

RTAMM 91

Chapter 91: You Can Ask Me Too

Since he was on duty here, he only saw Qiao Nan, but he had never seen Qiao Zijin before.

But according to what Qiao Zijin said, the soldier was sure that the sisters had a close relationship with the Lee family.

And so, in a few words Qiao Zijin had managed to gain the trust of the soldier and like Qiao Nan, she could enter the Lee family residence easily. Qiao Zijin might be young, but she knew how to live by her wits.

“Then hurry along.” The soldier stepped to one side to let Qiao Zijin in.

Qiao Zijin lifted her chin, feeling pleased at the soldier’s attitude towards her. Once she stepped into this door today, her status would no longer be the same as before.

“Oh, I just felt that this sister looked weird, she was unlike Qiao Nan.” The other soldier frowned in annoyance.

Whenever Qiao Nan came to the Lee family residence, even though she was very quiet, she would give them a smile with a slight nod of her head.

But the sister walked in with her chin lifted high up?

“What’s wrong with you? Why do you keep picking on the young lady? There’s nothing wrong with her. Aren’t all the young ladies like that? Maybe she had good results in school and that’s why she looked proud.” The soldier knew that Qiao Nan was good in her studies, she was among the top in her school. She even came in first place in the provincial essay competition.

With such an outstanding sister, the elder sister must be very brilliant as well.

“Nan Nan, I am here to see you.” As soon as she stepped into the front door, she was dumbstruck by the furnishings of the Lee family residence. It was ten times that of Qiao family. The hall was very

spacious and brightly lit, there was the majestic genuine leather sofa, a big color television as well as other furniture.

All these were very new to Qiao Zijin and was something that she desperately yearned for.

It would be wonderful if her future house was like this.

But if she was to depend on the Qiao family, there was no way that she could dream of leading such a life.

“Xiao Qiao, who is she?” Zhu Baoguo had never seen Qiao Zijin before. He liked her attitude, since she she was so affectionate to Qiao Nan.

“My elder sister...” Qiao Nan puckered her lips. What was Qiao Zijin doing here?

“Nan Nan, this is Baoguo?” Qiao Zijin looked at Zhu Baoguo in surprise. Qiao Zijin heard that he was a bully, she always thought that he must be quite ugly looking, or if not, fierce looking, definitely someone not to be trifled with.

But when she saw him today, she realized that he was quite good looking.

He was just a junior high student, but he was taller than some of the boys in her class.

Zhu Baoguo used to spend his days playing under the sun, and as such his complexion was dark. But after staying indoors to recuperate from his injuries for about half a semester, he became much fairer. With his fiery eyes and looks, he would be considered as a hunk.

At her high school, Qiao Zijin already had some admirers who were pursuing her. She could not help but blush when she saw Zhu Baoguo.

“Oh, so it’s Da Qiao, then in the future we will...” Zhu Baoguo was about to say in the future “we will be one family”, but he stopped in mid-sentence.

Qiao Nan was right about something, Zhu Baoguo was quite smart.

Zhu Baoguo thought for a while. He had been spending time with Qiao Nan for half a semester, and she had never brought up this sister of hers, be it praises or complaints.

Zhu Baoguo had also heard about the rumors regarding the Qiao family. One minute he was smiling at Qiao Zijin, the next minute his countenance changed. "What are you doing here?"

Zhu Baoguo was all smiles when he saw her, but he had a change of attitude all of a sudden. Qiao Nan must have spoken ill of her in front of Zhu Baoguo!

Qiao Zijin shot Qiao Nan an angry stare and said, "I am here to see Nan Nan."

"You could look at Xiao Qiao when she is back at home, why did you come to Lee house?" Zhu Baoguo had seen all types of people. In particular when he was messing around outside school, there were always a bunch of people who followed him around, Qiao Zijin had the same expression in her eyes as them.

"Nan Nan has been imposing on Lee family for such a long time, she must have caused Lee family quite a lot of troubles. As her elder sister, I should express my gratitude and my new year greetings to Grandpa Lee in advance. Where is Grandpa Lee?" Qiao Zijin looked around, she did not come looking for Zhu Baoguo, her target was Grandpa Lee.

No matter how the Zhu family and Lee family pampered Zhu Baoguo, he still had to obey Grandpa Lee's words to study and do what he disliked.

Qiao Nan and Zhu Baoguo were classmates and desk mates. She must have spoken ill of her in front of Zhu Baoguo.

But Grandpa Lee was different. Even if Qiao Nan badmouthed her, Grandpa Lee might not believe her. Maybe she should build relations with Grandpa first.

"It seemed like you were here to suck up to my grandpa." Zhu Baoguo gave a cold smile at Qiao Zijin for overrating her own abilities. "I have no idea where Grandpa Lee is. But let me warn you, this is Lee house, this is not Qiao house, you had better not wander around, it would not be nice if other people misunderstood your intentions here."

Elder Lee was in the study room but Zhu Baoguo refused to tell her. He disliked Qiao Zijin's attitude. "Xiao Qiao, how do we solve this question?"

“The knowledge point to this question could be found at the example question on page 38 of the first volume of Secondary Two textbook. Look through the example question once before you ask me.” Qiao Nan took a glance at the question and could tell where the knowledge point of this question was. She then continued with her revision.

Zhu Baoguo gasped in astonishment. Xiao Qiao knew the Mathematics lessons like the back of her hand.

Zhu Baoguo was in awe by Qiao Nan’s consciousness. She was really dedicated to her studies.

Zhu Baoguo did not go after Qiao Nan for the solution. After hearing her reply, he took out Secondary two Mathematics textbooks and started to flip through them. He searched for the page that Qiao Nan mentioned and finally found the example question of the knowledge point.

This was after all a foundation question. Zhu Baoguo studied it and knew how to tackle the question that he had trouble with.

Zhu Baoguo went on to the next question after finishing with the current question.

Qiao Zijin dared not wander around at Zhu Baoguo’s stern warning. She sat down quietly by the side, watching the two of them while they did their revision.

Qiao Zijin could not help but grit her teeth in frustration when she saw that Zhu Baoguo always did as what Qiao Nan said. He was not the unruly and bad tempered boy that he was known as.

If she had known that Zhu Baoguo was so easy to deal with, she would have snatched the task of tutoring Zhu Baoguo for herself.

Zhu Baoguo was not good in his studies. With her standard, it was more than enough to tutor him. Who was the one who spread the rumor and made it sound like he was an evil monster?

If Zhu Baoguo would listen to her words, it would be easy to tutor him. After all, Lee family and Zhu family did not have high expectation of Zhu Baoguo.

“Baoguo, Nan Nan has lagged behind in her studies recently. I am in high school now, and I am studying in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, if you have any questions you can ask me too.”

Chapter 92: What Did She Mean

“The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China?” Zhu Baoguo raised his head and looked at Qiao Zijin.

“That’s right, I am a student at The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China.” Qiao Zijin said proudly. This high school was the best high school in Ping Cheng, Zhu Baoguo would finally know where her standard was.

No matter how good Qiao Nan’s results were, she has yet to enroll into The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. On the contrary, she was already a student at the high school.

Qiao Nan twitched the corner of her lips when she saw the look of arrogance on Qiao Zijin’s face. She would really have to hand it to her to be so obnoxious.

“I heard that someone came looking for my Grandpa this year, asking for his help to enroll into The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. There’s only a few people who would seek my Grandpa’s help regarding this matter, could that person be you?” Zhu Baoguo was overjoyed, he could not keep his sharp tongue in check.

Qiao Zijin who was proud as a rooster flushed red at Zhu Baoguo’s words.

She sang her own praises in order to make a good impression in front of Zhu Baoguo, but she had gone a little overboard. She made it sound as if she was just like the other students who entered The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China based on their results.

Zhu Baoguo’s words reminded Qiao Zijin of how she managed to enroll into The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China.

But why would Zhu Baoguo know that she enroll into the high school by pulling strings. It must be Qiao Nan!

“Who are you glaring at?” Qiao Zijin might be fierce, but she was no match for Zhu Baoguo.

Zhu Baoguo stared angrily at her. A young lady like Qiao Zijin could never be his match.

Qiao Zijin’s heart shuddered, her voice grew weak. “I, I didn’t glare at you.” She was just frustrated that Qiao Nan spoke ill of her in front of Zhu Baoguo and tarnished her reputation.

