

RTAMM 2161

Chapter 2161: Not Easily Taken Advantage Of

Rather, Qiao Nan's question was more of whether Chief Zhu was still 'around'.

The last time she had visited Zhu Chengqi, she had heard his doctor say that he wouldn't last for many more days. But her stomach had grown from being inconspicuous to protruding. She was about to give birth, but she had not yet heard any bad news about Zhu Chengqi. Qiao Nan wondered whether Zhu Chengqi was holding on for some reason.

"He's alright." At least, Chief Zhu's illness was under control and there were no major problems for the time being. "I guess someone must be in a panic now that Chief Zhu's in such a condition."

Wang Yang dared not take a step away from Zhu Chengqi and people who did not understand the situation would inevitably praise Wang Yang for being filial and treating Zhu Chengqi like his biological father. Wang Yang's parents were still well and alive, and as they got older, their bodies were like machines that needed 'maintenance' once in a while.

When Wang Yang's biological parents had fallen sick, he had not been by their sides taking care of them. Instead, he had rushed to the capital to take care of Zhu Chengqi. People might even misunderstand that Wang Yang was a Zhu instead of a Wang and was Zhu Chengqi's biological son.

Initially, there had been nothing much but he had overdone some things. People were no fools nor were they blind. They could tell whether Wang Yang was being sincere to Zhu Chengqi.

Knowing that Zhu Chengqi was toeing the line of death, that Wang Yang was the only relative Zhu Chengqi had left on earth, and how Wang Yang took care of Zhu Chengqi, there were many people who speculated that Zhu Chengqi would leave all of the Zhu family's assets to Wang Yang once he passed away. As such, there were many people who tried to suck up to Wang Yang and get close to him. These people were hoping that Wang Yang would take good care of them once he inherited the Zhu family's assets.

But there were others who looked down on Wang Yang and felt that he was only treating Zhu Chengqi well because of his assets. No matter how much they looked down on Wang Yang, they were still jealous of Wang Yang's good fortune. Why couldn't they have an uncle like Zhu Chengqi who had power and status but lacked a son of his own?

Everyone understood that. Even if they were not waiting for Zhu Chengqi's death, they were waiting to see if Wang Yang would indeed be able to rise up like a dragon once Zhu Chengqi passed on.

Even though Zhai Sheng did not mention Wang Yang's name, Qiao Nan knew right away that Zhai Sheng was talking about him. It was because of that that Qiao Nan got upset. Only she knew that Wang Yang had caused Zhu Baoguo's death. But she had no evidence. Besides, so many years had passed. There was no way of pursuing the matter anymore.

Seeing that everything that should have belonged to Zhu Baoguo was about to land in Wang Yang's hands, Qiao Nan was in a foul mood. In her dream, Qiao Nan had regarded Zhu Baoguo almost as a son and had even taken care of him like he was her younger brother.

Even though Zhu Baoguo had passed away a long time ago and she had not been able to meet Zhu Baoguo in this lifetime, Qiao Nan's feelings toward Zhu Baoguo had not changed. For Zhu Baoguo's sake, Qiao Nan refused to be on good terms with Wang Yang. She had wanted to find a way to teach Wang Yang a lesson and let him have a taste of his own medicine.

Unfortunately, she was in no place to do that now that she was pregnant. She even had to watch others suck up to Wang Yang because of the Zhu family.

Zhai Sheng caressed Qiao Nan's head and tried to convince her. "Don't get upset. Wang Yang won't be able to be happy for long." He wanted to tell Nan Nan about certain things, but some people were holding him back. That was just as well, in case Nan Nan thought too much about it and was unable to sleep at night.

Qiao Nan pouted. "What do you mean? I'm afraid that Wang Yang will enjoy this forever!" If Wang Yang really got hold of the Zhu family's assets, would there really be a day when he would be down on luck?

"That won't happen, Nan Nan. Don't you think you're underestimating Chief Zhu?" He had no idea why Nan Nan hated Wang Yang so much but Wang Yang was problematic indeed. He could feel that. Even if Chief Zhu had not known that in the beginning, he would probably have realized that by now. "Wang Yang's good days now mean nothing. Once Wang Yang feels as though he's succeeded, he'll soon realize that he's actually failed. Don't you like that?"

That would be exciting!

Because Qiao Nan hated Wang Yang, and Zhu Chengqi had already made his decision, Zhai Sheng could only try to do his best as the middleman.

“What do you mean?” Qiao Nan’s eyes glinted. “Are you hiding something from me?”

Seeing Qiao Nan, who had had her back to him, suddenly turn toward him in joy at this news, the usually calm and indifferent Zhai Sheng was taken aback. “Nonsense! Don’t move so suddenly. Is your stomach comfortable?”

Her protruding belly was like a bunch of twisted hemp flowers. Zhai Sheng felt that Qiao Nan had not twisted her body but his heart. “Are you really alright? Does it hurt?”

“No, not at all. It’s fine.” Qiao Nan patted her stomach gently as though she were patting a watermelon. She was so happy in that moment that she had nearly forgotten the reason she had been admitted. “Also, stop beating around the bush. What did you mean earlier? What happened to Wang Yang? What are you hiding from me? You’d better be honest.”

“I’m not telling you.” Zhai Sheng was slightly angry. “Nan Nan, this is between the Zhu family and Wang Yang. Don’t you think you’re caring about the wrong things?”

“But I said that Zhu Chengqi is like my dad!” Although he was just a godfather, her concern toward Zhu Chengqi was no less than that toward a biological father.

Zhai Sheng was doomed to lose against Qiao Nan. Now, Qiao Nan was not alone. With the three babies in her stomach, it was four against one. Qiao Nan had four on her side while Zhai Sheng was alone.

Stroking Qiao Nan’s head and glancing at her stomach, Zhai Sheng had no other choice. “Alright, alright. You just have to know that Chief Zhu isn’t as weak as you think. As an old chief, an old fox, and an old hunter, one needs nine lives and tremendous courage to plot against someone like Chief Zhu.” In short, he wouldn’t be taken advantage of so easily.

Qiao Nan was confused by Zhai Sheng, but she understood that Zhu Chengqi would not be tricked by Wang Yang so easily.

“Do you mean that Chief Zhu already knows about it?” He knew that Wang Yang had something to do with Zhu Baoguo’s death.

“I guess he has his suspicions. It’s not like going to court. He doesn’t necessarily need to have solid evidence if he has his suspicions.” Chief Zhu had no intention of punishing Wang Yang with the law, but that did not mean that he would let the matter slide just like that. Everyone had to pay a price for his own actions. It was just a matter of when that would happen.

He had never expected Wang Yang to be so ‘capable’ and to have something to do with Zhu Baoguo’s death. Actually, Zhu Chengqi had been the one to tell Zhai Sheng about all these. Zhai Sheng had been rather surprised when he first learned about it too. “Nan Nan, how did you know about Zhu Baoguo’s matter?”

Zhu Chengqi himself had only suspected Wang Yang so many years after the incident. Nan Nan did not even have anything to do with the Zhu family, so why had she had such suspicions?

