RTAMM 2431

Chapter 2431: I Have to Head Back (3)

Before Qiao Nan was married to Zhai Sheng, the old neighbors in the northern quad had nothing good to say about her. Everyone was using her as a negative example to discipline their children.

Although Qiao Nan didn't mind them gossiping about her, she didn't accept everyone's 'apology.' She only picked a few families in the neighborhood.

Those that spoke badly about Qiao Nan knew that her return had nothing to do with them.

Therefore, when they heard about Qiao Nan's return, there was only jealousy and envy.

On the other hand, those that were on good terms with her were looking forward to her return.

As she expected, these families welcomed her with all they had when Qiao Nan showed up with gifts. It was as if Qiao Nan was marrying into their families, and some even invited Zhai Sheng to visit next time.

Of course, Qiao Nan didn't agree to those requests as she simply left after dropping off her presents.

There were quite a number of families to visit, and she finally knocked on the Qiao family's door with some supplements in hand after some time.

Ding Jiayi had been waiting for Qiao Nan. In fact, she had been standing behind the gate to listen to Qiao Nan speaking to the neighbors.

Although it had been a year, Ding Jiayi still noticed that Qiao Nan chose to visit those that brought her to the hospital.

In a sense, Qiao Nan was staying in contact with these neighbors for the sake of Ding Jiayi. However, that wasn't enough to satisfy her.

She was Qiao Nan's biological mother, and there was no way Qiao Nan could enjoy what she had without her!

It was only right for Qiao Nan to be thanking these neighbors on her behalf.

Since Qiao Nan was unfilial and left her alone, she'd better build connections with the neighbors so that there would be someone to take care of her in the future.

Supposedly, Ding Jiayi should be the priority, but it seemed like Qiao Nan only visited her after going around the neighborhood. Ding Jiayi figured that Qiao Nan was just a disrespectful child that forgot her roots.

After waiting for a long time, Qiao Nan finally knocked on the door. Ding Jiayi raised her chin and snorted. All she had to do was push the door open, but would she really let Qiao Nan come in that easily? No way, she stayed silent behind the gate.

However, Qiao Nan was not who she used to be.

She wouldn't believe that Ding Jiayi didn't know about her coming back and visiting the neighbors

She was certain that Ding Jiayi had been waiting for her, and there was no way she would miss her knocking.

Whatever Ding Jiayi had in mind, Qiao Nan was too tired to entertain her. She simply dropped the gifts on the ground as she turned to the neighbor that she was with. "Uncle Lin, it seems like my mother isn't home. If she's home, she might be asleep at the moment. I'll leave the gifts here. Please inform her about it when she's up. Since I have three kids at home who need to be taken care of, I'll be on my way."

Chapter 2432: I Have to Head Back (4)

She wasn't here to see Ding Jiayi. She was here to protect the image of the Zhai family. If she was the only one to be blamed for being unfilial, Qiao Nan would have cut ties with Ding Jiayi long ago.

She could be filial to anyone else, but Ding Jiayi didn't deserve it.

Qiao Nan knew the consequences of letting Ding Jiayi have it her way; Ding Jiayi would eat her alive as she would always be greedy for more.

She was unlikable in every way.

"Sure. I'm sure no one in this neighborhood would steal it. If you are worried, you can leave the gift with me, and I'll pass it to your mother when I see her around."

Uncle Lin was nice to Qiao Nan, but he despised Ding Jiayi.

Everyone knew that Ding Jiayi just went to look for Qiao Nan.

It was obvious that Ding Jiayi was at home and wide-awake.

Even if Ding Jiayi was foolish, it was selfish of her to only see Qiao Nan as a daughter after she was married into another family. She had never considered Qiao Nan's feelings and only sought benefits for herself.

Ding Jiayi was really one of a kind in the neighborhood. Otherwise, the neighborhood's name would be ruined.

Ding Jiayi wanted to show off using Qiao Nan, but no one else was playing the game with her.

Everyone favored Qiao Nan over Ding Jiayi in the past. These days, Ding Jiayi had only become worse, so the neighbors wouldn't watch Qiao Nan getting bullied by Ding Jiayi.

Since Ding Jiayi was asking for it, the old neighbor didn't mind embarrassing her.

"Thank you, Uncle Lin." As Uncle Lin was cooperative, Qiao Nan wanted to take the chance to leave and headed for Uncle Lin's house.

Before Qiao Nan could step away, the Qiao family's gate was pushed open. "I'm home. Come in. Don't bother the neighbors."

This damn brat really knew how to get on her nerves. Why couldn't her daughter just comfort her when she's angry?

Ding Jiayi could only blame her bad luck for giving birth to a daughter like this.

However, she believed strongly in karma. Since so many people were in debt to her, she believed that there would be payback in her next life.

Uncle Lin snorted at Ding Jiayi who glared at him.

She was a horrible mother, yet she didn't allow anyone to help Qiao Nan. How could someone be so shameless? Forget it. It was impossible to talk sense into someone like Ding Jiayi.

Since Ding Jiayi let Qiao Nan into the house, Uncle Lin could only leave after shutting the door.

However, he was still worried about Qiao Nan.

Based on his understanding of Ding Jiayi, the conversation between Qiao Nan and Ding Jiayi would definitely not end well.

Chapter 2433: What's Wrong With Me as a Mother (1)

If Ding Jiayi wanted to bully Qiao Nan again, Uncle Lin felt like he had the responsibility to help Qiao Nan out.

"Have a seat."

The only reason Ding Jiayi felt the need to open the gate was that Qiao Nan was about to bring her gifts to the neighbor's house.

Now that the mother and daughter were the only ones in the house, Ding Jiayi had hatred and scorn written all over her face.

"No need for that."

Ding Jiayi wanted her to have a seat despite her hatred toward Qiao Nan. However, Qiao Nan had no intention of staying. "These things are for you. Since I've given you an allowance every month without fail, I won't be passing you any cash this time. The kids are waiting for me to cook for them, so I shall leave."

Did she really think that they could sit down and have a nice chat like a normal family?

If that was really what Ding Jiayi thought, Qiao Nan had to say that Ding Jiayi had completely lost her conscience.

Qiao Nan had heard about the Chen family putting Chen Feng under Qiao Zijin's care. Therefore, she wasn't surprised to see Ding Jiayi living alone. She knew that Qiao Zijin could move in with her son as she wanted to live in a bigger house.

