

RTAMM 2251

Chapter 2251: Not Allowed

It would be impossible for her to stay in the capital to accompany Qiao Zijin. Her roots were in Ping Cheng and Old Qiao was in Ping Cheng. Why would she stay in the capital?

The problem was that she really didn't expect Qiao Zijin to become so bad-tempered this time around. She changed her phone number immediately and there wasn't any room for negotiation.

"Alright, Zijin is already an adult. Would she not know her limits? She has so many ideas and tricks up her sleeve. Do you need to worry about her?" After knowing about this situation, Qiao Dongliang was both angry and anxious. His inner thoughts weren't as indifferent as what he had said.

He was angry because Qiao Zijin was already an adult and going to be a grandma in a few years' time. Why was she so childish and insisted on doing things that made people worry? It was really enough. She was going to be a grandma soon but was so stubborn. There was really no cure for her. "It's all your fault to pamper Zijin until she became like that. Now, do you know how to be anxious and worried? In the past, why didn't you think of educating Zijin well? You're suffering now because you had spoiled her in the first place!"

Qiao Dongliang was really annoyed at everything related to Qiao Zijin. She was unfilial, insensible, and often caused trouble to the family. If not for her being his biological daughter, Qiao Dongliang really wanted to ignore her. It was just that in the face of what Qiao Zijin did, Qiao Dongliang knew that even if he wanted to bother about her, he didn't have the ability to.

Did Qiao Zijin want his care and concern? No. What did Qiao Zijin want? She wanted lots of money to squander. Qiao Zijin never wanted a dad or a mom. If they listened to Qiao Zijin's words and went to the capital, causing them trouble was the least of Qiao Dongliang's worries. Qiao Dongliang was worried that Qiao Zijin's goal was Qiao Nan.

He and Ding Jiayi had already been disturbed by Qiao Zijin. He couldn't possibly help Qiao Zijin disturb Qiao Nan and force her to agree to Qiao Zijin's countless demands, right? Qiao Nan would lead a miserable life then.

Let's not first say if he would do this. After going through so many things, Qiao Dongliang faintly understood that if his or Ding Jiayi's requests were reasonable, Qiao Nan would agree to them. However, if they weren't reasonable, even if they were her biological parents, Qiao Nan might not be willing to care about them.

So be it that she was kicking up a fuss. Anyway, it wasn't the first time.

Two years ago, Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin had made such big news in Ping Cheng and appeared on TV a few times. They had long thrown all of Qiao Nan's face. Let's not talk about affection. What affection was there to speak of in their family? At the very most, they were just maintaining a little superficial contact.

Back then, Qiao Nan could take all her money and leave Ping Cheng without a word to live in another place. If anyone forced Qiao Nan too hard, even if she was now married to Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan could still use the same method to avoid the Qiao family.

If Qiao Nan was really cornered, she could do anything. She had survived being alone for so many years. If they really kicked up a fuss such that Qiao Nan could no longer stay in the Zhai family anymore and had to divorce Zhai Sheng, she could similarly lead a good life alone.

If things really became like this, they wouldn't be able to find Qiao Zijin today and Qiao Nan tomorrow. Qiao Zijin was different. She would always come back if she ran into difficulties. If Qiao Nan ran away, she would never come back.

Based on Qiao Zijin's character, would she care if Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi ran into difficulties? No. Not only would Qiao Zijin not care about Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi, but she might even run farther than Qiao Nan and hide herself well. By then, it would be as if they had never given birth to two daughters. They would even have to go to nursing homes and trouble the country's people to take care of them.

Upon thinking that things were likely to develop into this situation, Qiao Dongliang's heart was dead.

As long as they ignored Qiao Zijin now, he and Ding Jiayi were still left with Qiao Nan. If they bothered about Qiao Zijin and listened to her words to cause Qiao Nan trouble, they would be left with no daughters.

Qiao Zijin could be so selfish. Who couldn't be? At this age, Qiao Dongliang only wanted to lead a peaceful life. He simply didn't have the energy to accompany Qiao Zijin and help her lead the life that she wanted.

"That wouldn't do." Ding Jiayi didn't have the same determination as Qiao Dongliang. Upon thinking that Qiao Zijin was unfamiliar with the capital, didn't have any friends there, and wasn't close to the only relative she had there, Ding Jiayi was so anxious that she felt that her heart was going to explode. "No, I'm worried if we can't contact Zijin. I'll not be able to sleep at night. No matter what, I have to first confirm that Zijin is safe."

"Confirm? How are you going to confirm?" Qiao Dongliang faked a smile. "Are you going to buy a plane ticket to rush to the capital to find your precious daughter?"

"How could I buy a plane ticket?" Ding Jiayi rolled her eyes. That was extremely expensive, alright? "It's not as if we don't have family in the capital. Furthermore, that person will definitely be of help in the capital and help us find Zijin. It's alright. You don't have to care about this. I'll find her myself."

To be honest, upon knowing that Qiao Zijin lost contact with her in the capital, Ding Jiayi was both nervous and scared. There was no choice. Wasn't Qiao Nan in the capital? Qiao Nan was the Zhai family's daughter-in-law and Zhai Sheng was the chief. As long as Qiao Nan went to find Qiao Zijin, the Zhai family could definitely call out a bunch of people to help them. As long as the Zhai family was around, did they have to be afraid that they couldn't find Qiao Zijin? Also, with the Zhai family around, Ding Jiayi didn't need to worry if Qiao Zijin would be bullied or harmed in the capital.

"..." Indeed, this matter concerned Nan Nan again. "No, you're not allowed to find Nan Nan. This matter has nothing to do with Nan Nan. It's not as if Qiao Zijin ran into some danger or an accident that she lost contact with you. She deliberately ignored you. She's already treating you like this but you're still concerned about her. Did you forget what I said just now? You've spoiled her. She should have long guessed that you would definitely find Nan Nan for help, thus she changed her phone number. If she wants to stay in the capital, she has to get Nan Nan's help. You're such a good mother to Qiao Zijin. No matter what, you would have ways to pass her a ladder such that she could climb up a big tree."

"Old Qiao, why are your words so ugly? I didn't think of doing so many things.. I just want Qiao Nan to help me find Zijin to confirm that she is safe."

Chapter 2252: Made a Phone Call

“As to what happens after, I’m not going to care. I won’t force Qiao Nan to do according to what Zijin says. I’ve said before that I would lead a good life with you and try not to do anything to make you angry. Zijin is alone outside. I don’t believe that your inner thoughts are as ruthless as what you’ve said and you don’t care at all.”

“No, Zijin’s banking on this idea. If you’re really concerned about Qiao Zijin’s safety, I’d rather you go to the capital, find her yourself, and come back only after you see for yourself that she’s safe. I don’t allow you to call Nan Nan.” No means no. He obviously knew that this was Qiao Zijin’s trick. If they really did so, Qiao Zijin would have succeeded. What were his previous efforts and Old Ding’s insistence then? Wouldn’t they all go to waste?

“Old Qiao, can you not be so stubborn? You can’t possibly wait until the day that something really happened to Zijin in the capital that you feel regretful that you didn’t confirm her safety, right? She’s our biological daughter. How can we be so stubborn and ignore her completely?” In the past, it could be said that she had cared too much. However, she couldn’t completely let go now and not care at all.

Qiao Dongliang was extremely irritated. “You said that you wanted to lead a good life with me. You already know my thoughts. I can’t control what you want to do. However, if you do it, don’t regret it. It’s still the same thing. If we can’t live our lives together, it’s alright that we don’t!”