Qiao Nan suddenly lost her spirit, as though she had suddenly faced a huge blow. “If I said that I overheard it one day, would you believe me?” She remembered that she had not felt anything on the day of Zhu Baoguo’s death in this lifetime.

That day, she had taken the same path and had heard something going on inside. It seemed like there was a fight going on. Qiao Nan had been frightened by that and had immediately taken another route. When she met someone afterward, she made a mention of that. How was she to know that it had not been a fight but a whole bunch of people beating Zhu Baoguo up?

It was because no one knew that Zhu Baoguo was the one being beaten up that the incident had not attracted much attention in the beginning. By the time someone went over, Zhu Baoguo had already been seriously injured. Seeing that Zhu Baoguo was in a critical condition, the gangsters who had beaten him up immediately fled. By the time Zhu Baoguo was admitted into the hospital, it was too late. Actually, Zhu Baoguo had already lost his vital signs along the way to the hospital.

Because she had been too late, Zhu Baoguo had not been saved like he had been in Qiao Nan’s dream. Qiao Nan had been rather affected by that incident. Perhaps, it was because of this that Qiao Nan had forgotten many things except this in her dream. She had saved Zhu Baoguo to make up for her regrets in the real world.

When Qiao Nan recalled this situation after waking up, she could not help but suspect that Wang Yang had intended to do something more than ruining her reputation in front of Zhu Chengqi by sending Chen Jun to her. It was because she had found Zhu Baoguo in time that he had been found in time and rescued.

Since Zhu Baoguo was still alive, that meant that Wang Yang could be exposed at any time. Only when Zhu Baoguo took his last breath and could no longer out him would Wang Yang cease worrying. Before that, Wang Yang was being constantly tortured. It was because of that that Wang Yang had wanted to get his revenge on her and let her have a taste of his fear and suffering.

“So that’s the case.” Zhai Sheng finally understood why Qiao Nan cared so deeply about the Zhu family, why she was particularly stubborn when it came to Zhu Chengqi, and why she hated Wang Yang so deeply. Anyone who encountered such a situation in their teens would surely have a deep impression of the incident and hate the culprit. Moreover, Zhai Sheng had already found out that Wang Yang had specifically gotten Chen Jun to create trouble. Wang Yang had wronged Qiao Nan. “Chief Zhu and I will take care of this. Wang Yang may still be alive but he won’t have a good life from now on. Sometimes, being alive is worse than dying.”

Wang Yang had been too ambitious and greedy. Because of that, he had exposed too many of his weaknesses and it would be easy to deal with him. Seeing as to how Chief Zhu’s health was deteriorating by the day, Wang Yang would probably be rejoicing at this very moment.

Zhai Sheng could not wait to see how Wang Yang would look once Wang Yang realized that everything he yearned for that belonged to the Zhu family would never go to him. “The Chen family isn’t very clean. Do you mind?” He had heard that Nan Nan treated the child quite well.

That child was a Chen, and if anything went wrong with the Chen family, that child would definitely be affected.

Qiao Nan had not expected Zhai Sheng to have done so many things for her during her pregnancy. He had even set his target on the Chen family and was only waiting for a chance to deal with them once and for all. “There’s no need to overthink it. Let’s just follow our conscience. If the Chen family is clean, we won’t do anything to them. If they’re not, we can’t be blamed for anything that happens.”

“Alright, I understand.” Wang Yang and the Chen family were all fair game. Neither of them was close to Nan Nan. Actually, ordinary citizens like Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin were harder to deal with. But the relationship between them and Nan Nan was truly too special, and given their statuses,

they wouldn't be able to do anything too heinous anyway. They could simply rely on the law to punish them.

After the couple's discussion, Zhai Sheng asked Qiao Nan not to think about these matters anymore and to rest.

Coincidentally, Qiao Zijin, who had been worrying about having no chance to get close to Qiao Nan, and having Qiao Dongliang hang up on her the moment she mentioned moving in with him, received a call from the most unlikely person. "Hello, who are you?"

Initially, Qiao Zijin had not wanted to pick up the call from the unfamiliar number. This phone number was not only unfamiliar, but it was not even from Ping Cheng. She knew no one from that city that this phone number was from, so Qiao Zijin rejected it without much thought. The strange thing was that the other party had called her three separate times. That was why Qiao Zijin had finally picked up the call.

"It's me."

This voice was so foreign that Qiao Zijin almost couldn't remember it. "It's you? Did the sun rise in the west today? Why are you calling me? That's not right. You got a new number and mine is new too. How did you get my number?"

Chen Jun touched his forehead. "Have you forgotten which sector I work in?" As someone in the government sector, it was not difficult for him to look up such information. All he had to do was make a call to the local police station in Ping Cheng to ask for the Qiao family's details.

"Hehehe..." Qiao Zijin sneered. "It's been a year. Why are you suddenly calling me?" If he had nothing, Chen Jun would probably hope never to see her ever again in his life.. In this one year that they'd been apart, Qiao Zijin had already gotten used to that.

Chapter 2163: Joke

It was rare for Chen Jun to be calling her. What could have forced Chen Jun to call his ex-wife, who had cheated on him? "Is there something wrong with Feng Feng?"

"No, Feng Feng is fine." Of course, Chen Jun would care about his only son. "I'm calling you because I want you to help me get in touch with Qiao Nan. Is she in the capital? If possible, I'd like

to treat her and Zhai Sheng to a meal. After all, we were all a family. It wouldn't be bad to get to know them better.”

Up until now, Chen Jun could not figure out whether he felt more regret or more anger.

The previous time he had made a trip specially down to Qingshui Town to request for reconciliation, not only had he been rejected by Qiao Nan, but he had even been beaten up! He had never faced such humiliation in his entire life. It seemed as though his life had been on a downward spiral ever since he met this pair of sisters.

Even though that person was the one who held his heart, the selfish Chen Jun would still choose to give her up because she had embarrassed him. It was just like how he had unhesitatingly chosen to get a divorce from Qiao Zijin the moment he found out that Qiao Zijin had been cheating on him.

Years ago, when he had had the deepest feelings for Qiao Nan, he had chosen Qiao Zijin as his wife after bedding her. Now that so many years had passed, his feelings for her had faded too. Chen Jun decided to simply find a young and beautiful twenty-five-year-old to get married to instead.

With his background, would he have to worry about not being able to find a pretty wife?

As for the problem of having a stepmother, Chen Jun was not so foolish. Otherwise, given his style, Chen Feng would have gotten many younger siblings by now. Besides, Father and Mother Chen loved their grandson, Chen Feng, very much. As such, they would never let their new daughter-in-law do anything to their precious grandson.

As long as she prioritized Chen Feng and served him well, did not drag Chen Jun down, the Chen family didn't care about whether she wanted to give birth to her own children. Of course, if she did want to have her own children, there was no way that child would ever have as much as Chen Feng, whether it be a boy or a girl. Nonetheless, that child would still grow up having much more than an ordinary child.

Even though the Chen family had come up with such conditions, there had already been someone who had agreed to marry Chen Jun and to be Chen Feng's stepmother even before the new year. Hugging his tender and young wife, Chen Jun was so happy that he had almost forgotten about that old woman, Qiao Nan.

