

RTAMM 801

Chapter 801 Don't Think of Making a Fuss

In the past, Qiao Zijin was only responsible for cajoling Ding Jiayi with her words. Qiao Nan and Qiao Dongliang were the ones who respectively took on seventy and thirty percent of the actual work.

Today, these two people were not by Ding Jiayi's side. Qiao Zijin could not behave in the same way as she did before—to only pay lip service without any action.

Qiao Zijin, who had shot herself in the foot, was so angry that her liver felt unwell. If she had known earlier that her mother would do this, she should have sweet-talked her mother less in this aspect. "Fine, I'll stay back and keep you company, okay?"

She recalled that her mother could not wait to let Qiao Nan keep vigil for her father every night two years ago. It would do as long as she remained comfortably at home to study.

Looking at the situation now, true enough, her mother loved herself and not her, the elder daughter, most.

"Okay. Normally, your dad sleeps over there. You can do the same for one night. Don't shun that place. Your dad has slept there for two weeks. Mom is just letting you sleep there for one night." Knowing that her pampered elder daughter had not been through too many hardships, Ding Jiayi's tone was good and she was also fawning a little on Qiao Zijin.

The more gains that Qiao Zijin had in the future represented how much enjoyment Ding Jiayi could have when she was old.

"Alright, I know. I only have one mother. How would I mind staying back to take care of you? It's late. For the sake of your health, quickly lie down and sleep. I heard that one's body will repair itself during sleep. You'll recover faster if you sleep more. Hurry, go to sleep."

Qiao Zijin was a little stubborn and did not let Ding Jiayi refuse. She held on to Ding Jiayi, made her lie down on the bed, and insisted that she went to sleep.

Seeing that it was only seven o'clock now, Ding Jiayi wanted to voice out that she was starving because she had not taken her dinner.

The reason Ding Jiayi knew that Qiao Zijin would definitely come and visit her today was because of a 'ward mate'.

That 'ward mate' dropped in to visit Ding Jiayi. Initially, Ding Jiayi was unwilling to bother about that person. She turned her face and body away and simply faced the 'ward mate' with her buttocks.

The temper of the 'ward mate' was extraordinarily good. When Qiao Dongliang apologized to her, the 'ward mate' even waved goodbye to Qiao Dongliang smilingly to express that she did not mind.

Next, Ding Jiayi felt that person press her forehead once with her finger. Subsequently, her pillow seemed to have lifted a little. It was as if that person had reached under her pillow.

When the pillow was back to its original position, that 'ward mate' then left.

Ding Jiayi found it strange. She turned over and placed her hands under the pillow. She then felt a small slip of paper.

When Qiao Dongliang went to the toilet thereafter, Ding Jiayi opened the slip of paper and read it. It was a note written by Qiao Zijin to her, saying, 'Mom, I'll visit you tonight. Think of a way to make Dad leave the hospital. Otherwise, I can't appear.'

It was because of this slip of paper that Ding Jiayi restrained her 'princess-like syndrome' and was even so 'caring' to let Qiao Dongliang go back and rest for one night to replenish his energy and return tomorrow to take care of her.

Wing that Qiao Zijin would be coming, Ding Jiayi was overjoyed. She allowed Qiao Dongliang to go home when it was only four o'clock in the afternoon.

She had totally forgotten that Qiao Nan delivered all the meals to her on the account of Qiao Dongliang. She was given the meals out of convenience.

Qiao Dongliang had already gone home for dinner. As such, Qiao Nan had 'automatically' neglected this meal of Ding Jiayi, who was in the hospital.

It was fine if Qiao Nan did not prepare anything for her. She had thought about it when she was beginning to feel hungry. Qiao Nan, this wretched girl, only gave her porridge to eat. Two weeks had already passed. When Qiao Zijin was here, she could definitely have some meat to eat!

It was a pity that the imagination was voluptuous but the reality bony.

Qiao Zijin came but the reality was that Ding Jiayi did not even have any porridge to eat, let alone meat.

Qiao Zijin's attitude was too stubborn and Ding Jiayi was not good at rejecting Qiao Zijin's words. In the end, Ding Jiayi could only force herself to go to bed with an empty stomach.

If she was asleep, she would not feel hungry. If she was awake, the feelings of hunger would only become more apparent and hard to bear.

Ding Jiayi had no choice but to use such a silly method to make herself forget her hunger.

Just as Ding Jiayi was in a daze and falling asleep, she suddenly thought of a problem. She had not eaten, so Qiao Zijin had not taken her dinner too. She could not possibly starve together with her, right?

Ding Jiayi, who was falling asleep, was indeed letting her thoughts 'run wild'. Given Qiao Zijin's character, would she let herself go hungry?

If she had not eaten, even if Ding Jiayi had already eaten, she would also make Ding Jiayi give her money and feed herself.

With the strong antiseptic smell in the hospital, Qiao Zijin kept feeling that the temperature in the hospital seemed to be colder than outside.

Clearly, it was the hot summer of July. Although they were just relying on an old fan, Qiao Zijin could also sense that chilliness and coldness. There were even goosebumps on her bare arms.

Qiao Zijin did not have a good impression of the hospital. She kept feeling she would be unlucky if she were to stay in the hospital for a long time.

Two years ago, she was willing to keep Qiao Dongliang company by his bedside because she felt safe when she was accompanying Qiao Dongliang.

However, she was keeping Ding Jiayi company by her side now. During the entire night, Qiao Zijin did not even sleep properly for an hour.

The next morning, Qiao Zijin glanced at the time and it was already five o'clock. The sun was rising. Without a word, Qiao Zijin stood up and leaned at the side of Ding Jiayi's bed. Using a voice that was extremely soft, one that was only audible to herself, she asked, "Mom, Mom? It's already five o'clock. I'll go back first. When I'm available, I'll visit you again. Then, I'm leaving..."

Although Ding Jiayi did not respond, Qiao Zijin had already finished talking to herself. Next, she left without any feelings of reluctance.

She had not forgotten that she had a date with Chen Jun today.

As such, when Ding Jiayi woke up, how could Qiao Zijin still be around? Qiao Dongliang was the only one who sat there like a stone statue without a sound. "Old, Old Qiao, you're here? Did you see anyone here when you came?"

Could it be that Old Qiao had chased Zijin away?

"What? Who?" Qiao Dongliang did not understand. "Don't tell me you're trying to look for trouble again when all is well?" When he came, Ding Jiayi was the only one in the ward. There was no one else present. "Let me tell you. There is a lack of beds in the hospital now. You had a car accident and your injuries are more serious. That's why you are allowed to stay in a room by yourself. Today, you will definitely have one more ward mate. Even if you mind, I have no choice as well. Anyway, the money in our family has already been squandered away by Qiao Zijin and you."

She was not honest even after she was hospitalized due to a car accident. She made many requests, thinking that she was a rich man's wife. Would all of her wishes be granted?

"No, no. Old Qiao, why would I think of it that way?"

Chapter 802 If You Want Food, Give Me the Money

Ding Jiayi gave a sheepish smile. In that case, Zijin was no longer around when Old Qiao came. She was not chased away by Old Qiao.

If Old Qiao was aware that Zijin had come, he would not have reacted in this way. “Old Qiao, what time did you arrive?”

“Around half past six.” Yesterday, Qiao Dongliang reached home at five o’clock in the afternoon and immediately hit the bed. He did not wake up to have dinner at all.

It was only until five o’clock this morning that Qiao Dongliang woke up. He felt extremely energized and hungry after sleeping for twelve full hours. He then warmed up the leftover rice and dishes in the fridge and ate them before he made his way to the hospital so that Qiao Nan did not need to prepare food for him when she woke up.

“Half past six?” Zijin left before half past six. So early?

When Zijin left, why didn’t she call her? She did not even know when Zijin left.

All of a sudden, a growling sound could be heard in the ward. The sound of Ding Jiayi’s stomach grumbling was so loud and clear. Unless one was dumb, they would be able to hear it.

Ding Jiayi’s face turned red. She recalled that she only took two bowls of porridge yesterday to tide over the entire day. “Old Qiao, I’m starving. Why don’t you go to the canteen now and buy me a few buns?” Her health would suffer if she were to continue starving.

“Where is the money? Don’t tell me you think that others will give me freebies each time I go to the canteen?”

“...” Ding Jiayi’s expression changed. He was asking her for money. “We’re a married couple. We’re one family. We shouldn’t draw such a clear line. It’s just a few buns, isn’t it?”

