

## RTAMM 1931

### Chapter 1931: Consequence

In that way, she would own a house again, giving her a sense of security. On the other hand, if they drafted a will, as long as her parents were still alive, her dad could still change his mind and leave the house to Qiao Nan. Then, she would have nothing.

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It was always best to have it for herself. It was not as though she was her parents' only daughter. It would be safer and reliable to claim all of the family's assets as her own now.

Qiao Zijin had been in such a hurry that she had almost directly asked Ding Jiayi for the house. But then, Qiao Zijin suddenly had a brilliant idea. Her mom hated Qiao Nan. Her mom would never be able to bear the thought of Qiao Nan claiming half of such a valuable property. Her mom would be even more miserable than her if that were to happen!

After a while, her mom would definitely think of a solution. "That's alright with me. Now that you're healthy, you're thinking about your dad and me. About the courtyard, your dad and your opinions matter most. If you guys really want to give half of this courtyard to Qiao Nan, I'll respect your decision even if I'm unhappy. It's alright. Nothing will happen."

Knowing Ding Jiayi's thoughts toward the matter, Qiao Zijin comfortably stood up and sat back down on the sofa, switching on the TV to watch a drama series after leaving Ding Jiayi with such heartwarming words. Qiao Zijin had banned all of Ping Cheng's news channels. She was fed up with those people attacking and reproaching her.

"Zijin, I think your phone in the room is ringing. Is someone calling you?" Ding Jiayi had not understood the situation before she heard Qiao Zijin's phone ring.

Qiao Zijin replied to Ding Jiayi without even looking at her. "You should have just brought my phone over when you heard it ringing. Do I have to tell you to do that? Hurry up, Mom." Ever since

she was hospitalized, she had not received any calls for a long time. Could it be someone who dialed the wrong number or a salesperson promoting some useless item? That would be meaningless if that was the case.

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Qiao Zijin had not yet guessed the caller before Ding Jiayi ran out with a wide smile on her face. "Zijin. Hurry and answer the call! It's Chen Jun! It's my son-in-law! Maybe Chen Jun's regretting it now and wants to reconcile with you! If that's the case, Zijin, you must not flare up. You were in the wrong when you guys got divorced. Now that Chen Jun's willing to put his pride aside and call you first, you must grasp this opportunity. Remember to live a good and honest life once you remarry Chen Jun. Don't create so much trouble anymore!"

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Ding Jiayi thanked the heavens. Blessings were coming one after another. First, Zijin had been cured of her illness. Now, her son-in-law was no longer upset with her daughter and wanted to reconcile with her! Without that jinx, Qiao Nan, the Qiao family's lives were indeed getting better day by day. Perhaps, all of the family's bad luck might go away now that Qiao Nan was gone. If that was the case, even if Qiao Nan were to return with the four or five hundred thousand yuan that she deserved, she would accept the money and chase Qiao Nan away, in case the family's feng shui was affected again.

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Qiao Zijin had not even thought about that when she had heard that Chen Jun was calling her. But now that her mom had said that, Qiao Zijin blushed and her expectations rose. "Mom, don't talk about that. I've already died once. How could I still be that insensible? I've thought about it in this period of time. My life was pretty good when I was with Chen Jun. This time, I'll really cherish it."

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Because of the news, Qiao Zijin felt that she would never be able to find a second man willing to marry her. But who would have expected Chen Jun to call her? Chen Jun had even been promoted! Qiao Zijin knew that it would not be easy for her to find another man, much less one who was more qualified than Chen Jun.

Chen Jun was well-qualified and was willing to be with her. What else could Qiao Zijin be picky about? This time, she would lead an honest life, just like her mom said. She would not even spare those men outside a glance.

Actually, if Chen Jun had not been so cold toward her and spent time with those vixens out there, she would never have gotten so angry, leading to her learning from Chen Jun and sleeping with other men.

Forget it. She was already at this age. As long as Chen Jun did not cross the line in the future and get those vixens to call her to complain, forcing her to get a divorce, Chen Jun could have as much fun as he wanted outside. All she asked for was to be the only Mrs. Chen. "Hello?" Qiao Zijin answered the call with her gentlest voice. "It's you."

Qiao Zijin felt that she had been gentle, but Chen Jun, who was on the other end of the call, was incensed. "Look carefully at who I am before trying to hook me up. I'm not a stray dog that you're raising. Speak to me normally." Humph! She was already trying to hook up with men right after her surgery. This woman did not know her place at all.

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"..." Qiao Zijin's expression soured. "What do you mean? It's because I knew who called me. That's why... Chen Jun, can't we have a peaceful conversation as a couple? How's our son? I miss him." Did the Chen family not care greatly about her son? They would probably let her return on her son's account, right?

Thankfully, she had the good fortune to not only have married Chen Jun but also to have given birth to the Chen family's grandson.

"You're thinking about your son only now? It's too late. Anyway, I don't want to waste my time on you. I'll delve straight into it. Qiao Nan ran away. Since when have you guys been so generous not to deal with her?"

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Up until today, Chen Jun still thought about the beating he had received at that time. He had not even looked down on Qiao Nan for her age and had chosen to marry a woman in her forties instead of a young lady in her twenties. Any other person would have been moved to tears, but Qiao Nan had not only rejected him but had even found someone to beat him up!

Qiao Nan's rejection seemed like a hundred slaps in the face to Chen Jun, humiliating Chen Jun. Qiao Nan had never even hated Chen Jun for starting an affair, but Chen Jun hated Qiao Nan to the guts for what happened that day.

Did Qiao Nan mean to embarrass him? All right. Then, Qiao Nan should not hope to be able to lead a peaceful life either. Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin were two blood-sucking devils. As long as these two women were alive, he would just wait and see how tough Qiao Nan's life would be. This was the consequence of provoking him!

### Chapter 1932: What Reconciliation

After getting beaten up, Chen Jun had immediately made a phone call to the Qiao family upon returning to Ping Cheng before he had even moved away. Even though Qiao Dongliang had answered the call, Chen Jun did not pay much attention to that. He did not think that Qiao Dongliang would be an exception in the Qiao family and would treat Qiao Nan so well.

Having been the Qiao family's son-in-law for over a decade, Chen Jun had always known that Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin bullied Qiao Nan openly. On the surface, Qiao Dongliang did not say anything and never participated in it, but he allowed Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin to do as they pleased. It was obvious that they were in cahoots. Qiao Nan was like an outsider who was being bullied badly.

As the breadwinner of the family, Qiao Nan had taken all of the family's money and left when Qiao Zijin was gravely ill. Chen Jun thought that the Qiao family would hate Qiao Nan for doing so, including Qiao Dongliang. After learning about Qiao Nan's whereabouts, the Qiao family would definitely rush over and make life difficult for Qiao Nan.

It had been a long while since that call, but he had not heard any news of anything happening to Qiao Nan. Chen Jun could no longer suppress his curiosity. That was why he had made a call to Qiao Zijin, whom he hated the most. "Qiao Nan has always been kind, but since when have the rest of you changed so drastically and become so kind as well? Can you really just let Qiao Nan off and live a peaceful life just like that?"

He did not believe that the Qiao family had come to such a sudden revelation. Unless Qiao Nan passed away, the Qiao family would never let Qiao Nan off.

Chen Jun had just been promoted and transferred to a new location. It was only natural for him to be enthusiastic and busy with many things. Besides, it was the end of the year. After he had finally completed all the work he had on hand, Chen Jun was now free to 'worry' about the Qiao family again.

The corner of Qiao Zijin's lips drooped down. "What do you mean? I don't understand you. Qiao Nan... She ran away a long time ago. We don't even know where she is. Chen Jun, why are you spouting such nonsense?" Neither Qiao Zijin nor her mom wished for Qiao Nan to return home, but Qiao Nan had taken away a few hundred thousand yuan! That had to be returned! That was her money! What right did Qiao Nan have to take it away with her?

