

RTAMM 1901

Chapter 1901: Can We Not Get a Divorce

“Why don’t you try talking to Zhai Hua? What happened between you and Xiaomei was in the past... It won’t happen again. It’s nothing much for men to make mistakes. Why is she being so serious about it? You guys even have Jiajia. Xiao Wei is the best example of that. It’s not good for children not to have their fathers around.”

Wei De wanted very much to rip the court summon apart, but he knew that ripping it did not mean that it no longer existed. If he did not attend the court hearing and simply ignored the order, the Zhai family would naturally have a way of getting Zhai Hua a divorce without him even being present.

The Zhai family was different. Trying to be a slacker would never work against the Zhai family.

Wei De took a deep breath. “It won’t work. Zhai Hua seems to know that Xiao Wei is my son. Given the Zhai family’s characters, I’m guessing that Zhai Hua already has evidence that Xiao Wei is my son since she dares to tell me about this situation.”

If he and Wei Xiaomei had only done that once, and he had convinced Zhai Hua that Wei Xiaomei had drugged him, Zhai Hua might very well have forgiven him. At the very most, the relationship between the couple would be stale for a period of time. But after a while, their relationship would eventually return back to normal.

Ever since Zhai Hua got married—no, ever since Zhai Hua became his son’s marriage partner, he had already made preparations for his grandson. This was not difficult for him.

But the problem was that Zhai Hua had found out about Xiao Wei’s relationship to him! With this huge premise, Wei De knew that Zhai Hua would never reconcile with him, much less continue staying married to him!

All these years, he had unknowingly turned all his attention to his son and had not treated his daughter well enough. Over time, Zhai Hua had already formed her own opinion of him. Now that she had finally exploded, the magnitude was quite significant indeed. Zhai Hua had a bad temper, and now, there was nothing that could change her mind.

If he had known that this would be the case, he would never have brought Wei Xiaomei and Wei Wei over to Ping Cheng. Actually, he should have simply brought his parents over and rebuilt the house in the countryside and given Wei Xiaomei an allowance. With that money, Wei Xiaomei would have been able to lead a good life with Wei Wei in the countryside.

Who cared about his son now that he could not even be sure of his own future? What was the point of having a son? His son was only dragging him down.

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Wei De had placed emphasis on his son earlier in the hope that Wei Wei would be able to inherit whatever he had worked hard for, such as his career and wealth. Now, Wei De was on the verge of losing everything. What could he pass down? Wei De could not even ensure that he would be able to survive. He had no time to care about his son at this moment.

“What? Zhai Hua knows about your relationship with Wei Wei? How?” Father Wei was stunned. “Does that mean that Zhai Hua will never forgive you and that you have to get a divorce?” This had been a well-kept secret for over ten years. Why had Zhai Hua suddenly found out?

It was only then that Father Wei realized how serious Zhai Hua was about the divorce this time. Father Wei remembered that Zhai Hua was the chief’s daughter. How could the chief’s daughter tolerate her husband sleeping together with another woman and even having a child together?

All these years, they had always been biased toward Wei Wei and had neglected Jiajia. As long as he remembered that, Father Wei could not help but feel guilty. After all, he knew that they were at fault. Not only had they hidden the truth of Wei De’s relationship with Wei Xiaomei, but they had even lied that Wei Wei was Wei De’s nephew and had let Zhai Hua take care of him.

Yes, Zhai Hua had not been young when she had gotten married to Ah De. But Zhai Hua had been a virgin who was getting married for the first time. In comparison, this was Ah De’s second marriage. The chief’s daughter would never marry someone who had once been married and even had a son!

Not only had they kept Zhai Hua in the dark about Wei Xiaomei and Wei Wei, but they had even treated Wei Wei better than Jiajia. Father Wei’s face flushed red. He opened his mouth but was unable to say anything for a long while.

Mother Wei, who had always thought her son to be the best, was upset. “Zhai Hua is just a hen who can’t lay eggs. She didn’t give the Wei family a son. Do you mean that our family should just let our line die off instead of finding someone else to have our grandson? We didn’t even take issue with the fact that she didn’t give birth to a son. What gives her the right to make such a fuss?”

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“Shut up!” Wei De closed his eyes as he felt his head pounding. Wei De was not as shortsighted as Mother Wei and knew that no one would agree with Mother Wei’s old-fashioned logic even if they were to return to the countryside. “We’re in big trouble now. If Zhai Hua really has evidence that Xiao Wei is my son, we’ll probably have to get a divorce. Once we get a divorce, this house will probably be returned to Zhai Hua. We won’t be able to stay here.”

“Why? She married you and she’s part of the Wei family. Her things are our things. Who dares to steal our things? I’ll never move out of this house no matter who comes! If she dares to do that, I’ll go make a din at the courtyard. I don’t believe that the Zhai family won’t care about their face and will snatch other people’s things!” Mother Wei jumped up. This house was her life. Without the house, their family would have to sleep on the streets! That would never do!

“Heh.” Wei De rubbed his head and sneered. “They don’t have to come to collect the house. Zhai Hua has been the one paying for the utility bills. As long as she stops paying for them, we won’t be able to stay here anymore once they cut our power and water. Besides, what if Zhai Hua sells the house? You can make a fuss if you want, but no one will stand on our side. You’ll just be embarrassing yourself. Zhai Hua bought this house before we got married. There’s no way that this way will be ours.”

Besides, compared to what he would lose due to this divorce, this house meant nothing.

Mother Wei could not rebut her son and could not throw a tantrum at her son. “So, what shall we do? How are we going to survive? What do you think I should do? Shall I find Zhai Hua and beg her to not divorce you?”

Chapter 1902: After the Divorce

Their family could not do without Zhai Hua as a daughter-in-law. Once Zhai Hua was no longer her daughter-in-law, she would never be so nice as to give her a thousand five hundred yuan of monthly allowance. Besides, she had never lacked any new clothing during the new year.

For her son and for her own sake, Mother Wei felt that kneeling down to beg Zhai Hua for forgiveness meant nothing. She would do anything to get Zhai Hua to agree to not get a divorce. “I promise that I’ll only treat Jiajia well from now on. How’s that?”

Zhai Hua cared a lot about her daughter. She had never treated her granddaughter, Jiajia, well in the past. But as long as Zhai Hua did not get a divorce, she was willing to treat Jiajia well and treat Zhai Hua and her daughter like her ancestors.

She had not expected that her daughter-in-law, who had treated her so well for the past ten years, would be so stubborn once she threw a tantrum and would insist on getting a divorce.

At this time, Mother Wei regretted not having treated Zhai Hua and Jiajia better in the past. Mother Wei was clear that Zhai Hua had never thrown her weight around just because she was the chief’s daughter and had never thrown a tantrum toward her even if she had any problems.

But there was no way she could force Zhai Hua to listen to her like she did Wei Xiaomei. Since she could not control Zhai Hua like she did Wei Xiaomei, Mother Wei could only treat Zhai Hua and Jiajia nicely, in hopes that Zhai Hua would change her mind.

“I’m not Zhai Hua. How would I know if she’ll agree to it?” Wei De paced around the house in a panic. “That’s impossible. She’ll never agree to it. She’ll definitely want to get a divorce. She already knows that Xiao Wei is my son. I think that there’s no way of changing the situation now. Zhai Hua doesn’t even want to meet me.”

