

## RTAMM 2211

### Chapter 2211: Whose Idea Was This?

“However, now won’t do. You suddenly want me to find another place to live in. How can I find it? Dad, you also know that it isn’t easy to rent a house in the capital. It’s expensive too.”

“For an urgent situation like mine, I definitely won’t be able to rent a cheap and good place. It’s easy for me to be taken advantage of as well. Dad, it’s not easy to earn money. We don’t have to let others earn so much of my money, right?” Let her move out? She wouldn’t. She didn’t believe that she couldn’t get her mother to come over from Ping Cheng to the capital within three months.

As long as her mother was in the capital, Qiao Nan didn’t need to think about taking back this house. If Qiao Nan made her anxious and she became angry, when her mother arrived, she would definitely let her know that although Qiao Nan was wealthy and married a good husband, she actually arranged such a small place for her biological mother to live in.

Qiao Nan had to acknowledge her mother and admit that she was a daughter of the Qiao family. It was either she invited their mom to the Zhai family to stay or change a bigger house for her so that she could live more comfortably.

Of course, if Qiao Nan knew what to do and listened to her advice on that matter so that it could be resolved quickly and she could earn the money she required in this lifetime, she wouldn’t create so much trouble for Qiao Nan.

They were biological sisters. Reciprocity should be valued. If Qiao Nan gave in, she would also back down. What’s wrong to be kind relatives? Why did they have to fight until they were both red in the face? That would be ugly.

“Three months?” Qiao Dongliang asked, “Do you know how much money it costs to rent such a house for three months? It’s easy for you to just relax and open your mouth. You want others to fork out three months of rent for you? If you really want to stay and find that it’s not easy to find a place to live in, that’s fine as well. Go according to the market price. Pay Nan Nan the rent for as long as you want to live here. How convenient is that? Don’t worry. Nobody will take advantage of you. Nan Nan wouldn’t do that. At the very most, she just wouldn’t give you any benefits.”

Qiao Dongliang didn’t know if this house belonged to the Zhai family or if the Zhai family rented it. Regardless, there was no reason for their family to continue living here without paying any money. He had already lived in the capital for a month. How would Qiao Dongliang have the cheek

to continue living here? He only wanted to quickly return the house to the Zhai family and stop wasting their money. Even if this house really belonged to the Zhai family and they didn't need to spend any money, the Zhai family could still earn some income if they rented this out.

“Dad, can you not be so hard-headed? I'm Qiao Nan's biological sister. She married well and I'm divorced. I don't ask for you to take the initiative and get Qiao Nan to take care of me more. However, do you have to guard against me and help Qiao Nan? It's as if she's your daughter but I'm not. Yes, I'm not as capable as Qiao Nan, but I'm still your relative. When I'm facing difficulties, is it that overboard for you to lend me a hand? Why do you have to force me so tightly? Are you trying to drive me to my death?!”

She didn't believe that this house rental alone would affect Qiao Nan's life adversely. Let's not mention the Zhu family's inheritance first. As the Zhai family's daughter-in-law, the rental of this house was nothing to Qian Nan.

This wouldn't cause Qiao Nan any trouble. However, her dad was placing Qiao Nan's interests above everything else. Why was that so? This would hurt their father-daughter relationship too much.

“Drive you to your death?” Qiao Dongliang was angered and he slapped the table hard with his hand. “When you snatched Chen Jun away from Nan Nan's hands in the past and became the Chen family's daughter-in-law, Nan Nan was always single. Why didn't you think that based on your good conditions, you could help Nan Nan as well? You only told us that it wasn't easy for you to marry Chen Jun, so we shouldn't burden you. Based on Nan Nan's previous relationship with Chen Jun, they must not get too close to each other lest scandals arise. Did you treat all the words you said as nonsense? You say this set of words to Nan Nan but another set to yourself. Does that mean you're human and Nan Nan isn't?”

It wasn't as if a similar situation didn't happen in their family before. It was just that after the situations were reversed, Qiao Zijin's rhetoric completely changed as well.

She shouldn't treat Qiao Nan well as she wasn't proper and was in an ambiguous relationship with her brother-in-law. Qiao Nan should treat her well as Qiao Nan married well and she was divorced. Qiao Nan was the stronger party here. If Qiao Nan didn't take care of her, could it be that she should take care of Qiao Nan instead?

However, the situation between Qiao Nan and Qiao Zijin was like that two years ago. Qiao Zijin's conditions were obviously much better than Qiao Nan's. All along, not only did Qiao Zijin not help Qiao Nan at all, but she also kept asking for money from Qiao Nan through Ding Jiayi.

Qiao Zijin didn't remember these matters anymore but Qiao Dongliang did. "Zijin, it's indeed comfortable for you to do things like this. Everything must be based on your interests. Everyone must stand in your position to think for you. Zijin, you're already a mother. Your mom and I can no longer do things like this, yet you still have so many demands from Nan Nan. I don't even want to ask if you're still a person with a conscience."

After saying this, Qiao Dongliang's shoulders collapsed. "I'm not going to argue with you. It's not good if anyone hears about this. However, I can tell you that you don't even need to think about what you just said. Once I leave, this house will be taken back. If I don't leave, all the water and electricity supplies will stop in this house at seven in the morning tomorrow. Oh, right. Although I'm boarding the plane at nine, I'm coincidentally leaving the house at seven as well. Figure things out yourself in the future. If you really don't want to leave, I can't do anything. If you don't want to hand over the keys, it's not a big issue either. At the very most, the owner of this house would come and change locks."

As such, unless Qiao Zijin locked herself in this house without water or electricity in the future, she wouldn't be able to step back in again once she stepped out of the house as the locks would have been changed.

"Dad, did you come up with this idea, or is Qiao Nan really so ruthless to me?" Qiao Zijin's face turned pale. She decided that in this world, there was no use being a good person. She shouldn't have been so polite toward Qiao Nan and even harbored thoughts of getting along well with her. If Qiao Nan was unkind to her, she would be unkind as well.

No matter what she encountered in the future, she no longer needed to think for Qiao Nan. She only needed to think of what she should do to obtain the biggest benefit. She no longer needed to consider if what she did would affect Qiao Nan negatively or if she should think of a way that allowed both her and Qiao Nan to get the best of both worlds.

#### Chapter 2212: The Problem of Conditions

She no longer needed to use her brain and think about such complicated and troublesome issues.

Indeed, in this lifetime, she wouldn't be able to get along well with Qiao Nan.

"I should say that all of us think this way. You always reach out for a yard after taking an inch. You're selfish and don't have any gratitude at all. Treating you well is the same as farmers rescuing snakes." In the past, Nan Nan treated Zijin too well. That was why she was bullied. Her boyfriend was snatched away and her house became Zijin's.

“Heh...” Qiao Zijin laughed coldly. “Sure, you’re Qiao Nan’s good father. I’m the common enemy that both of you want to deal with. In this world, I, Qiao Zijin, am the worst and the most ruthless. Will that do? So be it that I can’t continue to stay here. Do you think I cherish this house a lot? This is such a small house. I’m about to suffocate to death. I’ll move out. Once you leave tomorrow, I’ll move out immediately!”

Qiao Nan wanted to be hostile toward her? In her dreams!

Not too long later, Qiao Nan would be begging her. She didn’t believe that Qiao Nan didn’t have any thoughts at all or wasn’t afraid the slightest bit that Wang Yang was reluctant to let go and wanted to get back all of the Zhu family’s inheritance. One had to know that Wang Yang was Zhu Chengqi’s biological nephew. After Zhu Chengqi died, according to the proof of family relationship, Wang Yang’s mother was the first legal heir.

If Wang Yang grabbed hold of this point to fight a lawsuit with Qiao Nan, it wasn’t that he didn’t stand a chance at winning at all.