He had thought that that would be his life. Once he got remarried, there would eventually come a day when he would forget about Qiao Nan completely. But that was not to be. Chen Jun was

determined to forget his only failure with Qiao Nan, but what happened afterward made him recall the existence of Qiao Nan.

With Wang Yang's help, Chen Jun had climbed the ladder at a much greater speed than others. After being promoted and leaving Ping Cheng, Chen Jun thought that his path ahead would be smooth-sailing. But reality threw Chen Jun a curveball.

As the saying went, it was always good to know people in power.

Without help from those in high positions, one would eventually fall from grace no matter how far one climbed up.

That was exactly why Chen Jun's work had not gone smoothly lately. His friends, whom he had been on good terms with in the past, were now ignoring him. Those who had some conscience secretly let him know that someone was trying to catch a chink in his armor and asked him to tidy up his matters. Otherwise, no one would be able to save him once he was caught.

Upon hearing that, Chen Jun was stunned. His career was on the rise. Wasn't it a time for him to get better and better? Who was the one who was trying to drag him down at such a time? With no other choice, Chen Jun could only think of one person who could help him: Wang Yang.

Unfortunately, because Zhu Chengqi was still alive, Wang Yang had to stay by Zhu Chengqi's side. He had no time for Chen Jun. Besides, as long as Zhu Chengqi was still breathing, none of the Zhu family's assets belonged to Wang Yang. Even if Wang Yang wanted to help Chen Jun, he had no means to do so. Only if the Zhu family's assets were transferred to him would he be able to help Chen Jun out.

Wang Yang instructed Chen Jun to find out who was trying to deal with him. Besides, Qiao Nan had gotten married to Zhai Sheng. No matter what, Qiao Zijin was Chen Jun's ex-wife and Chen Feng's biological mother. There were still feelings between them and they still had Chen Feng!

As such, there was already a paved road in front of Chen Jun. He would simply have to find the Qiao family and get in contact with Zhai Sheng.

In fact, if Chen Jun had not gotten a divorce from Qiao Zijin, he would have been Zhai Sheng's brother-in-law. No one would dare to target the brother-in-law of Zhai Sheng. As such, Chen Jun had to ask the Qiao family for help. Zhai Sheng's order would ensure that Chen Jun would no

longer have any problems, and the person who had caused trouble for Chen Jun would find himself in trouble.

It was because of this conversation with Wang Yang that Chen Jun had a tinge of regret. How was he supposed to know that Zhai Sheng would choose Qiao Nan out of all the women out there? If he had not gotten a divorce from Qiao Zijin, he would have become Zhai Sheng's brother-in-law!

Although Qiao Zijin did not have a good relationship with Qiao Nan, he was sure that he would still be able to climb even higher than he had done with such a relationship. It was all Qiao Zijin's fault for getting into an affair, causing him to demand a divorce.

If Qiao Zijin had not cheated on him, he would have been Zhai Sheng's brother-in-law, and Qiao Zijin would still have been the Chen family's daughter-in-law. How nice that would be. But Qiao Zijin had ruined everything. Although both daughters of the Qiao family jinxed themselves, it seemed like Qiao Zijin was a bigger jinx.

"Hahaha... Chen Jun, that's the funniest joke I've heard this year. We're divorced. How can we still be a family? Tell me. Are you married or are you still single? Since you've already gotten remarried, don't you think it's funny that you're trying to acknowledge your ex-wife's family as your own?" Qiao Zijin could not understand Chen Jun's logic.

Chen Jun was the kind of man who needed women by his side. She had already been divorced from him for almost two years, while Qiao Nan had already been married for almost a year.

Chapter 2164: Why

Could Chen Jun really have gone so long without having a woman? Of course not, unless something was wrong with his body.

Chen Jun was pretentious too. Although he didn't like Qiao Zijin, he would still occasionally be intimate with Qiao Zijin over the years. There was once Chen Jun had gotten drunk and had let slip that he was willing to touch her because she was his wife and was 'cleaner' than all those women outside.

In other words, Chen Jun had the habit of having a clean woman at home for him to 'use'. Would a man like this be able to hold off marriage? Even without Chen Jun's reply, Qiao Zijin already knew the answer.

Qiao Zijin had seen through Chen Jun. She knew that Chen Jun had harbored such deep feelings for Qiao Nan for so many years exactly because of Qiao Nan's respect and love for herself. Even when Qiao Nan and Chen Jun had been dating, she would always keep her distance from Chen Jun and refuse to give herself to him until they were married.

After they broke up and up until Qiao Nan had gotten married to Zhai Sheng, she had remained a virgin. Chen Jun was a wild playboy but he liked women like Qiao Nan.

It was exactly because of that that Qiao Zijin couldn't understand why the remarried Chen Jun had the guts to call her, saying that they were still a family and that they should have a meal together. Qiao Zijin chuckled. She had never heard a better joke than this. "If you want to treat someone to a meal, you'd better treat your current wife's family. We're already divorced. My family has nothing to do with you. Do you understand? Zhai Sheng? Zhai Sheng is my brother-in-law." Of course, he would soon become her husband.

While Zhai Sheng was still her brother-in-law, she would never let Zhai Sheng have anything to do with Chen Jun. Once she married Zhai Sheng, she would already be kind if she asked Zhai Sheng not to deal with the Chen family for all they had done in the past. Chen Jun could dream on about Zhai Sheng helping him.

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Having been married for over ten years, Qiao Zijin knew what Chen Jun was thinking of. Chen Jun could never even dream about having a relationship with Zhai Sheng or the Zhai family in the past. Now that Qiao Nan had married Zhai Sheng, it had become possible. But that was only if he had not divorced her.

She thought about how she had sobbed and begged Chen Jun not to divorce her and to give her another chance. At that time, Chen Jun had been nasty and evil, looking at her as though she was a pest. Now, he was even asking for a favor with such an arrogant tone. He could dream on!

"..." Chen Jun was not at all surprised that Qiao Zijin would be so proud. He understood Qiao Zijin's temper and personality well. "It's been almost two years but you've never come to visit Feng Feng. Don't you miss your son? I'll take this opportunity to bring Feng Feng over."

Talking about it, Chen Jun felt that Qiao Zijin was rather heartless. It was not that strange for her to treat her biological younger sister, Qiao Nan, in that way. But ever since the divorce, Qiao Zijin had never been back to the Chen family's house to visit her own son. 'Coincidentally', Chen Feng had never made any mention of his mom, Qiao Zijin, either.

"Feng Feng..." She didn't want to see Chen Jun, but the mention of her son made her hesitate. "You should know how we got together. You might not know this, but before Qiao Nan got married to Zhai Sheng, I had an idea. I knew that you hadn't given up your feelings for Qiao Nan, so I was thinking that it would be nice for Qiao Nan to be Feng Feng's stepmother. That way, I would be able to fulfill your wishes so that you would treat Feng Feng better. Moreover, since Feng Feng has already grown up, there would also be no need for Qiao Nan to give birth to any more children at her age. Although I never got the chance to bring this up to Qiao Nan, do you think she would have agreed to it?"

