaker home.

“What nonsense are you spouting?” Zhai Hua’s expression darkened. Anyone with ears could hear Wei De’s disgust toward Qiao Nan, let alone Zhai Hua, who shared a bed with Wei De.

Zhai Hua thought about how Qiao Nan was the person whom Zhai Sheng had fallen for and seemed to have gotten the approval of her parents. Zhai Hua did not want her brother to remain single for the rest of his life. As such, before she could prove that there was something majorly wrong with Qiao Nan, not only should they not chase Qiao Nan out, but they would even have to support her.

If Wei De angered Qiao Nan and ruined the matter for Zhai Sheng, where would Wei De find another sister-in-law for her whom Zhai Sheng would accept?

“If you don’t know what to say, you should just keep quiet. Nan Nan is our guest, not our helper.” Miao Jing’s face was even darker than Zhai Hua’s. If Miao Jing were to rank the people whom she hated the most in this world, Qi Minlan and her daughter had once swept the top five rankings. But ever since Wei De appeared, he had ‘risen’ to the third place.

In Miao Jing’s eyes, Wei De had never been her son-in-law. He was simply a bad guy who had snatched her daughter away from her and treated her poorly.

“Mom.” Wei De was upset. His in-laws were not giving him any respect in front of outsiders. So many years had passed, but they were still dissatisfied with him. He was fine with that, but was he really so bad that he could not even compare to an outsider in the Zhai family’s eyes, even though he was Jiajia’s father?

In actual fact, he truly could not compare to her.

“Mom?” Miao Jing laughed upon hearing that word. It was a long and meaningful laugh. Miao Jing could not even be bothered to explain the reason behind it. “All right, since you’ve already sent Hua Hua and Jiajia here, you’d better hurry home since the new year is in two to three days’ time. If you don’t return, your mom’s going to kick up a fuss, saying that we’ve snatched her son. I can’t afford to take the blame for that.”

What she wanted was only for her daughter and granddaughter to return. Wei De? Sorry, there had never been any space for him in the Zhai family.

Ever since Zhai Hua refused to send Jiajia over to the Zhai family’s house a few times, Miao Jing’s dissatisfaction toward the Wei family had reached her limit. Miao Jing understood her own daughter well. She knew that no matter how stubborn Zhai Hua was, she would never stop her family from interacting with Jiajia. But she could not say the same of Wei De.

Afterward, Wei De had even asked if he should send his nephew to the capital so that the elderly couple would not feel too lonely. There was nothing Miao Jing and Zhai Yaohui did not understand. Wei De clearly favored his nephew and was ready to sacrifice Jiajia to benefit his nephew. Right from the start, Wei De had never really thought about Jiajia.

In that case, it was clear as day why Jiajia had never visited them in the capital.

Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing would never accept such a son-in-law. Not now, not in ten years’ time, not ever.

Wei De felt a little embarrassed. Were his parents-in-law chasing him away? Why? Even the outsider had not left, so as a family member, why did he have no right to stay? “Dad, Mom, our family of three has decided to celebrate the new year with you guys. I’m not leaving. Jiajia, what do you say?”

Knowing that the Zhai family did not like him, Wei De could only rope his daughter in to help him out.

Jiajia sighed. No matter how bad her dad was, he was still her dad, after all. She had to help him. “That’s right, grandma and grandpa. We’re not leaving this year. We’re staying to celebrate the new year with you.”

Qiao Nan, who had been looked down on by Wei De, felt a moment of discomfort, but she calmed down very quickly.

Chapter 1847: Understanding the Situation

This was not the first time she was being looked down on by Wei De anyway. In her dream, Wei De had even tried to form an alliance with her even while despising her, wanting to enter the Zhai family with her help.

So Sister Zhai Hua had actually married Wei De and had a daughter, Jiajia?

Zhai Hua had gotten married and had given birth to a daughter. It was just that her relationship with her family had not been as amicable as it had been in her dream. It was obvious that the Zhai family had something against the person whom Zhai Hua had married. As such, Qiao Nan had been curious about whom Zhai Hua had married in this lifetime.

It seemed unexpected, yet expected, that Zhai Hua had indeed married Wei De in the end and that Jiajia was her daughter with Wei De.

