

RTAMM 361

Chapter 361: Let Qiao Nan Be My Daughter

But why did his father speak gently to Xiao Qiao and display such a good attitude during all of his interactions with her? On the other hand, his father was always fierce to him.

Fortunately, he treated Xiao Qiao like his younger sister. Otherwise, if other people, such as Wang Yang, were his father's son, they would definitely hate his father in this situation.

Sigh. It was also his misfortune to be his father's son. If it were other people, none would be able to tolerate this.

"Hahaha." Qiao Dongliang was amused. He could feel that Zhu Baoguo was joking. A year ago, Zhu Baoguo did not even bother to greet Zhu Chengqi when they met, but now Zhu Baoguo would make such jokes with Zhu Chengqi. The relationship between the father and son had seemingly improved much.

At the thought that all these were thanks to Qiao Nan, Qiao Dongliang felt extremely proud of her.

"It's true that Uncle Qiao should keep your dad away from my house. Every time he visits, he brings Nan Nan presents. If this continues, Uncle Qiao is worried that my daughter will be kidnapped by your dad." Having that said, Qiao Dongliang gave a gentle sigh.

As time passed, Qiao Dongliang realized that the presents given by Zhu Chengqi to Qiao Nan were not only expensive but also hard to find. It was also commendable that they were things that Qiao Nan needed most.

Clearly, he was the father of Qiao Nan. However, he relied on other people's father to settle Qiao Nan's needs.

When he thought about it from time to time, the more he felt that he really did not fulfill his responsibilities as a father.

“Uncle Qiao, don’t be afraid. If my dad kidnaps your daughter, you can kidnap my dad’s only son,” Zhu Baoguo said flippantly. “I like Uncle Qiao.” His father was always aloof and kept to himself. It was tiring to play mind games such as ‘You Guess, Guess, Guess’ with him.

Xiao Qiao was the only one that her father could communicate with ease. Even when Wang Yang saw his father, he had to keep himself in check around his father.

“Fine. I’ll formally acknowledge Qiao Nan as my goddaughter. You can then acknowledge Uncle Qiao as your godfather.” Zhu Chengqi’s eyes lit up and agreed readily.

“...”

“...”

“...”

The proud smile and serious tone of Zhu Chengqi stunned the rest of the three people present.

Zhu Baoguo was dumbfounded as he looked at Zhu Chengqi. “Dad, are you joking or serious about it? See, you’re making everyone surprised.”

If his father really acknowledged Xiao Qiao as his goddaughter, then Xiao Qiao would really become his younger sister?

Clearly, this was Zhu Baoguo’s wish all along, but when this seemed to be happening, he did not understand why there was a sense of repulsion in his heart. Nevertheless, it was obvious that he did not dislike Qiao Nan.

He liked Xiao Qiao but was reluctant for her to be his younger sister. What exactly was wrong with him?

“Serious. Is it not okay? You always told me that Nan Nan is your sister. Now that I’m giving you a chance, you don’t wish to be Nan Nan’s elder brother anymore?” Zhu Chengqi’s tone reflected his usual composure. It was so normal that everyone suspected that they had a delusion earlier.

Nevertheless, when they came into contact with his extraordinary bright and shiny eyes and glowing face, everyone could not help but feel that Zhu Chengqi was not joking. He was serious.

“Qiao Dongliang, do you wish to consider this? In the past, you were also a soldier. You decided to have a second child and hoped for a son. Now that I’m letting you have a godson, do you want it?” Zhu Chengqi looked at Qiao Dongliang and asked daringly without any reservation.

Qiao Dongliang was extremely embarrassed. “Baoguo is a very good child, but I don’t deserve such glory.”

Yes, he really wished to have a son. However, when someone brought the ‘son’ before him, he then realized that a son was nothing special.

He thought of Zhu Baoguo’s past delinquent behavior and poor learning attitude. He was always away from home and his studies were a mess. On top of that, he was good at spending money. His character was as stubborn as an ox and his temper was hot and explosive.

If he truly had such a son, he definitely could not control him. Furthermore, he was not capable of earning so much money for Zhu Baoguo to squander. Even Zijin did not give him so many worries, not to mention Nan Nan, who always reduced his burden and worries.

Recently, the more Qiao Dongliang discovered Qiao Zijin’s shortcomings, the more depressed he was. He already had two sleepless nights.

Qiao Dongliang was already so tortured with a daughter like Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Dongliang pondered Zhu Chengqi’s offer. If Zhu Baoguo truly became his son, would he still be able to live on?

Fortunately, he only had daughters and Nan Nan had been considerate and caring from a young age. This lessened much of his worries.

In comparison to a negative example such as Zhu Baoguo, Qiao Dongliang truly felt that he was blessed.

Son?

Having a son was not as fortunate as he had expected.

If it was truly a blessing, would Zhu Chengqi fight with him over Nan Nan and let Zhu Baoguo be his godson?!

Zhu Chengqi did not seem to mind as he smiled. He then said to Zhu Baoguo. “See? No one wants you even if I give you to them. Given your situation, are you able to find me a daughter-in-law and give me a grandchild in the future? Even others will despise you.”

“Dad, what you are talking about? Do you believe that if I curl my fingers now, I can let you have three grandchildren in a year’s time?” Zhu Baoguo refused to concede defeat. There were countless women who were willing to sleep with him. Two years ago, there was a woman who stripped naked in front of him but he was not interested.

Otherwise, his father would not only have a grandchild today, but one who was able to run about and overturn sauce bottles.

When Zhu Baoguo displayed that previous temper of his, the other three people knitted their brows.

Zhu Chengqi was a soldier and disliked this type of frivolous and irresponsible attitude most. “Baoguo, how did I teach you usually? This type of words will not highlight your capability but will only let others look down on you.”

“Baoguo, you’re already an adult. Don’t talk nonsense out of impulse. Those words are not nice. No wonder your dad is worried that he won’t have a grandchild in the future. Your dad wants a daughter-in-law and not those loose women. A good lady who’s not casual will not agree to what you said earlier.”

As someone with daughters, Qiao Dongliang felt deeply about this.

In comparison to the quick-tempered and impetuous Zhu Baoguo, he would rather marry Nan Nan to someone who was older and upright, such as Zhai Sheng, than someone like Zhu Baoguo, who was of the same age as Nan Nan but irresponsible and liked to mess around.

After being jointly disciplined by the two fathers, Zhu Baoguo withered like a frosted eggplant. “Alright, don’t discipline me. It’s the Lunar New Year. Give me some face. Am I the type who messes around? It’s all just talk. Dad, Uncle Qiao, I’m extremely decent. I’ve never done any of those messy things before.”

Chapter 362: Uncle Zhu, Are You Serious?

“There are people who seek my favor because of our family status, but I don’t want them. I’m not stupid.”

Zhu Baoguo raised his voice and ensured that everyone present could clearly hear him. When he said that, his pair of eyes constantly glanced in Qiao Nan’s direction, observing her reaction.

He was a decent man. Even if there were women who initiated to bring themselves to him, he did not mess around with them. As of now, he was still a virgin!

“I’ll consider you smart.” Zhu Chengqi snorted. “If you dare to mess around, I’m not sure if your mom will still be willing to acknowledge you as her son.” At the thought of the deceased Lee Shu, he recalled that she had mysophobia and was very clear in terms of who she truly loved. Zhu Chengqi did not wish for his son to become an irresponsible man who messed around with others.

“What kind of nonsense are you talking about? This topic has gone haywire. Were we discussing this earlier?” Zhu Baoguo turned red with embarrassment.

“You’re the one who brought this up first,” Zhu Chenqi said as a matter of fact.

“Alright, then I shall shut up. Will that do? I’m hungry. I’ll have a taste of your culinary skills, Dad.” After ascertaining that Qiao Nan did not look at him in a different light, Zhu Baoguo picked up some dishes with his chopsticks and placed them in his bowl. Given his situation, it was safer to eat more and talk less.

“Uncle Zhu, I have something to ask you.” After the meal, Qiao Nan took out a book. “It’s regarding my studies. Can I seek your guidance privately?”

“Sure.”

“I want to listen too. It may be of use when I take the high school examination.”

Zhu Chengqi slammed a book on Zhu Baoguo’s face. “What’s there to listen? The English knowledge that Nan Nan asks me is already beyond your level. You may not even understand it when you attend college. Just read what you should be reading.”

After entering the bedroom, Zhu Chengqi’s expression was increasingly serious. “Nan Nan, what do you wish to talk to me about?”

“Regarding Wang Yang.”

“What about him?” Zhu Chengqi furrowed his brows. “As far as I know, he didn’t do anything recently. He has been quite abiding.”

