

RTAMM 1861

Chapter 1861: Too Cowardly

The truth was that before Father Wei mentioned this, he had similarly felt that after having Jiajia as a granddaughter, everything would go well for their Wei family. However, today, the Zhai family had kept both Zhai Hua and Jiajia for reunion dinner to celebrate the new year but chased Wei De away. This made Father Wei realize that the Zhai family didn't change their attitude toward Wei De because of Jiajia's existence. The Zhai family still looked down on his son, their son-in-law.

After feeling scared, Father Wei couldn't help but talk to Wei De. "Ah De, Dad's a useless man. I can't manage your mom. You spend less time at home, so you have to be careful. If you can't manage someone like your mom, you have to know what to do in the future if anything happens."

Her son was the most important to her. Anyone else in front of his wife would just be deemed as people without any status.

An ordinary person had to be scared of her and respect her because she had Zhai Hua as a daughter-in-law. Zhai Hua was from the Zhai family. This meant that she was in-laws with the old chief. Zhai Hua had to be afraid of her and treat her well. She shouldn't fight back or scold her as she was Zhai Hua's mother-in-law.

In short, in Father Wei's eyes, Mother Wei's lethality was no less than Wei De's. What was different was that their lethality was not targeted at others but themselves.

Wei De didn't say anything else. He only looked at Mother Wei and said, "Mom." Yes, Zhai Hua was bad-tempered and couldn't tolerate grievances. The Zhai family had treated her so well, but she still complained that she didn't lead a good life there. His mom treated Zhai Hua badly, yet she could tolerate it until now. The question was how much longer Zhai Hua could tolerate it.

Wei De wasn't sure what decisions Zhai Hua would make. Since he didn't have the capital and backbone to leave Zhai Hua and live alone, some things should be paid attention to.

"Okay, okay. I get it. I totally get it. In the future, I'll treat Zhai Hua and Jiajia as if they are our Wei family's ancestors. Will that do?" Even if she wasn't happy or didn't like it, there wasn't anything she couldn't do for the sake of her son.

Hadn't she already done it once when she first saw Zhai Hua, this old woman?

"Mom, it has been tough on you because of me." Wei De felt heartache for his mom for having to compromise as a mother-in-law. If he didn't have the chance to be together with Zhai Hua and Xiaomei was his only wife, his mom could completely treat her daughter-in-law based on her own will and temper.

A mother-in-law was a mother-in-law. She should put on some air in front of the daughter-in-law.

Mother Wei was still feeling a little unhappy before. When she heard her son's words, her unhappiness disappeared. "It's not tough at all. For you and Wei Wei, I'm a willing party. Everything is worth it. As long as both of you are well, I won't say a word even if I have to get down and let Zhai Hua and Jiajia use me as a horse, let alone treat them as ancestors."

Not only did she want her son to be well, but she also wanted her only grandson to be well. Zhai Hua had not outlived her usefulness yet. If they couldn't make her bring out all her usefulness for her son and grandson to have a bright future, then their Wei family would really suffer a huge loss.

He had already married Zhai Hua, this old woman, but hadn't taken any advantage yet. Wasn't this akin to trying to steal a chicken only to end up losing the rice?

As the Wei family talked about this, Wei Xiaomei knew that in the days to come, she was going to lead a life without a husband again. Even that little bit of sneaky passion would be lost.

Wei Xiaomei felt regretful not because she missed Wei De. Wei Xiaomei knew that if she slept with Wei De, his heart would be biased toward her and her son. Most importantly, on what basis could Zhai Hua snatch her man but she couldn't snatch hers?

Wei Xiaomei felt a distorted sense of satisfaction when she lived in the house bought by Zhai Hua and slept with Wei De behind Zhai Hua's back.

It was just that from today onward, she would no longer be able to enjoy such satisfaction anymore.

Qiao Nan didn't know that after Wei De returned home and got lectured by Father Wei, he became so arrogant that he forgot who the Wei family had relied on to lead such a good life today.

The Wei family had relied on the Zhai family. If the Wei family dared to treat Zhai Hua and Jiajia badly, then they were really complaining that they were leading too good a life.

Qiao Nan didn't know about these troubling matters. However, after leaving the Qiao family and returning to her in-laws' place in her dreams, Qiao Nan felt that she had celebrated the new year happily and comfortably.

Of course, it wasn't only Qiao Nan who was happy. Zhai Hua realized that her daughter was smiling much more and her laughter was louder than when she was in the Wei family. In the past when they were at the Wei family's house, even if her daughter laughed, it was a plain one without any sound. Back then, she thought that her daughter's temper was unlike hers, and she was more ladylike.

However, after returning to her parents' house to celebrate the new year, Zhai Hua realized that she was wrong. Actually, her daughter was pretty similar to her, especially when she laughed. It was a loud and hearty laugh.

"Mom, I've already received Aunt Qiao's red packet. When is uncle going to allow me to call her aunt instead? I must say that uncle is too slow in his actions. They are already celebrating the new year together, so why is he dawdling? I'm going to look down on him soon." Jiajia became a lot livelier and more cheerful recently, and she dared to talk to Zhai Hua about Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng.

Jiajia held her cheeks. "Every time I see uncle standing next to Aunt Qiao, I nearly can't stand it. We have people in school falling in love as well. Even though uncle and Aunt Qiao aren't like my classmates, addressing each other by husband and wife, that type of sweetness when they were together is much more exaggerated than my classmates'. However, it has been a week. I've observed that uncle hasn't even held Aunt Qiao's hand, let alone progress to the stage where I could address her as aunt!" How weak!

Zhai Hua laughed at her daughter's laugh. "Don't say this in front of your uncle. He wants face, especially when he's in front of the woman he likes. Didn't you see that your uncle used to look like a block of ice, expressionless and emotionless? After Qiao Nan's arrival, your uncle changed quite a bit." At least, he seemed more human now.

She thought that all the men from the Zhai family were like that, just like Old Master Zhai and her father. As such, she didn't feel surprised at how Zhai Sheng was when she was young.

Chapter 1862: No Evidence

But afterward, the relationship between her parents warmed up, and it was then that Zhai Hua realized that there was another side to her parents.

Today, Zhai Sheng seemed to have met the right person, Qiao Nan, and his change had been just like her father's at that time. Did that mean that the old master had been this way because her grandma had left too early?

Thinking about how the old master had been infuriated about how she had insisted on marrying Wei De even when he passed on, Zhai Hua felt incredibly upset. "Jiajia, I'll bring you along to visit your great-grandpa tomorrow."

She had not been filial to the old master while he was still alive and had even angered him greatly. She wondered whether the old master would forgive her since she was even bringing her daughter to visit him now.

"All right, Mom. Let's go visit great-grandpa and great-grandma. When you miss them, I can always follow you here to pay them a visit. Ping Cheng isn't that far from Qingshui Town, and the environment here is good too. We can spend our holidays here in the future." As compared to Ping Cheng, she felt that Qingshui Town felt much more comfortable.

Seeing that her daughter truly liked it here, Zhai Hua nodded in agreement.

"Sister Qiao, what's up with you lately? I feel like you've been worried about something." Xiao Zhao tried to ask Qiao Nan. In reality, when the two of them had been preparing dinner, Qiao Nan had gone into a trance and had remained silent for a long while. Xiao Zhao had already encountered such a situation several times. "Sister Qiao, are you too tired? If that's the case, I could have prepared dinner myself. I think there should be no problem for me to whip up a meal on my own every once in a while. Besides, you've been by my side recently. I'm sure I've picked up some skills from you. Do you want to go back to your room and get some rest?"

She did not dare to tire Sister Qiao out because that would be her fault if she were to do so.

"No, I just have some things on my mind. It's inevitable that I'm lost in thought sometimes." Qiao Nan denied it. The new year was already over, and she had thought that she would be able to whip

up a few meals for the Zhai family as a way of reminiscing the times in her dream for the last time. Besides, Wei De and Wei Wei's matter had been weighing down on Qiao Nan's mind.