“We shouldn’t draw such a clear line with each other. I’ve not spent a single cent of your earnings for the past two years. On the contrary, Nan Nan and I paid for all your hospitalization expenses.” At the thought that the college entrance examination results would be out soon but the family did

not have any money, how was Nan Nan going to pay for the tuition fees then? “You dote on your precious Qiao Zijin so much. Did she prepare any nice food for you when she visited you last night? When I left, it’s not too late. It’s impossible that she left only after taking one glance at you, right? You have such a good daughter. How is it possible that she can’t even be compared to Nan Nan? After all, Nan Nan has sent you twenty to thirty bowls of porridge. So, you didn’t even manage to get a bowl of porridge from Qiao Zijin?”

“You...” How did Old Qiao know that Zijin came?

“Hahaha...” Qiao Dongliang sneered continuously. “It’s so obvious. Do you think that my eyesight is poor and can’t see? Qiao Zijin is so generous. She only paid someone two yuan to pass you a slip of paper. When she visited you, she couldn’t even bear to give you a bowl of porridge, let alone fruits or nutritional supplements. This daughter of yours... Ding Jiayi, congratulations. You have raised her up well.”

Yesterday, when that ‘ward mate’ dropped in to visit, Qiao Dongliang already felt that it was strange. They usually did not interact or chat with each other much. Also, despite Ding Jiayi’s unfriendly demeanor, the other party was not angry at all.

Thereafter, the ‘ward mate’ seemed to have tucked something under Ding Jiayi’s pillow. Qiao Dongliang vaguely saw this but he did not think much of it.

It was only when Ding Jiayi insisted that Qiao Dongliang went home to rest did Qiao Dongliang connect the dots and feel strange about this.

When he was leaving the hospital for home, Qiao Dongliang coincidentally met that ‘ward mate’.

Hence, Qiao Dongliang conveniently questioned her in a harsh manner and that ‘ward mate’ confessed everything. “There’s a lady who gave me two yuan and asked me to pass a slip of paper to your wife. Comrade, don’t misunderstand. I definitely didn’t do any bad things. I don’t have any evil intentions toward your family members as well.”

She was just making some quick bucks by taking the two yuan to have a good meal.

“Okay, I know. Thank you.” Qiao Dongliang did not even ask the ‘ward mate’ how the lady that she mentioned looked like. He left the hospital thereafter.

Qiao Zijin was avoiding Qiao Dongliang. Nevertheless, Qiao Dongliang might not be willing to face this daughter that he had completely thought wrongly of.

The more he knew, the more disappointed Qiao Dongliang was at Qiao Zijin.

At this juncture, when he saw that Ding Jiayi did not even manage to get a full meal when she was with Qiao Zijin, he had totally given up his hopes on this daughter.

There is a saying that there is no unfilial child before a sickbed.

Ding Jiayi was not even suffering from a long-term illness and Qiao Zijin was already behaving in this way. This was bitterly disappointing.

Now, he and Ding Jiayi were both young and strong. They not only could earn their own livelihood but also could give Qiao Zijin tuition fees. Qiao Zijin was already so selfish that she was only willing to take without giving

When he and Ding Jiayi were old and could not move or earn any money, would Qiao Zijin feed them and treat them well?

At this moment, Qiao Dongliang was no longer hoping for this.

“No, it’s not. Zijin just didn’t think of it. You’re the one who usually takes care of me, including providing for my three meals. She, she thought that you had already given me food before you left.” Ding Jiayi, who was badly starved for the whole night, was still making excuses for Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Dongliang laughed. “Your daughter is so good, yet she made such a big blunder. Nan Nan and I don’t care enough for you. In that case, you shouldn’t expect Nan Nan and me to take care of you better than Qiao Zijin did. Ding Jiayi, believe me. You have ‘great blessings’ ahead of you and they will all come to you in the future!”

Given that kind of behavior by Qiao Zijin, Ding Jiayi could still find so many excuses and reasons for Qiao Zijin. He did not want to think about Qiao Zijin anymore. He also took his hat off to Ding Jiayi.

“Old Qiao, I’m still sick. I’m suffering from so many injuries and I’m not well yet. Do you have to say all this to anger me?” Ding Jiayi was vexed and anxious. She refused to admit that Qiao Zijin was unfilial to her. Qiao Zijin neglected all those things as they momentarily slipped her mind.

However, she could not bear to forgo the care given by Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Nan. Regardless of how poor the care from the father-daughter pair was, at the very least, Ding Jiayi got to lie on the bed comfortably for two weeks.

In the past two years when she was living together with Qiao Zijin, Ding Jiayi had not even enjoyed such treatment for one day.

“Old Qiao, I, I’m really hungry. There’s one yuan here. Help me buy two meat buns back.” Ding Jiayi had no choice but to take out one yuan from the dirty clothes that she had previously worn and passed it to Qiao Dongliang

After taking the money, Qiao Dongliang sneered sarcastically.

Since she was hospitalized, all the expenses were paid by Nan Nan and him. Clearly, Ding Jiayi had twenty yuan in her pocket but she had been hiding and refusing to use them.

She still talked about being one family. In Ding Jiayi’s heart, they were two separate families since long ago.

When Ding Jiayi was hospitalized, she was not hesitant in maximizing the amount of money that she could utilize from Nan Nan and him. However, she secretly stored away her own money and was prepared to leave it for Qiao Zijin!

Qiao Dongliang was the only one taking care of Ding Jiayi. During noon yesterday, when Ding Jiayi was sleeping after her lunch, the dirty clothes that she had worn on the day of the car accident coincidentally fell to the floor. Hence, Qiao Dongliang picked it up conveniently.

It was also because of this that Qiao Dongliang found out that Ding Jiayi actually had twenty yuan hidden in the pocket of her clothes.

Chapter 803 Beautiful Retaliation

Recalling how Ding Jiayi kept lamenting that plain porridge was tasteless and requested him to buy this and that but did not mention anything about money for the past few days, Qiao Dongliang fumed with anger.

Ding Jiayi's hospitalization expenses were huge. It was good to have an additional yuan. Ding Jiayi had hidden more than twenty yuan in her pocket but she did not even mention it. This was the so-called being one family? And they wished to lead a good life together?

Money was truly the best item to test someone's heart!

As a mother, she had more than twenty yuan but refused to take them out. She continuously spent money from other people's pockets.

The daughter would rather pay outsiders two yuan than to buy one dinner for her mother. Truly, this mother-daughter pair was extinct and one of a kind.

It was right for this pair to lead a life together. Whoever lived with them was superfluous.

The ridiculous thing was that he actually took twenty years to understand this!

If not for all these, Qiao Dongliang would not insist that Ding Jiayi forked out money just to buy two meat buns.

Since Ding Jiayi had something up her sleeves, of course Qiao Dongliang had to improvise too. He could not possibly foolishly continue to be schemed against and taken advantage of, right?

After Qiao Dongliang bought two meat buns back for Ding Jiayi, he returned to his seat. "Right, I'll tell you one more thing. I've told Nan Nan that Zijin came to visit you. From today onward, Nan Nan won't prepare your meals anymore."

"Ah..." Ding Jiayi was dumbfounded while she chewed her meat bun. "On what grounds?"

"On the grounds that you love Qiao Zijin most? Previously, you said that she went for an overseas learning trip with her classmates. Yesterday, she came to visit you. This clearly shows that she is already back. The mother is hospitalized due to a car accident. She can't possibly travel again under

such circumstances, no? You have such a good daughter. How could she not prepare anything for you? The food that Nan Nan prepared-didn't your throat feel irritated whenever you took them?"

"..." Zijin was so delicate and precious. She was not born to do rough chores. How could Qiao Nan, that wretched girl, be compared to her?

"Zijin... Zijin is not someone who does such chores."

"Neither is Nan Nan! Do you take my daughter as your maid?" Qiao Dongliang shouted loudly!

"I..." Ding Jiayi had a headache. "Old Qiao, you're a grown-up man. When did you become so petty? We are one family. Qiao Nan knows how to do more things. Why can't we let her do it? Zijin doesn't know how to do so. Qiao Nan takes more care of Zijin now. When Zijin becomes wealthy in the future, she will definitely take care of Qiao Nan. I'm sure you don't wish that the two sisters will become so distant that they won't help each other, right?" In the future, there were many areas that Qiao Nan would need to depend on Zijin.

Qiao Nan doing more now could be taken as the repayment to Zijin when she needed to rely on Zijin in the future.

Qiao Dongliang crossed his arms and declined to converse further with Ding Jiayi.

She pushed everything to Qiao Nan because she wanted to improve the sibling relationship between Qiao Nan and Qiao Zijin so that the family would be more united.