Qiao Nan smiled. “If he can be abiding, then he’s not Wang Yang. But Wang Yang has become smarter this time. He didn’t take action himself, and neither did he target Zhu Baoguo directly.”

“He is plotting against you? What did he do to you?”

“Uncle Zhu, this is what I want to tell you today. Last year, a senior with the surname Chen came to my school suddenly. Thereafter, he kept writing to me and his intention of wooing me was quite obvious. Uncle Zhu, how much time will I have and how much effort will I exert to help you take care of Baoguo if I’m in love? Moreover, Zhu Baoguo has poor self-discipline. If that truly happens, what will become of Zhu Baoguo?”

“...” Zhu Chengqi’s eyes were downcast. If Nan Nan truly fell in love, the situation would not be as simple as what she had described.

Nan Nan was someone that was very important to Baoguo, someone whom he cared very much for.

The early passing of Lee Shu resulted in Baoguo lacking a sense of security since a young age. His character was domineering and possessive. Baoguo detested Wang Yang because the latter portrayed a very obedient image in front of his father and won the liking of many. Baoguo felt that his grandpa and father had been snatched away and thus his temper worsened.

Aside from his family members, Nan Nan was the only good friend that had an important place in Baoguo's heart.

If Nan Nan fell in love at this time and ignored Baoguo, Baoguo's situation might turn worse and he might give up on himself.

Zhu Chengqi took a few deep breaths. "Why did you associate Chen Jun's appearance directly with Wang Yang? Nan Nan, you're an outstanding lady. It is actually not strange that someone likes you and wants to woo you."

"Sixth sense. Chen Jun's appearance was too coincidental. The way he wooed me was also ridiculous. I only met him twice. Chen Jun comes from good family background. His father is the deputy police commissioner in the police station. He's considered a rich kid too. He wrote me numerous letters in the past six months. The only time that I replied to him was when I sent him back all his letters. On the first day of Lunar New Year, he came to our house and even bumped into Wang Yang. Their behaviors were strange, so I casually asked them if they knew each other. At that time, to my amusement, both Wang Yang and Chen Jun replied simultaneously that they didn't know each other. The whole time that Chen Jun was at my house, he didn't have any eye contact with Wang Yang, and neither did they speak to each other. Uncle Zhou, although you have been staying in the army all this while, you are definitely capable of observing and judging people. Do you think my deduction is logical?"

"Not logical," Zhu Chengqi said with certainty.

"There's one more thing. Uncle Zhu, please take what I'm going to say into consideration. The girls in my class were quite interested in Chen Jun, so I heard about something. Chen Jun's father is only the deputy police commissioner now."

"You're saying that Chen Jun wishes to help his father get promoted?" Zhu Chengqi was a smart individual. Qiao Nan had not finished her statement and he already understood what she meant.

"This is just my guess. What the truth is... Uncle Zhu, you have to rely on yourself to investigate this matter. The son is yours. I'm only Zhu Baoguo's friend." If Zhu Chengqi was really unable to protect Zhu Baoguo, it was useless no matter how cautious she was.

"Why didn't you tell Baoguo directly? He's not young anymore and should learn how to handle these matters. Whenever something happens, you never think of telling Baoguo, but you'll always discuss it with me. Aren't you looking down too much on Baoguo?" Zhu Chengqi looked at Qiao Nan interestingly. Qiao Nan behaved as if she were the senior who was protecting her junior.

Unfortunately, that ‘junior’ who was being protected was his son.

“Wang Yang is too scheming. Zhu Baoguo is impulsive and not mature enough. To train Zhu Baoguo in life, there has to be a process and he has to go through different stages. Obviously, Zhu Baoguo should not skip any of the stages now.” If he clashed with Wang Yang, given Zhu Baoguo’s intelligence, he would directly be blasted to ashes. “Most importantly, honing Zhu Baoguo is your problem and not mine. I’m just relating the situation to you. As for the arrangements you want to make for Zhu Baoguo and how you want to settle this, it’s up to you. I’m just a child. I don’t have that much endurance and capability.”

“You’re a child, but you have more endurance and capability than you think.” Zhu Chengqi smiled.

Nan Nan relating the problem to him was equivalent to making the first move in a chess game and setting up the strategy and plot.

“Uncle Zhu, can I ask you another question?” Qiao Nan clenched her fists nervously. Her palms were sweating profusely.

Zhu Chengqi’s following reply might provide an explanation to a question that she had been pondering for the past few days.

“Ask away.”

“When you said that you want to formally acknowledge me as your goddaughter, were you joking or serious?”

“Serious.”

“!” Qiao Nan tightened her fists. Her fingernails, that were not that long, directly carved a crescent moon shape in her palms. “Why? Just because I’m good to Baoguo?”

If that were the case, then her deduction might be wrong.

Otherwise...

Wang Yang, Wang Yang. So, the ill fate between us was actually quite deep. It was not just in this lifetime!!!

Chapter 363: It's a Misfortune to Be Well-Liked Too

“No. When Baoguo’s mother was pregnant with him, she often told me that she only wanted to have one child and she hoped that she would give birth to a daughter. She asked me for my opinion. I told her that I liked daughter too. It’s just that my father would be a little disappointed. Nan Nan, you matched the image of the daughter that Lee Shu and I had in our minds very well.”

Obedient, sensible, abiding, and always striving for excellence.

The daughter that he had imagined to be had appeared before him. To Zhu Chengqi, Qiao Nan was perfect and did not have any shortcomings.

Qiao Nan’s face turned as white as a sheet. She forced a smile. “So, that’s the reason?”

So that was the reason!!!

“Why? Is something the matter?” Zhu Chengqi did not understand why Qiao Nan’s expression turned so ugly when she heard his reply.

“No. Initially, there’s a problem. Nevertheless, the problem has already been resolved now.” Qiao Nan let out a long breath. “Uncle Zhu, thank you for giving me a reply.” After all, this made her understand what happened before her death in the previous lifetime.

While Qiao Nan was suspecting that Wang Yang and Chen Jun knew each other, that Chen Jun possibly appeared in this lifetime under Wang Yang’s orders, Qiao Nan had also been thinking for the past four to five days about something else. In her previous life, why did Chen Jun appear before her, woo her, and wish to marry her?

In her previous lifetime, Zhu Baoguo had already been beaten to death by those hooligans. There was no one who would stand in the way of Wang Yang, so there was no need for Wang Yang to deal

with her or use Chen Jun, his trump card. Was Chen Jun together with her because of Wang Yang, like what he did in this life?

It was only now that Qiao Nan finally cleared all her doubts with what Zhu Chengqi said. There was a flash in Qiao Nan's mind and she was suddenly enlightened.

After hearing Zhu Chengqi's response, Qiao Nan was very sure that Chen Jun's appearances in her two lifetimes were arranged by Wang Yang to deal with her.

When Zhu Baoguo was still alive, Zhu Chengqi had already wished to acknowledge her as his goddaughter. During this period, Zhu Chengqi had been trying his best to find the learning materials that she needed. Although she was not Zhu Chengqi's goddaughter, Qiao Nan dared to say that the effort that Zhu Chengqi spent on her during this period was not any less than that of her biological father!

When Qiao Dongliang had money, he did not show any concern for Qiao Nan. When he was concerned about Qiao Nan, he did not have any money. At most, he could provide moral support. Moreover, as a father, he occasionally wavered and spared a thought for Qiao Zijin. He could not completely focus on Qiao Nan alone.

On the contrary, Zhu Chengqi's consideration for Qiao Nan was much more heartfelt. He often told Zhu Baoguo to protect Qiao Nan well at school and was not allowed to bully Qiao Nan. If Zhu Baoguo did anything wrong, Qiao Nan could discipline Zhu Baoguo directly. No matter what happened, he would be the backing for Qiao Nan.

In comparison to Qiao Dongliang, Zhu Chengqi was more like her father.

Hence, Qiao Nan could completely imagine the utter despair and decadence that Zhu Chengqi felt when Zhu Baoguo died in the previous lifetime. The only longing that Lee Shu left for Zhu Chengqi was gone.

At that time, what if Zhu Chengqi still thought that she resembled the daughter that he and Lee Shu had imagined? Once Zhu Chengqi formally acknowledged her as his goddaughter, he would most likely give all the importance and love that he had for Zhu Baoguo to her.

If that were the case, then even though Wang Yang finally caused Zhu Baoguo's death after much effort, it would all be in vain. That being said, all of Wang Yang's effort would benefit her in the end?

That's why Wang Yang could not tolerate her existence!

However, Qiao Nan did not understand why Zhu Chengqi eventually dispelled the intention to acknowledge her as his goddaughter after she agreed to be with Chen Jun. However, she was certain that whatever she guessed was close to the truth.

"Are you really alright?" Zhu Chengqi did not believe her. "You don't look well. Should we go to the hospital?"

