

RTAMM 2331

Chapter 2331: Very Good Taste (2)

See, their triplets had been raised well by Qiao Nan. Even though Qiao Nan was always busy with her studies, the three children were still close to their mom. If Qiao Nan had not put enough effort into raising them, they would never have been so attached to her.

Children were the purest. They didn't use their eyes to judge a person, but their hearts.

As a mom who couldn't raise her children well, Miao Jing had no right to demand Zhai Hua or Zhai Sheng to be good parents. Miao Jing had not even felt it when Zhai Hua and Jiajia had been in a bad place, so there was no way she could expect Zhai Sheng to be that alert either.

It went without question that Zhai Sheng had only noticed because Qiao Nan had reminded him. That was enough. Her daughter-in-law cared for Hua Hua and Jiajia. Where else would she find such a good daughter-in-law?

Those who said that the Zhai family was blind to have allowed Zhai Sheng to marry this sort of woman were the ones who were blind. She had never needed to worry when they compared their children, much less when they compared their daughters-in-law. She dared to say that Nan Nan was the best daughter-in-law in the entire quad.

It was common for those daughters-in-law with high educational qualifications and good family backgrounds to kick up a fuss the moment they married into the families. Only their family had gotten even more tight-knitted and united after Nan Nan had married into their family.

Thinking about how Zhai Sheng had had such good judgment and had found himself such a good wife, Miao Jing no longer looked at Zhai Sheng with an accusing gaze. In fact, she looked at Zhai Sheng so kindly that he couldn't help but get goose bumps. "Mom, you can just let me know if you need me to do anything. Don't look at me like that. It feels awkward."

The only one who could make the chief feel this way was his mom, Miao Jing.

Miao Jing had intended on scoffing at Zhai Sheng but eventually held it in. "It's nothing. I'm just thinking about how you have good judgment in marrying Nan Nan." No, more precisely, he had never had better judgment in his entire life than when he had insisted on marrying Nan Nan. Miao

Jing couldn't help but wonder why Zhai Sheng had suddenly come to his senses and had insisted on marrying Qiao Nan.

God knew that Miao Jing had suspected more than once that her son liked men instead of women.

If that turned out to be true, what would she do? Should she object to Zhai Sheng's decision for the sake of the Zhai family's reputation? Or should she allow her son to find a partner as long as he lay low for the sake of his happiness? Then, Zhai Sheng would, at least, have someone by his side when she and Old Zhai passed away.

Looking back at those times, Miao Jing's expression changed. Miao Jing's gaze toward Qiao Nan was no different from the Big Bad Wolf eyeing Little Red Riding Hood. It was Qiao Nan who had changed Zhai Sheng's mind. To exaggerate a little, Qiao Nan was the Zhai family's savior and benefactor.

Without Qiao Nan, Zhai Sheng would still be an old bachelor, and neither would she have three adorable grandchildren to carry.

Qiao Nan shivered a little under Miao Jing's gaze and she hid behind Zhai Sheng as she whispered, "Brother Zhai, what's with Mom? She was looking at you with this gaze and now, me. Did I do something wrong?"

After all, she had only brought up Jiajia's matter because she was concerned about Jiajia and Sister Zhai Hua.

Seeing that his wife had scared his daughter-in-law, Zhai Yaohui knew that Miao Jing truly liked Qiao Nan and that his son had chosen the right partner. But as a husband, Zhai Yaohui had to admit that Miao Jing's gaze was indeed frightening. It was no wonder his daughter-in-law could not handle it. "Miao Miao, I want to eat some fruits. Why don't you get some from the kitchen?"

Their daughter-in-law was part of their family, but what if she 'ran away' because of Miao Miao's gaze?

"I'll go get it." As a hardworking daughter-in-law, Qiao Nan would never sit around and wait to be served when her father-in-law had any needs.

Miao Jing waved Qiao Nan off. "I'll go. I've been sitting for a long time while playing with the children. My legs are sore. It's good for me to get some exercise by cutting some fruits. Otherwise, I'll feel even sorer."

Since Miao Jing said that, and because Zhai Sheng pulled her back, Qiao Nan did not insist on it and allowed Miao Jing to cut some fruits with the auntie.

After Miao Jing left, Zhai Yaohui finally spoke up. "You two should keep an eye out for Zhai Hua. In other families, older sisters are like mothers. But I'll have to trouble you a little in our family. Zhai Hua has been pampered ever since she was young. She doesn't behave like a mother even now that she's a mother. It's... hard on you two."

Zhai Yaohui's words were directed at Qiao Nan. It was only because of her that Zhai Sheng was praised too.

Parents understood their children best. When Zhai Yaohui said that Zhai Hua had been spoiled and didn't act like a mother, the reality was that Zhai Sheng's situation was not much better.

The only difference between the siblings was that Zhai Sheng had had good judgment and had married the right person. As such, Zhai Sheng would gradually learn to be a good parent to the three children under Qiao Nan's influence.

Obviously, Zhai Hua's luck had been much worse. She had not been mature enough, and neither did she know how to be a good parent. Unfortunately, she had met Wei De, who was equally irresponsible as a parent. That was how they had landed up in such a state today.

Because of her partner, Zhai Hua had not gotten the chance to mature or grow. It was difficult but important to find the right life partner.

Knowing just how important Qiao Nan was, Zhai Yaohui knew that it was all thanks to Qiao Nan that Zhai Sheng was learning to be a good father. What Zhai Yaohui was thankful for was Qiao Nan's generosity. She was not in the least bit petty and was even willing to care for her husband's sister. Not every daughter-in-law was willing to do that.

Zhai Yaohui agreed with something that Miao Jing had said. All those who had laughed at the Zhai family for allowing an old woman into their family were fools. No one could tell on a surface level whether a daughter-in-law was good.

Only by living with them would they be able to find out what kind of woman their sons had married.

“It’s not tough at all.” Qiao Nan was not a robot without feelings. She could feel that her father-in-law had kept his gaze on her the whole time, without even sparing Zhai Sheng a glance.

Chapter 2332: Very Good Taste (3)

Qiao Nan felt a little flattered that she had received both her mother-in-law and father-in-law’s adoration.

They were family. Besides, she had been best friends with Sister Zhai Hua in her dream. Zhai Hua hadn’t seemed like her sister-in-law at all. As such, Qiao Nan’s feelings toward Zhai Hua had not changed even in reality. If not for the fact that Shi Qing was reluctant to accept Qiao Nan, their relationship would have been just as passionate as it had been in her dream as well.

At the mention of Shi Qing, Qiao Nan’s mood worsened. Ever since Shi Qing had turned up for her wedding to Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan had never seen Shi Qing again. As the Zhai family’s daughter-in-law, it was naturally much easier for Qiao Nan to find out about Shi Qing.

It was because of this that Qiao Nan knew that Shi Qing had never met Zhu Baoguo, and her heart had remained firmly on Zhai Sheng all these years. In fact, her love for Zhai Sheng had never changed and had even gotten stronger over the years. In her dream, Shi Qing had told Qiao Nan that her feelings toward Zhai Sheng were more idolatrous than romantic.

But in this lifetime, even though she had never interacted with Shi Qing, Qiao Nan was sure that Shi Qing was in love with Zhai Sheng and dreamed of getting married to Zhai Sheng and having children with him.

