

RTAMM 1911

Chapter 1911: Silence

“If you’re not selling your house, we won’t sell this quad. I have a quad and a large house. Our family has two houses. If I can’t stay in the other house after selling one of them, why should I sell the quad?!”

How would Qiao Dongliang be softhearted after knowing about his elder daughter’s wishful thinking? She had really treated him and Ding Jiayi as burdens. His elder daughter had not recovered from her illness yet and needed her parents to do everything for her. However, she was already thinking of how to get rid of the two of them after she had recovered. Qiao Dongliang felt that he shouldn’t be concerned about his elder daughter now but his livelihood in the future instead.

Based on Qiao Zijin’s plan, Qiao Dongliang didn’t feel that Qiao Zijin would find a job to earn money and lead a good and honest life once she had recovered from her illness. Since Qiao Zijin didn’t work but loved to spend money, where would the money come from? Of course, it would come from selling the quad.

Seeing how Qiao Zijin was idling at home, even if the quad was sold for a high price, it would not be able to withstand Qiao Zijin’s spending. At that time, not only would he and Old Ding not be able to enjoy their old age in peace, but they might even have to sweep the streets and earn a meager income of slightly more than a thousand yuan a month in their seventies and eighties.

“Dad, you...” She didn’t expect her father to be as bad as her mother. Both of them wanted to live in her house. Although her house had been around for several years, hardly anyone lived in it after it had been renovated and it was considered brand new. How would she let her parents live in such a good house?

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Qiao Zijin despised Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi and felt that the two of them would dirty the house if they stayed in it. “Dad, don’t be angry. I’m thinking for you and Mom so that you could live your lives alone. Dad, I’m really doing this for the both of you.”

“That’s right. It’s fine that you don’t appreciate Zijin’s good intentions, but how can you throw temper at her? Zijin, don’t mind your dad. He’s ill-tempered and doesn’t know right from wrong.” Ding Jiayi supported Qiao Zijin. She felt that her elder daughter’s arrangement was pretty good.

With a living room and a bedroom, it was at least much better than the days when they had to sell the quad for the first time.

After glancing at the stupid Ding Jiayi who couldn’t even tell right from wrong but had the cheek to tell others off, Qiao Dongliang refused to communicate further with her. Anyway, the quad was under his name. If he disagreed, nobody could sell it. “I’ve said it before. Since I’m not willing to sell this house and Zijin is not willing to sell the big house, then we have to resort to the third method, which is for Zijin to stay at home every day and see if God is willing to give us a miracle so that she doesn’t need to undergo surgery or could get better just by taking medicine.”

The truth was that the first suggestion Qiao Dongliang put forward was already the biggest sacrifice he could make for Qiao Zijin as a father. At his age, would Qiao Dongliang not have known how big an impact undergoing a huge surgery like a kidney transplant would have on his health?

He would rather sacrifice his own health and shorten a few years of his life so that his daughter could live for a few more years. It was a pity that although he wasn’t afraid of shortening his life, his daughter was worried that his kidney wouldn’t work well and couldn’t let her live for a few more years. Not only was his elder daughter not touched, but she even disdained him. Qiao Dongliang felt that this was his and Ding Jiayi’s misfortune as parents.

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The proposed solutions were rejected repeatedly. Qiao Dongliang’s fatherly love and patience were gone.

Qiao Dongliang’s words shocked Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin. Qiao Zijin turned pale. “Dad, by the third method, do you mean for me to wait for death?” For an illness like hers, how was it possible for there to be a miracle?

The doctor had said very clearly that even if she accepted the kidney transplant, her illness wasn’t fully free from recurrence. She might not fully recover from the illness even if she went for treatment. Then, wouldn’t it just be waiting for death if she didn’t?

Did she hear wrongly or did her father say wrongly? How could her father say such cold and ruthless words to her?

“Old Qiao, are you confused? Do you not know what you have just said?” Ding Jiayi was shocked. Old Qiao and she were only left with one child, Qiao Zijin. If Qiao Zijin was gone, there might not even be someone to plan for their funerals when they passed away in the future. “Zijin, don’t be mistaken. Your father is just too anxious about your illness and he’s ill-tempered. No matter what, he doesn’t mean it that way.”

Ding Jiayi didn’t repeat the words ‘waiting for death’ to persuade Qiao Zijin and help Qiao Dongliang ‘clear his name’.

Qiao Dongliang completely didn’t want to accept Ding Jiayi’s ‘good intentions.’ “I’ve already been home for an hour. Old Ding, go and prepare a meal. After the meal, I want to rest earlier today.”

He didn’t say anything wrong, and neither was he joking. His words couldn’t be more serious. As to what his elder daughter and Ding Jiayi wanted to think, Qiao Dongliang couldn’t control them.

Qiao Zijin’s life was hers. The right to choose was also in Qiao Zijin’s hands. The doctor said that it was rare for them to have a kidney source. If their family couldn’t make a decision as soon as possible, then sorry, the hospital wouldn’t drag this on as other patients needed it urgently as well. Once the time was up, this kidney source would be arranged for other patients.

For the sake of money, Qiao Zijin would rather miss out on this kidney source than to care for her life. Qiao Dongliang felt that there was no use in him worrying so much. If Qiao Zijin wanted to survive, she had to fight hard to do so. If Qiao Zijin didn’t want to continue living, there wasn’t any way for an old man like him to prevent her from seeking death. He wasn’t a doctor, and Qiao Zijin wasn’t willing to accept his kidney.

“Why are you in a daze? Didn’t you hear me asking you to prepare a meal? Do you want to starve me to death as well? When that happens, Ding Jiayi, you’ll be the only one left in this house. Nobody would care about you after you pass away. Are you happy then?” Old Ding could no longer be described as foolish. If Old Ding continued this way, he and Old Ding might not be able to continue living together.

As long as Old Ding was around, no matter what idea his elder daughter came up with, it would only cause trouble and unrest to all. Nan Nan was already so frightened that she went into hiding and didn’t dare return. At his age, he would only be more afraid of trouble than Nan Nan. If he couldn’t continue living with Old Ding, then so be it.

After being yelled at by Qiao Dongliang, Ding Jiayi, who was still being stupid, could only stand up and go to the kitchen. It wasn't until she finished preparing dinner did she recover and realize what had just happened.

The Qiao family ate this meal in silence. Nobody was talking. Qiao Zijin pulled a long face and returned to the room expressionlessly after having a few mouthfuls of rice.

Chapter 1912: Having a Chat Again

Seeing Qiao Zijin like this, Ding Jiayi was pretty afraid. "Old Qiao, your words were too unkind just now. Zijin took your words seriously and became angry."

Qiao Zijin answered Ding Jiayi after eating his fill. "She's already a mother in her forties. Think about it yourself. How long has she worked for? She's already an adult but keeps relying on others and her parents for a living. We don't despise her, yet she dares to be rude toward us. This daughter is filial, really filial. We have raised such a good daughter up. If you're afraid, go and coax her. I won't do it. Also, if Zijin took my words seriously, you'd better take my words seriously as well. If she's unhappy, I'm not going to stop her. Doesn't she still have a house? She despises us both and isn't willing for us to stay in her new house. I won't go over, but she can stay there herself. I promise you that if she stays in the big house, I would definitely not go over out of greed. I am surnamed Qiao!"

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Qiao Dongliang was really not afraid or worried at all that Qiao Zijin was angry. Alone in his old age? Sorry, but he was really not worried. If he still couldn't figure out at this time which daughter was the truly filial one, all the years of rice he had eaten would have gone to waste.

He admitted that he didn't treat Nan Nan well enough and caused her to suffer. However, he believed firmly that even if he was an incompetent father and had treated Nan Nan badly, Nan Nan would definitely be the first to stand up and take on the responsibility if he needed someone to provide for him when he was old.

