

## **Rebirth to a Military Marriage: Good Morning Chief**

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#### **Chapter 31: Trust**

Zhao Yu was a spoilt brat but she was only 15 years old – still just a child!

“Zhao Yu, your earlier words caused a dent to my reputation. Let me warn you, please stop your behavior of infringing on my personal rights. If not, I can sue you for slander. You are not of legal age, but you are already 16 this year. The country’s law is that anyone 16 years or above can be legally charged. Are you prepared to be sued by me?”

“Me, what crime have I committed?”

Zhao Yu was stupefied, she had merely stated a few facts, at most they were just gossip about Qiao Nan. What did that have to do with committing a crime?

“Don’t you feel ashamed that you don’t even know that you’ve committed a crime? Don’t tell me that you think you don’t need to be responsible for what you said?” Qiao Nan rolled her eyes. “If you have nothing better to do, please read more books on politics. We are already in secondary three, there’s a lot of law information in those books. Moreover, you are a high school student, don’t act like a moron about law.”

Threatened by Qiao Nan, Zhao Yu was really scared, she started to flip the pages of this year’s newly issued politics textbook.

True enough, there was a lot of law-related knowledge in the textbook.

Although there was no mention of slander in the book, she thought about the look of conviction on Qiao Nan’s face when she had said those words, and did not dare to gossip about Qiao Nan anymore.

The rest of the classmates had ears for themselves. They clearly heard Qiao Nan and Zhao Yu’s argument.

Initially, when everyone heard that Qiao Nan scored full marks because she cheated, they felt that it was unfair. Why should someone who cheated on the exam receive the best grade for an individual subject?

But everyone did not have that deep an enmity with Qiao Nan.

Besides, this was ultimately a rumour which had just started today, not everyone believed this.

Not long after, a girl came over and sat beside Qiao Nan. "Qiao Nan, do you know why Zhao Yu said that about you just now?"

"Why?" Previously, Zhao Yu just sounded like sour grapes.

"Someone has been spreading that you are close to a group of hooligans, those hooligans were bad and did not have clean hands and feet, they climbed into the school to steal things before. So someone said that your english grades were so good because the hooligans helped you to steal the test papers prior to the exam, that is why you scored full marks."

Since when was she close to hooligans?

"It's ridiculous that people believe in such baseless rumors." Qiao Nan was shaking her head. "Don't talk about the rest, if I had the means to get the test papers, why did i score 85 marks for Chinese and Maths? Put aside maths, the marks deducted for my Chinese test were those that required memorizing."

Upon hearing what Qiao Nan said, her classmates felt that she had a point.

True, since she was stealing, why would they steal for one subject and not all?

That Chinese paper of Qiao Nan, which Teacher Li was so angry about, all of the 14 marks were content that required memorizing.

In the whole class, except for Qiao Nan who scored zero out of 14 marks, even the slower ones could get around seven or eight marks.

The first thing that needed to be done after receiving the test paper was to find the answer and memorized them.

Based on her results, it was illogical that she had cheated.

"True, I did not believe." That girl's face turned slightly red after hearing Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan replied with only laughter. Was the girl being nice by clearing her doubts or trying to gather more information? As an adult, she was not oblivious.

If she really did not believe the rumor, why was she embarrassed?

Qiao Nan laughed. The other party seemed to know that she did not get what she expected and felt self-conscious, so she quickly returned to her own seat.

When peace resumed, Qiao Nan could not help thinking, who was the one who could not see eye to eye with her, who went around spreading such ridiculous rumors?

Hooligans.

Thinking about what happened throughout her aggregated two lifetimes, Qiao Nan recalled one matter. This happened recently – it was yesterday.

Yesterday, she saw a group of people surrounding, beating up and scolding a person. She directly found the policeman and saved the person. Was it because of this?

While reading her book, Zhao Yu, whose mind was floating elsewhere, stole a glance at Qiao Nan. Actually the mastermind of the rumors about Qiao Nan was not anyone else – it was none other than Zhao Yu.

However, Zhao Yu's initial version of the rumor was not the same.

Yesterday, Zhao Yu looked for Teacher Li to request Teacher Li's guidance on her essay. Hence, Zhao Yu left school late, slightly later than Qiao Nan.

The two of them headed home in the same direction – they had to pass the same main road.

