

RTAMM 2371

Chapter 2371: Chased Away (3)

As long as this old woman did anything, they would catch her and send her to jail. She had better not think of getting out.

“Alright, I understand.” The caregiver didn’t mean to find out whether Ding Jiayi’s younger son-in-law was truly a chief. But she wanted to know if the person who had hired her was truly Ding Jiayi’s younger son-in-law.

Now, the caregiver had her answer. He was not.

If her employer had been Ding Jiayi’s son-in-law, he wouldn’t have used such a distant tone when talking about her. The other party didn’t even seem to have realized who Ding Jiayi was the first time she had mentioned her name.

There was no doubt that this person who had hired her had been tasked to do so by Ding Jiayi’s younger daughter or son-in-law. They had even gotten someone else to hire someone to take care of Ding Jiayi. Besides, neither of Ding Jiayi’s daughters had shown up while she had been hospitalized. Thinking about how unreasonable Ding Jiayi had been to her, the caregiver came to a realization. Ding Jiayi must have been quite a failure in life that both her daughters disliked her and refused to take care of her.

In other cases, the caregiver would definitely have pitied such an old person. But because she had been scolded by Ding Jiayi, the caregiver knew that Ding Jiayi was an unreasonable old woman. Ding Jiayi was probably to be blamed for her daughters not being close to her.

With that answer, the caregiver relayed the message to Ding Jiayi. “Auntie Ding, the person who asked me to take care of you said he wasn’t your younger son-in-law. I don’t know who he is either. Besides, I have no way of getting in touch with your younger daughter.”

“That’s impossible!” Ding Jiayi jumped up from her bed. “There can’t be so many good people in this world. My admission and hiring a caregiver all cost money. If a stranger is willing to spend so much money to take care of me, there’s no point in me giving birth to a daughter at all. You’re lying

to me. Give your phone to me. I'll call my younger son-in-law myself!" The world was in a mess! How could she say something like this?

Since Zhai Sheng was willing to listen to Qiao Nan and find someone to take care of her in such a situation, it was obvious that Zhai Sheng still cared very much about her, his mother-in-law. Of course, that was only right. Without her, Zhai Sheng would never have been able to marry Qiao Nan. Only she had been able to give birth to Qiao Nan.

The caregiver resisted the urge to roll her eyes. Why would Ding Jiayi still insist on calling the other party when she didn't want to receive her call? "Auntie Ding, you must be hungry since you've only drunk a glass of water since you woke up, right? I'll order some food from the canteen for you. You should have something to eat, at the very least."

It was not difficult to tell that Ding Jiayi had a nasty temper. It was not the caregiver's first time taking care of others. Even if she had not experienced such patients, she had heard of them before. The caregiver was afraid that Ding Jiayi would smash her phone if the call got through but she was unable to get a satisfactory answer.

Of course, someone would pay for whatever Ding Jiayi damaged even if she didn't pay for it. But this phone was different. It had been a gift from her husband. She wouldn't let a bad-tempered old woman smash something her beloved husband had gotten her.

"You..." Seeing that the caregiver was not listening to her and had not lent her the phone and had instead changed the topic, Ding Jiayi was infuriated. "You'd better get in touch with my younger daughter. My younger daughter is the one forking out the money. I don't believe that there isn't any other who is willing to take up this job. You might not listen to me, but Qiao Nan won't dare to disobey me!"

Even if Qiao Nan refused to listen to her, Qiao Nan was still her daughter. She could forget about it since it was her own daughter. But it was too unreasonable for someone drawing a salary from their family to disregard her!

Someone like that would only anger her even further and cause her to fall sick. She had to replace this caregiver with someone who could really take care of others.

Very soon, the door to her ward was opened. Ding Jiayi was sulky and she said without even lifting up her eyes, "You're back so quickly? What did you get? Also, just you wait. Once I'm full, I'll use my own phone to call my younger daughter. When I get through, you'd better be self-aware and take your leave. My daughter will pay you for the day's worth of work you did."

“Oh, she’ll get paid for taking care of you for just a day? How much is she paid? Tsk, tsk. It seems like times have really changed. No wonder you said that I had to take good care of you once I made it big. Qiao Nan married Zhai Sheng and inherited the Zhu family’s inheritance. She lacks nothing. Look how she arranged for a single ward that’s bright and clean for you. It’s even better than a hotel room. I can only imagine how much she pays for a night here. Indeed, it’s good to have a promising daughter. Now, you can enjoy your life.”

The person who had entered was not the caregiver but Qiao Zijin, who had returned to the Qiao family’s courtyard.

Qiao Zijin had no intention of paying for Ding Jiayi’s hospitalization bills. She had a clear memory of how Ding Jiayi had been sent into the hospital since it had something to do with how the two of them had been at odds. She had had first-hand experience of just how extreme her mom was.

If she were to carry this burden, her mom might very well pocket the money that Qiao Nan sent over for it. Then, her mom would say, “Qiao Nan’s my daughter. She’s giving me money for my treatment. Am I not your mom? What do you mean you made a deposit? It’s only right for you to pay for me. Besides, you aren’t the only one who paid for me. Qiao Nan paid for me too. I’ll use your money on my hospitalization bills and Qiao Nan’s on some nourishment once I’m discharged.”

With that thought, Qiao Zijin had slipped away after seeing her neighbors send Ding Jiayi onto the ambulance, giving the excuse that she was going to find her father.

To prevent her neighbors from finding her, Qiao Zijin had chosen not to switch on the lights the entire night, pretending that she had left to find Qiao Dongliang.

Today, Qiao Zijin had sneaked out of the house to visit Ding Jiayi in the hospital only after she thought that her neighbors had gone out to work.

“What are you here for?” Ding Jiayi had lost all expectation toward Qiao Zijin since she had not seen her the moment she opened her eyes. Ding Jiayi had even told herself that she would forgive Qiao Zijin for whatever she had done in the past as long as Qiao Zijin took care of her wholeheartedly while she was hospitalized.

Old Qiao was right.. Zijin had been a rather obedient child when she had been young.

Chapter 2372: Won't Back Down (1)

It was her educational methods that had caused Zijin to turn into the person she was today. But she believed that there would come a day she would guide Zijin back onto the right path as long as Zijin still had feelings toward her.

After opening her eyes, Ding Jiayi wished that she had remained in a coma. No one had been by her side. Qiao Zijin was not there, and neither was Qiao Nan. Because of that, Ding Jiayi had been terribly upset.

Qiao Dongliang had always said that she had raised their children wrongly and had led Qiao Zijin astray. It was Qiao Nan, who had been neglected by her, who had grown up well based on her own abilities. Ding Jiayi was aggrieved the moment that she awoke. Grown up well? Her mom had been hospitalized and she was not even going to visit her mom to take care of her! How could such an unfilial child have grown up well? In that case, what would children be like if they had been led astray?

As such, Zijin's bad temper had nothing to do with her. She couldn't have brought Zijin astray. She had never even taught Qiao Nan anything, and yet, Qiao Nan was a bad child too. All she could say was that both Qiao Zijin and Qiao Nan were not good seedlings to begin with. There was no way they could have grown up to be any good.

