

Rebirth to a Military Marriage: Good Morning Chief

Chapter 46: No One Sleeps

When they no longer hear a sound in the room, Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi stopped eavesdropping.

Two adults, who had a combined age of almost 100, had to resort to such a way to eavesdrop on their daughters' conversation. Both of their faces were a little flushed.

However, at the thought of the elder daughter's words, Ding Jiayi was extremely proud. "See, I told you before that Zijin is an obedient and sensible child. She is so good at heart. Today's matter about Qiao Nan, she was certainly too anxious but her intentions were good. She doesn't want her own sister to go astray."

"She is the elder daughter in the family and should have such a heart and realization." There was a look of satisfaction in Qiao Dongliang's eyes.

Qiao Zijin's words earlier had reflected her feelings towards her parents and concern and also expressed her concern and warning for her sister.

As an elder sister, she should discipline the younger one.

Qiao Dongliang, who was brainwashed by Ding Jiayi, did not realize that although Qiao Zijin was the elder daughter, she just knew how to talk and assign everything to Qiao Nan to do.

The elder daughter should not only pay lip service. Why could she not prove it with her actions too?

To put it bluntly, she was all talk and no action.

"Okay, we should sleep." As he heard that the daughters were asleep, Qiao Dongliang patted Ding Jiayi's shoulders and they returned to the room together.

When both were lying on the same bed, Ding Jiayi suddenly asked. "Old Qiao, I did not bear you a son. Do you really not mind?"

The words from Ding Jiayi's mother in the past had become an issue that weighed heavily on her heart.

But what Qiao Zijin did not know was the magnitude of the impact of Ding Jiayi's mother words on her.

Ding Jiayi's mother laughed at Ding Jiayi and said that she could not bear a son as she did not do good. She would be a source of trouble to the family that she was married to. A few months after giving birth to Qiao Nan, Ding Jiayi decided to stop breastfeeding and was prepared to bear a third child for Qiao Dongliang.

At the most, they would pay a fine. No matter what, she wanted a son to prove that she was a fortunate person and not one who did not do good.

Qiao Dongliang objected and said that after they raised up the daughters, they could take in a son-in-law that bore the Qiao family name, and who would move into the Qiao family after marriage. It would be the same and there was no need to have a son.

"I don't mind. I have said before. Let's take in a son-in-law for Zijin. Don't think about this matter anymore." Qiao Dongliang sighed. His wife was unfortunate to have come from such a family.

"Old Qiao, it's so good to have married you in my life." Ding Jiayi leaned on Qiao Dongliang's shoulders and said emotionally.

Qiao Dongliang did not say anything. He slept as he placed one of his arms around Ding Jiayi.

To Ding Jiayi, this action was more comforting than a thousand words.

In Qiao Nan's room, when Qiao Zijin confirmed that she heard the footsteps leaving, she revealed a smug smile on her face.

When Qiao Zijin was washing up, Qiao Zijin had already told Ding Jiayi that she was sleeping in with Qiao Nan. Thereafter, she told Ding Jiayi that she was afraid that Qiao Nan would be furious, drive her out or quarrel with her. It would be bad if they ended up in a fight.

Ding Jiayi was afraid that Qiao Zijin would be at a disadvantage, so she dragged Qiao Dongliang from the bed and insisted on finding out about the situation of the two daughters.

Thereafter, when Qiao Zijin closed the room of the door, she saw a beam of light emanating from the bottom the door of the Qiao couple's bedroom. She was thus certain that her mother would drag her father to eavesdrop on them.

Qiao Zijin, who was lying sideways and looking at Qiao Nan sleeping, laughed. "Qiao Nan, Oh Qiao Nan, you're still too green to fight with me!"

Upon thinking, Qiao Zijin's face turned white and she gave Qiao Nan a hard push. "Why are you sleeping. I have not fallen asleep. Wake up and chat with me."

Qiao Nan, who was already in a daze, was soon awakened by this push of Qiao Zijin. Frowning and sleepy-eyed, she sounded fatigued. "What do you want to chat about?" Hadn't their conversation already ended?

"Anything. I can't sleep anyway." Qiao Zijin said shamelessly.

Qiao Nan pursed her lips and did not say a word.