She had been hesitating about where to start and break through. There was one more thing. This was a rather complicated and awkward matter. Who should she talk to about it first?

"Do you really not need some rest? Sister Qiao, don't hold on if you can't. I can manage on my own."

"How about this, Xiao Zhao? Since you said that you've learned a few things from me, I'll let you handle today's meal. I have something to take care of, and I need to go find Sister Zhai Hua." After giving it some thought, Qiao Nan gritted her teeth and decided to start from Zhai Hua.

She was a woman too. As a woman, she did not wish for Zhai Hua to become the last person to find out about Wei De's matter.

"All right, hurry on and get some rest." Xiao Zhao only wished for Qiao Nan to get some rest instead of always staying in the kitchen to tire herself out. As for whether Qiao Nan truly got some rest or went to handle her own affairs after leaving the kitchen, Xiao Zhao could not possibly question Qiao Nan about it.

After handing over her duties in the kitchen, Qiao Nan took off her apron and went out to find Zhai Hua. Qiao Nan was relieved to see Zhai Hua alone in the room without Jiajia. If Jiajia was there, she would have to find an excuse to chase Jiajia out of the room.

On the very night Wei De had left, Zhai Hua had simply moved into her daughter's room. Zhai Hua thought that this would be an opportunity for her to get closer to her daughter and to understand her daughter's real inner thoughts and feelings.

"Sister Zhai Hua, where's Jiajia?"

"Qiao Nan, you're here. Come and have a seat. That cheeky monkey, Jiajia, has turned wild after meeting Zhai Sheng. I wonder if I gave birth to a fake daughter. She must have gone to find her uncle again." It was only now that she found out that Jiajia took an interest in military boxing.

When they had been in the Wei family in the past, Mother Wei had never allowed such a thing. She thought that it was too ugly and unladylike for Jiajia to participate in such an activity. Now that they were in the Zhai family's house and no longer under the influence of Mother Wei, Jiajia was finally able to show off her true nature. Zhai Hua did not think too much about it. She had been able to participate in whatever activities she enjoyed when she was younger, so why couldn't her daughter do so?

Besides, it was better for girls to learn some martial arts skills. That way, she would not be so easily bullied when she was outside. In case Jiajia ever got into a fight with her husband in the future, she would not need to be worried about Jiajia being beaten up by her husband. In fact, Jiajia would even be able to beat some sense into her husband.

Zhai Hua had felt this strongly when she had managed to subdue Wei De when he had wanted to pull Jiajia away. At that time, she knew that she would have to let her daughter learn some martial arts skills. Otherwise, she would be easily taken advantage of. There were too few men who would keep to their word of not touching a single strand of her daughter's hair.

Wei De had made countless promises to her before marriage, but in the end, the couple had always used their physical force to 'talk' to each other and solve their problems.

Upon hearing that Jiajia had gone to find Zhai Sheng to learn some martial arts skills and would not be back for a long time, Qiao Nan was a little more relaxed. "Sister Zhai Hua, you might think I'm being a busybody, but I think I have to talk to you about some things. I think it's best that I talk to you about this matter first. You might not be able to keep your cool and calm, but I think it won't be fair to you if I talk to you about this matter only after I've told everyone else."

Zhai Hua's smiling face changed. "What's the matter? Is it that serious?"

She had never seen Qiao Nan in the quad in the past, and this was her first time interacting with Qiao Nan. If Zhai Hua were to describe herself as someone as hard as a rock, then Qiao Nan was truly as gentle as water. But now that Qiao Nan was being so serious and solemn, there was no way Zhai Hua could not be serious either.

The more serious Qiao Nan acted, the more Zhai Hua believed that what Qiao Nan was about to tell her was the truth. "Tell me about it. Does it have anything to do with me? I've seen you in a trance these few days. Is it because of this matter? If that's the case, you should have come to look for me earlier."

Qiao Nan laughed bitterly. She had wanted to look for Sister Zhai Hua earlier too so that Sister Zhai Hua would not continue to be cheated by that bast*rd. But how was she supposed to talk about it?

Firstly, she had no evidence on hand. Secondly, she herself had been rather doubtful about her dream.

She could not possibly rush over to Sister Zhai Hua, telling her that she had dreamed about the relationship between Wei Wei and Wei De. That meant that Sister Zhai Hua had been blind and had married the wrong person ten years ago. If she were to say that, even if Sister Zhai Hua did not punch her because it was the new year, she might very well be sent to the mental hospital.

“Sister Zhai Hua, this is just my suspicion. I’m not sure if I’m being too sensitive, but it’s been very uncomfortable trying to hold it all in. I think that you can discuss this with Brother Zhai and decide on how to handle this matter.”

Chapter 1863: Too Alike

The more hesitant Qiao Nan was in spilling the beans, the more anxious Zhai Hua got. “What’s the matter? I’m getting goose bumps from seeing you in such a dilemma. Is the sky going to fall?”

Qiao Nan had to resist the urge to reply to Zhai Hua, saying that it was pretty much the same. If what she was about to say was true, wouldn’t the sky be falling in Zhai Hua’s world?

“I heard Jiajia say that her dad treats his nephew, Wei Wei, very well. Jiajia has always felt that her dad always treats that child better than her, his biological daughter. Sister Zhai Hua, is that only Jiajia’s illusion?”

“...” Zhai Hua’s expression turned cold. How should she put it? She did not really want to discuss the Wei family’s matters with Qiao Nan. That was a domestic disgrace that Zhai Hua herself did not want to face. Qiao Nan had not yet married into the Zhai family. As such, Zhai Hua thought that it was rather embarrassing for her to talk to Qiao Nan about how she had gotten into an argument with the Zhai family over her marriage to Wei De at that time and about how the Wei family was treating her daughter poorly.

However, very quickly, Zhai Hua’s expression changed and her stiff shoulders drooped. “I’ve never been willing to talk about this topic. If I mention it, I’ll lose all dignity in front of my family. But if

I don't, I'd feel bad for Jiajia. He always says that Wei Wei's a fatherless child and that Wei Wei has suffered a lot and has been ridiculed because of that. If even he doesn't treat Wei Wei well as his only uncle, there'll be no one else who will treat Wei Wei well. But Jiajia only has one father too!"

If Wei De had not neglected Jiajia because of his care toward Wei Wei, she would never have mentioned a thing about this. But now, Wei De placed more emphasis on Wei Wei than Jiajia. That was crossing the line.

"My mother-in-law favors males over females, and because Wei Wei has the Wei family's name, and is a boy, my mother-in-law is biased toward him, even though we don't know who his father really is. I feel really bad for Jiajia because of this. Qiao Nan, if you look for a husband in the future, you must take note of this. Our family is pretty good in this aspect, and such a thing would never happen. Most importantly, my mom likes granddaughters more than grandsons. Just look at how well my mom is toward Jiajia."

Probably, Zhai Hua had finally had some self-awareness of her identity as an elder sister, feeling that Zhai Sheng had finally met the right person at his age. As his elder sister, she had to help Zhai Sheng boost his image and that of the family in front of Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan was slightly stunned, thinking that Zhai Hua had veered off the main topic. As such, Qiao Nan had to guide Zhai Hua back to their initial conversation. "Sister Zhai Hua, I actually think that favoring males over females is not that much of a problem when compared to the problem I found. I've found something wrong with the family portrait in Jiajia's phone. I'll say again that I'm not entirely sure of it. Perhaps I'm just too sensitive or have been watching too much television."

"What's the problem?" Was the problem so serious that favoring males over females was no longer a problem?

"Take a look at this." Qiao Nan took a picture out of her pocket.

Looking at the photo in Qiao Nan's hands, Zhai Hua raised her eyebrow in surprise. "You developed it?"

"Yes, Jiajia sent the photo to me, and I asked Xiao Xu to help me develop it. Sister Zhai Hua, please don't mind me interfering in this matter."

"Of course not." It was just a photo. Once Qiao Nan married into the family, they would have to have another photo taken with Qiao Nan inside. "What's wrong with this photo?"

