

RTAMM 2231

Chapter 2231: Holding Back Tears

For Ding Jiayi, it was rare for the word ‘backbone’ to appear. Ding Jiayi was used to not burning bridges.

It was like in the past when she looked down on Qiao Nan and felt that she wouldn’t be able to become successful in this lifetime. However, even if that was the case, Ding Jiayi never said words like if there was really a day that Qiao Nan became successful, she would definitely not care for Qiao Nan’s filial piety as she still had Qiao Zijin, her successful elder daughter.

Ding Jiayi wouldn’t say and would never say such words that were equivalent to giving her a slap in the face.

“Old Qiao, lunch’s ready. Come out and eat. If you sleep too much in the day, you might not be able to sleep at night.” It seemed that the relationship between Ding Jiayi and Qiao Dongliang had improved. They seemed to be more harmonious with each other.

When Ding Jiayi was alone, she had thought through things carefully.

Initially, this house was the joint property between them, husband and wife. If they were to get a divorce, they should split the house equally. The problem was that the property deed was already in Qiao Nan’s hands. This house no longer had anything to do with her or Qiao Dongliang. If she were to divorce Qiao Dongliang, she wouldn’t even have a place in Ping Cheng, where she had lived for more than forty years.

Not only would she not have a place in Ping Cheng, but she would also not have one in her hometown.

In the Ding family, she was a married daughter. The number of houses the Ding family had had nothing to do with her. If the Ding family knew that she got a divorce from her husband in old age and could get neither money nor the house, not only would the Ding family not help her because of her surname, but they would also see her as a joke.

She definitely couldn’t return to the Ding family or leave Ping Cheng. In short, she couldn’t divorce Qiao Dongliang.

What made Ding Jiayi feel at ease was that Qiao Dongliang no longer mentioned the divorce ever since the last time. As long as they didn't get a divorce and the name of Qiao Dongliang's spouse was still her, she wouldn't need to return to the Ding family out of helplessness and watch them roll their eyes at her. She'd rather die than return to the Ding family.

After thinking about her hatred for and annoyance at the Ding family, Ding Jiayi couldn't help but maintain peace with Qiao Dongliang. Indeed, Qiao Nan's triplets were just born. However, Chen Feng was no longer young. To put it bluntly, in a few years' time, Chen Feng would be old enough to marry someone. Ding Jiayi didn't want to end up with a divorce after being a great-grandmother.

Thankfully, after Qiao Dongliang returned from the capital, he never brought up the matters about the identity card and the train ticket to Ding Jiayi. He didn't mention them even until now. Ding Jiayi was the one who did wrong. By not mentioning this matter, Qiao Dongliang seemed to be letting her off. As such, Ding Jiayi wouldn't be so foolish to mention it again.

After knowing that Qiao Dongliang was hungry, Ding Jiayi prepared something for him to eat. She knew that he preferred food with heavy flavors and that he liked spicy food. In the past, Ding Jiayi used to cook according to her and Qiao Zijin's preference. Both of them didn't like to eat spicy food. Qiao Zijin liked to eat dry rice as she felt that the rice would become soft and not as chewy if there was too much water added. As such, Ding Jiayi always used less water.

Qiao Zijin was young and liked her rice to be dry and chewy. However, people around Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi's age preferred their rice to be softer. If more water was added, the rice would be easier to digest and their stomachs wouldn't feel uncomfortable.

Of course, for today's lunch, there was a little chili in the dishes, and the rice was cooked until it was similar to porridge.

Upon seeing such dishes, Qiao Zijin immediately lost her appetite. "Mom, you know that I can't eat spicy food. Once I eat spicy food, pimples will grow and I'll look ugly. You used to not put chili. Why are you doing so now?"

She had maintained her eating habits for more than forty years. Her mom had finished washing the clothes. Had water entered her brain as well? She could even forget her habit completely. She couldn't be blamed for being angry at her mom. "Also, is this rice or porridge? It looks like neither. Mom, who are you preparing this meal for?"

Qiao Zijin really wanted to add that even pigs would complain if Ding Jiayi's meal today was prepared for them.

The meal that Ding Jiayi had prepared with so much difficulty was criticized by Qiao Zijin to be completely worthless using such undisguised remarks. Neither Qiao Dongliang nor Ding Jiayi felt comfortable in their hearts. Furthermore, Qiao Dongliang was the one being taken care of today. He had nothing much to say regarding this meal.

Qiao Dongliang picked up a dish with his chopsticks and placed it in his bowl. "If you find what your mom prepared isn't nice, go and order takeaways. If you think takeaways aren't nice or find them too expensive, then buy ingredients home and cook a meal yourself. You can prepare it however you like and don't have to complain that the food others prepared isn't nice or to your liking. Of course, if you are more generous with money, you can hire a nanny to specially prepare your meals. Of course, if you just want the nanny to prepare meals, it's more economical to hire a part-timer."

Qiao Dongliang thought of several ways for Qiao Zijin to solve her issues with food.

"..." Qiao Zijin said in anger, "Dad, why have you changed? All you talk about is money. Yes, I don't have money. Does that mean I'm no longer your daughter? Do you have to take this attitude toward me? Mom, you too!"

"It's not that I don't treat you as a daughter if you don't have money. It's that you don't think about me or your mom just because we don't have money. Think about your attitude. At this age, your mom's still preparing meals for you but all you do is complain. If you're really filial and have a conscience, a person like you who is forty-two years old now, turning forty-three after the new year, should prepare a meal for me and your mom. Would that cause you any suffering or be deemed as ill-treating you?" She was turning forty-three after the new year, not thirteen.

Upon thinking that Qiao Zijin was going to be forty-three years old soon but he and Ding Jiayi had never eaten a meal that Qiao Zijin had specially prepared for them, Qiao Dongliang felt cold in his heart. Which other daughter was like this? Compared to other sons, Qiao Zijin didn't pale in comparison to them at all.

"Why are your eyes red? Is it only today that you know what kind of daughter you have raised? Hold back your tears. It's all your own sin. As such, you should bear the consequences. Hurry up and eat." Ding Jiayi's eyes became red when she heard Qiao Dongliang's words.

She was willing to do everything for Qiao Zijin, her daughter. However, not only did Qiao Zijin not acknowledge her sacrifice and love for her over the years, but she also always picked on her, saying that she, as a mother, was worthless. It was as if her efforts over the past few decades were a joke. Ding Jiayi felt aggrieved.

Chapter 2232: What Do You Mean?

Qiao Dongliang was still angry at Ding Jiayi for spoiling Qiao Zijin until she was so unfilial and had no conscience. How would Ding Jiayi have the cheek to cry now? Didn't Ding Jiayi cause this to happen herself? Ding Jiayi didn't know how to raise a child. Qiao Zijin didn't have a heart. It was no wonder they were mother and daughter.

Qiao Dongliang placed some dishes into Ding Jiayi's bowl, asking her to eat them quickly. Ding Jiayi did so many things to ruin Qiao Nan. Why was Qiao Nan still filial to Ding Jiayi? It was because Ding Jiayi had given birth to her!

Based on this level of relationship, Qiao Dongliang couldn't be so heartless with Ding Jiayi. Similarly, he didn't allow Qiao Zijin to be disrespectful toward Ding Jiayi. If he hadn't criticized Qiao Zijin, Qiao Zijin wouldn't have thought that there was something wrong with her attitude and behavior. "You have heard your elder daughter's words. If you're willing, you can prepare my share in the future. I'll fork out half the money. If you're not willing, we'll be just like in the past where we settle our own meals. As for this daughter of yours, since you can't control her anymore, you should stop controlling her. Let her handle things herself. Unless she's cooking for you, you have to sort out your thoughts."