When Qiao Nan was falling asleep again, she was again jolted awake by Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Nan, who was in the fit of an anger, unhappily shot a look at Qiao Zijin and realized that Qiao Zijin's face was full of gloating.

Seeing that, Qiao Nan wanted to scold her. Sick, and seriously sick!

"Nan Nan, do you want to sleep? Do you know why I can't sleep? Sigh, I've been really short of money lately and I have to buy something. Dad and Mom spent so much money on me and I was too embarrassed to ask them for it. Nan Nan, can you help me? As long as my troubles are resolved, I'm sure I'll be able to sleep and then I won't disturb you."

Once she got hold of the money, of course, she would not continue to stay in Qiao Nan's room. She would definitely return to her own room to sleep.

"If my troubles are not resolved, I feel frustrated. I can't sleep when I feel the frustration. Nan Nan, what do you say?"

If Qiao Nan was a man, she might have crumbled under the spell of Qiao Zijin's questions, but she was a woman who did not have any good feeling towards Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Zijin had made herself clear and Qiao Nan fully understood what she wanted.

From the moment that she was reborn, Qiao Nan had told herself that in this life – she would not let Qiao Zijin take a single cent away from her again.

As for her mother, she would still fulfill her duty as a daughter, but damn, she would rather buy her mother things than give her money. The latter would only benefit Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Zijin wishfully wanted to get some money from her. There was no way!

"I don't have money. I can't help you." Qiao Nan rejected her flatly.

Since Qiao Zijin would not let her sleep, she might as well not sleep. She could silently recite in her mind what she had revised today.

Not knowing that Qiao Nan was reciting the knowledge in her mind, when Qiao Zijin saw Qiao Nan closing her eyes, she counted the time and started to nudge Qiao Nan again.

“What?” This time, Qiao Nan’s voice was very clear. There was no sign of fatigue.

Qiao Zijin put her hands back resentfully and ground her teeth. “Nothing. I just can’t sleep. You have to keep me company. If not, I feel so lonely.”

“Okay, keeping you company.” After Qiao Zijin finished revising her maths knowledge, she also recited in her mind a section of the secondary one’s syllabus that required memorization. She almost fell asleep but was nudged by Qiao Zijin again.

This time, Qiao Nan simply opened her mouth and said. “Don’t worry, I didn’t sleep. Still keeping you company.”

“Oh...” Qiao Zijin replied briefly as she was feeling down. Most importantly, this word of Qiao Zijin was faint and she seemed to have some difficulty saying it.

After Qiao Nan finished memorizing the last page of the syllabus, she heard that Qiao Zijin, who was beside her, was already snoring.

Qiao Nan gave a long yawn and finally went to sleep with ease.

The next day, when Qiao Zijin woke up, it was already daytime and Qiao Nan was nowhere to be seen.

Qiao Zijin gave a stare and jumped up from the bed anxiously. “Mom, where is Nan Nan?”

Chapter 47: Grades Are the Achilles Heel

Ding Jiayi, who was drying the laundry, heard the elder daughter’s voice and rushed to Qiao Nan’s room. “What happened?”

“Mom, where is Qiao Nan?”

“Qiao Nan?” Ding Jiayi rolled her eyes. “It’s already 10 o’clock. Qiao Nan woke up at half past six. She washed her clothes and left. I don’t know where she went.”

A family of four but Qiao Nan only washed her own clothes. Of course, Ding Jiayi had to wash the rest of the clothes for the remaining three.

In the past, when Qiao Nan helped her everyday, Ding Jiayi did not feel that she was helping her much. Moreover, she felt that Qiao Nan was expected to help.

When Qiao Nan stopped helping with the household chores, Ding Jiayi found herself busy all day long. There was never a moment of rest.

Just the household matters alone, she wished that she was a superhuman with three heads and six arms. Ding Jiayi was skeptical – if she went out to find a job today, who would do all the housework?

“Right, Zijin, you should wake up and wash up. I need to go out to look for a job. There are some household chores – why don’t you help out?”

Ding Jiayi really had no choice. She had to find a job. If not, she would not have money for the elder daughter.

“Mom.” Zijin woke up quickly, her face of full displeasure. “I don’t even know how to do these things, wait for Qiao Nan come back and let her do it.”