Qiao Nan took a deep breath as she pointed to Wei Wei, who was standing beside Wei De in the photo. “Sister Zhai Hua, don’t you think that Wei Wei resembles Wei De?” Not just a little. There was at least a thirty to forty percentage of similarity between the two.

In her dream, she had pointed this suspicion out while Wei Wei was still young and had not fully developed. At that time, Wei Wei had only resembled Wei De slightly. Now that Wei Wei was all grown up and a teenager, his facial features and smile did indeed resemble Wei De. They looked exactly like a father-and-son pair.

“Isn’t it normal for them to look similar? They’re an uncle and nephew, after all.” Zhai Hua did not take Qiao Nan’s words to heart.

Qiao Nan said agitatedly, “But Jijia said that her aunt was adopted by the Wei family and was not the Wei family’s biological daughter. It’s only right for nephews to resemble their uncles if their parents are siblings, right?”

Wei Xiaomei was not even the Wei family’s child, so was it not strange that her child, Wei Wei, resembled his uncle?

At that time, Wei De had put in a tremendous amount of effort in chasing Zhai Hua, whereas Wei Xiaomei had her reasons to get closer to Wei De.

Zhai Hua resented her parents for favoring males over females. She hated that her parents treated Zhai Sheng better than they treated her. But Wei De had proved to her that this did not happen in the Wei family with Wei Xiaomei’s existence.

The Wei family already had a son, Wei De, but had pitied Wei Xiaomei, who had been abandoned by her family. As such, they had taken Wei Xiaomei in and raised her as their own. Later on, when Wei Xiaomei grew up and got cheated on by a man, she had given birth to a child out of wedlock. Even then, the Wei family had not abandoned Wei Xiaomei, and they had even helped her raise her child.

Any other family would have simply found a random family for Wei Xiaomei to marry into, given her situation. But their family had not done so because they knew that there would be no one who could match up to their standards and would be willing to marry a single mother.

Instead of letting Wei Xiaomei marry someone, it would be like throwing her into a pit.

They had raised Wei Xiaomei, after all, and were thus unwilling to see Wei Xiaomei suffer. They would much rather Wei Xiaomei stay single for the rest of her life since she already had a son, Wei Wei, after all. Even if she remained unmarried for the rest of her life, she would still have a son to provide for her in her old age.

Initially, Zhai Hua had felt rather uneasy when she had first heard about this. She felt that Wei Xiaomei's situation would never have occurred in a typical family. But Wei De had managed to convince Zhai Hua otherwise. From his words, the Wei family was portrayed in an extremely positive light, where there was no way that they favored males over females. After all, they had treated an adopted daughter so well. Was this not the kind of family Zhai Hua had been looking for?

In the past, no one had ever brought up the issue of Wei Wei resembling Wei De to Zhai Hua. Even though Zhai Hua knew that Wei Xiaomei had been adopted, the Wei family truly treated Wei Xiaomei and her son extremely well. It was to the extent that Zhai Hua often forgot about the truth of the situation.

But now that Qiao Nan mentioned it, Zhai Hua had taken it for granted and had even brushed Qiao Nan off with an excuse that sounded rather reasonable.

“This. This...” At the mention of Wei Xiaomei being adopted, Zhai Hua was stunned. “That’s probably because Wei Wei grew up around Wei De. That’s why he looks a little like Wei De.” Didn’t they say that children would always take after the people who raised them?

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Chapter 1864: Don't Scare Me

Qiao Nan bit on her lip. “Sister Zhai Hua, don’t you think that that logic seems a little flawed? It might be true that spending time with someone can cause one’s actions and expressions to resemble those of the other person, thus giving people a sense of resemblance. But I’m not talking about such things between Wei Wei and Wei De. I’m talking about their appearances. Under normal circumstances, resemblances in appearances are due to genetics. Unless Wei Wei’s unknown father is not only related to Wei De but also a very close relative... Perhaps it’s his brother or uncle.”

“That’s impossible.” Zhai Hua denied. “The Wei family does have relatives, but I’ve met most of them. None of them fit your description. Besides, you’ve said that these people are of a different generation from Wei Xiaomei, so how could they have gotten into a relationship with Wei Xiaomei,

much less had a son like Wei Wei? If it's really someone within the family, there's no way they would have allowed Wei Xiaomei to remain in the family with Wei Wei. Qiao Nan, I think you're overthinking it."

Qiao Nan had to resist the urge to roll her eyes. She was certain that she was not overthinking this. "Sister Zhai Hua, you're not catching the main point. Since Wei Wei's father can't possibly be Wei De's uncles, think about what other reason there might be for Wei Wei to resemble Wei De. Have you never had any suspicions even though you guys meet each other so often? Times must have been hard in the past. Which family would have been so kind as to adopt a young lady and even continue supporting that young lady and her son even after that young lady did something to disgrace the family? Is the Wei family a bunch of saint people? I wouldn't say so from what I've seen."

She had nothing to do with Zhai Sheng and was simply receiving some help from Zhai Sheng for the time being. But Wei De seemed to be afraid that she would not know her place and would even cling on to Zhai Sheng. As such, he had taken on the responsibility of chasing her away on the Zhai family's behalf.

Could such a person really be a saint? The Wei family was full of saints? That was such a hilarious joke!

Zhai Hua was suddenly flustered. "Qiao Nan, what are you actually trying to say?" She felt that there was something between the lines of Qiao Nan's words.

"Sister Zhai Hua, do you really not understand what I mean?" If Sister Zhai Hua truly did not know what she was thinking, she had said all that for nothing. Based on this alone, she had decided to talk to Sister Zhai Hua first.

She did not wish for Sister Zhai Hua to be the last one to find out about Wei Wei's relationship with Wei De. Similarly, since this was Sister Zhai Hua's marriage, if Sister Zhai Hua did not want to take issue with this matter and wanted only to protect her family, she was not in the position to ruin this family. If she told the Zhai family about Wei Wei's relationship with Wei De before telling Zhai Hua, there would only be one possible outcome. Sister Zhai Hua's family would definitely be destroyed.

The Zhai family had already allowed Zhai Hua to be willful once, but they were definitely not going to allow for it to happen a second time. If it happened a second time, Zhai Hua would not only lose her marriage but also her true family.

“Sister Zhai Hua, you should understand my purpose of coming to talk to you. You can think about it, and I’ll respect your decision once you’ve made one. I’ll do whatever you tell me to. Anyway, I’m only staying here for the time being. In a few days’ time, I’ll move back to my house once my door has been fixed. In the future, I probably won’t have any more opportunities to meet your family.”

Not meeting the Zhai family meant that she would never have the chance to tell the rest of the Zhai family about the relationship between Wei Wei and Wei De. Zhai Hua could rest assured about that.

Zhai Hua felt as though there was a small hammer pounding beside her ear, making her all dizzy. “Hold on a moment. Don’t be in a hurry. Let me think through it.” Zhai Hua shook her head as she said it. “My brain is in a little bit of a mess at the moment. Qiao Nan, can you be a little more straightforward about what you’re trying to say about Wei Wei resembling Wei De?”

Since Zhai Hua kept saying that she did not understand what Qiao Nan meant, Qiao Nan would have to be straightforward and direct about it. Qiao Nan would have to stop beating around the bush and tell Zhai Hua exactly what she meant. Only then would she be able to leave the Zhai family’s house with peace of mind. “What I mean is that I suspect that Wei Wei is not a fatherless child. In fact, his father has always been taking care of him. Although I’ve only seen Wei De once, I don’t think he’s the kind of selfless person who’ll willingly sacrifice his life for someone else without expecting anything in return.”

“I don’t think he’s the kind of person to treat someone else’s child better than his own child. Only if both children are his will it make sense for the Wei family to favor Wei Wei, a boy, over Jiajia, just like what Jiajia said.”