Thinking about everything that had happened in her dream, Qiao Nan was unsure of whether she had gotten more muddleheaded, or whether she had gotten clearer in her mind. Was her dream really a dream? Did it really have nothing to do with reality?

Perhaps it was just like the psychiatrist had said. She had not paid attention to these details, but that did not mean that they did not exist. She could have unintentionally seen information regarding the Zhai family, remembered it, and projected it in her dream. That was why everything she knew about the Zhai family was coming true in real life.

Based on this explanation, she must have seen the news of Zhai Hua marrying Wei De and had some impression of it. And she must have heard some rumors to have had a ‘profound’ understanding of Zhai Hua’s relationship with Wei De.

No, that was not the case. Definitely not.

Qiao Nan seemed to have gotten on to something but did not dare to believe that something like that was happening to her. If she wanted to find out whether her guesses were true, it was simple. She would just have to ask a few questions. Given the Zhai family's status, their family's affairs had never been exposed to the public.

As long as she looked up all the news reports regarding the Zhai family and compared them to what had happened in her dream, she believed that she would have an answer very soon.

Wei De himself was not welcomed by the Zhai family and had even expressed his own dissatisfaction toward Qiao Nan. This was a rather ridiculous situation. Miao Jing was especially worried that Qiao Nan would be angered by Wei De's words and attitude. If Qiao Nan bore a grudge against them, she might just move out since she had been 'kidnapped' here by her son anyway.

Qiao Nan, who was lost in her own thoughts, had no time to think about leaving or preventing more misunderstandings. Her only thought now was to prove whether her dream had been an illusion or whether her dream reflected reality.

"Auntie Qiao, where's my room? Can you bring me there?" As a good daughter, she would help clean up the mess her father had created. If Auntie Qiao were to leave, her grandparents would surely hate her father even more. She had finally met her grandparents and wished to spend the new year with them in a joyful mood.

It was just as well since Qiao Nan wanted to prove her suspicions. "All right, I'll bring you around the Zhai family's house. We have quite a few empty rooms. You can pick out the one that you like and I'll help you tidy it up." Qiao Nan was not the owner of the house, while Wei Jiajia could be considered as half an owner. As such, Qiao Nan would not make the decision of assigning a room to Wei Jiajia.

"All right. Thank you, Auntie Qiao." Wei Jiajia breathed a sigh of relief. Her dad had treated Auntie Qiao so impolitely, but Auntie Qiao had not even gotten angry and had even treated her just as well as she had earlier. Auntie Qiao was such a good person. No wonder her grandpa and grandma protected Auntie Qiao without even caring about her dad.

In the past, she had never understood why her maternal grandma's family disliked her father. Today, Wei Jiajia finally understood why her grandma's family had such an attitude toward her dad.

“Auntie Qiao, I apologize on my father’s behalf for his words. My dad has been spoiled and pampered by my grandma and Mom. He’s like a child. Please don’t hold it against him. Sometimes, I get mad at him too!”

Yes, her dad had been spoiled by her grandma and her mom. Sometimes, her dad was even more childish than her own classmates.

“That’s all right.” Qiao Nan shook her head. Wei De’s attitude would never hurt her. She was already used to such treatment, after all. “Jiajia, can I ask you a few questions? I... I’ve lived with the Zhai family for quite some time, and I know that your grandpa and grandma miss you very much, especially your grandma. She always hugs your photo, saying that you look really good in that photo. But why is it that she only has a photo of you from your childhood? She’s touched it so much that the sides of that photo have turned yellow. Jiajia, do you not like your grandma’s family?”

Zhai Sheng was divorced and was childless. Besides, he was always in the military. Apart from each other, the old chief and Auntie Miao had no one else by their sides. It must have been lonely celebrating the new year alone all these years. Without any doubt, what they looked forward to the most was naturally Jiajia’s arrival.

“Ah...” Wei Jiajia did not want to talk about that since it was her family’s own dirty laundry, but Auntie Qiao seemed to have a special relationship with her family. She could very well become her uncle’s wife in the future. In that case, Auntie Qiao would eventually find out about her family’s situation. So should she tell her about it now?