"No need. I'm really fine. Let's go out. If we don't, Zhu Baoguo will most likely come to look for us." Qiao Nan took a long deep breath then exhaled it.

Zhu Chengqi confirmed again that besides looking unwell, there was nothing odd about Qiao Nan. "Alright. Nevertheless, as I've said earlier, both you and your dad and you could consider my proposal. Baoguo likes you very much and has been treating you like his younger sister. If you become my goddaughter, Baoguo will definitely be very happy."

"I'll have to defer this matter to my dad. Thank you, Uncle Zhu." Qiao Nan gave a bitter smile. She nearly could not bring herself to say the word 'thanks'.

In her previous lifetime, she did not get married and leave her family, and was eventually bullied to death. It was, in fact, because Chen Jun's betrayal had a huge impact and influence on her.

In other words, if Zhu Chengqi had not fancied her to be his daughter, she would never have met a scum like Chen Jun and encountered the mishap.

"Dad, just how difficult of a question did Nan Nan ask you that both of you are still not out yet after quite some time?" True enough, Zhu Baoguo's noisy voice instantly broke the awkwardness and stiff atmosphere between Qiao Nan and Zhu Chengqi.

At the sight of Zhu Chengqi and Qiao Nan, Qiao Dongliang, who had been craning his neck, turned his head and pretended to read the newspapers.

Qiao Dongliang could sense that Zhu Chengqi was serious. Thus, Qiao Dongliang felt that although his son-in-law had not appeared, there was already another man fighting with him for his daughter. How could that do!

At the thought of how good Zhu Chengqi was to Qiao Nan and how he had failed his fatherly duty all this while, Qiao Dongliang felt extremely guilty. He was truly fearful that this good daughter of his would be kidnapped away by Zhu Chengqi.

“Even if I tell you, will you understand?” Zhu Chengqi was not afraid of embarrassing Zhu Baoguo. His words were as venomous as a snake’s poison.

“Don’t be arrogant. I’m still young. As long as I am willing to, why can’t I understand!” Zhu Baoguo felt embarrassed in front of Qiao Nan. His face turned red and his neck swelled as he looked at Zhu Chengqi angrily.

Was this his biological father? He refused to give him any face each time they were with Nan Nan. He was too much!

“I’ve said it before that I’ll succeed one day! If you don’t understand, you’ll just have to wait and see!” He would try his best to improve and not let others look down on him even if he was not good enough. Did his father think that he would continue to be bullied? Don’t think that he would give in just because he was his father. No way!

Zhu Chengqi sat down. “Sure, I’ll wait for that day.”

If that day would truly come, then he and Nan Nan would not need to spend so much effort for the sake of this silly lad.

At the thought of what Qiao Nan did for Zhu Baoguo, Zhu Chengqi suspected once again whether Zhu Baoguo was the elder brother or Qiao Nan the elder sister.

On this day, Zhu Chengqi and Zhu Baoguo stayed in the Qiao family until quite late.

At about four o’clock in the afternoon, the small quad, which was initially rather empty, was not only installed with a phone but also a television.

Chapter 364: What Is so Good about Qiao Nan

Of course, all these were paid by Zhu Chengqi. He gave them to Qiao Nan and said that they would make her learning and daily life more convenient.

While sitting in the car, Zhu Baoguo yawned. “Dad, do you think Auntie and her family would have gone home when we’re back?”

“Not necessarily.” Wang Yang and Zhu Qin might want to leave due to anger, but Wang Qinglin would definitely not.

“It’s too annoying.” Zhu Baoguo grimaced. “Can’t they be more self-aware as a person? Aren’t our attitudes obvious enough?” If not for the fact that his grandfather was still around, he really did not wish to let the Wang family enter the house of the Zhu family. They were so shameless.

He could never understand why the Wang family was so thick-skinned and continued to be relatives with them after Wang Yang’s bad deed was exposed. They acted as if the relationship was as good as before. Their shamelessness was indescribable.

“Self-awareness?” Upon hearing this word, Zhu Chengqi smiled. “Saying that showed that you’re not mature enough. In the face of great benefits, dignity and self-awareness are all as superficial as clouds. Wang Qinglin is a smart man. The Wang family spent so much effort to marry your auntie. Before fully making use of this relationship, it’s impossible for the word ‘self-awareness’ to appear in the Wang family.”

The Wang family’s design for the Zhu family was not that simple, and Wang Qinglin did not marry Zhu Qin out of love only. Zhu Chengqi had known about this all along.

Regardless, he seemed to be unable to avoid such a situation in a family like his.

As long as the Wang family did not go overboard and his sister, Zhu Chengqi, was truly happy, Zhu Chengqi never felt that it was an issue for the Wang family to take a little advantage of them.

However, if the interests of the Wang family were to be built by sacrificing his only son, Zhu Chengqi could no longer be as easy-going as he used to be.

Although Elder Zhu was still around, Zhu Chengqi had not been giving the Wang family any face for over a year.

The time Zhu Chengqi spent in the Zhu's residence was already very scarce. In the past, Wang Qinglin could only meet Zhu Chengqi, his elder brother-in-law, a few times in a year. However, ever since Wang Yang's deed of feeding Zhu Baoguo with fruits immersed in sleeping drugs was exposed, Wang Qinglin had not seen Zhu Chengqi for more than one year.

"Auntie's surname is also Zhu. Why can't she understand? If the Zhu family is not good, did she think that the Wang family will treat her well?" At the mention of Zhu Qin, Zhu Baoguo felt more depressed.

Zhu Chengqi closed his eyes. "Your auntie's surname is Zhu, but his husband and son bear the surname Wang. The Wang family doesn't have the ability to bring down the Zhu family. Under this premise, your auntie is, of course, biased toward the Wang family."

True enough, it was almost nine o'clock at night when Zhu Chengqi and his son returned to the house of the Zhu family, but Wang Qinglin's family of three was still around.

"Elder brother, you're back." Wang Qinglin, who had been sitting and waiting for the entire day, did not look unhappy at all. Instead, he displayed a very respectful attitude toward Zhu Chengqi.

At the sight of Zhu Qin's black and unresponsive face, Wang Qinglin gave Zhu Qin a tug. Zhu Qin pushed his hand away and refused to speak. She was angry. When she was still a lady in the Zhu family, her brother and father doted on her. Now, all of them did not treat her as part of the Zhu family.

On the first day of the Lunar New Year, they visited Elder Lee at the house of the Lee family. She could not say anything about it as Elder Lee was her elder brother's father-in-law.

But what did he mean by his actions today? The Qiao family and the Zhu family had nothing to do with each other. Why did her elder brother ignore her whole family and went out to meet the outsiders? He even stayed out and returned home so late.

If Qinglin had not insisted, she would have gone home.

“Uncle, Brother Baoguo.” Wang Yang, whose bottom felt numb from sitting all day long, was smiling like a flower at the sight of the two of them. “Brother Baoguo, you’re back so late. You must be feeling cold. Come over, sit down and drink some hot tea to warm up your body.”

Wang Qinglin discreetly nodded. Yang Yang was truly his son. He was unlike Zhu Qin who could not think clearly at times.

Actually, Wang Qinglin knew that Zhu Qin did not bother to hide anything when she was with the Zhu family. She was unafraid since her surname was Zhu and she belonged to the Zhu family. Nevertheless, he and his son bore the surname Wang and belonged to the Wang family.

The Zhu family would definitely tolerate Zhu Qin, but not him and his son.

“Brother, I often hear from Wang Yang that Qiao Nan is a very outstanding child. If there’s a chance, could you let us meet with her too?” Wang Qinglin was not embarrassed and even used Qiao Nan as a bridge. “Yang Yang, this child, is obedient, yet naughty at times. I need to find a good example for him and let him know how a truly good child behaves.”

“What good child? No matter how good Qiao Nan is, she’s not related to our Zhu family in any way. Brother, you have the thoughts to be good to other people’s child, but why don’t you spend more effort on Baoguo and Yang Yang?” Zhu Qin was dissatisfied. Her son was his biological nephew.

She had never seen her brother treated Yang Yang that well, so how could another family’s child snatch away the benefit? It was unfair.

“Brother, did you become foolish and muddle-headed from staying in the camp for too long? There are two children in your own family that need your concern, yet you’re so good to an outsider. What are you thinking of?” Zhu Qin aired out all the grievances that she had accumulated over the recent period.

It was rare for men in the army to see women. Had water gone into his brother’s brains that another family’s daughter was like a rare gem to him now?

After letting Zhu Qin vent her frustration, Zhu Chengqi said calmly, “I only have one son.”

“But Yang Yang is also your biological nephew.”