She would wait and see how afraid Qiao Nan would be when she found out that she couldn’t get a single cent of the Zhu family’s inheritance. She would appear again only when Qiao Nan was desperate. By then, she didn’t believe that Qiao Nan wouldn’t agree to her proposed conditions. When the time came, Wang Yang would give her five million yuan and she would get at least five million yuan from Qiao Nan.

With ten million yuan, she wouldn’t stay in either the capital or Ping Cheng. She was going to live in a new city and start a new life. She had had enough of these so-called relatives. They were always looking at her strangely and saying words of sarcasm to her.

“I hope you can do what you say.” Knowing that Qiao Zijin was losing her temper, Qiao Dongliang’s attitude didn’t soften. On the contrary, he wanted to agitate Qiao Zijin such that she would really move out of this house with him tomorrow.

Qiao Zijin was so angry that her teeth produced a creaking sound. She turned her back to Qiao Dongliang and didn’t bother about him anymore. When night fell and knowing that Qiao Dongliang was asleep, Qiao Zijin stood up and left the room. She went outside to make a call.

It was already nine at night. Ding Jiayi was very surprised to suddenly receive Qiao Zijin’s call. “Zijin, it’s so late now. Why aren’t you sleeping but calling me?” As this was a long-distance call,

Qiao Zijin had always complained that it was expensive and would rather send voice messages to Ding Jiayi.

Initially, Ding Jiayi didn't know how to send voice messages. However, Qiao Zijin insisted. As they used voice messages, Ding Jiayi started to slowly learn as well. As such, when she received a long-distance call from Qiao Zijin at night, Ding Jiayi was shocked. "Didn't your dad say that he would return after celebrating the full month of Qiao Nan's triplets? Which day's train ticket did he buy? I'll go fetch him then."

The second day Qiao Nan's children were born, Ding Jiayi already knew from Qiao Zijin that their plan had failed. In reality, Ding Jiayi had more or less guessed that this would be the result as well. There was no choice. Ever since Qiao Nan ran away from Ping Cheng, Ding Jiayi realized that Qiao Nan had become lucky. She encountered only the good things and there was nothing bad.

It was dangerous to give birth to children. Qiao Nan was forty years old and gave birth to triplets. If it was someone else, five out of ten women would have died. However, Qiao Nan was lucky. She belonged to the lucky half who managed to survive. Nobody could do anything about Qiao Nan's good life and good fate.

Ding Jiayi didn't mention another point to Qiao Zijin. It wasn't that she despised Qiao Zijin but it was simply because she was someone with a past. Zhai Sheng's conditions weren't bad. When she first knew that Zhai Sheng was going to marry Qiao Nan, Ding Jiayi thought it was a bad joke made by others to deliberately mock her. The problem was that no matter how inferior Qiao Nan was, she was still a forty-year-old virgin. She usually behaved well and didn't like to run outside at night. She prepared her own meals daily, knew how to earn money, and didn't spend a lot of money. She was the kind of daughter-in-law whom women her generation would like.

When she looked at Qiao Zijin again, Ding Jiayi really liked her as a daughter and she doted on her well. She felt that Qiao Zijin was the best daughter in this world. However, if she wasn't her daughter but daughter-in-law, would Ding Jiayi want her? Ding Jiayi shook her head. She really couldn't afford such a daughter-in-law.

Only Ding Jiayi could see the goodness in Qiao Zijin. Others couldn't see it at all. Ding Jiayi kept saying that Qiao Zijin was good. She knew that other people's eyes weren't as good as her own and thus couldn't see the good in her.

As such, Ding Jiayi felt that Qiao Nan wasn't compatible with Zhai Sheng and it was impossible for Zhai Sheng to want her. Then, after Qiao Nan's death, regardless of whether it was Zhai Sheng

himself or other members of the Zhai family, wanting to marry Zhai Sheng would be a big problem that Qiao Zijin couldn't solve.

It wouldn't be easy for Qiao Zijin to marry Zhai Sheng if Qiao Nan was dead, let alone Qiao Nan wasn't dead. Qiao Zijin didn't need to think about the position of the chief's wife.

"Mom, your daughter is about to be bullied to death. You still have the mood to sleep? Mom, are you still my mom? Why don't you feel heartache for me? Mom..." As Qiao Zijin said, she started to cry. She cried very pitifully and hoped that her mom would feel sorry for her, just like in the past. "Mom, I'm really bullied so badly. Mom, I miss you. Only you treat me the best in this world. Other people are all insincere toward me!"

Although her mom loved money, she still treated her as her daughter, unlike her dad, who only knew how to obtain benefits from her. He took money from her so readily. However, when she ran into trouble, he didn't have the slightest awareness that he was her father. He even forced her to move out of the house.

If her conditions were as good as Qiao Nan's, would she continue staying at the Zhai family's house and not leave?

#### Chapter 2213: Not Against the Law

Obviously, the Qiao Zijin with such a question in her mind wasn't conscious of her behavior. When she married Chen Jun and led a much better life than Qiao Nan, hadn't she similarly used Qiao Nan's money to buy a house for herself as a dowry?

"Don't cry. Tell me what happened." Actually, Ding Jiayi had already fallen asleep. She was awoken by the mobile ringtone. Thus, she was a little confused and wasn't as clear-headed now. "Let me switch on the lights first. Then, speak slowly."

"Alright." Qiao Zijin sniffed. She felt that as long as her mom didn't ignore her, she wouldn't be considered as fighting a lonely battle. There was still someone by her side helping her.

After switching on the lights, Ding Jiayi was about to pick up the call again when she realized that Qiao Zijin had already hung up the call. Ding Jiayi was confused. Did that mean the situation of Zijin being bullied didn't exist and she no longer needed to share anything with her and she could continue sleeping?

Ding Jiayi was sleepy to begin with. Since Qiao Zijin had already hung up the call, she had complete reason to believe that Qiao Zijin's matter was resolved. Based on Qiao Zijin's temper, if the matter wasn't resolved, how would she hang up the call so easily? She would have kicked up a fuss until she couldn't sleep well.

However, it was as if Qiao Zijin was teasing Ding Jiayi. As Ding Jiayi switched off the lights, removed the coat she put on, and covered herself with the blanket, the mobile rang again. Ding Jiayi reluctantly and angrily put on the jacket she had removed and switched on the lights again. "Zijin, hadn't you hung up the call? Isn't everything alright? Why are you calling me again?"

"Mom, it's a Weixin video call now. I didn't give you a long-distance call."

"..." Ding Jiayi sucked in a cold breath of air in winter. "Why did you call me previously then?" Why did she keep changing? Even if Zijin was her daughter and she had raised her up since she was young, she really didn't understand her temper.

Qiao Zijin was full of grievances. "I haven't used the phone for a long time. I sent you a Weixin message but your mobile didn't vibrate and you couldn't hear anything." At this time, nothing was more useful than a direct call. The mobile ringtone vibrated loudly. If not for this reason, she wouldn't have made a long-distance call just now. The fees weren't cheap, alright?

"..." With such a 'calculative' beloved daughter, what else could Ding Jiayi say? "Alright, whatever you say. Tell me then. I'm listening. However, please speak faster. Haven't you seen what season it is now? It's winter. I still have to climb out from the blanket to pick up your call."

Qiao Zijin became unhappy. "Mom, if you're cold, I'm cold as well. Dad's asleep and he doesn't care about me. Thus, I ran out to give you a call. I feel colder, alright?" In the house in the capital, it felt warm as there was a heater. However, after coming out, it felt extremely cold. Qiao Zijin couldn't wait to cover herself with the blanket while making this call. "Mom, listen to me. You don't know how overboard Dad and Qiao Nan are. They don't treat me as relatives but enemies. I can't live anymore."

