

## RTAMM 421

### Chapter 421: Left with His Face Covered

Zhu Baoguo knitted his eyebrows and raised his fists. “Let me warn you. Don’t force me to use my fists. The school taught the students well! They only know to shirk responsibility? Is Xiao Qiao to blame for your cheating in the exams? Don’t be too cocky!”

What Zhu Baoguo said was, in fact, directed at Principal Wei. After all, Qiao Zijin was from The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China.

Principal Wei flushed red in anger. “Sun Lei, do you have any evidence? The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China will never tolerate students who have no self-respect or the will to improve, and who resort to deceit and are full of lies. As long as you tell us the truth, we will take it into consideration when deciding your punishment.”

Principal Wei straightened his back. He would not be looked down upon by others.

Even if The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China had a bad student like Qiao Zijin, it did not mean that the school was not good in disciplining students. As the principal, he could tell right from wrong.

Sun Lei’s eyes lit up. This was what he was waiting for. “Yes, I have the proof.” Sun Lei took out the glasses case from his schoolbag. He opened it and took away the plastic layer inside the case.

After the plastic was peeled off, there was a piece of folded paper at the bottom of the case.

Sun Lei took the paper out of the spectacles case and handed it over to Principal Wei. “Principal, look at this. This is the evidence. Back then, I was in the same class as Qiao Zijin. In the beginning, I don’t know that Qiao Zijin cheated to come in eighth place in the class. It was during one of the exams when someone threw something at my feet and I picked it up out of curiosity had I realized that it was the answer for the exam that I was sitting for right then.”

Since they were in the same examination hall and had the same paper, Sun Lei only needed to make a comparison to know what the content on the paper was.

Besides, since they were in the examination hall, it was obvious what the paper was for.

Sun Lei was shocked when he first saw the paper. He was afraid that he would be discovered by the teacher. Hence, he quickly hid the paper.

Sun Lei observed the teacher for a long time and was sure that the teacher did not notice that he had the paper. After making sure that nobody was looking, he took a look at the paper.

What was written on the paper was similar to what Sun Lei had written on his exam paper, but there were a few differences.

Sun Lei made a mental note and hid the paper well. He continued with the exam and pretended as if nothing had happened.

When the exam was over and they had a short break in between, Sun Lei paid special attention to the students in the same examination hall as him. He was sure that the owner of the paper must have behaved out of the norm, looking uneasy and fidgety.

Qiao Zijin was anxious that the paper was missing. She kept staring at the examination hall.

When they reentered the examination hall on the same day, Qiao Zijin deliberately lowered her head and looked carefully at the places near her seat, trying to look for the paper.

Most people would not have noticed anything strange about Qiao Zijin, but Sun Lei who had the paper with him could tell right away that Qiao Zijin was acting suspiciously.

“Even if you found this piece of paper in the examination hall, what does it have to do with Zijin? Is her name written on the paper? Didn’t you mention that there are handwriting experts? You should do a test to determine whether the handwriting on the paper belongs to Zijin.”

When Ding Jiayi looked at the handwriting on the paper, she was certain that they were not written by Qiao Zijin.

Since it was not written by Zijin, how could this paper prove that Zijin cheated in the past exams?

It was just an exam. It was not that difficult.

The wretched girl could come in the first place in the level time and again. Given Zijin's intelligence, it would not be that difficult to come in eighth place in the class. There was no need for her to cheat.

Zijin was so smart. She definitely did not need to cheat. She did not believe what Sun Lei said.

Sun Lei was not surprised that Ding Jiayi would side with Qiao Zijin. "The handwriting on the paper does not belong to Qiao Zijin, but it can't prove that this paper has nothing to do with her and that she didn't cheat. Whenever we have important exams, the teacher will keep the papers for future reference. I still remember which exam and for which semester it was when I found the paper. It's not possible for everyone to have the same results and answers. If you want to know whether I'm telling the truth, after going back, the teachers can compare Qiao Zijin's exam papers with the content of this paper and we will know whether Qiao Zijin copied the answers or not."

Sun Lei smiled grimly. "What is true cannot become false, and what is false cannot become true. Do you think that I am easily bullied? Do you think that I will not revolt?"

He had underestimated Qiao Zijin. She must have come up with this plan to plot against him and get him expelled from The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China as he had seized upon the chinks in her armor and she refused to be threatened by him.

She was too vicious!

"Besides that, I have done my investigations. I may know the person who copied the answer and gave it to Qiao Zijin. The two daughters in the Qiao family are pretty, and Qiao Zijin is quite popular in school. As far as I know, there are several second-year boys from other classes who like Qiao Zijin but dare not pursue her because of the school rules, so they try to please Qiao Zijin secretly."

He started a relationship while he was in school and had to be issued a warning.

Qiao Zijin was not in any way better than him.

To put it bluntly, Qiao Zijin used the honey trap to get the answers from the boys. She was a miserable wretch!

Principal Wei could feel his temples pulsating. He wished to give Sun Lei a slap to make him shut up and he hoped that he could send Qiao Zijin out of The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China.

“What a good show.” Principal Meng appeared to be very calm.

Regardless of what the truth was, it had nothing to do with Ping Cheng High School. It was The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China that was creating trouble. It was an unexpected misfortune to Qiao Nan. What happened today had nothing to do with Qiao Nan. She was plain unlucky to have Qiao Zijin as her sister.

“Principal Wei, it’s getting late. The students in our school place great importance in their studies. They should be in the classroom doing their revision. What do you say?”

“Sorry, I have been imposing on you for such a long time. What happened today is The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China’s sole responsibility. I apologize for stirring up so much trouble for you today. We have a lot of students in our school and there are lapses in our selection of students and there is a black sheep in every flock. Sorry about the embarrassing behavior. We will get going now.”

Principal Wei had been totally disgraced. He could not wait to leave right away with his face covered. He did not wish to stay to be humiliated further.

## Chapter 422: Dad Believes in You

Sun Lei’s form teacher kept quiet all the while, but he knew that the principal would reprimand him for what happened today.

But at the thought that Qiao Zijin’s form teacher would have a tougher time than him, he felt slightly at ease. He did not need to take the full blame for this incident. “Aren’t you leaving?” The form teacher gave Sun Lei a disdainful look. He only knew how to cook up troubles. He was still so young, yet he was only interested in getting a girlfriend. Why did he not put his attention on his studies to score a good result?

He could tell that the principal was enraged. Though Sun Lei would not be able to escape unscathed, Qiao Zijin and her form teacher would have to bear the full brunt of his anger.

“No, that’s not right…” Ding Jiayi was dumbfounded. Though she believed in Qiao Zijin, she could tell that everyone had believed that Qiao Zijin cheated during the exams. Everyone believed in Sun Lei’s words. “Old Qiao, Zijin is being framed and there’s nothing that she can do to clear her name. You must put in a good word for her. Zijin didn’t cheat. She is being framed! It is obvious that Sun Lei didn’t manage to make Qiao Nan like him, so he blames it on Zijin. He is telling lies. Can’t the principals and teachers tell that he is lying?”

“Yes, I am innocent. I didn’t cheat.” Qiao Zijin refused to admit that she was in the wrong.

Zhu Baoguo shook his head. “Sun Lei has already said that we only need to compare the exam papers to know whether you have cheated or not. If the answer on your exam paper does not tally with the answer on the paper, then you didn’t cheat. But if they match, do you still have the cheek to say that you are innocent? Since you came in eighth place in the class, there must be quite a number of mistakes. It is normal to have the same correct answers, but it will be strange to have the same answers that are wrong. By then, nobody will believe that you didn’t cheat.”

“Zijin, is it true that you didn’t cheat?” Qiao Dongliang, who had been silent all along, spoke up.