Ding Jiayi didn't invite Qiao Nan in to listen to her story. She couldn't accept the fact that Qiao Nan wouldn't give her a single extra yuan apart from the worthless gifts she brought. "I am your mother, and we have not met for more than a year. Is this how you should be treating me?"

"Qiao Nan, don't forget that you are a mother as well. I have two children, and you have three. Are you not afraid that your kids will treat you the same way that you are treating me? You'd better think carefully before you act."

She was confident that the children were Qiao Nan's weakness.

She was a perfect representation of Qiao Nan's future as the children would definitely be learning from Qiao Nan's actions.

Ditching the worthless elders aside was an easy thing to do in the first place. Now that Qiao Nan was showing them the ways, the children would certainly grow up to act just like her.

"Yes, I do have three kids, and how they treat me in the future has nothing to do with you. I will gladly accept my fate, so you don't have to worry about me. Also, I will never allow Qiao Zijin and Qiao Nan's story to be replayed by my children."

Ding Jiayi would only use others as excuses instead of reflecting on her own action.

Luckily, Qiao Nan was used to Ding Jiayi's selfish actions, and she no longer felt anger or disappointment. "I'm leaving."

"Wait!"

Ding Jiayi stopped Qiao Nan. "What about your father? You can leave, and you can even stop giving me money as long as you tell me where your father is. I can promise you that I won't let him know about you telling me his information."

Ding Jiayi hated Qiao Zijin, and they lived together for a year without much interaction. After Qiao Zijin moved out without a word, Ding Jiayi was lonely and afraid.

The food poisoning incident scared Ding Jiayi.

On the first night that Qiao Zijin left, Ding Jiayi couldn't help but imagine what would happen if she fell sick again.

When Qiao Zijin was with her, she could at least notice if something happened to her.

Now that she was the only one left, who's going to take care of her if the same thing were to happen? Would her body only be found after it rotted in the house?

Ding Jiayi didn't want to die such horrible death. She knew that Qiao Nan would pay for her medical fees anyway, so she was planning to live a long life.

However, Ding Jiavi didn't want to live with Qiao Zijin.

The person she missed the most in the past few years was definitely Qiao Dongliang.

She wanted to be with Qiao Dongliang, and she believed that he would take care of her if anything happened. Compared to Qiao Zijin, Qiao Dongliang was much more trustworthy.

"Is that what you want from me?" Qiao Nan snorted. She couldn't believe that Ding Jiayi was still so ignorant after Qiao Zijin left.

"I'm sorry, but I have to respect my father's decision. If he were willing to live with you, I wouldn't stop you from getting back together. However, I will not sell him out without his permission to please you. By the way, don't you understand by now that I am in control of the money? If I refuse to give you an allowance, there is nothing you can say to change my mind."

"Also, I have to thank you and Qiao Zijin for leaving so much evidence behind. The Zhai family does care about its image, but that image would only be affected if I were at fault. If you push me beyond my limits, I will let everyone know that there is a mother like you living in this world."

Ding Jiayi wanted to rebut. 'So what? I am still the one that raised you.'

However, recalling the news articles a few years back, Ding Jiayi didn't have the confidence to fight back. In fact, she couldn't find a reason to demand anything from Qiao Nan.

Since Ding Jiayi had nothing to say, Qiao Nan was going to take the chance to leave.

"Wait, wait a minute. Could you just stay and have a chat with me?"

Chapter 2434: What's Wrong With Me as a Mother (2)

After Qiao Zijin left, Ding Jiayi had no one to talk to. She finally understood how painful it was to be alone.

She wanted to befriend the neighbors, but the latter wanted no business with Ding Jiayi.

Even if Ding Jiayi joined their gatherings, she could only listen from afar as she had no chance to join the conversations.

It hadn't been that long since Qiao Zijin's departure, but Ding Jiayi knew that she couldn't bear such loneliness for much longer.

She didn't feel alive.

She had enough money to live a healthy life without working, so she should have been enjoying her retirement.

However, Ding Jiayi knew that she was unhappy about the way she lived.
Throughout her deserted days, she spent all her timing wondering how she ended up this way.
She felt like someone without a family, but was she?
She was not!
She had a husband, two daughters, and four grandchildren.
There should have been no way that she ended up this way.
Could she blame it on others?
If she were the good guy in this story, why was she the only one suffering? Qiao Dongliang had not visited her for two years. In fact, he had never even given her a call.
Qiao Dongliang was treating her like she was dead.
Qiao Zijin became the only one that would speak to her in the family. However, they had nothing nice to say to each other as they would quarrel over the smallest of problems.
Did she not have enough money?
She had enough.
Yet, she would fight Qiao Zijin over her spending all the time.
Qiao Zijin was the daughter that Ding Jiayi favored for forty years. Why did she have to draw a clear line when it came to money?
Most importantly, Qiao Zijin was someone that Ding Jiayi gave everything to.

Ding Jiayi pondered about this every day, but she could never get an answer.

At this moment, all that she thought about was to keep Qiao Nan here. After all, she finally had someone to talk to.

Even if they ended up fighting, she didn't want Qiao Nan to leave.

"Talk to me?"

Ding Jiayi dropped her pride. She didn't ask for anything materialistic, all she wanted was for Qiao Nan to chat with her.

Qiao Nan was surprised to hear that and scanned Ding Jiayi's expression in suspicion. It didn't seem like something that Ding Jiayi would ever say.

Although Qiao Nan was no longer vulnerable to Ding Jiayi's threats, she didn't want to embarrass her unnecessarily.

On top of that, Qiao Nan never really had a chance to have a chat with Ding Jiayi.

The only memory of Ding Jiayi she had was from getting a harsh scolding or being waved off.

Qiao Nan decided to stay, but she had nothing to say.

Ding Jiayi was the same.

Although she was the one that wanted Qiao Nan to stay, she couldn't find a topic to have a meaningful conversation with Qiao Nan.

It was awkward as the pair stared blankly at each other. It was easy to say that two complete strangers would have done better than them at breaking the ice.

After about three minutes, Ding Jiayi let out a sigh. "Are your children two years old now?"

She didn't like the children enough to remember their age.

The only reason that she could recall the kids' age was thanks to Qiao Dongliang.

Ding Jiayi didn't like Qiao Nan, so she paid no attention to her children. However, it wasn't the case for Qiao Dongliang.