The longer Qiao Nan stayed away, the lower her chances of recovering that sum of money. Qiao Zijin had previously consulted a lawyer. The money that Qiao Nan had taken with her was Qiao Nan's alone and had nothing to do with the Qiao family. Legally, the Qiao family had no grounds to demand that sum of money back from Qiao Nan. As long as Qiao Nan was unwilling to give it to them, the Qiao family had no say in how Qiao Nan used the money.

Qiao Nan had already dared to run away with the money, so Qiao Zijin knew that she could not count on Qiao Nan saving the money without spending a single cent. As such, she had to find Qiao Nan as soon as possible to minimize her losses.

Qiao Zijin had just undergone her surgery. If her health had been good, Qiao Zijin would already have gone to the ends of the earth to look for Qiao Nan. Now that Chen Jun was mocking her, Qiao Zijin was infuriated. Yes, in Chen Jun's eyes, there was not a single Qiao who was good, barring Qiao Nan. Other than Qiao Nan, the entire Qiao family was evil wolves and evil ghosts!

Having been married to Chen Jun for so many years, Qiao Zijin was clearer than anyone just how good of an impression Chen Jun had of Qiao Nan. Every time she was at home and did something that upset the Chen family or Chen Jun, they would always say that Qiao Nan had never behaved in this manner.

Every time she heard that, Qiao Zijin's hatred for Qiao Nan grew. What had Qiao Nan done that she had met Chen Jun and had even left such a good impression on his family?

In Ding Jiayi's eyes, Qiao Zijin was naturally better than Qiao Nan in every way. Because she had been used to hearing such things, she had not expected her in-laws to praise Qiao Nan and claim that Qiao Nan was better than her in every way. It was no wonder that she could not accept it.

Qiao Zijin had not gotten into an affair and gotten divorced from Chen Jun because of a moment of folly. It was a decision she had made after long consideration in order to relieve her stress. It was true that her life now after her divorce could not be compared to that before her marriage. But without that environment where she could not match up to Qiao Nan in every way and hearing her mother put Qiao Nan down, Qiao Zijin's mood was much better.

It was only when she lacked money did Qiao Zijin think well of the Chen family. She had just had the slightest hope that Chen Jun would have realized her importance because of what had happened over the past year and would thus want to reconcile with her. But Chen Jun's aggressive words that were full of malice immediately caused all of Qiao Zijin's hope to come crashing down.

"I mean, don't you guys already know where Qiao Nan is? Are you guys really not going to look for her?" Were they not going to continue demanding money from Qiao Nan and making life difficult for Qiao Nan? Were they really going to let Qiao Nan lead a peaceful life? This was not the Qiao family's style. He did not believe that Qiao Zijin had changed for the better just because she had been hospitalized.

Qiao Zijin took a few deep breaths. "We don't even know where Qiao Nan is, all right? Chen Jun, if you really need to throw a tantrum, go find someone else. You're always talking about Qiao Nan. I know you don't like me and you've always been looking at her even while being married to me. Don't you know how disgusting that is? Since you like her so much and can't be apart from her, why don't you marry her if you're so capable?"

She did not believe that Chen Jun would be willing to marry an old woman in her forties after getting used to those twenty-year-old young ladies. Since he could not do that, why was he being so shameless and pretending that he had such deep feelings for Qiao Nan in front of her?

Chen Jun refused to broach that topic. He was reluctant to admit to his most hated ex-wife that he wanted to marry Qiao Nan, but she had rejected him. Although these words would definitely provoke Qiao Zijin and embarrass her, it would be humiliating for him as well. "You don't know? How can you not know? Didn't I already tell you Qiao Nan's address?"

"When did you tell us?" Qiao Zijin could no longer suppress her anger. "Don't spout nonsense! This is the first time I'm receiving a call from you ever since we got divorced. Do you think my mom would have kept it from me if you called?" Her mom had even thought that Chen Jun had called her to get back together with her.

A reconciliation? What a joke! Chen Jun had only Qiao Nan in his heart.

Chapter 1933: More Like a Vixen

Qiao Nan was scarier than those twenty-five-year-old girls. She was more like a vixen!

“No...” He had obviously made a call before, but his ex-father-in-law had answered it. Could it be...”Your dad didn’t tell you and your mom?” As such, the person who had deceived everyone this time was the honest-looking and quiet ex-father-in-law? He was really silent about it. “Wasn’t your dad in a hurry to get those hundreds of thousand yuan?”

Forget that Ding Jiayi couldn’t tell what kind of person Qiao Zijin was. Don’t tell him that Qiao Dongliang, a big man, couldn’t figure out what kind of person the elder daughter he had raised was as well?

He dared say this. If the person ill was Qiao Nan and if Qiao Nan died as she couldn’t receive medical treatment in time, even if Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi still had Qiao Zijin as their daughter, when they were old or ill in the future, there wouldn’t be anyone by their side to take care of them, let alone Zijin being around to support and provide for them. The only daughter with a conscience whom Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi could rely on was Qiao Nan.

As an outsider, Chen Jun couldn’t be bothered to tell this to the Qiao family if they didn’t understand it. He had already looked down on the Qiao family, but Qiao Dongliang’s sudden move surprised Chen Jun more than the fact that Qiao Zijin had turned vegetarian. He had always thought that the person most ruthless to Qiao Nan in the Qiao family was the father, Qiao Dongliang.

Only then did Qiao Zijin realize that the problem lied with Qiao Dongliang. “You’re saying that you had previously given us a call and even told my dad about Qiao Nan’s whereabouts?” Qiao Zijin squinted and looked at Ding Jiayi, as if asking her if she was aware of this.

Ding Jiayi looked dumbfounded. Ever since the phone content between her elder daughter and elder son-in-law involved Qiao Nan, Ding Jiayi couldn’t help but pay attention to it. When her elder daughter looked at her with questioning eyes, Ding Jiayi felt that she was wronged and shook her head repeatedly. If she had known where that wretched girl was, even if she didn’t find that wretched girl back to continue working for their family, she would have at least taken back that sum of money for Zijin’s surgery.

If it wasn’t that they really didn’t have a choice, she wouldn’t have wanted Zijin to sell that big house away. That would be a loss. Houses’ value kept increasing, whereas money was becoming less and less valuable. That she understood.

Old Qiao actually hid such a big thing from her as well. What a mess he had created. Zijin found out about this matter today. She didn't know what Zijin would misunderstand again. What was Old Qiao thinking? They were only left with a daughter, Zijin. Not only did he not treat Zijin well, but he even treated that wretched girl who was lacking conscience well. Did Old Qiao not want Zijin anymore?

Chen Jun understood that it wasn't the Qiao family who was feeling benevolent but that Qiao Dongliang had hidden it from them. Chen Jun very 'kindly' shared Qiao Nan's old address with Qiao Zijin. "Okay, I have nothing else. There's no need for us to contact each other again." Anyway, after this call, he would throw away this calling card.

"Aside from Qiao Nan's matters, isn't there anything else you want to say to me?" Qiao Zijin was not willing to give up. She didn't believe that after being married for so many years and having a son, there was nothing they could talk about except Qiao Nan.

"Heh." Chen Jun snorted and hung up the call with a slam. He used practical actions to tell Qiao Zijin what kind of attitude he had when facing a woman who had made a cuckold out of him.

"Asshole!" Qiao Zijin was so angry that she nearly smashed her phone. She knew what Chen Jun's laughter meant. "Big asshole, what right do you have to laugh at me? I did cheat on you with other men, but are you any better than me? If you didn't cheat on me first and let that vixen laugh at me for being old and haggard so that I would want a divorce, did I have to..."

