

## RTAMM 351

### Chapter 351: Wang Yang Asked for Advice

“Yang Yang, come in.” Although Chen Jun had caught her eyes, Qiao Zijin had not forgotten that she was trying to get into Wang Yang’s good books.

“Okay.” Wang Yang gave Chen Jun a knowing glance and walked into the house with a smile. “This place is quite good. Uncle Qiao is really good to Qiao Nan. You found such a good place for her so that she can go to school easily.”

Wang Yang did not expect that he and Qiao Zijin would run into Chen Jun on Lunar New Year’s Day.

Had he known that Chen Jun was coming, he would have chosen another day to disturb Qiao Nan.

The reason why Wang Yang came to disturb Qiao Nan on Lunar New Year’s Day was because of Zhu Baoguo.

In the past, the Wang family would have a meal with the family at home on the Lunar New Year’s Day. On the second day of the Lunar New Year, Zhu Qin and Wang Qinglin would bring Wang Yang to her parents’ house to visit. However, there was an exception this year.

The whole Zhu family, including Elder Zhu who was peers with Elder Lee, had gone to the Lee family’s residence to say their greetings. There was nobody at the Zhu family’s residence except for the helper.

If Zhu Qin went back to her parents’ home with her husband and son, they would be the butt of a joke.

Ever since Lee Shu’s death, the Zhu family and the Lee family seldom kept in touch with each other. They did not practice the custom of returning to the parents’ home on the first day of the Lunar New Year. Zhu Qin had been used to going back to the Zhu family’s residence on the first day of the Lunar New Year, and to be welcomed by everyone in the Zhu family.

Wang Yang was not the only one who could not accept the sudden change. When Zhu Qin received the news, her eyes turned red in anger.

Her father had done it on purpose. Did he want her to be disgraced in front of her parents-in-law?

Ever since the appearance of Qiao Nan, the Zhu family and the Lee family had gotten closer to each other.

Wang Yang was certain that it must be Zhu Baoguo's idea to visit the Lee family on the first day of the Lunar New Year. It was all because of Qiao Nan that Zhu Baoguo became closer to the Lee family.

Because of Qiao Nan, he suffered so much humiliation on the first day of the Lunar New Year. He had to make her suffer in return. Hence, he went to the quad to look for Qiao Zijin and then went to the small quad with her to make life difficult for Qiao Nan.

"I am my dad's daughter. It's only natural that he is good to me." Qiao Nan smiled sweetly, oblivious to Wang Yang's oblique accusations.

Wang Yang stiffened at Qiao Nan's reply.

His mother was Elder Zhu's daughter, but Elder Zhu did not treat her well.

Whenever his father had a favor to ask of the Zhu family, her mother had to beg her father for help. Actually, if his father was doing well, it would be good for her mother. Even if her mother did not ask the Zhu family for help, they should help to pave the way for his father's career on account of his mother.

"Zhu Baoguo told me that he's going to visit Grandpa Lee on the first day of the Lunar New Year. Have you seen Zhu Baoguo? Has he been to the Lee family's residence?" Qiao Nan looked at Wang Yang smilingly.

Wang Yang glared at Qiao Nan. He was shocked at her frankness. Was she trying to provoke him into anger?

“My cousin has always been insensible. However, ever since he met you, he became very obedient and smart. He knows that since the Lee family is their relatives, they should visit each other during the Lunar New Year. Qiao Nan, I must hand it to you. You are such a good influence on my cousin!”

“You are flattering me. Zhu Baoguo is good-natured. It’s just that some people deliberately led him astray. Nevertheless, it’s easy to lead him in the right way.” Qiao Nan brought out five cups of water. “We do not have any good tea at home, so please make do with water.”

“Zhu Baoguo is good-natured, and the credit will have to go to his parents. It has nothing to do with me. Zhu Baoguo is not evil by nature.” Unlike Wang Yang who was ill-natured, nobody could make him change for the better.

“My cousin will be elated to hear this.” Was Qiao Nan suggesting that he was evil by nature and could not be compared to Zhu Baoguo?

Qiao Nan might have the upper hand, but not for long!

At the thought of this, Wang Yang took a deep breath and looked at Chen Jun again.

Chen Jun held the transparent glass teacup in his hand. He stared intently at the water inside as if he was looking at a piece of art. He did not have any eye contact with Wang Yang.

Wang Yang was not furious at Chen Jun’s behavior. In fact, he had a complacent smile on his face.

Qiao Nan noticed that Wang Yang kept looking at Chen Jun. He had directed his glance at him for about three times.

Qiao Nan held the glass teacup in her hand. She could not help but hit the glass with her nails, making an audible sound.

“Nan Nan, what’s wrong?” Qiao Dongliang reminded Qiao Nan not to be impolite in front of the guests. Even though he did not welcome these two young men, as the owner of the house, one could not be rude.

Qiao Nan halted her movement. “Wang Yang, Zhu Baoguo went to the Lee family’s residence to say his greetings to Grandpa Lee. Did Zhu Chengqi, Uncle Zhu, go as well, or did he stay at home with Elder Zhu?”

“Nan Nan...” Qiao Dongliang smiled helplessly. “Don’t be so impolite. Zhu... He is your elder. How could you address him by his name?”

“Uncle Qiao, it doesn’t matter. My uncle likes Qiao Nan very much. Even if Qiao Nan may be impolite, I don’t think he will be angry at her.” Wang Yang sneered. Even though he was his nephew while Qiao Nan was only an outsider, his uncle treated Qiao Nan much better than him. He would buy stuff for Qiao Nan, but when Wang Yang wanted anything from him, he would not agree easily.

“Qiao Nan, I have to hand it to you. Why is it that you are so well-liked by the elders? My uncle has high expectations, yet he likes Qiao Nan very much. He even wishes that Qiao Nan can be his daughter. Qiao Nan, teach me one trick or two. People dislike me and they will always bully me.” What was so special about Qiao Nan that made her uncle treat her so well such that he forgot about his only nephew?

“That’s simple. You just have to put yourself in somebody’s shoes. Your uncle is a smart person. Do you think he will be good to you if you use your tricks on him? You plotted against them and they have to guard against you. Is this how one should treat their relatives? Whose responsibility is it? Think about it. Back then, Elder Zhu treated you much better than Zhu Baoguo. With your uncle’s position and capability, you would have better prospects than Zhu Baoguo. Now that it has come to this, you come asking me for advice? It’s too late. Besides, there are things that can’t be taught. After all, this had to do with one’s character.”

Wang Yang sneered. Qiao Nan was good with her words. It was no wonder that Zhu Baoguo, that fool, would listen to her and obey her words like a dog would obey its master.

#### Chapter 352: Do Both of You Know Each Other?

“Nan Nan, Yang Yang is a guest. How could you say that?” Qiao Zijin sensed the tension between Qiao Nan and Wang Yang. She immediately stepped in to stop her.

If Qiao Nan angered Wang Yang and he left, he would blame it on her. It was so unlucky of her to be Qiao Nan’s sister. By then, all her effort would be in vain.

She had spent so much effort and energy on Wang Yang, but she had yet to gain any benefits.

“Sister, am I wrong to say that? The onlooker is clearheaded. Senior, what do you think?” Qiao Nan turned and directed her question at Chen Jun. She had been indifferent toward Chen Jun. This sudden turn of events caught him off guard.

Chen Jun who was pulled into the conversation paused momentarily. He came to his senses and said, “I don’t know the exact details, but at least from what I heard, there’s nothing wrong with what Nan Nan said. You... must be Nan Nan’s sister. You should treat her well. I wish that I had a younger sister who is as smart and cute as Nan Nan. I would shower her with care and concern. You must count your blessings.”

Chen Jun showed that he was on Qiao Nan’s side in front of Qiao Zijin and Qiao Dongliang.

Qiao Zijin’s eyes turned red in anger at Chen Jun’s words.