Qiao Zijin dashed to Qiao Dongliang’s side and pulled his clothes, seeking his protection. “Dad, I am being wronged. I really did not cheat in the exams. Sun Lei couldn’t make Qiao Nan like him, thus he blames it on me. I am innocent. Dad, you must believe me. You must help me.”

“You refuse to be convinced until you’re faced with grim reality.” Sun Lei snorted disdainfully.

If Qiao Zijin did not cheat, why would she be scared stiff and take the initiative to introduce her sister to him as a girlfriend when he told Qiao Zijin about the paper that he had with him?

In fact, when Sun Lei seized the chinks in Qiao Zijin’s armor, he had actually wanted Qiao Zijin as his girlfriend.

And the boy who copied the answers for Qiao Zijin had the same goal in mind as well. They would not help her for no apparent reason.

Since Qiao Zijin had the intention to tantalize the boy, she would never agree to be Sun Lei's girlfriend.

If she agreed to Sun Lei's suggestion, the boy who helped her would be angry with her.

Since Sun Lei insisted that Qiao Zijin be his girlfriend, she had no choice but to suggest Qiao Nan as an alternative.

She had thought that Qiao Nan was not ugly. In fact, in the eyes of the average people, Qiao Nan was pretty. Furthermore, she was in Ping Cheng High School, a good school. She had good grades and was beautiful. A girl like her should be very popular.

Therefore, Qiao Zijin told Sun Lei that she would introduce her sister to him.

When Sun Lei saw the photo of Qiao Nan that Qiao Zijin showed him and heard about her grades in school, he was very satisfied with Qiao Nan and agreed to go ahead with Qiao Zijin's suggestion.

At that time, Qiao Zijin did not have the intention to scheme against Qiao Nan. She merely wanted to stall for time.

Qiao Zijin never expected that Sun Lei would be so difficult and that he was bent on having a girlfriend. He was already in his second year and his homework had been piling up, yet he was concerned about this matter and rushed Qiao Zijin to settle it as soon as possible.

Qiao Zijin did not dare to arrange for Sun Lei to meet Qiao Nan. Hence, she came up with the idea for Qiao Nan and Sun Lei to be pen pals so as to pacify him.

All the letters that Sun Lei received were not sent or written by Qiao Nan. They were, in fact, written by Qiao Zijin. Qiao Zijin had loads of homework and assignments every day, yet she had to pretend to be Qiao Nan and write letters to Sun Lei, acting like his girlfriend. It was a torturous task for Qiao Zijin.

As a result, the handwriting on the letters to Sun Lei was often messier than her usual handwriting.

What made Qiao Zijin exasperated was that Sun Lei was not contented with communicating through letters. He was foolish enough to go to Ping Cheng High School and tell everyone that Qiao Nan was his girlfriend.

Qiao Zijin boiled with anger at the thought of this.

If not for Sun Lei who messed things up, nobody would find out about this and she would not be issued a warning.

She really doubted how Sun Lei managed to be enrolled into The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. Why would he do things that harmed others without benefiting himself? Was he too bent on having a girlfriend that he had lost all reasons?

Everything that happened was beyond Qiao Zijin's expectation. She did not expect that things would turn out to be like this. She had thought that she just had to suffer for a year before college entrance examination was over and they would leave The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. Thereafter, she could be rid of Sun Lei, the troublemaker.

Everyone was studying in high school. They did not even have enough time for their studies. Why would he have the time to start a relationship?

Qiao Zijin might have it planned out, but she never expected that Sun Lei was so bent on having a girlfriend that he was beyond reasons.

Sun Lei was stubborn, but Qiao Nan was even more stubborn. She refused to help her at all. Qiao Zijin felt as if she was going to bawl her eyes out.

Why was she so unlucky to have dealings with such people? Her classmate was not good to her and she did not have a good sister.

If one of them had some conscience, she would not end up like this.

What was wrong with this society? People were so indifferent and cold. They were family! How could Qiao Nan stand by and watch while she suffered? She was too vicious and cold-hearted!

Qiao Dongliang had no idea what was going through Qiao Zijin's mind. He took a deep breath and asked, "Are you sure you didn't cheat?"

"No!"

Seeing that Qiao Zijin was so certain, Qiao Dongliang relaxed slightly. "Zijin, you are my daughter. I will always believe in you. Since you said no, I will believe you this time."

"Thank you, Dad!" Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi smiled at the same time. At the crucial time, it was Qiao Dongliang who stood by their side and sheltered them from the evils of the world.

Qiao Dongliang pursed his lips and revealed a very reluctant smile. "Zijin, since you are innocent, you don't have to be afraid. I will accompany you."

#### Chapter 423: A Slap Each

"Accompany me?" What did her father mean?

"Yes, I will accompany you. Since you have not cheated, nobody can wrong you. Let's go to The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China and take out your exam paper to make a comparison so as to prove your innocence. Otherwise, we can never have an answer. Zijin, since you are innocent, you don't have to worry. Besides, your mom and I will go with you. It's alright." Qiao Dongliang patted Qiao Zijin with trembling hands.

Seeing that Qiao Zijin had driven Qiao Dongliang to a corner, Qiao Nan turned and did not wish to see this scene.

"No, I won't go!" Qiao Zijin shrugged Qiao Dongliang's hands away. "Even if the answers on my exam paper are the same as the content on the paper, it does not mean anything. It is possible to have the same answers. It can be a coincidence. This does not prove that I have cheated!"

"No matter how beautiful it sounds, it doesn't change anything." It was rare that Zhu Baoguo was able to make such a thoughtful comment. "If you are innocent, your response would be, 'Go ahead to compare. I have never cheated, and the answer will never be the same.'"



Compared to Wang Yang, Qiao Zijin was not as good in telling lies.

“Let’s go.” Principal Wei had no wish to stay at Ping Cheng High School any longer. He was too embarrassed.

It was not up to Qiao Zijin to decide whether she wanted to check or not.

As soon as he got to the bottom of this matter, Qiao Zijin would have to leave The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China!

Cheating, starting a relationship while in school, having such a mother like Ding Jiayi. It was plain unlucky for the school to have a student like Qiao Zijin.

Principal Wei took the lead to leave, and Sun Lei’s form teacher followed thereafter. Sun Lei took his schoolbag and glared at Qiao Zijin before leaving. Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi were the only two who were left behind.

Qiao Zijin grabbed Ding Jiayi’s hand anxiously. “Mom, what should I do now? Sun Lei wronged me and the principal believed his words. What should I do now? What should I do?!”

Qiao Zijin cried and stomped her feet. She remembered the expression on the principal’s face. She was scared stiff that she dared not leave with him, but as a student of The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, she had to go back. Once she went back to school, she would have to face up to what happened today.

Thinking of all this, Qiao Zijin harbored the thought of dying so that she did not have to deal with any of it.

“Don’t worry. You’ll be alright.” Ding Jiayi was out of her wits as well. She could not think of any solution. “Old Qiao, what do you think? We can’t watch helplessly while Zijin is being wronged. Qiao Nan is to blame for everything. She is your sister! Why can’t you help her at the critical moment? It won’t hurt you at all. When everything is over, we can explain to your teacher and principal. As I said, you have no conscience at all!”

Ding Jiayi was bitterly disappointed that Zijin was the wretched girl’s sister.

How could the wretched girl be so cold-hearted and refused to help Zijin? How could there be such a person like her?

For this alone, there was no way that she could be nice to that wretched girl.

Since the wretched girl could look on indifferently, not helping her sister, that wretched girl would not care for her in the future as well.

“Shut up.” Qiao Dongliang closed his eyes in disappointment. Qiao Zijin had let him down. Ding Jiayi was not much better either. It was because of Ding Jiayi that Qiao Zijin could not change for the better. “Is that what you are supposed to say? Forget it. I suppose there’s no way that I can make you understand in this life.”

“Nan Nan, you must study hard. Principal, teacher, you have seen what happened today. Nan Nan is really innocent. She was implicated by others. I hope what happened today will not affect her studies. I am sorry.”

