

RTAMM 2121

Chapter 2121: Unsuitable

Zhai Sheng could read Qiao Nan's thoughts. "Qiao Zijin? How can you tell?" How could she know who had bought these things just by looking at them?

Qiao Nan replied lazily as she munched on her fruits, "Qiao Zijin has a son named Chen Feng. I found out her style of picking out clothes for children." Qiao Zijin had a special way of choosing clothes for children. She never cared about whether the design was comfortable or whether the material was breathable. The only thing she cared about was whether the colors of the clothes were bright and eye-catching.

It was not just about the brightness of the color. She even considered whether the clothes could reflect light!

In short, Qiao Zijin did not buy clothes for everyday wear. She bought clothes suitable for fashion shows. At that time, Qiao Zijin had constantly flaunted her wealth, saying that not only did she not need to work after marrying Chen Jun, but she could even spend money without any care, buying fanciful pieces of clothing for Chen Feng. Qiao Nan had been left speechless by Qiao Zijin's way of thinking.

Why?

Because just one look at the clothes that Qiao Zijin bought made it obvious that the child would be uncomfortable in them. Qiao Nan had to take her hat off to Qiao Zijin because of that. Where had Qiao Zijin managed to find such a huge pile of clothes? It would be difficult to find just one or two pieces of such clothes even in maternity shops.

Qiao Zijin was rather 'capable' indeed for being able to buy such clothes in this quantity. If she was in Qiao Zijin's place, she would never have been able to find any shops selling such clothes.

Of course, because Qiao Nan was so familiar with Qiao Zijin's taste that she did not even need to consider it before determining that those sequin clothes were bought by Qiao Zijin. That meant that Qiao Zijin had been the one to send the parcel to her?

"That can't be right!" Miao Jing's jaw dropped. It would be shocking enough if Ding Jiayi had sent this parcel over. Miao Jing could not return from her trance upon learning that Qiao Zijin had been

the one to send this parcel over. “Nan Nan, what’s with your family?” Why were they getting weirder and weirder?

Miao Jing did not believe that they suddenly understood the importance of family and how well Nan Nan had been toward them. There had not even been a trigger, so there was no way the Qiao family would suddenly come to a realization.

Qiao Nan, who was still eating her fruits, was clueless too. “I don’t understand either. I thought that she would hate me because of that incident over the civil service examination. It’s good enough that she doesn’t scold me every day. But now, she’s even sending things for my children. Something must be going on. One who’s unaccountably solicitous must be hiding evil intentions.” That could not be truer when it came to Qiao Zijin.

Zhai Sheng picked up a tissue and wiped Qiao Nan’s mouth. “That’s up to her. I’m here anyway.” In the face of guns, all reactionaries are nothing more than paper tigers. No matter how scheming Qiao Zijin was, he would definitely be able to find a way to counter them and leave Qiao Zijin helpless. “Do you still want more?” Looking at Qiao Nan’s stomach and thinking about Qiao Nan’s appetite, Zhai Sheng could only say that food would not go to waste.

To think that Qiao Zijin had even been afraid that Qiao Nan would not know that she had been the one to buy all those things. Qiao Nan had immediately recognized them because they had been so representative.

Qiao Dongliang thought that it was about time that Qiao Nan would have received the package and made a call to her. “Nan Nan, have you received it? Do you like it?” Qiao Dongliang had taken a lot of effort in picking out clothes for his three grandchildren. He had even constantly asked the shopkeeper what kind of clothes would be the most comfortable for newborn babies.

Qiao Dongliang might not have had much experience being a grandfather, but he did know that it did not matter whether the clothes that newborns wore looked pretty. All that mattered was the babies’ comfort. If their clothes were uncomfortable, the babies would definitely cry.

Besides, from the way he saw it, newborn clothes were small and soft to the touch. That was pretty enough to him. No wonder people said that it was easy to earn children’s money nowadays. A piece of clothing the size of his palm was much more expensive than a grown adult’s! Moreover, children grew quickly and had to get new clothes every so often.

It was only when he thought about the two hundred thousand that he had received did Qiao Dongliang finally decide on buying some things for his grandchildren.

“The few that you bought are quite good. As for the rest, you can tell her not to waste her money. There’s no need for that.” Qiao Nan was direct with her words. She would accept the clothes that her dad had bought, but she did not really want the pile of clothes that Qiao Zijin had bought. If Qiao Zijin kept sending such clothes to the capital, they would just take up space in her house.

Qiao Dongliang was taken aback. He had not even mentioned it, yet Qiao Nan knew that the clothes had come from the both of them. Of course, the person Qiao Nan was referring to was not Ding Jiayi but Qiao Zijin. Between the two of them, Ding Jiayi was the one without any money. Thus, it was obvious that the only one who could afford to buy so many clothes at once was Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Zijin, who had perked up her ears to listen in on the conversation, was elated to hear that Qiao Nan knew that she had sent those clothes over. At least, she had not spent money in vain. Qiao Nan knew that she had been the one who had bought those clothes and whose credit it should be. But Qiao Nan’s words that followed caused Qiao Zijin’s face to turn sour and she looked pitifully at Qiao Dongliang, begging him to speak up for her in front of Qiao Nan.

She had already given in to Qiao Nan. Why was Qiao Nan still being so petty and refusing to give her a chance to atone her sins and reconcile with her?

Qiao Dongliang rolled his eyes at Qiao Zijin and covered the microphone of his phone. “Zijin, be honest with me. What did you put in the parcel? Why does Nan Nan know that you were the one who sent those things?” Were they not all things for the children? Had she written her name on them to let Nan Nan know that she had been the one who bought them? Otherwise, how would Nan Nan have found out about it?

If Zijin had done that behind his back...

“Dad, you’re maligning me.” Qiao Zijin nearly jumped up in anger. “I admit that I did think of doing so initially. But you were right. As long as I’m sincere and Nan Nan feels my sincerity, we’ll make up eventually. Besides, I have indeed made Nan Nan suffer all these years. Now, it’s my fault that she doesn’t care about me even when I’m treating her well. It’s what I deserve. But I swear that I didn’t put anything weird in the parcel to let Nan Nan know that I was the one who sent most of the clothes over.”

Chapter 2122: Afraid of Trouble

Even if she had indeed done so, she would never admit to it. Besides, she had not actually done so!

Qiao Zijin was extremely curious. Her dad had not done anything and neither had she written anything on the parcel. There was no way her mom would have gotten involved either, so how did Qiao Nan know that she was the one who had bought most of the clothes?

Qiao Zijin felt that she had already given her utmost effort this time. She did not dare to be careless or perfunctory in the slightest sense in trying to please Qiao Nan. Not only had she picked out pretty clothes, but she had even spent good money on them.

Apart from her son, Feng Feng, Qiao Nan's three children were the only ones who enjoyed this special privilege. She was truly willing to regard and treat Qiao Nan's children as her own. If Qiao Nan were to meet with an accident and pass on, Qiao Nan could put complete trust in her to take care of her husband and three children. She would treat the triplets as sincerely as she treated Feng Feng. They would be no different from her own.

At this time, Qiao Zijin finally understood that one had to lose some things to gain others. If she had cared about money when buying things for the three children, no one would believe that she would treat Qiao Nan's three children like she did her own biological child if that hypothetical situation were to take place.

It was better to pave her way and make preparations ahead of time. Only then would people believe her in the future.