Last night, she clearly intended to pester Qiao Nan continuously. Unless Qiao Nan gave her the money, she was not prepared to let Qiao Nan sleep.

But, in the end, she fell asleep herself and Qiao Nan woke up earlier than her. She was so mad!

It was almost 11 o’clock when Qiao Zijin finished her breakfast. “Mom, Qiao Nan will definitely be back later. I don’t believe she will not come home for lunch.”

“This is already not the first time.” Ding Jiayi no longer harbored any hopes for the younger daughter.

During the last few days of the summer vacation, every morning after Qiao Nan finished her breakfast, she would leave the house and only come back in the evening, when Qiao Dongliang was off work.

That wretched girl was emboldened as she had Old Qiao’s money in her pocket.

Now that Qiao Dongliang gave money to Qiao Nan directly, Ding Jiayi wondered how much her husband would give Qiao Nan each time. At the thought of this money, she could not help feeling the pinch.

“Alright, today, you’re going to be alone at home. I will be out looking for a job. Zijin, it is rare that you are alone at home. Even if you are really reluctant to do the housework, at the very least, please read up more. For your sake, I did everything. But if you still can’t catch up on your academic performance...”

Previously, Ding Jiayi bit the bullet and was willing to take out all the family savings for Qiao Zijin to attend The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China because Qiao Zijin said that the school's teachers were more qualified. Hence, she would definitely be able to do well and catch up on her studies.

To allow Qiao Zijin to study in a famous high school was not the only reason why Ding Jiayi parted with so much money.

Qiao Zijin's expression changed. She smiled thereafter. "Mom, I know, I'll definitely not let you down. The teachers in our school are so good and I can understand all their lessons. I'll definitely be serious in my studies. Mom, go and find a job. Since I'm home, I will do whatever chores I can. I will leave those that I can't finish and read my books thereafter?"

Studying was the Achilles' Heel of Qiao Zijin. In the recent months, Qiao Zijin had put all of her thoughts to the row dance. How could she remember what the teachers had taught in the past month?

There were more exams in high school than the experimental high school. She also recalled that when she went to school, the teacher mentioned about an important upcoming exam. At the thought of this, Qiao Zijin felt guilty.

At other times, Qiao Zijin would always have ways to appease Ding Jiayi. But when it came to exams, Qiao Zijin's words would not be more convincing than her grades – which would stare directly at Ding Jiayi's face.

Qiao Zijin saw Ding Jiayi out personally. When Ding Jiayi was further away from the house, Qiao Zijin then pulled a long face. "Damn Qiao Nan, she thwarts my plans since she was a child. If only..."

If only her parents had not given birth to another daughter – Qiao Nan. If Qiao Nan, this sister, did not exist, how good would that be?

If her parents only had her as the daughter, regardless of how bad her grades were, they parents would definitely do their utmost to nurture her. There would not be a need for her to let the grades speak for themselves.

"I don't believe I can't find Qiao Nan's money." Qiao Zijin snorted and rushed into Qiao Nan's room angrily. She searched the entire room once, until she was sweaty and panting.

"Horrible horrible!" After much sweat, Qiao Zijin, who could not find a single cent, wanted to wreck Qiao Nan's room.

Qiao Zijin sat on the bed and let out a breath, thinking of what to do about her future.

During that rainy night, Qiao Zijin was really the one who had removed the blanket from Qiao Nan's body. She had also opened the windows.

Qiao Zijin had everything planned out. Qiao Nan's grades were so much better than hers. If Qiao Nan wanted to study in a good school, the family would have to spend even more money. Her father's income alone would not be sufficient for this. Moreover, her father's income also had to provide for Qiao Nan's living expenses.

If Qiao Nan went to work, the family would have fewer expenses and more income.

As such, if there were two people working in the family, she would be able to continue her studies regardless of the situation.

Most importantly, Qiao Zijin had long schemed about this – once Qiao Nan quit school, her grades in the school would no longer matter.

Qiao Nan had already quit school. If her family discontinued her studies because of her poor grades, they would never be able to lift up their heads in the quad.

To put it bluntly, Qiao Zijin wanted to be the only one. She had to be the only one.

Qiao Zijin had it all planned. However, there was a large gap between the ideal and reality.