Traditionally, Ding Jiayi should have been taking care of the newborn babies as Qiao Nan recovered from the childbearing.

However, Qiao Nan didn't have such privilege.

Qiao Dongliang was a man, so she couldn't look after Qiao Nan at her bedside. Unlike Ding Jiayi, of course, he was willing to help out wherever he could in other matters.

Qiao Dongliang was still living with Ding Jiayi when Qiao Nan gave birth to the children.

When Qiao Dongliang was home, the only thing he would talk about was the kids.

Therefore, like it or not, Ding Jiayi did remember certain things about the children. This was a good time to put her memory to good use.

Ding Jiayi was relieved that she found a topic to talk about.

If she couldn't start a conversation, she guessed that Qiao Nan would be leaving very soon.

She didn't forget what Qiao Nan said to the neighbor when she was about to leave.

The children were only two years old, so it made sense that Qiao Nan would leave to look after the kids.

Even if Qiao Nan were to leave anyway, it would look foolish to not say a word for such a long time.

"Yes, they are two."

Qiao Nan looked indifferent. It didn't matter to her if Ding Jiayi genuinely cared about the kids, so she wasn't interested in Ding Jiayi's true purpose.

"I've heard that kids nowadays start school at a really young age. What about your children? Are they going to school?"

She had also heard that early education cost a fortune, and a year of school fees was enough to support a college student.

Ding Jiayi felt her heart clench.

Her family saved every cent they could to send Qiao Zijin to university.

Chapter 2435: What's Wrong With Me as a Mother (3)

Who knew that raising a child cost so much money now? It was much more difficult than when their family was providing for a university student back then.

Furthermore, their family only provided for a university student. Qiao Nan had to raise three children at once.

The amount of money that had to be spent could scare one to their death.

As such, Ding Jiayi couldn't help but rejoice that she was born at the right time. She didn't choose to become a mother at such a perverted time.

If she were to raise children like Qiao Nan did, even if there was only one Qiao Zijin, based on her and Qiao Dongliang's ability to earn money, they didn't need to think about grooming her, let alone that they had two children.

However, Qiao Nan was the Zhai family's daughter-in-law. The Zhai family didn't have to rely on Qiao Nan to fork out the money to provide for the children, right? Furthermore, didn't Qiao Nan receive a huge sum of inheritance more than a year ago?

With this sum of inheritance, it should be easy for Qiao Nan to do things that she couldn't.

That was true. Otherwise, how would Qiao Nan have the confidence to raise three children at once? She even looked as if she was very willing to spend a lot of money on them.

"Yes. They attended school together."

Qiao Nan's replies were simple. It was obvious she didn't want to talk too much to Ding Jiayi.

Ding Jiayi laughed. "It's good that they attend school earlier. That way, they can have a stronger foundation than the children of other families and lead an easier life when in school later. Isn't there a famous saying now that one's children can't lose at the starting line? Your dad likes your three children a lot, so you have to spend more time and effort grooming them. Don't disappoint him."

If the three children became outstanding, Old Qiao would definitely be very happy.

"

Qiao Nan was speechless for a while. She was the three children's biological mother. She wasn't a capricious mother like Ding Jiayi. She had given birth to all three children and she doted on and loved all of them. She would never favor one over the other and let them suffer unfair treatment.

Regardless of if it was for money or love, Qiao Nan would never treat her children harshly.

On the contrary, it was precisely because she had given birth to triplets that Qiao Nan would do all she could to make the three children grow up healthily in a family full of love and happiness.

She would make sure that all three children were loved. How would she let one or two children suffer material loss?

Relying on Zhu Chengqi, her godfather, Qiao Nan wasn't lacking anything now. Naturally, she wasn't lacking money the most.

Indeed, Ding Jiayi's words sounded like she was caring about the three children. However, to Qiao Nan, she inevitably felt that they were sarcastic.

As a mother who had two daughters but didn't educate them well, how was Ding Jiayi qualified to remind her about her stand?

Forget it. Talk was cheap.

Ding Jiayi couldn't do it herself, yet she always wanted others to meet her high expectations.

Compared to Ding Jiayi's other problems, this wasn't really considered a problem anymore. "Don't worry. My parents-in-law love the three children. They find them to be more valuable than their own son and daughter. What I do isn't important. What's important is that my parents-in-law are the kind of people who would definitely not make the three children suffer."

Really, based on how much Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing valued the three children, even if Qiao Nan was really the second Ding Jiayi and had a chance to mistreat the three children, Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing would have long slapped her aside.

Thankfully, Qiao Nan was a good mother who loved her children.

Ever since Qiao Nan gave birth to the triplets, the atmosphere of the Zhai family had been getting better every day. The triplets grew up in such a happy family and were extremely blessed.

Ding Jiayi's words seemed a little insincere and lacking concern. It was as if she was finding things to say because she didn't have anything else to say, which was meaningless.

"Didn't the three children return to Ping Cheng with you? I'm their grandmother, after all. Can you let me meet them?"

If she had a chance to see Old Qiao in the future, she could talk about the three children so that they had some common topics.

Qiao Dongliang had moved away for more than a year and a half now. No matter how stupid Ding Jiayi was, she knew clearly what could be said and not said in front of Qiao Dongliang. She knew what type of content would make Qiao Dongliang happy and which name she mentioned would make Qiao Dongliang fall out with her immediately.

The latter was undoubtedly Qiao Zijin, Ding Jiayi's favorite daughter. The former was Qiao Nan and her three children.

People's preferences were hard to change. Furthermore, Ding Jiayi's level of hatred of Qiao Nan was so high.

She couldn't talk to Qiao Dongliang about Qiao Zijin lest he became angry. However, if she talked about Qiao Nan, she would be angry herself.

After making a summary, Ding Jiayi realized that the triplets were the only safe topic between her and Qiao Dongliang. The others were just minefields.

In order to avoid harming each other, she hoped to use some topics to enhance their husband-wife relationship. Ding Jiayi's best choice was naturally the three children.

Speaking of the three children, Ding Jiayi didn't know their names, let alone their looks or what kind of temper they had.

The only thing she knew was that Qiao Nan was really more capable than her. Not only did she give birth to triplets, but it was even the combination of two sons and a daughter.

She had looked forward to giving birth to sons her whole life but didn't manage to. However, Qiao Nan gave birth to two at one go.

Ding Jiayi pulled back her thoughts and no longer thought about sons.