As she felt awkward, Zhao Yu would rather slowly follow behind Qiao Nan's back than to catch up with Qiao Nan to go home together.

Upon reaching the quad, Qiao Nan changed her direction as she wanted to go to the residence of the Zhai family.

Zhao Yu, who followed behind, saw that something was amiss. Qiao Nan should not be heading home in that direction. Where was she going?

Out of curiosity, Zhao Yu decided to tail her after much consideration.

When Zhao Yu caught up with Qiao Nan, it was at the time when Qiao Nan brought the police to save the person.

Zhao Yu did not see anything else, she only saw Qiao Nan running towards that group of hooligans.

The hooligans had sticks in their hands and blood on their bodies. At the sight, Zhao Yu was scared out of her wits. Carrying her schoolbag, she ran all the way home. When Zhao Yu reached home, her heart was still pounding loudly.

When the neighbors' children came to look for her to study together, Zhao Yu could not help but mention this matter, and told them she wondered when Qiao Nan had gone astray – she was even in such a good relationship with the punks?

When the neighbors' children confirmed the identity of the few hooligans, they unintentionally revealed one matter. "It was those people who came to our school during the summer vacation to steal things. If Qiao Nan is close to them, she will certainly be able to top the class every year."

Rumors are always spread the wrong way. The most recent version that was spread to the school was that Qiao Nan had always scored well in her exams because she relied on this group of hooligans to help her steal the test papers.

Qiao Nan was a good student, that eye-catching name made it impossible for people in the school to not know her.

When there suddenly a scandal related to a model student, the speed of the news spreading was faster than that of the light.

"Qiao Nan, Teacher Chen requested that you go to his office." The class's Maths Representative said after he returned from Teacher's Chen's office, where he sent the homework to.

Zhao Yu laughed. "Still not admitting, even Teacher Chen summoned her for a talk, perhaps her parents will be called next."

"I've been Qiao Nan's classmate for several years, I don't believe she is such a person." The student who was seated at the same desk as Zhao Yu started to be argue with her again.

"Zhou Lei, what is your problem, why are you always putting in good words for Qiao Nan, what benefit did you receive from Qiao Nan?"

Zhou Lei was the class's Sports Representative. Lean and energetic, he was certainly good at sports, especially basketball. His three-point shots were amazing.

10 years later, this was a full-grown little basketball prince who would make the young ladies' hearts throb.

## **Chapter 32: Is She the Biological Child?**

Most of the junior high school students would begin to develop feelings for the opposite gender. Zhou Lei was good looking, good in sports and above-average in studies. Zhao Yu was proud to be deskmates with such an outstanding boy.

But when Zhou Lei went against her to speak up for Qiao Nan, Zhao Yu's mood was not good.

Zhou Lei looked at Zhou Yu with some disdain. "I should be asking you this question. Qiao Nan did not offend you, why do you dislike her? Are you happy to gossip about Qiao Nan? Will you gain anything because of this? I really don't know what you girls are thinking. If you think Qiao Nan's Language grades are better than yours, then score better than her next time. Don't you think it's ugly to gossip?"

"Zhou Lei, you, you side with Qiao Nan so much, do you like Qiao Nan?" Zhao Yu's face turned red with anger.

"Are you crazy?" Zhou Lei rolled his eyes at Zhao Yu, and was not willing to talk to Zhao Yu anymore.

Qiao Nan did not know that, after she left, Zhao Yu and Zhou Lei, the pair of desk mates, had argued with each other because of her. She gained all the teacher's attention once she stepped into the office.

"Teacher Chen."

"Qiao Nan, you're here, stand slightly nearer." There was a stool next to Teacher Chen. It was for Qiao Nan to sit on.

Qiao Nan sat down. After thinking, she had the feeling that, most likely, Teach Chen had called her in because of the matter that was mentioned by Zhao Yu minutes ago.

"Qiao Nan, have any delinquent teenagers been pestering you lately, asking you for money?"

After hearing Teacher Chen's words, Qiao Nan breathed a sigh of relief and felt much better. This was because she knew that Teacher Chen question implied that he trusted her.

Qiao Nan shook her head. Thereafter, she told Teacher Chen what happened yesterday. "I don't know those people."

