

RTAMM 1061

Chapter 1061 Don't Be Taken Advantage of

Upon hearing that, Shi Qing rolled her eyes continuously. "He is so foolish. What kind of person is Qiao Zijin? Don't tell me that he still can't tell clearly now? Brother Zhai was the one who prepared the dowry for you. However, on your wedding day, when people see the generous spread of dowry, will the Zhai family publicize that they were the ones who provided them? That they are putting up an appearance for you since the Qiao family can't afford any dowry?"

Shi Qing really took her hat off to Qiao Dongliang. "In the past, you said I don't know how to manage interpersonal matters. You taught and chided me. Compared to Uncle Qiao, I can become a veteran master."

Qiao Nan covered herself tightly with her blanket and laughed. "If we swap Qiao Zijin with someone else, my dad will definitely come to his senses immediately."

Those items were prepared by Brother Zhai to keep up an appearance for her father and her. Of course, this situation must not be let known to outsiders.

Furthermore, sometimes, the truth did not matter. Most importantly, it was what some people wished to see.

The dowry that Brother Zhai prepared for her was so generous. The day that Qiao Zijin married Chen Jun, they would be in for a good show if her father could not cough up all these items.

Regarding this situation, Qiao Nan did not wish to remind Qiao Dongliang anymore. This was because she knew that Qiao Dongliang would not believe her. He might even turn around and reprimand her for thinking of Qiao Zijin in that way.

Qiao Nan really felt despaired about Qiao Dongliang, her father.

Life was an outcome of one's own doings. Did she have to keep her father company by the side and help him keep a watch forever?

It was not feasible.

Upon figuring this out, just as how she felt about Qiao Zijin, Qiao Nan also lost all her hopes on Qiao Dongliang.

It was Qiao Nan's school holidays but she did not stay at home. Qiao Dongliang was already used to this situation. He had been through it for the past half a year.

When he recalled that Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin stayed in Qiao Nan's room last night, he vaguely felt that something was not right. He seemed to have gone overboard in allowing that.

Sigh. Old Ding and Zijin also deserved it. They just had to provoke Nan Nan.

Most of the time, Nan Nan was not a petty person. One just had to look at how Nan Nan treated Shi Qing.

Nan Nan treated Shi Qing much better than she did Zijin. This meant that the way Zijin treated Nan Nan was not any better than how an outsider did.

Lying on the bed in the dark and dim room, Qiao Dongliang also began to do some self-reflection.

He wanted to help but his elder daughter would not cooperate. She had to continuously provoke his younger daughter. Even if he had the will, he lacked enthusiasm and power.

Well, if his elder daughter could behave well next time, he would help her put in some good words to the younger daughter then.

Of course, if something similar to what happened during the day occurred again, no matter how pleasant the elder daughter's words, he would not be able to intervene in the matters between his two daughters.

Recently, Chen Jun would enquire about Qiao Zijin's situation every day. Without exception, he called Qiao Zijin today. "Did your mom and you stay in your father's house yesterday on the day before the eve of Lunar New Year?"

“We did!”

Chen Jun’s tone improved tremendously. “Very good. It seems that your relationship with your father is improving. How about your relationship with Qiao Nan? Did your father help you?”

“...” Now, the person that Qiao Zijin did not wish to mention most was Qiao Nan. She still owed Qiao Nan money for a set of clothing. “My dad certainly did help.”

Chen Jun was not so easily taken in. “Your dad has helped, but did you shoot yourself in the foot?”

Qiao Zijin and Qiao Nan were on bad terms and it was all because of Qiao Zijin’s doings. Chen Jun was well aware.

As such, Qiao Dongliang’s help was secondary to whether Qiao Zijin could reconcile with Qiao Nan. The primary factor was Qiao Zijin’s own attitude.

“I...”

“Speak. What stupid thing did you do again?” The moment Qiao Zijin hesitated, Chen Jun could tell that there was a problem.

“I didn’t do it on purpose. When I went there yesterday, I borrowed Qiao Nan’s clothes to wear because I didn’t bring any. Thereafter, I accidentally spoiled them. Qiao Nan is so petty. She shrewishly insisted that I pay her back.” Qiao Zijin was both angry and anxious. “Isn’t it just a set of used clothing? I am her biological sister. She still has the shame to request compensation from me. She doesn’t take into account our kinship at all.”

Chen Jun could not help twisting the corners of his lips. “Did you really spoil the clothes accidentally? Qiao Zijin, did you forget my words?” He was still troubled that he did not have a chance to give Qiao Nan anything. If Qiao Nan was willing to, he was willing to give her anything.

He did not even have the chance to send a gift and Qiao Zijin had the guts to spoil Qiao Nan’s clothes. Every word of hers revealed the same intention—not compensating, moronic...

“Forget it. Perhaps this is also an opportunity for us.” A bright idea flashed in Chen Jun’s mind. He thought of a solution. “Qiao Nan wants you to compensate, right? You don’t need to fork out this sum of money. I will. However, if you fail again, you have to watch it in the future.”

No matter how formidable his means were, he could not afford to have a noob ally by his side.

Chen Jun often doubted whether his encounter with Qiao Zijin was an opportunity or a disaster.

Qiao Nan was so smart. She had such a wide interpersonal network. As her elder sister, Qiao Zijin was like a piece of shit. No matter how he taught her, she could not understand.

“Okay.” When Chen Jun spoke, Qiao Zijin could only agree.

When the two hung up the phone, Ding Jiayi leaned over with a bright and cheery face. “What did my son-in-law say to you?” Certainly, Chen Jun’s family background could not be compared to that of Zhai Sheng. However, they might only find a few in the entire country who could be compared to Zhai Sheng.

Regardless of how proud Ding Jiayi was, she still had this little sense of self-awareness.

She could not yearn for Qiao Zijin to find a man like Zhai Sheng. Nevertheless, if she could find someone like Chen Jun, whose family members were government officials, it was not bad too.

As expected, Ding Jiayi was quite satisfied with Chen Jun, this son-in-law. After all, he was much better than the people in the quad.

“He asked me to compensate Qiao Nan. He will fork out this sum of money.” Qiao Zijin’s feet had been stomping on the ground. She was very reluctant to compensate. “She is going to be married to Zhai Sheng soon. She will get whatever she wants in the future, yet she is still so petty. She can’t even bear to part with a set of used clothing and insisted that I return them. When she found out that I spoiled it, she even picked a fight with me and insisted that I compensate her.”

Ding Jiayi’s stiffened her brows. “This wretched girl has no conscience. It’s not the first day that we know this. Fine. Now, we know. No matter how well this wretched girl marries, we won’t be able to bask in any of her glory. However, we can’t let her take advantage of us. Since she wants us to compensate, we will do so. My son-in-law doesn’t lack this little sum of money. However, we can’t

let her ask for the sky regarding the price of that set of clothing. You have to think about it more. Don't let her take any excess money from us.”

Ding Jiayi was worried that Qiao Nan would inform them of a false price for the clothes. In her opinion, even the price of new clothes could be bargained.

Chapter 1062 If He Doesn't Want, I Do

This set of clothing belonging to Qiao Nan had been worn before. Of course, they could not compensate her according to the original price. Whoever did that would be a fool.

“We'll talk about it again.” Qiao Zijin did not agree immediately. She knew in her heart that she was not the one who would call the final shots on this matter. It would depend on Chen Jun's attitude.

If she were to really bargain with Qiao Nan as per her mother's suggestion, Chen Jun would definitely be unhappy if he knew about it.

Qiao Zijin was aware that Chen Jun wanted to curry favor with Qiao Nan and acknowledge her as his sister-in-law. She had already made a concession and decided to listen to Chen Jun. No matter what, she would stick to Qiao Nan so that others knew that they were, in fact, quite deeply bonded to each other.

Qiao Zijin was not even able to control her own behavior according to her wishes. Why would she have the right to control Chen Jun?

“You have to remember Mom's words. Don't let that wretched girl take advantage of you. You have to know. For some people, the richer they are, the stingier they become.” Ding Jiayi reminded again as she did not feel at ease.

“I know.” Qiao Zijin brushed her off with a few words before returning to her bedroom.

In the small courtyard of the Qiao family, the conversation between the mother-daughter pair had ended. However, the conversation between two men in the same quad had just begun. “Zhai Sheng is not back yet?” Zhu Chengqi was sizing up the living environment of the Zhai family's residence with picky eyes.

Zhai Yaohui said nonchalantly, “Most likely, he can only come back on the night of the 30th.”

“He went to the capital to collect the marriage certificate?” Zhu Chengqi pinched his fingers and counted the time.

“Yes, coincidentally, everything is happening at the same time. I have to thank you for this matter,” Zhai Yaohui looked at Zhu Chengqi and said sincerely.

The Zhai family’s move to the capital during the coming year was also because Zhu Chengqi had done a lot to help them.