When Qiao Dongliang asked Qiao Zijin to share the burden equally with Qiao Nan, it was to distance the relationship Qiao Zijin and Qiao Nan.

She was so good at finding excuses for herself. There was no need for Qiao Dongliang to continue his conversation with Ding Jiayi anymore!

"Old Qiao, what do you say? If this is fine, quickly call home and tell Qiao Nan not to forget to prepare my meal." As Qiao Dongliang was silent, Ding Jiayi thought that he had agreed with her views. She was still thinking about her coming lunch.

Qiao Dongliang sat down, shut his eyes, and rested, not uttering a word.

What did he say?

There was nothing to say!

Make a phone call?

Dream on!

When it was lunchtime, the food that Qiao Nan asked someone to send over was just the portion for Qiao Dongliang alone. She obeyed Qiao Dongliang very much and did not prepare Ding Jiayi's share.

In the morning, Qiao Nan was quite surprised when she heard Qiao Dongliang tell her that.

Qiao Dongliang said to Qiao Nan, "Your mom has more than twenty yuan with her. She won't die of hunger. Furthermore, Qiao Zijin came to see your mom. Your mom did not only give birth to you. You have also taken care of her for two weeks. It should be Qiao Zijin's turn now. Remember, just prepare my portion. Don't need to prepare anything more. Plain porridge? Even plain porridge is too good for her!"

This time, Qiao Dongliang was more determined than Qiao Nan.

With just two meat buns in the morning, Ding Jiayi was not full at all. She was yearning for the meal that Qiao Nan would send over during lunch so that she could eat her fill.

The things sold in the hospital were expensive. She needed to spend a lot of money to fill her tummy. The food that Qiao Nan prepared would cost her nothing and it was much cheaper than what was sold at the hospital. Smelling the fragrance of the dishes and looking at Qiao Dongliang enjoying his food, Ding Jiayi was drooling nonstop. "Old Qiao, can you share some with me? Anyway, preparations are needed whether it is for one or two people. You give a call home and tell Qiao Nan to prepare two portions. My health is better now and I don't have to eat plain porridge anymore. Get her to prepare rice directly for me. That will do. She can cook it in the same pot that she cooks yours. Right, tell her to buy vegetables that are fresh, and there should be meat in every meal. I need to nourish my body more. Actually, if that really can't be done, she can prepare what she did for you. That's fine too."

After suffering a few setbacks, Ding Jiayi was fearful of being rejected when she made a few requests that were overboard. She thus pleaded and expressed that she could also accept having food that was the same as what Qiao Dongliang was having.

Qiao Dongliang was focused on having his meal. He just let Ding Jiayi continue with her monologue.

When he had eaten his fill, Qiao Dongliang washed and put away the lunch box. Although Ding Jiayi had said so much, Qiao Dongliang did not even respond with a 'yes'.

It was only when Ding Jiayi's mouth and tongue were so dry and that her voice sounded hoarse did Qiao Dongliang do something. He stood up and poured a cup of water for Ding Jiayi.

When evening arrived, Qiao Nan continued to send over one portion of food for Qiao Dongliang.

Ding Jiayi could still endure missing the meal at noon. When it was night time, Ding Jiayi could not tolerate further. She gave Qiao Dongliang another one yuan and requested him to buy buns for her.

"Hurry. I'm starving to death. If you are slower by a bit, they may not even have buns anymore." Ding Jiayi urged Qiao Dongliang continuously. "Just place your lunch box here. You can continue eating them after you buy the buns."

She could not take it anymore. She was really going to die of hunger if she did not eat.

She was a patient. With only plain porridge or buns, there was not enough nutrition.

Even if she had to let down Old Qiao, she had to do this once. However, if she succeeded today, she would not be able to con any more rice and meat from tomorrow onward.

Ding Jiayi was staring at his lunch box and her eyes were green with envy. Qiao Dongliang first took over the one yuan from Ding Jiayi's hands. When he saw the corners of Ding Jiayi's lips curl up into a smile, he nearly laughed out loud.

At this moment, Qiao Dongliang reached out and lifted up his lunch box. He opened his mouth wide and consumed the rice in two to three big mouthfuls. He then finished up all the meat with the

rice. “Nan Nan has been telling me to chew meticulously and swallow slowly during meals as that’s good for health. I seldom do this. It should be fine.”

Chapter 804 Where Did You Get That Confidence From?

After finishing the meat, Qiao Dongliang put down the lunch box. He then took the one yuan given by Ding Jiayi to buy four buns.

“...” Ding Jiayi was dumbstruck throughout. When Qiao Dongliang was filling his mouth with the meat, she could not wait to jump out of her bed so that she could cover Qiao Dongliang’s mouth and stop him from eating.

Qiao Dongliang had finished the food. What was she going to eat?!

After leaving the confused Ding Jiayi behind, Qiao Dongliang left calmly. When he was back, Ding Jiayi was still looking as dumbstruck as before. “Old Qiao, did you do that on purpose? Two years ago, you met with a car accident too and you ate so well. Now that I’ve become like this, do you have to treat me in this way? Do you still hope that I can recover faster from my injuries?”

After some time, when Ding Jiayi came to her senses, she realized that Old Qiao must have seen through her mind. He thus did this deliberately and refused to let her have a mouthful of meat!

It was an afternoon in summer. After eating and drinking to one’s fill, it was especially easy to snooze.

In contrast to Ding Jiayi’s furor, Qiao Dongliang looked relaxed and casual. “Do you feel that you’re suffering?”

That was an understatement. Who would not feel unjustified after encountering such a matter?

“Do you feel that you’re pitiful?”

Of course!

She was afraid that there was no other woman who was more miserable than her in this world.

“Watching others enjoy delicious food while you can’t even taste any of it. I suppose your heart, liver, lungs, spleen, and kidney feel unwell?”

Ding Jiayi gritted her teeth. “Old Qiao, what exactly are you trying to say?”

Every word that Old Qiao said at this moment was spot on. Every word was akin to a pierce in her heart.

As such, Ding Jiayi felt even more unjustified and pitiful. She was uneasy all over.

“It’s right that you are feeling and thinking this way. It means I have done it correctly.” Qiao Dongliang looked cold and icy. Ding Jiayi could not help shivering when she saw the chilliness in his eyes. “Three years ago, when I brought Nan Nan to the hospital, the doctor told me that Nan Nan was malnourished. Do you know how I felt then?”

“...” Ding Jiayi stiffened. Her jaw dropped and her mind simply went blank.

“At that time, the money for Nan Nan’s meals and living expenses came from me. Didn’t you treat Nan Nan this way? In your hands, Nan Nan had lived in this way for seventeen years. You have only been through this for two weeks and you can’t take it anymore?” Qiao Dongliang did not bring up some things but it did not mean that he had forgotten about them.

“I was aware of how Nan Nan became malnourished in the past. I gave you face and didn’t quarrel badly with you. Thereafter, I discovered that, as an adult, you don’t even have the basic self-awareness and shame. I don’t know where your moral values have gone to. You actually don’t feel that you’re wrong to have done that. So, I’m the one who intervened too much, was too harsh to you and too indulging toward Nan Nan. Fine, let’s put you in other’s shoes now. I want to see what your reaction will be.”

“You’re really taking revenge on me because of Qiao Nan, that wretched girl?” Ding Jiayi’s face turned crimson. That face was as swollen as a pufferfish.

“Revenge?” Qiao Dongliang chuckled. “You seldom use such an accurate description. This kind of treatment can be considered retribution.”

Ding Jiayi’s face turned as white as a sheet. She was unable to speak for a long time.

If Qiao Dongliang's actions were considered as a form of revenge for Qiao Nan on Ding Jiayi, then what could be said of the way Ding Jiayi had treated Qiao Nan for over ten years?

It was intended torture!

Next, Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi did not speak a word to each other. Both maintained their silence. They did not look at each other anymore. Ding Jiayi simply turned her back to Qiao Dongliang.

Ding Jiayi bit on to her clothing. Old Qiao was resolute in divorcing her. He even wanted to seek justice for Qiao Nan, that wretched girl, before the divorce.

For the past two years, that wretched girl must have been continuously badmouthing Zijin and her in front of Old Qiao. This wretched girl was too evil at heart!

If she were to truly divorce with Old Qiao, that wretched girl would be elated. She was not going to grant that wretched girl her wish of monopolizing Old Qiao.

Shi Qing had been watching Qiao Nan prepare meals every day.

When she heard that Qiao Dongliang had asked Qiao Nan to prepare only a set of meal without that of Ding Jiayi, Shi Qing was happy. "Ah, Qiao Nan, Brother Zhai has not returned to the army camp. You've not seen him for almost two weeks. Don't you feel worried or anxious? Don't you wish to know what Brother Zhai has been busy with recently? Maybe there will be good news."