But there was only one Zhai Sheng. Besides, she loved Zhai Sheng too. Qiao Nan had never been particularly heroic. After all, everyone had a selfish side to them. She couldn’t possibly give up Zhai Sheng for Shi Qing’s sake just because of the friendship that they had shared in the dream, while she remained single for the rest of her life.

She had not snatched Shi Qing’s happiness away from her by getting married to Zhai Sheng. After all, in the ten to twenty years before she had appeared, Shi Qing had not made any progress with Zhai Sheng either.

Understanding that, Qiao Nan could only care for Shi Qing from afar. She knew that Shi Qing had no intention of getting married, even though Shi Qing was older than her. In addition, before she had given birth to the triplets, Shi Qing had adopted an unweaned child from the orphanage to raise as her own.

It could be said that Shi Qing's current condition was one of the reasons Qiao Nan hated Wang Yang and couldn't let him off. If Wang Yang had not caused the death of Zhu Baoguo, Shi Qing would have gotten married. Zhai Sheng had always treated Shi Qing as his younger sister. Once Shi Qing met Zhu Baoguo, Qiao Nan was sure that Shi Qing would insist on being with him, just as she had in her dream.

With a husband like Zhu Baoguo, the Feng family would never dare to continue bullying Shi Qing or taking advantage of her, forcing her to start a new life in the military.

In short, everything could be linked to Wang Yang indirectly. It was truly difficult for Qiao Nan to have any good feelings toward Wang Yang at all, much less let Wang Yang off or even give him some benefits and end the lawsuit.

Wang Yang had ruined so many lives as well as the happiness of so many people, especially when Zhu Chengqi passed on... Qiao Nan was determined not to split the inheritance with Wang Yang. In fact, he had better not even dream of getting a single cent from her. She would much rather donate the Zhu family's assets to the country than let Wang Yang have the bargain.

Qiao Nan was never going to change her mind on this matter. She knew that the lawsuit had only been temporarily paused. Given Li Yayan's and Wang Yang's tempers, it wouldn't take a few days before Li Yayan would come to find her.

It was true that one could not speak ill of others behind their backs! Qiao Nan had just had such a thought and she actually bumped into Li Yayan the very next day in school! Of course, this was no coincidence. "Qiao Nan, it's been a long time. I know that you have classes in the afternoon and won't go home for lunch. Shall we have lunch together?"

Qiao Nan laughed while carrying her books. "What status are you eating with me as?"

Li Yayan laughed bitterly. "When did you find out about my identity?" She had thought that she had concealed it well, but she had been so foolish. Qiao Nan was the Zhai family's daughter-in-law. It wouldn't take Qiao Nan much effort to investigate something at all.

“Quite early on.” After all, she had simply asked Brother Zhai, who had immediately given her an answer. In order to fight the lawsuit against Wang Yang, Brother Zhai had learned of the details of the Wang family and knew them like the back of his hand.

Li Yayan was infuriated. “You knew that I was Wang Yang’s wife, but you didn’t expose me and instead chose to befriend me and eat with me? So, have you been treating me like a clown all this while?”

Qiao Nan had no idea where Li Yayan’s extreme ideas came from, but she had no intention of explaining herself. “You are the one who approached me first. Are you the only one in this world allowed to treat others like fools? Are others not allowed to retaliate?” It was Li Yayan who had gotten close to her with her ulterior motives and yet, she was now blaming Qiao Nan for not having pure intentions!

It was ridiculous that she believed that one could steal a horse while others could not look even over a hedge.

Li Yayan was speechless at that because she knew that Qiao Nan was not wrong. In fact, she was the one at fault. “Since we’ve cleared the air, are you still willing to eat lunch together?”

“I’m going to the canteen.” The school canteen was a public place. She wouldn’t be able to control where Li Yayan wanted to sit. Similarly, Li Yayan had the freedom of speech. She had no right to stop Li Yayan from expressing whatever she wanted to.

Li Yayan was not particularly stupid and could read between the lines.

As such, Li Yayan ordered a portion and sat right in front of Qiao Nan, watching her eating ravenously. “You’re the Zhai family’s daughter-in-law. I heard that your parents-in-law like you very much and have left the Zhai family’s affairs to you. You’ve won the lawsuit and you’ve suddenly chanced upon so much money. Qiao Nan, why are you still pretending by eating in such a filthy and run-down place? Let’s both tell the truth. It’s tiring and meaningless to keep up this pretense.”

“...” Qiao Nan rolled her eyes at Li Yayan. “You’re the one putting up a pretense, not me. I’m not tired. Isn’t it all thanks to your husband that the Zhu family’s assets are being held up? Where am I supposed to get my money from then? Besides, we can’t be spendthrifts just because we have

money. I really think that the food in the school canteen is more affordable and delicious than what's sold outside.”

How stupid she would be to spend more money eating outside just to show off her status. Qiao Nan could not wrap her head around Li Yayan's worldviews.

Chapter 2333: Retribution Is Here (1)

Li Yayan's lips twitched as she was left at a loss for words. Thinking about Qiao Nan's experience, Li Yayan had always thought that Qiao Nan would act like a nouveau riche upon marrying into the Zhai family. After all, her social status had risen so drastically. It was only normal for Qiao Nan to go crazy.

But Qiao Nan did not cherish her good fortune. Her life had not changed much even after marriage. Li Yayan had no clue why Qiao Nan had to maintain such an attitude. Was Qiao Nan not materialistic at all?

“I'm sure you know why I've come to look for you today. Qiao Nan, not everything I said to you before was false. My situation is similar to yours. No, I should say that I'm much worse off than you in every way. Qiao Nan, you can't deny that my family background is much better than yours. It's just that Zhai Sheng has a higher status than Wang Yang. You were even warmly welcomed into the family by your parents-in-law after getting married. As for me? As long as I'm with my father-in-law, he'll definitely scold me nonstop for the entire day. He looks down on me and thinks that I dragged Wang Yang down.”

At the mention of this, Li Yayan was upset. The Zhai family didn't despise Qiao Nan, and they even treated her as though she were a treasure. So, what right did her father-in-law have to look down on her? Whether it was Qiao Nan or ladies with even higher social statuses, there might not even be anyone who was willing to marry into the Wang family because Wang Yang had such an unreasonable and demanding father. It was annoying that he looked down on others when he wasn't too outstanding himself.

“In the past, I always thought that my parents-in-law were bad and they were all against me. But I eventually realized that my mother-in-law was influenced by my father-in-law. Not everyone is equal. Qiao Nan, you're living a much better life than me. After getting married to Wang Yang, I've always felt very stressed. Even though I've given birth to a son, my life hasn't gotten any better. Qiao Nan, can you help me? To you, helping me means nothing. I'm begging you. I just want to live more comfortably.”

Qiao Nan could only sigh that she wasn't particularly kind. Or perhaps, it was because she had gone through Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi's torturous training that Li Yayan's words meant nothing to her now. "Who wouldn't want others to make sacrifices that would benefit them?"

"But the Zhu family's assets don't belong to you. Wang Yang is Zhu Chengqi's biological nephew. Zhu Chengqi didn't have a son, and all he had left were his younger sister and nephew. If not for you, they would have been the rightful inheritors. Qiao Nan, you shouldn't be so heartless. It's immoral to snatch what rightfully belongs to others, so don't put yourself on a pedestal. Besides, since we've already lost the lawsuit, we're willing to compromise too. As long as you're willing to give Wang Yang what he deserves, we won't be demanding or insist on a specific sum. We're already humbling ourselves before you."