This time, Qiao Dongliang really gritted his teeth and wasn’t willing to care about Qiao Zijin anymore. Qiao Nan’s situation now was different from the past. In the past, Qiao Nan was alone. Now, she was a mother of three.

Even if Qiao Dongliang didn’t consider for Qiao Nan, he had to for his three grandchildren. No matter what it was, as long as Qiao Zijin was involved, things wouldn’t recover. For the sake of his three grandchildren, Nan Nan couldn’t be involved in this matter no matter what.

Qiao Dongliang could control himself. However, Ding Jiayi’s hands and mouth were on her body. If Ding Jiayi really wanted to do so, Qiao Dongliang couldn’t stop her. However, Qiao Dongliang had already said firmly that if Ding Jiayi were to do so, everything that they had discussed before would be in vain. From then on, they would lead their own lives.

Ding Jiayi felt helpless that Qiao Dongliang said such words. She didn’t understand. In this family, why were her daughter and husband so stubborn? There wasn’t any room for discussion at all.

However, a husband was a husband and a daughter was a daughter. Ding Jiayi naturally didn't dare to make this call in front of Qiao Dongliang. However, what if she did so behind Qiao Dongliang's back?

In the end, Ding Jiayi did make this call. She felt that Qiao Zijin was also Qiao Dongliang's daughter. If something happened to Qiao Zijin, Qiao Dongliang would definitely feel miserable. By then, Qiao Dongliang might even blame himself. It seemed that no matter what was going to happen, she would be the scapegoat.

Since this was already the situation, what else was there for her to feel troubled over? She would make this call. She couldn't possibly ignore Qiao Zijin.

It was a pity that Ding Jiayi didn't have that bit of self-consciousness. She felt that Qiao Zijin was her daughter. Qiao Nan was also her daughter. She didn't get Qiao Nan to do anything difficult. She only wanted to confirm Qiao Zijin's safety. Qiao Nan shouldn't refuse. After all, it was only a small matter.

It was just that when the Zhai family's auntie received Ding Jiayi's call, she didn't transfer it to Qiao Nan for her to listen. "I'm sorry. It's already so late. Qiao Nan and the children are already asleep. If there's anything, please call again another time."

After saying this, the auntie hung up Ding Jiayi's call. After that, she snorted. "Since Qiao Nan got pregnant until she gave birth and completed her confinement, this mother didn't even make a call to ask about her, let alone visit her."

If Ding Jiayi only had a daughter in her heart, why was she calling Qiao Nan? It was good if everyone treated one another as strangers. After hanging up the call, the auntie didn't mention this call to Qiao Nan. After all, when this call was made, Qiao Nan was indeed sleeping with the three children.

What was different was that after Qiao Nan coaxed the three children to sleep, she was still revising her homework. There was a small test of some sorts. However, why would the auntie share this with Ding Jiayi so clearly? She just told her that Qiao Nan was asleep. If a simple sentence could resolve the matter, why bother wasting her breath? There was no need to do so, especially toward Ding Jiayi.

The next day when Qiao Nan woke up, she got ready to go to school after taking care of the three children. Then, she received Qiao Dongliang's call. "Hello? Dad? Why are you calling me at this hour?" The problem was that she was rushing to school now.

Thankfully, after being married to the Zhai family, Qiao Nan didn't need to take public transport. She could go to school in her own car. Otherwise, she wouldn't be able to pick up this call. "Dad, is something wrong?" Otherwise, her dad shouldn't have picked this time to call her.

On the other end, Qiao Dongliang seemed hesitant. After hesitating for a long time, he said, "Did your mom call you?" Needless to ask, Qiao Dongliang also guessed that Ding Jiayi couldn't hold back. With this call, Qiao Dongliang didn't know if he wanted to be angry with Ding Jiayi or wanted to see Qiao Nan's attitude and reaction.

"My mom?" Qiao Nan paused in her action of wearing shoes. She turned back and looked at the auntie. "Auntie, did you pick up any calls from my family?" Her dad had her phone number, but not Ding Jiayi. She believed that her dad wouldn't dare to give her number to her. As such, Ding Jiayi could only call the landline at home.

The auntie didn't feel guilty. "Yes, she called yesterday night. It was so late then. You and the triplets were already resting. She didn't say what it was about, so I asked her to call again." As for the timing, the auntie said it very vaguely, aiming at Ding Jiayi.

"Oh," Qiao Nan replied indifferently. She didn't have the intention to blame the auntie at all. As long as it was possible, she didn't want to pick up Ding Jiayi's call. "Dad, the auntie said that she did call me. Is anything else the matter?"

In front of the Qiao family, Qiao Nan had learned well. Qiao Dongliang only asked if Ding Jiayi had called her. As such, she only had to answer this question of his. As to why Ding Jiayi would call her in the middle of the night or why she was calling, Qiao Nan didn't ask.

Chapter 2253: A Suggestion

Qiao Dongliang sighed. "There's nothing else. You can go ahead and do whatever you need to. Everything's fine in the family. You don't have to worry about us."

Qiao Dongliang was, of course, worried about his daughter, Qiao Zijin. His years of experience told him that it wouldn't end so easily once Qiao Zijin had something up his sleeve. All he could do was comfort himself that Qiao Zijin would be fine. Qiao Zijin wasn't that smart academically, but she was street-smart. As such, she would definitely be able to find solutions to her own problems.

“Alright, I’m hanging up, then.” Qiao Dongliang knew that he would be wasting his breath, so he simply hung up.

After hanging up the phone, Qiao Nan quickly tossed the matter to the back of his mind. She knew that Qiao Dongliang would never hesitate nor keep it from her if the matter was truly urgent. Before getting married, she had never been the one who created the problems, but she had always been the one solving them. The Qiao family was already used to relying on her. They had never considered whether they would be able to solve the problem without bringing her into the picture.

Realizing that, Qiao Nan was in quite a good mood on the way to school.

“Here, Qiao Nan!” As soon as Qiao Nan got out of the classroom, she bumped into Li Yayan again. Every time Qiao Nan had classes in the afternoon, Li Yayan would ‘coincidentally’ be there to meet Qiao Nan. Thankfully, Li Yayan was no princess in front of Qiao Nan. It was only because her class had ended late that Qiao Nan had been forced to head out instead of eating in the canteen the previous time. Normally, Qiao Nan would simply settle for the food in the canteen. “I heard that there’s braised pork in the canteen today. But we’ll have to hurry. Otherwise, it’ll be sold out by the time we get there.”

“Really?” Qiao Nan’s eyes glimmered. The canteen was rather famous for their braised pork. For Qiao Nan who needed to replenish her energy, there was nothing better than meat. “Let’s go!”

The pair rushed down to the canteen and Qiao Nan ordered a double portion of braised pork. Qiao Nan salivated upon looking at the delicious and fragrant dish.

Unlike the greedy Qiao Nan, Li Yayan was much more graceful. Apart from the lean portion of meat, she simply threw the fatty meat aside. Li Yayan glanced and sized Qiao Nan up as she ate. Wang Yang had told her that Qiao Zijin had arrived in the capital the day before. So, had Qiao Zijin gotten in contact with Qiao Nan?

“Qiao Nan, did you know I met a close friend from my hometown who was here for a holiday recently? I had a lot of fun with her for a few days!”

“Is that so? That’s great.” Qiao Nan smiled. “Why didn’t you spend a few more days with her? Has she returned to your hometown?” If she didn’t have lunch in school, she would never bump into Li Yayan. As such, Qiao Nan was still unclear of whether Li Yayan was actually a student of this school.