When she had first gotten married to Chen Jun, Qiao Nan had treated her pretty well, but that was not the case toward Chen Jun. Qiao Nan treated Chen Jun as a brother-in-law. Not only did she avoid getting close to Chen Jun, but she even actively avoided him. She had never once seen Chen Jun and Qiao Nan together without anyone else around.

Why was that the case?

After some time, Qiao Zijin naturally realized that Chen Jun had feelings for Qiao Nan, but Qiao Nan refused to accept it and avoided Chen Jun at all cost. In short, Chen Jun had never given up his feelings for Qiao Nan but Qiao Nan felt nothing toward him anymore. Qiao Nan had never thought of seducing Chen Jun to get revenge against her.

Since Qiao Nan did not even want to get revenge on her by seducing Chen Jun, it was clear that Qiao Nan had no feelings for Chen Jun at all. In fact, Qiao Nan might probably still hate Chen Jun for having done that to her.

Qiao Nan's attitude toward Chen Jun had already been that way before the divorce. Now that she was Chen Jun's ex-wife and Qiao Nan didn't even want to get in contact with her own sister, who was Chen Jun as an ex-brother-in-law? He wanted to have a meal with Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng? Only Chen Jun could say something as shameless as that.

"..." Chen Jun hadn't even thought about it in that way. Before the divorce, the couple had hardly shared the same thoughts. But after their divorce, they seemed to be on the same wavelength regarding this matter.

Knowing that Qiao Nan had not only gotten married before the age of forty after he had given up on her but had even married someone a thousand times better than him, Chen Jun was bitter.

If Qiao Nan had not gotten married or had found someone worse off than him after that rejection, Chen Jun would probably not be so sour. After leaving him, shouldn't Qiao Zijin and Qiao Nan's lives be getting worse?

Qiao Zijin didn't seem to be living very well, but Qiao Nan... It went without saying that marrying Zhai Sheng and becoming the chief's wife made Qiao Nan a winner in life. There was nothing better than that.

"We're all relatives. Besides, she's always doted on Feng Feng. I think she wouldn't refuse to meet Feng Feng, right?" At this time, Chen Jun was thankful that Chen Feng had a cordial relationship with Qiao Nan, giving him an excuse to find the Qiao family. If not for Chen Feng, it would be difficult for him to get in contact with Qiao Zijin or Qiao Nan.

Qiao Zijin snorted. "Do you really not know why I always threw Feng Feng over to Qiao Nan before our divorce? Or are you pretending to be stupid?"

Chapter 2165: Going to Deliver the Babies

"I was using Feng Feng to provoke Qiao Nan and laugh at her failure. Not only did she have to take care of a child that caused her to break up with you, but she even had to treat him well. I only did that to make Qiao Nan suffer and prove to her that my life was better than hers. It was to remind her to be obedient to me and not try to rebel against me."

Chen Feng's existence was like Chen Jun being snatched away by Qiao Zijin. They were both great shames in Qiao Nan's life.

Chen Jun had asked Qiao Nan to face her own shame and to show concern for him. Wasn't it truly ridiculous that he had come up with such an idea?

"Don't put it that way and make me sound like an idiot. Didn't you say that you once thought of getting Qiao Nan to marry me and be Feng Feng's stepmother so that I would get my way and Feng Feng would be well taken care of? Don't you think that that idea is even more stupid?"

To Feng Feng, Qiao Nan was his younger aunt.

There was nothing wrong with an aunt looking after her nephew. But it was ridiculous to expect a woman to marry her brother-in-law just to take care of her nephew. This was not a historical drama series! How could Qiao Zijin think of such an impractical and unrealistic plan? Qiao Zijin truly had no right to be so proud in front of Chen Jun.

Talk was cheap. Anyone could do that.

“We’re the same. Stop using such sarcasm. Do you want to join in for the meal?” Was she going to help him out so that he would have a chance to meet Zhai Sheng?

Qiao Zijin sighed. “Even if I want to help you, I’m in no place to do it. If you’re in a good place, Feng Feng will prosper in the future. Even if it’s for Feng Feng’s sake, I should help you. You’re no longer my husband, but Feng Feng is still my son.”

“It’s good that you know that.” Chen Jun breathed a sigh of relief. He was worried that Qiao Zijin would think that she was of a higher status now that Qiao Nan had married Zhai Sheng and would be arrogant in front of him. That would make it difficult to implement his plan.

Qiao Zijin had not gone over her head just because Zhai Sheng was her brother-in-law. She still had a little bit of common sense left.

“So...” Chen Jun wanted to ask when Qiao Zijin would arrange for the meal since she was going to help out in this matter, even if it was just for the sake of her son, Feng Feng, and not him.

But Qiao Zijin’s words were a slap in Chen Jun’s face. She told Chen Jun not to count his eggs before they hatched. “But you know about my relationship with Qiao Nan. She doesn’t like you and your relationship with her might be different now. Qiao Nan is no longer as gullible and easily manipulated. If she was, would there have been such a huge scandal when I had contracted uremia in the first place? Qiao Nan has changed. In the past, she only treated you as a brother-in-law, but now, she might not even be willing to acknowledge me as her sister.”

Before Qiao Nan had gotten married to Zhai Sheng, she had listened to Qiao Zijin well and had always helped her out. But after getting married to Zhai Sheng, she had the power and ability to

help her even more, but she refused to even acknowledge her family. She wouldn't even help her get a lowly civil service job. That was why she was still unemployed.

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How would a Qiao Nan like that agree to have a meal with her or even bring Zhai Sheng along?

If it was so easy, would she still be in such a struggle that she would even bother talking to Chen Jun? She would have taken advantage of her status as Qiao Nan's sister, moved in with the Zhai family, and gotten close to them and Zhai Sheng to lay a solid foundation for her marriage to Zhai Sheng.

"Why don't you give it a try? How would you know that you'll fail if you don't even try? Qiao Nan is not such a heartless person." Apart from the fact that Qiao Nan had rejected his request for reconciliation and had even found someone to beat him up, the Qiao Nan he knew was a softhearted and family-oriented woman. The Qiao Nan that Qiao Zijin described was too foreign to Chen Jun.

"He..." Bystanders were able to see the full picture the clearest. Somehow, after speaking with Chen Jun, Qiao Zijin had a slight realization that her plan and goal seemed a little ridiculous. Qiao Nan refused to see her because of the same reason she refused to see Chen Jun. If Qiao Nan couldn't accept Chen Jun, she might not accept her elder sister either.

But she was different from Chen Jun. Chen Jun had no blood relations with Qiao Nan, so it was natural for her to kick him to the side. She was different. She and Qiao Nan shared the same parents. Based on this alone, she was a thousand times better than Chen Jun. "Fine. Since you're so persistent, I'll see if I can help you out. But it won't be so soon."

"Why?" Since she had already agreed to help out, she should do it straight away. Did she have to check the calendar and find an auspicious date?

The corners of Qiao Zijin's lips curled up into a cold sneer. "Do you really not know, or are you pretending to be dumb? You dared make this call without even knowing Qiao Nan's condition? You're really quite bold. No, where did your confidence come from? Qiao Nan has been married to Zhai Sheng for almost a year. Even an idiot would know that Qiao Nan is pregnant with Zhai Sheng's child. She's about to give birth. Do you think she'll have time for a meal with her ex-brother-in-law?"

