

# Rebirth to a Military Marriage: Good Morning

## Chapter 56: Brother Zhai Is Back

Regarding Zhu Baoguo's situation, the Zhu family had already mentioned it to Teacher Chen. So, when Teacher Chen entered the classroom, he was not surprised to see Zhu Baoguo. He even said a few words to the students about this.

Zhu Baoguo had not fully recovered from his injuries. The students in the class should take care of him more.

Besides this, although Zhu Baoguo came to school, he would not participate in any lesson that required physical activities.

Teacher Chen observed Zhu Baoguo for a lesson. He realized that Zhu Baoguo was seated in his own chair, writing and keeping quiet, he did not disturb others or Qiao Nan. Teacher Chen then felt much better.

It was lunchtime. Qiao Nan stood up straight, looked at Zhu Baoguo and asked, "Are you settling your own meal or do you need someone to help?"

"No need, someone will bring me my food. You can go by yourself." With Qiao Nan's concern, Zhu Baoguo felt at ease.

"Fine." Having received this response, Qiao Nan did not dawdle and simply left.

When she reached the entrance of the classroom, Qiao Nan saw a male stranger walking towards the classroom.

Qiao Nan raised her eyebrows. This seemed to be the person who was delivering the food to Zhu Baoguo.

After ascertaining that Zhu Baoguo would not die of hunger, Qiao Nan completely put down her worries and went to eat on her own.

"Boss." After Hou Shan entered the classroom, he said jokingly while taking a glance at the direction where Qiao Nan left. "Boss, you actually attended class obediently, is the sun rising in the west? That girl is so beautiful, is she my sister-in-law?"

“Don’t talk nonsense. She is my sister. She was the one who saved me.” Zhu Baoguo smiled grimly for a while. “She’s called Qiao Nan. Help me check if there is anyone plotting against her. How could I allow anyone to bully my sister?”

Zhu Baoguo was a very sensitive person. Even if Zhao Yu and Zhou Lei did not say much, Zhu Baoguo also guessed a little.

He was still injured and it was not convenient from him to investigate, but he had some followers in the school. He could send his follower to handle such small matters.

“So she is Qiao Nan. Boss, you don’t need to investigate this, I already know.” Hou Shan simply told Zhu Baoguo all of what happened recently in the school.

“My sister is so obedient, it’s impossible that she would mix with those people. My sister’s grades are so good and they said she cheated, who made those rumors, I’ll kill them!” Zhu Baoguo revealed a fierce look. After all, if Qiao Nan was dragged into this, it was because of him.

Zhu Baoguo understood immediately that rumors were certainly related to the matter of Qiao Nan saving him.

After all, before Qiao Nan saved him, he already know that the quad had Da Qiao and Xiao Qiao, but he did not hear anyone talk bad about Xiao Qiao before.

If Qiao Nan had contact with those people, the only time would be when she saved him.

“Boss, don’t be anxious, this matter has already been cleared. Before the flag-raising ceremony, sister-in-law... Boss, what do I call her?” Hou Shan felt awkward. If he could not call sister-in-law, what could he address her as? “Do I call her as sister?”

“That’s my sister, what has this got to do with you?!” Zhu Baoguo of course declined. “You can call her Qiao Nan.”

“Oh, Boss. You really dragged Qiao Nan into this. That day, when Qiao Nan saved you, someone with a loud mouth saw it and weaved tales that Qiao Nan was friends with the hooligans. Moreover, they said that Qiao Nan’s grades were always good because the hooligans helped her to steal the test papers. You don’t know how miserable Qiao Nan was at that time, many in the school looked down on her.”

Qiao Nan was the top student in the school. When people in the school knew that she was a fraud, many took the chance to add salt to the wound.

Hou Shan recalled that he also secretly laughed at Qiao Nan at that time.

No matter how outstanding she was, all the good grades were the credit of others who “stole” for her. This was worse than a student like him, who scored as much as he deserved.

Of course, Hou Shan did not dare to say all this to Zhu Baoguo, as he was afraid of being bashed by Zhu Baoguo.

“I’ll assign you a mission – help to investigate who was the one who started this.” Zhu Baoguo’s eyes were full of hate. The person had the gall of a leopard to dare to do this to his sister.