He had been extremely careful while he had been dating Zhai Hua and had never even told Zhai Hua about how he had a sister who ‘had gotten pregnant out of wedlock’ and how he had a ‘fatherless nephew’.

He did not understand how he had gradually started living the life he wanted after getting married to Zhai Hua. It seemed as though this lifestyle had gotten to his head. Even while knowing Zhai Hua’s temper, he had still treated Wei Wei better than Jiajia. Had he been out of his mind in these ten years?

If he had been more careful and had pampered Zhai Hua and her daughter, and if he had not brought Wei Xiaomei and Wei Wei over and had instead left them far away from him, this situation would never have happened.

He would have been living a peaceful and beautiful life with Zhai Hua.

Wei De could not help but stare at his favorite son, Wei Wei. With this situation, Wei Wei had almost become a thorn in Wei De's side. He felt that it was entirely Wei Xiaomei's and Wei Wei's fault that his marriage with Zhai Hua had broken down.

"Don't panic. We'll deal with this one step at a time." The court summon had sent the Wei family into chaos. Father Wei was so frantic that he plucked a few strands of hair from his head. "Ah De, tell me what our family will be left with if you really get divorced from Zhai Hua."

Only by understanding what their family was left with would he be able to decide on how to continue with their lives. Even if there was no way of reversing the situation, they had to get on with their own lives, after all.

"What we will have? What else can our family have?" Wei De laughed sarcastically. "We'll have whatever we had before I got married to Zhai Hua. We won't have whatever we didn't have then."

"Who says so? We still have a house in the countryside! It's a three-storied villa!" At that time, their family had constructed the first three-storied house in the village. The villagers had been envious that she had given birth to a good son. A three-storied house in the village was equivalent to a small villa in a large city. Without Zhai Hua, the Wei family would not exactly be left with nothing.

"Yes, apart from that house in the countryside, we have nothing. So, after I get divorced from Zhai Hua, you'll have to return to the countryside." He had no means of buying a house for his parents here in Ping Cheng. Even if they rented a house, that would be a significant expense.

There was something else that worried Wei De the most. Wei Wei was studying in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. His school fees had already been on the higher side. Now that society was more developed, there were more activities available for students in school too. But to participate in these activities, they had to pay school fees too, and they were no insignificant either!

In the past, with Zhai Hua giving his parents an allowance, his parents had been able to save a little. Zhai Hua had been the one paying for the family's daily expenses. As such, the money that his parents saved up was just enough to pay for Wei Wei's extracurricular activities.

Now, without Zhai Hua's allowance, it would be difficult for Wei Wei to complete his studies in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China for the rest of the year.

“You guys know just how much I get from the military every month. I always hand it all over to you. Zhai Hua has never touched a single cent of that. Do you think that I’ll be able to provide for you in Ping Cheng? I can still afford to pay for the rest of Xiao Wei’s high school fees if I try, but we’ll have to see the kind of university Xiao Wei gets into with his results before we’ll know if the Wei family will have a university graduate.”

Because of his experience in society, Wei De knew that he would have to spend even more money on Wei Wei’s education if his results were not stellar.

Thinking about Wei Wei’s results, Wei De’s expression darkened. He had spent a lot of money to let Wei Wei attend The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. His results were slightly better than they had been in junior high school, but it was still insufficient to get him into the best university so that he could turn the Wei family’s situation around. Wei Wei had no talent in his studies and did not work hard enough either. All his results were due to their family spending money on him.

Without money and connections, Wei De had no hope for Wei Wei’s future. Instead of hoping that his son would make something of himself, it would be better for him to take the plunge and see if he could secure himself the position of a vice battalion commander. He would have to wait until his next lifetime to fulfill his dream of becoming a regiment commander.

Although Wei Wei had always been the center of attention in the Wei family, the focus today was entirely different. In the past, the Wei family had always pampered and spoiled Wei Wei like a king. Even though Wei Wei was a fatherless child, Wei Wei felt like a little emperor at home.

At that time, he had not known that his uncle was actually his dad. Even so, he knew that his family would always try to satisfy his demands.

Chapter 1903: Blind

Neither would his family ever treat him like outsiders and speak ill of him because he was fatherless. On the contrary, the Wei family had always stood on his side and protected him, asking Jiajia to give in to him whenever he had gotten into an argument with Jiajia because he was ‘fatherless’.

But today, Wei De, who was already grown up, felt that the Wei family was looking at him in a different light. Their gazes were not warm or friendly, especially his 'uncle', who seemed to be looking at him rather fiercely.

Wei Wei was no fool either and could think for himself. As such, Wei Wei could feel that the Wei family was blaming him for Zhai Hua requesting a divorce.

Wei Wei remained hidden in the corner for fear of provoking his elders even further. But his heart was in turmoil and he was enraged about his current situation.

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He had not chosen to be fatherless, and neither had he chosen for his uncle to become his father. He had no control over his birth, so why was he at fault? His dad was the one who had gotten into a relationship with his mom in the first place.

He was almost fifty but was still so clueless. Even though he knew that the entire family relied on his aunt, he should have been thankful that he had been able to keep his past relationship with his mom under wraps. He should have taken that secret with him to his grave. His mom was not even as pretty as his aunt, so he wondered why his uncle chose to sleep with his mom instead of his aunt when he got the rare chance to return. What was he thinking?

2

They were blaming him for causing her aunt to propose a divorce, while he hated the Wei family for being so stupid. They had already gotten his aunt, who was like Buddha, into their family, but they had been the ones to chase her away!

Without an aunt like Zhai Hua, his life would never be as carefree in the future.

When Wei Wei had talked to Wei De in the past, Wei De had on more than one occasion said that he would ask Zhai Hua to send Wei Wei abroad for his tertiary education. Without his aunt around, he would not need to think about going abroad. In fact, even his tertiary education posed an issue. He would have to rely on his own efforts.

His bright and smooth-sailing future had suddenly become such an arduous path. He had not gotten angry over that yet! He would much rather his uncle remain as his uncle and he remain as a

fatherless child than have his uncle become his father while having to give up such a good aunt like Zhai Hua.

Wei Wei hid in the corner with resentment in his heart, hearing the elders talk about the remaining assets the family had. Wei Wei could only say that the family was in a pitiful state. They were too poor. What the Wei family was left with could not even compare to the amount of money he had paid in the last two years for his school fees. His aunt had been brilliant indeed to have been able to support such a huge family without complaining about how the family's expenses were too huge or that there was not enough money to go around.

Wei Wei had no respect for Wei De. He had already married into a rich family but had lost everything for a woman who was not even pretty. He was a disgrace to all men. The only thing Wei Wei thought that he could learn from Wei De was to marry a woman who had a better family background than himself.

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At the same time, he would learn from Wei De's lesson and distance himself from his family if he really married such a capable woman. Otherwise, he might make such a foolish error and be dragged down by this family from the countryside. Then, there would be no way of turning back.

If his grandma's behavior had not been so bad, causing there to be no relationship between them and his aunt and Jiajia, his aunt would never have been so decisive and determined about getting a divorce.