This was the plan that Li Yayan had come up with for Wang Yang.

Yes, they could continue fighting the lawsuit, dragging the matter on. But Wang Yang had a son, while Qiao Nan had two sons and a daughter. No matter how long they dragged it on, it would never change the result that Qiao Nan would become the rightful owner of the Zhu family's assets.

Initially, Wang Yang had thought that he would give Qiao Nan whatever he deemed fit. Now, Li Yayan felt that the situation was reversed. If they could convince Qiao Nan to give them an eight-figure sum, that would be good too.

The Zhu family's inheritance was not a small sum. If Qiao Nan agreed but gave them a small sum of money, it wouldn't reflect too well on her either. Besides, since she had already agreed, there was no need to be so stingy and petty about it.

No matter how vicious she had been with her words in the past, Li Yayan knew when to bow her head and humble herself. Otherwise, that eight-figure sum would never have anything to do with Wang Yang and would be Qiao Nan's alone. In Li Yayan's opinion, however much Wang Yang could get would be good enough for them. Qiao Nan might have gotten the Zhu family's assets from doing nothing, but wasn't Wang Yang doing the same? After all, Wang Yang was not a Zhu, and Mother Zhu had married out of the family.

Having thought through that, Li Yayan dared not act tough in front of Qiao Nan. All she could do was to pretend to be pitiful so that Qiao Nan would let their family off.

Li Yayan had made her intentions rather clear. If not for the will that Zhu Chengqi had left behind, Qiao Nan would never have had anything to do with the Zhu family's assets. Since Qiao Nan had lucked out with such a windfall, she had better not burn the bridges by claiming the entire Zhu

family's inheritance for herself while Wang Yang, who was actually a relative of the Zhu family, got nothing at all. After all, Qiao Nan was the Zhai family's daughter-in-law and the wife of a chief. There was no need to ruin her own reputation for this sum of money.

“Qiao Nan, I haven't been married to Wang Yang for that long. Our son is still in kindergarten. I'm not asking for much. I just hope that you'll give Wang Yang a way out. You're a mom too. Don't you think we have to think about our children? I wasn't entirely making use of you throughout our past interactions. I did have some feelings for you. I'm begging you. The Wang family's situation is complicated. If Wang Yang goes away with nothing, he'll never be able to explain himself to the Wang family.”

And his dignity would come crashing down too.

Wang Yang had somewhat come to his senses with Mother Zhu's advice, but Li Yayan had not. She knew that the Wang family would definitely have something to say about Wang Yang if they were to fail in this matter.

Li Yayan didn't want Wang Yang to have worked so hard for nothing, and neither did she want her son to grow up in such an environment. She knew that Qiao Nan would never agree to unreasonable demands. As such, they would simply take as much as Qiao Nan was willing to offer them. At the very least, that would be better than losing their lawyer's fees.

Qiao Nan, who had finished her meal, took a sip of water. She felt that she might very well get indigestion if she were to continue listening to Li Yayan. “Do you feel aggrieved for Wang Yang because Wang Yang was Chief Zhu's only nephew but Chief Zhu left all of the Zhu family's assets to me instead of Wang Yang?”

“Isn't it?” No one could understand why Zhu Chengqi had done so. She had already said that Zhu Chengqi was an old foggy. Unfortunately, both lawyers and doctors could prove that Zhu Chengqi had made that will on his own accord while he was still sound.

Wang Yang had absolutely been wronged in this whole matter. Zhu Chengqi was crazy!

Chapter 2334: Retribution Is Here (2)

Otherwise, how could Zhu Chengqi have written a will that no one else could understand? Those who were nice sympathized with Wang Yang, while others simply ridiculed Wang Yang.

“You may not know it, but Zhu... Uncle didn’t have any other relatives left by his side. He was ill and needed someone by his side taking care of him at all times. My parents-in-law have only one son, Wang Yang, but Wang Yang chose to leave the Wang family to take care of his uncle. Thankfully, my parents-in-law have always been in good health, so we didn’t need to worry too much about them. Wang Yang may be a good nephew, but he sure isn’t a good son. He has never been so good to his own parents or my parents!”

Li Yayan grew more agitated as she spoke, and she couldn’t help but slam the table, drawing some attention from others. Feeling the stares, Li Yayan reined in her temper and lowered her voice. “Wang Yang sacrificed so much for his uncle. It doesn’t matter what his motives are. Is there anything wrong in expecting his uncle to hand everything over to him? Of course, my husband has done nothing wrong, and neither have you. The only one to be blamed is his uncle who made that will. My husband took care of him like a son since he had no sons. How could he be so heartless toward my husband?”

“Yes, how can people be so shameless?!” Qiao Nan had to resist the urge to splash the cup of water in her hands toward Li Yayan’s face. She was indeed Wang Yang’s wife. They were equally shameless!

She had seen tons of shameless people, especially Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin. She had always thought that those two women were the best of the best, but Li Yayan had suddenly turned up and refreshed Qiao Nan’s knowledge and limit.

Li Yayan was at a loss, having been suddenly scolded by Qiao Nan. “You... What do you mean? Are you saying that I’m shameless?” Li Yayan felt that Qiao Nan probably didn’t mean to say that. After all, she hadn’t done anything too shameless. But from Qiao Nan’s tone and expression, Li Yayan felt that her suspicions were right. Qiao Nan was indeed scolding her and Wang Yang.

At that moment, Li Yayan could no longer hold it in. “You took advantage of others but you dare to scold others like this! Qiao Nan, don’t you think you’re going overboard?” She had better not think that she was above everyone just because she was the chief’s wife. “Qiao Nan, aside from the law, there are still morals in this world. If we get anyone to judge this matter, no one will ever think well of you. Besides, I’ve already made myself clear. If we continue with the lawsuit, it’s true that we won’t win. I’m not making an unreasonable request. I’m just hoping that you’ll do what’s right. Perhaps, Wang Yang might even have the chance to work with your husband in the future...”

Qiao Nan was being overbearing and aggressive now. What if Wang Yang got the chance to work with Zhai Sheng in the future? What would Qiao Nan do then?

Qiao Nan slapped her forehead. “You’re so full of yourself. Do you really think everyone else is a fool? I know very well who took care of Chief Zhu in his last years. But was it really because Wang Yang thought of Chief Zhu as his uncle, who was even closer to him than his own parents, that he stayed by Chief Zhu’s side to take care of him? He only did so because of the promise of a great reward at the end of everything. I’m sure you know that better than I do.”

Li Yayan’s expression soured. “So what if it’s true? Even if we didn’t have pure intentions in taking care of Uncle, at least we did what we had to do before he passed away. Let’s reason it out. My husband and I took care of Uncle for such a long time. We had to fork out money for his hospital bills, medical bills, meals, and everything else. Even if all of the Zhu family’s assets go to my husband, it’s what he rightfully deserves since we’ve sacrificed so much. On the other hand, you are being unreasonable.”

It didn’t matter what their true intentions were. Only when one sowed would one reap. Both she and Wang Yang had worked hard by taking good care of that old man in the few years before his death. Therefore, it was only right for Wang Yang to inherit all of Zhu Chengqi’s assets after his death. Why should Qiao Nan be involved at all?