“Are you allowed to glare at Xiao Qiao?” Zhu Baoguo laughed in anger.

When Zhu Baoguo saw Qiao Zijin, he could not help but be reminded of his classmate Zhao Yu.

Zhu Baoguo had wanted to settle scores with Zhao Yu, but she was smart, she had anticipated that. She would always be in the company of other students when she went to school or left school, she even dragged a few girls with her when she went to the washroom.

Besides Zhao Yu had kept a check on her temper recently. Hence Zhu Baoguo had not laid a finger on her yet.

Right now Qiao Zijin resembled Zhao Yu.

Zhu Baoguo was puzzled. When he was with Qiao Nan, though she was quiet by nature, when she was angry she would be as fierce as a tigress. Why would other people see her as a pushover and bully her?

“Qiao Nan is my sister, why can’t I glare at her?!” Qiao Zijin was infuriated. In the past, no one told her off for glaring at Qiao Nan.

She not only glared at Qiao Nan, when they were at home she even ordered her around and Qiao Nan could not say no.

“Nobody say that you can glare at Xiao Qiao as you wish just because she is your younger sister. This is the Lee family residence, you dare to mess with me?” Zhu Baoguo laughed in anger. No one dared to vent their frustration on him.

“Let me tell you, I do not have qualms about hitting women. When I see women who deserve a whacking, I would not be lenient!” Zhu Baoguo waved his fists around, he had a ferocious look in his eyes.

“You...” Qiao Zijin paled, and she started to have regrets.

She had wanted to be on close terms with Zhu Baoguo, why did she end up having a quarrel with him? Qiao Nan has to blame for all of these. It was her fault, she was such a jinx!

“Alright, don’t be an eyesore here. Judging from your reaction just now, you must be the person who sought my Grandpa’s help. If not for his influences, would you still be able to enroll in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China? You still have the cheek to brag about it. You have no real substance at all.”

No wonder Grandpa asked Xiao Qiao to tutor him instead of this woman right in front of him.

Even though they were biological sisters, Da Qiao could not be compared to Xiao Qiao.

“How could you be so sure that it was me and not others?” Qiao Zijin refused to admit that she was the person that Zhu Baoguo was referring to.

“Why not let me ask Grandpa, were you the one who asked him to pull strings for you in order to enroll in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China?” Zhu Baoguo laughed in mockery. If he really wanted to investigate, he could easily find out the truth. It was useless to deny.

“You...” Qiao Zijin was so mad that she was rendered speechless. “Forget it, since both of you are here to study and I could not be of any help at all, I will go back. Nan Nan, let’s have a very good talk later at home!”

Qiao Zijin gritted her teeth. She did not manage to pull any strings, instead she was boiling mad at Zhu Baoguo.

It seemed like the rumors were true, Zhu Baoguo had a lousy temper.

The boys in her class would never treat her in this way.

With that Qiao Zijin turned to leave.

“Oh, is she really your biological sister?” Zhu Baoguo frowned and looked at Qiao Nan with a look of disbelief. “Did she mean that she would settle scores with you later at home? I was the one who was fierce to her, why would she settle scores with you? What did she mean by that?”

“She had the impression that you disliked her as I spoke ill of her in front of you. In that case, she would naturally be after me.” Qiao Nan said matter-of-factly.

“Aren’t you worried or angry?”

“There’s no use to worry. If I am angry it would only bring harm to my body. My sister and Zhao Yu belong to the same type of people. If you don’t pay attention to them, they would still be able to kick up a fuss; if you responded to them, they would create a big uproar. No matter what, she did not have the final say over what’s right or wrong.”

Qiao Nan sensed that Zhu Baoguo was still not over the topic of Qiao Zijin, she raised her eyebrows and said, “You must be sick of doing the sums and so you started this conversation on purpose? Have you finished all the questions?”

Next year would be the last semester of Secondary Three. There was not much time left before middle school exams. Zhu Baoguo was really good at finding excuses to be lazy.

Zhu Baoguo twitched the corners of his lips. Why was Xiao Qiao so smart, she was not only good in her studies, she could also see through a person’s mind.

But this puzzled him even more. He could not understand why Zhao Yu and Da Qiao picked on someone like Qiao Nan.

“Still not concentrating on your studies?” Qiao Nan cast a disdainful look at Zhu Baoguo.

In her previous life, she had seen lots of spoilt brat like Zhu Baoguo.

She might not have been to the university, but her English was good, she had attained a level six certificate.

Other than taking on some translation work at home, she would also give English tuition to students. Hence she could easily tell what's on Zhu Baoguo's mind.

If Qiao Nan could not see through Zhu Baoguo, she had no right to be a tutor.

Zhu Baoguo could find no ways to retort Qiao Nan. He reined in his bad temper and sat down at his seat, took his pen and continued with his questions.

Qiao Nan curled the corner of her lips when she saw that Zhu Baoguo sat back down to study. Although he might be a spoilt brat, compared to the children in the 21st century, Zhu Baoguo was already very obedient.

By the time Qiao Nan left Lee family residence and went back to Qiao family residence, other than Qiao Dongliang, Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi pulled long faces at her.

Chapter 93: Tactless

Qiao Nan walked into the house calmly and addressed her parents and sister. "Dad, Mom, Sister, I am back." She then put her books on the table and poured herself a cup of water.

"Sister? You still remembered that Qiao Zijin is your sister! Why didn't you think of this when you defamed your sister in front of outsiders?" Ding Jiayi looked at Qiao Nan in mockery and gave Qiao Dongliang a slanting glance. Old Qiao must have realized now that Qiao Nan did not have a conscience at all.

Qiao Dongliang frowned, he did not believe that Nan Nan would be like this.

Qiao Nan was not the least bit surprised that Qiao Zijin would accuse her. She took a careful look at Qiao Dongliang, she could not sense any reproval from his demeanor. She relaxed slightly. "Mom, let's put aside whether I defamed sister or not, to put it in the least way, what did I defame sister about?"

Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi were rendered speechless by Qiao Nan's forceful words. Qiao Dongliang was stunned as well.

There was a flicker of doubt in Qiao Dongliang's eyes. When Qiao Zijin came crying to them and said that she had been wronged, he thought that if it was the truth, Nan Nan was in the wrong. But judging from Nan Nan's character, she did not seem like she would do such things.

Now that he thought about it carefully, when did the younger daughter defame the elder daughter?

Qiao Dongliang was deep in his thoughts trying to figure out this problem, while Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin turned red with anger, as if they had been insulted.

"Nan Nan, tell me honestly, did you, did you talk about your sister to Baoguo?" Qiao Dongliang pondered for a long time and picked his words carefully, mindful to remain objective.

"No, Zhu Baoguo did not know my sister. When he saw her, he even asked me who she was."

"You are a liar, if you have never mentioned about me to Zhu Baoguo, why would he hate me to the core? You must have blackened my name in front of Zhu Baoguo. You still don't want to admit that you defamed me?" Qiao Zijin jumped up in anger, pointing her finger at Qiao Nan's nose and shouted at her.

"Sister, you are not the Chinese currency renminbi, why must everyone in the world like you? As for those who don't like you, does it mean that I have spoken ill of you in front of every single one of them? Do you mean that you are way more popular than the dollar notes? For some people, money means nothing to them." Qiao Nan replied coldly.

In the 21st century, Grandpa Mao had always been the most popular figure.

"Impossible, if you did not speak ill of me, why would Zhu Baoguo hate me?" Qiao Zijin felt so ashamed when she was reminded of Zhu Baoguo's words. He said that she had no real substance at all, she managed to enroll in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China all because of Elder Lee's connections.

"Sister, this is so unjust. How would I know why does Zhu Baoguo dislike you? Maybe you just don't hit it off with him, how could you blame me for that?"

“Mom, look at this, Qiao Nan refused to admit that she badmouthed me in front of Zhu Baoguo. There’s no way to get the truth out of her. Qiao Nan is so shameless.” Qiao Zijin was at a loss for words.

But Qiao Nan still had lots to say. “Dad, do you know what happened? Sister went to Lee family residence. She saw that the both of us were studying. So she walked up to Zhu Baoguo and told him that she is a student of The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, and that she can tutor him. Zhu Baoguo then asked her if she was the person who sought Grandpa Lee’s help to enroll in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China.”