After calculating the remaining assets of the Wei family, Father Wei, Mother Wei, and Wei De remained silent for a long while. At this time, the whole family had the same thought as Wei Wei. Their family was too poor.

Wei De felt pinched. "I'm sure you two can tell what situation our family is in. Xiao Wei will graduate from high school in half a year's time. Xiao Wei's results haven't been the best after entering The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, but they have indeed improved. There's no reason for him to transfer out of that school now that he's almost graduating."

More importantly, the last half a year was the most critical period. Wanting to transfer to another school would not be easy either. No school would accept transfer students at this point in time, and he would not be able to achieve 'extraordinary circumstances' either.

Zhai Hua was already getting a divorce from him. Wei De was worried that he would not be able to use Zhai Hua's connections to transfer Wei Wei into another school, and neither did he know how to face his friends once they found out that he was getting a divorce from Zhai Hua.

In reality, even when he had not gotten a divorce from Zhai Hua, Wei De could already feel Zhai Hua's friends looking down on him every time they interacted.

If not for his son, Wei Wei, Wei De would never have interacted with all those people. He would much rather spend all his time in the military and hear his subordinates address him courteously as a company commander. All men cared about looking good, after all.

Because of this, Wei De would much rather grit his teeth and pay for the remaining school term for Wei Wei to complete his education than let Wei Wei transfer out. He carried the hope that Wei Wei would suddenly have a breakthrough and would get good enough results to enter a good university.

The Wei family held on to the belief that sons had to provide for their parents in their old age.

Wei De wanted Wei Wei to take care of him in his old age. As such, he had to find a way to improve Wei Wei's grades so that he would be able to find a good job in the future since Wei Wei's job would directly determine how he lived in his old age.

"So, what will happen to your dad and me?" Mother Wei stared blankly at Wei De. "It's not cheap to rent a house in Ping Cheng." Their son's salary from the military was just sufficient to pay for Wei Wei's school fees at The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, but there would be no money for her and her husband.

"You and Dad will have to return to the countryside. You still have land and Wei Xiaomei there. You won't have to spend any money on food and drinks." In fact, if his parents were a little more hardworking and sold their goods, they would even be able to earn some money. He would never be able to afford his son's university fees alone. Thankfully, there was still Wei Xiaomei. Wei Xiaomei was not old and would still be able to find a job to earn some money.

Mother Wei's jaw dropped and she was speechless. She was almost at the age of becoming a great-grandmother, but not only would she not be able to enjoy her golden years but she would also have to go back to the countryside and work in the fields? Mother Wei really wanted to say that she had already forgotten how to use a sickle.

Mother Wei remained silent and looked at Father Wei. She would never go back to such a life ever again.

Chapter 1904: Not Giving Any Face

If the old man could do it, then she could stay at home and clean up the house and prepare the old man's meals as she had done before. That would be all right with her.

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But Father Wei was unwilling to do so either. Not only was farming hard work, but it also did not earn much money. More importantly, everyone in the village knew that their son had done well and had married a chief's daughter. That was why they could lead such carefree lives.

Now that their family was returning to the village, what would they tell the villagers? Could they really tell them that their son had not been able to resist his urges and had been caught in the act by their daughter-in-law? Father Wei could not afford to be embarrassed like that.

Since his parents were staying mum at this moment, Wei De was even more frustrated. Wei De was not foolish and was no fool. He could tell how reluctant his parents were to return to the countryside to lead such a hard life. Wei De was annoyed that they wanted to lead good lives while being clear that it was only Zhai Hua who could provide such a life for them.

But why had his parents not reminded him to treat Jiajia better when he had been so muddleheaded? And how could his parents be so bold as to offend their cash-cow, Zhai Hua, by treating Wei Wei better than Jiajia? That was why Zhai Hua had accumulated over ten years of anger.

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Without all these precedents, he believed that Zhai Hua would never have been so heartless just because of one mistake that he made. "Mom, Dad, did you guys slip your tongue in front of Zhai Hua?" This was what Wei De cared most about and hated the most!

If Zhai Hua had not found out that Wei Wei was his son, he would never have gotten to the stage of divorce with Zhai Hua. At the very most, he had just committed a mistake that all men would make. Zhai Hua had told him that after marriage, the old chief had still been in an ambiguous relationship with his ex-girlfriend. He had even gone overboard by asking his son, Zhai Sheng, to marry that old flame's daughter!

Even if no one else understood him, the old chief would definitely sympathize with him and give him a chance. The problem was that Zhai Hua and the Zhai family had already found out that Wei Wei was his son. Thus, none of those assumptions held true. No matter how ridiculous the old chief behaved, he had only asked his son to marry his ex's daughter. That daughter was not the old chief's daughter after all, but Wei Wei was his son!

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As such, the root of everything was not that he had been in a relationship with Wei Xiaomei. It was that someone had sold him out!

"No, of course not! How could I tell Zhai Hua such a thing? You know how much I love Xiao Wei. I haven't even told Xiao Wei about it and Xiao Wei never even knew that you are his dad." Mother Wei was scared stiff. No matter how foolish she was, she would never make such a low-level mistake. How could she give Zhai Hua a reason to divorce her son and create chaos in the family? She was being maligned!

"Your mom is not that stupid." Father Wei thought that Mother Wei would not have done so either.

Wei De grasped at his hair. "Then, who was it? Could it be that Zhai Hua overheard you guys talking about it?" He had to find out who had betrayed him! He wanted nothing more than to chop that person to bits! But why could he not find that person?

At that time, the three of them turned their eyes to Wei Wei in unison. "Xiao Wei, why aren't you shocked hearing that your uncle is your dad? Did you already know about this? Who told you?" The Wei family seemed to have finally returned from their trance, realizing that Wei Wei was acting abnormally. This situation was no different from how the Wei family had only remembered about Jiajia after a whole day and realized that she would be useful to them.

Wei Wei had intended to hide it, but now that the three of them were staring down at him, he could not hold it in. "I-I knew about it, but I only found out a few days ago. My mom was the one who told me, but I didn't say anything about this to auntie or Jiajia. It wasn't me!" He was still relying on his dad to persuade his aunt to send him abroad for his studies in half a year's time.

How could he not know what impact that truth would have on the family?

He had hoped that his relationship with his uncle could be hidden for his entire life. Only then would he be able to leech off his aunt and lead a good life. In this family, his aunt was the most reliable person, not his 'uncle'. Wei Wei was clear about that.

Wei Wei did not like Jijia and bullied her because he had thought that he was a fatherless child and that his mother had gotten pregnant with him out of wedlock. On the other hand, Jijia lived a blissful life. Not only did she have both her father and mother, but her grandma's family also had such a high status.

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Jijia had everything he wished for but never had. It was out of envy for Jijia that he disliked Jijia and often bullied her when she was younger.

"Your mom told you? When did she tell you?" Wei De's eyes widened. It was Wei Xiaomei again. Wei Xiaomei had been the cause of all this. Had Zhai Hua overheard the conversation between Wei Xiaomei and Wei Wei?

"It was when you were talking to grandma in the room, saying that you're my dad. That was when Mom told me about it. It was already late at night that day, and auntie had already brought Jijia to the Zhai family's house. She didn't even come back afterward. So, it could not have been my mom either." Wei Wei did have feelings for his mom, Wei Xiaomei, and did not want Wei Xiaomei to take on the blame without knowing anything.

