

RTAMM 81

Chapter 81: Do You Think That Way Too

“Zijin copied from Nan Nan, do you think Zijin is right? If Zijin is capable, why didn’t she write it herself, why does she have to copy? Nan Nan was being labeled as lazy for using her own essay, what about Zijin who copied Nan Nan’s essay?” Qiao Dongliang was confused, he couldn’t think.

The elder daughter copied the younger daughter’s essay and almost copied her way to a prize.

When he heard that, Qiao Dongliang had no idea if he should be glad or angry.

He was happy that the younger daughter’s essay was good enough to get a prize in high school. There was no way that the same essay would not get a prize in the junior high school competition.

But he was furious as the elder daughter used such underhanded methods to copy the younger daughter’s essay and was issued a warning for it.

As a sister, she resorted to copying from her younger sister. If he was not trying to keep his temper in check, he wanted to ask the elder daughter, why would she be so shameless?

But his wife gave the younger daughter a lecture as soon as she reached home. Qiao Dongliang felt so outraged for the younger daughter.

The elder daughter was caught copying from the younger daughter, but the younger daughter was being blamed instead, what right does the elder daughter have to copy from her sister?

“What’s wrong, Zijin bought a stack of essay books so as to ‘learn’, what do we mean by learn, isn’t it similar to copying? Besides, this is our essay, if not for Qiao Nan, nobody would know that it wasn’t Zijin’s idea. She has to be blamed for it.”

Ding Jiayi was totally brainwashed by Qiao Zijin who bawled her eyes out at school just now. She believed that “All articles were created by copying”.

Besides, there were no outsider involved, how could it be considered copying? Zijin merely borrowed it.

If Qiao Nan did not write this essay but wrote another essay, everything would be alright.

“Who told you all this? You are so downright shameless. Old Ding, are you really this shameless?” Qiao Dongliang lashed out at her, “This is not our property, this is Nan Nan’s essay, her own essay! Can Zijin take and use Nan Nan’s property as and when she wish? Who said this?! Nan Nan’s works belonged to her alone, you can’t say that it belonged to the family.”

“Isn’t Zijin her biological sister? Zijin treated her so well, shouldn’t she help her as well?” Ding Jiayi refused to back down, “We are one family, why do we have to be so calculative? Ha!”

“Alright, if that’s the case, does it mean that Nan Nan can use Zijin’s things and has it all for herself?” Qiao Dongliang was boiling with anger at Ding Jiayi’s arrogant and unreasonable behavior. He almost felt like giving a slap to her face.

“Zijin took credit for Nan Nan’s essay. No matter how we look at it, it’s Zijin’s fault. How can you say that Zijin is being good to Nan Nan? That’s just crap!”

Qiao Dongliang stretched out his hands to pull at Ding Jiayi. “Since you insist that Nan Nan is at fault, that she shouldn’t be lazy and she should write another essay, go outside with me now. I dare you to repeat what you said to me and Nan Nan just now to the people at the quad. If you dare to do that, Nan Nan and I will admit that it’s our fault. What do you think?”

“What are you doing?” Ding Jiayi paled in fright, she slapped at Qiao Dongliang’s hands, refusing to step out of the house.

Ding Jiayi felt that it was alright of her to make unreasonable requests to Qiao Nan, and that Qiao Nan was obligated to do according to her wishes.

But she felt ashamed to repeat what she said to others.

Ding Jiayi dared not tell the others that instead of the person who wrote the essay, the one who copied the essay had the right to use the essay. She dared not tell them such shameless things.

“So you also realized that what you said just now was shameless and you dared not let others know. But why would you treat Nan Nan in this way? You only dare to take it out on the family and to bully Nan Nan? How unlucky Nan Nan must be to have a Mom like you? Do you know that what you said just now will affect the relationship of the two sisters? If they fall out with each other and turn their back against each other, you will have to bear the full responsibility! As you said, Zijin is Nan Nan’s biological sister, if she runs into any troubles in the future, she has no one to seek help except Nan Nan. Yet you want to create troubles!”

Qiao Dongliang’s words was to serve as a reminder to Ding Jiayi and Qiao Nan.

Ding Jiayi did not get it, but Qiao Nan understood.

Qiao Dongliang had two meanings to his words.

First, Ding Jiayi’s ramblings was all her own doings, it had nothing to do with Qiao Zijin. He wanted Qiao Nan not to have any misunderstandings and not to affect the relationship between the sisters.

Secondly, Qiao Dongliang understood that even if the elder daughter has been making improvements, her results was still far behind the younger daughter’s results.

In the society now, those who could study would have a brighter future.

The younger daughter might have better future prospects as compared to the elder daughter.

If the elder daughter ran into any troubles, she could only seek help from the younger daughter.

If Ding Jiayi continued with her ways to spoil their relationship, the younger daughter might not be willing to help the elder daughter when she was in trouble?

His wife would only hinder the elder daughter.

Qiao Nan’s lips dropped, she could no longer feel the surge of warmth when Qiao Dongliang jumped in to defend her just now.

That surge of warmth was not enough for her to feel comforted and warm, instead his words were just like pouring a bucket of cold water over her.

Her mother wanted her to be the source of income for Qiao Zijin. She would do anything that was beneficial for Qiao Zijin, even if it meant taking everything away from Qiao Nan.

As for her father, he wanted Qiao Nan to be Qiao Zijin's nanny, to take care of her no matter what.

"How am I creating trouble?" Ding Jiayi refused to admit. "Zijin was the victim here, you decide what to do!"

Old Qiao wanted to take in a son-in-law for Zijin. She did not believe that he would not be anxious that she was being issued a warning.

If not for the fact that Qiao Zijin's teacher had told Ding Jiayi outright that it was only possible that Qiao Zijin copied the essay from Qiao Nan, Ding Jiayi might have dragged Qiao Nan to The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, and forced her to admit in front of the teacher that she had copied from Qiao Zijin.

Not only did Ding Jiayi refused to admit her mistake, she acted justified and confident. Qiao Dongliang had a splitting headache, Old Ding was so muddleheaded. "Nan Nan..."

He could only work on the younger daughter since his wife refused to listen to reasons.

The squeaky wheel gets the grease, Qiao Nan had always been obedient and sensible. Hence Qiao Dongliang was used to the fact that she should give in and suffer in silence, and try to be more understanding towards Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin. "Your Mom has a bad temper, she was muddleheaded to have said those words. Do not take it to heart. She is a good person, it's just that she cared too much for your sister."

"Dad, did you also think that I should let sister copy my essay?"

Chapter 82: Would Not Compromise

“How could that be?” Qiao Dongliang denied adamantly. He was not as muddleheaded as Old Ding. “But Nan Nan, you must understand, if there’s peace at home everything will prosper! You should know your Mom’s temper, you can’t possibly ask her to apologize to you?”

They were one family, they could not possibly stay at loggerheads with each other forever?

“Even if Mom is wrong, I would still need to obey, listen to her and please her?” Her father did not seem happy when she did that in her previous life.

“I am not asking you to obey your Mom... ” Qiao Dongliang had a terrible headache. If Nan Nan was to obey Old Ding in whatever she asked, the house might be even more chaotic.

“What does Dad want me to do? When Mom reprimanded me for being lazy and that I should have let sister copy my essay, I did not even say a word. Dad, am I not submissive enough? Which areas should I improve on? You can tell me and I will change.” Qiao Nan spoke in an exceptionally calm voice, in a composed manner that was beyond people her age.

The more Qiao Nan appeared to be calm and composed, the more Qiao Dongliang felt guilty.

Qiao Dongliang used to think that as children, they were obligated to obey their parents. Since Old Ding was muddleheaded, Qiao Nan would just have to suffer in silence.

It might sound irresponsible, but it was Nan Nan’s fault to have such a mother.

But when he looked into Qiao Nan’s dark eyes, her calm and still expression halted him in his tracks. It was as if his mouth had been glued. No words came out of his mouth.

If Qiao Nan threw tantrums and cried in anguish, Qiao Dongliang could chide her for being disobedient and insensible. But Qiao Nan stayed silent all the while, Qiao Dongliang didn’t know what to say.

He tried multiple times to persuade Qiao Nan, but he could not make any sound.

Given Ding Jiayi’s personality, there was no way that Qiao Dongliang could persuade Qiao Nan. He had reached a dead end.

