

## RTAMM 2101

### Chapter 2101: Familiar

Qiao Dongliang kept thinking about what kind of present to prepare for his three grandchildren. He could not possibly show up in the capital empty-handed, right?

Qiao Dongliang thought about how he had no other income apart from his pension of two thousand yuan every month and the two thousand yuan monthly allowance from Qiao Nan. Products for babies were expensive. Moreover, he was going to become a grandpa to three children at once! He had to prepare even more things. At this time, Qiao Zijin happened to knock on his door. "Dad, are you around?"

After receiving no answer from within the room for a long time, Qiao Zijin bit on her lip but forced a smile out. "Dad, it's Zijin. Are you there?"

Qiao Zijin had knocked on his door twice, so Qiao Dongliang had definitely heard her. However, Qiao Dongliang was now numb toward his daughter, Zijin. One had to be blessed to have the good fortune of having good children and he only felt that he was to be blamed as a father. He was indeed Qiao Zijin's father, but Qiao Zijin herself was already a mother. She had to have her own plans for her own life. Why should he have to interfere in her life?

Qiao Dongliang stood up and opened the door. "What's the matter?"

"Dad, we haven't had a chat in a long time. Are you free?" Qiao Zijin was upset that Qiao Dongliang had gotten into the habit of locking his door at home. There were only three people at home and they did not even go out much.

As such, it was painfully obvious whom Qiao Dongliang was trying to protect himself from. Of course, there was no way Qiao Zijin could be happy about it since she was one of them.

"Come in." Qiao Dongliang stepped inside to allow Qiao Zijin in. After Ding Jiayi had moved out, Qiao Dongliang occupied the room alone. Qiao Zijin had thought that Qiao Dongliang's room would definitely be dirty and messy without a woman to clean up after him.

Before entering the room, Qiao Zijin had mentally prepared herself so that she wouldn't express her disgust. If she were to do so, the conversation would end before it even started.

She was surprised to see that not only was Qiao Dongliang's room not messy and dirty, but it was even a little cleaner than her own. Qiao Zijin felt a little more at ease at the sight. "Dad, it's been such a long time. Are you still upset at Mom? You've lived with Mom for such a long time, so you should understand her temper. She cares most about you. Do you know how hurt she is that you always fight with her? No matter what, Mom married you and gave birth to two daughters for you."

Her mom could not live without a man.

In the past, her mom often told her that her dad was useless and could not even support the family, much less give her a luxurious and comfortable lifestyle. She had gotten used to hearing about how Qiao Dongliang had never contributed much to the family and how the family had only managed to get to where they were because of Ding Jiayi.

Now, the couple had not yet gotten a divorce, but Ding Jiayi already seemed so listless just because Qiao Dongliang had mentioned it. She did not even have the energy to care about her daughter anymore. Qiao Zijin could not help but be upset at how her mother was such a letdown.

Had she not said that her father was useless and that her entire family depended on her mom? If that was the case, there was no need to be afraid of her dad throwing a tantrum. Her mom should stand up for herself and fight her dad until the end. That way, her dad would understand that he would not be able to survive without her.

But in reality?

The one who could not survive was not her dad but her mom.

Without her husband, her mom did not even want to care for her own daughter. She acted as though she was a widow with no other family and simply took care of her own meals.

Given such a situation, Qiao Zijin could not hold on anymore. Qiao Zijin had already tried convincing Ding Jiayi to no avail. She had even spent a thousand yuan on trying to convince her mom. People had always said that every successful man had a woman. The reverse was probably true as well.

Ding Jiayi had only thrown a tantrum at Qiao Zijin because she had wanted Qiao Zijin to give her a hundred thousand yuan to appease Qiao Dongliang so that Qiao Dongliang would no longer be angry at her.

This hundred thousand yuan...

Qiao Zijin did not want to withdraw such a huge sum of money yet. Anyway, her mom's ultimate goal was not to get that hundred thousand but to reconcile with her dad. Since that was the case, she simply had to persuade her father to stop throwing a tantrum at her mother. That way, the couple would get back together as they had been before and her dad would listen to her mom once again. Her mom would then make the decisions in the family and all her dad had to do was to listen well.

Once their lives returned to normal, Qiao Zijin believed that her mom's mood would improve and she would no longer remain angry at her. Her mom might even try her best to squeeze some benefits out of Qiao Nan to improve her life.

After thinking it through, Qiao Zijin decided to bypass Ding Jiayi to coax Qiao Dongliang into admitting his mistake to Ding Jiayi.

Qiao Dongliang took a sip of water and smiled. "Doesn't it sound rather familiar, Zijin?"

"I..." Qiao Zijin paused. It did indeed sound familiar, but this was her first time saying it, so where had she heard it?

"You don't remember?" Qiao Dongliang thought that it was normal for Qiao Zijin not to remember. After all, she had not been the one being counseled at that time. Qiao Dongliang looked at Qiao Zijin. "I used these words on Nan Nan in the past to persuade her not to be angry at your mom for favoring you over her. It seems that you were listening to what I said at that time."

Yes, Ding Jiayi had the best background out of all the women who had been willing to marry him at that time. Ding Jiayi had not looked down on him and had even given him two daughters. Otherwise, he would never have let Ding Jiayi have her way all these years, causing their family to fall into such a state.

Was it not because of these words that the Qiao family no longer seemed like a family?

Qiao Zijin had the urge to slap herself. Of all things, why had she used Qiao Dongliang's words against himself? No matter what nonsense she made up, it would be better than using the words Qiao Dongliang used to persuade Qiao Nan, at the very least.

Before things returned to normal and Ding Jiayi had Qiao Dongliang firmly in her grasp, Qiao Zijin had to change her mindset.

## Chapter 2102: Matured

Qiao Zijin had decided not to try to fight for Qiao Dongliang's affection before that happened and gave up all hope of Qiao Dongliang favoring her over Qiao Nan.

Now, Qiao Dongliang was entirely biased toward Qiao Nan. Qiao Zijin knew all about that. As such, she could not make any mention of Qiao Nan if she wanted to win. As long as it concerned Qiao Nan, she had to keep her mouth shut. Who would have known that the worst possible situation would happen and that she would make such a grave error immediately?

Qiao Zijin wondered how the world worked. Why did it seem as though everything she said was always wrong? But she was an adult and could not possibly keep her mouth shut all day. Even if she was willing to remain mum, there was no such chance for her to do so. If she did not want to spend money on coaxing someone, the only other alternative was to try to persuade them.

"Dad, you said that you used these words on Nan Nan, so you should remember them without me having to say more. It hasn't been easy for Mom to stay by your side all these years, helping you take care of the house and raise two children. I'm sure you're clear of how hard my mom has worked for our family and you should be grateful for it. Don't you think so, Dad?"

Since she had already stepped on a landmine, Qiao Zijin decided to go along with it. In her opinion, the words that Qiao Dongliang had used to convince Qiao Nan at that time had been rather useful, after all.

If not for Qiao Dongliang's words, Qiao Nan would have blown up and decided to start her own life afresh a long time ago. But with her dad's persuasion, Qiao Nan had obediently apologized to her mom the next day, even handing all of her money over to her mom to appease her.

She was a university graduate and was much more eloquent than her father, who was lowly educated. She would definitely succeed in doing something that a lowly soldier had done.

“Dad, even though Mom has never had a job, we should never forget about the sacrifices Mom has made for our family. Mom is so old and no one is sure about how long more you and Mom have left. Dad, don’t you think you should cherish the remaining time you have left? Is there really a point in going to such an extent over such a trivial matter? Couples need each other the most in their old age. Dad, Mom really needs you. She’s really hurt that you’re treating her this way. Dad, don’t hurt Mom anymore, alright?”