“Why would he think that it was me?” Qiao Zijin refused to admit defeat. She did not believe that Qiao Nan did not badmouth her in front of Zhu Baoguo.

“Because you mentioned that you are a student of The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. Why would you ruffle Zhu Baoguo’s feathers? If you don’t believe me you can ask Dad. Dad, how’s Zhu Baoguo’s temper? She told him upfront that she could tutor him. That is tantamount to telling Zhu Baoguo with all smiles that you can lend him money when you obviously know that he is short of money. It is no wonder that he is infuriated.”

Junior high school students were at a sensitive age. Qiao Zijin’s words were obviously telling Zhu Baoguo that since his results were not good, she could help him with his studies.

“Zijin, did you really say that?” Qiao Dongliang stiffened. Even if Zijin had been scolded by Zhu Baoguo, she had no one to blame but herself.

Qiao Dongliang knew the nasty temper of Zhu Baoguo.

When Zhu Baoguo was younger, if someone was to mention the word “Mother” in front of him, he would go all out to beat that person to a pulp.

In comparison, Zhu Baoguo had been fairly courteous to his elder daughter.

For all he knew, Zhu Baoguo was lenient to Zijin on account of Qiao Nan who was his classmate.

In fact, the elder daughter escaped from a beating all because of the younger daughter, yet she lodged complaints of her sister to her parents. Qiao Dongliang did not know what to say.

“I, I was trying to be helpful.” Qiao Zijin could not help but stutter. She did not know that her words might enrage Zhu Baoguo.

Now that Qiao Zijin thought about it, what she said really deserved a whacking.

“Even if you want to be helpful you shouldn’t be so tactless.” Qiao Dongliang sighed.

“Dad, let’s get back to the previous topic. My sister said that I defamed her, let’s talk about whether I defamed her or not. First, I must make it clear that I never mention a single word about my sister in front of Zhu Baoguo. Other than our studies, Zhu Baoguo and I never talked about other topics at the Lee family residence. Now let’s assume that I really said those words. Dad, think about it, which of those words are defamation, and which of them are the truth? When we talk about defamation, it means that they were all lies, but we all know how my sister enroll in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. If my sister was unhappy about it, at most she could scold me for washing dirty linen in public. Besides, it’s perfectly normal if Zhu Baoguo knew that Mom sought Grandpa Lee’s help.”

“What rubbish are you talking about? Your, your sister’s enrollment has nothing to do with Uncle Lee.” Ding Jiayi flushed, panic in her eyes. “Your, your sister went to The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China as we forked out money for her. It has got nothing to do with Uncle Lee. If you keep on talking nonsense, I might just sew up your mouth!”

Ding Jiayi gave Qiao Dongliang a panicked look. She was worried that he would take Qiao Nan’s words for real. He might just blow his top and forbid Qiao Zijin to continue with her studies in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China.

Qiao Dongliang shot Ding Jiayi a cold glance, “Alright, why should you be angry with Nan Nan, I am very clear who’s right and who’s wrong!”

If Zhu Baoguo used this to put Zijin down, it was no wonder that she was so angry.

“Sister, did you say these to Zhu Baoguo?” Qiao Nan looked at Qiao Zijin.

As expected, she had guessed it correctly. Her father already knew the story behind her sister's enrolment to The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China.

After all they wanted to take in a husband for the elder daughter, unlike what her mother thought, her father would not make Zijin transfer out of The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China for the sake of his face.

If her father highly valued Elder Lee above everything, she would not have come to this world at all.

Qiao Zijin had an important place in her father's heart, way more than Qiao Zijin or her mother could have imagined.

Chapter 94: Asked for It

"Sister, which of Zhu Baoguo's words were exaggeration? Which of the words were lies? When did I defame you?"

"Old, Old Qiao." Ding Jiayi still didn't get it. She stared at Qiao Dongliang with a look of guilt. "You, you don't listen to Qiao Nan's nonsense, Zijin went to The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China..."

"Stop it, no one is to mention this again." Qiao Dongliang pulled a long face, they had no idea who he was angry at.

It was Elder Lee who told Qiao Dongliang about his daughter's enrollment. Hence there was the possibility that Elder Lee could have mentioned this to Zhu Baoguo as well.

Besides, before Elder Lee told him the news, he also had no inkling either. Old Ding and Zijin would never let Nan Nan know about this matter, then how did she come to know about it? Zhu Baoguo must have told her.

He had to blame himself for being muddleheaded. The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China was such a prestigious school, one might not be able to enroll in the school despite forking out money, one still had to have connections.

“Zijin, you must study hard, if not I would be so embarrassed.” Qiao Dongliang sighed, because of Qiao Nan he finally could hold his head high in front of Uncle Lee, but his elder daughter had to create this trouble.

But luckily the elder daughter’s results had improved after studying in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China.

As long as Zijin did well for her studies, Uncle Lee would eventually forget about how she enrolled in the high school.

Qiao Zijin paled and nodded her head reluctantly.

What did this have to do with her results? She was not Qiao Nan.

Initially she had wanted her parents to uphold justice for her, but in the end Qiao Nan remained unscathed. Qiao Zijin who was in low spirits pursed her lips and said, “Dad, Mom, it’s late, I will return to my room to read.”

“Zijin, wait. Apologize to Nan Nan.” Qiao Dongliang stopped Qiao Zijin.

“Why?!” Qiao Zijin widened her eyes in disbelief.

Why should she apologize to Qiao Nan, Qiao Nan had bullied and defamed her today. She was thinking to make her kowtow and admit her mistakes.

“What do you think is the reason?” Qiao Dongliang did not explain, he wanted Qiao Zijin to reflect on her own mistakes. “Don’t you think that your actions and behavior just now were too much, shouldn’t you apologize to Nan Nan? Who was the one who framed and badmouthed people? Zijin, you are ambiguous with your words. You meant to mislead us into having the wrong impressions. And yet you ask me why? Is that how a elder sister should behave? Did the teachers in school teach you to behave in this way?”

“What are you so angry for? It was just a misunderstanding. We are one family, we shouldn’t be so calculating and acting like outsiders.” Ding Jiayi jumped in to defend Qiao Zijin.

“Calculating? Acting like outsiders? Then what about the big spectacle that you created just now, as if you wanted to send punitive forces against someone. Isn’t that calculating, isn’t that treating Nan Nan like outsiders?” Qiao Dongliang shot Ding Jiayi an absurd look and turned to face Qiao Zijin. “Zijin, you are more educated than your Mom and you are so intelligent, you wouldn’t be like your Mom who can’t tell right from wrong, right? Should you then make this apology?”

She could not have new clothes and now her father wanted her to apologize. Qiao Zijin’s eyes reddened, she was on the brink of tears. “Dad, I was too angry that’s why I... Nan Nan, don’t take it to heart. I meant no harm, it’s just that Zhu Baoguo dissented me and I, I was anxious. I, I did not do anything bad, Nan Nan, I am sorry.”

Qiao Zijin then returned to her room with red eyes.

“Old Qiao, you are too much.” Ding Jiayi stomped her feet and pointed at Qiao Nan, “It was all because of you. Will you grow more meat just because your sister apologized to you? You, you are so heartless towards your sister!”

Qiao Nan who has just been through an unexpected ordeal laughed. She might not grow more meat just because Qiao Zijin apologized to her, but she was happy inside.

“Alright, why are you always picking on Nan Nan? Is this the differential treatment between family and outsiders? If you continue to pamper Qiao Zijin, can she survive in the outside world with the way she treats others? Instead of persuading her to change her attitude, you sided with her while she bullied Qiao Nan?” Qiao Dongliang chided Ding Jiayi.

“You! Was it me who pampered Qiao Zijin or you who pampered Qiao Nan? Forget it, now you only have eyes for one daughter. It would be useless to talk to you. You can look after Qiao Nan, I will dote on Zijin, she still has her mother who will protect her.” Ding Jiayi could not take it lying down, she said her piece and went off to comfort Qiao Zijin.

“What a headache, the child acts this way, the adult also acts this way.” From the looks of it, Zijin learned her bad ways from Old Ding.

“Dad, I will go back to my room.” Qiao Nan had her dinner at Lee family residence before coming back. She decided to have a bath before turning in. After all, it was chilly in the winter.

