

## RTAMM 71

### Chapter 71: Essay Competition

“Go ahead.” Qiao Dongliang smiled widely at Qiao Nan.

Qiao Zijin, who was not too pleased, pouted when she saw how Qiao Dongliang smiled affectionately at Qiao Nan.

She knew that the reason behind her father’s change in attitude towards Qiao Nan was that she gave Zhu Baoguo tuition and in a way, helped her father to repay the debt of gratitude towards Grandpa Lee.

She could do it as well.

“Dad, I have no more pens left, I will get one from Nan Nan’s room.”

Ever since the decrease in her monthly allowance and the money that she spent on her dance costume, Qiao Zijin was more careful in her spending, she could no longer stock up on pens or buy new stationery.

If there was not a real need, she would not buy new stuff.

Now that she had no more pens, she would just “borrow” a few pens from Qiao Nan. But there was no way that she was going to return them.

Qiao Zijin opened Qiao Nan’s bag and made it a point to empty the contents.

Qiao Nan had a total of three pens. Their designs were shabby and they all looked the same. It was not the type of pens that she used to buy. Qiao Zijin grunted and grabbed one of the new pens.

“Oh?” Qiao Zijin chanced upon one of Qiao Nan’s books. There were millions of words on it. Qiao Zijin took a closer look at one of the pages. At one glance she realized that it was an essay. Qiao Zijin had never seen or heard this essay before.

Qiao Zijin might not be good at writing essays, but she could tell if it was well written or not.

Qiao Zijin thought for a while and twitched her lips. She not only took one of Qiao Nan's pens, she also tore off the page with the essay.

In order not to be discovered by Qiao Nan, Qiao Zijin tore off the empty page connecting to the essay page as well. She made sure to tear it off nicely so that Qiao Nan would not realize it in an instant. With that, she took the two items and left Qiao Nan's room.

By the time Qiao Nan returned to her room from her bath, she saw that her bag was being opened and the contents were scattered all over the room.

Qiao Zijin was the only one in the house who was capable of this.

If it was her mother, she would rather throw the bag away than wasting her efforts to search through it.

"Nan Nan, your sister came into your room just now to get a pen from you." Qiao Dongliang came at the moment to notify Qiao Nan.

Qiao Dongliang could not help but frown when he saw the contents of the bag being scattered all around. "Your sister is so insensible. It was just a pen, did she have to make such a mess? Nan Nan, you would have to tidy up later."

"Oh." Qiao Nan could not think of anything to say.

Her father knew that it was wrong of Qiao Zijin to do this, yet he could only make such a remark. What made Qiao Nan speechless was that he could say this to her, but he would not utter a word to Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Nan knew that Qiao Dongliang was only paying lip service. He did not really mean it. So she gave her response absentmindedly.

In the previous life, after Qiao Zijin committed adultery and left the marriage without any maintenance or marital compensation, she blamed her divorce with Chen Jun entirely on Qiao Nan. Besides her mother who pampered her, her father was also responsible for this temperament of hers.

Qiao Nan could only tidy up the mess that Qiao Zijin made and put them in the study room.

During dinnertime, Qiao Nan did not notice that Qiao Zijin kept stealing furtive glances at her. It was only when Qiao Zijin was sure that Qiao Nan did not think anything was amiss, that she settled down to eat.

“Qiao Nan, Teacher Lee wanted to see you in the office.” On Monday at school, Zhao Yu passed the message to Qiao Nan in disgruntlement.

“Thank you.” Even though Zhao Yu was merely relaying message for Teacher Lee, Qiao Nan was still polite to Zhao Yu. Qiao Nan did what she had to do.

Zhao Yu sat down in her chair, puffing in anger. Her good friend leaned in and asked, “Why would Teacher Lee ask Qiao Nan to go to the office?” Everything except to reprimand her.

Even if Teacher Lee was not satisfied with Qiao Nan’s results, Qiao Nan scored 92 points for her mid-term exams. Teacher Lee might be dissatisfied, but it was only because the teacher had high expectations of Qiao Nan.

Not everyone would be able to score 90 points and above for Chinese in junior high school.

“Teacher Lee said that there is a essay competition in the province and would like Qiao Nan to participate.”

“What about you, you are the representative of the Chinese subject.” It made no sense that Qiao Nan could participate while Zhao Yu could not.

“Of course I would participate.” Zhao Yu arched her eyebrows. “This is only the preliminary round, the school will hold a selection to cut down to five participants. I am one of the five participants.”

“I thought the students can just participate in the essay competition directly?”

“Of course not, this is the province essay competition after all.” But there were five slots, her essays were pretty well written. It could not be wrong, she was definitely one of the five participants.

“You must work hard, we have lost out to Qiao Nan in terms of results, we must squash her in the essay competition no matter what. Zhao Yu, you can do it!”

“I have to, let’s wait and see.” Her friend was egging her on and Zhao Yu was so boastful and arrogant. Zhou Lei could not help but laugh at them.

Like Zhao Yu said, Teacher Lee asked to see Qiao Nan with regards to the essay competition.

Teacher Lee and all the teachers in the Chinese team knew that given Qiao Nan’s standard, if she did not participate in the essay competition, there was no one else who would be qualified enough to participate.

“Teacher Lee, can I not participate in the competition? You should know my results, I have a lot of knowledge points to revise, it would take up too much of my time to participate in the competition.”

One had to go through one round of selection in school and then proceeded to take part in the province competition, all these rounds would take up too much time.

Even when she tutored Zhu Baoguo during the weekend, Qiao Nan spent most of the time doing her own revision.

Qiao Nan did not want to waste more of her time.

“Qiao Nan, I would recommend you to take part in the competition. If you manage to get a prize, it would add points to your middle school exams.” Teacher Lee knew that Qiao Nan was most concerned about the exams and used that to persuade Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan was so concerned about not wasting her time so that she could revise, it was all for the sake of doing well in the middle school exams.

She believed that Qiao Nan would take up the offer if she knew that it would add points to the exams.

“But I would have to go through one round of selection in school.” Qiao Nan frowned. “After selecting the five students, we would still need to go for essay training?”

“This... let’s do it this way, I will try to make special arrangements for you. You do not need to sit for the preliminary rounds and you do not need to go for essay training as well. You will skip all these and just participate in the province competition. What do you think?” Teacher Lee adjusted the spectacles and said in a steadfast tone.

Teacher Lee was confident that these arrangements were feasible.

There was no need for Qiao Nan to go for the preliminary rounds. She could just use any two essays of her recent Chinese exams to participate, she would definitely be able to secure one of the five slots.

To put it bluntly, Teacher Lee knew that it had been decided that Qiao Nan would be one of the five participants.

Even if she agreed to Qiao Nan’s request of not participating in the competition, the other teachers in the Chinese team would not agree to it.

Chapter 72: “Praise to Fail”

Hearing Teacher Lee’s words, Qiao Nan wanted to cheer. “Since Teacher Lee made this arrangement, I will definitely listen to Teacher Lee.”

“You and your sweet tongue, alright, go back. Although you don’t have to participate in the training, you should also make some preparations.” Teacher Lee was pleased by Qiao Nan’s words.

“Teacher Lee, don’t worry, I will definitely be well prepared.”

When Qiao Nan was back, Zhao Yu glanced at her a few times.

As the Chinese Representative, Zhao Yu had seen Qiao Nan's essay more than once, so she was aware of the standard of Qiao Nan's essays.

If Qiao Nan also took part in this essay competition, it would be difficult for her to win, not to mention to be one of the five participants.

At the school's preliminary round of selection, Zhao Yu was relieved that she did not see Qiao Nan. It turned out that Qiao Nan had declined to participate in the essay writing competition this time. That would be great!

Zhao Yu's essay writing skills were of some standard. Indeed, she managed to grab one out of the five places for the competition.

During training, Zhao Yu realized that there were only four attendees although there were a total of five participants.

For the sake of doing well during the essay writing competition, Zhao did not inquire further. She was motivated and focused on competing with herself, so that she could produce good essays and win a prize.

"Is this woman sick?" Every time Zhao Yu passed by Qiao Nan, she looked like an arrogant rooster who could not wait to lift its tail to the sky. Zhu Baoguo was angered by this. "What does she mean by this?"

"What can she mean, she is happy that she can participate in the essay writing competition." Qiao Nan did not have a care, she would do whatever she needed to do.

Qiao Nan had long heard the words spread by those who were on close terms with Zhao Yu.