Seeing Qiao Zijin's serious face, Qiao Dongliang did not immediately believe Qiao Zijin. He would ask Qiao Nan to confirm it. "Nan Nan, how did you know that your sister bought most of the clothes? I didn't tell you about it. Do you mean your sister wrote her name on those that she bought?"

Qiao Zijin paid close attention to the conversation, afraid that Qiao Nan would agree and frame her for the sake of attacking her. If she had known that she would get into such trouble, she would have taken a video of her sending out the parcel.

This was the first time Qiao Zijin realized that there could be two sides to the matter. Earlier on, she had been depressed about not being able to tell Qiao Nan about how much money she had spent on Qiao Nan's children. Perhaps, she had even let her dad get the credit even after spending so much money.

Now that Qiao Nan knew that she had been the one to send those clothes over, Qiao Zijin was still uneasy and became even more unsettled instead. She could not help but wonder if she had

accidentally included something that would identify her in the parcel. That was why Qiao Nan had realized that she had paid for a portion of the clothes.

If that was the case, Qiao Nan and her dad would definitely misunderstand that she had done so on purpose. And of course, Qiao Nan would never make up with her just because of those clothes. If her dad were to misunderstand and think that she harbored ill intentions, he would never help her in the future. Then, she would really be in deep trouble.

This concerned her happiness and glory for the rest of her life. As such, Qiao Zijin could not help but feel nervous. She wanted to know what Qiao Nan's answer would be but was anxious at the same time.

“Oh, it's nothing much. It's too obvious from her choice of clothes. It's hard for me not to know. In the past, she always bought such flamboyant clothes for Feng Feng, but Feng Feng told me that the clothes his mom bought were not very comfortable to wear.”

Did she have no right to accept the clothes from Qiao Zijin? Of course she did!

Ever since she had started working, all of her earnings had been taken by Ding Jiayi to support Qiao Zijin. When Chen Feng had been born, she had never spared the expense when buying or making clothes for Chen Feng since she was his aunt. From a young age, Chen Feng had always worn clothes from Qiao Nan. It was only right for Qiao Zijin to return the favor by sending these clothes over, and Qiao Nan had all the right to accept them.

It was just that she knew that her children would not be comfortable in the clothes that Qiao Zijin had picked out, so there was really no point in accepting them. In the past, she had had to coax Chen Feng whenever he threw a tantrum. She would not let her children experience the same pain Chen Feng had gone through. “Children have short tempers and it's easy for them to get hurt when there are too many accessories on their clothes. There are some clothes that look pretty but are made of stiff and unbreathable materials that are unsuitable for children to wear. Dad, the kind that you bought is the best.”

Qiao Nan said this not to provoke anyone. She had done so simply to explain her stance. “Is it possible to return these clothes? If so, I'll send them back to you. Dad, don't let her buy any more clothes in the future. I can't afford to accept anything from her. All these years, I've treated Chen Feng like how his biological mother treats him. It's just that I don't want to talk about her taste in clothes.”

Unless one was actually a peacock, one would never take a fancy to such shiny clothes.

“Oh, I see.” Now that Qiao Nan had said so, Qiao Dongliang seemed to have some impression. When he had seen Qiao Zijin paying for that pile of clothes, Qiao Dongliang had thought it was a little strange. But that had been Qiao Zijin’s first time paying for anything for Qiao Nan. It was truly not easy for Qiao Zijin, who thought of money as the most important thing in her life, to spend so much money on her own accord. Unless Qiao Zijin was willing to do so, there was no one who would be able to convince Qiao Zijin to do so. As such, Qiao Dongliang could really tell that it was not just talk that Qiao Zijin wanted to make up with Qiao Nan. She had proven her intentions through her actions.

Now that Qiao Nan had mentioned it, Qiao Dongliang suddenly remembered why he had thought that it had been strange. That was because the clothes that Qiao Zijin had picked out were completely different from those that the shopkeeper had recommended to him.

It was just that those clothes were shiny and bright and looked rather vibrant and lively. That was why Qiao Dongliang had not thought too much about it then. Now that Qiao Nan had told him that those clothes were uncomfortable to wear, Qiao Dongliang came to a sudden realization. “So that’s the case. Right. You’re right. There’s no need for newborn clothes to look pretty. It’s much more important for them to be comfortable. I’ll tell your sister off later. She’s been a mother for such a long time, but she doesn’t even have as much experience buying clothes for children as you do. Don’t worry. She won’t make the same mistake next time.”

“...” Qiao Nan was rendered speechless for a while. Was there going to be a next time? She had hoped that this time had not even happened and that this was nothing more than a ridiculous dream that she had had during her afternoon nap.

Just like the property deed of the courtyard, Qiao Nan had all the right to accept these things. After all, she had been the one to repurchase the Qiao family’s courtyard with her salary. But what Qiao Nan hated the most was the endless trouble that came along when she took back what rightfully belonged to her.

Chapter 2123: Not Easy

Was Qiao Zijin someone who knew her limits? No!

No matter how legitimately she accepted Qiao Zijin’s things, were Qiao Zijin’s things so easy to take? No! Whoever dared to take Qiao Zijin’s things had to be prepared for their fingers to be chopped off! Regardless of whether it should be the case or not, Qiao Zijin’s things had knives on them. Don’t expect to get them if one didn’t bleed or pay a higher price.

Knowing that Qiao Zijin was a calculative person who expected five hundred yuan in return if she took five yuan out, Qiao Nan was particularly unwilling to accept Qiao Zijin's things. She didn't want to give Qiao Zijin a reason and opportunity to create trouble for her.

Qiao Nan was heavily guarded against Qiao Zijin. This was the experience accumulated from Qiao Nan's lessons in two lifetimes. She would definitely not go wrong.

"Dad, there's no need to. She doesn't have to buy clothes for my children. You should also understand that I don't want what she buys." It didn't matter even if she was being called a coward. She knew that if Qiao Zijin really wanted to create trouble for her, even if she didn't accept these things, Qiao Zijin would still have an excuse to come find her. That aside, it was good for her if she could give Qiao Zijin one lesser excuse.

"Nan Nan, you can't be like this." Qiao Dongliang had long expected that Qiao Nan wouldn't be able to forgive Qiao Zijin within a short period of time and reconcile with her. As such, Qiao Dongliang wasn't discouraged at all. "The matter between you and Zijin should be resolved by the both of you. Over these years, you've taken care of Fengfeng quite a bit, right? Zijin never rejected you, right? Now, she just wants to treat the three children in your stomach well. At least, you can't represent the three children and reject the love and care that their aunt is providing them. Moreover, after the three children are born, you must not educate them in this manner. Otherwise, they will go astray. Your sister did a lot of wrong things. However, she has never stopped you from interacting with Fengfeng or treating Fengfeng well."

In other words, in this regard, Zijin did better than Nan Nan.

Qiao Nan immediately felt disgusted. She felt so uncomfortable that she wanted to hang up the call immediately.

Qiao Nan didn't deny what Qiao Dongliang had said. Indeed, Qiao Zijin had never rejected her from getting too close to Chen Feng or prevented her from treating Chen Feng well. The problem was that Qiao Zijin's actions were not as noble and rational as what her dad had said.

Qiao Zijin was using Chen Feng to show off to her. Qiao Zijin wanted to tell her that even if she had snatched Chen Jun away from her hands and no matter how much hatred she had in her heart or how resentful she felt, as an aunt, she had no choice but to treat Chen Feng, who was the biggest accomplice, well. More importantly, Chen Feng was the best evidence that Chen Jun had betrayed her and Qiao Zijin had won against her back then.