“Boss, don’t worry. I assure you that I will help you to settle this properly.” Hou Shan patted himself on the chest. Previously he was not concerned about this matter, if he wanted to investigate, it would be easy.

“Where’s my food? I’m starving.”

“Here.” The brother’s follower, a guy who was always by Hou Shan’s side, brought Zhu Baoguo’s food over. Zhu Baoguo finished up his meal neatly and in the span of a few minutes.

When Qiao Nan was back, Zhu Baoguo was already resting his head on the table and napping.

Seeing Zhu Baoguo, Qiao Nan was more relieved.

In the afternoon, after school, Zhu Baoguo was taken home by the Zhu family.

When the Zhu family saw Zhu Baoguo coming out from the school, they heaved a sigh of relief, and sent Zhu Baoguo home as fast as they could.

Without Zhu Baoguo’s disturbance, Qiao Nan felt more relaxed. As usual, she went to the Zhai family’s storeroom to change her books.

When Qiao Nan just reached, she found the storeroom unlocked. She opened the door and saw a person sitting inside.

“Zhai, Brother Zhai?” She had not seen Brother Zhai for more than a month. Qiao Nan was used to being like a little mouse in the Zhai family, coming and leaving quietly, when she suddenly ran into a person today, she was feeling a little guilty.

“Yes.” Zhai Sheng put down the books in his hands. “Do you come here often?”

Zhai Sheng had given his desk to Qiao Nan. So, when he came back this time, he did not have a desk and he came to the storeroom.

To Zhai Sheng, it did not matter where he read, as long as the environment was conducive.

What surprised Zhai Sheng was that the storeroom was not only tidy but also very clean. He could see that someone had been cleaning this place often.

The Zhai family did not come to the storeroom. The only person that would tidy this place up was Qiao Nan.

As a soldier, Zhai Sheng was used to settling everything in a slow and orderly manner, he could not stand messiness and disorder.

Qiao Nan was only a girl in her teenage years and the place belonged to the Zhai family. Qiao Nan made the effort to tidy up the place so nicely, Zhai Sheng did not expect this.

Zhai Sheng nodded his head with satisfaction.

“From Monday to Friday when I need to attend school, I will come here to change the books. But I’ll be here every weekend.” Standing before Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan was as honest as a student with her disciplinary master – her little feet close together, little hands placed properly, body stiff, a pair of eyes that that looked down at her toes and did not dare to look elsewhere. In particular, she did not dare to look Zhai Sheng straight in the eyes.

Each time she stood before Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan felt very stressed.

Since she knew about Zhai Sheng’s success in future, she certainly saw him in a different light.

## **Chapter 57: Qiao Nan Is A Crazy Fan**

Most of all, even though Zhai Sheng was not yet the Chief, that intimidating aura that he exuded made Qiao Nan felt that she was a soldier under his charge.

Seeing that Qiao Nan was seated in an tense manner, Zhai Sheng tried to relax, was he too serious such that he was scaring Uncle Qiao’s younger daughter? “I remember that your name is Qiao Nan?”

“Er.... Yes.” Qiao Nan was stunned for a while, then nodded.

“Don’t be so nervous. Sit down.” When he saw the young lady looking extremely pitiful, similar to when he met her in the summer vacation, Zhai Sheng’s tone softened.

Of course, this softened demeanor was solely Zhai Sheng's assumption. To Qiao Nan, Zhai Sheng's voice sounded more aloof and frightening.

"How are your grades coming along recently?"

"Not not, not th-that good." Qiao Nan stammered and nearly bit her tongue when she spoke.

Qiao Nan's face was flushed. She turned away and patted her face gently. She felt calmer thereafter and continued to face Zhai Sheng. "As I did not revise for one summer vacation, I have forgotten some of the knowledge. I I, I have been trying to catch up recently."

"Taken your exams?"

"Yes."

"What have you been tested on, how many marks did you score?"

"Chinese, Maths and English. Scored 85 marks for Chinese and Mathematics, and full marks for English."

Qiao Nan realized that she had said the wrong things. Her and Brother Zhai's relationship was not akin to supervisor and subordinate. They were similar to that of parent and child!

Zhai Sheng was only older than Qiao Nan by four years, but in terms of aura even Qiao Nan, who had been through two lifetimes, did not feel worthy before Zhai Sheng.