Only if she knew more about the three children could there be more topics between her and Qiao Dongliang.

Otherwise, she would only be qualified to listen and not have the chance to interject at all.

"You want to see the triplets?" Qiao Nan looked at Ding Jiayi, guarded. "What's the reason?"

Please don't tell her that Ding Jiayi missed the three children. She wouldn't believe a single word of it.

If Ding Jiayi really liked her children, as a normal grandmother, would she not have seen them before when they were already two years old?

Don't think that the three children were only two years old. They knew how to address everyone but their maternal grandmother.

"Your dad loves the three children."

Qiao Nan's attitude was too obvious. Ding Jiayi had to suppress her excuse of loving and missing the three children.

She was afraid that if she really said this, Qiao Nan would be unhappy and unwilling to let the three children meet her.

As she was frightened, Ding Jiayi could only answer honestly that she was curious about the three children because of Qiao Dongliang's influence.

Chapter 2436: Not Blessed (1)

She didn't carry any hopes for Ding Jiayi to begin with. Thankfully, the triplets didn't know about the existence of their maternal grandmother. Otherwise, Qiao Nan would feel uncomfortable in her heart if they kept calling for her.

Anyway, the children and Ding Jiayi didn't care for each other. She didn't need to worry that the three children would feel hurt.

After thinking for a while, Qiao Nan didn't reject Ding Jiayi or promise her anything. She only used a different way to let Ding Jiayi have the chance to know more about the triplets' situation.

Qiao Nan took out her mobile. There were a bunch of photos of the three children in her mobile album. There were some of the three children playing, running, rolling, eating, and playing with water.

Ding Jiayi could pretty much find the corresponding photos of what she thought of in Qiao Nan's mobile. "This is Da Bao. This is Er Bao. San Bao is the only girl among the three children. Da Bao and Er Bao know they are older brothers and will usually take care of San Bao. Look at this photo. San Bao is holding Da Bao's favorite toy."

"The little girl has a bad temper and is pampered by everyone in the family. This toy was Da Bao's at first. In order to provoke Da Bao, she insisted on snatching it away from him. Da Bao is good-tempered and gave his toy to San Bao. Da Bao then played with another toy."

There were so many people in the family who pampered San Bao. Qiao Nan was the only exception.

Qiao Nan expressed that if she were to pamper San Bao like her parents-in-law, San Bao would become lawless.

Besides her, Zhai Sheng would also be fierce toward San Bao. It was a pity that Zhai Sheng didn't have as much time and opportunity to take care of the three children at home as Qiao Nan did.

When Zhai Sheng wasn't at home, Qiao Nan could only play both the roles of a stern father and benevolent mother.

Upon hearing Qiao Nan talking about the three children happily, Ding Jiayi opened her mouth but suppressed the words that had reached her throat.

Wasn't San Bao just a cheeky girl? They still had the cheek to give her the nickname of San Bao so that it was similar to their two sons.

How was a girl as good as a son? A little wretched girl even dared to snatch a toy away from her biological brother.

If she had seen this situation, she would have long lectured her.

It was just that the Zhai family wasn't the Qiao family. Ding Jiayi, an outsider, didn't have the right to say anything. The Zhai family was willing to pamper their little granddaughter. This had nothing to do with Ding Jiayi. Ding Jiayi didn't need to make her presence known in the Zhai family and shamelessly get involved in the Zhai family's matters.

Of course, it was also because Qiao Nan's attitude toward Ding Jiayi had hardened recently that Ding Jiayi could only become softer. How would she dare to go against Qiao Nan and say things that she didn't like to listen to?

Ding Jiayi wasn't blind. One look at Qiao Nan's expression and she knew that although Qiao Nan was complaining verbally that San Bao was bad-tempered, she didn't mind it at all. On the contrary, she doted on her a lot.

Aside from when San Bao snatched Da Bao's toy away did Qiao Nan's tone sound a little disapproving, when Qiao Nan mentioned that Da Bao and Er Bao gave in to San Bao and took care of her often, Qiao Nan didn't seem to object to this at all.

What did children know?

The reason why Da Bao and Er Bao treated San Bao well must be because someone had taught them to do so. Undoubtedly, this person was Qiao Nan, their biological mother.

Ding Jiayi didn't dare to say anything. However, she secretly felt heartache for Da Bao and Er Bao, her two grandsons.

She felt that her two grandsons were as pitiful as her, being bullied by Qiao Nan. They were in the same boat.

Ding Jiayi couldn't help but think how good it would be if she had given birth to Da Bao and Er Bao and Qiao Zijin and Qiao Nan weren't her daughters.

She, Da Bao, and Er Bao weren't lucky. She couldn't have two good-looking sons. These two children also didn't have the blessing to be born to her and receive her care and love.

"These were their photos when they were one year old. Photos earlier than these would only be stored on my home computer. There is limited space in my mobile's memory. It can be full easily with just a couple of photos or videos."

It was only because Qiao Nan was so immersed in her children's charms that she could talk so much to Ding Jiayi.

As she looked through the photos of her children's daily lives, Qiao Nan felt like she was reviewing their growth process. She enjoyed it so much that she didn't remember to hate Ding Jiayi.

"What else do you want to know? You can tell me. I'll let you know now."

In short, Ding Jiayi didn't even need to think about meeting the triplets, let alone meet them.

She didn't want her three children to suffer the same pain as she had under Ding Jiayi.

Even if Da Bao and Er Bao were boys which she liked, based on the fact that they were born to her, Qiao Nan knew that Ding Jiayi would dislike Da Bao and Er Bao as they had a mother like her, whom she hated.

No matter where her three children went, there were always people vying to hug them and get closer to them.

On what basis should she let the three children return to their grandmother's house so that Ding Jiayi could roll her eyes at them?

Don't think that the children were young and didn't know anything. In reality, children's smartness could exceed adults' imagination at times. Children were sensitive and could always feel who treated them well and who disliked them at the first instance. They would also know how to pursue good fortune and avoid disasters.

Qiao Nan didn't want to let her three children have an opportunity to be exposed to this at Ding Jiayi's.

The three children could be happier and the rate that they were growing could be slowed down.

"I want to listen to the three children's voices."

Ding Jiayi hesitated for a while. She could only give up after confirming that it was impossible for Qiao Nan to let her see the three children.

She used her IQ and tried to think of the topics that she could chat with Qiao Dongliang as much as possible, then grasped those entry points well and mastered the content of the chat.