“He’s only my nephew, and his parents dote on him. Even if there’s a need to dote, it won’t be his uncle’s turn to do so.” There was a flash in Zhu Chengqi’s eyes. He took a glance at Wang Qinglin and Wang Yang.

As long as Zhu Qin was present, this pair of father and son would not say more in front of him. In that case, Zhu Qin would be the bad guy, whereas Wang Qinglin and Wang Yang would be the good guys. How could he not understand this two-faced drama? It was just a little disgusting.

“Pfft...” Upon hearing that, Zhu Baoguo was so happy. He nearly laughed out loud and couldn’t help but leak out a weird sound. It was aggravating enough.

Seeing that Wang Yang’s expression was about to change, Wang Qinglin grabbed Wang Yang’s hands. Wang Qinglin maintained the smile on his face. “What Brother said is right. Yang Yang has his grandpa, grandma, dad, and mom doting on him. Yang Yang, you have so many people who dote on you, so you have to do even better. Your uncle and maternal grandpa have been treating you so well since a young age. You must not let everyone down.”

“Dad, don’t worry. I won’t. Uncle, while I was reading ‘Romance of the Three Kingdoms’ previously, there’re some parts that I didn’t understand. Can I seek your guidance?” Wang Yang managed to suppress his fit of anger.

Wang Qinglin looked assured as he curled his lips into a smile. He then looked at Zhu Baoguo and waited for him to lose his temper.

Zhu Baoguo gave a big yawn and then leaned against the sofa. “Wang Yang, you’re so hardworking. You waited until the middle of the night just to seek advice from my dad. It seems like I have to learn from you too.”

Chapter 365: There Are Improvements Finally

“Dad, I’m also quite interested in ‘Romance of the Three Kingdoms’ recently. Why don’t I join in to listen?”

In the past, Zhu Baoguo was most impatient in learning. As such, Wang Yang would always use learning as an excuse to spend individual time with Zhu Chengqi to improve Zhu Chengqi’s impression of him. Zhu Baoguo despised learning so much and would definitely distance himself away.

Hence, when Zhu Baoguo said this, Wang Yang and Wang Qinglin's faces turned pale. They reacted strongly.

Although Zhu Qin was not quite used to Zhu Baoguo's curiosity, she still had some conscience. She said, "It's good to be close. The two of you can learn together. If you have any questions, you can ask them together too. Both of you can also discuss it. You both should have done this long ago."

How good would that be? If they had any questions, they could discuss, learn, and improve together.

Regardless of the number of misunderstandings Baoguo and Yang Yang had, after getting along for some time, they would clear up eventually. The brothers' relationship would only improve.

When Zhu Baoguo heard what Zhu Qin said, he looked at Wang Yang and smiled.

The look in Wang Yang's eyes was sinister and scary. His mouth simply pursed and formed a straight line.

Regardless of what question he asked, Zhu Baoguo would definitely poke his nose into it as long as his uncle was around. However, when his uncle was not at home, Zhu Baoguo would not bother about him. Just as in the past, he would definitely force Grandpa to ban him from coming to the house of the Zhu family.

Over these two years, Zhu Baoguo had progressed more than just a little.

"Fine, the two of you can ask questions together." Zhu Chengqi pretended not to notice the conflict and competition between Zhu Baoguo and Wang Yang. He thus sang a similar tune with Zhu Qin.

Each time Wang Yang came to look for Zhu Chengqi, he never came unprepared. He really did bring the questions along with him.

When he heard Wang Yang posed the questions in a decent manner, Zhu Baoguo raised his eyebrows. He finally knew why he lost out to Wang Yang in the past. "So, this is what you wanted to ask. I can explain this to you without the need to trouble my dad. It's a rare chance. You've addressed me as an elder brother for more than a decade. Today, I can finally fulfill my duty as a brother."

Zhu Baoguo took out his own 'Romance of the Three Kingdoms' book and started explaining to Wang Yang. Who would have thought that Zhu Baoguo, who was once the naughty lad who used to play truancy and fail his examinations all the time, would have such an eloquent manner?

Whoever saw the current Zhu Baoguo would say that he was a child who loved to learn. He was like a little eminent writer who knew a lot. It was truly not exaggerating to say that he was guiding Wang Yang.

Wang Yang sought Zhu Chengqi's guidance because he wanted to show his diligence and enthusiasm in seeking answers. It was not to highlight Zhu Baoguo's progress and knowledge.

"Do you get it now? Or is there anything that you still don't understand? You can ask me. I'll see if I'm able to answer."

"No, no need." Wang Yang gave a grim smile. When he tugged the corners of his lips, they were so stiff that Wang Yang could hardly control them. "Brother, I often heard from Grandpa that your studies have improved a lot. I didn't feel it previously, but I've sensed it deeply today. Truly formidable!"

Since when did the ignorant and incompetent Zhu Baoguo become interested in these things?!

"Hahaha, that's good." Zhu Baoguo smiled complacently. In the past, he felt that ancient Chinese prose were lacking in fluency and hard to understand. He almost bit off his own tongue to recognize and recite all those words in the books even once, not to mention understand them.

"Looking at that happy smile on your face, Brother, you must have been influenced by Qiao Nan. It's truly good that you have Qiao Nan as your friend. She thought of everything for you." The influence that Qiao Nan had on Zhu Baoguo was apparently great. Zhu Baoguo was now willing to accept the ancient Chinese prose.

"That... I don't only mix around with the bad company. I don't need many good friends, just one will do." Zhu Baoguo didn't feel any resentment and anger toward Wang Yang's tone when he mentioned Qiao Nan. Instead, he replied to him proudly. He was laughing at Wang Yang that the latter did not have such a capable friend like Qiao Nan, whereas he did.

Wang Yang was not as good as he thought to be.

Zhu Baoguo did not know that if not for his repeated emphasis of Qiao Nan's existence in front of Wang Yang, it would not have been possible for Qiao Nan to meet the scum, Chen Jun, so early in this lifetime.

Zhu Baoguo did not realize that Zhu Chengqi was already aware of Chen Jun's existence.

When Zhu Baoguo said this, Zhu Chengqi restrained his eyes as he observed Wang Yang discreetly.

In that instance, Zhu Chengqi caught the curse that flashed beneath Wang Yang's eyes when Wang Yang heard Qiao Nan's name.

In that case, Nan Nan's suspicion of Wang Yang trying to sow discord between Zhu Baoguo and her so that Baoguo would become bad was not unfounded. Wang Yang, this nephew of his, had surprised him and done something shocking again.

"Uncle, I don't have any other questions. I shall not disturb Grandpa and you from resting then." After unintentionally allowing Zhu Baoguo to shine brightly in front of Zhu Chengqi, Wang Yang lost the interest to remain in the house of the Zhu family. He wished to go home and calm himself down.

"Sure."

"Let me send you off?" Zhu Baoguo stood up. He crossed his arms and looked at Wang Yang in a provoking manner.

"No need!" Who needed Zhu Baoguo to send him off! When did Zhu Baoguo not only become interested in ancient prose but also polite in his manner?

Was Qiao Nan a magician? He even changed Zhu Baoguo's heart, liver, spleen, lungs, and kidneys! Otherwise, why did Zhu Baoguo seem like he was a totally different person? He was nothing like the Zhu Baoguo that he knew in the past. He had changed.

"Baoguo, that's right. You're the elder brother. If Yang Yang is wrong, you should tell Yang Yang. If he doesn't change, you should tell Auntie. Auntie will definitely teach Yang Yang. The two of you are brothers. Is the relationship between the two of you comparable to outsiders? You must be

united and support each other. That way, the Zhu family and the Wang family will have a good relationship. Understand?”

It was rare for Zhu Baoguo to send them off. Zhu Qin was overjoyed.

Baoguo’s studies had improved and he was a changed person. He knew how to respect her as his auntie and send people off.

True enough, children that loved to learn are the best in the world.

Zhu Baoguo did not reply to Zhu Qin directly. He looked at Wang Yang smilingly and replied, “Auntie, it’s already so late. When you are on the way home, you must ask the chauffeur to drive slowly and not to rush.”

“Ah, don’t worry, he won’t. The weather is cold. Let’s go back quickly.” Zhu Qin nodded happily. Zhu Baoguo sent them off and waited as they boarded the car and left the house of the Zhu family.

As soon as the car of the Wang family left, a sarcastic smile appeared on Zhu Baoguo’s face. “Ah, Wang Yang, I initially thought that you’re very awesome. I didn’t know that you only have so much capability. Oh...”

“Oh? What are you oh-ing about?” Zhu Chengqi gave Zhu Baoguo a slap on his head. “Silly lad.”

If Nan Nan had not been by Baoguo’s side, he did not know what Baoguo would have become with Wang Yang’s plotting against him.