Could it be that Old Ding wanted to serve Qiao Zijin for a lifetime until she died? Or could it be that Qiao Zijin didn't 'whip' Ding Jiayi hard enough every time such that Ding Jiayi only remembered to suffer and not retaliate?

"Alright." It wasn't that Ding Jiayi didn't cherish Qiao Dongliang's care and concern, which she hadn't seen for a long time. On the contrary, she cherished it a lot. She had been at home alone for more than a month now. Ding Jiayi felt that she was the only one left in this world and was miserable.

However, Ding Jiayi realized now that she had not divorced Qiao Dongliang. Her daughter was unfilial but she still had a husband and they could support each other.

Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi looked like they reconciled and were a happy couple. Qiao Zijin was shocked. What did this mean? Now that they had gotten back together, they were starting to ostracize her? It seemed like she wasn't their daughter. How ridiculous.

Also, her dad asked her to be a housewife. Did her mom really agree to that? Since when did she have to use the stove herself? Certainly not before her marriage, after her marriage, or after her divorce!

Sure, all of them looked down on her and belittled her. They thought that she wouldn't have a chance to make a comeback in this lifetime and could only be suppressed by Qiao Nan, right? When she made it big, she was going to see if her parents would still be like this now, treating her with disdain as if she was a leech.

Qiao Zijin secretly swore that when she was rich and became a multimillionaire, she was going to hire a nanny. What a great idea! Why hire a part-timer? She had so much money. Would it be overboard to hire a nanny to serve her every day? Anyway, she had money. She could afford it. By then, she would definitely move out of this lousy courtyard. She was going to buy a big house and decorate it well. She was even going to raise an expensive dog.

When she was really rich in the future, she'd rather spend the money on her dog than let these two old people before her benefit!

No matter how many vicious oaths Qiao Zijin made in her heart or how many grievances she had toward Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi, the only thing Qiao Zijin could do now was to eat the dishes that she didn't like abidingly so that her stomach would at least be filled up.

In the blink of an eye, she had already spent half of the money she got from selling the house. The problem was that she had spent half of the money within a year. Qiao Zijin had to consider her life for the decades to come. As such, before getting the ten million yuan, she couldn't afford to waste any more money.

Regardless of whether it was delicious or not, she was living off others. If she liked it, she would eat more. If not, she would eat less and treat that she was on a diet. When ten million yuan was in her hands, she wouldn't want to stay at this house for a second more!

Qiao Zijin held up her rice bowl and ate in silence. How would she dare to throw tantrums? Not only was Qiao Dongliang not happy, but it made him feel bitter. He didn't say anything too serious. However, his attitude just hardened a little and Qiao Zijin became obedient, no longer throwing tantrums.

In the past, he and Ding Jiayi had really failed to fulfill their responsibilities as parents, thus raising Qiao Zijin into a forty-two-year-old giant baby. Qiao Dongliang used to sneer when he heard such a term. How much of a failure were the parents such that they raised such a child up? However, at this moment, Qiao Dongliang felt that he was such a person as well. Qiao Zijin was a living example.

“Since I’m finally back, I’ll walk around outside and visit old friends.” There were still a few boxes of food that were brought back from the capital. Qiao Dongliang had brought them back to his room earlier. Aside from the old neighbors, Qiao Dongliang had a few closer colleagues when he was working in the past.

Qiao Nan was used to buying more of such things instead of less as it would be embarrassing if there wasn’t enough. Since there were more, Qiao Dongliang was about to go to his old colleagues and reminisce about the past or have a chat with them.

Qiao Dongliang only felt that staying in a home like this was extremely boring. He’d rather find his colleagues to reminisce about the past than face Qiao Zijin.

“Alright, come back early. Night falls very quickly nowadays. Three in the afternoon is fine. For dinner, I’ll prepare some spicy dishes.” They were old. Ding Jiayi realized that as a child grew older, there would be another thing on their bodies: wings.

From the call, Ding Jiayi knew that Qiao Zijin wanted to live in the capital. She looked at Qiao Dongliang again. He obviously cherished Qiao Nan and her triplets but still returned to Ping Cheng to accompany her during the new year. Her child would fly, but her husband wouldn’t. Rather than pleasing her child, it was more important to work hard and try to win her husband’s heart back.

As such, Ding Jiayi naturally transferred all the attention she spent on Qiao Zijin previously to Qiao Dongliang now. Who didn’t know how to be selfish? Furthermore, Qiao Zijin had learned her selfish habit from Ding Jiayi.

“Alright.” Sensing Ding Jiayi’s change, Qiao Dongliang was still quite satisfied. As long as Ding Jiayi continued to be sensible, Qiao Dongliang felt that both of them could still lead a life together.

Once Qiao Dongliang left, Qiao Zijin blew up. “Mom, when Dad was around, it wasn’t convenient for me to say anything. Now that Dad’s gone, let me ask you. What do you mean by this? You know that I don’t eat spicy food but you still prepared that. Did you do this deliberately?”

“I’m not being deliberate. You and I don’t eat spicy food but your dad likes it. He has accommodated us for decades. How many years are left between me and your dad? As such, I want to accommodate your dad now. Can I do that?”

Chapter 2233: Alright

Ding Jiayi answered indifferently.

In the past, when Qiao Dongliang wasn’t standing on her side, once Qiao Zijin became angry with her, Ding Jiayi would feel panicked. Now, it was different. Ding Jiayi could feel that Qiao Dongliang’s attitude toward her was better now. Her daughter... It didn’t matter if she had one or not. As long as she guarded her husband, why would Ding Jiayi be afraid of her daughter getting angry?

“...” Qiao Zijin became angrier. However, if Ding Jiayi wanted to accommodate Qiao Dongliang, Qiao Zijin couldn’t say that what she did was wrong. “However, I don’t like it and I can’t eat it. Forget it. Why am I being so calculative? It’s right as well. You’re taking care of Dad. Why don’t you do this? Next time, prepare two flavors of food in the future: spicy and non-spicy. We can all pick what we like to eat.”

Her request wasn’t overboard, right? No matter how much her dad liked to eat spicy food, her mom wouldn’t make all the dishes spicy, right? “Oh, right. Both of you are old now. Nowadays, people have very good nutrition. Eating more vegetables is good for your health. As such, you can make the vegetables spicy but not for the rest. If you make the rest spicy and my dad likes it, he might not be able to control his intake. If he eats too much, he might get high blood pressure, diabetes, or something. I heard that old people nowadays are particularly prone to the three highs.”

Ding Jiayi failed terribly. She thought that Qiao Zijin was going to talk to her about something else. It turned out that she actually wanted to mention this. “Don’t worry. Your dad’s physical examination report every year is quite normal. He wouldn’t have the three highs. Since vegetables are good for health, I’ll buy less meat. As long as we eat less meat, your dad’s body will be healthy.”

To put it bluntly, meat dishes shouldn’t be spicy so that Zijin could eat them. “Zijin, for meat dishes, you have to control your intake as well. It is said that people have a slower metabolism when they reach middle age. Women who are older have to eat lesser oil, meat, and sweets as they would be fattening. Also, Zijin, you have been divorced for more than two years. Are you considering finding another man? What kind do you want? If you really want to find one, you should start finding one now. The longer you delay, the worse they are.”