She couldn't possibly be speechless and stop the conversation when Qiao Dongliang was speaking with fervor on a topic that she brought up.

If such a situation were to happen, she might as well not contact Old Qiao in the first place.

If the two of them lost contact for a long time, Old Qiao couldn't possibly hate her so badly that he didn't want to see her face at all, just like when he first left home.

If she managed to contact him but Old Qiao felt that she was helpless as she still refused to realize her error and couldn't even like the three cute children, their relationship would definitely worsen.

After Ding Jiayi made the request, Qiao Nan would always think of ways to satisfy Ding Jiayi as long as she didn't get to meet the three children in reality.

Chapter 2437: Not Blessed (2)

Didn't Qiao Nan record videos of the three children playing and learning?

Weren't there images and sounds if she showed these contents to Ding Jiayi?

Thankfully, Qiao Nan was obsessed with her children. The photos in her mobile were all of her children. There was nothing of her or Zhai Sheng.

Who would have thought that a person who loved to take photos with her mobile didn't even have a photo of her and her husband in it?

However, the couple had a great relationship and people couldn't help but envy.

After playing two videos for Ding Jiayi and calculating the time, Qiao Nan felt that it was about right. If she was any later, the three children, who were in an unfamiliar environment, would

probably be anxious to find her. Qiao Nan kept her mobile. "I have to go. If you have any questions, you can ask me next time. I'll see how much I can help you."

"Alright..."

No matter how unwilling Ding Jiayi was, she had gotten Qiao Nan to accompany her for ten minutes.

Qiao Nan had returned today. Those old neighbors of Ding Jiayi, who were unwilling to see her without consequences, were about to start a gambling game. They were betting if Qiao Nan would still be willing to visit Ding Jiayi once she returned.

If Qiao Nan was forced by some reason and had compromised to visit Ding Jiayi, how long would she stay in the Qiao family?

Everyone guessed that it was either Qiao Nan didn't return to the quad, or if she did, she would definitely visit Ding Jiayi, no matter if she was sincere about it or not. There was no choice. China placed importance on filial piety.

No matter how bad Ding Jiayi was and how much she didn't deserve to have such a good daughter like Qiao Nan, she had given birth to her, allowing Qiao Nan to live to this day.

This couldn't be changed. Qiao Nan still had to address Ding Jiayi as her mom and visit her whenever she should visit her.

As such, there wasn't much suspense for the former question. Everyone didn't discuss this enthusiastically.

However, everyone became more excited about the second question.

Qiao Nan was born to Ding Jiayi. Zhai Sheng wasn't.

Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan didn't even invite Ding Jiayi to their wedding banquet when they got married previously. Zhai Sheng didn't have to care about what Qiao Nan had to do.

Indeed, only Qiao Nan returned to the Qiao family's courtyard. No one saw Zhai Sheng, let alone the three children they gave birth to.

Qiao Nan didn't bring her husband and three children to visit Ding Jiayi. In view of this situation, no one in the quad criticized Qiao Nan.

It wasn't as if they didn't know what type of a person Ding Jiayi was. Ding Jiayi didn't even value Qiao Nan, her daughter. How would she really like Zhai Sheng, her son-in-law, or even value the three children Qiao Nan gave birth to?

If they, as old neighbors, had misunderstood or thought wrongly about Ding Jiayi, why was it that only Qiao Dongliang, her father, was busy when Qiao Nan gave birth to the three children? He first prepared this and that for his pregnant daughter, then packed his luggage and rushed to the capital to see Qiao Nan, who was about to give birth.

Which biological mother wouldn't take care of her daughter in confinement and help her take care of her children after giving birth?

Ding Jiayi was such an outlier. Qiao Nan had given birth to three children at once. However, it was as if nothing had happened as Ding Jiayi didn't have any reaction at all.

Everyone saw how in peace Ding Jiayi was during that period of time. It was as if Qiao Nan, who was pregnant at an older age, wasn't her daughter. Everyone was guessing that Ding Jiayi wouldn't be willing to spend her phone credit to call Qiao Dongliang and ask him about Qiao Nan's and the three children's situation, let alone visit Qiao Nan.

It was obvious that Ding Jiayi hated one thing on account of another. As she didn't like Qiao Nan, she also hated the three children in Qiao Nan's stomach.

In the face of a person like Ding Jiayi, everyone expressed understanding that Zhai Sheng didn't acknowledge her as his mother-in-law and Qiao Nan wasn't willing to bring her three children to visit their grandmother.

It was still that saying. Because of blood ties, Qiao Nan had to be restrained by kinship and kidnapped by morals.

However, everyone's expectations of Zhai Sheng and the three children weren't that harsh and demanding.

The next question came. Qiao Nan didn't have much of a mother-daughter relationship with Ding Jiayi. Everyone also knew how much Ding Jiayi hated Qiao Nan.

Under such circumstances, how long would Qiao Nan's visit to the Qiao family be?

Some people guessed one minute.

Some people guessed three minutes.

However, everyone guessed that she wouldn't stay past ten minutes.

These people were just watching the excitement. Thus, they didn't complain about the crowd.

However, some people joked that it was certain that Qiao Nan would return to visit Ding Jiayi. Qiao Nan was a good child to begin with. Ding Jiayi was the bad person.

As such, Ding Jiayi might be unwilling to open the door to let Qiao Nan enter if she visited her.

As she heard the content of these discussions, Ding Jiayi secretly became calculative in her heart.

In the beginning, Ding Jiayi wanted to use the truth to prove to everyone that no matter how she treated Qiao Nan, she was still her mother. It was the same reasoning as to how her father was still her father.

She would naturally let Qiao Nan enter. However, she was her mom. She had the right to punish Qiao Nan by making her stand outside the door for a while.

This was the difference between her and Qiao Nan. Those who wanted to watch a good show? Sorry, but they were going to be disappointed.

See? She deliberately didn't let Qiao Nan into the house. Qiao Nan could only stand outside the house and wait for her to open the door as if she was being punished. No matter how much of a miserable state she was in, with Qiao Nan as a daughter, she was much better than these old neighbors.

Want to watch a good show? Wait for the next lifetime.

It was a pity that Qiao Nan didn't cooperate in the end and this plan failed.

Thankfully, Ding Jiayi had a backup plan.

She had a preliminary understanding of the three children such that once she contacted Qiao Dongliang, she would definitely be able to have a good chat with him on the topics he was interested in.