Chapter 366: If You Can’t, I’ll Get Someone Else to Do It

Nan Nan was right. Baoguo was not mature enough. His current thinking could not match that of Wang Yang at all. If Baoguo confronted Wang Yang head-on impulsively, this silly son of his would definitely be the one to lose out.

Judging from this, it seemed like he had to ‘throw’ Baoguo back to the army and give him some life skills training again. At least, he would need to train Baoguo’s brain to become smarter.

“Dad, what did you speak to Xiao Qiao about today? Xiao Qiao’s grades are very good. Would she have any questions to ask you? I don’t believe it.” Zhu Baoguo rubbed his head that was slapped. “Are Xiao Qiao and you keeping something from me?”

“Do you think we will have anything to keep from you and her dad?”

“It doesn’t seem like there’s anything.”

“Then, won’t that do? It’s already so late. Quickly wash up and sleep. Don’t always let others urge you.” Although Baoguo’s plotting ability was not comparable to that of Wang Yang, he had, in fact, improved a lot.

At the thought of the expression on Wang Yang’s face when he left today, Zhu Chengqi calmly glanced at Baoguo and was satisfied with the passable performance of his son, Zhu Baoguo. It was only now that he felt Baoguo had some resemblance to Lee Shu and him.

It was rare that Zhu Chengqi and Zhu Baoguo could get along so peacefully. On the contrary, the atmosphere between Wang Yang and Wang Qinglin was not that good. “Yang Yang, it’s not that Dad is exerting pressure on you. Dad has told you about the situation of the Wang family long ago. Yang Yang, you have to buck up. Don’t let Zhu Baoguo overtake you. In fact, even if Baoguo can’t win against you, as long as he performs well and improves, you know the choice your maternal grandpa and uncle will make. Yang Yang, we all rely on you for the Wang family’s future.”

Wang Qinglin’s words were still ringing in Wang Yang’s ears. Each time he thought of Wang Qinglin’s words, Wang Yang’s mood would be extremely bad.

Why wasn’t his surname Zhu? Why was he not the son of his uncle?

If he had been born earlier, there wouldn’t have been so much trouble. Similar to Zhu Baoguo, he could have idled around and enjoyed the fruits of others’ labor. He could have easily had all the Zhu family had without the need to work hard. Truly, not everyone is equal. The world is unfair.

At the thought of these issues, Wang Yang was so furious that he simply smashed all the cups in his bedroom to the floor.

After losing a round of his temper, Wang Yang picked up the phone and dialed a number.

“Hello?” From the other side of the phone came Chen Jun’s voice, which sounded gruff. Obviously, Wang Yang’s call had disrupted Chen Jun’s good dream.

“Ha, you slept so early? Be careful of kidney failure.” Wang Yang sneered. “I don’t care how you play with women usually but remember what I asked you to do. You’d better show me your results as soon as possible. My patience is limited. If you don’t have the capability, I don’t mind changing to another person. There are many who wish to work for me. It’s not just you, Chen Jun. Do you understand?”

Chen Jun let go of the woman who was sleeping soundly in his arms. His expression turned serious. “I’m in the midst of working on it. You should have seen it. But this Qiao Nan is definitely different. Compared to other young ladies around her age, she is much more mature.”

Hero saving the beauty, endless sincerity in love, and what not—Chen Jun had tried all these means but unfortunately, none of them worked. Now, Chen Jun was only left with his last move and that was to throw money to win the beauty’s smile. This was Chen Jun’s last resort and one that Chen Jun did not wish to use most. He had this nagging feeling that the tactic that was most tried and tested was unlikely to work on Qiao Nan.

“I don’t want to hear any excuses. Whether Qiao Nan is hooked by your trap, that’s your business and it has nothing to do with me. What I want is the outcome. I’ve already said that if you can’t do it, I have no qualms about getting someone else to do this. The fact that Qiao Nan doesn’t like you means you’re not competent enough. I’ll take it as having made a wrong judgment. I’ll give you one more month. If Qiao Nan continues to ignore you during this one month, then don’t blame me for being heartless. I can only ask someone else to do this. I don’t have that much time to let you continue to waste them!”

Having that said, Wang Yang simply slammed down the phone without listening to Chen Jun’s explanation.

At the beeping sound from the other end of the phone, Chen Jun’s expression turned extremely ugly. On this occasion, Wang Yang had really got him by the balls. He could not give up this opportunity. If he did, his father would have to wait for a few more years before he could be promoted from the deputy police commissioner to police commissioner.

“Chen Jun, what’s the matter? It’s already so late and you’re not sleeping. We’ve done it for so long. Aren’t you tired?” The woman lying beside Chen Jun was awakened by the noise. At the mention of

the 'war' between the two earlier, the woman's face turned redder. "Don't tell me you don't wish to sleep? Let me tell you first, I can't do it anymore. You're too much. Was it because you wished to maintain a squeaky clean good image that you never did this when you're still in the school back then?"

Chen Jun's face was cold. He let go of the woman. "I'll send you back."

The squeaky clean image that he maintained in the school previously was useless now. Qiao Nan would not care about it. The effort that he had put in all this while was all in vain.

After he attended college, Chen Jun held the belief that a villain doesn't harm his next-door neighbors. He never had any romantic relationships with the ladies in the school, and neither did he have the habit of having one-night stands. After he received the mission regarding Qiao Nan, Chen Jun especially paid more attention to this aspect.

Just like no man would be annoyed that his wife was a virgin, which woman in the world would not like to be the only one for her husband?

Chen Jun always believed that he could definitely make use of this point to move Qiao Nan and make her accept him.

However, when he came back this time, Chen Jun realized that everything that he had done could not win Qiao Nan's heart. During the past six months, he had constantly written to Qiao Nan. He eventually retreated intentionally for the sake of advancing and even visited Qiao Nan on a special day such as the first day of the Lunar New Year.

Qiao Nan did not care about the good image that he had maintained in the school. She also would not act according to his wish and visit his school to find out about his situation.

The mission that was supposedly easy to complete had been a fiasco. That little physical need of Chen Jun also completely vanished with this phone call of Wang Yang.

"What did you say?" The woman looked at Chen Jun in disbelief. "Can you repeat?"

"I'll send you back. Now." Chen Jun got up from the bed and wore his clothes. "Hurry."

“You...” Chen Jun had worn his shirt and pants. Of course, Chen Jun was not kidding. He was serious. That woman sneered. “All of you men are truly heartless after sleeping with a woman. I didn’t know that you’re no different, Chen Jun.”

“I don’t need you to send me. I’ll leave by myself. Don’t look for me again in the future. I don’t wish to see you anymore!” The woman dressed up, threw a pillow at Chen Jun, and ran out of the house of the Chen family.

When she reached the entrance of the house, the woman halted her steps and looked back. Seeing that Chen Jun was really nowhere in sight, she stomped her feet in fury.

Chapter 367: The More, The Merrier

Chen Jun sat on the balcony. After confirming that the woman had left his house, he took out his cigarette and started smoking quietly.

It was only until there were more than ten cigarette butts on the floor that Chen Jun let out a sigh and returned to the bedroom.

Wang Yang had made himself clear. If he could not settle the matter regarding Qiao Nan within one month, and Qiao Nan did not reveal any liking for him, then Wang Yang would ask someone else to do this. His father had been in the role of the deputy police commissioner for a long time. After much difficulty, he finally found an opportunity through Wang Yang. So, this time, the matter pertaining to Qiao Nan must not fail.

Judging from this, he must definitely wreck his brains to deal with Qiao Nan.

Chen Jun always felt that this matter was not urgent. At the very least, it was not that urgent and he could completely take it a step at a time to break the barrier between Qiao Nan and him and grab hold of her tightly in his hands.

He did not expect that a senior high school student, who was usually an easy target to ‘kidnap’, would have a psychological wall so tall and thick that he completely had no means to climb over. It was also not within Chen Jun’s control that Wang Yang was so anxious about this matter. This was totally unexpected.

“Mom, it’s the seventh day of the Lunar New Year. Are you going there?” Early in the morning, Qiao Zijin’s dissatisfied tone could be heard coming from the small courtyard of the Qiao family. “If you’re still not going, those things will go into Qiao Nan’s tummy. Mom, were you just coaxing me back then? All those words were unreal, weren’t they? Were you lying to me?”

One day after another. The first day of the Lunar New Year had passed, yet nothing. The second and third days passed by in the same fashion. Eventually, one week had passed and Qiao Zijin had not seen any of what Ding Jiayi promised to bring back for her.

On the contrary, the two kilograms of dried food brought back by Qiao Zijin previously had been used up.