He had someone to provide for him. When he passed away, there was someone to plan his funeral and cry for him. Thankfully, he wanted a second child back then. Otherwise, at this time, he really had to be like Ding Jiayi and be worried about his old age in the face of such an unfilial daughter!

Although Qiao Zijin returned to her room angry without eating much, she was really worried that her father's words were true and that he wouldn't change his mind again. If that was really the case, didn't it mean that she could only be waiting for death since she refused to accept her parents' kidneys and was unwilling to sell the big house?

At her age, she still had a lot of good days ahead. She didn't want to die. She wanted to live well!

As such, the person who was truly afraid the most was Qiao Zijin herself.

"Mom." Upon seeing Ding Jiayi walk in, Qiao Zijin stood up nervously. "Mom, after I left, what did Dad say? Did Dad regret it but couldn't bring himself to apologize to me? Although Dad's words were overboard, I won't be calculative toward him. Did Dad say to sell the quad quickly for my treatment?"

The kidney source really couldn't wait for her any longer!

Embarrassed, Ding Jiayi looked at Qiao Zijin and didn't say anything. Not only did Qiao Dongliang not say the words Qiao Zijin mentioned, but he even said that he couldn't be more serious. "Zijin, I don't know what happened to your father suddenly either. However, you should think clearly. The hospital might be arranging the kidney for another patient tomorrow."

Qiao Zijin felt that something in her body broke. "Mom, does Dad mean that he really wants to watch me die and not want me anymore? Could it be that to him, money is more important than my life? How is there such a ruthless father in this world? Am I your birth child? Qiao Nan has already run away. I'm your only daughter left. Is Dad prepared to live his life together with the quad so that when he dies, the quad can plan his funeral instead?"

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"Softer!" Ding Jiayi stepped forward and covered Qiao Zijin's mouth. "Your father is obviously holding a grudge against you. If he hears this, you really should forget counting on the house for your surgery."

Old Qiao was the decision-maker in the family. If Old Qiao wasn't willing to sell the house, there was no point in her being a willing party.

“Zijin, why don’t you listen to your father and choose one of the two former methods? Didn’t you say that being alive was more important than anything else? What is more important is that our family of three is always together. I was listening just now, and the second method seems feasible. Why don’t you sell the big house? Anyway, you have always been staying at the quad. Of course, if you really like the big house and want to sell the quad, I don’t think your father means anything else. He just cherishes you, this daughter, and wants to stay together with you. Let me and your father stay with you in the big house. We’re already an old couple. People will laugh their teeth off if they find out we still want to have some alone time. As long as you let me and your father stay in the big house, he might be willing to sell the quad.”

Things have not reached the worst yet. Aside from that last sentence, Old Qiao’s words made sense and he didn’t say anything overboard.

Ding Jiayi didn’t think too much. As long as her daughter and husband were by her side, it didn’t matter where or with whom they stayed. Ding Jiayi could accept the result of the two of them staying in a house with a living room and a master bedroom or with their daughter.

Ding Jiayi could accept it, but the problem was that Qiao Zijin couldn’t. However, compared to her life, she had to learn to accept things that she couldn’t accept. “Mom, initially, I wanted you and Dad to live together alone. However, since you’ve already said this and Qiao Nan is like that, I will definitely be the one to take care of you and Dad in the future. Let’s sell the quad first. When I’ve recovered from my illness, the three of us will live together in the big house.” Would that do?

Qiao Zijin knew it clearly in her heart that the big house was under her name and the real estate certificate was in her hands. It couldn’t run away from her. However, the quad was different. The quad was under her father’s name. It might not necessarily belong to her in the end. Also, once the quad was sold, the money for selling the quad would be in her hands. Was there anything more real compared to this?

Anyway, she didn’t like the quad. She had long thought about it. When there was a chance in the future, she would stay in the big house. At the very most, she would move in a little earlier. She really couldn’t tell that her father had more thoughts than her mother. Not only did he not understand his child’s predicament, but he also did some things deliberately to burden her.

“That’s good. I think this idea works. Your father will agree to it.” Ding Jiayi was extremely satisfied. To be honest, after listening to Old Qiao’s words, she was worried as well. She and Old Qiao were only left with Qiao Zijin. Once the quad was sold, she felt insecure that she and Old Qiao would be living in a rented house and their only daughter wasn’t by her side.

As long as everyone stayed together, Ding Jiayi could accept this answer. "Have a good rest. I'll speak to your father."

Chapter 1913: I Won't Stop You

"After the chat, we'll reply to the hospital tomorrow so that you could undergo surgery quickly. We can't drag this any longer. If we don't say anything tomorrow, the hospital might act first."

"Yes." Qiao Zijin nodded nervously. "Mom, why don't we do this? After discussing with Dad, call the hospital immediately and tell them we want that kidney and ask them to please arrange a kidney transplant for me as soon as possible."

"Don't worry. Mom has always placed your matters first in my heart. There won't be any problem." Ding Jiayi wanted to claim the credit. She felt that she had persuaded Qiao Zijin and wanted to prove her sacrifice to her. As such, Ding Jiayi happily entered Qiao Dongliang's room. "Old Qiao, Zijin has agreed to it."

"You're too much as well. You're already a grandfather, but your temper is worse than Zijin's. You don't act like a father at all."

"Agreed to it?" Could it be that he had seen Zijin wrongly just now and she could still be saved? "Which method did she choose?" As long as it wasn't the third, everything else was still easy to say. However, the third was a dead end. Zijin shouldn't have chosen that either.

"What other methods are there? Of course it's the second one." Ding Jiayi sat on the bed and looked at the main house with nostalgia in her eyes. Ever since Old Qiao knew what kind of environment Qiao Nan had been living in for the past ten years, he threw a temper at her. Until now, she was still sleeping in that small room.

Since she had resolved Zijin's matter this time around, Old Qiao should be appeased and would agree to her moving back again, right?

Really, they were already an old couple but sleeping separately. Weren't they afraid that others would see them as a joke, or Zijin, their daughter, would know about this?

Qiao Dongliang was happy at first. Then, he asked suspiciously, “Zijin is willing to sell her big house?” If Zijin really chose the second method, this was considered good news for Qiao Dongliang. This meant that between money and parents, Qiao Zijin still felt that parents were more important.

It was just that Qiao Zijin had broken his heart not too long ago. Qiao Dongliang didn’t dare believe within a short period of time that Qiao Zijin would become filial again, that while cherishing her life, she would think that it wasn’t easy for her parents.

Ding Jiayi slapped Qiao Dongliang’s back. “Old Qiao, why are you such a blockhead? Why is it that only the big house can be sold but not the quad? Didn’t you just want to stay with Zijin so that if anything happens to us in the future, Zijin can take care of us? Zijin said that we are left with only her. After selling the quad and she has recovered from her illness, our family of three will stay in the big house.”

Upon mentioning the big house, Ding Jiayi’s face glowed. “Old Qiao, after the renovation, you haven’t been to the big house, right? You don’t know how big and beautiful that house is. It’s on the eighteenth floor, and it feels good to see it being so up high. I really didn’t expect myself to have such a blessing when I’m old. Look at how competent and capable Zijin is. I think if I can live in such a big house, I’ll wake up smiling even in my dreams.”

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She had said long ago that when she and Old Qiao were old, they could only rely on Zijin. It was really better to bring up one child rather than two children.

After getting such an answer, Qiao Dongliang felt that he was on a roller coaster ride. After reaching the peak, he plummeted to the bottom. “Competent?” Upon mentioning this, Qiao Dongliang was so angry that he laughed. Indeed, he shouldn’t have expected anything from Qiao Zijin, his daughter. “Did Zijin let you stay in that house? Indeed, it belongs to Zijin. However, Nan Nan provided you the money to buy that house, right? Did Zijin fork out a single cent? The house that was bought with Nan Nan’s money belongs to Zijin. Now that she’s letting you stay in it, it becomes Zijin’s credit. Only you can say such words.”