They were saying that it was useless that Qiao Nan had good grades as she could not even participate in the essay writing competition. In the critical times, the class still had to depend on Zhao Yu to do them proud for the Chinese Language.

"What about you, you're not participating?" Zhu Baoguo was not pleased with Zhao Yu's attitude. It was just an essay writing competition. "If you wish to participate, I can help you think of a way. I can ensure that the five places are changed to six."

“No need, I have a place. I am also participating.” Qiao Nan shook her head.

“You too? How come I don’t know, I didn’t see you attending the training?” Zhu Baoguo raised his eyebrows. His sister was so capable and did not even need his help.

“Teacher Lee specially granted me an exception for this, but please don’t tell anyone about this.” Qiao Nan also knew that this matter was confidential.

Although this matter was decided by Teacher Lee and had nothing to do with her, it was not good for others to know about it.

“Cow.” Zhu Baoguo also lifted his chin, why was Zhao Yu was acting like a bird? After all, his sister took one of the five places without even the need to take the preliminary test or attend the training.

“Yes.” Qiao Nan nodded her head, she believed that Zhu Baoguo would not say this to others, there was no point in doing so.

Zhu Baoguo would not say, but there were a number of classmates around them. Although the voices of the two of them were not very loud, someone vaguely heard that Qiao Nan would also be participating in this essay competition.

One spread to two, two to three, before the lesson ended, Zhao Yu already knew about this matter. “Impossible, Qiao Nan is lying. During the day of the preliminary round of selection, she did not even come. Moreover, she was also not qualified to attend the daily training session, how could she be one of the participants?”

“What’s wrong with Qiao Nan, she dared to say this to save face.” After hearing the insider information from Zhao Yu, who confirmed that Qiao Nan did not join these activities, most people held the mood of watching a show to jeer at Qiao Nan.

So what if Qiao Nan’s grades were good, she loved to brag and was not a model student with good moral character. There was nothing to be proud of.

“No hurry, let’s wait till the day to see how she falls on her own face. This lie would not continue for long, we will see how she brag. The more she brags now, the more her face would be hurt on the day of the competition.” Zhao Yu was extremely happy that she could participate, while Qiao Nan weaved these nonsensical stories as she could not do so.

Not long after, she would like to see how Qiao Nan would lose her face, how merciless!

So, Qiao Nan was also capable of such doing such things.

After the Zhao Yu knew about this matter, she became very tolerant. Contrary to usual, she stopped talking bad about Qiao Nan, and would even praise Qiao Nan occasionally in front of others.

Upon Zhao Yu’s publicity, besides the Class One of Secondary Three, the whole of Secondary Three knew about this matter. Many were spreading this rumor furiously.

“Zhao Yu, Qiao Nan’s rumors were so wide-spread, will Teacher help her to clarify, we won’t be able to watch the fun then.” Zhao Yu’s classmate was a little anxious, she was watching the buzz with fun and hoping that there would be more to come.

“What’s the hurry, even if Teacher Lee clarified, Qiao Nan would also lose her face. Now, the whole secondary three students already knew that Qiao Nan would participate in the essay writing competition. If Teacher Lee clarify now, won’t Qiao Nan also lose her face? Anyway, this time, Qiao Nan will not get away with it. What goes around comes around.” Zhou Yu was overjoyed as she said this.

“True.” The classmate laughed and returned to her own seat, while waiting for Teacher Lee to expose Qiao Nan’s lies.

But to everyone’s surprise, Teacher Lee did not say a word about this matter at all during the whole lesson.

Until the bell rang, upon leaving the classroom, most were astonished. Teacher Lee was not going to take a hand in this matter?

“I must clarify, I did not breathe a word to anyone about that matter.” Once the class was over, Zhu Baoguo was the first to clarify to Qiao Nan.



He was not a busybody, it was enough that he knew about this matter, and there was no need to publicize this to the whole world. “Don’t worry. I will surely help you find out who was the one who spread the story. I will teach him a lesson!”

“No need, I did not suspect you.” Qiao Nan said nonchalantly while she ignored the classmates who were watching the fun.

“You and me are not the only ones in the class. There is a saying “The walls have ears”. Let the rumors pass, there is no need to investigate.”

“Really not investigating?” Did Xiao Qiao need to be so forgiving, if it were him, he would ensure that the person who treated him this way was dead.

“Fine, there’s still one more lesson. Get ready to go home after that.” Qiao Nan packed her books and put away all the books that she needed into her school bag.

Half a semester passed, Qiao Nan felt more at ease as she had made a lot of progress in catching up with her knowledge.

Coupled with the recent receipt of an revision book, Qiao Nan felt that her current learning journey was as smooth as a God-sent gift.

Who was so brilliant to have known her situation and bought her such a good book?

Chapter 73: Double Happiness

Even if she had the money to pick it up in the bookstore, she might not be able to choose a book that suited her so well.

When Qiao Nan reached home, Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi were already around. Qiao Nan put away her school bag. She saw that Ding Jiayi had a look of excitement on her face, both eyes were as bright as the daylight – did she pick up some money from the streets?

“Zijin is so capable. A prominent school lives up to its name. The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China is excellent. I feel that I have made the best decision in my life by admitting her into the school.”

“It’s not bad. Have you gotten someone to bring the money over to Zijin?” Qiao Dongliang was all smiles too, with a expression full of glory.”Zijin is not at home, today, you should prepare a good meal too, we can celebrate.”

The elder daughter was so capable, Qiao Dongliang was really pleased.

“Fine!” Ding Jiayi agreed without any hesitation.”Good food today all thanks to Zijin.”

While saying that, Ding Jiayi shifted her glance to Qiao Nan, if not for the sake of celebrating for Zijin, she also did not wish to prepare a good meal when Zijin was away and benefit the wretched girl.

“Nan Nan is back.” Qiao Dongliang, who was in a good mood, saw everything positively. “Nan Nan, Zijin got a place to participate in the provincial city essay writing competition. Your sister has really improved.”

“Provincial city essay writing competition?” Having heard this, Qiao Nan raised her eyebrows. Such a coincidence?

But, with Qiao Zijin’s essay, was she qualified to join the competition?

“Yes, Nan Nan, when you study in the senior high school, like Zijin, you will also have the opportunity to participate in the Provincial city essay writing competition.” At the thought that the younger daughter’s grades were better, Qiao Dongliang believed that she would certainly have the chance to do so in future.

“Old Qiao, you don’t need to give Qiao Nan so much pressure, can any Tom, Dick and Harry take part in the provincial city composition competition? Zijin asked someone to passed the message that the whole school only sent 10 people. One out of 10, there are so many students in the school, and all these are good students. Zijin has done us proud!” Ding Jiayi became more excited as she continued. “You used to control Zijin. Zijin told me that, putting the storyline aside, the writing in the novels that she read previously is good. Reading more will help greatly in essay writing. You see, Zijin did not waste money or read the books without giving any thoughts. She had a reason for reading those books.”

While drinking her water, Qiao Nan casually asked, “Dad, when is Sister going to the competition?”

“Your sister will not be back next week, she has to stay in the school for training because the essay writing competition is on the weekend of the week after next.”

“Oh, same for me too.”

“Same?” Qiao Dongliang blinked his eyes. “Nan Nan, you are also joining the competition?”

“Yes.”

“What yes, Zijin is participating in the provincial city essay competition, how can it be the same?” Ding Jiayi casted an unhappy look at Qiao Nan.

“I am also joining the competition, and at the same timing as Sister, that’s why I said it’s a coincidence.”

Qiao Nan’s words should be good news for the family, but at that moment, the smiles on the faces of Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi were frozen for a while.

Qiao Dongliang was happy, but at this moment he had further thoughts.

Qiao Zijin was able to participate in the competition and would not be coming home next week. She specially asked someone to sent a message to request money from the Qiao couple to buy an essay writing book to read.

When the child has progressed in her learning, performed well, and wanted to buy a decent and proper essay writing book, there was no reason for the parent to reject this request.

So, Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi had come up with 10 yuan and asked the messenger to pass it to Qiao Zijin.

There comes the problem. Both daughters would be joining the competition. He had given the elder daughter 10 yuan to purchase learning materials, it would be unfair not to give the same to his younger daughter?

Qiao Dongliang, who always like to advocate “Fairness, Justice, and Transparency”, was hesitating as he thought about the amount of money in his pocket.

There was famine in the family, and without savings, Qiao Dongliang did not feel assured and had been finding ways to save up a little here and there.