The more Ding Jiayi thought about it, the more she felt that the problem lay with the Qiao family and that she had nothing to do with it. It was not that Qiao Dongliang was bad, but Qiao Dongliang hadn't appeared out of the blue. Perhaps, something had gone wrong in the generation of Qiao Zijin and Qiao Nan's grandparents, and there had been particularly disobedient people in that generation.

Qiao Zijin made herself at home and sat down, even taking a dragon fruit from the fruit basket and peeling it for herself. "What am I here for? My mom's sick. As the only daughter by her side, it's only right that I come to visit her and see if she needs my help. Mom, Qiao Nan should have transferred money to you, right? You'd better manage it well. Who doesn't love money in this world? Be careful that someone might try to snatch it away from you. We're a family and you're my mom. If you need anything, feel free to ask me for help. I have the obligation to help you, after all."

Instead of handing her money over to outsiders, it would be safer to get her daughter to manage her money.

She couldn't deny that she was trying to take advantage of the situation. Anyway, Qiao Nan was loaded and wouldn't care less about such a small sum of money. Besides, her mom was hospitalized

and didn't have anywhere else to spend her money. Even if she wanted to eat anything, she couldn't possibly go out to buy them herself. It was just as well. She could run such errands for her mom.

To put it bluntly, she was willing to bet that others would definitely try to take advantage of her mom if her mom trusted someone else to run these errands for her. Since such a situation was unavoidable, it would be better for her mom to let her take advantage instead. No matter what, she was her mom's daughter. Even if she pocketed the money, it would still be the Qiao family's. It was better for her to spend the money than let someone else spend it instead.

She believed that her mom would understand such a simple principle.

Besides, Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi had been the happiest when they had managed to extort money from Qiao Nan in the past. Now, the mother and daughter could take this opportunity to spend Qiao Nan's money again. She had already said that Qiao Nan didn't lack money. It was a rare opportunity that she and her mom had to treasure.

After all, no one was sure when her mother would fall sick again. Qiao Nan was stingy and they could not give up this golden opportunity when Qiao Nan was willing to fork out money for them.

"Mom, don't you agree? I've already thought about it for you. Tell Qiao Nan that the air in China isn't very good and that your living environment isn't very good. Because you're sick, you want to move away and relax. Didn't I suggest that you take a holiday in Thailand with Dad? We don't know where Dad is now, but I'm sure that he's living a much better life than we are because of Qiao Nan. We don't have to worry about her. Once Qiao Nan transfers you the money, I'll accompany you to Thailand. What do you think?"

Qiao Zijin knew that Qiao Nan would continue treating Ding Jiayi exactly how she had treated her in the past if not for her illness as an excuse. Ding Jiayi would simply receive a measly one to two thousand yuan of living allowance every month. Apart from feeding herself, she wouldn't be able to do much with that sum of money.

"Mom, it's really true that the rich rule the world. After getting married to Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan has never needed to worry about money. Now, she's even become the master of the Zhu family. It'll take her a few lifetimes to finish spending all her money. We're her family. Apart from those few people in the Zhai family, we're her only kin. Who would she be good to if not us? Anyway, she won't be able to finish using the money. Don't you think that Qiao Nan's stupid if she refuses to give us some money to better our lives?" If possible, she wanted to pry open Qiao Nan's brain to see what was going on inside.

In the past, Qiao Nan had been willing to hand over all of her money while she stayed in a small space under the staircase. Now, Qiao Nan only needed to spare her a fraction of her wealth for her life to get better. So, why was Qiao Nan being so stingy? Honestly, she could swear that she would never make trouble for Qiao Nan ever again if she were to spare her that small sum of money. She would even become Qiao Nan's protector. If her mom dared to bully or provoke Qiao Nan, she would definitely stand on Qiao Nan's side.

In that case, Qiao Nan wouldn't be at a loss giving her that sum of money.

Qiao Zijin was being rather practical. Could Qiao Nan not guess what Qiao Zijin was thinking? It was exactly because she had been so suppressed for the first half of her life that she had retaliated, and her retaliation was scary indeed.

Qiao Nan knew very well that she did not lack money, and neither did the Zhai family. Giving Qiao Zijin just a tiny fraction of her money so that she could lead a better life would be good for her too. But Qiao Nan was reluctant to let Qiao Zijin live a comfortable life.

This was not the past. In the past, Qiao Zijin had always relied on Ding Jiayi to cause trouble for her. Now? Qiao Nan lived in the capital while Ding Jiayi refused to leave Ping Cheng. Besides, Qiao Dongliang, who had always turned a blind eye to their antics, had suddenly changed his attitude. Given all these factors, Ding Jiayi, who had once reigned over the Qiao family, no longer dared to put Qiao Zijin first in everything.

Ding Jiayi had started to become anxious about her own old age. She did not want to get a divorce from Qiao Dongliang and wished to remain with him.

Chapter 2373: Won't Back Down (2)

Qiao Zijin's ruthlessness scared even Ding Jiayi.

Qiao Zijin could dream on about controlling Qiao Nan's life as she had done twenty years ago. Qiao Zijin's influence had diminished while Qiao Nan's hatred had grown. Given such a situation, Qiao Nan felt that there was absolutely no need for her to please Qiao Zijin or to give her any benefits so that she could lead a smooth-sailing life.

Although Qiao Nan had not settled her accounts with Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi after having suffered so much unfair treatment, it did not mean that she had forgotten all about it. Given Qiao Nan's temperament, it was impossible for her to take the initiative to take revenge. But Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin had better not think of crossing the line by making excessive demands on Qiao Nan. She had already shown that she wouldn't be provoked so easily.

If anyone dared to make such requests of her, Qiao Nan wouldn't hesitate to stab their hands until they were full of holes and blood. After all, one had to receive their rightful punishment.

Qiao Zijin, who was full of complaints, had no idea just how resentful Qiao Nan was. All she knew was that Qiao Nan was an ingrate and a fool who couldn't provide a peaceful and comfortable life for her with her money. She never once stopped to think about how Qiao Nan's character had changed because of all she had suffered at her hands.

"Alright, stop telling me all this. If you have so many ideas, tell them to Qiao Nan." Ding Jiayi had been infuriated to begin with. Hearing Qiao Zijin's words only frustrated her even more. If not for the fact that it was already the end of June and there was no air conditioning in her room, she would have pulled the blanket over herself to cover herself. That way, she wouldn't need to listen to Qiao Zijin's frivolous words.

Ding Jiayi knew very well just how easily persuaded she was. She might not listen to anyone else, but she would definitely listen to Qiao Zijin. She had cultivated this habit over the past few decades. Although Ding Jiayi no longer liked Qiao Zijin as a daughter, it was hard for a leopard to change its spots.

Besides, Ding Jiayi had raised Qiao Zijin. Often, Qiao Zijin was a reflection of Ding Jiayi. In other words, Qiao Zijin's ideas had appeared in Ding Jiayi's mind too.

Was it not enough that she alone had such ideas? It took two hands to clap. It was frightening when two people who shared the same thoughts got together.

Even after having been cheated so many times, Qiao Dongliang had still not returned to Ding Jiayi's side. It was not that Ding Jiayi did not feel moved toward Qiao Zijin. It was that she dared not feel moved. She hadn't even done anything, and yet, her husband had already run away. If she were to do anything to provoke Qiao Nan, she might very well sever all ties with her! She had seen this happen many times on the news. She wouldn't let that happen to her.