“Go ahead.” Qiao Dongliang gave a faint sigh. Nobody understood his good intentions.

Nobody understood?

Some did not wish to know, while some pretended not to know. Qiao Nan belonged to the latter.

Her father was trying to inculcate the correct values in Qiao Zijin. He noticed her character flaws and wanted to correct them.

Qiao Zijin was not willing to learn and her mother did not feel the need for her to change anything.

But since it had nothing to do with her, it did not matter if she understood her father's intentions or not.

Ding Jiayi felt sorry that Qiao Zijin had suffered such grievances today and she could not seek justice for her. She could only watch helplessly while Zijin apologized to Qiao Nan. So in the end, Ding Jiayi agreed to buying a set of new clothes for Qiao Zijin and Qiao Zijin was finally appeased with that.

Qiao Zijin was all smiles when she received her new clothes. She was so thrilled that she could not contain her smiles.

But on the other hand Ding Jiayi had to take on private handiwork at home so as to buy Zijin her new clothes. She spent a lot of the days bent over the dim lights, working on the handiwork till midnight before going to sleep.

There was once when Qiao Nan woke up in the middle of the night to have a cup of tea, and she saw a tired Ding Jiayi rubbing at her eyes till they turned red.

"You sure are enjoying your good night's sleep, didn't you see that I am still busy with work. Now that you are on holiday, you should help me out." Ding Jiayi boiled with anger when she saw Qiao Nan walked past with sleepy eyes and flushed face. "From tomorrow onwards, you have to help out!"

"Alright, I will let Dad know. From tomorrow onwards, I won't go to the Lee family residence to tutor Zhu Baoguo." Qiao Nan did not say no, instead she agreed.

Ding Jiayi turned red with anger. “Are you stupid?!”

If Old Qiao discovered that Qiao Nan could not go to Lee family residence as she had to help Ding Jiayi with her private jobs, he would tear her apart.

“You do not have to be at Lee family residence for 24 hours a day. You could come home earlier after tutoring Zhu Baoguo and helped me out. Wear your clothes and start working now. Finish them quickly, I have to prepare for new year.”

“No.” Qiao Nan rejected her coldly. “I am going back to sleep.” With that, she walked off.

Chapter 95: Have A Good Year Ahead

In order to coax Qiao Zijin, her mother overstretched her own ability to buy Qiao Zijin new clothes, which led to the lack of funds for Qiao Zijin’s tuition fees. Why should she tidy up the mess for them. No way!

“You dare!” Ding Jiayi’s face was red with anger. “Are you still my daughter, am I still your Mom, I work day and night, you don’t even give me any concern and help me to lessen my burden?”

“Mom, don’t treat me a fool because I am an honest person. You did all this because you wanted to buy Sister clothes, it’s not because of me. For the sake of sister, you work so hard, and then pulled me along to work overnight while Sister continues with her beauty sleep. You are willing but I am not.” Qiao Nan might as well be frank about it.

“Your sister must be tired after studying, why do you always drag her in?” She would not let Zijin do this type of chores.

“I’m also tired after attending school.”

“How hard can it be for you, you’re in junior high but your sister is in senior high school!”

“Fine, I can’t talk sense into you, anyway I’m not doing it, you can do whatever you like.” Qiao Nan turned her back from Ding Jiayi and returned to her bedroom.

If she knew what would happen, she would not have woken up. She would rather hang on and continued to sleep.

Her mother was probably too exhausted recently, she added too much salt when cooking. If not, she would not have felt so thirsty and woke up in the middle of the night.

As she prepared to return to her bedroom, Qiao Nan saw the shadow of Ding Jiayi raising her hand, she said coldly without looking back.

“Mom, I advised you not to touch me, if you hit me, I will definitely call Dad out. If Dad knows that you are staying up late to work so that you can buy sister new clothes, and Sister still sleeps so early everyday, what will he think of Sister?”

True enough, after Qiao Nan said this, Ding Jiayi put down her hand unwillingly. “You just don’t want to let your sister have a good life!”

“Mom, it’s not that. It’s that you don’t want me to do well. If I take over this chore, will you still continue, you will definitely go to bed. Mom, don’t always pick on the honest people, you treat Sister like a treasure and disliked me. It’s okay. I will cherish myself.”

Qiao Zijin was happy and delighted to wear new clothes, while she had to lose her sleep to help Qiao Zijin with her tuition fees next year.

In this lifetime, she would never do such a foolish thing again.

After she finished with her words, Qiao Nan decisively went back to her room and shut her door. She closed her eyes and slept within five minutes.

Ding Jiayi, who had a stomach full of anger, did five wrongly. The rule is that broken items had to be compensated for. As such, she had to pay for the five broken items before receiving her income. Ding Jiayi was nearly driven crazy this night.

Eventually she could not take it anymore, it was already one o’clock, Ding Jiayi put down her chores and returned to the bedroom to sleep.

The next day, Ding Jiayi had two obvious dark circles under her eyes, like those of a panda.

Seeing Ding Jiayi this way, Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Nan kept silent unanimously.

On the contrary, Qiao Zijin was two-faced. On the surface, she thanked Ding Jiayi for working hard. But when Ding Jiayi was working at home, Qiao Zijin did not even attempt to help Ding Jiayi.

Qiao Zijin do not feel for Ding Jiayi, neither did she help Ding Jiayi to lessen her burden, what could Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Nan say?

It can be said that the punishment is appropriately given by one and willingly accepted by the other, they are truly a perfect mother-daughter match.

Qiao Nan was able to let it go but Qiao Dongliang could not.

Through this matter, Qiao Dongliang realized that Qiao Zijin only knew how to pay lip service to her parents, but in terms of action...

Qiao Dongliang was able to discover the shortcomings of Qiao Zijin after some observation. In the past, Ding Jiayi had been putting in good words for Qiao Zijin, he really thought that Qiao Zijin was a very obedient and sensible daughter. The only thing was that she was not very good in her studies.

But after the recent spate of events, Qiao Dongliang knew that, in reality, things were probably different from what he heard.

Nevertheless, Qiao Dongliang insisted not to put his hands in this matter.

Despite knowing that money was insufficient, the elder daughter insisted on buying new clothes. Furthermore, the wife indulged in the wrong behavior.

So, his wife needed to experience some suffering herself to understand this point.

Otherwise, in future, his wife would definitely forsake the larger picture in order to satisfy the elder daughter.

From the matter regarding the set of new clothes this year, Qiao Dongliang had a premonition.

Whatever the elder daughter wants, Ding Jiayi would certainly find a way to satisfy her, regardless of how difficult it could be. She would try to do it even if it was beyond her ability.

This was certainly wrong.

If he continued to help his wife, the poor habit would not be changed.

One did not wish to interfere, the other could not interfere. Both father and daughter maintained this stance, so Ding Jiayi could only grit her teeth and finish up all the work on hand.

Having worked so hard, Ding Jiayi fully regretted doing something beyond her ability just to appease Qiao Zijin. She was not angry with Qiao Zijin for not being understanding, but she blamed Qiao Nan for not helping her. With Qiao Nan's ability, she could handle all this manual work by herself.

Qiao Nan could not read her mother's mind but she guessed a little. Anyway, it had always been this way in the previous life. In this life, Qiao Nan was already numb.

In her previous life, she was deeply harmed under such thinking of Ding Jiayi. In this life, it was good that she was no longer bothered by her mother, and would not carry out such thankless chores.

Anyway, regardless of whether she did them or not, she was always the bad guy. She would be stupid to do it.

Seeing the nonchalant attitude of Qiao Nan, Ding Jiayi was full of hate to the core but she could not make Qiao Nan budge.

She finally understood now that Qiao Nan's heart was as hard as a stone, she not only always bullied her sister, but also disregard her as a mother. She did not care even if she died of fatigue.

True enough, she should not have given birth to this daughter. If she had any matter, she would not expect any help from this daughter.

“Xiao Qiao, you’re an angel. You’re going to heaven for this final term exam.” The day that the class received their report card, Zhu Baoguo ran over to Qiao Nan to congratulate her as soon as she stepped into the classroom. “With this, you can have a good year.”

“Not really, in our family, grades are not everything.” Qiao Nan was the representative of all things. “Did I fare okay?”