Li Yayan smiled and took another bite of her meal. After giving it a few chews, she replied, "People at our age have their own families and careers. I'm not working, but she has to return to work. It's only because she accumulated quite a lot of vacation days that it would be a waste to give them up. That's why she went on a vacation. Apart from the capital, she visited other cities for a total of seven days too. If she didn't return, she would probably have been fired!"

"Oh, I see."

Li Yayan had not talked about her friend for nothing. She had done so to bring up the topic of Qiao Zijin. But even after Li Yayan finished, Qiao Nan seemed to have no intention of mentioning Qiao Zijin at all. Did that mean that Qiao Nan had no idea that Qiao Zijin was in the capital?

Just as expected, Qiao Zijin didn't share a close relationship with Qiao Nan. She hadn't even contacted Qiao Nan after reaching the capital yesterday. She couldn't help but feel grateful that the sisters weren't close. Otherwise, the five million yuan would never be hers.

Because of their poor relationship, Li Yayan was confident of getting the five million yuan. "Oh right, I haven't heard you mention your family. I'm actually quite envious of you. Although I don't have to work, I have so many things to worry about at home. My husband ran into some trouble lately, and I feel so bad watching on from the sidelines, so I had no choice but to help him out. Have you ever encountered such a situation?"

Qiao Nan wiped her mouth. Alright, she had always joked that her in-laws were like rice buckets. But now that she had married into the family, she was truly a rice bucket when compared to Li Yayan. "My family's alright. My husband is quite capable and he solves any problem he encounters himself. If I encounter any problems, he'll help me too. I never have to worry about him. Of course, every couple is different, and I think you have quite a good relationship with your husband. Whether or not you can help, it's always good to have someone around."

Li Yayan felt like slapping herself. She had never expected Qiao Nan to give such an answer. She also hoped that she would have a husband who could handle everything for her. But Wang Yang's kindness toward her had always been limited and conditional. It had never been so simple.

"What's good about that? I've never been able to help even when he's in trouble. Sometimes, I even frustrate him even more. I'm upset that I'm so useless, but there's nothing I can do about that. Qiao Nan, why don't you give me some advice on what I can help my husband with?" Only Qiao Nan alone would be able to come up with a good solution.

Qiao Nan was confused. “What can I possibly do if even you can’t solve the problem?”

“Don’t they say that two heads are better than one?” As long as Qiao Nan was willing, they would come up with a solution to this problem at any moment. But she wondered if Qiao Nan would agree to it.

Qiao Nan picked up her glass and smiled meaningfully. Li Yayan had finally shown her true nature. “Alright. I can’t promise that I have a plan, but if you want to talk about it, I can be a listener, at least. Perhaps, I could even give my analysis on the matter.”

1

Qiao Nan was curious about the kind of person Li Yayan was.

Of course, Qiao Nan knew that Li Yayan had an ulterior motive for approaching her, but she didn’t immediately ask for Zhai Sheng’s help. Zhai Sheng had enough to deal with in the military, and she didn’t think that Li Yayan was being too much of a bother. She could easily deal with Li Yayan herself.

“Well, my husband met with some obstacles in his career.”

Chapter 2254: Refusing to Take the Bait

“Someone’s in the way of my husband’s career development and my husband wants to make a compromise so that both parties will be able to benefit from the situation. That way, everyone can remain friends in the future. The infuriating thing is that the other party is particularly stubborn and refuses to give in. The other party insists on fighting with my husband. How do you think we can resolve this matter?”

Qiao Nan raised her eyebrow deliberately. Did that mean that Li Yayan was Zhai Sheng’s rival’s wife? Who was trying to snatch Zhai Sheng’s position? There didn’t seem to be anyone. Hadn’t Zhai Sheng nearly reached the top? Who could Li Yayan’s husband be fighting against?

Apart from her parents-in-law and Zhai Sheng, the only candidate left was her and Zhai Hua. So, was she or Zhai Hua the one in Li Yayan’s husband’s way? After giving it some thought, Qiao Nan felt that it was more likely for Zhai Hua to be the one.

She was no longer that female minister of foreign affairs she had been in her dream. Now, she didn't even have an official job. Why would she have gotten into a conflict with anyone? On the other hand, Zhai Hua moved around quite a lot while she was in Ping Cheng because she wanted to prepare Jiajia's dowry. In that case, did Li Yayan's family think so highly of her to think that she would have influence over Zhai Hua?

"Qiao Nan, why don't you give me a suggestion?"

Qiao Nan shook her head. "This won't be so easily settled. You were so vague about it, so I'm not too clear about the circumstances either. Without that, I might be dragging you down instead of helping you. Without a full understanding of the situation, it wouldn't be right for me to make any comments either."

Li Yayan had been rather vague, and all she had understood was that someone was trying to snatch something from Li Yayan's husband. She had no idea what or why that person was snatching that away. Although Li Yayan had used the word 'snatch', it could be fighting over it instead of snatching it in reality. If they were competing fairly, it would be unfair toward the other party if she were to make a suggestion.

Besides, what Li Yayan was truly after might not even have been her suggestion but her influence. Whether Li Yayan's husband was after Zhai Hua and the Zhai family's position or not, Li Yayan's husband would definitely have a high chance of winning if she were to make use of her status as the Zhai family's daughter-in-law. But Qiao Nan refused to even be involved in the Qiao family's matters, so why would she interfere in someone else's affairs?

"Actually, your husband is quite capable himself. You don't have to worry on his behalf." If he was incapable and couldn't win against the other party, then the problem lay in him.

Li Yayan was naturally dissatisfied with Qiao Nan's answer. "Qiao Nan, what's needed here aren't real abilities. Logically, it should belong to my husband. It's just that someone's stirring up trouble." If not for the will that Zhu Chengqi had left behind, everything of the Zhu family should have gone to her husband. Then, there would have been none of this trouble.

It was because of this will that her husband had run into some trouble.

If they went ahead with the lawsuit and Wang Yang applied to freeze the Zhu family's assets, Qiao Nan would not be able to use a single cent of the Zhu family's assets. The problem was that their family wouldn't have access to it either. But money was lifeless while humans were alive. The connections Zhu Chengqi had left behind would be even harder to manipulate than his money.

Thinking about how all of Zhu Chengqi's personal connections would become the Zhai family's if she were any slower, Li Yayan was frantic. Whether it was money or power, Wang Yang wanted it all.

Even if he couldn't have all of the Zhu family's assets to himself as he had intended on, at least eighty percent would be his. Since he wasn't willing to share those personal connections with Qiao Nan, the only way of getting rid of her was with money.

"Someone stirring up trouble?" Qiao Nan laughed helplessly. "I think this matter sounds rather complicated. If you really care about your husband, you should simply spend more time with him. I'm sure he'll figure a way out. After all, this concerns his career and everything he desires, doesn't it?"

Sorry, but Li Yayan had better not have any ideas of taking advantage of her. That was impossible. She was truly curious about whom Li Yayan's husband was. Li Yayan had spared no effort in trying to rope her in. She had played the long game to entice her. Not only had she spent a lot of effort but also a lot of time. This could only mean that Li Yayan's husband was after quite a lot.

This wouldn't do. Once she got away from Li Yayan, she would call Zhai Hua and ask about her situation.

Li Yayan had thought that they were close friends now that she had had many meals with Qiao Nan and had even gossiped with Qiao Nan.

Shouldn't Qiao Nan try to help her out as a friend? Even if she couldn't think of a solution, she should scold that person who was causing trouble for her and Wang Yang, and who was even stealing their things, at the very least!