“Wang Yang took care of Uncle for a few years. Besides, he’s a descendant of the Zhu family too. What’s wrong with him inheriting the Zhu family’s assets? But you have nothing to do with the Zhu family at all, and neither did you ever show up while Uncle was ill. Did you even take care of him for a single day? Do you really think it’s fair for you to inherit his money while doing nothing at all? Do you think it’s moral?”

After putting in so much effort, how much Wang Yang got would depend entirely on Qiao Nan’s mood. What was different was that Qiao Nan had never put in any effort in taking care of Zhu Chengqi and yet, she could comfortably receive her inheritance.

There was truly no justice in the world.

“After saying all that, you’re just after the Zhu family’s money, right? Alright, maybe I wasn’t clear enough before. Or perhaps, I didn’t have the opportunity to make myself clear to you. Since you’re here, I won’t spare my words. I think it’s a waste to be polite to you people from the Wang family. Anyone from the Wang family, including Wang Yang, had better not even dream of touching anything of the Zhu’s, be it money or resources. Even if you just want money now, I’m sorry. I’m not giving you anything.”

Qiao Nan was brutally blunt with her words. “Once all of the Zhu family’s assets are in my hands, not only will I not give anything to Wang Yang, but I’d even donate all of the Zhu family’s money rather than give it to that ingrate, Wang Yang. The Wang family has worked in vain all these years.”

Zhu Baoguo’s death very much had to do with Wang Yang. It was not because of his own good luck that he had gotten away with it but because the entire Wang family had helped him clean up his mess. This was what Zhai Sheng had discovered.

After finding out about all these, Qiao Nan had no good feelings for anyone from the Wang family. It was already good enough that she didn’t take the initiative to provoke them. The problem was that the Wang family was still hoping to get something out of her. How ridiculous!

Chapter 2335: Retribution Is Here (3)

There was no need for the Wang family to even ask her about this. There was absolutely no way she would ever agree to it. It would, perhaps, be even faster if they dreamed about it instead.

Not only had Qiao Nan disagreed, but she had even criticized the entire Wang family. At that, Li Yayan could no longer hold her true feelings in. “Qiao Nan, don’t think you’re so high and mighty. You snatched what is rightfully Wang Yang’s and yet, you’re criticizing the Wang family? How has the Wang family provoked you? In what way are they ingrates?”

Li Yayan was reluctant to admit that Qiao Nan was clearly accusing Wang Yang. “I’m sticking to my guns. Wang Yang is only getting what he deserves. In fact, whatever he’s getting is definitely less than what he deserves. Don’t go overboard. I might just fight back!”

She was not going to let anyone scold her husband under her watch.

Mother Zhu shared the same thoughts. Father Wang had been infuriated by Wang Yang a few days earlier, and Wang Yang was no longer willing to let his father control him any further. Having given it some thought, Wang Yang thought that it would be better for Mother Zhu to bring her grandson to the capital for a family reunion instead of staying in Ping Cheng and getting influenced by the Wang family.

After arriving in the capital, Mother Zhu’s concern was still about the lawsuit against Qiao Nan.

Knowing that her daughter-in-law, Li Yayan, was going to meet Qiao Nan, Mother Zhu followed without a second of hesitation. She wanted to see just how evil Qiao Nan looked. How had she

managed to bewitch Zhai Sheng so much so that he had gotten married at his age and had even given birth to three children in the short span of a year?

Since Mother Zhu had no clue about Li Yayan's plan, she had not dared to show up for fear of ruining Li Yayan's plan. Seeing the pair enter the school canteen and sitting down in a corner, Mother Zhu found a convenient spot to hide and eavesdropped on the conversation between her daughter-in-law and Qiao Nan.

Even though Mother Zhu had never looked down on Li Yayan like Father Wang, Mother Zhu agreed, for the first time, that it was not too bad for Wang Yang to have married Li Yayan after seeing how she was willing to humble herself for her son's sake. If this had been any other woman, they might not even have been willing to be involved in Wang Yang's matters, let alone run around and beg for mercy from others.

If Li Yayan's performance was satisfactory to Mother Zhu, Qiao Nan's haughtiness and arrogance irked Mother Zhu terribly. It was exactly because she had seen what kind of person Qiao Nan was that Mother Zhu was even more confused as to why Zhu Chengqi had made such a will. Her brother must have been in the wrong state of mind to have decided to leave his inheritance to someone like that!

Mother Zhu had already been infuriated, and the moment she heard Qiao Nan 'slander' the Wang family's name as well as her son, saying that her son was an ingrate, Mother Zhu could no longer hold it in. She rushed out and sat down beside Li Yayan, speaking to Qiao Nan in a stern voice. "Don't think that you're above everyone just because you married into the Zhai family. Everything you say has legal consequences. I dare you to slander my son again. My brother's will has really boosted your ego. What right do you have to compare yourself to my son? What has Yang Yang done wrong? Why do you describe him as an ingrate?"

"M-mom." Li Yayan was speechless. She had been having a good conversation with Qiao Nan, but her mother-in-law had suddenly rushed out and was even fiercer than her. Li Yayan could not even grasp the situation for a moment. "Mom, why are you here? Aren't you at home? Did you leave the child alone?"

Of course, Mother Zhu would never be so careless with her grandson. "Don't worry. I found a good place. Kang Kang won't get lost, but he's not the main point now. Is this the woman who bewitched my brother and is going to inherit his assets?"

Seeing Qiao Nan, Mother Zhu was extremely disappointed. She couldn't see anything extraordinary about Qiao Nan. So, why had her brother gone crazy to make such a stupid will? It was ridiculous!

“What did you tell my brother? What did you feed him to make him lose all sense? Besides, what right do you have to donate the Zhu family’s money instead of letting Yang Yang have a single cent? Who are you to have the guts to say such things?”

Mother Zhu was fuming and there were too many things she wanted to scold Qiao Nan about. Not only had this old woman criticized her lovely son, but she had even set her eyes on the Zhu family’s money and resources. There was no way Mother Zhu could remain silent in the face of this. She didn’t even need Father Wang to push her on to act on this now that someone was trying to snatch her family’s things.

“Yayan spoke to you nicely and humbled herself before you. She even let you make your own decision in this, but this is how you’re treating her? Forget it that you’re fierce, but you’re so heartless! If you don’t explain yourself clearly, I’m not going to let this go!”

Did she think that a simple apology would end everything after she had scolded others? Sorry, she would never let that happen.

As Wang Yang’s mother, she would never let Qiao Nan off if Qiao Nan didn’t explain herself clearly.

“Hehehe...” She knew that Mother Zhu was Zhu Baoguo’s only aunt. Hearing that Mother Zhu was trying to seek justice for Wang Yang without even mentioning Zhu Baoguo, Qiao Nan felt that there was no need for any explanation on her part. Even if she did explain herself, no one would believe her anyway. After all, the Wang family had done a good job in cleaning up after themselves at that time.

It had been a few decades since that incident. At that time, no one had managed to link Wang Yang to Zhu Baoguo’s death. Now that so many years had passed, almost all evidence had been destroyed. What could Qiao Nan say in front of Mother Zhu, who was Wang Yang’s biological mother? “I’m sorry. I’ve finished my meal. You two can continue with your conversation. I think that your retribution is finally here!”

Chapter 2336: The Truth That Came Late (1)

Even though it had been more than twenty years since Zhu Baoguo’s death, Wang Yang had better not think that he could live a blissful life after killing Zhu Baoguo. That would never happen.