Back then, she was so angry that she went to a bar to get drunk. After cheating the first time, she couldn't control herself and took revenge for a second and third time... All in all, Chen Jun was the cause. He had forced her into this.

Chen Jun didn't hear Qiao Zijin's grievances. Even if he did, he wouldn't have minded. He was already in such a state of life before getting together with Qiao Nan. After using similar means to be together with him, wasn't it laughable that Qiao Zijin actually hoped that he could treat her well?

As Ding Jiayi listened, she became confused. She only felt that there was so much information in today's call. She initially thought that it was already formidable that they had Qiao Nan's whereabouts. When she heard that Qiao Dongliang had hidden the news about Qiao Nan from them, Ding Jiayi wanted to rush outside, find Qiao Dongliang, and have a good fight with him.

Didn't he know how difficult it was for the family previously? In order to see a doctor, Zijin had sold her house. That wretched girl took away so much money from the family. That sum of money

belonged to them and they should take it back. If there was still time, they could even buy back that house which they had sold earlier.

Old Qiao was really a fool to have done such a wrong thing.

But after hearing the rest of the conversation, Ding Jiayi really didn't know what to say. So it turned out that Zijin had cheated outside. She only knew that Zijin's and Chen Jun's relationship wasn't that good after marriage. However, since Zijin didn't want to say anything, she was too embarrassed to mention it either.

She knew that the Chen family was good and Qiao Zijin had used means so that she could hold a shotgun wedding with Chen Jun. In the years they were a couple, Ding Jiayi never put on the airs of a mother-in-law in front of Chen Jun, the son-in-law. Every time she saw Chen Jun, she almost always regarded him as an ancestor.

However, she didn't expect that the relationship between Chen Jun and Qiao Zijin was no longer just not good. Chen Jun went behind the Qiao family's back to have so many women outside. What Ding Jiayi couldn't accept the most was that there was even a vixen who called Qiao Zijin to mock her. She didn't dare believe that Qiao Zijin actually led such a sorry life before she got a divorce.

"Zijin, why didn't you tell us earlier that Chen Jun was such a man? If we had known that he was like this, your dad and I would have long gone to the Chen family and talked some sense into them. This is too overboard. Indeed, that wretched girl was up to no good. She knew that Chen Jun wasn't a good person, so she brought him to our house and pushed him to you. She did this deliberately to take revenge on you!"

Upon thinking that if not for Qiao Nan, Qiao Zijin wouldn't have married Chen Jun and led such a horrible life, Ding Jiayi was full of anger and started to harbor bad thoughts and resentment.

Chapter 1934: Stepmother

Ding Jiayi didn't hesitate to put all the blame on Qiao Nan. She had completely forgotten that Qiao Zijin was the one to have snatched Chen Jun away from Qiao Nan.

She was complaining that Qiao Nan didn't choose a good enough boyfriend such that after Qiao Zijin snatched him away from her, Qiao Zijin didn't manage to lead a good life.

“What is there to say? Would Chen Jun be able to control his own belt and not let it loose outside after I’ve said it?” Qiao Zijin was so angry that she kept hitting the sofa. Why did she have to say it? On what basis should she say it? If she said that she had married a rotten person like Chen Jun, Qiao Nan would definitely be gloating and happy as she had snatched away a lousy Chen Jun from her hands. Her intervention had saved Qiao Nan from an ordeal.

However, what made Qiao Zijin angrier was that she somehow felt that when Chen Jun was together with Qiao Nan, he didn’t have this kind of temper or mannerism. Qiao Zijin wasn’t willing to admit that Chen Jun had other women outside as he had married her, and if Chen Jun had married Qiao Nan, he would have guarded her and led a good life with her.

Qiao Zijin wasn’t willing to have such thoughts and didn’t hope that this was the truth.

Under the influence of such thoughts, Qiao Zijin was even more unwilling to let others know how she had gotten along with Chen Jun back then. If not for this call today, Ding Jiayi wouldn’t have imagined that Qiao Zijin’s life after marriage was like this.

What she knew was that every time Qiao Zijin returned to her family’s home, Chen Jun would accompany her at least seven out of ten times. In front of them, Chen Jun’s attitude toward Qiao Zijin wasn’t bad. The Qiao family didn’t have good conditions and couldn’t be of help to Chen Jun. However, Chen Jun was willing to accompany Qiao Zijin home again and again. Ding Jiayi always felt that it was Chen Jun’s way of doting on Zijin as he loved her.

Only if Qiao Zijin was pampered by the Chen family would Chen Jun be good to Qiao Zijin and value the Qiao family. Who knew that this wasn’t the case? “If Chen Jun is such a person, why did he follow you back every time to your family’s home in the past?”

“What do you think?” Could it be that she wanted her to admit that Chen Jun was willing to accompany her back to her family’s home even if he could take only a glance at Qiao Nan? Yes, she was first pregnant with Chen Jun’s child before marrying him. She had the title of Mrs. Chen. However, Chen Jun’s heart was never on her.

She was not going to say such an embarrassing matter.

“Why didn’t you say so earlier? If you did...” If she had said so earlier, she would definitely have let Qiao Nan leave Ping Cheng and not return all year round, as long as she handed over the money to her. If Chen Jun couldn’t see Qiao Nan, he would have to give up and lead a good life with Zijin.

Zijin had really suffered grievances. It turned out that she was bullied after marrying Chen Jun. How would the daughter she had raised up not be good? Even if Zijin had some wrongdoings, they were all forced out by Chen Jun and that wretched girl.

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“Okay, Mom. The problem lies with Chen Jun. Also, I don’t want to hear Qiao Nan’s name at this point in time.” Even without Qiao Nan, Chen Jun had plenty of women outside. Those women had nothing to do with Qiao Nan. “All these years, you have gotten Qiao Nan to rent a room outside and lived in the courtyard. Nobody can stop Chen Jun’s thoughts. Every time I was back, I would leave my son to Qiao Nan. Since when did you see Qiao Nan and Chen Jun hanging out alone, let alone her seducing Chen Jun? Even if Chen Jun had such thoughts, Qiao Nan wouldn’t dare. She did a good job. However, with Chen Jun around, she’s either out with my son or always under our watch. She did these well.”

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Qiao Zijin wasn’t blind over the years. When Chen Jun was still Qiao Nan’s boyfriend, yes, she had been together with Chen Jun and even got pregnant with his child deliberately. She had used such disgraceful means to snatch Chen Jun over. It was inevitable that Qiao Zijin would project her own shortcomings on Qiao Nan.

However, as long as the two of them were in the Qiao family, although Qiao Zijin didn’t say anything on the surface, she always secretly watched Chen Jun or Qiao Nan closely. As long as the two of them were not under her watch at the same time, she would become very worried. She had to find out if they were together, or if there were others next to them.

The more Qiao Zijin cared about this, the more she realized that Qiao Nan had done a good job avoiding this situation. When Qiao Nan brought her son out to play, Chen Jun was by her side. When Chen Jun wasn’t around, Qiao Nan would be sitting in the living room.

Qiao Zijin occasionally saw a look of anxiety and eagerness in Chen Jun’s eyes. Based on Chen Jun’s faint anxious expression, Qiao Zijin knew that Qiao Nan really didn’t give him a chance for them to be alone and she always stayed far away from him.

It was also precisely because of Qiao Nan's performance that every time Chen Jun agreed to accompany her back to her family's home, Qiao Zijin felt that she had gained a lot of face. At the same time, she could see Chen Jun's anxious look for Qiao Nan. It could be said that the trip back to her family home could take revenge against Qiao Nan and torture Chen Jun. This made Qiao Zijin feel good.

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Ding Jiayi always thought that Qiao Zijin was filial and often returned to her family home as she missed her and Qiao Dongliang. In reality, she never truly understood the reasons why Qiao Zijin was willing to return to her family home more often.