Zhu Chengqi did not need these words of gratitude from Zhu Yaohui. “If you are sincere, remember to treat my goddaughter well.” Although Qiao Nan did not agree previously, Zhu Chengqi had already treated her as his daughter.

As such, when he knew his son’s thoughts and confirmed that he was not suitable for Qiao Nan, he then threw Zhu Baoguo into the camp during the summer vacation that Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng got engaged. This was in case Zhu Baoguo did anything that would embarrass everyone.

Until now, Zhai Yaohui was still very shocked regarding this matter. He secretly felt bad for Zhu Baoguo. This was the latter’s biological father.

Zhu Chengqi was willing to give the Zhai family convenience and help the Zhai family all because of Qiao Nan.

Without Qiao Nan, Zhu Chengqi could not even be bothered with the matters of the Zhai family.

When the two of them were young, they were also considered opponents. Even though the two parties admired each other’s behavior and style, they did not intend to have a friendly relation.

It was also because of Qiao Nan’s appearance that the Zhu family and the Zhai family, two families that were on par with each other, had some interactions.

“I came today to formally inform the Zhai family. Don’t think that Qiao Nan only has Qiao Dongliang, her biological father, as her maternal family. I can help you because of Qiao Nan. I can also step on you like how I help you today if you shortchange Qiao Nan. Understand?” Zhu Chengqi was unruly with his words. It was obvious that this was a threat.

If Zhai Yaohui had a bad temper, given such words of Zhu Chengqi, Zhai Sheng could forget about marrying Qiao Nan. If this was not handled properly, the two families would simply become enemies.

Fortunately, Zhai Yaohui did not flare-up.

Zhai Yaohui laughed in a relaxed manner. “You really don’t need to warn me on this. That young lad of my family is very stubborn. Otherwise, I wouldn’t need to wait until today to prepare for my son’s wedding banquet.”

Zhu Chengqi’s warning was not considered a warning.

“Humph, what a shameless thing!” Zhu Chengqi snorted. Zhai Sheng was older than Qiao Nan by five years. One was already an old ruffian in the army while Qiao Nan was an extremely young and tender flower bud that had just entered college.

His family’s flower bud had been plucked by another family’s lad. The fire in Zhu Chengqi’s heart was multiple times stronger than that of Qiao Dongliang.

As expected, although Zhu Chengqi helped the Zhai family, he shunned them at the sight of them. He could not wait to teach them, especially Zhai Sheng, a lesson.

Although his only son had been chided, Zhai Yaohui was not angry. He was happily drinking his tea while sitting down steadily.

This was because he knew that the Zhai family was going to have an additional family member and Zhu Chengqi’s precious darling would become part of the Zhai family. That was why Zhu Chengqi said those ugly words.

Facing such a situation, Zhai Yaohui would not take issue with Zhu Chengqi no matter how ugly the latter’s words were. He knew in his heart who had received a huge bargain. He felt happier to keep the pleasure to himself.

The more Zhai Yaohui behaved in this way, the more sullen Zhu Chengqi looked.

Since a young age, he had already discovered that the Zhai family might look very decent on the outside but they were full of cunning ideas and tricks, more than anyone else. They were manipulating others behind the scene!

Zhu Chengqi took a deep breath. "You don't have to fork out Qiao Nan's dowry. I have already prepared for her." This was the goddaughter that he and his wife had fancied. Could he let Qiao Nan marry off shabbily?

As for Qiao Dongliang, Zhu Chengqi did not harbor any hopes toward this person at all.

Otherwise, Zhu Chengqi would not have so little interaction with the Qiao family in the past few years.

Zhu Chengqi's eyes were sharp. He knew that Qiao Dongliang had the heart of an ordinary father. However, he did not expect that Qiao Dongliang would completely relinquish his hold on Qiao Zijin, his elder daughter.

Unfortunately, the relationship between Qiao Zijin and Qiao Nan was already a dead knot.

Qiao Dongliang could not figure it out himself. Qiao Nan would either not marry or if she were to marry, she would definitely go on separate ways with Qiao Dongliang, her biological father. They would not be close in the future.

Zhu Chengqi was not a good person.

In the past, Qiao Nan still harbored some hopes toward Qiao Dongliang. Hence, he would not be the bad guy. He might even make Qiao Nan angry if he did.

He was certain that Qiao Dongliang would do himself in. Like a patient hunter, he was waiting for the opportune time to appear.

When he heard that Qiao Dongliang spent the day before the eve of Lunar New Year with Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin, Zhu Chengqi knew that the right time had arrived.

Since Qiao Dongliang did not want his daughter, Qiao Nan, he could not blame him for availing himself of the opportunity to come in between them. He would pick up and bring home this good daughter.

Henceforth, the Zhu family would be Qiao Nan's maternal family. No matter what, Qiao Nan would not be bullied because of the lack of support from her maternal family.

Facing Qiao Dongliang, a person who did not know how fortunate he was, Zhu Chengqi sneered continuously. Fortunately, Qiao Dongliang did something foolish. Otherwise, he would probably not have the chance to fulfill his beloved wife's wish when she was alive to have a heartwarming little jacket.

Since someone did not know how to cherish it, he should not blame it on others who were able to tell what the good stuff was. He would pick up the treasure, hide and protect it in his home.

"You really want to snatch the daughter away from others?" Zhai Yaohui was a little surprised. Zhu Chengqi was very good to Qiao Nan. He treated her almost better than he did his biological son. He was astonished by the affinity between him and Qiao Nan.

Who would have known that Zhu Chengqi's thoughts were even deeper than Zhai Yaohui's guess?

Chapter 1063 Untitled

"Yes." Zhu Chengqi admitted without any reservation. "When she was alive, she wanted a daughter like Qiao Nan. When she was pregnant with Baoguo, she had been saying 'my daughter, my daughter'. Sometimes, I wonder if heaven mixed up the children of the two families."

Clearly, Qiao Nan was the kind of daughter that he and his wife had wished for, whereas Zhu Baoguo was the son that the Qiao couple had pined for.

One family wanted a daughter while the other wanted a son.

Qiao Nan was the daughter that they wanted and Zhu Baoguo was the son that Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi wanted. Sometimes, it was scary that humans would become so blinded by their thoughts. Even such a formidable character like Zhu Chengqi would also have such ludicrous thoughts.

Zhai Yaohui could not help tearing for Zhu Baoguo. "If Baoguo hears you, he will probably fight with you." Zhu Chengqi had reached the stage whereby he was biased toward his goddaughter, Qiao Nan.

It was fortunate that Zhu Chengqi only treated Qiao Nan as his daughter. Otherwise, there would be many more troubles.

Zhu Chengqi raised his brows. "When you say this, you are underestimating the men in the Zhu family. You are underestimating my son. When that little brat turns around, your son will have a capable uncle-in-law. You should feel happy for your son. Baoguo has not come out of the dead end yet. Otherwise, your son will need to wait for another five to six years before he can get married."

Zhu Chengqi might appear to be quite harsh on Zhu Baoguo. In fact, it was because Zhu Chengqi understood his son, Zhu Baoguo, more than anyone else.

Zhu Baoguo's feelings toward Qiao Nan were certainly more than that of a platonic relationship. However, there were also too many other types of mixed feelings.

Since he was at a young age, Zhu Baoguo did not have a mother. Qiao Nan's appearance had coincidentally made up for this lacking aspect in Zhu Baoguo's life.

During the first year of junior high school studies, everyone who was sharp could tell that Zhu Baoguo and Qiao Nan did not behave like peers when they were together. It was as if a mother was bringing his son to school to study.

He could only say that Zhu Baoguo's luck was not good to have encountered Zhai Sheng's appearance at the same time.

Otherwise, who would know whether this kind of relationship with both romance and kinship would not blossom eventually?

However, Zhai Sheng, who was more suitable for Qiao Nan, appeared. Some things could not be forced.

Zhu Chengqi was very sure that it was just a matter of time. His son would figure out his thoughts and let go of Qiao Nan. He would then give his blessings to Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng.

In that case, why would he not fulfill Qiao Nan's wish to receive happiness earlier? He would keep a tight watch on his son and make his son understand this earlier.

Although Zhu Baoguo was not a daughter, he was also a product of love that climbed out of the womb of the love of his life.

How much could the biological father bully his son?

However, these were matters between father and son, Zhu Baoguo and Zhu Chengqi. Zhu Chengqi was not interested to talk about his own family's private matters.

"Hahaha..." Zhai Yaohui laughed. "Certainly, my son's luck has always been quite good. I don't need to count my blessings."

If Zhai Sheng's luck was not good, would he be able to conquer Qiao Nan before Qiao Nan had anything to do with Zhu Baoguo?

Zhai Yaohui had always admitted how outstanding and exceptional his son was.