Given Qiao Nan's current status, no one would be able to invite a pregnant lady like Qiao Nan out for a meal, unless he was an extremely important official. There was no way Qiao Nan would bother about Chen Jun, with whom she had such a complicated relationship.

"She's about to give birth?" Chen Jun had not expected that at all. After that rejection, Chen Jun had chosen to ignore all news regarding Qiao Nan, especially after Qiao Nan had gotten married to Zhai Sheng.

If not for the fact that he had gotten into some trouble recently and needed help from Zhai Sheng, he was prepared never to contact the Qiao family again. Anyway, Zhu Chengqi wouldn't last for very much longer. He had played an important role in helping Wang Yang secure the Zhu family's assets. Wang Yang had already promised him that he would help him out then.

As such, Chen Jun preferred to follow Wang Yang.. After all, he had paved that road for himself step by step.

Chapter 2166: Concern

Qiao Nan already knew that Chen Jun had made a shady deal with Wang Yang, but there was still something that Qiao Nan didn't know. It was that Chen Jun had thought of betraying Wang Yang to spend the rest of his life with her.

If Wang Yang inherited all of the Zhu family's assets, the Zhu family's power and authority would never be Chen Jun's no matter how much Wang Yang helped him. Wang Yang would still be in the equation. In fact, it would all depend on how much Wang Yang was willing to help him.

On the other hand, if Qiao Nan had indeed become Zhu Chengqi's goddaughter and received all of the Zhu family's assets, all of that would become his once he married Qiao Nan. Then, he wouldn't even need to rely on anyone else. It would be easier for him to climb up that way. Perhaps, he could even reach the very top.

Wang Yang was no fool and knew that Chen Jun was rather scheming as well. Chen Jun had not approached Qiao Nan with pure intentions in the first place. As such, before Chen Jun had done anything concrete, Wang Yang had warned Chen Jun that he would expose his deeds to Qiao Nan if he dared to do anything funny.

If that happened, there was no way Qiao Nan would continue being in a relationship with Chen Jun, and there was no longer a point in helping Chen Jun either. Not only would he stop helping Chen Jun, but he would also take back all those advantages the Chen family had already enjoyed. Chen Jun was intelligent and he did not wish for such a situation to occur. Hence, he had no choice but to buckle down and live his life honestly. Sometimes, that was an intelligent choice.

Very quickly, Chen Jun got rid of all those memories. Even though he had already gotten divorced from Qiao Zijin, no one could know about the deal he had cut out with Wang Yang, especially not Qiao Nan. If Qiao Nan were to find out about it, there was no way he would stand to gain from Zhai Sheng anymore.

As long as he managed to pull some strings with the Zhai family, he would never have to worry about his career development in the future with the help from both the Zhai family and Wang Yang.

“When... when is she due?” In the blink of an eye, not only had he gotten remarried, but Qiao Nan had even gotten pregnant after getting married.

“She’s eight months pregnant with triplets, so it’ll probably be a premature birth. She is currently in the hospital.” Qiao Zijin had no qualms about sharing this piece of ‘good news’ with Chen Jun. “I don’t know if I’ve told you but my grandpa was a triplet too. I heard that it’s genetics. Don’t you think that Qiao Nan is really lucky?”

What good fortune! Indeed, three children could be good fortune to the Zhai family, but it was not necessarily so for Qiao Nan as a mom. Because of the existence of these three children, Qiao Nan’s life was on the line.

“Qiao Nan is turning forty this year, right? And she’s pregnant with three? Is it dangerous? What did the doctor say? How could Zhai Sheng allow her to do that? Does he only care about the children and not the mother?” Chen Jun was anxious. Even he himself was unsure of whether he was simply concerned about Qiao Nan, or whether he was worried that he would never be able to take advantage of the Zhai family if Qiao Nan were to pass away. Perhaps, it was a mix of these two feelings.

Qiao Zijin gritted her teeth. “She’s fine. She’s Zhai Sheng’s wife, not yours.. You seemed rather concerned about her.”

Chapter 2167: Qiao Nan’s the Best

“Why? Is your new wife not as pretty as Qiao Nan? Is she not as considerate or good-natured as Qiao Nan? That can’t be. You liked Qiao Nan so much. Why didn’t you find one like Qiao Nan? Since you already have a new one, why do you still care about the old one?”

Qiao Zijin was truly jealous of Chen Jun’s feelings toward Qiao Nan. Even a playboy like Chen Jun could be so nervous about a woman, and that woman was her own biological younger sister, no less. Although she had snatched Chen Jun away from Qiao Nan in name, Qiao Zijin felt that she had never once held Chen Jun’s heart.

Even when she had been in excruciating pain while giving birth to Chen Feng, Chen Jun had not even been this anxious.

Qiao Zijin was used to being pampered from a young age and had never suffered much. Childbirth was a pain that she had never once experienced in her life. Qiao Zijin nearly gave up on giving birth to that child.

But her water bag had burst and she had had no other choice.

Since that was the case, Qiao Zijin decided to undergo a cesarean section. She couldn’t take the pain anymore. If she were to undergo a cesarean section, she would feel nothing and would even be able to forgo the terrible childbirth process since the doctors would simply administer anesthetic and cut her abdomen to get the child out. Qiao Zijin couldn’t care less about how she would have to recuperate from that operation.

Who would have expected Chen Jun to reject Qiao Zijin’s request? Natural birth was better for both the mother and child, so it was best for Qiao Zijin to endure the pain. In the end, Chen Jun had reluctantly agreed and signed the papers for a cesarean section after watching Qiao Zijin struggle for more than an hour.

At that time, she had been in such pain that death was a preferable option to her. But Chen Jun had still remained calm and could even reason that a natural birth would be better for her and the child. Now, Qiao Nan had not even given birth. All Chen Jun knew was that Qiao Nan had been admitted into the hospital as a precaution and yet, he was already so worried. “Qiao Nan married Zhai Sheng and became the chief’s wife. Does she still need your concern? If you really want to care for someone, why don’t you care for your new wife? Qiao Nan is about to give birth. You couldn’t have gotten married later than Qiao Nan, right? How’s it going? Is Feng Feng going to get another brother or sister?”

At this moment, Qiao Zijin could not care less about Chen Jun's concern toward Qiao Nan. If Chen Jun were to have a second child, that child would definitely steal some of Chen Jun's love away from Chen Feng, whether it be a girl or a boy. The existence of that child would definitely be a great threat to Chen Feng, who did not have his mother around.

"You don't have to... Thank you for your concern. I have a good relationship with my wife. You know very well that Feng Feng's studies are very important, so I've already discussed it with my wife. We'll think about that only after Feng Feng finishes his high school examination. Anyway, my wife is still young. Another two years won't matter to her. As for me, I'm working out to maintain my body. It won't be difficult to get my wife pregnant. Alright, let me know when Qiao Nan gives birth. I'll have to send something over to welcome the three children."