"These grades, do you have the test papers, let me take a look."

"The papers were already returned to the teacher, I don't have it." Qiao Nan shook her head several times. She felt nervous to let Zhai Sheng see the papers.

Even when Qiao Dongliang asked about her grades, she did not have this feeling. Before Zhai Sheng, she did not know why she felt so uptight and formal that she did not know where to place her limbs.

"Are you afraid of me?" Zhai Sheng realised that his several attempts to put down his airs and communicate with Qiao Nan peacefully had failed.

Before him, Qiao Nan was like a rabbit who met a tiger. She was so scared that her limbs were wobbly and shivering with no strength to escape.

Zhai Sheng could not help asking himself, was he really so scary?

“Not not not... ” Qiao Nan wanted to say “not scary”, but when she stammered “not” ten times, she changed her mind and said “A little.”

“Just a little?” Zhai Sheng did not believe.

“More, a little more?” Qiao Nan showed her fingers, indicating that it was more than a little.

Zhai Sheng pursed his lips. His sharp falcon-like eyes revealed a hint of a faint smile. It should be more than a little, otherwise who would dare to play tricks in front of him.

“If I am home, you can look for me if you have any questions.”

“No thanks.” Qiao Nan declined flatly. Zhai Sheng was not an ordinary man, his time was so precious, how could his time be wasted on her?

“You don’t trust me?”

“No, Brother Zhai. You misunderstood me. I mean, if I seek your help, I am wasting your time as you have more important things to worry about.” When she said this, Qiao Nan was quite coherent. “All my teachers have assigned me homework. If I have any questions, it is sufficient for me to ask them. Brother Zhai, you are destined for greater things in life.”

In the previous lifetime, the Tian Dynasty was able to achieve peace and prosperity, with a wealthy nation and strong people, and Brother Zhai played a crucial role in this.

Brother Zhai was an army genius and had a gifted brain. He was an extraordinary man.

She remembered that once, there were strange activities at the border of the Tian Dynasty, the local and the bandits colluded and killed the people of the Tian Dynasty. They also framed the people for the crime of smuggling drugs.

This matter was very serious and affected a lot of people.

The exact situation, process and extent of danger – Qiao Nan heard about it but she also knew that if the matter was not dealt with properly, there would be countless deaths in the Tian Dynasty. The national interests would suffer greatly.

But she also knew that his matter would eventually be fully resolved, with losses recovered, and it was all due to Brother Zhai.

To Qiao Nan, Brother Zhai was a great character and a superhero in Qiao Nan’s heart.

Since ancient times, the peace and stability of the country depended on a soldier like Zhai Sheng.

In her previous life, Qiao Nan did not pursue any idols, she only loved military uniforms and admired the army guys. Zhai Sheng was the leader of the army. He had a few identities that Qiao Nan liked. Hence, Qiao Nan could not help feeling nervous when she saw him.

In the lifetime that Qiao Nan was reborn to, the youngsters were already crazy over idols, they would be so excited when they saw them.

So, Qiao Nan felt that although she stammered before Zhai Sheng, and she could not make much sense of her words, she was considered well in control.

If these words came from others, Brother Zhai might not believe it.

However, when Zhai Sheng saw that Qiao Nan's eyes shone with so much admiration and passion when she said these flattering words, he smiled again.

At this sight of Qiao Nan, he could not help but suspect if he had really done something great to be able to receive such a compliment from Qiao Nan.

In particular, Qiao Nan looked at him with such passionate and burning eyes, Zhai Sheng was not used to it.

"It's late now, you should return home." Zhai Sheng reminded Qiao Nan as he glanced outside and realized that the sun was setting soon.

"Oh yes!" Qiao Nan slapped her head. "Brother Zhai, I am going home." Qiao Nan changed one of her books and ran as fast as a rabbit towards the house of the Qiao family.

Seeing Qiao Nan, the stiff face of Zhai Sheng seemingly became gentle, the corners of his mouth was slightly curved upwards with a sign of smile, like the beautiful and short moment of the winter's first snow.

Once Qiao Nan left, the storeroom resumed its quietness. There was occasional sounds of Zhai Sheng flipping his books.