Once she managed to appease her dad, her parents would get back together. Then, it would be time for her mom to get down to work.

Compared to a hundred thousand yuan, Qiao Zijin was much more willing to use three days and three nights and all of her saliva to convince Qiao Dongliang. As long as she succeeded in convincing Qiao Dongliang, she was willing to talk as much as needed. Anyway, she would face no loss even if she were to spout such deep morals. Quite on the contrary, she would even stand to gain from it.

She would be the happiest if that was truly the case.

Qiao Dongliang did not rebuke Qiao Zijin and merely snorted. “You’re right.” Qiao Dongliang sighed and lifted his eyes up to the ceiling. “I think that’s how I convinced Qiao Nan in the past too. It sounds quite reasonable.”

But no one but the party concerned would understand that these principles had already turned into a sea of fire and death and had even taken lives.

“Dad, so what about you?” There was no point in talking about Qiao Nan. The most important thing was what her dad thought about it now. “Nan Nan listened to whatever you said. Dad, you are Nan Nan’s and my dad. You can’t possibly be worse than Nan Nan, right?”

Qiao Zijin was now using Qiao Nan to force Qiao Dongliang into action.

It was great. Qiao Zijin had let Qiao Dongliang have a taste of shooting himself in the foot. “Are you done? Do you have anything else to say?”

Qiao Zijin was dissatisfied. “Dad, aren’t you going to answer me? I noticed that Mom looks unwell and dispirited these days. She even looks like she’s lost weight. Dad, you’re a grown man. You can’t possibly stay angry at Mom. Even if Mom really did something wrong, what’s wrong with apologizing to her and coaxing her as a man?”

Qiao Dongliang looked at Qiao Zijin. "So it seems like you know that I'm not at fault here." He was not the one at fault but had to take the initiative to apologize. "Zijin, do you remember why your mom and I got into an argument in the first place?"

If Zijin truly wished for the couple to reconcile, this was not the attitude or tone she should have.

The couple had only gotten into a fight because Qiao Zijin had wanted to take too much from Qiao Nan without any limits and because Ding Jiayi had allowed Qiao Zijin to make such unreasonable demands of Qiao Nan without any care for Qiao Nan's feelings.

If Qiao Zijin could put away her greed and start making a living for herself, Ding Jiayi and Qiao Dongliang would eventually reconcile even without the need for someone to counsel them.

Unfortunately, Qiao Zijin was entirely insincere about the couple getting back together. That was not her end goal. She only hoped that Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi could stand on her side so that she would not lose out on benefits. Then, she would be able to take everything that belonged to Qiao Nan, just as she had done in the past.

Since Qiao Zijin was not at all sincere, her persuasion was truly lacking.

"I... It's been so long. How would I know what you were arguing with Mom about? No matter what, what I said earlier stands. Dad, you're a man. You should apologize to Mom." Qiao Zijin did not feel guilty about the fact that her parents had gotten into an argument because of her, and she even commanded her dad to apologize.

Qiao Zijin was truly infuriated but Qiao Dongliang was still calm. He took a sip of water. "Zijin, Chen Feng is almost old enough to get his own identity card. As Chen Feng's mother, you should be more mature. You're not the emperor or a national cadre. Do you really think that others will be willing to follow your commands? Don't live with such a sense of superiority."

Qiao Zijin's words were not as powerful as she thought. Not everyone would get down to work and listen to her just because she commanded them to do something.

Chapter 2103: Means

No, that was not the case. "Of course, I know that you won't listen to me, but I don't care either way. If you have nothing else, go out. I want some space to think about something."

Qiao Zijin nearly fainted from anger because of Qiao Dongliang's unwelcoming attitude. Her dad was not taking her words to heart at all. He was even trying to poke fun at her by saying that she was the empress!

"Dad, you've changed! Since when have you become so unfamiliar and scary? I'm just trying to counsel you so that you'll reconcile with Mom and live happily with her. I'm being considerate of you and Mom. How could you say that of me? What have I done wrong for you to talk about me in this way?" Leaving aside how she would benefit, both her parents would benefit from this situation as well. She was not doing it for herself alone.

Qiao Dongliang shook his head. "It looks like you don't have anything else to say. Go out. I'm busy."

He had been calculating how to scrimp and save in the coming days. He knew that the prices of newborn baby products were sky-high. Just a simple milk bottle would cause him a week's worth of his living expenses.

Qiao Zijin wanted to strike back at Qiao Dongliang. What could a retired factory worker be busy with? The only person whom her dad was concerned about now was Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan had indeed married well. Her parents' attitude toward Qiao Nan had changed drastically, especially her dad!

When she had been married to Chen Jun in the past, her parents had treated her this well too.

Thinking about the difference in her lifestyles in the past and now, Qiao Zijin's heart ached. She had not wanted to get a divorce and she had wanted to marry well and live a good life with Chen Jun too. The problem was that Chen Jun had always loved that vixen, Qiao Nan, and had been unwilling to live with her. He had even found himself mistresses. What else could she have done?

If her parents had disciplined Qiao Nan well, Qiao Nan would never have been able to seduce her brother-in-law. Then, Qiao Zijin would still be married to Chen Jun and would still be the daughter-in-law of the Chen family. As long as she was still married to Chen Jun, her parents would never treat her in this way even if Qiao Nan married Zhai Sheng.

"Dad..." Qiao Zijin wanted to throw a tantrum but did not know how to do so in order for Qiao Dongliang to give in to her and Ding Jiayi's plan. After thinking it through, Qiao Zijin decided she could only try to coax him into doing so. "Do you know how hurt Mom has been? She's really lost

a lot of weight. My heart breaks when I see her. Dad, I'm begging you. For the sake of our family and for my sake, will you coax Mom? You just want to get a divorce from Mom, but I'm sure you don't want to see her die of a broken heart, right? Besides, I'm sure you have feelings for her after being married to her for so many years. How can you get a divorce just like that? Am I not a good negative example? Do you really think that divorce is such a trivial matter? There are some things that can't be taken back once you say them."

More importantly, there was no way her dad would find a partner of higher standards than her mom if he were to get divorced.

"Dad, as long as you reconcile with Mom, I'll agree to any of your requests. What do you think?" She had already gone to the extent of sacrificing herself. Her dad had to be moved, right? She had never said such mushy words in this family.

Qiao Dongliang hesitated and did not chase Qiao Zijin out anymore. "Will you really accede to any of my demands as long as I get back together with your mom?"

"..." Did that mean that her dad would really be so shameless as to make unreasonable demands of his own daughter? She had only said that for the sake of it... Because Qiao Zijin had not answered immediately, Qiao Dongliang's expression changed and he gestured for Qiao Zijin to leave.

Seeing that Qiao Dongliang's face had soured, Qiao Zijin had no other choice. "Yes, as long as you reconcile with Mom, I'll do whatever you want to the best of my abilities. Is that a deal? But I have one condition. Dad, I have to remind you that I'm just an ordinary person and my abilities are limited. If you insist on demanding something that is beyond my reach, I'll have no choice either."

"Don't worry. I won't make those demands." He was not Ding Jiayi, who only made such unreasonable demands. "Since I've decided to ask you for it, I already made sure that it's something you're definitely able to do unless you're unwilling to do it."

Because of Qiao Dongliang's firm tone, Qiao Zijin had a tingling sense that it would not go down well. Qiao Dongliang's behavior was indeed unsettling. "Dad, tell me what it is."