She was so biased. Old Ding had lost all sense of rationality and IQ.

“...” Ding Jiayi felt uncomfortable. She was used to praising Qiao Zijin. When she said those words just now, Ding Jiayi really didn’t remember how that big house was bought. In her impression, that big house completely belonged to Qiao Zijin. “Why are you so calculative? Isn’t it fine as long as

Zijin is filial? So what if Qiao Nan knows how to earn money? It's useless if she's unfilial. Look at how good Zijin is. She even lets us stay in that big house."

"Nan Nan is unfilial? If Nan Nan's unfilial, how would you, a person who doesn't go to work, be able to provide Zijin the money to buy the house? Zijin married well. Did Zijin buy this quad? Old Ding, I only realize today that not only do you not have any conscience, but you're also heartless. I'm going to sleep now. Get out of here!"

Qiao Dongliang couldn't be bothered to talk to Ding Jiayi anymore. Anyway, to Ding Jiayi, Qiao Zijin, who had contributed nothing to this family, was someone godlike. In this world, only Ding Jiayi was capable of giving birth to such an unparalleled daughter.

Ding Jiayi, who was pushed, almost fell to the ground. Ding Jiayi didn't understand. "Old Qiao, what's wrong with you? I even helped you put in a good word in front of Zijin. Why are you throwing a temper? What am I working so hard for? It's all because of you and Zijin. You're even scolding me now. Since when do I not have any conscience?" She was really being wronged.

"You have given all your conscience to Zijin. Do you not understand that I want you to get lost? Do you want me to drag you out?" After knowing Qiao Zijin's final decision, Qiao Dongliang had given up.

It was still that same sentence. It was up to Qiao Zijin how she wanted to consider things. As for the quad, he had his own arrangement. Nobody else's words mattered.

"You..." Ding Jiayi was both angry and anxious. "Old Qiao, can you stop making trouble at this time? Zijin's illness can't wait, and neither can the hospital. I have to call the hospital quickly and get them to arrange the kidney transplant for Zijin. Otherwise, the hospital will give that kidney to someone else."

Old Qiao looked angry. What were his thoughts on selling the quad to stay in the big house?

At this time, Ding Jiayi felt inconvenient. If she had known there would be such a day, she would have registered the quad under her own name back then. That way, she didn't have to discuss with Old Qiao and could just sell the quad directly to provide Zijin money for her treatment.

Qiao Dongliang pulled up the blankets, flipped over, and faced Ding Jiayi with his back. "If you have the money, then make the call. I'm not stopping you from making this call."

Chapter 1914: Acting Pitiful

“Qiao Zijin is my daughter. If she could live, would I want her to die? You can go and settle this matter yourselves.”

Ding Jiayi could neither laugh nor cry. “Where is the real estate certificate of the quad? Hand it over to me quickly. Once I have it, I can make the call.” They were going round and round. Why couldn’t Old Qiao still understand?

Qiao Dongliang snorted coldly. “I’ve already kept the real estate certificate of the quad. You can’t find it. Out of the three methods I’ve proposed, none of them involves selling the quad. From the day Nan Nan bought back the quad, I’ve already decided to live in the quad all my life. Even if I die, I will die in this house. Zijin is already in her forties. I’ve raised her up so that she could become an outstanding person, and I don’t expect her to be filial toward me. However, as a father, I’ve already sacrificed enough for her. She’s already an adult but is still trying to exploit her parents to benefit herself. That’s too overboard.”

There was no room for discussion for this matter.

If Ding Jiayi wanted to secretly find the real estate certificate to sell the quad, then sorry, once bitten, twice shy. Knowing how the mother-daughter pair was both black-hearted and evil, he had long hidden the real estate certificate well as a precaution.

As long as the quad wasn’t involved, he didn’t care how his elder daughter’s kidney transplant was made successful.

After saying these serious remarks, Qiao Dongliang closed his eyes and went to sleep.

Ding Jiayi was stunned. She didn’t expect Qiao Dongliang to be so reluctant even when Qiao Zijin had already made a concession. Ding Jiayi didn’t know why but her heart turned cold when she heard Qiao Dongliang say that he had guarded against her and hidden the real estate certificate well in advance such that she wouldn’t find it. No words could describe that feeling.

They were a couple. It was normal for them to quarrel and throw a temper. However, wasn't Old Qiao too overboard in his attitude? Did he not treat her as family? He had obviously guarded against her as if she was a thief!

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Qiao Zijin, who had been resting in her own room, was quite confident. She felt that since she had already agreed to her parents living in her own big house, they should be able to feel her filial piety fully. Didn't her father want that? She had already agreed to it. Her father no longer had to create any trouble.

As such, when Ding Jiayi and Qiao Dongliang were having a discussion, Qiao Zijin was very confident and stayed in her room to wait for the good news. When she saw her mother walking in, Qiao Zijin sat up on the bed. "Mom, did you call the hospital and ask them to arrange the surgery for me as soon as possible? It's still considered early now. There are people on duty in the hospital 24/7. Hurry up and make the call. It's not too late."

Seeing Qiao Zijin's happy face, Ding Jiayi opened her mouth and didn't know how to tell her about Qiao Dongliang's reaction. Before this, Ding Jiayi also felt that as long as their family of three could live together in the big house, Qiao Dongliang wouldn't have any reason not to agree.

However, in reality, things were twisted like this. What they felt were impossible eventually happened.

"Mom, what happened? Say something. Have you made a call to the hospital? Hurry up and do so. The earlier this call is made, the sooner I can feel at ease. Otherwise, I can make the call myself." This was her life-saving call. They couldn't delay it. If they were even one second later, that kidney might belong to someone else.

Ding Jiayi snatched away the phone from Qiao Zijin's hands. "You can't make the call. It's useless even if you do so. We don't have the money for your surgery."

It was four hundred thousand yuan, not forty thousand yuan. If it was forty thousand yuan, she could still try to borrow from others. However, no matter what happened, she couldn't make up four hundred thousand yuan. If the call was made and their family couldn't pay the surgery fees in advance during the day of the surgery, the hospital wouldn't proceed with it.

Ding Jiayi had long thought of this method. Ding Jiayi told the hospital that once there was a suitable kidney source, they could proceed to do the surgery for Qiao Zijin. However, the hospital said that they had to pay the fees in advance. Ding Jiayi said that surviving was the most important, so they should do the surgery first. As for the money for the surgery and kidney source, their family would fork it out no matter what.

The hospital had its own rules. This was really not something that Ding Jiayi alone could decide. If everyone operated like Ding Jiayi, the hospital would not have been sustainable.

After all, which hospital didn't have its fair share of freeloaders?

Furthermore, almost everyone in Ping Cheng knew about the Qiao family's situation. The Qiao family had money. Even if they didn't, they had a house. If she wanted to undergo a surgery, then the Qiao family should hand over the money first. It was the hospital's responsibility to save the dead and heal the wounded. They would perform Qiao Zijin's surgery without a second word.

If they didn't have money? There were a lot of other patients waiting for the kidney transplant. Those were human lives waiting to be saved as well.

It was precisely because of this situation that Ding Jiayi snatched over the phone and didn't let Qiao Zijin make the call. Ding Jiayi had heard the story of 'the boy who cried wolf'. If they didn't have the money but made the arrangements for the surgery, as long as they didn't pay the fees tomorrow, the hospital would just arrange the kidney for someone else without a second word.

"We have if we sell the quad." Qiao Zijin smiled. She knew that her family didn't have money. However, after selling the house, she would have money to undergo the surgery. Her mother was really funny. That was right as well. Her mother was already old and foolish.

Ding Jiayi let out a long sigh. "Your father didn't agree to sell the quad. He said that if we were to sell it, it could only be that big house of yours. After selling the big house, if you don't have a place to stay, you can continue staying in the quad. There's no room for discussion for anything else."

"..." Qiao Zijin was shocked. "No, Mom. Didn't you tell Dad that after selling the quad, I'm willing for our family of three to live together in my big house?"