The 10 yuan earlier was already an extra expense. If he had to give away another 10 yuan, that would be really hard.

If he did not give, Qiao Dongliang felt bad about being biased, but if he give, that would be too much expenditure. Qiao Dongliang was feeling the pinch.

Ding Jiayi quickly pulled Qiao Dongliang. Qiao Nan was not at home, and was not aware that they had given 10 yuan to Qiao Zijin. “That’s a good thing, I am going to prepare dinner, you may return to your room quickly to read your books.”

For the first time, Ding Jiayi was so willing to watch Qiao Nan go to her room without helping in any household chores and read her own books.

“Yes.” Qiao Nan replied with a word and went to her room, while carrying her schoolbag.

Before the couple could breathe a sigh of relief, at the moment where Qiao Nan opened the door of her room, she turned her head and asked. “Sister will be joining the competition, did you all give her money to buy the learning materials?”

Ding Jiayi’s smiling face turned stiff at that instant.

Qiao Dongliang was full of embarrassment. He already said, he could not let his child suffer no matter how poor he was or how hard he had to work. Qiao Dongliang bit his tongue and reached into the pocket of his trousers. “Yes, I just asked someone to bring 10 yuan for your sister. Qiao Nan, come, take this 10 yuan. If you need any learning materials, go and buy. It is rare to have this opportunity, we have to cherish this.”

Ding Jiayi wanted to open her mouth to shout when she heard that they were also giving 10 yuan to Qiao Nan.

Qiao Dongliang glared at Ding Jiayi. "If you are not willing to, sure, I will make a trip to Zijin's school later and retrieve that 10 yuan?"

"Is it the same, Zijin is in senior high school and the materials are expensive. 10 yuan is fine. But she is only in junior high school, and joining different competitions, not together. Can't you just give her a few yuan?" Ding Jiayi was making a lot of noise.

"Why don't you just give one or two cents?" Qiao Dongliang rolled her eyes at Ding Jiayi. "Equal treatment, if Zijin gets 10 yuan, of course Qiao Nan should also get 10 yuan. This matter is decided. Nan Nan, take the money!"

Looking at the 10 yuan that was forced into her hands, Qiao Nan initially felt bad but she felt more at ease now.

At least her father tried his best to be fair to both Qiao Zijin and her.

"Dad, I don't need it. Sister bought so many essay writing books. If I really need it, I will read hers. But next week when we are at the competition outside, 10 yuan is not necessary, but you still need to give me two yuan. I can't possibly let the teachers treat me to the meals." After returning Qiao Dongliang 10 yuan, Qiao Nan separately asked for the money.

Qiao Nan's words made Qiao Dongliang felt quite bad. The elder daughter had so many revision materials. In his impression, the younger daughter had never bought any.

Fairness, the family had never been fair.

But he had no choice. Zijin would be taking in a son-in-law in future. The child of Zijin would bear the surname of Qiao. If he could treat Nan Nan better, he would try his best to do so. "Fine, here's three yuan. Keep it."

Chapter 74: All The Pens Were Broken

From ten yuan to three yuan, although Ding Jiayi still felt the pinch, there was a seven yuan savings. Ding Jiayi secretly breathed a sigh of relief and went to prepare the meal.

Looking at Ding Jiayi, Qiao Nan tugged the corners of her mouth with sarcasm.

If she had taken the 10 yuan earlier, probably the good news of Qiao Zijin's participation in the essay writing competition could not save her mother's loss of appetite.

The thought that spending some money on herself would make her mother lose her appetite and suffer insomnia, she had nothing to say.

In the blink of an eye, two weeks had passed.

On the early morning of Saturday, Zhao Yu was prepared to go to school to wait for the teacher, when the school's rented car came, she picked a seat and sat.

"Hey, why are there only four of us today, didn't our school select five students?" Everyone was quite early, before long, Zhao Yu saw the three students who attended training with her.

"Not sure." The other classmate was also puzzled.

"Zhao Yu, you're from Class One?" The classmate seated behind Zhao Yu had a sneer on her face. "Do you really not know or are you pretending not to know?"

"What do you mean by this?" She did not provoke her?

"Qiao Nan's essay is so good, she scored nearly full marks in the two exams. Who do you think this fifth person will be? Qiao Nan's participation was already decided by the school long ago. As Qiao Nan's case was an exception, some people are not happy, but regardless, whoever that has seen Qiao Nan's essay would be convinced of her ability."

She was more sensitive than Zhao Yu. Clearly there had been five but only four came for the training. She had already asked the teacher about it.

In the end, that was what the teacher told her. She was not convinced and happy initially. But after the Chinese Teacher showed her Qiao Nan's essay, she had nothing to say.

Although she accepted this, she did not feel too good either.

When she heard Zhao Yu saying this now, the classmate was even more unhappy.

"What, Qiao Nan's participation had long been decided by the school?" Zhao Yu gave a stare. No wonder Qiao Nan was really one out of the five. "Then why didn't she join the training?"

"Teacher Lee." At this time, Qiao Nan's voice could be heard from outside the car. "I hope I'm not late?"

"No, the timing is just right, hurry and get on the bus." Teacher Lee smilingly let Qiao Nan board the bus. "Do you have motion sickness, if you do, it's best to take the seat in front."

These were students who would be competing, they had to be in their best form.

"Teacher Lee, I do not have motion sickness, I can sit anywhere."

After boarding the car, Qiao Nan sat down once she saw an empty seat. It did not matter where the seat was.

When Zhao Yu saw Qiao Nan passing by in front of her, her face was white. What about the slapping of own face, lies and bragging? Why did Qiao Nan really come, it's so unfair!

The four of them were selected from the school, and went through half a month of training. On what grounds was Qiao Nan qualified to compete when she did not even attend anything, was that fair to other students?

She had these thoughts in her mind. But before the teacher, Zhao Yu ultimately did not dare to raise her doubts, she could only endure this and sit quietly in her seat.

When it was about one and a half hours into the journey, Qiao Nan already finished her nap.

Amongst the five students in the car, only Qiao Nan had the mood to sleep. The rest of the four were either constantly revising their essays that had been marked and commented on by the teachers, or reading essay writing books.

During the period of training, the teacher gave them many model essay questions to work on. First, it's a practice. Second, they were in luck if they guessed the question.

The four students held the hope that the teacher had guessed correctly, and were doing their utmost to memorize their own essays.

However, when they turned and saw Qiao Nan sleeping soundly, with her head wobbling from side to side, they gritted their teeth. This Qiao Nan was really too much!

“All of you should relax too, don't be too nervous.” When the teachers saw the situation, they all laughed. Qiao Nan was clearly a young lady but was so relaxed, she could still sleep so soundly at this time.

But those who sat on a moving car before knew that it was boring to be in the car. It was not conducive to read something and sleeping was the best way to pass time.

“Okay.”

“Okay, Teacher Lee,” The four students replied weakly. Who could relax at such a time? If they could attain a good score for this essay writing competition, they would be given merit points for the middle school examinations.”

“Qiao Nan, wake up. We have arrived.”

Upon reaching the location of the competition, it was Teacher Lee who woke Qiao Nan up.

“We have arrived?” Qiao Nan rubbed her eyes. She had put on a little weight recently. She looked so pretty, her tiny face was as rosy as an apple.

“Yes, we are here.” Teacher Lee's eyes were gentle, as if she were looking at her own child. “Drink some water and sober up, don't be sleepy and muddle-headed during the competition.”



“Okay, I will wash my face when I go to the restroom later.” Qiao Nan nodded her head and left the car, but she left behind her school bag.

After Qiao Nan finished washing up, the teacher was already leading the students to the exam hall.

“Teacher Lee, I need to go back to the car, I left my school bag there and the pens are inside the bag.” Qiao Nan told Teacher Lee and hurriedly took her school bag from the car.

Zhao Yu, who was standing behind Teacher Lee, saw this and she smiled slyly.

“Fine, quickly enter the exam hall.” The teachers swiftly settled the students in their respective seats. When the competition starts, the bell rang and all the competing students began to lower their heads and review the question.

When she saw the question, Qiao Nan had a little surprise. She had previously written an essay that was appropriate for the subject. This time, she could slack a little.

She had only written that essay once, and it still needed a little touch up. This was her second time writing it, with some touching up, there should not be any major issue.

After thinking through, Qiao Nan took out her pen and prepared to write. She finished her first word but she could only see the strokes of her writing, without any ink.