“What okay, you can’t do better than that!” Zhu Baoguo stared. The top student in the school was actually his deskmate. He would be so proud to let others know this.

“How about you?” Qiao Nan was roughly aware of her own grades, but she was more concerned about Zhu Baoguo’s results.

Zhu Baoguo suddenly laughed. “I received almost around 80 marks for the few Science subjects that I took.”

“That’s good. Just a few more marks and it would be excellent.” Qiao Nan gave Zhu Baoguo a thumbs up. It was only half a semester’s time, Zhu Baoguo had a brain better than most.

“No no, all thanks to your help. If not for you, how can I achieve such grades?” The moment he knew his grades, Zhu Baoguo was shocked. Even the Zhu family doubted it.

Chapter 96: Appreciation

The Zhu family asked Teacher Chen directly, were the grades announced by Teacher Chen just now really that of Zhu Baoguo, and not Niu Baoguo or other Baoguo. Please don’t let it be another person with the same first and last name. They would then be overjoyed for nothing.

They were not young anymore and could not take such jokes, especially now that the Lunar New Year was arriving.

If they showed off the progress of their child to others, and discovered that this was in fact a misunderstanding, that would be so embarrassing.

It was until Teacher Chen's repeated assurance that the grades he announced earlier belonged to Zhu Baoguo, and there was only one Zhu Baoguo in the school, that they knew that this was definitely not a mistake.

Until this very moment, the Zhu family then dared to believe that Zhu Baoguo achieved the groundbreaking results.

Because of Zhu Baoguo's academic performance, the Zhu family was so elated that they nearly set off fireworks to celebrate.

Initially, with Zhu Baoguo's poor grades in the mid-term examinations as a reference, both the Zhu family and Lee family only had one wish – that was for Zhu Baoguo to pass his examination. This would already be considered an improvement.

Unexpectedly, Zhu Baoguo not only passed his exams, but also passed with flying colors. He nearly received the excellent grade, there was a triple leap in his progress!

Elder Zhu was so happy that he rubbed Zhu Baoguo's head. "The blood of the Zhu family really runs in you, you inherited the intelligence of our old Zhu family. As long as you are willing to learn, that is nothing too difficult for you."

Elder Lee simply rolled his eyes when he heard that. What did Zhu Baoguo's achievement have to do with the Zhu family? That was the credit of his Lee family, their genes are good. Without the Lee family, there would not be such a smart Baoguo.

The madly elated Zhu Baoguo said after a while, "Grandpa, regarding this, you are the person that I should thank the most. Fortunately you found Xiao Qiao to be my little teacher. Otherwise, I reckon that there will not be such a day."

Although it was only one final examination, the atmosphere in both the Lee family and Zhu family was akin to the festive seasons such as Lunar New Year, lively and high.

Seeing that so many family members are concerned for him, Zhu Baoguo felt the warmth in his heart, he thought of what Qiao Nan said to him previously. He then thanked Elder Lee emotionally.

The two elders were stunned. Elder Lee smiled, “The words you just said, did Nan Nan teach you to say them?”

He did not expect his obstinate grandson would say something so sensible and heart-warming all of a sudden.

Zhu Baoguo’s face turned red. He did not expect to be exposed by Elder Lee so soon. “Grandpa, can you don’t talk as though I am always so insensible?”

“Yes, you’re sensible now.” Elder Lee nodded his head happily, then glanced at Elder Zhu proudly. “Under the influence of Qiao Nan, you really have become more and more sensible. Grandpa is very happy. As long as you can be good, Grandpa is willing to do anything for you.”

Facing the boasting by Elder Lee, Elder Zhu rolled his eyes but he did not refute Elder Lee again.

After all, when Elder Lee wanted to find his grandson a teacher of his grandson’s age, he was full of objection and doubt.

As it was, the fact speaks louder than words. He never thought that a fair, crisp looking and quiet young lady, who would seemingly be bullied by his grandson, was able to teach his grandson so well.

Till this moment, Elder Zhu was still in a state of disbelief. “Old Lee, when are you going to invite that child over and let our two families treat her to a meal?”

Such a young lady, she not only saved their grandson, but also transformed him. What she did was really hard to come by.

“If this young lady meet with any problems at home, she can come to both of our families in future. If your Lee family cannot help, our Zhu family can step in.”

“I know what to do about this.” Thinking of the situation in the Qiao family, Elder Lee replied briefly without giving a straight answer.

Dirty linen should not be aired in public. This was a private matter of the Qiao family, it was not convenient for Elder Lee to help Qiao Nan spread to the whole world her mis-encounters in the family.

Elder Lee did not feel for Ding Jiayi, but his heart softened for his nephew, Qiao Dongliang.

“Grandpa, please don’t do anything hasty. I will think of how to thank Xiao Qiao myself. I have my own thoughts, you don’t need to worry.” Zhu Baoguo was not pleased. He was the one that received help, and should be the one to say thank you too.

Hence, as soon as he arrived in school today, Zhu Baoguo told Qiao Nan her grades immediately when he saw her. He also said thank you to her in a very sincere manner.

“Alright. If you really want to thank me. Wait for half a year later.”

“Do you have so much confidence in me?”

Zhu Baoguo looked at Qiao Nan in disbelief.

Half a year later, that would be the middle school examination. What Xiao Qiao meant was to look at his academic performance for that?

Although he scored good grades for the final examination, Zhu Baoguo dared not pin too high hopes on himself. He might not be able to sustain the good grades or achieve better grades.

“No, it’s not that I have confidence in you. I have confidence in myself. Haven’t you heard this saying before, in this world, there are no students that don’t know how to learn, there are only teachers who don’t know how to teach?”

“I really have not heard of it!”

Qiao Nan was stunned. Alright. It seemed like she said these words too soon.

“But you are right. There are only teachers who don’t know how to teach in this world. There aren’t any students that don’t know how to learn. I agree.” Zhu Baoguo lifted his chest. His grades were

poor in the past as he had not met a good teacher, one that truly knew how to teach. He was really not responsible for it

“Fine, it’s enough that you know this saying, don’t...”

“Don’t spread, I understand.” Zhu Baoguo nodded his head firmly. “Xiao Qiao, no matter what, thank you so much. Thank you for sharing your materials with me. Don’t worry, I have a gift for you in the coming year, I promise that it will be something that you like.”

“Okay,” Qiao Nan agreed readily.

She did not really want this gift of Zhu Baoguo, but she was more than happy to know that her efforts had been appreciated.

Most importantly, based on Qiao Nan’s understanding of Zhu Baoguo, he would probably give her something affordable as a first gift. If she decline, Zhu Baoguo would definitely get something more expensive. The pens that were broken by Zhao Yu previously, the very next day, Zhu Baoguo gave Qiao Nan an imported pen which was obviously not cheap.

When Qiao Nan declined, the stubborn Zhu Baoguo nearly stuffed the imported pen into Qiao Nan’s stationery box.

“Damn, Qiao Nan’s grades are defying the heavens!”

“No, why don’t Qiao Nan go to heaven. Was she a different person from the beginning of the term?”

“I’m going to get a beating this year again when I go home.”

When the results were announced based on the rankings and posted on the bulletin board, many people casted their look on Qiao Nan when they saw the name list.

In this semester, Qiao Nan was the center of attraction in the entire school.

Chapter 97: The Murder Weapon On Earth

Not to mention the rumors that were spread previously, she had saved the life of Zhu Baoguo, clinched the championship for the essay competition, and today, she had become the top student in her grade. She left the second place far behind, with a difference of 16 marks between the top and second place.

There was only a difference of half a mark between second and third place.

Damn, what type of score ratio was this. Qiao Nan was too scary, was she still a human being on the earth?

Qiao Nan and Zhu Baoguo would have a good year ahead. However, for some others, they did not look forward to the Lunar New Year as much as before.

These were the people who did not score very well. Typically, they could still manage fine, but the exam papers were too difficult this time and many students were not able to perform to their expectations.

But compared to Qiao Nan's grades, these people found it hard to voice their thoughts.

Besides Qiao Nan, what was happening to Zhu Baoguo? He was a student who usually ranked one of the last. Now, he had advanced by 100 places and almost reached the level of the outstanding students.

Could someone please tell them, what could be done under the sun to make such a poor student become a good one within a short span of time, in half a semester's time?