"I did, but your father still disagreed. He said that he would definitely not move out of the quad. Even if he dies, he wants to die in the quad." Ding Jiayi really had no other choice. After all, Qiao Dongliang had already said such words.

Upon hearing that Qiao Dongliang was so unreasonable and didn't care about her life and death, Qiao Zijin really wanted to yell 'if he's really that capable, die for me right now.'

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If her father died, he would have died in the quad. Once her father died, nobody would stop her from selling the quad to pay the hospital for her treatment, right? Thankfully, Qiao Zijin was still a little rational. She knew that such words couldn't be said, thus she swallowed them.

After thinking for a while, Qiao Zijin started to cry in front of Ding Jiayi and acted pitiful.

Chapter 1915: Frantic

"Mom, I'm already in this state and so is this family. Mom, what do you think Dad means by this? Does he think that this quad is more important to him than I am?" Would he rather own this house for the rest of his life and let her die?

Ding Jiayi was frantic. "How would I know what your dad is thinking? I want to know what's wrong with him too! Your dad treats me like a thief! He told me just now that he already kept the property deed safe so that I'll never be able to find it. Do you know how pissed off I was after hearing that?"

She was part of Old Qiao's family. If Qiao Zijin had not gotten so ill, she would never have wanted to sell the house either. Why could they not even have a day of peace in this house?

The mother-and-daughter pair stayed silent for about three minutes. Ding Jiayi had no solution. She was already at her wit's end. Ding Jiayi looked at Qiao Zijin helplessly. "Zijin, if your dad insists on it, I can't think of any other solution. You know who is best at earning money in our family. But that wretched girl ran away and your dad won't change his mind. You'll have to think about what you're going to do about your illness tonight."

Old Qiao was unwilling to sell the quad while Zijin was reluctant to sell her large apartment. She, who had nothing at all, could only stand by the sidelines and look on. Anyway, even if they were to sell her away, she would not even be worth four hundred thousand. There was no way she would be able to help Zijin get through this storm.

Ding Jiayi, whose head had started to hurt, expressed that she was incapable of doing anything and returned to her room to sleep while holding her head. Other than sleeping, there was nothing else she could do.

Once Qiao Zijin was left alone in her room, Qiao Zijin's face was not only dark, but her gaze was also cold. Great. Amazing. These were her birth parents. Even while knowing that she was on the verge of dying, not one of them was willing to save her. Qiao Nan had already run away, and her dad would choose to hug the quad and watch her die, while her mom stood by and said things that did not matter.

Hehehe. There was not a single person in her family whom she could rely on. They did not love her at all. All they knew to do was to scheme against her and hope that she would lead a difficult life. Would the Qiao family be happy only if she had a hard life?

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Since they all wished that she would die early, she would never grant them this wish. Not only would she not die, but she would also live better than every one of them. She would wait and see what kind of retribution all these people who gave up on her and abandoned her today would get in the future.

The Qiao family was abandoning her today. There was bound to be a day that these people would experience being abandoned themselves.

Qiao Zijin cherished her life, after all. Her house was important, but her life was the most important. Even up until now, Qiao Zijin did not want to accept Qiao Dongliang's or Ding Jiayi's kidney. Accepting her parents' kidney would indeed save Qiao Zijin some money, but Qiao Zijin felt that she still had a long way ahead of her since she was only in her early forties.

If she accepted her parents' kidney just to save money, she might encounter problems with her kidney in another ten years' time. At that time, she might not even have the chance or time to wait for another suitable kidney.

More importantly, the country was developing, and the cost of living was skyrocketing. Just like property prices, medical bills were getting more expensive by the year. Today, she needed four hundred thousand yuan for her kidney transplant, but in a decade's time, it might cost five hundred, or even six hundred thousand!

As such, it was better for her to undergo the surgery now while the cost was still four hundred thousand.

In the end, Qiao Zijin contacted the hospital herself and informed them that she intended to undergo the surgery. It was also Qiao Zijin who found someone trustworthy to put her house up for sale after confirming that her apartment was worth around two million yuan.

She had purchased the house many years ago, but it had been left vacant all these years. It was in brand-new condition. A house like that was probably popular with buyers.

Thinking about how her only apartment had been put up for sale, Qiao Zijin's mood was foul even though she was about to get a new lease of life through her surgery. She felt as though her heart was bleeding.

"Zijin, don't worry. I'll be outside. I'll be with you and I'll be waiting for you." Ding Jiayi was overjoyed seeing her daughter lying on the hospital bed and being pushed into the operation theatre. What scared her most were Qiao Zijin's and Qiao Dongliang's tempers. The father and daughter were at loggerheads and were fighting to see who would give up first.

This fight between the father and daughter did not matter to her, but it would really be the end if the kidney that Zijin needed was no longer available.

"Zijin, when the doctor injects you with anesthesia later, just treat it like you're taking a nap. When you wake up, everything will be over. Mom will take good care of you. You'll be fine." Ding Jiayi spoke warmly as she clutched onto Qiao Zijin's hand.

Qiao Zijin forced a smile out. "Mom, I already put my house up for sale, and I had to borrow money for this surgery. Although my worry might be a little excessive, I think that it won't be easy to sell that house. In case anyone wants to view the house or negotiate a price, don't be in a hurry. You must wait for me to come out so that I could handle the negotiation myself."

That was her only asset. Every single cent from the sale had to go into her hands. Her mom was materialistic. If she allowed her mom to interfere in this matter, she might not even be able to recover all the proceeds from the sale. Qiao Zijin would never let such a thing happen.

“All right. Don’t worry. Mom won’t care about it. You can handle it yourself once you recover.” Ding Jiayi nodded. Whether it concerned Qiao Nan or Qiao Dongliang, Ding Jiayi dared to butt in. Because Ding Jiayi was clear that there would be money involved. Once the money landed in her hands, Qiao Nan and Qiao Dongliang should never hope to get it back.

But her daughter, Qiao Zijin, was different. Ding Jiayi had never taken anything from Qiao Zijin. It had always been Ding Jiayi giving Qiao Zijin things.

“This is the entrance to the operation theatre. The family members of the patient have to wait here.” The nurse stood in Ding Jiayi’s way. “Don’t worry. The doctor will do his best. If the surgery is successful, your daughter will feel better.”

Whether she liked it or not, the nurse had to do her job to the best of her abilities. She was clear of that principle.

“Of course. My Zijin will get better and live a long life.” If anything were to happen to Zijin, neither she nor Old Qiao would be able to live. So, Zijin had to get better.

Of course, Qiao Nan knew nothing about Qiao Zijin being in the operation theatre and spent every day in fear in the Zhai family’s courtyard, trying her best not to go out if possible for fear that she would be caught.

1

Chapter 1916: Bad Impression

But on the day of Qiao Zijin’s surgery, Qiao Nan had no choice but to get out of the house because there was a delivery for her.

When she heard that there was a delivery for her, Qiao Nan was confused. She did not have the habit of shopping online, and neither was it possible for anyone to send anything to her. More importantly, there were only a few people who knew that she was staying at the Zhai family’s house. So, who could have sent her a parcel?

When she received the delivery, Qiao Nan confirmed that she was indeed the intended recipient. Someone had sent her a document.

Qiao Nan squeezed the envelope. It seemed a little empty. There was only something that felt like a small booklet in the corner of the envelope. When Qiao Nan opened it up, she was dumbfounded. The envelope held a property deed! How could that person send a property deed in the mail? Was he not afraid that it would be lost?

But what came next stunned Qiao Nan even more. When Qiao Nan analyzed the property deed, she realized that it was the property deed of the Qiao family's courtyard! In that instant, Qiao Nan did not even know how to react.

Qiao Nan closed the property deed booklet with mixed feelings and took out the paper that came along with the deed. The gist was simple. The property deed had been sent by her father, and her father had already consulted a lawyer to draft a legal will. Once he passed on, Qiao Nan would inherit the Qiao family's courtyard.