She had been very unlucky with such a sister who could not help her but would drag her down instead. Why would she be good to her?

Qiao Zijin’s eyes were red, while Qiao Nan turned grim at Chen Jun’s comments. She was boiling with anger and could not help but ask, “Senior, do you know Wang Yang?”

“No!”

“I don’t know him.”

Both Chen Jun and Wang Yang denied knowing each other.

After answering in unison, they realized that Qiao Nan’s question was too odd.

Wang Yang quickly shut up, not uttering a sound, whereas Chen Jun only smiled warmly. “Nan Nan, why did you ask?” He did not even talk to Wang Yang, so why would Qiao Nan suspect that he and Wang Yang were old acquaintances?

Chen Jun was perplexed. Wang Yang could not figure it out as well.

There was no way that Qiao Nan could have known that he knew Chen Jun.

He was certain that even Zhu Baoguo was clueless. In this case, why would Qiao Nan ask such a question?

It should not be!

Qiao Nan smiled reluctantly. In fact, she had gained the upper hand by digging at Wang Yang but she did not feel victorious. On the contrary, she had a grim expression on her face. “Nothing. It’s just that ever since the three of you came into my house, I noticed that Senior has zero interaction with Wang Yang. If I remember correctly, the last time when Senior came to our school, even though you did not know the students there, you were very enthusiastic and friendly, giving us an impression that you had a pleasant character and that you were very affable. If both of you did not know each other, why would you two act as if you had conflicts and couldn’t stand the sight of each other? Both of you didn’t even bother to greet each other.”

“Well...” Chen Jun lost his smile. He was feeling happy just now, but his heart sank at her words. “It seems that you have a good impression of me. It’s just that I actually treat everyone differently. Nan Nan, I am on your side.”

“Oh, are you?” Qiao Nan was so angry that she was short of breath. Stood on her side?

Was Chen Jun trying to say that since he knew she and Wang Yang were at loggerheads, he would not even be diplomatic enough to make small talk with Wang Yang and chose to ignore the latter when he saw him?

If Chen Jun was easily influenced, how could he have such a successful career path and climbed the ladder in the previous life?

After he divorced Qiao Zijin, and before she died, she heard that in six months’ time, he would be working for the Beijing government.

Even if the current Chen Jun had not become the Chen Jun she knew in her previous life, someone who was crafty and shrewd, and was in his elements at the government job, she would never believe that Chen Jun would be so aloof to someone whom he met for the first time.

“Nan Nan, what’s wrong?” Qiao Dongliang noticed that Qiao Nan did not look right. “Are you feeling unwell again?”

“...”

“...”

Wang Yang and Chen Jun dared not do anything that would give themselves away in front of Qiao Nan. However, they could not help but move their legs.

Had Qiao Nan noticed anything?

Impossible!

Both Wang Yang and Chen Jun reviewed what happened ever since they entered the house over and over again, but they could not find any flaws that would arouse Qiao Nan’s suspicions.

Chen Jun could not understand what went wrong today.

However, given the current situation, Chen Jun knew that he should not stay for long.

Otherwise, not only did he not leave any good impression, but Qiao Nan might also realize his secrets. In that case, he would have failed at his task and Wang Yang would definitely not help him with what he agreed upon previously. Right now was an important time for his father. As his son, he had to help him. He could not hinder him.

Otherwise, the illegitimate child that his father had outside would rejoice.

“Nan Nan, it’s almost ten o’clock now. I suppose you will have your lunch soon. I won’t impose on you any further. Nan Nan, if we have time, let’s make another appointment.” Chen Jun stood up. He wanted to tell Qiao Nan that he intended to ask her out for a meal. However, there were so many people around at the moment that it was impossible for him to do that. He was not so thick-skinned as to join them for a meal. Hence, he could only ask her out next time.

“I will walk you to the door.” Qiao Dongliang stood up.

Actually, since Chen Jun was here to look for Qiao Nan and he was her senior, Qiao Nan should walk him to the door.

However, Qiao Dongliang had misgivings about Chen Jun. Unlike Zhai Sheng who was upright and righteous, Chen Jun made people feel uncomfortable around him. He preferred Zhai Sheng who was outstanding and remarkable. Naturally, he would compare Chen Jun to Zhai Sheng, and Chen Jun indeed paled in comparison.

“Uncle Qiao, there’s no need to walk me out. You are my elder, and I am a junior. I can go by myself.” Chen Jun might be proud, but he dared not do so in front of Qiao Nan. He had to respect Qiao Dongliang so that Qiao Nan would have a good impression of him and grow to like him.

Chen Jun knew if he wanted Qiao Nan to like him and for her to become his girlfriend, he had to gain her affection, and more importantly, the approval of Qiao Nan’s family, which, in this case, was Qiao Dongliang, the father that Qiao Nan valued the most.

#### Chapter 353: I Was Your ‘Bridge’

There was no need for him to care about the other two people in the Qiao family.

But if Qiao Dongliang did not like him, then Qiao Nan would never be his girlfriend.

“It’s okay. It’s not that far away. Come, I will walk you to the door.” Chen Jun rejected Qiao Dongliang’s gestures kindly but Qiao Dongliang insisted on walking him to the door. After sending him off, Qiao Dongliang remained standing at the door. When Chen Jun turned to look back, Qiao Dongliang waved at him.

Qiao Dongliang did not stand at the door because he liked Chen Jun. He only wanted to make sure that Chen Jun had really left.

Chen Jun left at the right time. It was about time for lunch, and he did not want to impose on the Qiao family. In fact, Wang Yang should make a move as well.

Even though Qiao Zijin wanted him to stay, Wang Yang still kindly refused. “I just came out for a walk. My parents are waiting for me at home. I did not tell my parents and my grandparents that I will not be home for lunch. Sister Zijin, if you want to invite me for a meal, let’s make an appointment next time.”

“Wang Yang is right. It won’t be good to make him stay since he hasn’t informed his family.” Qiao Dongliang nodded in agreement. “If there’s a chance next time, you can come to my house for a meal. You don’t mind me walking you out, do you?”

After sending Chen Jun off, Qiao Dongliang was in a hurry to send Wang Yang off as well.

“Dad, why didn’t you ask Wang Yang to stay for a meal? Last time, we went to the Zhu family’s residence for dinner. It’s too impolite of you.” After Wang Yang left, Qiao Zijin expressed her dissatisfaction at her father’s actions. “Dad, why did you not show due respect for my feelings in front of Wang Yang?”

Should her father not help her make Yang Yang stay for a meal? Could he not tell that she valued him as a brother?

“Show due respect for your feelings? Then, what about me?” Qiao Dongliang was furious. He wanted to send Wang Yang away because he was worried that he would be a bad influence on Zijin and that he would harm her.

Baoguo was a living example. He did not want his daughter to become another Zhu Baoguo.

He was upset that his good intentions had been misunderstood by Zijin. It was no wonder that Nan Nan decided to ignore Zijin. If this continued, he... he just could not let go. He could not sit and watch as Zijin learned the bad ways from Wang Yang.

Qiao Zijin sat down angrily and gave orders as if she was the boss. “Dad, I am hungry.”

Anyway, since Yang Yang had already left, he would not come back even if she quarreled with her father. Besides, her father would not let him stay either. If she continued to argue with her father, it would affect her relationship with him and Qiao Nan would stand to gain. She was not stupid.

“Alright, I will prepare lunch for both of you.” Qiao Dongliang knew that even though Qiao Zijin did not bring up Wang Yang anymore, she still had not sorted out her thoughts. But it was useless to

argue further. Qiao Zijin would not have a change of mind in such a short period of time. He had to take things slowly.

While Qiao Dongliang cooked for his two daughters, Qiao Zijin went to sit beside Qiao Nan. “Nan Nan, Chen Jun...”

“Chen Jun has an impressive background. I heard from one of the girls in our class that Chen Jun’s father is an official. He works at the police station and has a certain power and influence.” Without waiting for Zijin to finish her sentence, Qiao Nan gave a brief introduction of Chen Jun.