They also hoped to be like that!

"Listen to me, Qiao Nan has been giving Zhu Baoguo tuition. Do you think Zhu Baoguo's results have something to do with Qiao Nan?"

"How is that possible? Many teachers tried to teach Zhu Baoguo but did not succeed. Is Qiao Nan better than the teachers in the school? I don't believe this."

The speaker made an unintentional remark, but the listener took it to heart.

A group of students standing nearby heard the conversation, they secretly made plans.

What if what was said was true? As they belonged to the same class as Qiao Nan, could they make use of their position to seek Qiao Nan's advice?

They did not expect to be like Zhu Baoguo whose grades shot up with the speed of a rocket. But at the very least, they could improve.

At this moment, the most dazzling but also the most quiet student, Qiao Nan, was surrounded by many people. It was noisy around her. "Qiao Nan, can you help me take a look at this question? We were tested on this but I haven't figured out the solution."

"Let me see," Qiao Nan took the question and quietly wrote down the clear and complete solution to the problem on a piece of paper. Her handwriting was exceptionally neat and beautiful, just like her face.

Looking at the words of Qiao Nan and then glimpsing her face. Many were lamenting why a person like Qiao Nan, who drew the envy and jealousy of others, existed in this world. These writings could be used for the labeling of altars.

"Thank you." The classmate was slightly disappointed that he did not receive a personal explanation from Qiao Nan.

But well, it was not uncommon for Qiao Nan, a girl that was pretty and smart, to be a little arrogant and cold.

It was only when the student took back the question, that he realized what Qiao Nan wrote had another meaning in it.

She had marked the page number where the information could be found in the textbooks.

With this, those who asked the questions were not stupid, they could do some research, and eventually understand the solution.

“Qiao Nan, thank you.” They did not expect that Qiao Nan, who usually seemed arrogant and aloof, was actually quite easy to get along with. She was really willing to answer his question, no wonder Teacher Chen liked Qiao Nan so much.

“Qiao Nan, I too have a question that I don’t know the solution. Can you teach me too?” With the first example, the rest of the students who held the same thought were more daring to come up to Qiao Nan.

Within minutes, those unsociable classmates who once avoided Zhu Baoguo and disliked Qiao Nan were surrounding Qiao Nan in an impenetrable crowd.

When these people finally left, Zhu Baoguo looked at Qiao Nan. “If all of them were like me, with faster progression in their learning, whoever you taught today will become your enemy tomorrow to compete with you for the top place in the school. Why are you so generous? You see if these people are willing to answer you if you ask them questions.”

“If they can take away my first place just because I answer the few questions that they have, then I am a product of imitation. Don’t you think it was good to see Zhao Yu’s expression just now?”

“Ha ha ha, this is true!” At the mention of Zhao Yu, Zhu Baoguo felt better.

In the past, Zhao Yu had always been the popular one. She also enjoyed the attention. But now the person being surrounded by many was the one she hated most – Qiao Nan. From the beginning till the end of this year, Zhao Yu was absolutely unhappy.

“Alright. Next, I will distribute your report card. Keep it properly. Please also give this letter, addressed to your parents, to your parents. I have told you in the beginning of the school term that after the final examination, we will be holding a Parent-Teacher Conference. I hope that all your parents can attend. Next, I will give out the school’s three model student awards, class’s three model student awards and the outstanding class committee member award.”

Teacher Chen gave out everything in lightning speed.

This time, Teacher Chen was very happy. He had a belly full of words, but these words were not meant for Qiao Nan, they were for her parents.

Qiao Nan was not only intelligent, but also very diligent and conscientious in her studies. Her learning attitude was very enthusiastic and positive.

Qiao Nan not only improved herself, but also helped Zhu Baoguo to become better. Which student in the world could give the teachers fewer worries than Qiao Nan?

The few awards were given out quickly, even Zhu Baoguo received a Good Progress Award. Only Zhao Yu, who held quite an important role of Language Representative, did not receive any award.

Seeing that she did not even get the outstanding class committee member award, Zhao Yu nearly stood up to question Teacher Chen. She was clearly very outstanding and had received awards every year. Why was she not given any for this semester?

But when she thought of the stupid things that she said when she was in the teacher's office previously, she very reluctantly shut her mouth and chose to be silent.

"Cheers!" Holding the School's Top Three Model Student Award, Qiao Nan did not go home immediately, instead, she went to the Zhai family's residence.

What happened to the previous certificate awards was in the past, but from now onwards, she did not want her mother to treat all her future awards like waste papers and burn them.

Who knows, when Qiao Nan opened the door, she was frightened by a tall figure in the room.

"Be careful." Seeing that Qiao Nan was going to fall, Zhai Sheng reached out and grabbed Qiao Nan's arms.

But he did not expect that Qiao Nan was still so light after half a year. With some strength, Zhai Sheng accidentally pulled Qiao Nan directly into his arms.

Qiao Nan's little nose unavoidably hit the chest of Zhai Sheng. It was so painful that tears welled up in her eyes. Prince Charming was indeed Prince Charming, his chest muscles were so firm and developed, this was the real "murder" weapon on earth.

Chapter 98: Reward

“Are you hurt?” Seeing that the young lady in his arms was in tears, Zhai Sheng roughly understood what happened. He reached out and tried to help Qiao Nan rub her nose.

With the rub, Qiao Na’s pain intensified and she felt like she was being tortured.

To prevent Zhai Sheng from torturing her again, Qiao Nan was exceptionally courageous, she grabbed Zhai Sheng’s hands to stop him from moving.

When Zhai Sheng sensed that the hands that grabbed him were so soft and seemingly boneless, he felt his heart fluttering a little. What did this feeling mean? Zhai Sheng, who knew nothing about romance, did not really understand.

Zhai Sheng, who did not like things to get beyond his control, suppressed the strange feeling he had and calmly retracted his hands. “When you came, what were you holding in your hands?”

“Certificate of Award,” Qiao Nan’s eyes lit up, she not only showed Zhai Sheng her awards, but also took out her report card, as if she was presenting him with some treasure. “Brother Zhai, see, these are my grades for the final examination. Oh yes, Brother Zhai, I was at the essay competition when you lent me your pen, and I clinched the first place. I heard that I will be awarded some merit points for my middle school examination because of this. But I don’t know how many points.”

“Not bad.” Zhai Sheng looked through Qiao Nan’s items one by one, his eyes flashed with satisfaction and approval.

“Brother Zhai, here’s your pen.” Qiao Nan had originally placed the pen in the storeroom and intended to let Brother Zhai take it himself when he was back.

But a few days after she placed the pen, she saw that it was still there, untouched. She had previously heard from Zhu Baoguo that the pen was quite expensive. Although this was the Zhai family’s residence, she was still afraid to lose the pen. Hence, she took it back and kept it with her.

To Zhai Sheng, this pen had a significant meaning, he had always intended to take it back.

However, he was in such a hurry that day. After Zhai Sheng lent Qiao Nan the pen, he left the school immediately, before returning to the Zhai family to change his clothes and then quickly made his way to the army.

The good thing was that both of them stayed in the same quad, and Qiao Nan usually stored away her books in the Zhai family's residence. So Zhai Sheng was never worried that he would lose the pen.

However, when Zhai Sheng held the pen that Qiao Nan had been treating like a rare gem, he could feel the slight warmth of Qiao Nan's body temperature and a tinge of her fragrance, his body reacted before his brain could. He tucked the pen back into Qiao Nan's hands, and said, "Treat this as a reward for your good grades in the exam."

When he realized what he had done and said, he was surprised but had no regrets.

It was not until many years later, when Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan used this pen to sign their marriage vows agreement, that he marveled at his wisdom and decisiveness on that very faithful day. With a little pen, he managed to capture the heart of such an outstanding girl to become part of his family.

Otherwise, this sweet, young thing would not have fallen into prey into the arms of a big bad wolf like himself, and had little wolves thereafter.

"Give it to me? Don't," Qiao Nan declined. "All this while, Brother Zhai had helped me so much, I don't have the ability now, otherwise I should be the one giving you something, I feel embarrassed to accept your gift." She was not so thick-skinned.

There was no reason for Zhai Sheng to retrieve a gift that was already given. "Take it, when you have the ability, then talk about what you will give me, but on the premise that it would not result in a corruption crime."