But who would have expected Qiao Nan to respond so calmly, saying that she was not in the position to comment on the matter? Li Yayan had not even been able to achieve her goals. Hearing that her family had run into such trouble, Qiao Nan had no intention of showing her hatred or indignation to her enemy. Li Yayan had to resist the urge to ask, "It's been such a long time. Do you even treat me as a friend?"

But Li Yayan suppressed that urge. She couldn't just ask that question out of the blue. Even Qiao Zijin didn't have the right to be willful toward Qiao Nan. Even if Qiao Nan really saw her as a true

friend, Qiao Nan would surely not tolerate her if she angered her. In that case, all of her previous efforts would go to waste.

If the result would already be that terrible if she was Qiao Nan's friend, Li Yayan felt that she might face a huge blow or even vomit blood if Qiao Nan's answer was in the negative.

In order to protect what she had worked hard for, as well as her own health, Li Yayan stopped herself from asking such a sensitive and dangerous question. She had better not ask such a question impulsively, not even if she was serious about it.

"Li Yayan, it's about time. I need to get some books from the library. You can help yourself." Apart from chatting during meals, Li Yayan would wisely take her leave as soon as Qiao Nan wanted to concentrate on her reading, in case she annoyed Qiao Nan by staying by her side.

"Alright. Goodbye. Let's talk next time." It didn't matter that she had failed this time. There would still be another chance. She had already expected that it wouldn't be so easy to succeed in this matter. But seeing the situation now, Li Yayan had a tinge of regret. As expected, things were not going that smoothly, but at least, she didn't feel too disappointed.

Chapter 2255: Unreliable Thoughts

"Bye." Qiao Nan carried her books and left. After confirming that Li Yayan didn't follow her, Qiao Nan contacted Zhai Hua as quickly as possible. However, the result surprised her. "Oh. So it turns out that your situation is like this."

Based on what Zhai Hua said, she shouldn't be the one who had blocked Li Yayan's husband's way. After all, Zhai Hua had more than one competitor. Also, Zhai Hua spoke with her strength. Among all the competitors, she was the one who was most confident. There was no such thing as who this should belong to or who made trouble.

"Are the triplets alright?" Under the influence of her daughter, Zhai Hua became very concerned with her nephews and niece as well. "Did they grow bigger again? Do you know that ever since Jiajia returned from the capital, she has been asking about them every day? Thankfully, she's spending more time in school than at home. Otherwise, from the way she's asking, I would definitely be annoyed to death."

Jiajia's unprecedented love for the younger siblings made Zhai Hua feel impulsive. Why didn't she find another man and give birth to another child for Jiajia to play with? She was no longer young and was older than Qiao Nan. However, Qiao Nan didn't have problems when she gave birth to three children at one go. Her physical condition was much better than Qiao Nan's. Anyway, their family didn't have the genes for multiple births. It shouldn't be a problem for her to give birth to just one more.

Not only did Zhai Hua, this unreliable mother, dare to think about everything, but she even dared to share everything with Jiajia.

Thankfully, although Zhai Hua wasn't reliable, Jiajia was pretty reliable. Jiajia said that if there's a mother, there must be a father. She was an adult and things were too complicated, thus she could accept the fact that her parents were divorced so quickly. If her mom just wanted to give birth to another child, there really wasn't a need to. She didn't want the younger sibling to be a second her.

One couldn't continue to lead a life so casually. Most importantly, who would take care of the child when they were born? She had to go to school, her mom had to do business, and there was only a nanny left in the house.

Even if the auntie at her grandma's house looked good, her grandparents were at home and her aunt spent quite some time with the three children, thus there wasn't a need to worry. The problem was that based on their family situation, wouldn't her younger brother or sister suffer if the nanny they hired wasn't good and had the habit of abusing children? She'd rather her mom not give birth.

Jiajia raised a few realistic and difficult-to-solve questions consecutively. Initially, Zhai Hua just wanted to crack a joke. Now, she didn't even need to think about it. Also, not only was this joke not funny, but it was simply lame.

Qiao Nan didn't know that Zhai Hua and Jiajia had such a funny conversation. Her mind was still thinking about Li Yayan's matters. "Yes, they have grown quite a bit. They are quite meaty and heavy now. Mom finds it a struggle to carry them now. I think in two or three months' time, I won't be able to carry them either. It's an issue if they grow too well."

Not only were the three children growing vertically now, but they were also growing horizontally. Their weight would really be...

"Sister Zhai Hua, I still have lessons in the afternoon. I'll not chat with you anymore. The next time Jiajia is back, let's do a video call so that Jiajia can see her younger siblings?"

“Sure. Don’t worry and go to school. If there’s anything, remember to find me.” Zhai Hua really acknowledged Qiao Nan as a family from the bottom of her heart. She knew that in this family, Qiao Nan was the weakest member. As such, she wasn’t stingy with her in terms of help. It was just that when she thought of how everything from the Zhu family would soon become Qiao Nan’s, Zhai Hua laughed again. By then, perhaps it would be her who shouldn’t be so polite and find Qiao Nan if she ran into trouble instead.

For Qiao Nan, an afternoon of lessons was over in the blink of an eye.

“Nan Nan, you’re back?” Miao Jing was carrying one in her arms and another one was lying next to her. There was also another one who was beside her feet, using both hands and legs to crawl like a worm. Three chubby children surrounded Miao Jing, and she felt that she was the happiest old lady in the world. “Nan Nan, look. Is Da Bao considered to know how to climb now? You don’t know how forceful San Bao’s kicks were just now as well. Our children are growing well. They would definitely learn to walk earlier than other children.”

As she said this, Miao Jing touched San Bao’s chubby legs again. She couldn’t grab hold of San Bao’s thigh with one hand anymore. Miao Jing patted her legs in pity, “San Bao, you are a young lady, after all. When you grow up, you have to be beautiful, alright?”

The triplets, who knew how to recognize people now, only knew that their mom was back. How would they listen to what their grandma said? San Bao even twisted her body and opened her arms to Qiao Nan, asking for a hug.

Qiao Nan avoided it. “I’m not going to hug the smelly San Bao.”

“Gegege...” How would San Bao understand what her mom was talking about? However, she understood that she was playing with her. “Ah!” She wanted a hug!

“Fat little girl.” Qiao Nan carried San Bao and couldn’t help but give her a kiss on her tofu-like skin. “San Bao, what did you do with your two brothers today? Were you obedient? Did you give grandpa and grandma trouble?” After asking San Bao, Qiao Nan looked at Miao Jing. “Mom, did the three children throw tantrums today?”

The triplets were still young now. They wouldn’t understand reason. It wasn’t easy to control their tempers. If they really became stubborn, it would just be playing the lute to a cow. If one wanted to blame such a child and be honest with him, it wasn’t particularly good. Qiao Nan wasn’t averse to

raising them up herself. At the very most, it would just be tougher on her. However, she was studying now, and she left her three children to her parents-in-law. Upon thinking about their ages, Qiao Nan couldn't help but feel nervous.

Miao Jing drank a sip of water. After carrying San Bao for so long, her elbows were sore. The three children were getting heavier by the day. "Why are you nervous? Compared to other children, I think our triplets are very obedient. They don't like to cry. You don't know this because you didn't stay here in the past. The grandson of Old Xu's family next door used to cry so many times every day, and it was so difficult to coax him. After he turned one, I thought that the situation would become better, but he continued to cry twice or thrice at night!"

Back then, her daughter didn't marry well and she didn't keep in contact with her. Her son was stubborn and wasn't willing to marry. There wasn't a child in the family.. Coupled with the situation of their neighbor, those two years were really difficult for Miao Jing.