Qiao Nan would not co-operate and stubbornly contended against her. In addition, with Qiao Dongliang's support, Qiao Zijin's plan was a fiasco without any success.

If not for this, she would not look so awkward and guilty when Ding Jiayi asked her about her grades.

The more she thought about it, the more anxious Qiao Zijin felt. She started rubbing her hands on her thigh.

It would be too difficult to improve her grades. The teachers in the school were good but the students were better. She was not in the same league of those who entered the school with their own abilities.

Also, as she had not built a good foundation in her studies while she was in junior high school, it would not help even if the teachers taught well in the senior high school.

If she did not do well for this month's test again, her parents might really discontinue her studies.

Senior high school was not junior high school – it was not considered as part of the nine years of compulsory education.

Qiao Zijin had ants in her pants and she was spinning with anxiety.

She had not resolved the matter regarding the dance dress yet. Because of Ding Jiayi's words, she now had another problem (her studies) to worry about.

She could not understand why senior high school had to be different from junior high school. There were four important examinations in senior high school instead of two.

Nevertheless, if there were no Parent-Teacher conferences after each month's examination, she could probably find a way to keep this from her family.

Chapter 48: Won't Back Down Anymore

By the time Qiao Nan came back home, she saw Qiao Zijin sitting in a daze at her bed and her room was in a total mess. It was obvious that someone had gone through her room.

Qiao Nan twisted her lips and laughed. There was no need for her to ask anything. She knew what Qiao Zijin was up to.

Without a word, Qiao Nan tidied up the room that Qiao Zijin made a mess of and read her books quietly.

Qiao Nan was moving about tidying her room but Qiao Zijin had yet to come back to her senses. It was only until Qiao Nan finished revising two pages of her book did Qiao Zijin snorted in shock, "When did you come back, why didn't you make a sound, don't you know how frightening it is to be scared by another person?!"

Qiao Zijin was startled by Qiao Nan who had popped up right in front of her. Her reaction was much bigger than Qiao Nan's.

Qiao Nan rolled her eyes and said, "I have already tidied my room, when do you think I returned?"

"Well..." Qiao Zijin smiled awkwardly. "I dropped something. But I couldn't find it. So I searched through your room. I finally found it in the end. Sorry, Nan Nan."

"It's okay. I have tidied the room." Qiao Nan said pointedly. They all know she was looking for money.

"Zijin, I am back." Ding Jiayi sounded tired.

"Mom!" Qiao Zijin's eyes brightened and dashed out of Qiao Nan's room to welcome her. "Mom, have you found a job today?"

“Found it.” Ding Jiayi dusted off the dirt on her clothes tiredly.

Ding Jiayi has been a housewife for years and yet she had to look for a job now. She almost could not bring herself to say that she was on the hunt for jobs.

Ding Jiayi had always been very sociable. But when it came to job searching, it was as if her lips were glued together. She just could not bring herself to ask.

Given her situation, even if she managed to find a job, it would not be an easy job.

After a half day’s work, Ding Jiayi finally realized that it was not easy to make a living. Back then, she was so fortunate.

“Zijin, why haven’t you tidied up the house?” Ding Jiayi was unhappy when she went into the house and saw that it was still messy.

Ding Jiayi had finished washing the clothes before she went out. But the dirty dishes from lunchtime had not been washed. She hoped that the elder daughter could help with the washing and to sweep the floor as well. These were simple household chores the elder daughter should be able to handle.

But she never would have imagined that when she came back, the house would still look as messy as when she left in the afternoon.

“I...” Qiao Zijin knew that she was in trouble. She was in Qiao Nan’s room, pondering over her exams and her dance costume. She had forgotten all about the household chores.

“Mom, but I have tidied Nan Nan’s room. Go and take a look if you don’t believe me?”

Qiao Nan came out from her room to get a drink and overheard Qiao Zijin’s audacious lie.

Qiao Nan twitched her lips, did not say a word and poured a drink for herself.

Ding Jiayi was tired to death after working for half a day. The look of apathy on her younger daughter’s face made her boil with anger. “What kind of attitude is this?!”

Despite being yelled at, Qiao Nan did not bother to argue. She said nonchalantly, “Mom, you are back. Mom, you must be tired. I am going back to my room to study.”