Chen Jun could very obviously hear Qiao Zijin's jealousy in her voice. Yes, he was still unable to put down the past and his relationship with Qiao Nan. He hadn't found his new wife based on Qiao Nan? Chen Jun had realized after his wedding that this woman was indeed quite similar to Qiao Nan.

It was just as well that Qiao Nan was giving birth. He would have an excuse to visit the three children. If nothing else worked, he would say that Feng Feng was finally an elder brother and wanted to meet his three younger siblings. That would probably work.

Triplets... Qiao Nan had good fortune indeed.

As for whether to worry about Qiao Nan, Chen Jun thought that it was rather ridiculous. Qiao Nan was Zhai Sheng's wife. Given the Zhai family's position and status, there was no way the Zhai family would not be anxious now that Qiao Nan was pregnant. Perhaps, they had already found the best obstetrician and gynecologist in the entire country to deliver Qiao Nan's children.

Given Qiao Nan's situation, if even Zhai Sheng could not keep Qiao Nan, she might never have gotten the chance to be a mother in her entire lifetime.

"Alright, I've bothered you for quite a while. I'll see when I get the chance." With that, Chen Jun hung up the call. If he had not had urgent matters, Chen Jun would not have bothered listening to Qiao Zijin's sour tone all day. Before they had gotten divorced, this was exactly how Qiao Zijin had spoken as well. It was unsettling and uncomfortable to listen to.

"You..." Qiao Zijin's face flushed red in anger when the call ended. She threw her phone down on the bed. "My dad hung up on me, and now, Chen Jun hung up on me too. Chen Jun, who are you? Don't forget that you were the one to call me first! What right do you have to hang up on me? I'll be

a fool if I agree to help you with this. You can dream on about taking advantage of Zhai Sheng! You'll never get your way as long as I'm alive!"

Qiao Zijin swore to herself that once she married Zhai Sheng, not only would she not help Chen Jun, but she would even try to drag Chen Jun down. She was clear about the Chen family's situation, having been part of the family for over ten years. The Chen family was not particularly clean. At the very most, they were slightly more cautious than an average person when dealing with matters.

It would be easy for her to expose the Chen family and Chen Jun for having received gifts from others. She would make Chen Jun regret the things he had done to her and for hanging up on her today.

Qiao Nan had good fortune? Nonsense! She was the one who had good fortune! So what if Qiao Nan had been in a relationship with Chen Jun? She was the one who had gotten married to him in the end. This time, it would be no different with Zhai Sheng. Qiao Nan would always be the one whose hard work benefitted someone else. All good things in the world were hers alone!

After throwing a tantrum, Qiao Zijin quickly calmed down. Now, she was even more determined to meet Qiao Nan and gain her trust so that Qiao Nan would agree to let her take care of the three children. As long as she succeeded, she would definitely return the humiliation she had faced at Chen Jun's hands a thousand times over. Zhai Sheng was the only way she would be able to achieve that goal of hers.

"Dad!" Qiao Dongliang was holding the soup that he stewed for Qiao Nan. Who would have known that he would be stopped at the door to the hospital by Qiao Zijin? "Why are you here?"

Qiao Zijin smiled and lifted up the fruits in her hand. "Same as you. I'm here to see Nan Nan."

Chapter 2168: Eating Together

"Let's go, Dad. We shouldn't let Nan Nan wait." God knew how long she had been waiting at the door with the basket of fruits.

Qiao Zijin had already thought it through. There was no way she would be allowed into the hospital alone, but Qiao Dongliang could. She didn't believe that she would be stopped if she entered alongside her dad. "Dad, let's hurry!" Qiao Zijin was thankful that she had caught her father at the door on the very first day she had come up with such a plan and that she had not needed to wait several days before running into him.

Qiao Dongliang's expression was bitter. "If you're here to see Nan Nan, why don't you go in?"

"I was about to go in but I saw you!" The father-daughter pair seemed to be playing a game with each other. Qiao Zijin knew what Qiao Dongliang meant and put on an act for him. So what if Qiao Dongliang knew that she had waited for him to visit Qiao Nan together? No one could stop her from doing that, and her father would never abandon her to visit Qiao Nan alone.

Even if her dad really abandoned her, it wouldn't matter to her. Would her dad really ditch her at the door? If she was that useless, it was better not to scheme against Zhai Sheng.

With his arm in Qiao Zijin's, Qiao Dongliang could not even distance himself from her. As soon as he took a step, Qiao Zijin would follow suit. Qiao Zijin had never been so sticky to Qiao Dongliang, even in her childhood. Unfortunately, this was not a heart-warming scene. Contrarily, this intimate action served only to widen the distance between them.

"Nan Nan, I'm here to see you." The moment the door to the ward opened, Qiao Zijin announced loudly as though she was afraid that her presence was unnoticeable. Qiao Zijin sized up Zhai Sheng and bowed slightly to squeeze into the room through the small space in the door. "Nan Nan, look. I've brought your favorite fruits. I rushed to the capital just to see you. Are you surprised? You're my younger sister, and now that you're giving birth, how could I not be here for you? You were the one taking care of me when I gave birth to Feng Feng. There are times I can't help but wonder if I would have been able to give birth to Feng Feng safely if not for you. No wonder Feng Feng is so close to you. You're important to us."

Anyone who heard Qiao Zijin's words would have misunderstood that Qiao Zijin and Qiao Nan had a close relationship. When the elder sister gave birth, the younger sister had taken care of her. Now that the younger sister was pregnant, the elder sister had traveled thousands of miles to take care of her younger sister. What a loving pair of sisters!

Qiao Nan blinked but remained silent, allowing Qiao Zijin to continue with her monologue.

It was only when Qiao Zijin brought the freshly-cut watermelon to her door that the silence was broken. "Nan Nan, this is your favorite watermelon. You loved it when you were younger, but unfortunately, our family wasn't very well-to-do and only bought one watermelon at a time. I couldn't resist buying it because of how much you like it."

"..."

“...”

Apart from Zhai Sheng who did not know about Qiao Nan's childhood, Qiao Dongliang and both his daughters were clear about how Qiao Nan had spent her childhood.

Eating watermelon?

When had Qiao Nan ever gotten a chance to do that? Putting aside the question of whether she liked it, Qiao Nan had not even had many chances to taste a watermelon.

Qiao Zijin's shameless words made it seem as though Qiao Nan liked eating watermelons when she was younger and that Qiao Zijin had saved them for Qiao Nan instead of eating the watermelons herself for Qiao Nan's sake. Qiao Dongliang wanted to cover his face. He couldn't believe that Qiao Zijin dared to say such a shameless thing!

“I'm sorry...” Qiao Nan refused, not wanting to make any mention of her childhood in front of Zhai Sheng. There was no point in doing so. Qiao Zijin loved to act but she had no intention to play along.

Before Qiao Nan could reject, Zhai Sheng reached out and pushed away the watermelon in Qiao Zijin's hands. “I'm sorry. Nan Nan is already eight months pregnant. She can't eat something as cooling as watermelon. I guess you don't know that since you haven't had any pregnant women in the family recently.”

Zhai Sheng completely ignored the fact that Qiao Zijin had once given birth, generously forgiving her reckless and ignorant behavior.