If Qiao Nan was to give in to Ding Jiayi, there would not be any chance that she could continue with her studies. She would be responsible for writing essays for Qiao Zijin to copy.

But this was against Qiao Dongliang's world views. In that case, how could he tell his daughter to obey his wife? And what exactly should she do to obey her?

Qiao Dongliang had no answers to his own questions, he was lost in thoughts.

After a while, an upset Qiao Dongliang said in disgruntlement, "All of you have such a bad temper."

With that he returned to his room.

His wife would not listen to him, and his daughter had her own views, she would no longer listen to her parents.

He could no longer take his wife and daughter in hand.

Qiao Nan could hear the censure from Qiao Dongliang's words, she twitched her lips in self mockery. No matter what, she would no longer give in to her mother and Qiao Zijin. That was impossible!

If her parents knew that she had done the essay incident on purpose, she wondered how her parents would react.

But Qiao Nan was not foolish. She would not admit it out of her own accord and invite trouble for herself.

She returned to her room right after Qiao Dongliang left.

But in a while Ding Jiayi came storming in.

Without a word, Ding Jiayi searched through Qiao Nan's schoolbag, throwing all the contents onto the bed, searching through them book by book.

“Mom, what are you doing?” Was her mother so furious about Qiao Zijin’s incident that she wanted to tear up her textbooks.

“Dad!” Qiao Nan knew that there was no way that she could stop her Mom, she could only shout for his help.

But Qiao Dongliang was still angry over the incident just now. Upon hearing Qiao Nan’s call for him, he stayed in his room and did not utter a word.

“Let me ask you, where’s your essay book?” After searching through all the books, Ding Jiayi could not find the essay book that Qiao Zijin mentioned. She demanded it from Qiao Nan, “Give your essay book to me. From now on, you are not allowed to use any of the essays in your essay book, do you understand? If there’s a next time, I will not let you off. Hurry up, hand me your essay book!”

Qiao Nan smirked at Ding Jiayi. “I don’t have it!”

“Don’t have it? I don’t believe you. Give it to me now. If not don’t blame me for being unruly!”

“Even so I do not have it with me!” Qiao Nan ran out of the room. “Dad, Mom wanted to tear up my books!”

“You wretched girl...”

“What, Old Ding!!!” Qiao Dongliang bellowed and rushed out. “Old Ding, I didn’t flare up recently but that doesn’t mean that I am good tempered!”

“When did I say that I want to tear up her books? I merely wanted her to give me her essay book and not to use them in future.” Ding Jiayi glared at Qiao Nan furiously. This wretched girl lied to frame her.

“Dad, do you think I should hand them over?” Qiao Nan was not afraid of Ding Jiayi, she turned and asked Qiao Dongliang.

“What’s there to give, don’t give them to her. There are other components besides essays in the college entrance exams. Even if Qiao Zijin could copy Qiao Nan’s essay, there is no way that Qiao Nan could sit for the other exams on her behalf? You are so foolish.” Qiao Dongliang chided Ding Jiayi.

“I don’t care. It would be good if Zijin can do better for her essay. When you are in high school, every mark matters. I will do whatever I can to help Zijin. Besides it would not kill her to help her biological sister. Why is she so stingy? That’s the only way that she can be of use at home.” Ding Jiayi refused to listen to reason.

“Come out with me.” Since Qiao Dongliang could not talk reason into Ding Jiayi, he could not be bothered to talk sense into her anymore. He stepped into Qiao Nan’s room and dragged Ding Jiayi out with him. “Nan Nan, keep an eye on your books in the future, if the worst comes to worst, don’t bring them home.”

Qiao Dongliang had no other choice. There was no way that his wife would change her ways until she had gotten what she wanted.

Qiao Dongliang had a sudden thought, it might be a good idea for Qiao Nan to put all her books elsewhere.

Nan Nan could no longer take things lightly. His wife was beyond reasons, she would go ahead to take Nan Nan’s stuff without any reasons.

Before this Qiao Dongliang was still angry at Qiao Nan. But after looking at Ding Jiayi’s unruly behavior just now, all his anger had dissipated.

Nan Nan was plain unlucky to have such a mother like Old Ding.

“Oh, I understand.” Qiao Nan was relieved that Qiao Dongliang seemed to have cooled down.

Even though her father might be fickle minded at times, but Qiao Nan knew that he was the only one in the family who would defend her. If she enraged and offended him, Qiao Nan would have an even more difficult time at home.

Qiao Dongliang dragged Ding Jiayi away after Qiao Nan’s affirmative answer.

Chapter 83: Use Another Method To Persuade

Qiao Nan breathed a sigh of relief as soon as Ding Jiayi left the room.

Elder Lee knew that she had an essay competition today and asked her to leave the essay book with him. Qiao Nan had no idea why he would want the essay book, but she did not bother to find out.

No matter what, Elder Lee was not like her mother, who would give her essay to someone else to copy and forbid the original writer from using it.

Her mother was getting way out of hand. No wonder when she was knocked down by the car in her previous life, her mother was happy enough to cry, saying that Qiao Zijin finally had the money and the kidney to cure her illness.

After being dragged to her room by Qiao Dongliang, Ding Jiayi ranted at him. “Old Qiao, are you foolish? Instead of giving money to Zijin to buy essay books, we should just let her look at Qiao Nan’s essay.”

“That wouldn’t do. Those were Nan Nan’s essays. They belonged to her. Zijin cannot use them. If others find out about this, Zijin may find it a disgrace. You must consider Zijin’s future. Is she still going in to take in a husband?” Qiao Dongliang said in exasperation.

“We can keep it to ourselves.”

“Oh, so you do realize that what you are doing is wrong and you do not want others to know about it?” Qiao Dongliang mocked her. “Do you think that we can keep such things under wraps? We have to count our blessings that things didn’t blow up.”

Zijin had already been issued a warning in school. Of the students in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, at least everyone at her class would have known about it.

Qiao Dongliang’s head hurt at the thought of that. “Look at what happened. Now that Qiao Zijin has been issued a warning, do you think she wanted to stay in that class? Will she be looked down upon by others?”

It was so disgraceful to cheat with one's own sister's essay. Qiao Dongliang blushed in embarrassment at the thought of that.

"No, they won't." Ding Jiayi was lost for words. She stuttered, "It's, it's only... besides, the essay is Qiao Nan's, it's our family affair, what has it got to do with outsiders? They have no right to look down on Zijin."

"Keep your words to yourself. You should know that Zijin only had a chance to enter the competition because of Nan Nan's essay. If Zijin did not participate, another student would have the chance to take part. Apart from the other students, how do you think Zijin's teacher will view her after this incident? Will the teacher be displeased with her? Zijin has been issued with a warning. Her teacher might have been disciplined for this as well."

"Do you mean that Zijin could have offended her teacher because of this incident? It, it cannot be so serious, right?" Ding Jiayi was shocked. She did not really care about the reactions of other students, instead she was worried that Zijin's teacher might be displeased with her.

"Don't you know what kind of school The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China is? Even if you kept saying that it's okay, but that fact that Zijin cheated in the competitions would remain a record in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. Not to mention the teachers, what do you think the principal will think?"

"What, what should we do?" At home, Ding Jiayi might have insisted that it was normal to copy from one's sister. But it was a different matter outside.

"I have no idea. This is a complicated matter. Why would Zijin be so foolish. As for you, did you even use your brains to think? To think that you wanted to snatch Nan Nan's essay books. Do you think that Zijin's reputation is not in tatters yet? Do you want her teachers to dislike her further? Now her teachers are well aware of her standard, if she used Nan Nan's essay again, do you think they would not find out?"

Qiao Dongliang had given up on making Ding Jiayi understand that what she did would affect the sisters' relationship. Instead he tried to make her see the impact of the incident on Zijin. It was only in this way that she would take in his words.

"It, it would turn out this way?" As expected, when Qiao Dongliang pointed out the ramifications of this incident and how it might affect Qiao Zijin, Ding Jiayi was willing to listen to every single

word that he said. “Then, then what should we do? I thought it would be useful to Zijin if I gave her Qiao Nan’s essay book.”

That wretched girl, as expected, she was of no use to Zijin at all, not even her essay book could help her.