A high-quality man like Zhai Sheng who was married twice or thrice might come by with luck but not with finding.

Ding Jiayi was thinking it didn't matter what kind of temper Qiao Zijin had. When Qiao Zijin remarried, she would be someone else's daughter-in-law and no longer a daughter from their Qiao family. Qiao Zijin's new in-laws from her second marriage would be the ones to worry about Qiao Zijin's performance and attitude.

Qiao Zijin's face changed. "Mom, I'm not in a hurry to get married. Could it be that you dislike me staying in the house for too long or having too many meals at home?" Married? She didn't want to get married. When the ten million yuan was in her hands, she would reconsider if she should find a man. After all, at that time, the ten million yuan would be premarital property. Even if she were to get divorced in the future, she didn't need to split it with her man. Qiao Zijin was very clear of this in her heart.

Ding Jiayi's face stiffened. "Sure. This is your matter, after all. You can decide what's best for you. If you don't want to, I'll reject the person."

A lot of people in the quad knew that Qiao Zijin was divorced. Those who loved to be matchmakers naturally had information on men who were also single and divorced. As such, someone asked Ding Jiayi to ask Qiao Zijin if she was interested in finding another man since she was still so young and couldn't possibly remain single for life. Coincidentally, she had a man with good conditions.

Of course, this 'good' was relative. This man's conditions couldn't compare to Qiao Zijin's ex-husband, let alone Zhai Sheng. However, this man had good financial conditions. He had a big house that was nearly two hundred square meters and had quite a lot of savings at home. Most importantly, he had a daughter. He didn't have the intention to recruit a son-in-law. He hoped that after getting married, his wife would give birth to a son for him. By then, everything in the family would be passed down to this son.

Qiao Zijin gave birth to a son before. Naturally, this marriage fell on Qiao Zijin's head.

When the matchmaker was making introductions, she also asked if Qiao Zijin abided by the 'rules' more after she was divorced and if she was still so 'playful' and only headed home after midnight. The other party wanted to marry a wife back to give birth to a son and lead a life.

If Qiao Zijin, who was divorced once, was still doing the same things as before, then no one could bear it. Furthermore, if not for Qiao Zijin having given birth to a child and having Qiao Nan, a sister

who married well, the other party might not have been willing to look at Qiao Zijin in the first place.

After hearing this man's conditions, Ding Jiayi felt that he was worth a look. Ding Jiayi knew clearly what kind of temper her daughter had and what kind of person she was. A man like that was pretty good.

Although Ding Jiayi felt that he was good, it was more important to see what Qiao Zijin thought. At this time, Qiao Zijin refused without even thinking. Ding Jiayi couldn't be bothered to be the bad person and persuade Qiao Zijin. "Do you need me to keep a lookout for you in the future? Or will you handle this on your own?"

In the face of Qiao Zijin, a daughter with a lot of thoughts, Ding Jiayi knew that even if Qiao Zijin wanted to get married in the future, she might not be willing for her mom to make any form of contribution.

Who would complain that they had little things to do? If she could be lazy, why did she have to work so hard?

"No need. I'll handle my matters on my own." How good a man would her mom introduce? She wasn't in a hurry to get married. When she was rich, she could do without marriage and lead a great life alone. If there was someone else by her side, it meant that there was another person spending her money. She wasn't going to be a fool and find a man who would spend her money.

"Alright," Ding Jiayi replied very simply. "I'll go and get busy. Go and play your computer games." Qiao Zijin was back. Even if they were about to celebrate the new year and there were a lot of things to be done at home, Ding Jiayi never expected to count on her elder daughter, Qiao Zijin, to help with anything so that she could relax. It was better for her to rely on herself for household chores.

Ding Jiayi's nonchalant look and lack of persuasion did not make Qiao Zijin feel more relaxed. Instead, she felt angrier. She didn't know what was wrong with her. If her mom interfered too much, she was unhappy. However, she hated it more when her mom was nonchalant.

This new year was terrible.

Qiao Zijin led a miserable new year. Ding Jiayi prepared meals according to Qiao Dongliang's preferences. This caused Qiao Zijin to either not have enough food to eat or grow red and swollen 'pimples' if she ate them reluctantly. The forty-three-year-old Qiao Zijin felt depressed.

Chapter 2234: Different Expectations

At first, Ding Jiayi promised to prepare a delicious meal for the family if Qiao Zijin and Qiao Dongliang would visit Ping Cheng for the New Year. On New Year's Eve, Qiao Dongliang would certainly find his favorite dishes on the dining table. However, it wasn't quite the same with Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Zijin would find her favorite dishes in the past few years, but this time, there were only a few likable dishes scattered around the table.

There was nothing expensive like seafood, and Ding Jiayi only cooked up the most basic ingredients. Qiao Zijin thought to herself that it was the worst New Year dinner ever.

Her mom would prepare better dishes even when they were poor. Qiao Nan definitely handed her father cash as a New Year gift, so why didn't Ding Jiayi spend it all? Qiao Nan would pass more money to her if they ran out of cash anyway! Did she think that saving up on food could sugarcoat herself as a likable mother? How foolish!

Set aside the anger Qiao Zijin faced throughout the meal. Qiao Nan thought that it was one of the best New Year she had had. Not only did she have a loving husband that took great care of her, but there were also three adorable children by her side. There was nothing more that she would ask for.

"Next year, our lovely kids will be able to join us for dinner as well. Grandma is going to make sure to prepare the best food for you."

The children were shaping up well as their facial features grew more defined than before. Their skin was soft and fair, and their dark, sparkling eyes were irresistible.

Since the children were still young, they could only watch the adults eat from their strollers while munching on their fingers.

Qiao Nan wiped the drool that was dripping from Er Bao's lips. "Yes, they will be able to have a proper meal next year. Who knows? They might be picky eaters." Qiao Nan had fed the kids before

dinner. She ran her fingers across Er Bao's belly and was reassured that Er Bao still had milk in his stomach.

Sensing the gentle touch from her mother, Er Bao smiled at Qiao Nan silently, exposing his tiny teeth. Qiao Nan couldn't help but peck him on the cheek. "Er Bao, be a good boy. We will play with you later."

Since Da Bao and Er Bao were full, they had already fallen asleep. Er Bao was the only one wide awake, swinging his legs in the air. Da Bao and San Bao were still munching on their fingers with their eyes shut. They must be having sweet dreams.

Miao Jing couldn't wait to get her hands on the adorable children. "I can't eat much at this age, so I'll take care of Er Bao after finishing my meal. Nan Nan, you can take your time." Her grandchild was growing up well, and she was certain that there wouldn't be anyone cuter than her grandchildren in the neighborhood.

"Mom, it's alright. I'm almost done with my meal as well." Qiao Nan always had a small appetite, and she would have left the table if it were any other day. However, she wanted to spend more time with the elders on New Year's Eve.

"I... I'm done!" Jiajia rushed to finish her food and swallowed the last bit of rice with a loud gulp. "I'll play with the boy since I've finished my meal."

The little brothers and sister were at their most adorable age. Their soft skin and the pleasing scent would always put a smile on Jiajia's face, especially when the children giggled along with her. "Auntie, did Er Bao gain weight again?" She was worried that she wouldn't have the strength to carry the children the next time they met.

"Of course, kids his age grow surprisingly fast." Zhai Hua was in no rush to play with the kids. Unlike Jiajia, she had enough experience handling kids. "It was the same when you were at their age. Look at you now. You have grown into a beautiful lady."