Seeing that she had put Wei Jiajia in a tight spot, Qiao Nan quickly changed the conversation topic. “Jiajia, I heard that you have an elder brother over at your paternal grandma’s house.” Did Wei Wei really exist like he had in her dream?

Qiao Nan could be sure of one thing. When she had still been living in the quad, Zhai Hua’s marriage to Wei De had not made such a big splash like it had in her dream, and not everyone had found out about how Zhai Hua had found someone who could not match up to the Zhai family. In fact, she had found someone with absolutely no qualifications.

It had been such a huge matter in her dream because of her ‘big mouth’, causing Wei De’s relationship with his ‘sister’ to be exposed. Zhai Hua thought that she had been cheated on. That was why it had gained so much attention. Without all those scandals, her marriage should have been rather low-key in this lifetime.

Since there had not been any news of her marriage, it was impossible for the news of the Wei family having an unmarried daughter who had a son out of wedlock to spread. Dirty linen should not be aired in public, after all. The Zhai family would not want others to know that they had in-laws like that, and neither did the Wei family want others to know about such a stain in the family, which would result in them being even less qualified to be the Zhai family's in-laws.

"I guess grandma has told you all about it." Auntie Qiao was indeed going to become her aunt. There was no running from it.

"Is his name Wei Wei?" To be absolutely sure, Qiao Nan was unwilling to let go of even the smallest details. It was best to clarify such matters in case she got into a misunderstanding and thought that she was going crazy because she was unable to differentiate between her dream and reality.

"Yes, his name is Wei Wei."

Chapter 1848: Your Uncle Is Better

But she had never regarded Wei Wei as her elder brother. Similarly, Wei Wei had never had the self-awareness to act as an elder brother.

Qiao Nan rubbed her temple, trying to ease her headache. So Wei Wei did exist. "His mom... Where are they staying?" If everything was true, then Wei Wei was probably Wei De's son, not his nephew.

Wei De would definitely have kept his son close to himself. But in order to prevent others from finding out about the truth, had Wei De left his ex-wife back in the village?

Jiajia was in distress. Why did Auntie Qiao know all about her family? Jiajia felt rather uneasy because a stranger whom she had met for the first time today knew about the mess in her family like the back of her hand. It was as though she had been stripped off all her clothes in broad daylight. "Wei Wei lives with his mom and my grandma. I live with my mom."

"What? Wei De brought his younger sister along?" Wei De was too daring!

Since she had already said it, it was much more natural for Jiajia to continue. “I heard from my mom that my aunt had been cheated on when she was younger and had gotten pregnant with Wei Wei. Initially, my dad felt sorry for Wei Wei because he’s a fatherless child. Since there wasn’t much opportunity for any development in the countryside, he moved Wei Wei over to live with us. Not long after that, I was born. After that, my grandparents moved from the countryside to Ping Cheng. Initially, my aunt lived in the countryside alone, but my dad thought that it was too pitiful for her to live in the countryside alone. Besides, everyone makes mistakes when they’re young. We can’t exclude her and ostracize her because of a mistake. We have to give her a chance.”

In other words, Wei De had left Wei Xiaomei alone in the countryside for a period of time. But after a period of observation, he realized that no one had any suspicions about Wei Wei and thus decided to bring the child’s mom over as well?

Qiao Nan could completely understand why Wei Wei lived with Mother Wei, while Jiajia lived separately with Zhai Hua. With a son like Wei De, Qiao Nan was sure that there was another hypocrite in the Wei family.

If there had not been someone as shameless as Wei De in the Wei family, the fact that Wei Wei was Wei De’s son would have been exposed long ago. Someone in the Wei family must have arranged everything for Wei De and hidden the truth of Wei Wei’s origins. Qiao Nan guessed that this person was probably Wei Wei’s mom.

Jiajia’s words matched up with Qiao Nan’s dream. Not only did Wei De have a ‘sister’, but she had almost committed a blunder in her youth and had given birth to her son, Wei Wei, out of wedlock. “Jiajia, if you mind, you can choose not to answer me and treat it as though you’ve never heard me. Of course, if you’re willing, can you tell me if you feel that your dad treats you better, or whether he treats Wei Wei better?”