“Didn’t you say that there’s a lot of them? Qiao Nan’s appetite is as small as that of a cat. How could she possibly finish eating all of them in such a short time? Even if I wish to help you by looking for your dad to ask for the things, I need to find a suitable reason. If I simply go over and take them, will your dad give them to me? If your dad was really so easy to convince, you would have brought back all the stuff that day.” Ding Jiayi looked like she was in a difficult situation.

Ding Jiayi agreed to this matter readily, but on hindsight, she realized that it was hard to do it.

She had not managed to coax her husband back home, and Old Qiao was obviously biased toward Qiao Nan. Besides, the things were with Old Qiao. If Old Qiao was not willing to, whatever she thought would be useless.

“There’s only one more week before the school reopens. Qiao Nan may not finish them quickly, but what should we do if she brings them to school for her classmates?” Qiao Zijin was judging others by oneself. She felt that Qiao Nan would finish the food off even if there were a lot of them.

Ding Jiayi shook her head. “No, that wretched girl is a little heartless, but she should be able to differentiate clearly between her own family and the outsiders. I don’t believe that she will give them to outsiders instead of her own biological sister.”

“I can’t be sure about that. Qiao Nan may bring them to school for her classmates to eat for the sake of winning them over. Anyway, it’s already the seventh day of the Lunar New Year. Mom, are you able to do what you’ve promised me? I’ll leave it to you.” Qiao Zijin would not accept any explanation. She only wanted one thing, and that was for her mother to quickly bring over all of the dried food. It would be the best if she did not leave anything for Qiao Nan.

Cornered by Qiao Zijin, Ding Jiayi had no alternative but to visit Qiao Dongliang's place on the seventh day of Lunar New Year. Even if she really could not bring back all the things, at the very least, she could bring some home to appease Qiao Zijin.

"Mom, you're going too? Are you sure that you're not going to stay at home today?" Zhai Hua's voice could be heard coming from the quad.

"Yes, I'm going. I won't be at home," Miao Jing said coldly.

Zhai Hua smiled secretly. "But Qiu Chenxi's family will be visiting today. We could let Zhai Sheng leave, but you're the lady owner of the house. Is it really good if you're not around?"

In the past, whenever the Qiu family would visit, her mother would be anxious beyond words, feeling that she had to be present in the house to entertain everyone. Moreover, her mother would dress presentably and doll herself up to look extremely energetic on such a day. Undoubtedly, her mother would wear the pair of unsuitable high heel shoes that was given to her by her father. She would then entertain the Qiu family for the entire day.

That alertness and combat-ready spirit of hers was akin to meeting the president of the country. It was so exaggerated.

Today, when Miao Jing said that she would be visiting Qiao Nan at the house of the Qiao family, Zhai Hua was thoroughly surprised.

"No issue. It will suffice that your father is around. Some people may be happier that I, the lady owner, am not around," Miao Jing said in a fit of anger. In the past, she was silly and refused to concede defeat. However, every time she saw Zhai Yaohui and Qi Minlan smiling, their eyes meeting, looking as if they were soul mates who could understand each other without uttering many words, Miao Jing felt as if a knife was pierced into her heart and lungs.

In the past, she had not sorted out her thoughts and made herself suffer. This year, she just wished to have a more peaceful year. Would that do?

"But Dad is angry. He doesn't look happy at all." Clearly, Zhai Hua felt the happiest that Miao Jing had sorted out her thoughts. However, she could not bring herself to shut her evil lips at this moment and purposely said these to aggravate Miao Jing.

Miao Jing reached out her hands and pointed at Zhai Hua's forehead. "You climbed out of my tummy. Would I not know how many intestines you have? You don't need to use this tactic to goad me into action. I won't turn back after I leave. Send me a message when the Qiu family has left. I don't wish to see the people I dislike in my house."

Even though she could not compete or fight with Qi Minlan, she could avoid her, right?

If Zhai Yaohui was capable, he could leave her for Qi Minlan. Anyway, whoever wished to suffer in this life could go ahead. She was no longer willing to do so.

"Mom, aren't I doing this for your own good?" Zhai Hua was also embarrassed that her intentions had been exposed. "Mom, I'll help you into the car."

"Go, go, go, you stubborn child. Your mom's age is not that old that I need someone to help me into the car. I'll go by myself." Having said that, true enough, Miao Jing decisively went into the car with the charisma of a soldier's lady. She completely did not need the help of others.

"Zhai Sheng, look after Mom." After all, Mom still did not know that the ordinary lady whom Zhai Sheng liked was Nan Nan.

It was rare for her mother and Nan Nan to have chemistry with each other. It would be best for the mother and daughter-in-law to spend more time with each other. Their relationship would then be more harmonious.

Perhaps in a year or two, when her mother and Nan Nan's relationship was stable and her mother knew that Nan Nan was the one that Zhai Sheng was going out with, she might readily approve of their relationship.

Judging from the repulsion that Miao Jing had toward the Qiu family, Zhai Hua felt that this situation was likely to occur.

"I know." One was his wife-to-be and the other was his biological mother. Of course, he would watch after them well.

"Madam, are all of you going to visit my daughter, Nan Nan? Coincidentally, I am as well. Let's go together. The more, the merrier." Ding Jiayi's ears were so sharp, particularly to the words that she

was extremely pleased to hear. The full conversation between the mother, son, and daughter trio was overheard by Ding Jiayi, not a single word less.

Chapter 368: Let Us Chat

Without waiting for Zhai Hua's reaction, Ding Jiayi were as swift as a mouse. All of a sudden, she scuffled out from the darkness and sneaked into the car at lightning speed. She even sat beside Miao Jing. "Madam, your family car is really spacious and nice. I've never sat in such a good car in my whole life. It's all thanks to your family's good fortune that I can sit in this kind of car. My life is considered worthy now." As she said that, Ding Jiayi touched everywhere as if they were precious. Her pair of eyes was looking left and right without a moment of rest.

"..."

"..."

"..."

The mother and children trio of the Zhai family had a moment of silence, particularly Zhai Hua. She already reached out her hand and wanted to grab hold of Ding Jiayi.

At the thought that she, as a soldier, could not even stop an ordinary person, Zhai Hua did not know if she should feel depressed for her lack of physical agility or 'admire' Ding Jiayi's shamelessness which had reached an extraordinarily high level.

"Zhai Sheng, quickly get into the car. Hua Hua, are you going? This car is spacious and can sit many people. Do you want to go together? Nan Nan will definitely be happy to see you." Seeing that the Zhai family did not make any move, Ding Jiayi acted as if she was the owner of the car and took the initiative to call Zhai Hua to come along. It was as if the car belonged to her.

"..." Zhai Hua tugged at the corners of her frozen lips. "Auntie Ding, there's no need. I'm not going. There'll be visitors at my house and I have to stay behind."

She had already experienced Ding Jiayi's 'great' character once. Today was the second time. However, Zhai Hua was full of 'admiration' for Ding Jiayi each time she met her. She did not understand why a person such as Ding Jiayi would exist in this world.

She further could not understand how Ding Jiayi could be Qiao Nan's biological mother. Qiao Nan did not resemble Ding Jiayi in any way no matter from which direction she looked from.

"Since that's the case, then sure. You should come next time. Nan Nan and I will wait for you." Having been addressed as 'Auntie Ding' out of Zhai Hua's courtesy, Ding Jiayi's bones nearly floated.

The daughter of the chief called her 'auntie'. Wouldn't that make her the sister of the chief's wife? In the future, did she have to address the chief as brother-in-law when she saw him?!

The day for a twist of luck to grace her life of failure had finally come!

"Sister, did my family's Nan Nan give you any trouble? Nan Nan is good at everything. It's just that she's too young and immature. She's also stubborn in her ways. I'm really worried that she will provoke you and spoil our relationship. Sister, actually, you can come to the small courtyard of our Qiao family when you have the spare time. I can chat with you and keep you company to relieve your boredom. I have an elder daughter. You should have some impression of her. She's very pretty and smarter than Nan Nan. My family's Zijin is not only pretty but also smart. She studies at The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. If you come to my house, I can also let Zijin keep your company and chat with you." After greeting Zhai Hua, Ding Jiayi turned her body and grabbed Miao Jing's hands as if she had a long-standing sisterly relationship with Miao Jing.

When she heard Ding Jiayi affectionately and enthusiastically as well as melancholically address her as 'sister', Miao Jing, who had her fair exposure to major events, had a fright. Her whole body shivered and had goosebumps all over instantly.

Miao Jing wished to withdraw her hands but didn't expect that Ding Jiayi would be grabbing on them so strongly.

Miao Jing's face turned red. She could not be bothered to give Ding Jiayi any face. She simply said. "That... who are you again? Could you please let go of my hands?"

"Ah... Oh, alright. Sister, I was too nervous. Please don't mind me." She was sisters with the wife of the chief. She would be so proud if other people knew about this.