Mother Zhu quickly grabbed Qiao Nan's elbow. "You can't leave. You haven't made yourself clear. What has our Yang Yang done for you to criticize him in that manner? If it's really Yang Yang's fault, I'll definitely make him apologize to everyone. But if it has nothing to do with Yang Yang, you'd better apologize to him. Besides, don't you think you should have a little conscience regarding the lawsuit?"

Mother Zhu was the Zhu family's daughter and had inherited their temper. While expressing her trust in Wang Yang, Mother Zhu had not forgotten about the lawsuit. Mother Zhu would never forgo such a good chance of killing two birds with one stone.

Having been stopped by Mother Zhu, Qiao Nan couldn't help but wonder if Mother Zhu was truly ignorant or if she was pretending to be stupid. Was Wang Yang so important to Mother Zhu that she could sacrifice her nephew, Zhu Baoguo's life?

After giving it some thought, Qiao Nan finally spoke up. "You're Wang Yang's mom and you're a Zhu. You're Chief Zhu's only sister and Zhu Baoguo's only aunt, right?"

"Yes." Mother Zhu answered naturally, feeling that Qiao Nan had asked a strange question. Baoguo had passed on a long time ago, even before his father. Why was Qiao Nan asking about Baoguo, and not about whether she was her dad's daughter?

Qiao Nan pursed her lips. "If I'm not wrong, Zhu Baoguo's mother passed away when he was born. Before he turned three, you were the one who raised him, so your relationship with Zhu Baoguo was probably like one of a mother and son, right?"

"Of course. After my sister-in-law passed on, I was the only woman in the family. I was the one who took care of Baoguo. I treated him like my son." It was exactly because she had such deep feelings toward him that Mother Zhu had nearly cried her eyes out at Zhu Baoguo's death.

"Since that's the case, why were you so vicious to sacrifice Zhu Baoguo's life just to help Wang Yang get the Zhu family's assets? Auntie Zhu, you were the one who raised Zhu Baoguo. You said that you treated Zhu Baoguo like your son, so how could you let your younger son kill your elder son so that he could take your elder son's place? Could it be that your feelings toward Zhu Baoguo and the Zhu family aren't that genuine? Did you forget that you are a Zhu for the sake of Wang Yang? Did you forget that the Zhu family was the one who raised you and gave you a bountiful dowry so that you could marry into the Wang family? Auntie Zhu, people shouldn't be so heartless."

This matter had hurt the entire Zhu family greatly. Of course, Wang Yang had hurt the Zhu family, but the one who had brought them the greatest pain was Mother Zhu.

Wang Yang had grown up in the Wang family, so it wasn't strange for Wang Yang to be estranged from the Zhu family because of the Wang family's words. But Mother Zhu had grown up in the Zhu family, pampered by her father and brother.

That was why Zhu Chengqi couldn't accept how Mother Zhu had been so indifferent to Zhu Baoguo's death.

Both Mother Zhu and Li Yayan were stunned and at a loss for words. Their jaws were opened so widely that flies could have flown in.

Li Yayan could not regain her senses. Zhu Baoguo had died early and Wang Yang had never mentioned him simply because he was Zhu Chengqi's son. As such, Li Yayan was truly ignorant of the fact that Zhu Baoguo's death had not been so simple. In fact, it seemed like her husband even had something to do with it.

No, it couldn't possibly be true...

Although she did not have much understanding of the Zhu family, she knew that Zhu Baoguo was Zhu Chengqi's only son. It was because Zhu Baoguo had passed away in his teenage years that Wang Yang had the chance to inherit the Zhu family's assets. In that case, Li Yayan felt that Wang Yang did have a motive to attack Zhu Baoguo. The more she thought about it, the more frightened she became.

Zhu Baoguo had died in his teens, and Wang Yang was even younger than Zhu Baoguo! Wang Yang had done that to Zhu Baoguo at that age... No, no. Wang Yang was her husband. They were one. How could she suspect her husband just because of an outsider like Qiao Nan? How could she misunderstand that Wang Yang had been so brutal to his own relative at such a young age?

It was murder! This was no game. Even at her age, she dared not even kill a chicken, much less a person! When Zhu Baoguo had died, her husband had been no more than a child. How could he have been bold enough or capable enough to kill someone? Qiao Nan should have made up a more believable lie if she wanted others to believe her!

If Li Yayan thought that way, it was only expected that Mother Zhu was even more doubtful of that since she knew her son more than Li Yayan. "That's enough. How could you say such things even if you want to take the Zhu family's assets for yourself? How did the Zhai family accept you with such a character? Baoguo..."

Even though many years had passed, Mother Zhu still got upset every time Zhu Baoguo's death was mentioned. "Baoguo's death has nothing to do with Yang Yang. If you don't know anything, you'd better not spout nonsense. Anyone would find your words ridiculous. Although it's a family matter, it's been a long time since it happened. I guess it wouldn't hurt to tell you about it. But there's no way I'll let Yang Yang take the blame for them. When Baoguo was young, he had a bad temper and didn't like to study. He even got into the company of some hooligans. I don't know why... Those hooligans attacked our Baoguo..."

Mother Zhu choked. Those tears weren't crocodile tears, and her nose was running too. She was no actress.

Qiao Nan frowned. Mother Zhu was talking about what most people knew, but... "Do you really not know that your son was the one who killed Zhu Baoguo?" Was that even possible?

Li Yayan stared at Qiao Nan. "My mom's made it very clear. Zhu Baoguo was beaten to death by those hooligans. Why do you have to keep bringing my husband into the picture? Why don't you think about how old my husband was when Zhu Baoguo died?"

Fine. Qiao Nan could not even get angry because both Mother Zhu and Li Yayan were useless. It wasn't strange for Li Yayan to be left out of the loop. There was no way the Wang family would have told a new daughter-in-law like Li Yayan that Wang Yang had killed a person. After all, they had already managed to hide the truth for such a long time. What was the point of bringing it to light once more? Were they not afraid that Wang Yang would be caught?

Chapter 2337: The Truth That Came Late (2)

But Qiao Nan could not believe that Mother Zhu knew nothing about this matter.

In the past, Qiao Nan had always been resentful toward Mother Zhu. After all, Mother Zhu was part of the Zhu family and had grown up being pampered by Old Master Zhu and Zhu Chengqi. How vicious she had to be to betray her own family and remain silent even when she knew that her nephew had died a wrongful death. But who would have expected that Mother Zhu was not pretending? She was truly a fool!

After understanding the situation, Qiao Nan continued. "Yes. Zhu Baoguo was beaten to death by hooligans, but Wang Yang was the one who sought out those hooligans. Initially, he had not wanted Zhu Baoguo's life. He had just intended to let these hooligans lead Zhu Baoguo astray so that Zhu Baoguo would not make much of his life. I don't know what happened later on, but Zhu Baoguo... died."

“Wang Yang has to take full responsibility for Zhu Baoguo’s death. I won’t talk about why Wang Yang was disgruntled with Zhu Baoguo and had some ideas toward him at such a young age. I’m sure you know why. Chief Zhu has already made himself very clear by handing all of the Zhu family’s assets over to an outsider like me instead of Wang Yang now that Zhu Baoguo’s gone. I’m not afraid of being blunt. I’m willing to give anyone things belonging to the Zhu family, except for Wang Yang!”