She would just listen to his demands. Listening would do her no harm anyway. If she could not do it, her dad would simply maintain his distance from her mom, at the very most. Her dad could not possibly try to kill her just because she could not accede to his demands, right?

She would do her best to fulfill his demands if she could. Otherwise, her mom had better not blame her either. She had already tried her best.

Although Qiao Zijin had come up with a backup plan for herself, she could not help but run out of Qiao Dongliang's room in shock after hearing Qiao Dongliang's request. Then, she went up to Ding Jiayi, sobbing. "Mom, I've tried my best for the sake of your happiness, but Dad has really gone overboard. Dad has only Qiao Nan in his heart now. He has completely given up on me for Qiao Nan's sake. Even if I die, he won't even spare me a glance!"

Ding Jiayi knew that Qiao Zijin had gone to talk to Qiao Dongliang to resolve the tension between the couple. Ding Jiayi was still angry at Qiao Zijin over the hundred thousand yuan, but compared to her husband, Qiao Dongliang, that sum of money meant little.

Her initial intention had been to appease Qiao Dongliang with the hundred thousand yuan from Qiao Zijin. All these years, Ding Jiayi had always cajoled Qiao Zijin with money that she had gotten from Qiao Nan every time Qiao Zijin got angry at her.

This was the method that Ding Jiayi was used to. Money was just a means to an end. It was not Ding Jiayi's ultimate goal.

As long as Qiao Zijin managed to appease Qiao Dongliang such that the couple's relationship returned to normal, Ding Jiayi would not care even if Qiao Zijin did not give her that hundred thousand yuan.

#### Chapter 2104: Hereditary

Hearing Qiao Zijin pouring out her grievances, Ding Jiayi frowned and the first thing she asked was, "So, you meant that you didn't manage to appease your dad and he's still upset with me?" That was to say that he was still unwilling to reconcile with her and was still going to ignore her and divorce her?

Qiao Zijin was heartbroken when she realized that Ding Jiayi's emphasis had been placed on the wrong thing. "Mom, I'm no longer Dad's daughter to him and you're not his wife either. He thinks about only Qiao Nan. I guess that my dad won't listen to anyone but Qiao Nan."

Besides, she was sobbing so badly. Should her mom not have asked what her dad had said to hurt her so deeply?

Ding Jiayi gritted her teeth. “Do you have Qiao Nan’s number?” What Zijin was saying was that neither she nor Zijin was as important as that wretched girl, Qiao Nan, in Old Qiao’s heart now. The only person who could convince Old Qiao not to get a divorce from her was Qiao Nan.

“...” Qiao Zijin froze. What was wrong with the Qiao family today? Why had neither her dad nor her mom managed to catch the most important points of her words? They had even said things that made her cry! “No...”

Ding Jiayi was upset. “I saw you use your dad’s phone the other day while he was cooking. Don’t tell me that there’s anything other than that wretched girl’s number that you’re interested in on your dad’s phone.”

“...” What could Qiao Zijin say now that Ding Jiayi had already put it that way? She had no choice but to hand over Qiao Nan’s number. “Mom, Qiao Nan blocked my number.” Qiao Nan was already treating her this way. If that was the case, how would she treat her mom, whom she probably hated even more than Qiao Zijin?

She had never once seen the money that Qiao Nan had sent to the family and Qiao Nan had always directly contacted her dad without even letting her mom know. As such, Qiao Nan should probably treat her mom worse than she treated her.

“She won’t dare to do that!” Ding Jiayi was in denial. “I’m her mother. I’m not calling her to create trouble for her or to get money from her. There’s no need to hide from me.” Her request would not concern Qiao Nan’s interests, so there was no reason for that wretched girl to refuse. If that wretched girl dared to refuse, she would definitely make that wretched girl’s life a living hell!

Of course, if that wretched girl agreed straightaway, she would not need to make a fuss and would even be able to save herself some trouble.

Seeing Ding Jiayi still in disbelief, Qiao Zijin laughed. She completely lacked self-awareness. The one whom Qiao Nan hated most in the Qiao family was her mom. Her mom had been the root cause of all her unjust and unfair treatment. Her mom seemed to have forgotten about two things.

Firstly, her mom had taken advantage of the Zhai family’s name and had almost landed the Zhai family in trouble. Secondly, it had not been a month since her mom had told Qiao Nan about that matter. Her mom’s memory might not be good and she could have forgotten about it, but there was no way Qiao Nan would have forgotten about it.

That day, she had called Qiao Nan and had managed to talk to Qiao Nan for a little while. As for her mom... Just wait and see. Once Qiao Nan recognized her mom's voice, she would definitely hang up straightaway.

Qiao Zijin could not wait to see the look on Ding Jiayi's face when that happened. With such a comparison, Qiao Zijin might even think that she had a better image as an elder sister in Qiao Nan's mind as compared to her mother, Ding Jiayi.

Qiao Zijin had been half-right with her guess. As expected, Ding Jiayi had been treated no better than Qiao Zijin had when she made the call. But Qiao Nan had never even picked up the phone. No, it was more accurate to say that Ding Jiayi had not even been able to get through.

Ding Jiayi flared up upon hearing the continuous beeping sounds. "Did she switch off her phone?" Ding Jiayi had the urge to smash her phone but could not bear to do so. "I'm not deaf. I heard your dad talking to that wretched girl just half an hour ago. How could she switch her phone off so quickly?"

What angered Ding Jiayi even more was that she had gotten Qiao Nan's mobile phone number and not the landline of the Zhai family. In that way, she had no way of contacting the Zhai family apart from through Qiao Nan. Did the Zhai family really not care that their daughter-in-law was being so unfilial to her own biological mother?

Since Qiao Nan could not even be bothered about her own biological mother now, the elderly Zhai couple should be worried that they would be next!

"I don't believe it. Let me try again." Ding Jiayi did not believe that there would truly be such a coincidence that Qiao Nan's phone would be switched off apart from the time when Qiao Dongliang called her. Phone bills had to be paid regardless of whether the phone was switched on or not. Since when had Qiao Nan's phone gained the ability to switch on only when Qiao Dongliang called her?

Unfortunately, no matter how many times Ding Jiayi tried, all she heard was a mechanical voice informing her that the other party's phone was switched off.

Qiao Zijin ground her teeth. "Stop calling her. You won't get through. Qiao Nan probably switched her phone off. Even if she didn't, her phone's probably not with her."

Why? Because Qiao Nan was pregnant and the phone had radiation.

Of course, Qiao Zijin had overheard that when she had gone to find Qiao Dongliang. Qiao Zijin was still keeping Ding Jiayi in the dark about something else. Not only had she heard that Qiao Nan was pregnant, but she had even heard Qiao Dongliang repeating the word 'three'. Qiao Zijin could not help but wonder if Qiao Nan was indeed pregnant with triplets.

"Mom, was my grandpa a triplet?" After all, she had tried to eavesdrop through a door and could not clearly hear what Qiao Dongliang had told Qiao Nan. But since she had already brought up the topic, Qiao Zijin decided to clarify the matter with Ding Jiayi.

"I think so." These things were too far in the past for even Ding Jiayi. "When I got married to your father, I think I paid respects to four people. At that time, your dad told me that two of them were your grandparents and the others were his elder and second uncles. There were three of them but I'm not sure if they were triplets."

There was nothing strange about her grandpa having two brothers. Even in her generation, she had a sibling. However, her grandpa had been the only surviving one out of the three siblings. That was why the Qiao family had no other relatives.

"So it's true." Even though Ding Jiayi's answer was vague, Qiao Zijin was certain that Qiao Nan was not just pregnant but also pregnant with triplets.