“Really?” There was a glimmer in Qiao Zijin’s eyes.

“I don’t know if it’s true or not. Anyway, that’s what the students said. You should know it could be a rumor as well. I am not sure of its accuracy, so don’t ask me anymore.” Qiao Nan lowered her eyes. She was very clear about how she should put her words across so that Qiao Zijin would believe what she said about Chen Jun’s background.

Besides, Qiao Zijin might not be smart, but she had the talent of judging one’s family situation from the way one dressed themselves.

That was the reason why Qiao Zijin asked her time and again to introduce Chen Jun.

In her previous life, when she brought Chen Jun back home, feeling nervous, she was greeted by an enthusiastic Qiao Zijin. Even when her mother was unhappy and wanted to embarrass her, Qiao Zijin would stand on her side.

At that time, she was so foolish, thinking that Qiao Zijin finally treated her as her younger sister. She even felt touched by what she did, given that she was the only one who was supportive of her.

Her thoughts drifted to what happened next. There was only coldness in Qiao Nan’s eyes.

Qiao Zijin, who was materialistic and looked forward to a luxurious lifestyle, had perfected the ability to look out for men who came from a wealthy background.

“That’s right. More often than not, these stories that are spread from one mouth to another can’t be true. The students in your school are so gossipy. They should focus on their studies instead of

thinking about the family background of guys. They are so shameless. Nan Nan, I only tell you this since you are my sister. You have to study hard and focus on your studies. Don't be influenced by them. Do you understand?" Qiao Zijin softened her voice, speaking to Qiao Nan in a caring and patient manner which was totally unlike her.

"Sister, you are so ridiculous. No matter whether the rumors are true or not, it is not my business. Why will I bother at all? I don't care what family background Senior has." Qiao Nan yawned, "Sister, have a seat. I will go to the toilet."

Qiao Nan stood up and went to the toilet. She stopped at the door and turned to look at Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Zijin who was smiling happily to herself had no time to care about Qiao Nan. Her eyes sparkled, thinking of what she could do to get to know Chen Jun and to find out more about him.

It was a pity that she was only in high school and was studying in Ping Cheng. Chen Jun was already a college student and his school was in Beijing.

They were too far apart. She did not have the chance to get to Chen Jun and to have more interaction with him. She had to think of a way.

Seeing that Qiao Zijin was so ecstatic and excited, Qiao Nan walked sullenly into the toilet and closed the door. Looking at herself in the mirror, Qiao Nan's eyes turned red and her tears spilled out of her eyes, rolling down her cheeks.

She had always thought that Chen Jun was undecided and could not resist Qiao Zijin's temptation.

During the time when Chen Jun was with her, even though they were not very intimate with each other and the most intimate move was a simple hug, and never a kiss on the cheek, Chen Jun was really good and considerate to her.

Even though Qiao Zijin tried means and ways to be pregnant with Chen Jun's child and married him to become Mrs. Chen, as far as she knew, Chen Jun did not treat Qiao Zijin as good as how he treated her.

Chen Jun used to be her boyfriend, but he became her brother-in-law. The reason why Qiao Nan was able to let go and moved on so quickly was that she knew that Chen Jun did not treat Qiao Zijin as well as how he treated her.

Qiao Zijin wanted Chen Jun for herself as he had an influential family and would be beneficial to her. Qiao Zijin thought that after she married Chen Jun, he would be good to her.

#### Chapter 354: Intentional or Unintentional

Qiao Zijin snatched Chen Jun away from her. In the end, after they were married, their relationship was not as close as what Qiao Zijin thought it would be.

She heard Qiao Zijin complained to her mother more than once about her marriage, and her mother would vent her frustrations on Qiao Nan, reprimanding her for seducing Chen Jun even after he was married to Qiao Zijin. Her mother blamed her for being the reason that Chen Jun stayed indifferent toward Qiao Zijin.

Whenever she was scolded by Ding Jiayi, Qiao Nan would feel a mixture of sadness and happiness.

Did it mean that Qiao Nan was the only one that Chen Jun loved? Was it because he could not resist the temptation, hence Qiao Zijin managed to come between them?

She was glad to know that even though Qiao Zijin snatched everything from her, she did not have a happy marriage.

But right till this moment, Qiao Nan discovered that although she was very miserable and bullied by her mother and Qiao Zijin, the most tragic thing was that she was deceived by Chen Jun from the start till the end!

“You are here.” On the other hand, Chen Jun leaned against the wall of the alley not far away from where Qiao Nan and her father stayed now. In fact, it was the alley where Qiao Nan first met Chen Jun in this lifetime. He spoke coldly with a cigarette in his mouth.

“Of course.” Wang Yang pulled a long face. “Have you ever mentioned me in front of Qiao Nan? I must warn you that Qiao Nan has some wits about her. If you spout nonsense, Qiao Nan may notice something. Besides, if Qiao Nan knows that you and I are close acquaintances, she will never like you because of her dislike for me. If you can’t do what I tell you to do, I won’t be able to help you with your dad’s matter!”

Chen Jun sneered. He threw the cigarette butt onto the ground and stepped on it with his feet.

There was about half a packet worth of cigarette butts around Chen Jun's feet. "I am not stupid. Why would I take the initiative to mention you to Qiao Nan? Besides, I didn't get to talk to Qiao Nan. Even if I am stupid, there's no chance for me to do that!"

In addition to today, he and Qiao Nan had met three times in total. The only time that they communicated through letters was when Qiao Nan returned all his letters to him.

Ever since a young age till now, this was the first time that someone trampled on Chen Jun.

"Then, why?" Wang Yang could not understand. "Why did Qiao Nan ask us if we know each other?"

"I have no idea. I should be asking you this question instead!" His plan was almost destroyed, and he would not be able to win over Qiao Nan.

Chen Jun could tell from the way Qiao Nan bickered with Wang Yang that she hated him very much and was very wary of him.

Qiao Nan already had no liking toward him. If Qiao Nan knew that he had connections with Wang Yang, it would be difficult for Qiao Nan to develop any feelings for him.

"I might have missed something. Can you try to recall if we had done anything in particular that would give ourselves away in Qiao Nan's house?" Chen Jun sighed with frustration. He had thought that Qiao Nan was someone who would be easily cajoled, and that she would fall for him if he put up a show to save the damsel in distress.

He had thought that Qiao Nan was just another bookworm. But to his surprise, she had the looks, the brains, and high EQ.

If it was not due to his relationship with Wang Yang, perhaps his feelings for Qiao Nan would be more genuine.

Wang Yang frowned, trying to recall what happened just now. Finally, he shook his head helplessly. "I don't think we made any mistake." If there was any, he would have warned Chen Jun.

"Alright, then I will go back. Qiao Nan... is a very sensitive person. In the future, it is better for us not to appear in front of her at the same time, lest she comes up with such a sentence again and gives us a scare." Chen Jun waited outside in the cold to get this reply from Wang Yang.

He and Wang Yang were mutually beneficial. If Wang Yang insisted that he had to bear the responsibility for what happened today and used it as an excuse not to help his father, then he would suffer a big loss.

Chen Jun was more crafty and cunning than Wang Yang. Long before he met Wang Yang at the door of Qiao Nan's house, he had already thought it through, planning how he should react in front of Qiao Nan.

Hence, he was sure that he was not the problem. If there was any problem, it had to be Wang Yang.

Chen Jun spent a long time waiting for him in the alley to make sure that Wang Yang did not push the blame to him.

"I think so too. Maybe Qiao Nan merely posed the question casually and did not mean anything by it. It could be that we have a guilty conscience and hence we think too much. In short, we must not meet up in front of Qiao Nan, and nothing will go wrong." Wang Yang was puzzled as well.

When Qiao Nan asked him if he knew Chen Jun, he was so scared that he could feel his heart thumping loudly.