Qiao Zijin repeated her previous conversation with Qiao Dongliang to Ding Jiayi over the phone. "Mom, you don't know that Qiao Nan is afraid that I'll take advantage of her. Dad's also afraid that I'll take advantage of her. I really don't understand. We're a family. Why do they have to treat me this way? Why are they so heartless? Mom, was I born to you and Dad?"

Ding Jiayi yawned. "What's there to be surprised about? Haven't our family always been in such a situation? When you were leading a good life in the past, your dad didn't care much but I did. Since when did I let Qiao Nan take advantage of you? Of course, you wouldn't have agreed either."

Ding Jiayi didn't have any thoughts when she was biased toward Qiao Zijin. However, after Qiao Zijin left her side for a long time, there was one less person egging her on. Ding Jiayi's words were still as heartless as before. However, they weren't that biased and unreasonable anymore. Her words were at least an objective phenomenon now.

"Don't always complain that your dad is bad. Your dad isn't me. If he has the same temper as me, he would have gotten all the money you have on you to subsidize Qiao Nan. You're different from Qiao Nan. Unless you're willing, nobody can dig out the money in your pockets." Zijin was often willing to fork out money only when she wanted to get more than what she had paid. In the end, there was only one result. Zijin would still be receiving more money.

Ding Jiayi's words far exceeded Qiao Zijin's cognition. Her mom didn't use to say such words. "Mom, why did you become so selfish out of the blue? Mom, you've changed. You weren't like this in the past. You used to treat me well." In the past, her mom used to think that the whole world should be good to her. She was the most outstanding child in this world.

Now, her mom actually said that what her dad did was normal. At the very most, she and Qiao Nan had just reversed their roles.

"Zijin, Mom might be getting older, but I'm not a fool. During this period of time when you and your dad aren't around, I'm alone. I have nothing to do and just think about things every day. The more I think, the more open-minded I am about certain things." Ding Jiayi sighed. Had she really figured things out? Not really.

Even though she already knew that Qiao Nan was more filial and capable than Qiao Zijin and that she was the one who could let her lead a good life, Ding Jiayi just couldn't get herself to like Qiao Nan. She felt that Qiao Nan was detestable, just like in the past.

Today, Ding Jiayi acknowledged one of the sentences that Qiao Dongliang used to say. What was it? She and Qiao Nan had no fate to be mother and daughter. Or rather, they had the fate but not the relationship. Perhaps she had gotten used to hating her. No matter how she looked at Qiao Nan, she just couldn't bring herself to like her. Albeit knowing that Qiao Zijin wasn't as good as Qiao Nan, Ding Jiayi didn't want to change.



It was still that sentence. Who asked Qiao Nan to have a good conscience? Even if her attitude didn't change, Qiao Nan wouldn't completely ignore her. She would still provide for her. If she lacked food, Qiao Nan had to give her money. If she fell ill and had to go to the hospital, Qiao Nan had to give her money as well.

Since Qiao Nan would still give her money and not abandon her regardless of her attitude toward her, why did she have to force herself to do something that she didn't like at this age? She should just be happy. It wasn't a crime if she wanted to be happier in her remaining years, right?

#### Chapter 2214: So Good

After thinking about this, Ding Jiayi didn't have much energy left in her to continue talking to Qiao Zijin. She knew that after all the talk, it was all about Qiao Zijin's interests only. This had nothing to do with her. Why should she continue to work hard for 'someone else's' matters?

"..." Ding Jiayi's reaction caught Qiao Zijin off guard. She never expected that her mom would be able to say such rational words to her one day. Qiao Zijin nearly wanted to ask Ding Jiayi if she had eaten the wrong medicine recently during the time that she wasn't by her side.

"Mom, don't rush to tell me about your feelings first. Alright, you could not care that I'm bullied by my dad and Qiao Nan. However, Qiao Nan's going to be rich soon. Don't you have any thoughts about this at all? You're Qiao Nan's biological mother. There's no reason for her to be rich but she's still leaving you alone in Ping Cheng to lead a tough life, right? Based on her current wealth, she can totally buy a big villa in Ping Cheng for you to live in and hire a nanny to take care of you. She's leading a good life but doesn't care much about you. Mom, are you willing to take this lying down? Mom, you haven't come to the capital before. You don't know how good the capital is. Mom, I feel that you should come over to the capital to enjoy life now."

She couldn't persuade her mom to come over to the capital because of her own interests. That was fine. There were still her mom's interests.

Didn't her mom used to say that when she became successful and married well, she should afford a bigger and better place for her mom to live in? Her mom even said that before getting married, she was the one who had done all the household chores. After getting married and serving her man, she even had to serve both her daughters.

As such, her mom's biggest wish in this lifetime was to stay in a big house and hire a nanny to take care of her so that she no longer needed to cook, wash clothes, and clean the house by herself. She could be an old lady enjoying life.

Her mom had such ideals. However, she couldn't help her mom realize them. Qiao Nan had the opportunity though. Of course, in order to realize her ideals, her mom couldn't just think about it. She had to take actual actions. As long as her mom arrived in the capital and they combined forces, she didn't believe that she couldn't deal with Qiao Nan.

“Mom, let's do this. Let's not talk about how much Qiao Nan will be willing to take care of you if you come over to the capital. I still have something on hand now. As long as you help me do this, regardless of whether you want to continue living in the capital or return to Ping Cheng in the future, I'll give you one million yuan to support your life in the future. How's that?”

Inspired by Wang Yang and upon thinking about Ding Jiayi's love for money, Qiao Zijin immediately proposed a monetary transaction. Her mom shouldn't have seen so much money in this lifetime before, let alone be the owner of this sum of money.

As such, if her mom came over to the capital this time around, it wasn't to help her. It was to help herself.

“One million yuan?” As a person who valued money a lot, in the face of a huge sum of one million yuan, how could she not be tempted at all? “You only have slightly more than one million yuan on you. If you give me one million yuan, you'll be left with only two or three hundred thousand yuan. Is that enough for you?” Why didn't she find these words to be believable? She liked money. Zijin was a child that she raised. As such, she liked money as well. No, she should say that she liked money more than her.

What matter would allow Zijin to take out most of her savings just so that she could get her, the biological mother, help?

“You shouldn't be still thinking about marrying Zhai Sheng, right? Zhai Sheng isn't Chen Jun. You can succeed with Chen Jun. However, if the same situation happens to Zhai Sheng, it will definitely not succeed. Don't even think about it.”

Ding Jiayi still understood this. Chen Jun was flawed. If not for Qiao Zijin being pregnant with Chen Jun's child, Ding Jiayi wouldn't have turned him from her little son-in-law to her eldest son-in-law. If Ding Jiayi was really bad-hearted, once she heard about Chen Jun's conditions, she would have relentlessly forced Qiao Nan to break up with Chen Jun and get Qiao Zijin to try her best to seduce Chen Jun.

In reality, before knowing that Chen Jun and Qiao Zijin had already done the deed, Ding Jiayi never did anything like this before. The problem was that after Qiao Zijin got pregnant, it wasn't difficult

for Ding Jiayi to sacrifice a daughter whom she didn't like for the daughter that she liked and a grandson.

However, there was a big premise for these things to happen. Chen Jun had made such a mistake. Upon thinking about the Zhai family, Ding Jiayi felt that it was impossible for Zhai Sheng to do such a thing.

When Chen Jun made a mistake, although Qiao Zijin wasn't as good-looking as Qiao Nan, she was, after all, a virgin. Now, Qiao Zijin was still not as good-looking as Qiao Nan and she had derailed in her marriage before. Furthermore, Zhai Sheng was more of a gentleman compared to Chen Jun. Ding Jiayi knew that the righteous Zhai Sheng would never do such a ridiculous thing.