#### Chapter 2105: Wonderful

Upon thinking that Qiao Nan was so lucky that she even had more children than others, Qiao Zijin felt extremely jealous. Very quickly, Qiao Zijin couldn't help but have evil thoughts. Based on Qiao Nan's current age, it would be dangerous for her to be pregnant with just one child. She even dared to have three children at once.

Other people would experience two deaths with one corpse. If something happened to Qiao Nan, it would be four deaths with one corpse.

The Zhai family had a huge business. They would definitely value children more than Chen Jun. What if something really happened to Qiao Nan when she was giving birth? The Zhai family would choose to protect the young instead of Qiao Nan, right? At this time, even Chen Jun would remarry a younger woman after divorcing her. As the chief, would Zhai Sheng remain a monk for the rest of his life after losing Qiao Nan?

What a joke!

In the beginning, Qiao Zijin wanted to keep this matter a secret. However, she decided not to now as she had new thoughts. Before Qiao Nan married Zhai Sheng, she was thinking of ways for Qiao Nan to marry Chen Jun so that she could help her chase away all the vixens by Chen Jun's side. Then, no other child would appear and snatch away everything of the Chen family from Chen Feng.

Wasn't it the same if this situation was reversed now?

Once Qiao Nan was dead, it was destined that Zhai Sheng had to remarry so that this woman could take care of him and the children. Instead of letting Zhai Sheng marry someone else, why not let him marry her? She was Qiao Nan's birth sister and the aunt of Qiao Nan's children. If Zhai Sheng married another woman, she would only regard Qiao Nan's children as thorns in her eyes.

She was different. She would treat these triplets well. After all, she had already given it a thought a long time ago. Her only son could still inherit everything from the Chen family. Once she became the Zhai family's daughter-in-law, she would raise Qiao Nan's three children. The Zhai family and Zhai Sheng would have no reason to reject her if she hoped that these three children and the Zhai family would give Chen Feng more resources to help him along.

After getting a divorce from Chen Jun, she always held it in her heart. She was faintly expecting that she would be able to meet a man who was more outstanding than Chen Jun, one that Chen Jun would have to curry favor with. She would let everyone know that it wasn't her loss that she had gotten a divorce from Chen Jun. The person who really lost was Chen Jun. Chen Jun didn't have the foresight. He had affairs behind her back and couldn't keep her.

See? Without Chen Jun, she could find a better man.

This kind of counterattack psychology was common to many people.

Qiao Zijin had never had a chance to meet such a person before. However, it was different now. Qiao Nan married Zhai Sheng. The most famous Zhai family in the southern quad became the Qiao family's in-laws. Her relationship with the Zhai family became much closer suddenly.

At that time, if Qiao Nan helped her and put in a good word for her in front of the Zhai family, the Zhai family could change their impression of her. Then, what she thought of just now would not be completely impossible.

Upon thinking about these ‘possibilities’, Qiao Zijin was so excited that she nearly jumped up. She didn’t expect that although the idea she had thought of previously couldn’t be used on Qiao Nan and Chen Jun, it now had a chance to be used on her and Zhai Sheng. Rather than letting Qiao Nan marry Chen Jun and help Chen Feng keep an eye on everything in the Chen family, it was naturally more wonderful for her to marry Zhai Sheng so that the Zhai family could help Chen Feng in the future.

Hahaha...

Good sister. Indeed, Qiao Nan was her good sister. In this lifetime, her biggest blessing wasn’t to have a mother like Ding Jiayi but a sister like Qiao Nan. Without Qiao Nan acting as a stepping stone to her happiness by being close to the Zhai family first, based on her situation, she would never have the chance to meet Zhai Sheng in this lifetime, let alone marry him.

After all, such an example had already happened once. Didn’t Qiao Nan bring along Chen Jun, this husband, to her? The greatest happiness of Qiao Nan’s birth was to bring her a steady stream of happiness!

“Relax.” The more she thought about it, the more agitated Qiao Zijin became and the tighter she held Ding Jiayi’s hand. Ding Jiayi felt pained. “Let go quickly. My wrist is about to be bruised from your grip. If you have something to say, say it. Why are you being crazy?”

Seeing that Qiao Zijin still refused to let go, Ding Jiayi couldn’t wait anymore. She simply twisted the back of Qiao Zijin’s hand. Indeed, when Qiao Zijin felt pain as well, she reflexively let go of Ding Jiayi and no longer pinched her.

“Mom, I just thought of something. Help me analyze it.” Ding Jiayi never laid a hand on Qiao Zijin. This time, not only was Qiao Zijin not angry after being pinched by Ding Jiayi, but she even smiled. Ding Jiayi had goose bumps as she watched her. “What’s the matter? Tell me.” The way Zijin smiled was quite scary.

“Mom, come to my room. We’ll have a separate chat there.” Qiao Zijin overheard the conversation between Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Nan when they were on the phone. As such, Qiao Zijin couldn’t help but worry that her father would overhear the conversation between her and her mother. Her father’s temper was getting stranger. Wasn’t her father admitted to the hospital previously because he had overheard the conversation between her and her mother?

She had already suffered such a loss several times. This time was important. She definitely couldn't fall again at the same spot. If her father knew about this matter this time, she didn't need to live anymore.

“What is it that we have to go to your room to talk about? Why is it so mysterious?” That being said, Ding Jiayi still let Qiao Zijin pull her into the room. “Alright, you can speak now.”

“Wait a minute. We're not in a rush.” After Qiao Zijin pulled Ding Jiayi into the room, not only did she specially close the door, but she also looked at Qiao Dongliang's door before closing. After confirming that Qiao Dongliang wouldn't be coming out, she closed the door and even sealed the gaps around the door tightly with the few pieces of clothing she found.

Ding Jiayi frowned. “What's wrong with you? These clothes are dirty. Don't think of getting me to wash them. Do it yourself.” She didn't wear those clothes but put them on the floor instead. On the other hand, she wasn't willing to buy her new clothes. This daughter was really...

“Mom, come over. I have something important to share with you.” As long as the matter was done, what were these clothes to her? If her mother really cared about it, she would definitely provide her with them in the future, no matter how many clothes she wanted.

Not only did Qiao Zijin seal the gaps around the door tightly, but she even deliberately lowered her voice when talking to Ding Jiayi. This was a form of double insurance.

“You...” Upon hearing that Qiao Nan was pregnant with triplets so soon after getting married, Ding Jiayi felt complicated in her heart. Of course, if Qiao Zijin was pregnant with triplets when she was married to Chen Jun back then, she wouldn't hesitate to publicize this to everyone immediately so that everyone in the quad knew how wonderful the daughter she gave birth to was.

## Chapter 2106: Help Me

However, when the target became Qiao Nan, Ding Jiayi naturally didn't have the mood. “Zijin, you want to... It's impossible. Don't think about it.” That wretched girl wouldn't agree to it. If she didn't put pressure on Chen Jun's matter back then, based on Chen Jun's feelings for that wretched girl, it was highly likely that Zijin's child would be aborted and Chen Jun could only become Zijin's brother-in-law.

The situation was like that for Chen Jun, let alone Zhai Sheng, a man who was not easy to control. Twenty years ago, Ding Jiayi successfully helped Qiao Zijin double-cross Qiao Nan by snatching

away Chen Jun, Qiao Nan's boyfriend, to become Qiao Zijin's husband. However, twenty years later, Ding Jiayi wasn't confident that she could do what she had done back then again.

It was different. It was completely different.

When Chen Jun was dating Qiao Nan, he even treated her as an elder to be respected when he walked around the Qiao family's house. Now that Zhai Sheng was her son-in-law for half a year, aside from that time when Old Qiao was hospitalized, Zhai Sheng never treated her as his mother-in-law. He never came to see her or care about her.