“What’s there to study? You are all grown up, yet you needed your sister to help you tidy up your room? You are so useless!”

“What’s this now?” Qiao Dongliang had just stepped into the house and overheard his wife scolding the younger daughter.

“She doesn’t even know to be more understanding of her parents who are working and she only know how to enjoy herself. Is that what the books taught you? If that’s true, what’s there to study? If not, what have you learnt all these years?” Ding Jiayi lifted her chin and lamented. She wanted Qiao Dongliang to know of the situation at home.

Qiao Dongliang had been used to the house being neat and tidy. He could not help but knit his eyebrows when he realized the house was a little messy. “Why didn’t anyone tidy up?”

“I went out to work.”

“I was out studying.”

“I...”

Ding Jiayi and Qiao Nan gave their reasons for not tidying up. But Qiao Zijin was stumped for words.

“I... I tidied up Nan Nan’s room.”

“You took the whole day to do that?” Qiao Dongliang asked incredulously. “Besides, Nan Nan always tidies her own room.”

“Nan Nan woke up earlier than me, she didn’t tidy the room as I was still sleeping. Dad, I have never done such chores before, hence I am slower. You... You, please don’t be angry.”

“Forget it. Anyway it’s not very dirty. Everyone help to clean up the house.” Qiao Dongliang sighed.

“I... I will wash the dishes!” Qiao Zijin immediately volunteered for the easier chore while stealing glances furtively at Qiao Nan.

Her only excuse was that she had tidied Qiao Nan’s room. But in fact, Qiao Nan tidied the room herself. Only the both of them knew about this.

Qiao Zijin noticed that Qiao Nan was not a pushover like before. She was worried that she might expose her lies in front of their parents.

But Qiao Zijin observed Qiao Nan for a while. She did not make any comment. Instead, she took the broom and started cleaning up.

“Phew.” Qiao Zijin breathed a sigh of relief. Qiao Nan did have a temper now as compared to before. But deep down inside, she was still a pushover like before. This was good news to her.

Qiao Nan laughed dryly when she saw the look of relief on Qiao Zijin's face. She did not want to argue with Qiao Zijin regarding the room not because she had given in to her, but that Qiao Zijin still had no idea of her importance to her parents.

Cleaning the room was just a small matter. If she was to fight for the credit with Qiao Zijin, her Dad might acknowledge it, but he would not be happy at all.

Qiao Zijin was at home the whole day, yet she had not done any household chores. Even though this might make their parents realize how lazy Qiao Zijin was, it was not something to be proud of. After all, they were the ones who had brought up this lazy daughter.

In fact, her Dad would think that Qiao Nan was too petty-minded. Even if Qiao Nan was the one who did the chores, she should help her out and let Qiao Zijin take the credit.

After all they were a family, one should not haggle over every ounce. It was okay to be at a slight disadvantage once in a while.

Her father asked the question not because he wanted to make things difficult for Qiao Zijin, in fact he wanted to see her making progress.

The eldest daughter, it was such a superior position.

Her father might have given up on her in her previous lifetime as she herself did not fight, but the other reason was that her sacrifice was for the good of Qiao Zijin.

Otherwise, if her father stood firm, there was no way that her mother would not listen. Back then, she was more submissive. If her mother had not insisted, she would not have quit school and start working.

At the thought of this, Qiao Nan sneered. Because of her, her mother lost her job and her father was discharged from the army. In the end, she turned out to be a girl. Actually deep down inside, her father harbored some bitterness towards her.

In her previous lifetime, she was always the one to be sacrificed. All the sacrifices she made were for the good of Qiao Zijin.

Chapter 49: Won't Be Nice To You

In this lifetime, regarding important matters she would not give in anymore. Even if it was against her father, she would also not budge an inch.

Qiao Nan told herself this was the last time that she satisfied Qiao Zijin.

Unlike Qiao Zijin, Qiao Nan was nimble and quick in her chores. While Qiao Zijin was still doing the dishes, she was done with sweeping the floor and she had even thrown the dirt away.