Chen Jun twitched the corners of his lips and said, "You go first. I will leave after ten minutes, lest we are seen by others."

Did Qiao Nan ask the question casually?

Chen Jun was not too sure. According to common sense, what Wang Yang said might be true. But when he thought of Qiao Nan's reaction and behavior at that time, Chen Jun felt that something seemed to be wrong.

If Qiao Nan was a smart woman, her question would not be without a purpose.

Hopefully, his performance today still made the mark and Qiao Nan would disregard any doubts regarding his relationship with Wang Yang.

“Alright.” Wang Yang left right away.

Chen Jun left ten minutes after and went back to the Chen family’s residence.

Chen Jun did not believe that Qiao Nan would ask the question out of nowhere. There had to be meaning behind it.

In her previous life, both of them were lovers, and they almost married each other. After being together for so long, Qiao Nan was very clear of Chen Jun’s character and temperament. In fact, she knew it better than Qiao Zijin.

Chen Jun’s father had a very smooth sailing political career. He was a successful official. But compared with Chen Jun’s father, Chen Jun was more like a politician. He was all smiles to everyone. He was tactful, diplomatic, yet shrewd and ruthless. In fact, he got promoted faster than his father.

Qiao Nan had been to the Chen family’s residence to visit. Due to Chen Jun’s effort, his parents eventually accepted her as their future daughter-in-law.

Sometimes, Chen Jun’s father would share with Qiao Nan about how sensible and outstanding Chen Jun was. He told Qiao Nan it was due to Chen Jun that his career was smooth sailing.

When Chen Jun was very young, he was already a big help to his father.

It showed that from a young age, Chen Jun was already very diplomatic and tactful.

People like Chen Jun were good at establishing connections. They were good with interpersonal relationships and they would use all means to establish a great network of connections so as to bring benefit to themselves. They would never offend others or make enemies with people. They would be well-prepared lest they make any mistakes.

## Chapter 355: Lying to Her Right from the Start

Therefore, regardless of Wang Yang's identity and character, as long as Chen Jun had yet to ascertain whether he would be of any value to him, he would not miss out on the chance to build a network with him.

Today, Chen Jun had been silent from beginning to end, and he did not even cast a glance at Wang Yang.

Based on this alone, Qiao Nan was certain that something was not right with Chen Jun. He was not his usual self.

This proved that there was something going on between Chen Jun and Wang Yang.

Qiao Nan tried to probe by asking if they knew each other, and both Chen Jun and Wang Yang jumped in to deny.

Their unison replies showed that there was something going on.

From what Qiao Nan knew of Chen Jun from the previous life, Chen Jun would definitely give an excuse and said that perhaps he had seen Wang Yang at a certain place and that it was such a coincidence to run into each other again.

Qiao Nan had mentioned several times that Wang Yang had a very close relationship with the Zhu family and that Wang Yang had such an influential figure like Zhu Chengqi as his uncle, and he used to be very good to Wang Yang.

If it was the Chen Jun whom Qiao Nan knew, he would have tried to strike up a conversation with Wang Yang. He would not fawn on him or flatter him, but he would make Wang Yang feel as if he was highly valued and of importance.

Even though Wang Yang would not warm up to Chen Jun right away and address him as his brother, at the very least, he would not give him the cold shoulder and treat him with indifference. They never had any eye contact when they were at her house.

Chen Jun was not that type of person, and Wang Yang was not either.

Chen Jun knew that Wang Yang's uncle held an influential position, yet he did not bother to chat with him. Qiao Nan was even more certain that there was something going on between the two of them.

Why would they hide the fact that they know each other and pretend to be strangers in front of her?

Qiao Nan thought of a very terrible scenario.

Wang Yang and Chen Jun might be cunning and scheming, but they did not know that Qiao Nan had been through rebirth.

“Nan Nan, what's wrong with you? Are you uncomfortable? Do you want to lie down and rest? Nan Nan, it's not that I want to lecture you. After all, Dad is a man. He doesn't know how to take care of you. Look at you. You have only left our house for half a year, but you have grown thinner. Mom knows how to take care of you more than Dad. After all, you are still young. If there's anything wrong with you, it will be inconvenient for Dad to take care of you. Even if you want to throw a tantrum, half a year should be enough. Shouldn't you persuade Dad to bring you back home?” Qiao Zijin was elated after she was certain that Chen Jun came from established family background.

By the time she came to her senses, she noticed that Qiao Nan looked very pale and pitiful.

“No need.” Qiao Nan sighed in anger. “In the past six months, at least nobody has yelled at me, and nobody will call me wretched girl for every single day and order me around. Nobody will despise me and put me down. Qiao Zijin, do you think that I have no respect for myself and will stoop so low as to be willing to go back to lead that kind of life? Do you think that the more I am humiliated, the better it is for me?”

Qiao Zijin was embarrassed. “Nan Nan, why did you put it that way? Mom... No matter what, it was for your own good. It was so that you would toughen up. If Mom knows about this, she will be heartbroken.” What was wrong with Qiao Nan? Why was she in such a bad mood today?

“Since Mom likes you so much, why did she not train you for your own good?” Qiao Nan placed her hands on her legs and supported herself to stand up.

It could be due to the fact that she had her menses or that she was agitated by Wang Yang and Chen Jun. The moment Qiao Nan stood up, she felt dizzy as if the world was spinning around her. “Don’t spout nonsense in front of me. I won’t be fooled. If you want Dad to go back, you can tell him yourself.”

Then, Qiao Nan returned to her room, feeling weak and dizzy. She leaned on her bed to rest for a while.

Why? What was the reason?

If her suspicion was right, then she could more or less explain Chen Jun’s appearance in this life.

Wang Yang always believed that because of her, Zhu Baoguo had made a change for the better, causing him to lose his foothold in the Zhu family. Elder Zhu alienated him because of Zhu Baoguo. As for Zhu Chengqi, he would naturally side with his son rather than with his nephew.

When she was at school, Zhu Baoguo would be like her father, warning her that she should never fall in love when she was still in school.

Zhu Baoguo had shown disapproval and dissatisfaction at the appearance of Chen Jun last time.

Could it be that Wang Yang believed that Chen Jun would wreck her relationship with Zhu Baoguo?

Since Chen Jun was still in college, she did not see him often at her school. But from the letters that she sent back to Chen Jun, it showed that he was pursuing her and wanted to be in her good books.

Chen Jun pursued her in order to affect her relationship with Zhu Baoguo. Without her influence, Zhu Baoguo would revert to his old ways.

Was this what Wang Yang had in mind?

She would not be surprised if Chen Jun really knew Wang Yang and he pursued her according to Wang Yang’s arrangement.

In her previous lifetime, was Chen Jun truly good to her? Or did he fake his feelings for her?

Ever since getting to know Chen Jun personally, Qiao Nan always had this question in her mind. Back then, why would Chen Jun, who was eager for quick success, like her who was without any merits?

It was illogical!

She supposed that in this life, Wang Yang was out to wreck her relationship with Zhu Baoguo. Hence, he wanted Chen Jun to pursue her. But what about the previous life? Wang Yang simply did not have the need to do so. Zhu Baoguo had already died. He was cremated and buried in the Garden Grove.

Since Zhu Baoguo had died, Wang Yang could achieve his aim and take over the Zhu family.

As for her, she did not have the love of her parents and she had not graduated from junior high school. She even had quit school to work. She was not educated and she was not knowledgeable. What was Wang Yang after that he would get Chen Jun to go after a girl who had nothing at all?

If not for Qiao Zijin, Chen Jun might have really married her! Moreover, when Chen Jun married Qiao Zijin, he did not stand to gain at all. Qiao Zijin committed adultery and Chen Jun was so disgraced that there was a while where he could not hold his head up high. For Chen Jun, he suffered a great loss marrying Qiao Zijin.