All the unlucky matters were things of the past. Qiao Nan's good fortune was coming and good things would come rolling in. One had to trust her. She was having such a premonition.

When Qiao Nan was bringing out the dishes for dinner, Shi Peng was almost home. "There's only one or two matters that Brother Zhai will be busy with recently." Brother Zhai had not returned to the army camp because of the matter that happened during her college entrance examination. Was that appropriate?

Qiao Nan was worried that if the investigation was to drag on, it would be disadvantageous to his situation in the army. At this very moment, another woman was feeling deeply jealous of Qiao Nan.

“Brother Zhai, we have known each other for so many years. We’re childhood sweethearts. Do you have to be so harsh on me?” Qiu Chenxi said this through the cracks of her teeth. Before she could cause any harm to Qiao Nan, she had got herself implicated.

Zhai Sheng looked at Qiu Chenxi coldly. “Childhood sweethearts? Where did your confidence come from?” Toward these two words, Zhai Sheng had never admitted them.

“Fine. We grew up together. Isn’t that right?” Zhai Sheng had gotten a handle on Qiu Chenxi. Qiu Chenxi could not afford to go tough on Zhai Sheng. “This time, can you let me off? Let our Qiu family off. I can promise you that I won’t intervene in Qiao Nan and your matter anymore. I won’t go and harm Qiao Nan anymore.”

“No.” Zhai Sheng rejected her immediately. “What we’re talking about now is not just the grievances between us. It is a grave matter that involves the interests of the nation, albeit you dealing with Nan Nan is part of the issue. Since I have found out about this, I can’t take my hands off it. Your dad and your Qiu family has eroded national interests and forsaken the trust that the party and country placed on you. This matter certainly can’t be condoned!”

“If it’s not because of Qiao Nan, would you pay so much attention to our Qiu family and me?!” Qiu Chenxi felt extremely angry and resentful.

If Brother Zhai had not been keeping a watch on the Qiu family for so long, how could such a thing happen?

Her father was audacious. In order to return to Ping Cheng earlier and move to the capital, he could do anything!

“Talking about this matter, I really have to thank you. If you hadn’t said those words, I wouldn’t have been able to prevent so much damage to the country in time.” Qiu Chenxi was truly a daughter that could do her father in. Without Qiu Chenxi, Zhai Sheng would not have discovered that Qiu Qin was so audacious. He dared to steal the cultural relic that belonged to the country and sold them to overseas buyers.

At the thought of this situation, Zhai Sheng’s eyes became much sharper. “You should be very clear that, by doing this, your father is no different from a national traitor.”

Chapter 805: Unusual Good Fortune

That ancient tomb was discovered in the territory under Qiu Qin's management. Qiu Qin had also reported this to his superiors at the time of the discovery.

In the face of these priceless cultural relics that were unearthed, Qiu Qin actually stole what was entrusted in his care, ignored national interests, and sold them for profits to fatten up his own wallet.

“!” Qiu Chenxi's face turned both red and crimson. She was shaking all over.

Who would have imagined that everything happened so coincidentally?

It was the truth that Qiu Qin had discovered the ancient tomb within the territory under his care. However, initially, Qiu Qin did not think of reporting this matter or telling the government.

Qiu Qin was well aware of what an ancient tomb excavation would translate to.

During the 1970s, the country discovered life-size terracotta horses and armored warriors from sites near the tomb of Qin Shi Huang¹. Someone wanted to smuggle one of the warriors' heads overseas but was discovered during the security checks.

According to that person, foreigners were willing to pay a few tens of thousands of yuan for that one clay head alone.

That was something that happened twenty to thirty years ago. It was the 21st century now. Due to economic development and inflation, that sum of money back then was not worth that much in present times. If it was an authentic antique, the selling price would be even higher.

Qiu Qin did not plan to hide the discovery forever. He was planning to steal a few valuable items before reporting to the government. By reporting this, he could gain another achievement in his political career.

At that time, he would have both political achievements and money. He could not be bothered with a small Ping Cheng. He, of course, wanted to go to the capital and be a government official there!

There was an ancient tomb in his territory that might become a second place similar to the tomb with warriors and horses of the Qin dynasty. Qiu Qin wanted to hide this but the native citizens could not. Within a day, news spread and it became the talk of the town. Everyone nearby knew about it.

The situation was already as such. If Qiu Qin were to delay reporting any further, it would become a fault instead of contribution.

Qiu Qin had no choice but to report this matter while pondering over how he could continue with his plan to get hold of one or two pieces of valuable relics and directly exchange them for cash.

The Qiu family had been in this line for so many years. They had some connections.

The foreigners had an extraordinary interest in the cultural relics of China and were more willing to pay a high price for them.

Qiu Qin had just gotten hold of a piece porcelain jar that did not look eye-catching and someone immediately helped connect him with the buyer who bought it at a price of 2.5 million yuan.

This was the first time in Qiu Qin's life that so much money was transmitted into his bank account. The amount was more than the aggregate sum of money he had earned previously using all ways and means.

Of course, it was impossible that Qiu Qin, who just had a sweet taste of something good, would stop after earning 2.5 million. He was still pondering over how to get a hold of a few more items.

Qiu Qin only cared about getting more relics and selling them. As to who the buyers were and how they moved the relic out of the country, it was not of his concern. After the trade, they would not know each other even if they were to meet.

When Qiu Qin was doing this, more or less, the Qiu family could sense that something was going on.

If the Qiu family did not have such illegal income, it would not be possible for Qiu Chenxi to be willing to spend so much money to hire people just to stop Qiao Nan from taking the college entrance examination.

Qiu Chenxi expressed that she was rich. She was willful. So what?

Qiu Chenxi unintentionally discovered this matter. She then requested money from Qiu Qin. Qiu Qin refused initially but Qiu Chenxi simply said, "If you don't give me money... Dad, you know how I feel toward Brother Zhai. Tell me, if Brother Zhai finds out about this matter and gains credit for this, will Brother Zhai change his views toward me?"

"Are you mad? I'm your biological father. You're my daughter and I raised you up!" Qiu Qin was furious.

"So what? Before you left Ping Cheng, all that you've got was from Mom and me. It's impossible between Brother Zhai and me now. You're good. You not only did not console me but also used my marriage agreement with Brother Zhai to exchange for an opportunity to be promoted. My happiness has been destroyed by you and you still have the shame to *** outside. You even found a woman that's beneath Mom in so many ways. You're really my great dad. I learned a lot of things from you. What is kinship? It's not important at all. Only wealth is most important as it's practical and useful. In short, are you giving me this sum of money? I remember that 2.5 million yuan was transferred to your account. Now, I'm asking you for ten thousand yuan. I may go back on my words at any point in time and ask you for fifty or a hundred thousand yuan instead. Your money comes in so quickly and easily anyway."

Qiu Chenxi had given out such extensive threats. Unless Qiu Qin was prepared to silence someone with murder, he could only give out this sum of money.

He had thought that after getting this sum of money, Qiu Chenxi, like in the past, would buy some jewelry, pretty clothes, or some cosmetics that she liked. In other words, she would doll herself up.

How would he know that Qiu Chenxi already found out who the 'vixen' who hooked away Zhai Sheng's heart was and that she was prepared to use this sum of money to do that 'vixen' in?

Of course, Qiu Chenxi had offended Zhai Sheng thoroughly with her actions.

If the matter this time had not been associated with such a grave affair of Qiu Qin selling the cultural relic, given Zhai Sheng's capability, he would have resolved it long ago.

First, Zhai Sheng had to protect and safeguard the cultural relics excavated such that the people hired by Qiu Qin would not have a chance to touch and steal them again. He also had to find ways to investigate clearly the number of items that Qiu Qin had stolen or sold, what was sold, and who they were sold to.

He had to stop the people and items from leaving the country and detain them according to the law.

As such, this matter had widespread implications.

The time taken to resolve such cases could exceed one month, a few months, even one year or more, let alone just two weeks.

The painful regret was that as the time lengthened, it meant that the possibility of retrieving the cultural relics would be lower.

Given Zhai Sheng's current situation, he did not take a long time and this proved that the two cultural relics sold by Qiu Qin had already been retrieved.

Fortunately, the ancient tomb was evacuated very quickly. Moreover, the money spent during the incident pertaining to the college entrance examination exposed Qiu Qin very soon. Otherwise, by the time one discovered that something was amiss, there would definitely be a few cultural relics that could not be retained and lost to overseas countries.