Ding Jiayi had mentioned this matter today. It was also rare for Qiao Zijin to be willing to put in a good word for Qiao Nan. "If Qiao Nan had any thoughts, she should have become my son's stepmother now."

Even if she was unwilling to admit it, Qiao Zijin would only say that even though Qiao Nan was already in her forties, as long as she was willing to, a man like Chen Jun would be willing to marry an unmarried old virgin like Qiao Nan more than a twenty-five-year-old girl.

Upon thinking about the flirtatious girl that was going to marry Chen Jun, sleep in her bed, dominate her man, and hit her son, Qiao Zijin felt angry. She became even angrier when she thought of how Chen Jun would be treating this new wife better than herself back then.

In comparison, Qiao Zijin was surprised to find that if Chen Jun's second marriage partner was Qiao Nan, she would have been more accepting of such a result. Chen Jun was Qiao Zijin's boyfriend to begin with. She had snatched him away from her. Now that Qiao Nan was marrying Chen Jun, it could be considered that she had returned him to the rightful owner.

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She was worried about other vixens. After those women married Chen Jun, they would give birth to children for him. How was there a good stepmother? Her only son would definitely be bullied. More importantly, the children those vixens gave birth to would snatch things away from her son when they grew up.

## Chapter 1935: Another Person

If Chen Jun were to get remarried to Qiao Nan, the situation would be different. Based on her relationship with Chen Jun, Qiao Nan had always treated her son well, causing her son to throw tantrums, demanding to play with his younger auntie when he was younger. Qiao Nan would definitely treat her son well if she were to become his stepmother.

If Qiao Nan dared to do anything in this regard, the Qiao family would have their eyes on her. Chen Jun was getting more impressive by the day. No one in the Qiao family was an official, apart from Chen Jun. It would be a pity to sever all ties with Chen Jun. All these problems would be solved by Qiao Nan's marriage to Chen Jun.

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In short, Chen Jun had a brilliant background. Instead of letting someone else take advantage of them and sacrificing her son's interests, she might as well be gracious and encourage Chen Jun to get back together with his ex, Qiao Nan.

Chen Jun liked Qiao Nan very much and they still had an influence on Qiao Nan. Perhaps, the Qiao family would still be able to benefit from Chen Jun after Qiao Nan got married to Chen Jun. In fact, they might even benefit more from this marriage than when she had been married to Chen Jun.

Qiao Zijin did not have much feeling for Chen Jun either and had only chased after him due to the Chen family's background. Apart from pride, Qiao Zijin had not gotten much happiness in the years together with Chen Jun. Thus, Qiao Zijin did not feel too sad about pushing Qiao Nan back to Chen Jun.

She had been angry about it in her youth. She was more outstanding than Qiao Nan, after all. Why could Qiao Nan, who had not even graduated from high school, find such a good man like Chen Jun while she, as a university graduate, could not? All her boyfriends had graduated from her university and had similar backgrounds to the Qiao family. Life was so unfair! Someone like Chen Jun was her ideal man.

1

Even without any feelings for him, Qiao Zijin had set her sights on Chen Jun, had seduced him, and had even slept with him.

Qiao Nan was conservative, while Chen Jun was used to playing around. It was only natural that things developed after Qiao Zijin had seduced him for a while after they had both gotten drunk. Chen Jun thought nothing of that night since they had both satisfied their own desires. It was only when Qiao Zijin got pregnant and the Qiao family forced them into marriage did Chen Jun realize how shrewd Qiao Zijin was. She was completely different from Qiao Nan.

“Zijin, why are you keeping quiet now? Did that wretched girl anger you? Don’t get angry. Mom will help you get your justice. Don’t speak well of that wretched girl. You might think of her as your younger sister, but she doesn’t think of you as her elder sister. She left you to die! Where did Chen Jun say that wretched girl is? Once I find her, I’ll not only take the money back, but I’ll also give her a good beating! I’ve grown old. I don’t even remember how I used to deal with her when she was younger. She’s really got the gall!”

Ding Jiayi was so infuriated that she had the urge to hit Qiao Nan with a wooden stick. How could she be so shameless as to seduce her own brother-in-law? It was Qiao Nan’s fault that Chen Jun had treated Zijin so poorly!

2

It was because of this that it did not matter whether Zijin got remarried in the future. That wretched girl had to support Zijin until her death, give Zijin an allowance, and let Zijin live the rest of her life carefree and happy. This was really what that wretched girl owed Zijin!

Humph! If she had known that this would happen, she should have been stricter toward that wretched girl all these years. She had allowed that wretched girl to live a carefree life even after committing all those evil deeds!

“Mom, there’s no hurry.” Qiao Zijin held Ding Jiayi back. “Mom, you know that Chen Jun isn’t young anymore. While we were married, he had a whole bunch of women outside. Now that I’ve gotten divorced from him, he’s free to do as he pleases. I couldn’t even control Chen Jun while I was married to him. Now, I have no right to criticize Chen Jun’s lifestyle. Actually, I’ve already gotten used to him cheating on me and I didn’t even try to stop him at that time. I’m just worried that he’ll cross the line and give my son another brother. What will happen if that child fights with my son for the Chen family’s assets?”

“What shall we do?” Ding Jiayi panicked and repeated Qiao Zijin’s words. It was a fact. She had been unable to stop her son-in-law from divorcing her daughter, and she would be even more helpless trying to stop her son-in-law from having another child. This was indeed a problem.

That grandson of hers was handsome and intelligent. The thought of such a brilliant grandson landing in the hands of a stepmother broke Ding Jiayi’s heart. He was so pitiful.

Qiao Zijin took a deep breath. “Mom, I can’t control what Chen Jun does now that we’re divorced. But all of the Chen family’s things should belong to my son. I definitely won’t agree to anyone trying to snatch them away from him. I’m also worried that Chen Jun’s new wife won’t treat my son well.”

“Then, do you have a plan?” Yes, her grandson was very important. As long as everything of the Chen family belonged to her grandson and her grandson were to inherit Chen Jun’s position, all these would belong to Zijin and the Qiao family. There was no difference. The huge premise was that all of the Chen family’s assets had to belong to her grandson alone.

Qiao Zijin had thought of the plan herself but felt a little uneasy saying it. “Look, Mom, after Qiao Nan ran away, the three of us knew nothing about where Qiao Nan was. But Chen Jun knew. Why do you think so?”

“Why else? That shameless wretched girl must have been trying to seduce Chen Jun behind our backs! I knew she wasn’t any good. She was trying to stab you in the back while you were down! First, she cheated us of all the money we needed to save you. Then, she tried to seduce Chen Jun behind our backs! She’s too evil! If I knew that she would be such a heartless person, I would have drowned her in the toilet when I gave birth to her.” She refused to admit that she had given birth to such an evil daughter.

Hearing Ding Jiayi use such mean words to describe Qiao Nan, Qiao Zijin was at a loss for words and pitied Qiao Nan just a little. The older her mom got, the fouler her language got. Was her mom really not clear about the kind of daughter she had given birth to?

She did not think that Qiao Nan was any good, but neither did she think that Qiao Nan was someone who would be able to seduce Chen Jun behind their backs. If Qiao Nan had wanted to, Chen Jun would not have waited until last year to get a divorce from her. Given Chen Jun’s temper and his feelings for Qiao Nan, Chen Jun would already have married Qiao Nan three years into their marriage, before her son could recognize people around him.

“Mom, don’t be ridiculous. Qiao Nan probably has nothing to do with Chen Jun knowing about her whereabouts. It’s Chen Jun. I already said that Chen Jun likes Qiao Nan a lot. I guess that he’ll want to get together with Qiao Nan now that he’s divorced me. You know what Chen Jun does too. It’s difficult for us normal folks to find out where Qiao Nan went, but it’s nothing more than a phone call away for Chen Jun.”