“You do not need to meddle in this matter. I am not trying to help Nan Nan. Instead what you should worry about is whether what you do would be doing harm to Zijin.”

“You yourself know if you are doing this for Zijin or for Qiao Nan. But as for Zijin, I would have to think about it, if her teacher is displeased with her, what should we do about it?” Ding Jiayi knew that what she could do next was to help Zijin make up for her mistake.

An absurd weekend passed by for the Qiao family. On the next Monday at school, Zhao Yu had just sat down when the other classmates crowded around her and said, “Regarding the competition last weekend, do you know what happened to Qiao Nan?”

Zhao Yu pulled her face. They were obviously rubbing someone’s nose in it.

She was boiling with anger when she was reminded of how she passed all the rounds, went for half a month of training, and yet it has been decided that Qiao Nan would be one of the participants. “Alright, stop probing. Qiao Nan was one of the five participants who took part in the essay competition.”

“Really?” All the students who were hoping to see some fun were dejected.

“Stop talking about this. I am so frustrated. I am going to read my books.” Zhao Yu placed her books vertically in front of her and buried her face in them.

She had thought that since she had broken Qiao Nan’s pens, she had no pens to write her essay and she would have to give up on the competition.

Who would have known that some busybody would lend her a pen. Hopefully she did not do well in her essay this time.

At the thought of this, Zhao Yu shot Qiao Nan a guilty look. All her pens were broken, would she be suspicious?

But nobody was there when she broke her pens. Even if Qiao Nan suspected her, she could do nothing about it.

“Here’s your essay book, take it back.” Zhu Baoguo gave Qiao Nan the essay book that she left with Elder Lee.

“Thank you.” Qiao Nan was relieved when she finally had her essay book back.

Luckily she did not bring her essay book home, if not with her mother’s temper, she would have given it to Qiao Zijin.

In this life, the money that she earned belonged to her, and it was the same for the essay that she wrote as well. She would never let Qiao Zijin copy another word from her!

Because of this, Qiao Nan’s words of gratitude sounded even more sincere and agitated than before.

“Are you running a fever?” Zhu Baoguo who was used to her cold attitude was shaken up by the tone in her voice. “Have you taken the wrong medicine?”

“Go away.” Qiao Nan shot a disdainful look at Zhu Baoguo. He laughed at her instead, “That’s better.”

Qiao Nan twinged the corners of her mouth. She did not know that Zhu Baoguo was like that.

Chapter 84: Tell the Teachers

“Before we begin lessons, I have a piece of news to share with all of you.” During self study sessions, Teacher Chen stood on the stage in a good mood. “We selected five students from the school to represent the school in the essay competition. I am very proud to announce that among the five of them, two of the students were awarded prizes. One of them came in the third place while

the other student came in the first place. The student who came in third is from another class. But the student who came in first place is in our class!”

Teacher Chen and Teacher Lee were exhilarated. They were very proud to have their student to come in first in the essay competition.

Of course, if it was a Mathematics competition, Teacher Chen would be even happier.

“The first place?! Who is it?”

“Zhao Yu is the only one from our class that participated in the essay competition. It must be her.”

“Crap, Zhao Yu is so brilliant. Being awarded the first place in the essay competition, this is much more difficult than coming in the first place in Chinese in school. One really can’t tell that she is so intelligent.”

The students were full of murmuring. Most of them guessed that it must have been Zhao Yu, while Zhu Baoguo lifted his chin and kept his silence as if he knew something.

“The student who came in the first place in the essay competition is Qiao Nan!” Teacher Chen announced in excitement. “Qiao Nan did very well for her essays, why didn’t anyone guess that it was her?”

The classroom was in total silence at Teacher Chen’s words. Most of them were in shock.

Although there were many rumors that Qiao Nan participated in the essay competition, she did not take part in the preliminary rounds organized by the school nor did she go for the essay training session that was specially organized for this competition. Hence even if there were rumors that Qiao Nan was among the five students who participated, everyone treated it as a joke and wanted to see how Qiao Nan would make a fool of herself.

But now the only person to come in first place was Qiao Nan?

“That’s right, Qiao Nan did very well in the two Chinese exams this semester. Teacher Lee even pasted them on the blackboard. I have taken a look. They were really well written, even better than the essay books that I bought.”

“Yes, Qiao Nan deserved the first place. Zhao Yu was not good enough.”

After hearing Teacher Chen’s announcement, a lot of the students corrected themselves. Previously they looked at Zhao Yu enviously, but now they only had contempt for her.

Zhao Yu paled and bit her lip. She hung her head and sniffed.

“Everyone, let’s give a round of applause for Qiao Nan. She has made us all proud this time.” Teacher Chen started to clap, and the students followed thereafter.

“Qiao Nan, you have to get ready to receive the prize from the principal after the morning exercise.”

“Teacher Chen, I understand.”

After Teacher Chen has left, Zhao Yu glared at Qiao Nan with bloodshot eyes, “Qiao Nan, don’t be too smug.”

“Are you crazy?” Zhu Baoguo pulled at his sleeves and gave Zhao Yu a fierce stare.

“What’s the hurry?” Qiao Nan stopped Zhu Baoguo. “Don’t be too smug? I am going to laugh smugly, I am going to laugh smugly!”

When she was participating in the essay competition, someone must have broken her pens on purpose. She did not want to pinpoint Zhao Yu, but she was being too obvious.

Zhao Yu had told Qiao Nan not to be too smug, yet Qiao Nan sang “laugh smugly” at her. Zhao Yu longed to throw her books at Qiao Nan and to scratch at her face. She wanted to see if Qiao Nan would still be able to laugh smugly after that.

But before Zhao Yu could do anything, Zhu Baoguo had already pulled Qiao Nan aside. He lifted his chin and looked askance at Zhao Yu. Zhao Yu gritted her teeth and lowered her hand.

“Zhao Yu, I brought three pens to the essay competition, but they were all broken and could not be used. Do you know who did that?” Qiao Nan arched her eyebrows and looked at Zhao Yu.

Eyes flickering around, Zhao Yu could not hide her emotions. She dared not look at Qiao Nan in the eyes. “Your, your pens were broken, it’s none of my business. What do you mean by do I know who did it. Your pens were broken. There’s no one to blame.”

“How could three pens be broken in one go?” Qiao Nan smirked. “Could all the pens have ganged up together?”

“This, this is a coincidence. Why would you ask me, I have no idea at all. You, you are really getting on my nerves. I am done talking to you!” Zhao Yu could feel her heart thumping, she was stuttering and her face was flushed red.

At this time the school bell rang. It was time for morning exercise.

While the class monitor lined up the students, Qiao Nan stared coldly at Zhao Yu.

If Zhao Yu really broke her pens, this was no longer a simple matter of throwing tantrums or playing pranks on other students.

If Zhao Yu a junior high school student could come up with the plan of breaking her pens to prevent her from writing her essay, nobody would know if she would do more terrible things next time.

“You just wait and see!” Qiao Nan had gone to line up, but Zhu Baoguo who purposely trailed behind said in a vicious tone when he passed by Zhao Yu. “Qiao Nan may not take it to heart, but that doesn’t mean I will let this matter rest. Did you break Qiao Nan’s pens?”

“No, no, I am innocent. Qiao Nan framed me!” Zhao Yu might not be scared of Qiao Nan, but she feared Zhu Baoguo. She was scared of his family status and his gangster attitude.

At his command, not to mention outside the school, a lot of the students in the school would be willing to be his hatchet men.

By that time Zhu Baoguo would escape unscathed while she was being bullied.

“Would I believe you?” Zhu Baoguo smiled coldly and walked off to line up.

Zhao Yu was angered and scared at the same time by Zhu Baoguo’s attitude. She stomped her feet in frustration.

What should she do now? She thought that no-one would know about the pens and Qiao Nan would suffer in silence.

After all, no-one could tell for sure how the pens were broken. She had no idea that Qiao Nan would have guessed that the pens have been broken.

So what if the pens were broken, Qiao Nan still managed to borrow a pen and came in first place in the essay competition. What more did she want!

During morning exercise, Zhao Yu looked on in anger and frustration when Qiao Nan was called up to the stage by the principal. She received the certificate and prize from the principal and was the center of attention of the whole school.

The thunderous sounds of applause was painful to Zhao Yu’s ears. It hurt even more inside her heart.