When Zhai Sheng told Zhai Yaohui this situation, Zhai Yaohui was stunned for a long time.

After some time, Zhai Yaohui then said, "Qiao Nan is quite blessed." Especially in the aspect of bringing luck to her spouse!

She was participating in the college entrance examination just like everyone else.

When this matter first surfaced, Zhai Yaohui had thought whether Qiao Nan was destined for hardships. Just like the story of 'Journey to the West', she had to endure eighty-one ordeals before everything would go smoothly in her life.

In the first half of her lifetime, Qiao Nan had to suffer all the hardships including those of her remaining lifetime. As such, she could then lead a smooth, safe, and blessed life in her remaining lifetime.

The problem was that this time, the trouble regarding the college entrance examination that Qiao Nan met with even involved a major case of a junior government official in a small town stealing and selling cultural relics. Furthermore, such a major case was discovered and uncovered by his son. His son safeguarded the ancient tomb and retrieved the cultural relics.

This...

Chapter 806: Quickly Marry Her

Zhai Yaohui put down the newspapers in his hands. “Cough... Didn’t Qiao Nan and you have a promise with each other to be engaged after her college entrance examination and when she enrolls for college? Have you fixed the date? We’ll just make adequate arrangements. Before this, invite Qiao Nan’s father to our house. When children of two families are getting engaged, the parents of both families have to meet and discuss. It’s not appropriate for our family to make all the decisions.”

A woman bringing good luck and fortune to her husband—Zhai Yaohui did not know if such a fictitious thing existed.

Zhai Yaohui only knew that since Zhai Sheng had been together with Qiao Nan, Zhai Sheng had performed very well and increasingly so. His opportunities increased and he gained achievements more smoothly.

From a scientific perspective, at the very least, Qiao Nan’s aura was compatible with that of Zhai Sheng.

It was not easy to be able to meet such a ‘suitable’ daughter-in-law. Since they had met her, there was no reason to let her slip away from his son.

“How about my mom’s end?” Zhai Sheng was concerned about his mother, Miao Jing.

Earlier, Qiao Nan had agreed to tell Miao Jing about their relationship. Unfortunately, Zhai Sheng was too busy. He had just uncovered a huge case and completely did not have the time. He could not find a good and appropriate opportunity to tell Miao Jing about this.

At the mention of Miao Jing, even Zhai Yaohui, this heroic figure, turned a little cowardly. “You still have to carry on investigating this case. Why don’t we do this? You’ll continue with the investigation. Regarding your mom, I’ll think of a way. Your mom is usually quite good to Qiao Nan and she has been treating her as part of the family. Qiao Nan is quite diligent and she strives to excel. She’s also morally upright and honest. I think it won’t be difficult.”

Compared to Wei De particularly, Qiao Nan’s rare and positive qualities were more obvious.

Both had poor family backgrounds. At the very least, the support that Wei De received at home was much better than that of Qiao Nan. No one from Wei De’s family in his hometown would backstab or harm him. They had been encouraging Wei De to do well in the army.

It was different for Qiao Nan. She not only had one family member dragging her down but two.

Qiao Nan and Wei De met Zhai Sheng and Zhai Hua respectively. Both were children from the Zhai family. Qiao Nan had never made use of Zhai Sheng to achieve anything or change her life.

The young lady was independent and resilient. She had been relying on herself to improve her life. With her spirit of resilience and continuous strive for excellence, she would easily gain the admiration of others.

Qiao Nan was just a young lady and she could achieve this. Wei De was a grown-up man that was older than Qiao Nan by over ten years, yet he did such distasteful things. Until today, Zhai Yaohui could not understand or accept why her daughter had picked such a man among the many options available.

“Fine.” Zhai Yaohui’s words had given Zhai Sheng a form of assurance. It allowed Zhai Sheng to be able to focus on his investigation of Qiu Qin’s case wholeheartedly.

This was also the first time that Qiu Qin did something audacious and illegal. He felt guilt-stricken too. He thus became more cautious and alert. Any small issue could give him a big scare.

Convinced by the saying the timid dies of hunger and the bold dies of fullness, no matter how much fear Qiu Qin had, he would shoulder it.

Qiu Qin received news that the two buyers of his cultural relics had been arrested before they could leave the country. They asked if Qiu Qin had any ways to release them. Qiu Qin then felt that something was not right.

He had only sold two items. The two buyers that he had respectively sold the two items to were all arrested. Had the matter been exposed?

Qiu Qin immediately expressed that this was just a transaction and whatever happened to the buyer did not have anything to do with him. It would be better if they did not contact each other regarding this kind of matter again.

After hanging up the phone, Qiu Qin called Qiu Chenxi over as he felt that something was amiss. “You didn’t tell any outsiders or Zhai Sheng about my deals, did you?”

As long as no one betrayed him, it would not be possible for such a small matter to be discovered so quickly.

The ancient tomb was evacuated in stages, and the cultural relics were also unearthed one by one.

No one could aggregate the exact quantity of the cultural relics that were in the ancient tomb. Basically, no one would be able to find out how many items he had gotten hold of.

Qiu Chenxi looked at Qiu Qin in surprise. “Dad, did something happen? It can’t be discovered so soon, right? Is there a problem with those people that you hired?”

“I’m asking you now. Did you tell Zhai Sheng about me?!”

“Certainly not!” It was not as if her brains were damaged. “Dad, as long as you still see me as your daughter, will other men outside be more reliable than my biological father? To put it bluntly, Dad, what do I gain if something happens to you? We came to this lousy place from Ping Cheng. Hadn’t I learned enough lessons from that?”

“You really didn’t?” Qiu Chenxi was certainly quite smitten with Zhai Sheng. She yearned to marry Zhai Sheng since she was a child. There was nothing that Qiu Chenxi would not do to please Zhai Sheng.

Qiu Chenxi sneered. Her father only had the mistress in his heart now. In the whole world, only that mistress was true to him. “Dad, since you’ve already said so, I’ll lay my cards on the table as well. If telling Brother Zhai about you can make him agree to marry me without hesitation, I will certainly tell him. You don’t need to doubt this. However, Brother Zhai is getting engaged with that vixen. I heard that he had already prepared and submitted the marriage report. If I told him about you, wouldn’t that be giving him a wedding gift? Tell me, would I do this kind of thing? Would I be willing to do so?”

If Qiao Nan were to die, she would certainly be happy to send a gift.

As for the rest, no way!

Qiu Qin slumped on the chair. “You might not have told him, but I sensed that Zhai Sheng may have found out and he’s already checking on me. You... After all, you are friends with him. Why don’t you meet up with Zhai Sheng? Remember, please don’t bring up the matter about his partner and also don’t show that you’re unhappy that he is going to be engaged. Didn’t you also say that other men outside will not be as reliable as your own father? Rest assured. If you can think of a way to resolve this matter smoothly and peacefully, regardless of who you will marry in the future, I will provide you with a bountiful dowry. If you don’t believe me, I’ll open a bank account under your name with 100,000 yuan and immediately pass this passbook to you for safekeeping. I don’t even give it to your mom.”

100,000 yuan was not a small sum of money. Of course, Qiu Chenxi’s heart was moved. “If I look for Brother Zhai... What if he has not discovered anything? We will be exposing ourselves and this will arouse his suspicion, no?”

“Listen to me. It won’t be wrong. After interacting with the Zhai family for so long, I know their temperaments very well. Those two buyers had already been arrested. Isn’t this telling enough? Tell Zhai Sheng that I have already stopped. He can also voice out any thoughts or request what he has in mind. Of course, before you are sure that Zhai Sheng is aware of this matter, you don’t need to mention anything. You’re very smart. In fact, you should know how to handle this even without the need for me to teach you. Chenxi, our Qiu family has to depend on you this time.”

Chapter 807 There are only Two Options

Qiu Qin was clearly aware that the party and country would definitely not spare him or let him off regarding this matter.

Once he was found guilty, a dignified government official like him had to be imprisoned for more than ten years!

Qiu Qin could not endure this kind of shame and crime.

At the sight of how anxious Qiu Qin was and that this matter concerned the rise and decline of the Qiu family, Qiu Chenxi could not wash her hands off this even if she wished to.

Shi Peng, that biological uncle of hers, seemed to be doing well. After leaving the army, his work performance was even better than before. However, Qiu Chenxi was aware that Shi Peng disliked her mother and her. He was quite distant to and not on good terms with them.

In the past, when Shi Peng was severely ill and said that he needed a load of good food to nourish his body, her mother had turned her back on him. In the end, they did not even send him a short branch of small ginseng. Qiu Chenxi had not forgotten about this.