"..." Zhu Chengqi rolled his eyes at Zhai Yaohui. "If it is necessary, I hope that my daughter will only have one marriage in her life. You should also keep a tight watch on the people from the Qiao family."

He could not let the Qiao family create any trouble on the day of the marriage between Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan.

"They won't have the chance to do so," Zhai Yaohui said as if this did not bother him. "The banquet will be held in the capital. Besides Qiao Dongliang, the rest of the Qiao family will not have a chance to appear."

After thinking, Zhu Chengqi said, "That's fine too. Both of us know the situation of the Qiao family very well. There should not be a concern about face."

Everyone in the quad was aware of the relationship between the Qiao family of four.

Although Ding Jiayi was the biological mother, she behaved too terribly. She was too scary.

If one were to invite a biological mother like Ding Jiayi to the once-in-a-lifetime occasion such as the wedding banquet, one might hinder their own life if it was not managed properly. In addition, they would be fostering enmity instead of kinship.

It was true that one had to be careful about who to invite to a wedding banquet.

After discussing some wedding details, Qiao Dongliang, the biological father, did not even need to show his face. He just needed to sleep abidingly at home. Everything had been discussed and finalized by the pair, Zhu Chengqi and Zhai Yaohui.

Qiao Dongliang was unaware of this situation. Similarly, Qiao Nan, who was in a deep sleep at the house of the Shi family, did not know about this.

In the blink of an eye, the last day of the current lunar year arrived.

Regardless of the home, it was lively and bustling. Fragrances of dishes could be smelled coming from the houses.

Initially, the father-daughter pair of the Shi family wanted to spend the Lunar New Year with the Qiao family. However, it was quite strange this year. On the 29th of the month, Feng Cheng left her maternal family and rushed to Ping Cheng. She wanted to spend the Lunar New Year with Shi Peng and Shi Qing.

Feng Cheng disliked Qiao Nan. When she knew that Qiao Nan was staying in the house beside hers, she did not feel like talking too much.

Furthermore, the Feng family of three had reunited. It did not seem right that the father-daughter pair of the Qiao family joined them at such a time.

“Nan Nan, it seems that we will only have each other this year,” Qiao Dongliang said as he mocked at himself. “Next year, I think I will be the only one.”

After thinking, Qiao Nan, who was plucking the celery leaves, said, “Not necessary. You can spend time with family, just like what you did on the day before the eve of Lunar New Year.”

Her father had clearly rejected her mother’s date for a meal on the first day of Lunar New Year in front of her. However, on the day before the eve of Lunar New Year, didn’t her mother and Qiao Zijin sit on the same table with her father and had a meal? They even slept under the same roof, no?

Since it was possible during the day before the eve of Lunar New Year, was there a need to care about other days?

“I...” Qiao Dongliang was tempted. He still had Nan Nan to keep him company this year. Hence, he did not have such thoughts.

Next year, when he was really alone, would he still insist on his opinion?

“Nan Nan, you’re not angry?” Qiao Dongliang tested. He was someone who felt attached to the past. He kept feeling that old was better than new.

After putting aside the celery, Qiao Nan was amused and she lifted her head. “Dad, why should I be angry? Since a long time ago, I have already said that it is your life. As long as you are happy, my thoughts don’t matter at all. This is your choice. You choose your life. Dad, I will support you. In the past, I never advised you to divorce. Now, I will also not stop you from reviving the marriage.”

As expected, her father had harbored such thoughts.

After knowing this, Qiao Nan really did not have any more psychological burden.

Others thought that she was the main reason for her parents’ divorce in the past. However, she was very clear in her heart that her parents obviously could not get along with each other anymore. Her father decided to divorce. It did not have anything to do with her.

If the two of them revived their marriage, Qiao Nan would feel liberated regardless of what others said.

Chapter 1064 Don't Benefit Others If You Don't Like To

His father would have a wife by his side. There was also his elder daughter whom he always had high regard for. Very soon after, he might even have an elder son-in-law who would be filial to him.

As such, she would not need to worry for her father even if she had fewer and fewer opportunities to return to Ping Cheng. She would not need to be afraid that her father would feel lonely, have no one keeping him company, or fall sick without anyone's knowledge.

Wasn't such a situation also considered a form of liberation for Qiao Nan?

With such a win-win situation for everyone, Qiao Nan did not have any reason or motivation to stop it from happening. "Dad, still the same words. You just have to lead a good life. I don't have any opinion."

Instead of stopping him, Qiao Nan was very agreeable. At that instance, Qiao Dongliang did not know whether he should feel happy or sad. "Nan Nan, is it because you are going to marry Zhai Sheng soon and some things don't matter anymore?"

Qiao Nan could tell the pain and resentment in Qiao Dongliang's tone. She was both angry and amused. "Dad, when Brother Zhai and I are still dating, you have also asked me whether you should divorce Mom. How did I respond then?"

When she did not have Brother Zhai and the Zhai family as backings, did she agree to it when her father spoke about getting a divorce?

In the same way, she had advised her father to consider carefully and not to divorce for her sake. Most importantly, he had to lead a good life of his own.

Anyway, she was a daughter. There was no need to wait for the time of her marriage. As long as she could get into college, she would be able to lead a life of her own thereafter. At most, she would just tough it out for about two to three years.

Her father's blame was akin to kicking someone to the curb when they've outlived their usefulness. Qiao Nan really could not accept it.

Qiao Dongliang's expression was sullen. "Nan Nan, do you think that I am behaving very much like your mom now? That I am finding fault without a reason?"

Qiao Dongliang also knew that his mindset had not been very healthy recently. A few days ago, especially when he suddenly thought of the problem of the dowry, he was so distracted that he had a sleepless night.

Qiao Nan took the celery into the kitchen to wash. "Dad, there is a kind of psychological illness in this world called gamophobia. Dad, are you suffering from depression woes before your daughter is getting married?"

"Is there such a mental illness?" Qiao Dongliang was self-reflecting. He seemed to be having such a condition.

"Yes, it's true. If you don't believe it, I will buy you a book next year for you to read." Qiao Nan calmed down. She was coaxing Qiao Dongliang as if he was a child.

Qiao Nan continued to tell herself that she probably did not have much chance to coax her father in the future, even if she was willing to.

She would make use of the time available now to coax him more when she still could.

Although her father definitely did not divorce her mother because of her, her father also did many things for her. She acknowledged his love for her.

Qiao Dongliang waved his hands. "No need. As long as such a condition truly exists."

"Dad, I will stir-fry the celery now, okay?" After chopping a few times, Qiao Nan finished cutting the washed celery. Naturally, she did not mind the additional work of stir-frying it.

No matter how sad Qiao Nan was, she had to persist on having a good Lunar New Year. This was possibly the last year that would be more harmonious for the father-daughter pair.

“No need. I will stir-fry them.” Qiao Nan wanted to have a good time during the last Lunar New Year that they would be spending together. Similarly, Qiao Dongliang also wanted to leave some good memories for his younger daughter.

Even if Qiao Nan did not speak about it, Qiao Dongliang had also harbored some thoughts. After all, he had never fully let go of Qiao Zijin.

Of course, it would be best for Qiao Dongliang if Qiao Nan was willing to talk about it.

After this topic of conversation ended, the father-daughter pair maintained the chemistry between them. Neither mentioned the names of Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin again. The pair was bustling as they started preparing for the reunion dinner in the small kitchen.

The father-daughter pair carried out all the tasks together. Although there were only two people present this year, the atmosphere was not considered cold. It was quite good.

The father-daughter pair sat and had a meal together. They also watched the spring television show and waited for the countdown.

The moment the clock ticked when it was midnight, sounds of loud popping firecrackers could be heard from inside and outside the television.

“Happy Lunar New Year, Dad.”

“Happy Lunar New Year, Nan Nan.”

After the father-daughter pair greeted each other, they then returned to their respective rooms to sleep.

The difference was that Qiao Nan did not fall asleep very quickly, but Qiao Dongliang did.

True enough, when she heard a familiar sound, Qiao Nan opened her windows and let Brother Zhai in. “Brother Zhai, aren’t you spending the night at home?”

After Zhai Sheng entered the house, he felt much warmer instantly. “It’s not necessary.” He was someone with a wife now. Of course, he had to sleep with his wife during the Lunar New Year.

As someone who already had an immediate family, Zhai Sheng was not willing to sleep alone like Zhai Hua and Old Master Zhai. He was not so foolish.

“Have you eaten?” When she heard Zhai Sheng climbing the wall in such a bold and righteous manner, Qiao Nan chuckled.

“Yes.” When he was replying to Qiao Nan, Zhai Sheng had already removed all his clothes. There were only his boxer shorts left on his body. He had also lifted Qiao Nan’s blanket and wriggled in. “This blanket is new?”

It was not that Zhai Sheng could not bear to let Qiao Nan buy a new blanket. On the contrary, Qiao Nan would always reject him whenever he wanted to buy something for her. Qiao Nan would tell him that there was no need to buy new ones since the items in the house were still quite good.