Zhai Sheng wasn't related to Qiao Zijin at all. Even if Ding Jiayi had given birth to Qiao Nan and she was Zhai Sheng's mother-in-law, she wasn't capable of getting Zhai Sheng to divorce Qiao Nan and remarry Qiao Zijin instead. She was Qiao Nan's biological mother, not Zhai Sheng's biological mother. She couldn't bring herself to do such coquettish acts.

"..." Qiao Zijin gritted her teeth. It wasn't that she didn't have such thoughts, but she just didn't have a chance to say it. She had already succeeded with Chen Jun. Who said that it would only be a failure if she tried it on Zhai Sheng this time? Of course, in order to succeed, Ding Jiayi had to cooperate and work hard alongside her too. However, Ding Jiayi was the first to say no now and wanted to distance herself from her. That means she didn't even need to think about what happened later. "Mom, what are you talking about? It's not about this. I want to tell you that after Qiao Nan went to the capital, she acknowledged a wealthy godfather. Now that this old man is dead..."

Qiao Zijin took a deep breath and suppressed the anger in her throat back into her stomach. "After that old man died, he left everything to Qiao Nan."

"Is there such a good thing?" Ding Jiayi didn't understand. Why was it that to others, the daughter she didn't like had so many positive qualities? She couldn't even control herself to spend less money on Qiao Nan. She didn't understand why there were still people her age who 'couldn't think through things well' and left behind their hard-earned money of a lifetime to a child with whom they had no blood relationship. "Is there a lot of money? How much is there?"

#### Chapter 2215: Saving Money and Worry

As such, Zijin wasn't giving her one million yuan for nothing. Zijin should want to take one's share of the loot as well for putting in so much money now.

“How do I know?!” If she had known, would she have readily agreed to Wang Yang’s proposed five million yuan without bargaining for more? “I don’t know how much there is as well. You don’t have to be excited for nothing. It has nothing to do with us. That man’s a little unclear. Although he has no child, he has a biological nephew. He’s unhappy about this and wants to discuss with Qiao Nan the distribution of this inheritance. You just have to cooperate with me and convince Qiao Nan to agree to this. If this succeeds, you’ll have one million yuan.”

Of course, Qiao Zijin wouldn’t really give twenty percent of her benefits to Ding Jiayi. Wang Yang had promised Qiao Zijin five million yuan. However, wasn’t Qiao Zijin planning to ask Qiao Nan for another sum of money as well? No pain, no gain.

Before making this call, the largest sum of money Qiao Zijin had estimated in her heart wasn’t one million yuan but five hundred thousand yuan. Upon thinking about Ding Jiayi’s insatiable temper, Qiao Zijin had even thought of ways to guard against her. Since the baseline in her heart was five hundred thousand yuan, the starting price should definitely not be too high. Around two hundred thousand yuan was enough. If she mentioned two hundred thousand yuan and her mom managed to bargain for more until five hundred thousand yuan, there was no reason why her mom would be dissatisfied or wouldn’t agree to it.

Qiao Zijin had already done her calculations. What she didn’t expect was that there was such a huge change to Ding Jiayi’s attitude compared to before. A person who always had distorted worldviews seemed to be having normal worldviews now. This frightened Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Zijin didn’t even dare to think about two hundred thousand yuan or five hundred thousand yuan. Not only did she wipe out the baseline in her heart, but she even took the initiative and proposed one million yuan. This was already a seven-digit figure. No matter how greedy her mother was, she should be satisfied upon hearing about this huge sum of money, right?

“...” Ding Jiayi understood. The one million yuan wasn’t from Qiao Zijin’s pockets. No wonder her elder daughter would be so generous this time around, offering a seven-digit figure at once. “What about you? If I have one million yuan, how much would you have?” There was no doubt that Qiao Zijin would be receiving more money than her.

“Mom...” Qiao Zijin frowned. “I have to put a lot of effort into this matter as well. You’ll receive one million yuan and I’ll receive one million yuan. That’s not too overboard, right?”

“One million yuan as well?” She didn’t believe it. However, it didn’t matter. “You’re helping that relative to try and get Qiao Nan to agree to give up the inheritance?”

The remuneration was two million yuan. It seemed like there was quite a bit to this inheritance.

“It’s not to make Qiao Nan give up the inheritance. Who would complain that they have too little money? What the other party meant was that the money and resources belonged to their family. They could give Qiao Nan some of the money, hoping that she knew her boundaries and wouldn’t swallow their inheritance whole.” Of course, the bulk of this wealth had to be in the hands of the other party’s relative. It couldn’t be taken away by Qiao Nan, the outsider.

This time around, Ding Jiayi understood everything. “So much money is involved. That old man voluntarily gave them to Qiao Nan before he died as well. This is their family matter. Why are the both of us involved? Isn’t it good if all the money lands in Qiao Nan’s hands?” Who cares whom this sum of money originally belonged to? It wasn’t bad for it to be in Qiao Nan’s hands. It would give her an illusion that one does not allow benefits created by one’s own work to accrue to others.

“...” Qiao Zijin’s lips twitched. How was it good? It wasn’t good at all. It was good only if the person surnamed Zhu left a will before he died to hand over everything in the Zhu family to her. Everything in the Zhu family had nothing to do with her. Whom it landed with eventually should have nothing to do with her as well.

However, it was different now. She was Qiao Nan’s biological sister. On what basis that all the good things would happen to Qiao Nan alone and as Qiao Nan’s biological sister, she could only stand by the side and look on with envy?

Also, to her, there was a huge difference if this sum of money landed in Wang Yang’s hands instead of Qiao Nan’s. If everything in the Zhu family fell in Qiao Nan’s hands, she wouldn’t be able to get even a single cent. However, if this fell in Wang Yang’s hands, Wang Yang would give her five million yuan. If she was lucky, she could even get at least another five million yuan from Qiao Nan.

As such, to her, the change of owner for this sum of inheritance meant a difference of ten million yuan!

Upon hearing Qiao Zijin’s analysis, Ding Jiayi immediately understood. “Alright, I understand your words. You don’t have to explain to me anymore.”

Qiao Zijin wanted to sigh. It was good that she understood. “When are you coming over? My dad’s returning to Ping Cheng tomorrow. You also know that the Zhai family is providing the place where Dad and I are living now. Dad’s ruthless. He’s not going to live there anymore but doesn’t think about me, his daughter, either. He asked me to move out and find a place to stay. He even said that

once he left, the Zhai family would take back this house and cut off all the water and electricity supplies.”

Ding Jiayi was silent for a while. She understood why Qiao Zijin had to call her tonight and even cried while talking over the phone. “What do you want to do then?”

“Mom, come to the capital. When Dad was in the capital, Qiao Nan had to take care of everything. If you’re here, she can’t possibly just favor one party and only take care of Dad but not you, right?” It was fine that the prices in the capital were high, but it was simply too expensive to find a suitable place to live in. If not for this, she wouldn’t have been so anxious and cried in the middle of the night. “Mom, take the first train to the capital tomorrow morning. I’ll let Qiao Nan know that you’re coming over. By then, as long as you do the matter I mentioned just now, you’ll have one million yuan.”

Once her mom was here, not only would she no longer have a headache over finding another place to live in, but more importantly, she would have another helper by her side to kick up a fuss until Qiao Nan agreed to this.

Ding Jiayi had already covered herself back with the blanket. “Your dad’s already coming over. Why will I go there? Could it be that I’ll leave your dad alone in Ping Cheng to celebrate the new year? It’s already this time of the year. I’m not going to the capital.” It was cold. Ding Jiayi didn’t even want to step out of the house, let alone travel far. Even if Qiao Nan had to take care of her and give her a place to live in, Ding Jiayi wasn’t willing to leave Ping Cheng and go to the capital to celebrate the new year. “Your dad’s coming back. Are you?”