Qiao Zijin allowing her to get close to Chen Feng and accepting her kindness to Chen Feng had nothing to do with their blood relationship at all. Chen Feng was nothing but a tool Qiao Zijin used to show off her power and make her feel miserable and pained.

Qiao Zijin was so sinister and shameless back then. Today, Qiao Dongliang said that she was so noble and he even used her to lecture herself. At this moment, regardless of whether it was Qiao Zijin or Qiao Dongliang, Qiao Nan couldn't like either at all.

Pregnant women couldn't be angered. Qiao Nan could tolerate some matters well before she was pregnant. However, after being pregnant with three children, Qiao Nan felt that if she didn't say certain matters clearly, she would be hurting both herself and her children. "Dad, I always thought that you pretended to be mute and deaf in the past. It is only today that I know that sometimes, not only are your eyes and ears not working well, but you also have an evil heart. Qiao Zijin is next to you, right? Go and ask her what kind of mindset and thoughts she had when she brought Chen Feng back to the Qiao family and handed him over to me. After you have figured this out, come and discuss with me who's in the right and who's in the wrong between me and Qiao Zijin. Also, let me know if there are times that Qiao Zijin was really right."

Qiao Nan felt helpless that Qiao Dongliang could interpret Qiao Zijin's disgusting thoughts so positively. No wonder her dad was often tricked by Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi. As the head of the family, he was really a fool. It turned out that her dad really didn't know anything at all!

After saying this, Qiao Nan hung up the call directly.

Zhai Sheng wiped his hands. "You've already greeted him. Let me help you send the clothes back." Zhai Sheng had predicted correctly that Qiao Nan would never accept Qiao Zijin's things. Even if the things Qiao Zijin bought were appropriate, Qiao Nan wouldn't accept them, let alone if they were inappropriate.

"Yes, Brother Zhai. Thanks for the hard work." This big bag of clothes could only be sent back by Brother Zhai. "After hearing what my dad said today, such things should keep happening in the future. Initially, I didn't agree with my dad spending one month's money on the children and I thought of subsidizing them back. Since this is the case, I'll be stronger in my attitude. I'll not accept my dad's packages in the future. After once or twice, he should understand what I mean and give up on buying things for the three children."

Indeed, it wasn't easy to be a good person.

She wanted to subsidize her dad and make him a good grandfather. It was a pity that her dad always did things that added to her troubles and made her feel unhappy. If that was the case, they should make things clear between them. Her dad didn't need to treat the three children well. If he could take good care of himself, he would be considered a very good grandfather already.

Whenever something happened to her dad, she would definitely have to worry about him. It wasn't easy to take care of three children. If she had to be distracted and take care of her dad now, the time and energy spent on the three children would definitely be lesser. Only if her dad was well could she be better and take care of the three children wholeheartedly.

As such, if Qiao Dongliang could take care of himself and prevent himself from being in accidents or being injured, that was already the performance of a good grandfather.

“As long as you're happy.” In terms of his attitude toward the Qiao family, Zhai Sheng had always stood on Qiao Nan's side. No matter what kind of decision Qiao Nan made, Zhai Sheng would always give his fullest support.

“Hard work? How is this hard work?!” Miao Jing didn't agree that letting her son send a package back was tiring. “Nan Nan, you don't have to worry about him. When he was in the army, he did more work than this. He has been resting so much after returning home that I'm starting to find him lazy. If you don't let him do more things at home, I'm worried that after he returns to the army, he wouldn't know how to train those soldiers anymore.”

In the Zhai family, the Zhai women were the most powerful. One was the woman his father loved the most, while the other was the woman he loved the most.

Chapter 2124: Deliberately

Facing these two 'powerful' women, Zhai Sheng didn't dare to have any opinion at all. He could only finish his work and send back the big bag of clothes that Qiao Zijin had sent over.

Unlike Qiao Dongliang, who used ordinary delivery, Zhai Sheng used SF Express in order to facilitate the return of Qiao Zijin's goods. They reached Qiao Zijin the next day. The Zhai family could afford to pay the express delivery fees.

Facing the bag of clothes that was sent back, Ding Jiayi felt heartache, Qiao Zijin felt depressed, and Qiao Dongliang felt sad. It seemed like Nan Nan's opinions of Zijin were stronger than what he had imagined. “Zijin, you bought these clothes. Go and return them. Since they aren't suitable, let's not waste unnecessary money.”

Seeing that Qiao Nan had sent back all the clothes, Qiao Dongliang couldn't say anything. Who asked Qiao Zijin to buy clothes that weren't suitable for the children to wear? If these were left at home, it would just be a pile of garbage. Furthermore, who in the Qiao family didn't know that Qiao Zijin was the same as Ding Jiayi? Both of them loved money as much as life itself. If Qiao Zijin returned this bag of clothes, her loss could be avoided as well.

It was better to return these clothes for money than to let them be garbage piled up in the Qiao family's house.

"Dad, you really want me to return them?" Qiao Zijin felt uncomfortable in her heart. If she really returned these clothes and got her money back, wouldn't she have bought them in vain and all her efforts be wasted? No matter how much Qiao Zijin couldn't bear to part with money, she knew that once she returned these clothes, the image which she had not salvaged yet would collapse once again.

It was unknown what kind of agitation Qiao Nan, who used to be so easy to talk to, suffered. Her temper became strange. All along, Qiao Nan pleased her. She was willing to please Qiao Nan back now. However, Qiao Nan didn't seem to know her limits.

"Otherwise? Leave them for your second child to use?" Qiao Dongliang had no choice. These clothes weren't suitable and Qiao Nan didn't want them. They would just pile up as garbage unless Qiao Zijin remarried and got pregnant with another child again. Perhaps these clothes would be useful then. "I didn't want to say this, but the clothes you bought for Fengfeng in the past were a mess. Return them quickly. Thankfully, Nan Nan didn't cut off the tags. Otherwise, we can't return these clothes and they would only go to waste."

He didn't understand. It wasn't as if Qiao Zijin was childless. However, she bought such clothes for Qiao Nan's unborn children. She couldn't even compare to him, the grandfather. No wonder Nan Nan's tone was like that when she mentioned Chen Feng. He couldn't help but wonder if Fengfeng was brought up by Zijin.

Qiao Zijin was dissatisfied. "What's wrong with the clothes I bought? Aren't they nice? They're expensive!" If not for the sake of her plan, how would she bear to spend so much money and buy clothes for Qiao Nan's children? She had spent so much money but didn't receive any words of compliment and was lectured instead. She felt wronged. She spent so much money just to prove to everyone that she was good to Qiao Nan's children. In the future, she could really treat Qiao Nan's three children as her own.

“It’s precisely because these clothes are expensive that they should be returned. You know where they were bought. We don’t. As such, only you could return them. You should return such expensive clothes. Are all the tags still intact?” If they weren’t returned, Qiao Dongliang would feel the pinch. There wasn’t a need to waste unnecessary money.

Qiao Zijin kept the clothes unhappily. “Alright, don’t worry. These weren’t bought cheaply off the streets. They are branded. As long as the tags are intact, we can return them, of course. Dad, since when did Nan Nan become so spoiled? I’m treating her and her three children well but she’s being picky!”

Otherwise, how would someone complain that someone else’s gifts were not good enough and even return them? All in all, Qiao Nan was actually picking on her, right?