“...” Ding Jiayi’s expression stiffened. Was Zijin kidding? What was going on? Why was Zijin always speaking up for that wretched girl today? She had scolded that wretched girl because her heart ached for Zijin and she felt that Zijin had suffered because of that wretched girl. “So? If Chen Jun wants to get together with that wretched girl, why did he call us to tell us where that wretched girl is? Will Chen Jun be able to marry that wretched girl if we look for her and make a din?”

What was Chen Jun doing? Did he like her or did he hate her?

Qiao Zijin bit on her lip, not bothering to explain to her mom the meaning of a ‘love-hate relationship’. “Men care a lot about their pride, especially men like Chen Jun. Think about it. Qiao Nan’s already forty. There are so many women crying and begging to marry Chen Jun, but Qiao Nan’s like a piece of wood and hasn’t shown any sign of affection for him. That’s why Chen Jun’s upset.” To put it more accurately, his embarrassment had turned into anger.

Something must have happened between the two of them, but she was not clear about what Qiao Nan had done to anger Chen Jun. All she knew was that Chen Jun’s concern that they had not made trouble for Qiao Nan could only show how much he cared for Qiao Nan.

Chen Jun did not like her and she had even cheated on Chen Jun. Apart from getting a divorce from her and not giving her any alimony, Chen Jun had not done anything overboard. Qiao Nan was different. Qiao Nan was someone Chen Jun had thought of for over ten years. If Qiao Nan had not restrained herself and left him with some dignity, Chen Jun might have flown into a bigger rage.

“So, what does he mean by his phone call, telling us where Qiao Nan is and even asking us to kick up a fuss in front of Qiao Nan?” Ding Jiayi was getting more confused as she listened to Zijin. Was this how youngsters dated nowadays? It seemed like such a mess to her.

Qiao Zijin poured a cup of water for Ding Jiayi and pulled Ding Jiayi onto the chair, changing the conversation topic from the property deed to Qiao Nan's relationship with Chen Jun. "Think about it. Qiao Nan's never made many friends even when she was in school or when she went out to work. She might be so reclusive that she might not even have someone to talk to. If we make trouble for Qiao Nan now and she can't handle it, who do you think Qiao Nan will turn to for help? Who do you think Qiao Nan knows who will also be able to convince us not to create any more trouble for her?"

"Chen Jun?" Yes. Yes! As long as Chen Jun made a request, she could only follow suit. She always felt a little uneasy when she looked at Chen Jun, but she could not tell why.

She was unreliable and Old Qiao was useless. In front of Chen Jun, Zijin was helpless as well. Right. As long as Chen Jun were to interfere in the matter, the Qiao family would be like deflated balloons, utterly helpless. "So, Chen Jun wants us to create trouble for Qiao Nan so that she'll look for him for help?"

Seeing Qiao Zijin nod, Ding Jiayi could not help but ask, "Zijin, what's the point in your telling me all this? Why don't you just tell me what you're thinking of doing? You know that I'm not as intelligent as you are. If you don't tell me frankly, I'm afraid that I might mess it up for you."

"Mom, I want Qiao Nan to marry Chen Jun and be my son's stepmother." As long as Qiao Nan married Chen Jun, all her worries would disappear. Perhaps, if she insisted on Qiao Nan not having her own children, Qiao Nan would not even dare to get pregnant. Once her son was old enough and had the ability to take most of the Chen family's assets as his own, she would then be so kind as to allow Qiao Nan to become a mother.

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Qiao Zijin was clear that she would never be able to control whether Chen Jun's second wife gave birth to a child, unless that woman was Qiao Nan.

1

Ding Jiayi pinched herself on the thigh. It hurt so badly that she scrunched her face up. "Zijin, have you been angered by that wretched girl so badly that you've gone mad? Why are you spouting such nonsense? Zijin, what did you just say? I didn't hear you clearly. Can you repeat yourself?"

“Mom, I want Qiao Nan to marry Chen Jun and be my son’s stepmother.” Qiao Zijin almost repeated her words ad verbatim. “Mom, I haven’t gone crazy, and neither am I being foolish. I’m serious. Mom, listen to me. So many people looked up to you in the courtyard because Chen Jun was your son-in-law. I’m sure you haven’t forgotten about that. Do you know just how many of our neighbors looked down on us and laughed at you, asking when Chen Jun would come to visit you? Aren’t you angry at them and hurt because of that? Don’t you want to retaliate?”

“Of course I do!” Even in her dreams, she had started to dream of Zijin getting married to someone with higher qualifications than Chen Jun after getting divorced from him. But the moment that piece of news emerged, Ding Jiayi had given up such a dream.

Qiao Zijin’s eyes glimmered. “That’s good. Mom, as long as you want it, I’ll try my best to fulfill it. Chen Jun was promoted again. If the person he gets remarried to is Qiao Nan, then Chen Jun would be your son-in-law again. Won’t that be good?”

“It is. But what will happen to you.” It seemed a little strange for her elder son-in-law to become her younger son-in-law, but it was fine as long as he was her son-in-law.

“What do you mean? If Chen Jun marries Qiao Nan, he’ll be my brother-in-law in the future. I have such a huge check in my hands, living in such a good house, and even have a brother-in-law like Chen Jun. Think about it, Mom. No one will dare to bully me if I encounter any troubles. It won’t be easy for me to find another man, but I’m sure that once Chen Jun becomes my brother-in-law, there will be a whole line of men with better-than-average qualifications lining up to marry me. After they marry me, they won’t even dare to bully me like Chen Jun did in the past. What’s so bad about that?”

Ding Jiayi was almost convinced by Qiao Zijin’s words because the picture that Qiao Zijin painted did seem rather ideal. “If this is really what you want, I don’t have anything against it. To me, there’s nothing more important than you.”

The more Ding Jiayi thought about it, the more she felt that Qiao Zijin was right.

Whether it was for the Chen family's assets or for the sake of her grandson, allowing Qiao Nan to marry Chen Jun was not a bad idea. "Zijin, if that's the case, tell me what I should do. I'll listen to you." Nothing would go wrong as long as she followed Zijin's instructions.

"Didn't Chen Jun want us to find trouble with Qiao Nan so that this could force Qiao Nan to seek help from him and he could have a chance at saving the damsel in distress? Let's do what Chen Jun said. I believe that after we have done so, Chen Jun would have already thought of how to help Qiao Nan." Chen Jun was a wolf. A wolf with many thoughts.

They didn't need to worry about Chen Jun. If they did what he said, Chen Jun would naturally have ways to make his dream come true. "Mom, bring over a piece of paper and pen. While I still remember, quickly write down Qiao Nan's address. I'm afraid that if we continue chatting, I would forget about Qiao Nan's address."

This was important. Upon hearing Qiao Zijin say so, Ding Jiayi hurriedly took out a piece of paper and a pen and handed them to Qiao Zijin. Qiao Zijin paused when she was holding a pen. Ding Jiayi blinked. "Zijin, what's wrong? Why aren't you writing? Have you already forgotten? Anyway, Chen Jun is asking us to help with this. If you really can't remember, let's give Chen Jun another call. He will share the information again."

After all, Chen Jun wanted to marry a wife. If Chen Jun himself didn't put in more effort, he didn't need to think about marrying.

Embarrassed, Qiao Zijin smiled. "No, I still remember. There's no need to give Chen Jun a call." After saying this, Qiao Zijin casually wrote a few words on the paper and noted down the address. There wasn't any choice. Qiao Zijin's results were not good when she was studying. After being a madam for over ten years, not only was Qiao Zijin incapable of working, but she also returned whatever knowledge she had learned in school back to the teachers.

Even if Qiao Zijin knew Qiao Nan's address and could read it out, she had forgotten how to spell some words. As such, Qiao Zijin could only write words that sounded similar instead.