"It was so serious?" Teacher Chen was shocked. "Then the man who was beaten up. Do you know him?"

"No, the man who was beaten, his face was swollen and covered in blood. I don't know who he is either."

At the thought of the pitiful look of the beaten man, Qiao Nan shivered.

“Gee...” When the other teachers in the office heard this, they were shocked too. These hooligans were too merciless.

If not for Qiao Nan who had sought the help of adults, the man could have lost his life.

Teacher Chen was slightly undecided. He was not sure whether to commend Qiao Nan for her bravery in helping others in need, or reprimand her for her boldness and disregard for her own safety.

A group of punks were fighting and a young lady, who had no means of defending herself, dared to run there to interfere in the commotion. She had too much bravery.

“Teacher Chen, Qiao Nan did the right thing for this matter. She was smart and not impulsive – didn’t she look for someone to help?” On the other hand, the rest of the teachers in the office was impressed by the way Qiao Nan handled the situation. She not only protected herself, but also saved someone. There was nothing wrong with it.

If Qiao Nan had ran up on her own to to shout at them, then she deserved to be criticized.

Teacher Chen snorted, she would dote on her own students. “What happened to the man?”

“The policeman brought him to the hospital.”

“True, you can go, you don’t need to worry about the rumors in the school, I will help you to find a way out.”

“Okay.” With Teacher Chen’s absolute trust in her, now, Qiao Nan did not care about the rumors at all. It did not matter what others said.

When the secondary three students saw Qiao Nan coming back from Teacher Chen’s office, she did not hide. Instead, she looked bright and cheery, and had a gentle smile on her face.

Judging by this, Qiao Nan did not seem to have received a scolding from Teacher Chen.

For today’s maths lesson, Teacher Chen solemnly and carefully used the first minute of the lesson to address the matter regarding Qiao Nan. “All of you are junior high school students, you have the ability to differentiate right from wrong. I hope that you will not be fooled by a few rumors. We are a team. We should be united. I trust my students and you should trust your classmates too. As to the rumors spread by other classes, I will think of a way to resolve this later. But I do not wish to see our class having problems and having an internal conflict. Do you understand?”

“Understood.”

Although Teacher did not specify Qiao Nan’s name, everyone knew what matter she was referring to.

Teacher Chen had made her stand. The whole class had dispelled their suspicions of Qiao Nan.

In the school, it was a very serious offense to steal the exam papers. The rumors about Qiao Nan were passed on for a day and the school did not take any action. On the contrary, it was a quiet week.

Within a short five and a half day’s time, the rumors about Qiao Nan had almost died down in the school.

It was quiet at school, but not at home.

Somehow, Qiao Zijin, who was in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, got to know about this rumor. Qiao Zijin reached home later than Qiao Nan. Upon reaching home, she started to scold Qiao Nan from the bottom of her heart as soon as she put down her school bag. “Nan Nan, even if you wish to study that much, you shouldn’t do this sort of thing. If you explain nicely to Dad and Mom, can they disallow? Dad and Mom do not expect us to be very successful, but we need to be down-to-earth, and do the right things. The cunning tricks you played, in exchange for the grades, are only short-lived. Can they last forever? You can do that for now, but when you reached the middle school exam, do you think you can still use this scrupulous way. For middle school exams, can you still do this?!”

When she was scolded by Qiao Zijin, Qiao Nan took a step back. Her face was cold. With disdain, she lifted her hands towards her face and wiped it once.

Qiao Zijin had sprayed her saliva all over Qiao Nan’s face!

Wasn’t that dirty?!

“Zijin, what happened?” At the sight of the elder daughter being furious, Ding Jiayi quickly asked.

“Dad and Mom, you don’t know the matter about Qiao Nan, she made all of us lose face. My grades are not excellent but they are not that bad either. I think a person should be honest and know their own ability. A man must be true to himself! But Qiao Nan? In order to produce good grades, she actually befriended those people of dodgy background in the society, and let them steal the exam papers for her. My heart sinks at the thought of this!”

Thinking that Qiao Nan had relied on this method to score better than her over the years, Qiao Zijin was in a rage.

She really thought that Qiao Nan was smarter than her but actually, she had resorted to such tricks.