"Dad." When Qiao Nan reached home, Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi were already off work.

Ding Jiayi snorted and went to prepare dinner. Qiao Dongliang asked with concern. "Why are you home late today?"

"To save someone again." Ding Jiayi said sarcastically.

Qiao Nan laughed. "No, I went to the place where I kept the books to change them. So, I took the longer route and came back late."

Qiao Nan's words was akin to giving Ding Jiayi a tight slap in the face.

Qiao Nan was not a policewoman, how could she save someone everyday. However, the reason why Qiao Nan came home was because she routed to another path to change her books, and Ding Jiayi was the cause of this.

Thus, when Qiao Nan was home late, there was only Ding Jiayi, who had done her duty as a mother so well, to blame.

## **Chapter 58: Elder Lee Came To Visit**

In the past, Qiao Nan was very submissive, and would do whatever chores that Ding Jiayi asked her to do. Even so, Ding Jiayi still disliked her. Now that Qiao Nan had learned to rebut her words, Ding Jiayi disliked her even more.

Qiao Dongliang saw how the younger daughter rebutted her mother. Ding Jiayi was flushed red and at a loss for words. Qiao Dongliang frowned and said, "Nan Nan."

As the saying goes, "Parents always have their good reasons", no matter what, Old Ding was Nan Nan's mother, Nan Nan should not speak to her in that way.

To others, the younger daughter's words might not mean anything. But Qiao Dongliang could tell that she was digging at her mother.

Qiao Nan curled her lips and mocked herself. She knew things would turn out like this.

But it was okay. Like she said, she would pamper herself. Though her father did not favor her, she would not ask for more as long as he was not as biased as Mom and only doted on Qiao Zijin, depriving her of the chance to study.

"Dad, I will return my school bag to the room."

Without much expression on her face, Qiao Nan returned to her room, never once glancing at her parents. Qiao Dongliang felt uneasy at her attitude.

Waiting for Qiao Nan to close door, Qiao Dongliang chided at Ding Jiayi, "Nan Nan is not someone who is disobedient and insensible. You knew that she is a good child yet you have to pick on her? Look at her attitude now, if you continue with your cold remarks, she may not treat you as her mother in future."

Qiao Dongliang could feel that Qiao Nan had turned cold and aloof towards Ding Jiayi.



In the past, Qiao Nan would never disobey Ding Jiayi's orders. At times, whenever she was free, she would take the initiative to do the household chores. Back then, Ding Jiayi did not have to work and was still a full time housewife.

Even if Qiao Nan was not very affectionate and did not always call her Mom, from the way Qiao Nan looked at Ding Jiayi, Qiao Dongliang could sense the longing affection that Qiao Nan had for her mother.

But he could no longer see the longing affection in her eyes now.

The younger daughter's expression had turned cold and detached. Qiao Dongliang could not help but be worried.

"I gave birth to her. Regardless of whether she treated me as her mother or not, I am still her mother. Even when she is a adult, she still has to obey me." Ding Jiayi had nothing to fear.

She did not wish to listen to Qiao Dongliang's lectures anymore. She went off to prepare dinner.

Ding Jiayi walked into the kitchen. It did not occur to her that she was also brought up by her mother.

But when her mother wanted to sell her off, she also did not obey her and married Qiao Dongliang instead.

"Nan Nan?" Since his wife refused to listen, Qiao Dongliang went to look for his daughter, hoping to talk some sense into her.

"Dad." Qiao Nan was writing. "Dad, I am doing my homework. Is anything the matter?"

Qiao Dongliang was embarrassed when he saw that Qiao Nan was really doing her homework. "Nothing, carry on with your homework. There's nothing more important than your studies. You carry on with your work, I won't disturb you."

With that, Qiao Dongliang closed the door and left without saying anything.

After he left, Qiao Nan sighed in exasperation.

As expected, her father liked to see that his daughters were studying. She knew the reason why her father came looking for her, but she did not want to listen.

As children, she shouldn't argue with her parents. But the saying "Parents always have their good reasons" was not applicable to her mother.

In her previous lifetime she had already paid all the debts and given in to all her demands and requests. In this lifetime, she would not compromise anymore.

After that, Qiao Nan tried to avoid Qiao Dongliang at all costs.