Qiao Nan blinked her eyes. This was a new pen, how could it be?

Qiao Nan, who refused to believe in fate, tried to rub the tip of the pen with paper, just in case the tip was covered with wax. But after a long time, she still could not write a single word.

Qiao Nan shook the pen vigorously but to no avail.

Qiao Nan quickly took another pen. She brought a total of three pens, but strangely, all three pens that used to be easy to write with could not produce a single word now!

Zhao Yu, who was seated behind Qiao Nan, was secretly watching Qiao Nan. When she saw Qiao Nan spent a long time messing with the pen and did not manage to write anything, her smile broadened.

This time, she wanted to see how Qiao Nan could compete with her!

## Chapter 75: Clash of the Garments

Qiao Nan took a deep breath and then raised her hand.

“What is the matter?” The invigilator walked to Qiao Nan’s side.

“Teacher, I brought three pens, they are all broken and I can’t write with them. Can I borrow a pen?”

“Well... ” said the teacher awkwardly. “I only have a red pen. Does anyone have a spare pen to lend?”

Faced with the invigilator’s question, the exam hall was silent, you could hear a pin drop. Everyone was busy writing their essay and nobody answered. Some students even secretly hid their spare pens in case the invigilator asked.

Seated in the same exam hall but only a few would be winners, everybody was a competitor, who would lend their spare pen?

At least in this exam hall, nobody was willing to.

“Well... ” said the invigilator, faced with this situation, the invigilator was at a loss of what to do. He had to invigilate and could not leave, if the other students were not willing to lend, he could not force them to lend either.

Qiao Nan took a deep breath, pursed her lips and said, “Teacher, if there is no other way, could you lend me your red pen?”

“That will not do, this essay’s rules state clearly that it must be written in blue or black ink, red ink will not do,” replied the teacher sympathetically. The teacher pitied Qiao Nan for being so unlucky, she could not participate in the competition she did not have a pen.

Qiao Nan’s eyes started to well up. She had not thought of participating earlier but now that she was here at the competition, she was faced the possibility of giving up because she did not have a usable pen. Qiao Nan was very unhappy and unwilling.

Most importantly, she had prepared three pens, there was a new one and the rest were her usual pens.

The pens were clearly still working last night yet it was broken today. If somebody had told her it was a coincidence, she would never believe it. Somebody must have plotted against her!

“Teacher Zhou, what is the matter?” A voice came from the few people standing outside the classroom.

“Principal.” Teacher Zhou spotted an old man and hurriedly walked over. Teacher Zhou explained, “That student’s pens are all broken and other students do not have spare pens to lend. At this rate, she will not be able to participate.”

The old principal paused before continuing, “Oh my, the children these days. Whilst academic results are important, moral education should also not be neglected.”

“Use mine.” Zhai Sheng said rather nonchalantly before taking out a pen. Zhai Sheng had his eyes fixed on Qiao Nan and he noticed her sweating profusely due to the anxiety.

Today, Zhai Sheng had come to the school on behalf of his father and unexpectedly met Qiao Nan.

Even more surprisingly to Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan seemed to be very unlucky. In the few times that he has met Qiao Nan, Qiao Nan was always in trouble.

However, Zhai Sheng looked at the students in the exam hall and his eyes were filled with disapproval.

“I thank you on behalf of that student.” The Invigilator replied with a relief. He had really felt pity for Qiao Nan.

Looking at the attention given to Qiao Nan by other teachers earlier, the invigilator deduced that she must be a good student and her essay writing skills should be up to par too.

“Do not mention it.”

“Here is the pen you wanted, use it quickly without further delay.” The invigilator handed Zhai Sheng’s pen over to Qiao Nan. The invigilator gently reminded Qiao Nan, “This is a fountain pen, pay extra care when you write. Wait for the ink to dry or else it will smudge when you put your hand over it.”

“Thank you Teacher!” Qiao Nan’s eyes lit up.

“Don’t thank me. The pen was loaned to you from him. When you finished, remember to return it to him.” The invigilator pointed to Zhai Sheng. This pen was quite heavy and had a good feel, it must be pretty expensive.

“Zhai Sheng?” Qiao Nan had spotted Zhai Sheng. “Okay, teacher, noted.”

“Alright, make full use of your time, the other students have already written a lot.” said the invigilator.

“Okay,” replied Qiao Nan. She was already late by more than 10 minutes.

Fortunately, she had a draft in her mind, otherwise given the situation, she would not be able to continue writing.

Qiao Nan actually preferred writing with a fountain pen and coupled with the fact that Zhai Sheng’s pen was of a high quality, it allowed Qiao Nan to write swiftly in tandem with the ink flowing smoothly out from the nib of the pen. It was even faster than if Qiao Nan had used a ballpoint pen.

In no time at all, Qiao Nan had caught up with the progress of the other students.

Due to the pen incident, the invigilator paid extra attention to Qiao Nan and stood by Qiao Nan for a moment.

The invigilator saw that Qiao Nan had written so much in such a short period of time, his eyes lit up as he was taken aback. When he further read the contents, coupled with the elegant writing of the fountain pen, he was genuinely surprised.

Before the bell rang, Qiao Nan had already finished with her essay.

When it was time to exit the exam hall, some of the students had not finished and were making a scene.

Qiao Nan walked out relaxedly and wanted to find Zhai Sheng to return the pen.

Qiao Nan had only taken a few steps when Teacher Lee came up and asked, “Qiao Nan, how do you think you fared in the competition?”

Qiao Nan replied, “Similar to the usual.”

“That’s good,” Teacher Lee said with a sigh of relief. If Qiao Nan was able to perform normally, she should at least be able to receive a third prize minimally.

“Qiao Nan, what are you doing here?” A voice rang out from behind Qiao Nan.

“I came to participate in the provincial composition competition.” Qiao Nan turned around to face Qiao Zijin.

“You, you also came to participate?” Qiao Zijin stammered, somewhat shocked. She had never heard that Qiao Nan was participating.

“Hi Zijin, it’s you. You also came here to participate?” Teacher Lee asked. Teacher Lee was somewhat shocked, Teacher Lee knew the standard of Qiao Zijin’s essay. How was Qiao Zijin able to participate? Wasn’t the school afraid of wasting a nomination slot?

There were merit points for winning a junior high school essay competition, and of course the same for a high school competition.

As such, the high school competition's nomination slots would be more keenly contested.

Qiao Zijin's words had coincided with Teacher Lee's. Qiao Nan smiled and replied, "I had heard from Father and Mother that you were participating but I did not expect us to be in the same school participating."

Qiao Zijin forced out a smile and said, "Such is fate. Nan Nan, how did you fare?"

"Not too bad," said Qiao Nan, who raised her eyebrows whilst noticing Qiao Zijin's increasing discomfort. She deduced in her mind that Qiao Zijin had not performed well in the competition, otherwise why was her face so pale?

"Alright, it is getting late, we should get going." Teacher Lee said whilst patting Qiao Nan's shoulder. Teacher Lee did not speak much to Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Nan followed Teacher Lee, nodded to Qiao Zijin and then simply left.

Once Qiao Nan had left, Qiao Zijin's face turned downcast and quickly went to find her classmates. Qiao Zijin asked, "I heard that for this competition, junior school students are also here, do you know what their essay question was?"

"I think it was the same as ours." The classmate replied before adding, "The teachers are too lazy, setting the same question for junior school and high school. They did not even make the effort to think up another question."

"Qiao Zijin, did you manage to finish your essay?" Qiao Zijin's Chinese teacher walked happily towards Qiao Zijin. The teacher added, "I read your previous essay, that would have been suitable and you need not think up a new essay. Did you use that essay for submission?"

Even the Chinese teacher was surprised by Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Zijin's normal performance was average but she did demonstrate a flair for writing when it came to essays.

Otherwise, how would Qiao Zijin be able to participate based on her academic results?

“It was submitted,” Qiao Zijin replied dryly without a hint of happiness.

Only heaven knows that when Qiao Zijin saw the essay question, she was so happy that she wanted to let out a scream. The heavens were on her side!

She had not expected her luck to be so good. She had used Qiao Nan’s essay for submission earlier and won the nomination slot for the competition. Even more unexpectedly, Qiao Nan’s essay was also suitable for the exam question.

She could fully make use of one essay from Qiao Nan!

However, once Qiao Zijin saw Qiao Nan, the good mood dissipated.

Qiao Nan must be here to participate in the essay competition. Both junior school and high school questions were the same, surely Qiao Nan did not write the same essay?