Qiao Dongliang gave a deep bow to Principal Meng and Teacher Liu. Since what happened last time, this was the second time he bowed to them.

The school did not owe them anything, yet they had created troubles twice for the school. He owed the principal and the teacher an apology.

“You don’t have to...” Principal Meng sighed. He did not know what to say. It just so happened that Qiao Dongliang had such foolish and troublesome wife and elder daughter. He supposed Qiao Nan inherited all the good genes in the Qiao family. Apart from Qiao Nan, Qiao Dongliang seemed to be the only one in the Qiao family who was sane.

“It’s getting late. Both of you should go back. Qiao Nan, you and Zhu Baoguo should go back to the classroom to revise and finish your assignments. I suppose several class representatives are waiting for you. As for Zhai Sheng, I will give him a call to tell him about the situation and that we do not need the handwriting expert anymore.” Teacher Liu was enraged by what happened today.

Luckily, his own students were not at fault today. The students from The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China were the ones who stirred up the trouble. Otherwise, he might be so mad that he would end up in the hospital.

“Principal, Teacher Liu, we will go back first.” Qiao Nan looked at Teacher Liu in doubts. She opened her mouth to say something.

But given the situation now, it did not seem suitable to ask about Zhai Sheng. She could only leave with Zhu Baoguo.

Since Qiao Nan and Zhu Baoguo had left, Qiao Dongliang, Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin must leave the office as well. Principal Meng could no longer stand the sight of Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin.

“Old Qiao, what do we do now? Zijin is so scared that she dares not go back to school, but she has to go back and continue her studies. There is still one more year before she will graduate.” Ding Jiayi could not help but ask as soon as they were at the gate of Ping Cheng High School. “Zijin, don’t worry. We’ll think of a solution. I just don’t understand. It is only a small matter. Why must the teachers at The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China and Ping Cheng High School kick up such a big fuss and made it known to the principals of the two schools? Are they foolish?”

The fewer the people who knew about this incident, it would be easier for her to settle the problem. She might be able to cover up everything by spending some money and buying them some gifts.

But the principals of both schools knew about what happened. At the thought of the amount of money that she spent to send Qiao Zijin into The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China two years ago, she was worried that she might need to spend even more money to cover up for this incident today.

Qiao Dongliang, who stood in the dark and thus had his expression hidden from Ding Jiayi, stopped in his tracks. He turned and gave a tight slap each to Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin.

The mother and daughter earned a slap to their faces.

Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin were in a daze. Ding Jiayi raised her voice. “How dare you hit me? You’re so useless! You could do nothing when Qiao Zijin is in trouble and yet you had the audacity to hit me! You are so useless! You shouldn’t have married nor had daughters!!”

Chapter 424: French Windows That Were Larger Than Doors

“Y-you have ruined our lives!”

Qiao Zijin, who had never been slapped by Qiao Dongliang, covered the left side of her face that was slapped. She pursed her lips and cried silently.

“No, I haven’t ruined your lives. At least, you still have the rest of your life to find a man who will be able to improve your life.” Qiao Dongliang continued in a low and sullen voice. “We have been separated for more than half a year. In another year or so, we can get divorced. By that time, you can find a father that Zijin wants and a man that is up to your standards. Both of you are one worse than the other. Both of you are full of lies. I can’t tell which are the truths and which are lies. Since both of you are so capable, you can think of a way by yourself. In the future, don’t come to me for help.”

At the thought of how Qiao Zijin refused to admit her mistake despite the many times that he asked her, Qiao Dongliang was devastated. He felt as if he had fallen into the icy river in December. He felt cold to the bone.

Not only had the elder daughter looked down on him, but she was also not truthful to him.

To err is human. It was alright to make mistakes as long as one was willing to change.

As long as Zijin was truthful to him and told him the truth, even if he had to kneel down and beg, he would find ways to get Zijin’s principal to give her another chance and not to expel her because of what happened today.

It was indeed wrong for students to cheat, but he had never heard of students being expelled as a result of that.

To put it bluntly, the reasons why things became out of control was that everything happened all at once and that the principal from The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China was disgraced in front of the principal from Ping Cheng High School.

As long as the principal and teacher were persuaded by reason and moved by emotion, what happened today would not end up like this and there would be a chance to turn around the situation.

However, Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin had not thought of this, and even if Qiao Dongliang knew this, he was too disheartened to do anything more.

It was only until today that Qiao Dongliang realized it was wrong of them to spend all their savings to send Qiao Zijin to study at The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. She did not cherish the chance to study. Instead, she learned to cheat and scheme against her sister.

Maybe it would be a better option for the elder daughter to leave The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China to study at another school.

“Dad, there’s no need for you to crack wise. You don’t need me anymore since you have Qiao Nan who is good in her studies. You pretended to be nice to me in the past. Alright, so you don’t want me anymore, and only want Qiao Nan? It’s fine with me! I don’t want you anymore. Dad, let’s wait and see! One day, I will prove to you that I am better than Qiao Nan and you will regret your decisions!”

Qiao Zijin yelled and ran off.

She never expected her father to add salt to the injury during her most difficult times.

She hated Qiao Nan, her father, and her mother.

It turned out that her mother had made a fuss at Ping Cheng High School and had left a bad impression on the principal. However, her mother refused to admit it and lied to her when she asked her about it.

Because of this, she had been in an unfavorable position ever since she stepped into Ping Cheng High School.

Qiao Nan was better in the studies than her, thus her father sided with Qiao Nan.

People said that parents’ love was the greatest love in the world. It was all lies. Her parents were not truly good to her. They only thought about themselves. She had no need for this kind of parents!

“Zijin, Zijin, wait for me!” Ding Jiayi intended to lose her temper at Qiao Zijin to make Qiao Dongliang feel sorry for his daughter and promise to solve the problem for her. She was at a loss when Qiao Zijin ran off by herself, and could only chase after her right away.

It was already eight o'clock at night and the sky was dark. Ding Jiayi was worried about Zijin's safety. She could not let her go off by herself in the middle of the night.

She could not care about Qiao Dongliang and ran off after Qiao Zijin.

After Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi left, Qiao Dongliang stood at the same spot for about half an hour. As time passed, he could not help but squat down and cry.

This time, he was really disheartened and had given up on Qiao Zijin. All this while, everyone in the family was clear about who he sided with and pampered on more.

Just like what Old Yang said, Zijin was an ingrate. He did not want to use such harsh words on his elder daughter, but whatever she did and said left him in utter despair.

He did not understand why the elder daughter would become like this.

Luckily, it was late at night and there was nobody on the street. Otherwise, it would look bad on him to cry on the street.

Qiao Dongliang had no idea how long he had been crying. By the time he stopped crying, his legs were numb. He wiped the tears on his face. In his life, the one time that he cried was when his parents passed away. He did not expect that the next time he cried would be in such a situation. It was too ironic.

Qiao Dongliang went back home and sat dazedly on the bed for a long time until two o'clock in the middle of the night.

It was deep in the night and the air was still. Qiao Dongliang's sigh of sorrow could be heard in the night.

Qiao Dongliang's body felt cold to the touch. He took off his shoes and plopped down on the bed, covering himself with the blanket and going to sleep.

It was already the next day noontime when he came back to his senses.

Qiao Nan who was at school had no time to worry about Qiao Dongliang. The next morning, she found an excuse and went to Teacher Liu's office. "Teacher Liu, I have something to ask you."

"What is it?" Teacher Liu looked at Qiao Nan patiently.

"Last time, when my mother created a fuss at the school and the matter was resolved quickly, did Brother Zhai have anything to do with it?" Qiao Nan asked carefully and tentatively.