Qiao Dongliang could not disturb her as she wanted to study. On the second day, everyone in the family went off to work and to school. Qiao Dongliang didn't have the time to have a word with Qiao Nan for a few consecutive days.

This day Qiao Dongliang was back from work. He had just entered the quad when he was led away by Elder Lee's men.

Since Qiao Nan was born, this was the second time that Qiao Dongliang saw Elder Lee. He was very happy to see him, "Uncle Lee, what's the matter?"

Qiao Dongliang pondered for a few moments and asked, "Is it related to Baoguo?"

"Xiao Qiao, you should know that my grandson is not good in his studies. So I would like for Nan Nan to tutor him. Is this weekend okay?" Elder Lee smiled and nodded his head.

Qiao Dongliang hesitated for a moment. "Uncle Lee, it's not that I do not want to help. Nan Nan's results have lagged behind recently. Will she be a hindrance to Baoguo? Uncle Lee, actually it might be better if you hire a professional tutor for Baoguo."

Qiao Dongliang was worried that Baoguo's results might deteriorate with his daughter's coaching. If that happened, he would not be able to answer to Uncle Lee.

It never crossed his mind that Qiao Nan's results might be affected if she tutored Zhu Baoguo. Right now his main concern was how he could mend his relationship with Elder Lee and to repay his debts of gratitude towards him.

"No need, I think Nan Nan is a good choice." Elder Lee shook his head, rejecting Qiao Dongliang's suggestion.

"Uncle Lee, during school hours, Nan Nan could take Baoguo in hand, this..."

"Don't worry. No matter what, I would like to thank Nan Nan for this. Nan Nan is the perfect candidate." Elder Lee understood Qiao Dongliang's concerns. He laughed, "You might not know, Baoguo is very stubborn. If he dislikes someone, he would refuse to listen to that person."

His grandson had in fact sent away several private tutors. At the mention of this, Elder Lee had a splitting headache.

“After going back to school, I find that Baoguo is much more obedient. He would stay in school everyday. I heard that it’s Nan Nan who keeps an eye on him. I think Nan Nan would be able to keep him in check. As for Baoguo, he is already in secondary three. I do not harbor any hopes that his results would improve.”

His grandson has missed a lot of the classes. Not to mention Qiao Nan, his teachers might not even be able to help him to improve his results.

“So you would like Nan Nan to keep an eye on him?”

“Yes, Baoguo has not fully recovered from his injuries. But he is so full of energy that he can’t keep still. Nobody can control him.”

Qiao Dongliang was shocked. He had heard of Zhu Baoguo’s temper; to put it bluntly, he was a bully. When they were still young, all the children in the quad were fearful of Zhu Baoguo. They tried to keep themselves out of his way.

Nan Nan might be of the same age as Zhu Baoguo, but they never played together when they were small. Would Zhu Baoguo obey her?

“If that’s the case, it might work. Nan Nan is a quiet girl.” Qiao Dongliang thought about it and agreed.

“Xiao Qiao, have you heard of this saying “To govern the country (and bring peace to all), one should first be able to govern one’s family”? Recently I have heard quite a lot of rumors about your family. Xiao Qiao, what are your views?” After settling Zhu Baoguo’s matters, Uncle Lee touched upon his main topic.

“My... My family is doing well.” Qiao Dongliang blushed. Why would Uncle Lee ask this question? Did Nan Nan spout nonsense to Baoguo?

One should not wash dirty linen in public. Nan Nan had gone way overboard this time!

“Good? It’s good that your wife sold Nan Nan’s books and wanted her to quit school?”

## **Chapter 59: Harsh Criticisms**

“Xiao Qiao, your pay is pretty high. Why would Nan Nan need to work? Nan Nan’s results are good, yet you wanted her to discontinue the nine years of compulsory education and to start work, is everything alright at home? Did your wife spend all the savings at home when she came to ask me for help to enroll the elder daughter into The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China? Xiao Qiao, I always taught you to be pragmatic. As the saying goes, “There are three hundred and sixty five trades, and every trade has its master”. If she is not good at studying, she can consider other

options. Is it appropriate to spend all the hard earned money on the elder daughter and to sacrifice the future of another daughter? It's useless to reach for what is beyond one's grasp, instead one should be earnest and down-to-earth. One should act according to one's ability. Teenagers nowadays are flippant and not down-to-earth. Xiao Qiao, why would you have this shortcoming as well? Don't forget, you were a soldier!"