Qiao Dongliang's departure had been a significant blow to Ding Jiayi. If this had happened in the past before Qiao Dongliang's departure, Ding Jiayi wouldn't have needed Qiao Zijin to suggest such things to her. She would have thought of them herself.

But it was Qiao Dongliang's departure that stunned Ding Jiayi and made her come to the realization that Qiao Dongliang wouldn't let her have her way forever. Similarly, Qiao Nan wouldn't be able to satisfy her all the time. While Qiao Dongliang had not been able to get divorced from Ding Jiayi after being provoked, he had been able to leave her.

With Qiao Nan's help, it had been easy for Qiao Dongliang to leave. But it hadn't been easy for Ding Jiayi to find him. Besides, neither Ding Jiayi nor Qiao Dongliang had the ability to move away themselves. They had to rely on their daughter, Qiao Nan.

While Ding Jiayi had always been against Qiao Nan, Qiao Dongliang had occasionally stood on Qiao Nan's side. Qiao Dongliang's departure this time had caused Ding Jiayi to come to a realization.

If she got into an argument with Qiao Dongliang, Qiao Nan would never be like other children who sided with their mothers. Qiao Nan would be on Qiao Dongliang's side. Even up until now, Ding Jiayi had not managed to find Qiao Dongliang. As such, there was no way she would dare to do something that would go against Qiao Dongliang's wishes and anger him even further.

"Mom, what do you mean? Aren't you worried about Dad?" Qiao Zijin had guessed Ding Jiayi's thoughts just by observing her expression.

Ding Jiayi harrumphed disgruntledly. "Your dad and I are the ones who have to spend a lifetime together. Do you think I can count on you? It has nothing to do with effort or money. I have your dad if I need company, and I can rely on Qiao Nan if I need money." As such, she could not afford to offend these two people.

Qiao Zijin flicked her hair. "Mom, since when have you become so timid? Didn't my dad move away? I'm guessing that he's no longer in Ping Cheng to avoid you. So, there's no way my dad will know about what you do. Give it some time. I'm sure my dad feels the same way toward you that you do. He'll return to you eventually. Does he really think that Qiao Nan will bring him over to the capital? Didn't I say that you guys don't even know how to enjoy your lives? I'm sure that my dad won't even dare to agree to Qiao Nan's proposal if she offers him to move to the capital."

If she had her parents' good fortune and Feng Feng turned out as outstanding in the future to reside in the capital, she would definitely pack all her things and follow her son to the capital in a heartbeat.

She wouldn't cause her child any problems. In fact, she might even be useful in helping Feng Feng take care of his child in the future.

Ding Jiayi was not moved at all. "You know how heartless that wretched girl, Qiao Nan, is. Now, she's so ruthless that she doesn't even think of me as her mom. Isn't it entirely that wretched girl's fault that I have no one to rely on and that your dad and I are in this state now? Your dad may not be in Ping Cheng, but he'll definitely know once that wretched girl calls him and tells him all about how I want to take advantage of her. That wretched girl is no longer the same person she was in the past. Although she wasn't a good person in the past, she listened to me, at the very least. Now that she's married, she doesn't even think of herself as a Qiao. She even thinks of us as burdens now."

Ding Jiayi sighed, feeling that her life was indeed extraordinarily tough.

Chapter 2374: Won't Back Down (3)

Anyone else with two daughters at her age would be enjoying their lives with their children providing for them. No one else was like her and had to spend within her daughters' budget for her. Her daughters were terribly selfish. The mention of money was as taboo as death.

"She's so brilliant now. Your dad's helping her and she has such a capable husband. I gave birth to her and raised her but I have to live in fear of her. Your dad's still angry at me. I've thought it through. I can't win against that wretched girl. I have only a few more years left to live. I don't want to kick up a huge fuss. There's no point in living such a rowdy life. Forget about going overseas. I'm tired of all that. I'm thinking that your dad should come and visit me now that I'm sick and hospitalized."

In short, Qiao Nan was someone she couldn't afford to provoke. Qiao Nan could call on anyone around her to support her and she wouldn't be able to handle that pressure.

Ding Jiayi hoped that Qiao Nan would speak up for her in front of Old Qiao on the account of her not having made any trouble for her this time. Then, the couple would be able to reconcile with each other. She really needed Old Qiao to take care of her.

As long as Old Qiao was around, she wouldn't be alone in her fight against Zijin. Old Qiao would definitely be on her side. Even though they were old, there was still a higher likelihood of winning since they had two against one.

Having personally tasted her elder daughter's abilities, Ding Jiayi had another reason to hope for Qiao Dongliang's quick return.

Qiao Zijin refused to fork out neither money nor effort in helping Ding Jiayi now that she was hospitalized. The first thing she talked about was how to extort Qiao Nan for more money using this illness as an excuse. She talked about going on a holiday to Thailand, but to put it bluntly, Qiao Zijin simply wanted to have a share of the money once she got it from Qiao Nan.

Where was the money to pay for the Thailand trip going to come from? It would definitely be from her own pocket. In fact, Qiao Zijin might not even be willing to treat her mom to a simple meal if they were to go on a holiday.

Ding Jiayi knew this all too well. As such, she had no interest in talking about such a topic. It was naturally exciting to spend someone else's money. But now that it concerned her own money, Ding Jiayi couldn't feel any joy in it.

“...”

The caregiver, who had inadvertently overheard the conversation after returning, was stunned. Initially, she had guessed that one of Ding Jiayi's daughters must have come to visit her since she had heard someone talking to Ding Jiayi in the room, even addressing her as 'mom'. Thinking about it, the caregiver guessed that it had to be Ding Jiayi's elder daughter.

If Ding Jiayi's younger daughter was willing to visit her, the caregiver wouldn't even be needed.

The caregiver had refrained from entering the room to give the mother and daughter some space. But it didn't seem right for her to leave either. Ding Jiayi's food was still in her hands. What if Ding Jiayi starved and got sick from that? Then, she wouldn't even be able to get her wages. The caregiver had not forgotten the doctor's words that Ding Jiayi's stomach was not in the best condition.

The caregiver had never expected that her hesitation would cause her to overhear such a shameless conversation.

She had never seen Ding Jiayi's legendary younger daughter, but she knew about her existence. She had heard about the mother and daughter discussing Qiao Nan, and she couldn't help but feel aggrieved on Qiao Nan's behalf.

Just an hour ago, she had had no idea why Ding Jiayi had no kin to take care of her even when she was ill. In fact, the Qiao family was willing to spend money on hiring a caregiver instead. But now, the caregiver understood everything.

The patient she was taking care of had a bad temper. While spending her younger daughter's money by living in the best ward in the hospital and enjoying the care of a caregiver, she scolded her younger daughter as a heartless person. Her elder daughter was even worse, even discussing how to make use of Ding Jiayi's illness to extort money from Qiao Nan.

Qiao Zijin had made it too obvious that she intended for Ding Jiayi to take her out with the money from Qiao Nan. The caregiver didn't even need much brainpower to figure out what kind of person Qiao Zijin was.

The caregiver pursed her lips. If she had relatives like that, she would never be willing to return to take care of her mother either. She knocked on the door.