She also managed to get Qiao Nan to chat with her for more than ten minutes. Those who made fun of her didn't get their way.

The plan was still considered to be perfectly executed. When Qiao Nan expressed again that she had to go back, it was rare for Ding Jiayi to give her a smile. "That's right. Your children are still young. They can't live without the care of their mother. When you and Zijin were young, I treated the both of you this way as well. How good. You're now a mother and even have three children. I wasn't calculative with you in the past. I believe that you would gradually rely on yourself to understand certain matters and feelings. Go back now. Don't make the three children anxious from waiting."

Qiao Nan couldn't help but change her face when she heard Ding Jiayi's words.

It was only when Qiao Nan was speaking and Ding Jiayi was listening could an illusion that the mother-daughter pair could get along well with each other be created.

Chapter 2438: Not Blessed (3)

The problem was that once Ding Jiayi opened her mouth, the good atmosphere and feelings were completely destroyed.

She didn't think about if Ding Jiayi really didn't understand or that she deliberately pretended not to understand. She let Ding Jiayi sell her character setup as a good mother. Anyway, it depended on Qiao Nan if she wanted to care about her or not.

It wasn't easy for Ding Jiayi to finally agree to let her go. Qiao Nan was flustered from waiting as well. The moment Ding Jiayi opened her mouth, Qiao Nan left her former residence in a hurry without a second word.

Even if everyone was surprised about the situation today and how Qiao Nan could talk to Ding Jiayi for more than ten minutes, at least they didn't hear any quarrels before Qiao Nan left.

It was when they saw Qiao Nan's back view, leaving quickly as if she had seen a ghost, did everyone laugh.

What was fake was fake. Other things could be real or have the chance to become real. However, there wouldn't be a day that Qiao Nan's and Ding Jiayi's mother-daughter relationship would be repaired.

"Mom."

Once Qiao Nan reached home, San Bao was the first to pounce on her. She rubbed her face against her mom's thigh. "Where did you go? San Bao misses you."

When San Bao was obedient, she was definitely a likable child.

She bent down, carried San Bao up, and kissed her. Qiao Nan's uncomfortable heart felt a little better. "Mom misses the three of you as well. San Bao, kiss me."

As Qiao Nan's words fell, San Bao kissed her on both cheeks. After kissing, she was so happy that she kept giggling. This formed a stark contrast with half an hour ago, where she was angry with Zhai Hua for kissing her.

Zhai Hua clutched her heart and started acting. "No, I'm hurt. San Bao, you've hurt Aunt. I also need a kiss from you to feel better. Come, give Aunt a kiss."

San Bao did a funny face at her aunt and wasn't deceived at all. She acted like a spoiled child and rubbed her face against her mom's neck. She also held her mom with two hands, refusing to let go.

In an unfamiliar environment, even if her parents told them that this was their house as well, the three children more or less couldn't adapt well.

In addition, the grandparents and Auntie who had usually taken care of them the most weren't around. As such, when Qiao Nan left for a longer period of time, the three children became uneasy.

Not only did San Bao cling to Qiao Nan, but Da Bao and Er Bao also ran toward her, following her by the side. They ignored their aunt, who loved to act.

Knowing that her three children were flustered, Qiao Nan sat on the sofa and placed them next to her. She touched their heads, pinched their hands, and kissed their faces until they laughed.

The three children were so obedient to Qiao Nan. Zhai Hua had the urge to vomit blood. "No, I also want to kiss." She was the three children's aunt. They were related by blood. Why didn't they allow her to kiss them?

"Aunt's a big tiger. Mom, protect me."

San Bao screamed sharply and refused to let Zhai Hua kiss her. She even said that Zhai Hua was a big tiger who caught little children and hid behind Qiao Nan.

Da Bao and Er Bao also laughed and screamed. They hid behind Qiao Nan with San Bao. It was as if they were playing a game of the eagle catching the chicks. Qiao Nan became the mother hen to protect the three children, stopping Zhai Hua from bullying them.

As they played, the three children's feelings of unease were suppressed well. In the face of this unfamiliar house, the three children no longer rejected it as obviously as before.

However, with the triplets' uneasy performance, Qiao Nan decided to let them sleep with her and Zhai Sheng tonight. She was worried that they would be frightened if they had nightmares in the middle of the night and couldn't find her and Zhai Sheng.

Children who had just woken up were easily confused. They would have been frightened from the nightmare to begin with. When they wake up and see that they weren't at home, they couldn't help but wonder if they were abandoned by their parents.

Zhai Sheng naturally didn't object to Qiao Nan's insistence.

These three children were indeed capable of setting their dad up. However, who asked them to be his children? If he didn't dote on them, who would? He could only pamper them.

Knowing that they could sleep with their parents tonight and their dad had agreed to it, the three children's mood became better. They suddenly felt that not only was this 'new home' not scary, but it was pretty good, as they could sleep with their parents.

No matter how much Zhai Hua acted pitiful, pretended to cry, and insisted on sleeping with one of the triplets, the three children expressed that they weren't willing to be fooled.

Their dad even responded rarely that whoever wanted to sleep with their aunt at this moment would be a fool.

The three children might not know that opportunities do not wait. However, they had learned this themselves even without anyone's teaching.

Seeing how the triplets were firmly attached to their parents and refused to let go, Zhai Hua was so angry that she clutched her chest and scolded the three children for lacking conscience. They didn't sympathize with her at all.

In the end, the three children called her softly before following their parents back to the room to sleep. They were also tired. Without much coaxing, the three children slept soundly and even started to snore. The hectic day was finally over.

"How was your trip back today?"

The children were asleep. It was naturally the time for Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng to have conversations at night.

They slept on the far side of the bed and guarded the three children between them. This made Zhai Sheng want to hug his wife. In the end, he could only make do by hugging one of his sons.

Qiao Nan smiled. "Qiao Zijin's leading a life with Chen Feng now. The Qiao family's courtyard hasn't changed. When there were four people living in this house, she always found it squeezy and that there were not enough rooms in the house. Now that she's alone, she knows how big the house is."

Even if Ding Jiayi didn't like her, once she saw her return, how could she hide the emotional change in her eyes from Qiao Nan? Qiao Nan had long seen through her.

"She asked a lot of questions about the triplets and even wanted to meet them. I rejected her and dug out a bunch of photos and videos from my mobile for her. I think she wants to contact my dad and chat with him about the triplets so that they could have more common topics between them."