With that, Qiao Nan picked her books up and headed for her class without sparing Mother Zhu and Li Yayan, who were unable to handle the truth, another gaze.

Mother Zhu was an utter failure for having been cheated and lied to by her son to such an extent.

No wonder her godfather had never talked about his younger sister, Mother Zhu. He was all too clear that both he and Old Master Zhu were to be blamed for Mother Zhu’s character. They had spoiled his sister. That was why he had no choice but to admit to his fate that he had spoiled his sister so much that he had lost his own son.

“Mom, Mom...” Qiao Nan heard Li Yayan’s voice cry out before she could leave the area. She vaguely heard that someone had fainted, and someone shouting for others to call an ambulance.

Of course, this was none of Qiao Nan’s concern. What she needed to care about was her studies so that she could get a graduation certificate as soon as possible.

But Qiao Nan’s mood had also been affected because of meeting Li Yayan and Mother Zhu and talking about Zhu Baoguo’s death. When Zhai Sheng arrived to pick his wife up, he noticed Qiao Nan’s sullen face. “What’s wrong? Did the Wang family come to look for you again? Didn’t you say that you could deal with it? If it’s really hard for you, I’ll deal with it for you.”

Zhai Sheng was more than happy to help Qiao Nan solve these problems. It was just that Qiao Nan had not allowed him to do so in the past. As such, Zhai Sheng had chosen to respect her decision and had not brought up the matter again. But now that he saw Qiao Nan dispirited, Zhai Sheng was no longer willing to let Qiao Nan have her way.

After getting in the car, Qiao Nan hugged Zhai Sheng’s muscular arm and leaned over. “I saw Wang Yang’s mother today. It seemed like she knew nothing about how her son killed Zhu Baoguo. Thankfully, the truth won’t remain hidden any longer. Although I can already guess the result, I can’t help but feel bad for Zhu Baoguo.”

One was her nephew who had died years ago, while the other was her precious son. There was no way a dead person could compare to a living person. Even though Mother Zhu had not known about the link between Wang Yang and Zhu Baoguo's death earlier, she would never turn Wang Yang in now for the sake of her nephew, Zhu Baoguo.

So many years had passed since that incident, and much of the evidence had already been destroyed. There was a low possibility of convicting Wang Yang of manslaughter.

If even the law couldn't deal with Wang Yang, would Mother Zhu try all ways to send Wang Yang to prison? Forget it.

In that case, it had been meaningless to let Mother Zhu know about the truth behind Zhu Baoguo's death. Her reaction and attitude were bound to be disappointing. Qiao Nan couldn't help but feel aggrieved on behalf of the three generations of the Zhu family's men. Mother Zhu said that she had raised Zhu Baoguo like a son, and of course, the reverse was probably true. Mother Zhu was probably like a mother in Zhu Baoguo's eyes too.

Under such a situation, Zhu Baoguo had become the one whom Mother Zhu had abandoned. Qiao Nan was thankful that Zhu Baoguo was no longer around to face such a cruel reality. Otherwise, Zhu Baoguo would definitely be devastated in the face of such an aunt.

Although she knew that, she couldn't help but feel heartache for Zhu Baoguo.

Qiao Nan completely understood why Zhu Chengqi had left such a will, and the feelings he had had while doing so. He had been hurt too deeply. Zhu Chengqi was not just disappointed in his nephew, Wang Yang, but also his younger sister, Mother Zhu. As such, Qiao Nan had been the only one mentioned in his will.

They were clearly the ones who had hurt others and disappointed others first. Not only had they not reflected on their mistakes upon hearing the contents of the will, but they had even blamed Zhu Chengqi for being muddleheaded! In the face of such a situation, Qiao Nan wanted to slap their mouths. They should at least have a limit to their shamelessness!

Qiao Nan was not going to go easy on these shameless people. She would say what she had to, scold them as they deserved, and provoke them as much as she should!

After her lessons, Qiao Nan returned home to spend time with the three children, and Zhai Sheng told her. “Mother Zhu’s been hospitalized.”

“Did I anger her, or did Wang Yang anger her?” Qiao Nan was playing with San Bao and was not affected by Zhai Sheng’s piece of news. After all, Qiao Nan had already guessed whom Mother Zhu would choose between Wang Yang and Zhu Baoguo. Perhaps, Mother Zhu had been hospitalized because of both her and Wang Yang.

Zhai Sheng hugged Qiao Nan, who was hugging her daughter. The family of three was in a huddle.

Unfortunately, such a warm scene was quickly ruined by two ‘rascals’. Upon seeing this situation, Da Bao and Er Bao immediately crawled to their parents’ sides and did their best to squeeze into Zhai Sheng’s arms to break Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan apart.

Feeling two chubby figures climbing onto her, Qiao Nan sighed. “Brother Zhai, hurry and get your sons down. Your children are getting heavier by the day. My back can’t stand it. Their calves are really powerful.”

The moment Qiao Nan said that, Zhai Sheng frowned and wrestled Da Bao and Er Bao off Qiao Nan’s back and placed them on the floor. “Don’t make trouble for your mom. If you’re disobedient, I’ll smack your backside.”

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If they had been slightly older, he would have immediately thrown them into the army. That was the most reliable way.

Having finally separated their clingy parents after a long time, Da Bao and Er Bao had no idea what their father was saying. They simply turned their backs and crawled toward Qiao Nan again, trying to squeeze with San Bao into Qiao Nan’s embrace.

With no choice, Qiao Nan could only stretch her arms and make space for the three children. It was truly not easy for a petite woman like Qiao Nan to be hugging all three children at once. “Brother Zhai, your three children are getting more demanding every day. What shall I do in the future?”

Zhai Sheng did not reply to Qiao Nan with words. Instead, he replied to Qiao Nan with his actions. Zhai Sheng raised his hand and landed a few smacks on each of his children’s backsides. Then, he handed them over to their grandparents. “Go play with Grandma and Grandpa.”

Miao Jing and Zhai Yaohui, who had inadvertently been brought into the picture, were helpless. Had they become their son and daughter-in-law's third wheel by staying at home? Why did it feel so awkward?

Their son might dislike their grandchildren, but they didn't mind them at all.

Without Zhai Sheng needing to repeat himself, Miao Jing and Zhai Yaohui quickly brought the three children into the playroom. Thankfully, the triplets were still young. Although they were clingy to their mother, it was easy to distract their attention as long as they were not crying.

"San Bao, be a good girl. Grandma will play with you." Miao Jing stuffed a doll dressed in a dress into San Bao's embrace and she spoke gently.

Zhai Yaohui didn't say much, but the moment he took out the toy cars, Da Bao and Er Bao had already started moving toward him. They picked up a toy car each and started playing with each other.

San Bao, who was being treated like a princess, was annoyed and threw aside the adorable doll in her hands. She squeezed up to Da Bao and Er Bao's sides and stretched out her chubby hands to snatch her brothers' toys. San Bao was impressive indeed. She didn't just want Da Bao's car. She also wanted Er Bao's. Both her brothers' toy cars were hers!

Thankfully, both Da Bao and Er Bao seemed to know that San Bao had such a bad habit and very generously allowed San Bao to have their cars. Now that their hands were empty, they each grabbed another one without hesitation. But the brothers seemed to have a tacit understanding and kept their distance from San Bao as though they were trying to prevent San Bao from snatching their cars again. Zhai Yaohui could only watch on speechlessly.