She didn’t believe that if this situation happened to someone else, Qiao Nan would not care about face and also return the items. That would be making a lot of enemies for the Zhai family.

If it had been someone else, would Qiao Nan have done the same? Of course not. If it was of use, she would use it. If not, she would just pile it up as garbage at home. At the very most, it could appear in another format as something of equal value when there was a joyous occasion at someone else’s family.

But was Qiao Zijin an ordinary person? Could she be considered as ‘someone else’? After accepting Qiao Zijin’s things, she wanted to use something of equal value to return to her and treat it that they were even? In her dreams! Don’t even think about it! Qiao Zijin was more troublesome than this ‘someone else’.

Thus, when facing Qiao Zijin, there was only one thing to say: If it’s yours, please take it back. Our family doesn’t want anything at all.

Of course, Qiao Zijin wouldn’t self-reflect on the difference between this. She just felt that after Qiao Nan married Zhai Sheng, she became more arrogant and started to look down on them, the poor relatives from her family. Even if she spent a lot of money to buy these baby clothes, Qiao Nan could just send them back via SF Express without blinking! Having done so much, Qiao Nan was just trying to prove to her that she had style now. The Qiao Nan now had long surpassed Qiao Zijin, who had the most glory back when she was still married to Chen Jun.

The more Qiao Zijin thought about it, the more uncomfortable she felt. When she picked up the clothes, it was inevitable that her movements were bigger. Ding Jiayi felt heartache. “Can your movements be smaller? Didn’t you say that these clothes were expensive? Don’t damage the

protective cover. Otherwise, the shop might find an excuse and not let us return them.” It was rare that the tags were still intact. She didn’t want to end up not being able to return the clothes because of Qiao Zijin.

Perhaps it was because she had suffered a loss of two hundred thousand yuan that Ding Jiayi’s mindset was completely different now. Ding Jiayi wasn’t surprised at all that Qiao Nan didn’t fancy the clothes Qiao Zijin sent over. When she heard that Qiao Nan had sent these clothes back, Ding Jiayi felt that Qiao Nan should have done so. If Qiao Nan didn’t like them, what use was there to hang on to them? Of course she should send them back so that they could still return them for money. Money was not easily obtained, after all.

Ding Jiayi’s only worry was that Qiao Nan might have learned Qiao Dongliang’s style. Although she said that these clothes weren’t good and suitable, not only would she cut off the tags in private, but she would even deliberately rinse them in water, being petty and thus ruining the clothes.

Chapter 2125: Refund

Anyone with the experience of returning clothes would know that it was impossible to get a refund on them once their tags had been cut off.

It would be no wonder if Qiao Nan had really done that. If Qiao Nan had cut off the tags and washed them before returning them to Qiao Zijin, it would not only show that Qiao Nan did not accept Qiao Zijin’s kindness, but it would also mean that those clothes would be useless once they received them. Unless they had other children in the family, that pile of clothes would become rubbish.

As such, Ding Jiayi wanted to thank the heavens when she saw that the clothes had been returned perfectly fine with their tags intact and had no signs of being washed before. She had to thank Qiao Nan for being slightly humane despite having such an evil heart.

If Qiao Nan had done what she had predicted, she would definitely lambast Qiao Nan to death and demand her to pay Zijin ten times what she had lost unless Qiao Nan never showed up in front of her ever again.

Of course, Qiao Nan had not gone overboard and had allowed them to recoup their losses. Since she had not burned this bridge, it would be easier for them to get along in the future.

Ding Jiayi was much faster than Qiao Zijin. With Ding Jiayi’s help, they managed to get through the pile of clothes very quickly. “Zijin, do you still have the receipts for these clothes? You didn’t throw

them away, right? The more expensive these things are, the more particular they are. If you threw the receipts away, you wouldn't be able to get a refund."

"I still have them." Qiao Zijin had thought for a long while whether to throw those receipts away. At the thought of the amount she had spent on these clothes, Qiao Zijin had the urge to throw those receipts as far away as possible, lest her heart ache when she saw the receipts again. The problem was that if she were to throw those receipts away, she would never be able to prove to Qiao Nan and the Zhai family just how much she had spent on those three children. Then, how would she prove that she treated the children well and would treat them no different from her own biological children?

As a precautionary measure, Qiao Zijin had kept that receipt well in a place where it would not be seen normally so that she would not catch a glimpse of it and ruin her mood.

After retrieving the receipt, Qiao Zijin hesitated. "Should I really get a refund on all of them?" It was, of course, good to be able to get back her money. The problem was whether Qiao Nan had seen her good intentions. If Qiao Nan had not, she would rather the clothes become a pile of rubbish than return them.

On the contrary, if Qiao Nan had already acknowledged her good intentions, there would be nothing better than getting a refund. Unfortunately, Qiao Zijin had no idea about Qiao Nan's attitude and did not dare to take it easy.

"Return them."

"Of course, you should return them. Why would you not return them?" At this point in time, Ding Jiayi and Qiao Dongliang concurred.

Qiao Dongliang eyed Ding Jiayi, whose face was illuminated with red light. "There's no point in keeping these clothes at home." The Qiao family had reached the point where they could afford to waste their money in this manner. This pile of clothes had cost them quite a lot. They could not possibly leave them to rot at home. Giving it away? It was too expensive for them.

"That's right." Ding Jiayi felt that she was indeed Qiao Dongliang's wife. They had such chemistry! "We don't have any more children in the family. When Feng Feng gets older and gives us a great-grandchild, I'm sure fashion styles would have changed and children's clothes won't look like that anymore. Prices fluctuate every year, more so for designs. What's trendy today might be worth nothing next year. It's not like they're made of gold. They have no inherent value. It's better to get a refund as soon as possible and get your money back."

It was not easy for Ding Jiayi to say such things as a housewife. It was only because she watched quite a lot of television programs and gossiped with her neighbors that Ding Jiayi had some knowledge about these things. "Zijin, do you want me to follow you to get your refund? They might try to bully you and not refund you if you go alone. I know that salespeople earn commissions from their sales. You made such a big purchase, so they must have gotten quite a lot of commission. Now that you're getting a refund, they'll definitely be upset about earning less and might cause trouble for you."

"That sounds good." Zijin nodded in agreement. When she had still been Mrs. Chen in the past, Qiao Zijin had never gotten a refund even on the clothes that she had not liked. She thought it was a chore while Chen Jun could not afford to lose his face. Even Chen Jun told her to just put those clothes that she did not like aside and not wear them instead of getting a refund.

Having been used to being pampered like that, Qiao Zijin did not have any experience in getting refunds. As such, she was afraid of facing such a situation and of being looked down on by the salespeople. If Ding Jiayi tagged along, she could simply get Ding Jiayi to handle everything.

Sure enough, with Ding Jiayi by her side, the other party's attitude changed immediately the moment she realized that they were trying to get a refund. That salesperson was no match for Ding Jiayi at all. Besides, she knew that her reputation as a businesswoman would matter much more in the long run and that her service attitude left an important impression on her customers.

With no other choice, the salesperson could only help them go through with their refund.

As expected, Ding Jiayi was overjoyed that they had managed to retrieve their money after returning the clothes. Although she had saved her money, Qiao Zijin did not feel so good. "Mom, Qiao Nan is already six months pregnant. Do you think I will make it in time to let Qiao Nan understand how good I am and make her agree to let me marry Zhai Sheng before she gives birth and dies?"

She had already known that it would be difficult, but she had thought that she would have made some progress, at the very least. But in reality? Childbirth was imminent, but nothing had happened yet!