Could it be that in order to accomplish whatever Wang Yang wanted him to do, Chen Jun was willing to sacrifice himself to the extent of marrying the other party?

Everything that happened today made Qiao Nan realized that it was not an accident or coincidence that Chen Jun came into her life in these two lifetimes. It was arranged by Wang Yang.

What she could not understand was that in her previous life, she was worthless and her father had given up on her, so what could Wang Yang want from her?

At the thought of Chen Jun's betrayal and deception in the previous life and his suspicious relationship with Wang Yang in this life, Qiao Nan paled and her eyes reddened.

Chapter 356: Only Worth Four Bags Weighing Half a Kilogram Each

In this life, she wanted to stay away from Chen Jun as far as possible. She did not care if he wanted to marry Qiao Zijin or any other girls.

But what if in the past, Chen Jun's intention toward her was not genuine and there was a conspiracy right from the start? Then, she...

Qiao Nan felt bitter the more she thought about it. Her father had already retired from the army, while Chen Jun's father was the superintendent at the police station. No, he should still be the deputy superintendent at the moment. Even if she knew that Chen Jun had been lying to her right from the start, there was nothing that she could do to him.

She could only avoid him as if he was the god of plague.

"Dad, when did you buy these dried foods? Why didn't you say anything?" Qiao Zijin held a handful of jujubes and a dozen raisins in her hand. "Dad, where did you buy these things? I told Mom to buy them for me, but she has never come across such high-quality goods. Dad, you are so good to me. You must have known that I love this hence you bought them in bulk. But there's quite a lot. Dad, I may not be able to bring all of them back." She had no wish to share them with Qiao Nan.

"Dad, why don't you send me back on the bicycle so that we can bring them with us?" The dried food would be enough to last her for a long time. She could even share them with her classmates.

She had had the dried jujubes and raisins that were sold on the market. However, they did not taste the same.

Her father must have spent a lot of money on these two sacks of dried food.

She knew that her father could not possibly abandon her and only treated Qiao Nan well.

In fact, her father remembered what she liked and bought them home, waiting to give her a surprise.

"You intend to bring everything with you?" Qiao Dongliang, who was cooking in the kitchen, came to a sudden halt.

Qiao Dongliang lowered his eyes. He did not correct Qiao Zijin. In fact, he went along with her. “How do you intend to finish so much dried food by yourself?”

“Dad, don’t underestimate me. These snacks aren’t filling. I can finish them easily. Besides, there’s no need to finish all of them in one go. This represents your love for me, so I have to bring all of them back.” If she left it there, Qiao Nan might have her snacks. She might have more of them than her.

She could not rest assured unless she brought everything back home.

“What about Nan Nan? She is your younger sister. Aren’t you going to share with her?” And what about him? He was her father!

“Nan Nan...” Qiao Zijin sounded very reluctant. “Since Nan Nan is my sister, I have to share with her. Why don’t we leave half a kilogram of each of the snacks for Nan Nan? She doesn’t like these snacks anyway. It will be a waste if we leave too much for her.”

If Qiao Dongliang did not mention himself, it would not cross Qiao Zijin’s mind to share with him.

In fact, it pained Qiao Zijin to leave half a kilogram of each type of snacks for Qiao Nan.

These dried foods were of good quality. It was much more expensive than those that her mother bought for her before the Lunar New Year. Since there were four different types of snacks, if she had to give half a kilogram of each, it would be two kilograms in total. These cost a lot as well. Qiao Nan had never shared anything or given her anything in the past, yet she had to share with her. She was downright unlucky.

“No need.” Qiao Dongliang was utterly disappointed at Qiao Zijin who did not think of him at all.

Qiao Zijin’s eyes brightened. “Dad, do you mean it? Nan Nan is my sister. I am happy to share with her. Since you’re so good to me, I shall be good to Nan Nan. You have bought me so many snacks. I will still have more than enough if I give her half a kilogram each for every snack.”

It would be wonderful if she could have everything for herself.

She would rather take half a kilogram of each snack to share with her classmates, than giving it to Qiao Nan.

“Is that so?” Qiao Dongliang’s face was gloomy. He searched through the house and found a small weighing scale.

Qiao Zijin pursed her lips. Had she known that her father would take her words so seriously, she would not have said so.

Qiao Dongliang took out some bags and filled them with the snacks. He weighed them, making sure that they weighed exactly half a kilogram.

Even though it pained Qiao Zijin that she had to share with Qiao Nan, she felt slightly at ease when she saw the four small bags of snacks as compared to her two big sacks of snacks.

“Okay, the meal will be ready in a while. You can bring the snacks with you when you go back.” After weighing the four small bags of snacks, Qiao Dongliang straightened his back and tied the two big sacks of snacks. It would be a sheer pity if they turned moldy.

“Okay.” Qiao Zijin nodded happily. She was in an extremely good mood. “Dad, Nan Nan said that she felt uncomfortable. I told her to go back to her room to rest. Nan Nan has always been healthy. Why is it that as soon as the guests left, she started to feel unwell? I have a lot to chat with her, but I do not have the chance to do so.”

Qiao Dongliang brought the dishes over to the dining table. His hands stiffened at Qiao Zijin’s words. He shot her a grim look and said, “Is this the case? Do you think that Nan Nan is targeting you and giving you the cold shoulder?”

“Dad, I didn’t say that. That is what you thought.” Qiao Zijin was shocked. Why was it that both her father and Qiao Nan spoke such harsh words? Could they not put it across nicely?

“It’s good that you do not think that way. Nan Nan is simple-minded. She will not do such things,” Qiao Dongliang placed the dishes on the table and said coldly.

What did her father mean when he said that Qiao Nan was simple-minded? Did he mean that she was scheming? “Dad, do you want me to get Nan Nan to come out for lunch?”

Yang Yang and Brother Chen Jun had left. It was boring for her to stay here. They did not even have a television set. She wondered how Qiao Nan and her father spent their days at home.

“It’s okay. I will get her.” Nan Nan was fine just now. She might have been agitated by Zijin. He should never leave them alone in the future. Otherwise, Zijin would always bully Nan Nan.

Qiao Zijin was unhappy at the worried look on Qiao Dongliang’s face. She pursed her lips into a straight line. “Fine, I shall not go. I am not her maid, so why should I get her to come out for lunch!”

By the time Qiao Dongliang came out with Qiao Nan, Qiao Zijin had already eaten half a bowl of rice. She did not wait for them but started eating on her own. “Dad, Nan Nan, dig in quickly. We must have it while it’s hot. It will not be delicious when it turns cold.”

Qiao Dongliang, who was busy cooking, did not even have the time for a drink. He took a deep breath and did not say anything. “Nan Nan, you are not feeling well. Sit down. I will bring you the rice.”

Qiao Nan sat comfortably and pulled at Qiao Dongliang. “Dad, there’s no need for that. You’ve prepared a table of food. You should sit down and have a drink. I am much better now. I will get the rice for you.”

#### Chapter 357: Take the Four Bags and Leave

Having that said, Qiao Nan brought two bowls of rice for Qiao Dongliang and herself.

Qiao Dongliang smiled and took the bowl of rice from her. “Nan Nan, sit down and eat. The food will turn cold and it will not be good for the body. Have more of the food. These are your favorite dishes.”

At Qiao Dongliang’s words, Qiao Zijin then realized that these dishes were indeed Qiao Nan’s favorite food.

Qiao Zijin twitched her mouth. Qiao Nan was so good at keeping up pretenses. She put up a show of being good to her father, implying as if she did not care for her father.

No matter what Qiao Nan did, it was useless. Whenever anything happened, she would be the first person that her father thought of. Qiao Nan was wasting her time if she thought that she would gain her father's love by doing all these.

Qiao Zijin was in a good mood now. She had no wish to argue with Qiao Nan. She finished her bowl of rice and a lot of the dishes by herself.

After the meal, she brought her bowl and chopsticks to the kitchen to wash. "Dad, I have washed my bowl and chopsticks."