Jiajia sniffed. She had no memories of her childhood. "Er Bao... Er Bao, why do you always stare at me? What are you looking at? Do you know that I'm your older sister? Er Bao, why do you smell so nice? Who do you think is my favorite among the three of you?" Jiajia looked down at Er Bao and asked.

Lying in Jiajia's arms, Er Bao waved his hands in the air. It was as if he was saying that he was Jiajia's favorite.

"You are right! Er Bao is my favorite. Good boy!" Jiajia wrapped her fingers around Er Bao's wrist. She couldn't hide her affection toward her little cousin. "Auntie, we have to take lots of pictures of the children. Otherwise, we won't get to see their chubby faces again when they are older."

"Right..." Speaking of pictures, Qiao Nan seemed to recall something. "Brother Zhai, didn't you receive a mail today? Could it be the kids' pictures from the photoshoot?"

Qiao Nan had forty days of postpartum confinement, which meant she only left the house forty days after giving birth. The same went for the three children. It was a trend to have a photoshoot for the babies, so Qiao Nan didn't want to miss out.

Of course, Qiao Nan made sure that the children were healthy enough to be brought out of the house.

Money was never the issue for the Zhai family, so Qiao Nan got Zhai Sheng to pay for the early delivery of the photos.

"Yes." Zhai Sheng was almost done with the meal as well. Ever since the children were brought into the family, the conversation had always revolved around the kids. It seemed like there was nothing else to talk about between Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan. Luckily for them, Qiao Nan was not a sensitive woman, and Zhai Sheng was a rational guy. This situation did not bring any trouble to the family.

Zhai Sheng took the frames out of the mailbox. "Not bad. You can still tell that those are our kids." Zhai Sheng knew that some photoshoots would edit the faces so much so that they looked unrealistic. Zhai Sheng wouldn't allow that to happen to his children, so he paid extra attention to the pictures.

"Wah! Let me see it."

Chapter 2235: Not Losing Any Weight

Jiajia glanced at Er Bao, who was lying in her arms, then looked over at the pictures from afar. She felt like she fell into a dilemma.

As a considerate aunt, Qiao Nan took her son back from Jiajia. “Go take a look.”

“Thanks, auntie.” Jiajia quickly snatched some pictures from the adults and started complimenting them one by one.

Er Bao seemed to notice the familiar scent of his mother, and he kicked his legs happily in the air. It was like a little frog on its belly trying to get back up. “He is so energetic at such a young age. It is no doubt that he will grow up to be a naughty boy.” Qiao Nan spoke with her gentle voice as she tapped Er Bao on the tip of his nose.

“That’s fine. If he dares to be disobedient, we can send him to serve the military.” Zhai Sheng put his arm around Qiao Nan’s shoulders. The boys being naughty was the last thing he would ever worry about. Zhai Sheng remembered very clearly how Old Master Zhai treated the kids when he was young.

Other than Zhai Sheng, who was spoiled by his parents, Old Master Zhai had his way with the playful kids. There was no one that the army couldn’t discipline.

Qiao Nan pushed Zhai Sheng away. “No way. Based on your family’s tradition, Da Bao and Er Bao might even volunteer to join the army. I want them to spend more time with me, so don’t even try sending them away.”

Qiao Nan remembered that in her dream, Zhai Sheng would bring the kids to the military camps during holidays. However, even San Bao, who was a girl, had never complained about it. The kids loved the military life, so Qiao Nan couldn’t stop them although she hated to see the children suffer.

Zhai Sheng held onto Er Bao’s chubby hands. “If they can’t spend time with you, I will be the one by your side.” When the children were old enough to make a living in the military world, Zhai Sheng would be at his retirement age. When the day came, he would have all the time to spend with Nan Nan. He didn’t want Qiao Nan to put all her attention on the kids and forget about him.

Qiao Nan giggled at his words. Zhai Sheng was not a romantic man, but his honest words were sweet enough to melt her heart. “Of course, you have to stay by my side. The children will eventually have their own families, and we will only have each other left when the time comes.”

Zhai Sheng was satisfied to hear her response.

“Take care of Er Bao. I’m going to call my dad and give him my greetings.” Er Bao was already asleep, so Qiao Nan gently put him in Zhai Sheng’s arms. Compared to the lifeless stroller, the arms of a parent sure carried more warmth and comfort.

However, Zhai Sheng’s arms were nowhere as soft and comfortable as a mom’s. Er Bao moved around, trying to find a soft spot, but it seemed like his dad’s arms had no such thing.

Thankfully, Er Bao was able to get used to it. Within minutes, he was already sound asleep.

Zhai Sheng shook his head. Was this really his son? It seemed like eating, sleeping, and crying were the only things that the boy could do.

“Dad, it’s me.”

“Nan Nan.”

“Happy Lunar New Year, Dad.”

“Happy New Year to you, too. Have you guys had your reunion dinner? How are the kids?” Qiao Dongliang was elated to get a call from Qiao Nan on this special day. At least, it was proof that she had not forgotten about him. “Have the kids grown taller?” Qiao Dongliang couldn’t hide his emotions. He always had mixed feeling toward the kids. He was glad that the children were growing up well but upset that he couldn’t witness their growth with his own eyes.

Qiao Nan sensed the gloom in Qiao Dongliang’s voice. After a few seconds of pondering, she turned on the video camera. “Look, Dad. The children are sound asleep after their meal.”

Qiao Dongliang’s sadness was swept away by the kids’ adorable faces. “They are even chubbier than before. You must be feeding them well. Nan Nan, is it tiring for you to take care of the kids? I hope that you didn’t lose any weight.”

Qiao Dongliang could only see the children, so he was worried about Qiao Nan’s health.

Qiao Nan turned the phone over and pointed the camera at herself. “See it for yourself, Dad. I lay in for forty days, so how could I lose any weight? I’m afraid that I might be weighing more than before.”

Others wouldn't be able to tell, but Qiao Nan knew that her body was losing its shape. When she looked at her bare self in the mirror, she saw wrinkles on her tummy for the first time in her life.

Every time Qiao Nan touched her tummy, it felt like she was touching a thick layer of fat.

"It's good that you are putting on some weight. You are a mother of three, and there is still a long way ahead of you. Listen to me. Don't learn from... Don't go on a diet or lose weight. Eat healthily and keep yourself strong."

Throughout the years, Qiao Zijin had never stopped 'dieting'. When Qiao Dongliang still cared about Qiao Zijin, he remembered hearing about all kinds of fattening food to avoid. Qiao Dongliang couldn't understand some of the words she was saying, but he did learn bits and pieces about dieting along the way.

What made Qiao Dongliang speechless was that Qiao Zijin, just like Ding Jiayi, was slightly fat. No matter how hard she tried to lose weight, the scale just wouldn't move an inch. On the other hand, Qiao Nan was slim no matter how much she ate.

"I'm not planning to lose weight." Qiao Nan shook her head. She hadn't had the chance to finish her studies because of her children, but she was not giving up on that degree. Many things were coming her way, so she wanted to gain some weight to maintain her stamina.

"Alright, I'm hanging up, then." Qiao Dongliang did want to take a few more glances at the children.

Chapter 2236: Couldn't There Be Peace?

However, when Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi sat next to him and kept glancing over at the triplets' faces, Qiao Dongliang felt particularly uncomfortable.