They were in a taxi, after all, and it was inappropriate to discuss this matter then. Ding Jiayi had already felt the driver looking at them in a different light. Ding Jiayi patted Qiao Zijin on the thigh, asking her to calm down. They would discuss the matter once they got home.

Qiao Zijin was frustrated. Once they got home, it would not be convenient for them to discuss the matter either because her dad would be around. She could never let her dad find out about her plan. Not only would he never agree to it, but he would even try his best to stand in her way!

Her dad had already fallen for Qiao Nan's trap, but Zhai Sheng would get remarried after Qiao Nan's death anyway.

Chapter 2126: Greedy

Instead of letting Zhai Sheng marry someone else and let them have the chance to give Qiao Nan's children siblings, it was better for Zhai Sheng to marry her. No matter what, she was the biological aunt of the three children and had blood ties with them.

She had already been willing to let Qiao Nan become Feng Feng's stepmom, so why would Qiao Nan and her dad worry if she were to become Zhai Sheng's third wife? It was clearly a win-win situation for everyone. She could not understand why it seemed so difficult to get this matter done.

She would forget about how others could not understand her good intentions, but why was it that she was running into obstacle after obstacle when trying to put her good intentions into action?

What was wrong with this world? Why was it so difficult to be a good person? People like her dad had such set mindsets and were so stubborn. What could be more important than the happiness of those alive?

By the time the mother and daughter returned home, Qiao Dongliang had already finished his dinner and had returned to his room to rest. Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin had to take their hats off to Qiao Dongliang for that. However, it was good news that he had gone to bed early.

Ding Jiayi tugged on Qiao Zijin's arm. "Let's talk in your room."

After entering Qiao Zijin's room, Qiao Zijin acted as though she was playing a spy game and took out several long rubber tubes and stuffed them in the cracks of the door to ensure that she cut off the circulation of air between the living room and her room. These tubes had originally been meant to cool a room down faster in summer, but Qiao Zijin had used it for a different purpose: preventing eavesdropping.

"Mom." After completing her task that she had set out for herself, Qiao Zijin did not feel tired or that the air in the room was stuffy because the air conditioning in the living room could not enter

her own room. “Now, we can have a good discussion. Qiao Nan is already forty this year, and I’ve asked quite a few experts who said that Qiao Nan will definitely give birth by the time she’s eight months pregnant. No matter how healthy she is, there’s no way for her to keep the babies in until her ninth month.”

That meant she had less than three months to go.

“Zijin, I’ve been thinking about this problem too. Zijin, do you think we’re making things too complicated?” Ding Jiayi’s expression was calm as though she had a direction for Qiao Zijin.

“What do you mean, Mom?”

“Haven’t you always been worried that Chen Jun’s second wife would have ill intentions and would treat Feng Feng badly? We’re all women. Do you think Qiao Nan wouldn’t feel the same way? We were already willing to let her marry Chen Jun so that she wouldn’t have to grow old alone. That way, not only would we be able to settle her marriage, but we would even be able to ensure that Feng Feng would have a secure position in the Chen family. If the both of us could do that, there’s no reason that Qiao Nan can’t do the same.”

“Okay, go on.” Her mom’s analysis did make sense. She and her mom had not been on friendly terms with Qiao Nan. Chen Jun was loaded, and even eighteen-year-olds would want to get married to him. It was only because Qiao Nan was her biological younger sister that she had allowed Qiao Nan to benefit in this way. Otherwise, there’s no way Qiao Nan would have been considered at all.

She had been willing to give in on this matter even though she treated Qiao Nan so poorly. She was a mother, and so was Qiao Nan. Indeed, if she could think about her child and do something for her child, so could Qiao Nan. Her personal enmity between her and Qiao Nan meant nothing in comparison to her children’s happiness in the future.

“I don’t need to go on,” Ding Jiayi said calmly. “In my opinion, you don’t even have to try restoring your relationship with Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan won’t be so dumb to not be able to think of the solution that you came up with. After she dies, the best solution for the three children will be for you to take her place in the Zhai family. We’re all mothers and want the best for our children. You don’t have to please Qiao Nan or be on such good terms with her either. Once Qiao Nan can’t hold on anymore, we just have to show up to remind her. Then, Qiao Nan will know what to do.”

Ding Jiayi had already thought through these things. “Then, I’ll follow you to the capital. We can’t bring your dad along. Your dad... is quite funny. He said that he was going to visit Qiao Nan in the capital after her confinement period. By then, she’ll be nothing more than ashes. Since we already

know that Qiao Nan won't survive until then, we have to get to the capital before Qiao Nan gives birth and stay by her side. If we don't stay by her side, especially in her last hours, I'm afraid that Qiao Nan might not think of such a situation."

On the other hand, if they were to stay by Qiao Nan's side, they would not have to be worried about Qiao Nan being too stupid to come up with such a perfect solution. They would simply have to remind her of it.

That way, not only would they be able to solve their problem very quickly, but everything would also become very simple. Zijin would not even need to waste her money and be afraid that Qiao Nan would throw a tantrum because she had not bought the right things.

Qiao Zijin laughed but she frowned soon after. "It'll be good if you're right, but what if you're not? I know just how much Qiao Nan hates me. What if she's so stubborn that she doesn't consider the future of her three children because of her hatred toward me? What will I do then? Unless I'm certain, I think there are too many variables in this matter. I can't count my eggs before they hatch. I have to make sufficient preparations."

Ever since she had gotten divorced, she felt that nothing had gone her way. There was no way Qiao Zijin would treat such a critical matter carelessly.

Seeing Qiao Zijin so nervous, there was nothing else Ding Jiayi could say. She had thought that her solution was reliable and good. Qiao Nan was her daughter and she was clear about Qiao Nan's temper. They were both mothers, and Qiao Nan would probably do a better job at that than Qiao Zijin.

As such, she did not think that Qiao Nan would ignore the happiness of her three children just because of her personal hatred. Knowing that Qiao Zijin was too anxious to listen to any advice, Ding Jiayi decided not to continue. "If you're really worried, you can continue with your efforts and try to get closer to Qiao Nan through your dad. It doesn't matter that you failed this time. Don't you still have three months? No one can resist the attack of sugar-coated bullets forever. Don't be too confident in Qiao Nan. All humans are susceptible to greed."

Chapter 2127: In Tears

She would be a fool not to take advantage of what she could.

Once or twice did not account for much, but once she did so enough times and sent over valuable items, Qiao Nan would definitely give in. Otherwise, why was there always news on high-ranking

officials receiving bribes and being sentenced to prison for corruption and bribery? It was the same principle. Qiao Nan would never be able to remain so stubborn.

The mother and daughter had already forgotten that Qiao Nan's death was nothing more than their wishful thinking. From the looks of conviction on their faces, it seemed as though they had already read the book of life and death and knew for sure that Qiao Nan would die from childbirth.

Throughout their discussions and efforts, they had casually ignored the fact that everything would be in vain as long as Qiao Nan gave birth to her children safely. The pair had never once stopped to consider that Qiao Nan might very well survive childbirth along with her three children. That was only expected, after all, since Qiao Nan's death would benefit them much more than her being alive. As such, they naturally hoped for Qiao Nan's death. Her being alive would only stand in the way of their happiness.

After a lengthy discussion, the mother and daughter had not managed to come up with a new solution.

With no result, Qiao Zijin took away the seal in the crack of the door and placed it back in her cupboard. When they emerged from the room, they happened to see Qiao Dongliang, who looked troubled.