After writing this, Qiao Zijin remembered what the real important thing was. "Mom, for the happiness of Qiao Nan, my sister, I'm considered to be really generous. I'm even willing to give my ex-husband to her. Think about how embarrassing it would be for me if others know that we married the same man. Who asked Chen Jun to have such good conditions and Qiao Nan to be my

sister? Otherwise, I wouldn't do so. I've already shown extreme magnanimity toward Qiao Nan. As such, for the other aspects, I won't give in to Qiao Nan anymore."

1

Qiao Zijin sized up the courtyard. It was a bit old, but it was in a prime location. The selling price now was scarily high. "Mom, Qiao Nan has such a good husband like Chen Jun. She can have anything she wants. If she really wants money, she doesn't have to worry about this at all. I'm different. I'm a divorcee and I just sold a house. If Qiao Nan is leading such a blessed life but still wants to snatch this courtyard away from me, that would be too overboard. Mom, don't say I'm overbearing, but I'm not prepared to share this courtyard with Qiao Nan. What else is she missing if she has such a formidable husband like Chen Jun?!"

"That's true." Ding Jiayi nodded in agreement. "Even if you didn't say so, this courtyard has nothing to do with that wretched girl. It's all yours. Let's do this. I'll let your father know and ask him to transfer the courtyard over to your name so that it won't be a long night fraught with dreams."

"Thanks, Mom!" Not only had she completed her goal, but she even completed it ahead of time. Qiao Zijin felt the best today ever since her surgery.

"Nonsense!" The mother-daughter pair was still chatting happily when a thunderous roar of anger scared the two of them. Qiao Dongliang's face turned green and he was so angry that he threw the things in his hands to the ground. "What nonsense are the two of you talking about?!"

Blessed? She was forty years old and unmarried. She didn't have money or a house. How was Nan Nan, someone without a boyfriend, blessed? Why couldn't he tell at all? If this was happiness, he was very willing for his elder daughter to have a taste of 'happiness' more.

He had long known that his elder daughter and wife had great abilities to lie through their teeth, but he didn't expect them to reach the stage where they no longer cared about the truth at all. "Also, let me warn you. You can take a meal indiscriminately, but some words can't be said irresponsibly. Nan Nan is not related to Chen Jun at all. Even if Chen Jun has divorced Zijin, he is still Nan Nan's ex-brother-in-law. Don't spout nonsense and ruin Nan Nan's reputation. Otherwise, don't blame me for being rude!"

If words could be said casually and their conversation was heard by others, how shameless would it be for their family? Would Nan Nan still be able to live on?!

Qiao Dongliang didn't want Qiao Nan to be understood as a bad woman who was entangled with her brother-in-law. It wasn't that Nan Nan wanted to be together with him. It was obviously his elder daughter who had snatched her own brother-in-law away when she was young. Back then in the quad, some people also heard that Chen Jun was Qiao Nan's boyfriend.

It was until everyone knew that Qiao Zijin was going to marry Chen Jun that they felt confused and wondered why their relationships were so messy. They had a clear impression that Chen Jun was Qiao Nan's boyfriend. However, why was he marrying Qiao Zijin? They dared to say that they didn't remember this point wrongly.

The joke that was created that year was still fresh in Qiao Dongliang's memory. Now that there was nothing, the mother-daughter pair nearly created a big scandal. They were really not going to let it rest until they had caused Nan Nan her death!

"Dad, don't you know that Chen Jun has always liked Qiao Nan? After we get a divorce, he can be together with Qiao Nan openly. He has never stopped thinking about her. Otherwise, why is it that all of us don't know where Qiao Nan is but he does?" Zijin said unhappily. What she said wasn't important. What was important was that Chen Jun dared to do so.

On what basis could Chen Jun and Qiao Nan do such shameless things but she wasn't even qualified to say anything? Indeed, her dad was biased.

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Ding Jiayi's eyes widened and she became fierce. "Speaking of this, Old Qiao, let me ask you. Did Chen Jun give you a call earlier and tell you where that wretched girl was? Why didn't you tell us?! They have already done all these ugly things. What else are you hiding from me and Zijin? You'd better take advantage of today's opportunity and explain everything to me!"

Qiao Dongliang smiled grimly at Ding Jiayi. "You must have been living such a comfortable life that you have forgotten how my temper was when I was young, right? I let you sleep in a small house recently. Not only did you not remember about the past, but you even threw a temper at me? Do you want to go to heaven?"

Ding Jiayi shivered and couldn't become fierce.

## Chapter 1938: No, I Want to Give You a Beating

“What is the meaning of this? Why are you so fierce? Do you want to eat me whole?”

“No, I want to give you a beating.” As long as Ding Jiayi was together with his elder daughter, no good things would happen. There was a high chance that Nan Nan would be the victim and sacrifice of this discussion. “I don’t care if Chen Jun has such thoughts. Nan Nan’s my daughter. I understand her. Even if Chen Jun has divorced Zijin and he is the only man left in this world, Nan Nan won’t get together with him. You don’t have to worry about this. Nan Nan will not snatch any of Zijin’s things away. You don’t have to worry.”

When Qiao Dongliang returned, he only heard the latter half of the conversation. He didn’t listen to the former half at all. As such, he had misunderstood that after Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin had found out about Qiao Nan’s whereabouts, they had mistaken Qiao Nan’s relationship with Chen Jun. When he realized that Qiao Nan so-called marrying Chen Jun was purely decided by the mother-daughter pair in order to protect their own interests, Qiao Dongliang was so angry that he nearly went mad.

Ding Jiayi was not willing to take this lying down. From the way Old Qiao was being fierce toward her, it seemed like she was more of an enemy than a wife. He didn’t care about Zijin and only had Qiao Nan in his heart. “Don’t say such words too early. Don’t forget what kind of conditions that wretched girl is in now. She’s already forty-years-old now but doesn’t even have a boyfriend. She should thank God if someone is willing to marry her. How would she still have the cheek to be picky and despise Chen Jun?”

Upon hearing Ding Jiayi’s words, Qiao Dongliang, whose temper had simmered a little, immediately became furious. Seeing the broom at the side, he picked it up without saying a second word and started hitting Ding Jiayi. “Yes, Nan Nan’s forty-years-old and is an old lady now! You despise her for being embarrassing, huh? Why is it that she’s unmarried at this age and doesn’t have a boyfriend? Others might not know about the sins you have committed, but will you not know?! You still have the cheek to say this!”

Ding Jiayi howled in pain. Qiao Dongliang had never lectured Ding Jiayi in such a manner even when she was young. Now that Ding Jiayi was already the age of a grandmother but was lectured by Qiao Dongliang like she was a granddaughter, the pain was unbearable to her.

Ding Jiayi looked up. As she blocked herself, she ran. “Old Qiao, why did you become crazy? Ouch. It hurts...”

“Dad?” Qiao Zijin was shocked as well. This was the first time she had seen her father so angry. He even laid a hand on her mother. “Dad, what’s wrong with you? Simmer down. Stop hitting. Let’s sit down and have a chat. There isn’t anything that can’t be solved. Mom’s already at this age as well.”

When she heard how Qiao Dongliang’s strokes sounded when he was hitting Ding Jiayi, Qiao Zijin shrunk her neck. She stared at the broom intensely and was afraid that it would land on her body if Qiao Dongliang made a wrong hand. Even though she was trying to persuade him with words, Qiao Zijin also found a relatively safe place where she would not be hit so easily by Qiao Dongliang.

As to rushing forward to hug Ding Jiayi so that she would not be beaten, that was something that would never happen.

Things made of plastic were too soft and not firm enough. After Qiao Dongliang used it for a while, it actually broke. Good thing that it broke as well. Otherwise, he would not have stopped just like that.