“Where’s Qiao Nan?” After morning exercise Zhao Yu was anxious when she didn’t see Qiao Nan.

“She seems to have gone to look for Teacher Chen. Zhao Yu, Qiao Nan was in the limelight today. She came in first. I wonder how many marks would be added on to her middle school exams.” The students remarked bitterly.

“What, she went to look for Teacher Chen? Qiao Nan has gone way overboard!” How could Qiao Nan tell the teacher, it was just pure speculation on her part!

Chapter 85: Exposed Her Own Deed

“Hey, Zhao Yu, where are you going?” In a flash, Zhao Yu ran out and a classmate was trying to pull her back. “Is Zhao Yu mad because Qiao Nan clinched the top place?”

“Teacher Chen.” Zhao Yu ran to Teacher Chen’s office. True enough, Qiao Nan was also there. Zhao Yu’s eyes welled up instantly in front of Teacher Chen.

“What is the matter?” Teacher Chen was shocked that she was crying without an apparent reason. “What is wrong, come in”

“Teacher Chen, Qiao Nan is maligning me.” Zhao Yu wiped away her tears as she sobbed quietly, looking so pitiful.

Qiao Nan shot a glance at Zhao Yu coldly, without saying a word.

Obviously, youngsters do have the tendency to lose their cool.

“Qiao Nan maligned you?” Teacher Chen looked at Zhao Yu strangely. “How did Qiao Nan malign you, and about what?”

Zhao Yu did not decipher the meaning of Teacher Chen’s question. She was absolutely certain that Qiao Nan had complained against her. To Zhao Yu, Teacher Chen was interrogating and not questioning her as Teacher Chen had always believed in whatever Qiao Nan said.

After all, Teacher Chen had always liked Qiao Nan and treated her exceptionally well.

Teacher Chen even gave Qiao Nan a place for the essay competition behind closed doors. It was impossible that Teacher Chen would not believe Qiao Nan’s words.

“Teacher Chen, I was wronged. Those pens were not broken by me. Qiao Nan cannot malign others and blame it on me just because her pens were broken.” Unless Qiao Nan had evidence, otherwise, she would never admit to it. Zhao Yu cried in front of Teacher Chen.

“I know I have a bad temper and Qiao Nan doesn’t like me. But we are classmates, even if she disliked me, she shouldn’t bully me like that... Teacher Chen, trust me, I, I really did not do it.”

At the sight of Zhao Yu who was crying miserably, Qiao Nan did not know what happened but she suddenly saw a hint of Qiao Zijin in Zhao Yu.

In the previous life, when Qiao Zijin was broke, she cried to her mother in this manner too.

When Qiao Zijin was pregnant with Chen Jun's child, she also sat by the side and sobbed quietly while she watched her mother hit and scold Qiao Nan to force Qiao Nan to give up the relationship.

At the time when she was just reborn to this life, her ears were hurt by her mother and Brother Zhai also taught her to use a similar crying tactic on her father. Crying was so handy.

"The pens were broken, all broken?" When Teacher heard this, he felt that something was not right. Although his mood had been dampened by Zhao Yu's tears, he remained calm and manage to grasp the point made by Zhao Yu. "Qiao Nan, what exactly is happening?"

"During the essay competition, I brought three pens. One is the usual pen that I used, the other two were brand new. However, strangely, none of the pens worked during the competition. Fortunately, someone lent me a pen. Otherwise, most likely I would not have been able to participate in the competition," Qiao Nan told Teacher Chen honestly.

"Borrow a pen, who lent you the pen?" Teacher Chen was alarmed. If Qiao Nan did not manage to borrow a pen, they would have a close brush with the first place, and would have let slip the championship that was already in their hands.

"It was a big brother from my neighborhood. He happened to pass by and lent me a fountain pen. Zhao Yu was in the same exam hall as me, when the invigilator was helping me to borrow a pen, Zhao Yu did not say anything. Zhao Yu also only brought one pen, I can understand this. Zhao Yu, I did not blame you." Qiao Nan smiled at Zhao Yu amicably.

Teacher Chen was not the only one present in the office, and every teacher brought their brains to work.

Which student would bring only one pen to participate in the competition or exam. In other words, when Qiao Nan's pen was broken, Zhao Yu was not willing to lend one to her. This was a fact.

Also, the three working pens that were prepared by Qiao Nan were all broken at the same time.

This was strange.

They thought of Zhao Yu running to the office, crying that she was maligned and emphasizing that she did not do this.

At that moment, the teachers in the office had a feeling that Zhao Yu had exposed her own deed.

Zhao Yu did not know the teachers' thoughts. After she heard the conversation between Teacher Chen and Qiao Nan, she was dumbfounded.

Hadn't Qiao Nan come to the office to complain about her to Teacher Chen?

Then, whatever she said just now, was it not...

Teacher Chen's face was gloomy. Obviously he was not in a good mood.

Teacher Chen's chest heaved up and down and he looked at Zhao Yu a few times. "Zhao Yu, no-one is maligning you. You may return to the classroom."

Teacher Chen's words were like a double-edged sword. Zhao Yu's face turned red with embarrassment.

"Teacher, Teacher Chen."

"Leave."

"Teacher Chen's attitude was firm. Furthermore, there were many teachers in the office. Zhao Yu was still young and not thick-skinned enough. When she heard Teacher Chen, she cried more miserably than before and tears rolled from her eyes uncontrollably as she turned and left.

"Qiao Nan, why didn't you tell the teachers? Does Teacher Lee know?" Teacher Chen let out a frustrated sigh. He looked at Qiao Nan sullenly. Qiao Nan was good in everything but she was too kind and easily bullied by others.

As the form teacher, he knew that Zhao Yu had been making things difficult for Qiao Nan.

“I don’t know.” Qiao Nan shook her head. “When the car arrived, I went to the restroom to wash my face and left my bag in the car. When I came out, everyone was preparing to enter the exam hall. I discovered that all my pens were broken only when I was attempting the question in the hall.”

After the competition ended, the teachers sent the students home without any ado.

Qiao Nan did not have any chance to mention this matter to Teacher Lee.

Furthermore, it was difficult for Qiao Nan to say it. She could not possibly tell Teacher Lee that all the three pens that she brought were broken and she suspected that someone had intentionally broken them.

Teacher Chen guessed Qiao Nan’s thoughts. “Fine, I understand. You have to pay more attention in future. The kids nowadays... really, they are not as simple as the kids during my generation. They are still so young.”

Teacher Chen did not continue further. Anyway, everyone knew what was going on at heart.

“Teacher Chen, then I will go back.”

As she left Teacher Chen’s office and passed by the corner, Qiao Nan was held back by Zhao Yu whose eyes were as red as a rabbit due to the crying.

Zhao Yu was crying as she choked on her words. “Qiao, Qiao Nan you, did you set me up today?”

If Qiao Nan did not look for Teacher Chen in such a hurry, she would not have misunderstood that Qiao Nan was making a complaint about her. After all, Qiao Nan just told Zhu Baoguo about this.

“Guess yourself.”

Zhao Yu was stunned. At this juncture, what was there to guess? “Qiao Nan, you did it intentionally. You wanted to malign me. Teacher Chen already favored you so much, why do you still have to smear my reputation?”

“Then tell me. How did I set you up? What did I do intentionally, what did I malign you about? If you can narrate the the full story to me from beginning till end, I will pay you respects and apologize to you. Not one thing less.”

Chapter 86: Who Did It On Purpose

Having heard Qiao Nan’s words, Zhao Yu was so furious that she nearly vomited blood. Was Qiao Nan purposely being unreasonable, would Qiao Nan not know what she was referring to?

Didn’t Qiao Nan purposely look for Teacher Chen to cause her to misunderstand that a complaint would be filed, and then made her lose face in front of Teacher Chen and many teachers in the office?

“My classmate Zhao Yu, why are you silent? We should clear up this matter, how did I set you up, what did I malign you about?” Qiao Nan crossed her arms and look coldly at Zhao Yu, while she asked Zhao Yu to explain.

“You know what I mean!” Zhao Yu was so angry that she forgot about crying. She only managed to say one sentence, “You still dare to instigate Zhu Baoguo to bash me up, Qiao Nan, how can you be so bad!”