If they were not going to replace the old ones, it would be meaningless to buy new ones as they would just be sitting there without any use.

It was rare that Qiao Nan had gotten a new blanket. Naturally, Zhai Sheng discovered it immediately.

“The blanket is not the only new thing. All the items on the bed are new.” Qiao Nan wriggled into Zhai Sheng’s arms. Her arms wrapped tightly on Zhai Sheng’s stiff arms. “On the day before the eve of Lunar New Year, they came and slept in my room. That’s why I changed everything. I have also thrown away the clothing that Qiao Zijin took and wore.”

Zhai Sheng reached out his hands. One of them was below Qiao Nan’s neck while the other was around her waist.

This action alone plastered their two bodies together without any gap.

One was the hard yang and the other was the soft yin. It was like a picture of the Eight Trigrams[1]. The combination was perfect.

“If you have changed them, so be it. Put the old ones aside.” Hugging the nice-smelling and soft woman in his arms, Zhai Sheng sighed comfortably. “You may mind but some others may not. Perhaps they can continue to use them next time.”

“What I feel depressed about is whether these new things will benefit those few people.” Qiao Nan pinched the flesh on Zhai Sheng’s arms and said sullenly, “I am going to be married soon and I didn’t use these things for more than one month. I am petty. I don’t like to benefit others.”

Zhai Sheng kissed Qiao Nan’s lips. She was pouting so much that one could hang a bottle on it. “If you really want to, you can simply move all these items to the Zhai family. You should know that the Zhai family will be moving to the capital, right? But that house in the quad still belongs to us. You can store your things there.”

The Zhai family did not lack any house for Nan Nan to store her belongings. “These are our own things. There is no reason to benefit others if you don’t like to. We will bring them back. Don’t be unhappy.”

Chapter 1065 I am the Blessed One

“Okay.” Having been consoled by Zhai Sheng, the anger in Qiao Nan’s heart diminished. “When I am married to you, my dad would have completed his mission. Next, he just needs to help Qiao Zijin form a family. Brother Zhai, in the future, no one from the Qiao family will care about me anymore.”

His heart ached for the lady in his arms. However, Zhai Sheng really could not do much in this aspect. “It’s okay. The Qiao family doesn’t care about you but many people in the Zhai family want to dote on you. Nan Nan, you’re a smart lady. You should not feel upset over these matters.”

Qiao Nan buried her face in Zhai Sheng’s arms. She then said sullenly, “Okay.”

Finally, his nice-smelling and soft wife was in his arms. Today was the eve of Lunar New Year, a happy occasion. Zhai Sheng had initially wanted to behave like a beast but such thoughts went away when he saw Qiao Nan feeling so upset.

Judging from this, it was better that he distanced Nan Nan from his father-in-law in the future. Otherwise, there would be a negative impact on the couple 'making small humans'.

He gave Qiao Nan a couple of rubs to relieve his temptation. Zhai Sheng then said with sulk and exasperation, "It's late. Quickly go to sleep."

She had been rubbed so hard by Zhai Sheng and also heard his sullen voice that was depressed to the core. In particular, Zhai Sheng's head was pouncing on and nudging her chest from time to time. He was behaving like a big bad wolf. Qiao Nan was initially feeling sad, but now, all her melancholy went away. "Brother Zhai, you... Are you thinking of..."

"I've endured for a few years. Can I not think of it?" Zhai Sheng took a bite on Qiao Nan's chest to vent his frustration. He was already over twenty years old. He really felt that he had suffered a little.

Qiao Nan took in some deep breaths. She would not laugh at Zhai Sheng anymore lest she overdo it. In the end, she would be the one at a disadvantage.

Undeniably, Zhai Sheng's appearance made Qiao Nan feel very peaceful and calm at heart. Qiao Nan felt extremely safe lying in Zhai Sheng's arms while hearing his heartbeat.

As for the suffering that she had endured at the Qiao family, Qiao Nan could finally cast them aside. She was no longer dwelling on it.

After her marriage, she would not have much interaction with the Qiao family anymore.

With husband and wife hugging each other to sleep, it could be considered a nice Lunar New Year eve.

It was seven o'clock in the morning of the first day of Lunar New Year. When Qiao Dongliang woke up and opened the door, Zhai Sheng was already standing at the doorstep of the Qiao family. He was wearing a trim shirt and standing tall and straight like a pine tree. "Dad."

When he heard the word 'Dad' from Zhai Sheng, Qiao Dongliang faintly felt that he was in a trance. "Ah, you're here to fetch Nan Nan?"

“Yes.” Zhai Sheng walked in with a poker-face. Qiao Dongliang could not tell at all that, in fact, Zhai Sheng was already at his house last night. Most importantly, he had just woken up in Qiao Nan’s bedroom. “Nan Nan and I should make preparations for some things. Qiao Nan has to choose the furniture and stuff. Otherwise, we’re afraid that we won’t have time moving forward. Also, I will be taking wedding photos with Nan Nan.”

Zhai Sheng did not like to take photos. Nevertheless, he was aware that wedding photoshoots were very popular nowadays.

He had always heard people in his camp mentioned that their wives were extremely happy about taking wedding photos. In the past, Zhai Sheng did not give it much thought. At this time, Zhai Sheng also wanted to bring Qiao Nan for a photoshoot to make her happy.

“Wedding photo?” Qiao Dongliang was not very sure about this. Many years ago, when he married Ding Jiayi, they probably did not even have a new set of clothing, let alone wedding attire. “Regarding this matter, Nan Nan and you can decide on your own. I remember that wedding gowns are white in color? What’s so nice about it?”

“It’s fine to wear a white wedding gown during the photoshoot. When we are having the banquet, Nan Nan wishes to wear a phoenix coronet and robes,” Zhai Sheng said patiently. Regarding these matters, Zhai Sheng left it entirely to Qiao Nan, according to her wishes.

Qiao Dongliang nodded. “This is better. You have just come back. When did Nan Nan and you discuss this?”

“We have agreed on this in a phone conversation last year.” Zhai Sheng did not even move his brow a tad when he lied to Qiao Dongliang again and again. His lie seemed as real as the truth. His entire performance was so steady.

Qiao Dongliang asked Zhai Sheng to get a seat. “Nan Nan, quickly get up. Zhai Sheng is going to bring you for a photoshoot.” After shouting for Qiao Nan, Qiao Dongliang then looked at Zhai Sheng. “Yesterday, Nan Nan kept me company while we waited for the countdown. She slept very late. Moreover, it has been tough on Nan Nan that she has to study during normal times. It is seldom that she gets a holiday. Today is also the first day of Lunar New Year. Hence, she slept for a while more. Please don’t mind her.”

“I won’t.” Even after hearing Qiao Dongliang anxiously explain, Zhai Sheng did not feel much.

When he faced Qiao Dongliang, this father-in-law, Zhai Sheng could understand the pain in Qiao Nan's heart.

When Qiao Nan felt that Qiao Dongliang would love and protect her wholeheartedly, Qiao Dongliang would always give Qiao Nan a vicious slap on the face due to his favoritism toward Qiao Zijin.

When Qiao Nan had lost hopes on Qiao Dongliang, Qiao Dongliang would become the most ordinary father in the world. He would think of and do everything for Qiao Nan then.

To Zhai Sheng, this kind of person was shameless and detestable.

Certainly, one was not wrong to dote on and protect their child.

However, his father-in-law could not tell right from wrong. Clearly, he knew that his child was in the wrong but he allowed her to continue down the wrong path. It was as scary as overindulgence and causing the child to fail!

One had been overindulged while the other had 'fallen' to death.

When Qiao Dongliang faced Zhai Sheng, he felt a little uneasy. "Zhai Sheng, how are you doing in the army recently?"

"Quite good. However, most likely, I won't remain in Ping Cheng after some time."

"You have been deployed? Where have you been deployed to?" Qiao Dongliang was becoming anxious. If Zhai Sheng had been deployed to a place with barren hills and unruly waters, what would happen to Nan Nan then? Was Nan Nan going to follow him?

Zhai Sheng took a sip of the hot tea. "The capital. You are also aware of life in the army. When I arrive in the capital, I will be physically closer to Nan Nan although I still can't take care of Nan Nan more. The good thing is that my parents will be close by and can often take care of Nan Nan. So, Dad, you don't need to worry. When Nan Nan is married to me, I will definitely let Nan Nan lead a good and happy life."

“Your parents?” Qiao Dongliang looked at Zhai Sheng with shock and doubt. “Don’t tell me your parents are also going to the capital?”

“Our whole family will be going.” Regarding the details of this matter, Zhai Sheng did not continue to talk about it. It was not appropriate for Qiao Dongliang to know certain matters.