Even though Qiao Zijin merely washed her own bowl and chopsticks, Qiao Nan gave her an incredulous look. "Sister, did you have chicken blood today?" Why would she take the initiative to do housework? Wang Yang and Chen Jun had left, so who did she put up the show for?

"Everyone knows clearly who is putting up pretenses." When her father was not around, she would call her by her name. When her father was around, she would address her as her elder sister. Qiao Nan was too pretentious.

Qiao Nan curled the corners of her mouth and had her rice. She would not argue with Qiao Zijin.

"Dad, I have finished eating. Can you send me back?"

"It's still early. You can go back by yourself. Nan Nan is not feeling well. I have to take care of her." Qiao Dongliang refused.

Qiao Zijin took a closer look at Qiao Nan. "Dad, I think Nan Nan is much better now. She does not need anyone to take care of her. Besides, it will not take long for you to send me home and come back."

"Why do you insist that Dad sends you back? You know the way back and the sun is still up. Are you afraid of losing your way?" Qiao Nan looked at Qiao Zijin, feeling puzzled. "Sister, you are getting more and more pretentious." Qiao Zijin did not insist that her father fetched her from the quad to their house either.

"There are so many sacks. I can't bring them back by myself."

“What do you mean?” Qiao Nan shot Qiao Dongliang a questioning look. “Dad, what did you give to Sister that she can’t bring it back by herself and will need your help?”

“She can bring it by herself.” Qiao Dongliang put down the bowl of rice that he had almost finished. He went to the kitchen and came out with four small plastic bags. “Take them. You can go back now. They weigh two kilograms in total. It’s not that heavy, so there is no need for me to bring it back for you.”

Qiao Zijin was dumbfounded. “Dad, are you mistaken? The four small bags of snacks are for Nan Nan. Those two big sacks...” was for her.

Those snacks were hers. She was being kind by giving two kilograms of the snacks to Qiao Nan. Was Qiao Nan so greedy that she wanted the bigger bags for herself?

That was not right. Qiao Nan had been resting in the room and never came out at all. She did not know what happened just now.

“These dried foods were given by Nan Nan’s friend. Since you are Nan Nan’s sister, I acted of my own accord and gave you two kilograms of them. As I said, all these were from someone else. It was their kind intentions to Nan Nan. Nan Nan should have them all for herself. But since you like them, I can only ask Nan Nan to share some of them with you. Besides, your relationship with Nan Nan is only worth these two kilograms. Take them back with you and have them at home.”

He gave Zijin a chance, but she did not cherish it.

Qiao Dongliang knew that Qiao Zijin liked to eat dried food.

Before Qiao Zijin brought up this topic, Qiao Dongliang had never thought about how he intended to distribute these things for Qiao Nan. He did not have any idea how much of these should he give to Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi. He thought that since the wife of the chief of the army told Zhai Sheng to bring the dried food to Qiao Nan, then all these should belong to Qiao Nan alone.

However, since Qiao Zijin had brought up such a request, as a father, he decided that he could get Qiao Nan to share some of them with Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Dongliang was still pondering over how much to ask from Qiao Nan when Qiao Zijin distributed it by herself.

He had asked Qiao Zijin time and again whether she only wanted to give Qiao Nan half a kilogram of each of the snacks. Qiao Zijin had the same answer that she was already being good to her sister by giving her half a kilogram each.

Since Qiao Zijin had said so, Qiao Dongliang did not bother to say anything else. He weighed half a kilogram of every snack and packed them into four small bags.

Qiao Zijin had not expected that the four bags of snacks that were meant for Qiao Nan were actually for her.

“Nan Nan, will you be angry with me for taking half a kilogram of each snack for your sister?”

Qiao Nan almost choked on the rice. “No, I’m not angry. I’m not angry at all.”

Given Qiao Zijin’s overbearing character, she would not have asked for half a kilogram of each of the snacks. The four bags of snacks only added up to two kilograms. It could not compare to the two big sacks of snacks. This was, in fact, dismissing her like someone would a beggar.

Her father must have been angered and decided to give half a kilogram of each of the snacks to Qiao Zijin. This was as good as not giving anything to her.

“Y-you didn’t buy these for me?”

“Of course not.” Qiao Dongliang smiled and mocked himself. “I am poor and useless. I don’t have much money with me and I do not know any influential people. How would I have the money to get these for the Lunar New Year? Nan Nan’s friend gave them to her to nourish herself. You have to thank Nan Nan for sharing these with you. You must not forget that she is being so nice to you.”

Qiao Zijin turned red in anger and embarrassment after she was ridiculed by Qiao Dongliang.

“Dad, why didn’t you tell me that these things are given to Nan Nan by others?!” If she had known, she would not have embarrassed herself.

After finishing the rice, Qiao Dongliang said, "I thought you knew what I am capable of and that I couldn't afford these dried foods. Did I need to spell out something so obvious? You must have had a look at how much these snacks cost at the market."

These snacks might be common and could be seen everywhere in the markets. However, those that were sold in the markets were not as high quality as those given by the Zhai family.

The Zhai family was just and righteous. They would not accept money and expensive gifts. Other people had to be mindful when they prepared gifts for them. If they were to give them common dried food, they would have to select those of a high quality for which were not readily available in the markets. The average people would not be able to buy such stuff.

#### Chapter 358: He Who Understood the Times Was a Wise Man

"Alright, your mom is still waiting for you at home. She will be worried if you are late." Qiao Dongliang felt bitter at the words that he said to Qiao Zijin. She was his elder daughter, the daughter that he intended to keep by his side.

Qiao Dongliang had not expected that there would be a day where he would mock his elder daughter. In fact, what he said just now was what Qiao Zijin had once said.

"Fine, I will go back!" She was not willing to stay a minute longer!

"Don't you want the snacks?" Qiao Zijin turned and was about to leave. Qiao Dongliang sighed and gave her a gentle reminder. "This is your last chance. If you don't take them, it will be gone."

"I..."

Qiao Zijin bit on her lips and stared at the two kilograms of snacks on the table, her face flushed red in anger. Finally, she stomped her feet, grabbed the bags, and dashed out of the small quad.

"..."

"..."

Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Nan were lost for words.

In the end, it was Qiao Nan who came out of her shock first. As the saying goes, 'He who understands the times is a wise man'. This was indeed Qiao Zijin's style of handling things.

Qiao Dongliang rubbed his temple. Maybe what Nan Nan said was right. He could no longer say that Qiao Zijin was still young and insensible. Her temperament and personality... Was it true that when Ding Jiayi was pregnant with the second child, they had neglected her and hence she bore grudges against him?

If that was the case, she must have harbored grudges against Ding Jiayi as well.

Qiao Dongliang, who could not understand, looked at Qiao Nan. "Nan Nan, you said that your sister harbors grudges against me because we neglected her. Then, why did she treat your mom... Your mom favors sons more than daughters. She was the one who suggested that we should have a second child."

"My sister is not genuine to mom," Qiao Nan said coldly. "Back then, Mom used to have the economic authority at home and you respected her opinions. My sister only had to please Mom and she would have the whole family in the palm of her hand. Unless she is capable enough and no longer needs to rely on Mom, she has to maintain a good relationship with Mom no matter how she really feels about Mom. If she falls out with Mom, nobody in this house will support her and help her get everything that she wants."

Qiao Dongliang patted his forehead, feeling uncomfortable all of a sudden. "I... I need to take a rest."

They were one family. He and Ding Jiayi gave the best to the two daughters, particularly Qiao Zijin, the elder daughter. He had doted on her and pampered her. He had not mistreated her in any way. Why would she harbor grudges against her parents?

Could this still be considered a family?

Did Zijin treat them as her parents, or was she bidding for time to take revenge on them?

“Dad, you should have a rest. I will wash these bowls.” She was telling the truth. She would rather her father found out the truth earlier than for him to realize it after he had given Zijin all his money, just like what happened in the previous lifetime.