Just in case, Qiao Dongliang had sent Qiao Nan the property deed of the Qiao family's courtyard in advance.

Aside from the property deed, Qiao Dongliang had mentioned another matter. Before the new year, he had received a call from Chen Jun. Chen Jun already knew where Qiao Nan was staying and had intended to let the Qiao family know. Qiao Dongliang understood what Chen Jun was trying to do and wanted Qiao Nan to know too.

Of course, Qiao Dongliang had kept this phone call under wraps, and neither Qiao Zijin nor Ding Jiayi knew of Qiao Nan's address for the time being. However, Qiao Dongliang reminded Qiao Nan to find a new residence or even a new city if she was only renting her apartment.

The Qiao family's courtyard would definitely go to Qiao Nan. The Qiao family owed this to Qiao Nan. But Qiao Dongliang had only one request. If he were to pass on, he hoped that Qiao Nan would not rush to take back the Qiao family's courtyard. He hoped that she would allow Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin to remain there until Ding Jiayi passed on.

After that, Qiao Dongliang did not care about how the Qiao sisters handled the matter.

After reading the letter, Qiao Nan coldly ripped it apart. It was easy to deal with the letter. It was the property deed in front of her that Qiao Nan did not know how to handle. It was no trouble at all for Qiao Nan to receive the property deed. Just like the letter said, the Qiao family owed Qiao Nan the

Qiao family's courtyard. She was only taking back what belonged to her. There was nothing wrong with that.

It was the second part of Qiao Dongliang's letter that upset Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan was unsure about what Qiao Zijin had done to anger Qiao Dongliang so badly. But the letter clearly pointed to two possible scenarios. Firstly, Qiao Dongliang was angry at Qiao Zijin, and he was very angry indeed. That was why he left it up to Qiao Nan as to whether she would allow Qiao Zijin to remain in the Qiao family's courtyard after Ding Jiayi's death.

Secondly, Qiao Dongliang knew that Qiao Zijin was unreliable. Instead of leaving the house to Qiao Zijin, it was safer to leave it to Qiao Nan. At the very least, Ding Jiayi would not go homeless if the house were to go to Qiao Nan.

Qiao Dongliang was giving the house to Qiao Nan in case Qiao Zijin treated Ding Jiayi badly after his death.

Qiao Nan did not have any more feelings toward the Qiao family. Qiao Nan's cold heart toward them had not been warmed just because of this property deed. Qiao Dongliang cared about too many people and had too many considerations. Qiao Nan might have gotten the property deed, but the problem was that it came along with too much trouble and too many problems!

In the face of such a situation, there was no way a mere property deed would rekindle Qiao Nan's feelings and hope toward the Qiao family. Even until the very end, she would still be someone else's slave. At this thought, Qiao Nan sneered. Should she thank her father for thinking highly of her?

She stared at the property deed for a long while but could not think of a good way to deal with it. Out of her selfish desires, Qiao Nan wanted to take back what belonged to her. But at the same time, she was unwilling to get herself entangled in the Qiao family's problems. Even if the property deed legally belonged to her, Qiao Nan felt uneasy holding on to it.

This was just the property deed of the Qiao family's courtyard, yet she was already feeling so uneasy. She wondered how she would feel if she were to get the property deed of the house that she paid for but became Qiao Zijin's.

"What's wrong?" Zhai Hua saw Qiao Nan in a daze as she came out. "What are you looking at?" Zhai Hua glanced at the booklet in Qiao Nan's hands and saw the words 'property deed'. "A property deed? Can I take a look at it?" This property deed did not look like the Zhai family's. After all, her parents were not the kind to use a property deed to win others over.

Qiao Nan had not reached that stage with Zhai Sheng wherein he would entrust her with a property deed, and neither would her parents try to win Qiao Nan over with money. Because of that, Zhai Hua knew that this property deed could not possibly belong to her family.

“Here.” Qiao Nan was used to interacting with Zhai Hua in her dream. It was just a property deed anyway, nothing indecent. Thus, Qiao Nan had no intention to conceal it.

When Zhai Hua saw that the property deed was for the Qiao family’s courtyard, she was taken aback. “Didn’t you say that your family is biased toward your elder sister and treats you badly? Property prices have skyrocketed these days. The property prices in the courtyard have risen even more than anywhere else. Are they really willing to leave this valuable thing to you?”

Could it be that the Qiao family was not as evil as the news had reported? But that did not seem like the case either. Ding Jiayi had sobbed uncontrollably while talking about Qiao Nan’s heartlessness in front of the camera. If not for the camera, Zhai Hua wondered if Ding Jiayi would go so far as to insult Qiao Nan using some mean words instead of simply accusing her.

Anyway, Ding Jiayi had meant just that in her gaze.

At that time, the people of Ping Cheng had been supportive of Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin and were sympathetic toward them. Qiao Nan had been lambasted badly. At that time, Zhai Hua had not had a good impression of Ding Jiayi because of her gaze. As such, she had not agreed with public opinion and scolded Qiao Nan for being heartless. Instead, she had her reservations toward Ding Jiayi’s words.

Chapter 1917: Asking for Love

To Zhai Hua, although Qiao Nan’s actions were considered selfish, she wasn’t black-hearted. She had taken away Qiao Zijin’s life-saving money, but this amount of money was Qiao Nan’s to begin with. She had only taken away her money and didn’t take away anything else that didn’t belong to her in the family. Was this considered black-hearted? She had heard about worse situations before.

If that was the case, even if Qiao Nan was selfish, at least she had her own moral values baseline. What was wrong with Qiao Nan wanting to keep her personal interests? They were already in their forties and she had her own family.

If Qiao Nan made selfless dedications for Qiao Zijin's illness and didn't even want her own family, then something was wrong with her.

Since Qiao Nan's actions were not considered wrong in Zhai Hua's eyes, she placed more of her attention on Ding Jiayi. Indeed, she saw how distressed Ding Jiayi was. Upon mentioning her daughter's illness, she couldn't wait to be sick on behalf of Qiao Zijin. A lot of people had praised Ding Jiayi as a good mother.

At that moment, Zhai Hua thought about it again. Which good mother in this world would criticize her birth daughter on TV and couldn't wait for everyone in this world to scold her younger daughter such that she was forced out?

Could Ding Jiayi not know what kind of impact this would have on her younger daughter once the news was broadcast? If Ding Jiayi really didn't know, then it must be because she cared about Qiao Zijin's illness. How good a mother she was if she only cared about the life and death of her elder daughter but didn't think about her younger daughter at all? As long as one wasn't a fool, one could tell that Ding Jiayi's style was inherently problematic.

At the same time, if Ding Jiayi knew that her daughter's reputation would be ruined for life by saying this but she still insisted on doing so, then it wasn't selfish of Qiao Nan to leave with her own money and ignore the life and death of her family. It should be regarded as self-protection.

This piece of news tested everyone's IQ and EQ. Zhai Hua, who had nothing to do after leaving the army, spent some time and effort to analyze this matter. Zhai Hua had an impression of Qiao Nan's relationship with the Qiao family.

Leaving the real estate certificate of the quad to Qiao Nan was definitely not something that Ding Jiayi, who was on TV, would do.

"My dad sent this over." Her mother? Her mother couldn't wait to squeeze whatever she could out of her. How was it possible for her to take the initiative and give something to her? "It's not that easy to receive this real estate certificate." Taking this real estate certificate meant that she had to take care of Ding Jiayi's life and death.

Even if she never planned to, she could really ignore Ding Jiayi coldly if she couldn't continue living anymore. However, because of this house, Qiao Nan felt that she would have more contact with the Qiao family than she thought. She was already trying her best to distance herself from everyone in the Qiao family and be a familiar stranger.

It could be said that the appearance of this real estate certificate caught Qiao Nan off guard and she couldn't accept it.