Qiao Dongliang frowned. "Why didn't you guys make something to eat after coming back? What were you guys doing in the room?" What bothered Qiao Dongliang the most was that he had tried his best but had not been able to make out a single word.

It was not as though it was the first day Qiao Dongliang had noticed the sound insulation at home. He had been able to overhear conversations in the past but had not been able to do so today. Qiao Dongliang was no fool and could guess the kind of measures some had taken for there to be such a change.

There was nothing to hide if one had not done anything wrong. If Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi were not talking about shady things, why was there a need to act so secretively as though they were commercial spies? It was obvious that something was wrong!

Qiao Dongliang was upset at the situation. As long as Qiao Zijin was scheming something, Qiao Dongliang would be upset no matter who her target was. This meant that Qiao Zijin had not changed at all, even though she had said such nice things just a few days ago. In fact, she had probably been plotting something.

If that was the case, Qiao Dongliang thought that it was a bit ridiculous that he was still trying to help Zijin in front of Nan Nan. He had no other choice. Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi were birds of the same feather. It was not that Qiao Dongliang wanted to think of Qiao Zijin in a bad light. It was just that there was truly no one else whom Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi would set their eyes on if not Qiao Nan.

Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi had only gone so far because they felt a little guilty and wanted to prevent Qiao Dongliang from finding out. But it was exactly because of this that Qiao Dongliang had found them out.

Looking at Qiao Zijin's and Ding Jiayi's expressions, Qiao Dongliang raised his eyebrow. "Zijin, were all those things you told me earlier just lies? That's true. Ever since Nan Nan got married to Zhai Sheng, she's had a different status. If you are on good terms with Nan Nan, it would be much better for you as compared to when you were married to Chen Jun."

In short, Zijin had not truly changed for the better. She was still planning on taking advantage of Nan Nan.

Realizing the truth of the matter, Qiao Dongliang could not say that he was really upset or that he had been prepared for it. It was just inevitable for a father to be foolish and gullible at times, but accepting the truth was not that hard either.

His younger daughter was angry that he was helping his elder daughter, while his elder daughter was annoyed that he was not doing enough to help her. Hehehe...

Qiao Zijin had not succeeded with Qiao Dongliang yet and thus could not afford to give up on Qiao Dongliang just yet. Seeing that Qiao Dongliang's attitude toward her had changed, even gradually returning to what it had been in the past, Qiao Zijin knew that she had to do something. "My dear dad, you're overthinking it. What could I possibly be talking to Mom about? I was fighting with Mom. Didn't we return the clothes just now? I felt that Mom's attitude wasn't very good. Nan Nan married well and got married to Zhai Sheng, but Mom was impolite just now. How is Nan Nan supposed to live?"

Qiao Zijin's eyes swirled with thoughts to find the best excuse to appease Qiao Dongliang in the shortest time possible. "I'm sure you know Mom's temper better than I do. Do you think she would be happy with me talking about her like that? It's not good for us to be arguing all the time, so I thought of a way to reduce the noise. Dad, what are you even thinking? Our argument had nothing to do with Qiao Nan."

Her dad was too sensitive. She had only heard that women had a sixth sense, so why was her dad's sixth sense so scarily accurate?

She wondered if her dad would buy into her excuse.

“Is that so?” To tell the truth, Qiao Dongliang did not really believe Qiao Zijin. If that was really the case, there was no need for Qiao Zijin to be so defensive, saying that it would be embarrassing for her neighbors to hear it. Qiao Dongliang had a feeling that Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi were being defensive toward him. “Alright. If you say so. It's not early anymore. I'm going to bed.”

Qiao Dongliang had always had his doubts toward Qiao Zijin, and that was why he had not put in his utmost effort into helping Qiao Zijin from the start. He had wanted to take things slow and ensure that Qiao Zijin had truly changed before he spoke up for Qiao Zijin in front of Qiao Nan.

Now, Qiao Dongliang no longer had such intentions. His elder daughter had too much going on in her mind. If Zijin could not settle these matters on her own, what could he do as her dad? It was better not to be so confident in the face of the three women of the Qiao family.

Although Qiao Dongliang did not say much, Qiao Zijin knew from his attitude that he had not believed her words. She had finally been able to warm her relationship with Qiao Dongliang slightly, but it seemed to be cooling again. If that was the case, she could forget about her relationship with Qiao Nan.

Qiao Zijin nearly burst into tears at that moment.

When she had first bought that rubber seal, she had even been so smug, thinking that Taobao was truly a good find. There was nothing she could not find there. But now, it was clear that her plans had backfired. It was true that her dad had not heard the conversation between her and her mom, but her dad had guessed the subject of their conversation!

Chapter 2128: Grudges

She refused to admit to it? That did not mean anything since her father would not believe her anyway!

“Dad, believe me. It's true. We were only discussing the matter of the refund. There was nothing else to it. Dad, you can't always deny my change for the better just because of your groundless

doubts, right? That's unfair to me. I really didn't do it. Dad, didn't you say that you wouldn't give up on me? I didn't do anything wrong and I'm not plotting anything, but you're treating me with this attitude. Dad, you lied to me. You said that you would definitely teach me and help me as long as I was willing to change. You're clearly biased against me and think that I can't do anything right like your obedient daughter, Qiao Nan. Dad, you're treating me unjustly!"

Qiao Zijin got worked up toward the end and her tone was filled with indignation. It sounded as though she truly had no ill intentions and it was Qiao Dongliang who was maligning her while she was innocent.

It did indeed seem as though Qiao Zijin was truly being maligned because of how emotional she had gotten. Qiao Dongliang could not help but second-guess himself and wonder if he had indeed misunderstood Qiao Zijin. But Qiao Dongliang calmed down very quickly. "You don't have to feel aggrieved. I didn't say anything. I'm sure you and I both know the truth. If you really didn't, then so be it."

Qiao Zijin was still a little uncertain about Qiao Dongliang's attitude. His words seemed to suggest that his attitude had softened, but his expression made it seem as though he was still doubtful of her words. "Dad, I'm sorry that I got so worked up. You're right. I know best whether I have done it or not. I went overboard and changed too quickly. It's only right for you to suspect me and for Nan Nan not to accept me. That's alright. I know just how sincere I am and I believe that I'll eventually be able to change your minds about me."

Qiao Zijin did not know what else she could possibly say.

Qiao Dongliang merely acknowledged Qiao Zijin with a nod. Because of that, Qiao Zijin felt guilty and could not really tell how Qiao Dongliang was feeling. Looking at Qiao Dongliang returning to his room, Qiao Zijin ran to Ding Jiayi's side regretfully. "Mom, do you think Dad believes me?" If she had known that this would happen, she would have gone to a teahouse to discuss the matter before returning home.

There were some things that they truly could not discuss at home.

Ding Jiayi was worried too. "Recently, I've realized that I don't really understand your dad, so I'm not too sure either." If she understood him and could have him within her grasp like she had had in the past, there would be no need for her to be so depressed, even forcing Zijin to give her two hundred thousand yuan to coax Old Qiao.

“Mom, what shall we do? If my dad doesn’t believe me, I won’t have the chance to interact with Qiao Nan at all.” Her dad was the entire family’s hope and her only hope of getting close to Qiao Nan. If even her dad refused to help her, she would have no choice but to go along with her mom’s plan and depend on Qiao Nan’s mood as to whether she would agree to let her take her place in the Zhai family for her children’s sake.