If Zijin was coming back, there was still enough time for her to prepare more ingredients for the reunion dinner. If Zijin wasn’t coming back and it was just her and Old Qiao, she could save a lot of thoughts and didn’t need to spend too much money.

#### Chapter 2216: Returning to Ping Cheng

Qiao Zijin sniffed. She felt that if she wasn’t angered to death, she would be frozen to death by the weather. Qiao Zijin returned to the house as she simply couldn’t withstand the cold. She felt that it had been so long since she was out and her dad should already be sleeping soundly. There shouldn’t be any problem if she controlled her volume while chatting with her mom.

After returning to the house, Qiao Zijin breathed out cold air. “Mom, you’ve already spent so much time in Ping Cheng. What’s so amazing about it? The capital’s great. Don’t you want to come to the capital to celebrate the new year? All of our neighbors in the quad know that Qiao Nan has married over to the capital. If you come over for the new year, they will be envious of you. On the contrary,

if your daughter ignores you during the new year when she is in the capital, a lot of people will laugh at you. Mom, we cannot afford to lose face.”

They had celebrated the new year every year. This wasn't important. What was more important was the one million yuan. Her mom's attitude wouldn't do. She really didn't believe that she had left for only a while but her mom didn't even like money now. It shouldn't be that she mentioned the one million yuan so casually that her mom was coming up with bad ideas to get more money, right?

Ding Jiayi yawned. “Zijin, it's so cold now and it's late. I'm sleepy. Let's talk about it tomorrow. I'm going to sleep. You rest early too. Also, your dad's coming back tomorrow. I feel that you can return as well. If there's really anything, we can discuss it again after you're back in Ping Cheng. What one million yuan or few million yuan? The money won't fly away even if you make a trip back to Ping Cheng. I'm hanging up.”

Without waiting for Qiao Zijin's reply, Ding Jiayi ended the video call. It was just that after she ended the conversation, Ding Jiayi didn't go to sleep immediately. She opened her eyes in the dark night, and it was unknown what she was thinking of.

Qiao Zijin used the neighbors' words today to agitate her such that she would go over to the capital to celebrate the new year. What Qiao Zijin didn't know was that since Qiao Nan went to the capital, she wasn't willing to even call home. After Ding Jiayi sued her, she heard her neighbors gossiping every day. Even when Ding Jiayi stepped out of the house to buy vegetables or oil, those who knew her would always bring her daughter, Qiao Nan, up for a chat.

Such a situation became more apparent after Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Zijin left for the capital.

She was gossiped about and despised by others daily. Ding Jiayi disliked her life. She wanted to move out of the courtyard and find another place to live in. Before this, when Qiao Nan successfully gave birth to her children but didn't die, not only did Qiao Zijin throw a tantrum at her, but she even scolded Ding Jiayi as she felt that she wasn't a good mother.

If she was a good mother, why didn't she know if Qiao Nan was going to die after giving birth? Hadn't Ding Jiayi kept a close watch on Qiao Nan all along?

Ding Jiayi was first mocked by her neighbors and then lectured by her daughter. That day, when Qiao Zijin flared up and scolded Ding Jiayi like a mother scolding her daughter, their identities were completely reversed.

Qiao Zijin was extremely upset and unhappy that Qiao Nan didn't die and she couldn't marry Zhai Sheng. After she lost her temper with Ding Jiayi, she forgot about it. As the person who was scolded, Ding Jiayi felt a lot of grievances. How could she forget this so easily?

Based on Ding Jiayi's previous actions on how she was willing to help Qiao Zijin steal Qiao Dongliang's identity card and train ticket, how could Ding Jiayi not be interested in going to the capital, especially with the added situation of being able to receive one million yuan? After hearing that Qiao Zijin was being 'bullied' in the capital, Ding Jiayi's normal behavior would have been to fly into a rage, rush to the capital to seek justice for her beloved daughter, and scold all the people who had bullied her daughter.

It was because this matter was still stuck in Ding Jiayi's heart that she wasn't enthusiastic at all upon receiving Qiao Zijin's call today. Qiao Zijin was too pampered by Ding Jiayi. Although she wasn't used to her mom's attitude, she thought that it was because Ding Jiayi was being greedy again and found the one million yuan she had offered to be too little. That was why she sounded lazy and disinterested. How would she have known that it was because her previous call had broken Ding Jiayi's heart? The brokenhearted Ding Jiayi didn't need money now but the coaxing of her family.

Ding Jiayi thought about this quietly. It was unknown how long she took to fall asleep. It was just that although Ding Jiayi fell asleep, she didn't loosen her frowning eyebrows until the next day.

Ding Jiayi couldn't even loosen her frowning eyebrows when she was sleeping. At dawn, the person who was going to be frowning was Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Dongliang, who had already packed his luggage yesterday night, woke up early this morning. After checking that he didn't leave anything behind, he was prepared to catch the flight. Seeing how busy Qiao Dongliang was and how happy he looked, Qiao Zijin felt sour in her heart.

She really didn't understand. Qiao Nan had married well and her in-laws were rich. Qiao Nan only gave her dad such a small favor. Why was he so happy? If Qiao Nan was really filial, how would she have used such a small thing to chase her dad away? Her dad didn't even realize that he was being abandoned. It was as if he was a dog biting on the bone that Qiao Nan threw to him and he was so happy that its tail kept wagging.

In the face of such an inexperienced and easy-to-bribe father, Qiao Zijin felt uncomfortable in her heart. If her parents had the same knowledge as her, she didn't need to teach them what to do next. Their family of three should just work hard together and lead their lives well.



However, all of them were as stupid as pigs. They ate pig food happily and felt that it was the best food in the world. How were they so stupid?

“Dad, you’re bringing along so many things. Can you board the plane?” Qiao Zijin couldn’t help but ask him. “You have to know that there are limits to consignments.” That big bag must be super heavy, right? She didn’t know what Qiao Nan had prepared for their dad. There seemed to be a lot of things but they shouldn’t be worth a lot of money.

Only a person who wasn’t knowledgeable like her dad would be fooled. If it was her, she would definitely not be coaxed by Qiao Nan with these worthless things.

If she didn’t make Qiao Nan fork out something big, Qiao Nan would have forgotten about her relatives.

“Don’t worry. I’m not bringing this bag up the plane. Zhai Sheng has already helped me find someone to ship this back to Ping Cheng before the new year.”

#### Chapter 2217: Being Good to Me

“Look, the person who’s taking this is here.” Qiao Dongliang liked the things that Qiao Zijin didn’t. This big bag contained food, clothes, and some gadgets that Qiao Dongliang was planning to bring back to the closer neighbors in the quad.

Qiao Dongliang wanted to live in Ping Cheng. Qiao Nan would definitely not let the Qiao family cut off all contacts with their neighbors. A far relative was not as helpful as a near neighbor. Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi were no longer young. Qiao Nan wasn’t someone who wouldn’t care about her parents. As long as they maintained good relationships with their neighbors, even if something happened to Ding Jiayi and Qiao Dongliang, the neighbors could first help take care of them before informing her.

As such, there were naturally so many things that Qiao Nan wanted Qiao Dongliang to bring back that they couldn’t board the plane.

Zhai Sheng had found this person. Of course, his attitude toward Qiao Dongliang couldn’t be bad. After politely addressing him as ‘uncle’, he moved Qiao Dongliang’s things away. As for the expensive shipping cost back to Ping Cheng, Zhai Sheng was naturally the one paying for it. How could he let his father-in-law do so?

“Look, it’s already seven. Zijin, I have to go. I’ve already told you about the house. Figure things out yourself. You’re an adult now. I don’t care if you really want to stay in the capital to develop yourself. It’s okay as long as you’ve thought it through.” After the big packages were taken away, there was nothing left. Qiao Dongliang only had to board the plane now.