"It turns out that you do know Zhai Sheng and is quite close to him." Teacher Liu smiled and said, "Our family is related to his family. He was the one who offered help last time. It was thanks to him for sending someone with the information about your family that the principal believed you and resolved the matter. Otherwise, the principal might have believed your mother's words and mistaken you for an ill-natured child. Qiao Nan, the most important thing right now is to study hard and put other things aside. Your father is someone who listens to reason. He will handle your family's affairs well. Everything will be alright."

Zhai Sheng would be there to help her when she was in serious trouble, and Qiao Dongliang would be able to help her with the family's affairs.

God might have closed a door, but it opened two more windows for her.

At the thought of Zhai Sheng's identity, Teacher Liu curled the corners of his lips. If one viewed Zhai Sheng as a 'window', then he must be those French windows that were so much bigger than the door!

Chapter 425: Phoned Someone for Help

"Thank you, Teacher Liu." Qiao Nan nodded. It turned out that as early as last year, even before they went into a relationship, Brother Zhai had already done so many things for her and she was clueless.

"Go back and study hard. You must not let those people who are good to you down." Teacher Liu had high hopes for Qiao Nan. He had taught many students over the years and Qiao Nan was one of the few female students who managed to maintain her standard even after she entered high school.

Teacher Liu was a mathematics teacher and Qiao Nan was good in mathematics.

In fact, Teacher Liu hoped that Qiao Nan would choose the science course. In that case, he would be able to continue to teach her.

However, Qiao Nan performed just as well in her humanities subjects. As such, she would also do well in the humanities course.

In the end, Teacher Liu had to forsake such a good student like Qiao Nan. After all, she preferred humanities and so he agreed for her to choose according to her preferences.

Otherwise, most teachers would not let go of such a good student like Qiao Nan.

In two years' time, his class might be able to produce a top student in the college entrance examination. It was a pity that she chose another class in her second year. Most teachers would find this situation unbearable.

“Goodbye, Teacher Liu.” Qiao Nan left Teacher Liu’s office, but she did not return to the classroom right away. Instead, she went straight to the telephone booth to make a phone call to Qiao Dongliang.

Qiao Nan knew best about what was going through Qiao Dongliang’s mind regarding Qiao Zijin’s incident.

Yesterday, Qiao Zijin lied to Qiao Dongliang in front of so many people. He must be devastated.

Qiao Nan could do nothing but console and comfort him.

It was during this time that Qiao Nan was especially thankful to Zhu Chengqi for giving them a phone to be used at home. If not for him, she would not be able to phone her father to check on how he was doing.

The phone rang a couple of times, but nobody picked up the phone.

Qiao Nan frowned. Could her father have been out to work?



After what Qiao Zijin did, her father must be very upset. How could he have woken up early in the morning to go to work?

Just when she was about to try calling again, the school bell rang.

Qiao Nan had no choice but to take out the telephone card and returned to her classroom.

It was only until noon that Qiao Nan had the chance to make use of the noon break to call Qiao Dongliang.

After ringing for a couple of times, the call was finally connected. “Hello, Dad, how are you? I guess you... didn’t go to work today?”

Her father would usually have his lunch at the factory. Since he picked up her phone call, he must have stayed at home today.

“I didn’t go. I took a day off today.” Qiao Dongliang’s voice sounded hoarse, like a broken drum.

“Dad, did you catch a cold?”

“I guess so.”

“Have you seen a doctor?”

“I’m fine. I just need some rest.” Qiao Dongliang’s voice sounded weak. He did not want to do anything right now.

Qiao Nan pursed her lips. “Dad, there is a lot of cold medicine in the drawer in my room. You should take the medicine.”

“No need. I felt much better when I got up today.” Qiao Dongliang had no wish to take medicine. More importantly, there was no hot water at home. He did not boil any water at all.

“Dad, why don’t I take a leave of absence this afternoon to check on you? Our house is very near to the school. It will only take an hour’s time to travel to and fro. I can take a half-day leave and I will be able to make it back to school for the self-study session in the evening.” As expected, her father had fallen sick because of Qiao Zijin’s incident.

“It’s fine. There is cold medicine at home. There is no need to have those in your room. I will take the medicine.” Qiao Dongliang smiled bitterly. With his younger daughter around, there was no way that he could be lazy.

In the end, Qiao Dongliang had cold medicine with a cup of water that had not been boiled.

He did not hang up the phone while he had the medicine. He spoke into the receiver, “I have taken the medicine. Can you rest assured now?”

“Alright. Dad, have a good rest these two days. Don’t forget to apply for sick leave with the factory.”

“Alright, I will.” Qiao Dongliang curled his lips, forming a smile. He had been in low spirits until just now.

One of his daughters despised him and complained that he was useless. However, there was another daughter who cared for him. He was not left with nothing after all.

“Xiao Qiao, is Uncle Qiao alright?” Zhu Baoguo asked as soon as Qiao Nan sat down beside him. “Was Uncle Qiao affected by what happened yesterday?” Zhu Baoguo could not understand. Qiao Zijin was so ill-natured, yet why would Qiao Dongliang be so concerned with her affairs and ask for trouble for himself?

Xiao Qiao was so much better.

Children were valued for their quality, not their number. Uncle Qiao should be contented with Xiao Qiao. Qiao Zijin was ill-natured. He should not bother about her. He could not understand why Uncle Qiao would trouble himself with her problems.

“Of course. My dad’s bark is worse than his bite. He still cares a lot for Qiao Zijin. Yesterday, my dad asked Qiao Zijin several times whether she was guilty, but she denied it. My dad must be

heartbroken that his daughter lied to him. Forget it. You won't understand how my dad feels. When you become a father, you will understand his feelings."

"Do you understand?" Zhu Baoguo felt unfair.

Qiao Nan rolled her eyes. "I have never been a mother, how would I understand?"

Zhu Baoguo blushed. "When we grow up and become parents, we will understand what it's like sooner or later."

"It's better not to understand," Qiao Nan said unhappily. To understand her father's feelings, one must have children like Qiao Zijin who was good for nothing, yet yearned for things that were beyond one's reach, whereas oneself was not capable and could not do much for the children. "Alright, enough of this. Even though mid-term exams have just finished, we still have a lot of homework today. We must continue to work hard."

Qiao Nan was not like Qiao Dongliang. After last night, Qiao Nan completely ignored Qiao Zijin and did not bother herself with her.

It would have to depend on her luck as to whether she could remain unscathed from yesterday's incident.

But after such things happened, it was difficult for Qiao Zijin to escape punishment.

On the night after Qiao Zijin was slapped by Qiao Dongliang, the former lost her temper and ran back to the Qiao family residence at the quad.

What Sun Lei said was a great blow to Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Dongliang had made it clear that he would not be able to help her. She did not have any hopes for Ding Jiayi to help her. The only person she could think of was Wang Yang.

Qiao Zijin tried calling Wang Yang using public telephone multiple times, but nobody picked up the phone. Even though the call was connected several times, it was the auntie that the Wang family hired who answered the phone. "Hello, it's you again. I have already told you that Wang Yang is at school now and he will only be back on the next weekend."

## Chapter 426: The School's Decision

“Don’t call again. The phone keeps ringing and it’s very noisy. Besides, can’t you see what time it is now? Do you wish to wake everyone in our house up?”

Toward the end of the conversation, upon receiving a hint from Wang Yang, the auntie simply pulled off the telephone’s wire.

In that case, even if Qiao Zijin was determined to call the Wang family, she would not be able to do so.

“Hello? Hello?” When she heard a beeping sound, Qiao Zijin’s face turned pale. She shouted into the phone that was hung up. “You’re just a nanny that the Wang family spent money to hire! Are you fit to be so snobbish in front of me? Wang Yang calls me his elder sister! When I have the ability in the future, I will definitely fire you from the Wang family!”

Qiao Zijin refused to give up and continued to dial the same number. She used all her strength each time she dialed as if she was trying to break the buttons. “Hello? Hello? Why can’t it go through now?”