“That’s impossible!” Zhai Hua had not even gotten the chance to deny it before Jiajia, who had just returned from her training to change out of her sweaty clothes, pushed open the door and shouted. “Auntie Qiao, I think you’re overthinking it. That’s impossible. Wei Xiaomei is my aunt. Even though she isn’t the Wei family’s biological child, she grew up in my grandma’s family. She’s a sibling to my father. How could they possibly have gotten together behind my mom’s back and had Wei Wei? That’s ridiculous! Thank you for your concern, Auntie Qiao, but I think you’re thinking too much!”

Wei Jiajia preferred Wei De treating Wei Wei well out of pity than accepting the fact that Wei Wei was actually her father’s biological son. Besides, all these were just suspicions. They had to be false! Yes, that was exactly what it was. It was false. It was not the truth.

Jiajia's appearance caught Qiao Nan off guard. But because the most important person concerned was present, Qiao Nan calmed down. "Jiajia, have you ever heard of child brides? I'm sure the Wei family's conditions in the countryside weren't very good, right? In a time when they could hardly even afford to feed themselves, do you know how hard it must have been to feed another person? Finding a bride was not easy at that time. Besides, your dad was a soldier. It was understandable for the Wei family to do that since they had not expected your mom to appear."

Wei Jiajia forced a smile out. "Mom, please explain it on Dad's behalf. Dad might not have a good temper, but he's responsible toward our family. My dad would never do such a thing to us, right? He's a good person, right, Mom? Auntie Qiao, you've scared me. This is just your wild guess, but you've made it sound so real! Look how you've scared my mom!"

Qiao Nan had already spilled too much to back down. "Jiajia, you told me that your mom was the one who bought the house that your grandma is living in now. It has three bedrooms and two living rooms, right?" It was a huge house.

"Yes, but what does the house have to do with this?"

Chapter 1865: I Should Return

"Since there are three bedrooms, your grandparents live in one of them. The other larger one is for Wei Wei and is combined together with the study room. The last one is for your aunt, right?" Qiao Nan put her fingers up for Wei Jiajia to count.

Wei Jiajia nodded. "That's right. My aunt's room isn't very big. It's smaller than the typical study rooms."

"And you told me that your dad occasionally spends the night at your grandma's house, right? Your dad is a soldier and doesn't even have much time to spend time with you and your mom. Do you think it's normal for him to stay at your grandma's house instead of spending time with his wife and child? Moreover, since the three rooms already have their owners, have you ever thought about where your dad sleeps when he sleeps over at your grandma's house?"

"My-my dad..." Wei Jiajia was speechless. She had no idea where her dad slept when he spent the night at her grandma's house. "Maybe he sleeps in the living room!"

Her dad would never sleep in her grandparents' room. Her dad had never talked about it, but she knew that her dad thought that there was a smell in their room because her grandparents were advanced in age. Wei Wei had grown up being spoiled and pampered. He had been upset about sharing a room with someone else in his school's dormitory, so there was no way he would share his bed space with someone else, even if this 'someone else' was the uncle who had raised and treated him well.

With her aunt...

No, that was impossible!

"Since you guys don't know where he sleeps in the Wei family's house, there's no way I would know. I'm just a bystander looking at this matter in a very rational manner. That's what I think. They're not biological siblings. Even biological siblings aren't that close once they grow up. Besides, Wei Xiaomei is already a mother with a child, even though she's never gotten married in her life. Do you think it's appropriate for a grown man like your dad to sleep in the living room when he has a younger sister who's so old and unmarried? Is it appropriate for him to be staying over at the Wei family's house?"

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China was still a conservative and traditional country. Such a situation had to be avoided at all costs. Otherwise, it would only attract gossip.

"It's already quite humiliating that Wei Xiaomei had Wei Wei out of wedlock. Even if your dad doesn't mind that Wei Xiaomei has almost no reputation left, do you think he would not care about his own reputation?" Others might not consider this, but Wei De would surely be the first person to consider such a situation.

"There are many things that are taken for granted because people get used to them. Actually, that's a very scary habit to have. You seem to have forgotten about why the neighbors never seem to have anything to say about Wei Wei staying with the Wei family. That's because they have no idea that Wei Xiaomei is an adopted daughter of the Wei family."

Even after coming to Ping Cheng, everyone else apart from the Zhai family thought that Wei Xiaomei had given birth to Wei Wei after getting married and had then gotten divorced. It was just that the man she had gotten married to was not a good person and had not wanted anything to do with his son after getting divorced.

Because she was too upset, Wei Xiaomei had never talked about that man. Even Wei Wei himself had no idea what his father's name was. This was why he had been mocked and ridiculed in school.

Since the neighbors did not know that Wei Xiaomei had been adopted, no one would find it strange if Wei De were to occasionally spend the night at the Wei family's house. That was why no one had suspected or misunderstood anything.

It was exactly because of such an environment that everyone had taken it for granted and overlooked the illogical and unreasonable parts. As long as their neighbors found out that the Wei family had adopted Wei Xiaomei, those people would probably start rumors about the Wei family when they thought back about the Wei family's situation.

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"Say something, Mom. I don't believe Auntie Qiao." It was true that her dad did not treat her as well as he treated Wei Wei, but she did not believe that her dad and his family were people like that. They could not have been lying to her mom, to her, and to her maternal grandma's family all this time.

"I..." Zhai Hua was confused and couldn't think critically. At this time, Zhai Hua had not returned from her trance and was unable to say anything.

Qiao Nan sighed. "There's no need for us to keep guessing. It's very simple for us to find out the truth. When you go back, take anything with Wei Wei's and Wei De's DNA. It can be a strand of hair. Sister Zhai Hua, given your capabilities, I'm sure that you'll be able to find someone to do a DNA test. Let's not start baseless accusations and make wild assumptions. Let's put our trust in science. What do you guys think about that?"

"..." Zhai Hua remained silent. She was like a fly without its head.

Wei Jiajia gritted her teeth. "Fine!" Testing their DNA would be better than letting their imaginations run wild and scaring themselves. They needed an answer to this anyway. If Auntie Qiao had gotten it wrong, she would never be envious about her dad treating Wei Wei well in the future and would even apologize to her dad for her suspicions.

On the contrary, if it turned out to be true...

Wei Jiajia looked at Zhai Hua worriedly. Apart from herself, the one who would be dealt the hardest blow was her mom.

“Jiajia, are you sure?” Zhai Hua had only reluctantly agreed because her daughter had agreed to it. She was unable to accept it, and she could tell that Jiajia would be even more unable to handle such truth. She preferred Wei De treating Wei Xiaomei and Wei Wei well out of the goodness of his heart instead.

But if it turned out that Wei Wei was indeed Wei De’s biological child, she would become a huge joke.

“All right, since Jiajia thinks we should do it, let’s do it!” Zhai Hua clenched her fist. “It’s already the fifth day of the new year tomorrow. I should bring Jiajia back home. No matter what, thank you for your concern, Qiao Nan.” At least, Qiao Nan had brought this problem up so that she would no longer have to worry about this problem in the future if they investigated it now.

After coming to a decision, the mother-and-daughter pair left the Zhai family’s old villa for Ping Cheng the next day. Of course, it was not just Zhai Hua and her daughter who left this time. Since it was already the fifth day of the new year, Qiao Nan thought that her door would be fixed by now since it had been half a month since that incident. If it was not, she would buy a lock and learn how to fix it herself.

Qiao Nan felt uneasy staying in the Zhai family’s old villa for the long term.

“Qiao Nan, there’s no hurry for you to leave. Our house is so big and we have so many rooms. You can continue staying here! Now that Hua Hua and Jiajia are gone, I’ll have no one to accompany me if you leave too!” Now that the new year celebrations were over, Miao Jing was regretful that she had not been able to present her watch as a gift, let alone that bracelet.

Why was it so easy for other people to give their gifts away? They had already prepared their gifts but had never gotten the chance to give it away!

“Auntie Miao, thank you for your hospitality. I’ve been bothering you for way too long. My rented apartment should be fixed by now. I have to return eventually.” And so, it was time for her to bid farewell.