Ding Jiayi didn't forget the shameful experience of being stopped several times when she wanted to go to the Zhai family's house. Although they didn't say it explicitly, Ding Jiayi understood it in her heart that the Zhai family never treated her as a relative. Under such circumstances, how was she able to let her elder daughter marry Zhai Sheng after Qiao Nan's death?

It wasn't the ancient times of feudalism. How could the elder sister marry her brother-in-law after her younger sister's death to take care of her husband and children? That was absurd.

"How do you know it definitely won't work if you don't try? Qiao Nan is already forty years old this year. Giving birth to a child at this age is already more dangerous than what an average pregnant woman faces. Furthermore, she's pregnant with three children. It's highly likely that she wouldn't survive that stage. Compared to an outsider, could it be that I, her birth sister, am not as trustworthy? I dare to swear that I would definitely take good care of her three children and wouldn't do anything to them. What she doesn't need to worry more is that it is already so dangerous for her to give birth at the age of forty and I'm two years older than her."

"If I were to marry into the Zhai family and become Zhai Sheng's wife, based on my situation, it's impossible for me to give birth to a younger sibling for Qiao Nan's three children. No matter how wishful my thinking is, I won't be so naive to think that Zhai Sheng will be willing to give everything of the Zhai family to my Feng Feng when he has three children of his own to dote on. I don't ask for much. Once she dies, I'll raise her three children. Before she dies, she just has to tell Zhai Sheng to take care of Feng Feng more in the future and that when educating the three children, for them to be closer to my Feng Feng."

There was nothing wrong with this.

After she married Zhai Sheng, Feng Feng would no longer be the triplet's cousin. Instead, he would be their brother. How wonderful it was to have four children looking out for one another. Their Qiao family was at a disadvantage as they had a weak foundation and they didn't have many relatives at

home who could help. However, this would not be the case in the future. These four children would help one another. Their Qiao family could be considered a big family in the future as well.

“Mom, believe me. This time, I’m really doing this for our Qiao family. After getting a divorce from me, Chen Jun had to remarry a younger girl, let alone a person like Zhai Sheng. I cherish my life and won’t be having another child. If Zhai Sheng remarries a younger woman, won’t she give birth? Once that woman has her own child, how could she treat Qiao Nan’s children well? She would definitely hope for Qiao Nan’s children to die sooner. I only have a small conflict with Qiao Nan. She’s about to become a mother as well. Compared to our children’s safety and happiness, what’s that little grievance we had before? She would understand my painstaking efforts and agree to this.”

That was because Qiao Nan didn’t have a reason to disagree!

This was already the best possibility Qiao Zijin could think of after Qiao Nan’s death. Who should take Qiao Nan’s position and bring the best possible future to Qiao Nan’s three children? It was proven that as long as Qiao Nan let Zhai Sheng marry her, Qiao Nan’s three children would be safe.

“...Is that possible?” Ding Jiayi was a little confused by Qiao Zijin. She secretly felt that Qiao Zijin’s words seemed to make some sense. One didn’t allow benefits created by one’s own work to accrue to others. Rather than letting others benefit from a good son-in-law like Zhai Sheng, they might as well let someone of their own benefit.

Furthermore, this time was different from Chen Jun in the past. Qiao Zijin couldn’t be considered snatching Zhai Sheng away from Qiao Nan. It was that Qiao Nan didn’t have a good life. It was difficult for her to marry a good husband like Zhai Sheng. However, she had to be unlucky and be pregnant with three children at once, leading her to her death.

“It is! How is it not possible? I...” Qiao Zijin took a deep breath and told herself to be steady. This time, she, Qiao Zijin, was about to be given a new lease of life, and she would let everyone’s glasses fall to the ground. “Mom, have you forgotten what kind of person I am and how my temper is? I admit that compared to Qiao Nan, my temper is not as good as hers and I have a much stronger personality. I’m selfish and only think for myself. However, in the face of Feng Feng, my son, haven’t I given in?”

“The relationships among me, Qiao Nan, and Chen Jun are too sensitive and complicated. How I hated Qiao Nan in the past. I would definitely not let Qiao Nan have a chance to get together with Chen Jun. However, you know as well that not too long ago, for the sake of Feng Feng, I’d already compromised and was willing to return Chen Jun to Qiao Nan. I was willing to let Qiao Nan have the chance to lead the life of a rich young lady and gain everything that I’ve lost. Did I really do this

so that Qiao Nan could lead a good life? I just want Feng Feng to be well. For the sake of my child, a person like me could care less about Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan has a better temper than me. In front of the children, it's only right that she should be able to do more than me and sacrifice more than me."

She wasn't a good mother and person. Qiao Nan would definitely do the things that she could think of and do and be willing to do so. There was nothing more important than one's own children.

Ding Jiayi was convinced by Qiao Zijin. "Okay, since you're so confident, work hard." Compared to Qiao Nan marrying Zhai Sheng, it was naturally better for Qiao Zijin to marry Zhai Sheng.

When she first heard that Qiao Nan was going to marry Zhai Sheng, Ding Jiayi's first reaction was why the person marrying Zhai Sheng wasn't Qiao Zijin but Qiao Nan. As such, Qiao Zijin's words were in sync with what Ding Jiayi wanted.

"Mom, help me!" She knew that her mother would agree to this. Only her mother understood her well. "I want to marry Zhai Sheng and help Qiao Nan take care of the three children. The most crucial thing is that Qiao Nan has to put in a good word for me in front of the Zhai family so that I can gain more impression points. Only Qiao Nan could help me succeed in this marriage."

#### Chapter 2107: Two Hundred Thousand Yuan

If Qiao Nan didn't convince the Zhai family and Zhai Sheng, she wouldn't have the chance to be the chief's wife in this lifetime. On the contrary, if Qiao Nan was willing to help her, she would have half succeeded first. Under Qiao Nan's persuasion, once Zhai Sheng agreed to it, she wouldn't be able to escape from the position of the chief's wife.

On the contrary, if Qiao Nan didn't help her, even if she didn't stop her and let her try based on her own abilities, she would definitely not be able to succeed.

"Based on what you're saying, only Qiao Nan can help you. How can I help you?" The Zhai family didn't want to see her. If she asked Zhai Sheng to marry Zijin, would he listen? No!

"Of course you can help me. You can help me make Qiao Nan agree with me. I feel that as a mother, it's instinctive to protect one's child and think for him or her. However, I did have a lot of conflicts with Nan Nan in the past and our relationship isn't as good. You're our mother. I think if I have a better attitude when admitting my mistakes and with you helping me, Qiao Nan could at least acknowledge me as a sister before she dies while giving birth."

If Qiao Nan wasn't willing to acknowledge her as a sister, then how would she let her marry into the Zhai family? It was quite complicated for her to marry Zhai Sheng. Thankfully, there were still a few months for her to mend her relationship with Qiao Nan.

If she only thought of this when something happened to Qiao Nan while she was giving birth, then it would all be too late. It wasn't late now. There was room to work hard and redeem herself. This time, she wouldn't let her own happiness and lifetime glory brush past her.

Ding Jiayi waved her hands in boredom. "You have thought it well. If this could work, it's a pretty good and practical idea. However, I can't help you. Isn't your experience of how ruthless Qiao Nan that wretched girl could be toward us the deepest? She'd rather you sell your house to pay for the medical treatment than fork out the money she had on hand. I sued her because of that. Based on her attitude, do you think she would listen to my words and treat me as a mother and you as a sister? Do you think it's possible?"