"Come in." Ding Jiayi heard the knocks and knew that the caregiver had returned. Seeing the box in the caregiver's hands, Ding Jiayi stared at her and shouted, "You're taking our money but not doing a proper job! Look! You've taken half an hour just to get me some food. Do you want to starve me? I'm telling you that our money isn't that easy to earn! If you can't take good care of me, you'd better scam! Given the price our family is willing to pay, there will be a long queue waiting to take on your job."

Money was king. Ding Jiayi felt that they were using their family's money to get someone to take care of her. As such, the caregiver had the responsibility to take care of her meticulously and to lift her mood. She would never allow them to spend half an hour just to run a small errand like getting a meal.

It wasn't so easy to earn their money.

No, she should say that it wasn't easy to earn money in society nowadays.

“I already said that that wretched girl is heartless. I’m her mother. Forget it that she’s not taking care of me herself. Look at the kind of caregiver she hired. She’s so lazy. I have gastric problems but she took so long to get me my meal. Does she want to starve me to death? I’m amazed that someone like that can be a caregiver. I wonder if that wretched girl is doing this on purpose by finding such an unprofessional caregiver to anger me. Once I die, she’ll be free of this burden!”

Ding Jiayi was especially frustrated, feeling that nothing was going her way. Staying in the hospital was already making her feel uneasy. Her symptoms of fever and nausea from the previous day were not completely gone. Since she was uncomfortable, she wouldn’t let anyone else feel comfortable either.

Anyway, she was simply letting out some steam on that caregiver. She had already said that it wasn’t easy earning money in society these days. If they weren’t willing to humble themselves, it was better for them to remain as housewives instead of wasting everyone’s time.

Chapter 2375: Might As Well Not Hire Anyone (1)

The caregiver’s expression was terrible as she placed the packed lunch on the table. “Alright, you don’t have to fire me. I quit. Since you’re so precious, I’m really too rough and clumsy to take care of you. I’m leaving.”

Yes, she had been hired to take care of Ding Jiayi but she had parents too. She knew that Ding Jiayi wasn’t even the one paying. In fact, it was that ‘wretched girl’ who was paying for Ding Jiayi! Qiao Nan was spending her money so unjustly. She had accumulated eighteen lifetimes’ worth of bad luck to have met a mother like Ding Jiayi.

The caregiver understood why the other party had offered such a high salary although the job description seemed easy and the duration was short. Facts proved that there was no free lunch in this world.

Forget it. She didn’t care for free lunches anyway.

“What attitude are you showing me?” Because Qiao Nan wasn’t around, Qiao Zijin’s temper was even worse than Ding Jiayi’s. If not for Qiao Zijin’s temper, Ding Jiayi wouldn’t even be lying on the hospital bed now. After all, people always chose the weakest ones to bully.

In Ding Jiayi’s eyes, the only weakling in her reach at the moment was the caregiver. After all, their family was paying this caregiver. All she was doing was using some nasty words on the caregiver. It

was not as though she was chopping a piece of meat off from the caregiver. Anyway, the caregiver wouldn't be shortchanged of her wages. She could simply bear with it.

It was a stressful society to live in today. Money wasn't easy to earn. If she didn't have such endurance, she had better not remain in the service industry.

After Qiao Dongliang's departure, she had nothing to do but watch the news and serial dramas. That was why she had gained a slight understanding of the current socio-economic situation.

"Who cares about my attitude? Do you think that I haven't done my job well enough, that I starved you, or that I caused your condition to worsen? I think you're right. Since I'm not capable, I won't disrupt your recuperation. Someone else can have this job."

She was rather renowned in her field. Otherwise, Ding Jiayi's younger daughter wouldn't have hired her either.

If she were to insist on taking care of such a difficult patient like Ding Jiayi, her reputation would definitely be ruined given Ding Jiayi's nasty temper.

Who didn't care about their reputations?

Ding Jiayi's casual rant was enough to damage her reputation in the industry. As such, it was no wonder the caregiver would rather give up the high salary than serve Ding Jiayi as her ancestor.

"You..." Ding Jiayi was raging and felt that the pain in her stomach was intensifying. "I hired you to take care of me. Are you really here to take care of me or to abuse me? Do you believe that I'll make a complaint against you? Do you really think you can leave just because you want to? Who gave you the right to do so? You'll definitely regret giving up this job!"

She didn't believe it!

Ding Jiayi had a feeling that Qiao Nan had paid this caregiver handsomely. It wasn't easy to earn money in the first place, let alone such a high salary.

In short, Ding Jiayi was simply aggrieved and was purposely trying to torture the caregiver.

Ding Jiayi loved money, especially now that her husband had run away from her. The daughter whom she loved had become unreliable and had even started a fight with her. The daughter whom she had doted on all her life was no longer her support. In fact, she might even be part of the generation that took advantage of the elderly as she had seen on the news.

Could Ding Jiayi remain fearless in the face of this situation?

It was only natural for people to find ways to vent their negative feelings. The caregiver was simply unlucky to have met someone as clueless as Ding Jiayi. It was impossible that she would ever have a good daughter who would be willing to help her to such an extent even while having a distant relationship. Perhaps, she had some self-awareness that the only person she could count on now was Qiao Nan since Qiao Dongliang had run away and Qiao Zijin was unreliable.

Since Qiao Nan was her daughter and Qiao Nan was paying for the caregiver, it was no different from her paying for the caregiver directly. There were no jobs in the world where one wouldn't be lectured by their employers. It was normal for people in the service industry to be subjected to such pressure. As such, the caregiver should have considered that before coming out to work.

How was she supposed to know that not everyone worked for the sake of earning money? She was not going to tolerate her bad temper or serve her. That caregiver had won numerous awards and had no worries about not being able to find another job. It was only because Qiao Nan had offered a higher price that she had accepted the job offer.

Without this job, she would have immediately gotten another one. It was not as though she was on the verge of starving. There was no way she was going to aggrieve herself to take care of someone as heartless as Ding Jiayi. She did want to earn money, but she had the choice of whose money she would earn.

With that, the caregiver paid no heed to Ding Jiayi and rushed out of the ward. Then, she relayed the sequence of events to her employers, making clear her intentions to quit.

The veteran had felt rather troubled when he had received the call. He had known that Ding Jiayi was one without any self-awareness, but he had not known that she was such an unreasonable person. Ding Jiayi was not even the one paying the caregiver, and yet, she dared to throw a tantrum at the caregiver. What should he do now that the caregiver had left?

The veteran didn't think that it would be easy to find Ding Jiayi another caregiver. This caregiver was known for having a good temper. If even she had been angered, what more other caregivers?

In reality, the caregiver had encountered many patients with eccentric characters. Although these patients would throw tantrums and smash things, they were hardly aggressive and never scolded or beat anyone. It was only right for her to have a good temper since she was working for others. The problem was that she was not selling herself, and neither was she a slave. It made no sense that she had to subject herself to insults and beatings.

Even if they were to hire ten caregivers, they would all quit given Ding Jiayi's temper.

Left with no other choice, the veteran made a call to the hospital to enquire about Ding Jiayi's condition before calling Zhai Sheng and asking about his plans.

Chapter 2376: Might As Well Not Hire Anyone (2)

To do her revision, Qiao Nan had started spending more time at home.