Qiao Dongliang’s expression changed many times. “Everyone will be going to the capital. T-that’s quite good too. Nan Nan is already studying in the capital. If all of you are there, I... I don’t need to worry that no one can take care of Nan Nan if she encounters any problems in the capital. Q-quite good. Nan Nan is very blessed.”

She had just gotten married and her whole in-law family would be going to her place of study. Nan Nan was truly very blessed.

Zhai Sheng smiled. “No, I am the one who is very blessed to be able to marry Nan Nan. Dad, you don’t need to worry. I won’t let anyone, including myself, hurt Nan Nan. I will definitely be able to give Nan Nan happiness. Dad, if you miss us in the future, you can come to the capital to look for us.”

Chapter 1066 Wedding Photoshoot

After Nan Nan was married, she would become part of the Zhai family.

Nan Nan was only a first-year college student now. After marriage, she certainly would not be able to go home as frequently as other ladies.

“Of course, when Nan Nan and I have the time, we will definitely come back to look for you. Dad, do remember to take care of your health. If you are well, Nan Nan will not need to worry or become distracted.”

The entire Zhai family would be moving to the capital. This matter had already been cast in stone.

Today, Zhai Sheng might as well inform Qiao Dongliang about the situation. It was also considered a reminder to Qiao Dongliang to cherish his time with Qiao Nan, as the father and daughter did not have much time left to spend together.

Qiao Dongliang was naturally affected by this news. He initially thought that this Lunar New Year was the last one that he would be spending with Qiao Nan.

He did not expect that they would be living in separate and faraway places. Both he and Qiao Nan were still young. They would not have many opportunities to meet in a year, let alone spend the Lunar New Year together.

Nevertheless, it was certainly a good thing that the Zhai family could move to the capital.

Qiao Dongliang could not drag down the Zhai family and Qiao Nan by stopping them from moving to the capital because of his selfish reasons.

However, he totally did not expect that he would lose his daughter so quickly and completely after her marriage. Qiao Dongliang was shocked and dumbfounded, as if he had been dealt with a great blow. He looked very pitiful.

Qiao Nan, who had finished washing up, was wearing a hat and a thick layer of clothing when she came out of the room. "Brother Zhai, I am ready. Let's go. Dad, most likely, Brother Zhai and I won't be having lunch with you today. Tonight..."

"Dad, Nan Nan will go back to the Zhai's residence with me tonight. She will be back here on the fifth day of Lunar New Year." Zhai Sheng continued.

Qiao Nan glanced at Zhai Sheng. After he finished his words, Qiao Nan then nodded and expressed that this was the arrangement.

His daughter would be staying at his son-in-law's place for four nights. Qiao Dongliang felt reluctant. He wanted to open his mouth and ask Qiao Nan to stay. However, in the end, he nodded. "Alright, I know. Since you are not coming back, I won't wait for you to have lunch and dinner then." It was the Lunar New Year. On the first day of Lunar New Year, other homes would be lively and bustling but he would be home alone.

After passing her bag to Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan said before she left, "Dad, do you still need to prepare food for lunch and dinner? Didn't Mom invite you to the small courtyard of the Qiao family? Since you have a place to go, don't cook yourself. You can save the trouble."

Previously, when she arrived home for winter vacation, Qiao Nan had heard Qiao Dongliang decline Ding Jiayi's invitation. However, she had already taken this matter off her mind.

Since they could have a meal together on the day before the Lunar New Year's eve, what difference would it make if they were to spend the Lunar New Year's eve together?

Qiao Nan had always been very gracious when it came to such matters.

If her father were to feel that his life would improve after reviving his marriage, she would definitely not say 'no'.

This time, Qiao Nan was really going to wash her hands off Qiao Dongliang, her father.

No affinity. She did not have any affinity with the Qiao family!

Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan left the house to take wedding photos and settle related matters. These were not excuses to brush Qiao Dongliang off.

After the couple settled the wedding photos, Qiao Nan felt so exhausted that she could not get up. She had given up on the rest of the matters on the agenda. She would rather continue with them tomorrow.

It was the first day of the Lunar New Year. Business was still as usual for a few shops, especially those that provide wedding photoshoots.

Well, the boss of this shop was Zhai Hua's childhood friend, someone that Zhai Hua was familiar with.

If it were for other people, they might not have the time to provide wedding photoshoot services on the first day of Lunar New Year. Since the client was Zhai Sheng, they had to find the time to do that.

Thus, on such a special occasion, the first day of Lunar New Year, the entire shop was only servicing Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan.

There were pros and cons in taking photos during winter. The advantage was that one could capture the beautiful snow scenery.

The disadvantage was that the weather was too cold. Qiao Nan did not mind wearing less for the sake of beautiful wedding photos. However, Zhai Sheng was domineering and did not allow Qiao Nan to remove her clothing or wear too revealing ones, lest she catch a cold.

When she heard Zhai Sheng's words, Qiao Nan was speechless.

Usually, wedding gowns were in tube-top designs. Those that covered one from tip-to-toe were rather rare.

If she had to adhere to Zhai Sheng's request, Qiao Nan felt that wedding gowns most likely would not appear in the only wedding photo album of her two lifetimes. Zhai Sheng had cut off all her means.

Perhaps it was because he could sense that Qiao Nan was a little displeased, but Zhai Sheng finally allowed Qiao Nan to choose one set of wedding gowns for the photoshoot. However, he requested the photos to be taken indoors.

After Qiao Nan happily chose a wedding gown that she was quite satisfied with and came out wearing it, she was shocked. "Where's the photographer?"

Zhai Sheng had also changed into a suave suit. He was tidying up his sleeves. "Isn't she standing there?"

Qiao Nan blinked her eyes. "The photographer has been changed?" Clearly, this person was not the one who took their photos earlier.

Although Qiao Nan could recognize faces, she was not good at remembering them. She could tell that the one holding the camera currently was not the previous photographer completely because of her gender.

Unless one was blind, the male photographer, who was wearing a down jacket with a short, clean-cut hair, had been changed into a female photographer who was slim with shoulder-length hair.

How could one not discover such a huge change?

“Why had the person been changed?” Qiao Nan did not discriminate between genders. Whoever was the photographer did not make any difference.

Their earlier experience of taking the photos was quite good. Qiao Nan did not understand the reason for the sudden change.

Qiao Nan was unaware that her curious question had frightened the assistant who was squatting down and helping her tidy up her dress so much that the assistant choked on her own saliva.

Besides the assistant, the other few people who were busy also had odd expressions as they tried to avoid her question.

Zhai Sheng did not give any explanation either. His dark and black eyes were staring at Qiao Nan’s chest as he knitted his brows. “Do you have to pick something so low-cut?”

Looking at Qiao Nan, who was wearing a tube-top style wedding dress, he saw that her neck was bare and her beautiful shoulders were totally uncovered.

In particular, she seemed to have worn something on her chest as the flesh on it had been pushed up.

As a man, Zhai Sheng liked it very much that Qiao Nan dolled up this way. He found it very pretty.

The problem was that he would feel happier if Qiao Nan were to wear such attire at home and for his eyes only.

“It doesn’t look good?” Qiao Nan did not feel that there was any problem with the wedding gown that she had chosen.

The only thing she felt a little insecure about was how it was a little revealing.

Qiao Nan’s cup size had never been small. Recently, she had also grown some flesh. One could just imagine how much ‘substance’ she had.

Chapter 1067 Only Ladies Are Allowed

The assistant was also surprised when she was selecting the invisible bra for Qiao Nan.

She totally did not expect that the bride was so young and skinny but the flesh on her chest was the stark opposite.

She almost asked Qiao Nan about her usual diet and whether she had any secret formula. Otherwise, why was the flesh on Qiao Nan's body so intelligent that they knew where to grow?

If she had not personally helped Qiao Nan put on the invisible bra, she almost wanted to ask Qiao Nan if she had ever done any boob jobs.

This was such a slim and young lady, yet she had a 'D' cup size. Tsk, tsk, tsk...

The assistant then lowered her head and looked at her own chest, which was as flat as the airport runway. Her pride as a woman was badly hurt.

The flesh on Qiao Nan's chest had been lifted completely and the entire wedding gown had been tightened. Nevertheless, Qiao Nan's waist was so slim that it was not even more than 1.8 feet.

When she finished tidying the wedding gown and tightening the ribbons for Qiao Nan, the gown was hugging Qiao Nan's figure. The assistant's eyeballs nearly popped out.

Full boobs, slim waist, long legs...

Was anyone certain that this was not a Super Dollfie[1]?

Not to mention a man, as a woman, the assistant also felt impending nose-bleeding and the urge to take a few more glances.

All of a sudden, the assistant completely understood why the groom's face turned black immediately after knowing the wedding gown design chosen by the bride. He requested all the male crew to leave the scene and only allowed female ones.

It seemed that the groom was very familiar with the bride's figure.