As long as the matter didn't happen to her, it was pretty easy to share everything in hindsight. Ding Jiayi had analyzed well.

After hearing Ding Jiayi's words and thinking about what Ding Jiayi said when she called Qiao Nan just now, Qiao Zijin felt so angry that she wanted to vomit blood. "Mom, just tell me directly what I should do so that you will help me. For this matter, it's best if our family of three work hard together. Otherwise, Qiao Nan would no longer be relatives with me and recognize me as a sister. The three of us can't work without one of us."

"For me to help you? I've already said it. I don't have the ability to help you." Ding Jiayi shook her head. She couldn't even resolve her own matters. How could she help her? "You know Qiao Nan's situation and you understand your dad's temper. Let's not talk about crossing the hurdle with Qiao Nan first. Based on your dad alone, you can give up first. If he would agree to this, I wouldn't have been so vexed in the first place."

Qiao Zijin stomped her feet. "Mom, at this point in time, can you not be so honest? Do you treat me as a fool? My dad..." Upon realizing that her voice had become louder, Qiao Zijin hurriedly lowered her volume. "I know my dad is biased toward Qiao Nan and won't agree to my plan. The problem is that I only want my dad to help me reconcile with Qiao Nan. As to how I'm going to marry Zhai Sheng, I don't intend to bring my dad into the picture."

She was willing to apologize to Qiao Nan and have a close relationship with her as sisters. As to why she did this, did her dad need to know so much? Her dad only needed to know the part that would make him happy and satisfied. As for the rest, she, the daughter, would cope with it alone.

“...” Ding Jiayi became silent. She knew that if this was the case, it could work.

“Mom, help me!”

Ding Jiayi pulled back her hand and said lazily, “I’ll support you mentally.” She was still in despair toward this daughter, Zijin. She had spent half a lifetime with Old Qiao and didn’t want to be a divorcée. She couldn’t even handle the affairs between them well. For her daughter’s matter, she couldn’t take care of it either.

“Mom, you’re so useless to let Dad play you like a fool. You’re even influenced by him like this. Can you be more diligent and fight for the face of us, women?” Wasn’t it just a man? At this age, they didn’t even have any interaction in bed anymore. So be it. What was there to feel upset about? Was her mom brainless? Why couldn’t she understand such a simple question?

Ding Jiayi glanced at Qiao Zijin and couldn’t be bothered to answer her. She stood up and wanted to head back to the living room to watch TV.

Fight for women?

When Zijin and Chen Jun were on the brink of divorce, how did Zijin kneel down and beg Chen Jun not to divorce her? She had seen all kinds of scenarios before. It didn’t hurt if it wasn’t her own business. As such, Ding Jiayi’s heart toward Qiao Zijin became cold again.

Once she saw that Ding Jiayi was about to leave, Qiao Zijin had no choice but to pull her back. “Mom, don’t go. I’m just feeling heartache for you. Dad threw temper at you but you still care so much about him. I think that’s not worth it. You’ve taken care of him for so many years and even gave birth to two daughters for him. What about him? He didn’t give you anything. Mom, really. I just feel heartache for you.”

She knew that Ding Jiayi was a person who wouldn’t commit herself until success was certain. It was obvious that if she didn’t fork out money and do something to satisfy Ding Jiayi, the ‘big plan’ today couldn’t be discussed anymore. Qiao Zijin took a deep breath and said painfully, “Sure. Mom, didn’t you want one hundred thousand yuan? Even if I feel that Dad treats you badly, I can’t stop you from cherishing him. I’ll give you one hundred thousand yuan so that you can reconcile with him. Mom, will you help me now?”

“You’re really giving me one hundred thousand yuan?” She thought that until the day she died, Zijin would never agree to give her this sum of money. After all, if it wasn’t a matter of life-and-death, she could still remember how difficult it was for Zijin to fork out fifty thousand yuan the last time Old Qiao was hospitalized. “Why are you so generous this time around?”

Zijin wanted her and Old Qiao to help. From the start to the end, they only needed to move their mouths. It wasn’t something extremely ‘difficult’ or ‘tough’. How would that cost one hundred thousand yuan? As such, when Qiao Zijin was suddenly willing to use one hundred thousand yuan to buy the peace between Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi, Ding Jiayi was so shocked that her jaw was about to drop. “Zijin, are you feeling unwell today?”

If Zijin recovered from her illness afterward and didn’t admit to the words she said today, she would really be happy for nothing.

“Isn’t it just one hundred thousand yuan? I’m even willing to give you two hundred thousand yuan as long as you’re happy.”

#### Chapter 2108: Complaint

“I promise you that I won’t even blink when I take it.” Because she had already said so, Qiao Zijin would rather act generous and relaxed in order to appease Ding Jiayi instead of embarrassing herself.

Ding Jiayi’s eyes glimmered. “Really? If that’s really the case, fine. Give me two hundred thousand.”

“...” Qiao Zijin’s body quivered slightly. It was true that one ought not to boast. Otherwise, one would truly get struck by lightning. She had only used two hundred thousand as an example. She had never expected that her mom would follow suit and ask for just as much. But because she had already boasted, Qiao Zijin could not afford to back down or change her mind.

If she were to change her mind now, there was no way she would be able to get anything done afterward. Not only would she be unable to salvage her relationship with Qiao Nan, but her mom’s attitude toward her would also get even colder.

Two hundred thousand? Heartbroken?

No matter how heartbroken she was, she had to fork out this two hundred thousand!

“Alright. I said it. If that makes you happy, I’ll give you two hundred thousand.” This time, Qiao Zijin learned her lesson and dared not offer a greater sum of three hundred thousand. What if Ding Jiayi dared to ask for even more?

After agreeing to her request, Qiao Zijin quickly whipped her phone out, planning to transfer the money over to Ding Jiayi in case she changed her mind again.

“Wait a minute.” Qiao Zijin was stopped by Ding Jiayi before she could even open the app on her phone. Qiao Zijin could not help but hope that Ding Jiayi had suddenly changed her mind and no longer wanted the two hundred thousand.

What she was truly afraid of was Ding Jiayi changing her mind and deciding on a higher amount.

Qiao Zijin paled. “What’s the matter, Mom?”

Ding Jiayi said after a while, “Don’t transfer it to me. Create a new account with a simple password and transfer two hundred thousand to it.” If Zijin transferred the money to her, she would then have to transfer it to Old Qiao. That would be a hassle. She might as well just hand Old Qiao the card.

“Oh, alright.” Qiao Zijin sighed as she wiped away the sweat on her forehead. “It’s still early. Shall I go to the bank and get the card?” As long as she did not demand more money.

“Alright.” It was better to get this done as quickly as possible. Old Qiao’s recent attitude toward her was unsettling. “Zijin, what’s the matter with you today?” Not only had she readily agreed to give her a hundred thousand, but she had not even flinched when Ding Jiayi proposed a sum of two hundred thousand. In fact, Zijin had been the one who suggested that sum.

This was such a rare situation for Ding Jiayi. “Right, you came crying just now after talking to your dad. What did your dad say that hurt you so badly?”

Thinking about that, Ding Jiayi suddenly came to a realization. “Did your dad say something to you just now? Was that why you were so willing to give me two hundred thousand?” That had to be the case. Otherwise, there would never have been such a drastic change in Zijin’s attitude.

Ding Jiayi had not forgotten about how Qiao Zijin had been so adamant about her rejection earlier and had even thrown a tantrum at her. She had tried everything to convince Qiao Zijin but she had refused to hand over that hundred thousand yuan. But today, Qiao Zijin suddenly changed her mind after Qiao Dongliang had talked to her. After crying, not only had Qiao Zijin willingly handed over a hundred thousand yuan, but she had even agreed to raise the amount to two hundred thousand yuan!