The sound between a phone call that was not picked up and a line that was cut off was different. Of course, Qiao Zijin realized it and she nearly smashed the public phone upon the realization.

“Zijin, it’s already so late. Let’s go back. It’s almost ten o’clock. The Wang family must have gone to sleep. Didn’t the nanny in the Wang family say that Wang Yang has gone to the school? Why don’t we look for Wang Yang at his school tomorrow? But then again, will Wang Yang help you in this matter?”

Ding Jiayi had been accompanying Qiao Zijin all this while when she was making the phone calls.

The money Qiao Zijin used to make the calls were all from Ding Jiayi’s pocket.

“Is Wang Yang’s school one that I can enter as I wish?” Qiao Zijin was so frustrated that she slammed and hung up the phone. “Mom, tell me honestly. Before this happened, did you go to Ping Cheng High School? What did you do there?!”

“I didn’t do much. At most, I spoke some truth.” Ding Jiayi felt a little guilty.

This topic had been raised up several times this evening. Although Ding Jiayi still failed to realize how her previous words had offended the principal of Ping Cheng High School, Ding Jiayi dared not bring this matter up when Qiao Zijin asked about it.

“Mom, do you know that you’ll cause me trouble by doing that?” Qiao Zijin cried uncontrollably. “The principal of my school has always been at odds with that Principal Meng, particularly because of Qiao Nan. You don’t know that my form teacher has been giving me cold looks. In every examination, Qiao Nan scored better than the students in our first-year cohort. The principal and teachers in my school were certain that Qiao Nan did not come to my school because of me. I... I’ve been so wronged!”

“This time, our Principal Wei was so embarrassed in front of Principal Meng. Won’t he detest me even more? Mom, do you wish to see me die? You actually created such huge trouble at Ping Cheng High School. If you didn’t do that, would Principal Meng catch the chance to step on Principal Wei? Because of what you did, Principal Meng grabbed this chance to sneer at us all! When Principal Wei is angry, he will put all the responsibility and blame on me. You! Tell me what I should do!”

“Is... is it really so serious?” Ding Jiayi was stunned. “I... I really did not say much. Whatever I said was the truth. If not for Qiao Nan, would your dad be separated from me? Given our family’s situation, it’s not possible to support two college students. Qiao Nan insisted to continue her studies. Wasn’t she tiring us to death? Zijin, tell me. Which of my words were untrue? Which parts of it were false?”

At the very most, when she said all those on that day, she had exaggerated a notch. Nevertheless, this would not change the fact of the matter.

“Mom, tell me honestly. Was it during that period that Dad moved out for the second time all of a sudden?”

“Yes, yes. Your dad was too petty. I only voiced out some gossip in Ping Cheng High School. He brought Qiao Nan and moved house without informing me. I even caught a cold because of this. If your dad did not do all these and broke my heart, why would I agree to divorce with him in two years?”

In Old Qiao's heart, there was only the wretched girl now. He had already forgotten his wife long ago.

She married a husband that did not dote on her at all. There was no happiness even if they were to continue with such a marriage.

"Mom, you're truly my good mother!" Qiao Zijin continuously stomped her feet hard. "I've asked you a few times before and you wouldn't tell me. If I had known about this matter earlier, I certainly would not have let this evening's matter escalate!"

After giving Ding Jiayi a scolding, Qiao Zijin then ran home and locked herself in her bedroom. She refused to let Ding Jiayi enter her room.

"Zijin, don't cry, don't cry. What wrong did Mom do? Tell me. Won't it do if Mom changes? Mom really doesn't know what Mom did wrong." Ping Cheng High School mocked her. Qiao Dongliang moved house heartlessly. Now, Qiao Zijin also wanted to blame her.

Ding Jiayi, who was at a loss of what to do, grabbed her hair and squatted down, looking extremely miserable. Even if Ping Cheng High School's principal wished to protect his student, he could not do it in that way. She did not even have the right to voice out her opinions?

Qiao Zijin cried for an entire night in her bedroom. Ding Jiayi was so scared that she dared not leave Qiao Zijin. She squatted by the door of Qiao Zijin's bedroom for the whole night.

The next morning, the small retail stall with a public phone in the quad shouted at the small courtyard of the Qiao family's house. "Is Ding Jiayi at home? Your daughter's school called. Quickly come and pick up the phone."

When Ding Jiayi heard of it, she had a big fright.

Ding Jiayi, who just woke up, was completely confused. She had forgotten that she had squatted for the entire night. She wanted to go and receive the phone call but her legs were already numb beyond her control. Ding Jiayi, who was not prepared, fell onto the floor with a loud bang. Her teeth even bit onto her bottom lip when she fell. There was blood all over her mouth and she looked terrible.

Ding Jiayi was in so much pain that tears started rolling down from her eyes. “Zijin, quickly come and help me up.”

Qiao Zijin, who had a shock at the same time, jumped at the sight of blood on Ding Jiayi’s mouth. “Mom, what happened to you?”

However, at the thought of the phone call from the school, Qiao Zijin withdrew the hand that she reached out to Ding Jiayi. “Mom, stand up yourself and wash your wound with water. I’m going to take the call.” Having that said, Qiao Zijin put on a jacket and ran out with nary a care about Ding Jiayi’s condition. “Thank you, Auntie.”

#### Chapter 427: Perish Together

Upon receiving the phone, Qiao Zijin took a deep breath. Her hoarse voice said softly, “Hello?”

“Is this Qiao Zijin’s mother, Ding Jiayi?”

At the sound of a stranger, Qiao Zijin felt a little guilty as she mumbled, “Yes.”

“Hi, good day. I am the dean of students of The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. There’s a situation in the school that we need to reflect and report to you. Qiao Zijin has been studying at our school for three and a half semesters. However, her performance is very poor and she also likes to resort to deception. We have investigated and found that Qiao Zijin had really cheated in her examinations while she was studying here. She had flouted the school’s regulations. Secondly, we had lessons yesterday, but Qiao Zijin skipped her class without a valid reason. She did not return to the school for the entire night. This had also seriously flouted the school’s rules and disciplinary policy. We’ve not had such a bad student like Qiao Zijin, who refused to change after several teachings, in more than ten years. Accordingly, our school would like to formally notify you that Qiao Zijin, this student, has been expelled from our school. I hope that you, as her parents, can quickly come to our school to settle some administrative matters. Please take away all of Qiao Zijin’s personal belongings as well. Thank you for your cooperation.”

Without waiting for a response from the student’s parent, the dean of students hung the phone up swiftly.

Qiao Zijin's eyes turned still. The school really expelled her. After settling the administrative matters of leaving the school, she would not be a student of The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China anymore?

"Hey?" The auntie from the small retail stall looked at Qiao Zijin strangely. She placed her ears close to the phone and heard the beeping sound. "Zijin, your teacher has already hung up. Oh, right, wasn't your school looking for your mom? Why did you pick up the phone instead? You also didn't go to school yesterday. Why are you still at home? Did your school call to urge you to go to school?"

"Yes, yes." Qiao Zijin's mouth and tongue were so stiff that she did not know how to talk anymore. She went home looking stiff and frozen.

Ding Jiayi, who was cleaning her wound that was still bleeding, looked pale. "Zijin, why did your school call?"

"Ruined. I'm completely ruined by you now. Are you satisfied now? Are you happy!" Qiao Zijin vented her frustration at Ding Jiayi. "The school just called to ask me to leave the school. They said that I'm no longer a student of The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. Now, even graduating from senior high school is an issue to me, not to mention going to college!"

If the people in the quad knew about her situation, would she still be able to step out of her house in the future? She would definitely become a laughingstock in the whole quad!

From today onward, the people in the quad would label her. She would not be able to win against Qiao Nan in her entire life!

"How did that happen?" Ding Jiayi was completely stupefied. Perhaps she was scared out of her wits, causing the blood circulation in her body to slow down and her wound to stop bleeding. "How could they expel you so casually like that? Is there really no room for negotiation? You must know that you went to The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China because of Elder Lee's help."