“Nan Nan, explain yourself. Because of you, Mom and Dad argued many times. You hardly anger Mom, but because of you, Mom was angered a few times this month. You are the child of Mom and Dad, they raised you, do you still have a conscience?”

“What, is there such a matter?” Ding Jiayi immediately believed the words of the elder daughter. “You little brute!”

Having said that, Ding Jiayi raised her hand towards Qiao Nan’s face.

Qiao Nan bent her head down, as agile as a monkey, she ran towards Qiao Dongliang and hid behind his back. “The two of you are good, one is my real mother, and the other my real sister, you believe whatever the others said. You didn’t even ask me, or allow me to explain? Dad, are they really my next-of-kin?”

### **Chapter 33: Broken Relationships**

For a moment, Qiao Nan could not take it anymore, she asked this question from the bottom of her heart.

“Don’t try anything funny!” Qiao Dongliang shouted at Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin to stop. He was also shocked to hear Qiao Zijin’s words, but Nan Nan’s performance had always been consistent. He had never heard Zijin mentioned such matters, hence, those must be false rumors spread by others. “Nan Nan, have you heard of it?”

Even the elder daughter heard it, it could not possibly be quiet at the younger daughter’s school.

“Yes, because of this, Teacher Chen specifically asked to see me in the office on Tuesday. But unlike Mom and Sister, when Teacher Chen heard about this, he asked me if any delinquent teenagers have been pestering and blackmailing me.

In other words, outsiders did not even believe that Qiao Nan would do such a dishonest thing. But Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin heard merely the slightest ruffle in the wind and said it as though it was real.

Was that the expected behavior of your next-of-kin?



“Teacher Chen did not suspect you at all?” Qiao Dongliang blinked. After all, when he first heard this, even he, the real dad, had a second of doubt.

“No.” Qiao Nan shook her head. “Teacher Chen even told the class straight, told my classmates to stop spreading such untrue rumors.”

“So what exactly is going on here?”

“Dad, I’ve been wronged till death regarding this matter. Except for this summer vacation where I could not revise at home, in the past, there wasn’t once that I have not obediently stayed home and finished all the housework chores. Don’t talk about being in contact with those hooligans, I don’t even have time to read books, how I wish that there are 48 hours in a day!”

Qiao Nan’s words startled the others. Whether Qiao Nan was busy in the past, Ding Jiayi knew best.

When summer vacation came, Qiao Nan had little opportunity to go out.

As Qiao Nan said, Ding Jiayi simply pushed all the household chores to Qiao Nan whenever Qiao Nan had the time. At most, Ding Jiayi prepared the meals.

Every time Qiao Nan had some spare time and wanted to read books, Ding Jiayi would definitely find an excuse to make Qiao Nan work.

So, 24 hours, besides sleeping for eight to nine hours in the bedroom, Qiao Nan was within Ding Jiayi’s sight for the rest of the time. Qiao Nan simply did not have any chance to get to know those delinquent teens.

Once again, Qiao Dongliang shocked by another truth. So, during summer vacation, when the younger daughter had spare time, she did all the household chores?

Though it was not easy for Qiao Zijin to find fault with Qiao Nan, she would not give up. “Don’t tell me that this matter sprang out of nowhere?”

She did not believe it. If Qiao Nan had not done such a thing, then why would people spread the news with every detail vividly described?

“Nan Nan, what do you say?” Qiao Dongliang looked at Qiao Nan. It made sense that no-one would be so free to make up a story without any facts, but he too believed that the younger daughter would not do such a thing.

“That’s right, you have to explain this matter properly to us. If not, you don’t need to study anymore, in case you go astray,” Ding Jiayi added as she regained her senses.

Regardless of the truth of the matter, this was a good chance.

“Old Qiao, I think you better listen to me, don’t let Qiao Nan study anymore. Her character has gone astray with studies. We might as well let her work and let others watch over her, then she will not be able to mix with those bad guys anymore. The children of our Qiao family may not be the best in their studies but they cannot have a bad moral character.”

“Mom, do you mean that, regardless of the truth of this matter, you won’t let me go to school to prevent me from going astray, and let me go to work. Mom, I am puzzled, Dad’s income is not considered little, it’s enough to pay for both Sister’s and my education. Why do you have to insist that I work, as if our family does not have enough to meet our needs?!”