Zhai Hua didn't know how to reply to Qiao Nan. In the end, Zhai Hua said, "You're obviously a few years younger than me, but judging by how you persuaded me to deal with Wei De, your thoughts seem to be quite mature. I didn't expect you to have times where you would be hesitant to make decisions as well."

It was true. When handling Wei De, Qiao Nan didn't feel like a peer but a trustworthy senior who was more reliable than her parents. To be taught by her future sister-in-law, Zhai Hua felt embarrassed and that she was too useless.

Thankfully, seeing how Qiao Nan couldn't seem to handle things with the Qiao family, Zhai Hua recovered her dignity as an aunt. Qiao Nan wasn't always that capable or invincible. It turned out that Qiao Nan's shortcoming and weakness was the Qiao family. That was right. This was how a peer should be like.

"One would be at a loss if the matter concerns oneself. Nobody can avoid this." No, if she didn't die once, her situation would be more serious. "If I could handle the relationship with the Qiao family well, I wouldn't have no house today. Someone even feels that a real estate certificate could tempt me to shoulder the big trouble the Qiao family is in. To me, money isn't important. If it was, I would long have a house and a car."

Her father thought that she would be the same as Qiao Zijin and that she wouldn't hesitate to shoulder this burden for the courtyard. He was really wrong.

Yes, the Qiao family's courtyard should have belonged to her, including Qiao Zijin's big house. However, as long as she could cut off relationships and contacts with the Qiao family, she didn't mind losing money to prevent misfortune and give both houses to Qiao Zijin. From then on, everyone would be passersby if they met again.

"Then, what do you plan to do? You don't want this?" Even if one didn't find money important, nobody would complain if they had more. Zhai Hua found it a pity if Qiao Nan decided to return the real estate certificate. She was going to file a divorce lawsuit with Wei De. The two houses the Wei

family had were bought with her money. She wanted to get both of them back and not leave any for the Wei family.

Zhai Hua had already thought about it. The house under her daughter's name would remain. After her daughter grew up, she can decide what to do with it. As for the house the Wei family is living in, she found it disgusting. After the court's decision, she would sell it without a second word.

Qiao Nan pinched her nose bridge. "I don't know. I still have to think about it."

According to her father's letter, only he knew that she was in Ping Cheng now and that she was staying in the Zhai family, which was just a few steps away from the Qiao family. Based on Ding Jiayi's and Qiao Zijin's temper, if they knew that she was back, they would have ignored everything and come to find her, forcing her to raise all the money that was going to be used for Qiao Zijin's surgery.

As such, Qiao Nan admitted that Qiao Dongliang was protecting herself. Qiao Nan also believed it when Qiao Dongliang mentioned that Chen Jun had deliberately called a year ago to tell the Qiao family that she was in Qingshui Town.

Chen Jun was a despicable person to begin with. Not only did he fail to reconcile, but he only left after Xiao Xu and Brother Zhai took care of him. It was normal for Chen Jun to do so since he knew Ding Jiayi's and Qiao Zijin's attitude toward her. It could be said that from then on, her father had started to silently protect her so that she would not be disturbed by Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi.

Facing how Qiao Dongliang was 'asking for love' was the hardest part for Qiao Nan.

"Sister Zhai Hua, I'm planning to return to Qingshui Town this afternoon. The rest are not around. After I've left, help me tell uncle and auntie sorry and goodbye."

Chapter 1918: How Wonderful

If she continued to stay in Ping Cheng, Qiao Nan was afraid that her affairs with the Qiao family would become more troublesome. Her father already knew that she was back. It was hard to say when Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin would find out as well. She didn't want her trip to Ping Cheng to become her nightmare.

In front of the Zhai family, she was naturally unwilling to let the Zhai family see her in a sorry state, even if she had just accompanied Zhai Hua through one of the darkest periods in her life.

Zhai Hua didn't hold her back this time as she knew it clearly that Qiao Nan was scared away by the Qiao family. Just like how Qiao Nan didn't bring her away during the divorce and only wanted her to consider some things carefully, Qiao Nan eventually wanted to avoid the Qiao family by hiding. Zhai Hua didn't approve of the way Qiao Nan handled things. "Okay, you can leave first. I'll tell my family about your matters. When Jiajia is on holiday, I'll bring her over to play with you."

Jiajia really liked Qiao Nan, the future little auntie. Zhai Hua was very happy for Jiajia to interact more with Qiao Nan. After seeing how shameless the Wei family was, Zhai Hua's thoughts were no longer as naive as when she was young, and she started to become more realistic.

Wei De had such a relationship with Wei Xiaomei, and the both of them even gave birth to a son like Wei Wei. They had been husband and wife for more than ten years, but Wei De never broke the relationship with Wei Xiaomei and only maintained a distance from her like how siblings would. He continued to lead a husband-and-wife life with her behind her back. All of these were enough to prove that on a relationship level, Wei De favored Wei Xiaomei more, and not her. The person Wei De wanted to lead his life with was Wei Xiaomei, and not her.

1

Then, why did Wei De still want to marry her and was unwilling to get a divorce? It was all because she was the Zhai family's daughter and was Zhai Sheng's birth sister.

The most promising person in the Zhai family was naturally her brother, Zhai Sheng. Jiajia would have to largely depend on her uncle, Zhai Sheng, for her future development. For the sake of Wei De, she had long used up almost all her resources. If Jiajia and Qiao Nan had a good relationship, she believed that with Zhai Sheng around, Jiajia's future wouldn't be that bad.

2

Although she didn't have the capability to influence Wei De, this didn't mean that Zhai Hua didn't understand the power of influence. Based on how serious Zhai Sheng was about Qiao Nan, as long

as Qiao Nan accepted Jiajia sincerely, Qiao Nan wouldn't have any opinion on how good Zhai Sheng treated Jiajia.

He was obviously her closest kin. However, because of her own stubbornness, she had to be calculative and see how well an uncle could treat his niece now. Zhai Hua knew that she had already paid a painful and severe price for her stubbornness when she was young.

"Okay, as long as you and Jiajia are free, you are welcome to come and play anytime." Qiao Nan smiled for overestimating her capabilities. In Qingshui Town, she rented a house, unlike the Zhai family, who owned a house. However, it was fine as long as everyone understood what she meant.

After greeting Zhai Hua, Qiao Nan immediately bought a train ticket to Qingshui Town without a second word.

After knowing that Chen Jun had told on Qiao Nan and the Qiao family now knew about her address, Qiao Nan naturally couldn't foolishly rent the same house again. Thankfully, Xiao Xu had a number of houses. Once he heard that Qiao Nan wanted to live in a different place, he immediately got his mother to take care of this.

After changing a new environment, Qiao Nan told Zhai Hua her new address in Qingshui Town so that she wouldn't go to the wrong place when she brought Jiajia over to play in the future.

Zhai Hua raised her eyebrows. Qiao Nan really acted fast. Upon thinking of the content that she had guessed in Qiao Nan's letter before tearing it up, Zhai Hua touched her chin and smiled. She didn't expect Zhai Sheng to have a love rival.

"Why is it only you? Where's Nan Nan?" When Zhai Sheng returned home after dealing with outside affairs, he realized there was only Zhai Hua sitting in the living room. At this time in the past, Qiao Nan would be together with Zhai Hua. The relationship between the two was as good as birth sisters, and they would be chatting with enthusiasm.

It was coincidental that Zhai Sheng headed out today as he had something to do, and Zhai Yaohui and his wife were out as well as they wanted to visit friends. Actually, before the couple headed out, they wanted to bring Qiao Nan along. She was the female owner of the Zhai family in the future. It was necessary for her to interact with the Zhai family's circle of friends earlier. However, due to Zhai Sheng's slow actions, Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing could only dispel this idea.

Upon thinking about the watch and bracelet that had been lying in their house for almost two months now and had not been given out yet, Miao Jing looked at Zhai Sheng with disdain. She felt that he was too disappointing. At this age, she really didn't understand why her son was taking his own sweet time.