“Auntie Qiao, did grandma ask you to ask me about this?” Her grandma probably felt that she had suffered too much and wanted Auntie Qiao to ask her about it. Wei Jiajia sniffled as her emotions reached their brim.

She wanted to be a good daughter. She knew that her grandma’s family held a grudge against her father and did not accept her father. At such a time, she should speak well of her father so that her grandma’s family would change their opinion toward him. It was just that she did not want to do so. She wanted to speak the truth because that was indeed how her father treated her.

“I’ll be straightforward. Your grandma wants to know about it, but she doesn’t dare to ask you about it. She’s afraid that she won’t be able to handle your answer. She’s worried that she had not been rational enough at that time and had not been stubborn enough in trying to stop your mom’s marriage. She’s also afraid that you might misunderstand this attitude as her disliking you and not wanting you to be born.”

Even if she had not asked Miao Jing about it, Qiao Nan could still understand the concerns of her mother-in-law from her dream.

Hearing this, Wei Jiajia began sobbing uncontrollably. Her paternal grandma disliked her, and as such, her paternal grandma would always say mean things in her face. She never worried about whether she would hurt Jiajia. On the other hand, her maternal grandma cared deeply for her. It was out of her own concern about whether Jiajia would get hurt that her grandma had chosen to suppress her curiosity.

It was true that worry stemmed from love, and fear stemmed from worry.

Qiao Nan handed the young lady a piece of tissue paper, questioning herself if her question had been too heartless. Actually, if she really wanted to know about it, she did not have to ask Wei Jiajia. She could have found out about the situation from others as well. It was just that the answer would be more direct and accurate if she heard it from Wei Jiajia’s mouth.

After crying for a while, Wei Jiajia finally stopped and said, “Auntie Qiao, I’ll take this room. Shall we go in and have a chat?” It was just as well. She needed to pour out all her grievances.

She had never dared to mention her sufferings at her paternal grandma’s house to her mom because she was clear of her mom’s temper. If she were to say anything, her mom would definitely get into a fight with her paternal grandma’s family. Her mom might have a hot temper, but her grandma was the best at creating trouble in the family. Her dad was always on her grandma’s side, and if her mom got into an argument with her grandma, her dad would always scold her mom. More than once, he had lectured her so harshly that she had teared up.

As time went by, Wei Jiajia simply made it a habit to suck up all these grievances. She had already been wronged anyway. There was no point in letting her mom suffer with her. Besides, this was no big deal. It would pass as long as she endured it for a while.

“My aunt gave birth to Wei Wei, and because Wei Wei is fatherless, my dad eventually decided to name the child Wei Wei and that he would be a child of the Wei family. He even registered Wei Wei under the Wei family’s household. My grandpa is pretty all right, but my grandma favors boys. She

always calls Wei Wei her eldest grandson and doesn't care about me at all. My dad... He keeps saying that Wei Wei doesn't have a father and only has an uncle and that I'm much more fortunate than he is. As Wei Wei's only uncle, if he doesn't treat Wei Wei well, no one else would. I'm different because I have a father and a mother, so I shouldn't argue with Wei Wei. But what rights does he have? He's only Wei Wei's uncle, but he's my dad!"

"So what if I have a dad? My own father treats someone else's child better than he treats me! My own dad can't even compare to Wei Wei's uncle!"

This young lady had a lot of pent-up anger, but she had never expressed it in the past because of her maturity. With Qiao Nan, Wei Jiajia felt like pouring out all of her grievances. She complained to Qiao Nan as she wept. Her tears fell even more freely now as though it was raining.

Looking at how badly this young lady was crying, Qiao Nan was sure that this young lady had been cruelly bullied in the Wei family.

"You have an uncle too, and your uncle is definitely better than Wei Wei's uncle."

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Chapter 1849: More of What?

Besides, she was ninety percent sure that Wei De was not even Wei Wei's uncle. Wei De was Wei Wei's biological father!

Someone as selfish as Wei De would never favor his nephew over his own daughter, even if he were to favor boys. His nephew was someone else's child, but his daughter was his own! If nothing else worked, Wei De would find a way for someone else to give birth to a son for him. In short, anyone else who was not his own child would not matter.