She could not possibly continue staying in someone else's house. Even though the Zhai family had not chased her out, Qiao Nan still had some self-awareness. It would be humiliating for her to stay long enough for the Zhai family to get frustrated with her and chase her away.

“Auntie Miao, I'm still living in Qingshui Town. How about this? I can come to visit you whenever I have the chance.” She probably would not have the chance to do so. Zhai Sheng was only in Qingshui Town to recuperate, after all.

Recently, Zhai Sheng had been spending more time walking around. When the doctor performed a checkup the previous day, he had said that Zhai Sheng was recovering rather well. As a doctor, he would not stop Zhai Sheng from returning to the military after another short while of recuperation.

In other words, Zhai Sheng would be leaving Qingshui Town very soon. If Zhai Sheng were to leave, would Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing still stay behind? Qiao Nan was leaving not only because it was the right thing to do, but because she felt that what she had told Zhai Hua was true. After this farewell, she would probably never have the chance to meet the Zhai family again.

In actual fact, this meeting outside of her dream and being able to celebrate the new year with the Zhai family had already been enough for Qiao Nan. It was best to be content with what one had. Qiao Nan was already extremely content that she had been able to have a reunion with the Zhai family outside of her dream. This experience alone would be enough for her to relive for the rest of her life.

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Miao Jing had no idea what Qiao Nan was thinking and finally smiled upon hearing that Qiao Nan intended to return to visit her. “All right, then. You must come to visit me. If you don't, I'll visit you instead.” Miao Jing might have been old, but she was no fool. Miao Jing had taken note of Qiao Nan's passivity.

Miao Jing was rather frustrated by a lady like Qiao Nan who 'knew her limits' all too well. Actually, there was no need for Qiao Nan to act in this manner. Qiao Nan could very well be more motivated. It was true that Zhai Sheng was slightly old, but he was a good man and extremely suitable as a husband. Why was Qiao Nan not moved at all in the face of such a good prospect?

“...” Qiao Nan pursed her lips and remained silent for a while before answering, “All right. I won’t come to visit you, then. You can come over to my place.”

Auntie Miao was just being courteous, right?

In the end, Xiao Xu sent Qiao Nan back to her rented apartment. Upon seeing the door that had been repaired, Qiao Nan sighed in relief. “Xiao Xu, this door has been changed, right? It looks sturdier than the previous one.” Although Chen Jun had already been transferred out of Ping Cheng and would probably never return to find her or even kick on her door, it was still better for her to have a sturdier door. She felt safer that way.

“That’s right.” Xiao Xu nodded.

In actual fact, the very afternoon Qiao Nan had been picked up, the Xu family had found someone to remove the door and replace it with a sturdy metal door.

Of course, it was done as per Xiao Xu’s request.

This house was the house of his chief’s future wife. If the chief’s wife ever came back to stay and were to get into an accident because the door was not sturdy enough, the people in the army would definitely come looking for him. Most importantly, he would never be able to face the chief if the chief’s wife were to get into an accident in his territory.

Because of their son’s vehement request, the Xu family did not dare to delay the matter any further and immediately helped their son complete the task.

When the landlady heard that her tenant was about to become the wife of her son’s boss, she was stunned and did not return from her trance for a long while. She could not believe that something so dramatic had happened right before her eyes! She had not known that the short span of taking care of the chief would turn into a whole life’s work!

Thankfully, Xiao Xu had always kept in mind Qiao Nan’s ‘dutiful’ attitude and told his mom to keep it to herself that the chief had such plans since Qiao Nan had not agreed to the matter yet. If they said anything and scared the chief’s wife away, he would never be able to make a living for himself anymore. Their family would just have to pretend that they knew nothing about the matter and act just like they had before.

“Will other tenants make a fuss that you’ve installed a metal door for only my house?”

“No, we’ve already thought of an excuse. There won’t be any trouble. Sister Qiao, take a look around and let me know if there’s anything else that needs to be fixed.” He had to ensure that Sister Qiao was well-fed and treated well before she got married to the chief.

Qiao Nan felt much more at ease now that she had returned to her own rented apartment. “There’s no need for that. This house is pretty good, and there aren’t any other problems. Xiao Xu, you should head back. Xiao Zhao won’t be able to handle it alone if anything happens. I’m a grown-up. Do you think I won’t be able to take care of myself?” Besides, this was like putting the cart before the horse. Xiao Xu did not have to care so much about her.

If there was really something wrong, she would contact Xiao Xu’s mom directly.

“All right, then. I’ll take my leave, Sister Qiao. See you again when we get the chance.” Hopefully, when that time came, he would be able to address Sister Qiao as the chief’s wife instead of ‘Sister Qiao’.

Qiao Nan was in a trance now that she had returned to the rented apartment. But her expression darkened when she remembered that she had only moved to the Zhai family’s old villa because of Chen Jun.

If it had not been for the fact that she had moved into the Zhai family’s old villa and had no time to think about Chen Jun, Qiao Nan would have wondered what was wrong with Chen Jun long ago that he had returned to ask for reconciliation. The most ridiculous thing was that the Chen family had not objected to it!

Thinking about how Chen Jun had probably only appeared before her because of Wang Yang, Qiao Nan felt like she had been stabbed in her heart. In this life, Zhu Baoguo...

Qiao Nan’s face paled because of these three words. It had been almost half a year before she had finally thought of Zhu Baoguo. He had yet to appear in this lifetime. Did that mean...

She gritted her teeth. Perhaps she should leave Qingshui Town and go back to Ping Cheng to take a look. Qiao Nan did not dare to ask around about Zhu Baoguo and the Zhu family. If her guess was right, Zhu Baoguo had not been resuscitated in time after being beaten up by a hooligan. It did not seem appropriate to talk about such a matter during the new year period.

Besides, the Zhu family wielded quite a lot of influence in Ping Cheng. It might draw suspicion if she were to ask about the Zhu family. What should she do to understand Zhu Baoguo's situation then?

Qiao Nan kept pondering this question while on her way back to Ping Cheng. When she was on the bus, Qiao Nan had no idea what she was going to do. But the moment she alighted from the bus, she seemed to have gotten an answer. Qiao Nan headed straight for a mausoleum.

In her previous lifetime, she had visited this place at least once a year because Zhu Baoguo's mother was buried here. Later on, when Old Li had passed on, he had been buried here too. Old Li had said that Zhu Baoguo's mother had passed away early on in her life and he had sent a younger person off. When he was dead, he hoped to be able to spend more time with his daughter.

Chapter 1867: Sensible

As such, the plots beside the grave of Zhu Baoguo's mother had all been reserved, one of which was for Old Li. Up until the moment she awoke, the other side of the grave had still been empty. That had been reserved by Zhu Chengqi for himself.

Walking ahead to the grave of Zhu Baoguo's mother, Qiao Nan started weeping. Both sides of the grave had been filled. Old Li was on one side, while the gravestone on the other side displayed Zhu Baoguo's young face. The space beside Zhu Baoguo was the space that had been left empty. Qiao Nan guessed that that was the space that Zhu Chengqi had left for himself.

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Thinking about how that big boy had eventually married Shi Qing and had a son and had eventually matured in her dream, Qiao Nan's tears flowed uncontrollably. Unfortunately, she had been the one to save Zhu Baoguo's young life in her dream. In reality, time had not turned back when she opened her eyes. The heavens had not given her another chance to save this young life.

Qiao Nan bent down and placed a bouquet of flowers in front of each of the three graves. "Although you may not have any memory or impression of me in this lifetime, I think that our fates are intertwined. I'm sorry that I've only come to visit you now. I hope that the three of you will be able to reunite with one another in another world. In reality, the one in greatest pain is the one who's

been left behind. If you have the chance, please try to appear in his dreams more often. It's not easy for him either."

Qiao Nan could not imagine how Zhu Chengqi, who had lost his only son after losing his beloved wife, felt. The Zhu family might be large, but there was no one who could let Zhu Chengqi feel the warmth of a family anymore. Wang Yang's family did not treat Zhu Chengqi sincerely. Otherwise, Wang Yang would not have led Zhu Baoguo astray just because of his greed for the Zhu family's assets. Neither would he have found people who accidentally killed Zhu Baoguo by mistake.