Chapter 2256: Asking Around

There was once when she was taking a stroll in the yard and everyone was just casually chatting. She casually said that Old Xu's grandson really knew how to cry. Who knew that the child's grandma heard this and said resentfully, "You don't have a child in the family, so you don't know the situation. Kids nowadays are arrogant. They are like the little emperors and princesses at home. It's inevitable that they love to cry. When you have a child in the family someday, you will know how different children are now compared to back then. Can grandsons be compared to sons?"

Because of these words, Miao Jing was so angry that she, who had low blood pressure all along, now had high blood pressure.

Of course, it was one matter if Zhai Sheng didn't want to get married and have children. It was another matter if someone used this to agitate the biological mother. The son would pay for the debts owed by the mother.

Zhai Sheng couldn't do much to elders. However, it was still possible for him to take care of peers more.

After having such an experience, the elders in the quad became more self-aware. Even if they completely didn't mention children in front of Miao Jing, they also didn't dare to use the topic of children to agitate Miao Jing and make her feel uncomfortable. Grandchildren were precious. However, she had given birth to a son as well. He needed to be doted on as well.

Later, everyone stopped mentioning this and Miao Jing naturally didn't say anything. Although Miao Jing didn't mention this since it had happened quite a few years ago, she still remembered it. It was good now. Not only did she have grandsons, but she also had a beautiful granddaughter. Miao Jing only felt that she was the most blessed old lady in the quad and no one else could compare to her.

“Our triplets are so obedient and they don't love to cry. Dabao, especially, is like an elder brother. You know that your dad and I are a little slower in our actions and the three children are hungry at the same time. Auntie made the milk very quickly and always let Er Bao and San Bao drink first. Da Bao's always the last one. Even if that was the case, Da Bao didn't snatch it away from Er Bao or San Bao. Seeing that they were drinking, Da Bao knew that it would be his turn very soon. Thus, he stared at us with his big pair of eyes, as if waiting for a meal.”

“You don't know that your dad has always been complimenting Da Bao. He said that Da Bao is like the Zhai family and has a certain aura. As the elder brother, he should be sensible and learn how to take care of his younger siblings. When Hua Hua and Zhai Sheng were young, he never praised his own children like this. When it comes to grandchildren, your dad has never been stingy with compliments. However, I think that once the three children grow up and understand things, your dad wouldn't compliment them so much. He said that if he compliments them too much, he was afraid that he would become arrogant.” Upon mentioning the triplets, Miao Jing could talk nonstop and wouldn't find it annoying.

In reality, compared to other children, the triplets indeed didn't love to cry. They loved to laugh more. The little Da Bao already started to learn how to look like his father, pretending to be serious with his cute look. Every time they saw Da Bao acting in all seriousness and frowning, the elders in the quad would rush over to tease him. The three children from the Zhai family were cute and had their own characteristics. Those big watery eyes made them look alert. They were really the Zhai family's blessing.

The children had arrived a little later. However, they were better than other children. Who else had such a blessing?

If their son was like Zhai Sheng and had gotten married at a later time such that they could receive three cute grandchildren, everyone expressed that young people should focus more on their careers first and start a family later! One could make necessary adjustments so that they would be successful in both family and career.

Da Bao was already half-climbing to her feet. Qiao Nan touched his small face and smiled. “No, our three children can withstand the compliments. They wouldn't become proud. However, we should

still take note of what has to be taken note of. Isn't that right, Da Bao?" As she said this, she kissed her son's chubby cheeks.

In her dream, after the age of three, Da Bao slowly rejected people kissing his cheek. As the children's mother, Qiao Nan was naturally the last one to be rejected. As boys grew up, they wanted face and gradually realized the existence of different genders. Qiao Nan respected her children's ideas but occasionally felt regretful.

Who knew that she was so lucky to actually be able to see her sons' baby looks for the second time? Before they grew up, Qiao Nan felt that she should kiss them as much as possible.

Indeed, not only did Da Bao not reject kisses now, but he even smiled happily. When he blushed, it was as if two little flowers had bloomed on his cheeks. Er Bao saw this and couldn't hold back anymore. Da Bao had kisses. San Bao had kisses. He wanted kisses too!

As such, the chubby Er Bao tried to squeeze his way through the sofa and pounce on Qiao Nan. He cried out anxiously, reminding his mom of his existence and the kisses that she owed him.

After understanding Er Bao's baby language, Qiao Nan hurriedly gave Er Bao a kiss. It was good now. After kissing one of them, she had to kiss the other too. When they grew up, only San Bao would be willing to be kissed. Her sons were petty. "Mom, do you know someone called Li Yayan? She's in her thirties. Do you know whose daughter-in-law she is?"

"Li Yayan?" Miao Jing frowned. "I don't know." She never cared much about such things. "What's wrong? Do you want to befriend her? Or did she create trouble for you?"

In the past, most people's attitudes toward Qiao Nan belonged to the latter. They liked to pick Qiao Nan's thorns. However, the former was generally more common now.

"Not exactly." Li Yayan wasn't creating trouble for her, but neither was she trying to befriend her. As long as Li Yayan achieved her goal, they should be strangers in the future. Over time, as they chatted more often, Qiao Nan could feel if Li Yayan was really trying to befriend her.

Li Yayan was trying to be her friend to win her trust and affection. However, at the same time, Li Yayan didn't show her any feelings. Qiao Nan found it funny. How was Li Yayan so confident that she would definitely succeed? Could it be that because she was younger than her, she was more confident?

Miao Jing didn't understand and looked at Qiao Nan. "What situation is this then? What did this mean?" Why didn't she understand?

"Nothing." Qiao Nan placed San Bao back in Miao Jing's arms.

Chapter 2257: I Will Wait for You to Be Back

Then, she carried Da Bao, who was grabbing her trouser leg and wanting to become a climbing animal eagerly, from the ground and fed him milk.

After 'exercising' for long, Da Bao was really thirsty. He lay in his mom's arms and was as comfortable as a little emperor as he started drinking.

"If there's anything, go and find Zhai Sheng. He should know." Miao Jing was 'unkind' to have pushed this matter to her son, Zhai Sheng. She was Zhai Sheng's wife. If Nan Nan ran into trouble, who else should she turn to if not Zhai Sheng? Otherwise, Zhai Sheng's role as a husband would be too easy, right?

Qiao Nan replied, "Mom's right. If there's anything, I should call Brother Zhai and give him something to do." Perhaps she could only find Zhai Sheng for this matter. Li Yayan was younger than her. If she wasn't someone's daughter but someone's daughter-in-law, her parents-in-law wouldn't have known.

After having dinner, Qiao Nan let her parents-in-law take care of the three children while she went to take a shower. After bathing, Qiao Nan called Zhai Sheng. "Hello? Brother Zhai, it's me."

"Yes." Zhai Sheng responded. "Is anything the matter? Did something happen to you or the children?" Zhai Sheng knew that they should pay more attention to younger children. They might be getting this shot today and another shot tomorrow. They might even get a fever if they were teething. It had been quite some time since the family had children. When the triplets fell sick almost at the same time, their family would become flustered.

Qiao Nan wiped her hair. "It has nothing to do with the children. It's me." Qiao Nan was used to Zhai Sheng's concise way of speaking and she didn't complain that he didn't sweet-talk. "Brother Zhai, do you know who Li Yayan is? She's a woman in her thirties."