Qiao Nan initially did not want to expose that Ding Jiayi had spent all the family savings because of Qiao Zijin.

But Ding Jiayi kept using her education as a threat, Qiao Nan could not help it and had to reveal Ding Jiayi’s secret.

It was time to let her father know the special situation at home, rather than foolishly allowing her mother to cover up the whole matter.

“Dad, how much savings do we have? Mom can’t wait for me to sacrifice my future, quit school and work. Dad, if there is really difficulty at home and you can’t afford our tuition fees, even if Sister’s grades are not as good as mine, I will abide by Mom’s wishes. It is also a form of repayment to her for bringing me up. I will go to work.”

At last, Qiao Nan was forced to agree to quit school and work. But when she heard Qiao Nan’s words, Qiao Zijin was furious.

What did she mean by even if her grades were not better than Qiao Nan, Qiao Nan was also willing to sacrifice herself?

This meant that it was a waste of money to let her study!

“Do you not understand my words?” Qiao Dongliang was also angry now. The younger daughter’s grades were obviously much better than the elder daughter, on what basis must she discontinue her studies? “You really think that joining the workforce early is a good thing? Fine, since Nan Nan is not studying despite her good grades, then there is no need for Zijin to study either. Both will go to work and earn money for you. Since taking up a job now is so promising, how can you forget Zijin? If you want to favor Nan Nan, you have to see if i agree to it.”

Qiao Dongliang was really furious. Ding had not figured out the bottom of the matter, yet she had come back to talk nonsense and create a scene. The neighbors could almost hear them now.

If not for Zijin's nonsense, why would Old Ding dig up the old matters?!

"Mom." Qiao Zijin was frightened.

"Why are you shouting? Character comes before studies. If Qiao Nan was as obedient as Zijin, would I need to be so concerned? Zijin does not mix with bad company and go astray, so I don't need to worry about her, so she doesn't need to go to work. Don't you know it varies from person to person?" Ding Jiayi sided much with Qiao Zijin.

Clearly it was unreasonable, yet she said it as though she had some point.

"Dad, actually when school started, Teacher Chen asked me about something." Qiao Nan clenched her fists.

"What is it?"

"Teacher Chen asked me. Sister's grades were obviously poor, so how did she get into The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China?"

"The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, isn't it the Ping Cheng High School?"

Both daughters' matters were taken care of by Ding Jiayi, Qiao Dongliang had only begun to interfere recently.

He vaguely remembered that the elder daughter's grades were not good, it did not meet the admission score for The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, but could get into Ping Cheng High School.

"When did Zijin switch school, how come I did not know, and why?" Qiao Dongliang's face was as fierce as a tiger as he sensed something amiss. Was The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China a place that you could get in as you wished?

"Old Ding, hand me the passbook, I want to see." As he recalled that Ding Jiayi flashed a strange look when they argued because of the passbook the last time, he suddenly understood.

"See, See... What is there to see the passbook for?" Ding Jiayi was so scared that she stuttered, and her tone was faint.

## **Chapter 34: You Must Be Nan Nan**

“You aren’t going to fetch it, right?” Qiao Dongliang did not want to waste time with Ding Jiayi. He always handed all the money to Ding Jiayi. She was not the type to squander the family fortune. And so their savings had grown bit by bit.

Qiao Dongliang entrusted everything under Ding Jiayi’s charge, but that did not mean he was unaware of what was happening.

He searched for the key, and went to the room to open the drawer. He took out the entire drawer and saw the passbook lying deep inside.

“Old Qiao, what are you doing?” Ding Jiayi had a guilty look on her face. She feared that Qiao Dongliang would find out that there was nothing left in the passbook. At that thought she lunged at him, in a bid to take the passbook from him.

Standing at 1.8 meters tall, if Qiao Dongliang did not give in, there was no way Ding Jiayi could have snatched it from him.

Qiao Dongliang opened the passbook and had a look at the contents. Boiling with anger he bellowed, “Where’s all the money?!”

Qiao Dongliang’s roar could be heard from outside. Qiao Zijin turned a shade whiter, she was scared stiff.

She was done for this time, there was no way to keep it under wraps anymore.

“Qiao Nan, what do you mean by this? That’s our Mom, how could you do this to her!” Qiao Zijin pointed at Qiao Nan and started scolding her.