Qiao Nan wondered whether Zhu Chengqi would be able to accept the truth if he were to find out about it. However, Wang Yang, who had committed all those wrongdoings, had never gotten the punishment that he deserved. After killing Zhu Baoguo, he had even enjoyed everything that should have belonged to Zhu Baoguo. Qiao Nan could not help but feel injustice for Zhu Baoguo.

If not for Wang Yang, she would never have met a troublemaker like Chen Jun, who would go on to ruin her life. If she were to think about it in that way, it was true that she and Wang Yang were enemies in this life.

After placing her offerings and fresh flowers in front of the graves and wiping their photos, Qiao Nan finally left. "I'll definitely come back to visit you when I get the chance."

To Qiao Nan, Zhu Baoguo's grave was not any ordinary grave. It was the pain of losing a close friend. Qiao Nan, who was a little depressed, left with a pair of red and swollen eyes, and her head hung low. Just as she left, she happened to brush shoulders with an old man in a black suit.

Unlike Qiao Nan, who continued walking forward with her head lowered, that old man stopped in his tracks and looked back at Qiao Nan. "Why is she here?" Had the news not said that she had already left Ping Cheng?

"Hurry up!" A car stopped right beside Qiao Nan in a hurry. The moment the passengers alighted from the car, they continually urged the other party to move faster and increase their speed. "Hurry up. We have to confirm whether uncle came here. If... There's no if..."

"What's the hurry?" The woman who alighted from the car had a head full of curls and lips thick with red lipstick. "Isn't he just an old man? Where can he possibly go? Why do you have to be so anxious? Dear, I'm not trying to say anything about you, but you're really too much of a scaredy-cat. Uncle doesn't even have any other children. You're the only relative he has left on this earth. His assets won't run away. They're all yours."

All of the Zhu family's assets belonged to them alone. Whether they came or not, the result would be the same. She could not understand why her husband was in such a hurry. She had not even been able to change into some decent clothes before leaving the house!

"Why do you know?" Wang Yang frowned and his lips were pursed tightly together. That old foggy, Zhu Chengqi, might seem to treat his nephew well and helped him with everything, but he knew that if Zhu Chengqi truly wanted to help his nephew, there was no way he would only have gotten this much.

He could not just look at things on the surface. Zhu Chengqi could give him much more than what anyone else expected. He was the only one by his uncle's side. If his uncle did not treat him well, who would his uncle treat well?

He did not have such ridiculous and self-absorbed thoughts.

Thinking about how retarded Zhu Chengqi was for wanting to acknowledge a woman who had nothing to do with the Zhu family as his goddaughter, Wang Yang was infuriated. He was giving up a close nephew for a distant goddaughter! If he really acknowledged that woman as his goddaughter, there would be no place for Wang Yang in the Zhu family!

Thankfully, he was clear of his uncle's temper and had gone a step ahead and gotten rid of that woman. Otherwise, even those little assets that slipped through his uncle's fingers would never be his.

"Remember that my uncle hasn't been in the best of health lately. The doctor told me that he can't say for sure when he'll pass away and that we have to be prepared for that to happen. Before he passes away, you'd better treat him well and coax him properly. As long as my uncle doesn't get any weird ideas, all of the Zhu family's assets will be mine. Then, I'll buy you whatever you want, and I'll be able to settle your brother's matters for you too. On the contrary, even if you make my uncle unhappy, leading to the Zhu family having nothing to do with me anymore, I still have the Wang family. As for you, don't forget why I married you in the first place. I have no need for useless things by my side. If that time comes, don't blame me for being heartless and throwing you back to where you came from."

Wang Yang spoke harshly, scaring that woman who had been extremely relaxed just moments earlier.

At this time, Qiao Nan was already long gone. Otherwise, she would have realized that this woman resembled her. The similarity was in the appearance, not the behavior.

“Darling, don’t get upset. Don’t bother about my brother. No one can save him. Don’t worry. I’ll perform well in front of that old man. I’ll definitely be able to make him happy. I promise you that I won’t be a burden.” Although the woman felt aggrieved, she dared not mention a thing about how she felt.

She had married someone of higher social status by marrying Wang Yang. When she found out that her existence was useful to Wang Yang, she had been rather fearless and did not feel that she could not match up to Wang Yang. She was clear that Zhu Chengqi was the key to her remaining in the Wang family. It had not been easy for her to get married into such a good family. If anything happened to her own family, the Wang family could always help them out. She had no intention of ever going back to her days of suffering and hearing her family nag at her.

Chapter 1868: Found

“Remember what you just said.” Wang Yang’s tone improved slightly upon hearing the woman’s words. Zhu Chengqi’s health had been deteriorating recently, and Wang Yang could not wait for Zhu Chengqi to pass on. Once Zhu Chengqi was dead, he would successfully receive all of Zhu Chengqi’s assets due to his relationship with Zhu Chengqi.

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On the other hand, if Zhu Chengqi was alive, there was still a possibility of someone else inheriting Zhu Chengqi’s assets in the end. But as long as Zhu Chengqi was still alive, Wang Yang would turn all his attention to Zhu Chengqi and coax his ‘ancestor’ well, in case Zhu Chengqi made a sudden change in his mind and found another goddaughter to inherit his assets.

When Zhu Chengqi had done that at that time, Wang Yang had almost peed in his pants from fear.

Wang Yang had all reasons to suspect that the person whom Zhu Chengqi acknowledged as his kin would be his greatest enemy who would snatch away everything he had been dreaming of all his life.

The woman patted her clothes and put on her persona, suddenly becoming a lot more gentle and generous. “Dear, let’s go. I’m worried about my uncle. It’s the new year, and here’s the only place that he can come to. It’s just as well. I’ve been thinking of aunty as well. Shall we join uncle and have a chat with aunty and the rest?”

It was the new year, but that old man was not letting them rest easy. Where else could that old man go but visit the graves? He did not even have any friends whom he could visit. At the thought of how she had not been able to have some fun over the new year and instead had to follow her husband to some graveyard, Wang Yang’s wife almost exploded in anger.

Wang Yang was extremely pleased with how his wife had been able to change in an instant as though she was a face-changing performer. “That’s right. Let’s go and bring him back. Before he takes his last breath, you’d better stay by his side in case he doesn’t have anyone to take care of him when he feels unwell and needs someone to run his errands.”

“Understood.” That meant she could not let anyone come into contact with that old man up until the very moment he took his last breath. Otherwise, that old man might suddenly go crazy and leave a mess of a will behind. Not only would that complicate matters, but it would even hurt Wang Yang’s and her interests.

Wang Yang’s last sentence alluded to the fact that she had better pay attention to lawyers in particular.

There were some things that the couple did not need to say out loud to have a tacit understanding between the both of them. When they arrived at the gravestones of the Zhu family, Wang Yang and his wife indeed spotted Zhu Chengqi. “Uncle, why didn’t you call me along to visit grandpa and auntie? I wanted to visit them too. It’s just that I’ve been too caught up with work. I should have taken the initiative to follow you here.”

“Grandpa, auntie, Baoguo, we’ve come to visit you.” Wang Yang’s wife placed the hefty fruit baskets one by one in front of the gravestones. They had already known that Zhu Chengqi would come to visit the three gravestones whenever he had any free time. As such, they had a constant supply of fruit baskets in the back of the car so that they would not need to make a stop to purchase offerings before heading to the cemetery.

At such times, these fruit baskets could be put to good use. Wang Yang was not so foolish to only say that he wanted to visit the Zhu family but not express it through his actions.

“Uncle, did you buy these bouquets of flowers?” Wang Yang’s wife was taken aback by the two bouquets of flowers placed in front of each of the gravestones. “What’s the special occasion today? Or is there anything special about this year?” Usually, there was only one bouquet for each person. This had never happened before.