It was the responsibility of destroying the Wei family. He did not care if anyone else took that blame, but he would not let his mom do it. Wei Wei had already felt the change in his situation in the Wei family. All these relatives who had once treated him well now looked at him in a different light and blamed his mom's and his existence for everything that was happening now.

Even more so, Wei Wei knew that neither his mom nor he could make a mistake now. Otherwise, they would be giving the Wei family a reason to ignore them. He was still studying. Even if he could not go overseas to further his studies, he still wanted to be a university student. Only then would he be able to find a good job and improve his life.

Without his aunt, he could only rely on his uncle to foot the bill. As such, he could not afford to offend the Wei family no matter how much he resented them.

The moment Wei Wei said that, both Mother Wei and Wei De thought back to that day. That day, Wei De had sent Zhai Hua and her daughter over to the Zhai family's house for the new year. The problem was that Wei De had run into Qiao Nan and had been upset about Zhai Sheng being involved with someone like Qiao Nan, who would only bring trouble instead of benefits to the family.

Because of Qiao Nan, Wei De had gotten into a fight with Zhai Hua because Zhai Sheng had not given him any face as his brother-in-law in front of an outsider.

Chapter 1905: Not Bad

In the end, Wei De was enraged and had been chased back by the Zhai family.

It was also because of his rage that he had talked to Mother Wei about this matter. They had never expected that Wei Wei had overheard their conversation. Now, Mother Wei and Wei De could understand why Wei Xiaomei had told Wei Wei the truth.

Wei Wei was still young and lacked life experience. It was only natural for him to be unable to accept the truth after hearing it. If Wei Xiaomei did not explain the situation to Wei Wei, Wei Wei might be unable to control his own emotions and might let them slip in front of Zhai Hua.

So, did that mean that this matter had nothing to do with Wei Xiaomei?

How did Zhai Hua find out that Wei Wei was Wei De's son, then?

No matter how hard Wei De thought, he could never have guessed that his relationship with Wei Wei had been exposed by Qiao Nan, whom he had looked down on. After a long time of contemplation, there was no doubt that the Wei family could not survive without Zhai Hua.

What's more, Wei De could not even use the excuse of needing to return to the military to delay the court session. The Zhai family had a significant influence and status in the military, after all. Wei De had no say in the military, but the Zhai family did.

On the day of the court session, Wei De appeared restless and showed up looking pitiful with his disheveled clothes. “Hua Hua...” The moment that he saw Zhai Hua, Wei De’s eyes lit up as though he had seen the most important person in his life. A smile found its way onto his face. “Hua Hua, I’m finally seeing you again. I miss you.”

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Unlike Wei De’s expression of affection, Zhai Hua was utterly disgusted by Wei De. He missed her? Because he missed her, he had slept with Wei Xiaomei? Because he missed her, he had always spent the night back from the military at the Wei family’s house instead of spending time with her and Jiajia?

Who could tell if Wei De had been spending time with Father and Mother Wei or Wei Xiaomei?

What Zhai Hua knew was that Wei De would much rather spend all of his free time on everyone else but her or Jiajia.

“Hua Hua, you’ve always been a good child. You’ve never despised our family because of our background and you’ve never looked down on me because of my past. Wei De was insensible and did something foolish, but can you forgive him just this once on our account? Don’t worry. From now on, your dad and I promise that we’ll keep our eyes on Ah De, and we’ll never let him commit this mistake ever again. It was his fault that I’m going to lose such a filial daughter-in-law. Don’t get angry. I’ll beat him up for you. Why did you go astray and cheat on Hua Hua? You like only Hua Hua, so why did you let someone else take advantage of you?”

Mother Wei rushed up and tugged on Zhai Hua’s hand as though Zhai Hua was her biological daughter while Wei De was her son-in-law. As she told her sob story, Mother Wei actually landed a few tight slaps on Wei De’s body.

This was already a breakthrough for Mother Wei. Mother Wei had never scolded Wei De, much less beat him.

Zhai Hua sneered. It seemed as though the Wei family could really not bear to see her get a divorce from Wei De from how Mother Wei was even willing to hit her son. Was this what going all out meant?

“That’s right, Hua Hua. Your mom is right. I don’t usually like to say anything. Your mom might be a little fierce, but she cares a lot about you and Jiajia. You’re a very good daughter-in-law. We would much rather lose our son than lose you. Jiajia is still young and needs a complete family. Hua Hua, for Jiajia’s sake, you should reconsider this divorce. Your mom and I have been missing Jiajia a lot these days.”

Father Wei, who had always remained silent at home, had finally spoken, making Zhai Hua realize that her father-in-law was quite eloquent with his words. She did not understand why it was just unpleasant listening to her mother-in-law. If not for Wei De, Jiajia, and this family, she would never have cared to interact with a woman like Mother Wei.

Now, the problem came. Mother Wei was never good with her words while Wei De could coax others so smoothly. That was exactly how she had been deceived by him at that time. So, who did Wei De resemble? Zhai Hua finally got her answer today. It must have been from Father Wei.

All for Jiajia’s sake. That sounded nice.

But she understood that what the Wei family really meant by for their child’s sake was that they cared about their grandson, Wei De’s son, Wei Wei, and not Jiajia.

“Why didn’t Wei Wei come? After this court case ends, he won’t be a fatherless child anymore. He’ll have a father and a mother. I thought that I would be able to meet him today and congratulate him. After all, I was the one who raised him since he was young. I should congratulate him about this, shouldn’t I?”

Zhai Hua was not foolish anymore and was not going to be deceived by the Wei family any longer. The Wei family had only talked about how Wei Xiaomei had drugged Wei De and how Wei De had been unwilling. But in the previous call, the Wei family had refused to talk about Wei De’s relationship with Wei Wei.

Did the problem not exist just because they refused to talk about it?

“Hua Hua, it’s a misunderstanding. It’s just a misunderstanding.” Father Wei’s eyes darkened. His daughter-in-law, who had suppressed her dissatisfaction toward the Wei family, had suddenly become so stubborn and headstrong. Even though they, her elders, had already humbled themselves before her, Zhai Hua’s attitude had not softened, and she seemed bent on destroying them. But at this point in time, they had no choice but to lower their pride since they were the ones who did not want to end this marriage. “We’re not sure who told you such a lie. Xiao Wei is Ah De’s nephew.

How could he be Ah De's son? That's a lie! He's being maligned! Hua Hua, you can't believe such lies and fall for such a trap!"

"Yes, that's right! We only have one granddaughter, and that's Jijia. We don't know who Xiao Wei's father is. Why is Ah De being accused? He's being maligned! Hua Hua, don't believe them! It's a lie! It's fake!" Mother Wei quickly backed Father Wei up. As long as they could clear Ah De's relation to Wei Wei, Zhai Hua would not be so determined to divorce Wei De.

Zhai Hua smirked. "Auntie, you're doing quite a good job."

Chapter 1906: Impossible to Win

"I think that's my favorite sentence that you've said thus far. It's fake. It's all fake. Wei Wei isn't Wei De's son. Whether you say it or whether I say it, it all doesn't matter. We'll leave it to science."

They would just use the DNA test. There was no point in wasting her breath.