Impossible, she should not have.

Qiao Nan had written this casually, surely she would not be able to regurgitate and she would write a new piece?

The more Qiao Zijin thought about it, the more guilty she felt. Her mind was hurting from all the thinking. She prayed silently that her essay and Qiao Nan’s essay did not coincide.

Qiao Nan was very good at essay writing, she could easily write a new piece. Surely, she would not be so lazy to regurgitate an old piece?

After the competition, Qiao Zijin could finally go home. However, on the way home, Qiao Zijin’s mind kept going through the various scenarios, it was very torturous.

“Zijin, you are back. How was the competition? Are you confident?” Ding Jiayi asked excitedly, warmly welcoming Qiao Zijin home.

“Mom, where is Nan Nan?” asked Qiao Zijin.

“She is reading in her room,” replied Ding Jiayi.

“Mom, I have to find Nan Nan first. Talk to you later,” Qiao Zijin replied. Once Qiao Zijin heard that Qiao Nan was back, she threw her schoolbag to Ding Jiayi and went to Qiao Nan’s room. Qiao Zijin said, “Nan Nan, I have something to talk to you about.”

“Go ahead,” Qiao Nan said. She threw away the three broken pens into the dustbin.

When Qiao Nan came back and inspected the pens, she found that the pens had signs of being thrown which led to them being broken.

Anyone who uses ballpoint pens knows that once you smash the pens onto the floor, the pens will be broken easily and you cannot write with them anymore. The pens were obviously smashed onto the floor by somebody.

Qiao Nan’s schoolbag was on the school bus all this while, the person who did it was surely not from another school and the teacher would not do it either. Could it have been one of the other four people who joined her in the competition today?

Such bad behavior at such a young age.

“Nan Nan, what was your essay question today?” Qiao Zijin asked. If the question was different, then there was nothing for her to worry about.

“Teacher Lee told me that the question for junior school and high school is the same” Qiao Nan replied pointedly.

It was really the same...

Qiao Zijin’s face froze. “Nan Nan, what did you write for the competition then?”



“Is there a problem?” Qiao Nan blinked her eyes. “Sister, why are you suddenly so concerned about my studies?”

“I am your sister, is it wrong to be concerned about you?” Qiao Zijin smiled embarrassedly. “Tell me honestly, what did you write for today’s essay?”

“I didn’t write much. If you really care about me, I can tell you. I feel that I did quite well, you don’t need to worry about me. Sister, you need to work hard too.” Qiao Nan smiled. The more Qiao Zijin asked, the more Qiao Nan refused to answer.

“I don’t need you to worry about it.” Qiao Zijin said unappreciatively. “I just wanted to know what you wrote. You can just tell me directly. Won’t that do?”

“Then, Sister, why don’t you tell me what you wrote today? We were given the same question. Shall we discuss?”

Qiao Zijin said a sentence, and Qiao Nan said another. After haggling for a long time, Qiao Zijin did not gather anything useful. Instead, she nearly let the cat out of the bag.

Qiao Zijin did not know what to say. “You are really too much. Just be straight to the point and answer me. Why are you talking crap?”

“When I asked you, you didn’t reply either.”

“Qiao Nan, did you do this on purpose?” Qiao Zijin’s heart was in a flurry.

“Do what on purpose?” Qiao Nan raised her eyebrows and asked Qiao Zijin to make herself clear.

“No, nothing. Forget it if you don’t want to say.” Qiao Zijin could not continue with the conversation any longer. She could not possibly tell Qiao Nan that she had stolen one of her essays and plagiarized it for today’s competition, then asked Qiao Nan if she had written something else or regurgitated that old piece of work.

With nothing in return after trying for a long time, Qiao Zijin was burning with anger inside, yet she could not vent it at Qiao Nan. She could only stamp her feet and left with a pale face.

Qiao Zijin had just left Qiao Nan's bedroom when Ding Jiayi came looking for Qiao Nan in a fearsome manner. "Did you bully your sister just now?"

"How could I bully Sister? During today's essay competition, I bumped into her. Coincidentally, we were at the same place. Furthermore, the test question for both junior and senior high school were the same, so Sister came and asked me how I fared. It's that simple." Qiao Nan was happy. She bullied Qiao Zijin?

She would be lucky if Qiao Zijin bullied her less.

"It's really so simple?" She clearly saw Qiao Zijin looking unhappy when she came out of Qiao Nan's room.

"Yes, it's that simple. Mom, you can ask Sister if you do not believe what I said. You will surely believe whatever Sister said? If I bullied her, would she not let you know?" It would not be Qiao Zijin if she did not complain.

"That better be. If not, I'll not let you off." Ding Jiayi was so protective of Qiao Zijin, like a cow shielding her calf, she scolded Qiao Nan even before anything happened.

Although Ding Jiayi got a reply from Qiao Nan, she still felt uncomfortable. As such, she specially looked for Qiao Zijin to find out more.

Qiao Zijin did not look good when she glanced at Ding Jiayi. "That's what it is, Mom. I just finished the competition and feel really tired, I would like to take a break."

"Sure, Mom will not disturb you. Rest well. I'll call you after preparing the meal." Seeing that the elder daughter seemed troubled, Ding Jiayi dared not disturb, so she quietly left Qiao Zijin's room, closing the bedroom door along the way.

Alone in the room, Qiao Nan took out her essay book and opened it.

Qiao Nan touched the page that was missing, her eyes revealing that she was deep in thought.

Yesterday, she suddenly found that she was missing a page in this essay book, as if the page had been torn off.

To prevent from being discovered, the person had torn away the other side of that page as well.

Qiao Nan was not sure who had torn the page. Until today, all her pens were broken, Qiao Nan could not help suspecting that this was the doing of one of her classmates.

After all, during the times when she was in school, her schoolbag was not by her side at all times. There would be opportunity for someone to tear the book.

However, a while ago, Qiao Nan had finally confirmed the person who tore the page of her essay book.

It was not someone else, it was Qiao Zijin.

During today's competition, Qiao Nan had a great shock when she saw the question. For a while, she hesitated and wondered if the person who tore her book would simply copy her work.

This idea flashed briefly in Qiao Nan's head, but she decided to use it eventually as she did not see any reason not to, and it was her own essay.

As for the person who would copy her essay, she was too daring!

After putting the essay book away, Qiao Nan sneered. Qiao Zijin always thought that she could continue to bully Qiao Nan. Now, starting from this essay book, Qiao Nan would show Qiao Zijin that this was not so.

During mealtime, Ding Jiayi dared not ask a word. On the contrary, Qiao Dongliang asked his two daughters how they fared in today's essay writing.

Qiao Nan laughed nonchalantly, "As usual."

"How about Zijin?"

“Not, not sure.” Qiao Zijin nearly choked on her rice.

Initially, in such a situation, Qiao Zijin wanted to proudly proclaim that she had done very well. However, Qiao Zijin was no longer in the mood now. “Not very sure, it will depend on the Teacher’s views.”

“No anxiety, it is extremely good that you can join the competition this time. It will be great if you receive a prize. If you did not, take it as a learning experience.” Qiao Zijin did not sound confident. Hence, Qiao Dongliang dared not harbor high hopes.

In comparison to the past where the elder daughter did not have any involvement with such activities, he had obviously seen significant improvements.

“Both of you have worked hard, eat more.” Qiao Dongliang lovingly filled the two daughters’ bowls with lots of protein dishes.

Ding Jiayi opened her mouth but did not say a word. She then quickly filled Zijin’s bowls with a few more servings of vegetables with her chopsticks.

While Qiao Zijin felt extremely uneasy, the teacher reading the test essays was in a good mood. The teacher of the high school’s language team held an essay in his hand: “This essay is really good, you all have a look too.”

“Oh, let me take a look. Yes, it’s really quite good.”

“So good?” After reading it once, all the teachers in the Chinese Language team gave a score to the essay based on their criteria. As expected, the final score was good.

“Why don’t we do this?” Set one for the first place, two for the second place, and three for the third place. After picking out six essays, the teacher submitted the list of winners and the respective essays.

After the high school department had finalized this, the junior high school team had almost done so too.

During the last review, something was wrong.

“Why, you see, this essay is for the first place in junior high school, and this is for the second place in senior high school. The similarity of the two is more than 90 percent, but...” When the two essays were placed together to compare, someone immediately saw the problem.

## Chapter 77: Confrontation

“But what? “The team leader reviewed the two essays. True enough, the contents of the two were indeed almost exactly the same, with only some differences in some of the rhetorical writing.