Wang Yang’s wife was a woman and naturally paid more attention to the number of flowers and type of flowers as compared to Wang Yang.

“There’s nothing special. I just bought it because I felt like buying it.” Zhu Chengqi did not bother explaining that he had only bought one of those bouquets. The other had been given by someone else who had visited the three of them. It was just that Zhu Chengqi had already gotten used to no one but himself remembering his departed family members.

In reality, Zhu Chengqi had been even more surprised than the Wang couple when he had first seen the offerings in front of the three gravestones. But Zhu Chengqi felt that there was no need to tell the Wang couple about this matter.

Wang Yang was not a person who was all talk and no action. Once his wife placed the offerings before the gravestones, Wang Yang rolled up his sleeves, wanting to wipe the gravestones. But when he touched the headstones, he realized that they were rather clean. “Uncle, you’ve finished cleaning them already?” They were already extremely fast and they had hurried after his uncle less than five minutes after his uncle had left his house.

Everyone who knew the Zhu family knew that Zhu Chengqi’s health was deteriorating by the day and might pass on any day now. But Zhu Chengqi’s son had passed away in junior high school, and Wang Yang was the only relative he had around. Of course, Wang Yang was naturally the one to take care of Zhu Chengqi’s matters.

Seeing how Wang Yang had forsaken his business to take care of his uncle, Zhu Chengqi, there were many people in support of Wang Yang. Zhu Chengqi was an old revolutionary and had made great contributions to the nation. It was nothing much for Wang Yang to decrease his working hours to take care of an old revolutionary like Zhu Chengqi.

The government had not disagreed with Wang Yang stopping his work temporarily to take care of Zhu Chengqi either.

Wang Yang, who had applied for leave, was left with no work to do and was thus in an awkward position. Was his uncle not on the verge of passing away? Why was it that he was more agile than

he had been in his youth? His uncle had not even left a single thing for him to do. How embarrassing!

“I don’t know how much longer I’ll be able to wipe their gravestones for them.” Zhu Chengqi changed the topic and did not answer Wang Yang directly, but at the same time, it seemed as though he had acknowledged Wang Yang’s words.

Wang Yang did not think more about Zhu Chengqi’s words. After all, everyone in the Zhu family, apart from Zhu Chengqi, was already gone. Of course, Wang Yang’s surname was Wang. He had always had his sight set on Zhu Chengqi’s assets, but he had never thought of himself as part of the Zhu family. Now that the Zhu family was gone, the only one who would wipe the gravestones was Zhu Chengqi.

The Wang couple stood in front of the gravestones with Zhu Chengqi for a while. Wang Yang and his wife seemed to be freezing in the cold, while Zhu Chengqi seemed perfectly fine. Wang Yang asked, “Uncle, you’ve been standing here in the wind for a while. I’m sure grandpa and the rest would feel bad for you if they knew about it. Why don’t we come back again tomorrow? I can follow you here tomorrow too. Even if you want to come every day, I’ll bring you here as well!”

But not today. He had been in a rush to get out today and had not worn a thick coat. If he were to stand out there in the open for any longer, he would definitely catch a cold.

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Seeing that the Wang couple’s expression looked rather bad, he nodded in agreement. “All right. Let’s go back. I won’t be back tomorrow. I’ll see when I feel like coming again.”

“Uncle, let me help you.” Wang Yang breathed a sigh of relief. Thankfully, that old man had not insisted on it. If his uncle had insisted on staying, he would have to suck it up no matter how cold it was.

Chapter 1869: Who Are You?

“Uncle, I’ll help you too!” Wang Yang’s wife gave a stiff laugh. All she wanted to do right now was to return home to warm up her body.

That evening before they went to bed, Wang Yang verified Zhu Chengqi's situation again. "After I left today, did anything happen? No one visited the old man, right?"

Wang Yang's wife rubbed on her face cream while admiring herself in the mirror. She laughed before saying, "Dear, I think you're a coward. I wasn't around when the old man was younger, so I have no idea whether he used to have a strong temper. But now, I've seen the old man so often and he only has one relative left. There won't be any accidents with the Zhu family's assets. That old man won't be so stupid to give his assets to an outsider instead of his own relative. Are there such stupid people in this world?"

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All he had left was his only nephew. It was unrealistic to leave his assets to a completely unrelated outsider instead of his own nephew. She knew that Wang Yang had only married her because she looked like a certain young lady.

Of course, Wang Yang had not married her because he liked that lady. If that had been the case, she would never have taken it lying down. The true reason why Wang Yang had married her did not make her very happy either. She had heard that that old foggy, Zhu Chengqi, thought that one of his neighbor's daughters had grown up well and had wanted to acknowledge her as his goddaughter.

Wang Yang had been afraid that Zhu Chengqi would hand over all of his assets to that woman.

What a joke!

It was not as though that woman was truly the Zhu family's goddaughter. Yes, that woman had not gotten into any kind of relationship with Zhu Chengqi in the end. Wang Yang's wife thought it was unrealistic and impossible that Zhu Chengqi would go so far as to give all his assets to that woman.

"Nothing will go wrong if you're careful." Wang Yang yawned. He had worked for a full day and had run around for Zhu Chengqi's sake. He wondered if he would be this tired if his parents were gone. But he would get to reap whatever he sowed. As long as the Zhu family's assets were his, this much suffering was nothing at all. "It's already so late. Stop rubbing so much cream on your face. Who are you showing it off too? I'm going to bed. Hurry and switch the light off."

With that, Wang Yang switched off the bedside lamp on his side of the bed, covered himself with the blanket, and fell asleep immediately.

His wife's face stiffened. What did he mean by whom she was putting on the cream for? Of course it was for her husband! Initially, she had wanted to make herself all beautiful and fragrant to have a hot and passionate night with her husband. But Wang Yang had fallen asleep the minute he hit the bed!

She could not possibly wake Wang Yang up to do what she wanted in the way she wanted.

Thinking about the difference between her and Wang Yang and about that mess back with her family, Wang Yang's wife could only sigh. She remained silent and could only think about how she would grab on to her husband, Wang Yang.

When all of the Zhu family's assets became her husband's, not only would her husband rise in rank and position, but her status and position would rise as well. With this in mind, Wang Yang's wife had no resentment left in her heart. She could only hope that Zhu Chengqi would 'go quickly'.

Of course, Qiao Nan had no idea about this episode. After paying her respects to the Zhu family members, Qiao Nan was in a very heavy mood. Zhu Baoguo was gone, so who would Shi Qing marry in this lifetime? Since Zhu Baoguo was no longer around, that sensible and adorable kid that she knew of would naturally have no chance of being born.

It was just a small difference that had resulted in such a vast change in her world. Dream and reality were too different. This difference only made it clear to Qiao Nan once again that they were indeed two separate worlds.

After such an agitation, Qiao Nan no longer had the courage to find out about other matters, much less about how Shi Qing was living now, or whether she was even alive now.

After spending the night in Ping Cheng, Qiao Nan rushed back to Qingshui Town on the first bus out. It was only when Qiao Nan arrived in Qingshui Town did her rapidly pounding heart calm down a little.

It was on such a tranquil morning that an unexpected guest showed up at the Zhai family's old villa. "Who are you?" Upon hearing the knocks on the door, Sister Zhao opened the door to see someone dressed in a fashionable and foreign style. Sister Zhao had never seen this woman before, and neither did she recognize her.

“You’re the caretaker of this family, right?” Qiu Chenxi took off her sunglasses. “You’d better open your eyes in the future. It’s best you recognize the person who pays you your salary. I’m the mistress of this family. I’m back. Hurry and go get me some water. I’m thirsty.” As she said that, Qiu Chenxi walked right into the house with her bag.

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Sister Zhao widened her eyes and puffed up her chest, stopping Qiu Chenxi. “Look at you. You look rather wealthy, but you’re nothing but a liar! If you really want to deceive others, you should at least try to ask around and understand our family’s situation. Scammers nowadays are so bold. You even dare to scam our family? I’m not sure about anyone else, but I’m sure that our chief isn’t married. But even if he isn’t married, he already has someone in mind. Who are you to say that you pay my wages? That’s ridiculous!”