If it had not been for Qiao Nan, father and mother would never quarrel. Father had always listened to mother.

If father was to know that the money was spent on her, how would he think of her?

“That’s right, she is my Mom. She spent all the savings on you so as to enroll you in a good high school, but she wanted me to quit school and start working. That’s really what a Mom would do!” Qiao Nan laughed sarcastically.

“How did you know... you did it on purpose!” Qiao Nan had set this up to bring her mother and her down.

“The best way to hide a misdeed is not to commit it. The teachers at our school all knew your standard. Besides, they are all in the education sector. What do you think went through their mind when they heard that you went to The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China?”

Qiao Zijin stomped her foot, the teachers at junior high school were such blabbermouths.

This was their family matter, it had nothing to do with others, why did they have to mention it in front of Qiao Nan?

No wonder no amount of cajoling could get Qiao Nan to quit school and start working. Qiao Nan had known all along that her mother had spent such a huge sum of money on her.

“Dong Liang, are you at home? Just then, an elder’s voice could be heard coming from outside Qiao’s house.

Qiao Nan paused, ” Grandpa Lee?”

Qiao Zijin’s countenance fell. This prominent elder rarely accepted their invitation to visit, why would he come at such an inopportune time today?

Qiao Zijin was not worried that Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi would disregard the situation and quarrel in front of Grandpa Lee. It was that her mother had sought Grandpa Lee’s help to pull strings for Qiao Zijin to enroll in The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China.

Her mother was lost for words when her father found out that she had spent all the savings.

If her father was to know that mother asked Grandpa Lee for help, he would be mad with anger!

Qiao Dongliang’s father passed away at an early age. It was Elder Lee who brought him up. If not for Elder Lee who supported and guided Qiao Dongliang because of his friendship with Qiao Dongliang’s father, it would have been even more difficult for him.

In order to have a second child, Qiao Dongliang gave up on the path that Elder Lee paved for him. He could have had a bright future. He had also let his late father down.

Ever since then, Qiao Dongliang had felt too ashamed to face Elder Lee.

Given his situation now, he could only lead a simple life. There was no way that he could repay the debt of gratitude that he owed Elder Lee.

Whenever Qiao Dongliang thought of Elder Lee, he felt ashamed of himself. Yet Ding Jiayi asked Elder Lee to help her to pull strings on the account that her late father-in-law once entrusted to his son under his care.

Once Qiao Dongliang knew of this, Ding Jiayi would be in deep trouble. She would not be able to hold her head up high in front of him.

Qiao Nan decided to set aside her quarrel with Ding Jiayi for now. Since her father had known about the passbook, he would definitely not allow Qiao Nan to quit school.

Qiao Nan ran into their room and said, "Dad, let's stop quarreling, Grandpa Lee is here."

"Uncle Lee?" Qiao Dongliang tensed demeanor slightly relaxed. In front of Qiao Nan, Ding Jiayi always looked as if someone had ruffled her feathers. But right now, she seemed to be like a quail who was scared stiff, cowering in fear.

It was Ding Jiayi's who had squandered their savings.

Just like Qiao Zijin, when Ding Jiayi heard that Elder Lee was here, she was so frightened that she could not wait to find a hiding place.

"I will settle scores with you later on!" Qiao Dongliang was so mad that he did not bother minding his words in front of their younger daughter.

To think that Ding Jiayi had kept quiet about it after spending such a huge sum of money. He only found out about it after about a month.

How daring was this woman?!

Qiao Dongliang patted the younger daughter on her head and without another look at Ding Jiayi, he led her out to welcome Elder Lee.

After seeing the passbook, Qiao Dongliang finally realized why his wife insisted that the younger daughter quit school and start working. Poor results? Led astray by the bad guys? All these were lies!

She had spent all the savings on the elder daughter, yet she wanted the younger daughter to work in order to cover the loss. His wife was too biased towards his elder daughter.

Qiao Zijin saw Qiao Dongliang walked out of the room, but she did not dare to walk up to him. She quickly went into the room to take a look at Ding Jiayi. "Mom, it's really Grandpa Lee who is here. What shall we do? If Dad knows about that matter, he would surely beat me, and made me quit The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China."