When she was asking this question, Qiao Nan didn't expect Zhai Sheng to give her an answer immediately. She had thought about it as well. Li Yayan was going to reveal her motive soon. However, she wasn't in a rush to do so. As such, if Zhai Sheng was given two to three days to check on Li Yayan, there was enough time.

What Qiao Nan didn't expect was that Zhai Sheng actually knew who Li Yayan was. This answer shocked Qiao Nan and she felt extremely uncomfortable in her heart. "I know. She's Wang Yang's wife."

It was no wonder Nan Nan didn't have an impression of her. When they got married, Nan Nan was married from the Zhu family. However, Li Yayan didn't show her face even when Nan Nan left the Zhu family.

Different from Qiao Nan, ever since Zhai Sheng knew that Wang Yang was scheming toward Qiao Nan and Zhu Chengqi wanted to leave everything in the Zhu family to her, he sent someone to check on Wang Yang. Of course, Zhai Sheng naturally knew that Wang Yang married a woman named Li Yayan. Zhai Sheng even knew that she looked a little similar to Qiao Nan.

Zhai Sheng didn't agree with Wang Yang's approach. However, Zhai Sheng could guess what Wang Yang's thoughts were. As such, regardless of if it was Wang Yang or Li Yayan, not only did Zhai Sheng not like them, but he even hated them a lot. When asked who Li Yayan was, how would Zhai Sheng, who had a deep impression of her, not know?

"Whose wife?"

"Wang Yang."

"..."

After knowing that Li Yayan was Wang Yang's wife, Qiao Nan understood why she found Li Yayan to be familiar. It wasn't only because Li Yayan looked a little similar to her. More importantly, she had met Li Yayan once. Of course, it happened in the blink of an eye. It was the time when she went to the cemetery to visit Zhu Baoguo!

"I understand now. The person Li Yayan said was snatching things from her husband is me. Li Yayan did so many things because of the Zhu family's inheritance." Yes, wealth struck a chord in

everyone's heart. She didn't know how much money her godfather had left her. What she knew was that Wang Yang had already taken risks at a young age for these things. Many years later, how would he give up his childhood obsession for her alone?

"Alright. After confirming that she's Wang Yang's wife, I know everything now."

"She comes to find you often?" Zhai Sheng changed his seating position. "I'll get someone to protect you." There was already the example of Zhu Baoguo. Zhai Sheng didn't dare to let his guard down against Wang Yang. It was impossible for him not to let Qiao Nan go out. As such, he could only find a few helpers to protect Qiao Nan so that Wang Yang didn't need to think of doing anything to her.

Initially, Qiao Nan wanted to say that there wasn't a need to. After all, this was a society governed by law. Wang Yang shouldn't be that bold. The problem was that Zhu Baoguo was no longer around. Qiao Nan swallowed the words that had reached her mouth. "You can decide on the arrangement." It was better to be safe than sorry. Qiao Nan cherished her blessed life now. She didn't want any problems to happen because of a villain like Wang Yang.

Of course, if she was willing to give up the Zhu family's inheritance, Qiao Nan knew that all these dangers would leave her. However, Qiao Nan wasn't willing to do so. She'd rather use the Zhu family's money to support various charities than let the money fall in Wang Yang's hands so that he could lead a better life.

"Alright, the lawsuit pertaining to the Zhu family's inheritance is about to start. Before it starts, I'll go back to accompany you." If there was a need for Qiao Nan to appear in court or any other time, Zhai Sheng hoped that he could be by Qiao Nan's side and give her support.

Zhai Sheng was thankful that these things happened when he was in his forties and not his twenties. Otherwise, even if he had the heart, he wouldn't have the time. This was the so-called meeting the right person at the right time. Everything that happened following this trajectory would become right.

Qiao Nan's heart warmed. "Okay, I'll wait for you to be back." For some reason, this lawsuit had been delayed for quite some time from the original trial. Initially, Qiao Nan didn't understand why this happened. Now, she knew that it was because of Wang Yang.

A doctor could prove that her godfather had made this will when he was clear-headed. A lawyer could also prove that her godfather had decided on the contents of the will under the premise of complete autonomy and willingness. With these two large pieces of evidence, it was alright if Wang

Yang wanted to file this lawsuit. Anyway, they would be wasting only Wang Yang's money. In the end, she would be the winner. It wasn't easy for her to have a channel to waste Wang Yang's money. By then, not only would Wang Yang, who lost the lawsuit, not be able to get the Zhu family's money, but he even had to fork out a huge sum of money. Qiao Nan felt good.

She knew this situation clearly.. It was impossible that Wang Yang's lawyer didn't tell him.

Chapter 2258: Heartless

That was why Wang Yang had tried all means to delay the lawsuit. While freezing all of the Zhu family's assets, he had roped his wife in to help him out as well.

"Oh yes, what about the three children?" After asking after Qiao Nan, Zhai Sheng, who had just become a father a few months back, had to show his care and concern for his children. "The three of them haven't been mischievous and caused trouble for you, right?"

He knew that Qiao Nan wanted to continue her studies. If not for the fact that the children were still young and unweaned, Zhai Sheng would have brought the children to the military to undergo training instead. The Zhai family couldn't afford to raise spoiled children. When Old Master Zhai was still around, he had passed down that fine tradition. Of course, he had to continue with that tradition as the old master's grandson. The Zhai family's children grew up in the military!

Qiao Nan leaned against the bed gleefully. "That's what I asked Mom when I returned from school today too. Mom grabbed my hand and praised the children nonstop. Mom even said that Dad had never even praised you so much when you were younger. She even said that our children are the most obedient! Don't you think that Dad and Mom are praising them only because they're their grandchildren?"

She understood how every family thought that their children were the best.

Zhai Sheng felt that there was no need to be too proud, but neither was there the need to be excessively humble. "Dad and Mom probably feel that way because of the grandchild of the Xu family a few years back." At that time, even though he had only returned home occasionally, he had been annoyed by that child's cries too. At that time, Zhai Sheng had even suggested that he would move out until the child stopped crying.

Qiao Nan had never expected Zhai Sheng to dislike the children of the Xu family. "Brother Zhai, don't tell me that you were in no hurry to have your own children because of that child?" If that was the case, that child was truly influential!

Zhai Sheng didn't even feel embarrassed after having been exposed. He simply laughed. "I can't deny that he did influence my decision." At that time, everyone in the family had been so annoyed that they had all wanted to move out. It was then that Zhai Sheng realized that children weren't as adorable as others described them to be. They could be just as scary and torturous when they wanted to be.

What Qiao Nan didn't know was that Zhai Sheng had mentally prepared himself the moment she had gotten pregnant. No matter how noisy the children would be, they were still his children. As such, he couldn't despise them. If his children kicked up a fuss, he would have to share the burden with Qiao Nan as her husband in case Qiao Nan was exhausted.

Zhai Sheng had done all that work, only to find out that although the triplets did cry, the noises that they made were nowhere near as horrible as the Xu family's children's next door. In fact, his three children seemed much easier to coax.

If they were hungry, all he had to do was put a milk bottle in their mouths and they would stop crying. If they peed or defecated, he simply had to wipe their bums clean. Once they were comfortable, they stopped crying too. Apart from these two scenarios, the three children hardly cried. But even when they did, they were very easily coaxed. That amazed Zhai Sheng.

They were indeed his children. Their tempers were significantly better than those of their neighbor's children.

"Hahaha...." Qiao Nan was over the moon and incredibly amused by this situation. "Were you afraid when the triplets were born?" One's imagination was completely different from reality. Had Brother Zhai felt especially uneasy living with the children?

She had never known this side of Zhai Sheng.