Qiu Chenxi had not gotten the chance to flare up at Sister Zhao for standing in her way before she got agitated by Sister Zhao’s words that her master had already found a marriage partner. “Did you say that Zhai Sheng already has a marriage partner? That’s impossible! He’ll never get married to anyone else but me!”

And that was why she had absolute confidence that she would be able to return to Zhai Sheng’s side and become the Zhai family’s daughter-in-law once again.

If Zhai Sheng were to get married to another woman, what was the point of her existence to the Zhai family? There would be no chance for her to get remarried to Zhai Sheng. “Who’s that woman? Did my parents-in-law recommend her to my husband?”

That had to be the case. Those two old people, especially Miao Jing, had not liked her from the start. They had finally been able to see the day Zhai Sheng divorced her. There was no way Miao Jing would give up this chance. She must have stuffed a countless number of girls to Zhai Sheng’s side. Miao Jing had done so for her own happiness and had not cared about Zhai Sheng’s happiness at all.

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Miao Jing had insisted on doing so even though Miao Jing knew that Zhai Sheng would never marry anyone apart from her! That was atrocious! What angered her most was that Zhai Sheng had agreed to it. If Zhai Sheng had not given in, there would be a higher likelihood for the couple to reconcile. Would that not be a happy ending?

“Don’t spout nonsense. Our chief found that woman himself. Who are you?” This woman did not sound like a scammer.

Chapter 1870: Slamming the Door

This woman seemed to know exactly what was going on in the Zhai family. Otherwise, she would not have the guts to address them as her parents-in-law. Wait a minute. The chief had once been married. Could it be that this woman was the chief’s ex-wife?

Sister Zhao became a little hesitant. She only knew that the chief had once been married, but she did not know why the two of them had gotten divorced.

From the surface, Qiu Chenxi was dressed fashionably and beautifully. Qiu Chenxi did at least look a little more refined than Qiao Nan because of her makeup. Zhai Sheng was a man too. All men liked beautiful women.

Looking at Qiu Chenxi’s appearance, Sister Zhao was unsure if this woman was the one who had gotten divorced from the chief. Besides, it had been the chief who had asked for a divorce. But this woman was still talking about the Zhai family as though they were her own family, addressing the old chief and his wife as her parents-in-law. This meant that this woman had not wanted to part from the chief. What was the chief’s view toward this?

“I said... Forget it. There’s no point in me telling you so much. You’re just a caretaker drawing a salary. I won’t put you on the spot. Go in and tell my parents-in-law that their daughter-in-law, Qiu Chenxi, is here to see them. Then, you can open the door for me after that.” That old woman, Miao Jing, was too evil and would never take a second look at her, but her father-in-law was rather nice and liked her very much.

If they knew that she was here, no matter how unwilling Miao Jing was, her father-in-law would definitely be willing to see her, and he might even give her a second chance! She did not think that the woman Miao Jing had randomly introduced to Zhai Sheng could be any better than herself. If it was really that easy, she would not have been the one getting married to Zhai Sheng at that time.

In front of someone who was lesser than her, Qiu Chenxi felt that she had a good chance of winning. As such, she was fearless.

“Oh, all right. Hold on.” Qiu Chenxi’s attitude let Sister Zhao breathe a sigh of relief. Sister Zhao closed the door slightly and rushed over to let Zhai Yaohui and Madam Zhai know about this situation. “Old Chief, madam, there’s a woman outside. She said her name is Qiu Chenxi, and she’s come to find you guys. She even said that she’s the chief’s wife.”

At least, that was indeed how the woman had described her relationship with the Zhai family.

Zhai Yaohui’s and Miao Jing’s faces changed in an instant, especially Miao Jing. Her face darkened completely and she slammed the table angrily. “She has the cheek to come here and even dares to say... We don’t have such a person in our family. Ask her to scram!” Thinking about what Qiu Chenxi had done in the past, Miao Jing’s eyes narrowed and her piercing gaze fell on Zhai Yaohui. The look of blame was evident in her eyes.

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Zhai Yaohui did not rebuke her and pursed his lips tightly together. “There’s no such person in our family. Xiao Zhao, remember this person. If she turns up again in the future, you don’t have to ask her who she is. Just ignore her and let her leave.”

Even when Zhai Sheng had not yet found Qiao Nan, the Zhai family had not been very willing to meet Qiu Chenxi, much less now that Zhai Sheng had expressed his interest in Qiao Nan. Qiu Chenxi’s appearance was not a good sign. Even now that the new year was over, their future daughter-in-law, Qiao Nan, had not been officially introduced.

Thinking about how Zhai Sheng had been dragging this on, Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing could not help but worry for the couple. After the new year, one of them was forty, while the other was forty-five. They were no longer young and were, in fact, rather old. But they were still dawdling. How many more years did they have to dawdle on like this?

Moreover, before they could come to a decision, Qiu Chenxi had decided to join in on the fun too. Zhai Yaohui hoped that Qiu Chenxi would leave as soon as possible. She had better not affect the relationship between Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan.

“All right, Old Chief.” Sister Zhao straightened her back. It was fortunate that she had been witty enough earlier and had not put in her efforts in vain. She knew that the person whom the chief liked was Sister Qiao and that both the old chief and Madam Zhai were especially pleased with her. How could there be another mistress suddenly turning up out of the blue?

It seemed like not a single person in the chief's family had thought well of that woman after she had gotten divorced from the chief. In that case, Sister Qiao's position was as steady as a mountain and would not waver. If she had to serve a mistress, she would much rather acknowledge Sister Qiao as her master's wife. After all, she was acquaintances with Sister Qiao.

"So? I said that..." When Sister Zhao emerged again, Qiu Chenxi lifted her foot and was about to head in. It was clear through her posture that she thought of herself as the mistress of the house.

Thankfully, Sister Zhao had been prepared and had grabbed hold of the handles of the main door. Because she held on firmly to the door, Qiu Chenxi had not managed to step into the house and could only take a step back. "I'm sorry. The old chief and madam said that we don't have a person like you in our family. You want to acknowledge them as your family? I think you've found the wrong house and the wrong people."

"You're spouting nonsense. Are you sure that this is what the old chief said, and not something you made up?" Qiu Chenxi's face flushed red with anger. She felt as though that caretaker had just humiliated her. "Did you take someone's money so that you'd hide the truth for them? I'm warning you not to play such a dirty trick. The one who'll suffer in the end will only be you. Let me give you some advice. You'd better tell the Zhai family truthfully that I'm here. I might just let you off this time. If you still continue to hide the fact that I'm here from the Zhai family, don't even dream of me helping you beg for mercy when the Zhai family finds out about this."

Qiu Chenxi felt threatened, and needless to say, this threat had come from that Sister Zhao's mouth. In Qiu Chenxi's opinion, someone must have bribed Sister Zhao. That was why Sister Zhao had not told the Zhai family about her arrival and had even lied that the Zhai family claimed that she did not exist.

If she was angered by these words and left, that woman would naturally be able to marry Zhai Sheng more easily, snatching away her husband and the position of the chief's wife that was hers to begin with. She had never imagined that there would be such an impressive character in a remote town like Qingshui Town.

Now that Qiu Chenxi was throwing a tantrum, Sister Zhao was even more upset. "You're such a strange person. I guess you must have watched too many television dramas that your brain is filled with drama. I'm not lying and I've done nothing of that sort. The old chief and madam are both here, and they both said that they don't have someone like you in their family. The old chief even instructed me to remember your face so that I won't open the door for you in the future. Forget it. There's no point in me telling you all these. You can believe what you want."

With that, Sister Zhao slammed the door shut and locked it securely. It was hard speaking to people who did not have a grip on reality.

Qiu Chenxi, who had almost been hit by the door, was no longer flushed red in anger. Her face was now green. In all her years, she had never once seen someone slam the door so heartlessly in her face! And it had been a caretaker who had just done that!