There was no need to say too much. If Qiao Zijin really cared about her younger sister, Qiao Nan, she would have found out all about what pregnant women could and couldn't eat, even if she had no experience with pregnancy. What if her reckless actions brought about dire consequences?

No matter how nicely she had spoken earlier, reality was truly a tight slap in her face.

“...” Qiao Zijin's expression stiffened. Could pregnant women not eat watermelon? Feng Feng was almost all grown up and her pregnancy had been quite some time ago. Qiao Zijin had absolutely no

impression of what she could and couldn't eat while she had been pregnant. Besides, there had always been someone taking care of her. They had done the job of considering what she could eat. All she had needed to do was to open her mouth to eat.

How would Qiao Zijin have known that her 'care' toward Qiao Nan would have turned into such a disaster? "Nan Nan, I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to let you see it and not eat it. But I gave birth to Feng Feng years ago. I'm sure you've heard that women go dumb for three years after giving birth. My memory has deteriorated quite a lot ever since I gave birth to Feng Feng. Alright, the children's and your health are the most important now. Don't eat it if you can't. If you want to eat it, I'll buy some more once you give birth."

"..." Qiao Dongliang admired Qiao Zijin for the way she had salvaged the situation. "Since Nan Nan can't eat it, you should have some. You can bring the rest home."

There was a wide smile on Qiao Zijin's face. "Dad, Nan Nan can't eat it. If we leave it here, the smell will tempt Nan Nan. Why don't you have a slice? Zhai Sheng, don't be shy. We're all a family. Do you want to eat it together?" As she said that, Qiao Zijin took the effort to take a few slices out, wanting to hand it over to Zhai Sheng personally.

Qiao Zijin could not help but think that she would definitely come into contact with Zhai Sheng's hand when handing him this slice of watermelon. Yes, her hands were different from Qiao Nan's. Qiao Nan had worked hard and her skin was probably rough and coarse. On the other hand, she had never worked much ever since she was young. After marrying Chen Jun, she had religiously visited the beauty salon to maintain her complexion with facials, massages, and all that.

Chapter 2169: Insincere

Once Zhai Sheng touched her hand, he would realize how soft and silky smooth a real woman's hands should be, unlike Qiao Nan's, which were rough and coarse.

With that thought in mind, Qiao Zijin could not help but blush. It was true that she was not as beautiful as Qiao Nan, but her skin definitely felt better than Qiao Nan's. The only thing good about her marriage to Chen Jun was that he had not bothered when she had spent money on visiting beauty salons, and neither had he ever stopped her. She was a woman who knew how to upkeep herself, while Qiao Nan didn't do any of that. How could Qiao Nan ever compare to her?

There were undoubtedly differences among women. But once the lights went off, a woman's victory was determined by her body, and not her face!

Qiao Zijin had a vivid imagination, but everything depended on whether the other party was willing to cooperate with her. "I'm sorry. We don't have the habit of eating non-seasonal fruits in our family. The weather is so cold and you want to eat watermelon? As long as you're happy, I guess." At home, Zhai Sheng didn't even allow Qiao Nan to eat watermelon in winter as it wasn't good for her health.

Watermelons could be eaten in summer to relieve the summer heat, but one still could not have too much of it.

"I'm not eating any." Qiao Dongliang quickly refused and pulled Qiao Zijin aside. "You're the one who likes watermelon. Since you like it, you can have more. You can even finish everything yourself." If she were to finish that watermelon, she probably wouldn't get the chance to speak again before leaving.

Actually, Qiao Dongliang had already felt a little uneasy when Qiao Zijin had held out a slice of watermelon for Zhai Sheng. Since the watermelon had already been cut, Qiao Zijin should have handed the plate over for Zhai Sheng to take a slice for himself. It was not like Zhai Sheng was a three-year-old who needed someone to feed him. It was inappropriate for a sister-in-law to behave in this manner.

"Dad..." Did he think she was a pig? This watermelon weighed five kilograms. How could she finish it alone? Besides, had she come just to eat watermelon? She had come to...

Qiao Zijin's gaze turned toward Zhai Sheng. It was obvious that she wanted to have more interaction with Zhai Sheng, even if it was just to show concern toward Qiao Nan for the time being. That didn't matter as long as Zhai Sheng gained a better understanding of her through their conversations.

Every woman hoped that her husband would genuinely love her, and only her. Instead of forcing Zhai Sheng to accept her for the sake of Qiao Nan and the three children, she had better put in some effort to develop some real feelings with Zhai Sheng. In that way, she could avoid creating more trouble once she married into the Zhai family. Qiao Zijin wanted to let Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan know that children grew up better when their parents shared a close relationship.

"I'm sorry for not thinking it through and only remembering what Nan Nan likes to eat. I forgot that Nan Nan can't eat this now. Look, it was always Nan Nan taking care of me growing up. To be

honest, I feel rather guilty about it. Nan Nan, you spoiled me too much. Since we have such a good relationship, you should teach me how to be more like you too. Besides, I'm your elder sister. I should take more care of you."

Qiao Zijin said as she walked toward Qiao Nan, wanting to hold Qiao Nan's hand.

Zhai Sheng stood in the way and stopped Qiao Zijin in her tracks. "You just came in from outside and you haven't even washed your hands. Don't get near Nan Nan. This isn't good for Nan Nan or the children." As for Qiao Zijin's monologue, not one out of the three of them gave any response.

Especially Qiao Nan. Zhai Sheng had already told her that she wouldn't have to worry about anything as long as he was around. As such, Qiao Nan had already decided to act dead all the way upon seeing Qiao Zijin appear. She would let Zhai Sheng handle everything. It was about time for Zhai Sheng to fulfill his duties as a father and husband to protect her and the children.

Qiao Zijin could not help but feel embarrassed. "I-I'm not dirty." So, why did he have to stop her? Qiao Nan was not made of gold or jade. Could others not even touch her?

"You have germs on you. You can't see germs with the naked eye," Zhai Sheng replied indifferently, merely stating the facts. "I believe what you said. Since you were young, you have always been the one getting taken care of. That's why you don't even have any common sense now. It's necessary to change your clothes and wash your hands when approaching pregnant women and newborn babies. Actually, it doesn't matter even if you don't have any common sense, but I heard that you're a university graduate. You can always read up and widen your knowledge. Don't make such low-level mistakes."

1

In short, there was no way Qiao Zijin was going to touch Qiao Nan.

"Yes, Zhai Sheng is right. Zijin, didn't you realize that I haven't gotten near Qiao Nan either?" Qiao Dongliang was different from Qiao Zijin. The first thing that Qiao Zijin had done after arriving was cut the fruits she had brought so that she could get close to Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng. On the other hand, Qiao Dongliang had gone off to the toilet to wash his hands thoroughly. "Nan Nan, are you hungry? Do you want to have some soup?"

Unlike the fruits that Qiao Zijin had bought, the soup that Qiao Dongliang had made was suitable for pregnant women.