“First, I don’t understand. Second, I didn’t ask Zhu Baoguo to hit you. You’re maligning me.” Qiao Nan laughed. “Zhao Yu, don’t say the wrong things next time, I did not malign you.”

Leaving these words behind, Qiao Nan walked pass Zhao Yu and returned directly to the classroom.

This time, both Qiao Nan and Zhao Yu knew that Qiao Nan did it in purpose when she went to Teacher Chen’s office.

Qiao Nan did not talk bad about Zhao Yu in front of Teacher Chen, but she already guessed that Zhao Yu would lose her cool and expose her own deed.

If what Zhao Yu said in the office earlier had exposed her own deed, then what Qiao Nan said to Zhao Yu now had the same effect.

The only difference was, Zhao Yu was foolish, she also denied her involvement, whereas Qiao Nan was openly mocking Zhao Yu for trying to be smart.

Yes, Qiao Nan did it on purpose. What could Zhao Yu do to her?

Qiao Nan left. Zhao Yu remained rooted to the spot with a face full of menace. The students who came out of the classroom to make their way to the toilet had a bad fright when they saw Zhao Yu's menacing look. They nearly turned back. "Aren't you Zhao Yu from Class One, why are you standing here, like being punished, you're scaring others."

The other party was a male student, he was utterly shocked by Zhao Yu's expression.

Zhao Yu was quite good looking and talented. Many in the school knew who she was.

15, 16 years old were the age where romantic thoughts starts to blossom. It was not uncommon for a few male students to have a crush on a girl like Zhao Yu, and the student in front of her was one of them.

However, when he saw Zhao Yu's expression, all the positive feelings that the student had for Zhao Yu vanished into thin air in a second.

The seemingly gentle and crisp looking girl had turned into such a state. It was insane.

Zhao Yu had not been treated in this manner by boys before. At this juncture, her expression turned even uglier, scaring the male student who ran away without further thoughts. It was as if a dog was chasing him.

"I'm so mad, everyone is opposing me." Zhao Yu's face was pale with anger, but to prevent others from seeing this dysfunctional side of her again, she could only revert to her normal self before returning to the classroom.

At the thought that she made such a big blunder all because of Qiao Nan, Zhao Yu lifted her eyes and wanted to glare at Qiao Nan.

Without waiting for Zhao Yu's glare, Zhu Baoguo raised his eyebrows and cast an unfriendly look at Zhao Yu. Zhao Yu was so scared that she bowed her head and returned to her seat quietly.

"See, a kind person is liable to be bullied, a tamed horse is often ridden," Zhu Baoguo snorted and boasted to Qiao Nan. "I know this kind of person well, they bully the weak and fear the strong. She only picks the soft persimmons to pinch. You're too good-tempered. If it were me, I would bash her till she was toothless!"

"I have a good temper?" Qiao Nan was amused. She was not good tempered, she had been stabbed in the back numerous times and as a result, she was now used to playing similar tricks.

She did not take revenge on Zhao Yu openly, but she also did not let her off easily.

Zhao Yu wanted to be a model student, an obedient teacher's pet.

What Zhao Yu said in Teacher Chen's office today – not only Teacher Chen, Teacher Lee would definitely know about it soon.

If any of the teachers had a loud mouth, Zhao Yu's reputation among the teachers in junior high school would be tarnished.

However, Zhao Yu was already in Secondary Three and the semester was ending soon.

Otherwise, there would really be a good show to watch.

At these thoughts, Qiao Nan really did not think that she was a pushover with a weak character.

"If you're not good, then who is." Zhu Baoguo rolled his eyes. "Xiao Qiao, let me tell you, you can't be like this, when you enter the society next time, you are designated to be bullied badly by others. People like Zhao Yu has to be dealt with, till she is fearful so that she dare not give you troubles in future."

“I agree with what you said.” Qiao Nan nodded her head.

She ignored Zhao Yu previously, but in the end, Zhao Yu broke all her pens before the competition.

So the ignoring tactic did not work on Zhao Yu. Zhao Yu was singing a one-man show and was getting more enthusiastic as she went along.

Thinking, Qiao Nan took a glance at Zhu Baoguo, the reason that Zhao Yu created so much trouble was probably somewhat related to Zhu Baoguo.

The matter regarding the essay competition, as per Qiao Nan’s prediction, after Teacher Chen told Teacher Lee, one of the teachers disseminated this widely and Zhao Yu became infamous amongst the teachers.

Nevertheless, as everyone were Teachers and the other party was just a student who, most importantly, did not belong to their class, they passed around the story but did not magnify the matter.

Furthermore, Zhao Yu denied that she ever did this and there was no evidence. What could they say?

But this was enough to make Zhao Yu embarrassed and uneasy. Moreover, after Zhu Baoguo’s threats, Zhao Yu was fearful everyday and dared not go home alone. She had to pull along a few friends to accompany her before she feel safe to go home.

Seeing Zhao Yu, Zhu Baoguo snorted with disdain.

The winter in Ping Cheng was especially cold, everyone was already in their thick and padded winter attire, as the north wind blew, the weather was unbearable. During this time, the students who were holding part-time jobs took the hardest hit.

“The weather is so cold.” Qiao Dongliang put away his bicycle while he rubbed his hands and stomped his feet. “Nan Nan, is your school having the final year examination soon?”

“We are taking the exam next week.” Qiao Nan poured Qiao Dongliang a cup of hot tea to warm him up.

As Qiao Dongliang held the cup of warm tea in his hands, he suddenly felt revived. His frown relaxed. "So soon, how's your preparations going along?"

"Still fine." During the past six months, Qiao Nan had caught up with what she had missed.

In the coming final year examination, they would mainly be tested on what the teachers had taught them during this semester. Hence, Qiao Nan was more confident.

"That's good, then how about Baoguo, can he do well?" After asking about Qiao Nan, Qiao Dongliang immediately asked about Zhu Baoguo.

Chapter 87: New Clothes

"Not sure, it'll depend on his specific performance." Qiao Nan did not inflate hopes although she Zhu Baoguo had been conscientious in his studies during half of this semester.

However, there are a few cases in this world. Those who did not do well usually but performed in the exams, those who did well usually but failed to perform in the exams, or those who have consistent results during the normal days and exam.

Qiao Nan was not sure what category Zhu Baoguo belonged to.

"No issue. Before the exams, you can give him another push and help him to guess the questions. At the very least, let him pass his exams." Qiao Dongliang did not expect too much. Zhu Baoguo failed the last round of exams, he hope that Zhu Baoguo would pass on this occasion.

"That should not be a problem."

"Not a problem, you're so certain. That's good." Qiao Dongliang was delighted. If Baoguo could pass the exams, he would have progressed significantly in his studies.

"Nan Nan, do you wish to buy anything during the Lunar New Year? Tell Dad. Dad will buy for you." Qiao Dongliang was rarely generous.

“Dad, can I have a set of new clothes of my own?” This year, she did not wish to wear the used clothes of Qiao Zijin again.

During this time of the year, Qiao Zijin would always pass her unwanted clothes to Qiao Zijin. At the thought of this, Qiao Nan felt sorry for herself.

“Good!” Qiao Dongliang was surprised for a while, then he agreed. “After you finished your exams, during your vacation, Dad will take you shopping. You can choose what you like, okay?”

“Yes.”

“Yes what yes, don’t buy. There’s so many clothes at home. Don’t waste money unnecessarily.” Ding Jiayi was a spoilsport when she opened her mouth. “Your sister has so many clothes, all good, if you really want, I’ll take a few out to let you choose two.”

Having said that, Ding Jiayi felt the pinch. Thereafter, she would have to think carefully about which were the clothes that Zijin disliked wearing over the recent years.

If she gave those that Zijin liked to Qiao Nan, Zijin would most likely throw a fit.

“I’m buying and not using your money. Nan Nan’s matters, you don’t need to bother.” Although he knew what Ding Jiayi was thinking, Qiao Dongliang found it embarrassing to scold Ding Jiayi in front of Qiao Nan.

The elder daughter had new clothes to wear every year, the younger daughter could only pick up the unwanted clothes of the elder one. At the thought of what Elder Lee told him before, Qiao Dongliang’s face was burning a little with embarrassment.