Because of Zhai Hua's words, the Wei family knew that Zhai Hua had indeed gone to conduct a DNA test and probably had the results in her hand.

Father Wei's face paled and his voice faltered. "Hua Hua, your dad farmed his whole life and didn't get much education. But I do know one thing. Science is never a hundred percent reliable."

Even if the DNA report said that Xiao Wei was Ah De's son, this could always change.

"Dad? I won't call you that anymore. I think I'll address you as uncle. You're right. Science isn't a hundred percent reliable, but if you really think so, I'll just hand the report over to the judge and see how the judge rules with the evidence. I believe in the law. Uncle, I've just realized that you're good with your words, and your IQ and EQ aren't low either. Wei De is a spitting image of you."

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In short, barking dogs did not bite. No matter how impolite it was, Father Wei seemed like the kind who would not bark but would bite even more fiercely.

Who would have thought that a farmer like Father Wei would even deny the results of the DNA report?

Withdrawing her hand from Mother Wei's hand, Zhai Hua walked toward the court without turning back. She would never cancel this lawsuit unless Wei De gave up on being a soldier. Otherwise, Wei De would have to attend this court session whether he wanted to or not.

1

“Hua Hua! Hua Hua!” Mother Wei was used to Zhai Hua following her wishes no matter how angry she was. She had never expected that Zhai Hua would simply walk off in front of so many people. It was like she was a new person. The unprepared Mother Wei had no way of stopping Zhai Hua and could only call out her name while chasing her.

The moment the situation worsened, Father Wei could no longer hide his impatience and wanted very much to smoke a cigarette. However, the court was a solemn place, and in order to give a good impression, Wei De had disallowed Father Wei from bringing his cigarettes along with him. Because of his addiction to smoking, Father Wei felt utterly miserable. “Ah De, you have to be prepared. She means business. She's not going to let you go easy on the account of your years of relationship.”

Mother Wei was trembling in fear. “Ah De, does that really mean that your dad and I have to go back to the countryside and start farming again after your divorce?”

Mother Wei had never enjoyed living that kind of life since she was young. All of a sudden, she had been saved from that life more than ten years ago. Mother Wei did not even want to think about returning to the countryside ever again.

Her son was a soldier and a company commander. He was an important official, so why did she have to go back to such a hard life?

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Father Wei sighed. He had discussed the situation with Ah De for a long time. As long as Zhai Hua refused to change her mind, there was nothing they could do to change the situation either. The worst part was that Jiajia had witnessed the scene. Because Ah De had been at fault, Zhai Hua

would not need to pay them any alimony. On the contrary, Ah De might even need to compensate her.

Jiajia would definitely choose to follow her mom, Zhai Hua. Jiajia would definitely lead a good life with Zhai Hua. Besides, they had never treated Jiajia better than Xiao Wei all these years. Jiajia was not foolish and she would have felt it too.

Father Wei was confused. Just a few days ago, he had bragged to his neighbors that his son was a company commander and that his daughter-in-law was the old chief's daughter. Their family had been farmers for generations, but his son's generation was different. The one thing he had done right in his life was giving birth to a son like Wei De and having a daughter-in-law like Zhai Hua.

1

That had just been a few days ago. His neighbors had even been envious of him being the father of a company commander. But after today, he might become nothing more than a good-for-nothing that had to return to the countryside.

“Ah De, we have no other choice. Why don't you beg Hua Hua and sweet-talk her? What will happen to Jiajia? Doesn't she care that Jiajia will become a fatherless child?” Mother Wei could act aggressively at home, but she did not dare to raise her voice in a solemn place like the court. Mother Wei felt her legs and stomach trembling nonstop.

If possible, she would not even want to come to such a place. “Is that DNA thing really that powerful?”

“Let's go in.” Wei De rubbed his face. Indeed, he should find a chance to have a chat with Zhai Hua. He was not his dad or his mom, so he was clear that what he should be worried about was not just whether Zhai Hua was going to divorce him. He also had to be worried about how Zhai Hua's assets would have nothing to do with him and how his family would never get to touch a single cent of Zhai Hua's money ever again.

What Wei De cared most about was that his past relationship with Wei Xiaomei would become something that others could threaten him with. If they were to consider this carefully, he had committed bigamy and had cheated someone into marriage. The military was strict on discipline and would punish him harshly for it.

1

He could forget about becoming a vice battalion commander. But what if they removed his rank as a company commander and demoted him? What would he do then?

After going to court, the situation was just as bad as what the Wei family had expected. Zhai Hua did indeed have quite a lot of evidence on hand and the lawyers whom Zhai Hua had hired were all extremely eloquent, leaving the Wei family at a loss for words. Father and Mother Wei had never known that their neglect toward Jiajia could be used as a reason for divorce.

Actually, if Wei Wei did not have such a relationship with Wei De, the Wei family's treatment of Jiajia would never have been such a big deal. However, Wei Wei happened to be Wei De's son, and the Wei family had deliberately hidden this fact from Zhai Hua. Moreover, they even treated Wei Wei better than Jiajia. There was no way this would make sense.

As such, during this first session, Wei De's lawyers had not had much time to speak before being rebutted by the opposing lawyers. After understanding the whole matter, Wei De's lawyers told the Wei family that there was no possibility of ever winning the case and that they should not hold such high hopes.

If the Wei family's and Zhai family's positions were reversed, there might still have been some hope.

Chapter 1907: How to Coax

But it was the Wei family, who already had such a poor family background to begin with, who had been the cheating party. The gall of them! To that, the lawyer had nothing left to say.

"Lawyer, why didn't you say anything just now? How can we win the case like that? My son spent a lot of money hiring you. You can't just take our money and do nothing." After the first session concluded, Mother Wei clung on to the lawyer's suit frantically and spat at the lawyer, who was utterly disgusted.

The lawyer took a deep breath. "Before the court session started, I already presented an analysis of this case to you. Unless the other party is willing to settle, there is no way you will win this case no matter who you hire. Of course, if you feel that I haven't done my duty, I don't mind you changing lawyers. I'm willing to refund you the fees you paid earlier."

He would just take it as though he had worked for nothing in the past few days.

After understanding the facts of this case, the lawyer had spent less effort on this case. It was clearly a lost cause. He was not a judge, but even if he was, there was no way he would not agree to a divorce.

“Lawyer, don’t. My mom is just too anxious and was a little harsh with her words. She means well. But can you try a little harder in this lawsuit?” Wei De himself could not do much. He had looked for many lawyers for his lawsuit, but every single one of them had replied to him in the same manner.

There were even a few lawyers who simply refused to take on the case after realizing who Zhai Hua was. They could not afford to accept this money. Who would be foolish as to say no to money? Wei De was confused about these lawyers’ attitudes.

It was only because Wei De was polite that the lawyer’s expression brightened. “Company Commander Wei, I gave you my suggestion earlier on. If you really want to fight this lawsuit, you can’t match up to them in any way. I believe that your relationship with your wife should have been pretty good to have married her at that time. Since you could do it at that time, as long as you work as hard now as you did then, I believe that you’ll be able to reach a settlement eventually. As long as your wife agrees not to get a divorce, everything will be resolved. The key to this lawsuit lies in your wife’s hands.”