"But my dad is worse than other dads!" Wei Jiajia clenched his fist tightly and pounded against the bedhead. "My friends' parents always send them to school. I don't have anyone but my mom to send me. When I was younger, people laughed at me, saying that I was a fatherless child. At that time, I could honestly say that my dad was in the army. But when I grew older and Wei Wei went to high school, my dad personally sent him to school. Even when I went to junior high school, my dad

could not even be bothered with me. My friends have good relationships with their dads, but me and my dad...”

Even though her dad was in the military, he spent way too little time at home. But he seemed to always be able to find some time for Wei Wei. Yet, he was never willing to use some of that time for his own daughter.

What was the reason?

“Aunty Qiao, are sons really that good? And that son is not even his own son! If my dad can treat someone else’s son well, why can’t he care more about his daughter?” Wei Jiajia could not wrap her head around this. “Do you think my dad would treat me better and be more caring toward my mom if I were a boy? If my dad performs well, do you think grandma and grandpa will accept him and we’ll be able to have a normal life like other families?”

Wei Jiajia had felt that the atmosphere and relationships in her family were abnormal more than once. It had almost become a dream of hers to have a normal life.

What else could Qiao Nan say at this time other than hugging this hurt child in her embrace, lighting patting Wei Jiajia’s back to comfort her?

Even though she had already confirmed her suspicions, she could not simply say such things without absolute evidence. She could not act so flippantly in case she alerted the enemy.

This chat with Wei Jiajia was mostly Wei Jiajia venting her emotions. Qiao Nan still had a ton of questions in her mind, but at the sight of the pitiful Wei Jiajia, she really had no heart to continue asking.

Wei Jiajia sobbed violently in Qiao Nan’s embrace, completely soaking the clothes on Qiao Nan’s shoulder. Only then did she stop crying. To Qiao Nan’s relief, Wei Jiajia was in good spirits after crying, and she seemed to be in a better mood than when she had just arrived. This child had truly held it in for too long. “Since you like this room, take a look around and see if there’s anything missing. Auntie Qiao will help you prepare it.”

At this time, Wei Jiajia’s eyes were as red as a bunny’s, and she was exceptionally embarrassed. “Auntie Qiao, I’m sorry to have troubled you. It looks like everything is here. I don’t need anything else. Thank you, Auntie Qiao.” She was already a grown-up and no longer a young child. That was why she had held it in without saying a thing.

But now that she had told Auntie Qiao about it, she realized how much she had suffered. After spilling it all out, she felt relieved and relaxed. “And Auntie Qiao, can you...”

“Don’t worry. I won’t tell anyone about what happened today.” Qiao Nan knew that children of Wei Jiajia’s age were particularly sensitive. After all, she had once been the mom of three children. “I’ll go boil two eggs for you to soothe your eyes. Otherwise, people might think that I bullied you and made you cry.”

“Okay.” After sending Qiao Nan out, Wei Jiajia jumped onto her bed and buried her face in her covers. She was not a three-year-old child and had met Auntie Qiao for the first time today. Why had she spilled everything to Auntie Qiao and even cried in Auntie Qiao’s embrace like a kid?

Thinking about how she had never even cried in this manner in front of her mom, Wei Jiajia felt even more embarrassed.

Qiao Nan took a turn and headed to the kitchen, hearing Zhai Hua and Zhai Sheng leaving quietly. Along the way, Zhai Sheng asked Zhai Hua, “Is this the happiness that you persisted and gave up everything for?”

Zhai Hua had complained that her parents favored males over females and placed more emphasis on Zhai Sheng than her. That was why she was going to marry someone who valued her, and that man was none other than Wei De.

At that time, Zhai Hua’s words had hurt Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing deeply. How could an outsider treat their own daughter better than they did? The couple did not know whether to be angry with their daughter, Zhai Hua, or to be hurt that their daughter had misunderstood them to such an extent. If even her own parents did not love her, why did Zhai Hua think that someone else would be able to truly love her?

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It was not that such a case did not exist, but the probability was minuscule.