“No, you can’t waste money like that.” Ding was unhappy. “Zijin is studying in high school now, the students in her school are either smart or has good family background. If you’re buying one more set of clothes for Zijin, I can understand. It’s not that Qiao Nan does not have any clothes to wear, why care about this when we are so poor?”

“Do you mean that Zijin should wear new clothes, whereas when Nan Nan does so, she is asking for too much?” Qiao Dongliang was angered. “I have said, I will take care of Nan Nan’s matters, you

stand aside. You don't allow me to buy. Nan Nan, let's go, Dad will take you to buy now. We pick two sets instead of one. You can wear them interchangeably during the Lunar New Year. As for dinner, Dad will take you to the restaurant!"

"Okay, I listen to Dad." Qiao Nan stood near Qiao Dongliang. She intentionally picked a place that was further away from Ding Jiayi.

After being hit by Ding Jiayi numerous times, Qiao Nan was accustomed to this type of situations. Her mother would definitely be the first to bash her during such times.

True enough, when she heard that Qiao Nan was such a spendthrift and refused to listen to advice, Ding Jiayi raised her hand and wanted to hit Qiao Nan a few times, but she could not as Qiao Nan avoided her too well.

"Nan Nan, let's go, Dad happens to have money in the pocket today." Moving away from Ding Jiayi and avoiding her ugly expression, Qiao Dongliang left immediately as he pulled Qiao Nan along to buy her new clothes.

Qiao Nan was not sure if this was because Qiao Dongliang was delighted as she assured Qiao Dongliang that Zhu Baoguo would pass the coming examination. He really led Qiao Nan shopping and bought her two full sets of new clothing, from head and toe.

At the sight of so many new clothes, Qiao Nan's mind was blank as she blinked her big eyes. She dared not believe what she saw.

She thought that her father's earlier words were said deliberately to anger her mother, never did she think that he would really buy her two sets of clothing.

"Why, too happy?" Qiao Nan looked like she was in awe. This made Qiao Dongliang feel happy yet sour. Ultimately, Qiao Nan had been shortchanged so much.

Even if he would be taking in a son-in-law for Zijin, Nan Nan was still his daughter. How could he not dote on her.

"Yes, I finally have new clothes to wear. I don't have to wear those unwanted by Sister anymore."

This simple comment of Qiao Nan was accompanied with sadness.

She not only had no chance to wear new clothes, but also had no chance to wear those that Qiao Zijin liked.

She could only wear those clothes that Qiao Zijin was sick of and unwilling to wear. Those were akin to a pile of rubbish at home.

“There will be new clothes next time. In future, Dad will buy you at least one set of new clothes every season.” Qiao Dongliang felt very bad.

Qiao Dongliang came from the era of poverty and hard life. At that time, the people could not even fill their stomach, not to mention wear good clothes.

So, to Qiao Dongliang, he always felt that although the younger daughter was not treated as well as the elder daughter, but she was also clothed and fed, not left hungry or in cold. Hence, he did not feel that he was shortchanging her.

However, at this very moment, Qiao Dongliang could no longer maintain this stance.

He had made this daughter suffer too much.

“Nan Nan, all these years, did Dad make you suffer a lot?”

“Dad, if I coax you and said no, would you believe me?” Having foolishly lived a lifetime, this time, Qiao Nan was not willing to deny and allow herself to continue to suffer.

Two lifetimes, she suffered, she suffered so much.

“Dad, like Sister, I’m also your daughter.”

Both are born to the same parents, but why was she treated so differently from Qiao Zijin? She did not expect equal treatment, but it should not be the way it was now.

“Yes, both are my daughters,” Qiao Dongliang said. He did not feel good. “Let’s go to the restaurant.”

Both father and daughter ended up eating and drinking to their hearts’ content before going home.

Meanwhile, Ding Jiayi was at home facing the cold and quiet house alone. She could only hear her own breathing. She felt so depressed and was close to tears. “The two of you are so good, do you still take me seriously, do you still treat me like family? Don’t tell me both of you are biological father and daughter, and I’m not your real Mom? Those things that I did, aren’t they for the sake of the family?”

At the sight of Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Nan coming back with bags of new stuff, Ding Jiayi felt the sting in her heart. “This, this, how much did you all spend, how much did you buy?” From the look of it, it did not look like only one set of clothing and been bought.

“Nan Nan, take them back to your room and put them away properly. Right, remember to cut away the labels.” Knowing his wife’s character, Qiao Dongliang advised Qiao Nan.

Actually, Qiao Nan intended to do this even if Qiao Dongliang did not remind her.

If her mother went to return all the new clothes, she would have none to wear. Also, the money from the refund would go in to her mother’s pocket, benefiting Qiao Zijin.

Chapter 88: To Give An Ultimatum

Qiao Nan took a pair of scissors and removed the labels to remove the means for Ding Jiayi to make a refund. She then happily held the clothes in front of herself and even ran to Qiao Dongliang and asked, “Dad, do I look good in it?”

“Nice,” Qiao Dongliang said as he laughed. “If you like it, you can wear one set to school tomorrow and leave the other for the Lunar New Year.”

“Okay, I’ll listen to Dad.” Although Qiao Nan was not a real 15-year-old, she could not help feeling as happy as a kid as she held the new clothes. Her small face was all red and rosy.

The more happy Qiao Nan was, the more jealous Ding Jiayi felt. Her eyes were extremely fierce.

“You actually bought two set of new clothing for Qiao Nan. Then you must buy for Zijin too, buy three for her!” Ding Jiayi made a request.

“No,” Qiao Dongliang rejected flatly. “We agreed before that you will take care of Zijin’s matters and I will take care of Qiao Nan’s matters. If you wish to buy three sets of clothing for Zijin, sure, I will not stop you. You pay for them yourself.”

After the depletion of the family savings, Qiao Dongliang had a phobia. He must guard his own money.

His wife was too daring. She had spent all the family savings without telling him a thing.

He was the head of the family but he only knew about it one to two months after the savings were gone.

If she dared to do it once, she would dare to do it again.

Their family was already not wealthy and definitely could not afford to spend in this manner.

Qiao Dongliang was a little machismo, if not for Ding Jiayi’s spendthrift ways, he would not want to let Ding Jiayi work outside. It would be good enough if she stayed at home and managed the domestic affairs properly.

Qiao Dongliang did not interfere in how Ding Jiayi managed her earnings at all, but he must guard his own money.

Qiao Dongliang also did not interfere in how Ding Jiayi want to dote on Qiao Zijin. He would not bother about whatever Ding Jiayi spent her money on.

However, if Ding Jiayi would like to have his money, Qiao Dongliang was not willing.

“Then can you do the same, Zijin is studying in high school and needs to spend a lot more than Qiao Nan. You earn more than me, don’t talk about three sets of clothing, I wanted to buy her ten, you don’t have money?” Ding Jiayi was unhappy.

Since Old Qiao found out that she spent all the family savings, although she was also working, Old Qiao had not given her a cent since.

Used to managing the household finances, understandably, Ding Jiayi did not feel good when Qiao Dongliang suddenly stopped giving her money.

Since she could not get any money, she was hoping that Qiao Dongliang would spend on Qiao Zijin in case he squandered it all on Qiao Nan. But Qiao Dongliang refused. Ding Jiayi was so furious that she wanted to quarrel with Qiao Dongliang.

“That I don’t care, anyway we have agreed before. I know how much you earn. Save a little every month and it would not be difficult for you to pay for Zijin’s tuition fees. You manage your own money and take care of Zijin’s matters. You decide for yourself.” Qiao Dongliang was very shrewd and had it all planned.

The younger daughter never had any new clothes but the elder daughter never stopped having them.

At this time, Qiao Dongliang realized one thing – his elder daughter was too extravagant.

Previously, Old Ding said that new clothes could last for nine years and that was the norm for all families, so she was not buying any for Qiao Nan. However, her actions were contrary to her words when it came to Zijin.

Qiao Dongliang had done an estimation for Ding Jiayi. Her earnings are not more than his but they were sufficient for Qiao Zijin’s living expenses and a set of new clothes per season. With proper savings and management, it would not be a problem to support Zijin till she completed the high school education.

Ding Jiayi thought she could have the cake and eat it but Qiao Dongliang had done his calculations.

“That, how can that be the same?” Ding Jiayi was dumbfounded with anger. Why should Zijin and Qiao Nan be treated equally, was Qiao Nan fit to receive the same treatment?