"No, of course not." Under that intimidating look of Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan became inept at withstanding any pressure, she was totally under the spell of Zhai Sheng. There was absolutely no signs of the tigress demeanor that she usually displayed before Zhu Baoguo. "Brother Zhai, don't worry, I know that you are a military officer and there are tight rules to follow, I will definitely not put you in a difficult position. If I do that, aren't I repaying your kindness with ingratitude?"

“I will not reject an elder’s request then. I shall keep this pen. Thanks Brother Zhai.”

She knew that Zhai Sheng would not take back the pen. Also, putting aside the monetary value of the pen, Qiao Nan really liked the pen.

At most, as per what Brother Zhai said, she would repay his kindness as much as possible when she had the ability in future.

But at the thought of the Zhai family’s status and Zhai Sheng’s future success, Qiao Nan’s mouth twinged. She could not think there would be such a day where Brother Zhai needed her help.

Zhai Sheng frowned, was this word used appropriately?

Qiao Nan called him Brother Zhai, when had he become an elder?

If not for the award that he saw just now, he would really suspect how Qiao Nan clinched the first place in the essay competition.

“Fine, it’s late. You should go home.”

Qiao Nan was shocked. Everything seemed fine just a while ago, why did Brother Zhai’s face turned black all of a sudden. “Brother Zhai, can I put my award here, if I bring it back, most likely I will not have any left.”

Before Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan had nothing to hide. Anyway, at the time when she was reborn, Zhai Sheng had seen the few most embarrassing times of her life.

“Leave it here.”

“Thank you Brother Zhai, then I’m going back. See you Brother Zhai. Oh, yes, it’s almost Lunar New Year, I wish you a Happy New Year. Brother Zhai, I’m really leaving now.” Qiao Nan sounded like a machine gun. Before Brother Zhai could say a word, she finished her long string of words and ran away immediately thereafter.

Watching the back of Qiao Nan, who was racing off at the speed of a rabbit, Zhai Sheng could not help shaking his head. “True enough, she is scared of me.” This was the same as the soldiers under his supervision. Qiao Nan was too timid, no wonder she was always bullied in the Qiao family.

However, this was the matter of the Qiao family. In the Zhai family, Zhai Sheng could help Qiao Nan in whatever way he wanted. He could help her prepare a study room, find revision materials and give her a pen. But outside of the Zhai family, especially in the Qiao family, Zhai Sheng would not be able to interfere.

“Nan Nan, you’re back, how did you fare in the final examination?” Qiao Dongliang had more confidence in the younger daughter.

Qiao Dongliang went marketing early in the morning, he was prepared to celebrate. “Also Baoguo, how did he fare, how many marks did he get, did he pass?”

“Dad, like I said before, Zhu Baoguo is very intelligent, he not only passed this round of exam but also got 80 marks. If he work harder next year, he may score 85 marks to achieve an excellent grade.

This time, when Qiao Nan saw that Qiao Dongliang was seemingly more concerned about Zhu Baoguo, and more interested in Zhu Baoguo’s situation than hers, she did not feel sad. Instead, she felt quite happy.

Even if her father did not care about her, or perhaps he was more concerned about others, it did not matter. Wasn’t Brother Zhai quite good to her?

In any case, God did not abandon her. God had given her so many opportunities, and even sent her an angel-like Prince Charming like Brother Zhai, Qiao Nan’s heart was filled with contentment all of a sudden.

“Really!” Qiao Dongliang said as he was pleasantly surprised.

Chapter 99: Number One In The Grade

“Baoguo really did so well? Don’t tell me that Teacher misreported or got the grades mixed up?”

He was still thinking that it would be a good improvement if Zhu Baoguo managed to pass his exams.

“When the Zhu family called Teacher Chen about this, they also asked many similar questions. Dad, you don’t need to doubt. These are really Zhu Baoguo’s results. This year, Grandpa Lee invited our family to his house for Lunar New Year. If you bump into Zhu Baoguo there, Dad, please keep your earlier words to yourself, it’s too hurtful.”

When the Zhu family dared not believe that Zhu Baoguo did so well, Zhu Baoguo could barely accept it.

However, the same could not be said for a similar reaction from an outsider. Zhu Baoguo might perceive that the other party looked down on him.

With that fiery temper of Zhu Baoguo, even if her father was Zhu Baoguo’s elder, Zhu Baoguo would not be able to control his temper.

Others would not dare to do it but not Zhu Baoguo.

“Don’t, don’t worry, is Dad someone who is so bad-mannered?” Qiao Dongliang put away this thought. Qiao Nan reminded him well, the question he asked earlier, wasn’t he doubting Zhu Baoguo’s ability and suspecting that Zhu Baoguo cheated in the exams? That will definitely not do.

“What’s there to be happy about. Zhu Baoguo is very smart and he relied on his own efforts,” Ding Jiayi interrupted as she could not bear to see Qiao Dongliang, after hearing Zhu Baoguo’s grades, continuously praising Qiao Nan like she was a divine being. “Zhu Baoguo did so well, don’t think that your father would be happy that you pulled up Zhu Baoguo’s grades but deteriorated your own. How many marks did you get, what is your ranking in the class and grade, I don’t even wish to ask you.”

Qiao Nan was just a child who had limited energy and ability.

She needed to learn and progress herself and also assisted Zhu Baoguo to revise.

Qiao Nan was just an ordinary person, to make Zhu Baoguo progressed so much, she must have put all her mind and heart on helping Zhu Baoguo. As such, how would she still be able to manage her own studies?

Ding Jiayi's questions were full of gloating as if she was waiting to watch the show. Qiao Dongliang's expression changed.

Did Nan Nan really spend all her efforts and time on Zhu Baoguo and neglected her own learning?

"Nan Nan, don't worry, Dad has been saving money. Dad had thought about it, both of you are my daughters, Dad will treat both of you equally. If you did not do well in your middle school examination, Dad will definitely raise a sum of money to admit you into The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. Looking at your sister's recent situation, this money is certainly worth spending."

Out of guilt, Qiao Dongliang could only compensate Qiao Nan in such ways.

Because of Zhu Baoguo, Qiao Dongliang's reluctance on this matter previously had become full of promises today. Ding Jiayi's face turned pale when she heard this.

Such a large sum of money, could it be saved so easily, how many years of hard work did it take them previously to save this up?

You must know, the reason for saving this sum of money was to find an opportunity to build a house.

After all, when the two daughters have grown up, especially if they would be taking in a son-in-law for the elder daughter, there would be not be enough rooms for everyone and the grandchildren.

If Qiao Dongliang really wanted to pull strings with money and send Qiao Nan to The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, undoubtedly, it was not sufficient to rely on his savings alone. He would have to borrow from someone.

At that time, no matter how Ding Jiayi doted on Qiao Zijin, she could no longer dote on her without thinking by satisfying all of Qiao Zijin's financial wants. She needed to first pay up this piece of debt.

To work for the sake of Qiao Zijin, Ding Jiayi was very willing.

Previously, for the sake of buying Qiao Zijin new clothes, Ding Jiayi stayed up late everyday until midnight, she did not even complain. But if this situation was for Qiao Nan, Ding Jiayi's stance was obviously a no. "Old Qiao, are you mad, for the sake of Qiao Nan, you want to drag our whole family down. Are we still going to live? To allow her to enter the school, don't tell me you want our whole family of four to have porridge and pickles for every meal. We can't even have a proper meal?!"

"My stand remains. If there is really a need to borrow money, I will do it. I will pay it back in future. You just need to focus on taking a hand in Zijin's matters, you don't need to interfere in the affairs on my side." Qiao Dongliang knew the consequences but he still gritted his teeth and told Qiao Nan with certainty that he would ensure that she studied in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China and receive the same treatment as Zijin.

When Qiao Nan heard that Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi quarreled directly in a furious manner because of this, she helplessly twinged the corners of her mouth. She cast a glance at Qiao Zijin's door, and said, "Dad, I did fine this round. I came out top in my class, as well as in the grade."

As to how many marks the second and third places lagged behind her, Qiao Nan did not even bother to mention.

At that moment, both pairs of eyes were full of exclamation, Qiao Dongliang's eyes were full of joy, he wanted to rejoice and announce to the whole world.

But Ding Jiayi's were more of resentment and depression.