"Nan Nan..." Wow, he had called her so intimately. "Nan Nan returned to Qingshui Town today. She asked me to tell you, Mom, and Dad, sorry and goodbye. Oh right, she invited me and Jiajia over to Qingshui Town to play together when we are free."

Zhai Hua's ostentatious expression was quite annoying. Zhai Sheng dismissed her little tricks. "That's fine. The lantern festival is over. I should return to Qingshui Town as well to recuperate."

As such, what was there for Zhai Hua to be proud of? For Jiajia, Zhai Hua had to wait until it was her school holidays before they could go to Qingshui Town to visit Nan Nan. He was different. He was someone who was going to recuperate at Qingshui Town.

Upon hearing that Zhai Sheng was going to abandon her and chase after Qiao Nan, Zhai Hua couldn't help but scold him. "You're such an ungrateful thing. I'm still battling a lawsuit here. Do you only want your wife but not your sister?" As long as her marriage relationship with Wei De didn't end for a day, Zhai Hua would feel extremely uncomfortable all over.

1

With regard to this matter, Zhai Hua only hoped that there could be a result as soon as possible so that she and her daughter could have a new beginning.

Zhai Sheng wasn't prepared to accompany her even though she was facing such a major matter like a divorce lawsuit. Zhai Hua expressed that she was upset and heartbroken and that her sibling relationship with Zhai Sheng was so vulnerable.

Zhai Sheng wouldn't fall for Zhai Hua's tricks. "You're not even prepared to appear in court for the next hearing as you have passed all the authority to your attorney. What difference would I make to you if I stay or not?" He wasn't the one battling the lawsuit. He was also not the one who's getting a divorce. He wasn't obliged to be present.

Zhai Hua rolled her eyes. "Anyway, you're just lacking conscience. It looks like I, the sister, don't have to give Qiao Nan's new address to you. Serves you right for taking so long to chase after your

wife. You can be prepared to remain single for a longer period of time.” She had a trump card in her hands. She didn’t believe that Zhai Sheng wouldn’t take the bait.

At this time, Zhai Hua felt that life was beautiful with Qiao Nan’s appearance. She had grown up together with Zhai Sheng.

Chapter 1919: Angry

However, ever since Zhai Sheng became sensible, she had never won against her younger brother once. However, following Qiao Nan’s appearance, Zhai Hua felt that although she was in her forties, there was actually still a chance for her to make a comeback. It was really good to have a prospective sister-in-law.

“Nan Nan shifted house?” Zhai Sheng really didn’t know about this.

Zhai Hua waved the phone in her hands. “That’s right. After Nan Nan returned today, she immediately sent me her new address. So, do you want it?” If you want it, you’d better show me a better attitude and say some nice words to make me happy. Otherwise, I’m not going to give it to you.

1

Zhai Sheng raised his head and silently took out his mobile. “Hello, Xiao Xu. It’s me.”

“Chief. Sister Qiao is already back. When are you returning?” To Xiao Xu, since Qiao Nan was a couple with his chief and Qiao Nan had already returned, it was going to be the chief’s turn next. “Shall I drive over to pick you up?” He couldn’t possibly let the chief return by train just like Sister Qiao, right?

Zhai Sheng’s eyes flashed the word ‘indeed’. “Is the new house you arranged for her still alright?”

“Yes. Chief, don’t worry. I can’t possibly let Sister Qiao stay in a bad house.” Could it be that he wasn’t afraid of offending Sister Qiao and the chief? If it wasn’t disallowed or inconvenient, he would have given up his own house for Sister Qiao to live in.

Sister Qiao was the future wife of their chief. She was a heroine who won over the chief and a great benefactor who could potentially give birth to a little chief. He naturally had to serve Sister Qiao well like she was his ancestor.

During the times when the Zhai family and Qiao Nan were in Ping Cheng, Xiao Xu had some time to contact the people in the army. When the people in the army knew about their chief’s situation and that he was about to end his singlehood, everyone howled in excitement. They were envious of Xiao Xu’s good luck. Not only could he take care of the chief, but he could also obtain first-hand information quickly.

1

Being envied by the comrades in the army, Xiao Xu felt proud. It was exactly the same as when he had defeated the enemy until his birth mother couldn’t recognize him back when there was a situation at the borders. After showcasing himself in front of his comrades, the attention Xiao Xu paid to Qiao Nan was almost catching up with what he paid to Zhai Sheng.

Once he heard that Qiao Nan was going to stay in a different place, how would Xiao Xu dare to disagree?

The place Qiao Nan originally lived in was still considered quiet. However, it wasn’t the best house in the Xu family’s hands. After the incident with Chen Jun, if he wasn’t afraid that his big movements would arouse Qiao Nan’s suspicion, Xiao Xu wouldn’t have just changed a door back then. He couldn’t wait to transform the first house Qiao Nan rented into an iron bucket such that unless Qiao Nan wanted to open the door, outsiders couldn’t enter even if they were carrying cannons!

1

Qiao Nan wanted to change a place to stay out of her own accord. Xiao Xu immediately got his mother to make the arrangements. Her living environment had improved by more than a notch, but the Xu family didn’t increase Qiao Nan’s rent by a lot. Qiao Nan was even the one who had insisted on increasing the rent as she saw the difference between the houses. If Qiao Nan hadn’t insisted, Xiao Xu would have rented out this house at the same price as the one she had lived in before.

Upon hearing Xiao Xu's sincere answer, Zhai Sheng felt very satisfied. "Xiao Xu, well done. Send me her new address. I'll take a look at her new place once I return to Qingshui Town."

Xiao Xu was happy. "Chief, aren't you making an unnecessary move? I can pick you up and send you straight to Sister Qiao's. Why would you still need her address?" With him around, the chief didn't need to spend any additional effort.

"Okay, come and pick me up tomorrow." Zhai Hua was being silly and he had followed suit as well, causing him to be a laughingstock in front of a small soldier like Xiao Xu. Zhai Sheng gave Zhai Hua a side glance. Indeed, he couldn't spend too much time with someone who wasn't too smart. It was proven that silliness was a contagious illness.

Even if Zhai Sheng didn't say it out loud, both of them had lived together for the first two decades. As such, one look at Zhai Sheng and Zhai Hua knew that he had eliminated her in his heart. "Fine, you have a way. You're awesome. Will that do?!" Damn. She had forgotten about Xiao Xu, the 'spy'. If she had known earlier, she would have warned Xiao Xu first to keep his lips sealed regarding Qiao Nan's matters. She would definitely not have allowed Xiao Xu to share with Zhai Sheng Qiao Nan's address.

"Since you're so awesome, when Mom and Dad are back, you'll tell them that Qiao Nan has returned to Qingshui Town." Their parents were anxious for Zhai Sheng to get married. If they knew that Zhai Sheng didn't manage to woo her and even let her run away, she didn't believe that they wouldn't control him.

In the face of Zhai Hua's childish tricks, Zhai Sheng was not afraid at all. "Sure. Thankfully, you're about to get a divorce with Wei De soon and the both of you shouldn't have any ties in the future. Otherwise, it's fine if you became stupid, but Jiajia couldn't be ruined by the both of you." Thankfully, Jiajia wasn't as stupid as Zhai Hua yet. Otherwise, he didn't know how much dowry he had to prepare for Jiajia in the future so that she could marry a good man.

Zhai Hua gritted her teeth. She was not going to waste her breath on Zhai Sheng now. When their parents returned, she was going to see how Zhai Sheng would account to them that Qiao Nan had returned to Qingshui Town.

When Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing returned, Zhai Hua understood why Zhai Sheng was so confident and wasn't worried at all that Qiao Nan's departure would upset them. Zhai Sheng was calm and relaxed as he ignored Zhai Hua's playful look and said, "Dad, Mom, Nan Nan has returned to Qingshui Town first. Xiao Xu is going to pick me up tomorrow. Do you want to come along?"