In reality, Zhai Yaohui had wondered if his grandsons had changed their preferences when they had first grabbed those two cars. After all, he remembered that those weren't their favorite cars. But once San Bao appeared, Zhai Yaohui realized that his grandsons had already formulated their own plan in dealing with San Bao!

Yes, this was a good strategy! His grandsons were indeed from the Zhai family! Once they were in the military, no one would be able to defeat his grandsons.

Since the three children had left with their grandparents, it was much more convenient for Qiao Nan to speak to Zhai Sheng. “How’s Mother Zhu? From what I remember, she’s in quite good health. She probably won’t remain in the hospital forever like my godfather, right?”

“No.” Zhai Sheng allowed Qiao Nan to lean into his embrace so that it would be more comfortable for her to read her books. “I heard from the hospital that Mother Zhu’s condition is fine. It’s just that she’s old and not as strong as young people. That’s why her body couldn’t handle the sudden surge of emotions, causing her to faint.”

In other words, Mother Zhu’s body had survived the truth of Zhu Baoguo’s death. No matter what decision the Wang family made, Mother Zhu would make it through.

Qiao Nan sneered as she flipped the page. “That’s true. Good people don’t live long while evil people live forever. That’s exactly what’s happening now. With Wang Yang around, Mother Zhu will definitely find a way to prolong her life even if she’s not in good health. Wang Yang was already capable of plotting against his cousin at such a young age because of the Wang family. Who knows what he is capable of doing if he remains under the influence of the Wang family?”

In her opinion, everyone in the Wang family, including Wang Yang’s father, was good at deceiving others. It was clear that Wang Yang was especially smart and calculating in front of others. But in the face of the Wang family, Wang Yang seemed to be a fool, putting aside all those scheming thoughts he had toward outsiders. Instead, he presented his purest and simplest self to the Wang family.

Although Wang Yang was extremely vicious against the Zhu family, he was painfully loyal to the Wang family. It was because of this that Qiao Nan had gotten a huge shock. She had never thought that Wang Yang had such a ‘foolish’ side to him. In short, the Wang family was brilliant to have raised Wang Yang in this way.

Thankfully, that was the Wang family’s business, and Qiao Nan had no intention to interfere in it. If not for Wang Yang, who insisted on fighting for the Zhu family’s inheritance, Qiao Nan would not have bothered about Wang Yang or the people around him either.

But justice reigned and no one would be spared from their retribution.

Even if the law couldn’t punish Wang Yang, he would receive his punishment in other ways. Wang Yang had better not even dream about the Zhu family’s inheritance.

Qiao Nan knew that Mother Zhu would definitely choose to protect her son, Wang Yang, even if she didn't feel good about it. After all, it would go against her conscience, and it would be betraying her Zhu family.

Mother Zhu's gaze was blank as she stared out of the windows, past her son, who was kneeling by her bedside. All she could think of was what had happened while Zhu Baoguo had still been alive. The moment Zhu Baoguo was born, his mother had died. It was Mother Zhu who had raised Zhu Baoguo, fed him, and changed his diapers.

She had had no other choice at that time. Her sister-in-law had passed away, and her own mother had passed on even earlier. She had been the only woman left in the entire Zhu family. Besides, her brother had entirely changed after her sister-in-law had passed away. He stopped coming home and started treating the military as his home instead.

Her father was already advanced in age. If she didn't take up the job of caring for her nephew, Zhu Baoguo, there would be no one else who would do so.

Chapter 2339: So What? (2)

As such, Zhu Baoguo had always been particularly close to his aunt from a young age. She remembered clearly that Zhu Baoguo had cried his eyes out on the day she had gotten married. He had even said to her, "Auntie, can you not leave me? I'll marry you when I grow up. Auntie, don't leave. I can't bear for you to go. What if I can't fall asleep without you by my side?"

That adorable and obedient Zhu Baoguo.

Mother Zhu had almost forgotten what Zhu Baoguo looked like, but suddenly, his image appeared clearly before her eyes. She even remembered the small snippets of her interactions with Zhu Baoguo before her marriage.

She had always thought that her obedient nephew had been brought astray and eventually killed by those hooligans. Who would have known... She glanced at Wang Yang, who was kneeling beside her bed, and wanted him to leave. "Alright, stop kneeling here. I'm sure you know that I don't really want to see you. When I look at you, I think about Baoguo's death. My heart... I've wronged my dad, my brother, and my ancestors. I have no face to see them. Perhaps, I was no longer a Zhu the moment I insisted on marrying your dad and gave birth to you. This is all my fault. I'll have to atone for my sins for a hundred years once I meet them after my death."

Her son had killed off the entire Zhu family, and her in-laws had always been protecting him. That was why she had never found out about the truth behind her nephew's death.

If Qiao Nan had not exposed the truth, she might never have found out about how Zhu Baoguo had died even up until her death! Once she met her family and was lambasted by the entire Zhu family, she might even remain oblivious as to why she was being scolded just because she had been cheated by her own son!

"Mom..." Wang Yang's voice was hoarse. So many years had passed since Zhu Baoguo's death, and even Zhu Chengqi had never suspected anything about Zhu Baoguo's death, much less mentioned it to Wang Yang. It was true that Wang Yang had felt a burden being relieved off him the day that Zhu Chengqi had died.

He knew that once Zhu Chengqi died, the last person on earth who cared about Zhu Baoguo would be gone. From then on, there would be no one who would investigate the truth behind Zhu Baoguo's death.

That way, the only grave mistake he had ever committed in this lifetime would be buried alongside Zhu Chengqi, never to be discovered again. But Wang Yang had never expected that his mom would have thought about Zhu Baoguo and even found out about the truth while he had been the most relaxed. In fact, his mother had even gotten so emotional over the matter.

Perhaps, it was not that Wang Yang had never expected such a reaction from Mother Zhu. It was just that he had hidden the truth so well in the past. Since such a long time had passed since then, especially now that Zhu Chengqi was dead, Wang Yang had thought that his mom would never learn of the truth.

It was Qiao Nan again. Why was Qiao Nan like a ghost who pursued him endlessly? Why did Qiao Nan always have to barge in on his family's matters? Qiao Nan was a devil! She was purposely taking revenge on him and refusing to return the Zhu family's assets to him just because of the matter with Chen Jun.

"Mom, Qiao Nan's an outsider. I'm your only son. How could you choose to believe an outsider over me? Brother Baoguo's death has nothing to do with me. Don't you remember that I was at home the whole day with you on the day of his death? How could you suspect me just because of something an outsider said? You're not even giving me a chance to explain myself. Mom, you're being too unfair to me."

Wang Yang had initially been shocked by Mother Zhu's sudden fainting spell, but some time had passed, and he had already calmed himself down. "I'm sure you have some understanding of the kind of person Qiao Nan is too. I'm fighting a lawsuit against her at the moment. I'm now her enemy. It's no surprise that she would speak ill of me in front of you. But Mom, how could you take Qiao Nan's words seriously? She's maligning me and trying to frame me!"

"She knows that I respect you and she's trying to destroy our relationship. Then, I'll be so distressed that I'll have no time to care about that lawsuit. That's Qiao Nan's evil plans! Mom, you can't believe her! You should believe me..."

As a mother who loved her son, Mother Zhu had the urge to believe her son upon hearing his righteous explanations and seeing him kneel before her. After all, Wang Yang was sincere in his words and no one could even see that he had lied.