In order to reconcile with her dad, Ding Jiayi was willing to try and use any method. Ding Jiayi had not given up yet after more than a year had passed. She was still trying ways to have a breakthrough.

"That's what she has in mind?" After knowing what the other party was thinking, Zhai Sheng's looks became better.

Chapter 2439: Kiss Back (1)

He was used to Ding Jiayi asking for money or getting Qiao Nan to help with things that she shouldn't be helping with. All of a sudden, Zhai Sheng couldn't guess why Ding Jiayi didn't raise any overboard requests.

In the minds of ordinary people, no matter who one was, one would grow and eventually have the day of regret and awakening.

However, in the face of Ding Jiayi, Zhai Sheng suspected that only when she was going to leave this world and meet Hades would she understand how much of a mess her life had been.

"Was there anything else?

"Anyway, when I left, her main energy and focus were all on my dad. She wanted to see the triplets and I showed her their photos and videos. After having topics she could chat about with my dad, she no longer mentioned this."

Qiao Nan was quite surprised that Ding Jiayi would care about Qiao Dongliang so much.

"She didn't mention wanting to see the triplets again, so she should have given up. Furthermore, we're going to leave with the triplets and go to the countryside tomorrow. When we return to Ping Cheng again and after letting Jiajia take a look at them, we should be heading back to the capital."

If they didn't, she was afraid her parents-in-law in the capital would come over soon.

"Are you prepared to care about their matters?"

"No." Qiao Nan lay down and said without thinking, "I don't care if they want to be together or separate. I'm not going to persuade them either. As long as they have thought about it, I'll be supportive."

She was already married and had a family of her own.

As such, Qiao Nan really didn't care much about Qiao Dongliang's and Ding Jiayi's relationship. They could do whatever they liked.

As the three children grew older, their temper and character became more prominent. She was already busy taking care of them. How would she have time to care so much about Ding Jiayi and Qiao Dongliang?

If her dad suddenly felt that it was meaningless to live alone and wanted to return to be with Ding Jiayi, she, who was far away in the capital, couldn't stop him anyway.

Similarly, if her dad didn't have this intention, was she going to join the excitement and help Ding Jiayi then?

Facts had proven several times that if Ding Jiayi's days were going well, her days were going to get miserable.

It was better for Ding Jiayi to be unlucky than herself.

If she had to choose one out of the two, Qiao Nan didn't hesitate to choose a path that was better for her.

It was rare for Qiao Nan to make a trip back. Ding Jiayi also knew that Qiao Nan wouldn't stay for long in Ping Cheng as Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing didn't come back together with Qiao Nan.

As such, Ding Jiayi still had some plans for Qiao Nan's temporary return.

After Qiao Zijin moved out, Ding Jiayi's life in the quad was really boring.

The best was for Qiao Dongliang to return, of course. The two of them could continue to lead their lives together. She really wasn't going to kick up a fuss or create trouble again this time. Whatever Old Qiao said in the future would be it.

If Old Qiao still refused to return, Ding Jiayi actually wanted to live in a different environment. It would be best if she could stay next to Qiao Dongliang.

Ding Jiayi didn't have any extra money in her pockets. Over the years, no matter how much Qiao Nan gave her, she would give all of them to Qiao Zijin.

Of course, without Qiao Nan's help, Ding Jiayi could only think about moving house. She couldn't execute it.

Furthermore, she was hoping to be neighbors with Qiao Dongliang. If she didn't rely on Qiao Nan to make arrangements for her, how would she be able to live next to Qiao Dongliang?

The only thing that Ding Jiayi miscalculated was that Qiao Nan left the quad with her husband and three children early the next morning. It was unknown where they went.

Initially, Ding Jiayi was prepared to go to the southern quad personally to find Qiao Nan. With yesterday's contact as a foundation, Qiao Nan shouldn't reject her if she entered the southern quad again today.

However, before she said anything, the person on guard told her directly that Qiao Nan's family of five had left early that morning.

Since her daughter wasn't inside, Ding Jiayi had to find her daughter in another way.

Upon hearing the news, Ding Jiayi was so angry that her face turned green.

Qiao Nan had taken her mobile out in front of Ding Jiayi yesterday. Back then, Ding Jiayi had thought that there was still a chance tomorrow and hadn't asked her for her mobile number, lest she angered her and would have nothing by then.

However, Qiao Nan left so unexpectedly. Ding Jiayi couldn't recover in time and was stunned. She was so angry that she wanted to scold Qiao Nan for being a wretched girl lacking conscience.

It hadn't been a day since they were back. Before they returned, she didn't inform her in advance. This time, she left so secretly as if afraid that she would leave with them and pester them.

She, Ding Jiayi, wasn't so thick-skinned, alright? Wasn't Qiao Nan too overboard?

What Ding Jiayi unable to accept was the fact that Qiao Nan's thoughts were so bad and that the action of a chief's wife was like that of a thief. As a man, didn't Zhai Sheng want to manage Qiao Nan at all?

With a wife like Qiao Nan, wasn't Zhai Sheng afraid of being embarrassed, laughed at, or letting others catch a handle on him?

She remembered that when Old Qiao was in the army, a lot of people paid attention to people with character problems. If they were really found, they would be kicked out of the army without a word. There was no room for discussion at all.

Zhai Sheng was also in the army. Even if he was already the chief, such requirements should be unified. How would a person like Qiao Nan, who was unfilial even toward her biological mother, not hold Zhai Sheng up? It was impossible for Zhai Sheng not to be angry at Qiao Nan or manage her. This didn't make sense.

Regarding reason, Ding Jiayi would never be able to understand. The only thing that Ding Jiayi understood was that Qiao Nan came in a hurry and left in a hurry, causing her to not say a single word of the words she had prepared the night before.

In the face of Qiao Nan's departure, aside from angering herself such that she couldn't have a meal, Ding Jiayi couldn't do anything else. She couldn't even find someone to scold.

At this time, Qiao Nan had already brought her husband and the three children to the destination.

In the process of climbing the mountain, the adults had carried the three children up the entire time.

It was still alright for Qiao Nan as she only had to take care of San Bao. She even used a basket to carry her up. As a man, Zhai Sheng naturally had to carry both sons and a pile of supplies on his back.

This trip exhausted the family of five.