Seeing Zhai Sheng picking up a call from Ping Cheng, she had already guessed that something must have gone wrong with Ding Jiayi. Qiao Nan was at a loss too, knowing how Ding Jiayi was still unwilling to settle down even after getting sick. She had never seen such an unruly patient. Was Ding Jiayi intent on not getting well?

"What's up?" Seeing Zhai Sheng's expression, Qiao Nan asked him. "Why don't you put it on speaker mode so that I can hear it too? Brother Zhai, you definitely don't have a better understanding of the Qiao family as compared to me. I'm probably the best person when it comes to dealing with them."

Of course, the only person Qiao Nan had to treat now was Ding Jiayi.

"Alright." Zhai Sheng pressed the speaker button and Qiao Nan heard the veteran's every word. "Chief, what shall we do next? Should we hire a second caregiver for Madam Ding? But given this situation, I'm afraid that the second caregiver won't last long either. We'll just be wasting our money."

“Alright, let’s not hire anyone.” Qiao Nan spoke up before Zhai Sheng had the chance to do so.

The veteran hesitated for a moment. “Madam Zhai?”

“Yes.” Qiao Nan answered. “There’s no need to hire another caregiver.” Ding Jiayi would definitely chase every caregiver away. There was no point in hiring one. As her daughter, she had already done her duty. No one could stop Ding Jiayi from throwing her tantrums. Even she wasn’t willing to put up with Ding Jiayi’s antics. As such, Qiao Nan could completely understand why the caregiver had chosen to leave. “Even though she’s only done a day’s work, she’s already had a hard time. I think you’d better pay her well. We can’t let her work for free.”

“Alright.” The veteran answered. “But as for Madam Ding... She’s still a little weak. Are you sure we don’t have to hire anyone else?”

It was because of this that the veteran had been speechless about Ding Jiayi. Someone who was so weak and needed a caregiver had insisted on kicking up such a huge fuss that she had scared the caregiver away. How much of a fuss was Ding Jiayi planning to create?

Had Ding Jiayi never stopped to think about what would happen to her once she drove the caregiver away? Well, Ding Jiayi probably felt that the chief’s wife would definitely find another caregiver for her since she was willing to care about her mom.

But the caregiver had been stunned when Qiao Nan said that there was no need to hire another caregiver. “Madam Ding can’t take care of herself at the moment since she’s still bedridden.” In other words, Ding Jiayi might very well starve to death if no one took care of her.

“Don’t worry. Someone will take care of Ding Jiayi. You don’t have to worry about that. Thank you for your help this time. You don’t have to do anything for the time being.” Qiao Nan already had plans for Ding Jiayi.

“You’re being too kind, Madam Zhai. I was cultivated by the chief and it’s all thanks to him that I have what I have today. You can call me anytime you need any help.” A troublemaker like Ding Jiayi would never stop causing trouble. Since the chief’s wife had to stay by the chief’s side in the capital, he would look out for the chief over in Ping Cheng.

After hanging up the call, Qiao Nan took a sip of water to calm down. Qiao Nan was rather reluctant to mention Ding Jiayi. Her husband had run away, while her daughter was not close to her.

By now, Ding Jiayi should probably have gotten a clear understanding of the true nature of the one whom she had doted on all along.

It wasn't unreasonable to say that Ding Jiayi was all alone now. And Ding Jiayi's refusal to reflect on why things had turned out this way as well as her selfishness sparked Qiao Nan's curiosity about Old Ding's family. What kind of family had raised a daughter like Ding Jiayi? Old Ding's family had ruined the entire Qiao family.

Qiao Nan was grateful that her paternal grandparents had passed on early. Relationships between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law had always been a perennial problem. If her grandma had still been alive, she might have been driven to her grave by a daughter-in-law like Ding Jiayi.

In the past, Qiao Dongliang had mentioned that her paternal grandparents had been very good-natured. Qiao Nan believed it too, seeing Qiao Dongliang as an example. Given her grandparents' nature, they would definitely get into arguments with Ding Jiayi every day. Ding Jiayi liked to have the final say and refused to share power with anyone else. She didn't even listen to her own mother, let alone her parents-in-law.

"What do you intend on doing?"

"You'll know once I make a call."

After dealing with Ding Jiayi for so many years, Qiao Nan had the confidence in defeating her.

The caregiver had 'resigned' and 'fired' her employer, leaving Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin utterly confused.

Qiao Zijin laughed. "Wow. Where did they find such a caregiver? She's got such a fiery temper. Are you sure she's a hired caregiver and not our ancestor? She's so fierce! It seems like Qiao Nan didn't put any effort into looking for a caregiver for you. Don't tell me that she purposely found a bad-tempered one to take care of you!"

Qiao Zijin's words were especially vicious. It's as though she was trying to sow discord between Qiao Nan and Ding Jiayi. Even though their relationship was already bad to begin with, Qiao Zijin saw no harm in making Ding Jiayi hate Qiao Nan even more.

After all, Qiao Nan was rich and had married a good husband.

She had to get her mom to hate Qiao Nan so that her mom would use Qiao Nan's money on her so that she would be able to live a comfortable life with Qiao Nan's money. Although she despised Qiao Nan, attitudes could change.

Just as expected, Ding Jiayi immediately fell for Qiao Zijin's words. She had no idea that she had fallen for Qiao Zijin's ploy. "That must be the case. That wretched girl can't stand to see me living well.. If I die, I'll never cause any more trouble for her. That's why she found such a useless caregiver to torture me so that I'll die as soon as possible! Tsk! What a useless thing! She's even learned to act well!"

Chapter 2377: Might As Well Not Hire Anyone (3)

"She's trying to pretend to be a good daughter and improve her reputation by getting a caregiver for me. Does she think she's fulfilled her duties as a daughter just like that? What a heartless thing!"

In the past, Qiao Nan had not been as smart. But now that she had gotten smarter, she was using it all against her mother!

For the hundredth time, Ding Jiayi regretted insisting on giving birth to a second child. If she had not had a second child, Qiao Dongliang would have been a battalion commander, at the very least. Then, she would be a battalion commander's wife. She had been devoted to raising Qiao Zijin. Even if Qiao Zijin didn't turn out to be outstanding or married someone as impressive as Zhai Sheng, their family would still have been living much better off and more blissful than they were now.

It was Qiao Nan's birth that had ruined that blissful life for their family.

After snatching their happiness away, Qiao Nan had no gratitude and was even unfilial! If she had known that this would be the case, she would have strangled Qiao Nan to death the moment she was born. She would never have let a troublemaker like Qiao Nan live to see this day.

The more Ding Jiayi thought about it, the more warped her thoughts became. "I bet she's happy that she's become the chief's wife now. I don't believe that the Zhai family doesn't have any enemies. Since she treats me this way and wants an outsider to torture me, I won't let her off either. I want the whole country to see just what kind of daughter-in-law the Zhai family got for themselves. The

Zhai family isn't any good for accepting such an unfilial daughter either. Let's just wait and see the Zhai family fall alongside Qiao Nan!"

If she couldn't live well, no one else would either. She would drag everyone down with her. Now, she was a piece of worthless metal while Qiao Nan and the Zhai family were gold. She would be the one winning if she managed to drag the Zhai family and Qiao Nan down.

Qiao Zijin was stunned by Ding Jiayi's resentful words.