Qiao Dongliang who had already stood up took the bowls back from Qiao Nan. “Forget it. I will do the dishes. You should have a rest. I will rest after I am done washing them.”

“Okay.” Qiao Nan, who was dealt with a lot of blows today, felt weak and needed to rest.

The Chinese physician had said that she was particularly sensitive today. As long as she had mood swings, it would affect her menses.

Given the high menstrual flow today, Qiao Nan was worried that she might go into shock due to loss of blood in the future.

People would usually feel sleepy after a meal. Moreover, given Qiao Nan’s condition, she fell asleep as soon as she laid down on the bed.

After washing the bowls, Qiao Dongliang went into Qiao Nan’s room to check on her. She was sleeping very soundly. He sighed at the sight of her. Nan Nan must have felt terrible. Otherwise, she would not have been so weary. However, Nan Nan liked to keep things to herself. She would not tell anyone about her grievances or feelings.

Nan Nan must have been cornered by Zijin, hence she told him so many things about Zijin.

This proved that Zijin had gone way overboard. Nan Nan, who usually kept quiet about whatever Zijin had done, must have been so angry that she told him about her wrongdoings.

Qiao Dongliang felt her forehead to make sure that she was alright. He then went back to his room and let his thoughts drift to what Qiao Nan told him previously.

Take what happened today as an example. As a father, when he saw Zhai Sheng bring two sacks of food to their house, he had the intention of giving half of them to Zijin. But in fact, he should not do so.

What was ironic was that it was Qiao Zijin who made him realize his mistakes.

Qiao Zijin had a very strong sense of ownership toward whatever that was hers. She felt that since Qiao Dongliang bought the dried food for her, she did not have to care about Qiao Nan, who was his daughter, having the right to have the food as well. Instead, she told Qiao Dongliang firmly that since those were hers, she had the right to decide how much she wanted to give Qiao Nan.

When reversed, it should be the same as well.

Since the two sacks of dried food belonged to Qiao Nan, Qiao Dongliang did not have the right to decide how much should be given to Qiao Zijin. Qiao Nan should have the final say.

Today, the subject concerned was merely two sacks of dried food. In the future, if Nan Nan made it big and earned a lot of money, while Zijin was struggling with life, he could not possibly insist that Nan Nan gave Zijin a certain amount of money monthly.

He could not ask Nan Nan to be responsible for Zijin for her entire life.

Even though they were siblings, whatever belonged to Nan Nan was hers alone. He did not have the right to make any decisions for her.

The same logic applied to Zijin. If Zijin did better than Nan Nan in the future, he believed she would never help Nan Nan.

Qiao Dongliang could not help but sigh as these thoughts drifted through his mind.

He seemed to have aged because of his two daughters, particularly his elder daughter, Qiao Zijin.

He was getting on years. Both of his daughters had a mind of their own. He could no longer make them listen, and he should not meddle too much as well. He should allow them to walk a path of their own.

Chapter 359: Rest Assured. Mom Would Help You

Qiao Dongliang was depressed. Qiao Zijin was even more depressed. As soon as she returned to the Qiao family's residence, she threw the dried food onto the table and went straight to her room. She plopped on the bed and cried her guts out.

"Zijin, what's wrong with you? Didn't you come back from your dad's house? Why did you cry? Did someone bully you on the way back? Tell me, who was it? I will go with your dad to get back at him." In that case, she could make use of this chance to look for Old Qiao. "By the way, nothing happened to that wretched girl, right? I bet she couldn't stand it that I have reconciled with your dad, so she deliberately went against me."

She and Old Qiao had been married for so many years. There was no way that that wretched girl could sow discord between them.

A man could not be without a woman. Old Qiao treated her very well yesterday.

"It's useless. Those who bullied me are your daughter and your husband. How are you going to settle scores with them? Can you beat them or yell at them? Can you?!" Qiao Zijin cried at the top of her voice.

"Impossible! Your dad dotes on you. I will believe it if you tell me that that wretched girl bullies you, but your dad will never do that. Zijin, you must not blame your dad for what that wretched girl did to you. If your dad knows about it, he will be heartbroken. Your dad treats you very well." Ding Jiayi reminded Qiao Zijin. "Since a young age, didn't your dad treat you better than he did that wretched girl?"

It was impossible that Old Qiao would gang up with that wretched girl to bully Zijin.

She would never believe it.

Qiao Zijin wiped the tears on her face. "I admit Dad treated me better than Qiao Nan back then. But now, my dad treats Qiao Nan much better. Do you know what happened today? Dad humiliated me in front of Qiao Nan. Even if those things were given to Qiao Nan by her friend, Qiao Nan could not possibly finish everything by herself. Since I like to eat them and I am her sister, why couldn't he give me more of the snacks? I have a good relationship with her, so I am willing to eat her food. I won't eat something that a stranger gives to me. There were two big sacks of food, yet Dad humiliated me with two kilograms worth of the snacks. How could I raise my head high in front of Qiao Nan? I was ridiculed right in front of her. Dad has changed!"

In the past, her father would never do that.

Although it was just some snacks, why was it that everything must belong to Qiao Nan and she could have two kilograms worth of snacks only?

Qiao Nan was nothing but a money-losing daughter. She had no right to have so much of the good food!

Her mother had said that everything in this family and all the good stuff was hers alone. Qiao Nan had no right to fight with her!!!

“What? It’s so messy. Tell me properly. Don’t cry anymore. What exactly happened?” Ding Jiayi was confused.

Qiao Zijin whimpered and told Ding Jiayi what happened.

After listening to Qiao Zijin’s recount, Ding Jiayi turned green in anger. “Your dad is really muddle-headed. You will be sitting for the college entrance examination soon. You need to have more tonics and supplements. How could he give those things to Qiao Nan? Qiao Nan is too weak. Her body cannot take all the nourishment. Having those supplements will do more harm to her. No, we can’t leave things as it is. I heard that walnuts are good for the brain. It is most suitable for you. No matter what, I must get the walnuts for you. You can keep them and have one or two walnuts a day.”

“It’s useless. Dad only has eyes for Qiao Nan. He only left me half a kilogram for each of the snacks. Since a young age, I’ve never been... This is the first time I suffer such a humiliation. And the person who did that was my dad. Mom, I am heartbroken.”

“Alright, don’t cry anymore. It pains me to see you crying. Leave this to me. I promise to find a way to get it for you. But it’s late today. I will go to your dad and get them for you tomorrow. As you have said, there are two big sacks of food. Qiao Nan can’t possibly finish them in one day. I assure you that all those snacks will be yours,” Ding Jiayi said with full confidence while patting the back of Qiao Zijin.

“Mom, are you sure?” Qiao Zijin said with tears in her eyes.

No matter what, she could not take it lying down. She could not stand the smug look on Qiao Nan’s face.

Even if she might not eat the dried food, she would rather throw them away than give it to Qiao Nan.

“Of course, I have never lied to you before. Don’t cry. You must be hungry. Shall I cook for you?”

“No need. I had my meal at Dad’s place.” Qiao Zijin shook her head. Apart from the bowl of rice, Qiao Zijin had eaten a fair amount of dried food. She was so full that she could not have any more food.

“That’s why I said your dad treats you well. If he treats you badly, he will make you come back on an empty stomach. Alright, go and wash your face. You don’t look pretty with those red, puffy eyes.”

“Mom, is there any hot water? It’s so cold. I don’t want to come into contact with cold water.”

“How would I possibly let you wash your face with cold water in the winter? I am not stupid. I have boiled some water. Go and have a wash.”

“Alright.” Qiao Zijin covered her face, particularly her eyes, with the towel that was rinsed with hot water. She took away the towel when the discomfort in her eyes had lessened.

Staring at her reflection in the mirror and her red, puffy eyes, Qiao Zijin grounded her teeth. She must not let her father and Qiao Nan stay by themselves anymore. It was only half a year’s time but her father no longer cared about her. He only had eyes for Qiao Nan.