“How is it different?” Qiao Dongliang sneered. “You tell me, what exactly is the difference?”

“You, you, Old Qiao, why are you so unreasonable?” Ding Jiayi did not know what to say.

“Righteousness will see you through all difficulties whereas without it, your progress will be hampered from the very start. Why am I unreasonable, you tell me, who is the one being unreasonable?” Qiao Dongliang was also light headed, clearly Old Ding was the unreasonable one but she blamed it on others. How could she do that?

Because of this matter, Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi nearly quarreled.

Qiao Nan did not say a word and simply went back to her bedroom. She held the principle of not getting involved and not watching, while she carried on quietly with her own matters.

“You still treat her so well. She saw both of us quarreling but she just left without a care. She’s a heartless thing, you still bought her so many new clothes!” Ding Jiayi pointed at Qiao Nan’s room and yelled at the top of her voice.

Ding Jiayi deliberately shouted these words for Qiao Nan’s ears.

She hoped that Qiao Nan could come out to mitigate and expel the anger between Qiao Dongliang and her.

There was only silence from Qiao Nan’s room as Ding Jiayi’s words fell on deaf ears.

“There is nothing wrong with Nan Nan. The two of us are quarreling, she’s just a kid and should not interfere. Are you hoping that she will help you or are you willing to see her help me to deal with you?” Qiao Dongliang was both amused and angry.

To Qiao Dongliang, Qiao Nan was undoubtedly doing the right thing by returning to her bedroom.

If Qiao Nan helped him, she would be unfilial to Old Ding. If she helped Old Ding to persuade him, then she was not differentiating what was right from wrong.

A child would not be able to interfere in the matters relating to adults. He felt that Nan Nan's way of handling the matter was appropriate.

"Yes yes yes. To you, whatever Nan Nan does is always right and whatever I do is always wrong. You no longer care about Zijin, you only have Nan Nan in your eyes. Don't forget, Zijin is the one who will remain in the family in future. What's the use of treating Nan Nan so well?!" Ding Jiayi said with much anger and anxiety. "Why can't you get this clear?"

Qiao Nan would eventually be married to another family, Zijin was the one who would stay in this family forever.

Giving Qiao Nan more would only benefit others. By doing all these, Old Qiao was favoring an outsider instead of someone of his own?

"Utter nonsense." Qiao Dongliang gasped. "Save your breath. Nan Nan is also my daughter. Why can't I be good to her? You don't need to quarrel with me too, anyway, I will not give you money. You better save more, when the school reopens next year, don't tell me you are unable to pay for Zijin's tuition fees. I can tell you with certainty now, if that really happens, you have to think of a way out yourself, I will not fork out a single cent."

Qiao Dongliang was afraid that Ding Jiayi would not take his words seriously, that she would say one thing and do another by spending all her money on Qiao Zijin during the Lunar New Year, and then expect Qiao Dongliang to pay Qiao Zijin's tuition fees. He might as well give Ding Jiayi a warning in advance.

"You, by doing this, if Zijin knows about this, she will be so hurt. Don't tell me you don't want Zijin to continue with her studies?"

Chapter 89: Negotiate To Swap

Ding Jiayi was dumbfounded. When had Old Qiao become so heartless and indifferent towards Zijin?

"Zijin still has you, as long as you are able to take care proper care of the finances, I believe Zijin can definitely continue in her studies. Furthermore, the school will not make the student drop out immediately when the school fees are not paid. You can just think of a way to resolve this. But

knowing Zijin, she is usually concerned about her face, she will not have any mood to study if the school fees are owing. Heed my advice, manage your money properly and don't let Zijin be in a difficult position. What happened during the essay competition has already left the teachers with a bad impression of her. Having said this, you should think about what you need to do."

In the past, he had really indulged Old Ding too much and allowed her to spoil Zijin.

Although he would be taking in a son-in-law for Zijin and Nan Nan would be married to another family, both were his own daughters. There was no reason that Zijin could have a few sets of new clothes in a year while Nan Nan could not get any.

Uncle Lee was right. He was too muddle-headed in the past.

If he continued to let Old Ding manage the household, the family would be in a mess.

Qiao Dongliang had made up his mind to suppress Ding Jiayi's bad temper. Even though the five fingers on one hand are of different length, and favoritism is inevitable in parent-child relationship, Old Ding was too extreme in her treatment towards Nan Nan.

Leaving Ding Jiayi behind, Qiao Dongliang washed up and went to bed. He did not bother about Ding Jiayi.

This time, Ding Jiayi was really furious and heartbroken. She sat in the living room alone, slouching, and wiping away the tears at the corner of her eyes from time to time, crying silently.

For some time, only the sounds of Ding Jiayi's sobbing and breathing could be heard intermittently from the living room.

Ding Jiayi sat alone until she was cold and numb, then she slowly got up and went to the bedroom without even washing her face.

Looking at the bump covered by the blanket on the bed, Ding Jiayi sniffed, took off her clothes and got into bed silently.

Although the person lying next to her had a high body temperature and she should feel the warmth, Ding Jiayi felt so bitterly disappointed that she was chilled to the bone.

She was married to this man for more than decade. For the sake of him, she managed the household affairs and was busy all the time, didn't she do all these for the family and this man?

Ding Jiayi sobbed a few times and gave a long sigh before she closed her eyes and slept.

One semester had passed in the blink of an eye, Qiao Nan finished her exams earlier than Qiao Zijin. Qiao Zijin's exam ended two days later and also reached home late, she finally had a good night's sleep.

"Mom, we finished our exams. Today's weather is good, shall we go shopping for new clothes?" On the next day, Qiao Zijin's mind was all on shopping for new clothes when she woke up. "Mom, the newly arrived clothes for the Lunar New Year are so beautiful. My classmates are all so well-dressed and they have so many clothes, Mom..."

Qiao Zijin stretched her tone and spoke like a spoiled child.

In fact, Qiao Zijin already knew what she wanted to buy, she had her eyes on four sets of clothes that she liked very much.

Qiao Zijin was not confident that her mother would buy all four sets of clothing, but she was sure that she could get at least three sets if she tried hard enough.

"How many sets did you have your eyes on?" Of course, Ding Jiayi understood Qiao Zijin well, she knew what Qiao Zijin was thinking when Qiao Zijin behaved this way.

"Not a lot, just, just four sets."

Ding Jiayi was asking for the number of pieces, but Qiao Zijin signaled that she was keen on four sets of clothing.

Ding Jiayi gasped. When they had savings at home previously, she also did not have the habit of buying four sets of new clothes for Zijin at once. "Zijin, I need to let you know a situation, you then consider for yourself how many new clothes to buy this year."

Because of Qiao Dongliang's words, Ding Jiayi was compelled to do some calculations on how much money she had on hand.

Ding Jiayi doted on Qiao Zijin very much. Whenever Qiao Zijin made a request, she would always accede to them if they were within her means to provide.

As such, during the past four months, Ding Jiayi did not save a lot. If she hoped to pay off Qiao Zijin's tuition fees for the next semester, she would have to work longer and she dared not even take a break from work early to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

Hence, Ding Jiayi could not afford to buy any new clothes for Qiao Zijin.

Ding Jiayi's words stunned Qiao Zijin. "No money, you can ask from Dad." Her father, not her mother, earned the most in the family. "You pay for my clothes and then ask Dad for my tuition fees."

In this way, we could have the best of both worlds.

"Your dad already said. I will take care of your matters and he will not interfere. If I am not able to cough up your tuition fees, he will not help and I have to think of a way to settle it myself."

"Dad really said that? Impossible! You told me last time that he wanted to take in a son-in-law for me." As such, how could her father be so heartless and really not care about her.

If she knew that this would be the case, she would rather swap with Qiao Nan to let her father manage her affairs while her mother managed that of Qiao Nan.

Yes, why hadn't she thought of that earlier?

If she was taken care of by her dad, she need not worry about having no money to spend. If Qiao Nan was managed by her mother, her mother would spend all the money on her anyway.

"I heard this from the horse's mouth. I don't know what drugs Qiao Nan gave your dad, your Dad only has one daughter in his heart now. If I am unable to pay your tuition fees, he asked me to let it be in arrears, while I think of ways to pay gradually."