"..."

"!"

Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing were shocked. Then, they calmed down. "But Hua Hua's lawsuit hasn't ended yet, and Jiajia is still schooling." It wasn't too good to Hua Hua and Jiajia if she left like that, right? Although a daughter-in-law was important, her daughter and granddaughter were important as well.

Zhai Sheng looked calm. "I'll head back first. You can come over after settling Zhai Hua's and Wei De's divorce."

Zhai Yaohui made a decision. "That's settled, then." Children were debts from their previous births. Miao Jing and Zhai Yaohui didn't forget the words Zhai Hua had said when she insisted on marrying Wei De back then. Even though the Zhai family was bound to win this divorce lawsuit, Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing could only stay behind to accompany their daughter and granddaughter first so that their daughter would not make any noise.

As for their son and future daughter-in-law, they would owe him first. There were plenty of chances in the future for them to double the compensation.

She initially thought that she would win against Zhai Sheng, but she didn't expect him to use her in return. Not only did their parents not pursue the matter of Qiao Nan's departure, but they also felt guilty toward Zhai Sheng because of that.

Zhai Hua, who stomached the anger, expressed that twenty years ago, Zhai Sheng was a cunning little fox.

Chapter 1920: It Didn't Feel Good

Twenty years had passed and Zhai Sheng was now a sly old fox! Over the years, Zhai Sheng had never left the army and the days he spent were not in vain. He had won this psychological battle beautifully. If the person who had lost so badly wasn't herself, Zhai Hua would have given Zhai Sheng a thumbs-up. The problem was that the person who lost was herself. As such, all Zhai Hua wanted to do was pull Zhai Sheng to a corner where there wasn't anyone else and have a good fight with him, just like what she did before getting married!

Miao Jing was immersed in the guilt that she could only care about her son and not her daughter. As such, she didn't sense the tension between Zhai Hua and Zhai Sheng. As the father of these two foxes, Zhai Yaohui was not so easy to lie to. He felt that the atmosphere between the siblings was different and guessed that they had fought again because of the Qingshui Town matter.

Before Zhai Hua got married, the siblings often fought like this. Similarly, before Wei De's appearance, Zhai Yaohui always thought that them fighting among themselves was harmless and their relationship would only improve. However, after Wei De's appearance, Zhai Hua said that she felt her parents were being partial to Zhai Sheng.

It was precisely because of Zhai Hua's accusation that Miao Jing self-reflects for a long period of time. She wondered if she was really such a silent onlooker that she had accidentally hurt her daughter, Zhai Hua. However, Zhai Yaohui never wavered. It wasn't that there was something wrong with the way they got along with each other. It was just that the person next to his daughter was a big issue.

After deciding that they would stay behind, Zhai Yaohui mentioned something practical. "Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan is forty this year. We're not hoping for you to get married as soon as possible because we see Qiao Nan as a tool to give birth. However, you should be able to tell that during this period of time recently, Qiao Nan likes Jiajia a lot. Qiao Nan didn't have a chance to be a mother before. This doesn't mean that she doesn't want to be a mother at her age even though she's not married. A woman in her forties faces a higher risk in pregnancy. If you continue to be this slow,

your mom and I won't be so anxious, but the ones in pain would be you and Qiao Nan. Do you understand?"

This was already the second time Zhai Yaohui emphasized that Qiao Nan would face higher risks if she were to get pregnant. After getting along with each other for a period of time, Zhai Yaohui could tell that Qiao Nan liked children a lot and desired to be a mother.

As Qiao Nan got older, the problem of children would cast a shadow on their lives after marriage, regardless if Qiao Nan could give birth in the end, if she could get pregnant but not give birth, or if it would cause great harm to Qiao Nan's body.

It made sense to give birth while young.

This time, Zhai Sheng didn't refute, let alone say that he knew it clearly in his heart. Instead, he showed a look of deep thought. His family was testing Qiao Nan's attitude toward children. However, Qiao Nan was so immersed in her love for children that she kept complimenting that they were good-looking or cute and didn't sense that there was another meaning to this.

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Zhai Sheng only wanted to marry Qiao Nan. Regarding children, they would follow fate. However, if Qiao Nan was obsessed with children, Zhai Sheng felt that he had to consider the issue of age and timing indeed. "Start preparing with Mom. I'll marry Nan Nan in three months' time."

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"!" Upon hearing that Zhai Sheng had decided alone that he would be marrying Qiao Nan in three month's time, Zhai Hua, who was drinking tea, was so shocked that she nearly spat out the tea in her mouth. She was only short of creating a rainbow effect. "You... say it again. Cough, cough..."

"Sure. Your mom and I will take care of everything. Three months later, right? Then, it's about time your mom and I write the wedding invitations." Zhai Yaohui was unlike his wife and daughter, who looked like they were in disbelief. Since his son dared to make this remark, he'd better show it to him. Otherwise, he would break Zhai Sheng's legs even if he was the chief!

Miao Jing's reaction was the same as Zhai Hua's. She choked on her own tea. "Old Zhai, Zhai Sheng is fooling around, but why are you doing the same? You're already a grandfather!" Marriage

was such a big matter. Zhai Sheng couldn't just decide it on his own. Upon thinking that Qiao Nan wasn't even Zhai Sheng's girlfriend yet, but her son dared to say that he would be marrying her in three months' time, Miao Jing wanted to give Zhai Sheng a beating. He shouldn't say words that could make people overjoyed for nothing, alright?!

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"Wedding invitation? Who's holding a wedding?" Jiajia returned after school with a fresh look. One could tell that after she went to her desired school, Jiajia adapted well to the new school life.

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Zhai Hua took her daughter's schoolbag from her. "Our family is. Your uncle said that he's marrying your Auntie Qiao in three months' time. Are you happy?" Zhai Sheng had boasted this himself. If he dared to make her daughter happy for nothing, she was going to fight Zhai Sheng.

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Jiajia jumped in excitement. "Is this true? Uncle, since when did you become so powerful? The next time I see Auntie Qiao, can I start calling her aunt instead?" It wasn't a must that she could address her as aunt only when the two of them got married. She hoped that she could call her aunt sooner.

"The next time you see her." Without waiting for Zhai Sheng's answer, Zhai Hua provided her daughter this answer on behalf of him. If they were holding the wedding banquet three months later, how could they not allow Jiajia to call her aunt the next time she saw her? Anyway, if Jiajia couldn't address her as aunt, she was going to play with Zhai Sheng to his death. Who asked him to brag when he was incapable?

Zhai Sheng glanced at Zhai Hua and replied with a 'yes' plainly.

Jiajia formed an O with her mouth and quietly moved to Miao Jing's side. "Grandma, why does it feel that there's a strong smell of explosives between my mom and uncle?"

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When she was at her father's house, regardless of how unreasonable her grandma was, her mom would only stare at her but not throw a temper. However, ever since they returned to her maternal grandma's house, even though her mom's face didn't have such an angry expression, she could obviously feel that her mom's temper became worse. She always thought that her mom was a traditional Chinese woman who liked to be a good wife and mother.

It was only after returning to her maternal grandma's house did Jiajia realize that there was such a side to her mother.

Miao Jing smiled and said, "I'm used to seeing this. Before your mom was married, she had such a bad temper. She was often like this with your uncle. Back then, your mom was still in the army. When there was any disagreement between them, they would go straight to the yard to fight it out without another word. They always had fierce fights..."

It was a pity that such a beautiful sight seemed too far away from the Zhai family.

Upon hearing this, Zhai Hua didn't feel good in her heart. Before marrying, she really didn't think of how well she was treated in this family. Now that she was a mother herself, Zhai Hua understood how carefree she was back in the Zhai family when she was still a daughter. For a scumbag like Wei De, she had given up the army that she was most passionate about and the career she liked the most.