The lawyer was just short of saying that Wei De should just use the same underhanded methods and same efforts as he had done as a peasant boy to win Zhai Hua over. She was just a woman. Words would appease her.

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If she insisted on this lawsuit, Wei De would definitely lose badly.

After leaving Wei De with a heartfelt suggestion, the lawyer took his leave. He had more on hand than this case he was sure he would never win.

“Ah De, why don’t you take the lawyer’s advice and think of how to win Zhai Hua over?” Mother Wei asked cautiously. She felt that the lawyer did make sense. When Zhai Hua had married her son, her son had not even been a company commander. He had been a mere soldier.

Her son had managed to woo such an important young lady like Zhai Hua even with his poor background. There was no reason that Ah De would not be able to appease Zhai Hua and win her back now that they had been husband and wife for over ten years, had been promoted to a company commander, and even had a daughter like Jiajia.

1

Wei De laughed bitterly. “Do you think I don’t want that to happen? Do you think that I’m not familiar with Zhai Hua’s temper after so many years? I was the one who didn’t pay close enough attention to Wei Xiaomei’s matter. I thought that it would never see the light of day since it had been buried for so many years. Zhai Hua’s temper also changed drastically after marriage that I got too cocky. Without Wei Xiaomei and Wei Wei, Zhai Hua would definitely help me beg the Zhai family for help if I caused any trouble. But now...”

No matter what he did or said, there was no way Zhai Hua would ever forgive him or agree to continue staying married to him.

Women were such strange creatures. No matter how big of a mess he created, Zhai Hua would never give up on him even if the world came crashing down. On the contrary, because he had slept with another woman and had had a child with said woman, Zhai Hua felt that it was worse than the world collapsing and was even more unforgivable. She was even denying their ten years’ worth of relationship.

1

“Don’t talk about coaxing her. Unless it’s a court session, I won’t even be able to meet with Zhai Hua. How will I ever coax her? Zhai Hua is serious this time. I don’t have any other choice. Haven’t you realized that our family hasn’t even seen Jiajia? Zhai Hua and the Zhai family are preparing to push me into a corner.”

This was the first time Wei De realized just how much he missed his daughter, Jiajia, and wanted to see her.

This divorce lawsuit was not as easy as he thought it would be unless they both came to a settlement.

Although the divorce lawsuit would take a while to end, Zhai Hua was not worried about it at all. Conversely, her mood was getting better as she became more open-minded. It was just a divorce. It was no big deal. She still had her family and a wonderful daughter, Jiajia. Without that bast*rd, Wei De, Jiajia's and her life would only get better.

As Zhai Hua finally put all that down, Qiao Nan's situation deteriorated slightly. On the second day, Qiao Nan had wanted to leave Ping Cheng and return to Qingshui Town to continue her life. Although no one else knew, she had been living in the same courtyard as the Qiao family again. Under normal circumstances, there was no way the Qiao family would find out that she had returned.

The problem was that the Qiao family might not have learned of it, but there were many other neighbors who recognized her. As soon as someone recognized her and told the Qiao family about her arrival, she would have to deal with the Qiao family's clinging on to her in front of the Zhai family. That would be horrible.

No matter what, Qiao Nan did not want to disgrace herself in front of the Zhai family. So, it was best for Qiao Nan to take the opportunity to leave Ping Cheng and return to Qingshui Town before things progressed to that stage.

But every time Qiao Nan brought up the matter of leaving, Zhai Sheng would find an excuse to refuse, causing Qiao Nan to delay her leaving day by day. It seemed as though she would not return to Qingshui Town before Zhai Hua's divorce lawsuit was settled.

And the facts proved that Qiao Nan's worries were not groundless but were, in fact, very necessary. What Qiao Nan did not know was that on the third day she returned to Ping Cheng, a certain person from the Qiao family had already learned of it. What Qiao Nan did not know either was that from that day on, that person would make a round around the Zhai family's courtyard from time to time so as to peek on her and see how she was doing and whether she was leading a better life than before.

Upon seeing Qiao Dongliang return home, Ding Jiayi expressed her dissatisfaction. “What’s up with you nowadays? Why are you always heading out? Zijin is so ill. Why don’t you care more about her?”

Thinking about her elder daughter whose condition was deteriorating by the day, Ding Jiayi’s heart ached. Because her family’s situation had been exposed more and more, Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin, who had been pitied by the public, were now being looked down on. Eventually, Qiao Zijin, who had run out of money, could no longer withstand the public scrutiny and chose to be discharged from the hospital and to return home.

Up until today, Qiao Zijin’s condition had not improved in the slightest. The kidney donor was still a difficult problem they had yet to resolve.

Upon hearing Ding Jiayi’s words, Qiao Dongliang glanced at Qiao Zijin’s room. “Didn’t the hospital call to say that they found a suitable kidney? Didn’t they ask us if we want it? If we want it, they’ll arrange for a surgery as soon as possible. Once she undergoes the surgery, won’t Zijin be cured?”

Qiao Dongliang realized that Qiao Zijin’s door had been left ajar. As such, he knew that Qiao Zijin could hear his conversation with Ding Jiayi.

Ding Jiayi stared angrily at Qiao Dongliang. “I know. But do we have enough money to accept that kidney? Accepting it and undergoing surgery will cost us four hundred thousand yuan. With our family’s situation, where will we find four hundred thousand yuan? If that wretched girl was still here, we might have been able to fork out that money and let Zijin undergo the surgery.”

That wretched girl had no other use than to earn some money. Initially, that wretched girl had already gotten a hundred thousand before getting into an accident, and she had even said that she would hand over another hundred thousand soon. As for the initially agreed upon two hundred thousand suddenly becoming four hundred thousand, Ding Jiayi had been infuriated over it. Was this not a set cost?

But there was no room for bargaining. Kidneys were a scarce resource and the hospital would not give them much time for consideration. If they thought that it was too expensive, there would always be another person who would be willing to fork out that sum of money in exchange for their health.

Thinking about how Zijin had cried in front of her, Ding Jiayi could not help but say, “Old Qiao, nothing’s more important than a life. We only have one daughter left. We can’t possibly watch her die, right? We can still earn more money, but we won’t be able to revive her. Do you think we should sell this courtyard and hand over the money for Zijin’s surgery?”

“No.” Qiao Dongliang refused. “We already sold this courtyard once to send Zijin to a better university. If not for Nan Nan, we would have lost this house a long time ago. Do you still think that there will be someone to help us repurchase this house if we sell it this time?”

“...” Zijin was right. She and Old Qiao were that wretched girl’s birth parents. Could that wretched girl possibly hide for her entire life without coming back up until their deaths? The moment that wretched girl appeared, repurchasing this courtyard would be her duty because she had to support them. “We can talk about the house in the future. We should let Zijin undergo her surgery first.”

Ding Jiayi knew that Qiao Dongliang thought differently from her and liked to help Qiao Nan, so she did not speak her mind. No matter what, it was more important to book this surgery. Otherwise, that kidney might no longer be available by the time they decided to sell the house.

“No. I said no. We already sold this house once for Zijin. We can’t sell it a second time. You and Zijin shouldn’t even think about selling this house.” Qiao Dongliang even took the effort to glance toward Qiao Zijin’s room. He knew that Ding Jiayi had not been the one to come up with this idea. It had definitely been Qiao Zijin.