“Let me help!” The moment Qiao Zijin saw her chance, she immediately pushed Qiao Dongliang aside, wanting to snatch Qiao Dongliang’s flask of soup away from him to pour some out for Qiao Nan. “Nan Nan, Dad spent a lot of time making this soup. It’s very nutritious. Smell it. It’s so fragrant. You should have more. You know, when I was pregnant, it was always you and Mom taking care of me. Dad didn’t even help out. I’m so jealous that Dad’s made soup for you this time. Dad’s so good to you.”

Her mom was good to her, but her dad was good to Qiao Nan. So Qiao Nan had better not feel wronged or get upset at the unfair treatment in the Qiao family. Each parent had their favorite. Qiao Nan had never been shortchanged.

Qiao Dongliang was stunned for a moment, but the moment he saw Qiao Zijin pouring the soup, he fumed. “Zijin, didn’t you hear Zhai Sheng? You didn’t even wash your hands! How could you pour the soup for Nan Nan?” If possible, Qiao Dongliang did not mean to ask Qiao Zijin to wash her hands. He wanted her gone!

An insincere heart was an insincere heart, after all.. Qiao Zijin still had not gone off to wash her hands after all that talk.

Chapter 2170: Not Free

“Oh, right. Let me wash my hands.” Qiao Zijin was left with no other choice since Qiao Dongliang had given her a slap in the face with his words. Her expression stiffened, but she maintained her smile as she headed to the toilet.

But before Qiao Zijin could step into Qiao Nan’s private bathroom, Zhai Sheng took a step forward and blocked the door. “The handle on this toilet isn’t very good. It’s easily broken. I think it’s broken now and you can’t open the door.”

“Really?” Qiao Zijin was doubtful and stepped forward to test it out herself.

As Qiao Zijin’s hand reached out and was about to touch his own, Zhai Sheng frowned. Was Qiao Zijin retarded? Zhai Sheng was never one to get close to outsiders, especially women.

Zhai Sheng had already held it in once when Qiao Zijin had ‘enthusiastically’ offered him watermelon earlier. This time, he had not even retracted his hand before Qiao Zijin reached out. In an instant, Zhai Sheng’s gaze darkened.

His sharp gaze threw Qiao Zijin off and she retracted her hand. It was as though someone had pricked her and she nearly jolted.

Seeing that Qiao Zijin had finally given up, Zhai Sheng finally retracted his own hand and walked aside to create some distance between him and Qiao Zijin. Because Zhai Sheng had stood so far away from her, Qiao Zijin was afraid yet upset. Did he really treat her as a walking bacteria carrier? It was not like she would eat him up if he got any closer.

But Qiao Zijin kept her thoughts to herself. She reached out and tried to open the door but it was indeed stuck. “This hospital looks good from the outside, but how could the door to the toilet be spoiled? What if Nan Nan needs to use the toilet urgently? She can’t possibly walk a long distance just to use the toilet, right? Nan Nan is a pregnant woman, and her belly has gotten so big. It’s dangerous for her to do that. If Nan Nan can walk, why would she even need to be here? This is ridiculous! Zhai Sheng, why don’t we get Nan Nan another room or another hospital?”

Qiao Zijin wanted to show off that she was actually brilliant in daily life so as to capture Zhai Sheng’s heart. But Qiao Zijin was truly a fool who had no common sense. Of course, she had no idea how to repair such ‘advanced’ technology like a spoiled lock.

“There’s no need for that.” Zhai Sheng immediately rejected Qiao Zijin’s suggestion. “There’s no need to go through that trouble. This lock is good sometimes. When Nan Nan needs it, it’s perfectly fine.” Now that Qiao Zijin wanted to use it, it was faulty.

“...” Upon understanding what he meant, Qiao Zijin pursed her lips, not knowing what to say. When had door locks become so advanced that they could pick whom they wanted to allow in? “I’ll go to the main toilet then.” Qiao Zijin could feel that Zhai Sheng didn’t want her to use this toilet.

Zhai Sheng was her future husband and she had already planned it through. Once she got married to Zhai Sheng, she didn’t want to live a life full of arguments like she had done in the past with Chen Jun. Husbands and wives should live peacefully and in harmony. Only then would the marriage last.

Zhai Sheng had heard too many bad things about her, and the person who had told him about those things was Qiao Nan. That was why Zhai Sheng had no choice but to believe those things about her. Once she had more interactions with Zhai Sheng, he would naturally realize her true nature. That

way, she would clear up all those misunderstandings and Zhai Sheng would probably be more accepting of her.

All these were just small obstacles in the way of her marriage to Zhai Sheng. As long as she managed to overcome them, her life with Zhai Sheng would be smooth-sailing.

With such a thought in mind, Qiao Zijin didn't make a fuss about the weird door lock and good-naturedly said that she would wash her hands in the main toilet instead. Qiao Zijin was always such a mild-tempered person. It was Qiao Nan who was ruining her image in front of Zhai Sheng. But did Qiao Nan really think that she would be able to hide her true nature from them forever?

Qiao Zijin took a deep breath and smiled widely at her reflection in the mirror. Come on! Persevere through it! Happiness was coming soon. She had to be serious about it. With a serious attitude never seen before in Qiao Zijin, she washed her hands clean before returning to Qiao Nan's ward to look for Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng.

But this time, although Zhai Sheng had opened the door, he had no intentions of allowing Qiao Zijin in.

Qiao Zijin had not managed to enter, and Qiao Dongliang had walked out with an empty flask. "Nan Nan is sleepy and she just fell asleep. Let's not disturb her. Let's leave for the day. Besides, didn't you come for a holiday? Take this opportunity and visit all the places you haven't. Don't waste your time here." Because of Zijin's appearance, he had not managed to talk to Nan Nan.

At the mention of this, Qiao Zijin was upset. But an idea flashed past her mind and she turned toward Zhai Sheng. "Zhai Sheng, it's my first time in the capital and I don't really know any good places to visit. Do you have any recommendations?" If Zhai Sheng was free and could bring her around, that would be perfect.

But Qiao Zijin knew that the possibility of that happening was low. Qiao Nan was lying in the hospital and about to deliver at any moment. There was probably no way Zhai Sheng was going to leave Qiao Nan's side to bring her around unless Qiao Nan asked him to do so.

Unfortunately, Qiao Zijin could only glance at Qiao Nan in disappointment. Qiao Nan was already lying down with her back facing them.

"Just get yourself a copy of a tourist guide. Otherwise, you can sign up for one-day or three-day courses. They're all quite convenient." Zhai Sheng did not give her a direct rejection but some very

good suggestions. Even Qiao Zijin was stunned. Shouldn't he have recommended places like the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, or Tiananmen?

He had simply asked her to check up on everything herself. But words made her eyes hurt. "Oh, alright. Thank you. When I get the chance, I'll treat you to a meal." Even if Zhai Sheng had not done his job as a host, Qiao Zijin had to thank him. Otherwise, she would lose the chance of getting in touch with Zhai Sheng.

"I'm not free."

"..." Alright, Zhai Sheng had ended the conversation there. But Qiao Zijin couldn't flare up and get upset at him.

If Zhai Sheng was willing to acknowledge Qiao Zijin as his relative, it would be out of kindness. But he was also being dutiful by not acknowledging her.. After all, his wife was still lying in the hospital with their three children.