"It's nice." Zhai Sheng would not say something against his conscience. He was unwilling to tell lies to make Qiao Nan unhappy either.

Anyway, all the men had left. Even if he was reluctant to let Qiao Nan wear such attire outside, Zhai Sheng's anger had also diminished. "Let's take photos."

"Okay." Qiao Nan was smiling like a flower. She went forward to Zhai Sheng and held on to his arms sweetly. She looked extremely happy and contented.

These were wedding photos that she had been yearning for in two lifetimes. It was great that her wish had been fulfilled.

Although she did not have any prior experience to compare with, Qiao Nan knew that she was very fortunate and happy today.

She had not taken wedding photos before but Qiao Zijin did.

The boss of this shop was Sister Zhai Hua's childhood friend. They did not lack money. The designs of the wedding gowns in the studio were very beautiful and the gowns were also new.

Zhai Sheng had wanted to buy a new piece of wedding gown for Qiao Nan but she felt that there was no need to. After all, she would only wear it during the photoshoot. She was not going to wear a white wedding gown for the banquet. It would be wasteful and meaningless to buy one.

Furthermore, when she saw the design, quality, and cleanliness of the wedding gowns in the shop, the more Qiao Nan did not want to buy a brand new wedding gown.

In comparison to her previous life whereby Qiao Zijin boasted so much about wedding photos that were only so-so, Qiao Nan cherished very much what she had now.

Zhai Sheng was a soldier. When he took photos, he was standing tall and straight as if he was forming a line. He looked as if he was reviewing a parade instead of taking photos.

It was still fine when they were taking the 'lifestyle' photos earlier. However, it looked too stiff now since he was wearing a crisp suit.

Fortunately, Qiao Nan was the moderator. When Zhai Sheng did not know how to pose, Qiao Nan would pose. When Zhai Sheng did not know how to put up an expression, Qiao Nan would do so. If Zhai Sheng was portraying the strong side of him, Qiao Nan would show the soft side of her.

Everyone could tell that Qiao Nan was very accommodating.

Some people's hearts ached for Qiao Nan. Zhai Sheng had married such a beautiful wife but why was he still dissatisfied? He was not cooperative during the photoshoot at all. Young lad, you have to count your blessings!

Only the photographer knew. Although this couple in her camera might not have performed the best, they were definitely the happiest pair.

Regardless of the bride's pose, the groom might seem unhappy or did not have much reaction. However, his actions were always protective of the bride, preventing the bride from having any accidental fall.

The groom's expression was very cold and could be described as emotionless. Nevertheless, he looked extremely gentle when his eyes were on the bride. It gave people a feeling of warmth.

It was akin to the winter sun. When it shone during the icy winter, it could drive away all the cold in someone and leave behind a heart-warming feeling.

With the look in the groom's eyes, the photographer was very certain that he loved the bride very much. This should also be the reason that this bride was very willing to marry the groom.

With this, the fingers that the photographer used to snap the shutter turned very agile. Sounds of snapping could be heard continuously.

Qiao Nan did not feel much during the photoshoot. However, when it had ended, she felt exhausted when Zhai Sheng carried her back to the Zhai's residence. "I don't understand why it's so tiring to take wedding photos."

The wedding photos of Brother Zhai and her were not that simple too. There were both indoor and outdoor shoots.

However, compared to the overseas photoshoot that was common many decades later, their schedule today could not be any simpler.

She was already tired out with this. Wouldn't the process of taking wedding photos many decades later be even tougher?

"You're feeling tired?" Zhai Sheng carried Qiao Nan. "Go back to the room to take a nap first."

"Okay." Fortunately, there were not many people in the living room and Qiao Nan was really feeling tired. She thus obediently allowed Zhai Sheng to carry her back to the bedroom to sleep.

This was the first time Qiao Nan came to Zhai Sheng's room. Perhaps she was already used to Zhai Sheng's smell. When she was yawning and being carried into the room, she did not feel unfamiliar with this room at all. On the contrary, she felt extremely safe as this room was filled with Zhai Sheng's smell.

Zhai Sheng not only carried Qiao Nan to bed but also removed the coat and shoes for her. He then covered her with a blanket. He took such good care of Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan's tiny face rubbed on the blanket a few times. "Brother Zhai, do you want to come up and sleep for a while? When Mom and Dad come back later, it will most likely be quite noisy."

"Okay." After thinking, Zhai Sheng agreed. He removed his clothes and shoes and slept as he hugged Qiao Nan.

To Zhai Sheng, it was definitely meaningless to sleep alone. However, he felt that it was meaningful to sleep together with someone although he could not 'do' anything.

When Qiao Nan woke up, Zhai Sheng was already not by her side.

At the sound of some noises outside, Qiao Nan wore her clothing, washed up, and went out. "Grandpa, Dad, Mom, Sister Zhai Hua." Seeing that all the Zhai family members were present, Qiao Nan did not mind the trouble and greeted everyone one by one.

“Nan Nan, you’re awake. Come, sit beside Mom.” Qiao Nan, who had just woken up, was pinkish in the face. Her face was full of collagen and she seemed to have grown a tad of baby fat since she had been well taken care of in the recent few years.

Miao Jing felt very soothing to hear the soft and gentle voice.

Miao Jing could not wait for Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan to have a child soon. Regardless of whether it was a grandson or granddaughter, it would certainly be more adorable than the two children that she had given birth to previously.

It could be because the Zhai family was used to being tough. Especially Zhai Hua, she was naughtier than a boy. There was nothing that Zhai Hua did not dare to do, including climbing up and down the trees and going down the river.

Chapter 1068 ‘Little Husband’ Is Back

To the Zhai family, it was quite a novel experience to have such a soft and gentle young lady as an additional family member.

Both Old Master Zhai and Zhai Yaohui felt regretful that Zhai Hua was not a typical young lady. In comparison with Qiao Nan, the difference was more obvious.

Looking at Qiao Nan, Old Master Zhai could not help clearing his throat. Moving forward, he was prepared to restrain his loud voice a little when he was at home.

His granddaughter-in-law did not seem like a timid one. The problem was that he kept having the feeling that his loud voice might scare her.

Although there seemed to be a balance in genders with three men and two women in the Zhai family, Zhai Hua was a lady who did not behave like one. That said, the Zhai family had many masculine members but lacked feminine ones.

With Qiao Nan, one could feel more balanced in terms of both ‘yin’ and ‘yang’ auras.

“Mom.” As soon as Miao Jing waved to her, Qiao Nan immediately walked toward her without a word. She ignored the fact that Zhai Sheng was also looking at her. She obediently sat beside Miao Jing and allowed Miao jing to hold her hand.

“Have you finished taking wedding photos? Are the photos well-taken and are you satisfied with them? If you’re not, I’ll help you teach your sister a lesson.” Miao Jing looked at Zhai Hua with an obvious look of warning.

Zhai Hua rolled her eyes. “Mom, now that you have a daughter-in-law, you don’t care about your daughter anymore? It’s the first day of Lunar New Year today. Which photography studio will be open for business? I found someone to help so that their wedding banquet won’t be delayed. There is not a word of thanks. I’m even going to receive a beating instead.”

The conversation between the mother-daughter pair was quite impolite but Qiao Nan was already used to the way that the Zhai family interacted with one another. “Mom, the photography studio introduced by Sister Zhai Hua is very good. If it’s not good, we most likely wouldn’t be able to take the set of photos with me wearing the wedding gown.”

It was only until the end of the photoshoot did Qiao Nan coincidentally hear the discussion between two of the female crew members when she went to the bathroom. They said that the groom was being too much in his request. They were already finishing with the photoshoot but he still insisted to change all the crew to female.

Fortunately, they were taking wedding photos today. Otherwise, their thoughts would have gone astray if it were other typical customers requesting for an all-female crew.

Miao Jing was curious when she heard that something had happened. “What happened?”

Qiao Nan pouted. “I don’t know why, but Brother Zhai requested for an all-female crew for the last segment of the photoshoot.”

Such a request would typically cause others to have a misunderstanding.

Miao Jing was stunned as she looked at Zhai Sheng, “Why?”

Why did he request to change an all-female crew?

Almost everyone in the Zhai family turned their eyes to Zhai Sheng. Zhai Sheng was not the lecherous type. Precisely, it was even stranger for Zhai Sheng to have made such a request.

Having been ‘betrayed’ by his wife, Zhai Sheng’s face turned sullen. He said unhappily, “No particular reason.”

“What do you mean by ‘no particular reason’?” Zhai Hua was getting annoyed. There was a problem here. “I have gotten my childhood friend to help you, yet you are nitpicking?” If not for her, there would not be any wedding photoshoot. One must know how to be grateful.

Zhai Sheng glanced sideways at Zhai Hua. “Your childhood friend?”

“...” One of the corners of Zhai Hua’s lips lifted.

Alright, she was only one year younger than Zhai Sheng. Zhai Sheng also knew her childhood friend.