That was quite a big bet to place, and Qiao Zijin was reluctant to place all her eggs in one basket.

Ding Jiayi patted Qiao Zijin on the shoulder. “Forget it. Don’t think about it anymore. Neither of us will ever be able to figure out what your dad has up his sleeves. You’re your dad’s daughter, after all. Your dad will always favor you. At the very most, just start again. Didn’t you succeed the last time? Maybe the situation isn’t as bad as we think. Let’s see what happens tomorrow.”

“Okay,” Qiao Zijin answered curtly. “But Mom, we haven’t had our dinner. I’m hungry.” No matter how upset she was, she would still have to have her meal. Otherwise, where would she get the energy to marry Zhai Sheng and become the chief’s wife?

“Alright, I’ll go prepare dinner.” Although the two hundred thousand yuan had not appeased Qiao Dongliang and the relationship between the couple was still as tense, Ding Jiayi had returned to her previous attitude toward Qiao Zijin. Now that Qiao Zijin had expressed her hunger, Ding Jiayi hurried into the kitchen to prepare dinner for Qiao Zijin even though she was not very hungry herself.

Even up until the moment she lay down on her bed, Qiao Zijin felt uneasy. The very next day, it was clear that her fears had not been unfounded.

Initially, Qiao Dongliang would mention Qiao Nan and the three unborn children in front of Qiao Zijin from time to time. However, after that unfortunate incident the previous day, Qiao Dongliang no longer did so. Even when Qiao Zijin took the initiative to bring them up, Qiao Dongliang refused to talk about them. Qiao Zijin knew that Qiao Dongliang tried to get in touch with Qiao Nan through various different means every day to learn about her situation. At least, he would send a text or call her once a day.

Today, Qiao Zijin had waited for Qiao Dongliang to contact Qiao Nan for the entire day but he had not done anything at all. Qiao Zijin had the urge to remind Qiao Dongliang that he had forgotten to do something.

It was just that Qiao Zijin knew that given Qiao Dongliang's concern toward Qiao Nan, there was no way he would forget about Qiao Nan even if he forgot to have a meal himself. That could only mean that her dad had contacted Qiao Nan without her realizing it!

Since Qiao Dongliang did not speak of it, Qiao Zijin did not dare to ask about it either. But that did not mean that she had forgotten all about it. She was just waiting and hoping that Ding Jiayi's hypothetical situation would play out, even if there was only a one percent chance of it happening. She felt that Qiao Nan would definitely be able to do something that she herself had been able to do.

As for her dad, she would do as much as she could. She did not dare to think about anything more.

After Qiao Dongliang had his suspicions toward Qiao Zijin, he would always avoid Qiao Zijin whenever he contacted Qiao Nan. That was nothing. Even after learning of Qiao Nan's situation, Qiao Dongliang never mentioned it to Qiao Zijin anymore.

Qiao Dongliang's words had not just been empty words. He could sense the plans that Qiao Zijin had in mind. He had almost believed Qiao Zijin that she had turned over a new lead and was intent on developing a good relationship with Qiao Nan. But now, Qiao Dongliang was no longer as gullible.

Qiao Zijin had never intended to do so and had even been plotting against Qiao Nan the whole time. In fact, what Qiao Zijin desired from Qiao Nan had to be something ridiculous and out of this world. After making sure of that, Qiao Dongliang could only try his best to minimize the interactions Qiao Zijin had with Qiao Nan.

Of course, if Qiao Zijin had the confidence to face Qiao Nan herself, Qiao Dongliang was not at all worried. That was because he knew that Qiao Nan had a deep grudge toward Qiao Zijin.

Chapter 2129: Comparing Results

Even with him as a buffer, Qiao Nan's anger toward Qiao Zijin had not dissipated. Now, he was not even interfering any longer.

When Qiao Dongliang's package had been returned, Qiao Dongliang finally realized that Qiao Nan would not fall for Qiao Zijin's tricks. It was also because of the package that Qiao Nan had raised her guard against even her father. The sight of the package made Qiao Dongliang feel sour. He seemed to have ruined everything again, pushing Qiao Nan even further away from him.

In the face of this situation, Qiao Dongliang was infuriated at himself, Ding Jiayi, and Qiao Zijin. It seemed as though he would always encounter such situations as long as this mother-daughter pair was involved. He wondered how the three of them had managed to live together as a family for the past two decades.

“Old Qiao, what are you thinking about? This is quite a good show. Why don’t you sit down and watch it with me?” Ding Jiayi waved Qiao Dongliang over. The Qiao family was not particularly close, but neither were they on bad terms. It was uncomfortable just watching on from the side.

Even the Qiao family’s neighbors could feel that the atmosphere in the Qiao family had gotten a little strange these days. What on earth was that family of three doing? They could not even enjoy a day of peace. As neighbors, they were tired from just watching on from the sides. Did the Qiao family themselves not feel exhausted?

“That won’t be necessary. You guys can go ahead.” Qiao Dongliang had never had much interest in watching the television anyway. “Where’s Zijin?”

“Where else could she be? She must be in her room using her computer. Old Qiao, look at all these things on the table. They’re all Zijin’s. She said they’re her materials. The words are as small as ants. I can’t even read them clearly.” Ding Jiayi glanced at the pile of papers on the table, ‘casually’ mentioning them to Qiao Dongliang.

“Materials?” Qiao Dongliang was surprised. Ever since Qiao Zijin had graduated from university, she had never bothered to upgrade herself or widen her knowledge. Had the sun risen from the west today? Why was Zijin doing such things? “Oh right, didn’t I tell Zijin that it’s good for her to study more now that she’s still young and for her to take a Level Six certification in English? How’s it going? When is she going to sign up for the exam?”

After hearing that Qiao Nan had taken the exam, Qiao Dongliang had suggested that Qiao Zijin take the exam too. He hoped that Qiao Zijin would try to improve herself. Besides, Qiao Nan had said that the exam was extremely easy. Qiao Zijin had a better foundation in the language, after all. As such, he thought that it would be good for Qiao Zijin to get certified too.

A person’s knowledge was his own, and no one else would ever be able to snatch it away. As such, it would definitely be beneficial to Zijin if she were to study more now.

Nan Nan had been able to tutor others in English and make a living for herself. He was not expecting Zijin to do the same, but if Zijin had a certain standard in English, she would probably be able to use it to eke out a living when times called for it.

Ding Jiayi's expression stiffened. Zijin was not just her daughter. Old Qiao should know what Zijin's temper was like too.

Although it was a little late, Ding Jiayi had to admit that Qiao Zijin had indeed been eager to study, but it was also true that she could not match up to Qiao Nan in that aspect. Qiao Nan truly enjoyed studying while Qiao Zijin studied for the sake of it. "Forget it. Zijin has been out of school for almost two decades. Why are you asking her to take an exam? She's already given everything back to her teachers. I didn't tell you about this in the past, but Zijin had to retake the Level Four exam a few times before she managed to pass."

The learning environment had been unbeatable in school, and studying had been Zijin's only task. Even then, Zijin had needed to retake that exam so many times, whereas Qiao Nan had managed to pass it easily without putting in any effort.

What Ding Jiayi had not said was that Qiao Zijin had only worked so hard to pass that exam, even sitting for several retests up until her graduation, not because she really loved the language or because she had wanted to improve on her score. It was only because she had to pass the Level Four exam before she could graduate.