As for what the other teacher was referring to when he said “But... “, the leader also noticed.

The second place essay for the senior high school was not as good as that of the first place of the junior high school. The essay for the junior high school displayed a better style in writing, and succinct phrasing of words.

The two essays were identical. There must be a problem here.

However, the essay from the senior high school was not better than that from the junior high school, why was this the case?

Perhaps the two students did not write these essays, and instead plagiarized them from someone. The difference was that the quality of the essay of the junior high school student was better.

The leader removed his spectacles. “Find out immediately the identity of the students who wrote these two essays, and the schools that they are from, then ask their teachers to come. This type of matter has to be dealt with, we must clarify this!”

Teacher Lee, who was resting at home during the weekend, received a call from the school’s management asking her to go to the provincial city.

“Vice Principal, what is happening?” After Teacher Lee prepared the items that were requested by the Vice Principal, when she rushed to the provincial city, she discovered that the Vice Principal had also come.

“I heard from the management that Qiao Nan’s essay had a clash of “garments” with someone else’s essay. The high school had another essay that is almost identical. The similarity is as high as ninety percent. What do you think is the issue?” The Vice Principal was anxious and sweating profusely. If Qiao Nan had copied the work of others, the school’s reputation would be adversely affected. “How is Qiao Nan as a student? Is there a problem with her essay?”

The Vice Principal knew that one of the five students who participated in the competition was jointly decided by the school’s language team. And this student belonged to Teacher Lee’s class.

Thus, the Vice Principal had every reason to suspect that Qiao Nan was that student.

Teacher Lee and Vice Principal arrived. The subject teacher and the leader of Qiao Zijin’s school had also arrived.

Both parties knew the situation but as education professionals, they were civilized people – they greeted one another reluctantly before entering the office.

“Both sides’ teachers are here. Take a look at these.” The two essays were placed side by side on the table. Teacher Lee and Qiao Zijin’s language teacher bowed their heads and reviewed them.

Upon the sight of the familiar essay, Qiao Zijin’s language teacher said immediately, “Leader, this essay was indeed written by my student – Qiao Zijin.”

“What, this essay belonged to Qiao Zijin?” Teacher Lee was surprised.

“Why, this teacher knows both the students?” The leader looked at Teacher Lee. “Oh yes, it seems that the two students who wrote the essays bear the same surname – Qiao?”

“In response to the leader’s question, Qiao Zijin was also from my school. She is the biological sister of my student, Qiao Nan. Both are born from the same parents.”

“Biological sisters?” The leader was stunned. “Then did the younger sister copied her elder sister?”

However, the younger sister's essay was obviously better than that of the elder sister.

The leader read in detail, that younger sister's essay could also clinch the top place in the senior high school category.

It was placed second now because the elder sister's essay was not as good.

"Impossible," Teacher Lee said with certainty. "Qiao Nan would never copy Zijin's essay."

Qiao Zijin's teacher's expression changed. If the younger sister did not copy, then it meant that her student had copied her younger sister?

"Leader, I have proof that this essay is undoubtedly written by my student Qiao Zijin." As she said that, Qiao Zijin's teacher took out an essay book. "Leader, see, this was written by Qiao Zijin in the school half a month ago. At that time, I was impressed by the essay and recommended her to join the competition. Coincidentally, this essay was appropriate for the subject of the essay for this competition."

Qiao Zijin wrote this half a month ago, the school had the records.

"Then, this teacher, what do you have to say?" He saw that Qiao Zijin's essay, that was written half a month ago, was indeed identical to that essay, just short of a few words and adjectives.

"Leader, to tell you the truth, I have not seen this essay from Qiao Nan before."

Hearing Teacher Lee's remark, Qiao Zijin's teacher smiled complacently.

Seeing the expression of the teacher, Teacher Lee smiled. "However, I still believe in my student. "Leader, I have proof too. My proof are two test papers, one is our first semester's model exam paper, and the other is the mid-term exam paper administered half a month ago. Leader, you may take a look at the essays written by Qiao Nan before."

She dared to say that if these two essays were taken to participate in the competition, and were appropriate for the question, they would definitely also be winning essays.

The leader took a look at the two test papers. First, the words written on the paper were neat and tidy, and pleasing to the eyes. He also acknowledged the scores given to the essays, but when he read the contents, his eyes lit up. “This essay, it is well written.”

After reading one essay, the Leader picked up and read the second one. “This one is also very good. Both essays’ standards are not bad and similar to the one who clinched the prizes. All the three essays are rather good. Have you thought of submitting the drafts for this student?”

“Also, how old is this student?” It was not easy for a junior high school student to compose an essay of such a high standard. The student is a literacy talent.

“In response to your question, Leader, Qiao Nan is 15 years old. She is younger than her sister by two years, but studied early for a year.” Teacher Lee introduced proudly.

“I see.” The leader was again surprised regarding Qiao Nan’s writing and also her young age. “Did you bring the essays written by Qiao Zijin in usual days?”

After reading Qiao Nan’s essays, the leader did not conclude immediately.

“Yes, I did...” Qiao Zijin’s teacher’s expression turned awkward. An essay that could gain the liking of the leader was definitely not bad.

On the contrary, Qiao Zijin’s teacher knew, although Qiao Zijin did not write many essays, the only piece that was brilliant would be the piece that was used to participate in this competition.

Initially, she thought Qiao Zijin was suddenly enlightened, and her words flowed smoothly with her feelings, to create this wonderful masterpiece.

However, at this juncture, Qiao Zijin’s teacher was in doubt.

“Let me take a look.”

Qiao Zijin’s teacher reluctantly passed to the Leader the two other essays written by Qiao Zijin.



The leader only glanced at it a couple of times before he passed Qiao Nan's two essays to Qiao Zijin's teacher. "You can take a look at these two pieces."

A student's essay, she might have improved or even progressed rapidly. However, it was impossible for certain situations to occur.

## Chapter 78: The Joy of Some, The Sorrow Of Others

After the student had made some progress, the essays that she write would typically stay at a certain standard.

The three essays written by Qiao Nan had proved this point.

On the contrary, the standard of the essays written by Qiao Zijin's during the monthly and mid-term exams, especially the latter which was written recently, was too different from the winning essay. They were not that bad, but definitely not comparable.

Qiao Zijin's teacher quietly finished reading the two language papers of Qiao Nan, then she turned pale.

Both are Chinese teachers. After seeing Qiao Nan's essays, Qiao Zijin's teacher understood everything.

The standard of Qiao Nan's essays were consistent.

Having seen the two essays by Qiao Zijin, it was without a doubt that Qiao Nan was the one who wrote the winning piece.

People would believe that Qiao Nan wrote the essay, whereas for Qiao Zijin, logically, no one would believe that Qiao Nan copied the work of Qiao Zijin.

Furthermore, both were biological sisters who lived under the same roof.

As long as Qiao Zijin had the intention, it would be easy for her to obtain the essay that was written by her sister. There was definitely this possibility.

After comparing, it was obvious who was the copycat.

“Do you have anything else to say?” Seeing the attitude of Qiao Zijin’s teacher, the leader need not say more.

“No, it’s our fault for selecting such a student. Leader, our sincere apologies.” The teacher from The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China quickly apologized to the Leader, Teacher Lee and the rest. After all, the student in the wrong came from the school.

Fortunately, Qiao Nan was outstanding. Otherwise, she could be easily disadvantaged in such situations, where others would misunderstand her as the copycat instead of Qiao Zijin.

After all, who would believe that the senior high school’s elder sister would copy the essay of her junior high school’s younger sister?

Had it not been that the combined competition of the junior and senior high school on this occasion, Qiao Zijin would have received the award even if she had copied Qiao Nan’s essay.

“Since the misunderstanding has been clarified, the matter has been decided. Teachers from The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, do you have any other views?” Now that the matter was clear, Qiao Nan would continue to clinch first place, but Qiao Zijin’s second place was gone.

Clearly Qiao Zijin had copied her sister. It would not be fair to other students if she won a prize.

“No comments.” Qiao Zijin’s teacher’s face was red with embarrassment. She wished that she could dig a hole and bury herself in it.

In addition to copying the work of others, her student even had a clash of “garments” during a competition, and was caught red-handed. This time, the face of the school was entirely lost.

At this juncture, Qiao Zijin’s teacher was particularly disgusted with her.

If not for Qiao Zijin, today's matter would not have happened.