Didn't the school take Elder Lee into consideration when they expelled Zijin?

"I'm afraid that the school had already consulted Elder Lee before expelling me. Both of us know how much Elder Zhu likes Qiao Nan. Zhu Baoguo was pulled out of dire straits by Qiao Nan. For



the sake of Qiao Nan, Elder Lee will not allow me to continue to be a student in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China.” Qiao Zijin sneered.

This world was so unfair. When Qiao Nan was in her mother’s tummy, her parents doted very much on Qiao Nan and neglected her. They left all the good things, be it food, clothing, or toys, to Qiao Nan.

Now, everyone that she wanted to be associated with was so good to Qiao Nan. All of them humiliated her for the sake of Qiao Nan.

How could she not hate Qiao Nan? How could not use all ways and means to step on Qiao Nan for her own progress?

However, at this juncture, Qiao Zijin, who was all alone and had lost all help available, was faced with a miserable situation, being unable to continue with her studies. Besides crying, Qiao Zijin did not know what else she could do. “Mom, I feel so desperate and hopeless. I will definitely be a laughingstock in the quad. I’ve been expelled. How am I going to face others in the future? I couldn’t even graduate from senior high school. How could I find a man with a good family background to be my husband? Who would take a liking to me? Mom, I don’t wish to live anymore. I might as well die. It is too painful to live.”

She had worked so hard and put in so much effort. Why couldn’t she achieve anything that she wanted? On the contrary, Qiao Nan could easily achieve everything.

Was her existence in this world a mere predestined heavenly will, forcing her to accompany Qiao Nan so as she could realize how unfortunate she was?

“Zijin, you’re scaring Mom. No, there won’t be any problem. You will definitely be able to continue with your studies. You’ll not only graduate from senior high school but also college. Mom... Mom will find a way for you.” As she said that, Ding Jiayi also cried.

What would be the next steps given the current situation?

“Zijin, why don’t we turn back and beg your dad? He knows a lot of people. It will be easier for him to seek help. If not... How about I go and beg the wretched girl? I can kneel down to her, as long as she will let you off.” Ding Jiayi ground her teeth. Zijin became so miserable all because of that wretched girl.

As long as that wretched girl was willing to let Zijin off and give her a chance, it was fine for her to go on her knees.

“Right, Mom. Go and beg Qiao Nan. Go and kneel down before Qiao Nan. Don’t go into Ping Cheng High School. Just kneel down at the entrance of Ping Cheng High School. Don’t wipe away the blood on your mouth. Let it continue to drip. As you kneel down at the entrance, you just need to cry and beg Qiao Nan. You also have to kowtow! You definitely have to kowtow. It’ll be best if you hurt your head when kowtowing!”

Qiao Zijin had a vicious and crazy look in her eyes.

If she could not continue with her studies, Qiao Nan could forget about being an outstanding student too!

Although Ping Cheng High School could not bear to expel Qiao Nan, the biological mother had to kneel down, kowtow, cry, and beg her.

She did not believe Qiao Nan could still continue to study at Ping Cheng High School afterward!

She would like to see whether Ping Cheng High School was willing to sacrifice the reputation of the school in exchange for an individual, Qiao Nan!

She could not be a student of a prominent school, and neither should Qiao Nan.

Deprived of education?

Fine. Then, everyone would be deprived of education. Qiao Nan could forget about having all the good things for herself or basking in glory as she watched her, the elder sister, cry miserably!

“Zijin, didn’t you say that it’s wrong for Mom to do that? That I’ll be creating trouble for you? It’s broad daylight...” She had to kneel down, cry, and kowtow. As a normal person with virtues, Ding Jiayi could not accept such a situation even just thinking about it. “Will this help you in any way? Will the school take you in as their student again and not dismiss you after Mom does all these?”

Chapter 428: All of Them Have Gone Crazy

If that was the case, then perhaps, she could consider changing the behavior a little and carry it out.

“Not possible. No matter who we beg now, the school will not take me in as their student anymore. Mom, you really dote on me, right? You will certainly help me, right? You definitely can’t bear to look at me suffer in pain, right?” Qiao Zijin’s eyes looked bewildered and deranged. She was certainly not in the correct state of mind. She was like a mad woman.

“Zijin, what’s wrong with you? Don’t frighten Mom.” What was the point of doing all these if it could not make the school accept Zijin as a student again?

“Hahaha! Qiao Nan harmed me. She has always wanted to harm me. I can’t let her lead a good life. We’ll all perish together. She made me lose my education. I must let her be in the same plight as me! Everyone will stop studying, then. Qiao Nan is so heartless to me... So heartless!! I’m her biological sister, but she did this to me nonetheless! Is she still a human? Since she’s heartless, I must be more heartless than her! Hahaha!!”

Qiao Zijin, who had suffered a great blow, was already incoherent in her speech.

At this moment, the world was hopeless and dark to Qiao Zijin.

In the realm of darkness, she only thought of one matter, and that was to drag whoever she could hold onto to sink with her in this bottomless abyss.

“Zijin, do we have to do this? Is there a point in doing this?” Ding Jiayi hugged Qiao Zijin tightly. She was in a panic and confused state. However, she could not agree with what Qiao Zijin said.

“Mom, you won’t help me? I’m in so much pain. I’m so miserable. You said you love me, yet you refuse to help me?! I don’t wish to live anymore. Dad doesn’t love me, and neither do you. All of you are biased toward Qiao Nan! Since that’s the case, why did you give birth to me in the past? I’ll go and die. When I’m dead, you’ll have Qiao Nan as your only daughter. You all can then be good to Qiao Nan wholeheartedly. In this way, you all will be satisfied, won’t you?! You all will be happy, won’t you?!”

Qiao Zijin’s eyes were staring straight, looking determined and vicious.

Qiao Zijin did not seem to be all talk and no action. She pushed Ding Jiayi away and then knocked her head against the wall. The sound of banging made the ears hurt.

“Zijin, don’t... don’t frighten Mom... Fine, as long as you’re happy, Mom will do whatever you ask me to. How could Mom not love you? How would I not want you? Those words of yours pierced my heart...” Ding Jiayi cried uncontrollably.

She did not understand why the situation turned out this way after just one short night. Now, Zijin even threatened to end her life. Clearly, all was fine before yesterday.

Upon hearing what Ding Jiayi said, Qiao Zijin stopped her self-torturing behavior immediately.

It was just that her forehead, which was considered quite fair, was already swollen and bruised the moment she stopped. “Mom, you can’t back out on what you have promised me. Go now. Go immediately. You also have to change your clothes. You have to wear shabbily and mess up your hair. Make yourself look as miserable as you can. Hurry, hurry and go.”

“Fine, Mom will do that now.” Ding Jiayi was really frightened out of her wits by Qiao Zijin. Qiao Zijin finally stopped knocking her head against the wall, and Ding Jiayi dared not refuse to listen to Qiao Zijin’s bidding. She turned and went to her bedroom to change.

Yesterday, Ding Jiayi was invited to the school via a phone call by the teacher in Qiao Zijin’s school. To give Qiao Zijin’s face, Ding Jiayi dressed her best.

For the sake of Qiao Zijin, Ding Jiayi searched high and low and took out the oldest and most shabby clothes that were tucked under her luggage.

When she heard Ding Jiayi searching high and low in her room, Qiao Zijin, who had been behaving like a mad demon and sitting on the floor in a foolish manner, had a flash of cold and sinister light in her eyes.

Qiao Nan was the one who forced her to do this.

If she really could not continue to study at The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China and other schools would not accept her, it would be hard for her to have any success in this society without any educational qualifications.

In the time to come, no matter how much her mother liked her and hated Qiao Nan, her mother would eventually give up on her. Her mother would be gradually bewitched by Qiao Nan who graduated from a prominent school and was full of glory.