After listening to Uncle Lee's wise and earnest words, Qiao Dongliang was lost for words.

He could understand every single word that Elder Lee said. But when they formed into sentences, they seemed foreign to him.

"Uncle Lee, it was through your help that Zijin was able to enroll into The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China?" Qiao Dongliang paused for a moment before he asked.

"Xiao Ding came looking for me. She would like me to make a phone call. She was the one who made the other arrangements. Xiao Qiao, you should know my temper, I would never do these things. Even if it was for my son or my daughter. You grew up with them, have I helped them out in similar ways? Xiao Qiao, do you know how disappointed I was in you at that time?"

Uncle Lee sighed.

When Ding Jiayi came looking for Elder Lee to help out with Qiao Zijin's matters, Elder Lee was not very willing to help. He had always disliked these dealings.

Even for his biological son and daughter, he wanted them to carve out a path by themselves. Yet he had to resort to getting in through the back door for someone else's daughter. Elder Lee really wanted to turn Ding Jiayi down.

"Elder Lee, I had no idea." Qiao Dongliang rubbed his face. Old Ding did such a thing behind his back and resorted to these methods to enroll Zijin into The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China.

"I knew you were unaware. If you were aware, you would have stopped Xiao Ding from seeking my help." Uncle Lee nodded. After all he watched Qiao Dongliang grew up, he knew him well.

When Qiao Dongliang heard this, he felt slightly relieved.

"But Xiao Qiao, Xiao Ding is your wife. You had no idea what she is doing or what she is up to. Even when your elder daughter really enrolled into The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, you did not say anything. This is what disappointed me the most. Xiao Qiao, you are a soldier. Now that you are no longer in the army, is your heart discharged as well?"

“Do you know what was on my mind then? I thought that fortunately you were discharged from the army. Otherwise, if you continued to stay in the army with your mindset, it’s a small matter if you create troubles for yourself, but what if you dragged your comrades down as well? Xiao Qiao, you are the only person who can disappoint me.”

Of course, Uncle Lee agreed to help as he had guessed that it was Ding Jiayi who made the decision to look for him.

Elder Lee was the one who introduced Ding Jiayi to Qiao Dongliang. If not for Elder Lee, Qiao Dongliang would not have married Ding Jiayi.

He had to help since it was Ding Jiayi. No matter how unhappy he was, he had to make the phone call.

But he had told Ding Jiayi there and then, that it was the first and only time that he would do her this favor.

Qiao Dongliang was furious and upset when he knew that Elder Lee was disappointed with him. He had thought that it was his wife who had created the trouble and it was his younger daughter who told Elder Lee of the situation at home, and that he ended up being so embarrassed all because of them.

But after hearing Elder Lee’s words, he realized that he was the real problem. Elder Lee was disappointed by his behavior, it had nothing to do with his family.

“Xiao Qiao, tell me honestly, regarding what I said just now, did you think that it was Nan Nan who told Baoguo and Baoguo relayed it to me?”

At Elder Lee’s questioning, Qiao Dongliang’s expression turned grave and was red with embarrassment. He was speechless.

“Look at you, you do not have the attributes of a soldier. You did not look into it or probe and yet you jump to conclusions and declare Nan Nan guilty. When you were in the army, what did the officer teach you? They say Xiao Ding is biased. To me, you are biased as well. I did hear some stories from Baoguo. But for the rest, it had already spread around in the quad. Xiao Qiao, should you do some reflections?”

Since some time ago, the people from the quad came to know that Ding Jiayi sold Nan Nan’s books and because of that she almost could not continue with her studies.

Everyone also knew about the fact that Ding Jiayi wanted the younger daughter to quit school and to start working.

Lots of the people from the quad saw Qiao Nan coming back with a stacks of old books from the thrift shop.

After seeing it with their eyes, the people from the quad all believed what they heard regarding Qiao family.

In other words, everyone knew what had happened at the Qiao family these past two or three months. It was a textbook example of what not to do.