If something were to happen to the Qiu family, it was not possible that she could rely on Shi Peng for a good life.

Hence, Qiu Chenxi still had to work on Qiu Qin.

Qiu Chenxi wanted to destroy Qiao Nan such that it would become impossible between Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng. She then wanted to appear as a victor in front of Zhai Sheng. Now, before she could do so, she was compelled to appear as the loser in front of Zhai Sheng first.

As soon as she met Qiu Chenxi, Zhai Sheng was extremely blunt. "You don't need to say anything. You just have to listen to me. Go home and tell your dad that he only has two options now. First, be honest. Confess and explain everything to the government and party, and then take the initiative to solve the case and hand over the stolen items and money. Perhaps the country will consider being lenient and generous to him. Second, if your father insists on being stubborn, his punishment will be harsher when I pay your house a visit."

These words of Zhai Sheng simply stunned Qiu Chenxi with fear. "Brother Zhai, you... What are you talking about? Why don't I understand any of it?"

“You don’t understand?” Zhai Sheng laughed. “Do you know why I agreed to meet you today? The Qiu family even dared to take that kind of money. Don’t you find it difficult to do so? You are the most daring one. The fresh smell of that money has not even gone away and you had the gall to spend it! That being said, it’s all thanks to your cooperation. Without you, no one can guess how much loss the country would suffer.”

“...” Qiu Chenxi clenched her teeth. Her gums almost bled. “Brother Zhai, you’re joking with me, right?”

“What do you think?” Zhai Sheng just stared at Qiu Chenxi. “If I’m joking, don’t you find that I know too much and too many details? That I have guessed it too accurately?”.

Could this kind of matter be guessed without any basis?

Qiu Chenxi had been clenching her teeth so hard that she felt pain now. The actions that she took against Qiao Nan had unintentionally dug such a big hole for the Qiu family, a hole that was equivalent to a grave. “Brother Zhai, what can we do to make you let us off? Tell us your conditions. We will agree to all of them.”

Zhai Sheng had declared himself the host in the meeting even before Qiu Chenxi made herself clear. He took away all the initiative.

She was like a cow or lamb on the chopping board that could only await its slaughter.

“Conditions? There isn’t any. I only provided two honest and sincere options.” Zhai Sheng smirked. Playing dumb did not work, so it became dangling of carrots?

“Brother Zhai, after all... the two of us are childhood...”

The conversation that came up after was similar to what they had before.

“You still have the shame to mention Nan Nan. I can only say that you’re very daring.” Zhai Sheng’s face turned black. “Yes, without Nan Nan’s matter, it’s definitely impossible for me to notice the movements of the Qiu family so quickly. Nevertheless, this only goes to show that Nan Nan is the most suitable woman for me. And you... no, don’t mention that we’re childhood

sweethearts. The Qiu family actually did something like that. I believe everyone in the quad will feel ashamed for the Qiu family.”

“You’re really not willing to let us off?” Qiu Chenxi could not bring herself to say anything else. If pleading was of use, she would have already done so. However, she knew that it would not work. “Besides the options that you have mentioned earlier, as long as you give the Qiu family a third option, I won’t pester you anymore from now onward. I will also not bother Qiao Nan anymore!”

Qiu Chenxi had a lot of difficulties saying the second part of her sentence.

“There is no third option!”

“If, I’m saying if, if my family is willing to hand over all those items, can you let us off?” If they handed over all the items and money, as long as her father was still around... If the matter was not blown up and her father was still a government official of a small town, he would still have the opportunity to rise in the ranks if he were to do well in the future.

If they could not bear to part with these items and money, her father would definitely be imprisoned when Zhai Sheng went by the books in handling this matter. Then, the Qiu family would become nonexistent.

At such a critical juncture, Qiu Chenxi was clearly aware that she had to save the people and not the items.

“Will the Qiu family still be able to make up for the sum of money?” Zhai Sheng threw a stack of documents toward Qiu Chenxi. After receiving this sum of illegal money, Qiu Chenxi squandered some of it. Even Qiu Qin did not keep a reign on them.

“He lied to us!” Although she had always known that it was not quite possible to believe it when her father said that he had broken up with that mistress, she did not know that her father actually bought a house for that mistress after he received the money.

She could let that go. That mistress was from the countryside, and she had elderly parents in her hometown. Using the identity as their son-in-law, he actually spent two thousand yuan to renovate the old house of that woman’s parents!

In short, her father had dumped a lot of money on this woman!

Qiu Chenxi had heard her mother mention how much wealth the Qiu family had.

Given her father's spendthrift ways of buying houses and land, obviously aiming to become major property owners, the Qiu family did not have that much wealth for her father to squander.

Even if they wished to make up for this sum of money, it would not be enough even if her mother was willing to withdraw all the money that she had on hand.

"The information is all in your hands. What if my dad is willing to hand over these assets? As for that woman... That property of hers can also be handed over. The money that her countryside parents spent... I, I can make up for it!" Qiu Chenxi felt the taste of iron in her mouth.

Zhai Sheng could completely empathize with the injustice and rage that Qiu Chenxi was experiencing

Both Qi Minlan and Qiu Chenxi, this mother-daughter pair, were very headstrong and competitive.

Qi Minlan already felt unfair that her husband who relied on her to rise through the ranks dared to have a woman outside. Now, she even had to use her own money to make up for the shortfall that Qiu Qin spent on that woman's parents. Any woman in her shoes in this world would not be willing to do so.

However, she could only save the overall situation and forgo the small stuff.

It was rare that the willful Qiu Chenxi would make such a decision that took into account the larger issues. Zhai Sheng was straight to the point as well. "My dad is aware of this."

The Zhai family had always been scrupulous in separating public from private interests. They had never done anything that was illegal for the sake of private gain.

One year ago, Wei De's matter was a very good example to prove this. Everyone had a renewed understanding of the character of the Zhai family then.

Chapter 808 You... Have Agreed

Qiu Chenxi could not even handle Zhai Sheng, let alone an additional person-Zhai Yaohui. There was basically no hope for her. “As I have said earlier, there are only two roads ahead for your dad. First, confess. Second, arrest.”

If Qiu Qin would like to reduce the term of imprisonment, he had better be honest.

If he were to try his luck, then he would only increase his jail term by two to three years.

On the account that the two families frequently interacted with each other in the past, Zhai Sheng could only provide the Qiu family with this ‘special care’.

“We will end the conversation here. It is up to the Qiu family now. Whether it will work or not... Certainly, there will be an outcome when the summer vacation ends.” The utmost priority at this point in time was to safeguard the cultural relics. Afterward, it would be time for the government to settle the scores with Qiu Qin.

Without looking at Qiu Chenxi’s reaction, Zhai Sheng paid for the bill and left.

After Zhai Sheng left, Qiu Chenxi remained in her seat for a very long time. The sky had turned dark but she had not regained her senses.

At this moment, Qiu Chenxi regretted it very much. If she had known that laying her hands on Qiao Nan would make Zhai Sheng so furious that he would keep such a tight watch on the Qiu family, she would not have allowed the downfall of the Qiu family just because of one Qiao Nan.

Now, well, she had provoked the king of the mountain.

How was she going to explain to her father when she was back? Was she to tell him that after she found out that Qiao Nan was her rival-in-love, she used all the money from him to deal with her, and as a result, triggered a major crisis in the Qiu family?

If that was truly the case, regardless of whether that mistress existed, her father would most probably be unwilling to acknowledge her as his daughter anymore.

It was because of her the first time. It was also because of her the second time.

At this juncture, not to mention Qiu Qin, even Qiu Chenxi hated herself to the core for her arrogance and having disregarded the consequences of her actions.

It was obvious that when she was not certain that Qiao Nan was her rival-in-love before, her father's position in Ping Cheng had already been stripped off after she hired people to teach Qiao Nan a lesson.

Actually, from that occasion, she should have been able to tell how much Brother Zhai cared about Qiao Nan. How could she be so foolish and make the same mistake twice?!

If this matter was not resolved properly, the Qiu family would most likely not be able to get up again!

After thinking for some time, Qiu Chenxi took out her cell phone and called Zhai Sheng.

"You've thought about it?"

"Brother Zhai, aren't you curious about how I found out about your relationship with Qiao Nan? You can ask Qiao Nan. As Qiao Nan's grades have always been very good, when she admitted to me that she was the one, I did not even believe her. I didn't believe her even when she confessed to me personally. How did I come to believe it then?"

Didn't Zhai Sheng care very much about Qiao Nan? There was a person who wished to scheme against Qiao Nan at all times hiding by Zhai Sheng's side. She did not believe that Zhai Sheng would not be concerned.