Qiao Dongliang threw the broken broom heavily on the ground. He exhaled and said, “I warn you. The two of you’d better not hit any ideas on Nan Nan. It has been more than twenty years. Nan Nan had provided you to complete your university studies and even bought this house. Don’t think that you feel wronged just because you sold the house. If Nan Nan didn’t provide you so much money, where would you have a house to sell in the first place so that you could treat your illness? You, especially, took so much money from Nan Nan but still badmouthed her. I want to see how good a life you will be leading if Nan Nan doesn’t give you money in the future.”

Qiao Zijin was his daughter, after all. Qiao Dongliang couldn’t speak too bluntly. What Qiao Dongliang really wanted to say via the last sentence was that without Qiao Nan’s filial piety, he wanted to see how Ding Jiayi could rely on her beloved daughter, Qiao Zijin, to lead a life better than before.

Although Qiao Dongliang didn’t say this, it didn’t mean Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin didn’t hear the meaning in his words.

Upon seeing Qiao Dongliang walk away angrily, Qiao Zijin’s face turned pale and she walked to Ding Jiayi’s side. “Mom, what did Dad mean by that? Is he looking down on me? Does he think that I’m not as useful as Qiao Nan and that the both of you can only lead a good life with Qiao Nan around?” Her father actually looked down on her this much?

Ding Jiayi was in agony. She sucked in a cold breath of air from time to time. When her movement involved the muscles that were hit by Qiao Dongliang, her eyebrows knitted closely together. “Your

dad's an old fool. The older he gets, the more unclear about things he is. It hasn't been once or twice. I'm long used to it. What I didn't expect was that the both of us are already at this age, but he actually..."

Thankfully, her grandson was not around. Otherwise, how embarrassed would she, the grandma, be? However, to be beaten in front of her daughter was not something glorious either. "He's a fool. Don't mind him. Anyway, I know you're good. Don't mind your dad's words. When he has suffered in Qiao Nan's hands, he would naturally know how good you are in the future and regret today's words."

Qiao Nan was good?

Regardless of how good Qiao Nan was and how capable she was at making money, she was already gone. Even if they could find her back after she had run away once, there was bound to be a second or third time. At that point, Old Qiao would know how that wretched girl had no conscience.

No, she asked Qiao Nan to remove her name from their household register as they were afraid that she would embarrass her family in the past and be evaluated badly by outsiders. This time, after finding Qiao Nan, she had to include Qiao Nan back in their household register. Not only that, but she had to take all of Qiao Nan's identification documents.

She did want to see how Qiao Nan could run again if she had neither the household register nor any identification documents.

"Mom, don't worry. I don't mind it that much. No matter what, he's also my dad. He can treat me badly, but I can't be unfilial to him." Qiao Zijin said insincerely, "However, Mom, based on Dad's attitude, will he agree to put the courtyard under my name and not Qiao Nan's?"

Qiao Zijin still had the confidence previously. However, after seeing how Qiao Dongliang had beaten Ding Jiayi up, Qiao Zijin no longer had such naive thoughts. The Qiao family had really changed. In the past, her mother would have the final say in the Qiao family and nobody could refute her words.

However, as long as her father didn't agree to it now, whatever nice words her mother said would just be bubbles that could be broken easily.

"..." Upon mentioning the ownership of the courtyard, Ding Jiayi hesitated for a while. Based on her temper, the courtyard would definitely belong to Zijin alone.

## Chapter 1939: Could Not Eat

That wretched girl had better not even dream of having a piece of the courtyard. But given Old Qiao's attitude, she could not say for sure.

The courtyard was worth a lot more than that big apartment that was sold off.

If she had known that keeping the courtyard would bring about so many problems, she would have stood on Zijin's side and insisted on selling the courtyard instead of the big apartment. If they had sold the courtyard instead, all these problems would not even have appeared.

Qiao Zijin was a little anxious that Ding Jiayi was silent. "Mom, Qiao Nan's so unfilial to you guys. It's not right for you to give the courtyard to her. I'll be really hurt if you do that." The courtyard was her emotional support. Only the courtyard could give her peace. Without it, she felt like she was floating on water.

"Mom, I can't count on Dad. The only person I can rely on is you. Mom, you have to make a decision for me. Don't be like Dad and do things that will hurt my heart."

After being coaxed by Qiao Zijin, Ding Jiayi had almost lost all sense of direction. Ding Jiayi patted Qiao Zijin and reassured her. "Don't worry. Mom's here. Your dad's opinions are not important. As long as I'm here, do you think I'll let your dad shortchange you? Just count on me for the property deed."

Old Qiao was confused but she was not.

Previously, she had wondered if Zijin was overthinking it. After all, Qiao Nan had been so unfilial and evil. How could Old Qiao leave a portion of the courtyard to Qiao Nan? But facts had just proved that Zijin had not been overthinking it. Old Qiao's attitude was indeed frustrating.

At that time, if she had not pressed that wretched girl for money, could they have repurchased this courtyard? That wretched girl would have spent all her money long ago. So, she was the true owner of this courtyard. No one could stop her from handing the house over to whomever she pleased. It was her right to do so.

Ding Jiayi felt that she could not directly confront Qiao Dongliang about the ownership of the courtyard. After all, she had just suffered a beating, and her wounds had not completely healed. Ding Jiayi did not want to provoke Qiao Dongliang a second time so quickly.

The courtyard was worth quite a lot, but it was not exactly big. There were only those few places where they could hide things around the house. Old Qiao was muddleheaded, but she would not let that go on any longer. She was Old Qiao's wife and Zijin's mom, after all. She had to worry about the relationship between the father and daughter.

"Mom, are you thinking of..." Not going through her dad and directly looking for the property deed?

If possible, Qiao Zijin hoped that she could gain ownership of the courtyard openly. But given her dad's attitude, Qiao Zijin was afraid that such a day would never come and that her dad would never agree to it. If that was the case, it was indeed true that her mom's solution was the best one and the least troublesome one.

Earlier, Qiao Zijin had already thought through this problem and what she would do if her father disagreed. Before her surgery, she had even thought of asking her mom to steal the property deed to sell the house secretly. But selling the house was different. Once the buyer appeared, their deeds would be exposed very quickly.

Now, all she was doing was to transfer the ownership of the house from her father to her. No one was going to reclaim the house, and there would not be any changes in the status quo. If nothing happened in the family, they would not even need to see the property deed. In that way, her father would never even realize what had happened. "Mom, thank you so much. Will Dad have a misunderstanding toward you because of this?"

Ding Jiayi patted her chest and assured her. "This is no big deal. No matter what your dad thinks, you are my only daughter. No one else can interfere with how I decide to divide my assets. My things are yours alone. No one else should think of getting a single cent of it. This is, at most, handing my assets over to you in advance. What's wrong with that? Just wait. I'll definitely find it for you!"

Once the name on the property deed was changed to Zijin's, there would be nothing for Old Qiao to get confused over. And once they got the property deed of the courtyard, Zijin would finally realize just how difficult it was to be a parent.

Ding Jiayi confidently assured Qiao Zijin that she would handle this matter. With Ding Jiayi's reassurance, Qiao Zijin dropped the matter of the courtyard. "Mom, Dad knew where Qiao Nan was but he didn't look for her. What about us?"

What about the few hundred thousand yuan in Qiao Nan's hands? Qiao Zijin could not leave it lying down just like that. She would really be suffering a huge loss if she could not retrieve that sum of money.

"There's no hurry. We'll take it a step at a time." The few hundred thousand yuan in Qiao Nan's hands could not compare to the courtyard. She had to make this most valuable asset Zijin's before going to find Qiao Nan for her to hand over every cent that belonged to the Qiao family.

Qiao Zijin thought that that was reasonable. It did not seem logical to give up a whole forest for a tree. "Mom, that makes sense. I'll listen to you. I'll do whatever you say. Mom, I'm tired. I'm going to get some rest in my room. Call me when you're done cooking." After her surgery, her uremia had indeed been cured, but she always felt as though she lacked energy, and standing for a while longer made her legs and hips ache badly.