Ding Jiayi was the triplets' grandmother and Qiao Zijin was their aunt. However, their thoughts were impure and they wanted too much. They didn't do anything good before. They could not even recognize Qiao Nan, their daughter or sister. Would they care about the children?

If not for Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi being too pretentious, they could just look at the triplets openly if they were curious. Why did they have to be so sneaky?

Being affected by the things that happened before, it seemed that Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi wouldn't be able to reconcile with Qiao Nan. As such, Qiao Dongliang dared not bet that Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi could have a good relationship with the triplets. How could they be on bad terms with Qiao Nan but like the three children?

Different from Qiao Nan, Qiao Dongliang always wanted to try if their family of four could return to the way it was before. It was just that when the same situation and same problem happened to the triplets, Qiao Dongliang shook his head. There wasn't a need for everyone to get too close. It was better to maintain a distance.

After Qiao Dongliang switched off the video, Qiao Zijin pouted. How petty. Didn't she just take a look at them? Did he have to be so nervous? There wasn't much to see either. When her Feng Feng was young, he was much cuter than the three children. As she thought about this, Qiao Zijin focused on the TV and expressed that she really didn't care about it.

If not for Qiao Dongliang doing a video call next to her, she wouldn't have been affected and turned her head to take a look.

Ding Jiayi looked a little depressed. "Those three children are born to Qiao Nan?" Ding Jiayi really wanted a son. She tried so hard to give birth to two children, but who knew that both were daughters? Ding Jiayi always thought that if she had given birth to a son, so be it that Qiao Zijin wasn't filial to her. If Qiao Nan was a son, everything would become more perfect.

Her son would be as clever as Qiao Nan. Her son would know how to make money like Qiao Nan. Her son would be filial toward her like Qiao Nan. Was there a life better than this?

If Qiao Nan were a son, she would have long married Qiao Zijin off and so many things wouldn't have happened afterward. After getting married, everything related to Qiao Zijin, no matter good or bad, would be related to her in-laws. She wouldn't have much to do with her. It was like how after she was married to Qiao Dongliang, she didn't keep in contact with the Ding family anymore.

Everything, be it good or bad, was her matter alone. It had nothing to do with the Ding family.

She wanted to give birth to a son but didn't manage to. Qiao Nan gave birth to three children at one go and two of them were sons. Upon thinking that the triplets were fair-skinned and chubby, Ding Jiayi felt happy in her heart. Once she saw their faces, she knew that the Zhai family had treated them as their treasures and couldn't bear for them to suffer any grievances or harm.

Ding Jiayi expressed that if these three children were her grandsons or sons, she would also dote on them a lot. It was a pity that they were neither but her maternal grandsons. With the word 'maternal', even if they were males, they became invaluable.

"Yes, Nan Nan gave birth to them with difficulty." Qiao Dongliang nodded. As he said this, his eyes changed and he glanced at Qiao Zijin. Upon thinking that it was the last day of the year today and that tomorrow would be the start of the new year, he didn't want to mention things that could make people angry on such a festive day, ruining a good year. "Oh, right. After the new year, I would like to ask the both of you something. Seeing that there's still time now, you'd better think of how you would like to answer me then."

Qiao Nan didn't mention this explicitly but had hinted to Qiao Dongliang why Qiao Zijin insisted on coming over to the capital then.

Leave aside Chen Jun's matters. But when such a situation happened to Zhai Sheng again, not only did Qiao Nan feel disgusted, but she made it clear that this was intolerable. No matter what excuses Qiao Zijin made in the future, she didn't need to think about entering the Zhai family's door. As for her, Qiao Zijin had never regarded her as a sister. As such, it was really best if everyone kept a distance and not met one another anymore.

Qiao Nan mentioned it vaguely but Qiao Dongliang was confused. After all, Qiao Dongliang was someone with proper worldviews. He never would have thought about certain possibilities and naturally didn't push Qiao Zijin's behavior toward that direction.

Everyone was happily celebrating the new year. However, after the celebration was over, old scores that should be settled had to be mentioned.

Qiao Zijin's face changed and her lips formed a straight line. She knew that Qiao Dongliang's words were mainly directed at her. However, if Qiao Nan didn't explicitly tell her dad what the situation was, as long as she didn't admit to it, her dad couldn't do anything to her. However, the most important thing was that her mom shouldn't betray her.

She didn't want her mom to not even think about it and just explain the situation clearly when her dad asked.

As if sensing that the father-daughter pair would sweep their gaze over her, Ding Jiayi straightened her back. She stared fixedly at the TV and dared not let her eyes wander.

Upon mentioning the troubles Qiao Dongliang encountered when he last went to the capital, Ding Jiayi felt guilty. When Qiao Dongliang returned, he didn't ask much. Ding Jiayi initially thought that this matter was over. She wanted Qiao Zijin to take care of herself in the future so that she could lead a peaceful life with Qiao Dongliang. She didn't expect Qiao Dongliang to insist on settling old scores. She also wasn't sure how the relationship of their family of three would be like in the future.

Sigh. Did they really have to continue kicking up a fuss? Couldn't there be peace?

Ding Jiayi didn't understand. Other families led their lives. They did too. Why was it that theirs were so exciting whereas hers was so frightening? If she didn't know that she had never violated the law, based on this uneasy feeling, Ding Jiayi would have suspected that she was an absconding criminal.

No matter how the Qiao family spent the new year, the Zhai family felt very satisfied and couldn't feel more blessed.

The grandchildren whom Miao Jing and Zhai Yaohui wished for were all there. Although they were triplets, they looked clever and didn't seem to have major problems. When someone else's multiple births were born prematurely, they would often go to the hospital if they didn't grow well. However, the triplets from the Zhai family didn't.

Upon thinking about the Zhai family's personalities, many people had to admit that these three children were surnamed Zhai indeed.

Chapter 2237: There Was No Solution

Yes, there were no sick children in the third and fourth generations of the Zhai family. As premature triplets, they could still be so healthy. It really made people envious.

After knowing that there were three more children in the Zhai family this year, those who came to visit and send their greetings prepared a lot of baby things. The Zhai family would generally refuse if they were things for adults but not if they were for the children.

Of course, the biggest change was that these people looked at Qiao Nan differently now. Although it was the 21st century now and the Qing Dynasty was gone for a long time, children, especially sons, were really very important to a family.

The Zhai family didn't have the habit to favor boys over girls, let alone that Qiao Nan gave birth to three children at once and two of them were sons. As such, Qiao Nan's position in the Zhai family was very stable, and it could be said to be as strong as iron. Qiao Nan had a foothold in the Zhai family and her status as the Zhai family's daughter-in-law was unshakable. Thus, those people who wanted the Zhai family to give face to them had to be polite to Qiao Nan. They couldn't despise Qiao Nan like before.

Once Qiao Nan was unhappy, the Zhai family might really fight with them, the long-time friends, over a daughter-in-law like Qiao Nan.

Unless absolutely necessary, who would be willing to become an enemy of the Zhai family? Regardless if they fancied a girl with a background like Qiao Nan, she was married to the Zhai family, not their son. Why should they care so much?

As such, these people put away their contempt for Qiao Nan. A few people who were peers or were of the same age as Qiao Nan expressed that they wanted to befriend her. When everyone was free, they could come out for a chat, drink tea, go shopping, and so on.