If this were to continue, even if she had her mother in the palm of her hand, she could no longer make impossible demands of this family.

In particular, Qiao Nan, that cunning girl!

As long as Qiao Nan was by her father’s side, no matter what she said to her mother, her mother would not be able to do anything in front of her father.

She had one more year before she would sit for the college entrance examination. Qiao Nan would sit for the exams one year later than her.

By that time, even if she was lucky enough to get into a college, it would not be a good college. On the contrary, Qiao Nan...

Qiao Zijin had finally managed to put a distance between Qiao Nan and her when they went to different high schools. But when they went to college, Qiao Nan would study at a top college, while she would study at an average college. At the thought of that, Qiao Zijin felt as if she was about to be consumed by flames of anger.

Was there really no way to let Qiao Nan drop out of school so that she would not be able to finish her studies and could not get into college?

Yang Yang came from a good family background and his parents worked for the government. Perhaps she could find a chance to bring it up to Yang Yang and he might be able to help her?

If her guess was correct, Yang Yang also disliked Qiao Nan and wanted to deal with her!

### Chapter 360: Being Looked Down Upon

“Xiao Qiao, what’s wrong with you today? Why did you give me strange looks? Are you so stingy that you are unwilling to treat me to a meal?” On the fifth day of the Lunar New Year, Zhu Chengqi came with Zhu Baoguo to the small quad to say their greetings, treating them as if they were their relatives.

Elder Zhu did not come with them since Wang Yang and his family would visit the Zhu family’s residence today.

If everyone in the Zhu family was gone, there was no way that they could answer to Zhu Qin.

Zhu Baoguo touched his face when he noticed that Qiao Nan was staring at him. “Can it be that after the Lunar New Year, you realize that I’ve become more handsome?” Zhu Baoguo flattered himself and struck a narcissistic pose.

“Stop your nonsense. Let me ask you a question. You have to answer me honestly.”

“What’s so serious? You can ask me directly.”

“Is Wang Yang acquainted with the Chen family?”

“The Chen family?” Zhu Baoguo was puzzled. “Xiao Qiao, there are so many people by the surname Chen in China. Which Chen family are you referring to? The Wang family has high social status, and many people are acquainted with them. It is not strange that one of them has the surname Chen. Xiao Qiao, you seem to be very smart, but at times, you are quite dense.”

It was as good as not asking.

“Do you remember the senior, Chen Jun, who came to our school recently?” She had to admit that she was too anxious and did not make herself clear.

“Why do you bring up Chen Jun again?” Zhu Baoguo frowned and he sounded angry. “Xiao Qiao, I must warn you. That man is not a good person. Don’t be fooled by him. He is so shameless. You never replied to any of his letters, yet he insisted on writing so many letters to you. What is he up to? He is definitely not a good person!”

They were about eighteen, nineteen years old. Zhu Baoguo was not stupid. He could tell from Chen Jun’s attitude that he wanted to pursue Qiao Nan.

Hence, Zhu Baoguo became very impatient at the mention of Chen Jun and was reluctant to talk about him. “Xiao Qiao, why did you mention him? Do you regret it and want Wang Yang to introduce you to Chen Jun?”

Zhu Baoguo was boiling in anger. He remembered that ever since Xu Tingting, who was from the same class as him, saw Chen Jun, she rejected all other boys in the school and would address Chen Jun affectionately, saying that she wanted to go to a college in the capital.

Was Chen Jun that remarkable? He did not care that Xu Tingting behaved in that way.

But it had been almost half a year, yet Xiao Qiao mentioned him again.

There was nothing spectacular about that pretty boy except for his looks. Why would Xiao Qiao remember him for such a long time?

“It’s been a year. Why are you still so foolish? What kind of person Wang Yang is? Since I asked you if Wang Yang knows Chen Jun, what do you think I meant by that? Regret? I don’t regret it at all!”

Qiao Nan was furious.

Luckily, her menses had finished. Otherwise, given how furious she was at Zhu Baoguo, she might be too agitated and affect her menses again. No matter how many jujubes she had, she would not be able to make up for the blood loss.

In fact, Qiao Nan had been very kind to Zhu Baoguo. The Zhu family might be the reason why she could never avoid Chen Jun, her unlucky star in her two lifetimes.

Qiao Nan was enraged that Zhu Baoguo acted out of jealousy without stopping to think clearly.

“Don’t be angry. It’s the Lunar New Year. Besides, I didn’t say anything...” Zhu Baoguo softened his tone as soon as he sensed that Qiao Nan was angry. He lowered his voice and said humbly, “Xiao Qiao, you should know that I am not as smart as you. I tried my best in order to achieve the results that I had in school. You can tell me directly what it is that you want to know.”

When he was with Xiao Qiao, he would become foolish and not as quick-witted as he usually was. He felt as if Xiao Qiao was talking in riddles. “Xiao Qiao, why did you mention Wang Yang along with Chen Jun? Is there anything wrong with them?”

“Forget it. It has nothing to do with you. There is only one thing that you have to know. Wang Yang hasn’t given up yet. He wants to have everything in the Zhu family. At the very least, you have to work harder. I can’t help you with everything. I am neither your elder sister nor your mother. Do you want me to look after you for the rest of your life? Learn to be wary of others and look out for their plots. I really don’t understand. Wang Yang is a few years younger than you, but why is it that he is so scheming? It’s as if he has all your wits.”

Qiao Nan gave Zhu Baoguo a lecture.

If her guess was correct, in order to get rid of Zhu Baoguo, Wang Yang wanted to make use of Chen Jun to make her fall for his tricks.

Since Wang Yang had resorted to using Chen Jun to fool Qiao Nan, it seemed that he had gone all out to deal with Zhu Baoguo.

Wang Yang could use a honey trap on her, and he would also use it on Zhu Baoguo. It seemed that he would do whatever he could to make Zhu Baoguo fall for his tricks.

“Xiao Qiao, you must not look down on people. Wang Yang may be scheming, but I am not foolish. Today, my aunt visited our house with Wang Yang and Wang Qinglin. And so I asked my dad to bring me to your house. Xiao Qiao, you are right. I do not have to be anxious. My dad cherishes me and my grandpa values me more than he does Wang Yang. It’s no wonder that Wang Yang can’t stand the sight of me. I have everything that he yearns for.”

He used to be angry that he was ridiculed for not having a mother since he was little. He did not realize that, in fact, he had a lot more than others.

What he could not stand was that Wang Yang was jealous of everything that he had and wanted to take it away from him.

Initially, Zhu Baoguo had taken all those that he had for granted. But when Wang Yang wanted to snatch it from him, it made him realize suddenly that all these were very important to him and he must cherish them. He would never let Wang Yang succeed in snatching them away from him.

A mediocre person would not be the envy of others. People would only fight to get those that were valuable!

“Since you could say this, I am slightly at ease.” What she feared most was that Zhu Baoguo would be so foolish as to fall for Wang Yang’s schemes and was defenseless against him.

They had just finished talking when Qiao Dongliang and Zhu Chengqi came out with the dishes. “Stop chatting. The food is ready.”

“Dad, are you sure that what you cooked are edible?” Zhu Baoguo widened his eyes in exclamation when he noticed that it was Zhu Chengqi who prepared the food. His tone was full of disdain. Ever

since a young age, he had never eaten the porridge that Zhu Chengqi cooked, let alone the dishes that he cooked.

“Don’t worry, you won’t die.” Zhu Chengqi did not care that his son looked down on him. “Nan Nan, you should have more of the food.”

“What! How could you tell Nan Nan to have more of the food that will kill her? You are too evil. Uncle Qiao, if you see my dad next time, don’t open the door for him. He may be a bad influence on Nan Nan.” Why was it that his father had no regard to him? People used to say that sons were more worthwhile than daughters.