She could not understand, within a short time span of one semester, how did Qiao Nan improve by such leaps and bounds.

During the last mid-term examination, Qiao Nan had already regained her previous level of standard, but the results of this exam had simply exceeded her usual standard, it was so much better than before!

With this kind of result, there was no need to pull strings to admit her into Qiao Zijin's school. She was obviously a student that was a perfect match for the school.

Ding Jiayi was not willing to spend money to let Qiao Nan enter The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. Nevertheless, Ding Jiayi was also reluctant to not spend a cent for Qiao Nan to enter the school.

It was a status symbol to become a student of The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, she could not accept that Qiao Nan and Qiao Zijin were of the same standard. Qiao Zijin went to The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, Qiao Nan should attend another school that was not better.

“I say you’re such a mean girl, your Dad doesn’t believe me. Now I can see for myself, you’re a dead girl who sides with outsiders. In the past, you refused to help your sister with her studies and as a result, she did not do well. Because of that, we spent all the savings in the family. If you had helped your sister like you did for Zhu Baoguo, couldn’t we have saved up all those money? The money was not spent by your sister, it was you who wasted it!”

Ding Jiayi was flustered and exasperated, she immediately linked Zhu Baoguo’s matter to Qiao Zijin.

“It’s the Lunar New Year and you had to create some problem to disturb our peace? I, I’ll kill a jinx like you.” Ding Jiayi raised her hands and wanted to pinch Qiao Nan’s ears.

Somehow, Qiao Zijin’s recent words suddenly appeared in Ding Jiayi’s mind, “Mom, if Qiao Nan’s fever earlier had damaged her brain and made her a fool, how good will that be, then both Dad and you would not have so much conflict because of Qiao Nan. When she becomes a fool, she will surely obey you and not have so many thoughts of her own.”

Unknowingly, Ding Jiayi was like a demon, with only those words in her mind, she seemed suddenly possessed.

Chapter 100: Gone Crazy

If she was to slap Qiao Nan’s head a few more times, would she turn stupid?

She gave birth to Qiao Nan, she would not want her dead. But it would not do that she kept on hindering Qiao Zijin. If Qiao Nan really got into an accident, she believed that Zijin would definitely take good care of her.

Qiao Nan would no longer need to work. She would not need to lift a finger and there would be people waiting on her. She would give anything for this kind of life. As her mother, she did not shortchange Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan noticed that her mother looked at her with a dark greenish flicker in her eyes. It was similar to the look in Ding Jiayi's eyes in the previous life, when she heard from Qiao Zijin that if people were of blood relations, the compatibility level of their internal organs would be better, and there would be lower chances of rejection. Qiao Nan stiffened at the sight of that.

But this was clearly unlike what happened in the previous life. Qiao Dongliang noticed that Ding Jiayi lifted her hands and was about to slap on Qiao Nan's head. Without a word, he pulled Qiao Nan behind him and slapped back at Ding Jiayi's raised hands. "It's the Lunar New Year, I have no wish to quarrel with you. What you said just now, are you crazy? What do Zijin's poor results have to do with Nan Nan? Is she studying on behalf of Nan Nan, and hence Nan Nan must take responsibility for her results? Are you kidding me?"

"Dad, who did you say has poor results? My results are not poor." Qiao Zijin who came back with her results slip overheard this and was displeased.

"Zijin, you are back?" Ding Jiayi calmed down and ran towards Qiao Zijin.

Ding Jiayi who had come back to her senses were shocked at the thought that crossed her mind just now. Why would she have such terrifying and horrible thoughts?

Everyone in the quad knew whether Qiao Nan was a simpleton or not. Besides if she and Old Qiao had a simpleton daughter; Zijin had a simpleton sister, it would be bad for their reputation?

Besides, people would definitely be suspicious if Qiao Nan suddenly turned into a simpleton. She had no intention of wasting the rest of her life away for Qiao Nan. On top of that, it was impossible for Qiao Zijin to bear the heavy burden of looking after Qiao Nan.

Qiao Zijin had come to her rescue at the right time.

Ding Jiayi knew that if Qiao Dongliang was to know what she had on her mind just now, Old Qiao would definitely file for a divorce, there would be no chance of them staying as a couple.

“Zijin, how are your results?”

“Mom, what’s wrong with you?” Qiao Zijin frowned, slightly displeased. “I did fairly well. Dad, who was blabbering nonsense to you, saying that I did badly?”

“We were talking about your results in the past.” Qiao Dongliang was embarrassed. He never put the elder daughter down when she did badly for her exams in the past, today was the first time that he commented on her results, and yet he was caught by her. “Your Mom was talking nonsense just now, she blamed your bad performance in the middle school exams on your sister. She said that all the money that we spent on you after the middle school exams was your sister’s fault. Zijin, you have been in school for so many years, be our judge, is your mother’s words justifiable?”

Qiao Dongliang was boiling with anger at the mention of this.

“What has this got to do with Nan Nan? I am one level higher than Nan Nan, if she could tutor me in my studies, then she must be a genius.” Qiao Zijin said cynically.

If other people were to know that her younger sister who was one level lower than her had to coach her in her school exercises, it would be a disgrace for her.

“Mom, don’t flare up without getting the facts right. It was my problem that I did not do well for middle school exams. If other people overheard your words and had the impression that I did not do well in the exams as Nan Nan did not teach me well, Mom, how would you feel if you were me?”

Qiao Zijin gave Ding Jiayi a frustrated stare. These days not only did her mother not help her in any way, in fact, she was a hindrance to her.

Qiao Zijin felt terrible. She had boasted to everyone about buying new clothes. But when she went to school today, she had to tell everyone that due to her family circumstances, she could only buy one new set of clothes.

Every female student in her class had two, three sets of new clothes for Lunar New Year, why was it that she had to be the oddball who could only have one set of new clothes?

“Mom, I have something to discuss with you.” Qiao Zijin dragged her mother to her room. “I only have one set of new clothes in my class, this is so embarrassing, I will be looked down upon by everyone. Mom, everyone has parents, why can’t you and Dad earn more? I am not asking to lead a better life than my classmates, all I want at the very least is to be on par with them. Though I can’t choose my parents, it’s my fortune to have you as my parents. But Mom, you have to think in my shoes, I have grown up now, I have a sense of pride, I don’t want to be the laughing stock or to be looked down upon by others.”

Ding Jiayi felt extremely bad at Qiao Zijin’s words. “But your Mom isn’t capable enough, I can’t make lots of money.”

In the past, she did not even need to go to work.

She got herself a job and even took on handiwork back home in order to finance her elder daughter through school.

Ding Jiayi felt that she had made up for the years where she stayed at home after having two babies with the huge workload that she had taken on recently.

She felt sorry for herself at the thought that she had lost seven, eight kilograms in just two, three months’ time.

“My Dad, it’s all his fault. What does he mean by this? Does he not want to take in a husband for me? Does he not want my children to take his surname? Why didn’t he give me better treatment? Instead he spent all the money on Qiao Nan. She had to be married to someone else eventually, is my Dad muddleheaded?”

Why would anyone spend their money on others?

Her father was in fact, spending money on someone else’s wife.

“Nonsense, how could you say that of your Dad, wasn’t he good to you?” Ding Jiayi gave Qiao Zijin a smack with just the right amount of force. “Your Dad is nice to Qiao Nan as she helped to tutor Zhu Baoguo and in a way helped your Dad to repay the debts of gratitude towards Uncle Lee. Do you know, Qiao Nan that wretched girl has a few tricks up her sleeves, Zhu Baoguo scored 80

points for his exams this time. Not only is your Dad happy, I suppose the Lee family and the Zhu family must be on cloud nine. That wretched girl is lucky.”

In the future, if Qiao Nan had a favor to ask of the Zhu family and the Lee family, they would definitely help her.

Qiao Zijin gritted her teeth. She had to cheat to barely score around 80 points, yet with Qiao Nan’s coaching, Zhu Baoguo easily scored 80 points.

Qiao Zijin finally understood what her parents were quarreling about just now and why her mother would blame it on Qiao Nan for her bad performance in the middle school exams. Qiao Nan was an eyesore. She did not help her biological sister, yet she was so earnest in helping an outsider. She must be sick!

“Mom, this might be a good thing for us.” On second thoughts, Qiao Zijin had other plans.