Obviously, Zhai Hua was certain that she had to be that lucky one and thus threw herself into Wei De’s arms and married him without any hesitation.

Zhai Sheng did not say much, but this one sentence was enough for Zhai Hua to feel attacked.

Wei Jiajia had not said much, but Zhai Hua's actions spoke for themselves. Before Wei Wei had started pinching Jiajia secretly, Zhai Hua had been more concerned about Wei Wei than Jiajia, who was still in infancy and could not speak.

Her reason for that was similar to Wei De's. Wei Wei was a fatherless child, while Jiajia had both her parents loving on her. As such, it was only right for them to pay more attention to their nephew, Wei Wei.

Zhai Hua knew that she cared more about Wei Wei. After all, Jiajia was still young, and all she needed to do was to make sure Jiajia could sleep and eat well. There was nothing else she needed to worry about. But Wei Wei was different. He was about to start school and had to attend enrichment classes. To develop Wei Wei, Zhai Hua ran around, pulled on her strings, and spent money on him.

It was only when Zhai Hua realized that she had neglected her own daughter because of Wei Wei, and Wei Wei had even been sore about her caring less about him now that she had Jiajia and had bullied Jiajia because of that, did Zhai Hua finally come to a realization.

So what if Wei Wei did not have a father and Jiajia had both her parents? Was it Jiajia's fault that Wei Wei was fatherless? Wei De was in the military, and she came to the difficult decision of retiring from the military to stay at home to take care of Jiajia, becoming a slave for Wei Wei's matters. But instead of gratitude, what she received in return was Wei Wei bullying her daughter!

In that case, what did Jiajia have? Did she have her father's company or her mother's care? All Jiajia had was a bad brother who stole her father's concern and her mother's love from her, and one who even liked to pinch her secretly!

Chapter 1850: What Did This Mean?

It was also because of that incident that Zhai Hua came to her senses and was no longer willing to care about Wei Wei's matters anymore. A lot of things were not finalized when Wei Wei was still studying in kindergarten as he was still young. However, when he was in primary school, junior high school, and even senior high school, he had brushed past good opportunities again and again without Zhai Hua's help.

After Wei Wei understood what it meant by having such a formidable aunt like Zhai Hua, a lot of things were irreversible, and Zhai Hua wasn't willing to give Wei Wei a chance to recover anything. That was because at this point, Zhai Hua had already seen clearly that her mother-in-law liked Wei Wei, the grandson, more and her father-in-law was just a silent old man who only knew how to smoke cigarettes and not express opinions. Wei De was forever using 'Wei Wei is a fatherless child' to prevaricate himself so that he could continue to treat Wei Wei better than Jiajia.

Her daughter was only left with her now. Zhai Hua didn't allow herself to spend any energy on Wei Wei and make her daughter's life more unfair than hers in the past.

Zhai Hua tried her best to give all her love to her daughter so that she could avoid feeling unhappy. However, she didn't expect her daughter, who was always smiling at her, to have kept so many words in her heart.

It wasn't that Jiajia didn't mind or accepted the treatment in her grandma's house. Jiajia just didn't want to fight with Wei De so that there would be peace in the family. As such, she had shouldered everything herself.

If it weren't for Qiao Nan finding Jiajia for a chat today so that she could confide her thoughts and if it weren't for her being worried and insisting on coming over, then coincidentally overhearing the conversation between her and Qiao Nan, when would she be able to rely on herself and find out her daughter's true thoughts? When would she understand her daughter's inner world and understand that she didn't lead a happy childhood at all?

When she thought of the uproar back then, Zhai Hua suddenly found herself to be ridiculous. Happiness? Was it really happiness? Was she happy, or was Jiajia happy? She was afraid that only the Wei family was happy. If not for marrying her, just like what Zhai Sheng had said over ten years ago, based on Wei De's capabilities, how would he be able to get promoted to platoon leader, let alone company commander?

Wei De had told her more than once that his goal in life was to become a regiment commander. Why did he share his goal with her? It was obvious that Wei De wanted her to know his thoughts so that she could work on her family and get Zhai Sheng to promote him to that position.

Since she didn't like him and her daughter wasn't happy, what was the significance of her insistence to marry Wei De and be together with him? Her daughter had cried so much. What was the significance of her suffering in silence all these years then?