In her previous life, Qiao Nan didn't have a lot of close friends, but it wasn't that she had none. Furthermore, based on her friendship with Shi Qing, Qiao Nan didn't need to expand her circle of friends at all. However, reality was different from her dream. As such, Qiao Nan didn't completely reject these people who showed kind intentions. Instead, she picked a few who looked kinder to socialize with.

If any problems were found during the process of socializing, the people that should be changed would naturally be changed. If there were no problems, it was alright to maintain a cordial relationship with them. Qiao Nan knew very clearly that she wasn't helping herself to make friends but for the Zhai family. After all, in such a circle, there must be some sources of information. If they didn't have a 'friend' and the flow of information was blocked, it wouldn't be beneficial to the development of the Zhai family.

As such, Qiao Nan's attitude toward making friends was very obvious. Qiao Nan wouldn't flatter those who were born well just because she had an inferior family background. She also wouldn't become proud and look down on anyone just because she was now the Zhai family's daughter-in-law. No matter who the other party was, Qiao Nan would treat everyone equally.

The way Qiao Nan handled things made a few people truly appreciate her. Qiao Nan wasn't the first person to have suddenly married well while having a lowly background. It was just that the

examples from before weren't good and problems would always happen. There were only a few couples who could make it to the end. As such, after Qiao Nan married Zhai Sheng, everyone wasn't particularly optimistic about this marriage.

However, it seemed that there were indeed exceptions to everything.

"I can't enter." There was a circle the Zhai family had relationships with and there was someone who was trying all means to befriend Qiao Nan. Only if they were friends could some matters be communicated properly face-to-face. If there was broken communication in the middle, everyone would be getting lesser benefits. What was difficult was that people couldn't enter the Zhai family's door as and when they liked. For this reason, Wang Yang's wife had a headache. After repeated attempts, she was still giving Wang Yang a disappointing answer.

Wang Yang didn't celebrate the new year well this year. In fact, he became more haggard after that. "There's no way at all?" Wang Yang was pretty angry. The Zhai family wasn't the emperor of ancient times. Why was it so difficult to meet Zhai Sheng or Qiao Nan?

Earlier, Wang Yang had told Zhai Sheng through others that they should have a meeting. It was a pity that no matter who Wang Yang looked for, Zhai Sheng always refused in the end. When Wang Yang was little, he was afraid of Zhai Sheng. After growing up, it became a habit.

Wang Yang heaved a sigh of relief and also felt helpless when he couldn't see Zhai Sheng.

Since Zhai Sheng's side was inaccessible, Wang Yang could only try harder on Qiao Nan's side. It probably wouldn't work if he went to find Qiao Nan directly. Wang Yang knew Qiao Nan but he felt that she didn't know him. If he rushed over to find her, Qiao Nan would think that he was up to no good. How would she be willing to sit down and have a chat with him?

It was easier for a woman to communicate with a woman rather than a man. At this time, Wang Yang asked his wife to step up again. He counted on her to help him contact Qiao Nan. Wang Yang even taught his wife that if she could really see Qiao Nan, she should cry and act pitiful in front of her.

After marrying Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan was neither lacking in money nor status. She might become softhearted and agree to their requests.

Who knew that although it was a good idea, reality was more demoralizing? How was it easy to meet Qiao Nan? Wang Yang himself couldn't enter the gate of the compound, let alone his wife.

Even if Wang Yang's wife said that she was a close friend of Qiao Nan, she was similarly denied entry. What era was it now? Were they friends just because they said they were? They could be let in if they were friends. However, even if Qiao Nan had just made new friends, she wouldn't have forgotten so quickly what their names were, right?

When Wang Yang asked again, his wife nearly cried. "No way at all." She was from Ping Cheng, not the capital. When she was in Ping Cheng, she didn't know Qiao Nan. When she was in the capital, of course there were no opportunities or channels to get to know her. Ways? She hoped that she could think of ways too.

One had to know that such a huge sum of inheritance concerned her villa, big house, and a house full of branded handbags!

Even if not for Wang Yang, her husband, she also hoped that she could contact Qiao Nan as soon as possible for herself. Wang Yang said that if she managed to reach Qiao Nan, they wouldn't have to go through Qiao Zijin to know her. As such, the five million yuan that Wang Yang intended to give to Qiao Zijin would be given to her instead. She was free to spend it however she liked. Even if she gave it all to her unworthy brother, Wang Yang wouldn't care.

Chapter 2238: Finding an Opportunity

In Ping Cheng, five million would be more than enough for her to purchase a large house for her younger brother. She would even have enough leftover to buy him a small BMW so that he could get married. In short, the five million yuan would help settle the most important event of her brother's life, and her brother would lead a comfortable life from now on.

Even if it was not for herself, she had to try her best for her brother's sake. Although this was a piece of good news, she had kept it from her family. In case she was unsuccessful, her family would have gotten excited over nothing if they had learned about the five million yuan.

Besides, ever since she found out that Qiao Nan had married Zhai Sheng and had become the chief's wife, Wang Yang's wife had felt rather pressured. If anyone could use their power to oppress others, it would be the Zhai family. There was no way they could do anything to the Zhai family or Qiao Nan. Moreover, they weren't even in control of the situation. It was truly a tricky situation.

As such, she had no intention of letting her family know about this matter until she succeeded. For the sake of her brother getting a wife, she could only give it her all.

“Qiao Nan gave birth to three children. Have you bought things for all three children? It’s better to be prepared for such a situation. It’ll be terribly awkward if we turn up unprepared.” Wang Yang didn’t know what to say.

It was the new year and Wang Yang was bringing his wife back to Ping Cheng to celebrate it. Unfortunately, not a single person in the Wang family was feeling happy even on such a joyous occasion. Even Father Wang had been frowning the whole year. Father Wang glanced at his daughter-in-law with an unfriendly gaze. Everyone in the Wang family knew just how dissatisfied he was with his daughter-in-law.

Hadn’t his brother-in-law liked Qiao Nan? There was nothing wrong with his son marrying Qiao Nan, but his son had refused. Yes, his daughter-in-law had given him a grandson. But what about Qiao Nan? She had given birth to a daughter and two sons for Zhai Sheng! Compared to Qiao Nan’s triplets, his daughter-in-law had only given him a single grandson. It couldn’t compare at all!

Besides, not only had Qiao Nan given birth to three children for the Zhai family in just a year after marriage, but Qiao Nan would even receive a windfall if the Zhu family’s assets were to really land up in Qiao Nan’s hands.

Women like Qiao Nan truly had good fortune and brought good fortune to their husbands too. If his son had married Qiao Nan, Zhu Chengqi might have helped Wang Yang progress through the ranks much more quickly for Qiao Nan’s sake. Then, they would have whatever they desired, be it money or status.

The situation would be completely different now. They had initially believed that the Zhu family’s assets would definitely be theirs, but a will had appeared out of the blue, leading to them having nothing to do with a single cent of the Zhu family!

This daughter-in-law of his did resemble Qiao Nan slightly. So, why had his son refused to marry Qiao Nan and chose to marry this woman instead? Didn’t they say that women were all the same once the lights went off? Anyway, this woman looked pretty much like Qiao Nan even without the lights off.

Father Wang couldn’t understand why Wang Yang had rejected his suggestion of Wang Yang marrying Qiao Nan at that time. Then, why had he married such a frustrating woman?

What Father Wang was most frustrated about was that his daughter-in-law did, in fact, resemble Qiao Nan. If they had been completely different, Father Wang might not have been so angry. She

resembled Qiao Nan in her appearance, but their fates and lives couldn't be more different. Most infuriatingly, the one whom his son had married was the one who had not made much of herself.