"No, he won't." Ding Jiayi was just as scared but she was reluctant to admit. "I know Elder Lee's character. Elder Lee knows how Old Qiao's temper is, and that I hide the fact that I have been to see him from Old Qiao. He won't speak of a word about this to your Dad and affect our relationship."

When Qiao Dongliang discharged from the army in order to have a second child, though Elder Lee was disappointed, he had never scolded Qiao Dongliang.

Ding Jiayi was fearless as she was confident that Elder Lee would not want to affect the couple's relationship because of such a small matter.

And judging from Elder Lee's temper, if he has no inclination to help, he would reject her up front. But he would not mention this to Qiao Dongliang, regardless of whether it was a success or failure, lest the couple ended up in a quarrel.

"Uncle Lee, what brings you here? Qiao Dongliang was very agitated when he saw Elder Lee.

He was ashamed to face Elder Lee, but he also missed him dearly.

"Grandpa Lee." Qiao Nan who was right besides Qiao Dongliang addressed Elder Lee as well.

"Grandpa Lee, have some tea." Qiao Zijin was more assured by her mother's words. Without another word, she came out with a cup of tea in her hand, hoping to perform well in front of Elder Lee.

Elder Lee knew that Qiao Dongliang had two daughters, and they were not too far apart in age. Elder Lee paused for a moment when he saw the two pretty young ladies. "Xiao Qiao, you are really fortunate to have two daughters."

"Oh." Qiao Dongliang gave a vague smile. He used to think that way as well, but now he was not too sure.

"Grandpa Lee, please have some tea. Dad has always wanted to visit you, but felt sorry towards you. We never thought that Grandpa Lee would visit us. Dad, you are the junior, you should take the first step." Qiao Zijin knew of the situation between the two of them, and was clever with her words, painting a nice picture.

Elder Lee looked at Qiao Zijin with satisfaction. "You are Nan Nan?"

## **Chapter 35: Boastful Dad**

Qiao Zijin finally had the opportunity to meet Elder Lee, and he was all smiles when he saw her. She was so proud that she was well liked by everyone. She was about to say "Yes" but her words were choked up in her throat.

Why would Elder Lee mention Qiao Nan as soon as he started to speak?

Qiao Nan was always bad with her words, she was not likable like her. Why would Elder Lee have mistaken her as Qiao Nan?

Qiao Zijin's words were stifled in her throat and she ended up letting out a faint sound. Elder Lee took it that she had acknowledged his questions.

When he saw that this was the child that he was looking for, he became all the more amiable. "Xiao Qiao, you have raised a good daughter. She really looked like the daughter of a soldier, full of righteousness."

"But Xiao Qiao, you should pay more attention to your children's health. Nan Nan, are you still in shock from the incident last time? Have you fall ill, and hence your voice sounds weird?"

Qiao's family were speechless.

Qiao Zijin's "oh" was a slip of tongue. She tried to hold it in, but ended up going out of pitch. She was not admitting to having fallen sick.

"Uncle Lee, you have the wrong person. This is my elder daughter Qiao Zijin, this is my younger daughter Qiao Nan. Nan Nan, you must have not met Uncle Lee before, come and meet your Grandpa Lee."

Qiao Dongliang might not know why Elder Lee was here today, but he had the utmost respect for him.

"Grandpa Lee." Qiao Nan addressed him politely.

Qiao Nan was also puzzled as to why Elder Lee would come to visit and to call her name upfront.

Of course, Qiao Nan was not angry at him for calling the wrong person. In fact she was happy. Qiao Zijin had made a fool of herself this time.

"Oh, you are Nan Nan, you are really pretty. Xiao Qiao, you have brought up a good daughter. Nan Nan might be quiet, but she is hardworking. Like us, she has the same down-to-earth attribute and mannerism of a soldier."

Elder Lee knew that he had got the wrong person. He gave a smile, not paying much attention to it.

Ever since Qiao Dongliang was discharged from the army, he had never been to Elder Lee's house. Elder Lee knew that this matter had been weighing on Qiao Dongliang's mind. As for Elder Lee, he was also disappointed in Qiao Dongliang. As a result, they had gradually lost touch.



Elder Lee had once carried Qiao Zijin when she was young. But he had never seen Qiao Nan since she was born.

The two sisters looked alike, it was no wonder that Elder Lee could not tell them apart.