“Forget it, you better stop washing.” Ding Jiayi who was washing the vegetables saw that Qiao Zijin had not done the dishes properly. The bowls were still dirty. She had a splitting headache. She might have to wash the dishes all over again. “Qiao Zijin, you make a change with me. You wash the vegetables, I will do the dishes.”

Looking at the dirty vegetables, Qiao Zijin had a look of displeasure on her face. But she still changed with Ding Jiayi.

But while washing the vegetables, she came into contact with something hairy and soft. She took a glance and shrieked. “Mom, Mom, there’s a worm, there’s a worm!”

At Qiao’s house, Qiao Zijin had not seen cockroaches, let alone worms.

Whenever there were cockroaches at home, Qiao Zijin would hide somewhere and the remaining three of them would get rid of the cockroaches.

“Isn’t it normal for vegetables to have worms?” Ding Jiayi was having a headache. Although she had only worked for half a day, she was not used to working. She felt tired to the bone.

She could not even take a rest at home and on top of that Zijin was not being helpful at all. She could not understand why Zijin was kicking up such a big fuss over a tiny worm.

“What’s wrong?” Qiao Dongliang peered in to check. “What is the worm that you are talking about?”

Qiao Dongliang saw on the vegetables crawled a worm and understood what was the commotion all about.

“It’s only a worm, if you are scared, you just have to pick it with the chopsticks.” Qiao Dongliang picked up the worm and threw it away deftly. “Don’t be so flustered and kick up a big fuss. You have to learn from Nan Nan. When she was about seven or eight years old, she was already helping out with the household chores. Old Ding, Zijin is a big lady now. You can’t just teach Nan Nan but neglect Zijin. Didn’t you say that Zijin knew how to do all these chores?”

Back then whenever Qiao Nan helped out with the household chores, Qiao Dongliang would ask why the elder daughter was not helping.

Qiao Dongliang was a traditional man. He felt that every female should learn to cook.

Ding Jiayi would always say that Qiao Zijin knew how to do all the chores. Qiao Dongliang did not give it much thought. But now, after seeing how the elder daughter was scared stiff by a worm, Qiao Dongliang began to doubt her words.

"I... I am just a little scared of worms." Qiao Zijin knew Qiao Dongliang's temper. She would not admit that she had never done any household chores before.

She was worried that if she admitted that she had never done any household chores, Qiao Dongliang might want her to help out whenever she was at home.

She did not want to be like Qiao Nan, treated like a servant and made to do so many chores.

"Hurry up, Zijin, Nan Nan has already done all her chores and has started her school work. Tonight you shall sleep alone, have a good rest, you still have to go to school tomorrow."

Qiao Nan woke up early in the morning, about the same time as Qiao Dongliang. But by the time Qiao Dongliang left for work, Qiao Zijin was still sleeping.

Qiao Nan told Qiao Dongliang that last night Qiao Zijin had been chatting with her for the whole night. She might not have slept well, hence she slept in today.

Forget about yesterday. Qiao Zijin had to go to school tomorrow. Qiao Dongliang would not allow her to sleep that late anymore.

If Qiao Zijin was to develop the habit of sleeping late at night, she would not have enough sleep at night, but had to wake up early in the morning. How would she be able to study well?

Qiao Zijin who was washing the vegetables almost plucked out the core of the vegetables.

It must be Qiao Nan's doing!

If not judging from her father's character, he would be more than happy to see the two sisters spend time together. He would not have had any objections at all.

"Alright, Dad." Qiao Zijin had wasted a night on Qiao Nan and yet she still could not get hold of her money. Exams would be coming in two weeks' time and National Day would be just round the corner. Qiao Zijin eyes reddened. She was all tensed up and filled with anxiety.

Why were things not going smoothly?

Now Qiao Zijin knew that Qiao Nan was a miser, she would not lend her any money at all. Qiao Nan would not budge no matter what she did. Qiao Zijin finally gave up on getting money from Qiao Nan.

“Qiao Nan, you are so heartless. We are biological sisters. Since a young age, we played together and I have always protected you. Now when I need your help, you refused to help me. I have seen through you. I shouldn’t have treated you so nicely. From now onwards, I won’t be good to you anymore.” Qiao Zijin snorted.

“It’s alright. You can be nicer to yourself. I will also treat myself well.” Qiao Nan smiled, a genuine smile.