Her parents had been facing the field and the sky for their entire life. The most prominent people they'd met with were the village chief and the secretary. But she was different. She not only saw the chief but also became sisters with his wife. This was a major event that the village folks would not expect to encounter in their entire lives.

“Zhai Sheng, my head hurts and I'm a little car sick. Move the stuff on the front seat to the trunk. Or you could move them to the back seat. I'll sit in the front seat.” Qiao Nan was totally different from her mother. Qiao Nan always made her feel comfortable. She often forgot that Qiao Nan was actually a child who had not grown up.

But when she saw Qiao Nan's mother...

If Qiao Nan were like her mother, it would be impossible for her to speak a word more to Qiao Nan.

Sister?

When did her mother give her such a younger sister? It had been many decades, but why didn't she hear of it before?

Ding Jiayi still wished to take the opportunity to bond with Miao Jing during the journey and hoped that Miao Jing would address her as 'younger sister'. Thereafter, she would try her best to introduce Qiao Zijin to Miao Jing and let the latter take a liking to Qiao Zijin in hopes of the latter formally acknowledging Qiao Zijin as her goddaughter. Perfect!

Hence, when she heard that Miao Jing was going to sit in the front seat, Ding Jiayi felt extremely regretful and wished so much for another brain that knew how to treat car sickness. In that case, Miao Jing would not need to sit in the front seat and it would be convenient to chat with her.

However, Miao Jing was not feeling well. Ding Jiayi dared not hold her back. She even showed her concern constantly. “Sister, then quickly sit in the front seat. Don't worry about those things and just put them at the back. These are gifts for our family, aren't they? It's fine to put them at the back. Even if they are crushed badly, it's the thought that counts. Sister, you treat me, my family, really well.”

No wonder Qiao Nan had so many good things to eat. So, it was all given by the Zhai family.

The family of the chief truly lived up to its name. Clearly, it was the same items but the quality was much better than the norm.

When Zijin grew up in the future, she must definitely let her find a rich husband. Most importantly, he must be powerful and of certain status.

At that time, she would not need to hitch on the glory of the Zhai family and could take a ride in this type of spacious car. That way, her sister would sit in one car and she the other. The two sisters would be so proud to go out together then!

The more Ding Jiayi said, the worse Miao Jing's 'car sickness' was. She nearly vomited. This mother of Qiao Nan was too merciless.

Zhai Sheng's face was cold. He looked at Ding Jiayi without much emotion. Unlike Zhai Hua, he did not address Ding Jiayi as 'auntie' from the start. He quietly cleared the items on the front passenger seat to let Miao Jing take the seat.

After Miao Jing sat well, Zhai Hua did not mind the trouble to pile up the items which could actually be placed in the trunk on the back seat of the car instead. She very much wished to drown Ding Jiayi with these items.

Zhai Hua's face turned black. Her mother's mood was already bad in the first place because the Qiu family was visiting their house today. Her mother's expression looked slightly better when they mentioned about looking for Qiao Nan in the small quad. Unexpectedly, they met the shameless Ding Jiayi at this juncture who addressed her mother as her elder sister. Ah, where did Ding Jiayi's self-confidence come from?

Was her addressing Ding Jiayi as 'auntie' the cause of this? The latter really took others' politeness for granted.

"Sister, I heard that one won't feel that sick if they chat more with others when they're traveling in the car."

Chapter 369: Please Shut Up

“Let’s chat. You’ll feel more comfortable if we do. Sister, I often see Brother-in-law and you coming in and out of the quad. You’re away more often than you’re home. Is Brother-in-law really that busy? If he’s so busy, why don’t you find someone to help him? If Brother-in-law has someone to assist him, he will definitely feel more at ease.”

Perhaps when that time came, Old Qiao would have the opportunity to resume his previous career. She would then have the possibility to become the wife of a high ranking soldier!

Miao Jing’s face revealed an expression of ridicule. Having come into contact with all sorts of bad characters, of course Miao Jing understood Ding Jiayi’s true meaning behind those words.

Ding Jiayi was requesting a stranger in an imposing manner to help pave an opportunity for her husband. Miao Jing held her forehead. This would not do. Her head was getting dizzier.

She was happy to chat with Qiao Nan. However, when she chatted with Qiao Nan’s mother, just being a passive listener already made her feel terrible.

She had clearly sat in the front seat to distance herself away from Ding Jiayi, but Ding Jiayi actually refused to sit properly. Instead, she bent forward, almost standing up, and held the back of Miao Jing’s seat. She moved her head closer to Miao Jing and insisted to chat with Miao Jing even in such an uncomfortable position. Miao Jing could hardly tolerate this behavior.

Miao Jing leaned on the back of the seat and closed her eyes. Why didn’t Qiao Nan’s mother feel awkward when she did this?

“My mother is unwell. Can we not talk?” Through the rearview mirror, Zhai Sheng said without reservation. Ding Jiayi was clearly seizing the opportunity to make her requests.

“Oh, alright. Sister, then you rest well. Upon reaching our house, we can have a good chat again once you feel better. There’s no hurry. We’ll have a lot of opportunities and time in the future.” Ding Jiayi zipped her mouth thereafter. Rich people were spoiled. They were used to a comfortable life and had a lot of such illnesses.

She had never sat in such a good private car before. Car sickness and discomfort? She felt none of those. She only felt the fast speed of the car and the comfortable seat under her that was cushy and springy.

This would not do. When Zijin was married to a good family, she did not want anything else. She just wanted her son-in-law to get her such a good car and a chauffeur. She could then be chauffeured to wherever she wanted to go. That would be so flashy!

At the thought of this, Ding Jiayi finally quiet down and spared the back of Miao Jing's car seat, sitting properly in her own seat.

As she could not chat with Miao Jing, Ding Jiayi then placed her thoughts on the gifts that Zhai Sheng was delivering to the small quad. At the sight of these valuable items, of which many she had not seen before, Ding Jiayi's eyes revealed a ray of greed.

There's so many good stuff. How good would that be if she could bring some of them back for Zijin to supplement her health?

These items were definitely valuable! If she took them out to sell, she would most probably have Zijin's school fees for the next few semesters covered.

The Zhai family obviously lived up its name. They were so generous in their gifts.

The Zhai family did not have an intimate relationship with the Qiao family. Did the wife of the chief truly wish to acknowledge her as a sister?

Zhai Sheng did not miss any of Ding Jiayi's expressions.

At this moment, Zhai Sheng finally understood why Qiao Nan was unwilling to stay in the small courtyard of the Qiao family, which she had grown up in ever since she was a child, on the night of the Lunar New Year's Eve despite how late and cold that night was. She would rather return to the small quad, which was not really her home, to pass the night of the Lunar New Year's Eve.

It was Qiao Nan's greatest sorrow in her life to have a mother like Ding Jiayi.

"Sister, we've reached." Once they arrived at the small quad, Ding Jiayi first opened her mouth and said loudly before others could react. "Nan Nan, come over and welcome your Auntie Miao. Your Auntie Miao is unwell. Quickly pour a cup of hot tea for her. This child really is... You're already clumsy as is, and you even dawdle now. You're not smart and don't resemble your sister at all. Speed up, the visitor has arrived. As a host, you should make preparations earlier."

“What nonsense are you shouting about?” At the sound of Ding Jiayi’s voice, Qiao Dongliang immediately shouted at her when he came out of the house before he could figure what Ding Jiayi was talking about. “You... Zhai Sheng? You all are really here. This is...?”

Qiao Dongliang had not seen Miao Jing before. Nevertheless, when he saw Miao Jing coming here together with Zhai Sheng, and given the situation that Qiao Nan had described to him, Qiao Dongliang could guess who Miao Jing was. “Madam... Madam Zhai?”

“We’re all family. Do you know how to address people? What madam? Call her ‘sister’.” Ding Jiayi was dissatisfied as Old Qiao’s way of addressing Miao Jing could possibly widen the distance between Miao Jing and them. It was hard for her to acknowledge this sister. How silly of Old Qiao.

“Shut up!” Qiao Dongliang’s face turned red then crimson, especially when he saw that when Ding Jiayi said the word ‘sister’, Miao Jing’s face nearly turned black on the spot.

The Qiao family did not have any interactions with the Zhai family. If not for Qiao Nan, the Qiao family would be like passersby to the Zhai family.

Madam Zhai and Zhai Sheng obviously came because of Qiao Nan, yet Ding Jiayi was shameless enough to address the other party as ‘sister’, as if Madam Zhai and Zhai Sheng came for her. If that had really been the case, they would have gone to the small courtyard of the Qiao family directly.

“Nan Nan, your Auntie Miao and Brother Zhai are here.” Enduring the impulse to hide his face, Qiao Dongliang took a deep breath and shouted for Qiao Nan.