Because of Father Wang's attitude, it wasn't just Wang Yang who didn't have a good new year. In fact, Wang Yang's wife had it the hardest. Wang Yang's wife was not blind or foolish and could tell that her father-in-law was displeased with her. He was her elder, and Wang Yang was filial. Although her father-in-law was the one at fault, Wang Yang's wife dared not argue with him. Throughout the whole new year period, she was no different from a frightened quail and dared not lift her head at all.

What Wang Yang's wife had no idea about was that it was exactly because of this attitude that her father-in-law looked down on her even more.

Wang Yang and his wife had finally toiled through the year and were about to head to the capital to fight for the Zhu family's assets. The couple knew that the atmosphere in the family would never improve unless they managed to get hold of the assets. It didn't matter whether it was the new year.

Thinking about how they would spend the new year, Wang Yang's wife felt aggrieved. "Dear, you saw how my father-in-law was during the new year period. What will happen if we fail?" Her father-in-law's dissatisfaction with her had already reached its peak.

If she failed to help Wang Yang retrieve everything that belonged to the Zhu family, her father-in-law might very well force her to get a divorce from Wang Yang.

At the thought of that possibility, Wang Yang's wife was on the verge of tears.

"Don't be so timid. We'll succeed no matter what. We can't afford to fail. We don't need a backup plan. Stop saying such depressing things during the new year." After all, it was usually one's worst fears that always came true. He had to do everything he could to secure all of the Zhu family's assets. "There's no hurry. We still have a month before the court hearing date. We still have time. If we lose the case, we can appeal against it to freeze all of the Zhu family's assets. We'll appeal until we succeed. I don't believe that I won't get anything from Zhu Chengqi as his closest living kin!"

Because of the will that Zhu Chengqi had drafted before his death, Wang Yang lost all authority over the Zhu family's assets.

Before he could get hold of any of those things, there was no way Wang Yang was going to give Qiao Nan the chance to spend a single cent of the Zhu family's money. All of that belonged to the

Zhu family, and that meant that it belonged to him. He had even earned some of that through his own efforts. There was no way he would let anyone else spend his money.

“Alright, I understand.” Wang Yang’s wife finally relaxed upon hearing that. “Don’t worry. I know that Qiao Nan gave birth to two sons and a daughter. It was difficult to buy things for them before they were born, but now that they’ve been born, I’m sure I won’t make a mistake.” She would simply buy two sets of male outfits, as well as one for females.

If she couldn’t even do such a simple thing, her father-in-law would definitely force her to divorce Wang Yang. The thought of this possibility scared Wang Yang’s wife.

She couldn’t afford to get a divorce! Never!

No matter what it took, she would find a way to meet Qiao Nan and make friends with her so that she could talk about the Zhu family’s inheritance.

Nothing was impossible as long as one had the will. Wang Yang and his wife knew that they would eventually have a breakthrough as long as they kept their eyes firmly on Qiao Nan.

Chapter 2239: Acknowledgement

Wang Yang understood that Zhai Sheng had never been a good-for-nothing ever since he was young. In fact, he had never been Zhai Sheng’s rival. Even when they had grown older, their results had always been worlds apart. They would never be able to coerce the Zhai family into doing anything they refused to do. That wouldn’t even work against Qiao Nan.

As such, they could only use a soft approach.

That day, the adult school that Qiao Nan had applied for was distributing materials. As such, Qiao Nan had gotten the chauffeur to send her to school so that she could collect the materials. Qiao Nan’s course was not a full-time one, but a part-time one.

Because she had left to give birth to the three children, Qiao Nan felt as though an entire lifetime had passed now that she was returning to the school compounds again.

“Excuse me, are you carrying so many books alone? Is no one else helping you? Do you need some help?” For fear of slipping, Qiao Nan walked extremely carefully as she cradled a huge stack of

books in her embrace. At this moment, a woman about thirty years old walked up to her and offered Qiao Nan her assistance.

In the face of that lady's friendliness, Qiao Nan naturally replied with a smile, "That won't be necessary. I'm not alone. I have someone to help me. He just went to get the car. He'll be here soon. Thank you."

"Oh, I see." A tinge of disappointment flashed past that person's eyes. "It's about to turn to spring, but it's still rather cold, especially when the wind blows. No wonder people often say that it's the coldest when winter turns to spring. I felt rather uncomfortable standing there in the wind earlier. It's just as well. I have some free time. I'll wait with you and we can chat so that you won't feel too lonely. But you look rather familiar. Shall we be friends? My name's Li Yayan."

"Oh, hello." Qiao Nan nodded while smiling. "I'm..."

Qiao Nan had initially wanted to tell Li Yayan that spring wind was no different from the northern winds and that there was no point in them waiting together and facing the brutal winds together. Besides, she had already been standing against the wall, not in the direct path of the wind. As such, it wasn't particularly cold when the wind blew. Besides, it would take only another two to three minutes for the chauffeur to bring the car over. Qiao Nan felt rather embarrassed getting a stranger to wait with her for a couple of minutes. She had never been such a delicate or spoiled person.

But the moment Qiao Nan saw Li Yayan's face, she was stunned.

There was a strange sense of familiarity.

Li Yayan did look familiar, but she was sure that she didn't know anyone named Li Yayan. So, where did this sense of familiarity come from? After scanning the other party's face once more, Qiao Nan finally understood why she had such a feeling.

Li Yayan stroked her own face subconsciously. "What's wrong? Did I smudge my makeup while moving those books earlier?" Qiao Nan would probably feel the slightest bit of affection for someone who bore some resemblance to her, right? After all, this was fate.

Li Yayan felt that she had already done a good job and had presented a good attitude. There was nothing to nitpick about. In that case, Qiao Nan would probably make friends with her, right?

After realizing the situation, Qiao Nan laughed. “There’s nothing wrong with your makeup. Thank you for your kind intention, but I don’t really need it. My family is here to pick me up. Goodbye.” Familiarity? Could it not be familiar? She saw this face when she looked in the mirror every day. As Qiao Nan looked at this younger lady who resembled her and thought about how they had ‘bumped’ into each other, Qiao Nan was at a loss for words.

She resembled her and even offered to wait with her in the brutal winds while chatting. Most people born after the seventies were only children. She was born in the seventies, so that meant that this woman had to be born in the eighties. As such, there was an even higher likelihood of her being an only child. Qiao Nan felt out of place because of that lady’s friendliness. After all, she had probably been pampered as an only child.

Even while she had been in the Qiao family, her own family hadn’t treated her that well, much less strangers.

Apart from the people she knew well, Qiao Nan felt uneasy receiving care and concern from others. As such, Qiao Nan chose to maintain her distance from Li Yayan in spite of her friendliness.

“I’m sorry. There was a bit of a traffic jam when I drove out earlier. Let me help you move the books to the car.” The chauffeur was apologetic. He knew that the winds were still cold because it was only the beginning of spring and that it had been less than three months since Qiao Nan had given birth. That meant that she was much weaker than an average person. There was no way he would be able to make up to the Zhai family if Qiao Nan fell sick from waiting in the cold.

“It’s fine.” Qiao Nan didn’t refuse the chauffeur’s help and handed the stack of books over to him. The chauffeur then placed the books in the passenger seats. After ensuring that Qiao Nan had enough space, he gestured for Qiao Nan to take a seat. “Madam, I’ve switched on the heater in the car. Would you like some water?” There were bottles of mineral water prepared for her in the car.