Ding Jiayi was confused about Qiao Zijin's sudden change. Had she not had a good relationship with Qiao Zijin? Why did Zijin refuse to listen to her but change her mind after talking to Old Qiao?

Did that mean that Old Qiao was more capable of handling Zijin than she was? Had she treated Zijin well in vain? Even after everything she had done, Zijin was much more willing to listen to Old Qiao instead.

"It's nothing." Qiao Zijin had indeed intended to tell Ding Jiayi what her dad had said earlier and why she had been crying. But now, Qiao Zijin had no desire to talk about it anymore.

She had already made the sacrifice to hand over two hundred thousand. Her ultimate goal was not simply to appease her mom. She hoped that after her mom and dad reconciled, the three of them would work together again as they had done in the past. As long as they did, Qiao Nan would be no match for them and she would definitely have to listen to them.

Once things returned to normal, she would wait for Qiao Nan to give birth to her children. Then, she would take over everything that belonged to Qiao Nan, marry Zhai Sheng, and become the chief's wife.

After being sure about that, there was no way Qiao Zijin was going to argue with Ding Jiayi or Qiao Dongliang. In fact, she was willing to coax them as though they were her ancestors, hoping that they would treat her as well as they had in the past. If they were to bring up that topic and get into another argument, their relationship would only worsen even before it improved.

"Mom, the bank closes quite early and they stop accepting customers at four. I'll go get a new bank card immediately and pass it to you." Since she no longer wanted to talk about why she had cried or gotten angry, Qiao Zijin changed the topic and left for the bank as soon as possible.

Along the way, Qiao Zijin felt elated. She could not help but feel that this was the one and only time she felt so happy and willing to withdraw so much money.

It was exactly because of Qiao Zijin's behavior that Ding Jiayi was curious. Qiao Zijin might have gone to the bank but Qiao Dongliang was still at home. After emerging from Qiao Zijin's room, Ding Jiayi sat down in the living room. Her eyes were pinned on the television, but her mind was not present at all until Qiao Dongliang walked out of his room. "Old Qiao, come here. I have something to ask you."

Qiao Dongliang rolled his eyes. "I just came out to get some water. Just say what you want to say. I'll listen to whatever I want to." Every time Ding Jiayi wanted to talk to him, nothing good ever came out of it and they always parted in anger. Qiao Dongliang had no desire to experience that again.

"What did you tell Zijin when she went to look for you earlier?" Why had she run out while crying?

Qiao Dongliang sneered. "Did she complain to you about it? It seems like you guys have made up and are no longer fighting. If that's the case, congratulations." Now that they were on good terms again, the mother and daughter could scheme against Qiao Nan again.

Qiao Dongliang was reluctant to interfere and let them continue with their antics.

#### Chapter 2109: 'Peace' in the Family

He was all too sure that the mother and daughter could only be targeting one person: Qiao Nan. The more ideas they had, the more trouble Qiao Nan would face.

Even when they had conflicts or disagreements, they would always come together to discuss how to scheme against Nan Nan and get the most out of Nan Nan.

Especially after learning that Qiao Nan was pregnant, Qiao Dongliang hoped that the relationship between Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin would remain ambiguous. It was impossible for them to have an even bigger fight, much less for them to disown each other.

Ding Jiayi regarded Qiao Zijin as her precious baby, even thinking of Qiao Zijin as her life's pride and joy. Ding Jiayi was relying on Qiao Zijin to support her in her old age, so there was no way Ding Jiayi would bear to treat Qiao Zijin the way she treated Qiao Nan. No matter how angry she got at Qiao Zijin, she would never be too extreme and cut her off.

The reverse was true too.

The divorced Qiao Zijin had nothing to her name and everything under her name was all thanks to Ding Jiayi snatching them away from Qiao Nan. Without her mother, Ding Jiayi, Qiao Zijin would not even have a single relative by her side. There was no way Qiao Zijin would give up on her mother, who was so useful to her.

Because Ding Jiayi still had value to her and would not only create trouble for her, Ding Jiayi would always be Qiao Zijin's most beloved mother.

Knowing that the mother and daughter would never sever ties with each other, Qiao Dongliang was not at all worried when they had gotten into an argument. There was no need to persuade them to reconcile with each other. He would let them be.

Knowing that the mother and daughter had made up, Qiao Dongliang knew that trouble was brewing for Qiao Nan, who was caught in a rather precarious situation now since she had three babies growing inside her. If Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin were to do anything, he would settle as much as he could. Otherwise, he would have no choice but to call Zhai Sheng for help to deal with them.

Yes, Qiao Dongliang had Zhai Sheng's number. Zhai Sheng had taken the initiative to give his number to Qiao Dongliang when they had just found out about Qiao Nan's pregnancy. The Qiao family constantly caused trouble and Qiao Dongliang was the only one in the Qiao family that Qiao Nan could not let go of. Zhai Sheng had wanted Qiao Nan to be more relaxed and stop worrying about the Qiao family during her pregnancy.

As such, Zhai Sheng had given his military phone number to Qiao Dongliang behind Qiao Nan's back. In case he ran into any trouble he could not solve, he had better not call Qiao Nan. Of course, if he met with any serious trouble, Qiao Dongliang had better not try to bear the burden alone either. That would only result in the matter being delayed and worsening. If such a situation happened, Zhai Sheng instructed Qiao Dongliang to call him as soon as possible for him to deal with it.

Qiao Dongliang understood Zhai Sheng. Qiao Dongliang did not feel that he would be so useless, and as such, he would probably not need to use that phone number. However, in the face of Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi, Qiao Dongliang lost his confidence.

The pair of mother and daughter had just made up and had not kicked up a fuss as of yet, but Qiao Dongliang already felt as though they were plotting something. With Qiao Nan and three children's safety at stake, Qiao Dongliang would much rather put down his dignity to make a call to his son-

in-law in times of trouble. Even if his son-in-law did not interfere in the matter, it would be good to get some advice.

“Is there anything wrong with me making up with Zijin?” Ding Jiayi asked in confusion. In the past, when she had been at loggerheads with that wretched girl, Old Qiao had always tried to persuade both of them. Because of Old Qiao, that wretched girl had bowed her head to her and she had no choice but to forgive that wretched girl on Old Qiao’s account.

This time, she had been fighting with Zijin for a considerable amount of time. Throughout this period, Old Qiao had never tried to ease the tension between the two of them. “Old Qiao, I realized that you’re actually biased toward Zijin. In the past, when I fought with that wretched—no, with Qiao Nan, you would always get Qiao Nan to apologize to me. But this time, you didn’t.”

This proved that Old Qiao felt the same way that she did deep down in his heart. They had been husband and wife for so many years. It was only natural for them to have such a tacit understanding. Old Qiao was indeed just like her. Not only did he love Zijin the most, but he even thought that the only person worthy of sharing their joy was their daughter, Zijin.

Qiao Dongliang was amused and angered by Ding Jiayi’s shamelessness. “Do you have any dignity? Are you really sure that I didn’t try to counsel Zijin this time because I’m biased toward her? Do you think that’s the reason Zijin didn’t apologize to you?”

Nonsense!

Compared to Nan Nan, Zijin was an uncontrollable child. Even if he were to list out a hundred different principles, Zijin would not even listen to thirty of them. In short, there was no way Zijin would ever apply those principles in her life.

Since he was certain that he would never get through to Zijin, there was no point in him wasting his effort in trying to accomplish an impossible task by talking to Zijin.