She had simply wanted to sow discord between her mom and Qiao Nan so that her mom's attitude toward Qiao Nan would become stricter seeing that Qiao Nan was willing to spend money on her. She had not expected her mom to be so vicious. Even she had not had such a thought but her mom was intent on killing Qiao Nan and ruining the Zhai family! Was her mom crazy?

After Qiao Nan's marriage to Zhai Sheng, they had not benefited much from it. But that was not to say that they had not benefited at all!

Just like how her mom had fallen ill this time. Their neighbors had been willing to send her mom to the hospital and pay for the admission fee because of Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan. Without Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan, their neighbors would have simply ignored them. Besides, if bad luck were to befall Qiao Nan and the Zhai family because of her mom, there was no way Qiao Nan would ever bother about her mom ever again, no matter how good-natured she was.

Leaving aside her father, it would be worrying enough if Qiao Nan chose not to care about her mom. This incident had proved that her mom was truly not in the pink of health because of her age. All she had done was skip two meals and eat some food that was not so clean, and that had necessitated a visit to the hospital!

She was not one who liked having a job. If her mom were to be hospitalized a few more times, her savings would immediately drop to half of what it was now! Then, what would she do for the remaining decades of her life? Was she going to need to beg for money?

As long as Qiao Nan was around, Qiao Nan could carry the burden of taking care of their parents alone. She wouldn't need to fork out any money, and even making efforts would depend on her mood.

Knowing that Qiao Nan was the best shield for her, Qiao Zijin immediately tried to persuade Ding Jiayi off her frightening thoughts. "Mom, how could you think of doing that? Qiao Nan may be bad,

but she isn't that bad. Mom, don't mind my words. Qiao Nan decided to not acknowledge you as her mom a long time ago. So, do you know why she was willing to pay for your hospitalization bills and hire a useless caregiver to take care of you?"

"Why?"

"Didn't you say earlier that it was for her reputation? Whether it's for her own sake or for the Zhai family's, Qiao Nan can't afford to abandon you even if she doesn't see you as her mom. Once anything happens to you, she'll have no choice but to fork out money for you. Otherwise, she'll be lambasted. But if you really ruin the Zhai family, Qiao Nan will hate you and she'll have the perfect excuse to ignore you in the future. What's the point in that?"

Qiao Zijin's tone brightened. "Think about it. You were the one who gave birth to her and raised her. It's only right for her to support you now. She's simply returning the money that you spent on her all those years. If you fall out with her, she'll get to save her money. Why should we give Qiao Nan a chance to shirk her responsibility? Just because people in Ping Cheng know a little about our situation, you must not make it known to the whole country. Mom, believe me. If Qiao Nan or the Zhai family loses anything, we'll be at a loss too. We won't be able to take advantage of Qiao Nan."

In short, if her mom dared to do such a vicious thing to Qiao Nan, even a saint wouldn't let it go. It was impossible for Qiao Nan to bother about her mom ever again.

Leaving Qiao Dongliang aside, once Qiao Nan decided not to support Ding Jiayi, that burden would naturally fall on her. Then, she would never have good days ahead with such a huge burden unless she chose to leave Ping Cheng.

She wanted to have a share of benefits, but Qiao Nan had better carry this burden alone. After all, Qiao Nan was much better off than her. She had a capable husband and a huge inheritance.

Ding Jiayi was not extremely determined, and she really had no intention of leaving Ping Cheng to another city unless she had no other choice. If it had been so easy to live alone, she wouldn't have picked the lock of the Qiao family's house to move back in. At the very least, she could save money on rent to spend on other things.

As society developed, Ping Cheng's property prices had risen dramatically in the past three years. Qiao Zijin had gotten news that the house she had sold for two million yuan three years ago was now going for three million!

Because she was clear about how valuable houses were now, Qiao Zijin refused to leave the Qiao family's courtyard to rent her own apartment. Thinking about how Qiao Dongliang had handed the property deed of the courtyard over to Qiao Nan a long time ago, Qiao Zijin was even more reluctant to let Ding Jiayi offend Qiao Nan.

"..." Ding Jiayi was upset.

Chapter 2378: Already Not Bad (1)

She had suffered too much. That was why she had the thought of dragging everyone down with her, including Qiao Nan. After all, it was Qiao Nan who had let her mom down first. She had to make sure Qiao Nan bore the consequences of her actions and understood that her mother would deal with her for being an unfilial child even if the heavens didn't.

But Qiao Zijin's words made sense too. "You're saying that she'll really leave me in the lurch if I do that?" Although Qiao Nan did not really care about her now, she did not shortchange her of a monthly allowance. Now that she had been hospitalized, Qiao Nan had hired a caretaker and was even paying for her hospitalization bills. She had never even stayed in a single ward before. If not for Qiao Nan, she would never have spent her own money on such a good ward.

That was something she had managed to enjoy because of that unfilial daughter, Qiao Nan.

"Mom, will I lie to you? You know my temper. If I hurt you, I'll be hurting myself. I can relax as long as Qiao Nan is taking care of you. Apart from yourself, I'll be the one who's most impacted if Qiao Nan stops providing for you. Whether it's for your sake or for my own, I won't lie to you about this."

Ding Jiayi believed Qiao Zijin. Just like what Qiao Zijin had said, was it possible for her not to understand Qiao Zijin well? If she were to provoke Qiao Nan such that Qiao Nan no longer cared for her, Qiao Zijin would have to bear that burden alone. It would be incredulous if Qiao Zijin was willing to do so.

Furthermore...

Thinking about Qiao Dongliang, who had not returned for a long time, Ding Jiayi's heart ached. She hadn't even done anything to Qiao Nan, and yet, Old Qiao had insisted that she had been foolish to

help Qiao Zijin. If she were to do anything, the next time she met Qiao Dongliang would probably be to sign divorce papers.

In the face of such a situation, Ding Jiayi had no choice but to compromise. “It’s that caretaker’s fault. She angered me so much that I couldn’t even think properly. I was just saying that out of spite. Can I really count on you for the rest of my life? I can’t afford to offend Qiao Nan.”

Ding Jiayi felt that she had flown into a rage because of the caretaker, and before she could vent it out on the caretaker, the caretaker had resigned. That was why her tone had been so nasty when talking about Qiao Nan.

No matter how she looked at it, it was entirely Qiao Nan’s fault. What kind of lousy caretaker had she found? She was drawing a salary from their family, and yet, she dared to throw such a tantrum. If Qiao Nan wanted to hire someone, she should have hired someone with a good temper. So, she had not been wrong in saying that Qiao Nan had hired the caretaker just to anger her. It was just that Qiao Nan’s attitude toward her was not as bad as she had imagined.

“Mom, are you going to make that call?” All she wanted to know was whether her mom was willing to ask Qiao Nan for some money so that she could leech off her mom. Her mom had thrown a huge tantrum but had not yet answered her question.

Ding Jiayi picked up the congee that the caretaker had brought earlier and said while drinking it, “I’m still so weak. I need someone to help me take care of my meals. Don’t you think it’s too early to be talking about a holiday? I think it’s more important for me to tell Qiao Nan to get me a better caretaker who can take care of me until I’m discharged. As for the holiday, I’ll ask Qiao Nan for some money after I’m discharged.”