“Don’t be too happy about it, we shall wait and see.” She believed that one day Qiao Nan would come begging to her.

When the time came, she would let Qiao Nan have a taste of her own medicine.

Qiao Nan paid no attention to Qiao Zijin’s provocation. She went back to her room and revised the day’s lessons.

On the next day, by the time Qiao Zijin woke up, Qiao Nan was already gone. Qiao Zijin left for school before Qiao Nan was back.

Qiao Zijin got on the bus and was still fuming mad at Qiao Nan. Was she guarding against her as if she was a thief? She had no idea where Qiao Nan had hidden the money. It was nowhere to be found.

She had to come up with another way to get her dance costume.

The atmosphere in the her class was odd when Qiao Nan went to school on Monday.

Zhu Baoguo had been under observation in the hospital for a week. He did not have other serious injuries and could go back home to rest. He had hurt his rib bones and would need plenty of rest. Even if he was discharged from hospital, it would be best to stay in bed to rest in the first month.

As for the school, he applied for as much sick leave as possible so as to have a full recovery.

Lots of people crowded around when Zhu Baoguo went back home on Sunday.

It was only then that the people from the quad found out that Zhu Baoguo had been beaten up by a group of thugs on the side road on Monday. It was all thanks to the younger daughter of the Qiao family who chanced upon him and asked for help that he was saved in the nick of time. Otherwise, he might not be alive.

Everyone had a big shock when they heard the news. The hooligans nowadays were so ruthless, they had almost taken a life?

The residents of the quad and the surrounding areas all knew about this.

Everyone had children. Moreover, after the national planning policy was launched, for the families who only had one child, be it son or daughter, they all treated their child as their precious jewel.

If something similar happened to their child, it would really harm everyone in the family.

Therefore, every family was very uptight when they heard of the news.

Chapter 50: Warning

The rumor was very clear. Zhu Baoguo was beaten by a bunch of hooligans, and if not for the younger daughter of Qiao family, he would have died.

For others, they would think that the younger daughter of the Qiao family was really kind hearted, and was brave enough to help Zhu Baoguo. But for some people, this rumor was bad news.

Zhao Yu had cooped herself up in her room since Sunday. She did not wish to go out, and she had enough of her mother's nagging.

"Zhao Yu, did you hear that? In the future, do not come home by yourself, walk home with your classmates. Also, if you chance upon such incidents, don't try to be meddlesome and stay away. That young lady must count her lucky stars, if the hooligans went after her as well, the two of them might have died there."

Her mother kept nagging, she was frightened out of her wits.

"Mom, that's enough. I understand." Zhao Yu rolled her eyes. Not everyone would chance upon incidents like this.

So it seemed that Qiao Nan ran into the small road to save Zhu Baoguo?

It occurred to Zhao Yu that Qiao Nan was not alone at that time, there were two adults with her.

But how would she know that Zhu Baoguo was beaten up by hooligans and that Qiao Nan had gone to seek help to save Zhu Baoguo.

If she had known earlier, she would not have let Qiao Nan take all the credit. The person that Qiao Nan saved was none other than Zhu Baoguo!

Zhao Yu had not grown up in the quad, but her house was not too far away.

As a result, she knew that the children of the quad were the envy of others.

Among all the male students in class, the person that Zhao Yu wanted to get close to was Zhu Baoguo. Although his results was not as good as her desk mate Zhou Lei, Zhu Baoguo was actually much more good looking than Zhou Lei.

Zhao Yu might still be young, but she knew that it did not matter that Zhou Lei's results were way better than Zhu Baoguo's.

Because in terms of future prospects, no matter how smart or hardworking Zhou Lei was, he would never be able to compare to the good prospects that Zhu Baoguo had.

Zhou Lei could be a good boyfriend, but Zhu Baoguo was good husband material.

But in the two years of junior high school, Zhu Baoguo never went to the school. Even if Zhao Yu who was mature for her age had wanted to create a favorable position to get closer to him, to be in his good books and if possible become his childhood sweetheart, there was no way for her dreams to materialize as he never went to school.

Zhao Yu would never have thought that she would miss the one and only opportunity.