"Conditions?" Qiu Chenxi would not render this help for nothing.

"Regarding the issue, what is the best that you can do to help?" She had to think of a way to preserve the strengths of the Qiu family as much as possible.

"Three years." The most that he could do was to help Qiu Qin be released from prison three years earlier.

Qiu Chenxi gritted her teeth. "I don't want these three years. I just have one request. My mom and my money have nothing to do with the Qiu family, so...'

If her father had to go to jail, she would not be able to protect him anymore. It was not possible for him to resume his position after he was released from jail.

While she would lose a father who was a government official, she could not lose her mother and her money simultaneously.

Qiu Chenxi had already spent most of the money that Qiu Qin gave her previously. Nevertheless, soon after, Qiu Chenxi got another 100,000 yuan from Qiu Qin again.

That 100,000 yuan was now very important to Qiu Chenxi. It was so important that she could buy a good house when she returned to Ping Cheng. She would still be quite rich thereafter.

Furthermore, Qi Minlan was richer than Qiu Chenxi.

"In that case, I can give you another month. Do you know what you need to do?" After thinking, Zhai Sheng compromised.

As long as he did not need to help Qiu Qin get away from the crime and the punishment that he deserved, Zhai Sheng could promise Qiu Chenxi other matters and delay the time.

"I know."

"Then, what's your answer?"

"Wei De, Sister Zhai Hua's boyfriend."

Indeed, it was him!

Zhai Sheng did not say a word. There was not even the sound of a pant due to anger. Qiu Chenxi asked sullenly, "You've guessed it long ago?"

“There are not many people who know about my relationship with Nan Nan.” Among them, Wei De had the worst character. He had also been on the worst terms with Nan Nan.

“It’s your business that you have guessed it. But I did give you a certain answer. I have known you for so many years. I believe in your integrity. In order to prove that I’m telling the truth, I will send something to the Zhai family tomorrow. Remember to receive it personally. If this item lands in Sister Zhai Hua’s hands, don’t blame me then.”

“Fine, I’m hanging up.” After getting the answer that he expected, Zhai Sheng’s voice did not sound affected but the emotional impact on him was great.

Today, Zhai Sheng utilized the diversion tactic when he met up with Qiu Chenxi.

If he had taken the initiative to ask Qiu Chenxi the question, given Qiu Chenxi’s character, she would not know what was good for her. She would ask for the sky as she would think that he was asking her for a favor.

On the contrary, if Qiu Chenxi was the one who used this truth as a bargaining chip to initiate a transaction with him, then he could control the extent of the transaction.

In the face of the current situation, Qiu Chenxi did not have any other choice. She could only use this as a bargaining chip.

The next day, Zhai Sheng did not leave the house of the Zhai family. It was one of the rare times where he very patiently stayed at home. Miao Jing felt strange. “People say that children are like birds after they grow up. They will fly outside when their wings harden. The situation in our family is so rare, though?”

Zhai Yaohui flung his newspapers. “It’s very seldom that our son keeps you company at home for the whole day. Isn’t that good?”

“Good, of course, it’s good. But...” Her son was already of this age. If he really had spare time, he should also get to know a few friends, especially female ones, if he was not going to accompany his young girlfriend.

When you were in love, of course you have to find someone of a compatible age.

Zhai Yaohui glanced at Miao Jing so that she would think before speaking. “Think more about the one that Hua Hua is with now.”

“...” At this juncture, Miao Jing could not bring herself to speak despite having so much to say.

Miao Jing was really scared of that Wei De.

If her son were to break up with his young girlfriend and find someone like Wei De, Miao Jing felt that she would consider dying.

Given that when Zhai Sheng was not in the army, he was always home at night and had never spent a night outside, Miao Jing had nothing else to say.

She could only keep mum. However, was this matter decided then?

Miao Jing sat down beside Zhai Yaohui. “You... have agreed?” Actually, Zhai Yaohui’s expectations of the two children’s partners were quite high. For example, Zhai Yaohui had never approved of or looked up to Wei De.

Nevertheless, judging from his earlier words, Zhai Yaohui seemed to have approved the relationship between Zhai Sheng and the young lady.

Chapter 809 Do Not Deceive Me

No way!

“I have agreed to it. I feel that she is a good young lady. I am quite pleased with her.”

“Being good is not enough. You should know better than me what it is like to be part of the Zhai family. Not everyone is qualified to be our daughter-in-law or would be able to adapt well. I am not being snobbish. I just hope that the other party and Zhai Sheng will not have to walk the difficult path like we did.” Miao Jing was anxious.

Zhai Yaohui tried to put it in another way. “The young lady may not come from an established family, but she has a good personality and courage. She is dignified and has the bearing of a well-

bred lady. She is not small-minded. She is bold but cautious and she won't make mistakes even when she is in a hurry. Although she won't be able to adapt right away to our family when she married Zhai Sheng, she is a fast learner and will adapt easily. Both the young lady and Zhai Sheng will not have a difficult time. You should trust Zhai Sheng and his judgment. He would not take a fancy to girls who cannot rise up to the occasion."

Back then, he had a good judge of character as well.

Miao Miao was quick to adapt and she learned to become a dignified Mrs. Zhai in a short time.

His son had inherited his positive qualities.

Miao Jing was stunned momentarily. "Really? Are you helping Zhai Sheng to deceive me?"

"Haven't I mentioned it before that the child is very similar to Qiao Nan? What do you think of Qiao Nan's courage and manners?". Zhai Yaohui made use of the chance to hint at Miao Jing, hoping that she would be able to read between the lines.

"Nan Nan is very good, but she is Zhai Sheng's younger sister. These are two different matters."

"What I am saying is that the person is very similar to Nan Nan. She is as brave as Nan Nan and her manners are like hers. Do you think she is qualified to be the Zhai family's daughter-in-law?" Why was Miao Miao so dead-set in thinking that Qiao Nan was Zhai Sheng's sister? She did not give birth to her. It was no wonder that Zhai Sheng felt so helpless and had to ask him for help.

"If she is as good as Nan Nan, then she can more or less meet my requirements." Miao Jing breathed a sigh of relief. "But she really must be as good as Nan Nan. Don't underestimate Nan Nan. Even if Nan Nan's father is a retired soldier, not everyone will be as courageous as her. Anyway, I will never accept those who are calculating, scheming, and indecent."

"Don't worry. She will be as good as Qiao Nan. In fact, she may be better than her." Qiao Nan was improving by the day. Her results for the college entrance examination would be out in a few days.

It would be better if Qiao Nan studied in the first-tier university.

“I can’t help but doubt the words that you and your son are saying. They may not be true. I won’t be taken in. I will have to see for myself if the young lady is really that good.” Miao Jing was saying that she was willing to meet the young lady.

“You can be assured that both of you will meet very soon.” When the results for the college entrance examination were out, Qiao Nan would be introduced as Miao Miao’s daughter-in-law to her.

“Excuse me, is there anyone in Chief Zhai’s house? There is someone at the door. He is here to deliver a parcel.”

Zhai Sheng, who had remained silent all the while, stood up and walked toward the door.

“Does the parcel belong to him?” Miao Jing blinked. “Who would send a parcel to Zhai Sheng? We do not accept gifts.”

“It’s definitely not related to that.” There was a glitter in Zhai Yaohui’s eyes. It was no wonder that Zhai Sheng stayed at home today. It turned out that he was waiting for the parcel.

Zhai Sheng had just reached the door when Zhai Hua came back from Wei De’s house. She was chatting with the person who delivered the parcel. That person had reached out and was about to pass a yellow envelope to Zhai Hua.

“Sorry, this is mine.” Zhai Hua was just about to take the yellow envelope when Zhai Sheng snatched it away. “I am Zhai Sheng.”

“Oh, since I have delivered the parcel, I will be on my way.” The person who delivered the parcel was frightened at the cold, hard look on Zhai Sheng’s face.

Since he had delivered the parcel, he turned to leave in a hurry.

“Look at you. You have given him a scare. Since it is yours, I have no wish to snatch it from you. It is just that he had stood at the doorway to the quad for such a long time. He must be tired. I was only thinking of taking it on your behalf.” Zhai Hua laughed dryly. It was just a parcel. She would not keep it from Zhai Sheng.

“It is very light. I don’t think it contains anything valuable. Why are you so nervous?” It did not cross Zhai Hua’s mind to open the envelope to take a look. But she was curious at Zhai Sheng’s uptight expression.

“...” Zhai Sheng knew that Zhai Hua was teasing him. He took the envelope and walked back to the house.