Her health was the most important. It didn’t matter that Qiao Zijin didn’t care about it. She did. She had just been admitted into the hospital and had not even fully recovered. She would be courting death if she were to go on a holiday now.

Ding Jiayi had answered even more indifferently because Qiao Zijin had only thought about taking advantage of her by tagging along on a holiday. She had not thought about Ding Jiayi’s health or condition!

Qiao Zijin pouted. Her mom was being too wishy-washy.

Hadn't her mom simply eaten some spoiled food? How could this compare to how she had gotten uremia? Besides, hadn't she already been admitted to the hospital and treated? Other elderly patients would insist on being discharged as soon as they woke up for the fear of spending too much of their children's money.

Not only was her mom like a princess, but she was also terribly afraid of death. Given her mom's temper, she knew that her mom would take good care of herself. There was no need for her to worry about her mom. "Do you have Qiao Nan's cellphone number?" She didn't.

Ding Jiayi hit the bed in anger. "I don't have her phone number, but I have the Zhai family's landline. She already hired a caretaker to take care of me. Since I haven't been discharged, she can't possibly ignore me. I have to make it clear to her that the caretaker she got this time wasn't good enough. Alright, she could simply fly down from the capital to take care of me. Then, I'll let her save some money."

Ding Jiayi had never stopped putting on her airs as a mother. She would do it whether or not she should as though Qiao Nan was still the same Qiao Nan who would listen to whatever she said as long as she spoke in such a tone.

Qiao Zijin did not argue with Ding Jiayi and simply dialed the Zhai family's landline. Her mom could list out her demands for Qiao Nan herself. Then, she wouldn't be the one who would be embarrassed if Qiao Nan rejected her.

But before Qiao Zijin could make that call, her phone started ringing, giving her a huge shock. Looking at the caller ID, she realized that the caller was not just from the capital, but the number was exactly the same as the Zhai family's! Qiao Zijin couldn't help but rub her eyes. Was she hallucinating?

In the past three years, Qiao Nan had gone to great lengths to hide from them, but she had taken the initiative to contact them today! Was the sun going to rise in the west tomorrow?

"Hello, I'm Qiao Zijin. You are..." Actually, Qiao Zijin was unsure who in the Zhai family was calling her.

"It's me. Put your phone on speaker mode. You should be with her, right?"

"Yes." Qiao Zijin whispered to Ding Jiayi, telling her that the call was from Qiao Nan. Seeing Ding Jiayi nod, Qiao Zijin pressed the speaker button.

“I know that the caretaker that I hired earlier resigned. She’s still a little weak and can’t go without anyone taking care of her...”

Ding Jiayi, who was lying on the bed, was pleased.. The wretched girl still had a little conscience.

Chapter 2379: Already Not Bad (2)

The problem was that she hadn’t even managed to get to that question before Qiao Nan. Of course, if Qiao Nan could not even handle this matter for her, she would have carried Qiao Nan for ten months for nothing. Qiao Nan was obliged to do so.

“I’ve already thought about it. Her temper isn’t very good, and caretakers aren’t professional psychologists. They’ll make her angry too easily. No matter how I think about it, I think that the most suitable person to take care of her is you, Qiao Zijin...”

“What-what do you mean?” Qiao Zijin was stunned. Was Qiao Nan joking about having her take care of their mom? It was already a stretch for her to take care of herself. How could she possibly take care of her mom? Besides, even if she had the ability to do so, she wouldn’t have bothered waiting for Qiao Nan’s call if she had the heart to take care of her mom.

Now, Qiao Nan had only one function in the Qiao family and her: to support the two elderly people in the family. No matter what happened to them, it was Qiao Nan who had to pay for them and take care of them. They had better not think of getting her to take any responsibility.

Anyway, Qiao Nan was loaded. No matter how troublesome the matter was, she could simply fork out more money for someone else to settle it for her. There was no need for her to handle it personally. In that way, it was a win-win situation for both sisters.

Even her mom knew that she couldn’t take care of her. Qiao Nan was proving just how stupid she was by making this call. People said that women got stupid for three years after giving birth. Had all of Qiao Nan’s intelligence been snatched away because she had given birth to triplets?

Before giving birth, Qiao Nan would never have made such a call or proposed such a ridiculous suggestion. Don’t forget that she would take all the benefits, while Qiao Nan had to bear all the burden. It had always been the case.

“Don’t be in such a hurry. I haven’t finished my sentence.” If it was so easy for Qiao Zijin to agree, Qiao Nan wouldn’t even have needed to make this call. “The caretaker that I hired previously was an award-winner. I paid her twenty thousand yuan a month. You aren’t as highly educated as her and aren’t as skillful either. She’s a professional while you’re nothing. Of course, that means that there’s no way I’ll pay you twenty thousand. But I’m willing to pay you ten thousand yuan for you to take care of her. Do you agree?”

It was only right for a daughter to take care of her mom when her mom was being hospitalized. Why was there even a talk of money? No matter who the money was from, Qiao Zijin would probably not be able to accept it. If she did, it would seem as though Ding Jiayi wasn’t her biological mother and that she was denying her blood ties with Ding Jiayi.

But who was Qiao Zijin? Would she ever care about such things?

Qiao Zijin had always felt that Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi should be Qiao Nan’s responsibilities alone since she was so well-to-do. Since she was lacking nothing, it was shameless of her to ask Qiao Zijin to share that burden with her.

Since the two elderly people were Qiao Nan’s responsibility alone, there was no reason for Qiao Zijin to refuse the salary that Qiao Nan was offering her to take care of her mom. It was only right for Qiao Nan to pay her. Qiao Nan had some conscience, at the very least. “Only ten thousand?”

Qiao Zijin was not particularly pleased with that number. She had not internalized a single word about how impressive the previous caretaker had been. If she had not known about that caretaker’s salary, she might very well have accepted Qiao Nan’s offer. But Qiao Nan had explicitly told her about it.

That caretaker was an outsider but she was Qiao Nan’s sister! Qiao Nan was going overboard by paying an outsider twenty thousand and her own family half of that. “Qiao Nan, I think we can’t look at the situation this way. You must know that I’ve always been the one taken care of since I was young. When have I ever needed to take care of others? Our statuses are different. We shouldn’t be comparing our skills but our sincerity. Don’t you think so? I’m not asking for much either. Since you paid her twenty thousand, I’m asking for twenty thousand as well. That’ll be good for everyone. If anyone else asks me to do this, my price would definitely be much higher!”

Qiao Zijin, who had her head up in the sky, had completely forgotten that no one else in the world would have hired a pampered princess like her to take care of Ding Jiayi other than Qiao Nan.

“Alright.” This word excited Qiao Zijin. She had already made her plans to go to Thailand. She could leave at any time. It was the end of June and the weather was scorching now. For a tropical country like Thailand, it was better to head over in winter.

Besides, her mom was already so old. Her internal organs had probably suffered quite a bit this time. As such, her mom would probably need a caretaker for more than a month. It would probably be for half a year. If anything happened to her mom in the future, it was natural for her to be the one to take care of her mom since she was the closest to her mom. It was common for elderly people to fall ill, especially during the change of seasons.

She wouldn't work for twelve months. She would give herself a break of two months and take care of her mom for ten months. Then, Qiao Nan would have to pay her two hundred thousand yuan! Given her mom's condition, she might even have to take care of her for ten years, at the very least. She would do that so that Qiao Nan could remain comfortably in the capital as the chief's wife. Then, she would be able to earn two million yuan in the process as well!