Even if her parents were failures, and she did not care much about them, but all things or humans that belonged to her... She would not let Qiao Nan benefit even if she did not want them! She would rather throw them away!

She could no longer continue with her studies. When Qiao Nan was in the same plight as her and could only take manual jobs to earn money with low education, she did not believe that her parents would still favor Qiao Nan.

At the very least, she would be on the same runway as Qiao Nan. She could still turn the tides and surpass Qiao Nan.

She could only quit school and stay at home whereas Qiao Nan could study at a prominent senior high school and even a reputable college. Qiao Nan wished to leave her behind and surpass her so much?

Dream on!

Qiao Nan could forget about having such a day!

According to Qiao Zijin's request, Ding Jiayi spent half an hour's time and really dressed herself as a female beggar.

Ding Jiayi tugged at her clothes in an uneasy manner. "Zijin, do you think this looks fine?"

Qiao Zijin lifted her head and looked at Ding Jiayi coldly. "It should be fine. Mom, remember what I told you just now. You must do it. You must think of a way to let Qiao Nan be like me and can't continue with her studies. Mom, if you can't do it, I will die. I will really die for you to see!"

“Don’t, Zijin, don’t scare Mom. Isn’t it just quitting studies? It’s no big deal. Don’t worry. Mom will do what you told me to. Mom never wanted Qiao Nan to continue with her studies ever since two years ago. To Mom, you’re the most important. Zijin, you must live on well.”

If the principal of Ping Cheng High School also covered up for Qiao Nan like he did previously, then... then she would directly beg Qiao Nan! If Qiao Nan refused, she would threaten to die before Qiao Nan. She did not believe that Qiao Nan would let Qiao Zijin and her die before her no matter how cold-blooded she was.

If the lives of her two next-of-kin were in her hands and Qiao Nan still refused to give up her studies, Qiao Nan would definitely be drowned by other’s gossip when she stepped out of home henceforth.

“Mom, I only have you now. I’m really left with you. You can’t lie to me. You have to help me.” Hugging Ding Jiayi tightly, Qiao Zijin’s face that was leaning onto Ding Jiayi’s shoulder looked sinister and gloomy.

“Sure, who will help you if Mom doesn’t? There’s no other person in this world that Mom wants to help. You... just wait. Mom will definitely do it.”

“Mom, take this along.” Qiao Zijin ground her teeth. Either she did not do it or did it all the way. She wanted Qiao Nan’s reputation to be worse than that of hers.

Having that said, Qiao Zijin passed a small and sharp knife that was used for sharpening pencils to Ding Jiayi. Qiao Zijin had been grabbing this in her hands all this while. “If Qiao Nan refuses, you know what to do. You just have to slash your hands with this a couple of times casually. You don’t need to use too much strength. The people in Ping Cheng High School will not dare to hold you back. Qiao Nan will also be scared of you.”

## Chapter 429: Zhai Sheng Took Action

Ding Jiayi shivered badly. Did they have to go to this extent?

Seeing that Ding Jiayi still did not take the small knife, Qiao Zijin stubbornly forced it into her hands. “Mom, do you remember what I said?”

“R-Remember.” Ding Jiayi broke out in a cold sweat. She did not know if this cold sweat was for her own sake or Qiao Nan’s, who was at school.

Qiao Dongliang, who had suffered a great blow, had been in a deep slumber the whole morning. He even caught a cold. Besides going to school, Qiao Nan placed all her attention on caring for Qiao Dongliang.

It never came to the father and daughter’s minds that Qiao Zijin, who was dismissed by the school, would be crazy enough to want to drag Qiao Nan to the grave with her.

“Zijin, are you at home? It’s your family’s phone call again.”

The voice of the auntie from the small retail stall shocked the mother-daughter pair. Ding Jiayi was so frightened that she dropped the small knife which Qiao Zijin forced into her hands. Qiao Zijin picked it up and forced it into Ding Jiayi’s hands again. “Mom, it’s not suitable for you to go out now. I’ll go and answer it. Don’t be anxious. We will discuss in detail again about what you need to do after you reach Ping Cheng High School.”

It was either she did not do this at all or if she did, she had to do it successfully. She had to make Qiao Nan end up in the same plight as her: to be expelled from school!

“Okay, sure. Then, you go and answer it.” Ding Jiayi’s hands that were holding the knife shivered badly. At the sight of the back of Qiao Zijin, who was leaving, not knowing why, Ding Jiayi could sense a gush of coldness in her heart. Ding Jiayi quickly used her left hand to grab on her right one, which was shivering, to calm it down.

Didn’t Zijin say that she just needed to pretend? She was not really committing suicide. There was no need to fear.

“Zijin, what a busy day today. However, the person who called is a guy. Don’t tell auntie that you’re in love. You’re already in the second year of senior high school. It’s important to focus on your studies. Don’t be like other young ladies who start dating at a young age instead of focusing on their studies,” the auntie from the small retail stall said affectionately. She sounded a little like a busybody but concerned nonetheless.

Qiao Zijin forced a smile. “Don’t worry. I won’t be involved in any romantic relationship at a young age. I don’t have a boyfriend either. You said that the person who called me is a guy. Did he say who he is? I don’t even know who is calling me.”

“Oh, so that’s the case. Then, the two of you, go ahead.” The auntie sat down. She did not look at Qiao Zijin, but her ears stood up as she really wanted to know the contents of the conversation.

“Hello, who are you?” Qiao Zijin turned her body and lowered her voice.

“You are Qiao Zijin?” True enough, the voice of a man came from the other end of the phone. The other party had a nice voice. For a moment, Qiao Zijin felt slightly better. However, the voice was unfamiliar.

Most importantly, the voice might be nice, but there was a hint of coldness in it. This made Qiao Zijin’s mood, which just turned slightly better, worsened immediately.

“You called me despite not knowing who I am? I don’t know you. Did you call the wrong number? I’m hanging up!”

“It seems that you’re really Qiao Zijin. You’re already in dire straits, yet you still want to deal with Nan Nan and drag her down with you?” Listening to Qiao Zijin’s short-tempered voice, the other party seemed to have guessed what was on Qiao Zijin’s mind instantly, as if he had the ability to read minds.

Qiao Zijin’s face turned pale. “Who are you? What nonsense are you talking about? I don’t understand.”

Impossible. How did this man know? Even her mother had been taken in by her just now. Her mother really thought that she had gone crazy and wanted to die. That was why she agreed to go and harm Nan Nan in her panic.

Regardless of how bad the situation was, Qiao Zijin was only clear of one matter, and that was to make Qiao Nan suffer the same plight as her, especially when her mother was still devoted to her.

Although her mother said that she only loved and doted on her, once Qiao Nan managed to outdo her, within two years, her mother would also go to Qiao Nan just like her father. They would then only acknowledge Qiao Nan as their daughter.



“Since you don’t want to tell me who you are, I’m not interested to know either. I don’t wish to waste my breath on you.” Who exactly was this man? Why was he so scary? He actually could read her mind.

Impossible! It was impossible!

“You have already been dismissed from your school. Do you still wish to continue with your senior high school studies and go to college in the future?” The other party snorted without care. He completely saw through Qiao Zijin’s guilt and fear. This woman clearly refused to bend until she was faced with the grim reality. If it was not against the law to kill someone, there was no need for such a person to live on.

“You... Who exactly are you?!” Qiao Zijin started to tremble. She could not even control her teeth from chattering. A chattering sound could be heard from her mouth.

Zhai Sheng, who was making this call in the army, slammed the table impatiently. “Let me ask you. Do you want or not want to?”

Teacher Liu suddenly gave Zhai Sheng a call yesterday. Although he subsequently told Zhai Sheng not to be bothered with it anymore, how could Zhai Sheng feel at ease?