The school's reputation had always been very good. If the Principal knew about this, she would definitely be criticized and she could forget about receiving her year-end bonus. The reputation of the school and her future had been destroyed by the hands of this one student – Qiao Zijin!

Teacher Lee smiled gently. What could the teachers from the other school say, they were not stupid.

What was so great about The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China? Their students were of such inferior standard – the high school student had to copy the works of the student from their junior high school.

As a teacher in the junior high school, would Teacher Lee not know about Qiao Zijin's academic performance?

To say that Qiao Nan would copy Qiao Zijin's work would be really out of this world. It would be a joke if Qiao Nan, who was a top student, needed to copy Qiao Zijin's essay. Who did not know that Qiao Zijin entered the school because of money, it was a myth that all the students in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China were outstanding.

At the thought of Qiao Zijin losing the prize and Qiao Nan clinching the top place, Teacher Lee's face was full of pride and glory.

The year end bonus of Qiao Zijin's teacher was in tatters, but that of Teacher Lee would probably be better than before.

Looking at Teacher Lee who was happy and proud, unlike the miserly state that she was in, Qiao Zijin's teacher was so furious that she wanted to vomit blood.

Most of the students in her class joined the school with the help of money, but she did not expect Qiao Zijin would be so unreliable!

Regarding this matter, Qiao Nan had no knowledge. On Sunday morning, Qiao Nan took some time to make a trip to the Zhai family, then she went to the Lee family to give tuition to Zhu Baoguo.

As usual, when Qiao Nan entered the quiet place of the Zhai family, she felt a little down.

After the competition, she did not manage to find Brother Zhai. Thereafter, she was led away by Teacher Lee, when she wanted to return to the quad so that she could return the pen to Brother Zhai, he had already returned to Pingcheng instead of the Zhai family residence.

Just when Qiao Nan was hesitating on whether to simply leave the fountain pen in the storeroom, she saw a few new books on the table.

Qiao Nan went over to take a look and discovered that the books were similar to those that she received at the delivery room.

Qiao Nan opened the books and they looked extremely new. Most likely, they had just been bought.

Did the Zhai family have any children that were studying in high school now? Did Brother Zhai specially buy these for her, so the books that she received previously at the delivery room were indeed from Brother Zhai?

In the face of the revision books with neither name nor note, Qiao Nan was in much hesitation.

These books would be of great help to her, but Brother Zhai did not leave any notes. If he really wanted to give them to her, should she accept them?

Or, similar to the previous books, she would carry them with her but would not write anything in it. If it was a misunderstanding, she could take it that she borrowed from Brother Zhai.

“Oh, there’s new books again. Say, who was the one who gave them to you?” When he saw Qiao Nan carrying the new books to the Lee family, Zhu Baoguo ran to Qiao Nan’s side to see, as if he was a monkey.

Qiao Nan was never stingy with Zhu Baoguo. As long as Zhu Baoguo did not write or draw on the books, she had never decline to lend any of them to him. It was the same this time.

“Don’t be such a busybody, I can lend them to you if you wish to read them. Don’t forget the old rules.” Sitting down, Qiao Nan was focused as she opened her school bag to proceed with the revision plan today.

Zhu Baoguo mouth twisted; in his entire life, he had not treated the books with such an attitude before. The books in his hands were not books, they were clearly akin to the ancestors that he prayed to three times a day.

Although he had these thoughts, Zhu Baoguo dared not provoke Qiao Nan, so he abided by Qiao Nan's rules when reading.

Zhu Baoguo was better at Science than Humanities and Arts subjects. Since both the Zhu family and Lee family had laid down the conditions, Qiao Nan might as well focus on revising the Science knowledge for Zhu Baoguo, and strive to improve his grades in this area.

“These are the test questions that I drafted for you yesterday. Complete these two papers.”

#### Chapter 79: Invitation By The School

During almost every weekend, Qiao Nan would come up with a Science test paper that was catered to Zhu Baoguo.

“Oh.” Already used to the revision method of Qiao Nan, Zhu Baoguo consciously took out his pen and started to work on the questions. Elder Lee, who came downstairs with the excuse of getting some water to drink, saw this and felt very comforted and relieved.

After the mid-term exam, when he saw the few test papers that Zhu Baoguo had failed, one could imagined Elder Lee's huge disappointment.

Clearly he had known that his grandson had never learned well. He also told himself more than once that, by letting his grandson learn from Qiao Nan, he just wanted to tame his temper and prevent him from getting into trouble.

However, at this juncture, Elder Lee was inevitably hopeful.

But dreams are often beautiful and reality cruel. The grandson's flunking of the tests was undoubtedly a slap in the faces of both the Zhu and the Lee family.

For this reason, Elder Lee picked a time to speak to Qiao Nan. “Nan Nan, what do you think of Baoguo’s progress, can he catch up?”

“Elder Lee, Zhu Baoguo is actually quite intelligent. It is not difficult for him to catch up. Judging that at the beginning of next year, most of his results will be improved.” Qiao Nan replied with certainty.

Elder Lee smiled bitterly. “Nan Nan, you’re still a child. Don’t talk to me so diplomatically like an adult. You also don’t need to comfort me. Tell me the truth. I have heard about Baoguo’s mid-term exam results, he did not pass any subjects.”

“Elder Lee, I am not comforting you. You don’t know Zhu Baoguo’s situation. That’s why you only looked at his marks. Zhu Baoguo’s mid-term exam grades may be a failure in your eyes but they are no different from scoring full marks in my opinion.”

“Why do you say that?”

“Zhu Baoguo did not go to school in junior high school. As primary school is not difficult, Zhu Baoguo picked them up very quickly. But picking up the knowledge of junior high school is certainly not as easy. That test paper of Zhu Baoguo, he got every question that I had taught before correct. For those that have not been taught, it is not realistic to expect him to answer them correctly or score well in the test.” Qiao Nan felt that she was in a difficult position. “Grandpa Lee, you may not quite understand, putting aside junior high school, even in primary school, the loss of any knowledge will result in difficulty in catching up, these students are easily given up by teachers. Zhu Baoguo is learning very swiftly now, his IQ is certainly not low.”

“Grandpa Lee, did you criticize Zhu Baoguo because of the mid-term exam? If so, then you have wronged Zhu Baoguo.”

“No, I didn’t.” Elder Lee was stunned as he listened. He did not expect that a failed test paper could give so much insight.

That means that although his grandson failed the exams, he had not done badly; in fact, he had done well. “Nan Nan, is what you are saying true, Baoguo is really so smart that you would give him full marks for these few tests?”

Elder Lee was someone open-minded. He initially did not understand, but after listening to Qiao Nan, he understood.

“A full 100 marks. If Zhu Baoguo continued to study seriously from the beginning, his grades will not be bad, and he will be well-liked by the teachers as he could grasp concepts at his fingertips. You know my situation, Grandpa Lee, but I never had the feeling that Zhu Baoguo was wasting my time, Zhu Baoguo can learn things without much effort. Basically, he understood whatever I have taught him just once, and answered the questions correctly.”

Anyway, she had never been a teacher, but after teaching Zhu Baoguo, she had never been in a bad mood.

Which teacher would not like a student that understood at the first attempt?

Elder Lee, who just picked up the responsibility of a grandfather, was grinning from ear to ear, when he heard Qiao Nan’s praise on Zhu Baoguo. “Is Baoguo really so good?”

To put it bluntly, it was the Zhu family who did not know how to bring up the kids. See how good Baoguo is now after being taken in hand by the Lee family.

“Good.” Qiao Nan nodded. “Actually Zhu Baoguo’s temper is a bit stubborn and he is very sensitive. Grandpa Lee should understand the reason more than me. People like Zhu Bao, you have to use the soft approach and coax him, don’t always question, criticize or look at him with disappointment. This is not fair and will make let Zhu Baoguo feel rebellious. Grandpa Lee, if you have the time, go and buy some books on Teen psychology. I think it hasn’t been easy for Zhu Baoguo.”

Elder Lee smiled. “You’re a mature little one, you talk with with logic as though you know more than me. What book? Teen psychology, fine, next time I’ll send someone to buy some for me to read. Baoguo did not have it easy, but you have a more difficult life than Baoguo.”

Through his grandson, Elder Lee already knew that the rescue of his grandson had caused so much trouble for Qiao Nan.

Fortunately, the teachers trusted Qiao Nan. Otherwise, Qiao Nan would be criticized instead of commended that day in the school.