Qiao Zijin looked at Qiao Dongliang with grievances. “Dad, are you really prepared to leave me alone here and return to Ping Cheng? Dad, we’re going to celebrate the new year soon. You’re not going to care about me anymore?” Qiao Zijin was really feeling aggrieved. Regardless of her marital status, Qiao Zijin had always been the Qiao family’s focal point. The ingredients that were bought were Qiao Zijin’s favorite. Qiao Zijin’s advice had to be sought for everything.

Now, her mom ignored her and her dad was returning alone. In this cold winter, Qiao Zijin couldn’t feel the lively atmosphere of the new year. She only felt that she was being abandoned by the whole world.

Qiao Dongliang took a deep breath. “It’s not that I don’t want to care about you, but I can’t. If you feel that you’re alone, do you want to return to Ping Cheng with me?”

“What for? Ping Cheng’s not as good as the capital! Dad, we can stay together and fetch Mom over. Our family of three can celebrate the new year in the capital.” Why did they have to stay in Ping Cheng when the capital was such a good place? “Dad, you and Mom used to respect my opinions and consider my thoughts. I just want to celebrate the new year happily. Is it that difficult?”

Qiao Dongliang laughed bitterly. “It’s not difficult to celebrate the new year. However, the new year that you want to celebrate is difficult. Zijin, if you have a house in the capital and aren’t lacking anything, your mom and I don’t have to eat anything good to feel good if you want us to come over to the capital to celebrate the new year together. You’re an adult now. Why don’t you even have this basic reasoning? The point isn’t the location where we celebrate the new year. The point is whether our children are successful and living well.”

“Don’t become anxious and flare up first. It’s nothing if you couldn’t be compared to Nan Nan. It’s not as if Nan Nan didn’t experience worse times before. However, Nan Nan has never made me worry or burden you, the sister. You always think that since Nan Nan married well, she should take care of you more. You always try to think of ways to see how you can get more benefits from Nan Nan but never think about relying on yourself. In your heart, your mom and I are probably just two chess pieces to help you control Nan Nan. Our hearts are made of flesh. Haven’t you realized that even your mom’s attitude toward you has changed? Your mom treated you well, but you broke her heart. Zijin, one must have a conscience.”

After knowing that Qiao Zijin wanted to bring Ding Jiayi over to the capital, Qiao Dongliang was worried. He could guess what Qiao Zijin was up to. However, he had no choice. He could control himself, but could he control Ding Jiayi?

What surprised Qiao Dongliang was that he was about to leave the capital now to return to Ping Cheng, but Ding Jiayi didn't come over to the capital. When he heard Qiao Zijin trying to make him stay, Qiao Dongliang guessed that Ding Jiayi wasn't on her way to the capital yet. They didn't manage to meet, which meant that Qiao Zijin could no longer continue living in the house that the Zhai family had initially arranged for Qiao Dongliang. As such, Qiao Zijin was so anxious that she started to throw tantrums at her dad. Now, she sounded wronged and was trying to act pitiful.

Seeing that Ding Jiayi wasn't here, Qiao Dongliang guessed that she shouldn't be helping Qiao Zijin. But why? Didn't Ding Jiayi cherish Qiao Zijin, this daughter, the most? No matter if it was right or wrong, she would have defied all difficulties and dangers for her.

"Dad, it's fine if you don't help me. Why do you have to say such words to agitate me? How did I break my mom's heart? My mom treats me well. I was still talking to her over the phone yesterday night. She asked me to return to Ping Cheng to celebrate the new year as she felt that the capital wasn't good and was too unfamiliar. If we are celebrating the new year, it would be livelier and more comfortable to return to Ping Cheng and reunite. Mom even asked me what I wanted to eat during the new year so that she could buy the ingredients."

How was Qiao Zijin willing to admit that her relationship with Ding Jiayi was unlike before and even Ding Jiayi wasn't willing to help her? That call had already agitated Qiao Zijin. Now that she was being lectured by Qiao Dongliang, she felt even more agitated.

"So?" Qiao Dongliang looked at Qiao Zijin. "Your mom asked if you're returning to celebrate the new year. Are you prepared to stay and find a house to rent? Or are you returning with me to Ping Cheng to celebrate the new year?" Wasn't Ding Jiayi's attitude of wanting Zijin to return enough to explain everything?

It was just that he couldn't control Qiao Zijin, his daughter. He similarly couldn't control Ding Jiayi, his wife. He couldn't control both of these women. He would let them fight it out themselves.

"I..." Qiao Zijin was reluctant, but it seemed that besides returning to Ping Cheng with Qiao Dongliang, there wasn't any other choice for her. "It shouldn't be easy to buy train tickets to return now. Everyone else had bought it in advance." Upon thinking that she had to take the car for half a day, Qiao Zijin felt irritated in her heart.

When she came over, she knew that she was rushing for a luxurious life. Qiao Zijin didn't pay attention to how tough the journey was. However, she would be going back sullenly this time. She wouldn't get anything from the huge amount of money spent, let alone marry Zhai Sheng. It was equivalent to a loss-making business.

With the influence of these negative emotions and upon thinking that she had to take a long-distance ride home again, Qiao Zijin felt that the sky was gloomy.

## Chapter 2218: Counting On Herself

“Alright, if you really want to return, hurry up and pack your things. Take the plane home with me. You have to know that there are a lot of rich people nowadays. Many people are willing to fly.” Qiao Dongliang heaved a sigh of relief when Qiao Zijin showed weakness and shared that she was willing to return to Ping Cheng. If Qiao Zijin really wanted to stay in the capital to celebrate the new year, he would really have a huge headache.

“You're forking out the money for the plane ticket?” Anyway, she couldn't bear to buy a plane ticket.

Qiao Dongliang nodded. “Yes!” Qiao Dongliang was helpless as well. In such situations, wouldn't it generally be the children buying plane tickets for the parents? He already didn't need Zijin to help buy his plane ticket. Zijin wasn't even willing to pay for her own plane ticket. Indeed, Zijin was different from other children. She completely couldn't compare to Nan Nan.

If he had to count on Zijin's filial piety, he'd rather count on him being healthier so that he wouldn't fall sick easily. His life would be better that way.

Qiao Dongliang had already said that he would be paying for the air ticket. There was nothing for Qiao Zijin to linger on. She hurriedly packed her bags. She didn't bring a lot of clothes over when she came to the capital. Prices in the capital were high. The selling price for the same piece of clothing in the capital was two to three times more than Ping Cheng's. Furthermore, Qiao Zijin wanted to finish a big plan in her heart. How would the busy her have the time and effort to shop for clothes?

As such, although she had been in the capital for more than a month, Qiao Zijin didn't have a lot of luggage. It was the same as when she had left for the capital. Since she didn't shop indiscriminately, her packing speed was naturally fast.

Qiao Zijin couldn't bear to leave the house that she had lived in for more than a month. She didn't know when she would be back. It was just that if she didn't leave today, she wouldn't be able to continue living in this place. If this house became her private property one day, she would definitely not leave the capital again.

"What else are you looking at? Let's go." Qiao Dongliang felt both helpless and angry when he saw the reluctance in Qiao Zijin's eyes. Houses in the capital were expensive. Would expensive things not be good? However, no matter how good it was, it didn't belong to her. Zijin shouldn't have too many ideas. She always set her eyes on other people's things. He didn't even dare to believe that Qiao Zijin was already forty-two years old this year and had received higher education. An obedient child wouldn't have been so shallow like Qiao Zijin. A young child would know that he couldn't take things that weren't his own.

Could it be that he and Ding Jiayi really didn't teach Zijin such simple reasoning before?