"I'm their father and they're my children. Why would I be afraid of them? Alright. Stop laughing. You should bring the kids over. Otherwise, the one who'll have to scold them when they act up will be you." Even though he wasn't at home, Zhai Sheng was clear about how clingy the children were to their mom.

"Alright, I'll hang up then. We can chat another time." Qiao Nan dared not let her guard down when it came to her three children. Her children weren't the kind who liked to cry, and letting them cry wasn't good either. It was not as though they were training their lung capacities.

As expected, by the time Qiao Nan went over to get the children, they had already been throwing a tantrum at their grandparents. But the moment she saw Qiao Nan, San Bao stopped whimpering and stretched her hands out toward Qiao Nan, insisting on Qiao Nan carrying her.

With no other choice, Qiao Nan could only accede to San Bao's request by taking her into her arms. "Dad, Mom, I'll take care of them."

San Bao was calm now that she was nestled in her mom's embrace. She yawned gently and looked as though she was going to fall asleep. Miao Jing sighed in relief. "You're finally here. I'll bring them to your room." If Nan Nan had not come over, she would have carried the children over to Nan Nan's room.

As she patted Da Bao's chubby backside, Miao Jing laughed angrily. Nan Nan was away from home for at least half the day, and the three children slept throughout most of the day. She probably took care of the children more than Nan Nan did, so why did they all look for Nan Nan, ignoring their grandma?

They were all heartless!

Da Bao had no idea his grandma was complaining about him in his heart. Upon seeing his mom, Da Bao stopped fussing around and he squirmed around slightly in his grandma's embrace before moving into a comfortable position and falling asleep. Seeing her grandson sleeping soundly and no longer throwing a tantrum, Miao Jing's anger dissipated. She had better send the three children to Qiao Nan's room. "Are you sure you'll be able to take care of all three of them alone? Do you want me to stay with you until they fall asleep?" Although she was angry at them, Miao Jing's love for them only grew by the day.

"That won't be necessary." Qiao Nan shook her head. "Mom, you'd better get some rest with Dad. The triplets are already sleepy. They'll probably go to bed soon without much coaxing. It won't be too much trouble." As Qiao Nan said that, San Bao had already fallen asleep.

Having coaxed San Bao to sleep, Qiao Nan worked on the others, and in less than a minute, both Da Bao and Er Bao had fallen asleep too. Now that the triplets had fallen asleep, Qiao Nan was naturally free again. As such, she switched on the lamp on her desk and continued studying. The atmosphere reminded Qiao Nan of her university days in her dream.

Qiao Nan remembered that Ding Jiayi had made a call to her, but the strange thing was that the phone seemed to have not rung at all today.

Chapter 2259: Not Me

Qiao Nan had already thought that it was strange for Ding Jiayi to give up so easily. But it was good that no trouble was brewing, especially the kind caused by Ding Jiayi that was difficult to solve.

Whether it was because Ding Jiayi didn't want to make the call or because someone had stopped her from doing so, only the two people in the Qiao family in Ping Cheng would know the answer to it.

Ding Jiayi was infuriated and anxious but also helpless. "Old Qiao, if something happens to Zijin, you'd better not regret it and push the blame to me." Why was Old Qiao being so stubborn?

"Nothing will happen to her as long as she knows her place. If anything happens, we will be the first ones. She'll never let anything happen to her." Qiao Dongliang was indifferent and his tone was firm. "I'm not stopping you from interfering, but that will be on you." Was Old Ding trying to push the blame to him? Did she really think that it would be his fault if it wasn't her fault if something happened to Zijin?

Was it just one person's fault when a child got hurt? Both parents were to be blamed! As Qiao Zijin's parents, neither he nor Ding Jiayi could shirk responsibility for bringing up Qiao Zijin in this manner. As such, both he and Ding Jiayi would be at fault if something were to happen to Zijin. The only one who would be innocent was Nan Nan.

"Fine, I won't interfere in it. Will that do?" Ding Jiayi had been in a dilemma for a long while over whether to stand on her husband or daughter's side. Her daughter was all grown up, and Qiao Zijin had already told her that she was never returning to Ping Cheng, and neither should Ding Jiayi visit her. Ding Jiayi had been terribly miserable after hearing those words, but that also meant that she no longer needed to make that difficult choice between her husband and daughter.

There was no point in choosing her daughter since her daughter didn't need her nor cherish her, and neither did she even want her mom by her side. As such, as soon as Qiao Zijin treated her with that attitude, her two choices had been narrowed down to a single choice. Qiao Dongliang was the only choice left, and Ding Jiayi was no longer caught up in a dilemma.

"Heh. This isn't the first time you're saying that. When I told you not to make that phone call the last time, didn't you still do so anyway? I think that you'd better pack a few pieces of clothes and

visit Zijin in the capital since you worry so much about her. Didn't Zijin say that she's going to settle down in the capital and not return to Ping Cheng? It looks like Zijin is going to make a name for herself. Otherwise, how can she possibly sound so arrogant? You've finally waited until this day. It seems like you haven't raised your daughter for nothing. If you go to the capital, you won't have to worry about her anymore, and you can even enjoy a good life thanks to her. You'd better go to the capital to prove that you haven't raised Zijin in vain."

When that time came, Ding Jiayi would live in the capital while he lived in Ping Cheng. That way, they would stay in their own lanes and both their lives would be better than they were now!

Ding Jiayi felt a tinge of guilt. It was true that she was at fault for making the phone call. "Old Qiao, don't get upset. I'll admit my mistake. Touch your heart and tell me if you're really not concerned about Zijin's situation after she arrived in the capital. Yes, I did make that call. But Qiao Nan didn't answer it in the end. So, we shouldn't be talking about how that phone call could have affected Qiao Nan. I'm not going to the capital."

Her elder daughter, Qiao Zijin, was unreliable. That had nothing to do with whether Qiao Zijin had money or not. This was not the first time Ding Jiayi had come to that realization. If Qiao Zijin had no money, she wouldn't even be able to protect herself, let alone take care of her mom or be filial to her.

On the other hand, if Qiao Zijin got rich, she would definitely keep everything for herself. Perhaps, if Qiao Zijin thought of her mom from time to time and decided to be filial to her, Ding Jiayi would already be quite lucky.

Between Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi, Ding Jiayi understood that no matter how well she treated Qiao Zijin while sacrificing her own interests, there would never come a day when Qiao Zijin would repay her kindness.

"Yes, you don't want to go to the capital." Old Ding must have known that she wouldn't be able to depend on Qiao Zijin. That was why she hadn't dared to think of relying on Qiao Zijin to take care of her in her old age. Old Ding had wanted to live out the rest of her life with him on the account of their decades of marriage. But as long as Qiao Zijin was in the slightest bit dependable, Old Ding would have dumped him for her daughter.

At the thought of this, Qiao Dongliang wondered if he should think of that as his own misery or Ding Jiayi's misery.

Ding Jiayi had already confirmed that Qiao Dongliang's reaction had been abnormally strong. Now, she no longer dared to call Qiao Nan behind Qiao Dongliang's back. Fine, she wouldn't call her. Zijin might have changed her phone number, but she hadn't. That meant that Zijin would still know her phone number. As long as Zijin ran into some problems she couldn't solve, she wouldn't have to contact Zijin. Zijin would naturally contact her.

With that thought, Ding Jiayi finally felt at ease.

Qiao Dongliang glanced at Ding Jiayi. "Don't you think it's too early for you to relax? You must know why Zijin insisted on going to the capital this time. It seems like there's a pile of gold waiting for her there. Before she went there, I saw the two of you always mumbling to each other in the room. What's Zijin up to?"