“Not many photography studios are open for business on the first day of Lunar New Year, but I’m sure there are a few other choices. I have made some requests but that is also because the price of this photoshoot is not cheap. The price is high but the service attitude does not correspond with it. If that is the case, it may be better for the photography studio to close down soon.”

Zhai Sheng was in a bad mood and was thus very vicious in his words. It was as if he was saying, ‘I pay you money to work. I don’t owe you anything.’

He had spent so much money, yet he was not allowed to make a few reasonable requests?

“Old master, dinner is ready.” Upon hearing the pause in the conversation outside, the auntie walked out and said that it was dinner time.

The earlier conversation had gone into a blind alley. Since Zhai Sheng was not willing to tell, they would most likely not get anywhere by continuing to question him. They might as well save some energy and move on to having dinner.

After dinner, Zhai Hua questioned in a thievish manner, “Qiao Nan, you slept on my bed on the night of the day before Lunar New Year’s eve. You’re not going back tonight and you still have to sleep in my house for a few more nights. Where will you be sleeping? Is it going to be my room or the guest room?” She refused to mention Zhai Sheng’s name.

After saying that, Zhai Hua even looked at Zhai Sheng, flaunting her prowess. She was so provocative.

Zhai Sheng dug out Qiao Nan, who was so shy that she was about to bury herself under the table, and half-held her in his arms. He did not mind the fact that the entire family was sitting down and watching them. He also did not bother about Qiao Nan’s ant-like resistance. “Mom, Tian Dong is back.”

“Tian Dong? He is back?” When she first heard this name, Miao Jing did not react much. She just found this name very familiar. After a careful recollection, Miao Jing then widened her eyes and stared at Zhai Hua, which simply caused Zhai Hua to have goose bumps all over her.

Zhai Hua rubbed her arms. “Who is Tian Dong? What has it got to do with me that he is back? Why are you looking at me in this way? Do I know him?”

Old Master Zhai looked like he was in a dilemma. “I don’t know if it’s a good or bad thing that this lad is back. If only the matter regarding Wei De did not happen... Well, I certainly don’t fancy this lad. He’s so westernized! Nevertheless...” No matter how westernized he was, he was still much better than Wei De.

Qiao Nan knew that Zhai Sheng was not someone who would speak without any objective in mind. He definitely mentioned Tian Dong to counterattack Zhai Hua’s scoff. She whispered into Zhai Sheng’s ears, “Who is Tian Dong?”

She did not have much recollection of Tian Dong in her two lifetimes.

“He is the little husband that Zhai Hua decided for herself,” Zhai Sheng said in an earth-shattering manner.

“Is it true or false?”

“Crap. Why didn’t I know about it?!”

Qiao Nan was asking purely out of curiosity. One had to know. If Zhai Hua had really decided on a little husband for herself, how did the matters with Wei De come about? There shouldn't have been Wei De, no?

The thing that concerned Qiao Nan most was, although Zhai Hua had decided on a little husband when she was a child, she did not even have any recollection of this 'little husband' when his name was mentioned today. That was so funny.

Qiao Nan could tell that Zhai Hua really did not remember much about Tian Dong. She also could not recall that she had a 'little husband' at all. "When did I have a little husband?!"

If she had decided on a little husband for herself, would she have looked for Wei De?

Why was it that she did not have any impression of her husband at all?

"I remember that the Tian family came back this time to pray for their ancestors. They will also be returning to the capital after the fifteenth day of Lunar New Year." Zhai Yaohui's eyes lit up. Actually, that young lad of the Tian family was not bad. From a certain perspective, he was quite compatible with Zhai Hua.

"If there is a chance, we can meet up to have a meal with them." Her daughter's marriage had already become a priority concern in Miao Jing's heart. Miao Jing did not have much recollection on that child of the Tian family. She only remembered that Tian Dong was born in the same year as her daughter. Most likely, the difference in age was only a few months.

Chapter 1069 The Domineering Zhai Hua

The men in the Zhai family, including her father-in-law, did not voice out any opposing views at the mention of Tian Dong. Hence, Miao Jing felt quite hopeful about Tian Dong.

Everyone in the Zhai family was happy except for Zhai Hua, who was pulling a long face. She almost wrote four words on her forehead: I am very displeased.

Who was Tian Dong? Why was it that she did not have any impression of him?

It was only when Zhai Sheng physically subdued Zhai Hua and carried Qiao Nan back to his room did Zhai Hua lay on her bed sullenly and yell all of a sudden, “Don’t tell me it is Dongzi?”

“Dongzi? Who is Dongzi?” In the other room, Qiao Nan was nestling in Zhai Sheng’s arms and looking at him with a pair of bright eyes. “I don’t think any of you have mentioned him before. Is he good-looking?”

Zhai Sheng narrowed his eyes. “You’re very concerned about his looks?”

“Of course I am. Although we should pay more attention to one’s inner substance, wouldn’t it be better if the other party also has exterior beauty and good looks? Otherwise, I am worried that your future nephew will be too horrible to look at.” When she saw Zhai Sheng’s expression changing, Qiao Nan was slightly angry as she patted him. “Don’t tell me you’re jealous? I am asking out of concern for Sister Zhai Hua, aren’t I?”

It was always better to face a handsome guy than a frog.

“Although Sister Zhai Hua has climbed out of a huge pit like Wei De, her mood hasn’t recovered fully. If this Dongzi is good-looking, wouldn’t the chances of a successful relationship be higher?”

Zhai Sheng was quite satisfied with Qiao Nan’s reply. “I take it that your words make sense.”

“Since you feel that my words make sense, quickly tell me about Dongzi. You said that Dongzi is the little husband that Sister Zhai Hua had decided for herself. If that is the case, why was Sister Zhai Hua involved with Wei De? Moreover, she couldn’t even recall who Dongzi is.” She had a feeling that this would be a very long story.

“When we were young, Zhai Hua and I had a lot of playmates, including Dongzi.”

“They were all childhood friends.” A bunch of them. “Does that mean Dongzi and Sister Zhai Hua were childhood sweethearts?”

“Not really. Dongzi moved away from the quad when he was quite young. His whole family migrated to America and only came back this year. When Dongzi left, Zhai Hua was only seven years old.” Twenty years had already passed. There had been so many people surrounding Zhai Hua over the years. One could not blame her for forgetting who Dongzi was. “To be specific, Dongzi was not Zhai Hua’s little husband. He should be her little wife.”

Zhai Hua had a very outgoing and boyish character since she was young. She grew up by Old Master Zhai's side. Hence, she had always lacked a senior female figure to guide and influence her.

When Zhai Hua was very young, she knew the difference between men and women. However, she did not have a very strong sense of gender awareness.

If Zhai Hua was akin to a fake young lad when she was a child, then Tian Dong, who was older than Zhai Hua by just two months, was like a fake young lady.

In comparison to Zhai Hua, Tian Dong was much quieter and not as noisy. Zhai Hua was naughty and outdoors every day whereas Tian Dong could follow Old Master Tian quietly by his side all the time.

When someone shouted for him, Tian Dong would respond with a shy smile, revealing his baby teeth.

In comparison to a bunch of naughty kids, Tian Dong was famous for being obedient at that time.

Zhai Sheng was also not as naughty as Zhai Hua when he was young. He was also quiet but his temper was not as good as that of Tian Dong. He would never respond to anyone's teasing. If he was provoked, he would face the person with the back of his head.

As Tian Dong was too quiet and accommodating, occasionally, people would joke that it would be wonderful if Tian Dong was a young lady.

He was so fair, crisp-looking, and handsome. He had a good and quiet temperament. He did not behave like a boy at all.

Tian Dong was as quiet as a girl whereas Zhai Hua was as wild as a boy. Even the naughtiest lad had to address her as boss. As expected, some also joked that Zhai Hua and Tian Dong's genders had been mixed up.

Due to this reason, when the elders talked about the children and mentioned Zhai Hua, they would definitely bring up Tian Dong. When they praised Tian Dong, they would also mention Zhai Hua.

Which child had not been rebellious when they were young? Not to mention that Zhai Hua was a true-blue rebellious kid when she was young.

The two of them were always discussed and compared with each other by the elders. Zhai Hua, who was only five years old then, felt unhappy. “Dongzi, are you really a boy?” At the sight of the fair-faced and plump boy who was tidily dressed, Zhai Hua’s tone was not good at all.

After looking at Tian Dong, Zhai Hua then lowered her head and looked at her dirty clothes. As she had fallen, there was a hole in her pants. Her heart was burning with anger.

Tian Dong felt sullen for a while before he nodded. “I am a boy.”

“I don’t believe it!” Zhai Hua’s small brows stiffened. Her tone was furious.

Tian Dong was anxious. “Why don’t you believe me? I am really a boy.”