During the two years, Zhai Sheng certainly knew that Qiao Zijin was someone who refused to give up before achieving her aims.

Furthermore, Qiao Zijin most probably did not intend to plot against Nan Nan on this occasion, but coincidentally, all the matters were exposed together and Qiao Zijin was the only one that was affected badly. How could Zhai Sheng believe that Qiao Zijin would let this matter rest?

This morning, Zhai Sheng made a phone call to inquire about the decision made by The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China.

The school had a shock when they heard Zhai Sheng’s call. They thought that Qiao Zijin was related to Zhai Sheng and that they could not expel such a troublesome student.

Only heaven knew. For this matter, Principal Wei was so furious that he had a sleepless night. He could not wait for morning to arrive. The next day, Principal Wei made a call to Elder Lee first thing in the morning even before having his breakfast.

Qiao Zijin was introduced by Elder Lee into the school. If he really had to dismiss her, Principal Wei had to inform Elder Lee. It would be a problem if Elder Lee refused.

Principal Wei did not expect that once he mentioned the situation to Elder Lee, the latter expressed immediately that he would definitely respect Principal Wei's and the school's decision.

Once Elder Lee gave his blessings, Principal Wei immediately took action and asked the teacher in school to dismiss Qiao Zijin instantly!

He had just settled Elder Lee and now came Zhai Sheng. When Principal Wei picked up Zhai Sheng's call, his heart crumbled.

When he was certain that Zhai Sheng did not have the intention to help Qiao Zijin and was only trying to understand the situation, he realized that Zhai Sheng actually wanted to help Qiao Nan and not Qiao Zijin.

At the thought of Qiao Zijin's character, Zhai Sheng made the phone call as he did not feel at ease.

Once Zhai Sheng heard Qiao Zijin, he was certain that his worries were not unfounded. Qiao Zijin was as annoying as a cockroach that he could not get rid of!

#### Chapter 430: Banned from Ping Cheng before High School Graduation

"Whether I wish to do so or not, what has it got to do with you?" Who exactly was this person? How did he know so much about her and even called her at this juncture? It was so coincidental.

"If you wish to, I can arrange a school for you. However, given your current situation, you will not be able to choose which high school it is. If you don't wish to, then..." Although Zhai Sheng did not wish for the latter to happen, he needed to consider about it.

Qiao Zijin was so scared that she turned pale. "You... Can you really help me find a school and allow me to continue with my studies? I know I can't choose but I will certainly not attend schools that are too lousy and messy."

Qiao Zijin understood herself well. She knew she lacked self-control and discipline.

If she attended a lousy school and went astray due to the influence of bad company, then she would only waste this opportunity.

At the very least, with the transfer of school this time, she needed to have a quiet and conducive environment for studying.

“Sure.” Zhai Sheng agreed. “But I have a request too. Before you graduate from high school, you must not return to Ping Cheng and neither can you look for your next-of-kin in Ping Cheng. Do you understand?”

“You did all these to help Qiao Nan?” Qiao Zijin could not help but daringly voice out her guess.

She was not allowed to come back to Ping Cheng to look for her relatives. That meant she could not meet her father or Qiao Nan.

The voice of the man at the other end of the phone sounded very young. If her father knew such a capable friend, would she still be expelled from the school? Since he knew about her situation, he must have contacted her school.

This man was neither her relatives nor friends, but he must be very capable. Otherwise, the teachers in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China would not air their dirty linen in public and tell this man about her.

Hence, there was only one reason why this man would make such arrangements, and that was to help Qiao Nan.

“You don’t wish to collaborate anymore?” Zhai Sheng’s voice turned cold. He was not pleased that Qiao Zijin did not know her limitations.

Qiao Zijin did not have a choice now.

“I agree!” Qiao Zijin was afraid that the man would change his mind and take back the only straw that she could clutch on now. She said anxiously, “I agree. As long as you can let me continue with my studies in senior high school and take the college entrance exams, I agree to your terms. At the very least, I will not return to Ping Cheng before I graduate from senior high school. I will also not look for anyone in Ping Cheng including my family members. However, how will I know whether what you’ve said is true and that you’re not just trying to buy time?”

Qiao Zijin grabbed the phone tightly, as if she was holding on to her last hope.

“Someone will come and fetch you all tomorrow to settle all the administrative matters and send you to the high school that you’ll be studying at. I’ve arranged accommodation near the high school for you and even paid three months’ rent. As for the subsequent tuition fees and rental expenses, you have to settle them yourself. Remember. Once you try anything funny, then the school will immediately strike your name off the school roll. Understand?”

“Understood...”

When the beeping sound came from the other end of the phone, Qiao Zijin still had not regained her senses.

She was already facing an impasse, yet another straw appeared for her to clutch on. Did this mean even heaven pitied her and gave her another path of life?

“Zijin, the person from the other end has hung up. What happened to you? You’ve been acting silly today. Have you been studying too much?” The elder daughter of the Qiao family did not always do well in her studies, whereas the younger daughter’s results had never been poor. Even if the latter did not like to talk, she had never seen her looking so silly and distracted.

“It’s nothing. Thank you.” Qiao Zijin took a deep breath and hung up. She then returned home at her fastest speed.

“Zijin, do I really have to do this?” After Qiao Zijin finished her phone call, Ding Jiayi’s pale face did not seem to have returned to its normal state.

Although Ding Jiayi went to Ping Cheng High School and created a fuss before, not many people were present back then, and she also did not need to kneel and kowtow. Today, she even had to hurt herself. Ding Jiayi had never done such things.

All this while, although Ding Jiayi was very unreasonable, it was always other people who suffered. She had never done anything that harmed herself.

When she heard what Qiao Zijin said, how could Ding Jiayi not feel afraid?

Qiao Zijin took a deep breath and smiled at Ding Jiayi.

In the past, when she saw Qiao Zijin smiling, Ding Jiayi would happily follow suit and smile. However, today, Ding Jiayi did not feel happy. On the contrary, she shivered in fear as she was afraid of what scary words would come out of Qiao Zijin's mouth again.

“Mom, you don't need to do so anymore. Let's forget it. My heart will ache if you have to hurt yourself in order to create trouble for Qiao Nan. There's no such need. Mom, you don't need to go to Ping Cheng High School anymore. It's because I received a call from the school, telling me I'm expelled, that I... I was too confused and affected. I was very saddened by it. But I'm alright now. I've already calmed down. Mom, please don't be angry with me. Everything's fine. There's no issue now.”

“Is it really fine? You don't want me to go anymore?” Ding Jiayi looked at Qiao Zijin in a cautious and uneasy manner.

Qiao Zijin smiled sweetly. “Of course it's true.”

“That's great!” Ding Jiayi heaved a sigh of huge relief. She could finally relax that frozen mind of hers. “Then, Zijin, what should we do in the future? You can't continue to study in senior high school. Don't tell me you're going to look for a job?”

The corners of Qiao Zijin's mouth turned stiff. “No, I won't work. I'm still young and at a good age for studying. Mom, don't worry. I've already thought of a way to resolve this problem. A friend will come to pick us up tomorrow and transfer me to another school. Mom, don't worry. I will not give up no matter what difficulty I face. I will move forward. I will persist until I am successful one day.”

“Your friend? Wang Yang!” Wang Yang was willing to pick up Zijin's call and make arrangements for her?

Qiao Zijin forced a smile. "It has nothing to do with Wang Yang. Mom, do you think I have studied for nothing all this while? Besides Wang Yang, I also have other friends. Wang Yang, this brother, is entirely unreliable in this matter. It's someone else and you don't know who they are. This matter has been blown up. Most likely, the other high schools in Ping Cheng will not accept me as well. I am most concerned they will cut short my studies even if I attend other schools once these principals get together and happen to talk about me. In that case, Mom, I can only leave Ping Cheng and go to another high school to study. Mom, you will always keep me company, right?"