Ding Jiayi's gaze wavered. "She was always with me, trying to persuade me to go to the capital with her. How am I supposed to know why she wants to go to the capital? I'm sure you're clearer than me about how expensive the houses are in the capital. If I go to the capital, Qiao Nan can't afford to not take care of me. Then, as long as Qiao Nan arranges accommodation for me, Zijin's accommodation will be taken care of too. She just wanted to save that sum of money."

Since she couldn't be of any help to Qiao Zijin, Ding Jiayi had better not let any of Qiao Zijin's secret slip to Qiao Dongliang. If she were to tell Qiao Dongliang about it, Zijin would definitely disown her.

"I don't believe you." Qiao Dongliang's expression was full of suspicion. "It's impossible that she wants you there just for a free stay. I was tricked by you the last time. I want to see what you're going to do this time that Zijin's not with you. Tell me. Why did you throw away my identity card, steal my bus ticket, and stop me from going to the capital? How did Zijin manage to arrive there before me? You'd better explain it all to me."

Ding Jiayi wanted to kneel down before Qiao Dongliang. It had been almost half a year since that incident. Why was Qiao Dongliang still harping on it? "Old Qiao, you're really overthinking it. I had nothing to do with your identity card going missing."

Chapter 2260: Standing by the Sidelines

"As for what happened afterward... That was because I would be left alone if you were to leave since Zijin wasn't home either. I was scared. Besides, Qiao Nan had so many people accompanying her. It wouldn't make a difference whether you were there..."

Qiao Dongliang sneered. “Do you really think I’m a fool? Do you think that I’m absolutely clueless about what your plans were? How could you two be so disgusting? Qiao Zijin had already made the mistake of snatching her brother-in-law and making him her husband once. How could you allow her to make that same mistake again?”

Nan Nan had only told him about that after he had returned to Ping Cheng. After learning of that situation, Qiao Dongliang felt that he was going to lose his mind. But it was the new year and Qiao Dongliang didn’t want to ruin the atmosphere in the family. He was clear that as long as Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin were together, not only was Qiao Zijin the mastermind behind Ding Jiayi, but she would even give Ding Jiayi the courage to lie to him.

Because of that, the alliance between Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi had fallen apart due to Qiao Zijin’s divorce. This would be the best time to interrogate Ding Jiayi and pry everything out of her.

“You... you know about it already? Then, why did you still ask me about it?” Ding Jiayi felt that she and Qiao Zijin were being wronged. “Old Qiao, you’re actually wrong. Qiao Zijin didn’t intend on snatching anything. I’m sure you know how old Qiao Nan is, and she was even pregnant with triplets. If anything happened to Qiao Nan during childbirth, it would be much better for Zijin to marry Zhai Sheng instead of having a stepmother ill-treat Qiao Nan’s three children. Zijin’s the children’s biological aunt, after all. She would definitely treat them well. I believe that Qiao Nan would have more faith in Zijin than an outsider. We only did that because we wanted Qiao Nan to leave peacefully, knowing that her three children would be well taken care of.”

“So, you mean that you guys did so out of kind intentions?”

Ding Jiayi had to resist the urge to nod. She could tell that Qiao Dongliang’s expression looked awful. “Even if it wasn’t purely out of good intentions, it was a win-win situation. Besides, we didn’t do anything. Isn’t Qiao Nan still alive and well? All these are just our thoughts and no one else knows about them.”

“Even if they’re just thoughts, it’s disgusting.” Qiao Dongliang gasped. “The two of you truly have no limits to your terrible plans. You’re both too shameless!” Letting Zijin take care of the triplets would be no different from letting an outsider take care of them.

Ding Jiayi sniffled. “Why are you being so fierce? Don’t make it sound so bad. Zijin and I really had no intention of taking advantage of Qiao Nan or hurting her this time. This plan would have benefitted both Qiao Nan and Zijin, so what’s the problem with it? Did you know that Zijin pitied Qiao Nan for being single before she got married to Zhai Sheng? Since she had already divorced Chen Jun, Zijin was willing to let Chen Jun be together with Qiao Nan. Not only would Qiao Nan

finally be able to get married, but she could also rest easy, knowing that Feng Feng was in Qiao Nan's hands. Zijin had already been so generous, but why had Qiao Nan refused?"

Wasn't it all for the good of the child?

"You fool! I've never met anyone more foolish than you. You're clearly making use of her and hurting her, but you dare to act as though you're doing so out of kindness! Old Ding, why didn't I realize just how evil you are in the past? No wonder you severed all ties with your family even when we were living well. Now, I know that your family can't entirely be at fault. You're the biggest problem here." Qiao Dongliang pointed his finger at Ding Jiayi's forehead.

"I'm going to ask you again. What's Zijin doing in the capital this time? If you don't let me know by today, we'll go to the Civil Affairs Bureau tomorrow and get our divorce settled."

"No, I'm not getting divorced!" She had no family, and her children had abandoned her. If she were to separate from Qiao Dongliang, Ding Jiayi felt that she wouldn't be able to carry on with her life alone. "Old Qiao, don't get upset. I'll just tell you what you want to know. Will that do? But you have to promise that you won't get angry. I don't expect you to help Zijin, but you should just stand by the sidelines, like me. If Zijin succeeds, that's because of her own abilities and good fortune. We didn't interfere in it. If you interfere in it, Zijin will definitely hate me and disown me."

She had already resisted the urge to help Zijin. All she asked of Old Qiao was that he wouldn't help Qiao Nan.

"Tell me about it first!" Without Qiao Zijin by her side, Ding Jiayi had indeed gotten timid. Qiao Dongliang had simply mentioned 'divorce' before Ding Jiayi had decided to fess up.

In reality, Qiao Dongliang had already gotten the answer from Qiao Nan as to why Qiao Zijin had insisted on going to the capital before the new year and why she had tried to stop him from visiting too. At that time, he had held it in because he knew that Qiao Zijin would never change even if he were to flare up, and neither would she ever admit that she had done anything wrong, just like what Ding Jiayi was doing now.

Qiao Dongliang had only talked about the incident before the new year as bait to lure out the situation that followed.

Ding Jiayi had truly been frightened and confessed everything she knew to Qiao Dongliang. “That’s what it is. Zijin wants the five million yuan. With it, she’ll never have to worry about money in the future, and neither will she ever have to find a job again.”

“...” Qiao Dongliang was fuming. “I’ll die of anger because of the two of you sooner or later. Can you two really not change that terrible habit of sacrificing Nan Nan’s interests to benefit yourselves? Ding Jiayi, have you ever thought about the lives you’d be living without Nan Nan as a daughter? We sold this house a long time ago just to let Zijin attend university. I was the only one working at that time and it was already a stretch to pay for Zijin’s education. What would you and I have eaten and worn?”

“You only have the life you have today because of Nan Nan. Don’t you think that you’ve gone overboard?”

Knowing that Qiao Dongliang was infuriated, Ding Jiayi dared not rebuke him. But she still felt that she had done nothing wrong up until now. Without Qiao Nan? Everything would have been in their rightful place without Qiao Nan. Without Qiao Nan, Old Qiao would have become a battalion commander, at the very least, and she would have been a battalion commander’s wife. Then, they would have a car and chauffeur. Was that going overboard?

If Old Qiao was still in the military and had become a battalion commander, he would definitely have gotten a much higher salary from the military. In that case, they would definitely have been able to afford Zijin’s university fees. There was no way they would have needed to sell the house.