Qiao Nan took out her handkerchief to clean her hands. “No, there’s no need to have the heater blasting. You can turn it down slightly. Let’s go home.”

After getting in the car, Qiao Nan waved goodbye to Li Yayan, who was still standing outside.

With that, Li Yayan could only watch helplessly as Qiao Nan left in the Zhai family’s car. Li Yayan sighed in frustration. She had already known that things wouldn’t go so smoothly. Thankfully, she had already taken the first step and had talked to Qiao Nan. As long as she had another chance, she was sure she could become Qiao Nan’s close friend.

Li Yayan knew that Qiao Nan had started interacting with others and was probably trying to make new friends. This was Wang Yang and her best shot!

Upon ensuring that Qiao Nan's car had gone off into the distance and she could no longer be seen, Li Yayan stomped her foot and harrumphed. "This weather! It's already spring but it's still so cold! If not for... I wouldn't even have left the house! I just hope I didn't stand in the cold for nothing today!" With that, Li Yayan made a call and a car immediately appeared to pick her up.

Qiao Nan, who had collected her books, returned with a chill.

Logically, three-month-old infants shouldn't have been able to recognize anyone. But the moment Qiao Nan appeared, the triplets could no longer keep still in their grandparents' arms. They waved their chubby arms and kicked around, staring in Qiao Nan's direction with their bright eyes and crying out.

Chapter 2240: A Moment of Foolishness

"You have no conscience." Miao Jing pretended to be hurt by her grandson, but she was still smiling. "Alright, alright. I'll return you to your mom. If you pee or poo in the future, I won't change your diapers anymore. Did you forget who fed you your milk, changed your diaper, and washed your buttock when you cried just now?"

The triplets expressed that they were still young and completely didn't understand what their grandma was talking about.

"Mom, carry them a while more. It's pretty cold outside and the wind has been blowing for a while. I don't think my clothes are clean. I'll carry them again after I change my clothes and wash my hands." When Qiao Nan was wiping her hands, she always felt that the back of her hands was a little sandy. The books were clean, so it meant that the wind wasn't.

If possible, Qiao Nan couldn't wait to take a shower first before carrying the children. However, the three children were making a lot of noise. Qiao Nan could only change her clothes in a hurry. After confirming that the coldness on her body had disappeared, she carried San Bao in her arms and kissed her. Of course, after kissing her daughter, she naturally couldn't leave behind her two sons.

After kissing her son's fragrant and slippery cheeks, the four of them felt comfortable and satisfied. Da Bao and Er Bao no longer continued to kick up a fuss and insisted on their mom to carry them.

They nestled themselves obediently in their grandparents' arms and nibbled on their own little hands.

Upon seeing this situation, Qiao Nan took a clean and soft handkerchief. She didn't find it troublesome as she wiped the triplets' mouths. "They recently have more saliva. Mom, do you think it's because they are teething soon?" Although this was the 'first time' she was a mom, Qiao Nan didn't find the children's growth to be unfamiliar.

Miao Jing's eyes shone. "That's right. I even found out today that Da Bao's gums feel a little hard. Seeing that Da Bao always wanted to bite on things but didn't look like he was hungry, I went to read up on a book. The book said that the child would feel itchy when they were teething. They might even grind their teeth." Upon thinking that the three children were teething, she knew that she could feed them solid food in a month's time.

"Is that so?" As Qiao Nan didn't breastfeed them, she didn't find out about this situation at the first instance. Upon hearing that Da Bao's gums were turning hard and he was teething, Qiao Nan was extremely happy. "Indeed, Da Bao is the eldest brother. He's teething so early. Er Bao, San Bao, don't lose to him. After all, the three of you were born at the same time."

The doctor said that the three children were raised well in Qiao Nan's stomach. As long as the adults took good care of them, their physical conditions would be similar to those of children born under normal circumstances. As such, Qiao Nan felt that if Da Bao was teething, Er Bao and San Bao would too.

"That's right." Miao Jing recovered herself. Since the children were teething, they had to prepare some teething food for them. The book said that children loved to bite on things after teething. If things came into contact with their hands and mouths, they would always try to stuff them in their mouths and bite them. "We have to start preparing some small items in our house."

"Yes. Prepare toys that are made of natural and sterile rubber. Before giving them to the triplets to play, we have to disinfect them as well." Also, any sharp or raised items in the corners of the house had to be put away. Even the corners of the tables and chairs had to be wrapped well in soft film.

It was so troublesome to raise a child. Raising three children at the same time made it impossible for them to be lazy.

"That's right." With regard to raising a child, Miao Jing was completely out of touch. When she gave birth to Zhai Sheng and Zhai Hua, the country didn't have good conditions like now. Even if the Zhai family similarly valued their children, they were affected by the conditions then. Moreover,

Miao Jing's heart was focused on Zhai Yaohui at that time. As such, Miao Jing completely didn't understand how to raise a child.

Upon hearing Qiao Nan's words, Miao Jing felt that these things were necessary. They had three children in the family. Three portions had to be prepared for things like toys. They should pay more attention to the corners of the house as well. They should put away whatever that should be put away and change whatever that should be changed. There should be protective covers on plugs. If they couldn't shift some things higher, then they should cover them completely so that the children wouldn't touch them in the future when they knew how to climb and walk.

Miao Jing had never raised grandchildren before. However, she read a lot of news and knew quite a bit about children. Now that it was time for her to raise her grandchildren, Miao Jing hurriedly took out her notebook and pen to write down the content that she still remembered so that they could be used as a reference in the future.

"Nan Nan, don't worry and just head to school. The triplets are still young. We'll help you take care of them at home. Don't worry. It has been so long. Your dad and I know how to take care of them." When it was time for Qiao Nan to go to school, Miao Jing was very happy to send her out. She knew that once Qiao Nan was out of the house, the triplets wouldn't cling to her and would still be willing to be taken care of by her, the grandma.

How would Qiao Nan not know Miao Jing's thoughts? She smiled helplessly. "I'll trouble you and Dad for the triplets." After giving the three children a light kiss on their cheeks, Qiao Nan carried her own 'schoolbag' and headed to school.

"Triplets, Mom's going to school. Say goodbye to her." The triplets were asleep now and even if they were awake, they wouldn't be able to understand her words. Miao Jing, as a silly elder, still grabbed San Bao's meaty hand and waved to Qiao Nan. When Nan Nan graduated, they would be the ones to send the triplets to school together.

They only managed to take care of their grandchildren when they were old. However, Miao Jing and Zhai Yaohui adapted to this well. The triplets were sleeping a lot and didn't know how to climb or run. Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing both knew in their hearts that they would only be able to raise them up during this time. When the children knew how to climb and run, they wouldn't be able to catch them, let alone take care of them or play with them.

As such, taking advantage of the few limited months, Miao Jing and Zhai Yaohui cherished the time spent with the children even more.

Everyone in the quad could see Zhai Yaohui's and Miao Jing's momentum of raising grandchildren, especially Zhai Yaohui's. He looked like he was going to lead a carefree life in his old age. Because his son, Zhai Sheng, worked hard, Zhai Yaohui could hence hand over the Zhai family's burden to Zhai Sheng early.

However, no matter what it was, people had to have children, especially sons, in order to have some confidence. At least, after having grandsons, Zhai Yaohui could completely focus his attention on them and Zhai Sheng could develop his career.

Of course, what Zhai Sheng could do now was just some minor details.