“Spread?” Qiao Dongliang was dumbfounded. It was no wonder that the people from the quad gave him weird stares whenever he went work.

“Xiao Qiao, I am really disappointed in you.” Uncle Lee could not hide his exasperation towards Qiao Dongliang. “Where is your heart? Why are you muddle-headed like a block of wood?”

“Alright, it’s late. You should go back. Bao Guo told me that Nan Nan is very quiet at school, her character is just like what you said. This weekend send Nan Nan to my house. You do not have to worry about her meals.”

With that, Elder Lee waved his hands motioning for Qiao Dongliang to leave.

He was annoyed and vexed. He did not want to see Qiao Dongliang anymore.

Actually when he visited Qiao’s house to thank Qiao Nan, he had noticed the weird atmosphere then.

When Zhu Baoguo told him of the bad rumors circulating around the school regarding Qiao Nan, he had sent people to investigate.

He was shocked at the results. Lots of things had happened at Qiao family recently, and all were scandals.

Before school reopened, Qiao Nan was beaten by Ding Jiayi and dashed out of the house with blood dripping from her nose. After she was sent to the hospital by Qiao Dongliang, the doctor diagnosed that she was malnourished. Elder Lee was speechless when he heard about this.

The country was prosperous and the economy was doing well. There wasn’t even famine here, why would Qiao Dongliang’s daughter be malnourished? This was really...

Elder Lee clearly remembered that when he saw the two sisters that day, Qiao Zijin was polite, well dressed and good with words. She was someone who was good at networking.

One look at her and one could tell that she was doted by her parents. On the other hand, Qiao Nan had been standing behind her, not uttering a single word. If he did not mention, Qiao Nan would be like a shadow, going unnoticed by everyone. It pained Elder Lee to see this.

Two daughters, yet one had a plump face and looked radiant, while the other one looked pale and yellowish, silent and reticent.

## **Chapter 60: Learn If You Want To**

They were both their biological daughters, and Qiao Dongliang was the one who wanted to have Nan Nan. Elder Lee could not understand why Qiao Dongliang would let such things happen at his house.

Elder Lee looked weary and tired. Qiao Dongliang did not say a word, stood up and turned to leave.

Qiao Dongliang had known Elder Lee for years. Even if it was when he left the army to have a second child, Elder Lee might be disappointed in him, but he had never said such harsh words to him.

“Nan Nan, you are back.” When Qiao Dongliang reached home, Qiao Nan was already at home.

Qiao Nan paused and called “Father”.

Qiao Dongliang sighed at the younger daughter’s cold attitude. It seemed like Nan Nan blamed both Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi for what happened.

“Are you going to read your books?”

“Yes.” Qiao Nan had no idea what Qiao Dongliang wanted to talk to her about. As usual, she refused to communicate with him. No matter what, she would not compromise regarding matters concerning her mother.

“Then go ahead to study.”

“Oh.”

The conversation between the father and daughter ended with simple replies.

During dinnertime, Qiao Dongliang said, “Nan Nan, make a trip to Lee’s house tomorrow.”

“Lee’s house? Qiao Nan blinked in confusion. “Elder Lee’s house?”

“You shouldn’t call him ‘Elder Lee’, call him ‘Grandpa’.” Qiao Dongliang reprimanded Qiao Nan. “Tomorrow Zhu Baoguo will go to Lee’s house. You will help him with his revision. Remember, put in some efforts and teach him well. Do you understand?”



Qiao Nan pursed her lips and replied coldly.

Ding Jiayi was not too happy at this news. But when she saw Qiao Nan's response, she thought about it and curled her lips into a smile. This time, she did not give her objections.

Qiao Dongliang had already promised Elder Lee. Qiao Nan had no other choice. On the weekend, she took her books and went to Lee's house. Zhu Baoguo arrived earlier than her.

"Oh, you have arrived." Zhu Baoguo propped his two legs on the table, leaned back on the chair, twitched his lips and held his pen with his upper lips and nose. He did not look like he was here to study. In fact, he looked like he was on vacation.

Seeing this, Qiao Nan frowned and said coldly, "You have two choices, one, you can't go out, you will do whatever you want while I read my books; second, put down your legs, you will do what I say."

Zhu Baoguo's legs crumbled under him, he almost fell off from his chair.