"Oh." Qiao Zijin replied dryly. She pulled along her luggage and followed behind Qiao Dongliang to rush to the airport together. Qiao Zijin was lucky. There were still empty seats in the plane that Qiao Dongliang was boarding. Qiao Dongliang swiped his card and gave Qiao Zijin a plane ticket. Of course, it wasn't cheap.

Seeing that Qiao Dongliang swiped his card to buy an air ticket and that he didn't even blink when buying such an expensive ticket, Qiao Zijin found it strange. "Dad, did you make it big?" He was so generous. Also, her dad actually bought a plane ticket!

"Make it big?" Qiao Dongliang twitched his lips and laughed dryly. "Do you think I would still have a chance to become rich in this lifetime after providing for a daughter like you?" Yes, he was just a retired old man. How would he have the money to buy plane tickets? The money wasn't his. It was provided by his younger son-in-law, Zhai Sheng. Of course, Qiao Dongliang knew that this must be what Qiao Nan wanted.

If Qiao Zijin insisted on staying in the capital and was up to no good, Qiao Nan and the Zhai family wouldn't keep her company and would just let her die by herself. If Qiao Zijin was still smart and was willing to return to Ping Cheng, then they were willing to fork out the money for the plane ticket.

His elder daughter was full of dishonest thoughts and his younger daughter was feeling troubled by his elder daughter. Qiao Dongliang, who was caught in the middle, couldn't do anything. However, in the face of such a situation, Qiao Dongliang knew that he had to stand on his younger daughter's

side and bring his elder daughter home. If his elder daughter didn't mean to cause his younger daughter trouble, he could just leave them alone.

After receiving the boarding pass, Qiao Dongliang stuffed it in Qiao Zijin's hands. "Take your own boarding pass. This luggage isn't too big or heavy. Carry it yourself instead of shipping it. I heard that if you do shipping, you might have to wait for your luggage for a long time." Anyway, Qiao Dongliang was empty-handed and didn't need to carry anything back.

"Got it." The person who spent money called the shots. No matter what, Qiao Dongliang was the one who spent his money on this air ticket. At this time, Qiao Zijin wouldn't be at odds with him. When Qiao Zijin boarded the plane and saw that only such a short time was used to bring her to her destination of Ping Cheng, Qiao Zijin said to herself that the next time she went to the capital in the new year, it would be for that five to ten million yuan.

She definitely didn't want to take the train and make her buttocks suffer. She wanted to take a plane, just like today. She was someone who was going to earn five to ten million yuan. Could it be that she couldn't even afford a plane ticket?

After knowing that Qiao Zijin returned to Ping Cheng with Qiao Dongliang, Qiao Nan blinked and didn't have much reaction. Sometimes, Qiao Zijin could still be considered as someone who understood the times. After all, her dad forked out the money and Qiao Zijin only had to return to Ping Cheng obediently. Furthermore, Qiao Zijin took the plane this time around.

"Aunt, look at the chubby Er Bao. When drinking milk, the flesh on both sides bulged. My hands are going to be itchy again." Jijia loved watching the triplets drinking milk.

Qiao Nan wasn't young anymore and her body wasn't in tip-top condition. Aside from before the full-month celebration, where Qiao Nan tried to feed her three children breast milk for a month, the Zhai family stopped giving them breast milk after that. Thankfully, the triplets weren't picky. Aside from the first day where the 'flavor' was changed for the three children and they threw tantrums because they weren't used to it initially, they immediately adapted to it the next day.

Although they were still young, they would consciously place their soft hands on the milk bottle when they were drinking, as if guarding against anyone who would snatch their milk away halfway.

Upon hearing Jijia's words, Zhai Hua reacted strongly. "Er Bao is drinking his milk well. Don't create trouble." If poked by Jijia, Er Bao would spit out the milk in his mouth. Among the three children, Er Bao was the most bad-tempered. If they really disturbed Er Bao from drinking milk, his crying sound would simply bring down the house.

When Er Bao cried, it was as if Da Bao and San Bao were telepathic and would cry along as well.

#### Chapter 2219: Heartbroken for Three Seconds

Once the three children started crying, chaos ensued in the Zhai family. As the three children grew older, they had more energy to cry, and it was getting harder to coax them.

She had long forgotten how difficult it had been to coax Jiajia to drink milk while she had been at that age since her daughter was already all grown up. But her nephews and niece were still unweaned newborns. Zhai Hua felt helpless. She had long forgotten how to take care of newborn babies. Even she felt like crying once the triplets started crying.

As such, the courageous and fearless Zhai Hua, whose only weakness was Jiajia, had three more weaknesses now. That was the triplets.

Jiajia stroked Er Bao's chubby and tender hand that was on the milk bottle. "Mom, you look so nervous now. I was just mentioning it. I won't actually do it. Mom, I realized that Er Bao's hand has grown again. It was only this big when I held it last time, but it's already so chubby now!"

Jiajia was astonished by how quickly babies grew. Of course, Jiajia loved the tender and chubby triplets. The long wait for her three younger siblings had been worth it. They were truly the most adorable creatures in the world.

"..." Zhai Hua was also rather speechless watching Jiajia grow into a fool for her younger siblings. Once the triplets were present, no one else mattered to her. "Do you really love your younger siblings that much?"

"Yes!"

"Don't you think it's noisy when your younger siblings cry?" Even though they were her nephews and niece, even she got annoyed at their cries at times.

Jiajia shook her head happily. "They cry only when they're feeling uncomfortable. Since they can't express that in words, they can only do so through their cries. We have to be tolerant and understanding and take good care of them. Firecrackers are even louder and noisier, but why are there still people setting them off every year? They even cause air pollution!"

As compared to the banned firecrackers, what were her siblings' cries? Besides, her younger siblings were easily satisfied. As long as they were fed and cleaned up, they would stop crying very quickly and would fall asleep like a little piglet.

Hearing Jiajia's answer, Zhai Hua suddenly had a ridiculous thought: Jiajia would probably even think that the triplets' farts smelled good! Jiajia had been bewitched by the triplets! "Jiajia, do you realize that we have to return to Ping Cheng in the morning on the third day of the new year? Your school reopens on the fourth day of the new year."

What would Jiajia do once she had to return to Ping Cheng now that she was so attached to the three children? She couldn't possibly bring the triplets back to Ping Cheng, right? The children were still so young. They couldn't possibly do without their mother, Qiao Nan.

Jiajia's expression soured. "Mom, can you not spoil the mood by bringing that up? I know that we'll have to leave on the third day of the new year and that I'll have to leave my siblings behind. That's why I have to cherish my time here and spend more time with them now before we leave. Do you understand?"

"..."

The one who was unable to stand Jiajia's argument was not her mom, Zhai Hua, but her uncle, Zhai Sheng. Jiajia had gotten so crazy that she even slept in the same room as the triplets. She had promised to help her aunt take care of her younger siblings if they were to wake up in the middle of the night because they were hungry or because they needed a change of diapers. Zhai Sheng's face had turned green the moment he heard that.

Although Qiao Nan was still doing her confinement, the couple still shared a room, and the two newbie parents took care of the three children together. Even though Qiao Nan was not exactly clean because of her confinement and needed rest, Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan would still behave affectionately from time to time with hugs and kisses since they were husband and wife. Although he could not go much further, it was something, at the very least.

Jiajia was already grown up, and since she was going to stay in Qiao Nan's room, Zhai Sheng had to move out. Even if he had not, he would never have done things that he could do in front of the three children in front of Jiajia. Whether or not Jiajia was sleeping, Qiao Nan refused, and neither could Zhai Sheng cross his own psychological barrier. It was uncomfortable, to say the least.



Jiajia's presence had a direct impact on his 'welfare'. Even though she was his biological niece, she was truly an annoyance at this moment.