Zijin had struggled so much in school for the sake of the status of being a university graduate. Hearing that she would not be able to graduate otherwise, Zijin dared not give up on the exam so easily. Unfortunately for her, the invigilators were not her own teachers and were especially strict when marking the papers.

Even though she had already graduated more than a decade ago, Qiao Zijin still often complained to Ding Jiayi how she had nightmares of returning to school and sitting for that dreaded English examination. Qiao Zijin felt as though she could faint even in her dream from looking at those warped characters.

Qiao Zijin had never mentioned this to Qiao Dongliang but often complained to Ding Jiayi about it. As such, Ding Jiayi was certain that it was impossible for Qiao Zijin to continue with her English studies because she had already been traumatized by it.

The mention of an English examination would make Qiao Zijin turn on her back and run as fast as a hare. There was no need to mention it to Qiao Zijin. It would definitely be a failure.

“Is that so?” This was Qiao Dongliang’s first time hearing about it. “Didn’t you say that Zijin’s grades were pretty good in university even though she did not receive a scholarship?” That was what Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin had told him.

She had never received a scholarship. After all, there were so many talented people in the same school and Qiao Zijin had not been exceptionally talented in junior high school or high school. Qiao Dongliang was already happy enough that Qiao Zijin had managed to compete with these talents for a scholarship, missing the cut just by a sliver. This proved that their family’s insistence on sending Qiao Zijin to university had been right. See, Qiao Zijin’s results had improved by leaps and bounds after entering university.

How was Qiao Dongliang to know that Ding Jiayi had simply been playing a game of wits with him at that time?

Ding Jiayi had said that Qiao Zijin’s results were pretty good and it was just that she had not made the cut for the scholarship. Anyone who heard that would naturally assume that Qiao Zijin’s results were good and were just slightly behind those who had been awarded the scholarship. That was why she had lost out on it. Someone who had almost gotten a scholarship in university must have had excellent results!

Chapter 2130: Nightmare

How was Qiao Dongliang to know that what Ding Jiayi meant was that Qiao Zijin’s results had indeed been good, but that had nothing to do with the scholarship? In fact, not only did Qiao Zijin have nothing to do with the scholarship, but her results had even been a long shot from those who had won the scholarship. No matter how hard Qiao Zijin tried, she would never be able to overcome the vast difference and catch up with them.

Ding Jiayi had been confused the first time Qiao Zijin talked about it this way, but Ding Jiayi had fallen under Qiao Zijin’s spell and thought that Qiao Zijin was always right and that whatever Qiao Zijin did was right too.

Qiao Zijin had only told a half-lie, and even after Ding Jiayi learned of the truth, she had been in cahoots with Qiao Zijin to keep the truth hidden from Qiao Dongliang.

After Qiao Zijin graduated, the mother and daughter felt that they had lucked out on this matter. Qiao Dongliang had not found out about it while Qiao Zijin was still studying. Now that Qiao Zijin had graduated, Qiao Dongliang would never find out about it.

Unfortunately for Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin, they had someone who truly loved to study but lacked the opportunity to do so in their family. That had been why their deeds had finally been exposed. Now, Qiao Zijin was already forty-two and Ding Jiayi did not see the need to deceive Qiao Dongliang any further. This was the past, and it would probably not have any adverse impact anymore even if she were to reveal the truth now.

Upon hearing that answer, Qiao Dongliang faced a huge blow. “So, that’s what you meant by Zijin having good grades in school? She was almost unable to graduate because she couldn’t pass the Level Four English certification exam. The two of you are really amazing. You’ve been lying to me like a fool. I never suspected anything in the past and believed everything you said. You two must have been very pleased that you were able to trick such a big fool!”

If he had known that Zijin’s grades had been such a mess, he would definitely have found a way to give Nan Nan the opportunity to study too. It was not that she lacked the talent. Nan Nan was obviously very talented in her studies. But he had been taken in by this mother-daughter pair!

Ding Jiayi flared up. “It’s been so many years. Why are you trying to bring up the past now? No matter what, Qiao Zijin is our family’s only university graduate! You can’t demand too much of Zijin. She’s already done so well. Didn’t she manage to graduate in the end? Zijin graduated with her own efforts. There were some students who couldn’t pass that exam no matter how hard they tried and their families had to bribe the management for them to graduate!”

“Compared to those children, Zijin is very sensible. You should be happy to have such a sensible daughter.” She was not even the worst. When she had heard about such a situation, Ding Jiayi had been proud that Qiao Zijin had not wasted the family’s money and had relied on her own efforts to graduate.

At that time, neither Qiao Zijin nor Ding Jiayi had ever stopped to think about why they always compared her with those with bad results. Why had they not compared Zijin with those top students who had graduated with honors?

“Hehehe...” Qiao Dongliang tugged on the corners of his lips. “She’s a good daughter and you’re a good mother. The two of you are amazing. Zijin might have graduated a long time ago, but Nan Nan has never had the chance to do so. Nan Nan has been away from school for a longer time than Zijin, so she should probably have less knowledge than Zijin. If Nan Nan could pass the Level Six test, Zijin must sign up and take the test. I want to see just how big the difference between Nan Nan and Zijin is. Don’t think I don’t know anything about it. I can tell who’s better from just the scores alone. If you can’t bear to pay for the entrance fee, I’ll pay for it. It can’t cost much.”

Once Qiao Dongliang had set his mind on something, there was no way Qiao Zijin or Ding Jiayi could change his mind.

When Ding Jiayi told Qiao Zijin about this afterward, Qiao Zijin nearly died of anger. “My dad must be crazy! All I did was seal the cracks in the door yesterday. It’s not like I committed an unpardonable crime. Why is my dad holding it against me? Do you mean Dad knows all about how my grades weren’t good and how I don’t like to study? Why is he trying to get me to sit for an exam after so many years? And it’s even an English exam! He’s out to embarrass me!”

English proficiency exams were one of the greatest nightmares in Qiao Zijin’s life. It was still possible to cheat during a final exam in university, but that was not the case in such an exam. It was impossible for her to cheat. If anyone was caught cheating by an external invigilator, they would simply escort them out of the examination hall.

They were all adults and could not afford to be embarrassed in this manner. On the other hand, if one were to be caught cheating by their own teacher, the teacher would confiscate the slip of paper before letting one carry on with their test. That had been how Qiao Zijin had passed her exams in university.

One could only imagine how comfortable a life Qiao Zijin must have led in her five-year-long university life, given her way of taking exams. She had had to rely on her own abilities in the middle school and high school examinations, but that had not been the case in university! Initially, when Qiao Zijin had first found out about such a method, she felt that insisting on going to university was the best decision she had made in her life. She had lucked out!

She hardly listened in class and resorted to cheating during exams. When she returned home, she would complain to her parents about how hard it was and ask for more pocket money to buy treats to indulge in. That was the life Qiao Zijin had always dreamed of.

Not only had her father, Qiao Dongliang, not cooperated with her, but he had even stood in her way by presenting her with such a huge problem. Qiao Zijin could not help but kick up a fuss now that Qiao Dongliang was forcing her to recall her biggest nightmare.

Ding Jiayi tugged on Qiao Zijin, trying to keep her voice down. “Softer. Softer. What if your dad hears you? Do you really not want to make up with him and get him to help you? You know that your dad likes studious kids.”

At that time, Qiao Nan’s results had surpassed Qiao Zijin’s, and Ding Jiayi had spent a lot of effort brainwashing Qiao Dongliang into allowing Qiao Zijin to continue her studies.