At that time, they had donated a sum of money in order to get Qiao Zijin into a better university. To do so, they had sold the house. The moment they had done so, Ding Jiayi had regretted it and nagged all day. Otherwise, Qiao Nan would not have worked so hard to earn enough money to repurchase the house.

In just a few years, the price of that same house had increased drastically.

That was how it had been at that time. Now that so many years had passed, Qiao Dongliang knew that the property prices were even scarier than they had been in the past, especially for old houses like this courtyard. They were hard to come by even if one had the money.

Qiao Dongliang was clear that they would never be able to afford this house again, even if Qiao Nan was willing to work all day and night and spend all her money on purchasing the house again.

Besides, Qiao Dongliang had another plan in mind for this house, but he was not prepared to let Ding Jiayi in on this plan. Ding Jiayi had been a little concerned when Qiao Nan had repurchased this house.

She knew that Qiao Nan had paid for the house alone, and if she had listened to Qiao Zijin and had registered the house under Qiao Zijin's name at that time, she would never have been able to answer to Qiao Nan. Besides, Ding Jiayi still had plans to make more money off Qiao Nan.

Thus, Ding Jiayi told Qiao Zijin that it would not be possible with this house. But that did not mean that she would never have a house. After all, Qiao Nan was good at making money. She would just try her best to get all of Qiao Nan's money. Then, she would be able to buy another property for Qiao Zijin.

At that time, Qiao Zijin had not known the true value of the quad. To be honest, she did not really care for the quad since she had grown up there and very much preferred a high-rise apartment.

Because Ding Jiayi had said so, Qiao Zijin felt the same way and did not insist on having it her way either. When the house was repurchased, Ding Jiayi used the excuse that the house was the Qiao family's old villa and that it would be her and Qiao Dongliang's lifetime sustenance. As such, the house would be registered under Qiao Dongliang's name now that it had been repurchased.

At that time, Qiao Dongliang felt that he still had a certain status in his wife's heart. Otherwise, she would have found a way to register it under her name alone. In that way, she would have control over the allocation of the house.

Ding Jiayi did not think much about it, but that did not mean that Qiao Zijin did not. Qiao Zijin wanted to live, and she wanted to live well. She wanted to let those people who had mocked her know just how capable Qiao Zijin was. They wanted to make a mockery of her? They had better lead better lives than her, then.

1

Qiao Zijin truly cherished her large apartment. The quad was expensive and was under his name. If they were to sell the quad, not only would Qiao Zijin be cured, but she would also get the leftover money from the sale. Conversely, if they were to sell her apartment, she would have nothing valuable to her name anymore.

Chapter 1909: Continue Supporting

The quad was not hers. It was her father's.

Qiao Zijin was very clear of the concept of ownership. As such, she hinted to Ding Jiayi to sell the quad to pay for her treatment.

Ding Jiayi did not understand what Qiao Zijin meant by that, but Qiao Dongliang did. It was exactly because he understood Qiao Zijin's intentions that he would never sell the house.

At this moment, Qiao Dongliang could never rest easy about Qiao Zijin. For her own benefits, Qiao Zijin was willing to sell the quad once and again. Without the quad, given Qiao Zijin's personality, there was no way she would care about the elderly couple, much less invite them to her large apartment to live with her.

"Then, what will happen to Zijin? Are we really going to let her die?" Ding Jiayi was unskilled and had no other choice. Other than selling their house, they had no other way of forking out such a huge sum of money in such a short span of time. "We really can't afford to delay Zijin's treatment any longer."

It was urgent. Her elder daughter's treatment could not wait any longer. In the past, her daughter had been attractive and healthy-looking. Now, she was so skinny that she was left with just skin and bone. Qiao Dongliang had seen all these and was frantic too.

As a father, he had lost countless strands of hair worrying about this situation, but Qiao Zijin herself was still in the mood to preserve her own interests even as she toed the line between life and death. Worse still, she was even trying to maximize her own interests! That was what made Qiao Dongliang so coldhearted.

It was not as though Qiao Zijin had no other choice. If she really cherished her life, Qiao Zijin would have made a decision to sell her apartment in the first place. If she had sold the house, would she be worrying about money now? Qiao Zijin wanted that house, but she also wanted her life and money. Should everything belong to Qiao Zijin? Who said so?

Thinking about how Qiao Zijin was still so scheming, Qiao Dongliang felt that there was no need for him to hurry. Anyway, Qiao Zijin herself was in no hurry to save her life. Would he not be taken as a joke if he spent too much effort worrying about her?

His elder daughter was the one who was ill, and it was his elder daughter's life. If his elder daughter cherished her life and wanted to live, she would know what to do. If she no longer had the will to live, there was no reason for her to drag the elderly couple down with her, especially since she had never supported them in her entire life. Even if Old Ding was willing to do it, he was not.

He had not seen Nan Nan get married and have children yet. He could not bear to die at this moment. "If you can't wait, then just get treated."

"Treated? Where's the money?" Ding Jiayi felt that Qiao Dongliang still did not understand her point. If that was so easy, why would they be so worried and have delayed it until now?

Qiao Dongliang sighed. "Zijin, you're not asleep yet, are you? Since you're not asleep, come on out and listen to us. Let's hear what plans you have for yourself. This is your illness, after all."

1

After hiding in the room for a long time, Qiao Zijin had gotten anxious over how Ding Jiayi had not managed to settle the matter after such a long time. Initially, Qiao Zijin had already wanted to jump up from her bed to settle this personally. Now that Qiao Dongliang had invited her out, Qiao Zijin indeed emerged from her room.

She wanted to clarify the situation too. Her dad had only one daughter left, so what did her dad really want to do? Did he really intend to watch her die and put his hopes on Qiao Nan, who had run away and had not returned for a few months?

She was her parents' only hope now, and only she would be able to support her parents in their old age. Once her parents passed on, this house would still be hers. Since it would eventually be hers, would it not be the same to sell it and pass her the proceeds of the sale now?

"Dad." Qiao Zijin did not feel the least bit guilty. After emerging from her room, she picked a comfortable spot and sat down. "Dad, you've always been good to me. I'll listen to you no matter what plans you have." Since she had already said that, she did not believe that her dad would really wash his hands off the matter and let her die.

"No. This is not about what plans I have. It's what plans you have. Zijin, I'll give you three options. You can pick any one of them. First, your mom and I will go get ourselves checked tomorrow to see

which of our kidneys are more suitable for you. Then, we'll quickly borrow some money for you to get your surgery done." Qiao Dongliang looked at Qiao Zijin in the eye with a little expectation in his heart.

Qiao Zijin did not know the dilemma Qiao Dongliang was in and immediately rejected this idea. "Dad, I've already said that this won't work. I haven't been filial to you and Mom, and I haven't provided for you guys yet. How can I let you suffer while I live?"

Her parents were already advanced in age. As such, she was sure that their kidneys were no better than her own. She was afraid that she would need to undergo another surgery in another ten years' time if she were to receive a kidney from her parents.

This did not count. Even if she did not mind her parents' kidney and accepted it, it would only solve the problem of a kidney donor. The problem was that the surgery fees alone were not something that the Qiao family could afford. They still had to borrow money from others.