Qiao Nan could not help but smile at Elder Lee's compliments. She found them familiar. Had he not said similar words when he mistook Qiao Zijin for Qiao Nan?

This was the first time that Qiao Nan had seen Elder Lee. He seemed to be a funny person to her.

Qiao Dongliang was used to Elder Lee's style. He smiled and said, "Uncle Lee, this younger daughter of mine is really a good daughter. She has always been good in her studies. Not only is she the Vice Class Monitor in class, every year she is awarded the top three model students and outstanding class committee member. It's just that my wife is too careless to have burnt her certificates by mistake."

At the mention of Qiao Nan, Qiao Dongliang turned into a boastful parent, pride was evident in his voice.

Ever since he discharged from the army, Qiao Dongliang dared not face Elder Lee. His biggest wish was that Elder Lee was still healthy, that his two daughters would be successful and have good prospects.

In that way, he could bring his daughters to Elder Lee and tell him proudly, "Elder Lee, I did not make the wrong choice back then, I did not let your efforts down."

He was not successful, but he had nurtured daughters who were even more successful than him!

"Elder Lee, I am sure you don't know. Nan Nan is in the third year of junior high school. She did not do well for her Chinese and Mathematics exams at the first day of school. Her Chinese teacher was very angry as she scored close to full marks for her essay but lost some marks in the component that required memorizing. She could have scored 99 points, but had 85 points instead. But luckily Nan Nan scored full marks for her English. She was the only one who scored full marks in her school."

After finding out that Qiao Nan was not only the Vice Class Monitor, but she also received awards for her good performance every year, Qiao Dongliang reflected on himself and began to pay more attention to her studies.

This Wednesday Qiao Dongliang applied for an hour off from his workplace. He went to Qiao Nan's school and spoke with the teachers who taught the main subjects, asking about her studies.

If he did not ask, he would not have known. After the session, he could not help but feel proud of his daughter.

Every teacher who taught the younger daughter were full of praise for her.

Even though it angered and pained Teacher Lee to talk about the younger daughter's Chinese results, he could tell that it was because Teacher Lee wanted Qiao Nan to do well.

Qiao Dongliang could tell from the criticisms and praises that Teacher Lee meant that if only Qiao Nan had done her revision, she would have scored at least 99 points for her Chinese exam this time.

99 points, and that was for Chinese. Qiao Dongliang never imagined that this result would be attainable.

At least for the elder daughter, it was considered a good result to score 89 points for her junior high Chinese exams.

Qiao Dongliang was burning with embarrassment at the teacher's underlying meaning. But he could not blame the younger daughter for telling the teacher that her mother sold the textbooks.

After all, what his wife did had really affected the younger daughter's results. But one should not wash dirty linen in public. It was a total mess!

Qiao Nan has the worst results this time. But it was the best that she could do. It made Qiao Dongliang hold his head up high in front of Elder Lee.

"Oh, really?" Elder Lee was somewhat surprised. He knew Qiao Dongliang well. He would not lie.

Elder Lee already had grandchildren and they were still in school. So he was aware that in junior high school, it was difficult to get 99 points or even 100 points for exams. 95 points would already be seen as an excellent score.

As expected she was the industrious type. Elder Lee looked at Qiao Nan with affection, as if she was his granddaughter.

Elder Lee was getting on in years. His only wish was that his grandchildren would study hard and be successful.

So naturally, he had an affection for hardworking children like Qiao Nan. Besides, it was due to Qiao Nan's good upbringing and character that he had visited Qiao's house today.

“Xiao Qiao, do you know why I visited your house today?”

Qiao Dongliang paused for a moment and said, “Is anything the matter, Uncle Lee?”

“I came on behalf of Zhu family to thank you and your family.”

“Zhu family, Uncle Zhu’s family?” Qiao Dongliang was not close to Zhu family. Zhu family were in-laws with Uncle Lee. The son of Zhu family married Uncle Lee’s daughter.

Zhu family and Lee family all stayed at the quad. They were well-matched in terms of social status. Zhu family was fairly well-to-do.

“Yes, it’s your Uncle Zhu’s family.” Uncle Lee became agitated. He took a few moments to calm down before he continued, “You must have heard about what happened to my daughter.”

“Elder Lee, it has been years. You must take care of yourself.”