“Auntie Miao and Brother Zhai are here?” When she heard that, Qiao Nan was extremely surprised. It was the first few days of the Lunar New Year. Wouldn’t the entrance of the Zhai family’s residence be crowded with people who wanted to wish them a happy New Year, just like that of her master? She thought that it had been an accidental occurrence on the first day of the Lunar New Year. However, they were here again on the seventh day of the New Year today. Did the Zhai family have so much spare time? She did not believe it.

“Auntie Miao, Brother Zhai, are you really here?” When she saw the two of them, Qiao Nan was stupefied.

Although she and Zhai Sheng were already together, Qiao Nan never wished for them to be like any other couples. To others, a day away from their loved ones felt like three seasons. Zhai Sheng and she were destined not to have such a 'sticky' situation.

They had met twice within the first seven days of the Lunar New Year. This was already way beyond Qiao Nan's expectations.

"Aren't you saying the obvious?" Ding Jiayi disciplined her. True enough, this wretched girl did not know how to speak properly. It sounded like the wretched girl did not wish for her sister and Zhai Sheng to come. "Sister, don't take any issue with Nan Nan. I've already said that this child is not smart enough. Her tongue is not sweet enough. Don't take it to heart. Let's go in and chat? I've so many things that I wish to tell you about."

"Sister?" A big question mark appeared on each of Qiao Nan's eyes. When were her mother and Auntie Miao on such good terms? When did they become sisters?

Miao Jing, who had a high tolerance level, gave a stiff smile. "Mr. Qiao, can I talk to Qiao Nan alone? Nan Nan, this child, I really like her. Our family's Hua Hua is used to being untamed ever since she was little. She's like a boy and doesn't seem like a girl at all. Your family's Nan Nan is good. She's obedient and sensible. I like to chat with her."

Chapter 370: I Don't Know You Well

Within the Qiao family, she only wanted to chat with Qiao Nan.

Before Qiao Dongliang could reply, Ding Jiayi interrupted them. "Sister, Nan Nan is still young and doesn't know anything. What can she chat with you about? Let me keep you company and chat with you. Old Qiao should also make a trip to our house and get Zijin to come over. We can let Zijin and you, my sister, bond with each other."

Ding Jiayi was fighting for the opportunity to be the 'leader' at all times. She certainly did not forget about her most beloved daughter.

"Sister, you've not interacted with our family's Zijin before. As long as you chat with her, you'll definitely like that child. That elder daughter of mine is pretty and smart. She is really blessed.

People nowadays don't believe in this anymore. When I just gave birth to Zijin, a passing by fortune teller told me that Zijin is someone who will bring good fortune to her family and husband."

"I don't believe in this too," Miao Jing replied with a weak smile.

"Sister, you don't believe it?" Ding Jiayi felt extremely disappointed. "Actually, I don't believe it either. It's just to get some good luck. Old Qiao, what are you waiting for? My sister wants to see Zijin. Let Zijin come over and see her elder auntie. It's the Lunar New Year. Zijin should also wish my sister a happy New Year."

If the chief's wife really acknowledged them as a family, she did not need to worry about Zijin's future anymore.

With an elder auntie like the chief's wife, would Zijin still need to do well in her studies? She would be able to land a job in a few seconds!

"There's no such need." Miao Jing's smiling face nearly crumbled. "After all, New Year is just about red packets. It's just that I don't know your elder daughter well. There's no need to let the child make so many trips. The reason that I came today is to see Nan Nan. The two of you are husband and wife and hardly meet each other. You should chat. Nan Nan, where's your room? Bring me there."

Miao Jing expressed clearly that she did not know Qiao Zijin well and did not wish to meet her.

In fact, she did not know Ding Jiayi well either. It was just that Ding Jiayi's skill of seizing the opportunity for her own benefit was really superb.

Miao Jing had not been blunt and Ding Jiayi's enthusiasm increased as she spoke. She looked as if Miao Jing were truly her relative. The affection shown was akin to that of a biological sister. It made others feel extremely uncomfortable.

"Auntie Miao, my bedroom is over there." Qiao Nan could not stand the shameless demeanor of Ding Jiayi any longer too. Her mother kept calling Auntie Miao 'sister', but Auntie Miao did not acknowledge it at all. Even so, her mother's fawning did not cease.

“It’s fine not to fetch, then. Let’s go to the room together.” Ding Jiayi had no choice but to give up on the idea of fetching Qiao Zijin here. However, she did not give up the thought of chatting with Miao Jing.

“No need. I only wish to chat with Nan Nan. Your surname is Ding, right? Ding Jiayi, can you not disturb Nan Nan and me? I also don’t really like strangers to be too close to me. Thank you.” Miao Jing moved back a few steps and pulled Qiao Nan into the bedroom.

“Sister...” Ding Jiayi refused to give up. They might not know each other that well now, but after they chatted for some more, she would definitely be closer to the wife of the chief than that wretched girl.

Didn’t all the people who were familiar with each other start out by chatting with each other?

“Enough!” Qiao Dongliang held on to Ding Jiayi. “You’re already of such an age. Can you stop being such an embarrassment?” The wife of the chief had already made her stand so clearly, yet Ding Jiayi was still so shameless and wanted to tag along.

If not for Nan Nan, the chief’s wife and Zhai Sheng would not even visit their house. Ding Jiayi still acted as if the greatest credit were hers. Qiao Dongliang really could not tolerate what he had seen.

“In what way am I an embarrassment?” She even knew the wife of the chief and even called her ‘sister’.

If the people in the quad knew about this, which one of them would not be envious of her? Who still dared to laugh at her behind her back and said that she could not even stop a man like Old Qiao from leaving?

“I’m on good terms with my sister. Why can’t that be?”

“You address the chief’s wife as ‘sister’, but did she ever acknowledge that?” Qiao Dongliang was both amused and angry. “She came for Nan Nan. They truly like Nan Nan and want to interact with her. It has got nothing to do with you. Don’t be so shameless and fling yourself in front of others. Didn’t you see the look of disdain in the eyes of the chief’s wife when she looked at you?”

Ding Jiayi did not have any tinge of self-awareness. What she said was ridiculously amusing.

“Nonsense!” Qiao Nan was just a little girl. How could she get to know a character like the chief’s wife? What could they chat about when they’re together? Don’t tell her they would chat about learning and studies?

“You know it in your heart whether it’s nonsense or not. I don’t hope for anything else. As long as you’re my wife, please control your temper for the sake of the Qiao family’s dignity. If you wish to embarrass yourself, you can do so. When the officers of the Civil Affairs Bureau start working, we could collect our divorce certificate, and you can do whatever you like afterward. At that time, you will be embarrassing the Ding family and it doesn’t concern my Qiao family. Propriety, justice, honesty, and sense of shame—Ding Jiayi, how much of these values are left of you?”

“I...” Ding Jiayi was both angry and anxious. She did not wish to miss this good opportunity to get to know Miao Jing. Nevertheless, she was afraid that Qiao Dongliang would really divorce her.

She could not understand how a little girl like Qiao Nan could coax the chief’s wife. There was no reason that she, who had lived a few more decades than Qiao Nan, had no way to make the chief’s wife acknowledge her as a sister.

If they really became relatives with the Zhai family, then their Qiao family would really be prosperous. They did not need to worry for life.

All this while, she just lacked this opportunity.

With much difficulty, the opportunity was now right before her eyes. Ding Jiayi was thus not willing to give up.

“Uncle Qiao, I’ll place the items here.” Zhai Sheng quietly became the coolie. He carried the items down from the car. “Nan Nan is too skinny and she’s weak. She needs to supplement her health and improve it gradually. Uncle Qiao had an accident previously. You should also eat well. Please don’t hate to part with or eat them. Otherwise, the ‘mouse’ will feed on them and the good stuff will then be wasted. These are handpicked by my mom for Nan Nan!”

Zhai Sheng intentionally emphasized Qiao Nan’s name. He did not want Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi to use all sorts of reasons to pass what he gave to Qiao Nan to Qiao Zijin instead.

When he said that, Zhai Sheng did not look at Ding Jiayi at all. That kind of character made people feel extremely annoyed.

Even Zhai Sheng, who had such great endurance, could hardly control his temper. He nearly flared up.

“Don’t worry, I’ll definitely do so.” Qiao Dongliang’s face turned red. He could not help thinking about what happened on the first day of the Lunar New Year. Qiao Zijin wished to heartlessly take away all the stuff that Zhai Sheng sent over, leaving nothing for Qiao Nan.

Fortunately, he was not muddle-headed. Otherwise, he, as a senior, would not be able to lift up his head in front of Zhai Sheng.

“Zhai Sheng, it’s not that I, as your auntie, want to discipline you. We all know who exactly did your mom send these over for.”