However, to get a divorce?

Upon thinking of a divorce, Zhai Hua's attitude wasn't as decisive as when she had wanted to marry Wei De back then. That was because she knew that if Jiajia wished for her to get a divorce, then why didn't Jiajia share with her all the grievances in her heart? Jiajia wanted to maintain the apparent peace of this family. Did this mean that no matter how incompetent Wei De was as a father and how biased her grandma was, Jiajia eventually wanted this family?

For herself, Zhai Hua felt that getting a divorce was nothing. However, if it was for her daughter, then there were a lot of issues she needed to consider and care about.

Zhai Hua didn't say anything. Zhai Sheng couldn't be bothered to ask anything else either. Compared to Zhai Hua, he wanted to 'communicate' with Qiao Nan even more. It looked like it wasn't that he was too sensitive when he first felt something strange. Indeed, Qiao Nan knew too much about their Zhai family.

Zhai Sheng was even more surprised by what Qiao Nan had asked Jiajia today. Qiao Nan could actually ask a question that even their Zhai family didn't know about. Since this was a situation that the Zhai family wasn't aware of, didn't Qiao Nan, an outsider, know too much? How did Qiao Nan know all these? Why did she understand the situations of the Zhai family and the Wei family so clearly?

If Qiao Nan was suspected of having bad faith toward the Zhai family because of her quirks, then Zhai Sheng wouldn't believe it. He was very sure that not only did Qiao Nan not bear any malicious intent toward the Zhai family, but she even had the best intentions for them. Take Jiajia crying in Qiao Nan's arms for example. If Jiajia didn't feel Qiao Nan's good intentions, how would Jiajia be willing to confide in Qiao Nan completely when she never confided to Zhai Hua?

This woman had really kept a lot of things from him!

Qiao Nan thought that she had already avoided everyone's gaze. She didn't know that not only were there people who overheard her conversation with Jiajia, but Zhai Sheng had also caught hold of her vulnerability and she had nowhere to escape from him.

She was a person who understood the Zhai family very well. She also cared very much about the Zhai family. Even if Qiao Nan was willing to say that she wasn't interested in Zhai Sheng at all, one had to see if Zhai Sheng was willing to be a fool to believe in Qiao Nan's lies.

Qiao Nan's conversation with Jiajia influenced Zhai Hua greatly. After knowing that her daughter had cried so much and that it was inappropriate for her to find her daughter at this time since that would not be giving her face, she could only return to her room. It was just that when she saw Wei De, who looked like he wanted to settle scores with her, sitting in the room, Zhai Hua lost all her mood.

There was one thing Zhai Hua was right about. Indeed, Wei De wanted to settle scores with her. "Zhai Hua, what does your family mean by this? That woman surnamed Qiao is just an outsider. For an outsider, your parents actually didn't give me, the son-in-law, face and even treated her better than me? Regardless, I've married you and you are my wife. Since they don't give me face, does that mean that they are no longer willing to give you, the daughter, face as well? Also, I can tell you that the Qiao family is a bunch of troublemakers. Quickly ask your parents to chase Qiao Nan out of the Zhai family. Don't have anything to do with her. Otherwise, when trouble hits, don't regret not listening to my advice today!"

Did water enter the Zhai family's brains? There was such a big scandal in the Qiao family. Who didn't avoid the Qiao family when they saw them now? The Zhai family was really something. Not only did they not avoid the Qiao family, but they even took the initiative to get close to them. Was there something wrong with their brains?! If he was the one who owned everything in the Zhai family, he wouldn't be like the Zhai family who kept stepping on steel wires!

"Troublemakers?" Upon hearing this, Zhai Hua wanted to laugh. "Do you think that our Zhai family has less trouble?" Since the day she married Wei De, the Zhai family's troubles were never less.

Qiao Nan was different from Wei De. Following Qiao Nan's appearance, she could obviously feel that the relationship between her parents and Zhai Sheng had eased a lot. Due to Qiu Chenxi, her parents had always felt that they did something sorry to Zhai Sheng. In reality, Zhai Sheng had also become colder and more indifferent than before.