If she had followed Qiao Nan on that day and discovered Zhu Baoguo at the same time as Qiao Nan, she would not have walked off. Instead she would have joined Qiao Nan to save him.

If so, she would be Zhu Baoguo's life savior.

Even if she could not have any sort of relationship with Zhu Baoguo, now that the Zhu family owed the Zhao family a debt of gratitude, her parents would be able to ask them for help if they met with any difficulties in their jobs.

Such a good opportunity had just slipped away from her fingers. Zhao Yu who had motives towards Zhu Baoguo found it such a pity. As for Qiao Nan, her hatred for her grew even deeper now.

To Zhao Yu, if not for Qiao Nan, she would be the one who saved Zhu Baoguo. Qiao Nan had taken the credit for it. But it should be hers in the first place.

The news that Zhu Baoguo was injured spread rapidly, so did the fact that it was the younger daughter of Qiao family who had saved his life.

When Qiao Nan arrived at school, many students knew that the rumor was not true. Qiao Nan did not hang out with those hooligans.

“Qiao Nan, everyone now know that it was a misunderstanding. Congratulations, you have been cleared of all suspicion.” Zhao Yu shot a smile at Qiao Nan.

Zhao Yu’s words made Qiao Nan felt uncomfortable and displeased. What did she mean by cleared of all suspicion? She was innocent all along, that rumor was fictitious. There was no eyewitness or material witness. How could she be labeled as a suspect?

“Zhao Yu, regardless of the reasons behind your dislike for me, the feeling is mutual. Just stay away from me in the future, and mind your own business. If you use the cynical tone with me in future again, I won’t be so polite anymore.”

Qiao Nan looked at Zhao Yu and told her in a very stern expression.

Zhao Yu was a spoiled brat. Qiao Nan was the same age as her. There was no reason that she had to give in to her once and again.

“Moreover, If I wanted to check, I would be able to find out who started that rumor. Zhao Yu, do you understand my words? I am sure the teachers do not like students who start rumors and create troubles, especially one who does not pay attention to her studies but comes up with ways to frame her classmates. Zhao Yu, do you agree with me?”

“What... What do you mean?”

“What do I mean? You have to figure it out by yourself. But I won’t allow this kind of incident to happen again. If there’s a next time, I will make sure to get to the bottom of the matter. I have to let Teacher Chen know of the black sheep in our class, who created troubles and affected our relationship.”

Qiao Nan had purely made a guess when she said those words.

When the rumors started to spread, Zhao Yu was the only one who seemed to be very happy, and she could come up with vivid and realistic accounts.

Besides, whenever she brought up her suspicions, Zhao Yu would have a guilty look on her face.

What Qiao Nan said just now was just to bluff her. But Zhao Yu turned red with fear.

“Y-you are talking rubbish. I-I don’t understand.” Zhao Yu was so scared that she started to stutter. She took out her essay book and buried her head behind the book. “I won’t waste time on you, I am going to read my book, don’t disturb me.”

It was Zhao Yu who came looking for Qiao Nan, yet now she said that Qiao Nan was disturbing her from reading her book.

Zhao Yu was in the wrong yet she put the blame on Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan could not be bothered with her. After all, she had brought the main point across just now.

“Ha, made a fool of yourself?” Zhou Lei sneered, his smile was full of sarcasm. When bad rumors about Qiao Nan started going around last week, Zhao Yu was the only one in class who carried on spreading the tales around.

Secondary three (1) class used to be the best class in school. This incident almost affected the reputation of the class.

Zhou Lei had no liking towards people like Zhao Yu, who were not united and did not work as a group.

Today was Monday. There would be a flag-raising ceremony.

Previously Teacher Chen was still agonizing over ways to clear up the rumor regarding Qiao Nan. After Zhu Baoguo’s incident came to light, Teacher Chen was no longer worried.

Teacher Chen had discussed with the school’s management. They have decided that during the flag-raising ceremony today, Qiao Nan would make a speech for acting heroically in a just cause.

Teacher Chen had already prepared the speech and had passed it to Qiao Nan. She only had to read it accordingly.

Qiao Nan stood onto the stage, all the students and teachers fixed their gazes on her. She faced them with confidence and ease. She had no stage fright at all. She read the speech that Teacher Chen prepared in a calm and steady voice.