But it was exactly because of his behavior and actions that Mother Zhu believed that Wang Yang definitely had something to do with Zhu Baoguo's death. It was not that Mother Zhu was suspicious of Wang Yang or that she could spot something from Wang Yang's expression.

It was because she loved her son, Wang Yang, dearly and trusted him the most. As such, she had never suspected her son. Mother Zhu had no idea how Wang Yang looked like when he lied, but she did know how Father Wang looked like when he lied.

Mother Zhu spotted a glimpse of Father Wang in Wang Yang, who was eloquently convincing her. That recognition pained Mother Zhu.

She had given her whole heart to her son and yet, he was still lying to her at this point in time. Since Wang Yang had truly told a lie, it meant that everything Qiao Nan had said was true. Baoguo's death had not been an accident. It was not that Baoguo had gone astray. Baoguo had been deliberately led astray, and the one who had instigated everything was none other than her own biological son!

"Alright, you don't have to say anything. The more you say, the more heartbroken I feel as a mother. Do you really think I can't tell whether you're telling the truth as a mother? It's because I can differentiate between the truth and a lie that I'm heartbroken. Wang Yang, why have you turned into a person like this? I was happy marrying your dad and I've never regretted it. But now, things are different. It's my fault as a mother that you grew up in the Wang family and became this way. I've wronged the Zhu family. I've wronged you."

How was she to have known that the Wang family would have been so evil? They had been so scheming toward her family and had even influenced her son negatively.

Earlier on, she had thought that her brother had been crazy to leave behind such a will, leaving all of the Zhu family's assets to an outsider without even mentioning Yang Yang.

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Now, Mother Zhu understood everything. If she was in her brother's position, she would probably have left behind such a will too. It didn't matter whom the Zhu family's assets went to. The important thing was that it would never go to the one who had killed Baoguo.

"Yang Yang, if you still take me as your mother, withdraw the lawsuit against Qiao Nan. Stop fighting the lawsuit. You'll never win. You have no rights anyway. Weren't you asking about why your uncle left behind such a will? I can tell you now that your uncle remembered that you were his nephew, and it was because of that that he let you off for Baoguo's death. Stop thinking about getting the Zhu family's assets." He was truly shameless.

She no longer needed Qiao Nan to attack her. Even Mother Zhu admitted that Wang Yang was no longer qualified to be the master of the Zhu family or to inherit the Zhu family's assets after he had done such an unforgivable thing. The Zhu family owed Wang Yang nothing. Conversely, it was Wang Yang who owed the Zhu family.

Mother Zhu still remembered the kind of life Old Master Zhu and Zhu Chengqi had lived after Zhu Baoguo's death. Mother Zhu was completely unable to accept that her only son had been the sole reason for her family's tragedy and misery.

Unfortunately, that was the truth no matter how brutal it was. Mother Zhu had no choice but to accept it.

"Mom..." Wang Yang's face turned green. He had never expected his mother to say such words to him. In that moment, Wang Yang's heart wavered. He was unsure if he should ask why Mother Zhu was so sure that he had killed Zhu Baoguo, or whether Zhu Chengqi had already known about this matter.

If he were to ask about the latter, he would be admitting to being involved in Zhu Baoguo's death. But Wang Yang could not hold it in. He had never imagined that Zhu Chengqi had already known about the truth behind his son's death, just like how he had never worried that Mother Zhu would suspect him of being involved in Zhu Baoguo's death.

But Wang Yang had been wrong in both matters. He was utterly confused and he couldn't help but doubt himself. "Mom, don't... Don't listen to what Qiao Nan says. She's making up stories. I'm telling you that I had nothing to do with Brother Baoguo's death. Everyone knows that it was those hooligans who beat Brother Baoguo to death. I was at home the entire day and I didn't even get out of the house that day. Besides, you understand my uncle's temper the best. If I was the one who killed Brother Baoguo, he would have dealt with me a long time ago. Think about it. Although he had never treated me like his son, it's only because of his help through the years that I have made it this far... Do you think he would have helped me if I had caused Brother Baoguo's death?"

Yes, Qiao Nan had deceived his mom. He could not afford to panic, much less admit to his involvement in Zhu Baoguo's death.

Zhu Chengqi's attitude was the best proof. Who would treat his son's killer so well? Not only had Zhu Chengqi not dealt with him, but he had even helped him! Zhu Chengqi had simply chosen not to hand over the Zhu family's assets to him after his death. What kind of punishment was that? If he was Zhu Chengqi, he would definitely deal with his son's killer such that he would never be able to live well.

Mother Zhu shut her eyes. Yang Yang was still arguing even now. There was not a single truth coming out from his mouth.

Yes, she loved Baoguo, and she couldn't help but shiver upon thinking about how Yang Yang had killed Baoguo. The problem was that if she had to make a choice between Baoguo and Yang Yang, she would definitely choose Yang Yang as a mother, ignoring the truth behind Baoguo's death. After all, Baoguo had already been dead for twenty years.

All along, everyone had thought that it was Baoguo who had gone astray and had provoked the wrong people, leading to his eventual demise. As Baoguo's aunt, she could only selfishly ask for Baoguo's forgiveness on her son's behalf, taking this secret to her grave so that no one mentioned it ever again.

Mother Zhu had the heart to protect Wang Yang, but Wang Yang's lies hurt her dignity as a mother. After all, no mother would be happy with their son lying through their noses even after they had been exposed, causing their relationship to deteriorate.

She had dedicated her entire life to her son, Wang Yang, and had never wronged him. Why could Wang Yang be so open and frank with his father but full of lies in front of his mother?

This child was truly from the Wang family. “Alright, don’t say anything. I feel worse every time you say something. It seems like my advice went over your head. I see you share a very good relationship with your dad and keep nothing from him. Perhaps, you feel happy carrying the burden of the entire Wang family because your dad told you to do so. I’ll let you listen to your dad. I’m sure you’ll be happy about it.”

There were some things that Mother Zhu had not understood in the past.

But now that she had discovered that Wang Yang had something to do with Zhu Baoguo’s death, Mother Zhu could imagine just how much the Wang family must have been involved as well. That was why the Zhu family had not been able to find out anything regarding Zhu Baoguo’s death. After all, Wang Yang had even lied to his mother!

No wonder Father Wang always said that their son owed it to the Wang family and wanted him to get back the Zhu family’s assets to repay the Wang family. She had been confused since the Wang family’s background had never matched up to the Zhu family’s. Within the first few years of her marriage, the Wang family seemed to have lost everything, and the Wang family’s relatives had always been coming to them to get money.

Initially, Mother Zhu had been reluctant. After all, this was all her money. In the future, it would all belong to Wang Yang. What if she could no longer provide for her son when he needed it since she had given it all to the Wang family? The Wang family was still miles apart from hers.

But every time Mother Zhu refused these requests, Father Wang would coax Mother Zhu, saying that it hadn’t been easy for his brothers and that they had helped him in the past too. Because of that, Mother Zhu reluctantly agreed to keep the peace in the family.

Now, there was no need to think about it anymore. The Wang family was in such a dire situation because they had emptied their pockets to protect Wang Yang. That was the real reason. There was a perfect explanation for Father Wang’s words and Wang Yang’s attitude all along.

In that case, everyone in the Wang family knew exactly how Zhu Baoguo had died.. She had been the only fool who had been kept in the dark.