“I don’t want!” Before Ding Jiayi could finish her words, Qiao Zijin rejected this notion. “If that’s the case, then I would not be able to face anyone in school. I am already in the bad books of my Chinese Teacher. If this really happens, I, I might as well quit my studies!”

“How can you quit school! If you quit, how are you going to find a good job in future? To put it bluntly, you will have let Qiao Nan have her wish if you quit your studies, because all the money in the family will then be used to support her education. It’s the Lunar New Year period and there are many odd jobs available, I will work for a few more days. It should not be a problem to settle your school fees. But your clothes for Lunar New Year... I probably cannot afford any.”

Qiao Zijin frowned instantly. “Can’t we talk about this further? I don’t want four sets now, can I have two instead?” This was one set less than what she had expected. Qiao Zijin was extremely unhappy.

“Two sets?” Ding Jiayi smiled bitterly. “Most likely not even one set, unless you really want to owe the school one semester of tuition fees.”

“I don’t want, if you can’t pay the tuition fees, I will rather not study!” Qiao Zijin’s face turned stiff and said firmly, “What about Qiao Nan’s tuition fees?!”

“There would not be a problem for Qiao Nan’s tuition fees. Your Dad had already prepared it.”

“Mom, this won’t do. We still need to buy the clothes, not two, but at least one set for the Lunar New Year? Regarding the tuition fees, how much are you short of? Can we borrow from Dad? If my Dad won’t lend, then borrow from Qiao Nan, let her pay the tuition fees late.”

Chapter 90: Build Good Relations

Qiao Zijin did not want to disgrace herself, she had no intention of being late in her school fees payment. But when it was about Qiao Nan, she thought it was all right and proper to do that.

“Qiao Nan that wretched girl has become so stubborn now, she is no longer as submissive as she used to be. I could bring myself to say this, yet Qiao Nan was not willing to obey?” Ding Jiayi was not silly either, she used to dislike this daughter, of course, she still had no likings for her now.

But in comparison, Qiao Nan was considered to be a very obedient daughter.

If she ordered her to head east, she would not dare to head west; if she ordered her to walk, she would not dare to run.

But now, one sentence from Ding Jiayi, and Qiao Nan would rebut her with ten sentences. Even if Qiao Nan kept her silence and did not retort, she would not obey her words either.

“Mom, Qiao Nan has changed, she was not like this in the past. Why does she have a change in temperament ever since her fever last time?” Qiao Zijin frowned and grunted.

“Now that you mention it, it really seems like it.” Ding Jiayi puckered her lips, “Did she discover something?”

With that, Ding Jiayi cast a meaningful glance at Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Zijin stomped her feet in anger. “Mom, are you referring to the time when Qiao Nan mentioned that someone opened her windows in the middle of the night. I have already told you that it has nothing to do with me!”

“Alright, it’s okay. But since that time, Qiao Nan became weird. Is she by any chance possessed? Her temperament is different now, it was unlike who she used to be.”

“That’s true.” Qiao Zijin nodded. In the past, whenever their parents quarreled, Qiao Nan was so foolish that she would believe Qiao Zijin’s instigations and tried to be the middleman when they were in fierce arguments. She would try ways to maintain her mother’s dignity even if it meant disregarding her own interests.

But recently...

Qiao Nan did not try to be affectionate to Ding Jiayi in this half year, in fact she was keeping her distance from her. Qiao Zijin found her sister’s behavior to be very weird.

“Mom, what do you think is wrong with Qiao Nan, she has changed into a different person. If she was still like who she was used to be previously, everything would be fine for us.” Qiao Zijin had absolute confidence in the Qiao Nan who used to be at her beck and call.

Back then, Qiao Zijin had never thought highly of Qiao Nan, but in retrospect, she missed the times back then.

“How would I know what’s wrong with her? That wretched girl won’t listen to me anymore. If you mess with her, she would just go to look for her father. I don’t know what to say, your father is biased towards her now.” Ding Jiayi could not bring herself to tell Qiao Zijin that she had quarreled with Qiao Dongliang for this and she had cried through the whole night, not being able to sleep at all.

“Then what should we do?” Qiao Zijin grunted. Why did they have to have two children when they could not even bring up a single child well? “I did not ask for much, I only wanted a new set of clothes. Is that too much to ask for?!”

Ever since Qiao Nan was born, every new year she would have new clothes. Why did this year has to be an exception?

“Mom, I am not going to be like Qiao Nan who didn’t even have a piece of new clothing for new year. This year I am not going to pass down my clothes to Qiao Nan.” She had no idea if she would be able to get her new clothes, if she did not have new clothes for new year, she would not hand down her old clothes to Qiao Nan either. Qiao Nan would have to suffer with her.

“She has no use of your new clothes anymore. Your father already went with her to buy two sets of new clothes!” Ding Jiayi gritted her teeth.

Ding Jiayi was boiling with anger. She had forgotten to be mindful of Qiao Zijin’s feelings.

Qiao Zijin turned pale and her eyes reddened. She might not have any new clothes this year, but yet Qiao Nan could have two sets of new clothes! Tears almost spilled from her eyes. “Why should she have two new sets of clothes while I don’t have any at all?”

This year why did it seem like she and Qiao Nan had reversed their fates? She was being treated unfairly while Qiao Nan was being treated like a princess?

“Don’t ask me about this, it’s your father who bought Qiao Nan her new clothes.” Ding Jiayi had a splitting headache. “Alright, Zijin, every year you have quite a lot of new clothes, you bought a few sets this year as well. As for this winter, just give it a miss.”

They could not possibly not hand in Zijin’s school fees for next year just because they wanted to buy new clothes for her?

There was no way she could do this, let alone Zijin.

Qiao Zijin could not take it lying down after she was sent away by Ding Jiayi.

She gritted her teeth and knocked on Qiao Nan’s door. She had lifted her hand in mid air when she remembered that Qiao Nan was not at home.

Even when she had finished her exams, Qiao Nan still went to the Lee family residence to tutor Zhu Baoguo.

“Mom, I am going over to the Lee family residence. Qiao Nan has been intruding on Grandpa Lee for such a long time, as her sister I should thank Grandpa Lee on her behalf.” She also wanted Grandpa Lee to remember that aside from Qiao Nan, her father still had another daughter, and that was her.

“Fine, do you remember the way there?” Ding Jiayi was more than happy that Qiao Zijin wanted to build good relations with the Lee family.

“I remember the way, how could I have forgotten the way to Grandpa Lee’s house.” She did not have any excuses in the past, but now she could use Qiao Nan as an excuse to be closer to the Lee family.

The Lee family and the Qiao family all stayed in the same quad, yet the Lee family residence seemed so majestic and grand. Qiao Zijin casted an admiring glance at the Lee family residence. It would be wonderful if she could stay there.

“Who are you looking for?” The Lee family residence was not a place that Qiao Zijin could come and go as she pleased, she was stopped by the soldiers at the front door.

“I am Qiao Zijin, I am here to look for Grandpa Lee.” Qiao Zijin plastered a sweet smile on her face, and the soldier at the door immediately relaxed his demeanor.

“Please wait here.” The soldier could not let her in at once, he would have to notify the owner first.

“I am Qiao Nan’s sister.” Qiao Zijin stiffened. She did not know that it would be such a hassle to enter the Lee family residence. When she used to pass by the house in the past, she would take a few glances, now then she realized that they have a lot of rules and regulations.

At the mention of Qiao Nan, the soldier quickly ushered her in. “Well, okay, please come in with me.”

The soldier knew Qiao Nan. When she first came to Lee house, Elder Lee made it a point that all the soldiers must learn to recognize her and instructed them that whenever she came visiting, they should let her in directly.

The soldier thought, since Qiao Nan was so close to Chief Lee, Qiao Nan’s biological sister must be on close terms with the Lee family as well.

“Qiao Nan would drop by every weekend, why haven’t I seen you before?” The soldier looked at Qiao Zijin with curiosity.

Qiao Zijin gave a forced smile. She never thought that she was allowed entry to Lee family residence all because of Qiao Nan. “Nan Nan is in junior high school now, she has much more free time than me. I stay at the school, I could only go home once or twice a month. So I seldom visit the Lee house.”

“Seldom?” The soldier repeated her words, expressing his doubts. Could it be that before he was stationed here, this sister used to come by often?