Feeling Zhai Sheng's gaze toward Jiajia change, Zhai Hua hit Jiajia's back. "You're sticking to them too much! Aren't you going to work on your exam papers? Your teachers are going to check them. Didn't we agree that you wouldn't neglect your studies even while we're here? Don't you think you should try to finish your work today?"

You foolish child. Don't you see that your uncle's expression doesn't look so good? Think about it from his perspective. He finally got married at the age of forty-five and finally had a taste of what it was like to have a wife. Why are you trying to be a third wheel? He sees you as his enemy now!

Of course, it would be too extreme to say these words out loud. As such, Zhai Hua dared not vocalize these thoughts, for fear of affecting Jiajia. Her daughter might have been insensible, but she was stuck between her daughter and her younger brother, who had only been married for a year. What was she supposed to do but help both sides?

As Zhai Hua was trying to discuss the matter with Jiajia, she could not help but glance at Qiao Nan. The men in this family are too petty! How could he throw a tantrum at Jiajia, who's just a kid? Where had the gentleness in the Zhai family gone to?

Qiao Nan smiled helplessly. This... She had no choice either. It was not as though she could scold Brother Zhai, much less Jiajia. She was in a tight spot too!

Qiao Nan was clear about Zhai Sheng's temper. In her dream, Zhai Sheng had bought a separate large bed for the triplets the moment they were old enough. Once the triplets turned one, Zhai Sheng had simply put them into another room and had 'chased' the children out of their room.

At times, the triplets threw tantrums, wanting to be near Qiao Nan and sleep with her. Unless Zhai Sheng was not at home, it was rare for the triplets to fulfill their wish of doing so. Thankfully, Zhai Sheng had still been young in her dream, and his career had still been on the rise. As such, he spent much more time in the military than at home. That was why the triplets often found it possible to sleep with their mother.

Now...

She glanced at the three children who had had their fill of milk and were glancing around with those bright eyes of theirs. Qiao Nan could not help but feel heartbroken for her three children for a split second.

#### Chapter 2220: Useless

Your dad isn't as busy as he had been in my dream and will be home quite often. Perhaps, the three of you will be brought up by him.

If the children had nightmares and started crying, she would let Brother Zhai accompany the children. Yes, that was the plan.

With Zhai Hua's urging, Jiajia quickly took out her winter vacation homework. It was a thick stack and she fought through it page by page.

Hearing the pen scratches against Jiajia's paper as she started on her homework conscientiously, the adults lowered their voices significantly. "Now that both of your troubles have returned to Ping Cheng, you can do your two-month-long confinement peacefully." Zhai Hua couldn't deny that the children were indeed good-looking. They had inherited all of their parents' best traits. Their pale-white skin was just like the fresh snow outside.

Snow came with a cold fragrance, but her niece and nephews had a fragrant baby scent.

"Two months? It's about time for me to go out." Qiao Nan was rather thankful. She had given birth to the triplets at quite an advanced age in this lifetime. Qiao Nan was not entirely ignorant about the danger and sufferings she had gone through during childbirth. Thankfully, all four of them had come out of that safe and sound. The triplets had probably been well-nourished while they had been in Qiao Nan's stomach. That was why she had not gained much weight after giving birth to the children, even though she had eaten quite a lot while pregnant. It seemed as though everything she had eaten had gone to nourishing the triplets.

Apart from encountering a little danger during childbirth, Qiao Nan's situation was normal during her confinement period, and there were no major problems. Perhaps, it was because her in-laws had taken good care of her. Qiao Nan felt that her body had been slightly weak and tired because she had always been busy working in the past. However, all of that fatigue had suddenly disappeared during her confinement period.

Other women felt as though they aged after giving birth. On the other hand, Qiao Nan felt as though she had gotten younger after childbirth. Whether or not it was just an illusion, this had given her the

strength to take good care of her children, at the very least. “I’m amazed that you guys don’t mind. I feel as though I’m starting to smell.”

She wasn’t allowed to take a shower or bath during her entire confinement period. It was only behind the backs of the others in the family and after Qiao Nan had begged him for a long while that Zhai Sheng had reluctantly allowed her to wipe herself with a hot towel.

A confinement period might be good for recuperation, but it was psychologically damaging.

“Hahaha...” Zhai Hua could not help but laugh in glee. “I understand. I went through that after giving birth to Jijia too. That was really... And Jijia’s grown up in the blink of an eye. Perhaps, it’ll be my turn to take care of Jijia during her confinement period soon.”

At that time, Mother Wei had not known that the state advocated for only one child in each family. Besides, since Wei De was a soldier, their family wouldn’t be allowed a second child. Even after seeing that Zhai Hua had given birth to a daughter, she had not despaired even though she had not liked it. She had only thought about helping Zhai Hua recuperate well during her confinement period so that she would be able to have another child.

Although Zhai Hua’s relationship with the Zhai family had already deteriorated by that time, Mother Wei had always felt that the Zhai family’s attitudes would soften for the sake of the child and that they would acknowledge the Wei family as their relatives. As such, Zhai Hua had been well taken care of by Mother Wei.

Even so, Zhai Hua was still resentful at the mention of her confinement period. Now that someone else was going through the same suffering while she could sit on and watch by the sidelines, she couldn’t help but rejoice.

“I’m not trying to provoke you, but someone told me that Wang Yang looked for your sister a few days ago. Although I have no idea what they talked about, I guess it’ll definitely have something to do with the inheritance from the Zhu family. How should I put it? I’ve always felt that Wang Yang has never been a good person.”

Zhai Hua had no idea how bad Wang Yang was when she said that. She had no idea just how much Qiao Nan had suffered because of Zhu Baoguo and Chen Jun.

Qiao Nan had chatted with Zhai Sheng before. Everyone fell in love with bast\*rds at some point in their lives. Besides, she had been too oppressed and neglected in her own family at that time. At that

time, a man with a good background had appeared and had even showered her with the warmth and care that she had always been longing for. That was why she had fallen head over heels for Chen Jun, but even she couldn't say for sure whether she had truly fallen for Chen Jun, or whether she had pinned her desire for kinship on Chen Jun.

At least, she had felt sad and hurt upon learning that Qiao Zijin had gotten pregnant with Chen Jun's child and that she had to back off. What she had not felt was despair or depression.

This was, after all, a shameful incident that had occurred while she had still been young and insensible. Even though she had gotten hurt, Qiao Nan did not want many people to know about it after she had gotten married to Zhai Sheng. Since that was Qiao Nan's wish, Zhai Sheng had naturally not mentioned it to the rest of the Zhai family.

The three children opened their eyes for a moment after having their meal before going back to sleep. Qiao Nan picked the three children up and placed them beside her. After checking that their hands were warm, she turned to answer Zhai Hua's question. "I already expected that Wang Yang wouldn't give up the Zhu family's assets so easily. Wang Yang's from Ping Cheng as well, and there aren't many people who don't know about the issues in my family. It doesn't surprise me that he looked for Qiao Zijin. The only problem is that I'll no longer be influenced by the Qiao family. Nothing will change even if he persuades my parents to come, much less Qiao Zijin."

She had already said that she would much rather donate all of the Zhu family's assets than let Wang Yang get a single cent. Those who committed mistakes would get their punishments eventually. It was time for Wang Yang to receive his punishment. He had been managing the Zhu family's assets for such a long time and had seen it grow over time. In the end, none of it had anything to do with him. Wang Yang probably felt as though his heart was being ripped apart.

"That's true." Qiao Nan was no longer that gullible 'child' who only listened to her parents. It was useless for Wang Yang to approach Qiao Zijin. She had never even appeared on the day of Qiao Nan's marriage to Zhai Sheng, nor the full-month banquet of the triplets. It was not that Qiao Zijin didn't want to attend those events, but no one would allow her in.