“No, I feel that I am living quite well now. My Dad recently... Grandpa Lee, thank you.” Qiao Nan could feel that his father had been tightening his reign over her mother. Her mother no longer assigned household chores to her to cause her to have less time to study. Most importantly, she also stopped addressing her as the wretched girl, at least before her.

In this world, her father was the only person that could suppress her mother, and Elder Lee was the one who made her father realize it.

“Nan Nan, probably the best thing that I have done for Baoguo, is to have found him a little teacher like you. If you encounter any difficulties in the future, don't hesitate to come to Grandpa, understand?” Elder Lee, who knew that Ding Jiayi had the notion of wanting Qiao Nan to quit school and work, was afraid that the saga had not ended.

“Thank you Grandpa Lee. But for the sake of Zhu Baoguo, the things that we talked about today, Grandpa Lee can also let the Zhu family know. You must not only dote on him, but also assure him.” Their conversation ended with this advice of Qiao Nan.

Elder Lee went back and thought carefully about Qiao Nan's words. The more he thought about it, the more he felt that there was a point.

Everyone goes through the stage of being young and foolish, Elder Lee thought how he felt at the time when he was still young, and he really understood the meaning of Qiao Nan's words.

True enough, the Zhu and Lee family co-operated with one another. Even if they were unable to change their attitude towards Zhu Baoguo, they could not deny that under this atmosphere, Zhu Baoguo's temper had toned down. Unlike the past, he would no longer jump and get angry at the slightest issue.

Elder Lee drank his freshly brewed tea and went upstairs at a leisurely pace, avoiding creating any disturbance for the two that were learning.

When Qiao Nan finished her tuition with Zhu Baoguo and went home, she did not see Qiao Zijin. Qiao Nan was not surprised. However, even Ding Jiayi was not home. “Dad, did Mom send Sister to school?”

“No, the school rang and asked your Mom to make a trip to the school.”



## Chapter 80: Too Lazy

“Mom and Sister went to the school? What is the matter, is there a Parent-Teacher Conference?” It was strange to hold a Parent-Teacher Conference at this time of the year. She thought that it would be usually be held after the mid-term examination.

“Not sure, there’s probably some matter.” When he said this, Qiao Dongliang looked happy.

Qiao Nan raised her eyebrows; given the expression of her father, perhaps Qiao Zijin had done a good thing.

“They say it’s regarding Zijin’s participation in the essay competition. It’s probably a good matter.” Qiao Dongliang’s smile deepened. “Qiao Nan, your sister has made great improvements recently. If possible, Dad will definitely try to get you into The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China as well. Thereafter, Dad will wait for the day when both of you become successful.”

So what if he did not have a son, the daughters he raised were more successful than the sons of others. That was better than anything else.

“Essay competition?” Hearing these two words, Qiao Nan smiled with deep thoughts.

If the school invited the parent because Qiao Zijin scored well in the mid-term exam, then undoubtedly, she would be praised during the meeting.

However, if it was pertaining to the essay competition, unless she guessed it wrong, it was definitely not a good thing that her mother had been invited to the school.

Qiao Zijin’s good performance worked like a miracle pill for her mother – it was more nutritious than the supplement that her mother took.

Her mother must have fought for the right to make the trip to the school without her father. “Did Mom say she will go by herself? Dad, you’re not going?” If her father was going, it would be interesting.

“It’s okay, there will be other opportunities in future.” Qiao Dongliang shook his head as if he could not help it but his mood was not sour.

When the school called and requested Qiao Zijin’s parents to make the trip, Qiao Dongliang initially wanted to send Qiao Zijin to the school and also to find out why they made the request.

But Ding Jiayi said it first, she chided Qiao Dongliang straight, “Old Qiao, we agreed before that I will solely take care of Zijin’s matters, and you will handle Qiao Nan’s matters. Zijin performed well, I will be the one making this trip. If you want to go, wait for Qiao Nan’s turn.”

Since Ding Jiayi already said so, Qiao Dongliang had nothing else to say.

The elder daughter had done well and this was the first trip to the school to receive some commendation. He regretted that he was unable to be there.

Fortunately, the younger daughter’s performance had always been good. The chances of the younger daughter being praised would be higher than that of the elder daughter. With this thought, Qiao Dongliang did not feel so bad anymore. “Is there a Parent-Teacher Conference for your school?”

“Teacher Chen said that there would be one after the final term exams.”

“Good, I will attend your Parent-Teacher Conference.”

“Okay.” Qiao Nan was laughing secretly. She already knew that it was her mother who grabbed the chance to make the trip to Qiao Zijin’s school. She hoped that her mother could still smile when she was on the way back.

Ding Jiayi sent Qiao Zijin to the school early, so it was not particularly late when she came home. However, when she was back, her face was all black. “Qiao Nan, tell me, why are you so lazy?”

“Who did you say is lazy?” Qiao Dongliang’s face turned black. “Did you forget what I told you!” Without a reason, why was Nan Nan being scolded again?

“After the trip to the school, why are you furious, what did the teacher tell you?” Logically, Old Ding should be happy if the elder daughter had been commended. But the attitude as if she had consumed a ton of gunpowder outside and was waiting to explode at home.

“What did the teacher say?” Ding Jiayi laughed in a strange and sinister manner, she then reached out her hands and tried to pinch Qiao Nan’s arms.

Seeing the situation, Qiao Dongliang pulled Qiao Nan behind him without saying a word. “Tell me what you have to say, what exactly did the the teacher tell you, did Zijin make a mistake?”

If the purpose of the trip today was to commend Zijin, Old Ding would not have this attitude.

“Made a mistake? Zijin is so obedient, how could she make mistakes. She is the one who harmed Zijin.” Ding Jiayi became spiteful when she did not manage to hit Qiao Nan. “You’re still defending her, you don’t know that she caused harm to Zijin! She caused Zijin to receive a warning in school. Zijin lost all of her face. Qiao Nan, Qiao Nan, tell me why you are so cruel and malicious to hurt your sister this way. You, you, you are really driving me to my grave! Old Qiao, you still want to defend this heartless thing!”

“What nonsense.” Qiao Dongliang’s face turned black. He was confused by Ding Jiayi’s words. “When you stepped into the house, you said Nan Nan was lazy. And now, you said she harmed Zijin. What has Nan Nan’s laziness got to do with harming Zijin? You also scolded Nan Nan for being heartless, how are all these related!”

“Nan Nan, do you know what is going on?” His wife was not talking sense, Qiao Dongliang could only ask Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan knew what was happening but she could not breathe a word. “I don’t know.”

“Then tell me, tell me properly, what exactly happened? Didn’t you say that Zijin was doing well in the school recently and was ranked eighth in her studies in class. She even participated in the essay writing competition. Why was she issued with a warning? This, will this affect Zijin’s future?” Qiao Dongliang could not help feeling nervous. Being given a warning was not a small matter.

“Ask her!” Ding Jiayi pointed at Qiao Nan’s nose while glaring at her.

“Mom, what did I do?”

“Yes, what did Nan Nan do? If you tell me Nan Nan would harm Zijin, I won’t believe it.” Moreover, even if Nan Nan would really cause harm to Zijin, one was in junior high and the other in senior high. It was impossible for Nan Nan to cause harm to Zijin. This was utter nonsense.

“During the competition, she wrote a piece of essay that was exactly the same as that of Zijin!”

“Exactly the same?” Qiao Dongliang was stunned. “Nan Nan, did you copy your sister?”

Two identical essays appeared in the competition. Qiao Dongliang understood the outcome immediately.

If Nan Nan had copied Zijin, then Nan Nan should be the one being warned and not Zijin. Zijin was warned, hence, she was the one who made the mistake and that was the reason for the Parent-Teacher Conference. It meant that Zijin copied Nan Nan!

Having understood this, Qiao Dongliang’s face was really black. “Zijin copied Nan Nan’s essay and you are scolding Nan Nan?” Coming to the end of the conversation, Qiao Dongliang felt ridiculous.

“If she’s not lazy who is? It’s not that she doesn’t know how to write. If she had written a new piece during the competition, then there would not be any issue. I heard that Zijin’s essay nearly clinched the second place!” Second place, such an excellent ranking. If Zijin clinched it, she would also receive merit points for the middle school examination!

“Don’t you think your words are too ridiculous?” Qiao Dongliang was furious and stunned by the shameless words of Ding Jiayi. Were Old Ding’s words acceptable?

If these words got out, they would be a laughing stock.