The three children might not be so realistic yet. However, they knew that the place they came to today was completely different from where they had lived and seen.

The roads today were much harder to climb than those slides they used to play with. They definitely couldn't climb up.

Chapter 2440: Kiss Back (2)

Even their formidable parents were breathing hard and sweating a lot.

Upon looking at the dark house that wasn't as clean as their family's, San Bao hugged Qiao Nan's thigh, feeling uncomfortable. She refused to let go. "Mom, it's dark. San Bao's afraid..."

To be honest, she had really led a good life. Initially, Qiao Nan couldn't adapt either, let alone the three children.

Even if she wasn't married and had to rent a house outside, no matter how poor her conditions were, she didn't need to live in a mud house. Not much cement was used, let alone limestone.

Upon looking at such a house, Qiao Nan secretly felt that it was tough. If she didn't guess wrongly, they would have to stay under such conditions for two to three nights.

"Don't be afraid." As a mother, Qiao Nan naturally had to comfort the three children. "Dad and Mom will accompany you to sleep these few days. With us around, San Bao doesn't have to be afraid no matter how dark it gets."

"Yes." Upon hearing that they could still sleep with their parents, the three children's nervous faces relaxed slightly.

Qiao Nan looked at Zhai Sheng. "Brother Zhai, I remember you brought a flashlight, right? Is there enough battery?"

Qiao Nan more or less looked like she could neither laugh nor cry. There was electricity in this mountainous area. However, she heard that it would be cut off at times, especially in the dark.

San Bao was afraid of the dark. If she woke up, it was very necessary to have a flashlight shining.

"Yes, this isn't an issue." Upon hearing about the mountainous environment, Zhai Sheng prepared all the tools for illumination. He had more experience than Qiao Nan. As such, he had prepared everything. Qiao Nan didn't need to worry about it.

After getting an affirmative answer, Qiao Nan heaved a sigh of relief. When they were at home, she felt that she had the ability to take care of the three children.

However, after stepping out of the house, she couldn't do without Zhai Sheng's help if they wanted to take care of the three children well.

It was also at this time that Qiao Nan realized that although Zhai Sheng usually didn't talk much, he had really helped her a lot. It was really her biggest blessing to be married to such a good man. It was also the three children's blessing.

There was no choice. After encountering a father like Qiao Dongliang, Qiao Nan, as a mother who loved children, naturally placed importance on the right kind of father for her children.

She didn't want to be Ding Jiayi. She naturally also didn't want her other half to be a man like Qiao Dongliang.

Thankfully, she indeed didn't become the second Ding Jiayi. Zhai Sheng and Qiao Dongliang were people from two different worlds as well. Such a life was really happy.

If it was said that she had to wait until she was forty years old before she met Zhai Sheng and that she had to pay such a long-term price for her blissful late marriage, Qiao Nan expressed that she didn't suffer a loss for marrying only when she was forty years old. Instead, she and her three children had earned.

Meeting Zhai Sheng was her biggest blessing in this lifetime.

This blessing could make up for all the unequal treatment she had suffered in her previous life.

As she thought about this, Qiao Nan felt her heart became relaxed. Even when she thought about Ding Jiayi again, she no longer had that anger and injustice she felt before.

She obviously knew what Ding Jiayi was up to. She insisted to be at odds with her and wasn't willing for Ding Jiayi to lead a good life.

To be honest, Ding Jiayi's current situation was no different from being forsaken.

She had two daughters and a husband. None of them was close to Ding Jiayi.

Even if Qiao Nan had let bygones be bygones and wasn't willing to dwell in the past, and she only wanted to lead her life well and groom the three children, she wasn't prepared to influence Qiao Zijin and Qiao Dongliang about their attitudes toward Ding Jiayi.

She could control her own thoughts and actions, but not others.

Everything was caused by Ding Jiayi herself. No one could help her take responsibility for her life.

After letting bygones be bygones, what Ding Jiayi's life was in the future depended on how much virtue she had accumulated.

"What happened?"

Upon feeling that Qiao Nan had changed, Zhai Sheng walked over. "Are you not used to it? If you aren't used to it, it would be enough for us to grasp the situation today and tomorrow. When night falls, we can head out."

Zhai Sheng was a soldier. No matter how bad the environment was, Zhai Sheng had lived in it before.

Zhai Sheng had adapted well by himself. However, he was extremely nervous about his wife and children. He didn't make unreasonable demands like wanting them to adapt to this kind of environment as well as he did.

Without mentioning his wife, Zhai Sheng's thoughts about his children were that as long as they didn't go astray and become good-for-nothings, it was good enough. They should be upright, kind, and fight hard for everything.

Zhai Sheng never had the thought of wanting his children to suffer to prove how good they were.

If not for Qiao Nan's request, Zhai Sheng wouldn't have brought his wife and children to a place with such a poor environment, causing the four people he loved most to suffer.

He didn't want his children to grow astray and be corrupted by material life. However, there wasn't a need to use such an extreme method and send his children to such an environment to endure hardship.

To be honest, if he wanted to train his children to be good, he could just throw them into the army. No matter how bad the child was, they could still be taken care of and wouldn't dare to create much trouble in the future.

At this moment, he felt that his wife wasn't adapting well. However, the road to go down the mountain wasn't easy. The light conditions were worse now, making it more difficult to go down the mountain.

If they couldn't stay here tonight, Zhai Sheng felt he could send his wife and children down the mountain.

"No." As she lay in Zhai Sheng's arms, Qiao Nan laughed. "I just feel that the triplets are really blessed to have a good father like you. Thankfully, the father I found for them is you."

As he hugged Qiao Nan, Zhai Sheng smiled. "Yes, you have great taste. You found me to be their father. You couldn't do this alone." Zhai Sheng felt that he fully deserved the praise and didn't plan to be humble.

What problem was there for him to dote on his own wife and children?

"In your next lifetime, regardless of in your dream or outside your dream, don't rush to get married. You have to wait for me. I feel that I won't be in a hurry as well and will always be waiting for you."

Even if he and Qiu Chenxi were married before, that marriage was just a formality. It wasn't an official marriage.

The person he was always waiting for was still Nan Nan. It wouldn't be someone else.

Qiao Nan smiled even more brightly. "Yes."

She would wait. She would continue waiting until Zhai Sheng's appearance. Only then would she dare to hand her life into this man's hands. If it were someone else, she wouldn't have the courage and guts.