If this had been Qiao Zijin in the past, she would never have been worried about it. There was no big deal about borrowing money. As long as Qiao Nan was around, she would never have to worry about returning the money she borrowed. But the situation was different now. Qiao Nan was no longer here. Her parents would pay for whatever money her parents borrowed while they were still alive. But once they were gone, she would have to take on that debt and return the money.

How could she agree to that?

Ever since she got married to Chen Jun, Qiao Zijin had never worked at all. If the family had such a huge burden to carry, Qiao Zijin could imagine that once she was discharged, her parents would definitely pressure her into finding a job and would work her as hard as Qiao Nan in the past.

If that were the case, she might as well refuse the surgery. Working that hard would shorten her life. Even a fool knew that.

Ding Jiayi was moved by Qiao Zijin's words while Qiao Dongliang was shocked by Qiao Zijin's calculations and schemes. He did not want to think so badly of his daughter, and neither did he want to admit just how scheming his daughter was. As such, Qiao Dongliang continued. "The second solution... Zijin, don't you still have an apartment? Just sell that apartment. Didn't you tell Nan Nan at that time that your mom and I have a share in that apartment? Don't worry. Even after you sell that apartment, there will always be a room for you in our house. Besides, there will be some money left even after paying for your treatment. Your mom and I won't touch that. You can keep it for yourself."

In other words, as long as Qiao Zijin sold her apartment and treated her illness with that money, Qiao Dongliang was still willing to support his daughter, Qiao Zijin, who was already in her forties.

Chapter 1910: Cannot Bear to Look

It was already rare for a parent to raise a child to this age, especially since Qiao Zijin did not work. No matter how much the children of other families relied on their parents, they would find a job for themselves at the very least. Then, they would complain that their salary was low. But Qiao Zijin had skipped this entire process!

Hearing this solution, Ding Jiayi thought that this was a plan too. Initially, Ding Jiayi had thought that there was no big deal in selling the quad to treat Qiao Zijin's illness. This house would eventually be passed down to Qiao Zijin, after all. But selling the apartment would be the same too.

The most important thing was to treat Qiao Zijin's illness. Ding Jiayi did not care which property they sold. "Zijin, this solution sounds good. Haven't you always been staying here in the courtyard after you got divorced from Chen Jun? You grew up here, so you can just continue staying here. Just sell that apartment."

It would be a pity since that apartment was huge and beautiful, with gorgeous white marble lining the floor. After owning the house for such a long time, she had not even moved in yet. It would be such a pity to sell a new house that she herself had not lived in.

"No way!" Qiao Zijin immediately retorted. "We can't sell that apartment. If we have to sell anything, it has to be this quad." Qiao Zijin was frustrated. This quad was hers too. Since they were all hers, why could she not decide on how to deal with them?

Qiao Dongliang drew a sharp breath and asked straightforwardly, "If we sell this quad, where will your mom and I live?"

Qiao Zijin had not realized the meaning of Qiao Dongliang's words and said naturally, "Of course we'll rent an apartment. After you sold this house, didn't you rent an apartment too? Since you could do it then, you can do it now too. I've already thought about it. I'll rent an apartment with a room and a living room for you. It's more than enough space for you and Mom."

“Right. That’s right. That’s much better than the apartment we lived in at that time. Old Qiao, look at how much Zijin thinks about us. Remember how we had to squeeze into a rented room the last time we sold our house? I told you that Zijin’s much better than that wretched girl. Did that wretched girl give us such a good life at that time?”

Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi had already discussed renting an apartment. It was natural that they turned to renting an apartment after selling the house. At that time, they had squeezed into a room after selling the house, causing Ding Jiayi to regret her decision.

Thinking about how hard she had had it at that time, Ding Jiayi had been rather reluctant to sell the quad too. Seeing Ding Jiayi’s unwillingness, Qiao Zijin had no choice but to bring up the idea of renting a small apartment for Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi so that they would still live comfortably, just like they had done at home.

Qiao Zijin even said that her parents had spent their whole lives in the quad and had never experienced living in an apartment. It would be good for them to have a change in environment and experience living in a different kind of home.

Now that Qiao Zijin had said that, Ding Jiayi had indeed agreed to it. They were mother and daughter, after all, and shared similar ideas.

Seeing how Ding Jiayi was overjoyed and defending her elder daughter even after being deceived, Qiao Dongliang was almost speechless. After a long while, Qiao Dongliang asked, “If you rent an apartment with only one room, where will you stay?”

“I’ll return to my own house.” She had her own house and did not have to worry about having nowhere to live. “You and Mom toiled your whole lives for me and Qiao Nan. You’ve never been able to enjoy your own lives. I’ve thought about it. Once we sell this house and treat my illness, the two of you can have your own lives in that apartment. You don’t have to worry about me. My mom will just have to come over once a week to clean up for me. Then, you will not only be able to live your own lives, but I’ll even sign you up for a tour to Thailand for you to have a vacation!”

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To make it sound as though she was renting the apartment out of filial piety, Qiao Zijin had no choice but to spend twenty thousand yuan on a tour for her parents.

“Right, that’s what Zijin means.” Ding Jiayi’s face was glowing. Going abroad. That was something she had never gotten the chance to do in this whole lifetime. And it was her daughter forking out the money for her to go on a holiday with Old Qiao! She had said long ago that Zijin was a good kid and they could only rely on Zijin in their old age.

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Now, facts proved that her judgment had been much better than Old Qiao’s. Zijin was good, while that wretched girl was wretched indeed. She was such an ingrate! “We’ve worked hard our whole lives to raise two children. That wretched girl is too heartless. I don’t even want to acknowledge having a daughter like her. I’ll just take it that I raised her for nothing. In the future, let’s live our own lives. I’ll go help Zijin clean up her house from time to time and help her cook. Old Qiao, I’ve never imagined that I would be able to live such a good life at our age!”

She had been as pretty as a flower when she had just married Old Qiao. They had not had much time together before they had their elder daughter, Qiao Zijin. Now that they were old, they were leading lives that could not even match up to young people’s! It was actually quite embarrassing.

Qiao Zijin was cheating Ding Jiayi of her money, but Ding Jiayi was still gleefully trying to help her! The sight of the mother and daughter’s interaction left Qiao Dongliang at a loss of words.

No matter how nicely she said it, it could not change the fact that their elder daughter despised them and was unwilling to stay with them. Renting them a house? Did they not have a house in the first place? They were only homeless because they were selling the house for their elder daughter’s treatment.

They were doing all these for their elder daughter, but she was still reluctant to live with them. What else could Qiao Dongliang say to that? And Old Ding would even have to go to her elder daughter’s house from time to time to clean and cook? So, that meant that their elder daughter did not want to live with them but wanted them to work for her! In that way, she would be able to save some money on hiring a caretaker.

Qiao Dongliang’s heart dropped when he realized just how callous his elder daughter was and felt provoked by Ding Jiayi’s words. Did this wife of his have no heart or brain of her own? Could she not think or feel for herself?

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Ding Jiayi had forced their most filial daughter away and was now calling their evil-hearted and mean-spirited elder daughter a good child. Qiao Dongliang suddenly realized that not only was he unable to live with his elder daughter, Qiao Zijin, any longer, but he could not even stand to look at his wife, Ding Jiayi, anymore.