Because of Qiao Nan's reluctance to cooperate with her on the Zhu family's inheritance, she had lost at least five million yuan. But now, two million would do too.

Unfortunately, Qiao Nan's next words brought Qiao Zijin to the realization that one should not get their hopes up too high. “You're used to being taken care of, not taking care of others. The caretaker that resigned today has high educational qualifications and won many awards. That's why her price was higher. If you don't want to do it, I can always hire another caretaker at ten thousand yuan a month.”

If Qiao Nan allowed Qiao Zijin to take advantage of her, she would have wasted so many years of life.

She mentioned the twenty-thousand salary because she knew that Qiao Zijin would be greedy. She wanted to use it to provoke Qiao Zijin and to remind her that she couldn't even match up to the previous caretaker. Did she think that ten thousand yuan was too low? Then, she had better not take a single cent. How could she feel wronged even after taking that sum of money?

“Don't...” To Qiao Zijin, who had no income, she would never be willing to work for a salary of four to five thousand. Wasn't this the job that she had always been dreaming of? Not only was it easy, but she would also be paid twice the salary!

Qiao Zijin hadn't even rejoiced for long before Qiao Nan was about to pass over her and hand her money over to an outsider. Qiao Zijin felt miserable. "Didn't you say that Mom doesn't have a good temper and an average person wouldn't be able to tolerate her? That's why the previous caretaker ran away. I think the same situation will happen again if you find someone else. Then, you won't even be able to find anyone to take care of Mom. I'm different. Mom won't dare to treat me that way. I can assure you that nothing will happen if you let me take care of Mom. It'll save you a lot of trouble. I'm really not overcharging you by asking for twenty thousand a month."

"You don't have to worry about that. Do you really think I personally picked out caretakers for her? I'm graduating soon, and I don't even have time to revise my work. It was someone else who picked out the caretaker for her. I just heard about the situation and offered a price. Even if it's troublesome, there'll be someone handling it for me. It won't be any trouble for me. Thank you for your concern. I'll just call that person to pick out another caretaker for her. Let her resign if she wants. Anyway, the one suffering without someone to take care of her won't be me. I won't be able to do anything if everyone refuses to take on this job either."

Qiao Nan's tone sounded like she was trying to blame someone. "We're both her daughters, and I was the only one who paid for her hospitalization bills. I even hired a caretaker for her. Go and compare our family to other families in Ping Cheng. Which other family's children have done as much as me? My conscience is clear. On the other hand, the elderly in other families won't even kick up such a huge fuss or throw tantrums like this. We all know who will be scolded more if this matter gets out. If you anger me, things will be even easier to settle. I'm not her only daughter, after all. I've done all I can. From now on, she'll be your responsibility alone, Qiao Zijin."

She was in a good mood now and was still willing to fork out ten thousand yuan a month for Qiao Zijin to take care of Ding Jiayi.

If Qiao Zijin upset her, she wouldn't even give a single cent to Qiao Zijin. Then, Qiao Zijin would still have to look after Ding Jiayi. It all depended on Qiao Zijin's choice. Was she going to accept the ten thousand yuan and take care of Ding Jiayi happily, or was she going to refuse everything and take care of Ding Jiayi while being resentful?

Qiao Zijin could have her pick.

Qiao Nan had given Qiao Zijin two options, but from Qiao Zijin's perspective, it was no better than having no choice at all. The first was for her to accept the money and take care of Ding Jiayi. The second was to take care of Ding Jiayi as her daughter. Then, not only would she not receive any money, but she would even have to fork out her own money.

There was no need for Qiao Zijin to even consider between the two.

Qiao Zijin knew that Qiao Nan was not one to joke around with her. Once she had made a decision, there would be no room for discussion. Qiao Zijin was in a panic, fearing that Qiao Nan would really spend ten thousand yuan on finding another caretaker for Ding Jiayi. “Alright. We’re sisters and Mom’s sick. Since you’re not in Ping Cheng, it’s only right for me to take care of her as an elder sister. We have a deal. You’ll pay me ten thousand yuan every month to take care of Mom. Oh right, when are you going to send the money over?”

What if Qiao Nan refused to pay her after she put in all her effort? That would be too much!

“Alright.” Qiao Nan was clear of Qiao Zijin’s plans but was not going to take issue with it. After all, it wasn’t Qiao Zijin’s thoughts that mattered. Qiao Nan would have the final say. “We’ll start from today. We won’t go by the calendar months. I’ll transfer ten thousand over to you first.”

“Hold on...” Ding Jiayi’s eyes widened as she realized that something was amiss. She was the patient and the one who needed someone to take care of her. Shouldn’t she have the final say as to who got to take care of her? Why had her two daughters come to a decision without having consulted her?

As Qiao Zijin had said, she was used to being taken care of. Qiao Zijin had no experience taking care of others. Even her son, Chen Feng, had been raised by Qiao Nan. She had never even taken care of her own son. That meant that she was completely inexperienced in taking care of others!

Although Qiao Zijin had agreed to the price of ten thousand yuan, Ding Jiayi was reluctant to have Qiao Zijin take care of her.

The moment Qiao Zijin saw Ding Jiayi in a panic, she immediately ended the call. “Mom, you heard it too. I’ve already discussed it with Nan Nan. You can rest assured that I’ll take care of you in the future. Now, both of your daughters are being filial to you. Qiao Nan forked out the money, and I’m putting in the effort. You should be happy about it, right? I have to buy some clothes as a celebration. Tsk, Nan Nan is loaded but her temper’s still the same. It hasn’t even been a minute, but she’s already transferred the money over. I think that I shouldn’t just buy myself some clothes. I should have a good meal. Only then will I have the strength to take care of you.”

She had not even had a proper meal because of her fight with her mom. Her clothes seemed to have gotten loose too.

Qiao Zijin was over the moon. She stood up and strutted off to hail a cab to the shopping mall.

Ding Jiayi's face was completely pale. Qiao Zijin claimed that she was taking care of her with that high salary, but she hadn't even poured her a cup of water, and yet, she had already left to spend that sum of money. Ding Jiayi could only imagine how comfortably Qiao Zijin would live with ten thousand yuan from now on. The problem was that she would be miserable.

What would she do without anyone around to take care of her? What if she got hungry or thirsty? It was so hot. What if she needed to take a shower or go to the toilet?

Qiao Nan had not hired Qiao Zijin to take care of her but to torture her.

At that moment, Ding Jiayi felt regret wash over her. Why had she chased that caretaker away? She had really not known that the caretaker was so capable and had won awards in the past. But thinking about it now, it was true that the caretaker was good at her job.

If she had known that Qiao Nan would be so heartless, she would never have...

Ding Jiayi couldn't help but feel hopeless about her condition. If Qiao Zijin were to take care of her, her condition would only get from bad to worse. Perhaps, it would even be better if she died right now.

In this period, not only had Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin fought over food, but they had also fought over clothes. Of course, it was not a fight about whose clothes were nicer but who would do the laundry.

Ding Jiayi had already lost all hope in Qiao Zijin making meals for her. It was good enough that Qiao Zijin was willing to prepare her own meals and not take advantage of her.