Ding Jiayi quickly urged Qiao Zijin to rest. "Why didn't you tell me earlier that you weren't feeling well? You know very well the condition you're in. You have to recuperate well. Don't worry about anything else. I'll do the worrying. Just rest."

Once she chased Qiao Zijin into her room, Ding Jiayi, who had Qiao Zijin's trust, was in a jovial mood and skipped into the kitchen while humming a song. Just as she was about to pick up her knife to cut the vegetables, she suddenly thought of her injuries that were hurting badly.

Ding Jiayi returned to her room unhappily and took off her clothes to check on her injuries. Seeing the skin that had been bruised, Ding Jiayi once again felt that Qiao Dongliang had intended to kill her today.

They were already so advanced in age. Not only did Qiao Dongliang dare to hit her, but it also seemed that he was getting more brutal every time. Her life...

Ding Jiayi took a deep breath and rubbed the bruises with safflower oil. Since she could not see or reach the bruises on her back, she could only leave them be. When Ding Jiayi dished up the meal laden with a safflower oil smell, Qiao Dongliang remained indifferent and simply ate what he wanted to.

Qiao Zijin frowned. "Mom, did you accidentally pour safflower oil in? Why do the dishes smell like safflower oil? It smells horrible! Can these still be eaten?"

Chapter 1940: Scram

"..." Ding Jiayi felt rather aggrieved. She wanted to tell her that she could not possibly have poured safflower oil into the dish by mistake. She had tried to rub her injuries with safflower oil. That was why there was a little safflower oil flavor in the dishes.

Qiao Dongliang looked at Ding Jiayi mockingly. This was their daughter indeed. Ding Jiayi had given birth to such a great daughter. This was just the beginning. In another few years' time when she could no longer move, Ding Jiayi would enjoy even 'greater fortune' then.

Because he had already seen through Qiao Zijin's act and knew that she was heartless, Qiao Dongliang could not even be bothered to get upset at this moment. He simply finished his meal, left his bowl behind, and returned to rest in his room. One was a wife whom he had married blindly, while the other was a daughter whom he had not taught well. He would have to get by with what he had.

Qiao Zijin was already in her forties. Qiao Dongliang felt that there was no way of correcting Qiao Zijin at such an age. Besides, there was Ding Jiayi, who was always praising Qiao Zijin, who stood in his way. As such, Qiao Dongliang had lost all hope in Qiao Zijin.

He could not teach her, and neither would she learn from scolding or beatings.

In that case, he would just shut both his eyes and ignore it. He did not have many years left anyway. Once he was gone, he would be unable to care about the kind of life Qiao Zijin lived.

Qiao Nan had no intention of knowing how frustrating the Qiao family's lives were. What troubled her was that these 'troublemakers' were appearing in front of her one by one, especially this person, who came right after Qiu Chenxi.

If Qiu Chenxi were to find out about this matter, Qiu Chenxi might kick up a fuss again.

Qiao Nan lifted her head to look at the tall and muscular Zhai Sheng. “You want me to help you choose a present for Jiajia?”

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“Yes, Jiajia’s the only child in our family. I haven’t had any experience with children, especially since Jiajia’s a young lady. As an uncle, it’s my first time giving Jiajia a birthday present. Of course, I’ll want to give her something that will suit her. I’ve thought about it and I think only you can help me out with that.” As soon as he finished his matters in Ping Cheng, Zhai Sheng rushed back to Qingshui Town and went straight to Qiao Nan’s apartment.

Qiao Nan understood where Zhai Sheng was coming from. Before all this happened, Zhai Hua had not been very close to the Zhai family. Jiajia herself had said that she had never gotten the chance to interact with her maternal relatives at all. “If you really want to give Jiajia a present, why didn’t you get something in Ping Cheng? The environment in Qingshui Town might be good, but it’s nowhere as developed as Ping Cheng. Ping Cheng has more shops that carry more things.”

How would Zhai Sheng be able to pick out a good present in a small town like Qingshui Town?

“Jiajia has quite a good personality and is unlike the Wei family. Since you’re giving her a present for the first time, I think she’ll be happy no matter what you give her. Of course, Jiajia is a young lady. I’m sure Jiajia will like it if you buy her pretty clothes. Also, most girls like plush toys. You can get someone to help you purchase a life-sized one. I’m sure seventy percent of girls like these large plush toys.”

She had already given Zhai Sheng so many suggestions. Zhai Sheng would not need her to accompany him to pick out a gift, right? After giving it some thought, Qiao Nan reported Qiu Chenxi’s visit to Zhai Sheng. “By the way, Brother Zhai, I think I should tell you about something. On the second day that I returned, a woman by the surname of Qiu, who claimed to be your ex-wife, came looking for me with a whole bunch of things. As for the reason she came to find me... She said that she still has feelings for you and asked for help. I rejected her, but I don’t think that she’ll take it lying down just like that.”

If Qiu Chenxi could look for her, she would definitely look for others until she reached her goal. It was better for her to let Zhai Sheng know about it, in case he fell into Qiu Chenxi’s trap by accident.

Zhai Sheng's gaze hardened and a flash ran through his gaze as though he was a hunter who had just spotted his prey. "Oh, you rejected her? Why?"

Qiao Nan bit on her lip. She was not going to be a matchmaker, especially not for Zhai Sheng. She herself could not match up to Zhai Sheng, but she was not going to prevent Zhai Sheng from looking for a partner. However, she was still uncomfortable being his matchmaker.

But Qiao Nan could only keep these words in her heart. The reason that she provided sounded more rational. "I know just what kind of person she is. A leopard never changes its spots. She was the one who was at fault but she tried to lie to me. One look at her tells you that she isn't up to any good. Since I don't even have a good impression of her, wouldn't I be harming you if I were to help her? Besides, given your status, are you worried that you won't be able to find a marriage partner? I'm sure you don't need a caretaker to interfere in that, right?"

Because what Qiao Nan said was not the answer he was looking for, Zhai Sheng was slightly disappointed. But when Zhai Sheng saw Qiao Nan's uneasy expression that revealed that she did not really mean her words, Zhai Sheng was overjoyed. "Is that so? Even you can tell that she's not a good person. Nan Nan, what I'm saying is that you have good judgment. Indeed, she's not a good person. It might be a new era, but we shouldn't go overboard with our actions either. She's already lost the right to be a mother in this lifetime."

Qiao Nan was unsurprised that Qiu Chenxi had been so promiscuous after her divorce from Zhai Sheng. Indeed, Zhai Sheng had already gotten divorced from Qiu Chenxi. She had cheated on him and they had separated after that. But why was it that Zhai Sheng was so clear about her situation? Why did he care so much about her?

If he did not care about her, how would Zhai Sheng know about how Qiu Chenxi was living her life after their divorce? Zhai Sheng was not a petty person who would only want to know that Qiu Chenxi was living a life that was worse-off than his own so as to get his revenge.

Did Zhai Sheng really mean to reconcile with Qiu Chenxi? At that thought, Qiao Nan felt as though a whole jar of vinegar had toppled in her heart. She was raging with jealousy.

The enraged Qiao Nan grabbed the door handle, wanting to slam the door in Zhai Sheng's face as she had done to Qiu Chenxi just a few days ago. Since Zhai Sheng had intended to get back together with Qiu Chenxi, that would be their business. Why did they come to look for her, especially since she was only an 'outsider'? Were they trying to rub it in her face?

Scram!

Seeing how Qiao Nan's face was flushed red in anger, Zhai Sheng quickly held the door. "We were chatting just fine. Why are you suddenly closing the door? I'm already here. Aren't you going to invite me in for a drink?"