

Rebirth to a Military Marriage: Good Morning Chief Novel Chapter 86 to 95 PDF

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. He 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 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 felt 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.” www.onlinefreenovels.com

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?

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 awed 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 wandered 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 if 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 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.