“Hey, wait for me. Tell me what it is. I am curious...” Zhai Hua broke into a jog to trail behind Zhai Sheng. She followed him all the way into the house but he refused to give her an answer.

“I will go back to my room.”

“You have yet to give me an answer, and now you are going back to your room...” Zhai Hua refused to give up. She trailed right after him. Zhai Sheng slammed the door shut on her. There was no way that she could follow him into the room. “What is with that temper of yours? It is not anything precious. Why do you need to hide it? Mom, Dad, do you know what Zhai Sheng has with him? Someone delivered it to him. He is upset that I tried to collect the parcel on his behalf.”

Miao Jing stared at Zhai Hua, feeling exasperated. “You came back with him. You were the one who was in contact with the parcel. How would your dad and I know what is in it?”

Zhai Yaohui gave Zhai Hua a meaningful look. “Since Zhai Sheng forbids you from looking at it, it means that it is not suitable for you to look at it. You should understand that curiosity killed the cat.”

“Alright.” Zhai Hua snorted unhappily. Anyway, she was not dying to take a look.

Even so, Zhai Hua would steal glances at Zhai Sheng’s door. Zhai Yaohui knew that she was still very curious about it.

Qiu Chenxi had asked someone to deliver a recorded cassette tape to Zhai Sheng. Zhai Sheng put the cassette tape into a walkman and put on the earphones.

When he recognized the voice that belonged to Wei De, he knew what was going on.

It turned out that when Wei De went to look for Qiu Chenxi to tell him that Qiao Nan was the woman she was looking for, Qiu Chenxi had recorded their conversation secretly.

In fact, Qiu Chenxi was scheming against Wei De.

Zhai Hua brought Wei De back to the Zhai family in the second half of last year. Everyone in their social circle knew about that.

Qiu Chenxi was worried that Wei De might turn on her in order to please the Zhai family. Therefore, she recorded their conversation in secret. If anything happened in the future, she could use this as evidence.

Initially, when Wei De told her that Qiao Nan was the person she was looking for, Qiu Chenxi had thought that he was lying to her. She had the idea that he did that so as to prevent her from finding out who Zhai Sheng's girlfriend really was, whereas Qiao Nan would be the scapegoat.

Chapter 810 Made It Clear Right Away

Unexpectedly, Wei De's actions had helped Qi Minlan and her win one more month for themselves.

It was obvious from the cassette tape that Wei De was full of admiration for Qiu Chenxi. He seemed to be pleasing her. Zhai Sheng's face darkened when he heard the recording.

It seemed that the reason why Wei De only attended Qiu Chenxi's classes during summer break two years ago was not that she had some relations with the Zhai family. Instead, it was because he liked dainty girls who dolled themselves up like Qiu Chenxi.

Zhai Sheng grew even more furious when he thought of the marked change in Zhai Hua. Not only was Wei De influencing Zhai Hua, but he was also changing Zhai Hua to become the type of girl that Qiu Chenxi was!

Zhai Sheng had the urge to shatter things in his room to let off steam.

Zhai Sheng took a few deep breaths to calm down. He felt sorrowful at Zhai Hua's misery, but at the same time, her disappointing behavior made him more furious!

By the time Zhai Sheng came out of the room, he was back to normal.

Despite that, Zhai Yaohui took a few glances at him. After dinner, Zhai Yaohui called him to his room. “Zhai Sheng, come to my study room for a while.”

“Yes.”

Both of them entered the study room one after the other. Zhai Hua sat close to Miao Jing and whispered. “Mom, what does Dad have to say to Zhai Sheng? Is there anything in the army?”

In the past, her daughter would treat her coldly. She would be all smiles when she was talking, but she would not be affectionate with her. Miao Jing was upset that their relationship was so distant.

However, now that her daughter would sit close to her and behave affectionately to her like how mothers and daughters would, Miao Jing could not help but feel uncomfortable. “Hua Hua, the weather is so hot. We should not sit too close to each other. I... I will have heat rashes.”

“Well, I will sit slightly further.” Zhai Hua moved to widen the space between the two of them. The distance between them was about half a person’s wide.

Miao Jing felt better as soon as there was some distance between them. She was not as uneasy as before. “Your dad has a lot to talk about with your brother. This is not the first time that they have small chats together. Why would you care? It may not have to do with the army. Do you know that your dad told me not long ago that he approved of the relationship between Zhai Sheng and his girlfriend? Hua Hua, do you think your dad knows who the girl is?”.

“Mom, has Dad said that he agreed to it?” Zhai Hua was surprised. She was only back slightly later than normal today and Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan had made such a huge progress. “Mom, what do you think?”

“I have no other choice. Your dad has already agreed to it. Besides, if your dad was telling the truth, I can accept that the girl is not from an established family.” The weaker ones could never win against the stronger ones. It was obvious that everyone in the family stood on Zhai Sheng’s side. One person alone would not be able to change the situation. She could only go with the majority.

Zhai Hua shouted 'YES' silently inside her heart. Zhai Sheng's success set a good example for her. If she worked at it, sooner or later, her parents would accept Wei De just like how they accepted Qiao Nan.

It was a boost of confidence to Zhai Hua. She could not wait to spend more time to chat with Miao Jing to be closer to her.

There was an odd expression on Miao Jing's face. However, she continued to chat with Zhai Hua. Nevertheless, her thoughts had drifted off to somewhere else.

"This is what happened." In the study room, Zhai Sheng played the cassette tape for Zhai Yaohui. He had no intention of keeping it from him.

All of them were men. Judging from Wei De's tone when he spoke to Qiu Chenxi, they could tell that he was not really in love with Zhai Hua and that he had eyes for other women.

"This is the information that I have gathered about Wei De. Take a look." Zhai Yaohui passed a stack of information to Zhai Sheng. There was a grim look on his face.

Zhai Sheng looked through the information. Wei De came from a simple family. There was nothing out of the blue about him except for one thing.

Wei De had a younger sister who had a son and he was born out of wedlock.

The younger sister lived with her son at the Wei family's residence. The Wei family did not intend to find a husband for the daughter.

The Zhai family was repulsed at the thought of premarital pregnancy.

Miao Jing had been worried sick about Zhai Hua and she could not sleep a wink. She was worried that Wei De and Zhai Hua would taste the forbidden fruit and resulted in a premarital pregnancy. In the end, the Zhai family would have no other choice but to agree to let Zhai Hua marry Wei De.

If other people heard of this, the Zhai family would be totally disgraced!

Miao Jing was worried that this would happen. It turned out that the Wei family had been through this. How could Zhai Yaohui possibly accept such a situation?

Zhai Sheng ignored what happened to Wei De's younger sister. After knowing Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin, premarital pregnancy was no longer shocking to him.

The Zhai family might not be able to accept premarital pregnancy, but as the society developed and lifestyle changed, premarital pregnancy was not rare now.

"Is there anything wrong with Wei De himself?" He could hardly believe that people like Wei De would be so down-to-earth during the twenty years in his hometown.

"Can you tell whether he has any problems?" Zhai Yaohui asked.

"Not for the time being." Zhai Sheng sighed. If he had spotted problems with him, he would not have asked. He would have gotten him off Zhai Hua right away.

Zhai Yaohui had a splitting headache upon knowing Wei De's problem. "We have to work on Hua Hua. Before she sees Wei De's true colors, we have to think of ways to stop her from marrying Wei De."

"What if Zhai Hua is pregnant?" They were adults. They could not stop them from being intimate with each other. Besides, Wei De had ulterior motives. He would try to be intimate with Zhai Hua.

Zhai Yaohui said loudly, "Since we know there may be chances of it happening, we have to make sure that it never happens!"

Previously, it was his oversight to allow Zhai Hua to do whatever she wanted.

Although he did not stop Zhai Hua, she should not stay at Wei De's house. He had been too lenient with her. "From now on, besides staying in the army camp, the two of you have to stay at home. If she stays with Wei De, I will break her legs!"

Zhai Yaohui could no longer keep his calm. Zhai Sheng grew serious as well. "Dad, don't be too agitated. Old master has been very strict with Zhai Hua and me since a young age, especially with Zhai Hua, who is a girl. Old master put extra effort in teaching her. I still believe that Zhai Hua will

not do such a thing. She will not cross the line. I will talk to her so that Mom and you can stop worrying about her.”

“Sure. Find a time to talk to Zhai Hua as soon as possible. Your mom is worried sick because of this. She has been tossing and turning throughout the whole night yesterday. She did not have any sleep.” Zhai Yaohui felt that this method might work. “I will keep the cassette tape with me for now.”