Zhai Hua gritted her teeth. “I want to see it. I will believe it after I see it.” Facing Tian Dong, who was many times gentler than her, Zhai Hua believed that Tian Dong might really be a girl dressed in boy’s clothing.

Her grandfather told her before that some people had a patriarchal mindset of favoring boys over girls.

Dongzi might be a young lady. However, it was possible that the Tian family deliberately made her dress up as a boy with boy’s clothing as they favored boys over girls. Dongzi was too pitiful.

This would not do. She was the bearer of justice and she could not let the Tian family bully Little Sister Dongzi. She would protect Little Sister Dongzi!

Zhai Hua’s thinking was very simple. If she was able to prove that Dongzi was a girl, the Tian family would certainly not force Dongzi to wear any boy’s clothing anymore. Dongzi could then revert to dressing like a girl.

As such, no one would compare her to Dongzi and shunned her for being too naughty again, that Dongzi was quieter than her despite being a boy.

“S-see? How are you going to do that?” Tian Dong was dumbfounded. This could be found out by seeing?

Before Tian Dong could come to his senses, Zhai Hua rushed forward like a little cannonball and pressed Tian Dong under her body.

Zhai Hua was famous in the quad for being naughty and mischievous. She was very wild and had greater strength than boys of her age.

To the gentle Tian Dong, who was not fond of playing and making noise, he could not resist at all. Without any suspense, he was entirely subdued by Zhai Hua.

His thigh felt cool. His pants had been taken off by Zhai Hua. Most importantly, the body part that he used for urinating, which his father said he could not casually reveal to others, had been poked.

Waa! Naturally, Tian Dong, who had not figured out what was going on, wailed loudly.

Zhai Hua touched that ‘little worm’ which she did not have on her body to confirm that it was warm and not fake. Zhai Hua was feeling both sullen and unhappy as she said, “You are really a boy?”

Upon hearing Zhai Hua’s words, although the young Tian Dong still did not really understand, he felt humiliated and cried out even more loudly.

Chapter 1070 I Will Marry You

“Don’t... Don’t cry.” Zhai Hua was domineering. Nevertheless, she was not bad-tempered and did not like to bully others. At the sound of Tian Dong crying so loudly, she panicked. When she turned, she realized that she had not stood up and her tiny buttocks were still sitting on Tian Dong’s tummy. “I was very soft earlier. I didn’t use much strength. Did I make you feel painful? Don’t worry. That... That part of your body is still around.”

She did not pull out that thing. Was there a need for Dongzi to cry in this manner?

When others rushed over at the sound of the cries, they saw the son of the Tian family's second son being suppressed under the body of the elder granddaughter of the Zhai family without his pants.

That scene was too beautiful...

"Pfft..." When she heard that Zhai Hua and Dongzi actually had such an experience, Qiao Nan laughed so hard that she spat her saliva. "Is it true? Sister Zhai Hua removed his pants and even touched that thing of his, yet she forgot the other party totally? Sister Zhai Hua was already so powerful when she was a child?"

She had only heard of little boys lifting the skirt of little girls due to curiosity. This was really the first time that she heard a girl remove the pants of a boy. It was such a novelty.

Upon hearing Qiao Nan's words, Zhai Sheng's face turned black. "Someone dared to lift your skirt?!"

Qiao Nan's smile turned stiff. "I am talking about Sister Zhai Hua and Dongzi. I have never worn a skirt since I was a child."

Qiao Zijin had dresses. Although she was allowed to wear Qiao Zijin's used clothing in the past, she would never get to wear those that Qiao Zijin liked very much.

As expected, a young lady like Qiao Zijin loved to look pretty and favored floral dresses.

Even if those floral dresses were old or torn, Qiao Zijin could not bear to give them to Qiao Nan. She would ask Ding Jiayi to cut, sew, and make them into little cloth bags that Qiao Zijin could use for playing house.

As such, Qiao Nan did not know if any boys had wanted to lift her skirt. Anyway, she did not give anyone a chance.

In the past, Zhai Sheng detested Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin. This was the only rare matter that he did not find annoying. However, he certainly did not like it either.

It was not because of other reasons. Zhai Sheng had never done it, but in the group of his childhood friends, there was really someone who had lifted the skirt of a girl before.

“What happened thereafter?” Qiao Nan was anxious to know.

Zhai Sheng cleared his throat. “They were still young and ignorant at that time. Dongzi lamented that he could no longer marry a wife in the future. The elders were also blindly kicking up a fuss. Zhai Hua did not manage to control herself then. She not only helped Dongzi wipe his tears but also wear his pants. She then said that she would marry Dongzi when they grew up.”

“Sister Zhai Hua helped him wear the pants back in the same way she took them off? What a heroine!” Qiao Nan could not help giving a thumbs-up. Sister Zhai Hua made all women feel proud.

It was no wonder Brother Zhai said that Sister Zhai Hua had gotten herself a little wife.

At the thought that Tian Dong could be mistaken as a girl when he was a child, his face was most likely quite good-looking.

“But how could Sister Zhai Hua forget such a matter?” She removed someone’s pants, wore them back for him, and even announced that she would marry him.

If she were in Sister Zhai Hua’s shoes, she would not forget any of these three matters in her lifetime.

Zhai Sheng sighed. “Maybe she has been mixing around too much with guys that she forgot about it.”

It was also because Zhai Hua grew up with a bunch of boys since she was a child. Most of the time, she did not see herself as a woman.

Zhai Sheng was also worried that his only sister was behaving like a guy. Otherwise, he would not have transferred Wei De away from Zhai Hua previously as soon as he was aware of his existence.

It was not convenient for Zhai Sheng to do many things but transferring Wei De to another team was not a difficult matter.

It was rare that a man could let Zhai Hua realize her own gender. Zhai Sheng was thus very soft on Wei De.

It was also rare that Zhai Sheng was willing to let go a little. However, no one would have expected that Wei De, the one whom Zhai Hua finally fancied after such a long time, was completely incapable. He was an intolerable scum.

Zhai Sheng's mouth was talking about Zhai Hua's matter but his hands were acting on their own and beginning to wriggle into Qiao Nan's clothes.

When Qiao Nan realized this, she could not stop Zhai Sheng's hands anymore. Qiao Nan blushed. "Aren't we talking about decent matters?"

"Talking is not as important as 'doing'." Zhai Sheng's deep eyes were shimmering oddly. At one turn, he was on top of and pressing on Qiao Nan. "You are so concerned about other people's matters. Should you also show some concern for me?"

Qiao Nan wanted to say, "You're just by my side. What is there to be concerned about?" However, before she could do so, her mouth was blocked by Zhai Sheng.

All this while, Zhai Sheng was very speedy in undressing himself. He was not sure when it began, but the speed at which he undressed Qiao Nan was even faster than that of undressing himself.

After removing all of Qiao Nan's clothes, Zhai Sheng's eyes flashed with a greenish light. He said softly, "I have been thinking about this for the whole day!" The moment he saw Qiao Nan in the wedding gown, Zhai Sheng's mind was only left with one thought, which was to take off Qiao Nan's clothes.

Zhai Sheng was not lecherous. He had been good-looking since he was a child and his family background was good. As such, Qiu Chenxi was not the only woman circling him.

When those young ladies wooed Zhai Sheng, they could resort to any means. Once, there was a young lady who wore something much more revealing than the wedding gown that Qiao Nan wore today. It could be considered as the high-end kind of see-through attire in the early days.

Besides the important private parts, the rest of the body and skin could be seen at one glance.

The other party had used such a tactic but Zhai Sheng was not the least distracted. When the other party fell toward his arms, Zhai Sheng even moved a step aside and caused the lady to fall onto the ground.

Zhai Sheng had thought that he would behave like that in his entire lifetime.

Unexpectedly, he was enlightened after he met Qiao Nan. After he confirmed his feelings toward Qiao Nan, from Liu Xiaohui, he actually changed into an evil and lecherous ghost.

“Shameless.” Qiao Nan pouted and glared at Zhai Sheng. Thereafter, she allowed herself to be tortured by Zhai Sheng as the latter dragged her into the bottomless abyss of lust.

After some time, Qiao Nan whispered in her hoarse voice, “B-brother Zhai... Out... go out...”

“Just a while more.” Zhai Sheng’s voice was sullen. There seemed to be a gush of viciousness in his tone.

“...”

“Stop!” Qiao Nan cried as she scratched Zhai Sheng’s back in frustration.

Unfortunately, at this point, Qiao Nan’s energy had already been drained by Zhai Sheng. Her voice sounded so weak and soft, as if she were a kitten. Clearly, she was scratching and venting her frustration but she did not even leave any scratch on Zhai Sheng’s back. It was as if she was reliving the itch for Zhai Sheng.

“It’s almost done.” Zhai Sheng took pity on Qiao Nan and gave her a peck on her rosy face. However, the viciousness of the action of his lower body was a stark contrast from the dotting kiss.