He never thought that Qiao Nan would be so firm. This was Lee's house, but it seemed more like Qiao's house.

Since Qiao Nan was here, shouldn't she talk to him nicely and patiently and only start teaching when he had accepted her?

Why did Qiao Nan sound as if she did not care if he wanted to learn or not? If he did not want to study, she was not going to coax him into learning? She would allow him to do whatever he wanted?

Grandpa asked Qiao Nan to coach him. Could Qiao Nan say all this?

"Are you serious?" Zhu Baoguo was dumbfounded.

"What do you think?" Qiao Nan sat at one side and took out her revision notes. Without another look at Zhu Baoguo's legs that was propped on the table, she started to read her books.

"But my Grandpa asked you to teach me." Was Qiao Nan's attitude that of a tutor?

"The teachers were there to teach students. But if you refuse to learn, can they do anything about it? I couldn't possibly be better than a teacher." To Qiao Nan who once lost the chance to study, she was very displeased with Zhu Baoguo's learning attitude. He did not understand how fortunate he was.



It was up to Zhu Baoguo whether he wanted to study or not. If he was willing to learn, she would put in efforts to teach.

If Zhu Baoguo was unwilling to study, she would just treat it as another place for her to study.

Lee's house was big and spacious and there was no-one to disturb her. If not for the good study environment, she would not have wasted her time on someone who did not want to study.

"You aren't going to persuade me to study at all? Aren't you worried that given your bad attitude, I—I might walk off in anger?" Zhu Baoguo stood up, preparing to leave.

Zhu Baoguo turned and looked at Qiao Nan while he was on his way out. He was waiting for Qiao Nan to come after him.

But he had already reached the door, and he realized that Qiao Nan was still at the table. In fact she seemed to have finished a few problem sums.

Zhu Baoguo felt really foolish. Qiao Nan did not pay attention to him at all. She made use of the time to study. He only took a few steps towards the door, but she had already finished a few questions.

"Hey!" Zhu Baoguo walked angrily to Qiao Nan's side. When Qiao Nan paid no attention to him, he snatched her books in anger.

Qiao Nan squinted at Zhu Baoguo, "I have lots of workbooks. It's alright if you snatched one of my workbooks. I can change to another workbook. But don't you find yourself to be very childish?"

"What do you mean by this attitude of yours? Do you not want to teach me? Are you looking down on me because I did not have a mother since a young age?" This time, Zhu Baoguo was really furious.

He really treated Qiao Nan as his sister. But she had always been cold towards him. Did she think that he was beyond hope and it would be a waste of time to teach him?

"Look down? I do not have the right to do that." Qiao Nan shook her head. "It's just that I knew it better than anyone else. If you are willing to learn, you would be able to take in what I said. But if you do not want to learn, you would turn a deaf ear to what I said and my studies would be affected as well. It's not worth it. Do you want to learn or not?"

Qiao Nan did not use any flowery language, and her words might not carry a deep meaning, but what she said was the plain, simple truth.

Qiao Nan was so calm and indifferent. Zhu Baoguo's outburst of temper did not affect her at all.

"You would teach me if I wanted to learn? Zhu Baoguo asked in some annoyance.

"Yes, if you want to learn, I will teach you; If you don't want to learn, I won't bother you."

"How do you intend to teach me? I don't even know what my standard is."

"Finish this first. I will decide on how to teach you after that." Qiao Nan handed a sheet of paper to Zhu Baoguo. It was a test paper to determine his standards.

Zhu Baoguo was appeased when he saw the handwritten test paper. "So you came prepared." Qiao Nan actually cared about him.

Qiao Nan remained silent about Zhu Baoguo's demanding character. She was fine as long as he kept quiet.

Zhu Baoguo took the handwritten test paper and started working on it while Qiao Nan was busy doing her problems. The room was in total silence, it was a good learning environment.

Elder Zhu could not help but worry about his grandson. He decided to take a look.

He was not worried that his grandson might bully the young lady. He was anxious that he might not be willing to study, and that he might head off to have fun after throwing a tantrum at the young lady. It would be disastrous if he injured himself again.

What he saw came as a surprise to him. When he walked into Lee's house, his grandson sat quietly at a side, with a pen in hand, writing diligently.