“Did you call me just to ask me about that? If that’s the case, I’ll just let you know directly in case we have any misunderstandings. I didn’t counsel Zijin because she wouldn’t listen to me anyway. Besides, I can’t be bothered to figure out who’s in the wrong between the two of you since my opinion doesn’t matter to you anyway. The scariest part is that both of you might be wrong and it wouldn’t be right for me to counsel either of you. Nan Nan is a good kid. When you fought with her, you were at the wrong ten out of ten times. But Nan Nan had a good personality and I had no choice but to take advantage of that and get her to apologize to you. It was as simple as that. Don’t overthink it.”

At that time, Qiao Dongliang had always thought that Qiao Nan was the child while Ding Jiayi was an elder. Even though Ding Jiayi was truly in the wrong, there was no reason for Ding Jiayi to apologize to Qiao Nan as an elder.

As a daughter, it was only right for Qiao Nan to apologize to her parents so as to appease Ding Jiayi. After all, Ding Jiayi was Qiao Nan's mother. Who was right or who was wrong was not important. The most important thing was having peace in the family.

As such, Qiao Dongliang had convinced Qiao Nan to apologize to Ding Jiayi every time even though he knew that Qiao Nan was not at fault. It was because of this that Qiao Dongliang knew that the method he had used on Qiao Nan would never work on Qiao Zijin.

#### Chapter 2110: A Gentleman Desired Wealth

He already knew that this wouldn't work, so why would he still spend so much time and effort? Not only would he fail to influence Qiao Zijin in the end, but he would be first angered to death by Qiao Zijin's indifferent and disapproving attitude.

This was the real reason why Qiao Dongliang didn't completely persuade Qiao Zijin to bow down to Ding Jiayi. It wasn't that he was biased against Qiao Zijin. Qiao Dongliang clearly knew that compared to Qiao Nan, who was worth teaching, Qiao Zijin was just plain stubborn.

"No, it's not because of this matter." Didn't she just casually ask? It wasn't a big deal. Why did Old Qiao throw temper at her again? She didn't even voice out her grievances and get angry at Old Qiao for wanting a divorce even after she had sacrificed so much for this family over the years. Old Qiao was getting more hot-tempered. He no longer accommodated and doted on her like he had back when they were young. "Zijin didn't tell on you. I'm just curious why Zijin cried today. Why? What did you and Zijin talk about?"

It was rare that not only was Qiao Zijin willing to give her one hundred thousand yuan, but she also didn't make a counter-offer when two hundred thousand yuan was mentioned.. With this in mind, Ding Jiayi naturally had to give Qiao Zijin face and try her best to mend the relationship between the three of them. This was the harmonious family relationship she was looking forward to the most.

“Aren’t you and Zijin the mother-daughter pair with the best relationship in this world? Did you two argue? Since that’s the case, why didn’t you ask Zijin this? Why did you come and ask me instead?” Upon thinking that Qiao Zijin refused without thinking and even started to cry, Qiao Dongliang’s mood became a little worse than when he had just left the room.

Before that sentence was said, Qiao Dongliang knew that this would definitely not succeed. What made Qiao Dongliang feel heartache was that Qiao Zijin’s reaction was simply too unacceptable.

Qiao Zijin asked him what she should do such that he was no longer angry and was willing to reconcile with Ding Jiayi. Qiao Dongliang had the mentality to try and thus told Qiao Zijin a way. “Do you really wish for us to return to our previous relationship and be a close family like the rest of the families? It’s not that this is impossible, as long as you can do one thing.”

“Me?” Qiao Zijin pointed to her nose in disbelief. “Dad, don’t scare me. I’m not a capable person. It’s too unreliable to let me do something. I don’t have the ability.” If she was capable, she would have long moved out from the courtyard and led a carefree life on her own. Why would she stay together with these dirty and smelly old people? She wasn’t a fool.

“Don’t worry. Since I can say this out loud, it is definitely something that you can do.” If he knew that Zijin couldn’t do it, he wouldn’t have mentioned it. It was just that he knew that although Zijin could fulfill his request, she might not be willing to do so. The problem was that before he could mention this, there was no more hope left in his heart.

“Really? I can do it? Tell me.” She had to listen to it herself before she knew if she could really promise him.

“Return everything that belongs to Nan Nan to Nan Nan. From now on, you, your mom, and I would just be down-to-earth and lead our lives honestly. If that’s the case, my relationship with your mom would definitely be good in the future.” By then, their family of four could really be considered to be reunited and reconciled.

Zijin and Old Ding wanted to depend on Nan Nan and satisfy themselves by exploiting Nan Nan. If such a mindset existed for another day, their family could never become a family again. He couldn’t pretend to be deaf and mute like in the past as well, watching Old Ding and Zijin bully Nan Nan when he knew that what they did was obviously wrong.

Since he already knew that this was wrong, as long as Old Ding and Zijin were willing to change, he believed that one day, their family of four could really become together like a family. If Old Ding and Zijin were unwilling to change, then there was nothing else to say.

Once she heard that it was for Qiao Nan again, Qiao Zijin's heart became so sour that she could no longer use words to describe her feelings. Qiao Zijin's lips trembled and she said in a broken voice, "Dad, are you kidding me? Qiao Nan married Zhai Sheng and became the chief's wife. Who else is more capable than Qiao Nan in the entire northern quad? Furthermore, compared to an ordinary person, I'm the one who has nothing, let alone compared to Qiao Nan. What else do I have on me that belongs to Qiao Nan and needs me to return to her?"

Even if it was Chen Jun, she had already divorced this man and he no longer belonged to her. She had long wanted to return Chen Jun to Qiao Nan. It was a pity that before she could tell Qiao Nan, Qiao Nan became capable and got close to the formidable Zhai Sheng. As such, what else did she have that she could return to Qiao Nan?

In principle, according to the current situation, Qiao Nan should be the one taking more care of her, the sister. Her dad was confused. It was just a simple sentence but he could say it wrongly.

"You do. You have something that belongs to Nan Nan and you should return it to her." Qiao Dongliang lowered his voice. "Zijin, you have to admit that the house you just sold actually doesn't belong to you. Nan Nan had forked out all the money for that house. You didn't spend a single cent, and neither did Chen Jun. Nan Nan used the money from her salary to buy the house. That house should belong to Nan Nan. Of course, now that the house isn't yours anymore, you can't return the house to her. That's fine."

"Nan Nan is a kind child. As long as you're willing to change, Nan Nan will forgive you. Nan Nan knows that you sold the house for your medical treatment. After selling the house and paying for the treatment, you still have at least one and a half million yuan in your hands, right? Zijin, listen to me. You're already a mother. In a few years, you should be a grandma. As an elder, you should set an example for your future grandchildren. We can't take whatever that isn't ours. Return it to Nan Nan. It's Nan Nan's business if she doesn't lack money. However, it depends on your attitude and thoughts if you want to return it to her or not."

Qiao Dongliang returned the courtyard to Qiao Nan. This was what she deserved. However, Qiao Dongliang always knew that it wasn't enough to just return the courtyard to Qiao Nan. That was because Qiao Zijin's house was also bought with Qiao Nan's money. This house belonged to Qiao Nan as well. The money obtained after selling the house should be returned to Qiao Nan.

He already knew that Qiao Zijin was led astray by Ding Jiayi and her thoughts were all distorted. If he really wanted to pull this daughter back, he had to teach her step by step. He could no longer be softhearted and condone her.

Didn't Qiao Zijin value money the most? A gentleman who desires wealth makes it in good ways. One should return things that didn't belong to them. It was already too late if someone had to teach her that now